



3 Top lawmaker stresses anti-terror coordination



17 Gulf Bank net profit rises 12% to KD 48m



13 Joint Olympic ice hockey team makes history for two Koreas



KUWAITI SALARY
KD 250,000
TRANSFER SALARY WIN
THE BIGGEST SALARY ACCOUNT PRIZE IN KUWAIT
CONGRATULATIONS FAYEZA AHMAD JASEM KHAMIS
بنك الخليج GULF BANK

Israel pounds ‘Iranian targets’ in Syria as F-16 jet shot down

Israel intercepts ‘Iranian’ drone • Moscow urges ‘restraint’

JERUSALEM: Israel struck what it said were Iranian targets inside Syria yesterday in “large-scale” raids after an Israeli warplane crashed under fire from Syrian air defenses in a severe increase in tensions, the military said. The confrontation was the most serious between arch foes Israel and Iran since the civil war in Syria began in 2011. Israel’s raids came after it intercepted what it said was an Iranian drone entering its airspace from Syria, which it labeled an “attack”.

It was the first time Israel has publicly acknowledged attacking what it identified as Iranian targets in Syria since the conflict started. Iran denounced Israeli “lies” and said Syria had the right to self-defense in response to Israeli strikes. Separately, Iran issued a joint statement with the Syrian regime’s other main allies - Russia and Lebanese militant group Hezbollah - denying the allegations regarding the drone.

Russia’s foreign ministry called for “restraint” from all parties, adding it was “unacceptable to create threats to the lives and security of Russian soldiers” in Syria.

Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus warned that Syria and Iran were “playing with fire”, but stressed his country was not seeking an escalation. “This is the most blatant and severe Iranian violation of Israeli sovereignty in the last years,” Conricus told journalists. Israel said its reprisals after the exchange were “large-scale” raids that attacked Syrian air defense systems and Iranian targets. “Twelve targets, including three aerial defense batteries and four Iranian targets that are part of Iran’s military establishment in Syria were attacked,” a military statement said. Israel has repeatedly warned in recent weeks against the presence of Iranian forces in neighboring Syria.

Continued on Page 11



HARDUF: The remains of an Israel F-16 that crashed after coming under fire by Syrian air defenses is seen in this northern Israeli kibbutz yesterday.— AFP

Emotional Duterte slams treatment of Filipinos in Kuwait

DAVAO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday pledged government help to evacuate Filipinos wanting to leave Kuwait, blasting the state for its “inhuman” treatment of migrant workers after reports of a gruesome killing in the country. An emotional Duterte, who last month banned citizens from travelling to Kuwait to work, said 120 workers had died in the country last year and confirmed the body of one Philippine woman had been found stuffed into a freezer in recent days.

Some 252,000 Filipinos work in Kuwait, many as maids, with reports of widespread abuse and exploitation. But it is unclear how

many would want to return to the Philippines. “When will this inhuman treatment of these Filipino workers end?” Duterte told reporters in his home city of Davao, showing the picture of a woman he said had been “roasted like a pig”. “Is there something wrong with your culture? Is there something wrong with your values?” he said, addressing Kuwaitis.

“I implore you, I am making a plea to all Arabs, the Filipino is no slave to anyone, anywhere and everywhere,” Duterte said. “Do not give us back a battered worker or a mutilated corpse.” He warned of “drastic measures” to prevent further loss of lives, though he did not say what that would be. “What are you doing to my countrymen? And if I were to do it to your citizens here, would you be happy?” he asked.

He added that the government would ask airlines to send planes to help any Filipino workers in Kuwait wanting to return home to leave within 72 hours. “Those who want to be repatriated, with or without money, I will ask

PAL (Philippine Airlines) and Cebu Pacific to provide the transportation,” Duterte said. “I want them out of the country, those who want to go out, in 72 hours. We will count our lives by the hours because apparently every hour there is suffering and agony,” Duterte said. He gave no further details.

Duterte has in recent weeks been highly critical of alleged abuse suffered by some of the two million Filipino workers in the Middle East, even threatening a ban on the whole region. The Filipinos in Kuwait are among 10 million nationals working abroad, whose remittances back home are a major pillar of the poverty-stricken nation’s economy. “Of course we need the help of Kuwait,” Duterte conceded.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello said that for Duterte’s ban to be lifted, Kuwait must sign a “memorandum of understanding” boosting protection for Filipino workers that had been pending for three years.

Continued on Page 11



DAVAO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte shows a photo of a Filipina worker in Kuwait, who he said had been “roasted like a pig”, during a press conference in this city on the southern island of Mindanao on Friday. — AFP

Saudi cleric says abayas not a must as mutawa fade

RIYADH: Saudi women need not wear the abaya - the loose-fitting, full-length robes symbolic of religious faith - a senior member of the top Muslim clerical body said, another indication of the Kingdom’s efforts towards modernization. On his television program, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mutlaq, a member of the Council of Senior Scholars, said Muslim women should dress modestly, but this did not necessitate wearing the abaya. “More than 90 percent of pious Muslim women in the Muslim world do not wear abayas,” Sheikh Mutlaq said on Friday. “So we should not force people to wear abayas.”

While not necessarily signalling a change in the law, the statement is the first of its kind from a senior religious figure. It follows the recent pattern of freedoms the Kingdom has been witnessing with the ascent of young Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman to power. Only the government-appointed clerics associated with the Council of Senior Scholars are allowed to issue fatwas, or Islamic legal opinions. Their interpretations of Islamic law form the basis of Saudi Arabia’s legal system.

Sheikh Mutlaq’s comment sparked a host of reactions on social media,



RUMAH, Saudi Arabia: A picture taken on Jan 19, 2018 shows Saudi women at the King Abdulaziz Camel Festival, some 160 km east of Riyadh.— AFP

including from other clerics who backed his statement. One Saudi Twitter user commented: “Chastity and morality should not be tied to a piece of cloth.” Saudi women have started wearing more colorful abayas in recent years, the light blues and pinks in stark contrast with the traditional black. Open abayas over long skirts or jeans are also becoming more common in some parts of the country. The trend marks a major change in the last couple of years. In 2016, a Saudi woman was detained for removing her abaya on a main street in the capital of Riyadh. Local media reported that she was detained after a complaint was filed with the religious police.

Continued on Page 11

Modi first Indian PM to visit W Bank

RAMALLAH: Narendra Modi yesterday became the first Indian prime minister to visit the occupied West Bank where he held talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as part of a Middle East tour. The visit, which came weeks after Modi hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was seen as an Indian effort to balance its strengthening ties with the Jewish state. “I have once again assured President Abbas that India is bound by a promise to take care of the Palestinian people’s interests,” Modi said following a meeting with the Palestinian leader. “India hopes that soon Palestine will become a free country in a peaceful manner.”

Modi and his entourage had flown in by helicopter from Jordan, landing near Abbas’s Ramallah headquarters and laying a wreath at the mausoleum of late Palestinian

Continued on Page 11



RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (right) decorates Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a medal during the latter’s visit to the Palestinian Authority headquarters in this West Bank city yesterday. — AFP

Iraq banks on private sector for reconstruction

BAGHDAD: Months after declaring victory over militants, war-battered Iraq hopes to attract billions of dollars from private investors as well as donors to fund its reconstruction. Baghdad is looking to drum up funds at a reconstruction conference in neighboring Kuwait from Feb 12 to 14 after announcing the defeat of the Islamic State group at the end of last year. The country is still reeling from the rise of IS and the punishing fight-back it took to crush the militants, with swathes of its territory in ruins and millions of people displaced.

Authorities in the resource-rich nation say

there has been a heavy toll on oil, electricity and manufacturing infrastructure, as well as basic services such as water and sanitation. Iraq needs to raise \$100 billion to rebuild, Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi has said, after the fight against IS and decades of sanctions and war. “It’s a huge amount of money. We know we cannot provide it through our own budget,” he said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland last month. “That’s why we now resorted to investment,” he said.

Iraq sits on some of the world’s largest crude reserves, which Baghdad puts at 153 billion barrels, but the war against IS and a slump in world prices have diminished its oil revenues. The Kuwait conference’s second day will be devoted to the private sector’s role in rebuilding Iraq, with more than 2,000 companies and businessmen due to attend, according to the Gulf country.

International organizations are to speak on



KUWAIT: A billboard welcomes guests participating in the Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq along a highway on Friday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

the first day, while attending donor countries are expected to make announcements on the third. The US State Department has said that rather than “direct contributions”, Washington has “focused on the private sector.”

Continued on Page 11

Iraq seeks \$100 billion to reconstruct transport, agriculture and oil sectors

US not planning to contribute money at Iraq reconstruction conferences

BAGHDAD/WASHINGTON: Iraq seeks around \$100 billion in foreign investment in transport, energy and agriculture as part of a plan to rebuild parts of the country and revive the economy after a three-year war on Islamic State.

The government's National Investment Commission published a list of 157 projects it will seek investment for at an International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq to be hosted by Kuwait Feb. 12 to 14.

Some of these projects are about rebuilding destroyed facilities like Mosul's airport, while others are new investments to strengthen and diversify the economy away from oil, said an economic advisor to Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. "All together, they cost about \$100 billion," the advisor, Mudhar Saleh, said. Sixteen projects carry a price tag of \$500 million or more, according to the list.

Rebuilding homes, hospitals, schools, roads, businesses and telecommunications is key to providing jobs to the young, to end the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and put an end to several decades of political and sectarian violence.

Iraq declared victory over Islamic State in December, having taken back all the territory captured by the militants in 2014 and 2015. A US-led coalition supported the Iraqi forces, especially in the battle to dislodge them from Mosul, their de facto capital in northern Iraq, in July.

The United States government will not contribute funds at the conference but will instead encourage investment from the private sector and Gulf Arab allies, US and Western officials said. A US official in Baghdad said 100 US companies were participating in the conference.

Three rail projects top the list: a 500-kilometer (311 mile) line from Baghdad to Basra in the south estimated to cost \$13.7 billion, a line from Baghdad to Mosul in the north estimated at \$8.65 billion and an \$8 billion metro for the capital.

Iraq reopened to foreign investment in 2003 after the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, but the vast majority of the billions invested went to increasing its oil and gas production. It has become the second-largest crude exporter of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, after Saudi Arabia, with a daily output of 4.4 million barrels.

At the conference, Iraq will seek investment in the downstream oil industry including in storage tanks, refineries and petrochemical plants to process its crude into plastics and fertilizers. Saleh said investments in the oil industry and agriculture will probably be easier

to attract than other sectors given the country's vast crude reserves, available land and water wealth.

Total land offered for investments to grow "strategic crops" is nearly 1,500 square kilometers (580 square miles). Iraq, one of the world's largest wheat importers, aims to achieve self-sufficiency and possibly become a net exporter of the grain. "We feel there will be support for Iraq, from the Americans, the Europeans, the Arab countries, the United Nations, and humanitarian organizations," said Saleh.

Financial contribution

The US does not plan to contribute any money at the conference to fund Iraq's reconstruction drive after the war against Islamic State forces, US and Western officials said, a move critics say could deal a new blow to American standing internationally. "We are not planning to announce anything," a US official said on Thursday regarding financial assistance at the conference, which US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will attend. The official, however, said Tillerson could still decide closer to the time to announce a contribution.

Washington instead is encouraging private-sector investment and counting on Iraq's Gulf neighbors, particularly Sunni regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia, to

pour in money as part of a rapprochement with Baghdad meant to reduce Shi'ite rival Iran's influence in Iraq.

President Donald Trump said during the 2016 US presidential campaign that if elected, "the era of nation-building will be ended."

Asked if the US government will be making an announcement of contributions at the Baghdad conference, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said, "I am not aware of any announcements that we will be making."

"About 2,300 members of the private sector will also be joining ... and talk about ways that they can help facilitate the large-scale reconstruction taking place in Iraq," Nauert added.

Jeremy Konyndyk, who served from 2013 to 2017 as head of the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance, said that by not contributing to reconstruction, the Trump administration could help set the stage for a new insurgency.

"We have seen this movie before. There is a very real risk if the US does not put money into reconstruction, that having just won the battle, you lose the peace," said Konyndyk, now a senior policy fellow at the Center for Global Development think tank.

Another US official pointed to the billions of dollars



KUWAIT: A picture taken on Friday shows flags of the 70 countries participating in the Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq, flying along a highway in the capital Kuwait City. — photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

the United States has committed to financing loans and restoring basic services to Iraqi towns and cities in the immediate aftermath of fighting. "The immediate stabilization needs remain vast, and limited US government resources alone cannot meet these current and pressing needs, let alone consider supporting long-term reconstruction," the US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said Washington strongly supports the conference and would "continue to work with the Government of Iraq and the international community to help address the needs of the Iraqi people as they recover and rebuild their country."

Fifteen years after

The United States, which invaded Iraq in 2003 and toppled the late President Saddam Hussein and more recently led an international coalition fighting Islamic State, has pumped billions of dollars into Iraq.

In January, the United States said it planned to provide \$150 million for stabilization operations in 2018 - funds that would go to restoring basic utilities and grants to small businesses - bringing Washington's total contribution to \$265.3 million since 2015.

The US government has also provided \$1.7 billion in humanitarian assistance for Iraq since 2014, making it the single largest donor to address the Iraqi crisis.

"Absolutely nothing," said a Western official, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, when asked whether Washington would announce any financial contributions at the conference

to fund long-term reconstruction projects.

'Sinews of a strategy'

James Jeffrey, a former US ambassador to Iraq, said the United States had already "poured billions and billions of dollars into Iraq" for the fight against Islamic State, equipping Iraqi forces and humanitarian aid. "Only the United States can organize the diplomatic, reconstruction, military and political sinews of a strategy for the international community," Jeffrey said. "The fact that we're not putting any money up will weaken our case, and that's unfortunate."

A US official in Baghdad said the American role in the Kuwait conference would be focused on opportunities "for true private-sector investment or public-private partnerships with the Iraqi government."

"What we are trying to do in Kuwait next week is to put together companies that want to look at Iraq ... and possibly also talk about ways to finance projects," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A State Department official said Washington was counting on other countries to step up, adding that more than 100 US companies would be at the event. Konyndyk, the former USAID official, said business people would want to see the risks of their investments in Iraq mitigated by US government contributions.

"If the US government wants to see private-sector investment go in, they need to put skin in the game," added Konyndyk, saying a contribution also would demonstrate American commitment to reducing Iran's influence. — Reuters

Kuwait strong, steady regional partner: Tillerson

WASHINGTON: A senior US State Department official affirmed Friday that Kuwait is a "very strong and steady regional partner," and has been a "strong partner" in the anti-IS coalition and a "leader" on humanitarian issues in the region. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will travel to Kuwait this week where he will lead the US delegation to the Ministerial meeting of the Global Coalition to Defeat the so-called Islamic State (IS) and participate in the Iraq Reconstruction Conference. The senior official told reporters via teleconference that there are "two main elements" of the anti-IS coalition meeting in Kuwait, noting "we will be focusing on consolidating the gains in Iraq and Syria, a heavy focus on stabilization, and some funding gaps that we hope to close over the course of the next year." The official added that the coalition "also will, importantly, endorse a guiding principles document for what we want to do together over the next year. And that'll focus much more on law enforcement and intelligence sharing, the very difficult work, to make sure that we are catching these people as they cross



BOGOTA: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson speaks at a press conference in Bogota, on February 6, 2018. — AFP

borders and doing all we can to protect our homeland."

On the Iraq reconstruction conference, the official said that the conference will "bring together the donor communities, civil society and the private sector." The official indicated that there will about 100 American companies travelling to Kuwait for this event "and I think what you will see, it's a really innovative approach in terms of long-term post-conflict reconstruction.

"I think there will be some fairly significant announcements coming out of those meetings, that'll be quite important," the official remarked. The official stressed "as we move out of the period of very intense counter-(IS) operations and focus

on stabilization, we're now shifting to longer term." The official added "the Iraqis with the World Bank will roll out kind of their vision for the future of how to do this, and this will then be a longer-term process, so it's kind of the beginning of a foundation for longer-term reconstruction. "Given the level of participation, which is really quite extraordinary, I think it'll be a very good start," the official remarked. Meanwhile, the official affirmed that Kuwait has also been the mediator of the Gulf dispute, and during Tillerson's meetings with the Kuwaitis "he will also want to talk about next steps in terms of resolving the Qatar dispute, taking advantage of Kuwait's leadership and mediation." — KUNA

330 Kuwaiti private sector companies seek to put hands on such ventures in banking, reconstruction and energy among other ventures, noted Rabah. KCCI saw it as informative to hold such orientation, he remarked.

Nearly 50 countries are expected to take part in the 'Invest in Iraq' conference. Some \$85 billion in investment opportunities are up for grabs during KICRI, which will be chaired by Kuwait, Iraq, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank. — KUNA

reconstruction conference, said the Chamber's Director General Rabah Al-Rabah yesterday.

This meeting will precede the 'Invest in Iraq' general conference, which is part of the overall Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI); to be held from February 12 to 14, Rabah said. The 'Invest in Iraq' forum will be co-organized by KCCI, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Iraq's National Investment Commission and the World Bank. Some

More participants announced for conferences

CAPITALS: Montenegro is looking forward to participate in the ministerial meeting for Anti-IS Coalition on Tuesday, Minister of Foreign Affairs Srdjan Darmanovic said yesterday. His remark came during his reception of Youssef Abdulsamad, Kuwait's Ambassador to Serbia and non-resident ambassador to Montenegro, in the capital Podgorica. Montenegro holds high the State of Kuwait's major and positive role in preserving regional stability and efforts in fighting international terrorism, Darmanovic was quoted by Abdulsamad as saying.

He also expressed anticipation to meet Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other senior officials on the sideline of meeting to discuss bilateral relations on all levels, especially economic ones. Since its independence in 2006, the Balkan country with rugged mountains has been seeking membership in the European Union, as well as developing its friendly relations with all countries, including Kuwait.

The Anti-IS Coalition meeting is part of the overall Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq, which is due to take place from February 12 to 14, with the participation of a number of contributing countries, international and regional organizations. It will be chaired by five parties: Kuwait, Iraq, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank.

Turkish FM participates

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu will attend the International Coalition fighting so-called Islamic State (IS) foreign Ministers conference on February 13, and International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI) on February 14 in Kuwait. A statement by the foreign ministry said Friday Cavusoglu also will conduct bilateral meetings on the sidelines of these two events.

"At the Coalition Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Turkey's counterterrorism contributions and its expectations from the international



PODGORICA: Montenegro's Minister of Foreign Affairs Srdjan Darmanovic (right) meets with Kuwait's Ambassador to Serbia Youssef Abdulsamad. — KUNA

community in the fight against the so-called Islamic State (IS), PKK/PYD and other terrorist organizations will be emphasized. At the International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq, the efforts that Turkey has so far made for the stability and prosperity of Iraq and the steps it further envisages will be highlighted," the statement added. Earlier Kuwait Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi delivered a letter inviting Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim to attend KICRI. Bilateral relations, as well as beefing up economic cooperation between the two countries were discussed as well, Kuwait's Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi said.

Kuwait commended

In the meantime, top lawmakers from across the Arab region heaped praise on Kuwait as the country readies to host a conference on reconstruction in Iraqi cities freed from the clutches of IS. A 'Comprehensive Arab Document' on fighting terrorism, issued after the third meeting of chief Arab parliamentarians, urged broad participation in the Kuwait-hosted conference. Meanwhile, it addressed other issues including the need to tackle chronic unemployment in the Arab region. The document pointed out that the Kuwaiti initiative also provides a platform to fund development projects in other Arab countries, in addition to strategies to root out terrorism. — KUNA

KCCI holds meeting ahead of conference

KUWAIT: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) will hold a special meeting for the Kuwaiti private sector today to brief them on investment opportunities to be tabled during the Iraq

Local

local spotlight

MoI hacking fails

By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

The interior ministry announced over the weekend that it had stopped an attempt to hack the ministry's website. The department of public relations and security information at the ministry issued a statement confirming that the ministry's webpage has returned to normal and the security authority stopped work for a short period as a precautionary measure. The hacking attempt did not affect the main database of the ministry. Investigations have begun to identify the hacker and prosecute him.

Such incidents wouldn't cause a controversy if they happened to another ministry or a company, but the MoI is a sensitive government body and is connected to the affairs of all people, whether citizens or expatriates. So this incident became a news story until the ministry restored control and everything went back to normal. The seriousness of the incident is due to the fact that MoI retains all personal and private data of everyone and it can't afford or allow any manipulation or tampering with any of its information.

Cyber terrorism is one of the most dangerous types of terrorism today, given the wide scope of the use of modern technology in the world, so it is important to study methods of combating it. Most governments today are subjected to cyber-attacks by so-called hackers. Last year, a group of hackers launched a massive attack on the computer systems of hundreds of private companies around the world - called ransomware attacks - and demanded a digital ransom before returning control. It was said that this attack occurred because of gaps in software, causing extensive damage.

Kuwait is not isolated and we have important entities such as banks and important government bodies such as the interior ministry and the Public Authority for Civil Information, and as long as these places are connected to the Internet, they are undoubtedly exposed to any hacking attempt. Security programs must be fully protected with high-tech systems.

A cyber-attack may try to stop a site from working or change the home page and write a message without any damage to the internal data. But this act is harmful to the reputation of the state and raises fear and anxiety among the people in the community. I am glad that MoI regained control over this important site in record time, and the incident passed peacefully and quickly. But there is a lesson here that MoI must activate the best protection software programs for the future.

Ministry requests driving license exemption for muezzins

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs wrote to the interior ministry to grant expatriate muezzins driving licenses and exempt them from the required conditions to obtain a license, Undersecretary Fareed Emadi said. This request came based on the fact that the number of muezzins employed by the ministry is considered low (around 1,000), Emadi said, adding that the exemption helps make it easy for them to move around, especially those who work in remote areas.

Jurisdiction

A memo was sent to the legal affairs sector at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to study the possibility of granting judicial jurisdiction to some charity, foundation, private society and nursery inspectors, Undersecretary for Social Development Sector Affairs Hassan Kazim said. Law 24/1962 regarding clubs and NGOs and law 22/2014 with regards to nurseries authorizes the social affairs ministry to register and supervise NGOs and nurseries, Kazim explained. He said the ministry is seeking to grant employees of these departments judicial jurisdiction so that they can control it and deal with violations mentioned in the law.

Speaker stresses anti-terror coordination

CAIRO: Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday that it is imperative for Arab parliaments to work together to defend Arab issues regionally and internationally. Speaking to reporters following the Third Conference of Arab Parliament and Arab Parliamentary Speakers, Ghanem said an Arab comprehensive document was adopted during the meeting, aiming at fighting extremism and terrorism. The document will be referred to the 29th Arab Summit due in Riyadh in March for further discussions, Ghanem added, hoping that it would be

translated into concrete steps.

It refuted claims and allegations that the religion of Islam and Muslims have something to do with terrorism, the Kuwaiti parliament speaker emphasized. In this regard, he quoted Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) President Gabriela Barron as stressing during the gathering that Islam is a religion of peace and the IPU rejects any attempt to link between terrorism and Islam. He underlined the significance of periodical meetings among Arab parliaments, noting that coordination would enable everyone to notch up the aspired goals.

On Kuwait's role in the fight against terrorism, he boasted that the State of Kuwait plays a significant and crucial part in coordination with all Arab countries in this regard. Kuwait has recently adopted terrorism as a top-priority issue of the UN Security Council (UNSC), the top Kuwaiti lawmaker pointed out. Ghanem reiterated full support to Egypt's efforts to fight terrorism and maintain its security and stability. — KUNA

Interior Ministry foils bid to hack its website

Fire under control at cultural center

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Friday that it has aborted an attempt to hack its website. Concerned security agencies managed to prevent the attempt, but suspended the website for a while just as a precautionary measure in line with a relevant strategy and plan to address such bids, the ministry's public relations department said in a press release.

"The ministry's website was back to normal in a record time, and its electronic systems and official database were not affected at all," it added. Immediate investigations were carried out in order to identify the hacker and bring him to accountability, it noted.

Limited fire

In other news, a limited fire broke out but was put under control at a service room in a restaurant at Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. The blaze did not cause any human injuries or heavy material damage, Kuwait Fire Service Department (KFSD) said Friday. Firemen evacuated the center of all workers and visitors. After safety and security measures were implemented, the center was back to normal, but the restaurant area remained closed yesterday as a precautionary measure, KFSD noted. Meanwhile, Abdulaziz Ishaq, President of the Executive Committee for the establishment of cultural centers at the Amiri Diwan, said the fire occurred in a restaurant's service room at 5:59 pm. The executive committee chief thanked the fire department for their swift response and professional handling of the incident.

Warehouse fire

Meanwhile, firemen from Sulaibkhat and Doha stations responded to a call about a fire in a Sulaibkhat house, but they found out that the house contained a warehouse made of corrugated metal covering an area of 1,800 sq m. The

warehouse had large amounts of wood and furniture that were not stored properly, which gave firemen a hard time in battling the blaze. Firemen from the Shuhada and backup stations joined in and bulldozers were used. A fire captain was injured when he fell in a hole. The house had many safety violations, KFSD said. An investigation is underway.

Search for rapist

A man raped a mentally-challenged girl and escaped after kicking her out of his residence where the crime took place. The girl's father lodged a complaint against the suspect, identified as a Syrian national and who is being sought by detectives. The suspect assaulted the 21-year-old girl physically and sexually after he took her to his house. The girl was sent to forensics experts.

Construction violations

Inspectors from Kuwait Municipality's Jahra branch carried out inspection campaigns that covered several areas around the governorate areas to make sure that property owners are complying with construction laws. A total of seven cita-



Mentally challenged girl's rapist at large

tions for construction violations were issued during the crackdowns, director of engineering inspection and follow up Ahmad Al-Enezi said.

Body found

The coroner recovered a young man's body which was found in a South Surra house. A felony case was filed. Police received a call from a citizen about the



KUWAIT: Smoke coming out from the basement of a Sulaibkhat house where a fire was reported.

body in the yard of his house. Policemen and detectives responded and found the body is of a citizen in his 20s.

Drug possession

A couple were arrested in Salmiya with possession of drugs, and sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). Police approached the two in a car and noticed a bag containing a material suspected to be drugs. They obtained a warrant to inspect the bag and discovered that it contained synthetic marijuana with added chemicals; a drug that has the street name of 'chemical' locally. Separately, Hawally governorate police arrested a citizen with possession of drugs, while his companion escaped. Several types of drugs were found with him. The two were seen during a routine patrol in Salwa. As police approached a car with the two in it, the passenger started running and disappeared. The driver had a hashish joint, four pieces of hashish, 62 psychoactive pills and drugs paraphernalia. In other news, Ahmadi detectives are looking for a person who escaped, leaving seven envelopes of heroin behind. Security sources said a man was walking

on foot on the coastal road in an abnormal state, but as soon as police approached him, he threw a carton of cigarettes and disappeared between buildings. When officers opened the box, they found the drugs in it.

Missing girls found

Capital governorate police arrested two Syrian women who were reported missing two years ago. Police on a routine patrol in Sharq saw the two and found they were the missing sisters. They were sent to concerned authorities.

Diesel theft

Jahra detectives are looking for unidentified persons who siphoned more than 11,000 liters of diesel from three different heads in Um Naqa desert area belonging to Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). A citizen who represents the company told Qashaniya police station about the thefts.

Liquor possession

Hawally police detained an Indian who had 62 imported liquor bottles with him. The arrest was made in Salmiya as the suspect, Indian, looked nervous while in his car, so he was searched and arrested. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Kuwait Times

