

# Friday Times

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Strategic Partner

**ZAIN**

**KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN**

Organized by **Kuwait Times**

*The Last day of receiving drawing sheets will be on 15th of April 2018*

**Hardee's**

**THE MIDDLE EAST'S LARGEST STUDENTS' ART COMPETITION**  
March 13<sup>th</sup> Till April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018



## Egypt's Sisi reelected

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## Local

## Steer clear of controversy



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai  
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Kuwait is a small country with a Muslim-majority population and a Christian minority, whether citizens or expatriates. The local community seems very conservative and insular, but the fact is that we are a moderate society with a mixture of ideas, doctrines and races. It is regrettable that we live in a social and administrative reality in which corruption is rife because of apathy and mismanagement, but why should official Friday sermons create unnecessary confusion and controversy in the local society, especially for those who are outside the circle of Islamists? Why doesn't the Friday sermon tackle the daily sufferings of Muslims and the ethics and morality we need to adopt?

What happened last week raised a lot of controversy. A Kuwaiti woman protested on Monday in front of the awqaf ministry against the March 23 Friday sermon, which is officially available on the website of the ministry. The sermon was titled "Modern Atheism: Its Dangers and Manifestations", and was prepared by the Friday sermon committee.

In one of the paragraphs of the official sermon, it clearly stated that "the call for the freedom of women will in fact dissociate her from traditions, chastity and modesty to reach the habits of infidels, disintegration and discarding the veil...". Mrs Karam wanted to make a point to the awqaf ministry, whom she accused of linking unveiled women with moral decay. I think what the citizen mentioned is an interpretation of what was written and not something that is fabricated, but the ministry denied that the sermon addressed women who don't wear the hijab.

The undersecretary denied that the Friday sermon circulated to mosques in Kuwait on Friday, March 23 included any accusations against unveiled women. He said in a press statement that the ministry is keen to invite Muslim women to abide by the orders of Allah and perform prayers, pay zakat, fast, go on pilgrimage and commit to the veil, among other deeds. He pointed out that the sermon was on modern-day atheism and its dangers and manifestations and not on the subject of women and the veil. He stressed that the sermon focused on the serious issue of atheism and its negative effects on society.

I never knew that atheism has become a serious issue in the Kuwaiti society. If this is the case, then I hope the awqaf ministry publishes statistics that determine the percentage of atheists in the country, whether citizens or expatriates, and thus we will know that the ministry is right in addressing this phenomenon and I will support it.

But I know that the rate of crimes, for example, has increased, according to the statistics of the interior ministry, and I believe that talking about the reasons behind robberies, for instance, is no less important because of poverty, unemployment and weakness of faith. This, I think, is an important subject to mention in Friday sermons to urge and guide people on how to deal with such a dangerous phenomenon from the security and social aspects.

Also, guiding parents to play a greater role in the care of their children, especially teenagers, and not give up their role to maids, are key issues. Bribery, for example, which has spread in the community under the name of commission, is an important subject too, for people to learn how to act towards these wrong behaviors. Aren't these topics threatening the community and must be addressed?

Statements by the Egyptian Fatwa House in Jan 2014 reported there were about 866 atheists in Egypt, while others estimated the number in the thousands. If this estimated figure is accurate, it is nothing compared to the total population of Egypt - almost 100 million - with a majority of Muslims and a large Christian minority.

I ask the awqaf ministry to present sermons related to daily Muslim life and show us how to deal with the bad and difficult situations that we are exposed to. For instance, the community suffers from the greed of some traders, but people may feel confused on how to deal with it ethically. Another example is the spread of envy among family members. Examples are many, so please write speeches that touch the lives of people and steer clear of stirring up controversy.

<http://masajed.gov.kw/Content/DepartmentContent.aspx?ContentID=6213>

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



Sadu weaving, a traditional art, was mostly done by Bedouin women. It is now a protected part of Kuwait's heritage, with the Sadu House specifically dedicated to preserving and reviving interest in the art of sadu. — Photo by Ghazy Qaffaf/KUNA

## How To: Buying a split A/C before summer

## Tips &amp; info for Kuwait's everyday consumers

By Nawara Fattahova

When I moved apartments in winter, air conditioning was not a priority. Only later did I realize that this was something of great importance. I could only install split-unit air conditioners in my new flat, of which I had no experience, as I had central air-conditioning in my previous flat and window ACs when I was a child.

But this new experience gave me a lot of information. Buying a new split AC is the easiest choice, but it's an expensive one, especially since I needed many units of a well-known brand. So I had to choose the option of buying used. There are various places where these are sold, the most popular being the used furniture market in Rai. At this market, prices vary from one shop to another, and most brands are available. Even the warranty varies between 15 to 30 days from one shop to another.

The riskier but cheaper option is to buy used ACs from the Friday Market. Here the customer won't get a receipt, as the sellers are individuals who are not licensed by the ministry of commerce and industry, so they only record the sale on a piece of paper by hand. Basically this paper has no legal power at the customer protection department in case of any conflict, so the customer can only complain at the police station.

Also, the used split units are sold emptied of gas, which means the customer can't check the cooling function and can only check if the fan works. Even such checks are difficult or impossible at the Friday Market, as there is only one place to plug the socket and they charge for this test. Furthermore, most if not all split units don't have a plug at the end of the cable. Also, the customer should be aware that the hose of the unit should end with two metallic objects that resemble screws, which if missing, the technician who will install the unit may ask for extra money to fix.

The best choice is to buy the AC from individuals who still have it installed in their homes. This way, you can actually try the AC so you won't need any warranty. Also, most probably the owner will have the original receipt of the store where he bought it new from, which includes five or seven years of warranty by the company and shows the

real age of the unit. None of the units sold at the used furniture market come with original receipts, so the customer won't know the model or manufacturing year of the unit.

The stores selling new AC units provide installation, which is included in the price. On the other hand, installation charges of used units are very high. Even if you find a unit for KD 45, installation will cost KD 30 at least, and most technicians ask for KD 35. This is mainly because of the hosing connecting the split unit fixed inside the house to the box containing the compressor fixed outside. They charge KD 5 for each meter of hose. Also, they charge for the gas that they fill the compressor with, and they claim that prices have increased, so it's expensive. And if you need to fix the exterior compressor on a stand, this will cost you an additional KD 10, which may be bargained down to KD 15 for two stands if you're installing more than one unit.

If you buy the AC from somebody's house, usually the hose will be included, as well as the stand. But for the gas, the technician will claim it will vanish when removing the unit, so it has to be filled again after installing at your place. In any case, the installation will be cheaper and should never exceed KD 20.

When the split unit has a stronger cooling capacity, the price is more expensive. This capacity is termed in tons, so it starts from one ton, one-and-half, two and so on. For those who are new to this market, they should know that 2400 BTU is not equal to two-and-half tons, but only two tons, as one ton equals 1200 BTU. Some salesmen may try to cheat the customer and tell them the unit has more tons and charge more.

Some technicians may agree to meet you at the market and transport the AC unit as part of their charges. If you're buying it from the Friday Market, then you should also count paying for the porters who will transport the split units to your car or to the pickup vehicle that you will pay to transfer the units to your house.

It took me a search of three weeks to finally buy and install split-unit air conditioners in my flat, knowing I got the best price and hoping they are a good choice. But the experience made me wiser!

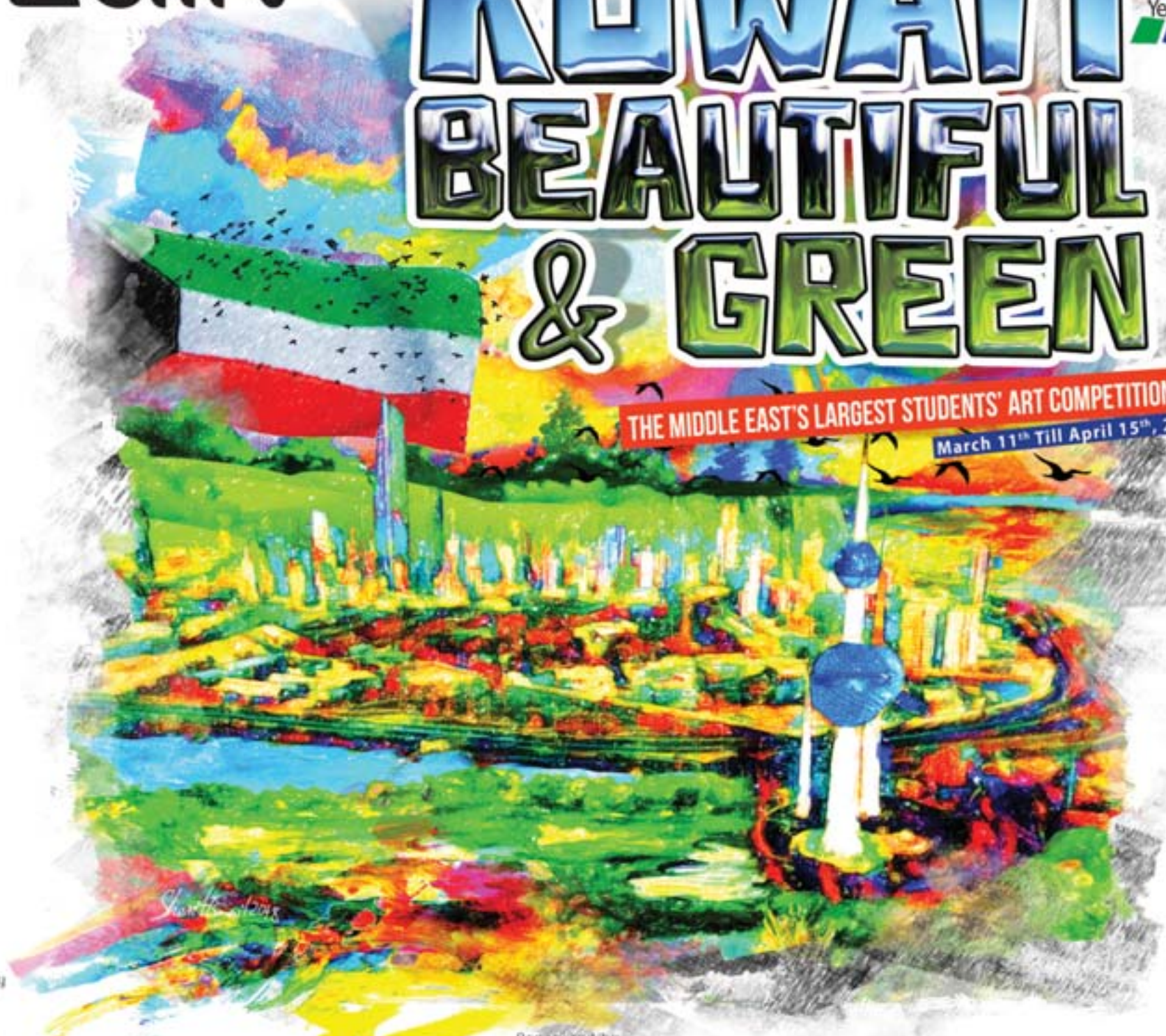
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# KUWAIT 15 Years BEAUTIFUL & GREEN

THE MIDDLE EAST'S LARGEST STUDENTS' ART COMPETITION  
March 11<sup>th</sup> Till April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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## Hello Artists...

Welcome to the Student's Art Competition. I hope you are ready to paint a beautiful painting and win wonderful prizes. The theme for your painting must be related to planting and greening, basically anything pertaining to our environment. We are looking for a great painting. So, please pick up your color pencils, paint brushes, crayons or whatever you prefer and start drawing and painting.

*Good luck to you, our young artists.*

- Competition is open to students from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) (15 - 17) and Special needs.
- The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- 5 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in the competition will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- Any school or individuals interested in participating are welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheet.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be permitted for use in the competition.
- You may use any drawing material such as color pencils, paint or crayons.

You can collect the drawing sheets from Hardee's branches: Jahra, block 3 - Mushref - South Surra - Jabriya - Fahaheel - Mougherah

\*you can send "subscribe" by what's app to +96567004268 to receive competition's news updates

## Local

## Yes to the youth!



IN MY VIEW

by Nejouad Al-Yagout

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On March 25, at the 'March for our Lives' protest across the United States and a few cities globally, Yolanda Renee King, the nine-year-old granddaughter of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, gave a rousing speech, which she concluded with the concise phrase: A gun-free world. Period. The legacy of a man such as King Jr can never be erased, but it was somehow poignant, if not promising, to know that his light has been brought to focus once again by someone so young.

If we look at the state of the world today, with terrorism, sexual harassment scandals, slavery, xenophobia and religious divisiveness, one might become disillusioned. But if we look closer, we will see many promising stories of brave souls coming forward to expose the lies and deceit of the matrix we inhabit. People are questioning ideology and voicing dissent. And some of the activists in question do not even have a license yet.

The March for our Lives campaign was founded by high-school students who survived the Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Their grief and fear galvanized them to make a change, and for the first time, the conversation about gun control is reaching the higher echelons of society. And Yolanda upped the ante by saying that weapons are not needed at all.

The new generation, all around the world, is teaching us that silence will no longer be tolerated. There is Sophie Cruz, who at the age of five began her fight for the rights of immigrants when she broke through security to hand a letter to Pope Francis. In it, she asked for his help to speak out on behalf of undocumented immigrants so that her family would not be deported from the United States.

We all know that Malala Yousafzai was only 15 when the Taliban tried to kill her. She chose to use her forum to push for the rights of girls to be educated. And then there is Payal Jangid, who escaped child slavery and is now a member of the "Children's Parliament" in her village in Rajasthan, India, where she educates citizens about abuse and child marriage.

But youth activism is not just for defending humanity. A little over three years ago, when she was in eighth grade, Phoebe Goldstein managed to have her school cancel a trip to Sea World in defense of whales and dolphins in captivity. And Tayler Jensen, an animal-loving teenager who is the founder of VegAlliance, started a vegan club which is now a grassroots organization and even got the attention of PETA. Jensen encourages people around her to adopt a compassionate, plant-based diet and has many supporters and sponsors.

Everywhere, we hear of youth activists pushing for a better world, a phenomenon that tells us we must be on the right track somehow, regardless of how things appear on the surface. Something magical is arising on our planet if kids are inspiring and guiding adults! William Wordsworth was right when he stated: "The child is father of the man."

These kids are teaching us that we are never too young to transform the world. These stories can inspire us, as adults too, to use our platforms to defend those inhabiting our planet, not just those who share our religion, our race, our gender, our sexual inclinations, our political beliefs, our education level, our financial status or our social standing. And not just those who are human, but all sentient beings, as Goldstein and Jensen would remind us.

It is never too early or too late to transform our consciousness. And when we are disillusioned by the ways of the world, and have no energy to change it, then we should at least speak out about it. We never know which child we may inspire to actually do something about it.

— Photo by Djinane Alsuwayeh

# Passion for education

An interview with Janet Carew, principal for the Kuwait English School

By Ashlyn Sequeira and Snehika Srivastava

Janet Carew has been with Kuwait English School since joining in 1983, and has been the Senior Principal for the past 25 years. She has contributed immensely to the local education system. During Carew's career, which has spanned more than three decades, she has overseen thousands of pupils and hundreds of staff members. Kuwait Times had the opportunity of interviewing her.

**Kuwait Times: You have taught at KES for 34 years. When did you realize that education was your passion in life?**

**Janet Carew:** At the age of 10, I wanted to be a teacher of mathematics and this ambition remained with me throughout school and university. My ambition was finally realized when I became a maths teacher at a school in England. When I came to Kuwait with my husband in 1980, this was my first role, and my passion for education has continued.

**KT: Being a principal is an amazing feat, but to have reached this position, a lot of sacrifices must have been made. How did you find the will to achieve your dreams and goals?**

**Carew:** I did not have to find the will to achieve my dreams as it was just something in me. I enjoyed every minute of every role I was given, whether it was as a teacher of mathematics, head of house, head of mathematics, deputy head and then head teacher [eventually principal]. Each role added more responsibility, and for me, more enjoyment. It is very important, I think, to enjoy your work, and I have been very lucky in this respect.

**KT: What are some dreams that seemed impossible, but have now come true for you in both Kuwait and at Kuwait English School?**

**Carew:** I am a great believer that no dreams are impossible if you want them enough and if you work hard enough for them to come true. My dreams came true

when I became deputy head of Kuwait English School and when my two children joined KES as students. The one dream I did not expect to be realized was that of becoming the principal - but that came true too!



Janet Carew, principal, Kuwait English School

**KT: Tell us about some of the changes you have witnessed in the mindset of the children and their parents during your lengthy tenure.**

**Carew:** Honestly, the mindset of the students and parents has not really changed a great deal over the years. Students still want to get the best possible exam grades that they can and parents want the same thing. Parents seem to be getting younger every year - but I think that's just because I am getting older! I think that perhaps because parents are getting younger, they now have more realistic ambitions for their children, and of course there are so many different jobs out there for their children. As is commonly said these days: "Children are being educated for jobs which have not even been thought of yet."

**KT: Students are constantly pressured by their parents due to their assessments. What would you like to advise parents of children in schools?**

**Carew:** I always advise parents to allow children to be children. Whilst grades are important, being a child is also important. Time must be used sensibly so that each day there is time to play as well as time to work. Play hard and work hard. I also advise parents that not all children are the same. They should not be compared to their siblings - they are individuals. Not all students will gain A grades, but all students can [and should] do their best.

**KT: Lastly, what is a philosophy you would like to share with our readers?**

**Carew:** "Failing to plan is planning to fail." This is a favorite saying of mine which has proven to be true time and time again - not just in school, but out of school too.

“ No dreams are impossible if you want them enough and if you work hard enough for them to come true. ”

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## Local

# IOM holds a workshop on human trafficking

## Kuwait vows to fight human trafficking



KUWAIT: Head of the IOM Kuwait office Eman Erekat (4th from left - front row) and Ambassador of Netherlands to Kuwait Frans Potuyt (6th from left - front row) take a group photo with security officials during a workshop at UN house in Mishref. — Photos by Yesser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Kuwait yesterday concluded a workshop to 'enhance the capacity of ports security officers towards the identification of victims of trafficking' at UN house in Mishref. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Kuwait's Ministry of Interior and experts from UAE Ministry of Interior. The five-day workshop started on March 25.

Head of the IOM Kuwait office Eman Erekat said that the aim of the workshop was to train the Commission's staff so that they can identify issues related to human trafficking and to refine their field capabilities - adding that the reality is that human trafficking is still one of the most lucrative businesses today. She thanked the Kuwait government for the partnership.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has vowed to fight human trafficking which it says is a form of contemporary slavery and a blatant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by international laws.

"This demonstrates Kuwait's seriousness and contribution to providing its local cadres with international expert-



Ambassador of Netherlands to Kuwait Frans Potuyt



Head of the IOM Kuwait office Eman Erekat

ise on various important and sensitive issues such as human rights and trafficking," she said. Erekat added that the organization seeks to be a world leader in combating this crime. IOM collaborated with the Ministry of Interior on 31 projects and with Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 13 projects.

Ambassador of Netherlands to Kuwait Frans Potuyt said that Kuwait is making progress in fighting human trafficking.

"Seeing the headquarters for UN in Kuwait is the best example of Kuwait's efforts as it continues to put extra measures in raising awareness. Most of the foreign workers in Kuwait came voluntarily, but some of them are victims of human trafficking. The Netherlands and Kuwait are keen on working together to provide good rules and regulations to fight human trafficking and to make the world a safer place," he added.



# US Embassy celebrates National Day

## 'US supports Kuwait's diplomatic efforts in the GCC'



Ambassador Lawrence Silverman and FM Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled during the US National Anthem. — Photos courtesy the US Embassy in Kuwait.

By Jamie Etheridge

The US Embassy in Kuwait celebrated the US National Day, the Fourth of July, at the embassy premises in Bayan Wednesday evening. Speaking in both Arabic and English, US Ambassador Lawrence Silverman welcomed invited guests including Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife, Sheikha Rima Al-Sabah.

The Ambassador reinforced Washington's commitment to Kuwait and regional security. "Let me reiterate once again, as the President did at the White House last September: The United States remains committed to Kuwait's security.

Together, Kuwait and the United States are moving forward with military procurements that will substantially enhance the capabilities of the Kuwait Armed Forces to defend their country and their people against any threats," Ambassador Silverman said in opening remarks.

"Together, we are fighting terrorism and taking further steps to stop terrorist financing through increased information sharing. The security, counter-terrorism and criminal justice training the US is providing will make residents of Kuwait safer and more secure."

The US Ambassador acknowledged the continued discord among Gulf Cooperation Council states, saying that "Diplomatic cooperation between the United States and

Kuwait seeks a settlement to the Gulf Cooperation Council dispute. We appreciate the efforts of the Amir to restore GCC unity - which is essential-and we will continue to exert high-level diplomacy to make that unity a reality. We hope there will be a US-GCC Summit soon - we must maximize cooperation between the US and all six members of the GCC to deal with regional threats and challenges. Together, we can work to deter Iran's malign activities in the region."

Ambassador Silverman also pointed out America's interest in investing in and doing business with Kuwait, mentioning mutual cooperation in improving intellectual property rights, science, technology, health care and especially health care management.

The theme of the evening focused on Kuwait-US educational ties. In his speech, Ambassador Silverman highlighted the continued strong relations between Kuwait and the United States, noting that many Kuwaitis study in US universities.

"Education is not just an enduring building block of the US-Kuwait relationship; it is crucial to Kuwait's future. The US Embassy wants to be part of that future. That's why we are implementing the agreement signed during the Amir's visit to increase research and educational links between our two countries," the Ambassador said.

Hundreds of guests included senior Kuwaiti officials, diplomatic representatives, Kuwaiti business leaders and American residents in Kuwait. There are an estimated 13,000 Americans living in Kuwait.

## Local

# Kuwait GDP rises by 8.7 percent at current prices

## Gross Domestic Product hits KD 36.4 billion

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices reached KD 36.4 billion (about \$120.2 billion) in 2017 - an increase of 8.7 percent, Kuwait's Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) said yesterday. The GDP at constant prices hits KD 39.76 billion (about USD 131.2 billion) in 2017, a drop of 2.9 percent compared with 2016, CSB added in its second release of quarterly GDP data.

During the last quarter of 2017, the GDP increased by 7.1 percent at current prices on a year-on-year basis and 3.2 percent compared with the third quarter of the same year, CSB added. The GDP at constant prices dropped by 2.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017 com-

pared with the same period in 2016, it added. The bureau noted that the contribution of the oil sector (extracting crude oil, natural gas and services related to refined petroleum products) to GDP soared to 47.5 percent at current prices for the last quarter of 2017 compared with 44.2 percent in the same period of 2016.

It pointed out that the oil sector's contribution to GDP plunged to 55.3 percent at constant prices for the last quarter

of 2017 compared to 57.6 percent during the same period of 2016. The outcomes of gas and crude oil represent about 55.2 percent of GDP at constant prices, it said, indicating that value added of this sector reached KD 5.4 billion (about \$17.8 billion) for the last quarter of 2017, a decrease of 7.3 percent compared to the same period of 2016. Transformative industries' contribution to GDP at current prices hit 7.2 per-

cent and 5.7 percent at constant prices, the bureau concluded.

### Oil price down

Meanwhile, the price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 62 cents to \$64.24 per barrel Wednesday compared to \$64.86 pb Tuesday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global scale, the price went down due to data showing an unexpected increase in American crude oil reserves. The price of the Brent crude went down by 70 cents to \$68.76 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which went down by 87 cents to \$64.38 per barrel. —Agencies



**Kuwait oil price down by 62 cents to \$64.24 pb**



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received Azerbaijan Ambassador to Kuwait Elkhana Gahraman at Seif Palace. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received the Brazilian Ambassador to Kuwait Norton Rapesta at Seif Palace. — KUNA

## KPI, IONITY ink deal to expand electric charging network

**BRUSSELS:** Kuwait Petroleum International, Q8, has signed a partnership agreement with IONITY, a joint venture company formed by world's top car manufacturers which has the mission to build an extensive pan-European High-Power Charging network of 400 stations by 2020. According to a press release by Q8 office in Antwerp yesterday, the agreement was signed by KPI's North West Europe managing director Fadel Al-Faraj and IONITY chief operating officer Marcus Groll. KPI is installing fast electric chargers as the future of e-mobility at its fuel stations network in Europe. These high power charging stations would be installed at company's seven highway stations in Belgium.

KPI, a subsidiary Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, has incorporated renewable and sustainable energy as its one of the top most priorities in its 2040 Strategy. Creating alternative fuels available to its customers will not only add diversity to company's business but will also add value to business growth and brand recognition. These high power charging stations are capable to charge electric cars in less than 20 minutes for a distance of 300 kilometers.

Also, these stations would become part of reliable and pow-



**BRUSSELS:** KPI's North West Europe MD Fadel Al Faraj shakes hands with IONITY COO Marcus Groll after signing the partnership agreement. — KUNA

erful charging network that supports all electric vehicles, regardless of the brand. After this summer, KPI will be one of the first to offer this type of high power charging stations in Belgium. Moreover, this initiative would bring business diversity, innovation and sustainability to KPI while maintaining growth in fuel disposal through our extensive retail business, it said. With this network of ultra-fast chargers KPI actively contributes to the infrastructure for the mobility of tomorrow, it added. — KUNA

## CRIMES

### Inmate attempts suicide

**KUWAIT:** Sulaibiya prosecutor has charged a Syrian inmate at Central Prison for attempted suicide. The inmate attempted to hang himself with a cloth but was rescued and taken to the office. He also injured himself with a blade which he had hidden in his mouth.

### Offensive video clip

Criminal detectives have sent a memo to the Public Prosecution against a well-known citizen who has been charged with insulting the prophet. Officials pressed charges after confirming the offensive video clip allegedly made by the woman.

### Syrian, Kuwaiti fight

A citizen and a Syrian woman exchanged blows and verbal insults over a car parking lot. The citizen asked the Syrian not to park in front of her house and the dispute turned into a fight. Authorities are investigating.

### Fugitive nabbed

A citizen has been arrested after Kuwaiti and British passports were found in his possession along with stolen license plate numbers and an ID card that belongs to a state security officer. The arrest was made when a police patrol checked his ID and found him 'wanted on financial cases' for which he is supposed to serve a jail sentence.

### Drug suspects arrested

Hawally police caught a man and a woman in a 'compromising situation' in their car and found them under the influence of heroin. A police patrol saw the suspects in the car and asked them to come out for a routine check. They were also found to be wanted for various financial crimes. Police found an envelope stuffed with heroin in the girl's purse. — *Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa*



## Local

# Kuwait reiterates its support for peacekeeping operations

## Kuwait-hosted conference 'key' for UN 2019 plan

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has reiterated its support to all procedures and efforts by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to improve performance of UN peacekeeping operations. "We appreciate the General Secretariat's high sense of responsibility and current thorough examination of the performance level, as well as the action plan in order to limit the increasing number of casualties among peacekeepers, who we greatly value their sacrifices to protect civilians," said Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, Representative of Kuwait Permanent Mission to the UN late Wednesday.

His remarks came before a UN Security Council debate on improving UN peacekeeping operations. "Out of our responsibility towards peacekeeping, and due to our previous and successful experience in hosting a peacekeeping mission; UNICOM, Kuwait have committed to paying two-thirds of the mission's budget throughout its stay of 12 years," Al-Otaibi noted, pointing out that the mission ended operations in Kuwait in 2003.

