JAMADA ALAWWAL 28, 1439 AH
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

32 Pages
150 Fils

ISSUE NO: 17457

Kuwait Times

Established 1961

The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf

Max 23°
Min 13°

www.kuwaittimes.net

4 MoH not affected by Filipino ban; MPA denies ignoring complaints

6 ANC orders Zuma to step down as S African president

32 Couples make Valentine's Day deposit in 'Love Bank'

16 City finish off Basel in 23 mins; Tottenham battle back at Juve

Tillerson hails US-Kuwait ties; urges allies to keep fighting IS

US envoy calls for Gulf unity • Iraq 'open for investors' • US extends $3bn credit line

By Faten Omar and Agencies

KUWAIT: US-Kuwait relations are very strong, said US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson after being received by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. "We have a shared interest in terms of security for the region. We spoke about the importance of GCC unity, which supports the security of the region as well," he pointed out. "We also talked about the important opportunities for economic relationships.

Tillerson said "the most recent transaction is of Kuwait upgrading its air force with the purchase of F/A-18 aircraft". "It's very important for Kuwait's defense, but also important for the integrated security of the region. I think there will be other discussions of future economic opportunities as well," he added.

Tillerson later urged allies to stay focused on fighting the Islamic State group at a ministerial meeting in Kuwait of the US-led military coalition that has been fighting IS in Iraq and Syria, being held in parallel with a conference on reconstruction in Iraq. The militant group has lost much of the territory it once controlled when it seized large swathes of Syria and neighboring Iraq in 2014.

"The end of major combat operations does not mean we have achieved the enduring defeat of ISIS," Tillerson said, using another acronym for IS. "ISIS remains a serious threat to the stability of the region, our homelands and other parts of the globe," he said.

Continued on Page 11

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, EU Foreign Policy Chief Frederica Mogherini, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa pose with other officials for a group photo yesterday during a ministerial meeting of member states of the US-led military coalition that has been battling the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

FM condemns Manila ban as MPs slam govt silence; hundreds of maids abscond

By Ben Garcia, B Izzak and Agencies

KUWAIT: Kuwait's foreign minister yesterday condemned what he called an "escalation" by Manila after the Philippines expanded a ban on its nationals working in Kuwait. Manila on Monday announced a "total ban" on employment in Kuwait, including Filipinos who already have employment permits. The measure came after President Rodrigo Duterte angrily lashed out at Kuwait over reports of Filipino workers suffering abuse and exploitation. Duterte said last week that his government would ask private airlines to evacuate Filipino nationals from Kuwait within 72 hours, after the discovery of the dead body of a Filipina maid in a freezer.

"This escalation will not serve the relationship between Kuwait and the Philippines," Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah told reporters. "We condemn the statements of the Philippine president, especially since we are in contact with the Philippines at the highest level to fully explain the state of the Filipino workforce in Kuwait," he said, adding that Filipinos "live a decent life in Kuwait ... but separate accidents unfortunately happen, and we are providing our Filipino counterparts with the results of the investigations".

Earlier yesterday, MPs strongly condemned the attacks by the Philippines against Kuwait and lashed out at the government for remaining silent. The lawmakers called on the government to respond against the Filipino allegations with strong-worded statements and recruit manpower from other countries. Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said a committee has been formed to study the problem of the Filipino workers and that the Cabinet has decided to open the door for the recruitment of workers from Indonesia and Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, heeding the call by Duterte, the numbers of runaway Filipino housemaids have begun to swell at the Philippine embassy's shelter in Salam, with an unprecedented number of domestic workers absconding from their sponsors. The shelter normally receives 5 to 10 runaways a day, but on Sunday, 92 runaways were recorded, and on Monday, 111 domestic helpers went to the Philippines Embassy demanding to be repatriated back home.

Continued on Page 11

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte poses for a selfie through a glass wall for Filipina workers who arrived from Kuwait at Manila International Airport yesterday. — AFP

Probe launched after schoolboy dies in 'beating'

KUWAIT: Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi announced yesterday the formation of an investigative committee consisting of three bodies from outside the education ministry to probe the death of student Issa Al-Bloushi. The minister was commenting on MPs' statements during a session of the National Assembly yesterday regarding the incident, with one lawmaker charging that Bloushi died after he was beaten by an expatriate female teacher at Amr Ibn Al-Aas School in Rawda.

"The investigation committee formed today consists of representatives from the health ministry, the fatwa and legislation department and another body," Azmi said. The ministry will take all required legal measures regarding this incident, he said, adding the teacher has been barred from working until the investigation is completed. Azmi affirmed students' safety is at the top of the ministry's priorities, offering his deepest condolences to the deceased's family, adding that all necessary legal measures would be taken.

Issa Al-Bloushi

According to news reports, the child was hit several times in the chest and was not allowed to leave the classroom to call his parents. After sobbing profusely for several hours, Bloushi's mother took him to hospital, where he died later that day. — Agencies

Can North Africa unite over couscous?

PARIS: Could a plate of couscous warm up relations between wary North African nations? A drive to win coveted UNESCO status for the dish could at least get them talking around the same table. The hearty meal itself however is a bone of contention between countries that haven't always got along. Who makes it the best? And given that the fluffy semolina can be topped with everything from fish in Tunisia to camel meat in Libya, what truly makes a couscous a couscous?

As with the "hummus wars" that have long roiled the Middle East, and West Africa's furious debate over who makes the best jollof rice, couscous is a source of pride as well as regional divisions. But the countries of North Africa's Maghreb region may be about to put their differences aside with a joint bid to have the dish added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The list showcases the world's most precious cultural treasures, with the UN cultural body sometimes offering funding to countries struggling to protect their traditions.

There are as yet few details on the North African bid, but Slimane Hachi, director of Algeria's prehistoric research center, said that it would unite Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania and Mali. It will not be the first time UNESCO status has been mooted for couscous, but this time working together could prove the secret ingredient. In 2016 Algeria announced a solo bid to win protected status for the dish - sparking outrage in Morocco where many feel they hold an equal claim to it.

Even the question of who introduced the basic ingredients to the region is hotly debated, with some crediting the Romans and others saying Arabs brought it in from the east. French food historian Patrick Rambourg said the Berbers, an ethnic group spread across the region, were likely the first to rustle up a couscous - "long before the countries of the Maghreb that we know today existed", he told AFP.

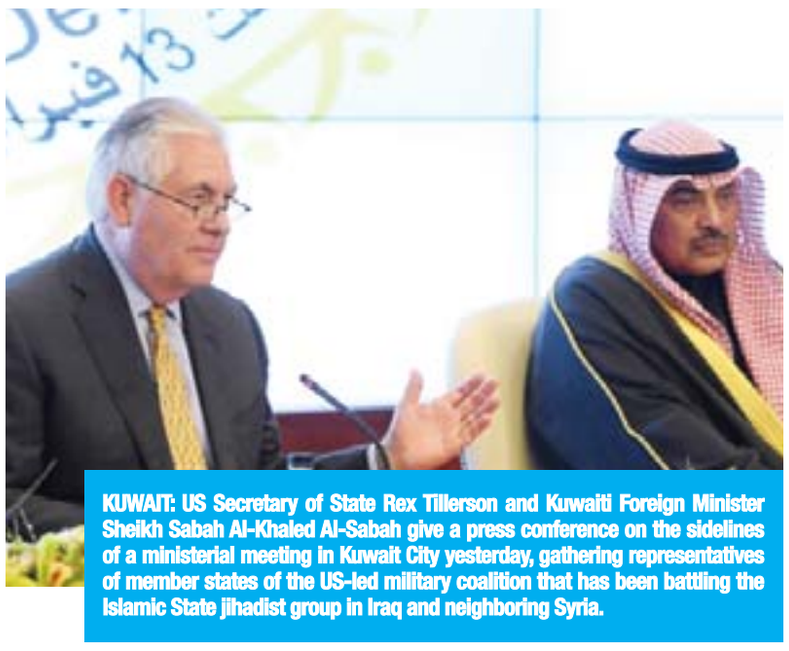
Another food historian, Lucie Bolens, has described primitive couscous pots found in Algeria dating back to the reign of King Massinissa 2,200 years ago. Considered a Berber forefather, Massinissa united what is now northern Algeria with parts of Tunisia and Libya into the ancient kingdom of Numidia.

Continued on Page 11

RABAT: In this photo taken on Feb 9, 2018, a Moroccan chef prepares a traditional couscous dish in a restaurant in the capital. — AFP

French Foreign Minister Le Drian reiterates 'firm support' to Iraq

Conference beginning of security, stability in region: KCCI chief



KUWAIT: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah give a press conference on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting in Kuwait City yesterday, gathering representatives of member states of the US-led military coalition that has been battling the Islamic State jihadist group in Iraq and neighboring Syria.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Haidar Al-Abadi looks on during the Kuwait international conference for the reconstruction of Iraq in Kuwait City yesterday.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian attends a ministerial meeting of the US-led military coalition that has been battling the Islamic State jihadist group in Iraq and neighboring Syria, yesterday in Kuwait City.
— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian affirmed yesterday his country's commitment and support to Iraq until the country revives and prosper, noting that France will stand by Iraq just like it did during its fight against terrorism. The minister made his remarks during 'Invest in Iraq' conference, in a speech on the reconstruction of Iraq, adding that the rebuilding process will be huge and difficult, but voiced optimism with Iraq's ability to recover and improve due to its immense resources and human capabilities.

Le Drian also said Iraq can stand on its feet and achieve national reconciliation and begin the reconstruction process, but taking into account the social and humanitarian aspect of it, stressing a comprehensive reconstruction process that should not neglect any populated area in Iraq.

The minister said that France would meet all requirements by standing with Iraq, as well as providing soft loans, adding France will contribute to support infrastructure, especially in the field of energy and water.

La Drian pointed out that after emergency humanitarian assistance and stability, "we must rely on a diversified economy through the private sector," noting that French companies are actively involved with a number of investors in a number of areas, hoping that this will result in good relations. "We believe we have received positive signals from the Iraqi government," La Drian said, adding that France is ready to proudly stand by Iraq to contribute in the reconstruction process.

Security and stability

The 'Invest in Iraq' conference is the beginning of a phase of security and stability in the region, said Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday. This came in Ghanem's opening remark of the conference, which is part of the overall Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI); held from February 12 to 14. "Kuwait does not see the conference only as yet another experience that deep-seats Kuwait's Arab, regional and international role, but also as a pioneering endeavor in restoring pan-Arab relations, with an outlook to reconciliation," he said. The conference, organized by KCCI, will provide an opportunity for the private sector to be introduced to investment opportunities and promising venture-making environments in post-IS Iraq.

The 'Invest in Iraq' conference is considered an investment singularity, with some 1,500 companies from 50 countries participating, which reflects these companies' optimism, noted Ghanem. All participants realize that the second day of KICRI represents its true economic pulse, Ghanem said, stressing at the same time the role of the private sector in this regard, with potential of development projects in Iraq booming.

Global goal

Reconstruction of Iraq is the goal for the international community in general and the Middle East in particular, said Vice President of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa Hafeth Ghanem yesterday. As a global entity, the Bank is concerned with the reconstruction of Iraq, due to the fact it is a major country, hence its stability and safety would contribute to stability and security of the region, Ghanem said in an interview on the sideline of the 'Invest in Iraq' conference, which kicked off earlier and co-organized by the World Bank. The World Bank had been working with the Iraqi government in order to assess needs of the war-torn country and requirements for its reconstruction process, he said. KICRI includes the World Bank, in addition to the UN and the European Union as co-organizers, along with Iraq and the host Kuwait.

"Iraq is an investments-attracting country. It owns significant wealth in oil, agriculture and tourism, in addition to industry. "The investor is looking for guarantees like proper tax policies and easy transfer of capital, as well as security," he pointed out.

Ghanem said the Kuwaiti private sector is interested in entering the Iraqi market, "and we encourage it to do so," as the World Bank have had many meetings with representatives of Kuwaiti private firms to discuss the matter. On the World Bank Group's work in Iraq, Ghanem said "it involves financing social projects, rebuilding hospitals and schools in areas recently liberated from IS, as well as financing educational, health care and societal programs," among other investment-related issues. — KUNA

Gulf Bank gold sponsor of MGRP's career fair

KUWAIT: Reinforcing its active role in supporting Kuwait's youth and the development of the national economy, Gulf Bank is a gold sponsor of the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program's (MGRP) career fair, held on Monday at MGRP headquarters in Riggae.

Gulf Bank's participation and sponsorship comes in light of the agreement signed between the Bank and the MGRP earlier last year to support the Recruitment Screening Program and offer career counseling, as well as guidance to Kuwaiti nationals seeking employment opportunities in the private sector.

At the fair, a team representing Gulf Bank's human resources division was present at a dedicated booth, providing interested career fair visitors with the opportunity to learn more about the Bank as well as the responsibilities of the various departments. The human resources specialists offered advice to those looking to join the Bank and answer their questions.

Commenting on the importance of the event and the initiative, Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank said: "The MGRP career fair is a prime opportunity to reach and engage with the growing number of Kuwaiti youth who are interested in private sector employment. At Gulf Bank, we proudly support Kuwaitis seeking exciting professional opportunities in the private sector and have a strong track record of nurturing and developing young talent to their full potential. We are delighted with the level of interest in a career in the financial sector and especially with Gulf Bank that we saw at the fair. We are very much looking forward to welcoming ambitious new employees to our workforce very soon."

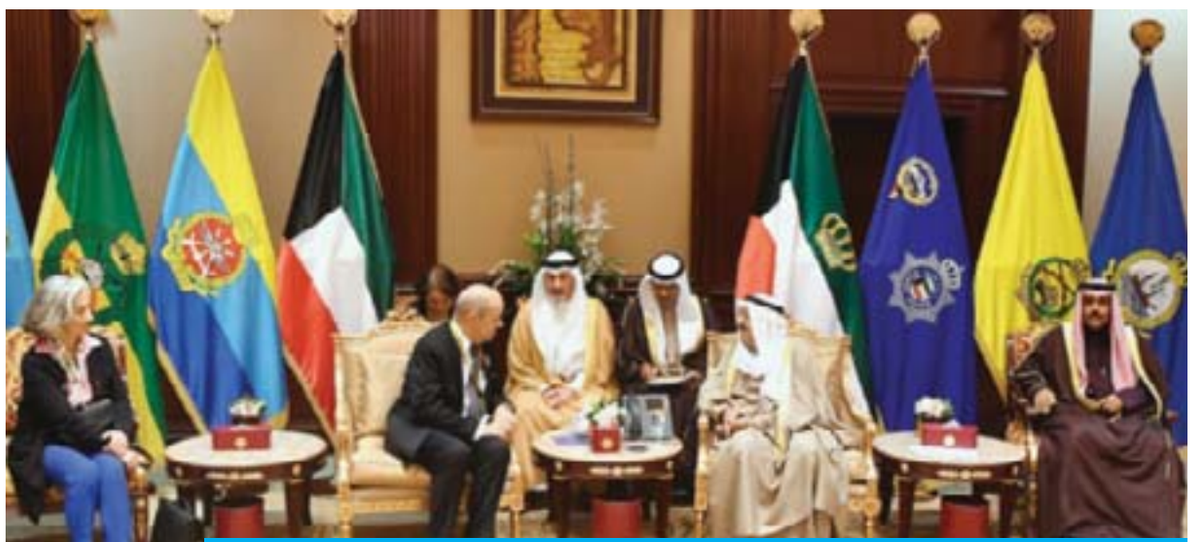
Hajjaj added: "It is a pleasure and an honor to be a partner of MGRP, who have demonstrated their commitment to boosting employment in the private sector in order to support our country's economic development. They are offering training and skills development to ensure these potential employees are ready for new positions. Our participation this year is evidence that we share the common goal of helping young Kuwaitis finding the right career opportunities and grow them into future leaders for the benefit of our country."

In 2017, Gulf Bank was awarded the 'Best Training Plan 2016' from the MGRP, which is a testimony to the Bank's commitment and dedication to support Kuwait's youth. Gulf Bank successfully implemented several initiatives over the past years, such as external training programs held in collaboration with the MGRP and its long-term sponsorship of INJAZ Kuwait offering professional skills and entrepreneurial training for high school and university students. Furthermore, the Bank also offers an internal learning and development program, which includes a wide range of trainings and courses for employees across all ranks and departments. The Bank is particularly pleased with the popularity and effectiveness of its internal Ajyal Graduate Development Program nurturing young Kuwaiti talent early in the career, aiming to develop them into 'holistic bankers' and prepare them for leadership positions at Gulf Bank.

Amir patronizes, attends KICRI's inauguration today

Amir hopes victory over IS would achieve support for Iraq

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the president of the Federation of Journalists of Iraq Moaid Jassem Allami and his accompanying media delegation. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is set to patronize and attend the official inauguration of Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI) today. The venue starts at 10:00 am in Bayan Palace.

His Highness the Amir referred to the great importance of holding the conference in which several donor countries, and international and regional organizations as well as private sectors take part, with the aim of rebuilding Iraq and mitigating suffering of millions displaced and affected by the war against terrorism.

The conference reflects Kuwait's humanitarian message, His Highness the Amir said during a meeting with president of the Federation of Journalists of Iraq Moaid Jassem Allami and his accompanying media delegation, lauding all efforts by the two countries aiming to repel any attempt seeking to affect negatively their ties.

During the meeting which took place at Bayan Palace on Monday, His Highness the Amir offered his congratulations to Iraqi President Fuad Masum, Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi as well as all Iraqis on defeating the so-called Islamic State (IS).

His Highness the Amir expressed his hope that the victory would achieve support for Iraq and its people, and contribute to unifying their ranks. His Highness the Amir stressed Kuwait's backing to Iraq and Iraqis, which is manifested through holding the International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq. His Highness the Amir voiced his hope that stability and peace would prevail in Iraq and the region.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marie Eriksen Soreide.

Respected leader

His Highness the Amir received yesterday at Bayan Palace US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and the delegation accompanying him on the occasion of their visit to the country. His Highness also received French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marie Eriksen Soreide. All receptions took place with presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The reception were attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir is a "very respected regional leader," Soreide said after the meeting. "I was asking his perspective both on the fight against IS and the reconstruction and rebuilding of Iraq," she noted, adding "it was really an honor to meet His Highness."

She said that she had also asked His Highness the Amir about the role that His Highness and Kuwait have taken in hosting the reconstruction conference. "It is most timely, it is needed and I think that we can achieve good results," she said. "I took the opportunity also to say that we enjoy excellent bilateral relations between Norway and Kuwait. I think that in the future we will deepen our cooperation even further; both through our respective embassies but also through visits and I hope that we now have a series of incoming business from Kuwait to Norway and we will do everything we can to accommodate that in the best possible way." — KUNA

MP reiterates Kuwait's support of Arab action

CAIRO: Kuwait's MP and Arab Parliament Member Ali Al-Deqbasi reiterated yesterday his country's supportive stand by the Arab action, as well as permanent approach toward humanitarian action in all fields. Deqbasi made his remarks after the conclusion of third session of the Arab Parliament meeting in Cairo, affirming the Kuwaiti Parliament's firm and supportive stand by the joint Arab action in all its domains.

He expressed his pride and joy towards the meeting's wide appreciation to Kuwait's wise role in the region and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's balanced policy, which backs Arab unity and supports Arab countries. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti MP reviewed the important discussion highlights in the meeting on a number of issues in the region, including the Syrian crisis and the Palestinian cause.

One of the significant subjects discussed during the meeting is activating and enhancing the joint Arab action, he said, adding that it should be transformed into real and tangible actions on the ground instead of the traditional condemnation and denouncement statements.

Deqbasi also stressed the importance of undermining all efforts and activities by the Israeli government at the international arenas since its forces continue, on daily basis, to commit crimes against humanity and violate the international law on human rights.

He also voiced his appreciation of his Arab counterparts' confidence in Kuwait's chairing of the Arab Parliament's committee in charge of the Arab League reform. The committee is currently taking wide steps toward its duties, he said, pointing out his two-time meeting with Arab League's Secretary General, who affirmed the League's full support, in cooperation with Arab Parliament, of efforts aimed at achieving the desired goals.

Deqbasi urged all Arab Parliaments to consolidate all efforts, under the framework of a unified Arab public opinion, toward supporting and funding disaster-stricken countries to overcome their suffering of famine, poverty, and diseases outbreak. On the hand, the Kuwaiti MP noted the current Arab situation is filled with political conflicts and disputes, expressing sorrow over the tragic outcomes of these quarrels that resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands Yemenis; a situation which no human being could bear.—KUNA

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Baroness Emma Harriet Nicholson of Winterbourne.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfanso.

Premier hosts Siemens CEO, foreign dignitaries

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace the visiting Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG Joe Kaeser. His Highness the Premier hosted the visiting British politician Baroness Emma Harriet Nicholson of Winterbourne, along with her accompanying delegation. His Highness also received the visiting Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfanso and his escorting entourage. Moreover, he played host to the visiting Georgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mikheil Janelidze. Chair of His Highness the Prime Minister Diwan, Sheikha E'temad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, attended the meetings. —KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG Joe Kaeser.—KUNA

Manpower Public Authority denies ignoring Filipino workers' complaints

Health ministry says not affected by Philippines' labor ban

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: A government official strongly denied rumors suggesting that Manpower Public Authority has ignored 1,000 complaints filed by Filipino employees working for a major company in Kuwait due to political reasons. "We only received 120 complaints from a total of 500 Filipinos working for the company," said Abdullah Al-Motoutah, deputy director for manpower protection affairs at the authority.

Motoutah added that the authority approved cancellation requests made by the laborers working for a major insolvent company who want to leave without consulting the employer, after paying them from the company's financial deposits. Motoutah said the authority's offices in various governorates continue to receive laborers' complaints and that the mobile labor disputes unit has already received 850 complaints.

The Public Authority for Manpower takes all legal actions against companies that fail to honor their laborers' rights, said the official who again denied that the authority has failed to fulfill its duties in terms of protecting manpower working for the private sector, namely those working for major companies. "The authority has taken gradual measures to protect workers and hold the companies accountable without causing any harm to government projects being executed by them," he said.

Motoutah added that those companies' contracts were suspended while concerned state departments were contacted and urged to pay laborers' overdue payments and deduct them from payments due to the companies, in addition to urging government bodies registered with the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) not to renew contracts or sign new ones with these companies.

Not affected

Following a ban imposed by the Philippines even on nationals on vacation from returning to Kuwait, the health ministry's medical engineering department's manager Adel Al-Sarraf stressed that all ministry sectors will not be affected by such a ban. Sarraf said there are enough employees to cover for the missing staff members. He added that MoH does not depend on one nationality when contracting staff, but has a diverse workforce including a considerable number of Kuwaitis. Sarraf said that the nursing sector has the largest number of employees from the Philippines (35 percent), but stressed that even this sector will not be greatly affected if the ban continues.

Call for bedoons' sit-in on Friday

Bedoons' sit-in

Social media activists called on bedoons (stateless residents) to stage a sit-in outside Jahra Hospital on Friday. Commenting on the call, official security sources stressed that the Interior Ministry will not tolerate any unlicensed gatherings, adding it had not received any license requests. "There are some suspicious calls to disturb the hosting of two significant conferences in Kuwait," the sources said, noting that security forces are currently tracking down the origins of the calls.

Female teachers

The court of appeals yesterday approved a request contesting the teachers' law and demanding treating female Kuwaiti teachers equally as their expat colleagues. The court referred the request to the constitutional court to check the constitutionality of the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) decision on paying rent allowance to female expat teachers and depriving Kuwaiti teachers married to non-Kuwaitis from the same. Notably, female expat teachers working for the Ministry of Education (MoE) currently receive a monthly rent allowance of KD 60 instead of KD 150. In a separate case, the criminal court yesterday sentenced a citizen to 10 years in jail with labor over charges of joining the Abdaly cell, spying for Iran and Hezbollah and possessing explosives.

MANILA: Overseas Filipino workers (OFW) look on after arriving in Manila from Kuwait at Manila International Airport yesterday. —AFP

Food safety

The Food and Nutrition Authority's chairman and general manager Essa Al-Kandari said the authority referred 15 related citations to the public prosecution, adding that some of them were serious ones beyond reconciliation. Kandari added that according to direct instructions from Health Minister Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah, the authority is keen on protecting consumers' health in terms of having access to safe and healthy food items.

No injuries in Salmiya restaurant blaze

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A fire broke out in a Salmiya restaurant yesterday, prompting Salmiya and Bidaa fire stations to respond. The fire started on the second floor of the mall where the restaurant is located, so the entire building was evacuated before firefighters tackled the flames. No injuries were reported, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's Public Relations and Information Department said in a statement.

Firemen hurt

Meanwhile, two firemen were injured when their fire engine collided with a lamppost in Salmiya en route to a fire. The blaze was reported in a Salmiya apartment, and when firemen arrived, one of the fire trucks had an accident and hit the pole. Both firemen were taken to Mubarak Hospital, while the others put out the blaze.

Children fight

A citizen accused two Egyptian children of beating her two sons in an elementary school and injuring them. The complaint was sent to the juvenile prosecution. The woman told police that the two Egyptians children attacked one of her sons and injured his knee, while her other son was hit on the head and suffered a laceration. The woman took her children to Farwaniya Hospital, then went to Khaitan police station and lodged a complaint.

Drug possession

An Egyptian woman failed in her attempt to escape from police after being caught along with a citizen with Tramadol tablets. Police noticed the two "dancing" in a car, so they pulled the vehicle over. The woman then got out of the car and started running, but was caught and found wanted on several cases. The citizen is an ex-convict wanted on drugs charges and a KD 13,000 debt. Both were sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Separately, a male cross-dresser was arrested with a liquor bottle and psychoactive drugs in Fintas after he was stopped for speeding. He was sent with the illicit material to concerned authorities.

Policemen attacked

Three drug users resisted arrest by police and attacked them in Riggae when they were caught with drugs and a knife, while one of the suspects escaped. Farwaniya police stopped a motorist for a traffic violation, and discovered the driver and his two passengers were in an abnormal condition. The three got out of the car in an attempt to escape, and one of them threw a bag out. When the three were caught, they resisted and one got away. The bag contained drugs and a knife. Police later arrested the third suspect.

Abnormal condition

A police checkpoint in Nugra stopped a car carrying two men and a woman, all in an abnormal condition. The three said they were friends and see each other almost daily. Police found an envelope of shabu and 14 psychoactive pills, as well as drugs paraphernalia in the girl's handbag. All three were sent to the Drug Control General Directorate.

Domestic dispute

A citizen accused her husband of kicking her out of the house and kidnapping her five children. The woman said a dispute took place between the two that escalated to the point where her husband kicked her out, kidnapped their children and took them to a place unknown to her.

KUWAIT: Damage left by a fire reported in a Salmiya restaurant yesterday.

The prosecutor ordered the case be registered as a felony and asked detectives to work on it.

Man jailed for forging citizenship, ordered to pay back KD 83,000

KUWAIT: The criminal court sentenced a Saudi national to seven years in jail for forging a Kuwaiti citizenship. It also ordered him to return KD 83,000 and fined him KD 16,000, Al-Rai reported yesterday. The prosecutor general charged the suspect with forging official documents including a birth certificate, proof of Kuwaiti nationality and a passport, and presenting himself as a Kuwaiti by impersonating another individual. He was also charged with taking money from the place where he worked undeservedly (his salaries) and receiving a loan from a bank. He also received money from the housing care authority.

This comes while a decree was published in this week's issue of the national gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm' to withdraw the Kuwaiti nationality from two people, based on article 13 of the Kuwaiti Nationality Law which entitles the Interior Minister to issue a decree to revoke the nationality of a naturalized Kuwaiti national in the following cases: Where naturalization has been acquired by virtue of fraud or on the basis of a false declaration. Kuwaiti nationality which has been acquired by any dependent of any such person may also be revoked; Where, within 15 years of the grant of naturalization, a person is convicted of any honor-related crime or honesty-related crime. In such case, the nationality of the convicted person alone may be revoked; Where, within 10 years of the grant of naturalization, a person is dismissed from public office on disciplinary grounds for reasons relating to honor or honesty; Where the competent authorities have evidence that a naturalized person has disseminated opinions which may tend seriously to undermine the economic or social structure of the State or that he is a member of a political association of a foreign State. Kuwaiti nationality which has been acquired by any dependent of any such person may also be revoked.

Furthermore, another decree was published in the national gazette stipulating the withdrawal of the nationality certificate from 15 persons, based on 'Article 21bis A' of the nationality law which stipulates that "a nationality certificate may be withdrawn if it appears to have been obtained by virtue of fraud or on the basis of a false declaration or on the basis of false evidence submitted by a witness. Such withdrawal shall be effected by Resolution of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior. Kuwaiti nationality which has been acquired by any dependent of any such person may also be revoked."

EQUATE recruits 34 new Kuwaiti technologists

KUWAIT: EQUATE Group, a global producer of petrochemicals, proudly announces that 34 Kuwaiti operations technologists have joined the company's growing team of talents as part of the 10th wave of training and recruiting local operations professionals to work at EQUATE's world-class industrial complex. This goes in line with steadfast commitment to grow its talent pool with constant and effective training programs that not only benefit every trainee, but the company's future as well.

The recruitment process follows an intensive training program delivered based on global standards of developing technical competencies. The newly recruited technologists first joined a 10-week program in preparation to work at EQUATE's industrial complex. The program focused on developing the trainees' English language skills, teamwork principles, educating them about the company's corporate culture and technical fundamentals. The program will be followed by six months on-the-job training to obtain the technical certification to work at EQUATE.

EQUATE's Senior VP Nasser Al-Dousari stated, "Today is another milestone in EQUATE's commitment to provide career opportunities to young individuals in our global industry. Thirty-four operators have joined our company and we provided them with qualified and certified vocation training program made to develop talent and help them grow in their jobs."

EQUATE continues to contribute to Kuwait's economic growth and social welfare due to the career opportunities it offers locals. Today, 54 percent of the company's workforce are Kuwaiti nationals, a significant percentage the company prides itself in as it reflects its national identity and illustrates its commitment to Kuwaitization.

Kuwait maintains Al-Ahmadi Refinery at $16 million cost

KUWAIT: Overall maintenance of Al-Ahmadi refinery that began on January 20 would last for 35 days, with projected cost at KD 5.1 million ($16.9 million), said a leading oil executive. The refinery is under maintenance as part of a standing policy to check installations and equipment once every four years, indicated Fahad Al-Daihani, Deputy Chief Executive Office at the refinery, which is affiliated to Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), at a press conference yesterday. He affirmed keenness that the works would not affect operations at the key refinery.

Wadha Al-Khatib, in charge of technical services at the KNPC, affirmed that the maintenance works would not affect the refining operations, noting that female Kuwaiti engineers partook in the operation. —KUNA

OUR FESTIVE OFFERS

Cashback

UP TO **1,200** KD

ESCAPE 2018
STARTING FROM
KD 6,444

EDGE 2018
STARTING FROM
KD 8,555

MUSTANG
STARTING FROM
KD 10,999

TAURUS
STARTING FROM
KD 8,333

5 YEARS/100,000KM FACTORY WARRANTY

TRADE IN ACCEPTED ALL MAKES & MODELS

5 YEARS/100,000KM ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Ford Alghanim.. The only authorized dealer by Ford Motor Company in Kuwait

الغانم أوتو
ALGHANIM AUTO

FordAlghanim

1898900

Ford
Go Further

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
International
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Blackouts, flooding as cyclone batters Tonga

Page 7

Military trial of Palestinian teen opens behind closed doors

Page 9

CAPE TOWN: Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party leader Julius Malema (center) speaks flanked by Democratic Alliance (DA) party leader Mmusi Maimane (2nd left), United Democratic Movement leader Bantu Holomisa (2nd right), Corne Mulder (right) of the Freedom Front Plus (FF+) and Congress of the People (COPE) leader Mosuia Lekhota (left), as they give a press conference regarding their position on the embattled South African president's refusal to resign at Parliament in Cape Town. —AFP

ANC orders Zuma to step down

Hopes for economy with Zuma on way out

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's ruling party ordered Jacob Zuma yesterday to step down as head of state after marathon talks over the fate of a leader whose scandal-plagued years in power darkened and divided Nelson Mandela's post-apartheid 'Rainbow Nation'. Leading members of the African National Congress now want new party leader Cyril Ramaphosa to replace Zuma as president, ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule told a news conference. But the party's national executive was split on precisely when Zuma should go, Magashule added, leaving the president's immediate fate still hanging in the balance.

There was no word from Zuma or his spokesman but Magashule said the president had promised to respond to the order by today. The rand weakened, with traders blaming uncertainty caused by the lack of a clear timetable. Magashule said he had met Zuma personally to pass on the decision. "We haven't given him any deadline to respond," he said. "The organisation expects him to go." Zuma had asked the party to give him a notice period of three to six months but that had been rejected, Magashule said. "Timelines? No. The NEC believes that this is an urgent matter so it should be treated with urgency," he said.

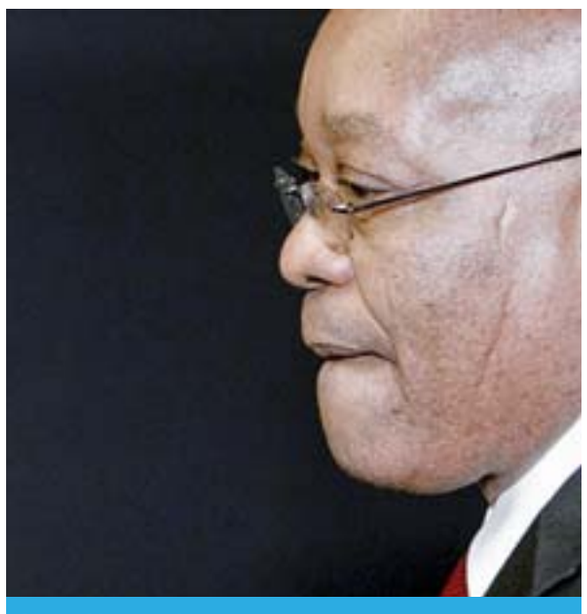
Borrowed time

Zuma has been living on borrowed time since Ramaphosa, a union leader and lawyer once tipped as Mandela's pick to take over the reins, was elected as head of the 106-year-old ANC in December.

Party still split on when Zuma should go

Ramaphosa narrowly defeated Zuma's ex-wife and preferred successor, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, in the leadership vote, forcing him to tread carefully in handling Zuma for fear of deepening rifts in the party a year ahead of an election. Despite the damning decision to order Zuma's "recall" - party speak for 'removal from office' - domestic media said the 75-year-old might yet defy the party's wishes, forcing it into the indignity of having to unseat him in parliament. South Africa's economy has stagnated during Zuma's nine-year tenure, with banks and mining companies reluctant to invest because of policy uncertainty and rampant corruption.

But since mid-November when Ramaphosa emerged as a real ANC leadership prospect, economic confidence has started to pick up. The rand - a telling barometer of Zuma's fortunes - has gained more than 15 percent against the dollar over that period. Since becoming president in 2009, Zuma has been dogged by scandal. He is fighting the reinstatement of 783 counts of corruption over a 30 billion-rand (now $2.5 billion) government arms deal arranged in the late 1990s when he was deputy president. Some within the ANC and the opposition say the Gupta family, friends of Zuma, have used their links with the president to win state contracts and influence cabinet appointments. The Guptas and Zuma have denied any wrongdoing. —Reuters



South African President Jacob Zuma.

Turkish opposition lawmaker jailed for 'leaking secrets'

ISTANBUL: An Istanbul court yesterday sentenced an opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) lawmaker to five years and 10 months in jail for leaking classified material to a daily critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. CHP lawmaker Enis Berberoglu had been sentenced in June to 25 years in jail but a regional appeals court in Istanbul quashed the conviction and in October ordered a retrial.

He was convicted on charges of "revealing information that should remain a secret for the sake of the state's security", state-run news agency Anadolu reported. Berberoglu's case relates to a controversial story published in 2015 by the Cumhuriyet daily which contained images purportedly showing the Turkish intelligence service seeking to transport arms over the border to Syria. The CHP lawmaker is accused of giving the images to Cumhuriyet's former editor-in-chief, Can Dundar, who fled to Germany after being given a five-year-and-10-month jail term.

The MP has been in jail since June. He is the first and, so far, only lawmaker from the main secular opposition party held in the crackdown that followed the July 15 failed coup. It was after Berberoglu's initial conviction that CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu walked from Ankara to Istanbul joined by thousands of others in what became the biggest opposition protest in Turkey since 2013 demonstrations against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Since the attempted overthrow of Erdogan, tens of thousands of people have been arrested over alleged links to coup-plotters and Kurdish militants, including nine MPs from the main pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). —AFP

Water: Why taps run dry

PARIS: The world has abundant freshwater but it is unevenly distributed and under increasing pressure, UN agencies say, as highlighted by the severe shortages in Cape Town. South Africa yesterday declared a "national disaster" over a drought that has ravaged parts of the country and threatened to leave the city without domestic tap water.

