



8 Mahathir bars scandal-mired Najib from leaving country



9 Voter bribes claimed as key Indian state holds election



11 Iraq holds first nationwide election since IS defeat



RAMADAN EMSAKIYA INSIDE!



# ‘All’s well that ends well’: Manila, Kuwait look ahead

## Officials emphasize deep-rooted ties after signing labor agreement

### Jerusalem stands on waqf land, belongs to Arabs

In my view

By Attorney Hafez Tahboub  
local@kuwaittimes.com

In response to the US government’s recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the following points are to be noted:

First: The city of Jerusalem and its environs, including adjacent and neighboring villages, are Islamic waqf areas under official waqfs recorded in the records of the Islamic courts in Jerusalem, and in no case shall such waqfs be revoked, amended or confiscated. These lands were leased to their inhabitants or to those who live on them, while they remained the property of the Islamic waqf which collected lease from them. These conditions remained until the end of the British Mandate in 1948, after which part of Jerusalem’s lands followed the Arab Orthodox Church.

Second: Aside from historical claims, Zionism tried to lay its hands on parts of the city of Jerusalem for more than 100 years: as a result, at the end of the British Mandate in 1948, Zionism could not own more than five percent of the Jerusalem Municipality’s lands, inside or outside the fence, according to the Palestinian Land Department, the British archives of the Land of Jerusalem, as well as the estimates of the International Conciliation Commission and Sami Hadawi, who was the head of the Department of Survey of Jerusalem Lands until the end of the British Mandate, in addition to the “Jerusalem Lands” book and “Jerusalem 1948” book by author Salim Tamari. All of these references agreed that the Jews did not own more than five percent of the land of Jerusalem when it was occupied by Israeli forces in 1948.

Third: The so-called Jewish alleyways in ancient Jerusalem were properties belonging to Arab Jerusalemite families such as Al-Khalidi, Abu Saud, Fatyani, Dajani and Qutina, and these lands were leased to religious Jews for their proximity to the Western Wall (Al-Buraq), and their population in 1948 did not exceed 2,000 including seniors, children and women (see the memoirs of Abdullah Al-Tal and the diaries of Aref Al-Aref).

Fourth: What confirms the above is that the Jews submitted a petition to the Islamic Waqf Department (registered in the register of waqfs) demanding to rent a plot of land to bury their dead, which was approved by the Department of Awqaf, and based on that, the cemetery, also an Islamic waqf land, which is now located between the suburb of Silvan and the suburbs of Jerusalem, was leased to them.

Fifth: The laws issued by Israel to confiscate land and property of Arab Jerusalemites are invalid for several reasons, most importantly:

A. Jerusalem under United Nations resolutions does not belong to Israel and therefore all Israeli laws relating to Jerusalem are null and void and contrary to United Nations’ resolutions.

B. Because the property of the Islamic waqf are not sold or bought according to Islamic law and the ownership of the land is always attributed to the Islamic waqf.

C. Because the seizure of land by force does not give the aggressor a right under international law and in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Sixth: It is not the prerogative of a foreign state to intervene in the affairs of another state to recognize the subordination of land or city to another party that does not own it. This recognition, whether made by the US president or Congress, is fundamentally void according to international law, and because it violates Security Council and UN resolutions. Furthermore, the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of a state whose boundaries are yet to be defined is null and void.

Seventh: When America wanted years ago to build an embassy in Jerusalem on land located in the site of the upper Baqaa, a number of owners of this land - Jerusalemite families who hold US citizenship only - objected to this decision, including the families of Al-Khalidi, Abu Saud, Al-Turjman and Al-Fatyani, and submitted memos with documents attached to the US government and Congress, after which the US government withdrew its decision.



KUWAIT: Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Cayetano and Kuwaiti Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah shake hands after signing an agreement at the foreign ministry on Friday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 2)

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Filipinos in Kuwait are elated after Kuwait and the Philippines agreed measures on Friday to regulate the employment of domestic workers from the Southeast Asian country, following a diplomatic row amid reports of abuse. Philippine Minister of Foreign Affairs Alan Cayetano and Philippine Labor and Employment Minister Silvestre Bello signed the memorandum of agreement with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

“This is something to be grateful for. I really believed that talking face to face is better than calling or exchanging notes from a distance. They recognized that all countries in the world have to fight for the rights of their people, the same way Kuwait fought for its sovereignty and people. Both countries have no intention of hurting relations: all’s well that ends well,

and we want to maintain these ties of friendship,” Cayetano told reporters on the sidelines of the signing ceremony.

“We have a very good agreement - a mechanism is in place to protect 100 percent of our OFWs in Kuwait - not just the great majority of Filipinos, but all of them,” he said. “I spoke to some Filipinos here in Kuwait - they are saddened that a diplomatic spat took place, but they also acknowledge there are things to be done. This small bump in our diplomatic relations with Kuwait is now repaired,” Cayetano said.

“The agreement will be implemented by both sides - we’ll do our part and Kuwait will do its part too. We are committed to the path forward and the plan of action. We wouldn’t have signed the agreement unless we saw the future of our people working happily and safely here in Kuwait. Secretary (newly-appointed advisor Abdullah) Mama-o will be staying here

Continued on Page 11

### Poor turnout in municipal polls



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem casts his ballot in the Municipal Council elections yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 3)

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council elections witnessed a trickle of voters yesterday amid hot weather conditions and widespread apathy. Turnout was estimated at a little over 20 percent, which is believed to be normal for these elections, as many voters believe the final results are already known, while others view the Municipal Council as a technical body with no executive powers.

After polling stations closed, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah commended efforts of government employees that contributed to the smooth voting process, and their service for their country. The Amir thanked all staff of the interior ministry, the higher judicial committee supervising the elections, information ministry, health ministry, the fire directorate and the municipality.

Speaking to reporters earlier after voting, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem hoped more voters would cast their ballots, adding that candidates are “siblings competing to serve Kuwait”. He also promised that the parliament will cooperate with the Municipal Council, which is the oldest house of representatives in Kuwait. Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Hmoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah also stressed the importance of the Municipal Council, noting that it provides many public services.

He expressed hope for more cooperation and coordination between the incoming council and state executive bodies to help boost development and take part in planning and approving construction, environment and health projects. Sheikh Faisal added Farwaniya governorate is densely populated and has many urban expansions that require more services and projects. He urged the council to give due care to these projects and help improve the governorate’s infrastructure.

The morning period saw very limited voting, as only 15 out of 866 voters showed up to cast their votes at a polling station in Qadisiya, and 13 out of 835 voted at another school in the area. Meanwhile, 30 out of 860 voted at a station in Mansouriya, while other centers in the area saw 10 out of 772 and 9 out of 772 eligible voters casting their ballots. The situation was similar at other polling stations throughout Kuwait.

Continued on Page 11



INVESTMENT CO.

Press Release

From KGL Investment Company

KGL Investment Company (K.S.C.C) would like to reassure its shareholders, clients and everyone who heard about the preliminary verdict issued recently by the Second Division/ Criminals of the Court of First Instance for case number 1942/2015, that it is a preliminary verdict and an appeal has been filed and that the verdict is most likely going to be negated or annulled for the non-ability to submit the defense, reply to the submitted requests, or to the witnesses’ testimony, as well as other numerous reasons. KGL Investment Company affirms its full trust and confidence in the fairness and integrity of our judicial system and that its final judgments have all the respect and appreciation and are not commented upon.

Furthermore, KGL Investment Company would like to confirm its trust and confidence in all its Board Members, Executive Managers, Officers, Managers, and all its Employees and their sincere efforts in the success and progress of the Company. KGL Investment Company would also like to stress on the validity and soundness of all its previous and current agreements and transactions conducted within the framework of legitimacy, integrity and transparency.

Finally, KGL Investment Company would like to express its full confidence and firm beliefs that justice would inevitably prevail through the graciousness of God and through our fair justice system which will have its final word against all those malicious and false accusations against the Company and its Executives.

The Board of Directors



## Local

# Filipinos welcome agreement with Kuwait, optimistic it will help protect workers

## ‘A test of real friendship between Philippines and Kuwait’



Maricel Mangahas



Genskie Morales



Sierady Rogando



Mikhaela Urlanda



Marivic Paradero



Jerry Lopez

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Members of the Filipino community voiced their relief for the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the governments of Kuwait and the Philippines on Friday. Filipinos who spoke to Kuwait Times hoped that this agreement would help provide more protection to workers in Kuwait, specifically domestic helpers, and also improve the friendly relations between the two countries.

“Alhamdulillah! This is a very good development for the protection of our workers in Kuwait,” said Marivic Paradero, businesswoman, Tag Cargo. “I was very sad when the ban was imposed. While I was not affected, eventually it will affect my business if it continues. The truth is that when our president announced the ban, Filipinos were calling us to shift their things out. They said they need to shift their stuff out because they were thinking the crisis with Kuwait will get worse. This was the immediate reaction of many Filipinos here. Alhamdulillah, the crisis is over, and our relationship with Kuwait is restored.”

### Test of friendship

Mikhaela Urlanda, an employee of Alshaya Company, said that the agreement felt like ‘a taste of victory’ for

all Filipinos, and also a ‘test of real friendship’ between the Philippines and Kuwait. “Our friendship was tested with this crisis, but the good thing is that we overcame it,” she said. “With the agreement already in black and white, probably everyone will follow it. Thank God, because Filipinos seeking jobs will be able to get better ones in Kuwait now. I should know, because if Kuwait is bad, why did I stay here to work for more than 20 years? We are in good hands; in fact, we are thankful to HH the Amir of Kuwait for allowing us to work and in return get the salary we desire. Also, we thank our president Rodrigo Duterte: we feel his real love for his people – for this gesture we are very grateful. Thank you for the love!”

Sierady Rogando, who works as a barista at Costa Coffee, believes that the agreement help her compatriots

continue to seek jobs in Kuwait. “This is very good news for all Filipinos. Whether we like it or not, we need jobs. We don’t have many in the Philippines; if we did, probably we wouldn’t be in Kuwait right now,” she argued. “The

MoA can now protect each and every one of us, even probably those working in restaurants. Now I think Filipinos can sleep well, because earlier, we were very anxious whether to leave Kuwait or not. I feel the relief! Thanks Kuwait and Philippines for talking and finally setting aside hate. Thank you!”

“Now we are fine,” exclaimed Genskie Morales, a domestic helper in Qortuba. “Thank you President Duterte and Secretary Cayetano for the way for ironing the strained relations between the two countries, according to Jerry Lopez, an engineer at Aramco. “I am delighted the agreement between the two countries has been signed. I hope and pray to God that everything, including Filipinos and Kuwaitis, will be okay. We look forward for normalization of our ties and that our friendship will become stronger,” he stressed. “I have family in Kuwait: we lived there for many years. Although my work is in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait is our second home, so we do not wish any bad thing to happen between us. Thank you Kuwait and the Philippines for the MoA!”

### Workers’ protection

Maricel Mangahas, administrative staff, Vista Land International Marketing Inc, reiterated belief that the

## Deal to help Filipinos seek jobs in Kuwait



## Agreement on employment of domestic workers between Kuwait and Philippines

**KUWAIT:** The following is a transcript of the agreement on employment of domestic workers that was signed between the governments of the State of Kuwait and the Republic of the Philippines on Friday:

The Government of the State of Kuwait represented by the Public Authority of Manpower, hereinafter referred to as the First Party and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines represented by the Department of Labor and Employment, hereinafter referred to as the Second Party, jointly referred to as the Parties:

Noting the Kuwaiti laws and regulations on domestic workers that govern the recruitment and employment of domestic workers in Kuwait and provide the legal protection for the rights of Filipino domestic workers:

Noting the Philippine laws on recruitment and deployment of Filipino workers:

Based on the shared desire of the “Parties” to ensure the rights of Filipino domestic workers in accordance with the provisions of the Kuwaiti Laws relating to domestic workers and in compliance with the Philippine laws on recruitment and deployment of Filipino workers:

Both laws provide legal protection to the employer and Filipino worker.

### Have agreed as follows:

#### Article 1 Areas of Cooperation

#### The Parties shall undertake the following:

1. Uphold ethical recruitment policies, systems, and procedures for the recruitment and employment of domestic workers, pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations of both Parties;

2. The recruitment and employment of Filipino domestic workers will be governed by a standard contract;

3. Ensure that the recruitment and entry of domestic workers, as well as their repatriation under this Agreement shall be in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of both Parties;

4. Take legal measures against erring employers, domestic workers, Kuwaiti recruitment or Philippine recruitment agencies for any violation of employment contract provisions, applicable laws, rules and regulations of both Parties;

5. Resolve any issues arising from the implementation and enforcement of any provision of this Agreement;

6. Provide a mechanism of inspection and monitoring the level of care offered to the domestic workers through official authorities in Kuwait;

7. Guarantee the compliance with the recruitment laws and regulations of both countries;

8. Working on reducing the costs of recruitment of the domestic workers;

9. Both parties are committed to open all areas of cooperation relating to sending and recruiting domestic workers through all licensed recruitment offices or agencies.

#### Article 2 Responsibilities of the First Party

#### The First Party shall:

1. Guarantee the rights of domestic workers as provided by the applicable laws, rules and regulations of the “First Party”;

2. Ensure that the employer shall provide the worker with food, housing, clothing, and registering the domestic worker in the health insurance system that covers



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Philippine Secretary of Labor Silvestre Bello, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jaralla hold a press conference after signing an agreement to regulate domestic workers, at Kuwait’s foreign ministry in Kuwait City on Friday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

her/his treatment in case of illness or injury due to work as well as being committed to compensate her/him for job injuries and transporting the deceased body of the domestic worker to her/his country when she/he dies and paying the wages of the month in which the worker died and other rights as provided in the Kuwaiti Law;

3. Ensure that the employer is not allowed to keep in her/his possession any of the domestic workers’ personal identity documents such as passport. Both Parties agreed that the passport is the property of the Philippine government under its law and should not be in the possession of the employer;

4. Allow the domestic workers to have and use cellular phones and other means to communicate with their families and their government and to prohibit their employers from confiscating them;

5. Disqualify employers who have records of contract violations or abusing workers from recruiting Filipino workers and pursue appropriate legal action against such employers;

6. Facilitate the opening by the employer of a bank account under the name of the domestic worker and allow the domestic worker the reasonable opportunity to remit her/his monthly salary to the Philippines as provided in the employment contract;

7. Ensure that an aggrieved worker shall have access to the services of the Department of Domestic Labor, which has the jurisdiction to settle any dispute that arises between the parties to the contract. The Department of Domestic Labor shall settle the dispute within fourteen (14) days from the date that the complaint was filed. If a settlement is not reached, the dispute shall be referred to the competent court, which shall hear the case within thirty (30) days from the date that the referral was made. Litigants must be notified before at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of session and all domestic worker cases wherein the claimant is the domestic worker are to be free of judicial charges at all levels of the judicial proceedings;

8. Upon the renewal of the contract after its comple-

tion based on the desire of the two parties (i.e. the employer and the domestic worker) or transfer of residency of a domestic worker to another employer, two copies of the bilateral contract approved by the State of Kuwait shall be issued between the domestic worker and the new employer, to ensure that the worker consents to the transfer, he or she should be presented to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) upon the submission of the new employment contract;

9. Facilitate the repatriation of domestic workers upon contract completion or labor contract violation in accordance with applicable laws and procedures in Kuwait;

10. Strictly enforce the agreed wage in the contract and minimum age requirement in accordance with the laws and regulations of the First Party;

11. Provide legal assistance to workers concerning violation of labor contract or the existing domestic worker law;

12. Establish a mechanism, which shall provide 24 hour assistance to the domestic worker.

#### Article 3 Responsibilities of the Second Party

#### The Second Party will:

1. Ensure that the arriving domestic workers meet the medical requirements imposed by the First Party and are devoid of all infectious/transferrable diseases through accurate and thorough medical examinations;

2. Ensure to provide law enforcement clearance of the domestic worker issued by competent authorities in the Philippines which indicates that the domestic worker has no criminal record as well as her/his good behavior;

3. Require that Philippine Recruitment Agencies shall not charge or deduct from the salary of the domestic worker any costs attendant to his/her recruitment and deployment or impose any kind of unauthorized salary deductions;

4. Ensure the contracting parties the right of recourse to competent authorities in case of contractual disputes,

in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations of both Parties;

5. Ensure the prospective domestic workers are trained and certified on housework in specialized institutes and have received orientation on Kuwaiti laws, customs and traditions and the terms and conditions of the employment contract;

6. Require recruited domestic workers to observe Kuwaiti laws, morals, ethics and customs while residing in Kuwait;

7. The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait, through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), shall verify all standard contracts signed by the parties;

8. Ensure that the recruitment and employment of newly-hired domestic workers shall be through recruitment offices or agencies that are licensed by their respective governments;

9. Ensure to employ only domestic workers within allowable age, in possession of appropriate skills certification, and have completed the necessary pre-departure orientation seminars in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations of the Second party;

10. Ensure the access of domestic workers to legal assistance from concerned offices of the Second Party, as may be necessary and practicable;

11. Impose sanctions on an erring Philippine Recruitment Agency for committing a recruitment violation.

#### Article 4 Joint Committee

A Joint Committee led by senior officials of both parties shall be formed to implement the following tasks:

1. Follow up the implementation of this Agreement;

2. Conduct annual meetings, review, assessment and monitoring of the implementation of this Agreement and the standard contract alternately in the Philippines and Kuwait, or as may be necessary and upon the request of one of the Parties;

3. Make necessary recommendations to resolve issues and problems on the employment, and health conditions arising from the implementation and the interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement or amendment/s to this Agreement.

#### Article 5 Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this agreement shall be settled by both parties amicably through diplomatic channels;

#### Article 6 Implementation and Duration

This Agreement shall enter into force from the date of the final notification on which one party shall notify the other party of the completion of necessary national legal requirements for its implementation.

This Agreement may be subject to amendment with the consent of both parties. The amendment shall enter into force according to the above-mentioned procedures of the preceding paragraph.

This agreement shall remain in force and effect for a period of four (4) years and shall be renewed automatically, unless either party notifies in writing through the diplomatic channels of its desire to terminate or suspend this agreement six (6) months prior to the ending of its validity. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the completion of the ongoing activities that have been started for implementation.



# Kuwait Times

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\* Kuwait Times employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.



## Local

# Omniaty awards founding board members on its fifth anniversary

## Bringing happiness to the sick children

**KUWAIT:** Omniaty marked its fifth anniversary by holding a ceremony under the patronage and in the presence of Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, to award its founding board members as well as individuals and entities making significant contribution to Omniaty by bringing happiness to the sick children.

The ceremony was held at Al-Shaheed Park. Sayer Bader Al-Sayer, Chairman addressed the event saying, "driven by our strong belief that today's children are the future youth who play a key role in building up their nation, we are always committed to achieve the grand objective of Omniaty project."

Omniaty project was launched as a non-profit Kuwaiti project as the first project of its kind in Kuwait working to achieve the objectives and hopes of children with life threatening illness, in cooperation with Bait Abdullah and Kuwaiti Society for Children Care at Hospital and all children hospitals in Kuwait. In addition, the project aims to fulfill the largest part of the underprivileged children's hopes and aspirations. Omniaty managed to put smile on the faces on many children and their families. The project is very well received by large number of entities and organizations given their strong belief in social responsibility and the noble objective of the project.

"Finally, I would like to thank all partners and founders of this project, namely: Real Estate Tamdeen Company, Al-Humaidi Group Limited, ALSAYER Holding Group, Al-Rai Media Group, Abdul Razaq Al-Sanea and Sons Group, FastTelco Company, Al-Ghanim Industrial Group, Essa Hussain Al-Yousifi and Sons Company, Diyar Al-Rawda Holding Company (Al-Maousherji Group), and Financial Center Company," added Sayer.

Sheikha Al-Zain addressed the event endorsing and commending all people in charge of the project Omniaty, including Muna Al-Shetaan, Founder and Executive Director, of such human national project marking its fifth anniversary. "This project brought happiness into the minds and hearts of patient children by a wellness seed to promote and enhance their morale," she said.

She praised the increasing activities of this partnership by such support from elite number of companies, individuals and entities driven by their human and national incentives sparing no effort to achieve the hopes of patient children without race, ethnic or material discrimination which is no surprise. "God bless you and your efforts," she said.

"Smile when put on the face of a child can't be valued or compromised in any means specially for children with such life-threatening illness. It is the best and most valuable gift. It is the glim of hope at the end of the tunnel.

"Our duty today is to provide all support and backup to such local initiatives to provide such inspiring sustainable



Faisal Bader Al-Sayer, Chairman, Al-Sayer Holding, is seen with a child.



Mona Al-Sheetan with an 'Omniaty' child.



Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah presents a gift to a child.

programs which remind us that anyone living on hope cannot give up to the impossible. With management effort we can bring smile and happiness to those who need it and dream could become a reality by such team working day and night translating into a beautiful reality for our ill children," she said.

She underlined the support provided by the State Ministry for Youth Affairs by voluntary work and activities. It is a department dedicated to support human projects aimed at incentivizing Kuwaiti youth to be involved in it and to be always ready to support such projects. Our youth is invited to join such initiatives and make such contributions by making hopes a true reality. "Your logo Omniaty is a badge of honor we hold on our chest," she proclaimed.

She concluded her address extending sincere thanks and deep gratitude to "our champions taking care of this human noble project, praying for Almighty God to guide them to the welfare of our precious nation, with prayers for the recovery of sick children and all Muslim sick children." The event awarded Sheikha Al-Zain, while many Omniaty children awarded the board members of partner organizations. Sheikha Al-Zain distributed gifts to children in a cheerful and joyful atmosphere.

In the end, Sheetan awarded entities, companies and individuals for their support to Omniaty whose role has been quite instrumental in making children's dreams a reality. It is worth noting that Omniaty is most concerned with the fulfillment of the hopes of children with such chronic life-threatening disease aged 3 - 18, in line with the formal rules and regulations, putting smile on the face of more than 400 children.



KUWAIT: Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, and other officials pose for a group photo with children at the ceremony.

## Ooredoo participates in 'Arab Youth Capital' closing event

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait participated last week in the closing ceremony of the Arab Youth Capital initiative, which was hosted by Kuwait for the year 2017. The ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, and was attended by dignitaries and youth ministers from the Arab League countries.

During the event, Minister of Youth Affairs and Minister of Information Mohammed Al-Jabri passed the Arab Youth Capital flag to the Minister of Youth in Egypt, Khaled Abudlaziz, signaling the beginning of a new year for Arab Youth Capital initiative, hosted in Egypt. The event also included a star-studded theater performance entitled "Shurouq al-Shams", which featured Kuwaiti and Arab leading actors and performers.

Ooredoo Kuwait announced its sponsorship of the Arab Youth Capital initiative last May, in collaboration with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs. The announcement came to reiterate the company's commitment to its core values of caring, connecting, and challenging, and its interest in supporting youth in reaching their highest potential. Throughout its sponsorship, Ooredoo participated in several youth-centric events throughout the duration of the program, enabling youth to further explore their highest potential. Kuwait's interest to host this event, an Arab League initiative, comes to reflect the vision and directives of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, who urged decision makers in the country to invest in youth and enable them to reach their highest potential.

Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub underscored the company's commitment to enabling youth and supporting them, as part of the company's main pillars of its corporate social responsibility strategies. He noted, "We are proud to have worked extensively with reputable entities such as the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the Youth Public Authority to support youth and create opportunities that enable them to reach their highest potential. We are thankful for participating with them on events that exceed the local scene, allowing us to reach youth throughout the region."

### A year of contribution

Throughout its sponsorship of this

initiative, Ooredoo Kuwait participated in several events such as the Arab Youth Media Forum, which saw the attendance of several famous media personalities in the region to provide workshops for youth, including sports commentator Mohammed Al-Kawari, and radio personality Salman Al-Nejadi.

In addition to that, the company participated in launching a new edition of Adasa, the youth festival that focuses on film and art. It included a lineup of folklore and patriotic performances by some of Kuwait's most talented youth artists, including Hamad Al-Ammari, Alaa Al-Hendi, Hamad Al-Qattan, Abdullah Al-Ahmadi, Fahad Al-Salem, and Abdullatif Ghazi. Additionally, the festival featured a photography exhibition that showcases a number of works by professional and amateur Kuwaiti photographers. The festival also included roundtable discussions, including a discussion about Kuwaiti drama writing featuring Kuwaiti dramatist Dr Hamad Al-Roumi and TV critic Abdulsattar Naji, and a discussion on Saudi cinema with CEO of International Film Distribution Company, and film critic Alfaraouq Abdulaziz.

The year-long program also included the Successful Kuwaiti Talent Conference, in collaboration with the Arab Planning Institute and the MILSET (the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology), which included a special awarding ceremony for a number of distinguished former ministers of education, honoring their efforts in nourishing youth's interest in sciences and technology.

This included former ministers of education Dr Musaad Al-Haroon, Dr Rasheed Al-Musad, Nouriyah Al-Sabeeh and Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah. The program also included two discussion panels: the first highlighted the development of science and technology and its role in the life of youth, and was presented by Dr Abdullah Al-Mutawa - Kuwait University's College of Engineering; Idris Al-Waradi from MILSET, and Mustafa Akkawi from the International Academy for Building Capacity.

Believing in the importance of supporting youth in carving a career path, Ooredoo also sponsored the third edition of Jahzeen, a youth career development program launched in collaboration with the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program and Ministry of State for Youth Affairs.

## KFH participated in 'Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth' activities

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded its participation in the 'Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017' that was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. KFH support to the event comes as part of its keenness to contribute in sponsoring the youth activities while boosting their skills. KFH supported the activities and social, cultural and sport programs that were held during this occasion. This allowed the youth to positively take part in this event and get acquainted with new experiences that add value to them and enrich their knowledge.

KFH's participation emanates from its endeavors to contribute in the strategic initia-

tives of the country that raise the name of Kuwait high on the local and world levels. KFH spares no efforts in supporting the government's initiatives that develop the talents and skills of the youth and cater to their needs.

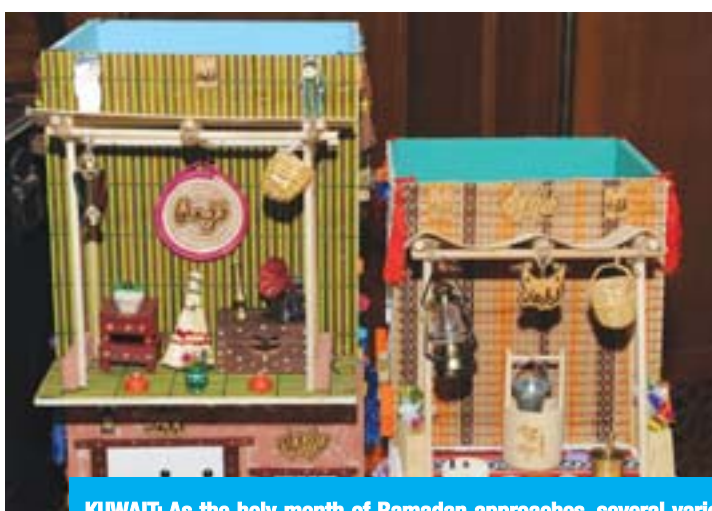
It is worth noting that KFH inked two agreements with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs: one for partnership and collaboration, and the other for supporting and sponsoring the activities of the Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth event. This affirms the bank's commitment towards the youth and reflects its significant role in supporting this vital category of the society.

KFH is the first bank to ink an agreement of sponsoring the Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth ceremony, indicating this accentuates the bank's interest in the initiatives the official government bodies, and represents an example for the institutions of the private sector to follow suit. KFH is the only bank in the region to sponsor a group of Kuwaiti youth who have international achievements.



KFH headquarters

## Photo Features



KUWAIT: As the holy month of Ramadan approaches, several varieties of exhibitions began to sprout in Kuwait, selling goods and commodities that are essential for the upcoming days dedicated to fasting and the remembrance of Allah. —KUNA



## Local

# Kuwait marks 10th anniversary of Father Amir Sheikh Saad's death

## 14th ruler of Kuwait; fourth since independence

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait marks today the 10th anniversary of the late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah who passed away on May 13, 2008, leaving behind a legacy that is still alive in the hearts of the Kuwaiti people. Sheikh Saad was the 14th Amir of Kuwait and the fourth Amir of the country after its independence in 1961. He was Crown Prince during the reign of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (1978-2006).

He served as deputy director of the police department between 1954 and 1959 before being nominated as the first Minister of Interior on January 17, 1962 in the first Cabinet following the adoption of the Constitution.

The Father Amir was named as defense minister in 1964 while maintaining his post as Minister of Interior; he served as Prime Minister between February 16, 1978 and July 13, 2003, leading 10 consecutive governments.

Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah contributed to the making of key legislations and laws relating to housing welfare, promotion of the national workforce, the economic and urban development, as well as the social, cultural and scientific affairs. He adopted honorable stances that affirmed the country's independence and won him great popularity since 1961 when the then Iraqi leader Abdulkarim Qassim issued threats for Kuwait.



### The 'hero of liberation'

As head of the executive authority at that time, he lobbied public support for the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem in the face of the Iraqi threats. When late Amir Jaber Al-Ahmad took office on February 8, 1978, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah was named as Prime Minister ten days before being named as Crown Prince. Sheikh Saad was deservedly called "hero of liberation" due to his prominent role in the Kuwait liberation war against the Iraqi invasion in 1991. Besides lobbying for the liberation of the country on the regional and international levels, he took charge of coordinating the public resistance against the invaders through daily contacts with the field leaders and ensuring the logistic, material and moral support to them.

Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah was the first advocate for the popular congress held under his leadership in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on October 13-15, 1990, to coordinate the resistance against the invasion. The congress, themed 'liberation - our slogan, means and end,' gathered 1,200 public figures and a number of foreign friends of Kuwait. The late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah addressed the gathering. Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah was named as acting ruler during the martial rule declared in the country during the liberation war until the autumn of



**KUWAIT:** In this May 13, 2008 photo, people perform the funeral prayer on the late Father Amir His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. —KUNA archive

1991. He continued his efforts to prepare the ground for the return of the displaced Kuwaitis to their homes after the large-scale post-war mine-erasing operation. He personally supervised the efforts to resume the public utilities, the food rations, the reconstruction and the rehabilitation processes, as well as the seven-month battle against the fires at 732 oil wells, which were set ablaze by the Iraqi troops before pulling out from Kuwait. His government in the post-war era focused also on restoration of the par-

liamentary life through setting the stage for legislative elections.

Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah spared no effort to secure the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing in action and scaled lobbying for regional and international pressures on the Iraqi regime to solve this humanitarian issue. On this day, the sons of Kuwait remember a great leader who dedicated his life for serving the homeland and left countless heroic actions. —KUNA

## Ministry to hire teachers from Egypt, Tunisia

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Following the very low number of teachers who applied to work in public schools for the coming school year (2018-2019), the Ministry of Education (MoE) has decided to hire teachers from other countries for certain subjects. Educational sources explained that MoE will open online applications to hire female music teachers and male art and craft teachers from Egypt. The sources added that online applications will be also opened to hire male French language teachers and female physical edu-

cation teachers from Tunisia. The sources added that a 'B' GPA is needed for all applicants, plus a minimum of two years of experience for applicants with educational qualifications and three years for others. The sources added that selected candidates will be contacted on the phone numbers they fill in the application forms online.

### Health insurance

The Ministry of Health (MoH) urged the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) to cancel a previously approved tender to provide health insurance services to retired citizens given to Warba Company of a total value of KD 98.68 million, confiscate the primary insurance the company had deposited and subject it to the tenders law number 49/2016. The ministry also urged CTC to approve the tender in favor of the second bidder - Gulf Insurance Group (GIG) - as the second lowest bidder matching the bidding conditions with a total value of KD 157.75 million. In a letter sent to CTC, MoH explained that the State Audit Bureau had approved Warba's bid on condition that

its primary guarantee remains valid until the contract is signed, which the company failed to do after the guarantee expired on April 22, 2018, and the company officially refused to comply.

### KD 5.7 billion

Central Bank statistics showed that citizens and expatriates spent around KD 5.7 billion (\$19 billion) using their debit and credit cards in the first quarter of 2018, which is nine percent more than the KD 5.267 billion spent in the same period of 2017. Statistics also showed that KD 2.67 billion (16 percent of the total sum) was spent through point of sale (POS), compared to only KD 2.31 billion spent during the same period of 2017. The second means of spending was through ATMs, where citizens and expats withdrew KD 3.036 billion, a three percent increase compared to KD 2.95 billion in 2017. In addition, statistics showed that overseas POS transactions increased to KD 230.3 million, a 19 percent increase, compared to KD 193.6 million in 2017.

## Minister refers South Khaitan violations report to 'Nazaha'

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Boushehri announced yesterday that a final report on suspected violations in allocating some housing units in South Khaitan has been referred to the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha). The ministry's investigation committee examined four suspected allocations in the area, including two filed complaints, Boushehri, also Minister of State for Service Affairs, said in a press statement.



Jenan Boushehri

The committee reported one violation case in a housing unit that was not eligible for the allocation requirements for the South Khaitan area, and recommended the unit to be revoked due to infringement of allocation laws and regulations, she said. It also recommended imposing sanctions on an executive and a manager for their negligence in reviewing the non-eligible case and failure in filing credible official report on the violations in the allocation procedures in the area, added the minister. Coordination with the legal department is currently underway to take necessary measures in that regard, she said, adding the committee's final report has been referred to Nazaha to complete the investigation.

Any violation would be met with firm punishment on all individuals without any consideration of their job ranks and titles, Boushehri affirmed, noting law will apply to everyone. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's directions, on combating administrative and financial corruption, and holding responsible those whose illegal actions led to corruption, are significant support to eliminating violations, and observing contraventions to file them to judicial bodies, she noted. —KUNA

## Child Protection Committee wins ISPCAN's award

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Supreme National Committee for Child Protection's (SNCCP) win of a major award from the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) as the 2018 best global multiple-specialized team is a top achievement for Kuwait.

Health Minister Sheikh Bassel Humoud Hamad Al-Sabah made the statement yesterday as he received SNCCP delegation led by head of the committee Dr Mona Al-Khuwari. Dr Basil Al-Sabah said such achievements enhance state competitiveness, raising it to the level of countries with distinctive rates of sustainable growth, through a well-knitted health system and a society whose people of all ages lead a healthy life. He said that health-care institutions are a key player in the effort to striving for the aspired life quality for the Kuwaiti society.

