



**2** Amir hosts sports officials, affirms non-stop support



**4** A dream comes true with Kuwait 'Skydive and Fly'



**17** At Detroit auto show, trucks and SUVs take center stage



**16** Sublime Federer breezes through Melbourne opener



## Kuwait ranked as most food-secure Arab nation

### Sustainability, agro investments, fish stocks key

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait ranks first in the Arab region in a global ranking of how well countries can feed their own people, a group of food security specialists revealed. Food security in Kuwait is not limited to adequate supply; rather, salubrity and food freshness are among factors taken into account in efforts to grant the populace unlimited access to food. In separate statements to KUNA yesterday, a number of food security experts pointed out that concrete steps the Kuwaiti government has taken to address food security have paid ultimate dividends, which has made the country the Arab region's most food secure nation in 2014 and 2017.

Meanwhile, on a global scale of food security, Kuwait claimed the 26th spot out of 113 nations in 2017, according to research carried out by the "Economist Intelligence Unit", a British business providing forecast and advisory services through research and analysis.

Addressing this issue, Kuwait's Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri, who presides over the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish

Resources (PAAAFR), attributed the country's food security to foolproof plans the government has set. He cited the World Health Organization's (WHO) comprehensive definition of food security, which stresses the hygiene, safety and wholesomeness of the food consumed.

On food security, PAAAFR's Director General Faisal Al-Hasawi underscored sustainability as key to build a food-secure nation, saying that PAAAFR has a myriad of plans in the works to prop up the country's agricultural sector. Hasawi spoke of Kuwait's eagerness to attract investment in agricultural production, adding that foreign exports are significant to maintain a steady supply of food.

In a country with a rich maritime tradition, Hasawi's deputy Dr Ali Al-Fares said preserving Kuwait's dwindling fish stocks is crucial to keep food security intact. He added that increasing fish production is the only way to increase stocks, citing a number of endeavors PAAAFR has undertaken to achieve this. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** A woman admires a gigantic fruit display at the Horeca Kuwait exhibition at the Mishref fairgrounds yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

#### News in brief

##### Qatar urged to employ Salvadorans

**DOHA:** El Salvador wants some of its 200,000 nationals facing potential deportation from the United States to be recruited by Qatar, the central American country's foreign minister said yesterday. Speaking on a visit to the Gulf state - one of the world's richest countries which is set to host the 2022 World Cup - Hugo Martinez said El Salvador had "very, very skilled" workers to offer Qatar. Martinez said he was in negotiations with Qatari business leaders and officials about securing temporary employment for Salvadorans. The two countries are also in talks to launch direct flights from Qatar to El Salvador, according to Martinez. Some 90 per cent of the almost 2.7 million people living in Qatar are from overseas, though currently there are only thought to be around 100 from El Salvador. Washington this week announced the end of a special protected status for Salvadoran immigrants in the US.

##### Fatwa against suicide bombings

**ISLAMABAD:** More than 1,800 Pakistani Muslim clerics have issued an Islamic directive, or fatwa, forbidding suicide bombings, in a book unveiled by the government yesterday. Seeking to curb "terrorism" that has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties since the early 2000s, the clerics declared suicide bombings to be forbidden, or "haram". "This fatwa provides a strong base for the stability of a moderate Islamic society," Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain wrote in the book, prepared by the state-run International Islamic University and released at an official ceremony. The fatwa was ratified by a number of prominent clerics who are outspoken critics of liberalism and the West, and are seen as controversial for preaching sectarianism or supporting the Afghan Taliban. Similar anti-suicide bombing fatwas appear to have yielded scant results in the Middle East, where the practice is used by Islamic State and other militant groups.

##### UAE to complain to UN body

**DUBAI:** The United Arab Emirates will lodge a complaint against Qatar at the United Nations' aviation agency after Qatari war planes allegedly intercepted UAE civilian aircraft, a UAE official said yesterday. The UAE said on Monday that Qatari air force jets had intercepted two UAE civilian aircraft on routine commercial flights to Bahrain. Qatar has said the claims are "completely untrue". The UAE will accuse Qatar of violating the Chicago Convention, which governs the use of airspace, in a complaint to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). UAE General Civil Aviation Authority Director-General Saif Mohammed Al-Suwaidi told Reuters. He said the UAE aircraft had been intercepted in airspace managed by Bahrain. He declined to say whether their flight paths had taken them across Qatar, the most common route from the UAE to Bahrain. The UAE has banned Qatari aircraft from using its airspace as part of the restrictions imposed since June. Qatar has not reciprocated.

### PM stays Jamal Abdul Nasser Park construction

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

**KUWAIT:** After three years of campaigning by environmental activists, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday ordered the suspension of any construction by the government or the private sector in Jamal Abdul Nasser Park in Rawda. Third constituency MP Mohammed Al-Dallal tweeted the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers will

issue a written decision in accordance to the directives of the premier.

A number of reports have been published by Kuwait Times on this issue, as the park is a green lung for residents of Rawda and Adailiya. It also has a great historical value, because it is the second oldest public park in Kuwait after Al-Shaheed Park (formerly known as the Green Belt).

In October last year, a number of residents of the area and environmental activists gathered in front of the park demanding intervention from the National Assembly to stop the construction of a bank branch and a Quran House on 1,500 sq m of parkland. MPs Dallal and Ahmed Al-Fadhl were among those attending the vigil, while more than 400 residents of Rawda signed a petition against it.



**KUWAIT:** A view of Jamal Abdul Nasser Park in Rawda. — Photo by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

### Jordan to increase fuel, bread prices; Sudanese protest

**AMMAN/KHARTOUM:** Jordan is to increase the price of fuel and bread as it seeks tax revenues to redress a debt-riddled economy rattled by the war in neighboring Syria, press reports said yesterday. The latest tax hikes come as resource-poor Jordan faces a public debt of some \$35 billion, equivalent to 90 percent of its gross domestic product. Tax on fuel is to increase from 24 to 30 percent, Jordanian newspapers reported the government as deciding on Monday. And the price of bread is to double from next month, they also reported.

The tax on fizzy drinks is to jump from 10 to 20 percent and cigarettes are to cost 0.20 Jordanian dinar (\$0.28) more per pack than previously. A value-added tax of five percent will also be imposed on jewelry. The government, which hopes to increase tax revenues by \$761 million, also pledged "financial aid" to struggling families affected by the price hikes. Last year, price hikes on an array of goods and services sparked protests in which demonstrators called for the cabinet to resign.

They came after new sales taxes on Internet and mobile use, bread, domestic fuel and petrol, cigarettes and fizzy drinks. In 2016, Jordan secured a \$723 million three-year credit line from the International Monetary Fund to support economic and financial reforms. Jordan's economy has been rattled by the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and the country has taken in hundreds of thousands of refugees from its neighbors,

stretching its meager resources. Some 680,000 Syrians have fled to Jordan since the start of the conflict in their home country in 2011, the UN refugee agency says. Jordan says it hosts 1.3 million Syrians. Jordan says the Syrian crisis has cost it more than \$10 billion over the past five years.

Separately, anti-riot police fired tear gas and beat protesters with batons yesterday as hundreds of Sudanese demonstrated against soaring bread prices near a presidential palace in Khartoum, an AFP correspondent said. Bread prices have more than doubled after a jump in the cost of flour due to dwindling wheat supplies, after the government decided to stop importing grain and allow private companies to do so. The protest was the biggest in Khartoum since demonstrations erupted in some parts of the country earlier this month following the price increase.

Continued on Page 11

### Torture probe after 13 siblings found chained in US home

**PERRIS, California:** Investigators sought to shed light yesterday on how a California couple arrested on suspicion of torture were able to keep their 13 malnourished children - aged 2 to 29 - confined in their suburban home in grim conditions with no one noticing. Sheriff's deputies found some of the children shackled to their beds in filthy conditions Sunday after receiving a 911 call from one of the kids, a 17-year-old girl who managed to escape. She was so emaciated that officers said that at first they thought she was just 10 years old.

"Further investigation revealed several children shackled to their beds with chains and padlocks in dark and foul-smelling surroundings, but the parents were unable to immediately provide a logical reason why their children were restrained in that manner," the Riverside County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. "Deputies located what they believed to be 12 children inside the house, but were shocked to discover that seven of them were actually adults, ranging in age from 18 to 29. The victims appeared to be malnourished and very dirty." Police gave them food and beverages "after they claimed to be starving".

The parents, 57-year-old David Allen Turpin and 49-year-old Louise Anna Turpin, were booked on sus-



**PERRIS, California:** Media gather in front of 160 Muir Woods Road from where authorities rescued 13 malnourished children held captive by their parents, David and Louise Turpin (inset). — AFP

picion of torture and child endangerment with bail set at \$9 million each. Turpin's parents, who live in West Virginia, told ABC News they were "surprised and shocked", adding they had not seen their son or his children in four or five years. Neighbor Julio Reyes, 38, told AFP: "We've seen a couple of teenagers maybe last year mowing the lawn, and you know they put some

Christmas decorations. Never really thought anything of any sort would happen like that."

The Spanish-style stucco house where the victims were allegedly held is located in a middle class neighborhood of Perris, a small city some 110 km southeast of Los Angeles.

Continued on Page 11

## Local

# UN General Assembly President highlights Amir's regional role

## Amir affirms non-stop support for athletes



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah are seen in a group photo with Commerce Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan and senior sports officials.

KUWAIT: President of the UN General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak has extolled His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's leading role on the regional scene, especially in mediation in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) row. In a press statement after a meeting with His Highness the Amir yesterday, Lajcak said that they had discussed several issues, among them the situation in the region. He highly appreciated Kuwait's regional role, and His Highness the Amir "personally in trying to mediate among the GCC countries."

"It was very inspirational for me to hear from His Highness the Amir how he sees situation in the region," he stressed. Kuwait is "well known for its very balanced moderate approach to regional conflicts," he added.

He congratulated Kuwait on being elected as a non-permanent member in the UN Security Council for two years period, as of January 2018. He said that he is looking forward to working "even more closely" with Kuwait during the two years.

Lajcak noted he was "very pleased and grateful for the opportunity" to meet His Highness the Amir, adding that they had reviewed the role Kuwait plays at the UN, which he emphasized as "very positive and constructive."

In addition, he pointed to Kuwait's major philanthropic role on the regional and global levels, saying the country is "highly regarded for its humanitarian and generous assistance." He underscored Kuwait's role at the UN as a country keen on implementing the priorities of the international organization and the UNGA, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Lajcak and His Highness the Amir also addressed preparations for the Global Compact for Migration. Negotiations on the Compact are due to begin in February, and an agreement must be in place in July so that it will be adopted in December. The UN senior official reiterated Kuwait's experience and deep knowledge on how to deal with issues related to migration and migrant workers. "I am absolutely confident that Kuwait will play a very constructive role in these discussions," he concluded.

Lajcak and his accompanying delegation were escorted to their meeting with His Highness the Amir by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Mohammed Barkindo on the occasion of his visit to the country. The receptions were attended by

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rashidi. His Highness the Amir also met with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

### Non-stop support

In other news, His Highness the Amir received Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan, senior officials of the Public Authority for Sport, Chairman of Kuwait Football Association Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah and chairmen of sports clubs. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended the meeting. His Highness the Amir affirmed that he will continue to devote special concern for the athletes, hailing anew well-prepared organization of the 23rd Arabian Gulf Cup Tournament, recently hosted by Kuwait.

The audience was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. Speaking during the meeting, Minister Roudhan expressed on behalf of the sports community deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his continuing support for the Kuwaiti sports, noting that such backing has recently led to lifting the FIFA ban on the national soccer sector and the hosting of the successful Gulf Cup games.

He also spoke highly of His Highness the Crown Prince backing for the sector, noting that the participating GCC teams were impressed with the Kuwaiti clubs' role in organizing the tournament. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef manifested identical sentiments, noting that His Highness the Amir's patronization of the GCC championship and Sheikh Nawaf's attendance of its inauguration constituted main causes for its success.

### New officials

Separately, Roudhan presented to His Highness the Amir Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Dr Humoud Fulaiteh Al-Shimmari, Director General of the Public Authority for Industry Dr Abdulkarim Youssef Taqi, Commerce and Industry Undersecretary Khaled Ali Al-Fadhel and Deputy Director General for Maintenance and Construction Affairs at PAS Sheikh Humoud Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah; all on the occasion of assigning them to their new posts. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf and Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah were also present in the meeting. Roudhan later introduced the new officials to His Highness the Prime

towards the new generation. In June, we will hold an important event that highlights the financing of the sustainable development programs," he explained.

The UN General Assembly has many priorities. "One of our main priorities is to avoid any conflict and protect world peace. The reform process is also a priority, as the world is changing and we have to change according to it. So we will start with two operations in this regard - the first is effecting change in the United Nations, and the second is to rehabilitate and reform the General Assembly," noted Lajcak.

The goals of the 72nd session of the General Assembly include suggestions for change in three sectors. "These changes include the administration, financing and infrastructure departments. This will make the United Nations a stronger organization with an effective role, especially in the humanitarian sector," he pointed out.

"Reforming the budget is part of the secretary general's work. I suggested setting a budget for priority projects that need quick financing. This rehabilitation process was in fact discussed and this suggestion was adopted the General Assembly. This year we approved a budget of \$225 million, which is less than what's needed, but the countries decided to decrease the budget," Lajcak said.

Regarding the role of Kuwait in the GCC dispute, he said that this conflict should be resolved within the region. "I speak on behalf of the international community when I say that the role of Kuwait and HHI the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad in this issue is highly respect-



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Secretary General of OPEC Mohammed Barkindo.

Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince met with Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, in addition to Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister received former US Ambassador to the country Edward Gnehm. The

reception was attended by Director of His Highness the Premier's Diwan Sheikh Etimad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Prime Minister also received Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority General Director and Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Streamlining Business Environment in Kuwait, Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and commission's members. —KUNA

## UN General Assembly eyes better world through sustainable development

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Saud Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday hosted Miroslav Lajcak, President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, who spoke on "The Leadership between the UN General Assembly and the Security Council".

The main plan and program of the 72nd session of the General Assembly focuses on transforming the world into a better place through the sustainable development program. "We will continue working on this development program, but we are facing the problem of financing, so we aim to let the private sector participate," stressed Lajcak.

The development program includes various fields. "Water support for sustainable development is one of the main fields. Then the program also includes organizing an important event for the youth in May and providing information about the role of the United Nations



KUWAIT: Miroslav Lajcak, President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (left) attends a press conference at the Saud Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ed and supported. I believe that no solutions from outside can be better than any agreement reached here in the region. If there is anything that we can do at the

General Assembly, we will do it. I visited the UAE and I will be visiting Qatar, and I hope I will understand the conflict better," concluded Lajcak.



## Local

# Kuwait's Skydive and Fly: A dream come true

## First specialized skydiving center opens in Al-Khairan

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti fans of free skydiving who experienced the sport elsewhere in the world, can now enjoy it at home. The dream has finally come true with the opening of the Kuwait Skydive and Fly center in Al-Khairan, the first specialized one in the country. Stepping inside the center, one soon feels how everyone is enthusiastic, staff and skydivers, amateur and professional. They all look as delighted as ever that the center eventually capped nine years of tireless work. The idea emerged in 2009, and the project took normal channels through official and control bodies until it came into existence and was opened on December 9, 2017. The center offers skydiving training courses for young people in cooperation with the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), as well as other relevant bodies.

It attracts many young people, males and females, of different ages to practice the sport. The Kuwait Skydive and Fly initiative was originated by Ibrahim Al-Rubaian, also founder of the center. "Skydive and Fly is the first Kuwaiti initiative for free skydiving, and is classified under supporting small and medium size enterprises (SMEs)," Rubaian said. Since it was opened, little more than a month ago, the center has attracted many Kuwaiti and Gulf fans. In less than a month, eight amateur skydivers completed a course and received licenses, he said. Skydive has brought

together 20 highly-efficient trainers, with licenses from leading specialized international organizations, including the United States Parachute Association (USPA).

Rubaian referred to a future plan to qualify and employ Kuwaiti youth, so that cadres of the center would be one day "100 percent Kuwaitis." He referred to the challenges that faced them until the center became a reality. They

were the usual routine procedures that encounter any new project, namely official approvals, he said.

All jumps at the center meet the highest standards of safety, federal-certified equipment are used, with a plane and gear checked by a third-party inspector monthly. Staff are required to get re-certified every 18 months, he stressed. The

cost of a tandem training jump costs KD 160 (\$531), while a course to get a qualification and a license hits KD 1,000 (\$3,200). Free skydive, for licensed visitors, only costs KD 9.5 (\$31.5).

Rubaian thanked PAS and the DGCA, and the sports for all department for their support to Skydive and Fly. "I began to practice the sport in 2011, when I was studying at the US, then in many other countries I visited," Jassim Al-Harbi, a fan said. Totally Al-Harbi performed 1,200 jumps. He said that the sport also offers him the chance to exchange experience with other fans of the adventure. Harbi noted that Skydive and Fly saved much money and



KUWAIT: A man practices skydiving at the Kuwait Skydive and Fly center in Al-Khairan. — KUNA

time as one can now enjoy his favorite sport at home.

Dr Marwa Al-Balohsi has been in skydive since 2010, when she was still a student in the US. She said that it was not easy to continue the sport after she completed her studies and returned home. Sometimes, she flew to

the UAE to enjoy skydiving. But now Skydive and Fly has made great change. There are up to 100 volunteers, males and females, at the center. They are over 18, and meet the required conditions for skydiving especially health fitness. —KUNA

## Horeca Kuwait 2018 witnesses various activities on second day

**KUWAIT:** The activities of Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition continued for a second day yesterday inside Hall 8 at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref, where huge numbers of specialized visitors showed up. Furthermore, a large number of people visited pavilions of participating companies which specialize in hospitality, food industries and hotel equipment.

The second day of the exhibition witnessed new activities held for the first time since Horeca Kuwait's inception seven years ago. The activities included a one-hour symposium organized by a team from Boecker International for Food Safety and Quality on the solutions the company presents to restaurants, hotels and food industry companies to ensure food safety. The symposium was presented by Boecker's administrative associate Abraham Hilal.

Notably, Boecker provides quality health services in various Middle Eastern countries including Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Boecker services match the ISO 9001:2008 specifications. The company is also registered with local authorities and is a member in the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH).

In this regard, Leaders Group Company for Consultancies and Development, which organizes the exhibition jointly with the Lebanese Hospitality Services Company, said that such symposiums were held for the first time, and stressed that they meet both sponsors and participants' needs. The first day of the exhibition witnessed another symposium on the effect of food blogs on restaurant projects in general, which was moderated by Iqbal Al-Haddad, American University of the Middle East (AUM) Professor and Deputy Chairperson of the International Advertising Association, and featured Dntsu Aegis Fuse CEO Kareem Beitar, OMADIA's Deputy Director Mohammed Suwaidan and the MLA's Senior Chef Tareq Ibrahim.

The first day also witnessed a display by a commercial team from South Africa sponsored by the country's embassy in Kuwait. Furthermore, it included open competitions and discussion of trade and investment in the food sector. The first day's evening also witnessed further competitions after which the winners were awarded.

## Jumla Club launched at Horeca 2018

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti youth have several projects in fields that include commerce, services, technology, tourism and the food industry. In each project, entrepreneurs try to prove their creativity in various fields through overcoming many obstacles and challenges with great confidence, ultimately achieving success.

Many of those ideas started with a group of positive friends who strive for achievement, such as those behind the Jumla Club: a unique project in Kuwait and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. This project, which was executed by Yousef Al-Marzouq, Dr Mohammed Ghloom and

Dr Abdul Aziz Ghloom, provides an e-platform serving restaurants, cafes and hotels in Kuwait with supplies, food services, as well as their packaging and canning needs.

Speaking about the project, Marzouq and Ghloom expressed their happiness about launching it at Horeca Kuwait 2018 one day before the exhibition's inauguration, saying that this helped them receive early requests from hotels, restaurants and cafe owners. They added that they started working on the project in May 2017, adding that their project currently includes 21 suppliers and over 10,000 products. "The Jumla Club is an e-platform for all food stuff and supply companies," they underlined, noting that registration in the club is free.

Marzouq and Ghloom added that members can browse online through their website for various products easily and save much time and effort. They also noted that the idea came in order to them to meet market needs for materials as they themselves were restaurant owners.



Officials pose with members of a commercial team from South Africa, who organized a function sponsored by the country's embassy in Kuwait at the Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition.



KUWAIT: Creators of the Jumla Club e-platform participate in Horeca Kuwait 2018.



KUWAIT: People attend a symposium held as part of the Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition.

## KFH takes part in Horeca Kuwait 2018

**KUWAIT:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade and International Organizations Affairs Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah hailed Kuwait Finance House's (KFH) role in boosting the national economy and its keenness to participate in the HORECA Kuwait

2018 exhibition as the main sponsor. Horeca Kuwait 2018 is organized at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref from January 15-17, 2018. The exhibition is an important venue through which those interested in hospitality, hotels and food industries could meet and explore the latest in the business as well as communicate with experts and specialists.

KFH sponsors such national events that contribute in diversifying investment activities as well as enhancing non-oil businesses as it aims to boost the economic and commercial movements in general. Nearly 900 companies across the world are participating in the exhibition.



KUWAIT: Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah poses with KFH officials.

Local

# Demographic imbalance puts great pressure on resources: Official

## Authority hosts symposium on economic reform programs

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** There is imbalance in Kuwait's demographic structure that puts enormous pressure on Kuwait's financial resources and infrastructure, an official said yesterday while discussing challenges facing the Kuwaiti economy.

"One of the challenges is the demography of the labor force and the educational level of expatriate labor, where 40 percent of the workers do not hold university degrees," said Abdulwahab Al-Rasheed, Deputy Head of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Economic Society.

"Furthermore, there is a need to create jobs as soon as possible, and the market's needs must be linked to educational output."

Rasheed made his statements during a seminar held by the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (KANCOR) yesterday on 'economic reform programs and their impact in combating financial and administrative corruption'.

### Financial disclosure

Assistant Secretary-General of KANCOR Salem Ali Al-Ali started the seminar by discussing the financial disclosure clause and its impact on strengthening the economy of Kuwait. "The categories required to provide financial disclosures include the executive authority, legislative authority, judiciary, cooperatives and sports bodies and companies to which the state directly contributes 25 percent," he said.

Ali stressed that this makes an employee practice control and monitor their actions, thus fighting corruption and bribery and protecting state funds. He explained that the financial disclosure

also contributes to the reduction of tax and customs evasion and create an attractive environment free of financial corruption and bribery, reflecting positively on attracting foreign investors. "When the investor feels confident in investing in Kuwait, there will be macroeconomic reform," he added.

Meanwhile, Rasheed spoke about 'reforming Policies and Improving the Competitiveness and Transparency of the Kuwaiti Economy'. "There are many challenges facing the Kuwaiti economy, such as the administrative system, where there is a lack of a strategy for administrative reform and the continuation of administrative obstacles - a lack of efficiency and the rigidity in the

application of laws," he said. Rasheed also pointed out to Kuwait's economic dependence on oil, no taxation, and lack ongoing reform effort, which pose challenges to the Kuwaiti economy.

### No implementation

Salah Mohammad Al-Ghazali, Founder and President of Kuwait Transparency Society, explained 'the role of civil society organizations in economic reform'. He said a lack of an effective implementation strategy between the technical team and the political team has resulted in a mess, where most of the programs are excellent but not implemented, which leads to large penalties. Ghazali pointed out a lot of projects were canceled and cost the state millions, especially at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, adding that the State Audit Bureau released 14 pages of a report full of violations in the oil sector. He hoped the government will address these irregularities and imbalances.



## Challenges facing Kuwaiti economy



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Abdulwahab Al-Rasheed, Deputy Head of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Economic Society, Assistant Secretary-General of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority Salem Ali Al-Ali, and President of Kuwait Transparency Society Salah Mohammad Al-Ghazali. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Farwaniya discusses national celebrations

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah yesterday headed the meetings of the committees entrusted with organizing the national anniversaries' ceremonies due to be launched on January 29, 2018 with an event to hoist the Kuwaiti flag. During the meetings, the governor stressed the need to make this year's ceremonies different than previous events held in the governorate. Notably, the ceremonies would go on for four days including a ceremony at the Avenues Mall on February 8, the governorate's ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on February 14, a third one at Kuwait International Airport on February 22 and 23, in addition to an event at the Popular Cafe.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah

Offer valid from 17.01.2018 to 27.01.2018 or until stocks last. Purchase Limit May Apply.

 <b>0.640</b> Capri-Sun Juice Drink Assorted 200ml 10's /Pack	 <b>0.795</b> Kdcow UHT milk 1 Ltr 4's	 <b>0.990</b> Nescafe 3 in 1 My Cup Stick 20gm 24's	 <b>1.795</b> Kelloggs Corn Flakes 1kg + Tin Free	 <b>1.190</b> McVitie's Digestive Biscuit 400gm 2's
 <b>0.895</b> Nesquik Whole Grain Cereals 375gm	 <b>0.845</b> Lay's Chips Assorted 23gm x 14 (Chilli/Salt/French Cheese/Salt & Vinegar)	 <b>1.850</b> KitKat Finger 20.5gm 36's	 <b>2.190</b> New Zealand Chilled Lamb Forequarter /kg	 <b>4.990</b> White Pomfret (Medium) /kg
 <b>3.490</b> Hamour Fish /kg	 <b>0.995</b> Avocado (Kenya) per kg	 <b>1.695</b> Cherry Carton	 <b>0.495</b> Tomato (Kuwait) Box	 <b>129.000</b> Samsung 49" Smart LED TV 49J5200
 <b>229.000</b> Samsung Galaxy Smart Phone Note 8	 <b>3.395</b> Ariel Washing Powder 2.5 kg 2's	 <b>6.850</b> Pampers Mega Box 104,112, 120,136's	 <b>8.900</b> First Kid School Trolley Assorted Characters Value Pack/Set	



Pope expresses "pain and shame" over sex scandals

## Prominent Kosovo Serb politician assassinated



GAZA: A Palestinian man loads a horse-pulled cart with food donations outside the United Nations food distribution centre in Gaza City. —AFP

# Palestinians see peace dividend pass by

## Israel, Egypt border restrictions deepen hardship

**GAZA:** Life began to look up for Gaza's Palestinians when reconciliation between its Hamas Islamist rulers and the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority in October brought a drop in crippling prices. Three months on, discount stickers still adorn goods from clothes to cars but few of the two million people in the enclave blockaded by Israel are buying. Although Hamas handed administrative control to the Western-backed PA, which lifted tax surcharges Hamas had imposed on businesses, making room for the price cuts, the rival leaderships are still arguing.

The result is that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who heads the PA, has not reversed a 30 percent wage cut he imposed in April on 60,000 civil servants who stayed on the PA's payroll when the authority lost control of Gaza to Hamas in 2007. Many of those employees are now mired in debt to banks for loans they took out to get by. The salary reductions "deprived the Gaza market of \$160 million in the past eight months", said Maher Al-Tabbaa, an official with the Chamber of Commerce.

For individuals, the consequences are stark. In a Gaza pharmacy this week, Umm Ahmed considered which medicines on the prescription she had been given for her son she could afford. "Even in my dreams I never thought we would live through such misery," she said as she chose two painkillers and left more expensive antibiotics in the drug store. Tabbaa said any economic improvement in Gaza was largely dependent on Israel lifting the tight border restrictions it imposed after Hamas took power, a view that echoes World Bank reports over the years.

Israel cites security concerns for the measures, which include a naval blockade, an almost blanket ban on exports from the territory and restrictions on the import of items such as steel in case militants use them to make arms or fortifications. Battling an Islamist insurgency in the Sinai desert that borders Gaza, Egypt, the main mediator of inter-Palestinian reconciliation, also invokes security considerations in keeping its border with the enclave largely closed.

**International concern**  
 Many countries, concerned over deepening economic hardship in Gaza, have urged more open borders. The World Bank said in September alleviating restrictions on the movement of goods and people would allow



### Gaza consumers still reeling from salary cuts

critical trade to rebuild infrastructure and economy, both hit hard by a seven-week war between Israel and Gaza militants in 2014. Some 550 Gaza traders had permission to enter Israel as of December 2017, a

drop of 85 percent since late 2015, according to a Palestinian committee that transfers entry requests to Israeli authorities.

Israel has said some permits were used to arrange smuggling of material, weapons or money to militants. The World Bank projected real GDP growth of 4.0 percent in Gaza for 2017, not enough to prevent a near stagnation in real per capita income and an increase in unemployment. Tabbaa put current unemployment in Gaza at 46 percent.

#### Weak sales

"Metro" the second largest supermarket in Gaza, said sales had dropped to their lowest point since the business opened several years ago. "People are only buying the very basic things, the most important of the important stuff," Khalil Al-Yazji, one of the owners, said. "We are unable to cover operating costs." The supermarket has dropped some staff and cut back on imports, fearing new stocks would only

expire on the shelves. In Gaza's once bustling Old Market, spice store owner Mamdouh Zeineldeen said he might have to close his business. "Markets are collapsing, just like reconciliation," he said.

The effects of armed conflict and economic woes in Gaza are also evident at Kerem Shalom, the only commercial crossing between Israel and the territory. Some 800 to 1,000 truckloads of goods for Gaza pass through Kerem Shalom every day, but Tabbaa said that number dropped to 400 in recent weeks after merchants cut imports due to weak consumer demand. Tensions have also risen since President Donald Trump reversed decades of US policy on Dec 6 by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Sixteen Palestinian protesters have been killed in clashes with police and Gaza militants have launched 18 cross-border rockets or mortar bombs into Israel, which has responded with air strikes. The exchange of fire has largely avoided casualties, but two Palestinian gunmen were killed in one retaliatory strike. — Reuters

## Melania - enigmatic US first lady

**NEW YORK:** Groomed to perfection yet rarely heard in public, Melania Trump is an enigma—a first lady whose opinions, marriage and goals remain a mystery to millions of Americans. She is without question a unique first lady: a former model who once posed nude in her husband's private jet; the first foreign-born wife of a US president in nearly 200 years; and the first for whom English is a second language.

A year after channeling Jacqueline Kennedy in powder blue Ralph Lauren at her husband's inauguration, Trump has yet to embrace a cause, as did Michelle Obama with her anti-obesity campaign or Laura Bush and her literacy program. For months, she stayed in New York, refusing to move to the White House until her young son Barron—of whom she is said to be fiercely protective—finished the school year. She is infrequently seen in Washington and costing law enforcement tens of thousands of dollars a day in protection.

"She is still an enigma after a year," says Katherine Jellison, a professor of history at Ohio University who has researched US first ladies. "I don't think the American people feel that they know the real woman yet." Her campaign-era pledge to fight against cyber-bullying has never come to light and saw her mercilessly criticized given her husband Donald's own reputation as something of a Twitter bully. As the 47-year-old wife of a 71-year-old man known for past lewd remarks about women, and who divorced his two previous wives in a blaze of tabloid publicity, she is dogged by speculation that they lead largely separate lives.

#### 'Air of mystery'

An explosive account about life in the White House alleged that she cried on election night and that even in Trump Tower, the couple spent "days at a time without contact." "People are still trying to figure out the relationship between the president and the first lady, and I think



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump looks up as he chats with First Lady Melania Trump from the balcony of the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

those kind of questions feed into the air of mystery," said Jellison. Unlike the Harvard-educated Obama, Trump makes few public speeches—perhaps not surprising after her address at the Republican National Convention in 2016 exploded into a plagiarism row, and given that she has been lampooned for her strong Slovenian accent.

A devoted mother, her most direct communication is a carefully curated social media profile: photographs of herself impeccably groomed, often interacting with young children, or messages of comfort in times of national tragedy. That could not be more different from the articulate, ever-present Obama, the Afghanistan-visiting Bush or the politically engaged, if unpopular, Hillary Clinton. "To find a first lady as enigmatic as Melania Trump, we have to go back to the late '40s and early '50s," said Jellison. In particular, she cites Bess Truman, wife of Harry and first lady from 1945 to 1953. — AFP

## Indian inmates to undergo 'cow therapy'

**NEW DELHI:** Indian inmates are to be exposed to the "magical power" of cows under a radical rehabilitation program involving rearing the beasts—revered by Hindus—on prison grounds, authorities said yesterday. A government commission in Haryana tasked with protecting the sacred animals says it has earmarked \$1.5 million for buying 600 cows and constructing barns in six prisons across the northern Indian state from next month. Zealous efforts to safeguard the holy animal have surged under the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that rules federally under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and controls 19 states, including Haryana.

The chairman of Haryana's government-backed Gau Sewa Aayog, or Cow Welfare Commission, said prisoners would be steered away from a life

of crime through the "cow therapy" program. "Cows are part of the Hindu religion, and they have magical powers on those who care for her," commission chairman Bhani Ram Mangla told AFP, extolling the "innumerable benefits". Mangla said fresh milk from the beasts would "cleanse" inmates through a program that would also sell cow dung and urine from the prison farms to local markets. Believers attest that drinking cow urine is a panacea for all manner of ailments, from arthritis and asthma to cancer and diabetes.