Water, water 'everywhere'

More than 97 percent of the planet's water is salty, most of it in the oceans and seas, but there is also a good supply of freshwater. Every year around 42.8 trillion cubic metres (1.02 trillion cubic miles) of renewable freshwater circulates as rain, surface water or groundwater, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This equals 16,216 litres (34,270 US pints) per person per day-four times the amount required in the United States, for example, for personal and domestic consumption, industry and agriculture.

Depending on diet and lifestyle, a person needs between 2,000 and 5,000 litres of water a day to produce their food and meet their drinking and sanitation requirements, the FAO says. About 60 percent of the planet's freshwater reserves is locked in the Antarctic. Of the rest, more than a quarter is in Central and Latin America, which is 60 times more than that available in the Middle East and North Africa. "The fact is there is enough water to meet the world's growing needs, but not without dramatically changing the way water is used, managed and shared," the United Nations said in 2015. "The global water crisis is one of governance."

Shortages

In its most recent data (2014), the FAO said 45 countries were experiencing water shortages, defined as less than a thousand cubic metres (one million litres) per person a year. They include South Africa, Cyprus and Morocco. Twenty-nine of them, including Algeria, Israel or Qatar, were in a situation of extreme shortage with less than 500 m3 per person a year. A third of the planet's population depends on groundwater and the UN has warned of the danger of overusing these reserves.

GAZA: A Palestinian girl fills a water bottle at a mosque near their tent in the middle of Gaza City. —AFP

Groundwater reserves in part of India's Ganges basin, southern Spain, Italy and California's central valley could be drained dry in decades, it says. Countries like Canada, Russia and Peru use just one percent of their renewable freshwater. But others far overuse supply, such as Israel at 261 percent and Bahrain at 8,935 percent. Countries that use more than their renewable supply draw from nonrenewable underground water or desalinate sea water, as in the case of Bahrain.

Cities in difficulty

Freetown, La Paz and Ouagadougou in 2016 suffered severe water shortages following drought, much as Cape Town is today. The global use of freshwater doubled between 1964 and 2014 because of population growth, urbanisation, industrialisation and increased production and consumption, the UN says. The demand for water in cities is expected to grow by 50 percent by 2030. "Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could cost some regions up to six percent of their GDP, spur migration, and spark conflict," the World Bank said in 2016.

Thirsty farming

Farming is the single biggest consumer of water globally (70 percent), most of it for irrigation. Industry uses 19 percent and households 11 percent, according to the FAO. But there are wide disparities at the regional level. In South Asia agriculture accounts for 91 percent of water use, against only seven percent in homes and two percent in industry. In the European Union and North America, however, industry consumes more than half of freshwater supply, ahead of agriculture (under 34 percent) and domestic use (under 18 percent).

Global warming

The UN's climate science panel, the IPCC, said in a 2014 report that for every degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) of global warming, about seven percent of the world's population will see a drop of at least 20 percent in renewable water resources. Scientists calculate the planet has already warmed one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since the Industrial Revolution kickstarted the spewing of man-made, planet-heating gases into the atmosphere. The IPCC projects more frequent and severe droughts in already dry regions, reducing surface water and groundwater stocks. The impact will depend on the level of warming. —AFP

Scandal-hit British charity reels as sex scandal widens

Oxfam faces South Sudan abuse claim

LONDON: Scandal-hit British charity Oxfam was reeling yesterday after fresh claims of sexual assault and cover-up in South Sudan, as Haiti's president condemned the behaviour of some of its staff in his country as "undignified and dishonest". Helen Evans, former global head of safeguarding, also warned of assaults on children volunteering in Oxfam's hundreds of high-street charity shops in Britain. She accused senior managers of failing to act, heaping pressure on chief executive Mark Goldring just hours after his deputy resigned over a scandal involving aid workers' use of prostitutes in Haiti and Chad.

Haitian President Jovenel Moise spoke out about the scandal yesterday saying there was "nothing more undignified and dishonest" than humanitarian aid workers exploiting "needy people". Evans told Channel 4 News of a survey conducted during her 2012-2015 tenure which exposed a "culture of sexual abuse" in some Oxfam offices. The survey of 120 staff across three countries found between 11 and 14 percent said they witnessed or experienced sexual assault.

Seven percent of staff in South Sudan-four people-witnessed or experienced rape or attempted rape involving colleagues.The revelations have caused outrage in Britain, where Oxfam received £31.7 million (35.7 million euros, $43.8 million) from the government last year. Some commentators have said the scandal should prompt a rethink of Britain's commitment to spend 0.7 percent of its national income on foreign aid a UN target that only very few countries in the world respect.

'Humanitarian aid workers exploiting needy people'

'Scope for abuse'

The international development ministry has begun a wider review of how the foreign aid sector deals with allegations of sexual misconduct in the workplace. "Emergency situations are almost a perfect environment for these kind of activities to emerge," Mike Jennings, head of the Department of Development Studies at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, told AFP.

"You have extremely vulnerable people... and a few people who are effectively controlling access to resources, or have huge amounts of power. "Whenever you have those inequalities and variances in power, you have scope for abuse." Megan Nobert, who was drugged and raped by a fellow aid worker in South Sudan in 2015, told BBC radio that sexual violence in humanitarian workspaces was a "common occurrence". She drew parallels with the #MeToo campaign of denouncing sexual harassment, which started in Hollywood and has since expanded to different sectors such as the media, politics and the world of music. "The humanitarian community is the latest to have to grapple publicly with an issue that it's been trying to figure out how to respond to quietly," Nobert said.

Sex for aid

Evans said she asked to take her findings about abuse to the senior leadership team at Oxfam, but the meeting was cancelled and Goldring told her that discussing the report would not take things any further. Later during her tenure, Evans said she received three new allegations in a single day in February 2015, including one woman forced to have sex for aid. "There was one of a woman being coerced to have sex in a humanitarian response by another aid worker, another case where a woman had been coerced to have sex in exchange for aid, and another one where it had come to our attention where a member of staff had been struck off for sexual abuse and hadn't disclosed that," she said. Evans-now a local councillor in England-said she "struggled" to understand why senior management did not give her more resources to address the problem. In a separate issue, Channel 4 cited figures showing seven incidents of "inappropriate conduct with children" in Oxfam's shops in 2013/14. One case involving an adult volunteer assaulting a child-the minimum age for volunteers is 14 — went to court, Evans said. —AFP

PORT-AU-PRINCE: In this file photo, people walk past wrecked buildings in a street of Port-au-Prince following a massive earthquake. British charity Oxfam faces severe criticism for a lack of transparency over misconduct allegations against staff members accused of using prostitutes in Haiti following a devastating 2010 earthquake. — AFP

Blackouts, flooding as cyclone batters Tongan capital

NUKU'ALOFA: A battered Nuku'alofa began cleaning up yesterday after the most powerful cyclone ever recorded in the Tongan capital tore roofs off buildings, downed powerlines and caused extensive flooding, prompting a state of emergency in the tiny Pacific nation. Veteran disaster management officials were shocked at the fury of Severe Cyclone Gita as it unleashed 230 kmh winds on Tonga's most populous island Tongatapu. Historic wooden buildings in the heart of Nuku'alofa, including parts of Tonga's parliament, were reduced to matchsticks as the tempest hit overnight. Broken power poles and trees blocked the roads and sheets of corrugated iron stripped from homes littered the capital.

"It was a particularly bad night," Graham Kenna, from the National Emergency Office, told Radio New Zealand. "I've been involved in disaster response for 30-plus years and it was the worst situation I've been in." Even the Tongan Meteorological Service lost its roof, forcing it to hand over the job of issuing warnings about the cyclone to its counterpart in Fiji. Storm damage closed the international airport, along with the Australian High Commission, which warned its citizens against travelling to the devastated kingdom.

Yet officials said it could have been worse. The storm did not reach a top-of-the-scale Category Five as feared and injuries were relatively light, with 33 people hospitalised, three of them seriously hurt. Police said a 72-year-old man suffered a fatal heart attack and the cyclone may have contributed to his death. Howling winds cut power to Tongatapu on Monday evening and peaked in the early hours of yesterday as more than 3,000 people sheltered in evacuation centres. The military helped clear roads at first light, allowing clean-up teams to fan out and assess the extent of the destruction.

"Someone's roof is in my front garden... some of the old landmark buildings that are 100 years old have been severely damaged by debris," Kenna said. In the midst of the storm, phone networks continued to operate and many of the 75,000 people on Tongatapu shared their experiences online. TVNZ's Pacific correspondent Barbara Dreaver said the cyclone sounded like "a screaming freight train". "Hotel is shaking and can hear screech of metal flying past outside ... rain water coming in sideways to second floor room," she tweeted.

'Lengthy clean-up'

Lord Fusitu'a, a hereditary peer in Tonga's parliament, wrote: "I can literally feel my room shaking to the foundations-it'll be a long night." As the cyclone moved out to sea yesterday, he said Nuku'alofa had experienced "a dose of miracle". "Astoundingly #TCGita seems to have subsided & we've avoided the worst of it," he wrote on Instagram.

The storm had already created havoc when it slammed into Samoa on the weekend and authorities in Tonga declared a state of emergency before it hit. While there was widespread flooding, Kenna said the impact of storm surges on the flat terrain of Tongatapu was less than expected. It also passed just south of the capital rather than making a direct hit. But forecasters warned the threat from Gita was not over and it could still reach Category Five as it heads towards Fiji's remote and sparsely populated Ono-i-Lau island group today.

Philip Duncan, chief forecaster at New Zealand's Weather Watch service, said it could then brush Norfolk Island and New Caledonia before dissipating over New Zealand next week. New Zealand announced NZ$750,000 (US$544,000) in aid and deployed an air force plane to send supplies to Tonga.

Australia sent a military plane carrying Aus$350,000 of emergency supplies, along with disaster response specialists. Cyclones are common in the Pacific at this time of year and Category Five systems have proved catastrophic when they make landfall. Cyclone Winston killed 44 people in Fiji in 2016, and Cyclone Pam claimed 11 lives and damaged 65,000 homes in Vanuatu in 2015.— AFP

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga: Photo shows flooding and damage in Tonga's capital of Nuku'alofa after Cyclone Gita hit the country.—AFP

Chibok schoolgirls' kidnapper jailed

KANO: A man involved in the 2014 kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls from Chibok in northeast Nigeria has been jailed for 15 years, the government confirmed yesterday. The conviction of Haruna Yahaya, 35, is the first in relation to the mass abduction, which triggered global outrage and sparked a worldwide campaign for the girls' release.

A total of 276 students were seized from the Government Girls Secondary School in the remote town in Borno state on the evening of April 14, 2014. Fifty-seven escaped in the immediate aftermath. Since May 2016, a further 107 have escaped, been found or released after government talks with the jihadists, leaving 112 still in captivity. Justice ministry spokesman Salihu Isah said Yahaya admitted to being involved when he appeared at a special court trying hundreds of Boko Haram suspects on Monday.

Nigeria began prosecuting people arrested during the insurgency last October, starting with 1,669 suspects held at a military detention facility in Kainji, in the central state of Niger. "It is true that a member of Boko Haram who took part in the kidnapping of the Chibok schoolgirls was given 15 years jail," said Isah. "Haruna Yahaya, who is 35 and handicapped with a paralysed arm and a deformed leg, was arrested in 2015 by the Civilian JTF," he said, referring to the joint task force militia. "He confessed to having taken part in the abduction."

Isah said Yahaya's defence lawyer "pleaded for leniency" on the grounds that he was "forcibly conscripted into the group and he acted under duress". Yahaya was previously a trader in the town of Potiskum, in Yobe state, northeast Nigeria. He claimed he was forced to carry an AK-47 assault rifle during the Chibok abduction. Boko Haram has used kidnapping as a weapon of war in its quest to establish a hardline Islamic state in northeast Nigeria, seizing thousands of women, young girls and men of fighting age. "But the court dismissed his plea on the grounds that he had the option not to take part in Boko Haram activities... His sentence starts from the time of conviction," said Isah. Yan St-Pierre, a counter-terrorism specialist with the Modern Security Consulting Group, said: "Involvement with Boko Haram is not necessarily voluntary. But it's very difficult to prove." The presence of young boys in the Islamist ranks was an indication of coercion but others in the impoverished region may become involved for financial reasons, he added. A total of 468 of the 1,669 Boko Haram suspects held at Kainji were released last year after it was found they had no case to answer.Forty-five others were sentenced to between two and 15 years in jail, and 28 had their cases transferred. —AFP

A leading company in Kuwait requires laboratory technicians from both genders. Desired skills and experiences are as follows:

- Five years of experience in Microbiological & Chemical analysis.
- ISO 17025, HPLC, GCMS, ICPMS, FTNIR and RT-PCR.
- Proficiency in English.
- A graduate degree preferably.
- Kuwaitis and other Nationalities are encouraged.

Kindly send yout updated resume to:
newopportunity06@gmail.com

SYMPHONY STYLE HOTEL
فندق سيمفوني ستايل الكويت
DRIVER'S REQUIRED
We are looking for experienced drivers to join our team at Symphony Style Hotel, Kuwait.
Benefits:
Attractive salary. Housing allowance. Three daily meals. Airline ticket. Uniform. Laundry service.
Requirement :
· Valid Kuwaiti driving license.
· Minimum one year experience.
· Transferable residency.
· English language proficiency.
All the nationalities are welcomed. Qualified candidate, kindly visit our human resource office in the hotel from 12:00 am to 6:00 pm or send their CV to:
joy.lacuesta@symphonystylehotel.com
SALMYIA, ARABIAN GULF ROAD
2577 0000
SYMPHONYSTYLEHOTEL.COM

Two ethnic groups sign up to Myanmar peace process

Peace process dogged by continuing fighting, widespread distrust

NAYPYIDAW: Two armed ethnic groups signed a ceasefire in Myanmar yesterday in a move which the government hopes will revive a flagging peace process dogged by continuing fighting and widespread distrust of the army. The New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) inked the National Ceasefire Agreement in the capital Naypyidaw, joining eight other militias who had signed before Aung San Suu Kyi took office.

Global attention has focused on the plight of some 700,000 Rohingya Muslims forced out of western Myanmar into Bangladesh by a violent military campaign. But the crisis in Rakhine state is just one of some two dozen conflicts festering around the country's borderlands, where ethnic rebels have for decades fought the state for more autonomy.

Suu Kyi, whose official title is State Counselor, made peace her top priority when her civilian administration took office in 2016 to end five decades of military domination. But there has been little to show for the effort, with swathes of drug-producing ethnic areas still riven by unrest that has displaced tens of thousands. However Suu Kyi welcomed the national ceasefire agreement at yesterday's colorful signing ceremony attended by government officials, the army chief and ethnic representatives in traditional clothes. It was the key to unlocking national unity, she said.

She conceded that the "light of peace... cannot cover the whole country", adding "our country is facing a lot of pressure and criticism from the international community"-an apparent reference to the outcry over the Rohingya. Both the European Union and the US embassy in Myanmar welcomed the signing as a step in the right direction. The EU called for an end to clashes in other conflict-hit regions to make way for more dialogue and for people there to have access to humanitarian aid "without delay".

Yesterday's signatories have not actively clashed with the army for some time but were part of a bloc of powerful rebel armies that resisted signing the ceasefire pact under the former military-backed government. "We believe in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi but we'll have to see what happens on the road ahead, because the government and the military are not very united," LDU chairman Kya Khun Sar told AFP before the signing.

Global attention focuses on the plight of Rohingyas

Powerful military

The army no longer rules directly but still controls the key home affairs, borders and defense ministries as well as a quarter of parliamentary seats. This gives it a full say over security operations around the country, denying Suu Kyi's civilian administration some pivotal powers. That has sparked skepticism over Suu Kyi's "21st Century Panglong" peace talks, named after the agreement signed by her independence hero father that promised autonomy to major ethnic groups before independence from Britain in 1948.

"Regardless of the theatre and pageantry of the NCA signing for the Mon and Lahu, the peace process is broken and only the state counselor's office seems unaware of this reality," political analyst David Mathieson told AFP, saying that the military has been the "main actor derailing the peace process". Mai Win Htoo, a Taaung National Party MP, said peace negotiations have yet to bear fruit for his community in the restive northern state of Shan. "Since it started, there has been more fighting in my area. People have had to run away. They lose their jobs, their homes. It has brought war on our area."

Myanmar's patchwork of ethnic groups make up around a third of the population, but the government and military have long been dominated by the majority Bamar ethnic group to which Suu Kyi belongs. She has been much maligned internationally for her failure to speak up on behalf of the Rohingya but her stance has proved popular domestically. —AFP

NAYPYIDAW: Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi (C), flanked by President of Myanmar Htin Kyaw (R) and Vice President Henry Van Thio (L), looks on during the signing ceremony for ceasefire agreement of armed ethnic groups New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU). —AFP

'Spot a gay' list in Malaysian newspaper sparks outrage

KUALA LUMPUR: A stereotype-laden checklist for spotting gay men and lesbian women published by a popular Malaysian newspaper has sparked outrage in the Muslim-majority nation, with activists warning it could endanger lives. The Malay-language tabloid Sinar Harian claimed gay men love to go to the gym-just to check out other men-wear tight clothes to show off their physiques and tend to sport beards, while their eyes widen when they see handsome men. Lesbians, the paper said, "hate men" and enjoy hugging. The list, published Friday, was swiftly met with derision online, while campaigners warned it could further stoke animosity against LGBTQ groups, who have been increasingly targeted with violence and discrimination in recent years. "It exposes these people to bullying, which could lead to violent hate crimes towards them," Eric Paulsen, Lawyers for Liberty executive director, told AFP Tuesday.

Malaysia has experienced growing religious fundamentalism in recent years, sparking friction between conservative forces and those campaigning for greater rights. The country retains its colonial-era criminal ban on sodomy, which is punishable by up to 20 years in prison, caning or a fine. Human Rights Watch said in a 2017 report that discrimination against LGBT people was "pervasive" in Malaysia. One of the country's biggest social media stars, Arwind Kumar, railed against the list in a video posted on YouTube. "How the hell does a gay person endanger your life? With an article like this you are only going to take away lives," he said. "Are you dumb? How can having facial hair make someone gay?" Kumar said in the video, pointing out that religious leaders were also known for their abundant facial hair. The clip has been viewed thousands of times. Sinar Harian has not yet issued any response to the controversy. Malaysia hit the headlines in March 2017 over its attitudes to homosexuality when the country's film censorship board demanded cuts to Disney's hit movie "Beauty and the Beast" because of a "gay moment". But the entertainment giant refused and the film was released in full. In June, Malaysian health authorities were forced to backpedal on plans for a contest to "prevent" homosexuality, but in December the state of Terengganu sparked alarm by announcing plans for a conversion therapy course aimed at transgender women. —AFP

Secret confidante of Korea's Park jailed for 20 years over scandal

SEOUL: The secret confidante of ousted South Korean president Park Geun-hye was convicted yesterday and jailed for 20 years for her key role in the scandal that brought down the head of state. Choi Soon-sil-who became close to Park through her father, a shadowy religious figure-was vilified during the massive nationwide protests that rocked Asia's fourth-largest economy and culminated in Park's impeachment last year.

The Seoul Central District Court found Choi guilty of abuse of power, bribery and interfering in government business. The verdict is a potential pointer to the decision in Park's separate trial, since 15 of the 18 charges Choi faced mirror counts on the ex-president's own indictment. Judge Kim Se-yoon told a packed courtroom that Choi took advantage of "long private ties" with Park to force companies to donate funds to foundations she controlled and used for personal gain. She accepted more than 14 billion won ($13 million) from telecommunications giant Samsung and retail conglomerate Lotte, he said, and "meddled in state affairs widely".

Choi had no title or security clearance, but prosecutors said she interfered in a wide range of official issues, including the nomination of cabinet members and ambassadors-and in editing many of Park's speeches. "In light of the size of material gains obtained by the accused, the severe confusion in state affairs caused by her crimes and the people's sense of frustration, the guilt of the accused is very heavy," he said.

She had shown no repentance, the judge added. "The accused is sentenced to 20 years in prison." Choi, who wore a dark blue coat and a badge bearing her prison number, showed little reaction as the sentence was passed. Choi's fellow-accused Shin Dong-bin, chairman of the Lotte group which is South Korea's fifth-biggest conglomerate, was given two and a half years in prison. He was arrested in court, having been out on bail during the trial-but smiled calmly after he was sentenced, while his legal team looked grim.

Former Park aide Ahn Jong-beom was jailed for six years. Choi had pleaded not guilty, claiming she never sought any personal benefit but attempted to help Park's work, and her lawyer Lee Kyung-jae said the defense would appeal. "This is a heavy sentence bordering on cruelty," he told reporters. "We admit we have failed to convince the court judges that the accused Choi is not guilty. We will do our best to have a different ruling in the appeals court."

Networks of privilege

The scandal, one of the largest in South Korea's modern history, catalyzed wider economic and social frustrations among South Koreans. It exposed networks of privilege among the country's business and political elite and has seen more than a dozen officials put behind bars. The South Korean economy is dominated by giant family-controlled firms known as "chaebol", which powered a decades-long economic boom but have long had murky ties with authorities.

Choi and Park colluded to have Lotte chairman Shin donate seven billion won to a foundation to build a sports centre, in exchange for the government issuing a license for a duty-free shop. But Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong walked free from prison last week when most of his bribery convictions were set aside on appeal. His jail sentence was replaced with a suspended term-the third generation of his family to benefit from merciful legal treatment.

The court ruled yesterday that the 3.65 billion won Samsung spent to buy horses and equine equipment for Choi's daughter, and another 3.6 billion won it paid to a company controlled by Choi, amounted to bribes for her. But there was no evidence Samsung had asked for policy favors in order to smooth the succession of Lee Jae-yong, it said. Park's own trial has been hit by delays-her defense team quit in protest when the court extended her detention, and new charges have been added to her indictment. The former head of state also denies the charges against her and has stopped attending court, claiming she is a victim of "political revenge". Yesterday's verdict was "definitely bad news for Park Geun-hye", said Gang Moon-dae of activist group Lawyers for a Democratic Society, given the similarity of the charges in the two proceedings. "Park is likely to draw a heavier sentence," he told AFP, "possibly up to 25 years in prison". —AFP

SEOUL: This file photo taken on January 16, 2017 shows Choi Soon-sil (C), the woman at the centre of the South Korean political scandal and long-time friend of President Park Geun-hye, arriving for hearing arguments for South Korean President Park Geun-hye's impeachment trial at the Constitutional Court. —AFP

India says Pakistan 'will pay' for Kashmir 'misadventure'

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: India has warned Pakistan that it would pay for a deadly militant attack on an Indian army camp in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, the latest violence in the disputed region to stoke tension between the nuclear-armed rivals. Pakistan responded by saying it was "fully committed and capable of defending itself against any act of aggression" and India had unfairly blamed it for the attack "without a shred of evidence".

Saturday's attack on the camp near Jammu, in the Indian-controlled part of the Muslim-majority Himalayan region, was the worst in months with six soldiers and the father of a soldier killed. At least three militants were killed, according to Indian officials. Indian Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters the army had evidence the attack originated from Pakistan.

"Intelligence inputs indicate that these terrorists were being controlled by their handlers from across the border," the minister said late on Monday. "Pakistan is expanding the arc of terror ... resorting to ceasefire violations to assist infiltration," Sitharaman said. "Pakistan will pay for this misadventure." Pakistan rejected India's latest accusation. It denies giving material aid to Muslim separatist fighters in Kashmir.

"We have repeatedly seen India arrogating to itself the role of judge, jury and executioner," the Pakistani foreign ministry said in a statement. Since their independence 71 years ago, India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two over the Kashmir region, which they both claim in full but rule in part.

'Surgical strikes'

India has long accused Pakistan of training and arming militants and helping them infiltrate across the heavily militarized Line of Control (LoC) that separates the two sides in the region. A 2003 ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Kashmir led to a sharp drop off of clashes on the LoC but violence, and casualties among soldiers and civilians, has increased over the past few years.

Gunmen stormed an Indian military base in the town of Uri in Indian-controlled Kashmir in September 2016, killing 18 Indian soldiers, the largest such attack in 14 years. India blamed Pakistan and in response said it had launched "surgical strikes" across the LoC to target fighters based on the Pakistani side. Pakistan denied any incursion had occurred. —Reuters

JAMMU: An Indian soldier stands guard at the entrance of the Sunjuwan Military Station in Jammu on February 10, 2018, following an attack by militants. —AFP

Israel military trial of Palestinian teen opens behind closed doors

Teenager charged after a viral video showed her hitting Israeli soldiers

OFER MILITARY COURT, Palestinian Territories: A Palestinian teenager charged after a viral video showed her hitting two Israeli soldiers in a case that has gained global attention went on trial in military court yesterday in closed-door proceedings. The judge in the trial ordered journalists removed from the courtroom, ruling that open proceedings would not be in the interest of 17-year-old Ahed Tamimi, who is being tried as a minor.

Only family members were allowed to remain in the courtroom, with diplomats present to observe also asked to leave. A large crowd of local and international journalists had shown up to cover the trial of Tamimi, who has become something of an icon for Palestinians and supporters of their cause worldwide. Trials of minors in military court are typically closed, but Tamimi's lawyer said previous hearings for the teenager were open and she argued for it to remain that way.

Judge in the trial ordered journalists out of courtroom

'Stay strong'

"They understand that people outside Ofer military court are interested in Ahed's case, they understand that her rights are being infringed and her trial is something that shouldn't be happening," Tamimi's lawyer Gaby Lasky told journalists after having unsuccessfully objected to the judge's decision to close the trial. "So the way to keep it out of everybody's eyes is to close doors and not allow people inside the court for her hearing."

Tamimi arrived at the military court near Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank dressed in a prison jacket with her hands and feet shackled, smiling slightly as journalists photographed her. Her father Bassem Tamimi waved to her from the audience, yelling out "stay strong, you will win." Closed-door proceedings were held for a couple hours before adjourning. Lasky said she argued that the trial could not move forward because Israel's occupation of the West Bank and its court system there is illegal.

Prosecutors requested more time to prepare a response and a new date was set for March 11, according to Lasky. Lasky added that she would make a new request to have the trial opened. Bassem Tamimi told journalists after the adjournment that "having people attend the court-journalists, consuls, diplomats, observers and lawyers-is very important because it keeps them safe and makes us feel that those in court are safe."

Tamimi has been hailed as a hero by Palestinians who see her as bravely standing up to Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Israelis accuse her family of using her as a pawn in staged provocations. She has been charged with 12 counts including assault and could face a lengthy jail term if convicted. The charges relate to events in the video and five other incidents. They include stone-throwing, incitement and making threats.

Criticism of case

Tamimi's mother, Nariman, and cousin Nour, 20, were also due to go on trial later yesterday. Ahed Tamimi and her mother have been ordered held in custody until the end of the proceedings, while her cousin has been released on bail. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has criticised Israeli authorities' actions in the case, while the European Union has expressed concern over Israel's detention of minors, including Ahed Tamimi. —AFP

BETUNIA, Palestinian Territories: Seventeen-year-old Palestinian Ahed Tamimi (right), a well-known campaigner against Israel's occupation, stands for the beginning of her trial in the Israeli military court at Ofer military prison in the West Bank village of Betunia yesterday.—AFP

Stockholm truck attacker pleads guilty as terrorism trial opens

STOCKHOLM: An Uzbek asylum seeker pleaded guilty to terrorism charges yesterday for an April 2017 Stockholm truck attack that killed five people, after identifying multiple targets in a city he described as full of "infidels". Rakhmat Akilov appeared handcuffed in Stockholm's special high-security courtroom, wearing green prison clothes and with a shaved head and a beard, accompanied by his lawyer Johan Eriksson.

Akilov, whose Swedish asylum application had been rejected in 2016, had sworn allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group on the eve of his assault in one of Europe's safest cities, though the jihadist group never claimed responsibility. On the afternoon of Friday, April 7, Akilov stole a beer delivery truck and barrelled down a bustling pedestrian shopping street, swerving wildly to hit as many people as possible.

Three Swedes were killed, including an 11-year-old girl, as well as a 41-year-old British man and a 31-year-old Belgian woman. Ten others were injured. Rakhmat "Akilov took the truck ... and drove it... He killed five people and physically injured 10," his lawyer Johan Eriksson told the court adding: "The lives of a large number of people were put in danger. The motive was to instigate fear and to get Sweden to end its participation in the coalition against the Islamic State," Eriksson added.

The non-NATO country has around 70 military personnel based mainly in northern Iraq to provide training as part of the US-led coalition against IS. Akilov, who turns 40 on Wednesday, ended his rampage by crashing the truck into the facade of a department store and detonating an explosive device-made up of five gas canisters and nails-though it didn't explode as planned and caused damage only to the truck. He told investigators he had planned to die in the assault. Akilov fled the scene by running into a nearby metro station, and was arrested several hours later thanks to public transport video surveillance images. He confessed in police questioning.

Contacts probed

The prosecution showed the court amateur videos filmed just after the attack, showing panicked passersby and a body lying on the ground. In an adjoining room, some observers watching the proceedings on a screen, including relatives of victims and survivors, sobbed and held hands. Investigators have recovered several smartphone exchanges Akilov had with unidentified contacts on encrypted chat sites before, during and after the attack.

During yesterday's proceedings, the prosecution presented a list of his conversations on WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook and Zello, found on his phone. Of 209 messages, 16 are "interesting", according to prosecutor Hans Ihrman, in particular those on a Zello chat forum where Akilov spoke to contacts using the pseudonyms Muovia Regari, Abu Aisha, Muhammad, and Abu Fotima among others.

To one of his contacts, Akilov wrote on January 19, 2017: "I'm working and saving money and God willing I will carry out the martyr operation". Akilov also wrote a list of potential targets to one of his contacts, including a synagogue, a ferry transporting "sinners" and a nightclub, adding: "There are plenty of infidels here. On February 12, he also googled "gay club in Stockholm".

While investigators continue to search for Akilov's contacts, investigators believe he acted alone and have therefore charged only him. Prosecutors have said they will seek a life sentence and, thereafter, his expulsion from the Scandinavian country. A life sentence in Sweden varies, but is on average 16 years. Eriksson told the court his client would not oppose either measure.

Akilov arrived in Sweden in 2014, at the start of the big migration wave to Europe. His application for residency was rejected in 2016, after which he went underground to avoid expulsion and worked odd jobs in construction. Akilov's wife and four children had stayed behind in Uzbekistan. Europe has seen a wave of truck attacks in recent years. The deadliest was in Nice, on July 14, 2016, when a truck rammed crowds leaving a fireworks display for France's national holiday, killing 86 people. The Scandinavian country has experienced only one other terror attack in modern times.

In December 2010, a man blew himself up in a suicide attack in central Stockholm that lightly injured two passersby. Akilov is scheduled to address the court as of February 20. The case is to continue through May with a verdict due in June. —AFP

STOCKHOLM : Journalists wait outside the courtroom yesterday at Stockholm district court during the opening of the trial of Rakhmat Akilov, who pleaded guilty to terrorism charges for an April 2017 Stockholm truck attack.—AFP

As more people move to cities, China eases land rules in villages

MUMBAI: Allowing Chinese villagers to rent out their homes and farms could boost development and ease tensions in neglected rural areas where houses sit empty as people migrate to cities, according to analysts. A policy document released this month said the government would "moderately relax" controls on rights for rural land and vacant houses so people who moved to cities could allow development of their properties or rent out their homes.

The policy could encourage people dissatisfied with rural life to move as they would be able to earn an income from their properties, said Wasana Wongsurawat, an assistant professor and China expert at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. "Urban centres are growing, while the quality of life in rural areas has not improved, leading to growing dissent," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "So this may be a way to address that, and entice more people to move to the cities."

Nearly 59 percent of China's population already lives in urban areas and further urbanization is key to the government's growth plans in the world's second-largest economy. Chinese land is divided into urban and rural land regimes, granting ownership rights over urban land to the state while rural land is owned collectively and cannot be bought and sold freely. China began to examine its land use policies in 2014. The recent policy document was unveiled weeks after the land minister was quoted by state news agency Xinhua as saying the government will allow rental housing on rural land to increase accommodation options.

The government's decision to relax controls on land falls far short of creating an open market, but analysts said it is an early stage in a major reform process. "It is significant as a step forward to liberalize land rights," said Dan Wang, a Beijing-based analyst at research firm The Economist Intelligence Unit. She said the policy shift - if accompanied by further regulations - may encourage firms to develop large-scale farming. "If this round of land reform turns out to be successful, it will change the landscape of rural China greatly in terms of forms of employment, agricultural organization and even social structures," she said by e-mail. —Reuters

Pakistan lays 'moral compass' Jahangir to rest

LAHORE: Pakistan bid farewell to its top rights advocate Asma Jahangir yesterday, with thousands cramming into a major cricket ground under tight security to grieve the diminutive woman described by many as the country's "moral compass". Sobbing lawyers dressed in black blazers, leading politicians, intellectuals and activists joined more than 3,000 citizens flooding Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, where camera drones flew overhead as mourners accompanied the body with flowers and wreaths.

Women could be seen in the front row and throughout the crowd during the funeral prayers - highly unusual in Pakistan, where the genders are often segregated for prayers and social events, but symbolic of Jahangir's leadership in the long battle for women's rights in the conservative, patriarchal country. "Asma's death has created a wide gap that looks to be never filled," one attendee, college teacher Said Raheem Ul Haque, told AFP as the service began.

Jahangir, who died of cardiac arrest on Sunday aged 66, was a lawyer who co-founded the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and also served as United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran. She was widely admired in the international humanitarian community and was seen as a champion of the downtrodden in Pakistan, which has a troubled rights record, especially for minorities. Her death has sparked an outpouring of tributes from global human rights groups and political leaders, including the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres - who called her a "human rights giant" - and Pakistan's Nobel prize winner Malala Yousafzai.

'Our moral compass'

Newspaper front pages have been dominated by accolades to "Asma the fearless", while social media has seen a tsunami of acclamations, with many questioning what Pakistan will do without her. "Once you get over the shock and sadness, there is eventually a panic about how we will find our moral compass now. Rest in power @Asma_Jahangir," tweeted Ahmer Naqvi, of Pakistani music platform Patari. Jahangir faced death threats, beatings and imprisonment to win landmark human rights cases while standing up to dictators.

The rights commission which she helped create made its name defending religious minorities and tackling highly charged blasphemy accusations along with cases of "honor" killings - in which victims, normally women, are murdered by a relative for bringing shame on the family. Jahangir secured a number of victories during her life, from winning freedom for bonded laborers from their "owners" through pioneering litigation, to a landmark court case that allowed women to marry of their own volition.

She was also an outspoken critic of the powerful military establishment, including during her stint as the first-ever female leader of Pakistan's top bar association. Jahangir was arrested in 2007 by the government of then-military ruler Pervez Musharraf and held under house arrest. In 2012 she claimed her life was in danger from the feared Inter Services Intelligence spy agency. —AFP

LAHORE: Pakistani mourners carry the coffin of lawyer and rights advocate Asma Jahangir during her funeral yesterday. —AFP

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618
P.O.Box 1301 Safat,13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL :info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

US signals Israel has right to strike inside Syria as Iran's role grows

The Trump administration is sending "a clear and strong signal that in its view Israel has every right to unilaterally and pre-emptively confront any national security threats to it that are coming from Syria," Nicholas Heras, Middle East security fellow at the Center for a New American Security think tank, told KUNA yesterday. Heras was responding to questions about the US stance in the wake of the downing of an Israeli F-16 fighter jet by Syrian antiaircraft fire, which led to Israel carrying out extensive airstrikes inside Syria on Saturday.

Analysts interviewed by KUNA, as well as recent remarks by US Defense Secretary James Mattis, emphasized the hand of Iran in the latest military developments in Syria. "Israel's willingness to use military power, carefully walking up an escalation ladder depending on the threat from Iranian and Hezbollah forces that are actively operating in Syria, is not contradictory to the Trump team's Syria strategy," Heras said.

The government of Israel and the Trump administration "are greatly concerned with Iran's effort to turn the Assad-controlled areas of western Syria into one large armed camp for Hezbollah and other Iranian-mobilized Shia militias to carry a war into the territory of Israel itself," he said. The Trump team "has laid out a vision quite clearly that it seeks to diminish Iran in Syria, in all facets of Iranian influence there, and Israel's military capabilities are a key part of that strategy," Heras said. "There is going to be no daylight between President Trump and the Israelis in regard to Israel's freedom of action in Syria."

An Iranian drone's penetration of Israeli airspace was "a clear provocation, and the strong Israeli reaction wasn't surprising," Ibrahim Al-Assil, a Syrian political analyst, civil society activist and resident fellow at the Middle East Institute, told KUNA. The Iranian presence near Israeli borders is "a big concern for Israeli security", he added. The US has emphasized its intention to curb Iranian destabilizing activities in the region, but has not outlined a clear strategy to do so, he said.

