

**2** 5,879 expats deported because of infectious diseases: Minister



**2** Kuwaiti policewoman commits suicide; investigation launched



**28** Cavaliers power into NBA Eastern Conference finals



### رمضان

Ramadan Mawsoom

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| IMSAK   | 03:12 |
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| ASR     | 15:20 |
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| ISHA    | 20:05 |

# MP threatens to grill PM over alleged payments, corruption

## Latest controversy sparked by a video posted on social media

Ramadan Kareem

### Prayer and Ramadan

By Teresa Leshner

Another Ramadan has arrived and more than a billion Muslims around the world abstain from food and drink from dawn until dusk for an entire month. While this is one of the main deeds that characterize Islam, there is one that is superior to the month-long fast: it is the habitual daily prayer. The daily prayer is the most significant act of a believer since, according to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), it is the deed most loved by God and "Between man and non-belief is the abandonment of prayer."

Prayer is an exercise that increases one's self-discipline and strengthens one's faith by training him to look beyond the illusive qualities of life on earth. There is a specific sequence and method for the ritual prayer in Islam, which is preceded with ablutions. Just as one would groom himself before meeting an important friend, ablutions prepare the Muslim physically and mentally for his encounter with God. Every prayer starts with the first chapter from the Holy Quran, which constitutes what could be called "the Lord's Prayer" in Islam.

Bowing and prostration are also essential parts of the ritual prayer, and these postures are reserved for no other being but God as a tribute to His supremacy, power and majesty. After invoking blessings on God's righteous servants, especially Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Prophet Abraham (PBUH), the prayer ends with a greeting of peace. Habitual daily prayers nourish the soul, strengthen the will and revitalize the spirit. They are the mainstay of the Muslim's faith.

In addition to the ritual prayer, the Muslims engage often in remembrance of God and supplication, which differs from ritual prayer in that it can be offered at any time and in any form. It is a spontaneous prayer from the heart of a believer at any moment during his life - in times of need, in moments of joy, during reflection or strenuous effort. It is informal communication with God, a "spiritual snack" between the ritual prayers.

In addition to the five daily prayers, there are optional prayers at night, which can be performed in congregation or in solitude. Called taraweeh prayers during Ramadan, they begin daily about two hours after sunset. In addition, qiyamul-layl is prayer that is performed particularly during the last one-third of the night. These night prayers become especially important during the last ten nights of the month as Muslims anticipate Lailat-ul-Qadr, or the "Night of Destiny."

It is said to be worth a thousand months in merit (Quran 97:1-5). It is on the Night of Destiny that the Quran was first revealed. No one knows exactly which night it falls on so prayers are conducted late into the night for all of the last ten days. Attendance at designated neighborhood mosques is high, and attendance at the Grand Mosque in Kuwait City reaches about 30,000 during these days. God instructs us in the Quran to "establish prayer for My remembrance" (20:14). Just as there is a "minimum daily allowance" of calories, vitamins and minerals for a healthy body, the five prayers can be considered the minimum daily allowance of communication with God for a healthy spirit.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Riyadh Al-Adasani threatened yesterday that he will file to grill HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah over allegations that the government pays funds to lawmakers. Adasani gave the government and the prime minister until Thursday to issue a statement denying or confirming statements attributed to pro-government MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli saying the government "will pay to lawmakers before the summer".

The latest controversy was sparked by a video posted on social media of MP Fadhli in which he says that the government will be making payments to lawmakers

before the summer. Fadhli later explained that the video is one year old and is not an indication of the government paying to MPs. He said that almost all lawmakers act as mediators to help needy Kuwaiti citizens by taking their cases to concerned government bodies which offer cash assistance after proving that those citizens needed the money.

Fadhli said he and other lawmakers do this on regular basis as a way to help Kuwaitis who need financial assistance. He said they take those cases along with the necessary supporting documents to the concerned government bodies like the council of ministers or the Amiri diwan. The lawmaker insisted that the cash assistance is then paid directly to the beneficiary and not through the lawmakers.

Fadhli also revealed that the video was posted on social media by former MP Mohammad Al-Juwaihel whom he mediated to get him an assistance of KD 40,000 but was not approved. But MP Adasani said Fadhli's statements are a clear proof that the government is controlling some lawmakers through such payments describing this as "extreme corruption".

He denied Fadhli's claim that all MPs receive such cash assistance from the government, insisting that he has never mediated such aid for anyone and will never do this. Adasani said the government must issue a statement to explain the issue before Thursday otherwise he will file to grill the prime minister on that day over the issue.

## Syrian troops battle to crush IS militants trapped in an enclave

BEIRUT: Syrian troops fought yesterday to crush the last pockets of resistance by Islamic State militants trapped in an enclave south of Damascus, state media said, denying a report that insurgents had begun leaving in a withdrawal agreement. The recovery of the enclave south of Damascus would mark another milestone in President Bashar Al-Assad's war effort, crushing the last besieged rebel enclave in western Syria.

Swathes of territory at the borders with Iraq, Turkey and Jordan, however, remain outside state control. Syrian government forces and their allies have been battling to recover the enclave south of Damascus since defeating rebels in eastern Ghouta, also near the capital, in April. The area is centered around the Al-Hajar Al-Aswad district and the adjoining Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk, the largest in Syria.

Continued on Page 24

## Palestinian leader Abbas hospitalized

RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has been hospitalized in the West Bank due to complications after minor surgery last week, a Palestinian official said yesterday. It was the third time Abbas, 82, had been hospitalized in a week. He underwent minor ear surgery on Tuesday and was hospitalized again briefly overnight yesterday, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said. A Palestinian official in Ramallah said Abbas went back into hospital again yesterday because his temperature was high "so doctors advised that he go back into hospital."

Two statements were issued by Wafa yesterday. The first, half an hour after midnight, said Abbas had gone into hospital "for a checkup to review the surgery that he had in his middle ear a few days ago at Al-Istishari hospital in Ramallah. At the end of the tests, the results turned out to be excellent," the statement said, and Abbas left hospital. A second statement carried by Wafa yesterday afternoon reported the medical manager of Al-Istishari hospital Dr Saed Sarahneh, said the results of the medical tests were "good" and that his medical condition was "reassuring."



HARASTA: Cars use the highway extending from Harasta in Eastern Ghouta on the outskirts of Damascus to the northern part of Syria, after it reopened to traffic. — AFP



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

A Palestinian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the high temperature may have resulted from a failure of an ear inflammation to heal completely. In February, Abbas was hospitalized in the United States for medical checks during a trip to address the UN Security Council in New York. Abbas became Palestinian president after the death in 2004 of Yasser Arafat. He pursued US-led peace talks with Israel but the negotiations broke down in 2014. He is also chairman of the executive committee of the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organization, a position to which he was re-elected unopposed on May 4. — Reuters

### News in brief

#### Muslim beaten to death

NEW DELHI: A Muslim man accused of killing a cow was beaten to death by a mob in central India, police said yesterday, the latest vigilante murder over the animal considered sacred by Hindus. Siraj Khan, a 45-year-old tailor, was attacked in the Satna district of Madhya Pradesh state early Friday and died at the scene, local police official Arvind Tiwari said. Khan's friend Shakeel Maqbool, who was also attacked, was admitted to hospital with critical injuries. As details of the violent assault emerged at the weekend 400 additional police were deployed to the district late Saturday as inquiries widened, the Press Trust of India reported. — AFP

#### Saudi to free billionaire

ADDIS ABABA: Saudi Arabia will soon release Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi, an Ethiopian-born Saudi billionaire arrested in November during a crackdown on corruption, Ethiopia's prime minister said. Abiy Ahmed made the remarks late on Saturday after arriving from the Gulf kingdom, where he met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a two-day visit. Al Amoudi, a son of a Saudi father and an Ethiopian mother who has invested heavily in construction, agriculture and mining in the Horn of Africa country, was among 11 princes, four current ministers and top businessmen detained during the swoop by a new anti-corruption body. — Reuters

#### TV series prompts protest

CAIRO: An Egyptian television series being shown during the Muslim month of Ramadan has angered neighboring Sudan, prompting Khartoum to lodge an official complaint with Cairo. The series, titled Abu Omar Al-Masri, revolves around an Egyptian Islamist associate of Al-Qaeda leader and founder Osama bin Laden, who had lived in Sudan in the 1990s before he relocated to Afghanistan after Khartoum expelled him. In a statement issued on Saturday, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry accused the Egyptian makers of the series of "trying to create and consecrate a negative stereotype image that attributes the charge of terrorism to some Egyptian citizens residing in or visiting Sudan". — Reuters

## Free of IS, Syrians in Raqa mark Ramadan

RAQA: To fast or not to fast? For the first time in years, Syrians in Raqa can choose to observe a relaxed Ramadan, without the rigid regulations imposed by the Islamic State group and their religious police. "We are free to fast or not," says Ahmad Al-Hussein, a resident of the northern Syrian city that was the inner sanctum of IS's self-styled "caliphate." "We used to fast in fear, but now it's out of faith," the stonemason said.

For more than three years, residents of Raqa were subjected to IS' ultra-strict interpretation of Islamic law—particularly stringent during the holy month of Ramadan. Muslims around the world fast from dawn until dusk, but in IS territory, anyone caught eating or drinking water was subject to draconian punishments. "Those that didn't fast were locked in an iron cage in a public square, under the sun and in front of everyone, to serve as an example," recalls Hussein, in his forties.

A US-backed offensive ousted IS from Raqa in October, after months of clashes and bombardment that left much of the city in ruins and littered with explosives. Still, tens of thousands have cautiously returned to their homes and marked the start last week of what they hoped would be a more festive Ramadan. Hussein says

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RAQA, Syria: Children ride in the back of a pickup truck at a vegetable market in the Syrian city of Raqa, during the holy month of Ramadan. — AFP



## Local

# 5,879 expats deported since 2016 because of infectious diseases: Minister

## Expats currently irreplaceable in education, health ministries: CSC

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A total of 5,879 expatriates have been deported since 2016 because of infectious diseases, Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah said. Responding to an inquiry by MP Jamaan Al-Harbash, Sheikh Basel explained that the deported cases included 576 infected with AIDS, 244 with malaria, 2,068 infected with tuberculosis and 2,991 with hepatitis. He said only two cases were exempted from the health conditions set by the Cabinet's resolution number 403/2004 pertaining exempting expat spouses and children of Kuwaiti citizens infected with hepatitis.

Sheikh Basel said the deported people are reexamined at the health office in their countries and in case the re-examination results are negative, the health ministry's under-secretary is contacted to lift the ban and allow the depor-



**2,595  
unemployed  
citizens  
rejected jobs**

tee back into Kuwait to redo all tests. He added that the total number of expat administrative staff members is only four and that they do not have access to all correspon-



Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah

dence and test results.

### Irreplaceable staff

Head of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Ahmad Al-Jassar said that the commission always supports the parliament's replacement and recruitment committee to solve the problem of citizen employment in government bodies to replace expats. However, Jassar stressed that the process is going according to schedule, but remarked that expats are currently irreplaceable in the education and health

ministries. Meanwhile, Jassar noted that 8,158 unemployed citizens do not have any scientific qualifications while 3,479 lack academic qualifications, whereas 2,595 have rejected jobs that the CSC have nominated them for as of the end of 2017.

### Development plan

The Supreme Planning Council's Secretary General Bader Al-Refae sent a letter to Kuwait Municipality requesting approving three projects of a total value of KD 1.426 million in the 2018-2019 development plan. Refae explained that the three projects include Kuwait's fourth structural plan with a total value of KD 906,000, developing and rehabilitating landfill sites in various areas with a total value of KD 200,000 and developing Kuwait's seafront areas with a total value of KD 320,000.



Startups in Kuwait

## Women's rights

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

**W**omen's rights is a topic that we hear often in the media and popular forums. The term women's rights is associated with other words such as feminism and equity. As a lawyer, I try to be politically correct and therefore try to keep the terms as simple as possible and not refer to vague words. Yet there is no question about the fact that there have been (internationally) unequal treatments for both men and women - some may be justified as there are bodily differences; an example would be that women take time off to deliver and men do not. Others are not justified such as not getting equal payments. The law therefore should be drafted in a way that is understandable, accessible, fair and practical.

Here are a few laws that touch on women's rights in the work field, as there is no denying how difficult it is to be a working mother, no matter where you are in the world.

### Maternity leave

**Questions:** I am about to deliver and the school that I work at is not willing to give me paid leave. Also, they are saying the maximum days off I am entitled to are 40 days. Can you please clarify what the law says and what my rights are?

**Fajer:** Excluding other leaves, a pregnant worker is entitled to 70 days of paid leave, and this leave may be taken any time during the period of pregnancy, just as long as the birth falls within that period. Additionally, a female employee may request an additional period that does not exceed four months of unpaid leave to take care of her child.

Unfortunately, I have seen this happen too many times, and therefore I want to make it clear - it is illegal for an employer to terminate a female worker while she is on maternity leave or during any leave that can be proven by a medical note to be related to the birth or pregnancy process.

### Breastfeeding break

**Question:** Am I entitled to time off for breastfeeding? Also, I am confused about Ramadan, as I am already receiving time off but I am not sure if I get additional time off.

**Fajer:** Employers are obliged to allow women a two-hour break for breastfeeding under Kuwaiti labor law. The law does not specify what happens in Ramadan when an employee already has two reduced hours in the workday.

### A higher salary

**Question:** Is it legal for my employer to pay a male employee in the same job position and level as me a higher salary?

**Fajer:** In simple terms, no it is not legal. According to article 26 of the Kuwait labor law, working females shall have an equivalent pay as working males if they both perform the same tasks. Unfortunately though, this is common in Kuwait and internationally.

If you have a concern, please email us at [info@ftl-legal.com](mailto:info@ftl-legal.com)

## Suicide probe opened in Lance Corporal's death

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** A Lance Corporal died after she fell from her 13th floor apartment in an apparent suicide yesterday. The 21-year-old Kuwaiti woman who worked at the Drug Control General Department was pronounced dead on the scene of her building in Mahboulah. An investigation was opened into the case.

### Ex-wife beaten

Kuwaiti woman accused her ex-husband and his sister of storming her apartment and beating and breaking her nose because of previous disputes between her and the sister. The citizen submitted a medical report stating she suffered a broken nose and bleeding, bruised eyes and mouth.

## Temporary ban on shrimp imports

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Supreme Food Safety Committee's secretary Adel Al-Sowait said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) issued a few decisions based on the recommendations the committee made after its meeting number 4/2018. Sowait added that the decisions included temporarily banning all imports of fresh, frozen and processed shrimp and certain marine crustaceans because of the white spot syndrome virus detected in them, with the exception of those without heads or shells, those tightly sealed and treated with at least 121 degrees centigrade temperature for at least 3.6 minutes, cooked or marinated.

Sowait added that the decisions included banning Al-Durra products produced on Jan 13, 2018 and due to expire on July 12, 2019 because it contains too much of the Carbendazim pesticide. The decisions also banned oysters imported from Canada, lettuce from the US, green Indian cardamom of the Al-Jameel brand, German cottage cheese of the Jocca brand, all kinds of poultry meats and eggs from Togo, Al-Borj tahini from Syria, in addition to a temporary ban on shrimps imported from Macedonia and temporary ban on meats imported from Kenya, where foot and mouth disease was detected. On the other hand, MoCI decisions included lifting a previous ban on fresh, chilled, frozen and processed poultry meats imported from Japan.



## Auditing firms play greater role in GCC amid economic reforms

**KUWAIT:** Since the global financial crisis of 2008, auditing firms in the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries, have moved from revenue-generating economy to productive one, thus playing a greater role.

Their activities expanded from reviewing the financial accounts of companies to assessing the risks and providing consultancy regarding acquisitions and mergers. They also provide economic, professional and technical consultancy to government bodies thanks to their long experience.

For example, Ernst and Young (EY), a multinational professional service provider headquartered in London, offered essential studies to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance on subsidized staples and the privatization of the flag carrier Kuwait Airways Corporation. EY, one of the world's 'Big Four' accounting firms, provides financial audit, tax, consulting and advisory services to companies,

### Car thieves caught

Hawally police busted a three-member Syrian gang that committed five car thefts. The three were caught when general security men noticed suspicious movements by three persons near a vehicle in front of a mall. Police approached the three and found tools used to break into cars. They were arrested and taken to the police station, where they confessed to commit five thefts during which they stole mobile phones and valuable items, which they sold to several shops.

### Abducting woman found

Police arrested an abducting Egyptian woman with a drunk citizen. They had an imported liquor bottle. The woman had escaped from her family's house in Fintas months ago and was put up by the young man in his apartment. The man was driving erratically, so he was pulled over and found to be under the influence, while the girl was found reported missing.

### Fugitive arrested

Jahra police arrested a citizen wanted to serve a seven-year jail sentence following stiff resistance. Jahra patrolmen suspected a driver who was busy with his mobile phone, so he was pulled over. He claimed that he forgot his ID at home, so his fingerprint was scanned which revealed

his identity and criminal record. He attempted to escape and resisted and insulted police, but was brought under control and sent to concerned authorities.

### Drunkard detained

An Asian man was arrested by Jahra police when he was found sleeping near a power transformer in Jahra market. Passersby called police thinking the man may have suffered from hypoglycemia, but when police arrived, they found out that he was drunk and had dozed off. He was sent to police to be deported.

### Murder threat

Sulaibiya police arrested four bedoons and freed a girl they had threatened to kill. Three of the bedoons were charged with attacking and insulting police. Police responded to a call about a dispute in a house, but a man came out and said it was a personal matter and that he will come to the police station. But policemen were surprised by a girl running out followed by a man with a knife. When he was stopped by a policeman, he attempted to attack him. He then threw the knife inside and dragged the girl inside, then another bedoon came out with a stick and demanded police go away. Back-up was called and the four were arrested.

## Interior Minister meets Saudi envoy

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received yesterday Saudi Ambassador Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud.

During the meeting, the Minister of Interior stressed the depth of relations between the two coun-

tries and important regional and international issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of Interior said in a press statement. The Saudi Ambassador praised Kuwait's role in maintaining regional peace, and hailed his meeting with the Kuwaiti minister, according to the statement. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received Saudi Ambassador Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud. — KUNA

## OAPEC touts 'remarkable' oil, gas discoveries

**KUWAIT:** The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said yesterday it made nine new discoveries last year, with five being oil-related ones and four natural gas findings. OAPEC member nations are eager to ratchet up their oil and gas reserves through an increase in production capacity, which, in turn, leads to more oil discoveries at a time where global energy demand has soared, the Kuwait-based regional bloc said in a statement.

Among the discoveries is a sprawling oil field in Egypt expected to churn out around 2.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas by the year 2019, the statement revealed. Meanwhile, Bahrain has stumbled upon a massive rock oil field that could be the catalyst for a myriad of large-scale development projects in the Gulf kingdom, it added. Meanwhile, proven oil reserves in OAPEC member states are worth 706.8 billion barrels, accounting for 48.8 percent of the world's oil reserves, while the bloc owns 27 percent of global gas reserves with 53.5 trillion cubic feet of gas. — KUNA

including the public shareholding and private-owned ones.

It offers assurance services, taxation, management consulting, advisory, actuarial, corporate finance and legal services, and provides training for a large number of auditors around the globe.

Deloitte, another member of the Big Four, is considered the largest professional services network in the world by revenue and number of professionals. Deloitte provides audit, tax, consulting, enterprise risk and financial advisory services with more than 263,900 professionals in 150 countries. Founded by William Welch Deloitte in London in 1845, Deloitte has the largest number of clients amongst FTSE 250 companies in the UK and has the highest market share in auditing among the top 500 companies in India.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), also a 'Big Four' auditor, is the world's second largest professional services firm. With more than 236,000 staffers, PwC is a network of firms with 743 locations in 158 countries. Nearly 22 percent of its workforce are located in Asia, 26 percent in North America and Caribbean and 32 percent in Western Europe. Founded in 1998 in London, PwC is considered the most prestigious accounting firm in the world for seven consecutive years and the top firm to work for in North America for three consecutive years.

EY, the third largest auditor, was formed in 1989 in England by a merger of Ernst and Whinney Co., and Arthur Young and Co. The acronym EY was used informally for the firm prior to its official adoption. It has nearly 190,000 workforce in 150 countries. The fourth big audi-

tor, KPMG, was founded in Amstelveen, the Netherlands, in 1987; it employs 189,000 people in 155 countries.

It has three lines of services - financial audit, tax, and advisory. Its tax and advisory services are further divided into various service groups. The trading name, KPMG, is the acronym of "Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler; it refers to the merger of KMG (Klynveld Main Goerdeler) with Peat Marwick in 1987. The Big Four were previously called the 'Big Eight' before shrinking to five and then four through a series of mergers since 2002.

On the advisory role of these companies, Chairman of Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA) Saqer Al-Hees said those firms provide professional and technical consultancy in various fields besides their basic auditing activity. Since the financial crisis of 2007-2008, the auditing role of these firms has been growing particularly in the field of assessing the financial risks and testing the internal control systems of corporations, he said.

"It has become clearer that for businesses to continue growing in a sustained way they need to adapt to changes constantly. Hence, the consultancy and auditing services become a crucial consideration," Hees explained. The auditing firms offer essential economic studies for private and government-owned corporations in the various stages of formation, operation, restructuring, rehabilitation and liquidation. They set forth strategies and viable plans to ensure effective performance, minimizing costs and maximizing profits as well as good governance, he added. — KUNA



## Local

# Amir, Crown Prince receive top state officials at Seif Palace

## Amir offers condolences over Cuban plane crash victims



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy

Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime

Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. Also yesterday, Ghanem met with new Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al-Saud in his office.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of

condolences to Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel over a plane crash that took place last Friday in Havana, which resulted in scores of casualties. His Highness also wished a speedy recovery for the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister and Speaker Ghanem also sent similar cables. —KUNA

## Premier boasts of Amir's support for Palestinian cause

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Saturday cabled His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressing great pride at the serious stand and the significant and positive role undertaken by His Highness in supporting the just Palestinian cause.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak says in the cable he is deeply boastful of His Highness the Amir backing for the brotherly Palestinian people rights, lauding the sincere statement addressed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad at the Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held in Istanbul on Friday. His Highness the Amir, in his statement at the top-level Islamic meeting, decried oppressive practices and killing of the innocent of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the premier admired His Highness the Amir's call upon the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and his condemnation for its failure to implement its resolutions.

His Highness the Amir, the premier adds, has denounced absence of the international conscience, warning of repercussions emanating from such passiveness: such as mounting tension, violence and instability.

His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak continues, has noted that the unilateral decision to open the US Embassy in Jerusalem will be at the expense of the city's Palestinian identity, will alter its historic status, Judaize it, change its religious and historic identity as a city harboring all heavenly religions. Such an Israeli policy explicitly constitutes challenge to advocates of the heavenly religions and blatantly breaches Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak highly valued His Highness the Amir resolve to exert serious efforts for issuing a UN resolution for securing international protection for the brotherly Palestinian people, who have been targeted with the oppressive practices. Such a stance and effort on part of His Highness the Amir have come as part of his bright record of supporting the just Palestinian and Arab causes.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem had stated earlier that His Highness the Amir's speech shows how desperation that lead to violence was a result of failure to implement UN resolution related to Palestine cause. His Highness the Amir shed light on consequences of absence of international legitimacy, international humanitarian law and US decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem.

These acts, said Ghanem in a statement, fomented feelings of "despair and disappointment among people of the region, and can trigger violence." His Highness the Amir also noted that Kuwait, which was a non-permanent member at the UN Security Council, distributed a draft resolution to UNSC members to provide international protection for the Palestinian people.

This announcement, said Ghanem, reaffirmed Kuwait's relentless efforts to issue a UN resolution that provided protection for the Palestinian people. "His Highness the Amir is adopting anew a clear national, Islamic and humanitarian approach related to the just causes of the Palestinian people, which represents a guideline for our political address at the parliamentary and popular level," said Ghanem. — KUNA

## Palestinian Ambassador praises Amir's speech

KUWAIT: The speech that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered before the Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Istanbul last Friday should be used as the conference's official document due to its significance and the unprecedented messages it contained, Ambassador of Palestine to Kuwait Rami Tahboub said, adding that it should be adopted as an official document by the UN. Tahboub added that the entire international community, namely the United States and the permanent United Nations Security Council members, should respond to the inquiries raised in His Highness the Amir's speech, stressing that answers to such inquiries would be the key to solving the Palestinian cause.




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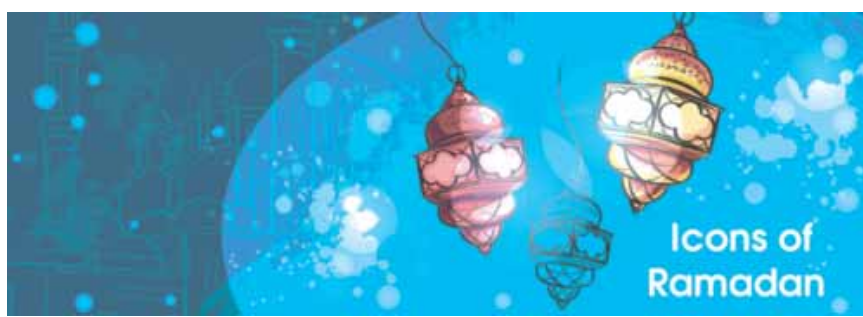
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## Local



## The 'fanous' lights the way for a happy Ramadan

By Faten Omar

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.

During Ramadan, homes, malls, hotels and streets in the Middle East are decorated with colorful lanterns. Known in Arabic as fanous (pl fawanees), they range in size and shape, creating a beautiful and magical atmosphere. The fanous has become a worldwide symbol that represents Ramadan. In the early days of Islam, the lanterns used to light up the way to go to the mosque and visit friends and relatives. The word 'fanous' is from the Greek phanos, referring to one of the means of illumination.

There are many stories about the origin of the lantern. One of these is that the Fatimid caliph was out on the streets at night to sight the crescent of Ramadan, and children went out with him with lanterns to light the way. The children sang songs to express their happiness on the advent of the



holy month.

Generations of Muslims continue to hold on to traditions and light the fanous to welcome Ramadan.

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

## History of Kuwait



**KUWAIT:** The dates market as it looked like in early 1960. Dates are famous foods in Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula throughout the history of the region. The picture shows a child eating dates while the seller and a customer look on. (Source: 'Pictures of the old markets of Kuwait' by Ali Al-Rais, Center of Research and Studies on Kuwait 2017. Researched by Mohammad Zakaria Abu El Ella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)

## Over 1.3 million users installed KFH Quran App

**KUWAIT:** Over 1.3 million users installed the high-quality version 4 of the Holy Quran Application launched by Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in less than a month. This app is available on App Store for iPhone and iPad users with enhanced features of which are a novel display design, compatibility with different languages and screen orientation: horizontal and vertical.

Group Chief Strategy Officer at KFH, Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem, said that the initiative of launching the Quran app emphasizes the success of KFH in adopting technology, while strengthening the Bank's identity in all its businesses as a world leading Islamic financial institution. The application assists in spreading the Holy Quran and its meanings and teachings among users around the globe, especially in the holy month of Ramadan.

Mukhaizeem added in a press statement, that the version 4 of the Holy Quran App is a gift from KFH to all users around the globe who are seeking to benefit from the latest available mobile technology, especially after the great success of previous versions of the Holy Quran app where the number of users worldwide on IOS and Android outpaced 3 million users.

He explained that the all-new Holy Quran app supports the new versions of iPhones and iPads such as iPhone X, iPad Pro. It is specially designed to both display and provide audio for the Holy Quran in an easy and interactive way. This latest release gives users an ability to interact



Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

with the app while keeping the beauty of the Holy Quran such as the Othmani font, inscriptions and directories verses; of Soura and Ayah, side margins to enhance the aesthetics of the content, display more than one page on the screen, the ability to operate with another application on the screen, save the options used and retrieve them on more than one device, as well as the previous features of interpretations and translations of several languages, night light feature and other features.

Mukhaizeem indicated KFH will continue upgrading the Holy Quran application, revealing that one of the main features of the upcoming phase is the ability to share Holy Quran verses on social media channels, supporting guidance features for the blind in addition to several features and characteristics. iPhone and iPad users can visit App Store and download the free Quran app by adding KFH in the search list. This app is a key App for People in Ramadan.

## Zain supports #Ramadan\_Aman campaign for second consecutive year

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the #Ramadan\_Aman (Safe Ramadan) campaign for the second consecutive year in collaboration with "Nahtam" volunteering team (under the Volunteering Work Center) and the Ministry of Interior. This year, the campaign comes under the tagline 'Together for a Ramadan without accidents', with the aim of reducing road accidents during iftar time in Ramadan. Zain's support to this campaign for the second consecutive year came in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility Strategy and under its Ramadan campaign, which focuses on supporting campaigns and initiatives that present an added value to the society. Zain is keen on enriching its contributions towards the community in which it operates all year-round and especially in the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Ramadan Aman, which means "Safe Ramadan", is a volunteering campaign that centers around the idea of distributing iftar meals to drivers on intersections, traffic lights, and main roads during Maghreb prayer time, with the aim of reducing road accidents that usually occur during this period due to speeding to catch up to the iftar meal. Zain volunteers participated in distributing the iftar meals, and Zain also sent awareness messages through SMS and social media to raise awareness about this campaign and contribute to minimizing the number of road accidents during this period.