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 kd37

1 Entrance Ticket

50 Entrance Ticket

100 Entrance Ticket

150 Entrance Ticket

200 Entrance Ticket

250 Entrance Ticket

300 Entrance Ticket

350 Entrance Ticket

400 Entrance Ticket

450 Entrance Ticket

500 Entrance Ticket

550 Entrance Ticket

600 Entrance Ticket

650 Entrance Ticket

700 Entrance Ticket

750 Entrance Ticket

800 Entrance Ticket

850 Entrance Ticket

900 Entrance Ticket

950 Entrance Ticket

1000 Entrance Ticket

1050 Entrance Ticket

1100 Entrance Ticket

1150 Entrance Ticket

1200 Entrance Ticket

1250 Entrance Ticket

1300 Entrance Ticket

1350 Entrance Ticket

1400 Entrance Ticket

1450 Entrance Ticket

1500 Entrance Ticket

1550 Entrance Ticket

1600 Entrance Ticket

1650 Entrance Ticket

1700 Entrance Ticket

1750 Entrance Ticket

1800 Entrance Ticket

1850 Entrance Ticket

1900 Entrance Ticket

1950 Entrance Ticket

2000 Entrance Ticket

2050 Entrance Ticket

2100 Entrance Ticket

2150 Entrance Ticket

2200 Entrance Ticket

2250 Entrance Ticket

2300 Entrance Ticket

2350 Entrance Ticket

2400 Entrance Ticket

2450 Entrance Ticket

2500 Entrance Ticket

2550 Entrance Ticket

2600 Entrance Ticket

2650 Entrance Ticket

2700 Entrance Ticket

2750 Entrance Ticket

2800 Entrance Ticket

2850 Entrance Ticket

2900 Entrance Ticket

2950 Entrance Ticket

3000 Entrance Ticket

3050 Entrance Ticket

3100 Entrance Ticket

3150 Entrance Ticket

3200 Entrance Ticket

3250 Entrance Ticket

3300 Entrance Ticket

3350 Entrance Ticket

3400 Entrance Ticket

3450 Entrance Ticket

3500 Entrance Ticket

3550 Entrance Ticket

3600 Entrance Ticket

3650 Entrance Ticket

3700 Entrance Ticket

3750 Entrance Ticket

3800 Entrance Ticket

3850 Entrance Ticket

3900 Entrance Ticket

3950 Entrance Ticket

4000 Entrance Ticket

4050 Entrance Ticket

4100 Entrance Ticket

4150 Entrance Ticket

4200 Entrance Ticket

4250 Entrance Ticket

4300 Entrance Ticket

4350 Entrance Ticket

4400 Entrance Ticket

4450 Entrance Ticket

4500 Entrance Ticket

4550 Entrance Ticket

4600 Entrance Ticket

4650 Entrance Ticket

4700 Entrance Ticket

4750 Entrance Ticket

4800 Entrance Ticket

4850 Entrance Ticket

4900 Entrance Ticket

4950 Entrance Ticket

5000 Entrance Ticket

5050 Entrance Ticket

5100 Entrance Ticket

5150 Entrance Ticket

5200 Entrance Ticket

5250 Entrance Ticket

5300 Entrance Ticket

5350 Entrance Ticket

5400 Entrance Ticket

5450 Entrance Ticket

5500 Entrance Ticket

5550 Entrance Ticket

5600 Entrance Ticket

5650 Entrance Ticket

5700 Entrance Ticket

5750 Entrance Ticket

5800 Entrance Ticket

5850 Entrance Ticket

5900 Entrance Ticket

5950 Entrance Ticket

6000 Entrance Ticket

6050 Entrance Ticket

6100 Entrance Ticket

6150 Entrance Ticket

6200 Entrance Ticket

6250 Entrance Ticket

6300 Entrance Ticket

6350 Entrance Ticket

6400 Entrance Ticket

6450 Entrance Ticket

6500 Entrance Ticket

6550 Entrance Ticket

6600 Entrance Ticket

6650 Entrance Ticket

6700 Entrance Ticket

6750 Entrance Ticket

6800 Entrance Ticket

6850 Entrance Ticket

6900 Entrance Ticket

6950 Entrance Ticket

7000 Entrance Ticket

7050 Entrance Ticket

7100 Entrance Ticket

7150 Entrance Ticket

7200 Entrance Ticket

7250 Entrance Ticket

7300 Entrance Ticket

7350 Entrance Ticket

7400 Entrance Ticket

7450 Entrance Ticket

7500 Entrance Ticket

7550 Entrance Ticket

7600 Entrance Ticket

7650 Entrance Ticket

7700 Entrance Ticket

7750 Entrance Ticket

7800 Entrance Ticket

7850 Entrance Ticket

7900 Entrance Ticket

7950 Entrance Ticket

8000 Entrance Ticket

8050 Entrance Ticket

8100 Entrance Ticket

8150 Entrance Ticket

8200 Entrance Ticket

8250 Entrance Ticket

8300 Entrance Ticket

8350 Entrance Ticket

8400 Entrance Ticket

8450 Entrance Ticket

8500 Entrance Ticket

8550 Entrance Ticket

8600 Entrance Ticket

8650 Entrance Ticket

8700 Entrance Ticket

8750 Entrance Ticket

8800 Entrance Ticket

8850 Entrance Ticket

8900 Entrance Ticket

8950 Entrance Ticket

9000 Entrance Ticket

9050 Entrance Ticket

9100 Entrance Ticket

9150 Entrance Ticket

9200 Entrance Ticket

9250 Entrance Ticket

9300 Entrance Ticket

9350 Entrance Ticket

9400 Entrance Ticket

9450 Entrance Ticket

9500 Entrance Ticket

9550 Entrance Ticket

9600 Entrance Ticket

9650 Entrance Ticket

9700 Entrance Ticket

9750 Entrance Ticket

9800 Entrance Ticket

9850 Entrance Ticket

9900 Entrance Ticket

9950 Entrance Ticket

10000 Entrance Ticket

10050 Entrance Ticket

10100 Entrance Ticket

10150 Entrance Ticket

10200 Entrance Ticket

10250 Entrance Ticket

10300 Entrance Ticket

10350 Entrance Ticket

10400 Entrance Ticket

10450 Entrance Ticket

10500 Entrance Ticket

10550 Entrance Ticket

10600 Entrance Ticket

10650 Entrance Ticket

10700 Entrance Ticket

10750 Entrance Ticket

10800 Entrance Ticket

10850 Entrance Ticket

10900 Entrance Ticket

10950 Entrance Ticket

11000 Entrance Ticket

11050 Entrance Ticket

11100 Entrance Ticket

11150 Entrance Ticket

11200 Entrance Ticket

11250 Entrance Ticket

11300 Entrance Ticket

11350 Entrance Ticket

11400 Entrance Ticket

11450 Entrance Ticket

11500 Entrance Ticket

11550 Entrance Ticket

11600 Entrance Ticket

11650 Entrance Ticket

11700 Entrance Ticket

11750 Entrance Ticket

11800 Entrance Ticket

11850 Entrance Ticket

11900 Entrance Ticket

11950 Entrance Ticket

12000 Entrance Ticket

12050 Entrance Ticket

12100 Entrance Ticket

12150 Entrance Ticket

12200 Entrance Ticket

12250 Entrance Ticket

12300 Entrance Ticket

12350 Entrance Ticket

12400 Entrance Ticket

12450 Entrance Ticket

12500 Entrance Ticket

12550 Entrance Ticket

12600 Entrance Ticket

12650 Entrance Ticket

12700 Entrance Ticket

12750 Entrance Ticket

12800 Entrance Ticket

12850 Entrance Ticket

12900 Entrance Ticket

12950 Entrance Ticket

13000 Entrance Ticket

13050 Entrance Ticket

13100 Entrance Ticket

13150 Entrance Ticket

13200 Entrance Ticket

13250 Entrance Ticket

13300 Entrance Ticket

13350 Entrance Ticket

13400 Entrance Ticket

13450 Entrance Ticket

13500 Entrance Ticket

13550 Entrance Ticket

13600 Entrance Ticket

13650 Entrance Ticket

13700 Entrance Ticket

13750 Entrance Ticket

13800 Entrance Ticket

13850 Entrance Ticket

13900 Entrance Ticket

13950 Entrance Ticket

14000 Entrance Ticket

14050 Entrance Ticket

14100 Entrance Ticket

14150 Entrance Ticket

14200 Entrance Ticket

14250 Entrance Ticket

14300 Entrance Ticket

14350 Entrance Ticket

14400 Entrance Ticket

14450 Entrance Ticket

14500 Entrance Ticket

14550 Entrance Ticket

14600 Entrance Ticket

14650 Entrance Ticket

14700 Entrance Ticket

14750 Entrance Ticket

14800 Entrance Ticket

14850 Entrance Ticket

14900 Entrance Ticket

14950 Entrance Ticket

15000 Entrance Ticket

15050 Entrance Ticket

15100 Entrance Ticket

15150 Entrance Ticket

15200 Entrance Ticket

15250 Entrance Ticket

15300 Entrance Ticket

15350 Entrance Ticket

15400 Entrance Ticket

15450 Entrance Ticket

15500 Entrance Ticket

15550 Entrance Ticket

15600 Entrance Ticket

15650 Entrance Ticket

15700 Entrance Ticket

15750 Entrance Ticket

15800 Entrance Ticket

15850 Entrance Ticket

15900 Entrance Ticket

15950 Entrance Ticket

16000 Entrance Ticket

16050 Entrance Ticket

16100 Entrance Ticket

16150 Entrance Ticket

16200 Entrance Ticket

16250 Entrance Ticket

16300 Entrance Ticket

16350 Entrance Ticket

16400 Entrance Ticket

16450 Entrance Ticket

16500 Entrance Ticket

16550 Entrance Ticket

16600 Entrance Ticket

16650 Entrance Ticket

16700 Entrance Ticket

16750 Entrance Ticket

16800 Entrance Ticket

16850 Entrance Ticket

16900 Entrance Ticket

16950 Entrance Ticket

17000 Entrance Ticket

17050 Entrance Ticket

17100 Entrance Ticket

17150 Entrance Ticket

17200 Entrance Ticket

17250 Entrance Ticket

17300 Entrance Ticket

17350 Entrance Ticket

17400 Entrance Ticket

17450 Entrance Ticket

17500 Entrance Ticket

17550 Entrance Ticket

17600 Entrance Ticket

17650 Entrance Ticket

17700 Entrance Ticket

17750 Entrance Ticket

17800 Entrance Ticket

17850 Entrance Ticket

17900 Entrance Ticket

17950 Entrance Ticket

18000 Entrance Ticket

18050 Entrance Ticket

18100 Entrance Ticket

18150 Entrance Ticket

18200 Entrance Ticket

18250 Entrance Ticket

18300 Entrance Ticket

18350 Entrance Ticket

18400 Entrance Ticket

18450 Entrance Ticket

18500 Entrance Ticket

18550 Entrance Ticket

18600 Entrance Ticket

18650 Entrance Ticket

18700 Entrance Ticket

18750 Entrance Ticket

18800 Entrance Ticket

18850 Entrance Ticket

18900 Entrance Ticket

18950 Entrance Ticket

19000 Entrance Ticket

19050 Entrance Ticket

19100 Entrance Ticket

19150 Entrance Ticket

19200 Entrance Ticket

19250 Entrance Ticket

19300 Entrance Ticket

19350 Entrance Ticket

19400 Entrance Ticket

19450 Entrance Ticket

19500 Entrance Ticket

19550 Entrance Ticket

19600 Entrance Ticket

19650 Entrance Ticket

19700 Entrance Ticket

19750 Entrance Ticket

19800 Entrance Ticket

19850 Entrance Ticket

19900 Entrance Ticket

19950 Entrance Ticket

20000 Entrance Ticket

20050 Entrance Ticket

20100 Entrance Ticket

20150 Entrance Ticket

20200 Entrance Ticket

20250 Entrance Ticket

20300 Entrance Ticket

20350 Entrance Ticket

20400 Entrance Ticket

20450 Entrance Ticket

20500 Entrance Ticket

20550 Entrance Ticket

20600 Entrance Ticket

20650 Entrance Ticket

20700 Entrance Ticket

20750 Entrance Ticket

20800 Entrance Ticket

20850 Entrance Ticket

20900 Entrance Ticket

20950 Entrance Ticket

21000 Entrance Ticket

21050 Entrance Ticket

21100 Entrance Ticket

21150 Entrance Ticket

21200 Entrance Ticket

21250 Entrance Ticket

21300 Entrance Ticket

21350 Entrance Ticket

21400 Entrance Ticket

21450 Entrance Ticket

21500 Entrance Ticket

21550 Entrance Ticket

21600 Entrance Ticket

21650 Entrance Ticket

21700 Entrance Ticket

21750 Entrance Ticket

21800 Entrance Ticket

21850 Entrance Ticket

21900 Entrance Ticket

21950 Entrance Ticket

22000 Entrance Ticket

22050 Entrance Ticket

22100 Entrance Ticket

22150 Entrance Ticket

22200 Entrance Ticket

22250 Entrance Ticket

22300 Entrance Ticket

22350 Entrance Ticket

22400 Entrance Ticket

22450 Entrance Ticket

22500 Entrance Ticket

22550 Entrance Ticket

22600 Entrance Ticket

22650 Entrance Ticket

22700 Entrance Ticket

22750 Entrance Ticket

22800 Entrance Ticket

22850 Entrance Ticket

22900 Entrance Ticket

22950 Entrance Ticket

23000 Entrance Ticket

23050 Entrance Ticket

23100 Entrance Ticket

23150 Entrance Ticket

23200 Entrance Ticket

23250 Entrance Ticket

23300 Entrance Ticket

23350 Entrance Ticket

23400 Entrance Ticket

23450 Entrance Ticket

23500 Entrance Ticket

23550 Entrance Ticket

23600 Entrance Ticket

23650 Entrance Ticket

23700 Entrance Ticket

23750 Entrance Ticket

23800 Entrance Ticket

23850 Entrance Ticket

23900 Entrance Ticket

23950 Entrance Ticket

24000 Entrance Ticket

24050 Entrance Ticket

24100 Entrance Ticket

24150 Entrance Ticket

24200 Entrance Ticket

24250 Entrance Ticket

24300 Entrance Ticket

24350 Entrance Ticket

24400 Entrance Ticket

24450 Entrance Ticket

24500 Entrance Ticket

24550 Entrance Ticket

24600 Entrance Ticket

24650 Entrance Ticket

24700 Entrance Ticket

24750 Entrance Ticket

24800 Entrance Ticket

24850 Entrance Ticket

24900 Entrance Ticket

24950 Entrance Ticket

25000 Entrance Ticket

25050 Entrance Ticket

25100 Entrance Ticket

25150 Entrance Ticket

25200 Entrance Ticket

25250 Entrance Ticket

25300 Entrance Ticket

25350 Entrance Ticket

25400 Entrance Ticket

25450 Entrance Ticket

25500 Entrance Ticket

25550 Entrance Ticket

25600 Entrance Ticket

25650 Entrance Ticket

25700 Entrance Ticket

25750 Entrance Ticket

25800 Entrance Ticket

25850 Entrance Ticket

25900 Entrance Ticket

25950 Entrance Ticket

26000 Entrance Ticket

26050 Entrance Ticket

26100 Entrance Ticket

26150 Entrance Ticket

26200 Entrance Ticket

26250 Entrance Ticket

26300 Entrance Ticket

26350 Entrance Ticket

26400 Entrance Ticket

26450 Entrance Ticket

26500 Entrance Ticket

26550 Entrance Ticket

26600 Entrance Ticket

26650 Entrance Ticket

26700 Entrance Ticket

26750 Entrance Ticket

26800 Entrance Ticket

26850 Entrance Ticket

26900 Entrance Ticket

26950 Entrance Ticket

27000 Entrance Ticket

27050 Entrance Ticket

27100 Entrance Ticket

27150 Entrance Ticket

27200 Entrance Ticket

27250 Entrance Ticket

27300 Entrance Ticket

27350 Entrance Ticket

27400 Entrance Ticket

27450 Entrance Ticket

27500 Entrance Ticket

27550 Entrance Ticket

27600 Entrance Ticket

27650 Entrance Ticket

27700 Entrance Ticket

27750 Entrance Ticket

27800 Entrance Ticket

27850 Entrance Ticket

27900 Entrance Ticket

Local

UN Palestinian agency faces 'existential crisis'

Kuwait stepped in with \$900,000 contribution

UNITED NATIONS, United States: One month after the Trump administration announced a drastic funding cut to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, only one country, Kuwait, has stepped forward to offer additional funding, senior UNRWA officials said Friday.

The United States announced in January that it would give \$60 million to UNRWA—a fraction of the more than \$350 million annual contribution that it has previously provided to the agency's budget. Kuwait stepped in to contribute \$900,000 and about 15 donor countries, including Sweden and Japan, decided to speed up their donations to keep UNRWA afloat, said UNRWA's representative in New York Peter Mulrean. But Mulrean told reporters at UN headquarters that the agency was facing an "existential financial crisis" as it seeks to fill the gap from the US funding cut.

The United States is the biggest single donor to UNRWA, which provides schools and health clinics to 5.3 million refugees in the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Last month, US Ambassador Nikki Haley said the United States would not provide aid to the Palestinians

until they agree "to come back to the negotiation table" and reach a peace deal with Israel. "The US has not yet explained to us the rationale behind its decision on the \$60 million," Mulrean said, adding that Washington had not presented any concerns about reforms.

In an interview to Voice of America, Haley said UNRWA needed to be reformed, because they consider "any Palestinian as a refugee" and "what they are teaching in schools is not necessarily the right way to have things run." UNRWA has been repeatedly accused of promoting anti-Israel sentiment in schools, a charge it has flatly rejected.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will attend a ministerial-level donors' conference for UNRWA to be held next month in Geneva to fill the gap in funding, but it remains unclear if the United States will attend. UNRWA's director for the West Bank, Scott Anderson, said all of the agency's services remain up and running for the time being, but that the decision had left many Palestinians anxious. "People are frightened and concerned about what this means for them, their families and their future," he said. —AFP

Donors' conference for UNRWA next month



GAZA: Palestinian school girls walk at the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip on February 6, 2018 after finishing their classes at a UN-run school. —AFP

Kuwait makes it a mission to help post-IS Iraq

KUWAIT: Out of its humanitarian-dimensioned diplomacy, the State of Kuwait made it a mission to extend a helping hand to post-IS Iraq. Since the so-called Islamic State (IS) took over vast areas of Iraq back in 2014, which resulted in an influx of displaced, Kuwait stepped up its aid pace in order to deal with the atrocious situation through its many charity organizations, as well as state bodies. In June 2014, the Kuwaiti cabinet made into a decision to offer urgent humanitarian aid to displaced Iraqis through concerned institutions, either state-operated, NOGs or UN-affiliated. In June 2015, Kuwait announced a \$200 million donation to lessen suffering of the Iraqi people, a step warmly welcomed by the UN, as well as Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi.

In November 2015, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced the construction of some 500 housing units for the displaced in Iraq's Kurdistan. According to statistics coming from Iraq's Kurdistan back then, there were some 1.5 million relocated in the region, residing in 48 camps. In April 2016, over 1,350 displaced families in the city of Basra, southern Iraq have been recipients of food aid distributed by Kuwait in its ongoing campaign to provide nutritive assistance in that city.

The food aid was carried out in coordination between the Kuwait consulate in Basra, KRCS and the Red Crescent Society of Basra. It has benefited 563 displaced families. In July 2016, Kuwait made a total pledge of \$176 million at the Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq in Washington, directing the bulk of the funds toward health and medical facilities.

The announcement was made by Assistant Foreign Minister for Follow Up and Coordination Affairs, Nasser Al-Sabeh, at the one-day event led by US Secretary of State John Kerry, which aimed to raise more than \$2 billion in new money for Iraqi cities liberated from IS. That goal has been exceeded, and announcements continue to be made. Kuwait co-hosted the conference, along with the US, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Japan.

The amount raised was intended for demining; immediate stabilization for communities, including bringing back electricity; expanded stabilization, which would strengthen communities weakened by IS; and humanitarian assistance. In September 2016, the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO)



through the campaign 'we are with you' managed to accumulate over \$1 million in aid for displaced Iraqis in Anbar and Salah Ad'Din provinces. It also funded the construction of eight water treatment station, in addition to providing a fully-equipped mobile clinic and food supplies for displaced families, with a cost of \$1.088 million. In November 2016, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had received \$8 million from Kuwait to displaced Iraqis, taking the total figure to \$360 million in four years for various humanitarian causes and activities around the world, a generous contribution high appreciated by the UN body.

Another UN arm: UNICEF, also received a \$6 million donation the same month, in addition to another \$5 million to the World Health Organization, all to aid their teams and programs in Iraq, especially in Mosul. In January 2017 KRCS announced building five schools and another three medical centers in Irbil and Dohuk for displaced Iraqis' camps in Kurdistan, who fled their homes from Mosul.

As copious amounts of Kuwaiti aid poured into the autonomous region to cope with the influx of displaced people, August 2017 came with Kuwaiti medical aid weighing 55 tons into the war-ravaged Mosul. By that time Kuwait has thus far provided 400 tons of comprehensive medical aid to the northern Iraqi region. In October 2017, Kuwait covered treatment expenses of 180 civilians in the Iraqi city of Mosul who needed artificial limbs. —KUNA



Kuwait pursues relief efforts in disaster-stricken areas

KUWAIT: Living up to its UN-bestowed status as an International Humanitarian Center, Kuwait continued responding to natural and man-made emergencies across the Middle East and beyond last week. On Monday, Feb 5, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and Direct Aid Society signed an agreement to support rehabilitation programs for displaced people and refugees in violence stricken countries.

Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said that it would serve as a strong partnership to consolidate humanitarian values and goals. Dr Sayer said the accord stipulates holding vocational training programs to develop skills and technical capacity of the poor and improve their standard of living. "It envisages exchange of experience in addition to holding joint media campaigns for activities and projects."

Moreover, it aims to support and rehabilitate displaced persons and refugees in countries affected by natural disasters, backing health programs and activities, erecting

makeshift surgical facilities and hospitals in the most needy areas. Meanwhile, Chairman of Board of Directors of Direct Aid Society, Abdul Rahman Al-Muhailan, hailed cooperation with the KRCS, providing medical aid for the injured during recent events in Somalia. The KRCS is quite effective in responding to crises and emergency situations, he added.

On Wednesday, Feb 7, KRCS and Kuwait Finance House (KFH) co-signed an agreement to build and refurbish orphanages to accommodate parentless Syrian children in Turkey. The deal is a productive effort towards a humanitarian cause, KRCS chairman Dr Sayer said in a statement.

Dr Sayer pointed out that the venerable Kuwaiti charity would continue to pursue altruistic activities all over the world, saying that the private sector has proven to be a trusted partner in such endeavors. The KRCS chief added that a core chunk of aid is earmarked for Syrian refugees, in a bid to lessen the misery they are facing.

On Thursday, Feb 8, KRCS has donated three mobile medical clinics to Iraqi displaced persons in the affected areas of Iraq. Dr Sayer said that the mobile clinics consist of dental, x-ray and laboratory units and two other clinics to examine the patients. Dr Sayer added that the KRCS will continue under the slogan (Kuwait Beside You) to support the displaced Iraqis, pointing out that vehicles would be handed to the Iraqi Medical Association. He explained that these clinics will be distributed immediately in parts of Iraq and the Kurdistan region as such areas are in dire need for these equipment. —KUNA



Kuwaiti volunteers pose with Syrian refugee orphans in the Tayba orphanage in the Turkish city of Rayhanyia.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The moon rises over the Arabian Gulf at sunset in Kuwait. —KUNA

EWB praises Kuwaiti youth in WUF9

KUALA LUMPUR: The Kuwait Office of Engineers without Borders (EWB) yesterday highlighted the role of the Kuwaiti youth in reconstruction and development during a session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) held in Malaysia and organized by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-

Habitat). The organization in Kuwait has been developing well since its establishment in 2012, and that it has more than 300 volunteers, mostly graduates of engineering, Representative to EWB, Engineer Sarah Al-Wazzan said.

She pointed out that the EWB is a global non-profit humanitarian organization based on the youth's engineering capabilities, where its roots are in 64 countries. She added that its activities are based on engineering and gearing towards international development. One of the activities is Engineer Camp, which is held in cooperation with the Kuwait Society of Engineers, aims to involve youth in workshops for simple engineering experiments to stimulate them, Wazzan concluded. — KUNA



KUALA LUMPUR: Representative to Engineers without Borders (EWB), Engineer Sarah Al-Wazzan (center) attends the session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9). — KUNA

Human development key to success: Info Minister

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri said on Friday that human development is the key to an institution or a project's success. The minister said in a press release that taking care of people, training them and developing their skills are a springboard for successful work. Kuwait's 2035 development plan and vision launched by His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is mainly contingent upon human development, Jabri added.

"Upon instructions from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, we, cabinet members, attach much attention to Kuwaiti man, who is the country's real wealth," he said. He added that he had instructed the ministry's media development sector to work out an all-out blueprint to train its staff in using advanced media technology, and to hold training courses. The minister set March 26, 2018 as a date for starting these training courses at Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) for six days.

In other news, Dr Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD), recently urged the government to examine information technology and mega data as intertwined components for development. Flow of plentiful data needs to be employed in an optimum manner in the national planning and development, said Mahdi in a statement at the Knowledge Economic Forum, second edition, launched on Wednesday under sponsorship of His Highness the Amir.

Data analysis is vital for decision makers to take sound resolutions and approaches in various fields, said Mansour Al-Methen, Deputy General Director for Information Technology at the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). Hung Jin, in charge of business solutions at LG, concurred that humongous online data need to be analyzed to be useful in decision making and development. Leonil Deen, of Future Factors Studio, made a statement also approving such opinions. —KUNA



Don't miss the signs.

**Give in to her wishes
this Valentine's Day.**

damas

damasjewellery.com | +965 224 547 01

Dynamic Business Group
Provides Secured/Unsecured
Loans @ 7-12% p.a*
Rs.10 Cr-1000 Cr
for all kind of Industries,
Properties, Business & Projects.
* Immediate Access * No Preliminary charges
* Easier Repayment term * Worldwide Lender Networks
+ 91-9677104591
or Mail: dynamicbusiness.grp@gmail.com



Displaced from the Libyan ‘ghost town,’ stranded on desert

Trump signs deal to end government shutdown

Page 8

Page 7



ISLAMABAD: Afghan refugees walk outside their mud houses at a refugee camp in Pakistan's capital Islamabad. —AFP

Death in Afghanistan or bitter life in Pakistan

Islamabad puts Afghan refugees in the crosshairs

PESHAWAR: Death awaits you in Afghanistan, says refugee Mohammad Wali, insisting he prefers to endure a grim existence in a Pakistani camp than return home and be killed. Islamabad has increasingly put Afghan refugees in the crosshairs in recent weeks, claiming that militants hide in Pakistani camps and calling for all refugees to be repatriated as part of a campaign to eliminate extremism. But in Afghanistan, nearly four decades after the Soviet invasion sent the first refugees flowing over the border, the resurgent Taliban fight on, with civilians repeatedly caught in the carnage.

Days after a spate of deadly attacks killed more than 130 people, Wali, wearing a shabby coat, said a recent call to his family in the Afghan capital was filled with only dire news. “They told me of terrible attacks and of the bombers blowing them up and nothing else,” the fruit seller said. Pakistan hosts roughly 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees, the UN says. A further 700,000 undocumented are also believed to be living in the country.

Pakistanis have long viewed them suspiciously, with police accused of harassment and extortion along with arbitrary arrests. “Even our caps were taken here (by police),” said Wali. In recent weeks anti-refugee rhetoric by officials has heated up again, notably as they come under increased US pressure over militant safe havens. “Pakistan has also been stressing the need of early repatriation of Afghan refugees as their presence in Pakistan

helps Afghan terrorists to melt and morph among them,” the foreign ministry said, following a suspected US drone strike in the tribal belt last month.

The official pressure coincides with a souring of public opinion toward refugees, with some Pakistanis saying Afghans have overstayed their welcome. “Enough is enough, we served them for 40 years, shared our houses and treated them as guests,” said Peshawar resident Mehmood Khan. The UN’s refugee agency has warned against any forcible or coerced repatriations, insisting they be voluntary. In late January, Pakistan extended a deadline by 60 days for refugees holding proof of registration cards to leave its territory. But as security in Afghanistan deteriorates further, refugees at an Islamabad camp said volunteers would be in short supply.

‘Nothing left’

Women carried buckets of water on their heads at the camp on the outskirts of Islamabad as young children

played cricket in the dust near mud brick homes that lack electricity and clean water. But none who spoke to AFP wanted to leave, all citing security and work as day laborers. “There is nothing left in my homeland... only war and fighting,” said Hajji Shahzada, 60, who came to Pakistan during the Soviet invasion four decades ago. A recent report by the Norwegian Refugee Council found that seven out of 10 Afghans who had returned after living as refugees abroad have been displaced twice, chased from place to place by the insurgency.

The findings should give nations hosting Afghan refugees pause, said NRC secretary general Jan Egeland. “Now is not the time to deport Afghans... It can destabilize the whole region and lead to immeasurable suffering,” he said in the report. Often the refugees end up in major urban centers such as Kabul, competing for scant resources. Kabul, straining to manage its expanding population and feeble economy, has failed to help them, says Sher Agha, a representative for

the refugees in Islamabad. “Providing jobs and employment is another issue, but at the very least they need shelter,” he said.

‘Better to live’

The conditions are so bleak that “many” returnees are sneaking back across the porous border and quietly taking up their lives in Pakistan, multiple refugees told AFP. Abdul Malik was born an Afghan refugee in northwest Pakistan, living there for more than 40 years. But in 2016 he repatriated with his Pakistani wife and children. They settled in a village near Jalalabad, in eastern Nangarhar province, where the Taliban and the Islamic State group have been waging a turf war. “It was the most unpleasant experience of my life,” Malik, wrapped in a traditional Pashtun shawl, told AFP during an interview in Peshawar.

The water was contaminated, the air was polluted, there were no doctors, no clinics, no employment, nothing but “bad roads and difficult conditions”, he said-along with the constant fear of a brutal death at the hands of militants. He lasted three months before sneaking back into Pakistan-as many other Afghan families who could afford the journey have done. Wali, who spoke to AFP at the Islamabad camp, said he would rather endure uncertainty in a country that does not want him than return home. “Better to live here even if we face hunger and thirst,” he explains. “At least we will not die.” —AFP



UN warns against forcible or coerced repatriations

Indonesia pushes for pre-marital and gay sex ban

JAKARTA: Indonesia is pushing to clamp down on gay and pre-marital sex as part of a sweeping criminal law overhaul that critics blame on a wave of religious fundamentalism sweeping across the world’s biggest Muslim-majority nation. The proposed shake up—which also takes aim at condom use and adultery—is winning unprecedented support ahead of 2019 presidential elections, after earlier attempts to shake up Indonesia’s Dutch-colonial era laws fizzled. Parliament is drawing up the new code with all the major political parties reportedly on board and the draft is expected to be tabled in the coming months. Wide swathes of Indonesian society—including heterosexual couples who might face jail for having sex outside wedlock or having an affair—may be impacted if the laws pass. But the Southeast Asian nation’s small LGBT community could feel the sting most.

“Some politicians see it as an opportunity to cater to the religious base,” said political analyst Yuventius Nicky. “There’s this supposed morality threat that is being queer.” Government officials, religious hardliners and influential Islamic groups have lined up to make anti-LGBT statements in public recently. Last month, Google pulled one of the world’s largest gay dating apps from the Indonesian version of its online store in response to government demands.

And police have used a tough anti-pornography law to criminalize members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Parliamentary speaker Bambang Soesatyo called this week for a crackdown on the community’s “excesses”, after the health ministry announced it would release a medical guide classifying homosexuality as a “mental disorder”. Gay sex is currently legal everywhere in secular Indonesia except for Aceh where it is banned under the semi-autonomous province’s Islamic law.

‘Hateful rhetoric’

The UN human rights chief blasted Indonesia’s proposed laws and raised them in talks with President Joko Widodo this week. “The hateful rhetoric against this (LGBT) community that is being cultivated seemingly for cynical political purposes will only deepen their suffering and create unnecessary divisions,” UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein told reporters. “Any discriminatory provisions (in the new law) need to be removed,” he added. The code’s latest draft carries a five-year jail term for extramarital sex or adultery, fuelling concerns that same-sex couples, who cannot marry in Indonesia, could be caught up in the dragnet. It also carries penalties for “showing or offering contraception tools without authorization” and calls for stiffer blasphemy sentences. Supporters of the changes include the Family Love Alliance, a lobby group which made a failed attempt to get the constitutional court to outlaw extramarital and same-sex relations. “Gay sex is deplorable,” Alliance leader Rita Soebagio told AFP. But the new law “does not mean that many people would be arrested. It’s just like when the law on corruption was passed, not everybody was arrested for corruption”.

‘Alarming trend’

Last month, police in Aceh made global headlines by publicly humiliating a group of transgender women, in the latest challenge to Indonesia’s reputation as a bastion of progressiveness and religious tolerance. “If these laws were passed it would give them (police) legitimate reasons or a basis for them to conduct these kinds of raids,” said human rights lawyer Ricky Gunawan.

“This is a worrying and alarming trend of persecution against LGBT and other minorities.” Hardliners’ ultimate goal, some say, is nationwide Islamic law modeled on Aceh, where public flogging is a common punishment for a slew of activities that are legal elsewhere in Indonesia, including pre-marital sex and selling alcohol. “This is their grand scheme,” said LGBT activist Dede Oetomo. The idea is not without public support. A poll last month said nearly 90 percent



TANGERANG: An Indonesian couple sits at a park in Tangerang, in the suburbs of Jakarta, with a sign-board prohibiting prostitution or any kind of sexual acts including kissing or hugging at the park. —AFP

of Indonesians felt “threatened” by the LGBT community, while a 2013 Pew survey said 72 percent of Indonesian Muslims supported replacing the secular code with Islamic law.

In a case that highlighted growing links between politics and religion, Jakarta’s first Christian leader was jailed on blasphemy charges levelled by supporters of his challenger, who won a come-from-behind race for city governor. Rights groups are now scrambling to muster resistance to the proposed laws with a nearly 57,000 signature petition. Widodo has veto power, but he needs to buoy support among increasingly influential Islamic groups ahead of a 2019 re-election bid. “People in the government are carefully trying to fend that off,” said rights lawyer Gunawan. —AFP

Mexico arrests Zetas drug cartel boss wanted in US

MEXICO CITY: Mexican marines have captured a kingpin in the violent Zetas drug cartel who had a \$5-million reward on his head in the United States, authorities said Friday. Jose Maria Guizar Valencia, alias “Z43,” was arrested Thursday in the upscale Mexico City neighborhood of La Roma “without the use of force,” the head of the National Security Commission, Renato Sales, announced in a press conference.

Guizar, who has dual US-Mexican citizenship, had several warrants out for his arrest in both countries on charges including drug and arms trafficking, organized crime, murder and kidnapping. “He is believed to be responsible for trafficking drugs from South America to the United States, and was one of the main drivers of violence in the states of southeastern Mexico,” said Sales.

The US State Department says Guizar launched his own faction of the Zetas group in southeastern Mexico after the killing of the cartel’s founder, Heriberto Lazcano, and the arrests of his successors, brothers Miguel Angel Trevino and Omar Trevino. “Guizar Valencia is responsible for the importation of thousands of kilograms of cocaine and methamphetamine to the United States on a yearly basis,” says his State Department rap sheet, which puts his age at 38. “The Zetas, under the command of Guizar Valencia, have murdered an untold number of Guatemalan civilians during the systematic overtake of the Guatemalan border region with Mexico.” Mexican authorities trace his criminal career back to at least 1998, when he was identified as a mid-level drug trafficker in the western state of Michoacan, said Sales. By 2005 he had extended his operations to three other states, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Chiapas, recruiting local cartels into his network along the way. Since 2007, he has been the Zetas’s point man for smuggling Colombian drugs into the United States via Guatemala and Mexico, and also had connections with suppliers in other countries in Central and South America, Sales said. Sales did not say how the cartel’s command structure would now stand.

From soldiers to kingpins

The Zetas are considered one of the most cruel criminal organizations in Mexico, accused of melting enemies in a barrel of “stew,” slaughtering 72 migrants in August 2010 and igniting a fire that killed 52 people in a Monterrey casino in 2011. The group, founded by former elite soldiers, was originally the armed enforcer of the Gulf Cartel until the two groups split in 2010, unleashing a wave of violence in northern Mexico. The Zetas have themselves been splintering in recent years, since founder Lazcano was killed in a shootout with navy forces in 2012 and his successors, the Trevino brothers, were arrested—Miguel Angel in 2013 and Omar in 2015. Guizar was on Mexico’s list of its 122 most-wanted crime bosses. President Enrique Peña Nieto’s government claims to have captured all but a handful of the people on that list since he took office in 2012. —AFP

International

Displaced from the Libya ‘ghost town,’ stranded on desert plain

40,000 residents driven out; ghost town in ruins

QARARAT AL-QATF: On a windswept desert plain, displaced families from a town which sided with Libya’s leader Muammar Gaddafi before his ouster in a 2011 revolt have been left in a makeshift camp to rue their bad fortune. A last-minute break-down in a deal to allow their return has left them stranded, within sight of the palm trees of their home town of Tawergha east of the Libyan capital Tripoli and 40 kilometers from the rival town of Misrata.

Armed groups from Misrata expelled Tawergha’s residents after accusing them of fighting alongside Gaddafi’s forces when their town came under a relentless siege during the uprising, as well as accusing them of taking part in torture, rapes and murders. Gunmen from Misrata have been blocking the roads into Tawergha since February 1 when hundreds of Tawergha families rolled up in cars to return home under a deal struck by Libya’s unity government and Misrata.

They have also fired warning shots, without causing casualties. “I can’t tell you how overjoyed I was when I heard we were going home. We were just at the entrance to town when they blocked the road,” Najat al-Fitouri said, standing outside her tent. She had come back from Tobruk, more than 1,000 kilometers to the east, where she had taken refuge with her seven children in 2011. “I’m not moving. I will stay here even for a year, until I go back,” said Fitouri. Like dozens of other families, she has been camped in Qararat al-Qatf, just 20 kilometers from Tawergha, waiting for results from talks between their mayor and the unity government which has been acting as mediator.



Misrata armed groups expelled Tawergha’s residents

‘Snakes and scorpions’
With its 40,000 residents driven out, Tawergha has been reduced to a ghost town in ruins. Its would-be returnees in Qararat Al-Qatf are using their cars as shelter or the hundreds of tents distributed by UN aid agencies. Two blue tents serve as dispensaries and four portable bathroom units have been set up. “The situation is miserable,” said Daud al-Tuleiha, a former Tawergha town official. “Since 2011, we’ve become experts of exodus,” he said with a wry smile.

“We move around with our gas cylinders and even wood” used to keep warm and for cooking in the absence of electricity and running water. “Sometimes we climb up a dune to catch a glimpse of our palm trees,” he added. A neighbor in the camp, Mabruk al-Suwissi, aimed his anger at the government. “They’ve left us here without shelter or food for the past week. We need medicine... This desert is crawling with grass snakes and scorpions!” he said. Tawergha’s mayor, Abdelrahman Chakchak, said the return was being held up by elements in Misrata “who don’t understand that this is not a reconciliation... This is a return deal that could later lead

to a reconciliation”.
The mayor was giving a tour to the UN-backed unity administration’s local government minister, Badad Qansou, the first official to visit the camp. “I thought the situation was better than this in the camp. We can clearly see families who’ve been left without shelter,” he said, vowing to supply more aid. “We’re determined to guarantee a return to Tawergha free of bloodshed. I see your suffering... A bit of patience and everything will be sorted out,” the minister said. “Haven’t we been patient long enough?” a frustrated onlooker shot back. —AFP



QARARAT AL-QATF: Displaced women from the Libyan town of Tawergha prepare food on at a temporary camp, 20 kms from Tawergha, after they were denied entry to their hometown. —AFP

Gerry Adams: Pariah turned peacemaker

DUBLIN: Gerry Adams went from being the political voice of the Irish Republican Army, reviled by the British government and Northern Ireland’s Protestants, to playing the peacemaker in bringing the province’s Troubles to an end. As he hands over the reins of power of Sinn Fein to Mary Lou McDonald, Adams has more recently become an anti-austerity figurehead and an opponent of Brexit while cultivating an avuncular image on Twitter. It is a far cry from the bloodiest years of the sectarian

conflict in Northern Ireland when he would defend the actions of paramilitaries and his voice was banned from British airwaves.

The bearded leader of the IRA’s political wing Sinn Fein was then a hated figure for many Protestants in Northern Ireland during the province’s three-decade long Troubles. But he is credited with eventually convincing the IRA to give up their armed campaign to unite Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. More recently he took centre stage after Britain voted for Brexit in 2016, throwing the peace accord into uncertainty with Northern Ireland set to leave the European Union, while the Republic of Ireland remains. The outgoing leader labeled Brexit a “disaster” for the island of Ireland, and is still expected to be an influential voice as Britain and the EU negotiate over the border issue. —AFP

E Ukraine blackout spurs hunt for cell phone signals

DONETSK: Every day dozens of people in the Ukrainian rebel stronghold of Donetsk gather on a windswept railroad overpass not far from the frontline, taking the risk of coming under fire. They go to the bridge at a half-abandoned railway station on the outskirts of the city in the hope of catching a signal from cell towers on the other side of the frontline so they can call their family and friends in government-controlled areas.

On a recent afternoon ringtones blared and phones beeped and buzzed as a few dozen people huddled on the old overpass, pressing their handsets against their ears or staring intently at screens as an icy wind blew. “Danger! High voltage,” read a warning on metal sheets attached to the sides of the overpass about the proximity of power supply lines. “May God protect you,” an elderly woman told someone at the other end of her phone line. Up to two million people in war-torn eastern Ukraine were left without cell phone access after Vodafone—the last major mobile operator in the region—suffered a fibre optic line cut in January.

The outage had all but severed communication between Ukrainians living on opposite sides of the frontline. While mobile phone access was quickly restored in the fellow rebel stronghold of Lugansk, Donetsk residents remain without proper cellular coverage. The bridge at the Rutchenkove railway station about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the frontline is one of a few places on the outskirts of Donetsk where residents can still catch a Vodafone signal, however weak.

‘Better than nothing’

Artyom, a 29-year-old businessman, had read about sites where cellular connection with Kiev-controlled areas was available in a local newspaper. “This place is closer to the frontline and we can get the signal from their towers,” he told AFP on the bridge. Like others, he declined to give his last name over safety



DONETSK: Residents in the hope of catching a signal from cell towers make their calls from a bridge, one of the few places available for mobile connection provided by Vodafone Ukraine (former MTS) in Donetsk. —AFP

fears. Passenger trains have stopped passing through Rutchenkove after the outbreak of a conflict between Russian-backed rebels and Ukrainian government forces that has claimed more than 10,000 lives since April 2014.

Viktoria, who came to the bridge with her husband, said they had no other way of reaching relatives. “This is a necessity,” she said. “We have family members in Ukraine we cannot reach any other way, especially old people who do not know how to use the internet,” said the 24-year-old, clutching a phone in her cold hands. She added she had to try several times before managing to get a good connection. “In Donetsk there is no connection at all so this bridge is better than nothing.”

Some locals use the rare pockets of cell service to access their accounts in Kiev-controlled banks. Elena, a 40-year-old accountant, took a tram to the other side of the city to receive confirmation about a recent money transfer. “Ukrainian phone numbers are linked to bank accounts and without mobile connection we cannot access our money, unfortunately,” she said. Vodafone said it had done everything to restore mobile connection. “The most likely reason for the lack of mobile coverage in the Donetsk region is the absence of power supply,” the company said in a statement. —AFP

her political life amid three official investigations, but has ruled out resigning. Sergeant Forrest retired from the city’s police department. In the era of the “MeToo” movement, with powerful men toppled over accusations of harassment or sexual impropriety, there have been questions over whether the mayor’s case was a reversal of that now-familiar narrative. Did a powerful woman survive a scandal while her male subordinate did not? Was the police officer’s career over by choice?

‘Two middle-aged people’

During her news conference, Barry dismissed any parallel with the abuses fuelling the MeToo movement. “This is not about sexually harassing and economically disadvantaging women,” she said. “This is a consensual relationship between two middle-aged people who had feelings for each other.” The officer has not spoken publicly about why he chose to retire. The gender role reversal-compared to most of the scandals exposed in recent months—may lessen the suspicions that Barry took advantage of her bodyguard.

But Clinton suspects the mayor’s gender could affect how the scandal plays out in other ways-exposing her to tougher scrutiny in the affair’s aftermath, because she is a woman. “Politicians have obviously survived similar issues in the past,” Clinton told AFP. “One issue is whether she is treated differently by voters because of her gender.” —AFP

Nashville mayor in hot water after admitting affair

CHICAGO: Until last week, Nashville Mayor Megan Barry was a rising political star. A popular Democrat in deeply conservative Tennessee, Barry is the first female mayor of America’s country music capital—a liberal enclave in the southern state. The 54-year-old presided over the city’s economic growth, officiated its first same-sex wedding, and advocated for an ambitious \$5 billion mass transit plan. “She was becoming increasingly visible on the national political stage,” said political science professor Joshua Clinton, of Nashville’s Vanderbilt University. Then, came January 31. Standing alone in front of news cameras, Barry confessed to a two-year extramarital affair with Sergeant Robert Forrest, the city police officer in charge of her personal security. Barry is married. So is the officer. The affair had ended, she said, and both were trying to mend their personal lives. “I am embarrassed and I am sad, and I am so sorry for all the pain that I have caused my family and his family,” Barry said.

