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**رمضان**  
Ramadan Kareem

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# Kuwait to push for resolution at UN to protect Palestinians

## Amir regrets UNSC failure in condemning Israeli breaches

Ramadan Kareem

### Ramadan: Month of the holy Quran

By Teresa Leshar

The first verses of the Holy Quran were revealed in Ramadan, 1449 lunar years ago (610 AD). During the course of 23 years, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) received Quranic verses as spoken addresses from the Creator - the Quran is considered the speech of God in the Arabic language. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) then recited the verses so that they could be memorized verbatim, and they were also recorded in writing. Before he died, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) specified the order of verses and the division of chapters, according to divine instruction.

The original Quran is still preserved until today with precise pronunciation, with the Arabic language developing to represent it phonetically. It is the only revelation or divine book that contains the pure words of God without being rephrased by His messengers or any other human being.

The Quran is addressed to all mankind. Sometimes Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is specifically addressed with instructions such as "They ask you about... Say [to them]..." Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is also encouraged and sometimes gently reproached in the holy Quran. Believers are addressed with specific instructions on how to achieve both temporal and eternal success. And mankind in general is addressed with invitations to believe in God and mold life around that belief, and they are informed of the consequences of accepting or rejecting God's invitation.

The Quran's purpose is to inform people of a reality beyond their five senses and their perceptions of space and time, and to teach moral lessons and develop spirituality. With the additional perspective it offers, the Quran also invites people to adopt a lifestyle that ensures ultimate happiness and success. Finally, through stories and instruction, it describes the beliefs and practices that are essential to achieve that state.

The verses of the holy Quran were revealed to address particular situations, to relate historical information and to codify Islamic law. Common subjects are descriptions of God, stories of prophets, descriptions of believers and disbelievers, promises of God's rewards, especially Paradise, warnings about consequences for rebellion toward God, including Hellfire, instructions for personal conduct, guidelines for familial and social relations, and a framework for international relations.

Being an oral revelation first and foremost, devout Muslims learn how to recite the holy scripture as it was revealed. Verbatim memorization is common and care is taken to reproduce the exact pronunciation and vocal duration of each letter. Arabic is a rich language, and words of the holy Quran have great depth and breadth; therefore, they also study the meaning of the words, verses and chapters, and there are encyclopedic works of this nature. In addition, Muslims study the occasions of revelation, the relation of the holy text to prophetic traditions, and the application of principles by renowned scholars and rulers.

The study of the holy Quran develops moral reasoning and spirituality first and foremost, as well as thought processes of logic, sequencing, deduction, intuition, assimilation and abstraction. Reciting and memorizing it develops memory, enunciation and self-expression.

The printed Quran is revered as a holy book and is treated with respect. It is not considered casual reading or handled like an ordinary book. There is only one version of the holy Quran, and careful measures are taken that prints and reprints of the Quran in Arabic are authenticated by authoritative bodies for accuracy. Since the Quran is an Arabic-language literary masterpiece both technically and aesthetically, it is impossible to portray its rhythm, rhyme, depth of denotation and subtlety of connotation in another language. There are many translations of the holy Quran, but we cannot call a translation "the Quran" but only an approximation of the meaning of the Quran. The best English translations have the accompanying original text in Arabic so that it can be consulted.

Since Ramadan is the month of the Quran, everyone should have their copy handy and complete reading it in this holy month.

Note: Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

ISTANBUL: The State of Kuwait will continue diplomatic efforts until the United Nations Security Council issues a resolution for protecting the Palestinian people, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah pledged on Friday.

"At the time members of the Security Council mourn the martyrs expressing their sentiments toward the grave tragedy and hardship, the council stands idle and incapable of offering aid to the unarmed civilians, either in a statement or resolution of condemnation," said His Highness the Amir, addressing the extraordinary Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit, held here to discuss the plight of the Palestinian people following the latest Israeli attacks in Gaza that left at least 60 Palestinian martyrs.

Although HH the Amir voiced frustration with the UNSC failure to issue an effective resolution for the Palestinian cause, he vowed that the State of Kuwait

would pursue the bids to issue a resolution stipulating international protection for the brotherly Palestinian people; in the face of the repressive Israeli practices. "My country will also continue the bids in support of the Palestinian brothers for attaining their legitimate right of establishing the independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital as mentioned in the international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab peace initiative and the two States' principle," HH the Amir emphasized.

HH the Amir noted Kuwait, through its non-permanent membership at the UNSC, sought to issue a statement condemning the Israeli breaches, calling to bring the perpetrators into account, regretfully however, the council failed to issue such a resolution. Currently, consultations are being conducted among the member states regarding a draft resolution that "we have presented

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ISTANBUL: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers a speech during the extraordinary summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Friday. —KUNA

### Harry and Meghan marry in emotional star-studded pageant

WINDSOR: Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle became husband and wife in a star-studded Windsor Castle ceremony yesterday, filled with traditional pomp and modern twists—and watched the world over. The new Duke and Duchess of Sussex exchanged vows at the altar in St. George's Chapel in an emotional event that brought the biracial US TV star into the heart of the British monarchy.

As some 100,000 packed the sun-baked Windsor streets outside, Queen Elizabeth II and the royal family were joined by stars including Oprah Winfrey, Elton John, George Clooney and David Beckham. The couple held hands throughout and exchanged vows in a traditional Church of England wedding featuring unusual turns. US pastor Michael Curry delivered an impassioned address and a gospel choir sang "Stand By Me".

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WINDSOR: Meghan, Duchess of Sussex begins her carriage procession with Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex in the Ascot Landau Carriage after their wedding ceremony at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in Windsor, yesterday. — AFP (See Page 19-21)

### Cuba mourns after 107 killed in airliner crash

HAVANA: Cuba began two days of national mourning yesterday for victims of the crash of a state airways plane that killed all but three of its 110 passengers and crew. President Miguel Diaz-Canel said an investigation was under way into Friday's crash of the nearly 40-year-old Boeing 737, leased to the national carrier Cubana de

Aviacion by a Mexican company.

Three women pulled alive from the mangled wreckage are the only known survivors. The Boeing crashed shortly after taking off from Jose Marti airport, coming down in a field near the airport and sending a thick column of acrid smoke into the air. The mourning period is to last from dawn yesterday to midnight today, the Communist Party leader and former president Raul Castro said. Flags are to be flown at half-mast throughout the country.

The plane was on an internal flight from Havana to the eastern city of Holguin. Most of the passengers were Cuban, with five foreigners, including two Argentines, among them.

The plane—carrying 104 passengers—was almost completely destroyed in the crash and subsequent fire. Firefighters raced to the scene to put out the blaze along with a fleet of ambulances to assist any survivors. What appeared to be one of the wings of the plane was wedged

among scorched tree trunks, but the main fuselage was almost entirely destroyed. Built in 1979, the plane was leased from a small Mexican company, Global Air, also known as Aerolineas Damoj. Mexico said it was sending two civil aviation specialists to help in the investigation. The six crew members were Mexican nationals.

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### Texas gunman attacks high school art class, kills 10

SANTA FE, Texas: Texas was expected to release the names of nine students and a teacher killed by a gunman, identified by authorities as a 17-year-old student armed with a shotgun and pistol, who opened fire in a morning art class in his Houston-area high school.

Santa Fe High School, southeast of Houston, joined on Friday a long list of US campuses where students and faculty have been killed in mass shootings. Shortly before 8 am, students said the gunman, identified by law enforcement as Dimitrios Pagourtzis, opened fire in an art class, sending students and



SANTA FE, TX: Crime scene tape is stretched across the front of Santa Fe High School yesterday in Santa Fe, Texas. — AFP

staff fleeing. Ten people were wounded, with several in critical condition.

It was the fourth-deadliest mass shooting at a US public school in modern history, and again stoked the nation's long-running debate

over gun ownership three months after 17 teens and educators were fatally shot in Parkland, Florida.

A vigil was held Friday night for the victims, who have not been officially

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Ramadan Kareem

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Mohammed Al-Naki**

The family diwania  
Receiving guest tonight

**20th May From 8 pm**

Address: Mansouriya, Block No. 1  
Jassim Al-Wazzan Street,  
Opp Al Othman Mosque



## Local

# OIC summit urges providing int'l protection for Palestinian people

## Call for immediate action to investigate Israeli's crimes

**ISTANBUL:** Concluding the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, kings and Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) adopted a final communique in response to the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories. They urged dispatching an international fact-finding committee to the occupied Palestinian territories to investigate the recent Israeli massacres against the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip and providing international protection to the Palestinians. The gathering, held upon the invitation of the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Chair of the Thirteenth Session of the Islamic Summit, reviewed the brutal Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and the illegal inauguration of the US Embassy in Jerusalem.

In their final communique, the OIC leader said: "Having reviewed the alarming situation and growing tensions in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, 'Expressing our profound appreciation to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for calling for the convening and hosting of this extraordinary Islamic Summit on an issue of such importance for Ummah (Muslim nation), 'Proceeding from the historical, moral and legal responsibility placed on the Muslim Ummah and in full solidarity with Palestine and its people, We condemn in the strongest terms the criminal actions of Israeli forces against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where unarmed Palestinian civilians are exercising their legitimate right of peaceful protest against this inhumane and absolutely illegal occupation; and hold Israel, the occupying Power, fully accountable for the grave atrocities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the latest episode of willful murder of at least 60 civilians, and injuring of nearly 2700 others on 14 May.

"We declare that these acts constitute savage crimes committed by the Israeli forces with the backing of the US Administration, including through shielding the Israeli occupation in the UN Security Council from accountability; also note that these crimes have been committed against the backdrop of the illegal decision by the US Administration to officially move its embassy from Israel to the occupied City of Jerusalem, which has further emboldened the Israeli government in its reckless behavior towards civilian Palestinian population.

"We call on the international community, in particular the UN Security Council, to uphold its legal obligations to defend the international law and order as they relate to Palestine; to act in line with its legal and moral obligation to ensure accountability for these unchecked crimes that Israel, the occupying power, is carrying out with impunity; and to put an end to these atrocities, and to provide international protection for the Palestinian people.

### International protection

"We call for the international protection of the Palestinian population including through dispatching of international protection force. We request the OIC General Secretariat to act immediately to establish an international independent Committee of Experts to investigate the crimes and massacres committed by the Israeli forces against the peaceful and unarmed demonstrators in the Gaza Strip, to determine the culpability of the Israeli officials and communicate the findings to relevant international bodies. "We call upon the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the UN Secretary General, UN Human Rights Council, the special rapporteurs and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to take neces-



ISTANBUL: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen in a group photo with the leaders participating in the extraordinary Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit. — KUNA

sary actions to form an international investigation committee into the recent atrocities in the Gaza Strip, and enable the committee to initiate field investigation, within a precise timeframe, and ensuring enacting a clear mechanism to determine the culpability of the Israeli officials with a view to ensuring justice for the victims and put an end to the impunity of the perpetrators.

"We call on the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council to uphold their responsibilities in this regard and invite all countries to mobilize their efforts to bring this issue to the agenda of the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, and the Human Rights Council urgently. We appreciate the role of the state of Kuwait as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and its immediate reaction to the bloody events in Gaza and its request to the Security Council for an emergency meeting on 15 May 2018, welcoming the Kuwaiti steps by proposing a draft resolution on the protection of civilians regretting the block from the United States for the press statement in response to those unfortunate events.

"We reaffirm the need to coordinate and work together with the international and regional organizations, including the Arab League, the European Union and the African Union on this issue. We reaffirm the centrality of the Palestinian cause and the status of Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) to the Muslim Ummah; renew our principled support for the Palestinian people in their

pursuit to attain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent and sovereign Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital; and invite all countries to officially recognize the State of Palestine.

"We reaffirm our position that Al-Quds shall remain the eternal capital of Palestine and that the inauguration of the US embassy in Jerusalem neither alters the legal status of the occupied City, nor legitimizes its illegal annexation by Israel, the occupying power. "We affirm support for the historical Hashemite Custodianship assumed by His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussain on Muslim and Christian holy sites in Al-Quds, which was reaffirmed by the agreement signed between His Majesty King Abdullah II and His Excellency Mahmud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine on 31 March 2013; and for the role of the Jordanian Department of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque Islamic Waqf in preserving and defending Al-Haram Al-Quds Al-Sharif."

### Continuous efforts

The OIC leaders, according to the communique, praised the continuous efforts exerted by King Mohammad VI, of Morocco, the Chair of Al-Quds Committee, in defending the holy city and supporting the resilience of the Palestinian people. They applauded the efforts made by Bayt Mal Al-Quds Agency of Al-Quds Committee. They consider that any state that follows,

accepts or acquiesces in the US Administration's move or any similar step adopted by other countries is complicit in undermining international law and order.

They expressed determination to respond to these shameful actions with appropriate measures; and decided to take all necessary steps to prevent other countries from following the illegal US example by transferring their embassies to Jerusalem. In this regard, they condemned the relocation by Guatemala of its embassy to Jerusalem, and declared their determination to take the appropriate political, economic and other measures against countries which recognize the holy city as the capital of Israel or relocate their embassies thereto.

They mandated the OIC Secretariat to prepare recommendations on appropriate measures that can be implemented in this regard. They called on all OIC member states to openly condemn such action and to pursue all available legal and diplomatic avenues to defend Palestinian national rights from all hostile and illegal actions from the United States or any other party, and to support decisions adopted recently by the Palestinian leadership to advance the Palestinian rights.

They affirmed that countries running for international posts seeking the OIC's support for their candidature will be assessed based on their positions regarding the Palestine question, in particular on Jerusalem. They called on the member states and the wider international community to ban imports from the illegal Israeli settlements and take measures against individuals and entities involved in or beneficiaries of the perpetuation of occupation and settlement regime. They also decided to take all possible measures and to pursue all possible political, legal and diplomatic avenues to defend the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people against Israeli aggressions. — KUNA



## Kuwait's int'l role appreciated

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# Kuwait submits UN draft resolution to protect Palestinians

**NEW YORK:** The State of Kuwait has submitted a draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council Friday calling for making arrangements to guarantee safety and protection of the Palestinians civilians in the occupied territories, including the Gaza Strip.

The draft resolution states that the State of Kuwait condemns in the strongest terms the use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and particularly in the Gaza Strip, in violation of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and relevant resolutions, and expresses its sorrow at the loss of innocent lives.

It also calls for the "full lifting of the blockade and the restrictions imposed by Israel on the movement and access into and out of the Gaza Strip, including through the immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of the crossing points of the Gaza Strip for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons in accordance with international law."

Kuwait's draft resolution requests the intensification of efforts by the UN Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in immediate efforts to de-escalate the situation and promote respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights law and the relevant UN resolutions, with a view to contributing to the deterrence of violence and to protection of the civilian population as well as towards an environment conducive to dialogue.

It also requests the Secretary-General to examine the present situation and to submit a written report, no later than 30 days from the adoption of the present resolution, containing his recommendations on ways and means for ensuring the safety, protection and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation. The draft resolution expressed Kuwait's "grave concern at the escalation of violence and tensions and the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular since 30 March 2018, and its severe impact on the safety and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population." Grave concern is also voiced over "the loss of civilian lives and the high number of casualties among Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, including casualties among children."

It condemns "the use of force by the Israeli occupying forces, including the use of live ammunition against civilian protesters, and the killing, injuring and maiming of civilians, including children, medics and journalists, reaffirming the right to peaceful assembly and peaceful protest."

### Existing prohibitions

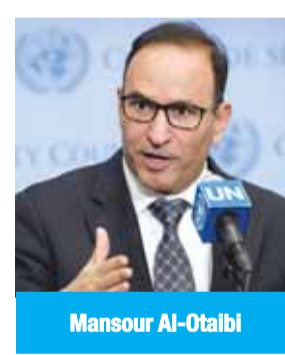
The draft resolution emphasizes that there are existing prohibitions under international humanitarian law against attacks intentionally directed against civilians, which in situations of armed conflict constitute war crimes, and recalling the need for States to end impunity for such criminal acts and to pursue measures of accountability towards this end, stressing in this regard the importance of ensuring independent, impartial and transparent investigations in accordance with international standards. It also voices alarm at the exacerbation of the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and stressing the urgency of achieving a sustainable solution to this crisis in line with international humanitarian law, foremost with a lifting of the Israeli blockade.

It also stresses the particular impact that armed conflict has on women and children, including as refugees and displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities and older persons, and stressing the protection and assistance needs of affected civilian populations. Recalling that a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means in accordance with international law and the relevant UN resolutions, the draft resolution stresses the need for the Security Council and Member States to strengthen further the protection of civilians in armed conflict. It stresses that the deliberate targeting of civilians and other protected persons, and the commission of systematic, flagrant and widespread violations of applicable international humanitarian and human rights law in situations of armed conflict may constitute a threat to international peace and security. The draft resolution demands that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease its military reprisals, collective punishment and unlawful use of force against civilians, including in the Gaza Strip.

Calling for exercise of maximum restraint and calm by all parties to avert the further destabilization of the situation, the draft resolution demands that Israel, the occupying Power, scrupulously abide by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

It also calls for full respect by all parties for international humanitarian law, including in regards to the protection of the civilian population, and reiterates the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and ensure their protection.

Kuwait's draft resolution, reaffirms willingness to respond to situations of armed conflict where civilians



Mansour Al-Otaibi

are being targeted or humanitarian assistance to civilians is being deliberately obstructed, including through the consideration of appropriate measures at the Security Council's disposal in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. It demands all parties to cooperate with humanitarian personnel in order to allow and facilitate unimpeded access to the civilian population, and calls for the cessation of all forms of violence and intimidation directed against humanitarian personnel. It also urges the provision of immediate and unimpeded humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, bearing in mind critical medical, food, water and fuel needs, and urges increased support to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing the vital role of the Agency, alongside other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations, in providing humanitarian and emergency assistance in the Gaza Strip. The draft resolution underscores the need for immediate and significant steps to stabilize the situation and to reverse negative trends on the ground, calling for efforts to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law towards ending impunity, ensuring justice for all victims, deterring violations, protecting civilians and promoting peace.

It calls for renewed and urgent efforts to create the conditions necessary to launch credible negotiations to achieve, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just and lasting comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, as called for in resolution 2334 (2016) and its other relevant resolutions.

### Constructive dialogue

The tabling of the draft resolution is part of Kuwait's efforts to push for constructive dialogue over this vital humanitarian issue, a senior Kuwaiti diplomat said late Friday, Kuwait's permanent representative at the UN

headquarters in New York, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that negotiations on the draft resolution would be scheduled on the level of experts tomorrow, affirming that his country will seek to constructively negotiate with the Council's 15 members to come out with a fruitful result. He affirmed that Kuwait, since joining the UNSC as a non-permanent member, had been actively involved in issues connected with the Middle East region, adding that the GCC state had mostly pushed for highlighting Arab matters, namely the Palestinian cause.

The draft resolution, submitted to the Council members, called for providing international protection to occupied Palestinian territories in addition to the lifting of the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip by Israel.

The document also encouraged intensifying UN efforts to de-escalate the situation in the region and reinforcing the respect of international and humanitarian laws. The draft resolutions also called on the UN Secretariat to provide a written report in no more than 30 days regarding the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and asked for recommendations that would ensure the safety of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti senior diplomat touched on his country's efforts within the mainframe of the UNSC, saying that Kuwait was part of a historic delegation, which visited parts of Myanmar and Bangladesh to check on the oppressed Rohingya Muslim minority escaping from Myanmar's Buddhist extremists. Ambassador Otaibi also touched on the UNSC resolution 2401 concerning the ceasefire in Syria, saying that he was disappointed that the resolution-tabled by Kuwait and Sweden last February was not allowed to be fully implemented, which might have saved many lives in Syria.

The resolution called for a 30-day ceasefire to allow medical and humanitarian teams to offer help to those caught in the chaotic situation in Syria. The Kuwaiti diplomat called for resolving the Syrian crisis through UNSC resolution 2254, which endorses a roadmap for peace in Syria and the Geneva Communiqué of 2012. On the situation in Yemen, Otaibi said that Kuwait called for referring to the GCC initiative, UNSC resolution 2216 concerning Yemen, and the outcome of the national Yemeni dialogue as the bases for talks for peace in the fellow Arab country. He affirmed that Kuwait will continue its policies of promoting preventative diplomacy, mediation and reconciliation as it did 40 years ago during its first tenure as non-permanent UNSC member in 1978-1979. — KUNA



Local

# Expat public sector employees down 23 percent in one year

## Seven members per Kuwaiti family in average; 2.7 per expat family

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The total number of expatriates working in the public sector has decreased one year since the policy of replacing foreign employees with citizens was launched, recent official statistics has shown. The total number of expatriates working in state departments dropped from 82,061 in 2017 to 80,933 in 2018, ie 23.14 percent of the total manpower working for the government, according to statistics released by the Civil Service Commission (CSC); the state department responsible for employment in the public sector. Furthermore, the statistics show that CSC has terminated the contracts of 1,128 non-Kuwaitis in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

### Family members

Recent Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) statistics showed that an average Kuwaiti family includes seven members, while non-Kuwaiti families have an average of only 2.7 members per family. Statistics also

showed that the average birth rate among citizens is 24 per 1,000, while the average for expats is eight per 1,000. On the other hand, the death rate is 2.5 per 1,000 amongst Kuwaitis and 0.9 per 1,000 amongst non-Kuwaitis. Statistics showed that 63 percent of the expatriate population comprises of males, while expat females form only 37 percent.

### Lease contract

Ministry of Commerce and Industry's (MoC) assistant undersecretary Mohammed Al-Enezi received the form of the unified lease contract proposed by the deputy chairman of the real estate brokers union Emad Haidar. Informed sources said the new lease will be subjected to studies to be officially used throughout Kuwait, with the aim of regulating the real estate market and putting an end to the chaos dominating it, as well as scrap lease forms bought at bookstores and stationery shops pending the shift to e-contracts.

### Final statement

The parliament's budgets and final statements committee met to discuss the 2018-2019 proposed budget, the final statement of the 2016-2017 fiscal year and the State Audit Bureau remarks, the committee's head MP Adnan Abdulsamad said. The committee also discussed government bodies' delay in recruiting in the last three months of the fiscal year, despite the Environment Public Authority's (EPA) reports that its new structural organization increased the number of vacancies.

### Al-Ghoush Street

The engineer responsible for the execution and maintenance of the Al-Ghoush Street project Khalid Al-Meraj said that 42.5 percent of the project has been completed, noting that this was ahead of the scheduled rate of completing 32.8 percent by the end of May. Meraj added that the project was one of the most urgent and important projects currently executed by the roads authority with the aim of improving the capacity of roads in residential areas sur-



rounding the project route as well as reducing traffic congestion along Fahaeel Expressway and other connected roads. Meraj explained that the project includes six main intersections, three flyovers, a tunnel and a two-lane 807-m-long U-turn bridge above the Fifth Ring Road.

# Kuwait calls for int'l partnership against chemical weapons use

**PARIS:** Kuwait called on Friday for creating an international solid partnership to punish those who evade punishment when using chemical weapons. This came in a statement by Sami Al-Sulaiman, Kuwait's Ambassador to France on sidelines of a conference on partnership to address evasion of punishment for use of chemical weapons, where around 33 countries and organizations were taking part. Sulaiman, who represented First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the conference, said it was important to create a new mechanism within the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to determine parties using chemical weapons.

Kuwait, he said, was keen on participating in all international efforts to support global peace and security. Kuwait, said Sulaiman, also supported the OPCW and was a member in an agreement that prohibited production, storing and use of chemical weapons. Conferees discussed how to collect evidence to determine the parties responsible for use of chemical weapons, and how to impose sanctions on individuals or entities with relation to the chemical weapons. — KUNA



PARIS: Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Sulaiman (second from right) participates in the conference on partnership to address evasion of punishment for use of chemical weapons. — KUNA

## Search for missing diver

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The relations and security information department at the interior ministry said search and rescue teams are searching for a citizen after he was reported missing in Al-Aryaq area in the south of Kuwait. The man reportedly went missing while practicing free diving with a friend on Friday afternoon. The Interior Ministry sought help from joint operations of the Kuwait army, divers and several navy boats and coastguards, along with a Kuwait army chopper and drone, the department said in a statement. Permission was granted from Saudi authorities to expand the search and rescue operations, the statement adds.

## Durra to receive Indian maids' requests after Eid

**KUWAIT:** An informed source at the Al-Durra Company for Domestic Labor Recruitment placed the responsibility of bringing domestic helpers from abroad on the foreign ministry. Bilateral agreements should be signed with labor-exporting countries as soon as possible so that requests can be met, particularly amid the crisis the local market is experiencing coupled with a lack of requests at the company's offices, Al-Rai reported yesterday quoting the anonymous source.

The company is ready to bring in female Indian workers within one month from the date in which the foreign ministry signs a cooperation agreement with its Indian counterpart, the source said. Durra will deal with six offices designated by the Indian government, the source indicated, adding that the agreement will be signed next week while the company will start receiving requests after Eid Al-Fitr.

Meanwhile, the source revealed that there have been communications with domestic help offices in Vietnam to reach an agreement to receive workers of both genders, but a final agreement has not been reached yet. Furthermore, he indicated that Ethiopia still does not accept the Kuwaiti foreign ministry's conditions of psychological tests for helpers and that they have no crime record. As for the Philippines, the source said the company is communicating with approved offices in Manila to sign agreements with them.

## 55 evacuated in crackdown against 'bachelors'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said the emergency team of the Capital governorate dealt with many complaints about 'bachelor' residences as per decree 125/2008, adding that 55 residences were evacuated coinciding with a campaign that was launched by the municipality's public relations department. Head of the emergency team Zaid Al-Enezi said inspectors dealt with 208 complaints about 'bachelor' residences in areas where renting apartments for single expatriate men is illegal. In other news, the Capital inspection department of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition destroyed 310 kg of fish unfit for human consumption during a recent crackdown at Souq Sharq.

local spotlight

## Prices in Ramadan



By Muna Al-Fuzai  
Muna@kuwaittimes.net

**W**ith the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, people get into a shopping frenzy and usually complain about high prices. This is repeated every year, but whose fault is it? Are people exaggerating the issue or is there a real hike in prices? Do the complaints stem from a lack of a shopping culture or the greed of some merchants who deliberately raise prices during this period for more gains?

As usual, some parliamentarians began demanding that the ministry of commerce tighten control over greedy traders because of negative repercussions on the standard of living of low-income people. MP Mohammed Al-Dallal said "the government should develop a clear methodology to confront the phenomenon of the rise in prices because this is no longer acceptable," calling for the activation of the consumer protection law and its implementation and regulation to control prices. Also, MP Khalil Al-Saleh pointed out that official statistics indicate an increase in inflation in Kuwait compared to other Gulf countries.

I believe that the government is required to take serious action to control price increases, not only to confront those who are trying to raise prices and earn more money, but to deal with poor living conditions and inflation as well. Kuwait's consumer inflation index rose by 0.98 percent this January compared to January 2017.

I think inflation in Kuwait is imported, especially since we import most goods - from a needle to a car - amid global inflation as well. Also, the availability of cash with people contributes to the pace of consumption of many types of goods and services.


I think we need to control our consumerist behavior and thus reduce the impact of inflation on the economy. For example, it is not reasonable for people to rush to buy a lot of food for one meal such as iftar in Ramadan and throw a large amount of waste at the end of the day, as well as racing to make luxury purchases. I think we need a huge media awareness campaign through the national committee for consumer protection. This committee should carry out sudden inspections of food stores and check the expiry dates of foodstuff and impose strict penalties on price manipulators.

I guess it is natural for a merchant to seek significant gains, especially when there is a demand for his goods. So it is natural to raise prices to achieve the greatest possible profit. But I do believe that there is a need to understand the culture of shopping, which is to buy only what we need and not for showing off the ability of buying everything because we have the money.

## SEFEENA REMEMBERS

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## MANAGING DIRECTOR



(1936 - 2017)

### ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PASSING





# Amir, Crown Prince receive Ramadan well-wishers



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greets Ramadan well-wishers during the reception. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: Marking the start of the holy month of Ramadan, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, along with the Sabah family received on Thursday at Al-Sabah Diwan at Bayan Palace Ramadan well-

wishers from senior statesmen and officials. The gathering showed the Kuwaiti society as a one family and embodied the sentiments of love and fraternity. The attendants wished many returns of the cheerful occasion to all Kuwaiti people. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince

and the gracious Al-Sabah Family hosted at the family diwan at Bayan Palace on Friday Ramadan well-wishers, namely justices of the Supreme Judicial Council, senior state officials, ranking chiefs of the army, the police, the National Guard, the fire department and diplomats. — KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



A senior citizen greets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives greetings from ambassadors.



Chief of Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah receives greetings as His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah looks on.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt Gen Mahmoud Al-Dousary greets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Members of the Kuwaiti Navy greet His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

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Local



**Vimto: The essential iftar thirst-quencher**

By Nawara Fattahova

Kuwait Times celebrates Ramadan in Kuwait with 30 days of the Icons of Ramadan. We will highlight our favorite activities, events, symbols and foods that are popular during this holy month, along with Kuwait's Ramadan culture, history and traditions.

When people hear the word 'Vimto', most of them immediately think of Ramadan and can feel the atmosphere of the holy month of fasting. For many generations, Vimto has always been the main drink on the iftar table. It is also popular in other Arab countries, but not as much as in the GCC.

Many people don't know that this very popular and traditional drink has its origins in the UK. It contains the juice of grapes, raspberries and blackcurrants, and is flavored with herbs and spices. The original recipe was invented in 1908 by a British man named John Noel Nichols.

It has more varieties in the UK, but in Kuwait it's sold as concentrated syrup in a liter bottle, to be served mixed with water. Some people also add a little rosewater to it to get an even more special taste. Older people just call it sherbet, which is any sweet drink made of concentrated syrup and water.



In other Arab countries, Jilab, Tamer Hindi, Qamar Aldin and Karkade are some of the popular drinks. These also are served in Kuwait in various restaurants and in homes, but they are not as popular as Vimto, which is one of the most iconic drinks of Ramadan in Kuwait.

Due to its popularity, it's served in all restaurants, hotels and even outdoor food stalls. A popular department store in 360 Mall was even selling special miniature bottles of Vimto during one Ramadan, which could be customized with the buyer's name.

Email us at [local@kuwaittimes.com](mailto:local@kuwaittimes.com) with your favorite symbols of Ramadan and Ramadan photos.

**Enjoy a special Ramadan at Kuwait Towers**

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing preparations for its guests during Ramadan, the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) has announced its special Ramadan activities at Kuwait Towers. Throughout the holy month, Kuwait Towers will be offering a range of excellent services, coupled with delectable cuisines and a stunning sky-high view of Kuwait City and the Arabian Gulf seafloor.



On this occasion, Acting Manager of the Kuwait Towers Department, Jarrah Al-Omani, congratulated everyone on the approach of the Holy month and wished everyone a blessed and peaceful Ramadan. Omani added: "We are delighted to invite our guests to enjoy a truly pleasant time with their family and friends at Kuwait Towers during the Holy Month. We will be welcoming our guests daily from 2:00 pm to 1:00 am throughout Ramadan."