"In Syria, Iran has increased its influence on the regime and the armed forces, and even Russia can't limit that influence in Syria," Assil said. "The United States might need to draw some red lines for Iranian military activities in Syria," he said. "Iran seems to be thinking about its next step, and might turn its militias on the ground in Syria toward other regional targets - after they succeeded in securing wide territories in Syria and pushing the Syrian opposition forces." It will not be an easy task for the US, and "requires tremendous diplomatic efforts" from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Assil said.

Air power

The Israeli air force has dominated the skies over Syria and Lebanon for decades, Hady Amr, a non-resident senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy, told KUNA. "Indeed, we heard this weekend from the Israeli air force that they have flown thousands of sorties over Syria in the past year alone," he noted.

The detente between Israel, Lebanon and Syria "has been tense as of late," Amr said. "While the incident will certainly raise tensions, we should all hope that calmer heads will prevail," he said. "We also don't know yet if this incident will alter the balance of power in the skies over Syria and cause Israel to hold back on further missions, but we do know that the Israeli military is a learning organization and will adapt."

Beyond issuing statements supporting Israel's right to defend itself against Iranian and Syrian aggression in the Golan Heights, the US has not responded to the downing of the Israeli jet "in a meaningful way," Alia Awadallah, research associate for National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress think tank, told KUNA. "Even with the announcement of a small US residual force in Syria to counter Iranian influence, US troops are focused on northeastern Syria and show no sign of getting involved in the Golan," Awadallah said. Israeli leaders are aware of this and instead directing their response to Russia President Vladimir Putin, who they hope will reign in Iran and Syria from more transgressions, she said. "The United States has actively avoided becoming involved in this area, but if there are further incidents you would expect it to take a more active role in mediating and de-escalating tensions to avoid a conflict," Awadallah said.

Mattis on Sunday said "everywhere we find trouble in the Middle East, you find the same thing behind it. Whether it be in Yemen or Beirut, or in Syria, in Iraq, you always find Iran engaged." "If you live in the region, there's no doubt what Iran is doing," Mattis said. "If you're in Bahrain, and the police there have captured explosives and that sort of thing, clearly from Iran; if you're picking up debris in Saudi Arabia of Iranian missiles; or you've got explosive boats, remote-controlled boats out in the Red Sea, you can see where Iran is either producing the wherewithal for the fight or actually leading the fight, in some cases." The Quds Force leadership is evident in Iraq and Syria, he noted. Syria is providing a way "for Iran to give weapons, including more sophisticated weapons, to the Lebanese Hezbollah," and Israel "has an absolute right to defend themselves," Mattis said, commenting on the recent Israeli airstrikes inside Syria. "They (the Israelis) don't have to wait until their citizens are dying under attack before they actually address that issue." —KUNA

Aadhaar critics 'harassed, under surveillance'

Researchers and journalists who have identified loopholes in India's massive national identity card project have said they have been slapped with criminal cases or harassed by government agencies because of their work. Last month, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the semi-government body responsible for the national identity project, called Aadhaar, or "Basis", filed a criminal case against the Tribune newspaper for publishing a story that said access to the card's database could be bought for 500 rupees ($7.82).

Reuters spoke to eight additional researchers, activists and journalists who have complained of being harassed after writing about Aadhaar. They said UIDAI and other government agencies were extremely sensitive to criticism of the Aadhaar program. Aadhaar is a biometric identification card that is becoming integral to the digitization of India's economy, with over 1.1 billion users and the world's biggest database.

Indians have been asked to furnish their Aadhaar numbers for a host of transactions including accessing bank accounts, paying taxes, receiving subsidies, acquiring a mobile number, settling a property deal and registering a marriage. The Tribune said one of its reporters purchased access to a portal that could provide data linked to any Aadhaar cardholder. The UIDAI complaint, filed with the police cyber cell in the capital, New Delhi, accused the newspaper, the reporter, and others of cheating by impersonation, forgery and unauthorized access to a computer network.

Media associations sharply criticized the action - the Editors Guild of India said UIDAI's move was "clearly meant to browbeat a journalist whose story was of great public interest. It is unfair, unjustified and a direct attack on the freedom of the press". In response, the agency said "an impression was being created in media that UIDAI is targeting the media or whistleblowers or shooting the messenger". "That is not at all true. It is for the act of unauthorized access, criminal proceedings have been launched," it said in a statement.

Osama Manzar, the director of the Digital Empowerment Foundation, a New Delhi-based NGO, called the government's prickliness "a clear sign that rather than it wanting to learn how to make Aadhaar a tool of empowerment, it actually wants to use it as a coercive tool of disempowerment".

Data leakage

Last May, the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), an independent Indian advocacy group, published a report that government websites had inadvertently leaked several million identification numbers from the project. UIDAI sent the CIS a legal notice within days, said Srinivas Kodali, one of the authors of the report. The notice alleged that some of the data cited in the report would only be available if the site had been accessed illegally. The UIDAI wrote that the people involved had to be "brought to justice."

Warnings project could be used as an instrument of state surveillance

According to Kodali, two more notices followed, addressed to the group's directors and two researchers, containing more accusations. "They said it was a criminal conspiracy, and demanded that we send individual responses," he said. CIS then received questions about its funding from the home ministry section that grants NGOs permission to receive foreign funding, said a source in the group who saw the letter. CIS viewed this as a threat to its funding, the source said. CIS declined to comment on the notices or on the questions about funding.

UIDAI did not reply to multiple emails seeking comment on the accusations about CIS and similar complaints by other activists and journalists, and officials could not be reached by phone. Officials at the Ministry of Information Technology that supervises UIDAI were unreachable by phone. In a column in the Economic Times newspaper in January, Ajay Pandey, the head of the UIDAI, wrote: "The data of all Aadhaar holders is safe and secure. One should not believe rumors or claims made on its so-called 'breach'."

R S Sharma, the head of India's telecom regulatory body, said there was an "orchestrated campaign" against Aadhaar as it was against the interests of those who operated in the shadow economy with fictitious names, or were skimming off subsidies. "It is going to clean up many systems," Sharma told a television channel last month. "That's probably one of the reasons why people realize that this is now becoming too difficult or too dangerous for them."

'That trip to Turkey?'

A Bangalore researcher who contributed to the CIS report said scrutiny by police and government officials was a common occurrence, but harassment was stepped up after it was published. "Sometimes people from the police station visit you. Other times from the home ministry. It was intimidating," the researcher said. The person, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, said police officers asked questions like "How was that trip to Turkey?'," to make it clear the subjects were under surveillance.

When Sameer Kochhar, a social scientist and author of books on Aadhaar, demonstrated how the system's biometrics safeguards could be bypassed last year, UIDAI filed a police report in New Delhi, a person familiar with the matter said. Subsequently, Kochhar received at least three notices from the Delhi Police alleging that he had violated 14 sections under three separate laws, the person said. Kochhar's lawyer declined comment. Delhi Police officials declined comment. Critics have warned Aadhaar could be used as an instrument of state surveillance while data security and privacy regulations are still to be framed. —Reuters

South Sudan civil war drives more children onto streets, into work

When Malit ran away from home a year ago, he didn't know he would be eating from the garbage and sleeping rough. But the 12-year-old insists life on the streets of Aweil, a city in South Sudan's northwest, is better than the one he left. "My father left us and moved to Sudan and my mother wasn't able to cook food for us every day," Malit told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, devouring a mango including its peel. "I was always hungry. That's why I decided to run away."

Hunger, fuelled by a protracted civil war and a failed economy, has pushed children like Malit into labor or life on the streets, according to a report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). South Sudan - the world's youngest country which gained independence in 2011 - is wrestling one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The UN children's agency UNICEF says every second person in the population of 12 million is hungry, 72 percent of children are out of school, and 4.2 million children need help. The United Nations says almost 19,000 children have been recruited, many by force, by armed groups in the civil war that started in 2013 when clashes erupted between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar.

Malit roams the streets with two other children during the day seeking food. The three are often on the lookout for ways to snitch some money. None attend school. Malit says there are hundreds of street children in Aweil. In the capital Juba, up to 3,000 children live on the street, and that number is increasing daily, said the Mind and Soul Institute, a local charity that works with street children. Charity workers say other factors driving child homelessness include family break-ups, abuse, polygamy practices and neglect.

Children suffering

Tens of thousands of people have since been killed since the war erupted and a third of the population fled their homes. The economy and security have deteriorated. A peace deal signed in 2015 was later ignored, and a ceasefire negotiated in December was violated within hours. Peace talks resumed in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa on Feb 5 and are ongoing.

Children suffer worst of all, said Bester Mulauzi, country director of program development for Save the Children that gives cash and farming supplies to families to help keep children off the streets. "Children living on the streets face unimaginable dangers. They risk being forcibly recruited by armed groups and are more likely to be abused and exploited," he said. "Many children are working and living on the streets simply out of sheer necessity to feed themselves."

Others, like 6-year-old Akok, are tasked with caring for younger siblings. Akok's mother left their remote village near the border with Sudan a year ago, bringing two children to Aweil where they stay at a friend's compound. During the day, Akok looks after her baby brother while her mother scours the town for food, which she regularly sends to her village for Akok's other siblings. Dinner for Akok is often just leaves. Her bed is the floor of the compound which the family shares with some goats.

Nyang, 13, carries heavy bricks on Jan 17, 2018. He is responsible to provide food for his whole family in Aweil, South Sudan. —Reuters

"My mum is away all day and it's scary. If something happened to my baby brother, I wouldn't know what to do," she said.

Heavy burden

Nicholas Kerandi, a food security specialist at the FAO, said children had to care for their siblings in many households as the men had joined the army or left to find work in Sudan. "(That) leaves women with incredibly little time to both provide food and care for their children," he said. "Child care then often becomes the responsibility of the older brothers and sisters."

Many children are also compelled to work. Nyang, 13, gets up before dawn to spend the day at one of Aweil's brickmaking sites, carrying clay cubes up a hill to dry in the sun. About 30 children work at the site, which is the size of two football fields, for less than one dollar a day. "There is no child labor law in South Sudan that is specifically protecting children. (The issue) is not taken seriously, also because of cultural beliefs," said James Alau Sabasio of the Mind and Soul Institute.

Nyang said he is the only one in a family of 10 earning a salary. "My father is a teacher but hasn't been paid in the last year, and my mother collects firewood and tries to sell it," he said. The bricksite manager is 28-year-old Thong, who does not object to employing children. "They are cheaper and still work hard," he said, adding that he is respected in his community and helps many families to survive. He said the conflict and a lack of food are the reasons so many children work or live on the street. Gathered around a fire at night with friends, Malit said he missed his family and wanted to go home. "But I know there is no food. My friends take care of me now," he said. "If more food comes to this country, I will go home to my family." —Reuters

Can North Africa unite...

Continued from Page 1

Rambourg argues the region should celebrate its shared heritage rather than fretting over who really lays the best claim to couscous. "Its origins are a complicated subject, a slippery slope - and is it really that important?" he said. "For all the countries in the Maghreb, couscous is a part of their identity."

The countries involved will have to come to a common position if they are to mount a successful UNESCO bid, he warned. "They'd have to show the historic permanency of the dish or its preparation, showing it's a part of daily life for all the groups constituting a people or a nation and that it's part of their identity." And they should probably downplay the huge diversity between couscouses served up across the region, he advised.

Kader Abderrahim, a French researcher at the Institute for European Perspective and Security, said neighboring rivals Algeria and Morocco might struggle to work together. "There are such entrenched positions on both sides that it's very complicated to find areas of agreement, including on a subject that might seem harmless," he said. "There is so much antagonism that has been built up for 50 years and that has got a lot worse, especially in recent months."

Algiers and Rabat have eyed each other jealously since the 1960s, when Algeria's new post-independence authorities refused to shift the borders set out under French colonial rule, leaving some areas disputed. Abderrahim said it was a paradox that the Maghreb "has not succeeded in integrating as a region", despite "a common culture, a shared history, the same language and religious tradition". The Maghreb should be "stronger than Europe which is divided by language and history", he said.

Fatema Hal, an anthropologist and Paris restaurateur who was born in Morocco, says UNESCO recognition would be a positive step for the region. "If couscous can help bring them together, all the better," she said. "But rather than putting all our energy into trying to get a label, we should be doing what's necessary to preserve our cuisine." Promoting the region's cuisine at its own cookery schools - which tend to focus instead on international cuisine - she added, would be a good start. — AFP

AIT EL-KACEM, Algeria: In this photo taken on Jan 11, 2018, Algerian Berber women prepare couscous as they mark the Yennayer New Year in this village east of the capital Algiers. — AFP

Tillerson hails US-Kuwait ties...

Continued from Page 1

Iraq declared victory over IS in December, but the extremist group still has a presence in Syria, where the US-led coalition has backed a Kurdish-Arab alliance fighting the militants. And Iraqi government forces backed by a US-led coalition last week staged a major operation against "IS remnants" in the northeast.

The US-backed campaign against IS in Syria has been complicated since a Turkey-backed Arab militia last month began an offensive against Kurdish forces in the northwestern region of Afrin. Tillerson said the United States would nonetheless maintain an "ISIS-focused military presence in Syria" and "continue to train local security forces" - a reference to Washington's contentious Kurdish allies.

He said IS had the capacity to re-emerge in liberated territories of Iraq and Syria or elsewhere in the world. "Every one of us must continue to adapt and strengthen our coalition to counter ISIS' own network of foreign fighters, financing and propaganda.

We have seen in Iraq and Syria the consequences of an ISIS territorial presence. History must not be allowed to repeat itself elsewhere," Tillerson said.

Meanwhile, war-battered Iraq sought yesterday to attract international investors to rebuild the country at a parallel reconstruction conference in Kuwait, offering hundreds of projects and touting extensive legal guarantees. "Iraq is open for investors," declared Sami Al-Araji, chairman of Iraq's National Investment Commission, on the second day of the conference.

Although the US government was not expected to pledge direct financial aid at the conference, Tillerson said the official US export credit agency, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), would sign with Iraq's finance ministry a $3 billion memorandum of understanding "that will set a stage for future cooperation". "Doing business in Iraq can be complicated, but the Iraqi market has vast potential," said Tillerson, saying the country had demonstrated it was "open for business".

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said yesterday Iraq could not rebuild without outside help. "Iraqis feel that the world is with them. As they were victorious against Daesh they will be, with your support, victorious in the battle of reconstruction," he told the conference, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance was ready to answer a US call for it to expand its small training mission in Iraq to support reconstruction. US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis sent a letter to NATO last month calling for a formal NATO train-and-advise mission, Reuters reported.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said all of Iraq should benefit from "reconstruction, stabilization and national reconciliation". He cited "Kurdistan, which took more than its share of the burden and the sacrifices" in the fight against IS. Arriving in Kuwait for the conference, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said his country would "stand by the Iraqi people forever". "At a time when only a few countries were participating in the reconstruction of Iraq, Iranian companies were active in building roads in the country and providing Iraqis with engineering services," he was quoted by state news agency IRNA.

Baghdad says it needs nearly $90 billion to rebuild devastated homes, schools, hospitals and economic infrastructure after three years of war against IS. It is a tall order, given skepticism about the government's record on corruption. Iraq in 2016 came 11th from the bottom on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. Araji said that Iraq, which has been either at war or under international sanctions since 1980, is offering projects in almost every field of its economy, from oil to agriculture.

World Bank officials joined Iraqi government representatives yesterday in Kuwait City to seek pledges from more than 2,000 representatives of international firms. They talked up legal guarantees available in post-IS Iraq, pointing to an investment law that offers ownership, unlimited cash transfers and tax breaks, among other benefits.

Nizar Nasser Hussein, head of the legal department at the National Investment Commission, said the latest version of the law does not distinguish between foreign and Iraqi investors. "Foreign investors can establish Iraqi companies," he told AFP, adding that investors would be given lease contracts for 50 years, renewable for a similar period. Investors will also be exempt from customs duties and income tax for 10-15 years, Hussein said. Araji said investors in Iraq will find "high risks, but high returns".

Iraq, the second largest oil producer in the OPEC cartel, also plans to sharply increase its output capacity to seven million barrels a day by 2022, its oil minister said. Iraq now has an oil production capacity of five million barrels per day (bpd) but is pumping just over 4.7 million under an OPEC output cut agreement. "Our target is to reach seven million bpd by 2022," Jabbar Al-Luaybi said, while presenting oil and gas projects available for private foreign investors.

Luaybi said Iraq sits on proven crude reserves of 145 billion barrels but he is confident the figure will jump to around 250 billion barrels with sufficient investment. He said the war-battered nation plans to boost natural gas production to seven billion cubic feet per day by 2021 from the current output of 2.7 billion cubic feet. Luaybi called on foreign investors to seize huge investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector where billions of dollars are required immediately in accordance with an Iraqi reconstruction plan.

The minister said IS attacks in Iraq had reduced the country's refining capacity from 930,000 bpd to just 450,000 bpd. But reconstruction efforts have succeeded in regaining 70,000 barrels per day. He outlined plans to build seven new refineries with a production capacity of 700,000 bpd by 2021. Luaybi also outlined plans to build new pipelines and export facilities mainly in the oil-rich southern region.

At a joint press conference later with Tillerson, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah announced that the participants in the ministerial meeting of the global coalition to defeat IS adopted a number of guidelines to ensure efforts to defeat the organization. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said the participants in the meeting agreed to continue their efforts and coordination among them to combat this organization and the phenomenon of foreign fighters, as well as coordination of communications in order to address the propaganda campaigns of IS through various means of communication, whether the media or the Internet.

Tillerson pledged to provide $200 million to support the efforts of the international coalition against IS. He expressed his thanks to Kuwait for mediating in the Gulf crisis in order to resolve it, pointing out that the US will seek to restore cooperation among the GCC countries. He also congratulated Kuwait for assuming the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council and for exerting pressure on North Korea, encouraging it to take a different path and renouncing its nuclear weapons.

FM condemns Manila ban as MPs slam...

Continued from Page 1

"It's only 2 pm and we already have 82 runaway housemaids today. By the end of the day, the figure can reach more than 100," Philippine Labor Attache Alex Padaen told Kuwait Times yesterday. "If the trend persists, we may not be able to accommodate them all here at the shelter. We have requested Manila for another shelter to house runaway domestic helpers heeding the call of the president," he added.

But Padaen called on Filipino workers to keep calm. "This is an overwhelming number. Domestic helpers have to understand that the president is not calling them all to return home - only if they are not treated well. I would like to appeal to Filipino household workers to calm down - if they are treated well by employers, they don't need to run away. A lot of reports are pouring in their Facebook newsfeeds, so most of them are confused. Please stay in your sponsor's house and complete your contract if you are not being mistreated," he appealed.

Ofelia Baleroso, 40, arrived in Kuwait only last month, but heard about Duterte's call and decided to flee with a Filipina colleague. "When I arrived here last month, she told me our boss is mistreating her. I hadn't experienced it yet, but decided to run away with her because I did not want to stay there alone. I was really scared. We told our boss that we are heeding the call of our president and would like to go to the embassy. They didn't resist and told us to leave, but didn't give us our passports," she said.

Another Filipina, Romilina Tabio, admitted she wanted to take advantage of Duterte's call to be repatriated after her father died. "My father passed away, and I wanted to go home because I hadn't seen him for years. So I grabbed the opportunity to go back home for free," she noted.

Kuwaiti authorities say 252,000 Filipinos work in Kuwait, many as maids. They are among over two million employed in the region, whose remittances are a lifeline to the Philippine economy. Domestic workers in Kuwait are not covered by regular labor legislation. Human Rights Watch and other rights groups have documented widespread abuses, including non-payment of wages, long working hours with no rest days, physical and sexual assault, and no clear channels for redress.

The Philippine foreign affairs department said Monday authorities were repatriating 10,000 overstaying Filipinos from Kuwait, taking advantage of an amnesty program arranged with the Kuwaiti government. Officials added they were eyeing China and Russia as "alternative markets" for overseas workers. Yesterday, Duterte personally welcomed Filipina workers who arrived from Kuwait at Manila airport.

At the Assembly session, MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei strongly criticized Duterte's statements against Kuwait, saying he is blackmailing Kuwait by such statements and expressed outrage at the silence of the government. He questioned if the government's silence was a kind of accepting being humiliated, or because the Philippine president's statements are true. The lawmaker called for a strong government stance and said the Philippine president is not welcome in Kuwait. He called on the government to cut off diplomatic ties with Manila and warned that if the government takes no action, it will lead to a crisis between the Assembly and the government.

MP Saleh Ashour said it seems Duterte likes action like the US and South Korean presidents, and called on the foreign minister to issue a statement to respond to the Philippine president. He urged the commerce minister to allow the recruitment of manpower from other countries. MP Adel Al-Damkhi, head of the Assembly's human rights committee, described the Philippines' statement as an attempt to distort Kuwait's image and portray as if foreign workers are being abused in the country. He said the attacks are an attempt at tarnishing Kuwait's reputation and called on the foreign ministry to respond strongly.

MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei said some maid recruitment offices enslave maids and abuse their rights, and this should be confronted. He said the government has failed to defend its own people, and as a result will not dare to defend Kuwait against those who insult it. The government said it is not silent on the issue and has raised it with Manila. The Assembly however asked its foreign relations committee to investigate the issue and submit its report on March 6.

The Assembly later approved a law in the first reading to allow non-Kuwaitis to get employment in the army in a bid to open the way for bedoons or stateless people to get jobs in the army. The government insisted to have only one vote on the law so it can be reviewed until the second and final vote.

bayt
The Middle East's #1 Job Site

ACCESS over **10,000** top jobs daily
NETWORK with professional peers
SHARE leading career content

F&B Recruitment Open Day in Kuwait - PROCAPITA
Management Consulting - Kuwait

You are responsible for attending preflight briefings on details of the flight, ensuring that adequate supplies of refreshments and emergency equipment are on board, assisting in cleaning the cabin between flights, demonstrating the use of safety and emergency equipment etc.

Apply Now JB3768550

In-Store Shopper
Tons
Kuwait

You are responsible for communicating in a positive, professional manner with the customer using customer-preferred method of messaging or phone, selecting the highest quality produce and perishables. Handle and pack items with care to avoid damage etc.

Apply Now JB3580580

Outdoor Sales
Jashanmal & Partners Limited
Kuwait

You are responsible for seeking out prospective customers/business opportunities with new and existing customers, establishing and maintaining customer relationships in order to grow profitable sales, staying current on existing and emerging product and technologies, introducing and demonstrating new products to assigned accounts.

Apply Now JB3768430

Senior Accountant
UTC Building & Industrial Systems
Kuwait

You are responsible for preparation of Major project templates and review with Operations, preparation of Asset Management report and review with collectors, preparation of NE Shipment report working, discussion with Sales team and NE Field, preparation of monthly forecast package, supporting in preparation of the Plan workings for Shipments and statistical workings etc.

Apply Now JB3768015

Contact Center Agent - Call Center - Al Bahar United - Phono
Kuwait

You are responsible for providing efficient contact handling and contact management services across various channels supported by the contact center which includes, but are not limited to telephone, chat, Email and social media communications.

Apply Now JB3768002

Channel Sales Executive
Xerox - Kuwait
Kuwait

You are responsible for organizing daily supplies schedule (Booking consumables for contract and non-contracted devices), directing Paper Sales, establishing new business thru new customers, engaging existing clients to enhance incremental sales of supplies and consumables etc.

Apply Now JB3767849

Merchandising and Branch Communication Officer
Kuwait Finance House - Kuwait

You are responsible for following the vendor Management policy, procedure manuals and systems documentation, assisting in managing the vendors across the network and ensure they understand the guidelines and can deliver consistent quality.

Apply Now JB3767843

Registrar Infection Control
Alert HR Solutions
Kuwait

You are responsible for microbiology and hospital infection control, infection Control programs, policies and procedures for the prevention of infection; clinical and laboratory tasks in regards to diagnostic methods and examination of samples etc.

Apply Now JB3767841

Graphic Designer
UPC NAL3B
KSA

You are responsible for creating, developing and executing a weekly creative work (Instagram, Twitter) for our clients which are restaurant and coffee shops, creating a company profile as well as events presentations, following and maintaining brand identity characteristics, typography, photography, color etc., evolving when necessary.

Apply Now JB3769388

Senior System Engineer
Al-Othman Holding Company
KSA

You are responsible for working escalated support issues related to Microsoft's core business solutions, WAN and LAN connectivity, routers, firewalls, security, and remote access solutions, performing network assessments, security audits and new client consultations, providing technical services and support for the following areas:- Network level: WAN and LAN connectivity, routers.

Apply Now JB3768676

Senior Quantity Surveyor
ATKINS
KSA

You are responsible for cost Planning and estimating (BCIS and NRM1); value Engineering, cash flow forecasts, Whole Life Costing, risk management; bills of Quantities production (POMI and CESSM3);
Tender services including compilation, tender analysis, negotiations and recommendations; contract drafting (FIDIC) etc.

Apply Now JB3768546

Financial Controller
Al Safi Danone
KSA

You are responsible for preparing, analyzing, and interpreting financial reports and recommends further courses of action when needed, preparing and monitoring KPIs for business divisions, assisting and coordinating in the preparation of annual budgeting & planning process, conducting reviews and evaluations for cost-reduction and/or revenue-generation opportunities etc.

Apply Now JB3768538

Chief Pharmacist
Al Zahra Hospital Sharjah
UAE

You will be responsible for analyzing performance data including pharmacy financial, customer service, and inventory, reviews KPI and identify pharmacy performance trends and opportunities for improvement.

Apply Now JB3769809

Specialist Gastroenterologist
I-Expatriate
UAE

You will be responsible for developing a roster of patients by providing compassionate, holistic care, meeting with patients to assess their symptoms; inquire into the nature of their illness or injury, accurately identify and diagnose medical conditions, thoroughly examine patients and attend to their chief complaint etc.

Apply Now JB3769806

HR Generalist/ Executive
Mohammad Omar Bin Haider Group (MOBH Group) - UAE

You will be responsible for participating in the preparation of the Human Resources Budget under the guidance of the Group Human Resources Manager, maintaining an up to date CV's Database for future facilitation of recruitment needs and assist in recruitment process and professional candidate correspondence etc.

Apply Now JB3769574

LPG Delivery Attendant
Star Services
UAE

You will be responsible for performing a variety of labor intensive duties in the storage, delivery, handling, installation and checking of LPG cylinders across the company network extending from the storage locations in the Service Stations to the end customer locations in the market etc.

Apply Now JB3769494

HR Admin/Payroll
Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co.
Qatar

You are responsible for managing the payroll, making sure all the updates regarding employee headcount are included in the WPS, calculating OT, receiving, maintaining and keeping record of the employee's leaves, attendance, additions/deletions for the medical insurance, assisting the HR department in other admin tasks etc.

Apply Now JB3769878

Accountant
Al Farraj Trading & Manufacturing Co. - Qatar

You are responsible for preparing asset, liability, and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing account information, documenting financial transactions by entering account information, recommending financial actions by analyzing accounting options.

Apply Now JB3768592

EAM F&B - 5* Hotel
Quest Search & Selection
Qatar

You are responsible for driving to provide exceptional service and standards to consistently exceed expectations, supporting staff development building mutual trust, respect, and cooperation among team members, maintaining all legal requirements, documentation and certification etc.

Apply Now JB3765771

Project Manager
BPO+
Qatar

You are responsible for managing all activities for the set-up of new university program offerings and then the program delivery. The role will look at all aspects of planning, marketing, delivery, stakeholder communication and management for the university program etc.

Apply Now JB3768688

www.bayt.com

Register 〉 Upload your CV 〉 Apply

Golden girl Geisenberger retains Olympic luge title

Canada's Gough celebrates long-awaited medal

PYEONGCHANG: German luge queen Natalie Geisenberger defended her Olympic gold medal in the women's singles in style yesterday as her nation extended its stranglehold over the event to 20 years. The 30-year-old policewoman roared home to victory ahead of silver medal-winning compatriot Dajana Eitberger, claiming her third Olympic title with a flawless pair of runs at Pyeongchang's Olympic Sliding Centre.

Canada's Alex Gough grabbed a nerve-jangling bronze, banishing the heartbreak of two fourth place finishes at Sochi. The German one-two returned the smiles to the faces of the luge superpower's camp, which was crestfallen on Sunday after defending men's champion Felix Loch crashed out of the medals with a horror final run.

Geisenberger's fourth Olympic medal overall cemented her place as luge's most decorated woman and she shrieked with joy after crossing the finish of the fourth and final run with an aggregate time of three minutes and 5.232 seconds.

"You could see with Loch, a very small mistake could have very serious consequences," the blonde Munich native told reporters after finishing a yawning 0.367 seconds ahead of Eitberger. "For me it was a real wake-up call. It brought back to my mind that the race is finished only when you go through the finish line on the fourth run and not earlier."

Overnight leader after Monday's opening runs, Geisenberger built on her slender lead with a blazing third run of 46.28 seconds, piloting her sled with model German efficiency. As a statement, it was almost as loud as the rowdy finish-line terrace, and none came close to answering it.

BUMPY RIDE

Second overnight, Eitberger's challenge stumbled with a bumpy third ride but German Vancouver champion Tatjana Huefner gave Geisenberger something to think about. The 34-year-old veteran strapped on her helmet with a face of thunder before firing down the track to slot in just behind Geisenberger ahead of the final run.

Germany's Eitberger grabs silver

There was still a mountain to climb, however, and it was Eitberger rather than Huefner who threw caution to the wind to soar into the gold medal position ahead of Geisenberger's finale. It did precisely nothing to rattle the champion who romped to victory with fire in her eyes, her nation's sixth consecutive gold in the event dating back to the 1998 Nagano Games.

Sochi bronze medallist Erin Hamlin, the United States' first Olympic medal winner in luge, bowed out with a sixth-place finish in her fourth and final Games. A day after the anniversary of the death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, who died in a training accident before the Vancouver opening ceremony, a heavy crash by Hamlin's team mate Emily Sweeney sent a scare through the venue.

Sweeney lost control and bounced off the sides of the track before losing her sled and hammering into a wall. She lay motionless for a few moments before being helped off the track by medical staff and the final run was suspended for about 10 minutes.

After a long inspection by trainers, she got to her feet and walked groggily away, raising a cheer from spectators and relieved clapping from team mates down at the finish. — Reuters

PYEONGCHAN: (L-R) Silver medallist Germany's Dajana Eitberger, gold medallist Germany's Natalie Geisenberger (C), and bronze medallist Canada's Alex Gough celebrate on the podium after the women's luge singles during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games, at the Olympic Sliding Centre yesterday. — AFP

France waits 70 years for medal, two come along

PYEONGCHANG: Victor Muffat-Jeandet staged an astonishing turnaround and endured an excruciating wait before helping end France's 70-year Olympic medal drought in the men's Alpine combined yesterday.

Muffat-Jeandet took bronze behind compatriot Alexis Pinturault and Austrian champion Marcel Hirscher to give France their first medals in the event since Henri Oreiller won gold and James Couttet bronze in 1948.

While Pinturault had been one of the favourites at the Jeongseon Alpine Centre, the chances of Muffat-Jeandet landing a medal had looked dead and buried when he recorded the 29th fastest time in the downhill run.

"I was really disappointed and angry with my downhill run," he told reporters. "In skiing, you have to do two full runs and with guys like Pinturault and Hirscher, if you do one bad run, it's not enough for the podium."

Second out in the slalom as a consequence, the 28-year-old judged his run on the icy slope perfectly and crossed the line in 46.97 seconds, only a hundredth of a second outside the time Hirscher clocked for gold.

"For me it was still not enough," he said. "There was still Marcel, still Alexis, and some downhillers who are quite good in slalom. "It was a long wait, guys after guys. In the end everyone was telling me 'okay, it's going to be okay', and I was like 'No way, there's still three or four guys'.

"Finally, I had no more emotion and I was flat." Muffat-Jeandet had recovered his emotions sufficiently by the time he spoke to reporters to start enjoying his unlikely triumph. "In my dreams I always wanted to be a skiing champion, but I didn't even think about an Olympic medal," he added with a beaming smile.

"It seemed such a long way away, the Olympic Games. It's my first Olympic Games qualification, my first race, and I won a medal." The two Frenchman won the only two combined events run on the World Cup circuit this year but Pinturault admitted that when it comes to slalom Hirscher is in a league of his own.

"He's actually really unbeatable in this discipline this year," he said. "So I knew that it's going to be difficult, tight, and I had to do my best to make anything. "I'm simply happy. Proud, too, of what Victor and I did, and also for having fought in such a good way to bring home this silver medal." — Reuters

PYEONGCHAN: Bronze medallist, France's Victor Muffat-Jeandet, celebrates during the victory ceremony of the Men's Alpine Combined at the Jeongseon Alpine Center during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang yesterday. — AFP

Medals Table

Olympic Games complete medals table on day four in PyeongChang.

Rank Country	G	S	B	Total
Germany	5	2	2	9
Netherlands	4	4	2	10
Norway	3	5	3	11
Canada	3	4	3	10
U.S.	3	1	2	6
France	2	1	2	5
Sweden	2	1	0	3
Austria	2	0	0	2
Italy	1	1	1	3
South Korea	1	0	1	2
Olympic Athlete from Russia	0	1	4	5
Japan	0	1	2	3
Czech Republic	0	1	1	2
Australia	0	1	0	1
China	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
Slovakia	0	1	0	1
Finland	0	0	2	2
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1
Total	26	26	26	78

G = Gold, S = Silver, B = Bronze

Never mind the minders: United Korea team bonds to K-pop

GANGNEUNG: They sleep in separate dorms, travel in different buses and government minders watch over them, but North Korean members of the united Korean women's ice hockey team are bonding with their team-mates from the South, thanks partly to K-pop.

Before the team, the first inter-Korean side to compete at an Olympics, took to the ice at the Pyeongchang winter Games against Sweden on Monday, they used a K-pop tune to settle their nerves.

"They were in a locker room, they were singing, dancing ... I think our players were teaching them how to K-pop dance," said the coach, Canadian Sarah Murray. The two Koreas have been divided by a heavily militarised border since the 1950-53 war, and both sides are using the Games as a way of easing tensions.

Defection is an unspoken fear at the Games, with North and South keen to avoid any incident that could ruin the mood of rapprochement, nowhere more evident than on the ice hockey rink.

Each night, players from the North sleep in a different building inside the Olympic athletes' village. Though the team eats dinner together and has gone to the seaside for coffee, the northerners are watched over by government minders, Murray said.

"But they're not interfering," the coach added. Of the 12 northern players, only one has so far appeared at a news conference at Pyeongchang. None of them has mingled with reporters in the co-called mixed zone after each match. But players from the South, who make up the bulk of the team, say the team is bonding, even if the last-minute combination has complicated their uphill quest for a medal.

One of the South's youngest players, 19-year-old forward Choi Ji-yeon, said that when she had first met players from the North at a competition four years ago, they had given her and her teammates the cold shoulder. Now she calls them sisters.

"The North Korean unnies (older sisters) kindly approached me. I got close to all of them," Choi said after the team lost to Sweden, its second defeat after a loss to Switzerland. Though the unified team, whose uniform features a blue map of a borderless Korean peninsula, have lost heavily in their first two games, against medal contenders on both occasions, they have captured the imagination of South Korean fans.

"I thought North Koreans belong to an entirely different world. But I feel like we have become one," South Korean spectator Han Yu-jin, a 20-year-old university student, said during the game against Sweden.

THE COMMON FOE, JAPAN

That inter-Korean sporting harmony should peak on Wednesday when the team takes on Japan, a former colonial power on the peninsula and common arch rival for both North and South Korea. "We have no options other than winning," South Korean forward Kim Hee-won said. "A Korean has a different mindset for a Korea-Japan match."

The coach, Murray, who had misgivings when she was asked to welcome the northern players into her squad just a few weeks before the Games, is also pleased with how they are bonding. "They are doing great," Murray said.

"When you see them sitting at the table, you can't tell who is from South Korea, who is from the North ... They are laughing. They are just girls, they are just hockey players." In truth, the unified team is more than a sum of two parts.

Four of South Korea's 23 players are naturalized athletes born and raised in America or Canada, and another two hold dual citizenships of South Korea and the United States. That makes this a team of four nations.

"Even though for me I can't talk to most of them because I don't speak Korean, we still smile and hug each other every day," said Park Yoon-jung, who was born in Korea and adopted by an American couple and raised in Minnesota. — Reuters

Dominant Dutch win gold, silver in men's 1,500m

GANGNEUNG: Dutch speed skaters continued their dominance at the Olympic Games yesterday with world champion Kjeld Nuis powering to gold in the men's 1,500 metres ahead of compatriot Patrick Roest.

South Korea's Kim Min-seok sparked wild celebrations by taking bronze to open the host nation's speed skating account at the Games. The Netherlands has won eight of the 12 speed skating medals at available so far, including all four golds.

Nuis, the first reigning world champion to win Olympic gold in the distance, made a blistering start and finished in one minute 44.01 seconds despite losing speed on the final lap.

"I can't even describe the feeling, it's really weird," he told reporters. "I have to calm down just a little. I'm okay, I'm really, really happy." Paired with Japanese skater Takuro Oda, Nuis came out of the first turn trailing his opponent and falling behind made him push harder in his opening lap.