The revelation was a bombshell. Now Barry is fighting for



مؤتمر الكويت الدولي

لإعادة إعمار العراق

Kuwait International Conference
For Reconstruction of Iraq

12-14 Feb 2018 فبراير 14-12

الكويت 2018 KUWAIT



International

Trump signs deal to end government shutdown

Senate, House approve stopgap funding, budget bill

WASHINGTON: A brief US government shutdown ended on Friday after Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed into law a wide-ranging deal expected to push budget deficits into the \$1 trillion-a-year zone. The bill was approved by a wide margin in the Senate and survived a rebellion of 67 conservative Republicans in the House of Representatives thanks to the support of some Democrats. Those conservatives were mainly angry about non-military spending increases.

Trump's signature brought an end to a partial government shutdown, or closure of federal agencies, that had been triggered in the early hours of Friday as Congress was still debating the budget deal. It was the second shutdown this year under the Republican-controlled Congress and Trump, who played little role in attempts by party leaders this week to end months of fiscal squabbling. In a Twitter post that acknowledged the misgivings of fiscal conservatives, the Republican president said after signing the measure, "Without more Republicans in Congress, we were forced to increase spending on things we do not like or want in order to finally, after many years of depletion, take care of our Military" with additional funding.

Trump also wrote that negotiations will "start now!" on an immigration measure that he and Democrats have been battling over for months. The deal, the fifth temporary funding measure for the fiscal year that began Oct 1, replenishes federal coffers until March 23, giving lawmakers more time to write a full-year budget. It also extends the US government's borrowing authority until March 2019, sparing Washington politicians difficult votes on debt and deficits until after mid-term congressional elections in November.

Deficit splurge

The Republican Party was once known for fiscal conservatism, but congressional Republicans and Trump are now quickly expanding the US budget deficit and its \$20

trillion national debt. Their sweeping tax overhaul bill approved in December will add an estimated \$1.5 trillion to the national debt over 10 years. Nearly \$300 billion in new spending included in the bill approved on Friday will mean the annual budget deficit will exceed \$1 trillion in 2019, said the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a private fiscal policy watchdog group. Friday's deal allows for \$165 billion in additional defense spending over two years, helping Trump deliver on his promise to boost the military.

Republicans expanding US budget deficit

Management and Budget said. The White House budget proposal, to be released on Monday, projects that the economy will grow about 3 percent over the next decade, with a slightly larger near-term boost of 3.2 percent next year before declining to 3 percent in 2021 and 2.8 percent in 2026, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Compared with last year, the administration projects lower inflation over the coming decade and lower government borrowing expenses, the Journal reported. The forecast assumes the 10-year Treasury yield will average 2.6 percent this year and 3.1 percent next year before rising to 3.7 percent by early next decade, the newspaper reported. None of the added spending in the newly approved budget will be offset by budget savings elsewhere or revenue increases, relying instead on government borrowing. There also is no offset reduction for nearly \$90 billion in new disaster aid for US states and territories ravaged by hurricanes or wildfires last year.

Stock market swings

The brief shutdown came at a sensitive time for finan-



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks with Shane Bouvet (left), a Trump presidential campaign volunteer who received a check for \$10,000 from Trump with the money being used to treat his father, Donald Bouvet (center), suffering from bladder cancer, during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House on February 9, 2018. —AFP

cial markets, with world stock markets diving in the past week. Markets barely flinched at the last shutdown in January, but that was before a selloff that started on Jan. 30 amid concerns about inflation and higher interest rates. Wall Street's main stock indexes climbed more than 1 percent on Friday, giving investors some solace after a week of huge swings that shook the market out of months of calm. Republican Senator Rand Paul, objecting to deficit spending in the bill, launched a nine-hour, on-again, off-again protest and floor speech late on Thursday that delayed passage of the deal past midnight, when funding for the government ran out. He had

harsh words for his own party. "Now we have Republicans hand in hand with Democrats offering us trillion-dollar deficits," Paul said. "I can't ... in good faith, just look the other way because my party is now complicit in the deficits. Really who is to blame? Both parties." House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and others in her party had opposed the bill because Republican House leaders would not guarantee her a debate later on bipartisan steps to protect about 700,000 "Dreamer" immigrants from deportation. These young adults were brought illegally to the country as children, mostly from Mexico. —Reuters

News in brief

Scores defy Thai junta

BANGKOK: Scores of Thais yesterday gathered in defiance of a junta ban on protests to call for a return to democracy, as public anger mounts over prolonged military repression. The ruling junta has kept a tight lid on dissent since its 2014 coup by outlawing gatherings of more than five people and ramping up use of a draconian royal defamation law. But impatience with the generals has been building in recent weeks and breaking through the surface in a series of creative and increasingly bold protests. The agitation has been fuelled by a spate of graft scandals, including one that has ensnared the junta's No 2, plus the postponement of elections the regime had promised for November 2018. —AFP

19 die; bus topples over

HONG KONG: At least 19 people were killed and dozens injured when a double-decker bus toppled over in Hong Kong yesterday evening, police said. Photographs on local media websites showed the bus lying on its side with its roof torn off by a road near the town of Tai Po in the northern New Territories. Rescuers were attempting to reach passengers trapped in the wreckage, although police were unable to say how many were still inside the bus. The dead included 17 males and two females, police said. It was not immediately known what caused the accident. —AFP

Navy seizes crystal meth

BATAM: Indonesia's navy seized more than a ton of crystal methamphetamine and arrested four people in a major drug bust this week, a top navy official said yesterday. A navy boat patrolling the Phillip Channel between Singapore and Batam intercepted the MV Sunrise Glory, which was flying the Singapore flag, as it entered Indonesian waters. Officials suspected it might actually be a Taiwanese fishing boat which has been targeted by the Indonesian military since December for being a part of a drug syndicate, navy deputy chief Vice Admiral Achmad Taufiqorrochman told a press conference. The boat was flying the Singapore flag but changed it for the Indonesian one as the navy patrol approached. —AFP

Taiwan quake toll rises

TAIPEI: The toll from a deadly 6.4-magnitude quake in Taiwan rose to 14 yesterday as rescuers searching for a missing family of Chinese tourists discovered two more bodies in a partially toppled building. Scores of rescuers combed the rubble at the foot of the 12-storey Yun Tsui apartment block that was left leaning at around a 50-degree angle by the quake, complicating rescue efforts due to fears of an imminent collapse. The two bodies and the last three missing are believed to be members of a family from Beijing who arrived in Taiwan Monday, authorities said. — AFP

2 Indian soldiers killed

SRINAGAR: Two Indian soldiers were killed yesterday in an ongoing gunfight after suspected militants attacked a military base in the Jammu region of Indian-administered Kashmir, officials said. The pre-dawn attack left six others injured, including a girl, after heavily armed militants stormed Sunjuwan Army camp near Jammu, the second largest city in the disputed Himalayan region close to the border with Pakistan. "Two Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) have been killed and six others injured in Jammu militant attack," a senior minister Abdul Rehman Veeri told lawmakers inside the state's parliament. —AFP

Shannon Watts and Dana Loesch, faces of gun control debate

WASHINGTON: Each time there's another mass shooting in the United States, Shannon Watts and Dana Loesch take to Twitter on opposite ends of the gun debate. Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, makes the arguments for stricter gun control in a country with 33,000 gun-related deaths a year. Loesch, spokeswoman for the National Rifle Association (NRA) and a conservative radio host, lays out the case for why Americans need weapons for self-defense.

The two women have become among the most prominent public faces of the gun control debate with hundreds of thousands of followers across the United States. Local elections can be won or lost on a word from either one of the well-connected activists. They are masters of social media, even going so far as to "troll" each other, mostly on their Twitter feeds but also sometimes even in person. In a video on YouTube, Loesch can be seen confronting Watts at a rally asking her "Do you claim to speak for all Moms or just Moms who

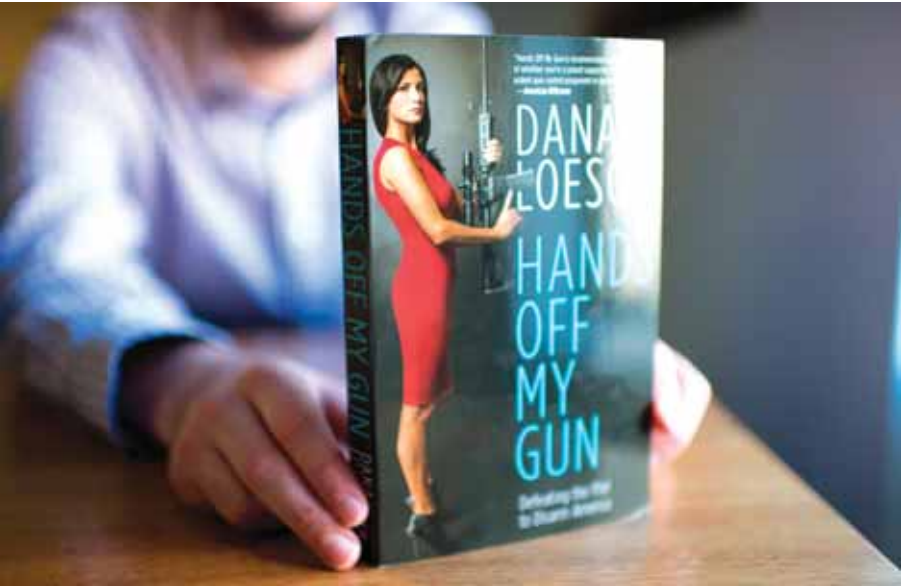
are for gun control?" Watts brushes her off and walks away, saying she does not want to engage with Loesch because she has been "so insulting to me online."

Watts has dismissed Loesch on Twitter as a "paid NRA shill" and accused her of using "racist, bigoted and violent rhetoric." Loesch has repeatedly struck back at Watts on her own Twitter account, @DLoesch, which has more than 700,000 followers and where she touts her devotion to God, family and guns. Tattooed on her forearm is "Ephesians," a reference to the New Testament verse urging Christians to don the "armor of God" to fight evil.

'Hands Off My Gun'

"I'm a Mom," the 39-year-old Loesch says in an ad for the NRA. "And just like millions of other women that's why I own guns. We're responsible, we're law-abiding and we're everything that makes America strong," she says. The cover of her book "Hands Off My Gun: Defeating the Plot to Disarm America" features Loesch in a tight red dress and high heels holding a rifle. Last month, Loesch interviewed Vice President Mike Pence for her nationally syndicated radio program, "The Dana Show."

"I'm a fan," Pence told her. "Thanks for your great voice all across America." Watts, who is in her mid 40s, was a public relations executive for Fortune 500 companies before putting her career aside to raise five children in Indiana. Her life changed on December 14, 2012. That was



WASHINGTON: A man reads 'Hands off my gun' written by the NRA Spokesperson Dana Loesch in Washington DC. Each time there's another mass shooting in the United States, Shannon Watts and Dana Loesch take to Twitter on opposite ends of the gun debate. —AFP

the day when 20 children aged six and seven years old were shot dead by a mentally unbalanced young man at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Spurred to take action, Watts started a Facebook page and her crusade against gun violence has snowballed since then, earning her the nickname the

Five years later, her Moms Demand

Action page on Facebook has more than 560,000 followers and her Twitter account @shannonrwatts more than 115,000. "Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America" now claims to have chapters in all 50 states. Its members, clad in trademark red T-shirts, are regularly seen at city hall and outside state legislatures putting pressure on lawmakers. —AFP

S African political deadlock as Zuma clings to power

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's political impasse deepened yesterday with no resolution to extended talks over President Jacob Zuma's expected departure from office after his own party called for him to resign. Cyril Ramaphosa, the president-in-waiting, and the ruling ANC party have said negotiations should be concluded within days, but have given no details about how Zuma will be eased out of power.

The stalemate has left South Africa's political scene in limbo, with a series of public events cancelled this week including the flagship State of the Nation address to parliament in Cape Town on Thursday. Zuma cleared his diary of weekend engagements, but deputy president Ramaphosa is due to speak at a rally in the city on Sunday to start a year of celebrations marking 100 years since Nelson Mandela's birth.

February 11 also marks the day that Mandela was released from jail in 1990 a key date in modern South Africa's re-birth as apartheid white-minority rule crumbled. Zuma and Ramaphosa will "conclude" discussions on Zuma's exit within 48 hours and the outcome will then be announced to the nation, the News24 website said yesterday without naming its sources. But Susan Booysen, a politics professor from Wits University in Johannesburg, said Zuma may fight on for several more days. "A stalemate is the best description for the situation," she said. "Zuma is a fighter to the end and is refusing to resign, while Ramaphosa doesn't want to be divisive. Zuma pretended to open the doors of negotiations, but he is digging in."

Corruption scandals

Local media reported that a key sticking point in talks was over legal fees faced by Zuma, who is set for prolonged court battles related to multiple criminal cases. On Friday,



South African President Jacob Zuma

the president reportedly flew back from Cape Town to his official residence in Pretoria. The ANC has said it is awaiting the "imminent conclusion" of the talks, and said the budget on February 21 will not be delayed. Ramaphosa has made no official comment since Wednesday when he described the discussions as "constructive" towards securing "a speedy resolution of the matter." Zuma has made no comment since being asked to resign by senior ANC officials last Sunday. The pro-Zuma New Age newspaper reported Friday that the president would gather his family at his residence in Pretoria this weekend to inform them of his decision.

Zuma's wife Thobeka Madiba-Zuma posted a picture of the couple on Instagram on Friday, adding a defiant comment that warned against "picking a fight with someone who is not fighting you". Zuma, 75, who has been in office since 2009, has clung to power despite a string of corruption scandals, an economic slowdown and record unemployment. His hold on the ANC was shaken when his chosen successor-his former wife Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma-narrowly lost out to Ramaphosa in a closely-fought race to be party leader in December. Zuma faces several court cases, including action relating to 783 payments he allegedly received linked to an arms deal before he came to power. —AFP

2nd White House aide resigns over 'domestic abuse'

WASHINGTON: A second White House staffer in a week resigned Friday over domestic abuse claims, in a widening scandal that called into question the president's judgment and tainted his chief of staff John Kelly and longtime aide Hope Hicks. Hours after Trump's comments about staff secretary Rob Porter, a White House speechwriter, David Sorensen, resigned after his wife said he was abusive, claims he denies. Porter—who also denies abuse alleged by two ex-wives, one of whom released a photo of herself with a black eye-worked at the heart of the White House throughout the first year of Trump's administration, despite being denied a full security clearance. He only stepped down from his post Wednesday after the accusations became public.

Trump, who has himself been accused of sexual harassment or assault by two dozen women, fueled the scandal by praising Porter and suggesting he had a bright future. He made no mention of the ex-wives or the alleged domestic abuse. "We certainly wish him well, and it's a tough time for him," Trump said in the Oval Office. "He did a very good job when he was in the White House. And we hope he has a wonderful career and he will have a great career ahead of him." "As you probably know, he says he's innocent, and I think you have to remember that." That prompted a sharp rebuke from Democrats like Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, who slammed the White House's "culture of misogyny." Chief of Staff John Kelly was aware of the allegations and also praised Porter's conduct in the White House, maintaining that "every individual deserves the right to defend their reputation." —AFP

International

North Korea leader invites South Korea's president to Pyongyang

US warns against falling for Pyongyang's charm offensive

GANGNEUNG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un invited the South's President Moon Jae-in for a summit in Pyongyang yesterday, Seoul said, even as the US warned against falling for Pyongyang's Olympic charm offensive. The invitation, delivered by Kim's visiting sister Kim Yo Jong, said Kim was willing to meet the South's leader "at the earliest date possible", said a spokesman for the presidential Blue House.

An inter-Korean summit would be the third of its kind, after Kim's father and predecessor Kim Jong Il met the South's Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun in 2000 and 2007 respectively, both of them in Pyongyang. Moon did not immediately accept the invitation. But the prospect could sow division between the dovish leader, who has long argued for engagement with the nuclear-armed North to bring it to the negotiating table, and US President Donald Trump, who last year traded personal insults and threats of war with Kim.

Washington insists that Pyongyang—which is under multiple sets of UN Security Council sanctions—must take concrete steps towards denuclearization before any negotiations can happen. After months of silence on whether it would even take part in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in the South, the Games have driven a rapprochement on the peninsula, while the North's athletes, performers and delegates have dominated the headlines.

Moon met Kim Yo Jong—a close confidante of her brother and the first member of the dynasty to set foot in the South since the Korean War—and the North's ceremonial head of state Kim Yong Nam at the Blue House in Seoul. "We hope to see you in Pyongyang at an early date," Kim Yo Jong told Moon after delivering a personal letter from her brother, according to officials. "We want to see President Moon become a protagonist in opening a new chapter for reunification and leave great footprints in history," she said.

Diplomatic quandary

The two Koreas have been divided since the conflict ended in a ceasefire in 1953, and the democratic South has risen to become the world's 11th-largest economy, while the North has stagnated under the Kim family's rule. The offer could put Moon in a delicate diplomatic quandary, but he avoided a direct response, said his spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom, and called instead for efforts to "create the right conditions" for a visit. Moon urged Pyongyang to actively seek an "absolutely necessary" dialogue with Washington, he said. Tensions between the two soared last year as Pyongyang launched intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the US mainland and carried out by far its most powerful nuclear test to date.

Analysts believe the Olympic diplomatic drive by the North—which put its ICBMs on show at a military parade in Pyongyang on Thursday—seeks to loosen the sanctions against it and undermine the alliance between Seoul and Washington. They expressed skepticism on the prospects for a summit, with professor Koh Yu-hwan of

N Korea under multiple sets of UN sanctions

Dongguk University not expecting one "in the foreseeable future." "Kim's proposal for a summit with Moon is based on the premise that the North will stick to its nuclear weapons while seeking rapprochement with the South," he said. "The North is not interested in talks on denuclearization."

Kimchi and soju

The North Korean delegation then took the bullet train to Gangneung, the venue of all ice competitions, and attended a banquet hosted by the South's unification minister Cho Myong-gyon. "Although it's my first time here, it doesn't feel strange. It's not unfamiliar," Kim said when asked by one of the South Koreans at the dinner how she feels on the other side of the border. The North Koreans and



SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister Kim Yo Jong (left) hands over an autographed letter from Kim Jong Un to South Korea's President Moon Jae-in during their meeting at the presidential Blue House in Seoul yesterday. —AFP

Moon are reportedly due to watch the Korea's unified women's ice hockey team's first match against Switzerland later. Moon shook hands with both Kim Yo Jong and Kim Yong Nam at the Olympics opening ceremony on Friday and they cheered as athletes from North and South entered the arena together behind a unification flag showing an undivided Korean peninsula.

But US Vice President Mike Pence, who was seated in the same box at the opening ceremony, did not interact with the North Koreans at any point, US officials said. He did not shake hands with Kim Yong Nam while making a brief appearance at a leaders' reception ahead of the ceremony—although Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did so. "The US will not

allow the propaganda charade by the North Korean regime to go unchallenged on the world stage," Pence tweeted yesterday.

"The world can NOT turn a blind eye to the oppression & threats of the Kim regime." In stark contrast, two kinds of kimchi—the fermented cabbage that features in every Korean meal—were on the menu for the delegation's lunch with Moon at the Blue House yesterday, one mild Northern style version and a spicier Southern recipe, along with soju, the traditional Korean rice liquor. The smiles and handshakes were friendlier than some of the North's past history with the complex—in 1968 Pyongyang sent commandos to attack it to try to assassinate the South's then leader. —AFP

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE.

MADE IN JAPAN - THE ALL-NEW STUNNINGLY STYLISH CAMRY 2018.

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

TOYOTA

THE NEW CAMRY 2018

Since its inception the Camry has always been known for being ahead of its time. Now the all-new 2018 Camry continues that tradition with a stunningly stylish exterior design, the all-powerful V6 engine (complemented by 8 speed Automatic Transmission), or a 4 cylinder engine, beautifully redesigned spacious interiors and the very latest infotainment and safety features. Test drive the all-new Camry 2018 today and feel yourself being transported back to the future.

Aggressively styled, sporty exterior

Interior created for premium comfort and the latest infotainment systems

Available with 3.5L V6, 8 speed Auto Transmission & 2.5L 4 cylinder engines

Available with 17/18 inch Alloy Wheels

Ahead of Ambitions.

MADE IN JAPAN

Mohamed Nasser AlSayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.
A subsidiary of ALSAYER Holding

1803803
toyota.com.ku

2018

5

1803803
toyota.com.ku

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

A recipe for disasters ahead

By Dr James J Zogby

Domestic American politics have become so cripplingly partisan that Congress can't pass a long-term spending bill or deal the critical issues like immigration reform, comprehensive health care reform, or provide the massive funding needed to repair our crumbling infrastructure. Due to this deep and bitter divide - fueled, in part, by: The president's inflammatory tweets; the harsh and inflammatory rhetoric from pundits; and the media's penchant to create feeding frenzies over "gotcha" scandalous news stories - Washington has turned decidedly inward and disturbingly dysfunctional.

Focused more on fighting for the sake of fighting and scoring points against political opponents, too little attention is paid to America's role in the rest of the world. The only times that Congress will attend to international matters is when there is, at stake, a domestic political advantage in appeasing supporters or striking out at rivals. As a result, there will be Congressional debates on punishing groups that support boycotting Israel, imposing sanctions on Iran or Russia, Russia's meddling in our elections, or building a wall between the US and Mexico. But scant attention is given to addressing the US role in critical conflict areas from Somalia and Yemen, to Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

This reality came into sharp focus, a few days back, at an event hosted by my Institute. It was our 20th annual Congressional dinner. This has long been one of my favorite affairs since it's a small gathering that brings together the Arab American Members of Congress, the Arab Ambassadors to the US, and a select number of members of our Board, many of whom have rich political experience. It is, by design, an intimate, private, and off-the-record dinner providing the attendees with an opportunity to "let down their hair" and have a frank and open conversation about critical issues facing the US-Arab relationship.

This year's dinner discussion, however, was different and the difference was illustrative of the serious problems plaguing American politics and the impact that this is having on the ability of our country to meaningfully engage in the world. Despite the presence of some Arab ambassadors whose countries are facing serious internal and regional challenges and whose situations are directly impacted by US policies, and despite the eloquent presentations made by these ambassadors, our discussions kept returning to our dysfunctional partisan divide.

National dilemma

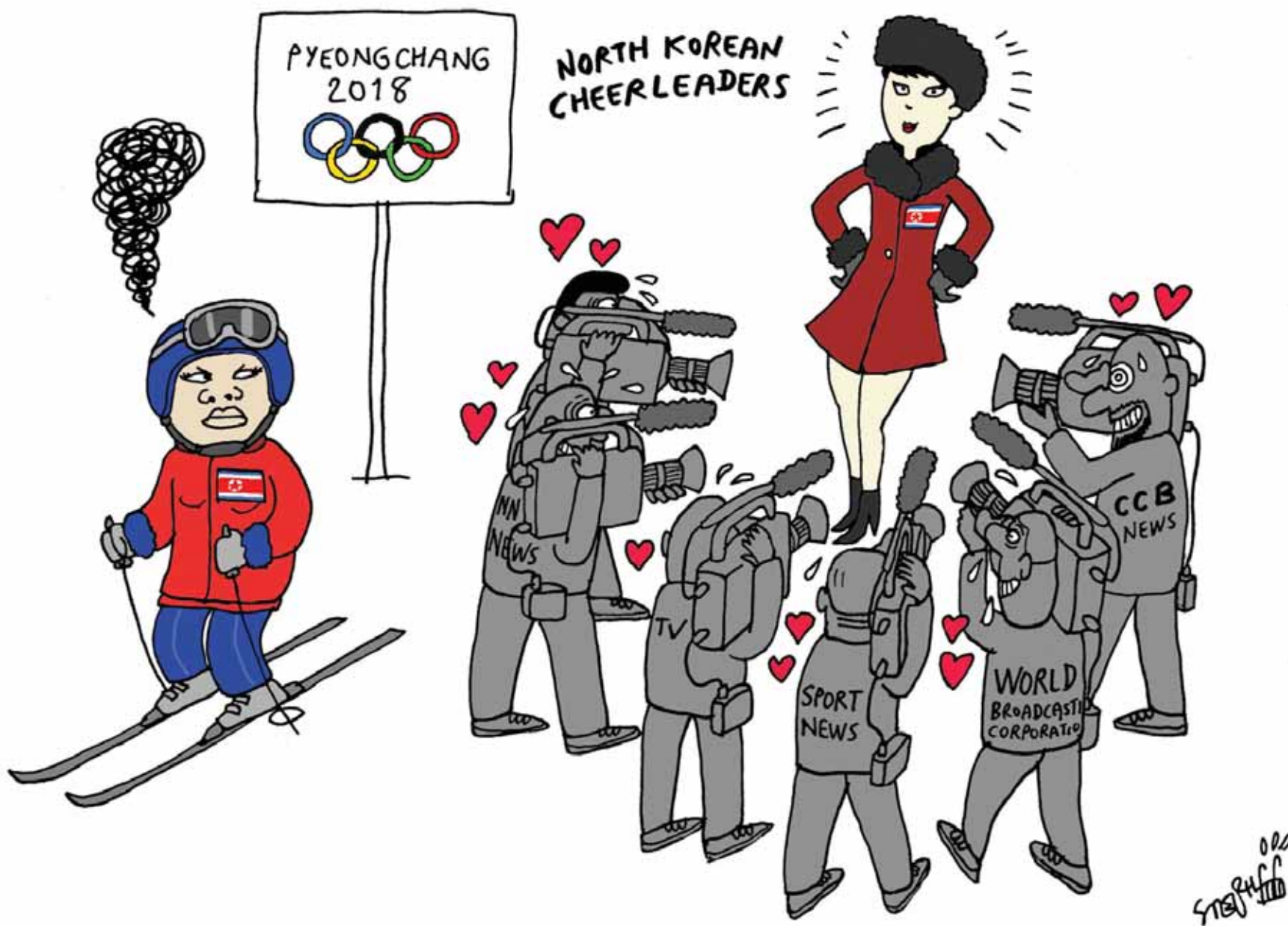
To their credit, our Congressional representatives and other participants, some of whom were senior political figures with long and distinguished careers in both the Democratic and Republican parties, never descended into rancor or finger-pointing. The concerns they raised were heartfelt and thoughtful. They lamented the demise of the political parties, which one participant described as once having played the role of mediating institutions that engaged and provided meaningful access to their members, but now served mainly as fundraising vehicles.

The once important role played by the parties had now been eclipsed by billionaire donors and their well-funded agenda-driven political action committees. Our participants also decried the transformation of cable television from conveyors of news into partisan entertainment vehicles that, instead of informing the public, now served to inflame and polarize political discourse. And they expressed growing concern with the inability of Congress and some political leaders to engage in civil and productive discourse, making it increasingly impossible to reach compromise on critical issues facing the nation.

The discussion was thoughtful and quite instructive, but despite repeated efforts to refocus participants on the US role in the Arab World, we kept drifting back to our preoccupation with our politics at home. And so, issues - like: The needs of Syrian refugees and the destabilizing impact they are having on host countries; the humanitarian crisis in Yemen; the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian lands; and the potential for an expanding US military role in Syria, without a strategic vision - received too little attention.

I left the dinner feeling that it had been a reflection of our national dilemma, in microcosm. Our hyper-partisan dysfunction has caused America to turn inward and, as a result, Congress has abdicated its oversight role and our political leaders have left the American public uninformed about the dangers afoot in the world and unprepared to deal with the challenges we face in countries in which we are deeply engaged. And that's a recipe for disaster.

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



Rich Communist offers 'strawberry' socialism

A debonair businessman who boasts million-dollar earnings, Pavel Grudinin is a surprise choice as Russia's Communist candidate for president. Nicknamed the "strawberry king," the 57-year-old has a pick-your-own fruit farm and dairy herd on a chunk of valuable real estate on Moscow's outskirts. With luxuriant curly grey hair, moustache and a ready smile, he is the first fresh face in years to stand for the red-flag-waving party led by 73-year-old stalwart Gennady Zyuganov.

In a predictable March 18 presidential election, Grudinin will likely be runner-up to President Vladimir Putin, though he lags far behind in state-run opinion polls at around seven percent. He appears to have all the credentials for a Communist candidate: he runs an agribusiness named after Vladimir Lenin and has praised Stalin, to whom he bears a passing resemblance. Yet he is not a member of the Communist party and has criticized its "dogmas".

Much of his wealth comes from renting and selling highly valuable land bordering the Moscow ring road to hypermarkets. Last year his company's turnover was reportedly four billion rubles (\$69 million). "My earnings over the last six years were 157 million (rubles, \$2.7 million). I don't earn badly," he told reporters. Analysts see his role in the Kremlin scenario as boosting turnout - but not taking votes away from Putin. Grudinin is willing to criticize policies but not the strongman himself. "This is not a battle between people, it's a battle of ideologies," he said. In the past he publicly supported Putin and even joined the ruling party.

Lasers zapping udders

Communist leader Zyuganov has praised Grudinin for enacting socialist principles, from building a turreted Disney-style kindergarten to paying workers above-average wages. Zyuganov calls it a "territory of social optimism". The Sovkhoz Imeni Lenina, or Lenin State Farm, covers a whole district, entered through elaborate gates

decorated with strawberry motifs. Inside are strawberry sculptures, a cafe called Berry and streetlights in the shape of the red berry.

The farm was founded in 1918 as a showcase for Soviet agriculture. In 1995, it became a limited company with Grudinin as director. Journalists on a recent tour were shown how he has modernized the operation, with lasers zapping cows' udders in an automated Dutch milking parlor. Profits are ploughed back into community facilities



Kremlin fears Grudinin could perform well in presidential polls

that look much better than state-provided ones.

At the school that opened last year, children study computer modelling and Ancient Greek democracy while the spotless kindergarten has a whole room of Lego. Grudinin may be a "capitalist", but his treatment of workers and the local community play well with Communists too, said political analyst Konstantin Kalachev. Communist MP Valery Rashkin insisted there was "no schism" in the party over Grudinin's candidacy, calling him "our man, flesh of our flesh".

Negative stuff and dirt

Grudinin is a "dark horse" and the only candidate who

could do better than the Kremlin intends, analyst Andrei Kolesnikov from the Carnegie Moscow Center told Vedomosti business daily. According to state pollster VTsIOM, Grudinin's support stood at more than seven percent in January before dipping to 6.9 percent this month. By comparison, for early February Putin was more than two percentage points lower than at the start of the year when he garnered 73.8 percent.

This prompted a wave of hostile coverage in pro-Kremlin media, questioning Grudinin's integrity and highlighting his foreign bank accounts, supporters say. "It's going badly," said MP Rashkin, complaining that "everyone has turned on Grudinin and they're chucking negative stuff and dirt at him". He said this came after Grudinin's rise in popularity "prompted fear and dismay in Putin's campaign office". He suggested Grudinin could get 30 percent and force Putin into a second round-a scenario the Kremlin wants to avoid at all costs.

Heavy artillery

The use of "the state's heavy artillery", including television, points to the involvement of Putin's minders, wrote journalist Oleg Kashin. Grudinin has complained of checks by tax inspectors and limited airtime. "We're always under pressure," he said. For analyst Kalachev, the media campaign reflects Kremlin fears Grudinin could perform well, particularly with women voters. Grudinin could also win some anti-Putin protest votes, he added, with top opposition leader Alexei Navalny barred from standing and urging a boycott of the election. Like Navalny, Grudinin has wooed young people. He recently gave an interview to popular video blogger Yuriy Dud that has been viewed more than three million times. The Kremlin is torn over Grudinin, said Kalachev. "On the one hand, they need a good turnout and Grudinin can bring new voters to the polls. On the other hand, if he bites off any of Putin's share, they'll have to scupper him."—AFP

Waking the bear

Trump's National Security Strategy document, unveiled in December, said one aim of the "energy dominance" policy was to "help our allies and partners become more resilient against those that use energy to coerce". Former Soviet bloc nation Lithuania received its first cargo of US LNG in August - an event Lithuania's foreign affairs minister called "crucially important for the whole region."

The Trump administration also helped negotiate a deal in July between Ukraine and US miner Xcoal Energy for some 700,000 tons of coal, and provided hundreds of millions of dollars in financing and insurance to gas and wind power projects there. Ukraine has borne the brunt of Russia's near-monopoly of gas supplies to Europe over the years. State energy company Gazprom has cut off gas to Ukraine, and onward to Western Europe, during price disputes in deep winter, and imposed bans on customers reselling gas to other countries.

The Kremlin and Gazprom have said those disputes were driven by commercial, not political, matters. Gazprom's deputy CEO Alexander Medvedev downplayed the impact of US energy shipments on the region. "I would compare Gazprom's gas exports to Europe with a cup of tea and US supplies to a few drops of cognac or whiskey added to that cup," he told investors in London on Thursday. "You get a bit of smell but there is no major taste."

Russia aims to solidify business ties in Western Europe with a proposed gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea to Germany - the Nord Stream 2. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in Warsaw on Jan. 27 that Washington views the project as a threat to Europe's energy security. In addition, Russia may have enough spare capacity to threaten US drilling companies with a price war if American policy irks the country enough, analysts say.

"Down the road, Russia could show the world just how much energy it has to produce, to the detriment... of rival US oil and gas producers," said Amy Myers Jaffe, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Past price wars with OPEC nations have triggered bankruptcies in the United States, including in 2014 when Saudi Arabia opened the spigots. But OPEC eventually relented as oil prices tanked, trimming output and paving the way for a US recovery. Even if the United States struggles to win market share in its competition with cheaper piped gas from Russia, the availability of an alternative will blunt the impact if Russia cuts supplies off again, and reduce its ability to dictate long-term restrictive contracts with its customers, analysts said. —Reuters

Trump 'energy dominance' policy pits Washington against Moscow

Last July, US President Donald Trump stood beside his Polish counterpart, Andrzej Duda, in Warsaw and promised to help wean the nation off Russian energy imports. He offered US fuel as an alternative, "so that you can never be held hostage to a single supplier." Trump was tapping into longstanding European concerns about Russia's ability to shut off natural gas supplies - which it has done in past pricing disputes. US lawmakers say Russia's influence over energy has proven effective in silencing critics of its human rights abuses, annexation of Crimea, and incursion into eastern Ukraine, an assertion the Kremlin has denied.

Six months after Trump's trip, Poland has contracted for imports of US liquefied natural gas (LNG), crude oil, and coal, and announced it will not renew a gas supply deal with Russia's state-owned Gazprom when it expires in 2022 - halting an exclusive and troubled relationship dating to 1944. The episode exemplifies a key goal of Trump's "energy dominance" agenda - using rising energy exports to bolster Washington's geopolitical influence.

The policy also seeks to boost domestic production through rollbacks of environmental regulations and expanded energy leasing in federal territories, but those efforts have so far had little impact. Trump nonetheless inherited a booming oil and gas industry that has given his administration more international clout in energy markets than any White House has enjoyed in decades. US oil output has risen to more than 10 million barrels per day for the first time since 1970 thanks to improved drilling technology that dates back years. Natural gas output has also soared, making America the world's top producer of the fuel.

Meanwhile, the 2015 repeal of a 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports - passed by a Republican-controlled Congress and signed by former President Barack Obama - has made strategic shipments overseas possible. The permitting of US LNG export facilities in recent years has

provided another boost. It remains to be seen how successfully the administration will play its strong hand. Obstacles include environmental opposition to new pipelines and other energy projects at home, competition from other big exporters abroad, and potential trade disputes. But early signs are promising. Lithuania, Ukraine, China, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam are among the more than 30 countries that have recently cut US energy supply deals over the past two years - many for the first time.

