



**2** Courts dealt with 3,400 juvenile suspects in 2018

قطعا الأحداث المرخصة عام 2018 حسب الجنس  
Juvenile crimes committed in 2018 based on gender



بلغ عدد المتهمين الأحداث 3390

**24** Canada launches extradition of top Huawei executive to US



**26** Handball definition changed for goal-scoring situations



**28** Federer wins 'special' 100th title by beating Tsitsipas



# Ghanem hails Kuwait's support for Syrian, Palestinian refugees

## Speaker visits Jordanian Red Crescent Society, cancer center

### 234 'best' private firms employed 43,580 Kuwaitis

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A report by the manpower authority showed 234 private sector companies provided 43,580 job opportunities for Kuwaitis and were listed as 'best companies'. The list includes 30 companies that provided 32,993 job opportunities for citizens (75 percent of total job opportunities), including banking, telecom, construction and trading companies, in addition to libraries.

The report showed that over 44 percent of these jobs were in banks (14,728 jobs), led by Commercial Bank of Kuwait and followed by National Bank of Kuwait, Gulf Bank, Burgan Bank, Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait International Bank, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Boubyan Bank and Ahli United Bank. Only 10 co-ops provided job opportunities for citizens, led by Jaber Al-Ahmad Cooperative Society with 821 jobs, Zahra with 112 jobs, Salmiya with 30 jobs, Adan and Qusour with 18 jobs, Fahaeel with 15

Continued on Page 24

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem acclaimed yesterday the humanitarian role of Kuwait and its continued support for Syrian and Palestinian refugees. He lauded HHH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts aiming to alleviate the sufferings and pains of Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

In a press statement after touring the Jordan Red Crescent Society, Ghanem said, "It gave us the honor to be part of the opening of Kuwait Red Crescent Society clinic to treat Syrian refugees," and they inspected the technical training center. "We listened to the speech delivered by the Chairman of the Jordan Red Crescent Society Dr Ahmad Al-Hadeed and his appreciation of the role of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society," Ghanem noted.

He said more than 1,000 packages containing food and health supplies were distributed to 1,000 Palestinian refugee families. "Yesterday, we saw Syrian refugees and today Palestinian refugees, and many thanks and great gratitude to everyone who organized and arranged this," Ghanem said. He thanked the Jordan Red Crescent and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for opening its doors, houses, roads and the hearts of its sons to Palestinian and Syrian refugees, hoping that the good deeds will continue and that the Kuwaiti people would continue to support their brothers - whether Palestinians, Syrians or any other Muslim Arab people.

Ghanem expressed his thanks and appreciation to Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani for his



AMMAN: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem visits the Jordan Red Crescent Society and its facilities yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 4)

efforts to facilitate the mission of the Kuwaiti delegation and its humanitarian duties towards the Syrian and Palestinian refugees. Ghanem and his accompanying

delegation also visited Al-Hussein Cancer Center, where they were briefed on informative data about the facilities and patients. — KUNA

## Pak, India step back from brink; shelling continues

MUZAFFARABAD/SRINAGAR: A flare-up between arch-foes India and Pakistan appeared to be easing yesterday after Islamabad handed back a captured Indian pilot, but tensions continued to simmer amid efforts by global powers to prevent a war between the nuclear-armed neighbors. Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who became the face and symbol of the biggest clash between India and Pakistan in many years, walked across the border just before 9 pm on Friday in a high-profile handover shown on live television.

Shelling across the Line of Control (LoC) that acts as a de facto border in the disputed Kashmir region, a frequent feature in recent weeks, continued yesterday. Pakistan's military said yesterday its air force and navy "continue to be alert and vigilant". In a fearsome 24 hour spell, two soldiers and two civilians died on the Pakistan side, its military said. On the Indian side, a woman and her two children died after their house was

pulverized by a mortar shell. Indian army chief Bipin Rawat dashed to Udhampur in his country's sector of Kashmir yesterday to review border security. Across the region villagers huddled in makeshift bunkers while police ordered non-essential traffic off roads, an AFP reporter said. At least 12 civilians have been killed on either side of the frontier since the start of the week.

Pakistan touted Abhinandan's return as "a goodwill gesture aimed at de-escalating rising tensions with India" after weeks of unease that threatened to spiral into war after both countries used jets for bombing missions this week. Global powers, including China and the United States, have urged restraint to prevent another conflict between the neighbors who have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

There was no let-up in war rhetoric with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying no-one could "dare threaten" a "new, fearless and decisive" India. Modi also told an India Today media group conference the country needed the Rafale fighter jets it wants to buy from France. The deal has been embroiled in corruption allegations leveled by the opposition Congress party. "If India had the procured the Rafale on time then the result of the recent skirmish with Pakistan could have been different," Modi said.

Continued on Page 24



MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris carry the coffin of a civilian who was killed in a gunfight between Indian and Pakistani troops on the Line of Control (LoC) during a funeral ceremony yesterday. — AFP

## SpaceX capsule launched on ISS test mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: SpaceX celebrated the successful launch yesterday of a new astronaut capsule on a week-long round trip to the International Space Station - a key step towards resuming manned space flights from US soil after an eight-year break. This time around, the only occupant on board SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule was a dummy named Ripley - but NASA plans to put two astronauts aboard in July, although that date could be delayed.

The new capsule blasted off aboard

the Falcon 9 rocket built by SpaceX - run by billionaire Elon Musk - at 2:49 am (0749 GMT) from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, lighting up the coastline. The first and second stages separated without incident, placing Dragon in Earth's orbit 11 minutes after take-off. Every successful stage of the mission - whose planning suffered three-year delays - triggered cheers at the firm's headquarters and at the Kennedy Space Center.

"I'm a little emotionally exhausted, because that was super stressful but it worked, so far," Musk told a late-night press conference an hour later. "It's been 17 years, we still haven't launched anyone yet, but hopefully we will later this year." The next tricky step for the capsule will be docking at the ISS on Sunday

Continued on Page 24



KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Florida: SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft onboard takes off during the Demo-1 mission yesterday. — AFP

## Hamza bin Laden stripped of his Saudi citizenship

RIYADH: Hamza bin Laden, a son of late Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, seen as a rising jihadist leader, has been stripped of his Saudi citizenship, state newspaper Umm Al-Qura said Friday. Bin Laden had his citizenship removed on Feb 22 by royal

decree, the Saudi newspaper said, quoting the kingdom's interior ministry. It did not give a reason for the decision. The US on Thursday offered a \$1 million reward for information on Hamza bin Laden, who it sees as an emerging face of extremism.

Al-Qaeda's Sept 11, 2001 attacks on the United States killed some 3,000 people and sparked the US intervention in Afghanistan. Hamza bin Laden, who according to Washington is around 30, has threatened attacks against the US to avenge the 2011 killing of his father - who was living in hiding in the Pakistani garrison

town of Abbottabad - by US special forces.

"Since at least August 2015, he has released audio and video messages on the Internet calling on his followers to launch attacks against the United States and its Western allies," the US State Department said in a statement on Thursday. The 15th of Osama bin Laden's 20 children and a son of his third wife, Hamza has been groomed to follow in his father's footsteps since childhood. At his father's side in Afghanistan before the 9/11 attacks, Hamza learnt how to handle weapons, and

Continued on Page 24



Hamza bin Laden

## IS facing final defeat; chlorine used in Douma

NEAR BAGHOUZ, Syria: Kurdish-led forces battled militants defending their last village yesterday as operations to flush out the Islamic State group from eastern Syria resumed after several days of humanitarian evacuations. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces pushed into Baghouz, a tiny hamlet near the Iraqi border where IS fighters have been making a desperate last stand. As the sun rose above the palm trees lining the Euphrates River, the crackle and thud of gunfire and shelling echoed across the countryside while SDF artillery units could be seen taking up positions.

Later yesterday, AFP reporters near the frontline could see thick black smoke rising above the heart of the village, which SDF units approached through outlying farms. "The intense fighting continues," spokesman Adnan Afrin told reporters, adding that eight SDF fighters had been seriously wounded in the first few hours of the battle. "It's closer combat now, the distance between us and the jihadists is gone," he said, explaining that a one kilometer buffer had been maintained in recent days.

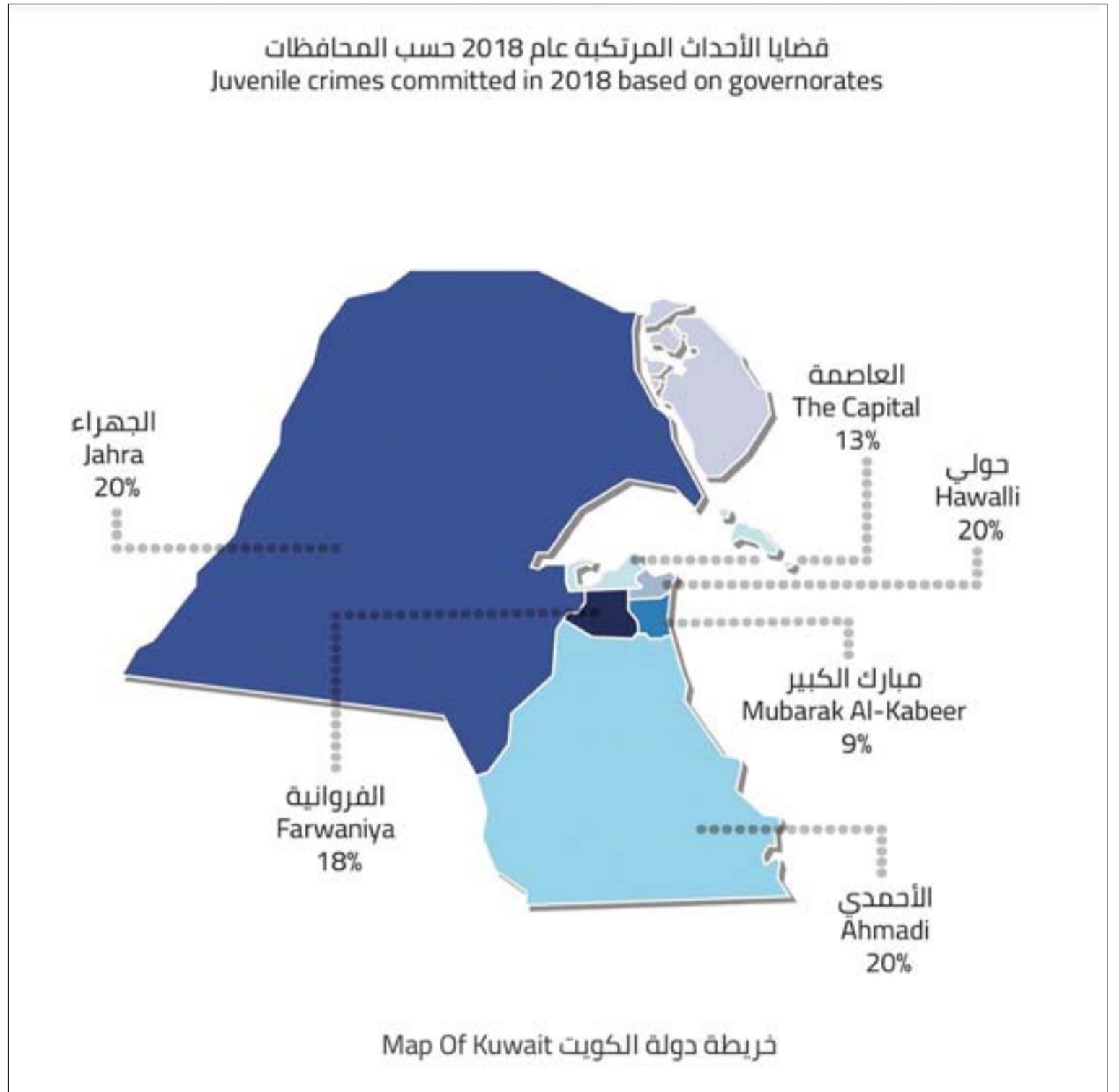
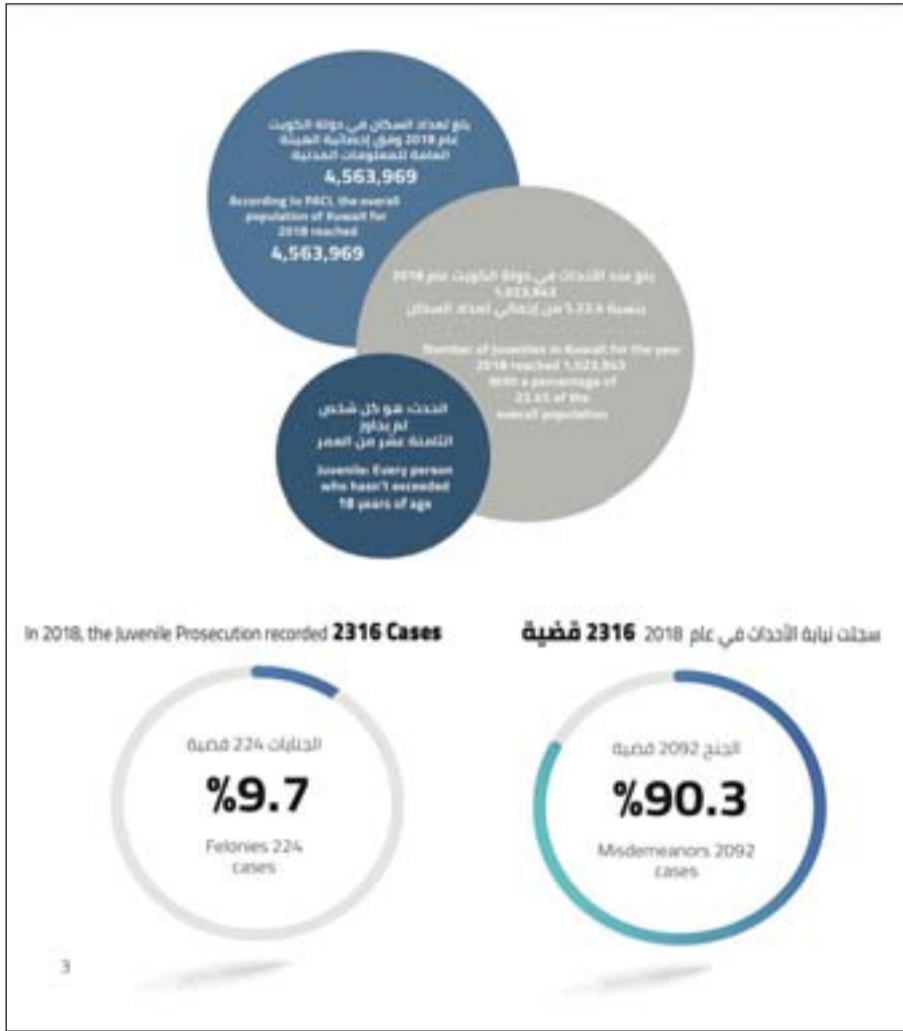
The SDF launched a two-pronged assault on IS' last redoubt late on Friday after a week-long exodus that saw thousands of people flee the enclave dried up.

Continued on Page 24

Special report

# Over 3,000 juvenile suspects in Kuwaiti courts in 2018

Traffic-related crimes topped list, followed by assault, theft and others



32% crimes committed by kids aged 7-14 years

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti courts dealt with 2,316 juvenile cases for 3,390 suspects in 2018, over 90 percent of which are being tried as misdemeanors, compared to 224 alleged felonies, official figures revealed. In its annual report, the Ministry of Justice Juvenile Prosecution said a total 1,180 judicial verdicts were reached, including 1,065 legal tests representing 90 percent, and the remaining sent to social care homes (78) and correctional facilities (37).

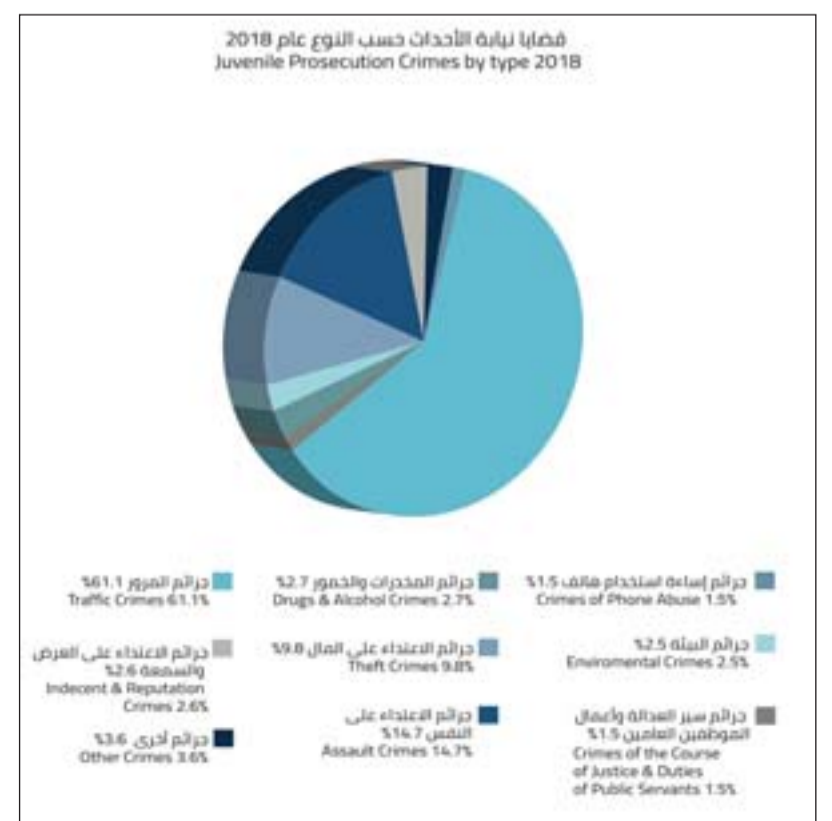
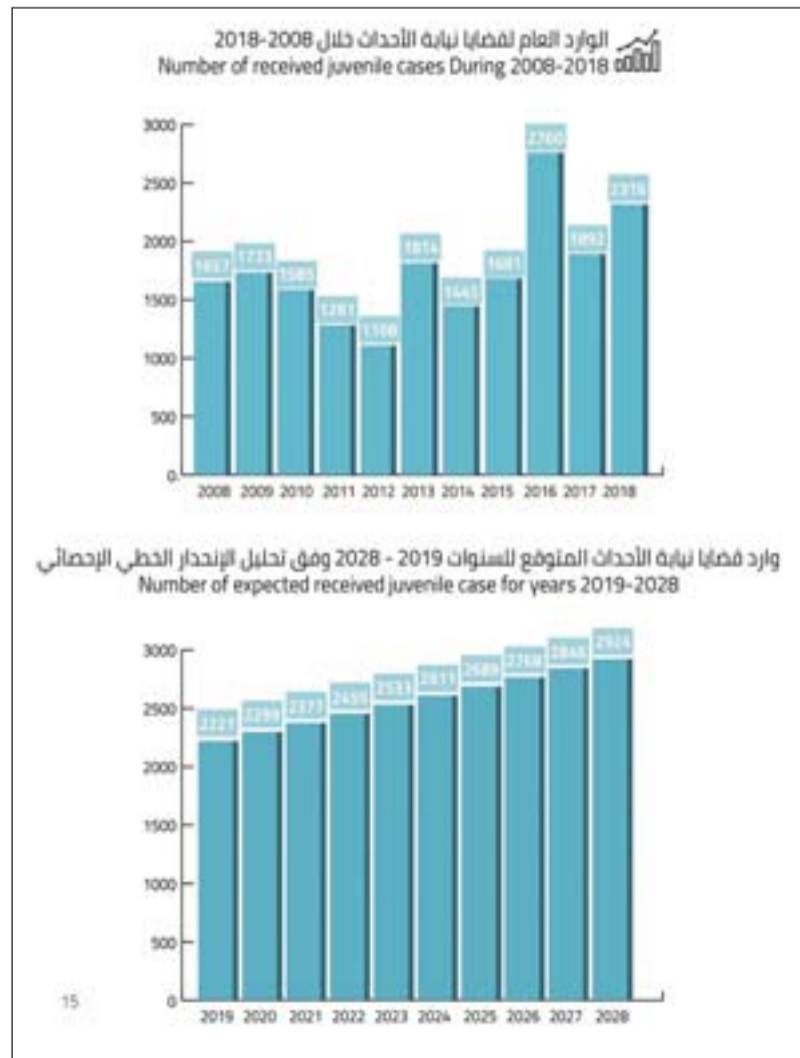
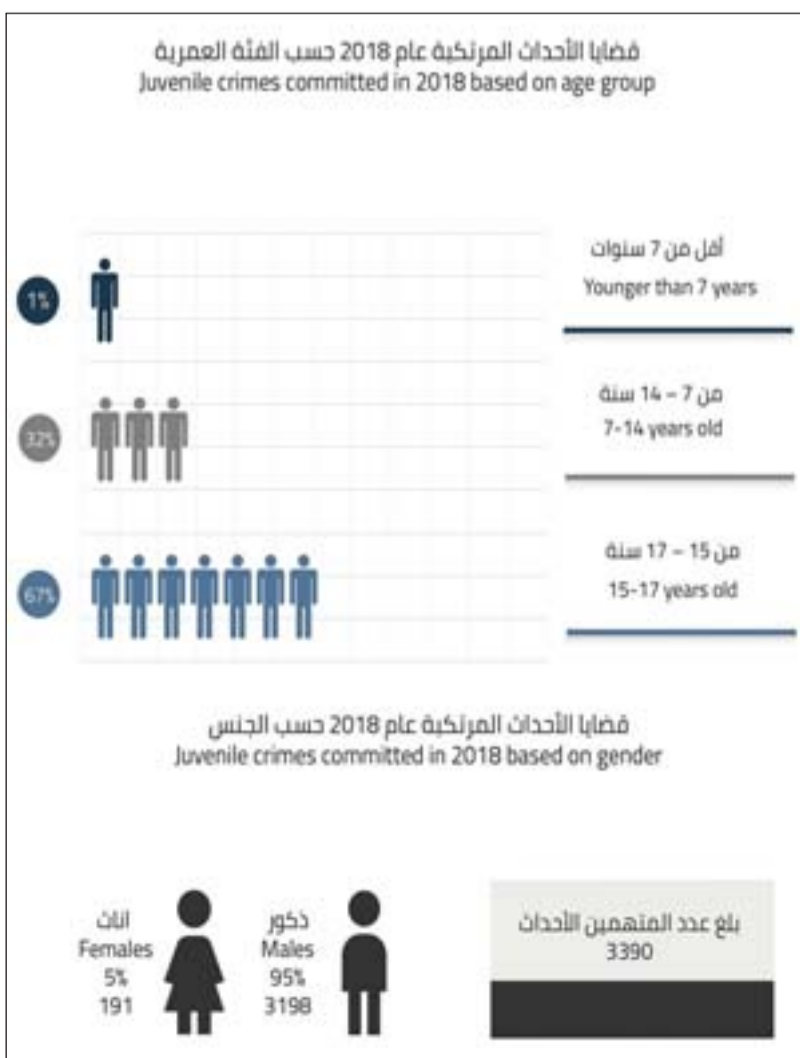
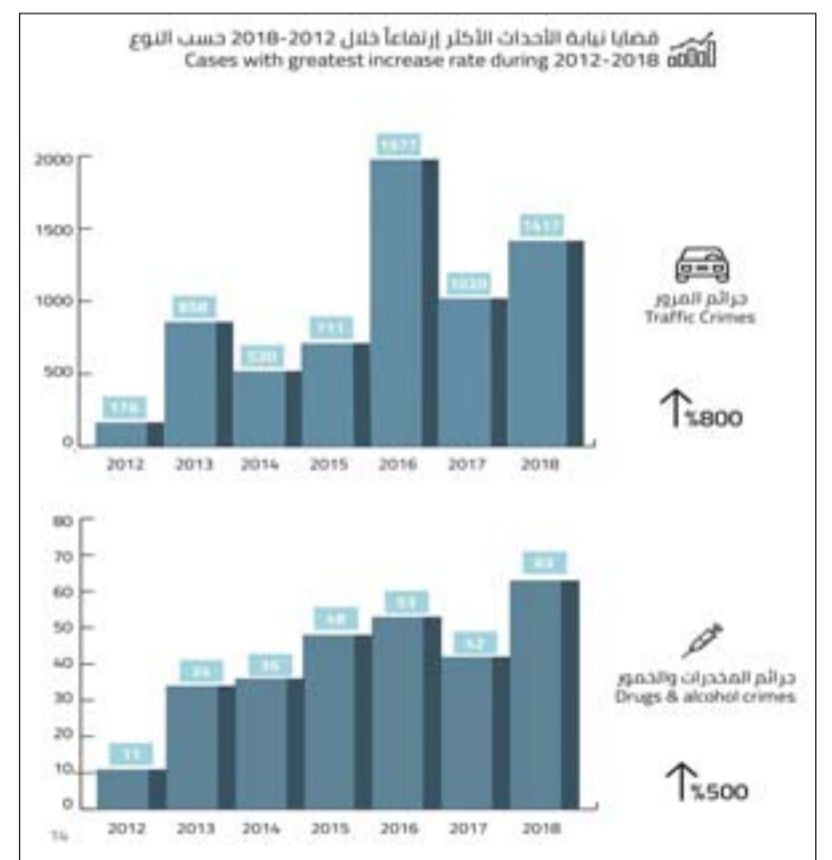
Traffic-related crimes topped the list, representing 61.1 percent, followed by assault (14.7 percent), theft (9.8 percent) and other crimes (3.6 percent), namely related to the environment, exposing others to deviation and misdemeanors. The remaining include drugs and alcohol-related (2.7 percent), indecency and reputation-related (2.6 percent), environmental (2.5 percent), course of justice and public servant duty crimes (1.5 percent) and abuse by phone or social media (1.5 percent).

In regards to their ages, those in the higher group, 15-17 year-olds, recorded 67 percent of crimes committed in comparison to 32 percent for the 7-14 year-olds and only 1 percent by children below seven. Young males were responsible for a huge 95 percent majority of these crimes, including some 3,198, compared with 191 females. Since 2012, traffic-related and drug and alcohol-related cases recorded the highest increase - 800 percent and 500 percent respectively.

In regards to traffic-related incidents, the prosecution said it had created a 'reconciliation initiative,' which after an investigation, sees the juvenile pay a fee to the General Traffic Department and receive an awareness lecture at the hands of a police officer. The whole procedure takes one day to be completed and results in the case's termination, the report emphasized. It said that a total

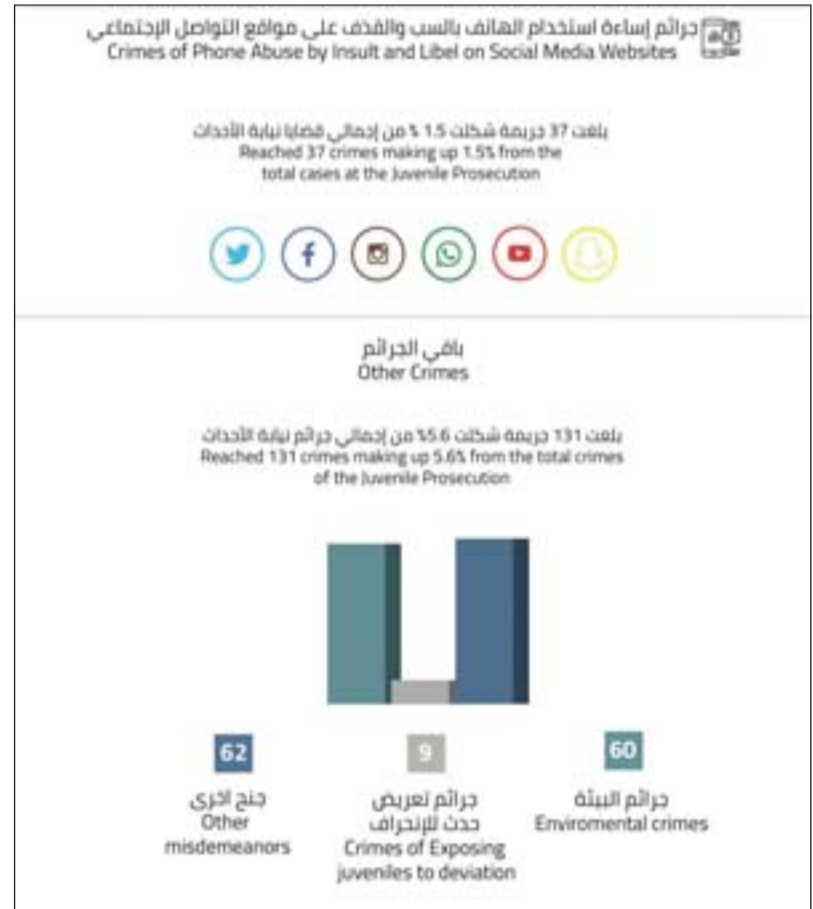
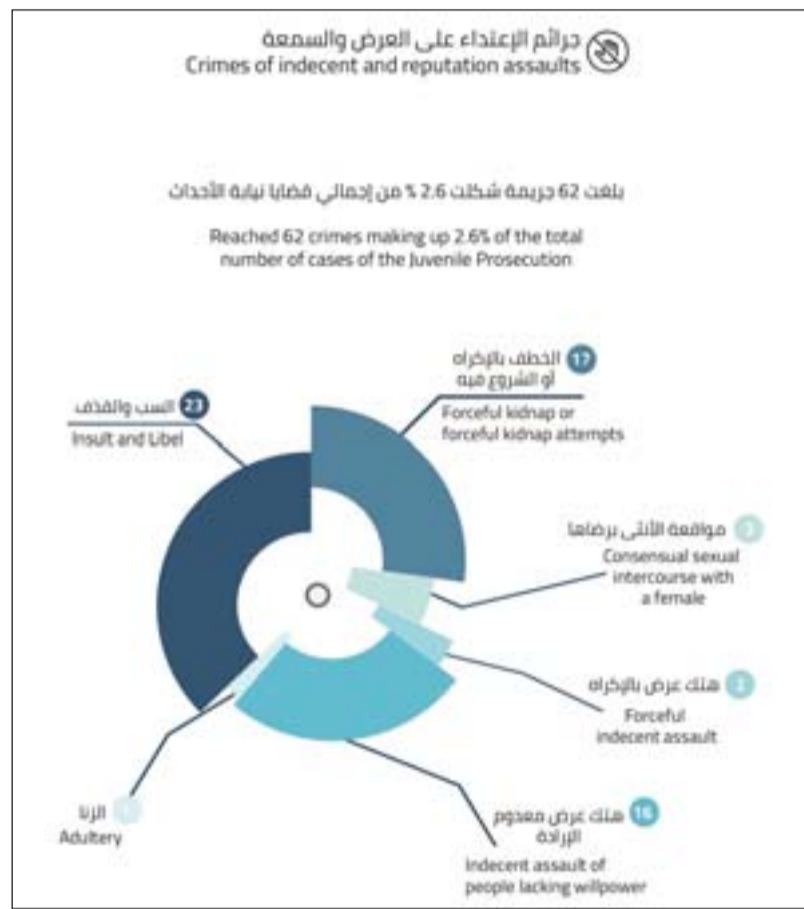
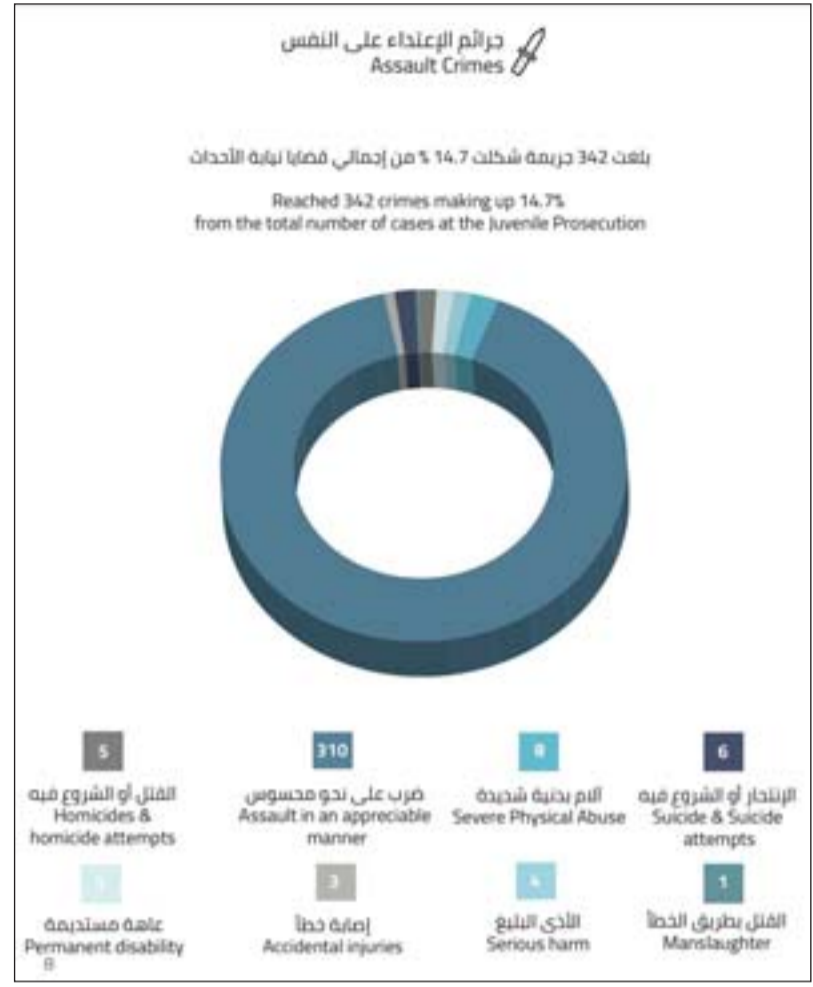
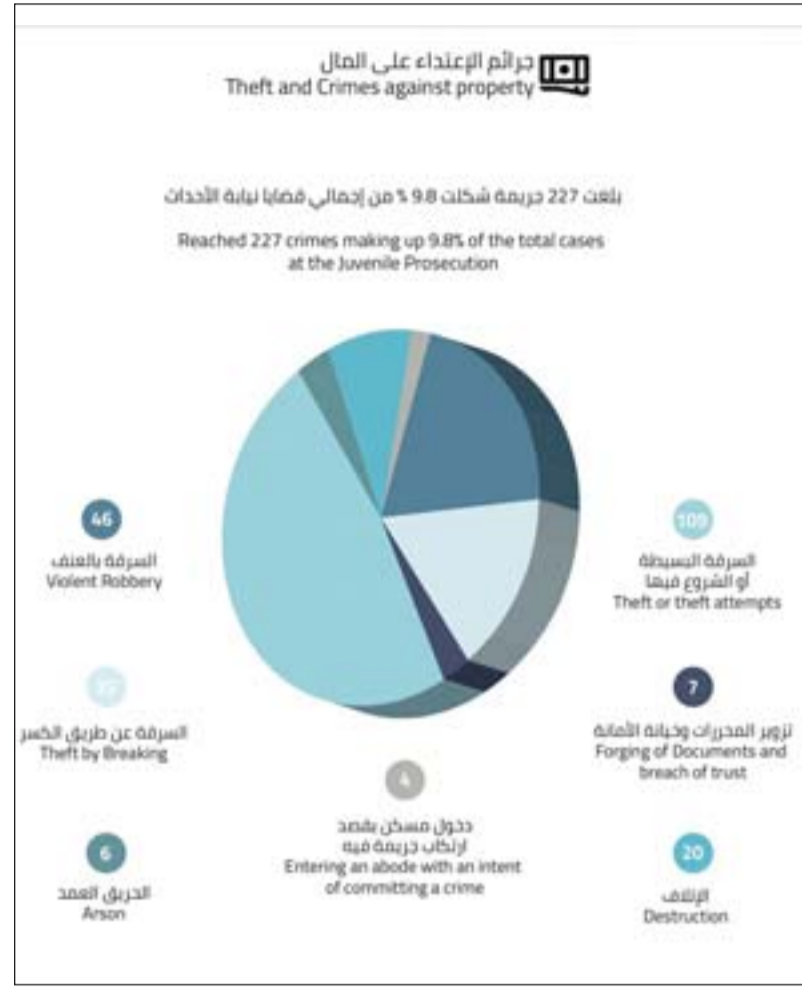
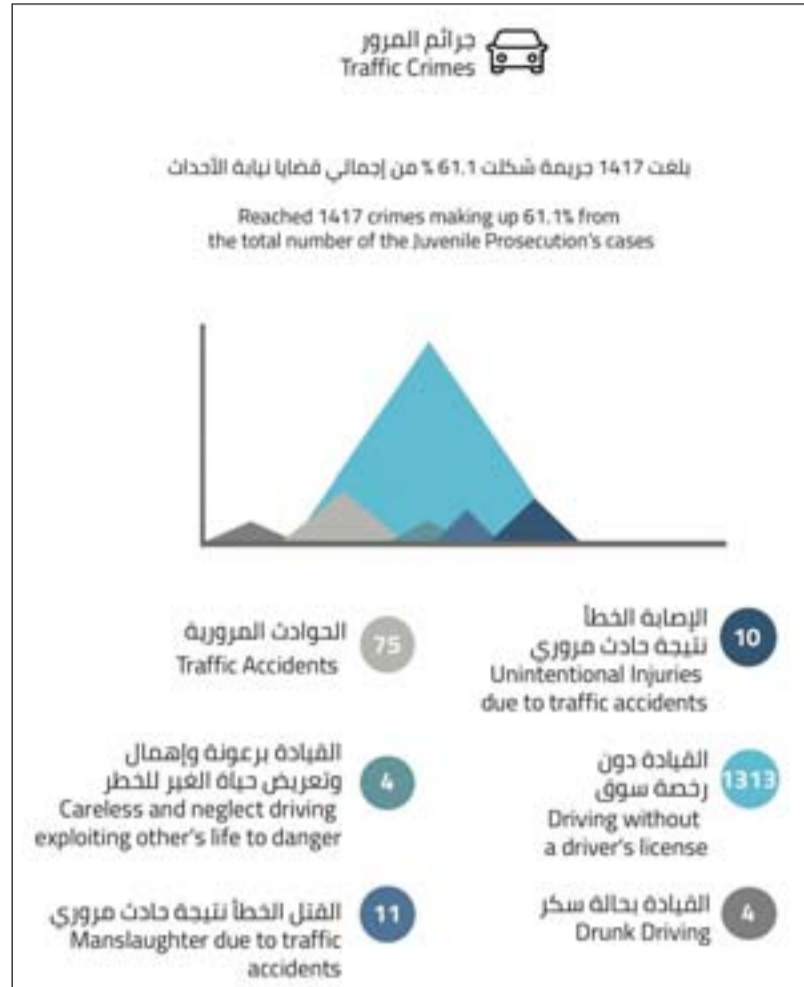
1,430 one-day cases were resolved in 2018, representing 61.7 percent of the total cases registered.

