

# Friday Times

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## Local

## Children and smartphone addiction



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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If you are a parent of a teenager, then you better read this story. It seems that the attachment of children and teenagers to their smartphones has become an addiction, like that to drugs. Depriving a child from their device for any reason may lead to anger and acts of craziness that could be deadly and dangerous.

US authorities arrested a 12-year-old girl in Colorado, who was accused of trying to kill her mother twice by poisoning her with a chemical material that is used in bleaching textiles, because she took away her iPhone. The Boulder County police chief said in a press release that the mother ingested the chemical in one of the two attempts, but luckily survived and was sent to hospital for treatment.

I think the issue is not merely about depriving a child from a phone or game, but it is often noticed that parents themselves encourage their children from a very young age to use mobile devices to watch cartoons to keep quiet and not cause any commotion or inconvenience for the adults.

So it becomes normal for the child to turn to that device to be their all-day friend, and any attempt to deprive the child of this close companion for any reason - good or bad - may lead to anger or madness, and they may commit a crime without knowing the seriousness of what they do or possibly hurt and harm themselves. The police said the girl was arrested and taken to a juvenile detention facility, pending charges.

I think what happened to this family is a crime of violence without doubt, but we have to wonder who is responsible for this drama. It can be the easiest thing to placate a crying or noisy baby, because all you need is to take a smartphone, find a game or cartoon, and put it in the child's hands, and the kid will be quiet and still as if they have been muted. How many of us think that there might be a mental health issue behind this act? What could happen if I dared after many years to separate my child from his old and close friend?

Sky News published a report last year titled 'How to protect your child from mobile addiction'. It was reported that in Seattle, a number of children under the age of 13 and addicted to their mobile phone turned their phones into a virtual world. Experts warn of excessive use of mobile devices by children for organic diseases, such as obesity, distraction and poor concentration.

In Kuwait too, cases of violence between children and their families have increased significantly. Hence the children's rights law was issued to protect children from possible abuse. At the same time, Kuwait's general prosecution called for the death penalty for child killers. This request came after the killing of five-year-old Fatima by her mother and her lover. The girl was brutally tortured and killed in Aug 2017. A year ago, we saw a teenage girl beating her father over some trivial reason. Such crimes mean that there is a real problem between children and their families, whether it is about a phone or something else.

It is strange that some are demanding phone companies to control the sites that children can access through the Internet, but they ignore the fact that there is parental responsibility too. Parents have the ability to control the usage of smartphones of their kids, because children aren't buying smartphones on their own. It is necessary to take into account the warnings of children's addiction to smartphones. Keeping a child silent for a long time does not mean that everything is alright. Parents need to communicate with their children, because you don't know what this virtual friend whispers to them.

### PHOTO OF THE DAY



The demolition of the old Kuwait Airways building has resumed in Kuwait City. Demolition was halted after a June 2015 accident where an excavator fell several floors, killing the operator. — Photo by Kuwait Times

## It's not the US. It's us.



IN MY VIEW

By Nejouad Al-Yagout

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America has been a scapegoat for eons. Whenever anything happens, we blame it on Americans: The government, the food industry, the pharmaceutical industry and the arms industry. Everything originates in America, we insist. But we forget that America is made up of citizens from all over the globe and from all the continents (except maybe Antarctica). So, perhaps, America is merely a microcosm of our entire humanity; and so whatever we see is always on a grander scale in America.

Today, an American is originally a European, an African, a Latin American, a Native American, an Italian, an Arab, an Indian, a Chinese or an Asian. And when you have so many nationalities and continents representing one nation, it's bound to be great at everything - even great at conflicts!

In essence, when we go to war with America, we are at war with ourselves; and when America goes to war with the rest of the world, it is at war with itself. We forget, though, that on a more positive note, all humanitarian movements are also fought on a grander scale in America - the civil rights movement, women's rights, gay marriage and racial equality.

Even today, America is uncovering sex scandals and exposing the detrimental effects of a patriarchy that is losing its grip. This is something to be celebrated, as it is a signpost for all countries to address sexual harassment,

discrimination and the exploitation of women. This may look like America is crumbling, but this is actually a step forward. We will see the magic eventually. The tree of authenticity always bears sweet fruits. And whichever way America goes, the world gets affected somehow.

And this is why we all watch America closely. Though we ridicule Americans, we still emulate what they wear, we emulate the American dialect and we love American movies and TV shows. And as with all love affairs, the flipside of the coin, unfortunately, is hate. And everyone loves to hate America. It's so easy to have someone to blame, isn't it?

If we could look beyond our love and hate of America, we will see that - like any other country in the world - it is made up of individuals. And individuals regardless of citizenship are both racist and inclusive, aggressive and kind, belligerent and peaceful.

Still, when we blame America for the problems of the world, we are one step closer to self-reflection. And we are one step closer to realizing that anything that happens is the fault of humanity, collectively. Let's look a little more closely as to who is really to blame for the chaos on the planet - us, yes us and not the US. Wherever we go, we take our mess with us. Yet, as long as there is hope, there is a possibility for transformation. We have hope for America, because we have hope for ourselves!



Kuwait Times



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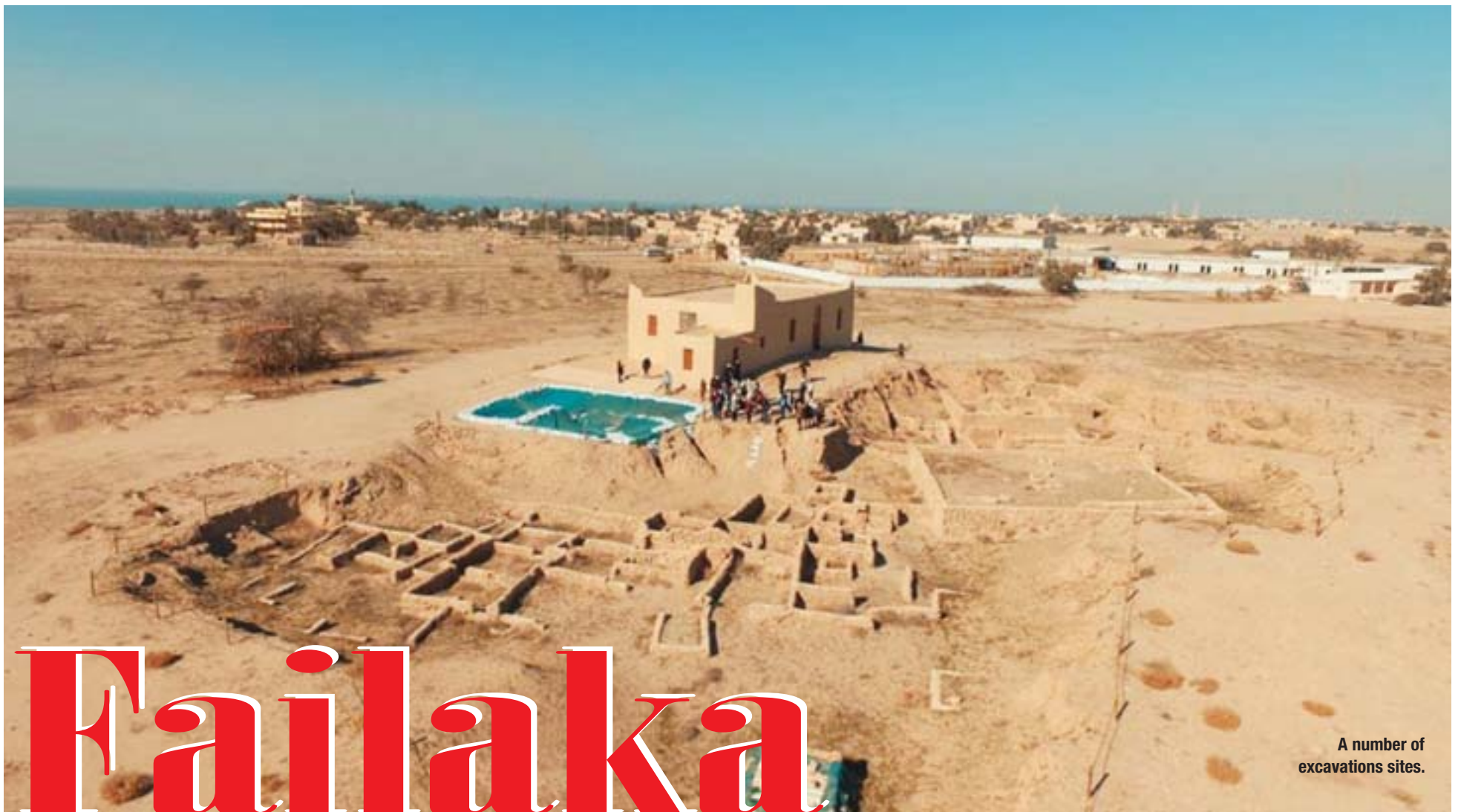


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A number of excavations sites.

# Failaka

## A precious pearl



Decayed sign of Failaka Museum.

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The Kuwaiti island of Failaka is depicted by those who have lived on it as a precious pearl in the middle of the Gulf. The greenery of the island is pleasing to the eye due to the abundance of freshwater springs. Unlike the Kuwaiti mainland, which is a mere 20 km away from its coasts, Failaka was characterized by self-sufficiency in agricultural crops and drinking water, while these were brought to the rest of the country from neighboring countries three centuries ago.

Failaka is located in the northwestern corner of the Arabian Gulf. The history of Kuwaiti families living on the island dates back to the 18th century, but they abandoned it during the Iraqi invasion in August 1990. This was not the case 4,000 years ago, because it is the only area in Kuwait that has been continuously inhabited since the Kashi civilization that settled in Bahrain and Failaka and contacted the Dilmun civilization.

From the start of excavations on Dec 31, 1957 to the writing of this article, traces of Sumerian, Greek, Sassanian, Christian and Late Islamic periods have been discovered in the modern and postmodern period of Kuwait, ending with the remnants of the Iraqi invasion. "These historical evidences prove the importance of the island to the rest of the world. It explains the movements of human beings who lived there and their civilizations," Dr Hasan Ashkanani told Kuwait Times.



## Local



From left: Jaber Al-Hindal, Dr Hasan Ashkanani and Eissa Dashti.