Buying less from OPEC, selling more to china

John McCarrick, the deputy assistant secretary at the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources, said his staff helped pave the way for some of the energy supply agreements by meeting with private and public officials in Europe and Asia to promote the strategic value of US energy. "All we're trying to do is level the market playing field," by giving allies the ability to diversify their energy supply, he said. Doing so, he said, could reduce the influence of "market distorting actors," including Russia and producers in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The administration also hopes to use energy exports to reduce yawning trade deficits with partners - particularly with China, which last year exported goods to the United States worth \$347 billion more than it imported. China has become a top customer of US LNG and is now the second-largest buyer of US crude behind Canada. China's state oil company signed a preliminary agreement in November to invest in a \$43 billion LNG export facility in Alaska, which would compete with Russia's Yamal LNG export terminal in the Arctic.

"To see collaboration rather than being at each other's throats - that's a real positive," said Daniel Yergin, an energy historian and vice chairman of IHS Markit. US coal exports to Asia have also risen in recent months as ailing US mining companies search for alternatives to the weak domestic market. While US exports are soaring, its imports are falling - reducing its economic and political dependence on oil-producing nations in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Since 2005, US net petroleum imports have plunged to just 4 million barrels per day, from 12.5 million bpd, with the share coming from OPEC falling to about a third from more than half. The now-repealed US oil export ban dated back to an era of feared fuel shortages after Arab members of OPEC imposed an embargo against the United States in retaliation for US support of the Israeli military.

Serena Williams ready for comeback after year of ‘ups and downs’

Williams boasts a strong Fed Cup record, with 13-0 singles mark

NASHEVILLE: Serena Williams has spoken out about the “ups and downs” she faced during her year away from competitive tennis but insists she’s now focused and ready for her quest to once more dominate her sport. Speaking ahead of her comeback at the Fed Cup in Asheville, North Carolina, where the United States will begin the defence of its crown against an unfancied Netherlands team, the 36-year-old said she had the benefit of a new outlook following the birth of her baby daughter Alexis Olympia in September. “There’s been a lot of ups and downs in the practice,” Williams told reporters Friday. “It also gives me another view, it’s almost relaxing for me as I have nothing to prove. Again, just fighting against all odds to be out there again, to be competing again.”

Some of that struggle was apparent during an exhibition match in Abu Dhabi in December, where she lost to French Open Champion Jelena Ostapenko. Williams was beaten in straight sets and appeared a little slow on her feet, even as she played some fine shots. She had initially targeted last month’s Australian Open crown for a defence of her 2017 crown, but abandoned that goal after declaring she was not “where I personally want to be.”

Perhaps wary of setting another ambitious target, Williams refused to be drawn on whether she had set her sights on the

year’s remaining Grand Slams—the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

EASING IN

For now, she appears to be easing her way in and was not named as the United States’ first or second singles player in a powerful US team that includes elder sister Venus, world number 17 CoCo Vandeweghe and world number 62 Lauren Davis.

That means she isn’t scheduled to play in either of the singles matches on Saturday which are followed by reverse singles today, but will instead play in a

tomorrow goes, then we’ll make our adjustments, if any,” she said.

Serena boasts a strong Fed Cup record, with a 13-0 singles mark that includes winning 26 out of her 28 sets as well as a 3-1 doubles record. None of the Dutch players are in the top 100 in singles rankings, but Kerkhove and Schuurs are ranked 65 and 32 respectively in doubles and could prove a handful.

“I think the underdog (tag) fits us very well,” said Dutch captain Paul Haarhuis. “We’re going to give it 100 percent like we always do.”

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Williams’ comeback run comes as another titan of the sport—Roger Federer—is enjoying a late-career resurgence, also aged 36. With three singles Slam titles over the past two years, Federer is now intent on reclaiming his world number one ranking, and becoming the oldest man to do so. “Roger Federer is a really great tennis player,” Williams said of the Swiss great.

“I don’t know any tennis player that has not been inspired by him. I definitely have. Yeah, just trekking on, we keep doing the same thing.” While Williams is bidding to emulate Margaret Court, Evonne Goolagong and Kim Clijsters in winning a Grand Slam title after having a child, she acknowledged the path had not been



straightforward and credited her sister with making it possible.

“I have a great partner and relationship with Venus. She’s been really, really positive,” she said. “There’s moments that have just been hard, getting back out there doing it every day. You have to get used to that, get in the rhythm of that.” Also credited for a newfound sense of zen was her family life with baby Alexis and husband Alexis

Ohanian, the co-founder of Reddit whom she wed in November.

“It’s probably been the most fun of my life,” she said. And though she insists she has nothing left to prove, one professional goal eludes her—Margaret Court’s all-time record for Slam singles titles of 24.

“It goes unsaid 25 is obviously something that I would love, but I’d hate to limit myself,” she joked. — AFP

Golf stars tumble out of Super 6 as Big Dolphin takes lead

PERTH: Overnight leaders Brett Rumford and Lee Westwood crashed out of the \$1.75 million Handa Super 6 tournament in Perth yesterday. On a dramatic day during which strong prevailing winds played havoc with the field, seven different players held the lead at different stages.

When the dust settled, little-known Thai journeyman Prom Meesawat, nicknamed “The Big Dolphin” because of his penchant for swimming, had topped qualifying at 12 under after shooting 67 in the third round.

He was followed by three players at 10 under—big-hitting young Australian Lucas Herbert, American Sean Crocker and Denmark’s Thorbjorn Olesen, who won in Perth in 2014.

All of the top four held the lead at some point during the day, but nonetheless start on a level footing on the final day. The unique tri-sanctioned European Tour tournament sees the top 24 after the first three rounds of stroke-play undertake matchplay on the final day to decide the winner, with the top eight qualifiers having a bye in the first round on Sunday.

Having been the top two after both of the opening two rounds, Westwood and Rumford suffered a stunning demise to miss the last 24, leaving the tournament without any of its marquee players on the final day.

Starting the day joint leaders at eight under, Westwood and Rumford had horrendous rounds, both shooting 78 as they tumbled down the leaderboard to finish equal 40th at two under.

Former world number one Westwood struggled all day with wayward driving and heaved his club in frustration after teeing off into the bush on the 14th. He scrambled out of that with a par, only to double bogey the next hole to drop to two under and slip out of contention.

“Not a lot went my way,” Westwood said. “I hit a few bad shots, got a few bad breaks, never made any putts. I made one birdie on the 17th, so you’re not going to score well doing that.”

Rumford was the defending champion, having won the qualifying stage by five strokes last year. He looked well placed to reach the final 24 until a disastrous double bogey on the 16th killed off his chances.

“It was a tough day, a long day,” Rumford said. “I felt like I hit it alright, but my short game wasn’t at its usual level and it was just a flat round.” After the third round was completed, nine players who were tied for 17th had to partake in a playoff to decide the field for the final day.

Meesawat produced seven birdies and two bogeys to move into a position to notch his first European Tour win, which would secure his card on that tour. His best previous result on the European Tour was a playoff loss to Miguel Angel Jimenez and Stuart Manley in Hong Kong in 2013. Although he said he believed his last experience of matchplay was at least a decade ago, the 33-year-old was excited by the opportunity to participate in the final day. — AFP



Zain Arabian Horse Festival 2018

Zain main sponsor of Kuwait Int’l Arabian Horse Festival 2018

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the Kuwait International Arabian Horse Festival 2018. The event is organized by the Arabian Horse Center - Bait Al Arab under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

Al-Sabah during February 2018.

Zain took part in awarding the winners of the 7th International Championship - Arabian Horse Breeder Award, the Kuwait International Arabian Horse Festival’s first contest. The event witnessed the attendance of HH the Amir’s representative HE the Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarah Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Arabian Horse Center’s Board of Trustees Alaa Al Roumi, as well as a large number of Arabian horse admirers from the public.

Zain’s support to this international competition came in line with the company’s belief in the importance of taking part in projects and initiatives that strengthen the valuable Arabian identity and cherished Kuwaiti culture, reflecting the vital role of the private sector in contributing to the preservation of the heritage, culture and history of Kuwait.

Zain stressed its keenness in providing the

needed support and encouragement to all activities and initiatives that further pushes the national economic and touristic development wheel. The company is committed to continuing to support all kinds of national projects that support the national economy and offer innovative ideas that contribute to the further progress of Kuwait.

The Kuwait International Arabian Horse Festival 2018 mainly aims at raising awareness about preserving the breed of the Arabian horse. The Arabian Horse Center - Bait Al Arab is considered an official organizer of horse breeding competitions both on local and international levels, and partners with the Hunting and Equestrian Club and ECAHO (European Conference of Arab Horse Organizations). The festival will also feature the All Nations Cup - Straight Egyptians competition that will be organized late February.

Top-ranked Johnson shares Pebble Beach Pro-Am lead

SAN FRANCISCO: World number one Dustin Johnson fired eight birdies in a seven-under par 64 on Friday to grab a share of the second-round lead alongside rookie Beau Hossler at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Johnson, playing on the par-71 Monterey Peninsula course, one of three in use for the tournament, had just one bogey as he gained ground on overnight co-leader Hossler.

Hossler, who played the par-72 Spyglass Hill, had five birdies in a five-under 67 that put him on 12-under as well. The leading duo were two strokes in front of Julian Suri, who carded a four-under 67 at Monterey Peninsula to get to 10-under and Troy Merritt, who shot a five-under 67 at Spyglass Hill.

Johnson, who opened the year with a victory at

the Tournament of Champions in Hawaii last month, teed off on the 10th hole at Monterey Peninsula and birdied his first three holes. He followed his lone bogey of the day with back-to-back birdies at 16 and 17, and picked up three more birdies coming in.

“Kind of the same as yesterday,” Johnson said. “I just felt like I played really solid, hit a lot of really good shots, hit a lot of good putts and it was a pretty easy day.” Johnson said he’s approaching the form that saw him win three straight tournaments early last year before he fell on some stairs and hurt his back as he prepared to tee it up in the Masters.

“The game’s really close,” Johnson said. “I don’t know if it’s quite as good as it was during that stretch. That was probably some of the best golf I’ve played in my career, but parts of the game are just as good.” Five-time major-winner Phil Mickelson, a four-time winner in the tournament that teams amateurs from the world of big business, sports and celebrity with the pros, put himself in the mix for the weekend with a bogey-free 65 at Monterey Peninsula that left him tied for fifth on nine-under par.

“I am having fun,” said the 47-year-old American, who is seeking a 43rd US PGA Tour title and his first since the 2013 British Open. He hit nine of 13 fairways and 15 of 18 greens in regulation but

said he expected a tougher challenge when he plays the par-72 Pebble Beach Golf Links on Saturday.

“I think Pebble’s a little bit tougher because the greens are a little firmer and smaller,” he said “But if you play well, you can birdie and score low on all three (courses).”

MCILROY MISERY

World number two Jon Rahm of Spain had five birdies without a bogey in his five-under par 67 at Pebble Beach on Friday. That put him alongside Mickelson in the group of six players sharing fifth place on nine-under, which also included former world number one Jason Day who posted a six-under 65 at Monterey Peninsula.

Northern Ireland star Rory McIlroy, playing the tournament for the first time, was five-under for the tournament through 13 holes of the second round when disaster struck at Monterey Peninsula’s driveable par-four fifth-his 14th hole of the day.

He nearly drove the green and putted his eagle attempt to within 10 feet. But he needed four more putts from there, recording a double-bogey on the hole. He added two more bogeys on the way to a three-over 74. He was one-under for the tournament, with work to do on Saturday to make the 54-hole cut. — AFP



PEBBLE BEACH: Dustin Johnson plays his shot from the second tee during Round Two of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am at Monterey Peninsula Country Club on Friday in Pebble Beach, Calif. — AFP

Sports



Joint Olympic team makes history for two Koreas

Lim's gold gives S Korea first Pyeongchang medal

GANGNEUNG: North and South Korea competed together for the first time at an Olympics yesterday as the first of 102 gold medals were decided against a fast-moving backdrop of diplomatic manoeuvring. Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, was among a high-level delegation in the stands as the joint Korean women's ice hockey team took on Switzerland in their opening match.

The Games have triggered rapid reconciliation between the two Koreas, who are still technically at war. In talks yesterday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in was invited to a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. There was joy for South Korea when short-track speed skater Lim Hyo-jun won the first gold for hosts on day one, claiming the men's 1500m in front of a near-capacity crowd.

Earlier, Sweden's Charlotte Kalla won the first title of the Games in the women's skiathlon, followed by Germany's Laura Dahlmeier who triumphed in the women's 7.5km sprint biathlon. Five gold medals were up for grabs on day one, concluding with Kamil Stoch's attempt to become the first back-to-back ski jumping champion in the normal hill.

But most South Korean fans were fixated on the ice hockey, where the combined North and South women's team appeared at a packed Kwandong Hockey Centre.

The two Koreas marched together at Friday's opening ceremony but they have never before competed side-by-side at an Olympics. Among the crowd was a large number of North Korea's all-female "Army of Beauties" cheer squad, known for their

Choe Un Song but he was eliminated in the heats for the 1,500m short-track speed skating, failing to reach the semi-finals.

INTERNET SHUTDOWN

Earlier, Kalla won the skiathlon race ahead of Norway's Marit Bjoergen, preventing her from collecting an unprecedented third straight gold medal in the event. But Bjoergen still became the most decorated woman in Winter Olympics history as she claimed her 11th medal. Third came Finland's Krista Parmakoski.

In biathlon, Germany's Dahlmeier took the honours in the women's 7.5km sprint ahead of Norway's Marte Olsbu and Veronika Vitkova of the Czech Republic. Carlijn Achtereekte made her Olympic debut a golden one, leading a Dutch podium sweep in the women's 3,000-metre speed skating.

Ireen Wust, the 2006 and 2014 champion, was a narrow second with Antoinette de Jong third. Elsewhere, organisers probed a mysterious shutdown of the Games' internal internet and wifi, which follows warnings of cyberattacks.

Internal internet and wifi systems crashed at about 7:15 pm (1015 GMT) on



Kalla wins the skiathlon race ahead of Bjoergen

tightly choreographed moves and chants.

At a Games rife with political overtones, US Vice-President Mike Pence was watching nearby as the first North Korean athlete competed-and flopped-yesterday. North Korean cheerleaders let rip in support for



PYEONGCHANG: Sweden's Charlotte Kalla (C), Norway's Marit Bjoergen (L) and Finland's Krista Parmakoski celebrate on the podium during the medal ceremony at the end of the women's 7.5km + 7.5km cross-country skiathlon event at the PyeongChang Medals Plaza during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games yesterday in PyeongChang. — AFP

Friday and were still not back to normal at midday yesterday, Games organisers said. The outage follows warnings of malware phishing attacks targeting organisations working at the Olympics, and allegations of cyberattacks from Russia-which has denied any involvement.

"We don't want to speculate because

we're still trying to find out what the root source is," said Nancy Park, a spokeswoman for the Games organisers. The shutdown started just before Friday's opening ceremony, where Moon twice shook the hand of Kim Yo Jong, the first member of North Korea's ruling dynasty to venture south since the 1950-53 Korean War. — AFP

Jamaican bobsledder in tears over Olympic journey

PYEONGCHANG: Jamaica's Jazmine Fenlator-Victorian broke down in tears yesterday as she described the journey that has led her to the Pyeongchang Olympics as part of a trailblazing bobsled team. Fenlator-Victorian, who has switched to Jamaica after representing the United States at Sochi 2014, welled up and struggled to talk when she spoke of the importance of being a role model for black children. "It's important to me that little girls and little boys see someone that looks like them, talks like them, has the same culture as them, has crazy curly hair and wears it natural, has brown skin, included in different things in this world," said an emotional Fenlator-Victorian.

"When you grow up and you don't see that, you feel like you can't do it. And that's not right. So coming home to Jamaica, I wanted my Jamaican people to see that they can do it, that there's not just one path to get out of poverty and make a name for themselves."

Thirty years after the famous "Cool Runnings" Jamaican men's bobsleigh team competed at Calgary 1988, the women's team are the country's first female Winter Olympians. Nigeria's Seun Adigun, who will be joined by Akuoma Omeoga on the South Korean ice, is another former American who is taking bobsled to new audiences. Fenlator-Victorian and Adigun both left the US bobsled program for their own longshot efforts that have paid off in extra attention this month at Pyeongchang. "To start your own federation as well is really impressive," said US bobsledder Lauren Gibbs.



PYEONGCHANG: Jamaica's team leader and driver Jazmine Fenlator-Victorian corners in the first men's unofficial bobsleigh training session at the Olympic Sliding Centre, during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang. — AFP

"TAKE CHANCES, FOLKS"

Gibbs gave up a big salary to take a chance on bobsled and will join two-time Olympic medallist Elana Meyers Taylor in trying to capture gold. "I've always been a risk-taker," Gibbs said. "My dad wasn't too happy about it. The corporate world just really wasn't meant for me. I didn't consider it giving up anything. I consider it gaining things that I really enjoy. Money can't buy this experience."

"At the end of my life I can't take the money with me. But I can have the memory of being selected at 33 to the Olympic team. "Take chances, folks." US women came to bobsled from other sports such as athletics, volleyball and softball and see the empowerment and diversity impact it can make. "I call it the hidden gem of women's sports," says

pilot Jamie Greubel Poser. "It's cool for all of us to see the sport grow in places where it wasn't on the radar. We want to spread the word so more women can have the opportunity." Aja Evans, who backstops Poser, ended her athletics career and jumped into bobsled. "The skills from other sports transition well to bobsled," she said. "It's all about power, speed, explosiveness at the start. A lot of collegiate women are ready for bobsled and they don't know about it." Evans applauds the chance bobsled offers to women in surprising places.

"Diversity is great," Evans said. "Now you have Jamaican and Nigerian athletes coming in. The world is finally catching up and realising the potential all across the board. It's amazing to be a part of that." — AFP

Dutch medal sweep in women's 3,000m speedskating

GANGNEUNG: Garlijn Achtereekte made her Olympic debut a golden one, leading a Dutch podium sweep in the women's 3,000-metre speed skating yesterday at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

The 28-year-old skated in the fifth of 12 heats, well before the favourites, but her dazzling time of 3:59.21 held up to win. Ireen Wust, the 2006 and 2014 champion, was a narrow second in 3:59.29 with Antoinette de Jong third in 4:00.02.

Achtereekte was third at the Dutch Olympic trials and second in last month's European championships in 4:06.81, but was a shock winner when it matter most. Wust took her ninth Olympic speed skating medal, match-

ing the all-time record total of Germany's Claudia Pechstein and tying the Dutch career record for Olympic medals by equestrian rider Anky Van Grunsven.

But it was another near-miss for Wust, a four-time Olympic champion who also settled for second in the 1,000, 1,500 and 5,000 at Sochi in 2014. Wust missed out on becoming the first Dutch woman to defend a Winter Olympic title and only the second woman with back-to-back golds in the event.

Wust also narrowly failed to become the first Dutch athlete to win five Olympic golds in the Winter or Summer Games. Czech Martina Sablikova, the 2010 Olympic champion and silver medallist at Sochi, was fourth, just 0.52 behind de Jong, with Japan's Miho Takagi fifth in 4:01.35.

Pechstein, a record nine-time Olympic speedskating medallist who turns 46 later this month, missed her chance to win a medal at a sixth different Winter Olympics, finishing ninth in 4:04.49.

Italy's Francesca Lollobrigida, the great-niece of famed 1950s actress Gina Lollobrigida, finished 13th in 4:08.58. — AFP

Klammer bets on Feuz to win 'turny' downhill

PYEONGCHANG: Austrian great Franz Klammer says the winner of the men's downhill in Pyeongchang will be the skier who hits every turn right and makes the fewest mistakes- and he thinks that will be Switzerland's Beat Feuz.

"He's really strong, he's my favourite but also the Austrians are quite good, so if everything goes right we will make a medal, definitely," said the 1976 Olympic champion, whose name is still synonymous with the glamour and danger of Alpine ski racing.

He also rates the chances of his countryman Matthias Mayer winning a second successive downhill gold-although with one important caveat. "His prospects are very good. I liked him in training. He was loose, he was good. But he always makes some mistakes, so when he can avoid mistakes he will be up there and he could defend his title." Klammer told Reuters in an interview on the eve of the Olympic race.

No man has won back-to-back Olympic downhill golds and the Austrian said conditions here would suit Mayer less than they did four years ago. "The downhill in Sochi was very, very good for him because it was steep, it was rough and at that time he was the best in those conditions. Here it's easier, it's more grind-

ing, you don't have the advantage when you have guts and when you really attack it. So you have to be smooth and still let it run."

The route to victory, he said, would be "not making mistakes, not missing a gate, not missing a turn. The key is to hit every turn right". In his pomp, Klammer was renowned for the fearless abandon with which he flew down the slopes. At 64, he still cuts an imposing, silver-haired figure, resplendent in green lederhosen and bright red socks at the Austria House where the Alpine nation makes its Olympic hangout.

It is clear he is nostalgic for the old days of ski racing, and the relatively benign course at the Jeongseon Alpine Centre, designed by his old racing rival Bernhard Russi of Switzerland, is not to his taste.

"In my opinion it's too turny. But that's how they make downhill courses nowadays-it's one turn after another, one turn after another. For my taste I would like to have some schuss and then make a turn, have downhill like they used to be."

He laughs when asked if there is any skier in the field who reminds him of his younger self. "I think Aksel Lund Svindal. He's set up for speed so he barely makes the turns but he's always very, very fast, so I like his way of skiing."

At 35, can the Norwegian win? "Of course he can win, he's one of the favourites. So let's say there's one favourite out there like Feuz and then there's Svindal, (Kjetil) Jansrud, Mayer, maybe (Christof) Innerhofer, I don't know. So there are many out there for medals, but we'll see." — Reuters

beIN to broadcast more than 700 live hours of PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games

DOHA: The stage is set for the start of the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games, and beIN will bring you all the action as it happens live from the ski slopes and ice rinks of Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The Games started from February 9 until February 25, with more than 100 events scheduled across 15 different disciplines. beIN's exclusive and extensive coverage includes more than 700 hours of live broadcasting hours across 7 different channels and in multiple languages.

Live coverage of the opening ceremony at the new Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium gets underway at 13:30 Mecca time on beIN SPORTS HD11. You can follow all the events live throughout the 16 days of action on beIN SPORTS HD10.

Make sure you join Aarran Summers and



Alex Leduc from Monday to Friday in the Olympic Winter Games Review show. The half-hour program airs at 18:30 Mecca time on beIN SPORTS HD11, and will keep you in the loop on all the main talking points of the day. Be a part of the conversation by following beIN's social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. beIN will also bring you all the updates on the main website [http://www.beinsports.com/en/winter-](http://www.beinsports.com/en/winter-olympics/)

olympics/.

Don't forget to visit bein.net/subscribe to one of beIN's many packages where you can watch live and exclusive coverage of the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games. That includes the beIN Elite package, which brings you free CONNECT subscription, beIN's over the top (OTT) offering that allows viewers to watch matches anytime and anywhere.



Australia hammer England by 7 wickets in T20 win

Remain unbeaten after three games in triangular Twenty20 series

SCOREBOARD	
MELBOURNE: Complete scoreboard in the third Twenty20 tri-series match between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday:	
England	
J. Roy c Carey b Richardson	8
A. Hales c Finch b Stanlake	3
D. Malan run out (Warner)	10
J. Vince b Tye	21
J. Buttler c Agar b Richardson	46
S. Billings c Warner b Stanlake	29
D. Willey c Warner b Richardson	10
C. Jordan not out	1
Extras (b2, w7)	9
Total (7 wickets; 20 overs)	137
Fall of wickets: 1-12 (Hales), 2-16 (Roy), 3-34 (Malan), 4-70 (Vince), 5-113 (Billings), 6-133 (Willey), 7-137 (Buttler)	
Did not bat: L. Dawson, A. Rashid, T. Curran	
Bowling: Richardson 4-0-33-3 (2w), Stanlake 4-0-28-2 (2w), Stoinis 4-0-18-0, Tye 4-0-29-1 (3w), Agar 4-0-27-0.	
Australia	
D. Warner c Buttler b Willey	2
D. Short not out	36
C. Lynn c Buttler b Jordan	31
G. Maxwell c Buttler b Jordan	39
A. Finch not out	20
Extras (lb2, w8)	10
Total (3 wickets; 14.3 overs)	138
Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Warner), 2-51 (Lynn), 3-116 (Maxwell)	
Did not bat: M. Stoinis, A. Carey, A. Agar, A. Tye, K. Richardson, B. Stanlake	
Bowling: Willey 3.3-0-30-1 (1w), Curran 2-0-23-0 (1w), Jordan 3-0-26-2 (1w), Rashid 4-0-34-0 (1w), Dawson 2-0-23-0.	
Result: Australia won by 7 wickets	

MELBOURNE: Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory over England with more than five overs to spare to remain unbeaten after three games in the triangular Twenty20 series in Melbourne yesterday. The Australians restricted England to 137 for seven off their 20 overs with paceman Kane Richardson taking three wickets and then the home team knocked up the runs off just 14.3 overs.

A match-winning partnership of 65 between Glenn Maxwell (39) and D’Arcy Short (36 not out), plus cameos from Chris Lynn (31) and Aaron Finch (20 not out from five balls), got Australia comfortably home. The win ensured Australia will play in the tri-series final in Auckland on February 21 with preliminary matches now switching to New Zealand. The game-defining sequence came when Maxwell and Short accelerated

“Our players have been in tremendous form”

the score from 65 for two at the end of the ninth over to 104 for two after the 11th, 39 runs flowing over just two overs. “Our players have been in tremendous form coming off the Big Bash League and they are playing with freedom and they’re playing fearless,” Australia skipper David Warner said.

“The bowlers executed their game beautifully and the way the batters finished it off was absolutely clinical.”But Warner’s form is again in the spotlight after his relentless playing schedule. This time he lasted just four balls, nicking a David Willey outswinger on two. Warner is the only member of the Test side to have played for Australia in every format this summer and



MELBOURNE: Australia's Aaron Finch (L) celebrates the Aussies 3rd series win with D'Arcy Short (R) during the Twenty20 International Tri-Series cricket match between England and Australia at the MCG in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

has struggled for form in the ODIs and T20s. He is expected to travel with the T20 side to New Zealand before heading straight to South Africa for the first of four Tests.

It was a second drubbing for England after going down by five wickets to Australia in Hobart on Wednesday. “It was another poor performance for us,” stand-in captain Jos Buttler said. “We didn’t quite soak up the pressure early on with the bat losing early wickets to back it up for the end and none of us kicked on. “Again the power of Australia proved too much.”

Buttler was deputising for injured skipper Eoin Morgan, who missed the match after straining his right

groin during training on Friday. Pacemen Kane Richardson and Billy Stanlake claimed five wickets between them after Australia was sent into bat.

England were reeling at 34 for three in the fourth over when David Warner ran out Dawid Malan with a brilliant direct hit. James Vince was skittled by a slower ball from Andrew Tye before Buttler (46) and Sam Billings (29) steadied the ship.

Billings struck the only six of England’s innings when he smashed Ashton Agar over long on in the 14th over, but he fell to Stanlake with Warner taking the first of two catches at mid-off. Stanlake (2-28) and Richardson (3-33) did the damage for Australia. — AFP

China face Indonesia in Asia Team final

KUALA LUMPUR: Badminton powerhouse China stormed into the Asia Team Championship final where they will face Indonesia after they defeated Malaysia 3-1 in the semifinals yesterday. Since China and Malaysia qualified for the Thomas Cup Finals after their respective victories in the quarter finals Friday, they rested their senior players and allowed their young shuttlers to gain some international exposure. The Thomas Cup Finals is one the world’s most prestigious badminton events in terms of player and fan interest.

The semi-finalists in this tournament automatically qualify for this year’s Thomas Cup, to be held in Thailand’s capital Bangkok in May. World number two Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia did not play in the semi-finals as the team’s goal in the tournament was to book a ticket for the Thomas Cup. The veteran Lee was replaced by Lee Zii Jia.

Bur he found China’s Shi Yuqi too strong, resulting in the world number seven winning 21-18, 21-9. Malaysia drew level after 2016 Olympic silver medalists Goh V Shem/Tan Wee Kiong beat He Jiting/Tan Qiang 21-18, 21-12.

But China bounced back with vengeance when Qiao Bin crushed Soong Joo Ven 21-17, 21-8. In the men’s doubles Han Chengkai/Zhou Haodong confirmed China’s berth in the final with a 21-15, 21-13 triumph over Ong Yew Sin/Teo Ee Yi. Meanwhile, defending champions Indonesia, fought hard for a 3-2 win over South Korea.

Jonatan Christie gave Indonesia the lead when he upset the higher ranked Son Wan-Ho 21-18, 21-14 in the first men’s singles. The men’s doubles pairing of Mohammad Ahsan/Angga Pratama doubled their advantage with a 21-10, 21-8 over Chung Eui-Seok/Seo Seung-Jae. But South Korea launched a comeback. —AFP

Dananjaya’s maiden five-wicket haul hands S Lanka win

DHAKA: Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya took eight wickets on his debut, including a maiden five-wicket haul in the second innings, to help his side to a 215-run win against Bangladesh in the second Test yesterday and a 1-0 series win.

Chasing 339 for victory, Bangladesh were all out for 123 in their second innings in the second session of the third day of the match with Dananjaya taking 5-24 in just five overs. Dananjaya had taken 3-20 in the first innings and ended up with the best figures for a Sri Lankan debutant.

Veteran left-arm spinner Rangana Herath also took 4-49 by eroding Bangladesh’s top half as the hosts capitulated after also being all out for 110 in their first innings.

Sri Lanka scored 222 in their first innings and were all out for 226 earlier on Saturday with Roshen Silva scoring half-centuries in both innings. The first test of the two-match series was drawn and Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal was surprised that the hosts had gone into the deciding match at the Shere Bangla National Stadium on a turning track. “This was a really good series. The first game was a nightmare for the bowlers and this one was a nightmare for the batters,” Chandimal said at the presentation. “The guys executed our game plans really well out in the middle. After the first game we thought the second pitch might be a turning wicket. We were surprised, because we have all the experienced spinners.”

Silva followed up his 56 in the first innings with an unbeaten 70 in the second and was adjudged the player of the match and the series. “I thought this wicket was difficult so I just wanted to keep it simple-I just played my normal game,” said the 29-year-old, who scored his maiden hundred in the first test in Chittagong. “I think one of the strengths we have is the guys in the lower order never throw away their wickets. Even 20-30 runs is very valuable on this wicket.” Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah blamed his side’s batting in the first innings for the loss. “Feeling really disappointed because we knew the pitch would get us a result,” he said. “In this sort of a wicket you should cash in on the first innings. “Their bowlers did the job really well, keeping the pressure on us every time we came out. Our bowlers (only) did well in patches.” — Reuters



DHAKA: Sri Lanka cricketers pose with the tournament trophy following the presentation ceremony on the third day of the second cricket Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla national cricket stadium in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD	
DHAKA: Final scoreboard of the second Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday:	
Sri Lanka first Innings: 222 (K. Mendis 68, R. Silva 56; Abdur Razzak 4-63, Taijul Islam 4-83, Mustafizur Rahman 2-17)	76-4, Mehedi 20-5-37-2.
Bangladesh first innings: 110 (Mehedi Hasan 38 not out; A. Dananjaya 3-20, S. Lakmal 3-25)	
Sri Lanka second innings (200-8 overnight)	
D. Karunaratne c Kayes b Mehedi	32
K. Mendis lbw b Razzak	7
D. de Silva b Taijul	28
D. Gunathilaka lbw b Mustafizur	17
D. Chandimal lbw b Mehedi	30
R. Silva not out	70
N. Dickwella c Mahmudullah b Taijul	10
D. Perera c Liton b Mustafizur	7
A. Dananjaya c Liton b Mustafizur	0
S. Lakmal b Taijul	21
R. Herath lbw b Taijul	0
Extras (lb 4)	4
Total (all out: 73.5 overs)	226
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Mendis), 2-53 (de Silva), 3-80 (Gunathilaka), 4-92 (Karunaratne), 5-143 (Chandimal), 6-170 (Dickwella), 7-178 (Perera), 8-178	
(Dananjaya), 9-226 (Lakmal), 10-226 (Herath)	
Bowling: Razzak 17-2-60-1, Mustafizur 17-3-49-3, Taijul 19.5-2-	
Bangladesh second innings	
Tamim Iqbal lbw b Perera	2
Imrul Kayes c Dickwella b Herath	17
Mominul Haque c Dickwella b Herath	33
Mushfiqur Rahim st Dickwella b Herath	25
Liton Das c Mendis b Dananjaya	12
Mahmudullah c Karunaratne b Dananjaya	6
Sabbir Rahman c Mendis b Dananjaya	1
Mehedi Hasan c Dickwella b Dananjaya	7
Abdur Razzak st Dickwella b Dananjaya	2
Taijul Islam c Gunathilaka b Herath	6
Mustafizur Rahman not out	5
Extras (b6, lb 1)	7
Total (all out: 29.3 overs)	123
Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Tamim), 2-49 (Kayes), 3-64 (Mominul), 4-78 (Liton), 5-100 (Mahmudullah), 6-102 (Mushfiqur), 7-102 (Sabbir), 8-104 (Razzak), 9-113 (Mehedi), 10-123 (Taijul)	
Bowling: Lakmal 3-0-11-0, Perera 10-0-32-1, Herath 11.3-1-49-4, Dananjaya 5-1-24-5.	
Result: Sri Lanka won by 215 runs	
Series Result: Sri Lanka won series 1-0	

Islanders pull off an unlikely comeback with a 7-6 win over Red Wings

NEW YORK: Brock Nelson capped a remarkable hat trick by scoring the game-winning goal with 1:46 remaining in overtime as the New York Islanders pulled off an unlikely comeback in the third period to get a wild 7-6 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night at Barclays Center in New York. Nelson gave the Islanders the win after they faced deficits of 3-0 and 5-2 by finishing off a breakthrough from rookie Matthew Barzal.

Barzal finished off his third career five-point night by stealing the puck from Gustav Nyquist. Once Barzal gained possession, he made a saucer pass through the slot to Nelson, who simply lifted the puck over Detroit goaltender Petr Mrazek for the winner. Nelson finished with his second career hat trick and scored twice in New

York’s five-goal third period, which included a franchise-record four power-play goals.

BLUES 5, JETS 2

Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice and goalie Jake Allen won for the first time since before Christmas as St. Louis dropped Winnipeg at Bell MTS Place. Allen, who’s been an embattled starter for the Blues, snapped a personal five-game losing skid, and his 20-save performance handed the Jets their first regulation-time loss on home ice in nearly two months. St. Louis, which has won six of its last eight games, pulled within two points of Winnipeg for second place in the Central Division, although the Jets do have two games in hand.

STARS 4, PENGUINS 3 (SO)

Tyler Seguin scored twice, including the only goal in the deciding shootout, and goaltender Kari Lehtonen stopped 34 shots as host Dallas defeated Pittsburgh. Dallas has won five straight, matching its longest winning streak this season. Pittsburgh lost for just the second time in its past eight games. John Klingberg and Dan Hamhuis scored goals within a four-minute span in the third period to lift the Stars to a 3-2 lead that held up until Justin Schultz tied the match with 1:13 left to send

the game into overtime.

CAPITALS 4, BLUE JACKETS 2

Evgeny Kuznetsov and Lars Eller each finished with one goal and one assist as host Washington defeated Columbus to finish off a sweep of a home-and-home between the two teams. Washington scored a 3-2 road victory over Columbus when the two teams met on Tuesday night thanks to a last-minute goal from Nicklas Backstrom. In this game, a two-goal second period snapped a 2-2 tie and gave the Capitals the victory. The Capitals improved to 10-1-2 in their last 13 games versus the Blue Jackets, who now have lost a season-high five straight games.

RANGERS 4, FLAMES 3

Mika Zibanejad scored a power-play goal with 7:19 remaining in the third period as New York beat Calgary at Madison Square Garden.Zibanejad netted his 16th goal when he took a brilliant cross-ice pass from J.T. Miller. Left unattended on the left side of the crease, Zibanejad lifted a shot over Flames goalie Mike Smith to give the Rangers their third one-goal lead of the game. Zibanejad’s tally occurred exactly six minutes after Rick Nash tied the game at 3-3 by tucking in a shot off the

right post for his 17th goal of the season. With the win, the Rangers improved to 9-1-1 in their last 11 meetings with the Flames and beat Calgary for the sixth straight time on home ice.

KINGS 3, PANTHERS 1

Los Angeles goaltender Jonathan Quick stopped 35 shots to beat host Florida. Nick Shore, Jonny Brodzinski and Anze Kopitar scored for the Kings. Derek Forbort had three assists while Andy Andreoff and Alex Iafallo each had one. The loss ended Florida’s bid for a fifth straight win to match its high for the season. The Panthers won five straight from Dec. 19-30.