In regards to the number of completed cases, it said these were 98.8 percent in 2018, 98.1 percent in 2017 and 99.8 percent in 2016. The rates of cases securing a final sentence remained somewhat even over the past three years, 92.1 percent in 2018, 92 percent in 2017 and 92.2 percent in 2016. In comparison with another five countries/territories, Kuwait's 2018 conviction rate came third behind Australia (98 percent) and South Africa (91 percent) respectively, based on 2017 figures. Meanwhile, England and Wales registered 87 percent and Spain 74 percent, based on their own 2018 statistics, according to the report. The report also mentioned that there are no recorded escapes whatsoever from social welfare homes or correctional centers. — KUNA

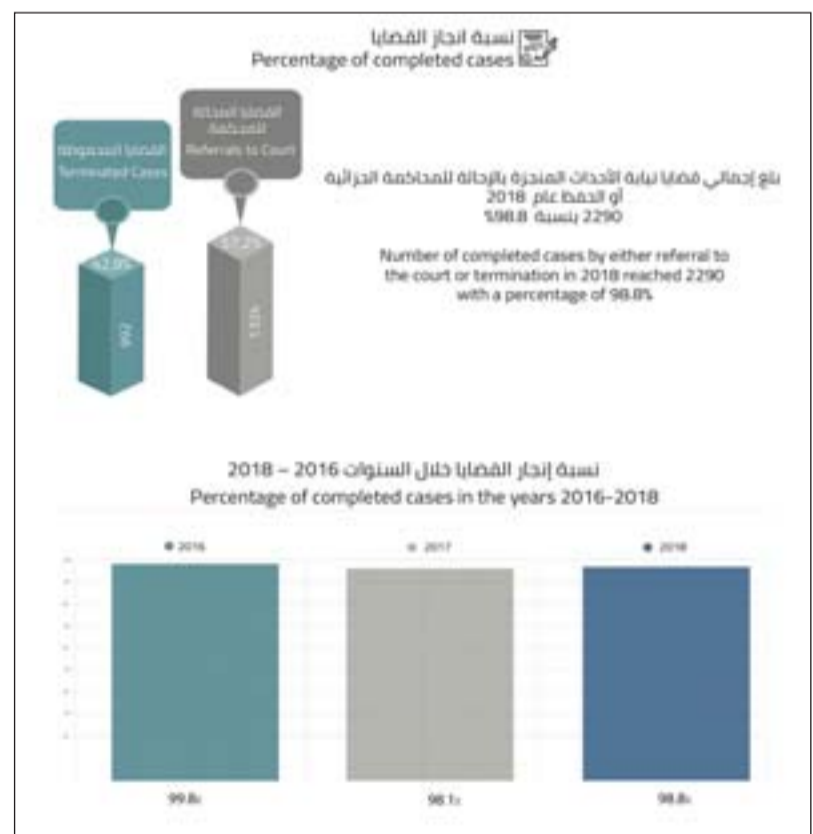
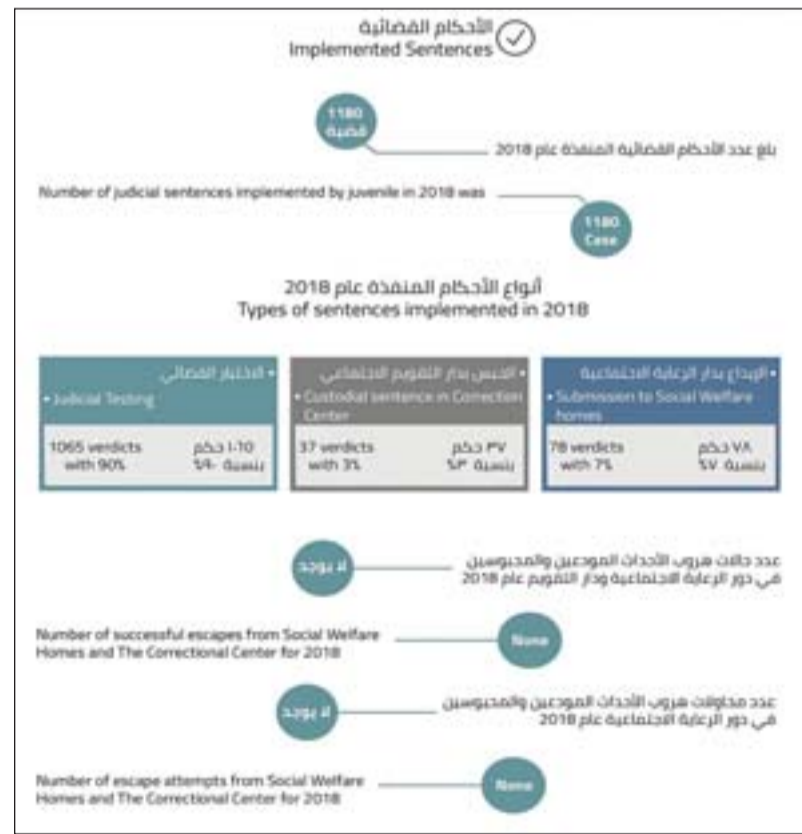


Local

Kuwait's 2018 juvenile conviction rate came third worldwide behind Australia and South Africa



No recorded escapes from social welfare homes or correctional centers



Gas cylinders spark fire at Aswaq Al-Qurain

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Firemen put out a blaze reported at Aswaq Al-Qurain Friday evening. Firemen from the Qurain and Mubarak Al-Kabeer hazardous material fire stations led by Lt Col Ali Al-Jeddi responded and found four gas cylinders were on fire behind a restaurant. The fire spread to the first floor, where an Internet cafe caught fire. The building was evacuated while the fire was being brought under control. One person sustained light burns and was taken to hospital.



## Local

# National Assembly Speaker visits Syrian refugee camps in Jordan

## Ghanem distributes gifts to Palestinian young refugees

AMMAN: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem toured a number of Syrian refugee camps in Jordan including Al-Zaatari camp, during his visit to the country on Friday. Ghanem closely monitored the living conditions of the refugees, while Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) delivered aid to hundreds of refugees, the Kuwait-based Al-Dustoor news network said in a statement.

Ghanem was accompanied by KRCS's Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas, a number of the society's members and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Dehani. Friday's visit to Syrian refugee camps and yesterday's visit to Palestinian refugee camps, as well as the previous Kuwaiti visits are part of the country's thrive to resolve the deteriorating humanitarian issue, Ghanem told reporters.

Furthermore, he noted Kuwait's continuous efforts to ease the suffering of these refugees through hosting donors conferences, delivering humanitarian aid by KRCS and other Kuwaiti charitable societies and contributing to the UN's agencies in charge of this file. Speaker Ghanem and his parliamentary delegation arrived in the capital Amman earlier on Friday to take part in the 29th conference of the Arab Inter-Parliament Union (AIPU) due on March 3-4.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani said that at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, relief campaigns launched by Kuwaiti charities for Syrian refugees in Jordan is continuing. He made his remarks following the distribution by the visiting Kuwaiti delegation led by Ghanem of humanitarian aid

at refugee camps. Kuwait has been offering relief aid to Syrian refugees since the outbreak of their country's crisis, the ambassador said, recalling that his country has also helped Palestinian refugees for years. Joined by Kuwaiti MPs and KRCS Secretary-General Barjas, the current initiative is the extension of Kuwait's leading humanitarian role, he boasted. The Kuwaiti ambassador also voiced much gratitude to Jordan for hosting Syrian refugees and providing them with a safe and stable atmosphere over years.

Separately, Ghanem toured yesterday the Jordan Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and its facilities. He visited KRCS' campaign titled 'From the Children of Kuwait to the Children of Palestine' at Al-Wehdah camp for Palestinian refugees in order to provide aid and gifts to Palestinian young refugees. Ghanem and his accompanying delegation also visited Al-Husain Cancer Center, where they were briefed on informative data about the facilities and patients.

Chairman of Jordan Red Crescent Society Dr Ahmad Al-Hadeed praised Kuwait's keenness to support regional and international humanitarian projects. "His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has laid the foundations of humanitarian action until it became one of the foundations of Kuwait's foreign policy," Hadeed said. The UN initiative of naming His Highness the Amir as a humanitarian leader and Kuwait as a humanitarian center is the result of these pioneering humanitarian principles pursued by Kuwait, he added.

Hadeed evaluated Kuwaiti efforts at international forums especially through its current membership at the UNSC, especially by supporting the Yemeni and



AMMAN: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem hands over aid during a visit to Syrian refugee camps in Jordan. —KUNA

Syrian issues. "Kuwait, by hosting donors' conferences and participating actively through financial commitments, contributed greatly to alleviating the human suffering of the Syrian refugees and their hosting communities in the region," he said. In this regard, he praised Kuwait's unofficial efforts through public organizations and charities, notably the Kuwait Islamic International Charity Organization and Kuwait Red Crescent Society, where they launched large-scale relief campaigns and distributed aid to

Syrian refugees and displaced people. He also commended the Kuwaiti humanitarian support extended to various countries of the region, including relief operations for Iraqi and Palestinian refugees. The number of Syrian refugees benefiting from KRCS' projects reached 217,673, he pointed out. The Kuwaiti delegation also opened the KRCS clinic to treat Syrian refugees and an inspection visit of the facilities of the Jordanian Red Crescent, including the technical training center. —KUNA



217,673 Syrian refugees benefit from KRCS projects

## Amir blesses delegation's visit to Iraq: Speaker

BAGHDAD: Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, who concluded a visit to Iraq, affirmed that the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation's mission in the country had been blessed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir has stood behind this mission due to his concern for Iraq and his conviction that this country's stability is essential for regional stability, said Ghanem during a press conference with his Iraqi counterpart, Mohamad Al-Halbusi. The parliament speaker affirmed Iraqi officials' appreciation for the great role by His Highness the Amir in the region, namely his efforts for aiding liberated and stricken regions in Iraq and hosting of the international conference for its reconstruction.

Ghanem was speaking at the press conference late Thursday night upon conclusion of his visit to the country, along with the accompanying delegation. He described as candid and fruitful the talks he had held during the visit with the Iraqi president, parliament speaker and influential politicians. "One of the facts I desire to affirm that this visit has been made possible with blessing and guidance by His Highness the Amir because of his concern for Iraq and his conviction that its stability is necessary for stability of the whole region and return of Iraq to the Arab fold is necessary for all peoples of the region," he added. Elaborating, the speaker noted that the ranking figures he had met hailed the great role played by His Highness the Amir in the region. "They all rejected the crime perpetrated by the buried Saddam Hussein against the Kuwaiti people and the genocides he had committed against the Iraqi people before the invasion of Kuwait."

The Kuwaiti parliament speaker affirmed concern on part of the Iraqi president, the prime minister and the parliament speaker toward the cause of the Kuwaiti prisoners and missing citizens, noting that Baghdad's government set up an additional budget to cover costs of searching for "remains of the blessed Kuwaiti martyrs who had fallen during the aggression." Ghanem said his talks with the Iraqi leaders dealt with a host of issues, namely necessity of reactivating the joint ministerial commission, which should "finalize the file of demarcating the marine borders," finishing Khor (harbor) Abdullah and inking the planned free trade accord between Kuwait and Iraq. Following a recent visit to Iraq by the Kuwaiti minister of commerce, "serious steps had been taken within this framework and toward these objectives," he continued. As to strategic ventures planned by Kuwait in the north and on the islands, the speaker called for a strategic economic partnership between the two countries, along with creation of a free trade zone. Ghanem added that the Kuwaiti delegation informed the Iraqi hosts that the Kuwaiti parliament would partake in a conference of chief lawmakers of Iraq's neighboring countries, due in Baghdad very soon.

Meanwhile, Halbusi has affirmed that Iraq and Kuwait are capable of forming closer political and trade links due to their historic, social and geographic roots. The discussions with speaker Ghanem dealt with joint cooperation and means to achieve stability in the region, generally, and Iraq, in particular. The two parties expressed their desire to be at a "point of convergence," he said, not at a position of conflict and difference.

On the economic scale, Halbusi said that the two sides looked forward to a partnership focused on harnessing their geographical location between the Gulf Arab region and Europe. They also look to ensure an appropriate business climate that encourages joint economic projects and trade. He went on to praise Kuwait's recent hosting of a global donor conference for the reconstruction of Islamic State-liberated Iraqi cities and the Gulf country's humanitarian assistance and grants handed to displaced Iraqis and cities. —KUNA

## Kuwait shelters 1,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced handing over 1,000 ready-to-use integrated shelter homes to Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar of Bangladesh. This humanitarian project was made possible in cooperation with Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRS). KRCS' Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said. Sayer hailed the cooperation and coordination between the KRCS and QRS, as it is contributing to the consolidation of joint efforts and strengthening of relief work in various countries. He also stressed that such a project would serve about 1,000 needy Rohingya families, particularly widows, children, and people with special needs, adding the house are equipped with basic needs and requirements.

The Rohingya refugees suffer from tragic circumstances, Sayer noted, adding they are currently in a desperate need for an assistance in various forms. He expressed hope that the Kuwaiti aid would contribute to alleviate their suffering to great extent as it is based on directives of global Humanitarian Leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. KRCS sprang into action to provide basic humanitarian aid to the Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh under the direction and guidance of Kuwait's leadership, Sayer said. The shelter houses' handing over ceremony was held in presence of Kuwait Ambassador to Bangladesh Adel Hayat and QRS' General Secretary Ali Al-Hammadi. The total number of Rohingya Muslims fleeing killings and persecution in Myanmar since the displacement crisis started is estimated to be more than half a million.

In other news, a KRCS delegation headed by Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi and accompanied

## Kuwait keen to alleviate Muslims' woes

ABU DHABI: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said on Friday his country is eager to lift the suffering of ill-fated Muslims and to find peaceful solutions to all OIC issues. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled made the remark during the 46th meeting of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) foreign ministers held in Abu Dhabi. He said the gathering coincides with the 50th anniversary of the OIC, which was created in 1969 following the blazing of Al-Aqsa Mosque, urging everyone to capitalize on this occasion to review the body's achievements. Politically, critical and significant issues still receive mixed positions during international gatherings, he said, citing the UN General Assembly's recent vote on Jerusalem-bearing resolution.

Economically, more efforts need to be exerted in order to boost trade and economic exchange with a view to notching up effective integration for creating an economic force that could play a key role in an economically changeable world, the Kuwaiti minister said. He went on to say that today's message should fulfill the



COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh: Volunteers pose with Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar of Bangladesh —KUNA

by Kuwait Ambassador to India Jassim Al-Najim made visits on Friday and Saturday to Kerala to extend help for the flood victims. Hasawi said in a statement that the KRCS teams distributed humanitarian supplies for the victims of the disastrous flood that had engulfed the south Indian state in August 2018, with the cooperation of Indian Red Cross Society. He added that the organization's efforts are based on directives of the world humanitarian leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to support the victims of natural calamities across the world.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Najim who participated in

the aid delivery ceremony as the guest of honor said that KRCS represents Kuwaiti people in their generosity and charity, adding that humanitarian support would further cement ties between the two friendly peoples. The chairman of Indian Red Cross Society's Kerala chapter VP Muralidharan thanked Hasawi and the ambassador for participating in the relief distribution program and hailed the KRCS positive role in Kerala. As a result of Kerala's floods, considered to be the worst, around 480 people lost their lives and thousands of houses and other infrastructural installations were destroyed. —KUNA

expectations of Muslim people and tackle ongoing developments and swift changes, eventually serving the interest of the Muslim world. "It is our duty to call on you to achieve this integration by means of taking the organization and its work up to a stage that could promote its international presence and weight," he noted. He underlined the significance of commitment to the principles of international law that regulates relations among states in line with the OIC charter, including good-neighborliness, non-interference in others' internal affairs, respect of states' sovereignty and compliance with international conventions and treaties in order to resolve all differences by peaceful means.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled emphasized that Kuwait, through its non-permanent UNSC membership, would leave no stone unturned to deliver the message of the tolerant religion of Islam and its noble value, urging all OIC member states to work together to achieve the OIC's goals. He voiced gratitude to the UAE for hosting this gathering and hospitality and OIC Secretary-General Yousef Al-Othaimen's efforts for organizing the event.

Separately, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled discussed with UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Executive Secretary Dr Rola Dashti the strong relations between the two sides, and ways to boost joint work. Dashti presented a comprehensive report on ESCWA activities and efforts on the regional and international levels. She also thanked the State of Kuwait for



ABU DHABI: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets his Omani counterpart Yousef bin Allawi on the sidelines of the 46th meeting of OIC foreign ministers. —KUNA

their support to the commission, including supporting ESCWA various projects.

In the meantime, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met his Omani counterpart Yousef bin Allawi. The two ministers considered Kuwaiti-Omani ties and ways of promoting them in various areas, along with a number of issues of mutual interest. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also met with his counterparts of Niger, Maldives, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Chad on the sidelines of the 46th meeting of OIC foreign ministers. —KUNA

Local

# 114 sites in 66 areas affected by November rain: Minister

## Bidding deadline for Terminal 2 extended

KUWAIT: Chairman of the parliamentary committee entrusted with investigating the rain crisis in November - MP Adel Al-Damkhi - said that the committee will complete its report after receiving the State Audit Bureau's technical report including recommendations about those responsible, be they officials or contracting companies. Damkhi added that the committee held several meetings and listened to statements by officials at the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

Meanwhile, Minister of Public Works Jenan Bushehri said 114 sites in 66 areas and various highways were affected during the November rain. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Khalil Al-Saleh, Bushehri added that MPW has started repairing various roads according to the guarantees in the contracts signed



## Gold-laden passenger arrested

with the responsible companies. Notably, statistics about the areas affected by loose gravel showed that the Capital topped the list with 47 sites in 18 areas, followed by Mubarak Al-Kabeer with 27 sites in eight areas, Hawally and Jahra with 12 sites in 12 areas and Farwaniya and Ahmadi with eight sites in eight areas. Bushehri added that repairs would include removing the damaged top layer of asphalt and repaving it at the expense of the companies executing them, namely those still within the contract guarantee period.

**Extra constructions**  
Kuwait Municipality's Acting Director Faisal Al-Jumaa said extra constructions in private residential areas violate Kuwait's structural plan. Meanwhile, the Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi stressed that he has no secrets when it comes to municipal projects. Responding to an inquiry by the

Municipal Council member Humoud Al-Enezi concerning not receiving answers to his inquiries about labor cities because of classified information, Manfouhi stressed that both the Municipality and the Municipal Council work together to achieve prosperity for Kuwait.

**Deadline extended**  
The Central Agency for Public Tenders agreed to extend the deadline to file bids for a tender to build, execute and maintain the Terminal 2 (T2) building and constructions and the roads leading to the new airport to April 23 instead of March 24.

**Passenger arrested**  
Airport security stopped a Bangladeshi man laden with gold jewelry before departing to his country at T4, said informed sources, noting that customs inspectors found the gold hidden in the passenger's luggage, and that on searching him, more jewelry was found on him. The passenger failed to show any documents or bills proving his ownership of the gold, and was referred to relevant authorities for further investigations.

## Italian official commends defense cooperation with Kuwait

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Italian Ministry of Defense Raffaele Volpi on Thursday voiced his pleasure that the Italian frigate 'Carlo Margottini' visited Kuwait for the second time. Speaking to reporters during a ceremony on the arrival of the frigate at Shuwaikh Port, Volpi lauded cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields, mainly defense and combating terrorism. He said that such visits are part of the deep-rooted ties between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Italy's Ambassador to Kuwait Giuseppe Scognamiglio thanked Kuwait's leadership and people for welcoming the frigate. He said in a similar statement that the presence of some Italian firms in Kuwait reflects the deep-rooted relations, strategic partnerships and cooperation in all domains. It is the second



Undersecretary of the Italian Ministry of Defense Raffaele Volpi (center) speaks to the press. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

visit of the frigate to Kuwait, the first one was last March. The aim of the visit is to promote cooperation with the Gulf and region's countries. The warship

includes a crew of 168 people. It took part in several key missions pertaining to surveillance, naval security and anti-piracy activities. — KUNA

## US education roadshow lands in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A US education roadshow organized by the International Student Network (ISN) reached Kuwait on Thursday, and was attended by parents and prospective students. The roadshow also made stops in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, Manama and Beirut, and will wrap up its five-country tour in Kiev.

Carine Nassrallah, US Embassy Education Advisor, mentioned several advantages in choosing the United States for continuing education, especially on the tertiary level. Nathan Shuler, Vice Consul at the US Embassy, gave some important reminders on how to acquire a student visa and how students can make use of their stay productively and safely. The event was supported by AMIDEAST, a leading American nonprofit organization engaged in international education, training and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa.



KUWAIT: A lecture hosted during the US education roadshow organized by the International Student Network (ISN). — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Union 'wary of' oil sector privatization

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Deputy chairman of Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) employees syndicate Saad Rashid Al-Hajeri said the syndicate is concerned with issues frustrating oil sector employees, on top of which are plans to privatize the sector. In a reaction to threats to privatize the sector, Hajeri stressed that privatization would make the sector lose the ability to attract qualified manpower and that it would make citizens refrain from joining it because of the risks it involves and the relatively low wages compared to the government sector. "Such a step is very dangerous for Kuwait's future and economy," he underlined, describing privatization as an evasion from shouldering responsibility. Hajeri added that the syndicate totally rejects privatizing any segment of the oil sector and that it would fight merchants' domination. He also urged the oil minister to work on creating more stability in the oil sector.

In other news, Kuwait Ports Authority announced that court order number 1957/2015 issued against KGL company evicting it from the over 270,000-square-meter storage area it had been utilizing at Doha Port will take effect today - Sunday, March 3, 2019. The authority explained that KGL had previously delayed implementation of the court order and unlawfully rented out the disputed area to two sub-contractors to prolong litigations.

## KJA announces general assembly meeting date

KUWAIT: Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) invites all members who had paid their subscription fees up until March 2, 2019 (as stipulated by article 27 of KJA's chart) to attend an ordinary general assembly meeting to be held at 3:00 pm on Monday, March 11, 2019 at its temporary headquarters in Shuwaikh Industrial area, the main press street, Al-Balagh magazine building, plot number 75, second floor.

Notably, the general assembly meeting would be valid by the attendance of more than half of the total members with the right to attend it. Otherwise and in case of lack of quorum, the meeting will be postponed for half an hour then held with whomever would be present. The meeting will also include elections to select seven members for the 2019-2020 board of directors; to be held on 4-8 pm on the same day.

local spotlight

## Abduction of a lawyer



By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

Last week, while everyone was enjoying the national holidays, policemen managed to save the life of an innocent man in record time. Interior ministry personnel did a good job saving the life of a Kuwaiti lawyer who was abducted by four Arab men. The case is still under investigation, but has raised several questions from people. The story, as reported by the lawyer to the media, began when the lawyer was kidnapped while leaving his office in the evening and was bundled in a car by four Arab men. But the kidnappers didn't expect to be arrested at a security checkpoint by a Farwaniya security patrol during a routine search in Kabd, which has many farms.

The lawyer was hidden under the feet of the kidnappers in their car and was handcuffed. Luckily, he was freed and the kidnappers were arrested. According to official reports, the abducted lawyer was taken to a farm in Kabd, where one of the persons interrogated and beat him. So far, the four defendants have made full confessions to the police, but the surprise came when they admitted that they had committed their crime at the instigation of another lawyer for some money.

The police arrested this lawyer for inciting a crime. The details of the case have been published and received many comments. The motive of the crime will be revealed by the investigations of the police. But many people wondered about the sponsors of these expats. I agree that all their sponsors must be summoned - whether the crime was with their consent and knowledge or not. I believe this is important because here in Kuwait there is a trade in residency visas, which we often hear about.

We find people, whether Arabs or Asians, have valid residencies with sponsors, but they do not work for them and have nothing to do with them. Their sole connection is with the money they pay to them annually for getting the work permit and valid residency without direct work. So they are left with no job, and of course, the need for money may lead them to crime.

I think that those suspects who were involved in this crime may be of this category, so this matter must be seriously considered. We have often heard of such trafficking, but it is time to conduct an investigation to protect people's lives. In case fraud is proven in this case, it is necessary to close the files of these companies and force the sponsors to pay large fines.

These people who extort large sums of money from poor expats are guilty, and the expats are victims of this trade because they want to stay in the country. They don't want to return home empty-handed. The path of crime may be a source of quick money, but it is also a dangerous route and may lead to imprisonment and deportation after the prison term ends, with shame and no money.

I believe that there is an important role for the ministry of social affairs and the public authority for manpower to open all the files and make surprise inspection visits to companies to check if all their workers really work there or not. Thank you to Farwaniya security for the great effort. You have done well and saved an innocent life from harm, but this case will not be the last if there is no move by other parties.

## 2019 KOREA-KUWAIT OIL & GAS / ENVIRONMENT BUSINESS MEETING

We, KOTRA Kuwait, Commercial Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea cordially invites all business persons / entrepreneurs in Kuwait to visit 2019 Korea-Kuwait Oil & Gas Environment Business Meeting on March 12th (Tuesday).

**DATE** Mar 12th (Tuesday) 09:30 am - 5:00 pm  
**LOCATION** Radisson Blu Hotel (Dasman Room), Salwa, Kuwait  
**CONTENTS** Pre-arranged 1:1 business meeting with the Korean Oil & Gas / Environment companies

FOR REGISTRATION AND DETAILS, CONTACT :

- Mr. Mithun Cherian (Commercial Manager) : 9093-7326
- Mr. Mohamad Obeid (Commercial Manager) : 6699-6083
- Email : kuwaitkbc@gmail.com

No.	Company Name	Products	Homepage
01	Dongjin Engineering Co., Ltd	Insulation Product	www.dongjeng.com
02	Han Wool H & P Co., Ltd	Hose, Valve	www.hose.co.kr
03	SM Tech Co., Ltd	Anti-surge System	www.waterhammer.kr
04	Dongwoo Optron Co., Ltd	Gas Analyzer	www.optron.co.kr
05	Seoul Tech Co., Ltd	Mechanical Seal, Metal Bellows	www.seoul-tech.kr
06	Seojeon Valmac Co., Ltd	Valves	www.valmac.co.kr
07	Aquacell Co., Ltd	Aquacell Auto	www.aquacell.co.kr
08	DMT Co., Ltd.	Joints, Flexible Hose	www.dmtflex.com
09	RITCO	Gas Analyzer	www.ritco.co.kr
10	Korea Motoyama Inc.	Control Valve	www.komoto.co.kr
11	Pungsung Precision Tube Co., Ltd	Tube & Bar	www.pungsung.com
12	Newtork Korea Co., Ltd	Actuator, MOV	www.newtork.co.kr
13	Michigan Technology Co., Ltd.	Dissolved Ozone and Air Flotation	www.mdaltdof.com
14	ECOPRO Co., Ltd.	Total Solutions for Air Pollution	www.ecopro.co.kr
15	Signet EV, Inc	Fast Chargers for EV	www.signetev.com
16	Sciencet Lab Center Co., Ltd.	Contamination measuring equipment	www.sclab.co.kr





Somalia vows crackdown after deadly siege kills 20

## Who owns the fight for LGBT+ rights in the Arab world?



BAGHOZ: A toddler looks at members of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) while awaiting to be searched, after leaving the Islamic State (IS) group's last holdout of Baghouz, in the eastern Syrian Deir Ezzor province. — AFP

# Wounded and alone, 'IS' kids emerge

## 'I had two brothers and a sister. They all died'

**DEIR AL-ZOR PROVINCE:** Hareth Najem fled Islamic State's last enclave in eastern Syria wounded and alone. The Iraqi orphan's family had died two years earlier in air strikes across the border in Al-Qaim region. "I had two brothers and a sister. They all died, and then I was by myself," Hareth said, tears filling his eyes. "My little sister, I loved her a lot. I used to take her with me to the market." Lying in a cattle truck beside another injured boy at a desert transit point for US-backed forces, he huddled under a blanket. His face was covered in dirt and the side of his head wrapped with bandages covering wounds incurred days earlier.

