

# Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17459

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**47** Tears all round as Shiffrin strikes gold and Germans smash record



**PARKLAND, FL:** Two young women yesterday hug at a police check point near the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School where 17 people were killed by a gunman on February 14, 2018 in Parkland, Florida. Police arrested the suspect after a short man-hunt, and have identified him as 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz (inset). — AFP

## Florida seeks answers in shooting's aftermath

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## Local



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

## Violence in schools

Violence in schools has become a serious problem in recent decades in many countries including Kuwait, as well as physical attacks by students on school staff, including teachers and administrators. Violence between students themselves or between students and teachers has overwhelmed the educational system to the extent that we are now accustomed to hearing about violent incidents in schools, including one that happened a few days ago in Kuwait.

The local community was preoccupied with this shameful incident that occurred at a public school against a child who was allegedly beaten by his female teacher. MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain said the attack should not be ignored. "The lives of our children are not a game," he said.

MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari demanded the education minister to release a statement on the circumstances of the death of Issa Al-Bloushi. He also called for studying the phenomenon of violence in schools. MP Safa Al-Hashim asked the education minister to impose a travel ban against the expatriate teacher who assaulted the student. The education ministry later issued a statement saying that a full investigation has been opened to probe the circumstances of the death and that all necessary measures will be taken.

I believe that regardless of the nationality of the teacher,

it is necessary to take a serious stand to limit the actions of some irresponsible teachers, such as verbal and physical abuse and insulting students. I wonder about the role of the school administration in this matter. Aren't they supposed to monitor violence or abnormal behavior by teachers as well as students?

I recall that in 2017, a 26-year-old Kuwaiti female teacher filed a legal complaint at Fintas police station, accusing a nine-year-old Kuwaiti schoolboy of hitting her on the hand several times and breaking her finger. The teacher submitted a medical report to prove the injury, which took 21 days to heal. The student was referred to the juvenile prosecution.

Social media erupted in anger and a hashtag trended on Twitter after the death of Bloushi. Netizens accused the school administration for failing to take care of students and called for accountability over the death of the student.

In 2017, a member of the rights of the child office at the health ministry Dr Dana Al-Haqqaan revealed to Al-Jarida daily that 30 cases of child abuse, 144 physical assaults, 15 cases of emotional deprivation and 102 cases of neglect were reported during 2016. Haqqaan explained that some families refuse to report abuse cases involving their children for fear of scandal. Courts have issued verdicts against child abusers and

they will be punished under the Kuwaiti penal code - up to two years of imprisonment and a fine of KD 1,000.

I know that there are many who will say that violence in schools is a global phenomenon like traffic jams, but this does not mean we should sit still and do nothing. I know that a school has all types of students with all kinds of behaviors. Every student comes to school with patterns of behaviors - even violent - certainly shaped at home, and the same applies to teachers too.

Not all teachers are alike, as some practice corporal punishment. They ignore that beating is prohibited by law, and there is no gain if the teacher tries to deter a student and change their behavior by abuse and bad behavior. Violence undermines human dignity, because violence against the student is not consistent with the most basic of rights.

Teachers are role models for students and the society. zOtherwise, guidance will have no effect. For example, it is not permissible in any way to punish a student for smoking, when the cigarette is in the hands of the teacher! I believe children do not go to schools to be insulted or beaten like animals or murdered, but to learn, and any teacher who cannot behave properly should leave teaching so as not to be a disgrace to themselves, the profession and the society.

## Parking and extortion



IN MY VIEW

By Nawara Fattahova

nawara@kuwaittimes.net

The issue of parking is a recurring problem in Kuwait. Although a law was issued about 10 years ago obliging any new building located in crowded commercial areas such as Salmiya, Hawally, Farwaniya, etc to provide underground parking for tenants as one of the main conditions to get a license, landlords don't always respect this law.

The Municipality inspects buildings during construction for underground parking lots, but many landlords afterwards convert this space into warehouses to rent out to companies. So the basement never serves the purpose for which it was built, and tenants face the problem of finding a place to park.

Many areas in Kuwait suffer from this nightmare, and Farwaniya is the worst affected by this problem, especially due to its dense population. Usually, the parking space in front or around the building is enough for only about half of the tenants, so the rest search for a place near the building, which is usually an empty yard, or if they're lucky, a parking lot of a school or public building.

Some enterprising harises are exploiting this problem to extort additional money from tenants. A new trend has emerged as exemplified by one problem in Farwaniya. A haris of a building there has 'taken over' the yard in the middle of a number of buildings, and set his own rules on this state property. He is renting parking spaces in this yard to tenants of the neighborhood on a monthly basis. He charges

KD 10 per month for each vehicle, and this amount includes washing the car. A car wash usually costs KD 5, so basically he charges KD 5 extra.

Sameh, a tenant living in Farwaniya for about six years, didn't know about this illegal practice of the haris, as he always parks his vehicle in front of his building. "One day I came late and didn't find a place in front of the building, so I parked my car in the yard. The next morning I found one of my side mirrors broken, in addition to scratches on the side of the car," he told Kuwait Times.

"I didn't know who did it and I couldn't accuse anybody. Then I told the story to the haris of the building where I live, and he told me about the other haris who has taken over the yard. He also told me that it's not only me, and that this happens to any vehicle that parks in the yard without paying the monthly charges. Many other victims have complained of flat tires when parking there," added Sameh.

Despite repeated complaints, no one is now able to park freely in the yard and anyone who leaves his vehicle there without paying the extortion will end up with a damaged vehicle the next day.



Photo for illustrative purposes only

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



Eagles are large and powerfully built birds of prey. — Photo by Shatti Al-Shatti/KUNA



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# The Colors of the Kuwait Flag



By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

As Kuwait gears up to celebrate its National and Liberation Day holidays, the streets are adorned with Kuwait flags. Buildings, homes, offices, restaurants, shops and even cars are decorated with Kuwait's flying colors.

Red, white, black and green replaced the old red flag under the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah after the abolition of the British protection agreement on November 24, 1961. They were inspired by a verse from a poem by an Arab poet from Iraq born in 1277, named Safi Al-Din Al-Hali, one of the renowned names of



ancient Arabic poetry. The black and red represent wars and victories, green is pastures, while white stands for great deeds.

If you look around at objects in your environment, you may find the four colors combined by chance. Searching for these colors requires a strong observation and a long time. You may find it with a configuration or a composition that never comes to mind.

It is a good idea to occupy your children while driving in the challenge of searching for the colors of the flag of Kuwait, as we celebrate these days of independence and liberation.

— Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi





## Local

Friday, February 16, 2018



“ Red, white, black and green replaced the old red flag under the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah after the abolition of the British protection agreement on November 24, 1961. ”





## Local

## Book Review: Mischief Diary

# MISCHIEF Managed

By Ramona Crasto

If ever a book could inspire while being sarcastically hilarious to convey a message, Nada Faris' book, *Mischief Diary*, would top the list. Faris, a young Kuwaiti writer and performance poet, has utilized wit and a fluidity of language to assemble fifteen short stories based on real life experiences. She brings forth these stories with a mixture of sauce and sarcasm, piercing through a veil of conservatism to reveal the outlandish and the absurd in the every day. The collection is published by Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press, Qatar.



Nada Faris

These stories depict fictionalized scenes from the author's life, conveying to the readers in a straightforward, humorous and light hearted way important moments. Although each story is based at a different point of time in her life, Nada still manages to capture and get one hooked onto every

ries bring to light the simple childhood antics and tales such as trying to be heroic and consequently drowning in an adult pool when asked not to. Because why not? She talks about how a typical Arab family reacts to certain statements and how those statements, although harsh, don't have any real basis as to why they are perceived in that manner.

Of the fifteen, my favorite stories are 'My father's revenge' and 'Kuwait's National Women's Football Team in Qatar'. In 'My father's revenge' Nada's father plays her trick right back at her unlike any other parent. Even though she is a young adult in her 20s, she mentions how we are still sometimes so dependent on our parent's approval over trivial things such as buying a bookshelf.

On the other hand, 'Kuwait's National Women's Football Team in Qatar' shows us a clear picture as to why Kuwait cannot really push the limits when it comes to women's sports. Red tape, unpreparedness and poorly equipped facilities are highlighted as some of the reasons for this short coming. She makes it clear that when it comes to women's football, the grass is greener but not tended to, watered or cared for, unfortunately.

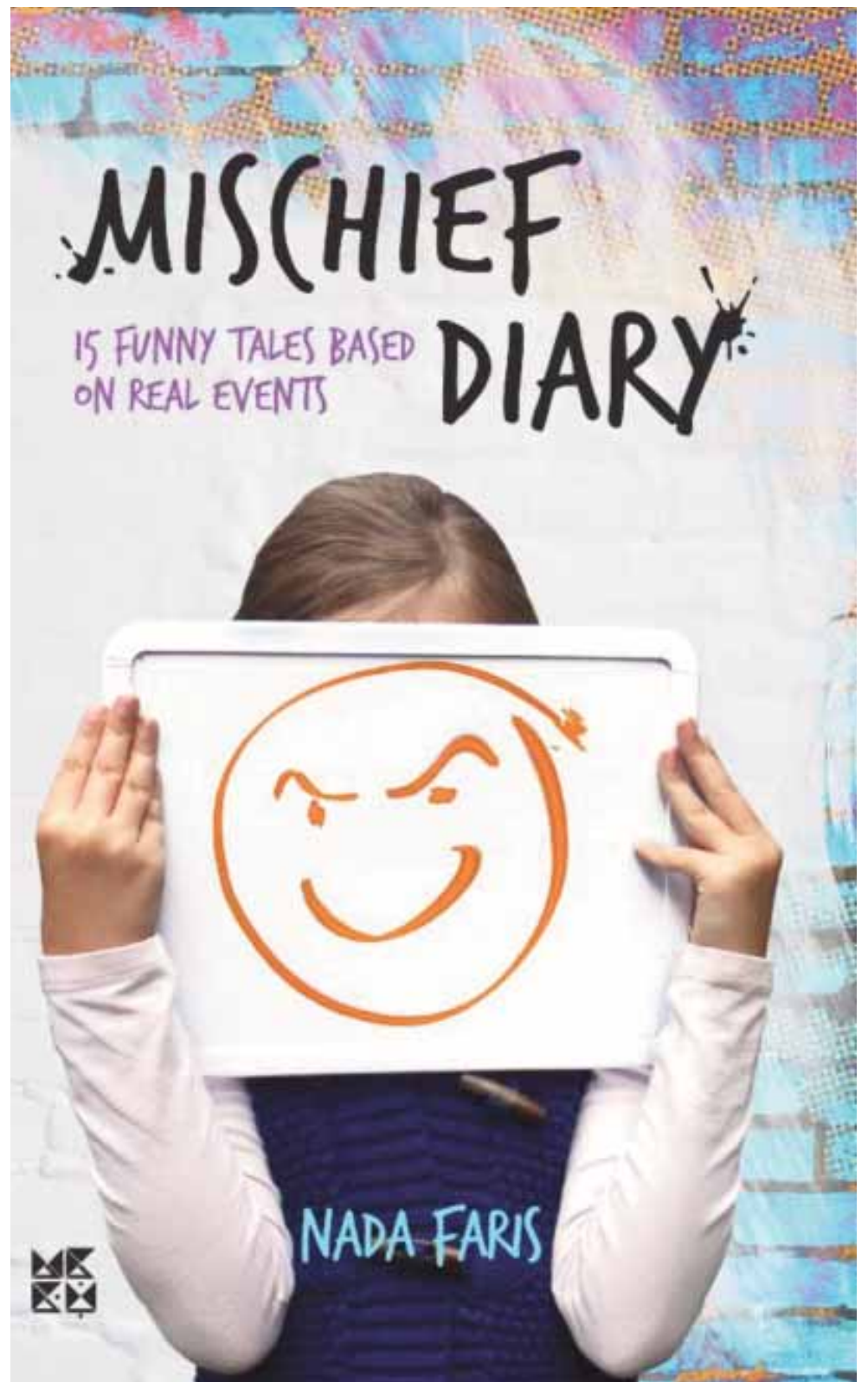
In conclusion, *Mischief Diary* has a penchant for probably turning someone who doesn't read as much into an avid reader. Nada's life has been eventful to say the least but her depiction of each of her life stories is a delight and gave me a refreshing outlook to which I could relate to as a woman. Besides being humorous, she was concise, straightforward and sometimes bluntly poured out her thoughts into her writing. She captivated my attention and I must say that *Mischief Diary* is one of the few books that really deserve acclaim for providing insight into the funny side of growing up in Kuwait.



**Drowning in an adult pool when asked not to. Because why not?**

story as though the previous one ended on a cliffhanger. Her writing captures the mischief which defines every other kid at her age. If she thought mischief, she did it (mostly) and has now penned it!

In her stories, Nada talks about how she wanted to stand out as a kid in school by being unique and innovative. She let her imagination run wild because her strong belief in Peter Pan consolidated her reason that if a Disney character can fly, a four-year-old can surely fly over a slide. Her sto-



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## Local

# Amir's patronage of 21st Kuwait's Quran Competition extolled

## Contest continues successful event's legacy

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi yesterday expressed thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for patronizing the 21st Kuwait's Quran Memorization and Recitation Grand Competition. Speaking at a press conference held to announce the names of the winners of the competition, Minister Afasi said His Highness the Amir's patronage of this competition stresses his keenness on raising the sons of Kuwait on the true teachings of Islam.

This year's competition brought together variety of citizens of different ages in competitive atmosphere, he said. The competition revealed a new generation of readers and memorizers who hope to represent Kuwait in international competitions, as happened in previous years, Afasi added.

Minister Afasi congratulated the winners of the competition, and thanked their parents for their good

care. He also praised the organizers of the competition in the General Secretariat of Awqaf and all the institutions and associations that participated in the competition.

The total winners were 225 male and female from different classes and categories, 72 men and boys, 65 women and girls, 51 special needs, 8 from reformers institutions, 12 from British and Ireland committees, and 17 seniors.

### Successful legacy

The contest continues this year its successful legacy, which began in 1997 under the auspices of the Kuwaiti leadership. The current edition of the competition featured 1,729 competitors representing 40 public and private entities.

According to statistics released by Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation, around 27,000 individuals reached the final stages of the competition with around 6,220 participants winning in the last 20 incarnations of the contests.



Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi speaks during the press conference.

The Quran competition saw the participation of male and female competitors from different age groups. People with special needs were also allowed to partake in the contest. Last year, a committee was established to evaluate participation from citizens abroad with the UK being chosen as the starting point. There are plans to add more countries in the future. — KUNA



KUWAIT: This archive photo shows His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honoring a winner of Kuwait's Grand Quran Recitation and Memorization Contest 2014. — KUNA

## Mutla, a region of significant presence both in past, future



**KUWAIT:** In recent years, the northern region of Al-Mutla has been the focal point of people's discussions due to the ambitious Mutla City project, viewed as one of the most promising housing ventures in Kuwait. Located in Al-Jahra governorate northwest of Kuwait City, Mutla is also known for its high altitude hills, perfect for those seeking recreation in the desert during the winter season. The area had shown a great deal of historical importance with it being one of the main routes leading to the northern regions of Kuwait and Iraq both in the past and present.

Mutla is considered as a strategic region, which helped Kuwait to fend off in-

vaders on numerous occasions. In the 'Encyclopedia of Kuwait', author and historian Hamad Al-Suaidan said that several significant battles in the past took place near the region namely the Dhat Al-Salasi (Battle of Chains) between the early Muslims and the Persian Empire in 633 AD.

Suaidan said that the area in the past was rich in natural resources with Kuwaitis of old gathering wood there and also using the lowland areas to get water supplies. Mutla, said the author, is home for various structures including several key communication towers, a border security checkpoint, in addition to farms and privately owned buildings. — KUNA

## Arts Center keen on spreading calligraphy

**AMMAN:** Head of Kuwait Islamic Arts Center Farid Al-Ali said yesterday that the center is keen on spreading the art of Arabic calligraphy and the culture of Islamic arts in Kuwaiti, the Arab and Islamic worlds. Ali made his remarks on the sidelines of the first Aqaba International Festival of Islamic Arts, which ended yesterday with the participation of 15 Arab and Islamic countries, including Kuwait as the guest of honor of the festival.

Ali said that the Kuwait Center for Islamic Arts, established in 2005, "was able in a short period of time to restore art of Arabic calligraphy." He added that the Center has organized exhibitions and forums in Kuwait and abroad to spread Islamic arts

awareness among various segments of society, especially the children and young people through organizing special workshops, supervised by artists from Kuwait and abroad.

He pointed out that the Center received an invitation from the organizers of the festival to participate and give a special lecture to those interested in Arab and Islamic art at the University of Jordan in the city of Aqaba. He said that the center participated in the festival with a pavilion included the publications issued by the Center since 2005 divided into three sections; documentary books, research and scientific books and children's books. Kuwait Islamic Arts Center represented the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait and the Grand Mosque of the State, took part in the festival which included more than 50 artists, calligraphers and researchers from Arab and Islamic countries. The festival aims at bringing people of the Muslim world together to create a network between those interested and those working in the field of Islamic art. — KUNA



AMMAN: Head of the Kuwait Islamic Arts Center Farid Al-Ali participates at the first Aqaba International Festival of Islamic Arts. — KUNA



## Local

Friday, February 16, 2018

# New Farwaniya Hospital ready by end of 2019

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A follow up team at the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development visited the new Farwaniya Hospital project's site yesterday. The project is expected to finish by the end of December 2019, said Assistant Secretary for Planning and Follow Up Bader Al-Rifae.

The project contains four buildings, the main one with a capacity of 955 beds, outpatient clinics, a heliport, 157 dental clinics and a multi-storey car parking with a capacity of 1400 vehicles, in addition to an integrated engineering services building, Rifae said.

The new hospital will provide 1,560 job opportunities for Kuwaitis, Rifae said, adding that the cost of the project reached KD 264 million. Rifae was accompanied on the tour by director of preparation and follow up Suad Al-Awad and supervisor Wafaa Al-Dhabayan.



**KUWAIT:** An artist's rendition for the new Farwaniya Hospital. — gckuwait.com

## Deputy FM holds talks with envoys on Syria

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin. The meeting is part of the country's move to mobilize support for passing a draft resolution submitted to the UN Security Council regarding humanitarian situation in Syria, said the Foreign Ministry in a press statement. The draft resolution is submitted by the State of Kuwait and Sweden. The meeting touched upon bilateral relations between Kuwait and Russia, and developments on both regional and international arenas, the statement noted.

Later in the day, Jarallah also met with Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di for the same purpose, it pointed out. Jarallah and the Chinese top diplomat dealt with ties between the two countries, according to the statement. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Deputy Foreign Minister's office affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organization's Affairs Nasser Al-Hein. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin. — KUNA



**Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di.**

## KPI signs contracts to develop Omani Duqm refinery project

**MUSCAT:** Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) signed yesterday engineering contracts for the development and construction of Oman's Duqm refinery project, said an official. KPI's CEO Nabeel Bourisli said that he was very glad to be working with the Omani Oil Company (OOC), affirming the Duqm project will help further de-

velop energy cooperation.

Bourisli, also chairman of the board for the Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Corporation (DRPIC), revealed that the three engineering contracts, signed in Muscat, Oman, will help develop of the refinery's main and supporting units in addition to services and facilities.

The Duqm refinery is located in Oman's Al-Wusta Governorate. The Duqm refinery will be established on a total area of 900 hectares. Once completed, the refinery will have the capacity to process 230,000 barrels of crude oil per day for both local and international markets. The KPI was established in 1983 as the KPC arm for marketing and refining outside Kuwait. The state-owned OOC was established in 1996 to pursue investment opportunities in the wider energy sector both at home and abroad. — KUNA

### CRIMES

#### Man beats pregnant wife

**KUWAIT:** A woman returned home from hospital where doctors told her that she was pregnant, but when she delivered the news to her husband, he became infuriated because he told her before to be careful not to get pregnant at the present time. The man ended up physically assaulting his wife, who went to Mubarak Hospital with a family member then headed to the police station and lodged a complaint.

#### Physical assault

**KUWAIT:** A woman accused her ex-husband's mother and sister of beating her inside a Fintas apartment over previous disputes. The Kuwaiti national gave police a medical report stating her injuries as she lodged a complaint. She accused the two women of assaulting her as soon as she answered the door. Investigations are underway.

#### Theft

**KUWAIT:** A company owner accused his accountant of embezzling KD3,700. In his statements to Abu Hlaifa police, the Kuwaiti man said that the accountant, Syrian, was entrusted with the money to deposit them in the bank, but instead kept them for himself. He tried to call him multiple times before going to his place, where he discovered that he no longer lived at the same address, the complainant told police. Investigations are ongoing. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

## Airport expects 234,000 travelers on national holidays

**KUWAIT:** Some 234,000 travelers are expected at Kuwait International Airport during the national holidays, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said yesterday. The airport will receive 113,000 incoming travelers during the holidays on February 22-26 the DGCA said in a statement, adding that some 129,800 passengers will be leaving the country during this period. The estimated number of incoming flights will be at around 906 while 902 flights will be departing Kuwait. — KUNA



**MUSCAT:** Officials sign the engineering contracts for the development and construction of Oman's Duqm refinery project. — KUNA



## Local

# Amir offers condolences over Florida shooting victims

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to US President Donald Trump over the victims of a high school shooting in Parkland in Florida, which left a number of casualties. In the cable, His Highness the Amir voiced Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of this

criminal horrible act that targeted innocents, wishing the swift recovery of those injured in the incident. Two cables of similar sentiments were sent to the US president by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud on the demise of Prince Abdul Aziz bin Bandar bin Mohammad bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

## Defense Minister, Speaker receive Iraqi Foreign Minister

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, Sheikh Nasser Sabah said Kuwait-hosted international conference on Iraq's reconstruction efforts came at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Supreme

Commander of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, just as a sign of Kuwait's interest in humanitarian action, the Defense Ministry said in a press release. His Highness the Amir's initiative reflected deep close relations between Kuwait and Iraq, he said, wishing that the conference would contribute to Iraq's development and prosperity, according to the release.

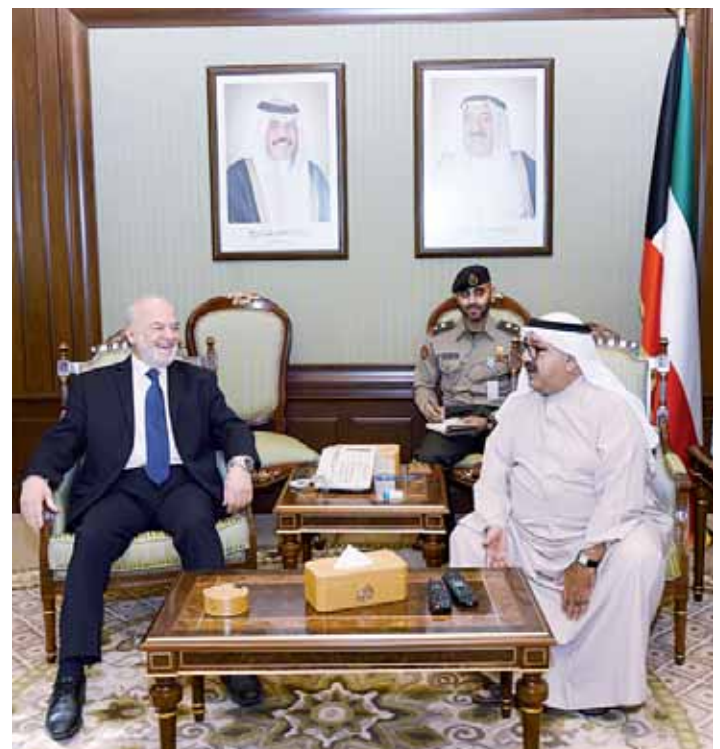
Also yesterday, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received Jaafari at his office in the National Assembly yesterday. The two sides held discussions on bilateral ties and Kuwait's hosting of an international conference for the reconstruction of Iraq. Meanwhile, Ghanem met with Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Dr Jihad Azour and his accompanying delegation. —KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Dr Jihad Azour.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari. —KUNA

## Prime Minister receives Wataniya Airways members



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with board members of Wataniya Airways. —KUNA

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday Dr Hamad Al-Tuwaijri as well as Chairman of the Board for Wataniya Airways Ali Al-Fouzan and members of the board. —KUNA



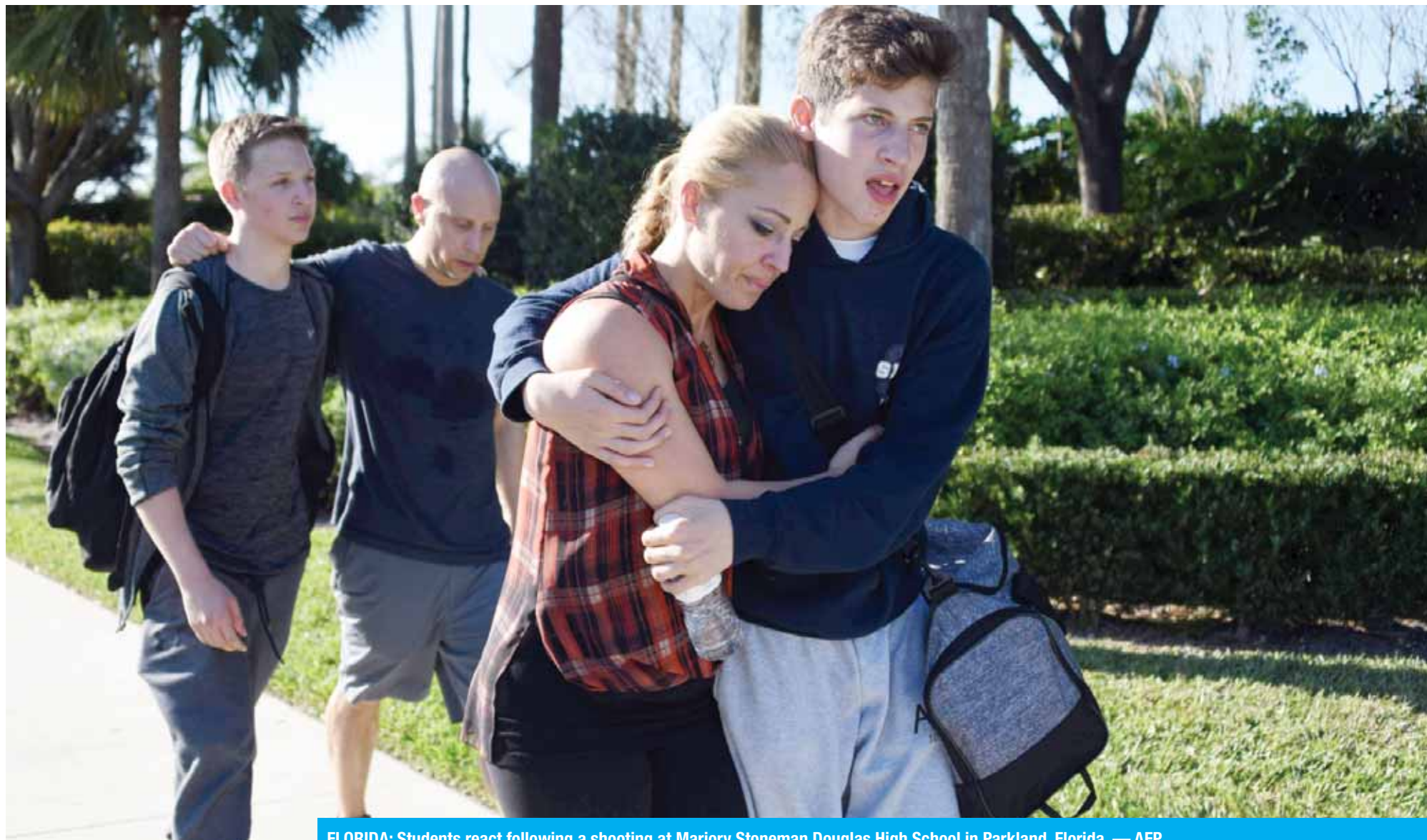


Zuma's reluctant exit ushers in new S African president

## Nepal gets new Communist PM after landmark polls

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FLORIDA: Students react following a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. — AFP

# Florida seeks answers in shooting's aftermath

**PARKLAND:** A Florida community joined together yesterday to mourn the 17 victims of a suspected lone gunman, as officials seek to discover how the heavily-armed teenager managed to mingle with students in one of the deadliest school shootings in US history. The ex-pupil, identified as Nikolas Cruz, 19, walked into the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Wednesday shortly before classes ended and opened fire on students and teachers, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said.