HURRICANES 4, CANUCKS 1

Carolina rode a three-goal first period to beat Vancouver at PNC Arena in Raleigh, N.C. Brett Pesce recorded the fastest goal by a defenseman in franchise history just 14 seconds into the game. Phil Di Giuseppe and Sebastian Aho also scored in the opening period, and Justin Williams added a third-period goal. Carolina snapped a three-game losing streak, winning for the third time on its current homestand. It has played six of eight straight games at home. The Canucks have now lost four straight.—Reuters

Batshuayi nets third goal in two Dortmund games

Germany winger Marco Reus returns after 259 days

BERLIN: Belgium striker Michy Batshuayi, on loan from Chelsea, scored his third Bundesliga goal in two games for Borussia Dortmund yesterday in their 2-0 home win against Hamburg. Dortmund signed the 24-year-old for 1.5 million euros on loan for the rest of the season after selling top-scorer Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to Arsenal last month.

Batshuayi is supplying the goals after marking his debut by netting twice in a 3-2 win at bottom side Cologne a week ago. The Belgian had promised a somersault if he scored on his home debut and was as good as his word.

US winger Christian Pulisic threaded a pass through the Hamburg defence, which Batshuayi met at the far post for a tap in on 49 minutes. The Belgian celebrated with a forward roll—just as Aubameyang used to do. A dull match was lit up by Dortmund's second in the dying stages when Germany's World Cup winner Mario Goetze netted with a goal after coming off the bench.

Dortmund's injury-prone Germany winger Marco Reus returned after 259 days sidelined by a torn knee ligament. The win left Dortmund third, a point behind second-placed RB Leipzig, who won 2-0 at home to Augsburg on Friday with Liverpool-bound Naby Keita hammering home a free-kick.

Runaway league leaders Bayern Munich are 15 points clear before tonight's clash at home against

Schalke. Bayern's head coach Jupp Heynckes, 72, misses the game with flu. Eintracht Frankfurt stormed up to fourth with a 4-2 thrashing of bottom side Cologne.

Ante Rebic gave Frankfurt an early lead, but Cologne striker Simon Terrode equalised with a second-half penalty. Frankfurt defender Marco Russ headed the hosts back into the lead for his first goal since overcoming cancer in 2016.

French defender Simon Falette and midfielder Marius Wolf scored in quick succession to stretch Frankfurt's lead to 4-1 before Terrode grabbed Cologne's second with a header.

Bayer Leverkusen dropped to fifth after a shock 2-0 defeat at home to Hertha Berlin. Midfielder Valentino Lazaro gave Berlin the

lead before Ivory Coast veteran Salomon Kalou pounced on a mistake to claim Hertha's second early in the second half.

Leverkusen's Jamaica winger Leon Bailey, 20, came on just before Kalou's goal, but failed to bag his ninth league goal this season in unusual circumstances with a free-kick from just seven metres out. Hertha goalkeeper Rune Jarstein absent-mindedly conceded a free-kick inside his area on 70 minutes after touching the ball, which he dropped, then gathered again.

All 11 Berlin players packed the goal for the free-kick, but Bailey's close-range shot was twice blocked



DORTMUND: Dortmund's US midfielder Christian Pulisic (L) and Hamburg's Brazilian defender Douglas dos Santos vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match Borussia Dortmund versus Hamburg SV yesterday in Dortmund.— AFP

and Kevin Volland hit the crossbar before Jarstein gratefully gathered. Hoffenheim, under head coach Julian Nagelsmann, 30, earned their first win in six games with a 4-2 thrashing of Mainz as strikers Adam

Szalai and Andrej Kramaric scored twice.

Freiburg lost for the first time in nine league games, crashing to a 2-1 defeat at Hanover 96, whose midfielder Felix Klaus scored the winner.— AFP

Late Ki strike gives Swansea crucial win over Burnley

SWANSEA CITY: Swansea City edged further away from the Premier League relegation zone as Ki Sung-yueng scored a late goal to beat Burnley 1-0 at the Liberty Stadium yesterday.

Swansea enjoyed more than two-thirds of possession but both teams struggled to create clear-cut opportunities in the first half.

It changed after the interval when visitors Burnley threatened to score with a stinging half-volley from winger Johann Berg Gudmundsson but he was denied with a stunning fingertip save by Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski.

Swansea boss Carlos Carvalhal introduced January signing Andre Ayew and Tammy Abraham to maintain a sustained spell of pressure and it was rewarded with a string of chances.

The goal finally arrived when right back Kyle Naughton set up a Ki for a drilled effort from the edge of the area with less than 10 minutes left. The victory moved Swansea up to 15th in the table, two points clear of the bottom three, and extended their unbeaten run to nine matches in all competitions.—Reuters

US soccer elects vice-president Cordeiro as new chief

ORLANDO: United States Soccer Federation vice-president Carlos Cordeiro was elected chief of the governing body yesterday, replacing outgoing president Sunil Gulati who stepped down after the country's 2018 World Cup flop. Cordeiro, a Harvard-educated former investment banker, came through a crowded field of eight contenders to win on a third ballot at the USSF's annual meeting at the Seaworld resort in Orlando.

Cordeiro romped home in the third round of voting with 68.6 percent of the ballot, crushing sports marketing executive Kathy Carter, who was second with 10.6 percent. The 61-year-old Cordeiro, along with Carter, was widely seen as an establishment candidate by other contenders in the field, who had demanded sweeping changes to the USSF following the country's shock failure to reach this summer's World Cup in Russia. "Thank you to those of you who have supported me today," said Cordeiro, who will begin a four-year term. "This is incredibly humbling. To those of you who didn't vote for me, I'm going to work to earn your support and trust over the next four years. "I promise I will work for all of you to bring us together as one soccer community."

Cordeiro's election drew a line under the first contested election for the USSF presidency since 1998. Other candidates included former US internationals Paul Caligiuri, Kyle Martino and Eric Wynalda, as well as women's international

goalkeeper Hope Solo. Boston attorney Steve Gans and Michael Winograd completed the field.

Martino, Wynalda and Solo had mounted slick campaigns vowing to provide a fresh outlook to US soccer after the World Cup flop, which they blamed on a systemic failure to uncover and nurture young talent. However none managed to mount a serious challenge to Cordeiro when voting began, with Martino posting 10.6 percent in the final ballot, Wynalda 8.9 percent and Solo 1.4 percent.

Cordeiro, an Indian-born Colombian citizen who lives in Miami, won 36 percent in the first ballot, with Carter just two points adrift. Carter had been seen as a marginal front-runner on the eve of the election. Her critics claimed her closeness to Major League Soccer—she heads the company which markets the league—was a negative. Cordeiro's previous roles with US Soccer had also come under scrutiny although he stressed his initial role as an independent advisor which started 10 years ago—he became Vice President in 2016 — meant he was very much his own man.

Most of the rhetoric in the lead-up to the most contentious election in US Soccer history zoned in on an innate failure at grassroots to produce the kind of players which would help to build on a dream of winning the World Cup, potentially at home, in 2026. "The Federation has lost its way and forgotten about the need to develop the sport for all. I cannot stand back and watch it any longer," said Solo, who has accused US Soccer of neglecting the women's game and launched legal action last month. "There are two establishment candidates (Carter and Cordeiro) who will give you more of the same. They are a vote for the status quo—more failure." Soccer is the most expensive sport for children to play—some US Soccer-affiliated teams charge \$4,000 per season to play for them—leaving talented youngsters priced out.— AFP



DETROIT: Ish Smith #14 of the Detroit Pistons handles the ball against the LA Clippers on Friday at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, Michigan.— AFP

Elsewhere, Hassan Whiteside had 12 points and 16 rebounds and Dwyane Wade got a warm welcome in his return to south Florida as the Miami Heat beat the Milwaukee Bucks 91-85. Wade scored just three points but still made his presence felt by delivering a key block late in the game as the Heat snapped a five-game losing skid.

THREE NBA TITLES

Wade finished with 22 minutes of floor time in his first game since being acquired in a trade from the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday. He played 13 seasons and won three NBA championships in Miami before leaving as a free agent for his hometown Chicago Bulls in 2016. Wade did not start but entered halfway through the first quarter and received a standing ovation from the crowd of 20,010 at the American Airlines Arena.

Tyler Johnson scored 19 points and Bam Adebayo

added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Josh Richardson chipped in 16 points for Miami. In Atlanta, LeBron James had a triple-double and Kyle Korver scored a season-high 30 points as Cleveland defeated the Atlanta Hawks 123-107 for a successful start after retooling their roster at the trade deadline. "It felt like we played together," said James, who had 22 points, 19 assists and 12 rebounds in 41 minutes. "Offensively and defensively the communication was really high. The ball was moving around. The ball was popping and everybody felt like they were in a good rhythm."

One day after unloading six players, including guards Isaiah Thomas and Wade, in three trades, the Cavaliers used a patchwork roster against the Hawks. Korver helped make up for a short bench, making seven of 13 from beyond the arc and finishing two points shy of equalling his career high of 32 points.— AFP

Cutrone scores double as Milan hit four past SPAL

MILAN: Patrick Cutrone hit a double with Lucas Biglia and Fabio Borini also scoring as AC Milan crushed SPAL 4-0 yesterday to boost their European ambitions.

The 20-year-old Cutrone took centre stage with Nikola Kalinic injured and Davide Calabria suspended, opening after two minutes in Ferrara off a rebound and doubling from close range on 65 minutes.

Argentine Biglia got his first Milan goal on 73 minutes with a curler into the bottom corner, following an error from SPAL keeper Alex Meret.

And Borini came off the bench and quickly found the fourth from a tight angle to give Milan a fourth win in their last five Serie A games. Gennaro Gattuso's side move up to seventh, still just outside the Europa League places. "We knew it would be a difficult game and in fact, immediately after scoring, we suffered," said Italy forward Cutrone. "We did well to resist and like a great team find a way to kill off the game."

The result has also improved Milan's slim Champions League hopes, with city rivals Inter Milan, seven points ahead in the final spot for elite European action next season, hosting Bologna on Sunday.

"The Champions League? We have to focus on one game at a time and the next one is an Europa League game next Thursday. We want to move forward in Europe," said Cutrone.—AFP

Live	Matches on TV
	(Local Timings)
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Huddersfield Town v Bournemouth	15:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Newcastle United v Manchester United	17:15
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Southampton v Liverpool	19:30
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
SPANISH LEAGUE	
Sevilla v Girona	14:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Barcelona v Getafe	18:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Celta de Vigo v Espanyol	20:30
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Valencia v Levante	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
Sassuolo Calcio v Cagliari Calcio	14:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Internazionale Milano v Bologna	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Chievo Verona v Genoa	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	
Torino v Udinese Calcio	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
Sampdoria v Hellas Verona	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Roma v Benevento	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
Stuttgart v Borussia Monchengladbach	17:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg	20:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
FRENCH LEAGUE	
Strasbourg v Troyes	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Nantes v LOSC Lille	19:00
beIN SPORTS	
Olympique Lyonnais v Stade Rennais	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	

13 Joint Olympic team makes history for two Koreas



14 Dananjaya's five-wicket haul hands S Lanka win



15 Batshuayi nets third goal in two Dortmund games



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling (C) cannot find the net with this attempt during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Leicester City at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

Aguero's 4-goal lift City 16 points clear

Mahrez return to Leicester side from the bench

MANCHESTER CITY: Sergio Aguero scored four goals as Manchester City extended their Premier League lead to 16 points with a 5-1 rout of Leicester City yesterday.

Raheem Sterling opened the scoring for the hosts, converting Kevin De Bruyne's teasing cross in the third minute before Jamie Vardy equalised against the run of play with a slight deflection beating Ederson. City started the second period in rapid fashion, Aguero scoring twice within five minutes

with both goals assisted by the brilliant De Bruyne. The Argentine completed his treble in the 77th minute, capitalising on Kasper Schmeichel's error and lifting a sublime finish over the Dane to become the fourth player to score at least 20 Premier League goals in four successive seasons.

Aguero saved the best for last, though, with a sensational dipping shot that crashed in off the underside of the crossbar.

Riyad Mahrez finally got his wish of an outing at

Manchester City's Etihad stadium, but only as a second-half substitute for Leicester a day after ending his standoff with the Foxes by returning to training.

Mahrez, 26, had missed Leicester's last two Premier League matches after not reporting for training for nine days in protest at Leicester's refusal to accept a bid from runaway leaders City before the January 31 transfer deadline.

Despite juggling a raft of injuries to attack-minded players, Kevin de Bruyne showed why City decid-

ed against matching Leicester's reported £80 million fee (\$111 million) for Mahrez with a hat-trick of assists for Raheem Sterling and a quickfire Sergio Aguero double to put City 3-1 up before Mahrez made his return.

The Algerian was given a warm reception by both sets of fans as he replaced Ben Chilwell just after the hour mark with City still rumoured to be interested in sealing his signature come the end of the season. —Agencies

Kane returns to haunt Arsenal as Spurs soar to third

LONDON: Harry Kane did the North London derby damage to Arsenal once more as the Tottenham Hotspur striker's seventh goal in as many games against the Gunners secured a thoroughly deserved 1-0 win for Spurs yesterday.

Kane towered above the Arsenal defence to head home his 32nd goal of the season four minutes into the second half, as only some wayward finishing and stunning goalkeeping from Petr Cech saved the visitors from further embarrassment in front of a Premier League record crowd of 83,222 at Wembley.

"He is the present and the future," said Mauricio Pochettino when quizzed whether Kane's dominant header possessed traits of an

old-fashioned English centre-forward. "It is amazing all that he is achieving, (I'm) so proud and happy he is in our side."

Victory moved Spurs up to third above Liverpool and Chelsea, while sixth-placed Arsenal now lie six points off the top four. And more questions will be asked of Alexandre Lacazette's future role at the Emirates in the wake of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's arrival as the Frenchman missed a great late chance to snatch a point after coming off the bench.

"Kane made the difference, that is what he is about," Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger said. "Once they scored you could see we were wobbling for a while and they could have scored one or two more, but in the last 10 minutes we should have come back to 1-1."

Kane spoke this week of how being released from Arsenal's academy as an eight-year-old left him with a "chip on his shoulder". The man now christened 'one of their own' by the Spurs faithful hasn't let Arsenal forget that decision as after a first half short on clear-cut chances, Spurs exploded into life after the break.

Kane had headed the best opening of the first 45 minutes over, but made no mistake when powering Ben Davies' cross into the bottom

corner. The England striker then saw another golden headed chance go wide before Cech saved brilliantly from Kane, Christian Eriksen and Erik Lamela to keep Arsenal in the game.

Those saves so nearly proved crucial as Lacazette, introduced for the ineffectual Henrikh Mkhitaryan as Arsenal's new-look forward line failed to fire, shot wide with just French team-mate Hugo Lloris to beat a minute from time.

"It's disappointing that we struggled in the last five minutes as the game should have been settled," said Spurs midfielder Eric Dier. "Harry Kane loves scoring against Arsenal. He should have had a few more as well."

Manchester City can move 16 points clear at the top later when they host Leicester City, for whom Riyad Mahrez starts on the bench after ending his 10-day exile from training on Friday after being denied a deadline day move to City. At the other end of the table, Swansea City's stunning revival under Carlos Carvalhal continued as Ki Sung-Yueng's fine strike nine minutes from time earned a 1-0 win over Burnley. The Welsh side are now unbeaten in nine games in all competitions and moved up to 14th, two points above the relegation zone. — AFP



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (2L) heads the ball to score the opening goal during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal at Wembley Stadium in London, yesterday. —AFP

Business

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

18 As France's economy takes off, labor shortages pose a threat



19 Jazeera Airways announces net profit of KD 8.2 million for FY2017



21 Kuwait Investment Company presents Honorary Shield to Al-Babtain Group



HONG KONG: Customers look at fresh flowers for sale at the Victoria Park markets in Hong Kong yesterday in preparation for the coming Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year falls on February 16 this year and marks the Year of the Dog.—AFP

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2017

Gulf Bank net profit rises 12% to KD 48m

Board of Directors recommends cash dividend of 9 fils per share

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. announced yesterday its financial results for the year ending 31 December 2017. The Bank recorded a net profit of KD 48 million (earnings per share of 17 fils), an increase of 12 percent over the previous year's net profit of KD 43 million (earnings per share of 15 fils). The Board of Directors has recommended a cash dividend of 9 fils per share, an increase of 29 percent over the cash dividend of 7 fils that was distributed last year. In addition, the Bank achieved an 8 percent increase in Operating Income of KD 181 million and an 11 percent increase in Operating Profit

before Provisions/ Impairment Losses of KD 117 million, compared to 2016.

Loan quality continued to improve as non-performing loans (NPLs) declined to KD 73 million or 1.7 percent of total loans compared to KD 93 million or 2.4 percent at the end of 2016. Coverage of non-performing loans was 414 percent by the end of 2017.

Commenting on the results, Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank's Chairman said: "These past few years have marked significant milestones in the transformation of Gulf Bank, moving it solidly forward on the path of healthy growth. Today, I am pleased to announce that Gulf Bank has not only increased its profitability by achieving double-digit net profit growth, but also improved the quality of its loan portfolio by reducing the non-performing loan ratio to 1.7 percent at the end of 2017."

Resilient balance-sheet

Alghanim added: "The Bank continues to enjoy a strong capital adequacy ratio of 17.8 percent which is well above the regulatory requirement of 14 percent. The assets of the Bank grew by 4 percent to KD 5,683 million while total shareholders' equity was up 5 percent to KD 601 million. Gross Customer loans ended the year at KD 4,060 million, an increase of 8 percent over the prior year-end period. In terms of profitability, the Bank's earnings per share for the year ending 2017 was 17 fils compared to 15 fils for the year ending 2016. The return on average assets was 0.86 percent compared to 0.79 percent in 2016, and the return on average equity was 8.2 percent compared to 7.7 percent for the previous year."

Positive credit rating outlook

Gulf Bank continues to be well recognized in terms of its credit worthiness and financial strength internationally. During the annual credit rating review of the Bank by the leading international rating agencies, Gulf Bank was able to achieve three positive rating actions during 2017: i) S&P Global Ratings and ii) Capital Intelligence, both upgraded the outlook of the bank from "Stable" to "Positive", while iii) Fitch Ratings upgraded the Viability rating of Gulf Bank from bb to bb+. During the year, Moody's Investors Service affirmed Gulf Bank's A3 rating and "Stable" outlook in its credit opinion update issued in May 2017. Similarly, in October 2017, Fitch Ratings affirmed the Bank's Rating at A+ and "Stable" outlook while upgrading its Viability rating to bb+. In June 2017, S&P Global Rating revised the outlook of the bank to "Positive" from "Stable" and affirmed the Bank's counterparty credit rating at A-/A-2. On the Tier II debt issuance of Gulf Bank, Capital Intelligence has affirmed the rating of the bond at BBB with 'Stable' outlook in May 2017 and affirmed the overall bank rating at BBB+, with an upgraded "Positive" outlook in December 2017.

Commenting on Gulf Bank's credit ratings, Alghanim added: "We are proud to share this positive news with our shareholders. The upgrade of Gulf Bank's outlook to "positive" by S&P Global Ratings and Capital Intelligence, two respected international credit rating agencies, is validation of the ongoing improvements at Gulf Bank, especially in this highly competitive and challenging economic environment."

“Bank continues to enjoy a strong capital adequacy ratio of 17.8%”



Omar Kutayba Alghanim

External recognition

In terms of external recognition, the Asian Banker awarded Gulf Bank a regional award for 'Credit Risk Technology Implementation of the Year in the Middle East'. The Bank was also awarded the 'Best Innovation in Banking - Kuwait' for its mobile banking app by Banker Middle East/CPI Financial. Internationally, the Bank continues to hold the Guinness World Record for the 'largest prize linked to a bank account payout' in the world for its Al-Danah account prize of KD 1 million. In terms of advertising and creativity, the Bank was awarded the 'Most Influential Ramadan Commercial' at the Arab Media Forum's Advertising Creativity Awards.

Alghanim concluded by saying: "I would like to thank our valued customers for their continued trust in Gulf Bank. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our Shareholders, Board of Directors, the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Capital Markets Authority for their ongoing support throughout the year. Moreover, I would like to thank our staff for their dedicated service and for being part of the Gulf Bank family."

2017 RESULTS - A YEAR OF SUCCESS				
	2017	2016		
Net Profit (KD Million)	48	43	12%	
Earnings Per Share (fils)	17	15	12%	
Cash Dividends* (fils)	9	7	29%	
Operating Income (KD Million)	181	169	8%	
Operating Profit before Provision (KD Million)	117	105	11%	
Total Assets (KD Million)	5,683	5,467	4%	
Shareholders' Equity (KD Million)	601	574	5%	
NPL Ratio (%)	1.7%	2.4%		

*Subject to approval by General Assembly & other regulatory bodies

Moody's A3 Fitch Ratings A+ STANDARD & POORS A- **بنك الخليج** GULF BANK

e-gulfbank.com • 1 800 805

As France’s economy takes off, labor shortages pose a threat

Amid booming businesses, firms struggle to find workers

PARIS: Business is booming for Sylvie Guinard, who runs French machine manufacturer Thimonnier. The problem is, she can't find the enough staff - even in a country where millions of people are out of work. Guinard, who has a workforce of about 80, struggled for months to find the 10 engineers and technicians she needed to try to keep pace with an order book that rose by a third last year, and she still has two roles unfilled.

What's more, the situation's even more desperate at her suppliers. "They just can't find workers to make parts for us. I've got suppliers that are screwing up all my orders," said Guinard, whose family-owned company near Lyon exports 85 percent of the machines it makes for the pack-aging industry.

Thimonnier and its labor shortages are emblematic of the wider French manufacturing industry and, in turn, other Western countries like Germany and the United States where a strong economic rebound is out-pacing the capacity of workforces.

The situation is most stark in France as the labor shortages - a problem that also afflicts the construction, engineering and IT industries - come despite a stubbornly high unemployment rate that is currently 9.4 percent and has not dropped below 9 percent for six years.

The reason for the simultaneous high unemployment and lack of workers is a massive skills mismatch. France simply does not produce enough of the skilled workers it now needs. That means that even as the country is enjoying its strongest growth in six years, the lack of skilled workers is creating production bottlenecks and snarling up supply chains, company executives told Reuters. That in turn is potentially capping how fast the economy can grow.

More than a third of French manufacturing companies are operating at full capacity, the highest level since early 1990, while 40 percent report difficulties recruiting workers, a quarterly survey from the INSEE statistics office showed last month. In a sign of surging demand for labor, hiring on permanent contracts rose 6.4 percent in the fourth quarter to 48 percent, levels not seen since before the global financial crisis.

As elsewhere in the West, wage pressures are building and many employers are resigned to having to raise salaries at some point. "There's a real skills deficit because many young people have turned their back on the industrial sector," said Guinard. "Bidding competition is going to set in, but it'll be disastrous for industry because it's already hard to get by with the hourly rates we have in France."

Dangling perks

Companies in France are moving to head this off by attracting skilled workers by other means, such as dangling long-term contracts, training and other perks. For pumps and valves maker Poclain Hydraulics, this involves helping to pay for childcare, offering concierge services and even getting a bus stop built at the company's headquarters in an industrial park 55 km (34 miles) north of Paris.

"It's clear that the trend in France is towards wage pressure ... but for now it's limited," said Alain Everbecq, Poclain's head of human resources. While he expected wage increases of about 2 percent this year, he said that could change when the company, which employs

Employers come under wage pressures

2,400 worldwide and nearly 900 in France, reviews salaries in July.

Pierre Vauterin, who runs Triumph Controls France, a small aircraft and rail components maker near Paris, said he faces direct competition for engineers and technicians from his much bigger clients, who can offer more generous overall packages.

"I often hire young people, telling them that they'll get more responsibilities than what they'd get starting at (airplane engine maker) SNECMA or Airbus," he said, adding that they get training to build up their skills.

Hiring, margins

Many employers have until now avoided moving to permanent contracts over fears that under France's strict labor rules they would not be able to let workers go if business sours down the line.



VEVEY, Switzerland: Employees of French pharmaceutical company and wholly owned subsidiary of Nestle, Galderma gesture as they protest in front of the Nestle headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland, on Friday after of Swiss giant Nestle decided to close the Galderma site at Sophia Antipolis. —AFP

President Emmanuel Macron helped ease those concerns with an overhaul of the labor code in September, his first major reform. However employers say it is largely booming client demand, rather than the labor reforms, that has pushed private sector hiring to record levels.

While companies may be doing their utmost to avoid raising wages, eager to protect margins after years of weak growth, they may soon have no choice as competition among employers heats up, said Alain Roumilhac, head of ManpowerGroup in France, the U.S. staffing company's biggest market.

"Companies are very cautious about their margins. When we talk to clients, they say that if we can't get the salary they planned on, then they would rather not hire," he told Reuters.

"But that can change if they realize business is better than expected, margins are improving and they've got flexibility to increase wages," he said. Employers want to avoid following in the steps of Germany where the IG Metall union and the Suedwestmetall employers' federation struck a deal this week for a 4.3 percent pay raise.

Yet French companies have over the last decade tended to raise wages faster than in other euro zone countries, slowly but steadily eroding their competitiveness internationally.

As the economy has picked up, wage growth has reached levels not seen since 2008, reaching 3.3 percent in the third quarter, according to the most recent data from the INSEE. —Reuters

Bayt.com weekly report

Is it time to get a promotion?

There comes a time in your career when you feel ready to take the next career step: a promotion. The reasons behind asking for a promotion can vary from one person to another. It could an ambitious step to move up the career ladder, seeking a better income, seeking new opportunities and challenges or feeling that you have completed your growth in your current position. At this point in time, it becomes your right to ask for a promotion. After all, if you have gained all that you could from a position and given it all you can, then what more is there to be done? When thinking about promotions, two critical questions come to mind. The first being how to know when it is time for a promotion and the second wondering how to ask for a promotion. To help you answer both questions, Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site, has prepared a guide for you.

When is the right time?

Knowing when it's time to ask for a promotion is half the battle. You might feel skeptical and ask yourself questions like, 'Why should I get a promotion when x hasn't?' Or, 'Am I really doing anything worthy of a promotion?' Not to worry, here are some signs that indicate that you are due for a promotion!

1. You're going above and beyond

Having a job means that you have a defined set of tasks and responsibilities that make up your daily routine. Now, most employees stick to these tasks and perform them from start to finish. There is nothing wrong with that, but if you're looking for a promotion within your company, you have to do a little extra. You should showcase your full potential, take on more responsibilities, or start your

own initiatives and projects. If you already find yourself performing more than what's expected of you, then it's a good sign to ask for a promotion.

2. You have mastered your job passionately

Many employees think of their responsibilities as a checklist: a list of items to quickly do away with. As a result, they often dismiss passion while performing their job. Aside from mastering your job and being comfortable with everything you deal with, a real passion for the job means that you put your 100% into it. Think of your job as a challenge you should excel in and do with love and nothing else. If you feel like you've been working with passion and have grown to master your responsibilities, then you're most likely ready for a promotion.

3. You are always looking for the next challenge

Some people don't like challenges at all and cherish their comfort zone, while others are constantly on the hunt for their next challenge.

If you belong to the latter group, then you know how uninspiring it is to stick to your comfort zone and perform the exact same duties for years. Are you always looking five steps ahead and can't wait to take on the next big thing? Then that on its own might be why you deserve a promotion.

How to ask?

Now that you know when it's time to get a promotion, the question of how to ask for one remains. It might be a rather stressful step to make, but remember that if you don't put the effort needed, you will never get the desired outcome. The following steps will help you ask for a promotion professionally and, ideally, successfully.

1. Timing is everything

You know your company better than anybody else. If your company is facing a difficult financial situation, struggling to survive the harsh market, or even not making any profit, then this might be a wrong time to bring up your promotion request. In order to guarantee that you achieve desired results, we advise you to wait for the

right time. Don't rush things, and most importantly, don't worry; you'll get what you deserve. It's just a matter of being patient.

2. Plan your needs

Once you decide on the suitable time to take the next step and ask for a promotion, you'll need to develop a plan. Think of the needs and requirements that you're targeting from your promotion. What is it that you want exactly? Is it a title change? A raise? A more senior title? Managing a team? Or is it changing the department altogether? You should have all the answers ready before you ask. When you plan these requirements, you should also leave room for negotiation. It is very rare that you'll get exactly what you ask for. Be prepared for compromise.

3. Talk directly to your manager

In most companies, your direct manager is the decision maker when it comes to promotion and salary matters. Going around and talking to other employees and managers who have no direct connection to getting you a promotion might harm your chances more than anything else. Ask for a meeting to talk through this matter with your manager and specify that you'd like to discuss your career direction so that they know what to expect.

4. Follow up

After you're done with the meeting, make sure to write down all the points you agreed on. Whether you got the promotion right away, or were promised that you'll get one very soon, send out an email mentioning all the minutes of your meeting to your manager. You might want to ask them if you should loop in the HR Manager or not. Don't just leave it up in the air, document everything and follow up as needed. Lastly, be positive and work hard. It is only through your hard work and passion that the people around you can tell whether or not you are ready for a promotion. There is plenty of career advice on Bayt.com that can help steer you in the right direction. And remember, if it doesn't work out at your current company, you have 10,000+ jobs available daily on Bayt.com for you to go through.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.752
Indian Rupees	4.695
Pakistani Rupees	2.720
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.946
Nepali Rupees	2.957
Singapore Dollar	228.630
Hongkong Dollar	38.448
Bangladesh Taka	3.604
Philippine Peso	5.842
Thai Baht	9.524

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.227
Qatari Riyal	82.630
Omani Riyal	781.315
Bahraini Dinar	798.860
UAE Dirham	81.932

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.700
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.985
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.207
Tunisian Dinar	126.860
Jordanian Dinar	424.050
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.004
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	33.406

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	300.650
--------------------	---------

Euro 374.910

Sterling Pound 421.960

Canadian dollar 241.290

Turkish lira 80.500

Swiss Franc 324.500

Australian Dollar 239.620

US Dollar Buying 299.450

GOLD

20 Gram	260.52
10 Gram	133.18
5 Gram	67.43

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	300.100
Canadian Dollar	242.420
Sterling Pound	425.125
Euro	375.360
Swiss Franc	280.865
Bahrain Dinar	798.075
UAE Dirhams	82.110
Qatari Riyals	83.335
Saudi Riyals	80.920
Jordanian Dinar	424.545
Egyptian Pound	17.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.948
Indian Rupees	4.685
Pakistani Rupees	2.715
Bangladesh Taka	3.640
Philippines Peso	5.830
Cyprus pound	17.865

Selling Rate

Japanese Yen	3.735
Syrian Pound	1.585
Nepalese Rupees	2.940
Malaysian Ringgit	78.045
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.075
Thai Bhat	10.530
Turkish Lira	80.000

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY

BUY	SELL
Europe	
British Pound	0.411655
Czech Korune	0.006647
Danish Krone	0.045633
Euro	0.363441
Georgian Lari	0.134107
Hungarian 0.001134	0.001324
Norwegian Krone	0.034219
Romanian Leu	0.064339
Russian ruble	0.005202
Slovakia	0.008946
Swedish Krona	0.033357
Swiss Franc	0.314769

Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.227363
New Zealand Dollar	0.212391

America	
Canadian Dollar	0.234267
US Dollars	0.297000
US Dollars Mint	0.297500

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003255	0.003839
Chinese Yuan	0.046258	0.049758
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036612	0.039362
Indian Rupee	0.004180	0.004821
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002687	0.002867
Korean Won	0.000267	0.000282
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073423	0.079423
Nepalese Rupee	0.003004	0.003174
Pakistan Rupee	0.002526	0.002816
Philippine Peso	0.005816	0.006116
Singapore Dollar	0.221717	0.231717
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001693	0.002273
Taiwan	0.010331	0.010511
Thai Baht	0.009145	0.009695

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.792106	0.800606
Egyptian Pound	0.014106	0.019824
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000198	0.000258
Jordanian Dinar	0.420066	0.429066
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000154	0.000254
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021944	0.045944
Omani Riyal	0.775760	0.781440
Qatar Riyal	0.078415	0.083355
Saudi Riyal	0.079207	0.080507
Syrian Pound	0.001275	0.001495
Tunisian Dinar	0.121218	0.129218
Turkish Lira	0.073882	0.084182
UAE Dirhams	0.080553	0.082253
Yemeni Riyal	0.000978	0.001058

Business

Jazeera Airways announces a net profit of KD 8.2 million for FY2017

Board recommends a dividend of 35 fils per share

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways KSC (Jazeera) yesterday announced its 2017 full-year financial results. The company reported an operating result of KD7.7 million, and a net profit of KD8.2 million.

FY2017 Financial Highlights:
* Operating revenue: KD56.6 million, up 7.3% from FY2016
* Operating profit: KD7.7 million, down 12.1% from FY2016
* Net profit: KD8.2 million, down 23.7% from FY2016 (FY2016 net profit included a one-off KD 2.4 million transfers from foreign currency translation reserve that were reclassified to Statement of Income)
FY2017 Operational and Business Highlights
* Route Expansion: 3 new destinations launched (Doha, Baku, and Hyderabad, India)
* Load factor: 73.9%, up 6.7% from FY2016
* Aircraft utilization: 10.9 hours, up 6.9% from FY2016



Operating revenue: KD56.6 million, up 7.3% from FY2016

* Brand and customer experience: Introduced a series of brand upgrades, including revamped brand architecture, new aircraft interiors, and new digital infrastructure for better customer experience from booking to flight.
Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai said, “The year 2017 was a transformational year for customer experience enhancements both on-ground and in-the-air. We unveiled a new brand across all customer touch-points, invested heavily in our digital platform for better revenue management and an engaging customer experience, and rolled out completely new interiors for our fleet. The year 2018 will be no less transformational. Our dedicated terminal, currently under construction, will be launched in Q1 to coincide with our network expansion as we introduce a series of five new destinations in the first half of the year, including Kochi and Ahmedabad (both already launched in January), Lahore, and Tbilisi”.



NBK ECONOMIC REPORT



Fresh downward pressures on Dubai’s residential property prices in 2017

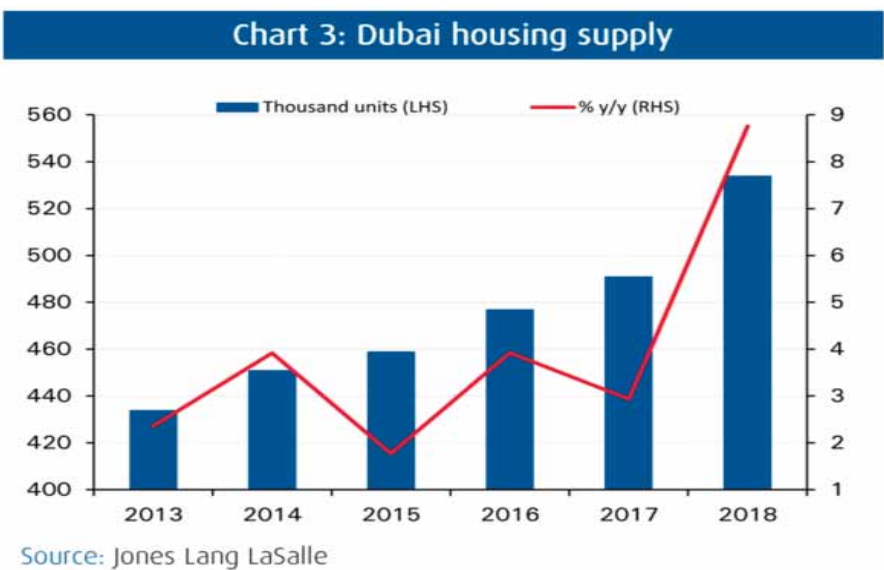
KUWAIT: Dubai’s residential property market shows few signs of bouncing back quickly from a now three-year downturn. Having stabilized in 2016, prices saw renewed declines in 2017 as housing supply far outpaced demand. According to property firm Asteco, the prices of apartments and villas fell by 7.8 percent y/y and 5.6 percent y/y respectively in 4Q17, the fastest drop for several quarters. Prices are down 16-19 percent from their peaks of over three years ago.

These trends are confirmed by other data sources. Reidin, another real estate property tracker, shows villa and apartment prices down 1.9 percent y/y and 3.5 y/y respectively in Q4. Latest data on Phidar Advisory’s Dubai 9/5 House price Index also points to softness in Dubai’s residential real estate market.