The KNCRP is highly interested in taking necessary measures to protect children against abuse and neglect, he said. The SNCCP will receive the award during ISPCAN's XXII International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, Prague, Czech Republic on 2-5 September 2018.

Dr Khuwari took the initiative to establish the SNCCP as a forum that would bring together all the sectors and agencies concerned about child protection. The committee was formed in May 2013 by a ministerial decree, with members from governmental and non-governmental sectors. Dr Khuwari is also head of the Child Protection Bureau, and Executive Director of the Kuwait National Child Protection (KNCRP) Program. —KUNA

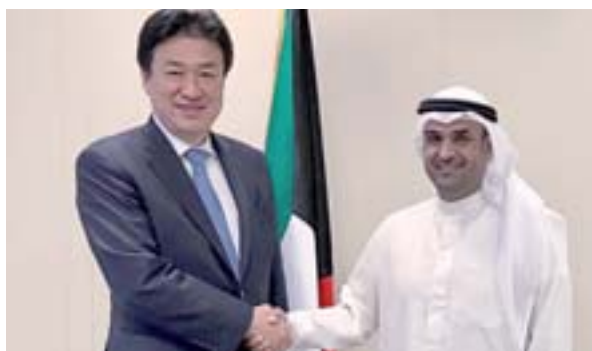


**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Sheikh Bassel Humoud Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the SNCCP delegation led by head of the committee Dr Mona Al-Khuwari. —KUNA

## Kuwait, Japan discuss boosting economic cooperation

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf discussed with Japan's Vice Minister of Finance Minoru Kihara Friday ways to boost bilateral economic cooperation. The two sides also addressed cooperation in the infrastructure field and Japanese companies' participation in implementing projects related to the "Kuwait 2035" vision, which aims to make the country a major financial and commercial hub. They also discussed supporting Japan's candidature for World Customs Organization presidency, and Tokyo's bid to host the World Expo 2025, for which voting is slated in November in Paris, France.

Meanwhile, Director of Kuwait Custom Directorate General Jamal Al-Jalawi held talks with Kihara on custom cooperation between the two countries. The two men also discussed means of promoting trade exchange in general and via custom in specific, the Custom Directorate General said in a statement. They agreed it was important to exchange expertise and get acquainted with state-of-art equipment used in inspection. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with Japan's Vice Minister of Finance Minoru Kihara. —KUNA



Director of Kuwait Custom Directorate General Jamal Al-Jalawi presents a memento to Japan's Vice Minister of Finance Minoru Kihara.

## Probe in worker's torture claims

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Criminal detectives are working on a case after an Indian man and an embassy official filed a complaint accusing the man's sponsor of torturing him, including stubbing out cigarettes on his skin and raping him. The 24-year-old man fled the house and went to his embassy seeking help. An official took him to the hospital and obtained a medical report, then went to the police, where a complaint was filed. The victim said his sponsor may have been in an abnormal condition.

### Worker dead

A worker died after falling from a building under construction. Firemen from Mishref fire station responded to an emergency call and handled the case, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said in a statement. The body was recovered by forensic officers. Meanwhile, a child escaped death after he fell from a building. Firemen saved the boy and handed him to paramedics, who confirmed he only suffered minor injuries.

### Cigarettes auction

Head of the customs auctions committee Ali Al-

Enezi said a public auction was held on May 9, 2018 at Beit Al-Mal in Sulaiya and 3,120 cardboard boxes of cigarettes as well as other items were sold for KD 41,300. The boxes were confiscated with passengers who attempted to smuggle them outside Kuwait.

### Military items

Police confiscated large quantity of military items from a Bangladeshi hawk. Vendors usually sell food, clothes and electronics, but the suspect had displayed military items for sale, so he was arrested. The hawk said he received the items from a person to sell them. Investigations are underway to find out the source.

### Counterfeit phones

Hawally detectives arrested a citizen for selling counterfeit phones to six other citizens who got in touch with him online. He received KD 1,750 from them, before they discovered they were conned. The suspect placed ads for smartphones on the internet and offered them at a cheaper price. Victims lodged complaints in several Hawally governorate police stations.

### Fight

A citizen was rushed to Mubarak Hospital's intensive care unit for treatment of a stab wound in his head he received during a fight. Police and paramedics responded to a call about the fight and found the victim on the scene, while the rest of those involved escaped.





Italy tribunal lifts ban on Berlusconi

## Grandparents, mum, kids shot dead in Australia murder-suicide



GAZA: Members of the Islamist movement Hamas' military wing Al-Qassam Brigades ride in vehicles during the funeral of six of their comrades who were killed in an unexplained explosion the night before, in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza strip. —AFP

# Hamas keeps its guns silent for a change

## Backed into a corner, Hamas adopts peaceful pose

**GAZA:** Renowned for taking on Israel's military might, Hamas is keeping its guns silent for a change as it backs border protests, a move analysts say is more opportunistic than a switch to peaceful ideology. The Palestinian Islamist movement's normally secretive Gaza head Yahya Sinwar gave a first ever briefing to international journalists this week, ahead of a major protest along the Israel-Gaza border to coincide with the United States moving its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv on May 14.

Sinwar stressed the movement would not give up its weapons but committed its full backing to weeks of border protests against Israel. Since March 30 thousands of Palestinians have gathered weekly along the border to demand a right to return to their historic homelands now inside Israel. While some have thrown rocks and rolled burning tyres at Israeli snipers along the border, there has been almost no gunfire-despite the presence of members of Hamas's vast armed wing.

Fifty-three Palestinians have been killed, while no Israelis have been hurt. "If we have a way to potentially resolve the conflict without death, we're ok with that," Sinwar said on Thursday, calling the protests purely peaceful. Israel says it is protecting its borders and only fires when all other means of deterrence have failed. Jamal Al-Fadi, a professor of political science in Gaza, said Hamas was searching for a way to refocus pressure on the decade-long Israeli blockade of the enclave and its humanitarian implications without risking another devastating war with the Jewish state. Three con-

frontations since 2008 have battered Gaza while causing comparatively little damage to Israel, and Israeli officials have threatened further destruction in the event of a fourth round.

### Lack of options

"Hamas has resorted to peaceful protests because other options are expensive for it," Fadi said. "If the people hold peaceful protests it rallies international opinion to the Palestinian cause." The protests are officially organized by civil society organizations but they have Hamas's explicit support and a number of the dead have been members of Hamas's armed wing. Sinwar pointed out they had not been carrying weapons when killed.

Seven weeks of marches are due to culminate on May 14 and 15, with thousands of protesters expected to gather and potentially seek to break the fence into Israel. On Thursday Sinwar indicated his support for such a step, despite potential bloodshed. "The fence is not a holy cow or a taboo that no one should touch," he said. "What's the problem with hundreds of thousands

breaking through a fence that is not a border?" Israel enforces a crippling blockade of Gaza it says is necessary to isolate Hamas, but critics say it amounts to collective punishment for the strip's two million residents.

Hamas maintains a large armed wing and military arsenal, but in recent years the Iranian-backed movement has found itself increasingly isolated. Gulf Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia have appeared to privately soften their position regarding Israel in the face of the perceived joint threat of Iranian aggression, while Qatar, another longtime supporter of Hamas, has been blockaded by its neighbors. Wars in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere have dragged global attention away from the Palestinians, while the election of Donald Trump in the United States brought to power a government he vowed would be the most pro-Israeli in US history.

Hamas is considered a terrorist movement by Israel, the United States and the European Union.

## Gulf Arabs soften their position regarding Israel

### Armed resistance 'useless'

Sinwar, who came to power in February 2017, has been

seeking largely unsuccessfully to improve Hamas's strategic position. The party adjusted its founding charter to tone down some of its anti-Semitic rhetoric, though without retracting its call for Israel's destruction. Sinwar also pushed for an ultimately unsuccessful reconciliation deal with the West Bank-based Palestinian government.

Mukhaimeer Abu Saada, professor of political science at Gaza's Al-Azhar University, said Hamas has realised armed resistance is "useless" currently as a new war with Israel would result in "unprecedented destruction" in Gaza. But he said it was unclear whether Hamas could ever genuinely embrace a peaceful strategy "because there are elements that did not abandon armed resistance". Sinwar himself came from the movement's armed wing and was serving multiple life sentences in Israel for murder before being released in a controversial 2011 prisoner exchange.

Israeli officials dismiss any changing strategy as window dressing and the army accuses Hamas of seeking to use the protests to carry out attacks. What happens after the protests are officially due to end on Tuesday remains unclear. Hugh Lovatt, Israel-Palestine fellow with the European Council for Foreign Relations, said so far mass protests in Gaza had not been met with similar confrontations in areas outside Hamas control. "The big question (over a wider escalation) is whether large-scale protests erupt next week in the West Bank," Sinwar vowed action would continue. "This is an intifada for the right of return. It can continue until we achieve our rights." —AFP

## Meghan Markle: LA actress with the fairytale role

**LONDON:** Meghan Markle once struggled for roles but the US actress has now landed the biggest part of all as she prepares to marry Prince Harry next Saturday and become the newest face in Britain's royal family. At 36 and with a successful self-made career behind her, few doubt that the television star and humanitarian activist is ready to join the cast of the monarchy. Markle made her name as savvy paralegal Rachel Zane in the US legal drama series "Suits", but cultivated a high profile for herself outside the show too. She became a United Nations advocate for women's empowerment and a global ambassador for the World Vision Canada relief agency.

The Los Angeles-born star had more than two million followers on her now-closed Instagram account and ran a successful lifestyle blog, The Tig. Markle was also revealed as the anonymous blogger behind The Working Actress, which chronicled the struggles of hustling for parts in Hollywood. "She comes across as very poised, eloquent, thoughtful," said royal writer Andrew Morton, who has penned a biography of Markle. "She's very focused and someone who has been very ambitious and really wants to give back. Her great phrase is 'make the change,'" he said. "Meghan's a smart girl. She knows exactly what she's getting into."

### Ancestors royals and slaves

Rachel Meghan Markle was born on August 4, 1981 to Thomas Markle, a white, Emmy Award-winning television lighting director who worked on top US shows like "Married With Children", and Doria Ragland, a black social worker and yoga instructor. On her mother's side, her ancestors were slaves who worked on



LONDON: Britain's Prince Harry and his fiancée US actress Meghan Markle leave after posing for photographs in the Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace in west London. —AFP

cotton plantations in Georgia. Her mother's surname is taken from a slave owner. On her father's side, genealogists have traced her ancestry back to king Robert I of Scotland, who reigned from 1306 to 1329.

Markle's parents split when she was two and divorced five years later. She is now estranged from her older half-sister and half-brother, who has been scathing about her attitude towards the family. "Her tiny bit of Hollywood fame has gone to her head, changing her into a jaded, shallow, conceited woman that will make a joke of you," half-brother Tom Markle wrote in an April 26 open letter to Harry.

She went to a private Catholic school where she was remembered for her strong sense of right and wrong. Aged 11, her letter-writing campaign got the consumer goods giant Procter and Gamble to change a washing-up commercial, referring to people rather than just women. Determined to give herself options, Markle studied theatre and international

relations at Northwestern University. She graduated in 2003, after which she landed a six-week internship as a press officer at the US embassy in Argentina. "She had all that it takes to be a successful diplomat," said Mark Krischik, her superior in Buenos Aires.

### 'Suits' springboard

Returning to Los Angeles, in 2004 she fell in love with go-getting film producer Trevor Engelson, who helped her get on the acting ladder as she struggled for bit parts. They married in Jamaica in 2011. Soon after their engagement, Markle had landed her signature role in "Suits". Filmed in Toronto, their relationship became a long-distance one. A series of flops followed for Engelson but the struggling actress became a star and the marriage collapsed in 2013.

Through a mutual friend, she met Queen Elizabeth II's grandson Harry in July 2016 while visiting London. —AFP

## Prince Harry: The troubled playboy grows up

**LONDON:** Prince Harry, who marries US former actress Meghan Markle on May 19, has been transformed in recent years from an angry young man into one of the British royal family's greatest assets. The younger son of the heir to the throne Prince Charles and the late Diana, princess of Wales, the 33-year-old has always struggled with his role and for much of his youth seemed to want nothing more than to escape. He spent 10 years in the British army, serving two tours of duty in Afghanistan, but hit the headlines for his partying and his outspoken criticism of the media.

The prince has rebuilt his reputation in recent years, however, through his charity work with veterans and by taking on more duties from his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II. He appears to have inherited his mother's ability to connect with people-as well as her sense of mischief-and, with his brother Prince William and sister-in-law Kate, has helped put a fresh face on the monarchy. People like Harry's "buffoonery and his lack of sophistication", Majesty Magazine editor Ingrid Seward said. "He was always one of the lads, and I think that's why we love him-and so we're fascinated to follow his life."

### Shutting down

Prince Henry Charles Albert David of Wales was born on September 15, 1984, the "spare" to his brother William, who will one day inherit the throne. Both educated at the elite Eton school, their childhood was dominated by the messy breakdown of their parents' marriage and Diana's tragic 1997 death in a car crash. The young princes walking behind the coffin at her funeral-Harry only 12, his brother 15 — was one of the most enduring images of that day. "Losing my mum at the age of 12, and therefore shutting down all of my emotions for the last 20 years, has had a quite serious effect on not only my personal life but also my work as well," Harry said. —AFP



International

# Iraq minorities fear new upheaval in multiethnic Kirkuk after vote

## Tensions resurface between ethnic, religious groups

**KIRKUK:** The streets of Kirkuk, which has violently changed hands several times since Iraq's last election, are crammed with a dizzying patchwork of banners for nearly 300 candidates vying for votes in the multi-ethnic and religious city. The sheer number of parties and lists make the exact outcome unpredictable in a vote for the 13 parliamentary seats belonging to Kirkuk, a microcosm of Iraq's minorities. But one thing is certain - the city's Turkmen, Kurds, Assyrian Christians, Sunni Arabs and others will vote along ethnic or religious lines. After recent political upheaval, they fear that gains by rival groups will upset a fragile coexistence and cause new strife.

"There needs to be balance between minorities in a place like Kirkuk - one group can't get stronger than the other," said Ahmed Zeinal, a 25-year-old pharmacist, before casting his vote. Nonetheless, he wanted his fellow Turkmen to make a strong showing. "We're hoping to increase our seats. We feel stronger than we did a few months ago," he said. Yesterday's election, Iraq's first since Islamic State was driven out, will shape attempts to heal the country's deep divisions and could shift the regional balance of power. The three main ethnic and religious groups, the majority Shiite Arabs and the minority Sunni Arabs and Kurds, have been at loggerheads for decades.

Kirkuk, a flashpoint oil-rich province in northern Iraq along the fault lines between the Kurdish autonomous region and areas controlled by Iraq's Shiite-dominated central government, has been the focus of some of the country's worst post-Islamic State violence. In October, Kurdish forces who had controlled Kirkuk city since driving Islamic State out in 2014 were in turn ejected by the Iraqi army, bringing the city back under Baghdad's control.

Minority groups who said they suffered under Kurdish rule, such as the Turkmen, have welcomed the return of the central government. "I prefer a strong Iraqi state, and the

control of the army. As a Turkmen in a Kurdish-controlled city I had problems - I was stopped and harassed at checkpoints for not being a Kurdish speaker," Zeinal said. Kurdish campaigning has been subdued after the withdrawal of forces belonging to the autonomous Erbil-based Kurdish regional government, although dejected Kurdish voters still vowed to turn out and cast their ballots in a show of strength.

"Arabs have become more powerful now, also Turkmen," said Nabil Salem, a Kurd. "People are scared of sectarian tension being stirred up. If more Kurds leave and other groups get stronger it could lead to violence." Some Kurds fear a weakening of their main parties who have dominated for decades but suffered a major defeat after Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, the incumbent in the election, crushed their bid for independence. The Kurdish autonomous region's ruling party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) is boycotting the Kirkuk vote after being booted out in October, leaving rivals including the Iran-allied Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) to fight over its two seats.

**Courting Christians**

As the city's two largest groups are locked in contention, its smallest - Christians - suspect their eight candidates, guaranteed one seat under a quota system, are being courted by bigger, rival political forces in Baghdad and Erbil. They fear being caught in the middle of yet more upheaval. "There's no Christian candidate who can afford to run without the support of a much larger side," 28-year-old Narsin Emmanuel, an unemployed university graduate. "I hope that whichever Christian candidate wins a seat, he'll benefit personally from it - he won't be able to do anything for us because he'll be beholden to his backers."



KIRKUK, Iraq: Electoral campaign posters are seen in the multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk. —AFP

Samir Abram, a member of one Christian party, leveled more direct accusations at rival Iraqi Christian lists. Reuters could not independently verify his claims. "There's one Christian candidate running here who's clearly backed by the Kurdish KDP. Elsewhere - in (nearby) Nineveh

province, for example, there's one who's on the side of the Popular Mobilization Forces," an umbrella group of mainly Shiite militia, he said at his party's office in Kirkuk. "We're a small and weak minority. I'm afraid that we'll get stuck between those two sides vying for power.— Reuters

## Israel-Iran flare-up raises a specter of major confrontation

**PARIS:** Deadly strikes by Israel against alleged Iranian sites in Syria have raised fears of a dramatic escalation in regional conflict, but the situation remains shrouded by contradictory accounts and uncertainty. Israel says its raids early Thursday were in immediate response to Iranian missiles raining down on the occupied Golan Heights. But there has been no official statement from Iran, and analysts in Tehran say any missile strikes were conducted by the Syrian military.

Outside observers see a dangerous game of brinkmanship. "The rules of the game are worked out by trial and error, by push and shove. The pushing and shoving has become more intense. We are getting closer to the brink," said Heiko Wimmen, of the International Crisis Group. Israel has repeatedly warned it considers an entrenched Iranian military presence in war-ravaged Syria to be a dangerous red line.

In recent years, it has been suspected of carrying out strikes on installations manned by Syrian, Iranian, and allied Lebanese fighters across Syria. It was only a matter of time before Iran pushed back, said Wimmen. "The point will come with these actions, where the Iranians will say: we have to push back forcefully, we have to establish deterrence against the Israelis if we want to stay in Syria," said Wimmen. Israel, too, may feel emboldened by US President Donald Trump's decision this week to withdraw from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. "Israel has been chomping at the bit to take a big bite out of Iran's forces in Syria," said Nicholas Heras, of the Center for a New American Security.

**'A nightmare scenario'**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sees that decision as a "green light to go after Iran in Syria, the consequences be damned," said Heras. "The Israelis believe they are facing a nightmare scenario right now, where Iran is on the march in Syria, with the intention to start a war that will end Israel," he added. Syria's south is a complex puzzle: rebels, jihadists, Syrian government troops, Iranian forces, and fighters from Lebanese Hezbollah all have a presence there. A de-escalation zone agreed last year for



GOLAN HEIGHTS: An Israeli soldier stands next to Merkava Mark IV tanks in a deployment area near the Syrian border in the Israel-annexed Golan Heights. — AFP

southern Syria was meant to reduce violence, but Israel has not been reassured. Wimmen said two actions could trigger a large-scale confrontation: a missile killing civilians in the Israeli-occupied Golan, or retaliation against Israel by Hezbollah. But analysts based in Tehran deny Iran is seeking direct conflict with Israel. Foad Izadi, of the world affairs department at the University of Tehran, said Iran was not in Syria to fight Israel-however often the Israelis may say otherwise.

"Iran's deterrence against Israel is done in Lebanon with more than 100,000 missiles, not in Syria," he said, hinting at Lebanese movement Hezbollah's stockpile of rockets. And Mohammad Marandi, an analyst who was part of Iran's negotiation team leading up to the nuclear deal, said the conflict was more about Damascus than Tehran. "Whatever happens in Syria happens under the command of the Syrians," said Marandi. "The Israelis want to make this into an Iran-Israel thing, but it isn't. They are provoking the situation to murder Syrians and Iranians who are fighting ISIS and Al-Qaeda," he added.

Several analysts said the key to avoiding a more serious escalation lay with Moscow, which has ties with both Tehran and Tel Aviv. "Unless Russia steps in, and plays the referee between Israel and Iran, the risk of escalation is certain," said Heras. But an analyst at London's Chatham House, Yossi Mekelberg said that the strikes on Iranian targets "were likely undertaken with tacit Russian approval". "Russia is not happy with Iran gaining too much power, too much influence there," he said.

Israel is thought to have conducted at least three separate attacks against Iranian positions in Syria in recent weeks, with the deadliest killing seven Iranians in a Syrian airbase on April 9. There are varying death tolls for Thursday's strikes, ranging from three dead acknowledged by Syria's army to 23 killed according to a war monitor. Marandi said Iranians did not seem to have been among the casualties in Thursday morning's attacks. "All the Iranians in Syria are in contact with their families, and on social media. Their pictures would be on the internet in a couple of hours," the Iranian analyst said. —AFP

## Aid groups sound alarm over CAR's conflict victims

**BANGUI:** International aid organizations sounded the alarm over a spike in violence in Bangui, the capital of the perennially restive Central African Republic (CAR), saying they had no access to the injured and the dying. Twenty-four people were killed and more than 170 injured in Bangui on May 1, raising tensions and fears of a return to sectarian bloodletting in the one of the world's poorest and most unstable countries.

The violence began with a confrontation between security forces and militiamen in Bangui's flashpoint PK5 district, which is predominantly Muslim. The ensuing bloodbath has sparked near daily clashes and seen at least two mosques torched. On Sunday, two people were killed and 10 injured in shooting between security forces and gunmen. "Since the start of April, the humanitarian situation has declined rapidly," the Committee for the Coordination of International NGOs in CAR said in a statement. It said it was "sounding the alarm given the absence of humanitarian aid in some areas of the city," particularly PK5 and its outlying areas.

"The residents do not have access to basic services, including health care. Humanitarian workers are often denied access to women, men and children who need assistance. The impact of the security situation on humanitarian needs is extremely worrying," a statement said. "In no case should humanitarian workers and the wounded be targeted by acts of violence," said Benjamin Vienot, the country head of Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger). The lawlessness is prevalent throughout Bangui with armed youths setting up barricades across the city to protect locals from attacks.

**Knives, machetes and barriers**

In the southern Lakouanga quarter, masked youths armed with knives and machetes set up a makeshift barricade with tables, chairs and pieces of wood. "We search cars entering the area and if there are any passengers who aren't locals, we ask questions," a masked youth told AFP. He said the proliferation of barricades was a result of the May 1 bloodletting, adding that their objective was to prevent militiamen from PK5 from entering.

"We don't have the material means to defend ourselves against them but we watch out for them to sound the alarm," he said, adding that vigilantes in the nearby Castors neighborhood were "real warriors and well armed." On Friday, at least 120 women from the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo suspected of being informers of a local militia were rounded up by unidentified gunmen from areas adjoining PK5 and taken to another quarter where they were being held, several residents told AFP.

**Medical evacuations hampered**

The CAR spiraled into bloodshed after longtime leader Francois Bozize was overthrown in 2013 by a Muslim-dominated rebel alliance called the Seleka. Nominally Christian militias called the anti-Balaka emerged in response, accelerating a cycle of sectarian retaliatory violence. France intervened militarily from 2013 to 2016 to push out the Seleka, winding down the operation after Faustin-Archange Touadera was elected president. Touadera governs today with the support of a large UN peacekeeping operation.

But most of the country is controlled by ex-rebels and militias, many of them claiming to act as guardians for their Muslim or Christian communities. "It is inadmissible that people put up barricades and prevent people from circulating," said Vladimir Monteiro, spokesman for the UN mission in CAR known by its French acronym MINUSCA. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said medical evacuations had been seriously hampered. "We are very worried by the lack of respect shown to medical missions," said ICRC country director Jean-Francois Sangsue. —AFP

## Worked to the bone: South Korea's elderly

**SEOUL:** In theory Park Jae-yeol should have retired 11 years ago. But despite its advanced economy South Korean state pensions are meager, and the 71-year-old is obliged to continue working, delivering packages to high-rise apartments. He pushes a cartload of brown boxes into a lift at a block of flats in Seoul, his ageing eyes strained by constant squinting at tiny address labels. "Money is the biggest reason" he is still working, Park said.

He is one of millions of elderly South Koreans pushed into labor well past the official retirement age of 60. Social safety nets in the rapidly-ageing country are weak, despite South Korea ranking in the OCED club of developed countries. More than 45 percent of elderly South Koreans live in relative poverty-less than half of the median household income-by far the highest proportion in the OECD, where the average is 12.5 percent.

**'Until I'm 80'**

Park is one of millions whose efforts powered the "Miracle on the Han", the country's transformation from a war-ravaged ruin in the 1950s to the world's 11th-largest economy. A high school graduate from the southern port of Busan, he

worked in air conditioning maintenance, earning enough to raise three children and buy an apartment in Seoul. He formed his own air conditioning servicing company, but like many people of his age was never able to build up a cushion of savings for his twilight years. "Our generation was too busy just trying to survive and raise children during these crazy times, unable to prepare for our post-retirement years," Park said. South Korea only introduced a national pension scheme in 1988 and it did not become mandatory until 1999. Payouts are dependent on the amount and duration of contributions, with a 10-year minimum. "Many of those in their 70s and 80s missed a chance to pay into the system so are left out of pension benefits," said Hwang Nam-hui, a researcher at the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, and must survive on welfare payments that are "ludicrously low".

Park's firm went bankrupt in 2012, leaving him having to rely on a national pension of about \$130 a month and an elderly subsidy around \$180 - "nowhere near enough" to live on in one of the world's most expensive cities. "That's not even enough for pocket money," he said, adding he did not want to rely on his children to give him monthly allowances. So he signed up for a state program to help the elderly get menial jobs, and started working as a deliveryman in 2014. He now works three days a week, taking up to 100 packages to their destinations and earning about \$500 a month. Most of his co-workers are in their 70s, with the oldest 78. Park has already worked for more than five decades,



SEOUL: Park Jae-yeol loads his packages onto an electric vehicle prior to delivering them, at an apartment complex in Seoul. —AFP

but said he hoped to carry on "as long as my health allows... maybe until I'm 80".

**'Silver tsunami'**

South Korea's fertility rate-the average number of babies women have in their lifetime-hit a record low of 1.05 last year, far below the replacement rate of 2.1. Over-65s are expected to make up 25 percent of the population by 2030 — a phenomenon dubbed the "silver tsunami". In the past, traditional extended family structures, with three generations living under one roof, ensured the elderly a life of relative com-

fort with support from their offspring, researcher Hwang told AFP.

But the radical social changes of recent decades have seen filial obligations wane, and the elderly forced to remain in work. Statistics released in March showed more South Koreans in their 60s were economically active-either employed or seeking a job-than those in their 20s. Park and his 63-year-old wife-who works as a convenience store cashier take only one week off a year, to go to the resort island of Jeju. But, Park insists: "I feel so grateful and lucky to still be able to work." —AFP



International

# Malaysia's Mahathir bars ex-PM from leaving, announces top cabinet picks

## Attorney General who cleared Najib sacked

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced his top cabinet picks yesterday and barred his predecessor, Najib Razak, from going overseas, saying there was enough evidence to investigate his links to a multi-billion-dollar scandal. Immigration authorities announced a travel ban on Najib and his wife Rosmah Mansor just minutes after the ousted prime minister said they were leaving on a weeklong trip overseas to rest after his thumping electoral defeat.

"It is true that I prevented Najib from leaving the country," Mahathir said at a news conference, adding that doing so had averted extradition problems later. "There is sufficient evidence that an investigation into certain things ... done by the former prime minister has to be done and, if necessary, the rule of law will apply," he said. During a day of fast-moving events, Mahathir also named his first few cabinet ministers, including Lim Guan Eng, a former banker and qualified chartered accountant, as finance minister. Lim is the chief minister of Penang state, but is largely unknown in international financial circles.

Mahathir also named a defense minister and a home or interior minister, but said other appointments would be made later. Mahathir and Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the wife of his jailed ally Anwar Ibrahim, make up the rest of the cabinet. Zeti Akhthar Aziz, who was internationally lauded during a 16-year stint as central bank governor, and billionaire tycoon Robert Kuok were among those named to a special team that will advise the government on economic and financial matters for the next 100 days.

Mahathir has been prime minister earlier, for 22 years, governing in a tough, pugnacious style. He said the attorney

general, who had cleared Najib of wrongdoing in the graft scandal at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), had been sacked. The attorney general, Apandi Ali, declined to comment. As Najib came under increased pressure, the world seemed to be opening up for Anwar, who, from jail and a hospital bed, combined with Mahathir to hand out the defeat to the administration alliance. Mahathir has said the king has indicated to him that a royal pardon for Anwar would be announced soon. Anwar's daughter Nurul Izzah told Reuters her father was likely to be freed on Tuesday.

### No holiday

After the ban on his travel was announced, Najib said in a Twitter message that he would respect the decision and would remain in the country. Questions about his whereabouts were answered when he appeared at a meeting of his United Malays National Organization (UMNO) to announce that he was stepping down as the party's president and as chairman of the Barisan Nasional, the alliance dominated by UMNO

that has ruled Malaysia for six decades. Earlier, dozens of people - mostly journalists - gathered at an airport near Kuala Lumpur from where Najib and his wife were reported to be leaving for the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, and tried to look into cars entering the complex.

"I'm here to catch the thief," said a man in the crowd, as riot police stood on guard. There was no sign that Najib or Rosmah had come to the airport. Reports had widely circulated on social media and local media that the couple were named on the flight

## Finance, Defense and Home Affairs ministers named



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Newly-elected Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (center) addresses the media in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. —AFP

manifest of a private jet scheduled to depart for Jakarta at 10:00 am. But police later said there was no flight due to leave the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport with Najib or his wife. Najib lost the election at least partly because of popular disgust over the 1MDB scandal. News broke in 2015 that about \$700 million allegedly stolen from 1MDB had made its way into his personal bank accounts.

He denied any wrongdoing, even as US authorities alleged that over \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund

in a fraud orchestrated by a financier known to be close to Najib and his family. US Attorney-General Jeff Sessions called the 1MDB scandal "kleptocracy at its worst" and the fund is the subject of money-laundering investigations in at least six countries, including Switzerland, Singapore and the United States. Filings by the US Justice Department in a civil lawsuit indicated nearly \$30 million of the money stolen was used to buy jewelry for Rosmah, including a rare 22-carat pink diamond set in a necklace. —Reuters

### News in brief

#### Armed group kills 26

**NAIROBI:** An armed group has killed 26 people in northwest Burundi, the security minister said yesterday, days ahead of a constitutional referendum that could see President Pierre Nkurunziza rule until 2034. Alain Guillaume Bunyoni said that the attackers were "terrorists" from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. "The terrorists coming from and returning to Congo shot and burned: 26 dead and seven wounded," the minister said in a statement. The attack came as tensions rise days ahead of a constitutional referendum on May 17 which could allow Nkurunziza to stay in power for 16 more years. The government has in recent weeks deployed soldiers to border areas after accusing exiled opposition groups of seeking to disrupt the vote. —AFP

#### Russia bombers intercepted

**WASHINGTON:** US fighter jets intercepted two Russian bombers in international air space off western Alaska, the North American Aerospace Defense Command said yesterday. The long-range Tu-95 "Bear" bombers were "intercepted and visually identified" Friday morning by a pair of Alaska-based NORAD F-22 Raptors as the Russian aircraft flew in the Air Defense Identification Zone, north of the Aleutian Islands, said Canadian Army Major Andrew Hennessy, of NORAD public affairs. The Air Defense Identification Zone extends for about 200 miles from the coastline, mostly in international airspace. "At no time did the Russian bombers enter North American sovereign airspace," Hennessy said in a statement to AFP. —AFP

#### Boy, 14, shoots student

**PALMDALE:** A 14-year-old boy shot and wounded a student at a Southern California high school on Friday before fleeing the scene and being arrested at a supermarket by an off-duty police officer, law enforcement officials said. The victim, a 15-year-old student at Highland High School in Palmdale, about 60 miles north of Los Angeles, was listed in stable condition at a nearby hospital with a gunshot wound to the arm and shoulder area. Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell told a news conference. Officials had initially said the victim was 14 years old. The suspect, a former student at Highland High School, was taken into custody at a supermarket by an off-duty Los Angeles police officer after the boy called his father to tell him that he had fired a gun into the air, McDonnell said. —Reuters

#### German, Polish murdered

**TUXTLA GUTIERREZ:** Two European cyclists who were found dead at the bottom of a ravine in southern Mexico were murdered, investigators said Friday, discarding their earlier theory that the men plunged off a cliff. The cyclists-Holger Hagenbusch of Germany and Krzysztof Chmielewski of Poland-had been traveling the world by bicycle. But after being reported missing by relatives, they were found dead at the foot of a sheer rock face in the Mexican state of Chiapas. Investigators initially said the pair appeared to have lost control on a winding mountain road. —AFP

## Italy tribunal lifts ban on Berlusconi

**ROME:** An Italian tribunal has lifted a ban on veteran centre-right leader Silvio Berlusconi from holding public office, meaning he could run to be prime minister in the next national election. However, the decision might have come just too late for the 81-year-old four-times premier, who only three days ago gave his blessing to his political ally the League to form a government without him in the wake of a disappointing election result.

Berlusconi was convicted of tax fraud in 2013, triggering his expulsion from the upper house of parliament and a bar on holding any elected position for six years. However, in a decision made public yesterday, a court in the northern city of Milan which oversees the application of sentences ruled that the bar could be lifted a year early because of "good conduct". "Finally five years of injustice has come to end," Berlusconi's Forza Italia party said in a statement. "Berlusconi can once again be a candidate."

## Chilean bishops set for papal dressing down over abuse

**SANTIAGO:** Around 30 Chilean bishops have begun arriving in Rome for what is widely expected to be a dressing-down by Pope Francis over years of sexual abuse within the Chilean Church. The bishops were joining Francis at the Vatican "with humility and hope," the Chilean Bishops Conference said Thursday, ahead of talks beginning Monday that are likely to result in a major shake-up of the Chilean hierarchy. Francis summoned the bishops to Rome in an April 12 letter saying he intended to discuss an investigation into an alleged cover-up by Bishop Juan Barros of abuse by pedophile priest Fernando Karadima during the 1980s and 1990s.

