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Yemen govt warns of coup as separatists take over HQ

15 killed in street clashes • Southerners want government ousted

ADEN: Yemen's government accused southern separatists of an attempted coup yesterday after they took over its headquarters amid fierce clashes in the city of Aden. The fighting, which killed at least 15 people, threw war-torn Yemen into further chaos and threatened to undermine President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi, who ordered his forces to stand down. Security sources and residents said clashes appeared to have spread to most of the city.

The government urged the Saudi-led military coalition, which has been supporting Hadi against Iran-backed Houthis rebels who control much of the north, to intervene. The southern separatists - who want the return of an independent state that ended with Yemen's unification in 1990 - backed Hadi's government against the Houthis but tensions between them had been rising.

"A coup is ongoing here in Aden against legitimacy and the country's unity," Prime Minister Ahmed bin Dagher said in a statement. Shortly afterwards, it was reported loyalist commanders had received orders from Hadi to disengage. "After talks with the Arab coalition... you must order all military units to cease fire immediately," a government statement said. Yesterday afternoon, coalition planes flew over the city.

Security sources told AFP that pro-separatist units

trained and backed by the United Arab Emirates had taken over the government headquarters in Aden after clashes. The 15 dead included three civilians, hospital sources said. Dozens were wounded. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) tweeted that one of its facilities in Aden had received 50 wounded and four dead. Saudi and Emirati troops present in Aden did not intervene, security sources said.

Separatist fighters and supporters danced at an intersection as truckloads of armed men drove through the streets. In the late afternoon, security sources said separatists approached the presidential palace where several members of the government were staying, but no clashes were reported. The fighting erupted after separatist protesters were prevented from entering the city for a rally to demand the government's ouster from Aden, which became its interim capital after the Houthis seized Sanaa in 2014.

The coalition, which launched its intervention against the rebels in March 2015, had urged restraint ahead of the planned protest. It called on all sides to "adhere to the language of calm dialogue", the Saudi state news agency SPA said late Saturday. Universities, schools and Aden's only international airport had all been

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ADEN: Fighters from Yemen's southern separatist movement gather in a street of the country's second city during clashes yesterday with forces loyal to President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi (seen on the hoarding). —AFP

Sabeeh set to survive vote of no-confidence

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh, who on Wednesday faces a vote of no-confidence in the National Assembly, appears to be in a very strong position to survive the motion. Ten lawmakers filed the motion last week following a grilling in which she was blamed of failing to rectify the imbalance in the demographic structure by stopping the influx of expatriates into the country. She was also accused of committing a number of administrative and financial violations.

Until yesterday, close to 20 lawmakers have said they will back the minister and only around 12 have said they will vote against her, with as many as 17 MPs undecided but appear more likely to either abstain or support the minister. The motion needs 25 votes to pass, which appeared to have a slim chance as of yesterday.

MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei yesterday joined the group of lawmakers who said they will support the minister, saying she is capable of adopting solutions to the problems. Tabtabaei however charged that some Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad are involved in the problem of maids' recruitment, saying he is ready to take the issue to the maximum level of questioning.

A number of assembly panels yesterday announced they will hold meetings this week with the ministers of foreign affairs, interior and education to discuss regional developments and the problem of stateless people or bedoons. Head of the foreign relations panel MP Hamad Al-Harshani said his committee will hold tomorrow a

meeting with Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to discuss the latest regional and international developments. The committee will meet on the same day with Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to discuss a draft memorandum of understanding about security cooperation with Iraq. He provided no details on the two meetings.

The Assembly's human rights defense committee will meet on Thursday with the interior minister to discuss issues related to the problems of bedoons, head of the committee MP Adel Al-Damkhi said. He said the decision was taken during yesterday's meeting of the committee and because the central agency for dealing with bedoon issue comes under the authority of the minister. Damkhi said the meeting yesterday debated what he called oppression against bedoons, but could not come up with a fundamental solution because various government sides did not provide any proposals.

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News in brief

Qatar, Oman sign agreements

MUSCAT: Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding with Oman on the development of bilateral investment and trade yesterday, nearly eight months into a crisis between the emirate and its Arab neighbors. The Omani news agency ONA said the agreement signed in Muscat covers a wide range of cooperation sectors including the production and export of food products from the sultanate to Qatar. Omani Agriculture Minister Fuad al-Sajwani, quoted by ONA, said the memorandum reflected the "solid relationship" between the two countries. The head of Qatar's delegation, minister of municipalities Mohamed bin Abdullah Al-Rumaihi, for his part, hailed the emirate's "strategic relations" with Oman.

Qatar emir sends condolences to UAE

DOHA: Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani sent condolences yesterday to the president of the United Arab Emirates, whose mother has died, despite the diplomatic rift between the two countries. The emir sent a cable "to HH President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the death of his mother, praying to Allah the Almighty to have mercy on the soul of the late and make her residence in paradise," read a statement from the Qatar News Agency. The two countries have been at loggerheads since last June when Qatar was diplomatically and economically isolated by Gulf rivals. Sheikh Hessa died earlier yesterday.

Saudis, UAE denied neutral venues

DUBAI: Saudi and UAE football authorities said yesterday their teams will play Asian Champions League away matches in Qatar despite a travel ban they have imposed on their Gulf neighbor. The decisions by the Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirates football federations came after the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) decided overnight in Kuala Lumpur that their teams were required to play in Qatar and also host Qatari teams. The AFC ruled all matches would be played on a home-and-away basis as planned, after Saudi Arabia had called for fixtures against Qatari teams to be shifted to a neutral country. AFC said the decision to maintain the home-and-away format was made after an independent safety and security assessment was completed.

Shares of Saudi prince's firm surge

RIYADH: Shares in Saudi billionaire Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal's Kingdom Holding surged yesterday after he was released following three months of detention. The share price of the company, 95 percent of which is owned by Prince Alwaleed, rose the maximum allowed 10 percent at the start of the week's trading, regaining its level from before the arrest.

Kamprad, frugal billionaire founder of Ikea, dies at 91

STOCKHOLM: Ingvar Kamprad, the farmer's son turned multibillionaire who founded the Ikea empire that revolutionized furnishing, has died aged 91, the firm said yesterday. Kamprad "passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones" at his home in the southern Swedish region of Smaland on Saturday "following a brief illness", Ikea said in a statement. He leaves behind a legacy of affordable interior design for households around the world, through Ikea's flat-pack furniture which customers can assemble themselves.

Kamprad's close friend Bertil Torekull told the Swedish daily Aftonbladet that the industrialist died from pneumonia which he contracted after a visit abroad, aggravated by "the frailty of old age". Swedish

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said Kamprad "made home furnishing available for many people, not just the few" while King Carl XVI Gustaf added he was a "true entrepreneur" who "brought Sweden out to the world".

Born in 1926 to a farming family in Smaland, Kamprad, whose fortune in 2017 was estimated at €37.3 billion (\$46 billion) according to the Swiss economic magazine Bilan, founded the company at the age of 17. "He came from nowhere, but with help from his inner force, his ability and his will, he created something I think everyone is proud of when seeing Ikea out in the world," Swedish banker and industrialist Jacob Wallenberg told financial daily Dagens Industri.

Kamprad's legacy of creating affordable furniture has earned him admiration among consumers around the world. "He has paved the way for everyone to have nice furniture, not just the rich," Krister Mollander, a 70-year-old consumer, told AFP. "Good design became democratic through his ability," Steven Coetzee, a 45-year-old tourist from South Africa, told AFP. "Everyone who would like to have something...designed nicely could afford to have it from Ikea."

The story of Ikea - acronym for Ingvar Kamprad, Elmtaryd and Agunnaryd (the name of his farm and town of origin) - began in 1943. Backed with modest financial support from his father, Kamprad began selling pens, picture frames, typewriters and other goods, delivering orders on his bicycle. His early success arose from squeezing his prices to undercut more established competitors.

In 1947 the young Kamprad started selling furniture made by local artisans, and four years later he began putting out the first of his mail order catalogues - which now have an annual print run of 200 million copies in 33 languages.

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Ingvar Kamprad

North Iran hit by massive snowfall

TEHRAN: After months of waiting for the snow to arrive, Tehranis were hit by massive snowfall overnight yesterday that shut airports and schools but delighted the ski community. The capital's Imam Khomeini International and Mehrabad airports were shut due to poor visibility "until further notice", state television said. Some 20 provinces in the west and north of Iran were affected by the snowfall that began on Thursday and peaked on Saturday night, with some mountainous areas receiving as much 1.3 m of snow, according to the official news agency IRNA.

With many schools closed and offices

delaying their opening times, Tehran families made the most of the blizzard. "This past year we have had very bad news and this is the first good news we have had, and we are happy," Hadi, a transportation worker who had taken the day off to make snowmen with his children, told AFP. Iran's skiers, who have been denied much action in recent months due to an uncommonly warm winter, were also pleased.

"It's incredible. There's been a metre of powder today, and it's still snowing. My car is buried up to its side mirror," said a Western diplomat, waiting for the lifts to open at Dizin ski resort, an hour north of the capital. Iran's drivers were having less fun, with thousands blocked on motorways out of the capital.

Mohammad Ali Abtahi, who served as cabinet chief under ex-president Mohammad Khatami, posted a message on social media showing his car stuck on the motorway to the religious center of



TEHRAN: An Iranian man takes a photo of a woman and a child amid snow in the capital yesterday. — AFP

Qom, around 150 km south of the capital. "It's been nine hours that we are stuck out here with hundreds of other cars. We haven't budged one meter," he

wrote. Hundreds of Red Crescent teams were mobilized to bring help to the stranded motorists, with many having

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Local

Amir's responsible leadership witnesses 12th anniversary

Amir sponsors Flag hoisting ceremony today

KUWAIT: Kuwait celebrates today the 12-year anniversary of the ascendency of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as he continues his responsible leadership of this nation and its people. It all started when His Highness Sheikh Sabah stood in parliament to be sworn in as the 15th Amir and ruler of Kuwait amid huge local support from the public and local officials.

In a public address after a ceremony marking the event, His Highness vowed to bear this responsibility and to work hard for the benefit of the country. He urged the people to unite in their efforts in making Kuwait a modern and forward-thinking nation bound by science, innovation, cooperation, equality in rights and duties, democracy and freedom of thought and expression. He urged the people to place the best interests of the nation above their own, to disregard the lure of personal gain so that all may benefit and to abide by the rule of law and order. "Kuwait is the crown upon all of our heads," he had said.

Wisdom and intelligence

The fourth child of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, his wisdom and intelligence stems from a decades-long commitment to serving in the social, political and diplomatic spheres following extensive travel and tutelage at Al-Mubarakiya School, Kuwait's first formal educational establishment named after the late ruler, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Sabah's initial foray into public office came in 1954, when he was appointed member in the supreme executive committee tasked with the role of the regulation of government interests and bodies. A year later, he was handed the role of director of the department of social and labor affairs, where he was instrumental in several factors, namely regulating the relationship between employer and employee. He is also behind the formation of sports clubs, a traditional culture body, public theatres and centers for technical and professional training, childcare, motherhood and people with special needs.

Upon the expansion of his role to include director of the publications department in 1957, Sheikh Sabah demonstrated a commitment to reviving old books and manuscripts and tasked a committee with writing the first book detailing the history of Kuwait. Kuwaiti journalism, regarded one of the most transparent in the Middle East, continues to benefit from His Highness, who is behind the publications law, which remains in use until this day, albeit some minor amendments.

As Kuwait declared its independence in 1961, he was appointed member of the Kuwaiti constitution's founding council. This was followed by his addition to the first official cabinet, where he assumed the role of min-

ister of guidance in 1962.

Only one year later, he began a journey as minister of foreign affairs, where he remained the top man responsible for delivering Kuwait's diplomacy to the world for 40 years. On May 11, 1963, during the first year of Sheikh Sabah's time in office as minister, Kuwait became a member of the United Nations.

Diplomatic efforts

Diplomatically, he was involved in Kuwait-hosted talks in 1966 between warring parties in Yemen, Egypt and Saudi Arabia aimed at putting an end to the Yemeni civil war. When the relationship deteriorated between South and North Yemen, with both involved in border clashes, Sheikh Sabah visited the two countries (at the time) helping forge a peace agreement in 1972. He also successfully mediated an agreement of diplomatic principles between Oman and South Yemen, which was followed by a joint announcement of the resumption of diplomatic relations from Kuwait in 1984.

Throughout his tenure, the then minister assumed a balanced foreign policy that enabled Kuwait to overcome some difficult periods such as the Iraq-Iran War of 1980 and its repercussions on the internal and external security and stability of his country. He also forged a strong relationship with countries around the world, particularly the five permanent member nations of the United Nations Security Council. These strong ties culminated in the emergence of a 35-nation coalition that helped liberate Kuwait from invasion by Iraq in 1991 as a result of a Security Council resolution that paved the way for a military offensive against the occupying forces. Alongside his role as foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah was handed numerous roles due to his wise policies and diplomatic proficiency, namely acting information minister (1971-1975), deputy prime minister (1978), acting information minister (1982), deputy prime minister (1985-1992) and first deputy prime minister and foreign minister (1992). In 2001, he was tasked with forming the Kuwaiti cabinet in the place of the then Crown Prince and Prime Minister the late Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, who was suffering from a medical condition.

Two years later, Sheikh Sabah became prime minister upon Amiri decree. It is during his time as prime minister that his ability to guide domestic policy came to light. The prime minister adopted a comprehensive

development-based vision focused particularly on economic growth through support of the private sector and entrepreneurship amongst the youth.

Economic spectrum

On the economic spectrum, a tour in Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, at the head of a business delegation in 2004 resulted in the joint signature of 10 mega deals and projects. He remained premier until 2006 when a cabinet session passed a motion appointing him Amir of Kuwait.

Over the 12 years under his reign, Kuwait has witnessed widespread development concentrated on a number of mega projects like Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City - the first fully developed by the private sector.

Others in the services sector, include Jaber Hospital, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Al-Zour Refinery, a soon-to-be-completed airport, several new bridges and roads, including Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah causeway project which links Kuwait City to cities in the north and cities like South Al-Mutlaa. In accordance with his vision to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub, the government also announced the 'New Kuwait 2035' development and diversification project based on mega projects.

His Highness the Amir made comments urging nationals to stand together in the face of challenges and threats, namely the June 2015 terrorist attack on Al-Sadiq Mosque, which killed 27 people and injured over 200 others. Shortly after the suicide attack, His Highness took it upon himself to visit the location in the person unannounced, where he uttered those renowned words, "those are my children."

While leading the hundreds of Kuwaitis who came to attend the mass funerals for the victims, he urged "the Kuwaiti family to stand together united through troubles and strife in tackling violence and fundamentalist thought that aims to undermine the other."

On the scale of his foreign policy, Kuwait over recent years has managed to adopt a pioneering role in the global humanitarian field thanks to his wise policies. Kuwait hosted three pledging conferences for international governments and organizations, co-chaired a similar event in London and attended another European Union-organized event in Brussels.

The Kuwait-hosted donors conferences raised a total \$7.5 billion from attending nations, while Kuwait



KUWAIT: In this file photo, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers his first speech after being sworn in as the 15th Amir and ruler of Kuwait. — KUNA

handed out a total 1.6 billion across all five gatherings as support for the victims of the Syrian conflict. The endeavors overseen by His Highness earned him the unprecedented title of 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait, the title of 'Humanitarian Centre', both granted by the United Nations. Kuwait also plans to host a pledging conference dedicated to efforts aimed at rebuilding cities and towns in Iraq reclaimed from Islamic State group control in February 2018. His mediation efforts on a crisis that erupted in 2017 between three member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain plus Egypt, on the one hand, and Qatar, on the other, have also been relentless. These efforts have been commended worldwide and have transformed from a unilateral effort to a global initiative, receiving the full backing of the United States and the European Union. Part of these efforts included tangible steps to hold the crucial regional bloc together, namely hosting a summit of GCC senior officials at its scheduled date in December and a football tournament of Gulf nations shortly after in January 2018.

Flag hoisting ceremony

His Highness the Amir is set to patronize the flag hoisting ceremony at Bayan Palace today. The ceremony will be attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and senior state officials. — KUNA

Amir achieved comprehensive development: Info Minister

KUWAIT: Kuwait Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri praised efforts made by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah since he took office to boost the economic status of Kuwait. On the occasion of celebrating 12th anniversary of His Highness's accession to power, Jabri said that the great achievements and unprecedented projects witnessed by the country in the past few years bear witness to the correct vision and insight of His Highness the Amir.

He stressed that His Highness the Amir has such a good impression in every position he has occupied since the 1950s and in every important work of achievement in the process of building the State of Kuwait since independence. Jabri continued that the role of His Highness the Amir in serving Kuwait is highly appreciated by his people, this resulted of electing him as the Amir of Kuwait on 29 Jan 2006 by both Kuwait people and parliament. He pointed out that His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad paid a special attention for the Kuwaiti society and preserving its unity and social status from challenges witnessed by the region.

His Highness the Amir was able to protect the country from many crises hit the region and was able to exclude his people from regional conflicts, Jabri noted. The minister said the Amiri vision of Kuwait 2035 represents a big leap for the country in order to achieve the goals of its people. It aims at taking Kuwait to higher level of prosperity and preservation of its security and stability.

He stressed that Kuwaiti people are proud of

achievements made in all fields of service and productivity during the reign of His Highness the Amir, assuring that this Amiri vision to transform Kuwait into a regional and international trade center predicts the beginning of a new phase of progress and prosperity. The minister praised His Highness the Amir's efforts to elevate Kuwait's status and strengthen its important and influential role in the world by strengthening political relations with various countries and supporting humanitarian and charitable assistance. He noted that His Highness has crowned the State of Kuwait with unprecedented honor by the United Nations by granting him the title of Commander of Humanitarian Action and naming Kuwait as a center for humanitarian action in a unique precedent in the history of the international organization.

At the same time, he praised the leadership and wisdom of His Highness the Amir as a leader appreciated and respected by world countries, which resulted in Kuwait's winning of a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Minister Jabri pointed that celebrating this anniversary represent a renewal of the loyalty of Kuwaiti people to their leadership. Jabri stressed that the world admits the wisdom of His Highness the Amir to preserve peace and stability in various regions and to continue his leading role in solving crises and enhancing cooperation in the world, praying to the Almighty God to preserve and enjoy his health, wellness and long life. — KUNA



Mohammad Al-Jabri

Speaker: Amir leader of strategic background

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir is not only head of the State of Kuwait and mentor of all powers but also a leader of strategic and principal background, says the National Assembly Speaker. In a statement marking the 12th anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's designation as the top leader, Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem has stated that the Kuwaitis do not view His Highness, solely, as the head of the State and "father of all authorities" but as a political personality of political and strategic background.

Nations, namely the people of Kuwait, celebrate and glorify iconic leaders; namely those with enormous experi-

ence, shrewdness and wisdom; characteristics that distinguished His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's experience in power. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad is renowned for taking decisions at crucial times even in situations where the strategic outlook is ambiguous. It is a national duty, he adds, to stand on His Highness' side particularly under current political circumstances prevailing in the Arab and Gulf regions, urging all influential figures to grasp the country's higher interests particularly with respect of Kuwait's strategic security. — KUNA



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

Defense minister: Amir guardian of Kuwait

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said yesterday that Kuwait's history will proudly celebrate the blessed march of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his continuous efforts to maintain and guard Kuwait's stability and achieve prosperity for its people.

Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad said yesterday, on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's inauguration on January 29, 2006, that His Highness the Amir is the guardian of Kuwait and will always be a leading example of generosity, and sacrifice in serving his

country and people, including relentless efforts to ensure Kuwait's standing among nations and to strengthen its presence in international arenas.

The minister stressed that His Highness the Amir has the wisdom and insight and great ambitions for his country and people. Sheikh Nasser noted that the Amir continues to work for the bright future for his sons and daughters in Kuwait, and for future generations, and to embark on a strategic leap and vision that promises an unprecedented developmental renaissance era for Kuwait and its people in the years to come. — KUNA



Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Kuwait, UK ink cooperation accord in criminal cases

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait and the United Kingdom inked yesterday an accord stipulating mutual assistance in criminal cases. The treaty was signed by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and the visiting UK Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa, Alistair Burt, at the Foreign Ministry headquarters.

Kuwaiti and British officials, grouped at the ministry offices, also signed minutes of the 11th work plan for the Kuwaiti-British Guidance Committee. Ahead of inking the accords, the deputy foreign minister hosted the visiting UK official and his accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, in light of tasks by the joint commission, in addition to regional and international affairs. Later on, Jarallah held a luncheon in honor of the UK Secretary of State. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and the visiting UK Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa Alistair Burt sign an accord for assistance in criminal cases. — KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the visiting UK Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa Alistair Burt.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A panoramic view of Kuwait City's skyline. —KUNA

Crimes Report

Roommates hospitalized after fight

KUWAIT: Two Indians were injured after they fought in a bachelors' residence in Jahra governorate. The two roommates used sticks and knives, prompting others to call the police, who put an end to the fight. Both were taken to Jahra Hospital, then questioned, but did not divulge what the fight was about.

Swindling cases

An Egyptian was arrested by Fawaniya police and was found wanted for seven swindling cases, including a KD 23,000 case. The arrest was made in Dajeej, as the suspect started running when he saw the police. He was chased and arrested following stiff resistance. He was taken to criminal detectives for further legal action.

Under the influence

A Pakistani man in violation of the labor law was sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) after he was arrested under the influence of drugs, and had pills suspected of being narcotics. The arrest was made in Maidan Hawaly after policemen noticed he was walking unsteadily.

Search for estranged husband

A citizen attacked his wife and attempted to break down the door of her Andalus house, then escaped before the arrival of police. A charge of attempting an unauthorized house entry and threatening was lodged against him. Police are in the process of arresting the estranged husband for questioning.

KD 7,000 debt

A woman wanted over financial cases pretended to be sick and in severe pain after police stopped her. The woman, a citizen, was taken to Farwaniya Hospital and was found to be in good health. She was then taken to the civil sentences enforcement department. The woman was stopped in Farwaniya and was found wanted on a KD 7,000 debt case, so she was asked to step out of the car, but claimed to be ill.

Murder threat

A citizen refused to continue legal action against an unidentified person in a pick-up truck, who threatened to kill him. The citizen called police for help while driving on King Fahd Road after a man in a pickup asked him to stop, then pulled a gun to his face, before leaving. He said he didn't know why the suspect acted this way.

Fugitive caught

A female citizen was detained by Salmiya police for being wanted in a theft case. The woman called police in Mangaf claiming that a man was threatening to kill her, so police responded. When her ID was checked, she was found to be wanted by authorities.

—Translated from the Arabic Press

MP accuses foreign ministry officers of 'misuse' regarding domestic help

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei asked Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to follow and investigate suspicions around some Kuwaiti missions abroad. He said there is suspicion about deliberate misuse of posts at foreign ministry missions with regards to domestic help. He said that he sent a letter to the National Assembly regarding collusion by some foreign ministry officials on this issue.

New mechanism

The health ministry has adopted a new mechanism to regulate the employment of doctors and technicians in the ministry through email only. The new mechanism will include announcement about vacancies based on requests by heads of departments and directors of central departments through the ministry website.

Four injured in truck accident

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Four people were injured when a truck flipped over on Sixth Ring Road near Dajeej recently.



KUWAIT: Firemen inspect a damaged truck after an accident at Sixth Ring Road.

E-correspondence

Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said the municipality is going ahead with activating full electronic correspondence with all state departments. He said the municipality currently has an electronic link with the justice ministry with regards to cases in courts concerning the municipality through a special email. He said all correspondence at the municipality is electronic, and there's no paper system in the municipality except for certain sectors.



MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei

PACI certificate

An official source at the Manpower Public Authority said the certificate issued by the Public Authority of Civil Information (PACI) for properties now appears on screens at the labor departments, and shows the date when the building or office became operational. He said this deals with what is called temporary rental or "phantom rental", which may have the possibility of bringing in laborers without justification. The authority also called on the traffic department to get approval for registering vehicles related to government contracts on the contract and not in the company's file, and the number of drivers will be decided according to the number of vehicles registered in the government project.

Building violations

Director of inspections and follow-up Khalid Al-Suaideh said a campaign resulted in issuing 10 citations to 10 houses for building a fourth floor in violation of the law which only allows building a maximum of three floors per house, besides issuing seven warnings. He said campaigns during two weeks resulted in issuing 34 citations to violating buildings, while 14 warnings for encroaching on state property were also issued.

Farwaniya firemen were called in to free the four who were trapped in the cabin, and handed them to paramedics.

Reckless driver arrested

The Interior Ministry's relations and security information department said police arrested a reckless driver in Oyoun. A video clip on social media showed a group of youth driving recklessly on the road. One was arrested and the rest are being sought.

Legalese

Freedom of speech in Kuwait

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed



A social media activist is facing up to 20 years in jail on what may seem is his social media use and political view, but it is more complicated than that. He did not attend any court sessions for the criminal charges against him over a video he created, and therefore the court found him guilty. Before I go ahead and describe the implications of freedom of speech in Kuwait, I would like to make a few points clear:

1. I am blessed to not only have the freedom to write legal advice and my opinion on public platforms, but to also have complete freedom in what I decide to write.
2. We are very blessed in Kuwait to enjoy an extremely progressive constitution and laws compared to other countries in the region.
3. Freedom of speech is not absolute - nowhere in the world. There will always be consequences for what you say.

Twitter posts

Question: Do I have the right to speak about anything I would like on Twitter and be protected from being accused of a crime because of "freedom of speech" under the Kuwaiti constitution?

Fajer: As I mentioned above, freedom of speech is not absolute. The constitution states in Article 36 that "freedom of opinion and of scientific research shall be guaranteed. Every person shall have the right to express and propagate his opinion verbally, in writing or otherwise, in accordance with the conditions and procedures specified by law". The constitution, as it should, grants everyone the right to express their feelings and opinions, but clearly states that this should be in accordance with procedures set out in the law.

There are plenty of crimes that can happen on a social media account, regardless if the law mentions that the crime has to happen on social media or not. For example, you can be penalized for swearing at someone or for promoting hate, even if the articles for those crimes do not mention where the crime has to be committed. A crime on Twitter or any other social media is seen as if the crime happened in Kuwait if the person behind the account is living in Kuwait.

We might not understand what power we have to influence others through social media. Remember that even though you should always be able to share your opinions and feelings, don't forget to try to be respectful to others, regardless of what the law states.

For any legal inquiries, please email me at ask@fajertlawyer.com

150 employees participate in 4th Coaching Conference

KPC finalizes fourth strategy for 2040: Adsani



KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani speaks during the opening ceremony of the 4th Coaching Conference yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Deputy Chairman of the ICF-Kuwait chapter Iman Al-Gharabally delivers a speech.



Mona Al-Qattan, Marketing Director of ICF-Kuwait chapter

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Over 150 employees from various companies - mostly from the oil sector - and other individuals are participating in the 4th Coaching Conference from Jan 28-30, 2018 at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Fifteen local and international professional coaches are presenting lectures and workshops. This three-day event is organized by Spatialco, Mashar and the International Coach Federation (ICF) Kuwait Chapter.

Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani said KPC has finalized the preparations for its fourth strategy for 2040. "The oil industry is facing many major and unprecedented challenges. We believe at the oil sector that the human resource is the base for success and we are working on developing it," he noted during the opening ceremony of the conference yesterday.

"As success comes from human resources, coaching plays a key role in the development of the personality. KPC is supporting the basic changes to add value to our clients. KPC is also offering new jobs and is supporting the private sector," added Adsani.

Spreading awareness

Mona Al-Qattan, Marketing Director of ICF-

Kuwait chapter, said the main goal of founding the ICF-Kuwait chapter is spreading awareness about coaching and its benefits. "We aim to help certified coaches in networking to raise the level of credibility in the market by getting certified through the ICF. Many coaches claim they are certified, but their credentials show they are not really certified from an institute," she told Kuwait Times.

According to her, there are two types of workshops. "There are organizational and educational workshops. The organizational one focuses on developing skills, career and personal development - it's career oriented. The educational one is mostly personal and for the family - it's more social," Qattan pointed out.

Deputy Chairman of the ICF-Kuwait chapter Iman Al-Gharabally said this year's coaching conference witnessed the launch of the Kuwait chapter of ICF. "A delegation from the ICF is visiting Kuwait to see the preparations and meet those who are interested in coaching in Kuwait, especially in sectors such as education, banking and oil. The oil sector particularly is highly interested in ICF since the past five years," she explained.

"Over 200 employees of the oil sector received training at the ICF. The foundation has set certain hours of training for the participants in order to get their coaching certificates, and

they also have to pass exams in order to become members of the foundation," Gharabally added.

Active support

The Kuwait chapter will actively support the advancement of the coaching profession by providing education, networking and business development opportunities for members and their supporting community. The chapter members are entrepreneurs with their own coaching business and corporate professionals using coaching as a performance and development tool in their jobs. ICF-Kuwait chapter serves to provide the experience encountered when coaching is chosen through personal development, career-enhancing, powerful programs and community involvement throughout.

ICF-Kuwait chapter creates opportunities for credential coaches to volunteer their coaching services in community as well as educating the public about benefits of coaching and partnering with ICF credentialed coaches. The chapter also maintains the ICF's standards of ethics and integrity. It will also support coaches in acquiring their first ICF credential and advancing to the next level and promotes professional coaching and professional coaches around the region. In addition the chapter will build strategic alliances with regional business, government, nonprofit and other professional organizations.

Minister opens station to produce light oil, Jurassic gas

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rashidi opened on Saturday the West Al-Rawdatain station - Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) affiliate - for the production of light oil and Jurassic gas. KOC said in a statement that the West Al-Rawdatain station is the second of three similar stations, which are operating in January and will contribute to increase the production of free gas and light oil gradually.

The third and final station is expected to be operated in east Al-Rawdatin in the coming months, and the production of free gas during the first quarter of the next fiscal year will reach 500 million cubic feet per day, while light oil

production is expected to rise by 200,000 barrels per day by the same period, the statement added.

The CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar al-Adassani and deputy CEO attended the opening of the station for South and East Kuwait at KOC Abdullah Al-Sumaiti and a number of senior officials from the company. Minister Al-Rashidi toured on the sidelines of the opening accompanied by Al-Adassani and KOC officials on some of the projects under construction in northern Kuwait, the tour included a visit to the 29th gathering center in the Al-Rawdatain field and Al-Sabriya gas production station, which opened earlier this month. — KUNA



Officials attend the inauguration ceremony of the West Al-Rawdatain station. — KUNA

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Bomb hits Colombia police station; 5 die

Afghanistan in shock after 'ambulance bomb' kills 103

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HASSA, Turkey: A Turkish armed military vehicle is seen at Hassa near Hatay, southern Turkey yesterday. —AFP

Turkey intensifies Syria campaign

Campaign strains relations with United States

HASSA: Turkey yesterday stepped up its offensive against Kurdish militia in Syria for a ninth, in a campaign that has strained relations with the United States. After several days of poor visibility because of heavy rain and fog, Turkish warplanes and artillery took advantage of the clear skies and pounded the hill of Barsaya near the Kurdish town of Afrin in northwestern Syria, official news agency Anadolu said. Turkey launched operation "Olive Branch" on January 20 against the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in Afrin, supporting Syrian opposition fighters with ground troops and air strikes. While Turkey brands the YPG a "terror" group, the militia has received support from the US, its fighters spearheading the battle against the Islamic State group across swathes of Syria.

Despite souring relations with NATO ally Washington, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to expand the offensive against the YPG to Manbij, east of Afrin. And in a sign the Turkish campaign has rendered prospects for peace in Syria even fainter, authorities in the war-torn country's Kurdish autonomous region said they will not attend peace talks in Russia's Sochi. "We said before that if the situation remained the same in Afrin we could not attend Sochi," regional official Fawza Al-Yussef said. Rebel backer Turkey is one of the sponsors of the talks in the Black Sea resort on Monday and Tuesday, along with Damascus allies Russia and Iran.

Towers of smoke

Turkey's air and artillery strikes yesterday were even fiercer than previous days, said an AFP correspondent on the Syrian-Turkish border who saw towers of smoke rising into the sky. Turkish channel NTV broadcast live footage yesterday showing rocket fire targeting Barsaya hill, located to the north of Afrin, near the strategic border town of Azaz. "I spoke earlier with a commander who said: 'With God's help, we will take over Barsaya very soon,'" Erdogan said in a speech in Corum in northern Turkey.

Turkish troops and their Syrian opposition allies said Monday they had captured the hill, before losing it again a few hours later. Yesterday's battles "are very fierce on Barsaya ... which is strategic because it overlooks Azaz on the Syrian side and Kilis on the Turkish side", Syrian Observatory for Human Rights director Rami Abdel Rahman said. "Today's clashes are more intense," he added.



