

**2** Amir sponsors KU's graduation ceremony

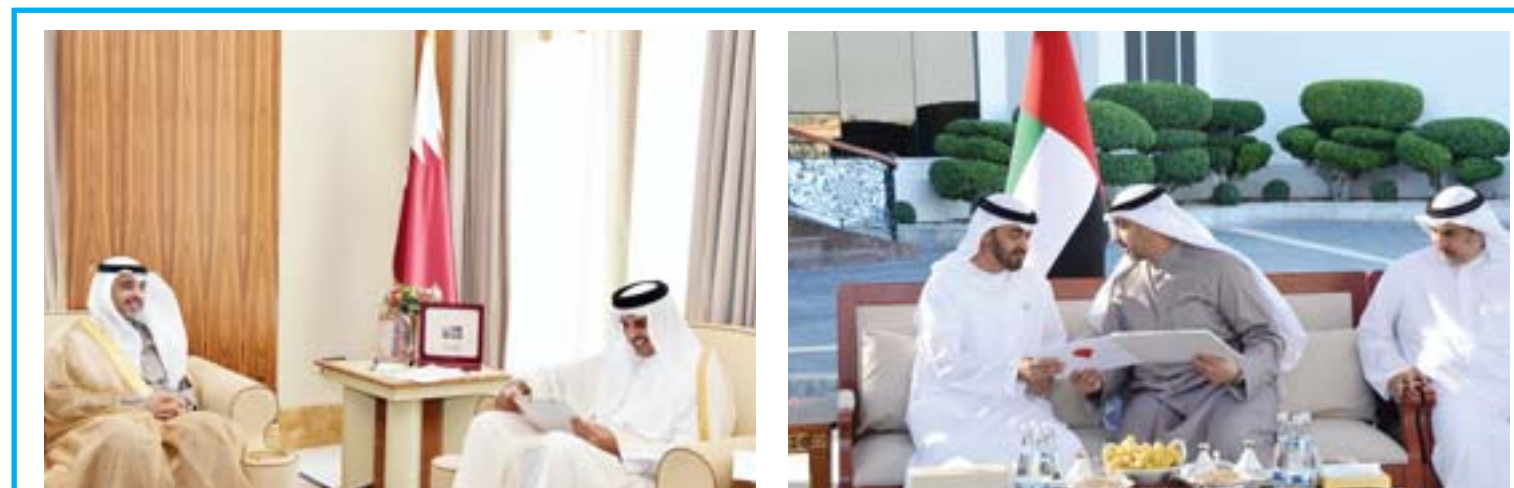


**16** Mourinho joins 'foreign agent' Russian TV for World Cup



# Motorists face new emissions tests during annual inspection

EPA to provide free checkups • Polluting vehicles may be seized



Envoy of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah, hands a letter from the Amir to Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. — KUNA

## Amiri envoy hands letters to Qatari, UAE leaders

KUWAIT: Envoy of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, handed a letter from the Amir to Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani yesterday. The letter included HH the Amir's greetings and appreciation of Qatar's significant

participation in Kuwait's national celebrations, both on the official and public levels.

Sheikh Mohammad later yesterday also handed a letter from HH the Amir to UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. The letter was delivered to Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh

Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. The letter included greetings, appreciation and thanks from the Amir and the Kuwaiti people to the UAE president for this Gulf country's effective official and unofficial participation in Kuwait's national celebrations, in addition to brotherly, historical and close relations between both nations and their peoples. — KUNA

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: From June, vehicles producing polluting emissions will be sanctioned and may even be seized by the police. A ministerial decree on emissions was issued last year, which will go into effect on June 17, 2018. Meanwhile, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) is readying awareness campaigns for drivers to check their vehicles. "This will give a chance to motorists to fix their cars before the law is enforced, so they will be ready and avoid fines. We began by checking the vehicles of EPA officials, and will start free checks for the public soon," Ayman Bujbara, Director of the Air Quality Department at EPA, told Kuwait Times.

The inspections are free of charge and will be available at various locations. "We have received approval already for some locations and we are awaiting others. Our first location will be the Alfa fuel station in Shuwaikh. We will also provide this service at some shopping malls in different areas, which will be announced later," he added.

Based on this test, the motorist will learn about any problem in their vehicle and fix it. "This test, for instance, will measure the percentage of carbon dioxide compared to oxygen, and if the CO2 is higher than the limits, this means it

needs to be fixed. This is an easy procedure, as usually vehicles from 2004 onwards have a three-way catalytic converter, which filters polluting gases produced after fuel is burned. Some drivers remove it when it breaks down instead of fixing it, as it's cheaper. When it's missing, the vehicle will pollute, which is a violation. Many people don't know the function of this converter, so they just remove it," explained Bujbara.

EPA is in charge of issuing the law, and the interior ministry is in charge of applying it. "Police officers have the power to penalize violating vehicles that are producing emissions and polluting the environment. They will issue fines to violating vehicles on the roads as well as during checks," he noted.

Some emissions may not be visible. "This was the reason behind issuing this law, as in the past officers at the technical inspection departments used to judge the vehicle depending on the smoke produced, but this is not enough. Some emissions are not visible, so professional machines certified by the US Environment Protection Agency or the European Environment Agency should be used," concluded Bujbara.

Lt Gen Khaled Al-Adwani, Secretary General of the Supreme Traffic Council

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### News in brief

#### Ban on Bangladeshi workers

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah issued a decision to stop issuing work visas for Bangladeshis and sent it to Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Maj Gen Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, according to a report in Al-Jarida daily yesterday. A source said the minister's decision was made after a notable rise in the number of Bangladeshi workers in the country and based on reports from various security departments, which show that after a previous ban on Bangladeshi workers was lifted, they became a target of "iqama traders", resulting in irregularities and abuses. — Al-Jarida

#### MBC pulls plug on Turkish soaps

DUBAI: The Arab world's largest private broadcaster has stopped showing Turkish television programs, it said yesterday, as tensions rise between Ankara and some Arab states. Turkish soap operas in particular are a big hit across the Middle East but the decision to pull the plug came into effect at Dubai-based MBC Group - which is controlled by Saudi businessman Walid Al-Ibrahim and other Saudi investors - on March 2, a company spokesman said. Some Arab commentators have been campaigning on social media against what they see as Turkish cultural influence being broadcast into Arab homes through TV shows, often dubbed into Arabic. MBC spokesman Mazen Hayek said the decision includes all kinds of Turkish programs, and immediately affects six shows. It was likely to hit revenues and viewership built up over more than 10 years, he added. — Reuters

#### Trump 'may' attend embassy opening

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump said he may attend the opening of a controversial new US embassy in Jerusalem, a fraught prospect designed to underscore close ties with Benjamin Netanyahu, as he hosted the Israeli leader at the White House yesterday. The embattled US president warmly welcomed the embattled Israeli prime minister, claiming ties between their two countries had "never been better" as he floated a May trip that would be a major security and diplomatic challenge. Netanyahu praised Trump's highly contentious decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem. Asked if he would take part in the planned ceremony, which will coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel's declaration of independence, Trump said: "I may, we'll be talking about that." "If I can, I will." — AFP

## 2 MPs file to grill Assembly minister

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani and Adel Al-Damkhi yesterday filed to grill State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi over alleged constitutional violations and advised him to step down. The grilling accused the minister, who has been a member in the Cabinet for barely a few months, of not performing his duties listed in Amiri decrees and the country's laws - mainly boosting cooperation between the National Assembly and the government.

Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said the grilling will be placed on

the agenda of the March 20 session as it cannot be listed in today's session because it was submitted less than 48 hours before the session. But the Assembly can decide to debate it today through a vote. But the debate is highly expected to take place on March 20, unless the minister seeks an extension from the Assembly, also through a vote.

The two lawmakers called on Khorafi to quit before the grilling debate in order to spare himself major embarrassment and a possible political crisis. Adasani said: "I tell the prime minister that if Khorafi remains in his post, it will develop

Continued on Page 11

## MBS discusses economy in Egypt, meets Coptic pope

CAIRO: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman continued a visit to Egypt yesterday focused on economic cooperation, with Riyadh agreeing a \$10 billion investment with Cairo for a futuristic mega city project. Prince Mohammed accompanied Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to review construction projects near the Suez Canal before boarding a boat with the president to tour the waterway. A Saudi government source said the two countries had agreed

to set up a joint \$10 billion fund to develop areas of Egypt linked to the NEOM project.

The \$500 billion NEOM mega city, unveiled by Prince Mohammed last year, is planned to be a biotech and digital hub spread over 26,500 sq km in an area facing Jordan and Egypt. The Saudi government source said the joint fund, which involves leased land for the Egyptian share, would be used to develop lands in

Continued on Page 11

## 'Shape of Water' wins big at Oscars

HOLLYWOOD: "The Shape of Water" on Sunday won top honors at the Oscars including the coveted best picture statuette, bringing the curtain down on a Hollywood awards season overshadowed by scandal over sexual misconduct in showbiz. Guillermo del Toro's fairy tale romance led the charge going into the show with 13 nominations, and took home best picture - the top prize of the night - as well as best director and statuettes for production design and best original score.

In a night of honors being shared fairly evenly among several candidates, Martin McDonagh's dark crime comedy "Three

Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" had to settle for best actress for Frances McDormand and best supporting actor for Sam Rockwell. Best actor went to runaway favorite Gary Oldman, who sat in make-up for three hours a day to disappear entirely into the role of British wartime prime minister Winston Churchill for "Darkest Hour".

Allison Janney won best supporting actress for her turn as the cold, sardonic mother of disgraced figure skater Tonya Harding in "I, Tonya" - capping a sparkling awards season which saw her sweep the major prizes. Christopher Nolan's World War II thriller "Dunkirk" also picked up three awards, but in the less glitzy technical categories, while several movies ended the evening with two trophies. — AFP (See Pages 28-32)



KUWAIT: Opposition MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani (left) and Adel Al-Damkhi, who filed to grill State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi, are seen at the Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



CAIRO: Pope Tawadros II of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church meets Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the Abbasiya Cathedral yesterday. — AFP



HOLLYWOOD: Director Guillermo del Toro poses in the press room with the Oscars for best picture and best director during the 90th Annual Academy Awards on Sunday. — AFP



# Amir sponsors KU annual graduation ceremony

## Minister urges students to serve Kuwait with dedication



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top state officials attend the ceremony.— Amiri Diwan photos

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage and with attendance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait University (KU) held its annual graduation ceremony for graduate and postgraduate students for the academic year 2016-2017 yesterday. The ceremony was held at Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Theater at the KU campus in Shuwaikh district.

His Highness the Amir was welcomed upon arrival at the ceremony venue by Minister of Education, Higher Education and Kuwait University Supreme President Dr Hamed Al-Azmi, KU Director Dr Hussein Al-Ansari and university's senior officials. The ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, senior state officials and gathering of graduates and citizens.

Minister Azmi addressed a speech, greeting Their Highnesses the Amir, the Crown Prince, Speaker Ghanem and His Highness the Premier, saying the university is "offering the new batch of excellent (graduates) and holders of Master's and Doctorate degrees to

serve the homeland and the nation."

He lauded His Highness the Amir's graceful sponsorship of the graduation ceremony, affirming that his care would motivate the students to serve the homeland devoutly. The minister expressed deep appreciation



### KU programs support development

for His Highness' care for the university: "this aloft scientific landmark that crowns education in our country, safeguards its development and protects it against backwardness." He congratulated the graduates, urging them to serve Kuwait with dedication for its promotion and unity: "for Kuwait is an eternal entity and we are just passersby and its service is the most honorable and ideal act."

KU President Dr Hussein Al-Ansari told the packed audience that His Highness the

Amir has always been a proponent of a sound education, as evident by his annual sponsorship of the graduation ceremony. He spoke of a number of endeavors the university has undertaken to buoy the country's national development plan, citing a revamped KU curriculum that offers a wide array of subjects, including an all-new master's program.

The KU President went on to say that the university has partnered with a number of venerable schools all over the world in a bid to offer its students top-notch education, which ultimately contributed to notable achievements KU has made over the years. Ansari added he was confident that the acumen the students had honed during their academic odysseys would serve them well as they embark on their professional careers.

Speaking on behalf of the graduates, KU alumna Muneera Al-Khaled said the students owe His Highness the Amir a debt of gratitude for his unbridled support, as she dedicated her academic excellence to His Highness the Amir. She also thanked all of KU's professors for imparting their knowledge to her and fellow pupils, wishing Kuwait continued development, peace and prosperity. — KUNA



(From left) 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, Education Minister Dr Hamed Al-Azmi and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem cut a cake during the ceremony.



A Kuwait University graduate welcomes His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as he arrives to the venue.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen in a group photo with Kuwait University graduates and staff.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends Kuwait University's annual students graduation ceremony.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem is welcomed.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is welcomed upon his arrival.

**2018 МАРТА**  
ВЫБОРЫ  
ПРЕЗИДЕНТА  
РОССИИ

**FOR THE CITIZENS  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
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The Embassy of the Russian Federation in the State of Kuwait announces that the voting to elect the President of the Russian Federation will be held at the premises of the Embassy of Russia in Kuwait:

**Daiya, Block 5, Diplomatic Campus, Al-Yemen street, plot 17,**

**on  
Friday, March 16, 2018  
from 8:00 till 20:00.**

All Russian citizens, visiting or staying in Kuwait, who have reached the age of 18 years are invited to take part in the elections. Make sure you keep your valid passport of the citizen of the Russian Federation with you.

For any information related to the forthcoming elections please address the Consular Section of the Embassy. For enquiries you are welcome to contact: 22560427, 22560428.



Local

# Cabinet OKs action plan for 15th Legislative Term

## Restoring Kuwait's leading regional status as a trade and financial hub

**KUWAIT:** The cabinet yesterday approved and referred to the National Assembly the government's action plan for the 15th Legislative Term 2016/2017-2019/2020, after detailed discussions. Meeting at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the ministers highly appreciated the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and other official agencies for their sincere efforts on the plan.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who heads the ministerial committee that prepared the plan had briefed the ministers on the program. He explained the expectations the program would seek to fulfill, namely restoring Kuwait's leading regional status as a trade and financial hub, said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh after the meeting. Other goals include reviving the private sector's pivotal role as a locomotive of development, and supporting empowerment of labor, production and overall human development, Sheikh Nasser said.

Issues given priority on the state's agenda cover developing government management and consolidating its effectiveness and efficiency, building knowledge economy, structural reform of the economy,

economic and financial sustainability, development projects and promoting human capital infrastructure.

In addition, the program covers the legislative requirements that can ensure full and adequate implementation of the government's action plan, Sheikh Nasser noted. He referred to the basic references of the program, namely the speeches of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Premier to the First and Second Sessions of the National Assembly's 15th Legislative Term, as well as "Kuwait Vision 2035" that aims to turn the country into a trade and financial hub. He briefed the meeting on the executive and technical aspects of the plan.

### US envoy's visit

As the meeting kicked off, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah apprised the ministers of the outcome of a recent visit to Kuwait by the US envoy, retired US Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni to Kuwait. Talks have addressed the Gulf row and the efforts to contain it, besides arrangements for the US-GCC summit slated for May, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said.

Also yesterday, the cabinet discussed the agenda of the National Assembly. Reviewing political developments on the Arab and international scenes, the



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



### Preparations for US-GCC summit discussed



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of Brazil to Kuwait Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta yesterday visited Kuwait Times where he met with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

### Jarallah meets Bangladesh FM

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with the visiting Bangladeshi Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad

Shahriar. The meeting focused on means of enhancing bilateral ties, besides regional and international developments. Jarallah held a luncheon banquet in honor of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Bangladesh ambassador to Kuwait S M Abul Kalam. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the visiting Bangladesh Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Shahriar. — KUNA

### Minister applauds initiative's support

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh stressed the need to enhance the concept of voluntary work amongst youth as well as supporting voluntary work through providing the suitable environment and requirements for it.

The minister made that statement after receiving a delegation from a national initiative for supporting ministries' efforts, known as 'We Appreciate

Your Efforts', headed by Kuwait Human Rights Society complaints committee Rapporteur Abdul Aziz Hussein Al-Thefeiri. The campaign proved that the Kuwaiti youth are capable of making achievements in a short period of time, the minister said, adding that the campaign is a sincere national initiative originating from the Kuwaiti people and provides positive support.

Further, Sabeeh hailed the campaign's mechanism that focuses on field visits and discussing various problems with senior officials in several ministries, namely those directly related to citizens, in order to set proper solutions for them.

Meanwhile, Thefeiri said that minister Sabeeh gave a highly respected model for public servants through her work within the cabinet and her war against corruption. Notably, Sabeeh was honored during the reception in appreciation for her sincere efforts that were recently reflected in winning the trust of both MPs and ministers.

# Kuwait Times

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## Local

# The way forward is to see the world without borders: NASA expert

## AUK center hosts senior engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering (RISE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), in collaboration with the US Embassy in Kuwait, hosted Zainab Nagin Cox, senior engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Cox is a system engineer and manager of multiple interplanetary robotic missions including the NASA/JPL's Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Mars Exploration Rover Missions and Kepler telescope mission to search earthlike planets around other stars.

"I am very proud to be here in Kuwait as part of the embassy's educational speaker exchange program. I am here today to talk directly to Kuwaiti students," she said. "I am interested in the perspective of people from this part of the world, especially those who are interested in science and space programs; as engineers, we are interested in solving problems in engineering. I am happy how the countries in the Gulf are interested in the work we are doing at NASA - in fact, they also have their own space programs. In Kuwait, I think they will soon have a space program as well. There is a lot of exploration to do, and the more nations get involved in space programs, the more we can explore the vast universe for the benefit of humanity," she said.

Cox is the mission lead on the operations team of the

Mars Science Laboratory and NASA's Mars Curiosity Rover that landed on Mars in Aug 2012 and has been exploring Mars ever since. Asked if the Kuwaiti government is contributing to NASA's space program in terms of money, Cox revealed that since a long time, Kuwait's has been an avid supporter of NASA's space programs through KFAS.

Cox also admitted that with the shift of leadership from Obama to Trump, there has been a noticeable shift of priorities from Mars to the moon. "We will try to ensure that the Mars program is not interrupted. We need continuity. But we are tied in the budget given to us by the government - and it's only one percent of the entire US budget," she said. Cox pointed out that the way forward is to see the earth without borders, as one planet. "The more nations that want to discover space, the better for everyone," she reiterated.

Dr Zennia Paganini, US Cultural Attache, was also at the seminar. "Cox came through one of our education exchange programs. The program is designed to bring speakers from the US - most of whom are experts in Science, English, Engineering and Mathematics. Our visitors are scheduled to talk to students from various universities in Kuwait. The main objective is to share knowledge and be an inspiration to people who are studying and honing their academic performances, mostly at private universities," she said.



### Kuwait to have space program soon



**KUWAIT:** Zainab Nagin Cox, senior engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, speaks during a lecture at AUK's Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

## Gulf Bank raises awareness of sign language

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank announced its collaboration with 'Bil Eshara', a recently founded group which aims to involve people with hearing disabilities in the community. Gulf Bank is committed to supporting their mission by sponsoring their initiatives and projects.

Through this partnership, awareness of sign language was raised during the National and Liberation Day celebrations with the launch of the first initiative of presenting Kuwait's national anthem in sign language. The video included a number of celebrities, and was successful in generating a substantial number of views after being published on various social media channels and in movie theaters.

Commenting on this initiative, Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank said: "The Bank is proud to be working with 'Bil Eshara' to help empower people with hearing disabilities as part of its corporate social responsibility program. Gulf Bank also wanted to spread awareness of sign language in the country and realized a video of our national anthem in sign language to celebrate our National and Liberation Days holidays would be an impactful first step. We are pleased with the feedback received on our first project with 'Bil Eshara' and are looking forward to more creative outputs."

With regards to catering to all segments of society in the Gulf Bank branch network, Qatami added: "We have fully equipped branches in each of the six governorates that cater to customers with special needs, that includes branch staff trained to communicate in sign language and accommodations for clients with physical and/or visual disabilities."

'Bil Eshara' is a group that is founded by three enthusiastic Kuwaiti ladies, Al-Zahraa Al-Tamimi, Noura Al-Qahtani and Shaimaa Al-Qallaf, specialized in the field of special education with a focus on hearing disabilities. Their initiatives are available through their social media accounts @bilesara.



Dawood Hussein



Mohammed Bilal

## KIB wins two Cybersecurity Excellence Awards

**KUWAIT:** As a further testament to its ongoing success and strong leadership in information security, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) received two gold awards from the 2018 Cybersecurity Excellence Awards, namely the 'Cybersecurity Professional of the Year - Middle East' award and the 'Cybersecurity Team of the Year - Middle East' award. These annual awards aim at honoring products and companies that demonstrate excellence and innovation in the area of information security.

KIB was selected as a winner amongst a competitive list of the industry's pioneering organizations and individuals in the field of cyber security. The annual Cybersecurity Excellence Awards are highly-competitive as they honor companies across 50 product, company, and professional

award categories from over 400 entries from global leaders in the industry. Finalists and winners are selected and evaluated based on their proved leadership, excellence and success in cybersecurity, as well as popular vote by members of the Information Security Community.

On this occasion, Basil Al-Suwaidan, Head of Information Security said: "These awards exemplify our unwavering commitment to solving the challenges of cybersecurity and doing what is necessary to safeguard sensitive information to gain the trust of our customers. At KIB, we have managed to create a culture of security to ensure the protection of our customers' data and privacy."

Suwaidan also added that KIB continuously seeks to uphold the highest levels of banking security by implementing the best practices in information security. This recognition reflects the Bank's ability to develop and maintain robust information security methodologies and policies to detect and prevent cyber-attacks and security threats, thereby maintaining more resilient business operations.

The Cybersecurity Excellence Awards are the latest in a long line of recent achievements for KIB, underscoring its commitment to implementing the most innovative banking solutions that ensure the utmost privacy and confidentiality to all its banking processes. Additionally, the Bank



Basil Al-Suwaidan

ensures the safety and security of its customers' sensitive data by making data security an operational cornerstone.

## NBK sponsors 'Souq Qout' exhibition

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) surprised participating small projects' entrepreneurs at this year's season of the 'Souq Qout' exhibition by paying their participation fees on the closing day to support their projects. NBK's sponsorship of the event comes as part of its keenness to support young people's initiatives and have them play part in developing the national economy. Souq Qout, which was hosted at the Shaheed Park on Saturday, aims at providing Kuwaiti youth with suitable opportunities to display their local products of food items, fashion, artifacts, art and music.

"This year's participation in the market was different," NBK Public Relations Officer Farah Bastaki said, adding that the event witnessed several activities that the bank presented to coincide with celebrating the National Day and Liberation Day anniversaries.

NBK launched a special campaign in collaboration with VISA through which NBK VISA credit and ATM card holders get the chance to win three tickets to watch the FIFA World Cup final in Russia, Bastaki added. NBK also took part in several sports competitions for visitors including soccer, table football, the 'Jawhara Hammer', in addition to special competitions for children, she noted.



Farah Bastaki





# Electricity Ministry to 'Kuwaitize' jobs of expats on expiring contracts

## Conscription required to apply for driving license

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) plans to reassess its needs for expatriate workers to decide whether to extend their contracts when they expire or let them go. The assessment process will help the ministry in its efforts to hire Kuwaiti manpower instead of foreign workers with expiring contracts, Assistant Undersecretary for Power Plant Operations and Maintenance Fuad Al-Aoun said.

Meanwhile, Aoun said that the ministry plans to increase liquefied gas consumption rates at power plants to 880 million cubic feet per day during peak periods this summer, as well as import gas all year round in order to shorten gas units' maintenance periods. Aoun said the maximum power consumption expected this summer would be 14,900 megawatts out of a total capacity of 17,000 megawatts.



### Kuwait to import construction aggregate from Iraq

**Driving licenses**  
The defense ministry's conscription authority urged the Ministry of Interior to abstain from issuing driving licenses to citizens turning 18 without first receiving a letter from the National Service (Conscription) Authority stating that they

have been drafted. MoI's acting assistant undersecretary for traffic affairs Maj Gen Fahd Al-Showayyeh approved the defense

ministry's request, and circulated it to various traffic departments to in order be put into practice.

**Terror suspect jailed**  
A Saudi court yesterday sentenced a Yemeni residing in the kingdom to 10 years in prison over charges of joining Al-Qaeda, branding the Saudi government infidel, applauding the Al-Sadiq Mosque bombing in Kuwait and praising the IS terrorist organization. The court also ordered deporting the defendant after doing his time.

**Construction aggregate**  
The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) recently asked the Public Authority for Industry to set the regulations needed to import construction aggregate from Iraq in response to a request by a Kuwaiti contracting company, informed sources said. In its request, the company said that Iraq has

the best quality aggregate in the region and possesses excessive amounts of it.

**Development projects**  
The funds needed for any of next year's development plan projects will be provided, even if the 2018 budget approval is delayed, well-informed governmental sources said. The sources added that the total funding needed for the projects is KD 2.715 billion. Meanwhile, the sources said the administration of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development is studying the feasibility of service projects, adding that KD 200 million will be allocated for funding touristic and recreation projects to enable the local market attract more tourists. In another budget issue, the parliamentary budgets and final statements committee, headed by MP Adnan Abdulsamad, resumed discussing the state budget, which might be rejected if the government delays resolving the problem of financial allotments.



Legalese

## Stateless in Kuwait



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

The issue of stateless people has been an ongoing topic for what seems to be like centuries in Kuwait, which unfortunately fades away sometimes. The discussion on stateless people (locally known as bedoons) in Kuwait returned prominently in the media last week after a man allegedly burned himself in front of the courts in protest against the living conditions of the bedoons in Kuwait. As a writer and a person interested in discussing human rights, I must say I am surprised I haven't written about stateless people in Kuwait.

There are approximately 130,000 bedoons in Kuwait without nationality, access to education, housing and other benefits that Kuwaitis are entitled to. It is a very complex issue that the Kuwaiti government and various parliament members have been dealing with over the years. Many solutions were raised and discussed publicly in the parliament, yet there is no one simple solution. I know though that the Kuwaiti government has done a lot of human rights work internationally and locally, and I am sure that this topic will not be ignored.

I also know that there are no specific laws against the stateless in Kuwait, therefore I hope that we reach awareness in the future where people will treat them with the dignity and respect that they deserve, making sure that they have access to their constitutional rights under the constitution. Today I will be discussing basic human rights in Kuwait under the constitution, not only for the stateless but for people from all walks of life that inhabit this beautiful land called Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti constitution's articles regarding freedoms and rights:

### Article 7

Justice, freedom and equality are the pillars of society; and cooperation and compassion are the firm link binding all citizens.

### Article 29

The people are peers in human dignity and have, in the eyes of the law, equal public rights and obligations. There shall be made no differentiation among them because of race, origin, language or religion.

### Article 31

No person may be arrested, imprisoned, searched, have his residence restricted or be restrained in liberty of residence or of movement save in conformity with the provisions of the law.

No person shall be subjected to torture or to ignominious treatment.

## Kuwait's refining capacity reaches 736,000 bpd: KPC

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's crude refining capacity has stood at 736,000 barrel per day (bpd) after the closure of Shuaiba Refinery, a senior Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) official said. KPC's CEO for Projects Abdullah Al-Ajmi made the statement to the press on the sidelines of the oil sector's 2017-2018 forum on human resources that kicked off yesterday.

Meanwhile, Ajmi added that by the end of February the rate of achievement at the Biofuel project hit 93.2 percent. Workforce at the project has hit highest level, 51,000 people. Work is proceeding by leaps and bounds at the project and its units will be handed over for actual operation this summer, he noted.

KPC's CEO Nizar Al-Adsani earlier addressed

## Kuwait seeks to achieve food security: Minister

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti government is in the process of achieving food security through "an effective executive mechanism and thoroughly-studied plans," Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said Sunday.

The State of Kuwait "pays a special attention to food security and considers it a major strategy in its vision," Roudhan, also Minister of State for Youth, said in a speech at the launch of an initiative by Qbetter company to achieve sustainable food security.

He said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been working hard to the develop-

ment of food security in line with latest technologies. He said the initiative of Qbetter actively contributed to strengthening of food security.

Roudhan said Kuwait was ranked 26th globally in terms of food security in 2017. The State, said Al-Roudhan, has been distributing rations to some 1.599 million people every month. He added that rations' subsidies reached KD 177.76 million (\$592 million) in 2017. The ministry, he went on, has been investing in Kuwaiti youth to enable them build their capabilities to establish their own businesses.

Anas Al-Otaibi, Qbetter CEO, said the company aimed at activating small and medium-size projects, as well as supporting creative ideas. He said 40-50 percent of GDP of advanced economies depends on small and medium-size projects. Qbetter aims at transforming Kuwait into a global information hub, he said. Otaibi said Qbetter was a business incubator, through which the company provided an environment for start-ups. — KUNA

## 71 tickets issued in traffic campaigns

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** The traffic department carried out several unscheduled campaigns around the country which resulted in issuing 71 traffic tickets, impounding 59 cars and seven motorcycles and arresting 50 violators. The campaigns covered the Arabian Gulf Road, Maghrib Street, Ibrahim Al-Muzayen Road and Jahra Road, the relations and security information department said in a statement.

### Fugitive caught

A citizen convicted and sentenced to five years in jail disturbed his neighbors and caused problems, so Jahra detectives ambushed him in a Farwaniya stable and sent him to the sentences implementation department. The suspect bothered residents until they got fed up with his antics and called police. The suspects used to fight for no reason and disappeared during daytime. The arrest was made following stiff resistance.

### Drug possession

Jahra detectives arrested an Egyptian man who became popular among the youth for selling shabu, and sent him to the Drugs Control General Department. The suspect provided addicts with drugs and changed delivery locations several times before he actually handed over the drugs. Detectives placed him under surveillance until they found where he delivered the drugs. An undercover agent was then sent to him to buy 100 gm of shabu. The suspect changed the delivery site three times before he was arrested red-handed. In other news, coastguards arrested a citizen with 58 pieces of hashish, 25 bags containing 50,000 psychoactive pills and one piece of opium. He was sent to concerned authorities.

### Suspicion of malpractice

Investigations are ongoing with a female citizen, an officer and two policemen at Salmi border outlet's passport office following the discovery of manipulation in the movement of the female citizen. A security source said the supervision department filed a forgery complaint at Salmi police station related to documenting the movement of the 51-year-old citizen.

## Kuwait denies 'council annulled' reports

**KUWAIT:** Secretary General of Kuwait's Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi yesterday denied media reports SCPD has been annulled, but rather a law issued in 2016 expanded its authorities. Reports by media and social media means "about annulling of jurisdictions of SCPD in a decree in the official Gazette are completely false," Mahdi said in a statement. He explained that Law Number Seven of 2016 stipulated the expansion of SCPD authorities and organized development planning. — KUNA

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# International

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018



China boosts defense spending, rattling its neighbors' nerves

Guatemala envoy tours Jerusalem for embassy site, Palestinians fume

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MILAN: Lega far right party leader Matteo Salvini gestures during a press conference held at the Lega headquarter in Milan yesterday ahead of the Italy's general election results. With his 'Italians first' rallying cry and his tub-thumping against Islam and a 'migrant invasion', Matteo Salvini has rebranded himself and his party, leading a far-right surge in Italy's election. — AFP

## Populist surge leaves Italy in limbo

### Italy faces political gridlock after 5-Star surges

ROME: A surge for populist and far-right parties in Italy's general election left the country in political deadlock yesterday with a hung parliament likely after a campaign dominated by anger against immigration. With the majority of ballots from Sunday's vote counted, the eurosceptic League led by Matteo Salvini was leading the dominant right-wing coalition with 37 percent of the vote.

Salvini, who has promised to shut down Roma camps, deport hundreds of thousands of migrants and tackle the "danger" of Islam, said yesterday he had the "right and duty" to govern Italy. The League is closing in on 18 percent, overtaking the pre-election coalition leader and media mogul Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party, which has collapsed to 14 percent. "Italians have chosen to take back control of the country from the insecurity and precariousness put in place by (centre-left Democratic Party leader Matteo) Renzi," Salvini told a press conference.

However much depends on the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S), which has drawn support from Italians fed up with traditional parties and a lack of economic opportunity and finished second with 32 percent. "Everything will change," read the front page of *Il Fatto Quotidiano*, which like the M5S has railed against what it sees as the "corrupt" old parties. But much depends what leader Luigi Di Maio does next. "It's a great day, despite the rain," said Di Maio to reporters yesterday morning. "Indescribable."