He requested their assistance in finding measures "to repair the scandal as much as possible and restore justice." One of those accused of the cover-up, Andres Arteaga, the auxiliary bishop of Santiago, will not be attending, the Episcopal Conference said in its statement, citing health reasons. Media reports in Santiago said neither would Cardinal Francisco Javier Errazuriz, a member of the powerful Vatican C9 committee tasked with advising Francis on Vatican reform. Errazuriz stands accused by victims of ignoring repeated complaints against Karadima.

### Signal of Change

"The pope is seeking to send a signal of change, otherwise he would not summon us to Rome. This is not to pay homage or to give us a pat on the back," Bishop Luis Infanti of the diocese of Aysen, told Chile's La Tercera newspaper. "What I foresee is a great shake-up in the Chilean Church, for example, that bishops are removed...and that it gives a new course to the Church in Chile," Aysen said. The series of meetings provide an opportunity for Francis to repair some of the damage done during his visit to Chile in January, which turned

Berlusconi campaigned actively ahead of a March 4 national election even though he was not a candidate. But Forza Italia did not perform as well as he had expected, slipping behind the League to lose its top spot in the centre-right bloc. Berlusconi blamed the poor showing on the fact that voters knew he could not be prime minister. The centre-right emerged as the single largest force at the March vote, while the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement emerged as the biggest individual party.

Neither side won enough seats to govern alone and efforts to put together a coalition were complicated by 5-Star's refusal to work with Forza Italia, saying Berlusconi symbolized political corruption in Italy. After more than nine weeks of stalemate, and with fresh elections looking increasingly likely, Berlusconi on Wednesday finally gave his blessing to the League to seek a coalition deal without Forza Italia. Negotiations between the League and 5-Star are continuing, with President Sergio Mattarella giving them until Monday to strike an accord. Both parties say that if they fail to agree terms, the only solution would be a revote, perhaps in July.

A political source, who declined to be named, said the fact Berlusconi was now free to run might make him less amenable to a League/5-Star government and could



Silvio Berlusconi

work to make life difficult for it in parliament, should it take office. The billionaire media tycoon was written off after he quit as prime minister in 2011 amid a sex scandal involving his "bunga bunga" parties, while Italian bond yields surged to unsustainable levels at the height of the euro

zone debt crisis. However, he has fought hard to remain politically relevant. Last year he appealed to the European Court of Human Rights to overturn the ban on holding public office. A verdict is still awaited but the Milan ruling makes it irrelevant. —Reuters

## Grandparents, mum and kids shot dead in murder-suicide

**SYDNEY:** Three generations of a single family were identified yesterday as the victims of Australia's worst mass shooting in 22 years, a murder-suicide which left seven people dead. They included Katrina Miles, 35, and her four children—three boys and a girl aged eight to 13 - who were found Friday in a shed on a rural property near the Margaret River wine region in Western Australia, police said.

Miles' mother Cynda Miles, 58, was found in the main house at the property and her father Peter Miles, 61, was found outside. Police Commissioner Chris Dawson told reporters. Three firearms licensed to Peter Miles were also found, he said. Confirming suggestions of a murder-suicide, Dawson added: "I wish to strongly emphasize that police do not believe any other person is involved in these crimes. Police are not searching for any other suspects."

Dawson said it was too early to confirm which member of the family was the shooter, saying more forensic work was needed. He would only say police were alerted to the shootings by a phone call from a "male person" at the property, who was apparently the killer. Mass shootings are uncommon in Australia and Friday's was the deadliest since a 1996 massacre that left 35 dead at Port Arthur in Tasmania. After that attack, the government banned assault rifles, launched a mass firearm buyback program and imposed tight gun registration laws.

Police issued a statement from unnamed relatives of the Miles family saying: "We are devastated by this shocking event. We are stunned and still trying to understand how this could happen. "We respectfully ask that the community refrain from speculating on the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident." Felicity Haynes, who lives on a neighboring property, told broadcaster ABC the family involved were "caring neighbors". "They were a very socially aware family, doing their best to create a safe community, and that is why it is so shocking," she said. —AFP

into a media fiasco after he said he was convinced of Barros' innocence and demanded "proof" of abuse before he would speak out against him.

He later had to apologize to the victims and last month admitted "grave mistakes" after reading a 2,300-page report on the abuse in Chile. The report included the testimony of 64 people gathered in Santiago and New York by renowned Vatican investigator Archbishop Charles Scicluna. Around 80 Chilean clergymen have been involved in sexual abuse cases in recent years, according to a victims' association. The 81-year-old pontiff, who hosted three of Karadima's victims at his Vatican residence in April, acknowledged he had made "grave mistakes in my perception of the situation." But the pope's complaints of a lack of "truthful and balanced information" which led to his misstep has put the spotlight on the Papal Nuncio in Santiago, Ivo Scapolo, and Errazuriz.

Vatican watchers say they are likely to be sanctioned, as well as Santiago Archbishop Ricardo Ezatti, who also ignored complaints against Karadima. "We reiterate our union with Pope Francis in the pain and shame expressed against crimes committed against children and adults in ecclesial environments," the Conference said in a statement. One of Karadima's victims, Jose Andres Murillo, said he had told the pope in his audience how important it was to understand that sexual abuse was "abuse of power" and "the need to take responsibility...not just forgiveness." Chilean church watchers say the pope has to act to remove Barros from his duties and order the reorganization of the local hierarchy.

### 'Laboratory'

Francis' letter to the bishops "prepares for measures going much further than the departure of Barros," Cristian Parker of the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Santiago said. "The pope will have to take measures concerning all the bishops and the structures of the Church, so that in future he will be sure that the channels of communication are reliable." And "that will provoke a sort of earthquake in the Church in Chile, especially in the hierarchy," Parker said. —AFP



## International

# Voter bribes claimed as key Indian state holds election

## Voter card storm clouds key state election

**BANGALORE:** Claims of dirty tricks made by India's two main parties cast a cloud over voting in a key Indian state yesterday after nearly 10,000 voting cards were seized by election authorities. The opposition Congress party, which has dominated Indian politics in the seven decades since independence, is fighting to retain its last major state, Karnataka, amid a fierce battle with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist party. Voting was postponed in one constituency after the discovery of the voting cards, which authorities suspect were obtained through bribes. Police have launched an investigation.

The state election commission said there was a plot to "vitiate the poll process" in Rajarajeshwari Nagar district of the state capital Bangalore. Congress and Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused each other over the fraud. Voting in the district was pushed back to May 28. Tens of thousands of security personnel were deployed

across the state of 65 million people for voting. The results, which will have a major impact on campaigning for a national election next year, are to be announced on Tuesday. A rainstorm on Friday again exposed Bangalore's over-stretched infrastructure with traffic snarls, waterlogging and overflowing drains.

The two parties urged voters to brave the disruption and turn out in force. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appealed to party workers to "provide all possible assistance to those affected by heavy rains." Our polling booth teams must remain alert and must help

voters facing difficulties in reaching polling booths," he added in a Twitter statement. Modi also sought to rally supporters as some voters complained of having to wade through muddy pools to get to voting stations. "Urging my sisters and brothers of Karnataka to vote in large numbers today. I would particularly like to call upon young voters to vote and enrich this festival of democracy with their participation," the prime minister said on Twitter.

### Crucial vote

The two leaders have embarked on an angry campaign targeting each other with personal attacks. Local issues such as the state's infrastructure crisis have barely featured-to the frustration of residents. "As a Bangalore resident, I want the next government to come and address the issue of waste and women's security as a priority," said Shashi Kumar as he voted in north Bangalore.

"We need steps to make our roads and neighborhoods cleaner so that people can walk comfortably. It's not the case right now," Karnataka is crucial for both parties.

Congress is anxious to reverse its political fortunes so it can mount a strong challenge in next year's election. If it loses Karnataka, Congress will only have two small states, Mizoram and Punjab, and the small territory of Puducherry which together account for about 2.5 percent of India's population of 1.25 billion. The BJP and its allies hold states with about 70 percent of the population. But Modi's party needs a break-



**BANGALORE:** Indian voters queue to cast their ballots in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Elections at a polling station in Bangalore yesterday. —AFP

through in southern India. The prime minister has faced allegations of bias towards the northern regions where his Hindu nationalist BJP is dominant. Modi has focused his campaign on national pride, the economy and his aggressive foreign policy.

He has also attacked Gandhi's Italian ancestry and the family's privileged background. Rahul Gandhi's mother, Sonia, is Italian and the Gandhi-Nehru

dynasty has provided three prime ministers since 1947. Congress has in turn questioned the BJP's selection of BS Yeddyurappa as candidate for chief minister. The 75-year-old has in the past faced corruption allegations. Some polls have predicted a hung state assembly with a regional party, Janata Dal, led by 84-year-old former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and his son, holding the balance of power. —AFP

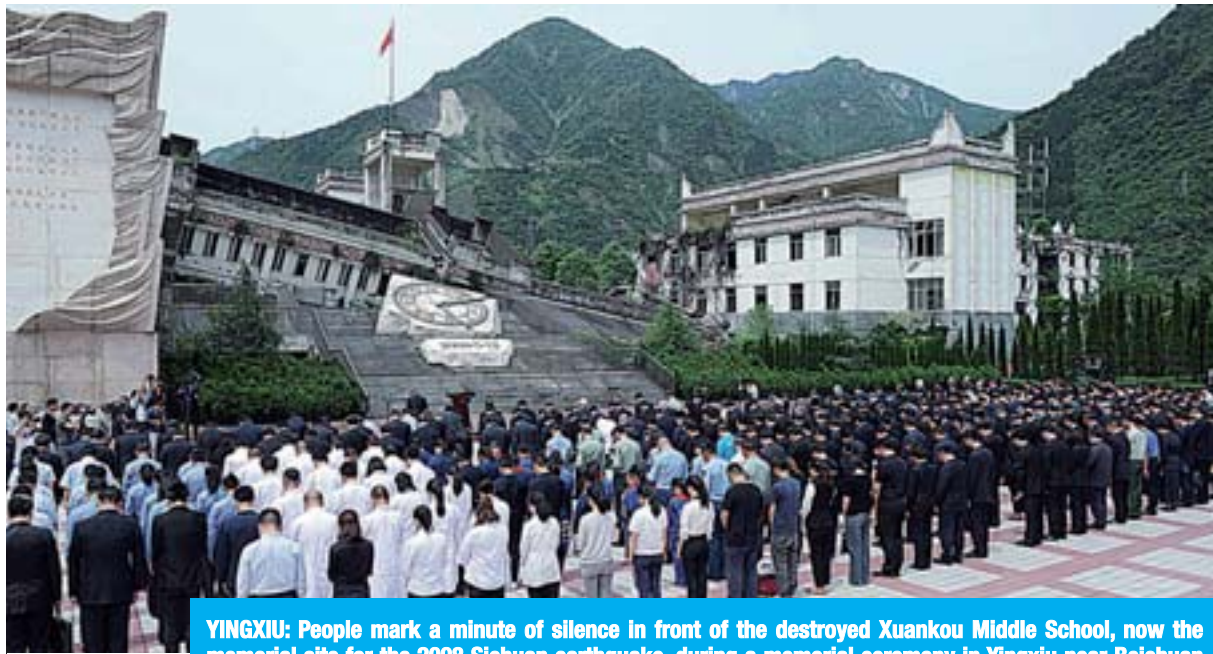
## China marks 10th anniversary of devastating earthquake

**BEIJING:** China marked the 10th anniversary yesterday of a massive earthquake that killed tens of thousands in southwest Sichuan province and left scars on the nation that have yet to fully heal. More than 87,000, including 5,335 school pupils, were left dead or missing when a 7.9-magnitude quake struck Sichuan on the afternoon of May 12, 2008 - a tragedy that triggered both raw anguish and national pride over the response.

A remembrance was due to take place in the afternoon at a collapsed school in the town of Yingxiu, one of the worst-hit areas. But there was no live broadcast. Instead, state broadcaster CCTV chose to focus on live images showing newly reconstructed schools and apartment blocks while largely eliding any reference to the injured or dead, some of whom still lay beneath the new buildings.

The quake hit at 2:28 pm. But as the clock ticked past three yesterday, the country's leaders gave no major speeches, no grand ceremonies honoring the dead were held and there was no national moment of silence. President Xi Jinping sent a letter to a conference on earthquakes convened in honour of the disaster, the official Xinhua news service reported. In the text, he pledged the country would "enhance its disaster prevention capabilities" and improve scientific understanding of such events. The article did not mention condolences.

Outrage erupted after it emerged 7,000 schools were badly damaged by the quake, triggering accusations of shoddy construction, corner-cutting and possible corruption, especially as many other buildings nearby held firm. They became known as "tofu schools" in China, likening their structural instability to the soft bean curd dish. A decade on, the government has still never released an official investigation into the accusations. Even now campaigners and parents are seeking answers on how the quake destroyed so many schools when it struck during afternoon classes. The government has responded by



**YINGXIU:** People mark a minute of silence in front of the destroyed Xuankou Middle School, now the memorial site for the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, during a memorial ceremony in Yingxiu near Beichuan yesterday. —AFP

silencing them: detaining, arresting and harassing those who spoke out until only a few dare to continue.

### Scars run deep

The disaster inspired a generation of journalists and activists, catapulting artist Ai Weiwei—who organized a probe into the school collapses to a new level of international fame. Huge donations to relief funds at the time popularized the idea of private giving, inspiring the creation of a host of new charitable organizations. And as the country united in the face of the tragedy, it-along with the 2008 Summer Olympics-helped to crystallize a new sense of national identity.

But authorities quickly moved to tamp down the new spirit of openness, arresting critics and journalists alike. Ai Weiwei was beaten by police and held in detention for months. He has since left the country. And a plethora of scandals tainted the new enthusiasm for giving, with the Red Cross in particular caught up in a huge row over misdirected funds. Today, the cities and villages that were destroyed have mostly been reconstructed, after the government poured billions into the recovery effort.

## Rape victim takes on Chinese police over stalled probe

**BEIJING:** A Chinese graduate student has become a social media sensation in China after attempting to sue police for dismissing her rape report, giving the country's fledgling #MeToo movement a new cause. Renee Ren, 26, said her legal action was inspired by "photos of women's marches around the world". "I thought, those women are so brave," she said.

In what is thought to be the first case of its kind by a rape victim, Ren has sued police over their "inaction" after she reported her assault. The court that initially accepted her case dismissed it on a technicality last week, saying that as a member of the public she was not entitled to bring a criminal prosecution. But the fact she was able to file at all was a significant victory in a country where citizens have few avenues to challenge authorities. Ren filed an appeal on Friday, countering that her action should be considered a civil suit not a criminal one.

She says she is not seeking compensation, but wants the court to discipline officials at the

Changjiang police station for the humiliation she suffered after reporting her assault. At the time, a female officer admonished her, saying "not every sexual experience is good", Ren says. It is "common" for authorities not to pursue rape cases, said Lu Xiaoqun, a prominent lawyer who has provided pro-bono advice to Ren. "It is mainly difficult to collect evidence," he said. "There must be physical evidence, and the difficulty of determining whether (the sex act) violated the wishes of the infringed is relatively high."

### 'Scared, shamed, hopeless'

Ren said in her lawsuit she was raped in a university dormitory garage last July by someone she knew. "I struggled and screamed... I was scared, shamed, and hopeless," she told AFP. Officers took photographs of her injuries but did not obtain surveillance video or make contact with her alleged attacker, Ren said. With police refusing to investigate her case, she gave up until the #MeToo movement ignited in China earlier this year. It was this public outpouring that prompted Ren to file her lawsuit despite pressure from university administrators to drop the case. "They called my parents and said to them I might not graduate or find a job," Ren said. Neither the university nor the police responded to questions from AFP. Ren's blog



**QINGDAO:** This handout shows Renee Ren on Cangma Mountain in Qingdao, China's eastern Shandong province. —AFP

posts on the popular Weibo platform have been viewed over 20 million times, with comments supportive of a new public face for a movement that has largely been concentrated in university campuses in China. Unlike in the West, where

#MeToo has forced resignations and sparked widespread public debate, authorities in China have sought to control the discussion, sometimes allowing and at other times censoring social media commentary. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Japan MP under fire

**TOKYO:** A Japanese lawmaker has come under fire after saying women should have several children or risk becoming a burden on the state. Kanji Kato, a 72-year-old MP in Prime Minister Shizo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said newlyweds should raise at least three children. The minister in charge of women's empowerment on Saturday lashed out at his remarks. "It was a terrible gaffe," Seiko Noda, who is also internal affairs minister and a senior member of the LDP, said in a speech, according to local media. Giving birth was different to making products, she said, adding: "The number of children won't increase by just making such remarks." Earlier this week Kato reportedly told a group of LDP members: "I ask bridal couples to bear and raise more than three children for sure." —AFP

#### East Timor holds polls

**DILI:** East Timor faced a tense wait yesterday for the result of its second general election in less than a year, after bitter fighting between lawmakers saw parliament dissolved. Thousands of East Timorese lined up to cast their ballot following a fractious campaign that was marred by violence and political mudslinging on the tiny half-island nation of 1.2 million. "My expectation for the future is that whoever will win we must respect each other and prioritize the life of the whole population," voter Francisco Kalbuadi said. Political parties in the impoverished young democracy made their final pitch to voters this week, wrapping up a fractious campaign. Violent clashes broke out last weekend between supporters of the Fretilin party and backers of the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT) led by former president and independence hero Xanana Gusmao. —AFP

#### Carpool murder case

**BEIJING:** The suspect in the murder of a passenger in a case involving Chinese ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing has been found dead, state media reported yesterday, after the killing of the flight attendant transixed the nation. The 21-year-old woman, identified by police only by her surname Li, was killed the night of May 6, according to police in the central city of Zhengzhou, with state media reporting that she was found half-naked and stabbed at least 20 times. The body of the suspected murderer, a 27-year-old man surnamed Liu, was discovered yesterday in a river in the city. Xinhua news reported, citing local police. DNA tests had confirmed its identity. Li, who worked for Chinese budget carrier Lucky Air, had ordered a ride using Didi's Hitch service, which pairs up commuters heading in the same direction. —AFP

#### Deadly flare-up in Myanmar

**MYITKYINA:** At least 19 people were killed yesterday in northern Myanmar when ethnic rebels attacked security force posts and a casino in an area bordering China, the most deadly flare-up in recent years that undercuts government efforts to win peace in the troubled country. Rights defenders say clashes in the north have ramped up since January as the international community focuses on the Rohingya crisis in the west of the country. The military stands accused of carrying out an ethnic cleansing campaign against the stateless minority in Rakhine. The Ta'ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, one of several insurgent groups fighting for more autonomy in the north, said it launched the operation on Saturday, while government and military sources confirmed the death toll. —AFP









People rally as they take part in the 'Great March of Return' in support of the Palestinian people as they protest in Paris yesterday. On May 15, the Palestinians mark the "Nakba" or catastrophe, commemorating the mass displacement of more than 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were expelled from their homes in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. — AFP

## Poor turnout in municipal polls...

Continued from Page 1

Chancellor Adnan Al-Jasser told Kuwait Times that only 15 voters had cast their votes at a polling station in Farwaniya. He attributed this to the heat and expected

more voters to show up in the afternoon.

At a polling station in the Capital governorate, an argument broke out between a municipal employee and some candidates' representatives when he removed their election banners. "How is that you are running for a municipal post and are violating municipal bylaws," the official reprimanded them. Other polling stations saw blatant tribal slogans and calls to vote for fellow tribesmen, including "The post goes for...tribe" and "We will never let our son down".

Cayetano said Filipino authorities will also reexamine the amount paid by employers to recruiters. "We see it is hurting the domestic helper more than doing good; so we hope we can all agree to lower the cost of recruitment," he added. Recruitment agencies in the Philippines are run by private companies and not by the Philippine government.

The signing of the agreement was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday. "First of all, we are committed to the safety and security of all expatriate workers in Kuwait, including Filipinos," Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah told a joint press conference with Cayetano. "We are keen on making sure that everyone in this nation lives with dignity and that Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis enjoy the protection of the laws of Kuwait and respect them. We hope that our bilateral and historical relations will strengthen further," he said.

The fact that the Filipino president dispatched his foreign affairs secretary, secretary of labor and employment and his special presidential envoy to Kuwait in one week reflected keenness on having normal ties with Kuwait. Kuwait is very eager to reciprocate and to overcome the recent events, focusing on consolidating ties with the Philippines, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said.

"The problems we had over Filipinos in Kuwait are very few; 97 to 98 percent of our people here are happy and face no problem at all. We are thankful for Kuwait for allowing our people to work here. And part of my mission is to encourage Kuwaitis to invest in the Philippines and ask Kuwait to assist us over the insurgency in Mindanao to attain real peace," Cayetano said.

Duterte's spokesperson Harry Roque, also with the delegation, said all the provisions that Duterte wished to see are present in the agreement. The Kuwait's interior ministry will set up a special unit which will coordinate 24 hours a day with the Philippine Embassy over cases of maltreated housemaids. A special hotline will also be set up in case of any emergency, accessible to the embassy and the interior ministry.

## Iraq holds first nationwide polls since IS defeat

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq voted yesterday in its first parliamentary election since declaring victory over the Islamic State group, with growing tensions between neighboring Iran and the United States threatening a power struggle. Turnout appeared weak as polling stations closed across the country after 11 hours of voting that took place under tight security given the ongoing threat posed by the militants. There were no major incidents reported across the country, with the only flare-up coming when, a local official said, shelling killed a policeman and wounded five others in eastern Iraq.

The poll comes with tensions surging between key powers Iran and the United States after Washington pulled out of a landmark 2015 nuclear deal, sparking fears of a destabilizing power struggle in Iraq. Roughly 24.5 million voters face a fragmented political landscape five months after IS was ousted, with the dominant Shiites split, the Kurds in disarray and Sunnis sidelined. More than 15 blood-sodden years since the US-led ouster of Saddam Hussein, there is skepticism about a political system dominated by an elite seen as mired in corruption and sectarianism.

At a polling station in the Baghdad district of Karrada, 74-year-old voter Sami Wadi appealed for change "to save the country". He called on Iraqis "to prevent those who have controlled the nation since 2003 from staying in power". While voting stations in the capital were sparsely attended, in some part of the country there seemed greater interest in the vote.

In the former IS bastion of Mosul - still partly in ruins from the months-long fight to oust the group - residents queued up to make their choice as they look to recover from militant rule. "I am voting for security and the economy to stabilise and for a better future," said laborer Ali Fahmi, 26.

### 'Terror' defeated

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi - who took office as IS rampaged across Iraq in 2014 - is angling for a new term, claiming credit for defeating the militants and seeing off a Kurdish push for independence. But com-

petition from within his Shiite community, the majority group dominating Iraqi politics, will likely splinter the vote and spell lengthy horse-trading to form any government. "Iraq is strong and unified after defeating terror," Abadi said after voting. "The elections will determine Iraq's future."

Whoever emerges as premier will face the mammoth task of rebuilding a country left shattered by the battle against IS - with donors already pledging \$30 billion. More than two million people remain internally displaced and IS - which has threatened the polls - is still able to launch deadly attacks. Iraq has long been a crucible for the rivalry between Iran and the US, with Tehran exerting influence over Shiite politicians and Washington deploying troops to fight IS.

### Shiite contenders

Overall, just under 7,000 candidates are standing and Iraq's complex system means no single bloc is likely to get anything near a majority in the 329-seat parliament. Abadi - a consensus figure who has balanced the US and Iran - is facing two leading challengers to his Victory Alliance with closer ties to Tehran. Ex-premier Nouri Al-Maliki is widely reviled for stirring sectarianism and losing territory to IS, but draws support from hardliners. "I wish for all to go to the ballot boxes to make their choice," Maliki said after casting his ballot, demanding authorities stop "attempts at falsification through the pressuring of voters".

Hadi Al-Ameri - a contender who led Iran-backed paramilitary units that fought IS alongside Baghdad's troops - called for "change" as he seeks to turn battlefield wins into political gains. Votes in Sunni heartlands once dominated by IS - including Mosul - are up in the air as traditional alliances have been shredded by the fallout of militant rule. Political forces in the Kurdish community - often seen as kingmakers - are also in disarray after a September vote for independence spectacularly backfired.

The Kurds look set to lose some of their clout on the national stage after Baghdad unleashed a battery of sanctions and seized back disputed oil-rich regions. Putting on a brave face, the prime minister of autonomous Kurdistan, Nechirvan Barzani, insisted the political process would not succeed "without Kurdish participation". "No party can form the next government without alliances," he said in televised comments after voting. An announcement on the turnout was due yesterday evening and initial results are expected in three days. — AFP

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Sports

# Crusaders go top with stunning comeback, Sunwolves bag historic win

## Hosea ‘Tongan Godzilla’ Saumaki scores hat-trick of tries

**TOKYO:** The Canterbury Crusaders produced a stunning fightback to regain the Super Rugby lead with a 31-29 win over the NSW Waratahs, while the Sunwolves thrashed the Queensland Reds 63-28 to record their first win yesterday.

The Otago Highlanders, meanwhile, cemented their hold on third place in the New Zealand conference when Lima Sopoaga kicked them home 39-27 over South African leaders Golden Lions and the Melbourne Rebels closed the gap on the Waratahs with a comeback 27-24 win over the ACT Brumbies.

The Crusaders conceded 29 points to the Waratahs inside the first half hour of the clash between the top New Zealand and Australian sides. But once they worked out how to cut Israel Folau out of the game they produced five tries and 31 unanswered points to snatch a narrow victory and move one point ahead of the Wellington Hurricanes on the ladder. Folau was exceptional for the Waratahs in the opening stages and scored two of their first four tries. But once the defending champions switched their game plan to starve Folau of possession they came back with three tries in the closing eight minutes of the first half.

They added two more in the second spell while the Waratahs were punished for ill-discipline and spent nearly 20 minutes down a man with Nick Phipps and Taquele Naiyaravoro serving time in the sin bin.

Crusaders captain Sam Whitelock said it was obvious their opening game plan did not work but they were not panicked by the Waratahs' strong start. "We gave them the ball back early and they really punished us because of it. Once we chopped that it started to turn in our favour," Whitelock said.

"But we were nice and calm out there. We stuck to

what we knew would work and came over the top at the end." Waratahs captain Michael Hooper blamed poor discipline which "hurt us. Two yellow cards. It's hard to beat these guys with 14 men". The Crusaders, who have not lost at home to the Waratahs since 2004, extended New Zealand's winning streak over Australia to 39 matches.

### SUNWOLVES VICTORY

While they celebrated their ongoing dominance and their ninth win from 11 matches, Japan's Sunwolves were celebrating their first win of the season and only their fourth since joining the competition three years ago. Hosea "Tongan Godzilla" Saumaki scored a hat-trick of tries while flyhalf Hayden Parker had a perfect day off the tee with 12 from 12 for 36 points in Tokyo as they thrashed the

Reds by a 35-point margin. "You have to take the good with the bad, and we have had our fair share of bad," admitted Sunwolves coach Jamie Joseph after the Tokyo-based team racked up their highest-ever points total and first victory against Australian opposition.

"For me, as the coach of this team, this result wasn't a surprise." After losing the first nine matches of the year, there was little hint of what was to follow when the Sunwolves trailed 14-9 after 20 minutes. But a try by giant lock Grant Hattingh swung the momentum and by half-time the Sunwolves were up 29-14 before Saumaki's second-half rampage set up the historic victory that had loyal Sunwolves fans weeping with joy.

The Brumbies were hoping to stay in contention for a sixth consecutive finals campaign, but their hopes look forlorn after they blew a 24-10 lead at home with 20 minutes to play against the strong-finishing Rebels.



**TOKYO:** Reds' scrum half Ben Lucas (C) clears the ball out of a scrum during the Round 13 Super Rugby match between the Sunwolves of Japan and the Reds of Australia at Prince Chichibu Memorial Stadium in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

Two tries in five minutes to Jack Maddocks and Semisi Tupou then revived the Rebels, before Reece Hodges converted a tough penalty in the 77th minute to snatch the win and move to within a point of the Waratahs on the Australian table.

Christian Lealifano had missed an easier penalty just moments earlier that would have regained the lead for the Brumbies. The Lions, beaten finalists last year, suffered their third consecutive loss when going down

to the Highlanders in Dunedin after losing to the Reds and Blues in the past two weeks.

Although they trailed the Highlanders throughout they were in with a chance to snatch a late win when a Marnus Schoeman try narrowed the gap to 33-27 with seven minutes remaining. But Highlanders' marksman Sopoaga, who finished with a match haul of 19 points, landed two late penalties to put the result beyond doubt. — AFP

## Lewis Hamilton takes pole for the Spanish Grand Prix

**BARCELONA:** Lewis Hamilton roared back to form and secured a stunning pole position for today's Spanish Grand Prix when he delivered a record-breaking qualifying lap yesterday. The defending four time world champion and current series leader broke the track lap record with a series of laps that culminated in him clocking 1:16.173, 0.040 seconds ahead of his team-mate Finn Valtteri Bottas as Mercedes locked up the front row of the grid.

It was Hamilton's second pole this season, after the season-opening race in Australia, his third straight in Spain and the 74th of his career. It broke Sebastian Vettel's streak after three straight poles. German four-time champion Vettel was third fastest for Ferrari ahead of his team-mate 2007 champion Finn Kimi Raikkonen and the Red Bulls of Dutchman Max Verstappen and Australian Daniel Ricciardo.

Dane Kevin Magnussen of Haas was seventh ahead of two-time champion and home hero Fernando Alonso of McLaren, fellow-Spaniard Carlos Sainz of Renault and Frenchman Carlos Sainz of Renault.

The top four were separated by only 0.132 seconds at the end of the session - which promises a close race on Sunday at the Circuit de Catalunya. "I needed this pole - I've not had one for a while," said Hamilton who leads Vettel in the drivers' title race by just four points after four races. "And it's a Mercedes one-two which is great here. There is always a great atmosphere here with loads of British fans and even Spanish fans supporting us, which is great too!"

Bottas said: "It was close, like it has been all week. I ruined my first run in Q3 so I really only had one chance. It is a shame it is only four-hundredths, but it is

good for the team. Now we want to get the one-two we deserved in Baku..."

Vettel said he was happy with his lap. "I was feeling good too and I looked at the tower and then I saw my name didn't go up - but, then, we expected Mercedes to be strong. Let's see what happens now tomorrow. I hope everyone will enjoy it!" The Q1 session began in mild conditions with rain threatening and soon produced drama.

After being accused of "sand bagging" by Hamilton, Ferrari quickly showed they had more pace than expected by rising to the top of the times with Vettel outpacing Raikkonen.

New Zealander Brendon Hartley of Toro Rosso was not among the runners following his huge accident at the end of final practice, which left the rear end of his car wrecked after spinning into the barriers at high speed. He will have to ask the race stewards for permission to take part in Sunday's race even if his car is repaired and he can prove his fitness. He was classified 20th and was eliminated along with German Nico Hulkenberg, who suffered fuel problems with his Renault, Swede Marcus Ericsson of Sauber and Russian rookie Sergey Sirotkin and his Williams team-mate Canadian teenager Lance Stroll.

The second qualifying session began with the top four delivering record-breaking laps as both Mercedes and Ferrari scorched around the circuit, Vettel topping them off with a 1:16.8 to go quickest. Hamilton tested a set of super-softs before the session ended with Belgian Stoffel Vandoorne of McLaren, Frenchman Pierre Gasly of Toro Rosso, the Force India pairing of Frenchman Esteban Ocon and Mexican Sergio Perez, and Frenchman Charles Leclerc of Sauber eliminated from the final round. The top ten all went out on super-softs at the start of Q3 with Hamilton smashing the records again in 1:16.491 to run three-tenths clear of nearest rival Verstappen as Red Bull mounted a stunning fight-back.

Ferrari, unexpectedly, were pushed back to fifth and seventh, 0.7 and 1.7 seconds adrift respectively with Ricciardo third for Red Bull before the final runs when Hamilton delivered his stunner. — AFP

## Kuwait garners more silver in Malaysia

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuwait yesterday won a fourth silver medal at Malaysia Open Athletics Championship. Athlete Yaqoub Al-Yoha came second and

won the medal in 110m hurdles, in 14.17 seconds. On Friday, Kuwait's Ibrahim Al-Dhefeeri came second in shot put, Ali Al-Sebagha won silver in pole vault and Khaled Al-Subaiee in the triple jump.

Kuwait is participating in the three-day tournament that kicked off yesterday, with nine athletes competing in the 100m sprint, 110m hurdles, 1,500m and 5,000m races. They also compete in long jump and hammer throw. — KUNA

## Kuwait Disabled Sports Club hold sports festival with US Embassy



**US Ambassador Lawrence Silverman**

**By Abdellatif Sharaa**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Disabled Sports Club held a joint sports festival with American Embassy and army, which continued for two days in wheelchair basketball, fencing, table tennis and bocce. The closing ceremony was attended by American Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence



Silverman, General Steven R and Colonel Geoffrey H, along with KDASC treasurer, and President of Asian Wheelchair Basketball Association Saad Al-Azmaa and Director of Teams Mohsen Al-Ajmi.

Al-Azmaa said he was happy with the success of the festival and commended the cooperation with the American Embassy in Kuwait for

the past ten years, during which several visits and festivals were made and held. He thanked the American Ambassador and American Army command for their presence and their keenness to ensure the event's success. He said the American ambassador assured him this will be an annual event and expand its activities following the success and positive returns.

## Annahar to hold Ramadan soccer tournament for newspapers, TV

**KUWAIT:** A press conference will be held about Annahar Second Ramadan soccer tournament for Newspapers, Magazines, TV Channels and sites at Crowne Plaza Hotel. A draw will be held for the tournament which starts on Ramadan second under the patronage of Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri.

Matches will be played at the hall of sports complex of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, as two matches will be played per day starting at 4:00 pm and 4:30 pm.

Annahar Editor-in-Chief Dr

Emad Bukhamseen said the tournament is held for the second time following the success of the first one last year. He said this is an opportunity for journalists to stay away from daily pressure, in addition to strengthen ties between all those in media. He said there will be valuable prizes for top winners in addition to prizes for fans by a draw during the tournament.

Bukhamseen thanked Minister Al-Jabri for patronizing the tournament which shows the government's keenness on supporting media. 16 teams representing Alrai, Alqabas, Alanba, Alseyassa, Aljareeda, Alshahed, Alwaseet,



**Mohammad Al-Jabri**

Alsabah, Alkuwaitiya, Kuwaitiya and Annahar news papers, Bareeq Al-Dana, KTV, Adalah, Koora and



**Dr Emad Bukhamseen**

Alaan are also participating. Teams will be in two groups 8 each and will be knock out matches.