Moreover, Omani noted that guests can also stop by the Viewing Sphere from 2:00 pm to 1:00 am and spend a great time with their loved ones. Guests can also visit the Kuwait Towers' restaurant which is located at a staggering height of 83 meters. The restaurant features a large selection of meals prepared by culinary experts at special prices. Additionally, for Ramadan, the restaurant offers a special iftar buffet available from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, offering a wide variety of delicious dishes, as well as a ghabqa buffet from 9:30 pm to 1:00 am, offering all-new menus.

At the conclusion of his statement, Omani pointed out that Kuwait Towers provides sought-after catering services with a diverse menu inspired by various regional and international cuisines, including authentic Arab and Kuwaiti cuisine prepared by international chefs and caterers. TEC is committed to meeting the diverse needs of its customers, with a staff dedicated to making every moment memorable, be it for iftar, ghabqa or suhour.

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Najib rails at police, wife warns of 'public trial'

## Bibi basks in wins, but graft probes still loom



BANGALORE: Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa (bottom right) of the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) addresses the Karnataka State Legislative Assembly session before resigning from his post at the Vidhana Soudha yesterday. — AFP

# BJP drops bid to govern Karnataka

## Congress to stake claim to form govt with ally

**NEW DELHI:** The chief minister of India's southern Karnataka state quit yesterday after just two days in office, rather than face a confidence vote his minority Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was unlikely to win. The move could allow the main opposition Congress party, which ruled the state for the past five years, and a regional party to form the government. They have 117 seats in the 225-seat state legislature.

The alliance could galvanize opponents of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of a general election that must be held by May next year. Some analysts, however, said the Karnataka developments were unlikely to hurt the prospects of Modi's BJP next year, but investors will be closely watching elections in three other major states this year. "The impact of the Karnataka political outcome will be short-lived," said VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services. "From now on, till elections to

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh later this year, economics will dictate the direction of the market (rather than politics)."

Newly elected Karnataka lawmakers had been due to hold a "trust" or confidence vote in the assembly on the orders of the Supreme Court, which intervened after the opposition had protested the state governor's decision to invite the BJP to form a state administration. Karnataka BJP leader B S Yeddyurappa, who had been sworn in as the chief minister on Thursday, said he would resign rather than try to prove that he had the support of a majority of the legislators.

The BJP, which rules 21 of India's 29 states, emerged as the single largest party in Karnataka, but its 104 seats left it short of a majority. Karnataka, home to India's technology hub of Bengaluru, is the only southern state where the BJP has held power. In an emotional speech carried live by most Indian TV news

channels, Yeddyurappa said his party would now work towards increasing the number of parliamentary seats for the BJP in the state to help Modi's re-election bid. Congress chief Rahul Gandhi hailed Yeddyurappa's decision as a victory. "I am proud that they have been shown that in India power, corruption and money is not everything but the will of people is everything," he said in a rare news conference.

### Blow to BJP

"The mandate was not for Congress and Janata Dal. They lost the election but they indulged in opportunist politics," Yeddyurappa told the assembly. "I have faced the test of fire all my life. I will lose nothing if I lose power. I am going straight to the governor's house to give my resignation," the 75-year-old said. Opposition lawmakers cheered and flashed V for victory signs as Yeddyurappa left the assembly followed by his supporters.

The buildup to the resignation saw accusations of bribery and poaching made against the BJP after the state governor asked Yeddyurappa to try to form an administration even though he did not have a majority. Congress went to the Supreme Court to try to prevent the BJP from form-

ing a government in the prosperous state, home to the IT hub of Bangalore. The court ruled Thursday that Yeddyurappa should be allowed to take an oath of office. But a day later it said Yeddyurappa must pass a vote of confidence to prove his majority yesterday. India's top court met a third time yesterday to reject a move by Congress to stop Yeddyurappa appointing a speaker of his choice. Congress and its ally accused the BJP of offering up to \$15 million to their members to switch sides in the vote. Modi's party strongly denied the allegation. Congress and Janata Dal even moved their lawmakers to luxury hotels outside the state to make sure they were not tempted to switch sides ahead of the vote. Reports said their mobile phones had been confiscated so they could not be contacted by rivals.

Gandhi repeated the corruption charges yesterday and accused Modi of personally approving the offering of bribes. "You've seen openly how the PM directly authorized purchasing of (lawmakers) in Karnataka, so the idea that PM spreads in the country that he is fighting corruption is a blatant lie," Gandhi said. Congress has been desperate to cling on to Karnataka, its last major bastion. It has lost 12 state elections since the BJP took national power in 2014. — Agencies



### Chief minister resigns to avoid vote

## Saudis detain activists ahead of driving ban lift

**DUBAI:** Saudi authorities have arrested seven prominent women's rights advocates, dividing public opinion just weeks before the kingdom is set to lift its driving ban on women. Without naming those detained, Saudi Arabia's state security apparatus said seven people had been arrested for "attempting to undermine the security and stability of the kingdom... and to erode national unity". "Work is still underway to identify everyone involved" and take legal measures against them, according to a security spokesman quoted yesterday by state news agency SPA.

Those arrested are facing accusations including making "suspicious contact with foreign parties", providing financial support to "hostile elements abroad" and recruiting government workers. The crackdown comes even as the kingdom breaks with long-held restrictions on women and the mixing of the genders, with its driving ban on women slated to end June 24. But there were warnings that Riyadh would not tolerate those pushing for change outside its authority. Activists told Human Rights Watch that in Sept 2017, on the same day authorities announced the driving ban would be lifted, the Royal Court had called up prominent activists and warned them not to speak to the media.

### 'Chilling smear campaign'

With a front page reading "Your betrayals have failed", Al-Jazirah newspaper named two of those arrested as activists Loujain Al-Hathloul and Aziza Al-Yousef. On Twitter - a popular tool of communication for Saudi Arabia's young population - opinions were

sharply divided. "No place for traitors among us," SaudiNews50 wrote. The news website's post also carried images of five of those detained: Hathloul, Yousef, Eman Al-Nafjan, Mohammed Al-Rabiya and lawyer Ibrahim Al-Madmyegh.

Supporters of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, seen as the architect behind a succession of social reforms emanating from Riyadh, backed the sweep. Referring to the detainees as "agents of the embassies", political analyst Naif Al-Asaker tweeted that anyone who did not support their arrest was either a "covert partner" or simply "ignorant". Amnesty International condemned the commentary of the arrests as a "chilling smear campaign" and an "extremely worrying development for women human rights defenders" in the country.

For other Saudis, the treatment of trailblazers who fought for many of the reforms now coming to fruition was a shock. "This round of arrests was strictly targeting Saudi feminism," tweeted Saudi-American activist Nora Abdulkarim. Abdullah Al-Aoudh, a Saudi-educated scholar now at Yale Law, said the charges did not add up. "For those who consider these arrests to be in defense of religion and religious scholars, I'd just like to remind you that the scholars and intellectuals of the country are in jail... in the same scenario," he tweeted.

### Reform 'frenzy of fear'

The detainees had not only fought for the lifting of the driving ban, but also against the kingdom's enduring guardianship laws. Saudi Arabia's guardianship system requires women to obtain permission from their fathers, brothers, husbands or even sons for a host of life decisions. Activists Hathloul and Nafjan in 2016 signed a petition to abolish Saudi Arabia's male guardianship system, according to HRW. Madmyegh, a semi-retired lawyer, has stepped up to represent fellow rights advocates in recent years. Many Saudi activists say social change will only be cosmetic without dismantling the kingdom's guardianship system. — AFP

## Iran wary as EU presents plans to save nuclear deal

**TEHRAN:** Iran said yesterday it would wait to see whether Europe produces tangible results in overcoming US sanctions before it decides whether to stay in the nuclear deal, as a top EU official visited Tehran to present plans for maintaining trade ties. "The ball is in the court of the EU. They have presented different proposals, we will see if they materialize," said the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi. He was speaking after meeting European Union Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete, the first high-level Western official to visit Iran since the US withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers earlier this month.

Canete called the nuclear deal "fundamental for peace in the region" as he outlined EU plans to continue oil and gas purchases and protect European companies from US sanctions as they are phased in over the next six months. He also had detailed talks with Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh on practical solutions, which he said included plans for direct payments between central banks and state-backed insurance for shipments.

A group of experts later met their Iranian counterparts to hash out the details. Zanganeh said there were no plans to change Iran's pattern of oil exports, which amount to 3.8 million barrels per day, with 70 percent going to Asia and 20 percent to Europe. Salehi acknowledged Europe's efforts to protect trade but said: "We want tangible results, otherwise we take our own decisions. I personally don't want to see such decisions being taken." Iran has threatened to resume industrial uranium enrichment "without limit" unless its interests are preserved by the remaining parties to the deal, which also include China and Russia. Salehi said the Iranian people had lost trust in the nuclear agreement and that if trade benefits were not protected "they will lose more confidence... and we will be forced to leave."



TEHRAN: Head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi (right) greets European Union Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete before a meeting in the capital yesterday. — AFP

### EU firms eye exit

Despite vows by European leaders to protect EU firms from US sanctions, several companies - including France's Total and Holland's Maersk - have already said it will be impossible to stay unless they receive explicit exemptions from Washington. "For sure there are clear difficulties with the sanctions," Canete said at a press conference alongside Salehi. "We will have to ask for waivers, for carve-outs for the companies that make investments." Canete was due to meet Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif today.

Iran's trade with the European Union is around €20 billion, evenly split between imports and exports. Oil accounts for some 90 percent of EU imports from Iran, going primarily to Spain, France, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands and Germany. Iran has the world's fourth-biggest oil reserves and second-largest gas reserves. But it has only finalized two major energy deals since the sanctions were lifted: Total's \$4.8-billion South Pars II project with the China National Petroleum Corporation, and a \$740 million deal with Russia's Zarubezhneft to develop the Aban and Paydar oilfields. — AFP



## International

# Growing presence of Turkey gets mixed welcome in Balkans

## Doubts over what Ottoman-era master has in mind for the region

**BELGRADE:** In the cafes of Novi Pazar, a predominantly Muslim town in southern Serbia, Turkish football clubs Fenerbahce or Galatasaray stir more emotion than Belgrade's Red Star or Partizan. It is just one sign of Turkey's growing presence in the Balkans, where many have doubts over what their Ottoman-era master has in mind for the region. "Since the end of the (Cold War) world, Turkey has had a very active policy in the Balkans," says Jean Marcou, an associate researcher at the French Institute of Anatolian Studies in Istanbul. "Turkey contributed to the stabilization of conflicts" that tore apart the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s and to "efforts to reconstruct different countries," Marcou told AFP.

On that count, there is a sense of gratitude, but an assertive President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants Turkey to play a major role in the world and especially in its former sphere of influence. The Ottomans controlled the Balkans from the 14th to the 19th century. They drew top public servants and leaders from the volatile region to help run an empire which stretched up to modern-day Austria and Hungary, and across North Africa and the Middle East.



### Ankara exerts 'real influence'

#### 'Erdogan rules Kosovo'

Today, Erdogan holds a rally in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo to drum up support among the Turkish diaspora for the snap elections he called for June 24. Last month, Muslim-populated Novi Pazar even made the Turkish president an honorary citizen. Analysts said Erdogan's "neo-Ottomanism" did not sit well with everyone in a region where membership of the European Union is seen as the way forward. For the Balkan nations "who intend to enter the EU, Turkey currently cannot serve as a model", said Enver Robelli, a Switzerland-based analyst.

Turkey has been trying to join the EU for years but its

own membership bid has got bogged down in recriminations over Erdogan's record on human rights and democratic norms, especially after a failed coup in 2016. In March, Turkey mounted an operation with Kosovo intelligence services - apparently without clearance from the courts - to repatriate six people it said belonged to the US-based movement of Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for the coup.

"Erdogan rules Kosovo," the GazetaExpress local news website wrote at the time. Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj said the operation was "unacceptable and contrary to our values". He dismissed Kosovo's interior minister and spy chief over their involvement, sparking a tart response from Erdogan. "Hey Kosovo's prime minister, under whose instruction did you take such a step?" Erdogan said.

#### 'Vassal' policy

Similar indignation was seen in Bosnia in February when Sarajevo dropped plans to proclaim Turkish Nobel literature laureate Orhan Pamuk an honorary citizen. Claiming the move was prompted by "fear ... of Erdogan," the opposition denounced what they called the authorities' "vassal policy". The weight of history breeds suspicion in Serbia, an Orthodox Christian nation. At Bosnian Serb political rallies, chants that their entity of "Republika Srpska is not Turkey" can be heard.

Marcou said that despite the strains, the "Turkey-Serbia partnership was eventually safeguarded, reinvigorated in particular by the Russian-Turkish rapprochement, starting in 2016". For Belgrade, it "is a boon, especially on the economic level", he said. Serbian Trade Minister Rasim Ljajic said recently "there is not a week without a Turkish investor arriving in Serbia". His country is already home to about 400



PRIZREN, Kosovo: People sit next to a stone bridge overlooking this town on April 15, 2018. —AFP

Turkish companies. This month Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic made a stop in Turkey on his way to Moscow.

Turkish companies control Pristina airport and plan to build one in Vlone, in southern Albania. Turkish firms also own the Kosovo KEDS/KESCO power firm and are favorites to build the planned Belgrade-Sarajevo highway.

#### Funds for mosques

According to Marcou, the Turks are not in the Balkans "only to help economic development, but also to rehabilitate the Ottoman heritage and establish cultural cooperation". Some 10,000 students in around 150 Bosnian schools learn

Turkish, which is the third foreign language behind English and German. Turks have funded the mosque in Mitrovica, Kosovo's biggest, with two million euros (\$2.4 million). They also spent A30 million for a mosque in Tirana, planned to become the most important place of worship for Balkan Muslims later this year.

For Robelli, Ankara exerts "real influence". "Kosovo, Bosnia, Albania and Macedonia are considered former territories of the Ottoman empire and are treated as part of the neo-Ottoman world," he said. "One should have no illusions," Robelli added. "Kosovo is not in a position, like Germany, to resist Turkish pressure." —AFP

## Sudan teen death penalty puts focus on women's rights

**KHARTOUM:** When a Sudanese teenager was sentenced to death last week for killing her husband, who had allegedly raped her, activists knew that a new fight had begun for women's rights in Sudan. Noura Hussein, 19, received the sentence for the "intentional murder" of the man her father had forced her to marry. "Noura is facing death. Her case has brought us close to an execution," said Sudanese women's rights activist Wini Omer, who witnessed the sentencing on May 10. "The situation is dangerous and necessitates taking women's rights more seriously so that we can protect them," she said.

Hussein's case has triggered outrage, with activists launching a campaign called "Justice For Noura" and the United Nations' women's agency appealing for clemency. The teenager's plight has also focused attention on issues facing women in Sudan such as marital rape, child marriage, forced marriage and the arbitrary application of Islamic law, along with tribal traditions that often target women.

Rights group Amnesty International says Hussein was forcibly married at the age of 16, and that when she refused to consummate the marriage, her husband invited two of his brothers and a male cousin to help him rape her. When he tried to rape her a second time, she stabbed him to death, said Amnesty. Sudanese law allows children above 10 to be married. "In our arguments we raised the issue that it was a forced mar-

riage and that she was raped," Hussein's lawyer, Adil Mohamed al-Emam, told AFP. "The court discussed it but did not recognize that she was raped," Emam says he will appeal against the sentence.

#### 'Regime ideology'

Days after Hussein was sentenced, another Sudanese woman was lashed 75 times at a police station in the Sudanese capital after a court found her guilty of marrying without her father's approval. Omer has also faced the wrath of Sudan's controversial public order law, which she says primarily targets women. In one case a prosecutor accused her of "indecent dressing", although she had worn a skirt, top and headscarf whilst waiting for a bus on a Khartoum street. A court found her not guilty. In a second case, Omer said she was accused of prostitution after police stormed an apartment where she was with friends. She was detained for five days.

"Women in Sudan have been systematically oppressed since 1989," Omer told AFP, referring to the year when President Omar al-Bashir seized power in an Islamist-backed coup. "It is the regime's ideology that discriminates between men and women," she said, dressed in a black top and leggings. Activists want Sudanese laws to be amended, particularly the security act, which gives security agents sweeping powers to make arbitrary detentions.

"It's not about the judge, the problem is with our laws themselves," said leading human rights activist Mudawi Ibrahim Adam. "Imagine you can be detained up to nine months without charges under the security act," he said. He was detained for several months amid a crackdown on opposition activists in 2016. —AFP

## Hitler definitely died in 1945

**PARIS:** Adolf Hitler definitely died in 1945 in Berlin, from taking cyanide and a bullet, according to French researchers who were given rare access to fragments of the dictator's teeth held in Moscow. "The teeth are authentic, there is no possible doubt. Our study proves that Hitler died in 1945," professor Philippe Charlier told AFP. "We can stop all the conspiracy theories about Hitler. He did not flee to Argentina in a submarine, he is not in a hidden base in Antarctica or on the dark side of the moon," Charlier said. The study, which Charlier co-authored with four other researchers, was published Friday in the scientific magazine European Journal of Internal Medicine. The analysis of Hitler's bad teeth and numerous dentures found white tartar deposits and no traces of meat fibre - the dictator was vegetarian, Charlier said.

In March and July 2017, Russia's secret service the FSB and the Russian state archives authorised a team of researchers to examine the bones of the dictator, for the first time since 1946, he

said. The French team was able to look at a skull fragment presented as being from the Fuhrer, which showed a hole on the left side which was in all probability caused by the passage of a bullet. The scientists were not authorised to take samples from this fragment. As it stands, the fragment's morphology was "totally comparable" to radiographies of Hitler's skull taken a year before his death, the research found. If this study confirms the generally accepted view that Hitler died on the 30 April, 1945, in his Berlin bunker with his companion Eva Braun, it does also shed new light on the exact causes of death, Charlier said. "We didn't know if he had used an ampule of cyanide to kill himself or whether it was a bullet in the head. It's in all probability both," he said.

The examination of the teeth did not find any traces of powder, which indicates there was not a revolver shot to the mouth, more likely the neck or the forehead. Equally, bluish deposits seen on his false teeth could indicate a "chemical reaction between the cyanide and the metal of the dentures," the researcher said. Charlier, a specialist in medical and legal anthropology, was also involved in the analysis of the mummified heart of Richard Lionheart. —AFP

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## International

# Ex-PM Najib rails at police, wife warns of 'public trial'

## Luxury-loving former first lady laments 'trying times'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's scandal-hit former leader Najib Razak and his wife hit out at the media and police yesterday, after investigators seeking evidence of corruption were filmed seizing box loads of jewelry, luxury handbags and cash. Following a surprise victory in an election on May 9, the new government led by Mahathir Mohamad has opened investigations into how billions of dollars disappeared from Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB), a state fund founded by Najib.

Najib, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing, and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, have been barred from leaving the country. Items seized by police from Najib's residence and other locations linked to the couple included 284 boxes of designer handbags, including prized Birkin handbags from Hermes. Dozens of the luxury bags were filled with cash and jewelry.

Najib's lawyer, Harpal Singh Grewal, told reporters waiting outside the house that the former prime minister and his family were "really very unhappy" that police had confiscated clothes and shoes belonging to his children. "No attempt was made to verify whether these dresses, shoes, babies clothes and all had anything to do with the investigations which are ongoing," he said. In a separate statement, Grewal said the raid was carried out in a "cavalier and irresponsible manner".

"The police personnel helped themselves to food and chocolates in the refrigerator and further demanded that the meals be prepared for them," he said, adding that Najib will continue to cooperate with authorities. The former premier will make a statement to the Malaysian anti-graft agency at his home on Tuesday, Grewal told reporters. A police spokeswoman was not immediately available to comment.

Malaysia's unpopular former first lady lamented the "trying times" since her husband Najib's ouster from power, in a plea for public sympathy. Rosmah, who is widely reviled for her reported luxurious tastes and

tone-deaf attitude towards the struggles of ordinary Malaysians, issued a statement lashing out at the police raids, complaining that news of them amounted to a "premature public trial". The former first couple's world has been turned upside down after Najib's long-ruling political machine suffered a shock defeat in May 9 elections.

"It is our hope that the authorities would observe the rule of law and due process, to avoid a premature public trial," Rosmah's lawyers, Valen, Oh and Partners, said in a statement on her behalf. "Enforcement agencies should not be feeding social media trolls, but observe and uphold strict professionalism at all times," it added.

"Despite the overwhelmingly trying times afflicted upon us, we have, and will continue facilitating, any inquiry, and avail ourselves to any requesting authorities," Rosmah said in the statement. But she complained about "the seemingly compromised inquiry process, whereby a series of leaks pertaining to the probe has made its way into social media spheres, in real time". Rosmah said she was referring to "the alleged items confiscated," but did not elaborate. Rosmah said authorities should "observe the rule of law and due process, to avoid a premature public trial" and not leak information to "social media trolls".

Her call for sympathy is likely to fall on more than a few deaf ears. Rosmah, 66, is widely mocked for her imperious manner and reports of multi-million-dollar jewellery purchases and a vast supply of designer handbags that has earned comparisons to the famed shoe collection of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos. Among other missteps, Rosmah complained in 2015 about the 1,200 ringgit (\$300) house calls from stylists required to keep her pronounced mane of hair dyed black. Malaysia's minimum monthly wage at the time was 900 ringgit. The couple's downfall has sparked glee on Malaysian social media, including viral pics of a



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Royal Malaysian police officials take away boxes of seized goods during a night raid early on Friday on three luxury apartments owned by former prime minister Najib Razak's family. —AFP

disheveled-looking Najib and Rosmah dozing in chairs at their home early Thursday as police conducted an overnight search.

At least six countries, including the United States, are investigating the multi-billion dollar scandal linked to IMDB. Najib has been instructed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to make his statement at its headquarters on Tuesday in relation to their probe on SRC International, MACC's deputy chief commissioner, Azam Baki said in a statement yesterday night. SRC International was a former unit of IMDB. A member of a panel that reviewed the MACC's files on IMDB found

that the commission had evidence that Najib received \$10.6 million from the unit.

The round-the-clock search at their residence have prompted some public criticism, including Najib's political rivals who are now in government. "As former victims of early dawn police raids, I must stress my disagreement in ransacking any home at such an ungodly hour," said ruling coalition politician Nurul Izzah, the daughter of Anwar Ibrahim - a reformist who was released from jail after being given a full pardon on Wednesday. "Charge, investigate, prudently," Nurul said on Twitter. —Agencies



### Raid done in 'cavalier' and 'irresponsible' manner: Lawyer

## Lurid tale of bribery, murder looms anew for Najib

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Ousted Malaysian premier Najib Razak is already in hot water over allegations he looted state funds, but his legal woes could worsen as calls grow for a fresh look at an even darker past scandal involving the grisly slaying of a young model. The lurid earlier affair centered on allegations that Malaysian officials took huge kickbacks in the 2002 purchase of Scorpene submarines from France when Najib was defense minister. The sensational saga transfixed Malaysia for years until the authoritarian former regime used its leverage to eventually bury it, though whispers persist that Najib, 64, and his wife Rosmah Mansor were deeply involved.

But Najib was trounced in a stunning May 9 election and Malaysia's new government has vowed to investigate not only current allegations that Najib stole billions from sovereign wealth fund IMDB, but also lift the lid on other unresolved scandals under the graft-plagued former government. "We are very encouraged by the quick moves so far on (IMDB) and that the government is taking previous corruption seriously," said Cynthia Gabriel, who heads the Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4), a Malaysian NGO. "In this regard, scandals like Scorpene cannot be

ignored. Pressure is building and it's going to get more interesting." Najib's immediate concern is allegations that he, his family, and cronies pillaged billions from IMDB. He is barred from leaving Malaysia and police have seized large amounts of cash, jewels and luxury items from his home and other sites.

#### Alleged cover-up

But IMDB pales in many ways to the Scorpene affair, which has sex, submarines, assassins on the run, and an unfortunate Mongolian model and translator. It centres on allegations that French submarine maker DCNS paid "commissions" of more than 114 million euros (\$134 million) to a shell company linked to Abdul Razak Baginda, a close Najib associate who brokered the \$1.1 billion submarine deal. Najib's opponents said the payments were kickbacks. Abdul Razak's Mongolian mistress Altantuya Shaaribuu, who was said to have demanded a payoff for working as a translator in negotiations, was shot dead, her body blown up with military-grade plastic explosives near Kuala Lumpur in 2006.

Allegations that Najib and Rosmah were involved in the killing - carried out by two government bodyguards - were steadfastly denied by Najib. He also was forced to publicly deny having had an affair with Altantuya. The case sank off the radar after a Malaysian court in 2008 cleared Abdul Razak of abetting the murder, sparking allegations of a huge cover-up to protect Najib, promoted to deputy prime minister by then. But a key figure now looms as a potential game-changer. Sirul Azhar Umar was convicted along with another police bodyguard in the killing, but he has said they were palsies for "important people" who ordered the mur-



**PEKAN, Malaysia:** This file photo taken on April 28, 2018 shows Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife Rosmah Mansor waving to their supporters as they arrive at the nomination center to hand over election documents. —AFP

der, and has previously threatened to tell all. Before he could be jailed, Sirul somehow managed to flee in 2015 to Australia, where he is believed to be in custody.

#### Calls for new trial

Leading Malaysian politician Anwar Ibrahim, released from jail last week in the wake of the election and who is expected to eventually become prime minister, told AFP

on Thursday that Sirul and his accomplice Azilah Hadri should be granted fresh trials. "At that time, the judiciary was compromised," Anwar, 70, said in an interview. "I don't know to what extent Najib was involved or not, but he's certainly implicated in some way," he added. He noted that all traces of Altantuya entering Malaysia before her murder were eliminated, saying that "had to be a higher-up decision." —AFP

## Kachin civilians flee Myanmar's 'forgotten war'

**DANAI, Myanmar:** Seng Moon grabbed her day-old baby and fled into the thick jungle, joining thousands of villagers escaping fighting between ethnic Kachin rebels and Myanmar's army, now reinforced by a unit notorious for its brutal "clearance" operations. The insurgency in Myanmar's remote northeast has festered for six decades, but unlike the Rohingya crisis in the far west of the country, it has garnered few global headlines.

Fighting has surged dramatically this year, displacing 20,000 people since January, adding to the legions already uprooted by one of the world's longest-running civil wars. Often called the "forgotten war", the Kachin conflict is a messy struggle over autonomy, ethnic identity, drugs, jade and other natural resources between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Myanmar state. On April 11, with the sound of gunfire and fighter jets closing in, the villagers of Danai township sought refuge in their paddy fields. Three days later shells started falling on their village and leaders took the decision for the 2,000 inhabitants to flee. Seng Moon, 22, had given birth to her daughter only the day before. "I was still bleeding from the birth and I felt like I was dying," she told AFP at a camp in Danai town. "It was so difficult and we had to cross a river." For the group that included many young children, as well as the sick and elderly, progress through the arduous jungle terrain was slow. But they were lucky to encounter local elephant handlers - known as mahouts - who helped ferry the most vulnerable across a chest-deep river to a displaced camp in the grounds of a small, wooden church. Ethnic Kachin are mainly Christians in a nation that is overwhelmingly Buddhist.

#### 33rd Light Infantry

International focus has been on the crisis in Rakhine state, from where some 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have been driven into Bangladesh by a relentless military campaign the UN says amounted to "ethnic cleansing". An army unit accused of atrocities against the Rohingya - the 33rd Light Infantry Division - has now been redeployed to Kachin. While the scale of violence in Kachin does not match operations against the Rohingya, experts say the deployment of the unit is an ominous sign for civilians. "Yes, they are here," Kachin state minister for security and border affairs, Colonel Thura Myo Tin, told AFP without giving any further details about their mission. Human Rights Watch accuses the unit of "multiple massacres" in northern Rakhine while Amnesty International has recorded "violations" against civilians on previous missions to Kachin. "Kachin civilians... have little hope of divisions like these changing their behavior," HRW Myanmar researcher Rich Weir said.

#### Surge in fighting

The insurgency in the northeast is one of two dozen ethnic minority rebellions that have plagued Myanmar since independence from British colonial rule in 1948. Civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi said forging nationwide peace was her main priority after her government assumed power two years ago, ending decades of military domination. But the army still retains control over security issues. The Kachin conflict reignited in 2011 after a 17-year ceasefire collapsed. Clashes have intensified since 2016, displacing more than 100,000 in Kachin and the north of neighboring Shan state. Independent analyst David Mathieson said the military appears to be taking advantage of the focus on the Rohingya to attack the KIA and bring it "to the peace negotiation table". —AFP

## Kashmir shuts down to protest visit by Modi

**SRINAGAR:** Indian Kashmir came to a virtual standstill yesterday as separatist groups called for a shutdown to protest a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Muslim-majority region gripped by deadly new tensions and clashes with rival Pakistan. Shops shut and streets in the main city, Srinagar, were empty except for police and paramilitary patrols as authorities imposed maximum security for Modi's one-day visit.

Authorities cut mobile Internet services in the region and ordered a curfew in parts of Srinagar. Separatist groups opposed to Indian rule of Kashmir called for a strike and a protest march to a city square. Main roads leading to the square were barricaded by razor wire to stop anyone getting in. "We are not taking any chances. We'll do everything to keep the militants at bay," a top police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Authorities closed schools, colleges and universities for the day in case of student protests. The main venue for Modi's visit to Srinagar, the Dal Lake tourist attraction, was made out of bounds to the public. Modi started the tour in Leh, a remote high-altitude desert area popular with trekkers, where he inspected work on a 14-km-long Zojila tunnel connecting the Kashmir valley with the Ladakh region that is cut off in winter. "I thank the wonderful people of Leh for the warm welcome. I am delighted to be here," Modi said on Twitter. The government said it would be the longest road tunnel in India and Asia's longest two-way tunnel, to be constructed at a cost of \$1 billion.

He went on to inaugurate the 330 megawatt Kishanganga hydropower project in Gurez. The power station is near the de



**SRINAGAR:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves next to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti during the inauguration of the Kishanganga hydro project yesterday. —AFP

facto border with Pakistan, which says the project violates the 1960 Indus Water Treaty on sharing waters from the Himalayas. The World Bank organized two rounds of talks between the rivals on Kishanganga without resolving their differences. "This transgression on part of India clearly threatens the sanctity of the treaty," the Pakistan foreign ministry said in a statement Friday.

#### Power dispute

Modi was to go on to Jammu, in the Hindu-dominated part of Kashmir, before returning to New Delhi. The visit came a day after eight civilians - four in India and four in Pakistan - and an Indian soldier were killed in heavy mortar fire and a gun battle between Indian and Pakistani forces. There are regular battles on the frontier that divides Kashmir, which is claimed in full by both neighbors. —AFP

## 19 dead in India as truck with cement overturns

**AHMEDABAD:** A truck overturned in India yesterday killing 19 labourers who were crushed under cement sacks that fell from the vehicle as it toppled, police said. Six others were injured in the accident which happened on a busy highway in western Gujarat state, the latest deadly crash on India's notoriously accident-prone roads. "19 persons including 12 women, three teenagers and four men were killed when the truck coming from Pipavav Port overturned on (the) Ahmedabad-Dholera highway," police superintendent R V Asari told AFP. "All the deceased were laborers going to work in fields in Anand district. All were buried under the cement sacks after the truck overturned." Asari said it appeared the driver dozed off at the wheel which caused the truck to skip off the road and flip over. "We are currently engaged in rescue operations. How the accident occurred needs to be investigated. Primarily it appears that the driver dozed off," he added.