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday



**KUWAIT:** Zain volunteers participate in distributing meals to drivers.

lives. Zain's social and CSSR campaign during the holy month of Ramadan includes an extensive array of initiatives and programs that focus on celebrating the true spirit the Holy month brings. Zain kicked-off its Ramadan campaign before the beginning of the Holy Month, where the company's own team of volunteers packed Ramadan Machla boxes - containing essential food supplies - at the company's main headquarters and delivered them to underprivileged families who are in need of support during the month of fasting. The distribution covered multiple areas of Al-Jahra governorate throughout four days. The plan also included delivering a

large number of boxes to Zain's partners of non-profit entities, including the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), the Kuwait Food Bank, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and Zakat House.

Zain also provides fasting individuals with daily iftar meals under the supervision of its volunteers team. The banquets are spread in three main halls in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Khaitan, and Hawally as part of a strategy to cover the most populated areas of Kuwait in order to assure the maximum amount of individuals' iftar needs are covered. This year, Zain will offer over 50,000 daily iftar meals throughout the holy month.



**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) distributed suhoor meals to cleaning and construction workers as part of its social responsibility activities during the holy month of Ramadan.





Local



International Flavors

# Vietnamese crispy salmon rolls: Great Ramadan appetizer

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Vietnamese food is about light and clean flavors, with fresh herbs and thin slivers of chilies. Kuwait Times interviewed Lan Nguyen, the wife of the Vietnamese ambassador to Kuwait to learn what makes this small country's cooking so distinctive. She shared the recipe of Vietnamese crispy salmon rolls for Ramadan.

Nguyen said: "Vietnamese spring rolls are crispy on the outside and creamy and fresh on the inside. These spring rolls make a great appetizer for any kind of party and are easily made at home in less than an hour. The secret is Vietnamese rice paper. If you cannot find authentic Vietnamese rice paper in the market, it can be replaced by thin spring roll pastry from any store."

She said that the following recipe will serve four people and will take 30 minutes for preparation and 15 minutes for cooking, adding that the rolls can be stuffed with fish, meat or chicken.



**KUWAIT:** Lan Nguyen, the wife of the Vietnamese ambassador to Kuwait. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

Fresh cilantro: 1/2 bunch  
Fresh dill: 1/2 bunch  
For the lime chili mayonnaise:  
Mayonnaise: 1 cup  
Chili paste: 2 tablespoons  
Juice of fresh lime: 1/2 tablespoon  
Salt  
Pepper

**For sweet and sour sauce:**  
Fish sauce: 1 tablespoon  
Rice vinegar: 2 tablespoons or juice of fresh lime: 2 tablespoons  
Sugar: 3 tablespoons  
Warm water: 6 tablespoons  
2 garlic cloves, minced.  
2 fresh red Thai chilies, thinly sliced.

**Ingredients:**  
200g fresh salmon, skin off, diced.  
200g fresh salmon, skin off, minced.  
100g yellow onions diced.  
200g fresh mushroom, diced.  
150g fennel, diced.  
2 eggs  
Vietnamese rice paper: 20pcs  
Cooking cream: 20 ml  
Grated Parmesan cheese: 20g  
Salmon seasoning: 4g  
Bread crumbs: 100g  
Tempura flour: 50g  
Cooking oil: 300 ml

**Preparation instructions:**

For lime chili mayonnaise: Whisk together the mayonnaise, chili paste and the lime juice. Add salt and pepper. Set the sauce aside.

For sweet and sour sauce: Whisk together all the ingredients above. Set the sauce aside.

**For rolls:**

1. Mix gently all the diced and minced salmon with onion, mushroom, fennel diced together in a mixing bowl. Add two whites of egg, 10g Parmesan cheese, cooking cream and salmon seasoning into the bowl, mix gently with hands until well combined. Chill filling, covered with plastic wrap, until cold.

2. Place flour, two egg yolks and bread crumbs, separately in three shallow dishes. In bread crumbs dish, add 10g Parmesan cheese and 1/4 bunch of chopped cilantro and mix until well combined.

3. Place one wrapper on a work surface, spray a little bit of water if the wrapper is dry. Fold from the bottom side up around 2 cm, put two tablespoons filling on the folded edge and shape filling into a thin 5-inch log. Fold left and right corners of wrapper over filling, overlapping slightly and aligning bottom edges. (Wrapper will resemble an open envelope.) Dab top corner with yolk, then roll up wrapper away from you into a long thin roll, making sure ends stay tucked inside.

4. Deep each roll into the flour and shake tightly off the excess. Next, run the roll through the egg yolk to coat it lightly and hold the roll over the liquid to let any excess fall back into the bowl. Finally, lay the roll in the bread crumbs, turn it over and press it into the breadcrumb to coat. Place breaded roll on a piece of waxed paper.

5. Heat one and half inches of oil in a 5- to 6-quart



Vietnamese crispy salmon rolls.

pot over moderately high heat until it registers 365 F on a thermometer. Fry rolls in batches of 5 or 6, keeping rolls apart during first minute of frying to prevent sticking, until golden brown and cooked through, 4 to 5 minutes. (Return oil to 365 F between batches.) Transfer all fried rolls to a colander lined with paper towels and drain rolls upright for 2-3 minutes.

6. Serve with dipping sauce.



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Wrongful jailing sheds light on slow justice in Pakistan

## Few calls for reform in gun-loving Texas

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SARAJEVO: Supporters of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wave Turkish national flags during a pre-election rally yesterday. — AFP

# Erdogan holds election rally in Bosnia

### Thousands of people converge on Sarajevo's largest sports venue

SARAJEVO: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Bosnia yesterday to hold his only election rally outside Turkey, while other EU countries have banned such events ahead of Ankara's presidential and parliamentary elections next month. The capital Sarajevo was chosen for the event after countries such as Germany, Austria and the Netherlands have barred Turkish politicians from holding such rallies, stoking tensions between Ankara and Brussels.

Turkey is scheduled to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on June 24, with three million expatriate Turks allowed to vote, including 1.4 million in Germany. Thousands of people, many wearing scarves and banners carrying pictures of the Turkish leader, and waving Turkish flags, converged on Sarajevo's largest sports venue, Zetra, where the rally was to be held. And giant billboards welcomed Erdogan in Turkish and Bosnian. Security was tight, with local media reporting that crowds of up to 20,000 were expected.

#### Rally for 'Sultan Erdogan'

Despite the ban in other European countries, Bosnia had not been expected to stop Turkish politicians from

campaigning on its soil, given the close ties between Bosnian Muslim leader Bakir Izetbegovic and his SDA party and Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). According to Bosnian media, the AKP is planning to open a representative office in Bosnia soon. "We will show that he (Erdogan) has friends and that there are those who are proud of him," Izetbegovic, the Muslim member of Bosnia's tripartite presidency, told his supporters last week. The Turkish leader was not liked in the West and there were many "who do not like him in this country", because "he is a powerful Muslim leader that we have not had for a long time," Izetbegovic argued.

Nevertheless, support was not unanimous. In an ironic front page article, the daily newspaper Vecernji list asked whether, after the rally for "Sultan" Erdogan, Sarajevo might not soon be welcoming Russian leader Vladimir Putin or even Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad.

#### 'We will die for him'

"Why hold a rally in Bosnia rather than in Turkey. Of course, I mind," pensioner Spomenka Beus, 74, told AFP. But, Muhamed Yanik, a 20-year-old student, said he had

travelled 28 hours by bus from Germany to see Erdogan. "If he says so, we will die for him," Yanik said. But others, such as theatre director Dino Mustafic, felt Erdogan's visit harked back to the colonial times of the Ottoman Empire, when the Balkans, notably Bosnia, were ruled by the Ottomans for more than four centuries until 1878. The event would be an occasion for "poor local people to euphorically applaud their sultan," he tweeted.

Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik accused the Turkish leader of "interfering" in Bosnia's affairs. Turkey has excellent relations with Bosnia and Turkish companies have played a major role in the country's reconstruction following its 1990s inter-ethnic war. Erdogan has called snap presidential and parliamentary elections for June 24, bringing the polls forward by a year-and-a-half. Half of Bosnia's 3.5 million citizens are Muslims, a third are Serbs, while Croats make some 15 percent of the population.

His supporters were expected to arrive from all over Europe, from Germany, Austria, Belgium, Scandinavia, the Netherlands Switzerland, Italy or Hungary. The expatriate European vote is generally a source of support Erdogan's AKP and officials are keen to rouse a strong turnout in Europe. The early election in Turkey is set to



SARAJEVO: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan (left) meets Chairman of the Tripartite Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bakir Izetbegovic yesterday. — AFP

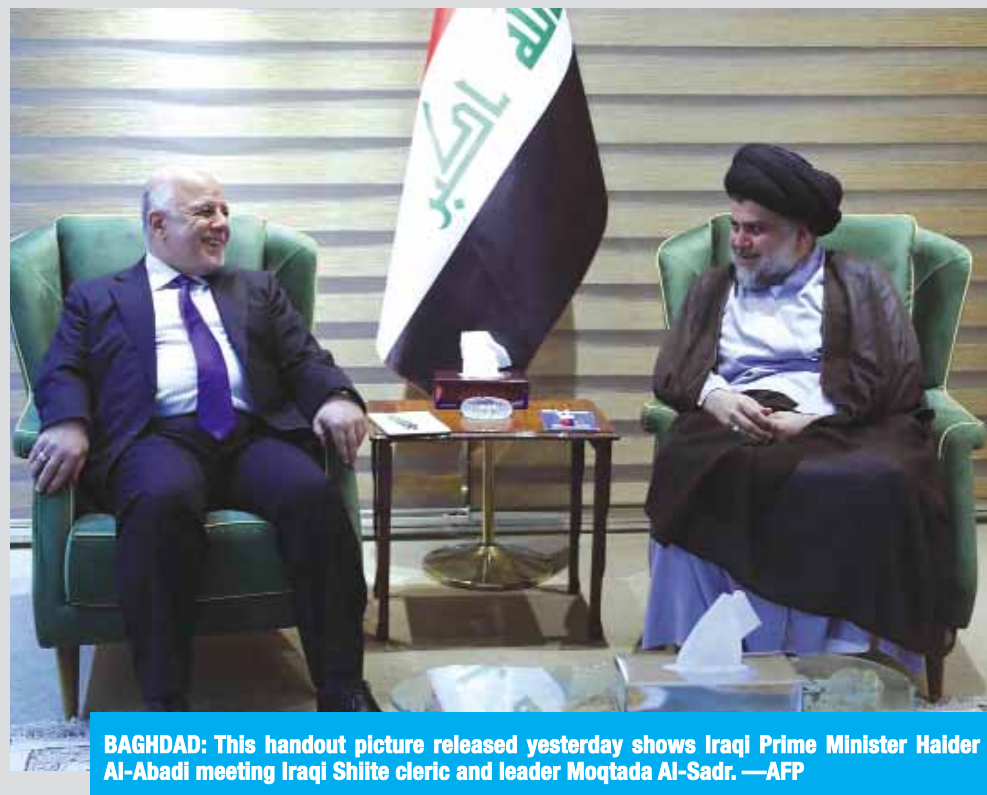
accelerate its transition to the new presidential system with full executive powers which critics fear will lead to a one-man rule. —AFP

## Sadr meets Abadi, hinting at coalition

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi met with Moqtada Al-Sadr on Saturday, less than 24 hours after the Shiite cleric's bloc was declared winner of Iraq's parliamentary election, the clearest sign yet they could work together to form a coalition. "During our meeting, we agreed to work together and with other parties to expedite the process of forming a new Iraqi government," Abadi said at a joint press conference. "It will be a strong government, capable of providing to its citizens services, security and economic prosperity."

Sadr, a long-time adversary of the United States who also opposes Iranian influence in Iraq, cannot become prime minister because he did not run in the election. However, his bloc's victory puts him in a position to have a strong say in negotiations. His Sairoon electoral list captured 54 parliamentary seats, 12 more than Abadi's. "Our door is open to anyone as long as they want to build the nation, and that it be an Iraqi decision," Sadr said.

A bloc led by Hadi Al-Amiri, one of the most powerful figures in Iraq, came in second. Amiri, who leads an umbrella of paramilitary groups, has maintained close ties with Iran for decades. Before the election, Tehran publicly stated it would not allow Sadr's bloc to govern close ally Iraq, with which it shares a border. Iran has influenced the choice for prime minister in the past. Winning the largest number of seats does not automati-



BAGHDAD: This handout picture released yesterday shows Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi meeting Iraqi Shiite cleric and leader Moqtada Al-Sadr. —AFP

cally guarantee that Sadr will be able to hand-pick a prime minister.

Parties will have to align themselves to try and form a bloc large enough for the parliamentary majority necessary to nominate a candidate. The government should be formed within 90 days of the official results, but negotiations are expected to drag on for months. The election dealt a blow to Abadi, but he could still emerge as a compromise

candidate palatable to all sides because he has managed the competing interests of the United States and Iran - unwitting allies in the war against Islamic State - during his term in office. In recent days, Sadr also met with Ammar Al-Hakim, whose Hikma Movement trailed in seventh place, as well as with ambassadors from Iraq's neighboring countries including Saudi Arabia, Tehran's main rival in the Middle East. — Reuters

## India court jails ex-diplomat for spying for Pak

NEW DELHI: An Indian diplomat convicted of passing state secrets to Pakistan's intelligence services has been jailed for three years, her lawyer said yesterday. Madhuri Gupta was found guilty in a New Delhi court on Friday of "spying and wrongful communication of information" while posted to the Indian embassy in Islamabad. Gupta, 61, was arrested in 2010 for allegedly passing information to the ISI, the intelligence wing of India's arch-rival Pakistan.

The low-level diplomat was detained for alleged breaches of India's official secrets act and held for two years before being released on bail. Her lawyer, Joginder Dahiya, said Gupta would appeal her sentencing in a higher court. "She has already been in custody for about 21 months. She should have been released on the basis of the time she has already spent in jail," he told AFP.

Gupta avoided more serious jail time because the information she passed to Pakistani handlers in 2009 and 2010 was not military in nature, the Press Trust of India reported. As a second secretary, Gupta was among the lowest ranked officials at the highly-sensitive embassy in the Pakistani capital. She has always denied the charges and claims she was falsely implicated by embassy and foreign ministry officials with whom she had a strained relationship.



Madhuri Gupta

But the court determined that her actions had tarnished India's reputation and compromised its security, handing the maximum possible jail term for the offences. The information "passed on by the accused (was) categorically sensitive information which could have been useful to the enemy country... and its secrecy was of utmost importance," PTI reported. "Therefore, she does not deserve any leniency in punishment."

Indian police say Gupta had been under surveillance for six months before being taken into custody in 2010. Nuclear rivals India and Pakistan routinely accuse one another of sending spies into their countries, and it is not uncommon for either nation to expel diplomats accused of espionage. —AFP



International

# Africa vows to recover stolen assets

**ABUJA:** Former British prime minister David Cameron two years ago was caught talking about an anti-corruption summit and calling Nigeria “fantastically corrupt”. But meanwhile his country ranks among the top destinations for stolen assets from African countries. Nigeria and ex-British colonies in Africa hope to change that by working together to repatriate billions of dollars in offshore accounts from London and beyond. At a regional conference held this week in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, the heads of anti-corruption agencies from around Africa met to discuss strategies to overcome bottlenecks in the recovery of stolen assets.

“Concerned about the heavy losses that Africa suffers as a result of illegal transfers of proceeds of corruption and crime out of Africa,” the anti-corruption representatives vowed on Friday to “strengthen cooperation and partnership in the tracing, recovery and return of assets”. They further pledged in a joint statement to encourage African countries to commit to greater corporate transparency and called for investment in anti-corruption agencies to “trace, recover and return assets.”

**‘Fight this tsunami’**

Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland said Africa is losing tens of billions of dollars annually to corruption, urging the anti-graft tsars to lead the “fight against this tsunami”. “We all know that the difference between the money we need to deliver the hopes and aspirations (of our people)... and the money we have, is the sum equivalent to that which is egregiously siphoned off by corrupt practices,” Scotland said.

Nigeria, the continent’s largest oil producer, is ranked among the most corrupt countries in the world by anti-graft group Transparency International. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has promised to continue his war against corruption as part of his 2019 re-election campaign. Buhari’s anti-graft chief Ibrahim Magu claimed earlier this year that his agency has recovered over 500 billion naira (\$1.3 billion) in illicit funds. But the government’s fight against corruption has been accused of being politically motivated.

**‘Mafia of leaders’**

Commonwealth adviser Roger Koranteng told AFP that leaders at the summit want a regional approach to recovery of stolen assets. “There is strength in unity. If you go as a single country, you will have a problem because the countries outside the African countries are together,” he said. Sustaining the momentum however may be difficult. Ghana’s independent prosecutor Martin Amidu said the will to tackle graft comes in ebbs and flows on the continent. “For me, for the past decades, Africa has had a mafia of leaders who speak of corruption as if they are against it but internally didn’t attempt to fight it,” Amidu said.

Still, countries stand to gain huge amounts of money should they streamline asset recovery. Nigeria announced in April it received over 300 million dollars from Switzerland as part of money seized from the family of ex-dictator Sani Abacha, who ruled the country from 1993 until 1998. Buhari said the money will be spent on a welfare scheme targeting the “poorest of Nigerians”, in a country where poverty is widespread and unemployment is rampant.

Yet it is difficult to trace how the repatriated mon-

ey is being spent, with some critics voicing concerns that stolen money gets repatriated to Nigeria only to be looted again. “There is a need for robust oversight mechanisms as well as continuous monitoring of the use of recovered assets to ensure that they are used properly and efficiently for development outcomes and poverty alleviation,” said Marie Chene of Transparency International in a 2017 report.

**‘Global effort’**

Greater global attention on the issue is helping reforms, say anti-corruption activists. “It took the publication of the Panama Papers to expose many government officials with offshore accounts,” said Debo Adeniran of the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders lobby group. “The decision to sign mutual legal assistance with several countries is helping

the (Nigerian) government in its loot recovery efforts,” Adeniran said. In January, Nigeria signed a deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on asset recovery. Buhari’s anti-corruption sweep and banking reforms are acting as a deterrent, Adeniran added. “When you steal and cannot keep the money in the banks, you will stop stealing,” he said. —AFP

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## Tackling business of kidnappings in Madagascar

**ANTANANARIVO:** It happened five years ago but “Andre” remembers being kidnapped at gunpoint like it was yesterday. He was snatched from outside his home in Madagascar, kept captive and beaten for several days, until his desperate family raised the ransom money to secure his release. For years, kidnapping gangs have operated largely with impunity in Madagascar, targeting “Karanas” of Indian origin, who form a 15,000-strong community renowned for its wealth and success in business.

Recent developments indicate that authorities in the large Indian Ocean island nation are beginning to crack down on the gangs after a recent spike in attacks. “Andre” spoke on condition of anonymity, telling AFP that discussing his ordeal publicly could put him and his family in danger again. “Even today I am sick - as soon as I hear that there has been another kidnapping in town. It has become automatic,” he said, also declining to reveal his profession.

In his fifties, Andre says that a squad of four people arrived outside his house in the capital Antananarivo one morning wearing hoods and carrying assault rifles. They bundled him into a car and took him to an unknown destination. He was held in a single room, beaten, tied up and blindfolded while his captors opened negotiations with his family.

**‘Try to recover’**

Andre refuses to reveal the ransom sum that was paid, or say how it was raised, but he was freed after seven days of intense dealing. Shattered by the experience, he fled Madagascar to try to make a fresh start before later returning to the country. “I came back and took up sport to try to recover, but it’s a situation I will never forget,” he said. In the last 10 years, at least 100 kidnappings have targeted Karanas in Madagascar, reaching a peak last year. “From what we know, there have been 14 kidnapping cases since 2017, a record level,” said Jean-Michel Frchet, head of the Karana action group Collectif Francais d’Origine Indienne a Madagascar (CFOIM).

Frchet said that the real figure was higher still, as many families chose to keep silent. “The situation is tense for our community, the fear of reprisals exists and it is often required that one is discreet,” he said, adding that “the (Karana) community remains poorly understood by the general population.” Karana emigration from India to Madagascar dates back to the late 17th century driven by trade, and they have long occupied influential posts in business and finance, especially dominating the retail sector.

Many kept their French citizenship after the island’s independence in 1960, and are viewed with suspicion by some Madagascans. In 2017, Forbes magazine named Madagascar’s wealthiest men, including Ylias Akbaraly, Hassanein Ibridjee and Iqbal Rahim - all Karana entrepreneurs who have amassed huge riches in one of the world’s poorest countries. —AFP

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## International

# Wrongful imprisonment sheds light on slow justice in Pakistan

## Women in particular face an uneven playing field

**KARACHI:** Asma Nawab spent two decades in jail, wrongfully accused of murdering her family. Finally acquitted, she is seeking a new life, free from whispers and memories, as her plight draws fresh questions over Pakistan's woeful justice system. Nawab was just 16 years old when someone slit the throats of her parents and only brother during an attempted robbery at their home in Pakistan's chaotic port city of Karachi in 1998.

With the killings dominating headlines, prosecutors pushed for swift justice in a 12-day trial that ended with a death sentence handed to Nawab and her then-fiance. The next 20 years were "very painful", Nawab, now 36, says tearfully. At first the other inmates were sceptical at her protests of innocence, but eventually she formed a new "family" of women - some convicted of kidnappings, others of murders.

They supported one another when progress on their cases was poor, or family neglected them. "We would cry on Eid and other festivals... It was very painful. I would feel it intensely" when relatives failed to visit, she said through sobs. "Only once my uncle came to see me." Though her trial was speedy, her appeal moved at a glacial speed through Pakistan's creaky justice system. It was not until 2015 that her lawyers petitioned the Supreme Court, which - after a three-year hearing - ordered Nawab released due to lack of evidence last month.

### Judicial woes

"The verdict of this case was given in 12 days but it took 19 and a half years to dispose of the appeals," her lawyer Javed Chatari told AFP. Nawab said the acquittal left her stunned. "I really couldn't believe it," she told AFP. The verdict left her "perplexed", she said, and she struggled to understand what would come next. "How would I face the world after living so long in jail?"

Stories like Nawab's are common in Pakistan, where

the judiciary lacks the capacity to cope with the country's surging population and an expanding case load, resulting in a mammoth backlog. In 2017 alone, there were more than 38,000 cases pending in Pakistan's Supreme Court in addition to hundreds of thousands awaiting trial across the judiciary, according to a Human Rights Commission Pakistan report released in April.

Rampant corruption in Pakistan's police force also means the wealthy are able to bypass the law, while deep-seated patriarchy means women in particular face an uneven playing field in the justice system. "Unequal power structures allow for people with advantage - money or power - to rise above the law. For the poor, the system is sluggish and sometimes is so weak that it is safe to label it as almost non-existent," said lawyer Benazir Jaoti, who specializes in women's legal and political empowerment in Pakistan. "Within the system, women are one of the groups of people that are significantly disadvantaged, it being a patriarchal society and a patriarchal system."

Even when the system finally comes through, as it did with Nawab's acquittal, that is usually as far as it goes, leaving those whose lives have been dismantled to repair the damage with little or no support.

### Going home again

Nawab has had little to return to since leaving Karachi's central prison in early April. With her loved ones dead, her family house was looted then fell into disrepair. Any potential compensation from the state will take time to process, her lawyer admits, acknowledging there's a high chance she will receive nothing. In the meantime, she is unemployed. During her first visit back to her humble family home she quietly wept as her lawyer broke the gate's lock with a hammer. "(The



**KARACHI:** In this picture taken on April 7, 2018, former Pakistani prisoner Asma Nawab (center) reacts before entering her house alongside her lawyer Javed Chatari (left) after her release. —AFP

police) left nothing behind," she said after walking through the dilapidated house covered in dust and cobwebs. "I lost my parents and now I see none of their belongings."

Nearly two decades after being convicted, Nawab still holds the media as much as the courts responsible for her treatment, saying she was unfairly portrayed as the culprit in the murders, including in a TV drama based on the case. Although she has been exonerated, her release has done little to change the public narrative. Persecution persists, Nawab says, with people in the streets frequently whispering cold remarks when

she walks past. "Society will not accept the verdict," agreed Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Farooq, commenting on the case. "She cannot get rid of this stigma as far as society is concerned."

But Nawab says she must move on and has plans to finish her studies and find a job. She has also vowed to raise awareness for other wrongly imprisoned women. Her lawyer says he will help her set up an NGO to give women like her the support she never had. "I don't want any other woman to have to endure the ordeal that I lived through," says Nawab. "So I will raise their voices for them." —AFP

## Fearing safety, Najib asks for police protection



**PEKAN:** Former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak shakes hands with supporters during an event yesterday. —AFP

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's former prime minister Najib Razak fears for his safety and has asked for police protection, his spokesman said yesterday, a day after the ex-leader complained over the conduct of police searching properties for evidence of corruption. Having ruled Malaysia for nearly 10 years, Najib and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, have been barred from leaving the country after his coalition's surprise defeat in an election on May 9.

The new government led by his mentor-turned-foe, Mahathir Mohamad, wants answers to how billions of dollars disappeared from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), a state fund founded by Najib. Najib has consistently denied all allegations of wrongdoing, but his image hasn't been helped by his wife's reputation for lavish spending. Earlier yesterday, the couple left Kuala Lumpur to spend time in Najib's home state of Pahang, having suffered the ignominy of police searching their home and other properties in the capital during the past few days.

Before retreating to his family constituency, Najib asked for police protection, though police have been stationed outside his house for the past week and he still travels with a police escort. "Najib has lodged a police report asking for protection for himself and his family as they fear for their safety after the 14th General Election," the spokesman told Bernama news agency. The Malay Mail newspaper reported that Najib had sought witness protection from the police due to "clear threats made".

Neither Bernama or the newspaper gave an indication on the source of any threat, and Najib's spokesmen were unable to immediately comment on the reports when contacted by Reuters. For the past two days, Malaysians have been avidly viewing footage of officers removing bags and boxes aired on news channels and uploaded to social media platforms. The police have seized at least 284 boxes of designer handbags and dozens of bags filled with cash and jewellery in the raids. Items such as Birkin handbags from Hermes, watches and other valuables were seen carted out of one condominium in downtown Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia's anti-graft agency wants to see the former leader back in the capital at its headquarters on Tuesday to give a statement specifically on the transfer of \$10.6 million from a former unit of 1MDB to an account belonging to Najib. 1MDB is also the focus of the biggest anti-kleptocracy probe launched by the Department of Justice in the United States. —Reuters

## For youth, voting for 92-year-old was no easy call

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Like many young Malaysians, Daniel Mizan Qayyum yearned for change in a country that has been under one party's corrosive thumb for six decades, so he naturally had misgivings about voting for a 92-year-old former autocrat. But Malaysia's rambunctious politics often creates unlikely allies, and Daniel is one of millions who catapulted the elderly Mahathir Mohamad to a shock victory in the May 9 elections over the corruption-plagued political machine that he once led. They had no choice.

"We were revolted," Daniel, a 27-year-old law student, said of Mahathir's late conversion into a reformist. "This guy was the one who strong-armed all the draconian laws," he said, referring to Mahathir's tough stance toward dissent in his 1981-2003 tenure. But Daniel and other young voters held their noses and voted, convinced that anything was better than the long-ruling former regime.

The untested Pakatan Harapan (Pact of Hope) coalition now faces the challenge of delivering on rising expectations for a new era, even while conservative attitudes and vested interests remain strong in the Muslim-majority country. And above it all looms Mahathir and his track record of crushing opponents. He now claims to be a changed man and says he plans to step aside within two years.

## Indonesian parents wait for justice 20 years after Suharto

**JAKARTA:** Almost every week Asih Widodo attends a vigil outside Indonesia's presidential palace, seeking justice for his son who died in an orgy of violence after the fall of dictator Suharto. Today marks the 20th anniversary of the former general's 1998 resignation at the height of the Asian economic crisis as Indonesia was paralysed by riots, food shortages, a plunging rupiah currency and mass unemployment.

More than 1,000 people are estimated to have been killed in riots and protests shortly before and in the months after Suharto's autocratic regime collapsed. Widodo's son, engineering student Sigit Prasetyo, died in a hail of army gunfire aimed at protesters. "I was at work when I got a phone call that my son was in a hospital - I knew immediately in my heart he was gone," Widodo told AFP at a recent vigil alongside other bereaved parents demanding answers over the death of protesting students. "My son was murdered by the army."

In the past two decades the country of 260 million has undergone what many see as a remarkable transition to democracy but Southeast Asia's biggest economy still grapples with rampant corruption and inequality. Suharto - who grabbed power in 1967 following the massacre in 1965-6 of hundreds of thousands of alleged communist sympathisers and ethnic Chinese - died in 2008. He was never held to account for the suspected looting of billions of dollars from state coffers or rights abuses during his three-decade rule, which became a byword for corruption and cronyism. And the violence linked to his government's collapse is another dark chapter which Indonesia has yet to address in any meaningful way.