# Clay court king Nadal eager to play down Thiem hiccup

## Nadal’s magical clay court streak ends

**MADRID:** Clay court king Rafael Nadal has played down the significance of his quarter-final defeat by Austrian Dominic Thiem at the Madrid Open—a loss that ended a year-long winning streak on clay and cost him the world number one ranking.

The 31-year-old Spaniard looked unstoppable going into his Friday clash with fifth seed Thiem, having won 50 consecutive sets on the red dirt, but he was well beaten 7-5 6-3. Coincidentally, it was Thiem who last beat Nadal on clay, at last year’s Rome Masters, shortly before the Spaniard rampaged to a 10th French Open title without dropping a set.

However, Nadal quickly slapped down any notion that world number seven Thiem knows the secret of beating the greatest ever exponent of claycourt tennis. “Well, three weeks ago I beat him 6-0 6-3. I don’t know if that’s a tough player or not. I don’t think it’s that way,” Nadal, who also beat Thiem en route to the Roland Garros title last year, told reporters. “I think it has just been a match where he was better than me, same as a few weeks ago I was better than him. “If he beats me three times in a row, maybe we can say he reads my game and can beat me.”

Nadal will now focus on next week’s tournament in Rome where, should he win the title, he could reclaim the number one ranking from great rival Roger Federer who has opted to sit out the claycourt season in prepa-

ration for Wimbledon and beyond. Not that the Mallorcan will lose any sleep over it.

“You cannot be number one when you’ve been not playing for five months,” he said. “I think from Shanghai (last year) till Monte-Carlo, I hadn’t finished a single tournament. We’re talking about a lot of months that I gave up. “This year till now I had only one or two tournaments that I had played. This is the reality of this year. “I’m not going to keep the number one today. At the end of the year we will see what happens.

“I think I placed myself in a good position. I am three in the (ATP Race), which is the most important thing. I still have two good weeks on clay, and then I’ll keep on moving forward.” Nadal ended 2017, in which he took his grand slam tally to 16 by winning the French and US Open titles, with a knee injury and then had a hip problem at this year’s Australian Open that forced him to quit against Marin Cilic in the last eight.

He returned to Tour action only in April, winning the Monte Carlo title for an 11th time before rolling through the draw in Barcelona for his 11th triumph there. Despite being off-key against Thiem, he said he was now fully fit as Paris looms. “What makes me happy is I feel fit, can compete with possibilities every single week. This is my final goal: to be happy. That’s what I’m working on,” he said. — Reuters



MADRID: Spain's Rafael Nadal eyes the ball as he plays against Austria's Dominic Thiem during their ATP Madrid Open quarter-final tennis match at the Caja Magica in Madrid on Friday. — AFP

## Simpson ties course record for Players lead, Woods scrapes into weekend

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH:** Webb Simpson’s bid for a 59 ended agonizingly with a ball in the water guarding the famed island green at 17 on Friday, but his record-equalling 63 gave him a five-shot lead at the Players Championship.

Former US Open champion Simpson, 32, had tournament officials delving into the history books when he birdied six holes in succession from the 11th through 16th holes at TPC Sawgrass, storming to 17-under par and a seven-shot lead on the field.

But his tee shot at the par-three 17th hit the wooden bulkhead surrounding the green, soaring high into the air before hitting the surface and rolling into the drink.

Simpson played his third shot from the drop zone en route to a humbling double-bogey five.

It was the only blemish in a course-record equalling round that included an eagle at the second hole and nine birdies. Simpson’s 15-under total of 129 equalled the 36-hole tournament record set by Jason Day in 2015 and gave him a five-shot lead over South African Charl Schwartzel (66), New Zealand’s Danny Lee (66) and Patrick Cantlay (68).

“When you’re out there competing in a big tournament, you’re as focused as can be, but then at a certain point, maybe on 13 today, you start just-like a kid, just kind of laughing,” said Simpson, whose run of six straight birdies also matched a tournament record.

“Everything is going in. You feel like no matter what, you’re going to make it, and I grew up on an easy golf course, so it reminded me of being back home, shooting low numbers.

“At the same time you’re at TPC Sawgrass, so you know that trouble is everywhere, as you guys saw with



PONTE VEDRA BEACH: Tiger Woods of the United States plays his shot from the eighth tee during the third round of THE PLAYERS Championship on the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass yesterday in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. — AFP

me on 17. “But it was just a fun day. And it’s rare as a golfer where everything is working well, driving, iron play, chipping and putting, and today everything came together.” There were plenty of marquee names who couldn’t say the same. Tiger Woods settled for a one-under par 71 and then endured an anxious afternoon wait before knowing he had made the cut on the number of one-under. Woods hit just 12 greens in regulation and was never inside 10 feet with his approach shots. “I just never hit it close enough,” he said. “The course could have been had today. It’s so hot, it’s playing short and the greens are receptive.”

Nevertheless, the 14-time major champion will play the weekend for the seventh time in eight events he has played this year in his return from back surgery.

**‘FUN TO PLAY GOOD GOLF’**

Jordan Spieth (68) and Justin Thomas (70), also squeaked into the weekend while Rory McIlroy, Hideki Matsuyama, Rickie Fowler and Phil Mickelson all missed the cut. Simpson, who has not tasted Tour success since capturing a fourth title in late 2014, will not want reminding that in the four times he’s made the Players cut he has never bettered a third-round 74.

“I’m 15-under through two days here, which is a lot lower than I ever would have expected to be,” he said.

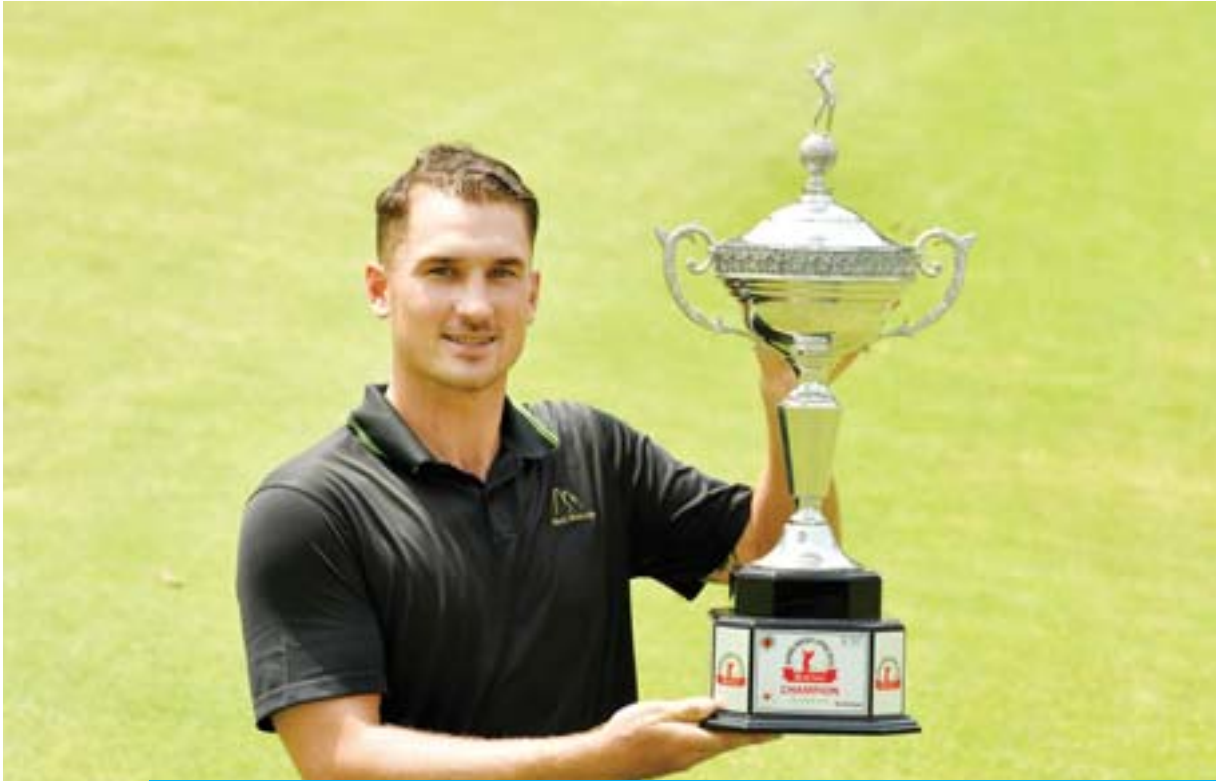
“So I’m just looking forward to getting some good dinner and some rest and coming out and enjoying it tomorrow. “It’s a lot of fun to play good golf, and hopefully I can keep that up.” — AFP

## Swede Kokocinski wins maiden Asia Tour title in Dhaka

**DHAKA:** Sweden’s Malcolm Kokocinski secured his maiden Asian Tour title when he fired six-under-par 65 in the final round to win the AB Bank Bangladesh Open by three shots in Dhaka yesterday. Kokocinski over-turned a three-shot deficit from the third round to cap a winning total of 14-under-par 270 at the Kurmitola Golf Club. The 26-year-old Swede takes home a winner’s purse of \$54,000 in the \$300,000 event courtesy of his breakthrough victory on the Asian Tour. Kokocinski has become the third consecutive first-time winner at the Bangladesh Open, following Thailand’s Thitiphun Chuayprakong and Jazz Janewattananond in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The Thailand-based golfer is the second Swede to win in three weeks on the Asian Tour, following Alexander Bjork at the Volvo China Open. “This win means a lot to me. I don’t have a status on the Asian Tour before this week. So I am really pleased with how I played here”, Kokocinski said in comments published on the tournament’s official website. “I have been playing well the last couple of months. I knew my game was good so I just had to stick to my game plan and hit some good shots coming down the stretch.

“I stayed patient out there. I was playing well all week so I knew a good round will come sooner or later,” he added. England’s Jack Harrison, who led the event after the third round, endured two closing bogeys for a 71 on the final day to settle for a share of second



DHAKA: Malcolm Kokocinski of Sweden with the winner's trophy after round four of the Bangladesh Open golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka.— AFP

place with New Zealand’s Ben Campbell with an overall score of 11-under par 273.

“I can’t complain with a tied-second place finish in my first start on the Asian Tour. A little bit disappointed for not getting the win but there is always a winner and

a loser. Overall, it was a great week and I am very happy,” said Harrison. American John Catlin shared third place with Zamal Hossain Mollah, who emerged as the highest-ranked local player, after finishing on nine-under-par 275. —AFP

Revamped Davis Cup could be held in Madrid or France

MADRID: The Spanish Tennis Federation (RFET) has held meetings with the Barcelona and national soccer team player Gerard Pique about holding the planned revamped Davis Cup in France or Madrid next year, the organisation's chief Miguel Diaz said on Friday.

In February, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced a massive shake-up of the competition, which will see the formation of an 18-nation World Cup of Tennis Finals played in one location, after agreeing a 25-year, \$3 billion partnership with investment group Kosmos, founded and chaired by Pique. “We are looking at a formula whereby the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will be held in Madrid or in France so it doesn't have to go to Asia,” Diaz told reporters at the Madrid Open on Friday.

“We’ve had a couple of meetings with Gerard Pique and we will have one more but we still need data. We are looking at the final format and still nothing has been decided. We will make the decision at our board meeting at the end of May.”

The ITF did not respond to a request from Reuters to comment on the proposal. Pique, who is set to be named in Spain's squad for next month's World Cup in Russia, was photographed watching countryman Rafael Nadal's quarter-final defeat by Dominic Thiem on Friday at the Madrid Open alongside Real Madrid players Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio. The new Davis Cup event represents a huge revamp for a competition which has been in existence since 1900 but has suffered in recent years with top players not competing.

ITF President David Haggerty has said the new format will be “a game-changer for tennis” but the proposed event, which would bring an end to traditional home and away ties, has been criticised by Belgian tennis chief Gijs Kookken, who said it risked “killing the soul” of the competition. — Reuters

## McIlroy, Matsuyama to miss Players cut

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH:** Three of the world’s top-10 in Rickie Fowler, Rory McIlroy and Hideki Matsuyama, along with five-time major-winner Phil Mickelson, found themselves with the weekend off after missing the cut in the Players Championship on Friday.

World number six Fowler had to use a pair of binoculars in unsuccessfully trying to locate his golf ball in a palm tree on the sixth hole at TPC Sawgrass — his 15th of the day. He ended up with the first of back-to-back double-bogeys, his one-under round of 71 giving the 2015 winner of the tournament a one-over total that saw him miss the cut by two shots. World number eight McIlroy went into his second round at one-under par but after six straight opening pars the Northern Ireland star found himself outside of the cut-off mark with back-to-back bogeys at the seventh and eighth.

Four birdies and two more bogeys from the ninth through the 16th saw him arrive at the 17th even for the day and flirting with the cut. However, his tee shot into the island green at 17 hit the front of the putting surface and spun back into the water.

The 29-year old recorded a double-bogey and signed for a 74 that saw him join Fowler at one-over. Japan’s Matsuyama, ranked ninth in the world, bounced back from a first-round 79 with a 69 — but he, too, took a double-bogey at 17 and missed the cut for the second week in a row. Mickelson, like Matsuyama, had opened with a 79, admitting his battle for a share of fifth at Quail Hollow last week had left him tired. Mickelson’s more respectable 73 on Friday never put him in range of the cut line. — AFP



# Shadab, Faheem revive Pakistan in Ireland's inaugural Test

## Rain brings second day at Malahide to a premature close

SCOREBOARD		
<b>DUBLIN:</b> Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the only Test between Ireland and Pakistan at Malahide yesterday:		
<b>Pakistan 1st Innings</b>		
Azhar Ali c Porterfield b Rankin		4
Imam-ul-Haq lbw b Murtagh		7
Haris Sohail c Porterfield b Thompson		31
Asad Shafiq c Balbirnie b Rankin		62
Babar Azam c Stirling b Murtagh		14
Sarfraz Ahmed c Stirling b Thompson		20
Shadab Khan not out		52
Faheem Ashraf not out		61
Extras (b1, lb10, nb4, w2)		17
Total (6 wkts, 76 overs, 327 mins)		268
To bat: Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Abbas, Rahat Ali		
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-13 (Azhar), 2-13 (Imam), 3-71 (Haris), 4-104 (Babar), 5-153 (Shafiq), 6-159 (Sarfraz)		
<b>Bowling:</b> Murtagh 17-4-33-2; Rankin 17-3-58-2 (1nb); Kane 18-2-84-0 (1nb); Thompson 16-2-51-2 (2nb, 1w); K O'Brien 6-1-20-0 (1w); Stirling 2-0-11-0;		
<b>Ireland:</b> William Porterfield (capt), Ed Joyce, Andrew Balbirnie, Niall O'Brien (wkt), Paul Stirling, Kevin O'Brien, Gary Wilson, Stuart Thompson, Tyrone Kane, Boyd Rankin, Tim Murtagh.		

**DUBLIN:** Shadab Khan and debutant Faheem Ashraf both scored maiden Test fifties as Pakistan fought back in Ireland's inaugural Test match in Dublin yesterday.

Pakistan were 268 for six when bad light and then rain brought the second day at Malahide to a premature close. Shadab, in just his second Test, was 52 not out and left-hander Faheem 61 not out, with their unbroken seventh-wicket stand so far worth 109 runs after they had come together at 159 for six.

Pakistan, sent into bat by Ireland captain William Porterfield, lost two wickets in successive balls to be 13 for two, but concerns that Ireland would pay for doing without a specialist spinner were eventually proved to be well-founded. Middlesex paceman Tim Murtagh led Ireland's attack with two wickets for 33 runs from 17 overs, with Boyd Rankin tak-



### Paceman Tim Murtagh leads Ireland's attack



**DUBLIN:** (L-R) Ireland's William Porterfield, Ireland's Andrew Balbirnie and Ireland's Paul Stirling appeal unsuccessfully for a wicket during play on day two of Ireland's inaugural Test match against Pakistan at Malahide cricket club, in Dublin yesterday. — AFP

Test batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq, scored a hundred on his one-day international debut against Sri Lanka last year. The left-hander, who came into this match following fifties in Pakistan's two warm-up fixtures, against Kent and Northamptonshire, square-drove Murtagh for a stylish four. But it did not take long for Ireland to make a stunning double strike on a pitch offering some sideways movement. Rankin, the 15th man ever, and the first since Kepler Wessels (Australia and South Africa) 25 years ago, to play Test cricket for two nations after making a lone appearance for England in 2014, had an uncertain Azhar (four) edging to Porterfield at second slip.

That left Pakistan 13 for one off the last ball of the eighth over. Barely had the crowd's cheers subsided, then Pakistan were 13 for two off the very next ball, with Imam lbw for seven to a Murtagh delivery that came back into him. After a

few near run-outs, Pakistan's third-wicket duo settled in. Shafiq square-cut Kane for four, with left-hander Haris Sohail glancing Stuart Thompson for a legside boundary. Pakistan, 67 for two at lunch, lost their third wicket soon afterwards when Haris was caught in the gully by Porterfield off Thompson. Babar Azam (14), pushing hard at a Murtagh delivery that left him off the pitch, was well-held by Paul Stirling at second slip.

Shafiq went on to complete a 107-ball fifty when he pulled Rankin for a single. But with the towering Rankin, bowling from around the wicket, a similar shot proved Shafiq's undoing when he found Andrew Balbirnie at square leg.

And when Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed (20) was caught by Stirling in the slips off Thompson, the tourists were 159 for six. —AFP

## Stokes goes from MVP to Royal disappointment

**NEW DELHI:** Fourth months after splashing out \$1.97 million to secure the services of Ben Stokes, Rajasthan Royals cannot be faulted for regretting the splurge as they struggle to stay afloat in this year's Indian Premier League (IPL).

Stokes, then with Rising Pune Supergiant, set alight last year's tournament with his scintillating batting, crafty bowling and electric fielding, making him the obvious choice for the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP) honour.

England and world cricket's premier all-rounder's Midas touch has deserted him since joining Rajasthan, however, with the 26-year-old still looking for his first fifty in this year's tournament, while the wickets have also dried up. But it may still not to be too late for Stokes, according to England team mate Chris Woakes.

"He is a world class player," Woakes, who is among a dozen English players in this year's IPL, told reporters on Friday. "Probably has not played as well as he would have liked throughout the tournament but I never write him off.

"Still four games left and more if they qualify. He's a fantastic player. If you slip off your game against him, he will punish you," the Royal Challengers Bangalore player added. Stokes did suffer a setback off the pitch when he was charged with affray following an incident in Bristol last September, costing him a place on England's Ashes tour of Australia.

The player has pleaded not guilty and will face trial in August. Hoping to help Stokes rediscover his best form, Rajasthan tried the middle-order batsman as an opener in Friday's match against Chennai Super Kings but the all-rounder made just 11 before losing his middle stump to Harbhajan Singh.

However, Rajasthan and England team mate Jos Buttler said the switch in order was primarily due to a hamstring issue. "(Rajasthan mentor) Shane Warne sort of said 'why don't you go at the top and play with some freedom and try and see if that comes off' because he felt like he was going to find it hard in the middle with his running," explained Buttler.

Bought at a relatively modest \$680,000, Buttler has provided better value for money for Rajasthan, the wicketkeeper-batsman hitting his fourth consecutive half-century on Friday to keep the side alive in the playoff race.

Opening the innings with Stokes, Buttler went on to smash an unbeaten 95 to anchor Rajasthan's chase in Jaipur against IPL heavyweights Chennai. Asked if it was his best Twenty20 knock, the 27-year-old said, "Definitely, especially in the IPL. I have hit my straps and it's always special when you're not out." Rajasthan, currently sixth in the eight-team league, visit Mumbai Indians today. — Reuters

## Capitals cruise past Lightning to win NHL series opener

**LOS ANGELES:** Alex Ovechkin and Jay Beagle scored in a three-minute span straddling the first and second periods as the Washington Capitals manhandled the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-2 in the opening game of the Eastern Conference finals.

The Capitals seized control of Friday's contest on a bizarre sequence that included a Tampa goal waived off for a too-many-men-on-the-ice penalty. Just two seconds later, the Capitals scored on the powerplay in front of a crowd of 19,090 at Tampa's Amalie Arena.

So instead of the game being tied 1-1, Washington took a 2-0 lead into the intermission on Ovechkin's powerplay goal and then jumped out to a 3-0 cushion when Beagle scored, only 2:40 into the second period. "We had a good start. We didn't give them much," said Ovechkin, who is playing in the first Conference finals of his storied career. "All four lines played well in the first period and we need to do the same in the next game and the rest of the series."

Game two of the best-of-seven NHL series is today in Tampa. Czech defenceman Michal Kempny, with the first of the game and his first of the postseason, and Lars Eller, of Denmark, also scored for Washington, a team playing their first NHL semi-final series in two decades. The Lightning are in the Conference final for the third time in four years but it didn't look like it Friday as they pulled starting goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy at the end of the second period with the score 4-0. Steven Stamkos, on the power play, and Ondrej Palat scored goals in the third period for the Lightning, who had an easier time



**TAMPA:** Ryan Callahan #24 of the Tampa Bay Lightning skates against the Washington Capitals in Game One of the Eastern Conference Finals during the 2018 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at the Amalie Arena on Friday in Tampa, Florida. The Capitals defeated the Lightning 4-2. — AFP

getting to this stage of the playoffs by eliminating Boston and New Jersey in just five games each. Stamkos said there were no excuses for coming out flat in game one after a long layoff between series. "For whatever reason they were quicker to the pucks, better disciplined and better on special teams and that is a good recipe for success," Canadian forward Stamkos said. "We were a step behind and you can't do that against a quality opponent at this time of the year."

### QUICK START

Goaltender Braden Holtby made 19 stops for Washington, facing a meagre two shots in the first period from the lacklustre Lightning team. Washington

dethroned the two-time defending champion Pittsburgh Penguins in six games to advance to the final four. "We just carried it over from the Pittsburgh series," said Beagle. "Obviously we wanted to go after them in the first period. "We tried to take it to them in their building and carry that momentum throughout the game."

The Lightning had a highlight-reel goal disallowed with seven seconds left in the first that would have tied the game. Russian forward Nikita Kucherov took a long pass at the blueline and broke in alone and then, as he was falling, somehow chipped the puck over a sprawling Holtby. Television replays clearly showed the Lightning had an extra skater on the ice which allowed Kucherov to get so open for the stretch pass. — AFP

## Commentator Motson to hang up mike

**LONDON:** Legendary BBC commentator John Motson retires today after half a century of loyal service that made him and his trademark sheepskin coat a fixture of English football fans' weekends.

The 72-year-old-who has commentated on 29 FA Cup finals and six World Cup finals-will receive a special award from Crystal Palace and manager Roy Hodgson in recognition of his longevity after the final whistle has been blown on Palace's game with relegated West Brom.

Motson, who in the days when the gantry was exposed to the elements was viewed shielding himself from pouring rain or blizzards bedecked in sheepskin, says he is sanguine about the end being in sight. "At the moment I'm perfectly balanced and quite cool about it," Motson told Press Association Sport.

"I'm not going to make a really big deal of it-I've known since September that this

was going to be my last season." Motson, whose anorak-style knowledge was a perfect foil to the more cultivated approach of fellow BBC commentator Barry Davies, says he has never changed his modus operandi, and his wife Annie has always played a key role.

"I'm old-fashioned, I'm a dinosaur," said Motson, who was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to sports broadcasting by Queen Elizabeth II in 2001.

"I don't work off a computer and I don't delve into the club websites, my research is based mainly on my wife's wonderful record book which she keeps dutifully and diligently every day of the season with all the teams, matches, appearances, goalscorers, newspaper cuttings, you name it-she's got it all in one big volume."

Motson, who among many memorable lines came up with "The Crazy Gang has beaten the Culture Club," when unfashionable Wimbledon beat star-filled Liverpool in the 1988 FA Cup final, says it may not be the last one hears from him. "The voice is still working, it's still strong, so if there is a way I could use it or someone could come up with a route I could go down, I suppose I would have to think about it." — AFP

## Alves out of World Cup with knee injury

**SAO PAULO:** Brazil's Paris St Germain defender Dani Alves will miss the World Cup due to a knee injury which requires surgery and he could be out of action for up to six months. Alves, who plays for French champions Paris St Germain, limped off near the end of Tuesday's French Cup Final win over third-tier Les Herbiers.

The Brazilian team doctor, Rodrigo Lasmar, flew to Paris to examine the player and decided surgery was necessary after diagnosing an injury to his right anterior cruciate ligament.

"It is clear that the Daniel Alves's call up for the period of preparation, friendlies and consequently the World Cup, is impossible," the Brazilian Football Confederation CBF said.

Brazil will play warm-up matches

against Croatia on June 3 and Austria seven days later, before kicking off their World Cup campaign on June 17 against Switzerland. The five-times world champions will then play Costa Rica and Serbia in Group E.

Alves, 35, is one of the squad's most experienced players with 107 caps. His absence in Russia will be a blow to Brazil coach Tite, who values not just his technical ability but also his effect on the dressing room, where he is one of the most popular players.

The right back, who is a fine crosser of the ball, is expected to be out for up to six months and Brazil's players past and present expressed their support for Alves. "I am so sad to hear this. Footballers hate missing games but I know first-hand that missing World Cup games is the worst feeling," Pele, who was forced out of the 1962 and 1966 World Cup tournaments because of injury, said on twitter. Manchester City's Danilo and Fagner of Corinthians are among the players most likely to replace Alves when Tite announces his 23-man squad for the finals tomorrow. — Reuters



# Klopp calls for focus as Liverpool bid to seal top-four spot in EPL

## Chelsea have an FA Cup final date with Man Utd on May 19

**LONDON:** Jurgen Klopp has warned Liverpool to forget about the Champions League final as they aim to qualify for next season's tournament by holding off Chelsea on the final day of the Premier League campaign.

Klopp's fourth-placed side sit two points clear of fifth-placed Chelsea and, given their vastly superior goal difference, they should seal a top-four finish if they avoid defeat against Brighton today. A Liverpool win at Anfield would render Chelsea's result at Newcastle irrelevant and condemn last season's champions to play in the Europa League for the first time since 2013.

Unbeaten at home in the league this season, Liverpool are odds-on to achieve their goal. But Reds boss Klopp is aware of the dangers of complacency, especially with the Champions League final against Real Madrid serving as a potential distraction to his players.

"We need to be completely focused on this game," Klopp said. "Yesterday a lot of people wished me luck for the Champions League final on May 26 and maybe two or three people said 'Good luck today'." "The boys face so many challenges and we need to show it again. A lot of things can happen in football.

"It's exciting. We will try everything to make sure that next year we play in the Champions League again." Chelsea's 1-1 draw against Huddersfield on Wednesday was a hammer blow to their top-four hopes and Blues boss Antonio Conte admits the odds are stacked against them.

"The situation, especially for a place in the



### Reds are unbeaten at home in the league this season

Champions League, is not in our hands. But we have to try to get three points against Newcastle, then to drop something positive for us," Conte said.

Chelsea have an FA Cup final date with Manchester United on May 19 but this could be Conte's last league game with the Blues after two stormy seasons marred by his feud with the club over their failure to back his transfer plans.

Refusing to take the blame for Chelsea's woes, Conte said: "We're struggling to take a place in the Champions League. But we play in a very tough league where there are six top teams fighting for a place. "It's not automatic that you finish every season in the top four." Third-bottom Swansea look certain to be relegated when they face Stoke at the Liberty Stadium.

Carlos Carvalhal's side are three points behind fourth-bottom Southampton, who secured a crucial win over the Welsh club in midweek and have a significantly better goal difference than their relegation rivals. It would take a big Swansea victory against already-relegated Stoke and a heavy defeat for Southampton at home to Manchester City for Carvalhal's men to make an improbable escape.

"At the end we are not in a good position but we have a tiny chance to stay in the Premier League and we will do our best. We are breathing badly, but we are still alive," Carvalhal said.

Arsene Wenger bids farewell to Arsenal after 22 years in charge as the Gunners boss finishes his long goodbye with a trip to Huddersfield. Since Wenger's



ROME: File photo shows Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp (2R) hugs Liverpool's Senegalese midfielder Sadio Mane (R) as they celebrate with teammates following the UEFA Champions League semi-final second leg football match between AS Roma and Liverpool at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. — AFP

impending departure was announced last month, the Frenchman has been on a bittersweet trip down memory lane, lauded for winning three Premier League titles and also criticised for letting his standards slip in recent years.

Asked what he rated as his biggest achievement with

Arsenal, Wenger said: "I would say from 2006 to 2015 it was certainly the period where I needed to be the strongest. "When you build the stadium (Emirates) to work with restricted resources, I personally feel I did my best job in that period. Not the most glamorous maybe, but the most difficult."—Reuters

## Thauvin strikes late to keep Marseille's top-three hopes alive

**PARIS:** Florian Thauvin snatched 10-man Marseille a thrilling 3-3 draw at Guingamp on Friday to keep their hopes of reaching the Champions League with a top-three finish in France alive. The Europa League finalists are behind Monaco, who occupy third, on goal difference and are one point adrift of second-placed Lyon, who can now secure their Champions League spot with a win at Strasbourg on Saturday.

Marseille will have two chances to qualify for Europe's premier competition next week in Wednesday's Europa League final against Atletico Madrid in Lyon, and if they lose that, on the last day of the Ligue 1 season on May 19.

The away side raced into a 2-0 lead at the Stade de Roudourou inside 14 minutes through Valere Germain's header and Thauvin's 25th goal of the season. But Clement Grenier pulled one back for Guingamp and equalised from the penalty spot in the 52nd minute after Lucas Ocampos' handball.

Guingamp moved in front in the 70th minute as Jimmy Briand scored another spot-kick after goalkeeper Steve Mandanda was controversially sent off. But Thauvin struck again to salvage a point and ensure Marseille's fight to finish in the top three will at least go to the final day of the campaign.

"We lost the match, we didn't win it, it was a lapse on their first goal," said Marseille coach Rudi Garcia. "At 2-1 it wasn't the same match. We forgot to return for the second half, and what happened, happened.

"But if we didn't win, it is first of all our fault, obviously." Marseille got off to a dream start as Thauvin swung in a perfect cross for Germain, and the forward leapt highest to plant a magnificent header past Guingamp goalkeeper Karl Johan Johnsson and into the bottom corner.

With a home match against Amiens on the final day of the season, this looked to be the toughest of Marseille's remaining matches, but they stretched further clear in the 14th minute. Argentinian winger Ocampos created space on the wing, and crossed for Thauvin to continue his remarkable campaign with a



GUINGAMP: Guingamp's Cameroonian defender Felix Eboa Eboa (L) vies with Marseille's Argentinian forward Lucas Ocampos during the French L1 football match between Guingamp and Marseille, on Friday at the Roudourou stadium in Guingamp, western France. —AFP

neat header. The 25-year-old former Newcastle flop, capped three times by France, is now firmly in the running to receive a call-up to Didier Deschamps' World Cup squad on Thursday. But the hosts halved the deficit shortly before half-time after a quick counter-attack ended with Briand's shot rattling the crossbar, allowing midfielder Grenier to stab into an empty net.

Marseille struggled to refine their rhythm after the break and Grenier completed his first league double since February 2013 from the penalty spot. Guingamp should have completed the turnaround on the hour mark, but Briand lashed wide after Jordan Amavi's poor clearance fell to him unmarked inside the area.

But he didn't have to wait long to make amends, as a

comedy of errors ended with OM conceding a penalty and Mandanda seeing red. Centre-back Gregory Sertic's mistake on the halfway line allowed Briand to run clean through on goal, and the forward drew the foul from Mandanda, who was dismissed despite not appearing to have made a deliberate foul.

Briand picked himself up to take over penalty duties from Grenier, and duly sent substitute keeper Yohann Pele the wrong way. Thauvin had the final say, though, steering home Bouna Sarr's right-wing cross, with both teams missing late chances to win it in a frantic finale.

Marseille will now be hoping that either Strasbourg or Saint-Etienne, who visit Monaco, can do them a favour today. — AFP

## Conte's future in doubt as Chelsea face top-four woe

**NEWCASTLE:** With Chelsea's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League hanging by a slender thread, the future of their manager Antonio Conte is the main topic of conversation around Stamford Bridge. Conte has been the subject of constant speculation that his second season with Chelsea could well be his last. The Italian has feuded with Chelsea's hierarchy over their failure to back his transfer plans last year and has done little to quell the impression he would be willing to leave.

The equation is quite simple ahead of today's final day of the Premier League season: victory for Chelsea at Newcastle and defeat for fourth-placed Liverpool at home to Brighton would secure a Champions League berth for the west Londoners.

A Liverpool draw however would consign fifth-placed Chelsea to the dubious consolation prize of Europa League football. Conte appears to have all but accepted that is the most likely scenario, but the Blues boss insists the club is still in a better position than when he arrived following a campaign that saw the departure of Jose Mourinho and a lowly position of tenth in 2015-16.

"There are six top teams at the start of the season ready to fight for a place in the Champions League," Conte said. "Failing to make the Champions League can happen. In the past, it happened the same.

"Don't forget two years ago, Chelsea ended the season 10th and not in the FA Cup final, not in the semi-finals of the League Cup, and they were eliminated in the last 16 against PSG in the Champions League. It can happen. "Are Chelsea are in a better place now? For sure, we worked two years and worked very hard to try to build something, to create a base. "I have to work very hard with my players, and it's for other people to see the situation, judge the situation, take the right evaluation after two years of work, and then understand which is now Chelsea's position is in the panoramic of football. "Now, probably, you can finish

fifth and start with a bit of an advantage compared to when you finish 10th."

### CONTE SPECULATION

Despite appearing to write off his side's top-four hopes, Conte will play his best available starting XI at Newcastle and will not consider resting players with the FA Cup final against Manchester United next Saturday in mind. Conte is adamant that the constant talk over his position at Stamford Bridge has not upset him and has caused no issues for his side on the back of last season's title success.