#### Five Star League?

According to polling company YouTrend, the M5S is on for 231 seats in the lower house Chamber of Deputies and 115 in the upper house Senate, meaning that it could form a majority with either one of the League, Forza Italia and the Democratic Party (PD), which had a disastrous night. PD

leader Matteo Renzi looks doomed after his party dropped to 19 percent of the vote, which according to YouTrend could lead to a loss of a third of their seats in the Chamber and half in the Senate.

The M5S has always refused to form coalitions with other parties but having become the biggest single party, it has the chance to lead the country for the first time, and Di Maio has already moved to soften the fiery image given by party founder Beppe Grillo. However given its heated rivalry with the PD and Berlusconi, its most likely ally looks to be the eurosceptic League, a bizarre situation for Avellino-born Di Maio to be faced with given the League and Salvini's roots in the old secessionist, anti-southern Northern League.

Matteo Ricci, former vice president of the PD and the party's current mayor of Pesaro, insisted on state broadcaster Rai that there was no chance of the PD helping the M5S forming a government. "The only ally with whom the M5S can form a government is Matteo Salvini, everyone knows it, that's the only option for them with this parliament," Ricci said. Should the M5S stick to its old principles and not try to form a coalition, it would leave the path completely free for Salvini.

#### 'Bad night' for EU

The boost for far-right and populist parties has drawn

comparisons to Britain's vote to leave the European Union and the rise of US President Donald Trump. Brexit firebrand Nigel Farage congratulated the Five Star Movement, his allies in the European Parliament, "for topping the poll" as by far Italy's biggest single party.

The possible alliance between the League and Five Star will also delight former Donald Trump advisor Steve Bannon, who called that coalition "the ultimate dream."

Resentment at the hundreds of thousands of migrant arrivals in Italy in recent years fired up the campaign, along with frustration about social inequalities. "These are historic results," Giancarlo Giorgetti,

deputy head of the League, told reporters in Milan. Alessandro Di Battista of the Five Star Movement, said: "Everyone is going to have to come and speak to us". Andrea Marcucci, one of the ravaged PD's lawmakers, said: "The populists have won and the Democratic Party has lost".

#### 'Constant instability'

Berlusconi, a flamboyant three-time former prime minister, is on the ropes after his electoral flop, which means European Parliament President Antonio Tajani's candidacy as prime minister is likely dead. The billionaire, who won his first election in 1994, has returned to the limelight at the age of 81 despite a career overshadowed by sex scan-



### Matteo Salvini vows to tackle 'danger of Islam'



ROME: Italy's populist Five Star Movement (M5S) party leader Luigi Di Maio, addresses journalists yesterday in Rome. — AFP

dals and legal woes, but has turned out to be the big loser alongside Renzi.

The election campaign was a gloomy one marred by clashes between far-right and anti-fascist activists, as well as a racist shooting spree by an extreme right sympathizer last month. In the event of a stalemate, President Sergio Mattarella will have the key role of choosing a prime ministerial nominee who could command a majority in parliament but negotiations could take weeks or even months. "The verdict in Italy is always the same: the country is in constant instability. Being ungovernable has become endemic," said Claudio Tito, columnist for *La Repubblica*.—AFP

### Eating less meat? Meatless butchers to mushroom burgers can help

ROME: From juicy chicken chunks and sausage rolls to bacon and tuna, Dutch butcher Jaap Kortweg offers it all. But there's a twist: None of the goods on display at his shop in The Hague are made from meat. Kortweg, a ninth generation farmer, became a vegetarian out of concerns about animal welfare after millions of pigs were slaughtered to contain swine fever in the Netherlands in 1997.

But he missed the taste and texture of meat so much that he got together with scientists and chefs to create plant substitutes that capture both. The reason there are relatively few vegetarians in many parts of the world "is not that people want to eat less sustainably, less healthily and don't care about animal welfare, but because they are hooked on meat," Kortweg told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Rearing animals is a major driver of climate change - making up nearly 15 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions - and raising meat

makes less efficient use of land and water than growing crops, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. While governments and scientists are looking at ways to cut back on emissions from animal farming, many experts say cutting demand for meat - particularly in wealthy countries - is what would make a big difference in combating climate change.

#### Mushroom burger?

Cutting back doesn't necessarily mean giving up meat, seen as tastier than a plate of vegetables, researchers say. If all hamburgers eaten in the United States could be made of a blend of 70 percent beef and 30 percent mushrooms, for instance, it would save as many emissions as taking 2.3 million cars off the road, according to research by the World Resources Institute (WRI).

It would also save water equivalent to that used in 2.6 million American homes, and reduce the agricultural land needed to produce the burgers by an area larger than the U.S. state of Maryland, or the size of the nation of Belgium, WRI said. "Because of the umami taste and extra moisture of mushrooms, you can end up with a better tasting burger - and it's healthier," said Daniel Vennard, director of the Better Buying Lab at WRI.

The part-mushroom burgers, pioneered in the United States, where WRI estimates about 10 billion burgers are eaten each year, are now available to buy in supermarkets, and are served in some schools and office canteens as

well. The burgers will also launch at SONIC drive-in fast-food chains around the United States. The restaurant said it will roll out the part-mushroom burgers in all of its restaurants. "It's beginning to really grow in the United States. It's getting a lot of industry and consumer traction, and we think it has the opportunity to be a global solution," said Vennard.

#### Cut the label

Eating too much meat has been linked to obesity, heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers, pushing some governments, including China, to encourage people to cut back. But labeling foods as "vegetarian" or "healthy" can put off shoppers and people in restaurants, some researchers say. Linda Bacon, a behavioral scientist and former global strategy director at Mars, Inc, has studied how people's choices in a restaurant depend on where vegetarian dishes are placed on a menu.

She found that when pea risotto and ricotta and spinach ravioli were clustered at the end of the menu under the heading "Vegetarian dishes", people were 56 percent less likely to order them than if they were listed as the first and last dish on a unified menu - one that also included king prawns, fish and chips, steak, and hamburgers. "This and other similar research shows that restaurateurs can influence their customers to eat more vegetables and less meat," she wrote in a blog post. "All they need to do is change the design of the menu."—AFP

### Rumble in the jungle: Mother bear fights off Indian tiger

NEW DELHI: Tourists on a wildlife safari in central India were treated to a rare and vicious fight for survival between a sloth bear defending its young and a huge Bengal tiger. The ferocious battle between the jungle giants was captured on film by a tour guide in Maharashtra who had a ringside seat to the 15-minute brawl as the mother fought off the predator. Her instincts kicked into gear as the male tiger stalked her cub in Tadoba National Park, igniting a rarely seen flare of aggression from the shaggy black bears not known for being territorial.

Akshay Kumar, who filmed the clash as he guided tourists through the reserve last week, said the tiger attacked the

bear for a full five minutes before the mother slowly got the upper hand. "It went after the sloth bear, but she kept charging in order to protect her cub," he said. "It went on for 15 minutes. The tiger was roaring. It was a severe fight." The mother bear at one stage was pinned down in the tiger's jaws, seemingly overpowered by her superior opponent, before managing to throw off her assailant. Standing at full height on hind legs, the mother bear plunged back into the contest, relentlessly charging the big cat until it slunk away to cool off in a nearby pond, cowed and defeated.

The bears, including the cub which could do little but watch from the sidelines, disappeared into the scrub. Kumar said both the animals were clearly injured during the fight. India is home to more than half of the world's tiger population with some 2,226 of the animals roaming its reserves, according to the last count in 2014. Indian sloth bears-long kept as dancing pets for entertainment until the practice was outlawed-have distinctive long snouts and a white V pattern on their chest, and are still hunted by poachers.—AFP



International

# Guatemala envoy tours Jerusalem for embassy site, Palestinians fume

## Jerusalem status at heart of Israeli-Palestinian conflict

**JERUSALEM:** The Guatemalan ambassador was on the streets of Jerusalem yesterday to look at properties for when it joins the United States in moving its embassy there, a move Palestinians said was illegal and could kill any chance of peace. Ambassador Sara Castaneda declined to speak to a Reuters correspondent who spotted her at an estate agent's office next door to Guatemala's consulate and one road over from a US consulate building in west Jerusalem.

She set off on foot with the realtor and another man who pointed out properties as her chauffeured car idled at the curb. An Israeli diplomat who had been in contact with Castaneda told Reuters she was looking for an embassy site. Guatemala was one of a handful of countries that backed US President Donald Trump's Dec 6 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, something most other countries decline to do as part of the city was seized and during the 1967 war and is considered occupied territory. The status of Jerusalem is one of the biggest obstacles to any peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, who want East Jerusalem as their capital.

The United States is an important source of assistance to Guatemala, and Trump had threatened to cut off finan-

cial aid to countries that supported a UN resolution calling on Washington to drop its recognition of Jerusalem. Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales, who enjoys support from a base of conservative Christians, told a pro-Israel conference in Washington on Sunday the embassy would move to Jerusalem two days after the United States, in mid-May. A senior Palestinian official said Morales' position was no surprise as he shared "the same attitude" of Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Add to that the evangelical Christian extremism and literalism (and) you have a combination of lethal factors that make these three people - Netanyahu, Trump and Morales - move toward adopting strategies and policies that are illegal ... and that destroy the chances of peace," Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee said.

Prior to 1980, Guatemala and a dozen other countries maintained an embassy in Jerusalem. Israel's passage in June 1980 of a law proclaiming Jerusalem its "indivisible and eternal capital" led to a UN Security Council resolution calling on countries to move their embassies to the Tel Aviv area.—Reuters



### Guatemalan to move embassy to Jerusalem



**JERUSALEM:** A picture taken with a fish-eye lens shows a view of the Edicule in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditionally believed to be the burial site of Jesus Christ, in the Old City of Jerusalem. —AFP

## Ancient holy book symbolizes the fate of Sarajevo's Jews

**SARAJEVO:** Eli Tauber, a pillar of Sarajevo's Jewish community, waited anxiously for worshippers to arrive at the synagogue as there must be at least 10 men present before starting the Sabbath prayers. To the historian's great relief 11 men and a woman, most of them elderly, turned up for the service led by a local man who represents the Jews on Bosnia's ecumenical council. The rabbi lives in Israel and only comes to Sarajevo for the Jewish Passover and New Year holidays.

No more than 800 Jews still live in the Bosnian capital, according to their community's 74-year-old leader, Jakob Finci. Before World War II they numbered around 12,500, accounting for 15 to 20 percent of the city's population, but many were killed during the Holocaust. Still Jews remain part of the multi-cultural and religious identity of Sarajevo alongside Orthodox Serbs, Catholic Croats and Bosnian Muslims. The symbol of the story of Bosnia's Jews is a 14th-century treasure—the famous Sarajevo Haggadah holy book, containing the biblical text of Exodus read by Jews at Passover. The ancient manuscript on bleached calfskin, illuminated in copper and gold, has been on permanent display at Bosnia's National Museum since last month.

#### Flames of the Inquisition

The ancestors of Sarajevo Jews first found refuge in Bosnia, then part of the Ottoman Empire, after being expelled from Spain by the Roman Catholic royals in 1492. The Haggadah came with the Sephardic Jews fleeing Spain, originating most likely from the region near Barcelona. According to Tauber, it was brought to Sarajevo in the 17th century, escaping the flames of the Inquisition. Then in the late 19th century a Jewish family in financial difficulty sold the holy book to the national museum.

During World War II, Sarajevo was terrorized by the Ustasha, Croat allies of the German Nazis who controlled

Bosnia. When a German officer came to the museum to seek the Haggadah, "its director Jozo Petrovic, a clever man, replied that another officer took it away the day before," historian Enver Imamovic, 77 said. The Haggadah had been hidden from the Nazis under the threshold of a mountain hut near Sarajevo. The city's Jews however were rounded up and grouped in the synagogues "before being transported to the concentration camps," said Zanka Dodig, curator at the Jewish Museum housed in Sarajevo's oldest synagogue.

The names of some 12,000 Jews who never returned are listed in a large book hanging on a rope from the ceiling of the Great Temple, the synagogue constructed in 1581 next to the city's famous Bey's Mosque. After surviving centuries of turmoil, the Haggadah was stolen by an indebted national museum employee in 1954, but the medieval treasure was recovered "on the border with Italy," Imamovic said.

In June 1992 during the Bosnian war following the break-up of Yugoslavia, when Serbs began shelling Sarajevo in a three-and-half-year-long siege, Imamovic took the Haggadah and put it in a safe at the national bank. When the conflict ended in 1995, the Haggadah was put on display only on special occasions. But now, a secured and air-conditioned showcase financed by the French government has put the holy book on permanent display.

#### 'A good sign' -

Yugoslav Nobel literature laureate Ivo Andric famously wrote that Bosnia, "where four different religions live close to each other, would need four times more love, mutual understanding and tolerance than other countries."

That dream has rarely been the reality, but Sarajevo Jews still express optimism. "I really consider Sarajevo a Jewish city since the Jews found some peace here," Tauber said. The doors of the four-tower Ashkenazi Synagogue, built in 1902 on the banks of the Miljacka river are "always open... No one asks for an identity card, unlike (synagogues) in Zagreb or Belgrade," he said.

Although few worshippers can be found at services, community leader Finci wants to believe that the history of Sarajevo Jews will go on. Admittedly, he said, "for the first time in more than 450 years, there are fewer than 1,000 Jews in Sarajevo." During Bosnia's inter-ethnic war,



**SARAJEVO:** Photo shows a view of a former Jewish temple in Sarajevo. No more than 800 Jews still live in the Bosnian capital, according to their community's 74-year-old leader, Jakob Finci. —AFP

in the 1990s, two-thirds of the estimated 1,500 Jews fled the country. But 40 percent of those have since returned and there are no more departures. Finci noted. "In 2016, there were 12 newborns, in 2017 a little less, but it's a good sign."—AFP

## Syria's Ghouta under attack

**BEIRUT:** Syria's army unleashed daily air strikes on Eastern Ghouta outside Damascus on February 18 in a bid to root out Islamist rebels and jihadists but killing more than 700 civilians. As the regime was reported to have retaken a third of the enclave yesterday, a UN convoy entered in the first aid delivery since the start of the devastating assault two weeks ago. Here is a summary of events:

#### New round of rockets, raids

Government forces open their latest military campaign against Eastern Ghouta with more than 260 rockets and intense air raids. The strikes continue on February 19 when 127 civilians are killed in the highest death toll over a single day there since 2013, when it was besieged by regime forces. On February 20 Russian air strikes reportedly target Eastern Ghouta for the first time in three months, hitting the key regional Arbin hospital. Six other hospitals are also hit in the bombardments over a 48-hour period, putting three out of service, according to the United Nations.

#### 'Hell on Earth'

On February 21 raids target several areas and planes drop barrel bombs—crude, improvised munitions that cause indiscriminate damage. The Kremlin denies involvement in the air strikes as "groundless accusations". UN chief Antonio Guterres calls for an immediate ceasefire, saying the region's 400,000 residents "live in hell on Earth".

#### 'Another Aleppo'

The chaos deepens on February 22 as the Syrian regime rains rockets and bombs on the enclave, killing at least 19 people. At the United Nations, key regime-backer Russia is pressing for a negotiated withdrawal of rebel fighters and their families, like the one that saw the government retake full control of Aleppo in December 2016. "Yes, Eastern Ghouta will become another Aleppo," says Syria's UN representative Bashar Al-Jaafari.

#### Ceasefire agreed

On February 23 US President Donald Trump slams the actions of the Syrian government and its Russian and Iranian backers. "What those three countries have done to those people is a disgrace," he says. In February 24 the UN Security Council finally gets unanimous backing for a 30-day ceasefire to allow for aid deliveries and medical evacuations. But there are new air strikes the following day and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor reports Syrian forces engaged in heavy fighting with rebels, with many dead.

#### Daily 'pause' ordered

On February 26 the regime carries out more bombings, in spite of the UN-agreed truce, killing at least 22 civilians. Frustrated, the UN and European Union demand the immediate implementation of the ceasefire. Moscow then announces President Vladimir Putin has ordered a daily five-hour "humanitarian pause" from February 27 and the opening of protected corridors to allow people to leave. Hours after the truce is meant to come into effect, the United Nations says fighting continues, making relief operations impossible. Not one of the battered region's residents board buses provided by the regime to leave. Trucks loaded with aid are blocked.

#### First aid delivery

The Syrian regime again pounds the area on March 4, killing more than 30 civilians, as President Bashar Al-Assad says his forces will continue their push. "The majority (of people) in Eastern Ghouta want to escape the embrace of terrorism. The operation must continue," Assad tells journalists. On March 5, 14 more civilians are reported killed overnight. The UN announces that dozens of trucks of emergency relief have entered the enclave, the first aid delivery since the start of the assault. The aid arrives after the Observatory says that regime troops have retaken a third of the enclave.—AFP

## Dambe fight in Lagos showcases Nigerian diversity, division

**LAGOS:** Poised like a scorpion with one bound fist ready to strike, the Dambe fighter glared at his opponent, daring him to make the first move. Dressed in just shorts and an amulet made of black leather and wire, he suddenly swung his fist in a punishing arc to knock his opponent on the jaw and win the match. Dambe is a brutal style of combat where one fist is designated as a shield while the other, wrapped in a cloth, is a spear to strike the opponent. It is traditionally practiced by Hausas in Nigeria's north, but on this night the fight was in the southern city of Lagos.

"This is an ancient tradition in the north and we're bringing it down to the south," said the commentator. "We want to see teeth rolling!" Instead of in the usual dusty squares and small arenas, the Dambe fighters are under spotlights set up on the beach in Lekki, an affluent suburb of Lagos, where a big screen replays fights jumbo-size and drones whizz overhead. Unlike in the Muslim north, where the crowds are mostly men and alcohol is forbidden, in Lagos women were in the crowd, sipping on cocktails and smoking cigarettes.

The skyscrapers of Eko Atlantic, an extension of Lagos being built on reclaimed land from the ocean, make a modern silhouette on the yellow horizon. But the attempt to introduce Dambe to the megacity's elite was notable less for the fighting than as a showcase of Nigeria's complexity. Colonial administrators split the country along ethnic lines—Yoruba in the southwest, Igbo in the southeast and Hausa in the north—in a political ploy guaranteeing division and animosity in the decades after independence.

As a result of this segregation, Nigerians can often feel like tourists in their own country. Dambe might as well have come from another planet as far as these Lagos spectators were concerned. "I saw it on YouTube, I've never seen it live. It looked so cool," said Tutu Adetunmbi, a 26-year-old digital editor living in Lagos. "I didn't know about it before, it's not out there," she said, "if you don't speak Hausa, you won't understand."



**LAGOS:** A general view of the Dambe Warriors Tournament held on the beach in Lagos. —AFP

#### 'My weapon'

The Dambe night in Lagos was an exercise in compromise—and patience—as organizers worked to bridge the cultural gap. Commentators alternated between Hausa and English and were conscious of educating the audience on the basic rules of the sport. At one point, the English commentator introduced a fighter from the central state of Niger. "For those who don't know where Niger state is, it shares the border with Kaduna," he said helpfully.

Even the music was split. Drummers and a singer playing the hypnotic melodies of Nigeria's north alternated with a DJ playing hit tracks from pop star Davido and rapper Illbliss. The athletes seemed used to this cultural fluidity. "It's a Hausa sport but I'm Yoruba from Ogun state," said Abdul Akeem, a wiry 33-year-old fighter. In his 12-year career, Akeem has travelled across all of Nigeria to fight. "It's what I do for a living," he said, flexing his right arm, "this is my weapon."

#### Butcher sport

Dambe is said to have originated from butchers in the north, who would fight to settle scores and for glory and wives. Today, a Dambe fighter can win 200,000 naira (\$556) in a fight, said veteran Abubakar Usman, wearing two medals around his neck and a white tracksuit. Some of the old traditions are still used today. The 28-year-old's right forearm is completely covered in one-centimeter-long scars made from razor cuts seeped with "medicine" to help him win. "It's my work," Usman said, "it's my business."—AFP

## Milosevic stages a return to Kosovo

**BELGRADE:** Slobodan Milosevic, the late "Butcher of the Balkans" who was a hero to many of his countrymen, is back in Kosovo, where a Serb-run theatre is staging a musical exploring the dichotomy. The "Slobodan Show" premieres today in Gracanica, a Serb enclave in Kosovo, whose population of 1.8 million is predominantly ethnic Albanian. All the cast members, like the bulk of the some 39,000 Serbs who lived in Kosovo's capital Pristina before the war in the southern Serbian province, moved to nearby Gracanica after a NATO bombing campaign ousted Milosevic's forces in 1999.

"With this play, we wanted to deal with our own demons, with a merciless period for us," Nenad Todorovic, the play's 45-year-old director, said during a rehearsal in a small Belgrade theatre. "We've opened a closet from which skeletons are suddenly coming out," he added. Jelena Bogavac, who wrote the libretto, said she wanted to open a dialogue on the "identity crisis" of Serbs who failed to reach a "consensus on the guilt or innocence of Milosevic."

The text is drawn from Milosevic's speeches and books as well as his wife Mira Markovic's diary, which she published in a Belgrade weekly in the 1990s. The journal often presaged future decisions of the strongman who was widely thought to be heavily influenced by his wife. The play opens with Markovic recalling that she told him: "Don't go to Kosovo!" and lamenting "He didn't listen to me." Many believe it was in Kosovo—then a southern province of Serbia and now a disputed territory—where the 1990s Balkan wars began as well as ended.

Milosevic, then a top Yugoslav socialist official, began visiting Kosovo in 1987, planting the seeds of Serbian nationalism. While Kosovo's Albanian majority were clamoring for more autonomy from Belgrade, Milosevic inflamed the passions of the Serbian minority, building an image of protector of his people with shouts of "No one has the right to beat you!" Little more than a decade later, 200,000 or two-thirds of Kosovo Serbs, would be forced to leave.

Milosevic is widely considered responsible for the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo, which claimed more than 130,000 lives, while millions of people were forced to leave their homes.—AFP



## International

# Strong aftershocks rock quake-hit PNG highlands

## Papua New Guinea's death toll mounts to 55

**SYDNEY:** Strong aftershocks rocked Papua New Guinea's remote and rugged highlands yesterday, as the death toll climbed to 55 from a 7.5-magnitude earthquake a week ago, and is expected to rise further. Three aftershocks of magnitude greater than 5 shook the mountainous Southern Highlands, about 600 km northwest of the capital Port Moresby yesterday, the US Geological Survey said, including a shallow magnitude 6 quake.

"We haven't slept. It's been shaking all through the night," William Bando, provincial administrator of Hela Province, said by telephone from Tari, about 40 km from the site of the shocks. "What we experienced this morning could have caused more damage, but we don't know ... it almost threw me out of bed." The region had already been badly damaged on Feb 26, when the largest quake to hit the seismically-active highlands in nearly a century flattened buildings, triggered landslides, and closed oil and gas operations.

The toll yesterday stood at 55 killed, said James Justin, a research officer at the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy in Port Moresby, as news of more deaths arrived in the capital by shortwave radio. Most of the confirmed fatalities were in and around the provincial capital of Mendi and the township of Tari, he said,

where landslides buried homes and buildings collapsed on families.

"People are in great fear of their lives as the quakes are continuing ever since it started," he said. "They actually want to know when it will stop." While the region has no major urban centers, around 670,000 people live within 100 km (62 miles) of the epicentre, according to the Red Cross. The quake has been felt on global natural gas markets, with ExxonMobil Corp declaring force majeure on exports from Papua New Guinea, according to an industry source, pushing Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices 5 percent higher.

The company declined to comment on the force majeure, but said production would be knocked out for about 8 weeks. Aid agencies have said nearly 150,000 people remain in urgent need of emergency supplies. Australia, New Zealand and the Red Cross have

all pledged aid, though reaching the remote area has proven challenging as forbidding terrain, bad weather, as well as damaged roads and runways have delayed aid efforts. "The only way for people to go out is by chopper, and it's slow for information to come through", said Martin Mose, director of Papua New Guinea's National Disaster Centre, which has yet to complete a full assessment of damage. —Reuters



### Remote region remains cut off from much needed aid



**MANDI DISTRICT:** This handout picture shows a damaged road after an earthquake near Mandi district, north-west of Papua New Guinea's capital city of Port Moresby. —AFP

#### News in brief

##### 12 IS suspects detained

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish police arrested 12 people in Ankara in an investigation targeting Islamic State jihadists, state-run Anadolu news agency said yesterday, hours after the US embassy there said it would remain closed for the day due to a security threat. The 12 suspects were among 20 people for whom detention warrants were issued by the Ankara state prosecutors' office, Anadolu said. It said they were foreign citizens and had been seeking to recruit new members to the group. Turkish authorities regularly detain Islamic State suspects and it was not clear whether there was any connection between the arrests and the US embassy move. Anadolu said the police operation was "planned previously". On Sunday evening, the US embassy in Ankara said it would be closed to the public yesterday due to a security threat and only emergency services will be provided. —Reuters

##### Kenya hospital mix-up

**NAIROBI:** Kenya's doctors' union defended staff at the largest referral hospital on Friday after they were suspended for operating on the wrong patient. Ouma Oluga, chief executive officer of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists' Union, said in a televised interview the mix-up on Sunday at Kenyatta National Hospital laid bare the dangers to patients of an "overwhelmed" system and staff. Kenyan media reported that a neuro-surgery registrar, anaesthetist and two nurses had been suspended by the hospital. The Daily Nation reported that doctors did not realize they had opened the skull of the wrong patient until two hours into the procedure meant to remove a blood clot. Both the person operated on and the blood clot patient are in good condition, it said. —Reuters

##### Saddam-era officials

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq has ordered the seizure of assets that belonged to executed dictator Saddam Hussein and more than 4,200 officials from his former regime, an official statement said yesterday. The list of ex-regime bosses was drawn up by the Iraqi agency charged with tracking down former officials from Saddam's Baath Party, and includes their relatives. Saddam's name appeared at the top of the list and it also said it included "his children, grandchildren, relatives". After the fall of the Saddam regime following the 2003 US invasion, property belonging to the former ruler and his cronies was snaffled up by Iraq's new leaders, armed forces and multiple militias. This new order now seeks to put an official stamp on the confiscation of the assets. —AFP

##### Seven bodies found

**OAXACA:** The bodies of seven people were found Sunday in an abandoned truck on a rural road in Mexico's southern state of Oaxaca, local officials said. Police from the town of Santo Domingo Zanatepec-some 350 kilometers from the state's capital city Oaxaca-made the discovery of the as of yet unidentified bodies, all of which showed bullet wounds, according to authorities. At least 30 people have been killed in the region in recent days, local press reports say, likely because of rivalries between drug trafficking gangs. Mexico has suffered a wave of violence linked to drug trafficking that has intensified in recent years. Authorities recorded 25,339 murders in 2017, the most violent year since official data-keeping began in 1997. —AFP

## Fans mark 65 years since Stalin's death

**MOSCOW:** Die-hard Communists yesterday laid flowers at the tomb of Joseph Stalin in Moscow to mark the 65th anniversary of his death, as the rehabilitation of the Soviet dictator gathers pace in Russia. Although the flower-laying ceremony takes place by the dictator's tomb near the Kremlin walls every March 5, monuments to Stalin have sprung up across Russia over the past year as top officials seek to downplay the extent of his bloody purges. Stalin's reign saw millions executed and sent to Gulag prison camps or exile in remote regions, with many released only after his death in 1953.

His legacy still divides the nation, with many seeing him primarily as the man who led the Soviet Union to victory over Nazi Germany and drove the industrialization of Russia. "The problem is that our countrymen simply do not understand the extent of Stalin's crimes and do not know what his purges were really about," historian Yan Rachinsky of Memorial, Russia's top human rights group said. Memorial, which leads research into Stalin-era repression, was forced to register itself as a "foreign agent" under a controversial 2012 law, which it says hampers its ability to function.

Last summer, a plaque honoring Stalin that was removed in the 1960s as part of Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's process of "de-Stalinisation", was restored at the Kutafin Moscow State Law University despite 20,000 people signing a petition against the plan. And in September a bronze bust of the dictator was unveiled in the centre of the capital, an initiative of the state-backed Russian Military History Society whose chairman Vladimir Medinsky is culture minister. Other towns have made similar moves and some officials, such as Vladimir Vladimirov, the governor of the southern Stavropol region, are proud to display a bust of Stalin on their desks.

#### 'Stalin inspired heroism'

Since President Vladimir Putin took power in 2000, a growing number of Russians have taken a positive view of Stalin's role in history. But the process of rehabilitation gained momentum in 2009, when a quote praising Stalin returned to the Moscow metro station Kurskaya after hav-

## A final trial, and a soapbox, for Carlos the Jackal

**PARIS:** Self-styled revolutionary Carlos the Jackal was back in a French court yesterday for what is expected to be his final trial, appealing the life sentence handed down last year over a deadly 1974 bombing in Paris. It was the third life term for the 68-year-old Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, who became one of the world's most notorious fugitives in the 1970s and 80s during his pro-Palestinian campaign of terror.

True to form, Carlos seized his chance to turn the courtroom into a stage for theatrical diatribes, raising his right fist in defiance as he took the stand before blowing a kiss towards journalists. "I am a professional revolutionary: revolution is my job," he said, stating his nationality as "Venezuelan and Palestinian". He had already bragged at last year's trial that "No one in the Palestinian resistance has executed more people than I have."

But he has denied any responsibility for the attack at the Publicis Drugstore at Saint-Germain-des-Pre, in the heart of Paris's Left Bank, more than 40 years ago, when a grenade was thrown from the mezzanine restaurant into the crowded gallery below. Judges determined that all evidence pointed to Carlos, even though no DNA or fingerprints were found after the bombing which killed two people and injured 34. "There are incredible weaknesses in this case: witnesses manipulated by the security services, liars, fake evidence," said Francis Vuillemin, Carlos's longtime lawyer along with Isabelle Coutant-Peyre, who has since become his partner. "We are going to break it all down, and ask for an acquittal."

#### Campaign of fear

The trial recalls an era when Europe was repeatedly targeted by professed revolutionary militants, including some claiming to support the Palestinian cause. Little known at the time of the



**MOSCOW:** Russian Communist party supporters attend a memorial ceremony to mark the 65th anniversary of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's death on Red Square in Moscow yesterday. —AFP

ing been removed under Khrushchev. "Stalin instilled us with loyalty to the people. He inspired us to labor and heroism," it reads.

The head of Russia's security services last year said a "significant proportion" of those implicated in Stalin's purges were guilty of "links to foreign intelligence services" or conspiring against Soviet power. Putin in February praised the achievements of the Stalinist writer Alexander Prokhanov, who edits an ultra-nationalist, anti-Semitic newspaper and has called for a new Cold War. And in January the release of the British comedy "The Death of Stalin" was cancelled after officials said it contained "information whose distribution is legally banned in

Russia". A cinema that showed the film in defiance of the ban was raided by police and ordered to pay a fine.

Souvenirs and merchandise bearing Stalin's face are available in bookshops, museums and airports across Russia, while he sometimes appears in a flattering light in films aired on state television. Last year Stalin topped a poll by the independent Levada Center which asked its respondents who they considered the most outstanding figure of world history. Lev Gudkov, the director of the Levada Center, said authorities in Russia promote "historical amnesia". "(They) make a myth of the Soviet past, either with a hidden justification for its crimes or, at least, an attempt to play down their scale," he said. —AFP



**PARIS:** This combination of file pictures shows a portrait of Venezuelan self-styled revolutionary Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also known as 'Carlos the Jackal.' —AFP

Drugstore attack, Venezuelan-born Carlos shot to the front pages the following year when his commando group burst into a meeting of the OPEC oil cartel in Vienna, taking 11 people hostage.

Three people were killed. His singular portrait-with heavily tinted black glasses and a sardonic smile-would capture the public imagination as he spent twenty years on the run, repeatedly giving the slip to international security services. French police finally arrested him in the Sudanese capital Khartoum in 1994, and he has been imprisoned ever since. He was given a life sentence for the murders of two policemen in the French capital in 1975, as well as that of a former comrade who betrayed him.