### Managing expectations

"For any new government it is very important to manage expectations. You must be seen to be starting the processes of reform and doing things like reducing cost burdens," said Wong Chin Huat, a political analyst with the Penang Institute. "I think enough can be done to keep young voters happy, but expecting wholesale changes in the next two years is unrealistic." Many young Malaysians are merely enjoying the honeymoon period following Prime Minister Najib Razak's fall.

His Barisan Nasional (BN) government had become increasingly corrupt and repressive, stifling expression and stoking racial divisions for political gain. It dismayed a younger generation raised on free-wheeling social media and deeply concerned about job prospects and the country's direction. More than six million of Malaysia's 14.9 million registered voters are between 21 and 39 years old.

Detailed figures on how they voted have not been released, but analysts believe the demographic was decisive in ousting BN. For some, their demands are clear. Daniel, a student leader at Universiti Malaya, is one of many calling for Mahathir's government to quickly fulfil a pledge to replace a decades-old law restricting political activity on campuses which has stifled a generation of students. "The real struggle is to make sure that any new law erected by the current government limits their own powers in universities," he said.

Anis Syafiqah, who works for a leading civil-society group that has led past student protests demanding Najib's arrest, also wants education revitalised and academic freedom ensured. "Youths and students were afraid to speak out before," said Anis, 26. "We want to come back to academic freedom. It may take a long time."



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (right) shakes hands with opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim following Anwar's release from custody at the National Palace on May 16. —AFP

Others may also seek greater space or attention, from the LGBT community to Chinese and Indian minorities that have spent decades under Malay political domination, to economically disadvantaged groups.

Travel consultant Tan Jin Jie, 24, said he almost didn't vote because of Mahathir, and believes Malaysians should temper their expectations for now. "How practical would it

be, or how long would it take, for the new government to set Malaysia back onto the right path?" he said. "These are uncertainties but we hold onto hope that this will come to pass." "It goes back to what we Malaysians actually want. To continue struggling under the incumbent regime or vote for hope," said Tan, who wants to see steps to ease living and housing costs. —AFP



**JAKARTA:** This file photo taken on May 21, 1998 shows Indonesian students celebrating the resignation of former president Suharto in the fountain in front of the House of Representatives at the parliamentary complex. —AFP

### 'I'll keep fighting'

Ethnic Chinese Indonesians bore the brunt of the bloodshed in the last days of Suharto, with women covering in their homes for days as rape squads - purportedly led by army thugs - roamed Jakarta's streets. Many died trapped in burning buildings as angry mobs - resentful of their relative financial success - ransacked Chinese-owned stores, smashed windows and set fire to cars as the government teetered on the verge of collapse. Ayu Puspita was 30 when crowds stormed through the capital targeting Chinese-owned shops. "It was so chaotic. Cars were being burned, motorcycles were toppled over - it was just so scary," said Puspita at her restaurant in Glodok, known as Jakarta's Chinatown. Subianto, a 67-year-old parking attendant who has worked in Chinatown for some five decades, said he watched in shock as parts of the city went up in flames. "There were no police, no soldiers. People were looting everywhere. Trucks were coming to steal things." —AFP

## Myanmar orders Rohingya to leave tense border zone

**TOMBRU, Bangladesh:** Myanmar security forces have resumed loudspeaker broadcasts near its border with Bangladesh ordering Rohingya Muslims to immediately leave a strip of no-man's land between the two countries, refugees said yesterday. Around 6,000 refugees from the persecuted minority have been camping on the narrow stretch of land since fleeing a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's west last August. The majority of the nearly 700,000 Rohingya who escaped the violence settled in huge camps in Bangladesh but a smaller number insisted on staying put in the buffer zone between the borders.

Myanmar had agreed in February to stop using loudspeakers to order the stranded Muslims to leave the area immediately and cross into Bangladesh. The army also withdrew some of its heavy forces from the edge of no-man's land, where refugees camped on the other side of a barbed wire fence had complained of intimidation. But the loudspeaker messages resumed this weekend without warning, Rohingya community leaders said, exacerbating tension along the restive border zone. "They played it several times yesterday, and have been repeating it this morning. It's very disturbing and creates panic," said Mohammad Arif, one of the leaders camped in no-man's land. —AFP



International

# Maduro eyes second term despite economic woes

## President pledges to respect 'will of the people'

**CARACAS:** Venezuelans, reeling under a devastating economic crisis, began voting yesterday in an election boycotted by the opposition and condemned by much of the international community but expected to hand deeply unpopular President Nicolas Maduro a new mandate. Maduro, the political heir to the late leftist firebrand Hugo Chavez, has presided over an implosion of once wealthy oil producer Venezuela's economy since taking office in 2013.

Hyperinflation, food and medicine shortages, rising crime and broken water, power and transportation networks have sparked growing discontent and violent unrest among Venezuelans. However the 55-year-old former bus driver is expected to easily defeat his main rival Henri Falcon, a former army officer and state governor who has failed to gain the endorsement of the main opposition leaders, and an evangelical candidate, Javier Bertucci.

Wearing a bright red shirt that identifies him as a "Chavista", the president arrived early at a Caracas polling station along with his wife Cilia Flores and trusted officials and claimed to be the first person to cast a ballot. After voting, Maduro called the election a choice between "ballots and bullets", and pledged to respect "the will of the people". Maduro, who has a tight grip on the electoral and military authorities, faces a bitterly divided opposition which has called for a boycott. "Low enthusiasm will likely reduce voter turnout and enable Maduro to control the outcome without major social backlash," said analyst Risa Kraus-Targow of Eurasia Group.



### Ballots or bullets



Caracas, said he cast his ballot because "this has to be ended. Falcon is able to bring disaffected Chavistas and the opposition". Aware of the popular mood, Maduro on Saturday promised an "economic revolution" if re-elected, while Falcon promised to dollarize the economy, return companies expropriated by Chavez, and allow humanitarian aid, something the president rejects.

Some 20.5 million people are eligible to vote in a single-round election to choose a president for a six-year term that will begin in January 2019. Presidential elections are traditionally held in December, but they were moved up this year by the country's all-powerful and pro-government Constituent Assembly, catching the divided and weakened opposition off-guard. The Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) opposition coalition, increasingly pinning its hopes for change on outside pressure forcing the socialists to remove Maduro, has won support from the United States, the European Union and 14 countries of the Lima Group who have called for the vote to be postponed.

Maduro is accused of undermining democracy, usurping the power of the opposition-dominated legislature by replacing it with his Constituent Assembly, and cracking down hard 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.

Washington has dismissed the vote as a "sham" to keep Maduro in power, and has slapped sanctions on Caracas in a push to isolate his regime. Maduro pushed back after casting his ballot. "Venezuela is a country at peace that deserves respect," he told reporters. "To the world I say enough - end this ferocious campaign to twist our identity, our reality."

With this election Venezuela "is on the path to a period of



**CARACAS:** Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro waves outside a polling station during presidential elections yesterday. —AFP

political stability". "Your vote decides: ballots or bullets, motherland or colony, peace or violence, independence or subordination. Your vote decides, come out to vote," Maduro said. Despite holding 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 the 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," added US analyst Michael Shifter. "The country is a pow-

der keg and something could provoke unrest that would be difficult to contain."

At the Vatican, Pope Francis told thousands of Catholic faithful gathered for mass at Saint Peter's square that he wanted to dedicate "a special remembrance to my dear Venezuela". He then asked that the Holy Spirit grant Venezuela's "governors and people" the "wisdom to find the path towards peace and unity". He also prayed for the inmates who died in a Venezuela prison riot on Thursday. Polls opened at 6 am (1000 GMT) and are scheduled to close at 6 pm (2200 GMT). Some 30,000 police and armed forces personnel were deployed to maintain security. —AFP

## Hawaii reports first serious injury from volcano

**PAHOA, Hawaii:** A stream of lava blocked a Hawaii highway yesterday that serves as an escape route for coastal residents, while the first known serious injury was reported from fresh explosive eruptions from the Kilauea volcano. A homeowner on Noni Farms Road who was on a third-floor balcony had his leg shattered from his shin to his foot when hit by lava spatter, said Janet Snyder, a spokesperson for the Office of the Mayor, County of Hawaii. She added that lava spatters "can weigh as much as a refrigerator and even small pieces of spatter can kill". No other information was immediately available.

As magma destroyed four more homes, molten rock from two huge cracks merged into a single stream, threatening to block other escape routes and touching off brush fires. The erupting lava, which can reach a blistering 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit (1,093 degrees Celsius), crossed Highway 137 shortly before midnight local time (1000 GMT), Hawaii's

Civil Defense Agency said, and sent lava flowing into the ocean. That prompted warnings of laze - clouds of hydrochloric acid and steam embedded with fine glass particles formed when hot lava hits ocean water.

### Clearing a path

Authorities were trying Sunday to open up a road that was blocked by lava in 2014 to serve as an alternative escape route, Jessica Ferracane of the National Park Service told reporters. The park service is working to bulldoze almost a mile of hardened lava out of the way on nearby Highway 11, which has been impassable, she added. The Hawaii National Guard has warned of mandatory evacuations if more roads become blocked.

But officials went house-to-house in the area to urge more residents to flee, Snyder said, though no head count of the new evacuation was available early yesterday. For weeks, geologists have warned that hotter, fresher magma from Kilauea's summit would run underground and emerge some 25 miles east in the lower Puna district, where older, cooler lava has already destroyed 44 homes and other structures. "Summit magma has arrived," US Geological Survey scientist Wendy Stovall said on a conference call with reporters. "There is much more stuff coming out of the ground and it's going to produce flows that will move much further away." —Reuters

## Few calls for reform in gun-loving Texas



**SANTA FE, Texas:** Santa Fe High School students gather at a makeshift memorial during a community dinner put on by volunteers to help residents begin healing on Saturday. —AFP

**SANTA FE, Texas:** February's school massacre in Parkland, Florida inspired students to launch a spirited gun control movement. Similar calls for reform are unlikely to resonate following a deadly shooting in Texas, where support for gun rights is paramount. When a teen student stormed into Santa Fe High School on Friday and opened fire on his classmates and teachers, killing 10 people and wounding 10 more, it was the latest explosion of gun violence at America's schools.

But students and parents in this tight-knit rural community outside Houston said the rampage at their local school will not convince them to support stricter gun laws. "No, I think if he wanted to shoot the school he would have done it" regardless of the restriction levels on firearms, Tori White, a junior at Santa Fe High, told AFP about the suspect, 17-year-old Dimitrios Pagourtzis.

In Parkland, classmates from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where a 19-year-old slaughtered 14 students and three adult

staff members, have found themselves in the spotlight, as their call for stricter gun laws went national. In Santa Fe, "It's not going to happen," Jordan Flores, who graduated from Santa Fe in 2015, said as he and two friends brought donuts to state troopers posted at the high school's front gate.

The gun culture is so strong here, he said, that when reports emerged of a lockdown at the same school earlier this year, he and friends rushed to help - armed to the hilt. "We showed up, I had a .40 on my hip, a 12-gauge on my back, he had an AK. We were ready," Flores said. Blaming guns for the actions of individuals goes against the grain, he said. "It's outside factors" that are to blame, including bad parenting, the pressures from social media, and mental health issues, Flores added.

Sprawling and conservative Texas, a southern state bordering Mexico, has among the most permissive firearm laws in the United States, where a third of children live in a household with at least one firearm. —AFP

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## Week of horrors and changing perceptions

By James J Zogby

This has been a week of horrors in Palestine. On Monday, 63 mostly young Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli snipers. Another 2,700 were injured, mostly by live fire or tear gas. Adding insult to this injury, on the same day, the US opened its embassy in Jerusalem, pounding what may be the final nail in the coffin of the hopes for just Israeli/Palestinian peace. For hours on Monday, we sat glued to our televisions, watching these two events playing out, on split screen, in real time. The juxtaposition of the scenes from Jerusalem and Gaza couldn't have been more stark and revealing.

In Jerusalem, the mood was celebratory, almost gloating. A very white and wealthy crowd of Israeli and American dignitaries and their guests, dressed in their finest, attended the Embassy dedication event. They were on the left side of the screen. On the right side, we saw young Palestinians, their haggard faces showing a range of emotions from anger to fear. Most often, they were running, choking on tear gas or dodging bullets. Periodically, the camera would catch one of them suddenly dropping to the ground clutching a leg or an arm, or a side that had been hit by an Israeli sniper.

At the Jerusalem event and later at a White House briefing, we were told that the Embassy opening was making a contribution to peace and the violence occurring less than 50 miles away at the Gaza border was the fault of the Palestinians. The images that we saw playing out before us, however, laid bare that horrible lie. It was as if the participants in the two events inhabited very separate worlds. I was reminded of the way the British lived in colonial India or scenes of life on Southern plantations where the "cultured ways" of the white gentility coexisted alongside slavery. Closer to home, I thought of the disparate realities that define so many American cities - one of moneyed, self-satisfied, white elites and the other of poor and struggling people of color. Part of me (a very small part, to be sure) could almost feel bad for Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump. Having grown up in the rarefied world of wealth and privilege, looking down from their 50th story plush penthouses, what could they understand of life in Gaza - with its open sewage, its 70% youth employment, its two decades-long closure and now a full blockade.

## But then I ask

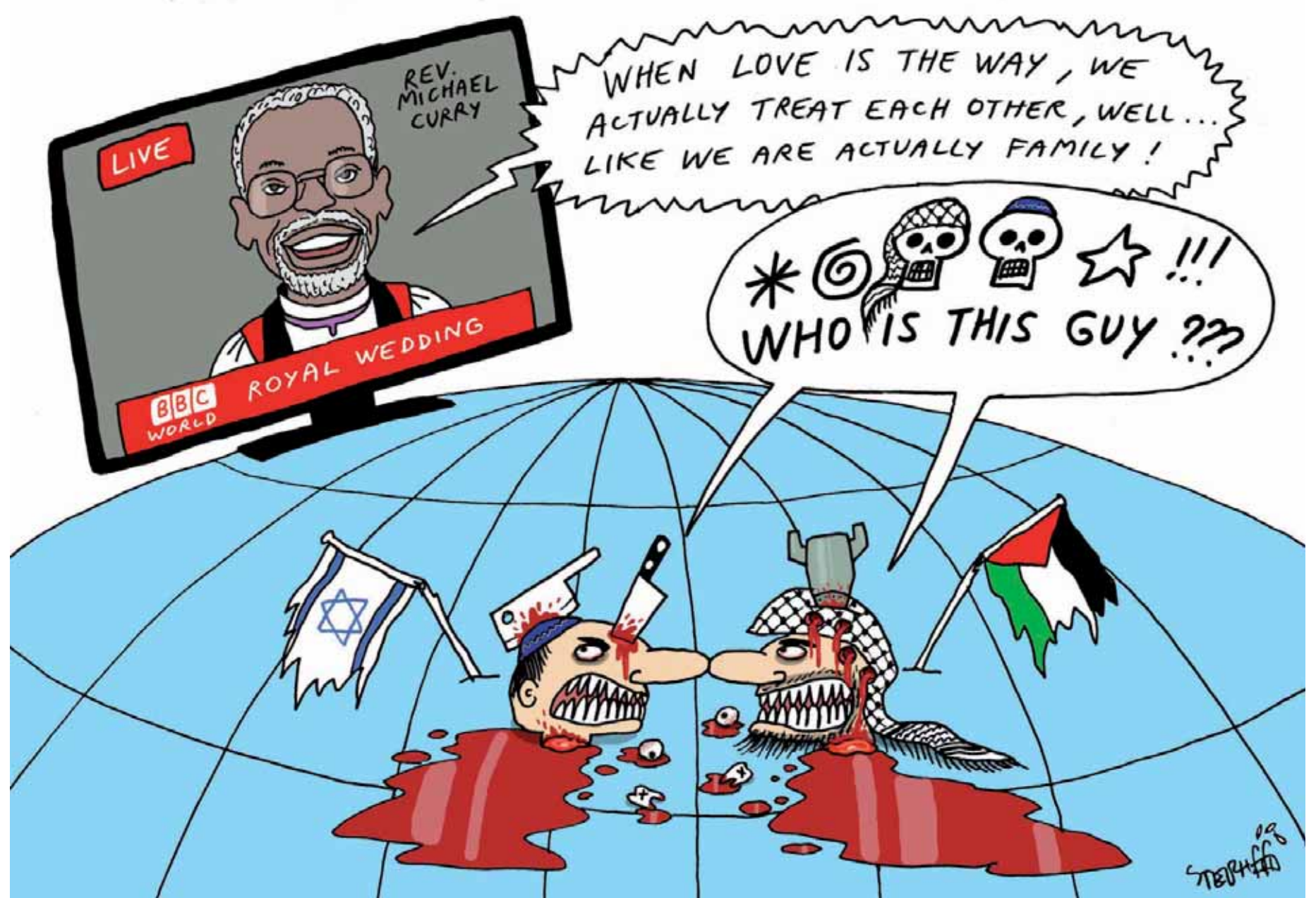
"Why, without that awareness or the sensitivity it would bring, would Kushner even attempt to sit in judgment of these Palestinians or feel even the slightest bit qualified to construct 'the ultimate deal' that will bring peace between one group of people whom he knows and the other about whom he knows so very little?" The day's casualty toll was devastating and will leave long-lasting scars on the consciousness of a generation of Palestinians. But the cruelty of the disconnect, the juxtaposition of gloating and arrogance with despair and suffering took another toll. It too will last for a generation. In polling we have long noted a growing partisan divide on issues involving the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. To be sure, Israel continues to have an upper hand in US public opinion - the result of two generations of effective propaganda in which they have presented their story and humanized their image while discrediting the Palestinian narrative, dehumanizing and reducing them to a threatening and dangerous caricature. As a result of this sustained propaganda effort, Americans are still inclined to support Israelis over Palestinians. But, increasingly, Americans, especially Democrats, question Israeli behaviors. This partisan split is, in fact, a demographic split with white, middle age, middle class, male, "born-again" Christians more strongly supporting Israel, and younger and more educated Americans and black, Hispanic, and Asian Americans more inclined toward Palestinians and more likely to oppose Israeli policies.

This gap began to develop 30 years ago when right-wing Christians evangelicals, with their ideological attachment to Israel, started their takeover of the Republican party. When Bill Clinton took ownership the Oslo peace process and brought Yitzak Rabin and Yasser Arafat under his wing, Democrats embraced his stance. Republicans countered by embracing the Likud's anti-peace agenda and passing legislation designed to impede Clinton's efforts. The gap widened under Obama, as he found himself stymied by both Republicans and Netanyahu's obstructionism. Now with Trump and Netanyahu in full accord, the partisan divide has deepened. I've been at this too long and therefore have learned to be cautious before suggesting that the changes in attitudes created by the events of this week will be decisive. But from the initial responses I have seen, I feel confident enough to say that an they will have an unsettling impact. Trump, Republicans, and their right-wing Christian support base have become wedded to Netanyahu. This is deeply alienating to Democrats and the constituencies that make up the Democratic party. It's worth noting that there were no Democratic officials present in Jerusalem and, despite being invited, no Congressional Democrats attended the Washington celebration hosted by the Israeli Embassy.

## A cautionary note

Democrats in Congress may be repulsed by the Trump/Netanyahu embrace, but they will, nevertheless, face pressures from the Israel lobby to demonstrate their commitment to Israeli policies - most likely by passing extreme legislative measures and/or issuing bizarre testimonials to the Israeli cause. But many Democratic elected officials will be concerned about getting too out of sync with their party's core constituencies. They will need to pay attention to the growth of alternative voices in the progressive Jewish community, the increased involvement of young black Americans in support of Palestinian rights, and the movement launched by Bernie Sanders and the House of Representatives' Progressive Caucus. Change will not come overnight. But when it does come, the horrific events of this week will be seen as having played a role in further shifting attitudes toward Israeli policies.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



## US students take solace in baseball after shooting

Thirty-six hours after several classmates were gunned down in a massacre, Santa Fe High School athletes took the field Saturday to partake in a long-standing and, for at least one evening, healing Texas pastime: baseball. The setting spring sun cast a golden glow as umpires dusted red dirt off the home plate and the crowd settled in the bleachers, all in preparation for a game that until Friday's killings was never expected to attract much attention.

Ten people, mostly students, were killed and 13 wounded when a teenage classmate armed with a shotgun and a revolver opened fire in the Santa Fe High School on Friday. When the announcer introduced the Santa Fe Indians whose pitcher was shot in the back of the head by the gunman, miraculously survived and joined his team for the opening line-up of the crowd of about 1,000 erupted in cheers.

Despite their star Rome Shubert's near death, and Santa Fe families preparing to bury loved ones, the team voted to play its Saturday playoff game as a show of strength and a means of catharsis in the face of tragedy. "This is very, very important," Andie Martinez, a 16-year-old Santa Fe junior, told AFP of the game before the crowd rose for a moment of silence. "You can just see how the community came together in this," she said. The shooter, identified as a 17-year old stu-

dent, "tried to break us apart but the community stands strong."

## God spared me

Shubert was among 13 people wounded in the school shooting. "I'm so grateful (sic) and blessed that god spared me life today," Shubert wrote on Twitter, barely five hours after he was shot. "Today I was shot in the back of the head but I am completely okay and stable." Trent Beazley, a catcher on the team, was also injured when a bullet grazed his side. Neither teen played, but both suited up and sat in the dugout to cheer on their teammates. "We Are With You," read one sign taped to the bleachers. The Indians held their own in the first inning, but by the second, they found themselves down 5-0, and the starting pitcher was pulled. As he shuffled dejectedly off the mound, his Santa Fe teammates showered him with hugs. "The town needed this right here," said one player's father, who watched from behind home plate.

Emma Clark, a Santa Fe senior who is set to graduate in just two weeks, chalked up the tentative play to jitters and the emotional weight of the tragedy. "It's the day after the shooting and everybody's here and they get a chance to see how amazing they are and how humble they are at the same time," she said. "At the end of the day, they're going to

do what they love," she said of the team, many of whom are her close friends. "These boys sleep, eat and breath baseball," she added. "So I feel like yeah, it probably has affected them some, but it's made them stronger." —AFP



A makeshift memorial is seen outside Santa Fe High School after a mass shooting in Santa Fe, Texas. —AFP

## Syria rehab centre seeking to tame 'caliphate cubs'

Thirteen-year-old Hassan may have committed atrocities for the Islamic State group, but instead of jailing him immediately, the Kurdish authorities in northeastern Syria enrolled him in a rehabilitation centre. He was one of around 80 teenagers sporting trainers and tracksuits as they filled their lungs with chilly morning air in the courtyard of the Hori Centre in Tal Maarouf.

Aged 12 to 17, they had all been detained by Kurdish fighters or the US-led Western forces who supported them during the battle to destroy the jihadists' self-styled "caliphate". Some are children of IS families, whose parents may be in jail, while others were directly recruited - forcibly or voluntarily - by the jihadist group. After their capture, they were selected for "rehabilitation" in line with the "second chance policy" of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) which controls the region. Local officials admit their prisons are full and say they are hoping a constructive approach can help mend ties with local tribes that once backed the jihadists.

It was early 2018 when Hassan checked into the Hori Centre, months after the opening of the sprawling complex of red-brick rooms and dorms framing a rectangular lawn. As the son of a senior IS commander in the Syrian city of Raqa, once the de facto capital of the jihadists' proto-state, he regularly witnessed beheadings. The Kurdish forces who captured him found a picture that shows him proudly holding a severed head, but whether the boy ever killed

anyone himself isn't clear. "When he arrived, like many of them, he didn't say hi, didn't shake our hands and didn't look us in the eye," said Roka Khalil, one of the centre's two directors.

## 'Easily fixed'

The centre is run by two secular women and its boarders are asked to shave and give up their traditional garments for Western-style clothes. Moving there was a culture shock for Hassan. Like other teenagers IS called the "cubs of the caliphate", he had been subjected to the group's efforts to impose its brand of violence and religious conservatism on an entire generation. Now, some of those youngsters are housed in dormitories where they have no access to phones or the internet but where staff are available day and night, said Abir Khaled, the centre's co-director. "We consider them as humans, as victims of the war," she said. While most of the children are Syrian, the centre also hosts former "cubs" from countries including Turkey and Indonesia.

Their days follow a strict routine that includes a lot of sport, particularly volleyball, various chores on the compound and workshops training them to become barbers and tailors. Also central to the rehabilitation process is a curriculum that includes history, geography, Arabic and Kurdish classes, as well as a "morality" class. Many have experienced poverty, received very little education and grew up in tough family environments. Four of them were dispatched by IS to carry out a suicide operation but surrendered instead, according to the centre's staff. "It shows that their ideology is not that deep, and can be easily fixed," said Khalil.

## Music replaces 'paradise'

A third of the Hori Centre's "guests" have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from six months to seven years, but Kurdish authorities believe they can be rehabilitated if they are given a supportive environment. If their conduct is



An adolescent boy shows prayer beads he made at the 'Hori' rehabilitation centre for former Islamic State (IS) group child fighters run by Kurds in Tal Maarouf, in Syria's northeastern Hassekeh province. —AFP

good at Hori, their sentences may be reduced and they could be released to their families within months. Hassan is now awaiting trial and Khalil said he may be given a term of up to three years, although that could be reduced.

The Hori Centre's egalitarian and social values are directly inspired by those of the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan. The charismatic leader, who has been imprisoned by Turkey since 1999, is the main ideological reference of the PYD, whose armed branch controls swathes of northern and eastern Syria. Ocalan's portrait is plastered all over the region, where supporters see him as a visionary leader but his critics denounce him as a Marxist autocrat - or even a terrorist. The self-proclaimed

Kurdish administration insists the Hori Centre is not designed to implant PYD ideology in the heads of its young boarders, replacing one brainwashing with another.

Yet at Qamishli's Alaya prison, which AFP was allowed to visit and where some of Hori's "patients" were previously detained, the wooden models carved by inmates were often in the image of Ocalan. Khalil said it was too early to describe the centre's activities as a success, but stressed that results were already tangible. "Today, lots of them come to talk to us by themselves," she said. "Hassan doesn't insult his classmates any more when there is a dispute, he doesn't believe in paradise and the virgins any more, he even listens to music." —AFP



## Business

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018

**13** Oil prices hit \$80 as future crude supply left in doubt**14** Chevrolet Equinox sales in US increased 40% in March 2018**14** Bader Al Mulla hosts OIC's business partners

BEIJING: In this file photo taken, the ZTE logo is seen on a building in Beijing. The United States and China said they had reached consensus on measures to "substantially" reduce the US trade deficit with Beijing by "significantly" increasing its purchases of US goods, but offered few details. —AFP

# US, China agree to abandon trade war

## Mnuchin confirms suspension of trade tariffs against China

BEIJING: Washington and Beijing have agreed to abandon any trade war and back off from imposing tariffs on each other, Chinese state media reported yesterday. The announcement came after high-level talks in the US capital and followed months of tensions over what President Donald Trump has blasted as an unfair commercial relationship between the two economic giants. Vice-Premier Liu He, who led Chinese negotiators in Washington said: "The two sides reached a consensus, will not fight a trade war, and will stop increasing tariffs on each other," state-run news agency Xinhua reported yesterday.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin confirmed yesterday that Washington and Beijing had agreed to back off from imposing tariffs on each other, a day after reaching an accord on slashing the American trade deficit with China.

"We have made very meaningful progress and we agreed on a framework," Mnuchin told Fox News Sunday. "So right now we have agreed to put the tariffs on hold while we try to execute the framework." China's Vice Premier Liu He, who led a high-level Chinese delegation to the United States this week, earlier announced that both sides had agreed to back off from threatened tariffs.

Liu called the agreement a "necessity", but added: "At the same time it must be realized that unfreezing the ice cannot be done in a day, solving the structural problems of the economic and trade relations between the two countries will take time." An earlier joint statement issued in Washington said Beijing would

"significantly" increase its purchases of American goods, but offered few details.

The apparent detente comes after months of increasing tensions that have set markets on edge over fears of a damaging trade war. Trump has repeatedly railed against his country's trade deficit with China, describing it as a danger to US national security and threatening to impose tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods. US levies on \$50 billion of Chinese imports could have come into effect as early as next week.

China also has agreed to significantly increase its purchases of US goods and services, the two countries said on Saturday, but made no mention of a \$200 billion target the White House had touted earlier. Beijing and Washington agreed they would keep talking about measures under which China would import more energy and agricultural commodities from the United States to close the \$335 billion annual US goods and services trade deficit with China.

A joint statement issued at the conclusion of intensive trade talks in Washington did not indicate whether the two countries would delay or drop their tariff threats on billions of dollars'

worth of each country's goods, which has sparked fears of a wider trade war and roiled financial markets.

"There was a consensus on taking effective measures to substantially reduce the United States' trade deficit in goods with China," the joint statement said.

"To meet the growing consumption needs of the Chinese people and the need for high-quality economic development, China will significantly increase purchases of United States goods and services," President Donald Trump has threatened to impose tariffs in up to \$150 billion on Chinese goods to combat what his administration says is Beijing's misappropriation of US intellectual property through joint venture requirements and other policies that force technology transfers.

Beijing denies such coercion and has threatened equal retaliation, including tariffs on some of its largest US imports - among them aircraft, soybeans and autos. A report by China's state-run Xinhua news agency described the statement from the two governments as "vowing not to launch a trade war against each other." While the statement said the two sides would engage at high levels and "seek to resolve their economic and trade concerns in

a proactive manner," it made no mention of tariffs.