"I think I'm living with this speculation since the start of this season," he said. "My only thought is to do my job in the best possible way. This is my only worry. I think the time I start listening to the speculation about me, this is the moment I start to be worried." Conte expects to have goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois back available after his untimely absence from Wednesday's frustrating 1-1 draw against Huddersfield with a back injury. Newcastle are a side with little to play for but manager Rafael Benitez, a long-term rival of Conte's especially from their Italy days, will be keen to finish in style after a defeat at Tottenham in midweek. — AFP

## Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

<b>Liverpool v Brighton &amp; Hove Albion</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
<b>Manchester United v Watford</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Newcastle United v Chelsea</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
<b>Southampton v Manchester City</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
<b>Tottenham Hotspur v Leicester City</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 9	
<b>West Ham United v Everton</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
<b>Crystal Palace v West Bromwich Albion</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
<b>Burnley v Bournemouth</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	
<b>Huddersfield Town v Arsenal</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 11 EN	
<b>Swansea City v Stoke City</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	

### SPANISH LEAGUE

<b>Espanyol v Malaga</b>	17:15
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Levante v Barcelona</b>	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	




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Crusaders go top with stunning comeback, Sunwolves bag historic win



13

Swede Kokocinski wins maiden Asia Tour title in Dhaka



15

Thauvin strikes late to keep Marseille's top-three hopes alive





SHANGHAI: (from left) Reece Prescod of Great Britain , Xie Zhenye of China, Yoshihide Kiryu of Japan and Ramil Guliyev of Turkey compete during the men's 100m event of the IAAF Diamond League Shanghai athletics competition, in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

# Prescod beats Gatlin for shock 100m win

## Renaud Lavillenie and Sam Kendricks fail to materialise

SHANGHAI: Britain's Reece Prescod burst out of nowhere to upstage world champion Justin Gatlin and beat the wet weather to win a thrilling 100m on the line in Shanghai yesterday. Running unnoticed out in lane number nine, the unheralded 22-year-old grabbed a shock victory by a whisker from China's Su Bingtian with his time of 10.04sec, just 0.01sec shy of his personal best.

Su, who along with the home crowd thought he had retained his Diamond League Shanghai title, was second in 10.05sec, with fellow Chinese Xie Zhenye third. The American Gatlin was sluggish out of the blocks and came a disappointing seventh while Canadian speedster Andre De Grasse, working his way back from a long injury layoff, was down in eighth.

It was Prescod's first Diamond League triumph and the Briton said that while others toiled in the wet, he

relished it. "When I saw the rain tonight I thought, 'Yes!'" he said.

"I train in these conditions all the time in the East Midlands (of England), it suits me. "My expectations going in was that I knew I had it in me as long as I executed my race." In the men's 110m hurdles, Jamaica's reigning world and Olympic champion Omar McLeod was left praying for victory on the finishing line before he could celebrate a third Shanghai win in a row.

His time of 13.16sec was the joint fastest in the world this year and it had to be to pip Cuban-born Spaniard Orlando Ortega. McLeod said that his early season had been badly disrupted by various niggling injuries. "Today I was running on blind trust," said the 24-year-old, adding that he was "overcome with emotion". "It was great to come out here and complete the three-peat."

**KENDRICKS FLOPS**

In the men's pole vault a highly anticipated battle between France's world-record-holder Renaud Lavillenie and world champion Sam Kendricks of the United States failed to materialise.

On the eve of the Shanghai meet Kendricks had predicted "a dogfight", but in the event it was nothing of the sort, the American going out early after failing to clear 5.61m, well below his personal best of 6.0m. In hazy conditions and under occasional light showers that were to turn into heavy rain for the hurdles and 100m, Kendricks' disappointment opened the way for his friend and great rival Lavillenie to win on countback from Poland's Piotr Lisek, both clearing 5.81m.

The 25-year-old Kendricks refused to use the light rain at the time as an excuse, but said that he had been forced to hurry his warm-up. "Every vault competition

is its own challenge-here we had the rain, the new track, travelling so far," he told AFP.

"Everything was rushed," he said, detailing how the rain had hurt his chances. "The competition starts very quickly and everyone has to make decisions very fast. Usually I am good at this, but today it caught me off guard." Another world champion, Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands, displayed some early season rustiness as she came second in the women's 200m behind Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas, who won in a meeting-record 22.06sec. There was concern meanwhile for China's Shi Yuhao in the men's long jump. The 19-year-old lost the lead to South Africa's Luvo Manyonga and then appeared to badly hurt his ankle when landing before being stretchered out of a soggy Shanghai Stadium. Shanghai is the second stop in the Diamond League calendar. — AFP

## Froome slips again in Giro as fellow Briton Yates in pink

**MONTEVERGINE DI MERCOGLIANO:** Race favourite Chris Froome of Sky once again slipped on the eighth stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday as fellow Briton Simon Yates kept the overall leader's pink jersey. The Sky rider's rear wheel lost grip on a hairpin turn following a storm before the final climb 5.5km from the finish line to further dent the confidence of 32-year-old in a race he hasn't competed in since 2010. Froome got back on the saddle to finish in the leading group with Movistar's Richard Carapaz crossing the line alone to become the first Ecuadorian stage winner of the race.

It was the second stumble by Froome who also fell on the morning of the first stage in Jerusalem-again on his right side-before losing time in a nerve-wracking arrival at

Caltagirone on the fourth stage and suffering on the volcanic slopes of Mount Etna on the sixth stage.

To see him grimace as he crossed the line at the monastery of Montevergine di Mercogliano near Naples in pouring rain, it looked as if the seed of doubt had crept into the head of four-time Tour de France winner. Despite his mishaps, however, Froome remains within touching distance of Yates as he sits ninth 1min 10sec behind the Mitchelton rider.

By contrast Yates was the wearer of the pink jersey having controlled the situation during the long climb towards Montevergine, negotiating winding roads in sombre conditions through forests of beech and chestnut.

Carapaz-competing in his first Grand Tour race-made a well-timed break 1.4km from the line after over five hours of racing in the 209km run up through southern Italy from Praia a Mare. The 24-year-old held on despite the tricky conditions, finishing seven seconds ahead of a large chasing pack containing all favourites.

"I'm very happy and emotional. It's my first Grand Tour victory," said Carapaz, who is wearing the white jersey for the best young rider. "I had good legs from the bottom of the climb. I had to try from far out because I had little chance of winning a sprint. I chose the

right moment from 2km to go. "It's still a long way to Rome and I'm yet to understand what else I can achieve but this is already beautiful." Italy's Davide Formolo (Bora) finished second followed by France's Thibaut Pinot (FDJ), who crossed in third to move up in the overall standings to fourth, 41sec behind Yates. "I wanted to ride at the front because of the rain in the final," said Yates. "I would have liked to take some bonus seconds but I got a little boxed in. However, it's still a good day for us, I think. It was a slippery but it was okay."

Yates said he was feeling confident when asked if he could go all the way in this year's race. "I think so," said the 25-year-old from Manchester. "I feel really good and I just need some good luck. I have great teammates to help me do this so I don't see why not."

"Tomorrow will be a bit more difficult," added Yates of today's ninth stage which finishes at 2,135 metres altitude at Gran Sasso d'Italia with a gruelling 26.5km climb at Campo Imperatore, where Benito Mussolini was imprisoned in 1943.

The overall standings remained unchanged with defending champions Tom Dumoulin of the Netherlands remains second overall 16sec behind Yates with Colombian Esteban Chaves third 26sec off the pace. — AFP



MONTEVERGINE DI MERCOGLIANO: Ecuador's Richard Carapaz is kissed by hostesses as he celebrates on the podium after winning the 208 km eighth stage of the 101th Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, yesterday between Praia a Mare and Montevergine, Italy. — AFP



SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018

## 18 Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait recognized as 'Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait'



## 19 NBK highlights changes in UK taxations at seminar



## 21 Al-Sayer launches advanced 'SN Grade' fully synthetic Toyota & Lexus Oil



LONDON: Protesters march with placards and trades union banners during a demonstration organized by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) calling for a new deal for working people in central London yesterday. The TUC called for a national demonstration to demand an end to the government's austerity policies and better rights for all in the workplace. — AFP

# VIVA reports revenues of KD 77.6m for Q1

## Telecom operator records 13.9% growth in first quarter revenues

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the financial results for the first quarter ended on 31 March 2018; whereby VIVA's Revenues grew to reach KD 77.6 million recording a growth of 13.9 percent compared to the same period last year; whereas the net profit reached KD 11.6 million during the first quarter in 2018. These results reflect VIVA's focus on achieving superior customer experience, high quality of services, innovative promotions and packages offered to its customers to meet their needs and expectations, inspired by our customer's confidence which motivates us to provide the best services with the highest possible quality.

Commenting on the Q1-2018 financial results, Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman, VIVA's Chairman said: "Despite the high competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti Telecom Market, VIVA was able to achieve profitability and sustain the operational efficiency to ensure generating positive return to our shareholders. VIVA achieved these results due to an integrated management approach

by a highly professional team that reinforces VIVA's substantial and positive role as a leading telecommunications company that always provides intelligent communications solutions to satisfy the needs of its customers and meet their needs."

## Net profits reach KD 11.6m in Q1 2018



achieve positive earnings for its shareholders as a result of the commitment to elevate the quality of customer service and improving the operational efficiency".

On his part, Eng Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, VIVA's CEO said: "Results of Q1-2018 came in line with VIVA goals and boundless ambitions to achieve an increase in its operational revenues and strengthen its leadership in the telecom market. It is noteworthy to men-

He added: "VIVA was able to achieve Revenue of KD 77.6 million during the Q1- 2018 compared to Revenues of KD 68.1 million during Q1-2017. These results achieved by VIVA during the first quarter of 2018 reflect the efficient business strategy adopted by the company to achieve outstanding results despite of the increasing competition. Also, VIVA managed to

that VIVA won recently "Best Network Development Award" by 5G MENA, "Speedtest Award Winner 2017 - Kuwait's Fastest Mobile Network" by Ookla, and it is pioneer in the middle east in providing the latest products and services to its customers among telecom operators in the middle east region, and achieved successfully the establishment of the first Voice Over LTE (VoLTE) interconnection in the Middle East and North Africa region in partnership with local networks, which fosters its leadership in providing the latest technology that will enable customers to exchange information and communicate at higher speeds."

Al-Badran added: "VIVA has achieved good levels of profitability which improved the company's financial and operational efficiency. As a result, VIVA recorded higher revenues of KD 77.6 million during Q1-2018 and achieved net profit of KD 11.6 million (earnings per share of 23 fils) as compared to revenue of KD 68.1 million and profit of KD 11.6 million (earnings per share of 23 fils) recorded during Q1-2017. VIVA achieved an EBITDA of KD 18 Million during the Q1- 2018 compared to EBITDA of KD 17.6 million during Q1-2017. On the other hand, VIVA customer base has reached 2.32 million at the end March, 2018.

On his part, Mohammed Bin AbdulMohsen Al-Assaf, VIVA's CFO, said: "VIVA's financial results reflected its ability to compete, sustained revenues and maintain its position as the second largest telecom operator in the



Eng Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran



Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman

Kuwaiti market in term of revenues in the telecom sector. VIVA is proud to announce that we're fully compliant with new IFRS standards namely 15 & 9 effective 1st January 2018 with full retrospective approach. This will assist the investor community for better comparability and transparency of the financial figures. He added: "We will continue our hard work in implementing our strategy to maintain our competitive edge and achieve further growth and success in the Kuwaiti telecom market through offering innovative products and services in line with the latest technology to meet our customers' needs."

## Russian companies to benefit from US Iran withdrawal

MOSCOW: While Russia has condemned Washington for its withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, Moscow remains less exposed to the economic consequences of US sanctions than Europe and its companies could even benefit from the move. "The deal and the lifting of sanctions in 2015 marked the return of European business to Iran. But it's unlikely they can keep doing business today, giving room to Russia," said independent political scientist Vladimir Sotnikov.

"Russia can now go ahead at full speed," he added. Russia and Iran once had difficult relations, but have seen ties improve since the end of the Cold War.

While Tehran was shunned by the international community in the 1990s, Moscow agreed to resume the construction of the Bushehr Iranian nuclear plant that Germany had abandoned.

Russia and Iran sought to strengthen their business ties long before the 2015 agreement, despite international sanctions in place. "European companies are more exposed to the US market, they must comply not to get into trouble. The Russians are less (exposed) and have less to lose," said Igor Delanoe, an analyst at the Franco-Russian Observatory group.

He added that Russian companies continued to work in Iran "without any fuss" even when the sanctions were in place. "They are used to working within legal and economic constraints. The US has systematically forced Iran to turn more towards Russia

and China." The situation could revitalize Russian-Iranian economic ties that have been losing ground in recent years despite the involvement of Russian nuclear and oil giants in the Middle Eastern country. According to Delanoe, bilateral trade amounted to \$1.7 billion in 2017, down 20 percent from the previous year and well below the more than \$3 billion in the late 2000s.

### Moscow 'is not scared'

On a visit to Tehran on Thursday, Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov said the two countries intended to continue "all round economic cooperation."

"We are not scared of sanctions," Ryabkov said. This echoes statements from China, which has also said it wanted to continue normal business ties with Iran and is currently financing multi billion dollar infrastructure and electricity projects in the country.

"Russia wants to sell steel, transport infrastructure and other manufactured goods to Iran. The less competition from the US and the EU, the better," said Charlie Robertson, an analyst at Renaissance Capital. Igor Delanoe said that Russia had a "real role to play" in Iran's energy and electricity sectors.

Another positive sign for the Russian economy is the rise in oil prices, which rose to their highest level since 2014 after the US withdrawal from the Iran deal. Analysts at Russia's Alfa Bank said the current tensions should maintain oil prices at a high level, which they called a "great relief for the Russian market." For the Russian state, whose finances remain highly dependent on natural resources, this is a significant source of income at a time when President Vladimir Putin is beginning his fourth Kremlin term with promises of developing Russia's economy and reducing poverty. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev assessed the cost of Putin's long term goals at more than 100 billion euros. — AFP

## Kuwait to host 107th meeting of GCC financial committee

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ministry of Finance announces the hosting of the 107th Meeting of the GCC Financial and Economic Committee in Kuwait on the 14th of May 2018 (tomorrow).

The meeting will be attended by the Ministers of Finance and Economics of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and attended by the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, and under the chairmanship of the Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf.

In a statement on the occasion Dr. Nayef F Al-Hajraf said "Kuwait is honored to host this important meeting as part of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's unhindered commitment to the GCC economic integration and to highlight the milestones accomplished over the past 37 years. Holding this meeting in Kuwait demonstrates the keen interest of the six brotherly nations in working together towards renewed economic integration and the amalgamation of fiscal policy."

On the agenda are several issues related to GCC joint economic action to be discussed and

reviewed including amendments proposed by the Industrial Cooperation Committee on the control of tariff exemptions on imports of reinforcing steel and iron sheets and Saudi Arabia's proposal to expand the scope of goods covered by the GCC excise tax.

The Committee meeting will be held in Kuwait City tomorrow and will be preceded by the 53th Meeting of the Committee of Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Finance and Economy of the GCC.

The meeting builds on the success of the 106th Meeting of the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation held in Bahrain on 4 May 2017, which the appropriate mechanisms for the implementation of the two unified conventions on value added (VAT) and excise tax and the development of ports in a manner that enables it to meet the requirements of the GCC customs union, in line with the latest international customs practices.



Minister of Finance Dr Nayef F Al-Hajraf



# Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait recognized as ‘Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait’

Banker Middle East honor for third consecutive year



**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), was awarded the ‘Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait’ at the 19th Banker Middle East Industry Awards 2018. The award was presented in Dubai on 3rd May 2018, at the Ritz Carlton in DIFC, where Abdullah Alsumait, Deputy Chief General Manager of ABK and Fawzy Althunayan, General Manager of Board Affairs received the award on behalf of the Bank.

ABK was awarded the ‘Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait based on the financial analysis that culminated in the publication of the annual BME100 index of regional financial institutions, using metrics derived from published financial data, along with product and technology innovation. The Bank have invested heavily in technology over the past 18 months with the imple-

mentation of a new core banking system, and going forward, will continue to evolve their digital banking proposition and reinforce digitization as a strategic pillar for continued growth.

Alongside the award for Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait, Khaled El Salawy, CEO & Managing Director of ABK - Egypt was also named ‘Banker of the Year’.

Launched in 1999, the Banker Middle East Industry Awards was organized by CPI Financial and celebrate the best of the banking and financial services in the Middle East. The categories and nominees were selected by an expert judging panel and winners were determined based on votes cast by the readership of Banker Middle East and the 75,000 registered users of [www.cpifinancial.net](http://www.cpifinancial.net).

## With an eye on the sky, Costa Rica’s farmers harvest rain

**HOJANCHA, Costa Rica:** Farmers everywhere know water means life, and a lack of it can spell ruin. In Hojancha, a canton that lies about 130 kilometers (80 miles) west of the Costa Rican capital San Jose, cattle farmer Manuel Rojas understands that as well as anyone.

Normally by this time of year, he said, his small herd of 30 cattle would be desperate for water. Not any longer. “Now they have it there easily,” he said, pointing to a full drinking trough.

What changed? Last month Rojas installed a rain-water harvest system that, as the name suggests, captures rainwater and stores it in an evaporation-proof, 1,000-cubic-metre tank.

It is one of the country’s first such systems. Its inverted pyramid structure stores 1 million liters of water, enough to last four months if used carefully. “We hope that this system can help us maintain production throughout the whole year, and not only when it rains,” he said.

Hojancha lies in Guanacaste province, a region on the Pacific coast that is particularly prone to drought, especially during the intense summer months.

This area has few rivers, said Oscar Vasquez, the provincial director at the ministry of agriculture, who was at Rojas’ farm for a ceremony marking the system’s installation. “I do not see another way (than this). Water comes only from the sky,” he said. Despite the need for it, though, capturing rain is in its infancy in Costa Rica, he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, in part because people do not know about the technology.

But there are other reasons, Vasquez said: it is cost-

ly to set up, and there is not enough clarity about the law covering rainwater harvesting. Both factors lower the economic incentives for farmers to invest.

### Helping hand

A system like the one Rojas installed costs about \$12,000, a sum that, in practice, is unaffordable for farmers like him. It consists of a network of gutters that captures rain from the roof of his barn and directs it to the tank. From there a pump distributes it to the troughs, an irrigation system for grazing, and another that cleans the barn housing the cattle.

Rojas’s system was financed through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, with the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) helping to design and install it.

FAO program assistant Diego Fallas said it is hard for farmers to get financing for green solutions like rainwater harvesting as the existence of such systems is largely unknown.

“Access to green financing is important, for example. These are actions that adapt producers to climate change, and green financing should make this type of technology more accessible to producers,” Fallas said. The FAO wants to encourage more farmers in the drought-prone Guanacaste region to consider rainwater harvesting, said Octavio Ramirez, FAO country head, during the ceremony at Rojas’ farm. Doing so would help farmers deal with the effects of climate change, said Fallas, by creating a water reserve to supply their farm’s needs during drought.

### More challenges

The FAO focuses on Guanacaste because it lies in Central America’s “Dry Corridor”, one of the regions whose agriculture the agency regards as being more vulnerable to rising temperatures.

The area is also exposed to extreme events such as El Nino, said hydrologist Alejandra Rojas (who is not related to Manuel Rojas) from the University of Costa Rica. — Reuters

## Trump urges automakers to build more vehicles in US

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump on Friday pressed automakers to build more vehicles in the United States and launched a fresh attack on the North American Free Trade Agreement that has benefited them, while the companies urged him to work with California to keep nationwide US vehicle emissions standards.

CEOs or senior executives from 10 US and foreign automakers met with Trump for about an hour at the White House as the Transportation Department considers loosening federal fuel efficiency and pollution standards implemented under Democratic former President Barack Obama.

Afterward, two major auto industry trade groups said in a joint statement that Trump expressed an “openness to a discussion with California on an expedited basis.” California and 16 other states covering about 40 percent of the US population sued last week to block the Trump administration’s efforts to weaken the fuel efficiency requirements. A US Transportation Department draft proposal would freeze these requirements at 2020 levels through 2026, rather than allowing them to increase as previously planned. The Trump administration is expected to formally unveil the proposal later this month or in June.

The chief executives of General Motors Co, Ford Motor Co and Fiat Chrysler, along with senior US executives from Toyota Motor Corp, Volkswagen AG, Hyundai Motor Co, Nissan Motor Co, Honda Motor Co, BMW AG and Daimler AG met with Trump, as did the heads of the two trade groups.

“We’re really talking about environmental (controls), CAFE standards, and manufacturing of millions of more cars within the United States,” Trump, known for his “America First” policies, said at the top of the meeting, referring to the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards for cars and light trucks in the United States.

“We’re importing a lot of cars, and we want a lot of those cars to be made in the United States,” Trump added, specifically mentioning Michigan,

Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Automakers want the White House and California to reach an agreement on maintaining national standards, fearing a prolonged legal battle could leave the companies facing two different sets of rules - and the state level and nationally - and extended uncertainty.

Much of the hour-long meeting focused on NAFTA and other trade issues, with Trump blasting the pact with Canada and Mexico. “We’re renegotiating it now. We’ll see what happens,” Trump said, adding that Mexico and Canada “don’t like to lose the golden goose.”

“But NAFTA has been a horrible, horrible disaster for this country, and we’ll see if we can make it reasonable,” the Republican president added.

Automakers have called NAFTA a success, allowing them to integrate production throughout North America and make production competitive with Asia and Europe. They have noted the increase in auto production over the past two decades with NAFTA in place, and have warned that changing it too much could prompt some companies to move production out of the United States.

Major automakers reiterated this week they do not support freezing fuel efficiency requirements but said they want new flexibility and rule changes to address lower gasoline prices and the shift in U.S. consumer preferences to bigger, less fuel-efficient vehicles.

### ‘Fully supportive’

Fiat Chrysler Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne, whose company is shifting production of Ram heavy-duty pickup trucks from Mexico to Michigan in 2020, told Reuters before the meeting his company is “fully supportive” of Trump’s efforts to revise the mileage rules and hoped for “an agreed way forward.”

NAFTA changes proposed by Trump’s administration would not require Fiat Chrysler to end production in Mexico but rather to “redirect” exports of Mexican-built vehicles to other global markets, Marchionne added. Marchionne said he still hopes the administration will reach a deal with California to maintain nationwide standards and said Trump is an ideal negotiator to get an agreement.

Noting that automakers want a deal with California, Democratic US Senator Tom Carper said, “Our businessman and self-proclaimed ‘dealmaker’ president should be able to take yes for an answer and help us secure a win-win solution that is well within reach.” —Reuters

## Unauthorized transfers siphon funds from Mexican banks: CB

**MEXICO CITY:** An as yet unknown amount of funds were sucked out of at least five Mexican financial groups through “unauthorized transfers” in recent days, a top central bank official said on Friday, while stopping short of calling it a cyberattack.

Lorenza Martinez, head of Banxico’s payment system, told Reuters that it was still unclear how much money had been fraudulently transferred and she refrained from naming the affected institutions, which could include banks and brokers.

“These unauthorized transfers were originated in the system that connects the institutions to the payment system,” Martinez said in a telephone interview, noting

that banks had to migrate to an alternate, slower technology to process payments.

Slow interbank transfers since the end of April and terse statements by authorities have fed concerns in social media that Latin America’s second biggest economy could be the latest victim of cyberattacks that have hit central banks and financial groups around the world. Martinez said that the central bank’s SPEI interbank transfer system was not compromised but that the problem had to do with software developed by institutions or third-party providers to connect to the payment system.

Mexico’s SPEI system is a domestic network similar to the SWIFT global messaging system that moves trillions of dollars each day. Hackers have used SWIFT connections to target banks around the world, but the Brussels-based company has not disclosed the number of attacks. Martinez refrained from calling the incidents in Mexico a cyberattack. “At this time, we cannot reject any hypothesis,” she said. “It was something done on purpose, but how it was done, we are in the process of finding out.” Martinez said that no clients had been affected since the transfers hit accounts of financial institutions in the central bank. The funds had been wired to accounts that appeared to be false, she said. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.806
Indian Rupees	4.630
Pakistani Rupees	2.602
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.933
Nepali Rupees	2.902
Singapore Dollar	230.250
Hongkong Dollar	38.311
Bangladesh Taka	3.593
Philippine Peso	5.793
Thai Baht	9.679

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.210
Qatari Riyal	82.644
Omani Riyal	781.445
Bahraini Dinar	798.990
UAE Dirham	81.946

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	0.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.039
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.208
Tunisian Dinar	126.080
Jordanian Dinar	423.910
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.005
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	33.227

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	300.700
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Euro	371.670
Sterling Pound	426.390
Canadian dollar	238.080
Turkish lira	74.520
Swiss Franc	315.860
Australian Dollar	234.090
US Dollar Buying	299.500

#### GOLD

20 Gram	260.520
10 Gram	133.180
5 Gram	67.430

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.190
Canadian Dollar	233.955
Sterling Pound	410.280
Euro	359.600
Swiss Franc	305.900
Bahraini Dinar	803.635
UAE Dirhams	82.680
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.480
Jordanian Dinar	427.500
Egyptian Pound	17.133
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.918
Indian Rupees	4.496
Pakistani Rupees	2.611
Bangladesh Taka	3.619
Philippines Peso	5.817
Cyprus pound	17.985

Japanese Yen	3.755
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.809
Malaysian Ringgit	76.640
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.880
Thai Bhat	10.410
Turkish Lira	70.200

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.404761	0.412261
Czech Korune	0.006180	0.015480
Danish Krone	0.044498	0.049498
Euro	0.356375	0.363875
Georgian Lari	0.138463	0.138463
Hungarian 0.001140	0.001330	
Norwegian Krone	0.033879	0.039079
Romanian Leu	0.064731	0.081581
Russian ruble	0.004908	0.004908
Slovakia	0.009013	0.019013
Swedish Krona	0.031239	0.036239
Swiss Franc	0.296303	0.307303
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.220350	0.232350
New Zealand Dollar	0.204993	0.214493
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.231282	0.240282
US Dollars	0.298450	0.302850
US Dollars Mint	0.298950	0.302850

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003007	0.003789
Chinese Yuan	0.046261	0.049761
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036798	0.039548
Indian Rupee	0.003860	0.004587
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002686	0.002866
Korean Won	0.000273	0.000288
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072807	0.078907
Nepalese Rupee	0.002728	0.003068
Pakistan Rupee	0.001954	0.002724
Philippine Peso	0.005641	0.005941
Singapore Dollar	0.221563	0.231563
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001618	0.002198
Taiwan	0.010381	0.010561
Thai Baht	0.009176	0.009726
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795739	0.804239
Egyptian Pound	0.014572	0.020290
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264
Jordanian Dinar	0.422118	0.431118
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022301	0.046301
Omani Riyal	0.779526	0.785206
Qatar Riyal	0.078813	0.083753
Saudi Riyal	0.079593	0.080893
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.117206	0.125206
Turkish Lira	0.066413	0.076713
UAE Dirhams	0.080948	0.082648
Yemeni Riyal	0.000983	0.001063



Business

# NBK highlights changes in UK taxations, London's residential property outlook

## Bank hosts world experts in taxation and real estate investment

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait organized a seminar for its customers titled "London Residential Property: Important Taxation Changes and Outlook." It dealt with UK taxation changes and the latest developments in the London residential property with participation by two world experts from two leading European companies in this field.

Robert Blower, partner in the law firm Charles Russel, and Lucian Cook, head of the real estate research department in the international firm Savills, made a detailed presentation on the London residential property market outlook and the impact of the recent taxation changes on investors.

At the beginning of the seminar, Isam Jassem Al-Sager, CEO of the NBK Group welcomed the guests, affirming the bank's keenness to organize such specialized seminars, hosting leading world experts, aiming to provide its customers with the latest developments and changes in world markets.

Al-Sager emphasized the significance of this seminar given the challenges the UK residential property market has been facing lately, stressing that the real estate sector, and the residential property in particular, is highly attractive because it is one of the leading investment destinations in the world. It is the most attractive of world capitals for investors wishing to own property.

Al-Sager added: "Given the importance of talking about taxation changes, in particular the real estate taxation changes which affect every investor, the NBK decided to highlight the most important of these developments. It hosted experts representing leading firms in the European market which can present a clear picture of the present status of this sector and discuss the impact of the taxation changes adopted recently."

Al-Sager explained that this seminar shows the NBK keenness on continuous communication with its customers and keeping them informed about the latest developments in various economic and investment developments. It also reflect its commitment to utilize its capabilities and its vast network of branches in 16 countries around the world to offer its customers the best and the most exclusive and innovative services.

**NBK Real Estate Services**  
The NBK-London General Manager

Fawzi Al-Dajani explained the importance of this seminar after the changes and challenges facing the investment in the UK, in addition to its pivots and the participating guests. He highlighted their vast experience in the legal and real estate fields and their vital status within the leading and deep-rooted European firms in this field, which possess the necessary qualifications to predict major real estate indicators in coming years.

Al-Dajani spoke about the pivots of the seminar which was in two parts: in the first, Lucian Cook elaborated on the trends and expectations concerning the London real estate market given the taxation changes and Brexit; in the second, Robert Blower explained the most important taxation changes on the UK residential properties.

Al-Dajani explained the NBK comprehensive real estate services it provides in London and the rising customer demand for them due to their quality and competitiveness. He stressed that the NBK takes account in its real estate services the needs of the customers and is keen on providing them with flexibility and ease.

### Reality and Outlook

In his presentation on the performance of the prime Central London residential property market, Mr. Lucian Cook, Head of Research in Savills said: "The total value of the UK residential Market was £7.14 trillion, up by £2.1 trillion in the last five years."

He added that in spite of slowing growth, house prices are forecast to increase by 14% over the next five years. Meanwhile, North West England, and Manchester in particular, are expected to show the strongest performance over the same period. Cook said that in Central London the average annual growth of house prices was 5.7% higher than the rate of inflation between 1979 and 2014. He expressed his belief that the prime Central London residential market offers a buying opportunity due to the price changes over the last three years.

### Taxation Changes in the UK

Robert Blower, partner in the law firm Charles Russel talked about the recent taxation changes in the UK. He made a presen-

tation on the taxation system for UK residential property after the changes introduced in the last few years.

Blower said that residential properties are subject to various taxes such as Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT), Capital Gains Tax (CGT), Income Tax, annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings owned by offshore companies (ATED) and Inheritance Tax.

He explained that the SDLT applies to buying any property, residential or commercial, with lower rates for purchases of commercial properties.

The CGT applies to any profit realized from selling a residential property. For UK non-residents the tax applies to any increase in value after April 6, 2015. It does not currently apply to commercial property.

As for residential properties owned by companies, Blower said: "the firms pay an annual tax if the property is used as a private residence. The tax on residential property owned by offshore firms is not applicable to residential properties lent to third parties."

Blower added that the Inheritance tax applies only on assets owned by non-residents in the UK. From April 2017 the tax became applicable on the value of any residential property owned by non-UK company. He pointed out an important exemption



**Al-Sager: UK real estate sector is highly attractive**

for non-UK residents who have cash deposits in UK banks. Those do not attract Inheritance Tax if they are not resident in the country.

He noted that the taxation for residential properties owned by non-UK residents has become complex and tax advice should be sought when purchasing because mistakes could be expensive and lead to unnecessary payment of taxes.

**NBK-London Real Estate Services:**  
\* Selling and buying of real estate:



Isam Jassem Al-Sager, CEO of NBK group



Fawzi Al-Dajani, NBK-London General Manager

assisting in finding the suitable property or offering the present property for sale at competitive prices through the banks connections with a number of trusted real estate agencies.

- Property evaluation: through a number of real estate experts who present the appropriate evaluation of the property offer for sale or buying.
- Legal Consultation: assigning lawyers to finalize all legal procedures relating to the sale or buying of the property.
- Insuring the property and its contents: providing insurance cover on possible damages to the property and its contents, therefore saving effort and expenses.
- Bill settlement: including on-time settlement on behalf of the customer on all regular bills such as electricity, water, gas and telephone during the customer's absence.
- Keeping property deeds: keeping all documents relating to the property and its ownership as well as the property spare keys in a special box.
- Property expenses statements: providing upon request detailed statement showing the property expenses for a certain period.
- Free property ownership or extending ownership contract: assigning a lawyer to supervise and finalize the buying of the free ownership rights, extending the ownership contract, cancelling or adding an individual

to the property ownership register.

### NBK's annual seminar

The NBK organizes this seminar annually, to deal periodically with the London real estate outlook, with the aim of communicating with its customers and keeping them informed of the latest developments in the UK and of the major changes in the real estate field.

The NBK hosts in this seminar prominent economic personalities representing leading European firms in this field which possess the expertise to predict the property market outlook and trends in the coming years. This seminar is organized in view of the London property market's attractiveness to investors and its being a major investment destination in the world.

The NBK organized over the last few years several conferences and seminars dealing with the outlook for international markets and the investment trends of various economic sectors. It also participates annually in several economic events and forums to discuss the challenges and the paths of growth and development.

The external NBK branches in London and Paris offer a comprehensive variety of real estate services to the customers wishing to invest in residential and commercial properties, to assist those looking for investments in or ownership of properties, offering them the necessary funding and finalizing their procedures quickly and easily.



**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait holds seminar titled "London Residential Property: Important Taxation Changes and Outlook."



**KUWAIT:** Robert Blower, partner in the law firm Charles Russel, and Lucian Cook, head of the real estate research department in the international firm Savills are co-chaired by Fawzi Al-Dajani, NBK-London General Manager.





BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

# Boursa Kuwait equities rally amid renewed optimism

## Three indices eke out gains on random purchasing

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Premier Market Index closed at 4,797.28 points, up by 0.11 percent, the Main Market Index increased by 1.43 percent after closing at 4,884.25 points, whereas the All-Share Index closed at 4,828.63 points up by 0.58 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 20.14 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 9.34 million, whereas trading volume average was 61.32 million shares, recording a decrease of 9.84 percent.