He was later found guilty of four bombings in Paris and Marseille in 1982 and 1983, some targeting trains, which killed a total of 11 people and injured nearly 150. Prosecutors say the grenade at the Publicis Drugstore-now located on the Champs-Elysees-was part of several attacks aimed at pressuring French authorities to free a member of the Japanese Red Army who had been arrested at Paris's Orly airport. The group was aligned with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, of which Carlos had become one of the main operatives in Europe. —AFP

## Eni, Shell go on trial over Nigeria kickback scandal

**MILAN:** Oil giants Eni and Shell go on trial in Milan yesterday, charged with bribery and corruption in the purchase of an offshore oilfield in Nigeria. Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi, his predecessor Paolo Scaroni and several officials from Eni and Shell are among those facing the judge. Ex-Nigerian oil minister Dan Etete is also on trial. Eni-also charged with corruption in Algeria in a separate trial-and Shell stand accused of handing out bribes during the 2011 purchase of OPL245, an offshore oil block estimated to hold 9 billion barrels of crude, for \$1.3 billion.

Both companies deny the charges against them. "Eni expresses its full confidence in the judicial process and that the trial will ascertain and confirm the correctness and integrity of its conduct," the Italian firm said in a statement. The agreement allegedly saw Nigeria's former president Goodluck Jonathan and his oil minister Etete pocket bribes, according to corruption watchdog Global Witness. "Eni and Shell closed the deal with the government without the involvement of an intermediary. The money... was deposited into an account owned by the Nigerian government," said Eni, which has regularly reaffirmed its trust in Descalzi.

Descalzi made it clear last year that Shell and Eni had not been "involved in the government's decision on how to use the money". Shell also said it believed the judges would conclude there was no case against them, adding "there is no place for bribery or corruption in our company." —AFP



## International

# China boosts defense spending, rattling its neighbors' nerves

## China boosts defense spending by 8.1% from 2017

**BEIJING:** China unveiled its largest rise in defense spending in three years yesterday, setting a target of 8.1 percent growth for this year, fuelling an ambitious military modernization program and making its neighbors nervous. The 2018 defense budget will be 1.11 trillion yuan (\$175 billion), according to a report issued at the opening of China's annual meeting of parliament. The defense spending figure is closely watched around the world for clues to China's strategic intentions as it develops new military capabilities, including stealth fighters, aircraft carriers and anti-satellite missiles.

China will "advance all aspects of military training and war preparedness, and firmly and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests", Premier Li Keqiang told the opening session in an address. "Faced with profound changes in the national security environment" the absolute leadership of the military by the ruling Communist Party must be observed, and the unity between the government and the military, and the people and the military, must always be "strong as stone", he said.

Li also said China had basically completed efforts to cut back the size of its armed forces by 300,000, a move

President Xi Jinping announced in 2015 to improve efficiency that had caused unease in the ranks. China's military build-up has rattled the nerves of its neighbors, particularly because of its increasingly assertive stance in territorial disputes in the East and South China Seas and over Taiwan, a self-ruled territory Beijing claims as its own.

"We would like to see China be more transparent about its defense policy, including spending and the direction of its military power," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yoshihide Suga, told a regular briefing. Taiwan's China policy-making Mainland Affairs Council said China's moves to raise defense spending and mili-

tary drills have increased tension. "China should take international concerns seriously, increase its defense budget's transparency and give up its targeted military deployment towards Taiwan in order to avoid an escalation of regional tension," it said.

The 2018 defense spending increase comes as China's economic growth expanded 6.9 percent last year, the first acceleration in annual growth since 2010. But China kept its 2018 economic growth target at around 6.5 percent, said Li, the same as in 2017, despite exceeding that year's target. Last year, defense spending was set to increase just 7 percent, to 1.044 trillion yuan (\$164.60 billion), or about one-quarter of the proposed US defense spending for the year. In 2016, it grew 7.6 percent.

"The pace and scale of this build-up are really dramatic. It is extremely alarming for Australia and many other countries in the region," said

Sam Roggeveen, a visiting fellow at the Strategic and Defense Studies Centre of the Australian National University in Canberra. "There is every indication that China wants to expand what it will call defense capabilities in the South China Sea. I expect eventually we will see warships and aircraft there regularly, if not based there permanently. What is

### China advancing military training, 'war preparedness'

unclear, however, is whether the United States will want to rise to that challenge."

#### Hidden spending

China does not provide a breakdown of how it allocates its defense budget, leading neighbors and other military powers to complain that Beijing's lack of transparency has added to regional tension. Diplomats say China's defense numbers probably underestimate true military spending for the People's Liberation Army, the world's largest armed forces, which are in the midst of an impressive modernization program overseen by Xi. One senior



**BEIJING:** Chinese Premier Li Keqiang bows after delivering his work report during the opening session of the National People's Congress, China's legislature, in Beijing's Great Hall of the People yesterday. —AFP

Asia diplomat, speaking before the announcement, said the real rise would probably be at least double what China revealed, considering its efforts to build up the industrial military complex and deepen military-civilian integration.

"Some spending will be hidden in civilian spending," said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. With worries about potential disputes with the United States in the region, China's military had mounted what defense sources and diplomats viewed as a lobbying campaign for more spending. In an article on its website, China's Defense Ministry cited Chen Zhou, a researcher at the Academy of Military Science, as saying the spending increase was "reasonable" and "sustainable" and that

there were no "hidden military funds".

US President Donald Trump has proposed a military budget that is the largest since 2011 and focused on beefing up the United States' nuclear defenses and countering the growing strength of China and Russia. The proposal, part of Trump's budget request for the US government, would provide the Pentagon with \$617 billion and an additional \$69 billion to fund ongoing wars in fiscal year 2019. That is \$74 billion more than in the previous fiscal year's budget. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui on Sunday said China's "moderate" defense spending rises in the past few years were less than other major countries and would not threaten anyone. —Reuters

## Endangered Sumatran tiger disemboweled, hung up in Indonesia

**MEDAN:** Villagers in a remote Indonesian community disemboweled a critically endangered Sumatran tiger and then hung the big cat from a ceiling after it attacked a pair of locals, a conservation official said yesterday. Human-animal conflicts are rampant in the vast Southeast Asian archipelago, especially in areas where the clearing of rainforest to make way for palm oil plantations is destroying animals' habitats and bringing them into closer contact with people.

Locals from Hatupangan village in North Sumatra had initially suspected the tiger was a supernatural creature so they followed it to its jungle lair, the official said. The tiger—which has been seen around the village since last month—attacked the curious group Sunday, leaving two villagers seriously injured. They later announced plans to kill the animal, despite warnings by conservation officials not to hurt the endangered cat. "Unfortunately they would not listen. They insisted on killing the tiger," local conservation agency head Hotmauli Sianturi said, adding that a conservation offi-



**HATUPANGAN:** Photo shows the carcass of a Sumatran tiger hung from a ceiling as villagers gather underneath at Hatupangan village in North Sumatra. —AFP

cer was blocked from preventing the death. "After killing the animal, the locals hung up its body for display. It's very regrettable." Some internal organs were missing from the tiger's body, said authorities, who are

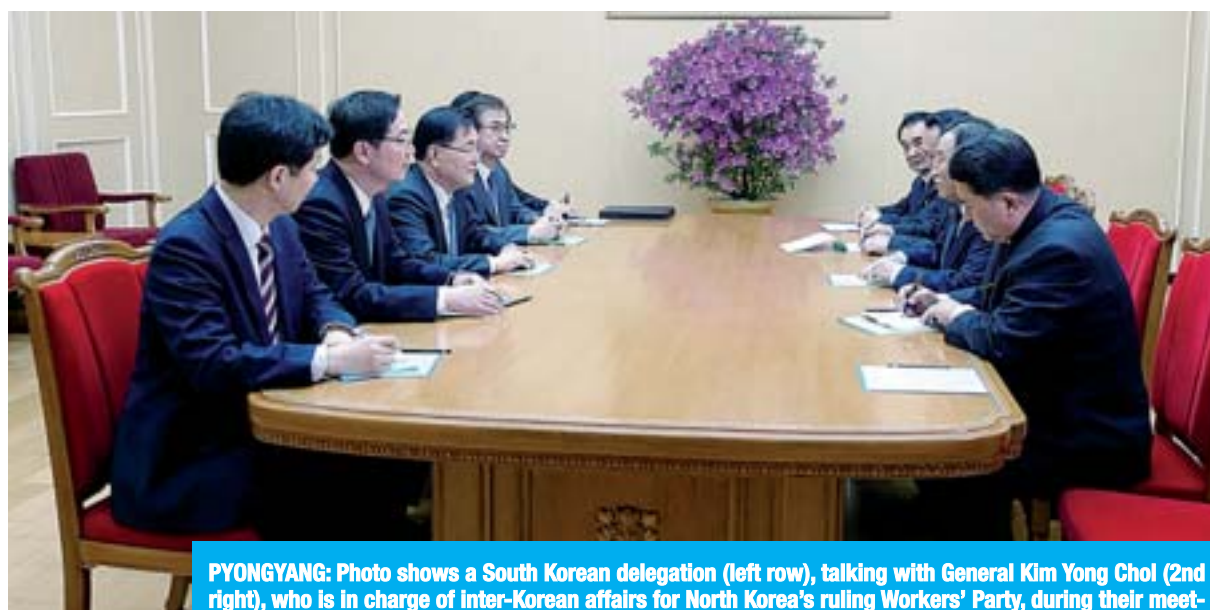
investigating the killing. Sumatran tigers are considered critically endangered by protection group the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with 400 to 500 remaining in the wild. —AFP

## S Korean envoys in historic trip to meet North's Kim

**SEOUL:** The most senior South Koreans to travel to North Korea for more than a decade met leader Kim Jong Un yesterday, a Seoul official said, the latest step in an Olympics-driven rapprochement on the divided peninsula. The delegation, representing the South's President Moon Jae-in, is pushing for talks between the nuclear-armed regime and the United States, after Kim sent his sister Kim Yo Jong to the Winter Games in the South. "Chairman Kim Jong Un is currently hosting a dinner for the special envoys," Moon's spokesman told a press briefing yesterday evening, Yonhap news agency reported.

Kim Yo Jong's trip was the first visit to the South by a member of the North's ruling dynasty since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, and her appearance at the Games' opening ceremony—where athletes from the two Koreas marched together—made global headlines. Moon has sought to use the Pyeongchang Games to open dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang in hopes of easing a nuclear standoff that has heightened fears over global security. In Seoul, Kim Yo Jong invited him to a summit in Pyongyang on her brother's behalf. But Moon did not immediately accept, saying the right conditions were necessary first.

Before leaving for Pyongyang, the South's national security advisor Chung Eui-yong said: "We plan to hold in-depth discussions for ways to continue not only inter-Korean talks but dialogue between North Korea and the international community including the United States." It is a challenging task—in defiance of UN sanctions, the isolated and impoverished North last year staged its most powerful nuclear test and test-fired several missiles, some of them capable of reaching the US mainland. US President Donald Trump dubbed Kim "Little Rocket Man" and boasted about the size of his own nuclear button, while the North Korean leader called Trump a "mentally deranged US dotard".



**PYONGYANG:** Photo shows a South Korean delegation (left row), talking with General Kim Yong Chol (2nd right), who is in charge of inter-Korean affairs for North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, during their meeting in Pyongyang. —AFP

They traded threats of war and sent tensions soaring before a thaw in the run-up to the Winter Olympics. "We will deliver President Moon's firm resolution to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and to create sincere and lasting peace," delegation leader Chung told reporters. Chung is one of five senior officials who flew to Pyongyang yesterday. It was the first ministerial-level South Korean visit to the North since December 2007, when Seoul's then-intelligence chief travelled to Pyongyang. Conservative Lee Myung-bak was elected the South's president the following day and took a markedly harder line on relations with the North.

#### Washington connection

Yesterday's delegation included spy chief Suh Hoon, who is a veteran in dealings with the North. He is known to have been deeply involved in negotiations to arrange two previous inter-Korean summits in 2000 and 2007.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency also announced their impending visit in a one-paragraph dispatch. The 10-member group—five top delegates and five supporting officials—will return to Seoul today.

Other members include Suh's deputy at the National Intelligence Service as well as Chun Hae-sung, the vice minister in Seoul's unification ministry which handles cross-border affairs. The delegation will fly to the US tomorrow to explain the result of the two-day trip to officials in Washington, according to the South's presidential office. Moon, who advocates dialogue with the North's nuclear-armed regime, said last week that Washington needs to "lower the threshold for talks" with Pyongyang. But the US has ruled out any possibility of talks before the North takes steps towards denuclearization, and imposed what Trump hailed as the "toughest ever" sanctions on Kim's regime late last month. —AFP

### News in brief

#### French FM in Tehran

**TEHRAN:** French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian was in Tehran yesterday to push for pledges on Iran's ballistic missile program in a bid to preserve the country's historic nuclear deal. It is the first visit by one of the European parties to the 2015 nuclear accord since US President Donald Trump set an ultimatum that he would abandon it in May if it was not "improved". Le Drian had promised a "frank dialogue" ahead of his arrival in Tehran yesterday, but faced an awkward reception given the anger generated by his comments on Iran's missile program and foreign policy. "In order to keep the United States in the Iran nuclear deal, European countries are suffering from extremism and this will ultimately undermine Europe's policy," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told the reformist newspaper Etemad ahead of his meeting with Le Drian. —AFP

#### Sri Lanka imposes curfew

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka imposed a curfew yesterday in a central hill station town popular with tourists after days of communal unrest that saw a man killed and Muslim businesses set alight. Police had been placed on alert in Kandy, home to famous tea plantations and Buddhist relics, to ensure that the "situation does not spiral into inter-communal conflagration," the government said. "The government appeals to all parties and especially the general public to act with responsibility and remain calm," it said in a statement. Police said there had been riots and arson attacks since the weekend in Kandy. "The curfew was imposed to control the situation in the area," said police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekera. Local officials said over two dozen suspects had been detained by police in connection with the spate of arson attacks. —AFP

#### 10 killed in Nigeria

**KANO:** At least 10 people were killed in several days of violence between herders and farmers in eastern Nigeria, police said yesterday, but the cattle drivers gave a higher toll. Clashes broke out in a number of remote herding villages in the Mambilla district of Taraba state last Thursday and continued throughout the weekend. The violence is part of a wider series of clashes between largely nomadic cattle herders and farmers in central and southern Nigeria that has put pressure on the government to act. "So far we have established the deaths of 10 people in the violence between herders and farmers in the Mambilla area," said state police spokesman David Misal. "Security personnel have succeeded in restoring normalcy in the area and there is ongoing security operation to consolidate peace." —AFP

#### 'Defaming Egypt police'

**CAIRO:** Egyptian authorities yesterday released on bail a prominent state television talk show presenter after he was briefly held on accusations he insulted the police, officials said. Pro-government Khairy Ramadan had been ordered detained late Sunday after he last month discussed the alleged low salaries of police officers on his show "Egypt Today" on the public Channel 1. Citing a policeman's wife, Ramadan had presented a breakdown of the officer's monthly gross salary of 6,890 pounds (\$390, 320 euros), with which he has to provide for his family. He was released yesterday on a 10,000-pound bail (about \$560), officials said. His detention came after authorities warned they were keeping a close eye on media and would take action against anyone spreading "false" news. —AFP



## Analysis

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## How watchdogs failed to spot \$2bn Indian bank fraud

Gokulnath Shetty, a middle-aged bank manager of middling rank, spent his days in the foreign exchange department on the mezzanine floor of Punjab National Bank's Brady House branch in Mumbai. It was there, past the loan desk and up a flight of stairs, that federal police say Shetty hatched India's largest-ever bank fraud, which the bank values at nearly \$2 billion and says was engineered between 2011 and 2017. The room where Shetty worked was visited on a quarterly basis by external auditors approved by the central bank, who sifted through documents but failed to spot any problem, according to interviews with two bank employees with first-hand knowledge of the department's operations.

In the three weeks since details of the alleged fraud was disclosed, Indian authorities and the media have squarely blamed Punjab National Bank, and a group of high-flying jewellers including diamond tycoon Nirav Modi. But Reuters has uncovered new evidence that shows the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also failed for years to either detect the fraud, respond adequately to red flags in the banking system, or correct a breakdown of normal practices at the nation's second-largest state-run bank. The RBI is in charge of supervising lenders and meant to act as the bottom-line guarantor that the banking system is sound.

That heightens worries about what other problems might lurk within India's state-run lenders, which hold some 70 percent of the sector's assets in the world's fastest-growing major economy. Shetty's lawyer, Vikram Sutaria, said his client "is not guilty".

### Hands-off approach

Interviews with 12 current and former officials at the RBI and senior executives at some of the country's largest banks, and a review of dozens of pages of internal central bank circulars, reveal a system that in many cases had little hope of catching criminal activity.

### The reporting shows:

- The RBI takes a hands-off approach: Its inspections concentrate on whether the broader systems are sound, not the details of what's happening in a particular banking operation.
- External auditors approved by the RBI, known as statutory auditors, in many cases only do top line reviews, not in-depth inspections. In Punjab National's case they have been changed regularly - 18 different firms used over seven years. Though the auditors swapped hand-off notes, no one auditor was able to delve into the bank's operations for any extended period.
- Those external auditors met with Shetty, but their audits of Punjab National published in the bank's annual reports from 2011 to 2017 did not raise alarms.
- The RBI knew by 2016 there was a laundry list of problems at Indian banks that the central bank said "exposed the bank to heightened risk of fraudulent activities".
- The central bank did not compel state banks to link their banking software with the SWIFT global interbank messaging network, a key vulnerability in the Punjab National fraud.

### 'Shetty Sir'

A current senior RBI official involved in the scrutiny of banks acknowledged there were shortcomings. "This has been going on for six years and nobody pointed it out - not the auditors and not the RBI inspection," he said. In Punjab National Bank's initial criminal complaint, and then court documents filed in February by India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), deputy manager Shetty is accused of having sent letters of undertaking, essentially credit guarantees, over the SWIFT network without logging those transactions in the bank's internal software.

Two internal auditors who sat with Shetty in the branch have also been arrested, among more than a dozen people picked up by law enforcement so far. Asked about the specifics of allegations against Shetty, who has been arrested but not charged, his lawyer, Sutaria, declined to discuss them. The alleged beneficiaries of the transactions were companies controlled by Nirav Modi, whose diamond creations have glimmered across the flesh of film stars, and his uncle Mehul Choksi, who also owns a large jewellery operation. Neither man has been charged with a crime. Both are currently outside the country and have denied the allegations.

Two co-workers described Shetty as a socially taciturn man who, after starting the work day by moisturizing his face and hands with Pond's cream, began sipping a seemingly endless series of cups of tea and dialling up customers on his iPhone. Shetty, they said, declined to show others how to operate the SWIFT system. "No one would work on SWIFT in his absence," said one of the co-workers. "Even customers used to say if 'Shetty sir' is not around let's not proceed with anything." Representatives of Modi, the jeweller, would spend hours in the office, sometimes eating lunch there, two employees at the branch said. "It was as if they were bank employees," said one banker who still works in the currency exchange office. The framework for auditing India's banks is set up to provide three levels of scrutiny: continuous monitoring by internal auditors, quarterly inspection by statutory auditors and an annual inspection by the RBI, according to interviews with officials at the central bank. —Reuters



## Italy vote 'mess' deals blow to EU reform

The EU struggled yesterday to absorb the shock of a populist breakthrough in Italy amid fears that the anti-migrant blowback would threaten a post-Brexit reform drive led by France and Germany. The jolt from Rome came hours after Germany snapped months of political stalemate in Berlin, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel clinching four more years in power on a cautious pledge to help overhaul Europe.

The respite from Germany was short-lived with the advance in Italy of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and far-right anti-migrant eurosceptics. Analysts said the EU would now be split between those like French President Emmanuel Macron who say the answer to populism is bolstering Europe and others who will claim that any further EU integration must be abandoned, at least for now. "You will have people against striking a reform deal, saying that now, especially with this mess in Italy, it is not the right moment for taking up risks," said Janis A Emmanouilidis, research director at the European Policy Centre in Brussels.

Meanwhile "there will be others who will say if you look at Italy and the anti-establishment voters fed up with the economic situation and migration, that we simply can't pretend to go on as we are," he added. Pressure to reform the EU and deepen ties among the soon-to-be 27 member states mounted in 2016 with the populist-fueled vote in Britain to split from the bloc. The populist narrative slowed last May when Macron came to power in France promising to end "business as usual" in Europe with a series of ambitious proposals.

But momentum for change was thwarted almost from the start in Germany when an uncertain election result

in September forced Merkel into tortuous coalition building that finally ended Sunday with a deal with the SPD centre-left.

### Italy 'suffers' EU failure

Now Italy could be the impediment to change, analysts said. "With M5S and the eurosceptic League performing better than expected, further progress on European integration could be difficult," said Jack Allen of macroeco-

“Euro exit, let alone EU exit, remains very unlikely”

omic research firm Capital Economics. "For example, they will push back against efforts to increase Italy's contributions to the EU budget after the UK leaves the Union," he added. The biggest pressure on Europe will be on fixing migration, with Italy on the frontline of the wave of migrants from Africa, which hardened anti-EU sentiment in Sunday's vote. Under the EU's controversial Dublin process, frontline states suffer the brunt of the influx,

fuelling xenophobia in countries such as Italy and Greece. "Against the migration flow, the EU did not meet the call of duty due to fears over national sovereignty. Italy suffered the consequences," said French MEP Jean Arthuis on Twitter.

This issue was further worsened by the economy, with Italy still an EU growth laggard despite adopting big reforms demanded by Brussels that have yet to deliver widely felt benefits. Faced with that failure, analysts said the most imminent danger was that a populist-run Rome would increase spending to deliver on campaign promises in disregard of EU rules. "This will create more friction between Rome and the European Commission," said Federico Santi of the Eurasia Group risk consultancy. "Italy is already at risk of failing to comply with EU-mandated fiscal targets, and any additional slippage may result in (sanctions by Brussels)," he added.

### 'Euro exit' unlikely

But others said it was the economy that could very well keep Italy in line, as was the case in 2011 when longtime premier Silvio Berlusconi was forced to resign after the financial markets turned on him. "Euro exit, let alone EU exit, remains very unlikely," said Santi, adding that the difficulty of the populists to build a stable government "may last well into the spring". In the end, "the good news out of Germany yesterday - the SPD's approval of the coalition treaty" may well end up being the most consequential, said Loredana Federico, chief Italian economist at Unicredit, in a note to clients. "Any tentative plan... to put Italy on a collision course with that idea... will most probably face difficulty," she added. —AFP

## Male feminists inside Uganda's police strike out at killing of women

Balancing a heavy clay pot on his head with a baby tied to his back, policeman Francis Ogweng caused a scene as he marched down the busy highway towards Uganda's capital, Kampala. With traffic backed up to the horizon, crowds of men stared and laughed as the baby girl swaddled in white cloth slipped precariously down Ogweng's back, pulling his khaki uniform into disarray. "We want to put ourselves in the shoes of women," Ogweng, an assistant superintendent in the Uganda Police Force (UPF), told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Is it difficult to carry water? Is it difficult to carry a baby?"

Judging by the sweat dripping down his face, it is. Onlookers were surprised to see a senior officer marching to stop violence against women, in a force that opponents of Uganda's long-serving President Yoweri Museveni accuse of spending more time suppressing dissent than tackling crime. Police often break up opposition rallies in the east African nation with teargas and beatings, rights groups say they torture suspects to illicit confessions, and surveys often rank the force as Uganda's most corrupt institution.

"Their image has been tainted," said Regina Bafaki, head of Action for Development, a local women's rights group. "They have actually been more violators than protectors of citizen's rights." But a spate of unsolved murders of young women, with more than 20 corpses found beside roadsides south of the capital since May, is putting rare public pressure on the police. They have charged more than a dozen suspects with the women's murders, listing possible motives range from domestic rows through sexual abuse to ritual murder linked to human sacrifice.

### Battering of women

Ogweng was not alone, flanked by three policemen carrying bundles of firewood, a 50-strong police brass band and other officers carrying placards that read: "Peace in the home. Peace in the nation. Prevent Gender Based Violence". "Men can also carry water, men can carry babies ... it does no harm at all, it doesn't make a man less of a man," said Ogweng, who describes himself as a feminist - a rarity in a country where women often kneel to

show deference to men. About half of Ugandans believe that domestic violence is justified under certain circumstances, such as when women neglect children or burn food, government data shows. "There are those who still believe that battering of women, beating of women, is something normal," said Asan Kasingye, assistant inspector general, another unlikely ally in Uganda's fight for gender equality. "We must invest our resources, our training, our recruitment ... into fighting against gender based violence," he said, seated in his top floor office at the police headquarters. It must percolate, it must be known by everybody. So it preoccupies us."

### Stripped naked

The police demonstration calling for an end of violence against women went down well with locals around Entebbe, where about 20 women were raped and murdered in 2017. "This government prides itself for bringing security ... but at the same time when these ladies were being murdered, the government didn't even talk about it," said Anatoli Ndyabagyeera, whose fiancée Rose Nakimuli was killed in July. The murders illustrate a broader problem in Uganda, where government data shows more than one in three women suffer physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, although few report it to the police. "We have in our society a dangerous attitude of men thinking

they can dispense with women and they can get away with it," said Ndyabagyeera. "They look at women and tend to think of them as items of ownership."

Four in 10 girls wed before they turn 18, even though Uganda has banned child marriage, according to the United Nations children's fund (UNICEF), and few go beyond primary school. Efforts to pass a bill seeking to ban traditional practices, like dowry and the inheritance of widows by their husbands' male relatives, and to grant rights to women in divorce have floundered for years. Women wearing miniskirts were stripped by mobs of men following the 2014 Anti Pornography Act that banned "indecent" dressing and the police in 2015 stripped female opposition leader Zaina Fatuma naked in the street. "There are (officers) who are badly behaved," said Ogweng, who works in the child and family protection department. "But there are those who are good, and there are many."

Given the influential role of the police in Ugandan society, Ogweng believes he can help to change people's perceptions about what it means to be a man. "People are so rooted in the culture where some things are only done by women and some things are done by men," he said. "If a man, a police officer, can carry a baby, can carry a pot, then other men can do it ... Men even called me afterwards and said: 'You have opened my eyes' ... So I think people are beginning to understand." —Reuters



Members of Ugandan police march carrying pots, firewood and babies against gender-based violence. Officer Francis Ogweng is second from left. —Reuters



# Aid convoy enters Ghouta as regime presses onslaught

**DOUMA, Syria:** An international convoy entered Syria's rebel enclave of Eastern Ghouta to deliver much-needed aid yesterday as the regime pounded the region with fresh bombardment, killing dozens as it seized more ground. At least 50 people were killed yesterday, a monitor said, as the United Nations said dozens of trucks carrying aid reached the main town of Douma. The government blocked some supplies as the first aid convoy arrived since the start two weeks ago of a bloody Russian-backed assault that has sparked outrage but little action from the West.

The 46 aid trucks arrived after fresh air strikes hit besieged Eastern Ghouta and regime troops were reported to have retaken a third of the enclave in a rapidly advancing offensive. An AFP reporter in Douma said warplanes were flying overhead and explosions from further bombardment on the enclave could be heard even as the aid was being unloaded. According to the Observatory, an air strike hit the Douma area about one kilometre from where the trucks were unloading.

More than two weeks of air strikes, artillery and rocket fire on the last major rebel-held enclave near Damascus have left hundreds dead and three quarters of the region's housing damaged. More bombs, including crude, improvised "barrel bombs", were dropped in overnight raids yesterday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. At least 19 people were killed in the devastated town of Hammuriyeh, said the Britain-based monitoring group, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria. Another 31 died elsewhere in the enclave, it added, bringing to 740 the number of civilians killed since the assault began, including at least 170 children.

### Rapid regime advances

The UN Human Rights Council yesterday ordered investigators to examine the latest violence. The resolution, tabled by Britain, specifically condemned "the indiscriminate use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardments against civilians, and the alleged use of chemical weapons in Eastern Ghouta". Regime troops and allied forces have pushed into the enclave from the east in recent days, and by early Monday they had retaken a third of Eastern Ghouta, according to the Observatory.

"Regime forces are advancing at a high pace because operations so far are mostly conducted in farmland," Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said, adding that they had advanced to within two kilometres southeast of Douma. The armed groups there, one of which is made up of fighters from Al-Qaeda's ex-affiliate, have been lobbing mortar rounds and firing rockets on adjacent neighborhoods of Damascus, killing around 20 civilians in two weeks.

The latest ground offensive sent hundreds of civil-

ians fleeing from their homes to other areas farther from the moving front line, compounding a humanitarian crisis which has drawn comparisons with the regime's devastating 2016 assault to retake second city Aleppo. A suffocating, years-long government siege has forced Eastern Ghouta's estimated 400,000 inhabitants to scrape by on smuggled goods, produce from local farms and rare aid deliveries.

### Missing trauma kits

Yesterday's convoy was delivering "health and nutrition supplies, along with food for 27,500 people in need," the UN's humanitarian coordination office OCHA said. But an OCHA spokesperson said "the UN and partners were informed that many of the planned health supplies intended for Douma were not allowed to be loaded and not permitted to be replaced with other life-saving items". "The items included trauma kits and other life-saving supplies," Linda Tom told AFP, calling for a solution to the problem ahead of the next delivery, slated for Thursday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, a partner in the aid convoy with the UN and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, also pleaded for increased access. "Repeated and continuous humanitarian access is essential and more must be granted in the coming period," the ICRC's Middle East director Robert Mardini said in a statement. The United States on Sunday condemned the assault and accused Moscow of ignoring a UN resolution calling for a 30-day cessation of hostilities.

### Evacuation deal

It said Russia has killed "innocent civilians under the false auspices of counterterrorism operations". Moscow has offered safe passage to non-combatants wishing to leave Eastern Ghouta during daily "humanitarian pauses", but the UN and the Observatory say no Syrian civilians have left the enclave since the first break in fighting took effect last week. Damascus and Moscow have accused rebels of preventing civilians from leaving in order to use them as human shields.

In remarks broadcast on state television on Sunday, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad said his forces would push forward with the offensive. "The majority (of people) in Eastern Ghouta want to escape the embrace of terrorism. The operation must continue," he said. Observers have said a further advance on the ground might spark fresh efforts to negotiate an evacuation to Idlib, a northern province where defeated anti-regime forces from across the country have gathered. The rebels "saw what happened in Aleppo, they don't stand a chance," said Fabrice Balanche, a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. "I doubt they can hold out several months." — AFP



DOUMA, Syria: A man mourns over the body of a boy at a makeshift hospital following Syrian government bombardments on the besieged rebel-held enclave of Eastern Ghouta on Sunday. — AFP

## Motorists face new emissions tests...

Continued from Page 1

and Head of the Technical Office of the Assistant Undersecretary at the Traffic Department said that this law will be applied from June 17. "All technical inspection departments will be ready to measure emissions as part of the technical checkup. No additional fees will be charged," he said.

Special offices of environment police officers and EPA

technicians will be located at the technical inspection departments. "These officers and technicians will measure emissions as they are specialized. Our police officers are already experienced in flagging regular violations by vehicles producing smoke and they also penalize them, but now they will start operating the machines for precise measurements," Adwani added.

Violating vehicles will be given a grace period for repairs. "The new law is stricter, with higher fines. Violating motorists won't be given regular tickets for producing smoke, but will face higher fines from the environment police that may even reach KD 1,000. We will give a period of 10 days to violating motorists to fix their vehicles and return to complete the technical inspection. If they don't comply, their vehicles may even be seized," Adwani warned.

## MBS discusses economy in Egypt...

Continued from Page 1

the south of the Sinai Peninsula as part of NEOM.

Prince Mohammed, who landed in Cairo on Sunday, is to fly to Britain tomorrow and later this month to the United States, in his first forays abroad as crown prince. His visit to Egypt deals with "economic and investment cooperation," Egyptian presidency spokesman Bassam Radi told state television. Prince Mohammed and Sisi agreed in talks to bolster economic ties and launch joint projects, "particularly in the tourism sector on the Red Sea", Radi said.

Later yesterday Prince Mohammed met Egypt's top cleric Ahmed Al-Tayeb of the Al-Azhar institution, whose historic mosque in Cairo is being renovated with Saudi funding. He also met Coptic Pope Tawadros II at Cairo's largest Coptic cathedral in what state media said was an unprecedented visit by an official from the conservative Muslim kingdom. Prince Mohammed and Pope Tawadros walked together through St Mark's Cathedral late yesterday, footage on Saudi TV channel Al-Arabiya showed. Egypt's state news agency MENA said it was the first visit of its kind, without elaborating.