Alongside lower prices, rents have also been falling. According to Asteco, rents were down 11.1 percent y/y for apartments and 9.6 percent y/y for villas in Q4, with accelerated declines from earlier in the year. Similar to sales prices, rents are down 19-20 percent from their previous peaks. This may even understate market pressures, with some of the adjustment coming from non-price factors such as better payment terms or rent-free periods. With rents falling faster than sales prices, yields on property investment have become more compressed.

Tighter regulations

Dubai’s property market has been on a rollercoaster ride for more than a decade. Residential prices fell by around half in the years following the 2008-09 financial crisis, but rebounded from 2013, helped by the return of confidence linked to the swift rise in oil prices back above



\$100 per barrel. Indeed, the market was likely driven by speculative buyers hoping to cash in on Dubai’s economic recovery. The emirate’s award as host of the Expo 2020 event in 4Q13 also saw a spike in the number of buyers entering the real estate market. This pushed apartment prices up by a staggering 60 percent y/y that quarter, with villa prices up 35 percent y/y.

To prevent a repeat of the boom-bust cycle in property prices that had plagued Dubai’s economy before, the authorities tightened regulations. They doubled the land registration fee to 4 percent and introduced tighter loan-to-value ratios to help mitigate risks to banks’ balance sheets, rein in speculative activity and gear the market more towards end-buyers. This had an almost immediate impact. Growth in apartment prices slowed from 41 percent y/y in 1H14 to 19 percent y/y in 2H14, while villa prices slowed from 20 percent y/y to 8 percent y/y during the same period.

Prices pressured

Growth in supply has been a key factor in recent price weakness - and a legacy of the long lead times in bringing large real estate projects to market. According to Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), a property consultant, growth in housing supply slowed slightly from 3.9 percent y/y in 2016 to 2.9 percent y/y in 2017. With population growth possibly in the range of 1-2 percent y/y, occupancy rates continued to remain low, adding further downward pressure on prices. Meanwhile, demand remained lackluster as the impact of more stringent loan-to-value rules was compounded by the effects of higher interest rates, higher fuel costs, and modest wage and job growth, all of which reduced consumer purchasing power. Transaction levels in 2017 were low compared to earlier years, averaging AED3.5 billion per month, down 6.5 percent from 2016. But they were helped by a shift towards the more affordable housing segment, mainly as a result of a rise in the incidence of cash-strapped and risk averse buyers.

The property market downturn has not been exclusive to Dubai, or to the residential sector. Prices of apartments and villas in Abu Dhabi fell by a steeper 8.0 percent y/y and 7.9 percent y/y respectively, on average, in 4Q17, with the market appearing to suffer from the same issue of oversupply. Prices and rents in the commercial property

sector are also falling. Meanwhile, other GCC countries are witnessing their own property market corrections.

Prices to remain weak

One key factor in recent market weakness - rising supply - is expected to grow over coming quarters: JLL expect supply growth to pick up to 9 percent this year. The near completion of a number of residential developments, including New Dubai Gate in the Jumeirah Lake Towers district, The Pad in Business Bay, Eagle Heights in Sports City and Serenia Residences on Palm Jumeirah, will likely add 17,000 new apartments to the market in early 2018. Although project launches are expected to ease off in the 2H18, the projected supply increase in 2019, at 8 percent, is nearly as large.

Rising supply means that the improving macroeconomic climate in the UAE is unlikely to trigger a sharp recovery in property prices. We expect non-oil growth to accelerate to 3.7 percent this year - the strongest in the Gulf region and up from an estimated 3.3 percent in 2017 - helped by an easing pace of austerity, stronger regional growth and rising infrastructure spending ahead of Expo 2020. Consumer demand will also be affected by the decline in purchasing power from the new 5 percent VAT and rising interest rates. A central bank survey suggests that credit standards are still tightening, though at a slower pace than before.

There are, however, some positive factors. One is that supply growth could disappoint relative to forecasts. JLL, for example, state that new supply typically comes in at around 40 percent of initial projections, suggesting that the supply-demand gap will not end up as large as the raw figures above imply.

Another positive is the cheaper dirham, which will make the property sector more attractive to international investors. The dirham fell 10 percent versus the euro in 4Q17 due to weakness in the US dollar to which it is pegged. This means apartment prices fell 13 percent y/y in euro terms in 4Q17 - although some of this was a reversal of the rise in prices due to earlier dollar strength. Finally, there may be upsides from the run-up in oil prices to \$70 per barrel, which if sustained, would boost investor confidence in the UAE, strengthen the financial climate and improve the fiscal position.

and loyal readership, a growing digital presence and a stable revenue mix,” he said.

He said the purchase was “good for our readers, good for our customers and good for our shareholders”. The group also owns the Sunday Express, Daily Star and Daily Star Sunday tabloids and three celebrity magazines, OK!, New! and Star. The deal effectively marks the end of Northern and Shell chairman Richard Desmond’s publishing career.

Desmond started in publishing in 1974 with two music titles but became better known for his ownership of several pornographic titles including the UK license to publish Penthouse magazine, which he bought in 1983. Desmond said the deal was “a logical and natural next step in the evolution and consolidation of the media sector and will create a larger and stronger platform serving all stakeholders”. The Sun remains Britain’s top-selling daily with a circulation of 1.48 million, followed by the Daily Mail on 1.39 million.—AFP

Wall Street chill threatens to put IPO activity on ice

NEW YORK: Wide swings in the US stock market has blunted initial public offering (IPO) activity on Wall Street in what was set to be the busiest week for new listings in more than two-and-a-half years.

All signs point to the disruption to IPOs continuing. Ten companies had planned US stock market debuts for this week, according to Renaissance Capital, a manager of IPO-focused exchange traded funds. It would have followed the biggest January haul of IPO proceeds on record, and would have been the most active IPO week since June 2015, Thomson Reuters data showed.

Only six companies went ahead with their IPO due to the volatile stock market, which has sapped much of the investor demand for new listings.

This bodes poorly for companies looking to pull the IPO trigger in the short term. Forty companies have filed for an IPO with the US Securities and Exchange Commission in the past year, aiming to raise an aggregate \$9.2 billion, according to data from Renaissance Capital. This does not include so-called confidential IPO filings which are not yet visible on the SEC’s website.

“This volatility has the potential to put IPOs on ice,” said Kathleen Smith, principal at Renaissance Capital. A saving grace for the IPO market is that mid-February typically sees a lull period for new listings. This is because the year-end financial information necessary for filing an IPO by a calendar-year company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) goes stale in the middle of this month. After that, companies will need to compile and audit a new set of quarterly earnings. Only three IPOs are currently scheduled for next week.

“When stability does come back to the market, the IPO market should benefit from a growing domestic and global economy with heightened consumer confidence,” said Lear Beyer, co-head of Equity Capital Markets Origination and head of Financial Institutions Group Origination at Wells Fargo & Co.

US stocks see-sawed this week, demonstrating swings Wall Street has not seen in years. The S&P 500 closed down 3.75 percent on Thursday and was on track for its biggest weekly percentage drop since 2011. IPO postponements included a \$500-million listing of IPSCO Tubulars, the US subsidiary of Russian oil and gas pipe maker TMK; the \$220-million flotation of Turkish fast-food chain operator TFI Tab Food Investments; and a \$130-million listing by Argentine biotechnology firm Bioceres. Medical technology company Motus GI, scheduled to list on Thursday, also did not price its IPO this week.

The biggest IPO to go ahead was the \$437-million listing for Cactus Inc, which supplies well-heads and pressure control equipment. Other listings included Victory Capital Holdings and Chinese wearable technology company Huami, although the Victory IPO priced at \$13 per share, below its \$17 to \$19 indicated price range. Cardlytics priced on Thursday in a \$70-million listing. Listings for blank-check company Mudrick Capital and medical aesthetics provider Evolus Inc went ahead, while Quintana Energy Services sold shares at \$10, below its \$12-\$15 target range. Of the seven listings this week, four were trading below their IPO prices on Friday.

“Investors will be looking at what companies and sectors will benefit from the impact of the recent tax reform and a higher interest rate environment relative to inflation fears that have disrupted the market,” said Beyer. — Reuters

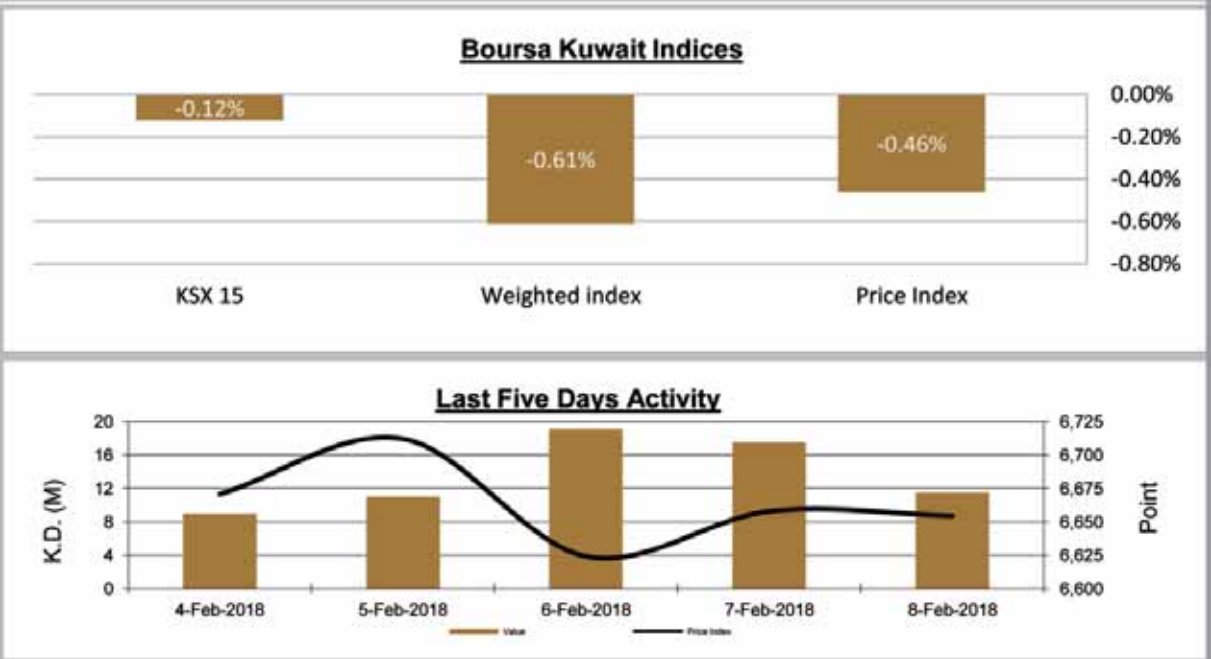
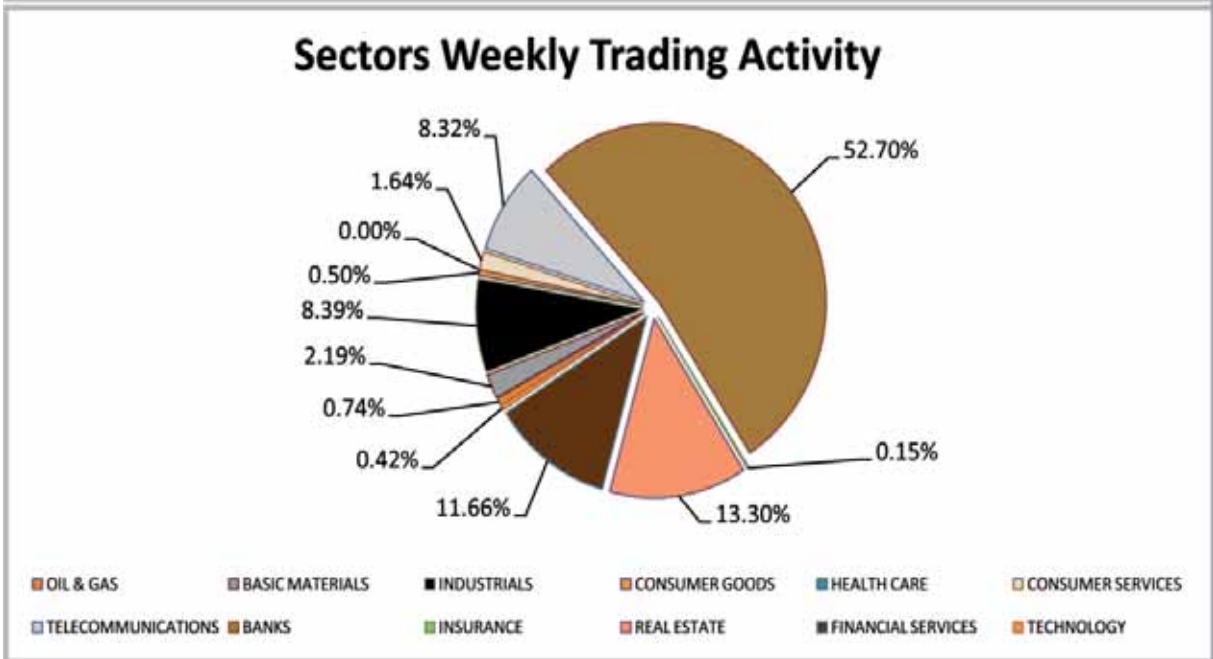
Britain’s Mirror buys Express for £126.7m as sales drop

BRITAIN: The publisher of Britain’s left-wing Daily Mirror newspaper struck a £126.7 million deal on Friday to buy a series of titles including the right-wing Daily Express in a bid to stem a decline in advertising revenues and sales. The papers were the biggest two in Britain after World War II but are both seeing big drops in circulation, according to the latest figures. The £126.7 million (\$176 million, 143.6 million) deal signals a major consolidation for a sector that is struggling against falling revenues in Britain.

The Daily Mirror had a daily circulation of around

Boursa Kuwait equities drop after global market selloff

Boursa records substantial losses last week



Sectors Weekly Trading Activity				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	5,439,746	1.15%	505,231	0.74%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,820,200	0.60%	1,488,665	2.19%
INDUSTRIALS	36,846,712	7.80%	5,710,201	8.39%
CONSUMER GOODS	789,143	0.17%	338,752	0.50%
HEALTH CARE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
CONSUMER SERVICES	10,109,060	2.14%	1,117,497	1.64%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	18,332,959	3.88%	5,661,610	8.32%
BANKS	144,082,793	30.48%	35,878,794	52.70%
INSURANCE	454,994	0.10%	99,943	0.15%
REAL ESTATE	152,091,931	32.18%	9,054,324	13.30%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	98,606,050	20.86%	7,939,043	11.66%
TECHNOLOGY	3,063,036	0.65%	288,362	0.42%

Sectors Indices Performance				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	966.43	980.93	-1.48%	0.29%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,318.53	1,294.69	1.84%	5.11%
INDUSTRIALS	1,844.62	1,867.51	-1.23%	0.28%
CONSUMER GOODS	826.99	816.51	1.28%	0.56%
HEALTH CARE	1,550.87	1,550.87	0.00%	2.67%
CONSUMER SERVICES	883.32	894.75	-1.28%	-1.98%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	547.75	577.25	-5.11%	-1.90%
BANKS	950.42	960.14	-1.01%	4.14%
INSURANCE	1,038.85	1,031.43	0.72%	-6.07%
REAL ESTATE	1,079.04	1,061.78	1.63%	15.64%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	631.58	643.57	-1.86%	2.05%
TECHNOLOGY	507.60	473.70	7.16%	6.07%

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,654.55 points, down by 0.46 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.61 percent after closing at 410.30 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 942.42 points down by 0.12 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 10.74 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 13.62 million, whereas trading volume average was 94.53 million shares, recording a decrease of 15.62 percent.

The three Boursa indices ended the week's trading with mixed losses, in parallel with the noticeable declines recorded by the international and regional stock markets during most of the week's sessions, which came as a result to the strong selling pressures that included many listed stocks in the market, in addition to the continued profit collection operations on the leading stocks, especially after the increases recorded by such stocks on last January.

Also, the market witnessed such performance amid decreased trading indicators of both the cash liquidity or the number of traded stocks, whereas the total value reached by the end of the week around KD 68.08 million, against KD 76.28 million in the previous one, while the volume reached 472.64 million stock by the end of last week, against 560.10 million stock in a week earlier.

In addition, the Boursa recorded during the last week market losses exceeded KD 155 million, as the market capitalization reached by the end of the week KD 27.54 billion, down by 0.57 percent of its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 27.70 billion, and the market gains since the beginning of the year 2018 contracted to reach about KD 602.65 million, with a growth of 2.24 percent compared to its value on the last trading day of the last year, where it reached then KD 26.94 billion. (Note: The market capitalization for the listed companies in the Regular Market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available financial statements).

Moreover, the market initiated its trading in the first session of the week with negative performance affected by the selling operations that included many stocks of different sectors, especially in the Telecommunications sector, the most declining one by the end of the session, which was negatively reflected on the three indices' performance, especially the KSX-15 Index that lost around 0.33 percent of its value by the end of the session. The Boursa ended the next session with mixed closings for its three indices, whereas the Price Index was able to compensate its previous session's losses supported by the purchasing operations that targeted some small-cap stocks especially in the last moments of the session, which witnessed exceptional trading on some idle stocks: while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices ended the session in the red zone affected by the continued profit collection operations that were concentrated on the leading and heavy stocks.

On the mid-week session however, the market returned to record grouped losses for its three indices, affected by the strong selling pressures that included leading and small-cap stocks in light of the fears that over controlled the traders, in light of the negative environment that the GCC and International markets are suffering of.

On Wednesday, the market witnessed a green closing for the three market indices for the first time in the week, as a result to the relative recovery of the international markets, which caused the return of the purchasing operations to appear and included many stocks of different sectors, especially in the Real Estate and Financial Services sectors. The market returned to fluctuate on the end of week session, as the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to compensate some losses by realizing limited gains by the end of the session, while the Price Index returned to the red zone again, to increase its losses on the weekly level.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 3.85 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2017, while the Weighted Index increased by 2.21 percent, and

the KSX-15 recorded 3.01 percent growth.

Sectors' Indices

Six of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, five recorded increases, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. The Telecommunications sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 5.11 percent to end the week's activity at 547.75 points. The Financial Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.86 percent, closing at 631.58 points, followed by the Oil & Gas sector, as its index closed at 966.43 points at a loss of 1.48 percent. The Banks sector was the least declining as its index closed at 950.42 points with a 1.01 percent decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 7.16 percent growth rate as its index closed at 507.60 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Basic Materials sector's index closed at 1,318.53 points recording 1.84 percent increase. The Real Estate sector came in third as its index achieved 1.63 percent growth, ending the week at 1,079.04 points.

Sectors' Activity

The Real Estate sector dominated a total trade volume of around 152.09 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 32.18 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 30.48 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 144.08 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value: with a turnover of around KD 35.88 million or 52.70 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Real Estate sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 9.05 million representing 13.30 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

Boursa Kuwait Indices				
Weekly	Last week	Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
	Previous week	6,654.55	410.30	942.42
	Change (Point)	6,685.23	412.82	943.58
	Change (%)	-30.68	-2.52	-1.16
Annual	Last year	-0.46%	-0.61%	-0.12%
	Change (Point)	6,408.01	401.42	914.87
	Change (%)	246.54	8.88	27.55

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	472,636,624	560,097,407	-15.62%
Value (K.D)	68,082,423	76,278,282	-10.74%
Deals	18,528	21,509	-13.86%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
27,542,092,527	27,698,748,585	-0.57%	2.24%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
MENA	36.30	17.80	18.5	103.93%
EXCH	86.40	72.00	14.4	20.00%
HCC	120.00	100.00	20.0	20.00%
REAM	1,000.00	837.00	163.0	19.47%
TAHSSILAT	28.00	25.00	3.0	12.00%

TOP LOOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
CABLETV	18.00	22.80	-4.8	-21.05%
UPAC	565.00	700.00	-135.0	-19.29%
IFAHR	155.00	190.00	-35.0	-18.42%
KAMCO	63.00	77.00	-14.0	-18.18%
REMAL	41.00	46.70	-5.7	-12.21%

Wall St rebounds but posts worst week in two years

NEW YORK: US stocks ended a wild week with a burst of buying, pushing the S&P 500 up 1.5 percent on Friday, but still recorded their worst week in two years, and investors braced for more volatile trading days ahead.

The sharp falls of the week confirmed the market was in a correction, down more than 10 percent from a Jan. 26 record high, and throwing the nearly nine-year bull market off course. The newly volatile market was shaken in part by rising bond yields, which led stock investors to rethink their positions after months of steady gains.

The S&P 500 ended the week nearly 9 per-

cent below the all-time high set just two weeks ago.

"I don't see any reason to think that we're setting a pattern for next week or the rest of the year," said Rob Stein, chief executive officer of Astor Investment Management in Chicago. "The only pattern we're setting is more volatility." On Friday alone, the S&P 500 swung from gains of up to 2.2 percent to declines of 1.9 percent, echoing the big swings of the past week. The Dow moved in a range of more than 1,000 points, a more modest change than on Monday when the Dow fell as much as nearly 1,600 points.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 330.44 points, or 1.38 percent, to 24,190.9, the S&P 500 gained 38.55 points, or 1.49 percent, to 2,619.55, and the Nasdaq Composite added 97.33 points, or 1.44 percent, to 6,874.49. Technology was the best-performing group on Friday, with Microsoft Corp. Alphabet Inc and Facebook Inc giving the biggest individual boosts to the S&P 500. Energy was the lone major S&P sector to end negative as

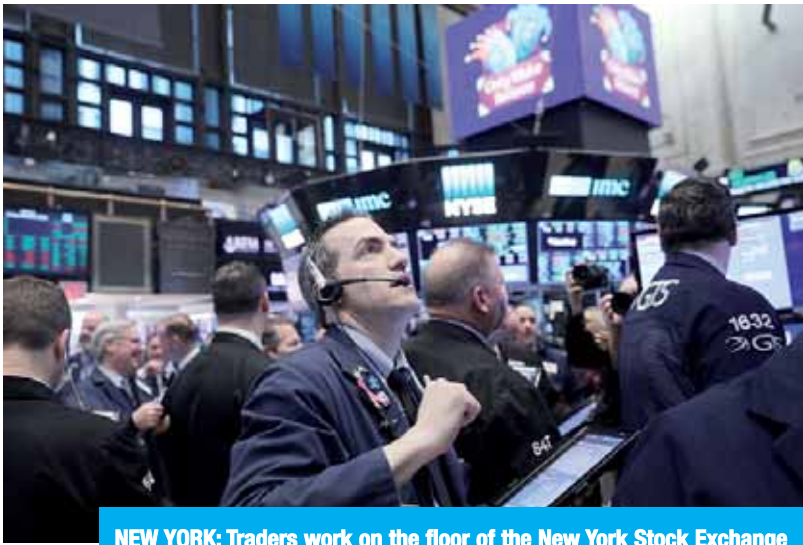
oil prices tumbled.

The benchmark S&P 500 fell 5.2 percent for the week, its biggest weekly percentage drop since January 2016. For the week, the sector that got hammered the most was energy.

Ninety-six S&P 500 stocks are down 20 percent or more from their own one-year highs, according to Thomson Reuters data.

The sharp selloff in recent days was kicked off by concerns over rising inflation and bond yields, sparked by last week's January US jobs report. "You have a fundamental difference between the economy and earnings doing well, versus interest rates going up and inflation picking up, and it's still a question of which will dominate," said Giri Cherukuri, head trader at OakBrook Investments LLC in Lisle, Illinois.

Equities for years have looked relatively attractive compared to the low yields offered by bonds, but the rise in Treasury yields has diminished the allure of stocks, especially with stock valuations at historically expensive levels.—Reuters



NEW YORK: Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Friday. —AFP

Business

Kuwait Investment Company presents Honorary Shield to Al-Babtain Group

Al-Babtain Group & Infiniti Kuwait gold sponsor of 'Kuwait Maker Faire 2018'

KUWAIT: Al-Babtain Group was recently recognized by the Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) for its gold sponsorship of the global manufacturer's exhibition- "Kuwait Maker Faire 2018". Organized by Kuwait Investment Company for the second consecutive year under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the exhibition started on February 6 and concluded yesterday at the International Exhibition grounds in Mishref.

Ghazi Al-Babtain, Business Development Manager at Al-Babtain Group, said: "The Global Manufacturers Exhibition is a significant event not only in Kuwait but the whole region as well as it supports projects and initiatives developed by the Kuwaiti and Arab youth. Strengthening the economic growth of our countries through new generation talent is key to long term success. The prestigious event which was initially started by KIC in 2017 recognizes Kuwait as the region's first and top market for makers in the Middle East".

Ghazi Al-Babtain added that Al-Babtain's & Infiniti's sponsorship of the Exhibition was part of its social

responsibility strategy to share in the nations agenda to support local events and activities, in cooperation with various likeminded institutions. He mentioned that the Groups aim is to continue developing and building the capabilities of the Kuwaiti youth in diverse fields, in turn raising the economic standards of Kuwait.

"Unique platforms like the Makerfaire Kuwait exposes a large number of quality industrial and artistic projects which can aid substantial growth and generate a bright future for the young entrepreneurs. The initiative works well as it benefits the country as well as provides fruitful avenues for young minds to showcase their innovation and skills, commented Ghazi Al-Babtain.

Ghazi Al-Babtain applauded the success of the First Edition of the Makerfaire-Kuwait 2017 exhibition that was held on February 9 last year, and the enormous efforts made by the Kuwait Investment Company and its sponsors. Al-Babtain Group thanks His Highness the Amir for his kind patronage of the exhibition that has resulted in positioning Kuwait as the first to adopt such a movement resulting in a positive and lasting impact across the region.



Five-day exhibition concludes



KFH honors employees of 'Innovation and Service Quality 2017'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored the distinguished employees of Innovation and Service Quality 2017 program at an annual ceremony held at Millennium Hotel. This comes within the framework of the bank's keenness to recognize the efforts of employees with outstanding performance in the customer service, while motivating them for further dedication and devotion.

The recognition encompassed those who came first in the banking branches, showrooms, Call Center, Direct sales Corporate Banking, Business Banking and other support departments.

In his opening speech, KFH-Group CEO, Mazin Al-Nahedh said that KFH has been a leading global Islamic financial institution for 4 decades, reiterating the importance of exerting extra efforts to maintain the leadership position of the bank while facing the challenging environment.

He added that the success and achievements of KFH wouldn't be possible without the collective efforts of thoroughly implementing the strategy of KFH of which the main pillar is service quality, indicating innovation and fintech are the pillars for customer service. It's very significant to adopt technology and utilize it for the best interest of customers, especially that the world is going digital. KFH has made significant strides in adopting the latest developments of banking technology to meet its customers' aspirations.

Alnahedh called on employees to make service quality a work behavior in order to contribute to achieving the highest levels of performance and customer satisfaction.

Meanwhile, Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer, Waleed Mandani expressed his thanks and appreciation to the distinguished employees and the departments that collaborated with the Service Quality to achieve its objectives as per the discipline and excellence standards, indicating the achievements in service quality and innovation are concrete example that KFH is on track. Service Quality is a pillar to boost development and achieve growth and prosperity at KFH.

Mandani indicated success can be achieved through paying attention to all segments of customers in a fair and balanced manner, while continually improving the service and adopting scientific methods to evaluate the performance of the frontline service providers and other departments such as the Private Banking, Personal Financing and

Business Banking.

For his part, Group Chief Strategy Officer, Eng Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem emphasized that the bank's prestigious status is the fruit of collective and continuing efforts since establishment. He reiterated the key role of keeping abreast of latest developments of banking products and services to compete the largest global financial institutions, while ensuring the implementation of quality, accuracy and efficiency standards.

Al-Mukhaizeem said that the excellence in service quality is the core of the KFH strategy. The bank strives to increase its market share by achieving leadership in rolling out innovative products and services.

Executive Manager Group Service Excellence and Innovation, Houssam Alkhatib explained that Service Quality department has succeeded in expanding its businesses to cover new areas, while tailoring programs and professional mechanisms to contribute in raising the level of service and efficiency at the bank.



Mazin Al-Nahedh

Chevrolet Alghanim celebrates February with gifts

KUWAIT: Celebrating Kuwait in the month of its National and Liberation days, Chevrolet Alghanim awards customers with valuable gifts worth up to KD 1,500 on its 2018 and 2017 vehicles, allowing customers to redeem their prizes in a number of unbeatable offerings that comprise trade-in, car service packages and car accessories from Kromozone.

Providing the highest standards of performance in their class, sleek and recognizable designs as well as advanced technological features and safety standards, everyone will find what they're looking for this February and at very competitive prices.

With its unique monthly offers, Chevrolet Alghanim continues to meet the needs of every segment of the population, from families, young drivers to sports enthusiasts and those looking for a vehicle that reflects their unique lifestyles.

Best-ever lineup

Known to empower drivers with an exhilarating performance, the Chevrolet Tahoe comes with the best in class standard features such as a 5.3-liter V8 engine with active fuel management, direct injection and variable valve timing, generating the strongest horsepower in its class of 355 hp. Best in its class, the Tahoe provides a consumption of 10.2 km/L, and is equipped with front corner assist system and rear assist with rear camera, six airbags as standard, 18" aluminum wheels, remote vehicle starter, six direction seat adjustment, in addition to many advanced safety features.

As for the king of the desert, the Silverado V8 comes with a standard 5.3-liter, 8-cylinder engine and 355HP. It is coupled with standard features such LED fog lamps, 17-inch wheels, 8-inch Chevrolet MyLink touchscreen display, rear-view camera, front and back chrome bumpers, and optional features such as keyless engine and AC start, remote locking tailgate and automatic seat adjustment.

The Trailblazer comes with a 3.6-liter V6 engine tuned to offer better performance and improved fuel economy, which produces 275 horsepower, the most powerful in its class. Inside, the Trailblazer boasts a newly designed dashboard and front console with a contemporary feel, enhanced by soft-touch materials and contrast stitching. The car ensures maximum comfort in its front sports design, LED headlamps, remote vehicle and AC starter, as well as a 7-inch MyLink touchscreen with Apple CarPlay feature.

An ideal city car, the Trax comes with a unique design that boasts a roof opening in a small SUV that comes with modern technologies and ample cargo space that molds to its driver's lifestyle. Available in a grey or brown interior, the car is also equipped with the remote vehicle starter feature, rear camera and the MyLink infotainment system that comes with the Apple CarPlay feature in a 7-inch touchscreen. With its exclusive offer for the month of February, the 2018 Camaro is poised to challenge the sports coupes in the world with its 3.6-liter V6 engine that produces 355HP and 284 Nm of torque, as well as four BREMBO sports brakes, 20-inch wheels and the 8-inch MyLink touchscreen with Apple CarPlay feature.

Award-winning customer experience

Chevrolet Alghanim Service Center provides a hassle-free and easy experience to customers. Professionally-trained Service Advisors start by checking the vehicle to provide requirements, time and cost estimates for needed services. The service center was designed and built after detailed studies and research for best practices in car servicing, implementing the best standards of advanced technology, services and equipment needed to ensure vehicles are taken care to ensure longevity, safety and customer satisfaction.

Chevrolet Complete Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons benefit of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.



Honoring distinguished employees - men.



Honoring distinguished employees - women.

Burgan Bank offers its Youth customers KD 50 cash gift

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the launch of its new value proposition for Youth account holders. Customers transferring their educational allowance to their "Youth" account will receive a cash gift of KD 50. This progressive approach followed was based on the continuous involvement of changes with customer demand.

The Youth account was introduced a few years ago to ensure the successful future of young investors and provide a multifaceted account that would suit their dynamic preferences.

The Youth Account is designed for customers aged between 15-25. There is no KD limit to open an account, and no minimum balance required to maintain it. Furthermore, account holders will receive a free prepaid card for easy online shopping and purchases at popular retail outlets and an ATM card that

entails them to discounts at selected merchants and restaurants, in addition to exclusive offerings at Grand Cinemas Theatres in Al-Hamra Mall and The Gate Mall.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and



the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Burgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.

Technology

In Oman desert, a European venture sets sights on Mars

Aiming to one day help humans survive on Mars



A simulation Mars habitat, with a view of the night sky above in Oman's Dhofar desert.

DHOFAR: Would-be astronauts in aluminium-coated suits venture out in rovers from a sprawling camp in Oman's barren desert: a simulation by a European venture aiming to one day help humans survive on Mars. Behind a barbed wire fence protected by soldiers from the Gulf sultanate, researchers in prefab facilities work away on experiments that include trying to grow vegetables in inhospitable terrain chosen for its resemblance to the red planet.

Run by the Austrian Space Forum, a mainly volunteer collective, with the backing of the Omani government, the AMADEE-18 Mars Analog Mission has brought together researchers, inventors, space professionals and enthusiasts. For decades the realm of science fiction, sending a manned mission to Mars is now the stated-albeit still distant-goal of the US government and entrepreneurs.

On Tuesday US billionaire Elon Musk launched the world's most powerful rocket-the SpaceX Falcon Heavy-

towards an orbit near Mars. In this remote corner of the Arabian Peninsula's Dhofar desert, the European-led project may be far less flashy-but it is still looking to answer major questions. "Once we go to Mars, and stay on Mars, we will have to use the resources we find on Mars because we cannot bring everything from Earth," forum president Alexander Soucek said. "So we have to use the things we find there: first of all to sustain life there, to sustain missions there, and then in the longer run maybe also for other things."

'Responsibly and ethically'

The Austrian Space Forum does not have a rocket like Musk, but its members many with day jobs at traditional space agencies or private companies-share the entrepreneur's drive to be innovative.

In the increasingly crowded field of space exploration, Soucek says the project is carving out a special niche with its Mars simulations. "We get sponsors from private industry. We collect money, partnerships, invite people to join

“Invite people to join forces”

Facebook pledges \$10mn for community leaders

LONDON: Facebook said Friday that it will issue up to \$10 million (8.2 million euros) in grants to help support and train community leaders around the world. The tech giant unveiled its new initiative at a London summit of more than 300 community leaders from across Europe. The Facebook Community Leadership Program will offer residency, fellowship and training opportunities, as well as community leadership circles and specialized assistance on the social networking platform. "Facebook will commit tens of millions of dollars to the program, including up to \$10 million in grants that will go directly to people creating and leading communities," it said in a statement.

While the social network is a platform for virtual communities to gather, it is also a vehicle for advertisers to reach its more than 2 billion active users. Facebook last week said it booked nearly \$13 billion in sales in the last three months of last year. —AFP

Google fined in India for abusing position

NEW DELHI: Google has been fined more than \$21 million in India for "search bias" and abuse of its dominant position, competition regulators said Thursday. The US internet giant was deemed to have favoured its own services when customers ran searches according to a report from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) six years after it began investigations into the company.

"Google was found to be indulging in practices of search bias and by doing so, it causes harm to its competitors as well as users," an order from the CCI said. "(The Commission) finds it appropriate to impose a penalty on Google at the rate of 5 percent of their average total revenue generated from India operations from different business segments for the financial years 2013, 2014 and 2015."

The order said the company had 60 days to pay the fine for "for infringing anti-trust conduct". Complaints in India were lodged against Google in 2012, including by online matrimonial site Bharat Matrimony and the non-profit consumer protection group Consumer Unity and Trust Society. An unnamed Google spokesperson told the Press Trust of India that the company was reviewing the order. "The CCI has confirmed that, on the majority of issues it examined, our conduct complies with Indian competition laws. "We are reviewing the narrow concerns identified by the Commission and will assess our next step," the company official said.

The law firm representing Bharat Matrimony said that the CCI's order provided welcome closure after a six-year long battle with the internet behemoth. "The Google decision is a landmark decision," Naval Satarawala Chopra, a partner at the firm, said in a statement. "Its (CCI) investigation report finding Google to be dominant and to have abused its dominance preceded that of any authority. Its final order is in line with the order of the European Commission". —AFP

What's next for SpaceX?

WASHINGTON: In successfully sending the world's most powerful rocket into space, SpaceX founder Elon Musk has pulled off yet another spectacular gamble. The question now is what's next for SpaceX and the space industry following the launch of Musk's Tesla roadster into space aboard a Falcon Heavy rocket?