Erdogan threatens to expand offensive against YPG to Manbij

US-Turkish relations soured

Turkish relations with the US have dipped over their stances on the YPG—which Ankara says is a "terrorist" offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The PKK, which has waged a war against the Turkish state for three decades, is proscribed as a terror group by Ankara and its Western allies. US President Trump earlier this week urged Erdogan to "de-escalate" his forces assault on Afrin as he expressed concern about "the destructive and false" anti-American rhetoric emanating from Turkey.

Adding fuel to the fire, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Saturday urged the US to "immediately withdraw" its personnel from Kurdish-held Manbij, which Ankara has also threatened to attack. "We are going to cleanse Manbij" after Afrin, government spokesman Bekir Bozdag said yesterday, according to Anadolu. Manbij

was retaken from IS by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in 2016 as part of a push that would later recapture the city of Raqa from the jihadists.

Five Turkish troops killed

Faced with the Turkish onslaught, the YPG's political arm the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) appealed to the international community to pressure Ankara into halting its offensive. Five Turkish soldiers have died since "Olive Branch" was launched, while around 40 others have been injured. One soldier who was killed Saturday will be laid to rest later in Istanbul. The fighting has also led to a heavy loss of civilian lives.

According to the Britain-based Observatory, 42 civilians have been killed since January 20, including 12 children, most of them in Turkish air strikes. Ankara denies shelling any civilian areas. In a sign of the sheer ferocity of the fighting, 69 pro-Turkish rebels were killed, as were 66 Kurdish fighters. Earlier this month, the US-led coalition fighting IS said it was working to create a 30,000-strong border security force in northern Syria, which would include the YPG. Several nations, including Germany and France, as well as the European Union, have expressed concern over the Turkish offensive against a country where over 340,000 people have already been killed since war erupted in 2011. —AFP

Who are Haqqanis, Afghanistan's most feared insurgents?

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan yesterday blamed a devastating suicide bomb attack in Kabul that killed at least 95 people and wounded 158 others on the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani Network, former CIA assets now considered one of the most dangerous factions fighting US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan. Led by Sirajuddin Haqqani, who doubles as the Afghan Taliban's deputy leader, the extremist group has been blamed for spectacular attacks across Afghanistan since after the US invasion. Long suspected of links to Pakistan's shadowy military establishment, the network was described by US Admiral Mike Mullen in 2011 as a "veritable arm" of Pakistani intelligence. "When you hear US officials, including in private settings, talking about what worries them the most, they always talk about the Haqqanis," said analyst Michael Kugelmann, of the Wilson Center in Washington.

Who are they?

The group was founded by Jalaluddin Haqqani, an Afghan mujahideen commander fighting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s with the help of the US and Pakistan. Jalaluddin gained notoriety for his organization and bravery, garnering attention from the CIA and a personal visit from US congressman Charlie Wilson. A fluent Arabic speaker, Jalaluddin also fostered close ties with Arab jihadists including Osama Bin Laden who flocked to the region during the war. Later, Jalaluddin became a minister in the Taliban regime.

Now designated a terrorist group by the US, the Haqqanis are known for their heavy use of suicide bombers. They were blamed for the truck bomb in the heart of Kabul in May that killed around 150 people—though Sirajuddin later denied the accusation in a rare audio message. The network has also been accused of assassinating top Afghan officials and holding kidnapped Westerners for ransom. That includes recently released Canadian Joshua Boyle, his American wife Caitlan Coleman, and their three children—all born in captivity—as well as US soldier Bowe Bergdahl, who was released in 2014.

Where are they now?

Following the US invasion of Afghanistan, Taliban fighters

flooded across the border into Pakistan, where they regrouped before launching an insurgency against the Americans. That included the Haqqanis, who coordinated attacks on NATO from across the border in their stronghold of Miran Shah, the biggest town in North Waziristan, one of Pakistan's semi-autonomous border tribal areas. The US has launched repeated drone attacks targeting the group while Pakistan's military has conducted successive clearing operations, though skeptical Afghan officials have noted they always seemed to miss the Haqqanis. Pakistan intensified a military operation in the area in 2014, however, and some militant sources say the pressure has forced many of the Haqqanis underground or over the border into their Afghan strongholds, claims that AFP could not confirm.

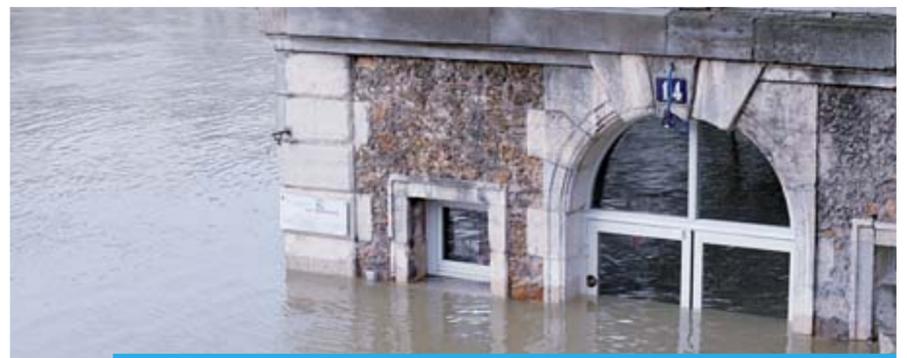
Linked to Pakistan?

Pakistan sees its arch-nemesis to the east, India, as an existential threat, and has long sought influence over Kabul as a bulwark against Delhi. The Haqqanis have frequently been accused of targeting Indian installations in Afghanistan, spurring speculation they were overseen by Pakistani intelligence agencies. "For Pakistan the calculus comes down to India," said Kugelmann. "It views the Haqqanis and also more broadly the Afghan Taliban as a useful asset to help push back against the presence of India in Afghanistan." Politicians and retired military officials in Islamabad acknowledge privately that having open channels with the Haqqanis is vital. Some stressed the nature of the connection. "There's a difference between contact and supporting them or being part of them," Mahmood Shah, a retired brigadier who worked in Pakistan's tribal areas said.

What does US want?

Washington has long pressured Pakistan to crack down on militant groups, with the Haqqanis a top priority. US President Donald Trump turned up the heat last summer when he accused Pakistan of playing a double game in Afghanistan and upbraided Islamabad for sheltering "agents of chaos". Islamabad has repeatedly denied the claims and accused Washington of ignoring the thousands of Pakistani lives lost in its struggle with militancy. The recovery of Boyle, Coleman, and their children came weeks later, with Pakistan using its role in securing their freedom to urge the US to trust it is doing its best. But-Pakistan's desire for strategic depth aside—a crackdown on the Haqqanis might not be easy in a tribal society where social relations matter, warned Pakistani political analyst Imtiaz Gul. "You can't simply pluck out somebody because they've gone politically incorrect," he said. —AFP

Paris on alert as Seine swells



PARIS: Photo shows the cafe 'Les Nautes' in Paris partly immersed in the water of the Seine river. —AFP

PARIS: The swollen Seine rose even higher yesterday, keeping Paris on alert, though forecasters said the flooding should peak by the end of the day. The river had risen 11 centimeters in 24 hours by Saturday evening, more than four meters above its normal height, causing headaches for commuters as well as people living near its overflowing banks. Tourists suffered too with the capital's famous Bateau Mouches rivercraft out of service, and only emergency services authorized to navigate the Seine. The Vigicrues flooding agency forecasts the river will peak at 5.95 meters overnight, not quite reaching the 2016 high of 6.1 meters, when the Louvre museum was forced to shut for four days.

But the world's most visited museum was on high alert yesterday, along with the Musee d'Orsay and Orangerie galleries, with the lower level of the Louvre's Islamic arts wing closed to visitors at least until today. A statue of an Algerian French army soldier from the Crimean War named Zouave that has guarded the river at the Pont d'Alma bridge in central Paris since 1910 was drenched up to the thighs in the muddy waters of the Seine. Police again warned Parisians against bathing or canoeing in the river, saying it was "forbidden and extremely dangerous".

Flooding to recede 'slowly'

More favorable weather is expected for the week ahead, and Vigicrues has lowered its warning level from orange to yellow in several areas upstream of the capital. But even once the water

levels start to recede, forecasters and officials say it will be a slow process, since much of the ground in northern France is already waterlogged. "If we're talking about things getting completely back to normal, that's going to take weeks," said Jerome Goellner, regional head of environmental services. Around 1,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in the greater Paris region, according to police, while around 1,500 homes were without electricity. Some basements in Paris began to see leaks on Friday, and a health centre in the city's northwestern suburbs, where 86 patients were receiving care, was evacuated because of flooding.

Neighborhoods under water

The December-January period is now the third wettest on record since data collection began in 1900, according to France's meteorological service. However, fears of flooding like that of 1910, which saw the Seine rise to 8.62 meters, shutting down much of Paris's basic infrastructure, appeared unfounded. A main commuter line, the RER C, has halted service at Paris stops indefinitely, and some expressways that run alongside the Seine have been closed. In Paris the Seine flows through a deep channel, limiting the potential flooding damage to riverside structures. But several areas on the city's outskirts are under water, such as the southern suburb of Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, where some residents were getting around by boat and dozens have been evacuated from their homes. —AFP

International

5 killed in bomb attack at Colombian police station

Alleged drug traffickers detonate a bomb

BOGOTA: At least five police officers were killed and 41 others wounded Saturday when alleged drug traffickers detonated a bomb at a station in the northern city of Barranquilla, hours after a car explosion ripped through a security post near the border in neighboring Ecuador. There was no apparent link between the two attacks, but they come as President Juan Manuel Santos seeks to end the armed conflict that has wracked Colombia for 50 years. Much of the violence has been linked to drug trafficking. The bombing in Barranquilla was one of the deadliest on security personnel in recent years, casting a pall over preparations for the annual carnival, a major attraction in the bustling Caribbean port city.

Barranquilla police commander Mariano Botero said the bomb detonated as the officers gathered for morning formation. A police source told AFP that 49 officers were at the site when the bomb exploded. Of those, five officers aged between 24 and 31 were killed and 41 were wounded. A 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of carrying out the attack, according to Attorney General Nestor Martinez. "We will charge (him) with five aggravated murders... attempted murder, terrorism and use of explosives," Martinez told a press conference.

Retaliation
Barranquilla Mayor Alejandro Char quickly blamed drug traffickers for the attack. "I do not have the slightest doubt that this is a retaliation" for successful police action against drug traffickers, he told reporters. Botero also suggested that the attack could be in revenge after a police

crackdown on local drug traffickers. Colombia is the world's top producer of cocaine, and criminal groups have flooded the country's main cities with drugs in a move known as "microtrafficking." President Juan Manuel Santos blasted the "cowardly attack" on Twitter. "We will not rest until we find those responsible, my solidarity is with the families of the victims and the wounded," Santos wrote.

Joining Santos was the presidential candidate of the FARC, the former guerrilla group which is now a leftist political party. Rodrigo "Timochochenko" Londono "vehemently" condemned the Barranquilla attack. "All our solidarity is for the relatives of the slain police," he wrote on Twitter. Santos reached a historic peace agreement with the FARC—formerly known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—in November 2016. That led to the rebels' disarmament and transformation into a political party. The president, who is set to step down in August, is hoping to reach a similar agreement with the smaller National

Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas.

Ecuador attack

In an apparently unrelated attack in Ecuador, not far from the country's border with Colombia, a car bomb destroyed the San Lorenzo police barracks around 1:30 am. President Lenin Moreno called it a "terrorist act linked to gangs of drug traffickers."

The blast slightly wounded 28 people—both locals and police. Some 37 homes were destroyed, according to the



BARRANQUILLA, Colombia: People light candles during a vigil in tribute to the police killed in an attack in Barranquilla yesterday. —AFP

Interior Ministry. Moreno declared a state of emergency in the towns of Eloy Alfaro and San Lorenzo, home to some 56,000 people, "in order to boost security for citizens and the border." Ecuador is considered a transit country

for cocaine produced in Colombia and sold in Europe and the United States. Since Ecuador lacks major drug crops, authorities there fight against gangs that store narcotics.—AFP



Criminal groups flood main cities with drugs

Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas.

Ecuador attack

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The blast slightly wounded 28 people—both locals and police. Some 37 homes were destroyed, according to the

News in brief

7 football fans shot dead

MONTERREY: At least seven people watching a football match have been shot dead in Mexico, sources said Saturday, adding to the country's murder toll which last year hit a two-decade high. The latest killings—after more than 25,000 last year—happened in Monterrey, an industrial hub in the country's northeast. At least four hooded gunmen entered a home in the city and threatened about 20 people watching the football, a source at the local prosecutor's office said. Some were herded to a bathroom where they were gunned down, the source said, citing witnesses. Like much of Mexico, Monterrey has been afflicted by drug violence in recent years. In 2006 the government launched a controversial military anti-drug operation which critics say has only led to more murders and attacks.

Suicide bomber kills 4

BAMAKO: A suicide bomber killed four Malian soldiers yesterday, the army said, in the second deadly attack this weekend in the country's troubled north. Mali's deteriorating security situation is of growing concern as Al-Qaeda-linked groups mount increasingly ferocious attacks on domestic and foreign forces. "A terrorist suicide bomber was destroyed this morning, yesterday in Menaka as he attempted to blow himself up on the approach to an army and national guard post," a statement by the armed forces posted on social media said. "Unfortunately during this operation, four armed forces personnel lost their lives," it added.

France to overhaul the baccalaureate in tricky school reform

PARIS: For over two centuries French students have faced a grueling rite of passage: the week-long high school exit exam and its infamous philosophical essay, which bedevils college hopefuls with stumblers like "Do we always know what we desire?" The philosophy brain-twister will remain, but the government has unveiled proposals for a major revamp of the rest of the baccalaureate, tacking a "national monument" based on a structure created under Napoleon in 1808.

Emmanuel Macron pledged to overhaul the Bac, as it is known, during his presidential campaign, saying it was failing to adequately prepare teenagers for university and the modern job market. Once in university, roughly 60 percent of students fail to secure their diplomas marking the first three years of study. The proposed reform presented this week, which would halve the number of Bac tests to just five including a new 30-minute oral exam, aims to orientate students toward specific degrees sooner. The three broad subject choices—science, literature or social sciences would also be eliminated.

Before their final year students would choose two specific "major" subjects as well as two "minors" alongside the standard curriculum—a system that will sound familiar to American college graduates. And instead of being based purely on results in the final exams, the new Bac grade would incorporate marks and test results obtained throughout the two final years of school. Even class sched-



STRASBOURG: In this file photo, French high school students take the philosophy exam, the first test session of the 2017 baccalaureate (high school graduation exam) at a high school in Strasbourg, eastern France. —AFP

ules will change by 2021 if the reforms are passed, with the year now divided into two semesters instead of three trimesters, and the tests spread over several months instead of a single week.

'Better graduates'

The government hopes that introducing specialization at a younger age will help students better choose their university—where places are currently free and guaranteed to anyone who passes the bac ordeal. For Pierre Mathiot, former president at the Lille branch of the prestigious Sciences Po university who drafted the overhaul, students will be able to secure a high school degree under "more realistic conditions". "I'm not saying there should be fewer

baccalaureates, but that there should be 'better' graduates... and that the average Bac grade should better reflect a student's actual level," he said Thursday. He also argued that it was more forgiving for students, since strong results in one area of the test could make up for less-than-stellar work elsewhere. The goal is also to save money: mobilizing supervisors and setting up mass testing centers cost the state 57 million euros (\$71 million) last year, French daily Liberation reported. But critics say students will be forced to make career choices at too young an age. And the ideal of scholastic equality is also at risk, they say, since wealthier students will probably be better prepared to navigate the choices now open to them than those in poorer areas.—AFP

Police arrest Navalny at anti-Putin protest as thousands rally

MOSCOW: Russian police yesterday detained opposition leader Alexei Navalny at a rally in Moscow which he had called to protest upcoming polls expected to extend Vladimir Putin's Kremlin term to 2024. Surrounded by supporters, the 41-year-old chanted "Swindlers and thieves" before being detained by police shortly afterwards at an unsanctioned gathering in the city centre amid heavy police presence. "I have been detained," Navalny tweeted. "This means nothing. Come to Tverskaya (Avenue)," he said, referring to Moscow's main thoroughfare. "You are not rallying for me, but for yourselves and your future."

Heeding a call by President Putin's bete noire, thousands rallied in dozens of cities to protest upcoming "pseudo-elections," with many chanting and brandishing placards saying "Voters' strike." Several thousand turned up for the rally in Moscow where authorities dramatically beefed up security, dispatching police vans and passenger buses to the city centre. Around 90 people were detained across the country, according to OVD-Info, an independent group which monitors crackdowns on demonstrations.

"These are not elections because we already know the result. I will not go and vote," Elena Ruzhe, 62, told AFP in central Moscow. "I'm not scared to protest," said the former culture ministry worker. Protester Alexandra Fedorova, who wore a fur coat, said it was wrong not to let Navalny take part in the vote. "I don't see a future. There is nobody to vote for," the 27-year-old said.

'Tired of this quagmire'

Protesters expressed similar sentiments in



MOSCOW: A still image taken from an AFP TV footage shows police officers detaining opposition leader Alexei Navalny during a rally calling for a boycott of March 18 presidential elections. —AFP

the second city of Saint Petersburg, the Russian leader's hometown, where at least 1,000 people rallied, some chanting "Russia without Putin" and "Putin is a thief." "I want change," Andrei Petrov, 20 said in the former imperial capital. "We are tired of living in this quagmire." Earlier in the day opposition supporters protested in far eastern Russia and Siberia, including in the northern city of Yakutsk where Russians rallied despite temperatures of around minus 45 Celsius. Navalny—seen as the only politician with enough stamina to take on Putin has built a robust protest movement despite constant police harassment, tapping into the anger of a younger generation yearning for change.

He says the upcoming election will be little more than a coronation of Putin who is expected to win a fourth presidential term and extend his Kremlin stay until 2024. Ahead of the main Moscow rally police broke into Navalny's headquarters using a power saw, interrupting a live broadcast covering the protests in the east of the country. Police also detained several employees of his Anti-Corruption Foundation as well as supporters, Navalny's team said. "If you don't go, you

won't forgive yourself later," Navalny's said in a video address before the start of the protest. "Sooner or later they will cut your door too." Ahead of his detention Navalny said police officers had been watching his residential building and garage. "Police, police, police are everywhere," he added. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov warned earlier this week that unsanctioned rallies would lead to "certain consequences"—a thinly-veiled promise of punishment.

Last year Navalny mounted a forceful bid to run for president but officials ruled him ineligible due to a criminal conviction which he says is politically motivated. Navalny has said he would use the full force of his campaign—including over 200,000 volunteers—to organize "voters' strikes" and encourage Russians to stay away from polling stations on election day. After 18 years of leadership, both as president and prime minister, Putin fatigue is spreading across Russia. The Kremlin's biggest headache is the possibility of a low turnout which will harm Putin's hopes for a strong new mandate, analysts say. Navalny seeks to take the shine off Putin's expected victory and highlight voter apathy in his crusade against the 65-year-old leader.—AFP

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International

Afghanistan in shock after
'ambulance bomb' kills 103

Islamic Emirate sends a clear message to Trump

KABUL: Kabul reacted in despair and fear yesterday, a day after a suicide bomb killed more than 100 people and wounded at least 235 in the worst attack seen in the Afghan capital in months. There was a mix of helpless anger at the seemingly endless wave of attacks after an ambulance packed with explosives blew up in a crowded city street, with security officials warning that more attacks were possible.

"How are we to live? Where should we go?" asked shopkeeper Mohammad Hanif, who was in his shop near the site of the explosion when it went off. "We have no security, we don't have no proper government, what should we do?" Interior Minister Wais Barmak said the casualty toll had risen to at least 103 dead and 235 wounded. He said at least two vehicles painted as ambulances were involved in the attack, one of which blew up at when it was stopped at a police checkpoint.

The blast was claimed by the Taliban, a week after their deadly attack on the city's Intercontinental Hotel, in a calculated answer to US President Donald Trump's new strategy in Afghanistan. "The Islamic Emirate has a clear message for Trump and his hand kissers that if you go ahead with a policy of aggression and speak from the barrel of a gun, don't expect Afghans to grow flowers in response," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement, using the term to describe themselves.

Trump, who last year sent more American troops to Afghanistan and ordered an increase in air strikes and other assistance to Afghan forces, said the attack "renews our resolve and that of our Afghan partners". The attack was the worst seen in the Afghan capital since a truck bomb near the German embassy killed 150 people in May. "People were running everywhere to escape, there were wounded people lying on the ground, people with wounds to their arms, legs, heads," Hanif said.

After a deadly week in which an office of the aid group Save the Children in the eastern city of Jalalabad was also attacked, President Ashraf Ghani's Western-backed government has faced growing pressure to improve security. Despite a major tightening in checks following the May 31 attack, the ambulance was able to get through the checkpoints, apparently without difficulty. "People don't have work. There's no life for people in Afghanistan. People have to look for a life somewhere else, there's nowhere," said shopkeeper Sameem.

'Resolve'

Pressure is likely to mount on President Ashraf Ghani to resolve political confrontation with his opponents, in particular with provincial powerbrokers defying central rule, and focus on security. "People think the government is working very badly and security is no good," said Najib Mahmood, political science professor at

Mix of helpless
anger at endless
wave of attacks

Kabul University. "The government can control the situation but the president has to share power with others, he needs unity with other parties so they can fight the Taliban together," Mahmood said.

Former US ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad called for Ghani's government and its main political rival, powerful northern leader Atta Mohammad Noor, to "come together and resolve their differences". "Fighting terrorism and protecting the people is job one. I hope they rise to the occasion," Khalilzad said on Twitter. Saturday's attack, described as "an atrocity" by the head of the UN mission in Afghanistan, drew universal condemnation from neighboring countries and allies who had expressed confidence that the new US strategy is producing results.

Following a recent visit to Kabul, the US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, said the strategy was working and pushing the insurgents closer to peace talks. However, the Taliban have dismissed any suggestion that



KABUL: Afghan medical staff treat a wounded man after a car bomb exploded near the old Interior Ministry building, at Jamhuriat Hospital in Kabul. —AFP

they have been weakened by the US approach and say they will only agree to talks when international forces leave Afghanistan. The United States, which has accused Pakistan of giving assistance to the Taliban and has cut off some aid, urged all countries to take "decisive action" to stop the violence. Pakistan, which denies the US accusations, condemned the attack and called for "concerted efforts and effective cooperation ... to eradicate the scourge of terrorism".

The attack, in one of the most heavily protected parts of the city, close to foreign embassies and government

buildings, demonstrated that the ability of the Taliban to mount deadly high-profile attacks that undermine confidence in the government remains undiminished. The president's office declared Sunday a day of mourning and said Monday would be a day off to allow care of the victims' families. The office also said Joko Widodo, president of Indonesia, which has the world's biggest Muslim population, was due to visit Kabul on Monday. Widodo has proposed that Indonesian Islamic scholars could help promote Afghan peace, media reported recently.—Reuters

Japan and China
to open hotline
to ease tensions

BEIJING: China and Japan plan to open a military hotline to ease tensions over disputed East China Sea islands, Beijing said yesterday, after their top diplomats held rare talks aimed at warming chilly ties. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono met his counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing yesterday in an attempt to improve relations held back by long-standing and seemingly intractable disputes over maritime territory and Japan's wartime legacy.

While ties between Tokyo and Beijing have shown signs of warming, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe have yet to meet on their own soil. Kono's visit to China is the first by a serving Japanese foreign minister in nearly two years. In a statement China's foreign ministry said the two countries had pledged to sign an agreement "as soon as possible" to establish a military hotline to help prevent incidents in the East China Sea.

Frequent maritime patrols by both countries around disputed islets have become a potential flashpoint and a major impediment to improved relations. "China and Japan should work together to build the East China Sea into the sea of peace, cooperation and friendship," it said. In remarks before the talks Kono praised the progress towards improving ties, while calling on China to do more to curb North Korea's nuclear weapons program. "It is important not only to discuss issues related to our two countries, but for Japan and China to stand side by side to deal with global issues," he said. "In particular, the North Korea issue is now an urgent issue for the whole of international society."

'Crucial stage'

Tokyo has been wooing China with official visits and business delegations, but an exchange of state visits has remained a hard sell. Japan is hoping that will change this year as the two countries prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the signing of a Japan-China friendship treaty. The foreign ministry statement from Beijing made no mention of an Abe-Xi meeting.

China's foreign minister Wang also kept his cards close to his chest. Relations between the two countries were at a "crucial stage", he said, adding "there is positive progress, but many disturbances and obstacles remain". A longstanding dispute over islands in the East China Sea—known as the "Senkaku" in Japanese and the "Diaoyu" by the Chinese—remains a source of tension. Tokyo's decision to "nationalize" some of the islets in 2012 led to a major falling out and the relationship has been slow to recover. Chinese coastguard vessels routinely travel around the disputed islands, a practice that has brought regular objections from Japan, which controls the region.

During the meetings, Kono lodged a protest over Beijing's decision earlier this month to send a nuclear-powered submarine to the area, Kyodo News said. Japan is also pushing to host a trilateral summit with leaders from China and South Korea to discuss a broad range of regional issues, including North Korea's nuclear program. The meeting, which was scheduled for last December, was postponed after the impeachment of the then-South Korean president Park Geun-Hye. The two sides agreed the meeting should be held "as soon as possible". China's foreign ministry said without mentioning the venue.—AFP

Traumatized
Rohingya kids
fear return
to Myanmar

COX'S BAZAR: The disturbing drawings of homes engulfed in flames, and stickmen hanging from trees that are produced by Rohingya children in Bangladesh's overcrowded refugee camps are slowly giving way to the flowers and sunny days that psychologists expect from healthy youngsters. But the prospect of returning to Rakhine, where the Myanmar army and Buddhist mobs orchestrated a campaign of ethnic cleansing, could reverse the healing and damage children forever, say experts.

"My friends were slaughtered by the military and Buddhists when we were trying to escape. There were dead bodies everywhere," 12-year-old Sadiya said in a trembling voice, wiping away tears with her headscarf. "If we go back now, they will kill all of us. I don't think we will ever go back. I don't want to." Sadiya is one of the 690,000 Rohingya who have pressed into Bangladesh since last August. Two thirds are children. Thousands arrived alone, many carrying with them a handful of pitiful possessions and graphic stories of seeing their families murdered and their villages burned in an orgy of communal violence.

The United Nations estimates 170,000 children are suffering from some form of mental trauma, having witnessed rape and torture. For months they have lived in the camps that have spread from the riverine border, where desperate conditions have steadily improved. After months of global pressure on Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar reached an agreement on November 23 with Bangladesh to take back refugees. The returns were supposed to start this week, but were suddenly shelved, with both sides blaming the other for a lack of preparation.

Nightmares, stress

Aid agencies and experts say that is actually a good thing. "We know the children that are already trauma-



BANDARBAN: Photo shows a Rohingya refugee settlement near the 'no man's land' area between Myanmar and Bangladesh, as Myanmar army personnel and workers walk away on the Myanmar side of the border, in Tombru. —AFP

tised and need expert care, will be even more traumatized if they are forced to go back." UNICEF deputy executive director Justin Forsyth told AFP in the Balukhali refugee camp. "Nightmares, wetting their beds, self harming. These are things children begin to do in extreme situations. I mean children shaking with fear because they don't know whether they'll see the same type of violence happening again."

The small army of psychologists working in the camps say repatriation could cause the Rohingya children long-term damage just as they are coming to terms with the relative stability of their new lives. A handful of child-safe zones have sprung up across the camps, offering a respite from the drudgery of survival, where youngsters can play, draw, sing, act and read in safety.

Little is known about what preparations the Myanmar authorities are making, but pictures that emerged this week of processing centers wrapped in razor wire offered a stark contrast. Sirajum Monira, a Bangladeshi govern-

ment clinical psychologist at Kutupalong camp, said returning youngsters was not simply a case of shovelling them back across the border. "The incidents can't be forgotten easily. It is a major incident for their life which will be carried out throughout their life," she said. "After repatriation, going back to their own home, they will need psychological support."

Even before the killing began last August, life was hard for the Rohingya, a minority despised by most Burmese as illegal immigrants—despite many having lived there for generations. Myanmar imposes strict controls on education, freedom of movement and religion in Rakhine, though actual conditions are difficult to verify because the government not allow foreign media or aid groups into the region. Ten-year-old Mohamad Zubayer, whose father was killed by Buddhist mobs, would prefer to stay where he is. "I don't mind living here forever," he said, saying he particularly enjoyed going to school—something he had not been able to do in Myanmar.—AFP

On the stump at
92: Malaysia's
Mahathir woos
rural voters

SEKINCHAN: He may be 92 but Malaysia's ex-strongman Mahathir Mohamad has brushed aside the constraints of age to hit the campaign trail for upcoming polls, as he takes on scandal-plagued premier Najib Razak. Mahathir was welcomed by cheering voters at a fishing village on Friday, in a late-night stop as he seeks to woo voters crucial to victory in polls that must be called by August. Such a scene would have been unthinkable until recently—Mahathir was addressing an event organized by an opposition party that fought against his rule during his 22 years in power.

"This time, we have a chance to change the Barisan Nasional (BN) government," the elderly politician thundered, referring to the coalition that has ruled Malaysia since independence in 1957, and which he himself once led. Mahathir was picked as

the opposition coalition's prime ministerial candidate this month, in a political volte-face that shook up a race that long looked like an easy win for the government.

His coalition hopes he will win rural votes, particularly those of the Muslim Malay majority, who have long supported the government in exchange for policies favoring them but have become disillusioned due to the rising cost of living and a financial scandal ensnaring Najib. "The critical factor in this election would be Malay voters that are disgruntled," said Ibrahim Suffian, head of independent polling firm Merdeka Centre said.

Mahathir is himself Malay, and has long championed the Malay cause. The opposition hopes the votes he peels away from the government will complement their traditional support base of people in the cities and minorities, particularly the ethnic Chinese. Analysts do not expect the opposition to win due to BN's dominance of the political system, but if the unlikely happens, Mahathir will become the world's oldest prime minister.

Rapid return

Mahathir stepped down as premier in 2003, but he did not stay away from politics for long. He came out of retirement to challenge his ex-protégé Najib over alle-



SEKINCHAN: Former Malaysian prime minister and opposition prime ministerial candidate Mahathir Mohamad (center) arrives to attend a dinner gathering in Sekinchan, about 90kms northwest of Kuala Lumpur. —AFP

gations state fund IMDB had been plundered, formed a party in 2016 and aligned with the opposition. The most remarkable aspect of his political rebirth has been a reconciliation with former nemesis Anwar Ibrahim. The pair met for the first time in 18 years in 2016 when Mahathir turned up to show support for Anwar at a court appear-

ance. Anwar was heir apparent to Mahathir until the premier sacked him in 1998 over political differences, and he was then jailed on sodomy and corruption charges. The opposition Coalition of Hope had qualms about making Mahathir their candidate for the top job but observers say there was ultimately little choice. —AFP

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Measles? Bring it on, says US 'vaccine choice' movement

Joe Accurso, a 47-year-old chiropractor, refused to vaccinate his daughter against polio, measles or whooping cough because he believes that getting sick wouldn't be dangerous and might even be good for her. "I am actually disappointed that she doesn't have the opportunity to get the chicken pox, to get diseases that make her body stronger in the future. That is our big reason," he told AFP. Don't call them "anti-vaxxers." Joe and his wife Cathy, a physical therapist, see themselves as part of a vocal minority that believes in "vaccine choice".

These parents - many of whom are white, educated and upper middle class - choose not to immunize their children against diseases which collectively used to kill millions children per year around the world. They say these illnesses aren't so bad, compared to vaccines, the risks of which they believe are being withheld from the public in the name of pharmaceutical profits - a belief now shared by millions of people across the developed world, from the United States to Europe and Australia.

They are also swayed by purported medical whistleblowers who claim that vaccine effectiveness data has been skewed, that vaccine injuries are on the rise, and that dubious ingredients have been concealed. Fueled by distrust of the medical establishment, more than seven million people follow various US-based Facebook pages that question vaccines, wrote Richard Stein, a New York University cardiologist, last month in the journal *Germes*. "Conspiracy theories on social media are alive and thriving, rejoicing their golden age," Stein said.

Resurgence of measles

Endemic measles was eradicated from the United States in 2000, and nationwide only about two percent of kindergarteners have gone unvaccinated in recent years, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But the danger comes when large pockets of people do not vaccinate and an area loses "herd immunity". In Minnesota, for example, child vaccination rates for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) in the Somali-American community plummeted to 42 percent in 2014, down from 92 percent in 2004. The result: 65 cases of measles in 2017, most of them unvaccinated Somali children - the largest single outbreak in a year that saw 120 cases nationwide, the CDC said.