One of the archaeological discoveries

Dr Hasan is a professor of archaeology and anthropology at the Faculty of Social Science at Kuwait University. He is specialized in the artifacts of Kuwait and Failaka. He described the island as the true treasure of Kuwaitis and researchers around the globe. "It is uncommon to find an archeological site in a country that has layers of historical eras every few centimeters you dig vertically. It's loaded with artifacts. The government, represented by the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, has realized the historical value of the island and is fully responsible for the expenses of all the international missions visiting Kuwait annually, as well as publishing their findings in scientific journals. Four to eight researches get published annually about the excavations on Failaka," he explained.



Partial sky view of Failaka Island.



A number of excavation sites

An Amiri decree of 1960 and the antiquities law of Kuwait entrust the NCCAL with the upkeep of the antiquities. The council is solely responsible for assessing the archaeological and historical properties of the objects, sites and buildings and the importance of every artifact, along with the reports of the artifacts to be recorded, maintained, studied and utilized. It is also entitled to the acquisition of historical sites with the approval of the Cabinet.

"Despite the awareness of the government of the high value of Kuwait's heritage, some investors don't seem to care enough to not take on projects that destroy our history. It is not difficult to project an alternative model of investment schemes in construction, and we are always ready to help. However, they won't accept other proposals," alleged Dr Ashkanani.

Kuwait signed the 1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of World and Natural Heritage, which requires signatories to protect their local heritage and not deliberately harm it. The NCCAL established the UNESCO Unit for Engineering Affairs, which is familiar with all the articles of the convention and is there to offer advice to those who submit their project proposals. UNESCO also protects sites that stand as a memory among peoples, even if they are free of antiquities.

Kuwait is a signatory to this agreement, so investors should share any investment project data with UNESCO. "The organization can provide strategic plans for construction. To raise the historical value of archaeological sites, both in Failaka or anywhere in the world, we should not distort the structure of the site and the sur-

rounding landscape, and in order to get international recognition, we need to follow many strict requirements set by UNESCO.

There are successful examples of such projects in many European cities that have not been hindered by anything to preserve their cultural heritage during their development. Kuwait is

unfortunately late, but we are in a good position," Dr Ashkanani said.

The pace of exploration has increased since 2003, with five to nine missions from countries such as Italy, France, Denmark, Britain, the Netherlands and others.

There are now more than 88 excavation sites

on the island, which necessitates the need for the compatibility of tourism development of the island with the protection of archaeological areas. The history of the island is not for the people of Kuwait alone. Failaka is a historical link to many of the surrounding world civilizations that was formerly lost with time.



Chalets in the Island.



## Local

## IN FOCUS



Nejouad Al-Yagout, founder of Co-Exist. — Photo by Abdulaziz Safar Ali

# Co-Exist Kuwait: Building bridges between Kuwait's communities

By Ashlyn Sequeira and Snehika Srivastava

In January 2017, local writer and poet Nejouad Al-Yagout founded Co-Exist Kuwait. Coexistence is an idea which is mainstream among many of the world's most developed nations. However, Yagout noticed a growing intolerance in the collective mindset that was quite pronounced locally; and voila - Co-Exist Kuwait was born.

Every month, Co-Exist Kuwait hosts various events that bring people together to inspire one another and spread the message of universality. Today, we celebrate the initiative's first birthday by taking a closer look into Yagout's as yet unimplemented vision for a nation that coexists in harmony despite differences.

**Kuwait Times: How were you personally influenced to create Co-Exist Kuwait? What were your ideas and how did you think people would respond to it at the beginning?**

**Nejouad Al-Yagout:** There was a part of me that was awakening, and it manifested itself on the principles of oneness. The idea was to invite myself and others in Kuwait to be a part of a community that reflects universality, particularly where belief systems and so-called minorities are concerned. I knew not everyone would come to the party, but the invitation was sent out to all who heard about it.

**KT: Coexistence is a way of bringing people of different beliefs and cultures together. What kind of interac-**

**tion do you have with the kindred spirits who believe in the initiative?**

**Yagout:** One indelible highlight, in terms of interaction, was during the Concert of Coexistence in December. The crowd was brimming with people of various nationalities and faiths. We barely spoke. It was all about the music and the silent language of unity. Our local scene is tiny, and can border on exclusivity; so it was grand not knowing most of the people in the room. A testament to coexistence!

**KT: Your newspaper articles receive a lot of attention. How do you react to all the responses and comments?**

**Yagout:** Sometimes, readers elevate me to a spiritual status I do not deserve. My pen (or keyboard) is a flashlight in my own darkness, first and foremost, navigating me toward self-betterment. I am facing my own demons, which is why I tend to use the pronoun "we" and not "they" in the majority of my articles. It is a shocking lesson in humility to find that the negative entities out there are in me. And, I also revel in the knowledge, as it frees me from the shackles of denial. Nonetheless, when hearts are overjoyed by something I write, it makes my day, nay my week. And when minds are offended, I remind myself that the world is upside-down, and so am I.

**KT: The gratitude by your supporters must surely motivate you to keep writing!**

**Yagout:** The gratitude itself strengthens the ego - the false sense of self - which keeps me stuck during the ascen-

sion process. I have to be careful. But by eventually realigning myself, it may become easier to grasp the notion that I am - most likely - not the doer. Here lies the battle. Still, regardless, it motivates me for now. Yes.

**KT: Do you think that we will all evolve toward coexistence, or do you think of it as a personal choice?**

**Yagout:** We seem to be evolving into who we originally are - paradoxically. I don't think it is a personal choice as much as it is about remembering our essence, but who knows?

**KT: Last month, you were asked to be a speaker at the Annual Bangladeshi Reunion. Were you thrilled to be the only citizen of Kuwait at the event?**

**Yagout:** Beyond thrilled! As long as we are coming together, the numbers don't matter! Rachna - who is a host of the Kuwait-Bangla radio station at the ministry and a dear friend - personally invited me. Her mission is to host events where more Kuwaitis can interact with her fellow nationals. She works tirelessly to bridge the divide between us. Isn't it tragic that this issue even exists?

**KT: Lastly, describe your passion for Co-Exist Kuwait in one word?**

**Yagout:** Unyielding.

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## Local

# Moderate temperatures affected by high-pressure atmosphere: Meteorologist



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's weather is currently stable due to the impact of high air altitude with northwesterly winds which will lead to dust on some open areas, said Abdul Aziz Al-Qarawi, the weather forecaster at Kuwait Meteorological Center (KMC).

Today's weather is expected to be moderate with northeasterly winds between 14 to 42 kilometers per hour, with a chance for some dust in open areas. The maximum temperature is expected between 20 to 22 degrees Celsius, and the minimum between 5 to 7 degrees.

The same weather is expected tomorrow, with northwesterly winds with speed between 10 to 40 kilometers per hour. The highest temperature is expected to be from 21 to 31 while the lowest from 5 to 7 degrees Celsius, with chances for some clouds during the night. — KUNA

## Fabrics vendors' market in old Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** 'Al-Bazzaz' is the name of fabric vendors in old Kuwait, as Kuwaitis also call fabrics as 'Baz'. Bazzaz is an Arabic-oriented word found in authentic Arabic language dictionaries, known to describe the person working in fabrics sales, and baz as the fabric itself.



Kuwaiti heritage researcher Mohammad Abdulhadi Jamal said in his book titled 'Crafts Professions And Commercial Activities In Old Kuwait' that Khalil Al-Qattan market or the 'Jews market' as it was known for some people then, was the place specialized in fabrics' sales in Kuwait.

This was the place until mid of the 20th century, while during 1930s the vendors moved to Al-Rashdan market. The fabrics were imported from India, and later from Europe, and after the end of the Second World War, Japan started to duplicate European fabrics and export them to Kuwait.

The majority of Kuwaitis by then were of medium to low income, a factor that contributed to an occasional purchase of fabrics, unlike rich families. The textiles prices witnessed a radical hike in prices during the Second World War, as there was a drop in the number of exporting ships, especially those coming from India during early 1940s. The Kuwaiti government by then fed the local market with supported-fabrics with reasonable prices, offering every family two pieces of textiles in both summer and winter season until 1947. — KUNA



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Qualification & Experience - Degree in Mechanical Engineering & Ten (10) years in maintenance services of Energy / Oil & Gas / Petrochemical or such other Utility facilities. Experience related to spare-parts and its inventory management of equipment such as gas turbines, compressors, pumps, engines, heat exchangers, pressure vessels.

### Rotating Equipment Supervisor – KD1015 – 1No

Qualification & Experience - Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Fifteen (15) years in maintenance services of Oil & Gas field industries, Refinery, Petrochemical process plant or other process industries.

### Lead Instrument Technician – KD 710 – 1No

Qualification & Experience - Degree in I&C or Electronics Engineering. / Diploma in Instrumentation Engineering. Six (6) Years for Graduate / Eight (8) years for Diploma / twelve (12) years for ITI. sufficient knowledge and experience in DCS, PLC, ESD, SCADA and other such Control systems.

### Lead Electrical Technician – KD 710 – 5Nos

Qualification & Experience - Diploma in Electrical Engineering. Eight (8) years in maintenance services of Energy / Oil & Gas / Petrochemical. Hands-on experience in the installation, repair and maintenance of HV/LV Equipment & accessories.

### Charge Hand – KD 650 – 1No

Qualification & Experience - Diploma in Mechanical Engineering & Eight (8) years experience in maintenance services of Energy / Oil & Gas / Petrochemical or such other Utility facilities. Hands-on experience in installation, repair and maintenance of gas turbines, compressors, pumps, engines, heat exchangers, pressure vessels and the like. He should have working knowledge of Root Cause Failure Analysis (RCFA) techniques. Must have a valid Kuwaiti driving license.

### Instrument Technician (Field Preventive Maint. / Workshop/ Wellhead) - KD 540 – 4Nos

Qualification & Experience - Six (6) years for Graduate / eight (8) years for Diploma / twelve (12) years for ITI.

### Mechanical Technician – KD 540 – 3Nos

Qualification & Experience - ITI with Four (4) years' experience preferably in oil industry, refinery, process plant etc. on repair, trouble-shooting, overhauling of Rotary Equipment.

### Mechanical Technician – Vibration – KD 540 – 1No

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### Technician Rotating Equipment – KD 540 – 2Nos

Qualification & Experience – ITI with Five (5) years in maintenance services of Oil & Gas field industries.

### Planning Technician – KD 540 – 1No

Qualification & Experience – ITI with Five (5) years experience as a planning technician preferably in Oil & Gas / Petrochemical.

### Heavy Duty Driver cum Equipment Operator – KD 340 – 3Nos

Qualification & Experience – Graduate with 5 years or intermediate with 10 Years. He should have worked in the similar position, at least, for the past three (3) years in Petrochemical field.