"When we talk about the three principles of peacekeeping; consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate... Here we are addressing the cornerstone, represented by the host country, which must be consulted during the entire mandate periods with all details."

However, he said that factors aside from poor coordination, miscommunication and armed conflicts could negatively affect the

course, fluency and pace of a peacekeeping mission. "Factors such as Climate Change, immigration and displacement among others, require efforts to be exerted in order for the mission to serve its purpose. This would be achieved through addressing the root cause of the conflict," Al-Otaibi explained.

Such challenges call for having "resilient and clear" mandate so as to provide UN peacekeepers the ability to acclimate to changes, as well as be geared up to deal with variables on ground; which would limit its deployment for undisclosed periods attached with hard-to-achieve goals, he noted. The high-level open debate was convened by the Netherlands in its capacity as the President of the Security Council for the month of March. The country's Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, chaired the meeting.

### Kuwait committed to paying two-thirds of mission's budget



### Kuwait-hosted conference

Meanwhile, representative of the UN High Commissioner of Refugees in Iraq Bruno Geddo stated on Wednesday that the outcome of the Kuwait-hosted international conference for Iraq reconstruction would be the key point for next year's plan of action. In a joint press conference with Kuwait's Consul-General in Irbil Omar Al-Kandari, Geddo said that the international conference helped achieve stability and attracted investments to the Iraqi cities that were under the so-called Islamic State (IS) group's control. International donors have pledged USD 30 billion in funds to rebuild Iraq post-IS at the conference hosted by Kuwait last month. — Agencies

## MoH sacks 253 expat employees

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah has sacked 253 expat employees - effective July 1st 2018. Informed sources said this first batch will be the first among others that will come later. "This batch of expat employees is terminated from administrative jobs and replaced by Kuwaitis. The sacked employees were given three months to settle their situation," the sources said, adding that the Health Ministry said it will replace expats with Kuwaitis in administrative jobs, but it cannot terminate the services of doctors, nurses and technicians. Meanwhile, Acting Public Works Ministry Undersecretary Khalid Al-Khazi has signed a decision to terminate the services of 18 expats as part of the Kuwaitization directives. The termination will be effective from July 1st.

### Diabetes 'a challenge'

The rise in diabetes in the country offers massive challenges to the health sys-



tem, and achieving sustainable development, Minister of Health said yesterday. Kuwait is taking effective steps to address the disease which stem from its national development plan, the minister told the Sixth Gulf Group for the Study of Diabetes (GGSD) conference, stressing the necessity of implementing preventive programs. Meanwhile, the conference's organizing committee head Dr Monira Al-Arouj said that the three-day event aimed to raise awareness on the disease, and review strategies for its prevention. Gulf nationals are amongst the top 10 highest in the world in regards to diabetes rates, she said, warning that 63 percent of those over 60 suffer from its symptoms. In Kuwait, these rates have risen from 23 percent in 2016 to 24 percent, this year.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Hamoud Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addresses the 6th Gulf Group for the Study of Diabetes (GGSD) conference yesterday. — KUNA photos

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Unstable weather

**KUWAIT:** Relative hot weather with light to moderate wind at speeds of 15-45 km/h, rising dust, and possible scattered clouds in some areas will prevail in Kuwait during the weekend, said an official at Meteorological Center Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi yesterday. Al-Qarawi told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that today's weather will be unstable at daytime and partially cloudy at night with southeasterly wind with speeds of 25-60 kilometers per hour, and a high temperature between 33 to 35 degrees Celsius. However, in the evening, the dust will gradually settle with northwesterly wind dominating. As for tomorrow, Al-Qarawi expects a gradual improvement in the weather - and light to moderate northwestern wind speeds up to 40 kilometers per hour. Highest temperature expected is 30-33 degrees Celsius with sea level between 2 to 5 feet. Low temperatures will reach between 13 to 17 degrees Celsius. — KUNA

### KU online registration

**KUWAIT:** The Center for Evaluation and Measurement at Kuwait University (KU) announced yesterday that the electronic registration has been opened for the Academic Aptitude Tests scheduled for May 5. It added that the registration will continue until April 14, and all 12th grade students are invited to register at <https://portal.ku.edu.kw/placement>. — KUNA

### SMEs leadership skills

**PARIS:** Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman said the visit of mobadara "initiative" team to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is a great opportunity to benefit from Paris' experience in the field. During his meeting with the team, Al-Suleiman hailed the initiative's role in supporting SMEs for youth. The initiative chose France because the country has great experience in international commercial projects and business administration, he said. The visit to Paris will also provide the team with leadership skills in SMEs. The team will visit youth societies related to businesses in France. — KUNA

### KUNA wins award

**KUWAIT:** Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri yesterday congratulated the Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duajj Al-Sabah and board members on the agency's win at the Sharjah Government Communication Award. Al-Jabri said in a press statement that the award for best media initiative in government communication in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) allocated to KUNA Wednesday had confirmed Kuwait's leading position in the field of media. He praised the efforts of Kuwaiti youths working in the media sector who had initiatives and actions characterized by creativity and excellence in terms of content and form, which had a great impact on the jury leading to the win. Yesterday, Chairman of the Financial Department of Sharjah Government Sheikh Mohammad bin Saud Al-Qasimi and Chairman of Sharjah Media Council Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmad Al-Qasimi handed the award to KUNA's Deputy Director General and Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali. — KUNA



Millions of Indian students to re-sit exam after test leaked

## Tearful Malala makes first trip to Pakistan since Taliban attack



CAIRO: Egyptian boys flash the victory gesture and wave a national flag as they ride in the back of a pickup truck with speakers and posters for incumbent President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, driving along a main street in the capital Cairo's western Giza district. —AFP

# Sisi wins second term with 92% of vote

## Sole challenger, himself a supporter of Sisi

**CAIRO:** Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has been re-elected for a second term with about 92 percent of the vote, preliminary results showed yesterday, with just over 40 percent of voters casting ballots. Twenty-five million of the 60 million registered voters, or some 41.5 percent, turned out during the three days of polling that ended Wednesday, state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram reported. Twenty-three million voted for Sisi.

The Akhbar el-Youm newspaper did not report the full turnout but said Sisi won 21.4 million votes, and his rival Moussa Mostafa Moussa 721,000 votes, without mentioning the number of spoiled ballots. According to Al-Ahram, in addition to 23 million who cast valid votes, two million spoiled their ballot papers.

Sisi's sole challenger was the little-known Moussa, himself a supporter of the president, who registered immediately before the close date for applications, saving the election from being a one-horse race. Moussa conceded his loss on Wednesday night, telling a television station he had hoped for 10 percent of the vote. "But I know the immense popularity of President Sisi," he said. Other, more heavy-weight would-be challengers were all sidelined, detained or pulled out. Sisi, who as army chief ousted Egypt's first

freely elected president— Islamist Mohamed Morsi—after mass street protests in 2013, won his first term in 2014 with 96.9 percent of the vote.

### Turnout down on 2014

Turnout of 47 percent in that year's election was sharply higher than this year's 40 percent despite appeals from Prime Minister Sherif Ismail for voters to fulfill their patriotic duty. Boycotters who cannot show good reason for not going to the polls could face a fine of up to 500 Egyptian pounds (22 euros), the electoral commission has warned. At a news conference, election commission official, Mahmud al-Sherif, said there had been no violations of Egypt's election law. Opposition groups had called for a boycott of this week's vote which they labeled a facade.

There were no presidential debates and Sisi himself did not appear at any official campaign events, although he spoke at a number of ceremonies. In an interview days ahead of the vote, Sisi said he had wished there were more candidates, denying any role in sidelining them. At a speech before the vote he also called for a high turnout. "I need you because the journey is not over," Sisi told a

mostly female audience. "I need every lady and mother and sister, please, I need the entire world to see us in the street" voting.

Morsi's removal had ushered in a deadly crackdown that killed and jailed hundreds of Islamists. The initial crackdown on Morsi's supporters expanded to include liberal and leftist secular activists. A jihadist insurgency since has killed hundreds of policemen and civilians. Sisi gave the armed forces and police a three-month deadline in November to wipe out the Islamic State group in its Sinai Peninsula stronghold. The deadline has since been extended, and on February 9 the armed forces launched their most comprehensive campaign yet to end the five-year-old jihadist insurgency. But attacks by the jihadists have continued.

On Saturday, two policemen were killed in a car bomb targeting the provincial head of security for the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. The security chief was unharmed. Egyptian cities, especially Cairo, have been flooded with banners showing Sisi and messages of support from business owners. Posters vowing support for Moussa, 65, are rarely seen. While still popular, Sisi has embarked on tough economic reforms that have been welcomed by foreign investors but dented his popularity at home. —AFP

# Getting out the vote the Egyptian way

**CAIRO:** The going rate for a vote in Egypt's presidential election was 50 to 100 Egyptian pounds (\$3 to \$5), but heading down to a polling station could have also landed you a box of groceries or even half-price tickets to an amusement park. Authorities pressed for a high turnout in a vote set to give President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi a sweeping victory in the absence of real competition. Sisi urged people to vote, hoping a large turnout will give him a strong mandate.

There is no evidence that authorities were behind vote buying or other inducements. Reuters correspondents have witnessed multiple cases of state institutions, lawmakers, private businesses, and pro-Sisi individuals seeking to reward voters or make it seem turnout is higher than it actually was. Diaa Rashwan, the head of the State Information Service, did not deny such cases could have taken place but said they would not affect the election results, were "not systematic" and would have been "carried out by individuals and not the state".

At the office of a logistics company in Cairo's working class Ward estate, employees collected national ID cards and informed people where they could vote. Tuk-tuks (rick-

shaws) then took voters there. After casting their ballots, voters would be picked up by the same tuk-tuks and returned to the office, to receive payments of 50 pounds.

"I drive people to their polling stations, wait for them, and then take them back to collect the money," said one driver. A Reuters correspondent made the journey with one voter and spoke to three others who said they took the money. All spoke on condition of anonymity. Islam Mostafa, 25, said he was offered 100 pounds to vote but declined. "I will not vote, vote for who? Sisi will win anyway. This is not a real election. What will 100 pounds do anyway?" Rashwan said offering or receiving electoral bribes carries a penalty of up to one year in prison and authorities would jail anyone caught doing either.

### Bags of food

Some women in working class Cairo neighborhoods told Reuters they were promised bags of food in exchange for voting. One woman said a man went around her neighborhood knocking on doors and gave people slips of paper. He told them to go vote, come back with the paper which they can exchange for a bag of food items. She declined to be identi-

fied for fear of reprisal and said she did not know the man.

A Reuters correspondent saw a man in the working class Helmeyet Al-Zaytoun area of eastern Cairo gather photocopies of national ID cards from women there and give them papers with Sisi's face printed on them. One woman told Reuters she got the paper stamped by individuals inside a polling station as proof she had voted, before returning it to the man in exchange for box containing rice, vegetable oil, and sugar.

Civil servants and other state employees were encouraged to vote by their bosses and even private businesses got in on the action. Dream Park, a popular Cairo amusement, offered half price tickets on election days to those who voted.

### Singing and dancing

At polling station in Cairo's Nasr City, guided by men in plain clothes, dozens of women and a handful of men wearing rural garments marched out of a voting station, waving Egyptian flags and then singing for 10 minutes. They then boarded a convoy of buses and left for 15 minutes, only to return and recreate the same scene. The ritual went on

for five hours, a Reuters correspondent observed. The buses had no license plates. The voting line never had more than 10 people at a time. There were similar scenes in other polling stations, Reuters correspondents observed.

Rashwan said such incidents were not illegal and did not affect actual turnout figures or the election results. In working class Imbaba overlooking the Nile, lawmaker Ihab Al-Khouly sat amongst supporters outside a group of polling stations before getting up to dance with pro-Sisi voters. Khouly denied he was organizing buses to bring voters in when asked by Reuters but was later seen helping women on the busses himself.

Rashwan said that lawmakers providing transport for voters is not illegal and is in fact a service to their constituents. Mohamed Mahmoud, an official at the Free Egyptians Party which backs Sisi, said his party had chosen to educate voters about the importance of participation instead of resorting to such tactics. "There is a difference between those who are working for the country and those doing things for personal gain," he said. He said it was unlikely security services played any role in amassing voters. —Reuters



Kuwait Times

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## International

# Driver tries to ram soldiers as France mourns terror victims

## Sparking fears of a new attempted attack

**VARCES-ALLIERES-ET-RISSET:** A man driving a car with fake license plates tried to ram a group of soldiers out jogging in southeast France yesterday, security sources said, sparking fears of a new attempted attack as the country mourns the victims of an Islamist shooting spree last week.

Speaking French and Arabic, the man first threatened a group of soldiers at around 8 am in Varcès-Allières-et-Risset, near Grenoble, and then tried to run down another group returning to their barracks from a jog, the sources added. "The soldiers managed to get up onto the pavement without being hit," army spokesman Colonel Benoit Brulon said.

The driver of the small Peugeot 208 hatchback, who was accompanied by a woman, sped off before being arrested around lunchtime in Grenoble, police and military sources said. Prosecutors in Grenoble, a town in the foothills of the French Alps, said the incident was not being treated as a terrorist attack for the moment and the motive remained unclear.

The incident comes with France on edge after a jihadist rampage in the towns of Carcassonne and Trebes last week where a 25-year-old gunman killed four people, including a policeman who took the place of a hostage in a supermarket siege. The people of Trebes paid an emotional farewell to three local victims at a ceremony in the square of the sleepy town yesterday, held a day after a national tribute to officer

Arnaud Beltrame in Paris led by President Emmanuel Macron. "You fell under the bullets of terrorism and took with you the insouciance of a little town in Occitanie where no one expected to ever experience such happenings," Trebes Mayor Eric Menassi told mourners at the gathering attended by Prime Minister Edouard Philippe.

### Security forces under fire

The security forces have been repeatedly targeted during the string of jihadist attacks that have claimed the lives of 240 people around France in the

### Sped off before being arrested

past three years. At least six security force members have been killed during that period. In last week's attack, the Moroccan-born gunman Radouane Lakdim fired at a group of policemen returning from a jog before storming the Super U store and shooting dead two people. He also killed the passenger of a car he hijacked in Carcassonne. Beltrame intervened during the supermarket siege to take the place of a cashier Lakdim was using as a human shield. But after three hours of negotiations the gunman, who claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group, slit Beltrame's throat before himself being shot dead by police. Paying tribute to Beltrame at a national ceremony in Paris on Wednesday, President Emmanuel Macron said his act of self-sacrifice would "remain etched in French hearts".

Lakdim, who had a criminal record for weapons and drugs offences, was on a watchlist



**TREBES:** French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe (R) holds a white rose to lay the coffin as he watches family members pay their last respects during the funeral service for the three people killed in a terrorist attack in the town of Trebes. —AFP

of suspected radicals, but authorities had concluded that he did not pose a threat. His 18-year-old girlfriend, a radicalised Muslim convert, has been charged with being part of a terrorist conspiracy.

Other deadly assaults on police include the massacre at the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine in Paris in January 2015, in which two offi-

cers were killed, and the fatal April 2017 shooting of a policeman on the Champs Elysees. The army and police have also been targeted in several non-lethal attacks.

In August 2017, a man rammed his car into a group of soldiers on anti-terror patrol in the western Paris suburb of Levallois-Perret, injuring six people. —AFP

## Syria's Idlib at heart of tense face-off

**BEIRUT:** The fate of Syria's Idlib will depend on Turkey's ability to keep a lid on the jihadist-dominated tinderbox and prevent an explosive Russian-backed government offensive on its doorstep, analysts say. Largely outside government control since 2015, the northwestern province is home to some 2.5 million people, including many rebels from other areas who were evacuated there after being defeated by government forces.

President Bashar al-Assad's fiercest foes are being gathered in Idlib, and there would be great temptation for Russia to green light a regime offensive on the province," Syria expert Nicholas Heras said. But "Turkey needs Idlib to serve as

a buffer against the war," said Heras, a fellow at the Center for a New American Security. The war in Syria has killed more than 350,000 people and displaced more than half the population from their homes, including more than three million to neighboring Turkey.

Already overwhelmed, Ankara is determined to prevent more Syrians from crossing into its territory and even says it wants to create conditions for mass refugee returns. "Turkey needs Idlib to serve as a buffer against the war. If Assad tried to seize Idlib, at a bare minimum hundreds of thousands of people would be displaced, and they would have few places to run to," Heras said. The incentive is clear for Turkey to prevent the chaos that would result from a regime assault but to do so it will have to rein in powerful jihadists in the province.

### Jihadists dominant

Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS), a group led by Al-Qaeda's former Syrian affiliate, has faced military set-

backs in Idlib in recent months. But unless Ankara decides otherwise, analysts say, the group will probably retain influence in the province where a myriad of jihadist and other rebels have vied for power since 2015.

Since the start of the year, HTS has lost dozens of areas to a government offensive in the southeast of the province. In the meantime, former allies Ahrar Al-Sham and Nureddine Al-Zinki banded together against HTS to form the Turkey-backed Syria Liberation Front. The new group a few weeks ago launched an assault against the jihadist alliance's positions, taking back several areas including the towns of Ariha and Maaret Al-Numan. Syria analyst Haid Haid says recent territorial losses have dented HTS's standing.

They have "broken its military aura" as "a power that cannot be vanquished, which had helped it scare off the other factions", said the research fellow at King's College London. But even as HTS control of

Idlib has dwindled to around 60 percent of the province, it has retained control other key sources of political and economic power. Sam Heller, an analyst at the International Crisis Group, said HTS still holds key assets in the province.

### Putin-Erdogan 'contest'

"It lost areas in the southern countryside of Idlib but it retained the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing (with Turkey) and control over the provincial capital Idlib city," he said. A civilian body that acts in the jihadist-led group's interests levies taxes from shopkeepers, and has tried to impose its will on local councils in the province.

Heras said HTS "retains a social organizing power that effectively makes it a first among equals in the opposition governance". "Unless Turkey wills it and devotes the military resources to combat Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, the other armed opposition groups in Idlib will not win," he said. Since January, Turkish troops have deployed to three ob-

servations posts in Idlib province to monitor a so-called "de-escalation zone" agreed in September by Turkey, Russia and Iran.

The de-escalation is essentially a dead letter and while Russia has no forces on the ground in Idlib, its fighter jets have struck targets in support of regime forces, as they have elsewhere in Syria. The province, with its explosive cocktail of competing armed groups, is about to become the latest scene of the face-off between the two most powerful brokers in the Syrian conflict.

"Idlib is a contest between Russia and Turkey," said Heras, who argued the deciding factor would be Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's "determination to stare down" his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Heller agreed that Idlib's fate would likely be determined by the international powers involved in Syria's conflict. "The province's fate will depend on what Turkish-Russian agreements are made behind the scenes," he said. —AFP

## International

# Liberia struggles with its past; UN peacekeepers exit

## ‘The mission gave hope to refugees to return home’

**MONROVIA:** As UN peacekeepers leave Liberia after 14 years, headway in reforming the security forces is being undermined by lack of progress in tackling the country's traumatic legacy of war crimes, officials say. Liberia's 1989-2003 conflict killed around a quarter of a million people, while government forces and rebel groups murdered, maimed and raped with impunity.

The UN mission, known as UNMIL, was deployed in September 2003 as the highly politicized army and police were disbanded after committing some of the worst abuses. The effort to protect Liberians after the grueling conflict will be remembered long after the mission's exit, said Eugene Farkollie, a civil society leader. “UNMIL has had a serious positive impact in Liberia. No need to remind anyone about how the UN peacekeepers saved thousands of lives by sending a vanguard force when killing was fair game for the various warring factions,” Farkollie said.

“The mission gave hope to refugees to return home, and built schools through its quick impact projects. UNMIL also positively impacted our security sector by helping to train a professional police and immigration (service),” he added. UNMIL handed back control of security matters in July 2016. Its final pullout is on Friday.

Samuel Smith, a Liberian security expert, pointed to the peaceful rollout of last year's presidential election as proof that the security forces could stand on their own, partly thanks to UN support and training. “When you look at the manner in which our national security handled

the presidential elections, it makes you believe that we are getting there gradually,” he said.

### Exclusion

But UN officials say more must be done to address the roots of Liberia's long conflict, and to deal with its lingering effects. The United Nations Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed said last week in Monrovia that peace would “remain fragile as long as people feel excluded from the economic and political life of the country, and as long as corruption undermines confidence in institutions”.

A Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) set up by former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to probe war crimes and rights abuses linked to the conflict said in 2009 that a compensation scheme should be created, alongside a dedicated war crimes court. To date no one has been prosecuted for war crimes committed during the conflict, and the underlying causes of the conflict remain strongly felt in Liberian society.

President George Weah has made no specific commitments to addressing war crimes since his election last year. “Either we forget or justice is done,” he said at a ceremony for the mission's departure. However, he added he harboured hopes that the Ministry of Justice and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission would come “back to the table”, without elaborating.

Ibrahim Al-Bakri Nyei, a Liberian researcher and political analyst, said the country's leaders had to provide an outlet for victims to access justice, and for perpetrators “to exonerate themselves or justify their alleged action before a

### Peacekeepers leave Liberia after 14 years



## Suicides rise as long war grinds down S Sudanese

**MALAKAL:** By the time her 19-year-old son was shot in front of her, Ayak had already lost her four brothers and witnessed countless deaths in South Sudan's brutal war. Living alone in a miserable structure of plastic sheets and tin in a huge camp for displaced people, watching as relentless rains turned earth to mud, it all became too much to bear for the 44 year-old.

“I have seen it all. When I thought about the lives of my relatives and their deaths, I decided to take my own life, too,” Ayak says, falling silent as tears fill her eyes. She survived her suicide attempt but is only one of a growing number of people trying to end their own lives in the camp. Some 24,000 people are holed up at the site, located a short drive from Malakal—a once flourishing trading hub reduced to a ghost town by years of conflict.

In 2017, 31 people in the camp attempted to kill themselves — 15 women and 16 men—and six people died, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The previous year, four people died. In December last year, South Sudan entered the fifth year of a civil war that has killed tens of thousands and displaced some four million people.

With no peace deal in sight, and yet another ceasefire recently crumbling within hours of its signing, many of Malakal's dispossessed have lost hope. Their previous homes are just a few kilometers away in the nearby destroyed town. In the camp—known as a “Protection of Civilians” or PoC site—there is no privacy and most families sleep on thin mats on the floor, already dreading the rainy season, due to arrive in the weeks ahead.

Movement is confined to the camp, clustered around a UN base, as many still fear insecurity on the outside. “People entered the PoC when they were children. Children are becoming adults here and are looking at the future and feel hopeless,” says the Danish Refugee Council's country director Raphael Capony. —AFP



MONROVIA: Deputy Secretary General of the UN Amina J Mohammed (C-L) speaks with Liberia's President George Weah. —AFP

competent court”. A war crimes court, he added, would require UN expertise to set up, pointing to continuing role for the world body beyond development projects once its peacekeeping duties wound up.

### Regional force

The future of UN peacekeeping is also being considered more widely as two other bodies are playing an increasingly important role in West African security and politics: the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the G5 Sahel group of nations. An ECOWAS military force, ECOMOG, predated the UN mission in the country.

ECOWAS has mediated several crises in the region over the last two years, including the departure into exile of Gambian leader Yahya Jammeh, and Liberia's own political crisis in late 2017,

when the ruling party contested election results. The G5 Sahel has deployed its own military force to the border areas between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to tackle jihadists and smugglers operating in the area, supplementing a Malian peacekeeping mission in Mali.

In the context of such regional cooperation, the UN still has a role, Nyei argued. “While ECOWAS is growing stronger and demonstrating strong capability to resolve regional issues, the backing of the UN will only reinforce ECOWAS' efforts and assure citizens further of the world superpowers' support to the peace processes in the region,” he said. The UN's Mohammed cautioned against complacency regarding Liberia's potential implication in the Sahel's fragile security situation, however. “Having peace in Liberia doesn't mean that you will be protected from the instability,” she said. —AFP



MALAKAL: A photo taken on March 13, 2018, shows a child sitting on a bed at an internally displaced person (IDP) camp, hosting more than 24,000 people. —AFP

## International

# UK Labour Party plunged into crisis over anti-Semitism row

## Scores of party members have been suspended, expelled

**LONDON:** A high-profile resignation in Britain's main opposition Labour over its handling of multiple anti-Semitism allegations pitched the party into crisis yesterday on an issue that has stalked its hard-left leader Jeremy Corbyn ever since he took charge. The resignation of Christine Shawcroft, the official in charge of cracking down on anti-Semitism in the party, was the latest twist in a row that came to a head this week when Jewish campaigners held an unprecedented protest outside parliament.

Scores of party members have been suspended, expelled or forced to resign for making anti-Semitic statements since Corbyn became party leader in 2015, but he and his far-left supporters have been accused of a "complacent" approach to the problem. Corbyn started the week with an apology for "pockets" of anti-Semitism in the party that was quickly rebuffed by British Jewish leaders who accused him of siding with anti-Semites.

They called a protest on Monday, saying "enough is enough". Around 500 demonstrators gathered outside the parliament in London, where they were met with counter-protests by Jewish Corbyn supporters, leading to heated exchanges and minor physical confrontations. Members of the main rally shouted "shame on you" and "scum" at the group of around 50 Corbyn

supporters, who claim that the accusations leveled at Labour are politically motivated.

### Hamas and Hezbollah 'friends'

Allegations of anti-Semitism have been a problem for veteran socialist Corbyn ever since his improbable leadership win. Immediately after the victory he was forced on the defensive for having once referred to Hamas and Hezbollah-militant groups that deny Israel's right to exist-as "friends" at a discussion about the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

He was not helped a year later when one of his key allies, former London mayor Ken Livingstone, made a series of comments linking Hitler to Zionism that caused global condemnation. Livingstone has since been suspended from the party indefinitely. Another blow came when award-winning film director Ken Loach, a major Corbyn supporter, made controversial comments about the Holocaust in a BBC interview in September 2017.

Asked if Holocaust denial was acceptable, Loach said: "History is for all of us to discuss. All history is our common heritage to discuss and analyse. The founding of the State of Israel, for example, based on ethnic cleansing, is there for us to discuss." Loach later clarified his comments saying that the Holocaust was "as



**LONDON:** A video grab from footage broadcast by the UK Parliament's Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) shows Britain's opposition Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn speaking during the weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons. —AFP

real a historical event as World War II itself and not to be challenged".

### 'Not good enough'

The latest crisis began last week when Corbyn was forced to apologise over a Facebook post he

wrote in 2012 in support of a street artist whose mural, featuring clear anti-Semitic symbolism, was due to be removed following complaints. Robert Shrimley, editorial director of the Financial Times, wrote that Corbyn and his supporters had "ignored and denied" anti-Semitism in the party until last week.



### Comments linking Hitler to Zionism

## Brazil's Lula campaigns after shots fired

**CURITIBA:** Brazil's controversial former leftist leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva addressed a campaign rally Wednesday after gunshots were fired at his bus convoy, ramping up tension in an already jittery presidential race. The rally in the southern city of Curitiba was the culmination of a regional tour by the presidential frontrunner that has exposed jarring political divisions in Brazil ahead of the October 7 election.