Satellites

Falcon Heavy can launch far heavier payloads than other rockets-more than twice as much as its closest rival, the Delta IV Heavy rocket built by United Launch Alliance, the joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin. "Falcon Heavy opens up a new class of payload," Musk told reporters following Tuesday's launch from Cape Canaveral in Florida. By blasting his electric car into space, Musk not only pulled off a publicity coup but also showed potential clients that SpaceX can deliver the goods. Using reusable boosters, SpaceX has a cost advantage-at 90 million dollars a launch it is three times cheaper than its rivals. It has already lured two clients: the US Air Force and Arabsat, a consortium of Arab nations seeking to have communications satellites put into orbit. The market, however, has changed significantly since Musk announced the Falcon Heavy project in 2011.

SpaceX took a lot of time to develop its powerful rocket, and spent more than half a billion dollars doing so, according to Musk. During that time, a lot of progress been made in increasing the capability of smaller rockets-including SpaceX's own Falcon 9 — and reducing the size of satellites. "There is a part of the commercial market that requires Falcon Heavy," SpaceX president Gwynne Shotwell told the Los Angeles Times last year. "It's there, and it's going to be consistent, but it's much smaller than we thought."

Moonshot

One year ago, SpaceX announced that it had signed a contract to send two paying passengers into orbit around the moon, something which hasn't been done since NASA's Apollo 17 mission in December 1972. The space tourists would ride aboard a passenger version of SpaceX's Dragon 2 capsule, which has already been used by NASA

Turkey's broadcasting watchdog to monitor online content

ANKARA: Turkey will expand the powers of its radio and television watchdog to include overseeing online content providers, under a draft law submitted to parliament on Thursday which the main opposition party said amounted to digital censorship. The regulation would allow the RTUK watchdog to halt audio and video material streamed online, social media posts and films offered by Internet-based providers like Netflix if they are deemed a threat to national security or moral values.

President Tayyip Erdogan and his government have been criticised by opposition parties, rights groups and Western allies who say he has sharply curtailed freedom of speech and basic freedoms, especially in the wake of a 2016 coup attempt. The main opposition secular Republican People Party (CHP) has criticised the proposed



A picture taken on February 7, 2018 shows members of the AMADEE-18 Mars simulation mission wearing spacesuits while conducting scientific experiments during an analog field simulation in Oman's Dhofar desert in a collaboration between the Austrian Space Forum and the Oman National Steering Committee preparing for future human Mars missions. —AFP photos



forces," he said. Volunteer researcher Joao Lousada was struggling into a pressure-simulating exoskeleton suit with the help of three technicians. Weighing more than 50 kilograms, it is custom-built to simulate the constricted movement astronauts would feel on Mars-and takes a grueling hours-long process just to put on. Like the other volunteers he watched the Falcon Heavy launch with awe, but he said there were serious issues about the commercialization of space. "You can't claim the moon,

you can't claim asteroids so mining comes into a bit of a legal loophole," Lousada said. "But... I think it's a very interesting idea. I think definitely we should look into using resources from asteroids that are not available on Earth or are less frequent on Earth." Once suited up, Lousada and fellow researcher Kartik Kumar mounted rovers and rode off under the blazing sun to complete their set of experiments in the desert. Returning before dusk, Kumar-an expert on space debris-reflected on the role and responsibility of space voyagers. "We should never forget that as we explore our own planet and the solar system we have to do it responsibly and ethically," said Kumar.

'Tomorrow, perhaps reality'

Since 2015, the United States and Luxembourg have moved to the forefront of what has been dubbed the new space race, creating legal frameworks that could eventually allow mining in space. The European Union has yet to take a position, as its members are on vastly different pages over the controversial topic. "Can you just go there and take resources or not?" Soucek said. "There are a few things you have to sort out from technical and economic and also political point of view. But as always in space, today it's science fiction. Tomorrow, perhaps reality." —AFP



The SpaceX Falcon Heavy launches from Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on February 6, 2018, on its demonstration mission. —AFP

to send cargo to the International Space Station. Space tourism is a promising industry but the costs will limit its availability for some time to the super-rich. The moonshot was planned for late this year but SpaceX has yet to commit to that timeline. SpaceX is also not the only one eyeing the moon. In December, President Donald Trump directed NASA to set up a lunar base as a first step in a mission to Mars. Trump was vague, however, with details, financing or a calendar for sending men to the moon or the Red Planet. Hooking up with a private partner such as SpaceX or Blue Origin, the space company founded by Amazon's Jeff Bezos, could be on the cards.

Mars

Establishing a colony on Mars is Musk's stated long-term goal and Falcon Heavy is one step in the ambitious project he outlined last year. Falcon Heavy's successor-and

the SpaceX rocket that could make an unmanned mission to Mars-would be the irreverently-named rocket currently known as BFR, or "Big Fucking Rocket." BFR would eventually replace SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets and the Dragon capsule.

Around 350 feet (103 meters) tall, BFR would be nearly as big and even more powerful than NASA's Saturn V which sent astronauts to the moon in the 1960s and 1970s. A first test flight could take place in 2019 with orbital tests in 2020 and the delivery of the first cargo to Mars in 2022. Musk said the successful Falcon Heavy launch left him encouraged about the future of BFR. "It gives me confidence that BFR is really quite workable," Musk said. "It's given me a lot of confidence that we can make the BFR design work." "Most of our engineering resources will be dedicated to BFR and so I think that will make things go quite quickly," Musk said. —AFP

expansion of the watchdog's powers.

"(This) is the prevention of broadcasting by denying licenses through RTUK. We live in the digital world," CHP spokesman Bulent Tezcan said on Wednesday. Turkey's Transport, Maritime and Communication Minister Ahmet Arslan said earlier this week the regulation was not aimed at censoring "work being done within our normal moral values", but rather at "preventing wrongs".

"Freedoms are not limitless... If a broadcast that can harm the country's national security, survival, and our people's moral judgments is being done, then it is interfered with," Arslan told reporters. If the regulation is passed as it currently stands, it will grant RTUK the ability to issue or reject broadcasting licenses without providing a reason, giving it full power over who can publish content, human rights lawyer Kerem Altiparmak said.

'Fundamental problem'

Altiparmak said the draft law left unclear how the watchdog could regulate international outlets, such as Netflix, and what kind of punishment it could impose if they reject or fail to adhere to RTUK's warnings. The pro-Kurdish opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) called on Thursday for the formation of a commission to

ensure Internet freedom, saying the issue had become "one of the fundamental problems" in Turkey.

"The Internet, which facilitates the spread of information and organisation of the public, is being put under surveillance by political actors trying to prevent citizens from getting information," HDP lawmaker Filiz Kerestecigolu said. Since the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey, authorities have jailed more than 50,000 people, sacked or suspended another 150,000 and closed more than 150 media outlets over alleged links to the failed putsch. Monitoring groups have also accused Turkey of blocking access to social media sites, particularly in the aftermath of militant attacks. The government has denied the accusation.

Last year, Turkey's telecommunications watchdog said access to online encyclopedia Wikipedia had been blocked, citing a law allowing it to ban access to websites deemed a threat to national security. Scenes showing alcohol and cigarette consumption are blurred out in most television broadcasts, and scenes involving physical intimacy are often cut out from cable and premium programming. Arslan, however, said there was no censorship on television programming in Turkey, adding every channel could broadcast "within the scales of fairness and moral judgments". —Reuters

Health

‘Sinking’ Pacific nation is getting bigger, says study

‘These islands are geologically dynamic and are constantly changing’

WELLINGTON: The Pacific nation of Tuvalu—long seen as a prime candidate to disappear as climate change forces up sea levels — is actually growing in size, new research shows. A University of Auckland study examined changes in the geography of Tuvalu’s nine atolls and 101 reef islands between 1971 and 2014, using aerial photographs and satellite imagery. It found eight of the atolls and almost three-quarters of the islands grew during the study period, lifting Tuvalu’s total land area by 2.9 percent, even though sea levels in the country rose at twice the global average.

Co-author Paul Kench said the research, published Friday in the journal *Nature Communications*, challenged the assumption that low-lying island nations would be swamped as the sea rose. “We tend to think of Pacific atolls as static landforms that will simply be inundated as sea levels rise, but there is growing evidence these islands are geologically dynamic and are constantly changing,” he said. “The study findings may seem counter-intuitive, given that (the) sea level has been rising in the region over the past half century, but the dominant mode of change over that time on Tuvalu has been expansion, not erosion.”

Offset the erosion
It found factors such as wave patterns and sediment

dumped by storms could offset the erosion caused by rising water levels. The Auckland team says climate change remains one of the major threats to low-lying island nations. But it argues the study should prompt a rethink on how such countries respond to the problem. Rather than accepting their homes are doomed and looking to migrate to countries such as Australia and New Zealand, the researchers say they should start planning for a long-term future.

“On the basis of this research we project a markedly different trajectory for Tuvalu’s islands over the next century than is commonly envisaged,” Kench said. “While we recognize that habitability rests on a number of factors, loss of land is unlikely to be a factor in forcing depopulation of Tuvalu.” The study’s authors said island nations needed to find creative solutions to adapt to climate change that take into account their homeland’s evolving geography.

Suggestions included moving populations onto larger islands and atolls, which have proved the most stable and likely to grow as seas rise. “Embracing such new adaptation pathways will present considerable national scale challenges to planning, development goals and land tenure systems,” they said. “However, as the data on island change shows there is time (decades) to confront these challenges.” —AFP



A University of Auckland study examined changes in the geography of Tuvalu’s nine atolls and 101 reef islands between 1971 and 2014, using aerial photographs and satellite imagery.

Human eggs grown to maturity in lab

PARIS: Scientists have grown human egg cells to full maturity in the lab in a potential breakthrough for fertility treatment, they announced in a study published Friday. Researchers in New York and Edinburgh developed a new method to grow eggs from very early-stage cells obtained from ovary tissue, a team reported in the journal *Molecular Human Reproduction*. The eggs were grown to the point at which they could be fertilized.

This had previously been achieved with mouse egg cells, while human eggs had been successfully cultivated starting from a much later stage of development. “The latest study is the first time a human egg has been developed in the lab from its earliest stage to full maturity,” said a statement from the University of Edinburgh. Experts who did not take part in the

research hailed the achievement as promising, but stressed it would take years to translate into a safe and proven therapy.

The technique holds promise specifically for women who have to go through sterilizing treatments such as chemotherapy. It would allow them to freeze early-stage egg cells before undergoing treatment, to be matured in the lab at a later time to be fertilized with sperm to make a baby. Traditionally, cancer patients can have a piece of ovary removed before chemotherapy, but re-implanting the tissue later may risk reintroducing cancer.

“This is an elegant piece of work, demonstrating for the first time that human eggs can be grown to maturity in a laboratory,” Channa Jayasena of the Imperial College London said in a comment on the study results. “It would take several years to translate this into a therapy. However, this is an important breakthrough, which could offer hope to women with infertility in the future.” Azim Surani of the University of Cambridge pointed out that the eggs yielded by the research were smaller than normal, and “it might be of interest to test the developmental potential of these eggs”. —AFP

Experts advise against epilepsy drug in pregnancy

PARIS: An expert committee of Europe’s medicines watchdog recommended Friday that a drug used to treat epilepsy and linked to malformations in children not be used in pregnancy. The compound, valproate, is also used for migraine and bipolar disorder, and doctors already advised against prescribing the medicine for pregnant women in France. France’s medicines regulator, known by the acronym ANSM, asked the London-based European Medicines Agency (EMA) to conduct a risk review.

The EMA’s Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment

Committee (PRAC) said in a statement Friday it was recommending that valproate not be used by pregnant women for any of the three medical conditions. For women suffering from epilepsy, however, it may be impossible for some to stop after becoming pregnant, it said. These may have to continue treatment, though with “appropriate specialist care”. The experts also advised against prescribing the drug for women “from the time they become able to have children”, unless using contraception.

Valproate medicines are licensed under different names by national drugs authorities. The committee recommendations will now go to another body of the EMA, which deals with concerns over drugs that are not centrally authorized in the EU. Last April, a preliminary study showed that valproate caused “severe malformations” in as many as 4,100 children in France since the drug was first marketed in the country in 1967. —AFP

CLINIC PAGE

Kuwait Times

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
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot

- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar

Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.

@globalmedcenter

www.globalmed-center.com

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري 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

Zain celebrates Kuwait's national holidays at Qout Market

Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, celebrated the commencement of the national holidays season as part of its Community Partnership with Qout Market; Kuwait's largest artisanal farmers gathering. The event, considered the first of its kind in Kuwait, was held last Saturday at the Circle of Peace - Shaheed Park with the presence of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al Roudhan.

Zain's partnership with Qout Market comes in line with the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the youth sector, as the company continuously works towards identifying initiatives that carry a clear objective of developing youth talents. The community-based farmers market helps and supports local farmers and artisans to exchange thoughts and ideas while offering the opportunity for visitors to

express their opinions towards the products available.

Zain participated in the market through its own booth, where it welcomed visitors to participate in several exciting national-themed activities that came in line with Kuwait's national celebrations in February. Qout Market has a proven record of success, having attracted over 15,000 visitors in previous seasons. The market's selection of vendors includes a combination of fresh produced items as well as handmade items where people can stop by to enjoy on the spot. Zain expressed its ongoing keenness in supporting events that uplift the talents of Kuwaiti youth to higher levels, by encouraging outstanding projects and ideas. Zain's support is aimed at investing in the creative abilities of young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, preparing them to engage in the business world by encouraging them further and nurturing innovation within their businesses.



AUB sponsors booth activities for special needs individuals at 360

Ahli United Bank has announced its contribution in sponsoring a special needs activities booth for individuals and their families which was held at 360 Mall on Sunday, February 4th under the patronage of Her Excellency, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Hind Barrak Al-Sabeeh, and representatives of the Public Authority of the Disabled and the Public Authority of Manpower. Activities at the booth included programs to raise special needs parents' awareness of the legal aspects of the care provided by the relevant legislation, supported by a detailed explanation of the facilities afforded to them by the law.

Commenting on Ahli United Bank's participation in this activity, AUB's Human Resources General Manager, Naqeb Amin stated: "In line with the Bank's ongoing commitment to support all segments of Kuwaiti society in general and individuals with special needs in particular, we are inspired by the need to support and engage with this segment with society. We have always provided a number of positions for persons with special needs within the Bank that suit their capabilities and circumstances, thereby giving them both stability and security and deepen their engagement with society."



Amin added: "We strongly believe that individuals with special needs have the capability to perform their work optimally if they find the right environment that helps them utilize their capabilities and their qualifications. Moreover, Ahli United Bank is always keen to provide every possible form of support to individuals with special needs, and to participate in sponsoring various activities and events that draw attention to the challenges they face. AUB always strives to provide the best banking services that suit its special needs customers."

KIB: Official sponsor of the Gulf Popular Heritage Festival

In a continuation of its ongoing efforts to support various national events and cultural activities, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the Gulf Popular Heritage Festival at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village. Held under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the festival will continue running through until March.

One of the biggest and most anticipated festivals of the year, the annual Gulf Popular Heritage Festival is attended by many visitors from the local community as well as various countries across the GCC. This annual festival features

a number of museums, competitions, as well as cultural and folklore performances. Additionally, the village hosts several green spaces, restaurants, cafes and children's playgrounds.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "Our sponsorship of this festival aims at promoting greater cultural awareness in the local community by encouraging everyone to visit the Heritage Village; a village which transports us all to the breath-taking world of the past."

Najia lauded the efforts made by the Heritage Village's organizing committee which facilitated a number of matters for participating institutions and companies. Additionally, the organizers also ensured that all visitors were offered an exceptional experience to feel welcome and entertained at this fun, family-friendly village. KIB always strives to participate in national events and cultural festivals that shed the light on Kuwait's rich culture and heritage across both the regional and international arena.



NBK family spends World Cancer Day at its specialty hospital

National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) family paid a visit to NBK Hospital and Stem Cell Therapy Unit at Sabah Medical district to take part in World cancer Day with the medical team and children. Manal Faisal Al Mattar, NBK Assistant General Manager, Public Relations said "In recognition of the World Cancer Day, NBK is always keen on being present with the children with cancer everyday not

only one day. NBK Family supports their dreams, therapy and wellbeing."

"Through this initiative we seek to deliver a message of appreciation to doctors, nurses and children. This celebration is dedicated to the efforts of the medical team who shares the children their good and bad times. NBK team distributed flowers to show appreciation towards their sacrifices and social work," Al Mattar added. The visit to the hospital was emotional and overwhelming for both the children and NBK staff. NBK's visit to the hospital and care center reflects the Bank's high sense of duty and responsibility towards all those in need from different sectors of society. 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 the Kuwait society.



The Union of the Jordanian Engineers held an honoring ceremony for Jodanian Engineers at Al-Nakhil hotel in the presence of Jordanian and Palestinian Ambassadors, as well as President and members of the union. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

TV

AM MOVIES
ACTION

00:05 Company Business
01:45 Allegiant
03:45 Operation Chromite
05:35 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
07:20 Point Break
09:15 Allegiant
11:15 Independents' Day
12:50 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
14:35 Virtual Revolution
16:15 Life On The Line
17:55 Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope
20:00 Eagle Eye
22:00 Phone Booth
23:25 Under Siege

ANIMAL
PLANET HD

00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Escape To Chimp Eden
02:13 Escape To Chimp Eden
02:40 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:08 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
04:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
04:25 Escape To Chimp Eden
04:50 Going Ape
05:15 Going Ape
05:39 Going Ape
06:02 Bad Dog
06:49 Bad Dog
07:36 Meet The Orangutans
08:00 Meet The Orangutans
08:25 Whale Wars
09:15 Wildest Middle East
10:10 Wildest Middle East
11:05 Wildest Middle East
12:00 Wildest Middle East
12:55 Wildest Middle East
13:50 My Fat Pet
14:45 The Bronx Zoo
15:40 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory
16:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
17:03 Going Ape
17:30 Going Ape
17:58 Going Ape
18:25 Escape To Chimp Eden
18:53 Escape To Chimp Eden
19:20 Into The Dragon's Lair
20:15 Jaws Strikes Back
21:10 Saba And The Rhino's Secret
22:05 Saving A Species: Gorillas On The Brink With...
23:00 Jaws Comes Home: Return Of The Great Whites
23:55 Lone Star Law

BBC
FIRST

00:45 Liar
01:35 The Coroner
02:25 Casualty
03:20 Doctors
03:55 Doctors
04:25 Eastenders
04:55 Death In Paradise
06:00 Doctors
06:30 The Musketeers
07:30 Call The Midwife
08:30 Father Brown
09:20 Doctors
09:50 Eastenders
10:20 The Coroner
11:10 The Musketeers
12:10 Call The Midwife
13:10 Father Brown
14:05 Doctors
14:35 Eastenders
15:05 The Coroner
16:00 The Musketeers
17:00 Call The Midwife
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:00 The Coroner
20:00 Liar
20:50 Line Of Duty
21:50 New Tricks
22:50 Doctors
23:25 Eastenders

crime
& investigation
network

00:00 Homicide Hunter
01:00 Homicide Hunter
02:00 Psychic Kids
03:00 The Haunting Of...
04:00 Homicide Hunter
05:00 Homicide Hunter
06:00 Psychic Kids
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:30 It Takes A Killer
08:00 Cold Case Files
09:00 The First 48
10:00 The First 48
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 It Takes A Killer
12:00 The Eleven
13:00 The Eleven
14:00 The Eleven
15:00 Homicide Hunter
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Evil Up Close
18:00 Evil Up Close
19:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
20:00 Cold Case Files
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
23:00 Jo Frost On Britain's Killer Kids

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Nightcap
00:30 Natasha Leggero: Live From Bimbos
01:20 The Half Hour
01:45 The Half Hour
02:10 Tosh.0
02:35 Tosh.0
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Tosh.0
03:50 Chappelle's Show
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 I Live With Models
05:30 Impractical Jokers
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:50 Lip Sync Battle
07:15 Lip Sync Battle
07:40 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Key And Peele
10:10 I Live With Models
10:35 The Jim Gaffigan Show
11:00 Impractical Jokers
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Lip Sync Battle
13:05 Lip Sync Battle
13:30 I Live With Models
13:55 Friends
14:20 Friends
14:45 Workaholics

15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Kroll Show
16:00 Comedy Central Presents
Comedy 3alwagef
16:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
19:00 Lip Sync Battle
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 Comedy Central Presents
Comedy 3alwagef
22:00 Chris Ramsey Stand Up
Central
22:25 Natasha Leggero: Live From Bimbos
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition

Discovery
Family

00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 Prehistoric
02:10 Prehistoric
03:00 Prehistoric
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 Destroyed In Seconds
05:05 Destroyed In Seconds
05:30 Destroyed In Seconds
05:55 Destroyed In Seconds
06:20 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
06:40 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
07:00 Serious Desert
07:25 Serious Desert
07:50 Serious Desert
08:15 Serious Desert
08:40 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
09:05 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
09:30 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
09:55 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
10:20 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
10:45 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
11:10 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
11:35 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Tanked
13:40 Tanked
14:30 Tanked
15:20 Tanked
16:10 Tanked
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:50 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
18:15 How It's Made: Sports Equipment
18:40 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
19:30 Pick A Puppy
19:55 Pick A Puppy
20:20 Beverly Hills Groomer
20:45 Beverly Hills Groomer
21:10 Playhouse Masters
22:00 Bermuda Triangle Exposed
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Ultimate Survival

ID

00:50 Kindred Spirits
01:45 A Haunting
02:40 American Monster
03:35 Headline: Crime With Tamron Hall
04:30 Once Bitten: People Magazine Investigates
05:25 Married With Secrets
06:20 Kiss Of Death
07:10 Evil Stepmothers
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:25 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
09:15 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
11:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:55 I Almost Got Away With It
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 I Almost Got Away With It
15:40 I Almost Got Away With It
16:35 I Almost Got Away With It
17:30 I'd Kill For You
18:25 I'd Kill For You
19:20 I'd Kill For You
20:15 Florida's Craziest Crimes
21:10 Grave Secrets
22:05 Disappeared
23:00 Shattered
23:55 The Vanishing Women

Disney
HD

00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binny And The Ghost
06:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Elena Of Avalor: Realm Of The Jaquins
08:15 Descendants Wicked World
08:20 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
08:45 Tangled: The Series
09:10 K.C. Undercover
09:35 Bizaardvark
10:00 Bunk'd
10:25 Liv And Maddie
10:50 Disney Cookabout
11:15 Disney Cookabout
11:40 Let It Shine: Rap Battle Edition
13:20 Liv And Maddie
13:45 Liv And Maddie
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

15:00 Jessie
15:25 Jessie
15:50 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
16:15 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
16:40 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
16:45 Disney Cookabout
17:10 Disney Cookabout
17:35 Tangled: The Series
18:00 Tangled: The Series
18:25 Bizaardvark
18:50 Bizaardvark
19:15 Elena Of Avalor: Realm Of The Jaquins
20:05 Bunk'd
20:30 Bunk'd
20:55 Stuck In The Middle
21:20 Stuck In The Middle
21:45 Austin & Ally
22:10 Austin & Ally
22:35 Girl Meets World
23:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:50 Lolorock

Disney
Junior

00:15 PJ Masks
00:40 Vampirina
01:05 Vampirina
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Loopidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 PJ Masks
08:00 P-King Duckling
08:30 Puppy Dog Pals
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Doc McStuffins
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 Vampirina
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:55 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:20 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:10 Goldie & Bear
14:35 Goldie & Bear
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
15:55 Goldie & Bear
16:20 Doc McStuffins
16:50 Vampirina
17:15 Puppy Dog Pals
17:40 The Lion Guard
18:10 The Lion Guard
18:35 Sofia The First
19:00 Sofia The First
19:25 Vampirina
19:55 PJ Masks
20:20 P-King Duckling
20:45 The Lion Guard
21:15 Goldie & Bear
21:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
22:00 Doc McStuffins
22:25 Doc McStuffins
22:50 P-King Duckling
23:20 PJ Masks
23:45 PJ Masks

Discovery
CHANNEL
HD

00:15 Railroad Australia
01:05 Abandoned Engineering
01:50 Yukon Men
02:40 Deadliest Catch
03:20 Street Outlaws
04:05 Alaska Monsters
04:50 Deadliest Catch
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Backroad Bounty
06:45 Backroad Bounty
07:35 Alaska Monsters
08:20 Backroad Bounty
09:10 Deadliest Catch
09:55 Kings Of The Wild
10:45 Deadliest Job Interview
11:30 Man v Expert
12:20 Backroad Bounty
13:05 Backroad Bounty
13:55 Deadliest Catch
14:40 Yukon Men
15:30 Kings Of The Wild
16:15 Deadliest Job Interview
17:05 Man v Expert
17:50 Alaska Monsters
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:25 Yukon Men
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Diesel Brothers
21:50 Gear Dogs
22:40 Fast N' Loud

Disney
XD

06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:10 Phineas & Ferb
06:25 Milo Murphy's Law
06:35 Phineas & Ferb
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
07:45 Pair Of Kings
08:10 Pair Of Kings
08:35 Phineas And Ferb
09:00 Phineas And Ferb
09:25 Mighty Med
09:50 Mighty Med
10:20 Gravity Falls
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Lab Rats
12:00 Pair Of Kings
12:30 Pair Of Kings
12:55 Mech-X4
13:20 Mech-X4
13:45 Phineas And Ferb
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Phineas And Ferb
14:40 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
15:30 Lab Rats
15:55 Lab Rats
16:25 Kickin' It
16:50 Kickin' It
17:15 Supa Strikas
17:40 Supa Strikas
18:05 Gravity Falls
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Gravity Falls
19:00 Right Now Kapow
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot

19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
20:40 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Kid vs. Kat
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA

EHD

00:00 The Platinum Life
00:55 The Platinum Life
01:50 El News
02:50 Botched
03:40 Botched
04:35 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Botched
06:55 Botched
07:50 Botched
08:45 Botched
09:40 Botched
10:35 Botched
11:30 WAGs Atlanta
12:25 WAGs Atlanta
13:20 WAGs Atlanta
14:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
15:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
16:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:05 Celebrity Style Story
18:30 My Fabulous Me
19:00 El News
20:00 My Fabulous Me
20:30 My Fabulous Me
21:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
22:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
23:00 Citizen Rose

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
CHANNEL HD

00:10 Filthy Riches
01:00 Empire Of The Snake King
02:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
03:00 Fish Tank Kings
04:00 Don't Tell My Mother
04:30 Don't Tell My Mother
05:00 China To The World
06:00 Lawless Island Alaska
07:00 The Long Road Home
08:00 Chain Of Command
09:00 Explorer XL
10:00 Mankind From Space
12:00 The Witch Doctor.A
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Yukon Gold
16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
17:00 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
18:00 Empire Of The Snake King
19:00 Yukon Gold
20:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
20:50 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
21:40 Empire Of The Snake King
22:30 Yukon Gold
23:20 Brave New World

itv
hd
CHOICE

00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Don't Tell The Bride
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:25 Coronation Street
03:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
04:40 Couples Come Dine With Me
05:30 Royal Stories
06:00 The Voice UK 2018
07:25 Dancing On Ice
09:05 Endeavour
10:45 The Doctor Blake Mysteries: Family Portrait
12:45 The Voice UK 2018
14:00 The Voice UK 2018
15:30 Endeavour
17:15 Dancing On Ice
19:00 The Voice UK 2018
20:30 The Royal Variety Performance
2016

23:00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries: Family Portrait

H2
HD

00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 The Lost Evidence
02:00 The Lost Evidence
03:00 The Lost Evidence
03:50 Rome's Lost Legion
04:40 Ancient Discoveries
05:30 Ancient Discoveries
06:20 The Lost Evidence
07:10 UFO Files
08:00 Ancient Impossible
09:00 Rome's Lost Legion
10:00 Ancient Discoveries
11:00 Ancient Discoveries
12:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
13:00 Ancient Discoveries
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 Ancient Top 10
16:00 Rome's Lost Legion
17:00 UFO Files
18:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
19:00 Modern Marvels
20:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
21:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
22:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
23:00 D-Day: The Lost Films

H
HD
HISTORY

00:20 American Pickers
01:10 Forged In Fire
02:00 Barbarians Rising
02:50 Hunting Hitler
03:40 Pawn Stars
04:05 Storage Wars
04:30 Ax Men
05:15 Ax Men
06:00 Mountain Men
06:50 Forged In Fire
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Storage Wars
08:55 Storage Wars
09:20 American Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
10:40 Forged In Fire
11:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
12:40 Storage Wars
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Swamp People
14:20 American Pickers
15:10 Mountain Men
16:00 Forged In Fire
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
17:40 Hunting Hitler
18:30 Mountain Men
19:20 Forged In Fire
20:10 American Pickers Best Of
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 American Pickers
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 Mountain Men

NAT GEO
people HD

00:15 The Game Chef
00:45 Eat Street
01:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
01:40 Around The World In 80 Dishes
02:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
03:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
14:30 The Food Files
14:55 The Food Files
15:25 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
16:20 Restoration Man
17:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
17:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
18:10 Survival Of The Fittest
19:05 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
19:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
20:00 The Food Files
20:30 The Food Files
21:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
23:20 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
23:50 Survival Of The Fittest

08:05 Glamour Puds
08:30 Glamour Puds
09:00 Chocolate Covered
09:25 Chocolate Covered
09:55 Around The World In 80 Dishes
10:50 John Torode's Asia
11:15 Miguel's Feasts
11:45 Building Wild
12:40 Around The World In 80 Dishes
13:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
14:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
14:30 The Food Files
14:55 The Food Files
15:25 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
16:20 Restoration Man
17:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
17:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
18:10 Survival Of The Fittest
19:05 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
19:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
20:00 The Food Files
20:30 The Food Files
21:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
23:20 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
23:50 Survival Of The Fittest

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
CHANNEL HD

00:10 Filthy Riches
01:00 Empire Of The Snake King
02:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
03:00 Fish Tank Kings
04:00 Don't Tell My Mother
04:30 Don't Tell My Mother
05:00 China To The World
06:00 Lawless Island Alaska
07:00 The Long Road Home
08:00 Chain Of Command
09:00 Explorer XL
10:00 Mankind From Space
12:00 The Witch Doctor.A
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Yukon Gold
16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
17:00 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
18:00 Empire Of The Snake King
19:00 Yukon Gold
20:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
20:50 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
21:40 Empire Of The Snake King
22:30 Yukon Gold
23:20 Brave New World

NAT GEO
WILD HD

00:20 The Miracle Cheetah
01:10 Animal ER
02:00 Dead Or Alive
02:50 Man V. Monster
03:45 Baby Animals In The Wild
04:40 Safari Brothers
05:35 Africa's Deadliest (2018)
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Wild 24
09:15 Python Hunters
10:10 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
11:05 Unlikely Animal Friends
12:00 World's Weirdest Animal Faces
12:55 Little Monkey House
13:50 Savage Kingdom: Uprising
14:45 Maneater Manhunt
15:40 Safari Brothers
16:35 Primal Survivor-riwild
17:00 Primal Survivor-riwild
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
19:20 Maneater Manhunt
20:10 Safari Brothers
21:00 Primal Survivor-riwild
21:25 Primal Survivor-riwild
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
23:30 World's Weirdest Animal Faces

nick
HD

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Massive Monster Mayhem
13:48 Hunter Street
14:12 I Am Frankie
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 Rabbids Invasion
15:24 School Of Rock
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Massive Monster Mayhem
17:24 I Am Frankie
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Rabbids Invasion
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 Regal Academy
20:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

nick jr.

00:16 Kid-E-Cats
00:22 Shimmer And Shine

00:45 Sunny Day
01:06 Max & Ruby
01:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:40 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:52 The Day Henry Met
01:56 The Day Henry Met
02:02 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:46 Team Umizoomi
03:10 Team Umizoomi
03:32 Paw Patrol
03:55 Paw Patrol
04:20 Shimmer And Shine
04:42 Shimmer And Shine
05:05 Nella The Princess Knight
05:27 Nella The Princess Knight
05:50 Rusty Rivets
06:14 Rusty Rivets
06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:23 Paw Patrol
07:37 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Nella The Princess Knight
08:12 Kid-E-Cats
08:16 Kid-E-Cats
08:22 Bubble Guppies
08:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:07 Dora The Explorer
09:54 Nella The Princess Knight
10:15 The Day Henry Met
10:21 Paw Patrol
10:45 Rusty Rivets
11:07 Wallykazam!
11:30 Bubble Guppies
11:53 Team Umizoomi
12:16 Kid-E-Cats
12:23 Shimmer And Shine
12:45 Sunny Day
13:07 Max & Ruby
13:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:40 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:52 The Day Henry Met
13:57 The Day Henry Met
14:02 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:46 Team Umizoomi
15:10 Team Umizoomi
15:32 Paw Patrol
15:56 Paw Patrol
16:20 Shimmer And Shine
16:41 Shimmer And Shine
17:04 Nella The Princess Knight
17:27 Nella The Princess Knight
17:50 Rusty Rivets
18:14 Rusty Rivets
18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
19:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
19:23 Paw Patrol
19:37 Dora The Explorer
20:00 Nella The Princess Knight
20:12 Kid-E-Cats
20:16 Kid-E-Cats
20:22 Bubble Guppies
20:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
21:07 Paw Patrol
21:30 Shimmer And Shine
21:53 Nella The Princess Knight
22:15 The Day Henry Met
22:20 Paw Patrol
22:45 Rusty Rivets
23:07 Wallykazam!
23:31 Bubble Guppies
23:54 Team Umizoomi

AM MOVIES HD
FAMILY

01:05 A Sunday Horse
02:55 True Heart
04:30 Bonta
05:55 Big Baby
07:20 A Sunday Horse
09:10 The Angry Birds Movie
10:50 True Heart
12:25 Chilly Christmas
13:55 Pet Pals In Windland
15:20 The Great Gilly Hopkins
17:00 The Dog Lover
18:45 Deck The Halls
20:20 Chilly Christmas
21:50 Pet Pals In Windland
23:15 The Dog Lover

AM MOVIES HD
FIRST

01:20 Kicks
02:50 Rules Don't Apply
05:00 The Accountant
07:10 The Jungle Book
09:00 Rules Don't Apply
11:10 The Accountant
13:20 A Quiet Passion
15:30 Smurfs: The Lost Village
17:05 Loving
19:10 Sully
20:50 Assassin's Creed
22:50 Shot Caller

AM MOVIES HD
COMEDY

01:00 Two-Bit Waltz
02:20 My Super Ex-Girlfriend
04:00 Kindergarten Cop 2
05:45 Down With Love
07:30 Christian Mingle
09:15 Yoga Hosers
10:45 Kindergarten Cop 2
12:30 Christian Mingle
14:15 Down With Love
16:00 Hearts Of Spring
17:30 7 Chinese Brothers
18:50 A Date With Miss Fortune
20:30 Boomerang
22:30 Mean Machine

AM MOVIES
FESTIVAL

01:55 Brick
04:00 The Apartment
06:15 Far From Men
08:05 Worlds Apart
10:05 The Apartment
12:15 Margot At The Wedding
13:55 African Safari
15:30 The Shamer's Daughter
17:15 The Last King
19:00 A Country Called Home
20:40 Another Earth
22:20 Hungry Hearts

AM MOVIES HD
KIDS

01:30 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
02:55 Amila's Secret
04:10 Pacific Pirates
05:40 Moomins And The Comet Chase
07:05 Free Birds
08:30 Ozzy
10:05 Zodiac: The Race Begins
11:40 Emilie Jolie

12:55 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
14:20 Amila's Secret
15:30 Micropolis
16:55 Zodiac: The Race Begins
18:30 Simba The King Lion
20:35 Bunny Tales
21:55 Micropolis
23:25 Ozzy

AM MOVIES HD

00:05 Untamed Heart
01:50 Avatar
04:30 Baby Mama
06:10 Arachnophobia
08:05 Ride Along 2
09:50 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip
11:30 Avatar
14:10 The Portrait Of A Lady
16:40 Calendar Girls
18:35 Dan In Real Life
20:20 Runner Runner
22:00 Universal Soldier: The Return
23:25 Trainwreck

SC
DISCOVERY
SCIENCE

00:40 Nextworld
01:30 Nextworld
02:20 Nextworld
03:10 Nextworld
04:00 Nextworld
04:48 Food Factory
05:12 Food Factory
05:36 Food Factory
06:00 Food Factory
06:24 How Do They Do It?
06:48 How Do They Do It?
07:12 How Do They Do It?
07:36 How Do They Do It?
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Nextworld
09:14 Nextworld
10:02 Nextworld
10:50 Nextworld
11:38 Nextworld
12:26 Mythbusters: The Search
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 Mythbusters
14:50 Mythbusters
15:38 Mythbusters
16:26 Food Factory
16:50 Food Factory
17:14 Food Factory
17:38 Food Factory
18:02 Food Factory
18:26 How Do They Do It?
18:50 How Do They Do It?
19:15 How Do They Do It?
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:05 How Do They Do It?
20:30 Secret Space Escapes
21:20 Secret Space Escapes
22:10 Secret Space Escapes
23:00 You Have Been Warned
23:50 Alien Encounters

STAR
GOLD

Classifieds

Sunday, February 11, 2018



STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Partly cloudy with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	<div>SFC. CHART10/02/2018 0000 UTC</div>	
KUWAIT CITY	28 °C	14 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27 °C	09 °C		
ABDALY	25 °C	09 °C		
BUBYAN	23 °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	27 °C	12 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	24 °C	12 °C		
SALMIYAH	25 °C	16 °C		
AHMADI	23 °C	14 °C		
NUWAISIB	28 °C	12 °C		
WAFRA	27 °C	10 °C		
SALMY	25 °C	12 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	02/11	Partly cloudy	27 °C	10 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Monday	02/12	Partly cloudy to cloudy	28 °C	12 °C	SE	15 - 45 km/h
Tuesday	02/13	Partly cloudy to cloudy and with a chance for rising dust over open areas and a chance for rain	35 °C	15 °C	SE	22 - 55 km/h
Wednesday	02/14	A significant decrease in temperature and Partly cloudy causing rising dust with a chance for	25 °C	12 °C	NW	15 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	05:11
Sunrise	06:32
Zuhr	12:02
Asr	15:10
Sunset	17:33
Isha	18:51

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	25 °C
MIN. Temp.	08 °C
MAX. RH	37 %
MIN. RH	14 %
MAX. Wind	NW 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

NEEDED

CHEF

with Restaurant Experience

◆ Live-out with own accommodation

◆ Excellent spoken & written English

◆ Pay & Working Hours comparable

to Restaurants

Send Resume to:

Chefneeded965@gmail.com

A leading Construction Co. for its projects is having the following vacancies; interested candidates having experience in similar positions can apply:

1. Instrumentation Engineer
2. Instrumentation Supervisor
3. Electrical Engineer
4. Electrical Foreman
5. Electricians
6. HR Coordinator
7. Accountant
8. Heavy Equipment Operator
9. Civil Supervisor

All above positions should have minimum 2 to 3 years in oil field experience.

