

3 Fire engulfs 7 stores in downtown Kuwait City



6 EU leaders tackle political flare-up over immigration



9 UK's Prince William in Jordan for historic Middle East tour



28 England thrash Panama, move into WCup last 16



# Saudi women take victory lap as driving ban ends

## Celebrations and tears as Saudi Arabia overturns ban

**RIYADH:** Saudi women celebrated taking the wheel for the first time in decades yesterday as the kingdom overturned the world's only ban on female motorists, a historic reform expected to usher in a new era of social mobility. The much-trumpeted move is part of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's plan to modernize the conservative petrostate.

Women in Riyadh and other cities began zipping around streets bathed in amber light soon after the ban was lifted at midnight, with some blasting music from behind the wheel. "I feel free like a bird," said talk show host and writer Samar Almogren as she cruised across the capital. Television presenter Sabika Al-Dosari called it "a historic moment for every Saudi woman" before driving a sedan across the border to the kingdom of Bahrain.

The lifting of the ban, long a glaring symbol of repression, is expected to be transformative for many women, freeing them from dependence on private chauffeurs or male relatives. "This is a great achievement," billionaire Saudi Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal said as his daughter Reem drove a family SUV, with his granddaughters applauding from the back seat. "Now women have their freedom," he added in a video posted on Twitter.

Euphoria mixed with disbelief as women posted online videos of driving themselves to work, their children to school and their friends for ice cream, all mundane experiences elsewhere in the world but a dazzling novelty in the desert kingdom.

"The jubilation, confidence and pride expressed by Saudi women driving for the first time in their country, without fear of arrest, brought tears to my eyes," tweeted activist Hala Al-Dosari, while lauding the jailed campaigners. "I'm happy and relieved that... girls in Saudi will live a bit freer than their mothers." But many women are keeping away, testing reactions in a society torn between tradition and social change-and bracing for a possible backlash from hardliners who have long preached that allowing female motorists would promote promiscuity and sin.

Authorities appeared to project that the reform had religious sanction, with the kingdom's top clerical council yesterday reiterating that the lifting of the ban was in line with Islamic values. The reform was catalyzed in large measure by what experts characterize as economic pain in the kingdom owing to a protracted oil slump. It is expected to boost women's employment and, according to a Bloomberg estimate, add \$90 billion to economic output by 2030.

For now, the women taking to the roads appear mainly to be those who have swapped foreign licenses for Saudi ones after undergoing a practical test. Some 120,000 women have applied for licenses, an Interior Ministry spokesman said, declining to specify how many had been issued. Some three million women could receive licenses and actively begin driving by 2020, according to consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Continued on Page 24



**JEDDAH:** Hala Hussein Alireza, a newly-licensed Saudi motorist, drives a car on a main road in the Saudi Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah yesterday. Saudi Arabia ended its longstanding ban on women driving yesterday - and the second the clock struck midnight, women across the country started their engines. — AFP

## Erdogan, ruling AK Party build a strong lead

**ANKARA:** Tayyip Erdogan and his ruling AK Party were heading for victory in Turkey's presidential and parliamentary elections yesterday, according to preliminary results, as the president sought to extend his 15-year rule. Although the margin of their lead narrowed steadily as votes were tallied across the nation of 81 million people, an AK Party official said Erdogan was expected to win more than the 50 percent required to avoid a runoff.

An unexpectedly strong showing by the AK Party's alliance partner, the nationalist MHP, could also mean Erdogan secures the parliamentary majority he seeks to govern freely. In early trading in Asia the lira currency firmed modestly against the dollar on the prospect of

increased political stability. However the opposition raised doubts about the accuracy and reliability of the figures released by state-run Anadolu news agency, the sole distributor of the official vote tally.

Erdogan's main presidential rival, Muharrem Ince of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) urged election monitors to remain at polling stations to help ensure against possible election fraud. Yesterday's vote ushers in a powerful new executive presidency long sought by Erdogan and backed by a small majority of Turks in a 2017 referendum. Critics say it will further erode democracy in the NATO member state and entrench one-man rule.

With 90 percent of votes counted in the presidential race, Erdogan had 53 percent, comfortably ahead of Ince on 30 percent, broadcasters said. Results being compiled by the Fair Election Platform, formed by opposition parties, also pointed to Erdogan winning the presidency in the first round with about 53 percent. In the parliamentary contest, the Islamist-rooted



**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, leader of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) gestures to supporters after casting his vote yesterday. — AFP

AK Party had 43 percent and its MHP ally 11 percent, based on 90 percent of votes counted, broadcasters said. In the opposition camp, the CHP had 22 percent and

the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) 10 percent - the threshold it needs to reach to enter parliament.

Continued on Page 24

## Government's absence foils a special session

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The government boycotted yesterday's planned special Assembly session resulting in cancelling the meeting, Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said, adding that the Assembly is scheduled to meet today. State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi said the government did not attend because the Assembly failed to coordinate ahead of the session. He said the government will attend today's other special session because of previous coordination and because a number of issues that were supposed to be debated had not been finished by Assembly committees and the government had not expressed its opinion about it.

Continued on Page 24

## Senegal, Japan play out 2-2 thriller



**YEKATERINBURG:** Japan's midfielder Shinji Kagawa (left) falls as Senegal's midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate (center) and forward Sadio Mane chase the ball during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group H football match between Japan and Senegal yesterday. — AFP (See Page 28)

## Special mobile apps monitor, protect maids

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** After the memorandum of agreement (MoA) between the Philippines and Kuwait was signed last month, a group of recruitment agencies (both local and Philippine-based agencies) has come up with the special mobile apps to monitor the situation of the workers in Kuwait. This was revealed yesterday by the visiting Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Administrator Hans Cacdac.

"The agencies have launched their own initiatives to monitor the workers through mobile apps. Allowing mobile phones and other communication gadgets is part of our President Duterte's request which was granted by Kuwait government in the MoA. This initiative is to check, monitor and safeguard our workers, besides our regular monitoring system being implemented by our office through POEA, OWWA and POLO all over the world," Cacdac explained.

There are four groups of NGO's



**KUWAIT:** Head of Philippines POEA Hans Cacdac (center) addresses reporters at the Philippines Embassy yesterday as the head of Philippines mission Nurdin Lomondot (right) and Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Rustico Dela Fuente look on. — Photo by Ben Garcia

(local and international recruitment agencies) who are providing free mobile applications that can be downloaded by the domestic helper once they are recruited and deployed in Kuwait. The groups include Advocates & Keepers Organization of OFW (AKO OFW-Middle East based-NGO), FILCRO, FIL-ASEAK and PHILAAK-CLAD. AKO OFW launched its mobile app 'Bantay OFW Mobile Application' in partnership with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) - coinciding with the culmination of the week-long celebration of this year's 23rd annual observance of 'Filipino Migrants' Day' last week.

"The mobile applications are set to monitor the situations of every OFW in Kuwait. This can be used to monitor their situations wherever they are. With those mobile apps, Household Service Workers (HSWs) can file complaints and their concerns. We are happy because we have motivated the local and foreign recruitment agencies to act immediately. The good thing about this is that those mobile apps are also linked with the offices both in Philippines and Kuwait," he stated.

The head of POEA is currently in Kuwait to check the situation and the implementation of the agreements.

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## Local

# Amir, Crown Prince receive Amiri speech committee's report

## Amir offers condolences over Addis Ababa, Zimbabwe over blasts' victims



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the report of the parliament's committee tasked with replying to the Amiri speech. — KUNA photos



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the report of the parliament's committee tasked with replying to the Amiri speech.**

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness then hosted chairman of the parliament's committee tasked with replying to the Amiri speech MP Dr Khalil Abul, and rapporteur of the committee MP Osama Issa Al-Shaheen where they submitted to His Highness the report of the draft committee, which contains the response to the Amiri speech for the second ordinary session of the fifteenth legislative term. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Ghanem and members of the parliament's committee tasked with replying to the Amiri speech, who presented to His Highness a copy of their report as well. His Highness the Crown Prince also received His Highness the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.

### Condolences

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent yesterday a cable of condolences to the President of Ethiopia Mulatu Teshome on victims of the explosion that accrued during a rally in Addis Ababa Saturday. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished mercy to the deceased and swift recovery to those injured in the attack. His Highness the Amir sharply condemned this criminal and heinous attack that targeted innocent people, breaching all heavenly religions and human values. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent cables of similar sentiments to the Ethiopian president.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to the President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa. His Highness the Amir expressed Kuwait's condemnation of the explosion that targeted an election rally in the city of Bulawayo, southwest the country, and left several people wounded. His Highness also reiterated Kuwait's denouncement of such heinous and criminal act that targeted innocents' lives and Zimbabwe's security and stability, wishing a swift recovery for the wounded. Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the Zimbabwean President. —KUNA



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.**



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.**

## KIB sponsors engineering students' graduation projects

**KUWAIT:** Under the umbrella of its leading social responsibility program, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) offered its sponsorship to a number of graduation projects developed by students from the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University. The bank aimed at supporting students who are taking part in the University's 34th Engineering Design Exhibition, which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in June.

Among the projects that KIB sponsored was the 'Gas Injection Simulation Using CMG Software' project, spearheaded by engineering students Ahmed Taqqi, Saud Al-Fareeh, and Sultan Duwaier. The project aims at developing a reservoir gas injection simulation to help determine the optimum minimum miscibility pressure for each reservoir, thereby increasing oil recovery and reducing time and effort. Additionally, the bank sponsored the 'Filter Examiner Efficiency' which was developed by engineering students Mohamed Bin Ali, Ali Al-Nozari, Mutlaq Al-Hajri, and Abdullah Al-Barak. The project is designed to improve the efficiency of air conditioner filters indoors. Another project the bank sponsored was 'Follow Me System', which was led by Azbi Al-Saeed, Faisal Al-Rowei, and Khaled Al-Abdullah. The project focuses on improving air traffic flow man-

agement by replacing chase cars that guide the pilot down safely with new LED technology designed to aid in aircraft landing and parking. KIB also sponsored the 'Casing Design for HPHT Deep Exploration Wells' developed by engineering students Dalal Bu Kabr, Zahraa Mujtahid, Reem Al-Qattan, and Sarah Al-Arada. The project aims at developing a cost-saving casing capable of withstanding high levels of pressure and temperatures in oil wells.

Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We always strive to support projects and innovative ideas that contribute to the community's development. Accordingly, KIB is committed to sponsoring projects developed by youth and adopting their ideas and innovations whenever possible. This stems from our belief that youth are the cornerstone to the advancement of the community and the nation's future development across different areas." Najia added that KIB continues to sponsor students' graduation projects at the annual Engineering Design Exhibition as part of its social responsibility initiatives aimed at supporting talented, ambitious youth. Each year, the bank selects a number of graduation projects to sponsor, as part of its leading social responsibility program.



## Kuwait to increase output after OPEC deal

**VIENNA:** Kuwait will increase oil output in line with a recent OPEC agreement to open taps for one million barrels per day (bpd), a deal that will have 'positive' impacts on markets, Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheed said Saturday. He was speaking after a meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers, who supported the agreement, and expected stability to be restored to oil markets in the wake of the deal. Kuwait, he added, was not looking for a specific price for the oil barrel but stability of oil markets, which served interests of producers and consumers as well as oil investors.

Rasheed said fluctuation of prices was not in interest of oil markets' stability nor long-term investment. He said Kuwait would increase its production in line with million-bpd increase agreement, to take effect next month, but the quota would be determined by a ministerial committee, co-chaired by



**VIENNA:** Kuwait's Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheed poses for a group picture with participants in the meeting of the OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers. — KUNA

Saudi Arabia and Russia. OPEC, and non-OPEC producers, with Russia on top, agreed in late 2016 to cut output by 1.8 million bpd to stabilize world oil markets. A six-month agreement came into effect on January 1, 2017, and was later extended for nine months as of July 1, 2017.

OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers concluded their meeting on Saturday, affirming

their accord on hiking the daily crude oil output by one million barrels. Speaking at a news conference, Saudi Energy Minister Khaled Al-Falah explained that the output hike would be distributed among signatory states according to each country's capacity. He indicated that some of the producers breached last year's agreement on lowering the production by 1.8 million bpd. —KUNA

## Security chief discusses cooperation with head of renowned think tank

**KUWAIT:** Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah held talks yesterday with the visiting Chief Executive of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Bahrain Thomas Beckett, on cooperation between the two sides. The bureau said in a statement that the two sides examined relations between the Kuwaiti department and the institute, means of boosting these ties, in addition to issues of common concern at the regional and international levels. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah meets with Chief Executive of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Bahrain Thomas Beckett. — KUNA



## Local

# Cabinet OKs New York Consulate, studies means for higher revenues

## Ministers view data on state financial liabilities, unsettled accounts

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet held its weekly session yesterday at the Cabinet Hall at Seif Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Highlights of the session included ministers' approval of opening a Consulate in New York, the United States of America, discussing means to increase state revenues, regretting Japan's latest earthquake and condemning the Addis Ababa blast.

The Cabinet's statement, read by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, said the session kicked off with the ministers inquiring about health of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, praying to God Almighty to grace him with good health so he may carry on with serving Kuwait and its people. The Cabinet approved opening a General Consulate at the level of Resident General Consul in the State of New York, the US.

Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, Managing Director of the Public Investment Authority (PIA) and sen-

ior ministry officials presented the executives with data on state financial liabilities, unsettled accounts, financial statements regarding the next generations' reserves and the general reserves for the duration ending on 31/3/2018, compared with the same duration in 2017, in addition to growth posted in the coming generations' reserves, assets and net income, plus "assets' geographical distribution."

### Ministers reassured on Defense Minister's health

The ministers studied means to enhance income, enriching financial reserves, creating new income resources, while urging government departments to intensify efforts to collect debts. The executives expressed satisfaction at the presentation. Moreover, they expressed admiration for the efforts, exerted by the Ministry of Finance and the PIA with respect of shouldering the assigned responsibilities, as well as the departments' staff keenness on preserving and enriching public funds. At another level, they approved a bill naming Lieutenant General Issam Salem Al-Nahham as Interior Undersecretary with an Excellent Degree. With respect of

#### Enhancing income

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**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

aviation, the executives went over construction of the back-up airport, due to open in a few days.

They scanned a report filed by Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services, Dr Jenan Boushehri, regarding development schemes for the Civil Aviation General Directorate, renovation at T1 terminal to cope with passengers' soaring numbers during travel season. They also reviewed construction of the other terminal, T4, due to open in the coming few days.

On the external front, the cabinet regretted the quake that hit Osaka, Japan, inflicting casualties, expressing solidarity and solace toward the friendly nation.

The ministers condemned the terrorist explosion that happened in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, targeting the premier, where a number of people were killed or wounded. They affirmed the State of Kuwait unwavering stance, rejecting all forms of terrorism, praying for the injured quick healing.— KUNA

## KD 558 million allocated for manpower authority

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Finance Ministry announced allocating KD 558 million for the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to cover the expenses of its merg-

er with the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program, as well as the costs of other development projects.

#### Health and nutrition

The Ministry of Health is currently preparing to set strict regulations for ads related to health and nutrition, said informed sources, noting that a special team was formed to review those ads and make sure the advertised products and materials are registered and allowed by the ministry to be circulated. The source added that the team would look into advertisers' applications within a month after applying to make sure the ads match the set conditions.

#### Mobile trucks

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan urged relevant authorities to provide new areas and locations for licensed mobile trucks so that the ministry could meet growing demand from entrepreneurs. Those demands became clear during a recent meeting between entrepreneurs and a committee comprising officials from Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, Public Authority for Civil Information, the Public Authority for Roads and Transport, the Public Authority for Manpower and the Touristic Enterprises Company.

## New trade union chairman officially recognized

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Following over two years of litigations, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) officially recognized Salem Shebeeb Al-Ajmi as the chairman of Kuwait Trade Unions Federation (KTUF) after the court of cassation issued a verdict in this regard. Commenting on the verdict, Ajmi thanked the judiciary and stressed that his board has earned the trust of state employees' syndicates and unions. Further, Ajmi stressed that the recent board elections of the farmers union were illegal as they were supervised by one of the annulled KTUF board members.

#### Blogger remanded in custody

The public prosecutor yesterday remanded Kuwaiti blogger Abdullah Al-Jasser in custody over charges of misusing his mobile phone and posting indecent content on social media. Notably, the defendant, commonly known as 'Abboodka', denied charges and stressed that his statements were not addressing the entire Kuwaiti people as stated in the charges, but instead were addressing certain people who he said had angered him by slandering his parents.

#### New service

The Customs General Department launched a new service to allow importing companies to pay custom taxes online, general manager Jamal Al-Jalawi announced. Speaking about the new service, Jalawi reminded of previous statements in which he stressed that 2018 would be a different year, adding that the customs department has full confidence in Kuwaiti staff members' potentials and capabilities. He also noted that those staff members had repeatedly proven their capability to achieve His Highness the Amir's vision to turn Kuwait into an international financial and commercial hub. Further, Jalawi said that the customs department was working around the clock to develop all land, marine and air custom exits using the latest technology.

#### Valid security card

MP Askar Al-Enezi criticized a directive issued by Ministry of Health (MOH) undersecretary about treating stateless people in public hospitals and clinics. "The directive conditioned that the patient should hold a valid security card, although minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah had repeatedly announced that bedoons with expired cards could receive medical treatment until the beginning of October," he exclaimed, wondering how MOH was run if both the minister and his undersecretary make two contradictory statements.

Accordingly, Enezi urged the minister to act immediately and undo the undersecretary's directive, which was made after MOH representatives met with the central apparatus for stateless people's affairs. He also rejected procedures that would further complicate matters and increase bedoons' burdens. "Medical treatment is a human right that should not be subjected to any restrictions," he underlined.

#### Expatriate staff

Kuwait Credit Bank managed to reduce its expatriate staff members from 18 to only four percent, the bank's manager Salah Al-Mudhaf said. On another concern, Mudhaf said that he had signed an agreement with Boubyan bank to electronically link both banks and do direct transactions and monthly payments.

#### Laparoscopic surgery

Al-Sabah Hospital announced conducting its first laparoscopic surgery to a 53-year-old patient who was suffering from diverticulitis, through which surgeons, headed by Dr Mohammed Al-Sulaimi managed to reconnect the patient's colorectal, clean his abdomen from pus and change his stool course. Commenting on the protocol followed, Dr Sulaimi stressed that it has limited possible complications, adding that the patient was discharged three days after the surgery, while he was in a very good condition when he checked with the OPD three weeks later. Notably, Dr Sulaimi holds the American Board in surgery from Miami University, the fellowship of Cleveland Clinic, and is currently a specialist surgeon at Al-Sabah Hospital.

#### Colleges' evaluation

A delegation from Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) yesterday left to India where it is scheduled to visit and evaluate India's engineering colleges and universities. The delegation includes KSE board member Ali Mohseni and the head of the society's engineering education committee Dr Mohammed Al-Awadhi, in addition to PAM's public relations manager Jaber Al-Ali and the information technology department manager Nasser Al-Mosawi.

## Fire burns seven stores in downtown

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A huge fire broke out in a five floor building on Fahad Al-Salem street in downtown Kuwait City

Saturday night. Firemen from Hilali, Shuwaikh industrial, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and the central fire stations rushed to the scene and found out that the fire had started in seven stores inside the building which is located on a

total area of 1,200 square meters. The building's tenants had to be evacuated as a precautionary measure until firemen controlled and extinguished the fire. No casualties were reported.



## Kuwait receives key accreditation for polio testing

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's health ministry said on Saturday that its polio laboratory has been approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the Middle East's main center for the testing of the viral disease. The acknowledgment comes shortly after WHO's Polio Eradication Program's regional coordinator Dr Humayun Asghar's visit to the lab. Dr Majda Al-Qattan, the ministry's assistant undersecretary of public health services, said in a statement. "Our facility has been approved by WHO as the regional laboratory for polio testing in the Middle East," she said, citing that Asghar was impressed by the progress and development of the lab. She pointed out that the lab had also garnered accreditations by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as well, which ensures the ministry's commitment to provide quality healthcare. — KUNA

## Deputy FM heads to UK for joint steering group meeting

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah headed yesterday to the United Kingdom to lead Kuwait's delegation at the 12th meeting of UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group, to be held between June 26 and 27. The Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting includes Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs

## Kuwait, Luxembourg enjoy excellent ties: Envoy

**BRUSSELS:** Kuwait and Luxembourg are two small countries but they are playing an active role for the promotion of global peace and stability, according to Kuwait's ambassador to the EU, NATO, Belgium and Luxembourg Jassem Al-Budaiwi. The ambassador

Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office, Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar.

The UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group was formed during His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to London in 2012. The group's membership includes a number of Kuwaiti and British state ministries and bodies. It holds its meetings alternately between Kuwait and London. Over the last six years, the joint group was able to take the historic Kuwaiti-British relationship to new prospects and boost their strategic partnership in various fields. — KUNA

added that he had the honor to meet with the Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg on Saturday during the reception to celebrate the country's national day. The Kuwaiti ambassador conveyed to the Grand Duke, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir's congratulations and best wishes for Luxembourg for more prosperity and welfare.

Budaiwi also participated in a luncheon hosted by Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn yesterday and conveyed to him Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's best wishes and congratulations. — KUNA



## Local

# KFH successfully concludes 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4' program

Bank received praise and recognition for successful Ramadan program



KFH volunteers participate in an iftar project in the Hawally governorate.

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has successfully concluded its comprehensive Ramadan program titled 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4'. The program included various social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and voluntary work initiatives.



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh

Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media at KFH, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh said that 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4' program aims at strengthening KFH's social role, while reinforcing ties with various segments of society, indicating the program was full of activities, events, visits and voluntary work that affirmed the pioneering role in assuming the social responsibility. He added that KFH will continue its efforts to support all activities of interest to the society in line with the bank's strategy and social responsibility message, especially in the Holy month of Ramadan.

He explained that KFH program in Ramadan encompassed a plethora of activities for all social segments, indicating KFH distributed over 27,000 iftar meals at 5 locations in different governorates. The bank participated in agreement with Nahtam voluntary team in 'Ramadan Aman' campaign to distribute 100,000 meals.

KFH organized iftar feasts to workers on duties during iftar time in recognition of their efforts and responsibilities. KFH signed a cooperation agreement with 'Agrivage': a startup business created by a group of Kuwaiti students, with the purpose of preserving the environment by recycling food waste and converting it into usable rich soil. The Bank collaborated with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs. This comes as part of KFH social responsibility and commitment towards the youth initiatives and the environment. 'Agrivage' initiative is considered as highly important especially in the holy month of Ramadan. KFH support to 'Agrivage' and the signing of the cooperation agreement as the first institution in the private sector confirms the great interest KFH attaches in the activities of interest to the environment in collaboration with the concerned parties.

KFH voluntary team worked tirelessly at different locations to meet the public directly. It conducted over 90 initiatives in 29 days. KFH distributed Ramadan gifts and confectionaries (girgian) at Discovery Mall, The Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, Kuwait Down Syndrome Society and Dasman Diabetes Institute. KFH organized a number of visits to health centers, hospitals and nursing homes to congratulate patients on the Holy month of Ramadan while distributing gifts. The bank held ghabga events for its staff and for the journalists and so many other events.

Ruwaieh concluded that KFH voluntary team provided voluntary services to the public and assisted civil defense and security men and distributing food and beverages to worshippers. KFH received praise and recognition for its efforts in organizing Al-Qiyam prayer and providing hospitality service to worshippers and the personnel in three mosques: the state's Grand Mosque, Saad Bin Abi Waqqas mosque and Alrashed mosque.



Children celebrate girgian at KFH's booth.



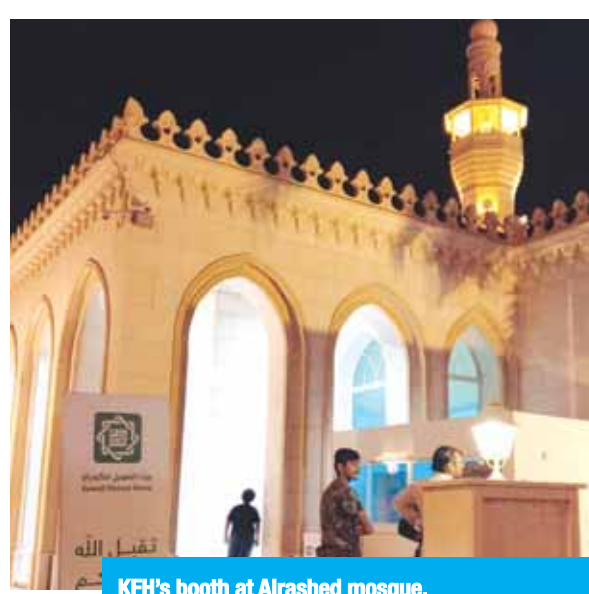
KFH volunteers prepare to distribute dates and water to drivers on sunset in Ramadan.



KFH employees distribute girgian to children.



KFH volunteers prepare iftar meals.



KFH's booth at Alrashed mosque.



KFH volunteers at the Grand Mosque.



# Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait City in 360 degree panorama. —KUNA

## Congratulations to Kuwaiti graduates!



By Lawrence R Silverman  
US Ambassador to  
the State of Kuwait

local@kuwaittimes.net

As the academic year draws to a close, I want to congratulate students graduating from US universities - Alf mabrook, Class of 2018! And congratulations to the parents who encouraged and supported you throughout your academic career and helped you reach this point. You earned what you have accomplished.

I like to say, "Study in the United States, Succeed in Kuwait." You bring back with you new skills to develop your own careers and new global connections that will benefit your country. You join tens of thousands of Kuwaitis before you who received a quality education in the US. Your education opens new possibilities for your lives and gives you a competitive edge.

You have also forged new ties with your educational institutions, faculty and fellow students. You are the latest links between our two countries and our peoples. I hope that you will share your experiences with others, including with the US Embassy, and if there are ways that we can work together to expand these connections and make the American educational experience even better, we hope you'll share those ideas, too.

Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." You, your families, and your government have invested in an education that goes beyond classroom walls. You have studied hard, met many people, and seen a wide variety of places. We hope that you return to Kuwait with new knowledge, ideas, and friends, ready to contribute to build Kuwait's future.

The United States welcomes Kuwaiti students. Through the US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue, our countries and our peoples will continue to work hand-in-hand to expand educational and research ties. We will strengthen our relationship and lift our countries up together. And you, new graduates, have a big part to play. Congratulations again, and good luck on your new endeavors!

## Kuwaiti media delegation visits Australia

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader welcomed the visit of the Kuwaiti media delegation to Canberra and New South Wales (Sydney), from June 24-30. Bader noted in a statement yesterday that the visit comes as part of cooperation between the Embassy, Kuwait's Ministry of Information, Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Walkley Foundation, adding that the visit's program aims at enhancing communication and dialogue between journalists in both sides.



Kuwait's Ambassador to  
Australia Najeeb Al-Bader

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti diplomat said the Kuwaiti delegation would meet Australian officials and media figures, including Australian Senate President Scott Ryan and Speaker of the House of Representatives Tony Smith. The Kuwaiti delegation includes director of the Asia, Africa and Australia media department at the Ministry of Information Mazen Al-Ansari, supervisor of the Asia, Africa and Australia media department at the Ministry of Information Jassem Al-Khabaz and researcher for foreign media in the Asia, Africa and Australia media department at the Ministry of Information Khaled Al-Asfar. It also includes head of archives and photography department at Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Mohammad Abdulkhalik and news editor at KUNA Mariam Al-Wuqayyan. —KUNA

## Int'l Music Festival honors late composer



KUWAIT: A performance featured during the International Music Festival in Kuwait. —KUNA

KUWAIT: The International Music Festival opened at Abdulhussain Abdulredha Theater Saturday by honoring late Kuwaiti composer Marzouq Al-Marzouq. The festival's first day included 13 songs, nine of them composed by Al-Marzouq. Dr Bader Al-Duweesh, Assistant Secretary General for Art in the National Council for Culture, Art and Letters, told reporters on sidelines of the event the festival was an opportunity to honor Kuwaiti musical figures. He paid tribute to Marzouq who had contributed over 100 songs in Kuwait. Marzouq (1946-2000) contributed to composition of songs beyond Kuwait and left an impact on an audience not only in Kuwait but in the Arab world. —KUNA

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The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).