Around 1,000 supporters dressed in the red of his Workers' Party gathered at the end of a rainy day to cheer Lula as he gave his speech surrounded by a reinforced police deployment. Lula called the gathering a show of support "against violence and for democracy." The rally occurred just hours after a right-wing rival presidential candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, met nearby with several hundred cheering supporters — and branded Lula "a scoundrel."

While making his election tilt, Lula is simultaneously fighting in the courts to avoid a 12-year prison sentence for corruption. It's an all-or-nothing push to secure a spot once again in the presidential palace, rather than behind bars. Despite the scandal, he leads easily in opinion polls, followed by Bolsonaro. However, his 10-day bus tour was targeted by protesters, including opponents who threw stones and eggs at the buses and at him on stage.

Then late Tuesday, his convoy came under fire—something shocking even in ultra-violent Brazil. Lula and his allies said the shots were fired in an apparent ambush, with two bullets hitting one bus, one bullet hitting another, and the third bus, where Lula was traveling, escaping unscathed. No one was hurt. Gleisi Hoffmann, leader of the Workers' Party, which Lula founded, said the incident should be investigated as a possible assassination attempt. —AFP

## Attempted jailbreak sees 68 dead in Venezuela

**CARACAS:** A total of 68 people died on Wednesday during an attempted jailbreak in Venezuela after a fire engulfed police holding cells in one of the worst tragedies in years in a notoriously violent and overcrowded prison system. Attorney General Tarek William Saab gave the death toll in the pre-dawn mayhem at the police headquarters in northern Carabobo state, blaming a fire thought to have been started deliberately.

Carlos Nieto, head of a prisoners' rights group called Una Ventana a la Libertad (A Window on Freedom), said that some prisoners burned to death and others choked after setting fire to mattresses and stealing a guard's gun in an attempt to break out. The dead included two women who were visiting the jail, the attorney general said, adding that four prosecutors have been named to investigate.

Photos taken by Nieto's group showed the body of a man with burns and firefighters trying to put out flames. Relatives of those being kept in the detention center tried to force their way in. After one officer was injured by a tossed stone, the crowd was dispersed by police firing tear gas. A video posted on Twitter

showed dozens of people demanding information in front of police guarding the site. Women were seen crying. "I am a desperate mother. My son has been here a week. They have not given any information," Dora Blanco told local media. Local news correspondents wrote on Twitter that the facility was tense Wednesday night.

### Dire prison conditions

Venezuela's prisons suffer from dire overcrowding and a shortage of basic supplies, struggling under the deepening economic crisis that is gripping the once-wealthy oil-producing country. Because of the lack of space in penitentiaries, convicts are often sent to police holding cells like the ones in Carabobo, meant to be used as temporary pens for suspects facing charges or court hearings, where detainees are supposed to spend a maximum of 48 hours.

Nieto's association estimated that the temporary detention centers were overfilled by five times their capacity. And what happened Wednesday in Carabobo is not an isolated incident, he added. "All the police stations in Venezuela are facing similar or worse conditions of overcrowding, lack of food and disease," he said.

The association said 65 people died last year in the holding cells due to violence, malnutrition or tuberculosis. Two weeks ago, 58 detainees escaped holding cells on Margarita Island, a favored tourist spot, after punching a hole in their facility's wall. They were all soon recaptured. In August 2017, a riot left 37 dead and 14 wounded in police cells in the southern state of Amazonas, while an April 2017 clash between rival gangs left 12 dead and 11 injured in the Puente Ayala prison in the eastern city of Barcelona. —AFP

## International

# Trump ousts Veterans Affairs chief, employs WH doctor to replace him

## Shulkin's departure caps a dizzying month of changes

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump shook up his cabinet once again on Wednesday, sacking embattled Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and nominating White House doctor Ronny Jackson as his successor. "I am pleased to announce that I intend to nominate highly respected Admiral Ronny L Jackson, MD, as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs," said Trump, who has also replaced his secretary of state and national security advisor in the last month.

"I am thankful for Dr David Shulkin's service to our country and to our GREAT VETERANS!" he said on Twitter. Pentagon

official Robert Wilkie would serve as interim department chief until Jackson receives Congressional approval, the president added. Shulkin's sacking had been widely predicted after he was accused of spending \$122,000 on a nine-day trip to Europe with his wife, which included sightseeing at castles and taking in professional tennis matches.

He was one of the few senior officials in the Trump administration who had also served during the presidency of Barack Obama. Jackson's stock with Trump rose after he pronounced in January that the 71-year-old president was in "excellent" health. After releasing the results from Trump's physical, Jackson said "he has incredible genes and that's the way God made him." VoteVets, a

progressive organization, urged Senators to "ask him blunt, direct questions about how the VA works" during his confirmation hearing. "We are concerned about his readiness to assume control," the group wrote on Twitter. AMVETS Executive Director Joe Chenelly questioned whether Jackson, who has no experience in management, is qualified to run a \$200 billion a year bureaucracy, the second largest agency in the US government. "With an official bio that does not seem to contain any indication that he's held a command, is the president's nominee fully prepared to lead such a massive bureaucracy?," Chenelly asked in a statement.

### 'Hate to see him go'

Shulkin's departure caps a dizzying month of changes to the Trump cabinet, most notably the sacking of Rex Tillerson as secretary of state on March 13. Trump's top economic advisor Gary Cohn also exited the White House after the president announced plans to impose tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum, a policy Cohn did not endorse. And National Security Advisor HR McMaster was axed only six days ago, replaced by the hardline Fox News pundit and former UN ambassador John Bolton. The

## Sacramento simmers over police killing of unarmed man

**SACRAMENTO:** Huge crowds are expected to join an outpouring of grief and rage yesterday at the funeral of an unarmed black man shot dead by police in California's capital Sacramento. The service, where civil rights activist Al Sharpton will deliver the eulogy, has been moved to a bigger venue to accommodate "a large volume of people wanting to pay their last respects," his spokesman said.

Body camera and surveillance helicopter footage released last week showed police chasing and then firing 20 rounds at 22-year-old Stephon Clark, fearing that he was carrying a weapon. He was actually holding an iPhone. An uproar following the March 18 incident, erupting into days of protest outside the state Capitol building and continuing into the streets of downtown, with marchers

blocking traffic and clashing with police in riot gear.

Rachel Noerdlinger, Sharpton's spokeswoman, said the public service would take place at 11:00 am (1800 GMT) at the Bayside Boss Church in southern Sacramento. The civil rights activist will hold a news conference, she added, with the Clarks' lawyer, renowned civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump, who negotiated settlements for the family of Trayvon Martin. The incident was triggered by an emergency 911 phone call late on March 18 stating that a man was smashing car windows in the neighborhood. Clark appeared to fit the suspect's profile, and police chased after him, backed by a helicopter equipped with infrared cameras.

### Police abuses

The helicopter and body camera footage showed Clark running through the neighborhood before entering the backyard of his grandparents' home, where he lived. The officers burst into the yard with their weapons drawn and confront the father-of-two before opening fire, each shot appearing as a flash on the helicopter's infrared footage.

The officers were put on leave, but



**SACRAMENTO:** Stevante Clark, brother of Stephon Clark, addresses fellow protesters in response to the police shooting of Stephon Clark. —AFP

the incident has revived a recurring debate over police abuses against African Americans, who account for an overwhelming share of the suspects killed by police. Protesters immediately took to the streets, shutting both sides of a major freeway and stopping thousands of Sacramento Kings fans from entering the Golden 1 Center for a basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks.

Hundreds of demonstrators headed to the arena again Tuesday as

police called for calm and announced a state justice department probe into Clark's death. Kings principal owner Vivek Ranadive vowed after the game against the Dallas Mavericks that the team would help "prevent this kind of tragedy from happening again."

Meanwhile, dozens of Black Lives Matter members gathered at Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert's office to demand charges against the two officers who fired at Clark. At the same time, a meeting of



**BETHESDA:** In this file photo taken on January 12, 2018 US President Donald Trump shakes hands with White House Physician Rear Admiral Dr. Ronny Jackson, following his annual physical at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. —AFP

Department of Veterans Affairs is the largest federal agency after the Pentagon, employing 360,000 people. Lack of funding has weakened the hospital network specifically dedicated to the health of veterans—a key constituency for Trump.

And the system has come under criticism

from many veterans and organizations for falling short, particularly in terms of psychiatric care. Hundreds of thousands of veterans, many who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. The 58-year-old Shulkin had served as undersecretary of veterans affairs for health under Obama. —AFP

the city council dissolved into chaos, prompting members to leave the dais accompanied by police, as civic leaders called for restraint from crowds flooding into City Hall.

### 'Endemic racism'

Members of the public testified for several hours, according to the Sacramento Bee newspaper, calling out "endemic racism" among police and decades of inertia from public officials. "This city is killing us. And we demand economic equity and justice," said Malaki Seku-Amen, founder of the California Urban Partnership, according to the Bee.

Police clashed with protesters outside the chambers and a man was arrested on suspicion of assaulting an officer. Clark's brother, Stevante Clark, suddenly burst into the chambers chanting his brother's name, captured in video footage that was widely shared on social media. Sporting a shirt displaying his brother's image, he jumped onto the dais and cursed at the mayor, Darrell Steinberg, who called a recess. Clark was ushered out of the room by friends. Before leaving, he is seen in the video footage remonstrating about gang violence, high rent and poverty, telling the meeting. —AFP

## International

# Millions of Indian students to re-sit exam after test leaked

## Papers were accessed and spread via WhatsApp

**NEW DELHI:** India yesterday vowed to strengthen its online security after high school exam papers were leaked ahead of crucial tests, forcing millions of students to resit their finals. Education Minister Prakash Javadekar said an investigation was underway into how the mathematics and economics papers were accessed and spread via WhatsApp before the exam.

"The criminals who did this won't be spared. I am sure police will catch these people soon. Let me assure that we will further improve the system and make it fool-proof," he told reporters yesterday. It is another embarrassment for a government which has weathered storms around alleged cracks in its Aadhaar system, a database containing the personal details of more than one billion Indians.

It comes as Facebook reels from a scandal over user data and India's ruling and main opposition parties accuse each other of mining and sharing followers' personal information. The row erupted this weekend after a French security researcher flagged flaws with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal app, alleging that users' data was being

shared without their consent.

### Widespread anger

The main opposition Congress party's Rahul Gandhi used the exam leak to revive the attack on Modi's administration over digital security. "2.8 million students to take exams again!! I mean is it a bloody joke? Who is accountable for this big mess?," he posted on Twitter. The Central Board of Secondary Education papers are crucial for students hoping to secure admission to some of India's most prestigious public universities and there was widespread anger at the leak.

Javadekar said he "understood the pain and anguish and frustra-

tion" of parents and students following the breach. Police in Delhi investigating the leak said 25 people, including students and tutors, had been questioned as part of their inquiries but no arrests made so far. "For now, we are trying to establish the trail of this leak. Most people we have spoken with only received it on WhatsApp," said special commissioner of police R.P Upadhyay.

Cheating in exams is common in India includ-

“

2.8 million students to take exams again!

”



ing paying large bribes to buy test papers, although there have been more elaborate ruses. Hundreds of people were arrested in eastern Bihar state in 2015 for scaling the walls of schools and providing crib sheets and study materials to their relatives during exams. School authorities also created a furore last May when a student was made to remove her bra in public

before an exam to ensure she had not hidden notes inside.

India's information technology ministry last week formally requested that Cambridge Analytica—the data analysis company at the centre of a Facebook privacy scandal—provide clarity over its practices by the end of the month. — AFP

## Afghan women launch rare protest for peace

**LASHKAR GAH:** Dozens of peace activists, including women, have set up tents in the Afghan province of Helmand, after a car bomb killed more than a dozen people outside a sports stadium last week. In a rare development, women from the ethnic Pashtun-dominated region began protesting alongside men in the provincial capital Lashkar Gah on Tuesday, saying that they would later march to a Taliban-controlled district to demand an end to the war.

"I lost my son in one of these explosions and his family are without any support. I am asking the Taliban to accept our demand for peace," said Khial Bibi, one of the participants at the women's tent. The protest did not involve government officials or politicians and was a "pure people's movement", said Qais Hashemi, a male protester.

The car bomb exploded on Friday as a

wrestling match ended in Lashkar Gah, killing at least 14 people and wounding at least 47. No group has claimed responsibility. The attack underlined the continued threat of violence across much of Afghanistan with the approach of spring, when fighting tends to pick up. The Taliban, seeking to restore strict Islamic rule after their 2001 defeat by US-led troops, on Wednesday issued a statement directing the protesters to march toward US military bases instead and demand that they cease fighting.

Protesters against the Taliban were being exploited by US forces, spokesman Qari Muhammad Yousuf Ahmadi said in the statement on a Taliban website. "The Islamic Emirate is seriously concerned that the enemy circles will misuse your name," the statement said. "Allah forbid, if something were to happen then responsibility will be placed squarely on your shoulders because you understand that we are at war, are facing various enemy plots and will be forced to take serious steps in pursuit of their neutralization." The Taliban control large areas of Helmand, which is the source of much of Afghanistan's opium crop. President Ashraf Ghani offered last month to hold peace talks with the Taliban but there has so far been little sign the insurgents are willing to end their fight. — Reuters

## Myanmar clears some Rohingya for return

**DHAKA:** A Bangladesh official said yesterday that Myanmar had approved several hundred Rohingya from a list of thousands to return to their homeland, but provided no indication of when the long-delayed process would begin. Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed in November to repatriate three-quarters of a million Rohingya but the deal has stalled indefinitely, with each side blaming the other for a lack of preparation.

Myanmar has so far approved fewer than 600 names from a list of more than 8,000 refugees provided by Bangladesh. The impoverished South Asian nation is housing nearly a million Rohingya in squalid camps along its southeastern border with Myanmar. Mohammad Abul Kalam, Bangladesh's top official overseeing the repatriation deal, said Myanmar had given no details about when or if the controversial process was expected to begin.

"No date has been fixed yet," he told reporters. Asked when the process would

begin, Kalam said he had "no idea". The controversial agreement was supposed to start in January but missed the deadline and has dragged since. It has attracted a firestorm of criticism from rights groups concerned that the persecuted Muslim minority will not be safe in Myanmar.

Under the agreement, refugees given the green light to return must do so voluntarily but many displaced in Bangladesh have rejected the prospect of returning to Myanmar's strife-torn Rakhine state. Rohingya have been persecuted in Rakhine for generations and fear the cycle of violence that has driven them into Bangladesh could repeat.

Kalam said Bangladesh would send another list of around 10,000 refugees to Myanmar in coming weeks for verification. Officials from each country are due to meet in April to discuss the process, he added. But there is skepticism in Bangladesh, and elsewhere, that repatriation will succeed. Myanmar has long marginalized the Rohingya as illegal immigrants and the key infrastructure required for the huge endeavor is yet to be constructed. Bangladesh and Myanmar had agreed to complete the huge process by November. This month a top Bangladesh cabinet minister, AMA Muhith, said it was unlikely the refugees would ever return, accusing Myanmar of deliberately obstructing the process. — AFP



## International

# Tearful Malala makes first trip to Pakistan since Taleban attack

## Among messages of welcome are pockets of intense criticism

ISLAMABAD: Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai returned to Pakistan yesterday, saying tearfully that it was “a dream” to come home for the first time since she was airlifted to Britain after being shot in the head by a Taleban gunman more than five years ago. The 20-year-old was overcome with emotion as she made a televised speech from the Prime Minister’s House in Islamabad, wiping away tears as she spoke of the beauty of her native Swat valley.

“Always it has been my dream that I should go to Pakistan and there, in peace and without any fear, I can move on streets, I can meet people, I can talk to people. “And I think that it’s my old home again ... so it is

actually happening, and I am grateful to all of you.” She had arrived unannounced with her parents under tight security overnight. Pakistanis awakening to the news she was back in the country flooded social media with messages of welcome, with many hailing her bravery—but others accusing her of a conspiracy to foment dissent.

Malala is widely respected internationally as a global icon for girls’ education, but opinion is divided in Pakistan, where some conservatives view her as a Western agent on a mission to shame her country. Residents of Swat said they were happy to see her return. “I had not imagined that she would ever come (back),” Rida Siyal, a

student who said she had been a “good friend” of Malala’s before the shooting, said.

“(She) defeated the dark force of fear. We are delighted to see her back,” she said. Ahmad Shah, who said he was a friend of Malala’s father, called her a “symbol of courage”, adding: “She should have returned home much earlier”. Malala became a global symbol for human rights after a gunman boarded her school bus in Swat on October 9, 2012, asked

“Who is Malala?” and shot her. She was treated for her injuries in the British city of Birmingham, where she also completed her schooling. The youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, she has continued to be a vocal

advocate for girls’ education while pursuing her studies at Oxford University.

Arrived unannounced with her parents



### ‘Malala is not your enemy’

Malala met with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi earlier yesterday and later took questions from an audience. “We have amazing women,” she told them in comments broadcast on state television, pushing for more education and critical thinking. She also called on Pakistanis to come together, stressing unity for the betterment of the country. But among the messages of welcome are pockets of intense criticism from some Pakistanis, including hardline Islamists as



ISLAMABAD: This handout photograph released by the Press Information Department (PID) on March 29, 2018, shows Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (C) posing for a photograph with Pakistani activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai (4L) and her family at the Prime Minister Office during her visit to Islamabad. — AFP

well as members of the conservative middle class who support education for girls but object to airing the country’s problems abroad.

One leading Pakistani journalist, Hamid Mir, issued a plea for restraint when talking about her visit, warning that negative reactions “will damage Pakistan’s image”. Other Pakistanis echoed his concerns on social media. “Dear Pakistanis! Malala is not your enemy. Your enemies were those monsters who shot her point blank on her way to school,” wrote Twitter user Shahira Lashari. Her schedule for the four-day trip is

being closely guarded.

“She will be meeting several people here but her itinerary is not being disclosed due to security reasons,” foreign office spokesman Muhammad Faisal said. Malala began her campaign aged just 11, when she started writing a blog—under a pseudonym—for the BBC’s Urdu service in 2009 about life under the Taleban in Swat, where they were banning girls’ education. In 2007 the Islamist militants had taken over the area, which Malala affectionately called “My Swat”, and imposed a brutal, bloody rule. — AFP

## Love and hate: The many views of Malala Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD: Malala Yousafzai is almost universally lauded abroad, but her return to Pakistan for the first time since being shot by the Taleban in 2012 has spotlighted how, for many of her countrymen, it’s complicated—at best. Welcome messages for the 20-year-old global education advocate poured in on Thursday but there was also intense criticism of her decision to leave the country after the attack, and suspicion over her motives. Here are a few voices highlighting Malala’s accolades as an international peace icon, and her precarious place in Pakistan.

### The inspired

For much of Pakistan, waking up to Malala’s return yesterday felt like the homecoming of a champion. “I think to many, many people and in other countries, in Muslim countries, she is a hero, you know, and all that she is doing to bring up, to bring children’s, girls’ education, that is wonderful,” Saeed Khalid, a customer in an Islamabad market, told AFP yesterday.

“[She] has brought pride to Pakistan,” agreed shopkeeper Ahmed Malik, though he added more needed to be done for women in Pakistan: “We accept that what happened to her was unjust but there is not a single Malala, there are others as well.” An emotional televised address from the young Oxford student

on her return unleashed a torrent of gushing tweets. “Oh I am about to cry. This girl has gone through so much pain. Malala we are proud of you,” wrote Twitter user Muhammad Akif. “I hope that my baby girl learns to be as articulate, as courageous as @Malala,” said Nisha Aftab on Twitter. “So glad she’s back home where she belongs.”

### Critics at home

But, years after the attack nearly took her life, opinions still vary widely about Malala’s contribution to Pakistan, where some conservatives see her as either a willing or unwilling stooge in a plot aimed at bringing disrepute to Pakistan. “Pakistan is her home and if she has come home we welcome her, but we think that she has come as part of international agenda to malign Pakistan and we strongly condemn that,” Kashif Mirza, president of All Pakistan Private Schools Federation, an association representing some 200,000 schools, told AFP.

Others have repeatedly chided her for leaving Pakistan, when few have had the same opportunity to flee from the militant violence that has killed tens of thousands over the last decade. “No one hates Malala We hate the mindset working behind her There are thousands of girls and boys who stayed back in Pakistan and fought out TTP unlike Malala,” wrote Riz Khan hours after Malala arrived in country, referring to the Pakistani Taliban.

### The Nobel committee

A string of international awards, appearances at the United Nations, audiences with world leaders and more than one million Twitter followers speak to the view of Malala as a peace icon abroad. Two years after being attacked by the Pakistani Taliban, Malala was honored with the Nobel peace prize-making her the



OSLO: This file photo taken on December 10, 2014 shows Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai displaying her medal and diploma during the Nobel Peace Prize awards ceremony at the City Hall. — AFP

youngest recipient of the award for her part in advocating women’s education worldwide. “Despite her youth, Malala Yousafzai has already fought for several years for the right of girls to education, and has shown by example that children and young people, too, can contribute to improving their own situations,” said the committee. — AFP

## International

# The two Koreas agree to hold summit on April 27

## Will be followed by landmark talks with US president

**SEOUL:** The two Koreas yesterday set a date for a rare inter-Korean summit, following a high-level meeting that was held days after the nuclear-armed North's leader Kim Jong Un made his international debut with a surprise trip to China. "According to the will of both leaders, the South and North agreed to hold the '2018 South-North summit' on April 27 at the South's Peace House in Panmunjom," said a joint press statement, read out in turn by both delegations' leaders. The meeting between Kim Jong Un, leader of nuclear-armed North Korea, and the South's President Moon Jae-in will be only the third of its kind, and will be followed by landmark talks with US President Donald Trump which could come as early as May.

The venue will make Kim the first North Korean leader to set foot in the South since the end of the Korean War—although according to Pyongyang's official accounts, during the conflict his grandfather and predecessor Kim Il Sung went several times to Seoul, which twice fell to his forces. The two sides did not settle on the summit agenda at yesterday's meeting in the Unification Pavilion on Panmunjom's northern side, but the South's delegation leader Cho Myoung-gyun told reporters they agreed Kim and Moon should be able to hold "frank discussions on all matters".

That would include the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, Cho said. The leader of Pyongyang's delegation Ri Son Gwon added: "What the people want is our agenda." Another round of working-level talks next Wednesday will discuss issues including protocol and security. Next month's meeting comes after previous inter-Korean summits in Pyongyang in 2000 and 2007, since when the North has made extensive progress in its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

It has been subjected to multiple rounds of sanctions by the UN Security Council, US, South and others as a result, and tensions in the region have soared, with Kim and Trump engaging in a fiery war of words last year. But a rapid rapprochement on the peninsula was kicked off by the Winter Olympics in the South and events have moved quickly since then, with a flurry of official visits between the two Koreas. An advance team of Southern performers headed north yesterday ahead of K-pop concerts in Pyongyang.

### Kim-Xi meeting

Beijing welcomed yesterday's developments, with foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang saying improved relations between the Koreas "will help promote regional peace and stability". "We believe it serves their mutual



South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyun (R) shakes hands with his North Korean counterpart Ri Son Gwon (L), who is chairman of the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, during their meeting at the Unification Pavilion building on the northern side of the border truce village of Panmunjom. — AFP

interests as well as the regional situation," he added. China's top diplomat, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, arrived in Seoul yesterday to brief Moon and other officials on Kim's secretive visit to Beijing this week to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time. It was the North Korean leader's first overseas trip since inheriting power following the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, in 2011.

China has long been the North's key diplomatic defender and provider of trade and aid,

but relations have been strained by Pyongyang's weapons programmes, with Beijing showing a new willingness to implement UN sanctions against it.

Even so the two leaders hailed their nations' historic ties, with Xi accepting Kim's invitation to visit Pyongyang, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "There is no question that my first foreign visit would be to the Chinese capital," it quoted Kim as saying, calling it a "noble obligation". —AFP

## Migrant workers' kids in Thailand exposed to abuse

**BANGKOK:** Women migrant construction workers and their children in Thailand are exposed to violence and abuse in hazardous living conditions, the United Nations said yesterday. The report by the UN children's agency (UNICEF) underscores the risks to laborers from some of the poorest countries in Asia. Besides physical abuse and limited access to healthcare and education, the 60,000 or more migrant children living in construction site camps are particularly vulnerable to child labor, according to the report.

Nearly a third of the children surveyed said they had started working before turning 15, the legal minimum age. Almost 90 percent had suffered some form of physical violence. "These experiences of violence are severe barriers to the children's physical, emotional and social development, in addition to being threats to their basic safety and well-being," said Thomas Davin, UNICEF's Thailand representative. "That is not a childhood for any child."

Thailand has more than 3 million migrant workers, according to the International Organization for Migration, with rights groups putting the figure higher. Construction is the top employer of mi-

grant workers, with women from Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos making up about 40 percent of the nearly 600,000 documented migrants in the sector, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

They are a rarity in an industry generally dominated by men. But they are paid less than men, get few maternity or childcare benefits, and are more exposed to safety risks, the ILO said. Families live in re-fashioned containers or flimsy shacks of tin and plywood at the sites, with poor sanitation and limited access to potable water, according to the survey of 119 migrant parents and children in 21 sites in northern Thailand.

More than 40 percent of mothers said they had experienced some form of abuse or physical violence, it said. "I was shocked at the extent of the violence faced by women and children," said Nicola Crosta of Baan Dek Foundation, a non-profit which helps to provide education and healthcare to migrant workers at construction sites.

"But many companies are stepping up to provide better facilities and services, which can help reduce the incidence," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Since taking power in a 2014 coup, Thailand's ruling junta has had varying degrees of success in regulating the foreign workforce, spurred partly by media reports that unregulated workers faced exploitation by employers. Thai industries are under international scrutiny this week as a team of UN experts undertake their first visit to the country to examine human rights in a range of businesses. —Reuters

## US provide boats for Vietnam amid tensions

**HANOI:** The US delivered six patrol boats and equipment worth a combined \$20 million to Vietnam, the US embassy in Hanoi said yesterday, as the former foes boost ties amid continuing tensions in the South China Sea. Hanoi and Washington have improved defense links in recent years as they seek to counter Beijing's growing might in the disputed and resource-rich waterway.

The US Coast Guard gave its Vietnamese counterpart six fast-response Metal Shark boats, which "will serve to deter bad actors from committing crimes against or near Vietnam", the embassy said in a statement, citing among other threats environmental degradation, illegal fishing and piracy. The delivery, part of a deal announced in 2016, took place during a visit to the country by the US Coast Guard's Pacific Area commander Vice Admiral Fred M Midgette.

It comes only three weeks after the historic visit of US aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, the first since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975. The boat handover is the second of its kind and part of a US package of \$20 million worth of equipment for the Vietnamese Coast Guard station on Phu Quoc Island in the southwest. The move demonstrates US support for a "strong, prosperous, and independent Vietnam that contributes to international security and the rule of law", the embassy statement added.

Tensions in the South China Sea are ongoing as China continues to build artificial islands capable of hosting military installations. Vietnam, along with several other Southeast Asian nations and Taiwan also claim parts of the waterway, which is believed to sit atop vast oil and gas deposits and through which \$5 trillion in trade passes annually.