Biogas facilities would also provide energy for the prisons and grass for feeding would be cultivated on site, he added. It is not the first time Indian prisons have welcomed cows in their grounds, with some operating small-scale dairy farms to supply milk to wardens and other staff, but it is believed to be the first program of its kind promoting the remedial benefits of the hallowed animal. Welfare schemes for cows have flourished since Modi swept to power in 2014, but many shelters for abandoned animals are at bursting point and many can be seen roaming Indian streets, chewing on rubbish. — AFP

International

# Minorities in northern Iraq look to post-jihadist future

## Places of worship targeted, destroyed by Islamic State

**BARTALLA:** A Christmas tree stands on a roundabout in Bartalla in northern Iraq, its base adorned by posters of Shabak martyrs killed in the fight against the Islamic State group. Now that victory has been declared against the jihadists, Iraq's ethnic and religious minorities are taking the future into their own hands. In Baz Gerkan village, where fighting damaged or destroyed most of the houses, Shabak residents have rebuilt their school themselves.

A few kilometers away, they have restored the shrine of Imam Rida, the eighth of Shiite Islam's 12 imams, which was blown up by the Sunni Muslim jihadists who consider Shiites to be heretics. Shabaks, who number around 60,000 in Iraq, have their own language and say they first settled in the Arab country several centuries ago from northern Iran. Their places of worship, such as those of Christians, Yazidis and other minorities, were targeted by IS, and many fled their homes during the three years of jihadist occupation.

There are now only 400,000 Christians in Iraq against more than one million before the US-led invasion of 2003, making up three percent of the country's population along with Yazidis, Sabians and Shabaks. Today, several months after the entire northern province of Nineveh was retaken from the jihadists, churches and monasteries have been restored. And for the first time in four years last December, Christmas carols were heard.

### Yazidis rebuild their temples

The Kurdish-speaking Yazidi minority has also managed to rebuild 20 of 23 temples destroyed by the jihadists in the Bashiqa area, east of Iraq's second city Mosul. "All this was done thanks to donations from Yazidis and other inhabitants of the region," said Hilal Ali, who is in charge of the Yazidi sites of worship. Mutassem Abed, 47, is a Shiite who joined the Hashed Al-Shaabi coalition of paramilitary units following a call to arms in 2004 by Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, Iraq's most senior Shiite cleric. The Hashed was formed specifically to counter the rise of IS in the country, and played a key role in the jihadists' defeat in 2017.

Now that the fighting has ended, Abed is looking to

his future. "We must rebuild a sanctuary that is even more beautiful and even bigger, to say to IS that it did not win," the Shabak fighter said, wearing a parka over his uniform. Life may slowly be returning to normal, but many checkpoints have been set up, usually manned by members of Hashed units from the Shabak, Turkmen, Christian or Yazidi minorities. Iraq is relying on local forces to maintain security on the ground, after declaring in December that the war against IS had been won. Such fighters know the local people, speak their languages and can easily spot any intruders, commanders say.

### Fighters with local knowledge

"Even before IS, other terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda tried to chase out minorities," said Zein Al-Abidine Jamil, a Shabak commander with the Hashed. Another Bartalla Shabak, a policeman manning a checkpoint in the old part of Mosul, recalled the days when he could only enter the city under escort. "Mosul? I went there on patrol. But never in a personal capacity. A lone Shiite? That would have been madness!" he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sunni Muslims are a minority in Iraq, but in Mosul they form the majority and also have a presence in villages around the city. The Shabak minority has a small Sunni community within it. But, residents say, many of them joined IS and were killed. Others fled with their families, joining the ranks of the displaced. Today, several months after Nineveh province was rid of IS, "we are directly responsible for the security of citizens", said Jamil.

Because of their local knowledge, such fighters were a major asset to the armed forces in their fightback against IS. But human rights groups have charged that some minorities targeted by the jihadists were themselves guilty of abuses. In December, the New York-based Human Rights Watch accused Yazidi fighters of executing 52 civilians in apparent revenge killings after capturing territory from the jihadists. HRW said those killed included women and children, and came from eight families of the Sunni tribe Al-Bu Metewut who were fleeing clashes between IS and pro-government militias north of Mosul.—AFP



There are now only 400,000 Iraq Christians



**QARYAT BAZKARTAN:** Iraqi boys, from the Shabak community, clear the rubble around their house which was destroyed by Islamic State (IS) group jihadists in the village of Baz Gerkan, east of Mosul. —AFP

## Turkey president vows to uproot 'nests' of terror

**ANKARA:** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday vowed Turkey would soon begin an operation against towns in Syria controlled by Kurdish militia, calling the areas "nests" of terror. The Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia controls key Syrian northern towns including Manbij and Afrin and is an ally of the US but Ankara accuses the group of being a terror organization. "Tomorrow, (or) the day after, (or) within a short period, we will get rid of terror nests one-by-one in

Syria starting with Afrin and Manbij" in northern Syria, Erdogan promised in his weekly televised speech to his faction in parliament. Turkey, which from August 2016 to March 2017 waged its Euphrates Shield cross-border operation in Syria, has repeatedly threatened a new operation against the YPG.

But Erdogan has stepped up the warnings in recent days as Turkish media said dozens of military vehicles were being deployed to the border area. Erdogan told reporters after that the Afrin operation would be undertaken "together" with Syrian opposition fighters, like the Euphrates Shield action against the YPG and the Islamic State extremist group. Turkey says the YPG is a branch of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged an insurgency inside Turkey since 1984. But the issue has caused tension with the United States, which has handed weaponry to the YPG as a key player on the ground in the fight against IS.—AFP

# Kuwait Aviation Show 2018

## Kuwait International Airport

17 to 20 January 2018

BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.kuwaitaviationshow.com](http://www.kuwaitaviationshow.com)

Air Show • International Companies • More Than 50 Airplanes

Visiting hours are from 9 am - 5 pm  
Open to public on 19 - 20 January 2018  
Entrance granted to those over 14 years of age

<p><b>UNDER THE SUPPORT OF:</b></p>	<p><b>PLATINUM SPONSORS:</b></p>	<p><b>MEDIA PARTNERS:</b></p>
<p><b>CO-SPONSORS:</b></p>	<p><b>HOTEL PARTNERS:</b></p>	<p><b>TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS:</b></p>

## International

# Vancouver meeting pushes N Korea to abandon nukes

## Beijing sees meeting as example of 'Cold War' thinking

**VANCOUVER:** A meeting of states that backed South Korea in the Korean war will look at ways to better implement sanctions to push North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons, officials said, even as the North and South explore detente ahead of next month's Winter Olympics. Foreign ministers and senior officials from 20 nations held a full-day meeting in Vancouver yesterday, hosted by the United States and Canada, looking to increase diplomatic and financial pressure on North Korea to give up development of nuclear missiles capable of hitting the United States, a program that has raised fears of a new war.

Canadian and US officials say the meeting will discuss ways to ensure implementation of wide-ranging UN sanctions, including steps agreed last month to further limit Pyongyang's access to refined petroleum products, crude oil and industrial goods. Brian Hook, the US State Department's director of policy planning, said last week that participants, including US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, would probe how to boost maritime security around North Korea and options to interdict ships carrying prohibited goods in violation of sanctions.

The Vancouver meeting primarily groups nations that assisted South Korea in the 1950-53 Korean War, as well as South Korea and Japan. China and Russia, which backed the North in the war but have since agreed to UN sanctions on Pyongyang, will not be attending. South Korea and the United States are technically still at war with the North because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a truce, not a peace treaty.

### Tensions easing?

The meeting was announced after North Korea tested its biggest ever intercontinental ballistic missile in late

November, but now comes amid signs that tensions on the Korean peninsula are easing, at least temporarily. North and South Korea held formal talks this month for the first time in two years and Pyongyang said it would send athletes across the border to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics to be held in South Korea next month.

China, North Korea's main ally and principal trading partner, has backed successive rounds of U.N. sanctions, but has also urged dialogue to solve the crisis. It has reacted angrily to the Vancouver meeting as an example of "Cold War" thinking. China's state media said Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a phone call with US President Donald Trump, stressed that a hard-earned alleviation of tensions must continue.

"Maintaining international unity on the issue is extremely important," Xi said. China was ready to work with the United States to resolve the issue in an appropriate way, state broadcaster CCTV quoted the Chinese leader as saying.

China's special envoy for North Korea Kong Xuanyou, speaking in an interview with Phoenix Television on Monday, urged the United States to seize the opportunity to seek direct talks with North Korea. China's state-run Global Times newspaper said the Vancouver meeting reflected Washington's desire to "highlight its dominant role in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue and cripple the clout of China and Russia." "But the meeting will likely accomplish little," it said in an editorial. Diplomats say China's absence will limit what can be achieved, while North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has shown no sign of being willing to bow to pressure to give up weapons he sees as vital to his survival.

### Sanctions 'gaps'

The White House on Friday welcomed news that



**PANMUNJOM:** Members of the South Korean delegation (right) shake hands with members of the North Korean delegation during their meeting on the North's side of the border in the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas on January 15, 2018. —AFP

China's North Korea imports plunged in December to their lowest in dollar terms since at least the start of 2014, but President Donald Trump accused Beijing last month of allowing oil into North Korea, a charge Beijing denied. Western European security sources told Reuters last month that Russian tankers had supplied fuel to North Korea on at least three occasions in recent months by transferring cargoes at sea. Russia says it observes UN sanctions.

Eric Walsh, Canada's ambassador to South Korea, told a panel at the University of British Columbia that the uneven way sanctions were applied meant "there are a lot of gaps." "One of the things we want to do is look at how we can improve enforcement," he said. US officials say hawks in the Trump administration remain pessimistic that the North-South contacts will lead anywhere. Even so, debate

within the US administration over whether to give more active consideration to military options, such as a pre-emptive strike on a North Korean nuclear or missile site, has lost momentum ahead of the Olympics, the officials said.

Scott Snyder, director of the US-Korea policy program at Washington's Council on Foreign Relations, said that if Pyongyang felt tougher sanctions constituted a blockade, it might interpret them as an act of war. "If sanctions are going to be effective in achieving the objective of bringing about diplomacy, (they) have to be used not as a hammer but actually as a nutcracker or a scalpel," he told the university panel. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who will be in Vancouver, said the international community had to stand united. "Sanctions are biting but we need to maintain diplomatic pressure on Kim Jong Un's regime," he said in a statement.—Reuters

## Trump's next hurdles: November mid-terms, and 2020 US primaries

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump's political future may well hinge on 2018, when he risks losing control of Congress in crucial elections that kick off the next White House battle-likely to pit the president against both Democrats and rogue Republican challengers. Congressional mid-terms often swing against the party in power, and tradition suggests Trump's Republicans, who control the White House, the Senate and House of Representatives, are set to suffer on November 6 when Americans head to the polls.

The president is coming off a late-2017 high, when he managed to ram his massive tax cut plan through Congress. But nearly one year into his presidency—he marks the anniversary of his inauguration January 20 — Trump is entangled in an alarming face-off with North Korea, has antagonized US allies over Iran, and faces accusations of racism and hatermongering. "Historically, this is bound to be a Democratic year," Larry Sabato, who heads the Center for Politics at University of Virginia, told AFP. "The question is, will it be a moderately Democratic year, a substantially Democratic year, or an overwhelming Democratic year?"

Polling suggests Democrats have a strong shot at flipping the House, whose 435 members serve two-year terms, in November. The prospects are slimmer in the Senate, where Democrats have to defend 26 seats compared to just eight for Republicans. "Partisan gerrymandering is probably the only thing now that's giving Republicans some hope of hanging on to the House in 2018," said political historian Allan Lichtman of American University. Trump and his Republicans will no doubt tout their tax cut success and the generally healthy economy.

But the president's poor approval ratings and questions about his suitability for office will also fuel the campaigns—not to mention the Russian election meddling inquiry that hangs like a sword of Damocles over the White House. Republican Senator John Thune predicted that "hand-to-hand combat" lay ahead in the political contests. Collectively they will serve as opening tests for Democrats, who have been emboldened by recent successes at the polls. "It's going to be a tough environment," Republican Senator Jeff Flake, a Trump critic, told reporters.

### Forced into primaries

After the mid-terms, Democrats would have two years to prepare their all-out effort to block the brash billionaire Trump, who will be 74 by Election Day 2020. "If the House goes Democratic, then Trump will be able to get exactly zero passed," Sabato predicted. A 2018 Democratic wave would not automatically signal Trump's demise. Bill Clinton and Barack Obama suffered scathing defeats in mid-term elections in 1994 and 2010; both were re-elected two years later.

But a more potentially embarrassing hurdle for Trump could emerge in the form of the primaries that determine presidential nominees. Even with Trump in office, the Republican Party must choose its White House nominee, and with Trump's popularity below 40 percent, analysts predict a challenger will emerge. There are precedents for such turmoil. Ronald Reagan defied Republican president Gerald Ford in 1976, winning enough primary votes to carry the suspense into that year's nominating convention.

Senator Edward Kennedy bitterly challenged Democratic incumbent Jimmy Carter in 1980, and far-right candidate Pat Buchanan opposed fellow Republican George Bush in 1988. The lesson? Insurgents almost always fail.—AFP

## At least 20 dead as clashes shut Libyan airport

**TRIPOLI:** Fierce clashes broke out in the Libyan capital Tripoli on Monday, killing at least 20 people, shutting the airport, and damaging planes during what the government said was a failed attempt to spring militants from a nearby prison. The attack triggered the heaviest fighting in Tripoli for months, undercutting claims by the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) to have largely stabilized the city. The violence also undermines GNA efforts to persuade diplomatic missions to return there.

Automatic gunfire and artillery rounds could be heard from the city centre early in the day and authorities at Mitiga airport, which operates all civilian air traffic to and from the capital, said flights had been suspended until further notice. The airport was empty in late afternoon, when the clashes had largely died down, though pilots flew several aircraft across the capital to the international airport - closed since 2014 due to damage from earlier fighting - in an effort to protect them. A Reuters reporter saw one Airbus A319 operated by Afriqiyah Airways sitting in a hangar at Mitiga with a hole in its roof from artillery fire.

At least four other aircraft suffered

what appeared to be lesser damage from gunfire, including two jets operated by Libyan Wings and two Buraq Air Boeing 737s that the airline said it was preparing to fly out of the country for maintenance. The fighting pitted the Special Deterrence Force (Rada), one of Tripoli's most powerful armed groups, against a rival faction based in the city's Tajoura neighborhood. Rada acts as an anti-crime and anti-terrorism unit and controls Mitiga airport and a large prison next to it. It is aligned with the GNA and is occasionally targeted by rivals whose members it has arrested.

### 'Endangered passengers'

Rada said the airport had been attacked by men loyal to a militia leader known as Bashir 'the Cow' and others it had been seeking following their escape from a prison it controls elsewhere in Tripoli. The GNA said the attack had "endangered the lives of passengers, affected aviation safety and terrorized residents". "This assault was aimed at freeing terrorists from Daesh (Islamic State) and Al-Qaeda and other organizations," it said in a statement. The attack had been repelled, and an operation to secure the area was ongoing. Rada posted pictures of streets around the airport, showing pick-up trucks mounted with guns, armored vehicles and a tank.

At least 20 people were killed in the clashes and 60 wounded, including civilians, a health ministry official said. Mitiga is a military air base near the centre of Tripoli that began hosting civilian flights after the international airport was put out of service in 2014. In an adjacent prison, Rada says it



**TRIPOLI:** A member of the security holds used bullets at Mitiga airport the day after militiamen attacked it in an attempt to free colleagues held at a jail there. —AFP

is holding some 2,500 people, including Islamic State suspects. Tripoli has been controlled by a patchwork of armed groups since a 2011 uprising that toppled long-time leader Muammar Gaddafi and led to the splintering of the country.

There have been rival governments in Tripoli and the east since 2014, when most diplomatic missions evacuated to neighboring Tunisia. The Tripoli factions sometimes clash in turf battles or over killings or

detentions of their members. But there had been less open fighting in recent months after several groups including Rada aligned with the GNA, consolidated their control of large parts of the capital and ousted groups tied to a previous, Islamist-linked Tripoli government. The United Nations is trying to pave the way for elections in Libya by the end of the year, which it hopes can help stabilize the oil-producing nation.—Reuters

## Pope expresses 'pain and shame' over sex scandal

**SANTIAGO:** Pope Francis expressed his "pain and shame" yesterday over a sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church in Chile, seeking forgiveness for a crisis that has scarred its credibility and left many faithful skeptical of reform. "Here I feel bound to express my pain and shame at the irreparable damage caused to children by some ministers of the Church," he said in the presidential palace, drawing sustained applause from his listeners.

Francis was making his first official address of the trip in the presence of President Michelle Bachelet, other Chilean top officials, cardinals, bishops and foreign diplomats. "I am one with my brother bishops, for it is right to ask for forgiveness and make every effort to support the victims, even as we commit ourselves to ensuring that such things do not happen again," he said.

Catholics have been upset with Francis' 2015 appointment of Bishop Juan Barros to head the small diocese of Osorno in south-central Chile. Barros has been accused of protecting his former mentor, Father Fernando Karadima, whom a Vatican investigation found guilty in 2011 of abusing teenage boys over many years. Karadima has denied the allegations and Barros said he was unaware of any wrongdoing. But the scandal has gripped Chile, and, along with growing secularization, has hurt the standing of the Church that had been praised for defending human rights during the 1973-1990 dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

A poll by Santiago-based think tank Latinobarometro this month showed that the number of Chileans calling themselves Catholics fell to 45 percent last year, from 74 percent in 1995. A group opposed to the visit posted on Twitter: "No more abuse, no more cover-ups, no more



**SANTIAGO:** Pope Francis waves as he arrives on the popemobile to give an open-air mass at O'Higgins Park in Santiago yesterday. —AFP

hypocrisy." At least eight Catholic churches have been attacked in Chile over the past week, including one with a homemade bomb where unidentified vandals left a pamphlet reading: "Pope Francis, the next bomb will be in your robe." No one was injured in the attacks and no one has claimed responsibility.

### Anti-Pope graffiti

Hours after the pope arrived, two churches were attacked and burned to the ground almost simultaneously in a small village near Temuco that the pope had planned to visit today. A church in the capital was also attacked

during the night, causing minor damage. Vandals burned Chilean and Vatican flags at the site and tossed pamphlets with threats against the pope. Graffiti on one church in the capital read "Burn pope and 'pope accomplice.'" But the welcome most Chileans have given the pope has been warm, with thousands of mostly young people lining the streets of the capital and hundreds of thousands attending a Mass in a Santiago park.

Francis read the speech in the Moneda palace, which Pinochet's forces bombed from the air and with ground artillery on Sept 11, 1973 while democratically elected President Salvador Allende was inside.—Reuters



International

# Iran urges Muslim nations to 'depend on themselves'

## Russia, Iran FMs discuss Syria, nuke deal

**TEHRAN:** Iran's President Hassan Rouhani called yesterday for more solidarity between Muslim countries and for them not to depend on "foreigners" for their development. His comments come after Washington threatened to withdraw from a landmark deal between Tehran and world powers that lifted crippling sanctions in exchange for curbs to Iran's nuclear program. "Only non-dependence on foreigners and increased solidarity between Muslim countries will allow us to overcome the Islamic world's problems," Rouhani said.

"We should... count on our own capacities" to ensure "growth and development", he said at the opening in Tehran of a session of the parliamentary union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. But "this does not mean we should seek isolation," he added. Rouhani, a political moderate who secured the 2015 nuclear deal, has come under fire from ultra-conservatives who believe the accord benefits only the West.

The government has been trying to encourage European firms to do business with or invest in Iran. On an international level, "we support constructive interaction on an equal footing... that leaves no room for exploitation, colonialism or interference in internal affairs", he said. He spoke after a wave of deadly protests across the country from December 28 to January 1 over the dire state of the

economy during which some demonstrators called for regime change.

Twenty-five people were killed in the unrest, according to the authorities. The United States publicly supported the demonstrators, while the European Union condemned the "unacceptable loss of human lives" and stressed that peaceful protest and freedom of expression are "fundamental rights". Rouhani accused the West of believing that "Islam and democracy are incompatible" and of using "this pretext to subject Muslim countries to a new colonialism". "Reinforcing democracy and listening to people's opinions are our primary strategy to face the West," the president added. Rouhani has pushed for greater civil

liberties in the wake of the unrest. Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif discussed the conflict in Syria and the Iran nuclear deal in a phone conversation, the Russian Foreign Ministry said yesterday. "The two sides exchanged views on a range of international issues, including the Syrian peace process in the context of the Syrian Congress of National Dialogue in Sochi, as well as the situation surrounding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program," Russia's foreign ministry said. — Agencies



**Don't depend on 'foreigners,' Rouhani warns**



**TEHRAN:** Iranians cross the road in Sadeqyeh Square in the capital Tehran. Iran has rejected any modification of its nuclear deal with world powers after US President Donald Trump demanded tough new measures to keep the agreement alive. — AFP

## Several killed in operation to arrest Venezuelan pilot

**CARACAS:** Several people including two police officers were killed in an operation to capture a helicopter pilot who bombed Venezuela's Supreme Court during anti-government protests last year, the interior ministry said Monday. A ministry statement said members of a "terrorist cell" were killed in a fierce gunbattle, and five were captured, but did not say whether the pilot, Oscar Perez, was among the dead or detained. Six police were wounded, President Nicolas Maduro told lawmakers. The cell had planned to set off a car bomb outside the embassy of "a beloved and prestigious country," Maduro said. Reports said Perez and associates were holed up for hours in a house 25 kilometers northwest of Caracas during the raid.

Perez released videos on Instagram in which he said authorities were trying to kill him and his people even though they wanted to surrender. Press reports said Perez did in fact die in the raid. At the height of street protests against Maduro last June, Perez and unidentified accomplices flew over Caracas in a police helicopter and dropped four grenades on the Supreme Court before opening fire on the interior ministry. There were no casualties. Perez has been on the run since Venezuelan authorities issued an arrest warrant through Interpol after accusing him of a "terrorist attack."

The 36-year-old former elite police officer and actor has regularly taunted the government during his time in hiding, saying he was fighting against Maduro's "tyranny" and the "narco-dictatorship." He urged Venezuelans "not to lose heart. Fight, take to the streets, it is time we are free." Two weeks after the attack on the Supreme Court, Perez—at the time Venezuela's most-wanted man—turned up at a Caracas ceremony to commemorate those who had died in the wave of anti-government protests. In all, 125 people were killed between April and July as authorities used force to put down protests to unseat Maduro. Eventually, the protests fizzled out and the socialist president prevailed, despite a staggering crisis caused by falling oil prices, spiraling inflation and corruption.

**'Heavily armed'**

"These terrorists, who were heavily armed with high-caliber weapons, opened fire on the officials responsible for their capture," the interior ministry statement said. It



**CARACAS:** File photo shows Venezuelan police officer Oscar Perez participating in an anti-government protest in Caracas. — AFP

said those who resisted had been killed. The police were "attacked violently" when they were negotiating the surrender of Perez's group, it said, adding that they had "tried to detonate a vehicle loaded with explosives." AFP journalists trying to reach the area saw an army tank, special forces and ambulances rush to the scene.

Perez said in a video released on Twitter earlier Monday that he and his companions were surrounded and pinned down by police marksmen at El Junquito on the outskirts of Caracas. "They are firing at us with grenade launchers. We said we are going to surrender but they do not want to let us surrender. They want to kill us," a bloody-faced Perez said in one of the videos posted online. Perez, a former elite police officer, is seen with other men in one of the videos, some of them armed. He said they were being besieged by snipers. "We will die standing up defending our land, never kneeling before the tyrants," another of Perez's messages said.

The vice president of the ruling Socialist party, Diosdado Cabello, said on Twitter the Police Special Action Force

(FAES) had launched the operation to arrest Perez. He said the security forces had "responded with fire" when two officers were wounded in the operation. Iris Varela, Venezuela's minister with responsibility for prisons, rejoiced at the news that police had finally cornered Perez "like a rat." "What a coward now that he has been caught like a rat. Where is the courage he had to attack military units, kill and injure officers and steal weapons?" she wrote on Twitter.

In December, Perez claimed responsibility for an attack on a military base in the country's north, in which weapons were seized. Perez said in a message to his children that his fight against the government was dedicated to them and to the children of Venezuela, suffering the worst of the food and medicine shortages caused by the economic crisis. Perez, blond and blue-eyed, was well known to Venezuelans even before his attack on the Supreme Court as an actor. He starred in the film "Muerte Suspendida" (Suspended Death), an action movie based on the true story of the kidnapping of a Portuguese businessman in Caracas.—AFP

security council to discuss the killing, national broadcaster RTS reported. Following the assassination, the Serb-populated northern part of ethnically divided Mitrovica was unusually calm and its streets deserted. Public prosecutor Shyqri Sylja said that investigators were at the scene, but that it was not yet known who was behind the attack. Police said they found a burnt-out car that was presumably used in the shooting.

**'Serbs afraid'**

An EU-backed Kosovo court sentenced Ivanovic in 2015 to a nine-year jail term after it found him guilty of encouraging the killings of captured ethnic Albanian civilians in Kosovska Mitrovica in April 1999. In February last year, a Pristina appeals court quashed the sentence and ordered a retrial for Ivanovic, who had been in detention since his arrest in January 2014 until the acquittal. In May, the social-democrat politician and father of four told AFP that his private car had been set on fire in front of his home, describing it as an attempt to silence him.

In local polls in October, he was elected a deputy on northern Mitrovica's municipal council, running against a Belgrade-backed party. "Serbs are more afraid of Serbs than Albanians," Ivanovic—a rare Kosovo Serb in that he spoke Albanian—said at the time. "Serb people are afraid to raise their voice" against Belgrade's policy. Mitrovica is a town of 85,000 people where tensions remain high between the majority ethnic Albanian residents who number about 72,000 and the 13,000-strong Serb community. A former Serbian state secretary for Kosovo, Ivanovic was a key interlocutor with NATO, the United Nations and later the EU after the war and was seen as backing dialogue with Kosovo's ethnic Albanians. "Whoever is behind this attack... whether these are Albanian, Serb or any other criminals, they have to be punished, they have to be brought to justice," Djuric said in Brussels, where he was heading the delegation due to hold talks with Kosovo Albanians yesterday. —AFP



**KOSOVSKA MITROVICA:** File photo shows Oliver Ivanovic arriving to a polling station to cast his ballot for local elections. Leading Kosovo Serb politician Oliver Ivanovic was killed yesterday in a drive-by shooting. — AFP

## Prominent Kosovo Serb politician assassinated

**KOSOVSKA MITROVICA:** Prominent Kosovo Serb politician Oliver Ivanovic was killed in a brazen drive-by shooting yesterday that could reignite ethnic tensions in the region. The assassination of Ivanovic—who was facing a retrial on war crimes charges over the 1990s Kosovo conflict — occurred on the very day that Belgrade and Pristina resumed talks on normalizing ties after a hiatus of more than a year. Marco Djuric, the Serbian government official in charge of Kosovo, described the murder as a "criminal, terrorist act against the entire Serbian people".

Ivanovic, 64, was shot dead by gunmen firing from a car as he arrived at the headquarters of his party in the flashpoint town of Mitrovica at about 8:15 am (0715 GMT), according to police. The moderate politician, who had publicly spoken out against Belgrade's policies in Kosovo, was hit by five bullets and died on the spot, his lawyer Nebojsa Vljajic told AFP. Kosovo President Hashim Thaci and the government in Pristina "strongly" condemned the assassination, as did representatives of the United Nations and the United States in Kosovo.

**EU appeals for restraint**

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini spoke with Thaci and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and "called on all sides to show calm and restraint and allow the rule of law and justice to take its course," a statement from her office said. Vucic called an emergency meeting of his national

**News in brief**

**Eight bodies found**

**TOKYO:** Eight bodies have been recovered from a wrecked boat that washed ashore in central Japan, authorities said yesterday, suspecting the vessel is the latest in a series of North Korean "ghost ships." Coastguard rescuers found the corpses of seven men inside the wreckage of the boat that washed up in Kanazawa, central Japan, last week, senior police official Hiroshi Abe said. The badly decomposed remains of another man were discovered around 15 meters from the boat, added Abe. "It is difficult to identify the bodies as they had begun to decompose," he said, noting that rough seas had prevented officials from investigating the boat thoroughly. "We spotted a tobacco box which carries some Korean letters, but we can't confirm the boat came from North Korea," he said. However, coastguard officials believe it is the latest North Korean fishing vessel to wash up on the coast, following a record number of such cases last year. Television footage showed the wreckage of the flat-bottomed vessel capsized on the beach.

**Earthquake hits Greece**

**ATHENS:** An earthquake that rattled Greece on Monday night was felt in the capital Athens, a Reuters reporter said. The US Geological Survey said the 4.3-magnitude quake struck 25 km northeast of Athens. Fire brigade officials said there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The earthquake at 20:24 GMT was felt in central Athens and the suburbs. Witnesses said it set off car alarms. Gerassimos Papadopoulos, researcher with the Athens Geodynamics institute told state TV ERT the epicenter was near Marathon, in southeastern Attica. The depth, he said, was between five and 10 km. The region has been active in recent days and the latest earthquake seems to be the peak of this activity, Papadopoulos said without ruling out the possibility of another earthquake. "Residents should remain calm," he said. "The data is in our favor." Greece is prone to earthquakes. Most cause no serious damage, but a 5.9-magnitude quake near Athens in 1999 killed 143 people.

**Turkey jails 2 for life**

**ISTANBUL:** A court in northwest Turkey has sentenced two Turkish men to life in jail over the murder last year of a Syrian woman and her 10-month-old baby in a double killing that shocked the country, media said yesterday. The Syrian refugee woman was raped and bludgeoned to death by the rock-wielding attackers in the northwestern Sakarya province just days before she was due to give birth and her baby strangled. The two suspects were found guilty of "planned murder", "killing a pregnant woman", "sexual assault" and "killing a baby deprived of defending himself," the state-run Anadolu news agency reported. The woman's husband was quoted as saying he was not satisfied with Monday's court ruling. "Those who brutally killed my wife and my baby have no right to life," he cried outside the court, Turkish daily Hurriyet reported. In his defense, Birol Karaca, one of the suspects, confessed that he had raped the Syrian woman. "I didn't kill her. I only raped her," he was quoted as saying by Hurriyet.

**Islamist convict attacks**

**MONT-DE-MARSAN:** Seven French prison officers were hurt when an Islamist convict attacked them as he resisted a search, while guards resumed a strike yesterday demanding better security in jails nationwide. The latest assault, which took place in a prison in southwestern France on Monday, came just four days after a German Al-Qaeda convict attacked and hurt three prison guards in the north of the country. Monday's attack at the Mont-de-Marsan prison occurred when nine officers attempted to restrain and search the convict, who lunged at them and punched them. "Three officers suffered fractures, while four others have multiple bruises." CGT union representative Ludovic Motheron told AFP. The justice ministry, which put the number of wounded at five, said the inmate, known for being "very violent", was under surveillance "because he was radicalized in prison". The assault came after Thursday's attack by German convict Christian Ganczarski, who is serving an 18-year sentence over the 2002 bombing of a Tunisian synagogue.

## Analysis

**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961  
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

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

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## GERMANY'S SPD AT ODDS OVER COALITION PLAN



## US oil industry set to break record

## Why the US should support Iran protesters

In recent weeks, Iran has again been in the throes of an uprising. Signs of the regime change America had long hoped to see are on the horizon. In the unlikely cities - once the strongholds of the conservatives - Iranians have taken to the streets, demanding, not just reform, but a referendum.

A nationwide referendum in March 1979, in which over 90 percent of Iranians marked Islamic Republic as their choice of government, gave legitimacy to the current regime. Many Iranians now hope for a second referendum, which could give them a chance to undo the government they chose nearly 40 years ago. The restraint that the United States showed in refraining from military action against Iran was the right course when the threat of war loomed between the two nations. But while we must continue to avoid war at all costs, now that defenseless Iranians have taken to the streets, cautious silence is no longer the right approach.

A chorus of experts has been calling for the United States to do nothing. They argue that US support for Iranian protests would weaken the hand of the reformists. These experts are out of step with the protesters, who have been chanting, "Reformists! Hardliners! The game's over!" In other words, Washington still has its heart set on a possibility that Iranians have given up on.

This is not the first time Washington has been slow to grasp the reality on Iran's streets. In December 1977, as the embers of an imminent revolution were beginning to burn, President Jimmy Carter made a toast to Iran's monarch with these words, "Iran, because of the great leadership of the Shah, is an island of stability in one of the more troubled areas of the world."

History has repeated itself and, by latching onto bygone hopes of reform, Washington's analysts are misreading Iran once again. According to Shirin Ebadi, Iran's Nobel Laureate, Hassan Rouhani's second term was the last chance Iranians would offer the reformists. "Years ago, the people of Iran demanded reforms and believed in the reformists," Ebadi told me in an interview. "When former president Mohammad Khatami told Iranians to vote for Hassan Rouhani, they flocked to the polls. But three years passed, and the reforms did not happen. This time, with the slogans they chant on the streets, the people are showing that they do not trust the reformists any longer. That's why their demand has now shifted from reforms to referendum."