In another accident, 11 people were killed Friday in Uttarakhand state when a speeding truck rammed into a group of pilgrims walking towards a temple, the Press Trust of India reported. India has some of the world's deadliest roads, claiming the lives of more than 150,000 people each year. Last month, some 13 children were killed after a train smashed into a school bus in Uttar Pradesh state. And 21 revellers were killed en route to a wedding when their truck flew off a bridge in Madhya Pradesh state. —AFP



International

# Maduro seeks second term in isolated and ruined Venezuela

## President faces bitterly divided opposition

**CARACAS:** Shrugging aside his country's economic ruin and growing international isolation, Venezuela's socialist President Nicolas Maduro seeks a second six-year term in controversial elections today that are being boycotted by the opposition. The US moved to further isolate his government on Friday, just two days before the polls, by slapping sanctions on Maduro's powerful deputy and socialist party leader Diosdado Cabello. "We are imposing costs on figures like Diosdado Cabello who exploit their official positions to engage in narcotics trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement of state funds, and other corrupt activities," said US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. It was a fresh blow to Maduro, whose ebullient campaign meetings have done little to disguise a lack of enthusiasm in the oil-rich but cash-poor South American country, where the result is widely seen as a foregone conclusion.

He held his final rally on Bolivar Avenue in downtown Caracas on Thursday, enlisting former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona to fire-up the crowd. Applauded by Maduro and his supporters, Maradona declared himself a Maduro "soldier," waved a Venezuelan flag and punched the air as he danced to loud reggaeton music on the stage. "Trust me, if you give me your vote and give us victory, I swear I will lead great economic changes and drive an economic revolution that will shake the world," pledged Maduro. The 55-year-old former bus driver wore a green shirt with the image of his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez, emblazoned on the sleeve. Maduro is the clear favorite, despite trailing in opinion polls to his main rival Henri Falcon, and a low approval rating among Venezuelans fed up with hyperinflation, food and medicine shortages, rising crime and broken water, power and transportation networks.

"I'm not going to vote for anyone. I'm concerned with surviving every day and things are getting more and more screwed up," fruit seller Alexis Rodriguez, 40, told AFP. Opinion polls show Falcon leading with 30 percent of voter intentions, compared to Maduro's 20 percent. An evangelical candidate, Javier Bertucci, has 14 percent. However, "low enthusiasm will likely reduce voter turnout and enable Maduro to control the outcome without major social backlash," said analyst Risa Grais-Targow of Eurasia Group.

### Divided opposition

Maduro, with a tight grip on the electoral and military authorities, faces a bitterly divided opposition. Falcon wore the yellow, blue and red of Venezuela's flag at his final rally in his western stronghold

of Barquisimeto. He told his supporters he had "faith" in overcoming the boycott, and "that we are going to vote massively, as our country needs". But he has failed to secure the endorsement of the main opposition leaders, who remain committed to boycotting the vote, and was unable to convince Bertucci to drop out of the race and unify what opposition voters there are. "People have lost faith in protest and the vote, that's why there's apathy. The Venezuelan is bewildered and desperate," said analyst Juan Manuel Raffalli. The Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) opposition coalition, increasingly pinning its hopes for change on outside pressure forcing the socialists to remove Maduro, have won support from the US, EU and 14 countries of the Lima Group who have called for the vote to be postponed.

Canada this week banned Venezuelan expatriates from voting in the election. The powers accuse Maduro of undermining democracy, usurping the power of the opposition-dominated parliament by replacing it with his all-powerful Constituent Assembly, and cracking down on the opposition. Protests in 2017, still fresh in the collective memory, left around 125 dead. The MUD's most popular leaders have been sidelined or detained, the boycott their only remaining weapon. They accuse Maduro of luring supporters to vote on Sunday with rewards of food boxes.

### Increasing isolation

Maduro, meanwhile, continues his defiance in the face of increasing international isolation and US and EU sanctions. "We will not give in to blackmail," he says. "We do not care if they do not recognize us. The president of Venezuela is elected by the people, not Donald Trump." The latest sanctions, leveled at Maduro's right-hand man Cabello, a former speaker of the National Assembly, also targeted his wife and brother. But despite Maduro's rhetoric and the world's largest oil reserves, the country faces ruin, with the IMF citing a drop of 45.0 percent in GDP since Maduro took over in 2013. The crippled oil industry lacks investment and its assets are increasingly prey to debt settlements as the country defaults. And worse, the US threatens an oil embargo on top of sanctions that have hit Venezuela's efforts to renegotiate its debt. "The most likely scenario is greater international isolation and economic deterioration," said Diego Moya-Ocampos of IHS Markit analysts. "The key factors will be the economy and the army," said analyst Michael Shifter. "The country is a powder keg and something could provoke unrest that would be difficult to contain." —AFP

“ We will not give in to blackmail ”



**CARACAS:** Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (left) speaks to the crowd next to Argentine former football star Diego Maradona during the closing rally of his campaign on May 17, 2018. —AFP

## Sadr wins Iraq poll

### Regional tensions

**BAGHDAD:** Final results from Iraq's election confirmed yesterday that an alliance spearheaded by populist cleric Moqtada Sadr has triumphed, but the fiery preacher faces a huge task to form a governing coalition. Sadr's Marching Towards Reform bloc won 54 of the 329 seats in parliament in a major upset at a May 12 vote that saw a record level of abstentions as Iraqis turned their back on a widely reviled elite. The nationalist - whose Shiite militia battled US troops after the 2003 invasion - faces a deeply fragmented political landscape and opposition from key player Iran after he called for foreign influence in Iraq to be cut. Sadr, who has reinvented himself as an anti-corruption crusader in an alliance with secular leftists, is looking to be the kingmaker and oversee the formation of a cross-sectarian, technocrat government from some dozen parties.

But negotiations - which tentatively began after the vote - look set to drag out and it remains far from certain that Sadr's group will claim power after the first vote since the defeat of the Islamic State group. Poised in second place with some 47 seats is the pro-Iranian Conquest Alliance made up of ex-fighters from mainly Shiite paramilitary units that battled IS. The Victory Alliance bloc of Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, who hoped voters would reward him for seeing off the militants, performed worse than expected and was back in third place on 42 seats.

Sadr declared on Twitter that the results showed "reform has won and corruption is weakened," but he faces a tricky regional context as he begins coalition negotiations. Writing in The Washington Post Friday, premier Abadi insisted his government would do "all it can to ensure that the transition to the next government is conducted in a stable and transparent manner". —AFP

## Hawaii residents look for 'normalcy' amid ash, lava

**PAHOA, Hawaii:** Two weeks after fountains of lava and poisonous gas from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano forced hundreds of people to flee their homes in the middle of the night, things were only getting worse for residents on Friday after another eruption. As Kilauea oozed lava from 22 fissures on its eastern flank, residents of Pahoa on the Big Island, some wearing ash masks, hunkered down in shelters and waited for an expected resumption of major eruptions.

The first evacuations came before dawn on May 3, when the volcano began its current cycle of eruptions and earthquakes. "We're all trying to establish or find some normalcy in our lives knowing that we're on an active volcano that's very active right now," said Cindy Hartman, a dietician at Hilo Medical Center. She packed up and left her home in the Kalapana-Seaview neighborhood on Sunday, after a fissure opened just 3 km from the last road out.

Hartman has been staying with a friend but is looking for temporary housing, faced with the possibility that lava could flow for months. Old-timers have reminded her that a similar event in 1955 lasted for 88 days. Four people were rescued by helicopter after a fast moving lava flow crossed Pohoiki Road, one of the main arteries in and out of the area, isolating about 40 homes. "People still in that area are asked to stay in a safe place and wait for further instructions," the county said in an alert.

Kilauea spewed ash nearly 9 km into the sky on Thursday in what scientists warned could be the first in a string of even more violent explosive eruptions. Residents were warned to take shelter from the ash as toxic gas levels spiked in a small southeast area where lava has burst from the ground during the two-week eruption. The mouth of the summit crater vent has nearly tripled in size during the past couple of days from about 12 acres in area to 34



**KAPOHO, Hawaii:** A man takes a photo of a lava fountain from a Kilauea volcano fissure on Hawaii's Big Island on Friday. —AFP

acres, according to USGS geophysicist Mike Poland. While this widening coincided with back-to-back explosive, steam-driven eruptions from the crater this week, Poland said, the enlargement was caused primarily by the interior walls of the crater vent collapsing, as the magma continues to drop through the throat of the volcano. Geologists say it remains unlikely Kilauea will have a massive eruption like that of 1790, which killed dozens of people in the deadliest such event to occur in what is now the United States.

Kilauea's falling lava lake has likely descended to a level at or below the water table, allowing water to run on to the top of its lava column and create steam-driven blasts, they said. A spike in toxic sulfur dioxide gas levels has closed schools around the town of Pahoa, 40 km east of the volcano, where lava from giant cracks has destroyed 40 homes and other structures, and forced about 2,000 residents to flee. A change in wind direction caused volcanic gas to drift northwest towards Pahoa, prompting National Guard troops to don gas masks at a nearby road intersection. —Reuters

sonal vindication after years of making his case for both. But they were also likely a welcome break from the legal troubles he is facing.

### Chicken dance

A series of graft investigations are looking into Netanyahu's affairs, and the attorney general is expected to make a decision on indictments in two of those cases in the coming months. Police have recommended his indictment for bribery. Netanyahu, prime minister for a total of some 12 years, has always maintained his innocence, but the investigations have gradually ratcheted up speculation over whether he will eventually be forced from office.

His wife Sara Netanyahu is also facing a possible trial over alleged misuse of public funds, which she denies. With that in mind, Netanyahu may have had good reason to literally break out in dance this week over one recent victory. Just two days before the embassy opening, Israeli singer Neta Barzilai took first place in the Eurovision Song Contest, sending a wave of euphoria sweeping over Israelis of all ages and political allegiances. On Sunday, arriving at the weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu briefly flapped his arms in a reference to Barzilai's signature chicken dance. He did the same when meeting Barzilai later in the week. A recent poll would have only further improved his mood. The poll conducted by Israeli newspaper Maariv on May 9 and published on May 11 showed Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party on a surge even before the embassy opening - or even the Eurovision win.

It predicted Likud expanding its hold on the 120-seat parliament to 36 places from its current 30. The survey was carried out a day before Israel confirmed hitting "dozens of Iranian military targets," in Syria after repeatedly warning it would not tolerate continuing Iranian deployment in the war-torn neighboring country. Jerusalem Post senior commentator Amotz Asa-El said those strikes and the way the operation, codenamed House of Cards, was managed won Netanyahu more prestige than Trump's actions. —AFP

## Netanyahu basks in wins, but graft probes still loom

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has basked in recent victories from the US withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal to opening its embassy in Jerusalem, giving him respite from graft probes breathing down his neck. US President Donald Trump granted Netanyahu's long-sought wish on May 8 when he abandoned an international agreement meant to curb the nuclear activities of Israel's main enemy Iran.

Netanyahu fought against the deal even before its 2015 signing, going as far as to defy then president Barack Obama and lobby against the draft accord from the floor of the US Congress while it was still being negotiated. In another victory for Netanyahu, Trump's deeply controversial decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital resulted in the move of his country's embassy there from Tel Aviv on Monday.

It was marked with festive ceremonies attended by a US delegation that included Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner, both White House aides. Netanyahu spoke at the inauguration, seeming to revel in the occasion. "What a glorious day. Remember this moment. This is history," he said. But at the same time on the Israel-Gaza border, Israeli troops killed some 60 Palestinians during protests and clashes, leading to international condemnation.

Netanyahu backed the soldiers' actions. "Every country has the obligation to defend its borders," he said. For the 68-year-old premier, the Iran deal reversal and embassy move were no doubt per-



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## In Congo outbreak, Ebola vaccine faces reality tests

An experimental Ebola vaccine to be deployed in an outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo has conquered some major scientific hurdles in giving high protection, but it now faces extreme real-world tests including heat, humidity, language barriers and lack of roads. Because it is not yet licensed, the Merck & Co vaccine has been offered to Congo under a "compassionate use" protocol agreed by national and international health and ethics authorities.

This means fully informed, signed consent is needed from every person who wants the shot. And in the current Ebola outbreak, that makes logistical, cultural and language barriers the ultimate challenges, global health specialists say. The hurdles illustrate how hard it can be to move from laboratory to real life, especially in remote communities with no functioning health systems. The Congo outbreak is a chance to reality-test a vaccine against a disease epidemic that can't be replicated in controlled environments.

"This is going to need a highly sophisticated operation in one of the most difficult places on earth," said Peter Salama, the World Health Organization's deputy director-general for emergency preparedness and response. "It's very hot and very humid, and we're talking about hundreds of kilometers of densely forested areas." The shot is designed for use in a so-called "ring vaccination". When a new Ebola case is diagnosed, all people who might have been in recent contact with them are traced and vaccinated to try and prevent the disease's spread.

The vaccine supplies so far will be enough to vaccinate 50 rings of 150 people, according to the WHO. It said that as of May 15, 527 contacts of Ebola cases and suspected cases had been identified and were being followed up. Health workers will need to use translators for several local languages and explain the vaccine to leaders from different communities, Salama said. Limited communications, health facilities and electricity, as well as the need to keep the vaccine in a "cold chain" at -60 to -80 degrees Celsius will also present challenges.

If any of these elements fails, the vaccine's potential to protect 100 percent of those immunized will go unrealized. "These are make or break issues," said Salama, who visited Congo last weekend. "There's a lot of complex logistics and social science here."

### Contacts

Results of a trial using the ring vaccination technique with the Merck shot, which is known as VSV-EBOV, in Guinea in West Africa in 2015 showed 100 percent protection in those vaccinated immediately. Health experts working to contain the Congo outbreak, which was first reported on May 8, say a cold chain will be in place to get the vaccines from Congo's capital Kinshasa to the affected areas within a few days. Then the shot could be given to local frontline medical, burial and hospital workers who volunteer for it as early as next week.

There have been 44 suspected, probable or confirmed Ebola cases in this outbreak in Congo's Equateur province, and 23 people have died. The WHO said on Thursday it became more concerned when a case was confirmed in Mbandaka, a city of about a million people which is connected to Kinshasa by the Congo River. Jeremy Farrar, a specialist in infectious diseases and director of the Wellcome Trust global health charity, told Reuters the epidemic now had "all the features of something that could turn really nasty".

"You can't overrespond in this scenario," he said. "But the vaccine must be seen in the context of an overarching public health response. Critically that means early diagnosis, early isolation, safe burials and understanding the social context. The vaccine can only be a part of the solution."

### Acceptance

Experts also caution that acting too hastily could jeopardize the potential success of a vaccine deployment. Micaela Serafini, a medical director for the international charity Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF) who is helping coordinate the response to the Congo outbreak, said its teams are planning for at least 45 minutes of discussion and information-sharing with each person, with a translator present, before signed consent would be obtained.

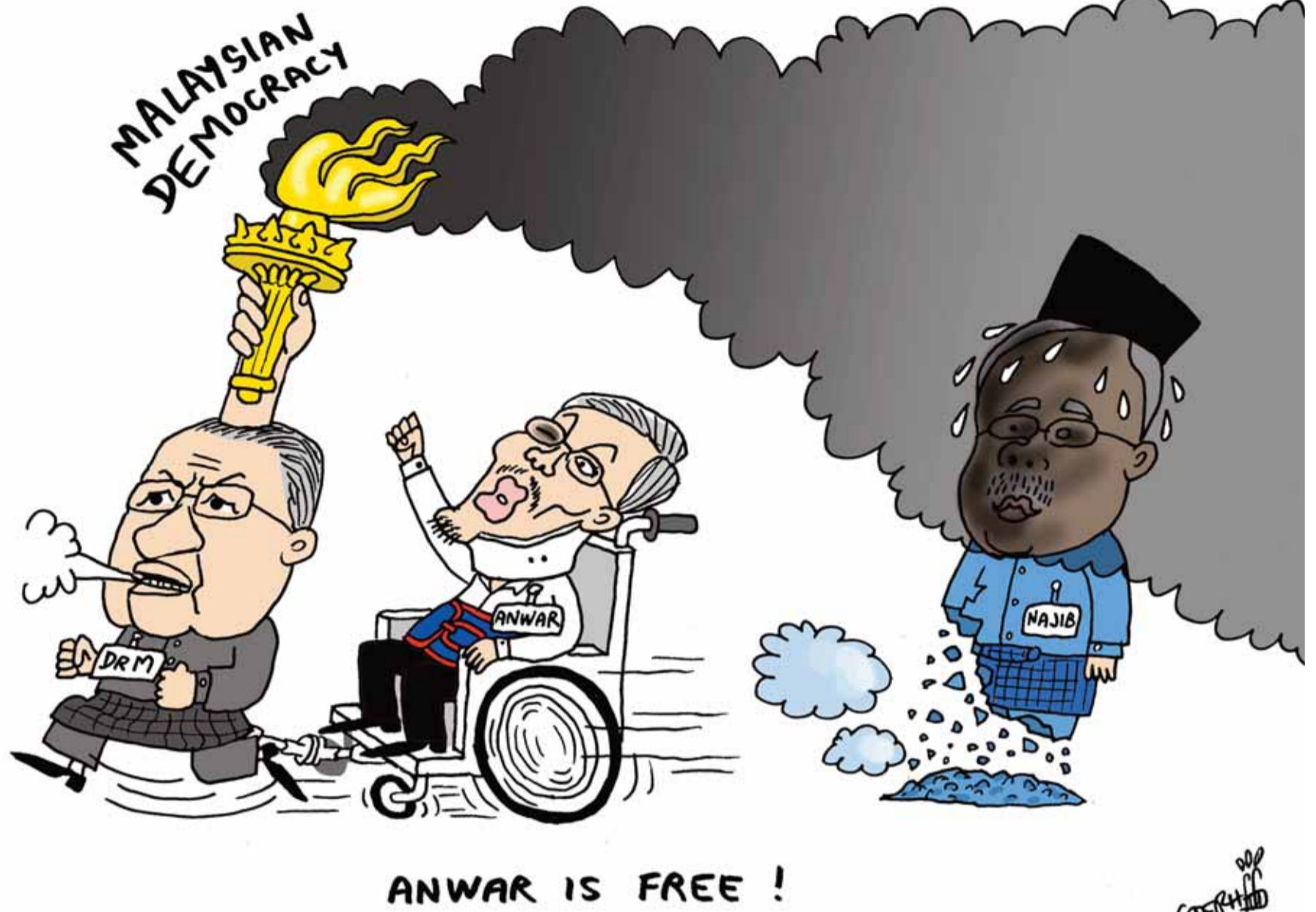
Then, she told Reuters, medical teams would probably return the following day to administer the vaccine. "What we need to avoid at all costs is an uncontrolled situation in the communities affected," she said.

Even though the vaccine has still yet to get a license, the emergency response teams say its safety and efficacy data is strong. And despite lingering suspicions in some of the more remote parts of Africa of western medicines, experts anticipate widespread public acceptance.

Congo's health minister Oly Ilunga signalled on Thursday that his government was fully behind the shot's use. "The vaccine will help us save lives in the Equateur province, in the DRC and in neighboring countries. The vaccine allows us to limit the virus, so we must use it," he said.

Merck and the GAVI vaccine alliance have said a stockpile of more than 300,000 doses of the shot is available for emergency use in an epidemic. Salama and Serafini said one tricky task may be managing a scenario where larger groups of people not identified as high-risk contacts of a Ebola case might demand the vaccine for themselves or their family.

"We want to make sure we are engaging whole communities so that the broader community understands what we are doing and why," said Salama. "That is particularly important when you're not targeting everyone, because naturally people will ask: 'How come you're vaccinating that person but not me?'" —Reuters



## China stands to gain in Iran after US pullout

By Julien Girault

The US decision to reimpose sanctions on Iran could scare off European investors but oil-thirsty China may step into the void and ramp up business links with the country.

China, which is already Iran's top trade partner and one of its biggest buyers of crude, has signalled that it intends to keep working with the Islamic regime despite the US move. Beijing is a signatory of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that had eased sanctions on Tehran, but President Donald Trump quit the accord earlier this month and said Washington would reinstate punitive measures.

"By driving away American, European and Japanese companies, the sanctions could increase opportunities for Chinese businesses," Hu Xingdou, an economist at the Beijing Institute of Technology, told AFP. The Iran deal has been highly profitable for the Asian giant. Chinese businesses involved in Iranian developments are worth at least \$33 billion as of June 2017 according to Beijing's Commerce Ministry-part of the country's ambitious Belt and Road global infrastructure initiative.

In September, China provided a \$10 billion credit line to five Iranian banks financing water, energy and transport projects, and in March the two countries inked a \$700 million deal allowing China to build a

train line that links the port of Bushehr to the rest of Iran's railway network. Beijing now has its sights on the expansion of a major Iranian gas field, with state-owned oil company CNPC set to replace Total if the French energy behemoth withdraws from the project over US sanctions. Trump's move to reimpose sanctions will affect all firms that operate in US dollars or do business on American soil, hitting European companies especially hard.

But the lure of fresh hydrocarbons could prove irresistible for China, the world's largest crude oil importer. Iran is currently China's fifth top oil supplier, with more than a quarter of its output going to Beijing. Bolstered by the flow of black gold, Chinese-Iranian trade leaped by 20 percent in 2017 to \$37 billion.

### Trade skirmishes

European companies could be hit hard by US sanctions. Total started the huge \$4.8-billion gas field project known as South Pars 11 in July 2017, two years after the nuclear deal between Tehran and Western powers prompted the return of many businesses to Iran. But the French company said Wednesday that unless it is exempt from US sanctions, it would "not be in a position to continue" the project, leaving the door open for CNPC to take its place.

### Oil money

"If China, India, Japan and South Korea do not impose sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran, these countries would be unlikely to stop taking Iranian oil," he added. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang made clear last week that Beijing would keep doing business with Tehran: "We will continue with our normal and transparent practical cooperation with Iran on the basis of not violating our international obligations."

Yuan-denominated oil futures contracts were launched in Shanghai in March, an attempt to one day challenge the entrenched position of New York- and London-based dollar futures. The volume of trading of Shanghai contracts doubled the day after the US decision on Iran, and the average daily exchanges tripled month-on-month this week. Beijing, keen to "further internationalize the use of its currency", could make Tehran trade in yuan, according to analysts at BMI Research.

But the impact of this would be modest, they warned, as "trade between Iran and China represents only a small fraction of the crude oil market". Iranian oil "is not irreplaceable" to China, which could import more from Russia and Saudi Arabia, said the economist Hu.

Chinese firms will also be careful not to compromise activity in the US or other western countries, he said, noting that CNPC has several American trade partners. Chinese telecoms equipment maker ZTE, for instance, had to cease major operations after it was hit with a ban on acquiring crucial American technology for allegedly violating US sanctions against North Korea and Iran. In the end, political uncertainty in Tehran could deter Chinese investment, Hu said. "China needs to learn from the past: it invested heavily in Libya and Venezuela, and lost a lot." —AFP

## Trump's bonfire of the treaties sweeps towards the trade body

President Donald Trump has the World Trade Organization in a chokehold, and the United States has made clear what he wants: no more judicial rulings that interpret WTO rules to Washington's disadvantage. Trump has effectively engineered a crisis in the WTO's system of settling global disputes by vetoing all appointments of judges to its appeals chamber.

True to the president's style, his ambassador to the Geneva-based body, Dennis Shea, is unapologetic about shrinking the supreme court of world trade to a size where it will struggle to function.

"The United States is not content to be complacent about this institution," Shea told fellow WTO ambassadors this month. "And the leadership that the United States will bring to the WTO in the coming months and years will consequently involve a good deal of straight talk and a willingness to be disruptive, where necessary, in the interest of contributing to a stronger, more effective, and more politically sustainable organization."

Trump has proved willing to risk a global trade war in combating any treaties and practices he regards as unfairly disadvantaging US companies and workers, imposing tariffs on steel and aluminium imports globally because of overproduction blamed on China.

Since its creation in 1995, governments have gone to the WTO for adjudication on international trade disputes. Although rulings can be appealed, decisions made by judges sitting on its Appellate Body are final, and ultimately sanctions can be used against transgressors.

The rules are far from perfect or complete, and the failure to update them after decades of negotiating stalemate has obliged WTO judges to interpret them for a changing world.

This has incurred Trump's wrath. "We lose the cases, we don't have the judges," he said in February, describing the WTO as "a catastrophe". Trade experts dispute this, saying all countries that go to the WTO have a broadly similar rate of winning and losing. While one US judge sits on the Appellate Body, most of the WTO's 164

members have no representative there, the experts note.

Trump's veto is reducing what is supposed to be the seven-strong Appellate Body as members' terms expire. By September four seats will be vacant, leaving three judges, the number required to hear each appeal. If one judge needs to recuse themselves for any legal reason, the system will break down.

Since 1995, the WTO has handled more than 500 disputes and its membership has expanded to cover around 95 percent of world trade, which has more than tripled to around \$18 trillion per year in goods alone.

### No time-warp

The Trump administration sees a need to rein in unaccountable judges who overstep their authority. Others, however, see a systemic threat and a desire to return to pre-WTO days when countries settled disputes by negotiation - with the more powerful party usually winning, regardless of the merits of the case - rather than under internationally-agreed rules. This year Trump has caused an international outcry with the metals tariffs and a \$150 billion tariff threat against China for allegedly stealing US intellectual property.

Both moves risk legal entanglement at the WTO. But disabling the Appellate Body would not simply mean a "time-warp" to an era without judges, according to chief judge Ujal Singh Bhatia. Instead, disputes would go into limbo if the losing side appealed. And with little prospect of enforcing the rules, there would be little point in negotiating new ones.

"The paralysis of the Appellate Body would cast a long and deep shadow on the continued operation of the multilateral trading system as a whole," Singh Bhatia said. Eight appeals had been filed since the start of 2017 and more are expected, he said, including a dispute over Australian tobacco control rules which is widely seen as a test case for global health policy.

Shea acknowledged the WTO's rule book had "substantial value" and had generally contributed to global economic stability. "But something has gone terribly wrong," he said. "The Appellate Body not only has rewritten our agreements to impose new substantive rules we members never negotiated or agreed, but has also been ignoring or rewriting the rules governing the dispute settlement system, expanding its own capacity to write and impose new rules."

A rift opened up when the WTO faulted US methodology for assessing "dumping", or unfairly priced goods. The consequences for the US ability to tackle what Trump has called China "robbing us blind" were huge.



WASHINGTON DC: In this file photo, US President Donald Trump (right), welcomes Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the White House in Washington, DC. —AFP

### Club for the powerful?

The United States itself also stands accused of rewriting the rules in a dispute brought by Beijing over Washington's refusal to treat China as a "market economy".

"Is the WTO really a rules-based organization, or just a club where powerful traditional members can bend the rules?" China asked in a dispute hearing this week. Although Trump has a pattern of withdrawing from deals he dislikes - such as on curbing climate change and Iran - many WTO diplomats say they remain optimistic that Shea will make proposals to keep the dispute system intact.

Sixty-six WTO members have backed a petition calling for the United States to drop its appointments veto, but there is no agreement on how to avoid the collapse of dispute settlement.

Some countries are discussing using alternative arbitration methods, or having a dispute system which excludes the United States, lawyers and diplomats say. But US ally Japan is unwilling to join the petition. Ambassador Junichi Ihara said WTO members should refrain from disputes which are "essentially political".

Japan rejects a dispute system without the United States. "In my view there should not be plan B," Ihara said. "We have only plan A and we need more collective efforts to find a solution." —Reuters



## Business

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

**13** Debt issuance weak in Q1, central banks boost rates

|         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |      |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| 558,712 | 28.00  | 28,298 | 28.00  | 28.10  | 5,379  | 27.70  | 28.50  | GRSS |
| 318,295 | 15.30  | 34,538 | 15.30  | 15.40  | 35,104 | 15.00  | 15.50  | OMLS |
| 86,152  | 17.20  | 3,171  | 17.10  | 17.20  | 2,187  | 17.10  | 17.50  | MGCS |
| 211,760 | 125.00 | 100    | 125.40 | 125.00 | 263    | 120.00 | 130.00 | OEWS |
| 951,491 | 43.30  | 892    | 43.30  | 43.40  | 887    | 41.50  | 44.40  | MLCS |
| 193,791 | 8.30   | 19     | 8.30   | 8.35   | 14,946 | 8.25   | 8.35   | QOFS |
| 278,100 | 92.00  |        | 92.50  | 2,000  | 98.50  | 95.00  |        | ONNS |

**14** Bursa Kuwait equities drop on profit-booking, selling pressure**14** Grand Mall opens 52nd outlet in Musalla

TEHRAN: Miguel Arias Canete (left), European Union Energy Commissioner, during a meeting with Iranian officials in the capital Tehran yesterday. —AFP

# Trump decision won't hit oil exports: Iran

## Zanganeh hopes an EU deal could salvage exports

TEHRAN: Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said yesterday that US President Donald Trump's decision to quit a multinational nuclear deal would not affect Tehran's oil exports if the EU could salvage the pact.

"Every new decision in OPEC needs unanimity... I believe that if the European Union helps us... the level of the oil exports of Iran will not change," Zanganeh told reporters after a meeting with the EU's energy chief Miguel Arias Canete.

Iran's nuclear chief said yesterday that the European Union had promised to save the nuclear deal with major powers despite US President Donald Trump's decision to exit the accord and reimpose sanctions on Tehran.

Following Trump's decision on May 8, the US Treasury said Washington would reimpose a wide array of Iran-related sanctions after the expiry of 90- and 180-day wind-down periods, including sanctions aimed at Iran's oil sector and transactions with its central bank.

The EU wants to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal, which offers the Islamic Republic relief from economic sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. Europe sees the agreement as an important element of international security.

During the last round of sanctions, Iran's oil supplies fell by around one million barrels per day, but the country re-emerged as a major oil exporter after sanctions were lifted in 2016.

However major European companies, partly wary of the remaining US sanctions on Iran, have been reluctant to do business with Tehran, which needs to attract over \$100 billion in foreign investment to boost its crude output.

"I have no doubt that these extraterritorial sanctions from US against Iran will have an impact on (foreign) investment in Iran," Zanganeh told reporters. "It will not stop us but will reduce the rate of growth."

### Boosting trade

In the wake of new US sanctions, some buyers of OPEC's third-largest oil producer said they would seek US waivers to purchase Iranian crude. "Our main cus-

tomers are in Asia ... but we expect to preserve and save this level of exports to Europe and Africa," he said.

Arias Canete, who is in Tehran for a two-day trip, presented Iranian counterparts with an array of potential measures drafted by the EU this week to mitigate the impact of US sanctions in a bid to bolster moderates around President Hassan Rouhani, who want to keep trade open with the West.

"We want to solve all the problems that are impeding normal trade in oil," Arias Canete said.

Zanganeh said Iran was particularly keen for the EU to act on a proposal urging EU governments make direct

euro-denominated payments for oil exports to Iran's central bank, bypassing the U.S. financial system. Other measures included renewing a sanctions-blocking measure to protect European businesses in Iran and allowing the European Investment Bank to do business in Iran.

EU investment in Iran, mainly from Germany, France and Italy, has jumped to more than 20 billion euros since 2016, in projects ranging from aerospace to energy.