The kingdom is trying to shed its reputation as a global exporter of an ultraconservative brand of Islam which critics say has inspired Islamist militants worldwide. Promoting a more moderate form of Islam is one of the more ambitious promises made by Prince Mohammed under plans to transform Saudi and reduce its reliance on oil.

Saudi Arabia views Egypt as a cornerstone of regional stability, after former army chief Sisi overthrew his Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi in 2013. Riyadh viewed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood with suspicion and at one point briefly recalled its ambassador from Cairo during his turbulent year in power. It has since showered Cairo with aid to prop up the country's economy, in a relationship that has led to some controversy in Egypt.

Prince Mohammed's visit also comes as Sisi prepares to run in an election he is virtually guaranteed to win. Alongside posters urging people to vote for Sisi, large banners were put up in central Cairo yesterday with images of the Egyptian president, Prince Mohammed and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz. "Welcome to your second country," said one; another read "Saudi and Egypt are one hand, one nation." Egypt has sided with Saudi Arabia on a number of foreign policy issues, including a diplomatic and trade boycott of tiny gas-rich Qatar, and the support of forces battling Iranian-backed Houthi militants in Yemen. — Agencies

## 2 MPs file to grill Assembly minister...

Continued from Page 1

into a crisis between the Assembly and the government that could develop into a grilling of the prime minister himself". He charged that the minister has failed over a large number of constitutional procedures and his appointment in the Cabinet involved some suspicious measures.

Damkhi said the grilling tackled the minister's appointment, his role, plans and credibility. He advised the minister against facing the grilling because his credibility will be at stake. There was no immediate comment from Khorafi, who was a member of parliament in the previous Assembly but opted not to con-

test last October's elections.

The grilling charges that Khorafi, whose main responsibility is to bring the Assembly and the government closer and improve cooperation, has failed in his job. It said the minister has abandoned his main responsibility of making proposals to improve government-Assembly ties and coordinating with ministries to avoid negative comments by the Audit Bureau on their finances and project executions.

His "inefficient" performance resulted in administrative failure and in committing mistakes and violations, the grilling said. The MPs said a question was sent to the former defense minister through Khorafi, and he sent a response prepared by the former minister although a new defense minister was appointed in the meantime. They described this action as a major violation of the law and the constitution. A grilling could lead to submitting a no-confidence motion, which if approved, would automatically dismiss the minister.

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## Sports

# Mickelson ends five-year victory drought in Mexico

## Claims first win since 2013 British Open

MEXICO CITY: Phil Mickelson ended a five-year victory drought as he sank a par putt on the first playoff hole to defeat Justin Thomas at the WGC-Mexico Championship on Sunday. The 47-year-old Hall of Famer, who had not won since the 2013 British Open, was thrilled to find his golden touch and make a long-awaited breakthrough at the Club de Golf Chapultepec in Mexico City.

"For it to happen here in Mexico City in a WGC event against the best players in the world is such an encouraging and validating feeling for all the lows and difficult times I have experienced the last four years," said Mickelson, who claimed his 43rd PGA Tour win.

"This is hopefully going to propel me on to better stuff," Thomas, who had waited for more than half an hour after a closing eagle to start the playoff, hit first and was long on the 17th hole.

The 2017 PGA champion then missed a putt for par to end a weekend in which he had come from 11 strokes back to contend. The Americans completed regulation tied at 16-under 268 for a one-stroke lead after Thomas, the earlier finisher, shot seven-under 64 and

Mickelson 66. England's Tyrrell Hatton and Spaniard Rafa Cabrera Bello both shot 67s to tie for third at 15-under 269.

Hatton had been tied with Mickelson and Thomas going into the last hole, but a bogey on the par-four 18th ended his hopes. Overnight leader Shubhankar Sharma of India crashed out with five bogeys in a final round 74 to finish tied for ninth at 274.

Thomas, the playoff winner in last week's Honda Classic, appeared headed for another title when his eagle at 18 gave him a two-stroke lead.

"To make that wedge (shot) on 18 is pretty unbelievable," said Thomas, who had six birdies and a bogey in his final round to back up a course record 62 on Saturday.

But Mickelson, who had led earlier before a bogey at 11 temporarily stalled him, fought back with birdie putts at the 15th and 16th holes to reel in Thomas.

"There was none bigger than that one (on 16) because it got me tied to the leader that was already finished and in the clubhouse," Mickelson said. "That gave me a chance at 17 and 18 to try and win it." — Reuters



MEXICO CITY: US golfer Phil Mickelson poses with his trophy at tee 18, next to sponsors' representative Ricardo Salinas Pilego, after winning the World Golf Championship in Mexico City. Five-time major winner Phil Mickelson seized his first title in nearly five years on Sunday as he edged Justin Thomas in a playoff to win the WGC Mexico Championship. — AFP

“To make that wedge (shot) on 18 is pretty unbelievable”

## Sharma shows potential despite faltering at final hurdle

MEXICO CITY: Shubhankar Sharma's hopes of winning on his PGA Tour debut were dashed by a torrid final round on Sunday but the 21-year-old Indian's performance at the WGC-Mexico Championship has made the golfing world sit up and take notice.

Sharma teed off in the final group along with Phil Mickelson and Tyrrell Hatton at Club de Golf Chapultepec holding a two-shot lead and needing one more great round to become the youngest winner of a World Golf Championships event, as well as the first to win in his first WGC start.

However, his lead soon vanished and a closing stretch of four bogeys in his last six holes condemned him to a three-over 74 in the final round, pushing him down to a tie for ninth on 274. "A little bit disappointed, I was leading and I think I couldn't finish it off today," said Sharma. "But that's what the game is about. And what I learned, especially playing with Phil, I'll cherish it forever."

Sharma was six when he went to a golf course for the first time and got hooked on the sport. His father quit the Indian army to help his son chase his golfing goals. He has already tasted victory this season with European Tour victories in South Africa and Malaysia and his Joburg Open win earned him a ticket to this year's British Open at Carnoustie.

Sharma, who lives in Chandigarh though his family hails from the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, is the country's highest-ranked golfer at No. 66. A top 50 spot is needed to punch his ticket to next

month's US Masters but the tournament has in the past invited a non-exempt Asian player, raising the possibility that Sharma might make Augusta National without qualifying automatically.

### TALENTED PLAYER

Five-times major champion Mickelson, who defeated Justin Thomas on the first playoff hole to win the event, had mistaken Sharma for a member of the media on Saturday but will no doubt be able to put a name to the face in future.

"I saw how well he struck the golf ball. He hit a beautiful tee shot on one, you can tell he can really play," Mickelson said. "I saw some of the putts, some of the highlights with the putter. I know he's a very talented player and I believe he's leading the Order of Merit on the European Tour, so I know what a great player Mr. Sharma is. I probably shouldn't say that, he's 26 years younger than me!"

With his two European Tour victories, Sharma seems poised for a breakout year and compatriot Arjun Atwal said he has the mental game to match his golf skills. "To me, he has a very calm attitude. He doesn't get flustered, he takes everything in his stride and that's what I've always noticed about him," said the first Indian winner on the PGA Tour. "He's been very level headed since I've known him. I can't see him being upset or cussing. It's amazing to see what he's doing at the age of 21. "Shubhankar has got the type of game that you can't pinpoint what he needs to improve or get better. There's nothing that he's very exceptional at, but the thing is that every part of his game he's very good at doing."

"He's like a Steve Stricker or Jim Furyk. When you play with these guys, they don't do anything exceptional, like wow, but everything that they have in their game is good. There's nothing bad at all." — Reuters

## Nepal's marathon monks trade robes for running shoes

SINDHUKOT: Swapping their maroon robes for running shoes, seven Buddhist monks take off at a sprint across the hills surrounding their remote village in the foothills of Nepal's Himalayas. They are aspiring ultra-marathon runners, hoping the sport will put their remote village on the map and provide the funds needed to rebuild homes destroyed by a massive earthquake nearly three years ago. "We found out that we can get many opportunities through running and hope to do something from our monk team—make a name for our village and bring development here. That is why we are running," says Man Bahadur Lama, 21, the fastest of the group.

The monks—most of them in their early twenties—follow a strict regime, praying in the morning before disappearing into the hills to run up to 40 kilometres (25 miles) each afternoon. Life is tough in Sindhukot village, which lies just 80 kilometres from Kathmandu but like many rural communities in impoverished Nepal feels totally cut off from the rest of the world. The nearest school is a two-hour walk and the only shops are in a neighbouring village. Many Buddhist families in Nepal send at least one son to join the local monastery, where they are usually fed, clothed and educated—relieving their parents of the financial burden.

Lama was sent away when he was just eight, but is currently living back at home as the village monastery was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. Fellow monk Mingma Lama is matter-of-fact about his new pursuit, which he says his monastic duties in the community have prepared him for. "Every day we go up and down the hills. We often have to walk far... So running wasn't too hard for us," he said.

## Wiggins to hit back as lawmakers accuse him in drugs report

LONDON: British cycling great Bradley Wiggins said it was "so sad" after he and his former team were accused by MPs of manipulating drug rules before major races, including Wiggins' 2012 Tour de France victory.

A report by the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) committee of the House of Commons published yesterday, accused Wiggins and other Team Sky riders of using the drug triamcinolone not for its recognised purpose as an asthma treatment, but because it helped them lose weight without compromising their power in the saddle.

Russian computer hackers revealed three years ago that Wiggins had applied for therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs), which allowed riders to have injections of otherwise banned drugs, permitting him to take the powerful corticosteroid.

United Kingdom Anti-Doping (UKAD) launched an inquiry in September 2016 after British newspaper the Daily Mail reported a mystery package meant for the now-retired Wiggins had been delivered to Team Sky during a 2011 race in France.



SINDHUKOT VILLAGE: This photograph taken on February 14, 2018, shows Nepali Buddhist monks warming up in front of their monastery before a training session in Sindhukot village, some 80 kilometres northeast of Kathmandu. — AFP

These Himalayan monks are not the first to take up running. The so-called 'marathon monks' of Mount Hiei in Japan are known for their superhuman feat of running 1,000 marathons in 1,000 days — but they are seeking enlightenment not prize money.

### 'EVEN MONKS CAN RUN'

Mingma Gyalbo, a member of the monastery who also organises races nearby, said the monks are talented but need more support to excel. "They don't have the technical know-how, like for their diet, or even proper shoes for running," Gyalbo said.

Trail running and ultra marathons are gaining popularity in Nepal, where the Himalayan terrain lends itself to extreme tests of human endurance. Nepal now hosts a handful of races each year, including the world's highest marathon that starts at Mount Everest base camp at a breathless altitude of

5,364 metres (17,598 feet).

A few Nepali runners have made their mark internationally, like former child soldier Mira Rai who recently won the gruelling 52 kilometre Ben Nevis Ultra in Scotland and was named National Geographic Adventurer of the Year in 2017.

The Sindhukot monks' first race was two years ago, a 30 kilometre trail run in a neighbouring village. But they are yet to win any medals. The fastest monk, Man Bahadur, came tenth in their first major marathon earlier this month, missing out on the top prize of 100,000 rupees (\$964) — more than the average annual income in Nepal.

He said running in flat and hot Lumbini, Buddha's birthplace in southern Nepal, was very different to their hilly home terrain. "I was quite amazed when I first learned that these monks were running," said race organiser Shekhar Pandey. — AFP

the report added before turning to Sky founder Dave Brailsford.

"This does not constitute a violation of the WADA code, but it does cross the ethical line that David Brailsford says he himself drew for Team Sky," it said.

But the 37-year-old Wiggins, a five-time Olympic gold medalist, said in a statement: "I find it so sad that accusations can be made, where people can be accused of things they have never done which are then regarded as facts. "I strongly refute the claim that any drug was used without medical need. I hope to have my say in the next few days and put to my side across."

### 'NEVER AGAIN'

His comments were backed by Team Sky, who said they were "surprised and disappointed" the committee has chosen to present an anonymous claim in this way.

One thing the various inquiries did uncover was the extent of the close relationship between a Team Sky founded by Brailsford and his old employers at British Cycling where he initiated the programme that led to a slew of Olympic medals.

British Cycling chief executive Julie Harrington said the DCMS report was "thorough and timely"

She added in a reference to Team Sky: "Never again will we allow a situation to develop whereby our independence as the national governing body is called into question because of our relationship with a professional team." — AFP



MEXICO CITY: Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma, plays his shot from the second tee, during the third round of the World Golf Championship in Mexico City. — AFP



Sports

# Australia wrap up 118-run victory over South Africa

## Australia take 1-0 lead in four-match series

**DURBAN:** Australia needed just 22 balls and 20 minutes of play on the fifth day at Kingsmead to secure a 118-run triumph over South Africa in the opener of their four-match series yesterday. The visitors required a single wicket to secure success after South Africa

resumed on 293 for nine, chasing an improbable victory target of 417.

Five runs were added by the home side before Quinton de Kock was hit on the back pad and trapped leg before wicket by Josh Hazlewood (3-61) as he tried to launch the ball over the boundary.

Mitchell Starc earlier had a chance to complete a hat-trick with the first ball of the day after being denied by bad light on Sunday but bowled down the leg side to De Kock, who was eventually out for 83 after adding two to his overnight tally.

Morne Morkel was not out on three as Starc (4-75) finished with nine wickets in the match. "It was a nice way to start, said victorious skipper Steve Smith afterwards. "The first test in a series is always important and

### SCOREBOARD

**DURBAN, South Africa:** Scoreboard on the fifth day of the first Test between South Africa and Australia at Kingsmead yesterday.

**Australia, first innings, 351**  
**South Africa, first innings, 162**  
**Australia, second innings, 227**

**South Africa, second innings (overnight 293-9)**

A. Markram c Paine b M. Marsh	143
D. Elgar c Paine b Starc	9
H. Amla lbw b Hazlewood	8
A. de Villiers run out (Warner)	0
F. du Plessis b Cummins	4
T. de Bruyn c Paine b Hazlewood	36
Q. de Kock lbw b Hazlewood	83
V. Philander c Paine b Starc	6
K. Maharaj b Starc	0
K. Rabada b Starc	0
M. Morkel not out	3
Extras (b2, lb3, nb1)	6
Total (92.4 overs)	298
Fall of wickets: 1-29 (Elgar), 2-39 (Amla), 3-39 (De Villiers), 4-49 (Du Plessis), 5-136 (De Bruyn), 6-283 (Markram), 7-290 (Philander), 8-290 (Maharaj), 9-290 (Rabada), 10-298 (De Kock)	
Bowling: Starc 18-2-75-4 (1nb), Hazlewood 15.4-2-61-3, Lyon 32-7-86-0, Cummins 15-3-47-1, M. Marsh 7-2-21-1, Smith 5-3-3-0.	

**Result:** Australia won by 118 runs

**Series:** Australia lead the four-match series 1-0



## Second Test starts on Friday

the way we played was a real plus."

Australia's win has been overshadowed by a heated off-field exchange between players at the tea interval on the fourth day, which the International Cricket Council (ICC) are investigating, as well as a charge for spinner Nathan Lyon.

CCTV footage from the players tunnel showed Australia vice-captain David Warner and home wicket-keeper De Kock involved in a fiery exchange as players climbed the stairwell to their dressing rooms during the



**KINGSMEAD:** South Africa batsman Morne Morkel hits the ball during day five of the first Sunfoil Test between South Africa and Australia at the Kingsmead Stadium in Durban, yesterday. — AFP

break. The video shows Warner being restrained by Australia batsman Usman Khawaja and spin bowler Lyon as he directs a verbal barrage at De Kock, who left the field as South Africa's not-out batsman at the same time as the Australians.

"It's rather unfortunate that the incident took place and certainly not in the spirit of the game," South Africa's team manager Mohammed Moosajee said in a statement. "The match referee had spoken to us after the day's play. We will await any further communication from the ICC around this incident."

In a separate incident, Lyon dropped a ball on prone batsman AB de Villiers after he was run out prior to lunch on Sunday as South Africa's top order collapsed in their run chase. Lyon faced an ICC sanction after being charged by match referee Jeff Crowe, officials said yesterday.

It sets up an intriguing rematch in the second Test, which starts on Friday at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth. "There is no doubt South Africa will come hard at us in Port Elizabeth but hopefully our boys will be up for the fight," Smith added. — Reuters

## 'Personal insults' behind Warner and De Kock row

**DURBAN:** Personal insults were at the root of a row between Australia's David Warner and South Africa's Quinton de Kock during the tea break of the fourth day of the first Test, their captains said. The incident is in the hands of match referee Jeff Crowe, with no immediate clarity about when a decision could be expected. CCTV footage showed Warner apparently turning on De Kock as the players walked up a narrow staircase leading to the dressing rooms at the start of the interval in Durban in a match won by Australia.

"What was said and done during that interval was regrettable on both sides," said Australian captain Steve Smith. "Quinton got personal and evoked an emotional response from Davey. Those things are not on from both sides. Getting personal on the field is crossing the line in my opinion."

Smith's version was disputed by South African manager Mohammed Moosajee, who blamed Warner. "There were words said out on the field. If you are saying something you've got to take it and that's the opinion of Quinton. Let the investigations begin and let the match officials decide," said Moosajee. South African captain Faf du Plessis said the umpires needed to ensure proper behaviour on the field. "From what I've heard there was a lot of personal stuff being said, to and from. Who started it, I don't know. If it was happening on the field it should have been nipped in the bud. The fact that it spilled over after the field shouldn't have happened."

### 'VERY CHIRPY'

The CCTV footage shows Warner being restrained by teammates Usman Khawaja and Nathan Lyon before being persuaded to go into the dressing room by Smith. Du Plessis said he had been aware of the incident. "I heard the commotion and went outside and just asked David to go into his dressing room. It needs to stay on the field when you are chirping each other. There need to be boundaries on that."

Smith acknowledged his players were "certainly very chirpy on the field". But he said that as far as he aware his players had not got personal with De Kock. Smith said he hoped the remaining three Tests would be played in the right spirit but added: "We play our best cricket when we're aggressive, when we're in the fight together and hunting as a pack as one. We're working for each other and backing our mates up in the field. That's part of being an Australian." — AFP



**DURBAN:** Australia fielder David Warner and Australia captain Steven Smith leave at the end of play during day five of the first Sunfoil Test between South Africa and Australia. — AFP

## Khan bemoans conditions after Scotland stun Afghanistan

**HARARE:** Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan bemoaned having the worst of the conditions, after Calum MacLeod struck a magnificent 157 not out to lead Scotland to a surprise seven-wicket win in their opening 2019 World Cup qualifier at Bulawayo on Sunday. Afghanistan, one of the pre-tournament favourites to qualify, made 255 all out batting first, but MacLeod hammered 23 fours and a six in his blistering 146-ball knock to lead Scotland to victory with 16 deliveries remaining. "The wicket was difficult to bat on, it wasn't coming good onto the bat," said 19-year-old Khan, the first-ever teenager to skipper a men's international side.

"Later on when the sun came out, it was totally different and it was quite easy to bat on. The toss is really important in these games, but that's not in our hands, there's nothing we can do about that." Hosts Zimbabwe lead the early Group B table, though, after their 116-run thrashing of Nepal, while the United Arab Emirates and Ireland got off to winning starts in Group A against Papua New Guinea and the Netherlands respectively.

The 10 teams in Zimbabwe are fighting it out for only two places alongside the world's top eight ODI sides at next year's World Cup in England and Wales. A famous Scotland win looked unlikely when 16-year-old Afghan leg-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman dismissed openers

Matthew Cross and Kyle Coetzer inside the first six overs.

But Richie Berrington joined MacLeod at the crease as the pair put on a 208-run stand to see off Afghanistan and gain a measure of revenge for their narrow defeat by the same opposition at the 2015 World Cup. "The standout (performance) for us today is MacLeod," said Scotland captain Coetzer.

"It was an unbelievable effort from him. It's a great start to the tournament but we will take every day as it comes."

### MACLEOD TARGETS KHAN

Rising star Khan was attacked by MacLeod and conceded 68 runs from his nine overs. The leg-spinner finally ended the partnership by trapping Berrington lbw, but by then the game was gone and Afghanistan will have to bounce back against Zimbabwe on Tuesday, with only the top three teams from each group to reach the Super Six stage.

"We needed some wickets in the middle and we didn't do that," added Khan. "They played really well, had a good partnership and that took the game away from us." Earlier, Afghanistan had recovered from 71-4 to post a challenging total thanks to 92 from all-rounder Mohammad Nabi and the big-hitting Najibullah Zadran's 67.

Elsewhere, Zimbabwe restored some confidence after their 4-1 series defeat by Afghanistan last month by crushing Nepal as both Sikandar Raza and Brendan Taylor hit hundreds. Wicket-keeper Taylor managed an even 100, but the headlines were grabbed by all-rounder Raza's 66-ball 123 that featured nine maximums. Nepal battled bravely in reply but never threatened Zimbabwe's massive total of 380-6, as Raza added 3-48 with his off-spin in a virtuosic individual display. — AFP

## Rise of T20 leaves cricket facing testing questions

**LONDON:** "In this ultra-modern age counter attractions have multiplied many times since my youthful days," wrote a former England batsman as he questioned whether teenagers had the time to "devote to cricket".

That the ex-international was Herbert Sutcliffe and he was writing in a pamphlet following England's defeat in the 1950/51 Ashes series, shows that worrying about the future of cricket, and English cricket in particular, is nothing new.

But whereas Sutcliffe was concerned by ice-skating and greyhound racing taking people away from cricket, the worry now is about how one type of cricket — Twenty20 franchise leagues—could spell the end of another in five-day Tests.

The recent decisions of England internationals Adil Rashid and Alex Hales to sign 'white-ball' only county contracts (a red ball is used in traditional first-class matches) this season, thereby opting out of Test con-

tenion, heightened these concerns.

Rashid and Hales have not played a Test since 2016 but the worry for some is that, without a major alteration to cricket's congested schedule and a change in spectator habits—Tests outside of England and Australia often draw paltry crowds—their example may be followed by that of more high-profile cricketers.

Jonny Bairstow, a Yorkshire and England teammate of Rashid, is alive to the danger although the wicket-keeper remains committed to continuing his Test career.

### 'HECK OF A LOT OF MONEY'

"If we're not careful, there are going to be more and more people (giving up red-ball cricket)," Bairstow, currently on tour with England in New Zealand, said. "You've got lucrative tournaments... (to) go off for five weeks and earn a heck of a lot of money... (with) the strain and stress on the body of bowling (only) four overs compared to 24 in a day in Test cricket." Bairstow's thoughts were echoed by Test colleague James Anderson, with England's all-time leading Test bowler adding: "I just hope and pray there is enough love for Test cricket out there, not just the players that are playing at the moment but players coming through still having the ambition and drive to play Test cricket in the future."

Bairstow and Anderson grew up in an environment

where the most reliable way for cricketers to maximise their income was to become an established Test player as this would lead to a larger wage packet and enhanced opportunities for sponsorship deals.

In order to gain Test selection, players would have to take part in domestic first-class competitions such as England's County Championship or Australia's Sheffield Shield. But the advent of the Indian Premier League and other franchise Twenty20 events has created an environment where it's now possible to make major money, in cricket terms, without playing Tests.

For example, England all-rounder Ben Stokes was bought for £1.37 million (\$1.88 million, 1.53 million euros) by the Rajasthan Royals during January's IPL auction. P

### 'DON'T GET BETTER DOING LESS'

And by offering specialist 'white-ball', as well as Test, central contracts in a bid to improve England's woeful record at major global limited-overs tournaments, the England and Wales Cricket Board may have inadvertently made it easier for players to turn their backs on the first-class game.

"You always want your best players playing as much high-quality cricket as you can," Angus Fraser, an England selector, told AFP on Friday. "I don't know how you become better at anything by doing less of it," the former England fast-medium bowler added.

Fewer Championship matches are now played at the height of an English summer so spinners, often critical to Test success in the sub-continent, lose out on the chance to bowl in helpful conditions.

Fraser, while acknowledging the problem, said: "The reasons involved are sound. Twenty20 brings in a lot of income for the game and you want to get families involved by having those matches on during the school-holiday period."

Elite rugby union and rugby sevens are now effectively two separate sports, such as their differing demands, with a similar split possible in cricket. "It's in danger of doing that," Pete Russell, the chief operating officer of the Twenty20 Hero Caribbean Premier League told AFP at this week's player draft in London.

"We are one of eight T20 tournaments around the world now and these guys have a lot of opportunities to make good money elsewhere." Moreover his colleague Damien O'Donoghue, the CPL's chief executive, said there was a broader problem confronting all cricket and indeed sport in general.

"In relation to the fans, their attention span is so short even for us trying to get people to watch a three-hour game is a big challenge, hence why we've been working so closely with the likes of Facebook and Twitter," he said. "I think sport across the board has an issue with that—people's attention is much shorter." — AFP



## Sports

# Dadonov scores twice as Panthers defeat Philadelphia Flyers 4-1

## Nashville rally past Colorado in Denver

**FLORIDA:** Evgenii Dadonov scored twice as the Florida Panthers completed a 6-0-0 win streak, defeating the Philadelphia Flyers 4-1 on Sunday afternoon at the BB&T Center in Sunrise, Fla. The Panthers are 13-3-0 in their past 16 games, making them the hottest team in the league since Jan 30. Florida's win, at the moment the game ended, put the Panthers in playoff position for the first time all season, and they have games in hand in their battle with all of their closest competitors, including the Carolina Hurricanes and Columbus Blue Jackets. The Flyers lost their third consecutive game, but they are still 26-10-4 since Dec 4. They are in second place in the Metropolitan Division, but they might have been worn down on Sunday, playing their second game in 24 hours.



### Marc-Andre Fleury had 33 saves

#### BLUE JACKETS 4, SHARKS 2

Artemi Panarin scored twice as Columbus nearly let a three-goal lead slip away before holding on for a 4-2 win over host San Jose. Columbus netminder Sergei Bobrovsky made 33 saves, 14 in the third period, for the win at SAP Center which snaps his team's two-game losing skid. Blue Jackets captain Nick Foligno opened the scoring 9:12 into the affair, as the visitors turned the tables on the hosts for failing to score on a power play. Foligno came out of the penalty box and finished an odd-man rush by wristing a shot from the top of the left circle past Sharks goalie Martin Jones.

#### PREDATORS 4, AVALANCHE 3 (OT)

Filip Forsberg scored 1:07 into overtime as Nashville won its eighth straight game, rallying past Colorado in Denver. It was the 18th goal of the season for Forsberg, who beat Semyon Varlamov with a wrister as Nashville closed out a perfect 4-0-0 road swing. The Predators also won their ninth consecutive game against Colorado, dating back to April of 2016. Nashville forced overtime when Ryan Ellis tallied his sixth goal at 18:54 on a slapper with a sixth attacker on the ice. Ellis finished with a goal and two assists, including the primary helper on Forsberg's game-winner.

#### DUCKS 6, BLACKHAWKS 3

Jakob Silfverberg and Corey Perry each scored twice and goalie John Gibson made 37 saves as host Anaheim scored the first four goals and cruised to a victory over Chicago. Rickard Rakell and Marcus Pettersson—with the first goal of his NHL career — also scored for the Ducks, who are on a roll with a 6-1-1 mark in their last eight games. Rakell opened the scoring with a power-play goal just 2:23 into the affair, an early sign it was going to be yet another long game for the struggling Blackhawks.

#### GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3, DEVILS 2

Marc-Andre Fleury had 33 saves and David Perron had a goal and an assist as Vegas snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over host New Jersey. Tomas Tatar and Deryk Engelland also scored for Vegas, which improved to 18-11-3 on the road and 7-5-1 against Metropolitan Division teams. Taylor Hall extended his league-leading points streak to 18 consecutive games with a goal and an assist for the Devils. Hall, who missed three games with a thumb injury, has scored in 25 straight games overall.

#### JETS 3, HURRICANES 2

Patrik Laine scored twice and assisted on newcomer Paul Stastny's goal as Winnipeg defeated host Carolina. Stastny, who was in his second game with the Jets, also posted an assist. Teuvo Teravainen and Jordan Staal scored for the Hurricanes, who had a two-game winning streak snapped.

#### WILD 4, RED WINGS 1

Jason Zucker scored two third-period goals, Devan Dubnyk stopped 28 shots and host Minnesota defeated Detroit. Zach Parise fired in the go-ahead goal in the second period for Minnesota, which lost its previous two games following a five-game winning streak. Eric Staal had the other goal for the Wild, and Ryan Suter collected two assists. Justin Abdelkader scored the only goal for the Red Wings, who have lost six of their last eight games. Jimmy Howard was credited with 23 saves. — Reuters



ANAHEIM: Corey Perry #10 of the Anaheim Ducks defends against Vinnie Hinostroza #48 and Connor Murphy #5 of the Chicago Blackhawks during the second period of a game at Honda Center in Anaheim, California. The Anaheim Ducks defeated the Chicago Blackhawks 6-3.—AFP

### NHL results/standings

Nashville 4, Colorado 3 (OT); Florida 4, Philadelphia 1; Anaheim 6, Chicago 3.

Eastern Conference						Western Conference							
Atlantic Division						Central Division							
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Tampa Bay	45	17	4	240	182	94	Nashville	42	14	9	214	168	93
Boston	40	15	8	209	158	88	San Jose	39	17	9	220	175	87
Toronto	39	21	7	220	190	85	Minnesota	37	22	7	204	190	81
Florida	32	25	6	189	199	70	Dallas	37	23	5	193	171	79
Detroit	26	29	10	170	193	62	Colorado	35	24	6	205	193	76
Montreal	25	29	11	167	200	61	St. Louis	35	26	5	180	176	75
Ottawa	22	32	10	174	225	54	Chicago	28	30	8	188	195	64
Buffalo	20	34	11	154	211	51	Pacific Division						
Metropolitan Division						Las Vegas	42	18	5	225	180	89	
Washington	37	21	7	203	193	81	San Jose	35	22	9	196	184	79
Philadelphia	34	21	11	197	193	79	Anaheim	33	21	12	186	183	78
Pittsburgh	37	25	4	215	200	78	Los Angeles	36	25	5	192	165	77
New Jersey	33	25	8	193	199	74	Calgary	32	25	9	185	195	73
Columbus	33	28	5	176	186	71	Edmonton	27	34	4	183	216	58
Carolina	29	26	11	176	198	69	Vancouver	24	32	9	176	214	57
NY Rangers	30	30	6	189	209	66	Arizona	20	34	10	155	209	50
NY Islanders	29	29	8	213	237	66	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)						

## Brazil superstars to hit the beach for World Cup

**SOCHI:** Brazil's squad of superstars will spend the World Cup in luxury staying at an exclusive beachfront hotel built by Stalin for the Communist Party elite in the "Soviet Riviera".

The five-star Swiss hotel Sochi Kamelia is a gated property hidden from fans and reporters by the Black Sea on one side and a lush private park with firs and palm trees on the other.

The entrance is protected by armed guards in fatigues. Guests in evening gowns and bespoke suits mingle on a marble terrace overlooking a cascading pool. Jewels the size of small rocks are on sale near a waterfall in the lobby and a blood-orange sunset illuminates the spacious rooms before giving way to the sparkle of crystal chandeliers. Hotel manager Gregory Gregoriyev said he was sure the setting would be conducive to some great performances from the five-time world champions. "We will do everything to make sure they leave happy and without a worry," he told AFP. "We will help them win the World Cup."

#### GOVERNMENT PROTECTION

Russia's warmest upscale resort is surrounded by snow-capped mountains that won Sochi the right to host the 2014 Winter Olympics and restored the lustre of its Soviet past to the city of 350,000. It is President Vladimir Putin's preferred working vacation spot and an important summit venue for visiting heads of state. That means Sochi has ample experience of organising security and Swisshotel will make sure that excited fans do not get anywhere near players like Marcelo, Philippe Coutinho and, if he recovers from foot surgery in time, Neymar.

"Our hotel has no street access. The property is guarded and this will obviously be fortified with extra security during the World Cup," Gregoriyev said. "I think it will also be protected at the government level." But what about those pesky reporters and the drones they use to sneak

pictures of some of football's most famous performers? "We are not going to shoot anything down, of course, but we will inform certain government (security) agencies that probably know how to fight these things," Gregoriyev said with a grin.