## Reform Movement

Those who call for passivity on the part of the United States are also misreading how and why the reform movement was born in the first place. They advocate avoiding pressure on Tehran, assuming that stress of any kind would hamper the cause of democratic change. But if the history of post-revolutionary Iran is any guide, the opposite is in fact true. Twice in recent decades, Iran has chosen reformist presidents: In 1997, when Mohammad Khatami took office, and in 2013, with the election of Hassan Rouhani. These two political facelifts were the result combined domestic and international pressure.

In early 1997, Mohammad Khatami's odds of winning the presidency seemed dismal. He was badly behind in the polls and, compared to his politically-seasoned rivals, he was a mere freshman. His campaign floundered until the spring of that year, when his fortunes suddenly changed. In April, Khatami's campaign got a proverbial shot in the arm when a German court issued a decision explicitly naming Iran's leadership, including the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as the masterminds behind the assassination of four Iranian and Kurdish leaders nearly five years earlier. The judgment led to the most dramatic and forceful international action to date against Tehran when all EU member nations recalled their ambassadors.

Shunned by the European Union, Tehran had to find a way out of its isolation. Reflecting on the presidential elections of 1997, Khatami's chief political strategist and the founding father of the reform movement, Saeed Hajjarian, said that the change in Iran's political makeup, and the sudden embrace of Khatami's candidacy by the clerical elite, were the result of decisions made by the Ministry of Intelligence and Security. The gentle-mannered Khatami appealed equally to people who had grown wary of radicalism, and a leadership looking for a way to recast its image in the West.

In 2013, as Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's second term in office drew to a close, Tehran found itself in a similar position. Under pressure from sanctions, discontent had reached a fever pitch. Both the nation's morale and its economy had tanked. Rouhani's first task as president was not so much to run the country as it was to be a polished interlocutor at the table with the P5+1 negotiators.

Once again a reformist was in office. Hopeful Iranians earnestly believed that, having gone to the polls and chosen the right candidate, freedom, economic justice, and civil liberties would follow. Hopeful Americans believed that, to help the cause of reform, the United States had to remain mum. The binary narrative of the moderates versus the hardliners had captured Western imaginations. Iran appeared to many to be a Manichean universe of good (the moderates) at war against evil (the hardliners).

Iran's suspenseful political drama had much of the world cheering the reformists, who always seemed to be on the brink of bringing positive change, but never quite achieved it. The protesters of recent days have been unequivocal: The two political forces that have long appeared to be at war are, in fact, two faces of the same demon - Tehran's rendition of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Middle East experts often paint Iranians as an enigmatic people. Iranians are unlike Americans, to be sure. But with unemployment rates at over 30 percent, women and religious minorities treated as second-class citizens, rampant governmental corruption and no civil liberties, they are no different from any other nation that has ever rebelled against tyranny. —Reuters

Surging shale production is poised to push US oil output to more than 10 million barrels per day - topping a record set in 1970 and crossing a threshold few could have imagined even a decade ago. And this new record, expected within days, likely won't last long. The US government forecasts that the nation's production will climb to 11 million barrels a day by late 2019, a level that would rival Russia, the world's top producer. The economic and political impacts of soaring US output are breathtaking, cutting the nation's oil imports by a fifth over a decade, providing high-paying jobs in rural communities and lowering consumer prices for domestic gasoline by 37 percent from a 2008 peak.

Fears of dire energy shortages that gripped the country in the 1970s have been replaced by a presidential policy of global "energy dominance". "It has had incredibly positive impacts for the US economy, for the workforce and even our reduced carbon footprint" as shale natural gas has displaced coal at power plants, said John England, head of consultancy Deloitte's US energy and resources practice.

US energy exports now compete with Middle East oil for buyers in Asia. Daily trading volumes of US oil futures contracts have more than doubled in the past decade, averaging more than 1.2 billion barrels per day in 2017, according to exchange operator CME Group. The US oil price benchmark, West Texas Intermediate crude, is now watched closely worldwide by foreign customers of US gasoline, diesel and crude.

The question of whether the shale sector can continue at this pace remains an open debate. The rapid growth has stirred concerns that the industry is already peaking and that production forecasts are too optimistic. The costs of labor and contracted services have recently risen sharply in the most active oilfields; drillable land prices have soared; and some shale financiers are calling on producers to focus on improving short-term returns rather than expanding drilling.

But US producers have already far outpaced expectations and overcome serious challenges, including the recent effort by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to sink shale firms by flooding global markets with oil. The cartel of oil-producing nations backed down in November 2016 and enacted production cuts amid pressure from their own members over low prices - which had plunged to below \$27 earlier that year from more than \$100 a barrel in 2014.

Shale producers won the price war through aggressive cost-cutting and rapid advances in drilling technology. Oil now trades above \$64 a barrel, enough for many US producers to finance both expanded drilling and dividends for shareholders.

## Southeast Asian plastic recyclers hope to clean up after China ban

When Seah Kian Hoe was just 10 years old, he would jump on the back of his parent's small truck during school holidays and help them collect scrap, going door-to-door around neighborhoods in Malaysia's southern state of Johor. Taking their haul back to the family yard, they would spend hours separating the glass bottles, aluminum cans, discarded newspapers and metal. Seah now employs 350 people to help him run Heng Hiap Industries, one of Malaysia's top five plastic recycling businesses which processes about 40,000 tonnes of waste per year from both domestic and overseas suppliers.

"Thirty five years ago, it was just scavenging - a very different era compared to now," Seah told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "I wanted to get into the recycling business and do it differently." Heng Hiap Industries is just one of the Southeast Asian plastics recycling companies gearing up to benefit from China's decision to ban imports of plastic waste from the start of 2018. Before the ban, which shocked many in the industry, China was the world's dominant importer of such waste. In 2016, it imported 7.3 million tonnes of waste plastics, valued at \$3.7 billion, accounting for 56 percent of world imports.

Over the past two decades, China was keen to suck in as much plastic waste as possible, helping feed its manufacturing expansion. But policy makers took action after a string of scandals involving unscrupulous players in the waste market. Misdemeanors included stuffing containers with mixed or toxic rubbish rather than the specific types labeled for recycling, and illegal smuggling of waste that

## Booming Oil Exports

Efficiencies spurred by the battle with OPEC - including faster drilling, better well designs and more fracking - helped US firms produce enough oil to successfully lobby for the repeal of a ban on oil exports. In late 2015, Congress overturned the prohibition it had imposed following OPEC's 1973 embargo. The United States now exports up to 1.7 million barrels per day of crude, and this year will have the capacity to export 3.8 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas. Terminals conceived for importing liquefied natural gas have now been overhauled to allow exports.

That export demand, along with surging production in remote locations such as West Texas and North Dakota, has led to a boom in US pipeline construction. Firms including Kinder Morgan and Enterprise Products Partners added



## Production to upend global trade

26,000 miles of liquids pipelines in the five years between 2012 and 2016, according to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Several more multi-billion-dollar pipeline projects are on the drawing board.

US drillers say they can supply plenty more. "We continue to see and drive improvements" in drilling speed and efficiency, said Matthias Schlecht, a technology vice president at Baker Hughes, General Electric Co's oilfield services business. New wells can be drilled in as little as a week, he said. A few years ago, it could take up to a month.

## Technology Opens Up New Fields

The next phase of shale output growth depends on techniques to squeeze more oil from each well. Companies are now putting sensors on drill bits to more precisely access oil deposits, using artificial intelligence and remote

operators to get the most out of equipment and trained engineers. As expanded investments push more producers to add wells in less productive regions, technology will help make those plays more profitable, said Kate Richard, chief executive of Warwick Energy Group, which owns interests in more than 5,000 US wells.

In an interview, she estimated about a third of the money from private equity investments in shale will be used to wring more oil from overlooked regions. Higher prices - up about \$10 a barrel in the last two months - also may encourage the industry to work through a backlog of some 7,300 drilled-but-uncompleted shale wells that have built up because of crew and equipment shortages. The higher prices have suppliers that provide hydraulic fracturing services, such as Keane Group and Liberty Oilfield Services, buying expensive new equipment in anticipation of more work. US fracking service revenues are expected to grow by 20 percent this year, approaching a record of \$29 billion set in 2014, according to oilfield research firm Spears & Associates.

## Oil Majors Join Shale Fray

The shale revolution initially upended the traditional industry hierarchy, making billionaires out of wildcatters such as Harold Hamm, who founded Continental Resources, and the late Aubrey McClendon of Chesapeake Energy. Top US oil firms such as Exxon Mobil and Chevron a decade ago turned much of their focus to foreign fields, leaving smaller firms to develop US shale. Now they're back, buying shale companies, land and shifting more investments back home from overseas.

Exxon last year agreed to pay up to \$6.6 billion for land in the Permian basin, the epicenter of US shale. Chevron this year plans to spend \$4.3 billion on shale development. The majors' shift is driving up costs for labor and drillable land in the region, another boost to wages and wealth in rural areas.

In the shale industry hub of Midland, Texas, unemployment has fallen to a mere 2.6 percent, said Willie Taylor, executive director of the Permian Basin Workforce Development Board, a group that helps firms find staff. Companies are now offering signing bonuses to attract workers to West Texas. One oil company flies workers to Midland from Houston weekly to fill a local labor void, he said. "It was an employer's market," he said. "Now it's more of a job seeker's market." —Reuters

Adina Renee Adler, senior director for international relations at the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries in Washington.

The labor-intensive job of taking bales of plastic waste to be broken down, cleaned, separated into different plastic resins and finally made into pellets ready to be reshaped into new products is now expected to fall to Southeast Asian countries. Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand are among the Southeast Asian countries that have attracted Chinese investors in the plastics recycling sector over the past year, keen to fill the void left in China, industry officials said. Most have yet to develop their own domestic recycling collection and public awareness about the issue, but their access to cheap labor and close proximity to China's manufacturing industries work in their favor.

## Time to Regulate

Preliminary data from the BIR, shared with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, showed imports of plastic waste into Southeast Asia are already rising fast. Due partly to a ramp-up in shipments in the final quarter of last year, the BIR estimates that annual imports of plastic scrap into Malaysia jumped to 450,000-500,000 tonnes in 2017 from 288,000 tonnes in 2016. Vietnam's imports rose by 62 percent to 500,000-550,000 tonnes for 2017, while Thailand and Indonesia showed increases of up to 117 percent and 65 percent respectively.

The industry fears, however, that a flood of unregulated plastic waste to these countries could lead to similar problems as those experienced in China, resulting in copycat bans. To avoid this, industry officials urged Southeast Asian nations to tighten health and safety regulations, so that they can properly monitor what plastics enter their countries, and stop illegal practices.

Greenpeace East Asia plastics campaigner Liu Hua wants to see companies use less plastic packaging in the longer-term, but for now, Southeast Asian governments should strengthen environmental controls to limit the spread of hazardous chemical waste and any negative impact on human health, he said. —Reuters

was simply dumped in landfill.

"Plastic China", an award-winning documentary released in late 2016, ignited further public outrage by highlighting the human and environmental costs of the under-regulated, Wild West-style recycling industry. As part of efforts to clean up China's environment, including promoting electric cars and cutting coal use, Beijing launched a campaign against harmful "foreign garbage" last year. Some of the worst-hit exporters of plastic waste are based in the United States and Britain - leaving those two countries scrambling to find alternative places to take their rubbish.

"The industry was not prepared for it," said Surendra Patavari Borad, a businessman who runs a recycling company in Belgium and the United States and chairs the plastics committee at the Brussels-based Bureau of International Recycling (BIR). "I used to say about Europe and the US, if China gets a cold, we get a fever, and if China gets a fever, we get pneumonia," he added.

## 'No Complaining'

Unable to send their plastic waste to China, Britain and the United States are now likely to increase their domestic recycling capacities in an effort to reduce exports. But industry officials say this could take years and may still not be enough. "If anyone has a problem selling their scrap plastic right now, they should not be complaining - they should be looking at themselves because this ... has been on the cards for quite a while," said Damien van Leuven, founder of Vanden Global, an international plastics recycling company based in Hong Kong.

Faced with growing stockpiles of plastic waste, many British and U.S. companies are either burning some plastics for energy recovery or sending the materials to landfill, several industry researchers told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Both of these methods will have a catastrophic impact on the environment, they warned. "Do they (China) care about the global environment or only their own environment because we are land-filling perfectly good materials now because of the actions that they're taking," said

News

## Palestinians call to derecognize Israel, but will they do it?

**RAMALLAH:** A call by Palestinian leaders to suspend recognition of Israel in response to US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital could have major implications but is unlikely to be implemented for now, analysts said. The vote late on Monday could be another devastating blow to the so-called peace process - long on life support - although the Palestinians argue US President Donald Trump and Israel have already effectively ended it.

Still, the risk of international criticism and practical concerns means the Palestinians are unlikely to follow through on the call to suspend recognition soon, analysts said. "If we stop recognizing them, we should stop dealing with them in all aspects, security and civilian," Ghassan Khatib, an analyst and former Palestinian minister, told AFP. "That is not practically possible given the extensive interaction and dependency, so I don't think there is going to be an implementation to this."

The vote was by the Palestinian Central Council, one of the key institutions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in a meeting on Sunday and Monday called to discuss Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The vote ordered the PLO Executive Committee to suspend recognition of Israel until it recognizes the state of Palestine and reverses its building of Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian land. The PLO is considered the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people by the international community and formalized its recognition of Israel in 1993.

The council meeting was the latest attempt by the Palestinian leadership to formulate a response to Trump's policies following his Dec 6 Jerusalem declaration. The council also backed President Mahmoud Abbas's comments that the Oslo agreements of the 1990s, the basis of Palestinian relations with Israel, were "finished". Abbas said on Sunday that Israel had ended the accords through its actions, referring to activities seen as eroding the possibility of a two-state solution such as persistent settlement expansion. He also called Trump's peace efforts the "slap of the century".

Eighty-seven of the council's 109 members attended for the vote, with the vast majority, including Abbas, voting in favor of suspending recognition. But previous decisions by the PCC have not been implemented, notably a 2015 vote calling for suspending security coordination with Israel. There is no date set for a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, at which the suspension could be confirmed.

Israel did not immediately respond to the vote, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Abbas had "torn off" his "mask" as a supposed moderate in his speech on Sunday. Following Monday's vote, Abbas set off on a trip to Jordan, Egypt and the European Union's headquarters in Brussels in which he is expected to seek support for a change of strategy.

The council meeting was part of Abbas's attempt to seek an alternative strategy to achieve an independent Palestinian state following the collapse in relations with the United States. The longtime leader, now 82, has been through a series of failed US-brokered peace negotiations, but Trump's Dec 6 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital deeply angered the Palestinians. The Palestinians see the eastern part of the city as the capital of their future state, and Abbas froze ties with Trump's administration following the announcement.

Abbas has said the United States can no longer be the mediator in peace talks with Israel, calling instead for internationally-led negotiations. The PCC backed him in his call. Trump has also threatened to cut hundreds of millions of dollars in annual aid to the Palestinians, including through the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees.

Jihad Harb, a West Bank-based political analyst, said that while most Palestinians would support the central council's recommendation "it will take a long time to implement it". "The people are waiting for implementation, not talks and words," Abbas's term of office expired in 2009 but elections have not been held since due to Palestinian political infighting. Polls indicate around 70 percent of Palestinians want Abbas to resign, with criticism of his policy of negotiations with Israel rife.

Israeli analysts, too, were skeptical whether the announcement would lead to much. Zalman Shoval, a former Israeli ambassador and negotiator, said the Palestinians needed coordination with Israel for survival. Israel occupies the West Bank and controls the borders with Jordan, making travel outside their headquarters in Ramallah near impossible for Abbas and other officials without Israeli cooperation. "Israel or others are going to say: 'If you no longer recognize us, it's a mutual thing - you are no longer recognized as the leadership for the Palestinians.'"

Diana Buttu, a former aide to Abbas and now prominent critic, said few new ideas had been floated, pointing to the advanced age of the delegates as evidence of the lack of new thinking. "You can't lead a revolutionary movement with people at retirement age," she said. — AFP

## Trump visit set to eclipse Davos meet

**GENEVA:** US President Donald Trump's planned visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos next week will likely eclipse the long list of other movers and shakers set to attend. The WEF on Tuesday unveiled its lineup for the annual meeting at the luxury Swiss ski resort town, where this year's focus is on how to create "a shared future in a fractured world". "We need collaborative efforts," WEF founder and executive chairman Klaus Schwab told reporters in Geneva, warning: "There is today a real danger of a collapse of our global systems... It is in our hands to change the state of the world."

But ironically this year's main attraction will be Trump, who is widely blamed for deepening a number of diplomatic rifts and creating new ones with polarizing policy and rhetoric. Since taking office a year ago, he has doubled down on his "America First" agenda, which stands in stark contrast to the globalization and regulatory integration popular among the Davos crowd. The five-day event kicks off Monday and is expected to draw some 3,000 political and business elites, including 70 heads of state and government.

### Trump participation 'essential'

But attention is expected to be focused squarely on Trump, who will be the first sitting US president to attend the meeting since Bill Clinton in 2000. A string of

US presidents have avoided attending the upscale event, fearing a sojourn to a European ski resort would make them look out of touch. But Trump is expected to use the opportunity to thumb his nose at the elites who flock to Davos - a festival of globalism drawing many of his most virulent critics.

Trump has sparked alarm over his decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord, as well as his barrage of criticism against the World Trade Organization and various UN agencies. He has also pushed tensions to the boiling point with nuclear-armed North Korea and more recently reportedly branded Haiti, El Salvador and countries across Africa as "sh\*tholes".

Schwab said he was thrilled that the US president would attend, pointing out that a major topic of discussion at Davos would be "the future of global cooperation" on issues like trade, the environment and the fight against terrorism. "It is absolutely essential to have President Trump with us," he said. The White House has said he will be accompanied by a large delegation, including his son-in-law and advisor Jared Kushner, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

As something of a counterweight, former US vice president Al Gore and the country's former top diplomat John Kerry, both Democrats, will also be present. Trump is slated to deliver a speech before the end of the meeting on Friday, WEF said. This year's line-up will also be headlined by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will give the keynote address on Tuesday, and French President Emmanuel Macron, who is scheduled to address the forum on Wednesday. — AFP

## Jordan to increase fuel, bread prices...

Continued from Page 1

Yesterday, hundreds of protesters poured into the streets near a presidential palace in central Khartoum after the opposition Communist Party of Sudan called for an anti-government rally. "No, no to hunger! No, no to high prices!" protesters shouted near the palace. Police fired tear gas and hit protesters with batons as they tried to break up the protest. A senior leader from the Communist Party, Siddiq Younis, was detained along with several protesters, the correspondent reported.

The Communist Party had sought permission from the authorities last week to hold yesterday's rally but it had been denied. "Today is an important day for Sudan as it is the start of widespread protests," a demonstrator told

AFP on condition of anonymity. "We were demonstrating peacefully but still the police beat us. This shows that the regime will not tolerate even peaceful protests."

Pictures and videos of yesterday's protests were widely uploaded on social media networks like Twitter and Facebook. Later yesterday, police dispersed the rally near the palace but protesters staged small demonstrations in nearby streets as they were chased away. "Lot of people watched us as we protested. I'm sure they will join us next time," the protester said.

The Communist Party said its members will continue to mobilize people and hold night-time demonstrations, while the country's main opposition Umma Party called for an anti-government demonstration today. On Monday last week, students also rallied against the rising prices near Khartoum University but police swiftly broke up the protest. The day before, in the town of Geneina in the war-torn region of Darfur, a student was killed during a similar protest. It was unclear how he was killed. — AFP

## Torture probe after 13 siblings found...

Continued from Page 1

Three cars were parked at the home, along with a van with tinted windows. One of the cars, a blue compact, had a child's seat in the back. There are indications that the children were allowed outside the house in recent years.

A Facebook page under the name of David-Louise Turpin - still visible yesterday - includes pictures of the couple staging renewals of their wedding vows from 2011 to 2016, with their children present. In the latest set, uploaded in April-July 2016, Louise Turpin wears a long white wedding gown while her husband is dressed in a suit. An Elvis Presley impersonator holds a microphone and poses with the couple and children in a scene reminiscent of a Las Vegas wedding.

Nine girls, all with long dark hair, wear matching fuchsia plaid dresses with white tights, while a baby girl is dressed in a bright pink dress. Three boys, their dark hair in bowl cuts like David Turpin, are dressed in suits with fuchsia ties. An April 2016 photograph shows the same smiling children and the couple wearing jeans and red t-shirts that read "Thing 1", "Thing 2", "Thing 3" and so on - a reference to the mischievous twins in the popular Dr Seuss book "The Cat in the Hat". In another

Sept 2015 photograph, Louise Turpin holds a baby wearing a t-shirt reading "Mommy loves me".

Neighbor Jamelia Adams, 39, expressed shock. "It's just really, really sad," Adams told AFP. "Here's a beautiful neighborhood, brand-new housing tract, newer cars in the yard, and here's some kids from 29 to two that was just held captive and malnourished and filthy. It's just heartbreaking."

David Turpin is registered in state records as head of a private school. The address matches that of the Turpins' home, and the children were apparently home-schooled. The Los Angeles Times said the couple had lived at the Perris house since 2010, after a move from Texas, adding they went bankrupt twice. According to court papers, the couple filed for bankruptcy in 2011, at a time when David Turpin was working as an engineer for defense contractor Northrop Grumman, earning \$140,000 a year. "They seemed like very normal people who fell into financial problems," Ivan Trahan, the lawyer who represented them in that case, told The Los Angeles Times.

The case recalls previous kidnapping horrors in the United States that have made global headlines in recent years. Ariel Castro abducted three young women and held them captive at his Cleveland home for a decade. He was arrested in May 2013 after one of his victims escaped, and later hung himself in his prison cell. Jaycee Dugard was kidnapped as an 11-year-old and repeatedly raped over 18 years by convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido in California. She was rescued in Aug 2009. — AFP



AGRA, India: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara pose for a photograph at the Taj Mahal yesterday. — AFP



# Premier Brands

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

## Better 2 Gether!

Jan Best Bundle Saving

**NI-JW650TGTH**  
Dry Iron

183 د.ك.  
235 د.ك.

52 د.ك. **SAVE**

**NA-F135A1WRU**  
Washer



• 8 Programs  
• 10 Water Level Settings  
• Air Dry (90min)

**MC-YL690A**  
Vacuum Cleaner



MAX. 1500W/15L

# Panasonic

Shop Online [www.best.com.kw](http://www.best.com.kw) Free Delivery

## 1809 809

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

**Customer Service Officer**  
 Dhaman - Health Assurance  
 Hospitals Company- Kuwait

You are responsible for receiving phone calls from corporate office, patients, and other stakeholders, provide directions and support to patients and their families, in addition to the preparation of Primary Healthcare Centre statistical reports etc.

Apply Now [JB3756710](#)

**Business Development Office**  
 Holistic Developments &  
 Consulting - Kuwait

You are responsible for approaching clients and identifying market opportunities, developing market reports on the competition, opportunities, market trends and new market events, securing first meeting with clients, identifying their needs and proposing preliminary solutions etc.

Apply Now [JB3755953](#)

**SWIFT Operations Officer**  
 Kuwait Finance House  
 Kuwait

You are responsible for processing all inward and outward messages (e.g., SWIFT, FINMEX, KASSIP), in order to secure all required authorization and achieve processing of the request in a timely and error-free manner ensuring adherence to the regulatory instructions and requirements etc.

Apply Now [JB3756650](#)

**Assistant Manager – Payroll & HR**  
 System - Commercial Bank of  
 Kuwait - Kuwait

You are responsible for managing all payroll activities for the staff in a timely and proficient manner and recommend changes in Bank policies, procedures, and internal controls related to payroll management etc.

Apply Now [JB3756615](#)

**Customer Service Associates for**  
 Kidzania - M.H. Alshaya Co.  
 Kuwait

You are responsible for providing an outstanding experience to our young customers, receiving full training in all aspects of the role, becoming a product knowledge champion for the many multi-national and local brands that share sponsorship and branding in the park, as well as learning how to operate the various park attractions etc.

Apply Now [JB3756546](#)

**Graphic Designer**  
 Cruncho  
 Kuwait

You are responsible for conceiving ideas and concepts; designs, produces, works with others and coordinating in the creation of materials in print, and other mediums for a variety of projects, working with project managers and team members to provide professional recommendations for concept, design, art direction, production, print buying, and monitors quality control etc.

Apply Now [JB3756283](#)

**Digital Screens Graphic Designer**  
 GLA Property Management  
 Kuwait

You are responsible for editing content to be displayed in mall digital screens and ensure mall rules and regulations are adhered to within this channel, modifying existing content for mall marketing department campaigns, checking and monitoring specialty leasing clients content, creating new content based on brief and existing material from either mall marketing or specialty leasing etc.

Apply Now [JB3756167](#)

**Senior Accountant**  
 Holistic Developments &  
 Consulting - Kuwait

You are responsible for day-to-day bookkeeping of client's deliverables, preparing full financial statements end to end, calculating the provisions as per the local law, technical point of contact with clients, assessing client needs and proposing solutions etc.

Apply Now [JB3756144](#)

**Finance Manager/Finance**  
 Director - GRG  
 KSA

You are responsible for reporting into the Regional Finance Director (based in Dubai) and General Manager (KSA), key responsibilities will be managing the day to day finance function, which includes preparing the Financial Statement in IFRS, budgeting & forecasting for the business in Qatar, whilst managing a team of 12 accountants (including a Finance Manager and Credit Control Manager), etc.

Apply Now [JB3757436](#)

**Senior Web Applications**  
 Developer - IdeasWindow  
 KSA

You are responsible for defining and developing user interfaces to Internet/intranet applications by setting expectations and featuring priorities throughout development life cycle; determining design methodologies and tool sets; completing programming using languages and software products; designing and conducting tests.

Apply Now [JB3757380](#)

**Business Development Manager**  
 Biolab Arabia Ltd. Co.  
 KSA

You are responsible for developing a business development strategy focused on financial gain, arranging business development meetings with prospective clients, presenting new products and services to improve existing relationships, engaging internal and external contacts etc.

Apply Now [JB3756896](#)

**Sales Manager Trading**  
 Department - Mishnan Group  
 KSA

You are responsible for leading a team of highly professional technical engineers and sales staff, establishing the marketing and sales policies and implementation, preparing and following up periodical management activity reports, preparing the annual business plan etc.

Apply Now [JB3757325](#)

**Production Executive**  
 Bateel International  
 UAE

You are responsible for planning and managing resource time for all production phases of the project lifecycle to a high level of quality and accuracy, from job initiation through to delivery, serving as the main day-to-day contact on current projects for all business channels and print and packaging suppliers etc.

Apply Now [JB3757007](#)

**Lawyer**  
 Huawei Technologies  
 UAE

You are responsible for representing the company in civil litigation and other legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, and manage or advise management on legal transactions and issues, explaining the law and giving general legal advice, settling disputes and supervising any agreements, researching and gathering evidence etc.

Apply Now [JB3756974](#)

**E-Commerce Manager**  
 Paris Group  
 UAE

You are responsible for overseeing a team of designers and marketers and are responsible for all online activities, organizing promotions, working with shipping companies to reduce transportation costs and making advertising decisions etc.

Apply Now [JB3756956](#)

**Business Analyst (Banking**  
 Industry) - Randstad MENA  
 UAE

You are responsible for collecting and specifying business needs and assess their feasibility, helping assign demand to agile teams and defining the setup within the business unit tribe, managing scope and scheduling while focusing on regular and timely delivery of value etc.

Apply Now [JB3756886](#)

**Senior Digital Marketing**  
 New Horizon  
 Qatar

You will be responsible for preparing plans on monthly basis & execution status update, ensuring of handling all Social Media, Website Updates, reporting the ROI's on monthly basis, activities & do the best to generate leads from both Retail & Corporate etc.

Apply Now [JB3757456](#)

**Elementary School Pe Teacher**  
 Arab International Academy  
 Qatar

You will be responsible for planning collaboratively, in the context of the PYP and the AIA curriculum, to build on student knowledge and expertise, developing significant units of inquiry, accommodating a range of ability levels and emphasizing connections between curriculum areas etc.

Apply Now [JB3757449](#)

**Back-end Developer**  
 iHorizons  
 Qatar

You will be responsible for building and maintaining the back end, or server-side, of a web application, which includes the server, the application, and the database. Back-end development is all about what's invisible to the user.

Apply Now [JB3757447](#)

**Sous Chef - (Italian Cuisine)**  
 Al Mana  
 Qatar

You will be responsible for overall success of the daily kitchen operations, exhibiting culinary talents by personally performing tasks while leading the staff and managing all food related functions, working to continually improve guest and employee satisfaction while maintaining the operating budget etc.

Apply Now [JB3757371](#)

Sports

# Tunisia's Olfa bin Ahmad Sherni wins women's 10m air pistol gold

World champion Maria Grozdova wins silver



Group photo of the winners with officials.



Maria Grozdova (left), Olfa Sherni (center) and Moza Ali (right) on the podium.

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Tunisia's 10m Air Pistol Shooter Olfa bin Ahmad Sherni scored 238 points and won the women's gold medal leaving Bulgaria's Maria Grozdova in second place with her score of 236.1 points as Bahrain's Mooza Ali was satisfied with third place as she scored 213.0 points.

Competitions will continue today with the 10m air rifle for men, at 9:00am, and the finals will be played at 11:30, that in addition to men's and women's skeet finals.

Olfa Sherni said she expected to win gold despite the strong field of the 10m air pistol competition, in the presence of the World Champion Bulgaria's Maria Grozdova, and the other shooters. She said her confidence in winning gold was due to the hard work she did in preparation for this tournament which she is keen on participating in this tournament each year.

Olfa, who is already qualified for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo said her participation in HH the Amir 7th Grand Prix, the next World Championship in Bulgaria,

and the Mediterranean Championships are stages of preparation for the next Olympics and look forward to win a medal there.

Meanwhile, Moza Ali who won third place for Bahrain said, her results were not as good as she wanted, and that her mistakes in some shots affected the final result.

She said she needed some time to get into the competition mood, and was able to win the bronze medal.

She said competition was tough and each shooter was able to be on top. She added that winning the bronze medal is an achievement for Bahrain's shooting in general, and lauded her Uzbek coach who improved her level significantly.

Meanwhile, World Champion Maria Grozdova said she was not prepared well for the tournament, as she began training 10 days earlier which was not enough for restoring her level, but was satisfied with the silver medal. She said she is proud to participate in HH the Amir tournament for the second time, and finds the atmosphere very ideal.



Olfa Sherni taking her position during the 10m air pistol competition.



(From left) Secretary General Of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Obaid Al Osaimi with Maria Grozdova and her coach.

## Rocking from Scotland to Saudi, Canada to Qatar

**LONDON:** Curling, once a minority pastime played mostly by Scots and Canadians, will sweep onto the ice at next month's Pyeongchang Olympics with the proud boast of being the world's fastest growing winter sport.

The 'roaring game', with its origins in the frozen ponds and mists of medieval Scotland, is now popping up in the sort of sunny places where ice usually comes in cubes to cool the drinks. Qatar's men's curling team celebrated their first international victory last November, beating Kazakhstan on Australia's sun-soaked Central Coast north of Sydney. A few months earlier, Middle Eastern neighbours Saudi Arabia secured conditional membership of the World Curling Federation along with fellow-newcomers Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Portugal. Las Vegas, in Nevada's Mojave desert, will host the men's world championship next April.

"You'd obviously think curling is for winter sport countries, it's not really," says Kate Caithness, the Scottish head of World Curling and one of only two female presidents of any Olympic sports. "You can have curling anywhere in the world. "Give us a hall and we'll make ice. We've got these facilities where we can almost roll out a mat, plug it in, add water and freeze it," she told Reuters from her headquarters in Perth, Scotland.

In order to be included on the full programme at the 1998 Nagano Olympics, curling needed to have 30 member nations. Twenty years on and there are 60 with more to come and a growth explosion predicted. "We've never been in better shape, actually," says Caithness.

"Mexico and Guyana are new members, and there's other members in South America waiting to come on board." At the 2010 Games in Vancouver, curling was the most watched Winter Olympic sport on television in Brazil—a country that recently challenged Canada for a



LONDON: Team Canada completes perfect round robin at women's curling worlds.

place at the men's world championships.

There are no member nations from Africa as yet, but there has been interest with South Africa most likely to be the first on board.

Curling is big already in Korea and Japan and the main growth areas over the next four years for a sport also known as 'chess on ice' are likely to be China, hosts of the 2022 Olympics, and the United States. "China is a huge, huge market for us," said Caithness.

"We've just signed a \$13.4 million contract with a spon-

sor (Kingdomway Sports) in China for the next four years in the runup between now and 2022." The curling at those Beijing Winter Games will be held in the 'Water Cube' facility that hosted the swimming at the 2008 summer Olympics. Transformed into the Ice Cube, the plan is to have a three sheet rink in the basement so that fans can watch the competition upstairs and also try their hand at the sport downstairs. "I'm on the 2022 IOC co-ordination commission, so I do have the inside information. I've been there already with the IOC," said Caithness.— Reuters

## Sweden already schooling future Winter Olympians

**OSTERSUND:** Next month's Winter Olympics is the immediate focus for Sweden but the country is already training its next generation of winter sports athletes in special high school programs that combine sports and education for ambitious teenagers.