But some foreign firms have already started signaling their intent to pull back from Iran. The French energy company Total (TOT.PA) said on Wednesday it will pull out of a multibillion-dollar gas project in Iran if it cannot secure a waiver from US sanctions. Iran had hailed the contract as a symbol of the accord's success.

"If Total does not receive US waivers, they will quit and will be replaced by a Chinese company," Zanganeh said. French gas and power group Engie (ENGIE.PA), Polish gas firm PGNiG (PGN.WA) and German lender DZ Bank were the latest companies on Friday to say that their business dealings with Iran would be affected by new US sanctions.

Zanganeh said other countries such as Russia and China were keen to fill the vacuum left by the potential exit of European investors. "The Chinese are very eager. Two big companies SINOPEC and CNPC are our historical partners for Iran. In the biggest fields in Iran they are eager to be involved," Zanganeh said. —Reuters

## Ahmad Abu Zaid appointed new CEO of Safat Investment

KUWAIT: Safat Investment Company announced the appointment of Ahmad Fathi Abu Zaid as its new CEO effective May 15, 2018. He replaces Abdelmohsen Suleiman Al-Mashan who resigned for personal reasons.

Abu Zaid has several professional and practical experiences that qualify him to head the executive apparatus of the company. He obtained a BSc degree in administrative science and bank management in 1994. He has worked in the International Commercial Bank, Egypt for more than nine years in the field of credit and marketing. Later, he worked at a Kuwaiti company within Mohammad Abdulmohsen Al-Kharafi and Sons Group of companies as Deputy Director General for Financing and Banks for over 10 years.

He recently took over as the president's advisor to develop business at Al-Safat Investment Company. In 2015, he was appointed Deputy CEO of the company in recognition of his efforts and leadership experience in various fields.



Ahmad Fathi Abu Zaid

## World's first floating nuclear barge to power Russia's Arctic oil drive

MURMANSK, Russia: To meet its growing electricity needs in its drive to develop oil resources in remote Arctic regions, Russia has built a floating nuclear power station, a project that detractors deride as a "Chernobyl on ice". Built in Saint Petersburg, the Akademik Lomonosov is currently moored in Murmansk where it is being loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to eastern Siberia.

Yesterday, head of state nuclear power firm Rosatom unveiled the brown-and-mustard-painted facility in the city's estuary as an orchestra played the national anthem. Rosatom chief Alexei Likhachev hailed the new power station as "a new world first," which he said "underlines the undoubted leading role of Rosatom and the Russian nuclear energy sector on the global agenda."

"I hope today will be a symbolic day for the Arctic," Likhachev said, adding that Rosatom "is setting a trend, a demand for medium-capacity nuclear facilities, mobile facilities, for many decades ahead."

The 144-by-30-metre (472-by-98-foot) barge holds two reactors with two 35 megawatt nuclear reactors that are similar to those used to power icebreaker ships. The Akademik Lomonosov will be towed in the summer of 2019 to the port of Pevek in the autonomous Chukotka region in Russia's extreme northeast.



### OPEC may seek US waivers to buy Iranian crude

The barge can produce enough electricity to power a town of 200,000 residents, far more than the 5,000 live in Russia's northernmost town.

But Akademik Lomonosov isn't in Pevek to just keep the lights on in homes. As Russia is forced to push further north into the Arctic in the search for oil and gas, it needs electricity in far-flung locations.

"The idea is to have low-capacity, mobile power plants that can be used in the Russian Arctic where large amounts of electricity aren't needed" and the construction of a conventional power station would be complicated and costly, said Sergei Kondratyev at the Institute for Energy and Finance in Moscow.

"The alternatives are coal, gas and diesel. But diesel is very costly," he said, while the gas needs to be delivered as liquefied natural gas or LNG. Vitaly Trutnev, who is in charge of the construction and operation of floating nuclear power stations at Rosatom, said such units would "supply electricity and heat to the most remote regions, supporting also growth and sustainable development."

He said use of such floating reactors can save 50,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

The Akademik Lomonosov is set to replace an ageing nuclear reactor and a coal-fired power plant which are both located in Chukotka.

### 'Nuclear Titanic'

Trutnev said the barge has "the latest security systems and should be one of the safest nuclear installations in the world." Activists at the environmental group Greenpeace are not convinced and call for international monitoring. They fear that the Akademik Lomonosov could become a "nuclear Titanic" or a "Chernobyl on ice" 32 years after the Soviet nuclear disaster.

Greenpeace Russia's Rashid Alimov said that accidents are possible at all nuclear power plants, but that



The floating nuclear reactor Akademik Lomonosov near St. Petersburg, Russia

the barge "will be especially sensitive to storms, environmental phenomena and threats such as terrorism." He said a shift to more numerous small reactors would pose risks for proliferation of nuclear material.

Greenpeace nuclear expert Jan Haverkamp noted that the Akademik Lomonosov is being fuelled near Murmansk, a city of 300,000, before being towed across the Arctic.

"Its installation in the tough environment of the Russian Arctic will pose a constant threat for residents of the north and the Arctic's pristine nature," said Haverkamp. The barge had initially been scheduled to be fuelled in Saint Petersburg, but that work was moved to Murmansk instead due to concern in countries along the Baltic Sea. Kondratyev at the Institute for Energy and Finance in Moscow downplayed safety concerns about the barge, insisting it met the same safety rules as nuclear icebreakers and submarines.

"But it is a new piece of equipment. There may be concerns among the general populace, but there are additional risks compared to nuclear power plants," he said. —AFP



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Business

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

# Debt issuance weak in Q1, central banks boost rates

## Global and GCC monetary policy tightened

**KUWAIT:** After a buoyant 2017, GCC sovereign issuance was quieter in 1Q18 at \$12 billion. But a combination of still-favorable borrowing costs, high oil prices, and continued foreign investor interest are expected to keep market access relatively easy this year. Meanwhile, international and regional bond yields moved higher triggered by reflationary concerns.

Fears that strong global growth is pushing up inflation caused global benchmark yields to finish 1Q18 higher, offsetting concerns over global geopolitics and trade wars. US 10-year treasury yields rose 33 bps q/q to 2.74 percent, while 10-year Bunds increased 7 bps to 0.50 percent.

In the US in particular, yields were driven by signs of gradually rising inflation and wage pressures together with strong economic activity data. Indeed, inflationary expectations appear to have shifted: US 10-year breakeven rates - which project average inflation over the next decade - averaged 2.1 percent in 1Q18, their highest since 2015 and up 32 bps from 2017.

In Europe, despite the European Central Bank's (ECB) early confidence in the Eurozone's economic recovery, the rise in yields was relatively restrained. Efforts by the ECB to dispel any signs of hawkishness, coupled with political uncertainty, peaking economic growth and stubbornly low inflation helped cap the rise in German Bund yields.

**Monetary tightening**

Monetary policy continued to tighten

globally, emboldened by the flow of relatively strong economic data. While the Fed was the only central bank to raise its policy rate in 1Q18 - by 25 bps to 150-175 bps - the rhetoric from other central banks turned marginally more hawkish. Official projections from the Fed are close to shifting from three hikes this year to four; the ECB dropped its commitment to expand the size of its bond buying program; the Bank of England became more hawkish on inflation; and the Bank of Japan bought fewer government securities during the quarter. The pace of government security purchases by the main central banks fell to its lowest since 2013.

GCC yields moved higher alongside US Treasuries and escalating regional tensions. This was despite firmer oil prices - Brent rose 9 percent q/q in Q1 to \$67/bbl - which would typically contribute to lower yields. Yields on 8-9 year sovereign debt for GCC sovereigns rose 40-64 bps in 1Q18, with Saudi and Bahrain up the most. (Charts 4 and 5.) The yield on the latter breached 7 percent for the first time, while Kuwaiti debt was the lowest yielding, steady at around 3.8 percent. A combination of dollar-linked currency pegs and tightening interbank spreads saw GCC central banks follow the Fed's 25 bps March hike. Interbank spreads had narrowed to decade lows, with higher policy rates looking to address this trend and support the attractiveness of local currencies. In an unusual step, the Saudi central bank hiked its policy rate pre-emptively,

one week ahead of the Fed's move.

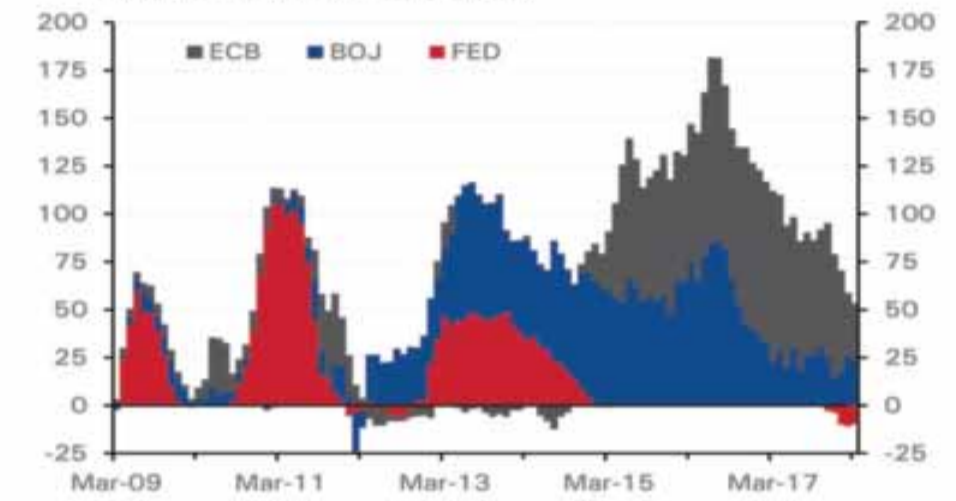
GCC gross issuance was at its weakest in almost three years, totaling \$12 billion in 1Q18. Activity was boosted by Oman's \$6.5 billion sovereign issue, with most of the rest coming from the financial sector. Total outstanding regional debt increased by a small \$2 billion to \$438 billion, with growth easing to 14 percent y/y.

Higher oil prices helped credit default swap rates - one measure of risk - decline for most GCC sovereigns in the quarter, while credit ratings and outlooks were largely confirmed. However, renewed concerns over fiscal and external positions led to credit rating downgrades for Bahrain (Fitch: to BB- from BB+) and Oman (Moody's: to Baa3 from Baa2). Oman currently stands at the edge of the investment grade spectrum, while Bahrain moved deeper into sub-investment grade status.

**GCC borrowing**

The prospect of higher rates, still-large fiscal needs, and relatively easy market access has favored the frontloading of GCC borrowing in 2018. So far, 2Q18 saw both Saudi Arabia and Qatar issue sizeable bonds - \$11 billion and \$12 billion, respectively - with the latter engaging in its first international debt market foray since 2016. Saudi's order book topped at \$50 billion, while Qatar's reached \$52 billion; still reflecting deep appetite for GCC sovereign debt. Pricing was also competitive for both. Bahrain's attempt, however, was not as

**Chart 3: Central Bank purchases of securities**  
(\$ billion, 3-month moving average)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

successful, with investors turning down its conventional bond due to unfavorable pricing, while its subsequent sukuk was priced at a steep increase from the previous issue. In Kuwait, delays in passing a new debt law may see the state turn to its reserves to fund its estimated \$10 billion deficit for 2018. The previous debt law expired in September 2017.

Although still accommodative, the climate for global fixed income is becoming slightly less positive. Still-strong global

economic growth and a tightening labor market are expected to push global inflation moderately higher, implying tighter policy. However, recent data have hinted at softening growth in both the US and Europe, which could yet see monetary tightening/stimulus reduction proceed less rapidly than expected. Central banks are also expected to keep a close eye on financial conditions and levels of leverage, wanting to avoid instability by raising rates too fast.

Bayt.com weekly report

## 6 sentences that could damage your career

**KUWAIT:** Many of you spend the majority of your time at your workplace. Spending that much time and getting comfortable around the people you see daily might let your guard down and cause you to forget some business etiquette. But even those who feel secure and grounded in their jobs have to maintain professional behavior at work.

Most importantly, watch out for what you say. Words matter. They can inform, educate, encourage, motivate and simplify things. But they can also insult, discourage, demean, nullify, and portray a negative image. Words make a big difference, and they can be used to base very important career decisions on.

While there are some known and obvious things that shouldn't be said because they are insulting or disrespectful, there are other somewhat surprising business related sentences that should be seriously avoided.

Here are six sentences that may cost you your career:

**1. "Not my job" or "Not on my job description"**

A job description is a document that works as a guide and describes the tasks, related duties and responsibilities

of a position. Though, in some cases, you might do some related tasks that are not listed on the job description. Don't limit yourself to what's written and be open to help. If you are given the chance to create and improve things out of your job description and you find that you can actually solve a problem, increase productivity of your organization or contribute to make a difference, then by all means propose and give in your capabilities.

Remember, everyone at your organization is working towards the same goal, to achieve the mission and vision and present the company's values. Managers usually prefer employees who go beyond their job description and contribute in helping other team members. Take this opportunity and get out of your comfort zone. So instead of saying "that's not my job, try to say "I'm not sure I have done this before, but I'll take care of it."

**2. "I can't/won't put in the extra effort"**

From the extra hours to the extra effort to learn and grow, you need to be willing to go an extra mile or two to reach goals and targets. Occasional long work days look normal and desirable to committed employees and managers. It is not necessary to have long workdays every day, but once in a while or while working on delivering an important project you may need to stay committed to your job and work a little extra.

Employees who do not put the extra effort and are not flexible to do what it takes to succeed in the short term, will most probably be disappointed in the long term. Organizations would definitely not retain an employee who is not willing to help the team and the company grow. We all know managers or professionals who are outstanding and are often perceived as role models.

Unsurprisingly, those people have put in the sweat and the extra hours when needed and are still willing to do so to grow more.

**3. "I wasn't trained right" or "I didn't receive the right training"**

Training methods differ from one employer to another. Companies set budgets, time and resources to implement the right training to be aligned and consistent with the quality of tasks delivered. We all know professionals who criticize employers for not "investing" in them. However, successful professionals volunteer to self-training.

Luckily, with the technologies given to us today, it is easy for us to learn and expand our knowledge. There are various ways to do so: formal or informal classes and courses provided by educational institutes, online courses, networking, and reading. Continuous learning is a life-long success. The knowledge you gain from learning is one thing that can never be taken away from you and gives you room for growth. Bayt.com offers a great platform where you can interact with other professionals and increase your knowledge through community discussions and interactions through Bayt.com Specialties. There also numerous learning resources and courses offered for all professionals.

**4. "I don't have access to the right tools and resources"**

Do the best with what you have. Companies rarely assign budget increase or resources to employees or departments that have not done their maximum potential and effort to use the tools and resources they currently have. Once managers find that the maximum has been reached and an employee is in need to access a greater

room of tools to maximize and increase productivity, then they will appreciate the effort done and provide an increase. Show appreciation and respect of your company's resources and use your skills to increase productivity. Strive to create value by doing more with less.

**5. "I'm not appreciated" or "Nobody appreciates my work"**

Having the "victim" mentality could put your career growth in danger. Rethink and ask yourself, are you really being overlooked? Or are you simply unsatisfied with your career in general? If you are really being treated unfairly, double check your performance and productivity and work on what is going wrong.

The universe has its own way of recognizing your skills. Check Bayt.com Salaries and rethink your performance appraisal, they are a good indicator of how your manager is rating your progress. So before going into the "victim" mentality, try sitting down with your manager and ask "Can we set some a time to review my performance?"

**6. "I don't like working with X" or "I can't stand my boss"**

You will most likely work in a diverse workplace. Keep an open mind that you will not be working with people of your choice, thus, approach all professional relationships with respect, good manners, and attention. Work towards the organization's success and be inspired to learn about different cultures and people. It is magical to know more about others and how they perceive the world.

Also, never complain and give negative comments about others to your colleagues, it might cost you your job. Try to see the secret of how others get along with their bosses and colleagues.

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## Business

## BAYAN WEEKLY REPORT

# Boursa Kuwait equities drop on profit-booking, selling pressure

## Disclosure period for listed companies for Q1 ends

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Premier Market Index closed at 4,765.78 points, down by 0.66 percent, the Main Market Index decreased by 0.41 percent after closing at 4,864.02 points, whereas the All-Share Index closed at 4,801.14 points down by 0.57 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 20.98 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 7.38 million, whereas trading volume average was 40.97 million shares, recording a decrease of 33.18 percent.

The Boursa recorded a weekly loss of over KD 147 million, as its market capitalization reached by the end of the last week around KD 26.43 billion, against KD 26.58 billion in the previous week, down by 0.55 percent. The losses of the Boursa market cap since the application of the Market Development 2 phase reached KD 1.43 billion, down by 5.12 percent. (Note: The market capitalization of 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 other hand, last week witnessed the end of the legal disclosure period given for the listed companies to disclose its fiscal results for the first quarter of 2018. By

the end of last week, the total number of the listed companies that announced its results reached 161 company out of 175 listed company in the Market, where the total profit recorded by all companies reached around KD 547.54 million, up by 5.78 percent from the total profit of the same companies for the same period of last year, as it reached then around KD 517.64 million.

The Market took a downward direction during the last week and its three indices recorded different losses in light of the success of the selling pressures and the profit collection operations over the random purchasing operations that were present during some daily sessions of the week, where the selling operations included many stocks that have been traded on, amid a decreased trading indicators compared to the previous week's trading, as the total value dropped by the end of the week to reach KD 36.91 million, and the total volume declined to reach

204.86 million stock. Last week witnessed trading over 146 stock out of 175 listed stock in the Market, where the prices of 54 stock increased against a decrease in prices of 69 stock, while the prices of 52 remained at no change.

### Sectors' Indices

Five of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, seven recorded decreases. Last week's highest gainer was the Oil & Gas sector, achieving 2.24 percent growth rate as its index closed at 996.48 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Telecommunications sector's index closed at 803.72 points recording 0.61 percent increase.

The Insurance sector came in third as its index achieved 0.58 percent growth, ending the week at 935.29 points.

On the other hand, The Technology sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 10.03 percent to end the week's activity at 881.86 points. The Consumer Goods

sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.55 percent, closing at 877.33 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at 977.29 points at a loss of 0.87 percent. The Health Care sector was the least declining as its index closed at 995.60 points with a 0.07 percent decrease.

### Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 72.23 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 35.30 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 23.50 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 48.08 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 15.31 million or 41.50 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 5.25 million representing 14.23 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.



## Market cap drops KD 26.43bn

## Italian ambassador visits KGSS

**KUWAIT:** Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Scognamiglio, accompanied by the Commercial Attache Giovanni Sanna, made an official visit at Kuwait Global Steel Services last week.

The Kuwait Global Steel Services (KGSS) is a company of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Real Estate Co. W.L.L. and represented by the Chairman Dr Abdullah Easa Al-Yousifi and his partner Italian Engineer Carlo Micoli.

Kuwait Global Steel Services provides the cutting and bending steel, bar bending schedule, shop drawings, optimization plan, stock and stock taking. Engineer Carlo Micoli introduced the concept in



Giuseppe Scognamiglio

United Arab Emirates on 1990s with 886 projects successfully completed. Now, he brings the same technology that will cater to the growing construction industry in Kuwait.

During the visit, the Ambassador congratulates Engineer Carlo Micoli that the facility is fully equipped with the best and computerize Italian machineries. To date, the Kuwait Global Steel Services is the first and biggest facility of its kind in Kuwait with a monthly capacity of 10,000 tons and currently located at Amghara Industrial Area.

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches CSR initiatives during Ramadan

**KUWAIT:** The holy month of Ramadan is at here and millions of people around the world are getting ready to welcome this holy month with the acts of service, charity and prayers. As in previous years, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 global jewelry retailer strengthens its CSR activities in the GCC and Far East region this Ramadan. Embracing the spirit of 'Year of Zayed' which marks the 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has planned a month long CSR activities in association with like-minded organizations to benefit the needy. Over 70,000 special Iftar meals / kits will be distributed during this period.

In Qatar, the group will be providing Iftar meals to 2,000 laborers across in Al-Khor, Shahania, Doha & Wukair. In UAE, over 43,000 Iftar meals / kits will be provided to the residents in association with various like-minded

organizations like Sharjah Charity International, Community Development Authority, MOH, KMCC, various labor camps and masjids throughout this holy month of Ramadan. 18,000 Iftar meals will be provided at Sajaa Industrial area, Sharjah throughout the holy month of Ramadan in an air conditioned tent which is set up with the support of Sharjah Charity International. Company will also distribute Iftar meals across the various labor camps & nearby masjids in UAE.

In Oman, the group provides over 15,000 Iftar meals at all over Oman throughout the holy month of Ramadan. In Bahrain, the group is planning to provide over 5,250 Iftar meals to the workers at different labor camps located all over Bahrain like Asker, Akker, Jau, Arad, Hidd etc. Like in previous years, they will be associating with Discovery Islam, Al Hedayah Centre and Friendship Society for Blinds, UCO Parents Care to carry out such activities during Ramadan.

In Kuwait, the group will provide Iftar meals to over 2,800 laborers in different parts of various governorates in Kuwait.

In Singapore, the company will distribute around 78,000 water cups in the various masjids during the holy month. In Malaysia, the group provides 750 special Ramadan Kit to the under privileged people which includes the grocery which will be enough for a family of 3 persons to break the fast for 10 days during Ramadan. The Company also provides 1000



Iftar meals which will be distributed in & around of various masjids.

Since its inception in 1993, Malabar Group has been actively involved in CSR activities with the aim of creating a difference to the community in and around their area of operations. The importance of CSR activities for Malabar Group has grown over the decades and the group sets aside 5% percentage of its net profit for the benefit of the needy in the respective markets it operates in. They undertake social welfare activities all year long, focusing on five priority areas such medical, educational sector, environment as well as housing and women empowerment.



## Grand Mall opens 52nd outlet in Musalla, Sharjah

**SHARJAH:** Grand Hypermarket, a retail group under the Regency Group opened its 52nd outlet Grand Mall, Mussalla, Sharjah. The inauguration was done by Ruler office chairman, Sheikh Salem Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Qasimi in the presence of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Qasimi, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Khalid Ahmed Al-Qasimi, Sultan Al-Shamsi, Indian actor Suniel Shetty, DM Health care CMD Padmasree Dr Azad Moopan, Regency Group chairman Shamsuddin bin Mohiyyudin, Group managing Director Dr. Anwar Ameen, Directors-Abdul Rehman A P, Abdul Subhaan bin Shamsudeen, Mohammed N V, Mohammed bin Aslam Mohiuddin, Silver Home Director V.T Saleem and government officials, socio-cultural dignitaries, Regency group regional directors, Management officials was witnessed by 1000s of happy customers.

Grand Mall Sharjah located near Al-Qarba Police Station, is the largest outlet of Regency Group in UAE. With a total buildup area of more than 200,000 sq. ft., the mall boasts huge parking space for 600+ cars in Ground and Basement level. Grand Hypermarket will act as the anchor tenant and the Mall will also have several shops with leading brands in Jewelry, Money Exchanges, Electronics & Mobility, Services, Watches and Fashion. A food court area with seating capacity of 300 guests is also ready in the mall with Indian, Arabic and Chinese cuisines will open at the earliest. Kids will have a good time at the mall thanks to the spacious kids play area spread in an area of more than 2,000 sqft. Said the Group Managing Director Dr Anwar Ameen.



hugs crowd gathered to avail the special inaugural promotions and prizes at the new outlet.

Regency Group Chairman Shamsuddin bin Mohiyyudin, expressed his gratitude towards the rulers of the country, its citizens and expatriates on this occasion. "Grand Hypermarket will act as the anchor tenant and the Mall will also have several shops with leading brands in Jewelry, Money Exchanges, Electronics & Mobility, Services, Watches and Fashion. A food court area with seating capacity of 300 guests is also ready in the mall with Indian, Arabic and Chinese cuisines will open at the earliest. Kids will have a good time at the mall thanks to the spacious kids play area spread in an area of more than 2,000 sqft." Said the Group Managing Director Dr Anwar Ameen.

The Management has informed that there will be a wide variety of offers for selected prod-

ucts, during the holy month of Ramadan.

Photo caption: Grand Hypermarket, a retail group under the Regency Group opened its 52nd outlet Grand Mall, Mussalla, Sharjah. The inauguration was done by Ruler office chairman, Sheikh Salem Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Qasimi in the presence of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Qasimi, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Khalid Ahmed Al-Qasimi, Sultan Al Shamsi, Indian actor Suniel Shetty, DM Health care CMD Padmasree Dr Azad Moopan, Regency Group chairman Shamsudeen bin Mohideen, Group managing Director Dr Anwar Ameen, Directors-Abdul Rehman A P, Abdul Subhaan bin Shamsudeen, Mohammed N V, Mohammed bin Aslam Mohiuddin, Silver Home director Salim Valiakath, Government officials, Socio-cultural dignitaries, Regency group regional directors and Management officials.

## 26 new winners in Al-Hassad Islamic account this week

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 16th of May 2018. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Fahad Mdarhem Al-Otaibi.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Milad Sami Bitar, Faten Abdulkareem Al-Neamah, Haidar Farouq Al-Naqeb, Henda B S Alissa, Eid Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Salwa A S Alhazza, Nael Ghazi Hamad, Lulwa Mohamed Al-Dakhil, Hanaa Mohammad Al-Zamel, Severine Fernandes Henry, Abdullah Hussain Abdurrahman, Rakan M.A. Alrefaei, Falah Abdulla Al Braiki, Sulaiman Saleh Al Tharban, Sarah A S Al-Sanousi, Abdulwahab Saleh Alduajj,



Ahmed Abdlsamad Abdalwahed, Abdullah Obaid Al Ajmi, Noor Al-Khalifa, Mohammed Yousif A.Majeed, Manoj Navin Megchiani, Naeema Saeed Al Shajjar, Fatima Ahmed saleh, Amina Abdulla Abbas and Marzooq Salman Ahmed.

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

## Gulf Bank announces official Ramadan working hours

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank would also like to inform its customers of working hours during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The Bank's network of 58 branches will be operating from 10 am until 1:30 pm. As for the Bank's Head Office and the supporting administrative departments, working hours will be from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm. The Bank will resume its regular working hours on the first business day following the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.

On the blessed occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Gulf Bank would like to convey its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah; and to the government and people of Kuwait.

The Bank will continue serving its customers round-the-clock on the Customer Contact Center. Customers can also log on to the bank's bilingual website [www.gulfbank.com](http://www.gulfbank.com) to get more information about the Bank's latest products and services or to download the Mobile Banking App (App Store/Play Store) to monitor accounts and conduct self-service banking transactions, or view its social media channels.





## Technology

# Vietnam set to tighten clamps on Facebook and Google

## Political activists face tougher online policing

**HANOI:** A struggle over internet laws in Vietnam is pitting a government keen on maintaining tight control against US technology companies trying to fight off onerous new rules - with the country's online dissidents among the biggest losers. The latest conflict centers on new cybersecurity legislation set for a vote by Vietnamese lawmakers later this month. It aims to impose new legal requirements on internet companies, and hardens policing of online dissent.

Facebook, Google and other global companies are pushing back hard against provisions that would require them to store data on Vietnamese users locally and open offices in the country. But they have not taken the same tough stance on parts of the proposed law that would bolster the government's crackdown on online political activism.

Vietnam offers a case study in the conflicting pressures the likes of Facebook and Google confront when operating in countries with repressive governments. It also shows how authoritarian regimes try to walk a line in controlling online information and suppressing political activism without crippling the digital economy. Such tensions are playing out across Southeast Asia, where the enormous popularity of Facebook and Google has created lucrative business opportunities and outlets for political dissent.

With that, though, has come both government censorship and a way to get propaganda to large audiences efficiently. The region is particularly important for Facebook and Google because most Internet users in China are blocked from accessing them. An industry group called the Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) is lead-

ing efforts to soften the proposed cyber law in Vietnam.

Jeff Paine, managing director of the AIC, said he and others were able to raise concerns about the law directly with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and other top government officials when they visited Singapore last month. The discussions took place as part of a seminar about internet issues that included academics, industry officials and the high-level Vietnamese delegation, according to Paine. He said there was "a healthy dialogue" that focused mostly on how Vietnam can leverage the next stages of the digital revolution. But he said there was no discussion of content restrictions.

The Vietnamese government did not respond to a request from Reuters for comment for this article.

Political activists in Vietnam rely on social media to rally support, and the new cyber law comes on the heels of an April letter from more than 50 rights groups and activists to Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg accusing the company of working too closely with the Vietnamese government to stifle dissent. Facebook and Google say they have to abide by local laws in the countries where they operate.

Facebook's latest "transparency report," released Tuesday, shows that in the second half of last year, the company began blocking content in Vietnam for violations of local law for the first time. The company reported 22 such instances - though it said they were prompted by "private reports of defamation" rather than direct government requests. Google last year also blocked YouTube videos at the request of the govern-

“Imminent risk of serious physical injury or death”



HANOI: A man uses a mobile device in a coffee shop in Hanoi, Vietnam.—Reuters

ment for the first time.

Updated figures released Friday show the company was asked to remove more than 6500 videos in 2017, mostly for criticizing the government, and that it complied with a majority of the requests. The transparency reports do show that the companies don't automatical-

ly do the bidding of the government. Facebook said it had received 12 government requests for Facebook user account data in 2017 and complied with only 4 of them, all of which were "emergency" requests. The company defines an emergency as involving "imminent risk of serious physical injury or death."—Reuters

## Privatize the ISS? Not so fast, Congress tells Trump

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump's controversial plan to privatize the International Space Station (ISS) beginning in 2025 has met with strong opposition from lawmakers, including from some in the Republican majority. The US administration announced in February it wanted to redirect the money it spends on the ISS toward other space exploration projects, like returning to the Moon and eventually sending people to Mars.

But the plan was deemed too simple and short-sighted by experts and, crucially, by lawmakers who control the US purse strings. "We cannot have it all. Federal funding is not unlimited," said Lamar Smith, the Republican chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, during a hearing Thursday. Any savings that come from de-funding the orbiting outpost would amount to "not much," Smith added. "That's not going to get us back to the Moon, that's not going to get us elsewhere," he said.

NASA spends between three and four billion dollars per year on the ISS, including the cost of shipping cargo and paying Russia for transporting astronauts aboard the Soyuz. The United States has not been able to fly astronauts to space aboard its own spacecraft since the space shuttle program ended in 2011. If the station were privatized, Americans would continue to pay for exploration missions and research, and the savings would amount to no more than one billion per year, according to researcher Bhavya Lal at the Institute for Defense Analysis.

That falls far short of the amount needed to fund a human exploration mission to Mars. "It is unlikely that a commercial space station would be economically viable by 2025," she said. NASA inspector general Paul Martin has also concluded that it is unlikely that private industries would assume all the operational costs of the ISS in 2024 — amounting to \$1.2 billion per year.

### Space unites

Ultraconservative Senator Ted Cruz of Texas—the state where NASA astronauts train at Houston's Johnson Space Center—voted that as long as he chairs the space subcommittee, the space station will be funded. "And as long as Article I of the Constitution remains intact, it will be Congress that is the final arbiter of how long the ISS receives federal funding," he said at a hearing on Wednesday. Cruz and his colleagues want to prolong the life of the space lab until 2028, beyond its current expiration date of 2024.