Hareth was 11 years old when Islamic State (IS) carved out its "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria, killing thousands of civilians and attracting an array of enemies that have fought from the air and on the ground to uproot the jihadists. Now 16, he was among the children swept up this week in the civilian evacuation of Baghouz, the last shred of land under the jihadists' control where they are on the brink of defeat at the hands

of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Some of the children are foreigners whose parents brought them to be raised under IS rule, or child fight-



### Islamic State faces a territorial defeat

ers conscripted into what the group dubbed "cubs of the caliphate". Others, including members of the Yazidi minority, were enslaved by the jihadists. Many have seen their parents die in the fighting or be detained by

rival forces. As IS faces territorial defeat, their fate remains uncertain. The SDF investigates all men and teenage boys arriving from Baghouz to determine possible IS links.

#### 'These kids have nobody'

Around 20 children crossed the frontline on their own this week, including Iraqis, Syrians, Turks and Indonesians, said SDF commander Adnan Afrin. The fathers of some were identified as IS fighters and arrested immediately. "These kids have nobody. They need somebody to take care of them, to provide mental health support," said Afrin, adding that some had gone hungry for a long time. The SDF plans to hand over the children to aid groups, he said. Hareth said his family had been running a market stall when IS overran their town and they had no links to the group.

After his family was killed in an aerial bombardment, he crossed into Syria with other Iraqis who

feared Shiite Muslim militias advancing against IS would take revenge on Sunnis - a fear that other Iraqis have cited as their reason for entering IS-held Syria. Hareth said he tried to avoid the jihadists and denies attending their schools or receiving military training. Their morality police would sometimes arrest and whip him. "They gave speeches at the mosques, jihad and whatnot," he said. "I was scared of them. My whole family died because of them."

When he reached Baghouz, he worked in a field in return for a room to sleep in. He tried saving enough money to go home, but said the militants stopped him. Hareth was wounded last week when a shell fell near where he was standing along the Euphrates River, injuring his ear, hand and stomach. He wants to get medical care and return to relatives still in Iraq. "I want to go look for them ... When I get better and my body recovers, when I can walk," he said. "I want to go back, to become a young man again, to build a future again." — AFP

## In Mexico, those searching for missing relatives can vanish too

**HUITZUCO DE LOS FIGUEROA:** Maria Herrera is scraping at the earth on a hill in the town of Huitzuc, in southern Mexico, looking for the mounds or sunken spots that indicate a decaying corpse. At 70 years old, Herrera is hoping against all odds to find her four missing sons—two who disappeared in 2008, and two who vanished in 2010 looking for their brothers. "Every time we come to one of these nasty places, we suffer... Who heard their screams of pain? Who heard their last words?" she said through tears as she dug in the dirt with a group of 100 other activists in the violent state of Guerrero. The small, gray-haired grandmother is the face of a dirty secret that has haunted Mexico for years: the countryside of Latin America's second-largest economy is littered with bodies.

More than 40,000 people are missing in Mexico, which has been swept by a wave of violence since the government declared war on the country's powerful drug cartels in 2006. Herrera regularly goes out searching for her sons with other relatives of the "disappeared." But she is also part of a smaller, even more tragic group: some 20 families who have lost children not once but twice, when the ones who remained went looking for their missing siblings and ended up disappearing too.

#### SUV full of cash

Herrera's family comes from Pajuacaran, a small town in western Mexico where most people are farmers or emigrate to the United States. She and her husband decided they



HUITZUCO DE LOS FIGUEROA: Forensic personnel of the Mexican Attorney General work in the exhumation of human remains found during the activities of the fourth National Search Brigade, in Huitzuc de los Figueroa, Guerrero state, Mexico. — AFP

wanted something different for their eight children. They started a small business selling household goods door to door, then used the profits to launch a nationwide gold exchange. Part of the business, she said, involved traveling the country to buy and sell gold—which is what Jesus Salvador, then 24, and Raul, then 19, were doing in Guerrero in 2008. Traveling with five employees in an SUV carrying nearly \$90,000 in cash and gold, they did not realize a bloody cartel turf war was just breaking out in the state.

"My brothers had no idea when they arrived," said Juan Carlos, 41, their older sibling. He and his family believe a local cartel mistook the brothers and their co-workers for members of a rival group and had some crooked cops arrest them. Such stories are not uncommon in Guerrero. It is the state where 43 student protesters disappeared in 2014 after being arrested by state police, who apparently handed them over to cartel hitmen—a notorious case that drew international

condemnation, and remains unsolved.

#### Wrong place, wrong time

With no news of their sons, and fed up with the lack of answers from the authorities, the Herreras hired private investigators and began searching on their own. Their situation got more desperate in February 2009, when Herrera's husband died of a stroke. Taking up the family gold business—and using their travels to search for Jesus and Raul—two more brothers, Gustavo, then 27, and Luis Armando, then 25, started criss-crossing the country. "Sometimes the drug traffickers take their victims somewhere else. Maybe we'll find them in another state," Herrera said Gustavo told her. They were on such a trip when they, too, disappeared. Moments after Gustavo called his wife to check in, on September 22, 2010, the brothers were detained by police in Poza Rica, in the eastern state of Veracruz—another cartel hotspot known for hit squads run by corrupt cops. — AFP

## Hezbollah: British ban an 'insult' to Lebanon

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's Hezbollah movement has condemned Britain's decision to outlaw its political wing, describing the move as an "insult" to the Lebanese people. Britain said Monday it would seek to make membership of the Shiite movement or inviting support for it a crime. The decision follows outrage last year over the display of the Hezbollah flag, which features a Kalashnikov assault rifle, at pro-Palestinian demonstrations in London.

"The British government has insulted the sentiments and the will of the Lebanese people by adopting this decision," the group said in a statement. "The Lebanese consider Hezbollah to be a big political and popular force and they have granted it wide representation in parliament and government," it said.

Beyond Lebanon, the group warned Britain the move would "invite hostility from the people of the region," and would harm its role in the Middle East. Hezbollah was established in 1982 during Lebanon's civil war and is now a major political party in the country, holding three cabinet posts. But British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said in a statement on Monday any distinction between its military and political wings "does not exist".

"This (decision) does not change our ongoing commitment to Lebanon, with whom we have a broad and strong relationship," he added. Lebanon's Foreign

Minister Gebran Bassil said senior British officials had agreed the issue should not "impact on bilateral relationships between Lebanon and Britain". Bassil, whose Free Patriotic Movement party is allied with Hezbollah in government, added it "will not have direct negative consequences on Lebanon because we are already used to this situation with other countries". The move earned swift praise from the United States and Israel.

#### Ban 'irresponsible'

Meanwhile, Iran condemned Britain's decision to outlaw the political wing of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement yesterday, describing it as "wrong and irresponsible." "Iran considers Hezbollah a legitimate and legal force which plays an effective and undeniable role in helping its country's political stability and safeguarding its security," the foreign ministry said on its website. "[It] considers the decision to place Hezbollah on a terrorism blacklist to be wrong and irresponsible and one which will not contribute to the stability and security of Lebanon."

Hezbollah was established in 1982 during the Lebanese civil war and fought a 2006 war with Israel. It is also a major force in the country's politics, holding three cabinet posts. Britain blacklisted Hezbollah's military wing in 2008 but had until now made no move against its political wing. However, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said on Monday that any distinction between its military and political wings "does not exist". "This (decision) does not change our ongoing commitment to Lebanon, with whom we have a broad and strong relationship," he said. Tehran is a major supporter of Hezbollah and its "resistance" against the Islamic republic's arch foe Israel. Britain's decision drew swift praise from both Israel and the United States. — Agencies

International

# Anger, bleak prospects, poverty fire protest mood for young Algerians

## Tens of thousands defy a ban on protests in Algiers

**ALGIERS:** Suffering from lack of work and affordable housing, Nasredine and 40 of his relatives live squeezed into a three-room flat in a poverty-hit housing project outside Algeria's capital. On Friday, just like last week, the 28-year-old planned on taking to the streets with friends to march against the "system and injustice" after a decision by ailing President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to stand for a fifth term unleashed pent-up ire.

Just outside the city centre of Algiers, the graffiti-strewn streets of the housing project are filled with pot holes and there are no squares of parks. In a country where half the population is under 30, there is little to occupy Nasredine and his friends. Instead they spend their ample free time on social media, where calls for rallies saw tens of thousands defy a ban on protests in Algiers last week and pour onto the streets.

The scale of those demonstrations took many in Algeria by surprise, and they were followed by smaller protests. On Friday, demonstrators geared up to march against Bouteflika's bid to hold onto power at an April 18 election, but also against "the system" as a whole. In the lead-up to those rallies, youth in the project have prepared their gear: a national flag along with water and vinegar to treat the effects of tear gas.

**'We can't take it anymore'**

The youngest of 12 children, Nasredine lives in the tiny apartment with his parents and siblings, along with

their spouses and children. At night, they sleep "like in prison, lined up next to each other... no intimacy is possible", he says, refusing to give his surname. He would know about prison. He's been locked up twice for a total of eight months after trying to scratch out a living as a "parkingneur" like many other of the country's unemployed.

A common sight on the streets of Algiers, drivers pay these informal attendants a nominal fee to watch over their parked cars. "You express yourself, you go to jail. You try to cobble (together a living) doing odd jobs, you go to jail... we can't take it anymore," says Nasredine. His friend Youssef, 34, recently secured a job as a security agent after long years of unemployment.

But he still can't find housing. He shares one of four rooms in his family's flat with his wife and two children. The 16 other members of his family live in the remaining three. Despite the many government-sponsored social housing projects established over Bouteflika's 20 years in power, Algeria is still suffering from a housing crisis. The reason is simple, say Nasredine and his friends. No bribe, no social housing.

**'Against the system'**

Abdenour, a 29-year-old hairdresser, cuts hair on credit for his friends, including Nasredine. He regrets that Bouteflika has used "the people's money to build just for show the largest mosque" in the world in



**ORAN:** Algerians shout slogans and raise signs and national flags as they protest outside the city hall in the northern coastal city of Oran, about 410 kilometers west of the capital Algiers during a rally against ailing President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's bid for a fifth term in power. — AFP

Algiers, after those in the Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. That money should have been used to build hospitals, the group of friends say, noting that their leaders, including Bouteflika, seek treatment abroad.

The ailing head-of-state flew to Switzerland on Sunday for what the presidency called "routine medical checks" and has not yet returned. Bouteflika uses a wheelchair and has rarely been seen in public since suffering a stroke in 2013. "We're not against him, he's sick, he's resting. But we're against the system," says Youssef. For them, "the worst" is when they hear some

leaders "say that people are happy and want Bouteflika to stay" in power.

"That's wrong!" the group of friends cries-adamant that none of them are happy. "Lack of hope" has pushed many young Algerians to opt for illegal bids to Europe, drugs or radical Islamism, says sociologist Nacer Djabi. Amine, a 23-year-old welder who's been out of work for four years, says he'd jump at the first chance to cross the Mediterranean on a makeshift boat. "There is no future in Algeria," he says. "(Only) if the entire system is removed... then I would have some hope and I could stay". — AFP

## Somalia vows crackdown after deadly siege kills 20

**MOGADISHU:** At least 20 people died in an attack in the Somali capital Mogadishu, which saw Al-Shabaab insurgents battling security forces for nearly 24 hours before the siege ended, officials said yesterday. As the standoff ended, the government vowed to step up efforts to fight the jihadists, with the deadly siege the latest in a long line of bombing and assaults claimed by the Al-Qaeda-linked group. "The Somali government will never stop its war on Al-Shabaab, our aim is to be done with them, whatever the cost," Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khairre told reporters late on Friday.

The premier also praised the courage of the elite soldiers who he said had rescued 35 civilians used as "human shields" by the assailants. The attack began on Thursday evening at around 1800 GMT, when a Shabaab militant in a car blew himself up, causing a huge blast that

ripped the front off a major hotel and left several cars in flames on the busy street. Other fighters then stormed inside a building housing a restaurant, where they were quickly surrounded by police.

Medics pulled five bodies from the wreckage immediately after the explosion, but the recovery of more bodies was blocked for hours by the ensuing fighting. Sporadic shooting continued until officials finally declared an end to the siege late Friday afternoon. "Our teams have recovered one more dead body after the operation was over and this makes the overall number of the confirmed dead 20," Aamin Ambulance director Abdikadir Abdirahman said yesterday. At least 112 people were admitted to the city's three main hospitals, medical sources said.

**'Martyrdom-seeking' attack**

At a press conference, Somali security forces held up photos showing the alleged bodies of four of the attackers. In a statement posted on a pro-Shabaab website, the militants confirmed that four of their number had been killed, adding that others had managed to escape. It said the fighters waged a "martyrdom-seeking" operation against a "luxury hotel inhabited by government officials and security service officers". Witnesses said the initial car bomb attack occurred



**MOGADISHU:** A backhoe loader clean the street outside the Maka Al-Mukarama hotel in the Somalia capital after a car bomb exploded, killing at least five people and wounding 25 others. — AFP

as the street was filled with people relaxing after a day at work. The explosion was so powerful that it tossed several vehicles into the air that then burst into flames. "The whole area was in flames," said Abdusamed Mohamed, a witness.

The Shabaab emerged out of the Islamic courts system that once controlled central and southern Somalia. The group is believed to have between 5,000

and 9,000 men. In 2010, the Shabaab declared its allegiance to Al-Qaeda. The following year, its fighters were chased out of Mogadishu by the 22,000-strong African Union peace-enforcement mission, AMISOM. They have since lost many of their strongholds but retain control of large rural swathes of the country and continue to wage a guerrilla war, frequently hitting Mogadishu. — AFP

## Netanyahu defiant after decision to indict him ahead of polls

**JERUSALEM:** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's long reign atop Israeli politics has earned him the nickname "King Bibi," but a decision ahead of April elections to indict him on corruption charges may be his biggest challenge yet. After Israel's attorney general announced Thursday night he intended to charge the prime minister with bribery, fraud and breach of trust pending a hearing, Netanyahu showed characteristic defiance in a televised statement.

He blamed his political opponents for what he called a "witch hunt" intended to force him from office—though he appointed the attorney general who issued the decision. In the 20-minute statement, a campaign banner reading "Netanyahu Strong Right" behind him, he called the investigations a "house of cards" meant to "influence the elections." "Netanyahu will not resign," said Ilan Greitsammer, political science professor at the University of Tel Aviv.

"There is a family-like culture in Israel, and for Likud's electoral base, Netanyahu is family," he said of the premier's right-wing party. Netanyahu is not legally required to resign if indicted, only if convicted with all appeals exhausted. But the announcement by Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit comes with Netanyahu facing a serious challenge from a centrist political alliance led by former armed forces chief of staff Benny Gantz in an April 9 general election. Should he win in April, he will be on track to surpass founding father David Ben-Gurion's record of more than 13 years in office.

**'Mr Security'**

The burly 69-year-old with his familiar grey comb-over has entrenched himself at the top so firmly he has been labeled "King Bibi", his nickname dating to childhood. Few doubt his political effectiveness. Much of his



**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**

popularity has to do with another nickname—"Mr Security"—in a country where such issues are always on voters' minds. He has sought to discredit Gantz in part by calling him a "weak" leftist despite his military background and the fact that his alliance features three former armed forces chiefs of staff.

Netanyahu frequently highlights Israel's actions against Iran in Syria, a reference to hundreds of air strikes there against his country's main enemy and Tehran-backed Hezbollah. He often seeks to avoid talking about the Palestinians apart from security operations, with prominent members of his right-wing coalition openly ruling out a two-state solution. Netanyahu was born in 1949 in the then-nascent state of Israel around a year and a half after it was created. He and his wife Sara have two sons, and he has a daughter from a previous marriage. The son of a history professor active in Israeli right-wing politics, Netanyahu grew up partly in the United States.

He attended the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and with his fluent, American-accented English would appear on television speaking forcefully in defense of Israel. He performed his Israeli military service with an elite unit and was wounded in combat, but another family member's service may have affected him more deeply. In 1976, his brother Yonatan died in an Israeli commando raid to rescue hostages in Uganda. Netanyahu has called the operation "a very dramatic national experience" and "one of great personal consequence." — AFP

## Who owns the fight for LGBT+ rights in the Arab world?

**BEIRUT:** Westerners shouldn't be writing the Arab LGBT+ "narrative", activists said on Friday, even while applauding Luxembourg's gay prime minister's confrontational remarks at a summit between European Union and Arab League leaders. Xavier Bettel, speaking in a closed session, called out homophobia in the Arab world by telling the delegates that his marriage to a man could lead to his execution in some of the nations represented in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, this week.

The remarks were greeted with "icy silence from some, quiet joy from others," according to a tweet by a German journalist who attended the meeting at Egypt's Red Sea resort. LGBT+ relationships are illegal across most of the Middle East and North Africa, and gay people often risk fines, jail and even the possibility of death, according to the charity Human Rights Watch.

Tarek Zeidan, executive director of Lebanese LGBT+ rights group Helem, said it is positive that LGBT+ issues in the Arab world were being talked about at big event - but he does not believe a Westerner should be leading the conversation. "It is a very gray area - my gut feeling is that if you are going to Egypt on a global stage and do not mention human rights abuses then you are complicit," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone. "But, do I like the fact that we have to rely on a European politician to speak on our behalf ... agency is important."

Zeidan said it is difficult to categorize Bettel's comments as "good or bad", but he did not believe the prime minister's remarks will cause "extra harm" for the LGBT+ community in Egypt and the Arab world. "The idea that his remarks will make things worse for the LGBT community in the Arab world and for places like Egypt is ludicrous, because things are incredibly bad already," he said. In Egypt, homosexuality is not explicitly criminalized, but LGBT+ people have long been targeted under laws on "debauchery".

Noor, an Egyptian LGBT+ activist who declined to use her real name for safety reasons, was happy that Bettel took the opportunity to confront Arab leaders at an event in the global spotlight. "It is a good step to show these leaders that LGBT identity and sexual orientation - it's part of the daily life of any person, so it's not something isolated," she said. A gay Qatari man, who declined to be named for reasons of safety, said the Arab leaders should be held liable for their treatment of LGBT+ people, but Westerners, and Western leaders should not be "driving the narrative". —Reuters

## Bandits kill 32 in northern Nigeria

**KANO:** At least 32 local vigilantes have been killed in northwestern Nigeria in the latest attack by criminal gangs that terrorize the region, witnesses said yesterday. Gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on a group of militia manning an anti-bandit checkpoint late on Thursday near Kware village in Shinkafi district, Zamfara state. "We recovered 32 bodies of the vigilantes after the attack by the bandits," Sukaiman Shuaibu, a local chief in the area said.

"The death toll may rise because many people are still unaccounted for and search teams are combing the bush for more bodies," Shuaibu added. The attack occurred days after 27 people were killed in raids on four villages in the region. The vigilantes who were killed on Thursday were part of a militia force providing security for traders in the area, Kware resident Alu Wadatau said.

"The bandits came in large numbers around 3:30 pm (1430GMT) and opened fire on the vigilantes," said Wadatau. "They killed 32 people on the spot and injured many others." Zamfara state police spokesman Mohammed Shehu confirmed the attack but declined to give details. Farming and herding communities in Zamfara state have long been terrorized by gangs who raid villages, stealing cattle and kidnapping residents for ransom.

The repeat attacks prompted villages to form local vigilante groups for protection, but they have been accused of extrajudicial killings of suspected bandits, leading to reprisals. Last week residents of Danjigba village in Zamfara killed 59 bandits who attempted to raid the village. Zamfara is a political stronghold for President Muhammadu Buhari, who carried the state in last week's presidential election that handed him a second four-year term. He has pledged to continue confronting Nigeria's many security crises, while giving few specifics. — AFP

GRIFIN INVESTMENT

Avail funds for Movable/  
 Immovable/Stocks/Business/

Viable Projects for  
all CREDENTIALS

As per Govt. norms    Tolerant repayment    No Illicit Charges  
 Early DISBURSEMENT

10 Cr.  
to  
1000 Cr.

3% to 5% p.a

+91 7397 498 912

Email: grifin.investments@gmail.com

## International

# US and South Korea to 'discontinue' annual large-scale military exercises

## Trump sides with Kim on tortured American, sparking firestorm

WASHINGTON: The US military and South Korea are planning to "discontinue" annual large-scale military exercises as President Donald Trump pursues efforts to improve ties with North Korea, a US official said yesterday. The comment from the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, came shortly after the conclusion of Trump's second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, which ended without a formal agreement but with both sides suggesting they will keep talking.

NBC News first reported that the Foal Eagle drills—which usually take place in the spring—would be scrapped, citing two unnamed US defense officials. Foal Eagle is the biggest of the regular joint exercises held by the allies, and has always infuriated Pyongyang, which condemned it as preparations for invasion. In the past, it has involved 200,000 South Korean forces and some 30,000 US soldiers. It overlaps with the Key Resolve exercise.

Since Trump's first summit with Kim last year in Singapore, the US and Seoul have scaled back or scrapped several joint military drills, and US bombers are no longer flying over South Korea. Trump has repeatedly complained that the exercises are too costly. NBC reported that the annual exercises would be replaced with "smaller, mission-specific training." The Republican president however has ruled out withdrawing any of the 28,500 US forces based in South Korea to defend it from its nuclear-armed neighbor, which invaded in 1950. Any such drawdown would face strong pushback from the US Congress and Japan, whose conservative government is deeply wary of North Korea's intentions.

### Trump sparks firestorm

Trump took Kim Jong Un's word that he knew nothing

of the torture of an American college student while in North Korean custody, an about-face that sparked a bipartisan backlash back home. The US president appeared to side with the reclusive leader about the 2017 case of Otto Warmbier, drawing outrage from incredulous Democrats who accused Trump of repeatedly aligning with tyrants.

The 22-year-old Ohio native was returned to the United States in a coma and died shortly afterwards. A US judge concluded Warmbier was tortured by North Korean authorities. At the conclusion of his Hanoi summit with Kim, Trump told reporters he talked with Kim about the "horrible" Warmbier case. "He knew the case very well, but he knew it later," Trump said, adding that "some really bad things" happened to Warmbier while he was detained.

Kim "tells me that he didn't know about it, and I will take him at his word." Trump took credit for the release of Warmbier and other US hostages in 2017, saying at the time that "Otto was tortured beyond belief by North Korea." At his January 2018 State of the Union address, the president praised Warmbier and spoke directly from the podium to the young man's parents seated in the audience. "You are powerful witnesses to a menace that threatens our world, and your strength truly inspires us all," Trump said, as lawmakers gave them a standing ovation.

But as Trump presses for Korean denuclearization, betting heavily on his relationship with Kim, the hard line he signaled that night in Congress has largely evaporated, prompting angry reactions across the political spectrum. "I do not see the leader of North Korea as somebody who's a friend. We know what happened to Otto, we know what this country has done," said House Minority



DONG DANG: North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un waves before boarding his train at the Dong Dang railway station in Lang Son yesterday. — AFP

Leader Kevin McCarthy, the most senior Republican to break with Trump on the issue. "I support the president's effort to denuclearize them, but I do not have a misbelief of who this leader is."

### 'Detestable'

Senator Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, snapped about Warmbier's brutal treatment. "Of course Kim knew about it," he tweeted. "Apparently, the President of the United States is the only one who believes this obvious lie." An angry House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff branded Trump's acceptance of Kim's denial "detestable," while

Senator Chris Van Hollen said the United States "cannot give Kim Jong Un a free pass for torturing and murdering one of our own." Senator Rob Portman, from Warmbier's home city of Cincinnati, delivered a five-minute floor speech highlighting his "unforgivable" treatment and the "brutal" nature of the regime, though he made no mention of the president's reversal. And Trump's former UN ambassador Nikki Haley, a Republican Party luminary, said that "Americans know the cruelty that was placed on Otto Warmbier by the North Korean regime." But she too stopped short of criticizing Trump. Several Democrats took the president's position as just his latest embrace of autocratic leaders. — Agencies



## Washington pursues efforts to improve ties with N Korea

### News in brief

#### 8 hurt in aborted take-off

LONDON: Eight people suffered minor injuries during an aborted take-off at London Stansted Airport, causing flights to be suspended for around three hours. Crew on the Laudamotion flight to Vienna suspected engine problems on the runway shortly after 8:00 pm on Friday. Passengers reported a bang rocking the cabin. Thomas Steer said there was a "big bang on the side of the aircraft which skidded to a stop". The estate agent, 24, from Essex, eastern England, said: "It was scary. And then staff shouting 'evacuate evacuate'." My friend opened the emergency exit and we slid down the slides, a few old people fell over and the fire brigade treated them. "No-one was seriously injured, just minor things." — AFP

#### 23 Afghan troops killed

KANDAHAR: At least 23 Afghan security forces were killed in a Taliban attack on a joint US-Afghan base in southwestern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, as fighting continued during a pause in peace talks between the insurgents and American negotiators. Details of the heavy toll from the hours-long assault on Shorab military base—one of the largest military installations in the country — followed earlier claims by local and US officials that Afghan forces had successfully repelled the attack, killing four militants. The pre-dawn assault, claimed by the Taliban, saw militants enter the base in Helmand province and engage in firefights with Afghan forces. — AFP

#### Online bullying scandal

PARIS: Two French journalists were sacked Friday for their part in an online bullying scandal that has shaken the country's media, industry sources said. David Doucet, the web editor of the hip Les Inroductibles magazine, and his deputy Francois-Luc Doyez, are the first to lose their jobs for their involvement in the macho social media "boy's club" called the "League of LOL". A source at the magazine told AFP that its management had taken the decision because of the men's "unprofessional conduct". Members of the male-dominated closed Facebook group were accused of targeting their feminist and minority colleagues for online abuse. The French government has vowed to tighten laws on hate speech and harassment in the wake of the scandal, which broke last month. — AFP

#### Over 4,000 donkeys killed

NIAMEY: A contagious bacterial infection known as "equine strep throat" has killed more than 4,000 donkeys in northern Niger since early December, local officials said yesterday. "Of the 8,392 donkeys affected by equine distemper or equine strep throat, more than half succumbed since the infection appeared in the first 10 days of December," said the regional authorities in Agadez, Niger's renowned gateway to the Sahara. The others survived after being treated for the infection, which hit donkeys in the Ingall area, public television reported. The government's minister for pastoral issues, Mohamed Boucha, visited Agadez this week to assess the impact of the outbreak. — AFP

## Ankara sparks German protest over journalists accreditation

BERLIN: Turkey has refused to renew the accreditation of two long-serving German journalists working in the country, triggering protests from Berlin which said the decision was "incomprehensible". Jorg Brase, Istanbul bureau chief for ZDF public television, and Thomas Seibert, who writes for the newspaper Tagesspiegel, have had their applications for press cards rejected by the Turkish government. Senior German foreign ministry official Andreas Michaelis said Turkey's ambassador to Germany to protest the decision and asked Ankara to reconsider, the ministry said.

"The decision is incomprehensible," said ministry spokeswoman Maria Adebahr. Relations between Berlin and Ankara plummeted after Turkish authorities arrested tens of thousands of people in a mass purge over the 2016 attempted coup against Turkish President Tayyip

Erdogan. Some of those arrested were also German nationals. A gradual rapprochement began in 2018 after German-Turkish journalist Deniz Yucel was freed following his arrest the year before. Another journalist, Mesale Tolu, was allowed to return to Germany in August 2018. Both still face terror-related charges in Turkey.

### Ex-opposition MP jailed

In another development, a Turkish former opposition lawmaker was sentenced to four years and two months in jail on Friday for allegedly helping a group blamed for the 2016 failed coup, local media reported. The Istanbul court found Eren Erdem guilty of "helping an armed terror organization deliberately and willingly without being a member", NTV broadcaster reported.

The former MP for Istanbul for the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) was arrested last June over his alleged links to the US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen. Turkey accuses Gulen of ordering the 2016 attempted overthrow of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, charges denied by the preacher. Ankara refers to Gulen's movement as the "Fethullah Terrorist Organization".

Erdem's sentencing relates to a time when he was editor-in-chief of Karsi



ANKARA: People walk past election billboards for the candidates of Turkey's main opposition bloc, Mansur Yavas for Ankara Metropole and Alper Tasdelen for Sakarya Street in Ankara yesterday. Turkey will go to the polls for local elections set on March 31, 2019. — AFP

newspaper when a series of illegal audio recordings were leaked to the media by the Gulen movement during a 2013 scandal involving key government members and Erdogan's inner circle. In 2014, several recordings, allegedly of Erdogan who was prime minister at the time and

other senior officials, were published online in a scandal which the government denounced as "an attempted coup" orchestrated by Gulen. Since 2016, tens of thousands of people have been arrested over alleged links to Gulen including military personnel. — Agencies

## Trump accuses ex-lawyer Cohen of perjury, citing an unpublished book

NEW YORK: Donald Trump accused his former lawyer of perjury yesterday, saying Michael Cohen's scathing testimony to Congress this week contradicted a manuscript he wrote last year that complimented the US president. "Wow, just revealed that Michael Cohen wrote a 'love letter to Trump' manuscript for a new book that he was pushing," Trump tweeted Friday. "Book is exact opposite of his fake testimony, which now is a lie!"

The president called on Congress to demand the transcript, given to publishers a short time ago and yet to go on sale. "Michael Cohen's book manuscript shows that he committed perjury on a scale not seen before," Trump added. Cohen, who worked for the president for a decade as his top "fixer" at the Trump Organization, assailed his ex-boss as "a racist... a conman... a cheat" in testimony Wednesday to the House Oversight Committee.

In a book proposal Cohen sent to publishers in early 2018 - before he was sentenced to three years in prison, partly for crimes related to his work for Trump - the attorney promised a glowing picture of the real estate billionaire. The manuscript was entitled "Trump Revolution: From the Tower to the White House. Understanding Donald J Trump" - and according to the Daily Beast, it was aimed at offsetting books deeply critical of the president.

The proposal was pulled back after FBI agents raided Cohen's home and offices in April 2018 in an investigation probing the attorney's taxes and hush payments he arranged for women who claimed affairs with the



WASHINGTON: This combo picture shows Michael Cohen (left), President Trump's personal lawyer and US President Donald Trump. Trump accused his former lawyer Michael Cohen of perjury, saying a manuscript Cohen wrote last year that complimented Trump contradicted his scathing testimony to Congress this week. — AFP

president. "Some time in early 2018, Mr Cohen was offered a substantial advance for a proposal regarding a book on understanding Donald Trump," Cohen's lawyer Lanny Davis said. "Mr Cohen ultimately elected not to proceed." In the months after the raids, Cohen went from being a close ally of Trump to a foe, providing testimony in a plea deal with prosecutors that the president ordered him to make one hush payment and reimbursed him.

Trump scorned him as "a rat." Cohen eventually pleaded guilty to felony charges of misuse of campaign funds in the hush payment, tax evasion and lying to Congress. In five hours of testimony Wednesday, he compared employment with Trump to working for a "mobster." Republican lawmakers however attacked Cohen as an unreliable witness, citing his earlier false testimony, and accused him of trying to cash in on his work for Trump with book and film deals. Cohen said there were no deals in the works, but confirmed he had been approached and was open to the idea. — AFP

## In Trump-Russia probe, when does collusion become a crime?

WASHINGTON: As Special Counsel Robert Mueller has pursued his investigation into Moscow's role in the 2016 US election, legal experts have debated what sort of contacts between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russia may have violated US criminal law. US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia used a scheme of hacking and propaganda to cause discord in the United States and harm Trump's Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton.

Mueller's probe, with several Trump campaign figures already pleading guilty or being convicted, has documented numerous contacts between Russians and people close to the president. Mueller, who has sought to determine whether Trump's campaign coordinated with Moscow, is preparing to submit a report on his investigation to US Attorney General William Barr. Trump and Russia have denied collusion and Moscow has denied election interference. Here is a look at potential crimes Mueller may examine relating to these contacts and other matters. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani in July 2018 said, "I have been sitting here looking in the federal code trying to find collusion as a crime. Collusion is not a crime." Trump wrote on Twitter the next day, "Collusion is not a crime, but that doesn't matter because there was No Collusion." There indeed is no federal crime called "collusion." But collusion is a non-legal way of saying conspiracy, which is one of the most commonly asserted crimes in US federal courts. — Reuters



International

# Europe intensifies diplomacy to shield against 'Chinese power'

## EU eyes defenses against China's bid for superpower status

BRUSSELS: The European Union is seeking to forge a more defensive strategy towards China and is intensifying diplomacy to limit Beijing's ability to buy foreign firms in the bloc, its top trading partner, diplomats and officials say. Despite an agenda dominated by Britain's imminent departure from the EU, leaders will use a March 21 summit to discuss China policy, a first for many years. It is part of a flurry of high-level meetings before President Xi Jinping travels to Italy and France and the bloc holds a summit with China on April 9.