At the Jamtlands Gymnasium high school in Ostersund, some 550 kilometres north of Stockholm, promising young skiers and biathletes are put through their paces four mornings a week by highly-qualified coaches at a local ski stadium.

They return to school at lunchtime, piling their plates high with pasta and salad in the cafeteria before heading to the classroom to catch up on their studies. And when they are done in the classroom, they head back to the gym to work on their strength and conditioning before finishing their homework and heading for bed at the end of a long day.

It sounds like a gruelling schedule, but for those taking part it is a dream way to spend their school years. "It's very important, it feels like this is my life," Julia Albertsson, a budding cross-country skier, told Reuters after strapping on her skis for her morning training session.

"You feel like you're not just a person, you're a cross-country skier. Right now it's the most important thing," she said before setting off at a blistering pace under the watchful eyes of coach David Engstrom.

"Eventually, we want them to reach the elite. It's a very long way, and this is just the start of that long road," Engstrom said as the skiers raced away.

"We've just completed an application period, and I'd say we take in around eight (athletes) every year. It's up to themselves how good they can be." They decide the level of ambition, and how much time they put into training and everything else they need to become really good," Albertsson and the cross-country students train alongside the school's biathletes, who are coached by Jean-Marc Chabloz, a four-time Olympian from Switzerland who has made his home in the area. "We have good clubs in the area who work with young people, so we have them served up to us on a silver platter," Chabloz said as he gave the teenagers shooting tips. Despite his own Olympic history, where he took part in the Games in Albertville, Lillehammer, Nagano and Salt Lake City, the 50-year-old said it was not essential for him that the athletes go on to compete at the Games, or in the World Cup.

"I wouldn't say that's what drives me as a coach, it's more about creating a platform so that they can move on in their sporting lives, or in something else. But obviously it's great when they succeed in sport," he explained.

School sporting director Michael Soderkvist and his team of teachers and coaches look after the student athletes, making sure they stay focussed on their studies as well as their dreams of representing Sweden at a future Olympics. "The goal is to give students a chance to get an education, and in combination to see how far you can get with your sporting talent," Soderkvist said.—Reuters

## Sirotkin joins Williams with Kubica as reserve

**LONDON:** Russian rookie Sergey Sirotkin will race for Williams this season after being chosen ahead of Polish rival Robert Kubica yesterday in what the Formula One team said was a multi-year deal.

Kubica, who had been hoping to return to the starting grid for the first time since a 2011 rally accident partly severed his right arm, was appointed reserve and development driver instead. Williams made the long-awaited announcements in separate statements, with 22-year-old Sirotkin filling the last remaining vacancy for the season that starts in Australia on March 25.

The Russian will partner 19-year-old Canadian Lance Stroll, the billionaire's son who made his debut with the former world champions last year, in a lineup that will be the youngest on track this year.

Sirotkin replaces Brazilian veteran Felipe Massa, who retired at the end of last year. "It took a huge amount of work to get where I am, and I'm really happy and thankful

to everyone involved," said Sirotkin, who was previously on Renault's books as a development driver.

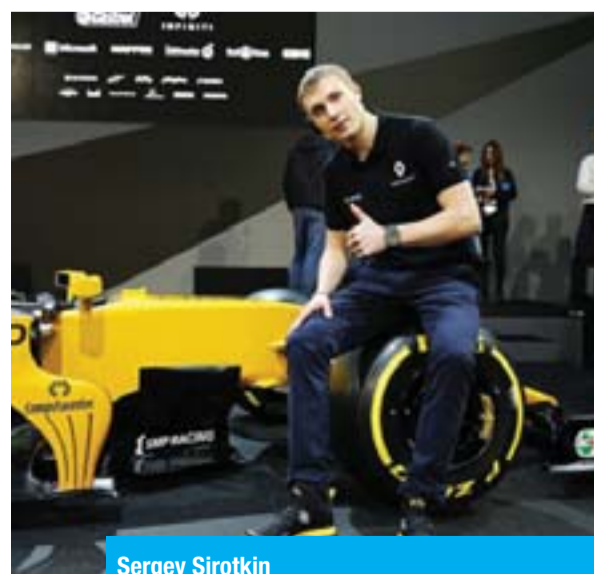
"The result of our combined efforts has helped me achieve my dream, and rest assured the team can rely on me to deliver my best," Sirotkin has been backed by Russian billionaire Boris Rotenberg, whose oligarch brother Arkady is a former judo sparring partner of President Vladimir Putin, on his way through the junior series.

The team did not give any financial details of the deal. Deputy team principal Claire Williams said the Mercedes-powered team, fifth overall last year, were confident the new pairing would deliver.

"The Williams philosophy has always been to promote and develop young talent and Sergey fits right into that ethos," she said. "Lance has had a record-breaking debut season, and with a year now under his belt, he will be ready to hit the ground running in 2018."

Kubica, 33, had at one point looked the favourite for the drive, with 2016 champion and former Williams driver Nico Rosberg championing his cause. Williams said the Pole will take part in testing before and during the season as well as some Friday practice sessions and simulator work.

"It's a great pleasure to be back in Formula One," said Kubica. "My ultimate goal remains to race again in Formula One and this is another important step in that direction." Williams technical head Paddy Lowe described the Pole, a winner in Canada with BMW-Sauber in 2008,



Sergey Sirotkin

as a legend of the sport. "To overcome his injuries, return to fitness, and drive a Formula One car again is a remarkable achievement, and one that few considered possible," added Lowe. — Reuters

## Sports

# South Africa's Ngidi pushes India to brink of series defeat

## Hosts head into final day confident of picking up seven wickets

### SCOREBOARD

**CENTURION:** Scores at the end of the fourth day of the second Test between South Africa and India at SuperSport Park yesterday:

**South Africa first innings: 335**

**India first innings: 307**

**South Africa second innings (overnight 90-2)**

A. Markram lbw b Bumrah	1
D. Elgar c Rahul b Mohammed Shami	61
H. Amla lbw b Bumrah	1
A. de Villiers c Patel b Mohammed Shami	80
Q. de Kock c Patel b Mohammed Shami	12
F. du Plessis c and b Bumrah	48
V. Philander c Vijay b I. Sharma	26
K. Maharaj c Patel b I. Sharma	6
K. Rabada c Kohli b Mohammed Shami	4
M. Morkel not out	10
L. Ngidi c Vijay b Ashwin	1
Extras (lb5, w1)	8
Total (91.3 overs)	258

Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Markram), 2-3 (Amla), 3-144 (De Villiers), 4-151 (Elgar), 5-163 (De Kock), 6-209 (Philander), 7-215 (Maharaj), 8-245 (Rabada), 9-245 (Du Plessis)

Bowling: Ashwin 29.3-6-78-1, Bumrah 20-3-70-3 (1w), I. Sharma 17-3-40-2, Mohammed Shami 16-3-49-4, Pandya 9-1-14-0.

**India second innings**

M. Vijay b Rabada	9
L. Rahul c Maharaj b Ngidi	4
C. Pujara not out	11
V. Kohli lbw b Ngidi	5
P. Patel not out	5
Extras (b1)	1
Total (3 wks, 23 overs)	35

Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Vijay), 2-16 (Rahul), 3-26 (Kohli) Bowling: Philander 6-3-6-0, Rabada 5-2-9-1, Ngidi 6-2-14-2, Morkel 5-3-4-0, Maharaj 1-0-1-0.

**CENTURION:** New fast bowling discovery Lungi Ngidi plunged India into deep trouble as they struggled in pursuit of a victory target of 287 on the fourth day of the second Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park yesterday. India were 35 for three at the close, having lost both openers and the key wicket of captain Virat Kohli on a pitch with uneven bounce. The hosts will head into the final day confident of picking up the seven wickets they need to wrap up an impressive victory in the three-match series, after a 72-run win in the first Test at Cape Town. The unpredictability of the wicket contributed to the dismissal of Murali Vijay, who was bowled off an inside edge by a ball from Kagiso Rabada which cut back at him and kept low.

Debutant Ngidi, who came on as first change, took a



### India reduced to 35 for three in 23 overs

wicket with his first ball of the innings when Lokesh Rahul played a loose forcing shot off the back foot and was caught at backward point.

That brought Kohli, who made 153 in the first innings, to the wicket. Ngidi, 21, forced India's champion batsman to play defensively before he scored his first runs with an edge for four which flew wide of third slip. Kohli had scored five when he went back on his stumps to a ball which cut back sharply and struck him on the pad. Kohli sought a review of umpire Michael Gough's decision but replays showed the ball was crashing into the top of middle stump.

India had been reduced to 26 for three. Ngidi caused



**CENTURION:** South African bowler Lungi Ngidi (2nd from L) celebrates the dismissal of Indian batsman and Captain Virat Kohli (not in picture) during the fourth day of the second Test cricket match between South Africa and India at Supersport cricket ground yesterday.—AFP

more damage when the left-handed Parthiv Patel was struck in the ribs and collapsed to the turf. Patel recovered and battled to five not out at the close. Ngidi, playing in only his tenth first-class match, took two for 14 in six overs.

South Africa could have had a fourth wicket when Cheteshwar Pujara was beaten by a ball from Morne Morkel. Wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock started to appeal but was not supported by Morkel or the slip fielders, but replays showed a faint edge. The slowness and uneven bounce of the pitch made for slow going as South Africa ground out 258 in their second innings.

There was some bright batting early in the day when

AB de Villiers and Dean Elgar added 54 runs in the first hour, taking their third-wicket partnership to 141. But De Villiers was caught behind for 80, made off 121 balls, and Elgar followed soon afterwards.

Mohammed Shami dismissed both batsmen and finished with four for 49, taking three wickets in four overs before lunch. South African captain Faf du Plessis and Vernon Philander put on a painstaking 46 in 26 overs to ensure India would have to chase more than 250. Du Plessis was ninth out for 48 off 141 balls.

In the slowest cricket of the series, South Africa scored only 57 runs for the loss of two wickets in 27 overs and two-and-a-quarter hours between lunch and tea.—AFP

## De Grandhomme seals Black Caps win over Pakistan

**HAMILTON:** Big-hitting Colin de Grandhomme blasted New Zealand to a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the fourth one-day international in Hamilton yesterday. De Grandhomme bludgeoned the Pakistan attack with an unbeaten 74 off 40 balls to reinvigorate New Zealand's run chase as the hosts were struggling to reach a 263-run target. "Everything just seemed to be hitting the middle tonight," said de Grandhomme, whose innings included five sixes and seven fours. The result puts New Zealand up 4-0 in the five-match series and sets a new record for the Black Caps of 11 consecutive international victories.

The streak includes convincing wins over the West Indies in all formats of the game and keeps alive the prospects of an ODI series whitewash against Pakistan in Wellington on Friday. However, it was a much improved performance from Pakistan, who were skittled for just 74 in their previous outing.

They looked set for another heavy defeat after a horror start saw them at 11 for two but Mohammad Hafeez notched 81 to set a competitive target. Others in the misfiring Pakistani batting line-up also found form, with Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail and captain Sarfraz Ahmed all posting half centuries.

Teenage leg-spinner Shadab Khan then claimed three of New Zealand's top four batsmen to give Pakistan some hope before de Grandhomme's match-turning performance. Pakistan opted to bat first after winning the toss, promoting hard-hitting allrounder Faheem Ashraf to open in the search for runs.

The gamble backfired when Faheem departed for one and Babar Azam soon followed after a dynamic spell from Black Caps paceman Tim Southee. Pakistan's batsmen were able to steady the innings but only Hafeez managed to push on beyond 50, smashing 22 from the final over.



**HAMILTON:** New Zealand's Colin de Grandhomme bats during the fourth one-day international cricket match between New Zealand and Pakistan at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday.—AFP

The other major talking point of the Pakistan innings was a head injury to Shoaib Malik, who ran into the path of fielder Colin Munro's throw while trying to scamper back to his crease. The ball hit him flush on the head and officials later said he showed signs of delayed concussion and did not return after the innings break.

New Zealand set about the run chase with gusto as opener Colin Munro brought up his half century off 33 balls. They appeared to be cruising to victory at 88 without loss before squandering four wickets for 11 runs.

Shadab made a double breakthrough to dislodge

Munro (56) and Martin Guptill (31) in successive balls, then followed up by coaxing an edge off Tom Latham. Ruman Raees contributed by ruining Ross Taylor's 200th ODI appearance when he trapped the veteran batsman lbw for one. Tight bowling from the tourists denied Kane Williamson runs and the New Zealand captain was dismissed for 32 trying to break the shackles with a lusty swing that Rumman caught on the boundary. With New Zealand looking shaky, de Grandhomme came to the crease and put the match beyond Pakistan, with support from Henry Nicholls, who scored an unbeaten 52.—AFP

## Al-Jahra beat Al-Qadisiya to lift Basketball Federation Cup

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Al-Jahra Sports Club basketball team won the Basketball Federation after 20 years drought by beating Al-Qadisiya Sports Club 92-78 during the final match. Kuwait Sports Club ended in third place.

The match was very strong from the start, and then Al-Jahra started to control it gradually, ending the first quarter with the score of 35/24.

Al-Jahra continued its dominance through players Abdallah Al-Sarraf, Turkey Humoud and Bader Al-Othman with three points shots, as the point difference reached 18, though the second quarter ended with the score of 55-47.

Al-Qadisiya Sports Club rebounded in the third quarter and ended it in a draw 64-64, meanwhile in the fourth quarter mistakes and foul had a heavy presence as two players from each team fouled out, until Jahra Club was able to take advantage of Qadisiya Club players recklessness and ended the match with the score of 92-78. The President of KBA Dhari Barjas, Vice President Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa, Secretary Haitham Baroun, and Jahra Sport Club President awarded the three teams.



The victorious Al-Jahra Sports Club basketball team with the trophy.

## Durant in command as Warriors down Cavs

**LOS ANGELES:** The defending champion Golden State Warriors tightened the screws defensively in the second half Monday night, rallying from a halftime deficit to a 118-108 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA's marquee matchup on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Cleveland. The Warriors' 13th consecutive road victory in a rematch of last June's NBA Finals allowed them to sweep the season series from the Cavaliers for the second time in the last three seasons. The Warriors had beaten the Cavaliers, 99-92, at home on Christmas Day. After giving up 64 points over the game's first 24 minutes, the Warriors held the Cavaliers to 44 in the second half, including 17 in the decisive fourth quarter. Kevin Durant had 32 points, Stephen Curry 23 and Klay Thompson 17 for the Warriors. They combined for 11 3-pointers as Golden State outscored the Cavaliers 36-21 from beyond the arc.

**BUCKS 104, WIZARDS 95**

Giannis Antetokoumpo had 27 points with a career-high 20 rebounds and Milwaukee snapped a two-game skid with a 104-95 victory over Washington at Capital One Arena. Eric Bledsoe scored 23 for the Bucks, who went 8-of-16 from beyond the arc. Khris Middleton added 19 points for Milwaukee.

**THUNDER 95, KINGS 88**

Russell Westbrook produced a double-double while Carmelo Anthony scored 15 of his 20 points in a turnaround third quarter to carry Oklahoma City to a 95-88 victory over Sacramento at Chesapeake Energy Arena. Westbrook finished with 19 points and 16 rebounds and was the linchpin of an 13-4 run the Thunder used to close the second period and slice into a 15-point deficit. The Kings led 48-33 with just over three minutes remaining in the first half before Westbrook scored six consecutive points for the Thunder. He later added a driving layup to pull Oklahoma City to within 50-46. Westbrook lost his composure after he picked up consecutive technical fouls and was ejected by referee Matt Boland with 2:51 remaining in the game. He recorded 10 turnovers along with nine assists in 33 minutes.

**PACERS 109, JAZZ 94**

Victor Oladipo scored 28 points, grabbed six rebounds and dished out six assists to lead a balanced offensive effort that sparked Indiana to a 109-94 win over Utah. Five players scored in double figures for the Pacers and Al Jefferson added a team-high 10 rebounds off the bench. Indiana won for the fifth time in the last six games. The Pacers made it rain from outside, going 14-of-26 from the perimeter.

**GRIZZLIES 123, LAKERS 114**

Rookie Dillon Brooks led eight players in double figures with 19 points, helping Memphis outlast Los Angeles 123-114 in Memphis. Tyreke Evans recorded a 15-point, 12-assist double-double for the Grizzlies, who beat the Lakers for the second time in three meetings this season and for the seventh straight time at home. Playing without standout rookies Lonzo Ball (sprained knee) and Brandon Ingram (sprained ankle), the Lakers saw a season-high four-game winning streak come to an end.—Reuters

Sports

# Man United put Sanchez saga aside to see off Stoke City

## United believe they have won battle for £35m-rated Sanchez

**OLD TRAFFORD:** Manchester United took time off from their pursuit of Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez to coast to a comfortable 3-0 victory against Stoke at Old Trafford on Monday. Antonio Valencia and Anthony Martial in the first half, and Romelu Lukaku after the break, were on the scoresheet as Jose Mourinho finally beat struggling Stoke as United manager at the fourth time of asking. But this performance, and numerous missed chances, still gave Mourinho plenty of evidence he needs to add Sanchez to his squad during the January transfer window, despite cutting neighbours Manchester City's lead at the top of the Premier League table to 12 points after their unbeaten league run was ended by Liverpool on Sunday. "Obviously we see Manchester City in front of us and they lost," United's Paul Pogba told Sky Sports. "They are first so we always want to catch them, so it was good that they lost, so for us we have to think about ourselves. It's good that they lose points but we have to go back to winning because we want to catch them again." He added: "We're not looking to the past. We're just looking to the future and the next games. We just want to catch City. We just have to focus on ourselves, keep winning and I think we will be OK." United believe they have won the battle for the £35 million-rated Sanchez, who is out of contract with Arsenal at the end of the season, especially after City let the Gunners know on Monday that they are no longer interested in Sanchez, given his fee and salary demands. New Stoke manager Paul Lambert, appointed on the morning of this game, was watching from the

stands before officially starting work on Tuesday and must have been unimpressed as United raced into an early lead through Valencia, back in the United line-up after a month out through injury.

### TYMON TROUBLES

The right-back received a pass after good work outside the area from Pogba and darted into the box, running at teenage defender Joshua Tymon, starting just the second league game of his career. Valencia was given room to advance before firing past the dive of Jack Butland from 16 yards out with a left-foot shot—something of a collector's item. Tymon was also at fault for United's second, after 38 minutes, losing the ball to Lukaku before he in turn pulled it back for Pogba. The French midfielder spotted compatriot Martial lurking unmarked on the edge of the Stoke area and his pass allowed the forward to place a magnificent strike into the top corner of the visitors' net.

Teenager Tymon's only other start for Stoke was in the recent 5-0 defeat at Chelsea, part of a depressing run that has now seen the Potters gather just four points from a possible 24 — a sequence which left the Potters firmly in the relegation zone and cost Lambert's predecessor Mark Hughes his job. Lukaku piled on the misery in the 72nd minute with some physical play in the area, controlling Martial's pass on his chest, holding off a defender and turning to score from 15 yards. — Ireland returns - In between the two first-half goals, Stoke had some moments of hope with injuryplagued Stephen Ireland, starting a league game for the first



Manchester United's French midfielder Paul Pogba (C) tangles with Stoke City's Egyptian midfielder Ramadan Sobhi (L) and Stoke City's Austrian defender Kevin Wimmer (R) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Stoke City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on January 15, 2018.

time in 996 days, coming close twice in quick succession, placing shots wide from no more than 15 yards. Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, who scored twice against United earlier this season in a 2-2 draw, also saw a goalbound shot blocked by Phil Jones. But United were back on top immediately after the restart with Butland

needing to race from his line to beat Martial to another expert Pogba pass. Substitute Marcus Rashford's clever near-post back-heel was kept out well by Butland and Stoke's Mame Biram Diouf might have claimed a late consolation but for equally excellent goalkeeping from David De Gea. — AFP

“We’re looking to the future and next games”

## Suarez back to his lethal best after hitting Barca nadir

**MADRID:** Since the start of the season La Liga leaders Barcelona have been flying, but the same is not true for striker Luis Suarez. With three goals in his first 14 games, Suarez was in his worst form for the club, one of the few players in Ernesto Valverde's side who was struggling as the Catalans established a firm lead in the title race. Barcelona were winning despite him, not because of him, as they often did in his first three seasons at Camp Nou. With 121 goals in his first 147 matches, helping his side to two league titles, a Champions League trophy and three King's Cups, among other silverware, everything Suarez touched turned to gold, until this season.

Suarez scored in the routs of Espanyol and Girona, as well as netting an important equaliser against Atletico Madrid in the 1-1 draw in October, but otherwise fired blanks. The 30-year-old failed to score in any of Barcelona's six Champions League group games, missed easy chances and was bereft of confidence, despite Valverde consistently starting him.

Barcelona hit their stride in the coach's new 4-4-2 system but Suarez lagged behind, missing Neymar, who left for Paris St Germain in the middle of last year. The Brazilian drew defenders like moths to a lamp and created more space for Suarez to exploit. A knee problem dogged him from the start of the season until mid November, not enough to rule him out but irritating enough to hamper his performances. Uruguay agreed not to call him up for friendly matches at the start of November, which allowed him to rest in Barcelona.



SAN SEBASTIAN: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (C) celebrates a goal with Barcelona's Brazilian midfielder Paulinho (L) and Barcelona's Spanish defender Jordi Alba during the Spanish league football match between Real Sociedad and FC Barcelona at the Anoeta stadium in San Sebastian. — AFP

"It would be a lie to say I am happy with my form, I know I can give more," Suarez told Diario Sport during this break. "These two weeks are going to be spectacular for me. The best thing for the national team and Barca was to miss these two friendlies."

### CONFIDENT RETURN

Suarez trained in the sand to strengthen his knee and when the international break was over, he returned a different figure, with confidence restored. In his first match back he struck two in a 3-0 win at Leganes, which sparked a fine run of form. Suarez now has eight goals in his last six games and is the second top scorer

in La Liga, with 13 goals, behind team mate Lionel Messi on 17. During his lean spell he looked short of ideas, but in the 4-2 win over Real Sociedad on Sunday he was Barcelona's best player, setting up Paulinho for the opening goal before adding two himself. The first of those strikes was sumptuous, a curled and lofted effort which bewildered Real Sociedad goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli and sank into the top corner. It is confirmation that after hitting the low point of his Barcelona career, the real Luis Suarez has returned. With Barcelona unbeaten in 29 games and nine points clear at the top of the table, Suarez's recovery spells bad news for their domestic and European rivals. —Reuters

## Korean star Kwon impressing at Dijon

**DIJON:** With five goals and two assists this season, South Korean attacking midfielder Kwon Chang-Hoon represents a gamble that has paid off for Dijon, the modest French club he joined a year ago. Kwon has become one of the motors of a Dijon team that are in the top half of Ligue 1, have the best attack outside the top four and face their biggest test of the season when they travel to the mighty Paris Saint-Germain today evening.

The 23-year-old left Suwon Bluewings in his native South Korea in January 2017 for Burgundy and a four-and-a-half-year contract. Dijon paid a fee of 1.2 million euros (\$1.5 million), one of the biggest transfers in their history. "We learned there was a player at Suwon Bluewings who was young, lively, creative and very strong one-on-one," said Sebastien Larcier, in charge of scouting at Dijon.

Kwon made his debut for Suwon, one of the top clubs in the K League, at the age of 18 in April 2012. He appeared for the national team for the first time in 2015 and has played 14 times for South Korea scoring three goals. "I had offers from clubs in the Persian Gulf and in China but I wanted to come to Europe to progress. Dijon were the most persuasive," Kwon said. He made eight appearances, just two as a starter, after arriving last season, but he nevertheless gave glimpses of the qualities that the club had bet on.

"When he arrived we knew very well that he would not be at his best immediately. He was changing countries," said Dijon coach Olivier Dall'Oglio. "Moving from South Korea to France demands a period of adjustment. We had to allow him time to discover Dijon, to find his place in the team and the club and to acclimatise to Ligue 1."

### ATTRACTING ADMIRERS

"I aimed to use summer training to really work with the group and get to know my team-mates better," said Kwon. Since the start of the season, and even though he still speaks only a few words of French, he has been one of Dijon's most-used players appearing in 18 league matches and starting 15.

"He works hard. He understands very quickly what is being asked of him and is highly professional in his attitude," said Dall'Oglio. His performances are beginning to arouse interest outside France, though Dijon have not yet received any offers.

"We know that English clubs and, above all, German clubs are following him and regularly send scouts," said Larcier. Two Bundesliga strugglers, Hamburg and Freiburg, have been particularly assiduous. For the moment, Kwon, who has never played at the Parc des Princes, prefers to focus on Ligue 1 and testing himself against the likes of Neymar. "I am an optimist," he said. "Dijon is a team that plays attacking football and, personally, I'm comfortable with that philosophy." Kwon is not the only South Korean sparkling in Ligue 1 this season. Suk Hyun-Jun, a 26-year-old striker on loan from Porto, is the top scorer at Troyes with five goals. The pair could give their national team a French flavour in the World Cup this summer where South Korea have been drawn in a group with Germany, Mexico and Sweden. — AFP



STRASBOURG: File photo shows Strasbourg's French goalkeeper Alexandre Oukidja (bottom) vies with Dijon's South-Korean midfielder Kwon Chang-Hoon during the French Cup football match between Strasbourg (RCSA) and Dijon (DFCO) on January 7. — AFP

## Joshua laughs off Parker's drug taunts

**LONDON:** Britain's Anthony Joshua dismissed a claim by New Zealand's Joseph Parker he is the "king of steroids" ahead of their world heavyweight title unification bout. The two boxers will meet in Cardiff on March 31, with Joshua, a London 2012 Olympic gold medalist, looking to add Parker's World Boxing Association title to the World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation and International Boxing Organisation belts he already holds.

Whoever wins at the 74,500-capacity Principality Stadium, best known for staging Wales rugby union internationals, will be eyeing a bout with World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder. After his fight with Joshua was confirmed on Sunday, Parker gave an interview to New Zealand's Radio Sport in which he said: "They call me the king of pies, but I call him the king of steroids."

But Joshua, speaking to newswire reporters at London's Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday, said the "pies" jibe was the work of British television chat show host Graham Norton and dismissed Parker's allegations of drug use. "I've heard so much in boxing trash talk that nothing's new anymore," Joshua said.

"Can I sue him?" he asked to laughter from reporters. "I know my records are clean," insisted the 28-year-old Englishman. "That's why I don't bite at it. It is what it is. If I'm not clean, you'll find out this fight. If I haven't been clean for all my other fights, you'll see me struggle against Parker because anything I have been taking will be out of my system. You'll find out this fight whether I am the super-human or I've got something pushes on this super-human power he says I have."

"Trash talk has a place in boxing if it's natural but you shouldn't use it as a tool to sell the fight. I would never put on an act to sell a fight." Both boxers will be putting their unbeaten professional records as well as their titles on the line. Parker's camp suggested Joshua has a weak chin, citing as evidence how he was knocked down by Wladimir Klitschko last year, before getting off the canvas to be crowned world champion. —AFP



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

SPAIN COPA DEL REY		
Valencia v Deportivo Alaves	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:00
Atletico de Madrid v Sevilla	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:00
Espanyol v Barcelona	beIN SPORTS HD 3	23:00
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Metz v Saint Etienne	beIN SPORTS	21:00
Guingamp v Olympique Lyonnais	beIN SPORTS	21:00
Toulouse v Nantes	beIN SPORTS	21:00
LOSC Lille v Stade Rennais	beIN SPORTS	21:00
Amiens v Montpellier	beIN SPORTS	21:00
SCO Angers v Troyes	beIN SPORTS	21:00
Paris Saint-Germain v Dijon	beIN SPORTS	23:00

## 13 Rocking from Scotland to Saudi, Canada to Qatar



## 14 South Africa's Ngidi pushes India to brink of series defeat



## 15 Man United put Sanchez saga aside to see off Stoke City



MELBOURNE: Switzerland's Roger Federer hits a return against Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene during their men's singles first round match on day two of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

# Federer, Djokovic dazzle in Melbourne

## Sharapova finds her groove after 15-month ban

MELBOURNE: Flawless Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic stamped their mark on the Australian Open yesterday with focused former champion Maria Sharapova also successfully negotiating the first round after her drug ban. Defending champion Federer, rated as favourite to win his 20th Grand Slam title, made his entrance on Rod Laver Arena with a sizzling 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 lesson for Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene.

The second seeded Swiss, who is coming off an extraordinary 2017, when he won a fifth Australian Open title and a record eighth at Wimbledon, was in total control. "I was thinking a lot about what happened at the tournament last year because it was my favourite tournament of the whole season," said the 36-year-old, who beat Rafael Nadal in the 2017 final. "I'm hoping for it to go well again."

Twelve-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic has been out of action for six months with an elbow injury, but he too looked the goods in his 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 demolition of American Donald Young. Gunning for a seventh Australian Open title, he was glad to be back at the coal face, having missed the competitive edge.

"I wanted to start with the right intensity, which I

have," he told the cheering crowd afterwards. "I played perfect tennis in the first couple of sets and Donald came back in the third set." Former Melbourne champion Stan Wawrinka also successfully returned from half a year on the sidelines after knee surgery, having only decided he was fit to play at the weekend.

With the temperatures heating up, he was pushed to four sets by Ricardas Berankis before prevailing 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7/2) in a tough workout he said was "proud" to come through. World number one Simona Halep booked her place in round two, avoiding the first round exit that befell her in the past two years. But she made a meal of it against local hope Destanee Aiava.

Both the Romanian and her 17-year-old wildcard

opponent needed on-court medical attention before the top seed ran out a battling 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 winner. Third seeded Garbine Muguruza, with heavy strapping on her injured right thigh, made her tournament bow

with a laboured 6-3, 6-3 win over French wildcard Jessica Ponchet.

Sharapova, still working her way back from a 15-month ban for taking the performance-enhancing substance meldonium in Australia in 2016, showed glimpses of the tennis that made her a five-time major winner. The 2008 Melbourne Park

champion, now ranked 48, beat Germany's Tatjana Maria 6-1, 6-4 in her first Australian Open match in two years. "I cherish these moments. I love it here," said the Russian, who returned from her drugs ban in April last year. "It's been a couple of years and I want-

ed it to be really meaningful to me." Fellow former world number one Angelique Kerber, who won the tournament in 2016, was also impressive in dismissing Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-0, 6-4. "2017, I have said goodbye already, I am not looking back," she said after a forgettable last season that saw her relinquish the number one spot and slide down the rankings.

She is now on a 10-match win streak after a perfect early season. Sixth seed Karolina Pliskova and eighth seed Caroline Garcia also progressed, in contrast to the other side of the draw that saw Venus Williams, Sloane Stephens and Coco Vandeweghe crash out on Monday. American woes continued with Madison Brengle sent packing by British ninth seed Johanna Konta. Young gun Alexander Zverev, seeded four, Belgian seventh seed David Goffin, and dark horse Tomas Berdych were among men to make the second round. But Canada's Milos Raonic, who has made at least the last eight over the past three years in Melbourne, was bundled out by 86th-ranked Slovakian Lukas Lacko in four sets. It was his earliest Grand Slam exit in seven years as he fights back from a wrist injury. — AFP



## Raonic bundled out by Lacko in four sets

## Biles: 'I was abused' by USA gymnastics doctor

LOS ANGELES: Olympic gymnastics superstar Simone Biles revealed on Monday she was sexually abused by disgraced former USA team doctor Larry Nassar, who was last month jailed for 60 years on child porn charges.

In a statement posted on Twitter, Biles said she had wrestled with her decision to go public with her story since the scandal broke. "Most of you know me as a happy, giggly, and energetic girl," the 20-year-old reigning Olympic all-around champion wrote.

"But lately I've felt a bit broken and the more I try to shut off the voice in my head, the louder it screams. I am not afraid to tell my story anymore. "I too am one of the many survivors that was sexually abused by Larry Nassar," the 10-time World Championship medalist added.

Nassar has been accused of sexually assaulting more than 100 young girls including several US Olympians. Biles's team-mates Aly Raisman, McKayla Maroney and Gabby Douglas are among the members of USA Gymnastics squads who have said they were sexually assaulted by Nassar.

The 54-year-old was sentenced to 60 years in prison in December on child pornography charges. He could be jailed for life when a further sentencing hearing gets under way in Michigan this week on separate sexual assault charges to which he has pleaded guilty. In her statement on Twitter, Biles described her torment as she attempted to grapple with the abuse she had suffered.

"There are many reasons that I have been reluctant to share my story, but I now know it is not my fault," she wrote. "It is not normal to receive any type of treatment from a trusted team physician and refer to it horrifyingly as the 'special' treatment."

"This behavior is completely unacceptable, disgusting, and abusive, especially coming from someone whom I was TOLD to trust. "For too long I've asked myself 'Was I too naive? Was it my fault?' I now know the answer to those ques-

tions. No. No, it was not my fault. No, I will not and should not carry the guilt that belongs to Larry Nassar, USA Gymnastics and others.

"It is impossibly difficult to relive these experiences and it breaks my heart even more to think that as I work towards my dream of competing in Tokyo 2020, I will have to continually return to the same training facility where I was abused."