In her own words: One Saudi Arabian woman on her 1st drive

## Britain’s Prince William in Jordan for Middle East tour

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BRUSSELS: European Union leaders pose for a group photograph at the start of an emergency European Union leaders summit on immigration at EU headquarters in Brussels. — AFP

# EU leaders tackle political flare-up

## Talks aim to mend rifts over burden sharing

**BRUSSELS:** EU leaders headed to Brussels for emergency talks yesterday over migration as Italy’s new populist cabinet turned away another rescue ship, vowing no longer to shoulder Europe’s migrant burden. The talks involving 16 of the bloc’s 28 leaders aim to mend rifts over burden sharing but also to shore up German Chancellor Angela Merkel, pressed by her own government to tighten her liberal approach to asylum. The meeting was called last week to clear the air before a scheduled full summit on Thursday and Friday.

With four eastern anti-migrant EU countries snubbing the meeting, Merkel and other leaders have downplayed hopes of an EU-wide agreement, saying smaller ad-hoc deals may be the only way forward. The urgency of finding a solution was highlighted by the plight of the Lifeline, the second rescue vessel left adrift in the Mediterranean after Italy and neighboring Malta refused it permission to dock.

The German charity operating the ship, which is carrying 239 Africans, yesterday took a swipe at Italy’s far-right interior minister Matteo Salvini over his reference in a Facebook post to its consignment of “human flesh”. “Dear Matteo Salvini, we have no meat on board, but humans,” it said in a statement. In a sign of the growing tensions within the EU, French President Emmanuel Macron suggested Saturday that countries who refused to pull their weight on accepting asylum seekers

should have their EU benefits cut. In a dig at Poland, Hungary, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, he said “countries that benefit massively from EU solidarity” could not invoke “national self-interest when it comes to the issue of migrants”. The four former communist states, who have ducked out of Sunday’s talks, have long been opposed to taking in migrants.

### Number one enemy

Macron also riled Italy, the main landing point for African migrants, by saying that the migration emergency, which peaked in 2015, had passed and was now mainly a political issue. “The immigration emergency continues in Italy, partly because France keeps pushing back people at the border,” Italian deputy prime minister Luigi Di Maio shot back on his Facebook page, warning Macron risked turning France into “Italy’s number one enemy” on the issue.

Since assuming office several weeks ago, Italy’s new government has refused to admit foreign-flagged rescue ships packed with hundreds of migrants. After turning away the



### Italian new populist cabinet turns away another rescue ship

Aquarius, which later docked in Spain, Rome vowed Saturday to block the Lifeline. Reflecting popular anger over the failure of EU members to shoulder more of the migrant burden, Rome has pledged not to take in any more asylum-seekers. Its stance has raised tension both with Germany and within Merkel’s coalition government, with EU diplomats saying the mini-summit is to help “save” the chancellor.

A populist backlash over her liberal asylum policy left Merkel weakened in elections last year. In the latest crisis, her new hardline interior minister Horst Seehofer has given her until the end of June to find a European deal to curb new arrivals. If that fails, he has vowed to order border police to turn back migrants, which means many will likely have to return to Italy.

### Schengen in danger

Under the EU’s so-called Dublin rules, asylum-seekers must be processed in the country where they first arrive, often Mediterranean countries such as Italy, Greece and Spain. EU

leaders last December had set the end of June as a deadline to reform the rules by establishing a permanent mechanism to relocate asylum-seekers throughout the bloc. With an agreement appearing elusive, Germany says it is now pushing for “bilateral, trilateral and multilateral” deals. Merkel convinced a reluctant Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to attend yesterday’s talks by telling him pre-written conclusions had been withdrawn, Italian officials said. The draft conclusions included calls to speed up returns to countries tasked with processing them, such as Italy, causing anger in Rome. EU diplomats and sources said the talks due to begin at 3 pm will also tackle how to further boost patrols on the bloc’s external borders.

Cooperation deals with Turkey and Libya, the main transit countries, have sharply cut, at least for now, the flow of migrants to Europe since a 2015 peak of over one million. The leaders are also to discuss proposals for centers in countries outside the bloc to separate genuine war refugees from economic migrants, who can be sent home. But with fears of new migrant surges in the future, diplomats warn the asylum reform impasse could destroy the EU’s signature achievement, the Schengen system of borderless travel. Rounding out the 16 leaders, EU officials said, are those from Austria, Greece, Malta, Bulgaria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Croatia, Slovenia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Luxembourg. —AFP

## Zimbabwe vows vote to go ahead despite rally blast

**BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe:** The blast that rocked a ruling party campaign rally in which Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa narrowly escaped unharmed, has plunged the country into uncharted waters a month before the first elections in the post-Robert Mugabe era. But authorities yesterday ruled out delaying the polls as police said 49 rally goers, including the country’s two vice presidents, were injured in the attack, some of them seriously. Mnangagwa has called for calm after the blast which went off “inches” away from him.

Footage circulating on social media showed an explosion and plumes of smoke around the president as he walked down stairs from the podium at the city’s White City stadium in the second largest city of Bulawayo. Mnangagwa said he was the target of the attack, which also injured Vice-Presidents Kembo Mohadi and Constantino Chiwenga, and which the state media is describing as an assassination attempt. The device “exploded a few inches away from me”, the president told state broadcaster on Saturday night, blaming the attack on his “mortal enemies”.

“These are my mortal enemies and the attempts have been so many”. “It’s not the first attempt (on) my life. I’m used to it. Six times my office has been broken into; cyanide was put in my offices so many times.” The polls in five weeks will be the first since Zimbabwe’s veteran leader Mugabe resigned following a brief military takeover in November last year after 37 years in power. While investigations are under way, the government has ruled out a delay in the



BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Injured people are evacuated after an explosion at the stadium in Bulawayo where Zimbabwe President just addressed a rally. — AFP

July 30 elections. “As for the elections being postponed, a state of emergency being declared (due to the Bulawayo attack)... rest assured that the electoral program proceeds as scheduled,” the presidential spokesman George Charamba told the state-run Sunday Mail. Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba on Sunday told reporters that “comprehensive investigations are in progress”. The upcoming election will be Mnangagwa’s first at the ballot box.

### People must unite

In a voice note he released to the state media on Sunday, Mnangagwa called for unity and peace. “In November (when Mugabe was removed) we all came together motivated by a

dream, (for) a free, democratic and prosperous Zimbabwe, a peaceful Zimbabwe,” he said, adding “now some people are trying to kill our dream”. “While we have all chosen the path of peace others unfortunately still cling to the tools of violence. I assure you they will not succeed,” said the president. “We as a people must unite.”

Previous elections in Zimbabwe had been marred by electoral fraud, intimidation and violence, including the killing of scores of opposition supporters in 2008. But never had there been explosives detonated at rallies or targeted directly at any political leaders. Mnangagwa has pledged to hold free and fair elections as he seeks to mend international relations and have sanctions against Zimbabwe dropped. —AFP

## Nicaragua clashes leave eight dead including baby

**MANAGUA:** At least eight people including a baby were killed Saturday when pro-government forces clashed with opponents in Nicaragua, according to a rights group. Seven people were killed in the capital Managua and one in Masaya and a baby was among the dead, said Georgina Ruiz, an activist with the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH). The rights group says more than 200 people have been killed in protests that started just over two months ago demanding President Daniel Ortega step down.

Starting after midnight, police and paramilitary forces flooded six neighborhoods in the east of Managua, as well as the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN) where scores of students are holed up. Among the dead were two students killed in the university area and two minors who died in Managua—a 17-year-old and a baby who was shot in the head. The baby was killed when his mother was taking him to a babysitter. “He was killed by a police gunshot. I saw them. They were police,” the mother Kenia Navarrete told news channel Cien por Cien Noticias. The government denied the charge, saying criminals in the university area were to blame. UNAN is one of several student protest camps in Managua. About 450 students have been living

there under plastic tarp tents and in class buildings, surrounded by empty bottles, old food and used rounds from their homemade mortars.

“Ortega’s government continues to repress and kill young people,” CENIDH said on Twitter. According to Alvaro Leiva, secretary of the Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association, the attack against the university was intended “to plant terror in the population” ahead of a march planned for Saturday afternoon in memory of victims of the violence. Later Saturday organizers cancelled the march due to what they branded “indiscriminate” attacks by government forces.

The organizing Civil Alliance opposition called for a 48-hour strike among social sectors and trade unions to press for Ortega’s departure. The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference urged Ortega’s government and the opposition to return to the negotiating table on Monday to discuss a proposal to bring elections forward from 2021 to March 2019, in a bid to end the crisis. Ortega, 72, has not responded to the Catholic bishops’ initiative, but has previously expressed his willingness to work toward democratization.

Talks between the government and the opposition Civic Alliance were suspended once again last Monday when the government failed to allow international human rights bodies to investigate the violence. It eventually did so on Wednesday. Protests erupted on April 18 against now-scrapped social security reforms, but have grown into demands for justice for those killed and the exit of Ortega and his wife and vice president Rosario Murillo. Ortega, a former leftist guerrilla, led the country from 1979 to 1990 and then returned to the presidency in 2007. He is now serving his third consecutive term. —AFP



International

# In her own words: One Saudi Arabian woman on her 1st drive

## Saudi women started engines as clock struck midnight

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia ended its longstanding ban on women driving yesterday-and the second the clock struck midnight, women across the country started their engines. This is what it was like for one of those women as she drove across Riyadh, the city of her birth, in her own words: “My name is Samar Almogren. I’m a talkshow host and writer. “I took off my niqab a long time ago. When I first decided to show my face on television, it did not go down well. My brothers were very upset. But my father supported me, and has always supported me in all of my life decisions.

He’s the one who encouraged me to study abroad. “I’ve driven in different countries before, and I have an international driver’s license, but it’s going to be totally different here. At home. “I actually hate driving. But that’s not the point. The point is that it is my right. I can drive, and whether I choose to or not is another issue. “My whole body is tingling right now. To get in my car, to hold this steering wheel, after having lived my entire life, since the moment I entered this world, in the back seat... This is now my responsibility, and I’m more than ready to bear it. I’ve long depended on myself.

“I always knew this day would come. But it came fast. Sudden. “I think this was the biggest stumbling block. I don’t see any more obstacles from here on. Driving was the big one, and that’s done now. “I decided to wear white tonight.

The black abaya has become the mark of the Muslim woman. But there’s no religious text that states that a woman must wear a black abaya. The aim is modesty. I’m not against the black abaya, but I am against forcing it upon anyone.

“Everyone’s already asking me to drive them to work or to come for coffee. It’s going to be great to be able to take my mother around, rather than have her sit in the backseat with a driver who’s a stranger. No, my mom isn’t going to drive, at her age. We’re going to drive her around, me and my sisters.

We want to spoil her. “What’s most important to me is that I can drive my baby around. It’s the worst thing to me to have to entrust him to a driver, even though I’m always with him in the car. “I wore white tonight because it’s the color of peace. I feel like a butterfly... No, a bird. I feel free like a bird.”—AFP



JEDDAH: Halah Hussain Reda, a newly-licensed Saudi motorist, drives a car on a main road in the Saudi Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah. —AFP

## Fighting moves closer to centre of Yemen’s main port city

**ADEN:** Yemen’s Houthis deployed additional forces in the main port city of Hodeidah yesterday as a Saudi-led military coalition moved closer to the city centre in the largest offensive of the war, raising UN fears of a humanitarian catastrophe. The alliance led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates launched its assault on the heavily defended Red Sea city on June 12 to try to weaken the Iran-aligned Houthi movement by cutting off a key supply line for the group which controls the capital Sanaa and most populated areas.

“There is a heavy deployment of armed Houthis in the city and new check points have been set up in neighborhoods where there are supporters of the Tehama brigades,” said one resident, referring to a Yemeni faction from the Red Sea coastal plain that is fighting with coalition forces. Fierce clashes broke out after midnight near Hodeidah University, around 3 km

west of the city centre, on the coastal road linking the airport to the port, added the resident, who requested anonymity.

Coalition forces seized the airport on Wednesday and have been consolidating their hold in the area as UN efforts continued to reach a political deal that would avert an assault on the port, a lifeline for millions of Yemenis. The United Nations fears the escalation in fighting could exacerbate what is already the world’s most urgent humanitarian crisis, with 22 million Yemenis dependent on aid and an estimated 8.4 million believed to be on the verge of starvation.

The Western-backed coalition intervened in Yemen in 2015 to restore the internationally recognized government in exile, but since then neither side has made much progress in the war, widely seen as a proxy conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

### UN ROLE

The World Food Program said the fighting could result in up to 1.1 million people being either displaced or trapped within the city and in need of emergency food assistance. UN envoy Martin Griffiths has visited Sanaa and Saudi Arabia to try to negotiate a solution. The Houthis have indicated they would be willing to

hand over management of the port to the United Nations, sources told Reuters. A US official said Washington was urging the Saudis and Emiratis to accept the deal.

“The coalition will achieve its goal of liberating Hodeida, city & port. Yet we will support all efforts to achieve an unconditional peaceful withdrawal of Houthis gangs,” UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said in a Twitter post on Saturday. The Arab states say they must recapture Hodeidah to deprive the Houthis of their main source of income and prevent them from smuggling in Iranian-made missiles, which have been launched at Saudi cities. The group and Tehran deny the accusations.

The coalition has pledged a swift military operation to take over the airport and seaport without entering the city centre, to minimize civilian casualties and maintain the flow of goods. “The battle for Hodeida is reaching the point of no return,” the International Crisis Group said in a conflict alert. “This is the final, fragile moment in which it may still be possible for UN-led negotiations to prevent a destructive fight that is likely to exacerbate dire humanitarian conditions and further delay broader negotiations to end the war.”—Reuters

## Trump adviser Kushner criticizes Abbas, says US peace plan near

**JERUSALEM:** Jared Kushner, US President Donald Trump’s senior adviser, said Washington would likely announce its Middle East peace plan even if Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, angered by US policy so far, chose to remain on the sidelines. In an interview that appeared in Arabic on Sunday in the Palestinian newspaper Al Quds, Kushner - who is meeting leaders in the region, but not Abbas - questioned his ability to make a deal and said the US proposal would be published soon.

Abbas has refused to see Trump’s team following his decision in December to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to move the US Embassy there. The Palestinians want their own future state with a capital in East Jerusalem. “If President Abbas is willing to come back to the table, we are ready to engage; if he is not, we will likely air the plan publicly,” Kushner said, according to an English-language transcript released in Washington.

“However, I do question how much President Abbas has the ability to, or is

willing to, lean into finishing a deal. He has his talking points which have not changed in the last 25 years,” Kushner said. Commenting on the interview, Nabil Abu Rdainah, a spokesman for Abbas, said: “The road to peace is clear - commitment to the two-state solution, a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital. This is the road to any negotiations or any meetings.”

Kushner, who along with US envoy Jason Greenblatt, visited Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt before talks on Friday and Saturday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said Arab leaders conveyed they wanted to see a Palestinian state. The Trump administration has said it would support a two-state solution if both sides agree to it, but in the interview Kushner did not commit to Palestinian statehood, long the foundation of US policy in the region. “I don’t want to speak about specifics of the deal we are working on,” Kushner said.

### Core issues

The plan is expected to propose detailed solutions to core issues in dispute between the Israelis and Palestinians, such as borders, the future of Israeli settlements, the fate of Palestinian refugees and security. Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 war.



JERUSALEM: White House Senior Advisor Jared Kushner speaks during the dedication ceremony of the new US embassy in Jerusalem. —Reuters

Israeli forces and settlers pulled out of the Gaza Strip, now controlled by Abbas’s main rival, the Islamist Hamas group, in 2005.

Most experts question whether Kushner, who is married to Trump’s daughter, Ivanka, and Greenblatt - both of whom have no diplomatic background - can achieve any deal in one of the world’s most intractable conflicts. US-brokered peace talks collapsed in

2014. In the interview, which was headlined, “I am ready to work with President Abbas, if he wishes” and published in Arabic, Kushner gave a direct message to the Palestinian people: “You deserve to have a bright future. Now is a time where both the Israelis and Palestinians must bolster and re-focus their leadership, to encourage them to be open towards a solution and to not be afraid of trying.”—Reuters

## Key talks to open on boosting world’s chemical watchdog

**THE HAGUE:** Global powers will seek next week to take a historic step in the fight against chemical weapons by giving the world’s toxic arms watchdog new power to identify those behind such attacks. Widely shunned as taboo since silently culling the battlefields of World War I, recent use of poison gases in the Iraq and Syria conflicts-as well as rare nerve agent attacks in Kuala Lumpur and the sleepy English town of Salisbury-have triggered international alarm.

Despite widespread revulsion at shocking

images of children fighting for breath, the international community has so far failed to agree on any punitive action against those believed responsible, amid a bitter standoff between Russia and Western nations at the United Nations. Now in the wake of the nerve agent attack on former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury-the first such attack in decades on European soil-Britain is leading calls to give the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) broader powers.

### OPCW expertise

Backed by 11 allies, London has called a rare special session of the OPCW’s policy-making Conference of State Parties in The Hague at which it will seek to give the body a mandate to say who is to blame for any chemical weapons attacks. A draft British proposal will go to the meeting, which opens Tuesday, proposing the OPCW “begins attributing responsibility for chemical weapons attacks in Syria,” British Foreign Secretary Boris

Johnson said in a tweet.

“With proven technical expertise on chemical weapons the OPCW is the right body to study who is behind an attack,” he added. Some 96 percent of the world’s declared toxic arms stockpile has been eliminated by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization, with the rest still held by the US due to be destroyed by 2023. But new evolving scenarios, including the use of mustard gas by the jihadist so-called Islamic State group, are triggering fears.

“This is not the chemical weapons problem we faced during the Cold War for example,” French diplomat Nicolas Roche told Washington think-tank the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) this week. “This is really about almost daily use of those weapons on a theatre of operations for tactical and military gain.”

**Tense showdown**

Amid sharp political differences over the war in Syria and divisions between Russia

and the West, the talks in The Hague could see a tense showdown. The first day is open to the media, before delegates from possibly all 193 OPCW member nations will huddle behind closed doors to vote on the British-led draft, which will need a two-thirds majority of those voting to pass. What was initially planned as a two-day meeting may now stretch into a third day on Thursday, the OPCW said on its website.

“We are at a crossroads,” the body’s director general Ahmet Uzumcu told the CSIS seminar. The recent chemical weapons attacks are a “rude awakening”, he said, adding that the current situation was not “sustainable” as the current lack of an attribution mechanism was a “major gap, and prevents necessary remedy action”.

But Russia, the main ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and which London has accused of the Skripal poisoning, has already denounced the talks. “The initiators are doing little to conceal the fact that they plan to use it for fanning anti-Syria and anti-

Russia hysteria,” the Russian embassy in The Hague said in a tweet.

**JIM is dead**

Moscow wielded its power of veto at the UN Security Council to effectively kill off a previous joint UN-OPCW panel aimed at identifying those behind attacks in Syria. Before its mandate expired in December, the panel known as the JIM (Joint Investigative Mechanism) had determined that the Syrian regime had used chlorine or sarin gas at least four times against its own civilians. The Islamic State group used mustard gas in 2015.

The OPCW is also due to unveil soon the results of its probe into the April 7 alleged sarin and chlorine attack on the then rebel-held Syrian town of Douma. Moscow has insisted the viral images of the alleged attack were merely staged by the Syrian volunteer group the White Helmets. But labs designated by the OPCW are analysing samples, such as blood and soil, brought back from Douma after a difficult inspectors’ mission. —AFP



# Migrant parents deported from US voice anguish

## Opposition keeps up pressure against barbaric policy

**WASHINGTON:** Central American migrants deported from the US without their children spoke of their anguish at seeing their families split under President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" approach Saturday, as protesters kept up the pressure against the "barbaric" policy. Trump on Wednesday ordered an end to the family separations which have sparked domestic and global outrage, but some 2,300 children had already been separated by then.

More than 500 children have already been reunited with family members, according to a fact sheet released by the Department of Homeland Security on Saturday. "The United States government knows the location of all children in its custody and is working to reunite them with their families," the department said. How quickly the rest of the reunifications can be carried out remains a major question. Lawyers working to bring families back together said they were struggling through a labyrinthine process-while more migrants continue to arrive.

Ever Sierra, deported after trying to enter the US, told AFP he planned to try again in a few days. He arrived back in Honduras with his eight-month-old daughter's shoes hanging from his backpack. She was being held in a detention center in McAllen, Texas, along with her mother. Benjamin Raymundo, a 33-year-old who was deported back to Guatemala, told AFP he left his home country in April with his five-year-old son Roberto, but the pair was separated when they were stopped by immigration officers in California.

A brother-in-law who lives in the US and a lawyer managed to find the child's whereabouts and the boy was eventually placed in this relative's custody. "It's a great sadness for me, as if I'll never see my son again," he lamented. Raymundo said he has no plans for now to return to the United States. He hopes his son will be granted asylum. In an effort to staunch the flow of tens of thousands of migrants from Central America and Mexico arriving

at the southern boundary every month, Trump in early May had ordered that all those crossing the border illegally would be arrested, and their children held separately as a result.

In an about-face, he then ordered an end to the splitting up of parents and children, saying it was administration policy to "maintain family unity... where appropriate and consistent with law and available resources." "I didn't like the sight or the feeling of families being separated," he said.

### Protests continue

Democratic lawmakers kept up the pressure Saturday, with roughly two dozen of them visiting a detention facility where children are being held. Jackie Speier, a California congresswoman, toured the facility in McAllen, Texas. In a televised news conference, she said she saw children "under the age of five who were segregated from their parents and were crying... They're in cells and in cages." Another California congresswoman, Barbara Lee, added: "The children especially are traumatized," and she called the Trump administration's immigration policy "barbaric."

Protest marches were scheduled this weekend in several cities, and advocacy groups called for a nationwide "Families Belong Together" protest on June 30. In San Diego, around 1,500 demonstrators gathered, with many wearing jackets featuring the statement "We really care, do you?"-referencing Melania Trump's jacket emblazoned with "I really don't care. Do U?" Yolanda Torres, who arrived in the US from Mexico aged nine, told AFP: "We arrived with nothing, we didn't even have a place to sleep. I don't want to imagine if they had locked me in fencing."

### Task force

US Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar meanwhile issued an order Friday to create a reunifica-



**SAN DIEGO:** Protestors pray outside the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, California during a demonstration against the policy of separating immigrant parents from their children. —AFP

tion task force, Politico reported, citing an internal document it had obtained. Reflecting the breadth and complexity of the challenge, the document orders the department's preparedness and response office—which deals with emergencies and public health disasters—to assist its refugee resettlement office with the effort.

Politico quoted HHS spokesperson Evelyn Stauffer as saying that Azar was "bringing to bear all the relevant resources

of the department in order to assist in the reunification or placement of unaccompanied alien children and teenagers with a parent or appropriate sponsor." The department did not immediately respond to an AFP request for confirmation. The Pentagon is making contingency plans to house thousands of arrivals on US military bases. Defense Department officials said as many as 20,000 could be sheltered on bases in Texas, Arkansas and New Mexico if need be.

## In Latvia, school language reform irks Russian minority

**RIGA:** Riga's plans to impose Latvian as the main teaching language in minority schools has created tension among some of its ethnic Russian population, resurrecting a long-running dispute with Latvia's former Soviet masters. In the Baltic nation where around a quarter of the population are ethnic Russians, only about 40 percent of classes in minority schools are taught in Latvian.

In March, however, parliament voted through legislation which will raise that to 80 percent, meaning from September 2019, all core subjects will be taught in Latvian. Latvia says the aim is to improve end-of-high-school exam results—which are crucial for obtaining state-sponsored college tuition. Such exams are only in Latvian, a Baltic language with little similarity to Russian, which is Slavic.

But the move has been denounced as "discriminatory" by some of Latvia's Russian minority who have staged months of protests—with Russia's OSCE envoy and even President Vladimir Putin weighing in, citing "human rights" violations. Although such a reform has been on the table for years, it only began to gain traction in 2014 after national ombudsman Juris Jansons said having separate schools looked "like ethnic segregation".

While students from minority schools do figure among the top scorers, all but one of the worst-performing schools are Russian or bilingual, education ministry figures show. "Every child should have an equal opportunity to get the same education," centrist lawmaker and reform advocate Raivis Dzintars said. —AFP

## Soul searching for Latino contractors in Trump era

**NEW YORK:** Outcry over revelations of confused migrant toddlers being stripped from their parents on the US-Mexico border has shone a spotlight on one sector of the immigration debate that usually manages to stay obscure: government contractors. Many of the small children end up at shelters run by outside groups under contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars. One Latino-owned private contractor MVM suddenly found itself struggling to perform damage control following revelations it was gearing up to work in shelters with migrant children separated from their families.

The story quickly blew up on social media, causing MVM to remove job postings for bilingual child counselors, education managers and other posts at shelters—while stating that its role in President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" debacle had been misunderstood. The episode underscores a dilemma facing government contractors as the Trump administration embarks on an immigration policy program that critics view as racist and cruel.

National and local Latino business groups have long viewed the \$500 billion US government contracting business as a good bet for companies, holding workshops on how to be certified by the federal government, prepare applications and manage contracts. But Latinos who submitted proposals in early 2017 to build Trump's giant wall on the southern US border with Mexico received a harsh reception from many in the community. —AFP

## Attack on Roma camp in Ukraine leave one dead, four injured

**KIEV:** Masked assailants have attacked a Roma camp in western Ukraine, killing one person and injuring four others including a child, police said yesterday. The incident follows a series of attacks on Roma communities in Ukraine's capital Kiev and in the cities of Lviv and Ternopil that have been condemned by rights groups. A group of masked individuals attacked the camp on the outskirts of Lviv late on Saturday with weapons including batons, police spokesman Yaroslav Trakalo said by phone.

A 24-year-old man died from stab wounds and three more people were hospitalized, including a 10-year-old Roma boy and a 30-year-old woman, the police spokesman said. Police said

they have already detained seven attackers and the organizer. It is not yet known whether they are members of radical groups. During an incident in Kiev in April a neo-Nazi group burnt down tents of a Roma community and chased women and small children, throwing stones at them and releasing pepper spray.

Police said they had not opened a criminal probe because none of those attacked in Kiev had reported the crime, Ukrainian media reported. A neo-Nazi group called C14 posted footage showing its members taking part in the Kiev assault on Facebook and promised more attacks. In mid-June leading rights groups urged Ukraine to investigate attacks and harassment against the Roma minority, slamming "an atmosphere of near total impunity" in the Western-backed nation.