Cruz was armed with an AR-15-style rifle and had multiple magazines of ammunition when he surrendered to officers in a nearby residential area, police said. He loved guns and was expelled for unspecified disciplinary reasons, police and former classmates said. The shooting was the 18th in a US school this year, according to gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety.

It was the deadliest ever at an American high school, surpassing the 1999 rampage at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, where two teenagers killed 12 students and a

teacher and then themselves. It was also the second-deadliest at a US public school, behind the 2012 massacre of 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, by a gunman who also killed his mother and himself.

Since Sandy Hook, US schools have installed electronically controlled doors and added security staff. "Our focus at the School District is certainly to find out from a safety perspective what's occurred," Marjory Stoneman Douglas High Board Member Donna Korn told Treasure Coast, a local newspaper group. A law enforcement officer is assigned to every school in the district. The sheriff's office also provides active shooter training and the schools have a single point of entry, she said.

"We've got the people prepared, we have prepared the campuses, but sometimes people still find a way to let these horrific things happen," Korn said. Asked about having armed guards in schools, Israel told a news conference: "If a person is predisposed to commit such a horrific act

...there not a lot law enforcement or any entity can do about it."

### 'The worst and best of humanity'

The Valentine's Day bloodshed in the racially mixed community about 45 miles north of Miami was the latest outbreak of gun violence that has become a regular occurrence at US schools and college campuses in recent years. Television footage showed images of students streaming out of the building with hands raised in the air, weaving their way between heavily armed, helmeted police officers, as a fire truck and other emergency vehicles idled nearby.

Anguished parents raced to the school of 3,300 students and a nearby hotel that was set up as a checkpoint to find their children. "This has been a day we've seen the worst in humanity. Tomorrow (Thursday) is going to bring out the best in humanity, as we come together to move forward from this unspeakable tragedy," Broward County Public Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie told a news conference.

Florida's two US senators, briefed by federal law enforcement officials, said the assailant wore a gas mask as he stalked into the school carrying a rifle, ammunition cartridges and smoke grenades, then pulled a fire alarm, prompting students and staff to pour from their classrooms into hallways. The gunman tried to blend in with students who were fleeing the school but was spotted and taken into custody, the sheriff said in a statement.

A chilling cell phone video clip broadcast by CBS News showed what the network said was the shooting in progress from inside a classroom, where several students were seen huddled or lying on the floor surrounded by mostly empty desks. A rapid series of loud gunshots are heard along with hysterical screaming. One survivor, Kyle Yeoward, 16, said he and about 15 fellow students and a teacher hid in a closet for nearly two hours before police arrived. Those dead were a mix of students and adults. Twelve were killed inside the school, two just outside and one on the street, while two further victims died from their wounds in hospital, Israel said. —Reuters



## International

# Trapped by the system, Ethiopian workers in Lebanon see no freedom

## Migrant workers face slavery, sexual, physical abuse

**BEIRUT:** It was Betty's 22nd birthday when she landed in Beirut from Ethiopia with the promise of a well-paid job, but her dream of a better life ended when she found herself at the mercy of her employers. Betty - whose name was changed for security reasons - is one of more than 100,000 Ethiopian migrants in Lebanon working under the kafala sponsorship system, which binds them to one employer.

Ethiopians are the biggest group of migrant workers in Lebanon where there are also more than 47,000 Bangladeshis and nearly 19,000 Filipinos, according to 2016 government data. For two years Betty said she worked like a slave, facing sexual, verbal and physical abuse, until she managed to escape. But her new-found freedom was not all she had hoped and for the past five years she has found she is still trapped, working without legal work and residency permits.

"I live in fear at any minute I can get arrested and go to jail," Betty, now 29, said in an interview in Beirut. The kafala system applies across the Arab world and is highly criticized by human rights group for exploiting workers and denying them the ability to travel or change jobs. This criticism has led to some nations reforming the system, with countries like Bahrain and Jordan introducing flexible visas that stop workers being under one sponsor, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). In 2017 Qatar, host of the 2022 soccer World Cup, pledged a series of reforms including introducing a minimum wage and removed restrictions preventing migrant workers leaving the country without

their employers' permission. But Lebanon is one of a list of Arab countries yet to introduce changes to the kafala system. Georges Ayda, general director of the Ministry of Labor, said the kafala system was necessary to protect both the employer and the employee.

"When they work in houses there has to be somebody that is responsible for them. You are putting a stranger within a family," said Ayda. Despite the kafala system and Ethiopia banning its citizens from working in Lebanon since 2008, nearly 48,000 Ethiopians entered Lebanon between 2013 to 2016, government data shows. But there are no official numbers of workers like Betty - so-called "irregular" workers - who do not have the legal paperwork to let them stay and work in the country.

Groups working with migrants see this as a widespread problem as it leaves people with no legal right to escape abusive bosses or poor working conditions. "The sponsorship system allows this to be a systematic problem ... you don't have the right to be in the country, workers become trapped and they can't leave without their passport," said Zeina Mezher, migrant specialist for the ILO.

### System of slavery

Under the kafala system an employer sometimes

holds the worker's passport, residency and work permits even though the Ministry of Labor states migrants have the right to keep their passport and all legal papers. "The employer holds everything relating to their freedom," said Farah Salka, executive director of local non-government group Anti-Racism Movement. "There is no way to negotiate under this system of slavery ... You can't upset the person who is your sponsor because they are the only legal tie for you in Lebanon."

“Employer holds everything relating to their freedom”

Betty said she managed to get to Lebanon after a smuggler gave her a visa to get into the country via Yemen with a promise she would be paid \$250 per month and have regular working hours with a family. But her first job was working unpaid for an illegal re-

cruiter for three months because of the "debt" she owed him. Betty said she was sponsored twice by two different families but faced physical, sexual and verbal abuse, limited meals, no days off, and was often forced to work for other relatives too. "I went through a lot," said Betty in a soft voice, adding that she felt she had no choice but to flee, leaving behind her passport and legal papers with her last sponsor. "That time it was about surviving," she said, adding that she dreams of working legally and maybe getting a law degree in Lebanon with the hope of one day returning to Ethiopia.

### Life without legal papers

Betty is now living with relatives picking up jobs in various houses around Lebanon, but without legal papers. "Without my papers I can't do anything. (The sponsor) didn't sign a release paper. It's like you own a slave. No matter where you go, you are somebody's property unless that person sets them free," she said. Sponsors can sign release papers, but rights groups say migrant workers would still have to be under another sponsor to allow them to legally work.

"The system doesn't allow a person to escape an abusive situation without falling into irregularity," said Ghada Jabbour, head of the anti-trafficking unit at Kafa, a local NGO working with migrants and against gender-based violence. "The sponsorship system traps the worker since there is no legal protection ... the worker has no way to untie this knot."

Rights groups have called for the sponsorship system to be abolished but the government has ruled that out. "The situation is not perfect. We strive for improvement - but we will not be going down the road of abolishing kafala. If you take away kafala there will be no guarantee that the employee will respect the contract," said Ayda.

Ayda said that the Ministry of Labor is looking into the possibility of domestic migrant workers being sponsored by cleaning companies, allowing them not to live-in with a sponsor and to have flexible hours. "If we go into something like this, in my opinion we fix many of the problems and we guarantee better rights for the domestic migrant worker," he said.—Reuters

## Four Ukrainian marines killed in 'hazing' incident

**KIEV:** Four Ukrainian marines were killed in an apparent hazing incident while stationed in the country's war-torn east, and two fellow soldiers have been detained over it, officials said yesterday. The victims were serving in a brigade of marines and their bodies were found in the house where they were living temporarily, an Ukrainian military statement said.

The shootings took place near the village of Shyrokyne around 10 kilometers from the strategic government-held city of Mariupol, the Prosecutor-General's spokeswoman Larysa Sargan said on Facebook. She said that two marines had been detained on suspicion of murder after allegedly "confessing to the circumstances of the murder perpetrated on the basis of hazing while serving in the military."

More than 2,750 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed in fighting between the government forces and Russia-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine since the conflict broke out in April 2014, President Petro Poroshenko has said. Ukrainian media estimates claim that Kiev has lost over 190 troops last year with most killed by shelling from separatists and by explosive devices.—AFP

## In detention, foreign IS suspects claim innocence

**RMEILAN, Syria:** Nawaf and Hassan both left their homelands to live under the Islamic State group, but now sitting in a police station in northeast Syria they insist they did nothing wrong. The two men in clean tracksuits, one from Bahrain and the other from Turkey, are among hundreds from some 40 nationalities who have been captured by a US-backed force of Kurdish and Arab fighters. They were caught fleeing as the self-declared "caliphate" they once served collapsed in the face of ferocious military onslaughts in both Syria and Iraq.

Nawaf, 22, says he left his home in the Gulf kingdom of Bahrain and travelled via Qatar and Turkey to join IS in the summer of 2015 to "defend Muslims being bombed". He fought in Iraq but refuses to dwell on what he did there before moving to Raqqa, which was the group's Syrian capital. "It was a normal life," separated from the brutal beheadings and violence for which IS became infamous around the world, he said. "We only saw them in the media or in propaganda videos."

Nawaf claims he was a "simple employee" under Bahraini Turki al-Binali-chief religious advisor who was killed in an air strike in 2017. He married a woman from Kuwait and had a daughter. "It is good," he says of the group's severe interpretation of Islam that requires women to cover up. "Like that they don't attract people sexually." Sitting nearby Hassan, 49, claims he is a civilian who is still having problems after several back operations.

He says he came to Raqqa in 2015 where his Uzbek wife was a doctor and worked only as a "car park attendant" who was in the



**RMEILAN, Syria:** Hassan, a 49-year-old Turk suspected of collaborating with the Islamic State Group (IS) and currently detained by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), gives an interview at a house near a police station in Rumaylan (Rmeilan) in the Hasakeh province in north-east Syria.—AFP

dark about what IS was doing. "I did not fight. I knew nothing," says the bald man with blue eyes and a short beard.

While the two men lived under the rule of IS the group carried out a string of bloody attacks across Europe. "I don't approve of them," says Nawaf. "But that is the philosophy of IS and nobody dared to challenge it." Although both men are adamant they were low-level functionaries who do not have blood on their hands, their stories raise serious doubts. Hassan reveals that he passed through camps for fighters in both Turkey and Syria and at one time lived with "the Uzbeks" in the tribal region of Pakistan.—AFP



## International

Friday, February 16, 2018

## 10-year rejection of Kosovo stalls Serbia's EU hopes

**BELGRADE:** A decade after its southern province formally broke away, Serbia bluntly refuses to recognize Kosovo's independence, but President Aleksandar Vucic has warned something must change for his country to join the European Union. The "normalization" of ties between Belgrade and Pristina is a crucial requirement for each side's bid to join the bloc-yet this goal remains elusive, two decades after the Kosovo war claimed 13,000 lives.

That conflict, pitching ethnic Albanian rebels against Serbian forces controlled by Belgrade, set Kosovo on the path to unilaterally declaring independence on February 17, 2008. The former foes have been engaged in EU-mediated talks since 2011 and reached some agreements on issues such as freedom of movement and trade. But a binding agreement that would put an end to the territorial dispute is called for within the European Commission's latest enlargement strategy.

"The content of that agreement is being considered in advance as a recognition of Kosovo's independence," Serbia's EU Integration Minister Jadranka Joksicovic said. But "Serbia will not recognize

Kosovo," she insisted, reiterating a red line that Belgrade has refused to cross.

**Mountain to climb**

In recent years, Belgrade has lobbied to prevent Pristina joining various international organizations, especially the United Nations. Nevertheless Serbia's powerful president has warned that his citizens must decide if they want to "pay a certain price" to join the EU, for which Serbia has candidate status. "Are these easy obstacles for us? They are not, they are like the Himalayas, but we would not be the first to climb Mount Everest," Vucic told reporters last week.

„ Serbia considers Kosovo the cradle of its history and religion and the pream-

ble to the Serbian constitution describes Kosovo as an "integral part" of its territory. But Kosovo is now recognized as a state by more than 110 countries, including the United States and most EU members.

**'Wishful thinking'**

Last year when he was sworn in as president, Vucic called for an "internal dialogue" on Kosovo. But Serbia's weak and divided opposition almost unanimously refused, instead accusing him of trying to



**BELGRADE:** A pedestrian walks past a banner displayed in front of the National Assembly building in Belgrade. —AFP

spread responsibility for an anticipated recognition of Kosovo. Analyst Dusan Janjic said there was only a "small number of people from state institutions" involved in the dialogue, who either advocate the status quo or engage in "wishful thinking" over how to regain control of Kosovo. Public opinion surveys regularly show

some 60 percent of citizens support dialogue with Pristina. But around 65 percent are against EU membership if Serbia has to recognize Kosovo's independence. "It takes two to tango," said Vucic. "Others should understand that they have to make compromises as well, not only Serbia."—AFP



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## International

# Zuma's reluctant exit ushers in new S African president

## S Africa welcomes Cyril Ramaphosa as new president

**CAPE TOWN:** South Africa prepared to welcome wealthy former businessman Cyril Ramaphosa as its new president yesterday after scandal-tainted Jacob Zuma resigned under intense pressure from his own party. Zuma announced he had stepped down in a late-night television address in which he took some digs at the African National Congress (ANC) party that had pledged to oust him via a parliamentary no-confidence vote.

In a 30-minute speech, Zuma said he had “come to the decision to resign as president of the republic with immediate effect”. “I have only asked my party to articulate my transgressions and the reason for its immediate instruction that I vacate office,” he said. Zuma, 75, had been in a divisive power struggle with Ramaphosa, the deputy president.

Ramaphosa, who won control of the ANC when he was elected as its head in December, will be voted in by parliament as South Africa's new president yesterday when lawmakers sit from 1200 GMT. Benchmark South African stocks scored their biggest gains since June 2016 after news that a pro-business reformist would be taking the helm. The FTSE/JSE Africa All Share Index rose as much as 2.7 percent, while the rand

reached its strongest level since February 2015, gaining 0.5 percent at 11.6570 for one US dollar in early trading.

Zuma, in an earlier TV interview on Wednesday, said he had received “very unfair” treatment from the party that he joined in 1959 and in which he had fought for decades against apartheid white-minority rule. He said he was angered over “the manner in which the decision is being implemented... I don't agree, as there is no evidence of if I have done anything wrong.”

**We are not celebrating**

### Forced out

The party's national executive committee had ordered Zuma's recall from office on Tuesday, after a 13-hour meeting at a hotel outside Pretoria, but he at first refused. ANC officials then said that if Zuma did not resign, the party's lawmakers in the Cape Town parliament would vote out him yesterday. But, after the resignation, party deputy secretary general Jesse Duarte cautioned: “We are not celebrating”.

“We have had to recall a cadre of the movement that has served this organisation for over 60 years, it's not a small matter,” she added. Zuma, who had no formal education, was jailed on Robben Island for 10 years alongside Nelson

Mandela under apartheid and rose through the ranks of the ANC to take power in 2009. But his rule was dominated by graft scandals, economic slowdown and falling popularity for the celebrated liberation party.



**CAPE TOWN:** Newly appointed South African President Cyril Ramaphosa gestures as he delivers a speech after being elected by the Members of Parliament during his swearing-in ceremony at the Parliament in Cape Town.—AFP

In a day of high drama, police early Wednesday raided the Johannesburg home of the Gupta

business family, which is accused of overseeing a web of corruption in Zuma's government. Police said three unidentified people had been arrested in investigations into “Vrede Farm”—allegations that millions of dollars of public money meant for poor dairy farmers were siphoned off by the Guptas.—AFP

## UK modern slavery raids save 36 victims

**LONDON:** Raids on five British car washes have led to 15 arrests for modern-day slavery offences, and the rescuing of 36 victims, according to police. The operation, which involved 180 officers in Milton Keynes, north of London, targeted an organized crime group that police believe was involved in trafficking, slavery and drugs. Belgian officers helped Britain's immigration and police investigators.

“This group is using hand car washes as a front for their criminal activity and we believe individuals may be being trafficked into Milton Keynes, and might be the subject of modern slavery,” police said in a statement. Officers also carried out raids at 20 residential addresses. “We have seized a large quantity of cocaine, cannabis and also thousands of pounds worth of cash, and a Mercedes ML 250,” added the statement.

A total of 15 arrests were made during Tuesday's raids, while 30 suspected victims of slavery were “safeguarded.” The operation was sparked by the arrest in Belgium of an alleged people smuggler on Tuesday morning, according to the public prosecutor's office in the city of Bruges. He was accused of being in the process of trafficking six fellow Albanians to the UK, including a 16- and 17-year-old boys. “This is the largest operation of its type carried out within the Thames Valley,” said British police detective Darran Hill. —AFP

## Protesters face ‘zero tolerance’ in Chad as 17 sentenced

**N'DJAMENA:** “Fear rules over the city,” said Mahamat, a resident of the Chadian capital N'Djamena for more than 40 years who did not dare to reveal his real name. “Although people are frustrated, they don't want to be arrested, kidnapped or tortured.” In Chad, a large partly-desert nation straddling north and central Africa, taking discontent to the streets is a dangerous game under the stern rule of President Idriss Deby, in power for 27 years.

Early in January, a public sector strike over pay and conditions garnered some backing, but once trade unions, students and the political opposition urged people to demonstrate against “bad governance”, security forces were deployed across the capital and few chose to protest. The regime, which is fighting the violent jihadist group Boko Haram based in neighboring Nigeria but active across several borders, argues that the risk of attack is too high to allow marches and public gatherings.

“Terrorists, thugs, could infiltrate the march,” Security Minister Ahmat Bachir recently warned. Among those who have risked public protest, several hundred people have been arrested since the end of January. Most were released after spending several hours in custody, but police on Wednesday said 17 people were sentenced to four months in prison for “disturbing public order, destruction of property, holding an unauthorized gathering and injuring members of the police force”.

The prosecutor of Chad, Mahamat Saleh, warned protesters:

“There will be zero tolerance for troublemakers.” Last week, the authorities also handed down two month suspensions to ten opposition parties that called for a protest rally in N'Djamena on the grounds that they were “disturbing public order” and “inciting violence”.

### ‘Illegal’ arrests

In a report released last September, Amnesty international charged that since early 2016, the security forces have stepped up “efforts to repress human rights”, with a key role for the feared national intelligence agency (ANS). The report said the ANS's mandate was expanded in January 2017 “allowing its agents to target and arrest human rights defenders on the grounds of national security”. “The ANS had already been illegally arresting people and detaining them in unofficial detention facilities, without allowing access to families and lawyers,” Amnesty reported.

Secret detention and arbitrary arrests marked a return to a dark past, said the human rights NGO, referring to the brutal methods of the infamous Directorate for Documentation and Security under former president Hissene Habre, who was ousted by Deby and sentenced by a special court in Dakar in 2016 to life in jail for crimes against humanity. “For the past two weeks, we've seen what happened under Habre,” including “arrests in bedrooms”, Clement Abaifouta, chairman of an organization representing Habre's many victims, said. The presence of security forces and suspected government “spies” around N'Djamena has helped fuel rumors that opposition groups are being infiltrated.

“We are wary of each other,” said a human rights activist who wished to remain anonymous. Yet in spite of the oppressive climate, Chad has in the past three years witnessed “an increase in strength of social movements and popular protests that breaks with the political opposition and armed rebel groups,” observes Chadian sociologist Appolinaire Rititinger—AFP



# Tillerson heads to Ankara to ease Turkey tensions

## Tillerson to hold talks with Turkey's Erdogan

**ANKARA:** US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived in Turkey yesterday seeking to ease tensions with its NATO ally that have reached fresh heights over Ankara's ongoing operation inside Syria. During his two-day trip to the Turkish capital, Tillerson—who last visited in July 2017—will hold talks with Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Turkey's operation against a Kurdish militia in Syria has added a potentially insurmountable new problem to the litany of issues clouding the relationship between Washington and Ankara.

Analysts said the level of tension was similar to 2003 when Turkey refused to let US troops operate from its territory for the Iraq war, or even the aftermath of Ankara's invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Turkey's operation against the People's Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara blacklists as a terror group, has seen troops fighting a militia which is closely allied with the US in the battle against jihadists. And Erdogan has further upped the ante by warning US troops to steer clear of Manbij, a YPG-held town east of Afrin where the main operation is happening, raising fears of a clash.

"We are going to go to Manbij and if they are there, it's too bad for them," a senior Turkish official told AFP. When a US commander told the

New York Times it would respond "aggressively" to any attack by Turkey, Erdogan didn't mince his words. "It's very clear that those who make such remarks have never experienced an Ottoman slap," he said, using the term for a backhander which, according to legend, could kill an opponent in one stroke.

### Weakening anti-IS efforts

For Ankara, the YPG is linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, which is blacklisted as a terror outfit by the US and the EU. But for Washington, the YPG is an ally. On Tuesday, Tillerson said Turkey's operation "detracted" from the fight against Islamic State jihadists, saying Kurdish fighters had been "diverted" from where they were really needed in order to fight in Afrin. Former State Department official Amanda Sloat said Washington did not appear to have "developed a clear way forward on Syria nor determined how its plans address Turkish security concerns".

And if Ankara expected any clarity from US officials on the way forward in Syria, it would be "disappointed", said Sloat, now a senior fellow at the US-based Brookings Institution. Speaking ahead of the visit, a senior State Department of-

Eyes on the defeat of IS

## Four killed in Bolivia bomb attack

**LA PAZ:** A bomb triggered a blast that killed four people during carnival celebrations in the Bolivian city of Oruro, police said Wednesday. Police commander Faustino Mendoza said a device packed with three kilograms of dynamite exploded late Tuesday, killing bystanders. "We have four people killed and nine injured," said Mendoza, adding that the blast occurred in a street near the scene of an even deadlier explosion on Saturday that killed eight people.

Initially, a government minister said that explosion was likely caused by a street vendor's gas cylinder. Following the second blast, army units patrolled the streets of the city and regional Governor Victor Hugo Vasquez said: "We are sure that this is a criminal attack." Defense Minister Javier Zabaleta said authorities were now considering "the possibility that the two explosions are coordinated events."

Three suspects have been arrested, In-



LA PAZ: Police investigators inspect to site where a new explosion occurred in Oruro, Bolivia.—Reuters

terior Minister Carlos Romero said, without giving further details. Traces of ANFO, an industrial explosive widely used in the mining industry, were also found at the site of the latest blast, authorities said. President Evo Morales, in a statement on Twitter, said the South American country had been plunged into mourning. "Very saddened and concerned because we have a tragedy again, and the death of innocent bystanders in Oruro has our coun-

try in mourning after another explosion," he wrote.

The northwestern Bolivian city is known for its cobblestone streets and colorful carnival celebrations that attract as many as half a million visitors to the city. Thousands of people had danced along a four-kilometer circuit of streets during the festivities on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the city's university and schools located near the incidents remained closed.—AFP



JORDAN: US Foreign Secretary Rex Tillerson speaks during a joint press conference with Jordanian foreign minister in Amman.—AFP

ficial said "eyes had to be on" the defeat of IS. "It's complicated enough. Let's not make it more so." But Cavusoglu warned Washington that ties were at a "critical point" where relations would "be fixed or... completely damaged."