Fears about autism spread after British anti-vaccine activist Andrew Wakefield - whose 1998 research alleging that vaccines trigger autism was found to be fraudulent - spoke to local Somali community groups in 2010 and 2011. "One of the pseudoscience phony central tenets of the anti-vax movement is to claim that measles is a benign illness or even good for you," Peter Hotez, director of the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development, told AFP. Such ideas are "deliberately misleading and false," and have real-world consequences, he added.

Measles can cause hearing loss, blindness, brain swelling and pneumonia. The CDC says that for every 1,000 children infected, one or two will die. In the United States, recent measles outbreaks include one in Ohio's Amish community in 2014 (383 cases), and a nationwide 2015 outbreak that infected 188 and is believed to have started with a visitor to California's Disneyland amusement park. A vaccinated elderly woman was the sole measles fatality that year.

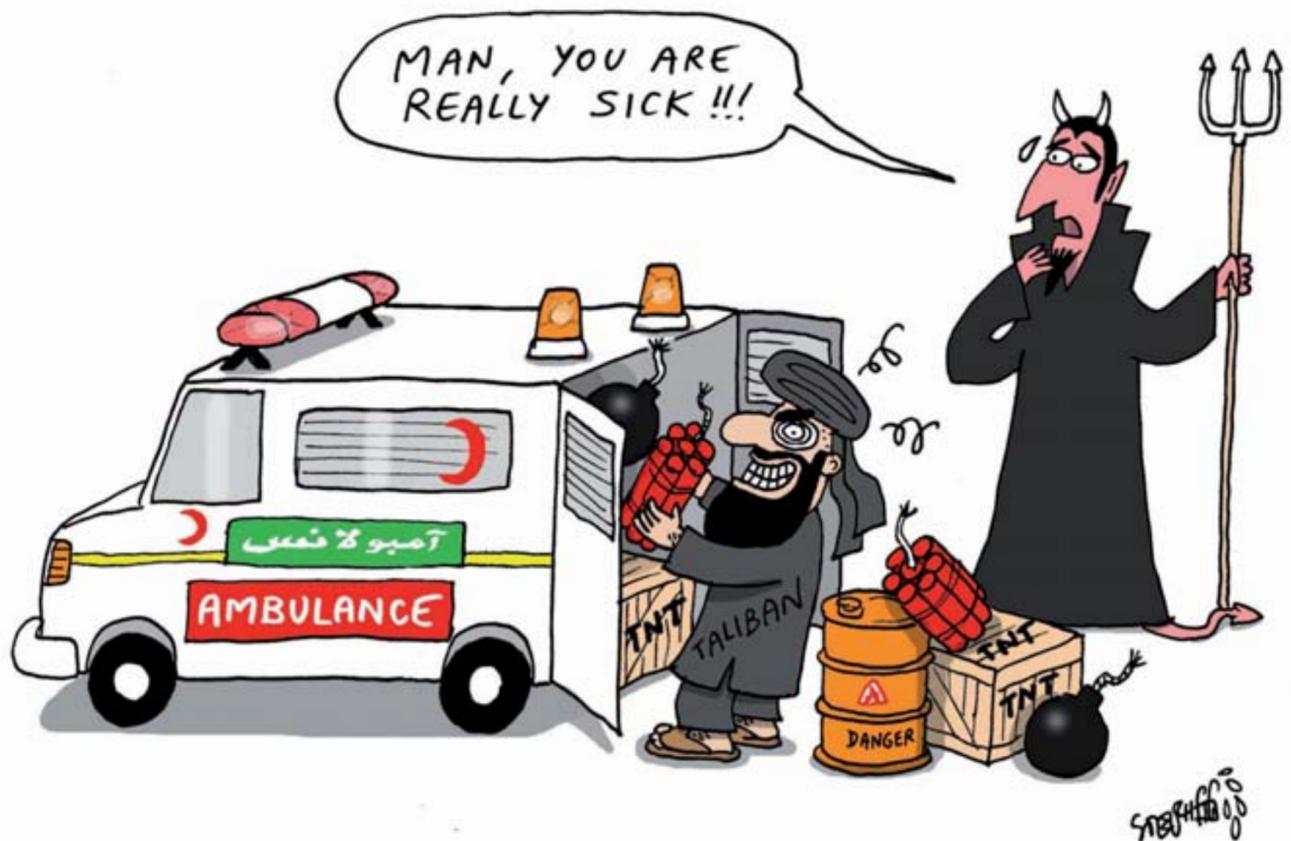
Influence of social media

Social media may be perpetuating the anti-vaccine movement, said Naomi Smith, an Australian researcher. Smith just completed a three-year study on how Facebook appears to have created a "filter bubble" around the fraught issue - so vaccine skeptics see their ideas reinforced on pages they follow. When it comes to convincing hesitant parents to vaccinate their kids, Smith said both sides are at "a total impasse".

People who hold strong anti-vaccination beliefs tend to believe personal testimonies, and "use a different standard of evidence than what the medical community uses," she told AFP. To bridge the divide, some doctors, like Arizona pediatrician Tim Jacks, occasionally share their own personal stories with vaccine-hesitant parents. In 2015, Jacks' daughter Maggie was battling leukemia, had recently finished a round of chemotherapy, and was exposed to measles while getting blood drawn at a Phoenix clinic. Also exposed was his younger son, Eli, just 10 months old then and too young for the MMR shot.

The experience was scary, and required the family to spend two weeks in quarantine. Fortunately neither child fell ill, and Maggie, now six, is in remission from her cancer. "We don't live in bubbles. So even going to the store and getting groceries, going to church, going to the park, you are interacting with other people and you are potentially exposing other people," Jacks said. "Who is really at risk? It is the family that has a newborn that has no protection. It is the grandmas."

For Hotez, solutions include more engagement from scientists and laws that eliminate the personal choice to vaccinate, as now exist in 18 states. After the Disneyland outbreak, California changed its laws to allow only medical exemptions for children who attend school, and vaccinations climbed. "It is no longer simply a small cult," said Hotez. "This is a well-organized movement that needs to be taken on directly." —AFP



Onwards and upwards for mighty Federer

Roger Federer continued to rewrite his remarkable script with what was previously thought an unattainable 20th Grand Slam title yesterday, and he appears to have no plans to slow down any time soon. The 36-year-old Swiss marvel defied the years and attrition rate to claim a joint-record sixth Australian crown in his 30th Grand Slam decider in Melbourne on Saturday, beating Croatia's Marin Cilic in five tough sets.

It put him alongside contemporary rival Novak Djokovic and Australian great Roy Emerson with the most Australian titles. Worryingly for his opponents, the ageless star is enjoying himself as much as ever, and that inevitably means he plans to stick around for some time yet. "I'm happy I'm still around, still healthy, still playing good, giving myself chances, playing the best," he said last week. "It's almost good fun."

Just when many people thought his Grand Slam-winning days were behind him having not won a major title since Wimbledon in 2012, Federer has now reeled off another three since his 35th birthday. And there appears every likelihood of more to come, particularly a ninth Wimbledon crown later this year. While he makes it look easy, it doesn't come without a tough grind behind the scenes, as Federer explained earlier in the tournament. "There's always a lot of work that goes into it during the tournament, focus, and also preparation beforehand," he said.

"For many weeks and months before, you try to put yourself in the position, are you going to be ready in case a good semi-finals or quarter-finals match at the Australian Open, so forth. This is something you sort of plan from a long time ago. That's why when it does happen, it's a great feeling."

How much it means was evident with Federer in tears at the presentation ceremony yesterday. And all of this with two sets of twins to look after with wife Mirka - Myla Rose and Charlene Riva and Leo and Lenny. A fit and healthy Federer chalking up yet another major title coincided with his long-time rivals, Rafael Nadal, Djokovic, Stan Wawrinka and Andy Murray, beginning the year with injury concerns.

Record-setter

Age certainly has not wearied the Swiss master as he was the oldest man at 36 to play in the Australian Open final since Australians Ken Rosewall (37) and Mal Anderson (36) faced each in the 1972 final. The result is that he stretched his lead on the all-time major-winners' list to 20 - four ahead of Nadal, six in front of Pete Sampras and eight more than Djokovic. Only three women - Steffi Graf (22), Serena Williams (23), and Margaret Court (24) - have been crowned champion at more Slams.

In an endless list of records, he also holds the all-time men's record of 332 Grand Slam wins since playing his first in 1999, with career earnings of more than US\$115 million. Saturday's victory was also his 96th career title as he closes in on Jimmy Connors' Open-Era mark of 109. Federer, who spent a record 302 weeks at number one and was inside the top 10 from 2002 until 2015, saw his ranking slide to 17 - his lowest since 2001 - after he spent six months out in 2016 with a knee injury. But it has been all upside since last year's classic five-set final win over Nadal at the Australian Open. Despite his latest endeavor, Federer will remain world No. 2 behind Nadal - for now. —AFP



Papua's measles outbreak shows years of neglect

Indonesia's battle to stem a deadly measles outbreak striking malnourished children in Papua is doomed to be repeated unless the government helps lift the isolated region out of grinding poverty, observers said. Some 800 children have fallen ill and as many as 100 others, mostly toddlers, are feared to have died in what Jakarta called an "extraordinary" outbreak that was first made public this month.

AFP reporters obtained rare access to an overwhelmed hospital in Agats, one of the worst-affected communities, witnessed rail-thin children with exposed rib cages lying on rickety beds or wandering fowl-smelling hallways. One malnourished girl, hooked up to an IV drip, was seen lying on the floor of an under-equipped hospital. The disease has proven especially deadly here as malnutrition makes children more susceptible, weakening their immune systems.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has ordered military and medical teams to bring supplies to remote villages in the far-flung province. Observers blame the crisis on a complex mix of government inaction, lack of jobs, logistical hurdles in reaching remote communities and resettlement efforts that pose a serious threat to traditional hunting-based lifestyles. A low-level separatist insurgency is also simmering in the region, fuelled by resentment over poor conditions and a fight for a bigger share of Papua's rich natural resources.

Many Papuans live a semi-nomadic life in hard-to-reach areas of the jungle with almost no proper medical care, schools or other services, including access to clean water. In Ayam village, a ten-hour boat ride from the nearest major city, a tiny clinic lacked almost everything - including doctors - as its few nurses struggled to treat more than two dozen measles cases. Some locals worry what will happen when the medics leave. "What we really need is medicine and

food so our children here can be healthy again," said 28-year-old father Yunus Komenamar, whose one-year-old son has measles. "The government is paying more attention, aid is coming in and there are (positive) changes, but we want it to last."

Some 12,000 children with no symptoms have been treated, including with vaccinations, according to the health ministry, but in the past many Papuans have refused the shots that are seen as key to preventing outbreaks.

'Isolation'

Indonesia has opened new district governments across Papua and tried to settle locals into permanent villages, but many of the new offices are not equipped to handle the huge task ahead. And resettlement forces locals to adapt to a new lifestyle including adjusting to imported foods that are often already expired by the time they arrive on the island shared with Papua New Guinea, observers said. Complicating matters, many Papuans avoid the province's few medical clinics because they do not think they need treatment, while some avoid larger communities for fear of coming into contact with Indonesia's military, which has been blamed for human rights abuses.

Natalius Pigai, a former senior official at Indonesia's government-backed National Human Rights Commission, warned that the future of Papua and its people was at stake. "To stop (crises) from happening again in the future, we need to stop Papua's isolation," he said. While some new plantations offer hope for the local economy, most workers are not native Papuans, experts said.

Jakarta took control of western Papua after hundreds of years of Dutch colonial rule and a UN-backed self-determination referendum in 1969 that was regarded by many historians as a sham, leading to long-simmering tensions. When Widodo took office in 2014, he vowed to speed up infrastructure development and services, bolstering hopes for the region, observers said. "What the government is saving is what we think is important to do (for Papua) is in fact not being done," said Richard Chauvel, a Papua expert at the University of Melbourne's Asia Institute. —AFP

Ukraine overcomes jab fears amid measles outbreak

Schools have shuttered and some clinics exhausted their vaccine stocks as a deadly measles outbreak hits Ukraine, where anti-vaccine sentiment and interrupted supplies have led to a resurgence of the virus. Parents, including those who for years refused vaccinations for their children, are queuing at clinics after schools extended their holidays or refused to let unvaccinated students attend lessons. In a public children's hospital in central Kiev, the door slammed constantly as concerned parents rushed in. "We vaccinated 150 children (in a single day)... This is three to four times more than we usually do," said Oksana Gutova, head of the hospital where staff now have to work overtime and weekends. A pediatrician from a private medical center in Kiev said all but three of his 15 patients on a recent Saturday had come for immunization. "We have exhausted our stock of measles, mumps and rubella vaccines for three months in two days," he told AFP. In 2017, almost 4,800 cases of measles and five fatalities were recorded in the former Soviet republic. Since the start of this year, close to 2,100 Ukrainians have already been infected and three of them died, including two children. In principle, vaccinations against certain infections are mandatory in Ukraine but there is no punishment for non-compliance.

False certificates

Ukrainian authorities and international organizations blame the outbreak on a lengthy hiatus in immunizations, caused by public resistance to vaccines fanned by news reports and rumors. Changes to the system of buying medicines from abroad also led to interrupted supplies in 2015-16. Just 42 percent of one-year-olds had been vaccinated against measles in Ukraine by the end of 2016 - making it the world's third-worst performing country after South Sudan and Equatorial Guinea, according to the UN's children's agency UNICEF.

Although the rate shot up to 93 percent

the following year, based on latest figures from Kiev, this has not made up for the shortfall of the previous years. "We are making progress - but we are not there yet," Giovanna Barberis, UNICEF representative in Ukraine, said in a written comment to AFP. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a 98-percent vaccination rate to prevent mass hospitalizations and fatalities, Barberis said.

The official vaccination rate from Kiev should also be interpreted with caution, she added, as there is a widespread practice in Ukraine of buying fake medical certificates to confirm a non-existent vaccination. According to a study conducted in 2016, 52 percent of health workers have reported that they had been asked for fake vaccination certificates, the UNICEF official said.

Diphtheria could be next

The country has already experienced several measles outbreaks, with the worst one affecting more than 40,000 people in 2006. In response, the authorities launched an immunization campaign, but it ran into trouble after the death of a teenager in 2008 who had received an India-made vaccine not certified in Ukraine. The case fuelled public distrust despite an official probe concluding the death was not caused by the vaccine.

Faced with the current outbreak, authorities in the southern Odessa region where all the most recent fatalities have been recorded - decided to extend school holidays for at least two weeks in some districts. The Kiev City Council for its part recommended schools and kindergartens ban unvaccinated children from attending lessons. The announcement drove many parents to immunize their children immediately.

Among them was Oleksandra Filatova, a mother of five who came to a clinic with her two youngest daughters, aged five and ten. "I've heard all kinds of terrible stories about children who were paralyzed, who stopped talking," she told AFP, explaining why she had never had her children vaccinated for fear of complications. But the risk of seeing her children catching measles or missing out on school made Filatova change her mind. She said they would also get jabs for tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough. —AFP



An aerial view taken with a drone in Moscow on Saturday shows a star on top of the Moscow State University, Luzhniki Stadium and the Moskva River. — AFP

Sabeeh set to survive vote...

Continued from Page 1

He said that a growing number of bedoons are facing problems of security restrictions against them and the so-called passports some of them bought from several countries that turned out to be fake. He said that some

bedoons have been forced to sign declarations that specify they hold certain nationalities.

Meanwhile, the public prosecution yesterday submitted its memorandum regarding the opposition activists who have been handed heavy jail terms for storming the Assembly in 2011. The move will enable the court of cassation to start looking into the case by first deciding whether the activists who have been in jail for two months should be freed or not while the court hears the case. Two of those jailed are MPs Jamaan Al-Harbash and Waleed Al-Tabtabai.

North Iran hit by massive snowfall...

Continued from Page 1

run out of petrol after hours of keeping their cars heated. A Red Crescent spokesman told the official IRNA news agency that 6,600 people had

been put up in emergency accommodation.

The state gas company said it was bracing for a major surge in demand as temperatures were set to drop to minus-20 Celsius in certain northern regions. In Tehran, local media said several cars and electricity cables had been damaged when trees collapsed on to cars under the weight of the snow. Mayor Mohammad Ali Najafi asked young Tehranis to help municipality workers to shake trees and dislodge the snow in order to avoid further accidents. — AFP

Yemen govt warns of coup as separatists...

Continued from Page 1

closed, witnesses said. The UN children's agency UNICEF said on Twitter it was "very concerned about the situation in Aden".

Dagher said events there were headed towards "total military confrontation" and urged coalition members, in particular the UAE, to act. He also warned that separating south Yemen from the rest of the country would benefit the rebels and Iran, which was "trying to consolidate its presence in Yemen through the Houthis".

Yesterday's rally was called by the Southern Transitional Council, an autonomous body aimed at overseeing self-governance among southern provinces. The 26-member council, which is not recognized by Hadi's government, includes the governors of five southern provinces and two cabinet ministers. Former Aden governor Aidarous Al-Zoubeidi formed the council in May after Hadi fired him. The council had asked Hadi to make changes in the government and gave him one week to do so - a deadline that expired yesterday. It had warned that if Hadi did not accept the demand, its supporters would begin a protest campaign to oust Dagher's government.

A top military adviser to President Hadi, Mohammed Ali Al-Miqdashi, said any move toward rebellion would render the southerners an enemy. "There is no difference between the Houthis and anyone else who rebels

against the legitimate government, no matter who they are - left, right, south, east," said Miqdashi, speaking at a remote military base near the central Yemeni city of Marib, late on Saturday.

A senior southern political source accused the government of pushing the dispute toward an armed showdown. "The Hadi government was nervous about any demonstration by the people, so they tried to stop it by force thinking that if there were a battle, the coalition would intervene and save them," the source said.

The separatists have long campaigned for the secession of southern Yemen. South Yemen was independent - with former British colony Aden as its capital - from its formation in 1967 until 1990, when it was unified with North Yemen under northern leader Ali Abdullah Saleh. Four years later, it launched a separatist rebellion that culminated in its occupation by northern forces.

The Houthis, a northern Shiite minority, seized Sanaa in Sept 2014 with the help of Saleh and army units loyal to him. In March 2015, the rebels advanced on Aden, where Hadi took refuge after escaping from Sanaa. But the Saudi-led coalition helped pro-Hadi forces oust the rebels from Aden and four other provinces in July that year. Hadi loyalists have been boosted by the Popular Resistance alliance of southern separatists and tribesmen after the rebels advanced on their regions.

Years of UN-backed peace efforts have failed to resolve Yemen's conflict, which has killed more than 9,200 people and devastated a country already among the region's poorest. The Houthis have increasingly consolidated their grip on Sanaa and the north, especially since rebels killed Saleh in December after their alliance collapsed. — Agencies

Kamprad, frugal billionaire founder...

Continued from Page 1

Ikea's revolutionary self-assembly model - which would cut transport and storage costs - was conceived in 1956 after an employee suggested table legs be removed so the package would fit into a car.

Two years later Kamprad opened Ikea's first store in Almhult, south of his hometown. From 1970, Ikea conquered major markets in Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East, thriving on the spending power of the emerging middle class in countries like post-Cold War Russia. The Ikea group now has 403 stores across every continent, employs 190,000 people worldwide and generates annual sales of €38 billion (\$47 billion).

But Kamprad lived modestly, buying his clothes at thrift shops, driving an ageing Volvo, and bringing a lunch box to work. "I don't think I'm wearing anything that wasn't bought at a flea market. It means that I want to set a good example," he told Swedish channel TV4 in 2016. In 2013, he was forced to hand over billions of dollars to his sons following a bitter family feud over intellectual property income that he kept for himself, according to a book on Ikea.

Kamprad's success has also been marked by controversy. In 1973 he fled Sweden's higher tax structure for Denmark before seeking even lower taxes in Switzerland. Kamprad announced in 2013 that he would be stepping down from the board of Inter Ikea, owner of the furniture giant's concept and brand, and his youngest son became chairman. The Ikea founder returned to Sweden the following year.

The European Commission announced last year that it had launched an investigation into the ways Ikea allegedly used a Dutch subsidiary to slash its tax bill on revenue from megastores around the world. A report by the Green party in European Parliament last year said Ikea avoided one billion euros (\$1.2 billion) in EU taxes between 2009 to 2014. And the Consortium of Investigative Journalists in 2014 cited leaked tax files from Luxembourg when it identified Ikea as one of the giant multinationals fingered for corporate tax avoidance by shuffling money to tax havens. The group insists that it complies fully with national and international tax regulations.

Kamprad faced harsh criticism in the past for his ties to the Nazi youth movement during World War II. Sweden was neutral in World War II, and its Nazi party remained active after 1945. But Kamprad said he stopped attending its meetings in 1948, later attributing the period to the "folly of youth", calling it "the greatest mistake of my life". — AFP

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Sports

Wild Tiger Woods battles to two-under 70 at Torrey Pines

Noren, Palmer and Rahm jockey for the lead

LA JOLLA: Tiger Woods was all over the map Saturday, but the 14-time major champion managed to salvage a two-under par 70 in the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open. "I didn't hit it worth a darn all day," said Woods, who was playing the weekend of a US PGA Tour event for the first time since August of 2015. "I was really struggling out there, trying to find anything that was resemblance of a golf swing.

"But I was scoring. I was chipping, putting. I was grinding," added Woods, who hit just three of 14 fairways on the Torrey Pines South Course, where his eight wins include his 14th and most recent major title at the 2008 US Open. Some deft work around the greens, four birdie putts ranging from a tap-in to a 15-footer, and a few clutch par-saving putts in the bargain saw Woods finish with a three-under par total of 213 — eight shots off the lead held by Sweden's Alex Noren.

Noren, a nine-time winner on the European Tour, rolled in a 38-foot eagle putt at the sixth, and after a double-bogey at the 12th he grabbed three birdies in his last six holes. That included a two-putt birdie at 18 which capped a three-under par 69 for 11-under 205.

"I got it around in three-under, which I was happy about," Noren said. "I hit a lot of greens. Made a mistake there on 12, made a double. It's a tough hole but a double felt pretty rough after just lipping out the hole before and having good chances.

"So I'm happy coming back from that." He was one

stroke in front of Ryan Palmer, the first-round leader who bogeyed 14 and 16 to fall back with a one-over 73 for 206. Defending champion Jon Rahm, his eye on Dustin Johnson's world number one ranking, was in the mix, but a double-bogey seven at the 18th left him sharing 12th, four shots off the pace.

SHORT GAME AND HEART

While the likes of Noren, Palmer and Rahm jockeyed for the lead in relative quiet, Woods again attracted a large and boisterous gallery. "I haven't had people yelling like that in a while," Woods said. "I've played well here over the course of my career and I think a lot of these fans just want to see some of that. And trust me, I'm trying."

The 42-year-old superstar is making his return to the PGA Tour for the first time since missing the cut at Torrey Pines last year. He had missed all of 2016 battling back trouble, and last year's comeback bid was cut short by recurring pain and spinal fusion surgery in April. Woods, who says he's playing without pain for the first time in years, was trending in the right direction, with rounds of 72-71-70. "It would be nice to shoot something in the 60s," Woods said. "I would like to do something a little bit easier than I did today, hit some more fairways, more greens, make it more conventional."

Woods's fused spine got a workout as he repeatedly hit out of dense rough. "I was trying to miss the ball on the correct sides because I knew I didn't have it,"



SAN DIEGO: Tiger Woods plays his shot from the second tee during the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines South on Saturday in San Diego, California. —AFP

he said. "Trying to give myself the correct angles and I did that most of the day."

But Woods said he's still struggling with his "feels" as he adjusts to tournament play with his less flexible

fused spine.

"Some of my go-to shots aren't there," he said. "The only thing I have is my short game and my heart-and that got me through today." — AFP

Ginting defeats Sakai to win Indonesian Masters

JAKARTA: Indonesian shuttler Anthony Sinisuka Ginting defeated Japan's Kazumasa Sakai 21-13, 21-12 to win the Indonesian Masters badminton final yesterday. Ginting, 21, was in commanding form in front of a boisterous home crowd at Jakarta's Istora Senayan Stadium, seizing the title after 33 minutes of play. The 27-year-old Sakai, who overcame world number one Viktor Axelsen of Denmark on his way to the final, put in a gutsy effort but was no match for the quick-footed

Indonesian.

"Thank God, I'm really grateful to be able to get my first title in Indonesia," Ginting said after the match. "It was a tight game early on." The result catapults the world number 16 into the top 10 in the rankings. In the women's singles, world number one Tai Tzu Ying was too strong for India's Saina Nehwal.

The Taiwanese shuttler—who has now won the past seven encounters between the pair—dispatched Nehwal in under 30 minutes, smashing her 21-9, 21-13. Tai, who was the crowd favourite, hopes to repeat her form in this year's marquee events.

"My 2018 target is the World Championships and Asian Games because those two tournaments are the biggest," she said. China's Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong defeated Indonesia's Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir 21-14, 21-11 to claim the mixed doubles title. — AFP

Li edges McIlroy in thriller to win Dubai Desert Classic

DUBAI: China's Li Haotong edged out Rory McIlroy by a single stroke in a thrilling final round at Dubai Desert Classic yesterday to claim the second European Tour title of his career. Li put on a late burst to card 69 and finish on 23-under for the tournament with a total of 265, setting a new record to par at Emirates Golf Club in the process by overhauling the mark of 22-under set by Thomas Bjorn in 2001.

The 22-year-old, who claimed his first European Tour title at the 2016 China Open, started the day a stroke ahead of McIlroy, but relinquished the lead in short order with a bogey on the first hole.

"Especially the first few holes, I was quite nervous," Li said. "The first hole I made bogey and got to come back really quick, which was good." The duo then matched each other with birdies on the third and seventh, but McIlroy forged a two-stroke lead after the turn with a birdie on the par-five 10th as Li registered his second bogey of the afternoon.

The Northern Irishman was briefly pegged back after landing in the sand on the par-three 11th, but his two-shot advantage was restored



DUBAI: Li Haotong of China poses with the winner's trophy while celebrating his victory in the the Dubai Desert Classic at Emirates Golf Club yesterday, in Dubai. — AFP

when Li made his third and final bogey on the next hole. The Chinese reacted with supreme composure in the clutch situation, going on to birdie four of his last six holes, including sinking a 25-foot putt on the 15th to draw level with McIlroy.

"The last four holes was some of the best shots in my life so far," he said. "Happy to see I can hold a trophy here. I'm looking forward to my first Masters." McIlroy, a two-time win-

ner in Dubai, went a long way right off the 16th tee and his failure to save par gave Li the outright lead. Both men closed with a pair of birdies apiece as the Chinese held his nerve to emerge victorious. Englishman Tyrrell Hatton finished three shots behind the leader to claim third place, with Frenchman Alexander Levy a shot behind him in fourth and another Englishman, Chris Paisley, two shots further back in fifth on 17-under. — Reuters

Jay McCarthy wins Australian road race

GEELONG: Jay McCarthy became the first local rider to win the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race yesterday, battling through extreme heat to finish in a sprint ahead of Italian Elia Viviani. McCarthy (Bora-Hansgrohe) took the fourth edition of the 164-kilometre (102-mile) race in Victoria in four hours and four minutes.

Viviani (Quick-Step Floors) and South Africa's Daryl Impey (Mitchelton-SCOTT), who won the UCI season-opening Tour Down Under in South Australia last week, were in second and third place respectively with the same time.

McCarthy, 25, who was second in the Australian Road Race Championship earlier this month, said he was speechless at finishing his last race in Australia with a win before heading back to Europe. He had talked up his chances of a win before the race-named after Australian cycling great Cadel Evans-as teammate and three-time world cycling champion Peter Sagan had left Australia after the Tour Down Under. Viviani said he was disappointed to have finished second but pleased with the start to his season.

"If the finish line was one metre later I would have won," the 28-

year-old said. "Not easy for me this course. I'm happy about my shape. Sometimes during the season I never finish in front of race like that one. So in January my shape is good."

The peloton caught the leaders with 15 kilometres to go, and a breakout of nine riders went clear in the final city circuit including Gerrans (BMC Racing Team), Esteban Chaves (Mitchelton-SCOTT), Impey and McCarthy. McCarthy eventually proved too strong in the sprint to the finish. Danish rider Lasse Norman Hansen (Aqua Blue Sport) claimed the King of the Mountain jersey, while 20-year-old Belgian Bjorg Lambrecht (Lotto Soudal) won the inaugural Gerry Ryan Award for best young rider. The riders endured searing heat conditions that saw the mercury soar above 40 degree Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Race commentators said road surface temperatures rose to 50 degrees Celsius. McCarthy, from Queensland, said he was used to the heat and humidity but still found the conditions challenging.

"I'm used to it. Still hurts ... It's more humid than normal down here. We get humidity and heat in Queensland and the two together worked well for me," he said. Australian rider Chloe Hosking (ALE) won the women's race on Saturday with a time of three hours, 15 minutes and 54 seconds.

The race was the first of 16 one-day classics that make up part of the 37 events in the UCI WorldTour calendar this year. — AFP

Fahad Al Musallam joins the Red Bull Family

KUWAIT: A new athlete has joined the Red Bull family. This time none other than Kuwaiti citizen, Fahad Al Musallam. Junior Baja World Champion, Al Musallam, is no stranger to topping the podium at several competitions. He is a 3-time Qatar Endurocross Champion, 2 time Bahrain Motocross Champion, and a 1 time Kuwait Motocross Champion.

Fahad's story began at the age of six when his father purchased him his very first ATV Dirt Bike. Since then his passion has flourished into a full-fledged career. He will be joining national treasures, Mohammed Burbayea, Mohammed Jaffar, and Mansour Al Safran, to represent Kuwait and Red Bull at worldwide championships. To find out more follow Red Bull Kuwait on Instagram and Twitter @redbullkuwait, on Facebook @RedBull, and follow Fahad on Instagram @fmm22.



Fahad Al Musallam

Sports

Curry scores 49 as Warriors hold off pesky Boston Celtics

Anthony cracks 25,000 points as Thunder beat Pistons

SAN FRANCISCO: Stephen Curry poured in 31 of his season-high 49 points in the second half Saturday night, including consecutive hoops to break a late tie, rallying the Golden State Warriors to a 109-105 victory over the Boston Celtics in a nationally televised showdown of conference leaders in Oakland, Calif. Curry's 49 points came on 16-of-24 shooting and 8-of-13 accuracy from 3-point range. Kevin Durant finished with 20 points and Draymond Green recorded a 15-point, 11-rebound double-double for the Warriors, who completed a three-game home sweep of the New York Knicks, the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Celtics. Boston's Kyrie Irving had 37 points on 5-for-6 shooting from 3-point range and 13-for-18 accuracy overall. Jaylen Brown totaled 20 points and Al Horford, returning from a concussion, notched a 15-point, 13-rebound double-double for the Celtics.

THUNDER 121, PISTONS 108

Carmelo Anthony scored his 25,000th career point. **Russell Westbrook** notched a triple-double, and **Oklahoma City** posted its seventh straight victory by topping host **Detroit**. Anthony finished with 21 points and became the 21st player in NBA history to hit that mark, as well as the 25th in NBA and ABA combined history. Westbrook racked up 31 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists. Paul George supplied 26 points and Steven Adams added 13 points and seven rebounds. Thunder guard **Andre Roberson** was wheeled off in a stretcher with 4:33 left in the third quarter after he slipped running toward the basket. Roberson reportedly sustained a ruptured patellar tendon on the play. **Tobias Harris** led six Pistons in double figures with 21 points, but Detroit dropped its seventh straight.

NUGGETS 91, MAVERICKS 89

Nikola Jokic recorded his eighth career triple-double and hit the tiebreaking jumper with 1:12 remaining as host **Denver** held on for a victory over **Dallas**. Jokic finished with 11

points, 16 rebounds and 11 assists. He sealed his second triple-double of the season when he hit a 19-foot jumper above the right elbow after getting a pass from **Jamal Murray** to give **Denver** the final margin. **Dallas' Wesley Matthews' 3-point** attempt off an inbound pass was short just before time expired. **Denver's Gary Harris** led all scorers with 24 points, including seven straight for the Nuggets before **Jokic's** tiebreaking shot. **Harrison Barnes** led the Mavericks with 22 points.