Brazil will fly 400 kilometres (250 miles) north for their opening match against Switzerland in Rostov-on-Don on June 16. Their second group game against Costa Rica is 2,000 kilometres away in Saint Petersburg and their third five days later against Serbia will take them 1,300 kilometres north to Moscow. Travel is part of the Russian adventure for all 32 qualified teams and Brazil coach Tite has clearly focused on giving his men the best treatment possible while away from game. The training ground is a five-minute walk away and the ride to the airport along Sochi's modern roads takes 30 minutes.

Then there is Sochi's beach—something for which Russia is otherwise not particularly famous. "Sochi's climate suits Brazil very well," Gregoriyev said.—AFP

## Russia's club football limps into World Cup

**MOSCOW:** Ranked sixth best in Europe by UEFA and infused with shiny new stadiums for the fast-approaching World Cup, Russian club football should be brimming with optimism. But beneath the glitter of wealthy teams such as Spartak Moscow or Zenit Saint Petersburg lies a league still searching for a business model, plagued by unpaid wages and player strikes.

A season that pauses for three months in the winter only adds to the difficulties of clubs trying to strike it rich in big-money European tournaments, which culminate in the spring.

Russian sides routinely get knocked out early due to rustiness caused by a lack of training, losing out on one of the main sources of income for the "Big Five" European leagues. Empty coffers mean the Russian Premier League champion is rewarded with a bonus of \$5 million (4 million euros), less than a tenth of the going transfer fee rate for a big star. "The Russian Premier League is effectively bankrupt," said players' union leader Vladimir Leonchenko.

#### NEW APPROACH

The winter break lacked cheer in Russia, where even clubs that have provided feelgood stories, such as

## From Man Utd to Hong Kong, Forlan still going strong

**HONG KONG:** Former Manchester United striker Diego Forlan said he hasn't lost his passion for football and has no plans to retire as he embraces his latest challenge: firing Hong Kong's Kitchee in the Asian Champions League.

Uruguay's Forlan, now 38, has shone on the sport's biggest stages with Manchester United and Atletico Madrid, and also when he won the golden ball at the 2010 World Cup. After ending a one-year stay with Inter Milan in 2012, Forlan has played for five clubs, including Mumbai City in the Indian Super League last year. But Forlan, who has now played for clubs in eight different countries, said he is enjoying a new lease of life with Kitchee, where he is regularly finding the net. "It's great. Great relationship, good guys from different countries, so I'm really enjoying my time here," Forlan said in an interview with AFP.

"I really enjoy (it), it's beautiful. It's been my work for almost 20 years and it's been great. I don't feel (it is) like working, it's something that I enjoy playing, something that I'm privileged (to do), so that's why I'll keep going and keep playing."

Forlan isn't the only footballer to enjoy a late-

Rubin Kazan, seemed doomed. Accustomed to European football after upsetting Barcelona at the Nou Camp in 2009, the plucky side from oil-rich Tatarstan lost their prized French international Yann M'Vila. It was a forced decision in return for which Rubin got nothing: the 27-year-old triggered a release clause in his contract after going unpaid for three months. The financial straits were so dire for Amkar Perm, an upstart from the Urals, that manager Gadzhi Gadzhiyev at one stage doubted the club would be able to finish the season. "I spoke to Perm's regional leaders and received (financial) guarantees," said Gadzhiyev, who once worked with the Soviet national team. "But we need a new approach to lift doubts over next season." And on the outskirts of President Vladimir Putin's native Saint Petersburg, the players of newly-promoted Tosno spent a part of February on strike. "I will not hide it—we have a problem with financing," said Tosno president Maxim Levchenko. Tosno's budget of \$12 million "has a hole," he said.

#### TV RIGHTS

After the collapse of the rigid Soviet system in which clubs were backed by either the army, police or a ministry, Russian clubs found themselves caught in a downward spiral. Teams inherited bleak all-purpose stadiums that were open to the elements and lacked amenities.

Few people turned out for matches except for hardcore fans who often stirred up trouble. Stadiums became even less profitable, leading to unmaintained pitches that were difficult to play and painful to watch on TV. Fans stayed home and spent their time on

weekends glued to one of the other European leagues on TV. Things got so bad that according to UEFA's latest review, Russian teams received an average of 1.8 million euros in TV rights in 2016 — less than those in Poland and Romania. "Increasing TV revenues is our priority," said Russian Premier League President Sergei Pryadkin.

#### SUBSIDISED CHAMPIONSHIP

Lacking ticket sales and unable to count on the TV cash cow, teams sell their more promising players and rely on the goodwill of sponsors—many of them operated by the government.

"We are not really talking about sponsorship but the injection of money by state-run companies," said players' union boss Leonchenko. This has been particularly the case with Zenit Saint Petersburg, which has paid big transfer fees for international stars thanks to the financial windfall of natural gas giant Gazprom.

Most other Moscow area teams have similar benefactors, including Lokomotiv (the RZD state railway company) and CSKA Moscow (the national power company Rosseti). But even some of these government investors are thinking twice before committing more funds. Dynamo Moscow, a club backed by the police in the Soviet era, switched allegiance to Russia's second-biggest bank VTB. But after seven frustrating years, VTB sold its stake in Dynamo back to the club in 2016 for the nominal sum of one ruble, complaining that its investment "brought us no good".

"We have stadiums and infrastructure but we cannot attract investors," Leonchenko lamented. "No one wants to buy a club in Russia." — AFP



HONG KONG: In this picture taken on March 1, 2018, Uruguayan player Diego Forlan attends a team training session with Hong Kong Premier League football club Kitchee in Hong Kong. Forlan has called for improvement from his new Kitchee side after a torrid start to their AFC Champions League debut campaign.—AFP



Sports

# No rivals, no problem as Bayern eye Bundesliga record

## Bayern could still repeat their 2013 treble titles

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich are 20 points clear in the Bundesliga and could be confirmed champions for the sixth straight season within a fortnight, but veteran coach Jupp Heynckes is demanding they stay focused. A 4-0 thumping of Freiburg on Sunday means Bayern only have to extend their giant lead by two points over the next two weeks to be confirmed league champions. If they are 22 points clear after playing RB Leipzig away on March 18, a sixth league title in a row will be theirs. It would equal their own league record, set in 2013/14 when Bayern won the Bundesliga with seven games to spare under the leadership of Pep Guardiola. This season only mathematical doubt remains, but Heynckes insists there will be no let-up in their bid for silverware.

It is not the first season Bayern find themselves streets ahead of their league rivals. "Now it's down to experience and also Jupp Heynckes will not tolerate any nonsense," Bayern's chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told FCB.tv. Bayern were five points adrift in the league when Carlo Ancelotti was sacked last October, but Heynckes, 72, took over, tightened discipline and turned things around. Having thumped Besiktas 5-0 in the last 16, first-leg of the Champions League, Bayern could still repeat their 2013 treble of European, German Cup and league titles won under Heynckes. The Bundesliga leg of the 2013 treble was wrapped up with six games to spare and Bayern's cap-

tain Thomas Mueller sees no difference this time around. "In the triple year, the championship was decided early and we could keep the tension, so we try this time," said Mueller.

### 'KICK OUR BUTTS'

There is also the Heynckes factor. "He will continue to kick our butts if he sees any drops in voltage," Mueller said. Having struggled for form under Ancelotti last season, Mueller is back to his absolute best under Heynckes.

One of the best goal poachers in the modern game, he forced Freiburg into conceding an own goal, set one up for Sandro Wager and then fired home Bayern's fourth on Sunday. It was the sort of outstanding display that makes Mueller a shoo-in for Joachim Loew's World Cup squad to be named

on May 15 as Germany go in search of a second consecutive World Cup.

Heynckes is a master of juggling Bayern's heavy workload in three competitions and rotating stars. Only winger Kingsley Coman and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer are unavailable with injury. Javi Martinez, Arjen Robben and Robert Lewandowski—a key trio for the away leg at Besiktas on March 14 — sat out the win at Freiburg. After the trip to Istanbul, Bayern face Leipzig away and host Borussia Dortmund in two highlight league fixtures before a potential Champions League quarter-final. "I



**FREIBU:** Freiburg's defender Christian Guenter (R) and Munich's midfielder Sebastian Rudy vie with the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match SC Freiburg versus Bayern Munich on Sunday in Freiburg. — AFP

work very conscientiously with everyone and there is no such thing as lethargy," said Heynckes.

"We have great ambitions, and a team like FC Bayern cannot afford to play with the handbrake on—we owe it to the fans." The true test for Bayern lie waiting in April's Champions League's quarters and semi-finals — providing they get that far.

There is also a German Cup semi-final at Bayer Leverkusen. Bayern's European hopes have been ended by Spanish opposition in the knock-out stage of the last four seasons. "There's no danger of a decline. We have enough experience and top players to move forward. We have a coach who knows exactly what's required," Robben told Kicker magazine. —AFP



### Mueller is back to his absolute best

## PSG showdown represents test of Zidane's faith in Bale

**MADRID:** Gareth Bale became Real Madrid's second top-scorer for the season on Saturday night but it is today in Paris when he will discover where he truly sits in the pecking order. Real take a 3-1 advantage into their Champions League last 16 second leg against Paris Saint-Germain, with Bale not guaranteed to start what is potentially a season-defining match for Los Blancos. Adrift in La Liga and out of the cups, success for Real in 2017-18 now depends entirely on their exploits in Europe. Zinedine Zidane's future as coach may also be tied to them lifting the trophy in May. It leaves the Frenchman with no room for error at the Parc des Princes, where an absence of Bale would represent the surest indication yet of a lack of trust when it matters most.

Bale could hardly have done more in Saturday's 3-1 win over Getafe. He opened the scoring, his eighth goal in 13 league starts this season, and would have finished with two but for a bending shot nicking the outside of the post. In the final rehearsal before PSG, he was brave, bold and industrious. It is no coincidence that this improved performance came after Zidane deployed the Welshman in his more natural position of advanced midfield, rather than the lone striker role he was mysteriously presented with in last week's dreary defeat to Espanyol.

Real were poor, and Bale spent much of the game with his back to goal. The suggestion is Zidane has doubts about Bale's defensive work against more dangerous opponents, a category that certainly includes PSG. As the spots of Cristiano Ronaldo and the Portuguese's chief provider Karim Benzema are now assured up front, playing Bale deeper carries too high a risk. The counter argument might go that a confident



**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe (L) and Paris Saint-Germain's Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani attend a training session yesterday at the Ooredoo training center in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, west of Paris, on the eve of their Champions' League football match against Real Madrid CF. — AFP

Bale, enjoying the faith of his coach and his favoured position, is one of the deadliest attackers in world, and the one Real paid a record 100 million euros to sign from Tottenham in 2013.

After leaving Bale out of last month's league game against Leganes, Zidane offered what seemed a contradictory assessment of the player's importance. "Bale is an important player in this squad and he always will be," Zidane said. "What interests me is the team and the squad, not just thinking about one player."

Bale's recent years at Real have certainly been inter-

rupted by injury but on the pitch, the figures do not point to a player that has struggled to live up to expectations. The 28-year-old has scored 62 goals in 117 La Liga appearances, which on Saturday took him past David Beckham as the division's most capped British player. In 21 games this season, he has registered 10 goals and three assists. Perhaps most importantly, he has played in nine consecutive Real matches for the first time since April 2015. For now, Bale is fit and on Saturday, he was in form. Today, Zidane must decide if he is ready to back him. — AFP

simple nod of the head from Son to find the far corner leaving even visiting boss David Wagner impressed.

"We've seen an unbelievable cross by Harry Kane and they scored a wonderful goal. This goal said everything about the teams which met today."

### CAUTIOUS CONTE ON THE BRINK

Antonio Conte is widely rumoured to be on his way out as Chelsea manager at the end of the season come what may in the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup. However, the end of Conte's reign may even come sooner after the champions meekly surrendered to champions-elect Manchester City 1-0 on Sunday.

Not for the first time in recent weeks, Conte chose not to start a recognised centre-forward. But this time there was no attacking intent from Chelsea to feed the speed and skills of Eden Hazard, Willian and Pedro Rodriguez on the break as Chelsea failed to muster a single shot on target. A fourth defeat in five league games means Conte's men are now five points off the top four.

### WENGER TRAPPED IN VICIOUS CIRCLE

Back-to-back 3-0 defeats by Manchester City in the League Cup final and league may be one thing; losing 2-1 away to a Brighton side who kicked off just four points above the relegation zone is something else. It appears the only way Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger can rationalise the reverses—this was Arsenal's fourth straight loss in all competitions—is to stay on and turn the tide. Meanwhile the defeats mount up.

One of his former players, Thierry Henry, summed up

the prevailing mood of sadness throughout English football regarding Wenger's position. "What I don't want to see is what's happening to him, and I would like him to have the last word, whatever word it's going to be," said Henry, Arsenal's all-time record goal-scorer. Perhaps being pitied is the only thing that will shift Wenger from his stubborn desire to go on.

### LIVERPOOL MAKING CASE FOR DEFENCE

Salah grabbed most of the headlines in scoring Liverpool's opener against Newcastle, while Sadio Mane's goal was the Reds' 200th in the Premier League since Jurgen Klopp became their manager in October 2015. Yet for much of that time, it has been Liverpool's defence that has been the problem. But the way goalkeeper Loris Karius and a back four of Trent Alexander-Arnold, Dejan Lovren, Virgil Van Dijk and Andy Robertson combined at Anfield against a Newcastle side managed by former Liverpool boss Rafa Benitez, suggested the Merseysiders might at last be tightening up in defence.

### ROCK'N' ROLL SWANSEA

Swansea went soaring up the Premier League table with a 4-1 win at home to West Ham. Swans boss Carlos Carvalhal then departed from the usual post-match script by saying: "There are times in football when you have to dance to the tune of your opponents...But today we put on our music, we put rock'n'roll on at the stadium and we made things very difficult for West Ham." Well, a few more results like this and Carvalhal really will be Top of the Pops with the Swansea faithful. — AFP

## Thauvin strikes late to rescue Marseille draw with Nantes

**PARIS:** Florian Thauvin struck deep into injury-time to snatch Marseille a 1-1 draw with Nantes on Sunday that keeps them five points clear of Lyon in the race for the Champions League.

Rudi Garcia's OM had a chance to move seven points clear in the third and final slot for next season's Champions League, after fourth-placed Lyon's 1-1 draw at Montpellier. But the visitors struck in the 11th minute with a thunderbolt of a strike from right-back Leo Dubois as he drilled in Valentin Rongier's lay-off from the edge of the area. It looked as though Claudio Ranieri's Nantes would hang on for an unlikely win, but Thauvin pounced in the fifth minute of added time. Centre-back Nicolas Pallois inexplicably attempted to juggle the ball inside his own six-yard box, and although he may have been fouled by Luiz Gustavo, he presented Thauvin with the simplest of finishes to score his 16th league goal of the season.

Lyon, despite a six-match winless streak in the league, remain only five points adrift of Marseille, while Nantes stayed in seventh place. Bruno Genesio's men have not won in the league since beating runaway leaders Paris Saint-Germain on January 21.

Montpellier's point boosts their bid to take sixth from Nantes, as the second-best defence in the division repelled the efforts of Lyon to secure their 13th league draw of the campaign. The hosts took a surprise seventh-minute lead at the Stade de la Mosson, as Isaac Mbenza snuck behind the Lyon backline unmarked to slot in Ruben Aguilar's right-wing cross.

The visitors dominated after the interval as the front three of Bertrand Traore, Memphis Depay and Mariano Diaz proved a constant threat, and the latter pounced on a low ball into the area to grab a 58th-minute equaliser.—AFP

## City's remorseless run to the Premier League title continues

**LONDON:** Manchester City's remorseless run to the Premier League title continued with a 1-0 win at home to Chelsea that left Pep Guardiola's men a remarkable 18 points clear of the chasing pack.

Liverpool went second with a 2-0 win at home to Newcastle that saw Mohamed Salah score his 32nd goal of a remarkable season while Tottenham Hotspur beat Huddersfield by the same scoreline to maintain their top-four challenge.

Yet there was more misery for Arsenal and under-fire manager Arsene Wenger as the Gunners suffered a fourth straight defeat in all competitions with a 2-1 loss away to Brighton. Below AFP Sport looks at five things we learned from this weekend's action in the Premier League.

### KANE CAN DO MORE THAN SCORE

Harry Kane failed to score for the sixth straight game, but more than played his part as Tottenham cruised past Huddersfield 2-0 on the back of a Son Heung-Min double.

The South Korean's second came from a pinpoint in-swinging cross from Kane that pulled Huddersfield goalkeeper Jonas Lossel out of position and required a

Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
<b>UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE</b>	
Liverpool v Porto beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:45
Paris Saint v Real Madrid beIN SPORTS HD 1	22:45
<b>ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE</b>	
Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors v Tianjin Quanjian beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00
Kashiwa Reysol v Kitchee beIN SPORTS HD 4	13:30
Zob Ahan Isfahan v Al Wahda SCC beIN SPORTS HD 1	15:30
Al Duhail v Lokomotiv Tashkent beIN SPORTS HD 1	18:00
AlAin v Esteghlal Tehran beIN SPORTS HD 2	18:20
Al Hilal v Al Rayyan beIN SPORTS HD 3	20:15



**12** Mickelson ends five-year victory drought in Mexico



**13** Australia wrap up 118-run victory over South Africa



**15** PSG showdown represents test of Zidane's faith in Bale



LOS ANGELES: Caris LeVert #22 of the Brooklyn Nets handles the ball against the LA Clippers on Sunday at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

## Indiana Pacers leap past Wizards

### Pelicans beat host Dallas to capture eighth straight win

**LOS ANGELES:** Victor Oladipo scored 33 points and Bojan Bogdanovic tallied 20 as the Indiana Pacers moved up the crowded Eastern Conference standings with a 98-95 win over the Washington Wizards on Sunday. The Pacers won despite nearly blowing a 17 point lead but they held on and

the victory allowed them to jump over the Wizards by a half-game in the NBA standings. "We're going to have to grind it out the rest of the year," said Oladipo, who helped Indiana move into fourth in the Eastern Conference. "It's playoff basketball the rest of the year." Myles Turner added 12 points and 13 rebounds for visiting Indiana, which finished its four-game road trip 2-2 after beginning it with two losses. Cory Joseph did double duty, scoring 16 points and also defending the Wizards top scorer, Bradley Beal, who finished with 22 points. Victor Oladipo finished with a game-high 33 points as Indiana snapped a four-game losing streak against host Washington. Oladipo, who grew up in nearby Silver Spring, Md., scored 19 in the first half as Indiana never trailed and took a 10-point halftime lead. Overall, four Indiana players finished in double figures. Bojan Bogdanovic (20 points) was the only other Pacer to reach the 20-point level.

#### MILWAUKEE 118, PHILADELPHIA 110

Giannis Antetokounmpo registered 35 points, nine rebounds and seven assists and the Milwaukee Bucks overcame a 19-point third-quarter deficit to post a 118-110 victory over the visiting Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday at the Bradley Center. Eric Bledsoe contributed 22 points and seven assists as Milwaukee

halted a four-game slide. Jabari Parker scored 13 points, Tyler Zeller and John Henson had 11 apiece and Khris Middleton scored 10. Dario Saric scored 25 points on 9-of-11 shooting for Philadelphia, which committed a season-worst 26 turnovers while losing for just the third time in 12 games. Joel Embiid had 19 points and eight rebounds, JJ Redick added 17 points and Ben Simmons recorded 12 points and 15 assists for the 76ers, who shot 55.7 percent from the field. Embiid (seven), Simmons (six) and Redick (five) combined for 18 turnovers. The 76ers led by 20 points in the first quarter, and the outcome marked the team's fourth setback of the season after holding a lead of 20 or more points. Milwaukee, which shot 49.5 percent from the field, moved within a half-game of sixth-place Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference race.

#### KINGS 102, KNICKS 99

Skal Labissiere hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 16 seconds remaining as Sacramento squandered a 19-point lead in the fourth quarter and escaped with a narrow win over visiting New York. The Kings needed Labissiere's 14th career 3-pointer in 38 career attempts because they gave up a 24-5 run after appearing to be in command in the opening minutes of

the fourth. Labissiere, who finished with 14 points, put Sacramento ahead for the final time after Kyle O'Quinn hit two free throws to even the game with 16.6 seconds remaining.

#### CLIPPERS 123, NETS 120

Austin Rivers scored 27 points and drilled a 3-pointer with 33.8 seconds left to give host Los Angeles the lead for good in a win over Brooklyn. Tobias Harris added 26, while Lou Williams scored 21 points, including a jumper with 8.9 seconds remaining to give Los Angeles a three-point advantage. DeAndre Jordan contributed a double-double of 17 points and 15 rebounds, while Miles Teodocic chipped in 14 points and Montrezl Harrell netted 11. Caris LeVert came off the bench to score 27 points for Brooklyn, while DeMarre Carroll hit for 20, going 6-for-11 on 3-pointers. Three other reserves had big scoring games for the Nets, with Joe Harris adding 19 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson 15 and Dante Cunningham 14.

#### RAPTORS 103, HORNETS 98

DeMar DeRozan copped a 3-pointer and converted a three-point play in the final three minutes, enabling host Toronto to hold off Charlotte.

Charlotte had cut a 13-point deficit to 88-86 with 5:11 left on a three-point play by Jeremy Lamb, but the Raptors' cornerstone backcourt of DeRozan and Kyle Lowry kept the visitors at bay. Kemba Walker poured in a game-high 27 points for Charlotte, which fell 5 1/2 games behind Miami for the last Eastern Conference playoff spot with 18 games left.

#### PELICANS 126, MAVERICKS 109

Jrue Holiday scored 30 points and Nikola Mirotic added 24 as New Orleans beat host Dallas to capture their eighth straight win. Holiday and Mirotic combined for 13 points during a 15-2 run early in the fourth quarter that gave the Pelicans a comfortable lead after Dallas had pulled to within 91-87 at the beginning of the period. New Orleans' winning streak is its longest since 2011 and has been accomplished despite the loss of star center DeMarcus Cousins to a season-ending Achilles injury right before the All-Star break.

#### HAWKS 113, SUNS 112

Taurean Prince scored 22 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 8.6 seconds to play, to help Atlanta nip visiting Phoenix. TJ Warren scored a game-high 35 points and gave the Suns a 112-110 lead with a layup with 20.8 seconds to play. Prince got to the left wing on the Hawks' ensuing possession and hit a tough, lean-in 3-pointer for the win. It was Prince's sixth 3-pointer of the day, a career-high. Devin Booker scored 20 points for the Suns, but missed a contested baseline jumper as time expired. — Reuters

## Mourinho joins 'foreign agent' Russian TV for World Cup

**MOSCOW:** Jose Mourinho is coming to Russia for the World Cup to provide analysis for a Kremlin-funded news channel branded a "foreign agent" in the United States. RT television announced the signing yesterday without disclosing the payment Mourinho will receive

for appearing on a broadcaster that pushes Russia's take on news to a foreign audience.

The international channel does not have the television rights to show World Cup matches but says it will provide "live text commentary" and reports. The Manchester United boss appeared in a jaunty video accompanying the announcement in which he pretends to coach an RT crew about how to cover the World Cup.

"Guys, I know you are nervous. This is a huge tournament and a huge amount of pressure," Mourinho said to the stunned-looking RT journalists in the whimsical clip. "We will show the world a great game-the greatest game."

Mourinho added in a statement that he was "very happy to join the team at RT" and share his insights into the five weeks of matches that kick off in Moscow

on June 14. The signing is set to give RT a ratings boost at a difficult time for the Kremlin-backed project that was launched in 2005 and originally called Russia Today.

RT has been dropped by a number of American TV providers after being wrapped up in the controversy surrounding the investigation into Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 US election. It was forced to register as a "foreign agent" by the US Justice Department in November for being part of "Russia's state-run propaganda machine"—a charge RT denies.

Russia forced nine smaller US media outlets to register as "foreign agents" in retaliation. RT has several foreign language services besides English and is particularly active on YouTube. It is also trying to expand further into Europe and in December launched a Paris-based French-language channel.

That decision came despite French President Emmanuel Macron labelling RT a spreader of "deceitful propaganda" in May 2017. RT Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan welcomed Mourinho into the fold.

"We continue to put together the RT dream team. Now we have a coach," she said. The channel already has two former Premier League players as presenters: ex-Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel and former Liverpool striker Stan Collymore.

RT has a history of hiring high-profile but controversial presenters. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange conducted his own show from inside Ecuador's London embassy in which he has been cooped up since 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden on sexual assault claims. RT currently airs programmes hosted by former British MP George Galloway and one-time Scottish Nationalist Party leader Alex Salmond. —AFP



## Business

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

**18** ABK-Egypt's net operating profit grows 206% to 511m EGY pounds**20** Trade war fears, Italian election buffet world shares**21** Boursa Kuwait highlights its journey at EFG Hermes annual conference

ZOUPIPING: A Chinese employee walks past red hot steel at a steel plant in Zouping in China's eastern Shandong province yesterday. — AFP

# Trump signals tariffs will go forward

## Germany warns protectionism is 'wrong path' for US

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Sunday signaled his intent to move forward with controversial tariffs on steel and aluminum imports that have sparked fears of a trade war. "We are on the losing side of almost all trade deals. Our friends and enemies have taken advantage of the US for many years. Our Steel and Aluminum industries are dead. Sorry, it's time for a change!" the president wrote on Twitter.

Earlier in the day, two Trump administration officials said the tariffs—25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum—would likely not include exemptions for allies. "I know he's had conversations with a number of the world leaders," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on ABC's "This Week." "The decision, obviously, is his. But as of the moment, as far as I know, he's talking about a fairly broad brush." In a subsequent interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Ross allowed for the possibility that Trump may yet change his mind, as he has on other issues.

"We shall see. We shall see. I know a lot of ministers from a lot of countries have been talking with the president. They have been talking with me. They have been talking with others. We'll see. The president makes the decisions," he said. Trump ignited fears of a trade war and an outcry from US trading partners when he abruptly announced plans for the tariffs. British Prime Minister Theresa May said she raised her "deep concern" over the tariffs in a phone call with Trump on Sunday, her office said. The European Union has said it

is drawing up measures against leading US brands like Harley-Davidson and Levi's jeans, while China warned it "won't sit idly by" if its interests are hurt.

### A 'rounding error'

Canada, which has the most to lose as the top source of US steel and aluminum imports, has called the tariffs "unacceptable." Ross, who said he expected them to go into effect in the coming week, played down the potential impact economic impact of retaliatory measures.

"Sure there may well be some sort of retaliation, but the amounts that they're talking about are also pretty trivial. "It's some \$3 billion of goods that the Europeans have threatened to put something on. Well, in our sized economy, that's a tiny, tiny fraction of one percent." "So while it might affect an individual producer for a little while, overall it's not going to be much more than a rounding error," he said. The move has been highly controversial among Republicans and within the administration, but Trump on Friday tweeted that "trade wars

are good, and easy to win."

Peter Navarro, a top White House trade advisor, said the administration would consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis but "no country exclusions." "As soon as you start exempting countries you have to raise the tariffs on everybody else. As soon as you exempt one country, then you have to exempt another country and so it's a slippery slope," he said on CNN's "State of the Union."

### German warning

The German government warned yesterday that a transatlantic trade war would harm both Europe and the US, urging Washington not to take a "wrong path" after a weekend of aggressive rhetoric.

"A trade war would not be in German, European or American

interests," Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters in Berlin after President Donald Trump at the weekend threatened to impose tariffs on car imports from the European Union.

"Closing oneself off and protectionism are the wrong path," Seibert said. "Such measures would inflict pain

on international trade flows and our industry, but above all hurt workers and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic."

French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday that the European Union must "react quickly" to US plans for tariffs on steel and aluminum imports which he said clearly breached global trade rules.

"I believe it is important for the EU to react quickly, within the framework of the WTO (World Trade Organization) and in a balanced manner," Macron said at a press conference.

He was it "clear that these (tariffs) would go against WTO rules." US President Donald Trump has said he wants to set tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum to protect US producers from what he calls unfair competition.

The plan has sparked an outcry among American allies such as Canada, the European Union, Mexico and Australia as well as China, the world's biggest steel producer. "Nationalism is a war where everyone loses," Macron said at a press conference with the visiting leader of Canadian province Quebec, Philippe Couillard. The European Commission has said it is drawing up retaliatory measures against leading US brands, such as Levi's jeans and Harley Davidson motorcycles. But Trump has shown little indication that he will back down, appearing to welcome the prospect of a trade war in a series of Twitter posts since last week. — AFP

## Days of tax cuts are finished in UK: Think-tank

LONDON: The days of tax cuts in Britain are over and the baby-boomer generation should prepare for higher wealth taxes to fund an inevitable surge in healthcare costs, the Resolution Foundation think tank said yesterday.

The new research showed spending on education, social security and above all health looks set to rise by 20 billion pounds (\$28 billion) a year in today's money by the end of the next decade and by 60 billion pounds a year by 2040. Britain has steadily brought down a budget deficit that stood at 10 percent of economic output in 2010 mostly through spending cuts for many government departments.

But many of the easier-to-make cuts to spending have already been made, putting pressure on the

government to consider raising more revenues through taxes. Finance minister Philip Hammond, who is due to deliver a half-yearly budget statement on March 13, has cut Britain's budget deficit faster than expected this financial year.

But the Resolution Foundation report showed the government will have its hands tied by rising public spending over the coming years. Most of the increase will be caused by spending on health as Britain's population ages - a demographic timebomb that means the "age of tax cuts is over", David Willetts, chair of the Resolution Foundation and a former Conservative government minister, said.

"The time has come when we boomers are going to have reach into our own pockets. The alternative could be an extra 15 (pence) on the basic rate of tax, paid largely by our kids." Baby-boomers are considered to be people who were born before the mid-1960s. Underlining why baby-boomers will need to shoulder more of the tax burden, the Resolution Foundation said millennials - born between 1981 and 2000 - spend more of their income on housing costs than any generation since the late 19th century. — Reuters

## China sets 2018 GDP target at 'around 6.5 %'

BEIJING: China set its 2018 economic growth target at "around 6.5 percent" yesterday, in line with expectations but lower than the 6.9 percent increase registered last year. The target, which is the same as last year, was presented by Premier Li Keqiang in a report for yesterday's opening session of the annual National People's Congress, the rubber-stamp parliament.

The figure, along with an inflation target of three percent, is "fitting given the fact that China's economy is transitioning from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development" and will allow the country to "achieve relatively full employment", the report said. China beat forecasts in 2017 as the world's second largest economy grew by 6.9 percent, picking up steam for the first time since 2010 despite a battle against massive debt and polluting factories.

Beijing has largely relied on debt-fueled investment and exports to drive its tremendous economic growth of the past four decades but it is now seeking to move to

more sustainable consumption-based growth.

In its report, the country vowed to "cut overcapacity, reduce excess inventory, deleverage, lower costs and strengthen areas of weakness". China will cut steel capacity by 30 million tons and coal by 150 million tons in 2018, according to the report. The country is also facing pressure to prevent a credit crisis, with local government debt growing 7.5 percent last year to \$2.56 trillion, according to figures in January.

"China's economics and financial risks are on the whole manageable," the report said. But it pledged to "see that internal risk controls are tightened in financial institutions," adding that Beijing plans to crack down on the kinds of financial shenanigans that have seen some of the country's largest corporations teetering on the brink of collapse in recent months.

"There will be a serious crackdown on activities that violate the law like illegal fundraising and financial fraud," it said. China has moved aggressively over the past year to slam the brakes on companies like private insurer Anbang, which ran up gargantuan debts to fund pricey overseas acquisitions.

Late last month, Beijing took over heavily leveraged Anbang, confirming some analysts' fears about the toxic levels of debt plaguing China's economy. The looming danger is just one of many strong headwinds the country faces as it attempts to achieve its GDP target this year. — AFP







Business

# Honda Alghanim to unveil all-new 2018 Accord at Marina Crescent on March 8

New Honda Accord 2018 named North American Car of the Year



**KUWAIT:** Honda Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Honda cars, motorcycles, Honda power products, and marine equipment in Kuwait, prepares to unveil the all-new 10th generation Honda Accord 2018 in an event that will be filled with fun activities and valuable prizes, and held on Thursday, March 8 at 7pm at the Marina Crescent in Salmiya.