Saving the space station is a cause that unites both Republicans and Democrats. "We've got this platform up there (worth) north of \$100 billion, and it's there," said Senator Bill Nelson of Florida, ranking member on the Subcommittee on Space, Science and Competitiveness. "Abandoning this incredible orbiting laboratory where they are doing research, when we are on the cusp of a new era of space exploration, would be irresponsible at best and probably disastrous."

The ISS—long seen as a global symbol of cooperation between the United States, Russia and more than a dozen other countries—has been in operation since 1998. It remains to be seen how the United States would pay for both the space station and missions to the Moon and Mars, without a major hike in the NASA budget, which today amounts to around \$18.4 billion per year.—AFP

## Chinese private firm launches first space rocket

**BEIJING:** A suborbital rocket was launched into space Thursday by a start-up in China's burgeoning commercial aeronautics industry, as private firms snap at the heels of their dominant American rivals. OneSpace, the Beijing-based company behind the launch, is one of dozens of Chinese rivals jostling for a slice of the global space industry, estimated to be worth about \$339 billion by Bank of America Merrill Lynch and currently dominated by SpaceX and Blue Origin in the US.

Its nine-meter "Chongqing Liangjiang Star" rocket took off from an undisclosed test field in China's northwest and reached an altitude of 273 kilometers before falling back to Earth, the company said in a statement. The launch aimed to demonstrate an early working model of the company's OS-X series of rockets, designed to conduct research linked to suborbital flights. By the end of the decade OneSpace expects to build 20 of the OS-X rockets, which would be capable of placing a 100-kilo payload into an orbit 800 kilometers from the Earth's surface, said company spokesman Chen Jianfan.

The firm is also developing another type of rocket, the M-series, to compete in the growing microsatellite sector. These small satellites are typically no larger than a shoebox and are used to monitor crops, weather patterns or disaster sites or used by universities for research purposes, according to Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for

Astrophysics. Microsatellites are cheaper to build and easier to deploy than traditional truck-sized versions and their launch has become increasingly a lucrative market, currently dominated by the Indian space program. Chinese aerospace start-ups were eschewing the space travel ambitions of their US rivals to compete for these lucrative microsatellite contracts, said McDowell.

OneSpace's work has attracted the attention of several domestic and foreign clients, Chen said, adding that "a number of satellite companies in Europe and Asia have approached us to establish strategic partnerships". Once dominated by state research agencies and the military, China allowed private companies to enter the space industry to build and launch satellites in 2014.

### Contested claims

Another Chinese start-up, iSpace, launched a suborbital rocket, the Hyperbola-1S, from a test field in the southern island of Hainan last month. The rocket reached an altitude of 108 kilometers and served as a demonstration for its planned small launcher due to be completed by June 2019, the company's website said. A spokeswoman for iSpace insisted it had been "the first private Chinese firm to launch a commercial rocket". But OneSpace maintains its rocket was "designed from scratch" and had "stronger control capabilities" than the Hyperbola-1S. Experts have cast doubts on claims by both companies. "Onespace and iSpace have both got their hands on retired Chinese missiles," McDowell said. "I am not very sure whether there is a major difference between what Onespace has done." Xin Zhang, a professor of aerospace engineering at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, also sounded a note of caution. "They may have cut corners," he said, adding it can take up to a decade to develop a fully functional rocket. OneSpace was founded in 2015 while iSpace was founded two years ago.—AFP



BEIJING: This handout picture shows the Chongqing Liangjiang Star rocket prepared for a launch from an undisclosed test field in north-west China.—AFP

## YouTube revamps streaming music service

**SAN FRANCISCO:** YouTube is launching a revamped, standalone streaming music service as part of an effort to step up competition against fast-growing rivals like Spotify and Apple Music. The new YouTube Music is set to launch next week in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and South Korea, with more markets coming online soon. The move enables the Google-owned service to separate its paid, premium video plan from the music service, offering a variety of free and paid options.

The free, ad-supported version of the music service will be available along with an ad-free subscription membership at \$9.99 per month. The standalone music service, which will be two dollars more expensive than its current plan, includes "a reimagined mobile app and brand new desktop player" along with "thousands of playlists, the official versions of millions of songs, albums, artist radio and more." YouTube will offer the "premium" streaming music as a standalone, or in combination with its original video plan, which is being rebranded as YouTube Premium from YouTube Red. The video service, which includes shows like Karate Kid-inspired "Cobra Kai," will be priced at \$11.99 and include ad-free music.

The move by YouTube comes following a splashy stock market debut by Swedish-based Spotify, which claims 75 million paying subscribers and another 99 million monthly users on its free, adver-



BEIJING: This file photo illustration shows YouTube logos on a computer screen in Beijing.—AFP

tising-supported tier. Apple chief executive Tim Cook said in a recent Bloomberg interview that the company has 50 million paid and trial subscribers on its music service, which launched in 2015 and does not have an equivalent free tier.—AFP

## Rivals gain on Amazon in hot market for digital assistants

**WASHINGTON:** Amazon has kept its lead in the fast-growing global market for smart speakers powered by artificial intelligence, but Google and others are gaining, a market tracker said. A survey this week by Strategy Analytics estimated that Amazon sold four million of its Echo speakers powered by its Alexa digital assistant in the first quarter of 2018, for a market share of 43.6 percent. Amazon's sales doubled from a year earlier, but its market share slid because of stronger growth from others, especially Google.

According to the report, Google delivered some 2.4 million of its Google Home devices in the quarter, a sevenfold increase from a year ago that gave the internet giant a 26.5 percent global market share. New entrants are seeing fast growth in connected speaker sales, notably China-based Alibaba and Xiaomi in their home market, and US-based Apple. According to Strategy Analytics, a total of 9.2 million units were sold in the quarter, representing growth of 278 percent from a year ago.

The estimates, which come in the absence of official sales figures from vendors, confirm the trend of sizzling growth and Amazon losing some of its early lead. David Watkins, director at Strategy Analytics, noted that Amazon and Google accounted for 70 percent of global sales, down from 94 percent a year ago. "This is partly as a result of strong growth in the Chinese market for smart speakers, where both Amazon and Google are currently absent," he said.—AFP



# Slovenia, a land with beekeeping in its genes

## Special two-euro coin marks 'World Bee Day'

**MOCNA, Slovenia:** It was a Slovene who wrote the world's first modern beekeeping manual. And Slovenia has gone on to lead the way in raising awareness of the plight of bees, as concern has grown over the health of the world's bee population in recent years. Beekeeping is a cherished national tradition in Slovenia, with colorful beehives to be found dotted throughout fields, on the edge of forests, in gardens and on city rooftops.

The bee can be spotted as a symbol of industriousness above the doorways of banks and museums, and now even on a special two-euro coin issued by the country's central bank to mark the first World Bee Day today, an initiative launched by Slovenia and backed by the United Nations. "Once you start keeping bees, it's like an addiction," Bostjan Noc, head of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association tells AFP, adding that his family boasts several generations of apiarists. "We have beekeeping written in our genes," Noc says.

### Farmer's logic

Some 10,000 people are estimated to have their own beehives in Slovenia, a nation of just over two million people. That's 10 times more beekeepers per head than in Spain, Europe's biggest producer of honey. The Alpine nation's love affair with the bee stretches back to the 18th century when Slovene Anton Jansa (1734-1773) wrote the first modern beekeeping manual. At that time much of modern Slovenia made up the Habsburg province of Carniola, and Empress Maria Theresa appointed Jansa as one of the first teachers at the beekeeping school in the imperial capital, Vienna.

"Anton Jansa laid the foundations (of beekeeping) that are still in force today, despite technological

advances," Noc says, lauding Jansa's "clear farmer's logic" that has stood the test of time. And indeed, May 20 was chosen as the date for World Bee Day as its Jansa's birthday. Jansa was also a painter and contributed to another aspect of Slovenian beekeeping heritage—the decoration of beehive panels with colorful works of folk art depicting an array of themes, from the religious to the everyday, such as the country woman dragging her errant husband back from a cafe.

### Modest and gentle

Noc points out that the second most common honeybee in the world—the Carniolan honeybee—owes its name to the region. "The Carniolan bee is very much like Slovenians used to be: modest and gentle," 69-year-old beekeeper Karl Vogrincic said in his garden, in the village of Mocna in northeastern Slovenia. Vogrincic has more than 40 years of beekeeping under his belt and says it's "a matter of love rather than anything else".

"Beekeeping means rediscovering knowledge that our ancestors already knew but we've forgotten in so-called modern life," he says, opening a door to one of the hives with no protection to put a stranded bee back into the honeycomb. Vogrincic's interest lies not so much in the amount of honey produced but in the possibilities of "apitherapy"—the use of bees and bee products in alternative medicine. As well as the chance to enjoy a honey massage, visitors are invited into a small wooden cabin to take in bee vibrations, apparently beneficial for lung conditions.

Entering the interior of the cabin, one is engulfed by a dense, soporific buzzing emanating from the more than 20 hives inlaid into one of the walls. An armchair is on hand in a quiet corner—or you can even take a nap on a bunk on top of the hives.

“Beekeeping, a cherished national tradition”



PERNICA, Slovenia: This picture shows beehives of the Slovenian beekeeper Karl Vogrincic.—AFP

### Grounds for optimism

But even while coming up with new ways of celebrating its beekeeping heritage, Slovenia hasn't been spared the trends that have led the UN to warn that 40 percent of invertebrate pollinators—particularly bees and butterflies—risk global extinction. Bees help pollinate 90 percent of the world's major crops, but in recent years many have been dying off from "colony collapse disorder", a mysterious scourge

blamed partly on pesticides.

Bees are also threatened by pollution, diseases and changes to the climate that have reduced spring and autumn, the periods when bees are most active. "We will have to reduce the use of pesticides. If we build roads, we have to replace the destroyed habitat," Noc said, but added that the advent of World Bee Day showed that awareness of bees' importance was increasing. "There are grounds for optimism," Noc concluded.—AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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What's On

# Ooredoo Kuwait celebrates Graish with staff members



Reinforcing the one-family spirit among its staff, Ooredoo Kuwait celebrated the Kuwaiti tradition of Graish, a feast that precedes the Holy Month of Ramadan. Employees from different departments and sectors gathered to exchange greetings on the occasion of the commencement of Ramadan, reviving the annual Kuwaiti tradition. The company's different floors were adorned in traditional sadu colors, with decorations reminiscing of quotes by some of the prominent TV figures that became synonymous with Ramadan traditions in Kuwait, especially during the 70's and 80's, Kuwait's golden era of art and television, including characters portrayed by prominent actors Abdullhusein Abdulrida and Ali Al Mufidi from Kuwaiti TV classic Darb al Zalaq.

The company held an engaging competition between departments, where they were judged for being the best and most hospitable hosts. Employees from different departments competed in decorating their floors, presenting traditional Kuwaiti dishes and desserts. The Customer Care Department bagged the first place, followed by the Technology Department in the second place, and the Corporate Communications Department in the third place.

Ooredoo routinely holds events and activities for its staff around the year, to foster communication among the different departments. The company is also proudly gearing up to launch its full program of charitable activities during the Holy Month of Ramadan in collaboration with members of its volunteer program, which is launched for the fourth consecutive year. The program boasts more than 300 passionate volunteers this year, who will be responsible for distributing hundreds of iftar meals in the company's iftar tent and around Kuwait in the areas of residence for laborers and families in need.



## CBK visits Kuwait Cancer Fighting Center



Public Relations Department at Commercial Bank of Kuwait organized a visit to Kuwait Cancer Fighting Center to celebrate the arrival of Ramadan with patients. Assistant Director General of CBK Public Relations Amani Al-Waraa said the bank cares for such occasions and continues to participate in social and humanitarian events that serve the entire society.

## NBK hosts FIFA World Cup 2018 PlayStation Tournament

National Bank of Kuwait continues to develop new services, rewards and products for its Al Shabab customers that are tailored to meet their interests and



lifestyle. In the latest initiative along these lines, NBK organized a PlayStation tournament for Al Shabab customers focused on the FIFA World Cup 2018 at Cinescape in 360 mall. "NBK works hard to create fun, exclusive events and activities that appeal to our Al Shabab customers," said Bedoor Al Adsani, Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "Our long term strategy is focused on customer satisfaction and building lasting, loyal relationships that meet customers' lifestyle needs."

Held in two VIP theaters, the football tournament invited participants to compete in a match broadcasted on the cinema's big screen. Sixteen players competed in the tournament for a chance to win cash prizes. Three winners took home valuable cash prizes including a first place winner who received KD 200; second place winner who won KD 150 and a third place winner with KD 100. In addition five members of the packed-house audience received cash prizes.

"Al Shabab Account provides Kuwait's youth with all their banking needs," added Al Adsani. "Al Shabab includes a free prepaid Visa card, with many benefits and rewards, and also provides real time access to customer service via the NBK Mobile Banking App." Al Shabab Visa prepaid card provides exciting and important

features that allow customers to transfer money from the prepaid card to their account. Customers can also now withdraw cash from Al Shabab Visa prepaid card without paying a fee using any NBK ATM, services exclusive to NBK customers only. Al Shabab Account benefits include easy and convenient banking transactions, direct contact with customer care staff through online live video chat, Whatsapp service and the 24 hours, seven days a week. Al Shabab visa prepaid cardholders also enjoy many great offers and benefits including 50 percent discounts on Talabat.com; 50% exclusive discount on weekend movie tickets at Cinescape and 15 percent off on bowling and birthday parties at Cozmo Bowling. Students who want to transfer their allowance to NBK and set up an Al Shabab Account can visit one of NBK's local branches.

Bedoor Al Adsani

## Crowne Plaza & Holiday Inn name Raffi Torikian as Executive Assistant Manager

Crowne Plaza & Holiday Inn Kuwait Al Thuraya City announced that Raffi Torikian has been named Executive Assistant Manager. In addition to acting as the General Manager in his absence, Raffi will be responsible for providing day-to-day leadership and direction through maximizing financial returns, driving people development, creating and maintaining a unique guest experience and building on the Hotel and brand awareness in Kuwait.

Antoine Flouty, Area General Manager, IHG Kuwait, said, "We are very excited to have Raffi on board! His experience, knowledge and know-how around the industry will aid in making our hotels accomplish tasks and different ways. His efficiency and attention to detail will not only guide the colleagues but will also please every guest that visits us."

Raffi started his career with IHG back in 2001 with InterContinental Le Vendome as Sales Executive. During the 8 years he spent with this property, he got several promotions until he reached the position of Director of Sales & Marketing. In 2009, Raffi moved to Yas Island as Cluster Director of Sales & Marketing for both properties Crowne Plaza and Staybridge Suites and a year later he was promoted to Area Director of Sales & Marketing for Dubai.



In 2013, Raffi then wanted to explore different companies when he moved to Rotana Hotels & Resorts in their corporate office as Area Director of Sales in charge of 17 properties for two years. Then, he moved to his last recent position after as Director of Hotel Operations with Abu Dhabi National Hotels.

Having taken on his responsibilities from 29 April, 2018, Raffi Torikian is now active and may be spotted at Al Thuraya City, talking to guests, aiding employees or just carefully viewing the property and coming up with strategic plans to lead Crowne Plaza & Holiday Inn Kuwait Al Thuraya City into success.

## Safir Hotel conducts annual beach clean-up

Safir Hotel and Residence Kuwait -Fintas organized a beach cleaning campaign for the hotel's beach recently with the participation of number of volunteers from the hotel staff. The campaign also included planting of some green seedlings in the hotel garden. This initiative comes in line with the hotel's commitment to its social responsibility towards the environment and its protection, supporting all environmental initiatives and raising awareness about the importance of preserving nature and clean beaches. Saif Eddin Mohammed, General



Manager said, "The hotel launched several events and community campaigns to encourage associates to implement green practices in every way possible. This includes turning off lights and electrical appliances when not in use, recycling paper, using digital files instead of printed documents, practicing garbage segregation among others." This campaign is part of a wide environmental campaign adopted by the hotel management such as energy conservation campaign, paper waste recycling campaign and many others aimed to spread and promote awareness and environmental responsibility among the members of society.

## KIB launches 'Mashla' initiative to support local community

As part of its unwavering commitment towards the community, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) launched its annual 'Mashla' initiative to provide essential food supplies to needy families in Kuwait throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan. The KIB 'Mashla' initiative food packages are composed of a variety of nutritional food items and essential food products that are needed throughout the Holy Month. Accordingly, the food packages will be distributed amongst a large number of needy people and families during Ramadan, the month of giving.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said:



"We always strive to organize community-based and humanitarian initiatives that reflect our new strategic direction as a partner in every aspect of our customers' lives, truly living up to our slogan 'bank for life'. For that reason, KIB launched 'Mashla', an initiative that supports needy families, thereby strengthening values of social solidarity and embracing long-held values of the local community, particularly during this Holy Month."

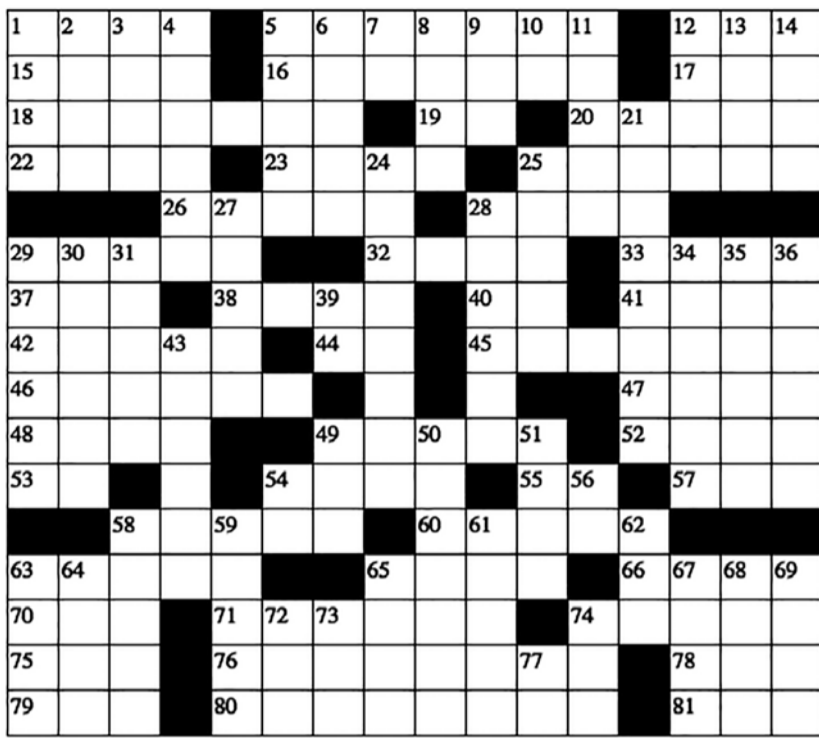
Najia also noted that the food products have already been purchased and placed in KIB branded boxes. A team of dedicated volunteers from

KIB, as well as volunteers from Hassad Group helped prepare and deliver the food packages to the Kuwait Food Bank. Additionally, as a next step, volunteers will assist in the distribution of these food packages and follow up to ensure proper delivery to the largest possible number of families. KIB has always dedicated a large portion of its humanitarian activities to the Holy Month of Ramadan. For that reason, the Bank's leading social responsibility program comprises a wide number of religious and charitable initiatives and activities.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1913



ACROSS

- 1. A connecting point at which several lines come together.
5. Pertaining to or characteristic of an ascetic.
12. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
15. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
16. The capital and largest city of Uganda on the north shore of Lake Victoria.
17. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
18. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
19. A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
20. A support that steadies or strengthens something else.
21. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
23. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
26. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
29. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
32. The food served and eaten at one time.
33. An emotion experienced in anticipation of some specific pain or danger (usually accompanied by a desire to flee or fight).
37. A piece of jewelry that is pinned onto the wearer's garment.
38. Fertility goddess in ancient Greek mythology.
40. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
41. A rapid series of short loud sounds (as might be heard with a stethoscope in some types of respiratory disorders).
42. United States physicist (born in Austria) who proposed the exclusion principle (thus providing a theoretical basis for the periodic table) (1900-1958).
44. An associate degree in nursing.
45. Of or relating to or characteristic of Asia or the peoples of Asia or their languages or culture.
46. (anatomy) Of or relating to a cavity or chamber in the body (especially one of the upper chambers of the heart).
47. A hand with the fingers clenched in the palm (as for hitting).
48. The provision of money temporarily (usually at interest).
52. A federally chartered corporation that purchases mortgages.
53. A unit of luminous flux equal to the amount of light given out through a solid angle of 1 steradian by a point source of 1 candela intensity radiating uniformly in all directions.
55. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
57. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
60. Enthusiastic approval.
63. A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
66. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
70. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
71. The capital of Eritrea.
75. White crystalline compound used as a food additive to enhance flavor.
76. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
78. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.

- 79. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
80. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
81. A woolen cap of Scottish origin.

DOWN

- 1. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
2. A European river.
3. An informal term for a father.
4. American inventor.
5. Jordan's port.
6. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
7. A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.
8. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
9. The bill in a restaurant.
10. Being nine more than forty.
11. A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.
12. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
13. Grains used as food either unpolished or more often polished.
14. On or toward the lee.
21. Disparaging terms for the common people.
24. Small toothless ant eater with prehensile tale and four-clawed forelimbs.
25. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
27. A dark region of considerable extent on the surface of the moon.
28. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
30. Microscopic unicellular marine or freshwater colonial alga having cell walls impregnated with silica.
31. Frogs, toads, tree toads.
34. The act of consuming food.
35. Small genus of aquatic or semiaquatic plants.
36. Of or involving the rectum.
39. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
43. A mobile mass of muscular tissue covered with mucous membrane and located in the oral cavity.
49. A piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep.
50. A proposition deducible from basic postulates.
51. Great in vertical dimension.
54. A Loloish language.
56. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
58. Above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent.
59. A fastener (as a buckle or hook) that is used to hold two things together.
61. An African river that flows northwest into Lake Chad.
62. A slight amount or degree of difference.
64. Uttering in an irritated tone.
65. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
67. The handle of a weapon or tool.
68. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
69. A signal transmitted along a narrow path.
72. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
73. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
74. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
77. Being nine more than ninety.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You find you're dealing with matters of the spirit: dejavu, intuition and other such aspects but you can't explain them. It's as though you know what coworkers, family and friends are thinking and it turns out what you suspect is true! Your competitive spirit is boosted with the help of the stars; you could feel the vibration of this very strongly. Your investigation into investing pays off as you uncover a little-known loophole. You are compelled to contact someone by phone later in the afternoon; a long, meaningful discussion clears the air and mends fences. Where finances are concerned you are on a clear path to success. Contemplate all you have learned on spiritual and moral levels and you see how very far you have come.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your mind is on big things such as eternity and life in general; remembering small details such as leaving something out of the fridge or paying a phone bill could slip your mind if you're not careful! Your intuition, spiritual gifts, or whatever you'd like to consider them, are at the fore now. The cycle you have just entered creates an energy of fact-finding that helps with figuring out the motives of others. A circumstance arises that leaves you exasperated and confounded. You have the ability to overcome having a temper tantrum; remember that all things pass. Being calm is difficult but you are able. An evening beneath the stars can serve to refresh your senses. Someone dear makes a suggestion that's perfect for making positive changes soon.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Intuitive vibrations stay with you throughout the day as you putter around the house or workplace. Your mind is preoccupied with the unknown mysteries of life and death. Cosmic information is an interest you enjoy. You could overlook normal tasks as your mind is fixed upon things you consider more important. You find yourself center stage regarding an enormous accomplishment. You feel good about your work and the opportunities offered through certain areas of endeavor. Your humor is strong and easily shared by others who come into contact with. Organic gardening or food takes a place of priority in your life. If you find that your plans may need to take an unexpected turn, remember that much success can be found in change.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your gift of knowing is strong and at its height of intensity! The stars are aligned for ethereal energy and confirmation of what some call hunches or gut feelings. You are tapped in to the flow as you get tasks and chores done with ease. Vibrations of love and contentment are prevalent today and you're caught up in gratitude and humility. You seek more information regarding cosmic or mystic secrets that keep repeating through your mind; could there be life on other planets and UFOs, are ghosts are truly haunting physical spaces or mundane situations send you running in the opposite direction. An interest in all things new appeals to you now; art, clothing, furniture and all manner of accessories are more than likely indicated.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

When hunches are confirmed over and over again, you have got no choice but to recognize this substantial spiritual gift; speaking of this to people who understand is helpful. No matter the label you apply, gut feelings, mother's intuition or j vu, pay attention to what you're picking up on. This ability is one you can rely on. Emotional bonds grow and strengthen within your circle. You follow the urge to stay to yourself and spend the majority of the day at home alone. Your thoughts focus inward toward your life and actions; have you completed working on your self liking who you are makes any tasks or chores easy and not worth complaint. Tonight, special friends revisit a trip you took together many years ago when much younger.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your savvy business skills kick in when you discover a new situation for a potential financial investment. You're able to use foresight to create a plan that works for all concerned parties. You could realize you have more money than you originally thought. You have a reputation for bringing people together by playing the diplomat; you feel empowered in a positive way for this. A surprise gathering could be held in your honor; your good works don't go unnoticed as you thought! You enjoy sharing time with others of like mind and heart. Finding out a new way to research is strongly indicated; go in an try it, you'll like it! Your intuition is a strong part of your new journey that you can't, and won't, ignore; be still and listen to this gift.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Intuition is so strong and demanding! That you could be irritated and cross. Pay attention to your knowing but strive to keep it in its place. Spiritual gifts could take your mind off of your normal tasks and responsibilities so figure out how to prevent this; you'll enjoy your abilities a lot more! You discover several good books and films regarding eternity and the mysterious workings of the universe that scratch your itch for this type of information. You'll want to jump into a situation you should take time to consider; stop for a moment, take a deep breath and think. Success can be yours if given a chance to prove your capabilities; be prepared when the opportunity does come. This evening could be a good one to practice meditation outside.



Scorpio (October 23-November 18)

You're hands-on and full throttle when tackling domestic chores. You actually enjoy cleaning out and giving away to those less fortunate. You make the most of enjoying yourself even when surrounded by the demands of every day life. You feel strong and healthy as you go through an important meeting with your healthcare professional. You may make many new connections at a convention or large meeting of some kind. You could escape into a new hobby that satisfies your energy and mental levels; keep an eye on expenses regarding this. Your close circle of intimates provides security and comfort. Indulge your love of beauty by visiting a lovely old home or a unique museum; spending time with someone new could be indicated.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 18)

Your intuitive side is fully awakened when someone from your past reaches out to you. This person made your parting ugly, so carefully consider this before reconnecting. People can, and do, change but sometimes they don't. Someone rude interrupts repeatedly as you attempt to get a word in edgewise. Your future looks bright after you discover a promising new investment opportunity in an emerging field or market. Someone criticizes an idea you have for your home; ignore this person as they're jealous. A friend or family member makes an effort to hide something from you; again, the intuition kicks in! Enjoying a movie with friends takes you away for a while! Let the sense of being loved and included warm your heart tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The energy of prosperity surrounds and supports you. The new cycle you've entered creates an atmosphere of abundance and opportunity; it's up to you to accept these. Your understanding and feel for the social graces propels you forward. You enjoy your work which is why you do so well at it; if you don't like your job, you don't thrive nor even stick with it! Romance holds your interest and you wonder about a certain person. If you're romantically attached you make plans for an intimate evening. It feels good to stretch and move your body. You may want to keep your thoughts and ideas to yourself until they finish forming; someone's interested in taking credit for something you come up with. Be true to yourself.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

The mysteries of life take prominence in your thoughts and attention. A period of great spiritual evolution is at hand according to the new cycle you have entered. You could find yourself overlooking small details because you mind is focused on deep ideas and questions regarding the mystic workings you long to know more about. Be mindful that when considering eternity, you could become overwhelmed. The finer things in life interest you at this time; you are a lover of beauty and comfort. You could come across new recipes that are healthy; this could pertain to eating only whole foods that are not processed. Tonight, you feel very good about yourself and your efforts to grow; enjoy this special time with those you love.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

The heavens create an energy that focuses on your appearance as well as your health. Your beauty and intellect shine as the work week finally comes to a very successful end. Your mind is fixated on what is fair; if you discover what actually is the fair thing to do, this will generate peace and good feelings. Should you make decisions that are incorrect, you stand to lose a lot; do the right thing! There is someone who surprises you with their acceptance of wrong doing. You are motivated to complete a task; the energy of completion surrounds you now and later into the month. The day ends with handy discoveries and new methods that create ease and performance; use a new cookbook this evening to practice for a big dinner for loved ones.