Vietnam remains the most vocal in the South China Sea dispute with the Philippines backing off under China-friendly President Rodrigo Duterte. Security ties between the US and Vietnam have deepened since Washington normalized relations with Hanoi in 1995. Last August, Vietnam's Defense Minister Ngo Xuan Lich visited the US, part of Hanoi's campaign to keep Washington close under US President Donald Trump. In January, US Defense Secretary James Mattis made a two-day visit, asserting that freedom of navigation in the sea was crucial for the fast-growing Southeast Asian country. —AFP

# Lifestyle

Friday Times

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

Algerian model Rayan Branci holding scents and showcasing the Kuwaiti traditional wear from Dagla during Kuwait International Fashion Week. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**Kuwaiti models and scents wrapped  
Kuwait International Fashion Week**

Pages 20 -25

# Kuwaiti models

## and scents wrapped

### Kuwait International Fashion Week



*Kuwait International Fashion Week' 2018 opens in a stunning style at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa's beachfront sponsored by the Title Sponsor 'Lincoln.'*

By Sahar Moussa and Faten Omar

**K**uwait International Fashion Week, the unique event that puts Kuwait on the global fashion map, was inaugurated on Wednesday evening in a glittering event at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, showcasing new styles and fashion surprises and ended on Friday with a traditional Kuwaiti touch.

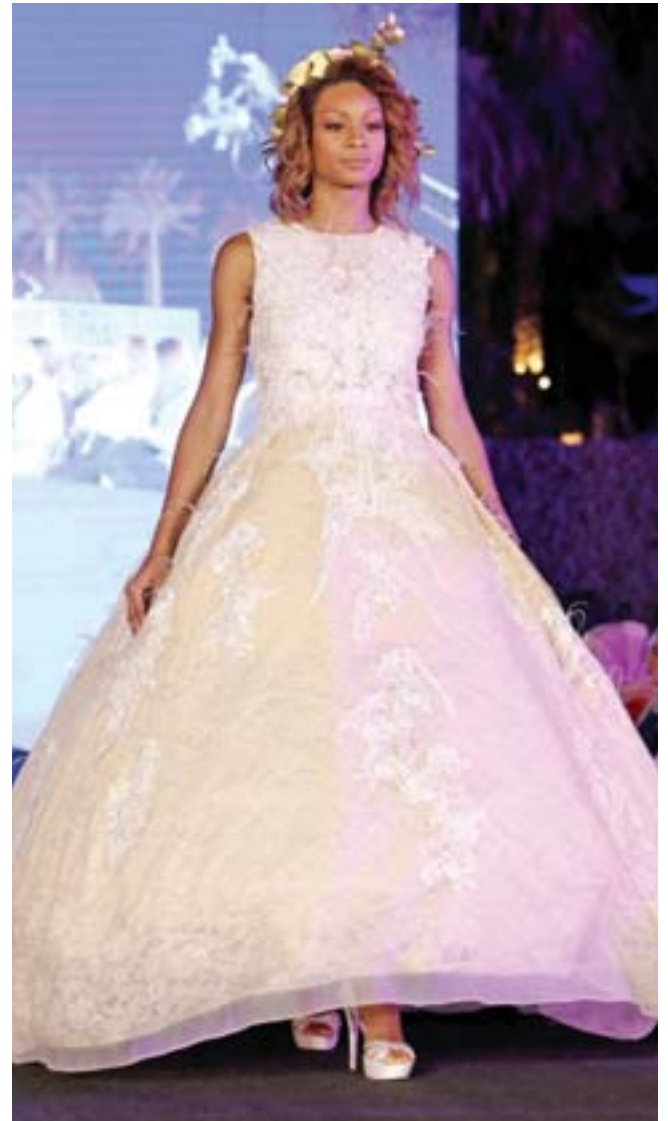
More than 20 collections for spring and summer of 2018 showcased their designs, featuring 10 local and international designers from Kuwait, Paris, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey and India, to meet expectations of those looking for fine Arab and International designs. The talented designers who participated at the event were: Diva'ni, Fatima Ismail, Salima El-Boussouni, Christophe Guillaume, Lamsit

Fan, Boudi Dib, Pria Kataria Puri, Rasit Bagzibagli, Anfal Al-Saleh and Dagla.

CEO of Kuwait International Fashion Week Rabab Hamadi said that patterns used in many designs combine ready-made garments and high-end fashion, and focuses on apparel that is designed according to international fashion standards. She added that one of the event's main goals is to "strengthen Kuwait's role and presence among the fashion capitals of the world, since it has the capabilities, uniqueness and historical style of the Kuwaiti women."

Hamadi also thanked Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa for its cooperation in hosting this luxurious event on the landmark's unique beachfront in Kuwait. She also praised the exceptional organization and facilitation provided by the Hotel team.





**KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL FASHION WEEK 2**  
 أسبوع من الأزياء  
 للموضة العالمية  
 الثاني

**Cars and dresses**

Title sponsor Lincoln starred at the event as well, with its latest models exhibited outside the venue, including the 2018 Lincoln Navigator, 2018 Lincoln MKC and 2018 Lincoln Continental while models in the latest elegant garments from local and international designers took it to the ramp.

“We were thrilled to partner with Kuwait International Fashion Week,” said Nasr Al-Jairoudi, Al-Ghanim Auto, the Lincoln importer-dealer in Kuwait. “We believe that this is a great opportunity to communicate the Lincoln brand’s passion for creativity, design, luxury and craftsmanship to the audiences that share the same affinities. In fact, Lincoln has been gaining market share in the luxury segment globally by putting creativity at the service of the overall experience. Lincoln promises an entire experience, not just the product; just like fashion and all other forms of art.

We are proud to feature our luxurious line up from the Lincoln brand, the all-new Navigator, the Continental and the MKC alongside the designer’s collections to all fashion lovers in Kuwait.

Models walk down the catwalk wearing creations by Kuwaiti designer Anfal Al-Saleh during the Kuwait international fashion week in Kuwait City. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Models wear creations designed by 'Dagla' boutique, during the Kuwait international fashion week in Kuwait City on March 23, 2018.



**KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL FASHION WEEK 2**  
 أسبوع في الأزياء  
 للموضة العالمية  
 الثاني

**Men and bakhoor**

KIFW ended with a Kuwaiti flare, Dagla boutique showcased Kuwaiti traditional men's wear with a modern touch and embroidery. What made the show more interesting and believable was that the creation was presented by Kuwaiti and Arab models that made it look comfortable and wearable in a day to day lives.

"What will Kuwait International Fashion Week be without Kuwaiti and Arab models? I was eager to get these models to the show this year to suit local culture. We kept the Kuwaiti traditional wear collection for the end to let people know that however westernized, we get we are still attached to our roots. Though used at the end of the show, 'bakhoor' which is a scent used by Kuwaitis traditionally to welcome people, the audience felt more welcomed than ever", Hamadi said.

Speaking about her future plans, she added, "The next show will take place before Adha Eid, it will be a mixture of pret a porter and ready to wear and many more surprises to come, stay tuned." The Kuwait International Fashion Week sent several important messages, such as removing the stereotype that Arab countries are filled with conflicts, and to instead show the world that the Arab World can reflect an image of creativity, art, elegance and beauty. Royal family members, VIPs, bloggers, Ambassadors and social media sensations attend this high along with buyers.

Kuwait International Fashion Week would like to thank several leading and important partners who supported the success of the event such as: K-Star, Brigitte Khoury Beauty and Lounge, Hollywood Smile Clinic, Lotus Clinic, , RB agency, Saray perfumes, Diet Care, Paparazi Production, beb card, Trunk and Kuwait Times Newspaper as media partner. The event was covered by Adel Al-Faresi, Paparazi Production.

Special thanks to Kuwait International Fashion Week 's creative director Aydin Can Kutluay.



Lifestyle | Fashion



K-Stars makeup artist Ola while putting makeup on the models. — Photos by Adel Al-Faresi, Paparazi Production.



# KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL FASHION WEEK 2

أسبوع الموضة العالمية الثاني



**Makeup and hair**

The K-Star makeup artist, Ola, said “The fashion show was sponsored by K-star’s make-up. K-stars cosmetics is an Italian brand that is perfect for flawless skin. It can be used for daily and professional cover for TV and photo shoots.” “During the show we used nude colors and red lipstick. We had a great experience participating with Kuwait International Fashion Week,” she added.

Meanwhile, Makeup artist, Brigitte Khoury, praised that the show was well organized as it is developing every year. “We are proud to sponsor KIFW for the execution of the hair and makeup using K-Stars products, this is our second time teaming up with KIFW. We see ourselves as a constant partner of the event and we look forward to participating in similar events.”

She added “I like the simple makeup and hairstyle to keep the focus on the dresses where I used the European and Arabian style to satisfy everyone including the models. I love my work that is why I’m passionate and having fun while doing it.”

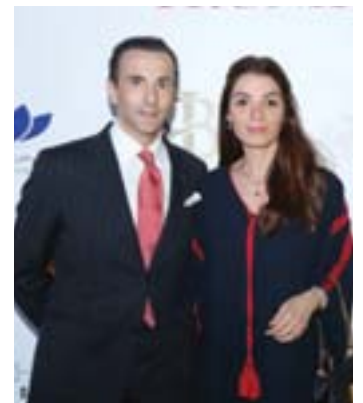
Makeup and hair styles were a hit at the fashion week, popping up with models down the runway was mind blowing. Wavy hair along with elegant accessories were a complete perfection with the designs, shaking up the beauty scene on the runway at Kuwait International Fashion Week.







CEO of Kuwait International Fashion Week Rabab Mouhamad.



Kuwait International Fashion Week's creative director Aydin Can Kutluay (center) pose in the picture next to the models.



(From left) Journalist Bibi Al-Khudari, Makeup artist Brigitte Khoury and Kuwait International Fashion Week organizer Sahar Moussa pose during the event.





Review

By Aakash Bakaya

There are moments in 'Vermintide 2' that produce a feeling of complete cathartic bloodlust. When a horde of rats and zombies are bombarding your weary party and you have only a sliver of health left to face them, all any of you can do is fight back. Kruber, the mercenary who is welding a massive halberd lets loose a stirring war-cry and gives your party a small shield and knocks all surrounding enemies to the ground. A gap opens up and with the space created you're able to regain your bearings and start cleaving with the two-handed axe you've equipped on your dwarf for this very purpose. Chopping through rat-men, hacking limbs of Chaos warriors, blood and gore erupts all around and you lose yourself in the carnage in the best possible way. It's as immersive as gaming gets.

Bile trolls act as one of the many mini-bosses you'll encounter in a level.



In 'Vermintide 2', there's only one path to victory and it's definitely not diplomacy. You and three other team-mates must ensure you succeed in 13 varied and grueling gauntlets that make up the game's levels. Completing a mission nets you a hefty amount of experience points and loot, succumbing to defeat gives you only nothing but a small amount of experience. It is this risk-reward gameplay loop that makes 'Vermintide' such an exciting and bloody romp whether you're playing with or without friends. Each mission puts you on a knife's edge as the AI director monitors your progress, determining when to give your 4-man party a little boost and when to spawn a Bile Troll to wreck all four of your dreams.

#### A world in flames

'Warhammer: Vermintide 2' is to little surprise set during the 'End Times' saga of the Warhammer fantasy universe. The iconic grim-dark franchise along with its popular sci-fi cousin 'Warhammer 40k' once was more popular for being the chief influence behind Blizzard's 'Warcraft' and 'Starcraft' franchises. But in the last few years, 'Warhammer's' fantasy setting as found new love and created a legion of fans as 'Total War: Warhammer' and the original 'Vermintide' became huge successes in their own right. I would proudly call myself one of those 'new fans' as I have never played a Warhammer game except the original 'Dawn of War' way back in 2004. It was Creative Assembly's magnifi-

## Lifestyle | MixTape

cent foray into the franchise with 'Total War' that really started my interest and I have loved exploring the deep well of characters and events that make up its lore.

It's an enormous world, filled with over 15 different races and over a 100 different factions. But in 'Vermintide 2' you should only be considered with a handful. The game is staged in and around the city of 'Helmgar', a mountain-side city located in the Reikland region of The Empire (the main human faction) that now lies in ruins. Overrun by the combined forces of the Skaven (disgusting upright, highly-technological rats) and the armies of Chaos (even more disgusting corrupted humans) the burden of responsibility falls once again on our returning band of heroes, the newly crowned 'Ubersiek Five' (or four it doesn't matter).

Our lovable cast of madmen and madwomen return and they are as angry as ever. Markus Kruber - The Empire Soldier, Victor Saltzpyre - The Witch Hunter, Sienna Fuegonasus - The Battle Wizard, Bardin Goreksson - The Dwarf Ranger Veteran and Kerillian - The Wood Elf Waystalker. You can choose freely between any of the five and with three other friends, you must overcome tremendous odds and fight back against a forthcoming invasion that threatens the entire region. Dealing with Rat Orges is difficult enough but stomaching Kerillian's constant insults without shooting her in the head will be a whole other task.



Sienna likes her enemies to burn... a lot.

### Great peril, great rewards

After a small tutorial that also acts as a prologue to the campaign, you begin your journey in Taal's Horn Keep - a dilapidated hold that serves as your home base. Here you will be able to choose your character, your mission, open loot crates and pretty much everything else in the game. It vastly improves on the small tavern from the first game as the Keep's nooks and crannies make it feel like a proper hidden hideout. Each character also eventually gets their own quarter that exemplifies their personality. It does seem a bit empty in some places and the empty picture frames hanging around feel like the devs have some idea to fill them out but have not got to implementing them yet.

Loot crates, which are fortunately only earned in game and without a single micro-transaction, contain the gear you'll need for all your rat and chaos killing needs. And it's given to you in abundance. You receive one after leveling up and an extra crate depending on how many Tomes or Grimoires you pick up during the run. Both of these items come with their own drawbacks so taking the risk for a greater reward at the end is a choice you'll always have to make. As a fan of ARPGs like 'Diablo' and 'Path of Exile', I was more than pleased with the variety and quantity of items you receive. There's a crafting system that makes getting even the most useless items have some use but the UI related to it could easily be better. Drops are also locked to whatever class you're currently playing; you can even keep crates unopened to equip a low level character in the future. It's a flexible system that rewards completing runs which is good because finishing a level is rarely ever easy.

The combined forces of Skaven and Chaos are given just one objective - which is to ruin your day. Rat assassins fly down from parapets, pin you down and repeatedly stab you until a teammate comes to help while Chaos Warriors are intermediating pillars of armor on legs and a single axe swing from them can take away half your health bar even on the lowest difficulties.

Dangers lurk around every corner so the aim and Health potions and med-kits are few and far between so success is determined by how the party works together since weapon combinations and item properties are only as good as the hands

that wield them. The numerous weapon mechanics open up an exhilarating combat system that is a surprising challenge and mastering it feels like a well earned accomplishment. The first-person melee combat in particular is easily one of the best ever put in a game. Axes and swords literally rip Skaven in half and mighty two-handed hammers can pummel heads until they explode. Your range capabilities are equally diverse with everything from bows to rifles to fire-spewing staves. Not many games give you the ability to dual wield pistols that shoot fireballs - it's even more fun than it sounds.



The mighty Chaos Warriors are a special brand of pain which makes killing them all the more satisfying.

### Cracks in the shield

All these components come together almost effortlessly but not without a few shortfalls. Firstly, the network the servers run on are finicky at best and borderline unplayable at worst. You'll be disconnected from a game maybe once every 10 to 15 runs and this problem is even more frustrating because nothing tells you what the exact problem was. There's no measure for your internet ping and too much burden is put on having the host's internet being stable. Dedicated servers are said to be 'coming soon' and they would improve the connection hiccups tremendously.

The other major drawback lies in the RPG elements themselves. Each of the five classes is further divided into three distinct roles called 'careers'. These are fantastic additions especially for fans of the lore who have dreamed of piloting a Dwarf Slayer in the heat of battle but the execution is undercooked at the moment. Every career has a talent tree almost identical to the one found in the 'World for Warcraft' but the three talent choices you get every five levels don't leave much of an impact. Admittedly some talents are more thematic to the career than actually being viable in game. I appreciate that the



The Dwarf Slayer is a joy to play even though he feels a bit underpowered.

devs provided some room to experiment but buffs to talents and even to a few careers entirely are desperately needed.

### A tremendous achievement

On the other hand, I love that Fatshark pushed our motley cast forward in both their individual story lines and the overarching plot as well. All of the original voice-actors return and once again they turn in flawless performances. Victor Saltzpyre's disciplinary tone juxtaposes so well with Kerillian's sarcastic quips (yes we get it Elf, we are all mayflies compared to you) while some of the banter between Kruber and Bardin will legitimately make you burst out laughing.

This along with the much-improved level design succeeds in planting you firmly into this weary dark world that rarely ever feels downtrodden. Even as you're struggling through corpse-filled sewers, the light hearted attitude only serves to embolden you further. The story will take you through portals, battlefields and war camps but the journey is meaningful because the characters your party controls are a joy to be around.

'Vermintide 2' is ultimately a tremendous achievement and improves on the co-op formula 'Left 4 Dead' introduced over a decade ago. It takes away the guns but implements an extensive loot system mixed with an addictive RPG progression system that is an absolute blast to play. It may lack the polish Valve brought to those titles but I am confident that developers Fatshark is more than up to the task of ironing out all of the lingering issues. It falls just short of my own personal 'masterpiece' status but it's a game that will only grow in time and is sure to be remembered in many 'Top 10' lists by the end of the year. As for me, I can't wait to jump back in, pick up Kruber's massive Halberd and start a party with some friends because those rats aren't going to be killing themselves.



# How to be mere minutes away from a tasty crusted salmon

By Melissa D'Arabian

It seems like mere moments after I get the last dish dried and put away, it's time to make dinner again. Is it me or are the days actually getting shorter, whizzing by in a blur and then coming to a screeching halt at 6 p.m. when every person in my household starts wandering into the kitchen, casually asking what's for dinner, usually while opening up a cupboard to peruse available snacks?

The solution is to have a small repertoire of dishes that require hardly any prep, and that use ingredients you have on hand. And, then of course, keep these ingredients on hand! Stock your pantry with frozen wild salmon filets and Dijon mustard and you will never be more than a few sheet-pan minutes away from a tasty crusted salmon. While the ingredients might change up a bit depending on your mood and your pantry, the basic strategy is the same: Stir a few flavorful ingredients into some Dijon mustard, spread on salmon, and bake at 400 F until

done, about 10-15 minutes depending on the thickness of the fish, and whether it is thawed or frozen.

Today's recipe for Mustard and Dill Crusted Salmon is but one example of this recipe blueprint. Once you've mastered it (which won't take long), you can venture out on your own on a given Tuesday night and create your family's own version.

I'll share a few best practices based on many years of mustard-crusting salmon. Add a little something sweet, like a touch of honey, pure maple syrup or agave. Also, include one or two aromatic ingredients, like minced shallot, garlic, spices or dried herbs. If you don't mind a little extra fat, a tiny bit of olive oil or even mayonnaise will keep the dish juicy and tender, for just a few extra calories a person. But, don't fret if you want to skip the oil and keep things super lean. Finally, you can add a little texture if you want by topping with breadcrumbs or crushed nuts, but this is totally optional.

## MUSTARD AND DILL CRUSTED SALMON

### Ingredients

Servings: 4  
Start to finish: 30 minutes  
2 tablespoons reduced sodium soy sauce  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
4 fillets of salmon, about 5 ounces each

### Mustard Crust:

3 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
2 teaspoons mayonnaise  
2 teaspoons pure maple syrup  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1 1/2 teaspoons dried dill (or 1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped)  
Freshly ground black pepper

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Place the soy sauce and lemon juice in a shallow bowl, and dip both sides of each salmon fillet in the mixture and let the marinade soak into the salmon for a few minutes. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, mix together all the ingredients for the mustard crust and set aside. Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Gently pat any excess liquid off the salmon fillets. (They do not need to be completely dry; just not dripping.)

Divide the mustard mixture among the fillets, and use your hands to coat the fish entirely in the mustard mixture. Place the fish on the parchment-lined baking sheet and bake just until fish is cooked through (about 135 F internal temperature). This will take between 10-15 minutes depending on the thickness of the fish. If the fish is frozen, add about 5 minutes. In general, the salmon will be ready a few minutes earlier than you think. Serve with vegetables and brown rice for a quick weeknight meal.

**Chef's Note:** This recipe can be prepared with frozen fish fillets. Let sit on countertop for 15 minutes to thaw the outside just enough for the soy sauce and lemon mixture to soak in a little. Proceed with recipe, adding cook-time as needed.



## COOKING ON DEADLINE: Big Butterscotchy Oatmeal Cookies

By Katie Workman

I haven't been consistently happy with my oatmeal cookie recipe for a while. Sometimes they turn out perfectly - fairly flat, chewy and moist in the middle, with crinkly, caramelized edges (not cakey or rounded) and a butterscotch-esque flavor. Other times, they don't follow orders, staying too puffed, or becoming a little dry and less damply dense than I crave.

So I took the recipe, reduced the amount of flour and

oats slightly, upped the butter considerably (even in an oatmeal cookie, I am not looking for healthy; it's still a cookie), took out one egg, increased the salt and the vanilla, changed the sugar ratio a bit to favor the brown variety, and tried it again.

I also baked bigger cookies. Only when your cookies are at least 3 inches wide can you approach the nirvana that comes with a cookie that has different textures throughout: a ring of crispness around the edge, firm but with some give as you head in for the next bite, and, finally,

soft but chewy in the middle.

I also took a page from my favorite chocolate chip (or chunk) cookie recipe, and let the dough rest for two days. You could skip this step, or you could leave the dough for as long as four days before baking. The resting time allows the dough to absorb all extra liquid and develop a deeper, richer, more caramel-y flavor. That's the difference between a merely great cookie and a truly memorable one (she said opinionatedly). I am happier now.



### Ingredients

Start to finish: 40 minutes, not including optional refrigeration time

Makes 16 to 18 cookies

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature

1 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup granulated sugar

1 large egg

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

2 cups old-fashioned oats

1 cup raisins

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (postpone this step if you are planning to refrigerate your dough for a couple of days). Combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in a medium-size bowl. Blend the butter and both sugars together in a large bowl with a hand mixer (or standing mixer), until well blended. Beat in the egg, and then the vanilla. Add the flour mixture gradually, mixing on low speed until each batch is incorporated. Mix in the oats and raisins.

Use a 1/4-cup measuring cup (or ice cream scoop) to measure out balls of the dough, which should be placed on an ungreased cookie sheet with at least 3 inches between each ball (bake only six cookies per classic-size cookie sheet). Use your hand to flatten each ball. Cover the baking sheet with plastic wrap and refrigerate for two days, or longer if you like. (You can layer the flattened disks of dough two deep in a container, with

parchment or wax paper in between the layers, to save fridge space).

Bake the cookies for about 11 to 15 minutes (see important Note below!), until they are golden brown but still have nice give in the middle. Let them sit on the baking sheet for a minute before transferring them to a cooling rack.

Note: If your cookie dough is at room temperature, start checking the cookies at 11 minutes. They tend to go from almost done to definitely done very quickly. The longer baking time is for dough that's straight from the fridge. I'm still playing around with this, but baking them from room temperature does seem the most successful in terms of texture and consistency. Having said that, the few that got a bit crispier were UN-believable crumbled over a bowl of vanilla ice cream.

# LEFTOVER BRISKET BARLEY SOUP IS HEALTHY AND EFFICIENT

By Katie Workman

If you are hosting Passover, you may well be making a brisket. And if you are making brisket, you may well have leftovers. (And if you don't end up with leftovers, make a note next year to buy a bigger brisket.)

You can, of course, just heat up those leftover slices and have yourself another small, lovely brisket dinner, or perhaps make a thick and probably messy sandwich. Good choices, both. But if you want to stretch those tender pieces of meat into a different dish to serve a bigger group, then soup is the way to go.

This is a flexible recipe, so feel free to play around with the proportions and ingredients. This assumes you're starting with a fairly traditional brisket recipe, saucy and punctuated with some braised vegetables, like carrots and onions. But the basic template will work with all kinds of brisket.

If you want to add some chopped celery or peppers when you are sauteing the carrots and onions, go right ahead. The amount of barley may seem small, but it expands as it cooks into a large amount of toasty, chewy grain, and bulks up the soup nicely. Other grains like spelt or farro would also be very good.

If you don't have enough sauce from the brisket, add up to 2 cups of extra beef broth - or maybe add a cup of tomato sauce, and even a splash of red wine if you've got a bottle open (I almost always have a bottle open). And then, voila! Two cups of leftover brisket have magically transformed themselves into a soup that will feed 4 or more.



## Ingredients

Servings: 4 to 6  
Start to finish: 1 hour  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/2 cup chopped carrots

1/2 cup pearl barley  
2 cups beef broth  
2 cups chopped leftover brisket, plus any chopped cooked vegetables from the brisket  
2 cups sauce from cooking the brisket (or 1 cup sauce and 1 extra

cup beef broth)  
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish (optional)

## Preparation

Heat the olive oil over medium-high heat in a large saucepan, and saute the onion and carrots for 3 minutes, until slightly softened. Add the barley and saute for 2 more minutes until the barley is nicely coated with the oil and toasty looking. Add 2 cups beef broth, 2 cups of the brisket sauce (or 1 cup sauce and 1 additional cup beef broth) and two cups of water. Partially cover and bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat to medium low and simmer for 30 to 35 minutes, until the barley is pretty tender.

Turn the heat to high, add the chopped brisket and any chopped cooked carrots or other vegetables that were swimming around in the sauce, and bring to a simmer, uncovered. Return the heat to medium low and let it bubble gently away for 10 more minutes. If you want, add some fresh chopped parsley. Now you have soup.

## Nutrition information per serving

297 calories; 139 calories from fat; 15 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 52 mg cholesterol; 167 mg sodium; 19 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 2 g sugar; 21 g protein.

## Comic

### WORD SEARCH

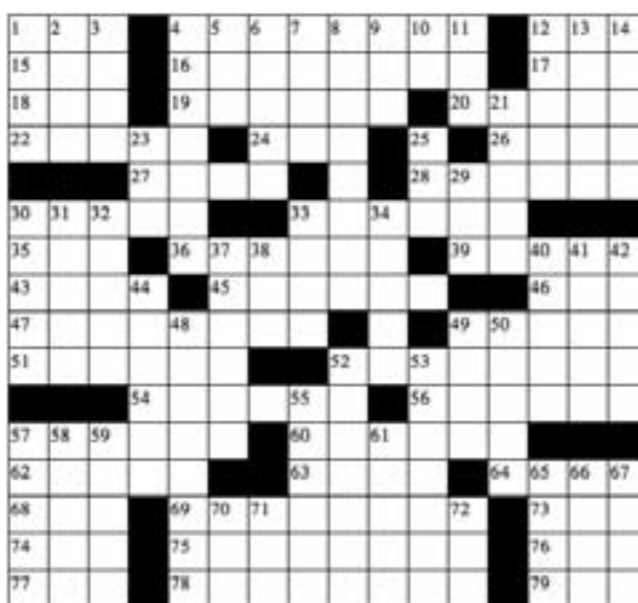
#### Songs From the Year 2002

Find and circle all of the songs from 2002 that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 21 letters spell an additional song title from 2002.