Ties were damaged after the failed coup of 2016 with Turkey stung by a perceived lack of US

solidarity and angered by its intransigence over the extradition of Fethullah Gulen, a Pennsylvania-based cleric blamed for ordering the putsch. There is still no US ambassador to Turkey after the departure of John Bass last year, and it was only in December that the two sides ended a row following tit-for-tat suspensions of visa services.—AFP

## Bipartisan group in US Senate unveils immigration plan

**WASHINGTON:** With US immigration reform efforts hanging by a thread, a bipartisan group of senators unveiled a compromise plan Wednesday to protect so-called "Dreamers" and boost border security, defying President Donald Trump's demand to embrace his more hardline plan. The potential breakthrough, reached late Wednesday after hours of closed-door deliberations, came as efforts to resolve the fate of 1.8 million immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children entered a crucial period in a week set aside for debate on immigration.

The Senate's Republican leadership set Friday as the deadline for striking a deal, and Thursday was shaping up to be a day of consequential votes in the chamber on competing immigration plans, including the president's. The key will be which of the plans can receive 60 votes, the threshold for advancing legislation in the closely divided 100-member Senate. The bipartisan measure, which has eight Republican and eight Democratic sponsors, emerged from a centrist group nicknamed the "common sense coalition." "Our legislation underscores the broad, bipartisan commitment to creating a path to citizenship for Dreamers, who were brought to this country illegally through no decision of their own, while strengthening border security to help stop the flow of illegal immigrants," Senator Susan Collins, a Republican founder of the coalition, said in a statement announcing the measure.



# Nepal gets new Communist PM after landmark polls

## Oli to head 1st govt elected under new national constitution

**KATHMANDU:** The leader of Nepal's largest Communist party was named prime minister yesterday, two months after leading his party to a thumping victory in landmark elections billed as a turning point for the impoverished Himalayan nation. K P Sharma Oli will head the first government elected under a new national constitution that cements Nepal's transformation from Hindu monarchy to a federal republic 11 years after the end of a brutal Maoist insurgency.

The Communist leader is expected to take the oath of office later Thursday, presidential secretary Bhesh Raj Adhikari said. An alliance of Oli's main Communist party and the former Maoist rebels trounced Deuba's Nepali Congress party in last year's polls, the first under the country's new post-war constitution. The charter sets out a sweeping overhaul of the political system, devolving significant power from the centre to the seven provinces. But the handover of power was delayed by disagreements over how the new election

rules in the constitution should be implemented.

The long delay has dampened the optimism that accompanied the polls, when many voters cast their ballots hoping a new government would bring much-needed stability and development. Nepal has cycled through 11 prime ministers since the civil war ended in 2006, allowing corruption to



**Handover of power delayed by disagreements**

flourish and growth stagnate. Sher Bahadur Deuba, who resigned as prime minister earlier yesterday, spent just eight months in office. Rules under the new constitution make it harder to oust the premier, raising hopes that the next government could last a full five year term.

### Regional relations

During Oli's last term in office in 2015, relations between Kathmandu and its traditional ally Delhi soured after protests over the constitution led to a blockade of the Nepal-India border. The blockade caused a crippling shortage of goods in the landlocked Himalayan nation as it was still reeling from a devastating earthquake that hit earlier that year killing nearly 9,000 people. Oli blamed the blockade on Delhi and tilted Nepal's diplomatic relations towards China, stoking nationalistic sentiment. Beijing responded by pumping vast sums of money into Nepal in the form of large-scale infrastructure projects. Analysts say Oli will likely take a more pragmatic approach to balancing relations with Nepal's two giant neighbors this time around. "He used the nationalistic platform for elections. Now he doesn't need to bait India to get support," said Kunda Dixit, editor of the Nepali Times newspaper. Both Oli and New Delhi appear keen to rebalance relations between the neighbors.



**KATHMANDU:** In this file photo, Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli waves after casting his vote in an election for Nepal's new president in Kathmandu. —AFP

India's foreign minister Sushma Swaraj was recently in Kathmandu for meetings with the government-in-waiting and there has been talk of a visit to Nepal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Where Oli makes his first overseas visit will be closely watched. He is expected to continue to court Beijing, with an eye on invest-

ment for a long-mooted Himalayan rail link and energy-starved Nepal's hydropower system. The 65-year-old's health is a cause of concern within political circles. He had a kidney transplant about 10 years ago and regularly flies to Bangkok for health checkups. Some say he downplays the severity of his health problems. —AFP

## War wounds: The endless agony of Afghan civilians

**KABUL:** "If committing suicide was not a sin I would have already killed myself," says Mohammad Alem. For 20 months, the Afghan father has been largely bedridden, paralyzed in a suicide attack in Kabul. Alem, a Supreme Court employee, was travelling with colleagues in a minibus to neighboring Wardak province when the bomber appeared. "Among 16 colleagues, two of us were left alive, all the others have been killed," he said.

"I am not happy to be alive at all, but I bear all this just for my four kids," he adds, pointing to the slender white stockings that grip his skinny, inert calves. For the fourth consecutive year, more than 10,000 civilians were killed or wounded in 2017 in Afghanistan, a UN report said yesterday, victims of conflicts that have now been dragging on for almost 40 years. It is no longer the fighting but attacks and bombings, often in crowded urban centers, that kill and maim the most often, with nearly 2,300 casualties 22 percent of the total in 2017 — coming from such assaults.

Things have not improved so far in 2018, and UN officials fear Afghanistan will see "greater harm this year". At Alem's one-room house in the west of Kabul, his four children sit on the red carpet and listen in silence, the youngest climbing on his walker to get closer. Since his return home, the International Red Cross has ensured Alem has medical equipment and that his family has staple foods. But last year, the promise of a miracle cure led him to India, where a doctor took \$10,000 for an injection that did no good. —AFP

## Nirav Modi: India's celebrity jeweler in fraud storm

**MUMBAI:** Nirav Modi, who is under investigation for fraud, is a billionaire Indian jeweler whose extravagant diamonds have graced many Hollywood celebrities including Kate Winslet and Naomi Watts. From stores in New York's Madison Avenue and Singapore's Marina Bay to the red carpet at the Oscars, Modi's luxury jewelry has long been popular with the rich and famous.

Hailing from a family of diamond merchants, the 47-year-old is one of India's richest men and is known for his love of Bentley cars and expensive Italian suits. He is now also associated with serious fraud allegations. Last month, Punjab National Bank (PNB) — India's second-biggest state-owned lender — approached the Central Bureau of Investigation alleging that Modi and members of his family defrauded it of 2.8 billion rupees.

PNB then said Wednesday it had detected fraud of almost \$1.8 billion at a single branch in Mumbai. The Press Trust of



**MUMBAI:** This photo shows an Indian man walking past a branch of the luxury jewelry store Nirav Modi in Mumbai. — AFP

India news agency reported that the bank had made fresh allegations against Modi to the CBI. On Thursday, Enforcement Directorate officers raided Modi's Mumbai home and other premises belonging to the jeweler. Afterwards, PTI, citing officials, reported that Modi had left India in early January, before the bank detected either of the two fraud cases.

Modi, who was photographed along-

side Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the World Economic Forum in Davos last month, has not commented on the allegations. The two are not related. Firestar Diamond has previously said the earlier case was not connected to the company. Modi is the son and grandson of diamond traders. He was raised in Antwerp, Belgium and as a youngster dreamed of becoming a music conductor. — AFP



# China angered as Indian PM visits disputed border region

## Beijing to lodge stern protest with India

**BEIJING:** China yesterday expressed anger over a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the remote Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China also claims, and said India should stop any action that might complicate the dispute. China claims the region in the eastern Himalayas as "South Tibet", and it has denounced Indian leaders' visits there as attempts to bolster India's claims.

"China's position on the China-India boundary question is consistent and clear-cut," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a statement carried by the official Xinhua news agency. "The Chinese government has never recognized the so-called Arunachal Pradesh and is firmly opposed to the Indian leader's visit to the disputed area," Geng said. "We will lodge stern representations with the Indian side," he said.

Modi is visiting as part of a tour of India's northeast states. "I am delighted to visit Arunachal Pradesh and be among the wonderful people of this state," Modi

said in a Twitter post. China and India have improved ties in recent years but there is still deep distrust over their long festering border dispute, which triggered a brief war in 1962. Chinese and Indian troops faced off on another disputed part of the border last year.

Chinese spokesman Geng said China and India had reached an important consensus on properly managing disputes, and the two sides were working to resolve their contested border through negotiation and consultation. "The Chinese side urges the Indian side to honor its commitment and abide by the relevant consensus, and refrain from taking any action that may complicate the boundary question," Geng said.

Modi is expected to visit China in June for a summit of the Chinese and Russian-led Shanghai Cooperation Organization security bloc. He inaugurated a convention centre in the Arunachal Pradesh state capital of Itanagar and said the state authorities had prepared an excellent roadmap for development until 2027.—Reuters

“China urges India to honor commitment”



**ITANAGAR:** This handout photo shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu presenting a gift to mark the 30 years of statehood at the inauguration of the Dorjee Khandu State Convention Centre in Itanagar. — AFP

## Muslim Malaysia rejects criticism over Israeli visit

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia yesterday defended the decision to allow a high-level Israeli delegation to attend a UN conference in Kuala Lumpur after the move sparked widespread anger in the Muslim-majority country. Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said Malaysia, as host of last week's international forum on urban development, had no choice but to allow all UN member states to take part.

Malaysia has no formal diplomatic ties with Israel and many in the country support the Palestinian cause, with thousands taking to the streets in December to protest when US President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as the Jewish state's capital. The Israeli delegation at the conference was led by David Roet, who used to be Israel's deputy ambassador to the UN, and included other senior foreign ministry officials and a former minister, the Times of Israel reported.

Roet posted pictures of himself on Twitter at various locations around Kuala Lumpur and next to a Malaysian flag. "I have great hopes for good relations between our two countries in the future," he said in a tweet. Opposition groups and Islamic NGOs attacked the government for allowing him to take part in the event, with Rais Hussin from political party Bersatu labelling it a "great disservice to the Palestinian cause". "Israel will be very happy that this has happened," he said. But Foreign Minister Anifah insisted Malaysia had been compelled to allow Israel to participate, noting the letter of invitation to the Jewish state was not signed by any Malaysian official. "The issue of Malaysia tacitly establishing links with Israel through the hosting of this forum does not arise," he said in a statement. —AFP

## Jailed Indonesian cleric on trial for deadly 2016 attack

**JAKARTA:** A jailed Indonesian cleric accused of being the mastermind of a deadly 2016 terror attack in Jakarta went on trial yesterday and faces a possible death sentence if convicted. Aman Abdurrahman is charged with terrorism-related offences over the attack, claimed by the Islamic State group that killed four bystanders in a busy downtown neighborhood. Four militants died after they were shot or blew themselves up. The handcuffed cleric arrived at a Jakarta court in an orange vest worn by criminal suspects, escorted by armed guards.

Prosecutors read out the indictment against Abdurrahman on charges that he "deliberately used violence or threats to create terror among the general public and caused mass casualties... or caused damage" to property, which can carry a penalty ranging from four years in prison to a life sentence or the death penalty. Abdurrahman showed little emotion, saying he did not recognize the court and would not read the charges against him or hire a lawyer. The court appointed a lawyer to represent the cleric.



**JAKARTA:** Indonesian armed police escort Indonesian radical cleric Aman Abdurrahman, 2nd right, as he arrives at the South Jakarta court in Jakarta. — AFP

The attack—the first claimed by IS in Southeast Asia—saw dramatic scenes as a suicide bomber blew himself up in a Starbucks and security forces battled gun-toting militants. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, has long struggled with Islamist militancy and has been hit by a series of attacks in the past 15 years, including the 2002 Bali bombings that left 202 people dead. A crackdown is believed to have weakened the most dangerous networks, but fears have grown of a resurgence in militancy after hundreds of Indonesians flocked to the Middle East in recent years to join IS.

The country has seen a surge in plots and attacks linked to the jihadists, including an attack last year in which suicide

bombers killed three police officers at a bus station in Indonesia's sprawling capital. Despite being in prison since 2010, Abdurrahman has actively recruited militants to join IS, according to the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis and Conflict. He is thought to have been in communication with leaders of the jihadist group and is the main translator for IS propaganda in Indonesia, it has said.

The cleric was detained by counter-terrorism police on August 12, five days before he was due for release from the Nusakambangan maximum-security prison where he was serving a sentence for raising funds for a militant training camp in conservative Aceh province. —AFP



# Australia bans sex between government ministers and staff

## Affair leaves an aide pregnant, government reeling

**SYDNEY:** Australia's prime minister imposed a formal ban on sex between ministers and their staff yesterday after his deputy made "a shocking error of judgment" by having an affair that left an aide pregnant and the government reeling. Malcolm Turnbull announced the amendment to the ministerial code of conduct at an extraordinary press conference during which he slammed deputy Barnaby Joyce for causing "terrible hurt and humiliation" to his wife and four children.

"Barnaby made a shocking error of judgment in having an affair with a young woman working in his office," he said. "In doing so, he has set off a world of woe for those women and appalled all of us. Our hearts go out to them. It has been a dreadful thing for them to go through in the glare of publicity." Joyce, 50, has been under immense pressure since his affair with former media advisory Vikki Campion, 33, who is now pregnant with their child, became public last week.

It has led to allegations that he breached ministerial rules, with the crisis dominating the front pages and parliament question time, with calls mounting for him to resign. Joyce, whose National Party is in a coalition with the prime minis-

ter's Liberals, will take leave next week, allowing him to side-step the role of acting leader while Turnbull is on a visit to the United States. Turnbull departs for Washington next Wednesday for meetings with US President Donald Trump and is scheduled to be overseas for four days.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, as deputy Liberal leader, would normally step in if Joyce was unavailable. But she will also be travelling, which means Senate leader Mathias Cormann will take the position. Turnbull said the break would allow Joyce to "consider his own position". The prime minister could sack him, but that will risk

fracturing the ruling coalition and could cause a rift between the Liberal and National parties.

### 'No good comes of it'

Joyce admitted to the affair after a picture of his pregnant lover was splashed across the front page of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, and has publicly apologized to his shattered wife of 24 years Natalie and their daughters. Turnbull said times had changed and people expected politicians to set an example. "I am not here to moralize. But we must recognize that whatever may have been ac-

“

A shocking error of judgment

”



**SYDNEY:** This file photo shows Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, left, looking at Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, right, during a press conference in Sydney.—AFP

ceptable or to which a blind eye was turned in the past, today, in 2018, it is not acceptable for a minister to have a sexual relationship with somebody who works for them," he said. "It is a very bad workplace practice. And everybody knows that no good comes of it." As such, he amended the code of conduct to make unequivocally clear that

"ministers, regardless of whether they are married or single, must not engage in sexual relations with staff". Joyce—best known internationally for threatening to euthanize Hollywood star Johnny Depp's dogs over a quarantine violation—denies he breached any rules, which could be grounds for him to be removed from office. —AFP

## First transgender officer joins Philippine army reserves

**MANILA:** The Philippine military has welcomed its first transgender officer, the defense department said yesterday, swearing in a prominent member of Congress as a reservist. Geraldine Roman, 50, who became the Catholic-majority nation's first transgender person elected to Congress in 2016, took her oath on Wednesday. "That indeed makes her the first transgender officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines," defense department spokesman Arsenio Andolong said in a statement.

"Her being part of the (military) underscores the fact that gender is not an issue when it comes to serving the country," he added. The Philippine military frequently inducts prominent figures like legislators and cabinet members as reserve officers. Roman was appointed as a lieutenant colonel in the army reserves, alongside two fellow House of Representatives members, the statement added.

"War and disaster do not recognize gender, it affects everybody, and everyone



**MANILA:** (from right to left) Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana leads the oath-taking for newly-appointed lieutenant colonel and congressman, Edwin Marino Ongchuan, Congresswoman Divina Grace Yu, and Congresswoman Geraldine Roman in Quezon City, suburban Manila. —AFP

must defend and serve our communities, and our country," the statement quoted her saying during the ceremony.

Born to a politically prominent family based near Manila, Roman changed her gender in the 1990s.

Her political success has been hailed by

lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) campaigners in a conservative society where divorce and same-sex marriage are both banned. The Philippine military last year announced it would accept LGBT applicants "as long as they act and move with dignity".—AFP

## Japan reports suspected N Korea sanctions violation

**TOKYO:** Japan has reported a new suspected sanctions violation by North Korea to the UN Security Council after spotting an apparent cargo transfer between a Belize-registered tanker and a North Korean one. Japan's foreign ministry said a military patrol plane observed the apparent transfer in the East China Sea early Tuesday.

"Following a comprehensive assessment, the Government of Japan strongly suspects that they conducted ship-to-ship transfers banned" by UN Security Council resolutions, the ministry said in a statement late Wednesday. Tokyo said it had reported the incident to the Security Council and shared related information with relevant countries.

The incident involved the same North Korean tanker, the Rye Song Gang 1, that Tokyo spotted alongside a Dominica-registered oil tanker in January.

The incident comes as global attention is focused on North Korea's participation in the ongoing Winter Olympics hosted by South Korea, in a diplomatic push by Kim Jong Un's isolated regime. Tokyo identified the Belize-flagged ship involved in Tuesday's incident as the Wan Heng 11.

The UN has imposed a series of sanctions on North Korea aimed at pressuring it to abandon its missile and nuclear programs. It has denied international port access to eight North Korean vessels, including the Rye Song Gang 1. —AFP



# Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

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A man with a skull mask holds balloons during the XIV Poetry Festival in Granada, 45 km from Managua, Nicaragua. This year, the festival is dedicated to poets Fernando Silva from Nicaragua and Roberto Soza from Honduras. — AFP

**#MeToo debate dominates  
Berlin filmfest opening**

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Jury members of the 68th edition of the Berlinale international film festival (from left) Spanish director Chema Prado, Belgian actress Cecile de France, German director and Jury President Tom Tykwer, US producer Adele Romanski, Japanese musician and composer Ryuichi Sakamoto and US film critic Stephanie Zacharek pose during a press conference in Berlin yesterday.—AFP photos

# #MeToo debate dominates Berlin filmfest opening

Acclaimed US director Wes Anderson's new animated feature "Isle of Dogs" yesterday kicked off the Berlin film festival, which is set to be rocked by aftershocks of the #MeToo movement. With the global cinema industry in turmoil over allegations of rampant sexual misconduct, the 11-day event will seek a delicate balance between Hollywood glamour and frank debate in the wake of powerful producer Harvey Weinstein's downfall.

Bryan Cranston, Oscar-nominee Greta Gerwig, Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, Jeff Goldblum and Liev Schreiber, who voice the pack of pooches and the humans who love them in Anderson's movie, are expected on the Berlinale red carpet for the world premiere. But even before the opening, controversy erupted over the inclusion at the Berlinale of award-winning South Korean director Kim Ki-duk, who was fined in December for assaulting an actress on set. The actress, who has refused to be publicly identified, has accused the festival-traditionally a strong champion of Asian cinema-of "hypocrisy" for inviting Kim to present his latest picture, "Human, Space, Time and Human".

## Berlinale 'condemns violence'

Festival director Dieter Kosslick said he had excluded a handful of films because of credible sexual abuse allegations against their directors, screenwriters or stars. But he told AFP he did not bar Kim because sexual harassment allegations by the same actress against him had been dismissed for lack of evidence, adding that he was seeking more information about an appeal in the case. "Obviously the Berlinale condemns and opposes any form of violence or sexual misconduct," Kosslick said. Yesterday, a coalition of

more than 100 South Korean civic groups kept up the pressure, releasing a statement condemning the festival's stance.

"We are living in this unfair reality in which a physical assault offender is working and being welcomed everywhere as if nothing happened, while the victim who spoke out against the abuse is being isolated and marginalized," the alliance of about 140 groups said in a joint statement sent to AFP. Meanwhile an online petition calling for the Berlinale to lay a black carpet instead of a red one in solidarity with sexual assault and harassment victims drew 21,000 signatures.

And German actress Anna Brueggemann launched the Twitter hashtag #NobodysDoll to encourage stars to abandon the high heels and low-cut gowns common at festival premieres for more "comfortable clothing". Anderson last opened the Berlinale, which ranks with Cannes and Venice among Europe's top three cinema showcases, in 2014 with the world premiere of "The Grand Budapest Hotel", a box office hit which went on to scoop dozens of awards and an Oscar nomination for best picture. It will be Anderson's fourth turn in competition for the Berlinale's Golden and Silver Bear top prizes following "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou".

Tom Tykwer, one of the German directors behind the blockbuster miniseries "Babylon Berlin" now appearing on Netflix, will lead a gender-balanced jury including Belgian actress Cecile de France ("The Young Pope"), "Moonlight" producer Adele Romanski, Time magazine critic Stephanie Zacharek, Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto and Spanish film historian Chema Prado.—AFP



US actor Bill Murray, US actress Greta Gerwig, US director Wes Anderson, US actor Liev Schreiber, British actress Tilda Swinton and US actor Jeff Goldblum pose for a group photo during a photocall upon arrival for a press conference to present the animated feature "Isle of Dogs".

## Main line-up at Berlin film festival

The 68th Berlinale, Europe's first major film festival of the year, opened yesterday with 24 new movies from around the world screening in the main showcase. Nineteen pictures will vie for the Golden and Silver Bear prizes at the 11-day event, with a jury led by German director Tom Tykwer ("Run Lola Run", "Babylon Berlin").

Twenty-two of the 24 features in the main showcase are world premieres and two are directors' feature debuts. Four of the movies in competition are by women. The Berlinale Special sidebar section features other notable films that will have gala screenings. Here is the complete list including details on the high-profile productions:

### Main showcase :

- "3 Days in Quiberon", Emily Atef, Germany/Austria/France (about Franco-German screen siren Romy Schneider's last interview before her tragic death aged 45)
- "7 Days in Entebbe", Jose Padilha, winner of the 2008 Golden Bear top prize, and starring Rosamund Pike and Daniel Bruehl, US/Britain (based on the true story of the daring Israeli rescue mission following 1976 PLO hijacking of an Air France jet, out of competition)
- "Aga", Milko Lazarov, Bulgaria/Germany/France (out of competition)
- "Ang Panahon ng Halimaw" (Season of the Devil), Lav Diaz, Philippines
- "Black 47", Lance Daly and starring Hugo Weaving, Jim Broadbent and Stephen Rea, Ireland/Luxembourg (period thriller set during Ireland's Great Famine, out of competition)
- "Damsel", David and Nathan Zellner and starring Robert Pattinson and Mia Wasikowska, US (comic Western with a feminist twist)
- "Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot", Gus Van Sant and starring Joaquin Phoenix, Rooney Mara and Jonah Hill, US (based on the memoir by John Callahan, who became a cartoonist after losing the use of his limbs in a drink driving crash)
- "Dovlatov", Alexey German Jr, Russia/Poland/Serbia
- "Eldorado", Markus Imhoof, Switzerland/Germany, (documentary on how various countries treat refugees, out of competition)
- "Eva", Benoit Jacquot and starring Isabelle Huppert, France/Belgium (Huppert plays a femme fatale in a thriller adaptation of a 1945 novel)
- "Figlia Mia" (Daughter of Mine), Laura Bispuri, Italy/Germany/Switzerland
- "Las Herederas" (The Heiresses), Marcelo Martinessi, Paraguay/Germany/Uruguay/Norway/ Brazil/France (debut film)
- "In den Gaengen" (In the Aisles), Thomas Stuber and starring Sandra Hüller of "Toni Erdmann", Germany
- "Isle of Dogs", animated feature by Wes Anderson and voiced by stars including

Bryan Cranston, Bill Murray, Jeff Goldblum, Greta Gerwig and Liev Schreiber, Britain/Germany (opening film)

- "Khook" (The Pig), Mani Haghighi, Iran
- "Mein Bruder heisst Robert und ist ein Idiot" (My Brother's Name Is Robert and He Is an Idiot), Philip Groening, Germany/France/Switzerland
- "Museum", Alonso Ruizpalacios and starring Gael Garcia Bernal, Mexico (heist movie based on the real-life theft of priceless ancient artifacts)
- "La Priere" (The Prayer), Cedric Kahn, France
- "Toppen av ingenting" (The Real Estate), Mans Mansson and Axel Petersen, Sweden/Britain
- "Touch Me Not", Adina Pintilie, Romania/Germany/Czech Republic/ Bulgaria/France (debut film)
- "Transit", Christian Petzold, Germany/France
- "Twarz" (Mug), Malgorzata Szumowska, Poland
- "Unsane", Steven Soderbergh and starring Claire Foy of "The Crown", US (psychological thriller about digital stalking filmed on an iPhone, out of competition)
- "Utoya 22. juli" (U - July 22), Erik Poppe, Norway (drama based on the massacre committed by Anders Behring Breivik, told from the perspective of the 77 victims)
- Berlinale Special -
- "AMERICA Land of the FreeKS", Ulli Lommel, Germany "The Bookshop", Isabel Coixet and starring Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson and Bill Nighy, Spain/Britain/Germany "Gurrumul", Paul Williams, Australia (documentary about the late Aboriginal musician) "The Happy Prince", Rupert Everett and starring Everett, Colin Firth and Emily Watson, Germany/Belgium/Italy (Oscar Wilde biopic)
- "The Interpreter", Martin Sulik, Slovakia/Czech Republic/Austria
- "Monster Hunt 2", Raman Hui, China
- "RYUICHI SAKAMOTO: async AT THE PARK AVENUE ARMORY", Stephen Nomura Schible, US/Japan (concert film)
- "Das schweigende Klassenzimmer" (The Silent Revolution), Lars Kraume, Germany
- "Songwriter", Murray Cummings, Britain (documentary about British pop superstar Ed Sheeran)
- "Unga Astrid" (Becoming Astrid), Pernille Fischer Christensen, Sweden/Germany/Denmark (biopic about Pippi Longstocking author Astrid Lindgren)
- "Udesom - Der freie Blick aufs Meer", Heinz Brinkmann, Germany
- "Viaje a los Pueblos Fumigados" (A Journey to the Fumigated Towns), Fernando Solanas, Argentina.—AFP





Taiwanese star chef Andre Chiang poses for a photo at his restaurant RAW in Taipei.