In a joint letter to Kiev authorities, four groups including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International condemned what they said was a growing number of attacks by radicals. "The authorities have so far failed... to respond to most incidents, which has



**ROME:** A girl, member of the Roma community, is pictured at the 'River Village' Roma camp, managed by the Onlus Isola Verde association on the outskirts of Rome. —AFP

created an atmosphere of near total impunity," the groups said. The letter said that several radical groups including C14 and Right Sector had been behind at least two dozen attacks or instances of

harassment this year. The Council of Europe rights group estimates the number of Roma in Ukraine at some 260,000, out of a population of around 48.5 million. —AFP

## Mozambique's gas-fuelled future threatened by jihadists

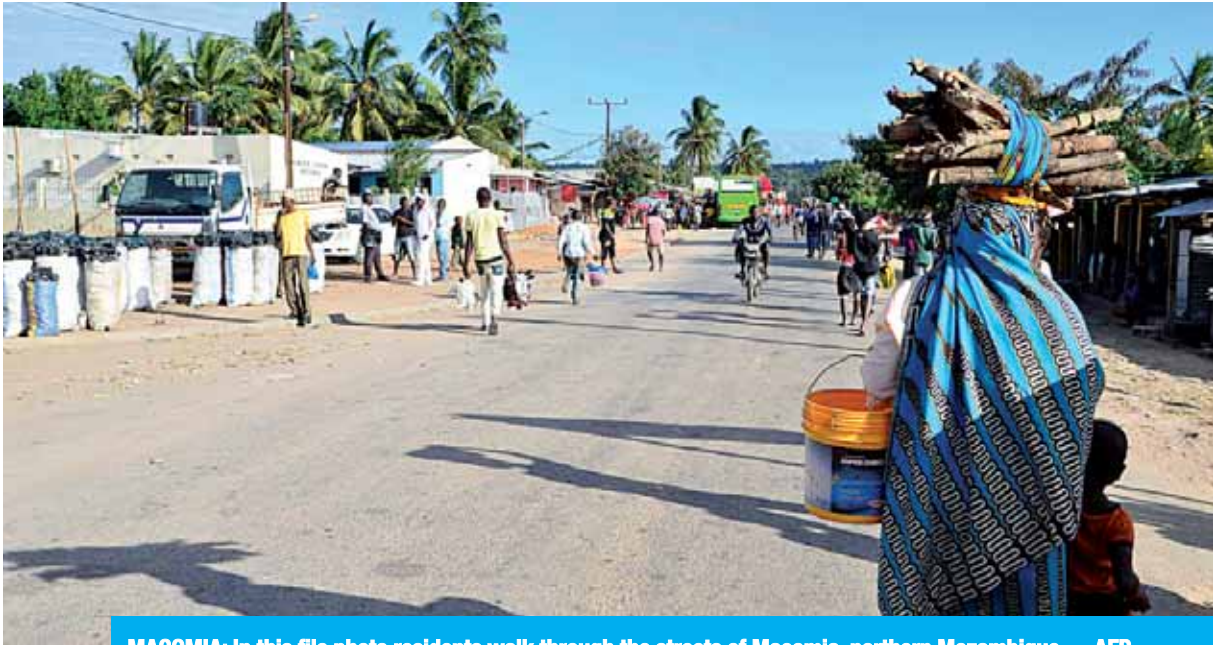
**MAPUTO:** An unprecedented wave of jihadist attacks in northern Mozambique has raised fears the country will fail to fully cash in on a gas bonanza. After 180 trillion cubic feet of natural gas were discovered off the country's northeastern shore, Mozambique entertained dreams of following Qatar down the path towards wealth. The government even predicted that by 2035, the country's GDP per head could increase sevenfold. But the southeast African country's golden vision has been thrown into doubt by an explosion of bloodthirsty assaults by a shadowy jihadist group in the region where the industry plans to base its hub.

Since October, more than 30 people have been killed in brazen assaults on unarmed villagers. Security forces have rushed reinforcements to be area yet seem powerless to stem the attacks. Terrorized, many civilians have fled their homes and a cloud hangs over the great expansion plans. US oil and gas giant Anadarko, the largest exploration company in the region, has invested \$4 billion so far—it plans to put in \$20 billion over the lifetime of the gasfields.

But following a US embassy alert on June 8 that warned of an imminent attack on the regional gas hub Palma, Anadarko temporary suspended some activities and moved affected workers and contractors to a secure site. Canada's Wentworth Resources has already suffered delays to its projects as a result of the insecurity, forcing it to seek a year-long extension for its initial exploration. In its successful application to the authorities, Wentworth said the attacks had "prevented safe access to the area for Wentworth staff and contractors".

### No threats specific to project

There have been more than 10 attacks on villages since October, featuring beatings, burns. None has targeted gas operations. "Due to the attacks, we took additional measures to protect not only the oil and gas companies operating in that area, but also to protect the communities," said Joaquim Sive, the police commander in Cabo Delgado. Eric Morier-Genoud, a researcher at Queen's University Belfast, said any attack



**MACOMIA:** In this file photo residents walk through the streets of Macomia, northern Mozambique. —AFP

against the gas "majors" would be an "escalation from which the jihadists would come out the losers".

"At this point... based on the information we have, we classify the attacks as an insignificant risk to the economy," Rogerio Zandamela, the governor of Mozambique's central bank, said. In contrast to this, the central bank did consider a spate of attacks carried out by a militia loyal to the main opposition Renamo party in the country's centre in 2015 and 2016 as an economic risk. "There was much more clarity about the conflict in central Mozambique... We cannot equate the north with the south," Zandamela said. "The information available on the conflict in Cabo Delgado is very limited."

### Tighter security

Police have stepped up security around gas projects—particularly those close to areas that have come under attack, national police spokesman Inacio Dina said. An official at Anadarko, who declined to be named, said "There have been no threats specific to our project. However, it is a cause for concern, and therefore, as operations continue, we have undertaken appropriate measures." The company has a gas operations camp in a forest

on the Afungi Peninsula.

Police and army units have established a command post in the forest following the attacks. But a source at Anadarko said that the firm has also stepped up its own security efforts, increasing its private protection force by two-thirds—a move that will have an impact on costs. Despite such problems, foreign investors for now still have a big appetite for a share of Mozambique's gas treasures. Japan's Tokyo Gas and Britain's Centrica inked supply deals with Anadarko on June 15 — just a day after a machete attack on the village of Ibu.

Even so, experts say the instability in the northeast could still prove costly. It could cut into the dividend that Mozambique expects from the huge find. "(The gas projects) are at risk in their early stages, as attacks can adversely affect logistics. Materials must reach Palma by land," said Maputo-based political science researcher Joao Pereira. "The insurgency is most likely to delay rather than derail development of the sector," said Ed Hobeys-Hamsher, an analyst at global risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft. "Attacks will certainly make the investment more expensive because of security needs reducing revenues for the state." —AFP



International

# Britain's Prince William in Jordan for Middle East tour

## First British royal to visit Israel, Palestinian territories

**AMMAN:** Prince William arrived in Jordan yesterday at the start of a Middle East tour that will see him become the first British royal to pay official visits to both Israel and the Palestinian territories. He was greeted at Amman's Marka military airport by Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah, who is hosting William for the two-day visit in Jordan. The 36-year-old Duke of Cambridge's Royal Air Force plane touched down at the small airport in eastern Amman, where he was given a red-carpet welcome by the heir to the Jordanian throne.

Royal guards carrying rifles fitted with bayonets and wearing traditional red-and-white chequered keffiyeh scarves stood to attention as the prince, in a dark suit, descended from the plane. Amman's Mayor Youssef al-Shawarbeh and foreign diplomats based in Jordan were also present at the airport to greet William. The second in line to the British throne will spend two days in Jordan for a visit billed as a chance to bond with 23-year-old Prince Hussein, a fellow graduate of Britain's Royal Sandhurst Military Academy.

He will attend a birthday party in honor of his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, at the residence of the British ambassador in Amman. Today, William will visit the ancient Roman ruins of Jerash, north of the capital, as well as a vocational training college for young Jordanians and Syrian refugees. That evening,

he will head to Israel to begin his history-making visit to the Jewish state and occupied West Bank. He will hold talks with both Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

Kensington Palace has underlined the "non-political nature of His Royal Highness's

wrack the region. Ahead of William's arrival, the official schedule's reference to east Jerusalem as "in the Occupied Palestinian Territories" sparked anger among right-wing Israeli politicians.

Official visits by British royals take place at the request of the UK government, but statements from the prince's household have given little explanation for the timing of this trip. Israel has long pushed for an official visit by a member of the British monarchy. Other members of William's family-including his father Prince Charles-have made unofficial visits to Israel and east Jerusalem in the past. During the trip, William will have plenty of reminders of Britain's role in the region.

In Jerusalem he will stay at the King David hotel, which was Britain's administrative headquarters during its rule of Palestine prior to Israeli statehood in 1948. In 1946, militant Jews waging violent resistance against British rule bombed the building, killing and wounding scores of people, many of them British civil servants or military personnel. Whilst in Jerusalem, William will lay a wreath at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

He will also visit the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and pay tribute at the tomb of his great-grandmother Princess Alice of Greece, who was honored by Israel for sheltering Jews during World War II. In the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah he is also set to meet Palestinian refugees and young people.—AFP



**AMMAN:** Prince William, left, is greeted at Amman's Marka military airport by Jordanian Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah.—AFP



### The region is a minefield of sensitivities

role-in common with all royal visits overseas". But the region is a minefield of sensitivities. The visit comes at a particularly volatile time after US President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as capital of Israel and moved Washington's embassy there, sparking Arab outrage and deadly clashes.

#### Seeds of conflict

Britain governed the region under a League of Nations mandate for almost three decades until Israel's independence 70 years ago, and is still blamed by both sides for sowing the seeds of a conflict that continues to

also lifted the state of emergency and released scores of jailed dissidents.

Ethiopia is completely controlled by the secretive Ethiopia People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), and it is unclear how much support Abiy has within the party. The 42-year-old former government minister and army officer is the first prime minister in modern Ethiopia from the country's largest ethnicity the

Oromo, which spearheaded the anti-government protests. While Abiy is popular, anti-government fervor still remains. After the prime minister's hasty departure following the blast, people swarmed the stage where he had spoken and chanted "down down Woyane," an anti-government slogan aimed at the Tigrayan ethnic minority many Ethiopians believe dominates the EPRDF.—AFP



**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopian security forces intervene on Meskel Square in Addis Ababa where a blast killed several people during a rally called by the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.—AFP

## Arrests announced as death toll rises in Ethiopia attack

**ADDIS ABABA:** The death toll from a grenade attack on a pro-government rally in Ethiopia's capital climbed to two yesterday, a cabinet minister said, as police announced arrests over the blast. "I'm so sorry to learn that we have lost another Ethiopian victim of yesterday's attack," health minister Amir Aman tweeted. "My sincere sympathy and condolences to the family, friends and all Ethiopians." The blast occurred in a packed public square as Ethiopia's new prime minister Abiy Ahmed was wrapping up a speech before tens of thousands of people.

The ensuing chaos injured more than 150 people and marred an event meant to build public support for Abiy's ambitious reform agenda. State-run Ethiopian News Agency reported police had arrested six people suspected of involvement in the blast, but gave few details. Event organizer Seyoum Teshome on Saturday said police grappled with someone attempting to hurl a grenade at the prime minister as he concluded his speech.

The explosive detonated amid the scuffle, though most of the injuries were caused in the ensuing panic, he said. On Saturday evening, the prime minister visited hospitals where victims of the attack were being treated, his chief of staff said on Twitter, while yesterday one of Addis Ababa's largest football teams organized a blood drive for the injured. No group has publicly claimed responsibility for the attack, a rare instance of violence in the heavily policed capital.

Grenade attacks were reported last year in the northern city of Gondar, but it was unclear if those incidents were connected to Saturday's blast. Abiy took office in April after years of anti-government unrest that pushed his predecessor to resign and the government to declare a nationwide state of emergency. He has since announced plans to liberalize the economy and reconcile with neighboring arch-enemy Eritrea. Abiy

## German migrant rescue charity fires back at Italy's Salvini

**BERLIN:** German charity Mission Lifeline, whose rescue ship with almost 240 African migrants aboard has been denied entry by Italy, yesterday fired back at Rome's far-right interior minister Matteo Salvini. After Salvini wrote on Facebook about the non-government organisation's cargo of "human flesh", the NGO responded: "Dear Matteo Salvini, we have no meat on board, but humans." "We cordially invite you to convince yourself that it is people we have saved from drowning. Come here, you are welcome!" said the charity's reply.

The Lifeline rescue vessel yesterday remained in limbo west of Malta, with 239 people aboard, including 14 women and four infants, who were rescued near the Libyan coast, said the group. They had received food and water from Malta, and medical supplies and blankets provided by two other German rescue ships, the Sea-Eye and Sea-Watch, said Mission Lifeline spokesman Axel Steier. Lifeline said it was also hoping to rendezvous in the waters off Malta with Danish container ship Alexander Maersk, which had rescued 113 migrants off southern Italy.

The larger cargo ship could provide some protection to the smaller Lifeline in case of bad weather, while the rescue ship could help with its on-board medical facilities, he said. Salvini two weeks ago turned back another rescue vessel, the Aquarius of French group SOS

Mediterrance, which eventually docked in Spain. The move sparked protests from France and other EU countries and deepened ruptures in the bloc on the flashpoint issue of immigration.

As 16 EU countries were to meet on the issue at a mini-summit in Brussels yesterday,

the German charity expressed hope other European countries may help out. Steier hoped for "positive signals" from the meeting and said "our hope is that (EU) states offer to take in the people, in solidarity with the concerns of Italy". —AFP



**AT SEA:** This handout picture obtained from the German NGO 'Mission Lifeline' shows migrants on an inflatable boat being rescued before boarding the 'Lifeline' sea rescue boat at sea.—AFP

### News in brief

#### Egypt extends state of emergency

**CAIRO:** Egypt's parliament approved yesterday the extension of a nationwide state of emergency for three months from July 14. Egypt imposed the emergency in 2017 after two church bombings killed at least 45 people. It was last extended in April. Egypt faces an Islamic State insurgency in the remote North Sinai region that has killed hundreds of soldiers and policemen in recent years and has expanded to include attacks on civilians. Other Islamists operating in the western desert bordering Libya have also attacked security forces.—Reuters

#### 32 killed in Mali attack

**BAMAKO:** Traditional hunters known as "Dozo" killed 32 civilians after surrounding an isolated village in the centre of Mali, local officials said yesterday. "They surrounded the village, separated the Fula people from the others and killed at least 32 civilians in cold blood" on Saturday, said Abel Aziz Diallo, president of the local Tabila Pullaku association. Another 10 people were missing, he added. A local elected official said the dead included children.—AFP

#### NATO ready to help Italy in Libya

**ROME:** NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday the alliance was prepared to help out in troubled Libya as it grapples with a migrant crisis but warned there were no military solutions. Speaking to Italian daily La Repubblica, Stoltenberg said: "NATO is ready to help Libya construct its security institutions". NATO experts were already "in contact with Libya authorities to see how to assist them better," he added. "Any support from Italy would be welcome but that is up to the Italian government," he said. Libya has been gripped by chaos since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, with rival administrations and multiple militias vying for control of the oil-rich country.—AFP

## N Zealand PM hopes for new world for daughter Neve

**AUCKLAND:** New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern revealed her newborn daughter would be called Neve as she left an Auckland hospital yesterday, and expressed hope that one day a woman giving birth in office would no longer be a "novelty". Speaking publicly for the first time since her delivery on Thursday—which made waves around the world—Ardern said she and her partner Clarke Gayford had settled on the full name of Neve Te Aroha Ardern Gayford for their first child.

"We chose Neve because we just liked it, and when we met her we thought she looked like she suited the name," the 37-year-old told reporters as she cradled her daughter in her arms. Ardern, who said the couple kept a short list of names, added that Neve meant "bright and radiant and snow", while Te Aroha was the name of a rural town some 140 kilometers southeast of Auckland where her family is from.

The New Zealand leader said she was blown away by well-wishes locally and internationally, including from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan. "We wanted to say thank



**AUCKLAND:** New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern holds her baby daughter Neve Te Aroha Ardern Gayford outside the hospital in Auckland.—AFP

you (to New Zealanders for their support) and we are all doing really well. Sleep deprived, but super well," she said. Ardern is only the second world leader to give birth while in office, after former Pakistan PM Benazir Bhutto, and said she hoped such experiences would not be unusual in the future.

"Hopefully, these things said in these moments now, I guess for want of a better word—novelty, they are still new—that one day they aren't new anymore," she said.—AFP



## Analysis

# From Ataturk to Erdogan: things to know about modern Turkey

**ANKARA:** The modern state of Turkey emerged out of the wreckage of the Ottoman Empire to become a powerful strategic nation that borders Greece to the west and Iran to the east. It has been ruled since 2002 by the Islamic-rooted conservative party of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He has overseen some of the biggest changes since modern Turkey was created in 1923. But in presidential and legislative polls yesterday, Erdogan and his party will face the biggest test at the ballot box to their one-and-a-half-decade grip on power. Here are five things to know about Turkey.

## Successor to an empire

At its peak, the Ottoman Empire ruled a swathe of territory extending from the Balkans to modern Saudi Arabia, including the holy sites of Islam. But the Empire suffered centuries of decline and its end was confirmed by defeat in World War I, in which it had fought on the side of imperial Germany. After a War of Independence, Turkish military leaders including Mustafa Kemal Atatürk were able to salvage a modern state extending from Thrace to Mesopotamia, declaring the creation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. Under Erdogan, Turkey has sought to rebuild its Ottoman-era influence in the Middle East, notably in Syria and Iraq as well as the Balkans and also Africa.

### Secular, Western democracy

Ataturk, Turkey's first president until his death in 1938, turned the country towards the West and made secularism one of its founding principles. Multi-party democracy was introduced in 1946. Under Ataturk's successor Ismet Inonu, Turkey remained neutral in World War II. In 1952 it joined NATO along with its one-time foe Greece with the strong backing of the United States, keen to ensure Ankara never fell into the orbit of the USSR. Critics have accused Erdogan of increasing authoritarianism, presiding over a creeping Islamisation and changing Turkey's Western tilt. But the president insists he is committed to a secular republic anchored in NATO.



**ISTANBUL:** Turkish President and leader of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) Recep Tayyip Erdogan (2nd left) and his wife Emine Erdogan leave after they voted at a polling station during snap twin Turkish presidential and parliamentary elections in Istanbul yesterday. — AFP

## Scarred by coups

Turkey's powerful military ousted incumbent governments in coups in 1960, 1971 and 1980. The 1960 coup was followed by the hanging of ousted prime minister Adnan Menderes-Erdogan's political hero—along with two ministers. After coming to power, Erdogan clipped the wings of the military in a bid to make political interventions by the army far less likely. But in July 2016 he survived a coup attempt by a renegade army faction. Erdogan said that attempt was ordered by his one-time ally, the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, who denies the charges. Erdogan then declared a state of emergency that has seen some 55,000 people arrested in an unprecedented purge. He—and the opposition—have vowed to lift the emergency after the elections.

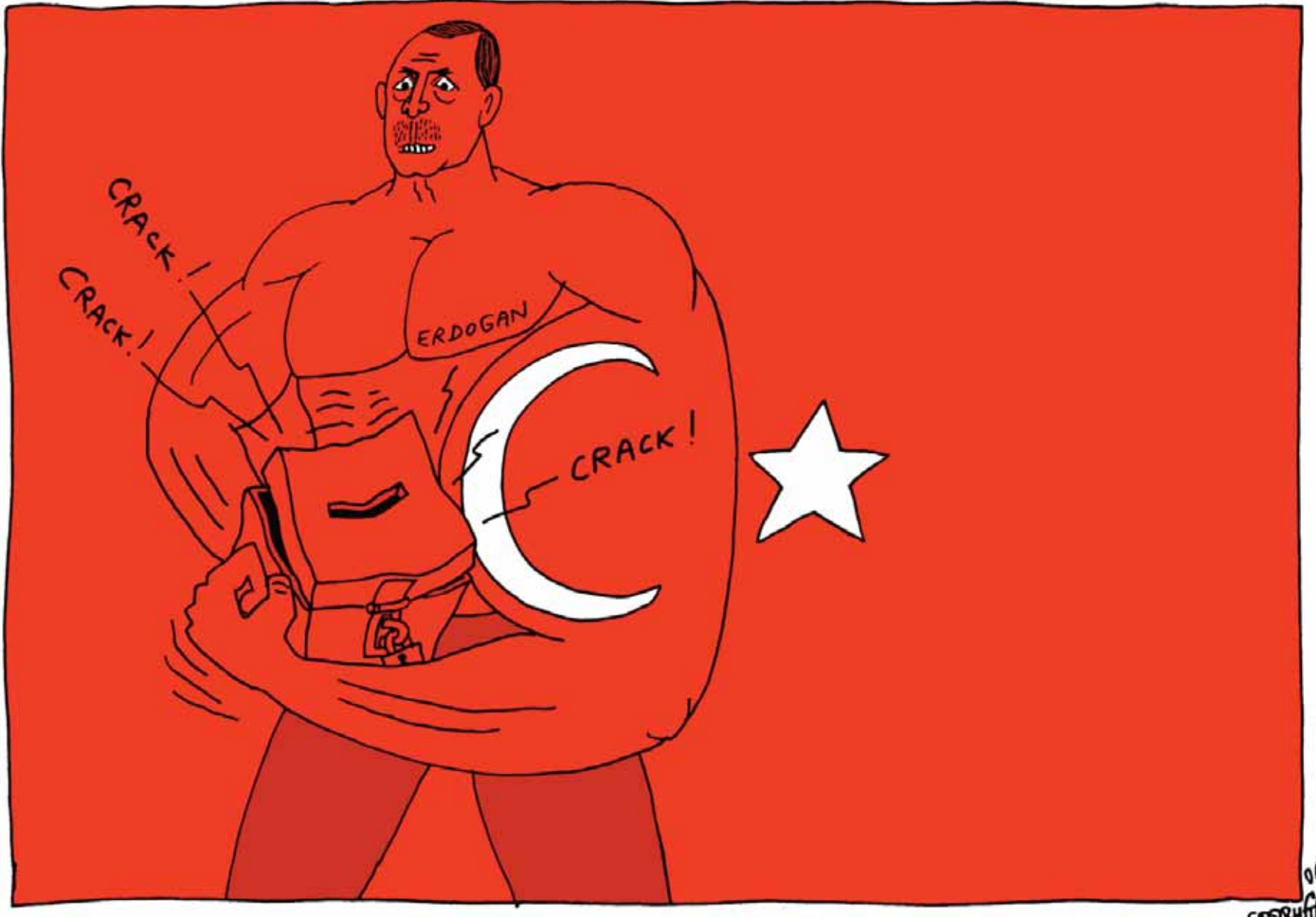
## Host to refugees

The country of more than 80 million has sought to boost its influence, staunchly opposing the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad in Syria's civil war but then working closely with his ally Russia to end the conflict. Turkey has taken in around 3.5 million Syrian refugees, who live mainly in the southeast and Istanbul, as well as smaller numbers from Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2016, it signed a deal to limit the flow of refugees to Europe after one million crossed the Aegean through Turkey in 2015. The deal was seen as a boost to Turkey's hopes of joining the European Union but the process has floundered ever since. Turkey has given passports to a few tens of thousands of Syrian refugees but critics say the country lacks a strategy to deal with their long-term presence.

## 'Kurdish problem'

The non-Muslim minorities on the territory of modern Turkey were forced out in the 20th century and only small populations remain today. Armenians regard the killings and massacres of their ancestors as genocide, a term vehemently disputed by Turkey. Most Greeks left the country in the population exchanges of 1923. By far Turkey's largest ethnic minority are the Kurds.

They make up a fifth of the population and have long complained of being denied their rights in what they call the "Kurdish problem". The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) took up arms in 1984 in a bloody insurgency that has left tens of thousands dead. Erdogan in the first years of his rule took unprecedented steps towards giving the Kurds greater rights and opened talks with the PKK. But a cease-fire unraveled in 2015 and violence continues, with still no peace deal in sight. — AFP



# Syrians flee to makeshift camps as bombing escalates

Their belongings piled nearby, elderly displaced Syrians struggled against the wind as they fastened a white tarpaulin on the metal frame of their makeshift new home in the country's south. They are among thousands who have fled intensifying Syrian government shelling in recent days on rebel-held territory south of Damascus. Fearing an imminent ground assault, they escaped carrying whatever they could from their battered homes.

Among the shelters erected on a barren piece of land in the village of Burayqah, Quneitra province, stands the one that houses Ali al-Homsi and his family. They escaped deadly bombardment on their hometown of Kafr Shams, which lies in a wedge of territory between the provinces of Daraa, Quneitra, and Damascus. The area has come to be known as the Triangle of Death, for the bloody battles fought there since Syria's war erupted in 2011. "I wasn't planning on coming here, but the intense bombing in recent days forced us to leave—especially after it killed more than one of our loved ones," said Homsi, 36. "That's what made us flee." He was squatting on the dry earth as his young sons took a break and lay in the sun nearby. "We're setting up this tent just so we can have shelter," he told AFP. "But we don't have the basic necessities for life—there's no water here to drink or wash with." After neutralizing rebel strongholds on the edge of the capital, President Bashar Al-Assad is turning his attention to the south, the cradle of the seven-year uprising against him. Rebels still control a majority of the southern provinces of Daraa and Sweida, and bombing has so far focused on a string of rebel towns and villages between the two.

## 'War is not far off'

While a full-fledged assault has not yet begun, Homsis says it will come sooner or later and hopes he won't be stuck in the camp. "I expect war, especially after (regime forces) dropped flyers threatening the Triangle of Death with war, bombardment, and destruction," he said. Syrian helicopters have scattered such messages across rebel-held parts of Daraa and Quneitra in recent weeks, warning of an impending assault and telling insurgents to drop their arms. Then, on Tuesday, they began ramping up their bombardment. The strikes and artillery have since killed 181 civilians and forced some 12,000 people to flee, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Those that headed to Burayqah brought mattresses, blankets, plastic jars of food, and gas canisters for cooking.

Their scant belongings lay in haphazard piles used as beds by children covered in dust. "The bombardment was random. We came here on a motorbike. I carried what I



Syrian soldiers stand guard by a convoy returning displaced people home into government-controlled territory at Abu Al-Zuhur checkpoint in the western countryside of Idlib province. — AFP

could with me but there's nothing to live on here-no water, no toilets, no food," said I'ares al-Salkhadi, 58. He arrived three days ago with his family from the village of Inkhlil and said he expected a mass exodus when the assault begins in earnest. "People will be displaced here from all the villages," he warned. "War is not far off." Nearby, a man and his children-some of whom looked as young as six-picked up large rocks and stacked them side-by-side. They hoped that erecting their tent on this platform would keep snakes and scorpions out of their new home.

## ‘What is this life?’

More than six million people have been internally displaced since Syria's conflict erupted in 2011, including nearly one million this year alone. The United Nations has warned that fighting in the country's south was putting some 750,000 people at risk. Elderly Mohammad Al-

When protests over austerity measures rocked the country this month, the prince quickly headed into the streets to talk to those feeling the pain from the economic crisis and call for peaceful demonstrations. “The crown prince belongs to the younger generation and eloquently presents himself based on military and political qualifications,” former information minister Samih Maayath told AFP. “His prominence in recent years is a part of a planned mentoring program... under the direct supervision of the king.” Criticism of the ruling family is rare in Jordan and some Jordanians have been prosecuted in recent years for “anti-regime incitement” following statements critical of the royals.

## Raised to rule

Born on June 28, 1994, to Abdullah and his wife Rania, Hussein has long been groomed to one day take over the Hashemite kingdom, where the monarch has broad executive and legislative powers. He was officially appointed next-in-line at the age of just 15, before going on to study history at Washington's Georgetown University and following in his father's footsteps by attending Sandhurst. The prince—or His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein Bin Abdullah II, to give him his full title—should still have plenty of time to prepare to be king. His 56-year-old father is young compared to other monarchs in the Arab world, and appears in good health.

Jordan's royal family claims to be descended from the Prophet Mohammed and took the throne with British backing in 1921 when the Emirate of Transjordan, modern Jordan's forerunner, was created from scratch. Hussein is the "42nd-generation direct descendant" of the prophet, according to the prince's official website. Abdullah has taken his son with him on official trips around the globe, giving him an upclose schooling in the intricacies of world affairs that should prove useful. Jordan's rulers have traditionally trodden a careful path, maintaining a strong

Homsí, 74, also had a narrow escape from his hometown of Kafr Shams. "The house was about to collapse on us. We fled under the bombs," the balding man said in a deep, rasping voice.