NEVAEHGIRLFRIENDCE  
 EMTUOHTIWAHSILOOFL  
 ANDHZYDETACILPMOCD  
 TLBIPYSELGNEHUAFAAD  
 TOLPLCAFCATLUOEUDI  
 YOAMAECEDEIOYHYRLDM  
 HHXPYRMLYSFOHRILIE  
 BEEIALCMENYIUOAMCH  
 YULZCSIYAOIBRFLOTT  
 TAYLDIOFGISAOCISOIS  
 HODNAUTIETTMRGANVI  
 ENAYRGRYIAIYUTSSEL  
 WHISRLOKOVLEBABYY  
 ASEHTEROHILHEREIAM  
 YLPATOVEDTFLURRYD  
 FFLIWOREMOLDISEASE  
 YKHENONINMYPLACEAD

- |             |             |               |            |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| ADDICTIVE   | ESCAPE      | HEAVEN        | NOTHIN'    |
| AERIALS     | EVERYDAY    | HELLA GOOD    | OH BOY     |
| ALL MY LIFE | FOOLISH     | HERE I AM     | RAINY DAYZ |
| BABY        | FOR YOU     | HERO          | SPIN       |
| BLURRY      | FULL MOON   | HEY MA        | STILL FLY  |
| BY THE WAY  | GIRL TALK   | IN MY PLACE   | THE MIDDLE |
| COMPLICATED | GIRLFRIEND  | LOSE YOURSELF | TOXICITY   |
| DAYS GO BY  | HALFCRAZY   | MOTIVATION    | UH HUH     |
| DILEMMA     | HANDS CLEAN | MY LIST       | WITHOUT ME |
| DISEASE     | HAPPY       | MY SACRIFICE  | WORK IT    |

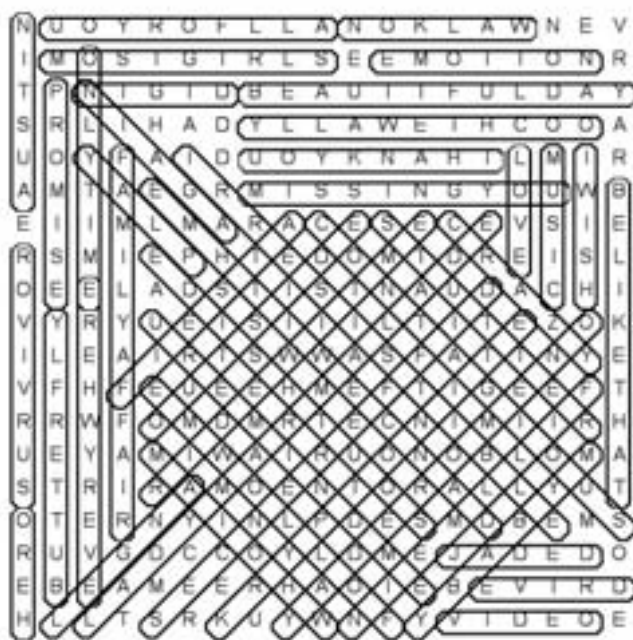
### CROSSWORD 1871



- ACROSS**
1. A bachelor's degree in naval science.
  4. The first beat of a musical measure (as the conductor's arm moves downward).
  12. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
  15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
  16. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
  17. Mature female of mammals of which the male is called "buck".
  18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
  19. An annually elected magistrate of the ancient Roman Republic.
  20. Remote and separate physically or socially.
  22. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
  24. Water that has condensed on a cool surface overnight from water vapor in the air.
  26. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
  27. A large number or amount.
  28. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
  30. Malicious burning to destroy property.
  35. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
  36. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
  39. A large number or amount.
- DOWN**
1. Cry plaintively.
  2. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
  3. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
  4. A mountain peak in the Karakoram Range in northern Kashmir.
  5. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
  6. A black garment (dress) worn by a widow as a sign of mourning.
  7. A short personal letter.
  8. A device that directs air or gas into a flame to concentrate heat.
  9. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
  10. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
  11. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
  12. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
  13. A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe on the western side of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
  14. Brightly colored tropical freshwater fishes.
  21. A genus of Ploceidae.
  23. A bloody and prolonged operation in which American marines landed and defeated Japanese defenders (February and March 1945).
  25. Any of various units of capacity.
  29. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
  31. Steal goods.
  32. Capital of the state of Oregon in the northwestern part of the state on the Willamette River.
  33. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
  34. A genus of Pyralidae.
  37. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
  38. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
  40. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
  41. Genus of tropical plants with creeping rootstocks and small umbellate flowers.
  42. An alloy of iron with small amounts of carbon.
  44. Any of several lichens of the genus Parmelia from which reddish brown or purple dyes are made.
  48. Tall Australian timber tree yielding tough hard wood used for staves etc.
  49. A native American tent.
  50. The German state.
  52. Marked or decorated with stripes.
  53. Someone who fights for a cause.
  55. The first light of day.
  58. An ordered reference standard.
  59. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
  61. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
  65. A French abbot.
  66. Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.
  67. Unpleasantly cool and humid.
  70. The unit of frequency.
  71. The sound made by a gentle blow.
  72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

### Yesterday's Solution

#### Songs From the Year 2001



- |               |               |                |             |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| AGAIN         | DRIVE         | KRYPTONITE     | PLAY        |
| ALL FOR YOU   | EMOTION       | LADY MARMALADE | PROMISE     |
| ANGEL         | EVERYWHERE    | LOVE           | RIDE WIT ME |
| AUSTIN        | FAMILY AFFAIR | MISSING YOU    | SOUTH SIDE  |
| BE LIKE THAT  | FIESTA        | MOST GIRLS     | STUTTER     |
| BEAUTIFUL DAY | FILL ME IN    | MUSIC          | SURVIVOR    |
| BUTTERFLY     | FOLLOW ME     | MY BABY        | THANK YOU   |
| CONTAGIOUS    | HERO          | ONE MORE DAY   | U REMIND ME |
| CRAZY         | I WISH        | ONLY TIME      | VIDEO       |
| DANCE WITH ME | IRRESISTIBLE  | OOCHIE WALLY   | WALK ON     |
| DIFFERENCES   | JADEO         | OUTSIDE        | WHO I AM    |
| DIG IN        |               |                |             |

The hidden song title is: NEVER HAD A DREAM COME TRUE

### Yesterday's Solution



### Daily SuDoku

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

### Yesterday's Solution

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

TV Listings

01:00 X-Men: Apocalypse
03:30 Captain America: Civil War
06:00 Virtual Revolution
07:40 X-Men: Apocalypse
10:05 Captain America: Civil War
12:35 The Core
14:50 Point Break
16:45 Batman v Superman: Dawn Of Justice
19:20 Standoff
20:50 Jason Bourne
22:55 Hardcore Henry

00:45 The Animals' Guide To Survival
01:40 Bad Dog
02:35 Snake Sheila
03:00 Snake Sheila
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 North Woods Law
05:02 Wildest Islands
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:25 Snake Sheila
07:50 Snake Sheila
08:15 The Animals' Guide To Survival
09:10 Bad Dog
10:05 Wildest Islands
11:00 Snake Sheila
11:28 Snake Sheila
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 North Woods Law
13:45 Bad Dog
14:40 Wildest Islands
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 The Animals' Guide To Survival
17:25 The Bronx Zoo
18:20 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
19:15 Preposterous Pets
20:10 Snake Sheila
20:38 Snake Sheila
21:05 The Bronx Zoo
22:00 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
22:55 Wildest Islands
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

00:00 Hold The Sunset
00:30 Mum
01:00 Death In Paradise
01:55 Holby City
02:55 Paula
03:45 Hold The Sunset
04:15 Mum
04:45 EastEnders
05:15 Doctor Who
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Doctor Who
07:45 Holby City
08:45 Doctors
09:15 EastEnders
09:45 Doctor Who
10:30 Death In Paradise
11:25 Casualty
12:20 Holby City
13:20 Doctor Who
14:05 Doctors
14:35 EastEnders
15:05 Casualty
16:00 Doctors
18:30 I Want My Wife Back
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 The Last Post
21:00 Father Brown
21:55 Poldark
22:50 Doctors
23:20 I Want My Wife Back
23:50 Death In Paradise

00:00 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?
01:00 The Eleven
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 The First 48

04:00 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?
05:00 The Eleven
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 The First 48
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
12:00 The First 48
13:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
14:00 Homicide Hunter
15:00 Homicide Hunter
16:00 Cold Case Files
17:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
21:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
22:00 Crazy Love
23:00 Deadly Wives

00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Space Dealers
02:10 Secret Space Escapes
03:00 Nextworld
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Tanked
05:30 How It's Made
05:55 How It's Made
06:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
06:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
07:00 Ultimate Survival
07:50 How It's Made
08:15 How It's Made
08:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
09:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
09:30 Tanked
10:20 Nextworld
11:10 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
11:35 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
12:00 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:30 Tanked
15:20 Ultimate Survival
16:10 Nextworld
17:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
17:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Tanked
21:10 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
21:35 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
22:50 Nextworld
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

00:45 Obsession: Dark Desires
01:40 The Perfect Murder
02:35 Murder Book
03:30 Killed Before Dawn: People Magazine Investigates
04:25 Swamp Murders
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Blood Relatives
07:00 California Investigator
07:25 California Investigator
07:50 California Investigator
08:15 California Investigator
08:45 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
11:00 Blood Relatives
11:55 The Perfect Murder
12:50 The Perfect Murder
13:45 The Perfect Murder
14:40 The Perfect Murder
15:35 I Am Homicide
16:30 Evil Stepmothers

17:25 Evil Stepmothers
18:20 Evil Stepmothers
19:15 Evil Stepmothers
21:05 A Crime To Remember
22:00 The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade
22:55 Shadow Of Doubt
23:50 Murder In The Heartland



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Elena Of Avalor
06:25 Bunk'd
06:50 Bunk'd
07:15 K.C. Undercover
07:40 K.C. Undercover
08:05 Raven's Home
08:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
08:55 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
09:20 Tangled: The Series
09:45 Elena Of Avalor
10:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
10:35 Stuck In The Middle
11:00 Stuck In The Middle
11:25 Liv And Maddie
11:50 Liv And Maddie
12:15 Bizaardvark
12:40 Bizaardvark
13:05 Jessie
13:30 Cheetah Girls 2
15:05 Descendants Wicked World
15:10 K.C. Undercover
15:35 K.C. Undercover
16:00 Raven's Home
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
16:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
17:15 Stuck In The Middle
17:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
18:05 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
18:30 Tangled: The Series
18:55 Tangled: Short Cuts
19:00 Tangled: The Series
19:25 Liv And Maddie
19:50 Liv And Maddie
20:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:20 Elena Of Avalor
20:45 Elena Of Avalor
21:10 Bizaardvark
21:35 Bizaardvark
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

00:00 PJ Masks
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo



00:00 PJ Masks
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo

02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 PJ Masks
07:00 Trulli Tales
07:30 Jungle Junction
07:50 Handy Manny
08:10 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:00 Puppy Dog Pals
10:30 Puppy Dog Pals
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Vampirina
12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital

14:00 Sofia The First: The Floating Palace
14:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:30 Sofia The First
16:00 PJ Masks
16:30 Mission Force One
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:30 Puppy Dog Pals
18:00 Trulli Tales
18:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Vampirina
20:30 PJ Masks
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 Sofia The First: The Floating Palace
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 Mission Force One
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Alaskan Bush People
01:05 Killing Fields: Murder Isle
01:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
02:35 Kidnap And Rescue
03:20 Impossible Engineering
04:05 Flying Wild Alaska
04:50 Dirty Jobs
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Classic Car Club
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 How Do They Do It?
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Flying Wild Alaska
08:20 Classic Car Club
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Dirty Jobs
09:55 Flying Wild Alaska
10:45 Dirty Jobs
11:30 Alaskan Bush People
12:20 Classic Car Club
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 How Do They Do It?
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Dirty Jobs
14:40 Alaskan Bush People
15:30 How Do They Do It?
17:05 Dirty Jobs
17:50 Impossible Engineering
18:40 Fire In The Hole
19:25 Alaskan Bush People
20:15 Impossible Engineering
21:00 Street Justice: The Bronx
21:50 Goblin Works Garage
22:40 Cuban Chrome
23:30 Gold Rush
23:53 How Do They Do It?

06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:25 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:50 Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior

08:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
08:20 Milo Murphy's Law
08:35 Mech-X4
09:00 Walk The Prank
09:25 Marvel's Spider-Man
09:50 Milo Murphy's Law
10:20 Lab Rats Elite Force
10:45 The Suite Life On Deck
11:10 Gravity Falls
11:35 Pair Of Kings
12:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
12:25 Two More Eggs S2
12:30 Mighty Med
12:55 Kirby Buckets Warped
13:20 Kirby Buckets Warped
13:45 Supa Strikas
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Right Now Kapow
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Two More Eggs S2
16:00 The Suite Life Of Zack & Cody
16:25 Lab Rats
16:50 Walk The Prank
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Kickin' It
18:30 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
18:45 Kickin' It
19:10 Mini Ninjas
19:25 Walk The Prank
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Kid vs. Kat
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:10 WAGs Atlanta
01:00 WAGs Atlanta
01:50 E! News
02:50 WAGs
03:40 WAGs
04:35 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 So Cosmo
06:55 E! News Middle East
07:10 So Cosmo
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 WAGs Miami
10:10 WAGs Miami
11:05 WAGs Miami
12:00 E! News Middle East
12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
13:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
14:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 WAGs Atlanta
17:10 WAGs Atlanta
18:05 WAGs Atlanta
19:00 E! News
20:00 Botched
21:00 Botched
22:00 Botched
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 It's Not Rocket Science
04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
05:15 Royal Recipes
06:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:10 The Chase
08:05 Cannonball
09:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
09:55 Royal Recipes
11:00 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:50 The Chase

12:45 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Dancing On Ice
17:25 Gino's Hidden Italy
17:50 Royal Recipes
18:50 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Dancing On Ice
22:25 Gino's Hidden Italy
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Top 10
01:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
02:00 The Universe
02:50 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
03:40 Clash Of The Gods
04:30 The Lost Evidence
05:20 Million Dollar Genius
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Ancient Top 10
08:00 The Universe
09:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
10:00 Clash Of The Gods
11:00 Ancient Top 10
12:00 Bible Secrets Revealed
13:00 Bible Secrets Revealed
14:00 Bible Secrets Revealed
15:00 The Universe
16:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
17:00 Clash Of The Gods
18:00 Ancient Top 10
19:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
20:00 The Universe
21:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
22:00 Missing In Alaska
23:00 The Lost Evidence



00:15 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
00:45 Maximum Foodie
01:10 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
01:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:05 Chasing The Sun
02:35 Confucius Was A Foodie
03:30 What's For Sale?
04:25 Dog Whisperer
06:15 Food School
06:40 Food School
07:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
07:35 Chasing The Sun
08:05 Confucius Was A Foodie
09:00 What's For Sale?
09:25 What's For Sale?
09:55 Dog Whisperer
11:45 Food School
12:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:05 Poh & Co.
13:35 Confucius Was A Foodie
14:30 What's For Sale?
14:55 What's For Sale?
15:25 Dog Whisperer
16:20 Dog Whisperer
17:15 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
18:10 Eat Street
18:35 Poh & Co.
19:05 Confucius Was A Foodie
20:00 What's For Sale?
20:30 What's For Sale?
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Dog Whisperer
22:55 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
23:50 Eat Street



00:10 America's Great War 1917-1918
01:00 Apocalypse: The Second World War



## TV Listings

02:00 Chain Of Command  
03:00 One Strange Rock  
04:00 America's Great War 1917-1918  
05:00 Going Deep With David Rees  
05:30 Going Deep With David Rees  
06:00 Mega Factories  
07:00 Four Mums In A Boat  
08:00 Living Wild  
09:00 Fly Me To The Stars  
10:00 Locked Up Abroad  
11:00 China's Grand Canal: A Photographer's Journey  
12:00 On The Brink: Uncharted Waters  
13:00 Mega Factories  
14:00 Jane  
16:00 Locked Up Abroad  
17:00 Chain Of Command  
18:00 America's Great War 1917-1918  
19:00 Apocalypse: The Second World War  
20:00 Locked Up Abroad  
20:50 Chain Of Command  
21:40 America's Great War 1917-1918  
22:30 Apocalypse: The Second World War  
23:20 Engineering Connections



00:20 Incredible Fangs  
01:10 Caught In The Act GPU Revisions  
02:00 Lion Battle Zone  
02:50 Predator Fails  
03:45 Wild 24  
04:40 The Invaders  
05:35 Lion Battle Zone  
06:30 Predator Fails  
07:25 Wild 24  
08:20 The Invaders  
09:15 Snakes In The City  
10:10 Untamed Philippines  
11:05 Gorilla Murders  
12:00 Dolphin Dynasty  
12:55 Hyena Queen  
13:50 Vacations Gone Wild  
14:45 Wild 24  
15:40 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies  
16:35 Snakes In The City  
17:30 Untamed Philippines  
18:25 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies  
19:20 Wild 24  
20:10 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies  
21:00 Snakes In The City  
21:50 Untamed Philippines  
22:40 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies  
23:30 Dolphin Dynasty



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
00:36 Rabbids Invasion  
01:00 Rabbids Invasion  
01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 Winx Club  
02:36 Winx Club  
03:00 Harvey Beaks  
03:24 Harvey Beaks  
03:48 The Loud House  
04:12 The Loud House  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
05:24 Get Blake  
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:24 Rabbids Invasion  
07:48 Get Blake  
08:12 Harvey Beaks  
08:36 Sanjay And Craig  
09:00 Kids' Choice Awards 2018  
10:00 Toon Marty  
10:12 Game Shakers  
10:36 Regal Academy  
11:00 Nicky Deuce  
12:12 The Loud House

12:36 Rabbids Invasion  
13:00 Breadwinners  
13:24 Massive Monster Mayhem  
13:48 I Am Frankie  
14:12 Kids' Choice Awards 2018  
15:12 Toon Marty  
15:24 Harvey Beaks  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 The Loud House  
17:00 Kids' Choice Awards 2018  
18:00 Toon Marty  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn  
19:00 School Of Rock  
19:24 Game Shakers  
19:48 The Thundermans  
20:12 Harvey Beaks  
20:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:24 Sanjay And Craig  
21:48 Rabbids Invasion  
22:12 Breadwinners  
22:36 Harvey Beaks  
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:07 Max & Ruby  
00:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:40 Kiva Can Do!  
00:52 The Day Henry Met  
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:41 Paw Patrol  
01:52 Kid-E-Cats  
01:58 Kid-E-Cats  
02:04 Shimmer And Shine  
02:26 Nella And The Princess Knight  
02:38 Paw Patrol  
03:01 The Day Henry Met  
03:07 Max & Ruby  
03:29 Dora The Explorer  
03:52 Sunny Day  
04:13 Nella The Princess Knight  
04:36 Shimmer And Shine  
04:59 Wallykazam!  
05:21 Zack & Quack  
05:32 The Day Henry Met  
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:00 Rusty Rivets  
06:13 Paw Patrol  
06:37 Dora The Explorer  
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
07:21 Kiva Can Do!  
07:32 Kiva Can Do!  
07:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
08:05 Paw Patrol  
08:29 Shimmer And Shine  
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
09:14 The Day Henry Met  
09:20 Paw Patrol  
09:44 Rusty Rivets  
10:07 Wallykazam!  
10:30 Bubble Guppies  
10:53 Team Umizoomi  
11:16 Kid-E-Cats  
11:21 Shimmer And Shine  
11:44 Sunny Day  
12:06 Max & Ruby  
12:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:40 Kiva Can Do!  
12:51 The Day Henry Met  
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:41 Paw Patrol  
13:52 Kid-E-Cats  
13:57 Kid-E-Cats  
14:03 Shimmer And Shine  
14:25 Nella And The Princess Knight  
14:37 Paw Patrol  
14:59 The Day Henry Met  
15:05 Max & Ruby  
15:28 Dora The Explorer  
15:51 Sunny Day  
16:13 Nella The Princess Knight  
16:35 Shimmer And Shine  
16:58 Wallykazam!

17:22 Zack & Quack  
17:32 The Day Henry Met  
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
18:00 Rusty Rivets  
18:12 Paw Patrol  
18:37 Dora The Explorer  
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
19:21 Kiva Can Do!  
19:32 Kiva Can Do!  
19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
20:06 Paw Patrol  
20:29 Shimmer And Shine  
20:52 Nella The Princess Knight  
21:14 The Day Henry Met  
21:19 Paw Patrol  
21:43 Rusty Rivets  
22:05 Wallykazam!  
22:29 Bubble Guppies  
22:52 Team Umizoomi  
23:14 Kid-E-Cats  
23:20 Shimmer And Shine  
23:43 Sunny Day



01:30 Pete's Dragon  
03:30 Inspector Gadget  
05:15 The Little Mermaid  
07:00 Cars 2  
09:00 Pete's Dragon  
11:00 Inspector Gadget  
13:00 The Little Mermaid 2: Return To The Sea  
15:00 Cars 3  
17:00 Zootropolis  
19:00 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen  
21:00 The Little Mermaid 2: Return To The Sea  
23:00 Cars 3



00:00 The Americans  
01:00 The Catch  
01:50 The Last Kingdom  
02:40 The Voice  
04:20 The Americans  
05:20 Prison Break - Event Series  
06:10 Famous In Love  
07:00 Good Morning America  
09:00 The View  
10:00 S.W.A.T.  
11:00 Prison Break - Event Series  
12:00 Famous In Love  
13:00 Chicago Fire  
14:00 Lethal Weapon  
15:00 The View  
16:00 Live Good Morning America  
18:00 Famous In Love  
19:00 Prison Break - Event Series  
20:00 Chicago Fire  
21:00 Survivor: Ghost Island  
22:00 Once Upon A Time  
23:00 WWE Experience



01:20 What's Your Number?  
03:15 Life Or Something Like It  
05:00 Meet Dave  
06:35 Boris And Natasha: The Movie  
08:05 Fan Girl  
09:45 Life Or Something Like It  
11:30 Meet Dave  
13:05 Boris And Natasha: The Movie  
14:40 The Bucket List  
16:25 Joe Somebody  
18:05 The Family Fang  
19:55 Elizabethtown  
22:00 The Love Guru  
23:30 Broken Flowers



01:25 Correspondence  
03:25 Match  
05:10 African Safari  
06:55 Akeelah And The Bee  
08:55 Match  
10:35 Worlds Apart  
12:35 Akeelah And The Bee  
14:35 Operation Avalanche

16:15 Race  
18:25 The Beat Beneath My Feet  
20:05 Sommersby  
22:00 The Girl In The Book  
23:35 Lady Macbeth



00:40 Bunny Tales  
02:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
03:25 Twigson Ties The Knot  
04:50 Dinofroz - An Island In The Sky  
06:10 Simba The King Lion  
08:15 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin  
09:45 The Snow Queen 3  
11:25 Dwegons And Leprechauns  
13:10 Phantom Boy  
14:45 Twigson Ties The Knot  
16:10 Dinofroz - An Island In The Sky  
17:30 Beyond Beyond  
18:55 Dwegons And Leprechauns  
20:40 Help And Freedom  
22:15 Teo: The Intergalactic Hunter  
23:45 Beyond Beyond



00:25 Natural Born Killers  
02:25 Ice Age: Collision Course  
04:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out Of The Shadows  
05:50 Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children  
07:55 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip  
09:30 Fantastic Four  
11:15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out Of The Shadows  
13:10 The Big Year  
14:50 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip  
16:25 Ride Along 2  
18:10 Wall Street  
20:15 The Internship  
22:15 The Watch



00:30 How Do They Do It?  
00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 Street Science  
01:45 Street Science  
02:10 The Big Brain Theory  
03:00 Junkyard Wars  
03:48 Mythbusters  
04:36 How Do They Do It?  
05:00 Food Factory  
05:24 Street Science  
05:48 Street Science  
06:12 The Big Brain Theory  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 Junkyard Wars  
08:14 Mythbusters  
09:02 The Big Brain Theory  
09:50 How Do They Do It?  
10:14 Food Factory  
10:38 Street Science  
11:26 Junkyard Wars  
12:14 Mythbusters  
13:02 How Do They Do It?  
13:26 Food Factory  
13:50 The Big Brain Theory  
14:38 Junkyard Wars  
15:26 Street Science  
16:14 Mythbusters  
17:02 The Big Brain Theory  
17:50 Junkyard Wars  
18:40 Mythbusters  
19:30 Hacking The Wild  
20:20 How Do They Do It?  
20:45 Food Factory  
21:10 The Big Brain Theory  
22:00 Hacking The Wild  
22:50 Junkyard Wars  
23:40 Mythbusters



00:25 Bodyguard  
02:50 Prague  
03:00 Prague  
05:00 Fatso!  
06:50 Dil Tera Deewana

09:20 Dil Hai Tumhaara  
12:45 Thank You  
15:10 Bang Bang!  
17:55 War Chhod Na Yaar  
20:00 Indu Sarkar  
22:40 Hero No.1



01:15 Side Effects  
03:00 Hyde Park On Hudson  
04:30 Chicago  
06:30 House Of D  
08:05 Cloud Atlas  
10:45 Speakeasy  
12:10 The Moment  
13:45 How To Lose Friends & Alienate People  
15:30 Side Effects  
17:00 The Jane Austen Book Club  
18:45 The Battle Of Shaker Heights  
20:00 Strange Magic  
21:45 The Rover  
23:45 Kite



00:00 Mistresses  
01:00 Mistresses  
02:00 Grey's Anatomy  
03:00 Married At First Sight  
04:00 Project Accessory  
05:00 Style By Jury  
05:30 Style By Jury  
06:00 Mistresses  
07:00 Mistresses  
08:00 Grey's Anatomy  
09:00 Married At First Sight  
10:00 Project Accessory  
11:00 Style By Jury  
11:30 Style By Jury  
12:00 Mistresses  
13:00 Mistresses  
14:00 Grey's Anatomy  
15:00 Married At First Sight  
16:00 Project Accessory  
17:00 Mistresses  
18:00 The Fashion Fund  
19:00 The Fashion Fund  
20:00 Project Runway All Stars  
21:00 Project Runway  
22:00 Project Runway  
23:00 Grey's Anatomy

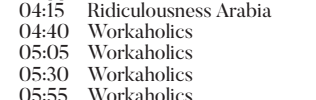


00:20 Say Yes To The Dress  
01:05 90 Days To Wed  
01:50 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days  
02:35 Oprah's Master Class  
03:20 Outdaughters: Busby  
04:05 My Kid's Obsession  
04:50 Promzillas  
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress  
06:00 Outdaughters: Busby  
06:45 Outdaughters: Busby  
07:30 Outdaughters: Busby  
08:15 Say Yes To The Dress  
09:00 Cake Boss  
09:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
09:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
10:32 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
10:55 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
11:17 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
11:40 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
12:02 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
12:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
13:55 Oprah's Master Class  
14:40 Cake Boss  
15:02 Cake Boss  
15:25 Cake Boss  
15:47 Cake Boss  
16:10 Cake Boss  
16:35 Cake Boss  
17:00 Little People, Big World  
17:50 Diva Brides  
18:50 Hair Goddess  
19:40 Cake Boss

20:10 Say Yes To The Dress  
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress  
21:00 Hair Goddess  
21:50 Little People, Big World  
22:40 Too Ugly For Love?  
23:30 Return To Amish



00:05 Teachers  
00:30 Teachers  
00:55 Chris Ramsey Stand Up Central  
01:20 Teachers  
01:45 Tosh.0  
02:10 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
03:23 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
03:50 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
04:15 Ridiculousness Arabia  
04:40 Workaholics  
05:05 Workaholics  
05:30 Workaholics  
05:55 Workaholics  
06:20 Workaholics  
06:50 I Live With Models  
07:15 I Live With Models  
07:40 I Live With Models  
08:05 I Live With Models  
08:30 I Live With Models  
08:55 Friends  
09:20 Friends  
09:45 Friends  
10:10 Detroiters  
10:35 Detroiters  
11:00 Friendszone  
11:25 Friendszone  
11:50 Friendszone  
12:15 Friendszone  
12:40 Friendszone  
13:05 Lip Sync Battle  
13:30 Lip Sync Battle  
13:55 Key And Peele  
14:20 Key And Peele  
14:45 Key And Peele  
15:10 Key And Peele  
15:35 Key And Peele  
16:00 Detroiters  
16:30 Detroiters  
16:55 Detroiters  
17:20 Friends  
17:45 Friends  
18:10 Friends  
18:35 Friends  
19:00 Friends  
19:25 Nathan For You  
19:46 Workaholics  
20:07 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
20:34 Ridiculousness Arabia  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
22:00 Owen Benjamin: High Five Til It Hurts  
22:50 This Is Not Happening  
23:14 Ridiculousness Arabia  
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:00 Mistresses  
01:00 Mistresses  
02:00 Grey's Anatomy  
03:00 Married At First Sight  
04:00 Project Accessory  
05:00 Style By Jury  
05:30 Style By Jury  
06:00 Mistresses  
07:00 Mistresses  
08:00 Grey's Anatomy  
09:00 Married At First Sight  
10:00 Project Accessory  
11:00 Style By Jury  
11:30 Style By Jury  
12:00 Mistresses  
13:00 Mistresses  
14:00 Grey's Anatomy  
15:00 Married At First Sight  
16:00 Project Accessory  
17:00 Mistresses  
18:00 The Fashion Fund  
19:00 The Fashion Fund  
20:00 Project Runway All Stars  
21:00 Project Runway  
22:00 Project Runway  
23:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:20 Forged In Fire  
01:05 Swamp People  
02:00 American Pickers  
02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island  
03:40 Forged In Fire  
04:30 Swamp People  
05:15 Swamp People  
06:00 Swamp People  
06:50 Swamp People  
07:40 Swamp People  
14:20 Swamp People  
15:05 Swamp People  
16:00 Mountain Men  
16:50 Mountain Men  
17:40 Mountain Men  
18:30 Mountain Men  
19:20 Mountain Men  
20:10 Counting Cars  
20:35 Car Hunters  
21:00 Biggie: The Life Of Notorious B.I.G.