In this file photo Taiwanese star chef Andre Chiang poses for a photo at his restaurant RAW in Taipei. — AFP photos

## TOP CHEF CLOSES MICHELIN STARRED SINGAPORE EATERY

A top chef in Singapore has served up a final dinner at his popular restaurant, months after shocking the city-state's culinary scene by announcing he was closing the eatery and returning his Michelin stars. The staff's family members were treated to a meal on Valentine's Day at Andre Chiang's two-starred, eponymously named French restaurant, local media reported. Chiang, Taiwan's most famous chef, is returning to the island to focus on his high-end Taipei restaurant RAW, as well as running several other restaurants he co-owns and manages.

"Taiwan is the place where I was born and I know so little about the place," he said in a video produced ahead of the Singapore restaurant's closure. "I want to go back to where I started." His announcement in October that he was closing Restaurant Andre and returning his Michelin stars shocked foodies in the affluent city-state, which has one of Asia's best restaurant scenes.

It was among seven restaurants in Singapore to have two stars in the Michelin Guide to the city-state, which was first released in 2016. Only one restaurant has the top honor of three stars, Joel Robuchon. Chiang has also said he does not want RAW listed in the new Michelin

I want to go back to where I started

guide to Taiwan, due out in the first quarter of this year, characterizing it instead as a training ground for young chefs.

A handful of French restaurateurs have in the past walked away from the ultra-competitive world of Michelin-starred cooking. In January, the Michelin guide allowed a three-starred French restaurant—Le Suquet—to bow out of the listings after its chef said he no longer wanted to cook under the huge pressure of being judged by the inspectors. It was the first time Michelin has ever allowed a restaurant to withdraw from its pages. — AFP



Taiwanese star chef Andre Chiang checks food at his restaurant RAW in Taipei.

## Paris Grand Palais to get half-billion-euro facelift

France unveiled a spectacular near half-billion-euro (\$613-million-dollar) overhaul of one of its beloved buildings Monday, driving a new pedestrian boulevard through the Grand Palais in Paris to link the Champs Elysees with the River Seine. Culture Minister Françoise Nyssen said the huge project will completely open up the enormous complex of galleries and exhibition spaces which also houses the city's Palace of Discoveries science museum.

First built for the Exposition Universelle world fair in 1900, which helped cement the rise of the Art Nouveau movement, the giant glass vault of its main building has become a landmark of the city. The new light-filled pedestrian street driven through the complex will allow visitors to enter it through a central concourse uniting the museum, the Grand Palais galleries which host blockbuster exhibitions and the main exhibition building, Nyssen said.

She said the French state will fork out 288 million euros of the 466-million-euro \$572 million budget. The French fashion label Chanel, whose designer Karl Lagerfeld uses the Palais for his hugely theatrical shows, is donating 30 million euros towards the costs. In return, the original grand ornamental entrance to the Palais will be named after its founder Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel.

The building will close completely for more than two years from the end of 2020 so that the



In this file photo from the rooftop of the Hotel Meurice in Paris shows the Grand Palais and Place de la Concorde (foreground), undergoing preparations for summertime ceremonies. — AFP

work can be completed in time for the Paris Olympics in 2024, when it will host the fencing and Taekwondo events. Nyssen said the complex is unwieldy, under-equipped and in need of serious renovation and in a "state which compromises its capacity to welcome the public and its long-term future." But that will all change

thanks to the masterplan by Franco-Italian architects LAN (Local Architecture Network), which also envisages a new roof terrace with panoramic views over the French capital.

The new "street" through the complex—baptised the "Rue des Palais"—will be open to pedestrians and house ticket offices, cloak-

rooms and restaurants and end in a garden overlooking the Seine. The first parts of the re-modeled complex will open in the early months of 2023, the architects said. — AFP





# MARC JACOBS BRINGS DRAMATIC FINALE TO NY FASHION WEEK

Marc Jacobs, the darling of US high-fashion, brought New York Fashion Week to a dramatic finale with show-stopping sharp hats, huge flourishes and extravagant scarves redrawing the silhouette of his woman for fall 2018. If New York Fashion Week has been plagued by an identity crisis with a thinning schedule and glut between the passing of one generation and the search for another, then Jacobs's answer, with his own label suffering from falling revenue, was fantastical romance.

He returned to the Park Avenue Armory and a bare set—just naked wooden floor boards and rows of utilitarian chairs with rapper Cardi B, singer Debbie Harry and fellow designer Raf Simons—whose tenure at Calvin Klein has given Jacobs a run for his money—sitting front row. Outside, a small but vocal group of animal rights activists denounced the 54-year-old designer's use of fur. "Animals are not ours to wear," they yelled. "Marc Jacobs kills because you buy," read the placards.

Models wore wide-brimmed black hats, necks were wrapped in scarves and the upper body cloaked in flourishes that emphasized the beauty of the luxurious fabrics and re-drew the contours of the body. Those without hats sported sharp geometric haircuts, their tresses dyed to match the hue of their attire, from blue to green and purple. His flamboyant shoes—like something out of a children's fairy book—with huge buckles and pink silk may have seen several of the models stumble slightly in their footing, but they were works of art. "Huge flourishes, gestures, broad strokes and silhouettes expressed in rich and gorgeous fabrics," Jacobs wrote in the notes.

Masses of material were bunched up into rosettes, ruffles and flounces at the neck, waist and hip. Waists were cinched, pants cropped. There were lashings of suiting with a boxy cut and broad shoulders, a nod to the power dressing of the 1980s, and his taffeta and velvet flounces and harlequin dresses to the extravagance of those years. Jacobs came out for the briefest of waves at the end, and then began the stampede to the exit, and the race to the airport to catch the first flight to London, where the fall/winter 2018 fashion week season continues on Thursday, followed by shows in Milan and Paris. Here are the other quick style highlights from Wednesday.



## Be My Valentine

Michael Kors kicked off Valentine's Day at the Lincoln Center with a love letter to New York, his home town and the city synonymous with his label—from his MK bags on the subway to ladies who lunch. "The last thing you want is someone telling you what to wear, when to wear it and how to wear it. You do what you want, when you want," the 58-year-old billionaire designer tweeted after the show.



Friday, February 16, 2018

## Lifestyle | Fashion



Marc Jacobs collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Wednesday. — AP photos

Closing with “My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music,” the looks ranged from sporty to red flannel, loud yellow and black check, gray argyle, oversized woolen scarves, leopard print and plaid for fall 2018.

Kors was loyal to his tradition of using curve models in the lineup, sending out both Ashley Graham and Sabina Karlsson. For evening, there was black—the color appropriated on the red carpet this awards season by women protesting sexual harassment—but usefully the color adored by wealthy New York women.

#### Dreamer

Colombian-born Esteban Cortazar returned to New York after a 12-year absence in Paris to honor South America and his American dream in the city where he made his fashion week debut in 2003 as a 17-year-old. It was an impeccably cut display of minimalism, dresses in electric blue and yellow, a spectacular figure-hugging red dress and suits. Born in Bogota, the son of a painter and a jazz singer, he moved to Miami as a teenager. He has dressed First Lady Melania Trump. “It’s about celebrating South America in many ways and me as a Colombian coming to America,” he told reporters backstage.

“I feel like kind of a Dreamer in a way,” he said in reference to a program for young immigrants the Trump administration scrapped last year, leaving 690,000 so-called “Dreamers” at risk of deportation. “That’s what I wanted to tell with the clothes, a celebration of unity and everything I am made up of.” Paradoxically, the first lady wore a Cortazar dress to last year’s Independence Day festivities, buying it from a store unannounced. She’s “a beautiful woman and looked really great,” he said. — AFP



Designer Marc Jacobs walks the runway for the Marc Jacobs collection during New York Fashion Week yesterday.



# AL-JANADRIYAH FESTIVAL: A grand cultural event



Since inception in 1985, Al-Janadriyah annual festival managed to showcase different aspects of Saudi Arabia's culture and heritage. Al-Janadriyah features a variety of activities including camel racing, musical and artistic performances, and other events and activities. — KUNA







Photo feature by Mubarak Al-Enzi



# Luxembourgish makes a comeback, bids for EU approval

You may not be able to pronounce it or even have heard of it, but Luxembourg's national language Letzebuergesch is making a comeback and fighting for official European Union recognition. Spoken by fewer than 400,000 people and listed as "vulnerable" by the UN cultural and educational body UNESCO, the local vernacular is now being promoted by the government of the tiny Grand Duchy. Draft legislation went before parliament in early January to help spread "Luxembourgish"-as it is known in English-both at home among the 590,000-strong population and abroad. "We decided to open negotiations with the European institutions to find agreement on an administrative arrangement" for use of the dialect, the education ministry said in a written response to AFP.

"Concretely, that would mean that every citizen would have the right to address European institutions in Luxembourgish and to receive an answer in the same language." Letzebuergesch is listed as "vulnerable" by UNESCO with just 390,000 speakers of the Moselle-Franconian dialect. But that could be changing. In 1976, Lex Roth, reputed for his translations from French of Asterix, Tintin and La Fontaine's Fables, struggled to start classes in Luxembourgish for foreigners. "Today we have to turn people away," the 84-year-old said.

### National language

The country's national statistics institute (STATEC) classifies

it as the main language for 55.8 percent of the population trailed by Portuguese with 15.7 percent and French on 12.1. By nationality, it is spoken by nine out of every 10 Luxemburgers but only by five percent of foreign residents-who make up nearly half the population. The dialect was not officially recognized as the national language until 1984 and now stands alongside French and German for administrative and legal purposes.

Letzebuergesch is considered to open doors on the local jobs market. But with nearly one in every two workers hailing from abroad-landlocked Luxembourg has borders with France, Belgium and Germany-many are not familiar with it. "The commercial strength of Luxembourgish comes from a combination of factors-political with the promotion of the language and also the necessity for workers to master the language in everyday situations," said Nicolas Ragonneau, marketing director at the publisher Assimil.

**Tidal wave**

Back in 2012, Assimil published a conversation guide to the local dialect that sold 10,000 copies in a year. "We were very surprised by the sales, a real tidal wave compared to the number of speakers and what's more for a language under threat of dying out," said Ragonneau.

Assimil went on to put out two more books on learning the language and a fourth is in the works. At the Ernster chain of book

shops, the number of texts for learning Luxembourgish has soared from just a handful by local publishers to more than 20. "You can say there is growing demand for language texts," said Gabi Bisenius, a Luxembourgish content specialist with the chain.

"There's a great willingness from people who do not speak Letzebuergesch to learn it." That is borne out by a visit to the National Language Institute, a center for public learning. "Luxembourgish classes, especially for beginners, are under siege as soon as we open registration," said the institute's director Karin Pundel. Thirty percent more places have been opened for the Luxembourgish courses in the past two years. A law passed last year grants naturalization to foreigners who can understand the local language and have lived for five years in the Grand Duchy.

"With the new legislation on nationality now in force, there will probably be even more people registering," Pundel added. The institute holds official language tests in Luxembourgish. "For now, we are booked up until July," Pundel noted. While the number of Britons enrolling is increasing, raising theories of a Brexit effect, they represent only about five percent of class students. "I think that quite simply more and more people who come to live in Luxembourg want to integrate and feel at home," said Pundel. — AFP





This photo shows Mongkol Preechajan, 43, on stage performing for prison inmates as the popular British TV comedy character Mr Bean, in the central Thai province of Nakhon Nayok. — AFP photos

# Thailand's **Mr Bean** plays jails for laughs



Mongkol Preechajan, 43, posing for pictures with prison officials before performing for prison inmates.



Female prison inmates sitting outside the courtyard where Mongkol Preechajan is performing.

With the signature red tie, brown blazer, briefcase and teddy bear, a Thai computer technician has become a national sensation through his uncanny Mr Bean impersonations that are tickling a country that loves slapstick comedy. Mongkol Preechajan, a 43-year-old father from Phuket with more than a passing resemblance to the British character played by Rowan Atkinson, shot to fame after trying out the miming routine on the popular "Thailand's Got Talent" TV show in 2016.

The video went viral—one YouTube clip has been watched over five million times—turning Mongkol into an overnight celebrity in a country where Mr Bean is among the most popular foreign comic turns, in part because his speechless routines cut through lan-

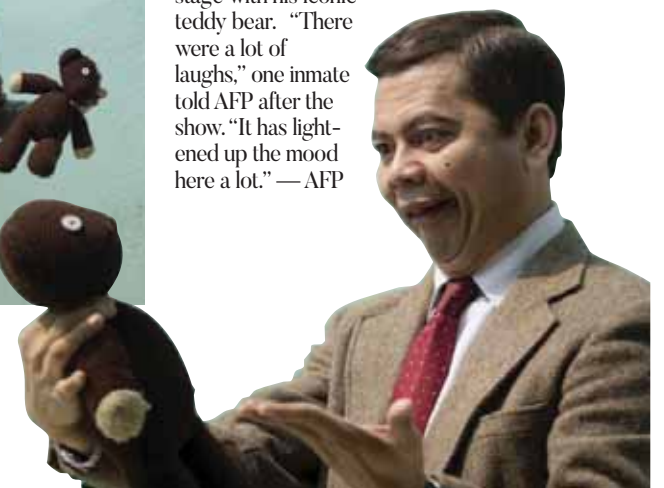
guage barriers. Now Mongkol tours Thailand performing sketches and posing for selfies as the famously buffoonish character.

Mongkol said his fascination with Mr Bean started as a teenager, when he became a fan of the British show and the character's "cheeky and cute personality". He has since spent hours twisting his face and arching his eyebrows in front of a mirror to hone Mr Bean's trademark expressions. "It's quite hard because Mr Bean doesn't speak and only communicates through his facial expressions and his body movements—that was really hard to practice," Mongkol told AFP.

In addition to Bangkok comedy gigs and TV spots, the newfound celebrity is also performing at jails around the country in a bid to brighten up prison life. A recent performance brought him to Nakhon Nayok province, where hundreds of inmates roared with laughter as he jittered around the stage with his iconic teddy bear. "There were a lot of laughs," one inmate told AFP after the show. "It has lightened up the mood here a lot." — AFP



Mongkol Preechajan, 43, practicing expressions for the camera before performing for prison inmates as the popular British TV comedy character Mr Bean.







## DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the world's largest reef system.

The waste hierarchy or 3 R's are (in order of importance) reduce, reuse and recycle.

Around 75% of the volcanoes on Earth are found in the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area around the Pacific Ocean where tectonic plates meet.

Despite its name, the Killer Whale (Orca) is actually a type of dolphin.

Giant water lilies in the Amazon can grow over 6 feet in diameter.

The largest ocean on Earth is the Pacific Ocean.

The largest individual flower on Earth is from a plant called *Rafflesia arnoldii*. Its flowers reach up to 1 meter in diameter and weigh around 10kg.

Plants on the surface of the Earth have existed for around 400 million years.

Unlike humans, cows and horses sleep while standing up.

When an insect touches the hairs of a Venus Fly Trap it triggers the plant to close, trapping its victim before killing and dissolving it in acid.

## Rearrange the alphabets



r s e o



r c b a



t a o g



o c t a



o c k c



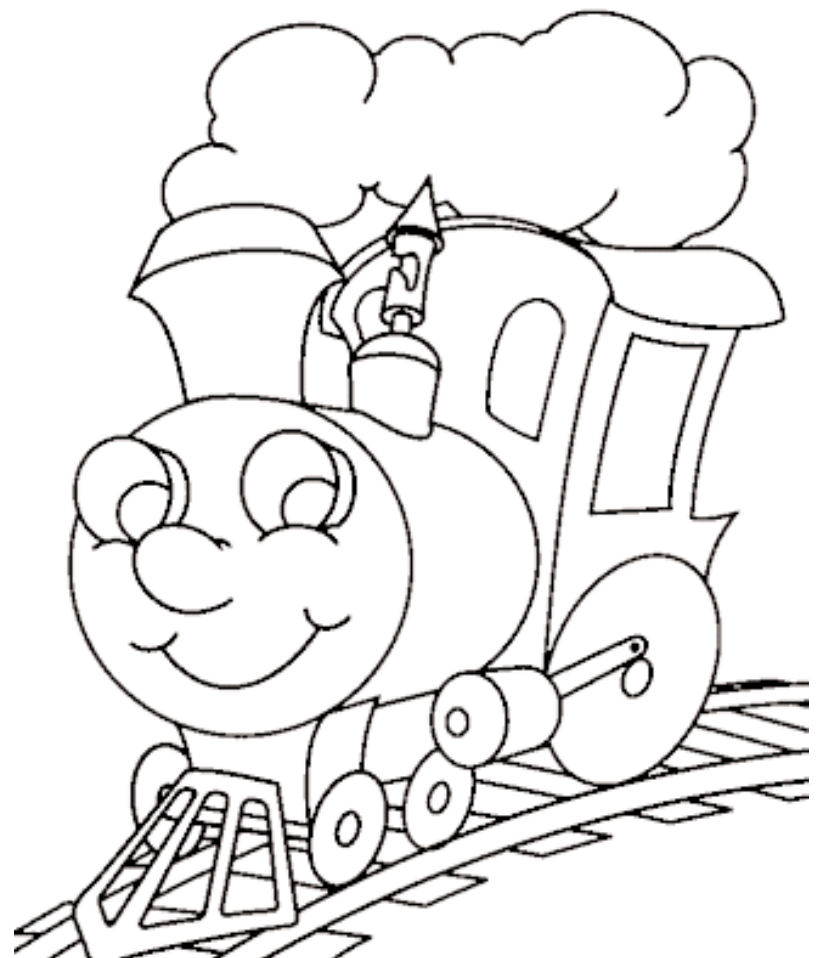
## SuDoku

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

## Solution

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

## COLOR ME





# A GOOD PIECE OF **FISH** NEEDS VERY LITTLE TO MAKE IT PERFECT

By Katie Workman

The brisk, anisey-tangy flavor of tarragon vinaigrette is a wonderful complement to the lushness of salmon filets. If you start with excellent salmon and super-fresh herbs, and don't overcook the fish, you cannot mess this up. It's a less-is-more dish. The mix of orange and lemon juices in the vinaigrette gives provides a nice balance of sweetness and tanginess. If you are in possession of a Meyer lemon, you could use 3 tablespoons of that juice in place of the mix, and get similar results. Not exactly the same, but something else wonderful. I love starting fish in a pan (make sure your fish is fairly thick, about 1-inch or even thicker) and then transferring it to a stove to finish cooking. Here are the three main reasons why:

1. You can use the oven to cook something else to go with the fish, whether it's roasted potatoes or other vegetables.
2. If you are cooking the fish with the skin on, you can get that pan screaming hot before you add the fish, and when the skin hits the pan it starts to crisp

up immediately. It then stays crisp and delicious and great to eat. Soft fish skin: not good. Crisp fish skin: a fabulous counterpoint to a well-cooked, soft, delicate fish.

3. Perhaps best of all: You don't have to flip the fish, which even for the most confident and experienced cooks doesn't always end well.

Salmon is available everywhere because it's so good and so popular. If you can get wild Alaskan salmon, do yourself (and the environment) a favor and buy it. It has a more pronounced flavor than farm-raised does, so you're getting the full salmon experience. And because the Alaskan seafood folks are vigilant about sustainability and harvesting practices, you know you're eating salmon that has no growth hormones, artificial coloring, preservatives or added stuff that you might be wondering about in fish. Serve this with rice and a green salad, or a whole-grain salad mixed with some fresh or roasted vegetables.

## SALMON WITH TARRAGON VINAIGRETTE

### Ingredients

Serves 4  
Start to finish: 25 minutes  
For the salmon:  
1 tablespoon olive oil, plus more for brushing  
4 (170-gram) fillets of salmon, 1-inch thick, skin on if desired  
Salt and pepper for tasting  
For the Tarragon Vinaigrette:  
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons fresh orange juice  
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice  
2 tablespoons minced fresh tarragon leaves  
2 tablespoons minced shallots  
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 220 degrees C. Heat a heavy, ovenproof skillet over high heat and add 1 tablespoon of the olive oil. Brush some olive oil over each piece of salmon, and season with salt and pepper. Add the salmon to the pan, skin side down (if relevant). Allow to sear, without moving, in the pan for about 3 minutes. Transfer to the oven and roast for 5 to 8 minutes, until done to your liking. While the salmon is cooking, in a small container combine the 1/4 cup olive oil, orange juice, lemon juice, tarragon, shallots, Dijon mustard, and salt and pepper. Shake to combine. Transfer the fish to a serving platter or individual plates. Shake the vinaigrette to remix it, and then pour it over the fish. Serve hot or warm.





# Can a healthier angel food cake still have flavor? Sure.

By Melissa D'arabian

Is there anything dreamier than the tender crumb of a light-as-air angel food cake? I've loved angel food cake ever since I first tasted it as a child. It reminded me of cotton candy. No wonder: angel food cake is essentially a fluffy blend of a super-sugary meringue laced with just enough flour to give it a little structure. In other words, there was very little to get in the way of the pure-sugar flavor that my childhood palate adored!

In the 80's, low-fat became the "healthy" battle cry, and angel food cake came into vogue, with no fat weighing it down, but plenty of white processed sugar fluffing it up. In fact, fat-free-but-sugary baked treats were practically a diet fad unto them-

selves for well over a decade. Of course, modern science (and let's just say it: common sense) tells us that we could all benefit from cutting down on processed sugar. So how to bring back the flavor and texture of the angel food cakes I adored as a child without throwing our blood sugar levels out of whack? Today's recipe is the solution.

First, I cut the sugar down by about 25 percent over typical recipes and it worked great. Secondly, I skipped purchasing "superfine" white sugar, and tried less-processed organic versions. I pulsed the coarser sugar in the blender myself to make it powdery-fine. (It's still sugar, but even baby steps toward healthy eating count!).

Instead of using super-starchy, lower-protein cake flour, I

pulsed up regular flour in the blender to mimic the lightness. Also, I made the cake in a loaf pan, which resulted in us eating smaller slices versus tube pan versions by some visual trick of nature that I don't fully understand, but have proven multiple times with my own family. For flavor, since I'm not a huge plain-sugar fan anymore, I added lemon zest and lovely-speckled vanilla bean. I served it with a quick lemony glaze made from Greek yogurt that my family loves, but you can consider optional, if you are an angel food cake traditionalist. Or, try a slice of this cake with a tiny square of dark, bitter chocolate for a perfect pairing.



## LEMON AND VANILLA BEAN ANGEL FOOD LOAF CAKE

### Ingredients

Servings: 12  
Start to finish: 2 hours, including inactive cooking and cooling time  
2/3 cup organic sugar  
1/2 vanilla bean, grains scraped from pod  
2 teaspoons lemon zest, finely grated  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1 cup egg whites, from approximately 7-8 eggs  
1/4 teaspoon table salt  
3/4 teaspoon cream of tartar  
Glaze (optional):  
1/4 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt  
1 teaspoon lemon zest

2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1/4 cup organic powdered sugar

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 325 F (310 F if using convection heat). Place the sugar, zest and vanilla bean in a dry blender and pulse until well-blended and sugar is fine and fluffy. Pour about half the sugar into a small bowl and set aside. Add the flour to the remaining sugar in the blender and pulse again a few times to create a fine flour mixture. Pour into a small bowl and set aside.

In a stand mixer with a whisk attachment, beat egg whites, salt and cream of tartar on medium speed just until frothy (under a minute). While mixing, carefully add the fine sugar (without the flour) to the egg whites, a tablespoon at a time. Continue beating

the eggs until soft peaks form. Remove the bowl from the stand mixer, place a sifter or sieve over the bowl and sift in half the flour and sugar mixture, and fold gently five or six times with a rubber spatula.

Sift in the remaining flour mixture and gently fold until no flour streaks remain. Scrape batter into a standard sized ungreased loaf pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until top is golden. Remove from oven and place the loaf pan upside down, resting on two cans on the counter to cool (upside down, not touching the counter) completely (45 minutes). Once cooled, remove the cake by sliding a knife around the edges of the cake. Whisk the glaze ingredients in a small bowl and drizzle on the cake when serving, if desired.



# This main dish **tuna slaw** may boost your weekday routine

By Melissa D'arabian

One of the best pieces of advice I have read about promoting healthy eating is to make your own food. We live in a world of shrinking attention spans, immediate gratification and moving quickly from one activity to the next, margin-less and rushed. Preparing our own food requires slowdown. Even a quick meal takes 30 minutes of our time. So when corporate America offered to relieve us of that duty starting in the 1950's, giving us processed, instant food, we jumped in with both feet, congratulating ourselves on finding an extra half hour in the day. I am certain that we miscalculated the impact of this shift in the food landscape.

When we make our own food, we do more than just control the ingredients. We connect with the source product, brushing the dirt off of a potato instead of seeing it already sliced thin, fried, crisp, greasy and salty in the form of a chip. Buying processed food is like hiring a sous chef you've never met, and who may not prioritize your health as much as you do. Of course, we all crave drive-thru sometimes, and there's nothing wrong with enjoying a chip now and again, or having some pre-prepped convenience foods in the house. But if your weekday lunch has become a trail of fast-food or preservative-filled meals, allow me to encourage you to reconsider brown-bagging it, even one extra day a week. You'll save money, but I bet you'll also eat a lot healthier. You may have more energy. And

so you don't lose a ton of time to the project, I'm sharing one of my brownbag favorites, Tuna Super Slaw, which can be whipped up in about 10 minutes. Raw cabbage is incredibly healthy, and it's hearty enough to hold up texture-wise, even if you make it a day or two in advance. Feel free to sub in a sturdy green, if you prefer, like chopped kale. Tuna is a fantastic protein source, and keeping a few cans of it on the shelf as a sort of healthy convenience food. The dressing is lemony and light, with just a tiny touch of mayo, or use olive oil if you prefer. Main dish slaws may be just the lunch boost your weekday routine was missing.