Biles however insisted it would not affect her passion for the sport. "I love this sport too much and I have never been a quitter. I won't let one man and the others that enabled him, to steal my love and joy," she wrote, demanding an inquiry into how Nassar had been able to continue abusing for so many years.

"We need to know why this was able to take place for so long and to so many of us. We need to make sure something like this never happens again." Biles's team-mate Raisman swiftly took to Twitter in solidarity. "You are incredible Simone. I stand with you," Raisman wrote. "I know we will all get through this together."

USA Gymnastics issued a statement saying the organisation was "absolutely heartbroken, sorry and angry that Simone Biles or any of our athletes have been harmed by the horrific acts of Larry Nassar." —AFP



Simone Biles



## Business

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

**18** Global economy kicks off 2018 in strong form, though risks remain**20** Dow eyes 26,000 as earnings pick up pace**21** GAC Motor to bring all-star products to Detroit Show

DETROIT, MI: The Mercedes exhibit is shown at the 2018 North American International Auto Show on Monday in Detroit, Michigan. More than 5,100 journalists from 61 countries attend the NAIAS each year. The show opens to the public on January 20th and ends January 28th. — AFP

# Trucks and SUVs take center stage

## Detroit Auto Show unveils a host of choices from luxurious to utilitarian

DETROIT: Carmakers appealed to Americans' deep love of SUVs and trucks on Monday at the Detroit Auto Show, unveiling a host of choices from luxurious to utilitarian, while also beefing up the humble sedan.

From European car makers to American icons, there were dozens of new offerings for the North American market. While sedans and electric cars were still in the game, the industry clearly favored the large SUVs and trucks that are the source of high profit margins and preferred by US consumers two to one. To meet Americans' changing buying habits and preferences, newly offered trucks and SUVs were more luxurious and family-friendly, stuffed with more technology and premium materials, while lower-cost, paired down versions of the same models were also offered for the budget conscious.

In some cases, manufacturers tweaked vehicles to make them slightly roomier and taller than those of the prior generation, in response to consumers who enjoy a greater sense of command over the road.

"Pickup trucks are not just work trucks at all anymore. They are much more seen as family cars," said industry analyst Rebecca Lindland of Kelley Blue Book. Analysts said 2018 would be the year of trucks and SUVs, which have been making a dramatic comeback the last several years after a precipitous decline during the Great Recession starting in 2008.

"I think they embody a set of values that are reflective

of American culture," Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said. "The chances of pickup trucks playing a significant role in Europe is between zero and nothing." With gas prices still affordable, the economy booming, and unemployment low, US consumers are preferring higher-priced, amenity-laden, large vehicles compared to more modest family sedans and small compacts.

The auto show's best truck award this year went to the enormous Lincoln Navigator SUV.

"It's so different than the hype and what Wall Street's focused on," said Jonathan Smoke, chief economist at Cox Automotive. "What Wall Street is focused on is autonomy and Tesla, neither of which are here," he said. "Pickups are here."

Marchionne poured even more cold water on white-hot high tech fervor, proclaiming that he knew of no company, outside of high-end luxury models, "that is making money out of selling electric vehicles." "Is there any guarantee that we're creating an economic model

that is sustainable and defensible going forward? And the answer is no."

The top five selling vehicles in the US in 2017 were Ford's F-150 pickup,

GM's Chevrolet Silverado pickup, FCA's Ram 1500 pickup, the Toyota RAV4 SUV and the Nissan Rogue SUV, in that order. These and other large models are highly profitable for car makers. Ford's F-150 had an average transaction price of \$58,000, Lindland said.

### Larger, 'muscular'

Unveils commenced at a rapid clip on Monday, even after some major car makers debuted new models over the weekend. Fiat Chrysler offered an

updated Ram pickup, boasting of new multifunction USB ports, a 12-inch vertical touchscreen display and support for Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, among other features.

In an effort to add some excitement to a waning sedan market, Volkswagen revealed a new Passat—its

higher-end sedan—with more than 20 design changes and a sportier option. BMW premiered a new coupe version of its i8 hybrid electric vehicle, promising enhanced power and range.

BMW also expanded its SUV lineup with the new X2 — designed to fit in between its X1 and X3 compact utilities and distinguishing itself in a crowded crossover market with the company's signature zip and a "distinctive exterior design."

The auto show gave a boost to three models by awarding its annual best of the year distinctions.

The 2018 Honda Accord was awarded best car of the year, helping the Japanese company's family sedan best its top rival, the Toyota Camry—also a finalist for the award. Among utility cars, Volvo's XC60 SUV was the winner, a much-needed boost for the Chinese-owned Swedish car company as it aims to reassert itself into the American market. Ford's massive Navigator won in the truck category, in part because of its towing capability, an awards representative said. Some automakers tried to stand out in a crowded field of debuts by employing flash and glamour. Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger emerged from a redesigned Mercedes-Benz G-Class SUV on Sunday night. GM brought out a redesigned Silverado on Saturday against a backdrop of earlier models dating back decades—emphasizing its roots in American history. — AFP



Show seeking to meet Americans' changing buying habits, preferences

## China economy beat expectations in 2017; Survey

BEIJING: China's economy exceeded Beijing's annual growth target in 2017, analysts said in an AFP survey, overcoming the government's battles against massive debt and pollution-spewing factories.

The world's second largest economy expanded 6.8 percent in 2017, much better than the official target of around 6.5 percent, according to the poll of 11 financial experts. The reading is also an improvement on the 6.7 percent seen the previous year, which marked its worst performance in a quarter of a century. Premier Li Keqiang last week said he expected growth to have come in "around 6.9 percent". However, the forecast comes as fresh questions were raised about the veracity of the government's data after an area in the northern municipality of Tianjin became the latest place to be found to have inflated its own readings.

The government statistics bureau will release its official figures tomorrow.

"China's economic growth beat market expectations in 2017," JP Morgan Chase economist Shaoyu Guo told AFP. Guo noted that expansion in the first three quarters of the year were "led by infrastructure and real estate investment, and supported by solid consumption and improved external demand". Trade continued to be a major driver of growth as data last week showed exports and imports jumped in 2017, thanks to a pick-up in the global economy with the crucial US and European markets seeing strong recoveries.

The improvement at home comes in spite of government efforts to reduce the country's substantial debt and to combat its persistent pollution problems, which were both expected to curb GDP growth.

### Positive surprises

The economy eased slightly in the last quarter to 6.7 percent, the analysts said, from 6.8 percent in the three months prior. "October-November data showed moderation in the manufacturing sector," Guo said, "partly reflecting stricter implementation of environmental protection policies going into

the winter months."

Analysts said while policymakers are expected to focus on deleveraging in 2018, last year showed unexpected gains despite debt reduction efforts. "In terms of China (on a macro level), 2017 was again full of surprises, but the good news is that most of them are positive," Larry Hu, the Macquarie Group's head of China economics, said in a report this month.

Wei Yao, chief China economist at Societe Generale, predicted continued favorable gains this year.

"The Chinese economy seems to have ended 2017 on a strong footing and this momentum, especially the part fuelled by external demand, may carry on well into 2018," Wei told AFP. "We expect decent export growth to continue in the coming months, and there may well be upside surprises in light of continuing strong data from all the major economies."

Analysts predicted, however, that the housing market would see increasingly slow sales, with Hu saying that how the government addresses property taxes "is the key thing to watch over the next couple of years". — AFP

## Germany trumps Asia with world's largest CA surplus

BERLIN: Germany's current account surplus was the world's largest in 2017, the Munich-based Ifo economic institute said yesterday, unveiling a record high reading likely to renew criticism of the economic and fiscal policies in Europe's largest economy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Commission have for years urged Germany to lift domestic demand and imports in order

to reduce global economic imbalances and fuel global growth, including within the eurozone.

Ifo said the German current account surplus—which measures the flow of goods, services and investments—was the world's largest for the second year running in 2017 at \$287 billion, followed by Japan with \$203 billion. US President Donald Trump has criticized Germany for doing too little to reduce its trade surplus with the United States, accusing Germany of "very bad" trade policies.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has pushed back, pointing to private consumption becoming the main driver of growth. Merkel also pointed out that the German surplus is mainly a result of the interplay of supply and demand on global markets and that Berlin has only limited influence on other important factors such as the euro exchange rate and energy prices. — Reuters

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

# Global economy kicks off 2018 in strong form, though risks remain

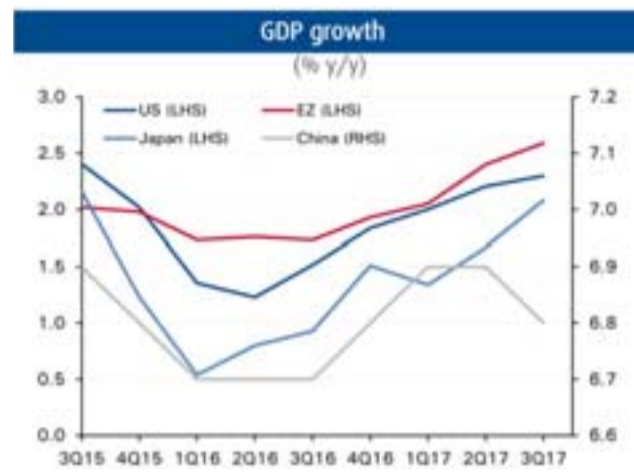
## US tax cuts could give further impetus to economy

**KUWAIT:** The global economy entered 2018 in strong form, with several major economies experiencing solid improvement in activity in recent months. Tax cuts in the US promise to give further impetus to an economy that had already been performing well. In the eurozone, the recovery continued to appear robust, with data surprising to the upside. Japan, too, has seen positive developments, while China and other emerging market economies have maintained steady or improving outlooks. In this environment, equities have continued to do well, with indices hitting new highs. Meanwhile, inflation has remained subdued across the board, something that could slow the pace of monetary policy normalization in advanced economies.

Tax cuts in the US will add further impetus to an already strong economy. The stimulus is estimated to be around \$1.5 trillion over ten years, and could boost economic growth by 0.3-0.5 percentage points in 2018 and 2019. Of course, this comes on top of already solid growth, which has been visible in a number of leading indicators, including capital goods orders and the ISM manufacturing index, which show increased optimism and rising investment. The labor market has also been tightening. Though non-farm payrolls increased by a lower-than-expected 148,000 in December, this followed two strong months; the 3-month average remained solid at 204,000, the highest figure recorded in 2017.

President Trump's agenda could bring more gains for the US economy in 2018, including further deregulation and a possible infrastructure deal. After the recent success of tax reform, additional business-friendly policies and fiscal stimulus can be expected this year. Indeed, Trump's promised infrastructure spending initiative could prove easier to achieve than previous policy proposals, especially if the president is able to work with Democrats to achieve it. If it materializes, it could boost economic growth still further.

Nonetheless, the risks of political dysfunction continue to cast a shadow on the US, though the recent passage of tax reform has seen these recede somewhat. Indeed, most will remember the difficulties faced by the administration in getting its



agenda through Congress last year. While tax reform was a success, it may have been the exception and not the rule. Indeed, markets continue to await agreement on spending allocations for fiscal 2018 and the government debt ceiling, after this was postponed by Congress last month with a temporary bill. A deal on a budget bill, required to avoid a government shutdown, is expected in January along with other pending issues, including immigration and healthcare.

The eurozone economy ended 2017 strong, having already surprised markets to the upside throughout the year. The PMI continued to increase, rising to 58.1 in December, a nearly 9-year high. Strength has also been broad-based. Indeed, strong data from the "core" countries has more recently been supported by improving data in some "peripheral" economies, including Italy and Portugal. Economic and business sentiment has also been improving, with some metrics hitting new highs. Unemployment fell to a nearly 9-year low of 8.7 percent. Retail sales for the region were also buoyant in December.

In the eurozone too, political risks remained front-and-center, though they had receded significantly from their levels this time last year. Indeed, one of the positives for 2017 was the ability for Europe to weather the significant political risks it

faced at the start of the year. Far-right populism was largely held at bay in elections. Still, populism's challenge was far from defeated. Germany is yet to form a new government after the historic advancement of the far-right party there. In Spain, the question of Catalan independence remains unresolved and could add to uncertainty. Meanwhile, an Italian election in March could again introduce uncertainty for the EU.



## Oil prices make further gains on output cuts

Despite solid economic performance, inflation in advanced economies remained subdued. While core CPI inflation in the US was stronger than expected in December, rising to 1.8 percent y/y, it is still too early to say whether momentum has picked up. A firmer monthly gain in average wages of 0.3 percent in December could portend some acceleration in wage inflation, but it is too early to say, and at 2.5 percent y/y, wage growth remains sub-

dued. In the eurozone too, inflation remains soft, with core inflation slipping to 0.9 percent in December.

Weak inflation, if it persists in 2018, could begin to weigh on the pace of monetary policy normalization. The Fed did not allow softer inflation since mid-2017 to hold it back from hiking the federal funds rate three times in 2017, though some had their doubts. However, the persistence of low inflation in 2018 could make that more difficult. Indeed, the Fed currently expects 3-4 hikes in 2018; markets already have a slightly more sanguine view, expecting 2-3 hikes. The case is still more relevant for the eurozone, where the recovery is more recent and inflation weaker.

Oil prices have been making further gains thus far in 2018, extending a more than 50 percent rally since the middle of last year. Brent rose to \$68 per barrel recently, up from a low of around \$45 in June 2017. Prices have certainly benefited from the OPEC-led agreement to reduce production by 14 member and 10 non-member producers, which was extended through the end of 2018. However, despite current strength, 2018 could see some downward pressure on prices from more modest global oil demand growth, especially during the first half of the year, and higher non-OPEC supply growth led by resurgent US shale production.

people and organizations and involve more than 200 different communications, according to Maersk. Documentation and bureaucracy can be as much as a fifth of the total cost of moving a container.

"There is a strong push from the end-customer to see this change. We may meet initial resistance from one part of the ecosystem," Clerc said. "The success of the platform depends on acceptance of all participants." Customs and port authorities in the United States, Singapore, the Netherlands and China's Guangdong province have shown interest in using the platform and some other shipping companies are also interested, he said.

Maersk, which handles one in seven containers shipped globally, sold off its energy business in 2017 to focus entirely on transportation and logistics.

A cyberattack last year caused some of the biggest-ever disruptions to global shipping, displaying the vulnerability of out-dated communication systems. Maersk's container and port operations were hit for weeks, as it struggled to bring its IT systems including some 1500 applications back online. The joint venture will be headed by the previous chief of Maersk Line's North American operations, Michael J. White. Maersk and IBM first announced their cooperation in March. — Reuters

## Maersk, IBM to launch blockchain-based platform for global trade

**COPENHAGEN:** The world's largest container shipping firm A.P. Moller-Maersk is teaming up with IBM to create an industry-wide trading platform it says can speed up trade and save billions of dollars.

The global shipping industry has seen little innovation since the container was invented in the 1950s, and cross-border trade still leaves an enormous trail of paperwork and bureaucracy.

Success of the platform, which will be made available to the ocean shipping industry around mid-2018, depends on whether Maersk and IBM can convince shippers, freight forwarders, ocean carriers, ports and customs authorities to sign up.

Blockchain technology powers the digital currency bitcoin and enables data sharing across a network of individual computers. It will help manage and track tens of millions of shipping containers globally by digitising the supply chain process from

end to end, the companies said. "The big thing that is missing from this industry to digitize and unleash the potential of the technology is really to create a form of utility that brings



standards across the entire ecosystem," Maersk's Chief Commercial Officer Vincent Clerc said in an interview. A shipment of refrigerated goods from East Africa to Europe can go through nearly 30

Bayt.com Poll

## Middle East residents feel positive about 2018

**KUWAIT:** With every new year comes a new outlook and a set of goals to be accomplished. A new poll by Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, entitled 'New Year's Resolutions in the Middle East and North Africa,' illustrates a remarkably high morale and optimism amongst professionals in the region coming into 2018. More than four in five (83.9 percent) respondents say they are feeling 'positive' about 2018. 8.7 percent said they have a 'neutral' outlook and only 7.4 percent had a 'negative' one.

On top of that, many professionals in the Middle East are reportedly setting many new goals for the New Year. In fact, 84 percent said they will set New Year's resolutions aimed towards their careers, their relationships, as well as their personal goals.

New Careers

Nine in ten (89.2 percent) MENA professionals say they set New Year's resolutions at least some of the time, with 72.2 percent saying they 'always' do. When it came to resolutions for 2018, a large majority (82.5 percent) of respondents are going after a 'career change'. In fact, three quarters (74.6 percent) of respondents said that 'finding a new job' is their main career resolution for the year.

Other career goals included 'learning new skills / pursuing higher education' (9.6 percent), 'getting a salary raise or a promotion' (5.3 percent), 'being more productive' (4.1 percent), 'starting own business' (3.1 percent), 'forming better relationships at work' (1.7 percent), and 'other' career goals (1.6 percent). Moreover, most MENA professionals have a positive outlook on their job hunt for 2018, with more than nine in 10 of current job seekers saying they 'will find their ideal job' this year.

In pursuing the job hunt in 2018, the most important job attribute for a far majority (61.7 percent) of respondents is 'career growth opportunities', followed by a 'competitive salary' (13 percent), 'work-life balance' (11.1 percent), 'learning and training' offerings (7.3 percent), and a 'reputable company brand' (6.9 percent). "It is inspiring to see that MENA professionals have a very positive attitude towards reaching their goals in the upcoming year, especially in regards to their job search and career growth aspirations," said Suhail Masri, VP Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "With three-quarters of respondents searching for new jobs in 2018, we at Bayt.com are excited to help even more professionals fulfill their goals. In 2017, we've successfully posted over 140,000 jobs and facilitated over 1.7 million CV searches and over 1.5 million contacts between employers and job seekers. We look forward to extending our help to more job seekers and to make a greater number of jobs available in 2018 and the years to come."

Personal Growth in 2018

Aside from job-related aspirations, MENA professionals also have ambitious personal goals for 2018. More than half (56.1 percent) of respondents say they mostly want to improve their friendships and relationships, while another quarter (25.3 percent) say they want to improve their finances and spending habits. Improving hobbies and personal interests (6.6 percent), spiritual and religious life (6.5 percent), and health and wellness (5.5 percent) are also among respondents' personal priorities in 2018.

When it came to health and wellness specifically, 80.6 percent of respondents said they will eat healthy food and/or join a gym in 2018. The rest of respondents (19.4 percent) said they are 'already happy' with their health.

In terms of execution, four in five (80.4 percent) MENA professionals say they usually complete their New Year's resolutions with 'careful planning and hard work', while most of the remainder (15.9 percent) say they do so by 'going with the flow and trying different options' to achieve their goals. These approaches have reportedly been largely successful in past years: more than three quarters (78.3 percent) of respondents said they completed at least some of their 2017 New Year's resolutions, with 35.9 percent saying they completed all or most of them.

Data for the 2018 Bayt.com 'New Year's Resolutions in the Middle East and North Africa' poll was collected online from 3 December 2017 to 11 January 2018. Results are based on a sample of 8,849 respondents. Countries that participated include the UAE, Bahrain, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Qatar, KSA, Yemen, and others.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>	
Japanese Yen	2.717
Indian Rupees	4.728
Pakistani Rupees	2.726
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.958
Nepali Rupees	2.968
Singapore Dollar	228.560
Hongkong Dollar	38.520
Bangladesh Taka	3.619
Philippine Peso	5.956
Thai Baht	9.471
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>	
Saudi Riyal	80.410
Qatari Riyal	82.823
Omani Riyal	783.134
Bahraini Dinar	800.720
UAE Dirham	82.123
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.700
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.009
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.210
Tunisian Dinar	125.300
Jordanian Dinar	425.040
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.009
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	33.079
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>	
US Dollar Transfer	301.350

Euro	370.510
Sterling Pound	416.770
Canadian dollar	243.710
Turkish lira	79.990
Swiss Franc	314.230
Australian Dollar	241.530
US Dollar Buying	300.150
<b>GOLD</b>	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570
<b>Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd</b>	
<b>Rate for Transfer</b>	<b>Selling Rate</b>
US Dollar	302.100
Canadian Dollar	242.530
Sterling Pound	409.633
Euro	362.965
Swiss Frank	297.145
Bahrain Dinar	803.394
UAE Dirhams	82.651
Qatari Riyals	83.886
Saudi Riyals	81.454
Jordanian Dinar	427.373
Egyptian Pound	17.118
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.966
Indian Rupees	4.743
Pakistani Rupees	2.735
Bangladesh Taka	3.664
Philippines Peso	5.998
Cyprus pound	17.976

Japanese Yen	3.709	
Syrian Pound	1.586	
Nepalese Rupees	2.946	
Malaysian Ringgit	76.278	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.859	
Thai Bhat	10.405	
Turkish Lira	80.548	
<b>BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL</b>		
<b>CURRENCY</b>	<b>BUY</b>	<b>SELL</b>
British Pound	0.409672	0.417172
Czech Korune	0.006446	0.015748
Danish Krone	0.045508	0.050508
Euro	0.363807	0.371307
Georgian Lari	0.117441	0.117441
Hungarian 0.001104	0.001294	
Norwegian Krone	0.034156	0.039356
Romanian Leu	0.062630	0.079480
Russian ruble	0.005333	0.005333
Slovakia	0.008958	0.018958
Swedish Krona	0.033525	0.038528
Swiss Franc	0.306039	0.317039
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.231528	0.243528
New Zealand Dollar	0.213144	0.222644
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.236923	0.245923
US Dollars	0.297250	0.301870
US Dollars Mint	0.297760	0.301670

<b>Asia</b>	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003273 0.003857
Chinese Yuan	0.045367 0.048867
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036423 0.039173
Indian Rupee	0.004229 0.004870
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018 0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002631 0.002811
Korean Won	0.000273 0.000288
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072307 0.078307
Nepalese Rupee	0.003007 0.003177
Pakistan Rupee	0.002551 0.002841
Philippine Peso	0.005948 0.006248
Singapore Dollar	0.222455 0.232455
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001277 0.002307
Taiwan	0.010074 0.010254
Thai Baht	0.009086 0.009636
<b>Arab</b>	
Bahraini Dinar	0.792705 0.801205
Egyptian Pound	0.014347 0.020065
Iranian Riyal	0.000083 0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000198 0.000258
Jordanian Dinar	0.420420 0.429420
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000 1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000149 0.000249
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021972 0.045972
Omani Riyal	0.776409 0.782089
Qatar Riyal	0.078483 0.083423
Saudi Riyal	0.079273 0.080573
Syrian Pound	0.001277 0.001497
Tunisian Dinar	0.118979 0.126979
Turkish Lira	0.074480 0.084780
UAE Dirhams	0.080621 0.084780
Yemeni Riyal	0.000979 0.001069

# CHEVROLET ALGHANIM, THE FIRST TO BRING A FULLY ELECTRIC CAR TO KUWAIT! WELCOME CHEVROLET BOLT EV.

AT KUWAIT MOTOR SHOW, AUTOMOTO 2018



FULLY ELECTRIC

Chevrolet Alghanim will be participating in Kuwait's most anticipated annual automotive shows in Kuwait: Automoto 2018, taking place at 360 Mall, from January 18th until January 27th. A definite attraction for youth and automotive fans, many are expected to attend the grand event, with

Already a game changer in the electric vehicle space in its home market and abroad, the Chevrolet Bolt EV is packed with innovation. With segment-leading driving range and performance, it is one of the most affordable and practical long-range electric vehicles on the market today.

The Chevrolet Bolt EV can achieve more than 500 kilometres of range on a single charge, with the ability to store 150 kilometres worth of range in just a 30-minute charge.

"The Chevrolet Bolt EV is a ground-breaking vehicle that will shape the way Chevrolet moves into the future. In fact, it has already made a mark on the industry with its leading-edge technology, worry-free range and fun-to-drive characteristics. It has also brought new, younger, more affluent customers to Chevrolet and elevated the overall perception of the brand," says Alan Batey, President, GM North America and Global Chevrolet Brand Chief.

the Chevrolet stand sure to capture their attention with interactive and unique cars display. The top news this year comes with three amazing vehicles: Chevrolet's most powerful car ever – the **Corvette ZR1**, the **Bolt EV** and the **Tahoe RST**!

Chevrolet Middle East is gearing up to change the region's motoring landscape. With the Chevrolet Bolt EV's remarkable performance and usability, the brand will contribute towards the region's drive to sustainable, smart mobility.

The Chevrolet Bolt EV's electric propulsion drivetrain is powered by one of the most advanced batteries with a capacity of 60Kwh. This electric drive develops 360 Nm of instant torque, and an output equivalent to 204 horsepower.

#### SAFETY FEATURES

- Ten standard air bags
- Rear-vision camera standard
- Surround Vision and Rear Camera Mirror
- Driver Confidence Package. Content includes: Lane Change Alert with Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross-Traffic Alert and Rear Parking Assist
- Driver Confidence II Package is available and includes Low Speed Forward Automatic Braking, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Alert, Following Distance Indicator, Front Pedestrian Braking and IntelliBeam headlamps

## 2019 CORVETTE ZR1



The 2019 Corvette ZR1 is quite simply a supercar that pushes Corvette's performance legacy with the highest power, greatest track performance and most advanced technology in its production history.

The Corvette ZR1's exclusive LT5 supercharged engine, which is rated at an SAE-certified 755 horsepower (563 kW) and 715 lb-ft of torque (969 Nm), is establishing a new benchmark in performance. Further, the ZR1 elevates Corvette's track capability with two wind tunnel-honed aerodynamics packages, including an available High Wing that provides an estimated 950 pounds (430.91 Kgs) of downforce.

#### Most powerful ever

The ZR1's LT5 6.2L V-8 engine advances Corvette's supercharging legacy, which began with the 2009 sixth-generation ZR1 and continued with the 2015 seventh-generation Z06. The LT5 delivers the highest output ever for a Chevrolet production vehicle, thanks in part to a new, more-efficient intercooled supercharger system that offers 52 percent more displacement than the Z06's LT4 supercharger. GM's first dual-fuel-injection system,

which employs primary direct injection and supplemental port injection, helps the LT5 achieve its record output.

Seven-speed manual and eight-speed paddle-shift automatic transmissions are available with the LT5. It's the first time an automatic transmission has been offered in a ZR1.

#### Fastest ever

The 2019 Corvette ZR1's aggressive appearance is driven by function, contributing to its distinction as the fastest production Corvette to date.

An all-new front fascia is designed to channel air for propulsion-system and drivetrain cooling, with four new radiators bringing the heat-exchanger total to 13. A special carbon-fiber "halo" hood is open in the middle to clear the LT5 engine's supercharger/intercooler assembly. Additional features, including aero packages with stanchion-mounted wings, help push the ZR1 harder onto the track for more confident handling and faster lap times. Top speed of the ZR1 is over 210 mph (337 kph).

## TAHOE RST



From the inventors of the SUV comes the Chevrolet Tahoe RST, the most powerful production Tahoe to date. The Chevrolet Tahoe RST showcase is certain to fuel the passion for performance Chevrolet shares with its regional fans.

Aside from the cosmetic enhancements, the Tahoe RST packs an advanced powertrain deeply rooted in Chevrolet's performance range. Sharing the same 6.2L V8 in the Camaro SS and Corvette Stingray, it's coupled with General Motor's latest 10-speed transmission which made its debut on the Camaro ZL1 earlier this year. Its added power is enhanced with tuned suspension and reigned in with high performance brakes by Brembo®.

"Since the announcement of Tahoe RST for the US market earlier this year, we have been overwhelmed by the reaction from regional Chevrolet customers and fans. Presenting the Tahoe RST at the Kuwait's biggest automotive show caters to their requests, and will help us gauge customer intent," says Ahmed Soudodi, Head of Brand at Chevrolet Middle East. "The RST is designed for customers who want a street performance look and increased performance without sacrificing capability or refinement," he added.

The Tahoe RST is the ultimate version of the iconic Tahoe, Chevrolet's best-selling large SUV.

Car fans anywhere in Kuwait should not miss out on this massive event, with special regard to the Chevrolet stand where they can explore and enjoy the generous lineup of the latest Chevrolet models!

To stay tuned to the latest events and announcements, customers are encouraged to follow Chevrolet Alghanim on its social media channels @ChevroletAlghanim or call the hotline 1800022.

Business

# Dow eyes 26,000 as earnings pick up pace

NEW YORK: Futures on the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged more than 200 points yesterday, indicating that the blue-chip index could open above 26,000 for the first time as the fourth-quarter reporting season kicks into high gear. Dow component UnitedHealth rose 1.47 percent after the largest US health insurer reported results that beat analysts' estimates and raised its full-year profit forecast. Citigroup Inc jumped 2.7 percent after the lender reported profit that topped Wall Street expectations as strength in consumer businesses made up for lower revenue from bond and currency trading. Hopes of strong quarterly earnings, supported by steep cut in corporate taxes, and solid global economic growth have bolstered Wall Street's optimism in the start to 2018.

"Not only is the US coming off a strong quarter, but the new tax reform measures are continuing to provide a boost, with investors keen to hear more about what impact this will have on future earnings," said Craig Erlam, senior market

analyst at online foreign exchange broker Oanda. If the Dow hits 26,000, it would mark its fastest 1000-point rise. It ended above 25,000 on Jan 4. S&P 500 e-minis were up 12.5 points, or 0.45 percent, with 312,460 contracts traded. Nasdaq 100 e-minis were up 38.75 points, or 0.57 percent, on volume of 72,029 contracts. General Motors rose 3.36 percent after the company said it expects earnings in 2018 to be largely flat, compared with 2017, but that profits should pick up pace in 2019.

General Electric shares fell 3.52 percent in heavy pre-market trading, after the industrial conglomerate said it would record a \$6.2 billion charge in the fourth quarter as part of an ongoing review of its finance arm's insurance portfolio. Oil prices pulled back from recent highs yesterday, with Brent crude dipping 1.07 percent to \$69.51 per barrel. Hershey fell 1.05 percent after Goldman Sachs downgraded the stock to "sell". Bitcoin tumbled 18 percent to a four-week trough close

to \$11,000, after reports that a ban on trading of cryptocurrencies in South Korea was still an option.

Shares of cryptocurrency-related companies were all down. Marathon Patent, Riot Blockchain, Xunlei and Overstock.com fell between 4 percent and 13 percent.

Meanwhile, eurozone stock markets pushed higher yesterday on the coattails of Asia, while London gains were capped by share price falls across the heavyweight energy and mining sectors. London's FTSE 100 was still close to hitting a new all-time high however, as sterling dropped on official data showing that UK annual inflation pulled back in December from a near six-year peak. The euro meanwhile came off a three-year high versus the dollar struck on Monday, while oil futures retreated also from their highest levels since 2015 that were reached at the start of the week.

The euro is "finally seeing some weakness after its remarkable bounce of late", said Chris Beauchamp, chief mar-

ket analyst at IG trading group. He noted also that "sterling's impressive rally over the past nine months has helped cool imported inflation" into the UK, in turn lessening the prospect of further rate tightening from the Bank of England.

"Perhaps they won't have to raise rates this year after all, although one reading does not constitute a trend," added Beauchamp after UK annual inflation dipped to 3.0 percent from 3.1 percent.