Wordsearch Puzzle

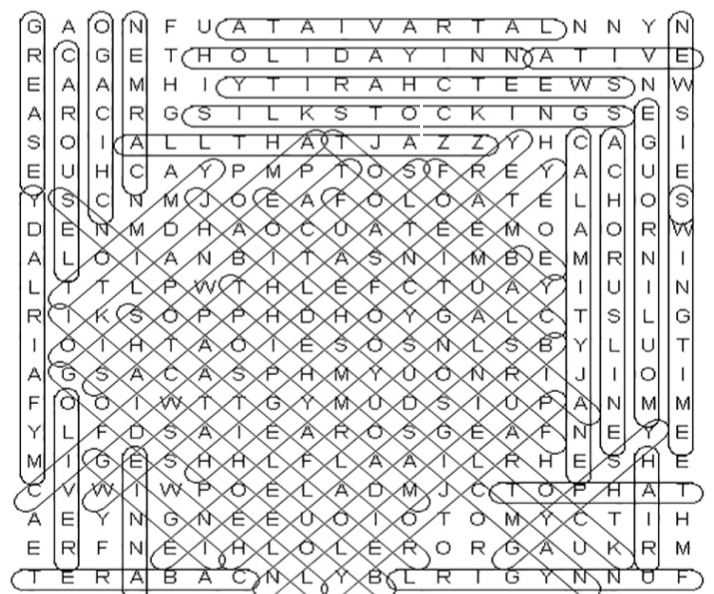
Movies: Science Fiction

Find and circle all of the Science Fiction movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional Science Fiction movie.
T H E S A D F O R B I D D E N P L A N E T
V S S R E S F L A S H G O R D O N N T U R
S I C E I E I S N W E S T W O R L D O E F
P L A P N N B L E I U T E P L C K A G Q T
I E N O E R D B O C E V H O O O O A B U C
D N N O E N U E O P I T G E A C Y N R I A
E T E R R C E C P L O A S B A O O E Z L P
R R R T G A O I Y E N R O N V B N B I I M
M U S P T O A E L S N D T C E N Y T O B I
A N C I N O H R R A Y D I E U K E S S R P
N N S H E T T U O S S T E R M R N R S I E
C I I S L D N A N T S R E N M S E A N U E
O N R R Y S A A L A H D E I C N T A R M D
N G A A O M T R T R A E N C I E M H S F S
T E L T S C A N K L E A M L N R D H E Y R
A I O S H G A D B C T C T A A A I A L B A
C H S E T F H D M O I A A T T V R F Y R W
T I R D U N E M R A L T S L E R E T N A R
E S A C A T T A G F X N Y L R H I S O Z A
K R A P C I S S A R U J S I T O N X R I T
E T A G R A T S E M O R D O E D I V T L S

- ALIEN, FANTASTIC VOYAGE, ROBOCOP, TERMINATOR, BLADE RUNNER, FLATLINERS, SCANNERS, THE ABYSS, BODY SNATCHERS, SHIVERS, THE FLY, BRAZIL, FORBIDDEN PLANET, SILENT RUNNING, THE MATRIX, COCOON, FRANKENSTEIN, SOLARIS, THEY LIVE, CONTACT, GATTACA, SOYLENT GREEN, TOTAL RECALL, CUBE, INDEPENDENCE DAY, SPIDER-MAN, TRANCERS, DARK CITY, JURASSIC PARK, STAR WARS, TRON, DEEP IMPACT, LOGAN'S RUN, STARGATE, VIDEO DROME, DUNE, MAD MAX, STARMAN, WESTWORLD, EQUILIBRIUM, METROPOLIS, STARSHIP TROOPERS

Friday's Solution

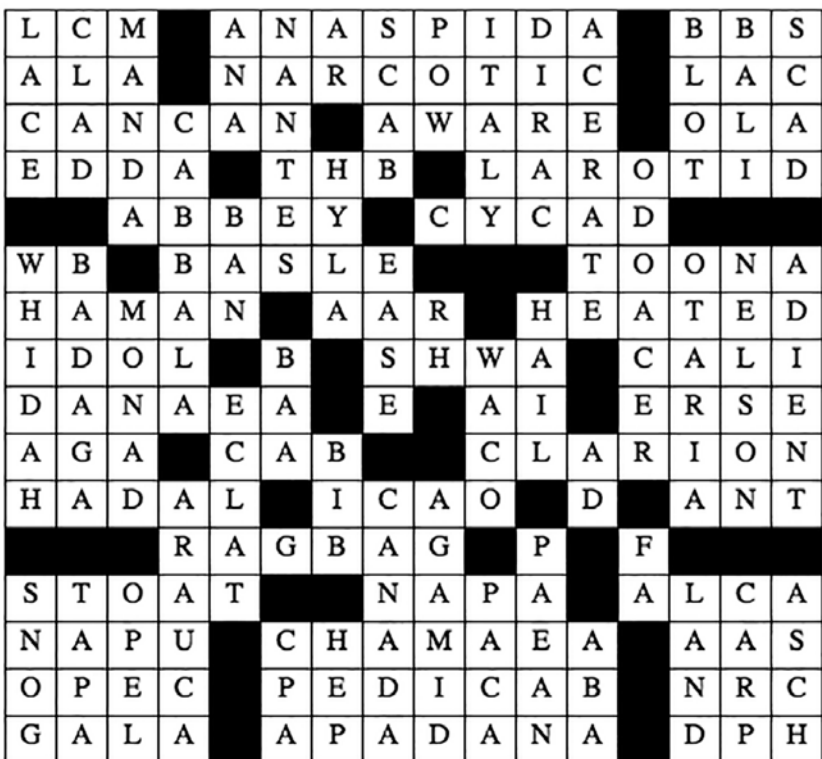
Movies: Musicals



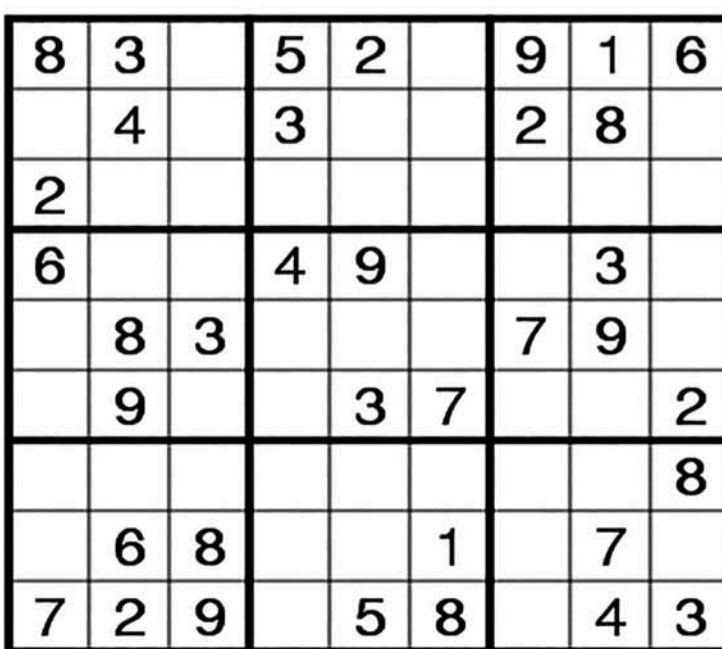
- A CHORUS LINE, CHICAGO, HELLO, DOLLY!, PAL JOEY, ALL THAT JAZZ, EVITA, HIGH SOCIETY, SHOW BOAT, ANNIE, FAME, HOLIDAY INN, SILK STOCKINGS, BLUE HAWAII, FANTASIA, JAILHOUSE ROCK, SOUTH PACIFIC, BRIGADOON, FUNNY FACE, LA TRAVIATA, STATE FAIR, BUGSY MALONE, FUNNY GIRL, MARY POPPINS, SWEET CHARITY, CABARET, GIGI, MOULIN ROUGE, SWING TIME, CALAMITY JANE, GODSPELL, MY FAIR LADY, THE MUSIC MAN, CAMELOT, GREASE, NEWSIES, TOMMY, CARMEN, GYPSY, OKLAHOMA!, TOP HAT, CAROUSEL, HAIR, OLIVER!, WEST SIDE STORY

The hidden movie is: A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

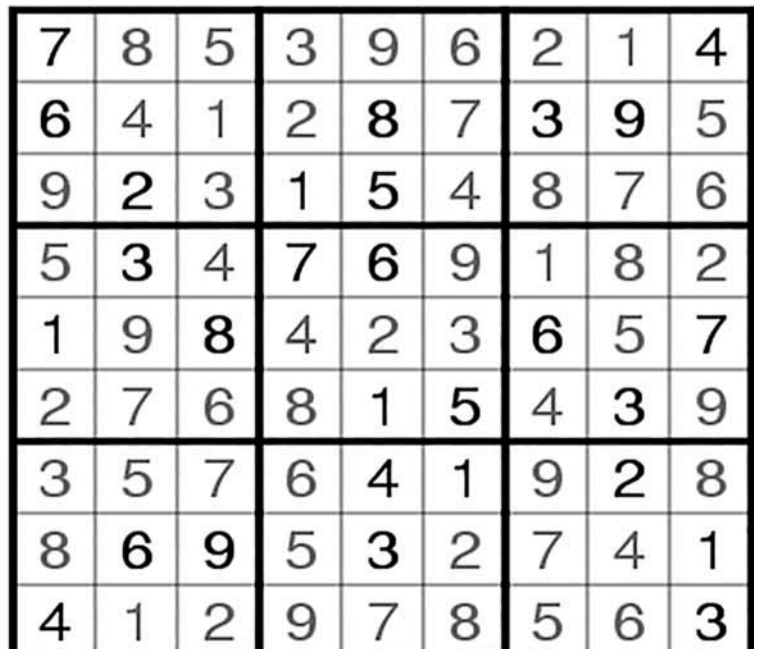
Friday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution





# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex emerge from the West Door of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in Windsor, yesterday after their wedding ceremony.— AFP photos



US actress Meghan Markle arrives for the wedding ceremony.



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, places the wedding ring on the finger of US fiancée of Britain's Prince Harry Meghan Markle.



Meghan, Duchess of Sussex begins her carriage procession with Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex.



US actress Meghan Markle waves as she arrives for the wedding ceremony.

## Clare Waight Keller designs Markle's sleek wedding dress

Clare Waight Keller is the master British designer behind the silk boat-necked gown and long billowing veil worn by Meghan Markle as she walked down the flower-bedecked nave of St. George's Chapel for her wedding to Prince Harry. The clean lines of the white dress highlighted Markle's smiling face as she sat at the altar of the chapel, holding Harry's hand as the sprawling train lay at her feet. "It's brave to not have decorations and embellishments. What a strong fashion statement. It's modern and classic at the same time," Phillipa Lepley, a leading London bridal designer, told The Associated Press. "The overall look is very '50s and gorgeous!"

Waight Keller, the first female artistic director of French fashion house Givenchy, met Markle earlier this year, Kensington Palace said. The statement said Markle wanted a dress with an "elegant aesthetic, impeccable tailoring, and relaxed demeanor." The dress featured nothing by way of lace or embroidery, carrying a classic boat neckline, three-quarter length sleeves and an A-line skirt with a train measuring about 70 inches from the waist. Markle complemented it with a tiara, an embroidered cathedral length veil, a bracelet and a small diamond stud earrings.

The veil carried floral references to all 53 countries in the Commonwealth, the group of countries that roughly corresponds to the former British Empire and is headed by Markle's new grandmother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II. The palace workers spent hundreds of hours sewing the delicate flower designs into the veil, meticulously washing their hands every half hour to keep the silk tulle and threads clean. "There are no seams in the bodice," said Lepley. "Incredibly clean and plain dresses such as this are very time consuming and complicated to make, because unlike a lace dress, there is no room



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex emerge from the West Door of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

for any errors. You can't hide any wrinkles, as the fabric has to sit perfectly."

The palace said, in addition to the Commonwealth flowers, Markle also selected two other plants: Wintersweet and, in a nod to Meghan's birthplace, the California Poppy. "The dress is simply beautiful in its classic simplicity," said Caroline Burstein, owner of Browns Bride, a top London bridal boutique. She called it "a nod to Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and every iconic wedding we have witnessed throughout the 20th and 21st century. It's perfect for her and for the occasion they are celebrating."



Meghan Markle and her mother, Doria Ragland, arrive for her wedding ceremony.

### No casual affair

Markle's choice was no casual affair. Televised royal weddings like this one have a massive effect on what brides everywhere want to wear and are closely watched across the fashion industry. Princess Diana's 1981 wedding gown, with its romantic details and dramatic train, defined the 1980s fairytale bridal look. More recently, when Kate Middleton married Prince William in 2011, her long-sleeved lace gown immediately sparked a trend for more covered-up, traditional lace bridal dresses.

The designer of Markle's dress was one of the wedding's most closely-guarded secrets, sparking months of speculation. Keller was a surprise choice - her name was not among the many designers slated to be possible contenders for what many call the dress commission of the year. Educated at the Ravensbourne College of Art in south London, Keller kicked off her career at Calvin Klein in New York designing women's ready-to-wear before moving to Ralph Lauren to work on the men's "Purple Label."

After stints at Gucci, Pringle and Chloe, she was appointed as artistic director of Givenchy haute couture and women's and men's ready-to-wear last year. Ahead of the wedding, the top guesses from Britain's bookmakers for Markle's wedding dress designer included Erdem, founded by Canadian-born designer Erdem Moralioglu; Ralph & Russo, the couture designers that Markle chose for her engagement dress; Alexander McQueen, the label that created Kate's wedding gown; Stella McCartney; Burberry and Oscar de la Renta. It's likely one of them will have designed Markle's second dress for the evening reception.— AP



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex sits with US actress Meghan Markle during the reading.





US actor George Clooney and his wife British lawyer Amal Clooney arrive for the wedding ceremony. — AFP photos



Former England footballer David Beckham and fashion designer Victoria Beckham arrive for the wedding ceremony.

# Clooneys, Beckhams and Oprah among celebrities at royal wedding



Former England footballer David Beckham and wife Victoria Beckham speak with British musician Elton John and David Furnish before the wedding ceremony.

Actor George Clooney was among the first major celebrities to arrive, accompanied by his lawyer wife Amal. Soccer star David Beckham arrived soon after, with his wife Victoria, once a singer with the Spice Girls and now a successful fashion designer.

Dressed in pale pink, Winfrey added a touch of Hollywood glamour inside the chapel, wearing sunglasses as she chatted to British actor Idris Elba ahead of the service. Elton John, who sang at the funeral of Prince Diana, was also there as was tennis champion Williams, who posted a picture of herself getting ready for the wedding on Instagram.

Markle previously starred in the television series "Suits" and some of her fellow actors were also seen arriving at the chapel. Actress Priyanka Chopra and television host James Corden were also spotted ahead of the ceremony.



British actor Idris Elba (right) arrives with his fiancée Sabrina Dhowre (second right) followed by Prince Harry's friend, British singer James Blunt (left) and US talk show host Oprah Winfrey (second left) for the wedding ceremony.



US tennis player Serena Williams

British singer and fashion designer Victoria Beckham.

made lace crystals and pearls by Lucy Price. Kate, the duchess of Cambridge, wore a primrose yellow wool silk tailored coat by the house of Alexander McQueen and large hat with a flower tucked under the brim on one side. She sat beside the groom's step-mother, Camilla, duchess of Cornwall, who also went large with a flat, feathery effect for a hat. The mother of the bride, Doria Ragland, watched the nuptials in an understated hat and light green suit.

It was a very different royal wedding for Pippa Middleton, the sister of Kate Middleton. Pippa received a lot of TV time at Kate and Prince William's 2011 wedding when she fussed with the train on her sibling's dress. This time around, the now married and newly pregnant Pippa was in demure mint green, a matronly bun under her small hat. New mom Serena Williams walked slowly inside in soft rose, a high fascinator on her head and a chunky gold necklace around her neck. Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, cousins of the groom, went for understated hats this time, in sharp contrast to their exuberant head gear at the William and Kate's wedding. Elsewhere among the 600 invited guests were pops of royal purple in dresses and ties with a healthy dose of spring prints. — Agencies



British singer-songwriter Elton John and David Furnish leave after attending the wedding ceremony.



British actor Idris Elba and Sabrina Dhowre.

Harry's ex-girlfriends Chelsy Davy and Cressida Bonas were also in attendance, along with singer James Blunt, an army veteran like Harry and author of the hit song "You're Beautiful". Like every good royal wedding, it was all about the hats, the dresses and the posh tails, with some fashion standouts among the guests hustled inside the church at Windsor Castle. Amal Clooney was undeniably regal in a mustard yellow Stella McCartney dress with cap sleeves and a long tie in back that bordered on a train as she glided into St George's Chapel on Saturday for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Her actor husband, George Clooney, was at her side in neutral grey and a pale yellow stripe tie. Granted, it's difficult for Ms. Clooney merely to blend in, but her jauntily tilted and perfectly matched wide-brim hat, displaying a dainty veil in front, brought gasps both online and in the crowd that lined the route to the church.

The royals didn't disappoint, led by Queen Elizabeth II in a lime silk tweed coat and Angela Kelly hat with hand-



US actress Abigail Spencer and Indian actress Priyanka Chopra.



Chelsy Davy (center) arrives for the wedding ceremony.



US presenter Oprah Winfrey



US tennis player Serena Williams and her husband Alexis Ohanian.



Lifestyle | Music & Movies



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex wave from the Ascot Landau Carriage during their carriage procession on Castle Hill outside Windsor Castle in Windsor yesterday after their wedding ceremony.



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife, Britain's Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex leave St George's Chapel after their wedding ceremony. — AFP photos



Prince Harry's former girlfriend Cressida Bonas (center) leaves after attending the wedding ceremony.



British singer James Blunt and his wife Sofia Wellesley.



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex wave from the Ascot Landau Carriage.



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex removes the veil of US actress Meghan Markle as they stand at the altar together before Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.



Pippa Middleton and her husband James Matthews.



Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge leaves with her daughter Princess Charlotte after attending the wedding ceremony.



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex are escorted by members of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment during their carriage procession on the Long Walk as they head back towards Windsor Castle in Windsor.

## Five key moments from Britain's royal wedding

From Meghan Markle's solo walk up the aisle to marry Prince Harry to celebrity guests and a fiery sermon, here are five highlights from yesterday's royal wedding:

### Meghan's entrance

After days of discussion over who would escort her to the altar, the bride made her way down the aisle of St George's Chapel on her own in a striking show of independence. Meghan had asked her father Thomas Markle to walk with her but when he pulled out at the last minute, undergoing a heart operation after a furore over staged photos, Harry's father Prince Charles stepped in. The order of service—printed before the change—made clear Meghan had always planned to make a solo entrance, taking an escort for only the last few steps.

### The celebrities

The royal couple decided not to invite any political leaders, in contrast to the wedding of Harry's brother Prince William in 2011, but the congregation was packed with celebrities. Elton John attended in pink glasses, along with Hollywood star George Clooney, who patted a police officer's shoulder as he walked in. Football icon David Beckham drew laughs from the crowds watching the ceremony on big screens when he was filmed chewing gum in the church—the ultimate breach of etiquette.

### The preacher

Twitter was awash with clips of bemused senior royals—including William seemingly trying not to

laugh-listening to the passionate oratory of US Anglican leader Michael Curry. It is rare to find references to slavery and the power of love to change the world during traditional Church of England ceremonies. But there was a lighter moment when Curry noted that "two young people fell in love and we all showed up", prompting an outburst of laughter.

### Harry's exes

Harry's two most serious ex-girlfriends, Chelsy Davy and Cressida Bonas, were among the guests. Their expressions were scrutinized by the media, and when Davy was filmed looking pensive, some commentators blamed reports that she had not been invited to the evening reception.

### 'Ready for a drink now'

After the wedding, Harry and Meghan toured Windsor in an open-top, horse-drawn carriage, greeting more than 100,000 fans lining the streets and the Long Walk processional route back to the castle. They waved and smiled the whole way, but as they passed through the gates, Meghan put her hand on her chest and leaned forward as if overwhelmed. They headed to a lunchtime reception hosted by Queen Elizabeth II, and Harry quipped: "I'm ready for a drink now." — AFP



(From left) Doria Ragland, mother of the bride, Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales and Britain's Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall leave after attending the wedding ceremony.



Bishop Michael Bruce Curry gives a reading during the wedding ceremony of Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and US actress Meghan Markle in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in Windsor. — AFP

## Pastor Curry fires up royal wedding with love sermon

US pastor Michael Curry fired up Britain's royal wedding yesterday with some passionate oratory about the importance of love that left Britons used to far more traditional royal ceremonies bemused. Curry, the first African-American leader of the US Episcopal Church, opened his sermon in front of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle by quoting Martin Luther King. "We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will be able to make of this old world a new world. Love is the only way," he said, quoting the civil rights icon.

With rhetorical flourish, the 65-year-old from Chicago said: "There's power in love. Don't underestimate it. Don't even over-sentimentalise. There is power,

power in love. "I'm talking about some power. Real power. Power to change the world," said Curry, who heads up the US branch of the Anglican church and is renowned as an animated preacher in the US tradition. Curry also referred to slavery, mentioning the healing power of the spiritual music sung by slaves. The ancestors of Doria Ragland, the African-American mother of bride Meghan Markle, were slaves. Indeed, her surname is taken from a slave owner.

Outside St George's Chapel, crowds of royal fans reacted mostly with bemusement to live images of uncomfortable-looking VIPs as the sermon went on. "He's still going on!" one man shouted from the crowd. But reactions on Twitter were far more positive. "I cannot believe there is a pastor talking about slave spiritu-

als at a dang royal wedding. Hello 21st century," wrote one Twitter user, @kateyrich. Another, @NappyRacey, wrote: "Never thought I'd hear Martin Luther King quoted at a Royal Wedding." "This Reverend just won the Royal Wedding," wrote @nat\_sinclair93. TV presenter Piers Morgan posted a picture of Curry with the words: "My new hero!"

Curry's sermon also featured lighter moments. "Two young people fell in love and we all showed up," he told the crowd, prompting an outburst of laughter. As he concluded, he rounded off by telling the couple: "We gotta get y'all married!" — AFP

## Prince Harry wears frock-coat uniform of the Blues and Royals for wedding

Britain's Prince Harry wore the frock-coat uniform of the Blues and Royals for his wedding to American actress Meghan Markle yesterday, Kensington Palace said. The 33-year-old grandson of Queen Elizabeth waved to well-wishers as he arrived at St George's Chapel in Windsor in the dark blue uniform with his brother and best man, Prince William, who was dressed the same.

"Her Majesty The Queen gave her permission for Prince Harry to get married in his uniform," according to a statement tweeted by Kensington Palace. "Both uniforms were tailored at Dege & Skinner on Savile Row." — Reuters



Britain's Prince Harry (left), Duke of Sussex, arrives with his best man Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (right), at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in Windsor for his wedding ceremony to marry US actress Meghan Markle. — AFP

## Fans send best wishes to Prince Harry at Paris shrine to Diana

Well-wishers in Paris gathered by a shrine to Prince Harry's late mother, Princess Diana, yesterday to mark Prince Harry's marriage to American actress Meghan Markle. The shrine by the Pont de l'Alma, next to the River Seine and the glitzy Avenue George V, is near the spot where Diana was fatally injured in a car crash in 1997. "I hope they get happy. It's one of the most important days for England," said Maria Kuntgen, a 35-year-old tourist from Brazil, at the memorial, where people had placed photos of Harry and Meghan. That view was echoed by Roksana Arakelyan, a 32-year-old tourist from Moscow.

"They are so noble, so gorgeous," she said. France's main TV stations all had teams reporting live from Windsor, while Le Parisien newspaper had a photo of Harry and Meghan dominating its front page. Parisian David Andre Azoulay, 70, said he would watch the wedding on TV, although others were less enthusiastic. "I am very happy for them, but personally I'm not that bothered," Gerard Le Gall told Reuters as he bought his papers at a kiosk opposite the Diana memorial. — Reuters



Young Prince Harry tries to hide behind his mother during a morning picture session at Marivent Palace, August 1988. — Reuters



## Lifestyle | Features



Mexican Manuel Garcia Hernandez, who claims to be 121 years old, sits with his great-granddaughters at his home in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state, Mexico. — AFP photos



Mexican Manuel Garcia Hernandez poses for a picture at his home.

## Work key to long life, says Mexican who may be world's oldest man

You wouldn't know it watching him take care of his chickens on the family farm, but according to his birth certificate and official Mexican ID, Manuel Garcia Hernandez is 121 years old. Garcia, who may just be the world's oldest man, was born on 24 December 1896, according to his birth certificate from the Mexican state of Veracruz and his official identity card from the National Electoral Institute. He has never bothered calling the people at Guinness World Records to make it official.

But if his documents are correct, he is more than eight years older than Masazo Nonaka of Japan, the man who currently holds the title-born on 25 July 1905. Anyway, age is only a number. Garcia says he doesn't feel a day over 80. He says he only has two regrets in his very long life: losing his father at a young age, and the fact he can no longer work. Yet he is impressively spry as he tosses feed to his chickens at the home he shares with his daughter Tomasa in Ciudad Juarez, northern Mexico.

"I'm happy, but I do feel tired. I'm making an effort, because if I just lay in bed or sat in a chair all day, then I

would get sick," said Garcia, dressed in his trademark cowboy hat and Western shirt. "I feel like I'm 80 years old though I'm starting to stumble a bit when I walk," he told AFP.

### Mexican Revolution, Donald Trump

Garcia has seen a dizzying amount in his lifetime, from the arrival of electricity to the invention of television, the Mexican Revolution and the election of US President Donald Trump—his 22nd American president. He started working in the fields at nine years old. His father, who made and sold his own sweets, died at 35. It still saddens Garcia to have lost him so young, he said. He himself did not get married until he was 45 — to Rosa Medino Medino, who was just 13 at the time.

They had five children, 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and were married for almost seven decades, until Rosa died eight years ago. After that, Garcia moved north to Ciudad Juarez to live with his daughter Tomasa, who is 54. Tomasa's daughter and her family live next door,

and another neighbor, an American, lets Garcia raise chickens in his large patio. Garcia says caring for the chickens has helped keep him alive, and wishes he could work more. "I'd like to be able to work the way I used to, make my living in the fields. But I can't anymore. That makes me sad. I was very hard-working as a young man," he said.

### Oldest man ever?

So, is Garcia the world's oldest man? Alice Pagan, a spokeswoman for Guinness World Records, said he would have to ask the company to check it out. "We ask for a great deal of paperwork and proof to substantiate claims that meet our official guidelines. We also work with various expert gerontologists and consultants who assist in the investigation of such claims," she told AFP in an email. If Garcia really is 121, he would be not only the oldest man alive, but the oldest man ever, according to Guinness-beating Jiroemon Kimura of Japan, who died in 2013 at 116 years old.

The oldest woman ever was Jeanne Louise Calment of France, who died in 1997 at 122 years old, 164 days. Garcia's skin is wrinkled with age, and he lost a finger at 80 years old when it got tangled in his twirling lasso—an ancient cowboy's war wound. But he is in remarkably good health: he walks surprisingly fast, his vision is good since he had cataract surgery three years ago—though the sun hurts his eyes—and his mind is sharp.

He said he hopes to live to 125. The keys to a long life, he said, are sleeping well, waking up early, eating healthy, taking vitamins and work. He gets up every morning at 5:30 am and starts the day with a banana and apple smoothie, oatmeal and two eggs. Then he goes out to tend to his chickens. "I ask God to give him some more years, until he has had enough," said his daughter Tomasa. "Sometimes he tells me his candle is going to go out little by little, but I don't think so. He's alive, and I'm happy for that." — AFP



Mexican Manuel Garcia Hernandez, who claims to be 121 years old, looks at his birth certificate at his home.



Mexican Manuel Garcia Hernandez checks his farmyard animal at his home in Ciudad Juarez.



Mexican Manuel Garcia Hernandez holds a hen at his home in Ciudad Juarez.

## Never lie to children, says Japanese animation master

Mamoru Hosoda is one of the greats of Japanese animation, whose films like "The Boy and the Beast" and "The Girl who Leapt Through Time" are seen as modern classics. But he admits he wasn't the greatest father in the world to his first child. And his wife told him so. "When my son was born I was working on 'The Boy and the Beast' and I was hardly at home. I relied an awful lot on my wife," Hosoda told AFP as he premiered his charming new movie "Mirai, My Little Sister" at the Cannes film festival.



Director Mamoru Hosoda

"My wife still says that she brought my son up on her own. So she said to me, 'Are you going to be the same for the second child?'" "That really made me think. I wanted to bring up the children, so I changed," said the director whose films regularly top the box office in Japan and beyond. The result is "Mirai", an often hilarious study of overstretched parents and toddler temper tantrums that came out of the time Hosoda tried to work at home after the birth of his daughter. "A lot of what you see in the film really happened," Hosoda admitted, "especially after our second child was born. The stuff between the children and the conversations between the couple are very close to our experience." Indeed, the antics of the film's four-year-old hero, Kun, who is sent into a spiral of jealousy by the arrival of his little sister, will ring bells with most parents.

**Hapless 'new man'**  
As will the strains parenthood can put on couples, as the architect father agrees to work from home while the busy executive mother tries to make up for lost time at work. Failing completely to balance the household chores, the father further irritates his wife by pretending to be the perfect new man in front of their admiring neighbors. Trying not to fight in front of the children is one thing, but we should not lie to them either, Hosoda believes. "If in the film you see the parents saying what they really think in some situations, it is because I did not want to lie to children. I wanted them to know what adults think. Maybe that is why it amuses the grown-ups so much," he said.

"If you want children to trust you, you should not lie to them. Long ago parents played the role of being the parent. Today that game no longer works, because the family has changed a lot." "Japan may seem like a conservative country but the roles within a couple, and what constitutes a family, are changing," Hosoda said the family has become the big theme of his work, particularly since his fantastical "The Boy and the Beast" became a worldwide hit.

**The family is changing**  
"It asked how you become a father. My first child had just been born and it shows someone who does not know how to be a father. 'I have made some progress since,' Hosoda laughed. "This film is how to be one..." "The family has become my subject because it is changing and we don't know where we are going. That is why I wanted to tell these stories." Fatherhood has also changed Hosoda's approach to storytelling. "My son never stops asking us to read to him—though it was mostly my wife who does it. When we run out of books from the library we just open our hands as if they were a book and make up a story.—AFP

## REDTAG opens new store in Farwaniya



Building on their success throughout the Middle-East, and based on commitment to offer patrons the finest shopping experience, REDTAG opened their 11th store in Kuwait, Farwaniya, at Al-Basman Complex. Inauguration of the new store was attended by senior REDTAG officials and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers of the popular brand.

Shehbaz Shaikh, chief retail officer at REDTAG said: "We are thrilled with the opening of our 11th store in Kuwait. It is very important for us, as a brand, to be present where our customers are, and we will continue investing in our expansion plan, to cover the entire country, and be close to our customers, wherever they are. He added: "Our brand vision is to provide a pleasant shopping experience offering a great variety of affordable, on trend fashion for the whole region, and this new store opening is another step to help us deliver on our promise."

"Our loyal customers' base has been growing since we opened our first store to reach, today, more than 10 million. Our aim is to continue offering unparalleled value for money deals to our customers, while remaining faithful to our 'Always Fashionable, Always Affordable' brand promise."

In his remarks on the opening of the new branch in Farwaniya, country head REDTAG, Yousuf Bhatti said, "We will continue to strive to be better at every step, offering our customers the very best. The local consumers recognize that Redtag offers great value that can be obtained at an affordable price."

"Redtag has always focused on providing excellent fashion value and this has been the single most significant factor for its phenomenal growth and popularity," added Yousuf Bhatti. With the focus on offering fashion for the whole family in an inclusive shopping environment that perfectly suits Kuwait's lifestyle and core family values. REDTAG now has more than 180 stores throughout the region and the brand has established a firm footprint across the GCC.





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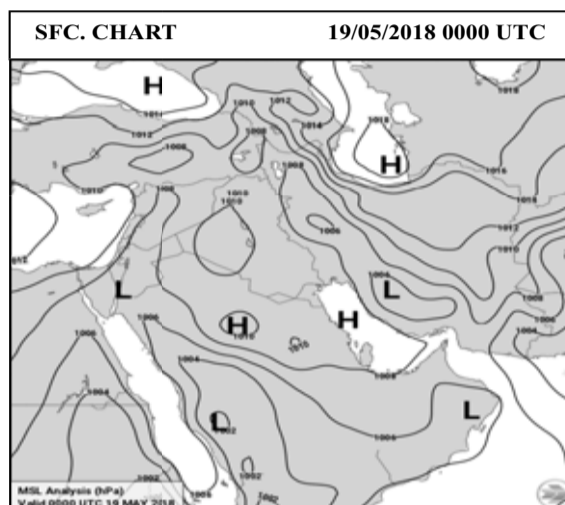
## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy and with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h .