The acceleration of diplomacy, including special councils of EU envoys, experts and foreign ministers, marks a collective reevaluation of Sino-EU ties after decades of rising trade and a feel-good factor towards Beijing that contrasted with the United States' more aggressive stance. European optimism has turned to frustration over China's slowness to open up its economy, a surge of Chinese takeovers in critical sectors, US pressure to shun China over espionage fears and an impression in Brussels that Beijing has not kept its promise to stand up for free trade and globalization.

Four senior EU diplomats and officials in close contact with the Chinese said they were losing hope on business issues that have been limping on for years, including almost a decade of talks on a special treaty to increase investment flows. "The Chinese say all the right things, but when it comes to taking a decision, they delay and delay," one senior EU official said, citing a missed October deadline for China to finalize a deal to recognize the EU's system of protecting food names.

China has also backed out of an agreement to invest in a multi-billion euro EU infrastructure fund. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters on Friday that China hopes Europe can continue to provide a "fair, just, non-discriminatory environment" for Chinese companies. With over a billion euros a day in bilateral trade, the EU is China's top trading partner, while China is second only to the United States as a market for European goods and services.

However, Chinese trade restrictions are more severe than EU barriers in almost every economic sector, according to the New York research firm Rhodium Group and Germany's Mercator Institute for China Studies. Chinese investments into the EU far outweigh those of EU companies in China in most industries, they said.



Early optimism fades over closer ties in Trump era

### Strategic rival?

In 2017, US President Donald Trump's "America First" policies appeared to push China and Europe together after Xi's defense of open trade at the World Economic Forum in Davos. But Europeans say the change of style has not translated into less protectionism from Beijing. The EU says a high-tech industrial development push, dubbed "Made in China 2025", relies on illegal state support and sub-

sidies that threaten European industries including telecoms and aerospace. China has repeatedly denied such allegations.

At this month's summit, EU leaders are likely to discuss whether it might be feasible to effectively ban Huawei Technologies Co. equipment for next-generation mobile networks, although the wider debate in EU capitals is at an early stage. Europe has become the main battleground in a US campaign to rid Western telecoms equipment, with Washington accusing Huawei of spying for Beijing, allegations the company has repeatedly denied.

"Nobody in the EU wants to isolate China, but we need to equip ourselves better against a country that in some areas is becoming a strategic rival," a senior EU diplomat said. "We have no clear policy, we are brainstorming on a massive scale."

Chinese officials reject US-led allegations that its technology could be used by Beijing for spying. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is set to attend the April EU summit in Brussels to press his case for fair treatment in trade and investment. Li will also hold a summit in Croatia later that month with 16 central and eastern EU and non-EU states.

### Screening deals

EU leaders will not agree a new strategy on March 21, but the European Commission, the EU executive, is expected to put forward ideas for a European industrial policy on March 6, echoing Franco-German demands to compete with foreign rivals and better protect technologies from overseas takeovers.

One idea is to revive a stalled 2012 proposal known as the International Procurement Instrument that would require foreign countries to open up their public procurement markets in return for access to Europe and restrict access in certain areas. After a surge of Chinese investments across Europe, from Greece's biggest port to a German robotics maker, the European Parliament in February agreed a system to coordinate scrutiny of foreign takeovers and investments. But officials say the so-called investment screening is not enough.

European Commissioner Julian King said last month that it was "time to discuss whether we want to continue, as now, to see our own cutting-edge technologies sold off one after another." He also warned of the risks of "allowing one dominant (5G) supplier to emerge across the continent" while the chief of Britain's foreign intelligence service Alex Younger said that Europe needed to be "at least as strategic" as China when it comes to developing future technologies. "That's a bit of a wake-up call and I think we should heed it," he told reporters at the Munich Security Conference. —Reuters

## Activists say Chinese police step up use of video 'confessions'

BEIJING: Students in Beijing said yesterday that Chinese police had forced them to watch new video "confessions" from fellow labor activists, as authorities tighten their grip on campus activism. In the past several months, Chinese authorities have cracked down on Marxist students and recent graduates who back efforts to establish independent labor unions in Guangdong, the southern manufacturing province. The clampdown comes at a sensitive time for China's Communist Party, with the 30th anniversary of the bloody repression of Tiananmen Square protesters coming up on June 4.

The more recent video screenings also took place as the country's leaders prepared for next week's annual meeting of the National People's Congress, during which authorities traditionally step up their muzzling of activists. Dozens of people who supported a strike at Jasic Technology in Shenzhen last summer have disappeared in the clampdown. Four of them reappeared in videos that were forcibly shown in January to students who are affiliated with the Jasic Workers Solidarity labor rights group, according to fellow students, who saw the move as an intimidation campaign.

But police were apparently not done. Student labor activists posted new allegations online yesterday saying they were summoned in the past week for "meetings" at police stations in Beijing. They were threatened with expulsion and jail as they were shown videos of six other activists, the students said. "They want to scare us, make us admit fault, turn (our activism) into something illegal," one student, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals said. The Beijing Public Security Bureau, Peking University and Renmin University did not respond to requests for comment. —AFP

## Shinawatra parties rally across Thailand; Crucial court ruling looms

BANGKOK: Parties aligned with Thailand's powerful Shinawatra clan staged major rallies yesterday ahead of a court ruling that could deal a gut punch to their prospects in national elections later this month. Public gatherings were taking place across the country-including in the Chiang Mai hometown of divisive billionaire ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Shinawatra-linked Pheu Thai party members addressed throngs of supporters in a stadium in Chiang Mai as the sun went down, promising development and incentives for entrepreneurs in the northern city. Thaksin, who lives in self-exile to avoid jail in Thailand, is adored by rice farmers and large sections of urban working-class voters for his pro-poor policies and steering of the economy. But he is despised by the royalist elite, whose allies have failed to beat him at the polls since 2001 and instead have relied on coups and court rulings to topple Shinawatra-backed governments.

Thousands of people also massed in Bangkok's historic centre late Friday for a defiant campaign by Thai Raksa Chart, another political party linked to the Shinawatra clan. But Thai Raksa Chart could be dissolved by the Constitutional Court on March 7, after its bid to run a princess as candidate for prime minister spectacularly unraveled. Supporters say the court has the future of Thai democracy in its hands-with the junta determined to return as a civilian government. "If it is dissolved it will damage our hopes for democracy badly," said Chailerm Phothijad, 55, at Friday night's rally in Bangkok.

Thailand-which has been stuck on a carousel of coups, violent protests and short-lived civilian governments



NARATHIWAT: Former Thai prime minister and Democratic Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva (center) poses with supporters during a campaign rally in Narathiwat yesterday ahead of the March 24 general election. —AFP

since 2006 when the army booted Thaksin from office-remains deeply polarized. Nerves are mounting inside Thai Raksa Chart as the crucial ruling nears. But the party "will continue to campaign as we have been... and leave the issue of judiciary to the court," said Umesh Pandey, a Thai Raksa Chart party list candidate. Thailand's contentious junta-drafted constitution allows the junta to appoint the 250-member senate, whose votes will count towards choosing the next prime minister.

There are 500 lower house seats up for grabs, 350 through constituencies and the remainder through the party list-a system of proportional representation. The different Shinawatra parties are meant to help rack up more votes within a system that limits the reach of big

parties like Pheu Thai. More rallies are planned for Sunday as election season heats up. Junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who took power in a 2014 coup, wants to return as prime minister.

With Thai Raksa Chart's political fate in the balance, another anti-junta party led by a billionaire is emerging as an untested-but significant-force. Future Forward, led by Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, the 40-year-old scion of Thailand's biggest auto-parts maker, has won favor among the kingdom's millennials. More than seven million people aged between 18 and 25 are eligible to vote this month for the first time, according to the Interior Ministry. Analysts say if Thai Raksa Chart is disbanded its supporters may cast votes for Future Forward. —AFP

# Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call: **+965 248 35 616 / 617**  
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
 ads@kuwaittimes.net  
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

---

**MEGA SALE!**  
Strong March Offers

**SAMSUNG Galaxy A7(2018)**  
SM-A750-GOLD  
6.0" LTE

**79,900** (was 99,900)  
**128 GB**

Triple the fun

**iPhone 6s**  
IPHONE-6S-64GB-GLD  
4.7" LTE

**99,900**  
**64 GB**

**iPhone 7Plus**  
IPH-7P-128GB+JBL  
5.5" LTE

**199,900** (Monthly 8K)  
**128 GB**

JBL HARMAN  
JBL 1430 Bluetooth Headset

**Apple Watch**  
MP032AE/A  
42 mm

**39,900**

Space Grey Aluminium Case with Black Sport Band

Kuwait City (New St.) | Kuwait City (Panasonic Tower) | Sharq (Souq Sharq)  
 Hawalli (Tunis St.) | Hawalli (Bin Khaldoon St.) | Al-Salmiya (Salern Al-Mubarak St.)  
 Al-Salmiya (Boulevard Mall) | Al-Farwaniya (Behind the Police Station)  
 Al-Shuwaikh (Al-Ghazali Bridge) | Al-Fahaheel (Opposite Public Parking)  
 Al-Rai (4th Ring Rd) | Al-Jahra (Opposite Main Co-op) | Airport (Departures)  
 Al-Eqaila (B9 Mall)

**1 809 809**  
www.best.com.kw

Best AlYousifi @BestAlYousifi BestAlYousifi #yousifiBEST

## Analysis

**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961  
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief  
**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## WASHINGTON WATCH

## 'You can fool some people'

By Dr James J Zogby

Among Abraham Lincoln's many notable traits and extraordinary accomplishments are the pithy quotations he bequeathed to posterity that speak to his wisdom and understanding of human nature. One of my favorites is "You can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." There have been many occasions when I have referred back to this piece of Lincoln wisdom since Donald Trump first began his race for the White House. Following his election as President of the United States, I am daily reminded of this quote. Instead of seeing the 16th US president as his guide, Trump, it appears, takes his cue from a quote from Peter Weiss's play "Marat/Sade" where the main character speaking disparagingly about how easy it is to propagate falsehoods among desperate masses says, "And anyone believes what they hear over and over again."

Realizing that he commands media attention as the occupant of the White House, control of a massive following on Twitter, and an echo chamber consisting of Fox News and several popular talk radio programs, Trump has propagated myth after myth on his susceptible base. Most concerning is the fact that his myths, repeated over and over, have been believed.

This trait was in evidence well before he entered the Republican contest in 2015. Early in the Obama Administration, Donald Trump was one of the leading proponents of what came to be known as the "Birther Movement" - the myth suggesting that Barack Obama was not born in the US and, therefore, ineligible to serve as president. Alongside this falsehood was the suggestion that Obama was really a "closet-Muslim" and was lying about his Christian faith.

Taken together, these two conspiracy theories preyed on the alienation of white, middle aged, middle class born-again Christian voters who were suffering from the economic dislocation created by the Great Recession of 2008-9. By projecting these myths, the GOP sought to delegitimize the 44th president. These false stories provided fuel for the "Tea Party" movement, which aided the Republican resurgence by giving the party control of Congress in 2010.

It didn't end there, however. Real damage was done. Despite the passage of time, the sad fact is that recent polling shows that at least a plurality of Republicans still believe that Obama wasn't born in the US and isn't a Christian.

Once Trump was in the White House, he became more emboldened and more reliant on myth-making - regarding matters big and ridiculously small - even when they were obviously and provably untrue. He claimed that the crowds at his Inauguration were larger than Obama's; his ratings were the highest ever; his White House operations ran like a well-oiled machine; he would bring jobs back to the US, give everyone tax reductions and the best health insurance coverage ever.

In international affairs he promised: "the deal of the century" for Israeli-Palestinian peace; to end the Iran nuclear deal - "the worst deal ever made" - and then show Obama how to get a great deal by denuclearizing North Korea; build a wall on the southern border and insist that Mexico would pay for it; and restore American prestige and leadership in the world.

Trump did walk away from the Iran deal (as well as the Paris Accords on Climate and the Trans-Pacific Partnership) - but no one else followed. He shut the US government down three times trying to force Congress to pay for the wall since Mexico will not pay for it. We're still waiting for the "deal of the century, and, meanwhile, US standing and confidence in US leadership is at its lowest point since the middle of the George W Bush era.

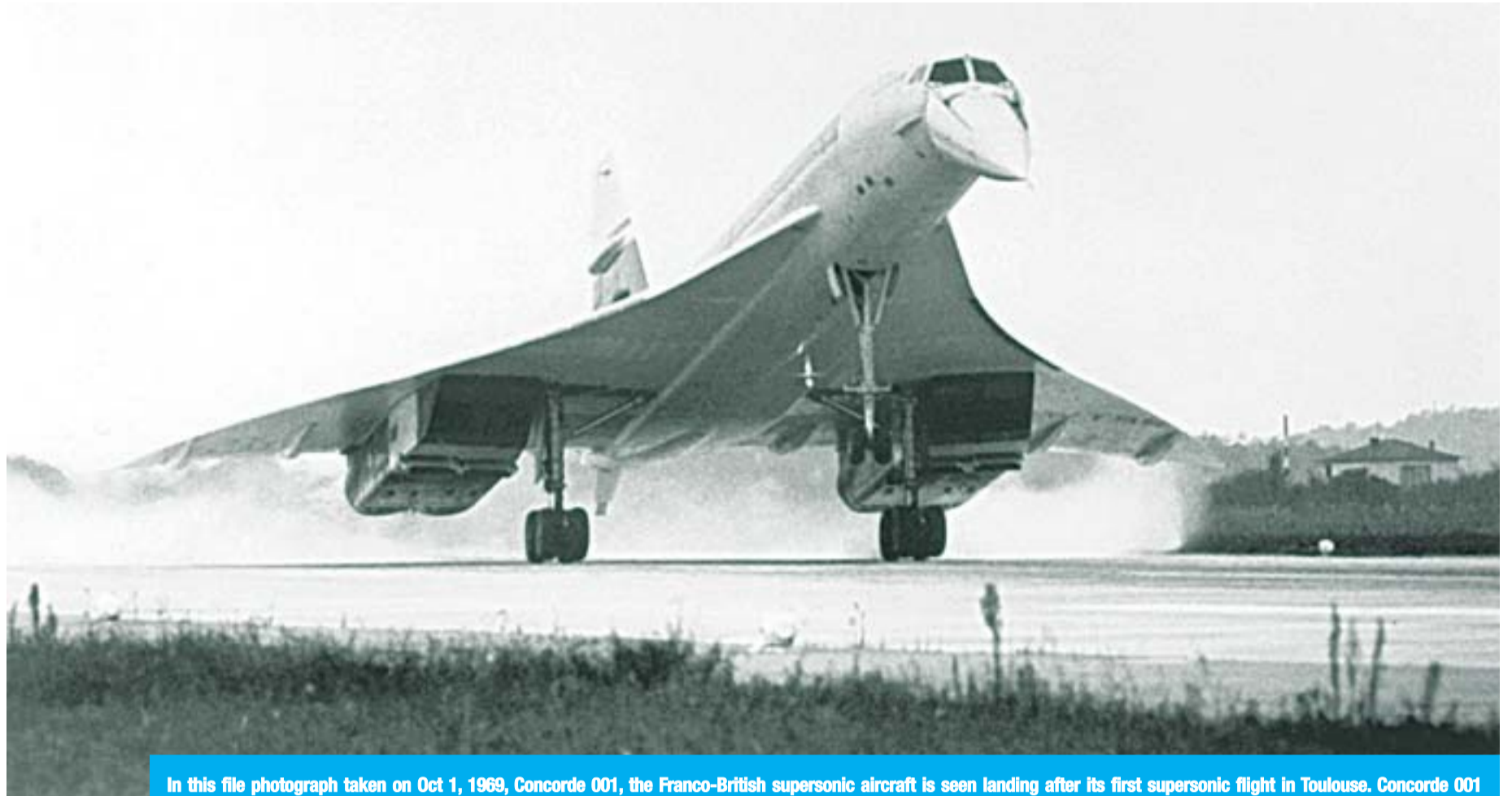
Trump's domestic approval rating, which has never been over 50 percent, is now in the low 40s. And yet his base remains secure and, as a result, even moderate Republicans who are repulsed by the president's behavior have hesitated to break with him - fearing the backlash they may incur from his supporters. They call to mind the members of the royal court in Hans Christian Andersen's "The Emperor's New Clothes." They knew he had no such clothes, but were afraid to be the first to break ranks and acknowledge it.

This past week, however, has been as especially problematic one for the president and his loyalists - and may be a turning point in this president's fortunes. Three events were noteworthy. The testimony of Michael Cohen, Trump's long-time personal lawyer/"fixer" before the House Committee on Oversight opened a window on several of the president's questionable financial practices. The documentation Cohen provided will no doubt give rise to deeper investigation in the future. It was noticed that while Republican members of the committee were ruthless in their treatment of Cohen, on no occasion did they speak in defense of the president. This should be of concern to the White House.

Some observers suspected that the White House scheduled the surprise summit with the leader of North Korea in order to divert attention from Cohen's appearance. Trump's hope that the summit would produce a much-needed win collapsed when it ended abruptly without any agreement. In its aftermath, even the president's advisers were quoted as having cautioned him against the summit and about creating unreasonable expectations for the ill-prepared meeting.

The week ended with revelations that the president had directly intervened to counter the decision of professional intelligence and national security staff to deny both Trump's daughter and son-in-law "Top Secret" clearance. Security officials, it appears, had decided that his son-in-law had not been fully forthcoming in filling out his clearance forms and, in any case, had questionable contacts and financial entanglements that made him a security risk. Now while some analysts say that it is the president's prerogative to overrule the professional staff, what is concerning is that he has publicly denied doing this - even though we know that he did, in fact do it. It is also now known that the president's decision in this matter so troubled his chief of staff and his national security advisor that both wrote memoranda "for the record" documenting their disapproval.

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



In this file photograph taken on Oct 1, 1969, Concorde 001, the Franco-British supersonic aircraft is seen landing after its first supersonic flight in Toulouse. Concorde 001 exceeded Mach 1 for the first time, holding Mach 1.05 for 9 minutes. —AFP

## When Concorde took to the sky 50 years ago

When the misty skies cleared over southern France on the afternoon of Sunday March 2, 1969, the green light was signalled for the highly anticipated first ever flight of the Concorde. Journalists had been alerted two days earlier that the test flight was imminent; the world had been waiting since the futuristic aircraft, with its pointed nose and triangular wings, was publicly presented in December 1967. Here is an account, drawn from AFP reports, of the momentous day in aviation history when the supersonic turbojet first took to the skies 50 years ago.

## 'She flies!'

Several hundred journalists and spectators were crowded near the runway of the airport at Toulouse, where prototype 001 of the Franco-British aircraft was constructed. With French test pilot Andre Turcat at the controls and the event aired live on television, the sleek white plane started off down the runway just after 3:30 pm. She picked up speed, eased off the runway and then powered into the sky, straight as an arrow. "She flies! Concorde flies at last!" exclaimed BBC commentator Raymond Baxter. AFP sent out a flash alert: "Concorde has taken off."

## Concord or Concorde?

It was a source of pride on both sides of the Channel: Britain and France had joined forces in 1962 to build an airliner capable of flying faster than the speed of sound. In fact Concorde's maximum velocity was more than twice the speed of sound. The coalition of two governments and two aircraft makers - British Aircraft Corporation (now BAE Systems) and Sud-Aviation, a precursor to Airbus - had encountered a series of hurdles and differences. Even the aircraft's name, which means "agreement" in both languages, was a sticking point: English-style "Concord" or "Concorde" in French? Britain's technology minister Tony Benn settled the dispute in 1967, keeping the "e" for "excellence", "England",

"Europe" and "Entente cordiale", as he said.

## Proving the plane can fly

For Concorde's maiden flight, Turcat maneuvered just a simple loop above the Garonne river at reduced speed and with the plane's landing gear out. The aim was not to break speed records but rather to "show the plane can fly" and "return to the ground", he would later explain. The roar of the four powerful engines and the silhouette of the aircraft, like a bird of prey in the sky, halted traffic on a nearby highway as people across the region stopped to watch, an AFP report said.

## Sweating in the cockpit

Inside the cockpit it was tense. Three of the four air-conditioning systems had broken and the temperature rose quickly. "Under our helmets, we were soon sweating profusely," Turcat recalled in his book "Concorde" (1977). When the wheels hit the tarmac for the landing, thick smoke rose from the tyres and a security parachute opened at the rear to brake the 112-tonne machine. The crowds along the runway broke into applause. The flight had lasted 27 minutes. The British test flight came weeks later, on April 9, with Brian Trubshaw taking off aboard the 002 prototype built in Britain. On Oct 1 Turcat would also take the jet through the sound barrier for the first time.

## Just the beginning

"This first flight is not a conclusion," Turcat told the hundreds of journalists after that first flight. "It is the beginning of our work." It would take another seven years and 5,500 hours of test flying before Concorde was authorized to enter into commercial service in 1976 with flights operated by Air France and British Airways. And in the end commercial passenger services only lasted 27 years. The gas-guzzling "great white bird" was retired on both sides of the Channel in 2003, brought down by its high costs



In this file photograph taken on Oct 1, 1969, the crew of Concorde 001 (from left) flight engineer Henri Perrier, test pilot Jean Pinet, chief test pilot Andre Turcat and flight mechanic Michel Retif pose after the first supersonic flight of Concorde.

and a dwindling market, with a 2000 crash outside Paris - in which 113 people were killed - heralding its final demise. —AFP

## Kidnapping a daily nightmare in troubled Cameroon region

Journalist Macmillan Ambe Awa was covering the unrest in western Cameroon when he became part of the story. He was kidnapped by armed men and held for 24 terrifying hours before being released, physically unhurt but shaken. "They accused me of making programs that say children should go back to school," Ambe Awa told AFP by telephone, referring to an educational boycott by the region's Anglophone separatist movement.

Traumatic as the ordeal was, such experiences are almost routine in Cameroon's English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions. Insurgents have staged hundreds of kidnappings, both for ransom and as a political message - alongside ambushes targeting soldiers and police, and arson attacks on buildings symbolizing the central government, including schools and hospitals.

Their armed uprising began in Oct 2017 following years of simmering anger at perceived discrimination by the country's French-speaking majority. Since then, at least 500 civilians and more than 200 members of the security forces have died in clashes, attacks and a government crackdown, the International Crisis Group (ICG) says.

## 'Scared to go out'

Earlier this month, almost 170 pupils were abducted from Kumbo in the Northwest and freed after a day in captivity. The kidnappers demanded the closure of the high school, which has not opened its doors since. And in November, another 90 students were kidnapped and held for five days, again on grounds that their school be closed. "It's shameful that the separatists should have adopted this strategy," said a resident of Buea, capital of the Southwest region.

The separatists justify their boycott on grounds that the French system discriminates against Anglophone pupils. Witnesses said the army raided searched dozens of homes in and around Kumbo after the latest mass kidnapping, with soldiers torching several of them in retaliation. The ministry of communication denied such reports when they appeared in the press, but it was not the first time the security forces had come

under fire for such actions in Anglophone areas.

## 'Opportunistic' kidnappings

The violence and abductions have created a real climate of fear. Earlier this month, Buea hosted the annual "Race of Hope" to the summit of Mount Cameroon, an active volcano which rises 4,040 m and is the highest peak in the country. But this time, Sports Minister Narcisse Mouelle Kombi turned up in a bulletproof vest and a helmet, and dozens of armed men were deployed at Buea stadium. In both regions, the insecurity caused by frequent clashes between troops and the separatists has also led to a steady increase in activity by criminal gangs. And such gangs have realized that kidnapping is lucrative. "About a third of abductions are the work of opportunistic armed bandits," said Hans de Marie Heungoup, a Cameroon researcher for the ICG. And efforts to differentiate between separatist attacks and those motivated by criminal interests has become ever harder due to the splintering of separatist groups. But in the eyes of Yaounde, there is no difference. Agitators are all "terrorists".

## Burden of history

Divisions between the Anglophone regions and Cameroon's authorities date back a century to when Britain and France occupied Cameroon, taking over Germany's principal colony in West Africa. France was given the greater part of the territory, which became independent in 1960. A year later, the British colony also gained independence, with some of the English-speaking areas choosing to join newly-formed Nigeria, while others opted to become part of the federation of Cameroon. In the following decades, Cameroon's Anglophone minority routinely complained about unequal treatment in areas like education, the law and the economy. But demands for greater autonomy were repeatedly rebuffed by President Paul Biya, and eventually the campaign became radicalized. On October 1 2017, an Anglophone group symbolically declared the independence of the "Republic of Ambazonia" in the two regions, triggering a crackdown that saw the separatists responding with violence.

Since then, at least 437,000 people have fled their homes, according to UN estimates, with another 32,000 fleeing across the border to Nigeria. "We're trapped," a Buea resident said. "We're scared to go out, we're scared to take the bus," he told AFP. "For a long time, I thought things would calm down so we stayed, but I've started to call the family in Douala to tell them we'll be coming," he said of Cameroon's economic capital, which lies on the coast. "There's nothing more for us here." —AFP

## MH370 families band together to seek closure

Five years ago, their loved ones boarded a plane and vanished. The group of Malaysians meet about once a month - usually at a coffee shop or a home in Kuala Lumpur - to support each other and try to keep missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 in the public eye. Their relatives were among the 239 people onboard the Boeing 777 when it vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014 and became the world's greatest aviation mystery.

Scraps of aircraft debris have washed up on the east African coastline, but two underwater searches in the southern Indian Ocean proved fruitless, leaving few clues as to what happened. Starved for information and struggling to resume their lives, the families have come to lean on each other for support, said Jacquita Gonzales, whose husband Patrick Gomes was MH370's inflight supervisor. "It goes beyond a group waiting for answers," said Gonzales, a 57-year-old kindergarten teacher who often hosts the group at her home on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. "It has become a family as well, an extended family," she told Reuters.

For five years the group has campaigned to keep public attention on MH370 and help each other cope with their grief and try to live normal lives by returning to work, raising children and, in Gonzales' case, battle illness. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016 for the second

time in her life, but it has since gone into remission. "When I first had cancer, I had my husband for support," she said. "This second time, no. But I had a lot of family members around, my friends, my children, and now my MH370 families... so that kept us going."

In her living room hangs a painting of a blue-and-yellow field - a gift from Calvin Shim, another MH370 next-of-kin, to help her stay calm while recovering from surgery. Shim, a father of two, said the group helped him to adjust to life as a single parent. His wife, Christine Tan, was a member of the MH370 crew. "The other families know exactly how each of us feel," he said during a meeting at Gonzales' home. "Emotionally, that's been a good support and help to us, especially since the plane has not been found," he added.

## 'We have not said goodbye'

In early 2017, Malaysia, China and Australia called off a two-year, \$144 million search in the southern Indian Ocean after finding no trace of the plane. A second three-month search north of the original target area, led by US exploration firm Ocean Infinity, ended similarly in May 2018. A 495-page report published in July said the Boeing 777 was likely deliberately taken off course but investigators were unable to determine who was responsible.

The Malaysian government has said it would consider resuming a search if new evidence came to light. Not knowing what happened in the aircraft's final moments has made closure "impossible", Gonzales said. "When friends tell me that their spouses have passed away, I get very jealous because they have closure," she said. "They've said goodbye. But for us, we've not said goodbye at all." —Reuters

## Business

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

**12** Al-Sayer hosts Wacker Neuson customer day for Bahrah Trading**13** Al-Babtain Group concludes its internship program for ambitious Kuwaiti students**14** All-new 2019 Nissan Altima makes its Middle East debut

BEIJING: This file picture shows US President Donald Trump (left) and China's President Xi Jinping leaving a business leaders event at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. US President Donald Trump urged China to abolish tariffs on agricultural products imported from the United States — adding that trade talks between the rival powers were going well. — AFP

# US asks China to lift tariffs on farm products

## Mexico eyes fresh US targets for tariffs to pressure Trump over steel

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump said he had asked China to immediately remove all tariffs on US agricultural products because trade talks were progressing well. He also delayed plans to impose 25 percent tariffs on Chinese goods on Friday, as previously scheduled.

"I have asked China to immediately remove all Tariffs on our agricultural products (including beef, pork, etc.) based on the fact that we are moving along nicely with Trade discussions," Trump said on Twitter, pointing out that he had not raised tariffs on Chinese goods to 25 percent from 10 percent on March 1 as planned.

"This is very important for our great farmers - and me!" Trump said. Farmers are a key constituency for Trump's Republican Party, and the US president's trade war with China has had a heavy impact on them. Beijing imposed tariffs last year on imports of soybeans, grain sorghum, pork and other items, slashing shipments of American farm products to China.

US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said this week that US trade negotiators had asked China to reduce tariffs on US ethanol, but it was not immediately clear whether Beijing was willing to oblige.

Trump's post on Twitter came several hours after the US Trade Representative's office said that it would delay the scheduled hike in tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods. The notice, due to be published in the

Federal Register next Tuesday, says it is "no longer appropriate" to raise the rates because of progress in negotiations since December 2018. The tariff would remain "at 10 percent until further notice."

In a statement yesterday, China said it welcomed the delay. Speaking at a separate briefing in Beijing, a Chinese government official said both countries were working on the next steps, though he gave no details. "China and the United States reaching a mutually-beneficial, win-win agreement as soon as possible is not only good for the two countries, but is also good news for the world economy," said Guo Weimin, spokesman for the high profile but largely ceremonial advisory body to China's parliament.

A tariff increase to 25 percent from 10 percent was initially scheduled for Jan. 1, but after productive conversations with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Trump administration issued a 90-day extension of that deadline. Trump had said on Sunday he would again delay the increase because of progress in the talks.

Mexico's government on Friday threatened to slap duties on new US products in retaliation for the Trump administration's steel and aluminum tariffs as it seeks to turn up pressure on Washington to exempt it from the measures. US President Donald Trump set tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum last June, prompting Mexico and other trade partners to

hit back. Mexico has consistently argued that the tariffs only damage commerce within North America and should be withdrawn.

Mexican Deputy Economy Minister Luz Maria de la Mora told Reuters in an interview that if the US government did not repeal the tariffs, her government would have a revamped list in its "carousel" of US targets ready in about two months.

"We're carrying out an evaluation and there are products from the agricultural sector - we're probably going to bring in some new ones and take some others out - as well as in the industrial sector and the steel industry," de la Mora said. The value of the goods targeted under the list would remain equivalent to the impact of the Trump tariffs, de la Mora said, estimating the damage they caused at \$2.7 billion. Mexico's previous government retaliated almost immediately against the metal tariffs, slapping measures on agricultural goods including pork legs, apples and cheese as well as various steel products.

Even if the value of the goods targeted by Mexico remained the same, swapping in new products could encourage more US businesses to lobby Washington against the tariffs. The new Mexican government of leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador took office in December, and de la Mora said the country would continue to reject Trump's measures. "We should not fall into

this protectionist trap," said de la Mora, who brought years of experience working in international trade for the Mexican government to the post. Noting that Trump had tried to use the metal tariffs as leverage during the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), de la Mora said now that since a new deal had been agreed last year, the argument was no longer valid. "Mexico is not a national security threat for the United States," she said.

"This is really important; it really needs to be understood that Mexico is a partner, Mexico is an ally." Known as the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA), the new North American trade deal is still awaiting ratification by lawmakers in the three countries. De la Mora said Mexico's Congress would likely first pass a new labor bill designed to strengthen the rights of unionized workers, fulfilling a commitment made with the USMCA deal. She expressed hope that law would be approved before the current session of Congress concludes on April 30. Lawmakers would likely move on to USMCA ratification during the following session due to begin in September, she added. Uncertainty over Mexico's access to the US market has been a worry for business, while Lopez Obrador's decision-making and attacks on the "neo-liberal" policies he said his predecessors pursued have also left some investors unimpressed. — Reuters

## Lagarde says messy Brexit could have 'significant consequences'

**LISBON:** A messy Brexit could have "significant consequences" and represents the biggest short-term risk to the British economy, although all Brexit outcomes imply costs, IMF chief Christine Lagarde told Portugal's state council on Friday.

Lagarde was invited to participate in the state council, which is the Portuguese president's highest consultative body, which was held on Friday to discuss Brexit.

"A disorderly Brexit could also have significant consequences," Lagarde told the council, according to a copy of her speech provided by the IMF. "All likely Brexit outcomes will involve net costs for the UK economy. But the higher the impediments that arise in the new relationship with Europe, the higher the cost," she added. Just a few weeks remain before Britain is due to leave the European Union at the end of March, but the government of Prime Minister Theresa May is still seeking changes to her Brexit deal in order to win backing from parliament. Lagarde said the

"most significant near-term risk to the UK economy" was leaving the EU without a deal and a framework for the future relationship with Europe. She added that others in Europe will be affected by Brexit to "varying degrees."