## Stars



## Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, you could run in to opposition when you suggest going about something in a different way. You may need to re-think something you truly wanted to do; new information makes this necessary. You could find that you're up to attending an event you don't want to. You find difficulty expressing your thoughts on a certain matter. You long to be valued and respected for your efforts regarding a tough situation. A pet or child someone who's innocent captures your heart and causes you to smile. An unexpected surprise awaits you at the grocery store or pharmacy; good things can happen in the most unexpected places. At the end of the day, you feel satisfied with the progress made today. This evening's yours to do whatever you want, Aries.



## Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, intuition is high and you could get a clue you're not supposed to. Paying attention to your diet becomes easier as you're seeing results. Ignoring symptoms isn't wise as you could find yourself in trouble; emotional dissatisfaction is strongly indicated. Your choices are well made and create positive energy. Someone admires your tactics and ability to change them as needed; you're more into what works rather than being right. You could be overwhelmed when someone confesses a surprising secret; this isn't necessarily bad. You're an extremely loyal person. You know what you're capable of and allow this to find success. Compassion for someone you admire helps to turn the tide in a complicated situation that's very painful, Taurus.



## Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, this is a good time to take chances with your new way of going through life; if someone doesn't like it, they can lump it! Knowing exactly what you want makes you stronger and more determined. You make important strides in the workplace by using new techniques to accomplish an important result. Someone tries to persuade you to think as they do but you stand by your independent beliefs. Your doubts about someone are cleared up when they prove themselves. Your practical ideas are most helpful when tending to something that seems difficult very good results here! You could have to let go of a responsibility; this is definitely for the best. Finding a safe place to store something of value give you some relief. Enjoy sweet dreams later, Gemini.



## Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, someone lashes out and the result is a bruised ego. This person is threatened by your talents and doesn't quite know how to handle you. You're able to give this person some time to get to know you better. A fun lunch with someone gives you the break you need; you return to work in a much better state of mind. Intuition tells you what you should do about a party you're planning that could be complicated. Being connected to a positive outcome brings appreciation from those involved. Your reputation for reaching goals in the best possible way pulls someone to you. Your family and close relatives and friends take priority at this time. Going out of your way creates good karma; you do this without a second thought and smile while you do it, Cancer.



## Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, your tastes are admired for their beauty and class. Going even deeper into mystic, psychic and paranormal phenomenon brings you much closer to where you want to be spiritually. Your domestic situation could change due to a surprise twist; it's strongly indicated that you'll experience a move upward in comfort and value. You're asked to step in and take over with a picky client or customer; it's well known you can work with just about anyone successfully. Reading something uplifting appeals to you now as you seek escape from time to time; this provides a nice recharge. Smiles, laughter and strong approval surround you. Your evening ends with sharing a decadent desert with others that insist on leading you down this fun path, Leo.



## Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, going your own way is supported as being the correct thing to do; positive results speak for themselves. Looking to your past choices give great insight into what present choices are best. Those around you communicate their feelings for you and you feel most blessed. Being on the same page as a boss or supervisor is a satisfying place to be. A surprise revelation opens new windows of opportunity; you easily step into the best situation for you. You'd like to share an enlightening television program with someone who claims they're interested, but the truth is they couldn't care less; consider that the reason could be that they don't have the capability or depth of understanding required for this. We love who we love no matter what anyone else thinks, Virgo.



## Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, you don't want to interact with anyone today; keeping to yourself so that you can think or meditate is best for you just now. Looking things over is called for as you experience confusion and perhaps even some dismay over the state of something important to you. You know what's best but you're experiencing problems accepting it. Nature seems to be calling you loud and clear and when you answer you can't help but appreciate the beauty surrounding you; this brings peace and somehow you know that all's well regardless of how you may feel. Finding your way through a forest of doubt is possible when you follow where intuition leads; trusting this may sometimes be hard, but not today. You know your future holds many wonderful things, Libra.



## Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, entering a new phase of good fortune brings new chances to move ahead. Now could be a very good time to take risks on emotional or financial interests. Certain people seem almost as though they're trying to irritate you. Backing away from making a very large purchase could be best at this time; it could be as simple as waiting this one out. Being able to see a project clearly and understand exactly what's needed to take care of it is the biggest part of the battle; success is strongly indicated regarding this. Taking constructive criticism could be hard to do but you can definitely see what this person is talking about. Taking a longer than normal lunch break does you a world of good. You take care of an outmoded relationship and finally set yourself free, Scorpio.



## Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, this is definitely a great time to step out and take risks. Working with others comes with ease and pleasure. It feels as though nothing can stand in your way. The day unfolds to reveal that your path is obstacle free and one project or assignment simply flows into the next. You know a thing or two in a certain area and you're the one chosen to schedule provisions of some kind for a large number of people. You may have put yourself in a bad situation when you made an offer to purchase something. You know how to change this, but you'd rather not. Being mindful of choices doesn't always make it easier to make the right one! No matter what, you'll end the day on a positive note thanking the universe for all that you have been given, Sagittarius.



## Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, you could be challenged or experience blockages throughout the day; this may just indicate that you should sit back and simply let things unfold. You suspect that someone's up to no good behind your back; you may receive confirmation of this soon. People may ask for your opinion on a work project that isn't yours. You no longer feel doubtful about someone or perhaps something you weren't at all sure of. You remain in a cycle of valuable acquisition and positive gain. Emotions could run high as you do your best to avoid someone problematic in a petty way. A good idea for relaxing comes to you later. You welcome some approaching time off you dearly need. Taking time for yourself isn't selfish, it's important and necessary for you now, Capricorn.



## Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Aquarius, you look at a situation and go straight to the heart of the matter; this is how you're able to unravel many of the problems you come across! You may seem to be distant and totally unapproachable; getting lost in your thoughts is common for you at this time. You figure out a way to please the crowd and receive huge compliments; this could have something to do with food or beverages. Someone younger relies on your help in dealing with some type of school project. A new investment shows up at just the right time. You're able to perform magic by refurbishing something old; this could be the beginning of something new in your life. Letting your talents lead you makes a large difference in the direction in which you're going, Aquarius.



## Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, you attract very interesting people when you attend an event later today; you have no trouble understanding the details they share. Your ability to take on a new project and plan it from beginning to end impresses the right people. A friend understands where you're coming from in a private situation. You go straight to the cause of an issue at work; some don't like what you suggest to fix this, while others completely agree. When you look at the life you have created, you can't help but be pleased in some ways and determined to work harder in others. A trip or other outing could appear blocked or impossible; you refuse to let this deter you. You have a taste and strong appreciation for the finer things in life. A shopping trip reveals a treasure, Pisces.

## COUNTRY CODES

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

Health

# NASA resumes search for planets orbiting stars beyond solar system

**WASHINGTON:** The search for worlds circling stars far beyond our solar system will resume in the coming weeks with NASA's launch of a spacecraft scientists hope will enlarge the known catalog of so-called exoplanets believed capable of supporting life. NASA plans to send the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, into orbit from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket set for blast-off between April 16 and June on a two-year, \$337-million mission.

The latest NASA astrophysics endeavor is designed to build on the work of its predecessor, the Kepler space telescope, which discovered the bulk of some 3,500 exoplanets documented during the past 20 years, revolutionizing one of the newest fields in space science. NASA expects TESS to de-

tect thousands more previously unknown worlds, perhaps hundreds of them Earth-sized or "super-Earth"-sized-no larger than twice as big as our home planet.

Such worlds are believed to stand the greatest chance of having rocky surfaces or oceans, and are thus considered the most promising candidates for the evolution of life, as opposed to gas giants similar to Jupiter or Neptune. Astronomers hope to end up with anywhere from 10 to 30 more rocky exoplanets for further study. The new probe will take about 60 days to attain its highly elliptical, first-of-a-kind orbit that will loop TESS between Earth and the moon every two and a half weeks.

Kepler's positioning system broke down in 2013, about four years after its launch, and it has nearly

run out of fuel. "So it's perfect timing that we'll be launching TESS to continue the great activity of looking for planets around stars other than our sun and thinking about what it might mean for life in the universe," Paul Hertz, NASA's director of astrophysics, told reporters at a news briefing in Washington on Wednesday.

TESS, roughly the size of a refrigerator with solar-panel wings, is equipped with four special cameras to survey 200,000 stars that are relatively near the sun and thus among the brightest in the sky, seeking out those with planets of their own. Like Kepler, TESS will use a detection method called transit photometry, which looks for periodic, repetitive dips in the visible light from stars caused by planets passing, or transiting, in front of them.

But unlike Kepler, which fixed its glare on stars within a tiny fraction of the sky, TESS will scan the majority of the heavens for shorter periods and focus much of its attention on stars called red dwarfs, which are smaller, cooler and longer-lived than our sun. One reason is red dwarfs have a high propensity for Earth-sized, presumably rocky planets, making them potentially fertile ground for closer examination, said David Latham, TESS science director for the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Also because red dwarfs are so small, and their planets orbit more closely than the Earth does to the sun, the dip in light from a planetary transit of a red dwarf is more pronounced compared with a larger star, Latham said. —Reuters

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# Kuwait Times Classifieds

Friday, March 30, 2018

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with moderate to fresh south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h causing rising dust over open areas and some scattered clouds will appear.

**BY DAY:** Unstable weather and with moderate to fresh south westerly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 60 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WATCH			Strong Wind	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 29/03/2018 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	42 °C	24 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	41 °C	23 °C		
ABDALY	42 °C	23 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	24 °C		
JAHRA	42 °C	23 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	37 °C	25 °C		
SALMIYAH	29 °C	23 °C		
AHMADI	-- °C	24 °C		
NUWAISIB	42 °C	22 °C		
WAFRA	41 °C	20 °C		
SALMY	41 °C	22 °C		

## 4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	03/30	Unstable weather and rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	33 °C	23 °C	SW-NW	25 - 60 km/h
Saturday	03/31	Partly cloudy	34 °C	18 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h
Sunday	04/01	Partly cloudy	32 °C	16 °C	NW	12 - 32 km/h
Monday	04/02	Partly cloudy to cloudy	33 °C	17 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h

## TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:21
Sunrise	05:41
Zuhr	11:53
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:05
Isha	19:22

## RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	39 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	44 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	SE 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## SITUATION WANTED

Oilfield Operations Support Admin Coordinator and Billing Executive Indian (M), 18 years experience in Middle East MNCS searching suitable position. Mob: 66539779 / 96046944. Email: [john\\_chetty@yahoo.com](mailto:john_chetty@yahoo.com) (C 5389) 27-3-2018

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sharique Ahmad S/o Qeyamuddin Ahmad resident of village- Hathauri Tola Ram Nagar, PO-Chhapia, PS-Hussainganj, Dist.-Siwan

(Bihar) do hereby solemnly affirm declare that the name of deponent Sharik Ahmad is wrong in my passport No. H2446155 issued on 20.12.2008 at Patna. That the real name & real spelling of deponent should be Sharique Ahmad & real name & real spelling of the deponent father should be Qeyamuddin Ahmad. (C 5388)

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## 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

# Business

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

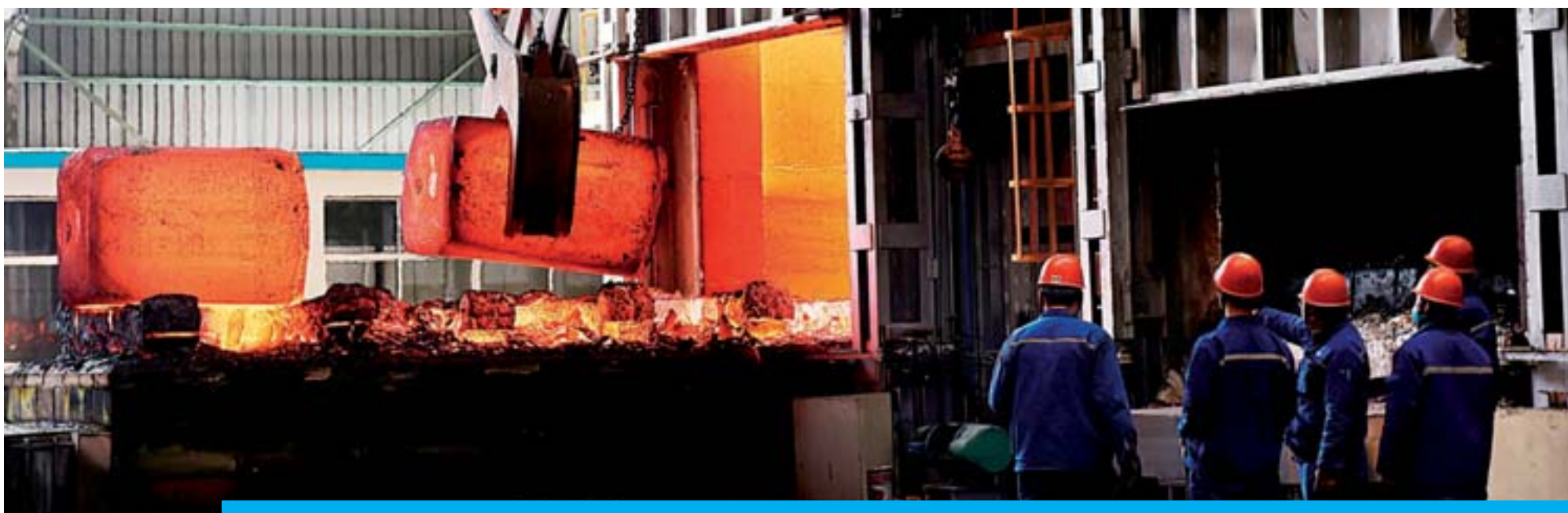
**39** Women face uphill wage battle in British finance sector



**40** Cryptocurrency boom breathes life into Alpine village



**41** Lured by rising SUV sales, market flooded with models



SHANDONG: Chinese employees watch red hot steel at a steel plant in Zouping in China's eastern Shandong province. —AFP

## Will the WTO survive Trump?

### DSB asked to punish China over intellectual property breaches

**GENEVA:** An international organization that Donald Trump demeans, undermines and then embraces when it suits his interests: probably sounds familiar within NATO, or the UN. Now it's time to add the World Trade Organization to the list. The early signs of the US president's intentions towards the Geneva-based trade body all pointed towards hostility. As a candidate he called it a "disaster" and threatened a US withdrawal. His administration's trade office then said the United States had the right to ignore any rulings from the WTO's crucial Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) that violated national interests. But that was small potatoes compared to his proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum.

For many experts, his administration's effort to portray the tariffs as legal under international trade law for national security reasons amounted to a nuclear strike against the rules-based trade system. But then, just a day after hitting China with unilateral tariffs on up to \$60 billion of imports, Washington last week turned to the WTO, asking the DSB to punish China over intellectual property breaches. "The fact that they have brought this to a WTO dispute means it is not 'Trump versus the WTO,' it is Trump fully using the WTO, which is a completely different picture

from the national security (steel and aluminum case)," said Peter Ungphakorn, who worked at the trade body for two decades.

Ungphakorn, now a writer on trade, told AFP it may be impossible to identify a "coherent" Trump trade policy, but that outlines of the American WTO strategy may be emerging. "They are going to use any weapon that will allow them to win," he said, explaining that Washington may work within the system when it wants to and disregard the rules when it needs to. But that raises an important question for the WTO's future: can an organization designed to create a level-playing field in world trade survive when the world's top economy refuses to be bound by the rules?

#### Weak and withered

Edward Alden, a trade policy specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote that March 8 - the day the steel and aluminum tariffs were announced - was "The Day the WTO Died." While

the details surrounding the tariffs, including exemptions for US allies, remain muddy, Alden's underlying argument about the threat still applies. Washington has argued that national security provisions in trade law are self-executing, meaning the moment security is invoked to justify a trade measure that measure automatically becomes legal. Alden and others have noted that the

WTO's dispute settlement system may not survive a case that hinges on national security.

If WTO judges agree with the US argument, it would allow any country to impose any tariff any time it wants. If they reject the argument, then Washington will dismiss

the verdict and the integrity of the system will be in tatters, Alden said. He told AFP he does not believe Trump's trade team has a specific desire to damage the WTO. It just refuses "to be constrained by WTO rules," he said. "And if the WTO weakens and withers then so be it. I don't think that is their purpose, but they are prepared to live with it if that is what it comes to," he said.

#### Action, reaction

Experts have argued that the WTO's future will hinge both on Trump's moves and how other members react. China, which has been heavily criticized as a trade manipulator by multiple WTO members in addition to the United States, has ironically emerged as the one of the institution's most forceful defenders. In response to the steel and aluminum measures and the massive tariffs slapped on China, envoys from Beijing have repeatedly used WTO fora to call for restraint, urging Washington to safeguard the multilateral trade system. But Alden argued that members, especially China and the European Union, will have to make concrete moves to respond to the US frustrations with the current system. "If other countries can't adapt... (and) I think they probably can't, then I think the WTO just becomes less and less relevant," he said, while adding he does not believe the organization will disappear any time soon. Ungphakorn agreed that WTO would linger on as a forum for negotiations if its dispute settlements system collapsed, but cautioned against complacency regarding the organization's long-term viability. "The situation is dangerous," he said. "We should be clear about that." —AFP



The day steel tariff was announced was 'The Day WTO Died'

## Business

# Stocks reboot after tech problems, Q1 losses loom

## Japan joins group planning talks with N Korea

**LONDON:** Stock markets and other riskier assets steadied yesterday as investors dusted themselves down after a woeful week for the tech sector, readying for what was set to be the first quarterly drop in global equities in two years. Banks and consumer stocks helped Europe's main bourses 0.2-0.4 percent higher as the region built on a positive session for Asia's heavyweight Nikkei, Hang Seng and Chinese markets.

For currencies traders, the dollar steadied too after a stronger-than-expected revision to Q4 growth data and hopes a nuclear standoff with North Korea has been averted gave it its largest daily gain in six months on Wednesday. The tentative return of risk appetite and upcoming German inflation data also cooled safety plays like Bunds.

Benchmark yields - which move inversely to prices - on German government bonds crept back above 0.5 percent having been on a sharp slide for most of the month. Spanish yields meanwhile saw their biggest monthly fall since mid-2016. The 10-year US Treasury yield was at 2.773 percent after touching a near two-month low of 2.743 percent overnight amid the strains on Wall Street.

"I think most of these markets are staring at the 200-day moving average on the S&P 500 to see if it breaks," said Societe Generale's Kit Juckes. "We will see if German CPI numbers (due at 1200 GMT) surprise on the upside... but I think if there is going to be another surprise in Q2 it will be yen strength again." Wall

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In Q2 it will be yen strength

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Street futures were pointing to a marginally higher open.

All three major US indexes ended in the red again on Wednesday with \$30 billion wiped off Amazon's shares alone after reports US President Donald Trump wanted to rein in the firm's power in online retailing. As a set, the FAANGs (Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google) are still well up for the quarter, but privacy concerns after it was revealed 50 million Facebook users' data was misused has wiped over \$400 billion off the shares' value in recent weeks.

The turbulent start to 2018 in financial markets has brought an end to one of the longest ever quarterly bull runs - and there have been few places to hide. Investors have had it all thrown at them, from the biggest ever rise in stock volatility to rapidly escalating tensions over global trade, deepening turmoil in the White House and major tech sector wobbles. A "melt-up" that sent the MSCI's world share index up 8 percent in January suddenly melted away. Now the Dow Jones, S&P 500, FTSE Nikkei and scores of other big markets are all down for the year. "We have got to make sure (the market selloff) ...is not too prolonged because the longer this goes the higher the chance it will start to affect the man on street," said Head of Equities at London & Capital Roger Jones.

### Golden glow

In Asia overnight, Japan's Nikkei ended up 0.6 percent, Shang-



**TOKYO:** A pedestrian walks past an electronics stock indicator at the window of a securities company in Tokyo displaying the morning session closing rate of Tokyo Stock Exchange. — AFP

hai closed more than 1.2 percent higher and Hong Kong's Hang Seng recovered from an early wobble to add 0.3 percent. Helping the mood were media reports that Japan had sounded out North Korea's government about a bilateral summit, and that Pyongyang had also discussed the possibility of a broader meeting with other global leaders. Beijing had said on Wednesday that North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un had pledged his commitment to denuclearization at meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The greenback was 0.3 percent lower against the yen - often sought in times of market turmoil and political tensions - at 106.57 yen yesterday. The greenback had rallied 1.4 percent on Wednesday on perceived progress over the North Korea issue, having set a 16-month trough of 104.560 on Monday.—Reuters

### Unpleasant surprise

In March, Shell complained to the Energy Department after finding high levels of H2S in a cargo the company bought as part of a 6.2 million-barrel purchase from the US government in January, according to emails provided by the department in response to the Reuters public records request. The firm was "unpleasantly surprised" to find the high levels, Shell oil trader Steve Sellers wrote to the department, adding that the issue caused concern at Shell about the quality of SPR crude for future purchases.

Shell declined to comment on its complaint to the government. The oil firm's emails said an initial test sample detected H2S gas at levels of less than five parts per million. But a later test by Shell - after it shipped the crude by boat to another US location - showed H2S levels of 600 parts per million, according to Shell's emails to the department. Exposure to vapors containing 500-700 ppm of H2S could cause a person to collapse in five minutes and die within an hour, according to the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

### Safety concerns

In November, Australian bank Macquarie Group bought the third shipment from the SPR and sold it to PetroChina, according to the shipping documents reviewed by Reuters. The cargo was loaded at Freeport onto a ship called the Stena Sunrise, the documents show. A testing company named Inspectorate tested a sample from the SPR cargo purchased by Macquarie, according to the documents, and found H2S levels of up to 9,000 ppm.

Inspectorate declined to comment and referred questions to the Energy Department. Macquarie declined to comment. After the Inspectorate testing, the terminal operator refused to allow workers to perform additional tests out of concern about violating safety regulations, according to the shipping documents. It is unclear if PetroChina or Macquarie decontaminated the cargo. PetroChina shipped the oil to China, where it arrived on Jan 18, according to shipping data.—Reuters

## Firms complain of contaminated crude from US reserve

**NEW YORK:** Three firms that bought crude oil last year from US emergency stockpiles raised concerns about dangerous levels of a poisonous chemical in the cargoes, according to internal Energy Department emails and shipping documents reviewed by Reuters. Problems with crude quality would make the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) less useful in an emergency because refiners would need to spend time and money removing contamination before producing fuel. The reserve is the world's largest government stockpile, currently holding 665 million barrels.

Hydrogen sulfide (H2S) occurs naturally in crude and natural gas, but oil producers typically decontaminate such products before delivery to buyers. High levels of H2S can corrode refinery parts and pipelines - and can be lethal to humans in gas form. Authorities in all major consuming countries keep oil in reserve to ensure that they do not run out of crude to refine into fuels if a natural disaster or war disrupts global supplies.

The US government established its reserve in 1975 following the Arab oil embargo. The US Department of Energy oversees the reserve and periodically sells some of its oil at times when there are no emergencies, as it did with the sales that sparked contamination concerns. Department Spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes declined to comment about the contamination complaints uncovered by Reuters.

The three firms that raised concerns about high H2S levels were Royal Dutch Shell Co, Australian bank Macquarie Group and PetroChina International America, the US trading arm of state-owned energy firm PetroChina Co Ltd, according to the shipping documents, emails provided by the Energy Department in response to a public records request, and a department official



**TEXAS:** An oil storage tank and crude oil pipeline equipment is seen during a tour by the Department of Energy at the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in Freeport, Texas. — Reuters

who declined to be identified. The department took responsibility for cleaning the shipment to PetroChina with an additive after it determined in May of last year that levels of H2S were too high, according to the department official.

The department disputes tests showing levels were too high in the other two cargoes, the official said. All three firms bought cargoes of SPR oil stored in an underground salt cavern in Bryan Mound, Texas last year. The oil was pumped from Bryan Mound through pipelines to the nearest oil terminal at Freeport, Texas before being loaded onto ships, according to records reviewed by Reuters and the department official.

The Freeport facility is owned by Houston-based Enterprise Products Partners LP. Enterprise knew about higher levels of H2S in a small number of cargoes traded between private firms that passed through its terminal, Enterprise Senior Vice President Brent Secrest said. "Of the hundreds of cargoes we've loaded across Freeport and other Enterprise terminals, we've only had a handful of customers give us feedback regarding high levels of H2S," he said.