The European single currency on Monday almost broke \$1.23 for the first time since December 2014 on strong economic data and after a key member of the European Central Bank hinted that it could start cutting back its bond-buying stimulus by September. In company share price movement yesterday, BP shed 2.0 percent to 521.9 pence after the British energy giant said it will take an additional charge of \$1.7 billion (1.4 billion euros) for last year linked to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster in 2010. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Tuesday January 16, 2018									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing						
Price Index	▼ -2.07	6,624.53	6,626.60						
Weighted Index	▼ -0.81	419.53	420.34						
KXS 15	▼ -1.80	970.54	972.34						
				Volume	140,685,855				
				Value (KWD)	14,768,364				
				Number of Trades	4,835				
Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change		
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	480	—	0.0		
NAPESCO	796	788	6,500	5,151	13	796	▲ 1.0		
ENERGYH	30.0	28.5	15,502	456	7	30.0	▲ 0.5		
GPI	32.3	31.9	1,115,900	35,824	35	31.9	▼ -0.6		
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	—		
Oil & Gas	1,127,902			41,431	55	999.86	▼ -0.20		
KFOUC	249	221	17,211	3,880	9	226	▼ -2.0		
BPCC	750	739	375,414	280,996	21	750	▼ -14.0		
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	—		
ALQURAIN	359	354	367,536	130,581	45	354	▼ -8.0		
Basic Materials	780,161			415,487	75	1319.88	▼ -15.20		
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	472	—		
CABLE	457	457	10,000	4,570	2	457	▲ 8.0		
SHIP	208	200	500,095	100,932	38	203	▼ -8.0		
PCEM	985	985	3,819	3,762	2	985	—		
PAPER	250	250	292	73	1	250	—		
MRC	75	70	1,060	75	4	75	▲ 8.0		
ACICO	255	255	300,000	75,000	11	255	▲ 5.0		
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	183	—		
NCSM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	188	—		
EQUIPMENT	44.8	41.2	1,554,758	66,488	62	43.5	▲ 2.7		
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—		
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—		
SALBOOKH	57	54	6,000	324	2	57	▼ -0.1		
AOLTY	881	870	1,001,552	878,392	122	881	▲ 10.0		
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—		
CLEANING	63	57	555,952	34,302	45	61	▼ -0.3		
KGL	108	102	7,201,849	776,517	90	108	▲ 17.6		
KPCP	150	150	10,000	1,500	1	150	▲ 7.0		
HUMANSOFT	3,800	3,850	14,454	55,698	7	3,850	▼ -50.0		
NAFAS	850	850	1	1	1	850	▼ -30.0		
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	—		
SHOOTING	23.0	19.9	280,668	6,014	19	22.9	▲ 1.5		
CGC	489	450	582	277	4	468	▼ -2.0		
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	—		
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	612	—		
ALAFDD	377	372	238,043	89,204	12	372	▼ -3.0		
MUBARRAD	73	70	179,600	12,782	12	72	▼ -0.4		
LOGISTICS	68	61	27,059,958	1,753,398	795	61	▼ -3.5		
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—		
GCEM	85	84	3,100	260	4	85	▲ 0.1		
GIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	—		
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	—		
RKWC	84	84	1,000	84	1	84	▲ 10.4		
SPEC	74	70	63,893	4,559	27	74	▲ 1.9		
Industrials	38,998,686			3,865,712	1,262	1858.49	▼ -6.40		
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	—		
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	226	—		
DANAH	69	67	1,950,061	131,465	59	68	▼ -0.4		
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,055	—		
Consumer Goods	1,950,061			131,465	59	812.16	▼ -1.20		
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	—		
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	—		
Health Care	0			0	0	1910.51	—		
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,130	—		
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	248	—		
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	—		
CABLETV	24.0	17.6	9,002	171	3	17.6	▼ -4		
FAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	—		
OUAFUEL	114	112	912,946	103,159	44	114	▲ 1		
MUNTAZAHAT	75	72	20,210	1,446	4	75	▼ 0		
JAZEERA	655	650	99,352	64,710	13	655	▼ -5		
SOOR	114	114	33,314	3,798	12	114	—		
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	111	—		
ALRAI	115	115	36,483	4,193	4	115	—		
Jiyad	105	100	3,383,400	341,528	200	105	▲ 5		
Mezzan	790	790	131,019	101,646	18	790	▼ -1		
Consumer Services	4,628,708			620,651	398	924.64	▲ 4.10		
ZAIN	503	497	3,628,422	1,814,669	239	501	▲ 1		
COOREDOO	1,127	1,080	6,542	6,013	7	1,127	▲ 1		
AAN	30.5	30.0	475,360	14,321	17	30.1	▼ 0		
VIVA	779	778	23,861	18,431	31	779	▼ -1		
Telecommunications	4,132,965			1,853,435	294	679.89	▼ -0.90		
NBK	782	776	1,099,200	856,231	93	779	▼ -1		
GBK	238	237	967,540	229,607	42	238	▼ -1		
CBK	400	400	20,566	8,226	2	400	—		
ABK	306	306	500	153	1	306	▼ -13		
ALMUTAHED	354	348	56,804	19,876	13	350	▼ -2		
KIB	237	235	618,200	145,392	28	236	▼ -1		
BURG	323	322	165,609	53,491	15	323	—		
KFN	609	602	2,698,678	1,632,834	198	606	▼ -1		
BOUBAYAN	452	457	159,069	73,005	29	460	—		
AUB	210	209	1,525,150	319,013	39	210	—		
ITHMB	53	52	8,355,222	436,735	215	52	▼ -1		
WARBANK	227	222	2,069,928	454,034	126	223	▼ -4		
Banks	17,736,464			4,338,597	801	956.02	▼ -8.80		
KINS	265	265	16,435	4,355	3	265	▼ -0.2		
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	—		
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	425	—		
WINS	65	63	12,123	783	4	65	▲ 0.0		
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	—		
FTI	67	65	2,000	131	2	65	▲ 1.0		
WETHAQ	40.0	40.0	3,500	140	2	40.0	—		
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—		
Insurance	34,058			5,409	11	1014.38	▲ 1.10		

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report										
At 02:00 PM Previous Day										
Global Stock Indices										
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %					
Dow Jones	25,574.73	25,803.19	228.46	▲	0.89	4.39				
NASDAQ	7,211.78	7,261.06	49.28	▲	0.68	5.18				
S&P 500	2,767.56	2,786.24	18.68	▲	0.67	4.21				
Financial Times	7,769.14	7,781.37	12.23	▲	0.16	1.22				
DAX	13,200.51	13,304.72	104.21	▲	0.79	3.00				
CAC 40	5,509.69	5,527.89	18.20	▲	0.33	4.05				
Swiss	9,537.28	9,550.87	13.59	▲	0.14	1.80				
Nikkei 225	23,714.88	23,951.81	236.93	▲	1.00	5.22				
Topix	1,883.90	1,894.25	10.35	▲	0.55	4.22				
Hang Seng	31,338.87	31,904.75	565.88	▲	1.81	6.64				
Strait Times	3,536.41	3,550.21	13.80	▲	0.39	4.33				
MENA Stock Indices										
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %					
Kuwait	6,626.60	6,624.53	-2.07	▼	-0.03	3.30				
Saudi Arabia	7,483.23	7,533.31	50.08	▲	0.67	3.56				
Dubai	3,495.81	3,525.59	29.78	▲	0.85	3.73				
Abu Dhabi	4,601.95	4,615.41	13.46	▲	0.29	4.63				
Bahrain	1,324.10	1,321.40	-2.70	▼	-0.20	-0.57				
Qatar	8,946.97	9,178.18	231.21	▲	2.58	4.97				
Oman	5,069.25	5,039.86	-29.39	▼	-0.58	-0.59				
Lebanon	1,171.09	1,171.09	0.00	-	0.00	1.96				
Jordan	2,132.27	2,140.51	8.24	▲	0.					

Business

# Kuwait International Bank wins 'Best Customer Acquisition GCC'

Accolade for achieving highest level of customer satisfaction

**KUWAIT:** In a testament to its ability to attract clients and achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) was awarded "Best Customer Acquisition GCC" for the year 2017 by World Finance; a global magazine specializing in the finance and banking sectors, which continues to recognize prominent institutions across the GCC.

This latest accolade, which came as part of World Finance's annual GCC Investment and Development Awards, was awarded to KIB after extensive deliberation by the latter's Editorial Panel. As a result, World Finance recognized the Bank as the best in attracting customers amongst other Islamic Banks in the GCC.



KIB was also recognized for its Sharia-compliant financial products and services, robust forward-looking strategy and its implementation, transparency and corporate governance, sustainable growth and pursuit of innovation, comprehensive social responsibility program, and various other key industry standards that were fundamental in expanding the Bank's customer base in recent years.

Speaking about this achievement, Sheikh Mohammad Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of KIB, said: "This award came as a result of the success of our new strategy, which focuses on understanding customer preferences and meeting their diverse banking needs in full compliance with

the principles of Islamic Sharia," he further added: "We do not only seek to provide the best banking services, but we also aim to deliver the utmost levels of customer service, in accordance with the highest international industry standards."

Within this context, KIB continues to enhance its Islamic banking capabilities in order to improve and expand its Sharia-compliant banking solutions. Accordingly, the Bank is successfully implementing its new strategic plan aimed at developing its product and service offerings, such as its suite of investment solutions which include its various investment deposits. Overall, KIB's deposits witnessed a significant increase in their annualized profit rates during 2017. The annualized gross profit rate of Boushra (three years) and Arzaq Deposits in Kuwaiti dinars increased during the third quarter of 2017 to



Sheikh Mohammad Jarrah Al-Sabah

reach 3.25 percent and 2.7 percent respectively. Additionally, the annualized net profit rate of Savings Account in Kuwaiti dinar offered 1.62 percent at the end of the third quarter of 2017, amounting to the highest return rate in Kuwait distributed by a savings account on a quarterly basis.

As Al-Jarrah noted, KIB was recognized with this award from amongst a number of other banks, as a result of its outstanding Islamic banking offerings, excellent customer management, simple and effective procedures, and innovative services; all of which have helped distinguish it from other players in a highly-competitive market. The Bank has also excelled with its promotional campaigns, which seek to provide customers with countless benefits, offering them the highest value and the best rewards. On its part, KIB has garnered numerous local,

regional and international awards and honors thus far in 2017. Some of the most prominent and prestigious of these accolades have included: Islamic Banking Chairman of the Year from World Finance, Best Change Management in Kuwait from The Banker Middle East, Best Strategic Vision in Banking from the World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB), Distinction in Social Responsibility in Islamic Banking from the Regional CSR Network, and Excellence in Development of Islamic Banking Services from the Union of Arab Banks (UAB). Moreover, KIB was named amongst the 50 Top Listed Companies in Kuwait by Forbes Middle East.

It serves to note that World Finance magazine is a leading quarterly global financial magazine based in London, and is one of the most prominent and independent global financial evaluation bodies, which seeks to identify industry leaders in finance and banking that represent the benchmark of achievement and best practice in the financial and business world.

## As economy builds steam, French deficit falls to 9-year low

**PARIS:** France cut its budget deficit in 2017 to the lowest level since 2008 as the accelerating economy boosted tax revenues, the budget ministry said yesterday, putting Paris on course to meet EU deficit rules for the first time in a decade. President Emmanuel Macron wants to rebuild France's fiscal credibility with Berlin and Brussels, seen as vital for winning support for his plans to reform the euro zone's institutions.

Stronger than expected growth has dealt him a good hand, lifting tax revenues and in turn reducing the need for sharp cuts to spending to keep his deficit reduction plans on track. As a result, the shortfall between the state's spending and revenues came in less than originally budgeted by the previous Socialist government, the budget ministry said. France publishes in March its overall 2017 public deficit including local authorities and welfare administrations. But the state budget deficit figures makes it more likely the overall deficit will be less than 3 percent of gross domestic product.

France has not had its public deficit in line with the European Union's 3-percent limit since 2007. EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said that France appeared to be on course to keep the deficit to less than 3 percent for two consecutive years as required to exit an EU excessive deficit procedure France has been subject to for years of flouting the bloc's fiscal rules.

"With growth helping, I think that it is entirely possible," Moscovici, himself a former French finance minister, told journalists in Paris.

### Bright outlook

All signs currently suggest that France will keep benefiting from a growth rebound as business and consumer confidence hits multi-year highs while job creation soars. Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Monday that growth in both 2017 and 2018 would exceed the government's 1.7 percent estimates for both years, which automatically improves the deficit as a percent of GDP. In the latest sign of France's strengthening recovery, new businesses were set up last month at the fastest rate since 2010, data from the official INSEE statistics agency showed. The improvement in government finances has come mainly from a surge in value added sales tax and corporate tax at the end of 2017, the budget ministry said. Spending was also kept in check. Nonetheless, some economists question whether the government is relying too much on strong growth boosting revenues to improve the finances while not doing more to cut spending.

Though French government spending is among the highest in the world at nearly 55 percent of GDP, Macron refuses to cut any faster than already flagged-three percentage points over the course of his five-year mandate. "If you cut with too much brutality, you take the risk of having the opposite effect to what you intended. We will be judged by the jobs we create, the unemployment rate and growth," a senior finance ministry source said. The budget ministry said that the state's deficit came to 67.8 billion euros (\$82.99 billion) last year, marking an improvement of 1.3 billion euros from 2016 and the lowest level since 2008. — Reuters

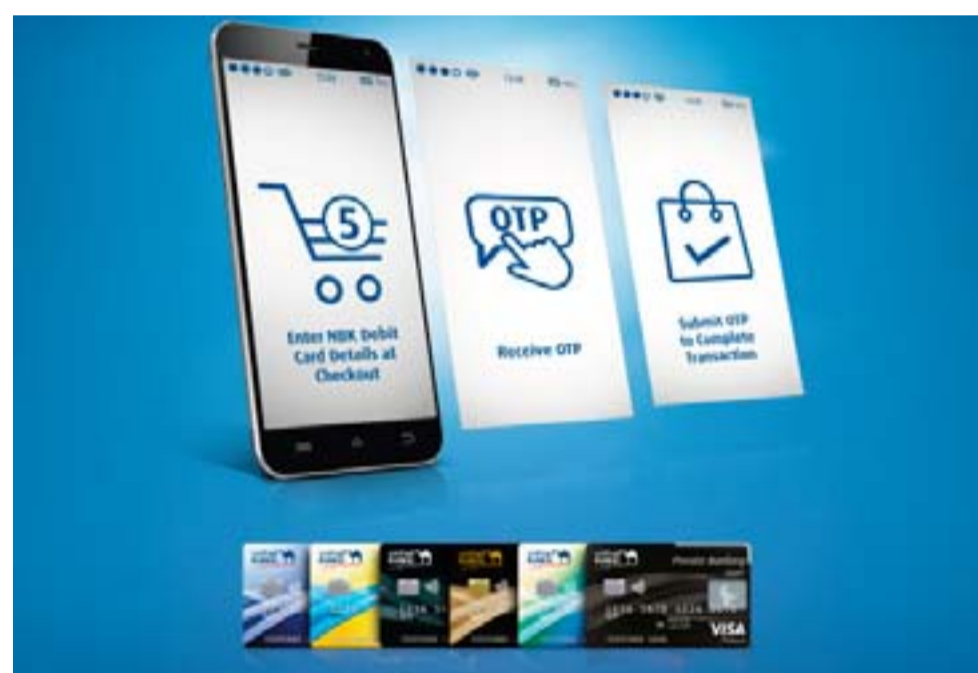
## Protect yourself when shopping online with NBK Secure Shopping

**KUWAIT:** NBK continually innovates products and services to suit the lifestyle needs of its customers. NBK Secure Shopping is tailored to provide NBK customers with a simple, safe and secure way to shop online and keep their credit card details protected.

Around 57 percent of adults in Kuwait regularly shop online, according to a recent Ipsos study. Items most often purchased include

clothes (53 percent), travel (48 percent), perfumes (11 percent), electronics (10 percent) cosmetics (8 percent) and shoes (7 percent) as well as household items, toys, games and handbags. "Purchasing goods and services online is a part of modern life and NBK works diligently to protect our customers," explained Hanadi Khazal, Assistant General Manager- Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait.

The process is simple and free. NBK customers can utilize the secure shopping facility automatically whenever shopping online. They



will be directed to a secure webpage that asks for a one-time password (OTP). The OTP is sent to NBK credit card and debit cardholders via e-mail and SMS. Once a customer receives the OTP, he/she can input the one-time password to complete the purchase.

"Customers pay for online purchases with debit cards 55 percent of the time and pay with credit cards around 38 percent of purchases online. By creating NBK Secure Shopping in partnership with Mastercard Secure Code and Verified by Visa, NBK makes using credit cards a smarter, safer choice when shopping online," said Khazal.

The added layer of security ensures that the person making the purchases is the cardholder. NBK credit card and debit cardhold-

ers do not need to register to avail of the NBK Secure Shopping facility.

NBK Secure Shopping is part of the bank's long term effort to ensure the safety and security of its customers' digital financial transactions. NBK offers a variety of safety features for online transactions. It also maintains its position among the 50 safest banks in the world for the 12th consecutive year.

NBK continues to collectively enjoy the highest credit ratings from the three international rating agencies: Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team.

## GAC Motor to bring all-star products to 2018 NAIAS

**DETROIT:** 2018 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) kicked off on Monday COBO Center in Detroit, prelude to global auto events of a new year. In the NAIAS this year, GA4 will make its global debut and GAC MOTOR's all-star models such as GS8, GM8, GA8, GS7, GS4, GS3 and GA6 will make their appearance as well. Meanwhile, a new energy concept compact SUV Enverge designed by GAC MOTOR targeted at North American market's characteristics and two self-developed engines 2.0T GDI and 1.5TM will be also displayed, so as to comprehensively show the achievements of GAC MOTOR in innovations of R&D, technologies and products.

GA4 is designed to provide high-quality car life for the ambitious "quality life creators" embracing the dream of a better life. Enverge, which will show up together with GA4, is a new-energy concept vehicle specially developed by GAC Group for North American market. With a pioneering design language and core technology achievements in new energy sector, such a vehicle will provide brand-new recreational driving experience catering to lifestyle of the young.

In terms of SUV, GS4 is a "phenomenal" star product in Chinese auto market, with total sales of over 780,000 units. In addition, total orders of GS7 and GS3 have outnumbered 18,000 and 39,000 respectively since these two models went into market in August 2017. And GS8 has had its total sales exceed 110,000 units since it was launched 14 months ago, topping the sales list of large 7-seater SUV in Chinese market for a long time. As for sedan, GA6 boasts an average monthly sales of over 2,000 units, ranking top among Chinese auto brands in the market segment in a long period. In 2017, GA8 became the top-selling Chinese-branded medium and high-end sedan and luxury sedan in succession, making it reputed by the industry as "a calling card of Chinese high-end manufacturing



strength". GM8, rolled out at the end of 2017, is the first high-end MPV designed by GAC MOTOR to innovate in the traditional business travel, leading an extraordinary trend of Chinese-branded luxury MPV and satisfying diversified demands of new-generation consumers for business and family purpose in an all-around manner.

### GS8 leads Chinese brand to make improvements

GAC MOTOR's participation in the show marks the first appearance of its three "8" (GA8, GS8 and GM8) lineup in North America. These three luxury C-class vehicles are masterpieces built by GAC MOTOR with equal attention, prying a new growth point of domestic market from a high growth point and comprehensively demonstrating GAC MOTOR family's platform, intelligent and high-end system strength.

This is the fourth time for GAC MOTOR to participate in NAIAS. Since partaking in NAIAS in 2013 for the first time, GAC MOTOR has set off a "GAC MOTOR craze" worldwide. In 2015, GS4 made global debut at NAIAS, became a domestic star model with the best sales. In 2017, GS7, GE3 and concept vehicle EnSpirit made their global debut. In 2018, GAC MOTOR will have showroom area of 1156m<sup>2</sup>, twice as large as that in 2017, making the area and lineup hit a record high in Chinese brand history. That also shows the world GAC MOTOR's determination and strength in global development.

**Comprehensive promotion**  
With a global vision since its establishment, GAC MOTOR directly entering middle and high-end markets, has been favored for its world-class products and premium services, which allows it to achieve sustained high-quality and high-speed growth. In 2017, GAC MOTOR sold more than 508,600 vehicles, a substantial increase of 37 percent year-on-year, far higher than average growth of the industry. In addition, GAC MOTOR has topped other Chinese brands for five consecutive years in J.D. Power IQS.



becoming a quality model leading the industry. Recently, GS3, following GS8's attainment of "5-star safety ratings" since C-NCAP adopted new test standards, has become a five-star "safety champion" for compact SUV of C-NCAP and successively won a gold medal of C-ECAP.

Yu Jun, deputy director of GAC Group Executive Committee and general manager of GAC MOTOR, denoted GAC MOTOR vows to build itself into a world-class Chinese auto brand and an international enterprise with global production, sales and R&D.

While developing at top speed in China, GAC MOTOR pushes forward the process of brand internationalization in a steady manner. So far, GAC MOTOR has completed its layouts in five sectors (i.e., the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and America) and 14 countries, establishing global sales networks and service systems preliminarily. Aside from that, GAC MOTOR actively arranges global R&D networks, expediting construction of overseas R&D centers. GAC R&D Center in Silicon Valley officially went into operation in April 2017. And preparations for building GAC R&D Center in Detroit and Advanced Design Center in Los Angeles are moving ahead rapidly. GAC MOTOR's product R&D will be synchronized with its brand introduction and channel development. The company is set to establish North America sales branch and Hong Kong trade platform in the first half of 2018 and to officially make a foray into North American market in 2019.

As one of the fastest-growing Chinese auto brands in recent years, GAC MOTOR will bring its strongest ever all-star lineup to NAIAS and comprehensively showcase leading technologies and advanced level of products made by China, demonstrating the strength and confidence of a Chinese brand to go global and officially sounding the trumpets of entering North American market in 2019. GA4, which is to make its global debut in the NAIAS, is bound to stun the market with extraordinary strength, becoming another star model of GAC MOTOR.

## Technology

# Huawei unveils world's first 4-camera phone with full view display - Mate10 lite in Kuwait

## Selfie Toning Flash, latest beauty 4.0 algorithm and exceptional performance

**KUWAIT:** Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) has unveiled a new era of smartphone development with the launch of HUAWEI Mate10 lite, the world's first smartphone with 4cameras and a ground-breaking Full View Display in Kuwait. Featuring industry's first 16-Megapixel + 2-Megapixel dual rear cameras, and 13-Megapixel + 2-Megapixel dual front cameras, the cameras work together to give you an unmatched higher quality photos and amazing bokeh, the new Mate10 lite is set to deliver an ultimate user experience with its incredible features and functionality allowing users to capture, share and connect with the world around them.

"HUAWEI Mate10 lite demonstrates Huawei's commitment in providing consumers with the most innovative technology," said Mr Gene Jiao, President of Huawei CBG, Middle East & Africa. "Mate10 lite captures everything today's dynamic, young consumers crave for: a sleek, industrial-designed device that is efficient and features a quad-camera lens set-up. These combinations of cutting edge features allow users to capture images with unmatched clarity, richness and authenticity cameras.

Besides the dual-lenses cameras on both the front and back of the device, the Mate10 lite is HUAWEI's first phone with Selfie Toning Flash (studio-level lights that produce an effect closer to that of natural light to create a more realistic feel). This is done by adding just the right filter and covers to the LED flash to find the best balance between brightness and softness. This ensures the right intensity of light without being too harsh on the eyes, creating a soft, silky light. The Mate10 lite also enable users to readjust its focus even after a picture is taken and adjust the aperture size based on your preference. The phone is also equipped with the latest beauty 4.0 algorithm. Based on the previous 3.0 version, beauty 4.0 has additional features such as 3D face recognition, gender recognition, fun facial filters, and more.

### More about Mate10 Lite: Full View Display Technology

The recent trend of bigger and brighter displays to



stream and watch more content is amplified on the HUAWEI Mate10 lite of devices with HUAWEI Full View display technology. HUAWEI pushes blurring the boundary between the bezel and display enabling Mate10 lite a dazzling 5.9-inch display that delivers an unprecedented viewing experience and contributes to the device's elegant and modern design.

To support the volume of high-res content consumption that takes place on smartphones, the HUAWEI Mate10 lite is the first device featuring a HUAWEI Full View display within its price range. A large 5.9-inch panel provides a better viewing experience whether reading the news, catching up on your latest Netflix binge or leveling up in Pokémon Go.

### Symmetrical design

The HUAWEI Mate10 lite is engineered using high-quality industrial materials, featuring a symmetrical design and a stunning HUAWEI FullView display - one of the first devices in the world to feature this premium screen experience. The sleek unibody design is complemented by



high-end components and intelligent software - including Huawei's EMUI 5.1.

### Next-generation viewing experience

The HUAWEI Mate10 lite sits perfectly in one hand, while its 18:9 aspect ratio offers a more comfortable split-screen experience for users to effectively multitask, allowing two apps to be run side-by-side to increase productivity.

### A perfect balance of software and hardware

Huawei understands the importance of every component in a device working in harmony. HUAWEI Mate10 lite's 16nm 8-core Kirin 659 chipset is capable of clocking at

2.36 GHz. Meanwhile, 4GB of RAM and 64GB of ROM internal storage is capable of comfortably running multiple tasks efficiently. HUAWEI Mate10 lite's hardware is supported by its deeply integrated software. Huawei's Android 7-based EMUI 5.1 intelligently optimizes the stock Android experience from the ground up. Huawei's proprietary machine learning technology allows HUAWEI Mate10 lite to learn and predict user behavior, making it a device that really understands its owner and acts on this knowledge to improve performance. Hardware and software resources are allocated according to user habits, giving priority to active apps and frequently used apps for a fast and smooth user experience.

## Iran removes block on Telegram

**TEHRAN:** Iran has lifted restrictions imposed during recent protests on the country's most popular social media app Telegram. AFP journalists were able to access the service on Sunday and officials confirmed it has been restored. "The information concerning the end of filtering on Telegram is correct," a spokesman for the telecoms ministry told AFP.

Telegram, which counts some 25 million users in Iran, was blocked on mobile phones during the five days of unrest that hit dozens of cities over the New Year. The semi-official ISNA news agency said the restrictions on Telegram had been "entirely lifted under orders of (President Hassan Rouhani)." The government accused "counter-revolutionaries" and foreign groups of inciting violence via social media during the unrest, and also temporarily cut mobile access to photo sharing app Instagram. They also blocked some VPN privacy apps, which are commonly used to get around longstanding bans on sites such as Twitter, YouTube and Facebook.

Rouhani said during the unrest that the restrictions were necessary, but should not be "indefinite". He accused conservative opponents of using the protests to impose widespread censorship. "You want to take the opportunity to shut down this social media for eternity. You might sleep well, but 40 million people had problems... 100,000 people lost their jobs," Rouhani said on January 9, referring to complaints that many businesses were hit by the Telegram shutdown.

The head of the country's cybercrime committee, Abdolsamad Khoramabadi, had earlier criticised the government for not blocking Telegram sooner, and said officials should be "punished" if it was found they deliberately failed to act against online "trouble-makers and enemies". Conservatives have also called for the development of local apps to replace Instagram and Telegram. Rouhani's support for temporary restrictions still represented something of a reversal for a president who has vowed to end all online censorship. Just three weeks before the unrest, on December 19, Rouhani told the country's first conference on civil liberties: "We will not seek to filter social media. Our telecoms minister promises the people he will never touch the filtering button."

### Indonesian jailed for FB post

In other news, an Indonesian teenager was sentenced yesterday to 18 months in prison for "insulting" President Joko Widodo on Facebook. The 18-year-old high school student from Medan on the island of Sumatra, identified by the initials MFB, was found guilty of violating the country's internet law by making defamatory and slanderous comments online. Judges also ordered him to pay 10 million rupiah (\$700) in fines.

"If the fines are not paid, the jail term is extended by one month," the presiding judge told the Medan court. The teenager accepted the verdict and did not file an appeal. MFB was arrested in August last year after he posted numerous inflammatory messages and memes against Widodo and police chief Tito Karnavian using fake accounts. In July, he made a post challenging the police to arrest him. And they did, a month later. The government of Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim majority country, has received criticism following a string of arrests of people accused of insulting the president, making slanderous comments and posting fake information on social media.

Democracy and rights activists have branded the internet law draconian and a threat to free speech. Last week a court in Jambi province, also on Sumatra, sentenced a local politician to one year in jail after he made a Facebook post considered to be insulting Islam. The judges found him guilty of violating the law and "inciting hatred". In November last year, a man was charged for posting on Instagram images of Widodo's wife, Iriana, with texts considered offensive to the first lady. —AFP

## Top takeaways from CES

**LAS VEGAS:** The 2018 Consumer Electronics Show, which concluded Friday in Las Vegas, drew some 4,000 exhibitors from dozens of countries and more than 170,000 attendees, showcased some of the latest from the technology world. Here are highlights from the show:

### Artificial intelligence battle

The duel between Amazon and Google for supremacy in artificial intelligence played out at the show. Amazon pushed its "Alexa Everywhere" strategy bringing its digital assistant to eyewear, wristwatches, televisions and even a toilet. Not to be outdone, Google counterattacked with deals of its own, and with a massive ad campaign including a two-story "Google Assistant Playground" complete with a spiral slide from the roof to the pavement. The rival virtual assistants were part of a larger trend to "smart" homes and cities where door locks, lights, security systems, traffic, and more are commanded or coordinated with the help of internet connections and machine brains.

### Compassionate robots

Tech developers began moving beyond artificial intelligence to "emotional intelligence" and empathy with robots that can recognize people and their feelings, and respond in a more human manner. Those on display included a ping pong-playing robot from Japan's Omron Automation which adapts its game to its opponent by reading body language. SoftBank robot Pepper entertained guests in a private suite adjacent to the show.

### Revvng up car tech

More players began gunning for Tesla with premium electric cars, including Chinese startup Byton and a revamped startup led by designer Henrik Fisker. The show included a large presence from automakers and showed a commitment to advancing self-driving cars. South Korea's Hyundai showed its new Nexo vehicle, betting on fuel cell technology, while Toyota unveiled a concept of an autonomous box for ridesharing and retail service.

### Beyond the car

Even as car tech was on display, industry players sought to showcase alternative transport options. These included a self-driving motorcycle from Yamaha, and a range of electric bicycles, scooters, and hoverboards. "We are seeing with personal mobility that some people like to skate; some people like to scoot, and some people like to ride," Swagtron chief operating officer Andrew Koven said

## Guru entrepreneur targets India's huge online market

**NEW DELHI:** Baba Ramdev, the popular yoga guru-turned-entrepreneur behind one of India's biggest brands, said yesterday he was tying up with Amazon to target the country's \$1 billion online market for consumer goods. Ramdev built up a huge following through his yoga TV show before launching the Patanjali brand of products, which range from toothpaste to cooking oil and cosmetics. Patanjali now rivals major international brands in India thanks to its low prices and home-grown credentials, but currently sells mainly through bricks-and-mortar shops.

Now it is tying up with a range of online retailers including Flipkart, Paytm and BigBasket as well as Amazon after a successful trial. "The online mechanism is espe-

cially aimed at youngsters who want speed and comfort when it comes to shopping," the yoga tycoon told journalists in Delhi. The company has ambitious plans to double its turnover in the current financial year to \$3 billion. Ramdev, whose long beard and flowing saffron-coloured robes make him an incongruous figure in the world of big business, is a huge celebrity in India.

He claims to live a simple life despite his riches and says all his profits go to charity. He has also denied past allegations of tax evasion. "I have no dreams of personal wealth and prosperity. We are a not-for-profit company," he said on Tuesday. "We will invest each and every rupee that we make in charity." India had 60 million online shoppers in 2016, a figure that will rise by more than 50 percent by 2026, according to a report by Morgan Stanley. "As India's largest online marketplace, we are focused on enabling home-grown brands to get online and engage with millions of customers," said Manish Tiwary, a vice-president at Amazon India. —AFP



**LAS VEGAS:** The U-Partner U05 humanoid service robots by Canbot, featured with free speech interaction, microsecond-level face recognition, autonomous obstacle avoidance walking, bionic action control and smart home hub, are on display during CES 2018. —AFP

as he unveiled a line of rideable gadgets.

### Let's get medical

The tech world took a deep dive into the medical field, using virtual reality and sensors for health and medical applications. Exhibitors showed how tracking and sensors used in self-driving cars can help keep the elderly from wandering off or determining distress. Other devices offered new ways to deal with stress and pain, or predict the onset of disease. Medical professionals at a CES conference discussed how new pain management techniques such as virtual reality could help address the opioid addiction crisis. Virtual reality headsets have been used to take people's minds off pain by immersing them in soothing environments. VR programs have also eased trauma by letting patients work through troubling experiences.

### Sensors and the cloud

Sensors, cloud computing and artificial intelligence are becoming so ubiquitous and affordable that they are popping up in tech items tailored for pets, babies, seniors,

new moms and other niche categories. From wearable breast pumps to hip air bags triggered when people fall, and dog or cat doors that open automatically for pets, internet age innovations are reaching into the farthest corner of everyday life.

### On the lighter side

Streaming television powerhouse Netflix played with people's minds with a booth for a fictitious company named Psychasec that offered replacement bodies in a promise of immortality. It turned out to be a promotion for a coming Netflix show titled "Altered Carbon," set to debut in February. Other offbeat items at the event included self-driving suitcases which follow its owners through airports and navigate around obstacles. Outside the official show, robotic pole-dancers made their Las Vegas debut at a nightclub, with the artist who created the devices seeking to make a point about technology, surveillance and voyeurism in today's society. The show was marked by a rain and flooding in usually dry Las Vegas, and a power outage in the main convention hall. —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Indian yoga guru Baba Ramdev (L) and Patanjali Ayurveda Managing Director, Acharya Balkrishna, pose for a photo during a press conference. —AFP

Health

# Zimbabwe's Mutare sees hike in malaria deaths amid rains

'Frantic efforts are being carried out by the city'

**MUTARE:** After years in which the disease presented only a limited threat, this city in eastern Zimbabwe is seeing a hike in malaria deaths, with more than 30 recorded in 2017, city officials say. They, and residents, blame the resurgence in part on unusually wet weather, following years of drought in much of the country, and on warming conditions linked to climate change. Jeremiah Mutindori, a trader in the city's Hobhouse area - one of those badly affected by mosquitoes - said he was convinced changing weather conditions were to blame. "I think it's because we now have abundant stagnant waters everywhere as a result of the heavy rains received last year. Our winter seasons seem to be shorter and warmer than before," said Mutindori, a father of three. He said he was particularly worried his 5-month-old daughter might contract malaria. In 2016, Mutare - Zimbabwe's fourth-largest city, on the country's eastern border with Mozambique - recorded only one malaria death. But in 2017 the death toll rose to 31, said Spreen Mutiwi, the Mutare city spokesman. The city was declared a malaria zone in February 2017, city officials said.

Mutiwi said the city had stepped up an indoor insecticide spraying effort alongside the Ministry of Health and Child Care, focused on particularly affected parts of the city. "Deaths (from malaria) are disturbing," he said, and "frantic efforts are being carried out by the city to eradicate malaria once and for all and revert to non-malaria status".