"Ireland, of course, and others such as the Netherlands, with a close relationship to the UK," she said. Portugal, whose largest tourist market is Britain, would also be hit if Brexit is disorderly. "Important trade and tourism links could be disrupted, and a loss of financial market confidence outside your borders could lead to higher sovereign and bank interest rates, which would weigh on growth," Lagarde told the council.

Turning to the global economy, Lagarde repeated previous statements that the expansion is slowing down faster than expected. "We are not starting at a recession, but downside risks have clearly risen," she said, listing rising trade tensions, high global debt levels and slower growth in China. — Reuters

## US firms adapt to 'endless' China tariffs

**NEW YORK:** US manufacturers are accelerating their shift out of China, coming to terms with a new reality: the Trump administration's tariffs will not go away any time soon. President Donald Trump's lead trade negotiator, Robert Lighthizer, warned lawmakers on Wednesday that the United States would need to keep the threat of stiff tariffs on China in place for years, even if a trade deal is inked, as part of an enforcement mechanism that would include frequent reviews of whether China was abiding by any agreement.

That confirms what many companies have already concluded. Even if the hot phase of this trade war passes, tensions will linger and continue to reshape the economic relationship between the world's two largest economies. "As you look at the way these negotiations are shaping up, you must certainly think: not only will it take a while for the

talks to reach their full conclusion, but there's going to be enforcement mechanisms," said Steve Lamar, executive vice president of the American Apparel and Footwear Association. "I would imagine punitive tariffs are going to be with us for a while."

Apparel and footwear manufacturers have been shifting their production mix to factories in other countries like Vietnam, Indonesia and Egypt for much of the past decade, but the push has intensified due to the trade war, Lamar said. The United States has not hit most finished apparel and footwear with punitive tariffs, but "even if the threat (of more tariffs) never materializes and it's always out there, who wants to live with that threat?" he said.

It will take years, however, for large manufacturers and retailers to build new supply networks. Many companies have held off raising prices to offset tariffs, in hope that they would go away. As it becomes clear that the risk of tariffs will linger, more companies are taking steps to mitigate them and accepting trade conflict with China as a new fact of life, according to businesses and trade groups interviewed by Reuters.

One company already moving some production out of China is Bissell Inc., the vacuum maker. CEO Mark Bissell said long before tariffs, he was looking for alternatives due to rising costs in China. Tariffs, he said, are the "burning platform" forcing him to jump. — Reuters

Business



Customers at the event

# Al-Sayer hosts Wacker Neuson customer day for Bahrah Trading

## Wacker Neuson reps attend seminar on concrete technology solutions

**KUWAIT:** Bahrah Trading Company (BTC), a subsidiary of Al-Sayer Holding recently held a customer day featuring seminar on Wacker Neuson's concrete technology solutions. The event was attended by delegation from Wacker Neuson including Manhal Al-Chalabi Regional General Manager MENA, Rainer Wewers - Senior Technical Consultant, Pesan Kumar Senior Business Development Manager, distinguished customers, in the presence of Bengt Schultz COO ALSAYER Holding, Melakandy Hamza, General Manager along with sales team from BTC.

According to Bengt Schultz "Our partnership with Wacker Neuson is a strong example of our commitment to our principles and values, and we are very proud that we are represent the brand in Kuwait as a leading trademark in the construction sector. In the following presentation you will see how the brand is committed to specific and stringent technical standards in the construction industry across the world."

Welcoming all customers to the event Melakandy Hamza said "I express my profound gratitude to all our customer partners that inducted with our products, especially products that make your enterprises eminently successful, in return turning your success in to

ours and together we have created the success story of Wacker Neuson in Kuwait".

Wacker Neuson is a German Company founded in 1847, with more than 170 Years of experience in concrete technology, soil compaction work site related and compact equipment. Wacker Neuson reached a turnover more than 1.7 Billion Euro last year 2018; with 7 factories around the globe.

**BTC represents the below product line from Wacker Neuson for Kuwait market:**

- Concrete consolidations equipment. (Vibrators, trowels and screeds)
- Soil compaction equipment (Plates compactors, rammers and rollers)
- Work site technologies. (Light towers, water pumps and portable generators)

Wacker Neuson is the first to invent the rammer (1930), followed by concrete vibrators (1937) and reversible plate compactor. They have more than 280 patents for innovation.

They are the first to introduce fully battery driven electric rammer and plate compactor and launched the first battery driven Electric wheel loader 3 years ago followed



by Mini Dumper and Mini Excavator this year.

Rainer of Wacker Neuson Group delivered a technical presentation highlighting the advanced concrete technology solutions followed by product discussion

with customers at special display zone. Attendees expressed their special interest to explore the technical specifications of the displayed products and their usage, unique benefits in comparison with the competition.

OBG special report

## How solar energy will help Kuwait expand hydrocarbons exports

**KUWAIT:** In order to meet rising domestic demand and free up oil for export, Kuwait is increasing investment in solar energy, providing opportunities for technology and service providers.

The cornerstone project in this move towards renewables is the planned \$1.2 billion Al-Dibdibah Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant, to be built at the Shagaya Renewable Energy Park, west of Kuwait City.

Once completed, the facility, which is being developed by the state-owned Kuwait National Petroleum Company, will cover an area of 32,000 sq meters and have a generational capacity of 1500 MW.

Tenders are expected to be issued for a \$1.2bn solar energy facility in early 2019, after expressions of interest in the project closed in September with 28 companies seeking to qualify. Upon becoming fully operational the solar power plant is expected to replace 5.2m tons of oil-fired capacity and make a contribution to the government's plans, which were announced in April 2018, to meet 15 percent of the country's power needs with renewables by 2030.

While the project constitutes a significant move towards renewables, the development of more facilities will be necessary to reach the government's goals. Kuwait's electricity requirements are expected to rise



to 30,000 MW per day by 2030, meaning another 4500 MW of installed renewable energy capacity will be needed.

These plans are in part motivated by a need to protect the country's oil reserves, as a recent shortage of natural gas has meant an increased reliance on oil as a fuel for power generation rather than export. Redirecting these resources towards export, rather than domestic energy production, could prove lucrative, with Kuwait expected to increase its installed production capacity from its current level of 3.2m barrels per day (bpd) to 4m bpd by 2020 and 4.8m bpd by 2040.

### Kuwait unveils new solar power extraction facility

As part of this move towards renewable energy sources the state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), which handles the country's upstream hydrocarbons industry, announced plans for an experimental solar-powered oil extraction facility in March last year.

The final consultations for the project, located at the Ratqa oilfield, were recently held in January, and the

facility is expected to come on-line early this year.

The KOC forecasts that the facility will produce 60,000 bpd by the end of the year, with this figure set to subsequently expand to 350,000 bpd.

The drive towards replacing oil-fired power generation with solar has already been under way for several years, with the Sidrah 500 solar plant coming on-line in late 2016. The facility, which is operated by the KOC, generates 10 MW and is used to power 29 electric pumps at the Umm-Gudair oilfield in western Kuwait.

Sidrah 500 was the first utility-scale solar plant in Kuwait, and is expected to save 500,000 barrels of oil over a 20-year period.

Both these efforts form part of a broader objective on the part of KOC to derive 20 percent of its own electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020.

### Solar a potential growth market in MENA

Kuwait's increased appetite for solar projects offers opportunities for both local and overseas service and technology providers.

For example, the Al-Dibdibah power plant will be required to secure 30 percent of input materials from Kuwaiti companies or manufacturers, leaving large potential openings for overseas materials providers.

With expectations high that the country will launch further solar projects in order to meet its renewable energy targets, there is strong potential for longer-term investment in the sector.

Investment in renewable technology services could generate opportunities beyond Kuwait's domestic market, with the number of new contracts for solar projects increasing by 300 percent across the MENA region in 2018. This acceleration in renewable energy projects comes as demand for electricity is forecast to rise by 6.4 percent over the next five years, according to a report by the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP).

According to APICORP, this rising demand, combined with falling costs, should serve as an incentive for increased local investment in the renewables sector. - Oxford Business Group

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.300
Euro	346.420
Sterling Pound	400.460
Canadian dollar	233.720
Turkish lira	58.410
Swiss Franc	307.370
US Dollar Buying	297.000

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.749
Indian Rupees	4.280
Pakistani Rupees	2.221
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.691
Nepali Rupees	2.668
Singapore Dollar	226.840
Hongkong Dollar	38.773
Bangladesh Taka	3.583
Philippine Peso	5.851
Thai Baht	9.764
Malaysian ringgit	77.826

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.201
Qatari Riyal	83.633
Omani Riyal	790.903
Bahraini Dinar	808.560
UAE Dirham	82.904

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.600
-----------------------	--------

Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.332
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.222
Tunisian Dinar	103.150
Jordanian Dinar	429.500
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.407

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.790
Canadian Dollar	231.355
Sterling Pound	404.815
Euro	348.185
Swiss Frank	306.555
Bahrain Dinar	807.890
UAE Dirhams	83.115
Qatari Riyals	84.350
Saudi Riyals	81.905
Jordanian Dinar	429.760
Egyptian Pound	17.312
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.689
Indian Rupees	4.281
Pakistani Rupees	2.189
Bangladesh Taka	3.610
Philippines Peso	5.853
Cyprus pound	18.075
Japanese Yen	3.745
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.680
Malaysian Ringgit	75.545
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.850

Thai Bhat	10.660
Turkish Lira	57.640
Singapore dollars	224.733

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.395328	0.409228
Czech Korune	0.005511	0.014811
Danish Krone	0.042403	0.047403
Euro	0.339236	0.352936
Georgian Lari	0.131935	0.131935
Hungarian 0.001146	0.001336	
Norwegian Krone	0.031559	0.036759
Romanian Leu	0.065164	0.082014
Russian ruble	0.004643	0.004643
Slovakia	0.009088	0.019088
Swedish Krona	0.028940	0.033940
Swiss Franc	0.298363	0.0309363
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.207601	0.219601
New Zealand Dollar	0.201105	0.210605
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.223760	0.232760
US Dollars	0.300050	0.305350
US Dollars Mint	0.300550	0.305350
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003050	0.003851
Chinese Yuan	0.044008	0.047507

Hong Kong Dollar	0.037004	0.039754
Indian Rupee	0.003664	0.004436
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002637	0.002817
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071111	0.077111
Nepalese Rupee	0.002607	0.002947
Pakistan Rupee	0.001536	0.002306
Philippine Peso	0.005793	0.006093
Singapore Dollar	0.219744	0.229744
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001362	0.001942
Taiwan	0.010152	0.010332
Thai Baht	0.009280	0.009830
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.792194	0.808694
Egyptian Pound	0.017102	0.019702
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000211	0.000271
Jordanian Dinar	0.424078	0.433078
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022096	0.046096
Omani Riyal	0.783682	0.789362
Qatar Riyal	0.079252	0.084192
audi Riyal	0.080020	0.081320
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.096066	0.104066
Turkish Lira	0.050472	0.061972
UAE Dirhams	0.081384	0.083084
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069

## Business

# Al-Babtain Group concludes its internship program for ambitious Kuwaiti students

## Investing in advancement of local youth through one-of-a-kind internship program



**KUWAIT:** Al-Babtain Group recently concluded its Kuwaiti Students Internship Program (KSIP) for the third consecutive year. The comprehensive one month program falls in line with Al-Babtain's CSR mission to develop the future leaders of Kuwait by equipping them with professional skills and hands on experience.

Twelve students majoring in diverse disciplines such as mechanical engineering, industrial engineering, management, IT, and MIS and coming from leading universities

like Kuwait University (KU), Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), and American University of the Middle East (AUM) attended the program.

During the first two weeks of the course, students interacted with professionals from across the Group's operations ranging from sales and service to social media marketing, finance and audit, customer management, and human resources.

Motivational talks were delivered by senior manage-

ment members including CFO Jihane Bou Hamdan, General Manager Automotive Laurent Pernet and General Manager Gulfex Ahmed Shihadeh. Talks from external volunteers - INJAZ Kuwait (who delivered six modules of 'Steer Your Career' program), Nissan Gulf GM - Training and Dealer Network Development Fatma Zenagui and KFAS Program Manager Lobna Okashah added value to the program.

The young interns were then given a one to one career

counseling session by CHRO Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain to help them choose the department(s) of their choice where they will experience first-hand work in the private sector. Full time career options were also offered to select interns at the end of the program.

After officially concluding their internships, the students were given certificates of internship. The participating universities were also presented with appreciation certificates for their contribution.

## Renault Al-Babtain offers best value for Renault Megane

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait invites its customers to experience the best of European performance in the 2019 model of Renault Megane.

With a special starting price of only KD 3,799, the Renault Megane 2019 is equipped with generous space for its occupants i.e. dimensions of 4.63m long and 1.81m wide, and a record wheelbase in its class of 2.71m. Owing to its dynamic styling and advanced features, the new Megane represents the next level in the compact saloon category. It comes with a 1.6-litre engine, 115hp designed to enhance driving enjoyment and reduce fuel consumption.

Externally, its muscular bonnet, broad shoulders, tight curves, and sculpted slides emphasize its modern, sophisticated character. At the rear, the new lighting signature traces an intense, dark-red horizontal line.

Proudly supporting its chrome diamond, MEGANE affirms its ambition and dominates the road. With comfort at its core, its sculpted, wraparound seats, worthy of the finest design workshops, the Renault MEGANE welcomes you in the greatest of style. It comes in 3 immaculately finished upholstery, including one in perforated leather. From the speedometer and its center console to the vents, it is jam-packed with real satin-finish chrome details.

Enriched with driving technologies, the R-LINK 2 system and its large touchscreen makes total control of the vehicle only a touch away. Passengers can choose the MULTI-SENSE driving mode according to the mood while staying connected with R-LINK 2 for more comfort: with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay and get easy access to the smartphone's driving-compatible apps using the large onboard R-LINK 2 screen. Backed by a digital speedometer, Bluetooth radio with voice recognition, USB & Jack sockets, 4.2" display, 4 speakers, ergonomic center console, large 8.7-inch, intuitive, vertical touchscreen, etc. on board All-New Renault MEGANE, one is at the heart of the action.

Renault Al-Babtain encourages its customers to visit its showroom located in Al-Rai and avail of the benefits that accompany the new model during the limited time offer.



## Building a cloud strategy to boost digital innovation

**KUWAIT:** Yasser Zeineldin, CEO of eHosting DataFort explains why it is necessary to build an organizational cloud strategy that includes the expectations of both business and IT end-users and generates suitable return around business objectives.

The role of cloud as an IT and business tool is now more than a decade old. Globally, IT departments are migrating their business applications from on-premises to public cloud platforms at a continuous pace. Gartner, a global market research player, expects this rate to pick up as legacy systems reach their end of life support and migration projects get underway.

However, on the flip side, many enterprise CIOs have still to announce and formulate a well-defined cloud strategy for their internal IT and business end users. If well thought out and articulated, a cloud strategy can become a blueprint for the roll out of revamped and forward looking, digital processes, job roles and change in organizational structure.

Here is a checklist of pointers on how CIOs can build their cloud strategies:

### 1. List the expected business outcomes

The starting point for any cloud strategy is to get a complete picture of the desired business outcomes over a short and medium term. At this stage it is important to focus on the benefits from the point of view of the business end users rather than IT end users. A successful cloud strategy sets up a culture of self-service across the organization, adding in new business end users into the organization's connected network, thereby fostering a culture of self-driven innovation.

### 2. Is your cloud and digital strategy aligned?

The biggest obstacle for a successful cloud strategy is to develop it without aligning with the digital innovation strategy of the organization. The organization's cloud platform enables the rest of the digital experience and digital work processes to be built upon it. Lack of alignment of the two strategies in terms of requirements of scalability, application workloads, reliability, geographic responsiveness will lead to the failure of the digital innovation strategy and lack of any business return from the cloud roll out strategy.

### 3. Is business more agile than IT?

Who is driving innovation in the organization? If it is the business that is moving faster than IT, then key business decision makers need to be involved during the formulation of the organizational cloud strategy. By bringing business decision makers at an early stage into the development of the cloud strategy, it is more likely that the investments required for the cloud roll out can be justified against the investments required for the digital business innovation.

### 4. Plan out your critical and supporting workloads

A cloud strategy is not meant to be an IT showcase of sorts. The prime purpose is business innovation, business agility, and significant improvement in IT operations and cost. A cloud strategy that does not include and plan for business facing application workloads will have no returns from business. It may be promptly shelved as yet another IT operational initiative that can wait for better times or forwarded to business pending further discussion on a rainy and dull day.



Yasser Zeineldin

### 5. Cloud implementation is not strategy

A cloud strategy document that goes deep dive into the process of technology, platform, and supplier selection is going down the wrong side of the road. An implementation document cannot substitute for a strategic document that describes the business goals and the longer-term innovation benefits for the organization. IT cannot follow a wild west approach, where all pending IT objectives and innovation goals are piggybacked onto the cloud roll out project. This will lead to huge project and architecture overruns, associated with capital debt, and return on investment failures.

### 6. Internal IT and business audit

Like any IT project initiative, it is necessary to capture the states of the IT and business organization before and after the start of the roll out. The internal audit should be able to determine answers to the following questions from various end users: what the benefits are you are seeking from cloud; why is the organization implementing a cloud framework; what is the decision-making criteria for application workloads; what is the readiness of the application portfolio; as an IT and business end-user are you ready to use the cloud?

### 7. Do you need an external supplier?

Lastly, the launch of a successful cloud strategy requires a trusted partner to ensure that the vision gets converted into reality. Cloud has various models of consumption and configuration and this is also driven by internal requirements and policies. Legacy data needs to be migrated and configured on whichever cloud platform is selected for implementation. Multiple cloud platforms may also need to be introduced into the organization. Increasingly cloud brokers and managed service providers are playing an important role, at least in the early and middle stages of a cloud roll out.

By following some of these measures, CIOs may be able to formulate an effective cloud strategy. This will act as a bridge between IT and business and kicks start the organization into digital innovation.



KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY (KNPC)  
(Internal Purchasing Committee)

### MRF/PQ-001 "PRE-QUALIFICATION OF APPLICANTS FOR KNPC SPENT CATALYST SALE FOR METAL RECLAMATION FACILITY (MRF) IN KUWAIT."

- As a part of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) initiative for private sector participation in Kuwait Oil sector, KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY (KNPC) invites qualified and experienced local, Gulf & International companies for pre-qualification for Sale of KNPC Spent catalyst to be used in New Metal Reclamation facility (MRF) in Kuwait.
- The successful Bidder shall sign a Twenty (20) year Agreement with KNPC to purchase all types of spent catalyst generated in KNPC Refineries.
- The Contractor shall construct and operate new Metal Reclamation Facility (MRF) in Kuwait where metals will be recovered from spent catalysts generated in KNPC Refineries in Kuwait. The Contractor shall be responsible for collecting, handling, transporting, processing, metal recovery and disposal of catalyst waste in compliance with K-EPA regulations. The Contractor shall execute the contractual obligations in a safe manner in accordance with KNPC Health, Safety and Environment Policy and in compliance with all Regulations as mentioned in Auction documents and to be commensurate with the scope of work.
- KNPC shall evaluate the applications and pre-qualify the Companies meeting KNPC requirements as mentioned in PQ document, forms and Questionnaires.
- The qualified Companies shall be allowed to participate in Auction and submit final Auction offer to purchase all type of spent catalyst from KNPC.
- The details of Scope of Work & Pre-qualification document, forms & Questionnaires shall be downloaded from the link shown below:  
[www.knpc.com/KNPC/media/pdf/MRF-PQ-document-pdf.pdf](http://www.knpc.com/KNPC/media/pdf/MRF-PQ-document-pdf.pdf)

Starting from March 3, 2019.

- The PQ documents to be filled in as required and shall be submitted to the IPC (Room no., 1A-046) in KNPC Head Office, Al-Ahmadi in a closed envelope along with application fee of KD 100/- (One Hundred Kuwaiti Dinars) non-refundable in a form of certified cheque or receipt of deposit in favor of KNPC account. The PQ number, title and the closing date should be indicated on the envelope.
- The closing date to submit the PQ Applications shall be not later than 1:00 pm, of Thursday 13/06/2019.
- For any enquiry, Applicants may contact (mrfproject@knpc.com).
- IPC invites the Applicants to attend the Auction envelopes opening meeting in Room 2A-050, 2nd Floor, KNPC Head Office at Al-Ahmadi at 08:00 am of the first Sunday following to the Application closing date.

IPC Secretary

# All-new 2019 Nissan Altima makes its Middle East debut

Car features expressive styling and an uplifting interior



Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director of Nissan Middle East, poses for a photo in front of the all-new Altima

By Nawara Fattahova

**DUBAI:** Nissan unveiled the all-new Altima last week in Dubai, creating a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology within the midsize sedan segment. The car features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two new powertrains and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility features. The 2.5L 2019 Altima goes on sale in the Middle East in February, followed by the 2.0L turbo in the summer.

Journalists from the region had the opportunity to test-drive the new Altima. Driving this popular Japanese vehicle made me enjoy the experience, especially when I discovered its power and stability on the roads. The organizers of this trip also took journalists to the Nissan hub that was open for the public to enjoy taking videos of the vehicle, in addition to other activities showcasing the functions of the new Altima.

Al-Babtain is a very professional partner of Nissan in the Kuwaiti market for decades. "It's a very respected partner of Nissan. The Kuwait market is the third biggest in terms of size after Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the region. We had an outstanding performance this year in Kuwait with our partner, and sales nearly doubled compared to last year. Nissan Altima is very popular in Kuwait. So we have high hopes for the new car in the Kuwaiti market," Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director of Nissan Middle East, told Kuwait Times.

In 2010, Nissan launched the electronic vehicle Leaf in the market. "Leaf is still the best selling electric car, and it was launched before any other company thought about electric cars. In the Middle East, electrification of cars is still very much in the initial stages. Yes, we have countries like UAE where we have charging stations, and the government is trying to introduce electric cars in their fleets. But the move is still limited. It will still take some time here before electric cars gain a larger share. Kuwait needs about 2-3 years more to be ready for the introduction of electric cars," Schmitz added.

The new Altima with two new engines is very unique. "We enhanced the performance of the new engines and reduced fuel emissions, which is the normal development of a new vehicle. Now the horsepower is 188, while it was 182 before. Also, fuel consumption is reduced with the new engines, which is expected for a modern car like the Altima. The new VC-Turbo engine is very unique, and no other manufacturer has it on the market. It's a perfect fit to this modern car," explained Schmitz.

The sixth generation of Nissan's best-selling sedan made its world debut at the 2018 New York International Auto Show, alongside the first North American showing of Nissan's Formula E race car. "The all-new Altima builds on 25 years of heritage; it is an incredibly popular model in the Middle East, and we are confident that the advancements made in the sixth generation of the car will heighten its appeal," said Kalyana Sivagnanam, Regional Vice President, Marketing and Sales, AMI during a press conference held in Dubai last week.

"The all-new Altima is designed to shake up the midsize sedan segment in terms of design, driving enjoyment and technologies that are simultaneously advanced and affordable. Between the sleek exterior, luxurious interior, engine improvements, tighter suspension and increased seat support, the 2019 Altima is a class above."

The all-new Altima's design was inspired by the award-winning Nissan Vmotion 2.0 concept car, which debuted at the 2017 North American International Auto Show in Detroit. It is lower, longer and wider than the previous generation with a highly balanced, aggressive stance and the option of 19-inch wheels and tires. Inside, the all-new premium interior features a wide 'gliding wing' instrument panel - which accentuates the exterior's low cowl and hood, helping create an open, airy environment.

The Altima continues to be a popular choice amongst consumers in the Middle East. "During the first ten months of the current financial year (April 2018-January 2019), the fifth generation of the model has seen year-on-year growth of 30 percent, with 46 percent from retail sales. This success comes despite the current generation car being in the final year of its lifecycle. The Altima now enjoys its highest recorded segment share in the region," stressed Schmitz.

Key interior comfort and convenience features include upgraded seats with added bolstering for improved holding and support. The car also features Apple CarPlay(tm) and Android Auto(tm) and an 8-inch multi-touch color display for complete in-car entertainment and ease of driver control.

Cutting-edge Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies have



been integrated into the 2019 Altima as standard. These include Nissan's Rear Cross Traffic Alert, which helps drivers to detect stationary objects when reversing. When an object is detected, the system warns the driver with visual and audible warnings. The all new Altima also provides front, side and rear safety monitoring and intervention technologies - including Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Lane Departure Warning (LDW), radar-based Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) and High Beam Assist (HBA).

Two new engines have been introduced on the 2019 Altima. Standard on all 2019 Altima grade levels is a new 2.5-liter DOHC inline 4-cylinder direct injection engine. More than just the gains in horsepower and torque, the new engine offers improvements in smoothness and cabin quietness, along with enhanced fuel economy and cleaner emissions.

Replacing the previous-generation Altima's 3.5-liter V6 engine is the world's first production-ready variable compression turbo inline 4-cylinder. A significant technological breakthrough, the VC-Turbo seamlessly changes its compression ratio, delivering the performance of a much larger power plant with fuel efficiency and improved emissions. The 2019 Altima will be offered in a range of trim levels - S, SV and SL in the 2.5L and SV and SL grades in 2.0L Turbo, 2.0L VC-Turbo will be open for reservations in early summer 2019.

#### Detailed Product Information Key Highlights

The all-new, sixth-generation Altima features: Advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility safety; Two new engines, including the company's world's first production-ready Variable Compression Turbo; Expressive design with lower, wider and more athletic proportions, and New open, airy premium uplifting interior design.

#### Sporty Exterior

The all-new Altima takes its inspiration from the award-winning Nissan Vmotion 2.0 concept, which debuted at the 2017 North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Like the show car, the production Altima attracts immediate attention with its athletic stance and proportions - lower, wider and more dynamic than previous generations, thanks in part to new platform packaging and the use of two new low-profile engine designs.

Compared with the previous generation, the new Altima is 1.1 inches lower in height, 1.0 inches longer in length and 0.9 inches wider - while also featuring a smaller front overhang thanks to a 1.9-inch longer wheelbase and the rear wheels being pushed farther to the corners. The result is a dramatically sleeker yet more sophisticated look. The coefficient of drag is just 0.26. Larger, available 19-inch wheels and tires really help elevate the vehicle's appearance, giving it a more linear, tailored feel that's emphasized by the sharp horizontal lines, and signature Nissan design cues such as the V-motion grille and streamlined boomerang lights.

Available exterior elements include the expressive V-motion grille with dark chrome finish, LED projector headlights with signature Daytime Running Lights, LED fog lights, floating roof with slim pillars and single panel moonroof. A range of available exterior colours - including a deep-tinted Scarlet Ember red that changes hue with the light, and a new vibrant Sunset Drift orange with unique reflective pigment - help bring out the exterior's sculptural details and highlights.

#### Premium Interior

Inside, the 2019 Altima interior offers a near-luxury feel in both design and materials - marked by the lightweight, layered and more horizontal 'gliding wing' instrument panel. A range of premium interior colors and trim accents are available depending on



grade level.

The uplifting interior design also offers a high level of comfort and convenience amenities and connectivity features are offered - including standard 7.0-inch Advanced Drive Assist Display, enhanced NASA-inspired Zero Gravity seat design with dual-density foam and added bolstering for improved holding and support, available perforated leather-appointed seat inserts, available remote engine start with Intelligent Climate Control and new available 8-way driver's seat with memory.

2019 Altima also comes equipped with Apple CarPlay(tm) and Android Auto(tm), with 8-inch multi-touch color display, Bluetooth(r) Hands-free Phone System and Streaming audio via Bluetooth(r). The new Altima's selection of audio and infotainment choices include a Bose(r) Premium Audio system with nine speakers, including a new digital amplifier with eight channels of custom equalization.

#### Enhanced dynamic performance and chassis control

Along with the all-weather traction offered by the new all-wheel drive system, all 2019 Altimas benefit from a range of enhanced suspension, steering and chassis control systems. Key suspension changes include the first Altima application of monotube rear shocks, added suspension reinforcements to improve vehicle response without impacting harshness, and suspension geometry adjustments to improve steering feedback. The goal in the chassis development is to provide a more comfortable, controlled and confident driving experience - not just for the higher grades but for every 2019 Altima.

The steering system has been upgraded to a new dual-pinion electric power steering design (DP-EPS), which enhances steering feel performance and reduces steering system noise. Steering effort is reduced at low speeds for ease of driving, and effort is increased at higher speeds for improved feedback and control.

The 2019 Altima includes a new, advanced Integrated Dynamics Module (IDM). It includes three unique systems - Intelligent Ride Control, Intelligent Trace Control and Vehicle Dynamics Control - similar to those found on the flagship Nissan Maxima sedan.

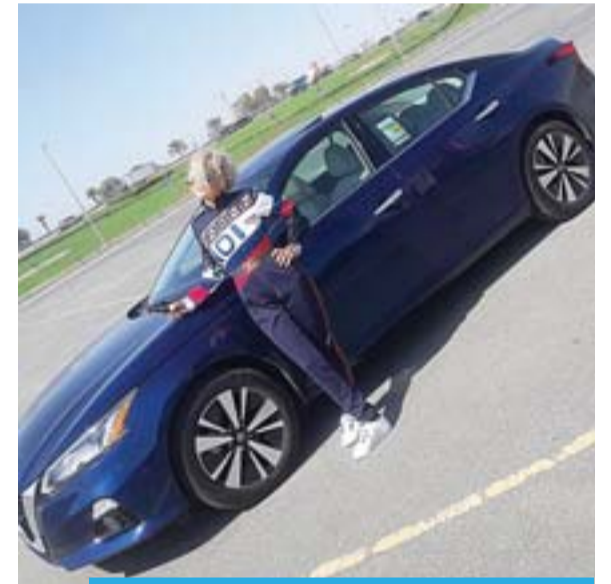
Three wheel and tire size combinations are available - 16-inch, 17-inch and, for the first time, 19-inch.

#### New standard 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine

Reflecting the Altima's importance to the Nissan brand, the company is also making its biggest investment ever in a new model powertrain development - introducing for the first time two completely new engines for one model change. Standard on all grade levels is the new 2.5-liter DOHC inline 4-cylinder direct injection engine, which is rated at 188 horsepower (versus the previous 2.5-liter's 179 hp) and 180 lb-ft of torque (versus the previous 177 lb-ft) and features 80% new or redesigned parts.

More than just the gains in horsepower and torque, the new engine offers improvements in noise, vibration and harshness, along with enhanced fuel economy and cleaner emissions. It also has a lower profile through adoption of a "reverse" cylinder head with integrated exhaust manifold and low engine mounting into the new platform's engine bay for quieter operation.

Key changes to the engine's design include a thermal-insulated resin intake port, Direct Injection Gasoline (DIG(tm)) system, variable tumble control valve, mirror bore cylinder coating, variable displacement oil pump, intake e-VTC and cooled external EGR. Nissan's development of the new 2.5-liter engine started with reviewing the basic specifications on an individual basis, such as the combustion chamber design. The result is an enhanced combination of high output and low fuel consumption versus the previous engine - with the bonus



Nawara prior to the test-drive of the new Altima



of improved NVH and front-end styling flexibility.

World's first production Variable Compression Turbo engine (available from Summer 2019)

Replacing the previous-generation Altima's 3.5-liter V6 engine is the world's first production-ready variable compression turbo inline 4-cylinder - which generates the performance of some V6 gasoline engines but with 4-cylinder level fuel economy.

Designated as the VC-Turbo, the new technology continuously transforms the engine characteristics, providing both dynamic and efficient performance. The VC-Turbo recently launched as a world's first technology in the all-new INFINITI QX50 crossover. With the VC-Turbo, the driver balances the engine character through acceleration pedal operation alone.

The VC-Turbo has been in development for 20 years. It seamlessly changes its compression ratio between 8:1 (for high performance) and 14:1 (for high efficiency) - with an advanced multi-link system continuously raising or lowering the pistons' reach to transform the compression ratio. A high compression ratio gives greater efficiency, but in certain applications poses the risk of premature combustion (knocking). A low compression ratio allows for greater power and torque and avoids knocking.

The multi-link components are manufactured in high-carbon steel alloy. Compared with the previous 3.5-liter V6 engine, the 2.0-liter VC-Turbo requires less space in the engine bay. The engine delivers 248 horsepower and 273 lb-ft of torque (premium fuel).

The VC-Turbo engine utilizes both multi-point injection and direct injection to balance efficiency and power in all conditions. The Direct Injection Gasoline (DIG(tm)) system improves combustion efficiency and performance and enables the engine to avoid knocking at higher compression ratios, while the multi-point injection mixes fuel and air earlier, enabling complete combustion in the chamber for greater efficiency at low engine loads. The engine also contributes to lower NVH and improved emissions (versus the previous 3.5-liter V6). The VC-Turbo engine is assembled in Japan.

Altima comes equipped with the VC-Turbo (SV and SL grades) and include a meter in the standard 7.0-inch Advanced Drive Assist Display so the driver can see, as well as feel, the control state of this world-first technology while driving.

In terms of fuel economy, the new 2.0-liter VC-Turbo engine is projected to have a double-digit percentage increase in high-way mpg for the front-wheel drive models.