Boursa Kuwait witnessed a positive performance during the last week that enabled it to realize grouped gains for its three indices, whereas it received support from the random purchasing

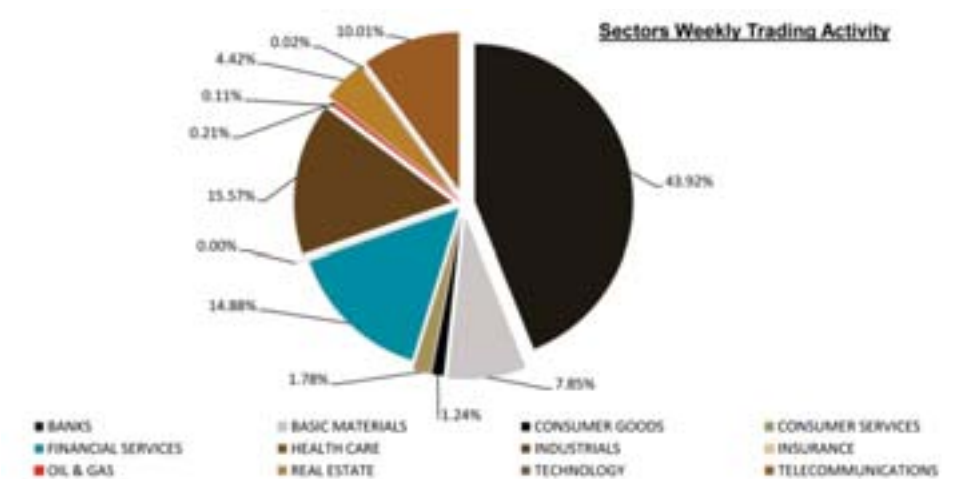
operations that included many listed stocks, especially the leading and operational ones, which positively reflected on the Premier Market Index to transfer to the green zone after the losses it recorded in the previous week. Also, the All-Share and the Main Market indices were able to record weekly increase supported by the quick speculative operations on some small-cap stocks. The market witnessed such performance amid a decreased trading activity compared to the preceding week, where the total cash liquidity dropped to reach KD 46.71 million, down by 20.14 percent, and the total volume of the traded stocks during the last week reached around 306.59 million stock, down by 9.84 percent compared to the previous week.

Moreover, the Boursa realized weekly gains of around KD 430 million, as its market capitalization reached by the end of last week around KD 26.40 billion against KD 25.97 billion in the previous week, with a growth of 1.66 percent. The Boursa market cap losses contracted, since the beginning of the Market Segmentation Phase, to reach about KD 1.45 billion, down by 5.22 percent. (Note: The market capitalization for the listed companies in the Market is calculated based on the weighted average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial statements).

On the contrary, the Boursa is still witnessing a watch state for the listed companies' results for the first quarter of the current year, amid fears from the possibility of the inability of some companies to disclose within the disclosure period, especially in light of its delay in announcing its results, despite that the legal disclosure period is about to end at mid of the current month. In addition, the number of the companies that disclosed its results until the end of last week reached 59 company, out of 175 listed company in the Market, with a net profit estimated at KD 409.16 million, and up by 7.14 percent compared to the same companies' results for the same period of last year, where it reached then KD 381.89 million. Last week witnessed a trading over 150 stock out of 175 stock listed in the Market, where prices of 56 stock increased against prices of 85 stock decreased, and prices of 34 stock remained at no change.

### Sectors' Indices

Seven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, four recorded decreases, whereas the Health Care index's closed with



### Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 113.25 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 36.97 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 20.83 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 63.82 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 20.51 million or 43.92 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Industrial sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 7.27 million representing 15.57 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

## WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP

## Dollar eases, stocks climb amid benign US inflation

**NEW YORK:** The US dollar eased on Friday while an index of global stock performance gained and was poised for its best week since early March, as moderate inflation eased worries about a faster pace of US interest rate hikes and boosted risk appetite.

The dollar fell for a third day against a basket of major currencies as traders booked recent gains, which were tied to widening interest rate gaps in favor of the United States and signs of slower growth elsewhere in the world. Gold posted its first weekly gain in four weeks after soft US inflation data on Thursday suggested the Federal Reserve would show caution as it tightens monetary policy by raising rates. Oil prices slipped but remained near 3-1/2 year highs as the prospect of new US sanctions against Iran might reduce Middle East supply at a time when global crude pro-

duction is just keeping pace with rising demand.

US stocks gained as healthcare shares rallied even after President Donald Trump blasted drugmakers and healthcare "middlemen" for making prescription drugs unaffordable for Americans. Trump also said the pharmaceutical industry makes an "absolute fortune" at the expense of taxpayers.

The S&P healthcare index rose 1.47 percent as it became clear the Trump administration had avoided taking aggressive and direct measures to cut drug prices. The market is responding to exceptionally strong earnings growth and benign inflation, said Leo Grohowski, chief investment officer at BNY Mellon Wealth Management in New York.

The Cboe Volatility Index, a barometer of expected near-term volatility for the S&P 500 that often is referred to as Wall Street's fear gauge, has fallen to levels last seen before the February market correction, he said.

"Not only has the market returned handsomely, but risk has also taken a breather," Grohowski said.

MSCI's gauge of stock markets across the globe rose 0.42 percent to advance 2.1 percent for the week, its best weekly gain since early March. European shares edged higher. The pan-regional STOXX 600 index of com-

panies in 17 countries closed up 0.11 percent for a seventh straight week of gains, the longest string of weekly advances since March 2015.

Shares in Daily Mail and General Trust (DMGT) rose 1.3 percent, having jumped as much as 9.4 percent, after US private equity firm Silver Lake Management Co agreed to buy ZPG, the owner of British property websites Zoopla and Primelocation, for \$3 billion.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 91.64 points, or 0.37 percent, to 24,831.17. The S&P 500 gained 4.65 points, or 0.17 percent, to 2,727.72 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 2.09 points, or 0.03 percent, to 7,402.88. For the week, the S&P 500 rose 2.4 percent, the Dow gained 2.3 percent and Nasdaq added 2.7 percent.

US plans to reintroduce sanctions against Iran, which pumps about 4 percent of the world's oil, have buoyed crude prices. US crude fell 66 cents to settle at \$70.70 per barrel and Brent settled down 45 cents at \$77.12. The dollar index fell 0.11 percent, with the euro up 0.23 percent to \$1.194. The Japanese yen firmed 0.06 percent versus the greenback at 109.32 per dollar.

Central bankers around the world have turned more cautious as inflation and world trade concerns cloud the global economy. On



Thursday, the Bank of England held rates steady and New Zealand's Reserve Bank said the official cash rate will remain at 1.75 percent for "some time."

That leaves the Fed as the only major central bank committed to rate increases, but

Thursday's moderate inflation reading cast doubt over the pace of any hikes. Benchmark 10-year US Treasury notes were little changed in price to yield 2.9695 percent. US gold futures for June delivery settled down \$1.60 at \$1,320.70 per ounce. — Reuters

## Turkish Airlines' 'Troia' themed aircraft is now in the sky

**KUWAIT:** Following the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced 2018 as "The Year of Troia", that coincides with the 20th anniversary of the admission of the archaeological site of Troia to UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List, various introductory activities continue to be conducted on a global scale to promote the region during the whole year.

Turkish Airlines, flies to 302 destinations in 121 countries as the only airline reaches to more international flight points in the world, supports to the promotion activities of "The Year of Troia" with its "Troia" themed aircraft. This aircraft, that introduced to the press with a special event in the Hangar of Turkish Technic Inc., will contribute to the promotion of the "The Year of



Troia" through its worldwide flights. "As the flag carrier airline of Turkey, we place great importance on promoting our country and our values. The Trojan, which dates back to 3000 BC, is one of the unique civilizations of Anatolia with its history that was the subject of many epics. We're honored to contribute to the introduction of "Troia" with our Troia themed aircraft at many worldwide destinations that we serve. We're inviting the global community to see "Troia", and to our fascinating country which hosts many more epics such as "Troia" in its rich history," said M Ilker Ayci, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, in his speech at the launch ceremony.

Located near the village of Tevfikiye in the province of Canakkale, Troy is one of the most famous ancient cities in the world. Anatolia has always played a very important role in terms of commercial and cultural connections with other regions due to its unique location on the geography of the Aegean and Balkans. Troy, which had been destroyed and rebuilt 9 times for various reasons, is regarded as a reference for other archaeological sites both in Europe and Aegean with its 3,000 year history and excavations are still being carried out in this magnificent archaeological city.





## Business

# Al-Sayer launches advanced 'SN Grade' fully synthetic Toyota & Lexus Genuine Motor Oil

## New spirit of genuine quality



Al-Sayer members with Idemitsu guests



Group spare-parts team



Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer



**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Group Spare Division, a subsidiary of Al-Sayer Holding held an event at their auditorium in Ardiya to launch new and advanced fully synthetic SN grade of Toyota Genuine Motor Oil and Lexus Genuine Motor Oil.

The event was attended by Faisal Bader Al-Sayer, Chairman, Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO, Bengt Schultz COO of Al-Sayer Holding, Desmond Lew Business Director Group Parts and Group Logistics, Saied Shurafa Deputy GM Parts and Accessories sales, Ryota Takizawa Managing Director, Jun Kobayashi Deputy Managing Director, Ganesan Mahadevan General Manager and accompanying delegation from Idemitsu, distinguished customers, representatives of the press and media along with employees from Group Spare Parts & Service division.

Speaking during the occasion Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer said "let me express our gratitude to all our valued customers for the trust and loyalty on Toyota and Lexus Genuine Products. We have "no compromise" approach for customer satisfaction - fulfilled by best products and services, delivering outstanding customer experience that has been and will always be our differ-

entiating factor. We will continue to collaborate with local authorities in order to stop the movement of non-genuine products spreading the local market - all to ensure the best for our customers at all times."

"The reputation and reliability of our genuine spare parts as viewed and valued by our customers is based on its high quality standards, durability and performance. It is designed perfectly to meet Toyota and Lexus vehicles specifications, needs and requirements. Each and every part is designed to meet the highest and most stringent standards," commented Bengt Schultz.

### Genuine lubricants and specialist products

Toyota Genuine Motor Oil SN 5W-30 and Lexus Genuine Motor Oil SN 5W-40 are the latest fully synthetic motor oil approved by Toyota Motor Corporation Japan:

- Latest oil to meet API SN standard
- Excellent performance on all weather conditions
- Improved acceleration performance
- Longer engine life
- Superior protection against sludge and piston deposit

- High fluidity at low temperature and excellent cold start
- Environment friendly

"Over the years Al-Sayer continued to provide better customer service by offering high quality genuine Spare Parts through our ever expanding network of exclusive spare parts outlets. Today our Genuine Motor Oil is available via Al-Sayer's 16 retail outlets, oil distributors, co-ops, and auto repair shops, to ensure easy access and convenience for our customers," commented Desmond Lew.

Ryota Takizawa during his speech presented an overview about global business operations of Idemitsu and mentioned that advanced Genuine Motor oil are engineered for Toyota & Lexus Vehicles. Ganesan Mahadevan of Idemitsu administered a technical presentation to showcase the functions and advantages of Genuine Motor Oil for the audience. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Saied Shurafa.

At Al-Sayer actions are inspired by the core values of Heritage, Leadership and Growth - placing



customer first. This is our strategic focus as customer satisfaction is the main driver of our business. Going forward aims to move closer to our customers, so our expansion plans to build more facilities are progressive, in addition to the provision of all types of sales and after sales services through our wide network of service and spare parts outlets around Kuwait.

## NREC holds its 47th AGM

**KUWAIT:** The National Real Estate Company (NREC), one of the leading real estate companies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), held its 47th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders (AGM) yesterday in Kuwait. The Assembly approved all the items on the agenda including the Auditors' Report and the Board of Directors' Report on the company's activities and financial position for the Financial Year ending on December 31, 2017. The shareholders also approved the Board of Directors recommendation to distribute 10 percent bonus shares for the financial year ending on December 31st, 2017.

NREC Vice Chairman & CEO, Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, said: "2017 was a very active year on many fronts. We have

crossed important milestones in our two largest projects, Grand Heights in Egypt and Reem Mall in Abu Dhabi - UAE. Both projects are progressing well and in line with expectations. We continued to steadily improve and strengthen our balance sheet, with good results to date. Looking forward 2018 will be a year where NREC continues to focus on asset repositioning and debt reduction. With a stated objective of reducing leverage to below KD 100 Million. This objective along with the execution of our ongoing projects, is an essential first step towards restoring regular cash dividend payments to shareholders."

### FY 2017 financial highlights:

Operating revenue: KD38.5 million, up 13.6 percent from 2016  
EBITDA: KD13.9 million, down 29 percent from 2016  
Net profit to shareholders: KD10.6 million, down 34.3 percent from 2016  
Basic earnings Per Share (EPS) of 11.29 fils  
Total assets of KD508.3 million; decreased by KD19.8 million from December 2016



KUWAIT: NREC Vice Chairman &amp; CEO, Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa addresses the AGM

## KGL renews its partnership with Sharjah RTA

**KUWAIT:** KGL Passenger Transport Services has renewed its contract with the Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to develop and upgrade existing buses and developing the fleet with new eco-friendly buses. This move shows both parties' interest in the development of transport buses and encourage the public to use public transportation.

The company said in a press release that the contract renewal came after KGL, in its first contract with the Emirate of Sharjah, accomplished several achievements in the development of public transport works in line with the highest standards of security, safety and technology in the world.

The agreement was signed based on a strategic plan to develop public transport buses, in parallel with the start of the construction of air-conditioned passenger stations, which is a significant leap in public transport in Sharjah, especially that these stations are characterized by the highest levels of efficiency. The Sharjah RTA made sure that the new buses have all the security and safety conditions, in accordance with the best and latest international standards.

KGL accomplished several achievements in the previous decade, most notably the launch of the "Sayer" smart card for the passengers' convenience through electronic ticket payment and encouraging, alongside the Government of Sharjah, to support public transportation.

The company continues to utilize modern technologies in public transportation, with the aim of saving

time and money and facilitating quick travels and transfers. The signing of the contract was attended by Fahad Al-Awadhi, CEO of KGL Passenger Transport Services, and a number of executives from the public and private sectors.

On this occasion, Fahad Al-Awadhi said: "KGL Passenger Transport Services has made a significant difference in the public transport sector within Sharjah since it won the contract to operate the public transport network in the Emirate the last decade. The contract was renewed after the Government of Sharjah witnessed that KGL provides easier, safer, faster, more reliable and less expensive services for public transport passengers on its buses.

Al-Awadhi stressed that the company is environment-conscious, and focuses on the use of information technology and systems with international standards such as GPS system and the satellite tracking system to know the speed and routes of its buses, as well as advanced monitoring systems, and schedule monitoring of buses and their routes by SMS, in order to operate with the highest levels of performance and operational efficiency.

KGL recently launched in Sharjah the "Electronic Wallet", which can be used to pay on the go and recharge with a 10 percent discount. It is easy to use and has a validity period of 5 years.

It is worth noting that KGL Passenger Transport Services is a subsidiary of Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company and is now one of the leading provider of passenger transport solutions.



Fahad Al-Awadhi





## Technology

# Al Mulla Exchange and HomeSend partner to boost money transfers

## Collaboration to expand Al Mulla's global footprint

**KUWAIT:** HomeSend has announced a partnership with Al Mulla Exchange, Kuwait's leading exchange company, to boost Al Mulla Exchange's global footprint for international money transfers through the integration of the HomeSend service.

A joint venture between Mastercard, the majority shareholder, eServGlobal and BICS, HomeSend is a leading player in the revolution to transform the way funds flow cross-border. HomeSend's backbone is its comprehensive global network, which enables Money Transfer Organizations like Al Mulla Exchange and organizations like banks and Mobile Money Operators to transfer funds to financial institutions across the world in a faster, more cost-effective way.

Through this partnership, Al Mulla Exchange will offer its registered customers an increased range of sending destinations for

direct account-to-account international money transfers, including bank accounts in markets including Europe, UK, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and China.

"Our mission at Al Mulla Exchange has always been to bring the latest advances in

world," said Abdulla Najeeb Almulla, Chairman of Al Mulla Exchange. "Our partnership with HomeSend enables us to further extend our direct account-to-account cross-border payments service by offering registered customers reach to bank accounts in key new markets and in a secure and seamless manner."

"As the world has become more globalized, the need for fast, secure and flexible international funds transfer solutions has never been greater. We are delighted to be able to offer Al Mulla Exchange - through the HomeSend JV - the ability to meet their customers' needs for direct reach to bank accounts and other payout channels in desired countries across the globe," said Khalid Elgibali, Division President, Middle East and North Africa, Mastercard.

HomeSend's CEO Stephen Doyle said "The Al Mulla Group are in good company, as more and more financial institutions are turning to HomeSend seeking a better alternative to modernize their cross-border services so they can provide an improved experience to their customers."



### Al Mulla brings latest advances in money transfer technologies

global money transfer technologies to our customers, enabling not only faster, more secure international funds transfers, but also providing our customers with greater reach to their channels of choice right across the



## Easa Husain Al-Yousifi Co & Panasonic launches latest OLED TVs in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** Panasonic's newest OLED TV, the EZ1000 with unmatched HDR and true to life imaging, is now available in Kuwait in 2 sizes - 65" & 77". The Japanese manufacturer continues to raise the bar when it comes to premium picture and sound quality in TV, this time working closely with Hollywood, and experienced audio engineers.

"With the introduction of our latest line up, we are offering our customers here in the region, an OLED TV that has been manufactured taking into expertise from Hollywood and Panasonic engineers. The EZ1000 offers as a true home cinema experience in a correspondingly large screen," says Kunihiro Tanikura - General Manager - AV Products, PMMAF. "We remain confident that the top-of-the-range OLED TV model will be a welcome addition to our current line-up of premium TVs for the region."

Panasonic now offers consumers an exceptional HDR picture quality throughout their entire 4K range with the latest generation of LED models feature next-gen processing, enhanced LED lighting and the latest LCD panels. Powered by the new cutting-edge Studio Color HXC2 chipset, with unprecedented black levels, and the most accurate colors ever seen, with the TV boasting of stunning picture quality.

The brand has worked with top colorists, image scientists and engineers at Deluxe's Company 3, EFILM, and Encore post-production companies to tune and test the 4K Pro EZ1000 OLED TV. Panasonic combines the most accurate and advanced video processor ever, with the unrivalled contrast and color proficiency of the latest OLED screen technology, bringing Hollywood directly to the home like never before.

Furthermore, Technicolor, Hollywood's leading technology innovator dedicated to bringing the best color viewing experiences to audiences worldwide, worked closely with Panasonic to develop its new OLED technology. Senior theatrical colorist for Technicolor, Mike Sowa, says: "We cannot praise highly enough Panasonic's ongoing commitment to improving the viewing experience of its OLED TVs."

Tanikura commented, "Collaborating with our expert team of colorists and color scientists for their creative and technical input, Panasonic has worked hard to achieve outstanding picture quality with the very best color precision and range. We are delighted to team up with a company that shares our passion for the importance of high quality color when delivering digital life experiences and telling engaging stories."

Panasonic hasn't just focused on achieving stunning pictures for the EZ1000, but has also aimed to bring the best sound to the OLED TV, the EZ1000 is also equipped with the 80-watt Dynamic Blade Speaker. Tuned by the expert audio engineers from Panasonic, it features a deceptively slim audio system with 14 multiple speaker units (eight woofers, four squawkers and two tweeters, plus a quad passive radiator to boost bass).

The Panasonic OLED TV is now available in Kuwait at Al-Yousifi BEST Electronics Showrooms.



## VIVA, Intigral sign strategic partnership for JawwyTV

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, signed a strategic partnership with Intigral Company for JawwyTV, the new mobile application that provides a wide range of the latest Arabic, Turkish and Western movies, TV series including top documentaries and kids' channels.

VIVA customers can now subscribe to JawwyTV for KD 2.5 and get a 30-day free trial. The app-based TV service allows them to access live TV channels, watch the latest Hollywood movies, Arabic movies, HBO series, kids' channels like Disney and Nickelodeon, live sports channels, with Arabic subtitles and an option to access across multiple devices.

Commenting on the partnership, Andrew Hanna the Chief Commercial Officer at VIVA said, "We are proud of this strategic partnership with Intigral bringing leading entertainment services to our valued customers through JawwyTV. We look forward to working very closely together with them and bringing more convenient and relevant offers." On his part, Faisal AbuSaq the Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Intigral said, "This partnership with VIVA is a result of close work for months between the two companies to bring the most premium entertainment product 'JawwyTV' to the valued clients of VIVA." Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa,



Corporate Communications Director at VIVA added: "This strategic partnership with Intigral provides our customers different ways of entertainment, with ease and comfort access, through latest technology."

VIVA has rapidly established a pioneer position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's

quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service.

## KIB's Al-Suwaidan receives new accolade 'CISO 30'



**KUWAIT:** As Kuwait International Bank (KIB) moves forward into the digitalization era in order to become the leading digital bank. In the latest assertion of the bank's implementation of state-of-the-art cyber security measures, KIB announced that its Executive Manager - Head of Information Security, Basil Al-Suwaidan, has recently won an award for being among the 30 Most Recognized Chief Information Security Officer Award (CISO - 30) across the Middle East granted by CPI Media Group (Security Advisor- ME Magazine), an organization specializing in technology magazines and publications.

Al-Suwaidan received this award on behalf of KIB at a ceremony held in Dubai and expressed his gratitude at adding this new achievement to KIB's growing roster of prestigious accolades. He also noted that this recognition came as a result of the Bank's strong commitment to implementing leading banking solutions benchmarked against the highest international standards, particularly in the areas of information security and risk management.

Previously, Al-Suwaidan also received the Chief Information Security Officer Award (CISO - 100) and was named the Information Security Executive of the Year 2017 in the Banking & Financial Services Sector by (ISC)2 in the Middle East.

## SpaceX launches most powerful Falcon 9 yet

**TAMPA:** SpaceX on Friday blasted off its newest and most powerful Falcon 9 rocket, known as the Block 5, carrying the first high-orbit communications satellite for Bangladesh and marking a leap forward in reusability for the California-based aerospace company.

The rocket is designed to require far less maintenance and refurbishment between flights, and is certified to carry humans to space later this year when SpaceX launches its Dragon crew capsule to the International Space Station. "Three, two, one, zero, ignition, liftoff," a SpaceX commentator said as the rocket launched at 4:14 pm (2014 GMT) from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The Block 5 Falcon 9 rocket's main goal for its maiden mission was to

propel a communications satellite for Bangladesh, called Bangabandhu Satellite-1, to a geostationary transfer orbit roughly 22,000 miles (35,000 kilometers) above Earth. "In the continuous advancement of Bangladesh another milestone is added today," said Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a video address aired on SpaceX's launch webcast.

"With the launch of Bangabandhu-1, we are hoisting our national flag into space." The satellite will offer video and communications coverage over Bangladesh and its territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal, as well as in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

"The satellite will also provide broadband connectivity to rural areas throughout the country," said a SpaceX statement, noting that the mission is expected to last at least 15 years.

About a half hour after launch, live images showed the satellite drifting into the inky blackness of space, as cheers and screams erupted at SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California.

"Successful deployment of Bangabandhu Satellite-1 to geostationary transfer orbit," SpaceX said on Twitter.

### 'Crazy hard'

The launch was postponed at the last minute Thursday, when an automatic abort switch was triggered, but SpaceX said it was just a glitch and the spacecraft remained in good health.

The rocket is built to re-fly up to 10 times with minimal refurbishment, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk told reporters ahead of the launch. "We expect there would be literally no action taken between flights, so just like aircraft," Musk said, describing the many years of effort that went into the rocket as "crazy hard."

After liftoff, the rocket made a successful upright landing on the "Of Course I Still Love You" dronship stationed in the Atlantic Ocean, marking the 25th successful touchdown for SpaceX. SpaceX has now landed 11 of its boosters on land and 14 on its dronships, which are floating platforms in the ocean, as part of its effort to bring down the cost of spaceflight and re-use costly rocket parts.

The first crew launch for SpaceX is tentatively planned for December 2018. It will mark the first time since the end of the US space shuttle program in 2011 that a rocket has left US soil carrying people to space. —AFP



In this image obtained from NASA, the SpaceX Dragon resupply ship, with the Canadarm2 robotic arm in the foreground, is pictured installed to the Harmony module's Earth-facing port.—AFP



Health

# One giant ‘leaf’ for mankind; challenge of space gardening

## Gardening in space will be crucial for the next generation

**MIAMI:** It's not easy having a green thumb in space. Without gravity, seeds can float away. Water doesn't pour, but globs up and may drown the roots. And artificial lights and fans must be rigged just right to replicate the sun and wind. But NASA has decided that gardening in space will be crucial for the next generation of explorers, who need to feed themselves on missions to the Moon or Mars that may last months or years. Necessary nutrients, like vitamins C and K, break down over time in freeze-dried foods. Without them, astronauts are increasingly vulnerable to infections, poor blood clotting, cancer and heart disease.

So the US space agency has turned to professional botanists and novice gardeners-high school students, in fact-to help them practice. "There are tens of thousands of edible plants on Earth that would presumably be useful, and it becomes a big problem to choose which of those plants are the best for producing food for astronauts," explained Carl Lewis, director of the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, which is leading the effort. "And that is where we come in."

### Useful foibles

The Miami-based garden has identified 106 plant varieties that might do well in space, including hardy cabbages and leafy lettuces. They have enlisted 15,000 student botanists from 150 schools to grow plants in space-like conditions in their own classrooms. The four-year project is about midway through, and is paid for by a \$1.24 million grant from NASA. Using trays rigged with lights that mimic the grow boxes used in space, students must tend to the plants and record data on their progress, which eventually gets shared with NASA.

"We're not using typical gardening equipment," said Rhys Campo, a 17-year-old high school student who tried her hand at growing red romaine lettuce this year. "We have setups that are a lot more high-tech." Still, some plants get overwatered, some classrooms are hotter or colder than others, and holiday breaks may leave the grow boxes unattended. In Campo's class, the lettuce dried up, and students were unable to taste it. Such foibles have turned out to be an unexpected but useful part of the project, said NASA plant scientist Gioia Massa. "If you have a plant that does well in all that variability, chances are that plant will do well in space," she told AFP.

### New textures

Astronauts living at the space station, 250 miles (400 kilometers) above Earth have encountered their share of failures while gardening in orbit, too. The first portable growing

box for space, equipped with LED lights, called Veggie, was tested at the orbiting outpost in 2014. Some of the lettuce didn't germinate, and some died of drought. But astronauts kept trying, and finally took their first bite of NASA-approved space-grown lettuce in 2015.

Now, there are two Veggie grow boxes at the ISS, along with a third, called the Advanced Plant Habitat. The food being grown is only occasionally harvested, and amounts to just a leaf or two per astronaut, but it's worth it, said NASA astronaut Ricky Arnold, during a live video downlink with students at Fairchild last month. "The textures of food are all kind of very similar," he said of the freeze-dried fare available on board the ISS. "When we are able to harvest our own lettuce here, just having a different texture to enjoy is a really nice diversion from the standard menu."

### The ideal space veggie

Plants don't need gravity in order to grow. They just orient themselves to the light. According to Massa, a good space plant has to be compact and produce a lot of edible food. Plants also have to do well in a spaceship like the ISS, which has a temperature of 71 degrees Fahrenheit (22 Celsius), 40 percent relative humidity, and high carbon dioxide-some 3,000 parts per million. "That is something plants aren't adjusted to," said Massa. "On Earth it is about 400 ppm." Under a system Massa described as akin to hydroponics but not exactly the same, space plants also have to germinate from a plant pillow with only a small amount of dirt, do well under LED lights, and be microbially fairly clean, because it is hard to wash vegetables in space. Some of the student-tested crops are expected to launch in coming months, including dragon lettuce and extra dwarf pak choy. By next year, tomatoes could be on the menu.

### Connection to Earth

NASA is looking into the possibility of robotic space gardening, to automate the process so crew can focus on other tasks. But many astronauts say they like tending to plants, because it helps them maintain a connection to Earth. "The psychological benefits can be important for astronauts," said NASA research scientist Trent Smith. Besides-as many gardeners know-having a plot dry up or be devoured by mold isn't the end of world. "The thing that the students learn is that making mistakes is okay," said JoLynne Woodmansee, a teacher at BIOTech High School in Miami. "The whole process of science is all about building. You can't learn something new without making a mistake."—AFP



This handout illustration shows an illustration of NASA's Mars Helicopter - a small, autonomous rotorcraft. — AFP

## Nigeria and health epidemics - acting quickly for a reason

**LAGOS:** A new outbreak of Ebola that has killed 17 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo is thousands of miles from Nigeria. But health officials in Abuja this week moved quickly to introduce emergency measures, including screening visitors from the DRC and neighboring countries-and for good reason. Not only was Nigeria one of the countries affected by the last outbreak that killed over 11,000 across West Africa, it also regularly faces sudden, deadly and often unknown epidemics. Last year, some 1,100 people died and nearly 15,000 were infected in a meningitis C outbreak, while there were also cases of

monkey pox. This year, there have been record numbers of Lassa Fever cases. In the past, health workers have scrambled to contain the spread of polio. With a hot and humid climate near the Equator, Nigeria-Africa's most populous nation with more than 180 million people-is a fertile breeding ground for viruses.

That, a crumbling healthcare system and transport links to the rest of the continent and wider world means health experts pay Nigeria extra special attention. "Climate change, demographic growth, rapid urbanisation and promiscuity are aggravating factors, so outbreaks are something we have to be more careful about," said Valerie Nkamgang Bemo, emergency response deputy director for the Gates Foundation. In a country where an "average" town has about one million inhabitants, and where there are two cities with more than 10 million people, preparation is key. Medical teams need to be trained, data from previous epidemics analyzed and the transportation of samples organized in advance. —AFP

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PAGE



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## Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader Consultant vascular and general surgery

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فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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



# Hardee's announces final 'Go Large' campaign winner

## Ceremony to distribute prizes tomorrow at Marina Mall



Hardee's recently concluded its 'Go Large' promotional campaign by announcing the name of the fourth and final winner of a 2018 grey Chevrolet Camaro: Ahmed Al-Bloushi from Salwa. Speaking on the occasion, Bloushi stressed that he is a Hardee's lover and

regular customer, and that he had been following the campaign and had hopes to win one of the valuable prizes presented by Hardee's. "I had a feeling I will be one of the winners," he stressed.

Notably, during the campaign, Hardee's gave away

four 2018 Camaros in addition to 16 new iPhones in draws made electronically and fully supervised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Speaking on the occasion, Hardee's regional marketing manager for Kuwait, Iraq and Kurdistan, Rafeeq Al-Ayyat, expressed

his joy for the campaign's success and stressed that Hardee's was already preparing for further activities in the near future. Further, Ayyat said that a special ceremony would be held at 7:00 pm tomorrow at the Marina Mall to distribute the prizes to the winners.

## Authentic flavors, indigenous Ramadan atmosphere at Sheraton

An enduring icon which is a natural blend between old and new traditions, the Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel invites you to spend unforgettable times during the holy month of Ramadan with all your loved ones. This year the Ramadan Tent will be held at the Coral Ballroom, with its charming designs, reflecting the genuine Levant design, will be welcoming you for iftar, ghabkas and suhour, in a special Ramadan ambience and spirit.

As every year, our Cluster Culinary Director - Chef Frank Noack and his team are keen to present the most luxurious daily menus with diversified international and traditional local dishes starting with different kinds of soups: lentil, broccoli, asparagus and many more, not to forget the fresh Eastern and Western salads. Whereas the traditional appetizers and hot Arabic dishes especially the ouzi topped with a vast selection of nuts, will mold an unforgettable taste. Not to miss our live cooking stations and freshly cooked saj counter. We also have a special Ramadan refreshment station, Liwan Al Shami, Coffee and Tea station, an incredible ghabka atmosphere offering a variety of traditional music and making your evening a beautiful one. Last but not least, the distinctive and wide variety of eastern and western treats will definitely make the sweets' live station a must try.

The Al-Hambra restaurant provides various and exceptional international dining set menu dishes, for iftar and suhour, whereas the prestigious English Tea Lounge welcomes you to relax your mood with a wide selection of Original tea flavors, scones and light snacks until



1:00 am. Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait continues to offer best specialties during the holy month of Ramadan at the La Mama Pizzeria, which provides an assortment of appetizing antipasti, freshly prepared pasta and pizza baked in our wood oven to meet your culinary desire from iftar until 11:30 pm.

Sheraton Kuwait restaurants at the Avenues Mall invites you to indulge through an exceptional experience during the holy month of Ramadan, filled with the authentic flavors by enjoying lavish dining every night at Al-Hambra. For more variety, visit our Le Tarbouche restaurant for traditional Lebanese dishes. The Bukhara restaurant with authentic Indian food and the Shahrarar restaurant offering you the fantastic grilled Persian dishes. Relax in the elegance of the English tea lounge and enjoy a luxury classic ambience with authentic flavors

of English tea, and a variety of detectable scones and snacks during the holy month of Ramadan.

Sheraton Kuwait Restaurants at Avenues-Grand Avenue is welcoming you during the blessed month daily until 1:00 am. Outside Catering is also available with a variety of selections from Ramadan menus prepared by our master chefs for iftar, ghabka and suhour.

On this holy occasion, Fahed Abu Shaar, General Manager of the Sheraton Kuwait, and Mounir Amer -General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, and the family of Sheraton and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait wish His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, all Kuwaiti nationals and residents "a blessed month, great health and wellness."



## ACK participates in InterUniversities Championship

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) participated in the "World InterUniversities Championship - Euro Milano 2018" held in Milan, Italy. The tournament witnessed participations from all over Europe,

Africa, Middle East, Asia, North and South America in the four days championship with approximately 2,500 university students! ACK was the only university participating from Kuwait and it was represented by its male and female Basketball teams, and female volleyball team.

On this occasion, the Student Life's Manager Basel Dana stated: "I would like to congratulate our students on this participation. We are very proud of all our athletes and wishing them all the best." ACK congratulates all its athletes while encouraging them to participate in sports and health-related activities which will benefit them in achieving their academic and non-academic goals.

## Special Ramadan activities at Hilton Kuwait Resort

Hilton Kuwait Resort invites guests to experience an exclusive range of restaurant and hospitality offers during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Family and friends will be able to share lasting memories with this extra special selection of activities, guaranteed to provide an unforgettable getaway during this special time. Feast on iftar, ghabka and suhour at Teatro restaurant

An exquisite variety of Arabic and international gourmet dishes will be prepared for iftar, ghabka and suhour. Created by highly talented chefs, the menu will delight guests with dishes created especially for the holy month of Ramadan and feature interactive cooking stations to complement the whole culinary experience. Iftar will be served from sunset until 09:00pm, while ghabka and suhour buffets are available from 10:00pm to 02:00am. All pricing is inclusive of Ramadan refreshing drinks along with tea and coffee.