It said there was consensus between Washington and Beijing on the need to create "favorable conditions to increase trade" in manufactured goods and services. This could be a reference to China's previous pledges to open up more economic sectors to services. "To meet the growing consumption needs of the Chinese people and the need for high-quality economic development, China will significantly increase purchases of United States goods and services."

### 'Meaningful increases'

Last year, the United States had a \$375.2 billion trade deficit with China, with populist politicians blaming the Asian powerhouse for the leeching of American jobs over the last few decades.

Washington reportedly had demanded the deficit be slashed by at least \$200 billion by 2020. However, the joint statement held no indication that China had assented to that target. It said both sides had agreed on "meaningful increases" in US agriculture and energy exports. Liu said the new trade cooperation would extend to medical care, high-tech products, and finance, according to Xinhua.

They also agreed to strengthen cooperation on protecting intellectual property—a long-standing source of US discontent. The two countries, their economies enormously interlinked, opened the delicate negotiations a few weeks ago. —Agencies



### Beijing to import more from US

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## Hollywood's China dreams get tangled in trade talks

BEIJING: Hollywood's push for greater access to China's booming film market - delayed since last year - has become tangled in broader trade talks between Washington and Beijing, a potentially thorny position amid whipsawing trade relations. Negotiations to raise a Chinese quota on imported films and boost the share that overseas producers get of box office takings are now being discussed within the broader framework of a US-China trade stand-off, four industry sources said.

The shift from earlier talks is a double-edged sword for US producers looking at China's \$8.6 billion cinema market. It could be bad news if broader trade talks go sour, but it could offer a potential path forward if the two countries find common ground. "It wouldn't really hit the domestic movie business much whether we bring in more foreign movies or not," said Yu Jianhong, vice president of Beijing Film Academy. "This should be something both parties can agree on."

China's quota system allows 34 imported movies a year to be shown in theatres, while overseas producers get a 25 percent share of box office takings - less than in other international markets. Since 2016 a handful more have been allowed in via a "cultural exchange" channel.

In a government document provided to the

US delegation in Beijing two weeks ago, Chinese negotiators said that opening up the market more for US movies was a concession China could offer to Washington as part of a broader trade deal. The document, seen by Reuters, said that China was "willing to discuss expanding movie imports with the US side".

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He is currently in Washington leading a Chinese trade delegation on a second round of talks to find a deal with the United States and avert a full-blown trade war between the world's two biggest economies. China on Friday said it was dropping an anti-dumping probe into imports of US sorghum, a conciliatory gesture hours after US officials familiar with the matter said China was offering a package to slash the US trade deficit by up to \$200 billion.

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump criticized China as being "very spoiled" on trade with the United States but said he was aiming for an overall deal with Beijing.

### "On pause"

US studios had hoped for an improved deal for imported films last year. This, however, had been held up as Beijing rejigged its film regulator, handing more control to the ruling Communist Party, and then as trade tensions with the United States grew.

"The movie deal is essentially on pause," one person familiar with US-China negotiations on the movie agreement told Reuters, adding that Beijing's willingness to ease up would likely be swayed by the state of trade tensions. Hollywood producers are pushing for more access, but a bigger share of revenues was even higher on the

agenda, especially as locally-made productions became more competitive.

China has become a key market for US studios from Walt Disney Co to Universal Pictures. "The Fate of the Furious", the latest instalment of Universal's "The Fast and the Furious" franchise, was the second top grossing film in China last year while "Avengers: Infinity War" has taken 1.6 billion yuan (\$251.23 million) so far this year. China's box office revenue rose 13.45 percent last year to 55.91 billion yuan, accelerating after a sharp slowdown in 2016.

Jacob Parker, vice president of China operations at the US-China Business Council, said firms were more concerned about the revenue split for films they brought to China, though higher quotas would be well received too. "Profit sharing is a higher priority," he said, and studios "would like to see 45 percent as opposed to 25 percent." He added: "Forty-five percent is what companies receive in most other markets where they operate."

Hollywood movies, which once ruled in China, are seeing a rising challenge from locally-made productions, while a spate of tie-ups and financing deals have gone sour amid cultural clashes and a brighter spotlight on risky Chinese investments. China is also looking to tighten control over content, potentially at odds with allowing in more overseas productions, which generally will have to get past domestic censors. "China has pledged to open its market on a lot of fronts, but you have to consider the special aspect of culture and entertainment industry," said Beijing Film Academy's Yu.

"It has the education and ideology feature so it would be treated differently." —Reuters

## ABK opens new branch in DIFC

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced yesterday the opening of its Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) branch in the UAE. ABK (DIFC) is a branch of Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P, a public shareholding company incorporated under the laws of Kuwait and listed on the Boursa Kuwait. Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P is licensed by the Central Bank of Kuwait as a banking institution and operates in Kuwait, UAE and Egypt.

ABK (DIFC) has obtained a Category 2 Operating License which is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority and the branch will serve as a regional hub for ABK's wholesale banking, corporate finance and financial institution services. The Bank has appointed Tom Lind as Senior Executive Officer to lead its operations at the new branch.

Lind said: "ABK (DIFC) will further the Bank's regional expansion strategy by providing a regional hub to seamlessly service corporates and multinationals across the Bank's operations in Kuwait, UAE and Egypt. The Bank will also be able to access and benefit from the deep pool of specialist financial talent that already exists in the UAE."

ABK (DIFC) will be fully compliant with the DIFC and DFSA rules and regulations in all its dealings and operations and will only transact with corporate clients and financial institutions that are Market Counterparts or Professional Clients, as defined by the DFSA rule book.



Tom Lind, Senior Executive Officer, ABK



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UAE

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Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros Co.  
W.L.L (AAB) - Qatar

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Business

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

# Oil prices hit \$80 as future crude supply left in doubt

## Organized supply cuts by OPEC, Russia help boost prices

**KUWAIT:** Oil prices dominated the headlines last week as the price of Brent crude hit the \$80 mark for the first time since 2014. Oil prices have experienced a slow, yet consistent increase over the last two years thanks to the organized supply cuts from OPEC and Russia. More recently however, some other factors have aided the surge in prices, stemming mainly from Iran and Venezuela. Iran's future oil supply was thrown into doubt after Trump announced the US withdrawal from the international nuclear deal, adding that the US would re-impose financial sanctions on Iran. This carries significance especially because Iran is currently the 4th largest oil producer in the world. Given the same level of demand, oil prices may continue to rise as a direct effect of a drop in supply. Furthermore, Venezuela's crude exports are about to fall below 1m barrels per day, adding to worries over an upcoming supply constraint. During the past year alone, foreign oil sales in Venezuela have decreased by 40%.

On the FX front, the dollar was traded higher last week, where it reached its highest level in 6 months against a basket of currencies. The dollar benefited from positive macroeconomic indicators as well as rising Treasury yields. The latter were boosted after Trump pulled a complete 180 degree turn regarding his attitude towards trade relations with China. The President pledged to help ZTE Corp "get back into business, fast" after a US ban crippled

the Chinese technology company. He also tweeted "Too many jobs in China lost. Commerce Department has been instructed to get it done!", increasing hopes of an imminent end to the trade war. The benchmark 10y Treasury yield reached 3.12 percent during the week, the highest level in 7 years.

### US economic data

Regarding the US economy, official data indicated that factory output rose in April. The data also showed that new estimates of manufacturing and overall industrial production showed less growth in prior months than initially believed. The report follows a survey of factory managers published earlier this month that showed a slowdown in US factory activity, with manufacturers complaining about rising commodity prices. Meanwhile on the consumer end, retail sales underwent a moderate increase in April as rising gasoline prices cut into discretionary spending. Although moderate, the growth of 0.3 percent in April, which followed an increase of 0.8 percent in the prior month, does suggest that households are spending more freely following a sluggish period at the start of the year. This is an effect of unemployment reaching its lowest since the dotcom boom as well as rising wages. Analysts believe that the data will leave the Federal Reserve on track to continue the gradual program of rate rises.

### UK & Europe

Even though the euro showed some positive momentum right out of the gate, it was all downhill from there. Italian politics spilled onto the scene midweek, as reports emerged that the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and far-right League plan to ask the European Central Bank to forgive 250 billion euros of Italian debt, according to a draft of a coalition program the parties are working on. The document also calls for a renegotiation of Italy's European Union budget contributions, an end to sanctions against Russia and plans to dismantle a 2011 pension reform that raised the retirement age. Despite backing off on their initial intention of opting out of the single currency, the parties that will end up forming the future Italian parliament rattled markets as the Euro fell to a 5-month low of 1.1747.

### UK wage data

In the UK, regular pay, which excludes bonuses, rose 2.9 percent as it overtook the inflation rate for the first time in more than a year. Unemployment remained at the historical 43-year low of 4.2 percent. However, total earning growth slowed to 2.6 percent as the big December bonuses fell out of the calculation. Thus, we have seen interest rate probabilities for a hike in August marginally increase to reach 49 percent.

### Volatile pound

On the foreign exchange side, the sterling pound experienced the most volatility amongst its major peers. On Tuesday, the cable fell near a 5-month low as a resilient dollar surged on solid economic data. Later during the week, a report from the Telegraph stated that the UK will tell the EU it is prepared to stay in the European Union's customs union beyond 2021. Afterwards however, a source in the PM's office dismissed the report, leaving May's ministers deadlocked over a future deal with the bloc. The pound ended the week lower at a level of 1.3471.

### Mixed Chinese data

Data out of China indicated weaker-than-expected investment and retail sales in April and a drop in home sales. The figures clouded China's economic outlook even as policymakers try to navigate debt risks and defuse a heated trade row with the United States. Data also showed fixed asset investment grew the slowest since 1999 and the pace of retail sales softened to a four-month low, suggesting a long-anticipated slowdown in the world's second-largest economy may finally be setting in even as trade protectionism is on the rise.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar  
USDKWD opened at 0.30205 yesterday morning.

## EQUATE's new HQ wins Kuwait's first LEED-Silver BD+C certification

**KUWAIT:** EQUATE's new headquarters, a reflection of the company's efforts to implement its sustainability strategy by 2025, recently earned Kuwait's first LEED-Silver Building Design & Construction (BD+C) certification for its compliance with the US Green Building Council LEED program, thus becoming a pioneer for green buildings in Kuwait.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely used green building rating system in the world and provides an international framework to establish healthy, efficient and cost-saving green buildings. EQUATE's headquarter, extending over 16,500

square meters, is the first building in Kuwait to receive the LEED-Silver (BD+C) certification for its design and construction. Commenting on this achievement, Engineering & Construction Department Director Sulaiman Al-Bader said, "From the initial design of this new headquarter, we set our sights on making a difference in the green building movement. Our building conserves energy consumption through the reduction of water usage by 36 percent, utilizes solar energy to generate around 8 percent of the total building consumption, and achieves energy cost savings of 26 percent, all of which make it an ideal green building in Kuwait. This achievement and all others were realized through the performance excellence of our human capital who deserve utmost appreciation and gratitude."

The EQUATE Group is a global producer of petrochemicals and the world's second largest producer of Ethylene Glycol (EG). The Group has industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and Europe that annually produce over 5 million tons of Ethylene, EG, Polyethylene (PE) and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET). The products are marketed throughout Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The EQUATE Group's shareholders include Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Qurain Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). The Group is a leading enterprise that pursues sustainability wherever it operates through partnerships in fields that include the environment, economy and society.



Sulaiman Al-Bader

## Burgan Bank marks 'International Awareness Month of Internal Audit'

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank, a dynamic financial institution, recently celebrated the role of the Internal Audit department to raise awareness about the profession and reward outstanding personnel. As part of its many positive initiatives to support internal growth and inspire progression among its employees, the month-long event saw a series of activities led by the internal audit function leaders.

Run by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), the annual International Awareness Month of Internal Audit that is observed every May promotes the importance of Internal Auditing. It gives members of the Internal Audit profession an enhanced opportunity to advocate for the profession within their organizations and in their communities.

Internal Audit employees participated in the engagement held by their department. The respective staff who recently attained professional certifications were also awarded for their contributions, as the department moves to continuously improve the quality and value it provides to Burgan Bank Board and Executive Management. The bank continues to advance local talent and equip them with relevant and specialized skill sets. Adding value and advancing an organization's business operations, internal audit as a profession has evolved over the years to become a powerful tool in accomplishing the bank's objectives. Governing bodies and top management entrust the internal audit to provide objective assurance and insight on the effectiveness and efficiency of governance, risk management and internal control processes.

Now considered an analytical engine that leads the organizations through evaluation and use of latest technologies, potential opportunities, determining best solutions by studying global issues, one of its primary functions also includes strategic advisory across all levels. Adopting Audit Analytics, continuous auditing and predictive analysis has changed the reactive approach of the internal audit with timely reporting and detection of exceptions and/or frauds. "We as internal audit professionals play an important role in raising awareness, elevating our profession's position in the smooth running of banking operations. The aim is not only to clear any misperceptions about the profession, but also to enhance the business community's understanding of the essential part internal auditing performs in ensuring strong organizational governance, internal control, and effective risk management. Contributing towards raising Burgan Bank's profile locally and regionally, we follow the highest standards of efficiency and transparency in compliance with the laws and banking regulations and policies, and through such events, we are able to further reiterate the critical standards we abide by," said Amr El-Kasaby, Group Chief Internal Audit of Burgan Bank during the interactive event.

Driven by its long-standing belief that 'People come first', Burgan Bank aims to promote the significant role each department is bestowed in the assurance of a successful business. As a growing financial powerhouse and contributor to progress in society, the bank continues to adopt innovative methods of sharing knowledge and enriching its employees' growth and development through impactful platforms.



Amr El-Kasaby



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## Business

# Chevrolet Equinox sales in US increased 40% in March 2018

## All-turbo 2018 Chevrolet Equinox range small on fuel consumption, big on performance



**KUWAIT:** Chevrolet Equinox sales increased in the United States in March 2018. Equinox deliveries totaled 31,940 units in March 2018, an increase of about 41 percent compared to 22,671 units sold in March 2017. The results represent the model's best-ever March sales performance. In the first three months of the year, Equinox sales increased about 31 percent to 82,398 units.

The third-generation, 2018 and newer Equinox features an all-new exterior and interior. It also offers an all-new engine lineup and an all-new lightweight architecture that enables a weight savings of over 400 pounds compared to the second-gen model. As a result, the new Equinox gets better fuel economy while also delivering improvements in ride, handling, packaging, and safety.

With growing environmental concerns and fuel efficiency demands, downsizing is the indisputable path for internal combustion engines. But, how do you reduce an engine's size to meet those goals without compromising performance? The answer is simple: turbocharging.

Turbocharging uses the force of exhaust gases exiting the engine - otherwise wasted as exhaust emissions - to drive an air compressor, which packs more air into the engine than it would draw naturally. The denser the air in the engine, the more potent the combustion, thereby gener-

ating greater power. Turbocharged engines essentially work as two different engines depending on driving conditions. The system generates little or no boost in light-load conditions, for small-engine efficiency. More power, however, is only a press of the accelerator pedal away, as the turbo generates boost under heavier loads to provide larger-engine performance on demand. The highly efficient, yet powerful, turbocharged engines in the all-new 2018 Equinox are a masterclass in this technology.

### The 2018 Equinox: Suited and boosted

The handsome 2018 Equinox range, which comprises of LS, LT and the top-end Premier versions, is the first Chevrolet model in the Middle East to offer an all-turbocharged, multi-engine propulsion lineup. The option of two turbocharged engines provides customers more choices when it comes to performance, efficiency and capability in the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox. They include a 1.5L turbo, in the LS and LT variants and an available 2.0L turbo that propels the Premier model. The latter is matched with GM's new nine-speed automatic transmission for even greater efficiency and performance.

"A choice of two turbocharged engines across three trims, allows our customers to pick an engine that best suits their driving requirements. The 1.5L turbo offers

unprecedented efficiency, while the 2.0L turbo is more performance-oriented," said Ahmed Soudodi, Head of Brand at Chevrolet Middle East. "Both units deliver the power of a larger engine and the fuel economy of a smaller engine."

### 1.5L turbo offers excellent fuel economy

Available in LS and LT models, the 2018 Equinox's 1.5L turbo offers an EPA-estimated 15.0 km/L highway in FWD mode. It is SAE-certified at 170 hp and is part of GM's new family of Ecotec small-displacement engines, featuring direct injection.

### 2.0L turbo raises the performance bar

An available 2.0L turbo offers a higher degree of performance, SAE-certified 252 hp and a wide torque band, for strong pulling power and acceleration. It also offers an EPA-estimated 13.6 km/L on the highway.

Ninety percent of the engine's peak torque is available from 2,000 rpm to 5,600 rpm, along with maximum torque from 2,500 to 4,500 rpm. That strong, sustained surge of torque helps the new Equinox offer a 1,585 kg maximum trailering capacity, which is roughly similar to models with bigger V-6 engines.

### Chevrolet Complete Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons benefit of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and trans-



parent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years. Customers can take advantage of the offer to own the car of their dreams by visiting any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Shuwaikh, Al Rai (Safat Alghanim), Sharq, and Fahaheel. To stay tuned of the latest offers, events and announcements, customers are encouraged to follow Chevrolet Alghanim on its social media channels @ChevroletAlghanim or call the hotline 1800022.



## Results model's best-ever March sales

## ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller's 9th Arab Youth Survey wins Best Campaign in Middle East/Africa

**DUBAI:** ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller, the region's leading public relations consultancy, has won 'Best Campaign - Middle East/Africa' for its 9th Annual ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey at the 2018 PRWeek Global Awards held in London on Tuesday night.

The ground-breaking study, which provides evidence-based insights into the attitudes of Arab youth, is based on data from 3,500 face-to-face interviews with young Arab men and women aged 18-24 in 16 countries across the Arab world, and is widely considered to be the most important piece of research on the region's largest demographic. The PRWeek Global Award recognition comes one week after the findings of the 10th edition of the annual ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey were launched.

Sunil John, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller and President - Middle East of Burson Cohn & Wolfe (BCW), said: "The PRWeek Global Awards recognise the best of the best, and we are thrilled to have earned this award for our work on the 9th Arab Youth Survey. This international level of recognition from our peers fuels our commitment to deliver excellence for the benefit of our clients and our industry in the Middle East."

"The Arab Youth Survey is a real passion project that ignites our spirit as an agency. It has long served as the biggest platform to echo



the voices of this region's largest and most influential demographic - Arab youth. Winning the Best Campaign award for the Middle East and Africa only adds to our commitment to delivering more ground-breaking campaigns," John said.

This year, the PRWeek Global Awards received a record number of entries across a total of 28 categories. The awards provide a platform to celebrate campaigns, agencies and professionals who are producing the best work in PR globally. This year's judging panel was made up of leading industry peers from across the world and chaired by Lisa Jedan, the Global Head of Brand PR and Corporate Communications at Bacardi-Martini.

In total, ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller received nine nominations across seven categories, including three in the Best Campaign Middle East / Africa category.

Since its founding in 2000, ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller has been a pioneer of public relations in the Middle East. With five dedicated practices - Brand Communications, Enterprise & Technology, Financial, Public Affairs and Corporate - and 10 wholly-owned offices and seven affiliates across 15 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller is today the agency of record for regional businesses, governments and multinationals alike.

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Hormuzda Davar with OIC's business partners

## Bader Al Mulla hosts OIC's business partners

**KUWAIT:** Bader Al Mulla, Chief agents for Oriental Insurance Company hosted an event on May 8 at the Cophorne Kuwait City to felicitate OIC's Business partners. Various achievement awards were given to the attendees by Hormuzda Davar, Managing Director of Al Mulla Group, who also addressed the participants.

The event was well attended by most valued partners; many of them are well known Insurance Brokers of Kuwait. They were appraised about OIC's major



Hormuzda Davar speaks on the occasion

strengths and core competencies and OIC's contribution in the insurance sector of Kuwait since 1959. The meet was also addressed by the Resident Manager of OIC, Siddhartha Mukherjee, and Krish Prabhakar, Agency Manager.

## VIVA reaps three accolades at ME Call Centre Awards 2018 by Insights

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator has been recognized as "Best Industry Call Centre", "Regional Problem Solver" and "Best Medium Help Desk". VIVA received these significant accolades at the annual "Middle East Call Centre Awards 2018" event held on 25th of April 2018, in Dubai, and organized by Insights Middle East, the leading organization in the call centre and professional services industry.

Commenting on this achievement, Meshari Al-Hamad, Customer Management Director at VIVA, said: "We are really thrilled at VIVA to receive such awards that prove our endeavor to reach our customers' needs satisfaction, who always deserve 'more'. These achievements mirror VIVA's boundless commitment to always seeking higher levels of excellence and world-class communications tools to amplify our customer service." He added: "We are working to add more new channels to serve our customers and increase our communication tools to provide more ways for them to reach us which will accordingly yield to increasing our customer satisfaction and loyalty."

The "Insights Middle East Call Centre Awards" Competition is the undisputed regional benchmark for remote customer interaction success. Not only is it widely acclaimed as the most comprehensive, rigorous and strategy-aligned contest of its type in the world, but a process to enhance outcomes and performance in areas such as customers' data analysis, process re-assessment and re-development, and employee teamwork.



## Al-Tijari announces winner of weekly Al-Najma draw

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows:- Weekly draw prize KD 5000-Karanvir Singh Bhogal. The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jean. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as KD 1 million and half (KD 1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 & monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 for which the draw will be held on 1st July 2018 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank Branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.





## Technology

# Apple-Samsung iPhone design copying case goes to jury

## Apple seeking more than a billion dollars in damages

**SAN JOSE:** Jurors return to a Silicon Valley courtroom today to put a price on patented iPhone design features copied by Samsung in a legal case dating back seven years. Apple is seeking slightly more than a billion dollars in damages, while Samsung wants a figure closer to \$28 million. The jury has been asked to determine whether design features at issue in the case are worth all profit made from Samsung smartphones that copied them or whether those features are worth just a fraction because they are components.

“Samsung isn’t saying it isn’t required to pay profits,” Samsung attorney John Quinn said during closing arguments on Friday. “It is just saying it isn’t required to pay profits on the whole phone.” The three design patents in the case apply to the shape of the iPhone’s black screen with rounded edges and a bezel, and the rows of colorful icons displayed.

Samsung no longer sells the smartphone models at issue in the case. Two utility patents also involved apply to “bounce-back” and “tap-to-zoom” functions. “This is a case that is focused on design, and the application of design to smartphones,” Apple attorney Joseph Mueller said in closing arguments. When one company copies a rival’s design, that “is not a level playing field, and that is just not right,” he contended.

Apple argued in court that the iPhone was a “bet-the-company” project at Apple and that design is as much the “article of manufacture” as the device itself.

Apple attorney Bill Lee equated the notion to a car-maker copying the look of the Volkswagen Beetle and coming to market with a competing model. Determining whether the design features qualify as the “article of manufacture” will be key to whether jurors award the profit from all the Samsung phones involved, according to legal standards presented by the court. The case dates back seven years. An original trial finding that Samsung violated Apple patents was followed by lengthy appellate dueling over whether design features such as rounded edges are worth all the money made from a phone.

### Technology vs Style

Samsung, which had been ordered to pay \$400 million, challenged the legal precedent that requires the forfeiture of all profits from a product even if only a single element of a major patent infringement case was inappropriate because it represented “Samsung’s entire profit from the sale of its infringing smartphones” for copying the iPhone’s “rectangular front face with rounded edges and a grid of colorful icons on a black

design patent has been infringed. The US Supreme Court in 2016 overturned the \$400 million patent infringement penalty imposed on the South Korean consumer electronics giant.

Justices ruled that Samsung should not be required to forfeit the entire profits from its smartphones for infringement on design components, sending the case back to a lower court. The ruling found that the penalty-one element of a major patent infringement case was inappropriate because it represented “Samsung’s entire profit from the sale of its infringing smartphones” for copying the iPhone’s “rectangular front face with rounded edges and a grid of colorful icons on a black



screen.” The key question of the value of design patents rallied Samsung supporters in the tech sector, and Apple backers in the creative and design communities. Samsung won the backing of major Silicon Valley and other IT sector giants, including Google, Facebook, Dell and Hewlett-Packard, claiming a strict ruling on design infringement could lead to a surge in litigation.

Apple was supported by big names in fashion and manufacturing. Design professionals, researchers and academics, citing precedents like Coca-Cola’s iconic soda bottle. The Supreme Court stopped short of delving

into details of how the lower court should determine how much phone design components are worth when it comes to patent infringement violations.

Presiding US District Court Judge Lucy Koh gave jurors in her San Jose courtroom a four-factor test to determine an “article of manufacture,” but it is up to the panel to decide how the evidence fits that framework. The case is one element of a \$548 million penalty-knocked down from an original \$1 billion jury award — Samsung was ordered to pay for copying iPhone patents. — AFP



### Case dates back seven years



## UK exploring new laws to tackle ‘Wild West’ Internet

**LONDON:** Britain will tackle “the Wild West elements” on the Internet from cyberbullying to online child exploitation by introducing new laws for social media companies, digital minister Matt Hancock said yesterday.

Launching a consultation on what measures should be used to ensure the safety of those using the Internet, Hancock said the government would publish a white paper - a policy document that sets out proposals for future legislation - later this year and aim to bring in new laws “in the next couple of years”. Better regulating social media companies has long been an aim of a government that has struggled to carry out its agenda with Britain’s departure from the European Union taking up much of ministers’ time.

“Digital technology is overwhelmingly a force for good across the world and we must always champion innovation and change for the better,” Hancock said in a statement. “At the same time I have been clear that we have to address the Wild West elements of the Internet through legislation, in a way that supports innovation. We strongly support technology companies to start up and grow, and we want to work with them to keep our citizens safe.”

There was little detail on what kind of regulation should be used to protect those using the Internet, but Hancock told the BBC that as part of the data protection bill now in parliament, firms could be fined up to 4 percent of their global turnover. But when asked whether the government would stop companies from allowing children to spend hours on the Internet, Hancock told ITV television: “We want to have a broad consultation.” In his statement, Hancock said the ministry for digital, culture, media and sport and the interior ministry would work with regulators, platforms and advertising companies to settle on legislation that tackles “both legal and illegal harms”. “I don’t want the trolls to win,” Hancock said. —Reuters

## PayPal buys payments startup iZettle for \$2.2bn

**SAN FRANCISCO:** PayPal recently announced a deal to buy Swedish online commerce startup iZettle for \$2.2 billion, a deal that came as the young company was poised for a stock market debut. US-based PayPal, which was spun off from eBay three years ago, said that its biggest acquisition to date would strengthen its platform for handling payment transactions at small businesses, particularly in Europe and Latin America.

“Small businesses are the engine of the global economy and we are continuing to expand our platform to help them compete and win online, in-store and via mobile,” PayPal chief executive Dan Schulman said in a release. “In today’s digital world, consumers want to be able to buy when, where and how they want.” Schulman described the merging of iZettle and PayPal as a “strategic fit” combining shared values and culture with complementary product offerings and geographies.

The iZettle platform for handling retail transactions is used by nearly a half million merchants, according to PayPal. The startup has been compared to Square, a payments platform co-founded by Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey that made it easy to take credit card payments using smartphones or tablets. Buying iZettle will expand PayPal’s reach into shops in Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden. —AFP

## Google pushes AI for upgraded news app

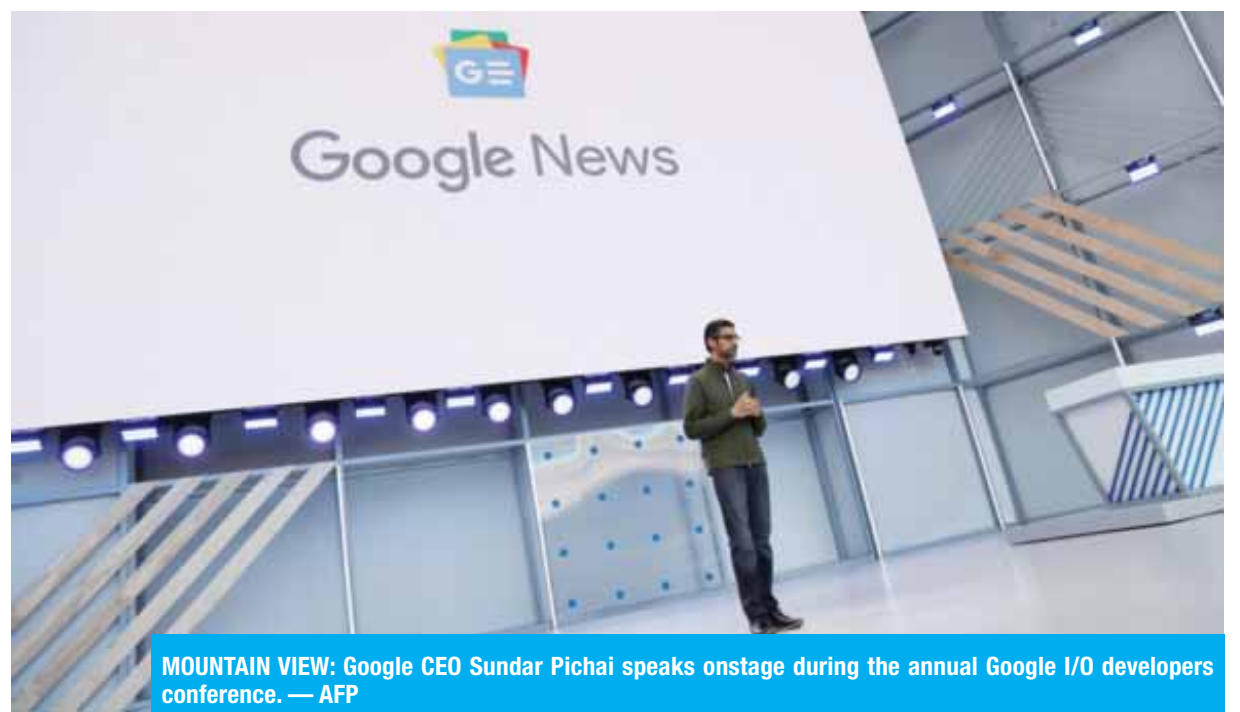
**WASHINGTON:** For its updated news application, Google is doubling down on the use of artificial intelligence as part of an effort to weed out disinformation and help users get viewpoints beyond their own “filter bubble.” Google chief Sundar Pichai, who unveiled the updated Google News earlier this month, said the app now “surfaces the news you care about from trusted sources while still giving you a full range of perspectives on events.”