What's On



# Ooredoo, Essa Al Marzoug and Fahad Al-Nasser the best trio with Ooredoo's National Day Song

Ooredoo Kuwait produced a special song on the occasion of Kuwait's National Holidays, performed by the Kuwaiti superstar Essa Al Marzoug, which has received more than 3 million views since its launch on YouTube. Ooredoo also sponsored Essa Al Marzoug's concert which was held during the National Day holiday at Shaheed Park, in addition to Al Marzoug's visit to The American International School of Kuwait to join its students in celebrating Kuwait's National Day festivities. These initiatives are a reflection of Ooredoo's commitment in playing a significant role in participating in what is important to Kuwaiti society, especially the National and Liberation Days of Kuwait.

Ooredoo's National Day song was written by the poet Ali Al-Fadhli, composed by the creative genius Fahad Al-Nasser, and directed by the renowned director Aziz Al-Jasmi. The song was produced and executed by Senyar Group. A

number of social media celebrities participated in the song which showcases how the Kuwaiti people celebrate national day in a festive manner. The main vision of the music video includes dancing, which is a universal language that connects people together.

With his popularity among the youth and lively performance, Essa Al Marzoug croons in praise of Kuwait and the liveliness and vibrant attitude of its people. The song's fun lyrics are coupled with a great melody that combines different musical modalities and choreography that showcases Kuwait's modernity.

Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Branding Senior Manager, Bader Al-Bader said "the theme, lyrics and music were carefully selected to reflect a certain message in the song. We wanted to celebrate everything that is beautiful about Kuwait and its wonderful people. We selected the lyrics and music to symbolize the harmonious unity of Kuwaitis, their fun attitude

and their love towards our beautiful Kuwait".

It is worth mentioning that the jacket worn by Essa Al Marzoug in the song was highly demanded by the youth and supplies ran out. Al Marzoug ended up gifting his two jackets to audiences during his concert at Shaheed Park and at the American International School of Kuwait. The jacket was designed by Kuwaiti fashion designer Dalal Al-Anazi.

Ooredoo's team were also hosted at MarinaFM 90.4 by Nagham Al Sabah program hosts Talal Malik and Nouf Al-Sultan, in which different aspects of the song were discussed in detail. Other topics revolved around the true meaning of the song which portrayed a modern sense of fun and unity between the people of Kuwait, and the love they have towards Kuwait. It is worth mentioning that Ooredoo is always keen on presenting award winning national day songs which receive high levels of viewership on YouTube.



## Burgan Bank treats orphans to a fun day out

On the occasion of the national holidays, Burgan Bank, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor organized a fun day for the children of the Family Care Department. The activity falls under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's entertainment programs which include initiatives and recreational activities for the residents of social care homes to help them integrate into society.

Believing in the betterment of all segments, Burgan Bank's initiative is aimed at instilling happiness and hope in the children's hearts by sharing the joy of Kuwait's celebrations and drawing a smile on their faces. With the participation of Hessa Al-Najadah, Assistant Manager of Public Relations at Burgan Bank, the children were accompanied to Pet Zone-Kuwait to enjoy an engaging program

constituting of many competitions and games with exciting gifts for all, they also interacted and took pictures with the pets. Additionally, the children wear their National Day clothes as an expression to their happiness on this occasion.

Burgan Bank has continually affirmed its community commitment through the support of various and diverse social initiatives driven under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor also commended the Bank's continued support of the orphaned children, the elderly and special needs segments.

The Bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic 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 and health driven initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.



## CBK launches 'Ya Zeen Turathna'

In continuation of its heritage-reviving efforts, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently announced launching its 'Ya Zeen Turathna' (What a beautiful heritage we have!) campaign for the 8th consecutive year to highlight Kuwaiti traditions and heritage. The campaign has been an integral part of CBK's social responsibility activities aiming to keep forefathers' traditions and heritage alive with newer generations. In this regard, CBK's deputy director for corporate communication, Amani Al-Wer'a stressed that CBK's activities mainly target reviving old traditions and heritage. Al-Wer'a added that the campaign would be on in the period of March 3rd till 31, 2019 and that it would include various activities and visits in addition to holding a two-day booth in one of the major malls. CBK staff members also greeted visitors arriving from abroad to Kuwait with flowers and gifts in the Kuwait International Airport to honor guests and citizens alike during the national celebrations.



## Kids charity marathon at Murooj complex

The largest kids charity marathon was organized yesterday for the third consecutive year at the Murooj complex. Children from the ages of two to twelve years old participated. Marketing manager at Quality Net Company Naveen Tawfiq said these activities are considered a family day as many children activities are conducted at the complex to entertain and enrich their knowl-

edge and fitness. She said this activity is considered among the most important in prompting sports and well being among upcoming generations.

She said the company selects social institute each year to donate the race income to them, as this year the Red Crescent and Dasman Institute were selected to support children with diabetes. Director of Social

Research, Translation and communications at DDI Esraa Al-Jazzaf thanked the two companies for their efforts and their choice of DDI and donation for diabetic children. The race saw 800 children participate, and they were divided as 2-4 years old to run for 500 meters, 5-6 year to run for 750, 7-9 years to run for 1000 meters and 10-12 years to run for 1250 meters.



Health

# Measles cases soar worldwide as UN warns of 'complacency'

PARIS: Just 10 countries were responsible for three-quarters of a global surge in measles cases last year, the UN children's agency said Friday, including one of the world's richest nations, France. Ninety-eight countries reported more cases of measles in 2018 compared with 2017, and the world body warned that conflict, complacency and the growing anti-vaccine movement threatened to undo decades of work to tame the disease.

"This is a wakeup call. We have a safe, effective and inexpensive vaccine against a highly contagious disease — a vaccine that saved almost a million lives every year over the last two decades," said Henrietta Fore, executive director of UNICEF. "These cases haven't happened overnight. Just as the serious outbreaks we are seeing today took hold in 2018, lack of action today will have disastrous consequences for children tomorrow."

Measles is more contagious than tuberculosis or Ebola, yet it is eminently preventable with a vaccine that costs pennies. But the World Health Organization last year said cases worldwide had soared nearly 50 percent in 2018, killing around 136,000 people. Ukraine, the Philippines and Brazil saw the largest year-on-year increases. In Ukraine alone there were 35,120 cases — nearly 30,000 more than in 2017. Brazil saw 10,262 cases in 2018 after having none at all the year before, while the Philippines reported 15,599 cases last year compared to 2,407 in 2017. Taken together, the ten nations accounting for 75 percent of the increase from 2017 to 2018 account for only a tenth of the global population. The countries with the highest rate of measles last year were Ukraine (822 cases per million people), Serbia (618), Albania (481), Liberia (412), Georgia (398), Yemen (328), Montenegro (323) and Greece (227).

While most of the countries that experienced large spikes in cases are beset by unrest or conflict, France saw its caseload jump by 2,269. In the United States, there was a 559 percent year-on-year increase in cases from 120 to 791.

**Misinformation and mistrust**

The resurgence of the disease in some countries has been linked to medically baseless claims linking the measles vaccine to autism, which have been spread in part on social media by members of the so-called "anti-vax" movement. The WHO last month listed "vaccine hesitancy" among the top 10 most pressing global health threats for 2019.

"Almost all of these cases are preventable and yet children are getting infected even in places where there is simply no excuse," Fore said. "Measles may be the disease, but all too often the real infection is misinformation, mistrust and complacency." In war-torn Yemen, where health services in many regions have collapsed, UNICEF and the World Health Organization joined with local authorities last month in a campaign to vaccinate some 13 children aged six months to 15 for measles and rubella.

UN officials estimated that 92 percent of the targeted children were jabbed during the one-week push, which ended on February 14. Yemen also figured on UNICEF's "top 10" list of countries showing the largest increases last year in measles cases with a 316 percent hike, from 2,101 cases in 2017 to 8,742 cases in 2018. Other countries with huge jumps last year compared to 2017 are Venezuela (4,916 more cases, up 676 percent), Serbia (4,355 more cases, up 620 percent), Madagascar (4,307 more cases, up 5,127 percent), Sudan (3,496 more cases, up 526 percent) and Thailand (2,758 more cases, up 136 percent). A few countries saw declines in the number of confirmed cases of measles. In Romania, reported cases dropped 89 percent from 8,673 to 943, and in Indonesia the number declined by 65 percent from 11,389 to 3,995. Nigeria, Pakistan, Italy and China also saw drops of 35 to 55 percent. —AFP

## Cancer-causing toxin found in recalled blood pressure pills

NEW YORK: US health regulators said on Friday a third cancer-causing toxin was found in some blood pressure pills recalled by India's Hetero Labs Ltd a day earlier, adding to a global recall of commonly used drugs to treat hypertension. The US Food and Drug Administration is also looking into whether these types of impurities could be found in other classes of drugs, a spokeswoman for the regulator said.

The toxin, N-Nitroso-N-methyl-4-aminobutyric acid (NMBA), identified in 87 lots of Hetero's losartan potassium pills, was not found in medicines that were previously recalled by a number of drugmakers. The FDA said Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd is expanding its voluntary recall to include 114 additional lots of losartan-containing medication due to

unacceptable amounts of NMBA in the losartan manufactured by Hetero Labs.

Global authorities have been clamping down on sales of some blood pressure medicines as they are suspected to be tainted with two probable carcinogens - N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) and N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA). The drugs, including losartan, belong to a class of widely used medicines for treating high blood pressure called angiotensin II receptor blockers, or ARBs. Some generic versions of other ARBs, such as valsartan and irbesartan, have also been recalled.

The FDA said increased risk of cancer in patients exposed to the new impurity, NMBA, appeared to be the same as those exposed to NDMA, but less than the risk from NDEA. The recalls began last year after regulators said ingredients used by Chinese manufacturer Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceuticals Co to produce valsartan contained cancer-causing impurities.

Since then, generic drugmakers such as Mylan NV, Teva Pharmaceutical and Novartis' Sandoz have recalled products containing the tainted ingredients. In January, the FDA warned of the possibility of additional shortages of hypertension drugs in the United States due to the recalls. The FDA also said it is working to develop testing methods to detect other cancer-causing impurities. — Reuters

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

## Dr Sahar Ghannam

Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser



Timing: Saturdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 5 pm  
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am until 5 pm  
Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm.

Friday is a holiday.

Address: Fourth Ring Road - Abdallah Fadalah Street, Meidan Hawally, opposite fire station - block 35, building 31.

Clinic Phones: 25610407/ 409/ 314 Fax: 25610465  
Mobaile: 90974754/ 99166746

saharpolyclinic | dr.saharghannamsclinic | Email: drsgderma@gmail.com

To advertise on this Page, Call: 24833199 ext:101,102

## Dr. Ala' Groof

Consultant Surgeon  
Canadian board certified.

General Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Endoscopic/laparoscopic Surgery, Obesity/Metabolic Surgery, Tumor Surgery

- Treat patients with problems in the arteries and veins- varicose veins, narrowing/occlusion or ballooning of vessels.
- Treat patients with diabetic foot wounds and leg swelling.
- Treat patients in need of hemodialysis access and associated problems.
- Treat patients with gall bladder stones, abdominal swellings/tumors/hernias.
- Treat patients with problems of overweight- Sleeve Gastrectomy and gastric bypass.



We cover GIG insured patients- KPC/AFYA

Meidan Hawally - End of Fourth Ring Road - behind the Gas Station - Sabaek building, seventh floor  
Tel: 25626000 - 65966000



WELCOME

Dr Tammam Abou Ali  
Consultant ENT, Head & Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon.

• Fellowship of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.  
• 10 years work experience in King Hospital WIM Kuwait.  
• Ex Head of ENT department in Farwaj Hospital, WIM Kuwait.  
• 10 years work experience in UK and Ireland.

- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF
- Snoring and OSAP Surgery
- Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques
- Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty
- Salivary gland and parotid surgery
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Micro laryngeal surgery



1 888 883  
www.qmc-kuwait.com

qmcukwait



## To advertise on this Page



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102 or  
Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617  
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

## Dr. Husain Alenezi

-Board Certified Urologist.  
-Endourology Society-Approved Fellowship in Endourology And Robotic Surgery At Western University, Ontario, Canada.

Expert in diagnosing and treating:

- 1- Urinary Stones (Kidney, Ureter & Bladder) By Endoscopy & Laser
- 2- Prostate Cancer And Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- 3- Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms In Males And Females
- 4- Tumors And Malignancies Of The Urinary Tract (Kidney, Adrenals, Ureter, Bladder And Testes)
- 5- Male Factor Infertility And Varicoceles (Microscopic Surgery)
- 6- Erectile Dysfunction



Contact Taiba Hospital: 1808088 | 94449452 | Twitter: @DrHusain\_Urol

## Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!



Dr. Kiran Turaka  
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Zareena Zahir  
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Nasan Khan  
Dentist Cardiology



Dr. P. Seshendra Nath  
Orthopedic Consultant (ASISTRA)  
Specialized in Neck, Shoulder, Hip and Knee



50721507  
24551555

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER  
Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCES

Tel: 24568857 / 24568859 | info@exircenterkw.com | www.exircenterkw.com



# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

**DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY**  
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology  
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.  
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada  
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- ◆ Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- ◆ Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- ◆ Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- ◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

**Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122**

**DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

**ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:**

- o Dermatology board certified.
- o Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- o Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- o Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

- o Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- o Laser Treatments.
- o Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- o Body & Face Contouring.
- o Injectable Fillers & Botox.

**SHARD, Ahmad Alsheer st., Building 14, Floor 13.**  
Tel: (+965) 22060777  
@DrFahamed, @Fahmedb, @daralshifa  
Email: drfahamed@beautybeyond.com.kw

**To advertise on this Page**

**Call: 24833199 ext:101,102**  
**or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617**  
**or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com**

**Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine**  
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- ◆ Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- ◆ Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

**مستشفى دار الشفا Dar Al Shifa Hospital**  
Tel:1802 555

**DR KHALED ALMERRI**  
Consultant interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

**Specialized in:**

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist

- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the European Laryngological Society

**Specialized in:**

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- ◆ Vocal cord augmentation.
- ◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
- ◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- ◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

**American Board Certified in General Surgery**  
**Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)**  
**Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation**  
**Member of many prestigious surgical societies.**

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant  
http://www.international-clinic.com **Tel: 1886677**

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally Invasive surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

- ◆ American Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of American College of Surgery
- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- ◆ American Board of Colo - Rectal Surgery
- ◆ American Board of Surgical Critical Care

**Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad**  
Surgery Department  
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

**مستشفى دار الشفا Dar Al Shifa Hospital**  
Tel:1802 555

**DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM**  
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

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

**DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
Laposcopic and Bariatric Surgery

**Academic Certificates - Training**

- ◆ Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- ◆ (IFSO) member .
- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
- ◆ Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

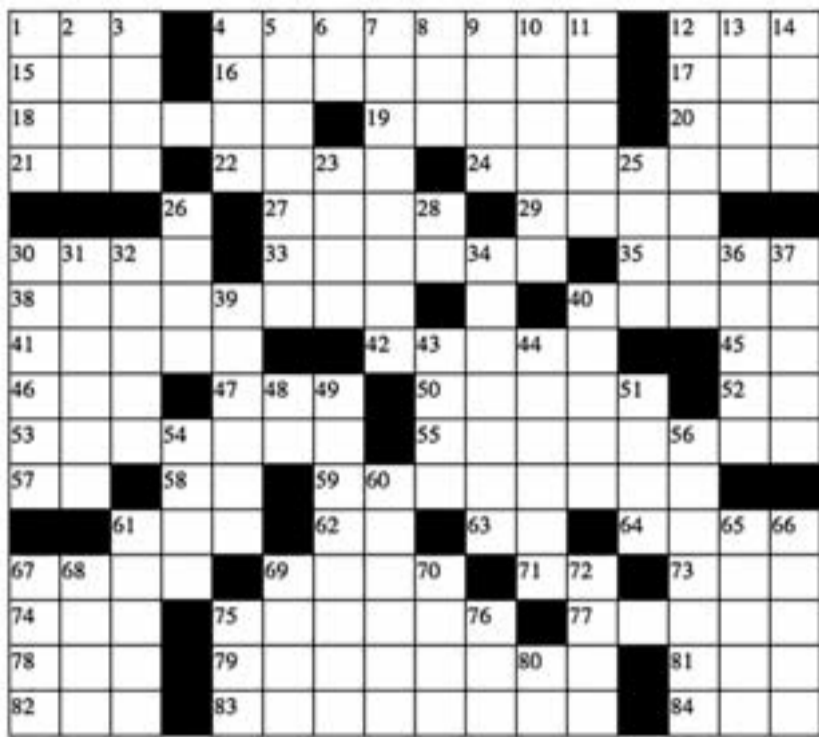
**Scope of clinical Practice.**

- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com **Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228**  
Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building

Stars

CROSSWORD 2147



ACROSS

- (informal) A witty amusing person who makes jokes.
- Hard dry sharp-flavored Italian cheese.
- A city in north central Morocco.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- Anesthetize with ether.
- Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
- The quarter of many North African cities in which the citadel is located.
- An anti-anxiety agent (trade name Xanax) of the benzodiazepine class.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
- Tree of low-lying coastal areas of southeastern United States having glossy leaves and racemes of fragrant white flowers.
- Exceeding demand.
- An impression in a surface (as made by a blow).
- (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
- Flat blade-like projection on the arm of an anchor.
- A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
- God of love and erotic desire.
- A strong belief in a supernatural power or powers that control human destiny.
- Formally making a person known to another or to the public.
- An Ocean-speaking member of an ancient people of Campania.
- A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
- Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
- South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
- The present time or age.
- Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.
- The father of your father or mother.
- Brown or blackish Alpine mosses having a dehiscent capsule with 4 longitudinal slits.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain.
- Being nine more than forty.
- A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
- A member of a North American Indian people speaking one of the Hokan language.
- Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- One-thousandth of an equivalent.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Jordan's port.
- An affirmative.
- Of a vivid red to reddish-orange color.
- A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
- A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- Make pagan in character.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
- South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- A short labored intake of breath with the mouth open.
- Partially carbonized vegetable matter saturated with water.
- The capital and largest city of Greece.
- A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.
- A Mexican (or person of Mexican descent) living in the United States.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- Deliver by singing.
- Any of numerous ornamental shrubs grown for their showy flowers of various colors.
- The means of connection between things linked in series.
- Of the nature of fact.
- A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- Someone new to a field or activity.
- The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- A person who is entitled by law or by the terms of a will to inherit the estate of another.
- A unit of information equal to 1024 bytes.
- German physicist who studied cathode rays (1862-1947).
- (used of opinions and actions) Far beyond the norm.
- (trademark) A nickel-base alloy with chromium and iron.
- A group of African languages in the Niger-Congo group spoken from Senegal east as far as the Ivory Coast.
- (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
- A farewell remark.
- Something twisted and tight and swollen.
- Male red deer.
- (of eggs) No longer edible.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- Showing or feeling admiration.
- Not only so, but.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- Genus of beetles whose grubs feed mainly on roots of plants.
- A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
- Lower in esteem.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Jordan's port.
- Advanced in years.
- An elaborate song for solo voice.
- (statistics) Approximating the statistical norm or average or expected value.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A protocol developed for the internet to get data from one network device to another.
- A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
- The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Where you were yesterday still has an effect on you but rather than jumping into a situation you're unsure of now, you're standing back and looking that condition over. Perhaps you have more self-preservation in mind or it's because you're frustrated with some events taking place. Either way you're doing the right thing by examining everything before you jump. You're understanding of accidents but not stupidity. Aries. When others come for advice you give well thought-out information. This wait-and-see attitude is the best place for you right now. Take time with friends and loved ones tonight. Most of all take time to be alone too with your thoughts.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This weekend finds you just a tad bit standoffish. Good thing you weren't like this yesterday. Otherwise work wouldn't have been as satisfying. If you can enjoy some alone time today. It'd be best for everyone concerned. Your lover might have some hurt feelings thinking that you don't care for him or her anymore. That's untrue but others don't always come with a play book for you and your emotions. Thoughts count now for you. Being able to assemble them in order for your life and your lover's to be better is what comes from that. Taurus. Give your life partner a hint at what's going on although it irritates the heck out of you. You think others should be on your page emotionally and practically as well. Try to relax some.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Mental distance is what you need now. That may include staying in bed with the cat or dog hiding away from everyone else. Your thoughts are far-reaching and different than you generally have. Take the day to think and hopefully stay home away from others. Interference in your thought pattern in any way could illicit a response for which you'd be sad later. That goes without mention of the person you're dressing down's attitude towards you, Gemini. Take a much-needed rest and try to relax. Let your thoughts run rampant because those are the best kind sometimes. They bring transformation but you want it to be change for your good not something you'll have to reset later.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You're still coming across as someone who knows what they're doing today even if it's shopping. You're the best at everything you touch or so others watching you think. You know that you're a little withdrawn and really don't crave people being around you as much as you did yesterday. You don't need the company. What you'd rather do is enjoy your life. That's a good idea. Go fishing or go to a game palace of some kind. Anything that hits your hot button is just where you should play today.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Being the benevolent lion king you are, you show great understanding and sympathy to those you love. It may be needed today more than usual. Though you love your family you find yourself reclusive and want alone time but you need to be with them too. It's such a conundrum. Perhaps the best thing to do is provide time with your loved ones one part of the day and love yourself enough to take another part of the days for the selfish part of you. Actually, taking time for yourself isn't selfish at all. It keeps the home life running smoothly and keeps you and others happy and healthy.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Yesterday was the perfect time for giving and getting love. Today isn't. You'd rather be alone with your thoughts. You might be seen as reclusive now. It's a good thing you can pick what you want to do today so that you cast a small shadow. You're unsatisfied with conditions you see around you and are looking for ways to fix those issues. Virgo, you're not in the mood for anyone to go against what you think now, nor for them to try and change your views. Go out with friends and enjoy pleasant exchanges. Stay away from subjects that cause either side irritation.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Emotionally charged discussions could leave you feeling frustrated today. This could happen both at work and at home. Feeling hemmed in by conventional thought leaves you tense and unhappy with events happening at work. Telling someone what you think of their ideas could get you into a little hot water. Keep your thoughts to yourself as much as possible. Libra. Relieve your stress tonight through a good time with your lover. Take that energy and turn it into a fantastic night both can enjoy. Think good thoughts.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Practical vision and common sense bring you the accolades you look for at work. Knowing how to apply that vision, what steps to make it work and who is the right person for the job may elevate your position at work and possibly add money to your bank account. You still feel the need you did yesterday for using your friends to bounce ideas off. Scorpio, you feel yourself beginning to change directions in your life due to emotional stress. You don't know what you really want now but you know you want something different than the same old, same old. Study the situation and then move.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

You need encouragement but you also need to give the same to others, perhaps even a large group. You feel the suffering of others and aim to do something about it but you haven't decided what it is yet. Today may help you to decide. You're quiet in nature and stick to yourself mostly. So does a fox but this wild animal is thinking about how to get what it wants the whole time. That's your mode of operation today. Stealthy watching helps you understand what needs to be done for the best of all. Sagittarius. Teaching might be something you decide to change your career to just for broadening little one's minds.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Financial responsibilities and investments are on your mind now. Perhaps there's been a death in the family or a reason for you to care for another's monetary assets. You want to do your best for those which you care, so much so that you may think too long and cause issues you can't overcome. Capricorn, you know what you're doing. Ask for some universal help and make a decision. You'll do the best you can for those you love. These items that are facts of life are making you think more now and to doubt yourself. Life is a series of choices. You've got to make one. You're generally right.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You find yourself going within today because you truly want to be alone. It's a time of renewal for you and even though others may compliment you on your work ethic and material success, you're having none of it. You're the best judge of what you've achieved, or so you think, and this isn't it yet. Aquarius. You're thinking of new cutting-edge ways to accomplish more in the market place or in your special talent. You want security and have a need to provide more practically for your family. This isn't a stressful time. It's really a time of pleasure because you're using that great mind of yours.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You're in a mental and emotional push-me-pull-me mood. You want to socialize with friends, but you don't. And if you do then they better give you what you need emotionally and mentally or you don't need them. You're not sure who you are right now except that you know you don't want the same-old-same-old. Though you have the spirit to match this feeling you may not have the strength to keep it up. Love is in your air especially when it entails the kind of love that you read about in the fairy tales or on "Game of Thrones." You have needs too, Pisces. Have fun, granting those wishes to yourself.

Wordsearch Puzzle

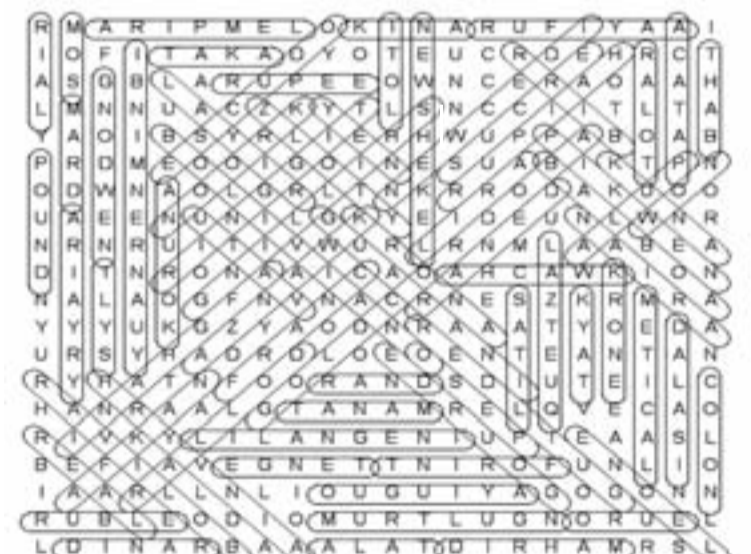
60's Songs 1 - Word Search



- |             |            |              |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| BABY LOVE   | GROOVIN    | STAY         |
| BLUE VELVET | HEATWAVE   | TEEN ANGEL   |
| CARA MIA    | HOLIDAY    | THE TWIST    |
| CHERISH     | MEMPHIS    | VALLERI      |
| CRYING      | MY GUY     | WHITE RABBIT |
| DOWNTOWN    | PUPPY LOVE | WINDY        |
| ELENORE     | RUNAWAY    | YESTERDAY    |
| FIRE        | SOUL MAN   |              |

Friday's Solution

World Currencies



- |           |              |          |            |               |
|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|---------------|
| AFGHANI   | EURO         | KWAZA    | NEW SHEKEL | RUPEE         |
| ARIKREY   | FORINT       | KWET     | NGULTRUM   | RUPIAH        |
| BAHT      | FRANC        | LEMPIRA  | OGUTIVA    | SHILING       |
| BALBOA    | GOLD CORDOBA | LEONE    | PATACA     | SGH           |
| BIBI      | GUARANI      | LIBRA    | PESO       | SUCRE         |
| BOLIVAR   | GUARANI      | LIBRA    | PESO       | SUCRE         |
| BOLIVIANO | GULDER       | LITAS    | PULA       | TAKA          |
| COLON     | HRYVNYIA     | LOTI     | QUETZAL    | TALA          |
| DALASE    | KINA         | MANAT    | BAND       | TENGE         |
| DENAR     | KORUNA       | METICAL  | REAL       | TOLAR         |
| OTRAB     | KRCHIA       | NAIRA    | REAL       | VASTU         |
| DIRHAM    | KRONE        | NAKFA    | RINGGIT    | WON           |
| DOLLAR    | KROON        | NEW CEDI | RIVAL      | YEN           |
| DRAM      | KUNA         | NEW DONG | RUBLE      | YUAN RENMINBI |
| ESCUDO    | KWACHA       | NEW KIP  | RUFYAA     | ZLOTY         |

The hidden sentence is:  
IF YOU CAN COUNT YOUR MONEY, YOU DON'T HAVE A BILLION DOLLARS

Friday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

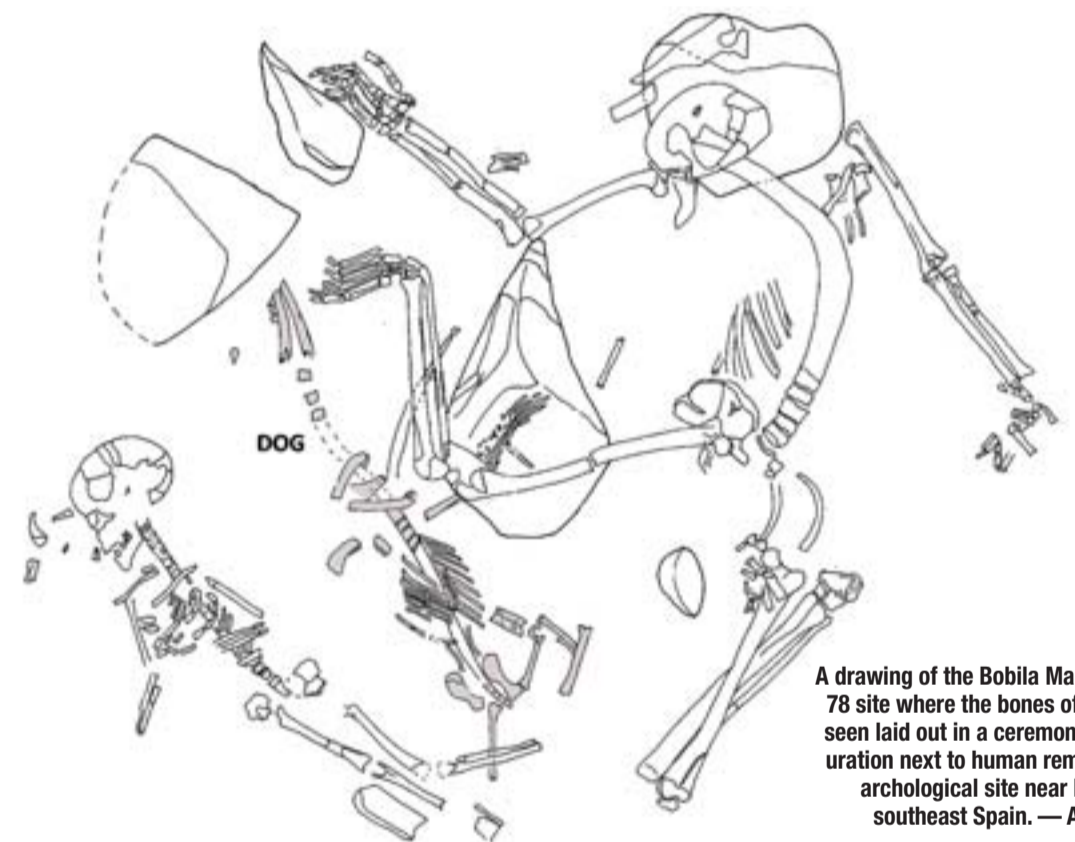
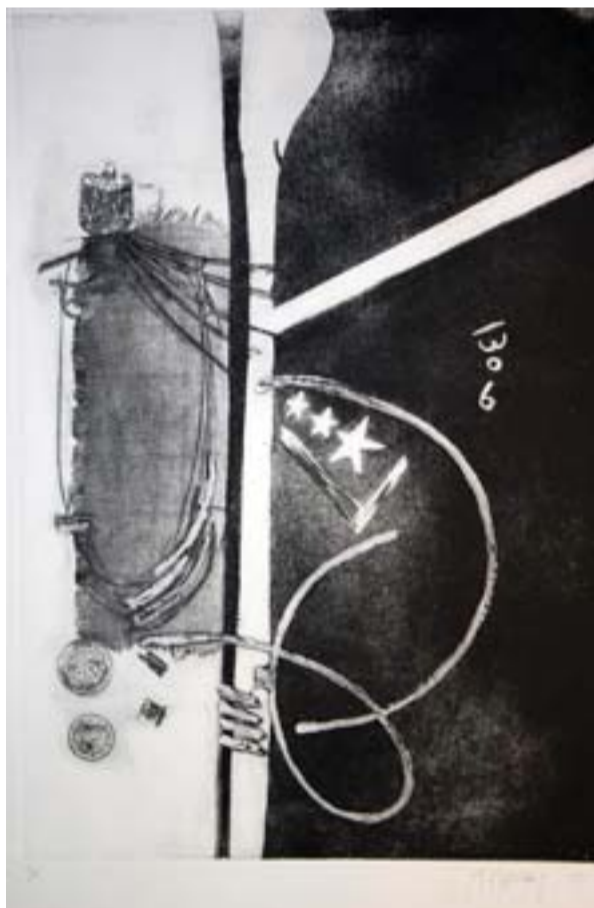


A model presents a creation for Noir Kei Ninomiya during the Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris, yesterday. — AFP

## Al-Najdi and Al-Maghraby team up in 'US & Them' exhibition

Artists Suhailah Al-Najdi and Mahmoud Al-Maghraby recently opened their joint art gallery 'US & Them' at the Print Room Gallery in Shuwaikh. The Exhibition includes 25 paintings reflecting Al-Najdi and Al-Maghrabi's experience in observing recent social, political and cultural changes in Arab societies and the ongoing Arab social, political and cultural polarization.

The exhibition sheds lighter on how to overcome such a crisis as both artists' joint works and twofold paintings pave the way for better relations with others through more openness, harmony and hopes for a different future. Some paintings also highlight absolute passivity in attempts to achieve communal change in general and more tolerance even on Arab-Arab peoples' relation levels. The exhibition extended till March 7, 2019.