### Scaffolder – KD 270 – 1No

Qualification & Experience –ITI with eight (8) years experience in the similar position. Must be fully conversant with the procedure for leveling and alignment. Be able to read, write and speak English language.

### Instrument Fitter – KD 365 – 1No

Qualification & Experience –ITI with Five (5) years in maintenance services of Oil & Gas field industries.

### Labour – KD 175 – 15Nos

Keep the site, equipment and machinery clean and tidy at all times including general cleaning of benches and shop floors. Assists mechanics, fitters, welders, fabricators, and the like in handling component parts.

### Electrical Fitter – KD 365 – 1No

Qualification & Experience –ITI with Five (5) years in maintenance services of Oil & Gas field industries.

Candidates matching the above criteria shall apply through email, (mentioning the position applied in the subject line) with their latest CV, within 7days from the date of this advertisement to Manager (HR), Integral Services Company WLL, Kuwait.

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## Local

# Interior Ministry urges violators to avail of amnesty: No fingerprinting, blacklisting

## Crime rates drop by 18.5 percent in Kuwait

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The number of violators who left Kuwait on the first day of an amnesty that runs from January 29, 2018 to February 22, 2018 has been modest. This is because there is some fear among violators that they would be fingerprinted for deportation, which is not the case, an Interior Ministry statement clarified yesterday.

Only violators who are arrested after the amnesty period will be blacklisted and banned from returning to Kuwait, reiterated the statement released by the ministry's Borders Outlets Security Department. Thousands of people have already availed the amnesty which was launched to help end the presence of around 154,000 residency violators in Kuwait. The department urged violators to benefit from the amnesty which came as per instructions of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and allows violators to leave without having to pay fines, provided that they depart Kuwait before the Feb 22 deadline, while keeping alive the option of returning back to Kuwait in the future.

The following categories of violators are allowed to leave during the grace period:

- Those whose regular or temporary residencies expired before Jan 24, 2018.

- Those who entered the country on a visit, residency, tourism or transit visa whose stay period expired before Jan 24, 2018.

- Those whose passports expired before Jan 24, 2018 but have valid residency permits, and wish to leave the country.

- Newborns that are given residency permits sponsored by their family should refer to the residency affairs department to correct the newborn's status during the amnesty period.

- Those reported to have absconded before Jan 24, 2018 regardless of the type of residency they have.

- Those who absconded after Jan 4, 2016, whether working in the private or domestic sectors.

Meanwhile, the department explained that as for people whose regular or temporary residencies expired before Jan 24, 2018, there are two

types of violators: the first is when a person has the expired residency or entry visa on his passport, in which case he or she can buy a plane ticket and leave to his country directly. As for those who lost their passports, they have to go to the residency detectives' department to receive a unified number through which they can leave and be documented, it added.

### Crime rates down

In other news, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday that crimes in Kuwait dropped by 18.5 percent in 2017 compared to the previous year. The ministry's annual statistics showed that criminal acts deemed harmful to public interest decreased by 78.57 percent in 2017 also in contrast to 2016, whereas crimes against individuals rose by 48.14 percent, said Major General Sehab Al-Shemmari. The official, who is the general director of the General Department of Criminal Evidence, said in a statement that financial

crimes fell by 11.5 percent and misdemeanor crimes detrimental to public interest dropped by 48 percent. Deaths resulting from traffic accidents amounted to 424 in 2016 and 428 last year. Recorded drug dealing cases reached 33 in 2016 and 68 last year.

### Forgery

Five people were arrested yesterday for forging medical examination reports necessary for labor transactions. The arrest came following investigations based on information that detectives received about a ring whose members sell forged reports showing that the examined worker is 'clear' of diseases, for KD 1,000 each. Based on testimonies of a person who had a forged document in his possession, detectives identified five Egyptian nationals and police placed them under arrest. They were questioned and sent to the proper authorities for further action.

### Partial opening

A partial opening will be made at Al-Bidaa roundabout tomorrow at dawn for the street going from Fifth Ring Road towards the Blajet Road, General Traffic Department announced yesterday.



### Medical reports forgery ring busted



## Yemen's Al-Noubi wins 10th Invention Fair's grand prize

**KUWAIT:** Inventor Khaled Al-Noubi from Yemen received the grand prize of \$15,000 at the concluding ceremony of the 10th International Invention Fair in the Middle East, for his invention of smart talking glasses for people with visual disabilities. The ceremony took place on Wednesday at Alraya Ball-

room. The four-day event featured participation of 130 inventors from 39 countries. Russian David Arnovitch won the Kuwait Science Club prize worth \$ 10,000, while Kuwaiti Ahmad Nabil took home the International Federation of Inventors Associations (IFIA) award.



**KUWAIT:** Inventor Khaled Al-Noubi from Yemen (center) poses after receiving his prize at the concluding ceremony of the 10th International Invention Fair in the Middle East.

## Human rights' panel, Interior Minister discuss bedoons' rights

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The parliament's human rights committee met yesterday with Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to discuss granting bedoons their civil and social rights, in addition to the security restrictions that many of them face. Committee Chairman Dr Adel Al-Demkhi said a date was set to meet with the minister in two months' time. He said the minister was told during the meeting that it was necessary to alleviate the bedoons' suffering, while deep-rooted solutions must be found to resolve the decades-long issue.

### New tariff

The Ministry of Electricity and Water is set to complete the implementation of the new tariff law by Feb 22, when it applies it to the agricultural and industrial sectors and other facilities. According to the new law, the new tariff was set at five fils per kilowatt, and KD 1.25 for reach 1,000 gallons of water. Meanwhile, the tariff for those who submitted production certificates issued by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) and the Public Authority for Industry

(PAI) is set at three fils per kilowatt and 750 fils per 1,000 gallons of water.

### 3,000 jobs

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) hired 1,031 Kuwaitis directly and through contracts, informed sources said, adding that the number of recent graduates among the appointees is 729. It said that 3,000 jobs were 'Kuwaitized' in contracts. The sources said that KOC was able to reduce oil leaks to 500 barrels only, and is working on the reduction of gas burning rates that reached 1.13 percent after being 17 percent during 2007. Production capacity during the fiscal year 2016/2017 reached 3.150 million barrels, they added.

### Case adjourned

The Criminal Court adjourned the case in which a number of people are accused of hiding the convicts in Al-Abdaly cell case until Feb 15, to summon Major General Farraj Al-Zubi to hear his testimony. The public prosecution sent the suspects to court with charges of harboring wanted people, being members of a banned organization and contacting it.

Meanwhile the administrative court cancelled the appointment of six experts at the justice ministry based on evidence showing that they were appointed in violation of the law. It also decided in favor of a citizen who was maliciously excluded.

### Shadadiya University

Kuwait University (KU) Secretary General Dr Muthanna Al-Rifae said the KU will receive five colleges in Sabah Al-Salem University City (Shadadiya University) before the end of this year, in addition to receiving more buildings next year. Kuwait University looks forward to complete the university city project within the scheduled time, he added.



# Crown Prince represents Amir at Saudi heritage festival



RIYADH: (From left) Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Kuwait's Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Saudi Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud attend the closing ceremony of King Abdul Aziz's second Festival for Camels. — KUNA

RIYADH: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday attended the closing ceremony of King Abdul Aziz's second Festival for Camels in Riyadh as part of supporting heritage and cultural aspects. His Highness the Crown Prince represented His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who was invited by King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud to attend the festival.

## Speaker, IPU official discuss mechanism to defend Kuwait

GENEVA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and his accompanying delegation met yesterday with the Secretary General of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Martin Chungong. "During our meeting with the Secretary-General, we discussed more than one complaint submitted against the Kuwaiti parliament," Ghanem said in a statement following the meeting, noting that he and his host concluded that "unfortunately, someone lied to the people of Kuwait as well as the Inter-Parliamentary Union." "We defended the Kuwaiti parliament and its reputation and talked about mechanisms with which we will defend the reputation of our state and its parliament," Ghanem added.

Ghanem will hold talks with IPU President Gabriela Cuevas Barron and representative of the Commission on Human Rights today. He will also participate in meetings of the Executive Committee tomorrow and Sunday — along



GENEVA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Secretary General of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Martin Chungong. — KUNA

with representatives of the Arab geopolitical groups.

Speaker Ghanem arrived in Geneva on Wednesday heading a parliamentary delegation to defend image of Kuwait and its parliament against a complaint from the Israeli Knesset, another from a former MP and the third from a current one. The delegation accompanying Ghanem includes lawmakers Rakan Al-Nisf, Ali Al-Deghbasi, Khalil Abul and Allam Al-Kanderi. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with his Ukrainian counterpart Sergiy Kyslytsya. — KUNA

Kuwaiti officials and members of the Ukrainian delegation accompanying Kyslytsya. — KUNA

## Kuwait, Ukraine discuss bilateral relations

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with his visiting Ukrainian counterpart, Sergiy Kyslytsya, discussing bilateral relations and regional and international issues. The session was part of scheduled political consultations between the State of Kuwait and the Ukrainian Republic, first session of which was held in Kiev in November 2016. The deputy foreign minister held a luncheon in honor of the Ukrainian official, attended by

## Minister Saleh, World Bank envoy discuss cooperation

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh met yesterday with World Bank Public Sector Governance specialist Robert Beschel discussing bilateral relations between Kuwait and the World Bank. Meanwhile, Minister Saleh has also received French Ambassador to Kuwait, Marie Masdupuy, where they

reviewed the 'outstanding' bilateral relations between the Kuwait and France, a statement by the Minister's office said. The two sides also tackled a number of issues of mutual concern, especially activating bilateral cooperation and enhancing relations between the two countries in all fields as well as supporting the Kuwaiti-French friendship ties. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh meets with World Bank Public Sector Governance specialist Robert Beschel. — KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh meets with French Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy.





100 years of women's suffrage: How one group changed British history

Burning issue: Dhaka slums fight fires but land problems still loom



ADEN: Smoke rises from inside a military camp the day after fighters from the separatist Southern Transitional Council took control of the pro-government position in the northern Dar Saad district of Aden. —AFP

# Envoys bid to end standoff in Aden

## Struggle to keep together the disparate alliance

**ADEN:** Saudi and Emirati envoys shuttled between Yemeni government forces and besieging southern separatists in second city Aden yesterday in a bid to end a tense standoff after days of deadly infighting. The Sunday assault on the embattled government's headquarters by its former allies has opened up a new front in the devastating civil war that has created what the United Nations says is the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the two major contributors to a military coalition that has backed President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi since he fled into exile in 2015. But they have struggled to keep together the disparate alliance supporting him against Houthi Shiite rebels who control the capital Sanaa and much of the north. South Yemen was an independent country until union with the north in 1990 and Hadi has relied heavily on militia that supports its restoration.