He paid 10,000 Syrian pounds (\$23, 20 euros) for a private car to drive him and his family to Burayqah. "There's not even a tent here for us to seek refuge in—we're on the ground and under the sun," he said. "What is this life? If a woman wants to use the restroom, there's none available. This is a scandal and it's shameful." Bashir Al-Nasr, 42, waited for several days in his hometown of Aqaba for a pause in the bombing so his family could flee. He piled his wife and children onto a motorbike and headed to Burayqah, but his future remains uncertain. "The indiscriminate bombs and our fear for ourselves and our children brought us here," Nasr said. "We left just to find safety." — AFP



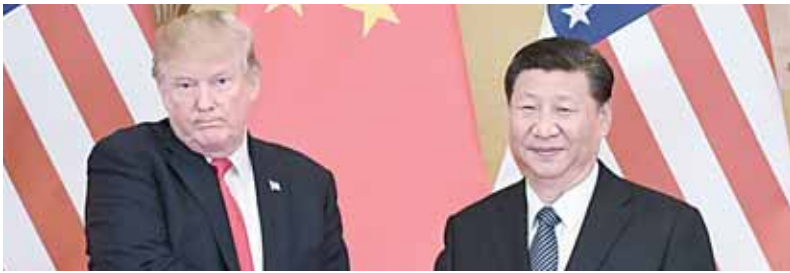
Prince William (left) is greeted at Amman's Marka military airport by Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah yesterday. Prince William arrived in Jordan at the start of a Middle East tour that will see him become the first British royal to pay official visits to both Israel and the Palestinian territories. — AFP

alliance with the West, while negotiating the minefield of Middle Eastern geopolitics.

The country borders war-torn Syria, houses vast numbers of Palestinians, has a peace treaty with Israel and manages the Muslim holy sites of Jerusalem. Bolstering his credentials with the youth, Hussein has launched a series of initiatives aimed at young people, including an intern program at US space agency NASA. “He is close to the youth, their activities, their problems and their hobbies,” said Jordanian social activist Shaden Amarin, a 42-year-old bank employee. “You see him playing football with his friends sometimes, and playing guitar at other times, or flying a military aircraft and formally presiding over a security council session.” — AFP



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# Ikea betting big on India

## Seeks new revenues away from its key Western markets



HYDERABAD: This photo taken on June 22, 2018 shows the under-construction site of an IKEA store. — AFP

**MUMBAI:** Furniture giant Ikea is set to open its first store and restaurant in India after years of trying but arguably its most famous item is off the menu-Swedish meatballs. Ikea, the world's biggest furniture retailer, will next month cut the ribbon on a massive 37,000 square metre outlet in the southern city of Hyderabad, complete with a 1,000-seater cafeteria.

The restaurant will be Ikea's largest and will cater to local tastes, with religious sensitivities in India dictating that beef and pork, staples of Swedish meatballs, will not be served. "There will be chicken meatballs and vegetarian balls," Patrik Antoni, Ikea's deputy country manager for India, told AFP during an interview in the Indian financial capital of Mumbai. "Fifty percent of the food will be Swedish inspired, salmon and shrimp dishes and so on. We'll also have quite a few Indian dishes like dal makhani, biryani, samosas," he added.

The Swedish multinational, which revolutionized household furnishings with its range of affordable ready-to-

assemble products, is betting big on India as it seeks new revenues away from its key Western markets. Ikea plans to invest \$1.5 billion in Asia's third-largest economy as it seeks to lure price-sensitive Indians away from satisfying their furniture needs at local, family-run shops. Ikea has already spent close to \$750 million procuring sites for four stores, including the Hyderabad one which will open in July on a date that is yet to be announced.

Outlets in Mumbai, Bangalore and the capital New Delhi will follow, Antoni said, without putting a timescale on them. He added that Ikea will then look at Pune, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat and Kolkata. "We are very bullish and excited about the Indian market. Normally, we would test a market by opening one store but in India, we are going all out and expanding," said Antoni. At 37,160 square meters the Hyderabad store will be comparable in size to an average Indian shopping mall. It will have 850 employees and is expected to attract several million visitors a year.

### Spice and all things nice

As well as its wide range of international items Ikea will also sell goods uniquely suited to the Indian market. Alongside its popular Billy bookcases and Poang chairs, Ikea will also offer spice boxes and kitchen appliances to make traditional Indian staples such as idlis (rice cakes). "We have done over a thousand home visits and interviewed people to try to understand their needs, dreams, aspirations and how they feel about their home," explained Antoni.

More than 1,000 products priced under 200 rupees (\$2.94) will be on sale. India, with its abundant supply of cheap labor, is not known for its "DIY" culture so Ikea has teamed up with UrbanClap, an online platform that helps connect handymen with consumers. Ikea, founded in 1943 by late Swedish entrepreneur Ingvar Kamprad, operates 418 stores in 49 markets. In May it announced that it would expand into South America with stores in Chile, Colombia and Peru. The home goods behemoth first tried to enter India in 2006 but was foiled by strict foreign

direct investment (FDI) rules that required foreign companies to sign up with a local partner. Seven years later the rules were relaxed to allow foreign businesses to own retail stores operating under a single brand, clearing the way for Ikea's entry into India. The Swedish company hopes its walk-in stores and famed restaurant will be a unique selling point as it goes up against popular Indian online furniture retailers Pepperfry and Urban Ladder.

It will also have to contend with Walmart. The world's largest retailer has agreed to buy a majority stake in Indian e-tailer Flipkart, which sells a wide range of home furnishings. Ikea's global sales grew by five percent on-year in 2017 as it recorded annual revenues of 38 billion euros (\$47 billion). The firm hopes access to India's growing middle class in the country of 1.25 billion people will open up new revenue streams. Analysts, however, warn it faces a long journey in a crowded market. "Profitability will take some time for Ikea in India," Sowmya Adiraju, an analyst at research firm Euromonitor, told AFP. —AFP

## Nowhere to work: Berlin runs short of office space

**BERLIN:** Nearly 30 years after the fall of the Wall, "cool" Berlin is booming, with some 40,000 people moving to the German capital every year to work not just at its vibrant tech start-ups but also increasingly at big multinational firms. As the city once seen as a low-cost government backwater comes into its own as a European business centre, office supply has not been able to keep up with the sharp rise in demand.

"Berlin has come out of its pre-pubescent phase and is now becoming more grown up in a way that other big cities maybe already have done," said Stefan Franke, CEO of Berlin Partner, which promotes investment in the city and helps companies open offices. Building activity is up 90 percent compared to a year ago with around 557,000 sq metres currently under construction, according to BNP Paribas Real Estate. This won't bring much relief in the short-term, however, as only around one quarter of that will be completed over the next 12 months and the majority has already been pre-let.

Average office rents in Berlin are now the highest in Germany - although premium office space in Frankfurt is still the most expensive - and vacancy rates are under 2 percent, down from nearly 7.8 percent in 2010. The shortage is challenging both businesses and landlords to be open-minded about how to define office space and how to keep down costs.

### Growing demand

Operators of coworking real estate are playing a big role pushing up rents, gobbling up around 71,000 sq meters of new office space last year, about 8 percent of the total take-up. WeWork now has five offices in Berlin and plans to open another location early next year and a further site in summer 2019. But coworking space is not just for start-ups anymore.

Deutsche Bahn has rented space at one WeWork office and will take over eight floors of another WeWork building in the autumn. The arrangement helps the train operator meet growing demand for desks in the short-term as it hires employees to work on digital projects and facilitates networking with start-ups, a spokeswoman said.

Amazon has several office buildings in Berlin's central Mitte district, but also rents temporary and coworking spaces to accommodate the rapid growth of its Berlin-based staff, now numbering more than 2,300. "It's hyper-competitive," said Eva Glanzer, vice president of People, at online travel booking firm GetYourGuide, which has just secured space for a new headquarters after a two-year search left its 350 employees running between meetings at several different locations across the city.

While some start-ups have moved out of Berlin's central districts, CEO Michael von Roeder of Sensorberg, which kits out buildings with digital technology, says he will struggle to keep talent if he ups sticks to the suburbs. "In the past, if you spent enough money it was fairly easy to find space," von Roeder said. "In the meantime, even if you don't care what you pay it's still difficult."

Sensorberg has temporarily crammed its 30 employees into an office with another firm while it

waits for a new co-working facility. It has also found an innovative solution to the rising costs by securing discounted space in the new space by agreeing to provide its own technology. "The competition is heightened by the fact that landlords aren't used to working with the new generation of high-growth startups like us. They're old-fashioned, they prefer stability, and they want to see the numbers," said Glanzer.

### Changing spaces

Prime office rents spiked by 16 percent in the year to the end of March to 33 euros per square meter compared to 22 euros in 2013, says BNP Paribas - far above what most start-ups can afford to pay. This means Berlin, a city of 3.7 million people, is narrowing the gap on Germany's bigger business centres, Frankfurt and Munich, which can command 42 and 37 euros per sq metre per month, respectively, for top locations.

Frankfurt has a population of 740,000 people while Munich is home to 1.5 million. The rising rents are incentivising some owners of other types of property to refit their buildings and wheel in desks. Around 25,000 square metres of hotel space in Berlin's Mitte and Charlottenberg districts are being converted into offices, according to Jan-Niklas Schroers at real estate firm Savills.

It's a tiny fraction of total hotel space, demand for which continues to grow with around 6,500 rooms in the pipeline, according to PwC. However, for landlords who may have rented out their buildings to hotels 10 years ago, they can expect an increase in rental income of between 30 and 50 percent if they turn it into office space, especially in good locations, said Schroers.

## VIVA launches new summer roaming plan

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched new innovative roaming internet plan covering not only cover the GCC and Arab countries, but include worldwide coverage. The new Roam plan of KD 10 lasts for 7 days with unlimited internet in 86 countries.

Abdulrazaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA commented: "Our updated VIVA Roam plans are 'more' convenient with 'more' reach and coincide with FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia.

VIVA offers its customers great opportunity to share memorable moments live from the fields



through best summer internet roaming offers." The new plan offer VIVA's customers, ease and flexibility during their travels outside Kuwait to meet their roaming needs. Customers can subscribe to this plan by sending "i6" to 102.



#### Sales Associate

Bj Beauty  
Kuwait

You will be responsible to employ appropriate selling techniques to promote the products, maximizes sales opportunities in the process of closing a sale during customer encounter, providing excellent customer service, processing transactions quickly and accurately, and taking pride in your store and maintaining it to a high standard.

Apply Now JB3812095

#### Assistant Restaurant Manager

Burgeri-Restaurant  
Kuwait

You will be responsible to manage shifts which include: daily decision making, scheduling, planning on Manager Absence, upholding standards, product quality and cleanliness, investigate and resolve complaints concerning food quality and service, provide training and recognition to employees at all levels and maintains a team-oriented environment.

Apply Now JB3811526

#### Sales Assistant

Liwa Trading  
Kuwait

You will be responsible to deliver a best-in-class, captivating, branded customer experience that builds loyalty and enables consistent sales and profit growth, support a customer-centric culture, where the full energy and activity of the store team are focused on delivering highly satisfying customer experiences.

Apply Now JB3811487

#### HR Specialist

Liverpool Nursery  
Kuwait

You will be responsible for organizational departmental planning, performance management and improvement systems, organization development, employment and compliance with regulatory concerns regarding employees, employee onboarding, development, needs assessment, and training.

Apply Now JB3811450

#### Sales Coordinator

Emerge General Contracting  
Kuwait

You will be responsible for contacting potential or existing customers to inform them about a product or service using scripts, answering questions about products or the company, asking questions to understand customer requirements and close sales.

Apply Now JB3811315

#### Customer Service Agent

Maersk Line  
Kuwait

You will be responsible to deliver the customer experience of feeling trust, cared for and pleased in all interactions with customers and intermediaries that come to the Maersk Line and interactions involving Customer Service staff, handle all incoming and outgoing calls related to the day to day enquiries of the business in Customer Service.

Apply Now JB3811335

#### Head of Finance & Accounting

Union Trading Company  
Kuwait

You will be responsible for all financial and fiscal management aspects of company operations including Corporate Governance. Provide leadership and coordination in the administrative, business planning, accounting and budgeting efforts of the company which insure the continuously sound Financial Structure the company.

Apply Now JB3811153

#### Operations Officer

AIDhaihya Restaurant Company  
Kuwait

You will be responsible to oversee and direct daily company administrative processes and procedures, report to and assist Chief Operating Officer in daily tasks and duties, ensure company policies align with and advance business objectives, strategically map-out, plan, and manage projects, analyze and maintain operational data.

Apply Now JB3811052

#### Manager Business Development

CHEP  
KSA

You will be responsible for overall responsibility for profitability/ MOP in dedicated area for all customers operating in the territory, understand customer trends & operational plans, problems, opportunities & match to sell CHP's products, services & value proposition.

Apply Now JB3812119

#### Executive Secretary

Lomar Company  
KSA

You will be responsible to maintain executive's agenda and assist in planning appointments, board meetings, conferences etc., attend meetings and keep minutes, receive and screen phone calls and redirect them when appropriate, handle and prioritize all outgoing or incoming correspondence.

Apply Now JB3812066

#### Financial Analyst

Alkhorayef Group  
KSA

You will be responsible to monitor and report performance of business units against budgets, collect corporate planning information from Subsidiaries, consolidate budgets and prepare the monthly, quarterly, bi- annual, and annual group budget reports and presentations for top management.

Apply Now JB3811927

#### Contracts Specialist

Arail Construction & Industrial Co. Ltd. - KSA

You will be responsible for coordinating on Contractual correspondence with projects, evaluates or monitors contract performance to determine necessity for amendments or extensions of contracts, and compliance to contractual obligations, approves or rejects requests for deviations from contract specifications and delivery schedules.

Apply Now JB3811384

#### Customer Service Officer

Masaood John Brown  
UAE

You will be responsible to acknowledge all incoming enquiries within 24 hours after inquiry has been received, carry out inquiry evaluations in preparations of quotations, ensure timely submission of quotation/s as per agreed bid by date with the client, follow up submitted quotation/s and acknowledge orders from the clients.

Apply Now JB3812050

#### Sales Manager

Can Pack Middle East LLC  
UAE

You will be responsible for gathering, maintaining and analyzing the market intelligence allowing for formulation of sales plan, define portfolio of customers and resulting production plan, ensure that commercial conditions agreed with the customers are fulfilled while maintaining up to date and accurate SAP information allowing for regular reporting of the performance.

Apply Now JB3811611

#### CRM Manager

Charterhouse  
UAE

You will be responsible for configuring, developing and managing the companies CRM platform, ensuring the processes meet the needs of both internal stakeholders and end users. Working closely with the marketing team, you will lead the marketing automation strategy, social media engagement and provide a thorough insight into the marketing campaign.

Apply Now JB3811601

#### Internal Auditor

Mindfield Resources  
UAE

You will be responsible to performing audit on the organization's Information systems, processes, policies, procedures and standards. This role would report in to the Director of Internal Audit and would be further responsible for carrying out audit assignments, review completeness, prepare draft audit report, help in updating audit programs and improve business risk management processes.

Apply Now JB3811600

#### Senior Financial Analyst

Bin Yousef Group of Companies  
Qatar

You will be responsible for consolidating and analyzing financial data, taking into account company's goals and financial standing, providing creative alternatives and recommendations to reduce costs and improve financial performance, assembling and summarizing data to structure sophisticated reports on financial status and risk.

Apply Now JB3812074

#### Marketing Manager

Alfardan Sports Motors Co.  
Qatar

You will be responsible for the development of new and existing customer's and markets, review and implementation of pricing and products, delivering performance in accordance with company objectives and budgets, present developmental opportunities to management for accurate review of costs.

Apply Now JB3810962

#### Property Coordinator

CENTURY 21 Qatar  
Qatar

You will be responsible to maintain verbal and written communications with owners, clients, tenants and vendors on issues related to managed properties, process maintenance requests and ensure maintenance work is completed accurately and as per time schedule, prepare the documentation related to the Baladiya Lease Agreement attestation.

Apply Now JB3811485

#### Chief Accountant

Construction Development Contracting & Trading (CDCT)  
Qatar

You will be responsible to perform financial analysis and reporting to management as needed, perform month end accounting activities such as reconciliations & journal entries, coordinate with finance team to complete assigned accounting tasks within deadlines, evaluate computerized accounting systems and provide recommendations to IT team for performance improvements.

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## Business

## NBK Weekly Money Market Report

# Trump's Trade War continues to dictate the global market

**KUWAIT:** Last week started-off with US President Donald Trump threatening to impose a 10% tariff on \$200 billion of Chinese goods yesterday, quickly escalating the trade conflict among the world two biggest economies. In his statement, Trump explains that the move would be in retaliation for China's decision to raise tariffs on \$50 billion on US goods. Investors who were concerned with interest rate hikes from the Federal Reserve now fear Trump negatively impacting industries such as automakers and construction. The forum on Central Banking in Portugal included a panel of the major central banks' governors. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell maintained his position in keeping the economy on a sustainable path with support from his colleagues at Fed.

A week after the Fed raised rates for the second time this year, Powell expresses his confidence by stating, "With unemployment low and expected to decline further, inflation close to our objective, and the risks to the outlook roughly balanced, the case for continued gradual increases in the federal funds is strong".

Meanwhile, interest rate hike probability for the Fed's September meeting sits currently at 80%. On the currency front, the dollar managed to gain as much as 0.81% towards the end of the week. Yet the escalating trade tensions between the US and China managed to wipe the gains amid softer than expected housing data and sent the currency falling and closing the week at 94.520.

#### Mixed Housing Data

US homebuilding rose to an 11-year high in May due to the spurring in both single and multi-family home construction. However, housing demand met with high lumber prices imposed by the Trump administration in April 2017 as well as labor and land shortages has depleted the number of properties for sale. On Monday, the National Association of Home Builders released a report expressing an unexpected deterioration in homebuilder confidence following the rise in lumber prices.

The Commerce Department released a report on Tuesday showing the larger than expected jump in new residential construction in the U.S in the month of May. The report reveals housing starts rose by 5.0% to an annual rate of 1.350 million in May after dropping 3.1% to a rate of 1.286 million in April. Reports on building permits reveal a plunge by 4.6% to an annual rate of 1.301 million in May after falling by 0.9% to a rate of 1.364 million in April. With permits lagging behind, homebuilding is expected to slow in the months ahead.

#### UK & EUROPE

##### ECB cautious on tightening monetary policy

European Central Bank president Mario Draghi expressed that the ECB will remain patient in tightening policy further, explaining how the first post crisis rate hike was consistent with the goal of gradual movement. Rate hike expectations are now pushed back by three months to September 2019, following the ECB indicating that interest rates would remain unchanged at least through next summer. Draghi

expressed a generally positive outlook, while also mentioning risks such as rising oil prices and heightened financial market volatility.

#### Eurozone PMIs to lift the Euro

Positive PMI figures surfaced on Friday showcasing growth potential for the services and manufacturing sectors in the Eurozone. The services sector shined with a 55 reading where the market's forecast was at 53.7. Manufacturing on the other hand had a reading of 55 consistent with the consensus of the market. The upbeat data helped continue the sharp reversal of the losses of the currency towards the beginning of the week when the euro almost broke the 1.15 level on Thursday. The single currency closed the week at 1.1651.

#### A win for PM May in the Parliament

The UK's House of Commons has voted by 319 to 303 to reject an amendment tabled by the House of Lords, which would have given parliament a boost on the final Brexit deal. The amendment tabled yesterday was itself a watered-down version of an amendment rejected last week. And yesterday's vote on the revised amendment was on a knife-edge because would-be rebels (ie members of the ruling Conservative party intending to vote against the government) were reported as saying the government had reneged on the agreement it made with them last week. The market is still uncertain on the path of the Brexit situation which is still weighing heavily on the Sterling Pound.

#### Bank of England kept rates on hold

The Monetary Policy Committee at the Bank of England voted by 6-3 in favor of keeping interest rates steady at 0.50% in their latest meeting last Thursday. The MPC also voted unanimously to keep QE and corporate bond holdings unchanged. As was the case in May, the minutes suggest the MPC is relaxed about the recent weakness of the data. Members felt the news since May had given them 'greater reassurance that the softness of activity in the first quarter had been largely temporary'. It left its forecast for Q2 GDP growth unchanged at 0.4%. The committee focused on the upbeat data of the consumer indicators such as the retail sales and consumer confidence. The market is currently pricing a 70% probability for a hike in the upcoming August meeting. The cable traded with high volatility last week losing up to 1.34% reaching a low of 1.3102 on Thursday before the BOE's meeting. The increased tensions and uncertainty on the never-ending Brexit situation have weighed heavily on the currency, yet the hawkish MPC and improved interest rate hike probabilities for the upcoming weeks managed to reverse the losses of Thursday. The currency closed the week at 1.3264.

#### SNB leaves policy rates intact

As widely anticipated, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) left its policy rates on hold. The sight deposit rate has been at -0.75% and the 3-month Libor target range at -1.25%/-0.25 since January 2015. The SNB committed to 'remain active' in the FX markets, where the situation is viewed as



'fragile', in particular 'in light of political uncertainty in Italy'. Still describing the Swiss franc as 'highly valued', the SNB continued to consider negative interest rate and willingness to intervene in the FX market as 'essential'. Higher oil prices contributed to an upward revision in the 2018 inflation forecast (+0.3% to 0.9%) while the forecast, conditional to a 3-month Libor at -0.75%, was unchanged for 2019 (0.9%) and revised by -0.3% for 2020 (1.6%), with no further details provided by the SNB on the latter.

#### ASIA

##### Kuroda on the Japanese economy

Bank of Japan's governor Haruhiko Kuroda endorsed a Japanese government call for employers to raise wages by 3% a year. Though wage gains have picked up in 2018, they remain vital in the central banks effort to reach its inflation goal of 2%. The BOJ has stuck by its current policy since 2016, when the focus was on managing Japan's yield curve so that the 10-year rate remains at around 0%. With that said, CPI figure on Friday showcased a stagnant inflation of 0.7% yearly and in-line with the market's expectations. Additionally, the manufacturing PMI came above expectation at 53.1 for the current month.

#### COMMODITIES

##### OPEC increases oil production

OPEC agreed on Friday on a modest increase in oil production from July after its leader Saudi Arabia persuaded Iran to cooperate amid calls from major consumers to help reduce the price of crude and avoid a supply shortage. A source confirmed the group will aim to restore about 1 million barrels per day (bpd) to the market. However, estimates show the real increase will be smaller because several countries will struggle to return to full quotas. Analysts say supply increases are more likely to fall in a range between 600,000 to 800,000 bpd. OPEC president Suhail Al Mazrouei said they made "the best choice" in balancing the interests of its members and other producers. Brent oil prices were up around 2.0% on Friday as the output boost had been largely priced in and was seen as modest. Brent crude closed out the week at \$75.55, 2.11% higher.

## NBK offers discount for customers to try NBK Tap & Pay

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait stays up-to-date when it comes to leading innovations with digital payment solutions that meet customer needs in their personal and professional life. NBK's Tap & Pay wearable includes wristbands and stickers that make simple payment transactions quick and easy.

NBK is now offering a special promotion for customers to avail of NBK Tap & Pay wearables for a limited time for KD 12 only. NBK Tap & Pay wristbands and Stickers are the perfect way to pay for purchases while out running errands, jogging or even stopping to grab a cup of coffee on the way to work.

"NBK's Tap & Pay wearables and stickers are secure and convenient, using the latest in payment technology to guarantee a quick, secure and faster payment experience for customers." Explained Naser Alduwaisan, Cards Products Officer, National Bank of Kuwait. "Customers need only to tap their wristband or sticker over the POS terminal and can finish a transaction in a few short minutes."

The groundbreaking Tap & Pay technology, increasingly popular in the US and Europe, has witnessed a growing fan base in Kuwait and the Gulf. More than 7,000 restaurants, shops, entertainment centers, coffee shops and lifestyle brands now accept the NBK Tap & Pay service in Kuwait, giving customers wide choice in using their Tap & Pay wristband or sticker to make small purchases without having to sign or use a PIN code.

NBK customers can pay for purchases up to KD 100, without the need to carry a wallet. As part of a special time-limited promotion, NBK has halved the fee for the popular



Naser Alduwaisan

Tap & Pay wearables from KD 25 to KD 12 to give customers an opportunity to experience this stylish, safe and innovative technology for themselves. This special offer is available in NBK branches at The Avenues, Grand Avenues, Surra, Qurain, KNPC, Al-Hamra and Mishref. Customers can also order over the phone by contacting the NBK Call Center.

"NBK invites customers to try out this new, innovative payment solution for themselves to see what all the excitement is about," said Alduwaisan. "The discount promotion provides customers a chance to explore another technology meant to add convenience and quality to their lifestyle." Customers can utilize their NBK Tap & Pay wearables or stickers at coffee shops, restaurants, shops, and lifestyle brands across Kuwait and around the world. The NBK Tap & Pay service is currently available for credit, debit, and prepaid cards from NBK. Customers can also avail of special rewards and promotions depending on the card.

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## Business

# Lexus wins JD most dependable power vehicle 7th year in a row

**KUWAIT:** Lexus has once again earned top honors in the recently published reports from JD Power Vehicle Dependability Study and Consumer Reports Reliability survey of 2018. Lexus was ranked highest overall in vehicle dependability among all brands, 99 reported problems per 100 vehicles, while the industry average was 142.

This is the seventh consecutive year Lexus has led the VDS rankings. Lexus CT, Lexus ES, Lexus GS, Lexus RX were segment award winning models from Lexus. The 2018 US Vehicle Dependability Study is based on responses from 36,896 original owners of 2015 model-year vehicles after three years of ownership. The study was fielded in October-December 2017.

According to Mahmoud Abou-Zahr Business Director Lexus Kuwait "At Lexus we always talk about the spirit of Experience Amazing, inevitable in Lexus products and services. Amazing innovation, technology, hospitality is all part of this spirit. However, the recognition as the most dependable brand 7 years in a row is a testimony that Lexus not only wins for quality but top of the table in terms of exceptional quality." Lexus is on a trajectory being starting out in a territory as a more conventional luxury brand towards becoming a luxury lifestyle brand. Globally the brand is aiming to be brave, thoughtful and imaginative.

At the heart of every Lexus design is "Takumi Craftsmanship" where craftsmen use their vast experience to achieve one single goal, perfection. As a result, all Lexus vehicles are created with masterful skill and attention to detail, utilizing state-of-the-art technologies to deliver an engineering masterpiece. The study, now in its 29th year, measures the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100) during the past 12 months by original owners of 2015 model-year vehicles. A lower score reflects higher quality, and the study covers 177 specific problems grouped into eight major vehicle categories. The overall industry average improved to PP100 to 142 PP100 from 156 PP100 in 2017.



## Gulf Bank extends automotive financing offers due to demand

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank has announced that its automotive financing offers, which have seen remarkable demand since their launch in 2017 and obtained highly positive feedback from customers, has been extended until 31 July 2018.

The financing solutions were introduced in cooperation with top car dealers in Kuwait, aiming at providing convenience and added value to Gulf Bank's customers, who can benefit from these offers when visiting Lexus, Toyota, Ford, KIA, Nissan, Honda, in addition to Chevrolet and Cadillac showrooms. Once their dream car has been picked, Gulf Bank customers just have to set up a meeting with a Bank rep-

resentative to finance their brand-new vehicle at attractive rates.

Commenting on the offer, Ahmed Al Ameer, Assistant General Manager for External Communications said: "Gulf Bank has decided to continue its successful collaboration with car dealers in Kuwait to present the best offers to its customers and offering premium services. For the convenience of our customers, Gulf Bank representatives are available at all car dealerships across Kuwait to inform potential car owners about the bank's promotion. This offer, which is open to customers and non-customers, has been in great demand, which we are very proud of."