## Business

# Women face uphill wage battle in British finance sector

## PM May demands wage differentials between men and women

**LONDON:** There had never been much doubt that in London's testosterone-fuelled financial sector female workers' salaries lagged far behind those of their mostly male colleagues. Now this has been confirmed in black and white after the British government forced UK-based banks to publish their own so-called gender pay gaps. Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government demanded that individual financial institutions reveal wage differentials between men and women across all employees—from back-office staff to highly-paid traders and board members.

The results are unflattering for an industry that has long been marked by male-filled boardrooms and trading floors. Men employed in London's 'City' financial district earn significantly more per hour than women excluding bonuses, according to the banks' data. May is eager to see a change in the gender gap, or percentage difference between the average male salary and the average female salary—in an eventual push toward pay equality, meaning the same money for a comparable job.

However, women still face an uphill struggle because nationwide across all sectors, British men earn 18.4 percent more per hour on average than women, according to official data from the Office for National Statistics. Among retail banks, Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds

Banking Group—both rescued with vast amounts of taxpayers' cash during the global financial crisis have pay gaps of 37.2 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

Among institutions that are more focused on investment banking, the difference is even wider. Britain's Barclays has a gap of 48 percent at its London-based investment bank unit. The equivalent is 55.5 percent at US giant Goldman Sachs. The gap at HSBC's entire UK operations, including investment and retail, is 59 percent.

### Barclays sees progress

Karen Frank, chief executive of private banking at Barclays, said that her company was slowly closing the gap but simply needed to attract more women into top positions. "From time to time one can get a bit discouraged by the

“ For this to be the case in 2018 is shocking ”

lack of progress in diversity across all industries," said Frank, who has spent more than 25 years working in financial services. "The good part about what we are seeing at Barclays is that we have actually made definitive progress.

"In line with other sectors, the finance industry doesn't yet have enough women at the top and the top of organizations is where the highest paid salaries are. For now at least, the majority of these roles are occupied by men," she added. Frank insisted that Barclays was on a mission to "encourage the next generation of

chain reaction that will spread the virus of trade protectionism across the globe," a commerce ministry spokesman said.

The official line from China continues to be stern even as Beijing says it is all for dialogue and negotiations. The feedback from US and Chinese officials on the nature and extent of trade talks remains mixed, media reports show. The Financial Times reported only on Monday that China had offered to buy more US micro-chips and move more quickly to finalize rules allowing foreign firms to take majority stakes in Chinese securities firms, citing people briefed on the negotiations.

Chinese customs data shows the US accounted for just \$2.6 billion, or 1 percent, of China's total semiconductor imports last year by value, with suppliers in South Korea, Taiwan and Japan commanding a bigger share. But a source in the US semiconductor industry said US companies have slightly more than 50 percent of China's market for chips, though export data does not reflect that because much of the product is sent offshore for low value added processing.

The source said the US semiconductor industry had not asked the Trump administration to urge China to buy more US chips and had been told by senior US officials that the US government had not made such a request to Beijing. "We don't need China to buy more chips," the source said, adding that US industry was concerned about being targeted by Chinese non-tariff barriers. "It's more about (Chinese) subsidies, IP protection, and cyber rules," the source said, referring to concerns over Chinese retaliation.—Reuters



**LONDON:** In this file photo, The Canary Wharf finance district of London, encompassing the offices of HSBC, Citigroup and other global banking corporations, is pictured from Shadwell in south-east London.—AFP

women and the generation after that to come up through the ranks and occupy more senior positions". Barclays has noted that the gender gap is driven by two factors: the higher proportion of men in senior jobs and the higher proportion of women in more junior positions.

### Shocking in 2018

Conservative lawmaker Nicky Morgan, chair of parliament's influential Treasury Committee, said recently of the massive gender pay gap at Barclays' investment banking unit: "For this to be the case in 2018 is shocking," although she

acknowledged that the bank had committed to supporting the progression of female employees into senior jobs.

At the same time, Frank insists that women must perform harder and better than men to achieve that goal. "We have to have the confidence to speak our mind, take risks and set our bar high," she said. Frank further said in an interview: "My personal philosophy, and that of Barclays, is that we are a meritocracy.

"We want to see and encourage diversity but we will always hire the best person for a role and for our clients."—AFP

## China warns US not to open Pandora's Box, unleash trade ills on world

**BEIJING:** China warned the United States yesterday not to open Pandora's Box and spark a flurry of protectionist practices across the globe, even as Beijing pointed to US goods that it could target in a deepening Sino-US trade dispute. China could target a broad range of US businesses from agriculture to aircraft, autos, semiconductors and even services if the trade conflict escalates, the official China Daily newspaper said in an editorial yesterday.

President Donald Trump's move last week to slap up to \$60 billion in tariffs on some Chinese imports has since provoked a warning from Beijing that it could retaliate with duties of up to \$3 billion of US imports. China's biggest US imports are aircraft and related equipment, soybeans and autos, with the total bill about \$40 billion last year. "The malicious practices of the United States are like opening Pandora's Box, and there is a danger of triggering a



**SHANGHAI:** Container boxes are seen at the Yangshan Deep Water Port, part of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, in Shanghai, China.—Reuters

## Business

# Cryptocurrency boom breathes life into Alpine village

## Mining's arrival inspires opening of first restaurant

**GONDO, Switzerland:** Up until a century ago, the southern Swiss village of Gondo was famous for gold mining, but the industry closed and Gondo fell on harder times. Now the miners are back and helping revitalize the tiny village on the Italian border, only they are no longer looking for gold. Tucked away in a windowless bunker in Gondo, 900 graphic cards bombinate incessantly as they "mine" virtual currencies.

"It is very interesting from a historical perspective," Gondo's deputy president, Paul Fux, said. "We had gold mines that were famous all over the world... Now we have a new breed of miners," he laughed. He was referring to a group of young men who have descended on the village which today counts only around 50 inhabitants with a business few locals understand: mining cryptocurrencies. "What we are doing is very much like the gold rush back in the day," Alpine

Mining's 26-year-old chief executive Ludovic Thomas said, his voice barely audible over the din from the machines behind him. He was standing in the company's main high-tech mining site, situated in a secured bunker in an undisclosed location. Measuring 96 square meters, the low-ceilinged space is jam-packed with metal racks lined with hundreds upon hundreds of graphic cards the equivalent of 150 computers.

They are all buzzing in unison as they calculate the ever more complex blockchain algorithms needed to

emit encrypted digital coin units for cryptocurrencies like bitcoin. Fux admitted he did not really understand what Thomas and his partners were talking about when they first approached the municipal authorities asking to set up shop in Gondo.

### Trying to keep cool

"I had never heard the word blockchain before. I had to google it," he said. A blockchain is like a public ledger where cryptocurrency emissions and transactions are logged. Mining involves using massive computational resources to verify the transactions within that ledger. This allows for the development of transparent peer-to-peer payment systems, but all of this calculation comes at a price. More than a dozen large plastic tubes fill the spaces between the racks in Alpine Mining's computing lab, pumping some 30,000 cubic meters of air into the room each hour in a bid to cool off the space.

Nonetheless, the room, crowded with humming machines with flashing orange and green lights, feels like a sauna, with the digital thermometer showing 41 degrees Celsius. The company is also in the process of setting up a second computing centre in Gondo, with higher ceilings and better ventilation, but still humming and hot. Thomas, whose tattoos and urban style stand in stark contrast to the practical mountain garb of the locals, admits that cheap hydropower and the cool

“ The gold rush back in the day ”



**GONDO, Switzerland:** Alpine Mining co-founder and CEO Ludovic Thomas works at company's main cryptocurrency mining site jam-packed with metal racks lined with hundreds upon hundreds. —AFP

Alpine climate were Gondo's main attractions for his company, as it strives to bring down cooling costs.

### Life after tragedy?

When it arrived seven months ago, the tech start-up was also offered tax advantages and cheap rents in the village, which has seen its population shrink dramatically since disaster struck nearly two decades ago. Following a torrential rain storm in 2000, part of the cliffside overhanging the tiny village crumbled, washing away buildings and leaving 13 people dead.

Ever since, Gondo has been struggling in vain to attract businesses and stave off the complete demise of the village, Fux said.

Last year, the customs administration which had long served as an employer in Gondo moved to a neighboring municipality and one of the village's three petrol stations recently shut down. Gondo had become a ghost village, serving mainly as a thoroughfare for long haul truckers, with some 400 trucks a day rambling through, municipal worker Simon Squaratti said. —AFP

## Brazil's unemployment rises to 12.6 percent

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazil's jobless rate rose in the quarter through February, hitting a higher than expected 12.6 percent, the government statistics office said yesterday. The 0.4 percentage point increase on the previous quarter was the second consecutive rise. Analysts polled by the financial newspaper Valor had expected unemployment to reach 12.5 percent. The December to February period saw 13.1 million people out of work, compared to 12.7 million in November through January.

The nudging up of joblessness follows what had been nine consecutive falls in the index, reflecting what center-right President Michel Temer says is Brazil's steady exit from its deepest recession in history. Yesterday's news could hurt Temer, who has toyed with running in October presidential elections, although he is already Brazil's most unpopular leader on record, with approval ratings in the single digits. However, compared year on year, Brazil's jobs market is improving. During the same quarter a year ago, there were 426,000 more people unemployed. —AFP

## German jobs bonanza keeps economy swinging into spring

**BERLIN:** Germany's jobless total dropped more than expected in March and unemployment hit a record low, adding impetus to a labor market that has already become the linchpin of a consumer-led upswing. Household spending has turned into the main source of growth in Europe's biggest economy, propelled by rising employment, inflation-busting pay hikes and low borrowing costs.

Federal Labor Office data yesterday showed the seasonally adjusted jobless number fell by 19,000 on the month to 2.373 million, more than the 15,000 forecast in a Reuters poll. Separately, data from the statistics office showed that inflation accelerated more slowly than expected in March, suggesting that price pressures remain fairly moderate despite the broad-based upswing and unprecedented monetary stimulus.

Unemployment dropped to 5.3 percent last month from 5.4 percent in February, the lowest since Germany reunified in 1990. Employment as measured by the International Labor Organization climbed to a record 44.59 million in February, seasonally adjusted data from

the Federal Statistics Office showed yesterday. "The positive development of the labor market continued in March," Labor Office head Detlef Scheele said. He said companies created more jobs with full social benefits and were continuing to look for more staff.

The data showed that Germany's prolonged upswing is now also pushing down the once stubbornly high number of long-term unemployed, which fell by 9 percent on the year to 845,000. Opposition parties have accused Chancellor Angela Merkel of neglecting the long-term unemployed at a time when German firms are struggling with unprecedented labor shortages. In the coalition deal signed this month, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) persuaded Merkel's conservatives to help integrate the long-term unemployed by creating 150,000 subsidized jobs at a cost of 4 billion euros.

The rock-solid labor market is likely to further boost consumer confidence and household spending in Europe's biggest economy, where domestic demand has taken over from exports as the main growth driver. The government has forecast a 2.4 percent expansion for this year, which would be the fastest rate since 2011. Consumer sentiment rose unexpectedly heading into April, according to a GfK survey released on Wednesday, as shoppers became more upbeat about their income and were more willing to spend.

"Full order books and the strong growth of the global economy make it unlikely that the

job boom will come to an end in spring," KfW chief economist Joerg Zeuner said - though the threat of a trade dispute with the United States had made firms far less optimistic about future business. "The losers of a spiral of protectionism between the US and the EU would be consumers and employees on both sides of the Atlantic," Zeuner said. Household spending has also been helped by moderate inflation, which has broadly undercut average pay settlements to leave employees with more disposable income.

Yesterday's preliminary inflation data showed consumer prices, harmonized to make them comparable with data from other European Union countries, rose 1.5 percent year-on-year after an increase of 1.2 percent in the previous month. The March reading undershot a Reuters consensus forecast of 1.6 percent. Still, it marked the first rise in the headline rate of inflation since November when it stood at 1.8 percent.

The increase was mainly driven by higher food costs and prices for holiday package deals ahead of Easter. "At first glance, stronger German inflation data looks like a welcome argument for ECB hawks as it seems to confirm their view that prices are finally accelerating," ING-Diba analyst Carsten Brzeski said. But at a second glance, Brzeski added, the figures provided further evidence that a wage-price-spiral was hardly noticeable even in Germany, which he described as the cyclically most advanced economy of the 19-member bloc. —Reuters



# Lured by rising SUV sales, market flooded with models

## Premium automakers expand their US sport utility vehicle plants



NEW YORK: The 2019 Hyundai Kona Electric is unveiled at the New York International Auto Show, at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City. —AFP photos



2019 Mercedes-Benz AMG C63 sedan



2019 Lincoln Aviator SUV



2019 Nissan Altima sedan

NEW YORK: Demand for sport utility vehicles in the United States is booming, but the number of new models vying for a share of that market is growing even faster, threatening the fat profits automakers have enjoyed. At the New York Auto show this week, automakers will unveil another flock of SUVs ranging from a revamped Toyota RAV4, Toyota Motor Corp's top-selling model in 2017, to flashy new luxury Cadillac and Lincoln SUVs. Premium brands such as Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV's Maserati that once dealt exclusively in low-slung sports cars are getting into the game.

"I think everyone has read the same tea leaves - right now there seems to be insatiable demand," said General Motors Co's Johan de Nysschen, referring to SUVs and crossovers. De Nysschen, the head of GM's Cadillac luxury division, spoke to Reuters on Wednesday while standing next to the brand's new XT4 crossover model. "Everyone is going into these segments with compelling new entries," he said, "and that means there are going to be winners and there are going to be losers." He added: "We aim to be amongst the winners."

According to data from automotive consultancy LMC Automotive, by the year 2023 there will be 90 mainstream SUV and crossover models on the US market, as well as 90 luxury models, compared with the 2017 levels of 65 mainstream SUV and crossover

models and 53 luxury models. Premium automakers like BMW AG and Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen AG's Audi brand are expanding their US sport utility vehicle plants.

US sales of mainstream and luxury SUVs and crossovers alike have more than doubled since 2010 and rose 5 percent and 7 percent, respectively, last year - even though overall industry sales declined 2 percent in 2017. LMC Automotive forecasts that growth will slow for SUVs and crossovers in 2018 and every year through 2025, even as the number of models on the market is set to rise.

"There are still some legs left to grow in the SUV market, but growth is slowing and will eventually level off," said Jeff Schuster, LMC's senior vice president of forecasting. "This is a bright spot in the market, which is why everyone is flocking to it with new product." Over the next few years millions of nearly new SUV and crossover models will come off lease and return to market, providing cheap competition for new models.

Around 40 percent of the roughly 4 million nearly

new vehicles that will come off lease in 2018 in the United States will be SUVs and crossovers, rising to 44 percent in 2019 and 47 percent in 2020, according to Cox Automotive forecasts. "Now that you're seeing more SUVs starting to come off lease, that will automatically put pressure on new SUV pricing," said Karl Brauer, executive publisher for automotive research firm Kelley Blue Book (KBB).

### Simple math

Sam Fiorani, vice president of global vehicle forecasting with AutoForecast Solutions, has a more optimistic view of the automakers' chances. Just as a wide variety of niches has developed in the passenger car market, as SUV and crossover sales continue to

grow there is room for automakers to roll out an assortment of sizes, limited editions and sporty models. "The market is not yet saturated and there are all kinds of niches that have yet to be filled," Fiorani said. "We're five or 10 years from even thinking about market saturation."

Automakers also maintain that there is room for many more options as long as they can stand out in

a crowd. "There are clearly a lot of entrants, but we are going to differentiate ourselves with a completely different look to our brand," Joy Falotico, head of Ford Motor Co's luxury Lincoln division, said in an interview on Tuesday. Ford's new midsize SUV with three rows of seats, the Aviator, will hit the US market in 2019. Rather than the aggressive or dominant forms adopted by Lincoln's competitors, Falotico said the Aviator's form is meant to evoke "beauty and calmness."

But according to KBB's Brauer, "Simple math suggests that you'll have more models with lower volume." "You can't have that many SUVs on the market and have all of them grow volume," he said. "Some of them are going to have to give." Brauer points to average vehicle prices in the SUV and crossover market for an indication of what is happening in the segment. Cumulatively, prices rose just 4 percent from 2012 to 2017. But the average price dipped 0.5 percent to \$35,991 in 2017 from \$36,163 in 2016, according to KBB data.

Faced with more competition in a slower-growing market, automakers will likely be forced to resort to consumer discounts to boost sales, which will cut in to profit margins. "The idea that you're going to make the same profit as you did three years ago is probably unlikely," Brauer said. "The good news is that they have room to lower margins." —Reuters

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Everyone has read the same tea leaves

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## Sports

# Lackluster Spieth says he's been 'lower' heading into Masters

## Spieth has finished no higher than ninth

**HOUSTON:** Jordan Spieth insists he has headed into prior Masters in "lower" form than the current crestfallen nature of his golf game. The 24-year old Dallas native tees it up this week on Lone Star State home soil in the Houston Open not having tasted success since capturing last year's Travelers Championship in Connecticut and then collecting a third Major victory at The Open championship at Royal Birkdale.

Spieth did go close to victory in the opening two events of last year's FedEx Play-Off Series, losing a play-off to Dustin Johnson for the Northern Trust Open and finishing runner up in the following Dell Technologies. However, in nine PGA Tour events in 2018, Spieth has finished no higher than ninth, missing two halfway cuts along the way.

He has dropped fourth in the world rankings, but said he's felt worse about his chances heading into the first major of the year, which tees off at Augusta National next week. "I've gone into Augusta feeling lower than I am right this second about my ability to compete, or the ability to get into contention and win and still been in the last group or last couple groups," he said.

"In 2016 I was hitting it horrendously going into Augusta. I'm striking the ball a lot better now. I just putted extremely well starting from the first round at Augusta in '16. "I came off missed cuts here I think in '14 and '17 and was in the last group, second-to-last group come Sunday with a chance to win.

"In order for me to really feel like at my highest level of confidence I need to be able to compete next week, it doesn't make a difference what happens here." Spieth will tee-up in his fifth Masters having sandwiched runner-up finishes in 2014 and 2016 around his Augusta victory in 2015 — the first of his three major titles.

Given his downturn in form, Spieth was asked if he felt more at ease in not being mentioned as an Augusta favourite. "No, it doesn't make a difference to me at all," he said. "I don't care either

way. We believe that if we go about our step-by-step goal and check all the boxes next week, then we'll have a chance to win."

Asked who he thought had the most pressure on his shoulders next week, Spieth singled out Rory McIlroy—who needs only a Masters title to complete his Grand Slam collection. "Actually, there's nobody who should

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I'm striking  
the ball a lot  
better now  
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AUSTIN: File photo shows Jordan Spieth of the United States plays his shot from the third tee during the third round of the World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play at Austin Country Club in Austin, Texas. —AFP

really feel any pressure on them, but I would say Rory has the chance to win the career Grand Slam." Spieth said. "That's something that he truly wants and so if there's one week

a year that if he said he could win one tournament at the beginning of every year, he'll probably pick Augusta, and therefore he puts more emphasis on it." —AFP

## Wie healthy, Feng hitting form in time for women's major

**CALIFORNIA:** Michelle Wie is healthy and Shanshan Feng is running into form going into the first women's major of the year, the ANA Inspiration starting in California yesterday. Storylines abound at Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, including the continuing rise of the Korean juggernaut and a possible overdue major challenge by super-talented Jessica Korda.

Straight-hitting Feng assumed the world number one ranking in November, becoming the first player from China to occupy top spot. Her record at Mission Hills is spotty—only two top-10s in eight starts—but her chances are looking up this year, with a healthy growth of rough likely to put a premium on accuracy.

"I don't even know why I've never really played super well here," Feng told reporters on the eve of the tournament on Wednesday. "Hopefully this year I can make my record be-

come a little bit better. "I think I'm still working my way out there to try to get my A-game back. I think my putting is improving a little bit. So hopefully this week everything will be there." Former child prodigy Wie, meanwhile, is brimming with confidence after her unlikely victory in Singapore on March 4, when she holed her winning putt from off the green at the final hole.

Good health has also helped her confidence, after a few years of dealing with multiple injuries, something she has discussed with Tiger Woods. "Every time we see each other we list off all the things. How's your ankle, how's your back, how's your everything? And then it's a 20-minute conversation, and then we can move on from there," Wie said.

"I think I have osteoarthritis in a couple spots in my wrist. So my doctors and I, we've been taking these collagen injections which is what helps to build the cartilage. "It just sucks that it's on both wrists, so I have to go in and out of the doctor's office quite often.

"When your back is hurting or neck is hurting, you can't really do much. It definitely helps to not have your hands hurt when you putt." Another to watch this week is defending champion Ryu So-yeon, who heads a formidable South Korean challenge that includes five of the world's 10 top-ranked players. —Reuters

## Balance the key to extending career, says Park

**PHOENIX:** With seven major titles and an Olympic gold medal in her trophy cabinet, former world number one Park In-bee says there is really only one thing left for her to learn — how to enjoy tournament golf.

Park finally appears healthy again after two seasons blighted by hand and back injuries, and rubber-stamped her return to form with a five-stroke victory at the LPGA's Bank of Hope Founders Cup in Phoenix earlier this month.

It was the first win in over a year for the 29-year-old South Korean, who now has 19 LPGA titles to her name and was inducted into the tour's Hall of Fame in 2016 after dominating the elite women's circuit from 2013 to 2015.

Park told reporters ahead of the year's first major, the ANA Inspiration, she had come to the realisation that if she wants to extend her golfing career she is going to have to find a way to avoid letting results dampen her enthusiasm for the game.

"I really wish I could enjoy tournament golf," she said. "It's so hard without the results. No matter how much you tell yourself that now you can ... enjoy missing a cut, you can

enjoy shooting 77, but it's just hard to do as a professional golfer.

"I think that's the case for a lot of people, it's so hard to enjoy golf when you're shooting 5-over. That's something that I have to try to find a way, no matter what the result is. "But somehow somebody tell me how to, because I don't know how to."

She said it had been hard to process the fact that she was not getting the results she once had, and that it had made her question her future in the game. "Over the years I had some bad times and tough times, and that's when I wanted to not play golf," she added.

"But if I want to play golf for a long time from now on, I have to enjoy golf, whether I play good or bad." Park has once again broken back into the world's top 10 and, on a Mission Hills course where thick rough and tricky greens reward straight shooters and slick putters, she could be primed to win her first major since the 2015 British Open.

Park, who had to shut her season down early last year due to back problems, said she had also learned how to get the work/life balance right. "I got married a little bit earlier than other girls on tour and I started travelling with my husband," said Park, who married her swing coach Nam Ki-hyeob in 2014.

"I sometimes took time away from golf, and I had to balance it out a little bit. "But everything has worked really well, and I was able to enjoy something that's other than just tour golf." —Reuters

# Qualifier Collins topples idol Venus to reach Miami s-finals

## Ostapenko too strong for fourth seed Elina Svitolina

**MIAMI:** Danielle Collins produced the performance of a lifetime and pulled off an almighty shock at the WTA Miami Open on Wednesday, sending Venus Williams crashing out 6-2, 6-3 to reach the semi-finals.

It was an amazing effort from a 24-year-old qualifier in just her second season as a professional and her debut appearance at Key Biscayne. This was the first time in two attempts Collins has beaten a top 10 player, and even the crestfallen world number eight Williams would find it impossible to admit Collins didn't deserve to seal a meeting with French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko today for a place in tomorrow's final.

"I don't think it was my best night of tennis, but there wasn't a shot she couldn't make," Williams said. "She played very well and aggressively, and she went for every shot and it landed."

Collins was simply delighted with the win over a player she idolized. "The first time I saw Venus in the locker room I nearly cried," Collins said. "She has been my favourite player so I am finding it difficult to wrap my head around this. All young American girls look up to Serena and Venus. I can relate to them and their upbringing. I didn't come from a wealthy family so didn't start playing at the

country club as a kid. "Playing on public courts helped give me a different perspective. It makes you grow up and even at a young age I was pretty mature." The previously unheralded Collins, a Florida native who ended 2017 ranked 167th but came into this tournament as the 93rd best player in the world, is certainly having a March to remember.

As a wildcard she reached the round of 16 in Indian Wells and has gone far better here with a fantastic run to the last four having come through qualifying. That eclipsed the previous best result by a qualifier, when Marion Bartoli

made the last eight in 2003.

Collins could be excused for being nervous, yet the media studies graduate from the University of Virginia, who claimed two NCAA collegiate singles titles in three seasons, made a brilliant start, racing into a 3-0 lead and never looked back. Her hitting, especially from the back of the court, was of the highest order and now she takes on Ostapenko full of confidence and ready to reach her first big tournament final.

"I played Jelena a long time ago on clay in the juniors and I won, so now we are grown up I am excited to play her again. "She's a fighter and I

“ I don't think it was my best night of tennis ”



**KEY BISCAZYNE:** Danielle Collins of the United States returns a shot against Venus Williams of the United States during their quarterfinal match on Day 10 of the Miami Open. —AFP

cannot wait to get out there and have another great match. "This is such a cool situation, I need a couple of hours to process it all."

### AGGRESSIVE OSTAPENKO

Ostapenko, meanwhile, showed the kind of aggression and heavy hitting which will be needed to keep Collins quiet when they meet in

the last four later. In a rematch of last year's round of 16 match at Wimbledon, the French Open champion was too strong for fourth seed Elina Svitolina, running out a deserved 7-6 (7/3) 7-6 (7/5) winner. The 20-year-old hit 42 unforced errors in an effort to blow Svitolina off the court, but offset that with an impressive 44 winners. —AFP

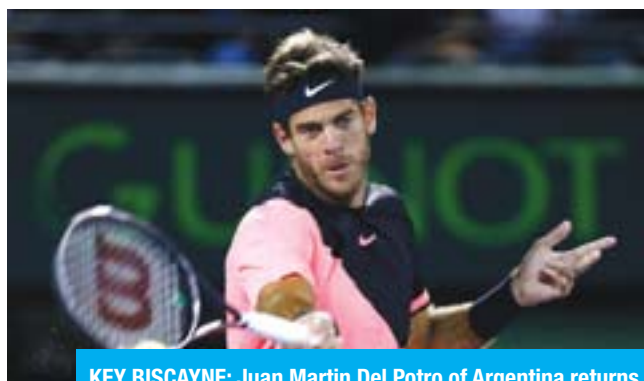
## Del Potro grinds down Raonic in Miami, Isner also advances

**MIAMI:** Juan Martin del Potro remained on course for a rare Sunshine Double when he outlasted Milos Raonic 5-7 7-6(1) 7-6(3) in a marathon quarter-final at the Miami Open on Wednesday. Del Potro, who claimed the Indian Wells title earlier this month, fed off the energy of a raucous crowd that was firmly behind the Argentine, wearing down the 20th-seeded Canadian in a match lasting almost three hours.

The clock had just struck midnight on an unusually cool evening when fifth seed Del Potro finally dispatched Raonic. The Canadian was defeated despite not facing a single break point in the first two sets, before the contest took a bizarre twist at the start of the decider when both players were broken twice in a row.