It marks Google’s latest effort to be at the center of online news and includes a new push to help publishers get paid subscribers through the tech giant’s platform. According to product chief Trystan Upstill, the news app “uses the best of artificial intelligence to find the best of human intelligence—the great reporting done by journalists around the globe.”

While the app will enable users to get “personalized” news, it will also include top stories for all readers, aiming to break the so-called filter bubble of information designed to reinforce people’s biases. “Having a productive conversation or debate requires everyone to have access to the same information,” Upstill said.

He said the “full coverage” feed would be the same for everyone—“an unpersonalized view of events from a range of trusted news sources.” Some journalism industry veterans were skeptical about the effort to replace human editors with machine curators. “There’s been a fantasy of (algorithmic) personalized news for a long time,” said New York University journalism professor Meredith Broussard. “Nobody has ever gotten it right. I think that news designers and home page editors do a good job of curating already.” Google and Facebook have also been criticized for scooping up most online ad revenues and for enabling false information to spread. Recently, News Corp. CEO Robert Thomson called for an “algorithm review board” that would “oversee these historically influential digital platforms and ensure that there is no algorithmic abuse or censorship.”

In the new app, Google’s “newsstand” addresses some concerns by allowing users to sign up for subscriptions using their Google accounts, and will enable publishers to



**MOUNTAIN VIEW:** Google CEO Sundar Pichai speaks onstage during the annual Google I/O developers conference. — AFP

connect with readers directly. Dan Kennedy, a Northeastern University journalism professor, said the revamped news app appears to be positive for the news ecosystem.

“For many years, Google refused to share ad revenues with news organizations on the grounds that Google was driving traffic to them, and that it was up to those organizations to figure out how to monetize that traffic,” Kennedy said. “Now, with more than 90 percent of all new digital ad revenues going to Google and Facebook, Google is finally acknowledging that it’s time to try something else.” Nicholas Diakopoulos, a Northwestern University professor specializing in computational and data journalism, said the impact of Google’s changes remain to be seen. Diakopoulos said algorithmic and personalized news can be positive for “engagement” but may only benefit a handful of news organizations. His research found that “Google concentrates its attention on a relatively small number of publishers, it’s quite concentrated.” Google’s effort to identify and priori-

ty “trusted” news sources may also be problematic, according to Diakopoulos. “Maybe it’s good for the big guys, or the (publishers) who have figured out how to game the algorithm,” he said. “But what about the local news sites, what about the new news sites that don’t have a long track record?” Diakopoulos said that while AI can offer some advantages in news curation, “you still need people involved in many different ways. You need to reflect human values, editorial values... you can’t quantify every aspect that might be important to an editorial decision.” The growing importance of the platforms raise the questions of whether Google and Facebook are “media” companies and not simply technology firms, a moniker both have resisted. Diakopoulos said Google “is becoming more and more like a media company,” although that is sometimes difficult to define. “Yahoo started as a tech company and became a media company, and maybe Google is headed in that direction,” he said. — AFP

## Yanny or Laurel? Soundbite sparks Internet hubbub

**WASHINGTON:** An audio snippet with just two syllables has ignited an Internet meltdown, dividing social media users into staunchly opposed camps: do you hear “Yanny” or “Laurel?” The collective sensory experiment causing a Twitter tizzy mushroomed from a short audio clip originally published by a high school student on Reddit, The New York Times said.

Roland Szabo, 18, said he recorded the seemingly innocuous audio from a vocabulary website while doing a project for his school in the US state of Georgia. He played it for his peers, who disagreed over whether the syllables formed “Yanny” or “Laurel.” Intrigued, Szabo sent it to a friend who posted the clip on Instagram and created a poll that quickly went viral, triggering a mass debate that has spread internationally. Input from celebrities has inflamed the frenzy: “It’s Yanny,” horror writer Stephen King said in a deadpan tweet. “It’s so clearly laurel,” quipped supermodel Chrissy Teigen. “I can’t figure out how one would hear yanny.” In perhaps the most vexing element of the debate, the majority of listeners hear beyond doubt one of the two words, with few waffling between the two. Others hear only laughter.

The US Department of Defense made light of the controversy on its Twitter account, with a photo of a US Marine Corps instructor berating a recruit: “I said it’s #Yanny, recruit, not #Laurel!” Circulating elsewhere on the internet was the line: “Man Calls Girlfriend ‘Yanny’ During Sex, Swears He Said ‘Laurel.’” A straw poll carried out among staff in AFP’s Washington bureau counted 17



for Yanny, and 14 for Laurel. Just three were caught in between—hearing first one, then the other when played again, or a mix of the two sounds.

### Brain game

Poppy Crum, chief scientist at Dolby Labs in San Francisco, said the environment in which one listens, including whether headphones or a speaker are used, affects the intensity of the frequencies, and hence what one hears. “When there is more energy towards the mid and higher frequencies, people tend to hear ‘Yanny’. When the low frequencies are more emphasized, people will hear ‘Laurel,’” Crum said.

She added that our brains want to “categorize” the elements of speech when they are ambiguous, as in this case

passing them either into the “Laurel” box or “Yanny” box. In addition, perception can be influenced by multiple factors such as age, sex or native language of the listener, she explained. “There really isn’t a true reality, there is only our perceptual reality,” Crum said. Jody Kreiman, Professor of Head and Neck Surgery and Linguistics at UCLA, said listeners would normally have “semantic context” to interpret what they are hearing. “But in this case we have an isolated sound with no context,” forcing people to rely on a variety of other factors such as voices they’ve listened to recently. The controversy recalls the similarly impassioned debate that broke out over the #TheDress: in 2015 a photo of a two-toned frock had social media users tearing their hair out over whether its colors were white and gold, or black and blue. — AFP



## Health

# In Congo city where Ebola resides, fear but not panic

## Three new Ebola cases have been confirmed

**MBANDAKA:** In the city of Mbandaka in northwest Congo, Mbombo Roge does not shake hands with friends anymore: Ebola changed all that. Roge simply bowed when he met a group of friends on Saturday afternoon, obeying one of the key lessons taught by health officials since an outbreak of the deadly virus was confirmed in the city of 1.5 million people this week. "Ebola doesn't forgive," said Roge on a street in the center of Mbandaka "We just greet each other with words so as to not get contaminated."

The outbreak of Ebola in Congo, the vast central African country's ninth since the disease made its first known appearance near the northern Ebola river in the 1970s, is believed to have cost the lives of 25 people since April. The outbreak is dwarfed by the epidemic which killed over 11,300 in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone between 2013 and 2016, but it brings with it some worrying echoes.

The first confirmed case in Mbandaka on Thursday raised concerns it could spread much faster than in the rural areas where it had previously been detected. Mbandaka, a crowded trading hub on the banks of the Congo River where people live in close proximity, has road, water and air links to the capital Kinshasa, whose population is 10 million.

Since Thursday, three other cases have been confirmed in Mbandaka. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a "very high" public health risk to the country since those cases were detected. Over 4,000 vaccines are expected to be deployed to the region early next week. The Ebola virus causes hemorrhagic fever and is spread through direct contact with body fluids from an infected person, who suffers severe bouts of vomiting and diarrhea.

So far, the changes in Mbandaka are subtle, but they point to a growing trepidation. At the small regional

airport, health inspectors check the temperature of arriving passengers. Local aid agencies have gone to churches and schools to try to educate people of the dangers. Soap dispensers have been put outside some local businesses so people can wash their hands before entering. Meat sales at riverside markets have dropped off, traders say, because of the fear of eating contaminated bush meat which can pass Ebola on to humans.

"We are scared of this epidemic. We can't make contact with people coming from outside," said border hygiene inspector Bolongoyi Juptie. Not everyone is convinced of the dangers, and one resident said that Ebola can be cured through prayer. But the general wariness is encouraging for health officials who remember how mistrust of doctors, nurses, authorities and western aid agencies made containment more difficult during the 2013-16 epidemic. "There is a need to increase awareness," said Joseph Bolongo, former project manager at the NGO Gashé and local resident, "so that ignorance does not facilitate the spread of the disease."

### 3 new Ebola cases

Meanwhile, three new Ebola cases have been confirmed in the Democratic Republic of Congo's sprawling northwest taking the number of suspected infections to 43, the health minister said in a statement seen Saturday. In Geneva, the UN's World Health Organization (WHO) put the death toll at 25 but said 45 cases have been recorded, 14 of which have been confirmed by lab tests.

The DR Congo government on Saturday also announced the launch of an Ebola vaccination campaign in the northwest, targeting around 600 people, including medical staff, known to have been in direct or indirect contact with those already taken ill. Donors had promised 300,000 doses of the vaccine, a government



**MBANDAKA:** A health official uses a thermometer to measure the temperature of disembarking passengers at the airport in Mbandaka in DR Congo. — AFP

spokesman said. The government has said that 5,400 have already been received. The WHO on Friday said the latest Ebola outbreak did not warrant being labeled an emergency of "international concern", adding that Kinshasa's response along with its own had been "rapid and comprehensive." The government announced the outbreak of the deadly virus in northwestern Equateur province on May 8.

In the WHO's parlance, "a public health emergency of international concern" is an "extraordinary event" in which a disease may spread across borders and requires a vigorous international response. Ebola is

both lethal and highly contagious, which makes it difficult to contain—especially in urban environments where people are mobile and come into more contact with others.

It is notorious for its high fatality rate and extreme symptoms, which can include internal and external bleeding. The current outbreak—the ninth to hit the DRC since Ebola was identified in 1976 — involves the same strain of the virus that struck three West African countries in 2013-15 and sparked an international panic. It went on to kill more than 11,300 people in the deadliest ever Ebola epidemic. — Agencies

# CLINIC PAGE



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

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What's On



# NBK helps in honoring participants of Center 21 art gallery exhibition

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) took part in honoring the participants in the art gallery exhibition for young adults with special needs that was held by Center 21. This contribution comes as part of NBK's sponsorship to the center's atelier for the second year in a row and for being the strategic partner in all the initiatives carried by it. The participants were honored for their good work and creativity after the great success of their exhibition that was held in different galleries in Kuwait. The honoring also included profits' share distribution to the participants in parallel to their sold items.

"NBK's partnership is part of its ongoing drive to fulfill its corporate social responsibilities", said Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Officer. "NBK endeavors to shoulder its social responsibilities and share with the various private and public sector institutions the burdens and responsibilities of broader national efforts towards social advancement".

Al Abdul Jaleel added "NBK's support to Center 21 comes in line with the bank's customary and ongoing spirit of corporate citizenship as well as the vital role it plays in supporting all social and educational developmental issues." Center 21 is the first of a kind in Kuwait dedicated to serve and support young adults with special needs over the age of 21. The exhibition aimed at showcasing the work of the participants to make

them feel part of the society.

Center 21 is the first facility of its kind in Kuwait to provide complete and sophisticated services for young adults above 21 years old. The center's activities varies from entertainment, field trips, development courses, rehabilitation sessions in addition to development services as physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy focus skills, nutritional counseling and encouraging self-reliance and independence. NBK has a long tradition supporting social and community oriented activities. NBK's corporate social responsibility programs cover a range of education, environment, health, philanthropic, social and sports-related initiatives.



## Burgan Bank supports 'Autism Partnership Kuwait'

Burgan Bank, one of the leading contributors to social inclusion in Kuwait, is proud to announce a one year commitment to Autism Partnership Kuwait (APK) for the rehabilitation and treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Burgan Bank signed a partnership agreement with Autism Partnership Kuwait, to help the center achieving its objectives, as well to support many humanitarian causes further solidifying its role as a catalyst for positive change in society.

Through the partnership with Autism Partnership Kuwait, Burgan Bank aims to raise awareness about the seriousness of autism and highlight the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. This partnership is part of Burgan Bank's dynamic Corporate Social Responsibility strategy that strives to deliver meaningful change in the lives of all segments of society.

Autism is a severe disruption of the normal development process and is often diagnosed within the first few years. Viewed as a spectrum or a continuum of disorders, with varying degrees of severity and levels of functioning, the major symptom is identified with the difficulty in interacting with other people. Those with autism exhibit different emotions and reactions and can occasionally be temperamental, accompanied with the inability to speak. This initiative falls in line with Burgan Bank's objective to advance



the development of healthcare within such facilities and ensure the children reach their full potential through optimal care to lead a productive and promising life.

Founded in 1994, Autism Partnership, also known as "AP", is a worldwide authority for the behavioral treatment of autism and one of the largest and most established service providers for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. The Autism Partnership Center in Kuwait is humanitarian center established in December 2015 to contribute to the rehabilitation and treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and to meet the growing need to provide treatment opportunities for autism within the Kuwaiti community over the past few years.

Autism Partnership Kuwait provides a wide range of services for Children with ASD and their families, as well for professionals involved in the treatment and education of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

(ASD). (APK) is the only branch in the Arab and Middle East region that represents the US Autism Partnership Foundation among nine other global branches. It is worth mentioning that Burgan Bank had previously sponsored 'The 2016 Autism Walkathon' organized by Autism Partnership Kuwait. The event was held to emphasize the value of voluntary work and on autism in general.

Burgan Bank's support to this initiative falls under its recently launched full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.



Sheikh Mohammed



Sheikh Mubarak

Sheikh Mohammed and Sheikh Mubarak, sons of the late Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah announce they are receiving Ramadan congratulations next Tuesday after Esha prayers at the White Palace in Surra. They also announced that they will receive the visitors of the White Palace diwaniya after Esha prayers on Tuesdays, except on the last ten days of Ramadan.

Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah is set to receive Ramadan congratulations at his diwaniya at Shamiya tomorrow and will continue to receive diwaniya visitors on the following Tuesdays.

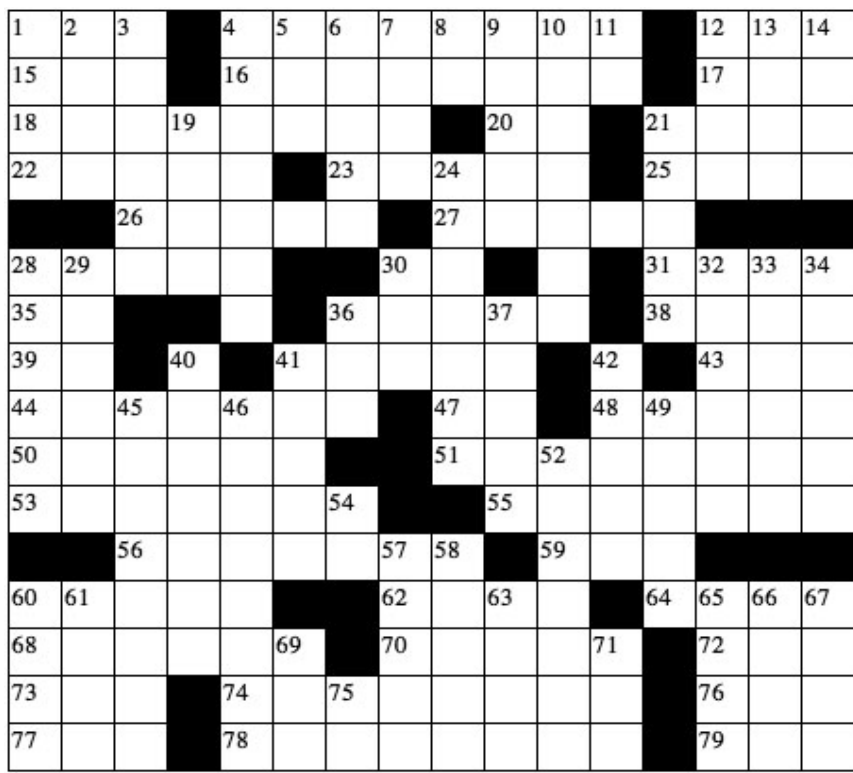


The Creative Children International School (CCIS) for students with special needs recently celebrated the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan and the Gurgai'an in the most joyful ceremony.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1914



ACROSS

- 1. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
4. A city in southwestern California east of Los Angeles.
12. The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
15. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
16. Covered with or as if with a glossy and usually brightly colored coating.
17. An associate degree in applied science.
18. Any plant of the genus Caladium cultivated for their ornamental foliage variously patterned in white or pink or red.
20. 1/10 gram.
22. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
23. Swedish chemist remembered for his invention of dynamite and for the bequest that created the Nobel prizes (1833-1896).
25. Dense growth of hairs covering the body or parts of it (as on the human head).
26. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
27. Come into existence.
28. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
31. A married German woman.
35. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
38. A journey or route all the way around a particular place or area.
39. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
43. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
44. (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.
47. Being nine more than forty.
48. Greek mathematician and inventor who devised a way to determine the area of a triangle and who described various mechanical devices (first century).
50. An organism especially a bacterium that requires air or free oxygen for life.
51. A tract of land used for burials.
53. (superlative of 'near' or 'nigh') Most near.
55. In accordance with nature.
56. The act of adding a tinge of color.
59. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
60. A United States bandmaster and composer of military marches (1854-1932).
62. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
64. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
68. Any of various aquatic and land reptiles having a bony shell and flipper-like limbs for swimming.
70. A loud resonant repeating noise.
72. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
73. A type of submachine gun that is designed and manufactured in Israel.
74. remove from customary environment or associations.
76. A master's degree in business.
77. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
78. The anterior tip of the parietal bone.
79. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.

DOWN

- 1. Any of various minerals consisting of hydrous silicates of aluminum or potassium etc. that crystallize in forms that allow perfect cleavage into very thin leaves.
2. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
3. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
4. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
5. Black tropical American cuckoo.
6. A Finnish steam bath.
7. Projectiles to be fired from a gun.
8. A Mid-Atlantic state.
9. Used of the older of two persons of the same name especially used to distinguish a father from his son.
10. A loose dressing gown for women.
11. A public promotion of some product or service.
12. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
13. A member of a rural Finnish people living in eastern Russia.
14. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
19. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
21. The act of taking something from someone unlawfully.
24. A wide (ornamented) belt worn over the right shoulder to support a sword or bugle by the left hip.
29. Small striped semiterrestrial eastern American squirrel with cheek pouches.
30. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
32. Someone who communicates vocally in a very loud voice.
33. The first light of day.
34. The bivalent radical UO2 which forms salts with acids.
36. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
37. Greek anatomist whose theories formed the basis of European medicine until the Renaissance (circa 130-200).
40. Someone who grows and deals in flowers.
41. Highly favored or fortunate (as e.g. by divine grace).
42. The 8th letter of the Greek alphabet.
45. Presence of abnormally large amounts of uric acid in the urine.
46. Trees or shrubs of the families Ebenaceae or Sapotaceae or Sytracaceae or Symplocaceae.
49. A short composition for a solo instrument.
52. A battle in 1800 in which the French under Napoleon Bonaparte won a great victory over the Austrians.
54. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
57. The iridescent internal layer of a mollusk shell.
58. A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
61. Anise-flavored Greek liquor.
63. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.
65. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
66. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
67. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
69. Apparent power to perceive things that are not present to the senses.
71. (British) Informal term for information.
75. The fifth day of the week.

Yesterday's Solution

Grid for Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle with filled-in letters.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Routine duties help keep you on track and provide the sense of balance and security you require. Life may not be a bowl of cherries, but it's pretty dang good right now! Being thankful, realizing the blessings that are yours, beautifully highlights this current cycle; you can't complain when you truly look at your life. You're compelled to create schedules and systems; the trick is to stick to them, and you're truly ready to create a change for the better. Taking things apart and over analyzing things doesn't work, but you can't help yourself at certain times; don't beat yourself up, pick yourself up whenever possible! Taking a break before it's too late is advised, as overwork could actually prove hazardous to you and your project! You breathe a huge sigh of relief when you pass an important test you worry about.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Making apologies or accepting them is forecast during this period; this could be related to something that occurred long ago, but if not, it's something that runs deep. Being able to see to the heart of a matter could take you closer to finding the healthy tips you seek; getting better in every aspect of your life is of the utmost importance to you now, and there's no turning back. Putting together puzzles or solving mysteries hold firm fascination for you and you go to great lengths to work with these. Letting your mind break away from work and duties brings a refreshing break. Being close to nature and the outdoors heals an old wound. You pay closer attention to your work, finances and sexual interests as they grow in importance to you just now. Being exactly who you are is a powerful aphrodisiac.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

When the heavens are in certain positions, you could feel different sensations and sense noticeable, but unseen, changes to your environment. Such are the positions now, you decide to go with the flow and let events unfold as they will. Your confidence levels are high, even when things don't appear to be working; this shows that you can't always go by what you see with the physical eyes! Being first in line doesn't always mean being served first! Accepting where the cards fall is an indication of a spiritual warrior working with what you're given reveals your power and abilities. Spending some time alone could help with a decision that affects more than one person. Being put off or afraid isn't unusual when something important arises but you're able to face this issue and overcome it with grace.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Financial responsibilities creep up on you unexpectedly and you realize that something's gotten away from you! Something has taken your attention away from routine business and distracted you to the point of becoming a problem. Examine this, it could actually be showing you the way to monetary prosperity. Your mind is sharp and eager to learn when an opportunity at work becomes known. Knowing the difference in reality and fantasy could be hard now as your hopes and dreams reach lofty heights; try not to let anyone or anything cloud your aspirations! Getting something straightened out between two people falls to you, even when you object; your fairness plays well here. Taking something new in stride pays off when it turns out to be a valuable asset after being appraised by a professional.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

The foundations you've built your life upon stand strong as you add to the richness of your life by taking different approaches. New beginnings and responsibilities start now and bring useful insight into the new chapter in life you're starting. You love being surrounded by the beautiful sights and sounds you imagine exist in paradise. Healing is available and your spirit requires it after a painful loss or occurrence nearly sucked the life out of you. You want to do something in a way you know isn't appropriate; after meditation you see the correct way to do this. You want changes in the world, specifically in your community, and you take steps to help this happen. Time spent alone takes you outside of yourself, you're able to see your motivations. You make a commitment to helping those who help themselves.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have some ideas that change the way something's done at work; this is a very effective method that brings progress! Someone who can't help themselves manages to do something to help you; you're touched by the extreme effort this person puts forth for you. When you meet a new friend, their unique vibe catches your attention and the two of you click immediately. A clean break brings peace of mind and heart; a wrong choice has played out, try not to repeat the same one! Independent thinking is common during the phase you've entered and you find that you're more productive when acting or working alone; teaching could tend to slow you down. Looking up brings you up, so you refuse to look down even when you could. A new job or class inspires your work ethic and you succeed.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You open yourself to the high-tech possibilities and ideas that could take you forward at work. Making a commitment is highly likely according to the stars, and you're ready, willing and able to do it! Mystic mysteries, psychic abilities, life after death and other such ethereal topics interest you intensely as you seek knowledge in these areas. Your opinion is sought by someone that surprises you; you may have many of these types of unexpected requests now. A young child or animal holds a special place in your heart, especially when you learn of something endearing. A huge, focused effort brings the result you hope for! Smiling through the hard times has gotten you this far; you're born to be in front of crowds or audiences of some kind. Home and hearth are the heartbeat of your incarnation this time around.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, your imagination soars above the norm and you're in a good place to create! Your art could be influenced by nature. You have a desire to work hard toward cleansing your karma in every area of your life. You look through the illusions of life to see the true reality that truly matters; hard, cold facts bring rewards when you follow them. Travel is indicated and this could be all about business, but fun is a big part of this trip; enjoy and prosper! Your beliefs are taken out and reexamined when you hit a rough spot you didn't expect; you make an effort to recover with grace. Having something your way brings a bright spot to your day, and this is more than likely some type of favorite food. A new outfit for an event falls into your lap and happens to be absolutely perfect! All is good.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The whole, big picture of life becomes clear when you stop focusing on the smaller parts; this is a time of planning, repairing and healing for forward motion. Seeing everything, and not just the parts, equips you to deal with issues and bumps in the road on a grander scale. Legal matters could cause you to wonder, but this is taken care of after some work; this could involve a mortgage, lease or will. Family matters are prominent and could cause changes in plans or decisions. When you make up your mind, there's no turning back which is fine with you; someone else may not be satisfied with this. You move further away from toxic people, places and things without even looking back. A need to have everyone and everything in their places is strong and you make sure it happens just as you want it to.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You decide to climb the social media mountain with full force; this may mean business or personal, either way you're into it big time. A project begins small and grows to a value you didn't imagine! Staying with a commitment you made long ago is no longer required; you're set free to go about life in whatever way you choose. A sense of melancholy may accompany some changes you're undergoing, but hold on, good times are coming. A new hobby or interest could actually make an impressive amount of money on the side; vibrations of thriving are strong and present for some time. Taking a moment or two to rest and recharge could be necessary, as a full, demanding day comes to a close. One final round of farewells tonight when friends leave for a long journey.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Home is where you prefer to be lately, and this could mean that changes are coming like painting, remodeling or some such efforts. Being with those you love is a priority now, and you rearrange your schedule as best you can to facilitate this. You already have an interest in real estate, but this grows to new heights during this phase. Having friends and family to call your own is more than important, it's necessary and without this sense of belonging, you're lost. Love isn't weak, it's a product of the creator and to have needs in this area actually takes strength, for with it sometimes comes pain. The peace of being near water and fresh air brings joy. Nothing stands in your way when it comes to tending to business. Being energized and ready to go is common during the phase that's just begun.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You're into the organic diet and toxic free lifestyle; this is reflected in the contents of your garden and kitchen. You're focused like a laser on reaching certain financial goals and anything that threatens this rattles you; take a deep breath and conquer! You're in a position to caretaker someone who's unable to take care of themselves in some way; you happily attend to this. You go the extra mile to help someone at work and this opens your eyes to the plight of someone else. A melancholy energy could infuse your environment; realizing that we live on a sometimes harsh planet is a downer until you take a look at the wonderful life you lead. Discovering a new recipe sends you on a shopping trip for ingredients. When something makes no sense, you realize the answers are held by the magnificent universe.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Movies: Science Fiction 2

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.

Wordsearch puzzle grid with a list of 20 science fiction movie titles below it for identification.

Yesterday's Solution

Movies: Science Fiction

Wordsearch puzzle grid for Yesterday's Solution with a list of 20 science fiction movie titles below it.

Hidden movie: THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI ACROSS THE EIGHTH DIMENSION

Daily SuDoku

4x4 grid for Daily SuDoku puzzle with some numbers pre-filled.

Yesterday's Solution

4x4 grid for Yesterday's Solution SuDoku puzzle with numbers pre-filled.



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018



Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki (left) delivers a speech on stage next to Syrian actor Zain Al-Rafeea (center) and her husband Lebanese producer Khaled Mouzanar (third right), British actor Gary Oldman (second right) and French actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Lea Seydoux after she was awarded with the Jury Prize for the film "Capharnaum" on May 19, 2018 during the closing ceremony of the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos

## LEBANESE CANNES WINNER DEDICATES PRIZE TO POOR KIDS

'I have helped my father fulfill his dreams'

Lebanese filmmaker Nadine Labaki, who won one of the top prizes at Cannes on Saturday with a story of dirt poor children and migrants, dedicated her award to her impoverished amateur cast and her homeland. Labaki is the first Arab woman to have won a major prize at the festival and only the second to have had a film competing for the Palme d'Or. Her stirring film "Capharnaum", whose 13-year-old Syrian refugee lead captured hearts in Cannes, had been tipped to win the Palme in a bumper year for films from North Africa and the Middle East.

Accepting the third-placed Jury Prize, Labaki said her thoughts were with a 12-year-old cast member, who she discovered selling tissues on the street, and who had probably again spent the day with "her face pressed against car windows". "I really think about them (the cast). I hope the film will enable the voices of these children to be better heard and trigger a debate," she told reporters. The glamorous 44-year-old added that she was "almost ashamed to be wearing such beautiful dresses"

to promote her film about a boy who takes his parents to court for bringing him into a miserable, loveless existence.