"When I was entering the first turn and I saw him come out first, I was like 'Hey, what's this guy doing?'," the 28-year-old added. "I gained some speed and we both did a really good first lap. "It really helped me get in the race and I had really good first crossing thanks to him."

Denis Yuskov, who holds the world record in the 1,500m, is not at not at the Games as part of the fallout from the Russian doping scandal. "Last year I was racing (Yuskov) here and we had a really good race," Nuis said. "I enjoyed racing him and it was nice to beat him last year. Today I had to do it all by myself and it was also a good race. Did I miss him? No."

Skating in the fourth pair of the evening, 22-year-old Roest set the time to beat, powering across the line in 1 minute 44.86 seconds before facing an anxious wait of more than an hour to see where he would end up.

"It was not fun. It was very nervous for me," Roest said after his Olympic debut. "It was hard. I sat with my family and I was watching all the races. Some of them came so close, I was so nervous."

Racing after Nuis, Kim responded to the cheers of the crowd with a huge effort and made a late surge in the last two laps to finish 0.07 seconds behind Roest for third. "When passing 700 metres my legs were stiff and I was panting really hard," he said through an interpreter. "But I think the cheering from the fans motivated me a lot.

"This Olympics is held in Korea so I practised really hard. I didn't expect that much but I'm really happy to get this result." The United States endured another tough day on the ice and are still without a medal after four races, with Joey Mantia finishing eighth, and Brian Hansen and veteran Shani Davis 15th and 19th respectively. — Reuters

Gold for Kim, Hirscher as first doping case rocks Olympics

Canada beat Switzerland to win mixed doubles curling

PYEONGCHANG: American teenager Chloe Kim and Austrian ski ace Marcel Hirscher lit up the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics yesterday on a day of drama that included the first doping scandal of the Games. Snowboarder Kim, 17, snatched the first of the day's eight gold medals in the women's halfpipe, while World Cup maestro Hirscher ended his long wait for a debut Olympic title.

But Japan's short-track speed skater Kei Saito, 21, was at the centre of the first doping scandal in Pyeongchang after testing positive for a banned diuretic. Saito, who has left the athletes' village, was provisionally suspended pending an investigation. He protested his innocence and vowed to clear his name.

"I want to fight to prove my innocence because I don't remember (taking the drug) and it's incomprehensible," he said in a statement. While Kim's brilliant run in the halfpipe stole the show, gold medals also went to Sweden and Norway in cross country skiing, and Italy in short-track speedskating.

Canada beat Switzerland to win the mixed doubles curling, while the Dutch maintained their perfect record in speedskating with a double in the men's 1,500m.

On the slopes, Austrian star Hirscher cemented his legacy as the best skier of his generation with victory in the combined event. Hirscher, 28, has been the outstanding skier in his slalom speciality for years, with 55 career World Cup wins.

But one prize had always eluded him-an Olympic gold medal. His previous best was a slalom silver from Sochi four years ago. After playing down his chances ahead of the race at blustery freezing Pyeongchang, this time he nailed it.

"All the people expected me to win a gold medal, especially in Austria, my home country, where skiing is big," he said. "Everyone is saying, 'Nice career, but an Olympic gold medal is still missing'. This is perfect, unbelievable."

> "This is perfect, unbelievable"

'THIS ONE'S FOR GRAMS!'

For Kim, her debut Olympics turned golden as she romped to snowboarding halfpipe victory. Born in the United States to Korean parents, Kim burst into tears as the enormity of her achievement sunk in. The teenager, who has melted the hearts of home fans in Pyeongchang, justified her status as the hot favourite with an eye-popping top score of 98.25.

Pumping her fists after finishing with back-to-back 1080 spins, Kim revealed that her number one fan-her Seoul-based grandmother-had been in the crowd cheering her on.

"I actually only found out my grandma was at the bottom before my second run," she said. "So I thought 'this one's for Grams!'" Also celebrating gold was Stina Nilsson, who won the women's cross country sprint classic for Sweden. In the men's event, Johannes Klaebo of Norway won gold on his Olympic debut.

PYEONGCHANG: USA's gold medallist Chloe Kim poses on the podium during the medal ceremony for the snowboard women's Halfpipe at the Pyeongchang Medals Plaza during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang. — AFP

Italy got their first gold of the Games through Arianna Fontana in the 500m women's short-track speed skating. South Korean multi-medal hope Choi Min-jeong finished second but was disqualified.

In speed skating, the Dutch claimed their fourth gold medal with a one-two in the men's 1,500m through Kjeld Nuis and Patrick Roest. In curling, Canada's Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris danced with delight after hammering Switzerland 10-3 to take the inaugural Olympic mixed doubles title. — AFP

Russian, American skeleton racers refuse to break the ice

PYEONGCHANG: Russian and American skeleton racers are refusing to speak to each other at the Pyeongchang winter Games in a spat that centres on allegations of widespread Russian doping. In a squabble contrasting with an Olympics detente between old enemies North and South Korea, Russians and Americans at the sliding track on Tuesday were in no mood to make up.

Speaking to Reuters after training runs on Tuesday, two athletes from Russia and an American skeleton racer said there was no contact between them, mostly because of the underlying tensions surrounding Russian athletes' presence at the Games.

"Obviously there is some language barrier that exists between all nations," said US skeleton athlete Matt Antoine, who won bronze at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. But he added: "Do I believe they've competed fairly? No, and I've been very vocal about that. So I don't really have a need to have a conversation with those athletes."

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) last year banned Russian athletes from competing formally from these Games over what it called the "systematic manipulation" of doping tests at the 2014 winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

Instead, it has allowed Russians with no history of doping to compete at the Games as neutral athletes, at its invitation. Russian skeleton racer Nikita Tregubov said his American rivals did not speak to him or compatriot Vladislav Marchenkov, creating an unpleasant atmosphere around the track.

"They scold us without evidence," Tregubov said. "We weren't the ones who started it. It wasn't us. I didn't start anything. It's up to them to start over for there to be a good atmosphere."

UNFAIR COMPETITION

With relations strained over the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine and American allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 US president election, something Moscow denies, Russian-US ties have plummeted to a post-Cold War low.

Russia's foreign minister said last week the Olympic ban stemmed from a US attempt to weaken the competition. Tregubov also accused British skeleton racers of having joined the Americans in snubbing them.

"They were drawn into this," he said. "We used to get along great. People have changed abruptly." When questioned by Reuters yesterday, British skeleton racers Jerry Rice and Dom Parsons said a language barrier had limited the interaction between them and the Russians.

"I'm friendly with everyone around the track," Rice said. "There's always the language barrier with obviously some nations. I don't speak Russian, they don't speak English." Parsons said athletes were also focused on the competition, not each other. "I think when we're at the track all of us are very focused on what we are doing anyway," he said.

Last week, the chief of mission for the group of Russian athletes, Stanislav Pozdnyakov, said a member of the Canadian delegation in Pyeongchang had mistreated a Russian coach. Pozdnyakov, who did not disclose the nature of the incident nor the identities of those involved, said the Canadian Olympic Committee had apologised. — Reuters

Fifth time lucky? Olympic gold beckons for Savchenko

GANGNEUNG: Germany's celebrated pairs skater Aljona Savchenko is in Pyeongchang on a hunt for an elusive Olympic title at her fifth attempt. The Ukrainian born 34-year-old has a mantlepiece straining under the weight of awards earned from a sparkling career in the rink. And with partner Bruno Massot she will start as one of the favourites in the 2018 competition which gets underway with the short programme yesterday. But there are some sizeable obstacles blocking their path. China's Sui Wenjing and Han Cong have every right to believe they can add this to their world championship title in Helsinki last year with Savchenko and Massot runners-up. Then there's Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford, the Canadian team gold medallists.

Radford is on a high after becoming the first openly gay Olympic champion. And two time European champions Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov representing Olympic Athletes from Russia hope to have a say in the outcome too.

A couple on and off the ice, they successfully defended their European crown in mid-January in Moscow before winning the pairs short programme segment of the team event in South Korea. Skating for honour rather than for medals, are the North Korean pair Ryom Tae-Ok and Kim Ju-Sik, among 22 athletes from north of the boder taking part amid an inter-Korean reconciliation drive.

Savchenko and Massot turned up in Pyeongchang in superb shape after establishing a new pairs free skate record en route to Grand Prix Final success at Nagoya in Japan in December. "We did a very good free in Japan, but I think we still can do better than that," said Massot. "The goal is to skate clean at first, then the result will come," said his experienced partner. "We want to bring art on to the ice and combine pair skating and ice dance so that it becomes one." Savchenko represented her country of birth in her first Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2002.

GANGNEUNG: Germany's Aljona Savchenko (bottom) and Germany's Bruno Massot compete in the figure skating team event pair skating short program during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games at the Gangneung Ice Arena in Gangneung. —AFP

She then teamed up with Robin Szolkowy to represent Germany for the last three Games, coming away with bronze from Vancouver and Sochi, and the not inconsiderable feat of five world titles. With Szolkowy leaving the stage she turned to French born Massot, who moved to Germany and received German citizenship last November.

STRONG FIELD

With multiple world and European podiums together this could well be their time to strike it big. They tuned up in the team event won by Canada on Monday, with not everything going to plan as Savchenko took a fall. "With a fall, you cannot be satisfied. But this is why we have that kind of rehearsal," she shrugged.

Massot was unhappy over the morning scheduling for the figure skating at the Gangneung Ice Arena. "It is always more difficult when you have an early morning practice and then the competition takes place two hours later. Maybe that schedule is good for the TV, but not for the athletes."

Ryom and Kim meanwhile are the only North Koreans competing at the Games who met the Olympic qualifying standards. "They're not here to win a medal, let's be honest, they're ranked 15th in the world. It's a really strong field," said their coaching consultant Bruno Marcotte last week.

"They were 15th at the world championships in Helsinki, if they come top 12 we'd be ecstatic. "Their main focus and mine with them is to help them improve their personal best score." — AFP

Stina takes sprint gold for Sweden

PYEONGCHANG: Stina Nilsson swept aside the field in the Olympic women's sprint classic final yesterday, powering to victory in a time of 3:03.8 to secure Sweden's second cross-country gold of the Games.

Maiken Caspersen Falla of Norway, who won the event in Sochi four years ago, took the silver medal and Yulia Belorukova, representing the Olympic Athletes of Russia, claimed the bronze.

Strong winds again whipped up the snow on the course as the field was whittled down from 68 starters to the six who contested the final. The 24-year-old Nilsson, who has a superb sprinting pedigree, took control early in each of her races and the final was no different as she sped away up the first hill.

The sprint around the 1,176-metre course requires maximum effort and leaves no margin for error, but Nilsson barely had to look over her shoulder as she glided across the line, arms aloft, to claim victory just over three seconds ahead of Falla.

The Norwegian was locked in a furious battle for second with the 24-year-old Belorukova, and she had to call on every ounce of her experience to hold off the challenge of the Russian in a sprint finish, sliding a ski over the line to claim the silver. With Charlotte Kalla winning the skiathlon, Nilsson's gold was the second for Sweden's women in Pyeongchang.

"I had a really good day, felt strong already in the prologue, I felt strong in quarters, and in semi I felt like I had some energy saved for the final," Nilsson told a news conference. "I wanted to cross the finish line totally tired, so I just went for it in the last uphill."

PYEONGCHANG: Gold medalist Sweden's Stina Nilsson reacts on the podium during the victory ceremony in the women's cross-country individual sprint classic final at the Alpensia cross country ski centre. — AFP

Sochi champion Falla said she struggled in the conditions. "The course I think it was hard, especially on the downhill, a little bit different form the last day. It was very difficult to ski down," she told reporters.

"The whole race, I think there as a lot of wind and cold temperatures. Not the easiest conditions, but it was nearly the same for everybody." — Reuters

Late Boult strikes give New Zealand 12-run win over England

Australia qualified for final at Eden Park

SCOREBOARD

WELLINGTON: Completed scoreboard in the fourth Twenty20 tri-series match between New Zealand and England in Wellington yesterday:

New Zealand

M. Guptill c Plunkett b Rashid	65
C. Munro c Billings b Wood	11
K. Williamson b Jordan	72
C. de Grandhomme c Jordon b Rashid	0
M. Chapman c Billings b Wood	20
R. Taylor not out	1
T. Seifert not out	14
Extras (b1, lb5, w7)	13
Total (5 wickets; 20 overs)	196

Fall of wickets: 1-39 (Munro), 2-121 (Guptill), 3-121 (de Grandhomme), 4-169 (Williamson), 5-181 (Chapman)
Did not bat: M. Santner, T. Southee, I. Sodhi, T. Boult
Bowling: Willey 4-0-36-0, Wood 4-0-51-2 (3w), Jordan 4-0-34-1 (2w), Plunkett 4-0-33-0 (2w), Rashid 4-0-36-2.

England

J. Roy c Boult b Southee	8
A. Hales c de Grandhomme b Sodhi	47
D. Malan c Boult b Santner	59
J. Vince run out (Williamson)	10
J. Buttler c Southee b Sodhi	2
S. Billings c Sodhi b Santner	12
D. Willey run out (Seifert)	21
C. Jordan b Boult	6
L. Plunkett b Boult	0
A. Rashid not out	8
M. Wood not out	5
Extras (b2, w2, lb2)	6
Total (9 wickets; 20 overs)	184

Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Roy), 2-79 (Hales), 3-95 (Vince), 4-109 (Buttler), 5-129 (Billings), 6-158 (Malan), 7-168 (Jordan), 8-168 (Plunkett), 9-172 (Willey)
Bowling: Boult 4-0-46-2, Santner 4-0-29-2 (w1), Southee 4-0-30-1 (w1), Sodhi 4-0-49-2, Munro 2-0-11-0, de Grandhomme 2-0-15-0.

Result: New Zealand won by 12 runs

WELLINGTON: Trent Boult grabbed two wickets on successive balls to help New Zealand to a 12-run win over England in their Twenty20 tri-series match at Wellington Regional Stadium yesterday.

Left-arm seamer Boult bowled Chris Jordan and then Liam Plunkett on the final two deliveries of the 18th over to reduce the visitors to 168 for eight in their pursuit of 197 for victory. Adil Rashid kept out the hat-trick delivery on the first ball of the final over but there was too much for the leg spinner and Chris Wood to do and they finished on 184 for nine.

"It was a must-win for us in terms of the series," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said in reference to their seven-wicket loss to Australia in their opening match. "This is a very strong England side and we had to play some really good cricket."

> "It was a must-win for us"

Australia have already qualified for the final at Eden Park on Feb. 21 after winning all three of their matches so far. Williamson anchored New Zealand's 196 for five with 72 while he also shared in an 82-run second-wicket partnership with Martin Guptill, who scored 65 from 40 balls.

Mark Chapman, who has also played international cricket for Hong Kong, and debutant Tim Seifert then did what they had been brought into the side to do with quick-fire cameos in the middle order. Chapman scored 20, while wicketkeeper Seifert hit two sixes in his six-ball innings of 14 to take the hosts to the equal highest Twenty20 international score on the ground.

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's Trent Boult (L) bowls to England's Jason Roy (R) during the first Twenty20 cricket match between New Zealand and England at Westpac Stadium in Wellington yesterday. —AFP

"We were able to build partnerships throughout that gave us momentum and the two debutants were outstanding," Williamson added. "They showed their power which allowed us to get an above-par total." Alex Hales got England's run chase off to a fast start with 47 from 24 balls before Dawid Malan gave England hope for victory as he scored 59 from 40 deliveries. Malan's dismissal in the 17th over with the visitors needing 39 runs for victory, effectively ended their chances.

"It was maybe 10 to 15 runs too many ... and we didn't bowl as well as we could have," England captain Jos Buttler said. "We got a fantastic start with Alex and that partnership with Malan, we needed to just extend a bit longer then we didn't get those cameos in the middle order." New Zealand face in Australia the next game of the series in Auckland on Friday.— Reuters

Sharma ton helps India secure ODI series victory

PORT ELIZABETH: Rohit Sharma's century helped India wrap up the One Day International series against hosts South Africa with a 73-run victory at St George's Park yesterday. India took an unassailable 4-1 lead in the six-match series as Sharma finally came good with the bat, scoring 115 after India were asked to bat first and amassed 274 for seven wickets in their 50 overs.

South Africa, who needed victory to keep alive their hopes of levelling the series, were all out for 201 in response. India replace South Africa at the top of the International Cricket Council's ODI rankings. India's ODI series victory came after they lost 2-1 in the three tests played between the two countries last month.

Sharma had struggled with his batting on tour but got India off to a storming start as he finally found form. He was dropped on 96 by Tabraiz Shamsi before going onto make his 17th ODI century, reached off just 107 balls. "It was a long time coming. I just had to keep myself in a good frame of mind. I didn't feel I had to change a lot and I knew that the runs would come," he said after being named man of the match.

But his dismissal, for India's fourth wicket, precipitated a mini collapse as 21-year-old fast bowler Lungisani Ngidi took four wickets in quick succession to finish with figures of 4-51.

India's last 10 overs produced only 55 runs and handed South Africa a gettable target at a run rate of 5.50. But the hosts were 65-3 when AB de Villiers went cheaply after a rash shot in the 13th over and once Hashim Amla departed for 71 after a needless run out, home hopes were dashed.

A cameo 39 from wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaasen, who had been the hero of South Africa's victory in the last match, could not stem the inevitable. Kuldeep Yadav cleaned up the tail to finish with 4-57 in his 10 overs."We lost wickets in clumps and never got any momentum although it was a decent tally to chase," South Africa's stand-in captain Aiden Markram said. The last match of the series is at Centurion in Pretoria on Friday and will be followed by three Twenty20 clashes. — Reuters

PORT ELIZABETH: South Africa batsman David Miller swipes during the fifth One Day International cricket match between South Africa and India at Saint George Park, in Port Elizabeth, yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

PORT ELIZABETH: Scoreboard at close of play of 5th ODI between South Africa and India yesterday at Port Elizabeth, South Africa

India win by 73 runs

India

S Dhawan c A Phehlukwayo b Rabada	34
R Sharma c Klaasen b Ngidi	115
V Kohli Run Out Duminy	36
A Rahane Run Out Morkel	8
S Iyer c Klaasen b Ngidi	30
H Pandya c Klaasen b Ngidi	0
MS Dhoni c Markram b Ngidi	13
B Kumar Not Out	19
K Yadav Not Out	2
Extras 1b 9lb 0nb Open 7w	17
Total (50.0 overs)	274-7

Fall of Wickets : 1-48 Dhawan, 2-153 Kohli, 3-176 Rahane, 4-236 Sharma, 5-236 Pandya, 6-238 Iyer, 7-265 Dhoni.
Did Not Bat : Bumrah, Chahal
Bowling: Morkel 10-2-44-0, K Rabada 9-0-58-1, Ngidi 9-1-51-4, Phehlukwayo 8-0-34-0, JP Duminy 4-0-29-0, Shamsi 10-0-48-0.

South Africa

H Amla Run Out Pandya	71
A Markram c Kohli b Bumrah	32
JP Duminy c R Sharma b Pandya	1
AB de Villiers c Dhoni b Pandya	6
D Miller b Chahal	36
H Klaasen st Dhoni b K Yadav	39
A Phehlukwayo b K Yadav	0
K Rabada c Chahal b K Yadav	3
Morne Morkel lbw Chahal	1
Tabraiz Shamsi	c
Pandya b K Yadav	0
Lungi Ngidi Not Out	4
Extras 0b 6lb 0nb Open 2w	8
Total (42.2 overs) 201 all out	

Fall of Wickets : 1-52 Markram, 2-55 Duminy, 3-65 de Villiers, 4-127 Miller, 5-166 Amla, 6-168, Phehlukwayo, 7-196 Rabada, 8-197 Klaasen, 9-197 Shamsi, 10-201 Morkel
Bowling: B Kumar 7-0-43-0, J Bumrah 7-0-22-1, H Pandya 9-0-30-2, K Yadav 10-0-57-4, Y Chahal 9.2-0-43-2. ñ Reuters

Zidane not worried about future before crunch PSG tie

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said yesterday he is not concerned about his future as his side prepare to face Paris St Germain in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie which could determine whether he continues at the club. The Frenchman became the first coach in the Champions League era to successfully defend the trophy last season and also led Real to the La Liga title. However, this season his side have fallen 17 points behind league leaders Barcelona, damaging his managerial reputation.

With Real also out of the King's Cup, the clash against the Ligue 1 leaders and their ferocious trident of Neymar, Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe represents an opportunity to salvage one of the club's worst campaigns in recent history.

"Right now I'm not thinking about my future, I'm only thinking about the game as it's the only thing we can control so we're focusing on preparing for the game and we'll see what happens," Zidane told a news conference ahead of Wednesday's first leg in Madrid.

"Every game and every training session is important to me but my future is not important. I'm very happy about playing these types of games, today there's no pressure in particular, we've prepared the game in the same way we always do. "There will always be pressure here, it's something habitual, but I'm going to keep enjoying myself."

Zidane is facing a French team for the first time since taking the reins at Real in 2016, but said he had nothing to prove back in his home country. "We're not going to change what people think of us, all we can do is work hard, and working hard is my passion. I try to transmit things to my players but I have nothing to prove tomorrow, I just want to play the game, I don't care what people say about me," he said.— Reuters

Stokes to join England squad in New Zealand

LONDON: Ben Stokes will join the England squad in New Zealand after he pleaded not guilty to a charge of affray in court yesterday, the England and Wales Cricket Board said. "Having entered his plea at Bristol Magistrates' Court today, Ben Stokes will now travel to New Zealand to join the England squad," said an ECB spokesman.

"He departs today, and will arrive on Friday 16 February, ready to train with England team-mates in Hamilton." All-rounder Stokes, accused of involvement in an altercation outside a nightclub in the southwestern English city of Bristol that cost him his place on the Ashes tour, pleaded not guilty to the charge of affray.

Stokes, who has not played for England since the incident cost him a place on the Ashes tour of Australia, was cleared for selection by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) last month.

His court appearance came on the day England played New Zealand in a T20 match in Wellington, their first game in a tri-series also involving Australia.

Stokes, 28-year-old Ryan Ali and 26-year-old Ryan Hale spoke to confirm their names, dates of birth, addresses and nationalities. A spokesman for the magistrates' court said all three were sent to Bristol Crown Court on unconditional bail for a hearing to start on March 12.

British media reports said all three had indicated they were acting in self-defence or defence of another. Stokes, vice-captain of the England Test team and one of world cricket's most destructive batsmen, was arrested on Sept. 26 after scoring 73 in a 124-run one day international win over West Indies in the south-western city. —Agencies

Ben Stokes

Live — Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Porto v Liverpool	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Real Madrid v Paris Saint	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 1	

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Sydney v Suwon Samsung Bluewings	11:30
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Guangzhou Evergrande v Buriram United	12:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Kashima Antlers v Shanghai Greenland Shenhua	13:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Jeju United v Cerezo Osaka	13:45
beIN SPORTS HD 6	

Kuwait Times
Established 1961

Sport Times

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

13 Golden girl Geisenberger retains Olympic luge title

14 Gold for Kim, Hirscher as first doping case rocks Olympics

15 Sharma ton helps India secure ODI series victory

Man City finish off Basel in 23 minutes

Tottenham battle back to earn 2-2 draw at Juve

BASEL: Manchester City's Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva (L) vies for the ball with Basel's Paraguayan defender Blas Riveros during the UEFA Champions League round of 16 first leg football match between Basel and Manchester City at the Saint Jakob-Park Stadium in Basel yesterday. — AFP

BASEL: Manchester City effectively killed off their Champions League tie against FC Basel after 23 minutes yesterday, flattening the Swiss champions with three quickfire goals on their way to a 4-0 away win.

Ilkay Gundogan, Bernardo Silva and Sergio Aguero scored within nine minutes of each other in the last 16 first leg tie to almost certainly extend Basel's wait for a first quarter-final appearance in the competition.

Gundogan curled in the fourth from the edge of the area in the 53rd minute as the runaway English Premier League leaders clocked up another emphatic win in their remarkable season.

Basel did their best to make a game of it and created several openings but looked vulnerable every time City attacked.

In Turin, Tottenham Hotspur recovered from conceding twice in the opening nine minutes to secure a 2-2 draw away to Juventus in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie yesterday.

Gonzalo Higuain struck for Juve after two minutes and again from the penalty spot after nine as Tottenham were rocked, but the visitors responded in impressive fashion. Harry Kane fired home in the 35th minute to halve the deficit-the first goal Juventus have conceded in 2018 — before Higuain wasted the chance to score a hat-trick when his penalty on the stroke of halftime hit the crossbar.

Tottenham were rewarded for their endeavour when Christian Eriksen's free kick levelled it up in the 71st minute, meaning the Londoners will fancy their chances of knocking out last year's runners-up in next month's second leg at Wembley.

Tottenham arrived full of confidence after winning their group containing last year's winners Real Madrid, but they suffered a dreadful opening 10 minutes. Juventus, unbeaten in their previous 26 home matches in Europe, took the lead after two minutes when a clever free kick by Miralem Pjanic picked out Higuain who swivelled to volley right-footed past Hugo Lloris.

Tottenham had barely put two passes together when they fell further behind seven minutes later from the penalty spot. Ben Davies was caught napping and his clumsy foul on Federico Bernardeschi gave the referee an easy decision to point to the spot. Higuain duly converted despite Lloris guessing the right way and getting a touch on the ball.

The rest of the half belonged to the visitors as they shrugged of the double blow to dominate possession. With Christian Eriksen and Mousa Dembele pulling the strings for Tottenham in midfield, Juve retreated and they were indebted to veteran keeper Gianluigi Buffon for two fine saves to deny in-form striker Kane.

There was nothing he could do though when Dele Alli picked out Kane in the 35th minute and the England striker drifted past the keeper before coolly sliding home. Tottenham had a huge let-off on the stroke of halftime when they were caught on the counter-attack and Douglas Costa enticed Serge Aurier into a desperate lunge to concede another penalty.

Higuain took the ball but rather than celebrate a first-half hat-trick his penalty rattled against the crossbar. Juventus played more like the away side in the second half with Tottenham again pressing, although the hosts went close with Lloris saving well from Bernardeschi and Mario Mandzukic then heading straight at the French keeper.

Eriksen, arguably the best player on the pitch, levelled for Tottenham in the 71st minute when his low free kick deceived Buffon and nestled in the corner. — Reuters

Winning starts for Tianjin, Shanghai in Champions League

SEOUL: Big-name strikers such as Hulk and Alexandre Pato may have drawn a blank as the AFC Champions League last-32 group phase got underway but their Chinese Super League teams kicked off with vital victories yesterday.

Tianjin Quanjian, making a first appearance in the tournament in which 32 teams are divided into eight groups of four, defeated Kitchee of Hong Kong 3-0. Former French U-21 international Anthony Modeste, signed for over $40 million last summer, opened the scoring in the first half as Tianjin, who finished third in the 2017 Chinese Super League, took control.

An own goal and a Sun Ke strike gave Tianjin the win despite the best efforts of Kitchee striker Diego Forlan, the 38-year-old who once starred for Manchester United and Inter Milan. SIPG, semi-finalists in 2017 after spending more than $100 million on Brazilian stars Hulk and Oscar, won 1-0 at Kawasaki Frontale.

The team's less-heralded Brazilian import Elkeson grabbed the only goal of the game against the Japanese champions midway through the first half. The 2016 winners Jeonbuk Motors returned to the competition in style, coming from 2-0 down in South Korea to defeat Japanese visitors Kashiwa Reysol 3-2 thanks to a second-half brace from 39 year-old Lee Dong-guk.

Jeonbuk, banned from defending its title in 2017 after a club scout was indicted for bribing referees in domestic competitions in 2013 and 2014, conceded two first half goals before Lee, who appeared in the English Premier League for Middlesbrough in 2007, inspired a comeback.

Earlier yesterday, South Korea's Ulsan Horang-I took the lead three times at Melbourne Victory but had to settle for a 3-3 draw. In West Zone action, substitute Baghdad Bounedjah struck twice late in the match as Qatar's Al Sadd clinched a 2-1 win over the UAE's Al Wasl in Dubai.

Bounedjah, who only got back to action last week after being sidelined for more than two months with a fracture, first put away a sublime Xavi pass in the 79th minute to help Al Sadd cancel out Fabio Lima's 26th minute goal for Al Wasl.

The Algerian then ensured three points for the 2011 champions with a 90th minute goal following an Akram Afif pass which the Al Wasl defence failed to clear. Qatar's Al Rayyan, however dropped points at home against Iran's Estheglal after settling for a 2-2 draw, with captain Rodrigo Tabata having a mixed outing.

DUBAI: UAE's Al-Wasl player Salem Juma Awad (R) fights for the ball against Qatar's al-Sadd player Abdelkarim Hassan yesterday. — AFP

The Michael Laudrup coached Al Rayyan were in for a horror start when Tabata deflected a powerful shot from two-time AFC Player of the Year Server Djeeparov into his own goal in the sixth minute.

But the classy midfielder more than made amends by providing the assist for Abdelrazzaq Hamdalla to equalise in the 18th minute and then himself found the net 10 minutes later to help Al Rayyan take the lead. — AFP

Kuwait Times
Established 1961

Business

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

18 Warba Bank offers innovative and fully-digital account opening service

19 Stock market rout halts oil price rally; two-month gains wiped off

21 KFH reaps 28 renowned international awards in 2017

MIAMI, FL: Heavy traffic is seen along I-95 on Monday in Miami, Florida. President Donald Trump announced his infrastructure proposal on Monday in which he plans on investing at least $1.5 trillion on new projects, shorten permitting time to two years, invest in rural projects and improve worker training. —AFP

Trump unveils ambitious infrastructure plan

Budget proposals include steep social cuts, rising deficits

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Monday unveiled an ambitious proposal to renew American infrastructure as part of a budget that calls for a stunning rise in debt and trillions in cuts to the social safety net and other spending.

The blueprint for the 2019 fiscal year abandons the long-held Republican goal of balancing the federal budget within a decade, with deficits projected to peak in 2020 and persist into the foreseeable future amid an aggressive and costly defense buildup.

The initiative to revive crumbling US roads, bridges and airports includes just $200 billion in federal funds, which the White House says will spur at least another $1.3 trillion in investments from state governments and private investors.

Administration officials tout the infrastructure plan as part of a shift back to national priorities, with $50 billion dedicated to projects in rural areas, many of which favored Trump in the 2016 elections.

Trump said the shift comes in the wake of the wasteful military spending since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. But he also touted a big boost in defense spending, including a revived nuclear arsenal that would leave the US armed forces "far in excess of anybody else."

"We have spent $7 trillion in the Middle East, $7 trillion. What a mistake," Trump said Monday. "And we're trying to build roads and bridges and fix bridges that are falling down and we have a hard time getting the money and its crazy."

Over 10 years, the White House proposal seeks to slash trillions in spending across the much of the federal government, with the knife going especially deep into spending on health and poverty. It would eliminate former President Barack Obama's signature health insurance program and cut more than $200 billion in food assistance for the poor while cutting medical programs aimed at the poor and older Americans.

US to push for 'reciprocal tax' on partners

Reciprocal tax

Trump said he would push for a "reciprocal tax" against countries, including US allies, that levy tariffs on American products, but officials did not provide details on how such a tax would be structured or what goods it would apply to. During his populist 2016 presidential campaign, Republican Trump railed at countries that had trade surpluses "taking advantage of the United States" and he revisited the theme on Monday.

"We cannot continue to let people come into our country and rob us blind and charge us tremendous tariffs and taxes and we charge them nothing," Trump told reporters at a White House event to announce a proposed infrastructure plan. The United States loses "vast amounts of money with China and Japan and South Korea and so many other countries ... It's a little tough for them because they've gotten away with murder for 25 years. But we're going to be changing policy," he said.

Trump said his administration will impose a "reciprocal tax" to charge other countries - "some of them are so-called allies but they're not allies on trade."

He did not specify how such a tax would be structured, or whether he meant that US tariff rates should be raised to equal to those charged by other major trading partners. Administration officials were not immediately able to elaborate on the president's comments.

Trump cited motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson as an example of the problem of unfair trade. Harley is building a factory in Thailand, partly because its US-built bikes face a 60 percent tariff there.

The United States has pledged to the World Trade Organization a relatively low, 3.5 percent applied tariff rate, compared to 9.9 percent for China and 5.2 percent for the European Union. For some products, the gap is much wider, such as in passenger vehicles, where the United States charges 2.5 percent tariffs, versus 25 percent in China and 10 percent in the EU. It was also unclear whether Trump was reviving the idea of a border adjustment tax, an idea rejected by congressional Republicans in last year's tax reform effort. —Agencies

IEA: US output is putting brakes on oil prices

PARIS: Surging oil production in the United States is putting the brakes on crude prices, recently in recovery from a long slump resulting from a worldwide supply glut, the International Energy Agency said yesterday. "Oil price rises have come to a halt and gone into reverse," the IEA wrote in its monthly oil market report, saying the "main factor" behind this was booming US oil production.

"For now, the upward momentum that drove the price of Brent crude oil to $70 per barrel has stalled," it said. Oil prices fell from giddy heights of $115 per barrel in 2014 to under $35 at the start of 2016. But the market has observed a turnaround since, and oil prices rose from an average $44 in 2016 to $54 in 2017 to nearly $70 last month.

One of the main factors behind this was a deal struck by OPEC countries and other oil-producing countries, such as Russia, at the end of 2016 to throttle production. That deal has since been extended until the end of 2018. Nevertheless, wooed by rising crude prices, shale producers, particularly in the US-who are not party to the deal-are ramping up output to cash in on the boom.

And that, in turn, is jeopardizing the delicate balance that the market has now reached.

"In 2018, fast rising production in non-OPEC countries, led by the US, is likely to grow by more than demand," the IEA said. In just three months to November, crude output in the US increased by a colossal 846,000 barrels per day, "and will soon overtake that of Saudi Arabia," the agency said.

"By the end of this year, it might also overtake Russia to become the global leader."

'Sobering thought'

Shale production is controversial, because in order to extract oil and gas, a high-pressure mixture of water, sand and chemicals is blasted deep underground to release hydrocarbons trapped between layers of rock. And environmentalists argue that the process-known as fracking, or hydraulic fracturing technology-may contaminate ground water and even cause small earthquakes. The IEA said that the current situation was "reminiscent of the first wave of US shale growth that, riding the tide of high oil prices in the early years of this decade, made big gains in terms of market share." "Today, having cut costs dramatically, US producers are enjoying a second wave of growth so extraordinary that in 2018 their increase in liquids production could equal global demand growth," the IEA said.

This was "a sobering thought for other producers currently sitting on shut-in production capacity and facing a renewed challenge to their market share," the agency pointed out.

It also noted that trade patterns were changing, and the US was, for example, now exporting to the United Arab Emirates. "Such a development would have seemed incredible a few years ago, now it looks like the shape of things to come," it said.

Nevertheless, the components of the oil market balance are dynamic and a lot could change in the next few months, the IEA cautioned, pointing to the deteriorating situation in Venezuela, an OPEC member. The apparent buoyancy of the global economy was also a factor to watch.

It "could deliver higher demand growth than we currently anticipate. As a result, prices could be maintained at recent levels even as US production rises," the IEA suggested.

All in all, however, "the underlying oil market fundamentals in the early part of 2018 look less supportive for prices," it concluded. Oil prices were slightly firmer on the day in morning trading in Europe yesterday, with WTI futures at $59.50 and Brent Crude at $62.85. —AFP

Warba Bank offers innovative and fully-digital account opening service

'Customer Onboarding,' fastest and convenient account opening service in region

KUWAIT: Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem (second from right) addresses a press conference

A group photo of the Warba Bank team

KUWAIT: In light of its ambitious five-year strategy to become a corporate and investment banking champion with digitally enabled retail business for evolving consumer needs, Warba Bank has launched its latest innovative solution for "Customer Onboarding". The new solution will enable customers who wish to have an Al-Sunbulah Account to apply for opening such an account directly through the bank's website without the need to visit any of its branches.

Through this service, new customers will be able to apply for opening their new Al-Sunbulah Accounts at any time and from anywhere in less than five minutes. Within two hours of the application submission, the Bank, through the new unique automated system used to implement this service, will have received and processed the application for approval. The Bank's staff will then contact the customer to determine the appropriate time to receive the Al-Sunbulah Account card and sign the required documents.

In addition to its speed and ease, this new service provides the highest level of protection for the customers' information shared over the Internet. The latest information security standards are used to match the picture of the person sitting in front of the screen with their photo on their personal ID. Moreover, the applicant will be required to give consent and acknowledgement through an electronic signature so as to verify and validate the information they submit.