TIMBERWOLVES 111, NETS 97

Jumping out to a 30-11 lead after one quarter, **Minnesota** led by double figures for most of the last three quarters in a decision over **Brooklyn** in **Minneapolis**. **Andrew Wiggins** and **Jimmy Butler** led the Timberwolves with 21 points each, while **Karl-Anthony Towns** and reserve **Jamal Crawford** scored 16 apiece. Towns also hauled in 19 rebounds. **Jahlil Okafor** paced **Brooklyn** with 21 points in a reserve role, while another substitute, **Nik Stauskas**, hit for 15. Nets starters combined to score just 34 points.

HEAT 95, HORNETS 91

Wayne Ellington made a 3-pointer with 4.6 seconds left as host **Miami** rallied from a 15-point, third-quarter deficit to defeat **Charlotte**. **Josh Richardson** scored a team-high 19 points and **Ellington** had 17 as **Miami** swept the four-game season series against **Charlotte** this season. The Heat also improved to 5-16 when trailing entering the fourth quarter. **Kemba Walker** scored 30 points, and **Dwight Howard** added 20 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks for the Hornets. Walker scored more than 20 points for his fifth straight game, but he missed a free throw that would have tied the score with 30 seconds left.



OAKLAND: Aron Baynes #46 of the Boston Celtics shoots the ball against the Golden State Warriors on Saturday at ORACLE Arena in Oakland, California. — AFP

WIZARDS 129, HAWKS 104

Markieff Morris scored a game-high 23 points while **Mike Scott** came off the bench and added 19 as **Washington** took a big first-half lead en route to a win at **Atlanta**. The Wizards won despite playing without All-Star guard **John Wall** (knee soreness/pain). **Bradley Beal** and **Otto Porter Jr.** both scored 18. **Dewayne Dedmon**, **Taurean Prince** and **Tyler Dorsey** all scored 14 points for the Hawks.

PACERS 114, MAGIC 112

Victor Oladipo scored 24 points and **Lance Stephenson** added a season-high 21 as **Indiana** rallied for a victory over **Orlando** in **Indianapolis**. **Thaddeus Young** added 20 points for the Pacers, who trailed by 21 in the first half. Stephenson had nine points in the fourth quarter. **Domantas Sabonis** chipped in with 17 points and team-high nine rebounds. **Aaron Gordon** recorded highs for the Magic with 22 points and 11 rebounds. **Evan Fournier** added 21 points. — Reuters

NBA results/standings

Oklahoma City 121, Detroit 108; Indiana 114, Orlando 112; Washington 129, Atlanta 104; Miami 95, Charlotte 91; Golden State 109, Boston 105; Denver 91, Dallas 89; Minnesota 111, Brooklyn 97.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
W	L	PCT	GB	Golden State	10	80.0	-	
Boston	35	15	70.0	Houston	34	13	72.3	4.5
Toronto	32	15	68.1	San Antonio	32	19	62.7	8.5
Cleveland	28	19	59.6	Minnesota	32	20	61.5	9
Miami	28	21	57.1	Oklahoma City	29	20	59.2	10.5
Washington	27	22	55.1	New Orleans	27	21	56.3	12
Indiana	27	23	54.0	Portland	27	22	55.1	12.5
Philadelphia	24	21	53.3	Denver	26	23	53.1	13.5
Milwaukee	25	22	53.2	LA Clippers	24	24	50.0	15
Detroit	22	25	46.8	Utah	21	28	42.9	18.5
New York	22	28	44.0	LA Lakers	19	29	39.6	20
Charlotte	20	28	41.7	Memphis	17	31	35.4	22
Chicago	18	31	36.7	Phoenix	17	32	34.7	22.5
Brooklyn	18	32	36.0	Dallas	16	34	32.0	24
Orlando	14	34	29.2	Sacramento	15	33	31.3	24
Atlanta	14	35	28.6					

Osaimi hails officials at Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Secretary General of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations **Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi** lauded the Advisor at the Amiri Diwan **Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar** and the Higher Committee for **Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village**, and all officials there for their support of the shooting range at the village, and their keenness on providing a suitable place to receive village patrons. **Al-Osaimi** said **Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Board of Directors** was keen to provide the administrative and technical staff in order to present the best service for village patrons. There are specialized trainers in 10m air pis-



Group photo of the officials.

tol and rifle as well as archery to answer all questions related to shooting. Competitions organized by **KSSC** at **Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village** for the sixth consecutive year, with large participation by both genders. Competitions are held on Fridays for all those who register in the range, while the top three winners will receive prizes.

- Results of first week:**
1. Yaseen Mohammad

2. Saud Khalid
3. Hadi Khallaf
4. Mishal Mutlaq
5. Ribab Mohammad

- Results of second week:**
1. Nayef Khalid
2. Daleel Ziyad
3. Ahmad Thuwayekh
4. Mohammad Qabalan
5. Shahad Yacoub

Marcel Hirscher claims 55th World Cup win

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN: Overall leader **Marcel Hirscher** earned the 55th World Cup win of his career yesterday with a commanding performance in the men's giant slalom at **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**. Having led after the morning's first run down the **Kandahar** course, the Austrian clocked a combined winning time of 2 mins 40.18sec. Hirscher finished a massive 1.57 seconds ahead of second-placed **Manuel Feller**, also from **Austria**, and 1.69 clear of the event's Olympic champion **Ted Ligety** of the **United States**.

This 55th win of his World Cup career pulls Hirscher above Austrian great **Hermann Maier** (54) into second place on the men's all-time list, behind only **Ingemar Stenmark's** tally of 86 victories. Hirscher, 28, has now appeared on the podium 120 times after 218 starts in World Cup races.

He is running out of time to catch **Stenmark's** tally as the Austrian plans to retire after next year's world championships in **Are, Sweden**. "In the end, everyone is beatable,

but right now I'm skiing very well," beamed Hirscher, who is on course for a seventh straight overall World Cup title.

"I'm super happy and surprised things are going so well after the stupid ankle breaks," he added after fracturing his left ankle last August, at the start of this season's snow training. "But things are working very well and I'm in the middle of things." It was an impressive second run down the soft

Garmisch course by the Austrian, who picked up time at each of the four time checks to deny **Feller** the first win of his career.

However, it was the first time the 25-year-old finished on the podium. Victory in the **Bavarian Alps** enhances Hirscher's lead at the top of the overall World Cup rankings. He is 224 points ahead of nearest rival **Henrik Kristoffersen** of **Norway**, who finished fourth in **Garmisch**. — AFP



GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN: Marcel Hirscher of Austria (C) celebrates victory with runner up, compatriot Manuel Feller (L) and third placed Ted Ligety of the USA (R) on the podium after the men's Giant Slalom at the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, southern Germany, yesterday. — AFP

Sky's the limit for Japan's pint-sized Olympic skateboarding hope

MIYAZAKI: Sky Brown is not your typical nine-year-old. Born to be wild, the freckly Japanese schoolgirl is already the world's youngest pro skateboarder, videos of her shredding have gone viral and, for super-duper kicks, she's just started jumping off the tops of buses. Sky has been skating since before she could walk and these days travels the world to compete, regularly beating the grown-up-fuelled, she says, by mum's pancakes.

Now she has set her sights on **Tokyo 2020**, when the hipster sport makes its Olympic bow, along with surfing, karate and sports climbing. "I've thought about the Tokyo Olympics a lot," Sky tells AFP in an interview near her family home in **Miyazaki**, southwestern Japan. "I'll be maybe like 12 or something," she adds, perched on a ramp built by her parents in a local park and flanked by six-year-old brother **Ocean**. "I think it will be awesome. It's mostly about having fun-it will be so cool if I win though! But for me I'd like to go in there and just have fun, just be me."

Born to a Japanese mother and a British father, Sky has no doubts about which country she wants to represent. "I'd like to skate for Japan at the Tokyo Olympics because I was born here, all my friends are here and my school's here," she explains, as her trusty sidekick **Ocean** fidgets next to her.

Later the little girl rips into a string of jumps at breakneck speed, her long sun-bleached hair billowing in her wake. "I don't really get scared," insists the teeny boarder, who stands just 1.23 metres (four feet). "The more you get scared, the more exciting it is. I love skating because it makes me feel free."

STEELY DETERMINATION

The intrepid Brown kids are inseparable: they skate together, go surfing together, even sleep in the same bed.

"Besties," as Sky calls them, the siblings also have an Instagram account which has more than 92,000 followers. Despite her tender years, there is a steely determination to Sky, who is also a professional surfer.

The little record-breaker landed her first major sponsorship deal aged seven and has already perfected several fiendishly difficult tricks that no other women have pulled off. Her father, **Stu**, admits he initially tried to steer his daredevil daughter away from the sport.

"Before she was three I didn't want her to get on a skateboard," he said. "You have a little girl and you want to wrap her in cotton wool. But it was the one toy she kept going back to." Her mother, **Mieko**, confesses to occasional nerves while watching Sky flirt with danger.

"I was sweating a bit when she first jumped off that bus," she says, as her daughter performs the same stunt, plummeting to earth and nailing a textbook landing. "But I trust her. If she says she can do it, I believe her." Arguably though it is **Ocean**, sporting a black beanie and shoulder-length hair, who is the real adrenaline junkie. "Ocean is more gnarly, he's uncoachable. Sky is more finesse, more elegant," explains **Stu**.

OLYMPIC GOLD

For now **Ocean** is happy to be his sister's biggest fan, tipping her to win Olympic gold in 2020. Sky, who is hoping to make her debut at extreme sports championship **X Games** this year, has faced resistance from various event organisers reluctant to allow her to compete-and potentially embarrass-established skaters. "They can't keep her out forever," shrugs **Stu** as his kids enjoy a sunset surf, noting that skateboarding's governing body have decided not to set an Olympic age limit. — AFP

Sports

Curran steps up as England beat Australia in final ODI

England, bounced back to claim limited-over series 4-1

SCOREBOARD

PERTH, Australia: Scoreboard in the fifth one-day international between Australia and England in Perth yesterday:

England	
J. Roy c Hazlewood b Tye	49
J. Bairstow b Starc	44
A. Hales c Maxwell b Marsh	35
J. Root c Warner b Tye	62
E. Morgan c Stoinis b Marsh	3
J. Buttler c Warner b Tye	21
M. Ali c Tye b Zampa	6
A. Rashid run out	12
D. Willey c Marsh b Tye	2
T. Curran not out	11
J. Ball b Tye	0
Extras (b4, lb2, nb1, w7)	14
Total (all out, 47.4 overs)	259
Fall of wickets: 1-71 (Roy), 2-117 (Bairstow), 3-151 (Hales), 4-157 (Morgan), 5-192 (Buttler), 6-214 (Ali), 7-238 (Rashid), 8-245 (Willey), 9-258 (Root) 10-259 (Ball)	
Bowling: Starc 9-0-63-1 (1w, 1nb), Hazlewood 9-0-51-0 (1w), Marsh 7-0-24-2, Tye 9.4-0-46-5 (4w), Zampa 10-0-46-1 (1w), Maxwell 3-0-23-0.	

Australia	
D. Warner b Curran	15
T. Head run out	22
M. Stoinis c Curran b Rashid	87
S. Smith st Buttler b Ali	12
M. Marsh c and b Ali	13
G. Maxwell lbw Curran	34
T. Paine b Curran	34
M. Starc c Buttler b Curran	0
A. Tye c Morgan b Ali	8
A. Zampa b Curran	11
J. Hazlewood not out	0
Extras (lb7, w4)	11
Total (all out, 48.2 overs)	247
Fall of wickets: 1-24 (Warner), 2-86 (Head), 3-119 (Smith), 4-133 (Marsh), 5-189 (Stoinis), 6-192 (Maxwell), 7-192 (Starc), 8-203 (Tye), 9-236 (Zampa), 10-247 (Paine)	
Bowling: Willey 9-1-37-0 (2w), Curran 9.2-0-35-5 (1w), Ali 10-0-55-3, Rashid 10-0-55-1, Ball 10-0-58-0 (1w).	
England won by 12 runs, take series 4-1	

PERTH: England finished their testing tour of Australia on a high yesterday with a thrilling 12-run win in the fifth and final one-day international in Perth. In the first match at the new Perth Stadium, the tourists set Australia 260 to win in front of a record West Australian cricket crowd of 53,781. Despite resting frontline bowlers Chris Woakes and Mark Wood, and having quick Jake Ball struggling with illness, the tourists managed to defend their total.

Young seamer Tom Curran was the match-winner with five wickets as Australia were dismissed for 247 with 10 balls remaining. England, beaten 4-0 in a lopsided Ashes Test series, bounced back to claim the limited-over series 4-1. The result continued the dismal recent run of the World Cup holders in one-dayers and Australian captain Steve Smith was again left frustrated with both batting and bowling. "We thought we'd pulled it back really well, but we didn't start well with the ball—been a bit of trend," he said.

“Again we lost wickets in clumps and you can't do that”

"Again we lost wickets in clumps and you can't do that. Our batting again wasn't good enough, these lapses are happening way too often in one-day cricket." Australia, thanks largely to Marcus Stoinis who was promoted to number three and made 87, looked to be cruising to victory on 189 for four. But the loss of Stoinis, caught at long-on off leg-spinner Adil Rashid, proved crucial.

Curran returned to the attack and removed Glenn Maxwell (34) and Mitchell Starc (0) in the space of three balls as Australia lost their way. When Tim Paine and Adam Zampa threatened to snatch the match with a gritty ninth-wicket stand, Curran came back into the attack and clean-bowled the latter with his third ball.

In just his third one-day international and his first of the series, the 22-year-old then delivered the last rites by bowling Paine for 34. Curran finished with 5-35 and also had two catches dropped from his bowling, both by the normally reliable Jonny Bairstow. Curran, named man of the match, was ecstatic with the result. "Watching the



PERTH: England players celebrate defeating Australia after the fifth one-day international (ODI) cricket match between England and Australia at the Optus Perth stadium in Perth yesterday. — AFP

boys play one-day cricket recently has been a pleasure and to come in and try and take my chance is a great feeling," he said. "I've been training hard. To come and play the first one-day international at this unbelievable stadium, in front of the Barny Army... the game was unbelievable, what a finish."

Moeen Ali's horror tour with the bat continued when he went cheaply in the English innings. But he claimed 3-55, including the crucial wickets of Smith (12) and Mitch Marsh (13) — the latter falling to a superb reflex return catch. Curran's heroics came after the tourists failed to capitalise on a fast start after being sent in to bat.

Test captain Joe Root made a typically busy 62 but the English appeared to have fallen start after a flying start when they were bowled out for 259 in 47.4 overs. The

English openers blazed away early in a polar opposite to their nightmare start in Adelaide on Friday.

In that game they were 5-8 and went to suffer their first defeat of the series, but there were no such problems yesterday. Jason Roy led the charge and enjoyed some good fortune when he was brilliantly caught behind by Paine off Starc, only for it to be ruled a no-ball. The dashing Roy went on to make 49 off 46 balls before being the first man to fall, caught by Josh Hazlewood off local rookie Andrew Tye to end a 71-run partnership with Bairstow (44).

A number of England batsmen made similarly good starts but only Root went on to make a significant score. Much to the delight of the crowd, Tye was the star with the ball, cleaning up the English tail to finish with 5-46 off 9.4 overs. —AFP



BANGALORE: Bollywood actor and owner of Kings XI Punjab Team, Preity Zinta (R) and team mentor, Virendra Sehwag arrive for the 2nd day of IPL 2018 Player Auction in Bangalore yesterday. — AFP

Unadkat joins Stokes team in \$1.8mn IPL deal

BANGALORE: Rising pace bowler Jaydev Unadkat joined Ben Stokes in the Rajasthan Royals for \$1.8 million yesterday but a host of foreign stars went unsold in the Indian Premier League auction. The Royals made Unadkat the second most expensive player in the auction behind England's Stokes who they bought for \$1.96 million on the opening day. Stokes-still facing an assault criminal case in England—and Unadkat will join Australian captain Steve Smith at the Royals as they return to the lucrative T20 league after a two-year illegal gambling ban. The Royals were inaugural IPL champions in 2008 but were barred for two seasons with Chennai Super Kings in 2015 over an illegal gambling scandal. The team also spent almost \$1 million for uncapped Indian off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham but were on top of the world after getting Stokes.

Royals executive chairman Ranjit Borthakur shrugged off any doubts about Stokes' legal troubles preventing him from playing in India. "We are prepared for legal consequences too. He will be a very important part of the team. We are like a start-up company. We are restarting," Borthakur said.

There was disappointment though for England Test skipper Joe Root, South Africa's Hashim Amla and Sri Lanka pacer Lasith Malinga who all failed to find bidders on the second day. Root, Amla and Malinga did not attract bids in Saturday's

first round and were not even called back for the second day.

South Africa quick Dale Steyn, Australia batsman Shaun Marsh and New Zealand's Corey Anderson and Martin Guptill were called back but did not attract an offer. West Indies batsman Chris Gayle only found a place in the third round of bidding when Kings XI Punjab claimed him at the reserve price of \$314,000. Gayle is one of the T20 league's most prolific scorers but disappointed last year with just 200 runs in nine games for Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The second day belonged to Indian and lesser-known talent with the 26-year-old Unadkat, who has played one Test and seven one-day internationals, drawing bigger bids than big home names. Indian batsmen Manish Pandey and Lokesh Rahul both pocketed \$1.7 million after being sold to Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kings XI Punjab respectively on Saturday.

Mumbai Indians yesterday took West Indies' left-handed opener Evin Lewis for \$600,000. Among other foreign players to draw bids was Australia all-rounder Dan Christian, who was sold to Delhi Daredevils for \$238,000 and England's Sam Billings went to Chennai for \$158,000.

Teenage leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane became the first Nepalese to land an IPL deal. Delhi Daredevils paid \$318,000 for him. Lamichhane, 17, took 14 wickets in the under-19 World Cup last year when Nepal came eighth.

"We will have some new fans for IPL. It will be good for the kid. I hope this will start a cricket revolution in Nepal," said Delhi Daredevils chief executive Hemant Dua said. Some 581 players were up for auction ahead of the season which runs from April 7 to May 27. The IPL has been boosted by a new five year \$2.5-billion media deal. —AFP

Pakistan on top of the world with NZ T20 series win

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Pakistan laid claim to being the best Twenty20 side in the world yesterday after beating New Zealand in the series-deciding third Twenty20 match in Mount Maunganui. The 18-run victory gave Pakistan a come-from-behind 2-1 series win that will see them overtake New Zealand at the top of the world rankings. Captain Sarfraz Ahmed leapt with delight after the final ball as Pakistan pulled off back-to-back wins over the hosts. Batting first on a friendly wicket, Pakistan reached 181 for six with Fakhar Zaman making 46 off 36 at the top of the innings. Umar Amin led a late charge that saw 58 runs scored in the final four overs. New Zealand, in reply, were never up with the run chase, and managed 163 for six in their 20 overs.

The defeat followed a 48-run loss in the second game, after New Zealand swept the one-day series and won the first T20. The consecutive defeats, following an unbeaten 13-match winning streak across all formats against the West Indies and Pakistan, put a dampener on New Zealand's preparation for next month's triangular series with Australia and England.

Zaman was the architect at the start of the Pakistan innings with a sharp 46 before being dismissed in a debatable decision when Tom Bruce took a catch at ground level.

Television replays were inconclusive on whether the ball touched the grass, and after lengthy deliberations the third umpire ruled in favour of the on-field decision. New Zealand managed to arrest Pakistan's brisk early run rate in the middle of the innings before Amin ensured a competitive total at the end. The 28-year-old left-hander smacked his 21 off the first five balls in an over from Ish Sodhi before the New Zealand spinner claimed the wicket off his final delivery.

Haris Sohail chipped in with 20 off 12 balls while Aamer Yamin, replacing the injured Hasan Ali, faced six deliveries for his 15. New Zealand struggled from the start of their reply to get near the required run rate of more than nine an over, and were in early trouble when Faheem Ashraf claimed Kane Williamson for nine. Martin Guptill attempted to bully the bowlers but it was primarily a lone stand. When he was removed for 59 off 43 balls in the 13th over, the required run rate had shot up to 13.57. Ross Taylor put the ball over the boundary fence three times in his 25 off 10 balls. But with his dismissal in the 17th over, New Zealand were 128 for five and their hopes of a miraculous comeback were over. —AFP



MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Pakistan's Umar Amin (R) bats as New Zealand's Tom Blundell (L) looks on, during the third Twenty20 international cricket match between New Zealand and Pakistan at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, New Zealand: Completed scoreboard in the third and final Twenty20 between New Zealand and Pakistan at Mount Maunganui yesterday:

Pakistan		New Zealand	
Fakhar Zaman c Bruce b Santner	46	M. Guptill c Fakhar b Shadab	59
Ahmed Shehzad c Blundell b de Grandhomme	19	K. Williamson c Babar b Faheem	9
Babar Azam c Williamson b Sodhi	18	A. Kitchen st Sarfraz b Shadab	16
Sarfraz Ahmed c Sodhi b Santner	29	C. de Grandhomme b Aamer	22
Haris Sohail not out	20	R. Taylor c Sarfraz b Amir	1
Umar Amin c de Grandhomme b Sodhi	21	T. Blundell not out	3
Faheem Ashraf b Boult	8	M. Santner not out	24
Aamer Yamin not out	15	Extras: (w3, nb 1)	4
Extras: (lb2, w2, nb 1)	5	Total: (for 6 wickets; 20.0 overs)	163
Total: (for 6 wickets; 20 overs)	181	Fall of wickets: 1-32 (Williamson), 2-84 (Kitchen), 3-87 (Guptill), 4-89 (de Grandhomme), 5-128 (Taylor), 6-134 (Bruce)	
Fall of wickets: 1-30 (Ahmed), 2-66 (Babar), 3-106 (Fakhar), 4-123 (Sarfraz), 5-156 (Umar), 6-164 (Faheem)		Bowling: Aamer 4-0-25-1 (1w), Rumman 4-0-41-1 (1w), Amir 4-0-23-1 (1w), Faheem 4-0-55-1 (1nb), Shadab 4-0-19-2.	
Bowling: Southee 4-0-39-0, Boult 4-0-33-1 (w1), de Grandhomme 4-0-36-1 (1w), Sodhi 4-0-47-2 (1nb), Santner 4-0-24-2.		Result: Pakistan won by 18 runs	
		Series: Pakistan 2-1	

Sports

Batshuayi brace puts Chelsea into fifth round of FA Cup

'Scoring goals is important for strikers' confidence'

LONDON: Michy Batshuayi scored twice as Chelsea beat Premier League rivals Newcastle 3-0 to advance into the fifth round of the FA Cup at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Batshuayi's goals in the 31st and 44th minutes and a Marcos Alonso free-kick 18 minutes from time were enough for Premier League champions Chelsea to see off Rafael Benitez's struggling side.

The Belgian's striker's first was the result of a neat team move. Pedro's superb through ball splitting the Newcastle defence and leading to Eden Hazard slipping a pass inside to Alonso. Spaniard Alonso toed the ball first-time to Batshuayi, who made no mistake with a simple finish from eight yards out. The Belgian forward scored his and Chelsea's second goal shortly before half-time when Pedro again initiated an attacking move, his pass releasing Hazard to run at a struggling defence. Batshuayi, up in support, looked set to run across his man but instead moved away, creating the space for Hazard to play him in before his shot took a huge deflection off Newcastle's Jamaal Lascelles and looped over goalkeeper Karl Darlow.

Any lingering doubt about the result was settled in the 72nd minute when Alonso whipped a left-footed free-kick over the defensive wall to make it 3-0.

'TAKE THE CHANCE'

There have been suggestions that Batshuayi could be on his way out of Stamford Bridge during the closing days of the January transfer window. But as for his immediate future, Batshuayi said he wanted to impress Blues manager Antonio Conte, telling BT Sport: "When I have a chance I take the chance and I work every day

to be here. It's not for me to decide, it's the boss... it's best that you ask Conte!"

The Chelsea boss said he had no desire to see Batshuayi depart the club. "Scoring goals is important for strikers' confidence. My task is to keep every single player happy and with Michy I think we are doing a good job," Conte said. Chelsea are 15 points behind runaway league leaders Manchester City and, following their League Cup semi-final loss to Arsenal, the FA Cup offers Conte's men their best chance of a domestic trophy this season. "There were some great performances, especially from this man next to me (Batshuayi) with two great goals," said Chelsea captain Gary Cahill. "It (the FA Cup) a very important competition for us this year," the defender added.

By contrast, Premier League survival is the priority for a Newcastle side that are currently just one point above the relegation zone. Newcastle manager Benitez, asked if he would be able to bring in a new striker before the transfer window shuts on Wednesday, replied: "I don't think so but we will see. We will try to do something."

"I have to prepare the team for the next game against Burnley and then we'll see if we can do something before the transfer window closes." Sunday's other FA Cup tie sees Manchester City continue their quest for an unprecedented season quadruple of league, FA Cup, Champions League and League Cup titles away to second-tier Cardiff. Liverpool, however, will not be in the last 16 after a 3-2 defeat by top-flight strugglers West Brom at Anfield on Saturday where Jay Rodriguez's two goals for the Baggies were overshadowed by several controversial incidents involving the

“When I have a chance I take the chance”



LONDON: Chelsea's English defender Gary Cahill (up) collides with Chelsea's French midfielder N'Golo Kante (R) after winning a header from Newcastle United's English midfielder Isaac Hayden (L) during the English FA Cup fourth round football match between Chelsea and Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday.—AFP

video assistant referee system that is being trialled in English cup competitions this season.

Meanwhile Tottenham remain in the fifth-round

draw, but only after an equaliser from Harry Kane eight minutes from time saw them to a 1-1 draw away to fourth-tier Newport on Saturday.—AFP

Inter frustrated after draw at SPAL

MILAN: Inter's faltering Serie A campaign suffered more frustration with a 1-1 draw at promoted SPAL yesterday, their seventh consecutive league game without a win. Alberto Paloschi headed in a last-gasp equaliser to grab a precious point for SPAL after Inter had taken the lead on 48 minutes when defender Francesco Vicari turned the ball into his own net.

Inter are now two points behind third-placed Lazio who can pull further ahead when they play AC Milan at San Siro later. Roma are just three points behind Inter in fifth before going to Sampdoria.

"When you concede a goal like that in stoppage time, it leaves a bitter taste in the mouth," said Inter coach Luciano Spalletti. "It doesn't change anything though. There is certainly work to be done better. I wouldn't say I'm worried, even when we were winning I didn't see big improvements. Now the results are worse, we're losing easy balls and at other times we're not fighting."

SPAL goalkeeper Alex Meret was unworried by Spalletti's side who have not won since December 3 and were uninspiring in Ferrara despite the presence of recent arrivals Rafinha and Lisandro Lopez on the bench. Despite trailing for most of the second half, SPAL proved dogged and their pressing paid off when former Milan forward Paloschi turned in a Mirco Antenucci cross on the stroke of full-time. Spalletti introduced on-loan Barcelona midfielder Rafinha for



FERRARA: Spal's Italian midfielder Mariano Arini (R) fights for the ball with Inter Milan's Croatian forward Ivan Perisic during the Italian Serie A football match Spal vs Inter Milan at the Paolo Mazza stadium in Ferrara yesterday.—AFP

the final minutes of the game but the Brazilian failed to lift his team against a SPAL side still in the relegation zone. Napoli host Bologna later looking to reclaim top

spot from Juventus who moved ahead after Sami Khedira and Gonzalo Higuain scored for the champions in a 2-0 win at nine-man Chievo on Saturday.—AFP

Mertens brace keeps Napoli top

MILAN: Dries Mertens scored a brace as Napoli bounced back from a goal down to reclaim top spot in Serie A yesterday with a 3-1 home win over Bologna. Napoli restored their one-point advantage over champions Juventus who went top after Sami Khedira and Gonzalo Higuain scored in a 2-0 win at nine-man Chievo on Saturday.

In Naples, it proved to be a battle with Rodrigo Palacio nodding Bologna ahead after 25 seconds before an Ibrahim Mbaye own goal four minutes later pulled the hosts back at their Stadio San Paolo.

Mertens edged Napoli ahead on 37 minutes with a penalty awarded for a foul on Jose Callejon. The Belgian then claimed his 13th goal of the season with a spectacular curling effort on 59 minutes.

Maurizio Sarri's side have 57 points from 22 games, one more than Juventus. Inter Milan missed a chance to move third with a frustrating 1-1 draw at promoted SPAL. Inter are two points behind Lazio who can move further ahead when they play AC Milan at San Siro later. Roma are just three points behind Inter in fifth before playing at Sampdoria.

It was Inter's seventh consecutive league game without a win. Alberto Paloschi headed in a last-gasp equaliser to grab a precious point for SPAL after Inter had taken the lead on 48 minutes when defender Francesco Vicari turned the ball into his own net.

"When you concede a goal like that in stoppage time, it leaves a bitter taste in the mouth," said Inter coach Luciano Spalletti. "It doesn't change anything though. There is certainly work to be done better. I wouldn't say I'm worried, even when we were winning I didn't see big improvements. Now the results are worse, we're losing easy balls and at other times we're not fighting."

SPAL goalkeeper Alex Meret was unworried by an Inter side who have not won since December 3 and were unin-



SAN PAOLO: Napoli's Belgian striker Dries Mertens kicks the ball during the Italian Serie A football match SSC Napoli vs Bologna FC yesterday at the San Paolo Stadium.—AFP

spiring in Ferrara with recent arrivals Rafinha and Lisandro Lopez on the bench. Despite trailing for most of the second half, SPAL proved dogged and their pressing paid off when former Milan forward Paloschi turned in a Mirco Antenucci cross on the stroke of full-time.

Spalletti introduced on-loan Barcelona midfielder Rafinha for the final minutes of the game but the Brazilian failed to lift his team against a SPAL side still in the relegation zone. Elsewhere struggling Verona shocked Fiorentina 4-1 in Tuscany to end a run of four consecutive defeats, as Udinese moved up to eighth with a 1-0 win at Genoa despite Samir's sending off with a second half goal from Valon Behrami sealing the three points. Crotone and Cagliari drew 1-1 in a relegation battle as Torino thrashed bottom team Benevento 3-0, with Vid Belec sent off for a kick on M'Baye Niang.—AFP

Bailey strikes as Leverkusen go second

BERLIN: Winger Leon Bailey showed why Arsenal and Chelsea are reportedly tracking him with another stunning goal in Bayern Leverkusen's 2-0 win over Mainz yesterday in the Bundesliga. Bailey, 20, gave Leverkusen the lead at the BayArena when he hit the back of the net from 20 metres with a left-footed strike.

There was nothing on when Bailey looked up on the edge of the area, but his shot across goal gave Mainz goalkeeper Robin Zentner no chance three minutes into the second half. After also scoring last weekend with an audacious backheel, it was his eighth league goal this season.

Leverkusen could ask Chelsea or Arsenal for double the 13.5 million euros (\$17.8 million) they paid Belgian club Genk for Bailey in January 2017. However, the German side have ruled out selling him in January's transfer window and the Jamaican is under contract until June 2022.

It was the latest eye-catching display from Bailey who scored and created a goal in last weekend's 4-1 thrashing of Hoffenheim. Leverkusen are sure of the three points against strugglers Mainz when Brazilian left-back Wendell converted a 68th-minute penalty, after Mainz defender Giulio Donati brought down striker Lucas Alario.

The win sees Leverkusen climb to second, 16 points behind runaway league leaders Bayern Munich, who thrashed Hoffenheim 5-2 at home on Saturday. The Bundesliga's top-scorer Robert Lewandowski scored for the 18th time in the league this season as Bayern fought back from two goals down in style.

VfB Stuttgart sacked coach Hannes Wolf yesterday, after Saturday's 2-0 defeat by third-placed Schalke saw them slip to 15th in the table. Leverkusen are above Schalke on goal difference, with Eintracht Frankfurt a point behind in fourth.

Borussia Dortmund are sixth after needing a 93rd-minute equaliser by left-back Jeremy Toljan to salvage a 2-2 draw with Freiburg. Arsenal target Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang produced a poor display and was whistled on his return after being dropped for the previous two games.

Dortmund were whistled by their own fans and Stoecker admitted he was also unimpressed with what he saw. "I didn't whistle, but I wasn't happy," he quipped.—AFP

Jaber Int'l Stadium ready to host CP Cup final Tuesday

KUWAIT: Public Authority for Youth and Sport (PAYS) Director Hmoud Al-Flaiteh affirmed yesterday on the readiness of Jaber International Stadium to host His Highness the Crown Prince Cup next Tuesday. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Flaiteh expressed hopes that events accompanying the upcoming match between Qadsiya and Kuwait Sports Club will be checked and ready in all aspects to suit such occasion.

Qadsiya Sports Club qualified for the final match after defeating Al-Arabi with a 4-2 penalty shootout, while Kuwait Sports Club won their match against Al-Nasr 1-0.