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi 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. Kholoud Ali Ahmad Almanea
2. Mazen Hameed Jassem Alwazan
3. 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, 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.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account, the new quarterly draw or on any of the bank's products and services, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, or simply call the bank's Call Center. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's [www.burgan.com](http://www.burgan.com) for further information.

## Turkish Airlines, ZTO Express and PAL Air Ltd sign for a great partnership



**KUWAIT:** The media briefing and signing ceremony of the joint venture between Turkish Airlines' Turkish Cargo successfully representing Turkey all around the world. Chinese cargo giant ZTO and Hong Kong based PAL Air Ltd took place yesterday in Istanbul.

The partnership regarded not only as a huge strategic step for Turkey prior to the opening of the Istanbul New Airport but a game changer for the global express transport business, was sealed and signed by Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M Iker Ayc, ZTO Express Chairman Mei Song LAI and PAL Air Ltd Vice-Chairman Ms Vivian Lau.

"Today, I feel privileged to welcome you all for the signing ceremony of a great partnership agreement between the biggest brands of China and Turkey. As Turkish Airlines, ZTO Express and PAL Air Ltd, we are announcing the signing of MoU to build a Joint Venture company to operate as a Global Express/ Courier company mainly focusing on Global E-commerce market with full door to door services. We are now delighted to make this strategic move into Global Express business together with the strong partnership of ZTO, the best and largest Express company from China and

our long term cross border forwarding partner PAL Air Ltd, from Hong Kong.

The Joint Venture, after reaching quickly to fully functional and operational levels, is expected to take place within the world's largest integrators. In 5 years' time it will generate over 2 billion USD of revenue. The growth is expected to continue gradually parallel to the e-commerce demand.

The Istanbul New Airport will be opened by 29th of October this year and it will function as Turkish Airlines main operating hub. This mega hub, will gradually provide Turkish Cargo up to 4 million tons of cargo handling capacity, becoming one of the top 5 air cargo brands of the world. The flow of e-commerce products globally with this Joint Venture via Istanbul Mega Hub; will provide maximum value to our customers worldwide," said M Iker Ayc, Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, Turkish Airlines.

The services of the new global express joint venture company which will be based in Hong Kong, will include all door to door logistics activities: trucking, collection & distribution, freight transportation, cross docking and final mile delivery. It will also include warehouse management, order and supply chain management when necessary.

## Wataniya Airlines takes off on an expansionary journey

**KUWAIT:** Constantly seeking to become the ideal travel partner for all passengers traveling from Kuwait, Wataniya Airways, Kuwait's newest airline, is further expanding its flights' network with two weekly flights to each of Malaga and Athens, considered as some of the much sought-after touristic destinations. Praised for their rich cultures, touristic attractions, and beautiful natural landscapes, both Malaga and Athens offer perfect recreational activities for the entire family. Recently, Wataniya Airways revealed its summer packages including the launch of its flights to Malaga airport, which is only 20 minutes away from the city center, and to Athens airport located 30 minutes away from the city center.

Conveying the best on-board services, Wataniya Airways offers its passengers pleasant flights, departing at 8:10 am from Kuwait International Airport and landing at 4:40 pm in Malaga and at 3:10 pm in Athena. On their way back to Kuwait, passengers' flights will depart at 5:20 pm, giving them sufficient time to enjoy their last touristic day and to rest before heading to the airport with unforgettable memories.

Malaga offers its visitors 24 hours of recreational activities for the entire family. The city embraces tailor-made activities for children, including water parks and other activities that the whole family can share such as visiting the zoo, the butterflies' garden, or even riding horses in its picturesque



nature. Spanish food lovers will also be able to embark on a journey of its own consisting of the finest sea food dishes served at Malaga restaurants extending along the seashores of some of the Spanish city breathtaking towns that must be visited, including Benalmadena, Torremolinos, Fuengirola, Mijas Costa, Marbella, Estepona and many others.

On the other hand, passengers choosing to travel to Athens, Greece, will enjoy a direct flight to the popular tourist destination with a lot to offer to its visitors. Known as the historical city of Europe, Athens is land to a rich history with many points of interest as it is still dominated by 5th-century BC landmarks. Athens embraces as well a wide choice of opportunities for shopping, dining, and good service but above all the city is very well-known for the hospitality and warmth of its people.

Ever since Wataniya Airlines resumed its operations, the company has been experiencing a tremendous response as it made possible to its passengers traveling to more

than 16 of their favorite touristic destinations renowned as new and rare locations; thus providing them with several choices whether planning for a family vacation in a country renowned for its nature, looking forward to spending a quiet trip, or simply going on a shopping holiday, hence meeting all tastes and preferences.

The company aims to become the number one option for travelers seeking a unique holiday experience that begins with choosing a destination, getting served by a friendly crew throughout the flight, and being offered excellent services at competitive prices. In line with Kuwait's development plan of the local aviation sector to keep pace with the rapid growth of the Kuwaiti market, Wataniya Airways is witnessing a new era at all levels, led by administrative, technical, and customer service enhancements, striving to provide distinctive services in a non-conventional style to all Kuwaitis and expatriates from different segments.

## AUB announces countdown to Grand Al Hasad prize draw

**KUWAIT:** One fortunate winner will soon enjoy Ahli United Bank's (AUB) quarterly prize draw providing a KD 250,000 Life-time Salary as the countdown begins to one of the Islamic bank's top rewarding savings prize draws. The draw will take place on the 27th of June, where one winner will win the top prize of a KD 250,000 Life-time Salary through monthly payments.

Customers may enter the draw to enjoy this attractive quarterly prize when opening their Al Hasad accounts at least two weeks prior to the official draw date. The Al Hasad program is the first program for prizes in Kuwait which provides the highest prizes value, reaching KD 3.4 million per annum, along with offering 26 weekly prizes - generating

the largest number of winners. Al Hasad's success is in parallel to other successful products and services AUB continues to evolve to support their Customer's evolving needs.

The Bank is reaching out to citizens and residents of Kuwait to avail the benefits associated with the Al Hasad account. Al Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions. Individuals interested in winning and achieving more profits in line with Sharia'a law, may open their Al Hasad Islamic savings account with a minimum of KD 100.

Opening the account does not require a salary transfer, and minors are also able to open their accounts through their parents or



legal guardians. Through these simple steps to opening an Al Hasad account, AUB reaffirms its commitment to being the ideal Bank that works towards increasing its clients' savings, helping them achieve their dreams by delivering on Kuwait's first Islamic rewards program.

## Malabar opens expanded showroom at Madinat Zayed Shopping Centre, Abu Dhabi

**ABU DHABI:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewelry retailers globally with over 215 retail outlets has now restyled and expanded its showroom at Madinat Zayed Shopping Centre, Abu Dhabi to accommodate the growing customer footfall. The renovated & expanded showroom at Madinat Zayed Shopping Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE was inaugurated on 21st June by MP Ahammed, Chairman - Malabar Group in the presence of Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations, Mr. Abdul Salam KP, Group Executive Director, Malabar Group, management team members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, media & well-wishers.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom, lying in one of the busiest shopping destinations of Abu Dhabi has renovated the showroom to cater to the growing customer footfall and to accommodate a larger collection of the one-stop fashion gold, diamonds and precious gem jewelry. The new showroom is aiming to offer the customers with an exceptional shopping experience in terms of the availability of the latest and most fashionable jewelry, outstanding customer service as well as an excellent shopping ambience. Suggestions and requests from the customers have been taken



To add more glitter to this season, they have also unveiled an enviable collection of jewelry in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has incorporated these designs as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewelry, Precia - Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids jewelry. The restyled showroom is worth a visit for all the new designs on sale, the great revamped shopping ambience and the summer promotion offers. Hurry and head to the Madinat Zayed Shopping center for the ultimate shopping experience!



## Technology

# Ooredoo participates in Gait store opening in Avenues

Special offers for any purchase of devices from the exclusive Apple premium reseller



Group photo of the team at work.



(From left) Abdullah Al-Majdl, Jasem Abdulrahim, Mijbil Al-Ayoub, Abdullah Safar, Tamer Shibli, , Ahmed Dardab and Peter Babec.



The inauguration of the store.



**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait participated in launching the special branch of Gait, Kuwait's new Apple Premium Reseller, in Phase 4 of the Avenues Mall on Thursday. The new store opening, which brings an exclusive customer-centric experience with the help of highly-qualified product experts, was attended by Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior



Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub, Chief Sales Officer Tamer Shibli, and Senior Director of Retail and Franchise Sales Ahmed Dardab.

Customers of the Gait who purchase any new device can avail a special offer in collaboration with Ooredoo, giving customers up to 2 months of free services with Shamel Mobile, Ooredoo's postpaid plan. Shamel includes a number exclusive perks and benefits, such as unlimited internet, unlimited minutes, and roaming minutes and internet,

in addition to the ability to freeze contracts during travel, transferring contracts to new owners flexibly, and purchasing new devices on installments with the same contract.

In a statement to the press, Ooredoo Kuwait announced that it is proud to collaborate Gait in bringing a joint product that aims to enrich the experience of cus-

tomers, underscoring the two companies' joint interest in delivering products that enable people to a better digital experience.

Ooredoo also reiterated its ongoing interest in expanding its portfolio of services by collaborating with like-minded entities that are in alignment with the leading telecom provider's mission.

## Porsche design Huawei Mate RS: Leader of luxury smartphones

**KUWAIT:** A sophisticated and exclusive smartphone is the most covetable accessory for your hand today. It is where fashion, innovative technology and best-in-class design converge, to give you the ultimate accessory - the luxury smartphone. Your quest for a breath-taking luxury smartphone that complements your style, personality and prestige ends here! Huawei with its new PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate Race Sport (RS) has gone above and beyond to create a product that expresses a new way of living a luxury lifestyle.

High quality and exceptionally crafted, coming from one of the world's largest smartphone brands, the PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate RS defines a new standard of luxury with its 40 MP Leica triple camera with Master Artificial Intelligence (AI), a new innovative in-screen and a rear fingerprint sensor, quick wireless charging, a symmetrical 3D curved glass body and super-sized storage of the future.

Equipped with Leica triple camera with 40MP image capture and 5x hybrid zoom, the PORSCHE DESIGN



HUAWEI Mate RS delivers unparalleled sharpness, color accuracy, focus and contrast for every single shot. The revolutionary Master AI makes taking pictures effortless as the smartphone camera does the thinking for you, and automatically adjusts camera settings to deliver incredible, professional-looking images in every environment, be it blue sky, people or a dog. Meanwhile, the 5x Hybrid Zoom captures every single detail as if you're standing right in front of the object and with the long-range photography of up to 5x, you can always capture the vivid colors and intricate details.

The high-end flagship smartphone unleashes a revolution in unlocking. The dual fingerprint scanner for enhanced convenience allows users to awake and unlock the device simply, thanks to a rear and new innovative in-

screen fingerprint sensor. Floating your finger wakes up the device and touching to unlock the smartphone is as fast as lightning. The pioneering in-screen fingerprint design adds up to the already unprecedented smartphone experience. The PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate RS also features face unlock.

Inspired by the streamlined aesthetics of Porsche super cars, the stylish, symmetrical 8-edged 3D curved glass draws envious stares every time it's placed, casually, on the coffee table at your business meeting. Or as you hold it up to snap a photograph at a high-profile event. It's a premium look that's in a class of its own - but add to that beauty, the precision and perfection, intelligent functionality and distinguished design, and you've got a level of sophistication that goes the extra mile.

The PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate RS is the first Huawei handset to allow quick wireless charging, making it even easier to keep the phone topped up and ready to go and thanks to its long-lasting battery, the smartphone stays powered up and at your service through the busiest of days.

It's up to 512GB of high-speed internal storage delivers a storage performance and capacity comparable to a laptop computer, with enough space to easily store videos, pictures and media content, resulting in convenience like never before. Designed for the discerning customer, PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate RS has tailored accessories inspired by PORSCHE supercar's premium interior material. The Porsche Design Huawei Mate RS is now available to purchase from X-cite Electronics & Best Al Yousifi Electronics at a price of KD500.

## X-cite becomes exclusive distributor of Nostalgia



**KUWAIT:** As part of its strategy to further expand and provide the local market with unique and quality products, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, Kuwait's largest electronic retailer, announced the signing of an exclusive distribution agreement for Nostalgia, the internationally-renowned brand in the category of specialized home appliances for food and beverages preparation.

Considered as one of the leading manufacturers of food and beverages preparation appliances, Nostalgia's product line-up includes popcorn makers, cotton candy makers, chocolate fountains, fondue pots, server and warming trays, beverage fountains, in addition to other food preparation utensils and accessories. Nostalgia products feature vibrant designs and colors inspired by the American 19th century, along a contemporary look that adds fun and excitement to the food making process. Nostalgia's small-size products are easy-to-use thus becoming the optimal choice for family occasions, gatherings and children parties.

X-cite has established itself as a leading brand in providing the latest products to customers as it continues to build strong relations with international brands in the electronics sector. Continuously seeking to satisfy the needs of its customers, X-cite provides them with diverse services that enable customers to experience products and interact with them, whether in their 25 stores or through the website, designed to make online shopping a fast and easy experience. X-cite also offers premium maintenance and purchase services at most of its major showrooms throughout Kuwait and other services such as free delivery and X-care warranty services.

## Canon ME celebrates channel partners' business performance

**DUBAI:** Canon Middle East recognizes the success of channel partners by awarding eight partners during the 9th annual Canon Middle East Channel Awards. A platform to celebrate business performance and innovative selling practices, the awards ceremony saw over 100 key IT distributors showcasing their best solutions and practices amongst their peers.

As part of Canon's constant engagement with and support towards channel partners, the aim of the awards is to equip partners for success and enable them to become leaders in the industry. Canon has created a clear roadmap for partners that supports growth, and recognizes and rewards achievement, and provides visibility to measure earned success.

The winners were categorized according to best sales practices during the past year across Canon's innovative products. Six channel partners received the 'Best Performance' award across the B2C and B2B units, including Tina Technology, Earth Gate Trading, Blue Bell Computers, Al Noorie Computers, and Era Computers. Two channel partners received the 'Long Term Strategic Partner' award, including Accent Office Supplies and Humaid Buajeel Computer Trading LLC. The 'Overall Performance Award' went to Copier International Trading.

"Canon is fully committed to supporting our channel partners, to ensure that our end-users can purchase with utmost confidence that they are obtaining the best products which translate their visions into reality, backed by a matchless sales and support experience from our busi-

ness partners. It is important that we constantly help develop our channel partners, to ensure that our innovative solutions enable our customers to transform effectively", said Venkatasubramanian Hariharan, B2C Business Unit Director at Canon Middle East.

"Through these awards, we are building a platform to strengthen our relationship with our partners and celebrate quality performance. Our aim is to provide our partners with the tools required to meet customer needs and flourish as a business. Our channel partners are integral for Canon's growth in the region, and with the evolving technology landscape, we are committed to helping them adapt to these market changes and the growth in

consumer demands. Canon's channel partners are armed with long-term and proven ability to deliver sales and service of Canon products", said ShadiBakhour, B2B Business Unit Director at Canon Middle East.

Held in Dubai, the event also showcased Canon's latest innovative products in Laser and Inkjet hardware. Canon also announced a strategic partnership with Trigon LLC, a reputable IT distributor in the region. Appointed as Canon's tier-1 partner in the UAE, the partnership will focus on System Integrator and Value Added Reseller channels, SMEs, and corporates across the B2B and B2C focus areas.





# South Africa’s battle to resuscitate cancer care

**DURBAN:** South African electrician Phiwankosi Mkhize was diagnosed with lung cancer in May last year and told by the hospital to come back for a scan in 15 months. But after just 12 months he died, before having the chance to receive treatment. The 66-year-old's fate is far from unique in southeastern KwaZulu-Natal province, the country's second most populous. Hundreds of patients have died in the region over the past three years as cancer services come under acute pressure following a decision by the provincial government to cut costs and stop recruiting or replacing doctors, say rights activists and doctors.

**‘Very distressed system’**  
“Patients who have cancer survive after going for chemotherapy, but for my dad it was too late,” Mkhize's daughter, Londiwe, told AFP, days after his death on May 7. South Africa's human rights commission says patients at publicly-funded hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal wait between five months and a year to see an oncologist and another eight months for radiotherapy or chemotherapy. Mkhize is “a classic case of a patient who was failed by the system,” said opposition Democratic Alliance provincial lawmaker and doctor Imran Keeka. Indeed, on social media the plight of cancer sufferers in KwaZulu-Natal is referred to as #KZNOncoCrisis, but the problems are not isolated to the province.

South African Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi acknowledged this month that the national healthcare system in general was “very distressed”, as it battles a rise in cancer cases like in other countries, and a shortage of doctors. “We are painfully aware of poor, or lack of management skills in most of our hospitals,” he said. He announced funding of 100 million rand (\$7.6 million, 6.5 million euros) shared between hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal and Johannesburg to buy and repair machines and hire staff to help clear a treatment backlog. “We have helped them to hire private oncologists... and the contract is for them to see 450 patients per month, and once the two machines start working, we will contract others to help them,” Motsoaledi told AFP.

**‘Died waiting’**  
The development came too late for Mkhize, however. In December, he had gone back to hospital in excruciating pain and been given morphine but told nothing more could be done and to go home as he only had a few days left to live, Mkhize told AFP three months later. “He was crying like a baby, like anybody would do,” said his daughter Londiwe, 28, sitting next to him on a visit to the provincial parliament aimed at exposing his plight. On that rainy March day, Mkhize, Londiwe, his son and a nephew travelled to the parliament in Pietermaritzburg, 235 kilometers (150 miles) from their village, and sat in the public

gallery as lawmakers discussed the cancer care problem. At least 499 patients in KwaZulu-Natal province “died while waiting for radiotherapy and curative therapy” over a 12-month period between 2015 and 2016, according to Keeka, citing figures presented to parliament by the provincial health department. The number excludes those who died at home or in palliative care facilities, said the lawmaker. “The patients we send to hospitals don't get attended to, the cancer advances and they die,” said Mvuyisi Mzukwa, who heads the South African Medical Association (SAMA) in the province. Contacted by AFP, the provincial government declined to comment.

**‘Resigning out of frustration’**  
Keeka estimates that KwaZulu-Natal province should have at least 16 oncologists. But the doctors' association and opposition lawmakers say that, by last year, all but two oncologists in the province had resigned, largely due to frustration at not being able to save more lives, a lack of equipment and an overload of patients. Overall, South Africa has 38 radiation oncologists working in public hospitals, compared with 147 in the private sector, according to Raymond Abratt, chairman of the South African Society of Clinical and Radiation Oncology. Abratt said there was now no full-time oncologist at any public hospital in Durban, the provincial capital, and that the crunch in cancer care had been “a major problem

for a couple of years”. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior doctor working at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli hospital in Durban said government funding had dried up without warning. A recruitment freeze was put in place and repairs halted for radiotherapy and ultrasound scanners, the doctor said.

**‘Losing people unnecessarily’**  
Doctors “felt useless... oncologists decided to resign because they were frustrated. The department is in shambles”, said Mzukwa, SAMA's KwaZulu-Natal provincial head. In the economic hub of Johannesburg, cancer care staff numbers are falling, while the eastern province of Mpumalanga has no oncologist at all, Abratt said. At a Durban palliative care centre run by the non-profit Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), father-of-three Hendrik Prinsloo, 64, from the seaside town of Margate, has cancer of the mouth. He only began receiving treatment more than a year after his diagnosis, he said. “You are sent home and you wait. They say they will call you for radiation and they never call,” said Prinsloo. “Unfortunately we lose our patients because of long waiting periods between the time of diagnosis, to the time when they actually receive treatment, or if ever (they get treated),” said CANSA nurse Siphelelisiwe Mabaso. “It's heart-wrenching, it's devastating. We are losing people unnecessarily.” —AFP

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## What's On

# Ahli United Bank successfully concludes its unique Ramadan social program



AUB employees and LOYAC volunteers visit the Al-Kharafi Center for Children.



AUB employees distributed food to families in need in cooperation with Kuwait Red Crescent Society.



Head of the Fatwa committee at AUB Sheikh Khaled Al-Mathkour poses with participants in the Ramadan Quran Recitation Competition.



AUB employees and LOYAC volunteers visit Al-Amiri Hospital.

Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has completed its social program that was held throughout the holy month of Ramadan. Throughout the month, the bank drove an integrated program that included a broad range of charity, religious as well as social welfare activities. This year, AUB launched its advertising Ramadan campaign to celebrate the holy month under the theme 'There is something more important'.

The campaign focused on a set of unique values that seek to remind us of the importance of the holy month, starting by worship and getting closer to God Almighty, the practice of religious rituals and prayers and the importance of family connection and relations in addition to the exchange of greetings and the spread of joy and happiness in the hearts of everyone.

AUB, who has operated in Kuwait for over 77 years, also organized its Ramadan Quran Recitation Competition,

which is being held for the fourth consecutive year. This year, the competition has been developed to include eight primary categories: male and female employees, staff members' children, and from the public, male children whose ages range between 6 to 10 years old, female children between 6 to 10 years old, male children between 11 to 17 years old, female children between 11 to 17 years old in addition to the new category added this year, children with hearing impairities. The competition was concluded on Thursday, May 31, 2018 by honoring the winners from all age groups. In addition, the competition received the appreciation of the bank's management as well as the organizing committee due to the fact that it attracted a large number of supporters this year.

In addition, AUB organized a seminar for its employees that was held under the theme of "The blessings of the last 10 days in Ramadan", which was attended by the head of

the Fatwa committee at AUB Sheikh Khaled Al-Mathkour. The event was focused on the last 10 days during the holy month and the blessings that it brings upon people.

As part of AUB's commitment towards charity work and in order to stimulate the concept of giving, participation and collective volunteering by the bank and its volunteering employees, the bank's social program included a number of social initiatives in cooperation with the Red Crescent as well as the private sector which was held under the theme of "Sa'ed Tasa'ad". The campaign took place throughout the entire month.

AUB's participation in similar programs is a continuation and an extension of its contributions towards promoting and encouraging social initiatives that aim at facilitating a better living conditions for families in need to make them happier during the holy month. In addition, the bank partnered with LOYAC and organized a number of visits that were led by

its employees to celebrate the joy of girgian with children at Al-Amiri and Mubarak Hospitals, Al-Kharafi Center for Children as well as The Authority for the Underprivileged. The aim was to create a sense of joy amongst children and to ease their worries during the holy month.

In conclusion, Sahar Dashti, AUB's Deputy General Manager responsible for the bank's social responsibility program has stated: The bank reaffirms its keen interest to supporting its initiatives that are a core part of its social responsibility program, as part of its active role to serve the local community. The bank will continue driving its efforts towards further developing and enhancing its social programs for Ramadan every year, to ensure and guarantee providing the best possible activities that are in line with the nature of the holy month and ones which reinforce strong ties across the community. May Allah Almighty return this holy month on the Islamic nation with prosperity and abounding blessings.

## Sheraton Kuwait celebrates 52 years of excellence

Sheraton Kuwait Hotel is celebrating its 52nd anniversary since its inauguration in 1966, the first five star hotel in Kuwait to open outside North America and the Middle East, managed by Marriott International.

Recognized as the pioneer for the hospitality industry both locally and regionally and as Kuwait's Enduring Social Icon, Sheraton Kuwait continues to deliver its legendary hospitality and excellent service. Throughout the hotel's exceptional history, it has been acknowledged for its remarkable admiration from global leaders and has received numerous esteemed awards from prestigious organizations. Furthermore,

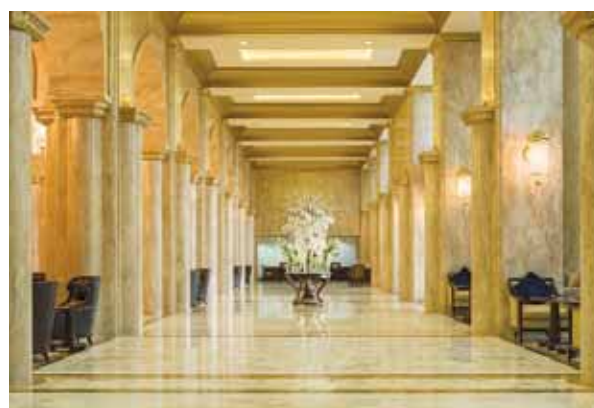
Sheraton Kuwait has been recognized for eight consecutive years as 'Kuwait's Leading Hotel' by the World Travel Awards (WTA) to mark another year's achievement.

During this special occasion, Fahed Abushaar, General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait Hotel, expressed his delight at the exceptional performance of the hotel. Stating, "I am delighted to know that our Sheraton family has progressed through another magnificent year with 52 years of excellence. We are also extremely proud to be known as a com-



plex property with a comfortable gateway to the best of Kuwait, the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait and its achievements throughout this year after its brilliant beginning since its expansion.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation and congratulate all the associates for their amazing effort, their hard work and determination to ensure that the unequalled hospitality and distinctive service are bestowed to each and every guest which has truly played a large role in the success of the hotel. As well, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all those who have supported us during the last 52 years. Your loyalty is absolutely timeless and enduring like the memories that were created and we continue to make, right here at the Sheraton Kuwait."



My little princess Aamina Imran turns 2, God bless you and may you have prosperous future ahead. Best wishes and love from papa, mama, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousin and brothers Abdullah, Osama, Ali, Umar, Hassan, Mohsin, Talha and sisters Fatima, Ayesha, Meeqat.

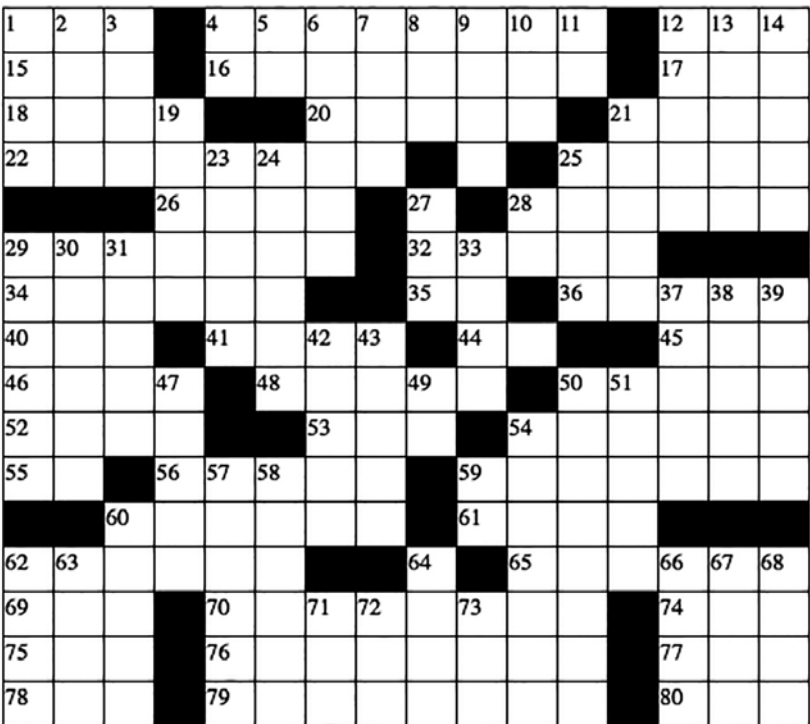


Kuwait Finance House (KFH) volunteers celebrated Eid Al-Fitr holiday with children at Jahra Hospital, in cooperation with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH).