## TUNA SUPER SLAW

### Ingredients

- Servings: 2  
Start to finish: 10 minutes  
3 cups chopped red cabbage (about 1/4 large cabbage)  
1/4 medium avocado, cut into small (1/2- inch) cubes  
2 green onions, chopped  
2 tablespoons chia seed (or sunflower, pumpkin or other seed)  
1 5-ounce can of light tuna in water, drained

### Dressing

- 3 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 tablespoon mayonnaise  
1 teaspoon smoked ground turmeric (or use 1/2 teaspoon regular ground turmeric)  
1/2-1 teaspoon chipotle powder (or use half chili powder and half smoked paprika)  
2 teaspoons dried dill (or 1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped)

### Preparation

Place the slaw ingredients, except the tuna, into a medium bowl. In a small bowl, mix together the dressing ingredients. Pour the dressing over the slaw and toss to coat. Add the tuna and stir well. Serve immediately, or keep covered in refrigerator for up to two days.



## Comic

## Word Search

## New York City 1

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

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

BASEBALL  
BASKETBALL  
BOROUGH  
BROADWAY  
BROOKLYN  
CHINATOWN  
CONEY ISLAND  
CULTURAL  
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING  
ENTERTAINMENT  
FASHION  
FERRIES  
FIFTH AVENUE  
FINANCE  
FOOTBALL  
GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL  
GREENWICH VILLAGE  
GROUND ZERO  
HARBOR  
HIGHRISES  
HOCKEY  
HUDSON RIVER  
IMMIGRANTS  
LAGUARDIA  
AIRPORT  
MANHATTAN  
MEDIA  
MUSICALS  
NASDAQ  
NEW YORK  
TIMES  
NYSE  
PLAYS  
POPULOUS  
QUEENS  
SKYSCRAPERS  
SOCCER  
SPORTS  
STATEN ISLAND  
ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL  
SUBWAY  
THE BIG APPLE  
THE BRONX  
TIMES SQUARE  
UNITED NATIONS  
WALL STREET

## Yesterday's Solution

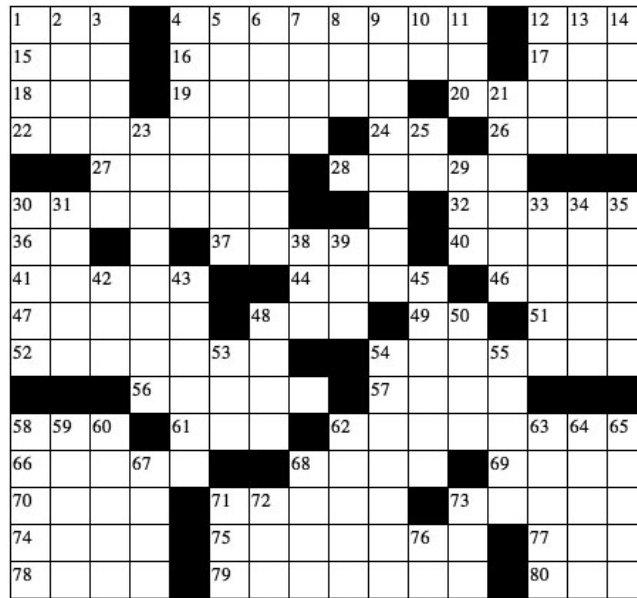
## Musical Instruments 2

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

BASSOON  
BONGOS  
BOUZOUKI  
BUGLE  
CASTANETS  
CONCERTINA  
CONCH HORN  
CUMBUS  
CYMBAL  
DULCIMER  
FIFE  
FLUGELHORN  
GONG  
HARMONICA  
HARMONIUM  
HUNTING HORN  
JEWS' HARP  
KEYBOARD  
LUTE  
MANDOLIN  
MARIMBAS  
MELODEON  
MOCENO  
NEFER  
OCARINA  
PIANO  
REBEC  
RECORDER  
SAROD  
SAXOPHONE  
SHOFAR  
SLIDE WHISTLE  
STRUMSTICK  
TAMBOURINE  
TAMBURA  
TIN WHISTLE  
TRUMPET  
TUBA  
VIOLA  
XYLOPHONE

Hidden sentence: MUSIC WITH DINNER IS AN INSULT BOTH TO THE COOK AND THE VIOLINIST

## CROSSWORD 1837



## ACROSS

1. The seventh and last day of the week.  
4. Any of various showy orchids of the genus *Sobralia* having leafy stems and bright-colored solitary or racemose flowers similar to those of genus *Cattleya*.  
12. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.  
15. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.  
16. Of or relating to or characteristic of Europe or the people of Europe.  
17. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.  
18. Used of a single unit or thing.  
19. Declared as fact.  
20. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).  
22. Effusively or insincerely emotional.  
24. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.  
26. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.  
27. Food mixtures either arranged on a plate or tossed and served with a moist dressing.  
28. Bar temporarily.  
30. Resembling apes.  
32. God of wealth and love.  
36. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.  
37. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.  
40. Wild sheep of northern Africa.  
41. Jordan's port.  
44. The capital and largest city of Yemen.  
46. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.  
47. A person to whom money is paid.  
49. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.  
51. A wooden pin pushed or driven into a surface.  
52. Marked by extreme anger.  
56. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.  
57. United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).  
58. A sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain.  
61. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.  
66. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).  
69. Toward the mouth or oral region.  
70. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.  
74. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.  
75. Someone who is being trained.  
77. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.  
78. One of the common people.  
79. A Chadic language spoken in the Mandara mountains in Cameroon.  
80. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.

## DOWN

1. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.  
2. A former copper coin of Pakistan.  
3. Blood-sucking African fly.  
4. A rosid dicot genus that includes moon carrots.  
5. A scene that is filmed but is not used in the final editing of the film.  
6. Adorned with braid.  
7. A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.  
8. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.  
9. A quarry worker who splits off blocks of stone.  
10. A state in midwestern United States.  
11. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.  
12. A loose and crumbling earthy deposit consisting mainly of calcite or dolomite.  
13. A group of countries in special alliance.  
14. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.  
21. Port city of Denmark in eastern Jutland.  
23. Tropical and subtropical marine and freshwater fishes having an elongated body and long protruding lower jaw.  
25. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.  
29. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.  
31. Large dark brown North American arboreal carnivorous mammal.  
33. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.  
34. A republic on the west coast of Africa.  
35. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.  
38. The compass point midway between east and southeast.  
39. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.  
42. A port in southwestern Scotland.  
43. Of or relating to or characteristic of the prehistoric Aegean civilization.  
45. Used improperly or excessively especially drugs.  
48. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.  
50. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).  
53. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).  
54. Type genus of the Balaenidae.  
55. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).  
59. (neurology) Of or relating to the vagus nerve.  
60. Lower in esteem.  
62. Any of various lithe-bodied round-headed fissiped mammals many with retractile claws.  
63. A wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric with pictorial designs.  
64. The basic unit of money in Nigeria.  
65. Having a specified kind of border or edge.  
67. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.  
68. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.  
71. A unit of pressure.  
72. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.  
73. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.  
76. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

## Yesterday's Solution

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

## Daily SuDoku

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

## Yesterday's Solution

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



## TV Listings

Friday, February 16, 2018



00:30 Blood Circus  
02:00 S.W.A.T.: Under Siege  
03:30 Jason Bourne  
05:35 Thor  
07:35 S.W.A.T.: Under Siege  
09:10 Star Wars: Episode II - Attack Of The Clones  
11:35 The Veil  
13:10 Thor  
15:10 The Mask Of Zorro  
17:30 Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge Of The Sith  
19:55 Jurassic World  
22:00 The Transporter  
23:35 Crossing Point



00:50 Lone Star Law  
01:45 Treehouse Masters  
02:40 Cats 101  
03:35 Going Ape  
04:00 Going Ape  
04:25 Whale Wars  
05:15 Whale Wars  
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 Cats 101  
11:05 Wild Iberia  
12:00 Going Ape  
12:28 Going Ape  
12:55 Whale Wars  
13:50 Whale Wars  
14:45 Cats 101  
15:40 Wild Iberia  
16:35 Lone Star Law  
17:30 Treehouse Masters  
18:25 The Bronx Zoo  
19:20 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory  
20:15 Cats 101  
21:10 Going Ape  
21:38 Dark Days In Monkey City  
22:05 The Bronx Zoo  
23:00 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory  
23:55 Wildest India



00:30 The Coroner  
01:15 Holby City  
02:10 Doctors  
02:40 Doctors  
03:10 Eastenders  
03:40 Benidorm  
04:25 Father Brown  
05:15 The Coroner  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 Casualty  
07:20 Holby City  
08:15 Doctors  
11:15 Casualty  
12:05 Holby City  
13:00 Eastenders  
13:30 Eastenders  
14:05 Eastenders  
15:05 Casualty  
16:00 Doctors  
18:30 Friday Night Dinner  
19:00 The Coroner  
20:00 Father Brown  
20:55 Death In Paradise  
21:55 Poldark  
22:50 Doctors  
23:20 Friday Night Dinner  
23:45 The Coroner



00:00 The First 48  
01:00 The First 48  
02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
03:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook  
04:00 The First 48

05:00 The First 48  
06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:30 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 Killers: Behind The Myth  
21:00 Killers: Behind The Myth  
22:00 Killers: Behind The Myth  
23:00 Kids Who Kill



00:30 Destroyed In Seconds  
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds  
01:20 Strip The Cosmos  
02:10 Freaks Of Nature  
02:35 Freaks Of Nature  
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 Don't Blink  
11:35 Don't Blink  
12:00 Deception With Keith Barry  
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 Don't Blink  
17:25 Don't Blink  
17:50 Deception With Keith Barry  
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 Don't Blink  
21:35 Don't Blink  
22:00 Deception With Keith Barry  
22:50 Out Of Egypt  
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:50 Murder At Sea: People Magazine Investigates  
01:45 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion  
02:40 The Perfect Suspect  
03:35 Murder Book  
04:30 Murder At Sea: People Magazine Investigates  
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 Heartbreakers  
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 Heartbreakers  
11:05 Suspicion  
12:00 Married With Secrets  
12:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
14:45 Heartbreakers  
15:40 Suspicion  
16:35 Reasonable Doubt  
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 Grave Secrets  
23:00 Murder Online  
23:55 Forbidden: Dying For Love



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 Elena Of Avalor: Realm Of The Jaquins  
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 Bunk'd  
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
16:10 Elena Of Avalor  
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



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



00:15 Yukon Men  
01:05 Kings Of The Wild  
01:50 Bear Grylls: Breaking Point  
02:35 Man v Expert  
03:20 Street Outlaws  
04:05 Alaska: Battle On The Bay  
04:50 Dirty Jobs  
05:35 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Backroad Bounty  
06:45 Backroad Bounty  
07:35 Alaska Monsters  
08:20 Backroad Bounty  
09:10 Dirty Jobs  
09:55 Alaska Monsters  
10:45 Dirty Jobs  
11:30 Yukon Men  
12:20 Backroad Bounty  
13:05 Backroad Bounty  
13:55 Dirty Jobs  
14:40 Yukon Men  
15:30 Kings Of The Wild  
16:15 Bear Grylls: Breaking Point  
17:05 Man v Expert  
17:50 Blowing Up History  
18:40 Tesla's Death Ray: A Murder Declassified  
19:25 Yukon Men  
20:15 Street Outlaws  
21:00 Diesel Brothers  
21:50 Gear Dogs  
22:40 Fast N' Loud



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  
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 Elite Force  
17:15 Mech-X4  
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man  
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man  
18:35 Marvel's Spider-Man  
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



00:10 WAGs LA  
01:00 WAGs LA  
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 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop  
09:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
12:00 E! News Middle East  
12:15 WAGs Atlanta  
13:10 WAGs Atlanta  
14:05 WAGs Atlanta  
15:00 E! News Middle East  
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
17:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
21:00 WAGs LA  
22:00 WAGs LA  
23:00 E! News Middle East  
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:10 The Chase  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Couples Come Dine With Me  
03:00 The Royal Variety Performance 2017  
05:15 Don't Tell The Bride  
06:15 The Chase  
07:10 Couples Come Dine With Me  
08:05 The Royal Variety Performance 2017  
10:35 Royal Stories  
11:00 The Chase  
11:50 Couples Come Dine With Me

12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Emmerdale  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 The Chase  
15:10 Couples Come Dine With Me  
16:00 Dancing On Ice  
17:50 Don't Tell The Bride  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:15 Emmerdale  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 Couples Come Dine With Me  
21:00 Dancing On Ice  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Emmerdale  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Smartest Guy In The Room  
00:30 Smartest Guy In The Room  
01:00 UFO Files  
02:00 In Search Of Aliens  
03:00 Engineering Disasters  
03:50 Ancient Aliens  
04:40 Clash Of The Gods  
05:30 Smartest Guy In The Room  
05:55 Smartest Guy In The Room  
06:20 UFO Files  
07:10 The Universe  
08:00 In Search Of Aliens  
09:00 Engineering Disasters  
10:00 Ancient Aliens  
11:00 Clash Of The Gods  
12:00 Smartest Guy In The Room  
12:30 Smartest Guy In The Room  
13:00 United Stuff Of America  
14:00 In Search Of Aliens  
15:00 Engineering Disasters  
16:00 Ancient Aliens  
17:00 Clash Of The Gods  
18:00 The Universe  
19:00 United Stuff Of America  
20:00 In Search Of Aliens  
21:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
22:00 Ancient Aliens  
23:00 What Really Happened



00:20 Swamp People  
01:10 Swamp People  
02:00 American Pickers  
02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island  
03:40 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar  
04:30 Swamp People  
05:15 Swamp People  
06:00 Swamp People  
06:50 Duck Dynasty  
07:40 Duck Dynasty  
08:05 Duck Dynasty  
08:30 Duck Dynasty  
08:55 Duck Dynasty  
09:20 Duck Dynasty  
09:45 Duck Dynasty  
10:10 Mountain Men  
11:00 Mountain Men  
11:50 Mountain Men  
12:40 Mountain Men  
13:30 Mountain Men  
14:20 Swamp People  
15:10 Duck Dynasty  
16:00 Duck Dynasty  
16:25 Duck Dynasty  
16:50 Duck Dynasty  
17:15 Duck Dynasty  
17:40 Duck Dynasty  
18:05 Duck Dynasty  
18:30 Ultimate Wheels  
19:20 Counting Cars  
19:45 Car Hunters  
20:10 Fifth Gear  
21:00 American Pickers  
21:50 Pawn Stars  
22:15 Storage Wars  
22:40 Forged In Fire  
23:30 Ultimate Wheels



00:15 Places We Go  
00:45 The Game Chef  
01:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
01:40 Places We Go  
02:05 Places We Go  
02:35 My Pacific Quest  
03:30 Raw Travel



## TV Listings

03:55 Raw Travel  
04:25 The Food Files  
04:50 The Food Files  
05:20 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
05:45 A Is For Apple  
06:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
06:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
07:10 Places We Go  
07:35 Places We Go  
08:05 My Pacific Quest  
09:00 Raw Travel  
09:25 Raw Travel  
09:55 The Food Files  
10:20 The Food Files  
10:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
11:15 A Is For Apple  
11:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
12:10 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
12:40 Places We Go  
13:05 Places We Go  
13:35 My Pacific Quest  
14:30 Raw Travel  
14:55 Raw Travel  
15:25 Exploring Macau  
16:20 Testing The Menu  
16:45 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia  
17:15 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti  
18:10 Places We Go  
18:35 Places We Go  
19:05 My Pacific Quest  
20:00 Testing The Menu  
20:30 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia  
21:00 Exploring Macau  
22:00 Raw Travel  
22:25 Raw Travel  
22:55 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti  
23:50 Places We Go



00:10 Nazi Megastructures Compilations  
01:00 Supercar Megabuild  
02:00 Chain Of Command  
03:00 Science Of Stupid  
03:30 Science Of Stupid  
04:00 Nazi Megastructures Compilations  
05:00 The Indestructibles  
05:30 The Indestructibles  
06:00 Supercar Megabuild  
07:00 The Long Road Home  
08:00 Cesar To The Rescue Asia  
09:00 Cesar To The Rescue Asia  
10:00 Explorer XL  
11:00 Chain Of Command  
12:00 Somewhere In China  
13:00 Supercar Megabuild  
14:00 The Witch Doctor, A  
15:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind  
16:00 Inside  
17:00 Chain Of Command  
18:00 Drugs Inc  
19:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind  
20:00 Inside  
20:50 Chain Of Command  
21:40 Drugs Inc  
22:30 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind  
23:20 Money Meltdown  
23:45 Money Meltdown



00:20 Dino Death Trap  
01:10 Monster Croc Wrangler  
01:35 Monster Croc Wrangler  
02:00 Make Me A Dino  
02:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
03:45 Wild 24  
04:40 Nordic Wild  
05:35 Make Me A Dino  
06:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
07:25 Wild 24  
08:20 Nordic Wild  
09:15 Python Hunters  
10:10 Borneo's Secret Kingdom  
11:05 The Miracle Cheetah  
12:00 Tiger Shark Terror  
12:55 Crococalypse  
13:50 World's Deadliest Killers  
14:45 Wild 24  
15:40 The Invaders

16:35 Snakes In The City  
17:30 South America Untamed  
18:25 Gardeners Of Eden  
19:20 Wild 24  
20:10 The Invaders  
21:00 Snakes In The City  
21:50 South America Untamed  
22:40 Gardeners Of Eden  
23:30 Tiger Shark Terror



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  
05:24 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 Rabbids Invasion  
11:48 Rabbids Invasion  
12:12 Rabbids Invasion  
12:36 Rabbids Invasion  
13:00 Rabbids Invasion  
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  
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



00:15 Kid-E-Cats  
00:21 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  
01:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
02:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
02:42 Paw Patrol  
02:54 Kid-E-Cats  
02:58 Kid-E-Cats  
03:04 Shimmer And Shine  
03:26 Nella The Princess Knight  
03:37 Paw Patrol  
04:00 The Day Henry Met  
04:06 Max & Ruby  
04:28 Dora The Explorer  
04:50 Sunny Day  
05:13 Nella The Princess Knight  
05:35 Shimmer And Shine  
05:58 Wallykazam!  
06:21 Zack & Quack  
06:31 The Day Henry Met

06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
07:13 Paw Patrol  
07:24 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  
09:18 Paw Patrol  
09:30 Shimmer And Shine  
09:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
10:14 The Day Henry Met  
10:20 Paw Patrol  
10:43 Rusty Rivets  
11:06 Wallykazam!  
11:29 Bubble Guppies  
11:54 Team Umizoomi  
12:16 Kid-E-Cats  
12:22 Shimmer And Shine  
12:44 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  
13:55 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  
15:03 Shimmer And Shine  
15:25 Nella The Princess Knight  
15:37 Paw Patrol  
16:00 The Day Henry Met  
16:05 Max & Ruby  
16:28 Dora The Explorer  
16:50 Sunny Day  
17:13 Nella The Princess Knight  
17:36 Shimmer And Shine  
17:59 Wallykazam!  
18:22 Zack & Quack  
18:32 The Day Henry Met  
18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
19:00 Rusty Rivets  
19:13 Paw Patrol  
19:24 Paw Patrol  
19:37 Dora The Explorer  
20:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
20:12 Kid-E-Cats  
20:17 Kid-E-Cats  
20:22 Bubble Guppies  
20:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
21:08 Paw Patrol  
21:31 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!  
23:31 Bubble Guppies  
23:54 Team Umizoomi  
OSN Movies Family HD  
00:55 Operation: Neighborhood  
02:30 Watch  
02:30 Minions  
04:05 Get Santa  
05:50 The Flintstones  
07:25 Operation: Neighborhood  
09:00 Watch  
09:00 Scooby-Doo! And WWE: Curse Of Speed Demon  
10:30 Minions  
12:05 Mune



13:35 A Tiger's Tail  
15:05 True Heart  
16:40 Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked  
18:10 Little Loopers  
19:45 Mune  
21:15 A Tiger's Tail  
22:45 Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked  
OSN Movies Comedy HD

01:15 Mr. Accident  
02:50 Guess Who  
04:40 The Tiger Hunter  
06:15 Made In America  
08:10 A Stand Up Guy  
09:40 Aquamarine  
11:25 The Tiger Hunter  
13:00 Made In America  
14:55 Men At Work  
16:35 Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins  
18:35 Meet Dave  
20:10 The To Do List  
22:00 How To Be Single  
23:50 Stag



01:35 Suffragette  
03:30 Yosemite  
05:00 Wuthering Heights  
06:55 All The Wilderness  
08:20 Yosemite  
09:50 James White  
11:25 Wuthering Heights  
13:20 The Flying Scotsman  
15:15 The Man Who Knew Infinity  
17:15 Fort McCoy  
19:10 The Beat Beneath My Feet  
20:55 Lost River  
22:45 UN Plus Une



01:00 Dwegons And Leprechauns  
02:40 The Apple & The Worm  
04:05 Shopkins - Chef Club  
05:05 Help And Freedom  
06:35 Bark Ranger  
08:05 Mia And The Migoo  
09:40 Nur And The Dragon's Temple  
10:55 Zodiac: The Race Begins  
12:35 Dinofroz Return To The Past  
World  
14:10 Shopkins - Chef Club  
15:10 Help And Freedom  
16:40 Freddy Frogface  
18:10 Zodiac: The Race Begins  
19:50 The Fairy Tales Tree  
21:15 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest  
22:55 Freddy Frogface



00:10 V/H/S Viral  
01:40 Nacho Libre  
03:25 The Lovely Bones  
05:50 Fast & Furious 7  
08:20 Zoolander 2  
10:15 Janie Jones  
12:15 Nacho Libre  
14:00 In The Heart Of The Sea  
16:15 Taxi  
18:10 The Cable Guy  
20:00 Inception  
22:30 Scent Of A Woman



00:40 Mythbusters  
01:30 How Do They Do It?  
01:55 Food Factory  
02:20 Mysteries Of The Missing  
03:10 Alien Encounters  
04:00 Nextworld  
04:48 Mythbusters  
05:36 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Food Factory  
06:24 Mysteries Of The Missing  
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 Mysteries Of The Missing  
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 Mysteries Of The Missing  
17:14 Mythbusters  
18:02 Alien Encounters

18:50 Superhuman Showdown  
19:40 Mythbusters  
20:30 Strip The Cosmos  
21:20 How Do They Do It?  
21:45 Food Factory  
22:10 Alien Encounters  
23:00 You Have Been Warned  
23:50 Superhuman Showdown



01:30 Monster  
03:15 Heartbreakers  
05:15 Titanic  
08:45 O  
10:30 Jerry Maguire  
12:45 Feast Of Love  
14:30 Monster  
16:15 Bounce  
18:15 The Human Stain  
20:00 Avengers: Age Of Ultron  
22:15 Adventureland



00:00 Married At First Sight  
01:00 Married At First Sight  
02:00 Mistresses  
03:00 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show 2017  
04:00 Three  
05:00 Style By Jury  
05:30 Style By Jury  
06:00 Married At First Sight  
07:00 Married At First Sight  
08:00 Mistresses  
09:00 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show 2017  
10:00 Three  
11:00 Style By Jury  
11:30 Style By Jury  
12:00 Married At First Sight  
13:00 Married At First Sight  
14:00 Mistresses  
15:00 House Of DVF  
16:00 Three  
17:00 Mistresses  
18:00 Devious Maids  
19:00 Devious Maids  
20:00 Project Runway All Stars  
21:00 Fashion Star  
22:00 Fashion Star  
23:00 Mistresses



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress  
01:05 90 Days To Wed  
01:50 The Spouse House  
02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
03:20 Sister Wives  
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars  
04:50 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints  
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress  
06:00 Sister Wives  
06:45 Sister Wives  
07:30 Sister Wives  
08:15 Say Yes To The Dress  
09:00 Cake Boss  
09:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
09:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
09:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
10:32 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
10:55 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
11:17 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
11:40 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
12:02 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
12:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
13:10 Iyanla: Fix My Life  
13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
14:40 Cake Boss  
15:02 Cake Boss  
15:25 Cake Boss  
15:47 Cake Boss  
16:10 Cake Boss  
16:35 Cake Boss  
17:00 Hodges Half Dozen  
17:50 Cake Boss  
18:20 Cake Boss  
18:50 Kate Plus 8



00:05 Detroiters  
00:30 Chris Ramsey Stand Up Central  
00:55 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 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
03:50 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
04:15 Ridiculousness Arabia  
04:40 Workaholics  
06:50 Friends  
09:20 The Dude Perfect Show  
09:45 I Live With Models  
11:00 Kroll Show  
13:05 Disaster Date  
13:55 Lip Sync Battle  
14:45 Ridiculousness Arabia  
16:00 I Live With Models  
16:55 Lip Sync Battle  
17:45 Friends  
19:45 Workaholics  
20:07 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
20:35 Ridiculousness Arabia  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
22:00 Steve Rannazzisi: Breaking Dad  
22:50 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
23:15 Ridiculousness Arabia  
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah




01:00 WWE Wal300ha  
01:30 Formula Drift Insider  
02:00 Pro Bull Riders  
03:00 Amsoil Arenacross  
04:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights  
06:00 Formula Drift Insider  
06:30 WWE Wal300ha  
07:00 Red Bull Crashed Ice Highlights  
08:00 Amsoil Arenacross  
09:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights  
11:00 This Week In WWE  
11:30 WWE Wal300ha  
12:00 WWE Bottom Line  
13:00 WWE Afterburn  
14:00 Red Bull Crashed Ice Highlights  
15:00 WWE Wal300ha  
15:30 Arena Esports  
16:00 Amsoil Arenacross  
17:00 WWE Wal300ha  
17:30 Formula-E: Race For The Planet  
18:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights  
20:00 WWE Experience  
21:00 WWE Wal300ha  
21:30 WWE Bottom Line  
22:30 WWE Afterburn  
23:30 Arena Esports



00:00 Amsoil Arenacross  
01:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights  
03:00 Live NCAA Basketball  
05:00 One Weekly  
05:30 Pro Bull Riders  
06:30 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights  
07:00 One Championship  
10:00 One Weekly  
10:30 UFC 221 - Romero v Rockhold




Stars




**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

Aries, you wake from a dream of someone in your heart long ago; the memory of this dream sticks with you though the day and into the month as a reminder of a precious time in your past. Clarity of mind may be difficult; confusion about what's right or wrong is present and you could be misled if you try to escape from the truth. You feel on edge and jittery; relax and think good thoughts! Time crawls as you yearn to effect change. Be patient, you can't force the grass to grow or control the flow of the river. You're sensitive to physical and psychic changes that represent the new paths you want to travel. Tonight you could uncover something surprisingly valuable cleaning out closets and drawers; you feel a sense of freedom and self-discovery, Aries.