The first competition for His Highness the Crown Prince's Cup was held in 1993-94 and Kuwait Sports Club were crowned the champions.

Qadsiya Sports Club are the current champion with eight victories, while Al-Arabi won seven times, Kuwait Sports Club won six times, Salmiya twice and Kasma Sports Club only once.—KUNA

Live

Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

SPANISH LEAGUE

Celta de Vigo v Real Betis 23:00

beIN SPORTS HD 3

12 Li edges McIlroy in thriller to win Dubai Desert Classic



14 Curran steps up as England beat Australia in final ODI



15 Batshuayi brace puts Chelsea into fifth round of FA Cup



MELBOURNE: Switzerland's Roger Federer (L) holds the winner's trophy after beating Croatia's Marin Cilic in their men's singles final match on day 14 of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

Federer wins sixth Australian Open

‘The fairytale continues for us, for me, it’s incredible’

MELBOURNE: Roger Federer survived a second set ‘freeze’ and an onslaught from Croatia’s Marin Cilic to claim a record-equalling sixth Australian Open title on Rod Laver Arena yesterday. The Swiss maestro wobbled at times in the face of some fierce resistance before winning 6-2 6-7(5) 6-3 3-6 6-1.

With the stadium roof closed to keep out the withering Melbourne heat, the 36-year-old grabbed the first set in 24 minutes as a 20th grand slam title looked a formality. But Cilic, who suffered a nightmare in last year’s Wimbledon final against Federer when blisters wrecked his chances, was not going to let his first Australian Open final slide by.

At times it seemed he was taking on Federer and crowd but when he reeled off five consecutive games to extend the champion into a deciding set, the match hung in the balance. Federer recovered his mojo after saving two break points at the start of the fifth and was roared home to victory. Despite all his titles and accolades, Federer was overcome with emotion during his victory speech.

“The fairytale continues for us, for me, it’s incredible,” Federer, who equalled Novak Djokovic and Roy Emerson’s

Australian Open haul, said on court as wife Mirka and Australian great Rod Laver recorded to the moment with their mobile phones.

“I got off to a flyer but I froze in the tiebreak and lost that second set and lost control of the match.” “I got a bit lucky tonight I think.” After enduring a five-year grand slam drought that had many people writing him off, Federer has enjoyed a glorious renaissance over the past 12 months by winning three of the past five majors.

“Getting number six here and number 20 overall, it’s just a very special moment,” he said. Cilic, who will rise to a career-high three in the rankings, won four points in the first four games, but despite a shamelessly pro-Federer crowd, he

stuck to his guns.

“It was an amazing journey for me. It could have been the best two weeks of my life,” Cilic said. “I had the chance at the beginning of the fifth but he played a great match.”

Temperatures in Melbourne had hovered in the high 30s Celsius all day but the humidity felt less suffocating than during Saturday’s humdinger of a women’s final.

So it was a surprise when the match started with the roof shut, a decision tournament organisers defended by issuing a statement saying “wet bulb globe temperature” readings had triggered the “extreme heat policy”.

While Melbourne Park cooked, Federer was as cool as a cucumber in the relatively benign conditions on court. He

broke in the first game when he hoisted a lob towards the roof and Cilic framed a smash into the net. The 29-year-old Cilic dropped serve again two games later and gained sympathetic cheers when he finally registered on the scoreboard in the fifth game.

Cilic began to settle but still had to fend off break points in the second set at 1-1, 2-2 and 4-4. He had a glorious chance to level the match against the run of play when Federer double-faulted at 30-30 in the 10th game, but he buried a routine backhand into the net.

Federer began the tiebreak with a couple of aces and broke with a forehand but Cilic ratcheted up the power to move 6-4 ahead with thundering forehand and levelled the match with another beefy winner from his favourite wing. It was Federer’s first dropped set in the fortnight.

Order was quickly restored as Federer broke once to take the third set and when he had a point for a double break in the fourth, the title beckoned. Cilic blasted his way out of trouble though and when he broke to love for 3-3, he looked menacing. Cilic will rue the two break points that got away in the first game of the decider, failing to make a return on both.—Reuters



Federer equals Djokovic, Emerson’s Australian Open haul

Man City keep quadruple dream alive

LONDON: Kevin De Bruyne starred as Manchester City stayed on course for an unprecedented quadruple of major trophies in the one season with a 2-0 win at Cardiff yesterday that saw the runaway Premier League leaders into the last 16 of the FA Cup.

City, 12 points clear at the summit of English football, are bidding to bring the Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Champions League titles to the Etihad.

They made short work of second-tier Cardiff, with Belgian star De Bruyne putting them ahead just eight minutes when he

deceived the home side with a brilliant free-kick that he struck under, rather than over, the defensive wall.

Bernardo Silva appeared to have doubled the visitors’ lead with a thunderous 26th-minute shot but his goal was ruled out because the officials deemed Leroy Sane to be off-side and interfering with play. It appeared a harsh call but, with the controversial video assistant referee system that is being trialled in some English cup ties this season not in use for this match, there was no way of reviewing the decision.

But the second goal that Pep Guardiola’s men had threatened arrived in the 37th minute when Silva’s superb curling cross from the left was glanced in by Raheem Sterling.

Sane was the victim of a bad tackle by Joe Bennett in first-half stoppage time and was replaced at the break by Sergio Aguero. Cardiff defender Bennett was sent

off in injury time at the end of the match when he received a second yellow card for another poor challenge, on Brahim Diaz.

Meanwhile, Premier League survival is the priority for a Newcastle side that are currently just one point above the relegation zone. Newcastle manager Benitez, asked if he would be able to bring in a new striker before the transfer window shuts on Wednesday, replied: “I don’t think so but we will see. We will try to do something.”

Benitez’s former club Liverpool have also missed out on the last 16 after a 3-2 defeat by top-flight strugglers West Brom at Anfield on Saturday where Jay Rodriguez’s two goals for the Baggies were overshadowed by several controversial incidents involving VAR rulings.

Tottenham Hotspur remain in the fifth-round draw, but only after an equaliser from Harry Kane eight minutes from time saw them to a 1-1 draw away to fourth-tier Newport on Saturday.—AFP



CARDIFF: Manchester City’s Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva (R) scores with this shot but it is later disallowed for an off-side against Manchester City’s German midfielder Leroy Sane (3rd L) during the English FA Cup fourth round football match between Cardiff City and Manchester City at Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff. —AFP

Business

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018

18 IMF invites Arab nations to tackle public 'frustration'**19** 184m KD net profit for KFH Shareholders in 2017**21** Cadillac Alghanim set the benchmark at 2018 Kuwait Automoto exhibition

BEIJING: People walk outside a shopping mall in Beijing on January 19, 2018. China's economy grew a forecast-beating 6.9 percent in 2017, picking up steam for the first time since 2010 despite its battles against a massive debt and polluting factories, official data showed. — AFP

KIB records net profit of KD 17.7m

5% growth in financing income, 7% growth in depositors' accounts in 2017

KUWAIT: Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that the Bank reported a net profit of KD 17.7million for the year ended 31 December 2017. Al-Jarra stated that the Bank's improved performance reflected positively on reported core operating income, which increased to KD 64.3 million compared to KD 63.2 million in 2016. Total financing income increased by 5%, or by KD 3.6 million, reaching KD 74.6million compared to KD71 million during 2016. Revenue from fees and commissions increased by 6%, to reach KD 9.3million, as compared to KD 8.8 million in 2016. Investment income significantly increased by 68% to reach KD 4.5 million compared to KD 2.7 million in 2016.

As for dividends, Al-Jarrah stated that KIB's Board of Directors proposed payment of cash dividends of 10% of the share nominal value (10 fils per share) for 2017, subject to the approval of the Bank's AGM and regulatory authorities. KIB's total assets increased by 4% reaching KD 1.9 billion compared to KD 1.8 billion of 2016. This increase is attributable to a growth in the financing portfolio by KD 36million reaching KD 1.3 billion compared to KD 1.27 billion last year achieving 3% growth compared to the previous year. Additionally, the investment portfolio increased by KD 18 million, ie by 14% reaching KD 145.7 million compared to KD 127.8 million in 2016.

Depositors' accounts rose to KD 1.2 billion compared to KD 1.1 billion by the end of the previous year, an increase of KD 78 million representing a growth of 7%. KIB continued to maintain its excellent performance as the ratio for total provision and collateral coverage was at 193% for the year 2017, where capital adequacy ratio (CAR) reached to 19.05% within the framework of CBK regulations on Basel III, while the financial leverage ratio was 10.92% for the year 2017.

Distributions to depositors' accounts registered a consistent growth during 2017 whereby the annualized return on Arzaaq Deposit in Kuwaiti Dinars progressively increased to 2.65%, 2.68%, 2.7% and 2.72% during Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 2017 respectively. Average annualized rate for 2017 stood at 2.687%. Meanwhile, Al Boushra three-year deposits in Kuwait Dinar were offered annualized return 3.3% in Q4 2017 with an average rate for 2nd half 2017 of 3.275%. Profits were credited to depositors' accounts upon declaring the financial results.

Furthermore with regards to KIB's deposit accounts, Al-Jarrah highlighted Al Ithmar Call Account, which combines the benefits of both current and savings accounts offered to corporate customers. Additionally, this unique product offers customers instant access to funds through unlimited withdrawals and provides a chance for businesses to earn profit on the account balance. With no minimum balance requirement and no restrictions on withdrawals and deposits, businesses

are able to enjoy greater flexibility, better returns and unrestricted access to funds at the same time with a cheque book option. Overall, Ithmar Call Account grew by 20% in 2017, with an average annual net return of 1.344% at the end of 2017.

Strong growth

On the other hand, the Saving Investment Account achieved remarkable success in 2017, yielding the highest return in the market, at 1.632% per annum for the fourth quarter of 2017. This account is designed specifically for individuals, and offers the benefits of savings and investment combined into one single account. It can be opened in Kuwaiti Dinar or in any other major foreign currency. Additionally, there is no minimum amount required to open the account and profit distribution takes place on a quarterly basis.

Al-Jarrah stated that KIB's outstanding performance and robust financial position reflects its strong growth in a number of business areas, as the Bank remains committed to its long-term strategic goal of becoming the 'Islamic Bank of Choice in Kuwait'. Accordingly, the Bank is set to bring about a number of improvements across its services and products and its digital banking platforms. KIB also aims at further enhancing its internal operations to deliver the best customer banking experience, while also offering more innovative banking solutions that are up to par with best practices and international standards.

Al-Jarrah added: "We at KIB have faced countless challenges in our pursuit of innovative banking products and services that meet the changing needs of our customers; there by ensuring our continued success. Still, we remain relentless, as we aim at increasing our efforts to provide an enhanced digital banking experience that is accessible at any place, whilst also being easy to use. By doing so, we hope to provide the best banking experience for our existing customers, as well as new ones."

Mobile application

KIB also launched the market's Visual Interactive Voice Response (VIVR), which enables retail customers

to view their accounts and transactions directly on their smartphones, as well as engage with call center advisors providing live support. A new state of the art mobile application was also rolled out for smartphones delivering a significant upgrade in terms of customer experience. As a testament to KIB's achievements during 2017, the Bank received a number of prestigious local and international awards and recognitions from various agencies. One of the most notable achievements was receiving the 'Best Strategic Vision in Banking' award from the World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB). KIB also garnered the "Best Change Management - Kuwait" award by The Banker Middle East and the "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" award from World Finance for the fourth consecutive year. This year also marked the second year that KIB received the 'Fastest Growing Islamic Bank MENA 2017' and the 'Best Sharia-Compliant Bank MENA 2017' for the third consecutive year from Capital Finance International (CFI.co). KIB also earned the 'Excellence in Development of Islamic Banking Services' award by the Union of Arab Banks (UAB), as well as the inaugural 'Best Customer Acquisition in GCC' 2017 award and the "Best Islamic Bank in GCC" 2017 award for the second consecutive year, both from World Finance. Additionally, the Bank was recognized by Forbes Middle East as one of the top 50 listed companies in Kuwait in 2017.

In recognition of its achievements in the area of social responsibility, KIB also received the 'Distinction in Social Responsibility in Islamic Banking 2017' award by the Regional CSR Network, as well as the "Best CSR in Islamic Banking in Kuwait" award for the year 2017 by CPI Financial (CPI.co), marking the third consecutive time the Bank received this honor. Al-Jarrah concluded by expressing his gratitude towards the Central Bank of Kuwait for its continued support and guidance, as well as the Board of Directors, executive management, employees, and customers for their ongoing support of the Bank.



Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah



Profits were credited to depositors' accounts



Business

IMF invites Arab nations to tackle public 'frustration'

'Low growth, high unemployment and corruption'

RABAT: The International Monetary Fund is holding a two-day regional conference from today in Morocco with a message of reform amid growing "frustration" among the population of some Arab states. "Rising social tensions and protests in several countries across the Middle East and North Africa are a clear indication that the aspirations of the people of the region, for opportunity, prosperity and equity, remain unfulfilled," said Jihad Azour, director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia department. "Reforms are the key to address the fundamental problems that have plagued so many countries of the region for so long: low growth, high unemployment and corruption," he wrote in an analysis ahead of the conference in Marrakesh.

Unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region ranks among the highest in the world, with a jobless figure of more than 50 percent, largely due to the low participation of women in the workforce in conservative Arab countries. In Marrakesh, government officials, business leaders and civil society figures will hear the IMF's priorities: to fight corruption, create jobs for the young, bring more women into economic life and boost the private sector.

The IMF said: "Frustration runs high over the lack of job opportunities and access to affordable, high-quality public services." "With over 60 percent of its population under the age of 30, the region desperately needs higher growth and more jobs," it said, adding that around 5.5 million young people will join the job market each year over the next five years.

Balancing act

In a region at the centre of the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, born largely out of economic hardship and discontent among the young, reforms have proved a delicate balancing act. To benefit from IMF loans, countries such as Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan have had to reduce their budget deficits, resulting in cost of living rises for their citizens. An austerity budget in Tunisia, along with increases in VAT, sent demonstrators out onto the streets in early January.

"The frustration the Tunisian people are feeling is understandable," said IMF spokesman Gerry Rice, speaking on the seventh anniversary of the Tunisian uprising that launched the Arab Spring. However, he defended the institution against the "outdated" view that it is the IMF itself that causes the suffering. "Speaking for the IMF, we do not want austerity. We do want well-designed, well-implemented, socially balanced reforms," he said. Egypt, whose economy was also hit hard in the turbulence of its own uprising, in 2016 launched a reform program in exchange for a \$12 billion IMF loan. It has since floated its currency against the dollar, triggering sharp price rises. Jordan on Saturday increased the price of bread by up to 100 percent after lifting subsidies on the staple in a bid to redress its debt-riddled economy. Past price hikes have sparked riots in the cash-strapped country, which has a public debt of some \$35 billion, equivalent to 90 percent of its gross domestic product. In 2016, Jordan secured a \$723-million three-year credit line from the IMF to support economic and financial reforms. —AFP



DAVOS: (From left) The Co-Chairs of the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg, IBM Chairperson and CEO Ginni Rometty, Founder and Chair of Mann Deshi Foundation Chetna Sinha, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) Director-General Fabiola Gianotti, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) General Secretary Sharan Burrow and ENGIE CEO Isabelle Kocher attend a session of the annual World Economic Forum (WEF). —AFP

Infrastructure for Hessah Al Mubarak District complete

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - announced that the infrastructure work for Hessah Al Mubarak District was completed at the end of 2017. Work is underway to hand over components of public facilities to government entities, as appropriate. Al Ahmadiyah Contracting was granted the infrastructure tender and the project was completed within the scheduled timeframe. Developers can soon begin building construction work. Mr Faisal Al Ayyar, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive) said:

"As the master planner of Hessah Al Mubarak District, KIPCO has

been keen to work with professional construction contractors to ensure that the future residents and visitors of our district enjoy an unprecedented experience. We would like to express our appreciation to Al Ahmadiyah Contracting, whose expertise has helped us complete this phase of the project at the high standards we expect and within the projected timeframe." He added "once all necessary handovers of public facilities to government entities is complete, developers can begin construction work on land plots. This includes our real estate arm, United Real Estate."

Hessah Al Mubarak District is the first-ever comprehensive, mixed-use district in Kuwait. With its unique location overlooking the sea, and its close proximity to the downtown business hub, the district promises its future residents, visitors and those who work there an unprecedented experience. The urban cluster will combine leisure, shopping, offices and living areas with the assurance of delivering quality lifestyle.



Mr Faisal Al Ayyar



بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House



Kuwait Finance House Group
sends its sincere regards and salutations to

His Highness The Emir of Kuwait

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

On the anniversary of His Highness accession to the reign of power

and to the people of The State of Kuwait

on the occasion of His Highness

directives to commence celebrations

for the National and Liberation Days

Business

KD 184m net profit for KFH shareholders in 2017

17% cash dividends, 10% bonus shares and 32.41 fils earnings per share

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq, said that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, realized a net profit of KD 184.2 million for the year 2017 for KFH shareholders compared to KD 165.2 million last year i.e. an increase of 11.5%. Total financing income reached KD 740.5 million, i.e. an increase of 3.2% compared to last year. Net financing income reached KD 444.8 million, i.e. an increase of 2.3% over the last year.

Total operating income increased to reach KD 713.3 million for the year 2017, i.e. a growth of 8.1% over the last year. Net operating income increased to reach KD 408.3 million, i.e. a growth of 11.9% over the last year. Earnings per share for 2017 reached 32.41 fils compared to 29.10 fils last year i.e. an increase of 11.4%. Total general and administrative expenses have declined by KD 1.6 million i.e. a decrease of 2% over the last year.

KFH distributions for the year 2017 were as follows: 2.625% for "Al-Khumasiya" investment deposit, 2.250% for "Al-Mustamera" investment deposit, 1.950% for "Al-Sedra" investment deposit, 2% for the 12-month Dimah investment deposit, 1.875% for the 6-month Dimah investment deposit and 1% for savings investment accounts, and 1.930% for long term investment plans.

The Board of Directors has recommended 17% cash distributions to shareholders and 10% bonus shares subject to general assembly and concerned authorities approval. Total assets increased to reach KD 17.358 billion, i.e. an increase of KD 858.6 million or 5.2% compared to last year. Financing portfolio increased to reach KD 9.216 billion, i.e. an increase of KD 1.041 billion or 12.7% compared to last year. Depositors' accounts increased to reach KD 11.597 billion, i.e. an increase of KD 880 million or 8.2% compared to last year. Shareholders' equity increased to reach KD 1.872 billion i.e. an increase of KD 61.8 million or 3.4% compared to last year. KFH's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) reached 17.76%, (after the recommended distributions) i.e. higher than the required limit of 15%, thus reiterating the strength of KFH financial position.

The best practices

Al-Marzouq stated in a press release that the realized profits confirm the success of KFH strategy and plans to diversify sources of income, mitigate potential risks, optimize

costs, increase operational returns, achieve harmony among KFH group banks, ensure suitable growth and profitability, enhance service and risk policies, adhere to regulatory rules and regulations, focus on achieving rewarding returns for shareholders and investors at competitive levels. He indicated that the balance sheet carries several positive indicators namely the steady financial position, sustainable and balanced growth in operational revenues from banking services, annual profit indicators and reduction in operational expenses compared to revenues. This indicates improvement in group performance despite the obstacles faced in the operative environment. KFH has continued its reserved investment policy and cautious management of risks in an effective manner to maintain assets as per the best practices.

Al-Marzouq stated on KFH 40th Anniversary that KFH has far surpassed its competitors as the leader of Islamic finance industry worldwide. These four decades of hard work has placed KFH on solid grounds and rendered it as a major competitor and a reputable organization employing expertise and adopting rational performance in all activities while mastering professional management and endurance against challenges. He reiterated that KFH strategy during the last three years has achieved its goals, thus succeeding in building a firm and accurate conception that is based on realistic ambitions and goals, practical facts, scientific and professional methods that would guarantee the sustainable success of this reputable financial institution and determine the features of its basic role and activity. KFH has parted away from any activities and fields that would distract from the organizational focus on growth and expansion opportunities.

Al-Marzouq stated that KFH group banks in Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain and Germany have continued their outstanding and successful performance during 2017 in accordance with laid plans and strategies to benefit from the elements of strength in each market in which they operate and achieve more coordination and expansion in joint projects and generalize successful services and products e.g. "Bishara" account is used in Bahrain and Malaysia and XTM machines implementation in Kuwait following the success achieved in Turkey.

He added that KFH Bahrain continues to provide the best services and products in a

highly competitive market and assumes a significant role in the execution of major development products in the kingdom. KFH Malaysia is heading towards e-banking services, retail market and trade and industrial finance activities. KFH Turkey has expanded significantly, sector and service wise, in the field of retail finance, corporate finance and new products, namely Sukuks and e-banking services. KT Bank AG in Germany is executing a new strategy to strengthen its existence and pave the way for expanding in Europe.



Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq

Al-Marzouq said that KFH was able to introduce during the year more than ten high-tech products and services to suite customers' demands and requirements. Such services includes the most simple requirements i.e. salary inquiries through (Ratebi link) and most important services i.e. XTM machines with audio and visual services in addition to treasury services at the group level to provide the best liquidity management services possible. KFH website has been developed and ATM machines modernized in shape and service.

E-programs and systems

Foreign currency withdrawal machines have been placed at the airport and KFH Wallet service has been launched to replace credit cards. To facilitate KFH Online services on smart phones the face identification feature Face ID has been activated. KFH has also launched the online finance request services to save customers time and effort. Customers may fill in the determined form and determine

the possibility of obtaining finance. The direct sale employee is in direct contact with the customer until the service is completed.

He indicated that efforts are exerted to restructure branches and achieve better performance following the activation of e-programs and systems and the interest which most customers showed towards using these systems. These e-services have strengthened the ties between the human role and technology through direct sale and other communication facilities e.g. call center and KFH accounts on social media. All efforts are exerted to enhance the market share by concluding several cooperation and coordination agreements with several local companies in various fields and organizing marketing and promotional programs to activate the market and support traders' sales by more than 15 programs of this type. Due focus is also placed on highly profitable products related to customers daily life along with advantages and discounts to increase customers interest i.e. credit cards including Oases club and Al-Khair. Finance products are also provided in regard to education, health along with KFH Concierge to provide highest level of customer care.

Al-Marzouq reiterated KFH keenness and determination to participate in financing major projects which are considered as strategic and significant in KFH business. Several companies and projects were financed as part of KFH contribution to the development efforts and assisting companies to develop their work. KFH has continued its endeavor to introduce the Sukuk product. KFH has participated in the management and issuance of more than US\$ 4 Billion Sukuk during 2017. KFH occupied the first position among primary dealers according to the ILM Program with a share approximating 30% of 15 issuances approximating US\$ 10 Billion.

He reiterated that financing Kuwaiti companies as per the standard rules and regulations is a continuous practice. Finance shall also be provided continuously to SMEs as they play a significant role in enhancing youth and development of performance. He indicated that KFH aims to make those SMEs as one of the main factors of national economy in order to diversify the sources of income and mitigate pressures on government and contribute to building national expertise in the field of business and development of the private sector.

Overcome all challenges

Al-Marzouq emphasized that the positive ratings given to KFH by international rating agencies and the high awards granted by all concerned organizations are considered as a positive indicator on the soundness and success of laid plans. He affirmed that KFH considers customers dedication, trust and loyalty as the best prize ever awarded and the true rating of its efforts at the group level.

Al-Marzouq indicated that KFH shall continue to innovate competitive products and services, enhance its market share, focus on customer service, and continue to develop national human resources, focus on the youth segment and enroll them in training programs to receive highest scientific and professional certificates. These efforts shall participate in the creation of leaderships which are able to deal with future challenges and cope with KFH growth and expansion in regional and global markets and make a true added value to national economy. Al-Marzouq is very optimistic with regards to the power of the Kuwaiti economy and its ability to overcome all challenges by 2018 considering the unprecedented economic and political developments which the world is witnessing. He indicated that Kuwait enjoys strong and variable characteristics to encounter such developments including a strong and stable structure under the worldwide recognized leadership, prospects for growth in GDP in 2018 in view of stability in oil prices and the steadiness of OPEC. The new formed government has expressed its endeavor to uplift economy, continue to develop legislations and attract foreign investments, continue its spending and adopt the partnership concept with the private sector to achieve growth and development. Banks and Kuwait's general rating has improved and both parties enjoy remarkable liquidity stock.

Al-Marzouq indicated that the most significant positive financial reformation steps which Kuwait has adopted comprised the incorporation of a general debt unit at the Ministry of Finance as the state tends to depend on debt instruments to be the source of covering deficit in the budget, improve coordination among main corporations i.e. Kuwait Investment Authority, Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Kuwait. The successful issuance of the international Sukuk earlier this year has affirmed institutional transparency and development and trust in national economy.

Praise be to Allah



2017 Results

		2017	2016	%
Net Profit for Shareholders	"KD Million"	184.2	165.2	11.5
Earnings per Share	"Fils"	32.41	29.10	11.4
Total Financing Income	"KD Million"	740.5	717.9	3.2
Net Financing Income	"KD Million"	444.8	434.9	2.3
Total Operating Income	"KD Million"	713.3	659.6	8.1
Net Operating Income	"KD Million"	408.3	364.7	11.9
Total Assets	"KD Billion"	17.36	16.50	5.2
Financing Receivables	"KD Billion"	9.22	8.18	12.7
Depositors' Accounts	"KD Billion"	11.60	10.72	8.2
Total Shareholders' Equity	"KD Billion"	1.87	1.81	3.4

To Investors

KFH Board of Directors is pleased to inform the investors that it has been resolved to distribute profits corresponding for the financial year ended 31st Dec.2017 as follows:

		2017	2016
Investment Deposits	"Al-Khumasiya"	2.625%	2.400%
Investment Deposits	"Al-Mustamera"	2.250%	2.200%
Investment Deposits	"Al-Sedra"	1.950%	1.500%
Investment Deposits	"Al-Dimah" 12 Months	2.000%	1.900%
Investment Deposits	"Al-Dimah" 6 Months	1.875%	1.425%
Long Term Investment Plans		1.930%	1.600%
Investment Savings Accounts		1.000%	0.850%

Profits will be credited to their bank accounts.

To Shareholders

KFH Board of Directors is pleased to inform the shareholders that it has been resolved to distribute profits corresponding for financial year ended 31st Dec.2017 as follows:

	2017	2016
Cash Dividends	17%	17%
Bonus Shares	10%	10%

This recommendation is subject to the approval of General Assembly and other regulatory entities.

Business

Hawkish-tilting Fed could move rates quicker

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve likely will leave the benchmark US interest rate untouched next week, but economists say the changing composition of the policy committee could point to faster rate hikes in 2018. Markets are betting the first of the three interest rate moves expected this year will come at the Fed's next meeting in March.

That will allow the Fed's interest-rate setting body, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), to wait for firmer signs of inflation, which has long run below the Fed's two percent target. But changing economic conditions—the massive tax cuts approved last month, recovering energy prices, a weaker US dollar, new trade tariffs and stronger global growth—could combine with a widespread US labor shortage to

spur wage gains and cause a demand-driven rise in inflation, analysts say.

At the same time the changing makeup of the FOMC appears to be leaning in a more hawkish, inflation-averse direction, which raises the chances the committee will raise rates four times rather than three. "It looks like in 2018 it will be justified to be more hawkish," Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, told AFP. "You'll get doves becoming more hawkish much more rapidly when conditions are changing." The 12 presidents of the regional Federal Reserve banks rotate as voting members of the FOMC each year, along with members of the Fed Board of Governors who always vote.

Chicago Fed President Charles Evans and Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari, who both

opposed last month's rate hike, will not vote this year. But Cleveland's Loretta Mester, who twice dissented in favor of higher rates in 2016, will become a voter. Mester will be joined by San Francisco's John Williams, a centrist and ally of outgoing Chair Janet Yellen, and the Atlanta region's newly-appointed Raphael Bostic, who is an unknown but pegged as a dove by analysts at IHS Markit. Thomas Barkin, who took over this month as president of the traditionally hawkish Richmond Fed also will be voting for the first time.

A more challenging environment

This week's meeting will be Yellen's last, and once she steps down at the start of February, President Donald Trump is in a position to stack the Fed's Board, with the chance name all but

one of its seven members. Jerome Powell, who will take over as Fed chair, has served on the board with Yellen since 2012 and is unlikely to depart too easily from the path she charted, having supported her post-crisis policy of painstakingly cautious rate increases.