Commenting on that new service, Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, CEO at Warba Bank, said: "We in Warba Bank aim to innovate and adopt the latest banking services and solutions that add value to the banking customers' transactions and reflect our respect for their wishes and aspirations for these services. Given the current global trend, which has become dependent on the various smart devices and the Internet to conduct multiple daily transactions, we have to adopt these techniques and use them in banking transactions, including applications for opening new accounts submitted online by new customers and fully processed online without requiring those new customers to visit any of our branches. I am pleased to stress that our Bank is racing to use this technology, reflecting our commitment to achieving our vision to promote the Islamic banking sector."

Al-Ghanem stressed that Warba Bank has doubled its investment to enhance its digital infrastructure at international levels, ensuring that its digital services are designed to meet its customers' expectations and aspirations, saving both time and effort. Now the Bank's customers can conduct and complete their transactions through the Bank's online banking portal, which has undergone great development and has transformed into a flexible electronic channel that caters to the customers' needs with ease. In addition, the Bank's application for smartphones (Warba Online App) has proven to be a great success, and it is heavily used by the Bank's customers. It provides them with a series of unique services to allow them bank with Warba without visiting one of the Bank's branches and meet their expectations in terms of speed with convenience." We can say that Warba Bank thankfully is aggressively moving towards making a positive difference in the digital arena and enhancing Islamic banking by providing advanced and high-quality innovative digital services.

> **Opening of Al-Sunbulah Account made simple, easy**

"The growing global trend towards digital banking increases our responsibility for keeping our customers in touch with these new technologies by developing services based on advanced technology platforms so as to bring value to their banking experience with convenience and ease," Al-Ghanem added.

In future, the fully automated account opening process will apply to new customers' application for all other types of accounts, providing greater flexibility and ease of operation, saving time and effort for customers and reducing the hassle of collecting the required paperwork to open a bank account at both ends: the customer and the bank staff. This would provide more efficiency and accelerate this type of transactions.

The Bank's approach in developing its digital services infrastructure is exemplary, given the high-end technology and sophistication it uses to provide customers with a distinctive banking experience. A good example of this is the Bank's latest service launched in late 2017, namely the "Express Bank "machine, an interactive branch that enables customers to easily manage their banking needs. It also exclusively provides a range of unprecedented services in Kuwait, which can be completed by the customer in cognizance of their privacy and ease. In addition, the Bank has launched a series of digital services under its theme of "Express", including: Express Share, Express Salary, Express Bill, Express Beneficiary, Express Transfers, Express Login, Express Chat, Express Eediya, skip a payment service, Warba Voice and many more. Moreover, the Bank offers Watch Banking applications on both the Android and iOS platforms which allow the customers to view their bank accounts.

"The Kuwaiti population, especially the younger generation, are keen to adopt the latest technologies. They have a high-level of appetite in this regard. Furthermore, they are constantly updated on the latest international trends, so they will be proactive in adopting these digital banking services once they are released. Kuwait is often amongst one of the early adopters for modern technologies in a wide range of fields and Warba Bank intends to leverage this trend through its range of digital banking services with an always-first attitude,"Al-Ghanem concluded.

NBK Economic Report

Broad-based global economic recovery gains further steam

KUWAIT: The broad-based global economic recovery gained further steam, including in the US, where the inflation narrative appeared to shift toward a more hawkish scenario. After months of solid data, the IMF raised its 2017 growth estimate for the world economy to 3.7 percent and upgraded its forecast for 2018 and 2019 to 3.9 percent. This upgrade mostly reflected stronger growth momentum in advanced economies (especially the US, eurozone and Japan) and the expectations of a fiscal stimulus in the US from tax cuts. The upward revisions were mostly unsurprising and the strong economic fundamentals - combined with the softer inflation - helped equity markets make strong gains in 2017. However, more recently, a shift in views on US inflation have rattled financial markets and pushed yields higher.

The outlook for the US economy improved further in recent weeks, with expectations of a healthy boost coming from tax cuts and the recent expansionary spending agreement. The IMF expects the US economy to grow by 2.7 percent in 2018, up from 2.3 percent in 2017; this is 0.4 percentage points higher than its forecast in October 2017. The upgrade of the forecast is largely the result of a $1.5 trillion stimulus expected over ten years from tax cuts passed before the end of 2017 in a key win for the Trump administration. It also comes at a time when the economy has been topping expectations. Leading indicators, including capital goods orders and the ISM manufacturing index, suggest an accelerating pace of growth. Indeed, GDP growth averaged 2.9 percent in the last three quarters of 2017. The labor market has also been tightening.

After months of softness, prospects for US inflation appear to be turning, boosted by the strength in the economy. Inflationary momentum was lackluster during the best part of 2017. After peaking at 2.3 percent y/y in January 2017, core inflation slipped to end the year at 1.8 percent y/y. However, more recent data suggests that inflation may be gaining momentum. Core prices rose by an annualized 2.5 percent during 4Q17, with December seeing the strongest gain. Inflation in the core PCE index has also been rising, though at 1.5 percent y/y it remains well below the 2 percent target. These improvements are reflected in January's FOMC statement with the Fed suggesting that inflation could reach its 2 percent target sooner than had been previously thought. Average wages have since also indicated further strength, as they gained 0.3 percent m/m in January and pushed the annual pace to 2.9 percent y/y, well above expectations.

US inflation

The shift in the outlook for US inflation has boosted expectations of more rapid monetary tightening, lifting yields. With inflation seen gaining momentum, markets are now expecting the Fed to respond by increasing rates more rapidly in 2018. The chances of three or more hikes in 2018 were just 40 percent at the start of the year, according to the CME Group; they have since risen to over 60 percent. At the same time, yields have been climbing. The 10-year US Treasury yield rose to 2.85 percent, up around 44 basis points since the start of 2018. Yields in Germany and the UK followed suite, seeing similar gains.

In the eurozone, the economy has continued to improve. The economy grew at its fastest pace in eleven years, and with average growth of 2.5 percent in 2017, it outperformed other advanced economies including the US and the UK. There has also been an increasing perception that the improvement in growth will be sustained in the medium-term. Indeed, the IMF recently upgraded eurozone growth by 0.3 percentage points in this and next year, though it is still seen slowing from 2.4 percent in 2017 to 2.3 percent in 2018 and 2 percent in 2019. Despite stronger growth, inflation in the eurozone remained well below target, though there are some early signs of upward momentum. Inflation in the eurozone slipped to 1.3 percent y/y in January according to the preliminary flash estimate, falling further below the 2 percent European Central Bank target. While inflation is higher in some of the stronger economies like Germany, even there it continues to fall below the target. Still, January's data saw an uptick in core inflation, which rose to 1.0 percent y/y, though it is too early to say whether this will be a sustained trend.

Inflation in Japan also remains subdued despite a more promising economy. Growth in Japan surprised analysts to the upside in 2017. This has broadly been driven by exports, which were boosted by a stronger global economy and a weaker yen. As a result, growth is expected to have accelerated to 1.8 percent in 2017, more than double the pace that was forecast a year ago. The outlook for 2018 has also improved, with the IMF hiking its growth forecast for the year by 0.5 percentage points to 1.2 percent. Despite this, inflation remains weak. The preferred core inflation measure, excluding food and energy, stood at 0.3 percent in December.

Emerging markets buoyant

Emerging markets have been seeing robust growth, with the pace there seen accelerating slightly in 2018. Emerging economies are expected to continue to recover in 2018, with growth picking up to 4.9 percent. Most of the gains are expected to come from India, Brazil and Mexico; indeed, the latter two have had their growth upgraded by the IMF on improving commodity prices. Emerging Europe is also expected to continue to do well, supported by better demand from the eurozone. Meanwhile, growth in China continues to decelerate though not quite as rapidly as previously expected.

The robust global economy and OPEC-constrained supply have provided significant support to oil prices since mid-2017, but downside pressures remain. Brent rallied as much as 60 percent since June 2017, even surpassing $70 per barrel briefly in January. Prices benefited from the OPEC-led agreement to reduce production, which was extended through the end of 2018. Despite the strength, the outlook for prices remains constrained by the prospects for US shale oil production. Indeed, total US production recently exceeded 10 million barrels per day for the first time since 1970, boosted by gains in shale oil.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.752
Indian Rupees	4.695
Pakistani Rupees	2.720
Srilankan 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	Selling Rate
US Dollar	300.100
Canadian Dollar	242.420
Sterling Pound	425.125
Euro	375.360
Swiss Frank	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 Pesso	5.830
Cyprus pound	17.865
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	0.410936	0.418436
Czech Korune	0.006583	0.015883
Danish Krone	0.045621	0.050621
Euro	0. 364548	0.372048
Georgian Lari	0.134040	0.134040
Hungarian 0.001133	0.001323	
Norwegian Krone	0.034005	0.039205
Romanian Leu	0.064299	0.081149
Russian ruble	0.005213	0.005213
Slovakia	0.008939	0.018939
Swedish Krona	0.033289	0.038289
Swiss Franc	0.314130	0.325130
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.228357	0.240357
New Zealand Dollar	0.212282	0.221782
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.233777	0.242777
US Dollars	0.296850	0.301270
US Dollars Mint	0.297350	0.301270
	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003253	0.003837
Chinese Yuan	0.046083	0.049583
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036593	0.039343
Indian Rupee	0.004208	0.004849
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002694	0.002874
Korean Won	0.000268	0.000283
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073185	0.079185
Nepalese Rupee	0.003003	0.003173
Pakistan Rupee	0.002526	0.002815
Philippine Peso	0.005775	0.006075
Singapore Dollar	0.222204	0.232204
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001692	0.002272
Taiwan	0.010325	0.010505
Thai Baht	0.009193	0.009743
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.791708	0.800208
Egyptian Pound	0.014097	0.019815
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000201	0.000261
Jordanian Dinar	0.419854	0.428854
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000154	0.000254
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021927	0.045927
Omani Riyal	0.775370	0.781050
Qatar Riyal	0.078374	0.083314
Saudi Riyal	0.079167	0.080467
Syrian Pound	0.001275	0.001495
Tunisian Dinar	0.121688	0.129688
Turkish Lira	0.074107	0.084407
UAE Dirhams	0.080512	0.082212
Yemeni Riyal	0.000978	0.001058

KAMCO Oil Market Monthly Report

Stock market rout halts oil price rally; Two-month gains wiped off

Rising US oil production further adds to decline

KUWAIT: The global stock market rout that started last week had its ripple effect on all asset classes including commodities and currencies. As a result, oil price gains since the start of the year were completely wiped off as crude declined to a three-month low level after posting the biggest weekly decline in two years. A strengthening dollar due to the sell-off in addition to rising US crude output also added to the oil price decline. OPEC crude dropped 8.2 percent during the week ended 9-February-18 after seeing mild recovery in the previous trading sessions. The biggest impact on oil prices came after reports showed rising US crude production on the back of elevated oil prices resulting in rising oil inventory levels and several updates to full year production expectations.

According to data from EIA, US crude production increased by 332 tb/d and reached a new high of 10.25 mb/d during the week ended 2-February-18 with improved drilling costs and lack of producer restraint as some of the additional factors for the big leap of almost 14 percent year-on-year. The rise in production was concurrent with the surge in US oil rig count that reached the highest level since April-15. In its Short Term Energy Outlook, the EIA made a significant change to its production forecast for 2018 and 2019. According to the report, US oil production is expected to reach 10.59 mb/d in 2018, a big jump of almost 3.1 percent as compared to EIA's last month's forecasts. US shale producers are expected to continue to ramp up production in 2019 and reach almost 11.18 mb/d, according to the estimates from EIA.

Rising oil supply was not just a US phenomenon. According to reports, Libya's oil production reached the highest level in 5 years during January-18 and averaged a production rate of more than 1 mb/d, although overall OPEC oil production remained almost flat. The increase was offset by a decline in production in Venezuela, which according to OPEC, saw a production decline of 47.3 tb/d, while Bloomberg data shows a decline of 30 tb/d.

On the other hand, demand-side factors continues to remain strong given higher global economic growth. OPEC's latest monthly report reiterated this and said that oil demand is expected to grow faster than expected given the healthy and steady economic development in major global oil demand centers. That said, OPEC said that the oil market rebalancing is expected to happen only during the second half of 2018 due to the rise in US oil production.

We reiterate our view that oil prices are expected to remain range bound for the rest of the year given equal opposing forces. Apart from the ongoing production cut pact, we see a number of fragile factors that has kept total oil production at the current level, including OPEC producers like Venezuela, Nigeria and some Gulf producers. That said, the sustainability of demand in 2018 would help lower some of the concerns relating to higher supply.

Crude prices plunge to a 3-month low

Oil prices

Crude oil prices rallied during the start of the year due to a number of favorable factors supporting oil fundamentals. Prices reached above $70/b to reach the highest level in three years. Spot price for OPEC crude had reached $68.46/b while spot Brent reached $71.08/b just before prices started receding during the last week of January-18. And as expected, higher prices triggered an output boom in the US by shale oil producers. According to the updated estimates from the EIA, US production is said to have breached the 10 mb/d mark in December-17 and production in January topped 10.25 mb/d. On the other hand, the two US agencies, API and EIA, reported conflicting data for US crude inventories. According to API, US crude inventories declined by 1.05 mb/d during the last week of January-18 as against analyst expectations of an inventory build.

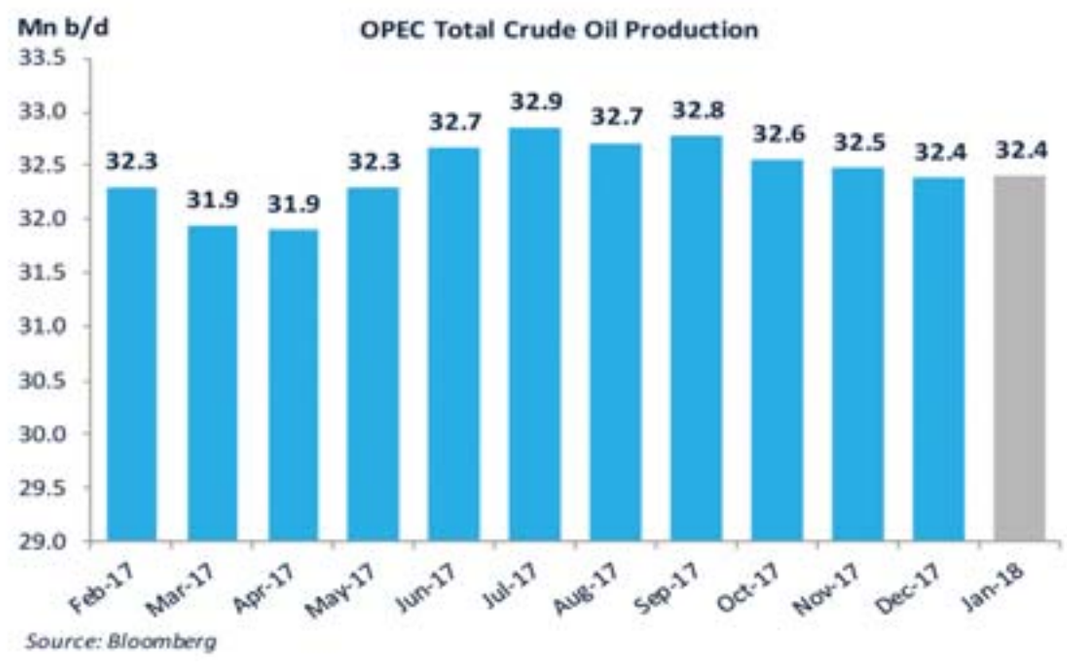
However, EIA's data published a day later showed an inventory build of 1.9 mb/d for the week ending 2-February-18. The data also showed higher gasoline inventories due to higher refining activity before the seasonally slow spring season.

US oil rig count data by Baker Hughes also reflected the rising crude output by shale players as well as their expectation of higher prices in 2018. According to the latest weekly report, US drillers added 26 oil rigs during the week ended 9-February-18, the biggest weekly increase in a year, boosting the total count to 791 rigs, the highest since April-15. Nevertheless, a number of factors are now being considered while calculating shale production in the US. These include cost inflation, well efficiencies peaking and shareholders expecting returns after minimal spending restraint from drillers.

Oil price rally at the start of the year pushed average crude prices to the highest level in three years. Average OPEC crude price was up 7.7 percent in January-18 to reach $66.9/b while Kuwait crude was up 7.9 percent. Brent crude prices saw an equivalent surge of 7.8 percent during the month. Trends in February-18 currently appear to be weak and average prices so far show a decline for the first time in eight months.

World oil demand

World oil demand growth estimates for 2017 was revised upwards by 30 tb/d in OPEC's latest monthly oil report. Growth is now expected to have reached 1.60 mb/d to 97.01 mb/d reflecting better-than-expected data from OECD Americas for Q4-17 for middle distillates and fuel oil and from OECD Europe for Q3-17, especially in the transportation sector led by growing vehicle sales. Overall demand growth for the OECD region was raised by 18 tb/d to 47.37 mb/d for 2017. In the US, colder weather and healthy economic growth has led to strong demand for LPG, jet/kerosene, gas/diesel oil and residual fuel oil although the recent rise in oil price affected the demand for gasoline. For the first eleven months of 2017, US oil demand grew by 0.2 mb/d y-o-y, while December-17 and January-18 are expected to see higher demand on the back of the holiday season. Meanwhile, trends in Mexico and Canada remained weak during the last two months of the year. Oil demand growth in OECD Europe stood at 0.18 mb/d during the first eleven months of the year highlighting strong demand from countries such as France, Italy, Belgium and Poland, especially in the road transportation sector for automotive diesel. Global oil demand growth expectations for 2018 was also revised up by 60 tb/d to 1.59 mb/d to a total demand of 98.60 mb/d reflecting positive economic outlook in OECD America, Europe and Other Asia regions.



World oil supply

Global oil supply during January-18 increased by 0.35 mb/d and averaged at 97.67 mb/d, showing an increase of 1.75 mb/d as compared to January-17. Non-OPEC supply during the month accounted for the bulk of this increase at 0.36 mb/d and averaged at 65.36 mb/d.

OPEC oil production remained almost flat during the month but NGL and non-conventional liquids production increased by 0.31 mb/d y-o-y. For the full year 2017, non-OPEC oil supply forecast was revised upward by 0.07 mb/d to average at 57.86 mb/d resulting in a growth of 0.86 mb/d. The revision primarily reflected higher supply from OECD revised up by 69 tb/d backed by higher production in the US (+0.7 mb/d), Canada (+0.32 mb/d), Norway, Malaysia, Congo and China partially offset by adjustments for to growth forecasts for Brazil, Bahrain and Kazakhstan. Oil supply from China is estimated to have seen a smaller drop as compared to 2016 primarily led by growth in domestic oil and gas exploration and development industry.

OPEC oil production and spare capacity

Oil production data for January-18 indicated almost flat levels at 32.4 mb/d as compared to the previous month. There were minimal changes in production levels of individual member countries, although Bloomberg data suggested that Saudi Arabia increased production by 60 tb/d to regain 10 mb/d mark, while Iran increased its output by 30 tb/d. These production hikes were offset by lower production by UAE (-40 tb/d), and Venezuela (-30 tb/d). In terms of compliance to the ongoing production cut pact, a Reuters survey showed that despite US production topping more than 10 mb/d, the compliance to the pact remained intact. According to the survey, compliance by OPEC members stood at 138 percent in January-18 as compared to 137 percent in December-17. The cuts were highest in case of Angola followed by Saudi Arabia, while Venezuela produced at a much lower pace due to political and economic issues concerning the country.

The unprecedented decline in oil production in Venezuela continued in January-18 with the country's production reaching a 20-year low level of 1.6 mb/d. The country is going in for elections in April-18 and has no indications of any increase in oil output due to the looming economic and political crisis with some estimates showing a decline to an average of around 1.4 mb/d for the full year.

Meanwhile, larger producers in the OPEC are also planning to add capacity to boost oil output. According to reports, Kuwait's oil production is expected to reach 3.255 mb/d by March-19 from the current 3 mb/d. Iran also plans to add 0.7 mb/d of additional capacity in four years and raise output to 4.7 mb/d following development of four oil fields with the help of private investment.

TUI confirms forecasts after stronger Q1

BERLIN: Anglo-German tourism giant TUI confirmed ambitious full-year growth forecasts yesterday, after cutting losses in the difficult first quarter of its financial year.

TUI, based in Hanover but listed on the London stock exchange, reported a net loss of 58.7 million euros ($72.3 million) between October and December, an improvement of almost 35 percent year-on-year. Its operating, or underlying result was 24.9 million euros into the red, less than half the size of the loss booked a year before as strong performance in hotels and cruises paid off.

TUI's revenue increased 8.1 percent year-on-year, to 3.5 billion euros-beating predictions from analysts surveyed by Factset.

The group has shifted its strategy since 2014, leaving behind its traditional tour operator business in favor of owning its own hotels and cruise ships. Its new model offers higher profit margins and makes the firm less exposed to seasonal variations, showing up in stronger results for the traditionally difficult autumn quarter.

Chief executive Fritz Joussen said the results confirmed the group on its course towards "at least 10 percent growth" in its 2017-18 financial year, on the heels of the 12-percent expansion it achieved in 2016-17. Bookings were "very good" for this summer, TUI highlighted, especially in European Mediterranean destinations like Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. —AFP

HANOVER: Friedrich Joussen (left), CEO of German tourism giant TUI, talks with Dieter Zetsche, CEO of German auto giant Daimler AG, and Klaus Mangold (right), Chairman of the board during the annual shareholders meeting yesterday in the northern town of Hanover. —AFP

Ahli United Bank participates in 'Because You Deserve' event

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced its participation in the "Because You Deserve" event, organized by the Manpower Restructuring Program and the Executive Branch of the State. The event was held on 12 February 2018, with the underlying objective of providing 400 employment opportunities in the banking sector.

This participation is in line with the Bank's commitment to empower Kuwaiti youth and encourage talented young people to join AUB. The Bank also undertakes to fulfill its role and social responsibilities towards members of the community by contributing to the provision of employment, training and developing skills. Commenting on this event, Naqeeb Amin, General Manager of Human Resources at AUB, said: "This forum is a valuable opportunity for the Bank to directly connect with individuals seeking employment and training. The objective of our participation is to meet the Bank's HR requirements and secure job opportunities for young people seeking employment or training within their specialization that meets the banking framework and the Bank's requirements."

Amin praised the "Because You Deserve" initiative, and extended his gratitude to the Secretary - General of the Manpower Restructuring Program and the Executive Branch of the State, Fawzi Al-Majdali, and all organizers. He reaffirmed that AUB's participation comes as a continuation of the purposeful and successful participation undertaken by the Bank in such events, which aims to attract local talent among young ambitious Kuwaitis seeking appropriate job opportunities.

Naqeeb Amin at Ahli United Bank booth.

China warns on trade tensions as it aims at US chemical

BEIJING: Trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies rose again yesterday as Beijing accused Washington of "excessive protectionism" after targeting imports of a key chemical from the United States.

The administration of US President Donald Trump has brought a range of commerce cases against China, sparking fears of a trade war. "China is concerned about the US's serious trend towards trade protectionism in steel products," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement, and "calls on the US to restrain itself from using trade restriction measures".

More than half of the US's protective tariffs are related to steel, it noted. A director of the ministry's trade remedy and investigation bureau Wang Hejun was quoted as saying that "repeated and excessive protectionism" often "brings about a vicious circle". The statement followed news late Monday that Beijing had taken aim at imports of a key chemical from the United States. The commerce ministry said it had found dumping of styrene imports from the US, Taiwan and South Korea, in an initial ruling during a continuing trade investigation into the chemical. Dumping, or selling goods at unfairly low prices abroad, can undercut domestic markets at the expense of local industries.

"Mainland China's styrene industry has suffered substantial harm," the ministry said in a statement, adding that dumping was the cause of this. The initial ruling called for importers to place anti-dumping deposits of five to 10.7 percent with China's customs administration. Those deposits will be applied to tariffs if the ministry decides in a final ruling to levy such duties. Styrene is the building block of many plastics. It is used to make foam packaging and many disposable plastics. Last year China imported 3.2 million tons of the chemical worth more than $4 billion from the US.

The measures come a month after the Trump administration slapped new tariffs on Chinese-made solar panels and washing machines. Those tariffs followed a series of trade cases brought against China during Trump's first year in office, which have rattled Beijing.—AFP

High UK inflation piles on pressure to hike rates

LONDON: Britain's annual inflation rate held at 3.0 percent in January, official data showed yesterday, piling more pressure on the Bank of England to hike interest rates soon, according to economists.

The news comes less than one week after the Bank of England (BoE) warned that it could lift interest rates more quickly than expected to help bring down inflation. "The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) 12-month rate was 3.0 percent in January 2018, unchanged from December 2017," the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement. The rate had hit 3.1 percent in November, which was the highest level in almost six years. Analysts had however expected the January print to show a slightly lower rate of inflation at 2.9 percent. The ONS said that smaller increases in food prices were offset by a pick-up in prices for clothing, footwear and recreation. "UK inflation came in higher than expected in January, adding further pressure for (BoE) policymakers to hike interest rates again, possibly as soon as May," said IHS Markit economist Christopher Williamson.

"However, with mounting signs of economic growth slowing at the start of 2018, a May rate rise is by no means a done deal and will likely be dependent on the data flow improving in coming months." —AFP

Wall St dips as caution sets in ahead of data

NEW YORK: Wall Street's main indexes were down about a third of a percent yesterday, falling for the first time in three sessions as caution crept in ahead of crucial data on inflation, which has been the root cause of the recent sell-off.

A strong reading on US consumer price data today could fan fears over rising inflation and faster interest rate hikes - the same worries that sparked the sell-off after strong jobs data on Feb. 2.

"I expect a continued stream of volatility, driven by uncertainty among investors with fears of accelerating rates. I don't think that's going away any time soon," said Andre Bakhos, managing director at New Vines Capital LLC in Bernardsville, New Jersey. Cleveland Fed president Loretta Mester, a voting member in the central bank's rate-setting committee this year, said inflation should gradually rise this year, but not at a rate that requires a faster Fed reaction in terms of raising rates. She said the recent stock market sell-off and jump in volatility will not damage the economy's overall strong prospects.

After a wildly volatile week that pushed the market into correction territory, US stocks gained roughly 3 percent over Friday and Monday, their best two-day gains since June 2016. "We saw an impressive rebound yesterday but by no means are we in the clear," Bakhos said.

By 9.41 am ET (1441 GMT), the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 73.22 points, or 0.3 percent, at 24,528.05 and the S&P 500 was down 7.42 points, or 0.28 percent, at 2,648.58. The Nasdaq Composite was down 13.09 points, or 0.19 percent, at 6,968.87.

All the 11 major S&P indexes were lower, led by losses in technology and healthcare indexes. Benchmark US 10-year Treasury yields were hovering at 2.8475 percent, shy of their four-year peak of 2.9020 percent on Monday.

The CBOE Volatility Index, a widely-followed measure of short-term stock volatility, rose about 1 point to 26.70, but stayed well short of the 50-point level it touched last week. The recent pullback has wiped out all of the year's gains for the benchmark S&P 500 and the blue-chip Dow, which are now down 1 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively, so far in 2018. The tech-heavy Nasdaq was still clinging to a 0.87 percent gain for the year.

More than three-fifths of the companies on the S&P 500 have reported earnings, with nearly 78 percent of them topping profit expectations, according to Thomson Reuters data. That is above the 72 percent average beat-rate in the past four quarters.

Shares of Under Armour rose more than 15 percent after the sportswear maker reported quarterly revenue that beat analysts' estimates. AmerisourceBergen jumped nearly 12 percent after the Wall Street Journal reported Walgreens made a takeover approach for the drug distributor. Walgreens rose 1.1 percent.

Stocks mostly fell in Europe as the previous day's rebound faded, while the dollar slid against its major rivals. Frankfurt's DAX 30 was down 0.4 percent compared with the closing level on Monday, and the CAC 40 in Paris agave up 0.3 percent. Outside the eurozone, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index gained edged up a fraction of a percentage point as shares in heavyweight mining companies advanced.

"European markets are failing to follow through on yesterday's bounce and a decent performance overnight in Asia, with the main bourses in the red... Although the FTSE 100 is marginally in the green," said Neil Wilson, senior market analyst at ETX Capital traders. In Asia on Tuesday, stocks markets mostly rose, tracking the overnight rally in New York after last week's US battering, but early gains were tempered and Tokyo ended down on lingering uncertainty and worries about further turmoil, traders said. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Index		Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price index	▼	-37.14	6,670.31	6,707.45
Weighted Index	▲	0.67	409.17	408.50
KSX 15	▲	3.17	939.11	935.94

Volume	84,792,265
Value (KWD)	10,981,123
Number of Trades	3,155

Security	High	Low	Trades Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last		Change
IPG	396	390	105,000	40,980	3	390	—	0.0
NAPESCO	795	794	7,858	6,241	6	795	—	0.0
ENERGYH	28.0	27.9	11,051	308	5	28.0	▲	2.9
GPI	31.1	30.2	157,020	4,844	7	31.0	▲	0.1
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	—	0.0
Oil & Gas			**280,929**	**52,374**	**21**	**973.35**	▲	**7.70**
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	240	—	0.0
BPCC	712	706	48,760	34,650	7	710	▼	-2.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	—	0.0
ALQURAIN	350	346	1,062,060	370,133	54	346	▲	2.0
Basic Materials			**1,110,820**	**404,784**	**61**	**1324.65**	▲	**1.80**
KCEM	470	450	28,737	12,942	3	470	—	0.0
CABLE	425	421	29,143	12,286	4	425	—	0.0
SHIP	202	202	15	3	1	202	—	0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,020	—	0.0
PAPER	250	250	4,995	1,249	1	250	—	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	—	0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	245	—	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	—	0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0.0
EQUIPMENT	37.9	36.0	123,100	4,439	7	37.7	▲	0.8
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	—	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—	0.0
SALBOOKH	54	50	13,000	667	3	54	▲	0.5
AGLTY	855	840	335,964	283,061	71	841	▲	3.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	314	—	0.0
CLEANING	60	59	181,631	10,767	14	60	▲	1.5
KGL	117	113	1,286,410	148,293	86	114	▼	-1.0
KCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	151	—	0.0
HUMANSOFT	3,515	3,280	150,139	526,309	26	3,280	▼	-235.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	880	—	0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0
SHOOTING	23.0	21.0	164,007	3,479	20	22.9	▼	-0.1
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	459	—	0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	—	0.0
UPAC	613	613	317	194	1	613	▲	53.0
ALAFCO	384	370	222,067	82,331	20	380	▼	-6.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	—	0.0
LOGISTICS	54	53	5,218,571	279,049	145	53	▲	0.4
SCEM	83	83	1,236,946	102,667	5	83	▲	4.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	—	0.0
QIC	71	71	132	9	1	71	▲	0.9
FCEM	74	74	60,000	4,440	3	74	▲	1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	—	0.0
SPEC	66	57	25,515	1,549	40	65	▲	4.0
Industrials			**9,080,709**	**1,473,733**	**451**	**1796.06**	▼	**-26.20**
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230	—	0.0
DANAH	73	71	560,100	41,328	13	73	▼	-1.1
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,000	—	0.0
Consumer Goods			**560,100**	**41,328**	**13**	**814.44**	▼	**-2.70**
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	—	0
YIACO	159	124	258,920	33,159	11	133	▼	-21
Health Care			**258,920**	**33,159**	**11**	**1410.79**	▼	**-48.90**
KCIN	1,050	1,015	3,216	3,373	11	1,048	▼	-2
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	197	—	0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	—	0
CABLETV	30.0	26.0	1,700	49	2	30.0	▲	5
IFAHR	151	124	10,001	1,240	3	151	▼	-4
GULFUEL	116	116	14,322	1,661	10	116	—	0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	—	0
JAZEERA	610	581	243,299	145,735	25	599	▼	-11
SOOR	118	115	23,826	2,740	12	115	▼	-1
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	—	0
ALRAI	110	110	10,000	1,100	1	110	—	0
Jiyad	86	81	271,800	22,708	18	81	▼	-4
Mezzan	776	770	20,800	16,130	4	770	—	0
Consumer Services			**598,964**	**194,737**	**86**	**865.06**	▼	**-8.10**
ZAIN	464	452	1,647,706	753,004	173	453	—	0
OOREDOO	1,090	1,021	1,295	1,324	4	1,090	▼	-8
AAN	27.4	26.6	1,620,645	43,563	72	26.6	▼	0
VIVA	770	745	36,573	27,730	35	770	▲	10
Telecommunications			**3,306,219**	**825,620**	**284**	**550.23**	▲	**1.60**
NBK	748	741	439,603	328,070	102	746	▲	5
GBK	241	240	258,859	62,196	22	241	▼	-1
CBK	455	430	63,239	27,408	14	430	▲	30
ABK	300	296	47,623	14,232	2	296	▼	-4
ALMUTAHED	348	344	17,301	5,973	6	348	▲	2
KIB	232	230	123,230	28,401	10	231	▲	2
BURG	311	308	301,390	92,895	17	309	▼	-2
KFIN	595	592	2,279,457	1,351,743	143	592	—	0
BOUBYAN	484	479	820,791	395,354	63	483	▼	-1
AUB	211	210	3,355,900	704,752	71	210	—	0
ITHMR	51	45.5	14,515,075	699,958	350	45.5	▼	-3
WARBABANK	231	225	2,796,674	638,942	126	229	▲	4
Banks			**25,010,142**	**4,349,923**	**946**	**941.60**	—	**0.00**
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	284	—	0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	—	0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	435	—	0.0
WINS	63	62	16,812	1,042	4	63	▼	-6.8
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	—	0.0
FTI	59	59	500	30	1	59	▼	-1.9
WETHAQ	39.0	39.0	5,000	195	1	39.0	▼	-1.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			**22,312**	**1,266**	**6**	**1026.16**	▼	**-15.40**
SOKOUK	48.0	46.5	421000	19,745	22	46.5	▼	-1.5
KRE	59	58	1,147,350	66,792	37	59	▼	-0.2
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	—	0.0
NRE	121	120	27,435	3,302	3	121	—	0.0
SRE	355	337	35,650	12,095	10	350	▲	2.0
TAM	399	394	423,550	168,257	14	399	▲	4.0
AREEC	162	162	80,000	12,960	3	162	—	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.9	—	0.0
ARABREC	35.0	34.1	1,736,972	60,535	39	35.0	▲	0.5
ERESCO	35.0	33.0	269,040	9,167	10	34.5	▲	0.1
MABANEE	736	731	43,367	31,874	15	731	▲	11.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	—	0.0
INVESTORS	16.7	16.1	1,827,500	29,970	35	16.1	▼	-0.4
IRC	30.0	28.0	53,100	1,545	6	28.0	▼	-2.0
ALTUARIA	92	90	140,506	12,875	5	92	—	0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.0	—	0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	—	0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	73	—	0.0
ALAQARIA	31.0	28.0	1,100	31	2	31.0	▼	-2.5
MAZAYA	110	109	5,261,914	573,695	61	109	▲	1.0
TIJARA	62	62	20	1	1	62	▲	2.2
TAAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.4	—	0.0
ARKAN	90	87	240,150	20,994	13	87	▼	-0.1
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	—	0.0
ABYAAR	21.1	20.6	1,339,500	28,118	24	21.0	▲	0.2
MUNSHAAT	83	80	1,918,700	154,313	48	82	▼	-1.4
FIRSTDUBAI	48.0	45.6	443,800	20,524	23	47.0	▼	-0.4
KBT	52	52	1,962,100	101,494	86	52	—	0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,310	—	0.0
MENA	35.8	33.7	25,645	865	6	33.7	▼	-2.1
ALMUDON	40.0	36.0	117,360	4,239	20	39.7	▲	3.7
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.5	—	0.0
REMAL	43.3	40.0	1,110,837	46,126	42	40.5	▲	0.5
Mashaer	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	—	0.0
Real Estate			**18,626,596**	**1,379,519**	**525**	**1139.16**	▼	**-2.70**
KINV	143	140	1,727,482	243,763	83	140	▼	-1.0
FACIL	182	180	5,843	1,062	3	180	▼	-1.0
IFA	29.7	29.2	340,359	10,063	14	29.6	▲	0.2
NINV	101	100	30,000	3,013	2	101	▲	0.6
KPROJ	305	304	152,114	46,375	8	305	▲	5.0
COAST	33.0	32.0	321,590	10,299	10	33.0	▲	0.5
SECH	52	50	2,063,700	104,914	75	52	▲	0.6
ARZAN	33.0	32.5	323,060	10,549	11	32.5	▼	-0.5
MARKAZ	114	114	30	3	1	114	▲	2.0
KMEFIC	28.0	26.0	281,250	7,461	25	28.0	▲	2.0
ALAMAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
ALOLA	39.3	38.2	464,550	17,882	20	39.0	▲	0.3
ALMAL	26.8	25.5	817,810	21,536	42	26.4	▲	0.3
GIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	—	0.0
AAYAN	36.8	35.0	1,279,114	45,110	29	35.5	▼	-0.2
BAYANINV	41.9	38.5	302	13	4	41.9	▼	-0.1
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	—	0.0
KFIC	45.4	45.4	5,000	227	1	45.4	▼	-0.1
KAMCO	66	66	10,000	660	6	66	▲	1.1
NIH	61	61	2,000	122	4	61	—	0.0
UNICAP	47.5	47.5	100	5	1	47.5	▲	1.5
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	—	0.0
ALDEERA	25.0	25.0	2,500	63	1	25.0	▲	1.1
ALSALAM	41.5	40.0	28,000	1,121	2	41.5	▲	1.5
EKTTITAB	30.9	30.0	317,836	9,593	7	30.9	▲	0.7
ALMADINA	36.5	34.0	1,650	57	6	34.0	▼	-2.5
NOOR	55	54	620,423	33,805	38	54	▼	-0.8
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	—	0.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	—	0.0
KSHC	33.5	31.7	5,604,007	183,187	97	33.0	▲	1.3
ASIYA	38.8	38.7	20,718	803	2	38.7	▼	-0.5
GNAHC	36.7	35.4	470,000	16,709	15	36.7	▼	-0.5
AMWAL	58	52	271,423	14,611	27	55	▼	-1.4
ALMTIAZ	152	148	6,180,684	926,173	67	148	▼	-3.0
MANAZEL	29.0	28.0	660,833	18,686	20	28.8	▲	0.2
NIND	162	159	2,202,745	354,511	56	160	▲	1.0
BIHC	33.3	33.3	17,000	566	1	33.3	▼	-0.1
SENERGY	38.0	37.0	423,496	15,952	13	38.0	▲	1.0
AGHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0.0
KPPC	55	54	630,767	34,125	21	55	▼	-0.1
TAHSSILAT	27.5	23.2	20,010	465	3	27.5	▼	-1.4
EKHOLDING	280	280	160,000	44,800	1	280	▼	-15.0
GFH	114	112	251,000	28,381	18	114	▲	1.0
INOVEST	78	74	47,850	3,619	6	75	—	0.0
Financial Services			**26,755,246**	**2,210,285**	**740**	**629.77**	▼	**-0.20**
Investment Instruments			**0**	**0**	**0**	**1091.97**	—	**0.00**
ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	—	0.0
OSOS	95	92	154,008	14,444	13	95	▲	2.6
HAYATCOMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0.0
Technology			**154,008**	**14,444**	**13**	**519.98**	▲	**9.80**
SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
EFFECT	26.0	20.9	45,000	946	8	25.0	▼	-0.9
AJWAN	23.1	22.0	4,970,499	112,197	116	22.5	—	0.0
MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	—	0.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	—	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	—	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	—	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.0	—	0.0
Parallel Market			**5,015,499**	**113,144**	**124**	**967.87**	▲	**7.90**