A drawing of the Bobila Madurell MS-78 site where the bones of a dog are seen laid out in a ceremonial configuration next to human remains at an archaeological site near Barcelona, southeast Spain. — AFP photos

## Prehistoric humans loved their dogs to death

Neolithic communities clustered near present-day Barcelona some 6,000 years ago were really keen on dogs, in this life and the next. Archeological evidence from at least four sites showed prehistoric humans and their four-legged friends living in close quarters, working together, and sharing a common diet of mostly grains and veggies. "These animals were fully integrated into the Neolithic communities," lead author Silvia Albizuri, a researcher at the University of Barcelona, told AFP.

And the special status accorded to canines even extended to the grave, Albizuri and her team reported recently in the Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports. In more than two dozen circular burial plots, the partial or complete remains of pooches were carefully laid out next to individual men, women and children. But the dogs chosen to spend eternity with their masters paid a stiff price for the privilege: they were sacrificed at the time of burial, the study concluded.

The animals ranged in age between one and six years, with a quarter estimated at 12 and 18 months-old. "The selection of puppies and one-year old animals suggests the intention to sacrifice," said Albizuri. The Pit Grave people, in other words, loved their dogs to death.

### Dogs not eaten

The preference for young dogs may also have stemmed from a reluctance to lose older ones already trained up in their guarding or herding duties. A lack of cut-marks on the dog bones also suggests their flesh was not cut away and consumed before burial. Canines and humans laid to rest side-by-side have been found at other Middle Neolithic sites in northern Italy and south-

ern France, but the Bobila Madurell tomb—just north of Barcelona—has more dogs than any other, the study said.

The remains of all but nine of the 26 dogs examined were excavated there. Dogs were first used by humans for hunting and probably transport, scientists speculate. As humans settled and began to practice agriculture some 10,000 years ago, canines became sentinels against upright invaders and wild animals, especially their evolutionary cousins, wolves.

They also learned to herd other domesticated creatures, such as sheep, goats or cattle. "Dogs played an important role in the economy of Neolithic populations, taking care of herds and settlements," the researchers noted. The mid-sized dogs described in the study—standing up to half-a-metre tall, and weighing about 15 kilos—resemble "shepherd dogs of the current Pyrenees," the mountain chain separating France and Spain, Albizuri said.

Bones from livestock found at the Spanish burial sites were scattered in a haphazard manner, further proof that Neolithic canines carefully laid to rest were in a class of their own. The 5th millennium BC in southern Europe was dotted with a few large settlements, along with small villages or hamlets in plains or on hilltops. Archeologists have also unearthed the remains of simple farms, temporary shelters, and silos used to store grain. —AFP



Bones found at the Bobila Madurell MS-78 site near Barcelona, southeast Spain, where the partial or complete remains of dogs were laid out in ceremonial configurations next to men, women and children.

## Slimane shocks Paris catwalk by going posh

**H**edi Slimane turned his back on black Friday in one of the biggest about-turns in years on the Paris catwalk. The superstar French designer, famed for his love of black, was dubbed the “Trump of fashion” after trashing the legacy of his much-loved feminist predecessor at Celine, Phoebe Philo, in his first women’s show for the brand in October. But in his second show Friday the reclusive trendsetter threw out the “crotch-skimming cocktail dresses” for wafer-thin vamps that had so infuriated the critics the first time round.

Rather than the too-cool-for-school night owls of his “Paris at night” debut, Slimane went all bourgeois as he tried to double track back towards Celine’s more romantic roots. His new cool gang are a glammy 1980s horsey set, with pleated riding skirts in earthy browns, greens and taupes worn with long shiny boots. “Hedi Slimane’s Celine woman just got ladylike,” Dazed magazine tweeted dryly. But the really big takeaway was the comeback of the culotte, with a whole cavalry charge of them galloping down the catwalk.

Surprising as that was, no one had predicted the

return of silky bow blouses worn under sensible coats and cardigans. The man they once called the “Sultan of skinny”—and for whom Karl Lagerfeld lost 42 kilograms (92 lbs) to squeeze into his black jeans—even got a few frilly blouses in too. All that was lacking was the pearls. There was a kind of prim suppressed school-marmy sexiness about the whole enterprise with long Victorian print dresses. But here and there the ultra-respectable look was undercut with a glittering gold blouson jacket, leather trousers or some other touch of decadent Slimane urban glam.

### ‘Joke’s on who?’

This embrace of romantic, comfortable country glamour, of the type that Hermes and others do rather well, left critics scratching their heads, with the New York Times’ Vanessa Friedman asking, “(The) joke’s on who?” But for the fact that every model wore black sunglasses, it hardly looked like a Slimane show. It also seemed strangely at odds with Slimane’s first media campaign for the house, which he released this week, featuring 17-year-old British model Hannah Motler. Shot by Slimane himself, it was full of the dark

rock ‘n’ roll glamour he is famous for.

Friedman, however, had no doubt that the oxblood shearing-edged thigh-high boots that Slimane teamed with jeans and camel coats and capes in the show were a winner. “Betcha Celine is going to sell a lot of these boots,” she tweeted. While there was some slight nods to the Philo’s legion of grieving followers—who have made her past Celine collections collector’s items—Slimane leapfrogged over her minimalism to go deep into the brand’s archives in search of inspiration.

His slash and burn attitude to the brand-getting rid of the French accent on its logo, calling his first show “Celine 01” as if the 70 years before his arrival at the label had not existed, and erasing Philo’s clothes from the label’s Instagram account, irritated many. His first collection took an unprecedented kicking from English-speaking critics in particular, with social media spats between his defenders—the Slimaniacs—and Philo supporters, the Philophiles.

Slimane—who has a record of turning labels into cash cows — has form in ruffling feathers. He dropped the Yves from Saint Laurent when he took

over at the iconic house in 2012. While Slimane may have been weaning himself off black, many others in Paris were embracing it. The Belgian designer Olivier Theyskens played with its dark romanticism in his impressive show which riffed on the sci-fi film “Bladerunner”, which is set in 2019. In a genius touch, his models walked to its soundtrack played backwards. Few designers have explored the possibility of black more than the Japanese veteran Yohji Yamamoto.

His show built slowly to a poetic crescendo of bravura deconstructed tailoring with black blanket dresses edged with white stitching, and postmodern takes on the black dresses which might be seen in a Manet painting. In a final dramatic twist, one of five models he wrapped completely in black like ancient widows dramatically uncovered her head to reveal a buttoned 19th-century shirt dress of the kind frontier women wore on their conquest of the Wild West. What it meant only the smiling master knows, but it certainly got fashionistas thinking. — AFP



# Paris Fashion week



Models present creations for Noir Kei Ninomiya during the Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris, yesterday. — AFP photos



Lifestyle | Fashion



## Williams admits working with Lagerfeld was 'incredible'



Pharrell Williams

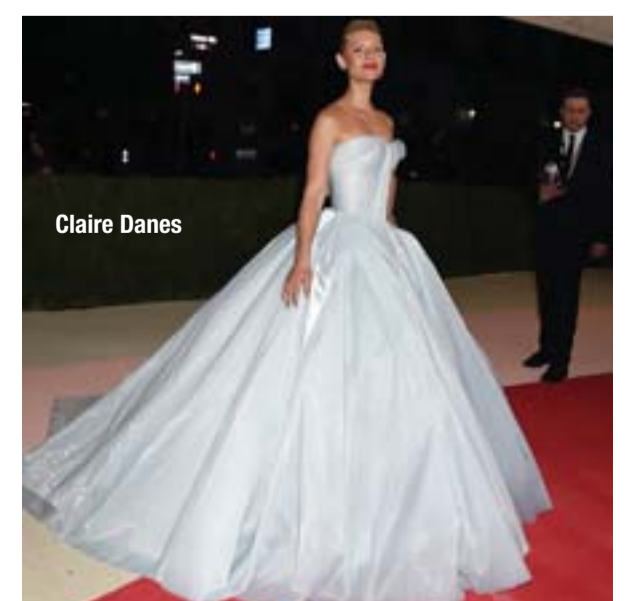
Pharrell Williams says working with the late Karl Lagerfeld was an "incredible" experience. The 45-year-old singer created an exclusive unisex capsule collection for Chanel with the German fashion icon - who passed away on February 19 at the age of 85 - and Pharrell has revealed that he was given a lot of creative freedom to bring more "colour to existing pieces" and create garments that "made sense" for his silhouette and he appreciated every moment with Lagerfeld. Speaking to GQ France's GQ Originals YouTube series before Lagerfeld's death, he said: "It's been amazing. Karl has been incredible. He's just been incredibly generous. Some things were existing pieces that he just allowed me to bring more colour to, and other things were things that I just felt like were missing. Like, as a man, I've always wanted a lot of belts. But like I said, I got the joy out of wearing the girls' belts, not the ones that were super feminine, but they just made sense for my

body. There's still a bunch of things that as a man, I would at least want unisex versions of. So the inspiration for this was mainly my wish list, things that I feel like I've always wanted." Details of the collection's release are yet to be confirmed, however Pharrell has promised that it is "coming soon". The 'Sangria Wine' hitmaker also insisted that he has always been forward-thinking when it comes to fashion because he has always found it as a way of "expressing" himself. He added: "My brothers and I, we used to wear [pearls] in high school and everyone thought we were the weirdos ... and we were. But we just did it because that was just us, it was a means of expressing ourselves. Now that I'm older and I understand the effeminate nature that pearls give off, it makes all the sense in the world." —BangShowbiz

## Claire Danes would wear shop bought dresses to red carpets

Claire Danes would wear a "store bought" dress to awards ceremonies when she first started her career. The 'Homeland' star started her critically acclaimed television career as a 15-year-old star in the ABC series, 'My So Called Life', and was later scouted for her first leading role on the big screen in 1996 for Baz Luhrmann's BAFTA award-winning 'Romeo + Juliet' opposite Leonardo DiCaprio. However, the 39-year-old star has revealed that when she would attend prestigious award shows, she would wear a dress she picked out from a shop, because there wasn't any "stylists or makeup" artists at that point in her career. Speaking to Mastermind magazine, she said: "The carpet thing has grown over the course of my career. There weren't stylists when I started. We barely had a makeup person. I would wear a dress that I bought at a store. I basically just have to wear the thing with some conviction." The blonde beauty - who is married to

'Confessions of a Shopaholic' star Hugh Dancy - also admitted that she's stopped using social media altogether because she didn't like how much Instagram was a part of her daily life. She added: "Love to hashtag. But I just sort of capsized ... I wasn't convinced that it was making much of a difference for me, career-wise. I know it's easy language now, but I don't like to think of myself as a brand. I didn't like that I started to move through my day framing my experiences in terms of Instagram. One day I just gave up. And you know what? I'm okay." — Bang Showbiz



Claire Danes

## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

## Freeman explores faith in 'Story of God'

During his career as an actor, Morgan Freeman has played the role of God. In real life, he claims to be "undeniably" a believer. Now, the Oscar winner has traveled more than 120,000 kilometers (more than 74,000 miles) and visited 30 cities to try to unravel mysteries of spirituality around the world. Is there a God? What about the devil? How do people experience it? What is behind the secrets of different faiths? Freeman told AFP that on this long journey he understood that religion, belief in a God, serves as "society's glue."

"In almost every society, whatever the religion is the point is to keep the people together functioning as a unit," he said. The third season of "The Story of God," which has six episodes, premieres March

5 on National Geographic. It sees Freeman spend time with "living goddesses" in Nepal; look at the supposed crown of thorns worn by Jesus in the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris; meet a "medium" in Vietnam; and experience the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The season was put on hold after accusations of sexual harassment against the Oscar winner. But National Geographic opted to continue with the series after an investigation. Asked if he thought the accusations affected his reputation, or career, Freeman was firm. "No," the 81-year-old actor replied dryly before ending the interview.

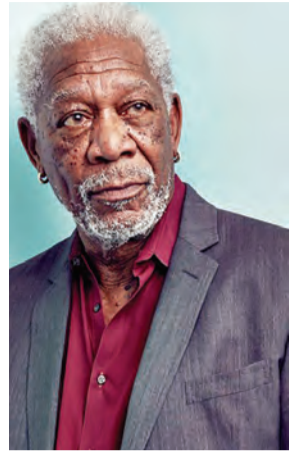
## Politics and faith

The series goes into great detail in its analysis

of religion and rituals, but avoids addressing current issues—such as pedophilia scandals that plague the Catholic Church worldwide. "I think that one of the things that we pride ourselves on is really shining a light on the goodness and well-being," said Lori McCreary, executive producer of the show with James Younger and Freeman. "And you know sometimes we talk about what's different in religion and what's what causes people to be separate. "But I also think that one of the points of this, especially with Morgan at the helm, is to bring people together."

And then if there is news about what is happening in the Catholic Church, that is being covered well by other media." "Well said," Freeman chimed in. And when asked about the role reli-

gion plays in many world conflicts and the growing influence it has on the government of Republican President Donald Trump, he argued that faith and politics should be kept separate. "You know one of the things we find in the series is that if you look at the big ideas of religion they overlap," Younger added. "Belief in the value of human life, of justice, and togetherness, and all of those things which overlap in its outlook. (Yet) looking at the small details of fate, you get assigned differences. And the more a country ... uses details" for a political agenda, the more people are divided. — AFP



In this file photo members of US band Jonas Brothers perform during the 54th Vina del Mar International Song Festival in Vina del Mar, Chile. — AFP

## Jonas Brothers reunite, will release first new music in years

The Jonas Brothers are getting the band back together—and will release their first single in six years, the heartthrob trio announced Thursday. "We're baaackkkkk..." the band tweeted. The Grammy-nominated boy band dropped their new song "Sucker" Friday at midnight, after splitting nearly six years ago, citing a "deep rift in the band." The brothers—Joe, 29, Kevin, 31, and Nick, 26 — teased their reunion in a "Carpool Karaoke" spot for The Late Late Show with James Corden.

"It's nice to be able to finally tell somebody," Nick said in a promo for the segment. "We've kept this a secret now for almost seven, eight months. This is basically our first performance back." "Sucker" will be the first release from the trio since June 2013's "First Time." Releasing their

first album in 2006, the brothers skyrocketed to global celebrity and found massive commercial success in part thanks to their appearances on the Disney Channel network. The brothers, who hail from New Jersey, were from a devout Christian family, and in the early stages of their careers their wholesome image included wearing purity rings that promote chastity until marriage. Following their band's break-up both Nick and Joe pursued other musical projects while Kevin appeared in reality television shows and founded a real estate company. In December 2018, Nick wed Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra in a lavish ceremony dubbed India's "wedding of the year." — AFP

## Bombshell film reignites Michael Jackson abuse firestorm

An unflinching new documentary on pedophilia accusations against Michael Jackson has shattered the glittering veneer around the late King of Pop, presenting in lurid detail the stories of two men who say he sexually abused them for years as minors. "Leaving Neverland," a four-hour film by British director Dan Reed, is considered so potentially devastating that counseling was made available at its Sundance Film Festival premiere in January. US cable network HBO will air it in two parts, starting Sunday.

Reed said he tried to include "sexual detail in a very measured way, so it wasn't done for shock value." "We tried to make it graphic enough to be eye-opening and for people to be confronted with what it means for a little child to be seduced and raped by an adult pedophile," Reed told AFP. "Of course it's shocking. It's a very serious crime. And it shouldn't be glossed over." "It's not the first public airing of abuse claims against Jackson but the release marks the scandal's first major explosion since his fatal overdose at age 50, almost 10 years ago."

The documentary centers on James Safechuck, 41, and Wade Robson, 36, who recount separate but consistent accounts of how their idol molested them as boys. Both describe the childlike Jackson wooing them: inviting them into his fairytale existence, gaining their families' trust and manipulating them into keeping their sexual relations secret. "You and I were brought together by God," Robson said Jackson told him.

Their mothers also offer narratives of seduction into the cult of Jackson—and the ensuing guilt that haunts them. Robson first met Jackson as a five-year-old after winning a dance competition. The megastar invited the boy to his Neverland Ranch, where Robson, by then seven, said the abuse began. He describes how their sexual relationship "escalated rapidly," with Jackson telling him: "This is us showing each other that we love each other." Safechuck, who said his abuse began at age 10, tells a similar tale, saying Jackson told him if anyone found out their lives "would be over."

## Decades of denial

Jackson's estate has vehemently defended the late star, suing HBO for \$100 million over a "posthumous character assassination" it says breaches an agreement made not to disparage the icon, a condition for airing one of his concerts. Jackson faced accusations in 1993 of sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy and settled out of court, with Robson and Safechuck saying at the time that Jackson hadn't touched them. In 2003 more accusations triggered a dramatic trial: that time, Safechuck kept a distance, but Robson testified for Jackson, who was acquitted.

Neither man reversed their stories until recently, after becoming fathers themselves.



In this file photo taken on August 31, 1993, US pop megastar Michael Jackson performs during his "Dangerous" tour in Singapore.

Both filed their own lawsuits that were dismissed over statutes of limitations. "You loved him in a lot of ways. And then you know Michael does these things to you that are not healthy," Safechuck said. "It's really hard to have those two feelings together. I still, today, am grappling with that."

## 'Prolific pedophile'

"Leaving Neverland" comes in the wake of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's downfall, and as R&B superstar R. Kelly faces a fresh legal reckoning for his own questionable history with underage girls. For pop culture scholar Robert Thompson of Syracuse University, the release in today's #MeToo context is key: Jackson's trial was relatively recent, but "in so many ways, consciousnesses have been raised." "A documentary this far out could completely change his legacy," Thompson said.

Reed said the timing of the film's release with #MeToo was unplanned but fortuitous. "The #MeToo movement has done a lot of ground-work," he said, because the normal response now is to listen to alleged victims, not "slime them." Jackson's sprawling California homestead is back on the market for \$31 million—some 70 percent less than the asking price four years ago, according to The Wall Street Journal. Diane Dimond, who covered the Jackson saga for years and has penned a book on it, said she expects more men will come forward. "He was a prolific pedophile, that did what he did right under our noses because he knew he was so adored that he could get away with it," she said.

## 'Ripples of impact'

But the fans, Dimond said, "will forever think that he was like Jesus." "Jackson somehow strikes a chord, even today, in the very soul of people," she added. Thompson agrees, saying there's little chance of erasing Jackson's artistic legacy, even if his reputation is tarnished. "In any sense of rational history, we cannot retroactively say that no, Michael Jackson didn't change the history of global pop—because he did change the history of global pop," Thompson said.

"The ripples of impact that he sent out were not ripples; they were tsunamis." For Safechuck, whose trembling hands in the film betray his struggle for calm, it's a statement that rings all too true. "They say time heals all wounds," Safechuck said. "But I don't think time heals this one. It just gets worse." — AFP



In this file photo taken on November 18, 2003, an aerial view of US pop star Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch located in Santa Ynez, just outside of Santa Barbara, California. — AFP photos

## Star Hollywood composer sets personal loss to music

Composer Alexandre Desplat has two Oscars under his belt and has been nominated for eight more for his scores for such films as "The Shape of Water," "The Queen" and "The King's Speech". But none of the music he has written for dozens of Hollywood movies from the Harry Potter films to "Girl with a Pearl Earring" comes from such a personal place as his latest work, which will get its French premiere this weekend. The story of "Silence", which is adapted from a short story by the Nobel prize-winning Japanese novelist Yasunari Kawabata about a paralysed writer who can no longer write or speak, mirrors that of his wife, the star violinist Solrey, whose concert career was ended by brain surgery.

A child prodigy, Solrey—whose real name is Dominique Lemonnier—lost the power in her left arm after the operation in

2010. Despite battling for five years to try to perform again, Solrey finally had to give up. "In spite of all the suffering and her extremely hard work with two fingers, Solrey decided three years ago to put her violin back in its case," Desplat, 57, told AFP in his hometown Paris. "However, it will be heard in the show with recorded improvisations," he said. — AFP



French composer Alexandre Desplat poses upon arrival at the 44th edition of the Cesar Film Awards ceremony at the Salle Pleyel in Paris. — AFP

## Celebrate Women on Screen with OSN this March

OSN, the region's leading entertainment network, is marking International Women's Day (March 8) and Mother's Day (March 21), with female-centric shows and movies throughout the month of March.

Celebrate International Women's Day with Comedy Central by watching fearless female stand-up comedians, and on Mother's Day, OSN Movies HD and OSN Yahala Cinema pay tribute to the women that raise us with a Mother's Day Marathon.

OSN will also premiere compelling women-centric documentaries, such as HBO's The Inventor: Out for Blood in Silicon Valley and must-watch new and returning series with women at the helm like The Fix and For The People.

Here is our top pick of women-centric shows to binge watch and movies to enjoy on OSN this month.

The full grid of March highlights including movie premieres, kids and family entertainment, factual,

lifestyle and comedy is enclosed.

## International Women's Day Special

Comedy Central is championing International Women's Day with a powerful line up of fierce female stand-up comedians including Natasha Leggero, Wanda Sykes, Rachel Feinstein and Nikki Glaser. Friday 8 March, from 10.30pm (KSA).

## Mother's Day Movies Special

The unique, rewarding and often challenging role of motherhood is praised with a back-to-back marathon of movies on Thursday 21 March on OSN Movies HD from 10am (KSA). Movies include the star-studded comedy Mother's Day, starring Jennifer Aniston, Kate Hudson and Julia Roberts. As well as the comedy films Mothers and Daughters and Snatched throughout the day. Over on OSN Yahala Cinema HD from 7pm (KSA), Arabic film fans can enjoy an evening of classic rom-coms, including Tamer Hosny's Ahwak and Kedbet Kol Youm starring Amro Yousif and Shereen Reda.

## Must-See Documentary

The Inventor: Out for Blood in Silicon Valley Academy Award winner Alex Gibney (Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room) directs a documentary investigating the rise and fall of Theranos, the one-time multibillion-dollar healthcare company founded by Elizabeth Holmes. In 2014, Theranos was valued at \$9 billion. Just two years later, Theranos was cited as a "massive fraud" by the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission (SEC), and its value was less than zero. Premieres Saturday 23 March, 8pm (KSA), on OSN First HD-Home of HBO.

New Show  
The Fix, season 1

Robin Tunney (The Mentalist, Monster Party) plays Maya an LA prosecutor who moves to Oregon after losing a high-profile murder case, but when the killer strikes again, she returns to seek justice under her own terms. Premieres Monday 25 March, 7pm (KSA), on OSN Series First HD.

Returning Series  
For The People, season 2

From the 'TV Titan' Shonda Rhimes, comes this legal drama set in New York Federal Court. Six young, up-

and-coming lawyers work for both the defense and the prosecution as they handle the highest profile and high stakes cases in the country - all as their personal lives intersect. Premieres Sunday 10 March, 9pm (KSA), on OSN Series First HD.

## Grown-ish, season 2

A spin-off from "Black-ish" the Johnson family's eldest daughter Zoey (Yara Shahidi) is taking her first steps into the real world as she heads off to college. "Grown-ish" explores the first trappings of adulthood and Zoey must navigate through the trials and tribulations of these momentous steps. Premieres Thursday 7 March, 8pm (KSA), on OSN Series Comedy HD.

OSN customers can also watch and catch up on their favourites anytime, anywhere and on any device with OSN Play.





# Canada launches extradition of top Huawei executive to US

OTTAWA: Canada on Friday launched the extradition of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou to the United States - the latest move in a case that has roiled relations between the North American neighbors and China. Beijing was quick to react, saying Ottawa's action amounted to a "severe political incident". The 47-year-old businesswoman was changing planes in Vancouver in December when she was detained at Washington's request on suspicion of violating US sanctions on Iran - sparking arrests of Canadians in China that were seen as retaliatory.

"Today, Department of Justice Canada officials issued an Authority to Proceed, formally commencing an extradition process in the case of Ms Meng Wanzhou," the government said in a statement. Meng, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder Ren Zhengfei, is due in court on March 6, when prosecutors will present the evidence against her and lay out detailed arguments for her extradition.

The decision, the statement said, followed a "thorough and diligent" review which found sufficient evidence to warrant putting the matter before a judge. At the end of the process - which could last months, or even years - Canada's attorney general will have the final say on whether or not to hand Meng over. Beijing yesterday voiced its "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to Canada, which obstinately moves forward the so-called judicial extradition process."

Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in a statement the US and Canada were "abusing their bilateral extradition treaty to apply arbitrary coercive measures against Chinese citizens, in violation of their rights and legitimate interests". "This is a severe political incident." China had "solemnly protested" to the Canadian authorities for Meng's release, and called on the US to drop its arrest warrant and extradition request. Lu added. Meng has been released on bail pending the outcome of the hearings.

China is furious over the US charges against Meng,

saying they are the product of "strong political motivations" and an attempt to undermine its flagship telecoms company. Huawei has strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

Nine days after Meng's arrest, Chinese authorities detained two Canadians - former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor - in what was widely seen as an act of retaliation. A third Canadian, meanwhile, had his sentence for drug trafficking upped from 15 years in prison to death row. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has insisted on a strict hands-off approach to the issue, with his justice department stressing on Friday that "Canada is a country governed by the rule of law."

Trudeau sacked his ambassador to China for undermining that position by saying Meng had a "strong" case against extradition, and later adding that it would be "great for Canada" if the US dropped the case. In January, the US announced 13 charges against Meng, Huawei and two affiliates. Officials separately filed 10 charges against two Huawei affiliates for allegedly stealing technology from T-Mobile.

Prosecutors say that between 2007 and 2017, Meng, Huawei and subsidiaries sought to mask their business with Iran in violation of US and UN sanctions on the Islamic republic. Meng in particular "repeatedly lied" to bankers about the relationships between the companies, especially with Skycom, a Huawei affiliate in Iran, according to the charges. That broke the law, justice officials in Washington said, because the Iran business involved US dollar transactions processed by banks through the United States.

Huawei and the affiliates lied to US authorities and obstructed the investigation, court documents say. The company is also accused of a concerted effort to steal technology related to a phone-testing robot dubbed Tappy from a T-Mobile USA lab in Washington state, and of rewarding staff for stealing competitors' technology secrets. — AFP



VANCOUVER: In this file photo taken on Dec 12, 2018, Meng Wanzhou (right), Chief Financial Officer of Huawei Technologies, answers the door for individuals carrying flowers after she was released on bail. — AFP

## Hamza bin Laden stripped of his...

Continued from Page 1

ranted in his thin voice against Americans, Jews and "Crusaders" in videos uploaded online.

On the eve of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Hamza was separated from his father, whom he was never to see again. The location of bin Laden, sometimes dubbed the "crown prince of jihad," has been the subject of speculation for years with

reports of him living in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria and Iran. He is believed to have spent years along with his mother in Iran, despite Al-Qaeda's strident denunciations of the Shiite branch of Islam that dominates the country.

Observers say that the clerical regime in Tehran kept him under house arrest as a way to maintain pressure on rival Saudi Arabia as well as on Al-Qaeda, dissuading the Sunni militants from attacking Iran. In 2015, bin Laden released an audio message urging jihadists in Syria to unite, claiming that the fight in the war-torn country would pave the way to "liberating Palestine". One of Hamza bin Laden's half-brothers told The Guardian last year that Hamza married the daughter of Mohammed Atta, the lead hijacker in the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. — AFP

evidence presented by Russia, Syria, and even British journalists that the Douma incident is no more than 'White Helmets' staged provocation, Technical Secretariat of OPCW states in today's report that chlorine was used in Douma as a chemical weapon," the Russian Embassy in The Hague tweeted.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt however said Syria should now honor its 2013 vow to destroy all its chemical weapons, made after 1,400 people were killed in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta in what the UN said was an attack using the nerve agent sarin. "Confirmed today by @OPCW - chemical weapons WERE used in Douma, Syria in April 2018. The Assad regime must cease, declare and destroy its chemical weapon programme. We remain committed to seeking justice for the victims," Hunt tweeted.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian echoed the comments, calling for "the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime to end and for the perpetrators of such acts to be punished". A team of OPCW inspectors took more than 100 samples from seven sites in Douma when they gained access to the town after being denied access for several weeks. The OPCW said it reached its conclusions based on "witnesses' testimonies, environmental and biomedical samples analysis results, toxicological and ballistic analyses from experts".

The report said "two yellow industrial cylinders dedicated for pressurized gas" were found, one of which had landed on top of the housing block and crashed through it. It said it was "possible that the cylinders were the source of the substances containing reactive chlorine." The OPCW said witnesses told the team there were "43 decedents related to the alleged chemical incident, most of whom were seen in videos and photos strewn on the floor of multiple levels of an apartment building and in front of the same building."

The videos "indicate exposure to an inhalational irritant or toxic substance" and show burns to the eyes and foaming from the mouth, although it could not directly link those to any specific substance. The watchdog also rejected claims by the Syrian regime that the gas came from an alleged rebel chemical weapons facility and storehouse in the area. "From the analysis of the information gathered during the on-site visits to the warehouse and facility suspected of producing chemical weapons, there was no indication of either facility being involved in their manufacture," it said.

The report will now go to the UN Security Council. The OPCW has been at the forefront of investigating chemical attacks during the eight-year Syrian civil war, with investigators previously confirming the use of "chlorine, sulphur mustard, and sarin as chemical weapons" in other incidents. But the watchdog is now riven by political divisions between Russia and the West, particularly over its new powers to attribute blame. A nerve agent attack on a Russian ex-spy in the English city of Salisbury in 2018, which the West blamed on Moscow, has further poisoned relations. — Agencies

## SpaceX capsule launched on...

Continued from Page 1

at around 1100 GMT, with a return to Earth scheduled for next Friday. It is to splash down in the Atlantic Ocean, and then return to Cape Canaveral.

The mission aims to test the vessel's reliability and safety in real-life conditions. Ripley - nicknamed in honor of the character played by Sigourney Weaver in the "Alien" movies - is fitted with monitors to test the forces that future astronauts will be subjected to on takeoff and when they return to the Earth's atmosphere and then land in the Atlantic, braked by giant parachutes. The mission's successful start provided some immediate reassurance.

At the press conference, Musk asked the two NASA astronauts slated to fly in Dragon: "You guys think it's a good vehicle?" They both nodded. "Seeing a success like this, that really gives us a lot of confidence in the future," said one of them, Bob Behnen. In another success, the rocket's first stage returned to Earth, landing on a platform 500 km off the Florida coast in the Atlantic. It marks the 35th such recovery by SpaceX.

"Today represents a new era in space flight" said Jim

Bridenstine, head of the US space agency who sees the launch as a step toward the privatization of low Earth orbit. "As a country, we're looking forward to being one customer of many customers, in a robust commercial marketplace in low Earth orbit, so that we can drive down costs and increase access in ways that historically have not been possible," he said.

After the shuttle program was shut down in July 2011 following a 30-year run, NASA began outsourcing the logistics of its space missions. It pays Russia to get its people up to the ISS orbiting research facility at a cost of \$82 million per head for a round trip. In 2014, the US space agency awarded contracts to SpaceX and Boeing for them to take over this task. But the program has suffered delays as safety requirements are much more stringent for manned flights than for unmanned missions to deploy satellites.

Boeing also received a contract in 2014 to develop a space vessel, the Starliner. It will not be tested until April, in a mission similar to SpaceX's. NASA did not want to rely on just one single vehicle, in case of accidents. For SpaceX, sending an astronaut into orbit would be a culmination of years of hard work and high-risk investment. In less than a decade, it has become a key partner for NASA, in addition to dominating the market for private satellite launches. Its Falcon 9 rockets have resupplied the space station 15 times in seven years, though one of them blew up in 2015. — AFP

## IS facing final defeat; chlorine...

Continued from Page 1

While IS fighters, who have been besieged for weeks in an ever-shrinking pocket, are vastly outgunned, their use of tunnels, booby-traps and suicide bombers is hampering the SDF advance. "We can't put a timeframe on this battle - two weeks, three weeks or a week - it will depend on the surprises we get along the way," Afrin said. "Those who have not surrendered by now will meet their fate there," he said.

Most of the more than 50,000 people who left the very last rump of the IS "caliphate" in recent weeks were women and children. Some of the evacuees, however, were suspected fighters either surrendering to the SDF or attempting to slip back into civilian life. The militants are cornered in a bend of the Euphrates, with Syrian government forces and their allies on the west bank of the Euphrates blocking any escape across the river and Iraqi government forces blocking any move downstream.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said seven IS fighters were shot dead by Syrian government forces and allied Iranian militiamen. Only a few dozen people were evacuated by the SDF on Friday in the smallest convoy in days, prompting the Kurdish-led force to close the humanitarian window and resume their offensive.

Meanwhile, the world's chemical weapons watchdog said Friday that chlorine was used against the rebel-held Syrian town of Douma in 2018, in a long-awaited final report on the deadly attack. The report by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was based on a visit by inspectors to the site of the attack which witnesses said killed 43 people. Western powers led by the United States blamed the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad for the incident and unleashed air strikes on military installations in response.

The Hague-based watchdog said two cylinders likely containing chlorine smashed into a housing block in the town. The OPCW report said that there were "reasonable grounds that the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon has taken place on 7 April 2018. This toxic chemical contained reactive chlorine." It said however that it found no evidence of the use of nerve agents in Douma, which had been previously alleged by some parties in the conflict.