**More rain, more mosquitoes**

But Washington Zhakata, director of the Climate Change Management Department in the Ministry of Water Resources, Development and Climate in Zimbabwe, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that climate change was playing a role in the resurgence of the disease. As temperatures gradually rise, more areas of the country are becoming good breeding grounds for malarial mosquitoes, he said.

Also, "malaria has a strong relationship with rainfall", he said. "Flash flooding that is now very common in some places, together with the generally high temperatures being observed, create conducive environments for breeding of malaria mosquitoes." A report by the US Agency for International Development said malaria



was a major health problem in Zimbabwe with almost half of the population at risk. "Its epidemiology varies greatly in the different regions of the country, ranging from year-round transmission in the lowland areas to endemic-prone areas in the highlands," the report said. Each year thousands of people in Zimbabwe contract the disease, which is caused by a parasite transmitted by the bite of females of a certain species of Anopheles mosquitoes. The country's Health Minister, David Parirenyatwa, said eliminating the disease in Zimbabwe would require collaboration with neighboring malarial countries, including Mozambique and Zambia, according to a statement from the ministry.

**A moving threat**

Joe Brew who has done extensive research on the economics of malaria in southern Africa as part of the Trans Global Health program, which focuses on health threat to the world's vulnerable, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that when climate conditions

change, mosquito habitats and behaviours also change, making keeping up with the threat difficult.

"Malaria and other mosquito-borne illnesses will stop being a problem in some areas, but it also means that the disease may emerge or re-emerge in places which are not familiar with them, whose surveillance systems are not equipped for handling them," Brew said. Mutiwi said the peak period for malaria cases in Mutare was between February and March, although sporadic cases start as early as November.

Despite expected heavy rains this summer, Mutiwi said he was however optimistic the city's program to spray pesticides indoors in most residential areas would reduce the spread of malaria this year. Though there is year-round transmission of malaria in some parts of the country, Mutiwi said the disease was still only a major problem in Mutare during the rainy season. "But we believe that the effects of climate change cannot be ignored (and) have some contributions" to the spread of malaria, he said. —Reuters

## Fossil fuels blown away by wind in cost terms

**PARIS:** New onshore wind and solar energy projects are set to deliver electricity more cheaply than fossil fuels plants, with other green technologies also rapidly gaining a cost advantage over dirty fuels, a report published yesterday said. According to a new cost analysis from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), within two years "all the renewable power generation technologies that are now in commercial use are expected to fall within the fossil fuel-fired cost range, with most at the lower end or undercutting fossil fuels".

It expects renewables will cost between three and 10 US cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) by 2020, while the current cost spectrum for fossil fuel power generation ranges from five to 17 US cents per kWh. "This new dynamic signals a significant shift in the energy paradigm," said IRENA's Director-General, Adnan Amin, in a statement. "Turning to renewables for new power generation is not simply an environmentally conscious decision, it is now overwhelmingly—a smart economic one," he added.

Continued technological advancements are not the only factor helping drive down prices. The report found that the market was becoming more competitive and a number of experienced project developers had emerged in the sector. The best onshore wind and solar PV projects are expected to deliver electricity for three US cents or less by next year. But onshore wind and solar are not the only sectors becoming more competitive rapidly. The study found that new bioenergy and geothermal projects commissioned in 2017 had global weighted average costs of around seven US cents per kWh. —AFP

CLINIC

PAGE

248 33 199

## Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

### Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

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

مركز جلوبال الطبي  
Global Medical Center

**Telephone: 187111**

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

@globalmedcenter  
www.globalmed-center.com

**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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

## What's On

# A winter break spent in luxury at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel



**N**amed the Leading Luxury Beach Resort and Leading Business Hotel by World Luxury Hotel Awards in 2017, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait' idyllic resort, welcomes families to spend the long winter breaks unwinding after a period of work and studies. Catered to every need and want that could occur to one's mind, the luxurious landmark's design of both contemporary and traditional cultural elegance offers a wide variety of 407 rooms including suites, residences and villas.

Stepping into the villas, families get to experience a home away from home feeling in being provided the conventional necessities found in every home. Beyond home utilities, convenient luxuries of signature services and Arabian hospitality, the villas offer access to the resort's private beach, leisure facilities and idyllic surroundings that truly reflect Jumeirah's promise to "Stay Different". With beautiful scenery overlooking the well-maintained gardens and sparkling swimming pools, the Duplex Residences offer comfortable accommodation with special perks even before you check-in - including a private entrance and car park. The resort offers a variety of other room categories that thoughtfully fit the needs of every family member.

Once the visiting families have fully indulged in the luxuries and comforts of the rooms, a diversity of cuisines in six different restaurants offer unique dining

concepts for every taste. Seafood fans can rejoice as Salt Restaurant serves a globally diverse menu of the freshest marine treasures while meat lovers will indulge in the luxury of delicious prime meat cuts at Pepper Steakhouse Restaurant. The traditional yet elegant flairs of Arabesque Middle Eastern Restaurant offers local flavors and quality shisha evoking the timeless Kuwaiti culinary lifestyle. More dining enjoyment can be experienced at Olio Restaurant with the native chef's Italian masterpieces using fresh and seasonal ingredients. For an overall taste of local and global flavors, the all-day dining restaurant Garden Café is a favorite when it comes to breakfast, lunch and dinner offerings in amidst of charming outdoor vistas.

For a relaxing timeout, spa lovers would head into the hotel's signature Talise Spa, where they will take a moment to revitalize from the stresses of daily life in a serene environment with treatments, rituals, massages and therapies using renowned luxury brands hand-picked from all over the world. Children have their own space as well. They are welcome to enjoy Sinbad's Kids Club and Teen Scene Club safely in all its supervised activities such as kid's yoga along with a varied movie program enjoyed in a private cinema. Book your stay and live the experiences of a winter break spent in luxury at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa. The mentioned rates are exclusive of the service charge.



## Marina Hotel holds its 'United Nation' themed staff party

**I**n recognition and appreciation of its staff's continuous dedications and contribution towards success and achieving impressive results, Marina Hotel recently organized its annual staff party at Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Hall, which was attended by the hotel's management and employees.

In his speech in the event, Nabil Hammoud, General Manager, highlighted the importance of hosting regular staff events, saying: "We believe the success in our hotel depends deeply on keeping employees motivated and productive. This event is held in recognition of the determined efforts of every one of you; as well as celebrating our



successes so far. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your enthusiasm and commitment.

The fun filled event included distributing awards in various categories for Employee of the Month, Employee of the Year, Long Service Award, Supervisor of the 4th Quarter and Supervisor of the Year. Additional rewards were also distributed

during the evening which included Honesty, Sustainability, Productivity, Best Team Player and Dedication. The United Nation-themed event included various entertainment activities that engaged the audience, including live shows and competitions where many gifts were distributed to participants and ended with a buffet dinner.



## GUST Publication enters global classrooms

**A** new case study written by Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) faculty, has been included in a university-level text book published by Peter Lange. The case study, which was authored by members of GUST's Mass Communication and Media Department, looked into the challenges and opportunities in running corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaigns in Kuwait's diverse environment.

Assistant Professors, Mariam Alkazemi, Fahed Al-Sumait, and Cristina Navarro, collaborated with Bensirri Public Relations, and their client Alyasra Foods in Kuwait in this initiative. The case study, titled Communicating Food Safety in the Highly Multicultural



Dr. Fahed Al-Sumait



Fawaz Al Sirri

Country of Kuwait, focuses on a major food supplier in Kuwait that engaged in an educational CSR campaign to create awareness surrounding the causes and symptoms of food poisoning. The intention was to engender positive behavior in the interest of public health. The challenges regarding this campaign were examined through a local lens, addressing a number of factors unique to Kuwait, such as the social, cultural, and economic diversity surrounding the practices of food handling.

Chair of the Mass Communication and Media Department, Dr. Fahed Al-Sumait said, "We were excited to present a chapter about how Public Relations (PR) can be practiced in our region, especially since it is part of a

book with such a great collection of global cases. It can be a challenge to find good teaching resources that cover non-Western countries, so we will be looking forward to using this book in our classes." The featured text book, Public Relations Case Studies from Around the World-2nd Edition, collates an impressive assembly of public relations practices from around the world, on subjects such as diplomacy, corporate social responsibility, crisis communications, social justice issues, and special events. The volume is co-edited by Judy Turk and Jean Valin, two leading global authorities on Public Relations.

Bensirri PR Managing Partner, Fawaz Al Sirri said, "It's about time that the local communication industry joins its global peers. We always known Kuwait had a substantial set of field knowledge to be shared with students and the academic community in Kuwait and internationally. It just had to be captured, and we thank authors for investing their time in this case study and our client. This is the first time a local knowledge base in communications is shared across the world and I look forward to reading more Kuwait-based peer-reviewed case studies published in text books in Kuwait and across the world. We are definitely proud to be part of this success."

## ICSK Mega Carnival on 19th January

**I**t is with great delight that The Indian Community School, Kuwait announces the much anticipated arrival of the 15th Mega Carnival, 2018 to all Indians in Kuwait. The carnival will be open to all Indians from 08 AM to 09 PM on Friday, the 19th of January, 2018, at ICSK Senior, Salmiya Campus. Guest of Honor for this mega event will be Abdulkarim Alsayegh, Chairman, Royal Enfield Group, Kuwait and the Indian Idol fame, Master Vaishnav Girish will be the Special Guest.

In conformity with the successful

past, the ICSK Mega Carnival promises a day of celebratory fiesta for the entire family. Gear up for an assortment of stalls offering food, games and much more in the revamped campus of ICSK Senior, where the throngs of thousands and ten thousand will gather to ring in the new year.

Regale in the assortment of luscious, delectable delights made to pamper your palate, at the multiple food stalls, and engage in the lively, stimulating games for all ages, at the amusement stalls. The merchandise stalls are bound to keep your senses gratified with great deals as the rousing music escorts you to many rounds of Bingo. The Mega Carnival 2018, is set to begin with a grand inaugural ceremony, followed by the sensational performances of the students of ICSK throughout the day. Save the date - 19th January, 2018 - and be a part of an electrifying day at the Mega Carnival, ICSK Senior.

## Choose Wellness, Choose Nestle movement returns

**N**estle, the world's largest Food and Beverage Company, urges people in the Middle East once again to join the 'Choose Wellness, Choose Nestle' movement by adopting three key behaviors to eat healthier, move more and live better. The movement which aims to help instill healthy eating habits as well as practice activities that support your physical body and health, continues for the fifth year consecutively and is open to the general public at various locations across GCC, Jordan, and Lebanon throughout the month of January.

"Leading healthier patterns of living starts at home, with family and friends, and we at Nestle believe that committing to a balanced diet, regular physical activity and a positive attitude will con-

tribute greatly towards achieving an overall sense of well-being", said Joumana Dabbagh, Market Nutritionist at Nestle Middle East. And as Choose Wellness, Choose Nestle really is a movement for life, we plan to be there with the people of the region as they live healthier for a better tomorrow".

Residents who visit the Choose Wellness in-store stands across major hypermarkets, select pharmacies and e-commerce channels will interact with Choose Wellness in-store promoters who will encourage them to lead healthier lives capitalizing on the three key pillars of the campaign; Eat Healthier, Move more, and Live better in GCC, Lebanon, and Jordan. Not to mention that visitors to these stores will also benefit from the available promotions on products. Join our movement and visit a store near you to get "Your Smart Eating Guide" leaflet that will provide you with tips on how to identify the recommended serving sizes of all the needed food groups in your plate and the nutritional content of the various food items that can help you achieve a balanced diet on your journey to making a real difference in your life.





TV



01:30 The Call Up
03:05 Misfire
04:40 I Am Number Four
06:30 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes



00:50 Untamed & Uncut
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Biggest And Baddest
03:35 Swamp Brothers
04:25 North Woods Law



00:50 Unforgotten
01:45 Unforgotten
02:40 Class
03:30 Class
04:25 New Tricks



00:00 Deadly Wives
01:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
02:00 It Takes A Killer
03:00 It Takes A Killer



00:05 Comedy Central Presents
00:35 The Half Hour
01:00 The Half Hour
01:20 Detroiters

19:00 Lip Sync Battle UK
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends



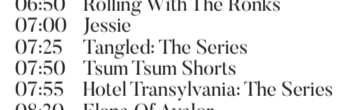
00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Now That's Funny
02:10 Now That's Funny



00:50 Village Of The Damned
01:45 I Speak For The Dead
02:40 Baby Vanished: People Magazine Investigates



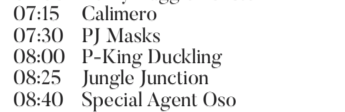
00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer



00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.



00:15 PJ Masks
00:30 PJ Masks
01:00 PJ Masks
01:30 Art Attack



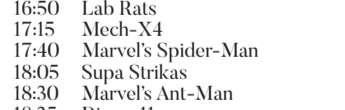
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food



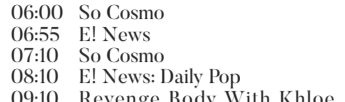
00:15 Yukon Men
01:05 Supertruckers
02:30 Fast N' Loud
03:20 Street Outlaws



06:00 Disney II
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right Now Kapow



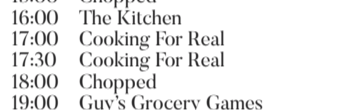
00:10 WAGs LA
01:00 WAGs Atlanta
01:50 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
02:50 WAGs



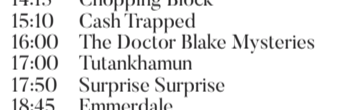
00:45 Cruise Ship Diaries
01:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
01:40 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food



00:20 Queen Of The Chase
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Bite, Sting, Kill
02:50 Monster Fish



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbits Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig



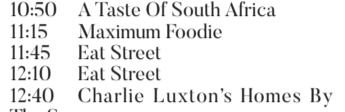
00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Ancient Top 10
02:00 Command Decisions
03:00 In Search Of Aliens



00:20 Swamp People
01:10 Swamp People
02:00 American Restoration
02:50 Ice Road Truckers



00:45 Cruise Ship Diaries
01:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
01:40 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea



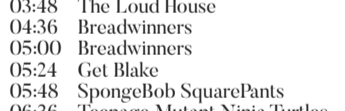
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food



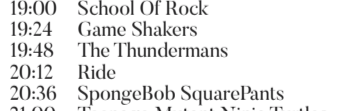
00:20 Queen Of The Chase
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Bite, Sting, Kill
02:50 Monster Fish



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbits Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig



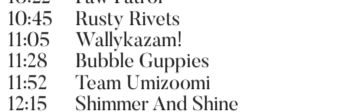
00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Ancient Top 10
02:00 Command Decisions
03:00 In Search Of Aliens



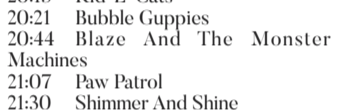
00:20 Swamp People
01:10 Swamp People
02:00 American Restoration
02:50 Ice Road Truckers



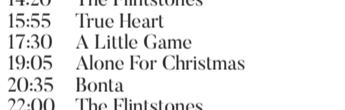
00:45 Cruise Ship Diaries
01:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
01:40 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea



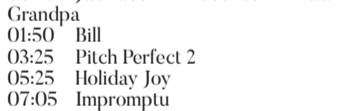
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food



00:20 Queen Of The Chase
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Bite, Sting, Kill
02:50 Monster Fish



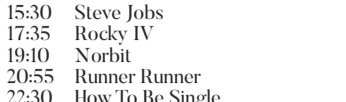
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbits Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig



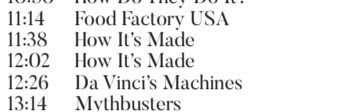
00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Ancient Top 10
02:00 Command Decisions
03:00 In Search Of Aliens



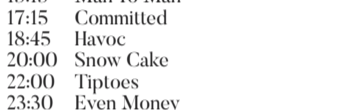
00:20 Swamp People
01:10 Swamp People
02:00 American Restoration
02:50 Ice Road Truckers



00:40 Mytbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory USA
02:20 How It's Made



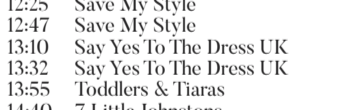
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food



00:00 Havoc
01:15 Man To Man
03:15 Lindavne
05:30 Love And Other Impossible Pursuits



00:00 Grey's Anatomy
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 Mistresses
03:00 Fashion Star

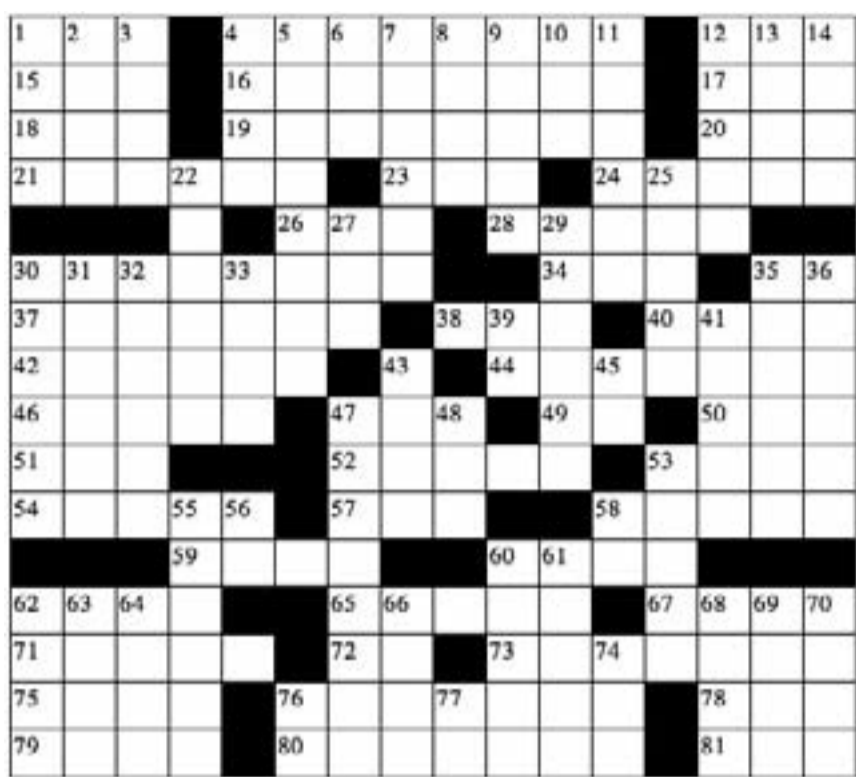


00:20 The Undeatables
01:05 My Extreme Excess Skin
01:50 Monsters Inside Me
02:35 Save My Style



00:00 Bizarre Foods With Andrew Zimmern
01:00 Booze Traveler
02:00 Mysteries At The Museum

CROSSWORD 1811



ACROSS

1. The seventh and last day of the week.
4. Having a capacity for adaptation.
12. (Judaism) Sacred chest where the ancient Hebrews kept the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
15. Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
16. The owner or manager of a dairy.
17. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
18. The month following July and preceding September.
19. A poisonous crystalline alkaloid extracted from the nightshade family.
20. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
21. An unwholesome atmosphere.
23. The supernatural being conceived as the perfect and omnipotent and omniscient originator and ruler of the universe.
24. A broken piece of a brittle artifact.
26. A decree that prohibits something.
28. A person who acts as host at formal occasions (makes an introductory speech and introduces other speakers).
30. Arrange in a series of rings or chains, as for spores.
34. Payment due by the recipient on delivery.
37. Cause to agonize.
38. Hormone produced early in pregnancy by the placenta.
40. Willing to face danger.
42. Of or relating to or characteristic of wolves n.
44. German educator who founded the kindergarten system (1782-1852).
46. A separate part of a whole.
49. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
50. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
51. Inquire about.
52. Cover with drops, as with dew.
54. Largest crested screamer.
57. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
59. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
62. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
65. Marked by features of the immediate and usually discounted past.
67. Genus of prickly shrubs and small trees of the Caribbean region.
71. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
72. A metric unit of weight equal to one thousandth of a kilogram.
73. Expected hopefully.
75. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
78. The syllable naming the sixth (sub-mediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
79. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
80. Not capable of being swayed or diverted from a course.
81. A doctor's degree in theology.

DOWN

1. A fraudulent business scheme.
2. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
3. A one-piece cloak worn by men in ancient Rome.
4. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
5. An organized body of related information.
6. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
7. A genus of Hirundinidae.
8. A mistake in printed matter resulting from mechanical failures of some kind.
9. Any of a class of organic compounds that contain the divalent radical -CONHCO-.
10. Artists or writers whose ideas are ahead of their time.
11. Romanian violinist and composer (1881-1955).
12. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
13. Located in or toward the back or rear.
14. Scottish sea captain who was hired to protect British shipping in the Indian Ocean and then was accused of piracy and hanged (1645-1701).
22. Used of locations.
25. A fence formed by a row of closely planted shrubs or bushes.
27. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
29. United States baseball player and manager (1873-1934).
31. Affected by ague.
32. The capital of the state of Kansas.
33. Denoting a quantity consisting of one more than eight and one less than ten.
35. A white secretion of the sebaceous glands of the foreskin.
36. Load anew with ammunition. "She reloaded the gun carefully".
39. A radioactive transuranic element.
41. At right angles to the length of a ship or airplane.
43. Any wingless blood-sucking parasitic insect noted for ability to leap.
45. A Russian river.
47. (used of texts) Shortened by condensing or rewriting.
48. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
53. (voodooism) A spirit or supernatural force that reanimates a dead body.
55. The southern part of the ancient Palestine succeeding the kingdom of Judah.
56. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
58. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
60. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
61. King of Northumbria who was converted to Christianity (585-633).
63. Dearly loved.
64. (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
66. Type genus of the Amidae.
68. The elapsed time it takes for a signal to travel from Earth to a spacecraft (or other body) and back to the starting point.
69. Not only so, but.
70. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
74. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
76. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
77. A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, this cycle introduces new beginnings, new goals to create merging and streamlining. You may conduct an extensive search for exciting creative outlets and could lift your energy. Refuse to have a standoff with a stubborn person; this should be clear after the last confrontation between you. Someone is wondering about your opinion on a certain matter. You may clash with the political or spiritual views of a group you come into contact with. Tempers could flare and cause unneeded problems for the long term. A bright spot occurs when more than one person praises you for your style and unusual personality traits. Though the energy is low in the area of taking steps toward solutions, remember this is but a cycle with an end in sight, aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, you are drawn to innovations that will affect many people. You may be able to deal with many issues just now and those around seek your opinions. You will receive a call or visit from a mentor that enlightens and refreshes your mind. Your approach slashes through obstacles and irritating details. A pointed discussion will lessen misunderstandings and push a certain project through a difficult stage; you feel certain of good outcomes. An admiring stranger will comment on your lovely style and charming ability to deal with people. You will find you have a strong interest in the mystic, secretive ways of ancient times; you may want to see if or how they relate to your life. You could find yourself part of a group discussion tonight, taurus.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, you could have a sense of feeling scrambled and confused; beware of saying the wrong thing to a very sensitive person. There will be a need that can be filled by you and only you; those you are close to will be thrilled with your wise advice. You may find that a more middle-of-the-road route will have to be taken to reach the completion of a project. Your quirks and uncommon methods will meld with your calm nature to create a most powerful tool. Patience is required to get you through difficulties regarding others; prayer and meditation will take your mind, body and spirit to a place of healing. Respect your boundaries and end the evening early with guests in time to snuggle with your loved one.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, you could feel driven to look at what you truly believe and go in search of it. You could become overly passionate if you don't keep a rational balance and open mind. You will find yourself challenging boundaries and feeling a strong sense of freedom and victory. The universe is sending robust energy that may feel like adrenalin surging through your mind, body and spirit as you pursue positive outcomes. You radiate success and people will not only notice, but you may receive more than one compliment today. You will set an excellent example for someone younger today. You could find that you can no longer depend on a certain, often-used source. Share a delicious dinner in front of the television with someone you love, cancer.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, you could feel as though you have boundless, invincible energy today. The timing is perfect for you to tackle something that has needed to be done for some time; you can do this, go for it! You will be complimented and thanked for something you did for someone else; this fills a need as you want to be acknowledged. During this period of time you will find luck is on your side. Maybe a trip to vegas is called for! Someone will approach you with a problem that you will figure out and send them away satisfied. You could make a choice that is not a good one if you let yourself get distracted. Beware! There will be a sense of separation involving an old friend; something has been revealed that caused hurt feelings. Meditate and prayer tonight, leo.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, your thoughts will click along gathering helpful information and dispersing constructive, on target directives to others. Co-workers and clients will appreciate your capabilities to make things happen quickly and satisfactorily. You will be happiest when being shown affection by those you love and often help. Someone will show up just in time to help you with a tricky situation; you will repay them by doing the same for them. Personal choices shouldn't be made just now; be patient and the time will soon be right. You want to attend a gathering this evening even though you have other commitments: let your practical side take the lead on this one. Think about changes you want to make to your daily routine tonight, then sleep on them, virgo.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, you could find your mood ready to flare due to frustration built up over time. You may be called on to present to the boss who doesn't care for your techniques dealing with a certain customer or client; be careful as you could verge on disrespectful if you go too far. You will find ways to get around most difficulties today. Remember that all things are temporary, the good and the bad shall pass. If someone says they don't understand what you're telling them, slow down and repeat the most important part. Don't make it a point to oppose someone who is purposely being difficult; karma never makes mistakes. You will find new ways to get what you need without having to lower your standards and expectations for high quality, libra.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Scorpio, you long to go where you've never gone before; combine this with your innate curiosity and you find yourself going far in a positive direction. You want to understand more of the mystic ways and reasons for things in life that sometimes don't make sense. You may need an attitude adjustment when you are confronted with an old, tired problem. You could trip upon a new way to put some extra money away. If you should need to be convincing, your mind is clicking today and your mouth is in sync. Someone will show a grateful attitude toward something you did for him or her a while back. Physical fitness activities may fit into your schedule later. New adventures and new people will come along very soon, scorpio.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Sagittarius, the heavens say that you will desire to live life to the very fullest by partaking of food and activities rich with delight. You may feel the need to acquire a pet or have a baby; or you could require care from someone else; you would like for people to see someone cares for you. A problem is solved, a phone call is supportive and an afternoon meeting goes exactly your way. Someone will make a mutually helpful suggestion, which could be very timely. You will feel stylish and pretty or handsome when someone compliments you on your looks. There is a lot of energy available for disciplined work. You could find a few days away from your normal routine in the next week or two. This evening you find yourself feeling more private and in a stay-at-home mood. You might try a new snack before bed; have sweet dreams, sagittarius.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, your bosses want your thoughts and ideas today. Your down to earth practicality has produced in the past and it will again today. You will find the courage to disclose something you've been thinking for quite some time; you will have a captive audience. Words come easily to you now and you know how to present them with perfect clarity. You may feel a need for sexual release on a primal level. Feeling desired and supported will elevate your mood. Keep planning your work and work that plan; you know the choice is yours. Someone will look to you for personal advice. Remember, they came to you, not the other way around, capricorn.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Aquarius, a situation this morning could get sticky when your direction doesn't meet with the approval of a coworker or possibly a client. You may make statements contrary to what this person would like to hear about how the project is currently being handled. You could have difficulty with a person who does not function with your intensity. Be cautious when giving advice to a family member this evening; sensitivities are running high. An overall energy of dissatisfaction and moodiness is prominent now. Take a deep breath! All is still well, just a bit ragged around the edges. Time takes care of everything and that includes you; be still and listen tonight as you drift into sweet dreams, aquarius.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, there seems to be much nervous energy regarding familial situations. Your chart reveals a tendency to need approval no matter what you have to do or say to get it. A direction reveals itself when push comes to shove in a financial matter. You may experience a threat from someone your senior that will result in an impasse; think carefully before you proceed. An inclination to daydream could stick with you throughout the day. You will derive comfort and support from close friends who love you for your unique qualities. You may find that a transition is easier than you imagined. You will lead the way where a fun project is concerned. Many people from all walks of life that will include friends and family may surround you, pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Hockey

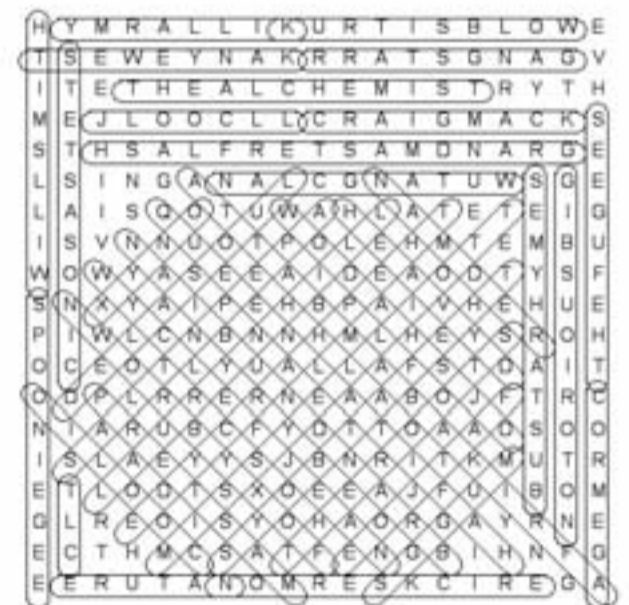
Find and circle all of the Hockey words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Rodney Dangerfield quotation.