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

الوطني NBK

Global Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	24,190.90	24,601.27	410.37	▲	1.70	-0.48
NASDAQ	6,874.49	6,981.97	107.48	▲	1.56	1.14
S&P 500	2,619.55	2,656.00	36.45	▲	1.39	-0.66
Financial Times	7,177.06	7,193.32	16.26	▲	0.23	-6.43
DAX	12,282.77	12,241.14	-41.63	▼	-0.34	-5.24
CAC 40	5,140.06	5,123.12	-16.94	▼	-0.33	-3.57
Swiss	8,822.18	8,801.85	-20.33	▼	-0.23	-6.18
Nikkei 225	21,382.62	21,244.68	-137.94	▼	-0.65	-6.67
Topix	1,731.97	1,716.78	-15.19	▼	-0.88	-5.54
Hang Seng	29,459.63	29,839.53	379.90	▲	1.29	-0.27
Straits Times	3,384.98	3,415.07	30.09	▲	0.89	0.36

MENA Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	6,707.45	6,670.31	-37.14	▼	-0.55	4.46
Saudi Arabia	7,425.57	7,412.56	-13.01	▼	-0.18	2.76
Dubai	3,314.93	3,341.46	26.53	▲	0.80	-1.64
Abu Dhabi	4,609.91	4,600.40	-9.51	▼	-0.21	4.81
Bahrain	1,347.12	1,352.96	5.84	▲	0.43	1.16
Qatar	9,044.82	8,987.51	-57.31	▼	-0.63	6.12
Oman	5,002.87	5,003.67	0.80	▲	0.02	-1.89
Lebanon	1,160.13	1,160.13	0.00	-	0.00	1.01
Jordan	2,225.50	2,239.15	13.65	▲	0.61	4.64
Egypt	14,890.71	14,762.36	-128.35	▼	-0.86	-0.86
Morocco	13,053.88	13,037.33	-16.55	▼	-0.13	5.23
Tunisia	6,558.41	6,580.13	21.72	▲	0.33	4.40

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3796	3.3151	2.6841	2.3827	3.0940	356.57	4.2150
Saudi Riyal	0.08078		0.2678	0.2168	0.1925	0.2499	28.80	0.3405
US Dollar	0.30165	3.7343		0.8097	0.7188	0.9333	107.56	1.2715
Euro	0.37257	4.6122	1.2351		0.8878	1.1529	132.88	1.5706
Sterling Pound	0.41969	5.1955	1.3913	1.1264		1.2990	149.66	1.7691
Swiss Franc	0.32321	4.0012	1.0715	0.8674	0.7698		115.27	1.3623
Japanese Yen	0.00280	0.0347	0.0093	0.0075	0.0067	0.0087		0.0118
Australian Dollar	0.23725	2.9370	0.7865	0.6367	0.5653	0.7340	84.60	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30165	3.7343	0.3742	3.6270	0.3831	3.6576	17.6190
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3151		12.3796	1.2404	12.0239	1.2701	12.1253	58.4088
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08078		0.1002	0.9713	0.1026	0.9795	4.7182
Bahraini Dinar	2.6726	0.80618	9.9802		9.6935	1.0239	9.7752	47.0882
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08317	1.0296	0.1032		0.1056	1.0084	4.8577
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.78735	9.7471	0.9766	9.4670		9.5469	45.9882
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08247	1.0210	0.1023	0.9916	0.1047		4.8171
Egyptian Pound	0.0568	0.01712	0.2119	0.0212	0.2059	0.0217	0.2076	

Global Interest Rates

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.38	1.69	1.88	2.13	2.38
US Dollar	1.46	1.58	1.83	2.04	2.31
Euro	-0.42	-0.40	-0.38	-0.33	-0.25
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.49	0.53	0.63	0.85
Swiss Franc	-0.80	-0.79	-0.74	-0.66	-0.53
Australian Dollar	1.57	1.67	1.67	1.68	1.75
Japanese Yen	-0.06	-0.06	-0.07	0.00	0.10

Global Bond Yields

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	2.07	2.54	2.83	3.12
Europe	-0.60	-0.04	0.73	1.35
United Kingdom	0.69	1.10	1.60	1.98

Commodities

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	58.93	58.93	0.00	-	0.00	-7.70
Brent	62.16	61.49	-0.67	▼	-1.08	-7.92
West Texas	59.43	59.39	-0.04	▼	-0.07	-1.73
Gold	1322.83	1328.71	5.88	▲	0.44	1.53
Silver	16.55	16.64	0.09	▲	0.57	-2.44

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

KFH reaps 28 renowned international awards in 2017

Awards recognize KFH Group's outstanding performances in all fields

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continued its outstanding performance in all indicators and bagged 28 renowned international awards in 2017 at the Group level from prestigious international institutions.

The awards were in recognition of the Bank's distinguished performance in all fields, prestigious status and leading Islamic financial position, optimal methodology of customer service strategy, rolling out innovative products and services, success in adopting latest developments in banking technology and other areas that encompass the bank's businesses on the level of the Group.

KFH has been selected for the awards based on a wide range of criteria, from both the bank's core financials such as Profits, ROW, and ROA through to improvement year on year. Innovation is also a key indicator for judges so elements such as innovative products, customer services and initiatives also go a long way towards to the application, not to mention strength of strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from bank's initiatives, strategic partnership, adherence to ethics and customer satisfaction. The criteria were evaluated by a world-class panel of judges, bankers, corporate finance executives and analysts throughout the world.

The awards culminate the bank's efforts in offering highest standards of Islamic financial services in different geographies in the world. They confirm KFH's pioneering position in the Islamic finance industry worldwide. They are an impetus for further achievements and success towards better addressing the customers' needs and ambitions. KFH won three awards from the Banker Magazine, an international financial affairs publication owned by The Financial Times. The awards are "Islamic Bank of the Year 2017 - Global" Award, "Islamic Bank of the Year 2017 - Middle East" and "Islamic Bank of the Year 2017 - Kuwait" Awards.

Global Finance Magazine has awarded KFH the "Best Islamic Project Finance Provider in the World 2017", while "Best Up-And-Coming Financial Institution in the World 2017" for KT Bank AG, KFH's bank in Germany in the award ceremony held during the IMF/World Bank 2017 Annual Meetings held in the National Press Club in Washington, DC, USA. Also, the magazine awarded Best Islamic Financial Institution in Turkey" for KFH-Turkey. "Global Finance" named KFH the safest Islamic Financial institution in Kuwait.

Global recognition of Bank's proven track record in Islamic finance

KFH won "Best Consumer Digital Bank in Kuwait 2017" Award from Global Finance Magazine in the Middle East Category. Moreover, KFH and KFH-Turkey won Product innovation (Al-Nuwair Deposit), and Product Innovation (New Generation Credit Card) awards respectively in the category of The Innovators 2017 -Islamic Finance.

KFH-Turkey won "Best R&D Center in the banking and finance sectors in Turkey from the Science and Technology Authority affiliated to the Turkish Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology.

The global EMEA Finance Magazine Europe, Middle East and Africa has awarded KFH Group Best Islamic Bank in the Middle East, , Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait, and Best Bank in Kuwait awards, in addition to Most Innovative Bank in the Middle East 2017 award. Also, the magazine awarded KFH- Bahrain Best Islamic Bank in Bahrain 2017.

KFH won 4 prestigious awards from Islamic Finance News Magazine (IFN), which are "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait", "Syndicated Deal of the Year" where KFH was an arranger and part of EGA (Emirates Global Aluminum) $4.9 billion Commodity Murabaha based Syndicated Term Financing Facility, "Kuwait Deal of the Year" where KFH was an arranger and part of Boubyan Tier 1 $250 million Sukuk, in addition to "US Deal of the Year" award for KFH acquiring office tower in US for $165 million.

Furthermore, KFH has received a recognition award from MasterCard, a leading technology company in the global payments industry, for being the first bank in the Middle East and Africa to launch a service powered by the MasterCard Digital

Enablement Service (MDES) platform with its innovative 'KFH Wallet'. This reiterates the Bank's leadership in rolling out innovative e-Payment solutions, indicating this is the core of KFH's strategy in embracing technological innovation and utilizing it for the best interest of customers as per highest standards of quality, swiftness and security.

The bank won "Top Listed Institution in Kuwait 2017" award from "Forbes Middle East" magazine in an award ceremony held to celebrate top institutions, businesses and individuals that represent the backbone of resilient and prosperous economy.

Arab Media Forum

KFH reaped 5 awards at the Arab Media Forum which of which are 3 awards for excellent advertising, while 2 awards in the private sector for public relations and social responsibility for 2017. KFH also received awards of Public relations and Customer Service as part of Kuwait Award for Public Relations and Customer Service organized by Kuwait Public Relations Association under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The awards reflect the bank's credibility and success throughout 40 years of operation since establishment in 1977. KFH established concrete pillars for Islamic financing industry by developing staff, offering innovative services and products. KFH expanded globally where it operates in 7 regions around the world including Bahrain, Saudi, Turkey, Malaysia and Germany through over 480 branches, over 1000 ATMs and around 15000 employees.

Ooredoo honors its distributors and retail shops

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait hosted a special event to launch its new Smart 2.0 program, which is an incentive program targeting its distributors and sub dealers. Ooredoo also honored its retail distributors and sub dealers who have achieved the highest sales in 2017. The event was held at the Millennium Hotel and was attended by a number of Distributors and Retail representatives along with Ooredoo senior management.

This ceremony comes to reiterate Ooredoo's commitment to its partners in success, expressing gratitude for their outstanding performance in 2017 and the desired results they achieved. During the ceremony, Chief Sales Officer, Tamer Shibl and Senior Director of Indirect Sales, Yousef Dashti awarded 30 of the distributors and retail shops with the highest sales figures on the most recent prepaid products launched over the past year, along with certificates of appreciation and trophies. The top official distributors received up to KD 1,000 worth of cheques as well as trophies of appreciation. Fun and entertaining competitions included gift vouchers from the Millennium Hotel and from Sama Dental Center.

The level and standards of performance were measured by the latest inventory management systems and sales monitoring systems that are used exclusively by Ooredoo Kuwait operations department to secure the highest sales through different point of sales.

During the event, Ooredoo Chief Sales Officer, Tamer Shibl stated, "We at Ooredoo believe in the vital role our partners play in selling and promoting our products, despite the challenges that arise. We will continuously improve as well as create programs that aim to raise the bar and motivate everyone with no exceptions. We strongly believe

that our partners are well rounded centers that cater to the needs of our customers."

Commenting on the event, Yousef Dashti said: "We are pleased to host our partners and official distributors in this event to honor them for the ongoing support they provide us with and their contribution to the success of our business. Ooredoo and its partners have been working together for so many years and we are looking forward to further collaborate with each one of them in the very near future."

It is worth mentioning that the company has obtained a unique method in distributing products to retail shops through a Kuwaiti team who are trained and educated to develop new and effective distribution methods to different locations that have a positive impact on the sales results.

KIB appoints Feroz Noorani as GM of Risk Management

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Feroz Noorani as the Bank's new General Manager of Risk Management (Chief Risk Officer), following the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). In his new role, Noorani will oversee the Bank's Risk Management Framework to ensure its proper development and implementation. Additionally, his responsibilities will also include effectively managing all risks facing the Bank, thereby positively impacting KIB's business strategy and growth in a risk-balanced manner and developing robust risk-culture across the organization.

In its statement, KIB praised Noorani's vast banking career spanning over 35 years, having worked in India, the GCC, and the Middle East. Noorani comes to KIB with extensive experience throughout which he has held a number of key senior positions in the fields of governance, risk, compliance, and corporate and investment banking at both conventional and Islamic banks.

Noorani has been in the GCC Banking since 1998. Previously, he held the position of Chief Risk Officer at Warba Bank, Kuwait and also served as Group Chief Risk Officer at Al Hilal Bank, UAE. He was also the Head of Group Risk & Capital Strategy and Assistant General Manager for Corporate and Investment Banking at Samba Financial Group, Saudi Arabia. In addition to these roles, Noorani held many senior management positions throughout his career. He is a member of a number of prestigious professional associations and organizations, actively participating as a speaker and panelist at various international financial and banking conferences.

Feroz Noorani

Noorani holds Masters' degree in Business & Finance and a Bachelor's degree in Commerce with a specialization in Financial Accounting and Auditing, and a Bachelor's degree in Law. In addition to several professional accreditations, he has been awarded certification in "Risk Management in Banks" from INSEAD, France. In 2016, Noorani was recognized as a "Leading Professional in Risk Management" by The Asian Banker.

KIB concluded its statement by noting that the Bank is proud to welcome Noorani as the newest member of its executive management team, bringing with him vast experience in his field of expertise and looking forward to seeing the positive impact he will have on Risk Management at KIB and the Bank's business. This appointment comes as part of KIB's strategy which focuses on attracting highly qualified talent, in an effort to solidify its position as a leading Islamic financial institution.

iF Design Award: Get to know the big winners of 2018

HAMBURG: After last year's huge success at the iF awards 2017 with 5 winning devices, this year HUAWEI Mate 10, HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro, HUAWEI nova 2, and the HUAWEI MateBook X, were awarded at the prestigious iF Design Award at the annual for their outstanding design. Founded in 1953, the iF Design Award is organized annually by the Hannover Industrial Design Forum, Germany's oldest industrial design agency. Each year, iF International Forum Design GmbH organizes one of the world's most celebrated and valued design competitions: the iF DESIGN AWARD. 6,402 entries 2,955 participants and 54 countries: a jury of 63 independent international experts came together in Schuppen 52 in the Port of Hamburg to select the winners of the iF DESIGN AWARD 2018, which showcases the world's leading design concepts and technological innovations. Check out the top 4 HUAWEI products whose design outstood all other products.

HUAWEI MateBook X

Rethink the PC. The MateBook X is one of 2017's prettiest portable computers. Its design is defined by its slightly squarer shape than your average widescreen laptop. The 13-inch screen is surrounded by a very thin bezel, which really helps draw your eyes into the screen.It is 12.5 mm thick, weighs 1.05 kg, and effortlessly integrates work and life. HUAWEI MateBook X is small yet mighty, with up to the 7th Generation Intel(r) Core(tm) i7 processor delivers performance for both work and entertainment. Aerospace engineering allows HUAWEI MateBook X to stay cool-means overheating is a thing of the past!

HUAWEI Mate 10

Designed to bring your vision to life: Enjoy an immersive viewing experience with HDR 10 technology. The HUAWEI Mate 10 features a strong and robust glass casing both front and back, for a uniquely elegant design. Discover a stunning new 5.9-inch screen with a 16:9 display ratio, barely-there-bezel and HDR10 technology for intensely vivid and bright colors. An innovative technique is used to heat the toughen rear glass to 700ºC before shaping, to deliver the ultimate style.

HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro

The HUAWEI Mate 10 pro sports a stunning new 6-inch screen Full View Display with an 18:9 display ratio, barely-there-bezel and HDR10 technology for intensely vivid and bright colors. The signature stripe highlights the dual lens cameras, embodying the perfect symmetry of a superior smartphone design. The ergonomic curved glass fits snugly in the palm and feels as good as it looks. The HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro features a strong and robust glass casing both front and back, for a uniquely elegant design. IP67 rated water and dust resistant, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro can handle whatever life throws at you.

HUAWEI nova 2

Who says you can't have everything? HUAWEI nova 2 Plus is a smartphone for a smart life. A lightweight, strong and slim metallic body (6.9 mm), large screen-to-body ratio and a sophisticated CNC finish. The 2.5D curved glass screen has a super narrow bezel. Powerful design that powers you life. Innovation is the source of Huawei's development. In the field of industrial design, Huawei has always adhered to the dedicated R & D spirit, constantly striving for excellence and making bold attempts to embellish its cutting-edge design.

German court finds Facebook over-sharing user data

FRANKFURT AM MAIN; A German court has found Facebook is breaching data protection rules with privacy settings that over-share by default and by requiring users to give real names, a consumer rights organization said Monday. Under German law, personal information can only be recorded and used by a company with explicit agreement from the individual.

But Berlin judges ruled Facebook leaves many settings switched on by default, failing to offer users a meaningful choice about how their data is used, plaintiffs the Federation of German Consumer Organizations (VZBV) said. "Facebook hides default settings that are not privacy-friendly in its privacy centre and does not provide sufficient information about this when users register," VZBV legal expert Heiko Duenkel said. Judges found five different default privacy settings were illegal, including sharing location data with chat partners or making profiles available to external search engines, allowing any internet user to stumble across them.

The court also ruled eight paragraphs of Facebook's terms of use were invalid, most notably one which requires people to use their real names on the social network. But it did not agree with the consumer advocates' claim that the firm's slogan "Facebook is free and always will be" was misleading. The VZBV said users were already paying to use the site-but with access to their data, rather than cash. Facebook could face fines of up to 250,000 euros ($306,000) per infraction if it does not fix its conditions in Germany, but the company said it would appeal the ruling.

"Our products and terms of service have changed a lot since the beginning of the case, and we are making further changes this year to our terms of use and data protection guidelines, with a view to upcoming legal changes," a spokeswoman told AFP. Germany is a major market for Facebook in Europe, with around 30 million of the country's 80-million strong population signed up and almost 23 million using the network every day. Along with Austria, it is one of the only European Union nations to have translated continent-spanning rules known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) into national law ahead of a May 25 deadline.

Monday's judgment follows a December warning from Germany's competition watchdog that Facebook was abusing its dominant market position to "limitlessly" harvest data from outside websites and apps. The social network uses its connections to third-party websites and subsidiaries WhatsApp and Instagram to collect data on its users to enable hyper-targeted advertising. — AFP

BERLIN: This file photo taken on February 24, 2016 shows the "Facebook" logo pictured on the sidelines of a press preview of the so-called "Facebook Innovation Hub". — AFP

Unilever threatens to pull ads from 'divisive platforms'

THE HAGUE: Anglo-Dutch consumer giant Unilever, one of the world's largest advertisers, threatened Monday to snub digital platforms that fail to protect children or help "create division" in society. Denouncing what it called "toxic online content," the Rotterdam-based Unilever weighed in on growing concerns about fake news and extremist posts on such networks as Facebook and Google. "Unilever will not invest in platforms or environments that do not protect our children or which create division in society, and promote anger and hate," its chief marketing officer Keith Weed said.

In a speech to be delivered later Monday, of which AFP has been given extracts, Weed added that "fake news, sexism, terrorists that spread messages of hate, toxic content directed at children ... is a million miles from where we thought this would take us." Unilever "will prioritise investing only in responsible platforms that are committed to creating a positive impact on society," Weed said in his keynote address to be given at a conference in Palm Desert, California.

Weed said he had met Unilever's digital partners, including Facebook, Google and Twitter at the global Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in early January, where he "repeated one point to each and every one of them." "It is critical that our brands remain not only in a safe environment, but a suitable one." "Unilever, as a trusted advertiser, do not want to advertise on platforms which do not make a positive contribution to society," Weed said. Unilever last year spent 7.7 billion euros on marketing and advertising and is the world's second-largest advertiser after US-based consumer goods company Procter & Gamble. Unilever chief financial officer Graeme Pitkethly said in November that some 30 percent of that total goes to digital advertising. The company employs some 169,000 people around the world and owns more than 400 household brands including Dove beauty products, Knorr soups, Lipton teas, Magnum ice cream and Marmite. — AFP

Russia launches cargo spacecraft after aborted liftoff

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday launched an unmanned Progress cargo ship to the International Space Station after a glitch led officials to postpone the planned liftoff two days earlier. The Soyuz rocket carrying the Progress ship took off from the snow-covered Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 11:15 am Moscow time (0815 GMT) and reached its designated orbit several minutes later, the Russian space agency said. "We have liftoff!" the Roscosmos space agency tweeted.

The cargo ship is carrying dry cargo, fuel, water, oxygen and air to the crew of the ISS. It is also carrying equipment for the experimental ICARUS project, an animal tracking system that will be installed on the outer surface of the station. The launch of the Progress was initially scheduled for Sunday but was postponed at the last minute until Tuesday due to an unspecified problem. Space industry sources told Russian news agencies Monday that the onboard computer of the Soyuz rocket had to be replaced.

Reasons for the aborted launch were being investigated. The Sunday launch was supposed to take the Progress to the International Space Station in a record time of just over three hours for the first time by using a new scheme to dock with the ISS after taking just two orbits around the Earth. However Russia yesterday had to opt for the old, two-day rendezvous due to orbital mechanics, with the docking expected to take place Thursday afternoon. Six men are currently at the International Space Station including Russian cosmonauts Anton Shkaplerov and Alexander Misurkin and NASA astronauts Joe Acaba, Mark Vande Hei and Scott Tingle. Russia's once-proud space industry has suffered a series of setbacks over recent years, with officials losing a number of satellites and other spacecraft. — AFP

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan: This handout photo taken and released by Roscosmos space agency on November 29, 2016 shows service towers moving towards the Soyuz-U carrier rocket with the cargo ship Progress MS-04 lifted on the launch pad at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome. — AFP

Honduras lawmakers seeking to curb online speech

TEGUCIGALPA: Lawmakers in Honduras are debating a bill that wants to fine administrators of social media networks for online comments deemed offensive or promoting "hate campaigns." The measure was introduced by a member of the ruling National Party as the country is wracked by protests claiming President Juan Orlando Hernandez won a new mandate through a rigged November election.

Much of the vitriol against Hernandez and the National Party is being expressed in social media. The opposition and other groups are also using online forums to organize the anti-government protests. The bill calls for fines of up to $43,000 against those running websites or social networks on which text encouraging "hate and discrimination" are posted. Civil society groups say the move is an attempt to curb free speech and quash legitimate protests. The Association of Communication Media in Honduras said the bill undermines basic rights and called on the country's congress to suspend the debate.

The national journalists' association warned the bill would pave the way for "manipulation" by certain interests and strike a blow to citizens' rights to express themselves freely. Hernandez, a conservative who has the backing of the United States, was declared the victor of the November 26 election despite observers from the Organization of American States listing irregularities in the polling. The leftwing opposition asserts that Hernandez stole the election from its candidate, Salvador Nasralla, and was not legitimately re-elected. It is persisting with protests that have been met by police action. — AFP

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras: A young woman uses her cellphone, next to graffiti that reads "JOH Out" - a reference to President Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH). — AFP

Landmark cellular therapy to revolutionize treatment for children with leukemia

Kuwaiti will soon be the first patient to receive CAR-T cell therapy

KUWAIT: This International Childhood Cancer Day, pediatric hematologist expert, Professor Ajay Vora, from Great Ormond Street Hospital in London (GOSH) discusses how advances in cellular therapy are set to revolutionize treatment for children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (also called ALL or acute lymphocytic leukemia) is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Leukemia is one of the ten most common malignancies in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE, and a major form of pediatric cancer. In the UAE, a recent study found a high rate of ALL (32%) among males.

According to Professor Vora, childhood leukemia outcomes have improved in the past four decades, with 90% of children with ALL surviving. These improvements in outcomes have also translated for children in the Middle East as well. "There are a number of new pioneering treatments being developed at GOSH to treat leukemia using immune cells, and some of these are being tested in clinical trials", explains Prof. Vora. "These treatments are experimental and are only considered when routine chemotherapy treatments haven't worked. A Kuwaiti patient will soon be the first international patient to receive CAR-T cell therapy at GOSH." CAR-T cell therapy, a type of cellular therapy currently being trialed at GOSH to treat ALL, involves collecting a patient's own white blood cells (or immune cells) and modifying them so they can attack specific cancers.

Professor Ajay Vora

New approaches are being tested

'Gene-editing'

"One major issue, especially in infants, is the difficulty in collecting enough of the right type of immune cells (T cells)", Prof. Vora explains. "For such cases, new approaches are being tested that use T cells from a healthy donor but are modified using 'gene-editing' so they don't need to be matched to the patient. This means the cells are 'universal' and can be produced in advance and stored frozen, ready to be used in multiple patients."

The gene-edited T cells (called UCART19) are given to patients immediately after a course of chemotherapy and antibody therapy. They are expected to circulate around the body and fight any leukemia carrying the CD19 marker. Responses are assessed after one month, and if remission had been achieved, the patient will proceed to have a bone marrow transplant. At that stage the cells are removed and do not persist long-term.

This innovative treatment is currently available at GOSH as part of its research trials, and will become available in the near future to patients from across the world once the research phase is over. "Cellular therapy has the potential to revolutionize the treatment of leukemia in children. Currently, it provides a chance to treat patients who have failed to respond to other treatment. If further research confirms preliminary data on efficacy, in future, it will provide a less toxic alternative to haemopoietic stem cell transplantation," Prof Vora concludes. GOSH, who treats 1,500 children from the Middle East every year, has treated 271 hematology patients between April - Dec 2017.

ABK awarded at Pediatric Emergency Conference

KUWAIT: Following its participation at the 5th Annual Pediatric Emergency Conference, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) received a trophy recognizing its efforts in supporting the development of the pediatric community. Held at the Millennium Hotel in Kuwait on 7th and 8th of February 2018, the conference which provided training for 120 pediatric practitioners, was organized by the Kuwaiti Board of Pediatrics. ABK endeavors to participate in initiatives that propel progress and change in the community and strive to invest in areas that will transform the way things are done. KPEC is an opportunity to demonstrate the Bank's support towards the development of medical services catering to children in the belief that improving operational efficiency is a key element in diagnosing, curing and saving children during emergencies. During the conference, the Kuwaiti Board of Pediatrics Residents Committee conducted lectures and workshops, featuring internal and external speakers, with an aim to equip pediatricians with the necessary knowledge to improve their day-to-day activities and emergency operations.

ACK organizes the Innovation Entrepreneurship Tour in UAE

The International Cooperation office at the Australian College in Kuwait (ACK) organized the 2018 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Tour in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, with the participation of a number of students from the School of Business and the School of Engineering at ACK. The objective of the tour was to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about the varied innovation and entrepreneurship activities and initiatives in the UAE, also, to link their theoretical knowledge with applied initiatives, and to motivate students to explore and develop their vision in the field of entrepreneurship. The tour, sponsored by the College, was designed to serve as an experience across various systems and segments in business and engineering.

During the tour, students were given the opportunity to learn more about entrepreneurship initiatives in the UAE, many of which supported entrepreneurs and business leaders in the Middle East and North Africa region. The four-day tour program included visits to innovation and entrepreneurship centers, small and medium enterprises, and meetings with local and foreign entrepreneurs working in Dubai.

Following the busy tour program in Dubai, students travelled to Abu Dhabi to attend the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (the largest gathering of sustainability in the Middle East). This provided the opportunity to visit the exhibition and listen to presentations from global investors in the field of climate innovation exchange. After the exhibition the group visited "Masdar City", where they experienced innovations making Masdar one of the world's most sustainable eco cities.

NBK launches a National Song as a gift for Kuwait on National Day

On the occasion of Kuwait's independence and liberation anniversaries, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), in another first-of-its-kind initiative, launched a special musical work presented as a commemorative gift to Kuwait. Manal Al Mattar, NBK Public Relations Assistant General Manager said: "Titled "Go Live", the national song, performed by the Kuwaiti talented singer Bashar Al Shatti, is a piece of art that is rich in connotations and invokes remarkably vivid community-related associations, reflects the modern social life, the interests of youth and a direct call for them to communicate and share their special talents and moments in Kuwait with their loved ones proudly and thankfully.

The song is revealed on TV stations as well as in cinema theaters. Social media followers can watch the song through NBK social media channels on YouTube and Facebook NBKGroup or Instagram and Twitter @NBKGroup. Special competitions are held with valuable prizes on NBK social media channels. "This unprecedented musical work is a commemorative gift for Kuwait and on awareness towards social responsibility and to encourage youth to communicate and raise their devotion towards their country," Al Mattar added.

NBK reinforced its position as a lead contributor to the development of the Kuwaiti society through its commitment to corporate social responsibility. This commitment became evident in the numerous social and philanthropic initiatives and national responsibilities including the special musical operetta "Habibityi ya Kuwait" that was launched on the occasion of Kuwait's independence Golden Jubilee, Baqoun and Hatha Howa Elkuweiti.

Happy Birthday!

Happy 7th Birthday to our sweet and Lovely daughter Aisha Syed on February 14, 2018. Best wishes from Mom, Dad, Brother Syed Danial and Sister Yasmin Syed. We wish you all the happiness and success in your life.

French School of Kuwait (LFK) achieves outstanding results on French national diploma GCSE (French General Certificate Secondary Education)

The French School of Kuwait announced that it had achieved 95% success in the French General Certificate Secondary Education, well known for its demand on the academic performance.

85% of candidates received an honorable mention or very honorable.

The Graduation ceremony took place at Kuwait French School on Sunday 11th of February 2018. It was attended by the students, their families and teachers.

The Ambassador of France Mrs. Marie MASDUPUY and The advisor to the ambassador for cooperation and cultural affairs Mr. Cedric DEVAIS honored in the School with their presence at the ceremony.
The principal Mr. Gérard LAHOURCADE and deputy head Mrs. Pascale CHELALA congratulated the students and their teachers for their performance.

Mrs. Mona AL KHALED and Dr. Fahed AL RASHED owners of the French school of Kuwait congratulate the school team for this achievement towards a high standard of education.