"Capharnaum", which won a 15-minute standing ovation at its premiere, catapults her into the big league after "Caramel", her intimate debut about a Beirut beauty parlor, and "Where Do We Go Now?", about women on a mission to end sectarian violence in their village. In an interview with AFP this week she said that while she had previously amplified women's voices she "never really felt pressure to talk about women just because I am a woman." "There are other things bothering me now," she said. "I'm thinking of the notion of borders, of having to have papers to exist, of being completely excluded from the system if you don't have them, of the maltreatment of children, modern slavery, immigrant workers, Syrian immigrants."

She does not spare the rod with her homeland in "Capharnaum", at the risk of being accused by the Lebanese of washing their dirty laundry in public. But as she triumphed at



Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki (left), her husband Lebanese producer Khaled Mouzanar (right) and Syrian actor Zain Al-Rafeea pose with the trophy during a photocall after Labaki won the Jury Prize for the film "Capharnaum".

children who try their best to make their way in this capernaum (confused jumble) that the world has become."

### Father's dream fulfilled

Labaki grew up during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war to a father who missed out on his dream of becoming a filmmaker. "I said to my father, 'One day I will go to Cannes. So I have helped my father fulfill his dreams,'" she said Saturday. She came face-to-face with the idea for her feature when she was driving home from a party and saw a child half-asleep in the arms of his mother begging on the pavement. "It became an obsession for me... I did more than three years of research. I was trying to understand how the system fails these kids." Zain Al Rafeea, who has been working as a delivery boy in Beirut until recently—and who has only just learned to write his name—turns in a performance in "Capharnaum" that had critics brushing away tears. Being a mother helped Labaki craft some of the most moving scenes, featuring a gurgling breast-fed baby for which Zain has to fend after his migrant mother is arrested.

But she expressed reservations about the campaign for gender quotas in film casts and crews spearheaded by Hollywood actresses in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal. "It's not just because we decide that there should be parity in a given domain that it is truly merited. Whether it's a man or a woman it must be truly on merit," she told AFP. — AFP



Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki (second right), Syrian actor Zain Al-Rafeea (center) and Lebanese producer Khaled Mouzanar (second left) pose with the trophy during a photocall after she was awarded with the Jury Prize for the film "Capharnaum".

Cannes, Labaki was gracious with her country, "which, despite everything it is accused of, gets by as best it can," she said. "It has welcomed the most refugees in the world (relative to its population), despite not having the means to meet the needs of its own population." But, she appealed: "We cannot continue to turn our back and remain blind to the suffering of these



Syrian actor Zain Al-Rafeea poses with the trophy during a photocall after Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki won the Jury Prize for the film "Capharnaum".



(From left) Lebanese producer Khaled Mouzanar, Syrian actor Zain Al-Rafeea, Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki and her son Walid arrive for the closing ceremony.



Jury Prize winner Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki (left) talks with Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett as they attend a musical performance on the red carpet.



# Japan wins Cannes top prize after Weinstein accuser takes stage



Palme d'Or winner Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-Eda (center) poses with jury members and laureates, Best Director Laureate, Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski (third left), Best Actress laureate, Kazakh actress Samal Yeslyamova (fourth left), Jury Prize laureate Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki (eighth left), Grand Prix laureate US director Spike Lee (ninth left), and Best Actor laureate, Italian actor Marcello Fonte (ninth right) during the closing ceremony of the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos



Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-Eda (right) poses on stage with Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett after he was awarded with the Palme d'Or for the film "Shoplifters (Manbiki Kazoku)".

**S**hoplifters", a heartwrenching family tale by Japanese veteran director Hirokazu Kore-eda, won the Palme d'Or top prize at the Cannes film festival Saturday, at a ceremony marked by an emotional speech from a Harvey Weinstein accuser. Spike Lee accepted the runner-up Grand Prix for "BlackKkKlansman", a searing broadside against racism with the stranger-than-fiction true story of an African-American police officer who manages to infiltrate the highest levels of the Ku Klux Klan.

Jury president Cate Blanchett said the film, which explicitly

links the 1970s tale and white nationalism in the Trump era, "blew us out of the cinema". But the most stunning moment of the night came when Italian star Asia Argento, who has said she was raped by Weinstein at Cannes in 1997, took the microphone and vowed to fight for justice for other victims. "This festival was his hunting ground," said Argento, who says she was 21 when Weinstein attacked her in his hotel room.

"Even tonight sitting among you there are those who still have to be held accountable for their conduct against women. We know who you are and we are not going to



Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-Eda (left) delivers a speech on stage next to a translator (center) and Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett after he was awarded with the Palme d'Or for the film "Shoplifters (Manbiki Kazoku)".

allow you to get away with it any longer," she said to cheers from the audience. Minutes before the actress took the stage police in Paris said they had opened a criminal probe against one of France's best-known directors, "The Fifth Element" maker Luc Besson, for allegedly raping an actress.

#### 'Rare good news'

Lebanese actress-director Nadine Labaki, one of three female filmmakers among the 21 contenders, earned the third-place Jury Prize for "Capernaum" set among the poorest of the poor in Beirut and featuring a devastating performance by a 13-year-old Syrian refugee boy. Kazakhstan's Samal Yeslyamova nabbed best actress for "Ayka" by director Sergey Dvortsevoy for her moving portrayal of a young jobless immigrant from post-Soviet Central Asia who abandons her baby in Moscow. Polish Oscar winner Pawel Pawlikowski took the prize for best director for "Cold War", a tragic love story set against the backdrop of the Iron Curtain.

Pawlikowski, who won the foreign-language movie Oscar for "Ida" in 2015, caused a scandal at home when he told AFP at the festival that the film had been "blacklisted" by the nationalist government. Warsaw denied the claim. He said his award was "a rare piece of good news" for his country. Italy's Marcello Fonte—who was working as a caretaker when he was discovered—was the night's fairytale winner. He clinched best actor for his much-loved performance as a soft-spoken pet groomer who stands up to a heavy in Matteo Garrone's "Dogman".

"Three Faces" by Iran's Jafar Pahahi, who was barred by Tehran from attending the festival, shared the best screenplay prize with Italian director Alice Rohrwacher's "Happy as Lazzaro". The Belgian transgender ballerina drama "Girl" won the Camera d'Or prize for best first film. It had earlier scooped the Queer Palm prize for LGBT-themed cinema and the best actor award for Victor Polster in the Un Certain Regard sidebar section. French-Swiss legend Jean-Luc Godard also got a special prize for "The Image Book", a bold, sometimes baffling meditation on the big questions of our time war, migration and the survival of the planet.

#### 'Very scary time'

"Shoplifters" was an early favorite at the 71st Cannes festival. It depicts a couple who rescue two abused and neglected children, providing the first love the youngsters have experienced even as they groom the kids to steal. US movie website IndieWire hailed it as "miraculous" while The Guardian called it "a rich, satisfying film". Spike Lee called



US director Spike Lee (center) poses with the Grand Prix award he received for the film "BlackKkKlansman" between British singer Sting (left) and Jamaican singer Shaggy after Sting and Shaggy performed on the red carpet.



Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski poses with the trophy during a photocall after he won the Best Director prize for the film "Zimna Wojna (Cold War)".

his own movie, which many critics hailed as a return to form for the "Do the Right Thing" director, a "wake-up call" against extremism around the world. "It's a very, very scary time we live in," he told reporters. "There is a lot of change but there is a lot of stuff that needs to happen... and with the present (Trump) administration they're doing many things to roll back the clock which I feel is dangerous." Beyond the prize winners, this year's festival will linger for its off-screen moments. Hollywood stars including Blanchett, Kristen Stewart, Helen Mirren and Salma Hayek and directors Ava DuVernay and Patty Jenkins joined a red-carpet protest to demand equal opportunities for women and a "safe workplace". Two days later, festival organizers signed a pledge to encourage more diversity in its selection by 2020.

Despite being one of the most sought-after tickets, the premiere of Danish bad boy Lars von Trier's "The House That Jack Built" saw audience members walk out in droves from what they called a misogynistic orgy of violence. Both its female stars, Uma Thurman and Riley Keough, were conspicuously absent from the red carpet, where Stewart on another night staged a protest of her own by slipping off her high heels and climbing the vaunted Cannes stairs barefoot. In 2017, the top prize went to Ruben Ostlund's "The Square," an art world send-up that went on to bag an Oscar nomination. — AFP



US director Spike Lee reacts on stage after he was awarded with the Grand Prix for the film "BlackKkKlansman" as (from left) Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski, laureate of the Best Actress award, Kazakh actress Samal Yeslyamova, Mauritanian director Abderrahmane Sissako, Lebanese producer Khaled Mouzanar, Jury Prize winner Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki, Syrian actor Zain Al-Rafeea, as French director and member of the Feature Film Jury Robert Guédiguian, Taiwanese actor and member of the Feature Film Jury Chang Chen and Burundian singer and member of the Feature Film Jury Khadja Nin look on, during the closing ceremony.



Italian actress Asia Argento (left) speaks on stage as US director and screenwriter and member of the Feature Film Jury Ava DuVernay listens.



US director Spike Lee delivers a speech on stage after he was awarded with the Grand Prix for the film "BlackKkKlansman".



US director Spike Lee (center) poses with his trophy next to US actress Laura Harrier (left) and a guest during a photocall after he won the Grand Prix for the film "BlackKkKlansman".



Lifestyle | Awards

(From left) Taiwanese actor and member of the Feature Film Jury Chang Chen, Canadian director and member of the Feature Film Jury Denis Villeneuve, Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett, French actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Lea Seydoux, US director and screenwriter and member of the Feature Film Jury Ava DuVernay, US actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Kristen Stewart, Burundian singer and member of the Feature Film Jury Khadja Nin, Russian director and member of the Feature Film Jury Andrey Zvyagintsev and French director and member of the Feature Film Jury Robert Guediguain pose as they arrive for the closing ceremony.



Kazakh actress Samal Yeslyamova (left) stands on stage next to US director and screenwriter and member of the Feature Film Jury Ava DuVernay after she was awarded with the Best Actress Prize for her part in the film "Ayka (My Little One)".



Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski delivers a speech on stage next to US actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Kristen Stewart after he was awarded with the Best Director prize for the film "Cold War (Zimna Wojna)".



A general view shows Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-Eda (left) delivering a speech on stage next to a translator (second left), Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett (third left) and jury members (Rear) after he was awarded with the Palme d'Or for the film "Shoplifters (Manbiki Kazoku)".



Iranian actress and daughter of Jafar Panahi Solmaz Panahi (third left) and Italian director Alice Rohrwacher stand on stage with Iranian actor and son of Jafar Panahi Panah Panahi (left), French director and member of the Feature Film Jury Robert Guediguain (second left), French-Italian actress Chiara Mastroianni (second right) and Russian director and member of the Feature Film Jury Andrey Zvyagintsev after they were jointly awarded with the Best Screenplay prize for the film "3 Faces (Se Rokh)" and "Lazzaro Felice (Happy as Lazzaro)".



Iranian actress and daughter of Jafar Panahi Solmaz Panahi (left), who represents her father Jafar Panahi, and Italian director Alice Rohrwacher pose with the trophy during a photocall after they jointly won the Best Screenplay prize respectively for the films "3 Faces (Se Rokh)" and "Lazzaro Felice (Happy as Lazzaro)".



Swiss director and President of the Camera d'Or jury Ursula Meier (center) poses with Belgian director Lukas Dhont (right) and Belgian actor Victor Polster during a photocall after the former won the Camera d'Or prize for the film "Girl".



Belgian director Lukas Dhont (right) delivers a speech on stage next to Belgian actor Victor Polster after he was awarded with the Camera d'Or for the film "Girl".



Lebanese director and actress Nadine Labaki (center) speaks on stage with British actor Gary Oldman (left) next to Syrian actor Zain Al-Rafeea after she was awarded with the Jury Prize for the film "Capharnaum".



# Red carpet looks that dazzled Cannes



Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett (center) arrives with (from left) Russian director and member of the Feature Film Jury Andrey Zvyagintsev, Burundian singer and member of the Feature Film Jury Khadja Nin, French actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Lea Seydoux and US director and screenwriter and member of the Feature Film Jury Ava DuVernay for the closing ceremony and the screening of the film "The Man Who Killed Don Quixote" at the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos



Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett arrives for the screening of the film "Capharnaum" at the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes.

With two powerful protests by female stars calling for equal pay and treatment, the red carpet at the Cannes film festival—which ends Sunday—was about much more than fashion statements. But that did not dim the glamour of the gala premieres. We look back on 12 days and nights of glitz, as well as the occasional wardrobe malfunction, on the French Riviera.

#### Who's wearing the trousers?

The Cannes red carpet has seen a lot in 71 years. But few nights will live longer in the memory than the one when female stars led by jury president Cate Blanchett protested about the festival's epic fail when it comes to women directors. All but 82 films of the near 1,700 shown at Cannes over the years have been by men. This was also possibly the best-dressed demo in history, with Kristen Stewart rocking a white Chanel trouser suit and many others following #MeToo protests elsewhere by dressing in black. This was a Cannes where women wore the trousers—once frowned upon by the festival's dress code—with Blanchett killing it with a black Givenchy jumpsuit for the premiere of "Capernaum".

#### Queen Cate

No one does regal better than Blanchett who made her name playing British monarch Elizabeth I. Her intelligence and poise gave the festival a new sheen, from her speech at the protest to her insistence that the jury will chose the best film, not the one that best fits the political narrative. Her wardrobe choices were equally impeccable at more than a dozen galas. Two black Armani numbers contrasted with an intricate avant-garde Iris van Herpen dress. And she brought the house down with a spec-



Indian actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan poses as she arrives for the screening of the film "Girls of the Sun (Les Filles du Soleil)"

tacular blue Mary Katrantzou ball gown that took six months to make. The dress also delivered the cutest photo of the festival when her daughter hid under her skirts as she left her hotel room.

#### Black is back

Black and mixed-race French actresses showed how to be angry and elegant in their protest on the red carpet about the shocking discrimination and stereotyping they have

suffered. Dressed in Balmain they lit up Cannes on the wettest night of the festival and were clapped up the carpet by jury member Khadja Nin. The Burundian singer has given Blanchett a run for her money with some seri-

ously sassy wax print dresses and headwraps while Spike Lee dusted down his Love and Hate knuckleduster rings from "Do the Right Thing" for his "BlackKkKlansman" premiere.

#### Kicking ass barefoot

After "Heelgate" in 2015 when women were stopped on the red carpet for not wearing high heels, Cannes "sexist" dress code—since revised—took a bit of a kicking this year with jury member Kristen Stewart throwing off her stilettos and walking barefoot up the steps for "BlackKkKlansman".

A few nights later she ground convention further into the dust with an androgynous black Chanel jacket and leather trousers and loafers. Italian director Alice Rohrwacher, whose quirky "Happy as Lazzaro" is in the running for the Palme d'Or top prize, took gender reversal to a new level by wearing a man's shirt backwards for her press conference.

#### Butterfly gothic

Indian icon Aishwarya Rai and Iranian actress Marziyeh Rezaei wore two of the most photographed dresses—for very different reasons. The train of the Bollywood star's peacock/butterfly Michael Cinco dress was the longest seen on the red carpet for many a year, while Rezaei's was a spectacularly modest shimmering tulle number channeling the most gothic of fairytales.

#### A slight snag...

And you have to feel sorry for the super chic Japanese actress Erika Karata who had to be rescued not once but twice by her co-stars from "Asako I & 2" when she got her heel stuck in her dress on the famous Cannes red carpet. — AFP



Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett arrives for the screening of the film "BlackKkKlansman".



US actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Kristen Stewart arrives on stage during the closing ceremony.



Burundian singer and member of the Feature Film Jury Khadja Nin.



US actress and member of the Feature Film Jury Kristen Stewart arrives for the screening of the film "Knife + Heart (Un Couteau dans le Coeur)".



Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett poses as she arrives for the screening of the film "Cold War (Zimna Wojna)".



# Classifieds

Monday, May 21, 2018

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with light to moderate variable wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.

| WEATHER WARNING |           |           | No Current Warnings            |  |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| STATION         | MAX. EXP. | MIN. REC. | SFC. CHART 20/05/2018 0000 UTC |  |
| KUWAIT CITY     | 40 °C     | 29 °C     |                                |  |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT  | 40 °C     | 22 °C     |                                |  |
| ABDALY          | 40 °C     | 24 °C     |                                |  |
| BUBYAN          | ---- °C   | ---- °C   |                                |  |
| JAHRA           | 41 °C     | 25 °C     |                                |  |
| FAILAKA ISLAND  | 39 °C     | 24 °C     |                                |  |
| SALMIYAH        | 37 °C     | 30 °C     |                                |  |
| AHMADI          | 36 °C     | 28 °C     |                                |  |
| NUWAISIB        | 41 °C     | 24 °C     |                                |  |
| WAFRA           | 41 °C     | 21 °C     |                                |  |
| SALMY           | 38 °C     | 24 °C     |                                |  |

| 4 DAYS FORECAST |       |   |              |       |                |              |
|-----------------|-------|---|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| DAY             | DATE  | WEATHER   | Temperatures |       | Wind Direction | Wind Speed   |
|                 |       |   | MAX.         | MIN.  |                |              |
| Monday          | 05/21 | Hot   | 41 °C        | 23 °C | VRB-SE         | 08 - 32 km/h |
| Tuesday         | 05/22 | Hot and some scattered clouds will appear                               | 42 °C        | 24 °C | VRB-SE         | 08 - 32 km/h |
| Wednesday       | 05/23 | Hot + rising dust over open areas and some scattered clouds will appear | 42 °C        | 25 °C | SW-SE          | 12 - 42 km/h |
| Thursday        | 05/24 | Hot   | 42 °C        | 26 °C | VRB-NW         | 08 - 28 km/h |

| PRAYER TIMES |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Fajr         | 03:22 |
| 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.                           | 24 °C      |
| MAX. RH                              | 34 %       |
| MIN. RH                              | 08 %       |
| MAX. Wind                            | SW 36 km/h |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.             | 0 mm       |

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**Hospitals**

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

**Clinics**

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

**Airlines**

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| American Airlines  | 22087425     |
| Kuwait Airways     | 22087426     |
| Jazeera Airways    | 171          |
| Jet Airways        | 177          |
| FlyDubai           | 22924455     |
| Qatar Airways      | 22414400     |
| KLM                | 22423888     |
| Royal Jordanian    | 22425747     |
| British Airways    | 22418064/5/6 |
| Air France         | 22425635     |
| Emirates           | 22430224     |
| Air India          | 22921555     |
| Sri Lanka Airlines | 22438184     |
| Egypt Air          | 22424444     |
|                    | a22421578    |

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## Flight Schedule

**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

| Arrival Flights on Monday 21/5/2018 |      |                   |       |          | Departure Flights on Monday 21/5/2018 |       |          |                   |       |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines                            | Flt  | Route             | Time  |          | Airlines                              | Flt   | Route    | Time              |       |
| FEG                                 | 441  | Asyut             | 00:05 | FEG 341  | Sohag                                 | 13:50 |          |                   |       |
| THY                                 | 772  | Istanbul          | 00:15 | KAC 672  | Dubai                                 | 13:55 | AIC 982  | Ahmedabad/Chennai | 00:05 |
| KAC                                 | 504  | Beirut            | 00:50 | IAW 157A | Al Najaf                              | 13:55 | KAC 417  | Manila            | 00:25 |
| KAC                                 | 102  | London            | 00:50 | KAC 618  | Doha                                  | 14:10 | JAI 573  | Mumbai            | 00:30 |
| DLH                                 | 625  | Dammam            | 00:50 | QTR 1078 | Doha                                  | 14:10 | MSR 2615 | Cairo             | 00:30 |
| JZR                                 | 539  | Cairo             | 01:00 | KNE 231  | Riyadh                                | 14:15 | FDB 072  | Dubai             | 00:30 |
| PGT                                 | 858  | Istanbul          | 01:15 | GFA 221  | Bahrain                               | 14:15 | PIA 206  | Lahore            | 01:00 |
| JZR                                 | 267  | Beirut            | 01:25 | KAC 286  | Dhaka                                 | 14:25 | JZR 528  | Asyut             | 01:05 |
| RJA                                 | 642  | Amman             | 01:35 | JZR 751  | Muscat                                | 14:25 | FEG 344  | Sohag             | 01:05 |
| UAE                                 | 853  | Dubai             | 01:40 | KNE 537  | Madinah                               | 14:30 | KAC 677  | Dubai             | 01:30 |
| KKK                                 | 1268 | Istanbul          | 02:00 | SVA 500  | Jeddah                                | 14:35 | THY 773  | Istanbul          | 01:45 |
| ETH                                 | 620  | Addis Ababa       | 02:15 | KAC 788  | Jeddah                                | 14:50 | KAC 285  | Dhaka             | 01:50 |
| GFA                                 | 211  | Bahrain           | 02:15 | KAC 304  | Mumbai                                | 15:05 | DLH 625  | Frankfurt         | 01:50 |
| QTR                                 | 1086 | Doha              | 02:30 | KNE 529  | Jeddah                                | 15:05 | JZR 502  | Luxor             | 01:55 |
| JZR                                 | 607  | Kochi             | 02:55 | ETD 303  | Abu Dhabi                             | 15:05 | PGT 859  | Istanbul          | 02:15 |
| KAC                                 | 418  | Manila            | 03:05 | KAC 412  | Bangkok                               | 15:10 | THY 765  | Istanbul          | 02:50 |
| ETD                                 | 305  | Abu Dhabi         | 03:05 | OMA 645  | Muscat                                | 15:20 | KKK 1269 | Istanbul          | 02:55 |
| OMA                                 | 643  | Muscat            | 03:05 | KAC 562  | Amman                                 | 15:20 | ETH 621  | Addis Ababa       | 03:05 |
| KAC                                 | 382  | Delhi             | 03:10 | KNE 531  | Jeddah                                | 15:35 | UAE 854  | Dubai             | 03:30 |
| MSC                                 | 415  | Sohag             | 03:10 | ABY 127  | Sharjah                               | 15:35 | JZR 142  | Doha              | 03:45 |
| MSR                                 | 612  | Cairo             | 03:15 | KAC 502  | Beirut                                | 15:35 | OMA 644  | Muscat            | 04:05 |
| QTR                                 | 1076 | Doha              | 03:30 | JZR 563  | Sohag                                 | 15:40 | ETD 306  | Abu Dhabi         | 04:05 |
| JAI                                 | 572  | Mumbai            | 04:00 | UAE 857  | Dubai                                 | 15:45 | MSC 416  | Sohag             | 04:10 |
| KAC                                 | 346  | Ahmedabad         | 04:15 | JZR 789  | Riyadh                                | 15:55 | QTR 1087 | Doha              | 04:15 |
| KAC                                 | 1544 | Cairo             | 04:25 | SAW 705  | Damascus                              | 16:00 | MSR 613  | Cairo             | 04:15 |
| JZR                                 | 609  | Hyderabad         | 04:30 | JZR 534  | Cairo                                 | 16:10 | JAI 571  | Mumbai            | 05:05 |
| KAC                                 | 784  | Jeddah            | 04:30 | QTR 1072 | Doha                                  | 16:15 | QTR 1077 | Doha              | 05:15 |
| DHX                                 | 170  | Bahrain           | 05:10 | FDB 051  | Dubai                                 | 16:20 | KAC 303  | Mumbai            | 05:35 |
| THY                                 | 770  | Istanbul          | 05:15 | KAC 118  | New York                              | 16:20 | JZR 702  | Taif              | 06:05 |
| JZR                                 | 603  | Mumbai            | 05:25 | KAC 542  | Cairo                                 | 17:00 | THY 771  | Istanbul          | 06:30 |
| KAC                                 | 344  | Chennai           | 05:30 | SVA 510  | Riyadh                                | 17:15 | KAC 331  | Trivandrum        | 17:55 |
| KAC                                 | 332  | Trivandrum        | 05:40 | GFA 215  | Bahrain                               | 17:30 | KAC 283  | Dhaka             | 18:00 |
| JZR                                 | 561  | Sohag             | 05:55 | JZR 145  | Doha                                  | 17:35 | SVA 511  | Riyadh            | 18:15 |
| BAW                                 | 157  | London            | 06:10 | JZR 777  | Jeddah                                | 17:35 | GFA 216  | Bahrain           | 18:20 |
| KAC                                 | 284  | Dhaka             | 06:25 | MSR 620  | Cairo                                 | 18:30 | JZR 608  | Hyderabad         | 18:25 |
| WAN                                 | 338  | Alexandria        | 06:25 | RJA 640  | Amman                                 | 19:00 | JZR 240  | Amman             | 18:30 |
| KAC                                 | 204  | Lahore            | 06:30 | GFA 217  | Bahrain                               | 19:05 | JZR 538  | Cairo             | 18:35 |
| KAC                                 | 678  | Dubai             | 06:45 | UAE 875  | Dubai                                 | 19:10 | WAN 135  | Doha              | 18:40 |
| WAN                                 | 342  | Sohag             | 06:55 | KAC 744  | Dammam                                | 19:10 | KAC 381  | Delhi             | 17:45 |
| KAC                                 | 302  | Mumbai            | 07:00 | ABY 123  | Sharjah                               | 19:20 | KAC 331  | Trivandrum        | 17:55 |
| JZR                                 | 143  | Doha              | 07:20 | KAC 156  | Istanbul                              | 19:35 | KAC 331  | Dhaka             | 18:00 |
| JZR                                 | 529  | Asyut             | 07:30 | KAC 776  | Riyadh                                | 19:35 | KAC 331  | Riyadh            | 18:15 |
| KAC                                 | 354  | Bengaluru         | 07:45 | KAC 674  | Dubai                                 | 19:40 | GFA 218  | Bahrain           | 19:50 |
| JZR                                 | 503  | Luxor             | 07:50 | FDB 057  | Dubai                                 | 19:50 | RJA 641  | Amman             | 20:00 |
| KAC                                 | 384  | Delhi             | 08:05 | KAC 616  | Bahrain                               | 20:00 | ABY 124  | Sharjah           | 20:00 |
| KAC                                 | 358  | Kochi             | 08:05 | DLH 624  | Frankfurt                             | 20:05 | JZR 552D | Alexandria        | 20:05 |
| UAE                                 | 855  | Dubai             | 08:25 | OMA 647  | Muscat                                | 20:05 | JZR 602  | Mumbai            | 20:30 |
| ETD                                 | 301  | Abu Dhabi         | 08:55 | KNE 381  | Taif                                  | 20:10 | FDB 058  | Dubai             | 20:30 |
| ABY                                 | 125  | Sharjah           | 09:00 | MEA 402  | Beirut                                | 20:15 | KAC 357  | Kochi             | 20:30 |
| IRA                                 | 667  | Esfahan           | 09:15 | KAC 620  | Doha                                  | 20:15 | UAE 876  | Dubai             | 20:35 |
| SAW                                 | 703  | Damascus          | 09:30 | QTR 1088 | Doha                                  | 20:40 | DLH 624  | Dammam            | 21:00 |
| QTR                                 | 1070 | Doha              | 09:30 | KLM 445  | Amsterdam                             | 21:00 | KAC 353  | Bengaluru         | 21:50 |
| FDB                                 | 055  | Dubai             | 09:40 | UAE 859  | Dubai                                 | 21:15 | KNE 232  | Riyadh            | 21:00 |
| IAW                                 | 157  | Al Najaf          | 10:00 | KAC 859  | Dubai                                 | 21:15 | OMA 648  | Muscat            | 21:05 |
| MSC                                 | 405  | Sohag             | 10:15 | ALK 229  | Colombo                               | 21:15 | JZR 1538 | Cairo             | 21:15 |
| AXB                                 | 889  | Mangalore/Bahrain | 10:20 | ETD 307  | Abu Dhabi                             | 21:15 | MEA 403  | Beirut            | 21:15 |
| GFA                                 | 213  | Bahrain           | 10:40 | KAC 168  | Paris                                 | 21:20 | KAC 1543 | Cairo             | 21:20 |
| MEA                                 | 404  | Beirut            | 10:55 | GFA 219  | Bahrain                               | 21:50 | KAC 301  | Mumbai            | 21:35 |
| JZR                                 | 703  | Taif              | 11:00 | KAC 162  | Geneva                                | 21:50 | DHX 171  | Bahrain           | 21:50 |
| QTR                                 | 1074 | Doha              | 11:00 | QTR 1082 | Doha                                  | 22:05 | QTR 1089 | Doha              | 21:50 |
| JZR                                 | 1771 | Jeddah            | 12:05 | ETD 309  | Abu Dhabi                             | 22:10 | ETD 308  | Abu Dhabi         | 22:05 |
| WAN                                 | 134  | Doha              | 12:20 | KAC 786  | Jeddah                                | 22:15 | KLM 445  | Bahrain           | 22:10 |
| RBG                                 | 553  | Alexandria        | 12:30 | AIC 975  | Chennai/Goa                           | 22:25 | ALK 230  | Colombo           | 22:20 |
| SAW                                 | 701  | Damascus          | 12:30 | WAN 136  | Doha                                  | 22:30 | KAC 783  | Jeddah            | 22:25 |
| UAE                                 | 871  | Dubai             | 12:45 | SVA 502  | Jeddah                                | 22:45 | KAC 383  | Delhi             | 22:25 |
| WAN                                 | 542  | KTM               | 12:50 | JAI 574  | Mumbai                                | 23:00 | UAE 860  | Dubai             | 22:35 |
| MSR                                 | 610  | Cairo             | 13:00 | THY 764  | Istanbul                              | 23:15 | GFA 220  | Bahrain           | 22:50 |
| KAC                                 | 774  | Riyadh            | 13:30 | MSR 2614 | Cairo                                 | 23:30 | ETD 310  | Abu Dhabi         | 23:00 |
| JZR                                 | 779  | Jeddah            | 13:45 | FDB 071  | Dubai                                 | 23:35 | QTR 1083 | Doha              | 23:20 |
|                                     |      |                   |       | JZR 241  | Amman                                 | 23:40 | WAN 337  | Alexandria        | 23:40 |
|                                     |      |                   |       |          |                                       |       | SVA 503  | Jeddah            | 23:45 |





MUSCAT: Muslim devotees gather to share an Iftar dinner, the first meal after the daytime fast during the holy month of Ramadan, in front of the newly built Sayeda Fatima mosque in the Omani capital Muscat. — AFP

## Comoros ex-leader under house arrest; passport row rages

**MORONI:** Comoros has put former President Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi under house arrest just days after he was questioned over his role in a scheme to sell citizenship that investigators say was riddled with corrupt practice. The Interior Ministry said it had decided to put Sambi under house arrest after he tried to incite his supporters following his questioning by investigators at his home on Tuesday.