Many of them have been recruited into

Special Forces units trained by the UAE to fight Al-Qaeda, which has a large presence in parts of the south. On Wednesday, those forces deployed across Aden bringing a lull in the deadly clashes that had forced a halt to the distribution of desperately needed relief supplies for days.

### Airport reopens

The separatists said they were in full control of Aden yesterday. "The security situation is stable and we are working with the coalition to consolidate it," a separatist official told AFP on condition of anonymity. Yemen Airways said it had resumed flights from Aden airport with a service to Cairo on Thursday.

Only the presidential palace in the north of the city remains under the control of government forces, military sources said. Saudi

Arabia and the UAE have not abandoned their support for Hadi, who lives in exile in Riyadh, but they have singularly failed to intervene militarily in support of Prime Minister Ahmed bin Dagher and other ministers who are holed up under siege in the palace.

### Security situation is stable

The two governments' envoys "met with all concerned parties, stressing the need to abide by the ceasefire ... and refocus efforts on the front lines against the Houthis", the UAE's official WAM news agency reported. "The situation in Aden is stable and all parties have complied completely with the communique issued by the Arab coalition," Major General Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Mughaidi of Saudi Arabia told reporters in Aden. "The kingdom and the United Arab Emirate have a common goal and the same

vision and have no ambitions."

UAE Major General Mohammed Matar Al-Khyeli said: "Saudi Arabia and the UAE stand together with the Yemeni people and are leading reconciliation efforts between the Yemeni parties." The UAE has close ties to separatist Hani bin Breik, a leader of the Southern Transitional Council to which many of the forces now in control of Aden are loyal. Both it and Saudi Arabia have urged Hadi's government to heed the separatists' grievances and called on all sides to show restraint.

At least 38 people have been killed and 222 wounded in Aden since Sunday, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The UN agency for humanitarian affairs reported a "cautious calm" in the city late on Wednesday but said aid ships were still unable to dock. Even before the latest fighting, Yemen already faced the world's most serious humanitarian crisis, with some 8.4 million of its 22.2 million population at risk of famine, according to the UN. —AFP



# The last surviving Paris attacks suspect faces trial in Belgium

## Has stayed silent under interrogation since his arrest

**BRUSSELS:** The main terror suspect behind the 2015 Paris attacks, Salah Abdeslam, goes on trial in Belgium under tight security next week over a shootout in Brussels that led to his capture. It will be the first public glimpse of the 28-year-old who led police on a four-month international manhunt following the attacks in the French capital that killed 130 people. Abdeslam, who is currently in jail in France, has stayed silent under interrogation since his arrest but insisted on personally attending the trial over the March 15, 2016 gun battle in the Belgian capital.

The Brussels-born French citizen and the man arrested with him, Sofian Ayari, 24, face charges of “attempting to murder several police officers in a terrorist context” and of “carrying prohibited weapons in a terrorist context”. Abdeslam is the sole surviving suspect of the Paris attacks and is also linked to the terror cell that carried out the March 22 suicide bombings in Brussels just days after his arrest. The Islamic State group claimed both sets of attacks that left a total of 162 people dead and hundreds more wounded. Belgium’s federal prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw said he expected the trial to “yield clues” about the cell behind the two attacks. “This is important for the victims,” he added.

### Massive security

The trial opens early Monday amid heavy security in the Palais de Justice, an imposing 19th century Brussels landmark topped with a gilded cupola towering more than 100 meters. Under

arrangements for the trial in Brussels, the boyish-looking former bar owner will be transferred to a prison in the north of France, from where he will travel to Brussels daily.

Abdeslam has spent nearly 20 months in isolation under 24-hour video surveillance at Fleury-Merogis prison near Paris, after being transferred to France after his arrest. The trial was postponed in December to allow his lawyer Sven Mary to prepare the case. Mary, who initially represented Abdeslam and then dropped him because of his attitude, took him on again as

a client late last year. Court sources said Abdeslam has refused to speak to investigators since his arrest.

Police say Abdeslam and Ayari were holed up at a flat in the Brussels district of Forest when it was raided by French and Belgian po-

lice in a joint operation, leading to a shootout. Investigators say the pair fled via the back door but a third suspect, 33-year-old Algerian Mohamed Belkaid, was mortally wounded when he exchanged fire with police smashing through the main door, apparently providing cover for their escape. Three officers were wounded.

### Shot in the leg

The discovery of the three suspects was apparently a lucky break resulting from what was described as a routine search for accomplices in the Paris attacks. Police say they found Abdeslam’s fingerprints in the flat, confirming they were on the trail of the last suspect in the rifle and bomb attacks on the

## For Saudi freed tycoons, cheers and business challenges

**RIYADH:** Cheering supporters greeted Saudi Arabian billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal when he arrived at his skyscraper offices in Riyadh after his release from detention in an anti-corruption crackdown. But he and other tycoons freed from a luxury hotel in the Saudi capital face a challenge to get back into the swing of running their financial empires in the uncertainty hanging over the business community since their detention in early November.

Their ability to do so could impact Saudi Arabia’s attempts to lure investors to big projects, an important part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s grand vision to transform the kingdom and reduce its dependence on oil. “It will need another six to nine months without disruption or another witch hunt before anyone would be willing to move on anything major,” a regional

banker said of the business climate. “This is not the right time to bring anything to market.”

### Uncertainty lingers

Online footage showed Prince Alwaleed waving from a luxury car in a convoy trailed by police as he arrived this week at the Kingdom Center skyscraper one day after his release, and then walking inside with his private physician. A source familiar with the matter said the prince received an operational update on his global portfolio, which includes stakes in Twitter, ride-hailing firm Lyft and French hotel operator Accor.

In the first few days after his detention, the share price of his investment firm Kingdom Holding plunged 23 percent, erasing \$2.2 billion of his personal fortune on paper. After a jump this week, the stock has regained almost all that it lost, but during the prince’s detention the overall stock market rose 10 percent. Kingdom shares do not reflect that gain, indicating investors are still applying a discount to his company because of the uncertainty.

Prince Alwaleed’s predicament suggests Saudi tycoons who have long been content to focus on



**BRUSSELS:** In this file photo taken on December 18, 2017, Policemen stand guard at the entrance of Brussels’ courthouse, as a Belgian court is expected to set a new date for the trial of Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam (inset) over a shooting in Brussels that led to his capture. —AFP

Bataclan concert hall, bars, restaurants and the National Stadium in the French capital on November 13, 2015.

Abdeslam is suspected of being the driver in the attacks. Three days after the Brussels police raid, on March 18, TV cameras captured the drama as heavily armed police officers shot Abdeslam in the leg and captured him and Ayari just yards from Abdeslam’s home in Molenbeek, a gritty Brussels immigrant neighborhood. Molenbeek had long been under the international spotlight as suspects involved in other jihadist attacks over

the past two decades had either lived or stayed there.

The arrests marked the end of the hunt for Europe’s most wanted man, but relief soon turned to yet another shock. Four days later, other members of his alleged cell blew themselves up at Brussels airport and on a train in a metro station next to the European Union’s headquarters, killing 32 people.

Investigators believe Abdeslam’s arrest precipitated the suicide bombings by other members of his alleged cell who feared they too would be caught. —AFP

amassing huge profits must now consider whether the government’s anti-corruption drive could stop them in their tracks. Saudi Arabia’s attorney general said on Tuesday that settlement deals had secured just over \$100 billion from members of the elite. He did not provide a breakdown, and Reuters could not verify that figure.

### Back in the driving seat

In another video, property mogul Mohammed About Al-Amoudi sits in a black office chair at his home in Jeddah receiving kisses on the hand and forehead from a procession of well-wishers who utter thanksgiving for his safe return after nearly three months in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Riyadh. A company representative reached by phone said Amoudi was in good health.

“It is as if he was travelling and returned, nothing more,” said the person who declined to be named, adding it was not clear if he would run the company again. Associates of other released detainees, including media magnate Waleed Al-Ibrahim and retail billionaire Fawaz Al-Hokair, told Reuters they were at home catching up with family and close friends. An email to MBC em-

ployees seen by Reuters described Ibrahim as “fit and eager to get back”. It said he would travel to Dubai in a couple of weeks to get “back in the driving seat”. Hokair, meanwhile, is hosting dinners for guests, according to one attendee. The stock price of his company, fashion retailer Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair Co, is still 13 percent below its level just before he was detained.

“It’s as if he was on a business trip or in a summer holiday or a religious trip. He is fully motivated, full of ambitions,” the attendee said. “He does not talk about anything, he just says he was happy and received good treatment.” These men are among the last group released from the Ritz, which had been used since November as a prison and interrogation centre for dozens of senior princes, ministers and businessmen and was cleared out on Tuesday. Specific allegations against the men and the settlements they agreed before their release were kept secret. Some may have been moved to prison after refusing to admit wrongdoing and reach financial settlements; they may stand trial. Notably absent from the final batch of releases were Prince Turki bin Abdullah, the king’s nephew, and dismissed Economy Minister Adel Fakhieh. —Reuters



## International

# Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan held in Paris over rape claims

## 'He choked me so hard that I thought I was going to die'

**PARIS:** Prominent Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan remained in custody in Paris yesterday after spending a night behind bars over rape allegations that emerged in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal. The Oxford professor was taken into custody on Wednesday as part of a preliminary inquiry in Paris into rape and assault allegations, with a legal source saying investigators wanted to question him further yesterday morning.

Ramadan, a Swiss national whose grandfather founded Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood Islamist movement, has furiously denied separate accusations from two Muslim women that he raped them in French hotel rooms in 2009 and 2012. A regular face on French television, the 55-year-old academic is the most prominent figure to be held in France over the sexual assault and harassment claims that have rippled around the world as a result of the online "Me Too" campaign.

Henda Ayari, a feminist activist who used to practice a conservative strain of Islam, had described being raped in a book published in 2016, without naming her attacker. But in October, she said she had decided to name Ramadan publicly as the alleged perpetrator as a result of the "Me

Too" campaign—which in France is known as "Balance Ton Porc" (Expose your pig).