But observers say the jury is still out on conservative Trump nominee Marvin Goodfriend, a university professor and former Richmond Fed adviser. Goodfriend struggled in Senate testimony this month to explain why his predictions of "disastrous" post-crisis inflation had been wrong. He has frequently called for higher rates and scolded the Fed last year for failing to guard against the risk of rising prices—but also favors allowing even negative rates when needed to stimulate growth. University of Oregon econo-

mist Tim Duy, a keen Fed observer, told AFP the Fed would do well to avoid overreacting by raising rates more than three times. "They will need to be wary of the long and variable lags in the policy process; they will need to take some time to see the impact of their past tightening," he said. "So I tend to think you need further evidence of excessive inflationary risks before they ratchet up the pace of rate increases." With Wall Street forging ever higher, Swonk of Grant Thornton said the Fed may also feel compelled to respond to prevent a bubble in asset prices, even though monetary policy tools are ill-suited to address those issues. "So far, Chair Yellen gets to leave without leaving a ripple on financial markets," Swonk said. "That's great to leave on that note and the ripples may be yet to come." —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report				Global			
Sunday, January 28, 2018							
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades	
Price Index	▼ -1.02	6,629.11	6,630.13	106,613,790	14,043,862	4,154	
Weighted Index	▼ -3.87	415.79	419.66				
KSX 15	▼ -11.14	958.17	969.31				
Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	410	390	5,100	1,991	4	410	▲ 10.8
NAFESCO	815	815	4,100	3,342	4	815	▲ 10.0
ENERGYH	30.9	29.0	116,317	3,431	11	30.9	▼ -0.1
GPI	34.6	33.0	2,266,424	78,074	97	33.0	▼ -1.2
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	▼ 0.0
Oil & Gas			2,411,941	84,830	116	996.52	▲ 9.40
KFOUC	222	222	3,810	801	1	222	▲ 1.0
BPCC	728	711	250,049	181,438	21	711	▼ -17.8
ALKOUT	650	630	30,000	19,200	4	650	▲ 20.0
ALQURAN	360	343	95,981	33,006	20	344	▲ 2.0
Basic Materials			380,240	234,446	48	1293.15	▲ 4.40
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	470	▼ 0.0
CABLE	437	435	50,999	22,227	8	435	▼ -2.0
BHP	199	194	40,505	7,983	5	199	▲ 4.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,000	▼ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▼ 0.0
MRC	74	65	120	8	3	73	▲ 3.0
AGICO	245	245	3,500	858	2	245	▼ -4.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	125	▼ 0.0
NICBM	180	180	42,595	7,667	4	180	▼ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	40.9	40.1	98,654	3,959	6	40.9	▼ -0.6
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▼ 0.0
GYPSEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▼ 0.0
SALBOOKH	60	53	44,500	2,389	6	59	▼ -0.9
AGLTY	884	879	271,473	236,457	53	883	▼ -2.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	▼ 0.0
CLEANING	63	57	21,800	1,310	12	60	▲ 1.1
KGL	130	117	4,515,971	554,976	267	117	▼ -12.0
KPC	150	147	12,500	1,845	2	150	▼ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	3,799	3,798	10,000	37,987	2	3,798	▼ -1.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	847	▼ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	▼ 0.0
SHOOTING	26.5	25.0	1,440,102	37,593	22	26.0	▲ 0.6
COC	465	439	23,352	10,425	18	464	▼ -5.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▼ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	612	▼ 0.0
ALAFCC	373	373	70,000	26,110	5	373	▼ -7.0
MUBARRAD	73	70	610,200	42,967	17	71	▼ -2.4
LOGISTICS	56	53	2,652,110	142,954	91	53	▼ -1.5
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▼ 0.0
GCEM	86	86	126,000	10,836	3	86	▼ -1.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	▼ 0.0
RCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	▼ 0.0
RKWC	100	85	45,111	3,999	9	90	▲ 2.4
SPEC	71	68	373,177	25,640	25	71	▼ -1.0
Industrials			10,452,668	1,181,229	560	1869.70	▼ -7.10
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▼ 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	227	▼ 0.0
DANAH	71	70	758,510	52,952	19	70	▲ 0.1
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,055	▼ 0.0
Consumer Goods			758,510	52,952	19	811.15	▲ 1.90
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▼ 0.0
YIACO	160	160	50	8	1	160	▲ 10.0
Health Care			50	8	1	1474.89	▲ 23.70
KCIN	1,140	1,052	6,514	7,136	14	1,139	▼ -1.1
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	246	▼ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▼ 0.0
CABLETV	27.0	25.0	9,271	241	6	25.0	▼ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▼ 0.0
OUAFUEL	115	115	11,194	1,287	11	115	▼ -2.0
MUNTAZAHAT	73	70	2	0	2	73	▼ 0.0
JAZEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	649	▼ 0.0
SOOR	115	115	15,865	1,801	5	115	▼ 0.0
FUTUREXID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108	▼ 0.0
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▼ 0.0
Jyad	130	102	5,715,437	682,120	336	102	▼ -25
Mozan	767	765	134,454	102,293	29	767	▲ 7.0
Consumer Services			8,892,537	794,880	403	910.45	▼ -26.00
ZAIN	485	473	1,811,971	861,614	256	475	▼ -7.0
ORCIDOO	1,125	1,053	330	348	2	1,125	▼ -4.0
AAN	30.7	29.6	2,905,807	87,727	81	30.2	▲ 0.0
VIVA	775	751	12,477	9,436	29	774	▼ -16
Telecommunications			4,730,385	959,094	368	569.70	▼ -6.80
NBK	774	760	676,776	521,164	92	767	▼ -6
GBK	252	248	610,800	151,916	17	250	▼ -2
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▼ 0.0
ABK	305	305	5,000	1,525	1	305	▼ -13
ALMUTAHED	354	351	57,163	20,095	12	351	▼ 0.0
KIB	236	235	178,679	42,069	13	236	▼ 0.0
BURG	319	317	105,467	33,548	12	317	▲ 3
KFIN	611	601	6,457,736	3,913,815	268	603	▼ -2
BOURBYAN	458	455	124,582	56,914	26	457	▲ 2
ALB	211	208	4,904,260	1,027,753	70	209	▼ -3
ITHMR	54	53	3,308,851	177,151	74	54	▲ 0.0
WARBABANK	226	225	126,656	28,501	52	225	▼ -1
Banks			16,555,980	5,974,450	639	960.42	▼ -6.80
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	279	▼ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▼ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	▼ 0.0
WINS	70	58	585	98	3	70	▲ 3.5
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▼ 0.0
FTI	60	57	10,100	579	5	65	▲ 7.4
WETHAQ	39.0	39.0	6,845	267	1	39.0	▼ 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▼ 0.0
Insurance			17,530	882	9	1040.90	▲ 18.50
SOKOLK	52	51	3718104	189,951	117	51	▲ 0.4
KRE	59	58	1,380,350	80,925	42	59	▲ 0.2
URC	78	78	2,300	175	2	78	▲ 7.0
NRE	122	120	142,058	17,169	12	122	▼ 0.0
SRE	339	331	8,438	2,178	4	338	▼ -1.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	399	▼ 0.0
AREEC	176	176	65	11	2	176	▲ 10.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	▼ 0.0
ARABREC	36.4	35.0	2,524,000	89,790	50	35.9	▼ -0.3
ERESCO	36.8	36.7	530,519	19,845	9	36.8	▼ 0.0
MABANEE	739	736	235,000	173,305	24	737	▲ 9.0
INJAZZAT	97	96	94,900	7,612	6	93	▲ 7.0
INVESTORS	17.9	17.6	5,470,718	96,661	70	17.7	▼ 0.0
IRC	32.0	30.0	807,600	24,794	37	31.3	▼ -0.7
ALTUARIA	96	96	80,000	7,673	3	96	▼ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0	▼ 0.0
AAYANRE	79	75	75,008	5,685	5	79	▼ 0.0
ADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▼ 0.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	34.8	▼ 0.0
MZAYA	113	112	516,100	58,284	14	112	▼ -1.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	55	▼ 0.0
TAMEER	35.0	33.5	670,100	22,008	19	34.9	▲ 0.2
ARKAN	89	87	82,359	7,304	9	89	▲ 2.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	▼ 0.0
ABYANR	23.4	23.1	2,012,360	46,751	32	23.3	▲ 0.1
MUNSHAAT	93	86	756,174	67,197	63	86	▼ -8.8
FIRSTDUBAI	49.0	49.0	257,000	12,593	6	49.0	▼ -1.8
KBT	47.1	46.5	1,172,762	54,749	49	46.9	▼ -0.1
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	595	▼ 0.0
MENA	19.0	17.7	748,002	13,558	28	18.4	▲ 0.5
ALMADON	44.0	40.8	462,403	19,627			

Business

Cadillac Alghanim set the benchmark at 2018 Kuwait Automoto exhibition



KUWAIT: Cadillac Alghanim reaffirmed its strong and long-term commitment to Kuwait at the 2018 Kuwait Motor Show in 360 Mall by displaying Cadillac premium models including a limited edition Escalade, as well as the CTS-V as a hero car in the stand. ATS, CT6 and the crossover XT5. With its participation in this year's edition of Kuwait Motor Show 2018, Cadillac set the benchmark with its elegant display style. In addition to the performance of the UK based "Electric String Trio", the stand hosted a "Selfiebox", designed especially for

Cadillac, as part of a social media competition for visitors with a chance to win shopping vouchers, creating further excitement at the stand. As a result, Cadillac's stand received unprecedented attention as hundreds visited the stand, with guests from different ages were keen to explore Cadillac's unique line-up.

The exhibition opening ceremony was attended by a number of royal delegates, ambassadors of Kuwait, and VIP guests. Exhibition visitors had the opportunity to explore some of the latest models from Cadillac includ-

ing the ATS, CTS, CT6, XT5, with the CTS-V taking center stage modeled in Vector Blue, the latest color option in Kuwait. Visitors interested in purchasing a vehicle are also able to avail special promotions solely at the exhibition.

Also displayed at the stand was the limited edition Escalade 2018, coming with a host of added details and signature cues making a big statement on any road. The flagship model has long defined spacious luxury driving, with its modern design, powerful capabilities and sumptuous amenities that keep luxury firmly in the driver's seat, with the 2018 model also featuring a new 10-speed automatic transmission for an even smoother ride. The CT6 and XT5 already benefit from Cadillac's new styling approach, and new 2018 models from both ranges are on show. The CT6 has all the size, prestige and technology of a large luxury sedan, while offering the driving dynamics and efficiency of a mid-size sport sedan. The XT5 combines spacious luxury and high-tech convenience features to create the perfect crossover.

ABK introduces cardless access for its customers in Kuwait



KUWAIT: In line with its vision to re-imagine a simpler bank, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the introduction of a cardless withdrawal for its customers at its branch ATMs by using ABK app. This service will allow ABK customers to withdraw cash without the need of their debit cards. Commenting on the new service, Stewart Lockie, General Manager- Retail Banking at ABK said, "At ABK we strive to make banking simpler for all our customers without compromising on safety, which is why we decided to introduce these new services. Not only will it offer customers convenience in case they have misplaced, lost or forgotten to carry their physical card, it is also as secure as using a card."

VIVA launches special offer for Boubyan Bank customers



KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launches a special offer for Boubyan Bank customers, on voice and data postpaid plans, to benefit "more" with VIVA's latest telecom solutions. This offer allows Boubyan Bank customers to enjoy 15% discount on voice postpaid plans including KD 15, KD 20, KD 30 and KD 40, in addition to the KD 18 data postpaid plan, with 24 months commitment, upon using valid debit card.

Commenting on this offer, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, VIVA's Corporate Communications Director, said: "We are glad to present this offer to Boubyan Bank customers, VIVA's strategic partner, and we endeavor to launch products and services for customers with different segments which meet their needs and aspirations." Hamad Haji, Senior Manager at the Marketing Department in Boubyan Bank, commented the offer saying: "The Bank's cooperation with VIVA translates the excellent relations between the two parties and the continuous cooperation aiming at providing Boubyan Bank customers with the services and products offered by VIVA for more convenience and comfort in their lives."

AUB's Jehad Al-Humaidhi named 'Women Entrepreneur of the year'

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) has announced that Jehad Al-Humaidhi, Senior General Manager - Information Technology and Operations has won the coveted 'Women Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 - IT, Banking & Finance'. The award was presented to Al-Humaidhi by International Finance magazine in a grand celebration held in Dubai on 18 January 2018.

The award reflects Al-Humaidhi's impact on and many contributions to the Bank and its success since her appointment at AUB in 1984, upon her graduation. Throughout the years, AUB's management was able to support Al-Humaidhi and offer new avenues to advance her career, where she was able to fulfill leadership roles across a number of departments - a key indicator to the Bank's overall working environment and its continuous support of local talent. Moreover, the award mirrors Al-Humaidhi's excellence in IT as well as a strong recognition to the ongoing development witnessed in AUB's IT infrastructure through adopting best banking practices in technology.

An international prestigious recognition

Al-Humaidhi expressed her gratitude in receiving the award, and overall attestation to AUB's positive working environ-

ment, which has provided the right conditions and elements for ensuring her success. In addition, it further reflects the continued support from the Bank's management as well as the fruitful cooperation amongst employees. Richard Groves, AUB's CEO said, "AUB continues to set the benchmark in hiring and integrating women into the Bank's operations. At AUB, our female workforce manage leading departments and have senior roles, and this includes Jehad Al-Humaidhi who is a significant role model."

Groves added, "This achievement is a testament to Al-Humaidhi's hard work over the past 33 years at AUB, where she was able to drive an extensive range of initiatives and projects that helped transform AUB's IT capabilities. Throughout her tenure at AUB, Al-Humaidhi managed several important departments in the Bank which included IT, Bank operations, Credit Cards, Administration, Technical Facilities and Trade Finance. She is also an active member of the KNET (Kuwait Switch), and several other boards representing AUB."

This International Finance award is granted to one female professional executive per year, in recognition of her contri-



butions that have had great impact in maximizing the role of IT in the development of banking operations in line with the strategic objectives of banking institutions, while meeting the cyber security and new

technology challenges. Therefore, the award is aimed at women who have been able to exert influence, both at the individual level and at the top level of the financial institutions, in which they work.

2 days left to enter Al Danah's first quarterly draw of 2018



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced that 31 January 2018 is the last date for customers to open an Al Danah account or deposit more to increase their chances of winning Al Danah's first quarterly draw for the prize of KD 200,000. Until the end of March, Gulf Bank's Al Danah eligible customers will continue to have a chance to win in the daily draws in which two winners will be receiving KD 1,000 every working day. However, from April onwards, Al Danah's draw lineup will be replaced with weekly draws, in which five winners will receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

This year's first Al Danah much-coveted quarterly draw offering a prize of KD 200,000 will be held on 28 March 2018. Anyone interested in entering this exciting draw is encouraged to open an Al Danah account before January 31st as to have a chance in winning the large prize. In January 2019, the award value will be replaced with KD 150,000.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah second quarterly draw 2018 for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 27 June 2018 and the third quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 on 26 September 2018. The final Al Danah draw for KD 1 Million - the Guinness World Record acclaimed largest prize linked to a bank account in the world - will be held on 10 January 2019, when the Al Danah millionaire will be announced. Gulf Bank encourages existing customers to increase their chances by depositing more money into their Al Danah account. This can be done immediately from any local bank, using the new 'e-Pay' (self-pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking. Al Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner.

Burgan Bank announces the daily winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Jamal Abdullah Abdulrazzaq
2. Mubarak Falah Mullaq Alenzi
3. Surti Abbas Aziz Mohsen
4. Shareefah Ebrahim Yaqoub Almekaimi
5. Majid Hilal Abdulhussein Altameemi

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws,

Realty India Expo 2018 postponed to later date

KUWAIT: Realty India Expo 2018, which was scheduled to be held on 26 and 27 January in Kuwait, has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances and will now be organized on a bigger scale at a later date, said the show's organizers. Expressing their utmost regret at the inconvenience caused to potential property buyers, investors and others interested in the realty exhibition, the organizers said the delay was due to unexpected exigencies. However, they assured everyone that the postponement was temporary and that a bigger show with greater participation of developers and builders was now being planned and would be announced shortly.

Realty India Expo 2018, an eagerly anticipated event among the Indian community in Kuwait, was slated to highlight prime properties from over 40 cities and towns across India. The show was specifically conceptualized to cater to the NRI's living in Kuwait, by showcasing the wide availability and choice of properties in Indian cities and towns, as well as the enormous investment potential that the Indian real estate market has in terms of growth.

With the real estate sector in India continuing on an upward trajectory, and considering the lucrative potential for investment in this rapidly growing market, the Indian community in Kuwait is likely to enthusiastically welcome realty exhibitions that bring together under one-roof the best of Indian properties. The organizers express their thanks for the understanding and support from community members.

wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Technology

China tightens screws on social platform media

Regulators demand week-long shutdown of Weibo

BEIJING: Chinese authorities have ordered a major social media platform to curb "harmful content" more effectively as they intensify oversight of online expression—even taking aim at rap music, crude cartoons, dirty jokes and celebrity gossip. The campaign is intended not just to stamp out dissent but to ensure that all media "serves the direction of socialism".

Sina Weibo has failed to comply, Beijing's Cyberspace Administration said Saturday on its official WeChat social media account, berating the site for letting users post "content of wrong public opinion orientation, obscenity, low taste and ethnic discrimination". The company "has violated the country's laws and regulations, led online public opinions to wrong direction and left a very bad influence," it said.

In another case announced Friday, China's securities watchdog said it had punished a blogger on WeChat with a 200,000 yuan (\$31,000) fine for posting market-moving "misinformation" about meetings between corporations and regulators. China has some of the world's tightest controls over web content, protected by what is called "The Great Firewall". Restrictions on free speech have increased since President Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012.

A controversial cybersecurity law, which took effect last June, has given authorities even more leeway to regulate a wide variety of information. At the time, the cyberspace administrator told major internet companies to obey

the provisions of the new law requiring online news and information services to "serve the direction of socialism and correctly guide public opinion". Since then they have taken aim at not just explicit depictions of sex and violence, but anything the authorities consider low brow: from crude cartoons and dirty jokes to celebrity gossip.

Earlier in January, social media began circulating a government order apparently issued to Chinese broadcasters banning them from giving air time to "artists with tattoos, hip hop music" and other performers who are "in conflict with the party's core values and morals". In punishment for Weibo's failure to toe the lengthening party line, regulators have demanded a week-long shutdown of the site's offending features, including one that allows users to pay to

ask celebrities questions, as well as a function to search trending topics.

It was far from the first time the authorities have expressed concern over content on the social media giant, which is owned by internet behemoth Sina. The company has tried to counter criticism by banning keywords and hiring thousands of censors to laboriously take down posts that violate the party's ever stricter dictums. On Weibo, China's Twitter-like platform, commenters were quick to take issue with the government's decision. "This is just an excuse to better control the trending topics search," said one user. "From now on, the things you see on the page will be what (the government) wants to make you see."—AFP



BEIJING: Sina Weibo's booth is pictured at the Global Mobile Internet Conference (GMIC) 2017 in Beijing, China. —Reuters

“Serves the direction of socialism”

Macron 'completely changed' France's image, says tech billionaire

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron has "completely changed" France's image, telecoms billionaire Xavier Niel said Wednesday, crediting the youthful, pro-business politician with attracting an influx of tech talent. "He has given France a pro-startup, pro-entrepreneur image abroad that we did not really have before," said Niel, who bankrolled a giant startup incubator on the banks of the Seine river in Paris that opened a month after Macron's election last year.

Speaking to a group of foreign correspondents at Station F — the world's biggest incubator which is nourishing 1,000 startups—Niel praised Macron's reform of the labor code and of wealth and investment taxes. But his most important achievement to date has been to change France's image as being a place that is unfriendly to business, said 50-year-old Niel, a serial entrepreneur nicknamed the "French Steve Jobs".

"France has not changed... What really changed is the fact of having a young, dynamic president, who is not from any political party," he said. On Wednesday, Macron took his pledge of a French renaissance to the world's business elite gathered in the Swiss resort of Davos. "France is back at the core of Europe," said the 40-year-old former investment banker, who has been hailed as a potential savior of a liberal post-war order under threat from Donald Trump's America and Britain's decision to leave the EU.

Trump, Brexit boost

Niel, vice-president of Iliad which owns France's second-biggest mobile phone operator, said Trump's nationalist policies and climate change denialism had contributed to France's growing appeal as a place to start a business. "England maybe does not appear very stable under Theresa May, Germany doesn't maybe seem much fun with a leader who is starting to get on in years and the United States under Donald Trump doesn't seem very welcoming to strangers," he said. "In the midst of all that, we're doing quite nicely."

Station F manager Roxanne Varza said the incubator, which Niel paid for with 250 million euros of his own money, received more applications from US and UK start-ups last year than any other country. Niel singled out Macron's introduction of a flat tax rate of 30 percent on capital gains and dividends as one of the most significant reforms for companies looking to invest in new technology companies.

But much of what is drawing tech firms to Paris predates Macron. It was Macron's predecessor Francois Hollande who set up new visas for digital entrepreneurs. In its 2017 State of European Tech report, the investment firm Atomico noted that Britain remained the biggest recipient of venture capital funding at \$5.4 billion — more than double that of France. But it was France that closed the most deals.—AFP



PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron takes part in a press conference with Argentina's President Mauricio Macri at the Elysee palace in Paris. —AFP

Estonia makes 'token' effort to take euro crypto

TALLINN: Estonia is looking to drag the euro into the crypto age—and tame the volatility plaguing bitcoin and its peers—by creating a digital token backed by the single European currency. Cryptocurrencies have been on a rollercoaster ride recently, with bitcoin swinging from \$10,000 to nearly \$20,000 and back in under two months, and volatility is a major hurdle to their widespread adoption for electronic transactions.

One way to counter this would be to issue digital versions of an existing currency, but an initial proposal by a government agency in eurozone member Estonia was torpedoed by European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi last year. Nevertheless, Kaspar Korjus, managing director of the Estonian government's e-Residency global digital identity program, is back with three new proposals to create an "estcoin" digital token that "doesn't necessarily" break ECB rules.

His three models for creating an "estcoin" would use the blockchain technology behind bitcoin and other peer-to-peer payment systems. Blockchain experts argue that one of the proposals could pave the way for the European single currency to be used on a blockchain platform, but forex analysts are skeptical.

e-Residency

Estonia, the birthplace of Skype and digital global money transfer site Transferwise, is something of a pioneer in shifting government services online. And it also seeking to make it easier for businesses to operate. Korjus' e-Residency program allows people worldwide to open businesses in Estonia—and hence the European Union—and manage them remotely, declaring taxes and signing documents digitally. More than 4,000 businesses and 28,000 individuals have signed up to the scheme since it was launched in 2014.

All three "estcoin" proposals would be tied exclusively to the e-Residency program. In the first, Estonian e-residency holders investing in the program would be rewarded with estcoins. In the second, "estcoins" would be tied to a user's e-Residency identity and used for "digitally signing documents, logging into services or enforcing smart contracts." In both of these versions, the estcoin's value would depend on its usefulness on the blockchain, and would not be pegged to the euro.

'No alternative to euro'

A third model would essentially enable anyone in Estonia's e-residency community to use euros on the blockchain, Korjus said. Under this version, "banks would

Take the next U-turn: US driver following GPS plunges into lake

WASHINGTON: Technology won't always save us. A man blindly following his GPS app has driven an SUV with two passengers on board into an icy lake in the northeastern state of Vermont, local police said. The trio-friends from out of state driving a borrowed car-escaped unharmed, local media and police in the city of Burlington said in their report of the January 12 incident. The unnamed driver of the Jeep Compass "followed the GPS directions, which advised to go straight, and upon following this he went down the boat ramp onto the ice," the report read.

The vehicle initially slid, but the ice on the surface of Lake Champlain quickly cracked and the Jeep sank. The officer who wrote the report said he believed the driver "was not under the influence of

alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident." "The only visible portion of the vehicle was its rear bumper," as the rest of the car was submerged, the report said. It added that the time of the accident "there was a heavy rain and slight fog in the area."

"I was speechless," vehicle owner Tara Guertin later told WCAX-3 local CBS affiliate television. "My first thing was, 'Is everybody OK?' Because this could have had a very bad ending, and luckily everybody was alright." The Jeep was finally pulled from the water on Monday. Guertin told local reporters that the driver was using the Waze app, which uses user-supplied data to help people find alternate routes to avoid traffic jams or speed cameras.

Google, the internet giant that owns Waze, could not explain how the app directed the driver into the lake. "Waze maps are updated with millions of edits to adapt to real time road conditions daily, often making them the most accurate available," Google spokesperson Julie Mossler said. Mossler sagely advised drivers "to keep their eyes on the road and use all environmental information available to them to make the best decisions as they drive."—AFP

Dutch police launch biggest DNA hunt for boy's killer

THE HAGUE: Dutch police on Friday launched the country's biggest ever DNA search, asking over 20,000 men to come forward as they seek to resolve the 1998 murder of a young boy. "Some 21,500 men will receive a personal invitation in February to voluntarily give DNA samples," police said in a statement. "It's the largest such DNA investigation in search of family ties ever carried out in The Netherlands."

Eleven-year-old Nicky Verstappen disappeared during the night of August 9, 1998, while on a summer camp at the Brunssumerheide nature reserve, near the German border. His body was found the next evening, close to the camp site. "This large-scale DNA research comes as a final attempt to answer the question who left traces" on Nicky's clothes, the

"the underlying idea isn't hugely controversial," said Baynham-Herd, who is now head of strategy and lead economist at Blockchain.com, which develops blockchain infrastructure. He believes ECB chief Draghi would view the new "euro estcoin" token differently, since it was "simply a new way of issuing or representing existing

euro reserves. The value would be one-to-one—there's no new money being created."

But Fawad Razaqada, an analyst at Forex.com, was more cautious, saying if the "euro estcoin" were pegged to the single currency, it would "effectively create new euros", which would be illegal. He pointed out that the Estonian government's involvement would lend the token a legitimacy and value that many cryptocurrencies were lacking at the moment. "Whatever the outcome, it will be an interesting experiment," he said via email.

Estonia's central bank has been cool to the proposals, which it notes have yet to be officially endorsed by the government. "The emission of virtual tokens that could be converted limitlessly into euros according to an officially fixed exchange rate would definitely be more problematic" than the authors imagine, spokeswoman Ingrid Mitt said. But Siim Sikku, a senior official at Estonia's finance ministry, said that "we fully welcome the e-Residency team's initiative."—AFP

police said. They stressed the men, aged between 18 to 75, were not suspects in the murder, but could help "make a major contribution to finally shine a light on what happened to Nicky in August 1998".

The police were searching to see "if the DNA donor has any family ties to the person who left traces in the place where Nicky was found." The men are all from Heibloem, where Nicky lived, and villages surrounding the nature reserve, the public broadcaster NOS said. Analysis of the DNA samples is likely to take between six to 12 months, and if any matches are found then further research will have to be carried out. Several collection points will be set up and remain open for three weeks.

Since October police have been also carrying out a voluntary DNA drive among some 1,500 men who were regular visitors to the camp. But so far it has not turned up any clues. Dutch police however may have cracked another cold case in December, when the collection of 130 DNA samples led to the arrest of a suspect in the 1992 murder and rape of a young woman in Zaandam, close to Amsterdam.—AFP

Health

100 years after the 'Spanish flu', new global pandemics feared

Are we ready for the next pandemic?

DAVOS: Ebola, zika, SARS: a century after the "Spanish flu" killed 50 million people, humanity now risks a new wave of deadly diseases, and in today's globalised world another such pandemic may be unavoidable, experts warned at the Davos summit this week. "Pandemics are becoming a real threat to humanity," Elhadj As Sy, secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss resort.

One Davos discussion titled "Are We Ready For the Next Pandemic?" was joined by experts including Sylvie Briand, a specialist in infectious diseases at the World Health Organization (WHO). "We know that it is coming, but we have no way of stopping it," she said. This year marks the centenary of the worst epidemic in history: the so-called Spanish flu—an outbreak that experts say was actually imported to Europe by troops from the United States coming to fight in World War One.

Across the world, the disease killed more people in two years than the four years of fighting had.

Richard Hatchett, director of the public-private Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), said India lost five percent of its population in 1918 - the only time in the country's history that its population declined. A century on, a new flu virus is the risk that most worries experts. "The flu is a respiratory virus that is easily transmitted and people can be contagious even before they show symptoms, so it is not easy to control," said Briand. Its numerous forms are also able to "marry" one another or bond with viruses from birds or pigs in potentially deadly new combinations.



Pandemics becoming a real threat to humanity

Still vulnerable
Despite the development of anti-viral drugs, antibiotics and the first vaccines, two other flu pandemics erupted after the Spanish flu, in 1957 and 1968 - killing millions. More recent epidemics have reminded the world that it is still vulnerable to outbreaks. The SARS respiratory virus killed some 770 people in 2003. "These past three years, there has been Ebola in West Africa, zika in South America and more recently a plague epidemic in Madagascar" last year, said Sy.

Ebola haemorrhagic fever killed 11,000 in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The disease also spread around the world after international travelers were infected. "Humanity is more vulnerable in the face of epidemics because we are much more connected and we travel around much more quickly than before," said Briand. "When we travel, the viruses travel with us." Hatchett warned that disease specialists are still dealing with the consequences of zika, a mosquito-borne disease which causes birth defects. The outbreak in Latin America in 2015 took scientists by surprise.

Experts also warned of the economic impact of outbreaks. In 2015 hundreds of cases of the MERS respiratory syndrome cost South Korea 10 billion dollars, Hatchett said. Billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates estimated in February 2017 that preparing to respond to a global pandemic would cost \$3.4 billion a year. The potential cost of one if the world is unprepared could be \$570 billion, he said. Gates is one of the main backers of the CEPI, which has overall funding of \$700

Preparing for catastrophe
Experts also warned of the economic impact of outbreaks. In 2015 hundreds of cases of the MERS respiratory syndrome cost South Korea 10 billion dollars, Hatchett said. Billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates estimated in February 2017 that preparing to respond to a global pandemic would cost \$3.4 billion a year. The potential cost of one if the world is unprepared could be \$570 billion, he said. Gates is one of the main backers of the CEPI, which has overall funding of \$700



SAN FRANCISCO: A sign advertising flu shots is displayed at a Walgreens pharmacy in San Francisco, California. Flu is sweeping the United States, killing at least 37 children as influenza sends the most people nationwide in search of medical care since the 2009 "swine flu" pandemic, US officials said. —AFP Photos

million and was launched at last year's Davos summit. The CEPI is seeking to develop treatments for three viruses for which there is currently none: MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), Lassa fever which is endemic in West Africa, and Nipah in Malaysia and Bangladesh.

"At the WHO, we are trying to prepare for a catastrophe, hoping to reduce the impact as much as possible," said Briand. Developing a vaccine against a new virus, however, is dangerous and can take up to six months, the WHO says. It costs up to \$200 million, says Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. That is not a big motivation for pharmaceutical laboratories, Hatchett said. "There is no commercial market for these products until there is an epidemic and then everyone wants the vaccine that doesn't exist." —AFP



DAVOS: Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Elhadj As Sy poses for a picture during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, eastern Switzerland.

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What's On

Jumeirah Group expands in Dubai with Zabeel House



Marc Dardenne COO & Interim CEO Jumeirah (left) with Ammar Swis CEO Ishraqah For Development Ltd.

Jumeirah Group, the global luxury hotel company and a member of Dubai Holding, yesterday announced it is to operate a new hotel in Dubai under its Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM brand, having recently signed a management agreement with The Onyx for Development, a subsidiary of Ishraqah for Development Ltd. The hotel, soon known as Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM - The Greens, is scheduled to open in quarter four 2018 and will offer 210 guest rooms, two restaurants, terrace dining around the pool area, conference and business facilities, as well as a gym and spa treatment rooms.

Designed to appeal to the curious traveler with an intrepid spirit, who wants to experience a city like a resident or uncover a different version of the city that they already know, guests to Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM - The Greens can expect a four star experience, brilliant basics and unexpected extras within an upscale, casual environment. Conveniently located to help guests experience Dubai, Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM - The Greens is well positioned at the heart of The Greens master development, and is part of a completed wider mixed-use development called "The Onyx", which consists of residential, commercial and retail units. The hotel has great connectivity with easy

access to Sheikh Zayed Road, the main arterial road for the City, and is within easy reach of some of Dubai's best beaches, as well as public transport and the Dubai Metro. Anticipated to be a social hub for the locality, the hotel is also near Dubai Media City, Internet City, and the growing commercial district of Barsha Heights, which are the base for a number of Media, IT and Technology companies.

Jumeirah Group Chief Operating Officer and Interim CEO Marc Dardenne said, "This new hotel truly encapsulates the essence of Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM. The Greens is a great location and an up and coming, growing district, perfect for the curious traveler who wants to experience local life or explore the city. It is a fantastic addition to our portfolio and will perfectly fit within the neighborhood to be enjoyed by both residents and visitors."

Ammar Sweis, Ishraqah for Development CEO said, "Jumeirah is a Dubai brand with international appeal

“ This new hotel truly encapsulates the essence of Zabeel House ”



and is our ideal partner to realize our vision for The Onyx project and this hotel within the overall development. Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM - The Greens will be a central focus for The Greens master development, appealing to residents as well as the increasing numbers of Dubai visitors who are choosing a city destination for their stay. We are confident that with Jumeirah's hospitality expertise, the hotel and The Onyx project will be a new destination in Dubai and a very important asset for us and the community."

Created in Dubai, inspired by the vibrancy of the city and with a focus on great locations at the heart of interesting and exciting neighborhoods, Jumeirah Group is creating an eclectic collection of hotels under the Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM brand. High on design but low on complexity, Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM is a great place to immerse into the local neighborhood or use as a base to discover more. Each Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM

hotel will offer an aspect of bespoke design, unique features and architectural details to fit the individual location. This versatility is an important element of the brand vision and design concept, and reflects the Zabeel House guest: a strong individual with unique tastes and travel passions, whether it is adventure, socializing or seeking somewhere fabulous to retreat to. Jumeirah Group has five signed hotel management agreements in place for Zabeel House by Jumeirah TM and will be making a series of announcements in early 2018. Jumeirah currently operates 19 Jumeirah hotels already in operation in Europe, the Middle East and Asia under its Stay Different TM luxury hotel brand.

Ishraqah for Development, the developer and owner of The Onyx for Development, a subsidiary of Ishraqah for Development, was formed as a joint venture between two prominent Saudi business groups, Al Zahran Group and Bin Mahfouz Group, in 2006 to pursue opportunities in the regional and international property markets. Ishraqah for Development, its subsidiaries and sister companies currently manage a portfolio of real estate investments and developments of over AED 5 billion covering the UAE and KSA as well as other international markets with offices in Dubai, Riyadh and Jeddah.



LuLu Hypermarket launches 'Incredible India 2018'

LuLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched its annual 'Incredible India 2018'. The event was inaugurated by the newly appointed Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE K Jeeva Sagar on January 25, 2018 at the hypermarket's Al-Rai outlet. Top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait along with a large crowd of shoppers, well-wishers and media personnel attended the inauguration. A two-hour long cultural program of dances and music showcasing India's rich and colorful culture was a highlight of the inaugural event. During the 11-day promotional period, from January 24 to February 3,

2018 all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in the country will offer special promotional prices on all Indian products. As part of the promotion, the glorious heritage of India will be highlighted through large cut-outs of several well-known heritage monuments in India, further emphasizing the variety and uniqueness of the country.

LuLu Hypermarket, which is the region's leading lifestyle shopping destination, has anchored its position in Kuwait by providing customers with a distinctive shopping experience unlike any other retail outlet.

The customer-oriented approach, the ambience and spaciousness of its branches, the wide range and variety of products on offer from around the world, and the highly competitive pricing structure, makes LuLu Hypermarkets the choice for discerning shoppers in the country. It is this focus on customers and catering to their shopping needs that allows the brand to retain such a large and loyal following among shoppers in Kuwait and makes LuLu Hypermarket truly the place 'where the world comes to shop'.