Zeina Fares receiving the degree from her Excellency Mrs Marie Masdupuy, the French Ambassador to Kuwait And Dr. Fahad Al Rashed owner of the French School

T V

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:50 Bus 657
02:25 The Phantom
04:10 Crossfire
05:40 Captain America: The First Avenger
07:45 The Phantom
09:35 Star Wars: Episode VI - Return Of The Jedi
11:50 Project Almanac
13:40 Captain America: The First Avenger
15:45 Bad Company
17:45 Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace
20:05 Captain America: Civil War
22:35 Boerning II

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Bad Dog
03:35 Going Ape
04:00 Going Ape
04:25 World's Ugliest Dog Competition
05:15 My Fat Pet
06:02 Wild Iberia
06:49 Lone Star Law
07:36 Meet The Sloths
08:00 Meet The Sloths
08:25 Going Ape
08:50 Going Ape
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Bad Dog
11:05 Wild Iberia
12:00 Going Ape
12:28 Going Ape
12:55 World's Ugliest Dog Competition
13:50 My Fat Pet
14:45 Bad Dog
15:40 Wild Iberia
16:35 Lone Star Law
17:30 Treehouse Masters
18:25 Tanked
19:20 Canopy Kings
20:15 Cats 101
21:10 Going Ape
21:38 Going Ape
22:05 Tanked
23:00 Canopy Kings
23:55 Wild Iberia

BBC FIRST

00:20 Stella
01:05 The Coroner
01:55 The Musketeers
02:50 Silent Witness
03:45 Stella
04:35 Doctors
05:05 Holby City
06:00 Holby City
06:55 The Musketeers
07:55 Stella
08:45 Holby City
09:45 Holby City
10:40 The Coroner
11:35 The Musketeers
12:30 Stella
13:20 Holby City
14:20 Holby City
15:15 The Coroner
16:10 The Musketeers
17:10 Stella
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:00 The Coroner
20:00 Stella
20:45 The Durrells
21:35 The Coroner
22:25 Doctors
22:55 Eastenders
23:25 Stella

crime & investigation network

00:00 The Menendez Murders: Erik Tells All
01:00 Evil Up Close
02:00 Evil Up Close
03:00 The First 48
04:00 The Menendez Murders: Erik Tells All
05:00 Evil Up Close
06:00 Evil Up Close
07:00 It Takes A Killer
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Escaping Polygamy
10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
12:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
13:00 The First 48
14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
15:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
16:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
21:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
22:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
23:00 My Crazy Ex

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Nightcap
00:30 Another Period
00:55 Another Period
01:20 Chris Ramsey Stand Up Central
01:45 Tosh.0
02:10 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Tosh.0
03:50 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
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 Punk'd (Bet)
07:15 Punk'd (Bet)
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 The Dude Perfect Show
13:05 The Dude Perfect Show
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
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
22:00 Teachers
22:25 Tosh.0
22:50 Tosh.0
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds
01:20 Now That's Funny
02:10 Now That's Funny
03:00 How We Invented The World
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Tanked
05:30 How It's Made
05:55 How It's Made
06:20 Destroyed In Seconds
06:40 Destroyed In Seconds
07:00 Ultimate Survival
07:50 How It's Made
08:15 How It's Made
08:40 Destroyed In Seconds
09:05 Destroyed In Seconds
09:30 Tanked
10:20 How We Invented The World
11:10 Mythbusters
12:00 Invent It Rich
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Destroyed In Seconds
14:05 Destroyed In Seconds
14:30 Tanked
15:20 Ultimate Survival
16:10 How We Invented The World
17:00 The Know It All Guide To...
17:25 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
17:50 Invent It Rich
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Tanked
21:10 The Know It All Guide To...
21:35 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
22:00 Invent It Rich
22:50 How We Invented The World
23:40 Ultimate Survival

ID

00:50 Kiss Of Death
01:45 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
02:40 Murder At Sea: People Magazine Investigates
03:35 Murder Online
04:30 Kiss Of Death
05:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
06:20 I Almost Got Away With It
07:10 Evil-In-Law
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:25 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
09:15 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
09:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
10:10 Evil-In-Law
11:05 Florida's Craziest Crimes
12:00 Fatal Encounters
12:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Evil-In-Law
15:40 Florida's Craziest Crimes
16:35 The Perfect Murder
17:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
18:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
18:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It
20:15 Heartbreakers
21:10 Suspicion
22:05 Married With Secrets
23:00 Kiss Of Death
23:55 Love Kills

Disney Channel 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 Tangled: The Series
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
10:25 Lolirock
10:50 Lolirock
11:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
12:05 Hank Zipzer
12:30 Alex & Co.
12:55 Alex & Co.
13:20 Lolirock
13:45 Lolirock
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:00 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Jessie
15:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:45 Elena Of Avalor: Realm Of The Jaquins
16:35 Bizaardvark
17:00 Tangled: The Series
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:50 Stuck In The Middle
18:15 K.C. Undercover
18:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
19:05 Bunk'd
19:30 Austin & Ally
19:55 Descendants Wicked World
20:00 Liv And Maddie
20:25 Jessie
20:50 Tangled: The Series
21:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:20 K.C. Undercover
21:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
22:10 Bizaardvark
22:35 Girl Meets World
23:00 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:45 Lolirock

Disney Junior

00:00 PJ Masks
00:30 PJ Masks
01:00 PJ Masks
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo
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 Loopdidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 PJ Masks
08:00 P-King Duckling
08:25 Jungle Junction
08:40 Special Agent Oso
09:00 Handy Manny
09:15 PJ Masks
09:30 Puppy Dog Pals
10:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
10:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:55 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:50 The Lion Guard
12:15 The Lion Guard
12:45 Sofia The First
13:10 Sofia The First
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 Doc McStuffins
14:55 P-King Duckling
15:20 Vampirina
15:45 Sofia The First
16:10 Puppy Dog Pals
16:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:05 Mission Force One: Connect And Protect Shorts
17:10 PJ Masks
17:35 Miles From Tomorrow
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:00 The Lion Guard
20:30 P-King Duckling
21:00 Vampirina
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 PJ Masks
22:30 Sofia The First
23:00 P-King Duckling
23:30 Puppy Dog Pals

Discovery Channel HD

00:15 Yukon Men
01:05 Diesel Brothers
01:50 Gear Dogs
02:35 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Street Outlaws
04:50 Dirty Jobs
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Backroad Bounty
06:45 Backroad Bounty
07:35 Alaska: Battle On The Bay
08:20 Backroad Bounty
09:10 Dirty Jobs
09:55 Diesel Brothers
10:45 Gear Dogs
11:30 Fast N' Loud
13:05 Backroad Bounty
13:55 Dirty Jobs
14:40 Yukon Men
15:30 Diesel Brothers
16:15 Gear Dogs
17:05 Fast N' Loud
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:25 Yukon Men
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Heavy Rescue
21:50 Railroad Australia
22:40 Abandoned Engineering
23:30 Alaska: Battle On The Bay

Disney XD

06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Milo Murphy's Law
06:50 Right Now Kapow
07:15 Mech-X4
07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
07:45 Walk The Prank
08:10 Walk The Prank
08:35 Right Now Kapow
09:00 Right Now Kapow
09:25 Mighty Med
09:50 Mighty Med
10:20 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
10:45 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
11:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
11:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
12:00 Kid vs. Kat
12:25 Two More Eggs
12:30 Kid vs. Kat
12:55 Kirby Buckets Warped
13:20 Kirby Buckets Warped
13:45 Supa Strikas
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Right Now Kapow
15:05 Right Now Kapow
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Two More Eggs
16:00 The Suite Life Of Zack & Cody
16:25 Lab Rats
16:50 Lab Rats
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Walk The Prank
19:00 Gravity Falls
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Kid vs. Kat
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

E HD

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

ITV Choice HD

00:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
01:00 Emmerdale

ITV Choice

01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Couples Come Dine With Me
03:25 Endeavour
05:15 Don't Tell The Bride
06:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
07:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
08:05 Endeavour
09:55 Don't Tell The Bride
11:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
11:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
15:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
16:00 Prince Harry And Meghan: Truly, Madly, Deeply
16:55 Broadchurch
17:50 Don't Tell The Bride
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
21:00 Prince Harry And Meghan: Truly, Madly, Deeply
21:55 Broadchurch
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

H2 HD

H2 HD

00:00 Smartest Guy In The Room
00:30 Smartest Guy In The Room
01:00 UFO Files
02:00 UFO Files
03:00 Engineering Disasters
03:50 Ancient Aliens
04:40 Breaking Mysterious
05:30 Smartest Guy In The Room
05:55 Smartest Guy In The Room
06:20 UFO Files
07:10 The Universe
08:00 UFO Files
09:00 Engineering Disasters
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Breaking Mysterious
12:00 Smartest Guy In The Room
12:30 Smartest Guy In The Room
13:00 United Stuff Of America
14:00 UFO Files
15:00 Engineering Disasters
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Breaking Mysterious
18:00 The Universe
19:00 Ancient Aliens
20:00 Ancient Aliens
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Modern Marvels

History HD

00:20 Swamp People
01:10 Swamp People

History HD

02:00 American Pickers Best Ofs
02:50 Ice Road Truckers
03:40 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
04:30 Swamp People
05:15 Swamp People
06:00 Mountain Men
06:50 Forged In Fire
07:40 Ice Road Truckers
08:30 Detroit Steel
09:20 American Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 Forged In Fire
11:50 Ice Road Truckers
12:40 Detroit Steel
13:30 Duck Dynasty
13:55 Duck Dynasty
14:20 American Pickers
15:10 Mountain Men
16:00 Forged In Fire
16:50 Ice Road Truckers
17:40 Detroit Steel
18:30 Mountain Men
19:20 Forged In Fire
20:10 American Pickers Best Ofs
21:00 Counting Cars
21:25 Car Hunters
21:50 Ultimate Wheels
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 Mountain Men

Nat Geo People HD

Nat Geo People HD

00:15 Places We Go
00:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
01:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
01:40 Places We Go
02:05 Places We Go
02:35 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
03:30 Testing The Menu
03:55 One Man & His Campervan
04:25 My Dubai
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:45 John Torode's Asia
06:15 Miguel's Feasts
06:40 Eat Street
07:10 Places We Go
07:35 Places We Go
08:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
09:00 Testing The Menu
09:25 One Man & His Campervan
09:55 My Dubai
10:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
11:15 John Torode's Asia
11:45 Miguel's Feasts
12:10 Eat Street
12:40 Places We Go
13:05 Places We Go
13:35 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
14:30 Testing The Menu
14:55 One Man & His Campervan
15:25 My Dubai
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:45 John Torode's Asia
17:15 Miguel's Feasts
17:40 Eat Street
18:10 Places We Go
18:35 Places We Go
19:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
20:00 Testing The Menu
20:30 One Man & His Campervan
21:00 My Dubai
21:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
22:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
22:25 John Torode's Asia
22:55 Miguel's Feasts
23:20 Eat Street
23:50 Places We Go

Nat Geo Wild HD

00:10 Yukon Gold
01:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
02:00 Air Crash Investigation
03:00 The Witch Doctor,Ä¶
04:00 Yukon Gold
05:00 Filthy Riches
06:00 Breakthrough
07:00 The Long Road Home
08:00 Inside
09:00 Filthy Riches
10:00 China To The World
11:00 Explorer XL
12:00 Drain The Great Lakes
13:00 Breakthrough
14:00 India's Mega Kitchens
15:00 The Blackout
17:00 Explorer XL
18:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
19:00 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
20:00 Breakthrough
20:50 Explorer XL
21:40 Years Of Living Dangerously
22:30 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
23:20 India's Mega Kitchens

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
01:07 Max & Ruby
01:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:40 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:50 The Day Henry Met
01:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:42 Paw Patrol
02:54 Kid-E-Cats
02:58 Kid-E-Cats
03:05 Shimmer And Shine
03:27 Nella The Princess Knight
03:38 Paw Patrol
04:01 The Day Henry Met
04:07 Max & Ruby
04:29 Dora The Explorer
04:51 Sunny Day
05:14 Nella The Princess Knight
05:36 Shimmer And Shine
05:59 Wallykazam!
06:22 Zack & Quack
06:32 The Day Henry Met
06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:00 Rusty Rivets
07:14 Paw Patrol
07:25 Paw Patrol
07:37 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Nella The Princess Knight
08:12 Kid-E-Cats
08:17 Kid-E-Cats
08:22 Bubble Guppies
08:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:07 Paw Patrol
09:19 Paw Patrol
09:30 Shimmer And Shine
09:52 Nella The Princess Knight
10:14 The Day Henry Met
10:20 Paw Patrol
10:43 Rusty Rivets
11:06 Wallykazam!
11:30 Bubble Guppies
11:54 Team Umizoomi
12:16 Kid-E-Cats
12:21 Shimmer And Shine
12:45 Sunny Day
13:06 Max & Ruby
13:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:40 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:50 The Day Henry Met
13:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:41 Paw Patrol
14:53 Kid-E-Cats
14:58 Kid-E-Cats
15:04 Shimmer And Shine
15:26 Nella The Princess Knight
15:37 Paw Patrol
16:00 The Day Henry Met
16:06 Max & Ruby
16:28 Dora The Explorer
16:51 Sunny Day
17:13 Nella The Princess Knight
17:35 Shimmer And Shine
17:59 Wallykazam!
18:21 Zack & Quack
18:32 The Day Henry Met
18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
19:00 Rusty Rivets
19:14 Paw Patrol
19:25 Paw Patrol
19:37 Dora The Explorer
20:00 Nella The Princess Knight
20:12 Kid-E-Cats
20:16 Kid-E-Cats
20:21 Bubble Guppies
20:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
21:07 Paw Patrol
21:18 Paw Patrol
21:29 Shimmer And Shine
21:53 Nella The Princess Knight
22:15 The Day Henry Met
22:21 Paw Patrol
22:44 Rusty Rivets
23:07 Wallykazam!
23:30 Bubble Guppies
23:53 Team Umizoomi

OSN Comedy HD

00:15 The Drew Carey Show
00:40 The Drew Carey Show
01:05 The Middle
01:30 The Middle
01:55 Gary Unmarried
02:20 Malcolm In The Middle
02:45 Making History
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:40 Malcolm In The Middle
06:05 Gary Unmarried
06:30 Making History
06:55 Baby Daddy
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 Speechless
10:15 The Carmichael Show
10:40 Malcolm In The Middle
11:05 Gary Unmarried
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Making History
12:45 Baby Daddy
13:10 The Drew Carey Show
13:35 The Drew Carey Show
14:00 The Middle
14:25 The Middle
14:50 Malcolm In The Middle
15:15 Speechless
15:40 The Carmichael Show
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Making History
17:30 Baby Daddy
18:00 The Drew Carey Show
18:30 The Drew Carey Show
19:00 The Middle
19:30 The Middle
20:00 Modern Family
20:30 Will And Grace 2017
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Future Man
22:30 Future Man
23:00 Ballers
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN Movies HD Family

01:20 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
02:50 Step Dogs
04:20 Ratchet And Clank
06:00 The Adventure Club
07:30 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
09:00 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
10:30 Step Dogs
12:00 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
13:35 Lego DC Comics: Justice League Cosmic Clash
15:00 Olaf's Frozen Adventure
15:30 Shelby: The Dog Who Saved Christmas
17:05 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism
18:45 The Adventures Of Pepper And Paula
20:20 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
21:55 Lego DC Comics: Justice League Cosmic Clash
23:20 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism

OSN Movies HD Comedy

01:25 Helicopter Mom
02:50 Preggoland
04:45 Cops And Robbersons
06:25 Article 99
08:15 A Merry Christmas Miracle
09:45 Summer Villa
11:15 Cops And Robbersons
12:55 Article 99
14:40 The Bucket List
16:20 Life Or Something Like It
18:10 Impromptu
20:00 Stakeout
22:00 The Love Guru
23:30 Someone Marry Barry

OSN Movies Festival

00:30 Freeheld
02:20 Things We Lost In The Fire
04:25 The Challenger
06:10 I Believe In Miracles
08:05 Dare To Be Wild
09:55 The Challenger
11:40 Things We Lost In The Fire
13:45 Match
15:25 The Keeping Room
17:10 The Benefactor
18:50 Das Tagebuch Der Anne Frank
21:05 Never Let Me Go
22:55 The Survivalist

OSN Movies HD Kids

00:25 The Snow Queen 3
02:00 Rock Dog
03:40 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin
05:10 Catcher: Cat City 2
06:50 Rainbow Valley Heroes
08:30 DC Superhero Girls: Hero Of The Year
09:55 Papelucho & The Martian
11:20 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion
13:05 A Town Called Panic
14:30 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin
16:00 Catcher: Cat City 2
17:40 The Wheelers
19:05 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion
20:50 Felix All Around The World
22:20 Teo: The Intergalactic Hunter
23:50 The Wheelers

OSN Movies HD

01:45 The Finest Hours
03:45 The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
05:50 Chloe And Theo
07:15 Splash
09:05 Hail, Caesar!
10:55 Man In The Moon
12:40 The Finest Hours
14:45 My All American
16:50 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
18:30 This Means War
20:15 The Boss
22:00 Sex And The City The Movie

Discovery Science

00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 X-Ray Mega Airport
03:10 Alien Encounters
04:00 Nextworld
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Food Factory
06:24 X-Ray Mega Airport
07:12 Alien Encounters
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Nextworld
09:14 Mythbusters
10:02 Alien Encounters
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 X-Ray Mega Airport
12:26 Nextworld
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 Alien Encounters
15:38 Nextworld
16:26 X-Ray Mega Airport
17:14 Mythbusters
18:02 Alien Encounters
18:50 Nextworld
19:40 Mythbusters
20:30 Secrets Of The Underground
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 Alien Encounters
23:00 Secrets Of The Underground
23:50 Nextworld

Star Movies HD

01:15 Dorfman In Love
02:45 Step Up
04:30 The Hottie & The Nottie
06:15 House Of D
08:00 That's What I Am
09:45 Hard Candy
11:30 The Hoax
13:30 The Quiet American
15:15 Dorfman In Love
16:45 Bad Santa
18:15 About Adam
20:00 Titanic
23:15 Bounce

Star World HD

00:00 Fashion Star
01:00 Fashion Star
02:00 Mistresses
03:00 House Of DVF
04:00 Three
05:00 Project Runway
06:00 Fashion Star
07:00 Fashion Star
08:00 Mistresses
09:00 House Of DVF
10:00 Three
11:00 Project Runway
12:00 Fashion Star
13:00 Fashion Star
14:00 Mistresses
15:00 House Of DVF
16:00 Three
17:00 Project Runway
18:00 Cedar Cove
19:00 Cedar Cove
20:00 Mistresses
21:00 House Of DVF
22:00 Three
23:00 Project Runway

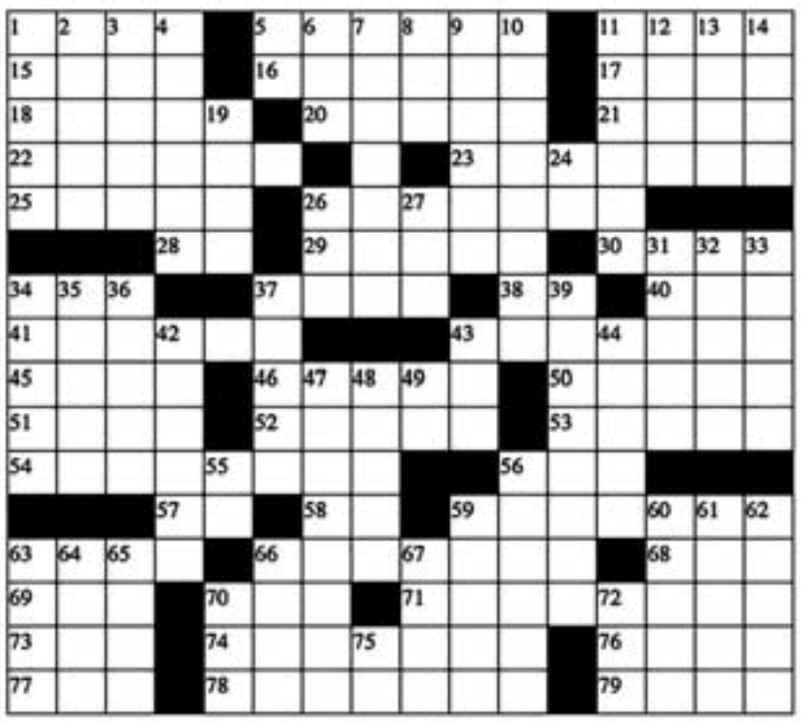
OSN Sports 1 HD

00:30 Formula-E: Race For The Planet
01:00 Formula Drift Insider
01:30 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
02:00 Pro Bull Riders
03:00 WWE Afterburn
04:00 Live WWE Smackdown
06:00 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
06:30 Formula Drift Insider
07:00 Pro Bull Riders
08:00 WWE Raw
10:30 WWE 205 Live
11:30 Formula Drift Insider
12:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights
14:00 Pro Bull Riders
15:00 WWE Smackdown
16:30 WWE Vintage
17:30 Formula Drift Insider
18:00 Pro Bull Riders
19:00 WWE NXT
20:00 WWE Smackdown
21:30 Formula Drift Insider
22:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights

OSN Sports 2 HD

00:00 Amsoil Arenacross
01:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
03:00 Live NCAA Basketball
05:00 Formula Drift Insider
05:30 UFC Unleashed
06:30 Formula-E: Race For The Planet
07:00 Amsoil Arenacross
08:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights
10:00 Pro Bull Riders
11:00 Amsoil Arenacross
12:00 UFC 221- Prelims
14:00 UFC 221 - Romero v Rockhold
16:30 UFC Unleashed
17:30 NCAA Basketball
19:00 ABB Formula-E Street Racers
19:30 UFC Unleashed
20:30 NCAA Basketball
22:00 NCAA Basketball

CROSSWORD 1835



ACROSS

1. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
5. Shrub bearing oval-fruited kumquats.
11. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
15. The basic unit of money in Papua New Guinea.
16. An immunosuppressive drug (trade name Imuran) used to prevent rejection of a transplanted organ.
17. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
18. Place in a line or arrange so as to be parallel.
20. Small songbirds resembling larks.
21. The highest level or degree attainable.
22. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
23. Cattle that are reared for their milk.
25. A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
28. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
29. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
30. Constituting a copy or imitation of something.
34. A dissolute man in fashionable society.
38. A person forced to flee from home or country.
40. A United Nations agency to coordinate international health activities and to help governments improve health services.
41. Bristlelike process near the tip of the antenna of certain flies.
45. A humorous anecdote or remark.
46. (British) A cup of tea.
50. The ending of a series or sequence.
51. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
52. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
53. A switch made from the stems of the rattan palms.
54. Divided into two lobes.
57. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
58. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
63. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
68. The foot of a human being.
69. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
71. Any ameba of the genus Endamoeba.
73. The basic unit of money in Albania.
74. An island state in the West Indies in the southeastern Caribbean Sea.
76. A port city in northwestern Algeria and the country's 2nd largest city.
77. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
78. A capacitance unit equal to one billion farads.
79. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. Jordan's port.
2. The capital of Lombardy in northern Italy.
3. The craniometric point that is the most prominent point at the back of the head (at the occipital protuberance).
4. A motley assortment of things.
5. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
6. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
7. Of or relating to or characteristic of Guinea or its inhabitants.
8. Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
9. Badly injured, perhaps with amputation.
10. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
11. A unit of apothecary weight equal to an eighth of an ounce or to 60 grains.
12. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
13. An actor who communicates entirely by gesture and facial expression.
14. A man who courts a woman.
19. A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
24. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
26. A branch of the Tai languages.
27. (usually followed by `of') Released from something onerous (especially an obligation or duty).
31. Young owl.
32. A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
33. Sacred writings of Islam revealed by God to the prophet Mohammed during his life at Mecca and Medina.
35. Of or relating to Iraq or its people or culture.
36. Fig tree of India noted for great size and longevity.
37. A sheet or band of fibrous connective tissue separating or binding together muscles and organs etc.
39. Widely distributed genus of herbs or shrubs with glandular compound leaves and spicate or racemose purple or white flowers.
42. A Spanish title of respect for a married woman.
43. The cry made by sheep.
44. (psychoanalysis) An idealized image of someone (usually a parent) formed in childhood.
47. A cephalosporin antibiotic (trade name Ultracef).
48. A formal expression of praise.
49. After noon.
55. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
56. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
59. Large black-and-white herbivorous mammal of bamboo forests of China and Tibet.
60. A drama set to music.
61. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
62. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
64. In bed.
65. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
66. A word that serves as the predicate of a sentence.
67. A drop of the clear salty saline solution secreted by the lacrimal glands.
70. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
72. Characteristic of a mob.
75. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.

Yesterday's Solution

V	A	C		A	K	E	R	I	D	A	E		A	R	B
E	G	O		L	A	M	A	S	E	R	Y		L	E	A
N	A	N	S	E	N		I	S	S	U	E		G	A	B
O	M	I	T		N	A	D	A		N		L	A	M	A
M	A	C	A	D	A	M		C	A	D	D	I	E		
			M	U	D			H	A	O	M	A		S	B
P	E	D	I	C	A	B		A	R		D	I	R	C	A
A	D	A	N	A			C	R	O	P		S	A	I	D
Y	U	C	A	T	E	C			N	O	S	E	B	A	G
E	C	C			N	A	B			B	A		I	R	E
R	E	A	G	A	N		A	G	A		R	A	D	A	R
			A	B	U	J	A		B	A	A	L			
B	R	U	N	E	I			C	A	C	H	A	L	O	T
E	A	R	E	D		H	A	Y	D	N		U	L	V	A
E	G	I	S		P	A	L	M	A	E		D	Y	E	R
F	I	C	A		U	N	B	E	N	D		A	R	N	O

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, you could feel as though you are not a fit for your surroundings; disinterest is indicated strongly. You suspect you can no longer count on someone you once could. Without even trying you find yourself embroiled in arguments of the personal kind; be mindful of what you say as you can t take words back. Opinions are not what you seek; only facts matter at this particular time. You enjoy witnessing a new invention at work that could touch the lives of many if correctly promoted. You could be contacted by an old acquaintance. You go inward in an effort to figure out your true feelings on an intimately personal level. A nice distraction from the pressures of the day could come in the form of desert made especially for you and your sweet tooth, Aries.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, teamwork is very productive as you join in on an important project. You play a major role in closing a deal or making a purchase for an impressive price. You re noticed for your outward beauty or for being handsome; people enjoy your inner qualities as well and aren't afraid to say so. Your skills of persuasion are strong as you explain the ins and outs of something to a customer or client. You love new, different designs and colors; modern lines and methods hold your interest. People who don t understand your thinking offend you; they seem to be a waste of time. You find an item someone is looking for and for the price they want to pay. Let yourself be pampered tonight with a massage or exquisite dinner in a high end restaurant, Taurus.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, you could disagree with the way someone deals with a certain project or task. The person leading a company or supervising an office isn't on the same page with you. You dig deep when searching for answers to repairing something at home. Your intention is to council and help someone who becomes offended by your efforts; remember that some people wake up each morning expecting to be offended and they usually are! Opinions don t interest you for its workable ideas you seek. You could find that you have zero tolerance for those who don t think as you do. New ideas and products demand your attention just now; your tastes are changing in all aspects of life as you discover new joys and productivity in different places, Gemini.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, to others you may appear as though you're nervous or worried. You could feel ignored or overlooked due to your views or beliefs. You may actually be just fine inwardly, but something is off about your appearance; check this! Aspects of your new journey separate you from those who aren't interested in where you are or where you re going. Expensive art, cars or jewels aren't what hold value for you: priorities for you are the simple pleasures and privileges like enough to eat and a place to live, the basics in life are what create your grateful heart. Someone seems petty, complaining about nothing. Solutions and making things better are at the top of your list of conversation topics, so plan to spend time with like-minded people and smile, Cancer.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, what you cherish most is found in the form of family, home, intimate relationships that make life worth living. Also important is being right, being praised for all the good things you do for people; you truly are a giving, generous person. This phase brings opportunities for chances and gambles; this doesn't last forever, so act if you feel certain. Drama with a capital d is available if you desire to have it, this is a choice. You focus on others and not on yourself to the point where you could feel emotionally shallow and removed, blind to your needs. Should you insist on pursuing heated conversations, they happen and cause severe damage! You re not interested in the opinions of others; only facts and figures matter to you at a crucial time like this, Leo.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, distance grows between you and someone you're close to; a deep gap or void forms that won't be repaired. Change is difficult in some areas you have chosen, but remember your reasons for going in a different direction. Sound thinking and logic are what you seek and not opinions or theories. An urgent need for assistance arises later in the day and you can t take care of it alone. Someone steps on your last nerve with meaningless prattle and what you consider gibberish. A new hairstyle or different fashion sense puts a spring in your step; people notice the pleasant vibrations surrounding you. This is a peaceful time, and quite healing. Absorb the positives in your life and those who encourage you as you leave old habits and negativity behind, Virgo.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, the sense of an impending or actual disconnect is strongly felt; perhaps a short break or an indefinite one is necessary but either can be done without chaos erupting. Everything about some relationships have drastically changed; certain changes are prayers answered, others not so much. Your energy level is brisk and your tasks are completed on time and with ease. You can relax and let your heart be light if you choose, but there again is that choice thing! If some people seem to cut you off or otherwise block your comments, leave them and go to the place you can function and contribute. Your ability to make things happen is much needed elsewhere, and very effective here. Spending time with people who re on the same page as you is valuable, Libra.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, you long for good information on new techniques and gadgets; your mind is foggy and not comprehending well, so another time would work better to start anything new. Drama could unfold because of something you did in the past; listen respectfully and learn. Temper flares are unpleasant and long lasting when you re confronted by someone on something you regard as petty. An elder or someone in authority rubs you the wrong way causing insult and negative energy! Your day is filled with confrontations but there s something later that brings pleasure and laughter. You enjoy the early evening by completing a personal project you re very proud of; a nice dinner in front of the television tops off the day with this secret treat you love, Scorpio.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, an emotional separation is strongly felt; this could take a while to repair. Your imagination is unbound as you long for new ideas and theories. You exhibit zero tolerance for shallow, flighty people no matter who they are. Modern art or designs seem to call to you; architecture is something you find fascinating during this phase. You re told you re easy to approach; this person immediately begins asking personal questions you may not care for. You feel chatty and get involved in a conversation that relays interesting information, or gossip, about someone you know fairly well. An old-fashioned recipe appeals to your sense of flavor; this could indicate vegetable soup, or for cajuns, some fabulous gumbo and french bread, Sagittarius.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, the day brightens with recognition of a job well done. The importance of your work intensifies as new assignments and opportunities to make money prevail. Aren't you glad you worked so hardstill, when an invitation to a fun gathering pops up you gladly accept and enjoy a brief break! Meetings and other assemblies are productive and encouraging for the future. You come across modern ideas as you research a certain topic; this could pertain to methods of spiritual or physical healing. New week, new clients or customers; nice start to a period of making money. Trust yourself, you know what s right. A new recipe provides fun and pleases taste buds this evening; you could receive a surprise later when you open your mail, Capricorn.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Aquarius, ideas come pouring in as you work toward solving a problem. Words are your friends as you describe your thoughts to coworkers or family. You may have a problem focusing as your ideas jump from one to the next; fight the urge to become frustrated. There could be a problem with a coworker or a neighbor later. You could be approached by a group representing younger children or adults regarding fundraising or other volunteer activities. You could receive a job offer that meets the criteria you need met. The stars are aligned to create professional or work opportunities; be patient until the right one appears. Coworkers or family complement your abilities to make things run smoothly with wonderful results for all, Aquarius.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, you have entered a cycle that favors and promotes patriotism and loyalty to other services that better life for many; you may actually be asked to work with a group toward fundraising. Obstacles and blockages should be considered as teachers and friends. Look closely at your attitude about yourself and others; fight the urge to care too deeply what others think of you. Someone shares their true feelings on a situation involving you on some level; remember everyone sees a situation from their point of view. Understanding is something you do well with; you are loved for your fairmindedness. Decisions on behalf of others is a necessary task you finally complete this evening; rest well knowing you have done what is best for everyone, Pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Musical Instruments 1

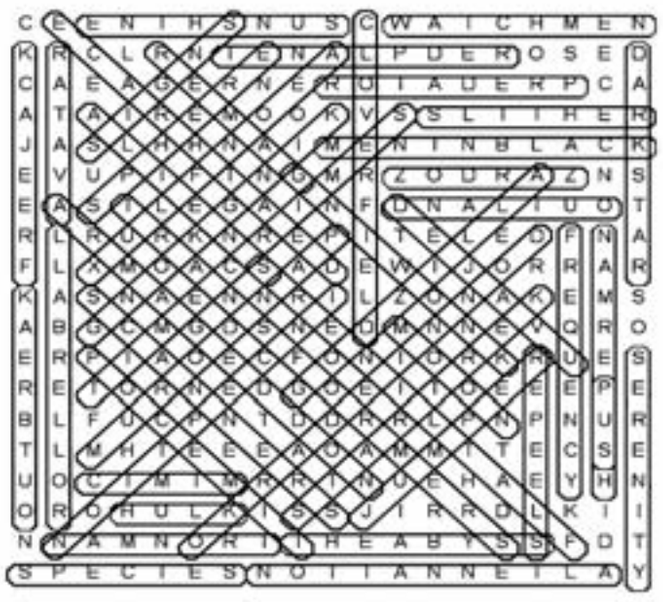
Find and circle all of the musical instruments that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

C	A	T	H	O	U	K	U	L	E	L	E	M	U	R	D	G	R
C	O	K	S	Y	D	R	U	G	Y	D	R	U	H	I	U	E	A
P	I	R	R	B	A	L	A	L	A	I	K	A	D	I	T	O	T
E	E	T	N	A	R	H	D	O	B	H	W	G	T	H	R	B	I
V	O	N	T	E	T	O	H	N	A	E	E	A	A	R	O	O	S
I	P	S	N	E	T	N	U	R	R	R	R	C	O	T	M	C	C
B	I	A	T	Y	R	E	P	D	I	O	A	H	C	E	B	O	H
R	C	C	R	L	W	N	P	D	M	B	H	L	M	U	O	N	I
A	C	A	A	L	M	H	O	I	A	E	A	H	A	S	N	G	M
P	O	R	M	E	U	O	I	S	P	R	L	L	C	O	E	A	E
H	L	A	Z	B	I	F	A	S	I	G	O	O	I	N	T	I	S
O	O	M	I	W	N	S	L	N	T	D	A	D	D	U	E	C	T
N	H	I	M	O	O	S	E	U	N	L	R	B	O	I	N	R	N
E	S	A	Z	C	H	T	S	A	T	O	E	A	K	U	C	T	F
V	E	E	N	A	P	H	M	A	C	E	L	E	X	D	A	A	N
B	A	N	J	O	U	C	E	C	B	R	V	I	O	L	I	N	S
O	L	L	E	C	E	M	A	E	L	G	N	A	I	R	T	A	D

ACCORDION, BAGPIPE, BALALAIKA, BANJO, BASS, BODHRAN, CABASAS, CELLO, CHIMES, CITTERN, CLARINET, CONGA, CORNET, COW BELL, DIDGERIDOO, DRUM, EUPHONIUM, FLUTE, FRENCH HORN, GUITAR, HARP, HURDY-GURDY, LAOUTA, MANDOLA, MARACAS, MELODICA, MIZMAR, OBOE, OUD, PENNYWHISTLE, PICCOLO, SAZ, SITAR, TARKA, TRIANGLE, TROMBONE, UKULELE, VEENA, VIBRAPHONE, VIOLIN, XUN

Yesterday's Solution

Movies: Science Fiction 2



AEON FLUX, ALIEN NATION, ALIENS, ARMAGEDDON, AVATAR, CLOVERFIELD, DARK STAR, DEATH RACE, DEJA VU, DONNIE DARKO, FLATLINERS, FREEJACK, FREQUENCY, GAMER, GODZILLA, HULK, INCEPTION, IRON MAN, JUMPER, KING KONG, KNOWING, MEN IN BLACK, MIMIC, MOON, OUTBREAK, OUTLAND, PANDORUM, PREDATOR, PUSH, RED PLANET, ROLLERBALL, SCANNERS, SERENITY, SIGNS, SLEEPER, SLITHER, SPECIES, SPHERE, STAR TREK, SUNSHINE, SUPERMAN, THE ABYSS, TIMECOP, TIMECRIMES, TRANSFORMERS, WATCHMEN, ZARDOZ

Hidden movie: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

Daily SuDoku

3				2	5	4		6
							3	
	6	4	9					
	2					7	6	
5			2		1			9
	1	9					2	
					4	9	5	
	5							
8		7	5	9				2

Yesterday's Solution

3	7	6	8	1	5	2	4	9
5	1	8	9	2	4	3	7	6
4	9	2	3	6	7	8	5	1
9	6	5	7	8	2	4	1	3
8	3	7	4	9	1	6	2	5
1	2	4	5	3	6	9	8	7
6	5	9	1	4	8	7	3	2
7	8	3	2	5	9	1	6	4
2	4	1	6	7	3	5	9	8

Classifieds

Wednesday, February 14, 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

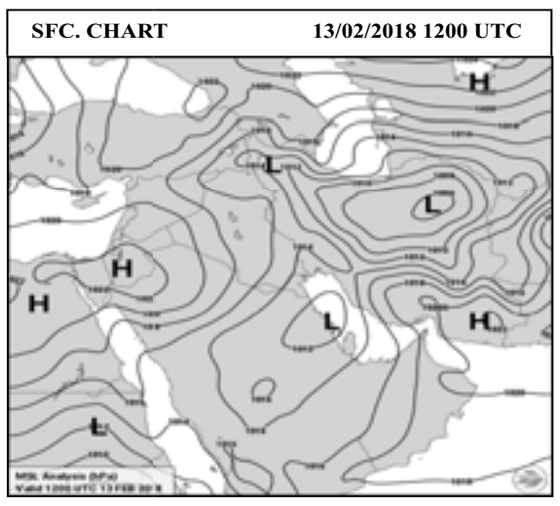
BY NIGHT: Cloudy to partly cloudy with fresh to strong at times south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 60 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for scattered rain later on.

BY DAY: A significant decrease in temperature with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

WEATHER WARNING	Strong Wind

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	27 °C	15 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	33 °C	13 °C
ABDALY	30 °C	12 °C
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C
JAHRA	35 °C	11 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	23 °C	14 °C
SALMIYAH	20 °C	15 °C
AHMADI	20 °C	15 °C
NUWAISIB	28 °C	11 °C
WAFRA	37 °C	12 °C
SALMY	33 °C	13 °C

SFC. CHART 13/02/2018 1200 UTC



4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures MAX.	Temperatures MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Wednesday	02/14	A significant decrease in temperature with a chance for rising dust over open areas	23 °C	13 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Thursday	02/15	Partly cloudy to cloudy	23 °C	08 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h
Friday	02/16	Partly cloudy to cloudy	27 °C	11 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h
Saturday	02/17	Partly cloudy to cloudy causing rising dust with a chance for scattered light rain later on	30 °C	14 °C	S-SE	20 - 45 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	05:08
Sunrise	06:28
Zuhr	12:02
Asr	15:12
Sunset	17:36
Isha	18:54

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	28 °C
MIN. Temp.	11 °C
MAX. RH	77 %
MIN. RH	18 %
MAX. Wind	SE 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

REQUIRED

FLORIST

Filipino Male/Female
Expert, Creative
Knowledgeable of plants
& flower arrangements
Transferable visa 18 only

Send C.V /Contact/ WhatsApp :
97286044

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation
For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart.
Available from February 25,
Contact 94418396 or
69972330
12-2-2018

WANTED
Philippines + Cleaners
For nursery
In medan hawally
25620566
Tel: 25611588

EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is
1889988

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

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 14/2/2018

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05
JZR	607	Kochi	00:10
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50
KAC	102	London	00:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30
WAN	548	KTM	02:40
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55
RJA	644	Amman	03:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10
FEG	931	Alexandria	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50
KAC	796	Madinah	03:50
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25
KAC	418	Manila	04:25
UAE	873	Dubai	04:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20
JZR	143	Doha	05:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50
BAW	157	London	07:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	08:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRC	6552	ABD	09:50
KIS	6032	Mashhad	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
WAN	134	Doha	11:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15
KAC	286	Dhaka	12:35
KAC	798	Taif	12:45
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:20
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15
KAC	618	Doha	14:15
KAC	692	Muscat	14:15
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
QTR	1078	Doha	14:20
KAC	672	Dubai	14:25
KAC	412	Bangkok	14:35
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	14:55
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:10
KAC	304	Mumbai	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
KAC	562	Amman	15:30
JZR	787	Riyadh	15:30
OMA	645	Muscat	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
QTR	1072	Doha	15:55
SAW	705	Damascus	16:00
KAC	118	New York	16:00
JZR	535	Cairo	16:00
ABY	127	Sharjah	16:00
SVA	504	Madinah	16:00
WAN	436	Al Najaf	16:10
JZR	357	Mashhad	16:25
JZR	779	Jeddah	16:25
FDB	051	Dubai	16:40
KAC	522	Al Najaf	16:45
RJA	640	Amman	16:55
KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
WAN	954	Baku	17:15
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:40
UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
FDB	063	Dubai	18:10
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:15
JZR	177	Dubai	18:15
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
QTR	1080	Doha	18:50
KAC	744	Dammam	19:10
KAC	776	Riyadh	19:20
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25
KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	616	Bahrain	19:55
KNE	381	Taif	20:00
KAC	166	Rome	20:10
KAC	620	Doha	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
KAC	512	Mashhad	20:40
QTR	1088	Doha	20:45
DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45
WAN	136	Doha	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	21:25
KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:30
UAE	859	Dubai	21:35
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50
WAN	116	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	564	Amman	22:00
QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
SVA	514	Riyadh	22:30
JZR	241	Amman	22:40
SVA	502	Jeddah	22:45
JZR	185	Dubai	23:10
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:15
PIA	239	Sialkot	23:40
FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
MSC	411	Asyut	23:55

Departure Flights on Wednesday 14/2/2018

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
JZR	528	Asyut	00:15
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
MSC	412	Asyut	01:00
JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
JZR	504	Luxor	01:30
JZR	142	Doha	01:45
KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
KAC	285	Dhaka	01:55
KAC	417	Manila	02:00
KAC	363	Colombo	02:00
THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
UAE	854	Dubai	03:40
QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00
QTR	1091	Doha	05:05
KAC	205	Islamabad	05:20
QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05
JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
JZR	786	Riyadh	06:25
THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
RJA	645	Amman	07:05
GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	167	Paris	07:35
KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:10
KAC	165	Rome	08:15
FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	787	Jeddah	08:40
BAW	156	London	08:55
KAC	117	New York	09:00
JZR	534	Cairo	09:10
KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
KAC	101	London	09:45
ETD	9882	SGN	09:50
UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
KAC	617	Doha	10:15
QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40
ZAV	4101	IQA	11:00
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
IRA	674	Lar	11:40
WAN	953	Baku	12:00
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
JZR	606	Kochi	12:45
MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	176	Dubai	13:40
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	14:30
KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
QTR	8512	Doha	15:25
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
KAC	785	Jeddah	15:25
QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KAC	283	Dhaka	15:50
KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
PAL	669	Manila	16:10
KAC	563	Amman	16:10
KAC	619	Doha	16:10
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:40
KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
QTR	1073	Doha	17:15
JZR	240	Amman	17:15
JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	361	Colombo	17:45
RJA	641	Amman	17:55
SYR	342	Damascus	18:00
KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	538	Cairo	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:30
JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:40
WAN	115	Bahrain	18:50
KAC	381	Delhi	18:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:10
JZR	554	Alexandria	19:20
UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
QTR	1081	Doha	20:00
RBG	556	Alexandria	20:05
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
NIA	162	Cairo	20:40
KAC	301	Mumbai	20:50
KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
DLH	624	Bahrain	21:30
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
KAC	411	Bangkok	22:05
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
KAC	783	Jeddah	22:35
KAC	383	Delhi	22:40
KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
KAC	795	Madinah	23:05
ICV	675	Hong Kong	23:10
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
WAN	337	Alexandria	23:45

Golden Age crooner Vic Damone dead at 89

Vic Damone, whose silky baritone voice made him a 1950s heartthrob and who Frank Sinatra said had the "best pipes in the business," has died, his family announced Monday. He was 89. Ed Henry, a Fox News correspondent and family friend, said that relatives asked him to share that Damone died Sunday night in Florida. Damone was one of the top stars of a golden age of crooners, who filled nightclubs and were frequently booked to sing in front of orchestras on television shows before the arrival of rock 'n' roll.