She said Ramadan raped her in his hotel room, telling *Le Parisien* newspaper: "He choked me so hard that I thought I was going to die." She lodged a rape complaint against Ramadan on October 20. Several days later an unnamed disabled woman, a Muslim convert, also accused the academic of violently raping her in a hotel room in the southeastern city of Lyon in 2009.

### Denies the allegations

In November, Oxford University said Ramadan was taking a leave of absence from his post as professor of contemporary Islamic studies, "by mutual agreement". He has denied the two women's accusations, as well as further allegations in

Swiss media of sexual misconduct against teenage girls in the 1980s and 1990s, denouncing them as "a campaign of lies launched by my adversaries". Lawyers for the married father-of-four have accused Ayari of slander and suggested the women colluded to try and disgrace him.

As part of his defence he has presented investigators with Facebook conversations in which a

### A campaign of lies



**BORDEAUX:** In this file photo taken on March 26, 2016 Swiss Islamologist Tariq Ramadan takes part in a conference on the theme "Live together". —AFP

woman identified as Ayari allegedly made explicit advances towards him in 2014, two years after the alleged rape. Both women have already been questioned by police in Paris and the northern city of Rouen. The accusations have sparked heated

online debate between supporters of the telegenic Ramadan, who commands a following of more than two million fans on Facebook, and his opponents. Ayari was placed under police protection in November after receiving death threats. —AFP

## Hijabs held aloft as Iranian women protest cover-up

**BEIRUT:** As images of Iranian women holding their hijabs aloft spread on social media, an influential activist said women are symbolically rejecting the wider "interference of religion" in their lives. "We are fighting against the most visible symbol of oppression," said Masih Alinejad, who hosts the website *My Stealthy Freedom* where women in Iran post photos of themselves without hijabs.

Under Iran's Islamic law, imposed after the 1979 revolution, women are obliged to cover their hair with a scarf, known as a hijab, and wear long, loose-fitting clothes. Violators are publicly admonished, fined or arrested. "These women are saying, 'It is enough - it is the 21st century and we want to be our true selves,'" the Iranian activist told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The trend

picked up momentum after video and images were posted online of one woman waving a white scarf on a stick in December - a day before demonstrations erupted against economic conditions in eastern Iran, said Alinejad. Unrest quickly spread across the country and the focus broadened as protesters began calling for Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to step down.

The video went viral as police cracked down, and Alinejad said the woman was arrested. She has since been released, according to a Facebook post by Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh. Although the wider anti-government demonstrations have ended, women across Iran are "fed up" and continue to protest against "the interference of religion in our personal lives", said the activist.

Alinejad said she is now flooded with videos and photos of women imitating the viral video and she shares them on the *My Stealthy Freedom* Twitter account and Facebook page. "These people are not fighting against a piece of cloth, they are fighting against the ideology behind compulsory hijab," said Alinejad, who called the movement the "true face of feminism." — Reuters

## American 'IS fighter' case challenges Trump

**WASHINGTON:** The first and only US citizen caught on the battlefield allegedly fighting for the Islamic State is in a legal limbo, held in Iraq without rights as Washington grapples with his fate. Identified in court papers as "John Doe," the man has been held for nearly five months, the military allowing him access to legal advice only after being forced to do so by a federal judge in Washington DC.

He was born in the United States but also has Saudi nationality, and the government has maintained the right to transfer him to another country, presumably Saudi Arabia. It would be one way—highly illegal according to rights lawyers—to handle a fundamental dilemma for President Donald Trump, a test case challenging his pledge to be tough on any captured Islamic State supporters and his commitment to US law. Between 100 to 200 US nationals traveled to Syria and Iraq after 2010 to work and fight in their ranks, according to various estimates. A handful are known killed, but the number isn't clear: the US has not provided any data.

### 'Enemy fighter'

John Doe is the only one known captured alive. On September 14 the Pentagon confirmed that they were holding a US citizen who had been fighting for the Islamic State group and surrendered to the allied Syrian Democratic Forces in Syria days earlier. He was moved to Iraq where he has been interrogated by military and

FBI investigators. US forces allowed the International Committee of the Red Cross to meet him, but since then have fought to prevent him from gaining legal representation and a hearing in US courts.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit to get access to the prisoner. The government refused to provide any information about him—his name, age, or origins. They termed him an enemy fighter and claimed he showed no desire for legal representation. Hearings on his status between September and January were surreal: government lawyers argued he had never expressed the desire for legal representation, though they would not say if he had been asked; that the ACLU had no standing to represent him because they had not been requested; and that the ACLU could not represent the man because they did not know his identity.

In January the judge, Tanya Chutkan, rejected government arguments and ordered them to grant the ACLU access. ACLU attorney Jonathan Hafetz said that since then they have had several video conferences, and are waiting for a full ruling on a habeas petition. But meanwhile the government maintains it has an option to transfer him to another country, though never explaining why.

"He deserves the basic right of American citizens not to be rendered by their government to a foreign country in the dead of night without judicial review of the basis for their transfer," Hafetz told AFP in an interview. "They cannot lawlessly transfer an American citizen to another government potentially as a way of defeating the habeas petition." Hafetz said they now know his identity, but do not want to reveal it, since he has not been formally charged and the government has yet to provide any evidence that he had enlisted in the Islamic State cause. —AFP



International

# Zimbabwe opposition stumbles before vote

**HARARE:** With Zimbabwe holding elections this year, the opposition had been feeling cautiously optimistic-until its arch-enemy, Robert Mugabe, was ousted from power. The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Zimbabwe's main opposition party, now faces the threat of a revived ZANU-PF party at polls that look set to further cement one-party rule.

Morgan Tsvangirai, veteran leader of the MDC, was among the most prominent critics of Mugabe and the ruling ZANU-PF, but he has been forced out of the action by colon cancer. The party's history of splits has also returned, despite an agreement last year enabling the MDC to lead an united opposition into the elections.

"It is going to be an uphill task for the MDC facing ZANU-PF which is being transformed under its new leadership," Harare-based political analyst Alexander Rusero said. "Without Tsvangirai, there is no figure who can make a meaningful impact in terms of challenging the ruling party." Mugabe's downfall in November-and former deputy president Emmerson Mnangagwa's rise to succeed him-gave many Zimbabweans some hope of change after decades of authoritarian rule.

**Fair elections?**

Mnangagwa is a long-time Mugabe ally and a ZANU-PF veteran hardliner. But he has vowed to fight corruption, revive the moribund economy and hold fair elections-messages that may be popular for many voters fearful of abrupt change. The London-based Africa Research Institute said

in a briefing paper that Mnangagwa would be able to "count on a great deal of goodwill" before the elections.

The new president appears keen to take advantage as soon as possible, saying last week that elections would be held before July, earlier than expected. The vote-previously expected in late July or August-will choose the president and both houses of parliament. Under Mugabe, who ruled since 1980, elections were marred by vote-rigging, intimidation and violent suppression of the opposition.

**Further cement one-party rule**



Mnangagwa has promised to allow international election observers, and to accept the result if he loses-a scenario that observers say is unlikely. Former trade unionist Tsvangirai, 65, is by far the opposition's most recognizable face, but chemotherapy has left him frail and he has hinted at retirement. "It is unfortunate that Tsvangirai is not well and not able to lead the MDC in this crucial election," said Rushweat Mukundu, an analyst at Zimbabwe Democratic Institute.

"A resounding defeat could even spell the end of the MDC, especially if the Mnangagwa government resolves some of the economic hardships affecting Zimbabweans," Mnangagwa-who can also rely on the discreet support of the military-has sounded confident since coming to power, declaring "I have no doubt I will sweep the elections." The MDC once posed a formidable challenge to ZANU-PF, even winning the first round of a presidential election in 2008 vote.

Tsvangirai then pulled out of the run-off after a

wave of deadly violence unleashed by Mugabe supporters, and the MDC entered into a troubled coalition government. In the 2013 elections, Mugabe won the presidential vote 62 percent to Tsvangirai's 34 percent, with a similar result in the national assembly result.

**Opposition adrift**

Bickering among the three MDC deputies Nelson Chamisa, Elias Mudzuri and Thokozani Khupe

could now tear the party apart for the third time since its formation in 1999. The tensions have undermined efforts to have a "unified opposition" for the elections formed by Tsvangirai, his former allies Tendai Biti and Welshman Ncube and a host of small opposition parties. MDC spokesman Obert Gutu even plans to stand for the same constituency seat in Harare as Biti, the respected finance minister in the 2009-2013 coalition government. —AFP



**HARARE:** In this file photo taken on November 24, 2017 Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of Zimbabwe main opposition Movement for Democratic Change, attends the inauguration of Zimbabwe's new President Emmerson Mnangagwa. —AFP

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## International

# 100 years of women's suffrage: How one group changed British history

## A major step that put the country ahead

**LONDON:** British women won the right to vote 100 years ago after an intense struggle marked by a violent fringe campaign that shocked the country but helped to change the world. On February 6, 1918, the Representation of the People Bill became law and added to the voting roll around eight million women who were aged over 30 and met other conditions.

It was not until 1928 that British women won the same voting rights as men but it was a major step that put the country ahead of some contemporaries such as France. Among those involved in the decades-long British campaign, the Suffragettes stand out for militant acts that were unprecedented in their day, although their influence is still debated.

“

### The intolerable torture of women

”

militancy preached by the group's founder, Emmeline Pankhurst. In the most shocking act, Suffragette Emily Davison became a martyr to the cause when she was killed throwing herself under the king's horse at the 1913 Derby. She was convinced “one great tragedy ... would put an end to the intolerable torture of women,” Pankhurst wrote in her 1914 autobiography “My Own Story”.

### Hunger strikes

Hundreds of Suffragettes were jailed but they continued their protest in prison by refusing to eat. Many were force fed, a harsh practice

that ended in 1913 with legislation that allowed authorities to release hunger-striking women prisoners when they became too weak and re-arrest them when they had recovered. Pankhurst was jailed and released 11 times.