CROSSWORD 1942



ACROSS

- 1. (often followed by `of') A large number or amount or extent.
- 4. A great raja.
- 12. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary and stimulates growth of Graafian follicles in female mammals, and activates sperm-forming cells in male mammals.
- 15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- 16. Not changed by editing.
- 17. A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
- 18. Any of various aromatic resinous substances used for healing and soothing.
- 20. The capital of Morocco.
- 22. Dressed in trousers.
- 26. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 29. Filled with shade.
- 32. Having had the bones removed.
- 34. 100 pesewas equal 1 cedi.
- 35. A person forced to flee from home or country.
- 36. A style of glazed earthenware.
- 40. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
- 41. The length of a straight line passing through the center of a circle and connecting two points on the circumference.
- 44. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- 45. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- 46. Not only so, but.
- 48. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- 52. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- 53. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
- 55. An uproarious party.
- 56. Perennial northern temperate plant with toothed leaves and heads of small purplish-white flowers.
- 61. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- 62. Mar or spoil the appearance of.
- 65. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
- 69. Liquid containing proteins and electrolytes including the liquid in blood plasma and interstitial fluid.
- 70. Excessively fastidious and easily disgusted.
- 74. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 75. The sixth day of the week.
- 76. Not seeking or given to association.
- 77. The month following February and preceding April.
- 78. Semiformal evening dress for men.
- 79. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 80. Used of a single unit or thing.
- 3. (British) An open river valley (in a hilly area).
- 4. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 5. An associate degree in nursing.
- 6. (formal) By means of this.
- 7. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 8. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
- 9. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- 10. Of the blackest black.
- 11. A public promotion of some product or service.
- 12. Intentional deception resulting in injury to another person.
- 13. Spanish missionary who founded Franciscan missions in California (1713-1784).
- 14. A city of central China.
- 19. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
- 21. Relative darkness caused by light rays being intercepted by an opaque body.
- 23. A large number of things or people considered together.
- 24. A state in the United States in the central Pacific on the Hawaiian Islands.
- 25. In bed.
- 27. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- 28. Not out.
- 30. To this writing or document.
- 31. An association of nations dedicated to economic and political cooperation in southeastern Asia.
- 33. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 37. A garment covering the leg (usually extending from the knee to the ankle).
- 38. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
- 39. Japanese architect (born in 1913).
- 42. (computer science) American Standard Code for Information Interchange.
- 43. Hardened sugary exudation of various trees.
- 47. Leafless East Indian vine.
- 49. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- 50. A long slender cigar.
- 51. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 54. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 57. Reimburse or compensate (someone), as for a loss.
- 58. The town was taken from the Turks by the Russians in 1877 after a siege of 143 days.
- 59. An informal term for a father.
- 60. A linguistic element added to a word to produce an inflected or derived form v l.
- 63. A very light brown.
- 64. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
- 66. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
- 67. A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- 68. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 71. The rate at which red blood cells settle out in a tube of blood under standardized conditions.
- 72. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- 73. Being one more than two.

DOWN

- 1. English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
- 2. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today may bring a bit of difficulty when it comes to staying focused. Even though it may feel as though things are falling apart around you don't give up. In all reality the pieces are falling exactly where they are meant to be. There is a reason for everything. Keep calm and push on. You may find you feel conflicted between your career and home laugh. You may choose to pass up a career opportunity at this time as you are determined to protect your personal relationships. This could be a very profitable choice for you, Aries. In the long run you support those who you know will always be there for you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The sky is the limit. You have set your goals high and by this point you may be look down on them as you soar above and beyond all expectations you had for yourself. You are on fire. You filled with optimistic feelings and on top of the world. This is a great day for your relationship wise as well as in the workplace. You exude confidence today that so many will find as attractive. Your desires are leading you to crave something new. You are willing to try anything today with your "bring it on" attitude. High energy and happiness fill your world today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Say hello to lady luck. Today may just be a lucky one for you. Your mind is sharp, and your wit is quick. You may even come off a bit eccentric today. Expect a breakthrough. An answer to a question you have been contemplating about your life situation. Today finds you optimistic and determined. Your confidence level is through the roof. You may find yourself taking a leap of faith in a relationship that you would never had the guts to take before. You have deep desires to get in touch with all that drives and motivates you. You are on a mission to truly find yourself.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Reach for the stars! You may be high energy and feel as if there is no limit to what you will be able to accomplish today, and you are correct. Today is full of ambition and your mind is clear and focused. You have emotions stirring within you that you may have never experienced before. These will lead you to step out of your comfort zone and take emotional risks that usually you would be too reserved to take. Your relationship may become stronger and you may find yourself at a new level with someone close to you. The risk is worth the pay off, Cancer. This is a time of emotional wanderlust in your world.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are on top of the world. Your goals are set sky high and you may feel as if they are in close reach. You are optimistic and faithful. When it comes to career and personal life you are passionate. This is a wonderful time to take an emotional risk. Tell someone how you feel, don't hold back. This may have a big pay off in the long run. Take the chance, be open and honest. This is a great time to explore your feelings as emotions run deep. You may find today brings much love and support from those closest to you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Seems as if all is well in your world. You should be experiencing much love and support from those around you. You are able to sense and respond to the needs of others. This is a quality that draws many to you. You are the friend others not only want to have but also wish they could be. Always follow your gut instinct, listen to your hunches. Be sure and just go with the flow. Your creativity is through the roof, this may be a profitable time for you with an invention or even marketing a craft you make. You are talented and loved, Virgo. Count your blessings and continue to bring blessing to the lives of those around you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Roller Coasters

Find and circle all of the roller coasters that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 20 letters spell a Ernest Hemingway quotation.

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

AFTERBURN	GHOSTRIDER	MIND BENDER	SHEIKRA
ALPENGEIST	GOLIATH	MONTU	TATSU
BALDER	GRIFFON	NEMESIS	THUNDERBOLT
BIZARRO	HADES	NITRO	TITAN
COLOSSOS	INTIMIDATOR	PHOENIX	TREMORS
COMET	JUPITER	PROWLER	TROY
CYCLONE	KATUN	RAGING BULL	TWISTER
DESPERADO	LEVIATHAN	RAPTOR	VIPER
DIAMONDBACK	MANTA	RENEGADE	XCELERATOR
EL TORO	MAVERICK	ROAR	



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You jive with everyone today; harmony creates productivity you love! Teamwork is prevalent and you're a member of an awesome team; the workplace seems to be coming together is the most positive ways. Someone asks you to try to remember something from long ago, but you can't; this could be related to a childhood situation. Someone tells you they love you and it means a great deal as this is a dear friend you care for. Your finances are on go because you stick to a plan no matter how difficult it is; awesome job! Variety is compelling, and you welcome every new experience that comes along! You choose to follow your thoughts, desires and ideas as opposed to following someone else's advice. Something sweet awaits you this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You find yourself in admiration of the mystical world around you. You are more determined than ever to put your talents to use whether artistic or psychic. You may find you are faced with opportunity to use these talents and bring the mysterious, the glamorous, and the intriguing into your life. You may be curious of how your mind could be so active and overwhelmed by the ideas that are flowing through in over drive. You feel the need to express these ideas as fast as they come to you and could catch yourself talking the ears off of anyone that would listen.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are optimistic and faith that all things good will come your way. The sky is the limit as far as you are concerned today. You may feel as if there is nothing you can not accomplish. Bring it on! In your personal life you may be ready to take a huge risk. Today may find you down on one knee, considering a move, or opening up and expressing your deepest feelings to someone. You are in a sort of daredevil mode and high on life. Your confidence level is at an all time high and you are just the person who can make your desires become reality. Today, Sagittarius, there is just no stopping you!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have been so extremely focused on friends, family, and career lately that you may be feeling now is the time to re-direct some of this focus on you. It is a great time to fit that workout into your day. This will be a great way to clear your mind and re-direct your focus. You need some "you" time. You may feel as if you are on top of the world and determined to let nothing or no one stand in your way. Capricorn. Start the diet, join the gym, or start the meal planning, but do what it takes to get healthy and happy.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself struggling with sensitive issues today. Even though you may feel as someone is trying to push your buttons, resist the urge to react. You are charming and refined. Use this to your advantage. Remember your strong sense of independence may leave you feeling overlooked or excluded. Feelings of isolation may result, but they will quickly pass. You are optimistic, and others are naturally drawn to you. It won't be long you will find yourself surrounded by your peers in need.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today finds you in a wonderful mood full of appreciation and happiness. You are drawn to the beauty of the world around you. You are loving and nurturing today. You may tend to lavish those close to you with gifts and attention. You have a great sense of peace, happiness, and calm about you today. You put much value into those who are upfront and honest with you. Today you have no time nor tolerance for any perversion, lack of honesty, or those you feel may have secret motives. You are able to see right through this. You are experiencing a degree of mental clarity that has enabled you to conquer this day and all problems and tasks that are presented to you with grace and ease.

Restaurant

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

APERITIF	CUPS	MANAGER	SPOON
APPETIZER	CUSTOMER	MEAL	TABLECLOTH
BILL	DESSERT	MENU	TABLES
BUSBOY	DISHWASHERS	NAPKINS	TEA
CASHIER	DRINKS	ORDER	TIP
CHAIRS	ENTREE	PLATES	WAITER
CHEF	FORK	SALAD	WAITRESS
COFFEE	GLASSES	SAUCERS	WATER
COOKS	KNIFE	SERVERS	WINE

The hidden word is: RESERVATION

Daily SuDoku

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

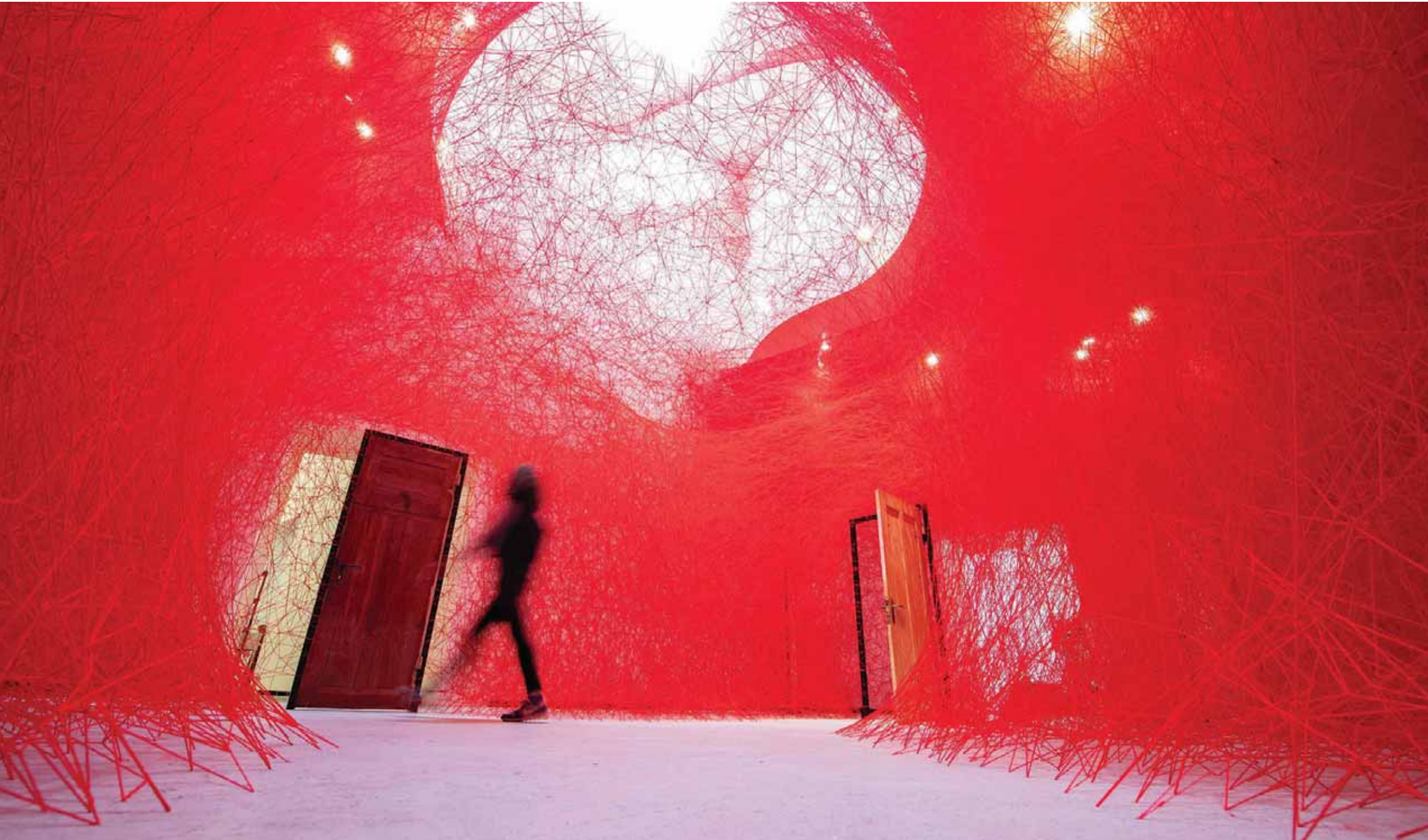
Yesterday's Solution

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



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018



A visitor walks through a room where the installation “Secret Passage” by Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota is on display during a preview of the exhibition “Welcome to the Labyrinth - Artist Deception” at the Marta Herford museum in Herford near Bielefeld, northwestern Germany. Contemporary artists “transform the interior of the museum into an inspiring tour de force which is critical and humorous, and presents the labyrinthine as a meditative figure of thought and at the same time as a physical experience challenging the senses”, according to the museum, from June 23 to September 23, 2018. — AFP

## INDONESIA’S DEBUS FIGHTERS: TOUGH AS NAILS

Mulyadi pounds a nail into his nostril, leaving it embedded in his face, horrifying a group of slack-jawed spectators of debus, an Indonesian tradition blending martial arts with grotesque self-injury. Some of his audience may have had enough, but Mulyadi isn’t done yet. As hypnotic drum-and-flute music plays in the background, he produces a bowl full of nails and appears to stuff a fistful of them into his mouth, swallowing like a champion speed eater. He opens his mouth and sticks out his tongue for any doubters left in the room.

Many outside superstitious Indonesia would write off the Javanese art as all smoke-and-mirrors-and sleight of hand undoubtedly plays a part. But practitioners insist it is divine intervention that keeps them from a trip to the hospital. “Debus is real, with real blood and real machetes. There are no tricks,” says Mulyadi, 50. He declines to say

how his body can supposedly process-and expel-the nails, calling it a “secret”. “They may come out in a few days or they may stay in there, depending on my mood,” he laughs. Debus was born in the 16th century during the reign of the first sultan of the Banten kingdom, who exploited its claims to invincibility to galvanize opposition against Dutch colonizers and to spread Islam-although the tradition’s historical links to religion are still hotly debated.

### ‘It’s so extreme’

Once a favorite at weddings and other celebrations including-improbably circumcisions, debus starts with a series of martial arts moves and prayers to the heavens for protection from injury. Debus master Aris Afandi puts it to the test as he goes at a fellow fighter’s arm with a machete, although his foot pounding and yelling seems to have more

impact than the cut. Afandi chants a prayer and wipes some blood from his comrade’s arm to reveal what appears to be only a minor injury. “When we are chanting the prayers, our bodies are blanketed by an invisible, subtle energy that gives us protection,” he told AFP at a training center in Bandung, 150 kilometers (90 miles) south of Jakarta. Not to be outdone, another fighter lowers a blunt-ended power drill onto his tongue while another walks on bamboo thorns before rolling in them. Nearby, a sledge-hammer crashes into the end of a large stick that appears to be pressed against a fighter’s stomach, eliciting a howling cry. Onlookers aren’t sure whether to snap pictures or look away. “I have goosebumps because it’s so extreme,” said Rohana Rosdiani, a 37-year-old spectator. “They ate nails and drilled their stomach as if they’re building a house. I can imagine how painful it is if you just cut your skin a bit, let alone pierce and puncture it.”

“ Debus is real, with real blood and real machetes. There are no tricks ”

### ‘In it for the passion’

The Banten provincial government is trying to revive interest in the fading tradition, hosting an event last year that featured more than 5,000 fighters-a record. But the future of debus is not guaranteed, as poor pay dissuades many newcomers from taking up the gruesome business full-time. “Fighters are in it for the passion.... You can’t make ends meet by performing debus,” Afandi said. Some Muslim clerics say the tradition is haram, or forbidden, on account of its links to supernatural beliefs, which are common across the vast Southeast Asian archipelago-also the world’s most populous Muslim-majority nation. Some fighters have been seriously injured in the past, and last year a group of men were hospitalized after they rinsed their hands in acid, following an instruction from a self-described debus master who claimed he could make them indestructible. True invincibility requires an unwavering belief in god’s power, Afandi insists. “The higher one’s devotion to god, the stronger the energy,” he added. “That energy turns into a mess if someone hesitates.” — AFP

## Han Solo’s ‘Return of the Jedi’ blaster sells for \$550,000

In the wildly popular “Star Wars” films, Han Solo once told a lightsaber-wielding Luke Skywalker: “Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid.” That was the case when one of the blaster pistol props used by Harrison Ford in “Return of the Jedi” (1983) went under the hammer, selling for \$550,000 topping the \$450,000 previously fetched by Skywalker’s lightsaber from the first two films. “SOLD for \$550,000! An original Han Solo blaster used in Star Wars: Return of the Jedi!” Julien’s Auctions announced on Twitter Saturday. The faux weapon, mainly made of wood, had been put on display in New York by Julien’s Auctions last month after more than 30 years tucked away in the belongings of James Schoppe, art director of “Return of the Jedi”.



In this file photo Star Wars’ Han Solo’s BlasTech DL-44 blaster (estimated value \$300,000 - 500,000) is exhibited by Julien’s Auctions at Planet Hollywood, in New York. — AFP

Martin Nolan, the auction house’s executive director, said Schoppe, an Oscar nominee for his work on the film, finally decided to part with Solo’s gun and about 40 other items from the movie, including an Ewok axe and plans for Jabba the Hutt’s ship. The Ewok axe went for \$11,250, while another blaster prop from the film fetched \$90,624, according to Julien’s Auctions. But none of the props were a match for the space saga’s much-loved droid: last year, an R2-D2 used in the making of several “Star Wars” films sold for \$2.76 million at auction in Los Angeles. — AFP



Photo shows Indonesian debus fighter Mulyadi pounding a nail into his nostril during a skills demonstration in Bandung.



Indonesian debus master Aris Afandi showing his skill “unhurt” while cutting his tongue with a blade.



Indonesian debus fighter Mulyadi swallowing nails during a skills demonstration in Bandung.



Debus starts with a series of martial arts moves and prayers to the heavens for protection from injury. — AFP photos





# Kim Jones lightens up Dior with star-studded debut



Designer Kim Jones brought a fresh new vision of streetwise couture to Dior Homme in his celebrity-packed debut show for the fabled label at Paris men's fashion week Saturday. With so many A-listers cram-packed in the front row that Dior heiress Delphine Arnault and her billionaire boyfriend Xavier Niel had to sit on the steps, old and new money rubbed shoulders with rappers, the Beckham clan, Hollywood star Robert Pattinson, Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell. Aristocrat-turned-model Prince Nikolai of Denmark led out a light and bright collection which seemed aimed at draping the discerning millennial royal or plutocrat in effortless cool.

The British creator who mixed class with street at Louis Vuitton, where he hooked up with New York skatewear brand Supreme, had insisted to AFP just before the show that he would take Christian Dior in the opposite direction. But his first show since taking over in March was a clever mix of Dior's high-end haute couture heritage with Jones' own gift for finely-honed casual chic. And the big surprise was a street-friendly new line

of "C-D" logo buckles, buttons and rings designed to send Instagram wild.

## Pink elephant

Jones paid a cheeky homage to the brand's founder Christian Dior by commissioning US pop artist KAWS to make a 10-metre (33-feet) high statue of him in flowers with his dog Bobby as the centrepiece of the show. From afar the monumental piece-made with 70,000 roses and peonies-looked like a pink elephant in a suit until the last-minute reveal, with "Game of Thrones" star Gwendoline Christie, Kelly Osbourne, South Korean actor Jung Hae-in and Chinese star Huang Jingyu all straining to take selfies underneath it.

KAWS-who Jones described as "the most important artist in the world for the millennial generation"-also gave Dior's Napoleonic golden bee symbol a cartoony makeover. As with many Paris men's shows this week, Jones brought a lighter, more feminine feel with embroidered flowers adorning shirts, coats and bomber jackets, and lots of light grey toile de Jouy and floral combinations that filtered right down to the trainer boots.



Models present creations for Dior, during the Men's Spring/ Summer 2019 fashion in Paris.  
—AFP photos





British fashion designer Kim Jones (left), acknowledges the audience at the end of the Dior show during the Men's Spring/Summer 2019 fashion show in Paris.



US fashion designer for Louis Vuitton, Virgil Abloh.



German fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld.



US musician Lenny Kravitz poses with British model Naomi Campbell.



British singer Lily Allen.



French actor and model Jeremie Laheurte.



Pop star Rita Ora.



British models Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss.

**Instagram swoons**

The 38-year-old, one of fashion's hottest talents, further blurred the gender line with transparent shirts with amazingly delicate feather patterns embroidered onto tulle and organza. "Gender doesn't matter any more-it's 2018," Jones told AFP, who revived the delicate pinks, greys and blues of the label's early days. "But it is still menswear," the designer insisted. "In LA kids in the street wear pink all the time. So it's not, 'Oh it's pink, I won't wear it', anymore," he added.

Jones also revived the one-button Dior double-breasted suit-worn with basketball boots and a natty cross between desert boots and trainers-and DB jackets with a clever buttoned strap across the chest. And nothing spoke more of his flirtations between street and couture as his silk shirts with a slashed cowl at the back, like the ghost of a hoodie. One of the first things Jones did after taking over in March was to sign up the Korean-American jewelry designer Yoon Ahn of Ambush and fellow Briton Matthew Williams (Alyx) to make a "C-D" logo for his buckles and accessories.

Their creations-and key chains and necklaces featuring KAWS' new Dior bees-ran right through the collec-

tion and had critics and Instagram swooning within minutes of the show ending at the barracks of the Republican Guard cavalry regiment in the French capital. Clearly aware he was onto a winner, Jones plucked Yoon out of the crowd at the end of the show to take the bow with him. — AFP



British actor Robert Pattinson

## Bella Hadid praises designer Abloh after his fashion show debut

Bella Hadid has praised designer Virgil Abloh after his first fashion show in Paris. The 21-year-old model was among a host of famous faces - including Rihanna, Kanye West, Kim Kardashian West and Naomi Campbell - at the Palais Royal for Abloh's new spring/summer 2019 collection for Louis Vuitton on Thursday. In a post on Instagram, she said: "Tears of happiness all around. Congratulations for one of the most historic days in fashion. We are all so proud of you @virgilabloh. (sic)" Bella - who wore a bold red ensemble from the new line - accompanied the post with an image of the green catwalk and star-studded front row.

She added: "Absolutely magnificent. Life changing if I do say so myself. Your hard work and love for what you do shows through each of your collections but this was the most special of them all. Anything is possible!!!!!! Love !! You!!!! @virgilabloh VIRGIL FOR LOUIS V !!!! @louisvuitton Kiiiiilled it. (sic)" Abloh - who is widely credited for his luxurious urban streetwear designs - became the first African-American artistic director for the famous brand's menswear back in March, when he replaced Kim Jones. After his debut show, the 38-year-old Off-White designer was seen sharing an emotional moment with friend Kanye, who he previously interned

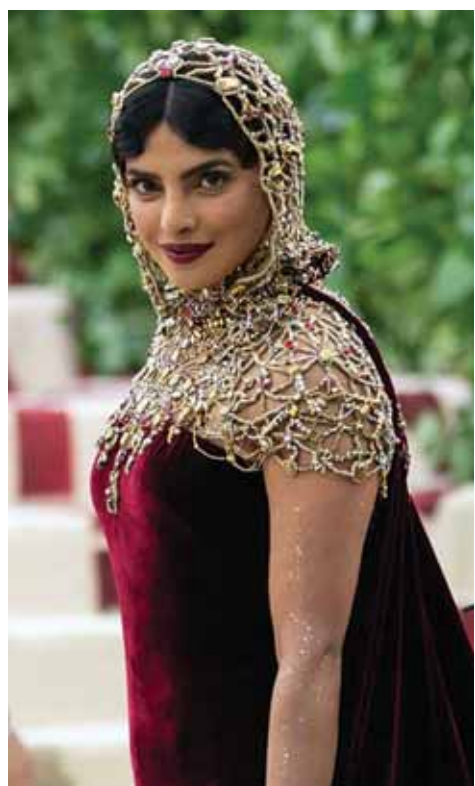
with at Fendi in 2009.

In a recent interview, the 41-year-old revealed: "We interned at Fendi but we ain't do s\*\*t. We ain't get to do nothing. We were just happy to have a key card." He added: "We couldn't figure out how to actually make the clothes, so we'd just do it in photoshop. And Virgil became the fastest photoshop artist that I have ever met in my life." — Bang Showbiz



Bella Hadid

## Priyanka Chopra hails organic coconut oil as one of her key skincare products



Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra says organic coconut oil is one of her key skincare products thanks to her mother. The 35-year-old actress works with some of the best in the industry when it comes to fashion, make-up and hair - but she often turns to her mother, Madu, when it comes to getting the best skincare tips. In a video for Harper's Bazaar magazine, Priyanka explained how the process of leaving coconut oil on her face for a few minutes and gently wiping it off with a warm hand towel "really helped" with her dry skin.

Speaking about how her mother's advice has influenced her beauty regime, she said: "I'm usually travelling all around the world and whatever problems I might be having with my skin she is incredible. She knows how to have quick fixes for your skin, especially when it's troubled." Priyanka added: "Since she was a little girl she always took care of her skin, and made

me realize when I was a little girl the importance of it." The Indian-born beauty also credits her mother for introducing her to a traditional face mask called Ubtan, which consists of whole wheat flour, turmeric, lime juice, yogurt and rose water to exfoliate the skin. She jokingly said: "I feel like I really need to do this tonight, I may not have done it for a really long time."

However, the 'Quantico' star - who is rumored to be dating Nick Jonas - did admit she wasn't always so keen to take her mother's beauty advice. She confessed: "Of course when you're young, you don't listen as much but as I grew older I realized all these little tricks and amazing secrets that she had were integral to my skin." — Bang Showbiz



Patrick Dempsey

## Patrick Dempsey launches clothing collection

Patrick Dempsey has launched a clothing collection with Bleusalt. The 52-year-old actor - who is best known for his former role as Derek Shepherd in 'Grey's Anatomy' - has turned his attention to making a name for himself in the fashion industry by teaming up with the sustainable luxury brand Bleusalt, which was founded in 2017 by photographer Lyndie Benson. Patrick said: "I live in my Bleusalt and it was a pleasure to design a collection of my own that I could wear all day, every day, whether I'm lounging around the house, going out, or travelling. I hope you enjoy this collection as much as I do."

The line - which has a price range of \$50 to \$350 - features a variety of sand and grey-coloured designs, such as blazers, polo shirts and a Colony Cap, which is described on the brand's website as a "classic riding cap made from the softest fibres on Earth". It is also said to be inspired by the 'Enchanted' star's "love for cars

and racing". The exclusive capsule collection also includes one item for women - the Big Rock Boyfriend Blazer - which Patrick designed with his wife, Jillian. Speaking about the new line, he said: "We put in pockets for your passport, wallet, glasses, all that stuff. The pants are really comfortable on a long flight. "They're like sweatpants but more defined. We put in a faux fly and some pockets to keep it comfortable and cool."