Honda Alghanim invites Honda lovers and car enthusiasts to join the event in which it will showcase the completely redesigned and reengineered as well as technically and technologically-advanced 2018 Honda Accord, which has earned the car the prestigious 2018 North American Car of the Year award. The award, judged by professional automotive journalists from the United States and Canada, honors excellence in innovation, design, safety features, performance, technology, driver satisfaction and value.

Completely redesigned from the ground-up, the all-

new Accord was designed with a dramatically lower and wider appearance that creates a more aggressive and athletic stance, in addition to an enhanced performance, making it the most fun-to-drive, refined and fuel-efficient Accord.

**Exterior Design**

The new Accord design features a lower rooftop to give it a coupe look with four doors, as well as longer and lower engine hood, a shorter rear box, and sharp, curved sidelines giving the 10th generation Accord a more sporty and luxurious feel. The front of the car is designed to be wider with LED headlamps, while the fastback roof design improves by 3 percent.

**Interior Design**

Honda did not only focus on the exterior eye-catching design. It made large improvements and enhance-

ments to deliver an enjoyable driving experience and full view of the exterior. Seats were designed to be lower, adding to the sport feel of the car, and decreased the thickness of roof pillar by 20 percent to increase the driver's vision ability.

**Engines and Driving Experience**

The new Accord 2018 comes with a four-cylinder turbocharged engine, while it is as well the first front drive equipped with a 10-speed automatic transmission.

**Safety Features**

The most significant feature of the Accord is the CMBS radar sensor in the front grille which can sense a vehicle ahead of the driver. The system activates a warning beep, causes automatic application of the brakes and the e-pretensioners to tighten the front seat. This feature is just one many that will be revealed at the event.

Following the reveal event, customers can explore the new Honda Accord 2018 in Honda Alghanim's at its showrooms in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh areas.

Customers can take any of these cars on a test drive by visiting one of the two Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh. The Honda Alghanim showroom in Al-Rai area operates from 9 am to 10 pm, Saturday to Thursday, and from 9.30 am to 10 pm on Fridays. The Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9 am to 10 pm every day.

The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet, relaxing massage chairs a PlayStation 4 corner and more. The service center operates 7 days a week, from Saturday to Wednesday from 7.30 am to 8.30 pm, from 7.30 am to 6.30 pm on Thursdays, and from 2.00 pm to 7 m on Fridays.





Business

# Trade war fears buffet world shares

LONDON: World shares slipped for the fifth straight day yesterday and emerging markets weakened sharply, hit by the prospect of a global trade war and political instability in Europe after Italy's inconclusive weekend election. While most markets stabilized after sharp losses early in the day, assets considered low-risk - including gold, the yen and German bonds - remained in demand, with yields on the latter at the lowest in a month.

Recent events have again put equity markets, barely recovered from their February selloff, under a cloud. The European Union, Canada and China are among those threatening to retaliate with tit-for-tat duties if US President Donald Trump proceeds with hefty tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. Such a full-blown trade war could significantly damage company profits, equity returns and economic growth, all of which have benefited from the trade upswing of recent years. World shares have risen around 50 percent since early-2016.

Jitters grew further after Sunday's Italian election, where voters delivered a hung parliament, flocking to

anti-immigrant and euroskeptic parties in record numbers, potentially endangering stability and wider European integration. "There is nothing in the global set-up that's positive for equities at the moment especially as (share) prices are still out of whack with latest developments," said Salman Ahmed, chief investment strategist at Lombard Odier Investment Managers.

Wall Street, where the Dow Jones index fell 3 percent last week, was set to open weaker, futures indicated. While Italian stocks remained 1 percent lower at six-month lows, broader European markets reversed opening losses to rise 0.5 percent.

That left MSCI's all-country equity index marginally in the red, though emerging equities fell 0.7 percent, near three-week lows. Ahmed said developments in Italy represented a "a medium-to-small shock" with implications for asset prices, while the risk of trade war was a far bigger issue.

"Markets are not priced for trade wars and now you are also seeing a negative reaction to the US moves from Europe and Canada," he said.

"The major vulnerability is in emerging markets," he added, referring to the developing world's reliance on trade. Most emerging currencies weakened around 0.3-0.5 percent to the dollar. Export-reliant Asian bourses such as Hong Kong and Seoul closed 1-2 percent lower.

**Overshadowing Germany**

The growth concerns pushed investors towards Bunds, with 10-year German yields falling to nearly six-week lows. Gold likewise benefited from the turbulence, rising to one-week lows. Yields on 10-year Italian government bonds jumped 10 basis points at the open, reversing some of the gains they had enjoyed in the run-up to the election but they later clawed back some losses to trade 6.5 bps higher.

Yields on other lower-rated European bonds from Spain and Portugal also were up on the day. Investors noted Italy had overshadowed positive news from Germany where Social Democrats on Sunday decisively backed forming a coalition government with

Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, ending a five-month stalemate.

Also, unlike past crises as in 2012, Europe's robustly growing economy was seen mitigating some political risks.

"Investors still believe that politics appear less likely to upset the apple cart than only a year ago and Eurozone growth could be hitting three percent this year," said John Taylor, fixed income portfolio manager at Alliance Bernstein in London. The euro which earlier in the day fell 0.7 percent to six-month lows versus the yen, erased some losses to stand 0.2 percent lower by 1200 GMT while against the dollar too, it rose to trade flat. The dollar meanwhile rose slightly off one-week lows against a basket of currencies and stayed a touch off November 2016 lows plumed versus the yen immediately after Trump's trade threats last week. Dollar traders might hold fire, however, until this Friday's US jobs data, the very dataset which triggered a selloff at the end of January by stoking expectations of faster rate rises by the Federal Reserve. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Monday, March 05, 2018						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing			
Price Index	▲ 38.37	6,805.91	6,767.54			
Weighted Index	▼ -0.03	413.82	413.85			
KSX 15	▼ -0.10	956.34	956.44			
				Volume	63,894,783	
				Value (KWD)	9,108,998	
				Number of Trades	2,680	
Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480 ▲ 0.8
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	813 ▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	27.5	27.5	500	14	2	27.5 ▲ 0.0
GPI	28.9	28.5	194,300	5,577	11	28.9 ▼ -0.2
ABAR	85	84	134,014	11,387	3	85 ▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>328,814</b>	<b>16,978</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>979.58 ▼ -0.0</b>
KFOUC	229	229	100	23	1	229 ▲ 8.0
BPCC	705	705	46,836	33,019	9	705 ▲ 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680 ▲ 0.0
ALOURAIN	337	337	74,159	24,992	7	337 ▼ -3.9
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>121,095</b>	<b>58,034</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1306.43 ▲ 3.90</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	448 ▲ 0.0
CABLE	410	405	104,895	42,645	13	405 ▼ -5.0
SHIP	203	200	20,484	4,100	6	203 ▲ 1.0
PCEM	1,043	1,042	19,500	20,336	6	1,043 ▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 ▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 ▲ 0.0
ADICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 ▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96 ▲ 0.0
NOBIM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194 ▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	35.9	35.0	11,400	400	4	35.9 ▲ 0.1
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72 ▲ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95 ▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	50	46.0	8,500	406	4	50 ▼ -2.0
ADLY	853	851	214,697	182,970	22	852 ▼ -2.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	302 ▲ 0.0
CLEANING	64	60	234,610	14,663	14	64 ▼ -1.0
KOL	109	104	1,891,400	199,646	118	105 ▼ -4.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160 ▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,000	3,795	201,905	779,694	84	3,900 ▲ 105.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 ▲ 0.0
SHOOTING	18.3	17.8	255,091	4,583	7	18.3 ▲ 0.5
CCG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	474 ▲ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96 ▲ 0.0
UPAC	700	690	6,916	4,793	5	690 ▼ -20.0
ALAFPO	375	371	29,504	11,056	5	375 ▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	71	70	401,000	28,300	19	70 ▼ -1.0
LOGISTICS	54	53	1,043,002	56,048	96	53 ▼ -0.8
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80 ▲ 0.0
GCEN	82	82	92,620	7,586	3	82 ▲ 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82 ▲ 0.0
FCEN	73	73	13,333	973	1	73 ▼ -2.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83 ▲ 0.0
SPCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 ▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>4,548,839</b>	<b>1,387,210</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>1889.43 ▲ 12.30</b>
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80 ▲ 0.0
CATL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	224 ▲ 0.0
DANAH	74	73	392,701	26,971	17	74 ▲ 0.2
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,004 ▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>392,701</b>	<b>28,971</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>817.90 ▲ 1.08</b>
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100 ▲ 0
YACD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	125 ▲ 0
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1381.79 ▲ 0.00</b>
KCIN	1,052	1,051	1,001	1,053	5	1,051 ▼ -3
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	197 ▲ 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67 ▲ 0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	15.5 ▲ 0
IFHR	155	155	962	154	1	155 ▲ 6
OULAFUEL	115	114	9,573	1,101	8	115 ▲ 1
MUNTAZAHAT	70	70	150	11	2	70 ▲ 1
HAZERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	899 ▲ 0
SOOR	114	114	26,895	3,066	10	114 ▲ 0
FUTUREKD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110 ▲ 0
ALRAI	118	118	20,000	2,360	2	118 ▲ 0
Jykel	86	84	2,102,386	179,029	171	86 ▲ 2
Meezan	800	798	119,133	95,201	18	800 ▲ 2
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>2,286,130</b>	<b>281,874</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>863.02 ▲ 5.40</b>
ZAIN	469	467	830,874	389,180	131	467 ▼ -2
OOREDOO	1,021	1,020	4,651	4,744	8	1,020 ▼ -16
AAN	21.8	20.5	1,462,485	30,705	32	21.6 ▲ 1
VIVA	765	761	27,897	21,271	44	761 ▼ -3
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>2,325,907</b>	<b>445,900</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>533.07 ▼ -1.40</b>
NBK	777	772	1,513,809	1,172,278	92	778 ▲ 3
GBK	250	250	1,167,632	291,508	47	250 ▲ 0
CBK	457	453	4,057	1,839	5	453 ▼ -4
ABK	310	310	450,000	139,500	7	310 ▲ 0
ALMUTAHED	338	337	51,869	17,450	7	337 ▼ -1
KIS	234	234	501,000	117,234	12	234 ▼ -1
BURG	292	288	667,840	194,058	80	288 ▼ -4
KFIN	590	587	1,813,697	1,067,130	124	588 ▼ -1
BOUBAYAN	487	477	945,370	457,404	63	487 ▲ 1
AUB	218	216	1,960,850	429,773	90	216 ▼ -1
ITHMR	41.7	40.0	7,158,131	293,198	185	41.8 ▼ 0
WARSABANK	244	242	1,155,187	260,459	72	242 ▼ -2
<b>Banks</b>			<b>17,410,242</b>	<b>4,461,231</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>945.81 ▼ -2.30</b>
KNS	290	290	482	143	1	290 ▲ 0
GNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	686 ▲ 0.0
ANS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	510 ▲ 0.0
WNS	60	59	32,085	1,906	8	59 ▼ -0.9
KUWATRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192 ▲ 0.0
FTI	62	62	1,000	62	1	62 ▲ 1.2
WETHAG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.8 ▲ 0.0
BKHW	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	356 ▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>33,578</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1028.79 ▲ 1.30</b>
SOKOUC	45.0	44.4	611,775	27,236	12	45.0 ▲ 0.8
KRE	53	52	609,800	31,818	23	53 ▲ 0.3
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74 ▲ 0.0
NRE	117	114	96,450	11,156	10	117 ▲ 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	342 ▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	399 ▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160 ▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.9 ▲ 0.0
ARABREC	35.9	34.0	1,011,850	35,451	12	35.9 ▲ 2.0
ERESCO	35.0	34.5	20,000	694	3	34.5 ▲ 0.0
MABANEE	730	720	37,434	27,020	10	722 ▼ -5.0
INJAZZAT	91	87	1,100	96	2	91 ▼ -0.1
INVESTORS	16.1	15.3	3,196,973	50,072	64	15.6 ▲ 0.4
IRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.5 ▲ 0.0
ALTUARSA	91	91	140,955	12,827	9	91 ▲ 0.0
SANAM	32.0	32.0	5,000	160	1	32.0 ▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75 ▲ 0.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75 ▲ 0.0
ALAQARIA	28.0	27.0	81,057	1,649	3	28.0 ▼ -0.3
MAZAYA	110	109	3,921,794	427,502	41	109 ▲ 0.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 ▲ 0.0
TAAAMEER	29.0	28.5	16,030	457	5	28.5 ▲ 0.9
ARKAN	88	86	46,000	3,976	5	88 ▲ 1.2
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160 ▲ 0.0
ABYAAH	20.4	19.2	3,438,429	68,022	70	20.0 ▲ 0.3
MUNSHAAT	80	78	478,343	37,927	15	80 ▲ 0.0
FIRSTDUBAI	49.0	46.1	85,000	3,949	4	49.0 ▲ 2.5
KBT	53	52	2,848,641	150,957	81	53 ▲ 0.6
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,872 ▲ 0.0
MENA	30.4	28.0	119,991	3,521	9	29.0 ▼ -1.0
ALMUDON	37.2	36.0	39,900	1,458	5	37.0 ▼ -2.8
MARAJEZ	33.5	27.5	7,810	247	8	31.8 ▼ -0.9
REMAL	38.9	37.0	85,008	3,255	8	38.7 ▼ -2.3
Mashar	58	58	1	0	1	58 ▲ 0.4
<b>Real Estate</b>			<b>16,877,341</b>	<b>899,448</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>1188.88 ▲ 4.80</b>
KINV	143	142	391,684	55,621	20	143 ▲ 1.0
FACIL	182	180	379,396	68,407	11	180 ▼ -2.0
IFA	27.7	27.0	2,819,750	76,664	59	27.0 ▼ -1.2
NINV	99	96	220,026	21,465	10	99 ▲ 0.8
KPRDJ	300	299	7,400	2,215	4	300 ▼ -3.0
COAST	32.5	32.0	391,250	12,672	14	32.0 ▲ 0.0
SECH						



Business

# Boursa Kuwait highlights its journey at EFG Hermes annual conference

## Al-Khaled urges market players to adapt to new realities

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait recently participated in EFG HERMES' 14th annual one-on-one conference 2018 hosted in Dubai from 5 to 7 March 2018, titled 'Shifting Benchmarks'.

Attended by representatives of leading companies and financial institutions from across the MENA region, the conference presented a regional outlook of the financial markets, highlighting the global dynamic shifting driven by China and other frontier and emerging markets.

The first day of the conference started with a welcome note by Karim Awad, Group CEO of EFG Hermes Holding, followed by the panel discussion which has witnessed the participation of Khaled Abdulrazaq Al-Khaled, CEO of Boursa Kuwait, who made a case for the impact of effective operations of capital markets on the economic growth, particularly in times of monumental global changes that require all players to adapt to new realities. The conference was also attended by representatives of "Tadawul" the Saudi Stock Exchange, the Egyptian Stock Exchange and Dubai Financial Market, as well as representatives of Capital Market Authorities from Kuwait, Egypt, KSA and UAE.



### Conference titled 'Shifting Benchmarks' held in Dubai

Middle East Investors Relation Association (MEIRA), in an effort to enhance relations between local and foreign investors within Boursa Kuwait and listed companies.

Another upcoming project of Boursa Kuwait which will enhance the conditions of the Kuwaiti market and increase liquidity, according to CEO Al-Khaled, is its segmented market. Al-Khaled stressed on the importance of taking a comprehensive approach, a conscious organization and a futuristic vision, which is reflected in the gradual approach Boursa Kuwait commenced in the transformation of the stock exchange through prudent stages, which ultimately aims to enhance the position of the exchange and develop its operations.

Initiated as part of the reforms to support the growth of the Kuwaiti economy, the transformation of Kuwait stock exchange from government owned to a shareholding company, marked the beginning of an unrivaled transition. Boursa Kuwait has set out bringing the exchange up to par with the world's leading exchanges. The past 22 months have seen the introduction of a new infrastructure along with new products and tools, aimed at creating a

robust, transparent and accessible capital market that services all relevant asset classes.

Among the achievements of Boursa Kuwait is the launch of the Interim Post Trade Model (IPTM), which includes unifying the Settlement Cycle to T+3, Corporate Actions, New Tick Sizes, Increased Price Limits, and Randomized Closing Auction for the first time in Kuwait, the second phase of market development and publishing a new rulebook containing regulations and guidelines for listed companies, are only a few examples of the great accomplishments made by Boursa Kuwait to date, with the ongoing support and back up of Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority as well as Kuwait Clearing Company.

During the conference Karim Awad, Group CEO of EFG Hermes Holding, said: "I strongly believe that this year's conference was held at an ideal time, as it coincides with the company's plan to expand into new markets and the evolution of its network, to include international clients that are interested in exploring the attractive growth opportunities within the emerging markets".



DUBAI: EFG HERMES' 14th annual one-on-one conference 2018 in Dubai.

"This year's edition of the conference is also very important given the current outlook on emerging markets, which indicates that these markets will be the focus of investors in 2018, due to the rapid economic growth, unique demographics and the growth of the middle class, considering it is the main driver of the consumer sectors," added Awad.

The conference also featured 'EFG Hermes Pulse', the world's largest ever electronic survey on the views of international investors and corporate leaders on emerging markets and key issues of interest to the business community and investment in emerging markets.

Boursa Kuwait also participated in the conference, by exhibiting its newly introduced products and services, and took the opportunity to interact with attendees through a dedicated booth at the venue.



DUBAI: Khaled Abdulrazaq Al-Khaled, CEO of Boursa Kuwait speaks at EFG HERMES' 14th annual one-on-one conference 2018 in Dubai.

## Iconic Nissan 370Z NISMO launched in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** The 2018 Nissan 370Z NISMO has launched in Kuwait for the first time, as part of the global automaker's continued drive to bring tuned, high-performance NISMO models to the market. With a 3.7-liter V6 engine and 350 brake horsepower, the powerful 370Z NISMO is an iconic car that is set to be another favorite choice among enthusiasts throughout the Kuwait.

NISMO, which is Nissan's motorsport and road car performance range, was introduced regionally in 2015 with the launch of the Nissan Patrol NISMO - an instant fan favourite has seen wide success throughout the region. Following that, the legendary Nissan GT-R NISMO was rolled out in the Middle East the following year.

Kalyana Sivagnanam, President for Middle East & Regional Vice President for Africa, Middle East and India, Nissan, commented: "The introduction of the Nissan 370Z NISMO is a reflection of our continuous commitment to bringing Nissan's most hi-spec and hi-tech cars to the Middle East region. NISMO models are incredibly popular throughout these markets, and we are pleased to be offering yet another impressive NISMO-tuned car to our loyal customers and fans here. The Middle East market is a major focus for us, and we will continue to adapt our most in-demand cars for the region."

The 2018 370Z NISMO is powered by a 3.7-liter DOHC V6 engine with Variable Valve Event and Lift Control (VVEL). The advanced powerplant is rated at 350 bhp at 7,400 rpm and 276 lb-ft of torque at 5,200 rpm.

The VVEL system optimizes intake valve open/close movements, ensuring that airflow to the combustion chamber is both efficient and precise. The 370Z NISMO's enhanced engine power and acceleration applies an exclusive H-configured exhaust system design and muffler tuning, along with optimized ECM (Engine Control Module) calibration.

The 370Z NISMO boasts a true motorsport look and feel throughout the driver-centric two-seat cabin, complete with black and red Recaro leather-appointed seats with Alcantara accents that ensure the NISMO theme throughout. Designed with Recaro specifically for the 370Z NISMO, the seats provide a more uniform body pressure and better all-direction holding during spirited acceleration, braking and cornering.

Prices per market will be revealed at their respective launches and will vary from market to market.

### NISMO-styled Interior

The interior features red seat trim and stitching with NISMO logo, an Alcantara-appointed leather-wrapped steering



wheel and NISMO red tachometer. The tachometer and speedometer include an "initial sweep" function, coming alive when the 370Z NISMO is first started.

Like all Nissan 370Z interiors, the layout is built around a deeply scooped instrument panel with a full-length center console separating the driver and passenger's seat. In the rear is an open cargo area with easy accessibility. The instrument panel includes a 3-pod cluster with oil temperature, voltmeter and clock, power windows with one-touch auto up/down function, power door locks with auto-lock feature and automatic climate control. Other interior details include a smooth leather-wrapped shift knob and aluminum-trimmed pedals.

Standard interior comfort and convenience features include Nissan Intelligent Key with Push Button Start, Bose in-dash AM/FM/CD/AUX 8-speaker audio system, two subwoofers with illuminated steering wheel-mounted controls, USB/iPod interface and Bluetooth Hands-free Phone System.

Advanced Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) and Active Sound Enhancement (ASE) systems are standard on the 370Z NISMO. The ANC system generates cancelling sound to remove undesirable low frequency engine noise while preserving invigorating sounds of engine performance, providing a more "pure" sound. The system is also utilized on the Nissan GT-R. The ASE enhances natural engine sounds to help bolster the driver's acceleration experience.

ward to increased affordability and satisfaction while using any of their credit cards to purchase British Airways tickets.

With the aim of continuously adding value to its customers through seasonal offers and benefits, travelers can now book via [www.ba.com/burganbank](http://www.ba.com/burganbank) to enjoy a premium experience and journey to any destination of their choice.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the

### Advanced 350-Horsepower

The 370Z NISMO is fitted with a refined 7-speed automatic with Downshift Rev Matching (DRM), Adaptive Shift Control and manual shift mode with paddle shifters.

The standard 370Z Coupe double-wishbone front/4-link rear suspension design suspension is specially tuned for the 370Z NISMO, offering exceptional handling - including higher spring and stabilizer bar rates and increased roll stiffness and front and rear damping factors, as well as a 0.6-inch wider track width (compared to non-NISMO models). The 2018 370Z NISMO also features a tight, rigid body structure with a strut tower bar brace and a pair of performance dampers, which quickly and efficiently react to help control body vibrations from road input via the tires, contributing to the 370Z NISMO model's outstanding handling and performance feel.

The 370Z NISMO's long list of standard safety and security features includes the Nissan Advanced Air Bag System (AABS) with dual-stage supplemental front air bags with seat belt sensors and occupant classification sensor; front seat-mounted side impact supplemental air bags; roof-mounted curtain side-impact supplemental air bags; seat belts with pretensioners and load limiters, Zone Body Construction with front and rear crumple zones, Nissan Vehicle Immobilizer System, Vehicle Security System and Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).

Along with the 370Z NISMO, the 2018 Nissan 370Z is available in four 370Z Coupe and three 370Z Roadster models.

MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

## Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah daily draws



**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 4 March 2018 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 27 February - 01 March 2018. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

### The winners are:

(Tuesday 27/02): Kawthar Mahmoud Ahmad Khajah, Yaseen Mohamed Hasan Bloushi.

(Wednesday 28/02): Suood Abdulaziz Suood Alsabti, Sami Bader Hamad Alomar.

(Thursday 01/03): Bader Khaled Hamed Alhadlq, Mohammed Sayad Khan Farhad.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2018 draw lineup includes daily draws (two winners per working day each receive KD 1000). Al-Danah's first quarterly draw for the prize of KD 200,000 will be held on 28 March, the second quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 27 June and the third quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 26 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 10 January 2019 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

## Burgan Bank renews its partnership with British Airways

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank is pleased to announce the renewal of its agreement with British Airways which is one of the leading airlines in the world. Burgan Bank credit card holders will save up to 10 percent on all British Airways tickets. Through this renewed partnership, Burgan Bank customers can look for-





## Technology

# US blasts off satellite to boost weather forecasts

## Taking some of the most vivid pictures of weather, climate and oceans

**MIAMI:** A new US satellite that offers speedy, high-resolution images of storms and may save lives by making forecasts more accurate blasted off from a NASA launchpad. "Three, two, one and liftoff!" said a NASA commentator as the Atlas V rocket rumbled into the blue sky at 5:02 pm (2202 GMT) over Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, carrying the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-S (GOES-S).

GOES-S is the latest in a series of advanced weather satellites owned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Its predecessor, GOES-R, launched in November 2016 and has already helped improve forecasts of last year's monster hurricanes in the Atlantic and Caribbean, Harvey, Maria and Irma, experts say. Stephen Volz, director for satellite and information services at NOAA, said GOES-R has "revolutionized" the way people view weather and environmental information and the entire constellation presents "a quantum leap above" prior generations.

GOES-R, which was renamed GOES-16 upon reaching orbit, "it is already proving to be a game-changer with much more refined, higher quality data for faster, more accurate weather forecasts, warnings and alerts," Volz said. "This means quite frankly more lives are saved and better environmental information is made available for state and local officials who, for example,

may need to make decisions about when to call for evacuations when life-threatening storms and wildfires occur." GOES-S will be renamed GOES-17 once it reaches space, and will "provide faster, more accurate data for tracking wildfires, tropical cyclones, fog and other storm systems and hazards that threaten the western United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, Mexico, Central America and the Pacific Ocean, all the way to New Zealand," NOAA said in a statement.

### 'Most sophisticated ever flown'

The satellite should help improve forecasts for storms forming in the Pacific, and allow experts to see storms churning in high resolution. The primary customer for the data from the GOES satellites is the US Weather Service, but the information they beam to Earth is also shared openly with meteorologists around the world, NOAA said. "These satellites are giving us the ability to look at

storms as often as every 30 seconds, allowing forecasters to see storms as they are developing instead of as they have already taken place," said Tim Walsh, acting GOES-R system program director at NOAA.

"The advanced baseline imager, the ABI, is taking some of the most vivid pictures of weather, climate and oceans in the western hemisphere that we have ever seen," he added. After it launches, GOES-S will

### Three, two, one and liftoff



**CAPE CANAVERAL:** This NASA photo released on March 1, 2018 shows the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-S) as it sits on the launch pad at Space Launch Complex 41, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. —AFP

undergo six months of tests, then be operational late 2018. Two more are scheduled for launch in the coming years: GOES-T in 2020 and GOES-U 2024. "Coupled with the use of our Japanese partner's

advanced Himawari satellite, we are able to cover more than half the planet with the most sophisticated weather forecast technology and observations ever flown from space," Volz said. —AFP

## EU aims to increase tax on Internet giants

**PARIS:** The EU will soon unveil a plan for taxing major Internet companies like Amazon and Facebook by imposing a levy of two to six percent on revenues in every country where they operate, French finance minister Bruno Le Maire said Sunday. "The range will be from two to six percent; but closer to two than to six," Le Maire told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper.

The European Commission has said it will present by end March an overhaul of its tax rules, which currently allow US digital economy giants to report their income from across the bloc in any member state. That leads them to pick low-tax nations like Ireland, the Netherlands or Luxembourg, depriving other nations of their share of the revenue even though they may account for more of a company's earnings. "The heads of these companies know themselves that this system can't continue," Le Maire said.

Critics say the tax-avoidance strategies used by the tech titans known as GAFAM—Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple—deprive EU governments of billions of euros while giving them an unfair advantage over smaller rivals. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development says such strategies cost governments around the world as much as \$240 billion (195 billion euros) a year in lost revenue, according to a 2015 estimate.

Asked if the proposed rate might be criticised as too low, Le Maire said: "I would rather have a law that can be implemented quickly instead of drawn-out negotiations." American tech giants appear to believe the European tax revamp is in the cards, with several already announcing pledges to pay more in each country where they operate as governments step up their fiscal demands. Amazon said last month that it had settled a major tax claim in France and that it would start declaring all its earnings in the country. —AFP

## Microchip Technology buys rival for \$8.3bn

**WASHINGTON:** Microchip Technology Inc. said Thursday it was buying semiconductor rival Microsemi Corporation for \$8.3 billion—in a deal bringing together two firms in chips for data centers, smart appliances, and aerospace and defense applications. The boards of both firms approved the deal, worth more than \$10 billion including Microsemi's cash and assets. The transaction is subject to California-based Microsemi shareholder approval and is expected to close in the first half of this year.

"Microchip and Microsemi have a strong tradition of delivering innovative solutions to demanding customers and markets," said Ganesh Moorthy, president of Arizona-based Microchip. The combined firm could have more than \$5 billion in annual revenues and a strong presence in chips and controllers for medical devices, smart home appliances and for military-grade and aerospace hardware. It comes amid a bruising battle between two other chipmakers, as Singapore-based Broadcom seeks to buy US-based Qualcomm in a hostile bid worth an estimated \$117 billion. —AFP

## Beware of replicating sexism in AI: Experts

**BARCELONA:** Artificial intelligence could emulate human bias, including sexism, if there is no oversight on data used to create it, experts at the world's largest mobile phone fair in Barcelona warned Thursday. "We're all very aware the machines will learn the same bias as those who coded them," Emma McGuigan, in charge of technology at consultants Accenture, said at the Mobile World Congress.

AI is the science of programming machines or computers to reproduce human processes, like learning and decision making. Julie Woods-Moss, chief innovation officer at Indian mobile operator Tata Communications, said that in order to do this, a large amount of human-led data was needed. "We have to be very careful that we don't encourage AI to be biased," she said, calling on professionals in the sector to find ways to identify these biases.

Woods-Moss said there should be ways to "consciously look for this bias—for instance if you start seeing patterns that say 'man is the doctor' or 'woman is the nurse'." She also criticised the fact that "most personal assistants are female," giving as an example in cars, the underlying assumption is that the driver is a man and will want to hear a female voice on the GPS device. Most of these devices work thanks to artificial intelligence, analysing conversations by their users to be able to respond.

Amazon's virtual assistant, named Alexa, "has only recently joined the hashtag MeToo," said Woods-Moss, referring to the movement launched on social media to encourage women to make public any sexual assault or harassment against them. "Before, if you would call the assistant a horrible sexually explicit

## Japan car giants team up to build hydrogen stations

**TOKYO:** Top Japanese carmakers said yesterday they were teaming up to nearly double the amount of hydrogen stations in Japan, as the car-mad country seeks to head off competition from China and Germany. Toyota, Nissan and Honda formed a joint venture with major gas and energy companies, including French industrial gases company Air Liquide, to build 80 new hydrogen stations in the next four years, to add to the 101 stations currently in Japan. "At this stage, we



**MAURE-DE-BRETAGNE:** French farmer Nathalie Mace poses for photographer at her farm in Maure-de-Bretagne, western France on February 20, 2018. Farmers, co-managers or employees, women, long relegated to the background behind their husbands, are now at the forefront, giving a more modern image of the peasant world. —AFP

name, it would reply 'thank you for the feedback.' Now Alexa says 'I am not responding to that.'" Lisa Wang, founder of SheWorx, a financing platform for female entrepreneurs, said that over 90 percent of those creating AI technology "are still men."

"That ultimately is going to amplify the biases of the people who are creating it," she said. According to a 2016 report by the World Economic Forum, just 19 percent of workers in the mobile technology

industry were women. Highlighting worries about the issue, the American Civil Liberties Union last year started looking into concerns that machines are showing signs of hidden racial or gender bias. The MWC in Barcelona wrapped up on Thursday with organisers saying attendance figures were similar to last year's fair despite simmering tensions over the Catalonia region's failed bid to break from Spain. —AFP

believe there is significant space for cooperation, rather than searching for areas of competition," Shigeki Terashi, Toyota executive vice president told reporters. The new venture — "Japan H2 Mobility" or "JHyM" — comes as the world's top economies rush to issue tougher environmental regulations that are spurring development of new clean cars and trucks. Japan has focused on promoting fuel-cells, which combine hydrogen and oxygen in an electrochemical reaction, producing clean electricity to power vehicles or home generators. But fuel-cell vehicles cannot get off the ground without a network of hydrogen stations, and vice versa, and the chicken-and-egg dilemma has stalled the roll-out of the technology, say industry professionals.

Hydrogen stations and fuel cell vehicles must be promoted in tandem in order to lower their cost, executives said. "Unless infrastructure makers team up, new hydrogen sta-

tions tend to be concentrated in urban areas," said Hideki Sugawara, president of the new firm. "In order to maximize the demand for FCVs (fuel cell vehicles), we have to expand geographically," he said.

The 101 hydrogen stations serve around 2,400 fuel-cell cars in Japan, according to official data, but a lack of viable stations has been a major hurdle for carmakers as they seek to boost production. The Japanese government and the auto industry aim to introduce 160 stations and 40,000 fuel-cell vehicles by March 2020.