Relish the best Ramadan ambience at Palm Court private tents. Located at the spacious garden overlooking the picturesque Arabian Gulf, Palm Court houses 30 private tents for memorable Ramadan gatherings with family and friends. Each tent provides comfort and entertainment with air-conditioning facility and TV system. To top it all, guests can enjoy the iftar, ghabka and suhour or assortment of Arabic sweets, with a selection of flavorful shisha. Palm Court is open daily from sunset to



02:00am during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Celebrate corporate events at the Royal Marquee. Royal Marquee at Hilton Kuwait is the best getaway for bigger social events during Ramadan. From small iftar get-togethers to large corporate suhour or ghabka events, the hotel's banquet venue will ensure an unforgettable Ramadan event that is uniquely designed to the finest detail.

The delectable buffet will feature oriental and intercontinental delicacies, inclusive of hot and cold Lebanese mezzah, plated main

courses, desserts, traditional Ramadan drinks and Arabic coffee. Something to satisfy all tastes! Enjoy five star hotel experience with Ramadan discounts

Hilton Kuwait is offering exclusive Ramadan discounts for rooms, chalets and villas - offering a five-star home-from-home hotel experience. Guests can enjoy the high-end beach facilities, swimming pools, spa, and playing courts, amenities for kid's activities and many more. Ask about Ramadan offers and prices for remarkable stay.

## GREETINGS



Many happy returns to Zachy on turning three years old. Best wishes from dad, mom, family and friends.

## National Museum marks International Museum Day



The National Museum of Kuwait celebrated yesterday the International Museum Day, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The United Kingdom's Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport and his wife attended the event.



## TV



00:10 Allegiant  
03:30 Term Life  
05:15 Justice League Dark  
06:50 Somnus  
08:25 Fantastic Four  
10:20 Allegiant  
12:25 Term Life  
14:05 Invasion Day  
15:45 I Am Number Four  
17:40 Now You See Me 2  
19:50 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II  
22:10 Gridlocked



00:15 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
01:05 Mum  
01:35 An Inspector Calls  
03:05 Death In Paradise  
04:00 Doctors  
04:30 Mum  
05:00 EastEnders  
05:30 EastEnders  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Call The Midwife  
08:00 Doctors  
08:30 Doctors  
09:00 The Coroner  
09:50 The Coroner  
10:40 The Coroner  
11:30 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
12:20 Call The Midwife  
13:15 Doctors  
13:45 Doctors  
14:15 Doctors  
14:45 EastEnders  
15:20 Death In Paradise  
16:15 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
17:05 Call The Midwife  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 EastEnders  
19:00 Death In Paradise  
20:00 Unforgotten  
20:55 Line Of Duty  
22:00 New Tricks  
23:00 Doctors  
23:30 EastEnders



00:00 American Ripper In London  
01:00 Ghost Inside My Child  
02:50 When Life Means Life  
03:45 American Ripper In London  
04:30 Ghost Inside My Child  
06:00 Homicide Hunter  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:20 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath  
08:05 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath  
08:50 Babies Behind Bars  
09:35 The First 48  
10:30 The First 48  
11:25 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
12:20 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
13:15 Homicide Hunter  
14:10 Homicide Hunter  
15:05 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
16:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
17:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
19:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
22:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
23:00 Monster In My Family



00:05 Kyle Kinane: Loose In Chicago  
00:55 Inside Amy Schumer  
01:20 This Is Not Happening  
01:45 Broad City  
02:10 South Park  
02:35 Tosh.0  
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition  
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
04:15 Catch A Contractor  
05:05 Coaching Bad  
05:55 Disaster Date  
06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef  
06:50 Snack Off  
07:15 Snack Off  
07:40 Catch A Contractor  
08:30 Disaster Date  
08:55 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef  
09:25 Impractical Jokers  
09:48 Impractical Jokers  
10:10 Snack Off  
10:35 Snack Off  
11:00 Catch A Contractor  
11:45 Ridiculousness Arabia  
12:15 Hillbillies For Hire  
12:40 Friendszone  
13:05 Snack Off  
13:30 Snack Off  
13:55 Impractical Jokers  
14:18 Impractical Jokers  
14:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
15:30 Ridiculousness Arabia  
16:00 Snack Off  
16:30 Snack Off

16:55 Friends  
17:20 Friends  
17:45 I Used To Be Fat  
18:35 Friends  
19:00 Hillbillies For Hire  
19:25 Snack Off  
19:50 Snack Off  
20:12 Friends  
20:35 Friends  
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition  
21:30 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
22:25 Friends  
22:50 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef  
23:20 Friends  
23:43 Friends



00:30 Ultimate Survival  
01:20 How It's Made  
01:45 How It's Made  
02:10 How It's Made  
02:35 How It's Made  
03:00 How It's Made  
03:25 How It's Made  
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds  
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds  
04:40 Destroyed In Seconds  
05:05 Destroyed In Seconds  
05:30 Destroyed In Seconds  
05:55 Destroyed In Seconds  
06:20 How It's Made  
06:40 How It's Made  
07:00 Biggest And Baddest  
07:50 Mega Hunt: Killer Whales Of The Cape  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 How It's Made  
09:55 How It's Made  
10:20 How It's Made  
10:45 How It's Made  
11:10 How It's Made  
11:35 How It's Made  
12:00 How It's Made  
12:25 How It's Made  
12:50 Tanked  
13:40 Tanked  
14:30 Tanked  
15:20 Tanked  
16:10 Tanked  
17:00 Now That's Funny  
17:50 How It's Made  
18:15 How It's Made  
18:40 Troy  
19:30 Keeping Up With The Kruger  
20:20 Africa's Super Seven  
21:10 Kings Of The Wild  
22:00 Zombie Sharks  
22:50 Ultimate Survival  
23:40 Ultimate Survival



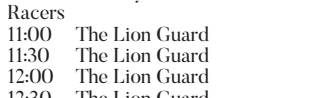
00:45 Ghost Stalkers  
01:40 The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade  
02:35 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
03:30 Bride Killa  
04:25 Betrayed  
05:20 Murder Chose Me  
06:10 Murder Calls  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 I Am Homicide  
08:15 I Am Homicide  
09:10 I Am Homicide  
10:05 Murder Chose Me  
11:00 Murder Chose Me  
11:55 I Almost Got Away With It  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:45 I Almost Got Away With It  
14:40 I Almost Got Away With It  
15:35 I Almost Got Away With It  
16:30 Betrayed  
17:25 Betrayed  
18:25 Grave Secrets  
19:15 Grave Secrets  
20:10 Grave Secrets  
21:05 The Perfect Murder  
22:00 Bride Killa  
22:55 Betrayed  
23:50 An American Murder Mystery: The Staircase



00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
00:50 Evermore 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 Minnie's Winter Bow Show  
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse  
06:55 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
07:10 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
07:20 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
07:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
07:45 DuckTales  
08:10 DuckTales  
08:35 Raven's Home  
09:00 Raven's Home  
09:25 Raven's Home  
09:50 Raven's Home  
10:15 Raven's Home  
10:40 Good Luck Charlie: The Road Trip Movie  
12:00 Descendants Wicked World  
12:05 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
12:20 Elena Of Avalor  
12:45 Elena Of Avalor  
13:15 Elena Of Avalor  
13:35 Elena Of Avalor  
14:00 Elena Of Avalor: Realm Of The Jaquins  
14:50 Zombies  
16:35 Tangled: The Series  
17:00 Tangled: The Series  
17:25 Bizaardvark  
17:50 Bizaardvark  
18:15 Elena Of Avalor  
18:40 Elena Of Avalor  
19:05 Bunk'd  
19:30 Bunk'd  
19:55 Stuck In The Middle  
20:20 Stuck In The Middle  
20:45 K.C. Undercover  
21:10 K.C. Undercover  
21:35 Liv And Maddie  
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
22:50 Lolo Rock  
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



00:00 Trulli Tales  
00:30 PJ Masks  
00:55 Trulli Tales  
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 Puppy Dog Pals  
08:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
08:30 Goldie & Bear  
09:00 PJ Masks  
09:30 Sofia The First  
10:00 Vampirina  
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
11:00 The Lion Guard  
11:30 The Lion Guard  
12:00 The Lion Guard  
12:30 The Lion Guard  
13:00 Vampirina  
13:30 Vampirina  
14:00 Vampirina  
14:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
15:00 Goldie & Bear  
15:30 PJ Masks  
16:00 Vampirina  
16:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
17:00 The Lion Guard  
17:30 Sofia The First  
18:00 Sofia The First  
18:30 Vampirina  
19:00 PJ Masks  
19:30 P-King Duckling  
20:00 The Lion Guard  
20:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
21:00 Trulli Tales  
21:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital  
22:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
22:30 PJ Masks  
23:00 PJ Masks  
23:30 PJ Masks



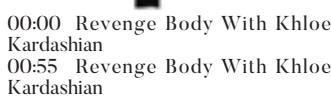
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01:00 Outback Truckers  
01:50 Deadliest Catch  
02:35 Kindig Customs  
03:20 Gear Dogs  
04:05 Alaskan Bush People  
04:50 Kindig Customs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 The Liquidator  
06:23 Property Wars  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 Storage Wars Canada  
07:35 Alaskan Bush People  
08:20 The Liquidator  
08:45 Property Wars  
09:10 Kindig Customs  
09:55 Hot Grease  
11:25 Outback Truckers  
12:15 The Liquidator  
12:40 Property Wars  
13:05 Storage Hunters  
13:30 Storage Wars Canada  
13:55 Kindig Customs  
14:40 Deadliest Catch  
15:30 Hot Grease  
17:00 Outback Truckers  
17:50 Alaskan Bush People  
18:40 Kindig Customs  
19:25 Deadliest Catch  
20:15 Gear Dogs  
21:00 Fast N' Loud  
21:50 Gear Dogs  
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman  
23:30 Alaskan Bush People



00:10 Pacific Warriors  
01:00 Outback Truckers  
01:50 Deadliest Catch  
02:35 Kindig Customs  
03:20 Gear Dogs  
04:05 Alaskan Bush People  
04:50 Kindig Customs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 The Liquidator  
06:23 Property Wars  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 Storage Wars Canada  
07:35 Alaskan Bush People  
08:20 The Liquidator  
08:45 Property Wars  
09:10 Kindig Customs  
09:55 Hot Grease  
11:25 Outback Truckers  
12:15 The Liquidator  
12:40 Property Wars  
13:05 Storage Hunters  
13:30 Storage Wars Canada  
13:55 Kindig Customs  
14:40 Deadliest Catch  
15:30 Hot Grease  
17:00 Outback Truckers  
17:50 Alaskan Bush People  
18:40 Kindig Customs  
19:25 Deadliest Catch  
20:15 Gear Dogs  
21:00 Fast N' Loud  
21:50 Gear Dogs  
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman  
23:30 Alaskan Bush People

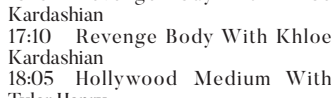


06:00 Lab Rats  
06:25 Lab Rats  
06:50 Phineas And Ferb  
07:15 Phineas And Ferb  
07:40 Supa Strikas  
08:05 Supa Strikas  
08:32 Marvel's Spider-Man  
09:00 Big Hero 6 The Series  
09:25 Disney Mickey Mouse  
09:32 DuckTales  
09:55 Milo Murphy's Law  
10:20 Mech-X4  
10:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
11:00 Phineas And Ferb  
11:25 Phineas And Ferb  
11:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
11:55 Phineas And Ferb  
12:20 Phineas And Ferb  
12:45 Phineas And Ferb  
13:10 Phineas And Ferb  
13:35 Phineas And Ferb  
14:00 Big Hero 6 The Series  
14:32 DuckTales  
14:55 Marvel's Spider-Man  
15:20 Mech-X4  
15:45 Mech-X4  
16:10 Gravity Falls  
16:35 Gravity Falls  
17:00 DuckTales  
17:32 DuckTales  
18:00 Mech-X4  
18:25 Lab Rats Elite Force  
18:50 Lab Rats Elite Force  
19:15 Walk The Frank  
19:40 Phineas And Ferb  
19:55 Disney Mickey Mouse  
20:00 DuckTales  
20:32 Big Hero 6 The Series  
21:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
21:32 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures  
22:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
22:25 Milo Murphy's Law  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
00:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
01:50 El! News  
02:50 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
03:40 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
04:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
06:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
07:50 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
08:45 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
09:40 Botched

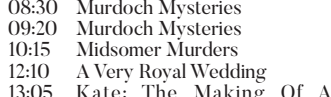
10:35 Botched  
11:30 Botched  
12:25 Botched  
13:20 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
14:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
15:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
16:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
17:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
19:00 El! News  
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
22:00 The Real Princess Diaries: From Diana To Meghan  
23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:10 Desperate Hours  
00:35 Desperate Hours  
01:00 Years Of Living Dangerously  
02:00 Car SOS  
03:00 Mega Factories  
04:00 Mega Food  
05:00 Mystery Caves Of Guangxi  
06:00 One Strange Rock  
07:00 My Fighting Season  
08:00 Inside The SS  
09:00 Apocalypse World War I  
10:00 Diana: In Her Own Words  
12:00 Genius  
13:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia  
13:30 Do Or Die  
14:00 Cesar To The Rescue  
15:00 Yukon Gold  
16:00 Wicked Tuna  
17:00 Genius  
18:00 Diana: In Her Own Words  
20:00 Wicked Tuna  
20:50 Genius  
21:40 Mega Food  
22:30 Yukon Gold  
23:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska



00:15 Coronation Street  
00:35 Coronation Street  
01:00 Britain's Brightest Family  
01:30 Britain's Brightest Family  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Coronation Street  
03:00 Coronation Street  
03:30 Coronation Street  
04:00 Coronation Street  
04:20 When Phillip Met Prince Philip  
05:15 Change Your Tune  
06:15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
07:40 A Very Royal Wedding  
08:30 Murdoch Mysteries  
09:20 Murdoch Mysteries  
10:15 Midsomer Murders  
12:10 A Very Royal Wedding  
13:05 Kate: The Making Of A Modern Queen  
14:00 Change Your Tune  
14:55 Shetland  
15:55 Murdoch Mysteries  
16:45 Murdoch Mysteries  
17:35 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
19:00 Change Your Tune  
19:55 Kate: The Making Of A Modern Queen  
20:50 A Very Royal Wedding  
21:35 When Phillip Met Prince Philip  
22:25 The Chase  
23:15 Coronation Street  
23:40 Coronation Street



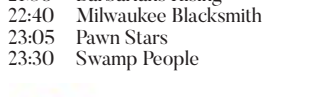
00:20 Walking With Giraffes  
01:10 South Africa  
02:00 Madagascar's Legendary Lemurs  
02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER  
03:45 Deadly Game  
04:40 Cameramen Who Dare  
05:35 Animal Fight Club  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Monster Fish  
08:20 Man V. Monster  
09:15 Snakes In The City  
10:10 World's Deadliest Compilations  
11:05 Savage Kingdom  
12:00 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts  
12:55 Born Wild  
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER  
14:45 Moody Beasts  
15:40 Cameramen Who Dare  
16:35 Animal Fight Club  
17:30 Monster Fish  
18:25 Wild Chile  
19:20 Moody Beasts  
20:10 Cameramen Who Dare  
21:00 Animal Fight Club  
21:50 Monster Fish  
22:40 Wild Chile  
23:30 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts



00:00 Ancient Aliens  
02:00 Weapons At War  
02:50 Weapons At War  
03:40 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar  
04:30 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar  
05:20 How 2 Win  
06:10 How 2 Win  
07:00 Ancient Aliens  
09:00 Weapons At War  
10:00 Weapons At War  
11:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar  
12:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar  
13:00 Ancient Aliens  
15:00 Weapons At War  
16:00 Weapons At War  
17:00 The Universe  
18:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence  
19:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence  
20:00 UFO Files  
21:00 The Universe  
22:00 Clash Of The Gods  
23:00 Clash Of The Gods



00:20 American Pickers  
01:10 American Pickers  
02:00 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
02:25 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
02:50 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
03:15 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
03:40 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
04:00 Pawn Stars  
04:25 Pawn Stars  
04:50 Pawn Stars  
05:15 Pawn Stars  
05:30 Pawn Stars  
06:00 Swamp People  
06:50 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
07:15 Pawn Stars  
07:40 Mountain Men  
08:30 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle  
09:20 Swamp People  
10:10 Time Team  
11:00 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
11:25 Pawn Stars  
11:50 Mountain Men  
12:40 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle  
13:30 Swamp People  
14:20 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
14:45 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
15:10 Time Team  
16:00 American Pickers  
16:50 Mountain Men  
17:40 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle  
18:30 Swamp People  
19:20 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
19:45 Pawn Stars  
20:10 American Pickers  
21:00 Sean Bean On Waterloo  
21:50 Barbarians Rising  
22:40 Milwaukee Blacksmith  
23:05 Pawn Stars  
23:30 Swamp People



00:07 Max & Ruby  
00:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:40 Kiva Can Do!  
00:52 The Day Henry Met  
00:57 The Day Henry Met  
01:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:27 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:49 Team Umizoomi  
02:13 Team Umizoomi  
02:35 Paw Patrol  
02:58 Paw Patrol  
03:21 Shimmer And Shine  
03:44 Shimmer And Shine  
04:08 Nella The Princess Knight  
04:30 Nella The Princess Knight  
04:53 Rusty Rivets  
05:17 Rusty Rivets  
05:41 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:24 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 Dora The Explorer



00:45 Places We Go  
01:10 Poh & Co.  
01:40 Miguel's Feasts  
02:40 Places We Go  
02:55 Pond Stars  
03:30 Confucius Was A Foodie  
04:25 David Rocco's Dolce India  
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce India  
05:20 Restoration Man  
06:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen  
06:40 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen  
07:30 Cesar To The Rescue  
08:05 Cesar To The Rescue Asia  
09:00 Restoration Man  
09:55 Miguel's Feasts  
10:20 Andy And Ben Eat The World  
10:50 Eat Street  
11:15 United Plates Of America  
11:45 John Torode's Korean Food Tour  
12:40 Miguel's Feasts  
13:05 Maximum Foodie  
13:35 Pond Stars  
14:30 Confucius Was A Foodie  
15:25 Island Hunter  
16:20 Restoration Man

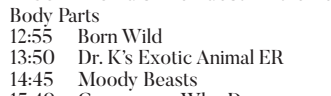
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19:05 Pond Stars  
20:00 Confucius Was A Foodie  
21:00 Island Hunter  
22:00 Restoration Man  
22:55 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen  
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23:50 Hotel India



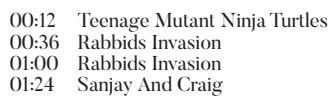
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22:30 Yukon Gold  
23:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska



00:20 Walking With Giraffes  
01:10 South Africa  
02:00 Madagascar's Legendary Lemurs  
02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER  
03:45 Deadly Game  
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05:35 Animal Fight Club  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Monster Fish  
08:20 Man V. Monster  
09:15 Snakes In The City  
10:10 World's Deadliest Compilations  
11:05 Savage Kingdom  
12:00 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts  
12:55 Born Wild  
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER  
14:45 Moody Beasts  
15:40 Cameramen Who Dare  
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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 Rabbids Invasion  
04:12 Rabbids Invasion  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
05:24 The Loud House  
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
06:36 Harvey Beaks  
07:00 Breadwinners  
07:24 Breadwinners  
07:48 Sanjay And Craig  
08:12 Rabbids Invasion  
08:36 The Loud House  
09:00 Regal Academy  
09:24 Winx Club  
09:48 Hunter Street  
10:12 Game Shakers  
10:36 School Of Rock  
11:00 Henry Danger  
11:24 The Thundermans  
11:48 I Am Frankie  
12:12 Rank The Prank  
12:36 Massive Monster Mayhem  
13:00 Hunter Street  
13:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn  
13:48 Toon Marty  
14:00 Toon Marty  
14:12 Harvey Beaks  
14:36 Breadwinners  
15:00 Sanjay And Craig  
15:24 Bunsen Is A Beast  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
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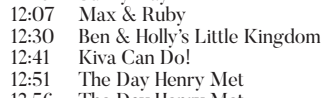


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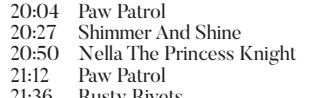


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06:37 Dora The Explorer  
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07:32 Kiva Can Do!  
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08:05 Dora The Explorer

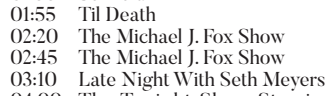
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10:00 Wallykazam!  
10:23 The Day Henry Met  
10:29 Bubble Guppies  
10:53 Team Umizoomi  
11:15 Kid-E-Cats  
11:21 Shimmer And Shine  
11:45 Sunny Day  
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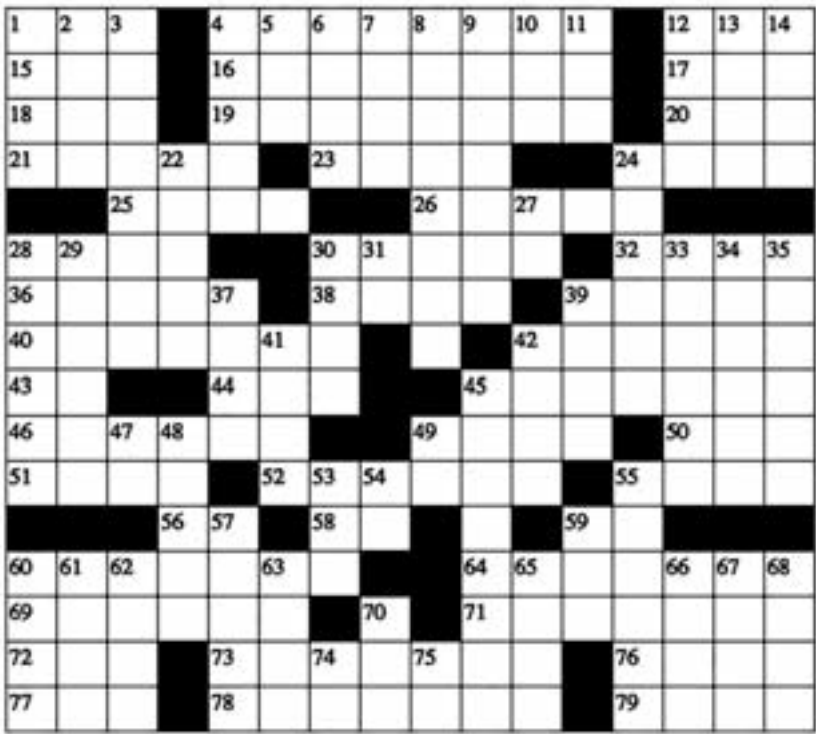
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11:00 Henry Danger  
11:24 The Thunder



CROSSWORD 1907



ACROSS

1. A swindle in which you cheat at gambling or persuade a person to buy worthless property.  
4. (anatomy) Of or relating to a chiasm.  
12. (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.  
15. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.  
16. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the western Dakotas.  
17. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.  
18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).  
19. (of pictures) Not having shadow represented.  
20. The cry made by sheep.  
21. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).  
23. A mountain lake (especially one formed by glaciers).  
25. A recognizable kind.  
26. Suggestive of the supernatural.  
28. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.  
32. Scottish explorer who led Arctic expeditions that yielded geographic discoveries while searching for the Northwest Passage (1777-1856).  
36. A manner of speaking that is natural to native speakers of a language.  
38. Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.  
40. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.  
43. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.  
44. The airforce of Great Britain.  
46. Having abnormal sagging of the spine (especially in horses).  
50. A rapid escape (as by criminals).  
51. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.  
52. Inability to walk.  
56. A Russian river.  
58. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.  
60. Thick heavy expensive material with a raised pattern.  
64. 1 species.  
69. A port city and resort in Andalusia in southern Spain on the Mediterranean.  
71. Excellent and delightful in all respects.  
72. (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.  
73. Stain (furniture) black to make it look like ebony.  
76. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.  
77. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.  
78. A yellow viscous animal oil extracted from wool.  
79. World's longest river (4187 miles).

DOWN

1. One-hundredth of a right angle.  
2. United States baseball player (born 1925).  
3. Any of several varieties of red-skinned apple.  
4. Informal terms for a meal.  
5. A member of a nomadic people who invaded Europe in the 4th century.  
6. In or of the present month.  
7. A Loloish language.  
8. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.  
9. Obsolete terms for legal insanity.  
10. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.  
11. A boy or man.  
12. A small cake leavened with yeast.  
13. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.  
14. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.  
22. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).  
24. (formal) A person who announces important news.  
27. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.  
29. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.  
30. French cabaret singer (1915-1963).  
31. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.  
33. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.  
34. The upper house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.  
35. East Indian annual erect herb.  
37. Female equine animal.  
39. Type genus of the Ranidae.  
41. An informal term for a father.  
42. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.  
45. A port city in southeastern Apulia in Italy.  
47. A heavy precious metallic element.  
48. Type genus of the Phocidae.  
49. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.  
53. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.  
54. A radioactive element of the actinide series.  
55. (Arthurian legend) The battlefield where King Arthur was mortally wounded.  
57. Glazed yeast-raised doughnut-shaped roll with hard crust.  
59. A loud utterance.  
61. A dissolute man in fashionable society.  
62. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.  
63. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.  
65. Chief port of Yemen.  
66. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.  
67. The basic unit of money in Iran.  
68. A unit of area (4840 square yards) used in English-speaking countries.  
70. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).  
74. In operation or operational.  
75. Being nine more than forty.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could be knocked off kilter by problems with associates; be careful, this could negatively affect your progress. Even so, you have entered a cycle that supports taking chances. Abundance will be yours by following new plans and designs you have never tried before. Treasures could be uncovered by using very unconventional methods. You will consider working with new people or you could return to a former company. You will stand against another and have to decide to unite or separate. You are able to formulate and eloquently relay your new concepts and documentation. You hold the keys to the future; your manner and wit coupled with your high level of intellect make the path clear.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

It is important to deal with situations from long ago. Someone will contact you for input on something that needs your common sense approach; you will be appreciated more than you know. You could be overwhelmed with gratitude for where you are in your own journey. If you are in public relations or advertising you will hit the target as you understand exactly what audiences need to hear and see. You could discover a new trick to help with a struggle you can't seem to conquer. Helping others seems easy compare to helping yourself. An admirer will speak of your excellent refinement and winning personality. You will feel sorry for someone who has less than you. Relax and enjoy your time with a good book or movie!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could feel excluded and overlooked; this could be due to your high standards others do not agree with. This is a perfect time to look at your life and yourself. You will connect with the vibrations of those around you; you know where you stand. You might experience flares in temper and want to lash out; you might have difficulty controlling this. You could receive praise from a supervisor or coworker for a job well done. You could appear to be having a wonderful, easy time and others will seek you out for input on a very important project; you will be able to get your messages across with ease. Tonight make plans for getting something new around the house; you could enjoy the late night hours watching an old movie.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your home life could come to mean even more to you as you think back on treasured times with family and friends. You have created a wonderful legacy that supports your family's sense of being taken care of. You may want to keep your thoughts to yourself on some of your plans until the right time comes to share. You may find that cleaning up will reveal something long lost. You may feel that you want to separate yourself from others for some clarity. Someone will express gratitude for your helping them with a serious situation that has turned out well; you are known for turning negatives into positives. You could find an outlet for frustrations today and this could become a place you return to over and over.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are comfortable with yourself and the distance you have come emotionally. You will receive thanks from someone you helped with a sensitive problem; you make a habit of helping and are well known for it. A confidant listens and agrees with your viewpoint and will add comments that help. You will feel disconnected and helpless regarding a very delicate issue that is very personal in nature; these will be worked through in a way that is best for all. If someone rudely interrupts you as you try to speak, pull back and let them rant; you know this person and this will blow over as usual. You will enjoy a gathering of relatives or friends where you will joyfully interact with children and perhaps animals. Warm feelings and respect tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could feel bogged down and helpless a bit later today. Everywhere you look is turmoil or chaos and people are expecting you to be the fixer of the team; see what happens when you do such a good job throughout the day you meet one complication after another with seemingly no end in sight. An unhappy client could inadvertently show you how to handle a rather sensitive aspect of the contract. You will find yourself tending to tasks you haven't dealt with in quite some time. Someone will lend a hand where a certain financial complication threatens to accelerate and drastically worsen. By day's end you have put out more than one fire, now take care of yourself with a long soak in a warm tub and perhaps a nice cocktail.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Movie Actors 2

Find and circle all of the Movie Actors that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which William Hurt won an Oscar.



- ASTIN, Sean  
BLOOM, Orlando  
BROSNAN, Pierce  
BUSCEMI, Steve  
CAGE, Nicolas  
CONNERY, Sean  
CROWE, Russell  
CRUISE, Tom  
DAFOE, William  
DE NIRO, Robert  
DIESEL, Vin  
DOWNEY JR., Robert  
DREYFUS, Richard  
DUVALL, Robert  
EVERETT, Rupert  
FERRELL, Wiliam
- FENNES, Ralph  
FREEMAN, Morgan  
GERE, Richard  
GOSLING, Ryan  
HAWKES, Tom  
HARRISON, Woody  
HOFFMAN, Philip Seymour  
HOWARD, Terrence  
HUIZ, William  
JACKSON, Samuel L.  
JONES, Tommy Lee  
KEATON, Michael  
KILMER, Val  
LABOUR, Shia  
MAGUIRE, Tobey
- MARTIN, Steve  
MORTENSEN, Viggo  
MYERS, Mike  
PATTINSON, Robert  
PENK, Sean  
REYNOLDS, Ryan  
ROSEN, Seth  
RUDD, Paul  
SMITH, Will  
STALLONE, Sylvester  
STEWART, Patrick  
VAUGHN, Vince  
WILKINSON, Tom  
WILLIAMS, Robin  
WILSON, Owen



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will experience bouts of extreme physical and emotional energy; this is a great time to channel these in to productive efforts for the future. There is an opening for a new romance or a chance to reignite an old one that has grown cold. A fun outing with friends could turn negative if you aren't careful; this may involve someone having too much alcohol. Be care that you keep your thoughts to yourself when in a group; the wrong thing could fly out of your mouth! Someone will seek your guidance later when you have a moment alone. One of your brightest abilities is to see through falsehoods and misleading statements. Let your mind and body relax this evening when you enjoy dinner in a new place with someone you love.



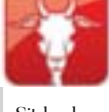
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

The heavens indicate that you could want a pet or perhaps you are just in a care taking mood in general. You will feel a need to love and be loved, above all you like equal shares for balance. If you feel dissatisfied look at the problem and see what, if anything, you contributed to it; this is something you can fix. A tender subject could be approached by someone who means well; try to hold your temper in check. It seems you could enjoy a new gadget you treated yourself to on a whim. A new machine at work could make you life a lot easier. Spur of the moment adventures appeal to you now. Someone one interesting and new very soon.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A time of certainty about who and what you love is opened now; you will no longer try to trick yourself with head games when it concerns the deepest loves in your life. Now is the best time to fully understand who and what you want throughout your life. Feeling valuable and admired gives you what you want and need for your own peace of mind. You may have to step out of the shadows to gain what you want; be who you are! Today is a good hair, good attitude, just a plain old good looking day for you and people will comment on it. Enjoy this fabulous time of vitality and good health! Remain patient, courteous, respectful and focused on what is important. Enjoy a discussion with a loved one tonight regarding plans for the future.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Try to focus on being patient with yourself and others. The urge for a different kind of social event or party could go from great to terrible; be careful! Sit back and go which ever way the wind blows until things settle down. You could find yourself balanced precariously between being considered right or wrong on a project; could be at home or work. Some would like to see traditional methods used, others prefer trying something new that might work even better. It falls to you to get this situation into a zen space pleasing to all involved, including you. Someone will offer you a moment of rest late in the afternoon; you will return to work with solutions. Your strength, confidence and power come from knowing how you stand emotionally.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your persuasive energies are soaring now. You have entered a new cycle that promotes success with your job search or maybe the time has come for you to accept an invitation from an interested admirer. You will be driven to take stock of your life and achievements. It is possible that you may have serious doubts about being conned or lied to; you might look at the people in charge with suspicion. An elderly person tests your judgment and questions your honor. You will be inspired to let your imagination open to its full potential. Let yourself dream, these days do not come too often, so do not ignore the opportunity to follow your fantasies. The stars align to create a sense of worth as you contemplate the meaning of life.

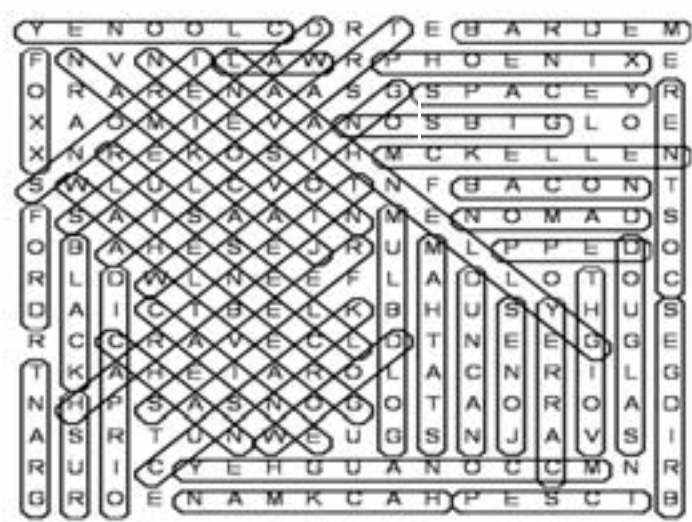


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There could be a disappointment when it comes to gaining weight. Your feeling for people in general could undergo drastic shifts. The positive qualities you were born with will be useful today when working with several people. A strong desire, stronger than anything else, for being valued and appreciated will keep your attention most of the day. Your goals are set high, but they will be proof of your worth when you achieve them. The assignments you make during this new phase will create productive results and high esteem. Job well done! The possibilities for aggravation regarding politics, religion and other touchy social issues are indicated; remember, everyone is entitled to their opinions. Great enjoyment with loved ones this evening.