Please send the CV / Resume to

redbuilds2005@gmail.com

As a part of its development activities in Kuwait, a reputed food services company is looking for candidates to fill the below positions on Local release basis.

REQUIRED URGENTLY

HEAD WAITRESS

- ◆ Strong personality with good command of English (Arabic will be a plus).
- ◆ Command of service techniques with leadership ability.
- ◆ Ready to work for a demanding client.
- ◆ Minimum 5 years experience in reputed hotels.

WAITRESSES

- ◆ Good communication skills in English
- ◆ Minimum 3 year experience in catering and hotel industry.
- ◆ Filipino and Indonesian nationals are preferred.

DRIVERS LIGHT/HEAVY (سائق / خفيفة - لثقل)

- ◆ **KITCHEN EQUIPMENT/HVAC/CHILLER TECHNICIANS**
- ◆ Communication skills in English
- ◆ Relevant experience in the same field for at least 3 years.

Maintenance Supervisor

- ◆ Good Communication skills in English
- ◆ Leadership qualities and must be knowledgeable overall maintenance task and responsibilities.
- ◆ Degree or Diploma in Engineering with minimum 10 years' experience.
- ◆ Valid Kuwait Driving License

ACCOUNTANT

- ◆ University Graduate with account or commerce with minimum 5 years experience.
- ◆ Acquaintance with Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivables, Asset Management, Payroll and Management reports
- ◆ Preparation of monthly financials (P&L, BS, cash flow), estimates and yearly budget
- ◆ Knowledge of Internal control, site audit and interaction with external Auditors
- ◆ Liaising with clients and attorneys on legal issues

QHSE OFFICER

- ◆ To execute and maintain the entire gamut of Food Safety, QHSE procedures and SOPs for multi location operations with a focus to achieve highest industrial standards. The job involves frequent site visits, Audits, attending client meetings, and conducting trainings at various levels.
- ◆ Bilingual in English & Hindi. Arabic Will be an added advantage
- ◆ Degree in Food Science or Microbiology
- ◆ Minimum 5 years experience in Food Industry preferably with Hotel/Industrial catering.

Interested candidates having transferable visa may send CVs with recent photograph to the following contacts:
Email : mailtotag@gmail.com

WANTED TEACHER

**Needed Math's
Teacher for Foreign
School Studied
10th Grade.**

Please contact for more details in:
(965) 22445150 / 1 / 2 / 3
Fax: 22431157/ 22467670

Position Available

**LOOKING FOR KITCHEN STAFF
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!**

EASY DESSERT MAKING!

ATTRACTIVE SALARY!

LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME DRIVER

WITH A KUWAITI LICENSE.

◆ FEMALE AND MALE

◆ VISA 18 TRANSFERABLE

SEND YOUR CV BY WHATSAPP:

94466302



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 11/2/2018								Departure Flights on Sunday 11/2/2018							
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	PAL	668	Manila	14:00	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	KAC	204	Lahore	14:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
JZR	125	Bahrain	00:10	KAC	618	Doha	14:15	JZR	604	Ahmedabad	00:05	RSB	1073	TQD	12:10
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	FDB	692	Muscat	14:15	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	QTR	059	Dubai	14:20	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	JZR	606	Kochi	12:45
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	KAC	1078	Doha	14:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:00	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	GFA	672	Dubai	14:25	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05	JZR	176	Dubai	13:40
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	SVA	221	Bahrain	14:40	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KNE	500	Jeddah	14:45	JZR	142	Doha	01:45	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:15
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	529	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	14:55	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:10	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:25
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	ETD	788	Jeddah	15:10	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	787	Riyadh	15:30	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
WAN	548	KTM	02:40	KAC	562	Amman	15:30	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	502	Beirut	15:30	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	KAC	283	Dhaka	15:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:05	FEG	937	Sohag	15:45	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
KAC	414	Bangkok	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	15:55	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	PAL	669	Manila	16:10
JZR	555	Alexandria	03:20	KAC	118	New York	16:00	KAC	103	London	05:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:00	KAC	103	London	05:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	779	Jeddah	16:25	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40	KAC	203	Lahore	05:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:40
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:30	FEG	932	Alexandria	16:45
UAE	873	Dubai	04:25	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:40	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	WAN	984	Tbilisi	17:50	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	JZR	177	Dubai	18:15	QTR	8512	Doha	07:55	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:00	KAC	744	Dammam	19:10	KAC	165	Rome	08:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:20	FEG	934	Sohag	08:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	KAC	791	Madinah	08:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
QTR	8511	Doha	06:25	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:40
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	08:40	KAC	381	Delhi	18:50
BAW	157	London	07:10	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30	KAC	691	Muscat	08:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:10
FEG	933	Sohag	07:30	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	08:55	JZR	184	Dubai	19:15
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	BAW	156	London	08:55	JZR	554	Alexandria	19:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:55	KAC	117	New York	09:00	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	KAC	104	London	20:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	KAC	561	Amman	09:40	QTR	1081	Doha	20:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	101	London	09:45	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:05
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	08:45	KAC	166	Rome	20:20	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:45	IRC	529	Ahwaz	09:55	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:05	WAN	136	Doha	21:15	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	20:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:05	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:25	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:30	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	DLH	624	Bahrain	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35	KAC	617	Doha	10:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	KAC	411	Bangkok	22:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:30	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
WAN	134	Doha	11:55	WAN	116	Bahrain	21:50	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	KAC	564	Amman	22:00	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	ZAV	4102	ZRM	11:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:35
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	ZAV	4101	QA	11:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	241	Amman	22:40	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:15	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
KAC	792	Madinah	13:20	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:30	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	JZR	786	Riyadh	11:55	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	WAN	953	Baku	12:00	WAN	337	Alexandria	23:45



MGMT made new album via email

MGMT made their new album via email. Ben Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden have had a notoriously difficult relationship in the past and although they say that they are now in a better place, they prefer to work over email as Ben lives in Los Angeles and Andrew is based in New York. Speaking to The Guardian about their new record 'Little Dark Age', Patrick Wimberly, who co-produced the record, explained: "They're not attached to each other because of contracts or obligations. They've tapped into a connection that encourages them both to dig deep into their own ideas. At times it seems like they have their own language." However, both Ben and Andrew are happy with their relationship at the moment. Andrew said: "We've gone through different phases of hanging out and being, like, normal friends, and that's not easy these days because Ben lives in L.A. He's got a dog with a backyard, and I'm in Rockaway and so we're not like staying together and walking through parking lots like we were at college. We've gone through times where we had disagreements or it's been tense. But we rode it out and it seems good now." And the new record has been inspired by recent events in America. Andrew said: "There's a lot of stuff on the record relating to the last year. What Trump has done is just expose a whole lot of things that were there already. Like: is America bad? In 'When You Die', when we're saying "I'm not that nice", it's owning up to existing in a modern United States of America: you're kind of part of this evil whether you want to be or not."

Chris Brown wants to tour with Rihanna, Beyonce and Bruno Mars

Chris Brown wants to do a world tour with Beyonce, Rihanna and Bruno Mars. The 28-year-old singer took to Twitter to reveal his wish to join forces with the three superstars - including former girlfriend Rihanna, who he was convicted of physically assaulting in 2009 - for a world tour. He tweeted: "Just thinking.... A CRAZY WORLD TOUR would BEYONCE, RIHANNA, BRUNO MARS, CHRIS BROWN. "2 for 2". And if y'all decide to do it without me... give me 10 per cent (sic)." Chris pleaded guilty to one count of felony assault and served probation for the crime against Rihanna, following a pre-Grammys party. Speaking previously about the assault, which he claims happened during a fight between them, Chris said: "I really hit her. With a closed fist, like I punched her, and it busted her lip, and when I saw it I was in shock, I was "why did I hit her like that?" "So from there she's...spitting blood in my face, it raised me even more. It's a real fight in the car, and we driving in the street." Rihanna has previously said she found it hard to move on from her first love. She said: "I lost my best friend - like everything I knew switched in a night, and I couldn't control that. "So, I had to deal with that and that's not easy for me to understand, interpret and it's not easy to interpret on camera, not with the world watching."



Kill Bill stunt coordinator backs Uma Thurman



Kill Bill stunt coordinator Keith Adam says Uma Thurman should never have had to perform the 2003 stunt in which she was badly injured. The 47-year-old actress has blamed the producer, director Quentin Tarantino and his then co-workers E. Bennett Walsh and Harvey Weinstein for the incident in 2003 because she felt they forced her to perform the driving sequence, which she felt uncomfortable doing, and then covered up the evidence after the crash. And Adams says he was not on set on the day of the incident and never asked about or told that Uma Thurman would be performing that particular stunt. He told The Hollywood Reporter: "No stunts of any kind were scheduled for the day of Ms. Thurman's accident. All of the stunt department was put on hold and no one from the stunt department was called to set. "At no point was I notified or consulted about Ms. Thurman driving a car on camera that day. "Had I been involved I would have insisted not only on putting a professional driver behind the wheel but also insuring that the car itself was road-worthy and safe." Thurman made the revelation in a recent interview with The New York Times newspaper, explaining the accident which crushed her knees, left her with a concussion and required her to wear a neck brace to recover. But producer Lawrence Bender denied hiding anything from Uma and is adamant the safety of the cast and crew he works with is "vital" to him and he would never put someone in danger intentionally. He said: "I deeply regret that Uma suffered the pain she has, both physically and emotionally, for all of these years from the accident that occurred on the set of 'Kill Bill'. "The safety of the professionals who work on the movies I produce is vital to me and I never want to let anyone down. I never hid anything from Uma or anyone else nor did I participate in any cover up of any kind - and I never would. "I was informed of Uma's feelings in regard to this incident a few months ago and have done my best over this time to get as much verifiable information from all of the relevant sources that I could and shared it with Quentin. I wanted to make sure she had all of the answers she had been seeking. "I have great respect for Uma Thurman, both as an artist and a person, and only wish her well."

Scott and Lewis record You Are The Reason duet

Calum Scott has teamed up with Leona Lewis for a new version of his hit single 'You Are The Reason'. The 29-year-old singer and Leona, 32, have joined forces for a duet version of the track, and the Grammy-nominated star has revealed she jumped at the opportunity to work with Calum. She said: "I remember the day Calum sent me this track, I sat listening at home and had it on repeat. It's one of those powerful songs that touches your heart and such a beautiful ballad, everyone knows I love singing them! "Calum's performance on it is stunning and I loved being able to join him to make this duet version." And Calum felt similarly enthusiastic about working with Leona, who won the UK version of 'The X Factor' in 2006 and has subsequently sold over 20 million records worldwide. He shared: "Working with Leona was a dream come true. "As a fan, I first remember watching her on TV before going on to grace the globe with her incredibly beautiful voice. "Now having the honor of working with her on one of my own songs is completely surreal and the passion and raw emotion she brings to our duet makes it even more special to me. I can still hardly believe that we did it!" 'You Are The Reason' is the follow up to the multi-platinum selling single 'Dancing On My Own', and streams of the track have already surpassed the 50 million mark worldwide.



Inspirational Lauryn Hill



Brent Faiyaz's 'Sonder Son' was inspired by Lauryn Hill. The 22-year-old singer's debut solo LP was a smash hit last year and Brent admitted Lauryn's 'The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill' has had a huge influence on his career. He told Billboard: "She's one of my favourite artists. The whole plane ride over to DR, I was listening to 'Miseducation'. That was it. I was like, I gotta make some shit that's not out right now." Everybody's making the same shit, I gotta do something different." Brent has gone on to find huge success in his career, after switching from rap to singing. He explained: "I was doing both, on my Lauryn Hill s**t, I guess. There's so many rappers out. I remember sending music around, sending emails all day everyday for damn near two years. Nobody was really giving me the response I wanted. The thing is, because it's so many rappers, if I'm not referred by somebody, I don't even wanna listen. Versus singing, somebody can press play, and like three seconds in you might be somebody's favorite singer off of one song. You don't gotta hear a whole catalog. It was a no brainer." However, he hasn't completely given up on succeeding as a rapper too. He said: "I still got bars, I just use 'em differently. I'd say I'm a better singer than I am a rapper at this point because I've been sharpening my sword. If I really hopped back into rapping, I'd kick [everyone] up."

Gyllenhaal, Elgort and Zendaya to star in Finest Kind



Jake Gyllenhaal, Ansel Elgort and Zendaya are set to star in thriller 'Finest Kind'. The trio have signed up for the new crime movie, written and directed by Brian Helgeland, which tells the story of two half-brothers (Jake and Ansel), who make a deal with a crime syndicate and get involved with the Boston underworld. Gary Foster and Russ Krasnoff will produce the movie along with Dan Friedkin and Bradley Thomas. Jake and Riva Marker will also produce the film through their company Nine Stories. Helgeland previously won an Oscar for writing 'L.A. Confidential' and directed the Jackie Robinson biopic '42' and 'Legend', starring Tom Hardy. Meanwhile, Jake recently declared that 'Stronger' is the "most important" movie he has ever made. The 37-year-old star portrays Boston Marathon bombing survivor Jeff Bauman - who had both of his legs blown off near the finish line of the event in April 2013 - in the motion picture and admitted the film means more than any other because it helped Jeff "heal". He said: "This movie has changed me in ways that I can't really put into words and is the most important film I've made so far for a number of reasons. I think we helped [Jeff] see things about himself that helped him heal, which, to me, is why I think this movie means more to me than anyone I've ever made." Gyllenhaal was "terrified" about being introduced to Jeff - whose memoir 'Stronger' inspired the movie - but now talks to him on a daily basis after spending two-and-a-half years shooting the film. He added: "I was terrified to meet him. But he trusted me. I have no clue why. We talk almost every day and I love him. If this movie only helped Jeff survive, then the two-and-a-half years I've spent making it have been worthwhile. If it touches anyone else, it's extra credit."

Muslim singer forced to quit French show over terror posts

A French Muslim singer who became an overnight star after dazzling judges on a TV talent show quit the contest Friday after coming under fire for past Facebook comments about terror attacks. Mennel Ibtissem, a 22-year-old student who wears a head wrap, was one of the top contestants on The Voice, where her English and Arabic version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah caused a sensation. But within days of Saturday's performance she was under pressure to bow out over old Facebook messages that appeared to question the terrorist nature of attacks that claimed scores of lives in France in 2016. The posts had been deleted but screen grabs of the remarks have been circulated on far-right websites. In one post after the July 2016 truck attack in the city of Nice, in which 86 people were killed, she said: "Here we go, it's become a routine, an attack a week, and, as usual, the 'terrorist' takes his ID with him. It's true that when you're plotting something nasty you never forget to take your papers with you." She was referencing a series of jihadist assaults in France in which police quickly named the killers through documents found on their bodies, including the 2015 Paris attacks that killed 130 people. In another post, days after two jihadists slit the throat of a priest in his Normandy church, she wrote: "The real terrorists are our government." The singer had apologized over the remarks, saying members of her family had been celebrating Bastille Day in Nice when the driver struck and that she had been "upset" by the failure of the authorities to prevent the attack. But the apology failed to quell the controversy. With private broadcaster TF1 under pressure to pull her out of the competition, including from relatives of the victims of the Nice attack, she quit on Friday. "I never meant to hurt anyone and the mere thought that my remarks hurt others hurts me, so I have taken the decision to quit this adventure," she said in a Facebook video that has been viewed over 860,000 times. The production company behind The Voice, ITV Studios France, said that despite her earlier apology the atmosphere on the show had become "too heavy" and hoped her decision to withdraw would "soothe tensions". But some of her fans expressed disappointment, amid allegations of anti-Muslim bias. On Ibtissem's Facebook page, Jihene Ferchiou wrote: "We must not delude ourselves. Your turban, your religion, your origins were the obstacle. Clearly we have reached an unprecedented level of racism in France. It's a disgrace."



Wright found acting savior in God

Letitia Wright almost gave up acting before she found God. The 24-year-old actress landed her big break in the 2016 movie 'Urban Hymn' and now Wright has a role in the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Shuri in the new 'Black Panther' movie, but she admitted she almost walked away from her passion during a "very difficult" period in her life. But after taking a break and becoming a devout Christian she re-discovered her passion for the art form. Speaking on UK TV show 'This Morning' on Friday, Wright said: "Yeah I was going through a lot. A very difficult time in my life and I just needed to take a break from acting because I really idolized it. So I came off from it and I went on a journey to discover God and my relationship with God and I became a Christian and it really gave me so much love and life within myself and so much I felt secure and I felt I didn't need validation from anyone else or from getting a part. And my happiness wasn't dependent on that. It was dependent on my relationship with God." Because of her religious beliefs, Letitia - who will reprise her role as Shuri in the upcoming 'Avengers: Infinity War' - doesn't rely on her career for validation in her life and that has helped her acting. She said: "I am centered in who I am and I'm really grateful. I'm not perfect especially as a Christian you're not perfect but you're walking every day and trying to just stay connected and yeah it's helped me a lot and I'm really grateful." 'Black Panther' also stars Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Angela Bassett, Forest Whitaker, Daniel Kaluuya, Lupita Nyong'o and Danai Gurira. Letitia will next be seen in Steven Spielberg's latest movie 'Ready Player One' alongside Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn, T.J. Miller, Simon Pegg and Mark Rylance.



Ronan says it's mad how successful Lady Bird has been

Saoirse Ronan thinks it's "mad" that 'Lady Bird' has become such a success. The 23-year-old actress stars as teenager Christine in the new movie by Greta Gerwig, and the coming-of-age drama has been nominated for Best Picture at this year's Academy Awards. It was named Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy at the recent Golden Globes and Ronan was chosen as the winner of Best Actress - Motion Picture Musical or Comedy and she is simply staggered that this "tiny little film" has done so well. Speaking on 'The Graham Norton Show' - to air on BBC One on Friday night - Ronan said: "It's great. It's mad that it's done so well. It was a tiny little film that's become such a big commercial hit. It's really nice." 'Lady Bird' - which saw the film take home the Golden Globe for Best Film - follows outspoken teenager Christine (Ronan) who must navigate a loving but turbulent relationship with her strong-willed mother over the course of an eventful and poignant senior year of high school. In order to get back into the mind of a 17-year-old girl, Ronan revealed she watched a lot of TV shows based around teenage characters. She said: "I watched a lot of 'Saved by the Bell' and 'Sabrina the Teenage Witch'." Ronan has also been nominated for Best Actress at Oscars and admitted she forgot that the nominations were being announced. She said: "I'd actually forgotten that they were coming out - it had gone completely out of my head." The actress - who was also joined on the iconic sofa by 'Will and Grace' stars Eric McCormack and Debra Messing, as well as comedian Rob Beckett and singer Keala Settle - also recalled taking her mum to see her latest movie in the cinema. She said: "My mam is very proud of me and I wanted her to see the film as part of a real audience so we went to an afternoon performance in L.A. I thought it would be sold out and warned her to keep her head down so we weren't recognized. When we got in there, there were six other people ... all on their phones! No one was interested in us at all."



Elizabeth Debicki says filming Peter Rabbit was a 'live beast'

Elizabeth Debicki has described working on 'Peter Rabbit' as a "live beast". The actress voices the animated character Mopsy in the upcoming family blockbuster - which is based on Beatrix Potter's iconic character - and she admitted that director and writer Will Gluck was constantly making changes to the script as they were working on the film. She told Collider: "The script was really a live beast, and it changed and morphed with Will making changes to it as we went along. 'I think the characters developed... There was an incarnation when Mopsy was into design, which I loved, which I still know to be the truth about her. 'It is a really live thing that you're doing and because you have the malleability of the animation, you can really change who these little characters are as you go along.' The 27-year-old star also reflected on her past roles, and said more people are approaching her about 2015 spy comedy 'The Man From U.N.C.L.E.' despite it being released almost three years ago. Debicki - who played the villainous Victoria Vinciguerra in the movie - added: "Strangely actually recently a few people have past me in the street or in a restaurant and commented on [the film]. I thought maybe I was having a particularly evil day and giving off vibes." Meanwhile, 'The Cloverfield Paradox' actress - who appears in the new Netflix movie but had remained coy about her role until its release earlier this month - confirmed she is set to enjoy some downtime. She said: "I'm actually on a little break, which is lovely. I shot a lot of stuff back to back last year, and now I'm trying this new thing called sleep. I know it's bizarre."



Michael B. Jordan trained for year and half before filming Black Panther

Michael B. Jordan trained for a year-and-a-half before he began filming 'Black Panther'. The 31-year-old actor stars as villain Erik Killmonger in the new Marvel Cinematic Universe movie and revealed the intense training regime - which he compared to a "Swiss army knife" - he had to do helped him prepare for the role. Speaking to the Metro Online at the European premiere of 'Black Panther' at London's Eventim Apollo on Thursday, Jordan said: "I spent a lot of time alone. Erik's a very lonely guy, a very pained character so that's part of it. And also like physically preparing for it, working out, training, it was kind of a Swiss army knife of a lot of different skill sets. So training for about a year and half before we started filming really helped with the preparation for the role." Jordan also admitted he thinks the film - which has been praised for having a predominantly all-black cast - will have an impact on children growing up. He told the Daily Star newspaper: "I'd watch films growing up and I'd automatically play make-believe. I watched 'Blade' and I saw Wesley [Snipes] ... I was seeing someone that resembles me. I think about what this movie is going to do to kids growing up."



Lupita Nyong'o thinks it's the time for Black Panther to be released

Lupita Nyong'o thinks "people are ready" to see a film like 'Black Panther'. The 34-year-old actress plays Special Forces warrior Nakia in the new Marvel Cinematic Universe movie, and recently described the heroine as a "war dog" who proves to be very useful to the titular hero T'Challa [Chadwick Boseman]. The movie is the first superhero adventure to be led by a black character and has a predominantly black cast and Lupita thinks it's great for people of her ethnicity to get this film. Speaking at the European premiere of the new movie at London's Eventim Apollo on Thursday, Nyong'o told ITV News: "I think people are ready to see a film like this. A predominately black cast, African story and a celebration of African culture on a very big scale. It's a look and feel like something you've never seen before. 'It is [ground-breaking]. It is a beautiful thing to behold. All of us are often asked to relate to white characters and now it's time for the world to relate to black characters and what you realize is that we are the same. This kind of thing it's amazing that it is happening now, it's a beautiful thing. This is time for it and we're ready.' The motion picture is expected to expand on the storyline that was first introduced in 'Captain America: Civil War' of how T'Challa becomes the Black Panther. T'Challa's father T'Chaka is king of the African nation Wakanda and has the ceremonial title Black Panther as the chief of the Panther Tribe, but is killed when a bomb goes off at the UN making his son the Black Panther. Other actors in the movie include Forest Whitaker, who will take on the role of Zuri, an elder statesman in Wakanda, and 'The Walking Dead' star Danai Gurira, who is to portray Okoye, the head of the Dora Milaje, the Black Panther's personal bodyguards. — Bang Showbiz



Models walk the runway during the Bottega Veneta Fall/Winter 2018 fashion show at the American Stock Exchange on February 9, 2018 in New York City. — AFP photos

BOTTEGA VENETA AT HOME ON NEW YORK RUNWAY



Designer Tomas Maier and model Gigi Hadid on the runway during the Bottega Veneta Fall/Winter 2018 fashion show at the American Stock Exchange.

Bottega Veneta immersed New York Friday in the art of Italian living, transforming the American Stock Exchange Building into a chic home with a roaring fire, as models sashayed down the runway in pajamas and sipped wine. The Italian luxury label's Big Apple show, to celebrate the opening of its largest boutique in the world on Madison Avenue, was one of the most coveted tickets in an otherwise flailing Fashion Week as top US talent decamps to Europe. It was the first runway show in the historic Renaissance Revival building, the ex-headquarters of the American Stock Exchange, reimagined as a cozy chic luxury apartment that advertised understated Italian elegance—precisely the wares now on sale on Madison.

"The Italian art of living begins and ends in the home," advised the program notes. Guests were given a fake newspaper feting the new store, referred to as "Maison," just to make sure they got the point. The set was complete with fireplace, easy chairs and elegant dining room, where

at the end of the show, models poured into the living area, chatting and sipping wine. The show itself pulled out all the stops, sending out 65 models in different looks, headlined by Kaia Gerber and Gigi Hadid. Actresses Priyanka Chopra and Julianne Moore sat front row, Moore making it a fashion hat trick after attending Tom Ford and Tory Burch. The fall/winter 2018 collection was very sleek, sophisticated and luxurious—a master class in understated European elegance at the expense of headline-grabbing bling with not a puffer coat in sight.

Herrera farewell

There were silk pajamas in sumptuous jewel colors worn under exquisitely tailored winter coats. There was animal print and patchworks of color blocks, yet it was never gaudy, never kitsch. It was an explosion of color—warm tones for winter, yellow, red and orange, with pointy ankle boots and a copious amount of bags to highlight a mainstay of their global business empire. CEO Claus-Dietrich Lahrs played down

talk of any crisis at Fashion Week, although the relocation to New York was one-time only. "New York has its place, Milan has its place and Paris has its place," he told AFP.

With 270 shops around the world and another due to open later this year in Tokyo, Lahrs was also confident that bricks-and-mortar shops would survive the e-commerce revolution. "In the luxury market, the client wants to be known personally," he explained. Earlier in the day, first lady favorite Carolina Herrera signaled the end of an era, announcing that she would step down from her four-decade-old label and after her own runway show on Monday.

The Venezuelan-born 79-year-old said she had appointed US designer Wes Gordon to take over as creative director after she takes the bow at her fall/winter 2018 fashion show at the Museum of Modern Art. The London-trained Gordon, who from 2010 to 2016 presented his eponymous womenswear collection in New York, has been creative consultant at Carolina Herrera for a year.



Carolina Herrera waving to guests after her show during the Mercedes Benz Fall/Winter 2014 Fashion Shows in New York.



Models present creations of Tory Burch during New York Fashion Week in New York.



Models walk the runway at the #MeToo Fashion show during New York Fashion Week.

#METOO NY FASHION SHOW SPOTLIGHTS SEXUAL HARASSMENT

'Optimism'
Tory Burch, the doyenne of preppy chic meets boho insouciance, showcased breezy optimism in a field of pink carnations for a post-#MeToo world. The stunning set transformed a space under a flyover into a field of 14,000 flowers sprouting from springy moss, light streaming through the windows and the Chamber Orchestra of New York playing Vivaldi.
Her fall/winter 2018 collection was romantic, whimsical and partly inspired by Lee Radziwill, the 84-year-old indomitable American socialite and younger sister of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. And if there was a hot pink pussy bow blouse and matching skirt, any allusion to the pink pussy hats worn by women marching against the Trump

administration was pure coincidence: turns out Radziwill has a hot pink couch in her Paris living room.
"I promise that wasn't in my mind. It really wasn't," laughed 51-year-old Burch, worth an estimated \$600 million according to Forbes. "I'm a big supporter of women and women's issues but that is probably not how I would demonstrate that," she added. "I love the color and pink, we were referencing Lee Radziwill... she had a pink couch." But Burch is only too happy to see positivity blowing in the winds as the United States navigates the sexual harassment watershed. "You can read optimism into the whole mood of the collection," she told AFP. "That is a definite direction," she said. — AFP



Eight models, all subject to sexual harassment or assault in one form or another, took advantage of New York Fashion Week on Friday to raise awareness for the #MeToo movement sweeping the United States. Far from the bright lights of the most coveted fashion tickets in town, none of the women were famous. The venue was a room practically given for free by an affordable hotel close to Times Square.
Instead it was an overtly political show organized by advocate and entrepreneur Myriam Chalek, who has made a name for herself by putting marginalized models on the runway during events such as a dwarf show in Dubai. If labels such as Tom Ford have also referenced women empowerment this week the Texan-born designer turned director showcased "Pussy Power" purses-Chalek says it is the entire point of her show.
"I feel like every woman has some kind of responsibility to do something and contribute to change," she told AFP. "If you are saying it's time to change or time's up, then do something about it." The clothes were not the star of the show, although the 30-year-old said the mix of fur and leather on the one hand, with silk and tulle on the other aimed to show both the strength and femininity of women. "The difference with this fashion show is that one of the criteria (for models) is that you had to be a victim of sexual misconduct to take part in this show," she explained.

Pig's mask
After walking the runway before the roughly 200 assembled guests, the eight models each took to the microphone in turn, standing next to a man dressed entirely in black, his face covered with a pig's mask. In a few minutes, they told their story, often years old of how a friend of the family, a boyfriend or an online predator had harassed them, assaulted or even raped them, their voices often breaking.
"I am a little shaken," said one, after recounting in detail how she was raped by a date and didn't dare tell her mother for weeks. "Standing here and talking about this is so important... I'm really sorry to say 'me too,' but I am really glad we are doing something about it finally," she added to huge applause. After their remarks, came a period of heavy silence. "I like the silence because I feel you felt it... how they became vulnerable one more time in front of you, a room full of strangers," said Chalek.
"I am not going to say this fashion show is going to change things overnight," she admitted. "But I'm hopeful you are going to leave this room talking about it and being more educated." "If we can even get just one woman to come out and not repress her feelings anymore, that's already an accomplishment," she said. — AFP



Models walk the runway at the Hellessy Fall/Winter 2018 at Pier 59 in New York City.



People queue up to shop at a "Deisel" counterfeit pop-up store in New York's Chinatown.



People shop at a "Deisel" counterfeit pop-up store in New York's Chinatown. — AFP photos

Diesel Fashion Week stunt pokes fun at knock-off artists

Diesel is ditching the catwalk to masquerade as knock-off merchants this Fashion Week, purporting to be a New York fake goods store only to flog customers the real thing. It's a clever gimmick for the 40-year-old Italian label, which is using the fall/winter 2018 edition of New York's twice-yearly style fest to open a pop-up shop on Canal Street in Chinatown, the heart of knock-off city in the US financial capital. Sweatshirts and T-shirts are stamped "Deisel"—making the ruse believable. Hoodies cost \$60, jeans \$70 — again believably fake. Except these clothes are limited-range, designer goods.
"We have so many counterfeit products all over the world I thought, 'Why can't we play with this problem that we have?'" Diesel founder Renzo Rosso told AFP, saying he believes that more than a

million counterfeit Diesel goods are sold annually around the world. "We created a fake product, a fake name, and we came to the counterfeit district."
The store opened under the radar last week and hundreds of customers have already browsed and purchased, with most of the initial buyers blissfully unaware that the joke's on them. "People come and they think it is a fake product. When they discover it's not a fake product, they can sell it for three or four times the value!" said Rosso, 62. Given the queue to get in, it's paying off. The store is scheduled to close tomorrow, possibly even earlier if it runs out of stock. Otherwise, customers can go down the street to buy fake Louis Vuitton bags or imitation Rolex watches. — AFP



Fashion brand Diesel's owner Renzo Rosso speaks during an interview after visiting a "Deisel" counterfeit pop-up store.



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018



Revelers of the Independente Tricolor samba school perform during the first night of carnival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at the city's Sambadrome. — AFP



King Momo (the symbol of carnival) Milton Junior (second right), shows the key to the city of Rio, during the carnival official opening ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Carnival madness brings joy to Rio mental institute

For residents of a Rio de Janeiro mental institute, carnival madness means more than just fun. At a street party held this week for the patients of the Nise da Silveira Institute, 1,500 patients, staff and relatives dressed up in everything from tigers to harlequin costumes or pirates. Also invited were dozens of neighbors from the modest neighborhood of Engenho de Dentro, which is close to the stadium used in the 2016 Olympic athletics contests, but far from the usual carnival territory of southern Rio.

The institute used to be named the Pedro II Psychiatric Center but was renamed after Brazil's most famous psychiatrist, da Silveira, who died in 1999. A student of Carl Jung, she revolutionized mental health practices in Brazil, leading to the abolition of aggressive treatments like lobotomy. Instead, her methods focused on bringing patients back into society—an approach that continues today at the institute. In 2001, staff turned an existing art-therapy workshop into a “bloco,” the name for the amateur street parties that spring up all over Rio in different sizes during carnival season.

Like all “blocos,” it needed a catchy name and this one was called “Loucura suburbana,” roughly translating as “Madness on the outskirts.” “The goal was to get patients involved and to help the neighborhood revitalize its carnival, since the ‘blocos’ have all gone to the tourist zones,” said Ariadne de Moura Mendes, who launched the project.

Sense of freedom

Before hitting the streets, everyone gathered in the courtyard in their costumes. Some came walking on stilts, others carried big colorful flags. For Andre Poesia, 42, it was time to warm up his vocal chords. Suffering from schizophrenia, he is one of the “bloco’s” singers, who perform from a sound truck. “Carnival is part of my life. Our ‘bloco’ shows that we must overcome prejudice. Crazy people are also capable of being happy and having fun,” he said.

Monica, another schizophrenia patient, was itching to get started. “I feel free here,” the 42-year-old cried out, wearing a fuchsia tutu and stopping passersby to give them a kiss on the cheek. Silas Gonçalves, wearing a flowery T-shirt, played drums, a key component of the samba music popular in “blocos.” He’s being treated for alcohol and cocaine addictions and says that carnival is good therapy.

“It is great to be among friends rather than shut inside,” Gonçalves, 52, said. “Thanks to the carnival, patients stop seeing themselves through society’s prejudices, which consider them dangerous, useless or lazy,” said de Moura Mendes. “They can express themselves freely, they’re real artists.”



‘Devil’ mayor

Whether rehearsing the music or making costumes, the patients spend much of the year preparing the annual “Madness on the outskirts” party. There’s a stock of extra costumes for those who don’t have one kept in what used to be a chapel for holding wakes. Marcio Inacio, 49, is a former patient for depression, and this year came to build a huge and irreverent carnival effigy of Mayor Marcelo Crivella, depicting him with devil horns—a dig at a mayor who is an evangelical bishop and appears to disapprove of the carnival excesses.

It’s also a dig at Crivella for having ordered budget cuts which have hurt the city’s already struggling health system. Among those feeling the pinch is the mental home’s carnival: government subsidies that previously helped it come to life have been axed. — AFP

Madness on the outskirts



Revelers celebrate the street carnival parade of the “Loucura Suburbana” bloco at the Engenho de Dentro neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP photos