Detractors said the actions of the Suffragettes showed that women were emotional and irresponsible and therefore not fit to vote. Some historians credit the role of women in World War I as more important in securing voting rights than militant ac-



**LONDON:** In this file photo taken on October 24, 2012 Feminist activists dressed as The Suffragettes, women who historically demanded the right to vote, protest at Parliament Square for women's rights and equality. — AFP

### Bombs, a martyr

Suffragettes chained themselves to railings, broke shop windows and blew up post boxes as part of their fight. They cut electricity lines, disrupted meetings and even bombed the house of a government minister. It was a deliberate move into

tivism. But in 1999 Time magazine named Pankhurst as one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century. She “shaped an idea of women for our time; she shook society into a new pattern from which there could be no going back,” it said. “The

militant campaign was absolutely essential to moving the vote forward,” Krista Cowman, history professor at the University of Lincoln in Britain, told AFP. “There was 50 years of peaceful campaigning before that really hadn't done anything.” — AFP

## Train carrying Republicans hits truck, kills one

**WASHINGTON:** A train carrying several dozen Republican lawmakers including US House Speaker Paul Ryan collided with a garbage truck Wednesday in Virginia, killing one person and sending six others, including a congressman, to hospital, officials said. The White House said no members of Congress were seriously injured, and that President Donald Trump had been briefed on the accident.

At least 300 people, including lawmakers, their families and staff, were aboard the train from Washington bound for a Republican policy retreat in West Virginia. The truck that was struck was carrying three people, one of whom was killed and another seriously injured, Senator Bill Cassidy, a licensed physician who helped attend to the injured, said on Twitter. “There is one confirmed fatality and one serious injury. There are no serious injuries among members of Congress or their staff,” White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone that has been affected by this incident.” Train operator Amtrak said two crew members and three passengers were transported to a local hospital with minor injuries, and that transportation safety officials were investigating at the scene of the accident in Crozet. It said that while the event was under investigation, “this is an opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of exercising caution around railroad rights-of-way.” The engine, which according to lawmaker photographs was mangled in the crash, derailed, but the rest of the cars remained upright on the tracks, according to Amtrak. Congressman Jason Lewis, a Re-

publican from Minnesota, was taken to a hospital to be checked for a concussion, his office said.

### ‘Harsh’ impact

Congressman Tom Cole said first responders evacuated at least two people who were injured, and who were apparently on the truck. Shortly after the accident, Ryan's office said the House speaker was “fine.” Vice President Mike Pence, who flew in later in the day, delivered an evening address to lawmakers at the three-day retreat west of the US capital. Pence said he was in the Oval Office with President Donald Trump when the news broke.

“We were both deeply troubled at the initial reports but quickly relieved that the scope of the accident was not larger,” he said. “Days like today especially I just want you to know-to you and your families—thank you for your service to America.” Trump is due to headline the event. House Republican Greg Walden tweeted a photograph of the scene, showing people standing off the train tracks next to a badly-damaged truck, with garbage and debris strewn on the ground.

“We're fine, but our train hit a garbage truck. Members with medical training are assisting the drivers of the truck,” Walden said. The accident quickly became a security concern for police and security personnel tasked with guarding members of Congress, as lawmakers jumped off the disabled train to aid the injured. Senator Jeff Flake described a chaotic scene along the tracks, where he said he helped carry a badly-injured man away from the truck and watched emergency responders try but fail to revive the person who died. “It was harsh, it threw everyone up in their seat,” Flake told CNN of the impact. Last June, Flake was among several Republicans at a congressional baseball game practice when a gunman opened fire on lawmakers. Colleague Steve Scalise was gravely wounded, and Flake ran to his aid once the shooter was down. Dozens of Republican members of the House of Representatives and the Senate left Washington earlier Wednesday, the morning after Trump delivered his maiden State of the Union speech before Congress. — AFP

## Three jailed Catalan leaders appeal to UN

**LONDON:** Three Catalan leaders imprisoned in Spain over their role in their region's independence crisis will take their case to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, their lawyers in London said yesterday. “Their detention by Spain is an affront to human rights, designed to prevent them from performing their role as political representatives of the Catalan people,” lawyer Ben Emmerson told reporters.

The three include deposed Catalan vice-president Oriol Junqueras, as well as the leaders of two grassroots separatist groups: Jordi Sanchez of the ANC and Jordi Cuixart of Omnium Cultural. Sanchez and Cuixart are being investigated for sedition. Junqueras is also in custody pending a probe into his role in the region's independence drive.

“This case does not ask the UN to adjudicate on the issue of Catalan independence but seeks the UN's reaffirmation that governments cannot repress political dissent through arbitrary detention,” Emmerson said. “Spain must release these men.” Junqueras was instrumental in Catalonia's attempt to break away from Spain via a referendum that took place on October 1 despite a court ban and a unilateral declaration of independence later that month.

Madrid then sacked the regional government including Junqueras, imposed direct rule on the semi-autonomous region, dissolved its parliament and called snap Catalan elections, which saw separatist parties retain their parliamentary majority in December. The UN panel is made up of independent human rights cases and has addressed hundreds of cases including prominent figures such as WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi. — AFP



## International

# US citizen mobilization, dreaming big against Trump's administration

## New citizen zeal ignited in the United States

**NEW YORK:** The organization may have only five employees and a small office in the Empire State Building, but its ambitions are huge: holding the Trump administration accountable and fighting what it sees as the erosion of democratic norms in the United States. Far from the noisy street protesters and the politically fractured Congress, Integrity First for America quietly showcases a new citizen zeal ignited in the United States under President Donald Trump.

Bankrolled by Democratic Party donors, and uniting investigative journalists with top-flight lawyers, IFA is sharpening its talons against what spokesman Brett Edkins calls the erosion of civil norms and elected leaders undermining fundamental rights. Its creation highlights the liberal US climate under Trump: political opponents of the Republican president, shocked by a victory they thought impossible, are wondering how best to mobilize against the unthinkable.

Posters that read "We, the people"—the first three words of the US Constitution—hang in IFA's lobby, which they share with a large law firm. Just months after the non-profit started to take shape last summer, IFA's work is already showing results. In October, they filed a lawsuit against 25 white supremacists and hate groups behind the racial violence that rocked the country last August in Charlottesville, Virginia. The case was filed in the name of 10 victims.

"The first case we are bringing is an example. It's not against politicians, it's against resurging groups of violent racists," said Edkins, 33.

The case is about "bringing transparency" to far-right groups, shining a light on their resources and fundraising, "and making sure that hate and bigotry does not become normalized"—even if it takes years to wind through the courts, Edkins said.

IFA is now working on a second investigation which it hopes to announce in the coming months. The group is "looking at various public officials from Trump down and their private financial ties on the Charlottesville case," said Edkins. He hopes the case will "have a major public impact in 2018." The refusal of the first US president, who never held any government job, to divest from his real estate empire has enraged Democrats, fueled suspicions of corruption and allegations

of conflicts of interest.

### Mobilize against the unthinkable

#### Silicon Valley funds

But if IFA is just one of several non-profit groups, media organizations and politicians determined to skewer the administration, it says its battle is far bigger than Trump. "We are only now seeing all the weaknesses built into our democracy," says Jeff Pillets, 57, an investigative journalist head-hunted for IFA. "In a way, it was inevitable. If it had not been Trump it would have been someone else," he said.

As a journalist Pillets investigated the businesses of Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor, and calls his work for IFA "hard-hitting investigative stuff." "They are very serious about what's going on in this country. They

the potential to taint special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged collusion between the Trump campaign and Russians, an investigation that is edging closer to the president himself. But White House chief of staff John Kelly said Wednesday that the document could be made public soon, once White House lawyers have vetted it.

"It'll be released here pretty quick, I think, and the whole world can see it," Kelly told Fox Radio. "This president .... wants everything out so the American people can make up their own minds. And if there are people to be held accountable, then so be it." The FBI stressed its concerns in an extraordinary, unsigned public statement that demonstrated its growing rift with Trump and Nunes, a staunch defender in Congress of the president.

"With regard to the House Intelligence Committee's memorandum, the FBI was provided a limited opportunity to review this memo the day before the committee voted to release it," it said. "As expressed during our initial review, we have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo's accuracy." In a statement, Nunes countered that it was "no surprise" that



**NEW YORK:** Board Chair for the Integrity First for America, Monica Graham (L), and Communications Director, Brett Edkins, pose at their office in the Empire State Building. — AFP

are very much interested in keeping this administration accountable," Pillets says. The idea of creating an association allied to a law firm was born out of the success of the American Foundation for Equal Rights. That group, set up on similar lines in 2010, got same sex marriage equality restored in California, Edkins said.

It was then a question of sourcing the funds. "Our initial money came out of some folks in Silicon Valley," and from LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman in particular, says Monica Graham, IFA's board chair. The businesswoman, who herself donated \$1 million, belongs to the Patriotic Millionaires, a group of high-income individuals who first

met in 2010 concerned over the destabilizing concentration of wealth and power in the country.

Set up with a budget of \$2-3 million in 2017, IFA is looking for new donors, including contributions from ordinary individuals. "I have got to go around and start rattling that tin cup because this suit against the white supremacists is really expensive," Graham laughs. So what else lies in the future for IFA? New ideas pop up every week, but they don't all lead to weighty investigations. "We have gone down a couple of rabbit holes," says Graham. "It really has to be something that is really endangering our democracy." — AFP

## FBI challenges White House over Russia case memo

**WASHINGTON:** The FBI warned Wednesday it has "grave concerns" over the accuracy of a secret Congressional memo that could depict the agency as deeply politicized, as President Donald Trump's top aide signaled the White House would allow the document's release. Based on highly classified information, the four-page memo — written by Republican lawmaker Devin Nunes, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee—suggests that the Justice Department and the FBI abused their power in running surveillance on a member of President Donald Trump's election campaign in 2016.

The Justice Department and the FBI have actively lobbied against its release, which has

the Justice Department and FBI would oppose the release of "information related to surveillance abuses at these agencies." "It's clear that top officials used unverified information in a court document to fuel a counter-intelligence investigation during an American political campaign," he said.

#### Espionage probe election

Nunes' committee voted on Monday to release the memo, distilled from a much larger volume of documents used by the FBI to get a so-called FISA national security warrant to spy on Trump campaign official Carter Page, who was suspected of espionage. Media reports, citing lawmakers who have seen the document, say it alleges that to obtain the warrant, they submitted as evidence the contentious and unproven "Russia dossier."

The dossier includes information on contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia compiled by former British intelligence agent Christopher Steele and financed in part by Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. Republicans say it provides evidence that the Justice Department, allegedly full of pro-Clinton officials, actively sought to undermine

Trump. Because of its sensitive nature, to release the memo, Nunes needs the president's approval. If Trump does not act either way, Nunes can release it as early as Saturday.

#### Trump relations with FBI sink

But Democrats say the memo is based on selective information that does not reflect the entire classified file on the FISA warrant application on Page. Instead, they say, Nunes is running a politically-motivated stunt to smear the Mueller collusion investigation, which is also examining whether Trump tried to obstruct the probe.

Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the intelligence committee, charged Wednesday night in an open letter to Nunes that "substantive" and "material" changes were made to the memo, without the knowledge or approval of committee members, before it was sent to the White House. Schiff called for the memo as sent to be withdrawn and that a new vote be held next week. And in op-ed piece in the Washington Post, Schiff said Nunes had used an obscure rule to order the release of classified information for partisan political purposes and that this "crossed a dangerous line." — AFP



## International

# Climber recalls her horror descent from Pakistan's 'killer mountain'

## The first woman to scale the mountain in winter

**SALLANCHES:** A French mountaineer who was rescued in a dramatic night-time operation on Pakistan's "killer mountain" has told how she had to leave her weak and bleeding climbing partner and descend the peak alone in darkness. Elisabeth Revol, speaking exclusively to AFP from a hospital in France's Haute-Savoie region—where doctors are assessing whether she will require amputations due to frostbite in her hands and left foot—said rescuers urged her to leave behind Tomek (Tomasz) Mackiewicz, a Polish national. She earlier described the decision as "terrible and painful".

It was Revol's fourth attempt, and Mackiewicz's third, to scale the 8,125-metre Nanga Parbat during the winter season, when they ran into trouble amid frigid temperatures and high winds. An elite group of Polish climbers managed to reach Revol but were unable to get to Mackiewicz, who was stranded further up the mountain. Revol, who weighed just 43 kilograms following her ordeal, left France on December 15 and began her adventure with Mackiewicz on January 20.

A few days later, as they ap-

proached the summit, she says they "felt good". By early evening they finally reached the peak-making Revol the first woman to scale the mountain in winter, without oxygen or sherpa. But their joy was shortlived. "Tomek told me 'I can't see anything anymore,'" Revol recalled. "He hadn't used a mask because it was a bit hazy

“

**Terrible and painful**

”

during the day and by nightfall he had ophthalmia (an inflammation of the eye). We hardly had a second at the top. We had to rush to get down."

### Distress call

Mackiewicz clung to Revol's shoulders and they began the long, difficult descent in darkness. "At one point, he couldn't breathe," Revol said. "He took off the protection he had in front of his

mouth and he began to freeze. His nose became white and then his hands, his feet." They huddled overnight in a crevasse, trying desperately to shelter from the biting wind. But Mackiewicz no longer had the strength to continue the descent and by sunrise, his condition had deteriorated further. Revol recalls that he had "blood streaming from his mouth", a sign of oedema—a buildup of fluid in the body and the ultimate stage of acute mountain sickness, which can be fatal without urgent treatment.

The mountaineer alerted everyone she could that they needed help but certain messages were lost in transmission. Eventually, instructions came through from her rescuers. "They told me, 'If you go down to 6,000 meters, we can pick you up, and we can get Tomek at 7,200 meters.'" She added: "It wasn't a decision I made, it was imposed on me." To Mackiewicz, she remembers simply saying: "Listen, the helicopter will arrive late afternoon. I must go down, they'll come to get you." Sending her GPS coordinates to rescuers and convincing herself that she would survive, she took nothing with her for



**SALLANCHES:** French mountaineer Elisabeth Revol talks to journalists during an exclusive interview to AFP, on January 31, 2018 at the hospital. — AFP

the remainder of her journey— "not a tent, not a duvet, nothing".

### Hallucinations

Revol had thought the rescuers would arrive late that afternoon but when they didn't turn up, she was forced to spend another night down a crevasse. But "I knew I was getting

out. I was in my hole and I was freezing cold but I wasn't in a desperate situation. I was more worried for Tomek, who was much weaker". It was then that she began to have altitude-induced hallucinations, imagining that people were bringing her hot tea—and that to thank them, she had to give them her shoe. — AFP

## Japan fire kills 11 at elderly people home

**TOKYO:** Eleven people were killed in northern Japan after fire broke out at a home for elderly people with financial difficulties, police said yesterday. Television footage showed the three-storey building engulfed in flames and dozens of firefighters battling the blaze in snowy conditions. Pictures of the aftermath showed the blackened husk of the building, whose roof had apparently collapsed due to the fire.

The victims—eight men and three women—were among 16 residents of the facility in Sapporo, Hokkaido, run by a local organization. The other five residents escaped, a police spokesman told AFP, adding that authorities were investigating the victims' identities. Kenji Kikai, a local police official, told AFP: "Of the five people who escaped, three people—two men and one woman—were rushed to hospital. The two men were slightly injured and the woman sustained moderate injuries. "They are still hospitalized but the injuries are not life-threatening," added Kikai. Two others escaped unharmed.

Police said they had launched a probe into the

cause of the fire first alerted at 11:42 pm (1442 GMT) Wednesday via an emergency call. The accommodation was originally a Japanese inn built around 50 years ago that was later turned into a welfare home. The facility is aimed at supporting elderly people with financial difficulties by offering low-cost accommodation and helping them find work, public broadcaster NHK reported. It is usually unstaffed overnight, according to local media. As dawn broke, police and firefighters were combing the blackened remains of furniture in freezing temperatures.

"As there were many oil tanks (for kerosene stoves) there, I heard a number of small explosions," a 67-year-old woman in the neighborhood told Jiji Press. "Luckily, the only damage to our house was some cracks on the window," she was quoted as saying. Another woman in the neighborhood, 65, said when she spotted smoke and flames while she was watching the total lunar eclipse from the window of her house, Jiji Press said.

"The smoke and flames were rising vertically. If there had been wind, the damage would have been bigger," she told Jiji. "The surrounding area was bright as if it was day because of efforts to extinguish fire, and smoke lasted until near the dawn," she said. Others saw ash falling like snow in the vicinity of the fire, local media reported. "It was an awful fire. It spread so quickly and flames were billowing," said one woman neighbour, who did not wish to be named. — AFP

## Bangladesh journalists protest security bill

**DHAKA:** Hundreds of Bangladeshi journalists took to the streets yesterday to protest against a new digital security bill that campaigners say would damage media freedom in the country. The Digital Security Act 2018 approved by the cabinet this week would mean a journalist could be convicted of espionage for entering a government office and gathering information secretly using an electronic device, an offence that would carry a 14-year jail sentence.

It also provides for a life sentence for spreading "negative propaganda" about the country's war of independence or its founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman using a digital device. Media rights groups including the International Federation of Journalists

(IFJ) have already condemned the bill, which parliament has yet to vote on. "(The) IFJ believes the proposed act provides more grounds to grossly misuse the provisions to harass journalists and restrict freedom of expression," the Brussels-based group said.

"It will also empower the law enforcers to search or arrest anyone without any court-issued warrants if a police officer believes that an offence under the act has been committed or is being committed." Around 200 Bangladeshi journalists gathered in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka on Thursday to demand the government scrap the bill. "If this draconian law is passed in the parliament, it will not only curb investigative journalism, but also all kinds of reporting," said M. Abdullah, general secretary of the Federal Union of Journalists.

Scores of journalists also posted photos of themselves on Facebook holding placards saying "I am a spy" in protest at the espionage clause. Among them was television journalist Kaberi Maitraya, who said much of her reporting work would be considered criminal under the bill. "I want to carry on working as a journalist, so I'm declaring myself a spy under the law," she posted alongside her image on the social media site. — AFP



## International

# Burning issue: Dhaka slums fight fires but land problems still loom

## The transitory existence of slum dwellers a major impediment

**DHAKA:** Bilkis Begum has lived on the lakeside in Dhaka's Korail slum for 16 years, but in December 2016, her extended family's 12 houses were razed to the ground by a fire. The inferno destroyed the oven her husband, Shahid Gazi, used for his bakery and the fridges he relied on for his business selling leftover chicken meat from Chinese restaurants. For the Gazis, it was a struggle to cobble together the \$3,000 they needed to rebuild their homes and business.

They borrowed \$900 from moneylenders, and found the rest from relatives and friends.

They also got tin, pillars and a little cash aid from Bangladesh-based development agency BRAC. In addition, they received pro-bono help from architects like Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, who helped redesign the neighborhood to protect it better against future fires.

"Architects have social responsibility," said Sultana, an assistant professor at BRAC University in Dhaka. "I watched the fire before my very eyes, but couldn't do anything then."

The Gazi family now has eight new units and the couple are back in business, running a small restaurant on the old site. "We couldn't have stood back on our own feet unless we got (this) support," said Begum, 32, a mother of three. A team of 16 architects, planners, engineers and students, brought together by BRAC, has tested out simple, cheap design solutions to rebuild Dhaka's two biggest slums after fires destroyed some 650 homes in late 2016, affecting 2,500 people. The new approach aims to tackle the ever-present threat of fires in Dhaka's crowded slums, while improving living conditions for residents. But in a city where less than 10 percent of areas are planned, altering the slumscape is a tall order.

One major challenge is working out what is feasible for slum residents who have no legal rights to the land they live on. Ashekur Rahman, an urban program specialist with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Bangladesh, said the transitory existence of many

slum dwellers is a major impediment to keeping them safe from threats like fires in the longer term. Many are seasonal migrants who split their time between villages and cities, limiting their access to services and permanent accommodation. Government providers worry that improving services in informal settlements could attract more migrants from rural areas, Rahman said. "Weak and ill-defined land tenure and property rights pose big threats to resilience-building and are considered the underlying causes of the poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor in Bangladesh," he added.

Wider roads

Sandwiched between Dhaka's upscale Gulshan and Banani neighbourhoods, Korail - which sprang up in the 1980s - sprawls over some 170 acres of land owned by

three government ministries. It is home to as many as 100,000 residents, including rickshaw drivers, domestic helpers, garment workers and small traders. Fire is just one of the threats inhabitants face on a daily basis, which include eviction, drugs, crime, police harassment and extortion.

After digitally mapping the fire-hit areas, the design team led by Dhaka-based J.A. Architects Ltd consulted with residents who each agreed to give up a tiny amount of space to widen access roads and narrow lanes so that fire trucks and ambulances could enter if another blaze breaks out. The group of experts was appalled by the unhygienic conditions in the slums. In summer, the tin shacks are "like ovens", said Shamim Hossein, a manager with BRAC's urban development program.

To improve living conditions, the team made modifications to dwellings, such as adding windows, wire netting and transparent plastic to let in air and light. They also helped rebuild homes in Sattola slum, which suffered a major fire in December 2016 too, destroying 115 homes in just 10 minutes. Made homeless overnight, residents had to pass more than three cold winter months under the open sky.