Order was soon restored as both men held for the next eight games, sending the contest to a deciding tiebreak, in which Raonic never recovered after double-faulting to fall 2-0 down. The result continued Del Potro's hot streak, after he won in California 10 days ago, beating Roger Federer in a compelling three-set final to claim a maiden Masters 1000 title.

The 2009 U.S. Open champion is back to playing some of his best tennis in years after battling serious left wrist injuries that required three surgeries and threatened to curtail his career. He advances to face another big server, American John Isner, who overwhelmed South Korean Chung Hyeon 6-1 6-4 in an afternoon match. A fired up Isner yelled "Come on" and pumped his fist when



**KEY BISCAZYNE:** Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina returns a shot against Milos Raonic of Canada during their quarterfinal match. —AFP

he broke Chung's serve in the first set to race to a 3-1 lead, ending the Korean's streak of 27 consecutive holds of serve.

### GETTING BETTER

The 14th-seeded Isner cruised through the remainder of the 25 minute opener, in which he fired seven of his 13 aces. The hour-long contest was all but over once Chung sent a forehand long in the fifth game of the second set to hand Isner another break and a 3-2 lead. The 21-year-old was unable to find an answer to Isner's booming serve in a match where he failed to convert his only break point opportunity and was himself broken four times. "I played extremely well. Every match I've played in this tournament I've gotten better," the 32-year-old Isner said in a court-side interview. "I keep getting stronger and that's a very, very good sign going forward. I know I'm in the semi-finals and I can't wait to get back on this court." Isner added that the hot and windy conditions in Miami, where the courts are not particularly fast but cause the ball to bounce high, suit his first-strike approach to the game perfectly. —Reuters

## IOC chief Bach in North Korea

**SEOUL:** International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach travelled to Pyongyang yesterday, the Olympic body said, in a visit that comes after North Korea's participation in the Pyeongchang Winter Games helped ease inter-Korean relations.

Bach will remain in North Korea until tomorrow and will have meetings with the nation's Olympic officials in a trip agreed last year as part of talks between the IOC, and North and South Korea ahead of the Games.

"The discussions will focus on the further development of sport in the DPRK after the successful participation of athletes at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, and the preparation of athletes from the National Olympic Committee of the DPRK with the objective of qualifying for and participating in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022," the IOC said in a statement.

"This visit is part of the close cooperation and consultations the IOC enjoys with all of the 206 National Olympic Committees." The IOC supported North Korean athletes financially and in kind in their effort to qualify for Pyeongchang. Bach told Reuters during the Feb. 9-25 Winter Olympics that he would make the visit on the North's invitation as part of an agreement between the IOC and both North and South Korea. Athletes from North and South Korea marched under a unified peninsula flag at the opening ceremony in Pyeongchang and the two Koreas have experienced a significant thaw in tensions since the Winter Olympics. —Reuters

Sports

# James ties Jordan's scoring streak as Cavs down Hornets

## Jaylen Brown scored 21 points to lift Boston

**LOS ANGELES:** LeBron James had 41 points to match a record held by Michael Jordan and lead the visiting Cleveland Cavaliers to a 118-105 win over the Charlotte Hornets on Wednesday. James has now scored at least 10 points in 866 consecutive games, tying the record held by Jordan, now the Hornets' chairman. James, who started the streak on Jan. 6, 2007, tied Jordan's mark in the second quarter on an alley-oop dunk off a pass from JR Smith. Jordan's streak spanned 1986-2001. James, who added 10 rebounds and eight assists, wasn't the only one who had a record-setting night.

Kemba Walker scored 21 points and broke the franchise record for career points at 9,841, passing Dell Curry (9,839), and the franchise mark for free throws made at 2,003, passing Gerald Wallace (1,999).

### TIMBERWOLVES 126, HAWKS 114

Karl-Anthony Towns made history, scoring a franchise-record 56 points and leading Minnesota to a bounce-back win over Atlanta in Minneapolis. Towns' career-high total topped the Minnesota mark previously held by Mo Williams (52 points). He posted the third-most points scored in a game this season while adding 15 rebounds and four assists. Towns scored from the inside and outside, hitting 19 of 32 shots, including six 3-point attempts. Andrew Wiggins had 17 points, and Nemanja Bjelica finished with 14 for the Timberwolves, who on Monday were upset by the Memphis Grizzlies. Mike Muscala led the Hawks with 24 points.

### CELTICS 97, JAZZ 94

Jaylen Brown scored 21 points and drilled a 3-pointer with 0.1 seconds left to lift Boston to a stunning win over Utah in Salt Lake City.

Jayson Tatum added 16 points, making a game-tying dunk with 1:09 to play, and Terry Rozier chipped in 13 for the Celtics, who trailed 94-88 with 2:25 remaining. Boston won its fifth straight. Donovan Mitchell scored 22 points to lead Utah. Ricky Rubio tallied 14 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, and Rudy Gobert contributed 10 points and 11 rebounds. The Jazz lost for the third time in five games.

### CLIPPERS 111, SUNS 99

Tobias Harris made five 3-pointers as part of a 27-point effort to help Los Angeles post a victory at Phoenix. Austin Rivers contributed 18 points, eight assists and three steals as the Clippers defeated the Suns for the eighth straight time and 17th time in the past 19 meetings. DeAndre Jordan recorded 13 points and 15 rebounds for the Clippers, who moved one game of the Utah Jazz for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot. Tyler Ulis scored 23 points and Josh Jackson added 18 for the Suns, who lost a 13th consecutive contest and fell for the 28th time in 30 games.

### LAKERS 103, MAVERICKS 93

Brook Lopez scored 22 points, 17 of them in the first half, and Julius Randle added 20 points and



Daniels #30 of the Phoenix Suns drives to the basket against the LA Clippers on Wednesday at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, Arizona. —AFP

10 rebounds as Los Angeles defeated visiting Dallas. Kyle Kuzma added 18 points off the bench, and Brandon Ingram contributed 13 as the Lakers won for just the second time in their past seven games. Harrison Barnes led Dallas with 17 points, none of which came in the fourth quarter. Dennis Smith Jr. scored 14 for the Mavericks, who lost for the sixth time in their past seven games.

was the Grizzlies' second win in as many games after they lost 23 of their previous 24 outings. Lillard was in Portland, awaiting the birth of his first child. His regular backcourt mate, CJ McCollum, led the Trail Blazers with 42 points while shooting 16-of-25 from the field. MarShon Brooks, in his Grizzlies debut, led Memphis with 21 points. Dillon Brooks had 18 and Chandler Parsons added 15.

and Brooklyn finally held on to a late lead in a win at Orlando. DeMarre Carroll added 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Joe Harris had his second straight productive game off the bench with 14 points for the Nets, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Brooklyn took leads into the fourth quarter in each of its last three games but was unable to hold on in losses to the Hornets, Toronto Raptors and Cavaliers. Nikola Vucevic posted game-high totals in points (24) and rebounds (15) for the Magic, while Mario Hezonja added 23 points. —Reuters

## Clippers defeat visiting Dallas



### 76ERS 118, KNICKS 101

Despite losing All-Star Joel Embiid to a facial contusion early in the second quarter, Philadelphia pulled away in the second half to beat visiting New York. Embiid was injured on the first play of the second quarter. Setting a screen on a dribble handoff to rookie Markelle Fultz, Embiid dropped the ball and was struck by Fultz's shoulder as he reached down to grab it, doubling over on the floor in pain. He left the floor and didn't return, finishing with five points and three rebounds in just nine minutes. Without Embiid, the 76ers used balance to win their 44th game and stay within a half-game of Cleveland for the third seed in the Eastern Conference. Six 76ers finished in double figures, led by Dario Saric with a game-high 26 points and 14 rebounds. Michael Beasley and Emmanuel Mudiay each scored 22 points for the Knicks.

### GRIZZLIES 108, TRAIL BLAZERS 103

Minus All-Star point guard Damian Lillard, Portland didn't have quite enough to win on the second night of a back-to-back, as Memphis snapped the Trail Blazers' seven-game road winning streak. It

### NETS 111, MAGIC 104

D'Angelo Russell had 16 points and 12 assists,

## NBA results/standings

LA Lakers 103, Dallas 93; Utah 94, Boston 97; Phoenix 99, LA Clippers 111; Memphis 108, Orlando 103; Minnesota 126, Atlanta 114; Charlotte 105, Cleveland 118; Orlando 104, Brooklyn 111; Philadelphia 118, New York 101.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference					
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	55	20	73.3	-	Houston	61	14	81.3	-
Boston	52	23	69.3	3	Golden State	54	20	73.0	6.5
Cleveland	45	30	60.0	10	Portland	46	29	61.3	15
Philadelphia	44	30	59.5	10.5	Oklahoma City	44	31	58.7	17
Indiana	44	31	58.7	11	New Orleans	43	32	57.3	18
Washington	41	33	55.4	13.5	San Antonio	43	32	57.3	18
Miami	40	35	53.3	15	Minnesota	43	33	56.6	18.5
Milwaukee	39	35	52.7	15.5	Utah	42	33	56.0	19
Detroit	34	40	45.9	20.5	LA Clippers	41	34	54.7	20
Charlotte	34	42	44.7	21.5	Denver	40	35	53.3	21
New York	27	49	35.5	28.5	LA Lakers	33	41	44.6	27.5
Chicago	24	50	32.4	30.5	Sacramento	24	51	32.0	37
Brooklyn	24	51	32.0	31	Dallas	23	52	30.7	38
Orlando	22	52	29.7	32.5	Memphis	21	54	28.0	40
Atlanta	21	54	28.0	34	Phoenix	19	57	25.0	42.5

## Sports

# Avalanche misses big chance in playoff chase with loss to Flyers

## Kuznetsov scores to give Washington victory over New York

**DENVER:** Claude Giroux and Ivan Provorov each scored goals while Michal Neuvirth and Petr Mrazek combined for 27 saves Wednesday night as the Philadelphia Flyers gained two big points in the Eastern Conference playoff race with a 2-1 verdict over the Colorado Avalanche in Denver. The result enabled Philadelphia to tie Pittsburgh for second place in the Metropolitan Division with 92 points, taking the Flyers out of the wild-card picture at least temporarily. Philadelphia bounced back after losing each of the previous two games in overtime. Meanwhile, Colorado took a potentially costly defeat in its pursuit of a Western Conference playoff spot. The Avalanche stayed at 90 points, one behind the St. Louis for fourth place in the Central Division. They are also a point behind the Los Angeles Kings and the Anaheim Ducks. Neuvirth, who was activated earlier Wednesday from injured reserve after missing more than a month with a lower-body injury, left the game with 8:07 gone in the second. Mrazek replaced him and saved all 17 shots he faced. Neuvirth stopped 10 of 11 shots.



### Avalanche stayed at 90 points

Arizona to a victory over Vegas. Richard Panik also scored for the Coyotes, who have earned back-to-back wins over the Eastern Conference-leading Tampa Bay Lightning and the Pacific Division-leading Golden Knights. Alex Tuch and Erik Haula scored Vegas, which lost for the first time in five games against Arizona. The Golden Knights still hold a five-point lead in the division with five games to go.

### CAPITALS 3, RANGERS 2 (OT)

Evgeny Kuznetsov scored 38 seconds into overtime to give Washington a victory over visiting New York. Kuznetsov scored on a great individual effort, circling around a few New York players in the Rangers' zone and then beating goalie Henrik Lundqvist on a bullet from the left side. The Capitals have won five in a row and nine of their past 10 games.

Lundqvist came back after missing three games (sore back/neck) and turned in a solid performance with 30 saves. Washington goalie Braden Holtby made 35 saves.

### MAPLE LEAFS 4, PANTHERS 3

Auston Matthews scored his 30th goal of the season as host Toronto defeated Florida. Matthews is the third Toronto player to reach 30 goals this season, joining James van Riems-



**WASHINGTON:** Kevin Hayes #13 of the New York Rangers scores a first period goal on Braden Holtby #70 of the Washington Capitals at Capital One Arena on Wednesday in Washington. —AFP

dyk and Nazem Kadri. Van Riemsdyk, who also scored on Wednesday, leads the team with 35 goals. Frederik Andersen stopped 30 shots to earn the win.

Mitch Marner and Patrick Marleau also

scored for Toronto. Marner, who also had an assist, has at least one point in 10 consecutive games. Jonathan Huberdeau had two goals and Evgenii Dadonov added one for the Panthers. —Reuters

## Cricket chiefs to review punishment for ball-tampering

**LONDON:** The International Cricket Council will review its punishment for ball-tampering in light of the Australia cheating scandal, and warned the game is in danger unless decisive action is taken. Cricket Australia has banned captain Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner from international and domestic cricket for a year while opening batsman Cameron Bancroft was exiled for nine months over the incident during the third Test in South Africa.

Under its current code of conduct, the ICC was unable to impose more than a full-match fine and a one-Test ban on Smith, unlike the more stringent penalty since levied by Cricket Australia.

"We've come to realise that the world-not only Australia-regards ball-tampering in a very serious light. It goes to the spirit of the game," said chief executive David Richardson. "I must admit this has been an eye-opener for me personally. We need to look at the penalty imposed, specific to ball-

tampering. "Around the world, ball-tampering is considered cheating... I think we need to look at it again, and this is what has prompted this review." The ICC review will look into player behaviour, the spirit in which the game is played and the code of conduct.

Richardson said the exercise, likely to be informed by respected former players such as Australia's Allan Border, Indian Anil Kumble, Shaun Pollock of South Africa and West Indies' Courtney Walsh, would be an opportunity to "draw a line in the sand" and address fans' concerns.

"The reaction all around the world shows us that if we neglect the way the game is played, cricket is itself in danger," he said. "We are going to ignore (that) at our peril... we don't want to leave this lingering, and hope it will all go away."

Richardson, a former South African wicketkeeper, said cricket had been blighted by bad behaviour in recent weeks including ugly incidents of sledging, dissent against umpires' decisions and now the ball-tampering episode. "This has been perhaps one of the worst periods in recent memory for consistently poor player behaviour and the global outcry in relation to the ball tampering is a clear message to cricket: enough is enough," he wrote in a blog post on the ICC website.

"The spirit of cricket is precious to our sport and so intrinsically linked with good behaviour," he added. "The turn of phrase 'that's just not cricket' is not an accident. We must protect that spirit." —AFP

## Williamson named Sunrisers captain after Warner exit

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Premier League side Sunrisers Hyderabad yesterday named New Zealand's Kane Williamson as captain after scandal-tainted Australian David Warner withdrew. "I have accepted the role to stand in as captain for this season. It's an exciting opportunity with a talented group of players," the 27-year-old Kiwi skipper said in a statement released by the club on Twitter.

Williamson has a \$460,000 deal with the Sunrisers for this season, which starts April 7. Warner, who was banned for a year on Wednesday along with disgraced Australian captain Steve Smith, had a \$1.9 million contract.

Warner and Smith, who has been barred from playing for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, were at the centre of a ball-tampering scandal during Australia's series in South Africa. The pair were among the highest-paid foreign stars in the IPL. Hyderabad, who won the 2016 IPL, will host Rajasthan in their opening match on April 9. —AFP

## Sports

# Australia cricket coach quits, captain breaks down in tears

## Smith's fall from grace has been dramatic and fast

**JOHANNESBURG:** Australia cricket coach Darren Lehmann said yesterday he would quit after the final match of the scandal-tainted Test series in South Africa after the team's former captain Steve Smith broke down in tears and accepted complete responsibility for the ball-tampering incident.

Smith was deeply emotional as the man at the centre of a storm that has rocked world cricket arrived back in Sydney from Johannesburg after being banned for a year from the sport. "I take full responsibility, I made a serious error of judgement and I understand the consequences. It was a failure of leadership," Smith said, choking back tears as he was comforted by his father Peter.

"I know I will regret this for the rest of my life. I am absolutely gutted. Cricket is my life and I hope it can be again. I'm sorry. I'm absolutely devastated." Within hours, Lehmann said he was standing down despite Cricket Australia saying he had had no knowledge of the plot to alter the condition of the ball in the third Test in Cape Town.

"This will be my last Test as head coach of the

Australian cricket team," Lehmann, who also had tears in his eyes, said. "Saying goodbye to the players was the toughest thing I have ever had to do."

Lehmann said "the feeling is that Australian cricket needs to move forward and this is the right thing to do". Even Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has condemned the team, describing fielder Cameron Bancroft's attempts to tamper with the ball by using sandpaper as a "shocking affront to Australia". Roughing up one side of the ball would have given Australian bowlers an advantage by producing more swing.

### Ball-tampering affair had been an 'eye-opener'



#### FALL FROM GRACE

Cricket Australia have banned Smith and vice-captain David Warner from all international and domestic cricket for a year while Bancroft was exiled for nine months. Smith's fall from grace has been dramatic, and fast.

He was jeered as he made his way through Johannesburg airport on Wednesday surrounded by police and media with concerns over his mental state in the current heated climate. Former Australia great Shane Warne, no stranger

himself to controversy, offered the trio an olive branch despite days of the Australian public baying for blood.

"What the public wants to see is change. They want to see you be a better person," he wrote in a column for the Sydney Daily Telegraph. "They'll support you if they see that, and they'll forgive you."

#### WARNER: 'STAIN ON THE GAME'

Warner, a divisive figure who was charged with developing the plot and instructing Bancroft to carry it out, also broke his silence to say sorry and admitted his actions had been "a stain on the game".

"Mistakes have been made which have damaged cricket," he told his 1.6 million Instagram followers. "I apologise for my part and take responsibility for it." In handing out their tough punishment, Australian cricket chiefs bowed to uproar at home where sportsmen and women are held in high esteem and expected to act in the best interests of the game.

CA's response wasn't enough to save an estimated Aus\$20 million (US\$15 million) partnership with naming rights sponsor Magellan which tore up its three-year contract Thursday after barely seven months.

The financial cost for the players is also growing with sporting goods company ASICS



**JOHANNESBURG:** Darren Lehmann speaks to the press as he announces he will resign as Australian cricket coach after the coming Test match yesterday, in Johannesburg. — AFP

ending its relationship with Warner and Bancroft. Electronics giant LG axed Warner on Wednesday, while Weet-Bix and Commonwealth Bank dumped Smith. — AFP

## England drop Moeen, Woakes for 2nd Test against New Zealand

**CHRISTCHURCH:** England have axed Moeen Ali and Chris Woakes for the second and final Test against New Zealand starting today at Christchurch. All-rounder Moeen scored 28 runs in two innings in the first Test and failed to take a wicket as New Zealand marched to an innings and 49-run victory.

The 30-year-old also struggled in England's 4-0 Ashes loss in Australia late last year, scoring 179 runs at 19.88 and claiming just five wickets at an average of 115. Somerset spinner Jack Leach is expected to make his Test debut at Hagley Oval. Batsman James Vince and fast bowler Mark Wood have also been included in the 12-man squad but Lancashire captain Liam Livingstone misses out.

The fitness of Ben Stokes remains an issue. The all-rounder did not bowl in the first test due to a back problem and could play again as a specialist batsman ahead of Vince. "There's obviously a couple of choices we have but it's exciting there are people pushing and making strong cases for themselves," England captain Joe Root told reporters. "That attention to detail and the way we approach training is, I think, really important leading into this game so hopefully we can be ready for what's going to be a big five days. I'm very frustrated in terms of the results and how that side of things has gone. We've played really good cricket for three days, which doesn't win you Test matches." England have lost 10 of their last 12 overseas tests.

Team: Joe Root (captain), James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Jack Leach, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Ben Stokes, Mark Stoneman, James Vince, Mark Wood. — Reuters

## Messi fitness doubts worry Barca ahead of Sevilla visit

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona must decide whether to field Lionel Messi as they resume their bid for the Liga title away to Sevilla tomorrow amid doubts about their talisman's fitness at the start of a gruelling period of seven games in 22 days.

Messi missed Argentina's friendlies against Italy and Spain due to a muscle problem sustained after Barca's last Liga outing against Athletic Bilbao and only completed half of a training session yesterday.

He is the top scorer in La Liga with 25 goals and has featured in all but one of Barca's league games this campaign, only sitting out the match against Malaga following the birth of his third son. The trip to Sevilla is likely to be Barca's hardest away game left this season although their 11-point lead over nearest challengers Atletico Madrid gives coach Ernesto Valverde wiggle room in their bid to reclaim the title.

Barca have the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie against AS Roma on Wednesday and five more games, culminating in the

Cup final against Sevilla on April 21 before earning a seven day rest before their next league game.

Barca have failed to win on two of their last three visits to Sevilla's famously atmospheric Sanchez Pizjuan stadium, however, and will be keen to extend their 36-game unbeaten record in the league.

They are targeting the Liga record of 38 games unbeaten, held by Real Sociedad from the 1979/80 season. Valverde said on Wednesday he was not overly concerned about Messi's fitness and laughed off suggestions his forward would be affected by Argentina's humiliating 6-1 defeat to Spain on Tuesday.

Messi left his seat at the Wanda Metropolitan stadium immediately after the sixth goal went in. "Messi has a bit of discomfort but we think it's nothing important. We're relaxed," Valverde said.

"Argentina only lost a friendly. The World Cup hasn't started yet and not all our players will be able to win it." Barca are still missing midfield anchor Sergio Busquets with a toe problem, while left back Lucas Digne is out for three weeks with a muscle injury sustained on international duty with France.

Sevilla host runaway Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie on Tuesday and will be without suspended midfielder Pablo Sarabia against Barca as well as veteran Jesus Navas, who is injured.

On Sunday second-placed Atletico host struggling Deportivo La Coruna, who are still without a win under coach Clarence Seedorf, while champions Real, four points behind their city rivals in third, visit 18th-placed Las Palmas. — Reuters

## Sports

# Southgate to name World Cup squad early to avoid anxiety

## Everton keeper Pickford has an edge ahead of Butland

**LONDON:** England manager Gareth Southgate plans to name his 23-man World Cup squad early to help avoid unnecessary anxiety among his players. Tuesday's promising 1-1 draw in Italy was England's last match before Southgate names the travelling party for the June 14-July 15 finals in Russia.

Southgate has until May 14 to register a 35-man provisional squad with FIFA and needs to whittle it down to 23 by June 4 — two days after England's next friendly, against Nigeria.

But the England boss will name his squad before the penultimate warm-up friendly, with the announcement expected shortly after the Premier League season ends on May 13. "I'd like to (name the squad before the next friendly) because you end up being able to run a performance camp rather than a selection camp," the England manager said. "I think there's a difference in the feel for everybody."

"If you name 28 and they aren't sure, but if you name 23 and five on standby—which Sven (Goran Eriksson) did well, then everyone knows

where they sit. "If you have got 28 or 30 who think they might have a chance, then there's a lot of uncertainty and anxiety within the games," he added. "For me, it's much better to get the 23 secured and work from there."

Southgate already has a "pretty clear" idea about how he will fill 20 of the slots, and over the identity of his first-choice goalkeeper and skipper. Everton keeper Jordan Pickford has perhaps edged ahead of Jack Butland while Harry Kane and Jordan Henderson are frontrunners for the captaincy.

Meanwhile, Adam Lallana is confident his fitness problems will not cost him a place in England's World Cup plans after an injury-blighted season. The Liverpool midfielder, who made a second-half appearance against Italy, suffered a serious thigh injury in early August, reducing him to a bit-part role for his club this season.

But the 29-year-old is bullish about his prospects of making the 23-man squad, insisting he has sufficient credit in the bank despite his lack of match time. "I'm confident enough in my

“ I think there's a difference in the feel for everybody ”



**BURTON-ON-TRENT:** File photo shows England's manager Gareth Southgate (R) talks with England's midfielder Jordan Henderson during a training session at St George's Park in Burton-on-Trent. — AFP

own ability and what I bring to the squad," he said. "He (Southgate) recognises what I bring to

the team, my team-mates recognise that and I recognise it also." — AFP

## PAOK boss gets stadium ban, 100,000 euro fine

**ATHENS:** Greek club PAOK Salonika's president Ivan Savvidis was banned from all soccer stadiums for three years for storming onto the pitch with a gun during a league game, the league's disciplinary committee said yesterday.

The club were also stripped of three points, ending their title chances. Savvidis, a Georgian-born businessman and former Russian state Duma deputy, charged onto the pitch with a gun in his belt when a goal for PAOK was disallowed in a match against fellow title contenders AEK Athens on March 11.

The game was interrupted and the incident prompted an immediate suspension of the league by the Greek government as world soccer's governing body FIFA considers possible action against Greece over repeated crowd trouble and violence in the stadiums. The government lifted the ban on Tuesday with Superleague matches set to resume over the weekend. Savvidis was also fined 100,000 euros (\$123,000) and the club, fined an additional 63,000 euros, must play three matches behind closed doors.

PAOK sports director Lubos Michel, a former international referee, was banned for 90 days and fined 15,000 euros after also entering the pitch and complaining to the referee.

The disciplinary committee awarded the game



Ivan Savvidis

to AEK Athens and stripped two points from PAOK from next season's championship. PAOK said they would appeal.

"The sanction is harsh and was delivered under the pressure of a coordinated media storm against PAOK," the club said in a statement. "We are proceeding with an appeal and await to be judged on real facts."

FIFA has warned Greece to clean up football or risk a possible international ban. "The word Grexit is no more impossible. Greek football is going to an edge," Herbert Huebel, head of a FIFA monitoring committee for Greek football, said earlier this month. — Reuters

## Dortmund out to delay the inevitable another title

**BERLIN:** At any other time a showdown between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund would be a season highlight but when the teams clash tomorrow, the focus will be on how soon can the Bavarians secure their sixth successive Bundesliga crown.

Dortmund are battling for a Champions League spot for next season, lying in third place on 48 points. They are one point behind Schalke 04, who host Freiburg with seven games left in the campaign. Bayern are 17 points clear at the top and had to put their title celebrations on ice after losing 2-1 to RB Leipzig in the previous matchday. But victory over visiting Dortmund in combination with a draw or defeat for Schalke would be enough for Bayern to wrap up a record-extending 28th league title.

"Obviously this is in the back of our minds," said Bayern winger Arjen Robben, who has recovered from injury and has returned to training this week. He is expected to be fit for the

match. "If we had to chose a timing to win it then we would want it to be this Saturday. But obviously we still depend on others as well to win it and cannot secure it ourselves yet." The only other time Bayern won the title in March was under Pep Guardiola in 2014.

Bayern, chasing a treble, would be boosted by picking up their first silverware of the season ahead of their Champions League quarter-final first leg against Sevilla next week and a German Cup semi-final to follow.

But despite an inconsistent season, Dortmund have recovered under coach Peter Stoeger and remain undefeated in the 12 league games since he took over in December. "They are playing better and now also under the new coach," Robben warned. "Dortmund remain a very good team even if this season they were not as consistent." Dortmund will likely be without winger Marco Reus, with the Germany international having missed the friendlies against Spain and Brazil in the past days as well as their previous league game with adductor muscle problems.

"I don't think there is enough time until the weekend," said Stoeger of Reus' chances of making the big game. Defender Omer Toprak is also looking doubtful but with the Ruhr valley club having won five of their last seven league games and a Champions League spot the only goal left in their season, motivation should not be an issue. — Reuters

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SYDNEY: Australian cricketer David Warner (C), his wife Candice and their daughters leave the airport after arriving back in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

## Australia cricket coach quits, captain breaks down in tears