The government is also pushing to deregulate the sector to lower costs. Toyota launched the Mirai, the world's first mass-market hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle, in late 2014 as it looked to push further into the fast-growing market for environmentally friendly cars. Nissan and Honda also have their version of fuel-cell projects. —AFP

## America's missile defense technology not ready for hypersonic threats

**WASHINGTON:** Russian President Vladimir Putin's claim to have developed a new generation of missile that is impervious to any Western shield has highlighted a gap in America's already imperfect missile-defense network. In a national address Thursday, Putin described several advances in missile technology, including a hypersonic weapon that can fly at many times the speed of sound and evade existing missile-defense systems. While experts are deeply skeptical about how close to operational such a mis-

sile might actually be, US officials in recent weeks have sounded growing alarm about the potential threat.

Hypersonic weapons under development by Russia and China—as well as by the United States—can beat regular anti-missile defenses as they are designed to switch direction in flight and do not follow a predictable arc like conventional missiles, making them much harder to track and intercept. Gary Pennett, director of operations at the Missile Defense Agency, said the potential deployment by America's rivals of hypersonic weapons—which could be launched from planes, ships or submarines and carry either nuclear or conventional payloads—would create a "significant" gap in US sensor and missile interceptor capabilities.

"The key challenge to US national security and the security of US friends and allies is the emergence of new threats designed to defeat the existing" ballistic missile defense system, Pennett said recently. In its proposed \$9.9 billion requested budget for 2019, the MDA is asking for \$120 million to develop hypersonic missile defenses, a big increase from the \$75 million in fiscal 2018. Still, the Pentagon on

Thursday brushed off Putin's boast of developing "invincible" missiles, claiming the United States was fully prepared for anything that might come its way.

"We are not surprised by (Putin's) statement, and the American people should rest assured that we are fully prepared," Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said Russia has been developing "destabilizing weapon systems" for over a decade in direct violation of obligations to non-proliferation treaties.

### No effective defenses

But despite the Pentagon's claims, America is far from capable of stopping all types of missile attack, a fact it has lived with since the Cold War. While it has had some limited success in developing interceptors capable of stopping one or two missiles from a rogue regime like North Korea, a barrage of nukes from Russia or anywhere else would be unstoppable and trigger the "mutually assured destruction" of both nations. —AFP



Health

# Girding for new battles in the war against Big Tobacco

## Single most deadly consumer product ever made

PARIS: Some 3,000 anti-tobacco experts and policy makers convening this week in Cape Town, South Africa confront an industry flush with profits and determined to expand the market for its deadly product. The 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, meeting from March 7 to 9, will review the latest research on e-cigarettes, debate which policies best blunt tobacco sales, and take stock of worrying trends across the developing world. The name of the conference, "Tobacco OR Health", leaves no room for doubt: you can't have both.

"The cigarette is the single most deadly consumer product ever made," said Ruth Malone, a professor at the University of California's San Francisco School of Nursing and editor-in-chief of the Tobacco Control journal. Tobacco claims nearly seven million lives yearly from cancer and other lung diseases, and accounts for about one-in-10 deaths worldwide, a million in China alone, according to the World Health Organization.

Even as the percentage of adults who smoke has dropped in rich nations and plateaued in some emerging ones, the total number of smokers keeps climbing, driven by an expanding global population and more people in poor countries lighting up. The industry sells 5.5 trillion cigarettes last year to nearly a billion smokers, generating some \$700 billion (570 billion euros) in sales. "The fact remains that one out of every four men still smoke, as do one out every 20 women," Emmanuela Gakidou, a researcher at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, told AFP.

### 'Tobacco epidemic'

What the WHO calls a "tobacco epidemic" eats up one trillion dollars in healthcare expenses and lost productivity every year. But the United Nations, governments, NGOs and activists have not stood by idly. The 180-nation Framework Convention on Tobacco

Control, the only treaty negotiated under the WHO, lays out actions for curbing supply and demand. Measures include higher prices and taxes, laws to curb smoking in public places, graphic labeling on the dangers of tobacco, banning advertising, and programs to help people quit. "The single most effective measure to reduce tobacco use is to increase the price of tobacco products, through taxation or pricing," Kelley Lee, a policy expert at

"The tobacco industry has learned to wield extensive political influence to survive, and even thrive, despite producing and marketing a product that kills half of its regular customers," said Lee. "There is no easy way to challenge such a powerful industry given its deep pockets." Indeed, experts express concern about several developments in the last few years.

One is the aggressive expansion of state-run tobacco monopolies in East Asia. "The global market share of the new emerging-especially Asian-tobacco companies is growing rapidly," said Jappe Eckhardt, a professor at the University of York in England. Japan Tobacco International, he said, morphed in less than a decade from a domestically oriented company to a major multinational. "Our research shows that Korea is going to follow suit," with Taiwan and Indonesia not far behind, he told AFP.

### Jury still out on e-cigarettes

"And China's national company"—the largest in the world, with a 42 percent market share of cigarettes sold—"is poised to dwarf all existing companies in the foreseeable future." Another hot topic at the conference will be e-cigarettes, which has caused a "sharp division" in the public health community, said Lee. "Given how relatively new these products are, we just don't have the data on their long-term health impacts," Lee told AFP.

The jury is still out, she said, on whether vaping is a "gateway" to combustible smoking, and may be dangerous in itself. Big Tobacco has invested heavily in electronic cigarettes. In the meantime, industry has opened up a legal front in the war over tobacco, launching dozens of lawsuits against governments on every continent trying to enact anti-smoking laws. In one recent case, Philip Morris sued the government of Uruguay, claiming that its packaging laws violated an investment treaty with Switzerland. —AFP



One out of every four men still smoke

Simpson Fraser University in British Columbia, told AFP.

Australia, Canada, France, Britain and other European countries have also pushed through laws requiring logo-free, plain packaging dominated by graphic images such as rotted teeth and throats wasted by cancer. Cities around the world have banned smoking in public places, including Shanghai last year. Health advocates say these efforts have saved 35 million lives over the last decade.

### Asian tobacco giants

At the same time, however, they have barely dented industry profits. British American Tobacco—the largest publically-traded tobacco company in the world after the takeover last year of Reynolds American—raked in 5.2 billion pounds (5.8 billion euros, \$7.2 billion) in profits in 2016. The shares of all major listed tobacco companies soared in 2017.



HAVANA: Workers at a cigar factory select tobacco leaves.—AFP

## S Africa begins meat recall as listeriosis toll rises

JOHANNESBURG: South African supermarkets began a mass recall Sunday of meat products made at a facility that health officials say was the source of a listeriosis outbreak that has killed 180 since January 2017. Listeriosis is caused by a bacteria found in soil, water, vegetation and animal feces, and can contaminate food, especially fresh meat, dairy and seafood. It is prevented by basic hygiene and washing food.

The country's second largest supermarket chain, Pick n Pay, said it had "acted immediately to withdraw all products from the manufacturing sites identified by the Department of Health". "All fridges and food preparation areas in our stores will now be re-cleaned to prevent any cross-contamination. Recalled meat is being isolated and will be safely destroyed," Pick n Pay, which has 1,420 stores in South Africa, said in a statement. It warned that "a very broad range of retailers" could be affected.

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi earlier revealed that the current outbreak began at a facility run by Enterprise foods in Polokwane, the capital of northeastern Limpopo province.—AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE

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

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## What's On

# Ooredoo organizes PR and Media Workshop for AUK students



Ooredoo Kuwait organized a workshop for students of Dr. Eqbal Al-Haddad's Mass Communications Class from the American University of Kuwait last week, giving them a comprehensive overview and training on public relations and advertising campaigns. More than 30 students attended the workshop, which was hosted in Ooredoo Kuwait's head office.

Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Manager of Public Relations and Internal Communication Fatemah Dashti reiterated the Ooredoo's commitment to supporting youth and empowering them to reach their potential, lauding the collaboration with an esteemed academic entity such as the

American University of Kuwait. She added, "We are honored to present students with this opportunity, which we hope would help them implement their academic knowledge with the requirements of their profession. Additionally, we hope this workshop helped give them a glimpse into the day-to-day tasks on the job, especially in a sector that is highly competitive and fast-paced like the telecom sector in Kuwait."

The students were given an overview of the operations of Ooredoo Kuwait, before getting detailed presentations about public relations and advertising. The presentations included PR Campaigns, presented by Public Relations Manager Nazem Al-Ghabra, fol-

lowed by a session on PR Writing presented by PR and Internal Communications Senior Manager Fatemah Dashti. The Advertising Department gave an overview of advertising campaigns presented by Naser Alabdullah, Senior Marketing Specialist, and a presentation on Media Planning by Talal Al-Fassam, Marketing Manager.

The students were invited to participate in Ooredoo Kuwait's internal weekly activity, the Happy Thursday event which takes place on the patio of the head office every week during this season, where employees can enjoy their lunch break in the outdoors from one of the many food vendors and trucks that participate in this event annually.



## Dasman School holds annual art exhibition



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

The Dasman Bilingualism School held its annual art exhibition yesterday, where students from all educational grades participated, in addition to students of special needs. It was held in the presence of the CEO Adel Jassem Al-Sane. In his opening speech, Assistant Secretary-General for the Arts Sector at National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Badr Al-Dawees, said that the council is supporting such cultural art events which helps students to develop their creativity. He went on to thank Dasman School for the invitation and giving the opportunity to see the work of young artists.

For his part, Al-Sane pointed out that the exhibition

is the first of its kind where it includes individual works as well as joint works from groups of students. He added that the purpose of the exhibition is to highlight the art and painting in addition to strengthening the local culture and creativity within students. He explained that the students drew plates in addition to clay models with the help of teachers and with the support of the school administration.

Samar Dizmen, Superintendent of Dasman School, said that the school is the only school in Kuwait that gathers students and people with special needs in one completed building, adding that the exhibition reflects the diversity of the school and individuality of each student as well as highlighting the artistic talents of students. Abdulkarim Al-Enzi, artist, affirmed "the exhibi-

tion amazed me by how the variety and kinds of art the students used. The live art made me more connected to colors, artist and the paintings. I see a huge amount of excellent work from students of all ages along with special needs students."

For her part, Svitlana Arndt, artist, said "we can see the children that showed real skills. The teachers were able to let those students to enjoy the art and know a lot about it, they even studied the small details from famous artists. The atmosphere amongst the teachers and students were great to see." This year, the art exhibition included musical and visual art where two musical shows were performed by primary students. The three days art exhibition will be open from 5 pm to 8 pm.



## Drive home a Lancer EX with Al Mulla Exchange

Al Mulla Exchange, the leading Exchange Company, has launched a very exciting campaign on the 20 of February, 2018 targeting its Egyptian customers who transfer money to their home country. "Remit to Egypt and Win Car in Egypt", the newest promotion includes a draw every two weeks where one of the customers will have the opportunity to win a Lancer EX car delivered in Egypt with all duties paid.

The promotion period is from 20th February to 20th May 2018 and customers remitting during this period to Egypt from any of their branches located all over Kuwait or through their online portal & remittance app will automatically qualify for the draw. With 6 cars to be given customers will get a chance to win a car every fortnight.

On behalf of Al Mulla Exchange, Praveen Singh, Divisional General Manager said: "We consider the market of Egypt one of our core business segments from the perspective of money remittance. The Egyptian community

constitutes a major expatriate population and we had been contemplating for long to have something exclusive for them. This promotion will give them the chance to win a Lancer EX car whenever they transfer money to their families in Egypt."

Singh pointed out that during the last couple of months there was a remarkable increase in the volume of remittances to Egypt, making it a key market to all organizations and markets. He commented: "We believe that it is necessary to launch a rewarding promotional campaign that is specifically tailored to our Egyptian customers in order to gain their trust and loyalty. We continuously strive to provide the highest quality of customer service as well as a full range of value-added services to facilitate our customers' lives."

Concluding that there are many campaigns that were launched targeting the Egyptian customers and community. This promotion is another value addition for Al Mulla Exchange Egyptian customers that seek an efficient and secured manner for their remittances. Apart from loyalty points and free insurance to customers Al Mulla Exchange has also recently launched for the first time in Kuwait remittance app for android users. Customers can download the app from Google play store and can remit directly from their phone. The app will be very soon launched for IOS users also.



## Financial Director of Jahra Copthorne wins award

Khalid Murad, Director of Finance at "Al Jahra Copthorne Hotel and Resort", has been named The Finance Manager of the year in Middle East for the year 2018 during the Hotelier Express Award ceremony held in Dubai last week. This prestigious award is considered an international recognition by industry experts of the success of the hotel's financial policies, which has positioned Al Jahra Copthorne as one of the most profitable hotels in the region.

"The Finance Department of the Jahra Copthorne Hotel and Resort has managed to maintain the profitability levels achieved by the departments last year despite the challenges," commented Khalid Murad. He added "We have also achieved a net operating profit for the hotel for 2017 higher than any year before without affecting the level of service for guests or the needs of our



hotel colleagues. I am happy that my financial experience has contributed to the financial growth of the hotel over the past few years and we look forward to doing even better in the coming years."

Alaa Salim, General Manager of the Al Jahra Copthorne Hotel commented: "We congratulate Khalid Murad for this outstanding achievement. We are proud of this international recognition as this award is one of the most sought after hospitality awards in the region because of its credibility within the tourism industry. The prestigious prize is the result of hard work and the great efforts from all hotel colleagues."



TV



00:30 In A Valley Of Violence
02:25 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
04:50 Invasion Day
06:35 Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope



00:50 Untamed & Uncut
01:45 The Jeff Corwin Experience
02:40 Bad Dog
03:35 Orangutan Island
04:00 Orangutan Island



00:25 Agatha Raisin
01:10 Silent Witness
02:05 Casualty
02:55 War And Peace
03:40 Call The Midwife



00:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
01:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
02:00 It Takes A Killer



00:05 Martha And Snoopy Potluck Dinner Party
00:30 Why? With Hannibal Buress
00:55 Amy Schumer-Mark Normand: Don't Be Yourself

10:35 Friends
11:00 Key And Peele
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia



00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds
01:20 Finding Bigfoot
02:10 Somebody's Gotta Do It



00:50 The Perfect Suspect
01:45 Evil Lives Here
02:40 A Checklist For Murder
03:35 Killing Field: People Magazine Investigates

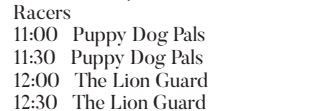


00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.

14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
15:00 The Zhuzhus



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



00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street



00:15 Alaskan Bush People
01:05 Impossible Engineering
01:50 Tesla's Death Ray: A Murder Declassified



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Milo Murphy's Law
06:50 Right Now Kapow
07:15 Mech-X4

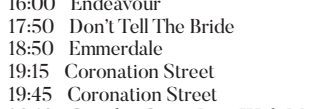
12:00 Kid vs. Kat
12:25 Two More Eggs S2
12:50 Kid vs. Kat
12:55 Kirby Buckets



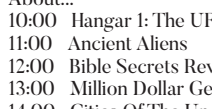
01:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
02:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
02:50 Botched
03:40 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills



00:10 Somewhere In China
01:00 India's Mega Kitchens
02:00 Nazi Megastructures Compilations



00:20 Surviving The Serengeti
01:10 Ultimate Predators GPU
02:00 The Little Killers



00:00 Million Dollar Genius
01:00 Cities Of The Underworld
02:00 10 Things You Don't Know About...



00:20 Swamp peopie
01:10 Swamp People
02:00 American Pickers
02:50 Hunting Hitler

12:40 Road Hawks
13:30 Mountain Men
14:20 American Pickers
15:10 Mountain Men



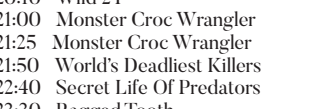
00:45 Chasing The Sun
00:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
01:10 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia



00:10 Somewhere In China
01:00 India's Mega Kitchens
02:00 Nazi Megastructures Compilations



00:20 Surviving The Serengeti
01:10 Ultimate Predators GPU
02:00 The Little Killers

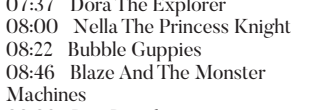


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion

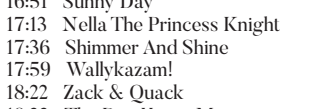
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Massive Monster Mayhem
13:48 I Am Frankie



00:16 Kid-E-Cats
00:21 Shimmer And Shine
00:45 Sunny Day
01:07 Max & Ruby



00:10 Somewhere In China
01:00 India's Mega Kitchens
02:00 Nazi Megastructures Compilations

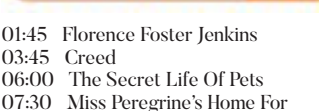


00:20 Surviving The Serengeti
01:10 Ultimate Predators GPU
02:00 The Little Killers



01:10 Born To Be Blue
02:55 Akeelah And The Bee
04:55 The New Adventures Of Aladin

01:45 Florence Foster Jenkins
03:45 Creed
06:00 The Secret Life Of Pets



01:45 Florence Foster Jenkins
03:45 Creed
06:00 The Secret Life Of Pets
07:30 Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children



00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 Mythbusters



00:55 Guzaarish
03:00 Guzaarish
03:10 Little Krishna 3: The Wondrous Feats



01:15 Hyde Park On Hudson
03:00 Snow Cake
05:00 Speakeasy



00:00 Devious Maids
01:00 Devious Maids
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Married At First Sight

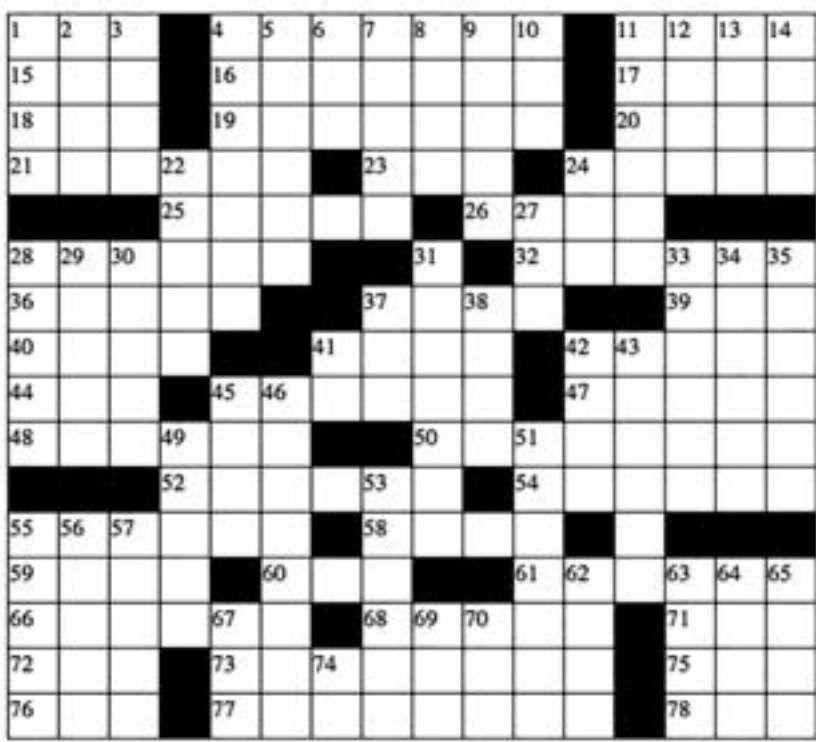


00:20 This Is Life With Carissa Cupido
01:05 Married By Mum And Dad
01:50 Return To Amish



Stars

CROSSWORD 1850



ACROSS

1. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
4. Brought together into a group or crowd.
11. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
16. Shackle that consists of a metal loop that can be locked around the wrist.
17. In addition.
18. Extremely pleasing.
19. Excellent and delightful in all respects.
20. Marked by lack of intellectual depth.
21. (of reproduction) Not involving the fusion of male and female gametes reproduction.
23. Kidney disease characterized by enlarged kidneys containing many cysts.
25. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
26. Freedom from difficulty or hardship or effort.
28. Of people.
32. Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggesting candelabra.
36. A line spoken by an actor to the audience but not intended for others on the stage.
39. A unit of pressure.
40. God of death.
44. The cry made by sheep.
47. The capital and largest city of France.
48. Submit or yield to another's wish or opinion.
50. Cosmopolitan genus of ferns.
52. An embroidered rug made from a coarse Indian felt.
54. The slender arch formed by the temporal process of the cheekbone that bridges to the zygomatic process of the temporal bone.
55. Argentine armadillo with six movable bands and hairy underparts.
58. A small cake leavened with yeast.
59. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
60. (used as a combining form) Recent or new.
61. Of or relating to or near the nares.
66. Grandson of Amaterasu and first ruler of Japan.
68. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
71. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
72. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
73. A railcar where passengers ride.
75. The administration of a strong electric current that passes through the brain to induce convulsions and coma.
76. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
77. The academic world.
78. The residue that remains when something is burned.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. (informal) Exceptionally good.
3. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
4. Only the bowfins.
5. Characterized by undue haste and lack of thought or deliberation.
6. One or some or every or all without specification.
7. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
8. The clock time given by a clock carried on board a spacecraft.
9. Leave or strike out, as of vowels.
10. The last (12th) month of the year.
11. The capital of Croatia.
12. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
13. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
14. (anatomy) A somewhat rounded subdivision of a bodily organ or part.
22. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
24. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
27. Used of a single unit or thing.
29. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
30. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
31. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
33. Port city in northwest Portugal.
34. A hard brittle blue-gray or blue-black metallic element that is one of the platinum metals.
35. An unwholesome atmosphere.
37. (prefix) Coming before or being preliminary or preparatory.
38. Scottish chemist noted for his research into the structure of nucleic acids (born in 1907).
41. A public promotion of some product or service.
42. Castrate, used with animals.
43. Large citrus tree having large sweet deep orange fruit that is easily peeled.
45. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
46. In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
49. (Babylonian) Any of a group of powerful earth spirits or genii.
51. The god who fathered the islands and gods of Japan with his sister Izanami.
53. On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
56. Any plant of the genus Erica.
57. An island of central Hawaii.
62. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
63. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
64. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
65. A narrow thin strip of wood used as backing for plaster or to make lattice-work.
67. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
69. Neckwear consisting of a long narrow piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front.
70. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
74. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, a need to control a situation takes over your focus and efforts: be careful not to collapse yourself into this situation. You're interested in learning more about forbidden, mysterious aspects of life you keep to yourself: being taboo makes this all the more desirable for you. You begin something all over again that you have never been pleased with: you have learned what happened to thirst time around and can now avoid that problem. You find that you're the only one with initiative regarding an unwanted project: you dive in and get this done with very little support or assistance. Your physical self feels improved, strong and able while spiritually you're experiencing some difficulty. An old friend shows up unexpectedly with very good news, Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, you feel the need to skip work and do something frivolous and fun: the people that depend on you are happy you didn't! The energies of imagination and creativity are strongly indicated: you could find this very distracting. You make plans for the future that could seem odd to others but very sensible to you: you're focused on seeing the big picture, not details. Your mood is talkative and light but you may irritate someone if you're not careful. An opportunity to be in control or in charge appeals to you at this time. You could clash with an authority figure as your opinions don't even resemble theirs. If you want to fix something it happens with no help from anyone. Putting one step in front of the other without hesitating accomplishes much, Taurus.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, you're tapped into the emotions of those around you and make every effort to please them. Time spent with those you love creates an energy of security and contentment. A day away from work finds you contemplating a flower or vegetable garden: you have got a strong talent for growing things. Your input is sought regarding a sensitive situation you have had to help with before: you could consider distancing yourself from this. You discover a wonderful surprise involving your finances: your hard work and close attention have paid off! A remodeling or rebuilding effort turns out to be fun. Commitment to your health is something you want, but you fear you lack the ability to fully commit. Believe in yourself and what you're capable of, Gemini.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, forbidden or secretive things hold your attention as you're in a cycle of figuring out what makes people tick. When thoughts, actions and beliefs are considered to be prohibitive you feel compelled to pursue them: work with this wisely! You focus on figuring out what's gone wrong with a tough project: starting over from scratch is indicated here. You're able to rise far above difficulties in the work place when you couldn't before: this is solid confirmation that you're indeed evolving and growing. Someone in your life, perhaps a family member, is threatened by your intellect and willingness to change. You're able to see past prejudices and judgements; you have great understanding of the damage that comes from that type of thinking, Cancer.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, sexual needs seem to stay on your mind: this points to a need for pleasure and affection! Being in charge of a certain project is important to you and you're not happy when you realize this isn't going to happen. Starting over from the beginning helps lay a better foundation for something important. You could feel uncomfortable with what's going on around you, or this could indicate you just feel argumentative: remember that others need a chance to provide input. A nice surprise is delivered that lifts your spirits. Something unattractive strikes your fancy and you set about taming it. A need to nurture or feed is fulfilled with the unexpected visit of a child or pet. Doing for yourself is strongly indicated and should be done without guilt, generous Leo.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, you choose to go in a different direction than the crowd: it is soon obvious that you chose to do what's best for you. Knowing exactly what you want is half the battle: obtaining what you want could prove more difficult than you imagined. When you refuse to give up, you succeed. How you love takes on a new vibration as you continue to grow and evolve. Keep in mind that the reason a loved one insists that you heed what they say is due to the way they feel about you: it could pay big dividends to follow this person's wise advice! Your laughter brings joy to someone who's down and out: you're a true-blue friend and confidant as well as an important link in this person's support group. There's no one like you! Now, let someone do something for you, Virgo.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, reading a good book or viewing an exciting movie could spark your creative juices. You stand your ground when someone criticizes your thoughts or actions: you could find it hard to control your anger. Avoiding toxic people is at the top of your priority list: unfortunately this could include someone you truly love. You come across a new, exotic recipe you're anxious to try: this requires shopping at a special place you have never visited. You're turned on by having control over a certain situation or person: sexual energy could be indicated here. Knowing what your capabilities are gives power to your activities. Finding new methods to take care of an old condition is clearly indicated. The touch of a sweetheart or mate brings warmth and love, Libra.



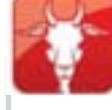
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, sensual needs are demanding to be met: this could also indicate a strong desire to be in control and call the shots in certain areas of your life. You come to understand something you refused to see in the past. You enjoy an opportunity to learn about the workings of something you have been curious about for a long time. Creative energy pushes you toward your art: this could mean painting, writing or sewing, anything originating from you. Someone observes you more closely as you teach them important methods: this could be someone you're training for your job. When you change the way you view something, or someone, you get a more realistic picture. You enter a time of true reflection on your life and the way you live it now, Scorpio.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, your mind is on the spiritual aspects of life. You could become passionate about controversial matters such as law, politics or religion: remember to pick and choose your battles. Someone attempts to bring drama to your doorstep: it's up to you whether or not you allow this. If you feel strongly about something and fail to act this could create problems down the line: just listen to your intuitive knowing on this one. A tendency to over-spend is highly likely. You may become aware of an interesting new way to make extra money: look at this carefully! A nice new friend points something out you have never noticed. You make wise decisions regarding your new job: you're likely being considered for a large raise in pay or perhaps a promotion, Sagittarius.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, compassion's in high gear when someone reaches out to you with a problem: being there for people is what you do. When an obstacle appears, you figure out a better way. You love nothing better than working smarter not harder! You hear something you consider gossip about an old friend. You feel empowered when you and the team complete a project. Being happy with your work is energizing. A new piece of real estate stays on your mind: this isn't something new. You feel that someone's acting shady and you set out to see what's up. You intend to take charge over your personal affairs and make someone else stop trying to interfere. A call from someone dear offers just the encouraging words you need. Take a deep breath, let yourself rest, Capricorn.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Aquarius, you feel compelled to nurture and grow something of your own: this could indicate a child or perhaps a beloved pet. You want everything in its place and when it's not, you're very unhappy; you could find that some work you have done has been misplaced or somehow undone! You could find that you've got an overpowering desire to shop, to spend money and a lot of it: a close friend could step in and save you from yourself! Figuring out more productive ways to reduce stress is on the horizon. You relish the beauty you're surrounded by and can feel the healing energy it produces. Warm feelings are exchanged between you and loved ones. After a long day you're definitely in the mood for love. An intimate evening could unfold, Aquarius.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, you have got a strong desire to be in control, to call the shots, to say what you want and get it. You're drawn to finding out more about the secret side of life: taboo, and other outwardly unapproachable subjects are prominent. This isn't the time for big decisions regarding important circumstances: until the energy changes you can hold off on making choices that you have known were coming. Everything you touch goes well as you make a good move at work: you're well known for fixing certain issues and today's no different. A sudden change in circumstances creates a need to conserve resources: your planning skills save the day. Your quiet nature pays off when you overhear some very good news: relax and be happy; things are good, Pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Parkinson's Disease

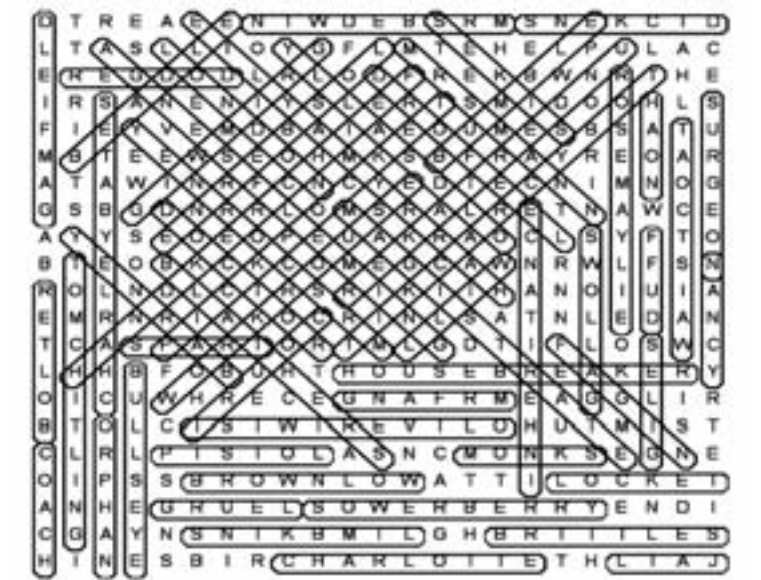
Find and circle all of the Parkinson's Disease related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Helen Keller quote.