**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

Taurus, a major disagreement could be resolved now if you open your mind to the opinions and positions of others. A window of opportunity has opened up regarding making changes by making good decisions; use this energy before it weakens or leaves. You are able to discern the difference between what's true and what you want; pay close attention for this is important! You discover information that proves a big change is needed; you could interpret this as a change in living circumstances. Be careful, this could be the wrong thing to do; be still and listen to what the universe is saying. The main need for change could be something completely internal and not outside yourself. Revealing dreams call for keeping a journal by your bed tonight, Taurus.




**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

Gemini, everyone notices your style and grace throughout the day. You attend a function you wouldn't normally pay attention to; this could indicate a charitable group or fundraising efforts. When you speak to others your words are clearly spoken and understood by all who listen. As you break away from traditions you could be challenged by some who don't agree with your new ways. Your independence could threaten certain people. Refuse to let pressure from others push you into making incorrect decisions. You search for information that could make a big difference in financial investments that could provide positive results; take your time with this as you require much more knowledge than you have to reach the investment goals you desire, Gemini.




**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Cancer, you may experience unsettling vibrations that make things seem terribly off-kilter and abnormal. It's difficult to keep your temper under control, but it's possible for you to manage this. A close friend comes to your aid when they lend a sympathetic ear and assure you that you're right. You notice that your dreams are sticking with you and sometimes actually come true; listen to your intuition as it's stronger during this cycle. You feel a connection to those you share space with and a connection to the universe. Peace and harmony are available if you choose. Spend time practicing your meditation or engaging in prayer. You begin to see the past and present as they join to create the future and all the options awaiting you, Cancer.




**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

Leo, perfect phase and timing to join forces with others making something important happen; this could indicate a beautification effort or perhaps it involves clean water. Either way, you could see yourself in the newspaper or on the local news. You may feel the urge to write or re-write your will or change beneficiaries. Having your affairs in order makes you comfortable and secure; this could also pertain to affairs of the heart. An energy of being solitary, thoughtful, withdrawn is strongly felt and fulfilled. You understand holding on to negative feelings doesn't create better results or attitudes; let go of this if you sincerely desire a new start. If someone challenges what you say or do, remember you can decide who you spend time with or not, Leo.



**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

Virgo, the mystic aspects of your life you have been developing take center stage just now; you feel almost as though you're floating above the earth, but you're definitely not, so keep your eyes on the basic realities of life. An emergency demands you drop everything and take care of it. You could find that you're far too excitable and willing to collapse yourself into other people's issues or dramas. It's important for you to figure out how to do without doing; meditate on this thought and answers appear. A new, stronger sense of appreciation for the simpler things in life such as food, clothing, medications grows; someone you know has come close to losing the things most take for granted. Reflect on your life, the true circumstances you live in and find joy, Virgo.




**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Libra, experimenting with new high-tech gadgets holds your attention; trouble could result should these new items interfere with communications. You have either entered a new job or new duties at an old job that demand learning new software that could prove complicated. Your focus is distracted from problems on the home front; think carefully before you open a super difficult conversation. Someone you should stay away from is intensely attracted to you. Stay cool and collected as you deal with unsavory circumstances. You stumble upon some missing facts that actually answer questions at the bottom of a rift; this helps clear up a serious misunderstanding. Something as simple as a commercial on television, internet or radio gives you an idea, Libra.



**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Scorpio, being in control of your surroundings and emotions is a strong desire just now. Trying to gain power over another individual can bring disaster; no one worth having enjoys silly games that detract from the relationship; think about this. If you feel something slipping away, just allow it as it'll return if it's yours. Your attitude is attempting to shift but with difficulty. You have very nice belongings but, remember, these don't define you. Memories take you back to a time you thought was good, pleasant; you could see that differently now. Consider a fun trip to take you off the path of intense self-analyzing that could push you over the edge. Strive to look at life through a brighter lens to see clearly what direction is right for you to find balance, Scorpio.




**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

Sagittarius, relationships are changing before your eyes and you can do nothing to stop this; pay attention to what's said, especially by you. Honest feelings come to light; this is unintended but opens someone up to clear the air, also listen to what's not said. Your home needs attention; this could indicate the time's come for remodeling of some sort. Keep even the smallest details in mind before completing arrangements. Hard feelings from a misunderstanding concern you; now that you have figured things out, you make an attempt to set things straight. Your new interests fall into the category of otherworldly or mystic topics; you have made progress in pursuit of grasping these beliefs. You open yourself to the unknown and savor the results you get, Sagittarius.




**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Capricorn, you're able to verbally communicate your exact thoughts and ideas with ease. The energy of the day is one of calm and contentment. The completion of projects is nearing; your new methods are proving to be valuable. You find that you have to work hard to keep unique theories and ideas balanced with good old common sense; you're perfectly capable of doing this. You should be careful; take a wrong turn is possible if you let doubt rule! You're trying to make up your mind about a new person; no matter what you decide, you may have no choice but to get along. You learn intimate facts in an honest discussion with a friend you love. You're one of the lucky ones with a special friend who can say something hurtful without hurting you, Capricorn.



**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**

Aquarius, a sweetheart, parent or friend, someone close to your heart, can't do what you think they should be able to do. This is not the fault of this person; let your understanding side take over as you lower your high expectations and realize that you should rethink your attitude. Your humor plays an important role in a meeting you attend. A new idea creates solutions to a difficult situation. There could be problems with impulsive behavior; stop, think, breathe before you act. Be careful at home as you work in the kitchen or workshop; this could indicate an accident if you don't pay close attention to your activities. You may receive an invitation to have fun with a group of friends this evening but domestic duties are more important in your opinion, Aquarius.



**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

Pisces, focusing on your work or other projects proves very difficult; wait to make decisions regarding the work place. A sticky emotional issue finds you on opposing sides from someone dear. A call to work through personal problems alerts you to an alarming circumstance. Turn your back on disagreements that could cause permanent damage. This could be difficult, but taking time to make sure you understand is a wise choice. Someone lends an understanding ear and also an honest opinion. An invitation to a gathering could cause problems if you accept; loyalty is always best. If you suspect someone of wrong-doing, investigate more before you let accusations fly. Use your intuition this evening as you look at both sides of the coin, Pisces.

COUNTRY CODES			
Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antigua	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Niger	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	00595
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676



## Health

Friday, February 16, 2018

# Being a single dad can shorten your life: Study

**PARIS:** The risk of dying prematurely more than doubles for single fathers compared to single mothers or paired-up dads, according to a study of Canadian families published yesterday.

"Our research highlights that single fathers have higher mortality, and demonstrates the need for public health policies to help identify and support these men," said lead author Maria Chiu, a scientist at the University of Toronto.

The findings, published in The Lancet Public Health, may apply to wealthy nations with similar ratios of single-parent families to Canada, the researchers said. Chiu and col-

leagues tracked nearly 40,500 people across Canada over 11 years. The subjects—who included 4,590 single moms and 871 single dads—were, on average, in their early 40s when study began.

Nearly 700 died by the end of the monitoring period. Compared to partnered fathers or single moms, the death rate was three times higher among single fathers.

Factoring in that solo dads tended to be older, had higher cancer rates, and were more prone to heart disease, the researchers concluded their mortality risk was still twice as high.

Likely culprits include poor lifestyle

choices and stress, Chiu said.

"We did find that single fathers tended to have unhealthier lifestyles," which could include poor diet, lack of exercise, or excessive drinking, she said. Men parenting on their own were more likely to be separated, divorced or widowed than single mothers—a larger proportion of whom raise babies conceived outside of a relationship, the team found.

Having experienced a breakup is a risk factor for mental ill health. "These results show that single fathers might be a particularly vulnerable group," Rachel Simpson, an epidemiologist at the University of Oxford, commented in the same journal. Making mat-

ters worse, a 2016 study showed that go-it-alone dads—even if they acknowledge being in poor shape, physically and mentally—are less likely to seek professional help than women.

## A stiff drink

Single-parent households have become more common across the developed world in recent decades. In the United States, for example, the percentage of children living with single mothers nearly tripled from eight percent in 1960 to 23 percent in 2016, according to the US Census. The percentage living with single fathers increased from one to four over the same period. —AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Friday 16/2/2018				Departure Flights on Friday 16/2/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:01	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
JZR	607	Kochi	00:10	WAN	835	Sarajevo	12:35
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
PIA	205	Lahore	00:40	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	JZR	176	Dubai	13:40
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	MSC	404	Asyut	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:30
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC	691	Muscat	15:20
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:25
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	15:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
JZR	185	Dubai	02:40	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:05	KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
KAC	414	Bangkok	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
FEG	931	Alexandria	04:00	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
THY	6536	Istanbul	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:15
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	KAC	361	Colombo	17:45
UAE	873	Dubai	04:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:15
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	267	Beirut	05:15	JZR	184	Dubai	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:40
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	WAN	115	Bahrain	18:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	381	Delhi	18:50
GEL	700	Baku	05:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	554	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	QTR	1081	Doha	20:00
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
BAW	157	London	07:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	20:40
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	ICV	675	Hong Kong	21:30
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	08:45	DLH	624	Bahrain	21:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	21:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	411	Bangkok	22:05
IRA	675	Lar	10:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:05
WAN	342	Sohag	10:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	203	Lahore	22:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:40
WAN	134	Doha	11:55	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	SVA	515	Riyadh	23:30
KAC	286	Dhaka	12:35	WAN	337	Alexandria	23:45
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
MSC	403	Asyut	13:00				
KAC	792	Madinah	13:20				
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40				
KAC	618	Doha	14:15				
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:20				
KAC	672	Dubai	14:25				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40				
KAC	364	Colombo	14:40				
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	14:40				
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55				
KAC	304	Mumbai	15:10				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10				
JZR	787	Riyadh	15:15				
KAC	502	Beirut	15:30				
KAC	562	Amman	15:30				
OMA	645	Muscat	15:35				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				
QTR	1072	Doha	15:55				
KAC	118	New York	16:00				
ABY	127	Sharjah	16:00				
JZR	535	Cairo	16:05				
JZR	779	Jeddah	16:25				
FDB	051	Dubai	16:40				
RJA	640	Amman	16:55				
KAC	542	Cairo	17:05				
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15				
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30				
JZR	125	Bahrain	17:35				
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:40				
WAN	984	Tbilisi	17:50				
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				
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30				
KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30				
WAN	356	Luxor	19:35				
FDB	057	Dubai	19:50				
KAC	616	Bahrain	19:55				
ICV	675	Luxembourg	20:00				
KAC	104	London	20:00				
KAC	166	Rome	20:10				
KAC	620	Doha	20:15				
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20				
SVA	500	Jeddah	20:35				
KAC	692	Muscat	20:40				
DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45				
QTR	1088	Doha	20:45				
KAC	514	Tehran	20:50				
KAC	162	Geneva	21:00				
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20				
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20				
MEA	402	Beirut	21:20				
KAC	786	Jeddah	21:25				
KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:30				
UAE	859	Dubai	21:35				
KAC	676	Dubai	21:40				
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				
JZR	185	Dubai	23:10				
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:15				
ETH	3620	Addis Ababa	23:30				
PIA	239	Sialkot	23:40				
FDB	071	Dubai	23:45				



## Business

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

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**MUMBAI:** An Indian woman walks past a billboard promoting the luxury jewelry store Nirav Modi in Mumbai yesterday. Indian investigators yesterday raided the premises of a billionaire jeweler accused of defrauding one of the country's biggest banks. —AFP

# Indian officials raid Nirav Modi's offices

## PNB claims ability to recover from \$1.77bn fraud

**MUMBAI/NEW DELHI:** Indian investigators yesterday raided the premises of a billionaire jeweler accused of defrauding one of the country's biggest banks. Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers searched the Mumbai offices of Nirav Modi after he was accused of cheating state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) of 2.8 billion rupees (\$43.8 million).

Footage broadcast on Indian television news channels showed officers entering one of Modi's jewelry showrooms in the south of India's financial capital. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported that investigators searched around half a dozen locations in Mumbai, including Modi's home, as well as stores in New Delhi and Surat. A spokesman for the ED refused to comment when contacted by AFP. Modi is one of India's richest men. He is worth \$1.73 billion according to Forbes, placing him 85th on India's rich list.

The 47-year-old is the founder of jewelry giant Firestar Diamond. His high-end Nirav Modi brand has stores in several of the world's major cities. Yesterday's raids came a day after the ED registered a money laundering case against Modi and a few others, including members of his family and a business associate. It followed PNB's complaint last month to India's Central Bu-

reau of Investigation (CBI) that it had been defrauded of 2.8 billion rupees. The bank, India's second-largest state-owned lender, announced on Wednesday that it had also detected fraud of almost \$1.8 billion at a single branch in Mumbai, sending its shares plummeting.

It made fresh allegations against Modi to the CBI, according to PTI. The news agency, citing officials, reported yesterday that Modi had left India on January 1, before the bank detected either of the two fraud cases. Modi has not commented on the allegations. Firestar Diamond has previously said the earlier case was not connected to the company.

In January, he was photographed alongside Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The two are not related. The trouble comes as India's government is trying to reduce the crippling debts of the country's embattled lenders, including PNB. It recently announced a \$32-billion recapitalization

plan for state-owned banks to help them clean up their books. Punjab National Bank, India's second-largest state-run lender, said yesterday it has the capability and capacity to recover after uncovering a staggering \$1.77 billion fraud at one of its branches that went undetected

for years. The loan fraud - the largest ever in Indian history - has sent PNB's shares tumbling about 20 percent this week.

"This cancer that's been going on since 2011, we have brought it out and we are resolving it," PNB's Chief Executive Sunil Mehta said at a press briefing, adding that the bank would honor all its commitments. "If the entire onus is on us, we will take responsibility," Mehta said, adding the bank has taken action to book culprits and protect its financial interests.

Modi, who has not spoken about the case so far, could not be reached for comment. His flagship company Firestar Diamond has said it had no involvement in the case. Indian bank shares slid further yesterday a day

after being hit by news of the bank fraud.

PNB, which has assets of \$120 billion, disclosed the fraud in a regulatory filing on Wednesday, saying it had referred the matter to law enforcement agencies. Given the scale of the fraud, the fallout from the case could spread and give rise to fresh questions about lending procedures at Indian lenders, particularly public sector banks, mired in soured debt.

### Ongoing

PNB first notified India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of its discovery in late January, and on Monday it issued a "caution notice" to warn other lenders about the suspected fraud.

PNB has said that two junior officials at one of its branches in Mumbai had illegally issued "letters of undertaking" to get overseas branches of other lenders to extend credit to "a few select account holders," most notably companies with ties to Modi, who runs a global diamond jewellery business. Indian federal agents last week said they were investigating the jeweler and others over accusations that they defrauded PNB of \$44 million. A CBI official said told Reuters on condition of anonymity that the cases were related. —Agencies

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**Billionaire left India before fraud detected**

”



## Business



KUWAIT: The IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance in Kuwait, jointly with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, holding a high-level symposium in Kuwait on Wednesday. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

# IMF-CEF holds talks on inclusive development in Arab World

## Symposium calls for action to achieve goals

**KUWAIT:** The IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance in Kuwait, jointly with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, held a high-level symposium that discussed economic policies to achieve inclusive development in the Arab world.

The IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) in Kuwait, jointly with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), held a high-level symposium on “Inclusive Development in the Arab World: A Call for Action” on Wednesday. The event was hosted at the Arab Fund’s Headquarters. The panel discussion was chaired and moderated by Yousef Al-Ebraheem, Economic Advisor at Al-Diwan Al-Amiri. Dr. Jihad Azour, Director of the IMF’s Middle East and Central Asia Department, as the keynote speaker, and Dr Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum, and Professor Adeel Malik of Oxford University as discussants also attended the symposium.



### Education

During his introductory remarks and the subsequent discussion, Dr Yousef Al-Ebraheem indicated that the symposium was the eighth high-level forum organized by the CEF jointly with the AFESD, aimed at stimulating an open debate on the evolving economic challenges faced by policymakers in Kuwait and the wider Arab community. He discussed the economic and financial sector reforms that are essential to achieve sustained inclusive growth and reduce unemployment in Arab countries, taking into consideration the challenges of widespread conflicts, a refugee crisis and migration crisis, as well as low and volatile oil prices.

Dr Azour made the case that now was the

time to accelerate reforms to promote higher and more inclusive growth in the Arab World. First, the region is facing the pressing need to create jobs and harness the talent of 27 million youth who will enter the labor force in the next five years. Second, it should take advantage of the strengthening global economy, expected to grow at 3.9 percent in 2018 and 2019, fastest pace since 2011.

Noting that the region continues to bear the burden of protracted conflicts and was hit by the 2014 drop in oil prices, Dr Azour observed that growth has not been strong enough for much of the decade to create jobs for many and lift their living standards. This led to growing frustration about joblessness, poverty and inequality, especially among the youth, women, rural communities, and refugees.

### Financial sector reforms essential

Dr Azour emphasized that creating the conditions for sustained job-rich growth will require macroeconomic stability supported by prudent fiscal and monetary policies. But countries should also pursue a critical mass of reforms aimed at fostering the private sector, diversifying economies, boosting productivity and investment, and enabling greater inclusion.

With more than 55 percent of firms in the MENA citing corruption as a major constraint, the region needs to strengthen governance, accountability, and transparency. Reforming the business climate and leveling the playing field would be key to promoting private investment, especially FDI, which could facilitate technology and knowledge transfer to the region and further integrate it to the global economy. SME loans account for just 2 percent of GDP in the region, so it would be important to enhance financial inclusion, including by leveraging FinTech. Finally,



there is a need to reform education in order to equip people with knowledge and skills demanded by the private sector competing in today’s global economy.

### Job generation

Dr Azour saw considerable scope for fiscal policy to support growth and promote opportunity for all. With tax revenue in the MENA averaging just 9 percent of GDP, the region could mobilize additional revenue by moving to a more progressive tax system and eliminating tax exemptions. Substantial fiscal savings could be realized by phasing out generalized fuel and energy subsidies in the region amounting \$74 billion annually, or about 25 percent of the world total. Fiscal space from these measures could finance high-quality, more efficient social and capital spending. Recent research showed that a 1 percentage point of GDP cut in energy subsidies redirected to infrastructure spending has the potential over 6 years to increase GDP by 2

percentage points while creating half a million new jobs. Dr Azour briefed the participants about the conference on promoting growth, jobs, and inclusiveness in the Arab World that the JMF organized with the Moroccan government, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the Arab Monetary Fund in Marrakesh last month. He drew their attention to the conference’s “ACT NOW” call for action to promote Accountability and transparency, Competition, and Technology and Trade while ensuring that no one is left behind by building stronger safety nets, creating opportunities through more and higher social and investment spending and fairer taxation, and creating Work for all through improved education and skill matching.

Following Dr Azour’s presentation, Dr Elbadawi and Dr Malik presented a complementary analysis of the reforms needed to achieve inclusive development in Arab countries, bringing to the fore lessons from specific Arab countries as well as global experience.



## Business

Friday, February 16, 2018

# Praise, positive data pile up for French economy

## Unemployment at lowest level since 2009

**PARIS:** The good news keeps coming for the French economy: data published yesterday showed unemployment at its lowest level since 2009 while the head of the IMF praised recent reforms by President Emmanuel Macron. After years of being considered the “sick man of Europe”, the French economy is showing its strongest growth in years, with optimism underpinned by the pro-business agenda being implemented by the government.

Statistics agency INSEE said yesterday that unemployment had fallen to 8.9 percent nationwide in the final quarter of 2017, down 0.7 percentage points to its lowest level since 2009.

The uptick in the jobs market has led some companies to warn about skills shortages, a dramatic turnaround for an economy that has consistently lagged its better performing neighbors. “We’ve had new job creation at a very high level in 2017 which was sufficient to reduce unemployment,” commented economist Bruno Ducoudre at the OFCE economic institute.

On a day of bumper announcements, online giant Amazon also said that it planned to create 2,000 new jobs in France in 2018, most of them in its warehouses. Economists stress that the improving economy is partly down to stronger growth



### IMF hails Macron reforms

across Europe, which is dragging France higher, but the head of the International Monetary Fund emphasized yesterday the role of recent reforms.

“We need to recognize clearly the quality and the ambition of the reforms that have been started,” Christine Lagarde said yesterday during a visit to the economy ministry in Paris.

Macron, a 40-year-old centrist elected in May, has promised a “transformation” of the economy and social system to make France an easier place to start companies and more attractive for investors. His first annual budget cut taxes on companies and profits on financial investments,

while his government is preparing a second wave of reforms focused on improving training for adult workers and the unemployed.

Economic growth is forecast to be around 2.0 percent in 2018, though

some analysts expect forecasts to start rising. Expansion of 1.9 percent in 2017 was the highest level in six years, according to INSEE.

### Fragile president

Tackling mass unemployment is Macron’s number one priority, with joblessness a scourge for high-poverty areas around major cities and felt particularly acutely by the under 25s. Around a quarter of young people are out of work. Macron

sumer prices could kill off consumer spending and weigh on the US growth rebound,” said Jasper Lawler, head of research at London Capital Group. “Slower growth would keep a lid on wage and overall price pressures,” he added, “so the Fed will probably will not deviate from the three hikes priced in by the market.”

Market analyst David Madden noted that the FTSE 100, DAX 30 and CAC 40 all hit one week highs in morning trading as investors are regaining confidence. “Equities continue to be in recovery mode as traders are still cautiously optimistic,” he said in a note to clients.

“Investors are viewing the smaller swings on global stock markets as a sign that a lot of the fear dissipated, and are content to buy back into the market,” he added.

Meanwhile in Asia, Hong Kong ended two percent higher as traders headed into the Chinese New Year break. The index rose 5.6 percent over the past three days, helping it bite into last week’s drop of more than nine percent. Tokyo ended 1.5 percent higher, despite a surge in the yen against the dollar, which tends to hurt exporters.

While equities ran higher, the dollar was in the dog house. On currency markets the dollar took a hit across the board, with the yen at fresh 15-month highs, while the euro built on Wednesday’s gains that came after figures showed solid German economic growth. Although higher inflation and bond yields would normally be positive for the dollar, the analysts said other options were more attractive. —AFP



**PARIS:** International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde and French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire arrive to attend a conference themed ‘Transforming the French economy and deepening its integration in the eurozone’, jointly hosted by the French Treasury and the International Monetary Fund, yesterday at the Economy Ministry in Paris. —AFP

has promised to bring the overall unemployment level down to 7.0 percent by the end of his term in 2022, but early complaints about skills shortages underline the scale of the task.

France has high levels of long-term unemployed workers who are unskilled, making them unattractive for companies looking to take on new staff. A survey by INSEE in October found that half of companies in the construction sector were having difficulty finding skilled labor, while 38 percent of industrial groups faced the same problem.

And despite the improving economy, Macron’s approval ratings remain low and volatile, with a new survey out on Wednesday showing him down five points in February to 35 percent.

This makes him less popular than his predecessor Francois Hollande at the same point in his term in office, the polling group Ipsos said. Other surveys have shown that French people are worried about their own household budgets and are not convinced that Macron’s reforms will deliver improvements in their own lives. —AFP

## Equities extend gains after Wall St brushes off inflation

**PARIS:** Asian and European stock markets pushed higher yesterday after Wall Street brushed off signs of rising US inflation. Hong Kong stocks ended the Year of the Rooster leading a rally across Asian markets, and in midday trading London’s blue-chip FTSE 100 index pushed 0.5 percent higher.

In the eurozone, Frankfurt’s DAX 30 climbed 0.8 percent and in Paris the CAC 40 shot up by 1.3 percent. Global markets went into a tailspin last week on the prospect the US Federal Reserve will hike interest rates at a sharper pace than expected a few months ago to prevent a spurt in inflation from a resurgent US economy and improving wages.

Investors had keenly awaited Wednesday’s US inflation data, which showed prices had shot up in January, to gauge what the Fed will do next. While the news initially sent US equities tumbling, they quickly recovered and all three main indexes on Wall Street finished at least one percent higher as dealers were soothed by a surprisingly heavy drop in retail sales that eased fears inflation will be sustained and may tamper with growth.

“There is a sense now that higher con-

## Qualcomm mulls ‘next steps’ in Broadcom takeover bid

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Qualcomm said Wednesday its board would “promptly” consider a hostile \$121 billion takeover bid by Singapore-based Broadcom following a meeting of top executives of the two computer chipmaking giants. “We met with representatives of Broadcom for two hours earlier today, and listened carefully to what they had to say,” Qualcomm said in a statement.

“The Qualcomm board will promptly meet to discuss the meeting and to determine next steps.”