The findings confirmed an interim OPCW report released last July saying that traces of chlorine were found. The report does not place blame because it was not in the OPCW's remit at the time, although the watchdog has since been given powers to investigate responsibility for all chemical attacks in Syria back to 2014.

Russia, which backs Assad, rejected the report and said the attack was "staged" by Syrian rescue volunteers known as the White Helmets. "In spite of all the

## 234 'best' private firms employed...

Continued from Page 1

jobs, Abdaly with 17 jobs, Omariya with five jobs and two jobs at Bayan and Jahra co-ops.

The report explained that oil and petrochemical companies provided 2,740 job opportunities, Ooredoo provided 888 job opportunities, Mohammed Hamoud Al-Shaya provided 789 job opportunities, Alghanim

## Pak, India step back from brink...

Continued from Page 1

In a bid to defuse the tensions, Adel Al-Jubeir, minister of state for foreign affairs for Saudi Arabia, a key Pakistan ally, was to arrive in Islamabad today, underlining global concern over the showdown. Saudi Arabia has offered to help to end the new hostilities. "He is visiting us and will also visit India. He is our friend and we have historical relations with them (Saudi Arabia)," Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told reporters.

Tensions escalated rapidly following a suicide car bombing on Feb 14 that killed at least 40 Indian paramilitary police in Indian-controlled Kashmir. India accused Pakistan of harboring the Jaish-e Mohammad group behind the attack, which Islamabad denied, and Modi promised a strong response.

Indian warplanes carried out air strikes on Tuesday inside Pakistan on what New Delhi called militant camps. Islamabad denied any such camps existed, as did local villagers in the area, but Pakistan retaliated on Wednesday with its own aerial mission, that led to both sides claiming to have shot down jets. The standoff came at a critical time for Modi, who faces a general election that must be held by May and who had been expected to benefit from nationalist pride unleashed by the standoff.

Pakistani leaders say the ball is now in India's court to de-escalate the tensions, though the Pakistani army chief told top military leaders of the United States, Britain and Australia on Friday that his country would

provided 2,124 job opportunities and Al-Sultan provided 1,205 job opportunities for citizens.

In addition, the report showed that the "best companies" also provided 65 job opportunities for citizens holding PhD degrees and 146 job opportunities for those holding master's degrees. Notably, 30 of these companies hired more citizens with two-year university degrees (13,185) followed by those with university degrees (10,042) and 767 with high school and two-year experience. Private heavy industries and construction companies provided 347 job opportunities for citizens, while general trading companies provided 982 job opportunities for Kuwaitis without experience and 1,035 for citizens with pre-intermediate certificates.

"surely respond to any aggression in self-defense". The Indian pilot's ordeal since being shot down on Wednesday had made him the focal point of the crisis and he returned to his homeland to a hero's welcome, with crowds thronging the Wagah border crossing and waving Indian flags.

Before his release, Pakistani television stations broadcast video of Abhinandan in which he thanked the Pakistani army for saving him from an angry crowd who chased him after seeing him parachute to safety. "The Pakistani army is a very professional service," he said. "I have spent time with the Pakistan army. I am very impressed."

Qureshi said the country had acted with prudence in releasing the pilot. "There was no pressure on Pakistan to release him nor any compulsion," he told BBC Urdu. "We wanted to convey to them that we do not want to increase your sorrow, we do not want to mistreat your citizens, we just want peace." Pakistan media praised the government for releasing the pilot, with lawyer Shahzaib Khan writing in the Express Tribune that Prime Minister Imran Khan had "done Pakistan proud by not engaging in chest thumping or war-mongering for political gain."

On Friday, four Indian troops and one civilian were killed in a clash with militants in the Indian-administered Kashmir, where a further three people were killed and one wounded from Pakistani shelling. Pakistan's military said two civilians were killed and two wounded since Friday afternoon on Pakistan's side of Kashmir from a barrage of Indian shelling. In a sign of the unease, residents say they are afraid another conflagration is likely. "The way situation is developing along the LoC makes me feel that both sides may collide head-on anytime now," said Chaudhry Jahangir, a Pakistani resident of the Samahni sector in Kashmir. — Agencies



Sports

# Chicago Bulls outlast Atlanta Hawks in fourth overtime thriller

## Balanced Clippers earn season sweep over Kings

**CHICAGO:** Lauri Markkanen was perfect on a three-shot foul in the fourth overtime to put Chicago ahead to stay and help the visiting Bulls earn a 168-161 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Friday in the third-highest-scoring game in NBA history. The Bulls set a franchise record for points, topping a 156-155, four-overtime win at Portland on March 16, 1984. Markkanen finished with 31 points, his 12th straight game with 20-plus points. He added 17 rebounds to secure his fifth straight double-double, a career best. Chicago's Zach LaVine scored a career-high 47 points and was 6-for-14 on 3-point attempts while adding nine rebounds and nine assists. Atlanta got a franchise-rookie-record 49 points from Trae Young, who was 17-for-33 from the floor with six 3-pointers, 16 assists and eight rebounds. Young became the first rookie since Earl Monroe in 1968 to produce a game with at least 49 points and 10 assists.



### Pelicans push past Suns while restricting Davis

**BUCKS 131, LAKERS 120**  
Eric Bledsoe converted a three-point play with 2:25 remaining to give Milwaukee the lead for good, and the visiting Bucks scored 15 of the game's final 17 points to defeat Los Angeles Lakers. Thanks to the victory, Milwaukee became the first NBA team to clinch a playoff berth this season. Bledsoe finished with 31 points, and Giannis Antetokounmpo chipped in with 16 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks, who won their seventh straight. LeBron James had 31 points and 10 assists for the Lakers, who have followed each of their past six wins with a loss. In a fourth quarter that featured seven lead changes and six ties, James gave the Lakers their last advantage at 118-116 by sinking a 3-pointer with 3:11 left, but the Bucks dominated the rest of the game.

**PELICANS 130, SUNS 116**  
Julius Randle, Jrue Holiday and E'Twaun Moore each hit or eclipsed the 20-point mark as visiting New Orleans defeated Phoenix. Randle finished with 22 points. Holiday had 21. Moore came off the bench to add 20, and Cheick Diallo had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans. New Orleans continued to restrict the minutes for All-Star forward Anthony Davis (17 points in 21 minutes) in the wake of his recent trade demand. Devin Booker scored 26. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 19, and Deandre Ayton had 16 for the Suns, who missed an opportunity to win consecutive games for the first time since a four-game winning streak in mid-December.

**RAPTORS 119, TRAIL BLAZERS 117**  
Kawhi Leonard made the winning jump shot in the final seconds to finish with 38 points as Toronto defeated visiting Portland. Marc Gasol added 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists as Toronto ended Portland's season-high, five-game winning streak. The Raptors have won nine of 10 games. Kyle Lowry had 19 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for Toronto. CJ McCollum led Portland with 35 points while Damian Lillard had 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

**CLIPPERS 116, KINGS 109**  
Rookie Landry Shamet had 20 points and Danilo Gallinari added 19 as visiting Los Angeles withstood a physical game between playoff contenders in beating Sacramento. Lou Williams scored 17 points as the Clippers solidified their hold on a playoff spot in the Western Conference with five weeks remaining in the regular season. Buddy Hield scored 23 points despite 6-for-19 shooting, and Willie Cauley-Stein added 16 points and 12 rebounds for Sacramento.

**CELTICS 107, WIZARDS 96**  
Al Horford led seven Celtics in double figures with 18 points, and host Boston snapped a four-game losing streak by defeating Washington. Kyrie Irving had 13 points and 12 assists for the Celtics, who picked up their first win since the All-Star break. Marcus Morris had 17 points, and Marcus Smart added 16. Bradley Beal led the Wizards with 29 points and 11 rebounds. Jeff Green and Tomas Satoransky added 15 points each for Washington.

**HORNETS 123, NETS 112**  
Kemba Walker scored 25 points, and Charlotte took control in the second quarter while recording a victory over Brooklyn on New York as the teams split their four-game season series. Walker led seven Hornets in double figures. Charlotte won for just the third time in the past 10 games and moved a half-game ahead of idle Orlando into eighth place in the Eastern Conference. D'Angelo Russell scored 22 points and handed out nine assists, but the Nets lost for the ninth time in 14 games and the fifth time in their past eight. Russell shot 9 of 24 and missed 6 of 7 3-point attempts.—Reuters



ATLANTA: Vince Carter #15 of the Atlanta Hawks shoots three point basket against the Chicago Bulls on Friday at State Farm Arena in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

### NBA results/standings

Toronto 119, Portland 117; Boston 107, Washington 96; LA Lakers 120, Milwaukee 131; Atlanta 161, Chicago 168 (OT); Brooklyn 112, Charlotte 123; Sacramento 109, LA Clippers 116; Phoenix 116, New Orleans 130.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference					
W	L	PCT	GB						
Milwaukee	48	14	0.774	-	Golden State	43	19	0.694	-
Toronto	46	17	0.730	2.5	Denver	42	19	0.689	0.5
Indiana	41	22	0.651	7.5	Oklahoma City	38	23	0.623	4.5
Philadelphia	40	22	0.645	8	Portland	38	24	0.613	5
Boston	38	25	0.603	10.5	Houston	37	25	0.597	6
Brooklyn	32	32	0.500	17	Utah	35	26	0.574	7.5
Detroit	29	31	0.483	18	LA Clippers	35	29	0.547	9
Charlotte	29	33	0.468	19	San Antonio	34	29	0.540	9.5
Orlando	29	34	0.460	19.5	Sacramento	31	31	0.500	12
Miami	27	34	0.443	20.5	LA Lakers	30	32	0.484	13
Washington	25	37	0.403	23	Minnesota	29	33	0.468	14
Atlanta	21	42	0.333	27.5	Dallas	27	34	0.443	15.5
Chicago	18	45	0.286	30.5	New Orleans	28	36	0.438	16
Cleveland	15	47	0.242	33	Memphis	24	39	0.381	19.5
New York	13	49	0.210	35	Phoenix	12	51	0.190	31.5

## Paris wins Kvitfjell World Cup downhill

**STOCKHOLM:** Dominik Paris won the men's World Cup in Kvitfjell yesterday for his fourth victory of the season. The Italian did not lead at any of the intermediate time checks, but surged across the lower part of the course to finish in 1 minute 45.74 seconds and edge Swiss skier Beat Feuz, the leader in the downhill standings, by 0.25sec and Austrian Matthias Mayer by 0.37sec.

Paris had already won the prestigious downhills at Bormio and Kitzbuehel this season as well as the super-G at Bormio in his native Dolomites. He also won the super-G at the World Championships in Are, Sweden.

The downhill world champion, Norwegian Kjetil Jansrud was only eighth, more than a second down. Results and standings after men's World Cup downhill at Kvitfjell yesterday:

1. Dominik Paris (ITA) 1:45.74
2. Beat Feuz (SUI) +0.25
3. Matthias Mayer (AUT) +0.37
4. Mauro Caviezel (SUI) +0.62
5. Vincent Kriechmayr (AUT) +0.64
6. Otmar Striedinger (AUT) +0.94
7. Steven Nyman (USA) +0.96
8. Kjetil Jansrud (NOR) +1.04
9. Jared Goldberg (USA) +1.25
10. Johan Clarey (FRA) +1.30

### Overall men's World Cup standings (after 31 of 38 races)

1. Marcel Hirscher (AUT) 1,408pts.
2. Alexis Pinturault (FRA) 918.
3. Henrik Kristoffersen (NOR) 808.
4. Dominik Paris (ITA) 650.
5. Beat Feuz (SUI) 593.
6. Vincent Kriechmayr (AUT) 584.
7. Marco Schwarz (AUT) 560.
8. Aleksander Aamodt Kilde (NOR) 547.
9. Daniel Yule (SUI) 530.
10. Daniel Yule (SUI) 446

### World Cup downhill standing (8 of 9 races)

1. Beat Feuz (SUI) 500pts.
2. Dominik Paris (ITA) 420.
3. Vincent Kriechmayr (AUT) 294.
4. Christof Innerhofer (ITA) 276.
5. Aleksander Aamodt Kilde (NOR) 252.
6. Bryce Bennet (USA) 236.
7. Mauro Caviezel (SUI) 232.
8. Max Franz (AUT) 222.
9. Johan Clarey (FRA) 214.
10. Aksel Lund Svindal (NOR) 200. — AFP



KVITFJELL: (L-R) Second placed Switzerland's Beat Feuz, first placed Italy's Dominik Paris and third placed Austria's Matthias Mayer celebrate on the podium after the downhill race in the FIS Ski World cup yesterday in Kvitfjell. — AFP

## Sunwolves score historic victory as Crusaders extend win streak

**HAMILTON:** The Sunwolves pulled off the biggest upset of their brief Super Rugby life with an historic 30-15 victory over the Waikato Chiefs yesterday as the dominant Canterbury Crusaders continued their relentless unbeaten march. It is the first time the Tokyo-based unit have won an away game and it left the 2012-2013 champions embarrassed as they remain winless after three rounds. In Brisbane, the defending champion Crusaders powered to their 18th consecutive victory with a hard-fought 22-12 win over the Queensland Reds despite All Blacks Kieran Read, Sam Whitlock, Ryan CroTTY and Codie Taylor being rested.

A year ago, the Chiefs thrashed the Sunwolves 61-10 as the Japanese side went through their first three seasons of Super Rugby with a woeful record and their future in the competition in doubt. But they showed signs of progress when they went within a point of upsetting the NSW

Waratahs last weekend, and against the Chiefs they stepped up another gear. They led 23-3 at half-time and held on as the Chiefs tried to rally.

Sunwolves flyhalf Hayden Parker, who converted all three tries and added three penalties, described the victory as "awesome" and a confidence booster. "It was really nice to score some good tries in the first half. The second half was pretty ugly and it felt like the game went on forever but the boys hung in and I'm proud of the way we stuck it out to the end," he said.

Chiefs scrum-half Brad Weber said his side could not expect to win making so many errors. "But you have to take your hat off to the Sunwolves," he said. "Their speed of ball and the way they were able to break tackles was pretty special and we have to take a hard look at ourselves because it was pretty embarrassing." Flanker Shuhei Matsuhashi and lock Uwe Helu scored tries as the Sunwolves dominated the first half. The Chiefs' sole points in the opening stanza came from a Damian McKenzie penalty. He also set up their first try at the start of the second half with a chip kick for Alex Nankivell to run on to.

But despite dominating possession and territory they could not sustain the pressure and weak defence saw Gerhard van den Heever score a third try for the Sunwolves before Etene Nanai-Seturo added a late one for the Chiefs. In Brisbane, the Crusaders were a class above the Reds, who have now lost all seven games against the New Zealand powerhouse since they beat them in the



HAMILTON: Chiefs' Michael Allardice offloads the ball in a tackle during the Super Rugby match between New Zealand's Chiefs and Japan's Sunwolves at the FMG Stadium in Hamilton yesterday. — AFP

2011 final. "Defensively we were pretty good and we scrambled well and were able to force some turnovers from the pressure," said Crusaders skipper Matt Todd, whose side has won eight in a row away from home.

"It's tough play to come over here and get the win. It was a step up from last week and we're building nicely." Reds captain Samu Kerevi admitted the Crusaders deserved the win, saying: "We just didn't finish our plays and hold onto the ball." —AFP

## NZ unbeaten on opening day of Vegas Sevens

**LOS ANGELES:** New Zealand, aiming to separate themselves from the United States atop the World Rugby Sevens Series standings, swept to two victories Friday on the opening day of the Las Vegas Sevens.

New Zealand are safely through to the Cup quarter-finals with one game remaining in pool play thanks to victories over Samoa and Canada. Neither Canada nor Spain can match New Zealand's two wins after battling to a 12-12 draw, but either could still snatch second in the group from Samoa.

Regan Ware's two converted tries within 30 seconds helped the Kiwis to 33-0 victory over Samoa. Sione Molia added a third before the break and Kurt Baker and Molia extended the final score. Leading Canada just 14-12 at halftime, New Zealand had two tries from Tim Mikkelsen and one from Jona Nareki for a 33-19 victory.

"Feels pretty good," said Kiwi captain Mikkelsen. "We started really well with Samoa and played a really good Canada team that likes to hold onto the ball—they pushed us there and we really had to have good defense."

Australia, Fiji, Argentina and England also made it two from two on Friday, but the United States, level with New Zealand atop the series standings with 76 points, were upset 26-24 by Argentina—who seized the win with a late try and conversion after the siren sounded.

Argentina also edged France 17-15. Australia booked a quarter-final berth with a convincing 26-0 win over Wales and a 24-12 victory over Scotland. The Aussies will play Fiji in their final pool match on Saturday with top spot up for grabs after Fiji beat Scotland 36-12 and Wales 33-14.

England emerged from day one unbeaten, thumping Chile 22-0 and beating Japan 31-12. South Africa started off strong with a 26-0 victory over Japan, but were held to a stunning 5-5 draw by Chile.

The remaining pool matches and Cup quarter-finals are scheduled for yesterday with the semi-finals and final today.

The Vegas event is the fifth round of the 10-tournament series. The Americans are seeking a first victory after four runner-up finishes, most recently their loss to New Zealand in the Sydney Sevens final. — AFP



Sports

# Kane and Lloris rescue point for Spurs against Arsenal

## Arsenal's Lucas Torreira red-carded in stoppage time

**TOTTENHAM:** Hugo Lloris saved Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang 90th-minute penalty as a below-par Tottenham Hotspur salvaged what could be a crucial 1-1 draw in a scrappy north London derby against Arsenal yesterday.

Tottenham had trailed to Aaron Ramsey's 16th-minute goal and were offering little as a third consecutive Premier League defeat loomed in the early kickoff at Wembley.

Harry Kane equalised from the penalty spot in the 74th minute to the relief of the home fans but when Davinson Sanchez conceded a penalty in the 90th minute it appeared Arsenal were about to move one-point behind their arch-rivals.

Aubameyang, who had tumbled easily under a clumsy Sanchez challenge, struck his kick weakly and Lloris, at fault for both goals in Tottenham's 2-0 defeat by Chelsea in mid-week, plunged down to his right to make a vital save.

A niggly second-half ended with Arsenal's other substitute Lucas Torreira being red-carded for a high tackle on Danny Rose. Third-placed Tottenham had not drawn any of their previous 28 Premier League games and will be hugely relieved to have ended that remarkable sequence and keep a four-point gap between themselves and Arsenal in fourth place.

Arsenal, and especially Aubameyang, will be kicking

themselves and could lose fourth spot to Manchester United if they beat struggling Southampton later on Saturday.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino, celebrating his 47th birthday, had never lost a home league clash against Arsenal, but his side were always playing catch-up after Juventus-bound Ramsey, playing for the last time in the fixture, calmly put his side ahead in the 16th minute.

Sanchez made a hash of dealing with a long ball on the halfway line and Alexandre Lacazette released Ramsey into acres of space before the Welshman advanced on goal and took the ball around Lloris to slide home.

Kane had a header ruled out for offside and Arsenal keeper Bernd Leno made a remarkable double-save just before the interval, blocking Christian Eriksen's close-range volley with his legs, then palming away Moussa

Sissoko's follow-up.

Lacazette should have doubled Arsenal's lead in the second half when he sliced wide but Tottenham struggled to make much headway and Erik Lamela's left-footer just wide was about the closest they came to equalising.

Kane was then adjudged to have been pushed by Shkodran Mustafi in the area and referee Anthony



**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur's Spanish striker Fernando Llorente (L) vies with Arsenal's French defender Laurent Koscielny during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal at Wembley Stadium in London, yesterday. — AFP

Taylor pointed to the spot. The England captain drilled his penalty low into the corner.

Tottenham might have been expected to go on and

win the game but it was Arsenal who finished strongly and will be left to rue not securing a huge win in the battle for a top-four finish. — Reuters



### Pochettino celebrates his 47th birthday

## United ticket campaign drops Solksjaer hint

**MANCHESTER:** Ole Gunnar Solksjaer is spearheading a Manchester United promotional campaign to market tickets for the 2019-20 season, another hint the Norwegian is winning the battle to be appointed manager on a permanent basis. Solksjaer filmed the season ticket sale videos last week before impressive performances against Liverpool and Crystal Palace extended United's record to 14 domestic games without defeat since he arrived as interim boss in December. United supporters have certainly made their opinions known about their preference for their club's former striker to be appointed Jose Mourinho's successor on a permanent basis. Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino was the original bookmakers' favourite to take charge at the end of this season.

But there is a growing body of circumstantial evidence that suggests Solksjaer is edging ever closer to being appointed, such as his involvement in player personnel decisions that United will make this summer.

Solksjaer, who temporarily left his job as Molde manager to join United, being placed front and centre of the Old Trafford club's marketing and promotional material will certainly add fuel to the theory that he has all but won the fight for the permanent position.

"Everyone knows you'd like to stay, of course, but that's not decided until the end of the season," Solksjaer said. "I've done a photo shoot or a video shoot on season tickets so I'm pleading for them to get their season tickets."

"If it's me as a supporter or manager I don't know but they should still buy their season tickets because the club is going somewhere. That's just part of being here, the commercial. Part of being a player here as well. Suddenly you're not here anymore and you see your picture. That's how it is. "It'll be stranger to see yourself in the video if you're not here but no it's not strange doing it. "If my kids



**MANCHESTER:** File photo shows Manchester United's Norwegian caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solksjaer (L) shakes hands with Manchester United's English midfielder Scott McTominay (R) after the final whistle of the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Liverpool in Manchester, north west England, on February 24, 2019. — AFP

see a commercial with me in it and I'm back home in Norway, that'll be strange, probably." Solksjaer's PR value to the United hierarchy is obvious, given his standing at the club and his current success. But Solksjaer, a failure in his only other English management role with Cardiff, has clearly been heavily involved in advanced planning.

"Yes I have. We've been discussing the future of the club," he said. "We did that before I had won two or three games and all this talk about if I should stay or not. My contract is up in the summer but I still, as I've always done for Man United, give my 100 per cent and my best."

"You have to plan. Even if I'm not here, I still give my view on who I would like to see as a supporter." United's resurgence has thrust them into what appears a four-horse race for the two places that will be left for next season's

Champions League, along with Manchester City and Liverpool. And Solksjaer has urged his players to rise to the challenges offered by a stage of the season that once inspired former United boss Alex Ferguson to utter one of his most memorable quotes.

"Squeaky bum time," joked Solksjaer, quoting his mentor. "But I'm not a nervous guy. I need to relax, I need to enjoy it. I think my players see as well that I do enjoy this. "This is the best time of their lives playing here. These are the times Man Utd players step up, when the going gets tough. "You sign up for challenges, you sign up to rise to those challenges when you're at Man United. We've got Arsenal coming up, PSG away coming up, big games. "These are the periods and times that make them stay in the history of the club." —AFP

## Nick Kyrgios to face Zverev in Acapulco final

**ACAPULCO:** Nick Kyrgios continued his scintillating run at the Mexico Open on Friday, downing third-seeded John Isner in three sets to book a title showdown with world number three Alexander Zverev. Australia's Kyrgios, the former world number 13 who has slipped to 72nd in the rankings, defeated Isner 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (9/7), following victories over 17-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal and three-time Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka.

Kyrgios, 23, reached his first ATP final since capturing his fourth trophy in Brisbane in January 2018. Second-seeded German Zverev powered into his first final of the year with a 7-6 (7/0), 6-3 victory over Britain's Cameron Norrie. Two nights after he saved three match points in a final-set tiebreaker against Nadal, Kyrgios converted his third match point with a drop shot from the baseline, sealing the win after two hours and 21 minutes.

He broke Isner in the penultimate game of the opening set, and Isner returned the favor late in the second. Neither mustered a break point in the third. "I was just trying to take care of my serve, that's really all you can do against John," said Kyrgios, who had the edge on Isner in aces with 25 to the big-serving American's 24.

The unpredictable Australian, who seemed rattled at times by hostile fans in his victories over Nadal and Wawrinka, played happily to the crowd on Friday. "It's insane," he said. "One point they were cheering my name, another point they were booing me. It's just entertainment."

Zverev, 21, is playing just his second tournament of the year after crashing out of the fourth round of the



**ACAPULCO:** Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios returns the ball to US tennis player John Isner during their Mexico ATP 500 Open men's single tennis semifinal match in Acapulco, Guerrero state, Mexico on Friday. — AFP

Australian Open. He hasn't dropped a set all week, and was convincing against the 64th-ranked Norrie.

Unable to serve out the first set, Zverev raced through the tiebreaker and quickly seized a 3-0 lead in the second set, relying on a strong baseline game and 10 aces. "It was very tough. It was pretty windy out here, not easy conditions, and his game actually I think fits the wind quite well, so it was not easy," Zverev said. "I'm just happy to be through."

In women's semi-final action, China's Wang Yafan ousted third-seeded Croatian Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 to reach her first WTA Tour final. She'll face fifth-

seeded American Sofia Kenin, who defeated Canadian Bianca Andreescu 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

After dropping the first set Wang — 24 and ranked 65th in the world-squeaked through in a second set that featured just one hold of serve. Although 28th-ranked Vekic converted all six of her break points against Wang, 39 unforced errors ultimately proved too much to overcome and Wang didn't face a break point in the final set.

Kenin will be looking for her second title of 2019, having broken through for her first WTA crown at Hobart in January. — AFP

Matches on TV	
(Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>	
Watford v Leicester City	15:00
beIN SPORTS	
Fulham FC v Chelsea FC	17:05
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Everton FC v Liverpool	19:15
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>	
SD Eibar v Celta de Vigo	14:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Real Betis v Getafe CF	18:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Real Sociedad v Atletico de Madrid	20:30
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Valencia C.F v Athletic de Bilbao	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>	
Torino FC v AC Chievo Verona	14:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Udinese Calcio v Bologna FC	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Genoa CFC v Prosinone Calcio	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 13 EN	
Spal v UC Sampdoria	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
Atalanta v ACF Fiorentina	20:00
beIN SPORTS HD 13 EN	
SSC Napoli v Juventus FC	22:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	

## Liverpool's title surge powered by unexpected source

**LIVERPOOL:** Jurgen Klopp has seen Liverpool's title ambitions given a major boost from the most unlikely source ahead of today's eagerly-awaited Merseyside derby at Everton. The Premier League leaders were under pressure in Wednesday's home meeting with Watford following an exhilarating run of form from their closest rivals Manchester City.

But a Liverpool side looking for their first league title in 29 years came through that test with flying colours, recording a thumping 5-0 victory that kept them one point clear of second-placed Manchester City.

However, while Liverpool's attacking trio of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino have grabbed so many headlines over the past two seasons, it was Klopp's full-backs who took star billing in that win.

Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson provided the assists for all five goals on a raucous Anfield evening, the former actually recording a hat-trick of assists with two crosses for Mane goals and a free-kick that was headed in by Virgil van Dijk. That was an indication not only of the excellent seasons being put in by both but also the evolution of Liverpool's play and the game in general. "It's important. That's modern football," Klopp said. "If you ask a young boy 'what's your favourite position?' I don't think a lot of boys will say 'I want to be a full-back!'"

"But football changed. They became much more important. I was a full-back myself for a decent part of my career, it looked completely different to what the boys are doing. "But at least I know the things to do; you have to be really strong defensively, but on the other side a lot of teams clear the wings for the full backs offensively."

"You have to be able to be open-minded enough and clear enough to see some people in the box with the same shirt. That helps a lot. "In that game it was exceptional. I don't think I was ever part of a game where somebody had a hat-trick of assists. It was special."

"Trent wanted the match ball, so he got it! It was really cool. Now let's try to do something like that again." Scotland international Robertson has been a particular revelation in Klopp's defence this season, at both ends of the field. For so long, an unheralded hero among Liverpool's galaxy of big-name stars, the unassuming defender is finally receiving the plaudits his play and attitude deserve. His link-up play on Wednesday with Divock Origi, in for the injured Firmino, was a key element in the resounding win. Firmino remains an injury doubt for the short trip to Goodison Park, although Origi would hardly be a bad option given his role in Liverpool's previous meeting with their local rivals.—AFP

**25** Paris wins Kvittfjell  
World Cup downhill



**26** Jadhav and Dhoni put India  
1-0 up against Australia



**27** Kane and Lloris rescue point  
for Spurs against Arsenal



## Man United rally to beat Southampton

Mahrez strikes as City beat Bournemouth to go top



**BOURNEMOUTH:** Bournemouth's Welsh defender Chris Mepham (L) and Bournemouth's English defender Adam Smith (R) vie with Manchester City's Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Manchester City at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England yesterday. — AFP

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku continued his rich vein of form by scoring two goals, including a late winner, to give his side a comeback 3-2 home win over Southampton in the Premier League yesterday.

It took the Belgian's tally to four goals in two games after he netted a brace in Wednesday's 3-1 win at Crystal Palace, with playmaker Andreas Pereira grabbing the other for the hosts in a rip-roaring clash at Old Trafford.

Southampton took the lead against the run of play in the 26th minute when 20-year-old French wing-back Yan Valeric unleashed a thunderbolt from 25 metres which beat United's stunned keeper David De Gea at the near post.

Having missed a host of first-half chances, the home side equalised in the 53rd minute as the lively Pereira teed himself up for a long-range shot and curled it brilliantly past Saints keeper Angus Gunn.

Six minutes later, Pereira released Lukaku with fine footwork and the striker side-stepped a defender before he drilled a low shot with his weaker right foot into the bottom left corner of the net. James Ward-Prowse appeared to have snatched a point for the Saints with a stunning free kick from 25 metres before Lukaku powered in another right-foot shot in the 89th minute and Paul Pogba missed a stoppage-time penalty for United who climbed to fourth in the table, one point ahead of Arsenal.

Meanwhile, substitute Riyad Mahrez scored the only goal as Manchester City beat Bournemouth 1-0 at the Vitality Stadium yesterday to return to the top of the Premier League. The home side showed champions City plenty of respect in the opening 45 minutes, defending deep and forcing their opponents to probe patiently for openings, and they conceded little in the way of goal-scoring chances.

City manager Pep Guardiola was forced to replace the injured Kevin De Bruyne with Mahrez at halftime,

and he was quickly followed by defender John Stones, who was substituted early in the second half with a thigh problem.

The visitors continued to probe and their patience finally paid off when David Silva teed up Mahrez, who lashed home a shot with his right foot to break the deadlock 10 minutes into the second half. Bournemouth were unable to raise their game and goalkeeper Artur Boruc pulled off a number of fine saves. He was quick off his line to thwart a breakaway attempt by Raheem Sterling and Aguero clipped the underside of the crossbar before Boruc beat away a close-range header from

Mahrez. The win put City top on 71 points, two ahead of Liverpool who face Everton in the Merseyside derby on Sunday. Bournemouth, who have lost four of their last five, remained 12th on 34 points. Crystal Palace moved further away from the Premier League relegation zone with a 3-1 win at fellow strugglers Burnley yesterday thanks to second half goals from Michy Batshuayi and Wilfried Zaha.

Palace took the lead in the 15th minute when Jeffrey Schlupp's pull-back struck Burnley defender Phil Bardsley and ricocheted into his own goal. Burnley dominated the rest of the opening half with Chris

Wood forcing a fine reflex save out of Wayne Hennessey with a fierce shot and the Clarets peppering the Palace box with crosses from deep. But three minutes after the re-start, Palace struck again when full-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka's pass was blasted home, first-time, by Batshuayi. The game was wrapped up in outstanding fashion by Zaha who tormented the Burnley defence, twisting inside and out, before firing a low shot past Tom Heaton. An Ashley Barnes header gave Burnley a late consolation and although substitute Peter Crouch went close to a second, Palace's lead was never in real danger. —Reuters

### Federer wins 100th title

**DUBAI:** Roger Federer wrote another "special" page of history as he defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 yesterday at the Dubai Championships to win the 100th title of his career. The 20-time Grand Slam winner claimed a record eighth trophy at the Aviation Club. The Swiss second seed was untouchable throughout much of the 69-minute final as he gained revenge for his fourth-round Australian Open defeat by the 11th-ranked Greek youngster. "It's so special to win my eighth here combined with 100," Federer said. "I had tough opponents all the way through-right up to Stefanos today. He's already having a great career, the game is in good

hands." Federer joins Jimmy Connors (109) as the only other man to have won 100 titles. His 99th trophy came last October at his home event in Basel.

He missed out on his century at the Paris Masters, the ATP Finals and the Australian Open. Federer had to work hard this week, winning in three sets over Philipp Kohlschreiber and Fernando Verdasco.

Tsitsipas saw the end of an eight-match winning streak as he arrived in the Gulf with the Marseille title from last weekend. Federer broke in the opening game of the final, but had to battle to claim the opening set. Tsitsipas saved three set points in the final game before Federer—who faced two break points—finished off the set as Tsitsipas returned wide.

In the second, a break in the penultimate game for 5-4 and a service hold a game later were enough as Tsitsipas put a forehand into the net. — AFP



**DUBAI:** Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates with the trophy after winning the final match at the ATP Dubai Tennis Championship in the Gulf emirate of Dubai yesterday. Federer won his 100th career title when he defeated Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Dubai Championship. — AFP