Friday's Solution

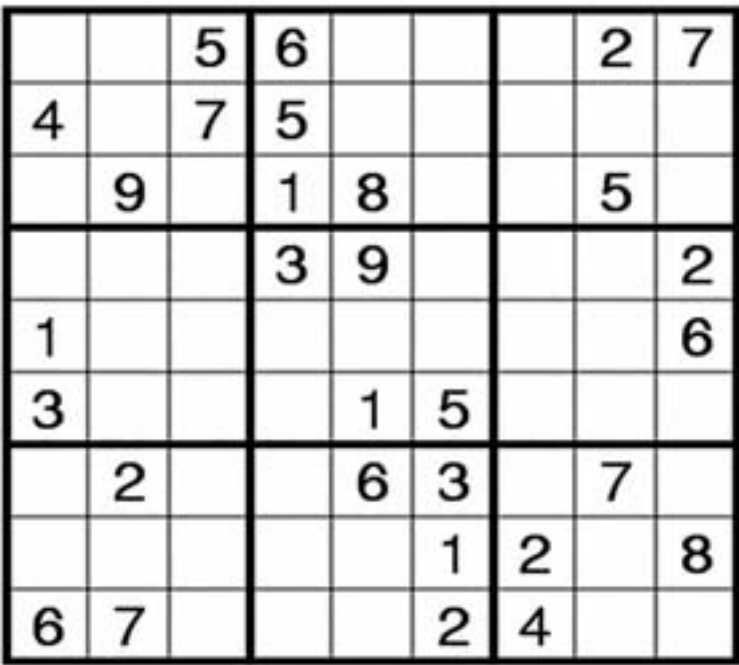
Movie Actors 1



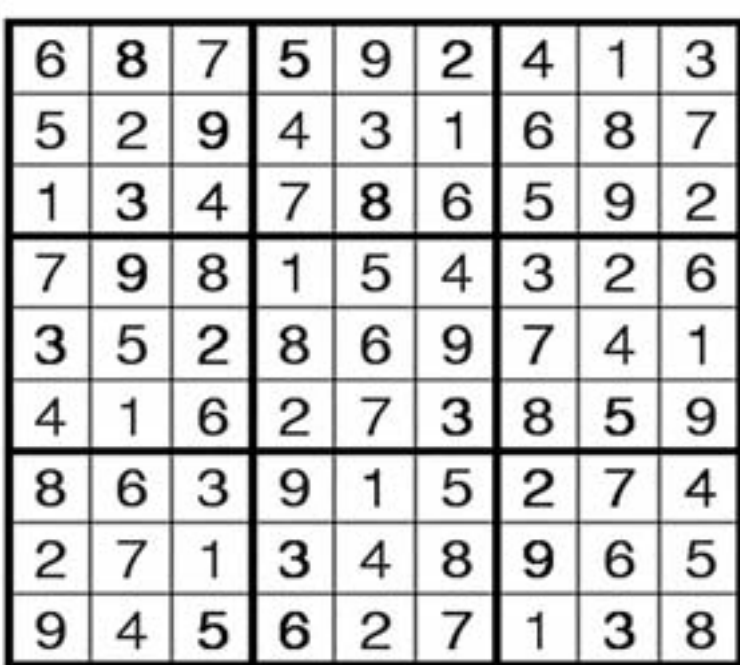
- BACON, Kevin  
BARDEM, Javier  
BLACK, Jack  
BRIDGES, Jeff  
CAINE, Michael  
CARREY, Jim  
CHAN, Jackie  
CLOONEY, George  
COSTNER, Kevin  
CUSACK, John  
DAMON, Matt  
DANIELS, Jeff  
DEPP, Johnny  
DICAPRIO, Leonardo  
DOUGLAS, Michael
- DUNCAN, Michael Clarke  
FORD, Harrison  
FOX, Jamie  
GIBSON, Mel  
GOLDBLUM, Jeff  
GRANT, Hugh  
GYLLENHAAL, Jake  
HACKMAN, Gene  
HARTNETT, Josh  
IRON, Jeremy  
JACKMAN, Hugh  
JONES, James Earl  
LAW, Jude  
MCCONAUGHEY, Matthew
- MCKELLEN, Ian  
NEESON, Liam  
PESCI, Joe  
PHOENIX, Joaquin  
REEVES, Keanu  
RUSH, Geoffrey  
RUSSELL, Kurt  
SPACEY, Kevin  
STATHAM, Jason  
TRAVOLTA, John  
VOIGHT, Jon  
WAHLBERG, Mark  
WEAVING, Hugo  
WOOD, Elijah

The hidden movie title is: REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution





# Classifieds

Sunday, May 13, 2018



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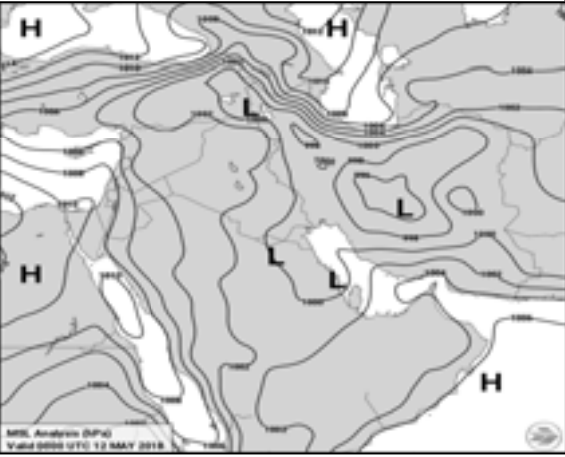
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times north easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust and some scattered clouds will appear.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h with a chance for haze.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 12/05/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	27 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	36 °C	27 °C		
ABDALY	34 °C	25 °C		
BUBYAN	00 °C	00 °C		
JAHRA	38 °C	27 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	32 °C	27 °C		
SALMIYAH	29 °C	27 °C		
AHMADI	29 °C	27 °C		
NUWAISIB	39 °C	27 °C		
WAFRA	39 °C	27 °C		
SALMY	37 °C	25 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	05/13	Relatively hot causing rising dust over open areas	36 °C	27 °C	NW	20 - 40 km/h
Monday	05/14	Relatively hot	36 °C	27 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 28 km/h
Tuesday	05/15	Relatively hot	37 °C	28 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 26 km/h
Wednesday	05/16	Relatively hot and some high clouds will appear	38 °C	28 °C	NW	12 - 38 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:28
Sunrise	04:57
Zuhr	11:44
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:31
Isha	19:57

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	35 °C
MIN. Temp.	24 °C
MAX. RH	84 %
MIN. RH	28 %
MAX. Wind	SE 85 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 13/5/2018							Departure Flights on Sunday 13/5/2018									
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time				Airlines	Flt	Route	Time						
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	KAC	792	Madinah	13:40	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	WAN	312	Asyut	13:45	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30	
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:15	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40	
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	417	Manila	00:25	WAN	873	Istanbul	13:50	
KAC	102	London	00:50	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	JZR	144	Doha	13:55	
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	618	Doha	14:10	MSR	2615	Sohag	00:30	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05	
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10	
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15	
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	364	Colombo	14:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	WAN	975	Baku	14:45	
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	FEG	442	Asyut	14:50	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	751	Madinah	14:30	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55	
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00	
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00	
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05	
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45	
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55	
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	562	Amman	15:20	JZR	142	Doha	03:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00	
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00	
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00	
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:10	
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	534	Cairo	16:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	KAC	619	Doha	16:15	
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20	
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:20	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20	
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:25	KAC	118	New York	16:20	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:05	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00	
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00	
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15	
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	103	London	05:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20	
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25	
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	145	Doha	17:35	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40	
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	177	Dubai	17:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45	
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55	
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	RJA	649	Amman	07:00	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00	
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	902	Baku	07:15	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00	
BAW	157	London	06:10	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15	
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	WAN	311	Asyut	07:25	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20	
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20	
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25	
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	JZR	266	Beirut	18:30	
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:35	BAW	156	London	08:20	JZR	240	Amman	18:30	
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35	KAC	165	Rome	08:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35	
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	JZR	1081	Doha	19:20	
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20	
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30	
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	104	London	20:00	JZR	324	Al Najaf	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50	
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	117	New York	09:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50	
QTR	8511	Doha	08:20	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:00	
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00	
WAN	352	Luxor	08:30	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20	
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	WAN	976	Baku	20:15	KAC	561	Amman	09:40	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30	
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:25	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30	
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	JZR	535	Cairo	09:45	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35	
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50	
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	553	Alexandria	20:50	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00	
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00	
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	KAC	101	London	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05	
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15	
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GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35	
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	564	Amman	21:50	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50	
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	617	Doha	10:10	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50	
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	JZR	750	Madinah	10:15	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00	
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	QTR	8512	Doha	10:20	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05	
JZR	325	Al Najaf	12:20	WAN	416	Beirut	22:15	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20	
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25	
SAW	701	Dammam	12:30	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:25	
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	185	Dubai	22:50	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35	
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50	
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	THY	764	Istanbul	23:15	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00	
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15	
JZR	903	Baku	12:55	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20	
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	241	Amman	23:40	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45	
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05					



# Women action heroes at Cannes as #MeToo gets real

Women are the heroes of a new wave of films at the Cannes film festival, where Hollywood's #MeToo moment may have just spawned its first big budget all-female blockbuster. Jessica Chastain caused a stir Thursday by revealing a dream team cast of female talent including Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Lupita Nyong'o of "Black Panther" fame and Fan Bingbing for her new \$75-million Bond-style caper called "355".

The "Interstellar" and "Zero Dark Thirty" star said she came up with the idea after serving on the Cannes jury last year where she found the depiction of women in the line-up "quite disturbing".

With little or no female-led action films in Cannes' more commercial market, she decided to do something about it. The top secret project leaked out when the A-listers were spotted meeting potential backers in a five-star Cannes hotel. Chastain quickly went public, tweeting: "Top secret no more. Mission accepted". And she walked out in style with her co-stars to promote the project. "I love 'Jason Bourne', the Bond films and 'Mission Impossible', and I asked myself why apart from 'Charlie's Angels', there has never been a female spy movie like that," she said.



French actress Marion Cotillard

## Avenging Yazidi women

While fellow Hollywood stars Cate Blanchett and Kristen Stewart—who lead this year's majority female jury—have been preaching empowerment at Cannes, other women are doing it for themselves in a series of new movies at the festival. They go from an Icelandic eco-warrior outrunning the island's army to Kurdish women fighters battling the Islamic State. "Girls of the Sun", with Iranian star Golshifteh Farahani heading a brigade of Yazidi women out for revenge on jihadists, is only one of a number of oestrogen-fueled films where women go well beyond the cinematic stereotypes.

Another contender in the running for the Palme d'Or top prize—Jia Zhangke's "Ash is the Purest White"—has a young dancer pick up a pistol to defend her man from rival Chinese mobsters.

And among the festival's most praised films so far is "One Day", which follows a Hungarian working mother through a grueling 36 hours as she tries to juggle her job with the demands of her three children and a husband who may be about to stray. The Hollywood Reporter raved about how it makes "painfully visible how much self-effacing effort goes into... the least appreciated job on the planet: being a mother. "No one thanks her but everyone expects her to remember and do a million little things every day," it added.

## Eye-candy no more

Oscar-nominated "Drive" star Carey Mulligan said up to now women have been reduced to playing eye-candy in action films. "You end up always playing the wife of the guy that is saving the world, which is not very interesting," she told Women in Motion talk at the festival.

But some conventionally conceived action films—rarely beacons of enlightened thinking—seem to be getting the message. The "Star Wars" spin-off "Solo"—which is also being launched at Cannes—has British actress Emilia Clarke, the "Mother of Dragons" Daenerys Stormborn in "Game of Thrones" as a shapeshifting smuggler "with her own journey". Q'ira's story is "definitely one of survival and strength. The way that I felt about her was this girl has got a core of steel," Clarke said.

The British comedy "The Spy Who Dumped Me"—which is showing in Cannes' film trade market—plays the James Bond genre for chick flick laughs with two best friends who get accidentally caught up in a spy hit before going toe-to-toe with hired assassins and coming out winners. It follows in the wake of the new BBC television series "Killing Eve"—which was hailed as the "must-see show of the year" last month by critics after it premiered at the MIPTV market in Cannes. The whip-smart cat-and-mouse caper between two female spooks from the pen of Phoebe Waller-Bridge, the brains behind the acclaimed series "Fleabag", is already a hit in the United States. — AFP



Chinese actress Fan Bingbing



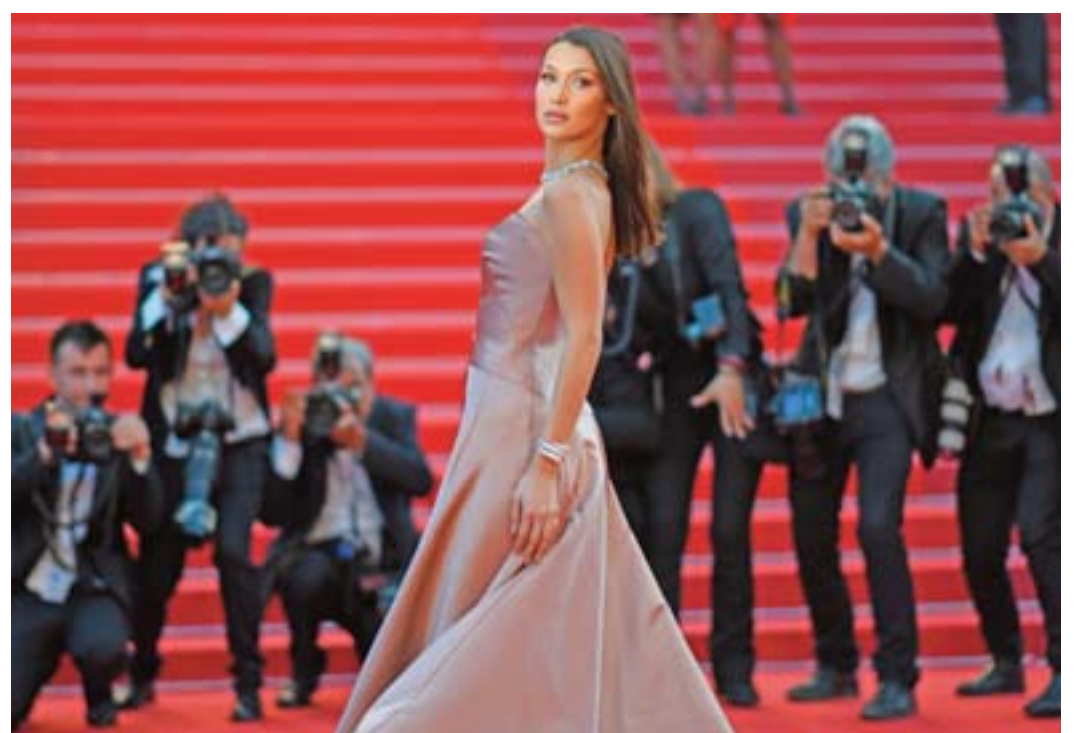
Mexican-Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o



Spanish actress Penelope Cruz



(From left) Chinese actor Liao Fan, Chinese actress Zhao Tao and Chinese director Jia Zhang-Ke



US model Bella Hadid



Lifestyle



Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett



Czech model Petra Nemcova

Film legend Godard snubs Cannes, again

In his now traditional no-show, film legend Jean-Luc Godard failed to turn up for Friday's premiere of his new movie at the Cannes film festival. It is the third time since 2004 that the reclusive Swiss-French director has snubbed the world's top film festival, also staying away in 2010 and 2014. In contrast, two other contenders for the Palme d'Or top prize from Iran and Russia are desperate to attend but have been banned from travel by their governments.

Four years ago, Godard blamed mysterious "problems of a Greek type" - at the height of the euro crisis - for keeping him away from the premiere of his "Film Socialism". His new film, "The Image Book", has received a decidedly lukewarm response, with New York Times critic Matthew Anderson calling it an "incomprehensible mash-up of poor pictures and choppy sound". Godard announced later that he would give a news conference on the film by



FaceTime yesterday, a method famously used by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the failed coup there in 2016. — AFP



Ukrainian singer Regina Todorenco



Indian actress Deepika Padukone



US actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Kristen Stewart



Swedish model Victoria Silvstedt



Chinese model Guan Xiaotong

Empty chair at Cannes for detained Russian rock biopic director



71st Cannes Film Festival – News conference for the film 'Summer' (Leto) in competition – Cannes, France May 10, 2018. Director of photography Vladislav Opeliants, cast members Roma Zver, Irina Starshenbaum, director Kirill Serebrennikov's empty seat, Teo Yoo, producers Ilya Stewart and Charles-Evrard Tchekhoff. — Reuters

There was an empty chair in Cannes on Thursday for a Russian film director under house arrest back home for a fraud case his producer called "ridiculous". "Leto" ("Summer"), a biopic about the early days of a Russian rockstar in the Soviet era, is the first of two films in the festival's main competition to screen without their director. Kirill Serebrennikov was arrested during the shoot and had to complete editing the film at home, alone, without being able to communicate with his cast and crew.

While the Iranian Jafar Panahi, whose movie "3 Faces" will screen on Saturday, is officially banned from making films or leaving the country, Russian authorities say Serebrennikov's fraud case has nothing to do with censorship. "We received an answer from Mr Putin yesterday (to a request to allow Serebrennikov to travel) who told the Cannes Film Festival and the French government that he would have been pleased to help ... but in Russia justice is independent," said Joel Chapron, who was chairing the news conference for the festival.

"Leto" portrays the rock scene of early 1980s St. Petersburg where musicians have to submit lyrics for official approval and audiences at the city's one rock venue are policed to ensure they stay seated and do not show too much enthusiasm.

Established frontman Mike takes a younger singer-songwriter, Viktor, under his wing, setting up a love triangle with Mike's wife Natasha. Western audiences may be unaware that this is based

on a true story and that Viktor Tsoi went on to become one of the most successful and influential rock musicians in Russia before his death in a car crash in 1990, aged 28.

'He speaks about today'

Tsoi, who had a Soviet-Korean father, is played by Teo Yoo, a South Korean actor who had to learn the script phonetically as he does not speak Russian. "I knew about Viktor. He is also famous in Korea," Yoo told the news conference, saying it was scary to play a character familiar to millions of people in the former Soviet Union. "For them, it's like me playing Jesus," he said. With flashes of animation added unexpectedly by Serebrennikov during post-production, and scenes on a train and tram where members of the public break into song, the film has moments of surrealism and, according to Variety's Guy Lodge, "avoids the bland structural pitfalls of the musical biopic".

Not overtly political, the film will get a theatrical release in Russia, but its theme of state censorship and oppression will not go unnoticed as its auteur - who also directs theatre and ballet - remains under arrest. "This was more of a historical film - talking about the context of that time, not stressing any similarities (with the present)," producer Ilya Stewart said. "Although, in my personal opinion, anything Kirill does in his work, whether it's ballet, theatre or any of his film, it's about today. He speaks about today." "Leto" is one of 21 movies in competition for the Palme d'Or in the festival that runs from May 8 to May 19. — Reuters



# Meghan Markle: LA actress with the fairytale role

Meghan Markle once struggled for roles but the US actress has now landed the biggest part of all as she prepares to marry Prince Harry next Saturday and become the newest face in Britain's royal family. At 36 and with a successful self-made career behind her, few doubt that the television star and humanitarian activist is ready to join the cast of the monarchy. Markle made her name as savvy paralegal Rachel Zane in the US legal drama series "Suits", but cultivated a high profile for herself outside the show too. She became a United Nations advocate for women's empowerment and a global ambassador for the World Vision Canada relief agency.

## UN advocate for women's empowerment

The Los Angeles-born star had more than two million followers on her now-closed Instagram account and ran a successful lifestyle blog, The Tig. Markle was also revealed as the anonymous blogger behind The Working Actress, which chronicled the struggles of hustling for parts in Hollywood. "She comes across as very poised, eloquent, thoughtful," said royal writer Andrew Morton, who has penned a biography of Markle. "She's very focused and some-

one who has been very ambitious and really wants to give back. Her great phrase is 'make the change'," he said. "Meghan's a smart girl. She knows exactly what she's getting into."

### Ancestors royals and slaves

Rachel Meghan Markle was born on August 4, 1981 to Thomas Markle, a white, Emmy Award-winning television lighting director who worked on top US shows like "Married With Children", and Doria Ragland, a black social worker and yoga instructor. On her mother's side, her ancestors were slaves who worked on cotton plantations in Georgia. Her mother's surname is taken from a slave owner.

On her father's side, genealogists have traced her ancestry back to king Robert I of Scotland, who reigned from 1306 to 1329. Markle's parents split when she was two and divorced five years later. She is now estranged from her older half-sister and half-brother, who has been scathing about her attitude towards the family. "Her tiny bit of Hollywood fame has gone to her head, changing her into a jaded, shallow, conceited woman that will make a joke of you," half-brother Tom Markle wrote in an April 26 open letter to Harry.

She went to a private Catholic girls' school where she was remembered for her strong sense of right and wrong. Aged 11, her letter-writing campaign got the consumer goods giant Procter and Gamble to change a washing-up commercial, referring to people rather than just women. Determined to give herself options, Markle studied theatre and international relations at Northwestern University. She graduated in 2003, after which she landed a six-week internship as a press officer at the US embassy in Argentina. "She had all that it takes to be a successful diplomat," said Mark Krischik, her superior in Buenos Aires.

### Suits' springboard

Returning to Los Angeles, in 2004 she fell in love



In this arranged photograph, the cover of the book entitled 'Meghan, A Hollywood Princess,' by author Andrew Morton, is pictured in London.



In this file photograph, Britain's Prince Harry stands with his fiancée US actress Meghan Markle as she shows off her engagement ring whilst they pose for a photograph in the Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace in west London. — AFP photos

like her way of being outspoken, saying what she thinks, having views on politics and everything else". "Everybody's intrigued by Meghan, whether they like her or not," she added. Her acting career behind her, Markle's royal duties are likely to focus on youth, the Commonwealth and women's empowerment. With Harry, his brother Prince William and his wife Kate, the four will have the task of renewing the monarchy's relevance to a younger generation.—AFP

with go-getting film producer Trevor Engelson, who helped her get on the acting ladder as she struggled for bit parts. They married in Jamaica in 2011. Soon after their engagement, Markle had landed her signature role in "Suits". Filmed in Toronto, their relationship became a long-distance one. A series of flops followed for Engelson but the struggling actress became a star and the marriage collapsed in 2013.

Through a mutual friend, she met Queen Elizabeth II's grandson Harry in July 2016 while visiting London. Their romance quickly blossomed on a whirlwind camping trip to Botswana. Since their engagement was announced in November 2017, Markle has accompanied Harry, now sixth in line to the throne, on several public events ahead of their May 19 wedding. Arthur Edwards, The Sun newspaper's royal photographer since 1977, said her style at public engagement was unusual.

"I've seen Meghan do selfies and give autographs, which the royals never do." But Majesty Magazine editor Ingrid Seward said that some readers "don't



In this file photo Members of The State Trumpeters from The Band of The Household Cavalry rehearse at the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment's Hyde Park Barracks.

## Prince Harry: The troubled playboy grows up

Prince Harry, who marries US former actress Meghan Markle on May 19, has been transformed in recent years from an angry young man into one of the British royal family's greatest assets.

The younger son of the heir to the throne Prince Charles and the late Diana, princess of Wales, the 33-year-old has always struggled with his role and for much of his youth seemed to want nothing more than to escape.

He spent 10 years in the British army, serving two tours of duty in Afghanistan, but hit the headlines for his partying and his outspoken criticism of the media.

The prince has rebuilt his reputation in recent years, however, through his charity work with veterans and by taking on more duties from his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II.

He appears to have inherited his mother's ability to connect with people—as well as her sense of mischief—and, with his brother Prince William and sister-in-law Kate, has helped put a fresh face on the monarchy.

People like Harry's "buffoonery and his lack of sophistication", Majesty Magazine editor Ingrid Seward told AFP. "He was always one of the lads, and I think that's why we love him—and so we're fascinated to follow his life." Harry, now sixth in line to the throne, has said that Diana is always in his thoughts, and has championed many of her charitable causes, including taking an HIV test to raise awareness.

But he revealed that for a long time he struggled to cope with her death in a Paris car crash in 1997, and sought professional help a few years ago. In a remarkably candid interview last year, the prince admitted he came "very close to a complete breakdown on numerous occasions". He turned a corner and in July 2016 met Markle, a US television star, on a blind date set up by a mutual friend. Their transatlantic romance quickly blossomed.

### Shutting down

Prince Henry Charles Albert David of Wales was born on September 15, 1984, the "spare" to his brother William, who will one day inherit the throne. Both educated at the elite Eton school, their childhood was dominated by the messy breakdown of their parents' marriage and Diana's tragic 1997 death in a car crash. The young princes walking behind the coffin at her funeral—Harry only 12, his brother 15 — was one of the most enduring images of that day.

"Losing my mum at the age of 12, and therefore shutting down all of my emotions for the last 20 years, has had a quite serious effect on not only my personal life but also my work as well," Harry said. At one point, he seemed the archetypal "playboy prince", regularly photographed looking worse for wear and often accompanied by an attractive girl. He caused outrage in 2005 when photographs of him in a Nazi Afrika Korps fancy dress outfit made front-page news.

That was the year he entered the army, a conventional path for royals and one that he later admitted "was the best escape I've ever had" from the constant public attention.

In 2008, he had to be pulled out of Afghanistan after a news blackout about his deployment was breached, leading to fears he would be targeted by the Taliban. But he returned in 2012, piloting Apache helicopters during a 20-week tour of duty—only to make headlines again when he said his job was to take insurgents "out of the game".

### 'Share the pressure'

In a series of interviews from the front-line, the prince failed to hide his contempt for the media who he has long blamed for his mother's death. The first confirmation of his relationship with Markle came in an angry statement he issued in November 2016 decrying "abuse and harassment" against her. But Harry has learned to use his public profile to promote causes close to his heart, notably about mental health with William and Kate.

He has also set up a sports championship for wounded military personnel, the Invictus Games, which has secured the support of high-profile figures including former US president Barack Obama. Harry still gets himself in scrapes, including telling Newsweek magazine that he did not think anyone in the royal family wanted to be monarch. But with Markle at his side, he finally seems ready to face the future.—AFP

When US actress Meghan Markle marries Britain's Prince Harry at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle next Saturday, her career and right to privacy will be just two of the things she will have to give up. The daughter of a yoga teacher and an award-winning Hollywood lighting director, Californian Markle is about to plunge headfirst into the world of rules and constraints of Britain's royal family.

### No 'Princess Meghan'

Markle will give up her acting career in order to live out her fairy tale. However, she will not become "Princess Meghan" because only women born into the royal family can carry the title followed by their name. Her official title will instead likely be "Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Wales". But if Queen Elizabeth II offers Harry a duchy on his wedding day, Meghan will become a duchess.

Among the titles available, the Duke of Sussex or the Duke of Clarence are the favorites.

Markle has also had to dilute her US identity by taking on British citizenship and has been baptized into the Church of England out of

respect for Queen Elizabeth II's role as head of the denomination.

### Stiff upper lip

As unelected representatives of the state, members of the royal family are heavily discouraged from expressing political opinions in public. This will require Markle to curb her vocal advocacy and disengage from social media. The self-proclaimed feminist had already begun to lay low before the engagement was announced, closing her blog "The Tig" and the Instagram account on which she posted photos of herself.

"She's allowed herself to be completely co-opted by the royal machinery," said republican campaigner Graham Smith. She will now have to concentrate on the more mundane charitable activities of the royal family, and will become a patron of the Royal Foundation, alongside her husband, Prince William and his wife Kate. The foundation is focused mainly on veterans, young people, the environment and mental health.

Despite these constraints, her biographer Andrew Morton believes that Meghan and Harry "are going to be a power couple".

"You're going to see them as far more activist than perhaps previous royal couples," he said.

### Royal rights and duties

Markle's relaxed Californian existence will be replaced by one of protocol and unwritten rules, such as not removing one's coat in public. She will also swap her "relatively quiet life" for one of paparazzi intrusion. "Even though I've been on my show for... six years and working before that, I've never been part of tabloid culture," she said in a television interview aired in November. All her movements will now have to be approved and she will live under the constant gaze of police protection.

The Queen recently appointed Harry as a youth ambassador for the Commonwealth, meaning Markle will travel widely as she also learns more about her adopted homeland. To help her navigate life in what the royals privately refer to as "The Firm", however, the 36-year-old will have an army of staff to help her, including a hairdresser, a dresser and a driver.—AFP



General view of St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, west of London.





Emilia Clarke attends the premiere of Disney Pictures and Lucasfilm's 'Solo: A Star Wars Story' at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles, California.



Storm Troopers



Chewbacca attends the premiere.

# Hollywood glitters as ‘Star Wars’ stages ‘Solo’ premiere

Lucasfilm brought the biggest party in the galaxy to Hollywood on Thursday as rapt devotees gathered under the Millennium Falcon for the world premiere of the latest “Star Wars” spin-off.

“Solo: A Star Wars Story,” which gets its US release on May 25, tells the coming-of-age tale of smuggler Han Solo before he was the galaxy’s most adored scoundrel. The glittering array of stars in Hollywood Boulevard included cast members Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke, Donald Glover, Thandie Newton and Paul Bettany.

“One of my favorite movies growing up was ‘Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.’ I think this movie has a little bit of the fun of that film,” said Ehrenreich, who plays Solo, on the red carpet.

Hollywood’s A-list-“Star Wars” alumni or otherwise-turned out for the second in the “anthology” series of spin-off films that started in 2016 with “Rogue One.” Among them were Mark Hamill, Ewan McGregor, Sofia Vergara, Alexandra Daddario, Benjamin Bratt and Johnny Knoxville.

The Disney-owned Lucasfilm delighted fans in April with a sneak peak of one of the most hotly-anticipated scenes from the movie, the first meeting between the young Solo and Glover’s Lando Calrissian. “A very slow week, but hopefully it will speed up as soon this movie comes out,” joked Glover, whose rap alter ego Childish Gambino has racked up a record-breaking 70 million YouTube views in just four days with his latest single “This is America.” Glover said the best thing about playing Lando was the fans, who began recognizing him as the galaxy’s sexiest gambler the very day he was announced for the part, when he went for a pizza.



Actor Peter Mayhew

## Bumpy ride

The trailers have also offered a glimpse of the pivotal moment in “Star Wars” lore when Han beats Lando in a card game to win the Millennium Falcon starship, a full-size version of which was constructed for the premiere. “Everything about this movie is getting you ready for what you already know,” said Emilia Clarke-Daenerys Targaryen on HBO’s “Game of Thrones”—who plays Qi’ra,



Cast, crew and executives attend the premiere.

Solo’s friend since childhood. “And I think that the way that we get there is satisfying.”

The movie, which comes just five months after “Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” has endured a journey to screen that has been bumpier than the Falcon completing the Kessel Run.

Oscar-winning filmmaker Ron Howard was brought in last year to replace sacked directing duo Phil Lord and Chris Miller. The pair behind the acclaimed “The LEGO

Movie” and “21 Jump Street,” were dropped after clashing with Lucasfilm chief Kathleen Kennedy and writer Lawrence Kasdan, according to reports.

“This is showmanship at its best and it’s what ‘Star Wars’ fans deserve, this kind of excitement. But I’m also really glad that we worked very hard to make this release date,” said Howard. “It was a big challenge. The movie was not compromised one bit and I’m so glad because it really feels like a summer movie to me.” Solo’s Wookiee companion Chewbacca is played by six foot 10 inch (2.08-meter) Finnish basketball Joonas Suotamo who took over from Peter Mayhew, starting with “The Force Awakens” (2015). “I just approached it as another adventure happening at a different time in Chewbacca’s life,” Suotamo said.

“It was interesting to approach this time when Chewbacca doesn’t know Han, he doesn’t know all these people, he’s in a really bad spot and he’s looking for a way out.”

Experts are predicting an opening weekend domestic box office of around \$137 million, some way short of the \$155 million recouped by “Rogue One” and a figure dwarfed by Marvel twice already this year.—AFP

“ It’s what Star Wars fans deserve ”



Ron Howard and Alden Ehrenreich



Thandie Newton



Actress Sophia Vergara



Alexandra Daddario



Phoebe Waller-Bridge



Peyton List



Carson McAllister and Witney Carson



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018



Mexican-Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o poses as she arrives for the Chopard party on the sidelines of the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.—AFP

## Age cannot wither Brazilian seniors in beauty contest

**B**razilian Rosalia Pereira had two reasons to celebrate Thursday: her miraculously rekindled true love 40 years to the day after their first date and being crowned Sao Paulo's senior beauty queen. "Today is even more special because of this," the 62-year-old said after winning the beauty contest, which aims to give the elderly a bit of fun just before Brazilian Mother's Day today.

“THE ELDERLY TODAY ARE ACTIVE”

“To participate, to have the courage to participate, is proof that the elderly today are active and this is very good, because it boosts everyone's confidence,” Pereira said. Now in its 15th year, the contest is run by a community center for the elderly in the northeast of the city. “This is part of social

inclusion, getting people out of their houses,” said Nilton da Silva Guedes, social integration director at the center, known as the Paulista Institute of Geriatrics and Gerontology.

“There's a different world, people of the same age range who maybe have similar problems, people who can talk or exchange ideas, understand each other, and see things aren't that bad,” he said. Organizers whittled down more than 100 initial contestants to 25 finalists. On the day of the final, hopeful beauties aged between 62 and 77 paraded before a loud audience, mostly consisting of other elderly—though not always. “That's my mother!” one younger woman shouted, pointing proudly at the stage.

Up for grabs were titles in five other categories: Miss Timidity, Miss Elegance, Miss Smile, Miss Congeniality and Miss Beauty. The previous editions' winners hung the sashes around their successors' shoulders. Last year's Miss Beauty 2017 appraised the new title-holder critically before conceding the sash, and outgoing beauty queen Aureluce Gastao seemed to need a little persuasion to surrender her crown. Mother-of-two Pereira, a commercial manager, is no stranger to the catwalk, having won another title in her suburb in 2016. But what is beauty without love? In this, Pereira says she has been the biggest winner of all.



Miss Elderly 2018 Rosalia Pereira, 62, is crowned during the awards ceremony at a beauty pageant for elderly women ahead of Mother's Day, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



A couple dances during a beauty pageant for elderly women.

Her greatest achievement, she says, was “rediscovering the big love of my life.”

Divorced, she recently rekindled a relationship with her very first boyfriend after he found her through Facebook. Thirty five years had passed since she'd turned down his marriage proposal. “I

was very young. He was even younger. Afterward, I regretted it,” she said. By the time they met again, she was already 60. “The next day, he asked me to marry him and put a ring on my finger.” Thursday was 40 years to the day since their first date.—AFP



Contestants take part in a beauty pageant for elderly women. — AFP photos