TV



00:35 Under Siege
02:25 Street Fighter
04:15 Independents' Day
05:55 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
08:15 I Am Number Four
10:10 Street Fighter
11:55 Avengers Grimm
13:30 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
15:55 Rumble
17:30 The Mask Of Zorro
19:50 Terminator Genisys
22:00 Never Back Down: No Surrender
23:45 Under Siege 2



00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Treehouse Masters
03:35 Treehouse Masters
06:02 Bad Dog
06:49 Preposterous Pets
07:36 Night
08:00 Night
08:25 Snake Sheila
08:50 Snake Sheila
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Preposterous Pets
11:05 Mutant Planet
12:00 Snake Sheila
12:28 Snake Sheila
12:55 Keeping Up With The Kruger
13:50 The Lion Queen
14:45 Preposterous Pets
15:40 Mutant Planet
16:35 Lone Star Law
17:30 Treehouse Masters
18:25 Shark Attack File 3
19:20 Intruders
20:15 Preposterous Pets
21:10 Snake Sheila
21:38 Snake Sheila
22:05 Shark Attack File 3
23:00 Intruders
23:55 Mutant Planet



00:00 Call The Midwife
01:00 Liar
02:00 Line Of Duty
03:10 New Tricks
04:00 Doctors
04:30 Eastenders
05:00 Call The Midwife
06:00 Doctors
06:30 The Musketeers
07:20 Call The Midwife
08:20 Father Brown
09:10 Doctors
09:45 Eastenders
10:15 New Tricks
11:10 The Musketeers
12:10 Call The Midwife
13:05 Father Brown
14:00 Doctors
14:30 Eastenders
15:05 New Tricks
16:00 The Musketeers
17:45 Casually
18:00 Casually
19:00 New Tricks
20:00 Call The Midwife
21:00 The Level
22:00 New Tricks
23:00 Casually



00:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:00 The Eleven
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
04:00 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job
05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
06:00 The Eleven
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
09:00 It Takes A Killer
09:30 It Takes A Killer
10:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
11:00 Cold Case Files
12:00 The Eleven
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
16:00 Cold Case Files
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 The Eleven
20:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
22:00 Cold Case Files
23:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak



00:05 Pete Davidson: Smd
00:55 Another Period
01:20 Another Period
01:45 Tosh.0
02:10 Chappelle's Show
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Tosh.0
03:50 Chappelle's Show
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 Important Things With Demetri Martin
05:30 Impractical Jokers
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:50 Catch A Contractor
07:40 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Key And Peele
10:10 Important Things With Demetri Martin
10:35 The Jim Gaffigan Show
11:00 Impractical Jokers
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Friendszone
13:05 Friendszone
13:30 Important Things With Demetri Martin
13:55 Friends
14:20 Friends
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Kroll Show
16:00 Friendszone
16:30 Friendszone
16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:35 The Dude Perfect Show
19:00 The Dude Perfect Show
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Detroiters

22:00 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
22:25 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwafel
22:50 Detroiters
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 How The Earth Works
02:10 How The Earth Works
03:00 Ecolopolis
03:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Ultimate Survival
07:50 How It's Made
08:15 How It's Made
08:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
09:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
09:30 Tanked
10:20 How The Earth Works
11:10 Finding Bigfoot
12:00 Somebody's Gotta Do It
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:30 Tanked
15:20 Ultimate Survival
16:10 How The Earth Works
17:00 Finding Bigfoot
17:50 Somebody's Gotta Do It
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Tanked
21:10 Finding Bigfoot
22:00 Somebody's Gotta Do It
22:50 How The Earth Works
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:50 Murder Online
01:45 Kindred Spirits
02:40 A Haunting
03:35 I Speak For The Dead
04:30 Murder Online
05:25 Killer Confessions
06:20 Murder Book
07:10 Disappeared
08:00 California Investigator
08:25 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
09:15 California Investigator
10:10 Nightmare Next Door
11:05 Disappeared
12:00 Reasonable Doubt
12:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Nightmare Next Door
15:40 Disappeared
16:35 Grave Secrets
17:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
18:25 California Investigator
18:50 California Investigator
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It
20:15 Nightmare Next Door
21:10 I'd Kill For You
22:05 American Monster
23:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
23:55 I Speak For The Dead



00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binnie And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
01:50 Evermore Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binnie And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binnie And The Ghost
06:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Tangled: The Series
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:25 Lolirock
11:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
12:05 Hank Zipzer
12:30 Alex & Co.
12:55 Alex & Co.
13:20 Lolirock
13:45 Lolirock
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
15:00 The Zhuzhus
15:15 K.C. Undercover
15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:10 Tangled: Queen For A Day
16:15 Tangled: The Series
17:25 Descendants Wicked World
17:30 Stuck In The Middle
17:55 K.C. Undercover
18:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
18:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
19:10 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
19:15 Bunk'd
19:40 Girl Meets World
19:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:10 Liv And Maddie
20:35 Jessie
21:00 Tangled: The Series
21:25 K.C. Undercover
21:50 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
22:15 Bizaardvark
22:40 Stuck In The Middle
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
23:45 Lolirock



02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 PJ Masks
08:00 P-King Duckling
08:25 Jungle Junction
08:40 Special Agent Oso
09:00 Handy Manny
09:15 PJ Masks
09:30 Puppy Dog Pals
10:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
10:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:55 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:50 The Lion Guard
12:15 The Lion Guard
12:45 Sofia The First
13:10 Sofia The First
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 Doc McStuffins
14:55 P-King Duckling
15:20 Vampirina
15:45 Sofia The First
16:10 Puppy Dog Pals
16:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:05 Sofia The First: The Curse Of Princess Ivy
17:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
18:00 Goldie & Bear
18:15 Goldie & Bear
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals
18:55 Sofia The First
19:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:10 The Lion Guard
20:35 P-King Duckling
21:00 Vampirina
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 PJ Masks
22:25 Sofia The First
22:50 P-King Duckling
23:20 Puppy Dog Pals
23:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers



00:15 Yukon Men
01:05 Dangerman
01:50 Railroad Australia
02:35 Abandoned Engineering
03:20 Street Outlaws
04:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier
04:50 Deadliest Catch
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Auction Kings
06:23 Container Wars
06:45 How Do They Do It?
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier
08:20 Auction Kings
08:45 Container Wars
09:10 Deadliest Catch
09:55 Dangerman
10:45 Railroad Australia
11:30 Abandoned Engineering
12:20 Auction Kings
12:43 Container Wars
13:05 How Do They Do It?
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Deadliest Catch
14:40 Yukon Men
15:30 Dangerman
16:15 Railroad Australia
17:05 Abandoned Engineering
17:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
18:40 Deadliest Catch
19:25 Yukon Men
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
22:40 Rebel Gold
23:30 Alaska: The Last Frontier



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



00:00 My Fabulous Me
00:30 Red Carpet Icons
01:00 Red Carpet Icons
01:30 Live From The Red Carpet
03:30 Celebrity Style Story
04:00 Celebrity Style Story
04:30 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:55 El News
07:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:20 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
09:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
10:10 El News

10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
12:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
13:05 Red Carpet Icons
13:35 Red Carpet Icons
14:05 Live From The Red Carpet
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:00 Live From The Red Carpet
19:00 Live From The Red Carpet
21:00 WAGs Atlanta
22:00 The Platinum Life
23:00 El News
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:00 Iron Chef Gauntlet
01:00 Tia Mowry At Home
01:30 Tia Mowry At Home
02:30 The Big Eat - Middle East
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Iron Chef Gauntlet
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Bake With Anna Olson
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:25 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Cooking For Real
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Restaurant: Impossible
21:00 Mystery Diners
23:20 Mystery Diners
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Cash Trapped
03:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
03:55 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
04:25 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
05:15 Don't Tell The Bride
06:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
07:05 Cash Trapped
08:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
08:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
09:00 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
10:00 Don't Tell The Bride
11:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
11:50 Cash Trapped
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
15:10 Cash Trapped
16:00 The Voice UK 2018
17:15 Royal Stories
17:50 Don't Tell The Bride
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Cash Trapped
21:00 The Voice UK 2018
22:15 Royal Stories
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



00:20 Nordic Wild
01:10 Man V. Monster
02:00 Fatal Attraction
02:50 World's Deadliest
03:45 Animal Fight Club
04:40 Man Among Cheetahs
05:35 Fatal Attraction
06:30 World's Deadliest
07:25 Animal Fight Club
08:20 Man Among Cheetahs
09:15 World's Weirdest
10:10 Safari Brothers
11:05 Man Among Cheetahs
12:00 Shark Swarm
12:55 Soul Of The Cat
13:50 World's Deadliest
14:45 Ultimate Animal Countdown
15:40 Mystery Of The Lynx
16:35 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
17:30 Safari Brothers
18:25 Animal ER
19:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
20:10 Mystery Of The Lynx
21:00 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
21:50 Safari Brothers
22:40 Animal ER
23:30 Shark Swarm



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
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08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Real Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Massive Monster Mayhem
13:48 Hunter Street
14:12 I Am Frankie
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn

18:30 Mountain Men
19:20 Forged In Fire
20:10 American Restoration
21:00 Hunting Hitler
21:50 Barbarians Rising
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 Mountain Men



00:15 A Taste Of South Africa
00:45 The Food Files
01:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
01:40 Places We Go
02:05 Places We Go
02:35 Restoration Man
03:30 Fearless Chef
04:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
04:50 John Torode's Asia
05:20 John Torode's Asia
05:45 My Restaurant In India
06:15 A Taste Of South Africa
06:40 A Taste Of South Africa
07:10 Places We Go
07:35 Places We Go
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00:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
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13:00 Startalk
14:00 Bid & Destroy
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15:00 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
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18:00 Nazi Megastructures
19:00 Supercar Megabuild
20:00 The Story Of Us With Morgan Freeman
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23:45 Bid & Destroy

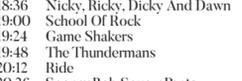


00:20 Nordic Wild
01:10 Man V. Monster
02:00 Fatal Attraction
02:50 World's Deadliest
03:45 Animal Fight Club
04:40 Man Among Cheetahs
05:35 Fatal Attraction
06:30 World's Deadliest
07:25 Animal Fight Club
08:20 Man Among Cheetahs
09:15 World's Weirdest
10:10 Safari Brothers
11:05 Man Among Cheetahs
12:00 Shark Swarm
12:55 Soul Of The Cat
13:50 World's Deadliest
14:45 Ultimate Animal Countdown
15:40 Mystery Of The Lynx
16:35 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
17:30 Safari Brothers
18:25 Animal ER
19:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
20:10 Mystery Of The Lynx
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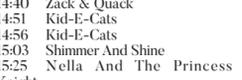
15:24 School Of Rock
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Massive Monster Mayhem
17:24 I Am Frankie
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 Ride
20:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:15 Shimmer And Shine
00:38 Shimmer And Shine
01:01 Max & Ruby
01:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:34 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:45 The Day Henry Met
01:50 The Day Henry Met
01:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:40 Zack & Quack
02:51 Kid-E-Cats
02:56 Kid-E-Cats
03:03 Shimmer And Shine
03:25 Nella And The Princess Knight
03:57 Paw Patrol
03:59 Little Charmers
04:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
04:23 Dora The Explorer
04:46 Max & Ruby
05:08 The Day Henry Met
05:13 Nella The Princess Knight
05:35 Shimmer And Shine
05:58 Wallykazam!
06:22 Zack & Quack
06:33 The Day Henry Met
06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:00 Rusty Rivets
07:14 Paw Patrol
07:37 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Nella The Princess Knight
08:11 Kid-E-Cats
08:16 Kid-E-Cats
08:21 Bubble Guppies
08:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:07 Paw Patrol
09:30 Shimmer And Shine
09:53 Nella The Princess Knight
10:15 The Day Henry Met
10:20 Paw Patrol
10:43 Rusty Rivets
11:07 Wallykazam!
11:30 Bubble Guppies
11:53 Team Umizoomi
12:16 Shimmer And Shine
12:39 Shimmer And Shine
13:02 Max & Ruby
13:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
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22:14 The Day Henry Met
22:20 Paw Patrol
22:43 Rusty Rivets
23:06 Wallykazam!
23:29 Bubble Guppies
23:52 Team Umizoomi



00:00 A Royal Christmas
01:35 Beethoven's Second
03:05 Mune
04:35 Big Baby
06:00 A Royal Christmas
07:35 The Secret Life Of Pets
09:05 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
10:35 Beethoven's Second
12:05 Christmas Trade
13:50 The Borrowers
15:20 A Little Game
16:55 Houbal! On The Trail Of Marsupilami
18:45 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
20:15 Christmas Trade
22:00 The Borrowers
23:30 Houbal! On The Trail Of Marsupilami



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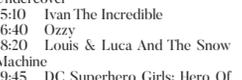


00:55 Electricity
02:40 We Are Many
04:40 The Beat Beneath My Feet
06:20 The Shamer's Daughter
08:05 African Safari
09:40 Far From Men
11:30 The Beat Beneath My Feet
13:10 Fort McCoy

15:00 Match
16:40 Lawrence Of Arabia
20:15 The Remains Of The Day
22:30 Memoria
23:50 Guernica



00:00 The Emperor's Secret
01:35 Help And Freedom
03:05 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
04:35 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
06:00 Felix All Around The World
07:30 Freddy Frogface
09:00 Ozzy
10:40 Bark Ranger
12:10 Help And Freedom
13:40 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
15:10 Ivan The Incredible
16:40 Ozzy
18:20 Louis & Luca And The Snow Machine
19:45 DC Superhero Girls: Hero Of The Year
21:10 Ivan The Incredible
22:40 Freddy Frogface



01:20 Seven Years In Tibet
03:45 Dirty Dancing
05:55 Valentine's Day
08:05 Calendar Girls
10:00 Loch Ness
11:50 Seven Years In Tibet
14:15 Norbit
16:05 Last Chance Harvey
17:45 Steve Jobs
20:00 London Has Fallen
21:45 Eagle Eye
23:50 Alfie



00:40 Dangerman
01:30 Dangerman
02:20 Dangerman
03:10 You Have Been Warned
04:00 Mythbusters
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 Mythbusters
06:24 Mythbusters: The Search
07:12 Mythbusters: The Search
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Da Vinci's Machines
09:14 Mythbusters: The Search
10:02 Dangerman
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:38 How Do They Do It?
11:44 Factory
11:58 Strip The Cosmos
12:26 Da Vinci's Machines
13:14 Mythbusters: The Search
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Factory
14:50 Dangerman
15:38 Da Vinci's Machines
16:26 Strip The Cosmos
17:14 Mythbusters: The Search
18:02 Dangerman
18:50 Nextworld
19:40 Mythbusters: The Search
20:30 Invent It Rich
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Factory
22:10 Dangerman
23:00 Invent It Rich
23:50 Nextworld



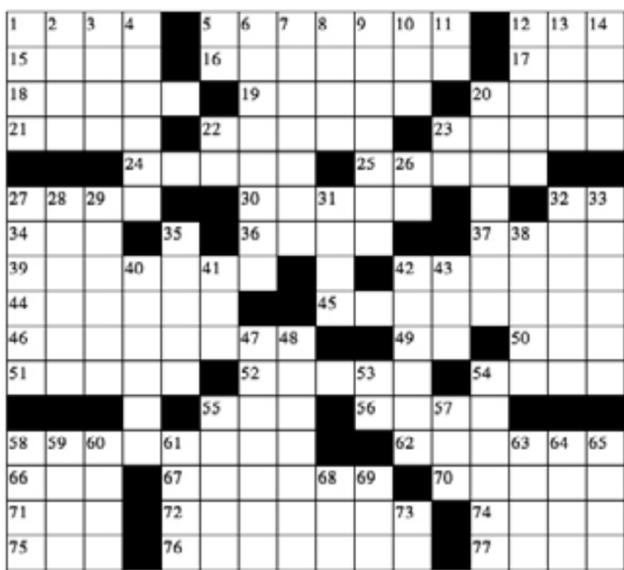
01:30 A Long Way Down
03:00 The Painted Veil
05:05 Wicker Park
06:55 Find Me Guilty
08:55 Che: Part Two
11:15 Terri
12:55 The First Time
14:25 A Long Way Down
15:55 Al
18:20 Cypher
20:00 Heartlands
21:30 First Snow
23:15 Ginger & Rosa



00:00 Black Box
01:00 Black Box
02:00 Mistresses
03:00 Fashion Star
04:00 MAFS: The First Year
05:00 Project Runway
06:00 Black Box
07:00 Black Box
08:00 Mistresses
09:00 Fashion Star
10:00 MAFS: The First Year
11:00 Project Runway
12:

Stars

CROSSWORD 1821



ACROSS

1. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
5. Extinct small freshwater jawless fish usually having a heterocercal tail and an armored head.
12. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
15. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
16. The body of faculty and students of a college.
17. (informal) Informed about the latest trends.
18. A pilgrim who journeys to Mecca.
19. Especially a leaf of grass or the broad portion of a leaf as distinct from the petiole.
21. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
24. A city in western Lithuania on the Baltic Sea.
25. South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
27. Informal terms for a mother.
30. A mountain peak in the southern Sinai Peninsula (7,500 feet high).
34. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
36. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
37. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
39. Having close kinship and appropriate-ness.
44. A large fleet.
45. An extinct Semitic language of northern Syria.
46. King of Sparta and hero of the battle of Thermopylae where he was killed by the Persians (died in 480 BC).
49. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
50. Electronic warfare undertaken under direct control of an operational commander to locate sources of radiated electromagnetic energy for the purpose of immediate threat recognition.
51. Usually paved outdoor area adjoining a residence.
52. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
56. A small cake leavened with yeast.
58. A desert in southwestern Africa - largely Botswana.
62. An attendant who carries the golf clubs for a player.
66. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
67. A plumbing fixture (usually attached to the wall) used by men to urinate.
70. A doctor's degree in musical arts.
71. A solution containing a phosphate buffer.
72. A spot that is open late at night and that provides entertainment (as singers or dancers) as well as dancing and food and drink.
74. Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
75. Made warm or hot.
76. A city in northeastern Ukraine.
77. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.

DOWN

1. Title for a civil or military leader (espe-

2. South African term for 'boss'.
3. The basic unit of money in Ghana.
4. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
5. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
6. The state of being of noble birth.
7. Of or relating to alleles.
8. Winning all or all but one of the tricks in bridge.
9. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
10. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
11. A Mid-Atlantic state.
12. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
13. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
14. The complete duration of something.
20. Italian physiologist noted for his discovery that frogs' muscles contracted in an electric field (which led to the galvanic cell) (1737-1798).
22. The square of a body of any size of type.
23. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
26. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
28. South American cavy.
29. Stocky coarse-furred burrowing rodent with a short bushy tail found throughout the northern hemisphere.
31. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
32. Sexual pleasure obtained by inflicting harm (physical or psychological) on others.
33. Grayish baboon of southern and eastern Africa.
35. (combining form) Indicating radiation or radioactivity.
38. Mated sexually.
40. A strong paper or thin cardboard with a smooth light brown finish made from e.g. Manila hemp.
41. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
42. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
43. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
47. Brazilian tree with handsomely marked wood.
48. Any meeting for an exchange of ideas.
53. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
54. An insane person.
55. (Old Testament) The wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac.
57. The cry made by sheep.
59. A French abbot.
60. Immediately past.
61. Toweling consisting of coarse absorbent cotton or linen fabric.
63. The outermost (and toughest) of the 3 meninges.
64. Goddess of fertility.
65. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
68. (Judaism) Sacred chest where the ancient Hebrews kept the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
69. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
73. Broadcasting visual images of stationary or moving objects.



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, you take stock of what things and people are actually worth. You will have opportunities to accumulate money and items during this new cycle; material wealth is significant to you now. Legacy is a priority; you focus on accumulating memories and things to be left behind. Home and family represent your inner most security goal; you long to have shelter from the storms of life. Marriage, contracts and partnerships are seen as keys to success and happiness and they have plenty of lessons to teach you. At some point today or this evening you may experience a sense of panic; will i be abandoned, will i reach my goals. Let these insecurities go and know that you will have all that you need and desire, Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, you could make a change in where you live or remodel your present home. There seems to be great enjoyment of food and drink; putting on pounds could be a problem at this time. Sexual relationships and monetary gain hold far too much importance to you; let your practical relationships speak to you. You want to push boundaries and may create a problem for yourself in doing so. Desiring a certain person could become obsessive due to the chemistry between you; be cautious. Monetary partnerships are indicated; making money and planning for the future are of utmost importance. Look more at your motivations than what is going on before your eyes. You are at a point of new beginnings and new self-awareness, Taurus.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, you may have a tendency to keep your head in the clouds today; the people around you demand your attention. Someone could accuse you of being unrealistic; you could find yourself in a difficult position. Most important now is your home, family, legacy. This afternoon, you may find yourself reflecting on your own youth or some event from the past. This is a perfect time to unite with others to reach realistic goals. Pay attention to your finances so that what is spent matches what is made; live within your means. An interesting article in the news paper or on the internet will tell you something you needed to know. You could hear from friends this evening involving a fun outing; relax and enjoy a little free time, Gemini.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, you may want to make improvements to your home; be mindful of your budget! You will see that the quality of life is better than ever. Putting your nose to the grindstone will come with relative ease and successful outcomes today. For once you allow yourself to work smarter not harder when you realize how much more you can get done. You could have some absorbing flashes of thought regarding sensitive issue. You will catch the vibes of those you work or live with as you enjoy spending time with them today or this evening. More than ever, you consider a home and family to be your safe place. If you find that your head is in the clouds, relax and let this work to relax you at the end of this very busy, productive day, Cancer.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, your home is the place you hold dear above all other places; your legacy grows more important each year. You love being held in high esteem and viewed as someone who makes a difference. You want to achieve much and you want to do it in the best way possible; work smarter not harder comes to mind. You have no room for fiction or fantasy today and you are in a mood of making things happen in a realistic way; others depend on you for your foresight and enthusiasm. You may not be in a good position to teach or lead as this energy is low for you today. Focus on your happy home life and a new hobby you have started. Your evening will provide a perfect opportunity to observe and learn new ways to effect change, Leo.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, the energy is good for lending support to your commitment to self-control. Your sensitivities may threaten to boil over and spill all over your day; instead pause and close your eyes for a moment. You could have a new idea about a new recipe for healthier eating. There are lots of opportunities for active communications with like-minded people. Try not to push your high expectations of yourself onto others; this could cause more problems than you need. You long to leave a good respectable legacy for loved ones to enjoy after you're gone. Others could become upset if you mention what you may or may not leave them in a will. Leave room for dessert tonight and you could find yourself being treated to dinner by a special friend, Virgo.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, the new year brings an eagerness to help those less fortunate; this could indicate people or animals but you feel a determination to make a difference in the world. The karma you build now is important as it could also serve to pay off old karmic debt. You jovial, lighthearted mood creates a fun environment for coworkers and even bosses! You won't be interested in theories or maybes today; only facts and documentation will do for the matters at hand. Home is where your true happiness and comfort lie for today and tonight; your sanctuary from the world and the rat race. Your intuition is right on today and you should take heed to what it is telling you. You will stand out in the crowd tonight when you and a date show up for a low-key dinner, Libra.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, this morning in a meeting you will make a very important point. You will need to make an effort to stay out of a friend's drama; you have been there and done that. You want something that is yours and yours alone, not to be shared with the world or anyone else in it. Your head may not be right for making decisions just now concerning anything important; patience the time is coming. New prospects for future work could become known. Your artistic outlet is less common than most but it could attract some attention soon; perhaps your work will appear in an art crawl or coffee house concert. Laughing is more fun with two. Tonight could be the beginning of a new favorite meal and you could share it with someone you care for, Scorpio.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, your chart indicates that you will continue your commitment to being the best you can be in the areas of health, spiritual and mental growth. You attract people that are headstrong and confident. A temptation may arise that threatens your good sense. You could feel uncomfortable in your own skin and want to keep to yourself doing whatever you want to do today. You may find you need to reconsider some decisions you have made in the domestic area. If there is a problem with finances, these can be solved easily open your eyes. If you are approached in an aggressive way be sure to step away for a few moments before you respond. Each person is different; do what is best for you. Again, exercise control in all things, Sagittarius.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, you desire security; a personal, close forever relationship, your fortress on the hill. You won't approve of a person's impractical treatment of a problem. This person does not think as you do and you may find yourself at odds. The timing couldn't be better for reaching out to others with innovative ideas; you feel animated and energetic. You will be chatty and jovial today. New concepts and strategies seem to materialize from thin air. You could speak to an older person regarding your personal and private circumstances; mutual respect grows from this interaction. This is a great time to return emails, letters or calls; a visit from you would be welcome. Unwind this evening with a friend and rest well, Capricorn.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Aquarius, you could find your friends in need of your expertise. You are more into an innovative approach with less traditional methods at the forefront. Events requiring reworking and new plans crop up unexpectedly. What matters most to you right now is bringing your spiritual journey closer to your physical experience. Intuition will take a front seat throughout this cycle; you will have to use caution at first, then you will fly! Home is your safe place today and you will find a certain project will be easier than you thought. Take a few moments with your spouse or lover to express your true feelings. An answer will be discovered this evening. This evening you should definitely enjoy being off the clock and comfortably at your home, Aquarius.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, only the truth will work for you as you discover that a new mission has been laid in your lap. Back stabbing and carrying tales will ignite your temper and you will more than likely let it be known. Now is not the time to seek approval from everyone around you; being upright and honest is more important than being liked or agreed with just now. This could be the perfect time to begin that new painting or book you want to create! You could stumble across a new and interesting, actually doable, diet that appears to be just what you have been looking for. Remember to do things for people for the sake of doing them and not for praise; assess your motives. Your words will make sense and be very easy to listen to when you address a small audience, Pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Moods & Emotions 1

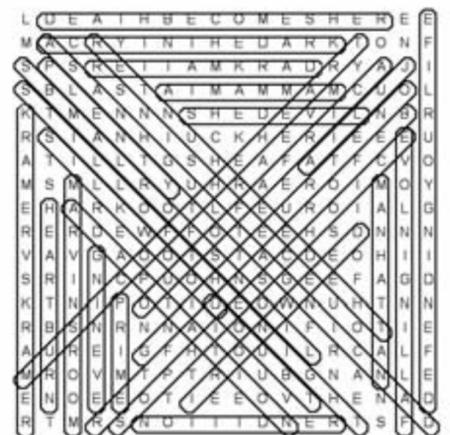
Find and circle all of the word that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 12 letters spell an additional word.



- | | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| AFRAID | ELATION | JADED | PEACEFUL |
| AGITATED | FURIOUS | JOVIAL | PLEASED |
| ANGUISH | GENIAL | LONELY | REMORSE |
| BLUE | GLOOMY | LOVE | SOMBER |
| BORED | GROUCHY | MELLOW | SUNNY |
| CHEERY | HELPLESS | MERRY | SYMPATHY |
| DARK | HOPEFUL | MISERY | UNEASY |
| DOWN | HUMILIATED | OFFENDED | UPBEAT |
| DREAD | HURT | ORNERED | WEARY |
| EDGY | IRKED | PANIC | |

Yesterday's Solution

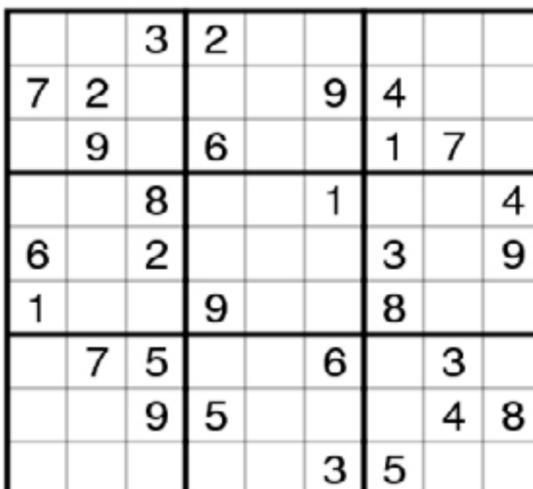
Meryl Streep Movies



- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| A CRY IN THE DARK | HEARTBURN | OUT OF AFRICA |
| ADAPTATION | IRONWEED | PLENTY |
| BEFORE AND AFTER | JULIA | PRIME |
| DANCING AT LUGHNASA | KRAMER VS. KRAMER | RENDITION |
| DARK MATTER | LIONS FOR LAMBS | SHE-DEVIL |
| DEATH BECOMES HER | MAMMA MIA | SILKWOOD |
| DEFENDING YOUR LIFE | MANHATTAN | SOPHIE'S CHOICE |
| DOUBT | MARVIN'S ROOM | STILL OF THE NIGHT |
| EVENING | MUSIC OF THE HEART | THE DEER HUNTER |
| FALLING IN LOVE | ONE TRUE THING | |

The hidden movie is: LEMONY SNICKETT'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Classifieds

Monday, January 29, 2018

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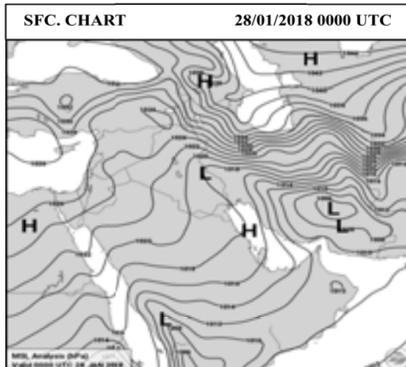
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Cool with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h.

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

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	19 °C	11 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	18 °C	06 °C
ABDALY	18 °C	05 °C
BUBYAN	19 °C	-- °C
JAHRA	20 °C	07 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	20 °C	09 °C
SALMIYAH	20 °C	12 °C
AHMADI	19 °C	10 °C
NUWAISIB	21 °C	08 °C
WAFRA	20 °C	07 °C
SALMY	17 °C	04 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	01/29	Cool	18 °C	05 °C	NW	12 - 32 km/h
Tuesday	01/30	Cool	18 °C	04 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	01/31	Cool	19 °C	05 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h
Thursday	02/01	Fair	20 °C	03 °C	NW-VRB	10 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	05:17
Sunrise	06:40
Zuhr	12:01
Asr	15:02
Sunset	17:23
Isha	18:42

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	22 °C
MIN. Temp.	11 °C
MAX. RH	69 %
MIN. RH	34 %
MAX. Wind	N 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

NOTICE
 January 21, 2018

Mr. Vijayakumar Vasudevan son of late Mr. Vasudevan Kunjet, Indian national, resident of, Udaya Vilasam, East Maranadu, Maranadu PO, Kollam, Pin:691505, Kerala, and Ms. Ma.Joy Juston Cemine daughter of Mr. Narciso Cemine, Philippines national, resident of Camanaga, San Miguel Bohol, Philippines, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (attachecons@indembkt.org, wellaresction@indembkt.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965- 22550171, 00965- 22533125).

(Sarjeev Sakani)
 Attache (Consular) and
 Marriage Officer,
 Embassy of India, Kuwait.

Ph:00965-22550171-00965-22533125
 Fax:00965-22573910
 Email: attachecons@indembkt.org
 wellaresction@indembkt.org

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available for executive bachelor in old Reggaei. Neat and clean 3 BHK apartment. Interested may contact: 99990278. (C 5377) 29-1-2018

EMERGENCY
 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

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

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 29/1/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 29/1/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:01	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	MSC	405	Doha	23:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	MSC	411	Asyut	23:55
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50				
KAC	102	London	00:50				
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55				
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55				
RJA	642	Amman	01:05				
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45				
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45				
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50				
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15				
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:15				
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20				
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30				
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30				
WAN	548	KTM	02:40				
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55				
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55				
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10				
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15				
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50				
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05				
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15				
KAC	418	Manila	04:25				
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25				
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35				
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50				
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55				
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10				
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20				
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25				
JZR	143	Doha	05:25				
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30				
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40				
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50				
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10				
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25				
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30				
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:40				
BAW	157	London	07:10				
KAC	332	Trivandrum	07:15				
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35				
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35				
JZR	503	Luxor	07:45				
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	08:00				
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00				
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05				
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05				
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40				
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00				
WAN	342	Sohag	10:15				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00				
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10				
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30				
WAN	134	Doha	11:55				
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55				
IAW	157B	Al Najaf	12:00				
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15				
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10				

Asian embassies participate in Asian Bazaar 2018



By Faten Omar

The Asian Bazaar 2018 kicked off on Saturday at the Palms Hotel in Al-Bidaa. A number of Asian embassies came together to promote Asia. Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang-Di stressed on how cultural exchange is important to strengthen ties between various countries of the world. He added that China is keen on developing closer cultural relations with Kuwait which date back years.

Di expressed satisfaction at the cultural ties with both the countries and pointed out that this exhibition has been the first Asian Bazaar in Kuwait to showcase tourism, culture and Asian business in cooperation with 10 Asian embassies organized by C network of Palms Hotel and spa.

He said that the aim of the exhibition is to create a platform for local and Asian businesses to showcase and promote their products and services in the Kuwaiti market and to connect businessmen in the two countries, introducing them to the available investment opportunities. He praised the contributions made by Asian embassies to help connect Kuwaiti and Asian communities together.

The bazaar showcased not only diversity, cultural and historical depth of different Asian countries, but also tourism opportunities, education services, consumer products, fashion, textiles, accessories and Asian restaurants. Ten embassies including Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Indonesia participated. Many travel agencies promoted Asian destinations, food and products and representatives from embassies were present to answer questions on trade and tourism. The event also saw many cultural performances.