He added: "The line, certainly with the jacket, has a European cut to it and it's really easy to travel in." Despite this being Patrick's first foray into the fashion industry, he claimed there are some obvious parallels with his acting career. He said: "It is a completely different discipline but it goes hand-in-hand with costume, wardrobe and architecture, which are all different disciplines you use in the process of filmmaking." — Bang Showbiz





Devotees wearing costumes made of banana leaves attend a mass as part of a religious festival in honor of St John the Baptist, also known locally as the “mud people” festival, in Aliaga town, Nueva Ecija province, north of Manila yesterday. — AFP photos

# Quite a mud-dle! Filipino devotees slather themselves in soil

They say there's nothing quite like it for cooling the blood, but for more than a thousand Filipinos at a Catholic festival yesterday, slathering their bodies in mud was a way to show devotion and humility. The annual tradition forms part of a joyous religious festival honoring a saint they believed saved residents from execution by Japanese soldiers during World War II. Men, women and children sat in soggy rice paddies before dawn in the town of Aliaga, 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Manila, covering each other in muck before donning dried banana leaves in the annual “Mud People” festival.

A tradition that draws the faithful and tourists alike, the event celebrates the feast of John the Baptist with devotees taking part in what they see as an act of humili-

ty and penance that imitates a saint who preached and lived a life of poverty in the desert. “I got goosebumps when I joined the festival. The Lord is showering us with love,” 35-year-old businessman and village official Win Javaluyas told AFP. “I am so happy. This is one way of being closer to God, to purify your intention and be holy.” The Philippines is Asia's Catholic bastion with a flock of more than 80 million. Spain colonized the archipelago in the 16th century and spread the faith.

The “Mud People” festival, believed to have begun more than a century ago, became much more prominent after 1944 during Japan's wartime occupation of the former US colony, local priest Elmer Villamayor told AFP. Residents say Japanese soldiers were about to execute men in Aliaga to avenge the death of their

compatriots when a heavy downpour broke out, forcing the troops to scamper away in what villagers saw as a miracle. Grateful locals, who rolled happily in the mud, attributed the rain to Saint John the Baptist who is associated with water.

“Some people view this event as yucky but this is a very solemn festival. People humble themselves and are sorry for their wrongdoings,” said Villamayor, parish priest of Saint John the Baptist. Participants say their devotion has led to miracles. “My mother was healed after suffering from tuberculosis of the bone, a rare illness. Now my wife is pregnant with twins. I am praying for her healthy delivery,” said Javaluyas. — AFP



## Isle of dogs : Pakistan fishermen feed islands full of strays

More than a dozen decrepit dogs splash into the Arabian Sea as the small wooden boat approaches. They know the fishermen's mission: bringing food and water for the canine population of one of Karachi's “dog islands”. The boat, powered by an old jeep engine, stops when the water is still waist-high, two fishermen jumping from it to wade ashore the low, barren, waste-covered beach, whose only inhabitants are barking their welcome. The island, known as Dingy or Buddo, is one of dozens populated by dogs that line the shore south of the sprawling port megacity.

Conservative figures estimate the feral dog population of Karachi could number up to 35,000. With animal rights at their nadir and religious sentiment in the Muslim country partly to blame for a prejudice against dogs, the figures spark a brutal culling each year that sees bodies pile up in the streets, rotting in the sweltering heat as they wait to be bulldozed away. The islands, despite their lack of food and fresh water, have become a sanctuary, an alternative where estimates suggest hundreds of dogs avoid the cull.

But their survival depends almost entirely on the supplies brought to them by Karachi's fishermen as they trawl the coast. “We see them standing at the shore of the island in hope of food from us. So we feel their silent call,” says Abdul Aziz, a 30-year-old fisherman, after feeding the dogs on Dingy Island some pancakes and water left over from their own supplies. It is not known for sure who first brought dogs to the islands, but fishermen believe they were transported by villagers along the coastal areas seeking to save them from the cull. Sometimes they



Pakistani fishermen Abdul Aziz (right) and Muhammad Dada give food to dogs on Dingy Island in Karachi. — AFP photos

scavenge dead fish that float ashore, or smaller animals on the outcrops. In desperation, they have been known to turn on each other for survival, the fishermen say.

With no fresh water source, compelled by thirst, they have also been known to drink the brackish water that forms in pools along the island shores, underscoring the urgency of the fishermen's mission. On Dingy Island, the dogs leap around Aziz and his colleague Mohammad Dada, standing on their hind legs and pawing at

the pair in the scramble for food and water. Puppies are overrun by the larger dogs. But the kind fishermen make sure even the smallest get a share. “A human being is nothing without humanity,” Aziz says, looking at the island, where plastic bags and a syringe lie among the hungry creatures. “When we feel the pinch of hunger and thirst, they also must be feeling it.”—AFP



Pakistani fisherman Abdul Aziz gives fresh water to dogs on Dingy Island in Karachi.



Pakistani fisherman Abdul Aziz (center) pulling a boat and carrying food for dogs on Dingy Island in Karachi.

## Banksy needles France with migrant mural blitz in Paris

The mysterious British street artist Banksy appears to have taken aim at the French government's crackdown on migrants in a series of new murals in Paris. The world's best known graffiti painter apparently “blitzed” the French capital over the last few days, leaving as many as six works on walls across the city. None of the works were signed-as has been Banksy's wont in recent years but experts told AFP that they look genuine. The most political takes issue with France's tough anti-migrant policy, with nearly 40 makeshift camps razed in Paris in the last three years and President Emmanuel Macron determined that the city does not become a magnet for refugees.

In the mural a young black girl sprays a pink wallpaper pattern over a swastika on a wall next to her sleeping bag and teddy bear in an attempt to make her patch of pavement more cozy. The image is on a wall in northern Paris next to an official refugee shelter which was controversially closed in March despite protests from the city's Socialist mayor Anne Hidalgo. Since then around 2,000 migrants, including children and teenagers, have been sleeping rough along canals and under motorway bridges. Migrants were still sleeping next to the mural on Sunday. Experts said the image echoes the artist's 2009 painting “Go Flock Yourself”.

**Artist defends migrants**

Banksy, who has not yet confirmed the works are his on Instagram, has been a long-time supporter of the refugee cause. However, he has often travelled to make powerful political points with his art about everything from Brexit to the fate of the Palestinians. In 2015, he painted a mural on the edge of the Calais “jungle” camp built by migrants trying to get to Britain, which has since been razed by the authorities. “The Son of a Migrant from Syria” depicted Apple co-founder Steve Jobs-who was of Syrian descent-carrying a knapsack and an Apple computer.

He sprayed another, his take on Gericault's “The Raft of the Medusa”, on the wall of a house in the northern French port-a reference to the shipwrecked hopes of migrants trying to cross the English Channel. Art historian and street art expert Paul Ardenne

told AFP that the Paris murals were very much in Banksy's style. “The color, the line, the subject and the way he has adapted the images from photos ... all point to them being Banksy's style during the 2000s. There is a very particular signature. If (the mural of the girl) is not by Banksy, it is a very good copy,” he said.

**Napoleon in a headscarf**

Another of the new works touches on the equally sensitive subject of the ban on the niqab in France. It shows Napoleon in a full red Islamic headscarf on the back of his rearing horse as he crosses the Alps to invade Italy in 1800. The pastiche of David's canvass, one of the most iconic in French 19th-century art, appeared on a wall in an ethnically-mixed district of northern Paris. And a third image near the Sorbonne university on the Left Bank-which was rocked by a student uprising 50 years ago-appeared to be a dig at the death of French revolutionary spirit.

One of Banksy's trademark rats sits under the legend “May 1968” wearing a Minnie Mouse bow. The Disneyland Paris theme park just outside the French capital is now one of its biggest employers. A fourth mural nearby took capitalism to task. A businessman in a suit offers a dog a bone having first sawn the animal's leg off. Ardenne said it does not matter if the murals are by Banksy, but they do “show that the Banksy effect, and its ability to manipulate the media, works,” he argued. “We will look at them far more now thinking they are by Banksy rather than if it had been by any old artist,” he added.

Banksy's apparent visit to Paris comes as another street art star who has also become an art world darling unveiled his latest creation in the French capital. KAWS, aka American Brian Donnelly, made a 10-metre (33-feet) high statue of the French fashion legend Christian Dior with 70,000 flowers as the centerpiece of his erstwhile label's Paris men's fashion week show on Saturday. — AFP



# Classifieds

Monday, June 25, 2018



STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817

Fax: (+965) 24348714

www.met.gov.kw

### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h .

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	41 °C	31 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	27 °C
ABDALY	42 °C	26 °C
BUBYAN	00 °C	00 °C
JAHRA	45 °C	28 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	41 °C	28 °C
SALMIYAH	38 °C	31 °C
AHMADI	40 °C	30 °C
NUWAISIB	46 °C	28 °C
WAFRA	42 °C	27 °C
SALMY	45 °C	24 °C

SFC. CHART

24/06/2018 0000 UTC

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	06/25	Hot	45 °C	29 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	06/26	Very hot and causing rising dust	48 °C	30 °C	NW	15 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	06/27	Very hot and causing rising dust	48 °C	31 °C	NW	25 - 50 km/h
Thursday	06/28	Very hot and Dusty	49 °C	34 °C	NW	30 - 60 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:14
Sunrise	04:50
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:24
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:23

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	41 °C
MIN. Temp.	31 °C
MAX. RH	25 %
MIN. RH	11 %
MAX. Wind	N 60 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
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## EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

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### CHANGE OF NAME

I Buseneni Kumar S/o Busineni Ramachandraiah, holder of Indian Passport Number L4907858 and Civil ID 281051204453 have changed my name as Busineni Sivaprasad S/o Busineni Ramachandraiah. Hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5403) 24-6-2018

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 25/6/2018

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
THY	1516	TZX	00:40	GFA	221	Doha	14:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FDB	059	Bahrain	14:15
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	364	Colombo	14:20
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	692	Muscat	14:25
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:25
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	751	Madinah	14:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	789	Riyadh	14:45
WAN	312D	Asyut	01:45	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	194	TZX	14:55
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KAC	562	Amman	15:20
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	118	New York	16:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	FDB	051	Dubai	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	WAN	416	Beirut	16:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JZR	145	Doha	17:35
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	WAN	976	Baku	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	177	Dubai	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	125	Bahrain	18:35
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	RJA	640	Amman	19:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
WAN	342	Sohag	06:20	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	744	Dammam	19:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:25
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	174	Munich	19:55
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	WAN	136	Doha	21:15
SAW	703	Damascus	09:30	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	KAC	168	Paris	21:20
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	564	Amman	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	AZQ	4565	Baku	22:00
JZR	1539	Cairo	11:05	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
WAN	134	Doha	11:10	KAC	162	Geneva	22:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	SVA	514	Riyadh	22:30
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	WAN	118	Bahrain	22:40
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	SVA	502	Jeddah	22:45
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	SVA	192	Tbilisi	22:45
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	22:50
RJA	644	Amman	13:20	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	JZR	241	Amman	23:40
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	548	Alexandria	23:50

### Departure Flights on Monday 25/6/2018

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40
WAN	341	Sohag	00:05	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
KAC	417	Manila	00:25	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	RJA	645	Amman	14:15
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	FEG	342	Sohag	14:50
PIA	206	Lahore	01:00	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
JZR	528	Asyut	01:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FEG	344	Sohag	01:05	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
THY	1415	TZX	01:40	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50	JZR	124	Bahrain	15:40
KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
JZR	502	Luxor	01:55	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
THY	769	Istanbul	03:35	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
JZR	142	Doha	03:45	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	121	AGP	16:20
MSC	416	Sohag	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	KAC	191	Tbilisi	16:45
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	KAC	547	Alexandria	16:55
JZR	1538	Cairo	04:40	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
FDB	070	Dubai	06:00	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
RJA	643	Amman	07:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	167	Paris	07:20	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
WAN	133	Doha	07:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	173	Munich	07:35	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	193	TZX	08:00	JZR	266	Beirut	19:15
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
JZR	238	Amman	08:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	KAC	151	Istanbul	19:25
BAW	156	London	08:20	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	161	Geneva	09:00	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	691	Muscat	09:00	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:05	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	JZR	552D	Alexandria	20:05
WAN	415	Beirut	09:10	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	561	Amman	09:40	KAC	357	Kochi	20:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
JZR	534	Cairo	09:45	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	101	London	10:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
KAC	617	Doha	10:10	DLH	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	750	Madinah	10:15	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
SAW	704	Damascus	10:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	THY	1413	TZX	22:25
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:25
IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
MSC	406	Sohag	11:15	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20	JZR	604	Ahmedabad	22:40
AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	SVA	515	Riyadh	23:30
QTR	1075	Doha	12:10	WAN	337	Alexandria	23:40
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45
RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10	SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45



## News



**NIZHNY NOVGOROD:** England's goalkeeper Jordan Pickford attempts a save during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group G football match between England and Panama at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Nizhny Novgorod yesterday. — AFP (See Page 28)

## Saudi woman drives F1 car on historic day

**LE CASTELLET:** Aseel Al-Hamad drove a Renault Formula One car around the French Grand Prix circuit in front of thousands of fans yesterday and declared the start of a new era for Saudi women in motorsport. The lap of Le Castellet's Paul Ricard track, in a race-winning 2012 Lotus Renault E20, came on the day a ban ended on female drivers getting behind the wheel on the Gulf kingdom's roads.

"I believe today is not just celebrating the new era of women starting to drive, it's also the birth of women in motorsport in Saudi Arabia," she said. "The most important thing I am looking forward to is to start seeing the next generation, young girls, trying (motorsport). "I want to watch them training and taking the sport very seriously as a career. This is going to be really my biggest achievement."

Yesterday was not the first time Al-Hamad had driven a Formula One car, the Saudi interior designer and business-woman trying out the same one at the circuit on June 5 as part of a familiarisation day. But that was private, whereas yesterday was very public as part of a parade of the French manufacturer's historic racing cars to mark the return of Formula One to France after a 10 year absence. The car took 2007 world champion Kimi Raikkonen, now at Ferrari, to victory in Abu Dhabi in November 2012. "It was perfect. Everything was smooth, I felt I belong in the seat," she said afterwards. "I loved the fact that there was an audience around...today is magical."

"I never even imagined it in my dreams. So the opportunity was amazing," she said of her first outing. "That day I

thought it was the only lifetime experience. And they invited me again. "It's a great honor for me to share with them the celebration and passion for Renault. "I believe the beauty of this story is that everything is possible. Even if you dream the impossible you can still achieve it," she said.

Al-Hamad is already the first female member of the Saudi Arabian Motorsport Federation and on the Women in Motorsport Commission set up by Formula One's governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA). She is also the first woman to import a Ferrari into Saudi Arabia, and has taken her 458 Spider to racetracks around the world to take part in track days, workshops and professional racing courses. Asked whether there would now be female Saudi racing drivers, she replied: "For sure, definitely. And this is going to be my mission in Saudi.

"Thanks to Renault, by this gesture I can be hopefully an ambassador to push it more in Saudi. "The Women in Motorsport Commission is encouraging the participation in all sectors of motorsport, including racers, engineers, mechanics and marshals," she said, adding that she could also see Saudi women working in F1. "The beautiful thing is that motorsport is not a sport that is divided. So women are able to compete equally with everyone. We just have to dream to have more women in all job sectors of motorsport."

Michele Mouton, a former rally driver and president of the FIA's commission, said in a statement she hoped Al-Hamad's example would help pave the way for more Saudi women to get involved. Women in Saudi Arabia were able to take to the roads at midnight, ending the world's last ban on female drivers, long seen as an emblem of women's repression in the deeply conservative Muslim kingdom. The lifting, ordered last September by King Salman, is part of sweeping reforms pushed by his powerful young son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in a bid to transform the economy of the world's top oil exporter and open up its cloistered society. — Reuters

## Government's absence foils...

Continued from Page 1

Yesterday's session was scheduled to debate and approve a number of legislation that several lawmakers said they were urgently needed - especially amendments to the law on special needs and the penal code. MP Khaled Al-Oteibi lashed out at the government accusing it of deliberately foiling the session, adding that the government should have attended and participated in the debate. He disputed Khorafi's claims that reports by Assembly committees were not ready, saying that there were six finalized reports ready for debate. The lawmaker said that the government should not boycott sessions

when they object to the decisions of the Assembly session and warned that such a policy could strain relations between the government and the Assembly.

In the meantime, rapporteur of the Assembly Budgets Committee MP Riyadh Al-Adasani said yesterday the panel has rejected the state's final accounts for the 2016/2017 fiscal year but approved the 2018/2019 budget. He said the rejection came mainly because the government failed to deal with repeated violations and remarks noted by the Audit Bureau which shows that the government is not serious about dealing with them.

Other reasons cited include violating rules of the budget, transferring funds among various chapters of the budget and failure to settle outstanding debt. The committee also discussed the budgets for Kuwait Oil Company and Kuwait Oil Tanker Company and noted that there has been a steep rise in the production cost of crude oil despite repeated remarks by the Audit Bureau.

## Saudi women take victory lap...

Continued from Page 1

A handful of female driving schools have cropped up in several cities, training women to drive cars as well as Harley-Davidson motorbikes-scenes unimaginable even a year ago.

But many women fear they are still vulnerable to sex-

ist attitudes in a nation where male "guardians"-their fathers, husbands or other relatives-can exercise arbitrary authority to make decisions on their behalf. The government has preemptively addressed concerns of abuse by outlawing sexual harassment, and authorities have sternly warned against stalking women drivers. "To all men I say, be gentle towards women" drivers, popular Saudi singer Mohammed Abdu said in an online video. Prince Mohammed, appointed heir to the most powerful throne in the Middle East a year ago, has also lifted a ban on cinemas and mixed-gender concerts, following his public vow to return the austere kingdom to moderate Islam. —AFP

## Erdogan, ruling AK Party build...

Continued from Page 1

The HDP's presidential candidate, Selahattin Demirtas, has waged his election campaign from a prison near the Greek border as he awaits trial on terrorism-related charges, which he denies. He had 7 percent, based on 90 percent of votes cast.

### Fraud fears

AK Party supporters clogged a main road in the capital Ankara leading to party headquarters honking horns in celebration. Erdogan was expected to address supporters from a balcony of the headquarters building later in the evening. Election turnout nationwide was very high at around 87 percent for both contests, the state broadcaster said. Opposition parties and NGOs deployed up to half a million monitors at ballot boxes to ward against possible electoral fraud. They have said election law changes and fraud allegations in the 2017 referendum raise fears about the fairness of yesterday's elections.

Erdogan said there had been no serious voting violations. "Turkey is staging a democratic revolution," he told reporters after casting his own vote in Istanbul yesterday. "With the presidential system, Turkey is seriously raising the bar, rising above the level of contemporary civilizations." Erdogan, the most popular but also divisive leader in modern Turkish history, argues the new powers will

better enable him to tackle the nation's economic problems - the lira has lost 20 percent against the dollar this year - and crush Kurdish rebels in southeast Turkey and in neighboring Iraq and Syria.

Investors would welcome the prospect of a stable working relationship between the president and the new parliament, although they also have concerns about Erdogan's recent comments suggesting he wants to take greater control of monetary policy. Erdogan has declared himself an "enemy of interest rates", raising fears he will pressure the central bank to cut borrowing costs after the election despite double-digit inflation.

He brought forward the elections from November 2019, but he reckoned without Ince, a former physics teacher and veteran CHP lawmaker, whose feisty performance at campaign rallies has galvanized Turkey's long-demoralized and divided opposition. Turkey held yesterday's elections under a state of emergency declared after a failed military coup in July 2016. This state restricts some freedoms and allows the government to bypass parliament with decrees. Both Erdogan and Ince have said they will lift the state of emergency as president.

Erdogan blamed the coup on his former ally, US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, and has waged a sweeping crackdown on his followers in Turkey, detaining some 160,000 people, according to the United Nations. The president's critics, including the European Union which Turkey still nominally aspires to join, say Erdogan has used the crackdown to stifle dissent. Erdogan says his tough measures are needed to safeguard national security.— Reuters

## Special mobile apps monitor...

Continued from Page 1

signed last month. He also met with local government officials here last Saturday during an event organized by a Filipino-based local NGO. "The tough challenges we had few months back created several opportunities which are beneficial to both the domestic helpers and their employers," Cacdac said.

He said the shared responsibility of both employers and employees has been well-defined and elaborated in the MoA - although he admitted that the agreement is subject to several discussions. "The process continues. The upcoming Joint-Committee Meeting which is scheduled next month in Kuwait was set to clarify some points and put them in proper perspective. The good thing is that even as we talk, the MoA is now being implemented," he said.

"Right now, the employers have handed the workers' passports to the Philippine Embassy. Some basic rights such as communication gadgets have been given to them, also - including weekly holidays, official working hours, good meals among others. We also see strict enforcement of Kuwaiti domestic laws which are aimed at protecting the domestic helpers. Yesterday, we met with the officials of Public Authority for Manpower at the Ministry of Labor," Cacdac said.

With regards to the cost of hiring Filipino domestic

helpers, Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Rustico Dela Fuente cited the recent decision by Kuwaiti authority to set the price ceiling from over a KD 1000 to just about KD 900. "During our meetings last time, we discussed the issue of lowering the cost of hiring domestic workers. As we mentioned before, we are not the right people to discuss this. It has to be addressed by the local and foreign recruitment agencies. I heard the KD 900 price ceiling (limit) is set by Al-Durrah Company. This move is actually one of many desires of our government. Because of high recruitment charges, some employers mistreat the workers. It was indeed excessive and we raised the issue during the initial negotiations with Kuwaiti authorities," he added.

The Al-Durra Company was established in response to calls that privately-run agencies were charging huge amount of money. The current charges for recruiting helpers at private agencies stand at approximately KD 1,200 to KD 1,600. Al-Durra was established in accordance with Law No. 69/2015 as a closed Kuwaiti shareholding company. Al-Durra is owned by various government agencies such as the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (60%), Public Institution for Social Security (10%), Kuwait Airways (10%), Public Authority for Minors' Affairs (10%) and Kuwait Investment Authority (10%).

Al-Durra's mission is to recruit and train domestic helpers to offer an alternative to the unreasonable fees and 'monopolistic practices' of privately owned recruitment companies. Another stated objective is to operate with transparency to improve Kuwait's image and reputation internationally with regards to human rights.



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# German crisis averted for now, but World Cup holders have work to do

## Four-time champions must win by a margin of two goals against S Korea

**SOCHI:** Toni Kroos's last-gasp winner ensured that Germany remain right in World Cup contention but the holders are not yet safe from the threat of an ignominious group-stage exit. A 95th-minute free-kick from Kroos gave Joachim Loew's side a dramatic 2-1 victory over Sweden in Sochi on Saturday, after a Marco Reus strike had cancelled out Ola Toivonen's opener.

After beginning the defence of the trophy with a 1-0 defeat against Mexico in Moscow, another loss by the Black Sea would have eliminated Germany in the first round of the World Cup for the first time since 1938.

The spectre of the champions' curse has been hanging over the Germans, who were in serious danger on Saturday of following France (2002), Italy (2010) and Spain four years ago in becoming the fourth holders this century to be humbled in the group stage.

The intervention of Kroos means now it is all to play for in Group F. The four-time world champions must win by a margin of two goals against South Korea in Kazan to be absolutely sure of progressing. Failure to do so would mean relying on the outcome of the other match between Mexico and Sweden. For now, at least, there is renewed optimism after a turbulent week.

**Hummels to return**

"We will look at the videos and see what we have to do better, but of course for our emotional side it was a very good thing today, because now if you have a game like this you start believing," defender Mats Hummels said as he

left Sochi's Fisht Stadium. Of the winning goal from Real Madrid midfielder Kroos, who had earlier been at fault for Sweden's opener, Hummels added: "Something like this can be a big moment in the tournament. "But if we lose against South Korea or don't make it to the next stage, the goal isn't worth anything, so we have to know that we got a little bit lucky and we have to show and to prove that we can be way better than we have been."

The good news for Loew is that Hummels is likely to return for the final group game after being forced to sit out Saturday's match with a neck problem. "The doc said it was too much of a risk that something very serious could happen," said the 29-year-old, who was replaced by Chelsea's Antonio Ruediger. Germany's other first-choice centre-back, Jerome Boateng, will be suspended in Kazan after being sent off against the Swedes.

**RUDY BREAKS NOSE**

More changes will therefore be required after Loew dropped the underperforming Mesut Ozil and Sami Khedira, bringing in Reus and Sebastian Rudy. While Reus scored and came away with the man-of-the-match award on Saturday, Rudy lasted just 25 minutes before coming off with a bloodied nose. "We have to take stock now, see what the situation is. We are tired," said the coach. "Reus started having cramp in his legs. Boateng will not be in the line-up, Rudy broke his nose and we probably need a day of rest."

Germany are defending a proud record of always reaching at least the last eight at the World Cup since winning the trophy in 1954. They have made it to at least the



**SOCHI:** Germany's midfielder Toni Kroos (L) is congratulated by Germany's coach Joachim Loew (R) at the end of the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between Germany and Sweden at the Fisht Stadium in Sochi on Saturday. — AFP

semi-finals at each of the past six major tournaments, going back to when Loew was Jurgen Klinsmann's assistant in the 2006 World Cup. Yet it is looking increasingly possible that Germany could be on course for a last-16

showdown with Brazil, four years after the 7-1 of Belo Horizonte. "Right now I don't think this is the time to start ruminating about that. There are still various possible outcomes," insisted Loew. — AFP

## Salah set to start against S Arabia as Egypt target World Cup win

**VOLGOGRAD:** Mohamed Salah looks likely to start against Saudi Arabia in Volgograd today as Egypt go in search of a first-ever World Cup win in a battle to avoid finishing bottom of Group A. But Egypt's 45-year-old goalkeeper Essam El Hadary may have to wait for an appearance off the bench to set a record as the oldest player ever to appear at a World Cup.

Egypt coach Hector Cuper said he would not tinker greatly with the starting XI that were dumped out of the tournament 3-1 by hosts Russia on Tuesday. "The manager needs a reason to make changes," Cuper told reporters before Salah took part in a full training session at the Volgograd Arena. "We are not going to change our style."

An appearance for El Hadary would smash the age record set by Faryd Mondragon in Brazil four years ago. The Colombia goalkeeper was 43 years and three days old when he played against Japan in a 4-1 group stage victory in Cuiba. But the 158-capped El Hadary said he did not know if he would play. "I will be very happy if I participate and set the record," he said. "But it is not certain."

Cuper made it clear that he considered it important for Egypt's future to register a first-ever win at a World Cup and he would field his strongest side. "We must bow out in style," he said.

Egyptian Football Association president Hany Abo Rida



earlier denied media reports Liverpool had put pressure on them to leave out Salah, who scored 44 goals for the English Premier League club last season. "No, we did not receive anything from Liverpool," he told AFP. "When the player is with the national team, it is for us to decide," he said in Grozny, Chechnya, before the team travelled to Volgograd. Salah was slammed to the turf by Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos in the Champions League final on May 26 in Kiev, causing a painful shoulder injury. The tal-

have never excluded anything. It might be my last game and it might not. It will depend on a number of factors," Cuper, who was named Egypt coach in 2015, said when asked by reporters about his future.

"Of course I would like to make everybody happy, to come up with something that everybody would agree with. But it's impossible," the Argentine said. While saying there had been "small disagreements" within the Egypt camp, Cuper added that he would not respond to questions about whether captain Essam El-Hadary had fallen out with the rest of the team.

"There might be small disagreements but I would like to hear evidence or proof of this," he said. "If you don't have evidence or proof, I won't answer that question." El-Hadary, who was not included in the starting team for either of Egypt's first two games in Russia, denied any rift.

"If I had been making trouble in the team then I don't deserve my spot on the team. That's my simple answer," the goalkeeper said, sitting next to Cuper at a news conference. El-Hadary said he was hoping to get the nod for Monday's match which would make him the

oldest ever player to appear at a World Cup at 45 years of age. "Obviously I will be very happy if I play in the match tomorrow. But that is not certain and that choice will be made by the management of the team," he said. "This world record will be my achievement but it will also be an achievement for Egypt." — Reuters

isman and national hero faced a race against time to be fit for the World Cup, sitting out the opening defeat against Uruguay. He started and scored a late penalty in the 3-1 defeat to Russia but looked a shadow of the player who starred for Liverpool.