Sambi, another ex-president Ikililou Dhoinine, who

succeeded him, and 10 other senior officials from their administrations have been banned from travelling. Sambi, who was in power from 2006 to 2011 and has denied the allegations against him, was not immediately available to comment on the house arrest order.

Comoros launched a program with the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait in 2008 to sell citizenship to stateless people in those countries, known as Bedoon, in return for cash to help develop the poor Indian Ocean archipelago. However, an investigation by the Comoros parliament released earlier this year found that thousands of passports were sold outside official channels via "mafia" networks and at least \$100 million of revenues went missing. President Azali Assoumani has said the scheme has since been suspended and promised to hold those who broke the law or embezzled money to account. — Reuters

## Surgeon builds windpipes from arteries

**PARIS:** Where others failed, sometimes spectacularly, French surgeon Emmanuel Martinod has helped people whose windpipes have been ravaged by cancer and other diseases to live and breathe normally again. At least one of his patients, sporting a new trachea, has taken up long-distance running. Since 2009, Martinod and his team at Avicenne Hospital near Paris have carried out more than a dozen trachea transplants using donor aortas reinforced with custom-made internal scaffolding, called stents.

Hailed by one US throat surgeon as a "major advance", the reconstructive technique was detailed yesterday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, and presented at a medical congress in San Diego, California. Previous efforts to rebuild the windpipe and airways from scratch had

focused on using artificial tubes seeded with the patient's own stem cells. This approach was made famous—and then notorious by disgraced Italian surgeon Paolo Macchiarini, who performed synthetic trachea transplants on eight patients from 2011 to 2014.

Seven died from complications, and the whereabouts of the eighth is unknown. It was later revealed that Macchiarini falsified results in published studies. Martinod struck on the idea of using aortas—the largest artery in the body—from deceased donors to replace damaged sections of trachea, the roughly 10-centimetre (four-inch) tube of cartilage and tissue that connect the larynx to bronchial tubes feeding into the lungs. The thick walls of aortas are designed to withstand a lifetime of pressure, channeling blood pumped by the heart.

Harvested from donors, the arteries can be frozen to minus 80 degrees Celsius (minus 112 degrees Fahrenheit) and stored, ensuring an ample supply. The freezing process, Martinod discovered, had another huge advantage: it removed the need for a life-long regimen of medications to prevent the immune system from rejecting a transplanted organ or body part. — AFP

## Syrian troops battle to crush IS militants...

Continued from Page 1

The month-long battles have been the toughest fought by the Syrian army and its allied forces this year against opposition forces in pockets around the capital, defense experts say. Despite extensive use of air power that has left many parts of the area leveled to the ground, troops and allied militias have sustained heavy losses as they encounter tough resistance from diehard militants waging a battle to the end. In a live broadcast, a reporter with Syrian state TV said the Syrian army operations in the Hajar Al-Aswad area were nearing their end and insurgent lines were collapsing as columns of smoke rose from the area behind him.

Syrian state news agency SANA said troops were about to close in on militants holed up in a small area of high density buildings north of Hajar Al-Aswad. "The fighting skills of the army are foiling all the efforts by the terrorists to prevent the army from completing the liberation of the area," SANA said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights earlier said buses had entered the enclave after midnight to take out fighters and their families.

They had left towards the Syrian Badia, a sparsely populated expanse of territory east of the capital that

extends to the border with Jordan and Iraq, it said.

Offices torched  
Islamic State militants had torched their offices in the Yarmouk enclave, the Observatory said. Negotiated withdrawals have been a common feature of the Syrian war in recent years as the government, aided by the Russian military and Iran-backed forces, has steadily clawed back territory. The rebels have mostly been given safe passage to northwestern Syria. In the last two months alone, the United Nations says 110,000 people have been evacuated to northwestern Syria and rebel-held areas north of Aleppo.

The opposition has called it a policy of forced displacement amounting to demographic change to drive out Assad's opponents. The Syrian government has said nobody is forced to leave and those who stay must accept state rule. While Assad has vowed to win back "every inch" of Syria, the map of the conflict suggests a more complicated time ahead from now on.

The US military is in much of the east and northeast, which is controlled by Kurdish groups that want autonomy from Damascus. It has used force to defend the territory from pro-Assad forces. Turkey has sent forces into the northwest to counter those same Kurdish groups, carving out a buffer zone where anti-Assad rebels have regrouped. In the southwest, where rebels hold territory at the Israeli and Jordanian border, Assad faces the risk of conflict with Israel, which wants his Iranian-backed allies kept well away from the frontier and has mounted air strikes in Syria. — Reuters

## Harry and Meghan go straight to work after lavish wedding

**LONDON:** Prince Harry and his new wife Meghan began married life yesterday after their spectacular, rule-breaking wedding, but will be delaying a honeymoon as they turn immediately to royal duties. The newly ennobled Duke and Duchess of Sussex tied the knot in Saturday's ceremony at Windsor Castle, where they were greeted by around 100,000 people lining the streets and watched by millions around the world.

The couple laughed and smiled as they drove a vintage Jaguar to their evening party hosted by Harry's father Prince Charles, where actor Idris Elba reportedly took a turn as DJ. Hollywood actor George Clooney and tennis star Serena Williams also attended the black-tie do for around 200 close family and friends, in a house in the grounds of the castle.

After stunning the crowds with a sweeping Givenchy gown during the ceremony, Meghan changed into a sleek Stella McCartney halterneck dress for the evening affair. On her finger was a large aquamarine ring, which belonged to Harry's late mother, Diana. The couple will not be taking a honeymoon immediately, as they are due to attend a charity garden party for Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday. Meghan and Charles have reportedly forged a strong bond, and he stepped in to escort her to the altar at the wedding after her own father pulled out following a media furor and subsequent heart surgery.

The wedding was like no other the royal family has ever staged, a mix of the pageantry that Britain does so well, and celebrity razzmatazz and African-American culture. The couple held hands throughout, a gospel choir sang "Stand By Me" and US pastor Michael Curry delivered a passionate, lengthy address about the power of love, referencing slavery.

Meghan, a mixed-race television actress, also made

her mark by walking up the aisle partly on her own, and giving a speech at the evening reception. "Kissstory: Harry & Meg's historic change for monarchy," headlined *The Sun* yesterday, with a photograph of the couple kissing on the steps of St George's Chapel. "If ever there was a wedding to symbolize modern, multi-cultural, multi-racial Britain, yesterday's was it," the *Sunday Mirror* wrote in an editorial. "Disney could not have come up with a better princess," said the *Sunday Telegraph*, while *The Mail* yesterday simply said: "Harry ever after!"

### 'Strong woman'

Harry and Meghan were due to return to their home at Kensington Palace in London after staying overnight in Windsor, a residence of Queen Elizabeth II. The picturesque town was transformed into a sea of Union Jack flags for the wedding, with the world's media mixing with thousands of well-wishers, many of whom camped out for days.

"Thank you to everyone who came to Windsor and those who followed from around the UK, the Commonwealth, and the world," the royal family tweeted. The new duchess previously expressed a desire to "hit the ground running" with her royal duties, and the designer of her dress, Givenchy's Clare Waight Keller, said: "She knows what she wants." She said the bride had been "incredibly composed" before the ceremony, adding: "She's exactly what you see on TV... She's a strong woman... and it was really an absolute joy working with her."

As a member of the monarchy, Meghan now has her own section of the royal.uk website, which highlights her charity work—and plays down her acting career. The section "About the Duchess of Sussex" notes her activism from an early age, as well as her work with UN Women, One Young World and World Vision, with only a passing reference to "filming in Toronto". Fans have to delve into the biography section for details about Meghan's near 15-year career as an actress, including in hit US television series "Suits", shot in Toronto. — AFP

## Free of IS, Syrians in Raqa mark...

Continued from Page 1

he will observe the day-long fast, but is excited to resume one custom in particular: gathering around the television with his family to watch month-long drama series aired specially during Ramadan. IS had clamped down on satellite dishes and any form of entertainment seen as contrary to religion. "We missed these Ramadan traditions. For four years under IS, we were banned from watching these series," Hussein said.

### 'People are free'

Already, Ramadan feels different, with those opting not to fast eating publicly without fear of retribution. Young men gather at a restaurant in the city centre, sipping on chilled fruit juices under the scorching sun. An employee carefully slices slabs of meat that will be barbecued for juicy sandwiches. "During IS' reign, we could only open our restaurants two hours before breaking the fast," says owner Dakhil Al-Farj. Anyone seen eating during the day was arrested by the hisbah, or religious police, he recalls.

"Now, we start serving customers at 10 am. People are free. Those that want to fast do, and those that don't are also free not to," Farj says. IS' defeat in Raqa came at a heavy price. Residents are still losing their lives to the sea of unexploded ordnance left behind by the jihadists. Bombing raids by the US-led coalition backing the offensive against IS flattened entire neighborhoods, and rebuilding efforts have been slow. Many dis-

tricts still have no electricity or running water, and there are barely any jobs.

That means many are unable to afford a lavish iftar, the sunset meal that breaks the daytime fast. In one street market, Syrians stroll among stalls piled high with fragrant oranges, bananas, bright white cauliflowers, potatoes and deep purple aubergines. Huran Al-Nachef, a 52-year-old Raqa native, will pick up a few tomatoes, cucumbers, and potatoes for a modest meal. "It's all obscenely expensive and there's no work," says Nachef.

### Affording iftar

His children look for odd jobs every day to try to provide for their families, but can barely break even. "Those with money can prepare iftar, but those poor like me can't help but feel sorry for themselves," he says. Nadia al-Saleh, another resident, shuffles into a bustling bakery to pick up maarouk, a brioche-like pastry covered in sesame seeds that is ubiquitous during Ramadan. "We're buying some pastries to make the kids happy, make them feel the Ramadan spirit," says Saleh, whose hair is covered by a dainty midnight-blue shawl. "We're still homeless. We're living with other people, our husbands have no work. Our situation is really tough."

But baker Hanif Abu Badih is feeling optimistic. "There's no comparison. Despite all the destruction, people are extremely happy that the nightmare is over," he tells AFP, dressed in a traditional bright white robe. Under IS, he was sentenced to 40 lashes and three days in prison, and his bakery was forced to close for two weeks. Why? One of his youngest employees tried to hide when the hisbah was rounding up men for obligatory prayers. "This year, we are going to fast without IS. We're going to live however we want, in total freedom," says Abu Badih. — AFP



## Sports

# Jamaica's Elaine Thompson cruises to 100m win at Jamaica International

## Wilson, Kenyans take distance titles at Boston meet

**KINGSTON:** Jamaica's double Olympic sprint Elaine Thompson was back in the winner's circle Saturday, cruising to victory in the 100m at the Jamaica International Invitational in 11.06sec. Thompson, the 2016 Olympic gold medalist in the 100m and 200m, finished well in front of compatriots Kerron Stewart (11.25) and Natasha Morrison (11.26) in a race that saw Jamaicans occupy the top five places.

Thompson's victory came 11 days after she pulled out of the Diamond League meeting in Shanghai with what meet organizers called a "physical issue." A week earlier Thompson had finished third in the 100m at the Diamond League meeting in Doha. The women's 200m also went to Jamaica as Shericka Jackson triumphed in 22.55sec in her long-awaited duel with Nigerian Blessing Okagbare (22.66). But in rainy conditions in Kingston, neither approached her best times of the season. Okagbare has the fastest 200m in the world this year of 22.04.

America's 400m world champion Phyllis Francis took third in 22.76. American Ronnie Baker won the men's 100m in 10.00 in a favorable wind of 2m/sec. He headed compatriot Mike Rodgers (10.04) with Jamaica's Tykwendo Tracey third (10.14).

Jamaican Oshane Bailey was third in 10.28 and

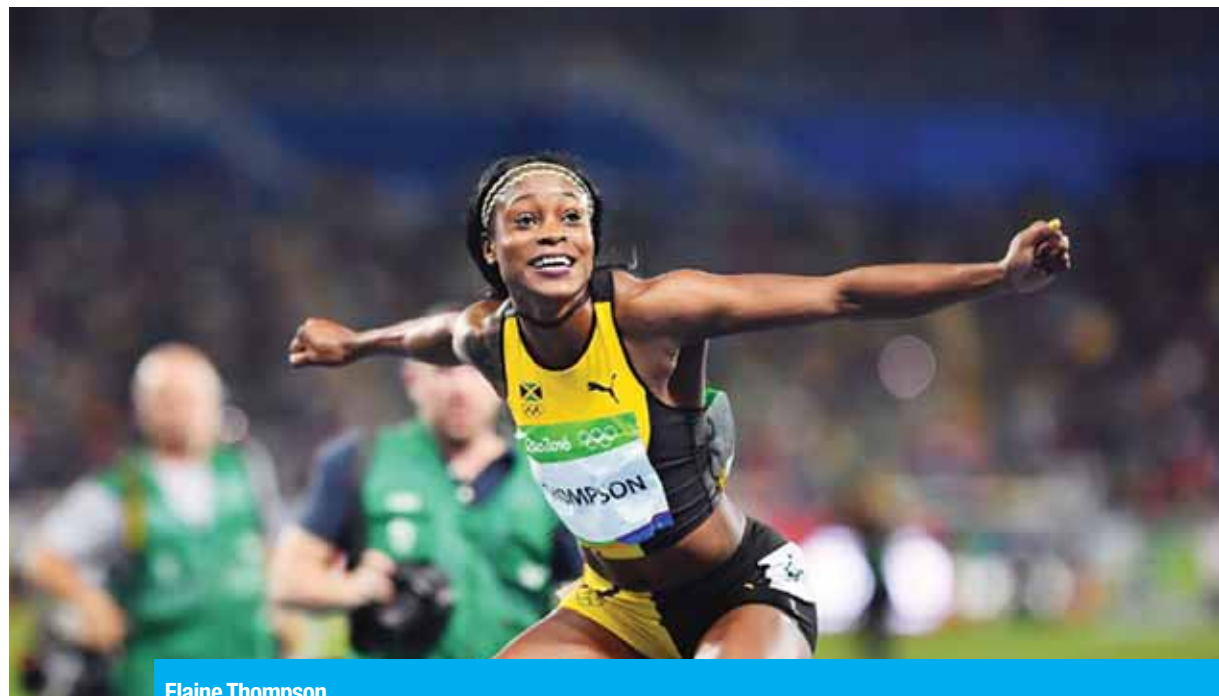
Nesta Carter settled for fifth in 10.35, just ahead of ageless Kim Collins (10.37). While the sprints were the center of attention, American DeAnna Price highlighted the night's field events in winning the women's hammer with a throw of 76.27m—the best in the world this year at one centimeter better than the 76.26 of Belarusian Hanna Malyshik.

Earleir in New York, two-time world indoor runner-up Aje Wilson won the 800 meters Saturday in distance events contested on the opening night of the Boston Games athletics meet.

Wilson won at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology stadium track in 1min 59.27secs, .16 ahead of Jamaica's Natoya Goule, who was third at this year's Commonwealth Games.

Kenyans celebrated two triumphs with Cyrus Rutto taking the men's 3,000 in 7:45.64 and Caroline Kipkirui

taking the women's 5,000 in 15:55.24, edging Ethiopia's Folyen Tesfay by .51. Britain's Chris O'Hare, a 1,500 Rio Olympic semi-finalist coming off a foot injury, finished second in the mile, with American Drew Hunter winning in 3:56.72 and O'Hare next on 3:57.17. New Zealand's Nick Willis, twice an Olympic 1,500m medalist, was sixth in 4:00.29 in his outdoor season debut. The 35-year-old Kiwi missed April's



Elaine Thompson

Commonwealth Games with a leg injury.

Canada's Brandon McBride won the men's 800 in 1:45.18, defeating Poland's Marcin Lewandowski by .93. Ethiopia's Dawit Seyaum, the 2016 world indoor

1,500m runner-up, won the 1,500 in 4:04.65, edging American Charlene Lipsey by .33. The meet concludes Sunday with sprints on a specially constructed straightaway in downtown Boston.—AFP



## US Ronnie Baker wins men's 100m

## Justify wins Preakness to set stage for Triple Crown bid

**WASHINGTON:** Kentucky Derby winner Justify battled to a gritty victory in the 143rd Preakness Stakes on Saturday to keep the dream of a 13th Triple Crown winner alive.

Pressed early by Derby runner-up Good Magic at fog-shrouded Pimlico, the Bob Baffert-trained Justify, ridden by Mike Smith, surged in the stretch to triumph by half a length over the late-charging Bravazo. Tenfold was third as Good Magic faded to fourth. "Oh man, it was a nail-biter," said Baffert, whose seventh Preakness victory saw him tie 19th-century horseman R. Wyncham Walden for the all-time record.

Baffert also matched D. Wayne Lukas's record of 14 victories in the three Triple Crown races—the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. It was Baffert who saddled American Pharoah in 2015 when the three-year-old became the first horse in 37 years to complete the coveted treble. "We're going to make sure that he comes out of the race well and he trains well," Baffert said of likely plans to point Justify at the June 9 Belmont—the 1 1/2-mile race dubbed The Test of the Champion. "He'd have to be training really well."

Between Affirmed's Triple Crown sweep in 1978 and American Pharoah's in 2015, 13 horses won both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness but were disappointed in the Belmont. Justify, unraced as a two-year-old, won for the fifth time in five races—all since February. And



BALTIMORE: File photo shows Kentucky Derby winner Justify is walked back to the barn following a training session for the upcoming Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland.—AFP

Baffert said Saturday's race was his toughest challenge yet.

"It was a hard race today on him—probably the hardest race he's had," Baffert said. "But, you know, he's getting fit. He's just a wonderful, beautiful horse." Justify broke cleanly from the seventh post and quickly moved to the front on a Pimlico track rated sloppy after days of rain in Baltimore.

### PRIVATE MATCH RACE

But Good Magic, trained by Chad Brown and ridden by Jose Ortiz, was right there, briefly taking the lead on the back stretch as they separated themselves from the rest of the field and making Justify work hard for the lead as they turned into the final straight.

"They put it to us," Baffert said. "That (Good Magic) was a good horse and it was like they

had their own private match race. Somebody had to give—I'm glad it wasn't us.

"I'm so happy that we got it done," Baffert added. "He's just a great horse to handle all that pressure and keep on running." No sooner had Justify fought off Good Magic than Bravazo, a 15-1 shot trained by Lukas and ridden by Luis Saez, was challenging, along with Tenfold, a 25-1 shot trained by Steve Asmussen and ridden by Ricardo Santana Jr. Justify, sent off a 2-5 favorite, held on, completing the 1 3/16 miles in 1:55.93 as a crowd of 134,487 erupted.

"Unbelievable. It's a dream come true," said Smith, who acknowledged his mount was "got a little tired." "It's been 25 years since I was blessed to win my first (Triple Crown race), which was here ... I'm just so blessed to be riding for these people right now. I'm on cloud nine." —AFP

## Castroneves, Patrick among nine Indy 500 pole seekers

**CHICAGO:** Three-time winner Helio Castroneves led nine qualifiers Saturday for an Indianapolis 500 pole position battle, with Danica Patrick driving herself into yesterday's pole fight for her farewell race.

A rain-interrupted first day of time trials at the famed 2 1/2-mile (4km) oval also saw 33 cars fill the field for the May 27 IndyCar classic, with Canada's James Hinchcliffe—the 2016 Indy pole starter—and Britain's Pippa Mann bumped from the lineup as the slowest qualifiers.

Brazil's Castroneves, a former "Dancing With the Stars" champion seeking his fifth Indy 500 pole start, set the qualifying pace with a four-lap average of 228.919 mph in 2mins 37.2607secs. "I didn't make many adjustments," Castroneves said, adding the car "looks really strong. Right now, we're working very well."

The nine fastest cars got the chance to race again Sunday for the pole and to settle the grid for the first three rows. Joining Castroneves will be his three Penske Racing teammates—Australian Will Power, France's Simon Pagenaud and American Josef Newgarden—and the all-American Carpenter Racing trio of Patrick, Ed Carpenter and Spencer Pigot, plus Frenchman Sebastien Bourdais and New Zealand's Scott Dixon.

Patrick was the slowest of the top nine at

227.610 mph, her lap edging 10th-place Alexander Rossi by 0.0342 of a second for the last chance at pole. "I am very happy with this car," Patrick said. "I am comfortable."

Patrick has had groundbreaking 20-year career, with the only IndyCar win by a woman at the 2008 Indy Japan 300 and the lone Indy 500 podium for a female racer at third in 2009. She has not raced in an Indy 500 since 2011 after switching to closed-cockpit stock cars but has made the most of her return to the Brickyard.

"It's unpredictable. It ebbs and flows here," Patrick said. "You can go out one day and you're good and you go out the next day, try some things and wonder how you lost your way. You have to respect that process about Indy."

### HINCHCLIFFE, MANN BUMPED

No racers had been bumped at Indy since 2011 but more than 33 cars entered this year and the drama saw Hinchcliffe and Mann caught out and Aussie James Davison, who recovered from a Friday practice crash, cling to the final spot in the race.

Hinchcliffe, a "Dancing With the Stars" runner-up, was bumped by US pal Conor Daly with 20 minutes left to requalify. Hinchcliffe felt a vibration in the car and pulled out of line to have it fixed while Mann tried to reclaim a spot but came up short. Time ran out with Mann on the track and Hinchcliffe unable to take a final crack at bumping Davison.

"I'm a little less thrilled about (bumping) than I was 24 hours ago," Hinchcliffe said. "But that's the way it is around here. You've got to take your lumps sometimes." England's Mann, 34, made six prior Indy 500 starts with a best finish of 17th last year. "It's the worst feeling in the world," Mann said. —AFP

## England calling 'probably' cost Shields All Blacks jersey

**WELLINGTON:** Brad Shields' decision to opt for an England jersey cost him a "probable" slot in the All Blacks, coach Steve Hansen said yesterday as two new loose forwards were selected for the New Zealand side. Wellington Hurricanes skipper Shields, whose parents are English, cited constantly being overlooked for the All Blacks as a factor when he switched allegiance to England and won selection for their June tour of South Africa. But Hansen, who named his squad Sunday to play France next month, said Shields would "probably" have been selected had he been available. Injuries and form forced Hansen to select four inexperienced loose forwards — newcomers Jordan Taufua and Shannon Frizell along with Vaea Fifita and Luke Whitelock who have seven Tests between them. "It is obviously one of those positions ... he (Shields) probably would have made this team this year," Hansen told Radio Newstalk ZB. "I wish him all the best. He wants to play Test rugby, he obviously didn't see a future here."

With the retirement of Jerome Kaino and injuries to Kieran Read

and Liam Squire, Hansen said filling the six and eight jerseys had been a focus for the selectors. "That's the thing about the All Blacks—you've got to stay resilient because you are always up against someone else as good if not a little better. "If you are not prepared to wait for the opportunity and keep working at it you are not going to get it."

The 33-man squad included three new faces with scrum-half Te Toiroa Tahuriorangi joining Taufua and Frizell. Another three players-prop Tim Perry and backs Richie Mo'unga and Jack Goodhue—were involved with the All Blacks on last year's northern tour but have yet to make their Test debuts.

The 95-Test lock Sam Whitelock will captain the side in the absence of Read who is not expected to start playing again until July following surgery on his spine at the end of last season.

Shields, meanwhile, will continue to live in New Zealand and play Super Rugby for the Hurricanes until the end of the season when he will move to England to join Wasps. —AFP

## Ledecky cruises to 800m free victory in Indianapolis

**LOS ANGELES:** Five-time Olympic swimming champion Katie Ledecky capped her first meet as a professional with a dominant victory in the 800m freestyle at the Pro Swim Series in Indianapolis. Ledecky, who opened the meet with a world record in the 1,500m free on Wednesday, was never challenged en route to a victory in 8min 07.27sec. Erica Sullivan, 17, was a distant second in a personal best of 8:30.15. "I couldn't be happier with how this meet went," said Ledecky, the 21-year-old who won at 800m at the 2012 Olympics and followed that up with four golds and a silver at Rio in 2016.

She finished the four-day meet with wins in the 1,500m, 800m, 400m and 200m freestyles and a third place in the 400m individual medley. Ledecky, who turned professional after the NCAA collegiate championships in March, then sounded a warning to her rivals in a 2018 season highlighted by the PanPacific Championships at Tokyo in August.

"I think the times are a little deceiving," she said. "We're in pretty hard training right now, so to be going these times is a great feeling and gives me a lot of confidence moving forward for the rest of the summer. "I think I'm in the best spot I can be at this point in the season." —AFP

## Surging Jaguares maintain momentum with win over Bulls

**BUENOS AIRES:** Flyhalf Nicolas Sanchez steered the Jaguares to a fifth consecutive victory as the Argentine franchise matched their record for wins in a Super Rugby season with a crushing 54-24 triumph against the Bulls at Velez Sarsfield on Saturday.

Sanchez, who contributed 24 points, was at the heart of the home side's best moments, setting up tries for wing Bautista Delguy and centre Matias Orlando as the Jaguares recorded their seventh victory of the campaign. The Jaguares' forward play, revitalised by coach Mario Ledesma, was key as the hosts raced to a 20-10 halftime lead and scythed through an increasingly demoralised South African side's defence in the opening quarter of the second period.

Flanker Marcos Kremer also went over as the Jaguares, consolidating a fine run of four wins on the road in Australia and New Zealand, took sole possession of second place in the South African conference behind the Lions. The Bulls were always chasing the contest but could have taken the lead in the 25th minute when flanker Thembelane Bholi spilled the ball after he had crossed the line when the Jaguares were 13-7 up after fullback Warrick Gelant's early try.

The visitors did add two tries in the final 10 minutes as replacements Nick de Jager, from a rolling maul, and Andre Warner, from a kick to the corner by flyhalf Manie Libbok, grabbed some consolation points late on. However, the Jaguares, in earning their first bonus point win of the season, were brilliant as they drove forward in the second half with confident passing and handling. The pick of their tries came from Orlando, following a break by fellow centre Jeronimo de la Fuente, and a move involving half the team rounded off by wing Sebastian Cancelliere.

Juan Cruz Mallia's debut off the bench was cut short in the 77th minute by a yellow card for a shoulder charge but the home side still had time for a seventh try. Emiliano Boffelli, standing in at fullback for the injured Joaquin Tuculet, touched down as time expired to take his tournament tally to 10. —Reuters



## Sports

# Washington Nationals drop series opener to Los Angeles Dodgers 4-1

## Yankees' Hicks hits second inside-the-park homer of season

WASHINGTON: Max Muncy had two RBIs and Ross Stripling was fabulous in six innings of one-run, four-hit pitching as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Washington Nationals 4-1 on Saturday in the first game of a day-night doubleheader at Nationals Park. Los Angeles won for the second straight outing after it ended a six-game losing streak with Thursday's 7-0 win at Miami. Conversely, the loss was Washington's third in its last 16 games.

Stripling (1-1) struck out nine and didn't walk a batter in his 96-pitch stint. He was followed to the mound by JT Chargois, Josh Fields and Kenley Jansen, who each threw a scoreless inning. Jansen earned his seventh save of the season. Washington outfielder Howie Kendrick exited the game in the second inning with what turned out to be a right Achilles injury. Kendrick got twisted around making a catch at the warning track in left-center for the second out of the inning and needed to be carted off the field after being looked at by the training staff. He was placed on the 10-day disabled list after the contest and will receive an MRI.

### DODGERS 5, NATIONALS 4 (GAME 2)

Pinch hitter Matt Kemp ripped a two-run double off Washington closer Sean Doolittle in the ninth inning to propel Los Angeles to a thrilling come-from-behind victory and complete the sweep of the doubleheader.