**BY NIGHT:** Fair and Clouds will decrease gradually with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

**WEATHER WARNING** No Current Warnings

| STATION        | MAX. EXP. | MIN. REC. |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| KUWAIT CITY    | 37 °C     | 29 °C     |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 39 °C     | 24 °C     |
| ABDALY         | 39 °C     | 23 °C     |
| BUBYAN         | 35 °C     | -- °C     |
| JAHRA          | 40 °C     | 27 °C     |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 37 °C     | 24 °C     |
| SALMIYAH       | 35 °C     | 31 °C     |
| AHMADI         | 33 °C     | 29 °C     |
| NUWAISIB       | 38 °C     | 26 °C     |
| WAFRA          | 39 °C     | 24 °C     |
| SALMY          | 40 °C     | 24 °C     |



| 4 DAYS FORECAST |       |   |              |       |                |              |
|-----------------|-------|---|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| DAY             | DATE  | WEATHER   | Temperatures |       | Wind Direction | Wind Speed   |
|                 |       |   | MAX.         | MIN.  |                |              |
| Sunday          | 05/20 | Hot   | 41 °C        | 25 °C | NW-VRB         | 06 - 26 km/h |
| Monday          | 05/21 | Hot and some scattered clouds will appear                         | 41 °C        | 26 °C | VRB-SE         | 08 - 35 km/h |
| Tuesday         | 05/22 | Hot and Clouds will increase gradually                            | 40 °C        | 27 °C | SE-SW          | 08 - 35 km/h |
| Wednesday       | 05/23 | Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered rain at times | 38 °C        | 27 °C | VRB-NE         | 08 - 35 km/h |

| PRAYER TIMES |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Fajr         | 03:23 |
| Sunrise      | 04:53 |
| Zuhr         | 11:44 |
| Asr          | 15:20 |
| Sunset       | 18:36 |
| Isha         | 20:04 |

| RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| MAX. Temp.                           | 39 °C      |
| MIN. Temp.                           | 22 °C      |
| MAX. RH                              | 38 %       |
| MIN. RH                              | 10 %       |
| MAX. Wind                            | NW 32 km/h |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.             | 0 mm       |

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center       | 25716707 |
| Rawda               | 22517733 |
| Adaliya             | 22517144 |
| Khaldiya            | 24848075 |
| Kaifan              | 24849807 |
| Shamiya             | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh            | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem      | 22549134 |
| Nuzha               | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadsiya             | 22515088 |
| Dasmah              | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar        | 22531908 |
| Shaab               | 22518752 |
| Qibla               | 22459381 |
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| Arrival Flights on Sunday 20/5/2018 |      |             |       | Departure Flights on Sunday 20/5/2018 |      |                   |       |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines                            | Flt  | Route       | Time  | Airlines                              | Flt  | Route             | Time  |
| THY                                 | 772  | Istanbul    | 00:15 | AIC                                   | 988  | Hyderabad/Chennai | 00:05 |
| DLH                                 | 625  | Dammam      | 00:50 | BBC                                   | 044  | Dhaka             | 00:10 |
| KAC                                 | 504  | Beirut      | 00:50 | MSC                                   | 502  | Alexandria        | 00:15 |
| KAC                                 | 102  | London      | 00:50 | KAC                                   | 417  | Manila            | 00:25 |
| JZR                                 | 539  | Cairo       | 01:00 | JAI                                   | 573  | Mumbai            | 00:30 |
| PGT                                 | 858  | Istanbul    | 01:15 | MSC                                   | 406  | Sohag             | 00:30 |
| UAE                                 | 853  | Dubai       | 01:40 | FDB                                   | 072  | Dubai             | 00:30 |
| KLM                                 | 446  | Bahrain     | 01:45 | KAC                                   | 677  | Dubai             | 01:30 |
| KKK                                 | 1268 | Istanbul    | 02:00 | THY                                   | 773  | Istanbul          | 01:45 |
| JZR                                 | 267  | Beirut      | 02:10 | KAC                                   | 363  | Colombo           | 01:50 |
| ETH                                 | 620  | Addis Ababa | 02:15 | DLH                                   | 625  | Frankfurt         | 01:50 |
| GFA                                 | 211  | Bahrain     | 02:15 | JZR                                   | 502  | Luxor             | 01:55 |
| QTR                                 | 1086 | Doha        | 02:30 | PGT                                   | 859  | Istanbul          | 02:45 |
| KAC                                 | 414  | Bangkok     | 02:40 | THY                                   | 765  | Istanbul          | 02:50 |
| OMA                                 | 643  | Muscat      | 03:05 | KKK                                   | 1269 | Istanbul          | 02:55 |
| ETD                                 | 305  | Abu Dhabi   | 03:05 | ETH                                   | 621  | Addis Ababa       | 03:05 |
| RJA                                 | 648  | Amman       | 03:05 | KLM                                   | 446  | Amsterdam         | 03:10 |
| KAC                                 | 418  | Manila      | 03:05 | JZR                                   | 142  | Doha              | 03:20 |
| KAC                                 | 382  | Delhi       | 03:10 | UAE                                   | 854  | Dubai             | 03:30 |
| MSR                                 | 612  | Cairo       | 03:15 | ETD                                   | 306  | Abu Dhabi         | 04:05 |
| PGT                                 | 860  | Istanbul    | 03:25 | OMA                                   | 644  | Muscat            | 04:05 |
| QTR                                 | 1076 | Doha        | 03:30 | QTR                                   | 1087 | Doha              | 04:15 |
| LMU                                 | 510  | Cairo       | 04:00 | MSR                                   | 613  | Cairo             | 04:15 |
| JAI                                 | 572  | Mumbai      | 04:00 | PGT                                   | 861  | Istanbul          | 04:25 |
| JZR                                 | 551  | Alexandria  | 04:05 | LMU                                   | 511  | Cairo             | 05:00 |
| KAC                                 | 1544 | Cairo       | 04:25 | JAI                                   | 571  | Mumbai            | 05:05 |
| JZR                                 | 609  | Hyderabad   | 04:30 | QTR                                   | 1077 | Cairo             | 05:15 |
| KAC                                 | 784  | Jeddah      | 04:30 | KAC                                   | 303  | Mumbai            | 05:35 |
| DHX                                 | 170  | Bahrain     | 05:10 | KAC                                   | 103  | London            | 05:45 |
| THY                                 | 770  | Istanbul    | 05:15 | JZR                                   | 702  | Taif              | 06:05 |
| JZR                                 | 603  | Mumbai      | 05:25 | JZR                                   | 786  | Riyadh            | 06:05 |
| KAC                                 | 344  | Chennai     | 05:30 | THY                                   | 771  | Istanbul          | 06:30 |
| KAC                                 | 332  | Trivandrum  | 05:40 | JZR                                   | 1770 | Jeddah            | 06:35 |
| JZR                                 | 561  | Sohag       | 05:55 | GFA                                   | 212  | Bahrain           | 06:50 |
| BAW                                 | 157  | London      | 06:10 | RJA                                   | 649  | Amman             | 07:00 |
| KAC                                 | 284  | Dhaka       | 06:25 | WAN                                   | 311  | Asyut             | 07:25 |
| KAC                                 | 204  | Lahore      | 06:30 | KAC                                   | 171  | Frankfurt         | 07:50 |
| KAC                                 | 678  | Dubai       | 06:45 | KAC                                   | 501  | Beirut            | 08:00 |
| KAC                                 | 302  | Mumbai      | 07:00 | JZR                                   | 778  | Jeddah            | 08:00 |
| JZR                                 | 143  | Doha        | 07:00 | BAW                                   | 156  | London            | 08:20 |
| KAC                                 | 358  | Kochi       | 07:40 | KAC                                   | 165  | Rome              | 08:25 |
| KAC                                 | 354  | Bengaluru   | 07:45 | KAC                                   | 613  | Bahrain           | 09:00 |
| KAC                                 | 384  | Delhi       | 08:05 | KAC                                   | 791  | Madinah           | 09:00 |
| QTR                                 | 8511 | Doha        | 08:20 | KAC                                   | 117  | SNN/New York      | 09:05 |
| UAE                                 | 855  | Dubai       | 08:25 | KAC                                   | 787  | Jeddah            | 09:05 |
| WAN                                 | 352  | Luxor       | 08:30 | WAN                                   | 133  | Doha              | 09:30 |
| ETD                                 | 301  | Abu Dhabi   | 08:55 | KAC                                   | 561  | Amman             | 09:40 |
| IRC                                 | 528  | Ahwaz       | 09:00 | ABY                                   | 126  | Sharjah           | 09:40 |
| ABY                                 | 125  | Sharjah     | 09:00 | KAC                                   | 741  | Dammam            | 09:45 |
| IRA                                 | 665  | Shiraz      | 09:25 | JZR                                   | 773  | Riyadh            | 09:45 |
| QTR                                 | 1070 | Doha        | 09:30 | KAC                                   | 535  | Cairo             | 09:45 |
| FDB                                 | 055  | Dubai       | 09:40 | UAE                                   | 856  | Dubai             | 09:50 |
| IAW                                 | 157  | Al Najaf    | 10:00 | KAC                                   | 101  | London            | 10:00 |
| SAW                                 | 703  | Damascus    | 10:30 | KAC                                   | 515  | Tehran            | 10:00 |
| JZR                                 | 787  | Riyadh      | 10:30 | KAC                                   | 541  | Cairo             | 10:00 |
| GFA                                 | 213  | Bahrain     | 10:40 | ETD                                   | 302  | Abu Dhabi         | 10:00 |
| MEA                                 | 404  | Beirut      | 10:55 | IRC                                   | 529  | Ahwaz             | 10:00 |
| QTR                                 | 1074 | Doha        | 11:00 | KAC                                   | 617  | Doha              | 10:10 |
| JZR                                 | 703  | Taif        | 11:00 | WAN                                   | 873  | Istanbul          | 10:15 |
| JZR                                 | 1771 | Jeddah      | 12:05 | QTR                                   | 8512 | Doha              | 10:20 |
| KAC                                 | 614  | Bahrain     | 12:20 | KAC                                   | 155  | Istanbul          | 10:25 |
| SAW                                 | 701  | Damascus    | 12:30 | IRA                                   | 664  | Shiraz            | 10:25 |
| UAE                                 | 871  | Dubai       | 12:45 | QTR                                   | 1071 | Doha              | 10:40 |
| WAN                                 | 542  | KTM         | 12:50 | FDB                                   | 056  | Dubai             | 10:40 |
| KAC                                 | 742  | Dammam      | 12:50 | IAW                                   | 158  | Al Najaf          | 11:00 |
| MSR                                 | 610  | Cairo       | 13:00 | JZR                                   | 554  | Alexandria        | 11:20 |
| AXB                                 | 393  | Kozhikode   | 13:10 | SAW                                   | 704  | Damascus          | 11:30 |
| WAN                                 | 134  | Doha        | 13:20 | GFA                                   | 214  | Bahrain           | 11:35 |
| KAC                                 | 774  | Riyadh      | 13:30 | MEA                                   | 405  | Beirut            | 11:55 |





MARSEILLE: People enter the Gare Saint Charles train station in Marseille yesterday as it re-opens after it was briefly evacuated and the traffic stopped following the arrest of a man seen manipulating electric wires coming out of a bag. — AFP

## Texas gunman attacks high...

Continued from Page 1

identified. "This will bring us closer together - hopefully, a positive impact from something negative," said Clayton George, 16, who played football with the suspect. The Pakistan Embassy in Washington DC identified one of the victims on Twitter as Sabika Sheikh, a Pakistani exchange student, while the brother-in-law of Cynthia Tisdale, a teacher's aide and mother of four, said on Facebook she was killed in the attack.

National Football League star J J Watt, who plays defensive end for the Houston Texans, said he will pay for the funerals for the deceased, local media reported.

"Absolutely horrific," he tweeted about the shooting. Classmates at the school of some 1,460 students described Pagourtzis as a quiet loner who played on the football team. On Friday, they said he wore a trench coat to school in Santa Fe, about 30 miles (50 km) southeast of Houston, on a day when temperatures topped 90

degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius).

Texas Governor Greg Abbott said Pagourtzis obtained firearms from his father, who had likely acquired them legally, and also left behind explosive devices. Abbott told reporters that Pagourtzis wanted to commit suicide, citing the suspect's journals, but did not have the courage to do so.

Pagourtzis was charged with capital murder and denied bail at a brief court hearing later on Friday, where he appeared in handcuffs and wearing a green prison jumpsuit. He spoke in a soft voice and said "Yes, sir" when asked if he wanted a court-appointed attorney, along with other questions. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton told CNN authorities were investigating whether anyone else helped in the attack. Authorities have not disclosed how many explosive devices were found or if any of the deceased were killed or hurt by explosions. It is also unclear why the shooter targeted the art class.

"I wanted to take care of my friends, but I knew I had to get out of there," said Courtney Marshall, 15, who was in the class, adding that she saw at least one person hit. "I knew the guy behind me was dead." Pagourtzis spared people he liked so he could have his story told, a charging document obtained by Reuters showed. — Reuters

Yasniel Diaz, a 21-year-old musician, said the pilot appeared to attempt an emergency landing, but crashed instead. "The explosion shook everything," he said.

"I started running, I was so afraid." Global Air said the plane was flying with a crew of six Mexicans—the pilot, co-pilot, three flight attendants and a maintenance technician. In Mexico City, anguished relatives and colleagues of the crew gathered outside the company's offices demanding information—some of them hugging and crying.

"I was friends with the captain, with the co-pilot, with the head flight attendant," said a former Global Air employee, 44-year-old Ana Marlene Covarrubias. "When I heard the news on the phone, I thought it was one of those jokes people play," she told AFP. The Mexican communications and transportation ministry said the plane was built in 1979. Global Air had the necessary permits to lease it, and had passed inspections in November last year, it said. The company, formed in 1990, had a fleet of three planes, all Boeing 737s. Prior to Friday's crash, Cuba's most recent air accident occurred in April

2017, when eight military personnel died when a Russian-made AN-26 transport aircraft went down in western Cuba. The country's last major airline disaster was in November 2010 when a Cuban Aerocaribbean jet crashed on a flight from Santiago de Cuba to Havana, killing all 68 people on board, including 28 foreigners. — AFP

people, among whom scores have been killed and thousands have been wounded.

"These events coincided with inaugurating the US embassy in the holy city Jerusalem; this unilateral decision aims at altering Jerusalem's Palestinian identity, the historic status, Judaizing the sacred city, altering its demographic status, its religious and historic identity as a city for all heavenly religions. "Therefore, it cannot be annexed with unilateral decisions and its status must be subject to negotiations among the concerned parties. Moreover, this decision constitutes blatant violation of the Security Council resolutions and jeopardizes the peace process in the Middle East."

"We ask the whole world, why the Palestinian people plight continues? Why we ignore and do not implement Security Council resolutions? Why the international community is incapable of resolving this cause? Why the victim continues to be portrayed as the killer according to Israel's norms? Why Israel always escapes punishment? Why all these souls have been wasted amid absence of the world conscience? "We also say to the world we are raising these questions because we are aware of the dire consequences that will ultimately lead to creation of tension zones, an incubating environment for violence, threats and instability."

His Highness the Amir arrived in Istanbul, earlier on Friday, leading Kuwait's delegation at the special Islamic Summit. His Highness the Amir was welcomed by Deputy Governor of Istanbul Mehmet Ali Ulutas, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi, Kuwaiti Consul in Istanbul Mohammad Al-Mohammad and embassy staff. — KUNA

## Big powers plan to supply clean energy for refugees

BARCELONA: Aid agencies and governments are transforming the way they provide energy to families forced to flee their homes around the world - from setting up solar power plants at camps for Syrians in Jordan, to funding a small solar panel for a Malian refugee to run a fridge for her water shop in Burkina Faso. Energy has always been needed in the camps and informal settlements home to tens of millions of people uprooted by conflicts or natural disasters.

But it has largely been in the form of polluting diesel generators, fossil fuels for trucks to move relief supplies, or locally harvested firewood for cooking.

That is changing, with UN agencies, aid groups, major refugee-hosting countries and businesses preparing in July to sign up to a global action plan to provide all displaced people with access to sustainable energy by 2030, in line with UN development goals.

"People are beginning to realize that this is an important issue, and something that deserves priority, resources and attention," said Owen Grafham from the Moving Energy Initiative (MEI), a partnership managed by London-based think tank Chatham House, which is working on the action plan. In camps, about 90 percent of people lack electricity, while 80 percent rely on firewood and other solid fuels to cook, which are harmful to their health and local forests, according to MEI.

Electric power has not been regarded as a human "right" in emergency situations, unlike shelter, water, food or healthcare, said Andrew Harper of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). "Energy is really not something that is fully taken into account," he said. But it is "the key to empowering refugees and displaced persons", added the UNHCR's director of program support and former representative in

Jordan. In 2012 when Jordan's Za'atari camp opened - home at one point to as many as 130,000 Syrian refugees - Friday prayers would be followed by "a riot", with frustrated, anxious residents destroying things and throwing stones, Harper said.

But once UNHCR began spending up to \$450,000 each month on electricity supplied to the camp via a grid connection, refugees used it to set up some 3,000 shops and businesses, and the rampages stopped as their sense of dignity grew, he said.

"They started feeling possessive, protective, engaged in the stability of the camp," he added.

Since last year, two of Jordan's main refugee camps have used power produced by their own solar plants - one in Za'atari funded by German development bank KfW and the other in Azraq backed by the IKEA Foundation - that can also feed back surplus electricity into the national grid. Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen, head of humanitarian energy at UK-based charity Practical Action, said Jordan's government takes the wider view that getting camps connected will improve the country's infrastructure and support national development. "They see it as an opportunity, and as a way to change perceptions in host communities that this is good for both of us - not just for refugees," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Practical Action is embarking on a project in the north Jordan city of Irbid, also funded by the IKEA Foundation, that will assist landlords renting properties to vulnerable refugee families to install rooftop solar systems for heating water. The development charity will also work with UNHCR and other partners in Rwanda to set up solar micro-grids and home systems to power schools, clinics, street lighting and home appliances in three camps hosting Congolese refugees, offering an alternative to candles and kerosene.

It will also look at ways to provide more sustainable fuel and efficient stoves for cooking. Government officials and others at a meeting on Wednesday in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, about the "Renewable Energy for Refugees" project emphasised the need to move away from the environmentally harmful use of firewood, co-host MEI said. — Reuters

## Harry and Meghan marry in emotional...

Continued from Page 1

With the words "I will", 33-year-old Harry, and Meghan, 36, declared they would love, comfort, honor and protect each other. Markle's mother, Doria Ragland, looked visibly moved.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the Church of England's spiritual leader, declared them legally wed, saying: "They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. "I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife."

With her father recovering from a heart operation in Mexico, Markle walked down the aisle on her own, before being accompanied to the altar by Harry's father Prince Charles. Her flowing white dress was designed by Clare Waight Keller at the French fashion house Givenchy. Made from a double bonded silk cady, it contains floral designs from all 53 Commonwealth countries. The new duke and duchess will spend much of their time working with youth in the Commonwealth. Her bouquet included flowers hand-picked by Harry from the gardens of Kensington Palace.

Waiting at the altar, Harry was wearing the blue doekskin frockcoat uniform of a major in the Blues and Royals, the regiment he served with in Afghanistan during his 10 years in the British army. His brother and best man Prince William wore a matching uniform, emphasizing the brothers' close bond.

Harry looked at Meghan and smiled as they heard how marriage is "the foundation of family life in which children are born". The couple held hands and giggled at the altar and smiled as they heard Curry's firebrand address. Stars in the pews included Serena Williams, Idris Elba, James Blunt, Tom Hardy and James Corden. Harry's ex-girlfriends Chelsy Davy and Cressida Bonas also attended.

Up to 100,000 people, many decked out in patriotic paraphernalia, packed the streets of Windsor to get a glimpse of the newlyweds on their open-top carriage tour through the town afterwards.

Some well-wishers had camped overnight. Revellers also packed into bars to watch the wedding as far afield as Sydney and Hong Kong.

Many in the Windsor crowds offered particular good wishes to the bride after her father had to miss the wedding. "After the week she's had, she needs some support," said Karen Wallace, 53, from Chicago.

Markle's ring has been made with Welsh gold, as is traditional for royal weddings, while Harry's is made of platinum. Before the wedding, Queen Elizabeth conferred the title Duke of Sussex on her grandson Harry, meaning Markle will be known as the Duchess of Sussex. Windsor was decked out with flags and bunting, and there was a carnival area on the Long Walk, the sweeping tree-lined avenue down which the royal couple were to drive. Thousands of fans arrived at dawn, bearing rugs and picnics, Union Jack flags and royalist paraphernalia, and the prosecco was flowing freely well before the first guests arrived. "We planned to stay in a hotel but we got caught up in all the excitement and we stayed here last night, unprepared," said Karen Long, from Texas.

She said the fact that Markle was mixed-race was a huge moment, saying: "We all wanted to be a princess, we thought we couldn't and there she is, breaking all the barriers!"

The couple met on a blind date in July 2016 and had a whirlwind romance, criss-crossing the Atlantic as she continued filming in Toronto. Harry has had his own troubles and recently admitted he was close to a breakdown at one point in his youth.

He was scarred by his mother Diana's death in a Paris car crash in 1997 when he was just 12, and he had to mourn in the full glare of the world's media. His wedding featured a hymn used at Diana's funeral, at which he and William had walked behind her casket.

Sixth in line to the throne, Harry is one of the most popular royals, while Markle, a divorcee, is seen as a breath of fresh air for the monarchy. "I think it's really nice that he's marrying someone that's representative of modern society," said Sam Lukes, 28, who came from nearby Reading to see the procession. "They are going to change things," said Irene Lennon, a 72-year-old from Edinburgh.

Retired nurse Cynthia Osborne, from Cardiff, said of the international attention: "I think they're a little bit envious of us, not just the Americans but the Europeans too." The event is a welcome respite for a country still burdened by austerity and divided over Brexit.

Despite the meticulous palace preparations, feuding in Markle's fractious family overshadowed the wedding build-up. Her estranged older half-siblings, who were not invited, have vented widely in the media. — AFP

## Cuba mourns after 107 killed...

Continued from Page 1

Boeing issued a statement saying that a "technical team stands ready to assist" and offering condolences to friends and relatives of the victims. The 58-year-old Diaz-Canel, who succeeded Castro as the communist island's leader only last month, appeared aghast as he surveyed the recovery efforts, wearing a short-sleeved shirt and surrounded by officials.

Castro sent his condolences to families bereaved in the "catastrophic accident," a statement read, as Russian President Vladimir Putin and a string of Latin American leaders also expressed sympathy. Pope Francis asked the church in Cuba to convey condolences to families "who mourn the unexpected disappearance of loved ones."

The plane took off from Havana at 12:08 pm (1608 GMT) Friday heading for Holguin, 670 kilometers (415 miles) to the east. From the supermarket where he works near the airport, Jose Luis, 49, said he could see the plane taking off before it banked and plunged to the ground.

"I saw it taking off. All of a sudden, it made a turn, and went down. We were all amazed," he said.

## Kuwait to push for resolution at UN...

Continued from Page 1

regarding the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories stipulating international protection for the Palestinian people," His Highness the Amir disclosed.

His Highness the Amir expressed deep distress at the tragic events in many countries namely the occupied territories, Syria, Yemen and Myanmar. "We have witnessed in these regions breaches of human rights, fierce humanitarian hardship, while we have taken resolutions at the Security Council and within framework of the international legitimacy that do not reach the implementation phase.

"The frustration and despair have been aggravated due to this situation, thus we are compelled to revise our action mechanisms at various levels to resolve the real crisis of values and principles.

"The decision to transfer the American embassy to Jerusalem unilaterally and the subsequent repercussions constitute blatant defiance of believers in heavenly religions and stark evidence of the real moralistic crisis we are experiencing." His Highness the Amir, who began the statement saluting the top host, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality, said "We have followed up with grave pain and distress the occupation Israeli Army employment of excessive force against our innocent brothers, the Palestinian



Sports

# NSW Waratahs end 40-game trans-Tasman losing streak

## Japan's Sunwolves down the Western Stormers

**HONG KONG:** The NSW Waratahs ended Australia's 40-match losing streak against New Zealand rivals when they thrashed the Highlanders 41-12 yesterday, while Richie Mo'unga booted the Canterbury Crusaders back to the top of the Super Rugby ladder with a 32-24 victory over the Auckland Blues.

Meanwhile, a last-gasp Hayden Parker drop goal saw Japan's Sunwolves down the Western Stormers 26-23. The Waratahs scored six tries to two in Sydney to rout the Highlanders, who played much of the match with 14 men after winger Tevita Nabura was sent off in the 19th minute for foul play.

The last time an Australian team beat a New Zealand side was just over two years ago when the Waratahs downed the Chiefs.

The Waratahs began full of intent and opened an 8-0 lead after 14 minutes thanks to a Bernard Foley penalty and a try to massive winger Taqele Naiyaravoro.

They took complete control once Nabura inexplicably kicked NSW winger Cameron Clark in the head as he leaped for a high ball. Three minutes later the visitors were down to 13 men when Aaron Smith was shown a yellow card for a deliberate knock-on.

The Waratahs only scored once during Smith's 10 minutes in the sin bin, a second to Naiyaravoro, but they dominated the first half and took a 15-0 lead into the break.

Israel Folau scored the 49th and 50th tries of his Super Rugby career in the opening stages of the second half as the Waratahs began to run away with the match. The Highlanders scored twice but two more Waratahs tries underlined a dominant NSW win. "The last thing we'd been thinking about (was the losing

streak)," Waratahs captain Michael Hooper said.

"We'd been thinking about what we've been doing each week, incrementally building, and we got a good result tonight," he said.

### BRIDGE HAVOC

It was four tries apiece in wet conditions in Auckland, where penalties made the difference as the Crusaders downed the Blues to move a point ahead of the Wellington Hurricanes.

The Crusaders put away the bumbling start that affected them last week against the Waratahs and were up 7-0 in the second minute with a try to George Bridge, who created havoc down the left wing side throughout the game.

The impressive Crusaders pack kept the Blues on the defensive for most of the first half and delivered tries to Quinten Strange, Matt Todd and Bryn Hall as they raced to a 29-12 lead with the Blues points coming from tries to Matt Duffie and Rieko Ioane.

The Blues tightened their defence and focus in the second half to be rewarded with two tries by Michael Collins while the Crusaders, despite dominating territory, were limited to one penalty by Mo'unga, his second of the match.

"Conditions made it tough to play, so we wanted to make sure we played at the right end," Crusaders captain Matt Todd said.

"In the first half when we got down their end we took points. "In the second half, not so much but credit to the Blues. You give them a sniff and they take it. But we're happy. The boys dug deep at the end and did enough for the win."



It was four tries apiece in wet conditions



HONG KONG: Stormers' Seabelo Senatla (back) scores a try during the Super Rugby match between Japan's Sunwolves and South Africa's Western Stormers in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

### "WE CREATED HISTORY"

The Sunwolves have endured some torrid defeats since entering the competition in 2016, but they have now won twice in a row for the first time after last week's 63-28 rout of the Queensland Reds.

The win over the Stormers, their first away from Tokyo, also extinguished the faint play-off hopes of the South Africans, who are languishing at the foot of their conference. "We created history today," said Sunwolves coach Jamie Joseph.

"We've had some lean times, no doubt. But really we're headed in the right direction and I think that's

really pleasing for the players."

In sweltering conditions for Hong Kong's first Super Rugby game, the Stormers were quickly into the lead and were ahead 17-10 at the break.

The Sunwolves lifted their game in the second half and Parker stroked them into the lead for the first time with a coolly struck penalty on 65 minutes.

In the closing 10 minutes, Stormers marksman Sarel Marais landed two penalties to regain the lead for the South Africans before the Sunwolves struck back with an 80th-minute penalty by Parker and then his post-siren drop goal. — AFP

## Spanish Grand Prix bouncing back in style in Barcelona

**BARCELONA:** Aston Martin Red Bull Racing brought a major aerodynamic update package to the Spanish Grand Prix and it delivered a major boost as the outfit closed the gap on their rivals. This report sums up a weekend of much promise that culminated in the team's 50th podium finish in Formula One history.

The Spanish Grand Prix is traditionally the race where Formula One teams bring their first major upgrade of the season and Aston Martin Red Bull Racing delivered arguably the largest and most dramatic package of the year this time around.

Both Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen were pleased with how the new car felt, highlighting the noticeable improvement in downforce and overall performance as early as after the opening day of practice on Friday.

The duo locked out the third row of the grid and after solid starts, started to make good progress through the field. The RB14 has been good on its tyres so far this season and that continued in Barcelona, with both drivers able to run a long first stint.

That allowed Verstappen to lead the race briefly before he made his one and only stop for fresh tyres. When the virtual safety car period ended in the second half of the race, Verstappen was caught out and made slight contact with Lance Stroll.

However, despite damage to his front wing, the Dutchman showed strong pace for the remainder of the race and was able to hold off Sebastian Vettel, winner of two races this season, despite the Ferrari driver having fresher tyres.

Verstappen crossed the line third to score his opening podium of the year and first since winning last year's Mexican Grand Prix, seven races ago. The result lifts him into sixth in the drivers' standings, one place behind Ricciardo.

Ricciardo, who triumphed in China earlier this year, showed patches of good pace, which culminated in him setting the fastest lap for the third time in five races this season - and he ultimately ended the race fifth.

With two cars in the top five, having made use of a unique formulation of Mobil 1 motor oil and Esso Synergy race fuel that has delivered improved power and fuel efficiency to the RB14 this year, Aston Martin Red Bull Racing has closed the gap on second-placed Ferrari in the constructors' standings.

The team responded well to the disappointment in Baku with their second-best result of the season, which will give them confidence that they can take the fight to Mercedes, who won in Barcelona with Lewis Hamilton, and Ferrari.

Formula One now heads to Monaco, with the next Grand Prix taking place on the streets of Monte Carlo on 24th-27th May.

### DANIEL RICCIARDO, DRIVER, ASTON MARTIN RED BULL RACING:

"It was certainly a strange race. At the beginning we had good pace and it seemed like Kimi was a bit slower than Max and myself. I thought I was faster than them but then once they picked up the pace I wasn't really able to go with them. When we pitted for the medium tyre we came out in traffic and lost some rhythm. I also had a spin on the VSC re-start, struggling to keep heat in the tyres, which really put me out of the race. Fortunately there were no walls



Aston Martin Red Bull Racing celebrate with Max Verstappen at the Spanish Grand Prix.



Christian Horner and Max Verstappen chat at the Spanish GP.

but it put me in no-man's land. There were moments where the car was really fast but it was just too difficult to get it every lap. I would set the fastest lap and then the next lap I would nearly spin. There is potential but it's just hard to extract consistently at the moment, so we have some more to learn with this new package. In the end, it was a pretty boring race but I'm going to take some positives from the potential we have. Monaco should be our strongest circuit to date on raw pace so I'm looking forward to getting there in a few weeks."

### MAX VERSTAPPEN, DRIVER, ASTON MARTIN RED BULL RACING:

"I always feel quite good on this track and today has been a nice turning point after the first few races where it hasn't gone to plan. To come back and get on the podium is really nice. The car behaved really well all race on both soft and medium tyres. It felt balanced and had good pace so I was confident I could push on and achieve a good result. We lost a bit too much time at the beginning behind Kimi and it would have been hard to overtake him. We got a bit lucky with him having the problem and therefore allowing us to get an extra place and increase our speed. After that I could settle down and concentrate on my own race. I saw Sebastian approaching but I knew I had relatively fresh tyres so it would be hard for him to overtake, this allowed me to manage the situation quite well. I had some damage to the front wing which luckily didn't affect the perform-

ance too much. The piece fell off and it only meant a small amount of oversteer so I was able to keep a solid pace and bring it home in third place. We were quick here in the last sector which is all low speed corners so looking ahead to Monaco we can hope for a good result. We will concentrate on the set-up, get a good balance and hopefully put ourselves in with a real chance."

### CHRISTIAN HORNER, TEAM PRINCIPAL, ASTON MARTIN RED BULL RACING:

"A solid performance today, picking up a podium, and our 150th podium which is notable and deserved achievement for the team. It is also Max's first podium of the season which will be a good confidence boost for him after enduring a tricky first four races. We had strong pace in the race today and managed to make the soft tyre go pretty much to half distance. The pit stops got us onto the medium tyre which was always going to put us in better shape for the last 25 per cent of the race. Unfortunately Max sustained some damage in contact with the Williams of Lance Stroll under the Virtual Safety Car but even with that damage he had enough pace in hand to maintain track position ahead of Sebastian and make the podium. Daniel had some consolation in his race with the fastest lap proving the strength of the upgrades brought to Spain this weekend. Unfortunately he lost a bit of ground with a spin during the VSC period but once again we've seen that we have a competitive race car."