The meeting comes with Broadcom stepping up pressure on its US rival to accept a takeover bid which would be the largest-ever in the technology sector. Qualcomm chairman Paul Jacobs and chief executive Steve Mollenkopf were among the executives of the California-based firm at Wednesday’s meeting, according to the statement.

Broadcom announced on Friday that it would pay Qualcomm \$8 billion if regulators fail to approve the planned tie-up. The “termination fee” offer came a day after Qualcomm rejected a record \$121 billion hostile bid as too low, while citing a risk that the proposed tie-up could be blocked by regulatory authorities. Broadcom—which has announced plans to move back to the United States—offered \$60 per share in cash plus \$22 in Broadcom stock, in a deal worth \$121 billion, along with the assumption of \$25 billion in Qualcomm debt. If completed, the deal would be the largest-ever in the tech sector and create a powerful player in the booming sector fueled by growth in smartphones and an array of connected devices from cars to wearables.

The rich offer puts pressure on Qualcomm’s board ahead of the California-based company’s March 6 annual meeting, where it must show it is acting in the best interests of shareholders.

Broadcom this week modified its proposal for a slate of Qualcomm board members, calling for six new members—who would presumably look favorably on the hostile bid—instead of an entire new board of 11 members. Any merger deal would need to pass muster with regulators in the United States and other markets. —AFP



## Business

# Japan's crypto exchange Coincheck sued after hack

## Hackers raid hundreds of millions of dollars in digital assets

**TOKYO:** Cryptocurrency traders filed a lawsuit yesterday against Japanese exchange firm Coincheck, seeking repayment after hackers raided hundreds of millions of dollars in digital assets.

Seven plaintiffs—two companies and five individuals—took part in an initial lawsuit filed at the Tokyo District Court. They are seeking the reimbursement of 19.53 million yen (\$167,000) in virtual currencies and further compensation for interest lost due to the hack, plaintiffs' lawyer Hiromu Mochizuki said after the filing.

And Mochizuki warned his firm had received enquiries from "some 1,000 people" also considering a class-action legal suit over the hack, which was one of the largest of its kind.

Investors in this second class-action lawsuit planned later this month would likely seek compensation for the drop in their assets' value

while Coincheck halted withdrawals in the wake of the hack. The hack of Coincheck—resulting in the disappearance of NEM cryptocurrency worth \$530 million—prompted authorities to search the firm's office earlier this month, after slapping it with an administrative order. The company has already pledged to reimburse about \$400 million to all 260,000 customers who lost their holdings of NEM, the 10th biggest cryptocurrency by market capitalization. Coincheck halted operations after the hack and prevented traders from withdrawing their virtual currency from the exchange—a decision that left those assets in



**Plaintiffs seek reimbursement of \$167,000 in virtual currencies**

limbo while the cryptocurrency markets continued to move.

On Tuesday, Coincheck said it had resumed operations for withdrawals denominated in Japanese yen but has still frozen withdrawals of a dozen different kinds of cryptocurrencies.

'Class-action suit'

One plaintiff in his 20s told reporters he had invested 400,000 yen (\$3,730), adding he wanted it back "as soon as possible." "I was surprised and worried at the incident," he said on condition of anonymity.

A class-action suit is the best way to proceed in this case, as it is similar to when a large num-

ber of people seek damages over faulty consumer goods, said lead lawyer Kanehito Kita.

It is difficult and expensive for small-scale individual investors to file lawsuits in Japan. Japanese officials have suggested Coincheck lacked proper security measures, leaving itself vulnerable to theft. In the wake of the incident, the country's Financial Services Agency instructed more than a dozen local exchanges to submit reports on their efforts to monitor systemic risks. Thieves syphoned away 523 million units of the cryptocurrency NEM from Coincheck during the January 26 hack, exceeding the \$480 million in virtual currency stolen in 2014 from another Japanese exchange, MtGox. That hack prompted Japan to issue new regulations, requiring exchanges to obtain a license from the FSA, but Coincheck was allowed to continue operating while the agency was reviewing its application. —AFP

## How Indian lender fell victim to country's biggest bank fraud

**MUMBAI:** India's Punjab National Bank, the second-biggest state-run lender, stunned the country's financial sector when it announced this week it had discovered fraudulent transactions worth \$1.77 billion at a single branch in Mumbai.

The fraud, by far the biggest ever detected by an Indian bank, comes to light at a time when lenders — especially the state-run banks — are hobbled by \$147 billion in soured loans on their books, a problem that has choked new lending and hurt the country's economic recovery.

Despite tight fiscal conditions, the government recently extended a \$14 billion bailout to ailing state banks as part of a broader \$32 billion rescue plan. The sector also faces higher capital requirements by next year to meet new global banking rules known as Basel III.

Following is an explainer on the PNB fraud and its implications for other lenders and India's banking sector:

### What is the fraud allegation about?

On Jan 29, a PNB official from Mumbai filed a criminal complaint with India's federal investigative agency against three companies and four people, including billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, the managing director of Gitanjali Gems Ltd, saying they had defrauded the bank and caused a loss of 2.8 billion rupees (\$43.8 million).

The bank alleged two junior employees at the Mumbai branch had helped the companies and people managing them get "letters of undertaking" (LoUs) from it without having a sanctioned credit limit or maintaining funds "on margin". The LoUs were used to obtain short-term credit from overseas branches of other Indian banks, PNB said.

Based on the complaint, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a preliminary case

against the companies and the people named on Jan. 31 and PNB said a detailed probe was underway.

On Wednesday, PNB said in a regulatory filing it had discovered fraudulent and unauthorized transactions totalling \$1.77 billion at the Mumbai branch. Investigators have said the latest disclosure was related to the earlier case filed.

### How did the fraud come to light?

PNB says that on Jan 16 the accused firms presented a set of import documents to the Mumbai branch and requested buyers' credit to pay overseas suppliers. Since they had no pre-arranged credit limit, the branch official asked the companies to put down the full amount as collateral so the bank could issue LOUs to authorize the credit.

When the firms argued that they had used such facilities in the past without keeping any money on margin, PNB scanned through records and found no trace of any transactions, according to the bank's account. It then found that two junior employees had issued LOUs on the SWIFT interbank messaging system without entering the transactions on the bank's own system. Such transactions went on for years without detection, PNB said.

Banking sources have said in some banks the SWIFT system, which is used for international transactions, and the core banking system work independently of each other. In PNB's case, it said the outstanding LoUs were not available on its core banking system run on Infosys's Finacle software, thus the LoUs issued went undetected.

### Eho are the people and companies accused of involvement and what have they said?

PNB has accused three companies — Solar Exports, Stellar Diamonds and Diamond R US — it said belong to Nirav Modi, a high-end jeweller who runs his eponymous Nirav Modi stores that spread from New York to Hong Kong. Modi is worth \$1.73 billion according to Forbes rankings.

Modi's companies colluded with the bank staff, PNB said, adding that it suspected some of-



**DAVOS:** This handout photo released by India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) on January 23, 2018 shows Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (bottom row, C) posing for a group photograph with Indian chief executives, including billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi (middle row, third left), at the World Economic Forum in Davos. —AFP

officials at foreign branches of other Indian banks that extended credit were also involved.

It also named Gitanjali Gems, Gili India and Nakshatra — companies promoted by another jeweller, Mehul Choksi, who is Modi's uncle. Gitanjali last week denied Choksi had any involvement with the alleged fraud, saying he would take "necessary legal steps" to get his name removed from the CBI case.

Modi has not commented on the case. His flagship Firestar Diamond has said it had no involvement. PNB said it has begun criminal action against two staff members and suspended some others. Reuters was not immediately able to contact the two staff members.

### What are the authorities doing?

Federal investigators swung into action yesterday, conducting searches at PNB branches and also at Nirav Modi's home and offices, local media said. The finance ministry has issued an advisory to all banks to review their large customer exposures, according to media reports. The Enforcement Directorate, which investigates frauds

involving foreign exchange transactions, was also conducting a probe, Mint newspaper said.

### Who assumes the liability?

PNB has said the transactions are "contingent" in nature, and it will decide on the liability based on the law and the genuineness of underlying transactions.

Banking sources have said several other banks who have extended loans based on the PNB LoUs that were later found to be fraudulent are at risk of losing money.

Some of the banks say PNB is liable to pay since it issued the LoUs, although PNB, in a Feb. 12 "caution notice" addressed to chief executives of 30 banks, including two foreign banks, said the other banks also have a share in the blame as they "overlooked" certain Indian central bank rules. It also said none of the overseas branches of India-based banks had shared with PNB any documents or information at the time of extending buyers' credit to the companies. PNB said Nirav Modi had written to the bank but had yet to offer any formal proposal for a repayment. —Reuters



## Business

# Airbus profits take off despite new charge on A400M plane

Aircraft maker's net profit nearly tripled to 2.87bn euros in 2017

**TOULOUSE, France:** Airbus said yesterday that record deliveries, windfall gains from divestments and favorable exchange rates enabled profits to lift off last year, even though it booked a "substantial" new charge on its troubled A400M military transporter plane. The European aircraft maker said in a statement that net profit nearly tripled to 2.87 billion euros (\$3.6 billion) in 2017 from 995 million euros a year earlier.

Underlying or operating profit grew by eight percent to 4.25 billion euros and full-year sales held steady at 66.8 billion euros. The numbers sent Airbus shares soaring on the stock market, adding more than nine percent in Paris while the overall blue-chip CAC 40 index was just 1.5 percent higher.

"We overachieved on all our 2017 key performance indicators thanks to a very good operational performance, especially in the last quarter," said chief executive Tom Enders.

"Despite persistent engine issues on the A320neo, we continued the production ramp-up and finally delivered a record number of aircraft," he said. The number of deliveries of commercial aircraft overall rose to a record 718 in 2017 from 688 in 2016, Airbus said. Some 181 A320neo aircraft—a new version of the medium-haul A320 jet with more fuel-efficient engines—were delivered,

up from 68 during 2016.

But the new engines have also suffered from technical glitches and delays and "the A320neo ramp-up remains challenging," CEO Enders said. A net capital gain of 604 million euros resulting from the divestment of the defense electronics business and "a strong positive impact" from exchange rate developments also helped boost the group's bottom line, Airbus said.

## Risk reduction

But Airbus booked a new one-off charge of 1.3 billion euros against its A400M turboprop military transport, plagued by delivery problems and technical problems.

"On A400M, we made progress on the industrial and capabilities front and agreed a re-baselining with government customers which will significantly reduce the remaining program risks. This is reflected in a substantial one-off charge," Enders said. Airbus had already booked a charge of 2.2 billion euros on the A400M in 2016.

The A400M is the most ambitious joint procurement program ever launched in Europe, involving seven countries: Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain and Turkey.

But while the nations ordered the planes in 2003, the first were not delivered until 2013 —

## New engine suffered from technical glitches



**BLAGNAC:** Tom Enders Airbus chief executive officer speaks during the annual press conference of the group's 2017 results yesterday at Airbus' headquarters in Blagnac southwestern France. —AFP

four years after the contract fell due.

Some 19 A400M planes were delivered in 2017, compared with 17 in 2016.

Airbus said its overall order intake increased to 158 billion euros in 2017 from 134 billion euros in 2016, bringing the total order book to 997 billion euros at the end of December. Given the "strength of our 2017 achievements," Airbus would propose lifting its dividend to 1.50 euros per share for last year from 1.35 euros a year earlier, Enders said. "This also endorses our

earnings and cash growth story for the future," he said. Looking ahead, as the basis for its 2018 guidance, Airbus said it expected the world economy and air traffic "to grow in line with prevailing independent forecasts, which assume no major disruptions." On that basis, the group expected to deliver "around 800" commercial aircraft this year—as long as engine manufacturers met their commitments—and underlying or operating profit was projected to rise by "approximately 20 percent." —AFP

## Budget airline Norwegian says profits grounded by fuel, expansion costs

**OSLO:** Low-cost airline Norwegian Air Shuttle said yesterday that rising fuel prices and the cost of replacing aircraft and opening up new routes pushed it into the red last year.

Norwegian, Europe's third largest low-cost carrier after Ryanair and Easyjet, said in a statement it flew into a loss of nearly 300 million kroner (nearly 31 million euros, \$38.7 million) in 2017 from net profit of 1.14 billion kroner the year before.

The numbers sent the airline's share price into a tailspin and it nosedived by more than nine percent on the Oslo stock exchange. "Significant costs related to increased fuel prices, wet lease and passenger care affect the results," Norwegian said, adding that it had carried out "major investments in 2017 to prepare for future growth".

Nevertheless, faced with a lack of personnel, Norwegian had to cancel many flights last summer while having multiple delays. At an underlying or operating level, the carrier booked a loss of two billion kroner in 2017, while revenues rose by 19 percent to nearly 31 billion kroner. Even though the year-end is generally a weak one for airlines, Norwegian said its results came in well below expectations. "We are not at all satisfied" with the figures, said CEO Bjorn Kjos.

"However, the year was also characterized by global expansion driven by new routes, high load factors and continued fleet renewal," he said. This year, Norwegian wants to boost its offer by 40 percent. The group said it has been licensed to operate up to 152 domestic and international routes in Argentina. The carrier is to add 24 Boeing 737-800 and 11 Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets to its fleet. Norwegian is also to receive five Airbus 320neos, which will immediately be leased to Hong Kong's low-cost airline HK Express. —AFP

## Rise in US inflation puts spotlight on Fed's Powell

**WASHINGTON:** US consumer prices rose more than expected in January as Americans paid more for gasoline, rental accommodation and healthcare, raising pressure on new Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell to prevent a possible overheating of the economy.

The report from the Labor Department on Wednesday, however, likely overstates the inflation picture given that some of the price gains, especially for apparel and motor vehicle insurance, are seen by economists as unsustainable. Inflation, which could get a further boost from a tightening labor market and increased government spending, might force the Fed to be more aggressive in raising interest rates this year than currently anticipated. That would slow economic growth.

The US central bank has forecast three rate hikes for this year, with the first increase expected at its next policy meeting in March.

Powell took over the reins of the Fed from Janet Yellen earlier this month. "While we have been looking for inflation to firm, we think last month's increase probably overstates the underlying trend," said Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan in New York. "Today's inflation reading should probably cement in place the Fed's intent to hike rates at the March meeting. We now also think the odds are moving up that they also revise their guidance at that meeting from looking for three hikes this year to four, aligning with our view."

The Labor Department said its Consumer Price Index increased 0.5 percent last month as households paid more for gasoline, rental accommodation and healthcare. The CPI rose 0.2 percent in December. The year-on-year increase in the CPI was unchanged at 2.1 percent in January as the large price gains from last year dropped out of the calculation.

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the CPI shot up 0.3 percent. That was the largest increase since January 2017 and followed a 0.2 percent rise in December. The year-on-year rise in the so-called core CPI was unchanged at 1.8 percent in January. Economists had forecast the CPI increasing 0.3 percent in January and the core CPI rising 0.2 percent.

The core CPI is viewed as a better measure of underlying inflation trends. The Fed tracks a different index, the personal consumption expenditures price index excluding food and energy, which has consistently undershot the central bank's 2 percent target since mid-2012.

The dollar initially rose against a basket of currencies after the data but later surrendered the gains. Stocks on Wall Street opened lower before erasing losses. Prices of US Treasuries fell.

US financial markets have been on edge after being spooked by a surge in annual wage growth in January.

## Inflation building up

So-called base effects will turn more favorable in March, which economists say would set the course for higher annual inflation readings. Average hourly earnings jumped 2.9 percent on an annual basis in January, the largest rise since June 2009, from 2.7 percent in December. A pickup in wage growth as the labor market hits full employment is expected to contribute to higher inflation this year. Fiscal stimulus in the form of a \$1.5 trillion tax cut package and increased government spending are also expected to add to price pressures. —Reuters



# Quickfire Federer two wins from oldest number one spot

## Grigor Dimitrov and David Goffin advance

**ROTTERDAM:** Roger Federer delivered a crushing 6-1, 6-2 defeat of Ruben Bemelmans in just 47 minutes on Wednesday as the Swiss star moved just two wins away from becoming the sport's oldest world number one. The 36-year-old top seed, a two-time champion at the Dutch indoor event, needs to reach the semi-finals to take back the number one spot from Rafael Nadal. With two more victories, Federer would become the oldest man by three years to hold the top position in the rankings. "It's very surprising how good things went today," Federer said. "The key is to start well, put him under pressure."

"I wanted to make him think he had to do something special to beat me. I did well there, I felt good, I'm healthy and I'm confident. It was a great first round for me," Federer gave no quarter as he raced to a 5-0 lead, with the out-matched Bemelmans winning his first game after 16 minutes.

The outcome was never in doubt as Federer dominated with six aces and four service breaks, winning an impressive 21 of 23 first-serve points in the demolition. The 20-time Grand Slam champion on Thursday takes on German Philipp Kohlschreiber, against whom he stands 12-0 in career meetings.

"You always prefer to play the guy whose game you know," Federer said. "You know his patterns, it's nice to play someone like that, you know what to expect."

"My start will be crucial, I need to stay focused all the way. Any lapses can get you into trouble."

Third seed Alexander Zverev fell in an upset to qualifying lucky loser Andreas Seppi of Italy, 6-4, 6-3 in the second round to open up Federer's half of the draw.

Grigor Dimitrov and David Goffin, the duo who faced off in last year's season-ending ATP Finals, both advanced with straight-sets wins.

Second seed Dimitrov, who beat Belgian fourth seed Goffin in the London final last November, had to fight back in the second set to defeat Japan's Yuichi Sugita 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) in their first-round encounter.

Goffin made light work of veteran Spaniard Feliciano Lopez, cruising through 6-1, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals.

Dimitrov won the opening set against Sugita but fell behind a break in the second before levelling for 5-all. As the set went into a tie-break, the Bulgarian surged ahead as he took a 5-2 lead but had to hold off his opponent as Sugita clawed back to within a point of levelling.

Dimitrov then sent a forehand into the corner to earn a pair of match points and advanced on his second with a service winner to end the resistance of the 41st-ranked Sugita.

"It was my first match in three weeks, and you're always a little rusty," said Dimitrov who has been dealing with a sore shoulder in recent



**ROTTERDAM:** Switzerland's Roger Federer plays a forehand return during his men's singles match against Ruben Bemelmans from Belgium in the first round of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam. —AFP

weeks. "I was trying to find rhythm. I faced a quality player and I'm happy with how things went for me today—I was pain-free in my shoulder." Last weekend's Montpellier champion Lucas Pouille exited in his opening match, losing 7-5, 6-4 to Andrey Rublev.

The Russian was joined in the second round at the Ahoy Arena by Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France, who advanced after just 15 minutes when compatriot Richard Gasquet, the Mont-

pellier finalist, retired with a groin injury trailing 3-1.

Pouille lost in 93 minutes, hitting a dozen aces in defeat but losing serve four times.

The 34th-ranked Rublev owns his only career title from Umag last summer on clay. Herbert will play Russian Daniil Medvedev in the second round.

Robin Haase won an all-Dutch affair over Thiemo de Bakker 6-2, 6-2. —AFP

## Ko leads Australian Open by two shots

**ADELAIDE:** South Korea's Ko Jin-young fired a nine-birdie opening round of 65 to lead the women's Australian Open by two shots at Kooyonga in Adelaide yesterday.

Ko, 22, the world number 20 and a winner of 10 tournaments on the Korean tour, reached the turn at three-under and rolled in six more birdies on the back nine to gather in a cluster of players who had held the lead at four-under. Ko joined the lead with a birdie at the 16th, birdied again to lead outright at the 17th before repeating the performance at the 18th to lead by two strokes at seven under.

She had nine birdies for the day, two bogeys and shredded the more difficult back nine in 31 shots, with five birdies in the last six holes. Among those on four-under was former world number one Lydia Ko, who has been under fire for making another series of changes to her team in the off-season, but played brilliantly for a bogey-free round. Ko Jin-young leads 2013 Open champion and compatriot Jiyai Shin, who followed up her win in Canberra last week with a five-under par 67.

Two other major winners—American Mo Martin and Korean Yoo Sun-young—as well as 17-year-old Japanese amateur Suzuka Yamaguchi, a recent Australian Amateur champion, are in the group at four-under par. Ko, the 20-year-old New Zealander, has again switched to another coach and caddie and has had 11 caddies since turning pro five years ago. —AFP

## McIlroy relishes chance to play alongside Tiger

**LOS ANGELES:** Rory McIlroy is bracing for the bustle that comes with a Tiger Woods pairing, but said the chance to play with a golfer he still considers a hero is worth it.

"I wouldn't have minded a nice quiet couple of days, today and tomorrow," McIlroy admitted, but added: "Anytime you have a chance to play in a group like that you relish it and embrace it."

McIlroy and Woods will tee it up with Justin Thomas—a five-time winner on the US PGA Tour last season—in the first and second rounds of the Genesis Open at Riviera Country Club. For 14-time major champion Woods, it's the next step in a return from injury that he hopes will soon see him contending again.

McIlroy, owner of four major titles, had his own injury troubles last year and is out to end a 16-month victory drought. He made his Stateside debut last week at Pebble Beach, where a balky putter saw him miss the cut by two strokes.

"I had a bit of wobble on the greens on Friday, but I didn't put that down to anything more than just surfaces weren't ideal and I let it get into my head a little bit," McIlroy said. He vis-



**PACIFIC PALISADES:** Tiger Woods hits a shot during the Pro-Am of the Genesis Open at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California. —AFP

ited manufacturer TaylorMade in Carlsbad, California, on Monday, where he picked up a new putter.

"The great thing about golf, every week you start everyone's level again and you get to go again and work on things," said McIlroy, who moved back into the top 10 in the world rankings after a runner-up finish in the Dubai Desert Classic in January.

"I still view the start of the season to be quite good for me in terms of what I've done and the progress I've made on my game. "Ob-

viously, results wise last week at least wasn't what I wanted, but I still saw a lot of good stuff in there."

He'll be hoping it's on display again amid the hoopla surrounding Woods—who will draw massive, often restless galleries. While the constant movement and noise can be a distraction, McIlroy said he didn't mind.

"I would rather be in this group than not," McIlroy said. "Whenever you get a chance to play alongside one of your heroes it's always nice." —AFP



## Sports

# Lillard outguns Durant as Blazers sink Warriors

## Jordan stars as Clippers down Celtics

**LOS ANGELES:** Damian Lillard scored 44 points as the Portland Trail Blazers ended a seven-game losing streak and overcame the Golden State Warriors with a 123-117 win on Wednesday. Portland overcame a 50-point display from Kevin Durant—his best in a Warriors jersey—to head into the All-Star break with a morale-boosting victory.

Lillard was backed by C.J. McCollum (29 points) and Jusuf Nurkic, who finished with 17 points. The win saw Portland improve to 32-26, vaulting them into sixth spot in the Western Conference standings.

The Warriors fell to 44-14 with the loss, leaving them one behind Houston at the top of the standings. “I came out in a good rhythm,” Lillard said. “I thought we were really resilient tonight on both ends of the floor. We got a big, much-needed win. “We needed this going into the break, to get some momentum going into the second half of the season.”

Elsewhere Wednesday, DeAndre Jordan scored a career-high 30 points as the Los Angeles Clippers sent the Boston Celtics spinning to a fourth defeat in five games with a 129-119 victory at the TD Garden. Jordan produced an inspirational performance that included 13 rebounds, three assists and four steals to give his side a deserved road victory. The win left Los Angeles firmly in the hunt in the Western Conference playoff race, taking them to 30-26.

Boston leaned heavily on a 33-point haul from Kyrie Irving but it was not enough to stop them from a third straight loss.

### TEMPERS FLARE

The Celtics are second in the Eastern Conference on 40-19, trailing the Toronto Raptors, who crushed the Chicago Bulls 122-98 elsewhere yesterday. The Clippers had Boston on the back foot almost from the outset, leading by 14 points in the first half before the Celtics hit back to close within four points at 61-57 at halftime.

A see-saw second half saw the lead change hands repeatedly, with Irving firing Boston ahead with a superb three-pointer late in the third. The Clippers, however, rattled off 10 unanswered points in the fourth to take an unassailable lead.

“We got so many guys who draw a lot of attention,” Jordan said afterwards. “I was able to roll. My team-mates did a really good job of finding me tonight. “I was just really confident tonight.” All five of the Clippers starters cracked double figures, while Lou Williams came off the bench to deliver 19 points. “Everybody has a job to do on this team,” Jordan said. “We’ve got to keep it up and stay healthy.”

But while the Clippers battled to a deserved win, there was no such luck for their city rivals the Los Angeles Lakers, who were demolished 139-117 by an Anthony Davis-inspired New Orleans Pelicans.

Davis conjured another hefty exhibition of scoring, pouring on 42 points with 15 rebounds and three assists to take his team to 31-26. However the action was overshadowed by a stormy contest which saw the Pelicans’ Rajon Rondo and the Lakers’ new signing Isaiah Thomas—former team-mates with the Boston Celtics—ejected after a fracas in the first quarter.



**PORTLAND:** CJ McCollum #3 of the Portland Trail Blazers shoots the ball against the Golden State Warriors at the Moda Center in Portland, Oregon. —AFP

Lakers coach Luke Walton was also given his marching orders, sent to the locker room in the second quarter after an expletive-laden

tirade at the officiating crew following a foul against Kyle Kuzma. Elsewhere, James Harden had 28 points as the Houston Rockets maintained their pace at the top of the West with a 100-91 win over the Sacramento Kings—their 10th straight victory. —AFP

## India paceman Sharma signs for Sussex

**LONDON:** Ishant Sharma will prepare for India’s tour of England this summer by linking up with English county side Sussex for the first two months of the season.

Only three Indian seamers have taken more than the 234 Test wickets Ishant has claimed and he is expected to be part of the squad for the five-match series against England in August and September. The 29-year-old will join Sussex until June 4 and will be available for the county’s first five County Championship division two matches and all eight of their group fixtures in the Royal London One-Day Cup. “It’s a great honour to represent Sussex CCC, the oldest first-class county, and I am looking forward with excitement to my maiden stint in county cricket,” said Ishant, who also has 115 one-day and eight Twenty20 international wickets.