- |              |             |                 |                 |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AEROBIC      | DOIDGE      | LATERAL SHUFFLE | QUALITY OF LIFE |
| AGONIST      | DOPAMINE    | LEVODOPA        | RED TULIP       |
| AMYGDALA     | DYSKINESIA  | LEWY BODIES     | RESEARCH        |
| BETA BLOCKER | DYSPLASIA   | LONG TERM       | RIGIDITY        |
| BOXING       | EXERCISE    | MICHAEL J FOX   | SENSORY         |
| BRADYKINESIA | FESTINATION | MOTOR SYSTEM    | SIALORRHEA      |
| CHALLENGE    | FLEXIBILITY | MUHAMMAD ALI    | SINEMET         |
| CHARCOT      | FREEZING    | NEUROLOGIST     | STAGES          |
| COGNITION    | GAIT        | NEURON          | SYMPTOMS        |
| DEGENERATIVE | HYPOKINESIA | PLACING         | TRENORS         |
| DEMENTIA     | IDIOPATHIC  | POSTURE         | WALKING POLES   |
| DEPRESSION   |             |                 |                 |

Yesterday's Solution

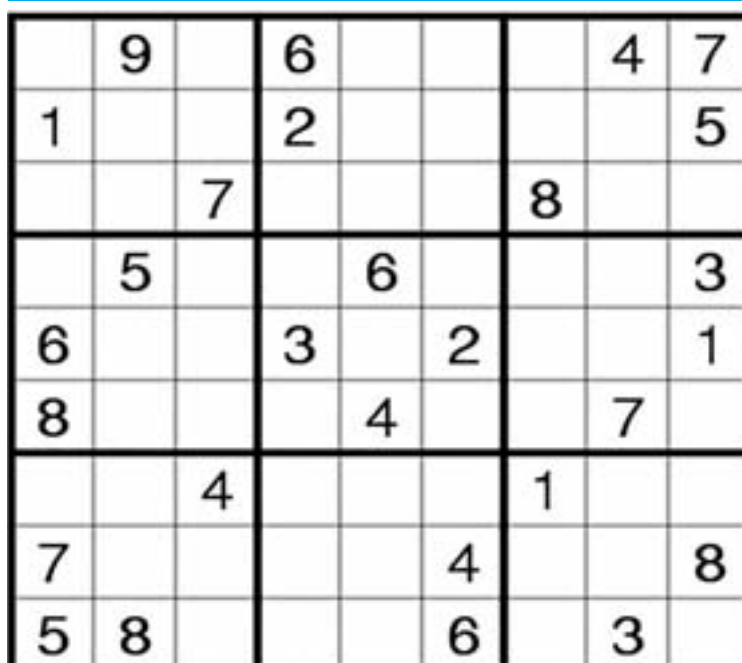
Oliver Twist



- |               |              |              |              |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| AGNES FLEMING | DOUGER       | LIMBKINS     | ORPHAN       |
| BARNEY        | DUFF         | LOCKET       | PICKPOCKET   |
| BEADLE        | FAGIN        | LOWDOWN      | PISTOL       |
| BLATHERS      | GALLOWES     | LOSSBERNE    | ROSE MAYLE   |
| BOLTER        | GAMFIELD     | MAGISTRATE   | SIKES        |
| BRITTLER      | GILES        | MONKS        | SOWERBERRY   |
| BRUNNLOW      | GRUNWIG      | MR. FANGS    | SURGEON      |
| BULL'S-EYE    | GRIEL        | MRS. BEDWIN  | TOBY CRACKIT |
| BUMBLE        | HANDKERCHIEF | MRS. CORNEY  | TOM CHITLING |
| CHARLEY BATES | HARRY MAYLE  | MRS. MARR    | TRAPS        |
| CHARLOTTE     | HOUSEBREAKER | NANCY        | UNDERSTAKER  |
| COACH         | SHERITANCE   | NOAH         | WASTCOAT     |
| COURT         | JAIL         | OLD SALLY    | WELL         |
| DICKENS       | LEEFORD      | OLIVER TWIST | WORKHOUSE    |
| DOCTOR        |              |              |              |

The hidden sentence is: TREASURES OF THE PLACE WHERE OLIVER TWIST WAS BORN AND OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDING HIS BIRTH

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Classifieds

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



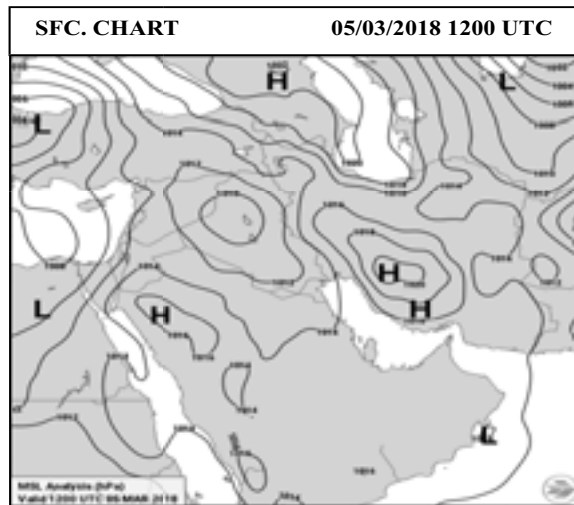
## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Cool with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**BY DAY:** Relatively hot with light to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

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

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	33 °C	17 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	32 °C	15 °C
ABDALY	33 °C	15 °C
BUBYAN	28 °C	20 °C
JAHRA	34 °C	16 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	20 °C
SALMIYAH	23 °C	19 °C
AHMADI	20 °C	17 °C
NUWASIB	32 °C	17 °C
WAFRA	32 °C	16 °C
SALMY	32 °C	16 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	03/06	Relatively hot and some high clouds will appear	31 °C	15 °C	SE-S	10 - 32 km/h
Wednesday	03/07	Relatively hot	33 °C	13 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 32 km/h
Thursday	03/08	Relatively hot and some high clouds will appear	31 °C	15 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Friday	03/09	Relatively hot and Clouds will increase gradually	33 °C	12 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 38 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:50
Sunrise	06:09
Zuhr	11:59
Asr	15:20
Sunset	17:50
Isha	19:06

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	00 °C
MIN. Temp.	00 °C
MAX. RH	00 %
MIN. RH	00 %
MAX. Wind	N 00 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## REQUIRED

**Security Company**  
 is in need outdoor Sales consultant on salary and commission basis:  
 • Minimum 3-5 years' experience in sales.  
 • Preferably in selling security products  
 • Knowledge Of Kuwait Market  
 • Valid driving license and car.  
 • English language is a must.  
 • Transferable visa.  
 Send your CV to  
[info@dss-kuwait.com](mailto:info@dss-kuwait.com)

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sodhi Ram S/o Bakshi Ram, village Bhanuhan Sub Tehsil NurpurBedi (Ropar) Passport No. L3820474 and Civil ID No. 283043005445 have changed my name Sodhi Ram to Shamsheer Singh. (C 5383)

I, Shaik Jilani S/o Shaik Kaja, date of birth 16-02-1981 holder of Indian Passport No. R5454579 and Civil ID No. 281021604907 has changed my name to Syed Jilani, date of birth 31-01-1983. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5384) 4-3-2018

### SITUATION WANTED

**HR-Admin Executive**  
 14 years experience in GCC with accounting background, looking for a suitable job.  
 Email: mazen\_bh@yahoo.com  
 Mob: 00965-56625385

### SITUATION VACANT

Required driver for a small Kuwaiti family in Jabriya. Please contact: 90049716 (C 5385) 4-3-2018

**EMERGENCY**  
**112**

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

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

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 6/3/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 6/3/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	KAC	285	Dhaka	00:01
JZR	607	Kochi	00:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	JZR	528	Asyut	00:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
KAC	102	London	01:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	MSC	412	Asyut	01:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
WAN	548	KTM	02:40	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
ETD	995	Abu Dhabi/Bahrain	05:05	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:10	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:40	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:30
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
BAW	157	London	07:15	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	RJA	645	Amman	07:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	ETD	9882	Dubai	07:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	167	Paris	07:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
JZR	787	Riyadh	09:50	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	165	Rome	08:15
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	787	Jeddah	08:40
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	BAW	156	London	08:55
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	KAC	613	Bahrain	08:55
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	117	New York	09:00
WAN	134	Doha	11:55	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	101	London	09:45
KAC	286	Dhaka	12:35	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
GEL	616	Baku	13:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
QTR	8322	Doha	13:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
PAL	668	Manila	14:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
KAC	618	Doha	14:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40
QTR	1078	Doha	14:20	JAI	574	Mumbai	11:00
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	MSC	405	Sohag	11:25
KAC	672	Dubai	14:25	BBC	043	Dhaka	11:40
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	FDB	071	Dubai	12:00
WAN	337	Alexandria	12:00				





Jennifer Garner



Rita Moreno (left) and Fernanda Luisa Gordon



US actress and singer Zendaya

# OSCARS RED CARPET: WHITE-HOT, RED-HOT AND BRONZE (MEDALISTS)

After a Hollywood awards season of statement red carpets including "blackouts" at the Golden Globes and Baftas, the movie industry's finest embraced a rainbow of color Sunday at the Oscars. From classic white to fire engine red, with shades of teal, fuchsia, powder blue and lavender mixed in, here are some highlights of the style parade on Tinseltown's biggest night:

### White-hot

White is associated with the suffragette movement, and on Sunday, many of Hollywood's top stars embraced it. "Get Out" star Allison Williams was one of the first stars on the red carpet and her look was killer—a cream beaded Armani princess gown with sheer cap sleeves that earned raves in the Twitterverse. Jane Fonda also embraced the ice princess look, looking fabulous at age 80!! — in a sculpted white Balmain gown with a geometric neckline. Laura Dern—who joined the "Star Wars" family last year in "The Last Jedi" and presented an award on Sunday—wowed red carpet watchers in a Calvin Klein gown with a large tie draped over one shoulder.

And Mary J. Blige—the first person to be nominated for acting and song writing for the same film, "Mudbound"—wore a white Versace gown with a glittering bodice and an asymmetrical neckline. She performed her song "Mighty River" during the gala.

### Ladies in Red

Allison Janney—who took home the Oscar as expected for best supporting actress for her searing portrayal of figure skater Tonya Harding's mom LaVona—looked ready for her close-up. The statuesque actress was red-hot in a show-stopping fire engine red Reem Acra gown with flowing sleeves, a plunging neckline—and plenty of diamonds to fill the gap. "This is my first time at the Oscars," she told E! television on the red carpet. "It's pretty overwhelming."



Australian actress Abbie Cornish



Mexican-Lebanese actress Salma Hayek



US actress Emma Stone



Actress Viola Davis



Actress Allison Janney



Actress and singer Mary J. Blige



British-US actress Emily Blunt



Ashley Judd (left) and Mira Sorvino



Lifestyle | Fashion



Israeli actress Gal Gadot



British actor Andy Serkis (right) and his wife British actress



(From left) Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke and Danai Gurira



Comedian Tiffany Haddish



Sandra Bullock



Jane Fonda



Australian actress Margot Robbie



Haley Bennett



Jennifer Lawrence



Olympic alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn

Three-time winner Meryl Streep also wore red—a simple Christian Dior gown with a deep-V neckline and three-quarter-length sleeves. She was again a nominee this year, for Pentagon Papers drama “The Post.”

**Best vintage**

That honor easily went to Rita Moreno, who wore the gown she wore in 1962 to accept her best supporting Oscar for her turn as Anita in “West Side Story.” The 86-year-old Moreno is one of only a handful of Hollywood heavyweights with the coveted EGOT—she has won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony in her decades-long career. She is currently starring on the Netflix reboot of sitcom “One Day at a Time.”

**US Olympic medalists kick back**

Some of America’s top Olympians graced the red carpet, including bronze medalist figure skaters Mirai Nagasu—in an ethereal powder blue Tadashi Shoji gown—and Adam Rippon, sporting a curious black bondage-inspired harness jacket. Skier Lindsey Vonn, who earned bronze in the downhill competition, bared some skin in a sheer black sequined lace gown with flapper fringe.

**Classy with a twist**

Hollywood’s men tried to look classic and make a statement at the same time. “Get Out” Director Jordan Peele went for a white dinner jacket on Sunday—and the smart look paid off when he took the stage to accept the Oscar for best original screenplay. The star of his film-Britain’s Daniel Kaluuya, also a nominee—wore a striking brown jacket with black lapels. Chadwick Boseman, the star of the massive box office hit “Black Panther,” looked every bit the king of Wakanda in a long black jacket with silver embellishments.

“Call Me By Your Name” star and Oscar nominee Timothee Chalamet went for an all-white suit and the best accessory—his mom. His co-star Armie Hammer opted for a burgundy velvet tux. And “Call Me” screenwriter James Ivory—who won the Oscar for best adapted screenplay—paid Chalamet the ultimate compliment by wearing a shirt with the actor’s face on it. — AFP



US singer and actress Sofia Carson



Nicole Kidman



Leslie Mann



Lifestyle | Awards



Mexican director Guillermo del Toro (center) stand on stage with his cast and crew after he won the Oscar for Best Film for 'The Shape of Water' during the 90th Annual Academy Awards show on March 4, 2018 in Hollywood, California. — AFP photos



Director Guillermo del Toro poses in the press room with the Oscars for best picture and best director.



Mexican director Guillermo del Toro delivers a speech after he won the Oscar for Best Film for 'The Shape of Water'.



British actor Gary Oldman delivers a speech after he won the Oscar for best actor in 'Darkest Hour'.



Actor Gary Oldman poses in the press room with the Oscar for best actor.

# 'THE SHAPE OF WATER' TRIUMPHS AT NAIL-BITING OSCARS



Producer and director Guillermo del Toro (left) and producer J Miles Dale pose in the press room with the Oscar for best picture and best director for their film Shape of Water.

**T**he Shape of Water" on Sunday won top honors at the Oscars including the coveted best picture statuette, bringing the curtain down on a Hollywood awards season overshadowed by scandal over sexual misconduct in showbiz. Guillermo del Toro's fairy tale romance led the charge going into the show with 13 nominations, and took home best picture—the top prize of the night as well as best director and statuettes for production design and best original score. In an night of honors being shared fairly evenly among several candidates, Martin McDonagh's dark crime comedy "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" had to settle for best actress for Frances McDormand and best supporting actor for Sam Rockwell.

Christopher Nolan's World War II thriller "Dunkirk" also picked up three awards, but in the less glitzy technical categories, while several movies ended the evening with two trophies. "I am an immigrant," an emotional Del Toro said in collecting his first prize of the night, praising the power of filmmaking to "erase the line in the sand" between people of different countries and cultures. "I want to dedicate this to every young filmmaker—the youth that is showing us how things are done. Really, they are, in every country in the world," said "I thought this could never happen. It happens. And I want to tell you, everyone that is dreaming of using fantasy to tell the stories about the things that are real in the world today—you can do it."

### 'Long overdue'

Hosted for the second straight year by late night funnyman Jimmy Kimmel, the 90th Academy Awards capped a difficult few months during which the industry has declared war on the pervasive culture of sexual impropriety unearthed by the downfall of movie mogul and alleged serial sex attacker Harvey Weinstein. Kimmel set the tone by targeting Weinstein in his opening monologue, describing the disgraced producer's downfall following dozens of allegations of sexual harassment and assault as "long overdue." "We can't let bad behavior slide anymore. The world is watching us. We need to set an example," he said.

McDormand, a winner throughout the awards season for her scintillating turn as a grieving, rage-filled mother in "Three Billboards," took home her second Oscar, 21 years after winning for "Fargo." In a statement about the need for inclusion in the industry, she got all of the female nominees in the room to stand to highlight their work. "We all have stories to tell and projects we need financed," she said to enthusiastic applause. Her "Three Billboards" co-star Rockwell kicked off the night by claiming best supporting actor for his acclaimed turn as a racist, violent police officer.



US actress Frances McDormand (center) delivers a speech next to US actresses Jodie Foster (second right) and Jennifer Lawrence (third right) after she won the Oscar for Best Actress in 'Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri'.

### Activism

Best actor went to runaway favorite Gary Oldman, who sat in make-up for three hours a day to disappear entirely into the role of British wartime prime minister Winston Churchill for "Darkest Hour."

Allison Janney won best supporting actress for her turn as the cold, sardonic mother of disgraced figure skater Tonya Harding in "I, Tonya"—capping a sparkling awards season which saw her sweep the major prizes. "My fellow nominees, you represent everything that is good and right and human about this profession. You are all extraordinary," the statuesque 58-year-old Janney, the overwhelming favorite, enthused at the podium.

With the #MeToo and Time's Up campaigns against sexual misconduct and gender inequality dominating the 2018 awards circuit, this year's Oscars gala was seen as an opportunity for Tinseltown to support female filmmaking. Greta Gerwig, only the fifth woman in Oscars history to be nominated for best director—for comedy/drama "Lady Bird"—however went home empty-handed, despite other nominations for best picture and best screenplay. There was also the first nod in history for a female cinematographer—Rachel Morrison, who shot Dee Rees's racial drama "Mudbound"—although the award ended up going to Roger Deakins on his 14th attempt, for "Blade Runner 2049."



US actress Frances McDormand delivers a speech after she won the Oscar for Best Actress in 'Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri'.



Filmmakers Lee Unkrich (left) and Darla K. Anderson, winners of the Best Animated Feature Film for 'Coco'.



Composers Kristen Anderson-Lopez (left) and Robert Lopez deliver a speech after they won the Oscar for Best Original Song for "Remember Me" from Coco.



Sound mixers Mark Weingarten, Gary A. Rizzo and Gregg Landaker, winners of the Best Sound Mixing award for 'Dunkirk'.



Actor Sam Rockwell accepts the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri.



US actress Allison Janney smiles after she won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in "I, Tonya".



Producer Dan Cogan (left) and director Bryan Fogel, winners of the Best Documentary Feature award for 'Icarus'.



Director Jordan Peele poses in the press room with the Oscar for best original screenplay.



# Lifestyle Awards



Writer James Ivory, winner of the Best Adapted Screenplay award for 'Call Me By Your Name'.



Film Editor Lee Smith poses in the press room with the Oscar for Best Film Editing for 'Dunkirk.'



French composer Alexandre Desplat poses in the press room with the Oscar for Best Original Score for 'The Shape of Water'.



Australian Film Editor Lee Smith (right) celebrates next to US actor Matthew McConaughey after he won the Oscar for Best Film Editing for 'Dunkirk'.

The Time's Up initiative was not as visible as at the Golden Globes in January, with no coordinated protest-like the striking Globes red carpet "blackout." But towards the end of the show, Salma Hayek fronted the presentation of a video of stars advocating for women's rights and racial equality, including Ava DuVernay, Chadwick Boseman, Lee Daniels and Geena Davis. "This entire fall, (through) the #MeToo, the Time's Up movements, everyone is getting a voice to express something that has been happening forever, not only in Hollywood, but in every walk of life," said Mira Sorvino ("Mighty Aphrodite").

In another nod to the women's movements, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences tapped past winners Jennifer Lawrence and Jodie Foster on crutches to present McDormand's best actress Oscar. Traditionally, the previous year's best actor winner would present that statuette, but Casey Affleck, who triumphed in 2017 for "Manchester by the Sea," withdrew under a cloud of sexual harassment accusations he denies.

### Presenters atone for 2017 flub

Other winners included Pixar's "Coco" for best animated feature and "A Fantastic Woman"-a love story from Chilean director Sebastian Lelio with a much-praised star turn from transgender actress Daniela Vega-in the foreign film category. And Jordan Peele won the award for best original screenplay for his highly acclaimed debut film, horror satire "Get Out." Organizers were looking to rebound after last year's flubbed announcement by Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway of the best picture winner-the trophy was initially given to "La La Land," when the actual winner was "Moonlight."

In a surprise turn of events, Beatty and Dunaway were tapped to present the same prize this time around, and the presentation went without a hitch. "It's so nice seeing you again," joked Beatty, to laughs from the audience. — AFP



US actress Allison Janney delivers a speech after she won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in "I, Tonya".

## Oscar winners in main categories

Here are the winners in key categories for the 90th Academy Awards, which were handed out on Sunday in Hollywood. "The Shape of Water" was the big winner of the night with four statuettes, including best picture and best director.

- Best picture:** "The Shape of Water"
- Best director:** Guillermo del Toro, "The Shape of Water"
- Best actor:** Gary Oldman, "Darkest Hour"
- Best actress:** Frances McDormand, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"
- Best supporting actor:** Sam Rockwell, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"
- Best supporting actress:** Allison Janney, "I, Tonya" Best foreign language film: "A Fantastic Woman" (Chile)
- Best animated feature:** "Coco"
- Best documentary feature:** "Icarus"
- Best original screenplay:** "Get Out" - Jordan Peele
- Best adapted screenplay:** "Call Me By Your Name" - James Ivory
- Best production design:** "The Shape of Water"
- Best original score:** "The Shape of Water" - Alexandre Desplat
- Best original song:** "Remember Me" from "Coco"
- Best film editing:** "Dunkirk"
- Best sound editing:** "Dunkirk"
- Best sound mixing:** "Dunkirk"
- Best cinematography:** "Blade Runner 2049" - Roger Deakins
- Best visual effects:** "Blade Runner 2049"
- Best make-up and hairstyling:** "Darkest Hour"

### Films with more than two wins:

- "The Shape of Water" - 4
- "Dunkirk" - 3
- "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" - 2
- "Darkest Hour" - 2
- "Coco" - 2
- "Blade Runner 2049" - 2 — AFP



Chilean director Sebastian Lelio (center) accepts the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film for "A Fantastic Woman".



Make-Up and Hairstyling artists Lucy Sibbick, Kazuhiro Tsuji and David Malinowski accept the Oscar for Best Makeup and Hairstyling in Darkest Hour.



US actor Armie Hammer (left) and Israeli actress Gal Gadot present the Oscar for Best Makeup and Hairstyling.



Roger A. Deakins poses in the press room with the Oscar for Best Cinematography for "Blade Runner 2049".



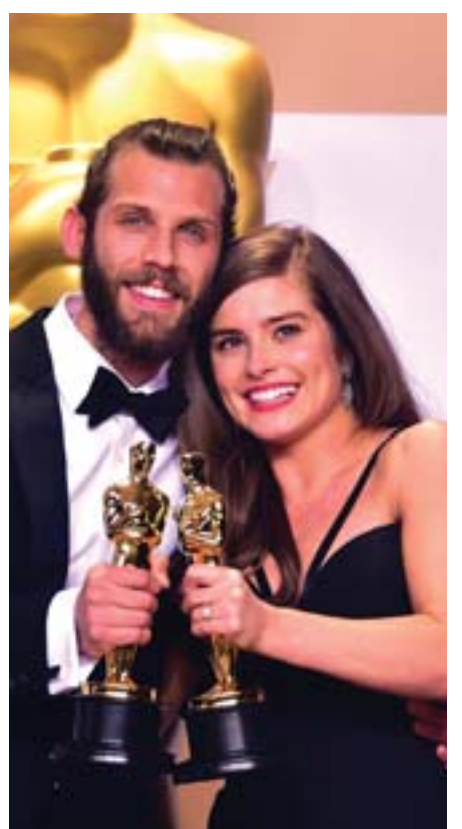
US actress Viola Davis Actor arrives to present the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.



Visual effects artists Richard R. Hoover, Paul Lambert, Gerd Nefzer, and John Nelson, pose in the press room with the Oscar for Best Visual Effects for 'Blade Runner 2049.'



Kobe Bryant and Glen Keane pose in the press room with the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film for "Dear Basketball".



British actor and producer Chris Overton and British actress Rachel Shenton poses in the press room with the Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film for "The Silent Child."



Comedian Tiffany Haddish (left) and US actress Maya Rudolph present the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Subject.



US director Frank Stiefel delivers a speech after he won the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Subject for "Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405".



(From left) BB-8, actors Oscar Isaac, Mark Hamill and Kelly Marie Tran speak onstage.



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018



(From left) Actors Sam Rockwell, Frances McDormand, Allison Janney, and Gary Oldman, pose in the press room with their Oscars for best supporting actor, best actress, best supporting actress, and best actor, during the 90th Annual Academy Awards on March 4, 2018, in Hollywood, California. — AFP

## Historic Yemen town fights to survive as war closes in

Once Yemen's capital and famed as an architectural marvel of early Islam, the town of Zabid is fighting to survive as a brutal war closes in on its fortified walls. The sand-coloured town overlooking the country's west coast was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993 for its centuries-old urban planning and architecture, including the world's fifth oldest mosque. Riven by neglect and poverty, it was placed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage in Danger seven years later. Yemen's three-year war, which has killed nearly 10,000 people and pushed the country to the brink of famine, is now threatening the fate of Zabid.

So far the town has been spared in the battle between Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels and a government allied with a military coalition, led by Saudi Arabia. But a fight for nearby Hodeida, home to Yemen's most vital port, has raised fears the violence is closing in on Zabid.

Ahmed Hussein Ahmed says his home was damaged last month, as government forces clashed with Huthi rebels nearby.

Like other residents, he fears for both his family and his town, where homes built from baked bricks give the centuries-old skyline its trademark sandy hue against the bright blue Yemeni sky but offer little protection. "Our homes are built of local mud," Ahmed told AFP, seated near one of the old wooden windows carved into the wall of his brick home. "Another blow and the roof will cave in on us".

### 'Belongs to the world'

From the 13th to 15th centuries, Zabid was the capital of Yemen before being dethroned by Sanaa. The town predates the foundation of Islam but is an architectural marvel of the faith: four gates surround the city, where a web of narrow cobblestone streets links a souk with quieter residential areas. It also features the highest concen-

tration of mosques in Yemen, one of the world's first Islamic universities and canals to supply water to residents. Experts have warned Zabid may not be able to withstand more blows, even if fighting remains confined to its outskirts.

"These are centuries-old buildings. They cannot bear shelling or even the vibrations of missiles," said Yemeni restoration specialist Hussein Abdulrahman. "The world should be fighting to preserve this." In Zabid, shops that resemble little castles are still open and traffic flows through the streets. Also open is the Zabid Public Library, a tiny gem hidden in the basement of an old house, with 10 arched and engraved windows to allow daylight in.

Mukhtar Abdulsamad, head of the general authority for historic preservation in Zabid, fears one of the last pillars of his country's heritage may soon be demolished. "We appeal to international organizations, and UNESCO, to prioritize the protection of Zabid," Abdulsamad said. "This town belongs to the world and not to Yemen alone."

### 'At the gates'

Residents and international organizations fear the Saudi-led coalition's warplanes may hit the town itself, as it is still under the control of the Huthi rebels. The coalition did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "The fighting in Hodeida governorate is at the gates of the historic city of Zabid, fanning fears for the fate of its cultural heritage," said Alexandre Faite, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross's delegation in Yemen.

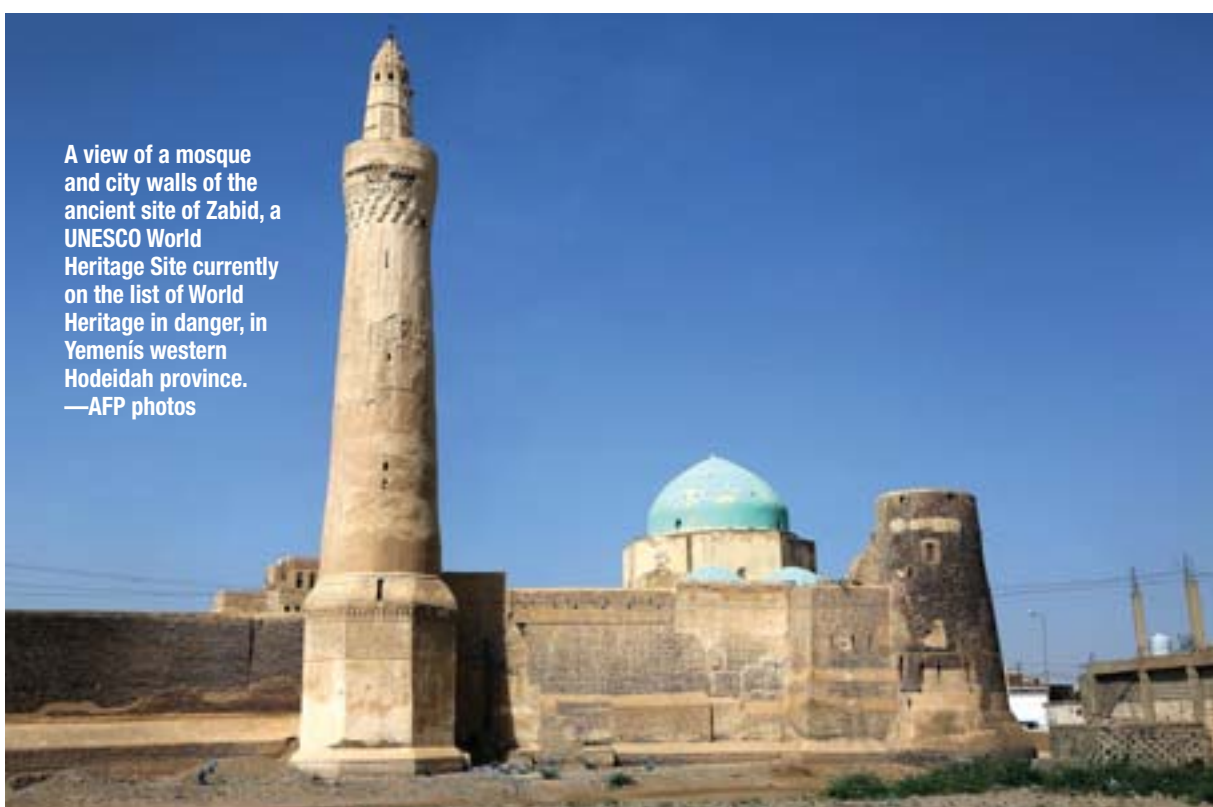
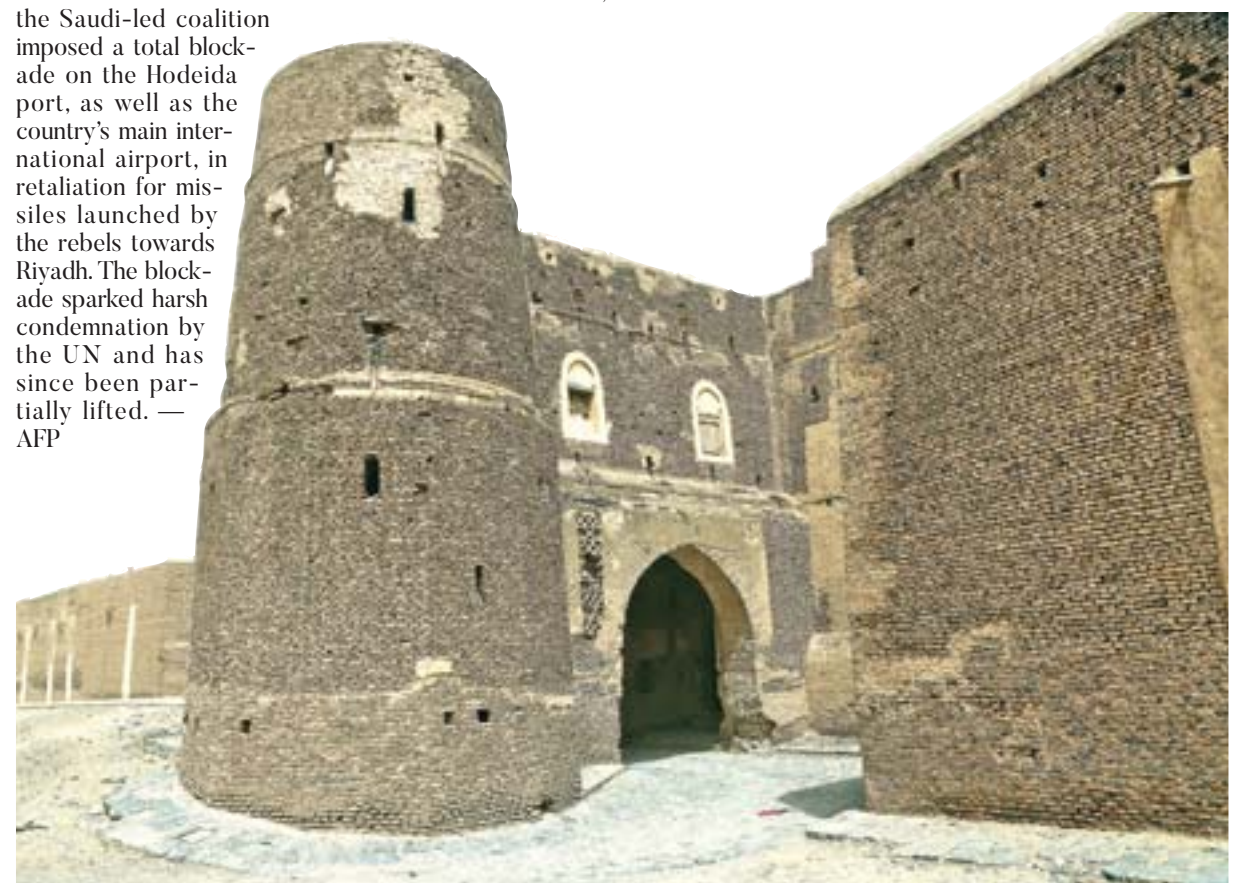
Zabid overlooks a river 75 kilometres (50 miles) southeast of Hodeida, the rebel-held Red Sea port city which faces a naval blockade by the Saudi-backed government. Hodeida is the main conduit for aid into the nation of 28 million people, 70 percent of whom face

starvation as poverty, violence and cholera stalk the country. In 2014, the Huthi rebels seized the port in a takeover of territory that included the Yemeni capital.

The government has pushed to recapture Hodeida in recent months. In November,

the Saudi-led coalition imposed a total blockade on the Hodeida port, as well as the country's main international airport, in retaliation for missiles launched by the rebels towards Riyadh. The blockade sparked harsh condemnation by the UN and has since been partially lifted. — AFP

A view of the walls of the ancient city of Zabid, a UNESCO World Heritage Site currently on the list of World Heritage in danger, in Yemen's western Hodeidah province.



A view of a mosque and city walls of the ancient site of Zabid, a UNESCO World Heritage Site currently on the list of World Heritage in danger, in Yemen's western Hodeidah province. —AFP photos



A view of the ancient city of Zabid.



A view of a building in the ancient city of Zabid.



A Yemeni driving a motorcycle in the ancient city of Zabid.



A view of the ancient city of Zabid, a UNESCO World Heritage Site currently on the list of World Heritage in danger, in Yemen's western Hodeidah province.