Kemp's double came after singles to lead off the inning by Austin Barnes and Logan Forsythe and made a loser out of Doolittle (1-2), who suffered his first blown save of the season. Los Angeles' Kenley Jansen earned his eighth save of the season, and second of the day, with a perfect ninth that included one strikeout. The Dodgers' comeback denied Max Scherzer's bid to become the major league's first eight-game winner. Scherzer left with a 4-2 lead after seven innings of two-run, five-hit pitching, in which he struck out 13 and walked three in his 121-pitch outing. Scherzer now has 104 strikeouts on the year, becoming the fastest pitcher ever to reach 100 K's in a season. He did it in 63 innings.

### REDS 5, CUBS 4 (11 INNINGS, GAME 1)

Center fielder Billy Hamilton walked with the bases loaded in the 11th inning to drive in the winning run and

Scooter Gennett had two hits as host Cincinnati won a thriller over Chicago in walk-off fashion in the first game of a day-night doubleheader. Scott Schebler walked to open the last of the 11th inning against Justin Wilson (1-1) before Tucker Barnhart singled and Adam Duvall walked to load the bases. Schebler trotted home on Hamilton's walk as his teammates emerged from the dugout to celebrate. Ian Happ was a single short of the cycle and scored two times for the Cubs, who had won two of three. The benches emptied after Amir Garrett celebrated a strike out of Javier Baez to end the seventh inning. The two stared at each other as players came to the field. No punches were thrown and nobody was ejected.

### CUBS 10, REDS 0 (GAME 2)

Center fielder Jason Heyward had a three-run triple and drove in four runs. Ian Happ homered and left-hander Jose Quintana pitched seven scoreless innings as Chicago split its doubleheader with Cincinnati.

Heyward tripled in the final three runs of a five-run fifth inning when his bases-loaded looped down the right field line bounced off the glove of diving second baseman Scooter Gennett and rolled into the right field corner. Heyward made his first start since coming off the 7-day concussion disabled list Friday. Happ homered in each game of the doubleheader, and his homer in the second game was his seventh of the season and the 14,000th in Cubs history. Quintana (5-3) gave up one hit, walked four and struck out seven.

### INDIANS 5, ASTROS 4

Corey Kluber fanned 10 batters to move into fifth place on Cleveland's all-time strikeouts list and allowed two runs on six hits over seven innings to beat host Houston. With his fourth strikeout, Kluber (7-2) moved past CC Sabathia into fifth with 1,266 career punchouts. The two-time Cy Young Award winner is five strikeouts behind Bob Lemon and Early Wynn for third in team history. Michael Brantley and Yan Gomes hit solo home runs and Edwin Encarnacion, Jason Kipnis and Jose Ramirez each added an RBI for the Indians, who fell 4-1 on Friday to open the three-game series and had lost three of four. Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman and Marwin Gonzalez all homered late for the Astros, though their comeback bid fell short.



WASHINGTON: Howie Kendrick #12 of the Washington Nationals grabs his leg after injuring it while making a catch in the eighth inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Nationals Park during game one of a doubleheader on Saturday in Washington, DC. — AFP

### YANKEES 8, ROYALS 3

Gary Sanchez highlighted a four-hit showing by hitting two solo homers as New York beat host Kansas City. Gleyber Torres hit a tiebreaking three-run home run off Danny Duffy (1-6). Giancarlo Stanton hit a mammoth solo homer and Aaron Hicks hit an inside-the-park homer as the Yankees won for the 20th time in 24 games and hit five homers for the first time since June 10 against the Baltimore Orioles at Yankee Stadium. Hicks became the first Yankee to hit multiple inside-the-park homers in a season since Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle did it in 1958 off Pedro Ramos, Dick Donovan and Early Wynn. He also became the first player to hit multiple inside-the-park homers before the end of May since former Royal Brian McRae in 1991.

### RED SOX 6, ORIOLES 3

Rafael Devers, Mookie Betts and Andrew Benintendi all homered as Boston defeated visiting Baltimore. Rick Porcello (6-1) earned the victory for Boston after suffering his first loss of the season in his last start. He

gave up three runs and six hits in six innings, striking out nine while walking three. Dylan Bundy (2-6) ran into trouble with homers once more and took the loss. He gave up four runs on five hits, including the three home runs, in six innings and struck out eight. Bundy allowed four homers in the first inning and did not retire a batter in a May 8 loss to Kansas City and now has given up 13 homers in 53 2/3 innings this season.

### MARINERS 7, TIGERS 2

James Paxton pitched a complete game, retiring the final 15 batters he faced, as host Seattle defeated Detroit. The left-handed Paxton (3-1), making his first home start since throwing a no-hitter May 8 at Toronto, allowed two runs on three hits, with one walk and eight strikeouts. It was Paxton's second career complete game and second in his past three starts. Jean Segura and Ben Gamel hit home runs for the Mariners off Mike Fiers, who allowed four runs on six hits in five-plus innings, with one walk and two strikeouts, to drop to 4-3. — Reuters

## Marquez cruises at Le Mans as Zarco crashes out

LE MANS: Marc Marquez reeled off his third win on the bounce in the French MotoGP yesterday as home favourite and pole sitter Johann Zarco crashed out. Marquez took his 38th success in the top category unchallenged from Danilo Petrucci (Ducati Pramac) with Italian veteran Valentino Rossi (Yamaha) in third. "I saw that the track had a little bit less grip than yesterday and especially this morning," said Marquez in the paddock. "But I'm happy because this victory is important on a circuit where normally we struggle."

Zarco had the home fans at Le Mans' Bugatti circuit dreaming of a rare French win after his record-setting pole 24 hours earlier but the Yamaha Tech star slid out of contention on lap seven. Zarco's premature exit left Marquez in control in a race that after early drama turned into something of a procession.

The result tightened Marquez's grip on the MotoGP standings with the defending four-time champion on 95 points. His closest pursuer is Maverick Vinales, albeit 36 points behind, with Zarco on 58 points in third, and seven-time world champion Rossi two points further adrift.

At the start, Zarco was quickly displaced at the front by track specialist Jorge Lorenzo, as behind Andrea Iannone on a Suzuki came to grief at the sixth corner. Andrea Dovizioso's Ducati then swept past Lorenzo but he too crashed.

It was then hapless Zarco's turn to exit,



LE MANS: Winner Repsol Honda Team's Spanish rider Marc Marquez celebrates on the podium after the MotoGP race of the French motorcycling Grand Prix yesterday, in Le Mans, northwestern France. — AFP

stage left, as the French MotoGP idol parted company with his bike with 20 laps remaining. With the great gallic home hope out of the picture it didn't take long for Marquez to make his decisive move as Lorenzo back peddled, eventually finishing sixth.

If the MotoGP race was lacking in whiteknuckle excitement, the same was certainly not the case in the Moto3 Grand Prix with Spain's Albert Arenas awarded the win after Fabio Di Giannantonio was demoted to fourth for cutting a corner. Honda's Italian rider crossed the line first at Le Mans' Bugatti circuit but was hit with a three-second penalty, with KTM's Arenas promoted from second to first. "That's fantastic, it's hard to believe," said the 21-year-old, celebrating his first win since his debut season in 2014.

Andrea Migno and Marcos Ramirez joined

Arenas on the all KTM podium. Another KTM rider, Marco Bezzecchi leads the championship standings on 63 points, with Di Giannantonio four points behind in second and his Honda teammate Aron Canet in third, three points further back. Bezzecchi held onto the championship lead despite a final bend crash with Honda's Jorge Martin.

In Moto2, championship leader Francesco Bagnaia then made it three wins out of five this season. Kalex's Italian rider set off from pole and held off all challengers to add this to his wins in the opening race in Qatar and at the Grand Prix of the Americas. Joining him on the Kalex-dominated podium were Spaniards Alex Marquez and reigning Moto3 champion Joan Mir. Bagnaia moved up to 98 points in the Moto2 standings, 19 points clear of Miguel Oliveira. — AFP

## Fancied Bangalore pay price for brittle middle order

NEW DELHI: Individual brilliance notwithstanding, cricket remains a team sport and the fancied Royal Challengers Bangalore discovered that the hard way as they exited the Indian Premier League (IPL) playoff race after yet another middle-order meltdown.

Bangalore fans probably took a playoff berth for granted when the two-time runners-up managed to retain two of the biggest names in contemporary cricket, along with middle order prospect Sarfaraz Khan, in January.

Skipper Virat Kohli's 530 runs in 14 matches and top order colleague AB de Villiers' 480 in two fewer games suggest they were in no way to blame for the team's shortcomings. Their brittle middle order, however, constantly performed as they did in Saturday's 30-run loss to Rajasthan Royals, which eventually sealed their playoff fate.

Mandeep Singh's 252 runs from 14 matches was the best by a Bangalore middle order batsman this season. Sarfaraz, retained for 17.5 million rupees (\$257,409) in a move that surprised many, managed to amass just 51 in six innings.

"Too much batting stress on just AB de Villiers," a dejected Kohli said after the Rajasthan loss. "A guy like AB, who has the ability to hit fours

and sixes, was knocking it around. We needed more smart decision-making there and guys were just not up to the mark and that is disappointing to see."

"It's not something that should be repeated by five, six guys in a row. One or two guys is okay, but the others should have applied themselves and that wasn't the case tonight." Needing 165 to beat Rajasthan, Bangalore were cruising at 75 for one in the ninth over with de Villiers (53) and Parthiv Patel (33) well set before the wheels came off their chase courtesy of some poor shot selections by subsequent batsmen.

Bangalore's middle order woes were also evident last season, despite having big-hitting West Indian Chris Gayle open the batting to share the scoring burden with Kohli and de Villiers. "We wanted to strengthen a middle order that hasn't been our strength for the last few years," Kohli said. "It's something we need to look forward to in the next season. We need to be more smart about how we compose our team, I guess."

"The bulk of the scoring responsibility and pressure can't always be on a guy like AB all the time in the middle order. Guys need to step up at the right times. We certainly want to take up the responsibility but there have to be contributions at important stages." — Reuters

## Lightning edge Capitals 3-2, move one win from NHL Final

MIAMI: Ryan Callahan and Cedric Paquette scored goals in the opening seconds of the first two periods Saturday and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat Washington 3-2, moving within one victory of the NHL Final. Paquette scored the opening goal just 19 seconds into the first period off an assist from

Callahan, who found the net 33 seconds into the second period to give the Lightning a 3-0 advantage. They sandwiched their scores around Ondrej Palat's first-period tally.

The host Lightning, who dropped the first two games of the playoff series on home ice, seized a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference final with game six today in Washington. "We've got to get a start like that again," Callahan said. "We know it's going to be emotional."

The Capitals had not dropped three games in a row since January. The Lightning, who have five playoff wins on the road this year, are 7-0 in playoff games in Washington. Either Tampa Bay or Washington will face the Western Conference winner, either Las Vegas or Winnipeg, in the Stanley Cup Final. Vegas carries a 3-1 edge in that series into Sunday's game five at

Winnipeg. The Capitals, on their deepest playoff run since a 1998 finals appearance, must win to force a seventh game in Florida on Wednesday and see their fans endure yet another heartbreak.

Washington led the NHL in the regular season the past two seasons only to lose in the second round to eventual champion Pittsburgh each time. But this month saw a breakthrough as the Capitals eliminated the defending champion Penguins in six games in the second round. Since Russian star Alex Ovechkin's arrival, the Capitals have lost seven NHL playoff series in a seventh game.

Tampa Bay's Ondrej Palat scored his sixth goal of the playoffs 9:04 into the opening period and Callahan's goal gave the Lightning a commanding edge. But the Lightning were outshot 26-7 the rest of the way. "We sat back too much," Callahan said. "I

have to give credit to them."

There are going to be momentum swings. We have to get it back quicker." Russian Evgeny Kuznetsov scored for the Capitals 4:21 into the second period, but they came no closer until the game moved into the dying seconds. The Capitals lifted goaltender Braden Holtby for an extra attacker late in the third period and Ovechkin took advantage, the Capitals' captain blasting a slapshot into the net with 96 seconds remaining in regulation time. Again Washington sent Holtby to the bench for an extra attacker but Tampa Bay goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy. The Russian netminder denied the Capitals three times in the final minute and the Lightning held on for a victory that touched off an on-ice celebration. "He has been our backbone all year," Callahan said of the Lightning goalie. "He's the reason why we're here." — AFP



Sports

# Rebic ruins Heynckes farewell as Frankfurt shock Bayern in cup final

## Victory gives Eintracht boss Niko Kovac his first trophy

BERLIN: Ante Rebic ruined Jupp Heynckes' farewell as Bayern Munich coach on Saturday with the Croatia striker scoring twice as Eintracht Frankfurt claimed an upset 3-1 win in the German Cup final.

The victory gave Eintracht boss Niko Kovac his first trophy as a coach in his final match before leaving to take over from Heynckes at Bayern. After Rebic's opening goal, Robert Lewandowski equalised for Munich early in the second half.

However, Rebic added his late second before substitute Mijat Gacinovic tapped into an empty net just before the whistle to delight Frankfurt fans and break Bayern's hearts. "Everyone said that we'd be beaten out of the stadium," said Frankfurt's Ghana midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng.

"But we showed heart and it was Bayern who were beaten." This was supposed to be Heynckes' farewell party with Bayern sending their 73-year-old head coach into retirement with the German cup and league double having wrapped up a sixth straight Bundesliga title.

"It was an avoidable defeat and sometimes defeat belongs to sport," said Heynckes graciously. "We made a serious mistake before they went 1-0 up. If you don't exploit your chances, then you can't win a cup match like that."

"We also had bad luck, hitting the post twice, but we didn't play with fluency or power and Eintracht are worthy cup winners." It is exactly 30 years since Eintracht last won the German Cup as they lifted the trophy for the fifth time.

"I am happy that we have won the cup after 30 years," said Rebic. "The team deserves it, Bayern are always the favourites, but at the end it was us who won the cup." Bayern made a bright start in the capital when Lewandowski hit the underside of the Frankfurt

bar with just eight minutes gone.

However, Frankfurt scored from their first clear chance. When Bayern midfielder James Rodriguez was robbed of possession in midfield, Kevin-Prince Boateng threaded a pass through to Rebic. The Croatia striker dodged the challenges of Bayern centre-backs Niklas Suele and Mats Hummels to plant his shot past Bayern keeper Sven Ulreich with 11 minutes gone.

The shock goal sent a ripple of panic through the Bayern ranks as it was the third straight game they have fallen behind.

### CLEAR PENALTY

Bayern went close with 25 minutes gone when Lewandowski fired wide of the empty goal after Frank Ribery and Thomas Mueller had already opened up the Eintracht defence. It should have been 2-0 to Eintracht eight minutes before half-time when Rebic squared for Jonathan De Guzman, who was unmarked, but the midfielder stumbled with the goal at his mercy.

Tempers started to fray as Frankfurt defender Jetro Willems was booked for body-checking Joshua Kimmich but it stayed 1-0 at the break. Bayern drew level on 53 minutes when Suele combined with Kimmich, who picked out Lewandowski near the penalty spot to slot home the equaliser.

Mats Hummels hit the post with a header with ten minutes left, but Frankfurt-and Rebic-were not to be denied. The Croatia international again burst in between Suele and Hummels and brilliantly lifted the ball over Ulreich. The referee checked the replay on advice of the video assistant referee, but the goal stood to make it 2-1 on 82 minutes. Bayern were denied calls for a clear penalty after a foul on Javi Martinez deep into added time.



BERLIN: Frankfurt's Croatian head coach Niko Kovac (C) and Frankfurt's players celebrate with the trophy after the German Cup DFB Pokal final football match FC Bayern Munich vs Eintracht Frankfurt at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on Saturday. — AFP

"It was a penalty, but we shouldn't start criticising," added Heynckes, while Kovac admitted: "I have to say it was a penalty". With all Munich players in the Eintracht half and time running out, Frankfurt sealed the victory when Gacinovic got on the end of a Bayern

corner, sprinted the length of the pitch to slot into an empty net in the 96th minute.

The Eintracht squad mobbed the 23-year-old and the referee blew the whistle to trigger the Frankfurt party. — AFP

## Eightypercent women's football tournament

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The third edition of the Eighty Percent Women's Football Tournament under the patronage of the minister of youth and sports and in collaboration with LaLiga kicked off last night at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

During a press conference held on Saturday at Jaber Stadium, Rawya Al-Hajri, Co-Founder and General Manager at Eightypercent.co, said the championship is held in the context of an interest in women's sports in general and women's football in particular, and offers the teams to gain experience, raise the level of fitness and develop their technical side.

"We are very pleased with the success achieved every year and with our partnership with Gulf Bank. We look forward to organizing future tournaments that involve enthusiastic female sports lovers and raise awareness of the opportunities available for females to showcase their skills and talent, while encouraging others to lead healthy and active lives," Hajri said.



A press conference which was held on Saturday at Jaber Stadium. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

The tournament comprises of 16 teams divided into four groups. Each group consists of four teams competing in a league style. The first and second-placed teams from each group qualify for the quarterfinals. The players will showcase their football skills and abilities during the tournament, which culminates

in an exciting championship match. The event is being organized by Eighty Percent, a socially driven sports company established by three young Kuwaiti women dedicated to sports and fitness. The tournament encourages women to incorporate playing sports as part of leading an active and healthy lifestyle.

## Ronaldo, Bale score in Real draw, Zidane son makes debut

MADRID: Real Madrid's final Champions League rehearsal was running perfectly on Saturday until Cristiano Ronaldo was substituted and Villarreal scored twice to snatch a 2-2 draw. Gareth Bale and Ronaldo put Real in cruise control at the Estadio de la Ceramica but the Portuguese, along with Luka Modric, was taken off shortly after the hour and Villarreal came surging back.

It was two substitutes that did it, Roger Martinez unleashing a stunning strike into the top corner before Samu Castillejo struck the equaliser five minutes from time.

Castillejo took advantage of some hesitation from Luca Zidane, Zinedine Zidane's 20-year-old son, who was making his debut for Real in goal. "I am happy for his debut, it is an important day for him and his coach," Zidane senior said afterwards.

"For his father, we will see what he says at home." The draw means any hopes Real had of snatching La Liga's runner-up spot off city rivals Atletico are ended but their attention will quickly turn to Liverpool and next weekend's showdown in Kiev.

Villarreal jump above Real Betis into fifth.

If Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp had been spying for signs of weakness he would have found few in the opening hour, when Real looked slick, clinical and set for a comfortable victory. But, defensive frailties were exposed again and perhaps this result underlines that if Ronaldo can be neutralised, this is still a team that is far from unbeatable.

"We are ready," Zidane said. "We have not had any injuries today and we are ready to play our last match and our final." Ronaldo was withdrawn after 61 minutes, the 33-year-old showing no sign of discomfort in what was his first outing since spraining his ankle against Barcelona a fortnight ago.

Bale too will hope his smart turn and finish could yet earn him a starting spot against Liverpool, even if Zidane has shown propensity for ignoring the Welshman's league form in the past.

After scoring twice against Celta Vigo last weekend, Bale was excellent again here and he at least heads to Ukraine knowing he could not have done much more. He has now scored 17 goals in 19 matches this year when playing more than 60 minutes.

"Gareth has never lowered his level," Zidane said. "I am happy with his role, for what he does, he has not changed anything."

### ZIDANE NAMES STRONG SIDE

Liverpool will have played only one match in 20 days by next weekend and Zidane opted for rhythm over rest, picking a

strong team that could be close to his lineup in seven days' time.

The Frenchman, however, has tended towards caution in Europe and it would be a surprise if Bale and Isco both started ahead of Lucas Vazquez, and even Marco Asensio, next weekend. There was a debut in goal for Zidane's son Luca, who joined Real's academy when Zidane was playing for the club in 2004 and has been a regular presence in the squad this season.

Luca was born in May 1998, a month before his father inspired France to win the World Cup. Bale opened the scoring in the 10th minute with a goal largely of his own making as he fooled Daniele Bonera by running over Modric's pass, before driving into the bottom corner.

Ronaldo doubled the advantage before half-time, nodding home a nonchalant Marcelo cross from the outside of the Brazilian's foot as Real strolled into the interval. But Ronaldo and Modric trundled off and the game turned on a brilliant shot from Martinez, who jinked inside from the left and found the far top corner. If Luca Zidane could have done little to stop that one, he might have done better with the equaliser as he rushed out to intercept a clipped ball over the top but failed to claim.

Castillejo touched it round his flailing opponent and clipped a sharp finish into the empty net. Earlier in the day, Sevilla maintained their strong end to the season with a 1-0 win over Alaves. They finish seventh, below Real Betis, who slipped to a surprise 3-2 defeat at Leganes. — AFP

## 'I'll never change', says coach Conte, warns Chelsea

LONDON: Antonio Conte has warned Chelsea he will never change his demanding ways as the FA Cup winning boss waits to discover if he will be sacked. Conte ended a troubled season on a high note thanks to Chelsea's 1-0 victory over Manchester United in Saturday's final at Wembley.

Eden Hazard's first half penalty was followed by a backs to the wall display as Conte won the second trophy of his two-year reign in what may prove his final game in charge. Whether FA Cup glory will be enough to convince Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich not to sack Conte remains in doubt after the Blues finished fifth in the Premier League and missed out on Champions League qualification.

The Italian has been embroiled in a turbulent campaign marred by his feud with the club's hierarchy over their failure to back his transfer plans following

last season's Premier League title triumph. Conte is also said to have infuriated several Chelsea stars with his intense personality and regimented training sessions.

But the former Juventus and Italy coach is adamant his managerial style has made him a "serial winner" who should be respected. In a clear warning that he will never stop pushing his players or demanding boardroom backing, Conte emerged from the jubilant Chelsea dressing room to send a defiant message to his club.

Still soaked in champagne from the post-match celebrations, Conte said: "After two years the club knows me very well. If they want to continue to work with me, they know me. "I can't change. My way is always the same: hard work and to build a strong mentality with my players."

"I can't change. I'm this and I think my past speaks very clear as a player and as a manager. "You can say what you want, but I'm a serial winner. "I showed this in England in a difficult moment for the club. I've showed this today, because we found the right way to win this trophy."

"There are moments that you have a lot of questions for yourself. To win in this way this season gives me more satisfaction than my wins in the past." — AFP

## Chelsea owner Abramovich 'waiting for UK visa': Report

MOSCOW: Russian state media yesterday cited an unconfirmed report that Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich's British visa has run out, while his spokesman declined to comment.

Russian state news agency TASS and other media picked up a report on The Bell website, which said an acquaintance of Abramovich and two in his inner circle had told it the billionaire's British visa ran out three weeks ago and he is waiting for a new one.

Amid a spiralling diplomatic crisis between Britain and Russia over the poisoning of a former Russian double agent, there have been calls in Britain for sanctions that would hurt super-rich Russians who have homes in London.

Abramovich formally has residency in Jersey in the Channel Islands, a tax haven, but has never taken it up. The Sunday Times put his wealth at 9.3 billion pounds (\$12.5 billion) on its Rich List this year. He has owned Chelsea since 2003.

Abramovich's spokesman John Mann told AFP he could not comment because "it's a personal issue." Mann gave the same response to TASS. The Bell published the Russian-language report on Sunday. It said it had received "no comment" responses from Abramovich's spokesman and the Home Office.

AFP also requested a comment on the issue from the Home Office in London, but none was immediately forthcoming. The report quoted a source in Abramovich's entourage as saying that Britain had not refused to issue a new visa to Abramovich but was considering his application.

Russia's Sport-Express website cited sources in Abramovich's entourage as saying that it had taken a long time for his application to be processed but he was due to get a new British visa shortly.

The Bell was started by the former editor-in-chief of the RBC media group, Elizaveta Osetinskaya. Under her leadership, RBC was known for high-profile investigations. — AFP



**25** Jamaica's Elaine Thompson cruises to 100m win at Jamaica International



**26** Marquez cruises at Le Mans as Zarco crashes out



**27** Rebic ruins Heynckes farewell as Frankurt shock Bayern in cup final



## Svitolina beats Halep to win Italian Open

Elina top favourite for the French Open



ROME: Ukraine's Elina Svitolina poses with the trophy after winning the women's final against Romania's Simona Halep at Rome's WTA Tennis Open tournament at the Foro Italico, yesterday in Rome. — AFP

**ROME:** Elina Svitolina underlined her status as a top favourite for the French Open by sweeping Simona Halep aside 6-0, 6-4 to successfully defend her Italian Open crown yesterday.

In a repeat of last year's final at the Foro Italico, Ukrainian Svitolina, seeded fourth, was up against Halep a day after the Romanian top seed had ousted Russian Maria Sharapova. But Halep's hopes of overturning last year's defeat to her 23-year-old opponent quickly evaporated in a completely one-sided encounter that saw the Romanian fail to produce a real challenge.

Svitolina, the world number four, has now success-

fully defended three career titles, in Baku, Dubai and also Rome; she also won in Brisbane and Dubai this season to take her 2018 title total to three.

The win also marked Svitolina's 12th career title on what was her eighth final in succession. "It was a really good match, from my side," Svitolina said. "I dominated. I was trying to put lots of pressure on Simona with my game, tried to really take the ball early and open the court. "It's amazing that I could do this here a second time and defend. This is something very, very special." The French Open at Roland Garros starts next Sunday, and Svitolina added:

"Roland Garros is still a week away, but this gives

me confidence. "Last year, it was the first time for me going into the Grand Slam as a favourite. This year, it's different, I was hoping I was one of the favourites.

"I'm going to take it as a challenge. It's very important to take one match at a time, just go out there and enjoy playing on the big courts, atmosphere. "Roland Garros is what we are training for. And I'm gonna give it the best shot."

Halep, who was broken four times and lost the opening set in 19 minutes, did not win a game until the start of the second, 24 minutes in. The world number one saved match point before bowing out after 67 minutes. "I was a little bit too stiff with my body. I couldn't

stay in the rallies, and I missed a lot," Halep, who was treated off court for a reported back injury midway through the second set, said.

"She was solid. She is solid every time I play her. She deserved to win, for sure. "I want to go (to Roland Garros), to be ready, to feel good, and to win the first round. Because always the first round is the toughest.

"Women's tennis has changed and every tournament is open. Everyone has a chance to win, even a Grand Slam," said Halep, who lost the 2017 French Open final to Jelena Ostapenko. Thanks to reaching the final in Rome Halep will take the top seeding for Roland Garros. — AFP

## Cavs thrash Celtics, trim deficit in Eastern finals

**LOS ANGELES:** LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers thrashed the Boston Celtics 116-86 on Saturday, powering their way back into the NBA Eastern Conference finals. The Cavaliers trimmed the deficit in the best-of-seven series to 2-1 — avoiding the 0-3 hole from which no NBA team has returned to win a series. They'll try to even things up when they host game four today.

The Cavaliers, trying to return to the NBA Finals for a fourth straight year, insisted after two double-digit defeats in Boston that things would be different on their home floor. They wasted no time in making it so, racing to a 12-4 lead midway through the first quarter, which they ended leading 32-17.

By then, James and George Hill had already scored more than 10 points apiece, and half a dozen Cavaliers players finished by scoring in double digits. James led the way with 27 points, 12 rebounds and five assists along with two steals and two blocked shots.

James made eight of his 12 shots from the floor, including all three of his three-pointers, and went 8-of-10 at the free-throw line. But James, whose 42-point triple double was in vain in game two, got plenty of support in a game in which Cleveland never trailed.

Kyle Korver scored 14 points off the bench. Hill and Kevin Love scored 13 apiece, JR Smith chipped in 11 and Tristan Thompson scored 10. Cleveland out-rebounded Boston 45-34, holding the Celtics to 39.2 percent shooting.

"We were really good," James said. "We had our focus and offensively and defensively we made plays." Hill and Smith, who were a combined 1-for-11 from three-point range in the first two games, had three apiece and the Cavs drained a total of 17 from beyond the arc.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 18

points. Jaylen Brown, who scored 23 points in each of the first two games, finished with 10 points and five fouls. He didn't score at all until the second quarter. Terry Rozier scored 13, but connected on just five of 12 shots from the floor as the Cavaliers stepped up their defensive effort.

"I think tonight as a group, even when things broke down, we just covered for one another," James said. "We made them make extra passes, we made them make extra dribbles. So we were flying around. I just happened to be one of the guys on the floor."

Cleveland led 61-41 at halftime and 87-63 through three quarters. "It was really a great defensive game for us," said Cleveland coach Tyrone Lue. "I thought offensively we moved it around a little bit more, had a lot of assists. I thought JR and G-Hill did a good job of setting the tone early, being aggressive, playing with more pace, more force.

"Having six guys in double figures, that's big," Lue added. "I thought we played an all-around game tonight, defensively and offensively." Third quarters have been problematic for the Cavs in these playoffs,



CLEVELAND: Kevin Love #0 of the Cleveland Cavaliers shoots the ball in the second half against the Boston Celtics during Game Three of the 2018 NBA Eastern Conference Finals at Quicken Loans Arena on Sunday. — AFP

but Love opened the period with a three-point, a three-point play and an alley-oop pass to James as Cleveland stretched their lead to 69-43.

Cleveland didn't let up, pushing the lead

to 104-74 with 7:02 remaining. Boston coach Brad Stevens, whose Celtics have excelled at home this post-season but fell to 1-5 on the road, said the venue was irrelevant. — AFP