- |            |            |             |             |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ARENA      | ELBOWING   | ICE RINK    | PENALTIES   | SLAPSHOT    |
| ASSIST     | ENFORCER   | ICING       | PENALTY BOX | SLOT        |
| BLUE LINE  | FACE MASK  | JERSEY      | PERIOD      | SPEARING    |
| BOARDING   | FACE-OFF   | KNEEING     | PLAYER      | STANLEY CUP |
| BOARDS     | FOREWARD   | LEAGUE      | POINT       | SUSPENSION  |
| BODY CHECK | FOUL       | LINE CHANGE | POKE CHECK  | TIME-OUT    |
| BREAKAWAY  | GAME       | LINESMAN    | POWER PLAY  | TIPPING     |
| CENTER     | GLOVES     | MISCONDUCT  | RUCK        | TRIPPING    |
| CHARGING   | GOALPOST   | NHL         | RED LINE    | WHISTLE     |
| CONTACT    | GOALTENDER | OFFENSE     | REFEREE     | WINGS       |
| CREASE     | HAT TRICK  | OFFICIALS   | ROUGHING    | WRIST SHOT  |
| DEFENSEMEN | HELMET     | OFFSIDE     | SAVE        | ZAMBONI     |
| DEKE       | HOLDING    | OVERTIME    | SCORE       | ZONES       |
| EJECTION   | HOOHING    | PASS        | SKATES      |             |

Yesterday's Solution

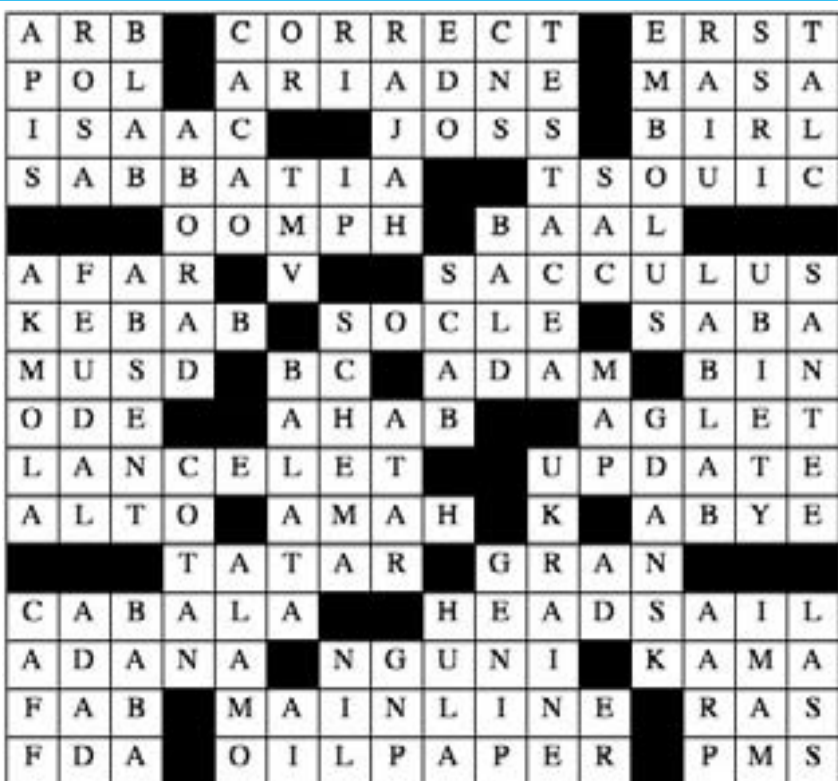
Hip-Hop Artists



- |                |                   |                  |               |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| AFRIKA BAMBATA | FOXY BROWN        | MISSY ELLIOTT    | THE ALCHEMIST |
| BRAND NUBIAN   | GANG STARR        | MUGGS            | THE FAT BOYS  |
| BUSTA RHYMES   | GRANDMASTER FLASH | NATURE           | THE FUGEES    |
| COOLIO         | HEAVY D           | NOTORIOUS B.I.G. | THE PHARCYDE  |
| CORMEGA        | KANYE WEST        | ONIX             | THE ROOTS     |
| CRAIG MACK     | KILLARMY          | QUEEN LATIFAH    | TLC           |
| DE LA SOUL     | KURTIS BLOW       | REDMAN           | WILL SMITH    |
| DJ SHADOW      | LAURYN HILL       | SALT 'N PEPA     | WU-TANG CLAN  |
| ERICK SERMON   | LL COOL J         | SPONGE GEE       | WYCLEF JEAN   |
| FAT JOE        | MASTER P          | STETSASONIC      |               |

The hidden sentence is: EVERYTHING IS EVERYTHING

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Information

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

**BY NIGHT:** Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind to wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 16/01/2018 0000 UTC
KUWAIT CITY	23 °C	13 °C	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22 °C	07 °C	
ABDALY	22 °C	08 °C	
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C	
JAHRA	23 °C	11 °C	
FAILAKA ISLAND	21 °C	12 °C	
SALMIYAH	21 °C	14 °C	
AHMADI	21 °C	15 °C	
NUWAISIB	23 °C	10 °C	
WAFRA	23 °C	10 °C	
SALMY	20 °C	06 °C	

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	01/17	Partly cloudy	21 °C	05 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 26 km/h
Thursday	01/18	Fair	22 °C	06 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Friday	01/19	Dusty and some scattered clouds will appear	28 °C	11 °C	S-SW	25 - 55 km/h
Saturday	01/20	A significant decrease in temperature and some scattered clouds will appear	18 °C	07 °C	NW	15 - 38 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	05:20
Sunrise	06:43
Zuhr	11:58
Asr	14:53
Sunset	17:12
Isha	18:33

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	23 °C
MIN. Temp.	08 °C
MAX. RH	48 %
MIN. RH	22 %
MAX. Wind	N 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Airline	
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

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

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

Automated enquiry  
about the  
Civil ID card is  
**1889988**

**EMERGENCY**  
112



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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 17/1/2018				Departure Flights on Wednesday 17/1/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:55
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	363	Colombo	02:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:15	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
ABY	129	Sharjah	02:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	MSR	619	Alexandria	02:35
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
OMA	2643	Muscat	02:30	OMA	2644	Muscat	03:30
WAN	548	KTM	02:40	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FEG	931	Alexandria	03:15	THY	704	Istanbul	04:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
OMA	2641	Muscat	03:30	MSR	613	Bahrain	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	FEG	934	Sohag	04:15
KAC	796	Madinah	03:50	OMA	2642	Muscat	04:30
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC	103	London	05:00
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	QTR	1091	Doha	05:05
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	KAC	1077	Doha	05:30
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	RJA	645	Amman	07:05
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	124	Bahrain	07:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	KAC	797	Taif	07:50
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	KAC	165	Rome	08:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	08:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	BAW	156	London	08:50
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:40	KAC	691	Muscat	08:50
BAW	157	London	07:10	KAC	613	Bahrain	08:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	101	London	09:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
IRC	6552	ABD	09:50	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
WAN	342	Sohag	10:15	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
JZR	125	Bahrain	10:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	JZR	356	Mashhad	10:20
SYR	341	Latakia	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:15	IRC	6553	ABD	10:40
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	ZAV	4101	Amsterdam	11:00
WAN	134	Doha	11:55	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	IRA	664	Shiraz	11:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	JZR	786	Riyadh	11:55
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	SYR	342	Latakia	12:00
KAC	798	Taif	12:45	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	WAN	983	Tbilisi	12:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:30
KIS	6032	Mashhad	13:00	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:20	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:00

## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies



This file photo taken on October 04, 2012 shows singer Dolores O'Riordan of the Irish rock band "The Cranberries" performing at the Sant Jordi Club in Barcelona on October 4, 2012. — AFP photos



This file photo taken on January 18, 2012 shows the members of the Irish rock band The Cranberries, singer Dolores O'Riordan (sit), bassist Mike Hogan (left), drummer Fergal Lawler (center) and guitar player Noel Hogan (right) pose in Paris.



This file photo taken on July 07, 2016 shows Irish singer Dolores O'Riordan of Irish band The Cranberries performing on stage during the 23th edition of the Cognac Blues Passion festival in Cognac.

## The Cranberries singer Dolores O'Riordan dies aged 46

Irish singer-songwriter Dolores O'Riordan, front-woman of the multi-million selling rock band The Cranberries, died suddenly in London on Monday, aged 46, her publicist said. "Irish and international singer Dolores O'Riordan has died suddenly in London today, family members are devastated," Lindsey Holmes said in a statement. "The lead singer...was in London for a short recording session," she added. "No further details are available at this time." A spokeswoman for London's Metropolitan police said officers are "dealing with a sudden death" after they were called to a hotel in Park Lane, in the center of the British capital, at 0905 GMT this morning.

She did not confirm the identity of the person found. "A woman in her mid-40s was pronounced dead at the scene," the spokeswoman said. "At this early stage it is being treated as unexplained and enquiries continue," she added. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar was among the first to pay tributes, calling O'Riordan "the voice of a generation". "For anyone who grew up in Ireland in the 1990s, the Cranberries were an iconic band, who captured all of the angst that came with your teenager years," he said in a statement. "Her voice and her contribution to music will be remembered far beyond her native county for many years to come."

“  
Family is  
very devastated  
and upset  
”

### Family 'very devastated'

The London Hilton on Park Lane confirmed "with deep regret" that an unnamed guest had "sadly passed away" at its hotel. "Team members acted swiftly to alert the Metropolitan Police and we are co-operating fully with their investigation," a spokeswoman said. The Cranberries achieved international success in the 1990s with their debut album "Everyone Else is Doing it, So Why Can't We?", which included the hit single "Linger".

Follow-up album "No Need to Argue" went to number one in Australia, France and Germany, and number 6 in the United States.

The album also gave rise to politically-charged single "Zombie", an angry response to the deadly Northern Ireland conflict, which hit number one across Europe. The band sold around 40 million records worldwide. O'Riordan, from Friarstown in the Irish county of Limerick, will be buried in Ireland, according to the parish priest in her home town. James Walton, priest at Ballybricken and Bohermore parish, told Britain's Press Association her family "is very devastated and upset". "Her family are still waiting for more details to come from London about her death," he said. "The plan is for her to be buried here at home. When that will be will depend on when her body is released."

### 'Immense influence on rock'

The Cranberries, formed in 1989 but went on a hiatus in 2003. O'Riordan told AFP in a 2012 interview that "we were stuck in a rut. We just needed a break." She headed to Canada, where she gave birth to her third child, but The Cranberries reformed in 2009 after getting together for a one-off show. "At home I'm a house-keeper and a mum. The kids are, like, 'What's for dinner? Where are my clothes?'. On tour it's, like, 'room-service'," she said

of the comeback.

She hit the headlines in 2014 after pleading guilty to assaulting three police officers and a flight attendant during a flight from New York to Ireland, and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder shortly afterwards. The band was forced to cancel 14 concerts last year due to "medical reasons associated with a back problem" for O'Riordan. The singer's last Facebook posting came shortly before Christmas. "Hi All, Dolores here. Feeling good! I did my first bit of gigging in months at the weekend, performed a few songs at the Billboard annual staff holiday party in New York with the house band," it read.

"Really enjoyed it! Happy Christmas to all our fans!! Xo". The band recently played in South America, with O'Riordan tweeting pictures of a show in Lima, Peru. O'Riordan married Don Burton, former tour manager of Duran Duran, in 1994 but the couple, who had three children together, divorced in 2014. British 1980s band Duran Duran posted on their official Twitter page that "we are crushed to hear the news about the passing of Dolores O'Riordan. Our thoughts go out to her family at this terrible time". The Cranberries released their final album "Something Else" last year. —AFP

## 'Oh Happy Day' singer Hawkins dead at 74



Edwin Hawkins

Award-winning gospel singer Edwin Hawkins, best known for a hit arrangement of "Oh Happy Day," has died at the age of 74. Credited with being one of the founders of modern gospel music, Hawkins died Monday at his California home after battling pancreatic cancer, US media reported, quoting the artist's publicist, Bill Carpenter. "Oh Happy Day" is an 18th century hymn which Hawkins arranged in a call and response style.

A single credited to the Edwin Hawkins Singers became a huge hit in 1969, and a year later the ensemble won a Grammy for best soul gospel performance for that song. More than seven million copies of it were sold, Carpenter said, according to the New York Times. Glenn Campbell and Elvis Presley also recorded renditions of the song. Hawkins won four Grammys over the course of his career. — AFP



Aziz Ansari attends the Official Viewing and After Party of The Golden Globe Awards boosted by The Hollywood Foreign Press Association in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

## Actor Ansari responds to sexual misconduct allegations

Actor and comedian Aziz Ansari has acknowledged a sexual encounter with an anonymous accuser but insisted it was "completely consensual." The accusations, published Sunday in online magazine Babe, were made by a 23-year-old photographer from Brooklyn, New York, named only as "Grace." She said she met Ansari—who recently won a Golden Globe for his performance in Netflix comedy 'Master of None'—in September 2017 at the Emmy Awards after party, and they met for a dinner date in New York around a week later.

"Grace" said that after dinner, they went to Ansari's apartment where he made repeated aggressive advances towards her, despite her "verbal and non-verbal cues" indicating she did not want to have sex with him, Babe reported. "I know I was physically giving off cues that I wasn't interested. I don't think that was noticed at all, or if it was, it was ignored," she told Babe. "I believe that I was taken advantage of by Aziz. I was not listened to and ignored. It was by far the worst experience with a man I've ever had," she added. In a statement Sunday, Ansari acknowledged the encounter with the woman to Babe.

"We went out to dinner, and afterwards we ended up engaging in sexual activity, which by all indications was completely consensual," he wrote. "The next day, I got a text from her saying that although 'it may have seemed okay,' upon further reflection, she felt uncomfortable," he said. "It was true that everything did seem okay to me, so when I heard that it was not the case for her, I was surprised and concerned." Ansari added he responded privately to "Grace," and also expressed support for the movement of women speaking out against sexual misconduct—sparked by allegations against Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein—describing it as "necessary and long overdue." Ansari is best known for his roles as Tom Haverford in the sitcom 'Parks and Recreation' and Dev Shah in 'Master of None,' of which he is also a writer. — AFP

## 30 SECONDS TO MARS TEASE NEW SONG

30 Seconds to Mars have teased fans that their new album is on the way and they have a new single dropping "soon". Jared Leto and co have been hard at work preparing their follow-up to 2013's 'Love, Lust, Faith and Dreams', and over the weekend the 'Suicide Squad' actor revealed their next song is just around the corner. Jared shared a photograph of his bandmates in their spacious studio on his Instagram Story, with the caption: "The longer you work on a song the longer it takes to finish "New album coming sooooooon!" (sic). The 46-year-old rocker also posted two black and white photos of himself, and wrote: "Swipe to the see the frontal having a good Saturday? Almost done with the next single (sic)" The US band's last release was the single 'Walk On Water'.



Jared Leto

Jared previously revealed the record will be "surprising" as it is very futuristic. He said: "The album is, I think, going to be very surprising to people. There's quite a lot of different musical styles on the album, it's a very modern album and a break from the past we are incredibly excited about it. It has a lot of energy and we've spent years working on it, exploring new ideas." And the model admits that they have "shattered expectations" by breaking a few rules. Speaking about the process, he said: "It's sometimes hard to talk about it when you are still doing it because you don't have perspective and you need to look back on something like that, because as you are climbing mountains, you are so focused on securing a foothold or not falling off that it's sometimes hard to speak eloquently about it. On breaking away from their traditional sound, he added: "The new album is very different, we break a lot of rules - maybe that we didn't have for us - but we shattered some expectations that other people may have had." — Bang Showbiz

## Evans says Robert Downey Jr is irreplaceable as Iron Man

Chris Evans thinks no one else could ever play Iron Man except for Robert Downey Jr. Downey, 52, kick-started the Marvel Cinematic Universe with the 2008 movie 'Iron Man' and has since reprised his role in six films and is set to return in 'Avengers: Infinity War' and 'Avengers 4'. However, like his co-star Evans - who portrays Captain America - both their contracts are coming to an end after the end of 'Avengers 4', but Evans has nothing but praise for Downey.

Speaking to Comicbook.com, Evans said: "It's low-hanging fruit to say [Robert] Downey. He's such a wonderful guy and is so talented, so experience, and so supportive. He's always been in my corner and I've always felt supported by him. He really brings everybody in to the group and makes sure everyone feels welcome, especially on this last one. He really just opens his arms and it sounds so cheesy, but he makes it a family and none of this would happen without him. No matter what it feels like for me, I try to imagine what it feels like for him, because he really did start this. He really is so irreplaceable. Nobody can ever be Iron Man. It's not a role like Superman or Batman that can kind of find different incarnations, no one can touch it."

'Avengers: Infinity War' will see the hero squad, which includes Iron Man (Downey Jr.), Captain America (Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), Vision (Paul Bettany), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), join forces with the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' troop to save the Earth. The two teams will have to work together to fight intergalactic tyrant Thanos, but they will also receive a helping hand from Spider-Man (Tom Holland), Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), Dr Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), as well as Captain Marvel (Brie Larson), which will mark the 28-year-old star's debut in a Marvel production. 'Avengers: Infinity War' is slated to be released on May 4, this year. — Bang Showbiz



Chris Evans as Captain America

Lifestyle | Features

# RUSSIANS CUT BACK ON DRINKING, SMOKING AS FITNESS TREND GROWS

Russians are drinking less than at any point since the fall of the Soviet Union, figures show, as a raft of government measures bear fruit and healthy living becomes ever more fashionable. Vodka might still serve as a national symbol but last year Russians drank less alcohol per capita than the French or Germans, according to World Health Organization data that factored in consumption of bootleg booze. And tobacco use also plummeted by more than a fifth between 2009 and 2016, down to 30 percent of Russians smoking according to the most recent Global Adult Tobacco Survey. "The annual decline (in alcohol and tobacco consumption) is really steep, especially if you look at where they've started from," the World Health Organization's representative in Russia Dr Melita Vujnovic told AFP.

She said if the trend continues, Russian rates would be comparable to Scandinavia and the United Kingdom in a decade. The most recent WHO figures show Russian adults drinking an average of 12.2 liters of pure alcohol a year, an almost 20 percent decrease from 2012, putting it behind France (13.3 liters) and Germany (13.4). Vujnovic points to legislation gradually introduced over the last 13 years to combat a public health crisis and boost life expectancy, including a ban on shops selling any alcohol after 11 pm, increases in the minimum retail price of spirits, and an advertising blackout.

"What works elsewhere will work here too. You will hear the same arguments in plenty of other countries, that what we drink is part of our national identity—that's just a myth," Vujnovic said. In 1990 total alcohol consumption in Russia was below 12 liters, following restrictions imposed by the last Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. But this steadily increased after the collapse of the USSR until 2007, according to the WHO.

**\$2 packs of cigarettes**

Cigarette prices are still well below European levels, going for around \$2 (1.6 euros) a packet, but Vujnovic praised Russia's tobacco control

program as "one of the best in the world" judging by the results. Health ministry officials have proposed even stricter measures against tobacco, going so far as to suggest making it illegal to ever sell cigarettes to anyone born after 2014. Elena Dmitrieva, director of the Moscow-based NGO the Health and Development Foundation, agreed that government policies were the major factor but suggested a general trend towards healthy living was also behind the cut back in smoking and drinking, especially in larger cities.

"We never had this idea of 'healthy for the sake of being healthy'. You go to the doctor when you have a problem—that differs greatly from the Western mentality," she said. "But now there's this focus on fitness clubs, health, wellness, all that becomes more fashionable than it was before." "Food trends, health trends are changing globally,

and Russians like to pick up Western trends in terms of what is considered to be in fashion," she said. "Right now we live in a global world."

**'Straight edge'**

Anton, a 32-year-old Muscovite who organizes mixed martial arts tournaments, gave up drinking a decade ago following problems with alcohol and is instead putting his energies into sports. "There are more people not drinking in my social circle, it's quite popular. There was the American movement 'straight edge'-you don't drink, you don't smoke, you don't use drugs—that appeared in the '80s, but only arrived with us fully a few years ago," said Anton, who declined to give his last name. "I think there's a trend for a healthier way of life. When you're doing serious sport you strive for a better level of health, you

don't want to use alcohol or anything else," he told AFP. Yaroslav, a 26-year-old who works in the visual arts and quit smoking at around the time it was banned in bars and restaurants, said that it was gradually becoming less socially acceptable to smoke. "I think every teacher we had at school smoked—well, maybe the physical education teacher didn't," said Yaroslav, who grew up in the Arctic Circle city of Murmansk. "Things have really changed. I know a couple of [bars] in Saint Petersburg where you can still smoke and I wouldn't go there anymore. It smells, it's suffocating, I can't believe we grew up like this." — AFP

“ We never had this idea of 'healthy for the sake of being healthy' ”



This file photo shows girls smoking in a bar in central Moscow. — AFP photos



This file photo shows visitors of the Second Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art having a drink at a bar during the first night of the exhibition in Moscow.

## Rare Van Gogh drawings, 'forgotten' Flincks go on display

Art lovers are in for a rare treat as four forgotten works by Dutch masters Vincent van Gogh and 17th-century painter Govert Flinck have gone on display, after gathering dust for more than 100 years. The works include a never-before-seen Van Gogh drawing, which had been in private hands until now. Called "The Hill of Montmartre with Quarries", Van Gogh's monochrome artwork dates from 1886 when he was living in Antwerp and Paris, where he worked at the studio of leading French historical painter Fernand Cormon. The sketch, together with a second drawing "The Hill of Montmartre," were unveiled yesterday at an exhibition at the Singer Laren museum in central Netherlands.

"Such a discovery is always great. It's really exceptional and does not often happen," Teio Meedendorp, senior researcher for the Amsterdam-based Van Gogh Museum, told AFP. Meanwhile, two previously forgotten works by Rembrandt's student Govert Flinck (1615-1660) were also revealed to the public at the Amsterdam Museum for the first time yesterday since disappearing around 1895. The two portraits were only unearthed after their owner visited an exhibition of Flinck's work at the Amsterdam Museum.

Researcher Meedendorp said the Van Goghs had undergone an extensive verification process. For many years "Montmartre with Quarries" sat unnoticed in a private collection until it was brought to the Van Gogh Museum in 2013 for authentication, he explained. "After it came in we verified that it was indeed a Van Gogh—but we were intrigued by the question of its origins." The Van Gogh Museum's art sleuths discovered the sketch originally belonged to Johanna Van Gogh-Bonger, the wife of Vincent's brother Theo. It had been sold into a private collection in 1917.

"We authenticated it in 2013, but it took a bit longer because it's up to the owner and not us to reveal the work," he added, saying "we had to keep it under wraps for a few years." The sketch also gave the museum an opportunity to authenticate a second work in its possession, called "The Hill at Montmartre". The type of stationery used in both sketches is identical and "nicely illustrates how he (Vincent) was still searching for his own style in the winter and spring of 1886," the Singer Laren museum said in a statement. "It was a very nice investigation about a work that appeared out of nowhere. It was never published, never put on display," Meedendorp added.—AFP



Dutch businessman John Fentener van Vlissingen (left) and director of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam Axel Ruger (right) look at a recently discovered drawing dated from 1886 by Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh entitled 'Montmartre Hill with Quarry' (De heuvel van Montmartre met steengroeve) in the Singer Museum in Laren, Netherlands yesterday. — AFP

## Model harassment claims cloud Paris men's fashion week



File photo shows Vogue editor Anna Wintour (left) and photographer Mario Testino attending the Oscar De La Renta fashion show during New York Fashion Week in New York City. — AFP

Paris men's fashion week started yesterday with the industry shaken by claims that two star photographers sexually harassed male models. Peru-born Mario Testino, a favorite of the British royal family, and American Bruce Weber both denied the accusations made against them by a string of models and assistants in the New York Times. But the publishers of Vogue magazine severed ties with the photographers this weekend. British brand Burberry and US labels Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren and shoemaker Stuart Weitzman, for whom the two men have shot publicity campaigns, also insisted they would not work with people who abused their position.

Another model Christopher Cates, who said Weber asked him to strip within seconds of meeting him, said it was time for male models to speak out. Inspired by the #MeToo campaign in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal, Cates has launched the #MenToo hashtag on social media to break the taboo and stand up to abusers. "We want you to know you're no longer in control," he wrote in the industry bible, Women's Wear Daily. "We want you to know who we are. We want you to know our stories," he added. The welter of accusations comes months after the two French luxury goods giants LVMH and Kering joined forces to create a charter to combat the mistreatment of models.

New York casting agent James Scully had earlier blown the whistle on the way models were treated at a "cattle call" casting for Balenciaga in Paris last March. Scores of women said they were left to wait in a cramped stairway for hours, with some alleged locked inside in the dark while agents left to eat.

## Shoe-Bahn: Berliners queue for sneaker-train tickets

Hundreds of people braved sub-zero temperatures to camp out overnight in Berlin, in hopes of buying yesterday a pair of Adidas sneakers that also offers free subway travel. Retailing at 180 euros (\$220), the limited edition shoes bearing the design of seat covers on Berlin's U-Bahn trains, are also fitted with an annual ticket normally costing 761 euros, sewn into the tongue of the shoe, a key draw for commuters seeking a deal. "I came from Leipzig on Saturday and am 73rd in the queue," said Andreas Leu, who was wrapped up in a big red sleeping bag. "What's most interesting is the ticket and there are only 500 pairs. I'm keeping it for my collection," he added. Julian Kienst, who was standing next to Leu, said: "It helps me save quite a lot of money that I can use for other things, particularly since I don't make that much." Berlin's public transport operator BVG had produced the shoes in partnership with German sportswear giant Adidas for the train network's 90th birthday.

Celebrating the sneakers' popularity in its typical ironic fashion on Twitter, the BVG tweeted: "Letting people wait—it's one of our superpowers." The BVG's marketing stunt however came under fire, with Die Welt daily calling the hype over the sneakers "absurd". The conservative newspaper noted that few pairs of the shoes would likely end up on commuters' feet as they will be more valuable if kept in mint condition as collectors' items. Barely minutes after the sneakers went on sale at 10 am (0900 GMT), some were being offered online at up to 1,150 euros—around six times their original price. — AFP



Leader of the BVG, Berlin's public transport network, Sigrid Nikutta poses with a pair of sneakers with a public transport ticket.



Till Jagla (right), Global Senior Director of Adidas Originals Footwear Concepts and Sigrid Nikutta, director of the Berlin BVG public transport authority pose with a pair of sneakers with a public transport ticket.



People queue up to buy the Adidas / BVG (Berlin Transport) trainers outside the Overkill shoe store in Berlin yesterday. — AFP photos



A pair of sneakers with a public transport ticket is on display as people queue up to buy the Adidas / BVG (Berlin Transport) trainers outside the Overkill shoe store.



People queue up to buy the Adidas / BVG (Berlin Transport) trainers outside the Overkill shoe store in Berlin.



# Fanciful *Fendi* close Milan Fashion Week

**A**nd in a flash, it was over. The Milan Fashion Week devoted to fall and winter menswear for 2018-19 was abbreviated this year into a super-slim long weekend that ended Monday. Many fashion houses opted to fold their previews for men into their womenswear shows scheduled for next month. Others decided to go with more hands-on presentations instead of all-out runway productions. Some of the fashion houses that participated in the condensed men's week mixed women's clothes in with their predominantly male displays. But the final day stuck strictly to menswear, with Armani, Fendi, No. 21 and Yoshio Kubo closing out the previews. Here are some highlights:

### Fendi take-off

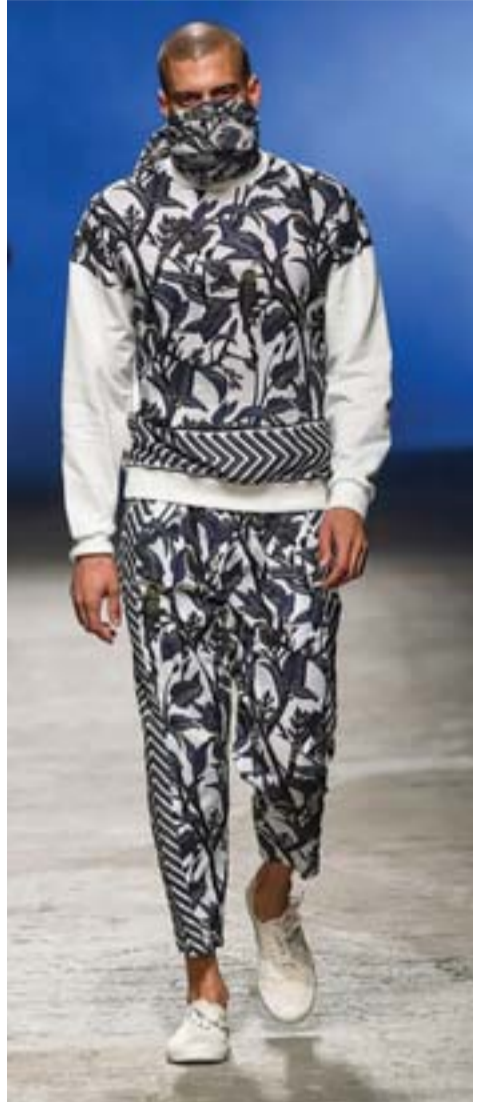
Silvia Venturini Fendi took a journey to the family fashion house's past for next winter's menswear and found herself at a fantastical airport carousel. Bags of every sort and even a fur-covered baby bassinet sped by on a conveyor belt as models strode by. Fanciful accessories had a strong role to play in the collection, from fur-covered safari hats to plasticized rain hats and Fendi-branded umbrella-shaped caps.

The collection had a feel both contemporary and nostalgic. Brown and gold were the main colors, and the silhouettes veered toward relaxed, roomy cuts. Diagonal detailing characterized the season, appearing on fur coats, down jackets, and matching silken shirt-and-tie sets. The print of the season, a collaboration with the artist-designer known on Instagram as @hey-reilly, was a collage of plaids, architectural detailing and the double-F Fendi logo applied to some of the catchwords of the season, including "Freedom."



Models present creations for fashion house Fendi during the Men's Fall/Winter 2019 fashion shows in Milan. — AFP photos



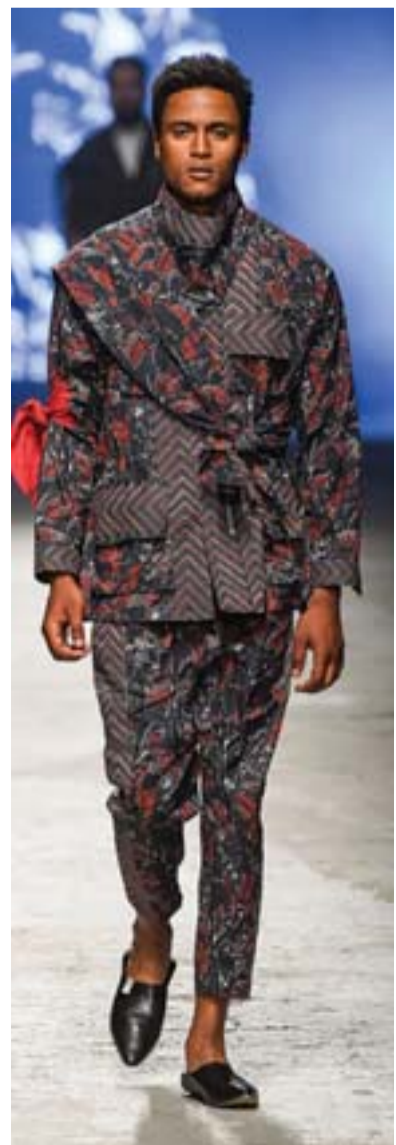


**Everest landing by Yoshio Kubo**  
 Japanese designer Yoshio Kubo imagines a plane crash on Mount Everest as the backstory to his latest collection. "It is not scary," the 43-year-old designer explained backstage. "I survive, right?" The scenario starts to explain the diaphanous red parachute that belted behind a bright striped pant paired with a boldly printed top. And it gives deeper meaning to a sheer organza anorak, its edges left frayed, that suggests an airplane's fiberglass shell.

The colors of the collection are the bright reds and purples of Nepal that would come into focus outside the plane. They appear alongside more classic blacks, grays, tans and olive green. A fringed jacquard jacket in red, black and white shown with loose-fitting striped trousers for a meditative touch had a ceremonial feel. Everest itself appeared as a motif, both graphic depictions of the mountain and the word repeated as a pattern. Kubo gave survivors of the pretend crash hoods and improvised turbans, and a few got quilted moon boots. -AP



Models present creations for Yoshio Kubo during the Men's Fall/Winter 2019 fashion shows in Milan.



# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018



This photo shows Afghan horsemen competing during a game of the traditional sport of buzkashi on the outskirts of Kabul. — AFP photos

## ‘Beasts of war’:

## Afghanistan’s buzkashi horses prepare for battle

The rugged men of northern Afghanistan raise their buzkashi horses to be warrior princes, ready for the savagery of polo with a headless carcass. Mounts, like their riders, must be brave, strong and fast to compete in the traditional sport of buzkashi, which means “dragging the goat” in Persian. The game involves ripping a 50-kilogramme carcass from the fray of horses and dropping it in the “circle of justice” traced on the ground in lime—after doing a lap of the field at a full gallop. “Only one horse in a hundred stands a chance in buzkashi,” says Haji Mohammad Sharif Salahi, the president of the buzkashi federation in Balkh province, whose family has owned horses for 100 years.

“The stallions of General Dostum cost up to \$70,000. Some of Marshal Fahim’s reach \$100,000,” he says, referring to the Uzbek warlord living in exile in Turkey and the late Afghan vice president Mohammad Qasim Fahim. “Everything depends on their strength and their resilience,” says Salahi, wearing a tawny karakul hat, as he rubs a ruby-ringed hand on the neck of an enormous chestnut measuring more than 18 hands (1.85 meters). “They are trained to respect and behave calmly, but if you let go, this one eats the others.” Balkh has more than 150 buzkashi horse owners, some with more than 400 steeds. Dedicated events draw 500 horses but that figure can go up to 2,000 if it is a wedding celebration. While buzkashi is the pride of the north, the game also has a strong following in Kabul, with weekly matches during the season drawing hundreds of spectators.

### Cared for like humans

Whether their value is real or fantasy, the steep price for a buzkashi horse translates into respect for the owner because it symbolizes wealth and power. “All rich men must have a stable and riders,” says Haji Rais Moqim, as he sits astride a massive horse measuring 19 hands (1.90 meters). The businessman, who is based in the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif and likes to listen to popular buzkashi tunes in his 4X4 vehicle, has 22 horses like his father before him. At dawn he rides with his team of



An Afghan horseman competing during a game of the traditional sport of buzkashi on the outskirts of Kabul.



Afghan spectators watching horsemen compete in the traditional sport of buzkashi on the outskirts of Kabul.



This photo shows Afghan horsemen competing during a game of the traditional sport of buzkashi on the outskirts of Kabul.



An Afghan man, who takes care of horses used in the traditional sport of buzkashi, holding the reins of a horse in Mazar-i-Sharif.



Afghan men riding horses in Mazar-i-Sharif.

“sais”—grooms—to exercise the steeds, stirring up clouds of dust in the morning light. “A horse is a member of the family. It is raised like a child at school. We care for it like a human,” the 52-year-old says.

Every horse has its own trainer who works with them daily and forms an intimate bond with them. “Our horses come from Uzbekistan. It takes years to train them. They

are ready around the age of seven and compete for 20 years or more,” says Mohammad Mousa, who has worked as a groom for Rais Moqim for 18 years. His boss has warned Mousa that he will let him go only when the stallion he is in charge of dies.

### Fasting and feasting

As the season approaches—starting in November or December and finishing at the end of March—the horses are forced to adopt a strict diet. After being rested and fattened to reach their maximum weight over the summer, the horses are made to “qantar”, or fast, so they lose fat and regain their fighting fitness. In the autumn, two months before the start of the season, the grooms begin exercising their steeds for up to four hours at a time to strengthen their muscles, says Amir Khan, a groom for Salahi. “After coming back I leave them for an hour on an empty stomach and then I serve them seven kilograms of barley, 10 beaten eggs with a glass of sesame oil and bananas and then the same again in the evening. We feed them well, they need energy for the buzkashi.”

The horses are brushed daily and showered every other day. “Every breeder has his recipes and superstitions,” says French horseman Louis Meunier, who rode for a buzkashi team in Kabul from 2007 to 2009 while

working for an NGO in the Afghan capital. “Beliefs vary from one valley to another: here the chestnut is considered the most intelligent, there the black for being the fastest,” says Meunier from Jordan where he now lives. But he is dismayed at the new taste for huge horses, describing them as “beasts of war”. He warns: The horse (is) becoming an object of speculation, a political tool to show strength.”

Khan agrees. “These horses are demons, we know them, we are constantly in danger,” he adds. But 82-year-old Habibullah, a Kabul buzkashi rider wearing a sheepskin hat, sticks to his little grey nag and dismisses the beliefs about the ideal steed. He explains: “I do not care whether it’s black or white, a horse must first have courage.”—AFP