## Zain sponsors Kuwaiti car racing champion Zaid Ashkanani in Porsche Super Cup

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its sponsorship of young Kuwaiti motorsport champion Zaid Ashkanani during his participation in the 2018 season of the Porsche Super Cup. This is Ashkanani's third consecutive participation in this exciting challenge held in Barcelona, Spain.

Zain's support to the young Kuwaiti racer since the start of his professional career comes under the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards supporting the sports sector in general as well as supporting Kuwaiti champions and athletes, who attain many titles that add to Kuwaiti sporting accolades around the world.

Zain's sponsorship is in line with its belief in the competencies of Kuwaiti athletes like Ashkanani, who continues to display unrivaled determination and dedication to his discipline. Especially that the young racer showed exceptional automotive skills during his past participations, which led him to attain many accolades including the first place title of the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East.

The Porsche Super Cup is one of the most professional and challenging car racing competitions in the world. All racers ride the latest class of the Porsche 911 GT3, which features a 4 liter engine with 357 kilowatts of power (485 horsepower), making it the most powerful car in this competition's history. All racers use unified tires and fuel to ensure fairness between them during races.

Zain expressed its total confidence in the young racer's capabilities, and wishes him the best of luck in achieving many more titles in his upcoming participations. Zain is proud to work closely with young talents, and the company remains committed to supporting and sponsoring different types of sports, emphasizing its dedication to the elevation of Kuwaiti youth and sports.



Ashkanani with Zain officials



## Sports

# Jacob deGrom leads NY Mets to much-needed win over Arizona

## Aguilar two home runs powers Milwaukee to victory over Minnesota

**NEW YORK:** Jacob deGrom tied a career high by striking out 13 batters over seven strong innings Friday night as the New York Mets beat the visiting Arizona Diamondbacks 3-1 at Citi Field. The Mets won for the 10th time in 28 games following an 11-1 start. The Diamondbacks have lost eight of nine. DeGrom (4-0), who missed a start earlier this month due to a hyperextended right elbow and threw 45 pitches while lasting only one inning in his return Sunday, allowed one run on six hits and no walks while throwing 71 of his 100 pitches for strikes. The 13-strikeout effort was the fourth of his career, including one in the 2015 playoffs, and his first since he whiffed 13 against the Miami Marlins on April 15, 2017. The Diamondbacks got only one runner beyond first base in the first five innings before scoring in the sixth, when Steven Souza Jr. singled with one out and scored on Jake Lamb's double. The run snapped deGrom's scoreless streak at a career-high 24 2/3 innings. Souza later left the contest after re aggravating a right pectoral injury.

### ASTROS 4, INDIANS 1

Charlie Morton extended his career-long winning streak to nine games when Houston rallied on his behalf, scoring twice in the seventh inning to scratch out a win over visiting Cleveland. Morton (6-0) was exceptional again at home, improving to 5-0 with a 1.85 ERA at Minute Maid Park this season. He limited the Indians to four hits and a walk over seven innings, recording eight strikeouts while tossing 97 pitches. Cleveland designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion struck for a solo home run to the opposite field in right with one out in the seventh to sully the Morton ledger. It was Encarnacion's 10th home run on the season.

### ROYALS 5, YANKEES 2

Whit Merrifield had three hits and tied a career high with three stolen bases to spark host Kansas City to victory over New York. Merrifield helped the Royals halt a five-game losing streak with a double and two singles in his first three at-bats against CC Sabathia (2-1) to extend his hitting streak to 11 games. Merrifield also stole three bases for the third time in his career and for the second time this season (also May 6). Neil Walker hit an RBI single and Miguel Andujar lifted a sacrifice fly for the Yankees, who played for the first time since Tuesday due to a rainout in Washington. New York also lost for the fourth time in its last 23 games.

### ORIOLES 7, RED SOX 4

A four-run fourth inning helped Alex Cobb get his first win with Baltimore at Boston's expense, snapping a 13-game road losing streak for the Orioles. Cobb (1-5) gave up three runs on 10 hits and a walk with three strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings. It was the Boston native's

first win since Sept. 22 with Tampa Bay versus Baltimore. Cobb had a 7.06 ERA through six starts after joining the Orioles in March. Mookie Betts hit a solo homer and had two RBIs and both Andrew Benintendi and Eduardo Nunez drove in one for Boston, which had won four of six. The Red Sox are 13-13 since their franchise-best 17-2 start.

### CUBS 8, REDS 1

Addison Russell tied a career high with four hits and Jon Lester (4-1) permitted just two hits over six innings as Chicago routed host Cincinnati. Russell's chance at the first five-hit game of his career ended with a walk in the eighth inning. By then, the game was well in hand, with Chicago collecting a whopping 15 hits off three Reds pitchers. Willson Contreras went 3-for-6 with an RBI while Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo each bagged two hits. After a 93-minute rain delay before first pitch, the first five Cubs to bat touched Homer Bailey (1-6) for hits. Ben Zobrist singled and Bryant doubled to set the table. Rizzo, Contreras and Russell all dug in and took bites with RBI singles for a 3-0 lead before Bailey got his first out.

### MARINERS 5, TIGERS 4

Mitch Haniger's run-scoring double in the seventh inning capped a five-run rally as Seattle defeated visiting Detroit. Trailing 4-0, the Mariners scored all of their runs in the seventh. Tigers right-hander Michael Fulmer, who had allowed just two hits in blanking Seattle through the first six innings, walked Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager leading off the inning. The runners advanced on a groundout, and Ben Gamel grounded a two-run single to right field, cutting Detroit's lead in half. Right-hander Buck Farmer (0-2) replaced Fulmer and walked Mike Zunino and Guillermo Heredia to load the bases. Left-hander Daniel Stumpf came on to face Dee Gordon, who hit a sacrifice fly to right field to make it 4-3. Right-hander Warwick Saupold served up an RBI single to Jean Segura before Haniger's double into the left-field corner led Seattle to a come-from-behind victory.

### BREWERS 8, TWINS 3

Jesus Aguilar drove in three runs with two home runs, powering Milwaukee to victory over Minnesota in the opener of a three-game interleague series in Minneapolis. After Ji-Man Choi, recalled from Triple-A Colorado Springs earlier in the day, belted a solo shot in the second inning, the Brewers added three against Twins starter Kyle Gibson (1-2) in the third to go up 4-0. Orlando Arcia had a double and Christian Yelich an RBI single before Aguilar took Gibson deep to left field for a two-run homer. Aguilar completed the third two-homer game of his career with a solo shot in the seventh for a 6-1 advantage. Max Kepler's two-run home run, his



**NEW YORK:** Jacob deGrom #48 of the New York Mets pitches against the Arizona Diamondbacks during their game at Citi Field on Friday in New York City. — AFP

sixth of the season, got the Twins within 7-3 in the eighth inning before the Brewers added on in the top of the ninth on a sacrifice fly by Jonathan Villar.

### RANGERS 12, WHITE SOX 5

Shin-Soo Choo's grand slam highlighted a five-run third inning, and Texas beat struggling host Chicago. Joey Gallo and Jurickson Profar each had three RBIs for the Rangers, who bounced back from a loss in the series opener. But it was Choo who delivered the big blast, pulling a high sinker into the seats in right field in the third inning for his sixth home run of the season. White Sox left fielder Nicky Delmonico left the game in the second inning after being hit by a pitch that fractured his right hand. He is expected to miss four to six weeks. Chicago starter Carson Fulmer (2-4) was optioned to Triple-A Charlotte following the game after he allowed eight runs on just three hits in two-plus innings.

### RAYS 8, ANGELS 3

Wilson Ramos homered twice and Blake Snell threw 6 2/3 strong innings to help carry Tampa Bay past host Los Angeles for its fifth win in a row. The home runs for Ramos were Nos. 99 and 100 of his career, part of a 15-hit attack by the Rays offense. Six different players had at least two hits, including three each from Brad Miller and Mallex Smith. Daniel Robertson also homered for Tampa Bay. Snell (5-3) followed up Chris Archer's solid outing in the first game of the series on Thursday with one of his own. He held the Angels scoreless until Andrelton Simmons' two-run single in the fifth. Before Simmons' two-run single, the Angels had scored just

one run over their previous 26 innings. Los Angeles has lost four in a row.

### MARLINS 2, BRAVES 0

Right-hander Dan Straily pitched seven scoreless innings and retired the final 11 batters he faced to help visiting Miami defeat Atlanta. Straily (2-0) limited the Braves, the National League's highest-scoring team, to three hits and three walks. He struck out six. It was only the second time Atlanta has been shutout this season. It was the second time Straily has beaten the Braves this season; he threw five innings in last week's 6-3 victory in Miami. Straily improved to 4-2 in his career against Atlanta.

### ROCKIES 6, GIANTS 1

Ian Desmond drove in four runs with a ground-rule double and a home run, lifting Colorado to a second straight victory over host San Francisco. Left-hander Kyle Freeland (4-4) limited the Giants to one run in 6 2/3 innings, and reliever Bryan Shaw worked out of a seventh-inning jam by striking out the hot-hitting Brandon Belt, delivering the Rockies a third win in four games to begin a nine-game trip. Belt had homered in each of his previous four games. Nolan Arenado got a third-inning rally rolling by drawing a walk, after which Trevor Story singled. One out later, Desmond belted a three-run homer to center field, putting the Rockies ahead for good at 3-1. Desmond made it 4-1 in the sixth with a two-out, ground-rule double, again scoring Arenado, who had led off the inning with a double. — Reuters

## Bareeq Al-Danah beat Kuwait Times in Annahar tourney

**KUWAIT:** On the first day of the Second Annahar Soccer tournament for newspapers, magazines, TV channels and e-papers, Bareeq Al-Danah team beat Kuwait Times 6-0 while Al-Rai team beat Al-Shahed newspaper 5-1 in the matches held at PAAET sports complex in Shuwaikh. Notably, the tourney is held in collaboration with KJA.

Speaking to reporters, Al-Rai team captain, Ahmed Sheet said that his team is determined to win the tourney, especially after the great performance on the first match.



## Al-Roudhan Ramadan Football tournament

**KUWAIT:** Within the activities of the 39th Al-Roudhan Ramadan Football Tournament, BMW team achieved a remarkable victory defeating Musaed Al-Mailam team by 4-0.

The second day of the competition also witnessed two more matches; the first between Many and Kathema Youth which ended by the latter's defeat by 2-0.

The third match was between the

Credit Bank and Al-Had Al-Bahraini which was defeated by 3-0.

Speaking on the occasion, the coach of Many Group of KSA, Abdullah Al-Mazrou' stressed that taking part in Al-Roudhan tourney was an honor to his team and the lovers of football in KSA. "This tourney is a mini world cup", he said noting that it provides great opportunities for players to develop their skills.



## NBK names winners for UEFA Champions League final match trip

**KUWAIT:** In an exclusive campaign, NBK awarded three lucky customers the opportunity of a lifetime to watch the UEFA Champions League Final match in Kiev, Ukraine on May 25, 2018.

The names of the three winners were announced live on FM 88.8 Kuwait Pulse in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and officials from NBK.

The three winners are: Haya Mohammad Saeed Boghath, Faji Sarkissian and Nasser Mohammed Humoud Al Muhareb Al Humoud. All the winners received an all-expense paid trip for two - themselves and a friend or a family member.

"NBK has partnered with Mastercard to create this unique experience for customers to enjoy the excitement of the crowds at Europe's most thrilling football match as a way to thank our most loyal customers," said Hanadi Khazal, Assistant General Manager, Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "We are happy to announce the names of the three lucky winners and we hope that they will enjoy an amazing time at the event."

For a chance to win, NBK customers were invited to make purchases using their NBK Mastercard Credit Card locally, internationally or online. For each KD 1 spent locally, customers received 1 draw entry. For each KD 1 spent internationally and online, customers received 3 draw entries. A minimum spend of KD 100 was required to be entered into the draw.

The three winners each received an all-

expense paid trip for two - for themselves and a friend or a family member. The full package to the UEFA Champions League Final Match includes round trip air tickets to Kiev, tickets to the final match, accommodation for two in a five star hotel, city tour and ground transportation.

"NBK demonstrates its commitment to customers not only with innovative banking technology and convenient services but also with interesting and unique campaigns that suit their needs and lifestyle. We thank our customers for their continued trust and promise to always provide them with the best services and rewards," added Khazal.

Europe's UEFA Champions League competition is one of the most prestigious, globally recognized football matches and is immensely popular in Kuwait and in the Middle East.

NBK Mastercard credit cards offers premium benefits including free access to airport lounges around the globe, free travel insurance, free valet parking, local concierge service, amazing rewards, discounts and instant cashback with NBK Rewards loyalty program and many more exclusive lifestyle offers.



Hanadi Khazal



## Sports

# Nadal beats Djokovic to reach 10th Rome Masters final

## Svitolina sinks Kontaveit to return to Rome final

ROME: Rafael Nadal closed in on an eighth Rome Masters title as he dismissed old rival Novak Djokovic 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 yesterday to reach the final for a record-extending 10th time. The last-four success will give the Spanish top seed added confidence ahead of the French Open, where he has won a record 10 titles.

Nadal, still unbeaten in semi-finals at the Foro Italico, unleashed a trademark clay-court attack after winning a tight first set lasting well over an hour. "I need to be able to play my best tomorrow," Nadal said of a today final against either defending champion Alexander Zverev or Croatian Marin Cilic.

"I'm very happy with my game. It all worked for me, the tactics, the shots." The 31-year-old world number two cut the deficit in his head-to-head series with Djokovic to 26-25, after their 51st meeting since first facing off in 2006. But the Serb complained afterwards about poor scheduling which affected his preparation, playing a late-afternoon quarter-final on Friday before returning to court on Saturday mid-afternoon.

"I don't want to seem like I'm complaining about losing the match because of the schedule. But having to end at night and coming back to play early in the day affects a lot," he said.

"Nobody has ever, ever reached me in my entire career to ask me about what I think would be the best scheduling. I don't think that is fair, we will address it in the next players' council."

Djokovic has rediscovered his form this week after months of elbow injury problems, including an operation earlier this year.

Nadal now stands 10-8 over Djokovic in semi-finals, with the pair having played each other at all four Grand Slam tournaments, the ATP Finals, Davis Cup, the Olympic Games along with eight of the nine Masters 1000 events.

Nadal took 73 minutes to win the opening set after

leading 5-2. But to take the early lead, the top seed had to avoid being reeled in by Djokovic.

Djokovic, a four-time Rome winner and former world number one, battled back to 5-5 with a break of the Spaniard before the set went to a tie-break, which Nadal took on the first of two set points with a backhand winner down the line.

Nadal took a 2-1 lead in the second set with another break of Djokovic and never lost control.

The top seed kept his nose ahead until the end, winning on his second match point as he fired another unreturnable backhand.

Earlier, holder Elina Svitolina dominated Anett Kontaveit 6-4, 6-3 in 74 minutes yesterday to reach a second straight final at the Italian Open.

The Ukrainian will play for the trophy in today against the winner of the high-profile semi-final between Maria Sharapova and top seed Simona Halep.

The first meeting between Svitolina and Kontaveit featured four breaks of serve in the first eight games, with the fourth-seeded defending champion snatching the early lead after 39 minutes.

Svitolina moved to 3-1 in the second set, reached 5-3 with an ace and served out victory a game later on her second match point. "I'm very proud of myself already that I reached the final. You know, it was really tough, from the beginning, from the first match," world number four Svitolina said.

"I work for these kind of matches, I work on it every day. When my opponent tries to hit everything, I have an answer. "And when my opponent tries to play maybe a little bit more into court I can attack, so that's an answer."

"Today, I think I was very solid with my performance. And this was really, really good. I'm very proud of this, that I could stay really consistent all match." Kontaveit, ranked 26th, has been on a roll against top-



ROME: Ukraine's player Elina Svitolina returns the ball to Anett Kontaveit during Rome's WTA Tennis Open tournament at the Foro Italico, yesterday in Rome. — AFP

10 opponents, upsetting second-ranked Caroline Wozniacki and No.9 Venus Williams this week.

"It was definitely a really good week for me. She was really tough today and played really great. I'm only taking the positives from this week," the Estonian said.

"She had an answer to everything I gave her, it made me maybe try and do too much or do things I didn't want to do." Svitolina will be bidding to win her eighth successive final dating back to last season as she bids for a third title this year after winning in Brisbane and Dubai. — AFP

## Smith scores winner to put Knights on brink of NHL finals

LOS ANGELES: Reilly Smith scored the winner with seven minutes left in regulation as the expansion Vegas Golden Knights beat the Winnipeg Jets 3-2 to grab a 3-1 Western Conference series lead on Friday.

"Winnipeg comes in waves but (Marc-Andre Fleury) made huge saves, our defense did a good job and thank God we were able to get three past them," said Smith.

The Golden Knights have won three straight games after dropping the series opener and now have a chance to advance to the Stanley Cup finals in their inaugural season with a victory on Sunday in Winnipeg. "It is hard to close out teams. But we have got to do our best to go into Winnipeg and stick to our game plan," Smith said.

Smith took advantage of a miscue by Jets defenseman Dustin Byfuglien at the Knights' blue-line. He then raced down the left wing and snapped a shot over the shoulder and off the crossbar against Jets netminder Connor Hellebuyck to break a 2-2 tie with 6:58 left in third period.

William Karlsson and Tomas Nosek also scored and goaltender Fleury stopped 36 shots for the Golden Knights, who improved to 6-1 at home in their first ever postseason. "I am just living in the moment," Karlsson said. "This is the time of my life." The Jets outshot Vegas 37-29 and controlled much of the play but still came out with the loss. "We got away with a win," said Karlsson.

The Golden Knights were 500-1 betting underdogs to win the Stanley Cup to begin the season and are now just one victory away from advancing to the Stanley Cup finals. Friday was a must-win game for the Jets because NHL teams that take a 3-1 series lead have gone on to win the series more than 90 percent of the time.

## Leishman leads by one midway through Byron Nelson

LOS ANGELES: Australian Marc Leishman followed up his career-best 61 with a five-under-par 66 on Friday to stay atop the Byron Nelson leaderboard with a tournament-record 36-hole score of 15-under par 127.

Leishman broke the 36-hole record of 12-under 128 achieved on six prior occasions at the tournament's former home of TPC Four Seasons, including twice by Tiger Woods and most recently by Jason Kokrak last year.

Leishman fired six birdies with one bogey on the par-71 Trinity Forest course south of down-



LAS VEGAS: Mathieu Perreault #85 of the Winnipeg Jets and Nate Schmidt #88 of the Vegas Golden Knights look on as Marc-Andre Fleury #29 of the Golden Knights falls to the ice after making a glove save in the second period of Game Four of the Western Conference Finals during the 2018 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at T-Mobile Arena on Friday. — AFP

Finland's Patrik Laine scored the first goal for Winnipeg at 9:29 of the second period to tie it 1-1. He finished with a game high seven shots for the Jets, who had been getting most of their scoring in the series so far from one player, Canada's Mark Scheifele. Scheifele had five shots Friday but failed get one past Fleury. Defenseman Tyler Myers also scored for Winnipeg.

"We win that game nine times out of 10," Winnipeg winger Blake Wheeler said. "Tonight was the one. Had some looks where (Fleury) made extraordinary saves. You've got to sometimes take your hat off to a good player stealing a game."

Vegas has won games by not giving the Jets any breathing room. On Friday, Laine's goal on the powerplay — with Nosek in the penalty box for tripping — was immediately followed by a Knights' goal just 43 seconds later.

town Dallas and will take a one-shot lead over US PGA Tour rookie Aaron Wise into the weekend.

Wise jumped up the leaderboard with a 63 for 128, edging ahead of veteran Brian Gay who fired 10 birdies in a nine-under par 62 for 129.

Leishman was delighted to deliver another solid round at Trinity Forest, the first-time host of the tournament held for 35 years in suburban Irving.

"When you shoot a really low one like I did yesterday it's hard to back it up," said Leishman, who had a 15-under-par total of 127 and a two-shot lead with the afternoon starters still on the course.

Leishman teed off on 10 and kick-started his round with a 56-foot birdie putt at the par-three 12th.

"My speed has been really great," said Leishman after enjoying another stellar day on the greens. "Last week at The Players I hit a lot of really good putts that lipped out, and this week they're going in."

"Some weeks you read them really well, and some weeks you're not sure if a 10-footer is slightly uphill or downhill, and that affects your

speed and line and everything."

Leishman tapped in for birdie at 14 before a bogey from a greenside bunker at 15.

Coming in, he birdied four of five holes from the first through the fifth, and said he was enjoying the challenge of the links-style Trinity Forest course.

"I enjoy this type of golf, it reminds me of back in Australia," Leishman said. "I like how the ball is running out in the fairways."

"I'm reading the greens well and hitting the ball well. Hopefully I can keep that up over the last two days," added the 34-year-old Aussie, who claimed the most recent of his three US tour titles at the 2017 BMW Championship.

Wise made four birdies in his last seven holes to put himself in position to challenge for a first PGA Tour title.

"First time I've been in the hunt with something to look back to," said Wise, who charged late but came up short at the Wells Fargo this month. "I did great two weeks ago and it's just get it going and feeling good about the game. (I'm) excited to go tee up tomorrow." — AGP

Czech forward Nosek redeemed himself by coming out of the box and banging one home from in close to restore the Knights' lead at 2-1. It was the first goal of the playoffs for Nosek, who also scored the franchise's first goal on home ice back in October.

The Golden Knights are already in rarified air for an North American major sports expansion team and are looking for more history to make.

If they reach the championship series they would join the 1967-68 St. Louis Blues as only NHL expansion teams in the modern era to reach the Stanley Cup finals.

Unlike the Knights, the Blues had a much easier road as they were part of a new division made up entirely of expansion teams. The Blues ended up being swept in four games by the Montreal Canadiens in the final. — AFP

## PSG goalkeeper keen to stay amid Buffon rumours

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Alphonse Areola says he intends to stay and fight for the number one shirt despite talk of Italy great Gianluigi Buffon joining the French champions.

"I think I've shown this season I have exactly the level it takes to be the number one goalkeeper," Areola said in an interview with French daily Le Parisien published yesterday.

"If I don't remain the first choice that would mean the season I've just had will be for nothing," added the 25-year-old who is part of France's squad for the World Cup.

"What happens next in my PSG career will be sorted out after the World Cup."

After splitting time with Kevin Trapp last season, Areola played every minute of PSG's Champions League campaign this term while keeping 16 clean sheets in 33 Ligue 1 appearances. "For the moment, I haven't been in touch with management," Areola said. "I don't know what they want to do. One thing is certain: if they give me the chance to stay at PSG, I will accept it without hesitation."

"Now, if they don't let me have the same amount of playing time, things will certainly be different." Reports in both France and Italy this week have suggested Buffon, 40, could move to PSG this summer after he announced he will leave Juventus at the end of the season. — AFP

## Parma back in Serie A after third successive promotion

ROME: Twice UEFA Cup winners Parma will return to the Italian top flight next season after a 2-0 win at Spezia in their final Serie B fixture on Friday earned the club an unprecedented third successive promotion.

The club, which also won the European Cup Winners' Cup and three Coppa Italias during their heyday of the 1990s and early 2000s, was relegated to Serie D after going bankrupt in 2015.

A reconstituted club easily secured promotion from Serie D in 2015-16 and won the Serie C promotion playoff the following year to move into the second flight. The victory over Spezia, secured courtesy of goals from Fabio Ceravolo and Amato Ciciretti, combined with Frosinone's 2-2 draw against Foggia ensured they finished second in Serie B behind Empoli and will return to the top division.

The return was particularly emotional for club captain Alessandro Lucarelli, who stuck with the Parma through their journey down the divisions and deferred his retirement to complete the trip back up.

"I made a promise. I said I'd take Parma back to Serie A. I kept my promise," the tearful 41-year-old defender told Sky Sport Italia. "This is a journey we started three years ago in front of these amazing fans. We had difficult moments, we always got back on our feet. They never gave up and I am proud to have been their captain."

"Now I can stop. I don't know, we'll see. I just need to celebrate right now." Frosinone were leading Foggia 2-1 with a minute remaining but conceded an equaliser to miss out on automatic promotion due to an inferior head-to-head record against Parma. — Reuters



**25** NSW Waratahs end 40-game trans-Tasman losing streak

**26** Jacob deGrom leads NY Mets to much-needed win over Arizona

**27** Nadal beats Djokovic to reach 10th Rome Masters final



## Chelsea hold firm to win FA Cup

Hazard the hero, Lukaku fit enough for a place on the bench



WEMBLEY: Chelsea's English defender Gary Cahill lifts the trophy as Chelsea players celebrate their win after the English FA Cup final football match between Chelsea and Manchester United at Wembley stadium in London yesterday. Chelsea beat Manchester United 1-0 to lift the FA Cup thanks to Eden Hazard's penalty at Wembley to salvage a disappointing season. — AFP

WEMBLEY: Chelsea beat Manchester United 1-0 to lift the FA Cup thanks to Eden Hazard's penalty at Wembley yesterday to salvage a disappointing season.

In what is still widely expected to be Chelsea manager Antonio Conte's final game in charge, the Blues withstood a second-half onslaught from United after Hazard's 22nd-minute spot-kick to ensure Jose Mourinho's men end the season trophyless.

On a day where the world's eyes were on a royal wedding 18 miles west in Windsor, Chelsea reigned on the field to salvage a campaign in which they failed to even qualify for the Champions League after finishing fifth in the Premier League.

And should it prove to be Conte's last game in charge, the Italian's bowed out on a high as his decision to start first-choice goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois for the first time in the FA Cup this season over Willy Caballero was justified by a series of saves from the Belgian to keep

United at bay after the break.

United were without top-scorer Romelu Lukaku from the start as the Belgian was only fit enough for a place on the bench against his former club due to an ankle injury. Lukaku's presence was missed as Chelsea settled quickest with Hazard particularly lively in the space between the United defence and midfield.

The diminutive Belgian threatened first when he burst past Phil Jones only to see a fiercely-struck low effort parried by the legs of David de Gea. Hazard's next break proved decisive as he took advantage of more indecision by Jones to race clear on goal before being chopped down by the England defender as he prepared to shoot.

Chelsea players and Conte argued for a red card rather than yellow, but Jones's attempt to play the ball saved him from a dismissal. Hazard dusted himself down to coolly send De Gea the wrong way from the spot for his 18th goal of the season.

### LACK OF INVENTION

United had come from a goal behind to win against Tottenham Hotspur in the semi-finals and the last time they met Chelsea at Old Trafford in February. However, the lack of invention that Mourinho's side have been routinely criticised for throughout the campaign showed in their efforts to get back on terms.

Jones had United's best chance of the first half but headed wide at the back post as he tried to make amends for his earlier error. Marcus Rashford also failed to make the most of a rare start as a central striker in Lukaku's absence.

The England international was unable to make a clean contact when teed up by a purposeful Paul Pogba run in the last action of the first 45 minutes. Courtois wasn't called into action until just before the hour mark when Rashford stung his palms as United dominated

the second half. The Chelsea 'keeper then made a brilliant stop low to his left to parry an acrobatic Pogba effort and Alexis Sanchez was denied a ninth goal in as many appearances at Wembley when he was flagged offside after firing the rebound into the roof of the net.

At the other end, De Gea kept United alive by saving from Marcos Alonso and Ashley Young was lucky to avoid conceding a second penalty when Alonso's cross came off his arm. Rashford's biggest and last chance to make himself a hero came 20 minutes from time when Courtois rushed from his goal to make a brilliant save from the forward's attempted chip.

Mourinho reacted by hooking Rashford and Jesse Lingard for Lukaku and Anthony Martial. But it was Pogba who had the biggest chance to level when the £89 million midfielder headed wide from a corner eight minutes from time. — AFP

## Buffon bids tearful farewell to Juventus

TURIN: Italy great Gianluigi Buffon played his final game for Juventus yesterday before tearfully exiting after a trophy-laden 17-year career in a 2-1 win over already relegated Verona. Buffon—who had captained Juventus to a seventh straight Serie A title and fourth consecutive Italian Cup triumph this season—took his final bow midway through the second half. It was the 656th game for the evergreen 40-year-old who arrived in Turin in 2001 from Parma for a then world record 52 million euros fee. The goalkeeper and captain was substituted by coach Massimiliano Allegri at 63 minutes to take an ovation before 40,000 emotional Juventus fans many with their eyes brimming with tears.

Juventus were two goals up thanks to Daniele Rugani after 49 minutes and Miralem Pjanic three minutes later when Buffon came off the pitch. He hugged all his teammates, on the field and on the bench, and then left the sidelines.

Goalkeeper Carlo Pinsoglio made his Serie A debut between the posts but Alessio Cerci pulled one back for the visitors on 76 minutes, ending Juventus's bid for a record 23 games in one season without conceding a goal.

Buffon had said he did not want anything special for his final game. "I want to live this day normally. I ask nothing except what I have already had, esteem, affection and respect. The rest I do not need it. As a child, I did not like birthdays and be in the centre of attention," Buffon had said.

But there was thundering applause and singing as the goalkeeper and Juventus captain emerged from the locker

rooms. He was accompanied onto the pitch at the Allianz Stadium by his three children - the youngest, Leopoldo, in the arms of his partner Ilaria D'Amico, and the other two, Louis Thomas and David Lee, led by the hand of his ex-wife Alena Seredova.

"There is only one number 1, there is only one number 1", they sang in the tribunes before kick-off, as Buffon hugged his teammates one by one. In the south tribune Juventus fans unfurled a banner with a phrase: "Only those who try the absurd reach the impossible".

And a large part of the tribune was covered for a few minutes with a giant flag with the image of the goalkeeper. There were messages "17 years with you. Thanks Gigi", "Gigi Buffon, immortal hero" and "Gigi, Santo Subito".

Buffon hugged each of his teammates including his successor Polish keeper Wojciech Szczesny and new captain Giorgio Chiellini and took his place in between the posts for his final game. The crowd cheered his every move with his first save after quarter of an hour against Mohamed Fares.

The moment everyone was waiting for came at after 63 minutes. Buffon hugged every teammate, every member of staff, waved at the crowd until he got to the bench, rested his head back and sighed with eyes close.

Called loudly by the public, Buffon, after a brief stop in the locker room, returned, with the game still in progress, and started the round of the field to shake hands, under the driving rain and thunder. Buffon has yet to decide what the future holds and has said he could take a six-month sabbatical.

"Six thousand one hundred eleven days. Six thousand one hundred eleven moments of pure passion. Of joy and of tears; of defeats and of victories," Buffon wrote in an open letter to fans on the eve of his final game. "A new journey begins. A new chapter." He has received an offer to stay on at Juventus in a management role with reported offers to play with clubs such as Paris Saint-Germain. — AFP



TURIN: Juventus' goalkeeper from Italy Gianluigi Buffon (R) celebrates with the trophy during the victory ceremony following the Italian Serie A last football match of the season Juventus versus Verona, yesterday at the Allianz Stadium in Turin. Juventus won their 34th Serie A title (scudetto) and seventh in succession. — AFP