Ishant adds valuable experience to Sussex’s fast bowling stocks in the absence of Chris Jordan and Jofra Archer, both of whom will be at the Indian Premier League.

Sussex director of cricket Keith Greenfield said:



**Ishant Sharma**

“Once Jofra and CJ were picked up in the IPL draft, it became crucial to sign an experienced international-quality seam bowler who could provide valuable support and know-how to the rest of the seamers. “Ishant has the attributes to be very successful in early season English conditions and a great role model. He fits the bill perfectly.” —AFP

## Bangladesh vows improved cricket pitches after ICC rebuke

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh’s cricket board yesterday promised to improve pitches for international Tests after its two best venues were rated “below average” by the sport’s governing body following the Sri Lanka series.

The International Cricket Council penalised the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka for its subpar pitch a week after rebuking Bangladesh’s other top venue in Chittagong for its shoddy ground.

The latest Test against Sri Lanka ended inside three days, with the visitors thrashing Bangladesh by 215 runs in a match that saw both sides all-out twice in less than eight sessions. The Chittagong Test, however, saw batsmen plunder more than 1,500 runs, with Sri Lanka declaring at a colossal 713 for nine in their first and only innings.

ICC match referee David Boon—who issued a demerit point to both venues for below-average pitches—said the Dhaka ground was poor from day one. “There was evidence of the ball breaking the pitch surface, which resulted in uneven bounce throughout the match, along with inconsistent turn, which was even excessive at times,” he said in a statement.

“This pitch produced a contest that was too heavily skewed in favour of the bowlers, and didn’t give the batsmen a fair chance to display their skills.” The opposite problem prevailed in Chittagong last week, when Boon said the pitch provided no seam movement and favoured batsmen, who smashed five centuries and six half-centuries over five days.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board said it would consider appealing the demerit points but promised to take more precautions in future. “Since we received this rating, we will be more careful about preparing the venues,” said the board’s chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury. Any ground that receives five demerits from the ICC over five years is suspended from hosting international cricket for a year. —AFP



## Sports

# PSG coach Emery up against it after big decisions backfire

## Emery's contract is due to expire at the end of the season

**MADRID:** Unai Emery has been in a constant battle to win over the doubters since joining Paris Saint-Germain, but the pressure on him is now greater than ever after Wednesday's 3-1 defeat by Real Madrid. A year after the spectacular collapse in Barcelona and the 6-1 defeat that sent them packing from the Champions League in the last 16 despite a 4-0 win in the first leg, again PSG fell apart late on against one of Spain's giants.

Having looked the more likely team to win the last 16, first leg at the Santiago Bernabeu, and at least been on course to leave with a precious draw, Paris now face an uphill struggle to save the tie.

Emery cannot shoulder all of the blame if his players are unable to cope with the pressure at crucial moments in such games. However, he would have had a sleepless night after returning to Paris with the big decisions he made on Wednesday backfiring.

From leaving a player of Thiago Motta's experience out altogether, to dropping captain Thiago Silva and choosing to play 21-year-old Giovanni Lo Celso in midfield, Emery gambled big before kick-off.

Then he decided to take off the club's all-time record goal-scorer, Edinson Cavani, in the second half, only to replace him with a right-back in Thomas Meunier. Angel Di Maria, a proven big-game performer and PSG's best

player in 2018, was left on the bench.

"The result will make us see things differently, but the team deserved better," claimed Emery. But when compared with opposite number Zinedine Zidane, for whom Marco Asensio came on and set up late goals for Cristiano Ronaldo and Marcelo, it does not look good for him.

"The match was just a few centimetres away from proving him right with the big decisions he made," wrote Vincent Duluc in French sports daily L'Equipe. "But, cruelly, the Madrid night ended up highlighting the weak points of a coach guided by his science more than his instinct."

**Emery cannot shoulder all of the blame**

**HISTORY NOT ON HIS SIDE**

Emery was attacked by the wives of Silva and

Di Maria on social media after leaving out the pair, and he faces a fight to keep the PSG dressing room together ahead of the return leg on March 6.

PSG are on course to recapture the Ligue 1 title from Monaco and remain in the domestic cup competitions, but they did not commit the two biggest transfer fees in the history of the game last year to sign Neymar and Kylian Mbappe just to continue their domination in France.

Emery's contract is due to expire at the end of the season, although it remains to be seen if he would even last until then if PSG fail to go through to the quarter-finals.



**MADRID:** Paris Saint-Germain's Spanish coach Unai Emery (L) and Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane (R) gestures during the UEFA Champions League round. —AFP

"I think that we have a chance at home, with our supporters behind us," insisted Emery. "We will make Real Madrid suffer. We have the character to turn it around." History is not on the 46-year-old's side, though. He has never won a knockout tie in the competition in five previous Champions League seasons with Valencia, Spartak Moscow, Sevilla and Paris.

His difficulties communicating in French have

perhaps not helped his image in Paris, and his achievements in Spain, notably at Sevilla, cannot be dismissed.

But even in his home country he has his doubters, all the more so after another defeat at the Bernabeu, where he has now lost 10 times and drawn once in 11 visits as a coach. "Players like Neymar deserve better allies on the bench," wrote Rafa Cabeleira in El Pais. —AFP

## FIFA's Infantino says Italy's WCup failure is a wake-up call

**MILAN:** FIFA president Gianni Infantino revealed yesterday his despair at Italy's failure to reach the World Cup finals where he had hoped to hand the trophy to Azzurri captain Gianluigi Buffon.

"I'm sad, yes I'm sad for the World Cup. I almost cried," Infantino, who holds both Swiss and Italian nationality, said in an interview with Italy's Gazzetta Dello Sport five months ahead of the World Cup final match in Russia. "I think it's a collective sadness. We're talking about a team with a great tradition who give their best in events like this. "But those who are in Russia deserved to qualify and in any case Italy stayed out with an Italian President: do we need anything else to say we're honest and clean?" Infantino, the Swiss-born son of Italian immigrant parents, took over the scandal-battered world body from disgraced president Sepp Blatter in February 2016.

"I would have liked to have given the cup to Buffon though," admitted the 47-year-old. Infantino



**Gianni Infantino**

said that there had been signs of trouble within the four-time world champions long before their dramatic failure in last November's play-offs.

"There have been signals to this effect for a long time, and (Matteo) Darmian's shot against Sweden could have gone in instead of hitting the post, but he would have only concealed the problems. "Italy were the first in the world for organisation, clubs, training, structures, food, tactics. We forgot that, without work, talent is not enough. "How many young people advance to the first team?". Italy are without a national coach and a football federation president with the FIGC currently under the guardianship of the national Olympic committee CONI. —AFP

## Premier League clubs back on the march in Europe

**LONDON:** Liverpool's 5-0 victory in Porto on Wednesday and Manchester City's 4-0 stroll alongside the Rhine in Basel 24 hours earlier were a Premier League show of force that reverberated across Europe.

The continent's most wealthy domestic competition has not punched its weight in the Champions League since Chelsea ambushed Bayern Munich to lift the trophy in 2012. Since then the spoils have been shared out by clubs from La Liga and the Bundesliga with Real Madrid winning it three times, Barcelona once and Bayern Munich once. Juventus, Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund have reached the finals in that period in which only Chelsea and Manchester City from England have contested semi-finals. Last season Leicester City were the only English representative in the quarter-finals while in 2012-13 and 2014-15 no English team made it to last eight.

That relative drought could be about to end during a season in which Pep Guardiola's Manchester City have turned the Premier League

title race into a procession. Liverpool and Man City look 99 percent certain to be in the hat for the quarter-finals while Tottenham Hotspur, who drew 2-2 away to Juventus on Tuesday, are favourites to join them.

Manchester United and Chelsea are still to play the first legs of their last-16 ties. Jose Mourinho's United will start as favourites against Sevilla, and while Chelsea could have their work cut out to get past La Liga leaders Barcelona, it is not too fanciful to imagine five of the last eight coming from the Premier League. It is the first time that five clubs from one country have advanced from the group phase and on five of the six previous seasons that all of the English clubs involved reached the knockout stage, at least one has made it to the final.

While the road to Kiev is still a long one, the statistics underline the resurgence of the English clubs this season. Liverpool are the competition's top scorers with 28 goals so far and their win in Porto was the joint biggest away Champions League knockout victory, equalling Bayern Munich's 5-0 win at Sporting in February 2009 and Real Madrid at Schalke in February 2014.

Individually four of the top eight scorers are from English clubs with Tottenham's Harry Kane and Liverpool's Roberto Firmino in second place on seven, with Liverpool's Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah on six. —Reuters



## Sports

Friday, February 16, 2018



# Clash of titans looms for Japan's Hanyu and American Nathan Chen

## US jumping ace making his Olympic debut

**GANGNEUNG:** On one side is Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu, the defending Olympic champion coming back from an injury that kept him off the ice for weeks before the Games. On the other is Nathan Chen, an American jumping ace making his Olympic debut.

The two will face off for gold in men's singles figure skating starting today, a contest with many strong contenders in an event where difficult quadruple jumps are taking on increasing importance.

Add in that Hanyu, hugely popular around the world, hopes to become the first man in 66 years to win back-to-back Olympic gold, and the stakes rise. Hanyu has not skated in competition since falling and injuring his right ankle in November. Though he practised jumps as floor exercise as soon as possible, he only began doing quads on ice about two weeks ago.

"I am confident that if I skate cleanly I will definitely win," Hanyu, 23, told a packed news conference at the Gangneung Ice Area after a practice session in which he landed several quads. Chen, 18, cruised to a repeat U.S. championship title last month, landing five quads. But he had a poor skate in the Olympic team competition, uncharacteristically falling on a triple Axel as the U.S. team claimed bronze.

"Training has been going great. I've been working out issues I had with the short program," Chen told a news conference yesterday. "I'm really ex-

cited to start competing tomorrow. With all the training I've been putting in, I'll have a great short programme." Chen said he probably will include four or five quads in his routine, including the quad Lutz - the jump Hanyu was practising when he was injured. Hanyu declined to name specific elements, saying he was confident of pulling together a clean programme.

### OTHER CONTENDERS

But they are not the only contenders. Spain's Javier Fernandez, 26, who like Hanyu is coached by Canadian Brian Orser, won his sixth consecutive European championship last month more than 20 points ahead of his nearest rival. "Javi", as he is

**May become first to win back-to-back Olympic gold**



known, is hungry to end his nation's 26-year-long Winter Olympics medal drought. Canada's Patrick Chan, who was narrowly beaten by Hanyu at the 2014 Sochi Games, is seeking revenge.

The 27-year-old landed two quads in the team competition but otherwise struggled, although thanks to team Canada he has finally won Olympic gold. Then there is Hanyu's compatriot Shoma Uno, who took silver at December's Grand Prix Final and China's Jin Boyang, who struggled with injury last year but is a formidable jumper who topped the podium at last month's Four Continents tournament.

Chen said the lineup was ultimately more motivating than daunting, citing a recent practice session most took part in, including



**GANGNEUNG:** File photo shows Japan's figure skater Yuzuru Hanyu practices during a training session of men's single skating at Gangneung Ice Arena during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Gangneung. —AFP

Hanyu. "As soon as the whole crew was together with Javi, him, Boyang, Shoma, myself, the atmosphere was elevated, everyone was trying to work a little harder and I definitely felt that the energy had come back," he said. "I'm going to use that to

my advantage." Chen will skate directly after Hanyu in the final group today, but believes that has advantages, including extra time to prepare while the numerous stuffed animals that Hanyu fans tend to throw to the ice are cleaned up. —Reuters

## N Korean athletes, a diplomatic bargain at \$2,300 each

**PYEONGCHANG:** How much is a North Korean athlete worth? They have proven to be priceless when measured in diplomatic currency at South Korea's Winter Games, but a glance at their expenses show they are a relative bargain in dollars and cents.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) told Reuters yesterday it had given roughly \$50,000 to pay for training and preparation of North Korea's 22 Olympic athletes, or about \$2,300 each. That is a fraction of the money spent on the rest of the poor, heavily sanctioned nation's Olympic delegation, which included 229 cheerleaders and a 137-strong orchestra.

South Korea, which is footing the bill for the non-athletes, has budgeted about \$2.6 million to host the 418 North Korean delegates who won't appear in competition-almost \$6,200 each. While the athletes stay in the Olympic athletes' village at the Pyeongchang Games, most of the rest of the North Korean delegation is staying at upmarket hotels. The cheerleaders are staying at the four-star Inje Speedium resort where rooms cost about \$230-670 per night. When the orchestra and a North Korean taekwondo performance team had performances in Seoul during the Games, they stayed at the five-star Grand Walkerhill Hotel which has previously hosted American celebrities such as Michael Jackson and Paris Hilton. —Reuters

## Canada hockey women battle past USA for 23rd win in row

**GANGNEUNG:** Four-time defending champion Canada outbattled arch-rival United States 2-1 in a heated grudge clash yesterday at the Pyeongchang Winter Games, stretching their Olympic women's hockey win streak to 23 games.

Meghan Agosta and Sarah Nurse scored second-period goals and goaltender Genevieve Lacasse made 44 saves for the Canadians in the physical group-stage contest, expected to be a preview of next Thursday's gold-medal showdown.

"It's always a battle, especially against the US," Agosta said. "We know we have to keep coming. It's always going to be chippy." Brianna Decker hit the post on a final US shot and a scramble in front of the Canada goal for the puck led to pushes, shoves and two roughing penalties well after the final horn.

"We had battles in front of the net. I got shoved into the net," Lacasse said. "I just kept the puck in front of me." "It's a heated rivalry out there," Nurse added. Beating the world champions made Canada the top seed for Monday's semi-finals with the Americans second as both await tomorrow's quarter-final winners from among Switzerland, Finland, Sweden and the Olympic Athletes from Russia.

"It puts us in a great spot as far as confidence," Canada coach Lauren Schuler said. "I'm really happy, especially with Genevieve's performance. She was outstanding." US coach Robb Stauber was



**GANGNEUNG:** USA's Meghan Duggan and Canada's Laura Fortino (C) fight for the puck in the women's preliminary round ice hockey match between the US and Canada during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games at the Kwandong Hockey Centre in Gangneung yesterday. —AFP

pleased with his team's 45-23 shots edge and aggressive attitude.

"It's a rivalry. What else would anybody expect but exactly that," he said. "We'll bring the exact same emotion the next game." Agosta opened the scoring on the power play 27:18 into the game off a Natalie Spooner backhand centering pass and Nurse gave Canada a 2-0 edge just 7:38 later, snuggling a left-wing shot into the near corner of the net.

A melee in the Canadian crease led to a US penalty shot with 3:52 remaining in the second but Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson's backhand was deflected over the crossbar. —AFP



## Sports



# Record-setting Savchenko, Massot win skating gold

## Favourites Wenjing, Cong pipped to the title by less than half a point

**GANGNEUNG:** Aljona Savchenko and Bruno Massot fought “like tigers” to win Olympic pairs figure skating gold with a magical record-breaking free dance yesterday—and promptly burst into floods of tears.

The German duo’s sensational four-and-a-half-minute routine just denied China’s world champions Sui Wenjing and Han Cong, the hot favourites who were pipped to the title by less than half a point after Sui took a tumble. Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford added bronze to their team event gold with Canada.

The 34-year-old Savchenko’s dream of an elusive first gold at her fifth Winter Games had looked in jeopardy after an unfortunate error by her French-born partner Massot—who only received German citizenship in November—in Wednesday’s short programme.

His double instead of a triple salchow left him distraught and them trailing their Chinese rivals in fourth. But 24 hours later Massot righted that wrong, matching his decorated ice companion step for step, their dance to “La Terre vue du ciel” by Armand Amar enthralled the crowd at the Gangneung Arena in thrall. At the end of

their performance they lay in each other’s arms on the ice, before Massot bowed to his partner and they made their way to the “kiss and cry” corner, where the tears flowed when their score of 159.09 points flashed up, beating the world record they set of 157.25 at the Grand Prix Final in December.

“This mistake put us in fourth place, six points behind, it was difficult to accept,” recounted Massot. “But after we all met with the team yesterday we said tomorrow is another day, and we

have to attack this free programme like tigers.” Their electric free dance gave them a winning combined total of 235.90. “I believed from the beginning to the end that this story will be a dream come true,” smiled Savchenko.

“I was positive after yesterday. I said to Bruno, we will write history today. And then everything happened as I had imagined it and it came true.” She and her partner had to then sit and watch as first Duhamel and Radford, who produced the first ever pairs quad throw at an Olympics, then Sui and Han tried but failed to deny them their moment of glory. Sui and Han finished agonisingly adrift on 235.47 with the

“ This mistake put us in fourth place, six points behind ”



**PYEONGCHANG:** (L-R) China’s silver medallists Han Cong and Sui Wenjing, Germany’s gold medallists Aljona Savchenko and Bruno Massot and Canada’s bronze medallists Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford pose on the podium during the medal ceremony for the figure skating pair event at the Pyeongchang Medals Plaza during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games, yesterday. — AFP

Canadians on 230.15. Sui, who revealed she was feeling pain from an injury, said: “We really wanted to do well, but simply fell too short in the

end. “But I hope that this will give us the motivation we need over the next four years to do well again at the Beijing 2022 Games.” — AFP

## Norway to maintain super-G grip after downhill breakthrough

**PYEONGCHANG:** No sooner had Aksel Lund Svindal ended Norway’s 70-year wait for an Olympic downhill champion yesterday than he and team mate Kjetil Jansrud were turning their minds to maintaining their nation’s remarkable grip on the super-G title.

Svindal won gold in the “other” speed event in Vancouver in 2010 with Jansrud, who finished second behind his compatriot in the downhill, making it four straight Olympic super-G titles for Norway by winning in Sochi.

The 35-year-old Svindal said that the medal ceremony last night would probably be the point at which he turned his mind to the super-G and that the adrenaline of winning the title would help carry him through the race.

“That moment, when you’re on the podium and they play the national anthem is almost a little bit of a sign,” he said. “So while you enjoy the national anthem you start thinking of the race the next day. It’s like a trigger, ‘This is done, it was perfect, now let’s focus on tomorrow’.

“If we’ll be a little bit tired tomorrow, then I think that the energy you get from experiencing all of this will by far make up for all of that. I think this is the best preparation we can get for tomorrow.” — Reuters

## Lagging N Korean skier wins Olympic hearts

**PYEONGCHANG:** A plucky North Korean skier earned the biggest cheer of the day at the women’s giant slalom yesterday after a display that brought back fond memories of glorious Olympic no-hopers.

Kim Ryon Hyang churned her way down the Pyeongchang course in a time of one minute, 40.22 seconds—just under half a minute off the top times set by Italy’s Manuela Moelgg and American Mikaela Shiffrin.

It was a performance reminiscent of British ski jumper Eddie “The Eagle” Edwards, who stole the hearts of fans around the world with his all-too-brief attempts at getting airborne during the 1988 Calgary Olympics. Roared on by around 150 of North Korea’s famed “Army of Beauties” cheerleaders sporting red and white puffer jackets and dark glasses, the 25-year-old Kim punched the air as she crossed the line in one piece.

“I was greatly supported by our cheer group,” said the diminutive North Korean. “I had confidence that North Korea could one day compete in international competition. In the future I hope to be able to win a medal.” North Korea is said to have just one ski resort, the brainchild of the country’s leader Kim Jong Un, although it is often empty except for the nursery slope, according to media reports.

But the secretive state has sent 22 athletes, including alpine skiers, to take part in the Olympics in South Korea as part of a charm offensive after months of bellicose rhetoric and provocative missile launches. Of the 22, only pairs skaters Ryom Tae Ok and



**Kim Ryon Hyang**

Kim Ju Sik reached the Olympic qualifying standard with the rest—including slalom skier Kim—getting a special invite.

North Korea’s female cheerleaders have appeared at venues, serenading local fans with nostalgic love songs being “one nation” while waving the blue unification flag. The skier Kim is set to try again in Thursday’s second run, when she could potentially finish a combined minute outside the top times. — AFP



## Sports

Friday, February 16, 2018



# 'Super-cool' Shiffrin wins Olympic giant slalom gold

## Dream start in her quest to win multiple gold

**PYEONGCHANG:** American Mikaela Shiffrin got off to a dream start in her quest to win multiple gold at the Pyeongchang Olympics by storming to victory in the giant slalom yesterday.

The 22-year-old, who won slalom gold in Sochi four years ago, produced an explosive second run to beat Norway's Ragnhild Mowinckel to the title by 0.39 seconds as Italian Federica Brignone took bronze. Shiffrin sank to her knees and sobbed tears of joy before hugging her coaches as Italy's Manuela Moelgg, running last of the title contenders, failed to reproduce the form that saw her pip the favourite in the morning.

"I don't know how to explain it. It's crazy. There's so much emotion," Shiffrin said. "To come to the Olympics after some tough races on the World Cup circuit and to charge like that—I risked it on the second run—it's super-cool."

It was a clutch win for Shiffrin after all the hype in the build-up to the Games surrounding her assault on at least four of the women's alpine skiing's disciplines. It was also a long time coming after poor weather caused havoc with the sched-

ule earlier this week.

Shiffrin quickly clawed back the two tenths of a second Moelgg gained on her after the first run with an aggressive ski and powered over the line in 1min 9.20sec for a combined time of 2:20.02.

Mowinckel, fourth after the morning run, came through to take silver as Brignone kept her first-run position to claim bronze. Tessa Worley, the French world champion expected to push Shiffrin hard for the title, recovered from a disastrous first run that left her with no chance for gold to clock 1:09.00, but it was only enough to lift her to seventh.

Shiffrin, who has racked up 41 World Cup wins, was supposed to have completed her best two disciplines—the slalom and giant slalom—earlier this week. But gusting winds that forced the postponements of the alpine skiing and the resulting delays could yet complicate her quest to medal in potentially five events. Germany's Viktoria Rebensburg, who captured gold in Vancouver and bronze in Sochi, just missed out on a medal as she produced a quick 1:09.15 that pushed her to fourth after being only eighth fastest in the morning. — AFP

Shiffrin sank to her knees and sobbed tears of joy



(L-R) Norway's silver medallist Ragnhild Mowinckel, USA's gold medallist Mikaela Shiffrin and Italy's bronze medallist Federica Brignone pose on the podium during the medal ceremony for the women's alpine skiing giant slalom at the Pyeongchang Medals Plaza during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang on February 1. — AFP

## Five-times Olympian Lassila bows out in disappointment

**PYEONGCHANG:** Australian Lydia Lassila took a huge breath, looked down at her coach and then went for it, the final jump of an illustrious career that spanned five Olympic Games.

It was far from the perfect ending, however, as she crumpled on her landing during qualification for the final of the women's aerials yesterday, failing to make it through. The 36-year-old, an Olympic champion in Vancouver eight years ago and a bronze medallist in Sochi four years later, had already decided to bow out after Pyeongchang, no matter the result.

Speaking to reporters after her final jump, she confirmed her retirement. "I am going to retire, which I'm kind of looking forward to as well," she said. "I've had a great career. It hasn't been easy."

"I have loved every minute and whilst it's horrible now and I'll probably go home and cry for a few hours in disappointment, I'm grateful for my health, the opportunity, for what this sport taught me."

Lassila finished a painful 14th in qualifying, but said she can now see through the disappointment to reflect on an incredible career that



Lydia Lassila

spanned over 17 years. "I'm in one piece and we've got two Australians in the final, I've got two Olympic medals. On reflection it's not so bad," she said.

"You've got to let it go and what's done is done. I'm sad to not be in the finals and I'm sure a lot of competitors are happy that I'm not in the finals. "But you win some and you lose some and unfortunately today was not my day."

Lassila added that aerials had given her so much in her life and she was always thankful to the sport. "It's stripped me down to my core," she said. "I know who I am and I'm really grateful for that opportunity. Peace out." — Reuters

## No NHLers, no interest as Canada roll to easy win

**GANGNEUNG:** Canada opened their defence of their Olympic men's ice hockey gold medal with a workmanlike 5-1 win over Switzerland yesterday in a muted contest that failed to fill the Kwandong Hockey Centre.

What would have been one of the hottest tickets at any of the five previous Olympics featuring a Canadian team loaded with National Hockey League stars playing in their tournament opener was treated with disinterest as the world's best players sat these Games out.

With the NHL deciding to end its Olympic involvement Canada was forced to assemble a roster of mostly anonymous journeymen and minor leaguers, the absence of marquee names having a bigger impact on attendance than on the ice as Canada rolled to a confidence-boosting win.

"You didn't really know what to expect it's been a long process we knew the Swiss would have a good and that they would play hard," Canada coach Willie Desjardins told reporters. "It was good for us to get out and get a couple

of goals early.

"I think it let everybody see on our team where we are at and what we can do. We've still got lots of tough hockey ahead of us." Canada would usually be the main attraction packing the largest venue but on Thursday the gold medalists were relegated to the smaller arena used primarily for women's hockey while the host South Koreans took on the Czech Republic across town at the main arena. Large swathes of empty seats and just 2,802 spectators added up to a flat atmosphere inside the arena that a day earlier had been rattling with excitement for a women's hockey game between a united Korean team and Japan. — Reuters



**Matches on TV**  
(Local Timings)

**SPANISH LEAGUE**  
Girona v Leganes 23:00  
beIN SPORTS HD 3

**GERMAN BUNDESLIGA**  
Hertha Berlin v FSV Mainz 22:30  
beIN SPORTS HD 5

**FRENCH LEAGUE**  
Monaco v Dijon 22:45  
beIN SPORTS HD 6



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**PYEONGCHANG:** Germany's gold medallists Aljona Savchenko and Bruno Massot (R) pose on the podium during the medal ceremony for the figure skating pair event at the Pyeongchang Medals Plaza during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang yesterday. — AFP

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