He scored his first hit in 1949 with "Again" and was catapulted to star status in 1956 with his recording of "On the Street Where You Live," a song from the musical "My Fair Lady." No less than Sinatra, whom Damone deeply respected, was in awe of his voice. "If I had one wish, it would be for Vic Damone's tonsils. Vic has the best pipes in the business," Sinatra was quoted as saying by the Songwriters Hall of Fame when Damone was presented with a lifetime achievement award in 1997.

Damone made headlines when he backed out of one high-profile project-"The Godfather." Damone had initially been cast in the now classic film to play Johnny Fontane, a singer with shady mafia ties-a character many viewers presumed was based on Sinatra, who was reputedly upset about the depiction and urged Damone to quit. Publicly, Damone attributed his decision to financial disputes and his pride as an Italian American. Another crooner, Al Martino, eventually played the role.

But Damone had his own experience with the mafia. In his memoir, "Singing Was the Easy Part," he said that a mob boss once nearly pushed him out the window of a Manhattan hotel after he broke off an engagement with his daughter. Damone, who was married five times, was born as Vito Farinola to Italian immigrants in Brooklyn, where his mother scrounged for $1 a week to give him singing lessons. After his father, an electrician, was injured on the job, the teenage Damone got a job as an usher and elevator operator at the since defunct Paramount Theatre in Times Square. One night when Perry Como was starring, Damone stopped the elevator between floors and sang for the established singer, asking if his mother was misguided in paying for his lessons. "You've got something, kid. Don't stop singing," Damone would recall Como telling him-and soon Como helped arrange the teenager's first performance, on a New York radio station. — AFP

This studio portrait from the mid-late 1940s, obtained February 12, 2018 courtesy of the Library of Congress, shows US singer Vic Damone.

In this file photo taken on May 08, 2011 (from left) David Rowan, Vic Damone, Rena Rowan and Daisy Miller attend the Ambassadors for Humanity gala honoring Brian L. Roberts to benefit the USC Shoah Foundation Institute on May 9, 2011 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. — AFP photos

Actor Mandy Patinkin attends a ceremony honoring him with the 2,629th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California.—AFP

'Homeland' star Mandy Patinkin pleas for refugees

Emmy and Tony Award-winning actor Mandy Patinkin used his Walk of Fame star-dedicating ceremony in Hollywood Monday to make an impassioned speech calling for respect and dignity for refugees. The 65-year-old Chicago native, best known for playing CIA operative Saul Berenson in Showtime spy drama "Homeland," welcomed an Iraqi refugee to the event and implored the crowd to recognize the plight of the dispossessed. "I want you to think about these people, who are the most vulnerable among us all over the world, who need our attention, more attention than you can imagine, so that they can have quality lives and bring their children up in a healthy, not war-torn, atmosphere and grow and live and prosper," he said.

Patinkin, whose grandfather fled the Nazis in German-occupied Poland, and whose grandmother escaped the Russian pogroms, has traveled extensively to witness the plight of displaced people since going to Greece in 2015 to help refugees from war-torn Syria. He said noticing the ethnic diversity of the US squad at the Winter Olympics in South Korea had reminded him of the contribution immigrants had made to the country. "They are our heroes and our athletes for all time. They represent us," he went on.

"Let us learn to welcome other immigrants without fear, without worry, and learn to trust them and not be guided by fear. They are our teachers." He told AFP afterwards he felt privileged to be a voice for "those who have no voice, the refugees who are suffering." "I think the whole world needs to do more. These are human beings. Take care of your neighbors (as) you would take care of yourself," he said.

Champion of the displaced

Patinkin has portrayed Saul Berenson-now the CIA's Middle East Division Chief-on "Homeland" since 2011, earning three Emmys nominations, but it was for CBS medical drama "Chicago Hope" that he won the award in 1995. Born Mandel Bruce Patinkin in Chicago on November 30, 1952 to a homemaker and a metal manufacturing entrepreneur, the actor attended a religious school and sang in synagogue choirs. The father-of-two got into New York's prestigious performing arts conservatory the Juilliard, where he met Kelsey Grammer, and later recommended his friend to play Frasier Crane on NBC sitcom "Cheers."

Patinkin, who sings concerts in Yiddish and has featured on 14 records, cut his teeth in musical theater, winning a Tony Award in 1980 for playing Che in "Evita," which starred Patti LuPone in the title role. "If he weren't a Broadway musical star he would have been a cantor. If he weren't a television star he would have been a Peace Corps volunteer, a first responder," the actress said.

"He would still champion the displaced. He would still travel to refugee camps of human beings-not Syrians or the Rohingya or the world's oppressed, Mandy sees only humans." Patinkin's 40-year movie career includes roles in "Ragtime," "Yentl," "The Princess Bride," "Alien Nation" and "Dick Tracy." A new season of "Homeland" debuted on Sunday. — AFP

AWARD-NOMINATED FILM SPOTLIGHTS TRAUMA OF CALAIS 'JUNGLE' KIDS

The director of an award-nominated film about a traumatized boy stuck in the Calais "Jungle" camp has urged Britain to take in more lone child refugees stranded across Europe to prevent them falling prey to traffickers. Vika Evdokimenko's film "Aamir" is loosely based on the story of a boy her husband met two years ago when the couple volunteered in the French camp, which has since been bulldozed. "It was just one of the most miserable places I've been to," Evdokimenko said ahead of Sunday's British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards - Britain's equivalent of the Oscars - where "Aamir" is in the running for best short film.

"Kids (were) in purgatory in that place," she added. The camp, a sprawling shanty town near the northern port ofCalais, was once home for 10,000 refugees and migrants who hoped to reach Britain by stowing away on lorries, cars or trains. Evdokimenko said life was hardest for the hundreds of lone children, many of whom had been trafficked after fleeing violence or poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. In 2016, Britain pledged to take 480 of the most vulnerable young asylum seekers in Europe. Around half have arrived so far. Refugee groups had originally hoped Britain would take 3,000.

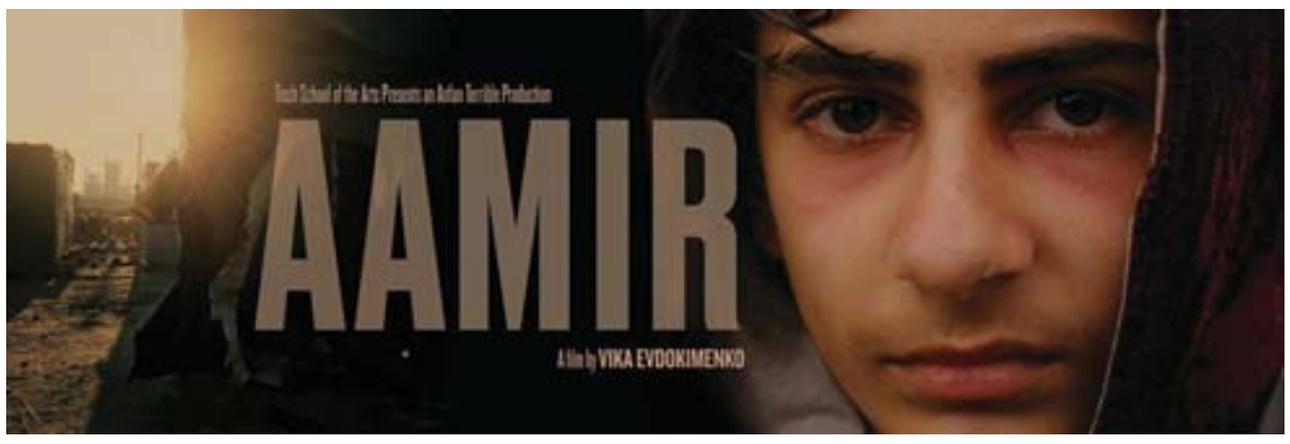
"I think Britain can afford to be more generous ... it's a first-world country," said Evdokimenko, who moved to the United Kingdom from Russia as a child. Evdokimenko's 16-minute-long film focuses on a boy driven to an act of violence when he cannot find a door for his shelter. "He was absolutely desperate for a door. He felt very exposed, very unsafe," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "These kids get angry ... There's a lot of trauma, there's a lot of issues and I wanted to show an imperfect portrait of a child refugee, but one that was relatable," Evdokimenko added.

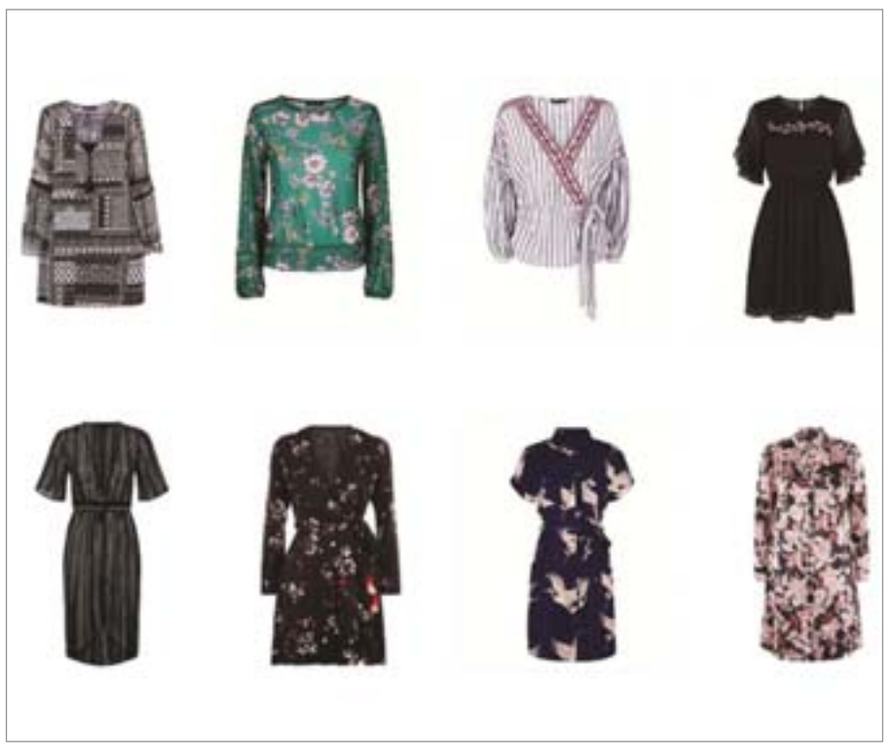
Locked in boot

The director said the children she met told "horrific" stories about their experiences at the hands of smugglers. Some described beatings. Others were locked in car boots, sometimes for days, with just a tube to breathe through. The film highlights the children's vulnerability - Aamir is robbed after being drugged by men who appear to befriend him. It also conveys the physical misery as relentless rains pour through flimsy shelters, turning the ground into a mudbath.

Evdokimenko, who worked at the camp in 2016 packing food rations, described a bleak dune-like landscape engulfed in the stench of a nearby chemical factory and littered with rubbish. The production team had originally hoped to cast one of the boys in the camp as Aamir, but decided it would be wrong to ask the children to relive their experiences for the camera. They were also disturbed to find that whenever they returned to the camp, the boys they met on the last visit had vanished.

Evdokimenko said she was sure many had been trafficked. Despite the Jungle's demolition, Evdokimenko said her film was still relevant given the tens of thousands of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children scattered throughout Europe. There are signs the Calais camp is being rebuilt, she said. "My main anxiety about these kids is how they can ever recover from these things they've been through," she added. "The longer we leave them in these places, which are just so unsuitable for kids ... the more we lose our opportunity to allow them to become amazing members of our communities." — Reuters





NEW LOOK
SPRING-SUMMER 2018

SS18 is here and it's prettier than ever. Neutrals play a big part in this season's color palette with classic macs, soft tailoring and touches of soft metallic. Broderie and cutwork cotton is this season's feminine fabric; transforming blouses and dresses. Floaty, floral and frilled - our must have maxi dress in wispy, pastel botanicals is simply dreamy. Tops are elevated with volume and exaggerated sleeves - these are highlighted with trims and embroidery, the full tiered sleeve is the newest shape to look out for.

Stripes and co-ords are hero pieces within the collection whilst logo t-shirts are very much here to stay; sequin tees offer a playful and glam seasonal update. Accessories...it's all about the earrings! The bigger and bolder the better - the ultimate outfit enhancer. Footwear features statement flats in color pop bursts and power courts in all over glitter! Woven bags are key across cross body's and holiday shoppers, whilst bum bags are here to stay for a sports luxe finish. The Spring Summer Collection is available at all New Look stores throughout Kuwait at The Avenues, Al-Bairaq Mall (Fintas), Al-Salam Mall (Salmiya) and Promenade Mall (Hawally).

'Fifty Shades' finale steams up North American box office

Universal's "Fifty Shades Freed," the last chapter in the erotic trilogy that has enjoyed huge popularity among mostly female audiences, vaulted to the top of North American box offices with a $38.6 million opening weekend, industry data showed Monday. With ticket sales rebounding sharply from totals depressed last week by football's Super Bowl championship game, "Freed" led three new releases to the top, with Sony's "Peter Rabbit" coming in second and "The 15:17 to Paris" from Warner Bros placing third, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations reported.

But the final chapter of the steamy "Fifty Shades" series-promoted by Universal with the not-so-subtle line "Don't Miss the Climax"-dominated. It accounted for a third of the total estimated take of the top 12 movies, helping push global sales for the trilogy past $1 billion. Dakota Johnson stars again as English lit major-turned-publisher Anastasia Steele, while Jamie Dornan plays her lover-turned-husband, the kinky, hunky and frequently shirtless Christian Grey.

Women accounted for three quarters of North American moviegoers, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The family-friendly "Peter Rabbit," which mixes live actors with computer-generated animation, raked in $25 million, far exceeding Sony's projections. James Corden voices the lead bunny as he feuds with garden owner Domhnall Gleeson for the affections of sweethearted neighbor Rose Byrne. "The 15:17," director Clint Eastwood's recounting of how three young Americans foiled a 2015 terrorist attack aboard a passenger train in France, netted $12.6 million.

Eastwood took the unusual approach of having the three men, none with any formal acting experience, play themselves. Some critics called that a bold move, while others said the men's amateurism showed. In fourth place, falling off from last weekend's top position, was Sony's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," at $10 million. The family flick, starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Jack Black and Kevin Hart, follows a group of teens who find themselves transported inside a video game world. The film has earned more than $800 million globally. In fifth, down one spot, was "The Greatest Showman," a Fox film starring Hugh Jackman as larger-than-life circus impresario P.T. Barnum. It took in $6.4 million.

Rounding out the top 5 were:
"Maze Runner: The Death Cure" ($6.2 million)
"Winchester" ($5.2 million)
"The Post" ($3.6 million)
"The Shape of Water" ($3.2 million)
"Den of Thieves" ($3 million)—AFP

Revelers of the Beija-Flor samba school perform during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday.

A reveler of the Imperatriz Leopoldinense samba school performs during the second night of Rio's Carnival.— AFP photos

A performer waits in front of carnival costumes on the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome.

DRAG QUEEN CAPS UNUSUALLY POLITICAL RIO SAMBA PARADES

Revelers of the Imperatriz Leopoldinense samba school perform.

A reveler of the Imperatriz Leopoldinense samba school performs during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome.

Brazil's superstar drag queen Pabllo Vittar provided a flashy closing highlight in Rio de Janeiro's final samba parades early yesterday, capping a carnival filled with unusually sharp criticism of the country's leaders. The last six parades in the two-night extravaganza at the 72,000 capacity Sambodromo stadium began with the famed Unidos da Tijuca samba school late Monday. After the traditional fireworks salute, Tijuca kicked off in a thundering barrage from drummers in glossy blue suits. Massed ranks of dancers and singers dressed as jellyfish, then a float representing a coral reef, came on their heels-the first contingent of some 3,000 performers. Vittar appeared in the last parade with the Beija Flor school in the wee hours of Tuesday. One float was made up to look like a favela, or slum, with everyday scenes of life there: kidnappings, shootings and a body in a coffin with the message, "another bit of hope lost."

Revellers of the Beija Flor samba school perform during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome.

LGBT people in 2017, a 30 percent increase over the previous year.

Carnival-phobic mayor

Beija Flor also used its floats and costumes to take aim at a corruption scandal that has spread from national oil company Petrobras through Brazil's whole political class over the last four years. Criticism of corruption also stood out during the first night on Sunday. Brazil's center-right President Michel Temer, who has single-digit support in polls and is awash in corruption scandals, was portrayed in the Paraiso do Tuiuti school's parade as a money-grabbing vampire. But among Sambodromo participants and crowd, there was special ire for Rio's mayor, Marcelo Crivella.

Crivella-a bishop in the evangelical mega-church founded by his billionaire uncle-can hardly conceal his disdain for the carnival's excesses of the flesh ahead of the start of Roman Catholic Lent on Ash yesterday. He has halved carnival subsidies and refuses to attend the parades. "What the mayor did was ugly," said Paulo Roberto, wearing an indigenous tribesman costume for the Portela school parade on Monday. "It's against Rio, because this is Rio right here-Rio is samba." On Sunday, the Mangueira samba school responded to Crivella with a bare plastic backside on one of their floats. "The bum represents the mayor for cutting our budget, for trying to end our happiness," said Mangueira staff member Helton Dias, 28.

'Anesthetic' for hurting country

The faceoff between the samba schools in the purpose-built Sambodromo is taken every bit as seriously as the city's other great love, football. The 13 competing schools each get about an hour to parade in front of judges and tens of thousands of hyped up fans. Last year, the contest ended in a draw between the Mocidade and Portela schools. The new champion will be announced on

Revelers of the Imperatriz Leopoldinense samba school perform during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome.

A reveler of the Portela samba school performs during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome.

> "People need these fantasies"

Revelers of the Unidos da Tijuca samba school perform during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A reveler of the Beija-Flor samba school performs during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome.

A reveler of the Uniao da Ilha samba school performs during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrome.

On another, revelers dressed as corrupt businessmen, their pockets bulging with dollars, handed out wads of cash. Vittar himself danced atop a float wearing rainbow colors in support of the LGBT community in Brazil. The hugely popular singer's participation gave a new edge to the annual samba contest, whose first night on Sunday was already marked by colorful digs at unpopular politicians. Tall, with long blonde hair, Vittar fits perfectly into the flamboyant, anything-goes atmosphere of the Sambodromo. On arriving to watch parades Sunday, the drag queen was met with shrieks and cheers from fans.

Vittar bolstered one of Beija Flor's principal themes in its parade-the fight against sexual and other forms of intolerance. It's an issue of deadly importance for gay and transgender Brazilians: the rights group Grupo Gay de Bahia reported in January that there were 387 murders of

Wednesday. For many, carnival offers a moment to forget about Brazil's profound problems-at least for a few days. Latin America's biggest country is only just emerging from its worst recession in history. In swaths of Rio, crime is out of control, the economy remains moribund and social services for the poor are in tatters.

"People need these fantasies," said physiotherapist Marcio de Castro, 53, as he prepared his costume for the Sao Clemente school's parade. "It's as if during carnival, we all take an anesthetic." But reality still intrudes. Samba composer Moacyr Luz arrived by taxi at the Sambodromo's staging area in the early hours of Monday and was promptly robbed, O Globo news site reported. The thieves even took his costume. — AFP

Revelers of the Portela samba school perform during the second night of Rio's Carnival at the Sambadrom.

Valentines get quickie marriage licenses at Las Vegas airport

The Las Vegas airport has given new meaning to rushing to make a connection, offering quickie wedding licenses for lovebirds desperate to get hitched on Valentine's Day. Clark County, the authority that administers Sin City's weddings, has opened a pop-up marriage license bureau by a baggage carousel at McCarran International Airport. On Saturday a steady stream of couples arrived at the office-open through February 17 — to get their marriages off the ground without all the fuss. "I'm really excited that they actually did this, because it's a lot more stress having to come through the airport, then get to the county clerk's office, wait in line," said Stefanie, of Dallas, Texas, who was marrying partner Kisha.

Employee Bianca Dozal offers a bracelet gift to Teaira Thompson and James Anderson of Burlington, Iowa, who completed their paperwork as the Clark County Clerk's Office operates a temporary pop-up marriage license office at McCarran International Airport.

Red roses are seen on the Clark County Clerk's Office.

"So this was really painless and really quick. So, very convenient." The US desert oasis known for all-night gambling, extravagant shows and no-holds-barred boozing has for decades also been a magnet for couples from around the world looking to tie the knot quickly and cheaply-the kitschier the ceremony, the better. The pop-up office's $77 licenses are good for all of Vegas's famous venues, including the Cannabis Chapel, Elvis Chapel, Chapel in the Clouds and the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel. The wedding industry contributes more than $2 billion annually to the local economy and Clark County issues about 80,000 licenses a year-more than any other office in the country.

The Clark County Clerk's Office operates a temporary pop-up marriage license office at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas on February 12, 2018. — AFP photos

Around 1,500 of those are issued for Valentine's-about double the rate for a normal day-with more than one in every 25 US marriages taking place in Vegas.

Al and Gail Murphy, from Alberta, in Canada, were among the customers taking advantage of the office Saturday. "It was super convenient to have this set up here, the marriage license bureau," said Gail, proudly brandishing a white package emblazoned with red hearts containing the document. "And I love the envelope," she said. "We're all set up. We just have to go have fun and show up on the day."

Valentine's is expected to be particularly busy this year as it comes two days before the Lunar New Year, celebrated by China and other Asian countries.

For Americans, the date marks the start of the President's Day long weekend. Excited Brandi, from Houston, Texas, clutched her intended husband-to-be, Jeff, as she revealed that she hadn't slept for two days. "I've been trying to sleep, and I just lay there wide awake," she told AFP. "I don't know, I've known this guy like 20 years. I don't know why I feel like I just met him I guess. But it's awesome, I'm very happy." — AFP

Wider Image: The different faces of love

Pramodini Roul, 24, an acid attack survivor and a campaigner at Chhanv, an NGO that supports acid attack victims, and her partner Saroj Sahoo, 26, a manager at Chhanv share a moment at the "Sheroes" home for acid attack victims in Noida, India, February 8, 2018.
— Reuters photos

Nhuchhe Bahadur Amatya, 76, a retired accountant at Nepal Electricity Authority along with his wife Raywoti Devi Amatya, 74, a housewife, pose for a picture as they sit inside their shop in Lalitpur, Nepal, February 4, 2018.

To mark Valentine's Day, Reuters photographers documented the stories of over 20 couples from around the globe. Their stories run the gamut from storybook high school romances to the more unconventional, such as finding love after an acid attack. They include Nhuchhe Bahadur Amatya, 76, a retired accountant at the Nepal Electricity Authority and his wife Raywoti Devi Amatya, 74, a housewife. Nhuchhe was 17 and Raywoti 15 when they wed in an arranged marriage 59 years ago.

"I saw Raywoti for the first time at my home after we officially got married, during the wedding her face was covered with a Ghumto (veil)," said Nchuchhe.For Haidar Ali Moracho, 20, a transgender man from Spain, his relationship with girlfriend Coral Ibanez began online and had to be kept secret from their families for five years.

Asha Ahuja, 71, a housewife poses for a portrait with her husband Chandrabhan Ahuja, 73, a businessman inside their house in Mumbai, India, February 7, 2018.

"It was very hard. There were times I thought it would be less painful if we broke up, but I couldn't. Together until death do us part," he said. When Indian acid attack victim Pramodini Roul suddenly regained her sight, years after she was attacked, the first thing she saw was her partner, Saroj. "I was flying with Saroj and suddenly started seeing things clearly. That was the first time I saw Saroj's face. I had never imagined that I would be able to see Saroj in my lifetime," she said. True love's path ran smoother for 37-year-old New Yorker Chad Ostrum. On his first day at college, he glanced through a door and a girl unpacking boxes caught his eye, so he went back to get a better look at the woman who would become his wife and the mother of their daughter. "Through three states, long-distance dating, high times, low moments and 19 years later, we now share a home, a little girl and a life."— Reuters

Haidar Ali Moracho, 20, and Coral Ibanez Blanco, 23, pose for a picture at the Moor's Field garden (Campo del Moro) in Madrid, Spain, February 7, 2018. Haidar, a transgender young man who's in his second year of Asian and African Studies at Madrid's Autonoma University and Coral, currently looking for a job, have been dating for seven years. "A friend of mine told me there was a girl who liked Dragon Ball's Vegeta character and wanted to become a boy. She put us in touch virtually and we spent the following year video calling each other before we were able to meet in person in Madrid," said Coral.

Mezbah Ul Aziz, 34, and Mausumi Iqbal, 33, pose for a photos in a coffee shop where they hang out on a regular basis in Dhaka, Bangladesh, February 7, 2018.

Dancers, musicians urge Japanese men to 'say it with flowers' on Valentine's Day

Musicians paraded through Tokyo streets yesterday as women in gauzy gowns gave flowers to female passersby to try to persuade Japanese men to 'say it with flowers' on Valentine's Day, a rare practice in a land where women typically give chocolates to men. Ever since Valentine's Day took off in Japan some four decades ago, the holiday has been celebrated with a twist: women buy chocolates and gifts for men, including bosses and colleagues as well as lovers and spouses. Some men return the favour a month later on "White Day".

Performers from art collective "NAKED" wanted to give men a glimpse of how happy women could be to receive a bouquet. They plan to hand out 1,000 flowers over two days. "In Japan, culturally, most men are too shy to give flowers to the people whom they cherish, but we wanted to transmit a new tradition where men can give flowers, especially on a special day like Valentine's Day," said event organizer Sayaka Kanzaki.

Shopper Yoko Kinugasa liked the idea. "For women especially, receiving flowers is a happy thing," she said. Another female shopper, Aika Akahori, said she's never received flowers in her life. To her, Valentine's Day means baking and planning to take her husband on a date. "It is difficult to tell Japanese men 'Can I have flowers,' but if there is a man who'd do that, I would welcome it," she said.

Company executive Yoshiyuki Shimada, who was buying flowers at a flower shop, did not seem convinced. "I already received chocolates so I will give something back in return.

If I received chocolates, I will give back chocolates," he said. "These flowers are for my office because clients are coming." Earlier this month, Belgian confection maker Godiva took aim at the Japanese custom of "giri choco", or obligation chocolate, that pressures women to give sweets to their male colleagues and bosses.

On Feb 1 Godiva took out a full-page newspaper ad calling for an end to the practice. Noting that some women hate the tradition, the ad - headlined "Japan, let's stop 'giri choco'" - said, "Valentine's Day is the day people convey their true feelings, not the day people coordinate relationships at work." — Reuters

A picture shows hearts decorating a street in the centre of the Lebanese capital Beirut, as the city prepares to celebrate St Valentine's Day on February 14. — AFP

Tickled pink: Japan lovers taste new chocs on Valentine's Day

Tourists from Australia, Ayndri de Soysa (left) and Andrew Frain (second left), have an ice cream at a KitKat chocolatory shop in Tokyo.

Sublime ruby KitKat packs, made of pink ruby chocolate, next to mock cocoa beans at a KitKat chocolatory shop in Tokyo.

A tourist from Australia, Ayndri de Soysa, tastes a ruby hot chocolate as she holds a rubi Kitkat bar at a KitKat chocolatory shop in Tokyo.

It is a marriage made in Heaven for cute-obsessed Japan: this Valentine's Day, lovers can present the object of their affection with a world first-naturally bright pink chocolate. The KitKat store in the glitzy shopping area of Ginza in Tokyo is a riot of wall-to-wall pink, as marketing departments go into overdrive to promote the "fourth" type of chocolate, after milk, dark and white.

And the salespeople have chosen their moment wisely: Valentine's Day is massive business in Japan-with tradition dictating that the women give presents to the men.

"I love pink. I love chocolate. So this is just great for me," said 24-year-old Natsuko Takeuchi, searching for a sweet treat at the Ginza store. "Knowing that this chocolate is created purely naturally, without any additional flavor or color. I think it's really good," added Takeuchi, who operates a food trolley on Japan's iconic bullet trains. For more than 80 years, when white chocolate was invented, the world has had to be content with just three varieties. Then in September, Swiss group Barry Callebaut unveiled its new "ruby" type the fruit of more than 10 years of research-and five months later, bars appeared on shelves in both Japan and South Korea.

The pink color is obtained naturally, without using additives or artificial coloring, explained Akiko Hara, a manager for Barry Callebaut in Japan. The color comes from ruby cocoa "that can be found in normal plantations," Hara told AFP. The firm's R&D department keeps the recipe a closely guarded secret, locked away in a safe. The result is a chocolate that tastes both creamy and fruity, with a subtle hint of raspberry.

'Obligation choc'

If Japan is the testing ground for the new variety of chocolate, it was well chosen. The Japanese chocolate market is worth nearly five billion dollars per year, according to figures from research group Euromonitor. This places Japan still way behind the United States ($18.9 billion) but still at the top of the Asian league table. Japanese consumers also crave a huge variety of products, as can be seen from the enormous range of KitKat flavors-from wasabi to green tea to sake. So consumers have a huge choice in what chocolates to buy: "Honmei-choco" for lovers, "giri-choco" for male bosses and colleagues and "tomo-choco" for close friends.

In a sign of how seriously Valentine's Day is taken, Belgian chocolate firm Godiva created a storm when it called on people to forgo the chocs for colleagues (known as "obligation chocolate") to focus on loved ones. Convenience stores on every corner are packed with potential presents and master chocolatiers also go to town for the occasion, creating ornate shapes such as pink high-heeled shoes made of chocolate.

The result: huge sales. This year, love-struck Japanese are expected to shell out 130 billion yen (one billion dollars) on Valentine's Day chocolates, according to Kinenbi Culture Laboratory, a research group on Japanese festivals. The tradition of women giving chocolate to men stems from a promotional campaign at the end of the 1950s.

"Males reciprocate the favor a month later on a holiday called 'White Day', where female significant others receive a gift in return for their Valentine's Day present," said Megumi Matsunaga, an analyst at Euromonitor. Frederic Madelaine, a French pastry chef who runs several shops in Tokyo, said Valentine's Day was the be-all and end-all for the industry. "A Japanese woman will hand out on average between eight and 10 presents. Then the man has to return the favor-and triple or quadruple the value of the gift," he told AFP. "You have to try things out, be innovative, stand out from the crowd," he said. This year is no exception and among his offerings at this year's annual chocolate fair in Tokyo were a Camembert-shaped chocolate and "dalmatian eclairs" to celebrate the year of the dog. — AFP

Sales clerks of Japanese chocolate shop Kloka working at a temporary booth set up for Valentineís Day at a department store in the Ginza shopping district in Tokyo.

Sales clerks of Japanese chocolate shop Kloka work at a temporary booth set up for Valentineís Day at a department store in the Ginza shopping district in Tokyo.

Japanese patissier Kazuya Nagata checking his work "Dear Myself", a high heel made of chocolate for Valentine's Day, at his shop in a hotel in Tokyo.

An employee prepares orders for customers at a KitKat chocolatory shop with its walls painted in pink for marketing pink ruby type KitKats in Tokyo. — AFP photos

Kuwait Times
Established 1961

Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Roses are piled up at wholesale flower market in Kolkata. The roses are high in demand as seven days of festivity of the Valentine Week starts from February 7 with Rose Day. — AFP

Couples make Valentine's Day deposit in 'Love Bank'

A guide opens a box ready to store a love story inside the Love Bank, part of the interactive exhibition dedicated to the longest love poem in the world.

Children take part in the interactive exhibition dedicated to the longest love poem in the world, written by Andrej Sladkovic in 1844 - Marina, in Banska Stiavnica.

Visitors interact with the Love-o-meter, an interactiv exhibition which expresses the strength of one's love in verses from the poem Marina.

In a small medieval Slovak town, couples are getting ready on Valentine's Day to make a "deposit" about their romance in a place dedicated to love stories. The "Love Bank" is the main attraction of an exhibition commemorating the world's longest love poem, "Marina" by Slovak poet Andrej Sladkovic. Written in 1844, the 2,900-line long poem tells the tale of the doomed love between the poet and Maria Pischlova. They were star-crossed lovers but unlike Romeo and Juliet their tragic romance is a true story. Marina's parents shunned the poor poet and forced her to marry a wealthy gingerbread maker.

The house where Marina lived in the former silver mining town of Banska Stiavnica is now known as the "Epicentre of Love" and features an interactive exhibition inspired by the poem, including a "love-o-meter" measuring the strength of a couple's affection. "Our visitors say they are amazed by how a part of history and a poem that was on their elementary school compulsory reading list has been turned into a hands-on experience," said Katarina Javorska, spokeswoman for the NGO running the exhibition.

> "Lovers can only make 'deposits' a few times a year-the next date is Valentine's Day"

100,000 boxes

For many couples, it's the "Love Bank" that attracts them to the site where they can store and preserve mementos of their romance. A long tunnel in the basement of the house has been turned into a vault with exactly 100,000 tiny drawers, one for each letter, gap, and punctuation mark of the original, 174-year-old manuscript of "Marina". Lovers can only make "deposits" a few times a year-the next date is Valentine's Day. "My fiancee and I will come back in a couple of days and hide the cinema tickets from our first date here," 24-year-old Dominika Hrabusova told AFP.

Another couple, Jan and Anna have brought their seven-month-old baby son along. "This is our fourth or fifth visit to Banska Stiavnica, before we got married we used to come more often," said 38-year-old Jan. "The town is a jewel box itself, I am impressed by how clever and inventive this exhibition is," he adds, lauding the charm of Banska Stiavnica, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993.

As visitors to the exhibition pass through rooms combining modern design and 500-year-old rafters, a truly Potteresque experience awaits them: four "paintings"-large flat-screen TVs-on the wall suddenly come alive and act out scenes from the life of the poet and Marina.

In another room, one can flip through the pages of the "Register of Love", weighing 53 kilograms (117 pounds) and consisting of 3,200 pages that will be gradually filled with notes from lovers who visit the former dwelling of the poet's muse.

The designers of the exhibition eye turning the "Epicentre of Love" into a major attraction, a sort of place of pilgrimage for lovers from across the globe. "Some say it's a bold and ambitious plan. But if millions are willing to make the trip to Verona to see the balcony of the imaginary couple of Romeo and Juliet, I believe many will come to the Epicentre of Love to relive a real love story," Javorska said. — AFP

A couple takes a selfie with a mobile phone inside the Love Bank, part of the interactive exhibition dedicated to the longest love poem in the world, written by Andrej Sladkovic in 1844 - Marina, in Banska Stiavnica on February 3, 2018. — AFP photos

A couple visits the interactive exhibition dedicated to the longest love poem in the world, written by Andrej Sladkovic in 1844 - Marina.