Art experts fume at 'fake' Russian art in Belgian museum

An exhibition at a state museum in Belgium featuring previously un-seen Russian paintings has sent ripples through the art community, with some experts claiming the works are "fake". Twenty-six works supposedly by famous avant-garde artists, including Kazimir Malevich and Wassily Kandinsky, have been on display since October at the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent, on loan from a collector named Igor Toporovski who insists they are genuine. When photographs of the pieces appeared online they caused a storm, leaving art experts in Russia and abroad questioning whether such a prominent collection of unknown works by highly sought-after artists could have amassed in secret.

"He showed outright fake works," Vitaly Patsyukov, who curates Moscow's State Centre of Modern Art, said of the collector. "These are clearly fakes, they are compiled from fragments (copied from real paintings)." Some of the pieces indeed bear resemblances to known works. For example, a standing nude allegedly by Vladimir Tatlin depicts a strikingly similar pose to an established painting of a seated nude. An open letter by a group of art historians last week cautioned that the paintings are not in any known catalogues, suggesting the museum removes the works until all questions about their provenance are sufficiently addressed.

On Wednesday, the museum published a statement on its website saying it had "followed the usual procedures for incoming loans and carried a thorough art historical and comparative investigation into the works". It had discussed the provenance of the works with their formal owner, Toporovski's Dieghem Foundation, but said it stopped short of laboratory analysis which is standard practice "only in the case of acquisitions". Toporovski has maintained that his collection is genuine, calling the experts' letter an "unjust attack" guided by art merchants who want to preserve their commercial interests. Yet the controversy prompted the museum to "establish a committee of experts" with the Flemish culture ministry and Ghent city hall "to restore peace in order for the museum to concentrate on its main duties," in the words of deputy mayor Annelies Storms.

'Inconceivable' collection

The scandal could have been avoided had the museum consulted notable experts in the field, according to Andrei Sarabyanov, an art historian and curator of the Avant-garde Centre at the Jewish Museum in Moscow. "To make an exhibit with questionable works is just shameful," he told AFP. "Maybe they have a hostile attitude towards experts, but it would be logical to ask, to show photographs," he said, calling the case unprecedented. "There have been exhibits with bad works in private galleries before, but never at a state museum," he said.

Collectors and historians agree that counterfeit art is a problem that has particularly affected the Russian avant-garde, a revolutionary peri-



A member of staff poses for pictures next to a painting by Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky titled 'Herbstlandschaft' at Christie's auction house in central London, on September 12, 2013. —AFP

od spanning between 1890 and 1930 which has been in fashion for several decades.

Real Russian avant-garde art is rare on the market, and most works are well known, said British collector and art historian Matthew Bown, who specializes in 20th-century Russian art. He said he was offered a real Malevich only once in his 30-year career, but is regularly offered fakes. "Even if you are the richest oligarch in Russia, the richest man in the world, if you're Jeff Bezos of Amazon or Bill Gates or whoever, you would not be able to put together a collection like this," he told AFP. "It's completely inconceivable."

When fake art is exhibited in a prominent museum, it not only boosts the value of the piece but also "begins to mess up art history for art historians," he said. With an aura of authenticity around fake works, "the story of the artist begins to get distorted." Sarabyanov went as far as to suggest the incident in Ghent could have been orchestrated to manipulate the art market. "Over the last decade, prices on avant-garde art fell because of fakes, but rose again in the last two years," he said. "Perhaps this is a cunning move to drop them again." —AFP

'Beetle Bailey' comic strip creator dies aged 94

Mort Walker, the artist and creator of the decades-long running comic strip "Beetle Bailey" about the antics of a work-shirking Army private, died at his home Saturday, his family said. He was 94.

His son Greg Walker, who co-wrote the strip with his father in his later years, said his dad died at his home in Stamford, Connecticut, of pneumonia while recovering from a broken hip. Mort Walker drew his daily award-winning comic strip for 68 years, longer than any other comic strip artist, his son said. "He was drawing up to the end," Greg Walker said. "He holds the record. I don't think anyone will beat him."

His strip debuted in 1950 with Beetle as a college student, but Mort Walker had Beetle enlist in the Army in the first year of the cartoon and it was a hit. Picked up by King Features Syndicate, it went from a 12-newspaper run to eventually reaching 200 million readers in 1,800 newspapers worldwide, King Features' website says. The lanky slacker Pvt. Beetle, along with his foils Sgt. Snorkle and Gen. Halftrack, inhabit the fictional Camp Swampy inspired loosely on Mort Walker's experience of Army life in World War II.

But Beetle and his friends never saw battle in the strip and he seemed to be in perpetual training. They have been featured in a television cartoon series, games, books and postage stamps. Greg Walker said his father, along with "Peanuts" and Charlie Brown creator Charles Schultz, pioneered the gag-a-day format of comic strips, breaking form the serial story lines of the day.

"Serial strips were dominant and this was something new," he said. "It's now the standard." Mort Walker was also a co-creator of the long-running strip "Hi and Lois" about a suburban American family, which continues today, written and drawn by his sons Greg and Brian Walker and also artist Chance Browne. Greg Walker said that Beetle and his friends will go on in the funny pages as a legacy to his father. "He certainly was an icon, the last cartoonist of the golden age of comic strips," he said on his Facebook page. — Reuters



Benin's Pendjari National Park comes back to life



A herd of elephants feed around the waterhole in late afternoon at Pendjari National Park near Tanguieta. — AFP photos



A kop antelope and western hartebeest calves cross a road at Pendjari National Park near Tanguieta.

Jean-Marc Froment leant against a railing at the lodge in Pendjari National Park in Benin's far north, and spotted about 40 elephants drinking at a large water hole. Almost in slow motion, a group of adults—their trunks and ears pointing forward—chased away two female lions watching nearby and stood in the way of other predators so their young could quench their thirst in safety. "See how they're arriving calmly? That was unthinkable a couple of months ago. They were still very nervous," said Froment, the head of conservation for African Parks. Froment, who is originally from Belgium, moved to Benin four months ago and has spent his working life across Africa, helping countries to protect their national parks, which have often been destroyed by decades of conflict.

Benin isn't at war. But Pendjari, situated more than 12 hours by road from the economic capital Cotonou on the Atlantic coast, has suffered years of political and economic neglect. The 4,700-square-kilometre (1,814-square-mile) park is one of three straddling the borders of northern Benin and neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger. It's one of the last sanctuaries of untamed wildlife in West Africa, whose flora and fauna have been forgotten since French colonial days. Pendjari has suffered poaching of elephants for ivory, illegal hunting and tree felling.

Jose Pliya, the director of Benin's National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and Tourism Development (ANPT), said the park was "dying a slow death". The government set up the ANPT to speed up the implementation of new projects, with President Patrice Talon having made tourism a key priority of his five-year tenure. "The head of state often compares Benin's rich heritage and culture to untapped oil deposits," said Pliya. Only about 200,000 visitors came to Benin in 2014-15 but Talon has an ambitious aim to attract one million

between now and 2021 and create 100,000 jobs in the next decade. "We're working on six projects across the country and at the moment Pendjari is the furthest forward," said Pliya.

'It's all to do'

To bring a park of such a size back to life, Benin has needed to find investors willing to put in \$26 million (21 million euros) over 10 years. The government has committed itself to up to \$6 million. In Rwanda, gorilla conservation programs have made tourism a leading money-spinner, bringing in \$400 million in revenue in 2016. Benin wants to follow suit.

“The increase in wildlife will be our sign of success”

"The increase in wildlife will be our sign of success," said Froment, whose non-profit employer has been given the task of managing Pendjari. There are currently only estimates of the number of lions, buffalo and hippos but a census is being undertaken, using a microlight plane flying at low altitude.

"There was no way of flying in the park before. But it's a must. From the sky you can see carcasses, forest fires, poachers," said pilot Stephane Carre. The habits and movements of the wild animals also need to be understood. Collars with satellite tracking devices have been fitted onto a number of elephants and lions. That will help determine where to deploy

some of the 60 or so new rangers who have been trained to protect the animals, and also where to build lodges and new airstrips for tourists. Whether the park will aim at travellers from the luxury market or a younger, backpacker clientele is unclear at the moment, said park director James Terjanian. "It's all to do, that's what's exciting about it," he said.

'Minister for Pendjari'

The biggest challenge in an impoverished, densely populated region is acceptance from people in surrounding villages, whose residents already suffer restrictions. "They can't go to farm or fish" in the park, said Djaleni Djatto, who handles relations between the park and local communities. Development will be a non-starter if locals don't benefit economically. As well as creating direct employment in tourism, African Parks is looking at developing beekeeping to export honey and also making shea butter for the cosmetics industry.

About 1,000 children from villages around the park have visited since May last year. Among the latest were about 30 primary school pupils, who arrived in a minibus in early January, their eyes fixed on the bush. The sun had only been up for about two hours and the hot, dry air was falling on a large pool where a heron was hunting fish from the back of a hippopotamus. The children, in worn clothing and mismatched sandals, climbed onto a wooden platform and passed around binoculars to witness the scene. They lived just a few kilometers away but had never seen such animals. Abel, 13, said he had already decided what he wants to be when he grows up. "Minister for Pendjari," he announced. "That's what's going to have an impact," said Djatto. "Children who will now grow up with the idea that they can find other jobs and not just work in the fields." — AFP



Tented accommodation is pictured at the Pendjari Eco Lodge near Tanguieta.



African Parks veterinarian Pete Morkel (center) surrounded by rangers puts a collar on a tranquilized elephant at Pendjari National Park. — AFP

Germany's oldest bookseller, 95, packs suspense in last chapter

When Helga Weyhe began work at her beloved bookshop, the Red Army was on the march towards her east German town, Hitler still clung to power and Sartre had just published "No Exit". Fast-forward more than seven decades and the remarkably spry 95-year-old, Germany's oldest bookseller, swats away any talk of retirement, or even slowing down. Still staffing the store six days a week, Weyhe said books got her through two dictatorships and would see her through her last chapter too. "I started in 1944 and I'm still here," she told AFP with a smile, sitting in her back office stacked with handpicked volumes.

"I had lots of dreams when I was young but they always involved books," Weyhe represents the third generation of her family to run the shop, which has occupied the same spot since 1840. Her grandfather had the caramel-brown shelves built in the 1880s, when Otto von Bismarck ruled Germany. A tome about the life of the Iron Chancellor is propped among the political biographies, one of the specialties of Weyhe's eclectic selection ranging from French existentialists to German classics to Hollywood screenplays. Each volume in the shop carries Weyhe's endorsement, even if she hasn't read each cover to cover. She can't abide the towering identical stacks of the big chain stores. "You won't find mystery novels here either, not unless they're something special," she said sternly, reserving praise for Agatha Christie and German thriller writer Ingrid Noll.

'The most horrible thing'

With World War II still raging, Weyhe started working with her father Walter at his shop that still bears the



Bookshop owner Helga Weyhe poses in her shop in the German town of Salzwedel. — AFP photos

family name in the half-timbered house where they both were born. They ran it together under Soviet occupation and the East German communist state (GDR) and she took over in 1965, four years after the regime made them prisoners of the country behind the Iron Curtain.

"In the GDR the most horrible thing was getting used to it all, thinking: 'I won't live to see the day things change'," Weyhe said. That meant biding her time until East Germany's official retirement age—when travel restrictions for citizens were loosened—before she could go abroad to visit a favorite uncle, who ran a prominent bookshop on New York's Lexington Avenue. "Imagine what it's like as a young person having to wait until you're 60 to be able to travel," she said.

"Going to New York wasn't just any

trip—it was a dream come true." The Salzwedel shop is filled with pictures of the New York skyline, and a blue street sign with the address of her uncle's now-defunct store greets customers as they enter. Last year Weyhe accepted a lifetime achievement prize from the German Booksellers' Association, which officially proclaimed her the country's oldest practitioner of the trade. "When I won, I said this isn't mine alone, it's for my family which has held on here for so long," she said.

She said Salzwedel, population 25,000, lying 200 kilometers (120 miles) northwest of Berlin, has long punched above its literary weight thanks to her shop. "I try to have books that amaze people and make them say 'you sell that in this little town?'" Weyhe said. "That is why I draw cus-



A woman looks into the window of the Weyhe bookshop, owned by Helga Weyhe, in the German town of Salzwedel.

tomers from far away—I like to say my clientele is from Boston to Bangkok," she added with a grin.

Not a 'missionary'

Longtime customer Klaus Schartmann, a pastor, believes Weyhe has a rare gift for sizing up a reader. "She always hits the nail on the head with her recommendations—from children's books to adult literature," the 78-year-old said. "And we're happy because you don't really find that in German bookstores anymore—only in Salzwedel." In the land where Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 15th century, customers are increasingly going online for their book purchases, with sales rising more than five percent in 2016. Meanwhile bookshops, particularly those on high streets rather than in shopping

malls, saw a one-percent decline in turnover, continuing a decade-long trend, according to industry data.

Weyhe believes in the power of books to edify and uplift, as the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party makes major inroads in the region. Although she doesn't see her shop serving a "missionary" purpose in leading customers away from political extremes, she does make a point of selecting books that open minds. "In the post-war years I mainly stocked German history books so people here would know what actually happened," she said. "I simply don't sell the kind of books now that strengthen the AfD," she said, pointing to recent best-sellers that whipped up fears of mass migration. — AFP

JAY-Z MAKES PEACE WITH GRAMMYS AS HE IS HONORED AT CLIVE DAVIS PARTY



American rapper and businessman, Shawn Corey Carter, known professionally as JAY-Z, acknowledges his Industry Icon award during the traditional Clive Davis party on the eve of the 60th Annual Grammy Awards in New York. — AFP photos



American singer and actress Jennifer Hudson performs during the traditional Clive Davis party.



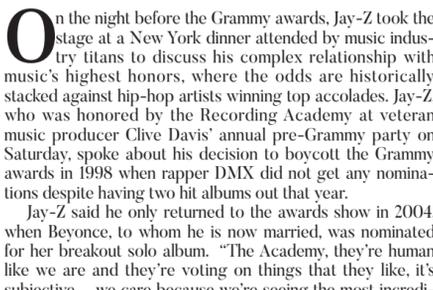
Recording artists Beyoncé and Jennifer Hudson attend the Clive Davis party.



Rapper Khalid performs during the traditional Clive Davis party.



Singer John Legend (right) and Model Chrissy Teigen.



American singer-songwriter, arranger, musician and producer with a career who has spanned more than 50 years, Barry Manilow, performs on stage.



Rapper Logic performs during the traditional Clive Davis party.



Chinese concert pianist Lang Lang.



Puerto Rican Singer Luis Fonsi performs his song "Despacito".

scathingly detailed by Beyoncé in 2016's "Lemonade," as well as searing commentary on race in America. The rapper has won 21 Grammy awards over his career.

In 60 years of the Grammys, only two hip-hop albums have ever won album of the year: Lauryn Hill's "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" in 1999 and Outkast's "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" in 2004. Brooklyn native Jay-Z, real name Shawn Carter, made his breakout with 1996's "Reasonable Doubt" and has become one of the best-selling US musicians and respected rap lyricists. He was honored on Saturday for not only reshaping rap over his career but also as an entrepreneur, including reshaping the music business with his streaming service Tidal. Singer Alicia Keys said Jay-Z's music was "the soundtrack to my life" growing up and she sang a medley of his hits including "Hard Knock Life," "Encore" and their New York anthem, "Empire State of Mind." — Reuters



Singer and model Cassie Ventura.



Cuban-American singer and songwriter Camilla Cabello.



Broadway singer Ben Platt performs on stage.



Rap group Migos performs on stage.



Singer Pink arrives for the traditional Clive Davis party.



Albanian singer and actress Bleona.



American rap mogul Sean Combs also known as Puff Daddy, P. Diddy, Puff, Puffy and Sean John.



American broadcast journalist and television host Tamran Hall arrives for the traditional Clive Davis party.



American hip hop recording artist and DJ, Grandmaster Flash.



American singer, songwriter, record producer, pianist, Alicia Keys performs.



Gladys Knight, known as the "Empress of Soul", performs on stage.



American actor and singer Leslie Odom Jr performs on stage.

Lifestyle | Music & Movies

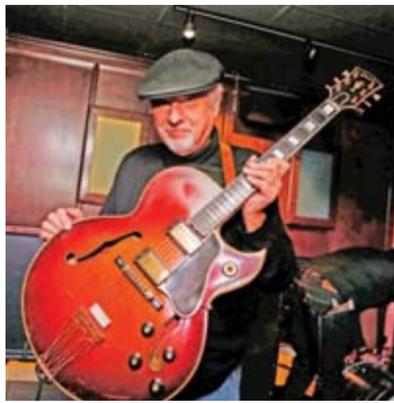


City of Detroit's chief storyteller Aaron Foley poses in downtown Detroit in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP photos

In Detroit, Motown nights are reborn

Five years after Detroit declared itself bankrupt, nightlife in Motown is hopping again. Nightclubs and bars mixing the Midwestern city's African American musical heritage and a bubbling new creativity are sprouting up like mushrooms. And even Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul herself, wants a piece of the action unfolding from Corktown, behind the city's train station, through Midtown and all the way to the business district. Pop-up restaurants in local watering holes compete with live music venues offering rock, pop, dance, hip-hop, jazz, funk and folk in a vibrant cocktail reflecting the city's indelible influence on the American music scene.

"Detroit is on a boom right now," said Troy Ramroop, owner of The Grasshopper Underground, an electro music club that has produced several hip DJs. He said that not long ago, clubbers in Michigan had to go to Chicago or New York to party all night. "But now you can drive 20 minutes and find it," said Ramroop. "You have a lot to do here in the city. It's always been (that) music is everywhere. It's good music," said club-goer Shari Staples, who was hanging out at the Northern Lights Lounge on a cold January night. The downtown club features performances by Dennis Coffey, one of the guitarists with The Temptations—an icon of the Motown record label in the 1960s and 1970s. "You get a lot of musicians. That's the heart of the DNA in Detroit," said Coffey.



Dennis Coffey plays at Northern Lights Lounge.



John Douglas Quartet performs at Bert's Marketplace located in Eastern Market.



Graeme Flegenheimer, owner of EL Club Detroit poses in Detroit, Michigan.

cultural scene by supporting artists. He is working on a project that aims to turn museums and churches into nightclubs.

"In America, we don't have the cultural funding that France has, or Denmark, for example," said Flegenheimer, who used to work in advertising in Los Angeles and left to open a spot called EL Club. The venue is located in refurbished warehouse space, with graffiti and street art streaking the walls. It is aimed at "all ages." EL Club has earned some street cred-cult movie director John Waters, known for films like "Pink Flamingos" and "Hairspray," celebrated his 71st birthday there last year. — AFP



Patrons listen to the John Douglas Quartet as they perform at Bert's Marketplace located in Eastern Market in Detroit, Michigan.

Well-lit streets

Working with a firm called Bedrock Real Estate, hometown girl Franklin—she of "Respect" fame—wants to open a club of her own, a live music and fine dining venue appropriately called Aretha's. The project is said to be in its infancy. This is all a far cry from the sad, ugly days when Detroit filed for bankruptcy protection in 2013, crushed by some \$18 billion in debt. From a musical standpoint, Detroit is now more like the city that was celebrated in Jack Kerouac's Beat generation novel "On the Road" and, through Motown Records, gave rise to stars such as Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, and Diana Ross and The Supremes.

To get all this done, the city and billionaire Dan Gilbert, owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team, have done tons of work to renovate the downtown area and lure banks like JPMorgan and companies such as Twitter, Microsoft, Nike and Whole Foods Market to set up shop there. Streetcars roll, new apartment buildings are popping up, and most streets are now well-lit, with surveillance cameras set up—some of them connected directly to police stations. The bottom line is that the city's population decline has slowed and crime is down. The number of homicides in 2017 was the lowest in 51 years. City Hall has created a program to help small businesses and formed a special nightlife task force. "You can't have a successful city if, you know, everybody just goes to work and goes home," said Aaron Foley, who has been hired to pitch the city in a position called "chief storyteller."

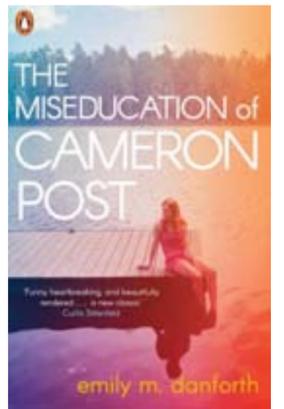
Trash

"I think more than anything the population density helps. There are a lot more people living down here in midtown," said Zach Tocco, business manager of the Majestic Theatre, a 1,100-seat concert hall that has seen the likes of Jimmy Cliff, Fela Kuti and Patti Smith. Ramroop's parties are popular, but still he says he is just getting by. "We've tightened up on our bookings. We've cut our costs where we could and we survived," said the immigrant from South Africa. Graeme Flegenheimer, 26, wants to make his mark on the local

'Cameron Post' wins top prize at Sundance

The Miseducation of Cameron Post, a powerful drama about the real-life controversial practice of gay conversion therapy, came away with the top prize as the Sundance Film Festival wrapped Saturday. Starring Chloe Grace Moretz, it delighted and shocked audiences at its world premiere in the Utah mountains with its story of a teenage girl forced into therapy after being caught having a sexual encounter with the prom queen. "On behalf of the entire 'Cameron Post' team we want to dedicate this to the LGBTQ survivors of sexual conversion therapy," said Moretz.

"We just wanted to make this movie to shine a light onto the fact that it is only illegal in nine states out of the 50 states in this country to practice sexual conversion therapy." Its director Desiree Akhavan had pre-recorded an acceptance speech for the grand jury prize in Sundance's "US dramatic competition" section but it could not be played on a night beset by technical difficulties. "Kailash," about one man's crusade to end child slavery, won best US documentary while the US dramatic audience award—the second prize to the grand jury award—went to Andrew Heckler's "Burden." The US documentary directing prize went to Alexandria Bombach for "On Her Shoulders," a portrait of a Yazidi girl who survived sexual slavery at the hands of the Islamic State group—while the US documentary audience award went to "The Sentence." "Butterflies" came away with the grand jury prize for world drama while "Of Fathers and Sons," a study of jihadi radicalization in the home, from celebrated Syrian filmmaker Talal Derki, won the world cinema documentary competition. The Sundance Film Festival, founded by actor Robert Redford, is considered a showcase for independent and documentary films, and festival winners often go on to receive critical acclaim and Hollywood awards season glory.



Among the titles from the 2017 edition of the festival picking up trophies at Hollywood's various ceremonies are Jordan Peele's "Get Out," which played out of competition as a midnight screening. The dark comedy has four Oscar nominations, including best film, director and screenplay "Call Me by Your Name," which director Luca Guadagnino took to last year's Sundance, also has four Oscar nominations, including best picture.

Dee Rees's "Mudbound," picked up by Netflix for a considerable \$12.5 million at last year's festival, has Academy nods for adapted screenplay, supporting actress, cinematography and original song. "I love really how the entire community here at the festival is curious, adventurous and so eager to engage with one another in the dialogue," said Sundance Institute executive Keri Putnam. "But it all starts with the work. It's the work we see on the screens coming from such fresh, creative and independent perspectives."

Here is a full list of prizewinners from Saturday's awards:
US Drama
Grand Jury Prize: "The Miseducation of Cameron Post"
Audience Award: "Burden"
Directing: Sara Colangelo, "The Kindergarten Teacher"
Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award: Christina Choe, "Nancy"
Special Jury Award for Outstanding First Feature: Reinaldo Marcus Green, "Monsters and Men"
Special Jury Award for Excellence in Filmmaking: Reed Morano, "I Think We're Alone Now"
Special Jury Award for Acting: Benjamin Dickey, "Blaze"

US Documentary
Grand Jury Prize: "Kailash"
Audience Award: "The Sentence"
Directing: Alexandria Bombach, "On Her Shoulders"
Special Jury Award for Social Impact Filmmaking: "Crime + Punishment"
Special Jury Award for Creative Vision: "Hale County This Morning, This Evening"
Special Jury Award for Storytelling: "Three Identical Strangers"
Special Jury Award for Breakthrough Filmmaking: "Minding the Gap"

World Cinema Drama
Grand Jury Prize: "Butterflies"
Audience Award: "The Guilty"
Directing Award: Isold Uggadottir, "And Breathe Normally"
Special Jury Award for Acting: Valeria Bertuccelli, "The Queen of Fear"
Special Jury Award for Screenwriting: Julio Chavezmontes and Sebastian Hofmann, "Time Share"
Special Jury Award for Ensemble Acting: "Dead Pigs"

World Cinema Documentary
Grand Jury Prize: "Of Fathers and Sons"
Audience Award: "This is Home"
Directing Award: Sandi Tan, "Shirkers"
Special Jury Award for Masterful Storytelling: Steven Loderidge, "M.I.A."
Special Jury Award for Editing: "Our New President"
Special Jury Award for Cinematography: Maxim Arbugaev, Peter Indergand "Genesis 2.0". — AFP

Balkan rocker Bregovic pens love letters to dream of Sarajevo

For Balkan rock star Goran Bregovic, his hometown and muse Sarajevo is more than a city. It's a metaphor for a multicultural way of life that can be torn apart by religious conflict. "What we see in Europe today, we saw first in Sarajevo: a neighbor, who one day is a good neighbour, the next day shoots you because you're of another religion," he tells AFP. "Sarajevo has always been my first metaphor. Today it's not just the name of a city. It's a metaphor for our times."

The 67-year-old dedicates his latest album, "Three Letters from Sarajevo", to fragile religious harmony as well as to his native city, the Bosnian capital. A demanding world tour this year will see the celebrated musician—known for fusing rock, gypsy brass and folk styles—perform his new songs on around 130 stages

with his Weddings and Funerals Orchestra. "I'm not someone who does video for YouTube, who does TV. I'm old-fashioned... I travel the whole world to introduce my album," he tells AFP with a smile at his studio in Belgrade, as lively trumpeting drifts in from the next room. His new tracks feature world stars including Israeli musicians Asaf Avidan and Riff Cohen, Algerian punk icon Rachid Taha and Spanish singer Bebe, alongside three pieces for violin and orchestra. The violin is also a metaphor, he explains, owing to its three principal and very different styles traditionally played by Christians, Jews and Muslims.

'Sisyphean task'

Guitar player Bregovic rose to fame in the 1970s with his progressive band Bijelo Dugme

("White Button"), one of the leading lights of rock in the former Yugoslavia. His buoyant scores for films by Serbian director Emir Kusturica, such as "Time of the Gypsies" (1988), helped to cement his role in the global popularization of Balkan music—as did his collaborations with Iggy Pop and other musical megastars. When Yugoslavia fell apart in a series of bloody inter-ethnic wars in the early 1990s, Bregovic, unlike a number of other artists, refused to take a side.

"My father was a Catholic Croat, my mother is an Orthodox Serb, my wife is Muslim," he says. "I was not in the position to hate anyone. I was sad for everyone else." In a scene from a 1991 documentary that he replays in the new album's trailer, a young Bregovic sits in central Sarajevo as music rings out from "mosques,



In this photo taken on November 19, 2016 Bosnian musician Goran Bregovic performs on stage at the Belgrade arena. — AFP photos

churches, cathedrals" at midday. "It would be a shame," he says in the video of the religious coexistence, "if it has to stop one day." "This was a video I made a year before the war. The sad thing is that there you see a young man saying that, but I'm doing the same thing at

67," he tells AFP. "More than 20 years later, I repeat the same thing in Three Letters from Sarajevo. "It's a Sisyphean task, but I feel that even this Sisyphean task makes sense. You have to work hard, push that stone... and maybe in the end it'll happen." — AFP

Lifestyle

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018



Dancers, known as "Kukeri", perform yesterday during the International Festival of the Masquerade Games in Pernik, near Sofia. The three-day festival, which started on January 26, has participants sporting multi-colored masks, covered with beads, ribbons and woolen tassels while the main dancer, laden with bells to drive away sickness and evil spirits, sways like a wheat spikelet heavy with grain. — AFP

Rare 'super blood blue moon' visible on Jan 31

A cosmic event not seen in 36 years—a rare "super blood blue moon"—may be glimpsed January 31 in parts of western North America, Asia, the Middle East, Russia and Australia. The event is causing a buzz because it combines three unusual lunar events: an extra big super moon, a blue moon and a total lunar eclipse. "It's an astronomical trifecta," said Kelly Beatty, a senior editor at Sky and Telescope magazine. A blue moon refers to the second full moon in a month. Typically, a blue moon happens every two years and eight months.

This full moon is also the third in a series of "supermoons," which happen when the moon is closest to Earth in its orbit. This point, called the perigee, makes the moon appear 14 percent larger and 30 percent brighter. During the eclipse, the moon will glide into Earth's shadow, gradually turning the white disk of light to orange or red. "That red light you see is sunlight that has skimmed and bent through Earth's atmosphere and continued on through space to the moon," said Alan MacRobert of Sky and Telescope magazine. "In other words, it's from all the sunrises and sunsets that ring the world at the moment." The alignment of the sun, moon and Earth will last one hour and 16 minutes, visible before dawn across the western United States and Canada. Those in the Middle East, Asia, eastern Russia, Australia and New Zealand should look for it in the evening, as the moon rises. Unlike a solar eclipse, this lunar eclipse can be safely viewed without protective eyewear.

How rare?

"We've had a lot of supermoons and we've had lunar eclipses, but it's rare that it also happens to be a blue moon," said Jason Auldenberg, associate professor of physics and astronomy at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's campus in Daytona Beach, Florida. "All three of these cycles lining up is what makes this unusual," he added. "It's just a wonder to behold." According to Sky and Telescope magazine, "the last time a complete lunar cover-up took place on the



second full moon of the month was December 30, 1982, at least as reckoned by local time in Europe, Africa, and western Asia—locations where the event could be seen."

That event also occurred at the moon's orbital perigee, making it an extra bright supermoon. Auldenberg said that by his calculations, the last time a supermoon, blue moon and total lunar eclipse all together were visible from the eastern United States was on May 31, 1844. According to Sky and Telescope, the last blue moon total lunar eclipse visible from

North America happened on March 31, 1866. "But on that date the moon was near apogee, its most distant point from Earth," it said. Lunar eclipses during a supermoon happen rather regularly.

The last one was in September 2015. Lunar eclipses occur at least twice a year. Supermoons can happen four to six times a year. The next supermoon lunar eclipse visible throughout all of the United States will be January 21, 2019 — though that one will not be a blue moon. — AFP

Bizarre news

Nutella discount causes riots

A supermarket caused a frenzy after slashing Nutella by 70 percent. The French chain Intermarche cut the price of the chocolate spread brand and hundreds of people rushed to the shop to stock up on as much as they could. A video was posted online showed the long queues forming outside as people patiently waited to get inside and get their hands on several jars of the spread. An employee told local media: "People just rushed in, shoving everyone, breaking things. It was like an orgy. We were on the verge of calling the police." The chain - who has now apologized to customers - usually sell Nutella for €4.50 but the discount jars were going for around €1.41 - equalling at around £1.24.



Unhygienic bellybuttons can lead to infections

Unclean bellybuttons can lead to cysts erupting. Bacteria from sweat, dead skin or dirt can be left to grow in the folds of skin and if personal hygiene isn't good, an unpleasant smell can turn into a combination of redness, itching and swelling. According to experts, the best way to avoid this condition - also known as candida - is to wash and dry the bellybutton area daily. Candida is also found in the armpits, groin or the bellybutton and left untreated erupting cysts, blisters and pus will form. Anyone with bellybutton piercings or are overweight are at an increased risk of getting the infection as the area is harder to clean, according to The Sun Online. —Bang Showbiz



Indonesian authorities run 'two-faced' car off the road

A double-ended car owned by a septuagenarian mechanic from Indonesia has been ordered off the road, but he has not given up on the quirky creation just yet. Roni Gunawan built the "two-faced" car with the help of colleagues in Bandung, West Java province, by welding together the front halves of two orange Toyota Limos. The head-turning vehicle—which took about three-and-a-half months to build—has two engines, two steering wheels and two sets of pedals.

Its dual features make it particularly easy to park, Gunawan told AFP. But the 71-year-old's dream has hit a serious speed bump: local authorities have ticketed him, saying he lacks the necessary permits for the modifications. Despite the setback, Gunawan has vowed to get the vehicle roadworthy so it can see another day. "I will not be making a second," he said. "It's new in Indonesia—two faces, two machines." — AFP



These pictures show double-ended car owned and built by 71-year-old Indonesian mechanic Roni Gunawan in Bandung, West Java province. — AFP photos