Russia and Uruguay have already qualified for the knockouts and will kick off their battle for top spot in Group A in Samara at 1400 GMT, the same time as the Saudi-Egypt match. — AFP



## Mascherano denies rift between coach Sampaoli, players

**MOSCOW:** Argentina midfielder Javier Mascherano denied yesterday that a rift had opened between the players and coach Jorge Sampaoli following their 3-0 World Cup defeat by Croatia, saying the relationship between the two sides was totally normal. The loss to Croatia, Argentina's heaviest in a World Cup group stage match since 1958, put the 2014 runners-up in serious danger of a first round exit before Nigeria's 2-0 win over Iceland gave them a lifeline.

However, Argentina must still beat Nigeria in their final Group D game on Tuesday to stand a chance of reaching the last 16 and keep alive five-times world player of the year Lionel Messi's dream of winning a World Cup.

"The relationship with the coach is totally normal," said Mascherano, who at 34 is one of the most experienced and influential players in the squad. "Obviously, if we feel uncomfortable about anything, we let him know...and that goes for the players on the bench as well as the ones on the field," he told a hastily-convoked press conference at the team's base outside Moscow.

Mascherano said he had played under eight national team coaches in his Argentina career and none of them had complained afterwards that the players had picked the team. "There are many myths about the team and about this generation," he said. "We need to be very optimistic. Believe it or not, we are World Cup runners up and at some point we have to show that. If we don't say what we think, we're going to get to the game with a lot of insecurities."

"The aim is for everyone to give their knowledge and experience so that the team can rise again. I still believe a lot in these players that have taken us to three finals," he said, referring to one World Cup and two Copa America finals. "I'm not going to stop believing in them."

Mascherano added that "we are aware of all the noise there is and, unfortunately, that does not help anyone." Midfielder Lucas Biglia joined Mascherano's complaints about the criticism.

"I thought that after Ecuador, everyone would look ahead," he said, referring to the 3-1 win in October where Argentina clinched their place at the World Cup after a tumultuous qualifying campaign," he said. "But...at the slightest difficulty, they starting hitting us again when we are on the floor. But we will try to put those things aside and focus on the opportunity that we have." — Reuters





# Federer loses world number one spot after Coric defeat

## Swiss drops to second in the world behind Rafael Nadal

**HALLE WESTFALEN:** Croatian Borna Coric denied Roger Federer the 99th title of his career yesterday with a 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-2 defeat in the final of the ATP Halle grass event. Federer also lost the number one spot in ATP rankings to Rafael Nadal, and missed a chance to earn a record 10th title at the German venue. Federer dropped the opening set in a tiebreak but levelled by winning the second. Coric held his nerve to take victory. The Croatian outsider ranked 34th also ended Federer's 20-match win streak on clay for Federer which stretched to June, 2017.

The Swiss will drop to second in the world behind Rafael Nadal, who is playing no tune-up events prior to the start of Wimbledon a week from today. The loss in just over two hours means came a week after Federer won his 98th title in Stuttgart.

Coric, who accounted for German second seed Alexander Zverev in the first round, held his nerve against the crowd favourite at this venue which styles itself after the All England club. The 21-year-old had lost twice to Federer, but played him tough in their last meeting at Indian Wells last March.

He was the first Croatian to reach the final at Halle and now owns two titles after winning in Marrakech in 2017. Federer dropped the opening set, won the second but was unable to fight back after going down

2-4 in the third. Coric moved out to 5-2 and completed his upset on a second match point a game later as Federer's volley hit the top of the net. The Swiss fired a dozen aces but lost serve twice. Federer's excellent serving in the first set - four love games, three points lost on serve - could not prevent Coric taking the opener in 57 minutes.

The Croatian withstood a Federer assault in the 11th game, which lasted for nearly 10 minutes and featured five deuces. A game later, the Swiss seed took the set into a tiebreaker. Federer reached a 5-3 margin and sent down his fifth ace to earn a pair of set points. But Coric annulled the first with a service winner while a wild Federer backhand accounted for the other. Second later, the Croatian seized the set on his first opportunity from a Federer backhand long.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion fought back to level by winning the second set, helped by a choke on a volley from Coric. Trailing

4-3 and facing a break point in the eight game, the youngster raced to the net to flick over a winner on Federer's first set point, but stuffed the shot into the net. Leading 5-3, Federer squared the match in the next game as Coric hit the net again. Federer will travel to Wimbledon to put final touches on his grass game as he aims for a ninth title at the grass-court major. — AFP



**HALLE:** Borna Coric (R) from Croatia poses with Roger Federer of Switzerland after defeating him in their final match at the ATP tennis tournament in Halle, western Germany, yesterday. — AFP



### First Croatian to reach the final at Halle

## Cheika seethes as Wallabies lose Ireland series

**SYDNEY:** Coach Michael Cheika lamented the lost opportunity of beating highly-rated Ireland in a home Test series as he builds the Wallabies for the Rugby Championship in August. Australia lost their second three-Test series at home in two years to European opposition, going down 20-16 in the final game in Sydney on Saturday. World No.2 Ireland came from a game down to win the series, their first three-Test victory in the southern hemisphere, to add to their Grand Slam Six Nations triumph earlier this year.

Cheika saw the final Test as a missed opportunity to win at home and lift a trophy after Australia were humbled 3-0 at home by England in 2016. The Wallabies coach said he did not view the Ireland series as just a warm-up for the coming Rugby Championship against New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina.

"This is important in itself. We've got to get that winning mentality of how to win the games, how to win the trophy," Cheika told reporters after Saturday's defeat. "Here was a chance, we missed out on it, but we'll be back." Cheika was again not happy with the officiating in the Ireland series, with several contentious calls by French referee Pascal Gauzere going against his players in the final Test.

Fullback Israel Folau was sin-binned for what was deemed to be unnecessary contact on Peter O'Mahony during a first-half aerial contest that resulted in the Ireland captain being concussed after landing awkwardly. Replacement hooker Tolu Latu was also penalised for a controversial ruck infringement, allowing Johnny Sexton to kick Ireland's lead out to four points in the 79th minute.

Cheika was asked if World Rugby needed to further clarify rules around such aerial challenges in light of French fullback Benjamin Fall being sent off last week against New Zealand, only for the red card to be retrospectively cancelled by the governing body. "The key word these days is 'clear' and 'obvious', isn't it? I don't know anything that's clear and obvious in a game of footy. But they run with it," Cheika said. "Look at Angus last week. I really felt for him. He made the decision based on rules that they give him and then they left him out (to hang). Took away the red card, basically said you made the wrong call."

"Rugby, there's no black and white in this game. It's a lot of grey and it's about the interpretations in the grey so, yeah, I don't know how they can clarify it." An exasperated Cheika took the extraordinary step of inviting the referee and his assistants to the post-match press conference to explain their rulings. Cheika said the referee "didn't want to" take up the offer.

Wallabies skipper Michael Hooper suffered a low-grade hamstring strain during the first half and could be out of action for four weeks, while lock Adam Coleman injured his hip. — AFP

## Kemp's grand slam seals win in Kershaw's return

**NEW YORK:** Matt Kemp's pinch-hit grand slam blew the game open and capped a five-run eighth inning Saturday night for the Los Angeles Dodgers, who routed the New York Mets 8-3 at Citi Field. Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, who was on the disabled list all month with a back injury, started for Los Angeles and allowed two runs on five hits and one walk while striking out four over three innings. It was just his second start since May 1. He missed most of May with a biceps injury. Mets ace Jacob deGrom (5-3) took the loss after allowing three runs on five hits and three walks while striking out six over six innings. It was the worst start in more than two months for deGrom, who had a 0.90 ERA in his previous 11 outings. His National League-leading ERA rose from 1.51 to 1.69. The Dodgers have won the first two games of the three-game series and eight of their last 11. The Mets have lost five straight, 17 of 21 and 42 of 62 since an 11-1 start.

### ASTROS 4, ROYALS 3 (12 INNINGS)

Carlos Correa delivered a walk-off single with the bases loaded and no outs in the 12th inning, and Houston rallied from a three-run deficit to defeat visiting Kansas City. Correa lined a 1-1 fastball from Royals right-hander Justin Grimm (1-3) into right-center field, scoring George Springer from third base. Springer was 0-for-5 before working a leadoff walk and reaching third on a popup single by Alex Bregman that dropped in shallow right. Right-hander Collin McHugh (3-0) struck out the side in the 12th. Five Houston relievers combined to allow one hit over six scoreless innings while producing seven strikeouts.

### REDS 11, CUBS 2

Anthony DeSclafani pitched 6 1/3 strong innings and hit a grand slam to lead Cincinnati past visiting Chicago. DeSclafani (3-1) allowed two runs on three hits, with four walks and three strikeouts, as the Reds won their sixth straight game, matching their season high. Cincinnati will try to complete a sweep of the four-game series with the Cubs later. DeSclafani's home run, the first of his career, with two outs in the bottom of the third inning off Cubs reliever Brian Duensing gave the Reds an 8-1 lead. Tucker Barnhart and Joey Votto also homered for Cincinnati.

### RAYS 4, YANKEES 0

Wilmer Font pitched a career-high 5 2/3 innings, recorded his first career win and combined with four other pitchers on a four-hitter as Tampa Bay blanked visiting New York. Font (1-3) allowed three hits while throwing a career-high 80 pitches. He struck out four, issued one walk and held the Yankees hitless in six at-bats with runners in scoring position before turning things over to the bullpen. Rookie Willy Adames homered and hit an RBI single for the Rays, who beat the Yankees for the third straight time after dropping the first five meetings. The Yankees lost consecutive games for the first time since May 22-23

### MARINERS 7, RED SOX 2

Mike Leake pitched eight scoreless innings as Seattle snapped a season-worst five-game losing streak in defeating host Boston. Leake (8-4) allowed three hits, walked two and struck out five. Although the right-hander threw just 98 pitches and it wasn't a save situation, the Mariners used closer Edwin Diaz in the ninth inning because he hadn't pitched in a week. Red Sox left-hander Eduardo Rodriguez (9-2) had his six-game winning streak snapped. Rodriguez lasted just four innings, giving up five runs (four earned) on seven hits. He walked two and struck out two.

### CARDINALS 3, BREWERS 2

Yadier Molina's second homer of the game wiped out a Milwaukee lead and led visiting St. Louis to victory. With the Brewers leading 2-1 in the top of the sixth inning, Marcell Ozuna greeted reliever Jeremy Jeffress (5-1) with a single. Molina then clouted a 383-foot shot over the wall in right-center for his second two-homer game of a seven-game road trip. Molina led off the second with his first homer, a 398-foot wallop to right-center. It was the only



**NEW YORK:** Matt Kemp #27 of the Los Angeles Dodgers connects on an eighth inning pinch hit grand slam home run against the New York Mets at Citi Field on Saturday in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City.— AFP

run St. Louis mustered off starter Chase Anderson in his five innings.

### ATHLETICS 7, WHITE SOX 6

Stephen Piscotty and Matt Olson homered, and Nick Martini drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as visiting Oakland came back from five runs down to knock off Chicago. Piscotty hit a two-out double in the eighth inning, and Martini singled him home to put the A's in front. It was Martini's first career hit in the big leagues, a clutch single up the middle. Piscotty hit his sixth home run of the season, a two-run shot in the second inning. Oakland has hit a home run in 24 consecutive road games, tying the major league record set by the 1996 Baltimore Orioles.

### RANGERS 9, TWINS 6

Adrian Beltre had three hits, including his 466th career home run, and Robinson Chirinos homered and drove in three runs to lead Texas over Minnesota in Minneapolis. Beltre's towering fourth-inning homer into the bullpen in left-center was his fourth of the season and broke a tie with Dave Winfield and Miguel Cabrera for 34th on the all-time list. Beltre needs two more home runs to catch Chipper Jones (468) for 33rd place. Shin-Soo Choo extended his consecutive on-base streak to 36 games with an RBI ground-rule double and a walk as the Rangers upped their winning streak to seven games.

### PHILLIES 5, NATIONALS 3

Jesmuel Valentin delivered the tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh, and Carlos Santana homered an inning later as visiting Philadelphia defeated Washington. Valentin's sacrifice fly to center scored Maikel Franco, who went 4-for-4, and snapped a 2-2 tie. The play stood up under a long review after the Nationals challenged it. Odubel Herrera of Philadelphia saw his home run streak of five games come to an end. The center fielder went 0-for-4.

### DIAMONDBACKS 7, PIRATES 2

Zack Greinke pitched six two-hit, scoreless innings, Paul Goldschmidt homered and David Peralta doubled and tripled as Arizona rolled at Pittsburgh. Greinke (7-5) struck out seven and walked none. It was his first scoreless outing this season. The veteran right-hander returned after two rain delays, 25 minutes in the bottom of the first and 56 minutes in the middle of the fourth. The Diamondbacks have won three straight games and go for a four-game series sweep. The Pirates have dropped four in a row and five of six.

### ORIOLES 7, BRAVES 5

Mark Trumbo hit a first-inning grand slam and Dylan Bundy struck out eight batters over 6 1/3 innings as Baltimore held on for a win at Atlanta. Chris Davis added a three-run double in the fifth inning as the Orioles picked up their seventh consecutive victory over the Braves going back to 2012. Zach Britton pitched the ninth inning for his

first save. The Braves' Nick Markakis drove in three runs against his former team. He had an RBI single in the first inning and a two-run double in the seventh but struck out looking with the tying run on base in the eighth.

### MARLINS 6, ROCKIES 2

J.T. Realmuto slugged an opposite-field grand slam in the seventh inning as Miami beat Colorado in Denver. Colorado had its four-game win streak snapped, falling back under .500 at 38-39. Gerardo Parra led the Rockies with two RBIs, including his fourth homer of the season. Miami broke its three-game losing streak. Derek Dietrich had a solo home run for the Marlins after being added to the lineup when shortstop Miguel Rojas was scratched due to a left hand contusion.

### GIANTS 5, PADRES 3

Brandon Crawford drove in three runs with three hits and had a hand in three of four double plays turned by San Francisco in a win over visiting San Diego. Left-hander Andrew Suarez and three relievers scattered 11 hits, pitching the Giants to the fourth victory in their last five games overall and second in three days in the four-game series. The Padres not only lost the game, but also lost their starting pitcher, right-hander Jordan Lyles, even before he'd taken the mound. Lyles reported tightness in his right forearm after pregame warmups, prompting Padres manager Andy Green to send out Matt Strahm to pitch the bottom of the first inning.

### INDIANS 4, TIGERS 1

Trevor Bauer continued his mastery against Detroit, and Francisco Lindor homered for the second straight game as host Cleveland cruised to victory. Bauer (7-5) has won all four of his starts against Detroit this season in dominating fashion. In his latest gem, he held the Tigers to one run on five hits in 6 1/3 innings while striking out 11. He has given up just four runs over 29 1/3 innings while racking up 40 strikeouts in those four outings. Cleveland has defeated Detroit nine consecutive times on its home field. The Tigers are 3-9 against the Indians this season.

### BLUE JAYS 4, ANGELS 1

Steve Pearce's two-out, three-run home run in the top of the ninth inning snapped a 1-1 tie and lifted Toronto to victory over Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Pearce hit the blast off Angels reliever Justin Anderson (1-2), hooking an 86 mph slider just inside the left field foul pole and helping the Blue Jays get a win after losing the first two games of the series. It was Pearce's first home run since April 9 after he missed 43 games with a strained oblique muscle before returning to the lineup Friday. Down 1-0 in the bottom of the eighth inning, the Angels had two outs and nobody on when Luis Valbuena tied the game with a towering home run off Toronto reliever Seungwhan Oh. Despite giving up the homer, Oh (3-2) got the win and struck out the side in the inning. — Reuters





SNIPPETS

# Clinical Colombia send Poles packing with 3-0 victory

Mina, Falcao and Cuadrado on target

KAZAN: Colombia's World Cup campaign roared back into life with a 3-0 win over Poland in Group H on a sweltering evening at the Kazan Arena which sent the Poles tumbling out of the tournament yesterday. Defender Yerry Mina opened the scoring in the 40th minute with captain Radamel Falcao and winger Juan Cuadrado sealing a deserved victory with two goals in five minutes as the desperate Poles chased the game in the last quarter.

Midfielder James Rodriguez, winner of the Golden Boot at the last World Cup, returned to the starting lineup after injury and played a part in two of the goals as Colombia got back on track after their opening loss to Japan.

The victory puts Colombia in third place in the group on three points behind the Japanese and Senegal, who shared a 2-2 draw earlier on Sunday to move to four points apiece.

A victory over the Africans in their final first-round match in Samara on Thursday would secure Colombia a spot in the last 16 as they target at least matching their charge to the quarter-finals in Brazil four years ago. For Poland, the optimism fostered by their quarter-final spot at Euro 2016 and a strong qualifying campaign proved to be misplaced as they slumped to a second successive defeat.

The match started to a barrage of noise from the yellow-shirted Colombian fans and the early exchanges were frenetic with Poland putting in some physical challenges and Robert Lewandowski getting close attention from the Colombian defence.

Poland's offensive tactics were limited to launching long balls towards their prolific striker and although Colombia were trying to play the ball on the floor they could not get their passes to stick.

Cuadrado was causing some problems down Poland's right flank, however, and a piece of mazy dribbling in the 37th minute saw the winger forge



KAZAN: Poland's defender Jan Bednarek (L) fights for the ball with Colombia's forward Falcao during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group H football match between Poland and Colombia at the Kazan Arena in Kazan yesterday. — AFP

the first genuine opening, which goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny blocked behind. The respite was brief and on the next Colombia attack Juan Quintero found Rodriguez lurking inside the box and the midfielder chipped a delightful cross into the danger area for Mina to head the ball into the net from point-blank range.

The Poles came out firing at the start of the second half but their limitations remained and Cuadrado was soon causing them more problems down the right. Lewandowski finally got a chance to score his

first World Cup goal in the 58th minute but his first touch on the long ball was not his best and goalkeeper David Ospina smothered his shot. Quintero played creator in the 70th minute and Falcao turned the last defender before stroking the ball past Szczesny with the outside of his boot for his first World Cup strike. Poland pushed forward to try and get back into the game and five minutes later were caught on the break by the Colombians with Rodriguez rasping a pass across the field to allow Cuadrado fitting reward for a fine performance. — Reuters

## Buttler hundred guides England to 5-0 series sweep

MANCHESTER: Jos Buttler's unbeaten century on his Lancashire home ground saw England to a thrilling one-wicket win over Australia in the fifth one-day international at Old Trafford yesterday. Victory gave England their first 5-0 series sweep of Australia, in more than 140 years of men's international cricket between the arch-rivals. England, set a mere 206 to win, slumped to 50 for five and then 114 for eight.

They were still 11 runs shy of victory at 195 for nine when Adil Rashid (20) was out after sharing a stand of 81 with Buttler. But Buttler's 110 not out saw them win with nine balls to spare while last man Jake Ball held firm at the other end. Australia captain Tim Paine won the toss only to see his side dismissed for 205 in 34.4 overs. Off-spinner Moeen Ali took an ODI best four for 46 — including two for none in three balls Travis Head (56) was the only batsman in the innings to pass fifty, with D'Arcy Short left stranded on 47 not out.

Brief scores

Australia 205, 34.4 overs (T Head 56 M Ali 4-46) England 208-9, 48.3 overs (J Buttler 110 no; B Stanlake 3-35, K Richardson 3-51)

Result: England won by one wicket

Series: England won five-match series 5-0

Man-of-the-match: Jos Buttler (ENG)

Man-of-the-series: Jos Buttler (ENG). — Reuters



Winners 2018



OLD TRAFFORD: England's players pose with the series trophy after the fifth One Day International (ODI) cricket match between England and Australia at Old Trafford cricket ground in Manchester, northwest England yesterday. — AFP

## Russia ride wave of World Cup euphoria into Uruguay clash

MOSCOW: World Cup hosts Russia are surfing a wave of national euphoria as they head into today's encounter against two-time champions Uruguay after delighting their fans with a scintillating start to the tournament.

Written off as no-hopers before the World Cup, Russia head to the Volga River city of Samara for a game which will see the winner secure top spot in Group A following the elimination of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. A draw would also be good enough to give Russia first place, thanks to the eight goals from two matches that have made believers out of fans used to decades of World Cup futility.

Both teams then face the likely prospect of going up against either Spain or Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal in the last 16 — although underdogs Iran are still in the running in a tight Group B.

Uruguay however are likely to provide the type of

stern test Russia will need to overcome if they are launch an extended run in the knockout rounds. Yet the hosts are brimming with confidence having made it past the group stage of a World Cup for the first time since the Soviet Union lost to Belgium in the last 16 in 1986.

Russia had won just two of nine World Cup matches before kicking off the most watched event on the planet with a 5-0 rout of the Saudis. Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko—the former sports minister who still oversees football in an unofficial capacity—said the squad had no right to relax.

"Our mission has still not been accomplished," Mutko said after watching a team training session on the outskirts of a muggy Moscow. "We would like to get into the knockout stage from first place." Russia followed their Saudi thrashing by limiting Egypt's star striker Mohamed Salah—nursing a shoulder injury but always dangerous—to one goal in an impressive 3-1 win last Tuesday in Saint Petersburg. Salah was contained by a Russian defence that had lost three starters and was forced to call back 38-year-old Sergei Ignashevich from international retirement.

Ignashevich turns 39 on the eve of the final on July 15 that Russia retain improbable dreams of playing in. Few believe they will. A poll conducted in the wake of their win over Egypt showed just 14 percent think Russia can lift the trophy.

It was 11 percent when coach Stanislav Cherchesov's charges were plodding their way through a seven-match winless streak that saw their

ranking slip to a tournament-worst 70th. But Cherchesov always thought Russia were underrated and a triumph over Uruguay's Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani would do more to prove the mustachioed manager right.

It would also see Russia looking more confidently at the permutations of whom they might encounter in the quarter-finals. The possibilities there range from France and Argentina to an impressive looking Croatia. Midfielder Denis Cheryshev has been one of the World Cup's big discoveries and a natural leader on a team without stars. "We have to be very happy with our wins," said the 27-year-old. "But but this is just the start." — AFP

WORLD CUP 2018				
Today's Matches (All local timings)				
Uruguay	17:00	Russia		
Saudi Arabia	17:00	Egypt		
Spain	21:00	Morocco		
Iran	21:00	Portugal		



**25** Cuper says time as Egypt coach might be ending



**26** Federer loses world number one spot after Coric defeat



**27** Buttler hundred guides England to 5-0 series sweep



## England demolish Panama 6-1

Kane inspires England to WCup knockout stage alongside Belgium



**NIZHNY NOVGOROD:** Panama's defender Roman Torres (C back) reacts as England's midfielder Jordan Henderson kicks the ball during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group G football match between England and Panama at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Nizhny Novgorod yesterday. — AFP

**NIZHNY NOVGOROD:** England recorded their biggest ever World Cup finals win by thrashing an ill-disciplined Panama 6-1 yesterday to breeze through to the knockout stage after two games. A hat-trick from captain Harry Kane—which means he is now the leading scorer in the tournament with five goals—two from John Stones, his first ever in an England shirt, and a beauty from Jesse Lingard completed the crushing victory.

The result also confirmed Belgium's qualification for the knockout stage and means Panama exit the tournament alongside Tunisia. The records tumbled for England on an easy afternoon by the River Volga.

The rout was the first time England have scored more than four goals at a World Cup finals since winning the tournament in 1966. It was the first time in

England's history they have managed five goals in a first half and Kane became the first England player to score a World Cup hat-trick since Gary Lineker in 1986.

It is also the first time they have qualified for the knockout stage since 2010, and the biggest victory so far at this tournament. Intriguingly, it also means they are level on points, goal difference and goals scored with Belgium in Group G. The two sides meet in Kaliningrad on Thursday.

Despite the result, England started slowly and it was Panama who should have scored first in the fifth minute when Anibal Godoy blasted high and wide after the Central Americans carved open England's defence.

England took the lead in the eighth minute when

John Stones powered home a header from a Kieran Trippier corner, held up by the referee because of wrestling and pushing by the Panamanians, something which was set to become a theme of the match.

England extended their lead from the penalty spot in the 22nd minute after Lingard was brought down in the box by two defenders. That opened the floodgates. Lingard scored the game's best goal in the 36th minute, a 20-yard curling shot past a helpless Jaime Penedo, then Stones added his second four minutes later, another header, following an intricate England free-kick.

Following Panama complaints, the goal was referred to VAR for offside but allowed to stand. Kane then scored his second penalty in first-half injury time after

he was almost farcically wrestled over at a corner, despite further Panama complaints. At that stage, Panama, who received five bookings in their first match and three more here, threatened to implode, so bad was their lack of discipline.

Kane's hat-trick was completed in bizarre fashion in the 62nd minute after a Ruben Loftus-Cheek deflected off the English captain's heel into the net. Again, the referee checked with VAR for offside, but once more the goal stood.

The second-half was largely an anti-climax, with Jordan Henderson and Raheem Sterling going close to making it seven. However, the biggest cheer of the day was reserved for the 78th minute when Felipe Baloy scored Panama's first ever finals goal. — AFP

## Honda drives Japan to deserved 2-2 draw against Senegal

**YEKATERINBURG:** Midfielder Keisuke Honda came off the bench to salvage a 2-2 draw for Japan against Senegal, as both teams were locked at the top of Group H following an entertaining encounter at the Ekaterinburg Arena yesterday.

Veteran Honda, 32, who became the first Japanese player to score in three different World Cups, replaced Shinji Kagawa in the second half with his team down 2-1 and fired the equaliser in 12 minutes from time after a bad error by Senegal goalkeeper Khadim N'Diaye.

Senegal thought they had won the match as Moussa Wague drilled the ball into the

top of the net on 71 minutes to make it 2-1 after Sadio Mane's fortuitous first-half opener was cancelled out by Takashi Inui's curling shot. But Honda ensured things ended level and deservedly so. The result leaves both teams, who beat Colombia and Poland respectively in their opening matches, on four points from two games and within reach of a spot in the last 16.

### ROBUST DEFENDING

Senegal began the match strongly and their robust defending neutralised any early threat that the Japanese front line posed, allowing their own attackers to push up in numbers. The Africans went ahead in the 11th minute, although there was an element of luck to their goal.

A poor headed clearance landed right at Youssouf Sabaly's feet and although goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima managed to parry the defender's stinging shot from the left, the ball rebounded into the net off Mane's knee.

Forward Ismaila Sarr, who troubled Japan from the start with his pace and power on the right wing, was unlucky not to double Senegal's lead on 21 minutes as he volleyed

into Kawashima's hands from close range.

Japan slowly regained composure and responded with a well-taken goal with their only shot on target in the opening period to level the score at 1-1. Yuto Nagatomo controlled a long pass with a deft first touch before rolling the ball into the path of Inui, who cut in from the left and fired a curling shot past a diving N'Diaye.

Senegal appeared to step off the gas towards the end of the half, and the effects were still evident after the restart, as they resorted to long-range efforts that failed to test the Japanese goalkeeper.

They nearly paid for allowing their opponents to run at them, as Yuya Osako narrowly failed to connect with a ball across the box on the hour mark before Inui's powerful shot struck the bar with the goalkeeper beaten.

Wague appeared to have ended hopes of a Japanese comeback as he drilled Sabaly's low cross into the top of the net to send Senegal's supporters into raptures. But the Asians were not done and hit back again through Honda, who tapped in into an empty net after goalkeeper N'Diaye stepped off his line and failed to punch the ball away. — Reuters



**EKATERINBURG:** Japan's midfielder Keisuke Honda (R) celebrates after scoring his team's second goal during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group H football match between Japan and Senegal at the Ekaterinburg Arena in Ekaterinburg yesterday. — AFP