Human trafficking in India rose by almost 20 percent in 2016 against the previous year, Indian government data shows. More than 60 percent of the 23,117 victims rescued were children. Forty-five percent of victims were trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and 33 percent for sexual exploitation, according to the data. "If we only checked details of the women around whom our lives and kitchens revolve we could actually stop the crime," Mahajan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Delhi.

Radio has become an important tool in spreading awareness, campaigners say. "It lets people know what is out there, the sheer horror of such a crime and how close to home it is," said Adrian Phillips of anti-trafficking charity Justice and Care, which collaborates with radio stations. While Mahajan's show reaches urban Indians in the capital, a community radio station in the southern state of Karnataka recently went on air with a special program devoted to human trafficking.

Keerti S Chougala, a host on Nammura Banuli (Our Village



**DHAKA:** Children play on an access road in Sattola slum, near Mohakhali in Dhaka. —Reuters

### More air, light

In the slum, which is home to 50,000 people and located on land belonging to the health ministry, residents have since built concrete houses with green tin roofs to reduce losses in the event of a fire - despite the risk of eviction as the government plans to build a physiotherapy college there. The new design has allowed some homeowners to afford a luxury - a communal area - as well as an upstairs.

In the family space, where children play and adults gossip while sipping tea, Rabeya Akhter recalls how she clambered out of the house when her brother-in-law shouted "Fire! Fire!" just after midnight on December 12, 2016. Her family lost valuables worth about \$600 when their TV, PC monitor, wardrobe and other furniture burned to ashes. They managed to get credit of more than \$3,600 to rebuild their home, mostly from Dhaka-based micro-finance institution DSK. Shah Alam, who co-owns a two-storey home, has used metal netting for corridor walls and plastic roofing in parts to ensure it is ventilated and

well-lit - an idea partly his own and partly from the volunteer architects.

Like Akhter's father-in-law Siddiq Howladar, 70, who moved to Dhaka from the southern island-district of Bhola, many of Sattola's residents migrated from coastal Bangladesh, where land erosion and floods are common, poverty is pervasive and jobs are rare. Dhaka alone attracts an estimated half a million rural migrants seeking employment each year, according to the World Bank. Almost one-third of its population of 18 million lives in slums. Government figures show some 20,000 fires occur annually in Dhaka. But the cause often remains unknown, and the blazes get little international attention. Residents of the capital's Kalyanpur slum suspected a fire that gutted dozens of homes in early 2016 was started deliberately to remove them from land owned by the ministry of housing and public works, local media reported. It happened a day after a court order to halt an eviction that had sparked violence between inhabitants and police. — Reuters

## Indian radio hosts highlight human trafficking

**CHENNAI:** With human trafficking on the rise in India, some radio hosts are using their programs to raise awareness and help listeners spot traffickers. In the Indian capital, New Delhi, radio host Ginnie Mahajan will talk trafficking on her award-winning show "Suno Na Dilli" (Listen Delhi) this weekend. "We want Delhi to know that many of these girls working in their houses are reported missing by their parents," she said. "We need Delhi to know that girls are being forced into this trade."

Radio), said she was aiming to educate her nearly 400,000 listeners on the impact of the crime, as well as how to spot traffickers and report cases. "We wanted to tell women and girls in the region about this in a simple way and raise awareness," Chougala said. Run by charity Women's Welfare Society, the show is broadcast across more than 400 villages in Belgavi district. In November, a young trafficking survivor shared her story on Akaashwani radio in the eastern city of Kolkata.

An aspiring singer from Bangladesh, she told listeners how traffickers had promised her "starlit dreams" of becoming a singing sensation in India, and then trafficked her to a brothel. Phillips said radio is ideal for sharing trafficking stories, because survivors can speak about their experiences anonymously, "without fearing repercussions from criminal networks." Radio also allows listeners to connect intimately with survivors, he added. "It's a real person speaking up and more importantly speaking out," Phillips said.—Reuters



## International

# WWII bomb defused in HK after thousands evacuated

## 4,000 people evacuated, ferry services suspended

**HONG KONG:** A wartime bomb was defused in Hong Kong yesterday after forcing a busy commercial district into lockdown, with roads closed and thousands evacuated from surrounding shops, hotels and offices. It was the second time within a week that an American bomb dropped during WWII had been discovered at a harbor front construction site in Wan Chai. Police sealed off parts of the district after a worker found the device on Wednesday morning, with 4,000 people evacuated and ferry services across Victoria Harbor suspended as bomb disposal experts worked through the night.

“Bomb disposal operations are dirty, difficult and dangerous. In this particular case, all three were true,” bomb disposal officer Alick McWhirter told reporters. The rain, tricky location and a fuse mechanism that the team “couldn’t even see” all added to the challenge, McWhirter said. The experts cut a large hole through the shell to burn off explosive materials inside before a crane lifted the earth-covered bomb off the site on Thursday.

The bomb—of the same model as another unearthed over the weekend—measured 170-cm in

length and weighed over 1,000 pounds. Unexploded wartime bombs or grenades are frequently found by hikers and construction workers in the southern Chinese city, which was the scene of fierce fighting between Japanese and British allied forces in 1941. In 2014 police defused a wartime bomb weighing nearly one ton, the largest yet found in the city. Hong Kong was an early target in what would become a full-blown Asian campaign for imperial Japan during the Second World War.

“**Dirty, difficult and dangerous**”

‘**Japanese war effort**’  
Extra troops had been brought in to bolster its defenses, but in

December 1941 the outpost of the British Empire was crushed under heavy bombardment in the 18-day Battle of Hong Kong. The brutal confrontation saw around 1,500 allied troops die trying to defend the territory. Japan occupied Hong Kong until August 30 1945, setting up internment camps across the city. Local historian Jason Wordie said the harbor where the unexploded bombs were found would have been targeted by the Americans because Japanese ships were repaired there.

“Hong Kong’s main value during the Japanese

discretion to grant bail if it deemed that their detention had been unlawful. Myanmar authorities have been urged to free the journalists by media freedom campaigners as well as a cast of diplomats and international grandees including former US president Bill Clinton.

Thursday’s bail decision was crucial as pre-trial hearings are expected to drag on for several months before the court officially decides whether to take on the case or not. The pair are now expected to remain in jail throughout that period. On hearing the refusal of bail, Wa Lone’s wife Pan Ei Mon cried. “I hoped to get it,” she said, crying. “I even cleaned his room last night to prepare for him getting bail.”

Reuters has refused to comment on the exact details of what its correspondents were reporting on at the time of their arrest but it is widely thought they were investigating a massacre of Rohingya in the village of Inn Din in northern Rakhine. The military later acknowledged members of the security forces took part in the extrajudicial killing, saying it would hold those responsible to account.

UN special reporter to Myanmar Yanghee Lee added her voice in support of the journalists from a press conference in Seoul, calling the pair “brave” and “fearless”. She has been banned from Myanmar by authorities who say she is working with a bias against the country. “I remain deeply perplexed and concerned that they remain in detention despite the military having admitted responsibility for the killings at Inn Din,” she said, adding that “they should be released immediately and the charges against them must be dropped.” —AFP



**HONG KONG:** Bomb disposal expert Adam Roberts (centre R) and colleagues from the explosive ordnance disposal police unit pose with a defused US-made bomb (bottom C) dropped during World War II a day after it was discovered on a harbourfront construction site in the Wan Chai district. —AFP

occupation was its ship repairing facilities, so putting those out of action was harming the Japanese war effort,” Wordie told AFP. At that time, before land reclamation extended the city further out into the harbor, the point where the two bombs were found would have been 500 metres out into the water. Experts say they likely failed to explode be-

cause they were slowed down by the water and then sank into the mud. US planes started to bomb Hong Kong in 1942 and 1943, but once the tide of the war turned towards the allies, the bombardment became heavier, says Wordie who predicted there were “stacks more” similar unexploded bombs still to be found. —AFP

## Myanmar court denies bail to Reuters journalists

**YANGON:** A Myanmar court yesterday denied bail to two Reuters journalists charged under a secrecy act that could see them face up to 14 years in jail, in a case that has sparked outcry over shrinking media freedom. Myanmar nationals Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 27, are accused of possessing classified documents thought to relate to the violent military crackdown on the Rohingya Muslim minority.

The crackdown in northern Rakhine state has forced nearly 700,000 Rohingya Muslims over the border into Bangladesh since August, many carrying allegations of rape, mass murder and arson at the hands of Myanmar’s army. “The pair can’t be granted bail according to the law... and the court has decided not to give them bail,” judge Ye Lwin told the Yangon court of charges under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act.

The journalists, who have been in custody since December, say they were given the papers by two policemen who had invited them to dinner in the outskirts of Yangon. As they left the restaurant, they say they were arrested before they even had a chance to look at the documents. The court had

## Taiwan man probed over secret N Korea oil sales

**TAIPEI:** A second Taiwanese businessman has been questioned over his alleged involvement in selling oil to North Korea, prosecutors said yesterday, as their probe into the illicit sanctions-busting trade widens. The UN Security Council imposed three sets of sanctions on North Korea last year in response to the reclusive state’s nuclear and missile tests, including restrictions on oil sales. But the US has said companies with ties across Asia were violating those sanctions, including by transferring oil to North Korean vessels at sea to avoid detection.

The latest man to be questioned, identified only by his family name Chuang, owns a ship suspected of transferring oil products to North Korea in the East China Sea, the Kaohsiung district prosecutor’s office in southern Taiwan said. Chuang, 56, allegedly purchased 7,000 tons of diesel in Taiwan, falsely claiming in December that the ship was bound for Hong Kong when it was instead headed to international waters.

He also intentionally filled out the name of the ship’s previous owner rather than his own in official documents, prosecutors added. “Chuang is the owner of the ship and he was aware that the ship’s destination was to the international waters to sell oil products,” it said in a statement. Prosecutors did not name Chuang’s ship but local media identified it as the “Jin Hye” which is registered in Sierra Leone.

Chuang allegedly told prosecutors that he had loaned the vessel to business people in Hong Kong for three months and that he had no idea what they had used the ship for, according to United Daily News. He was released on a bail after questioning and has not been formally charged. Prosecutors were not immediately available for comment. Last month Kaohsiung prosecutors questioned another businessman Chen Shih-hsien also for allegedly selling oil to North Korea and breaching UN sanctions against the nuclear-armed regime. —AFP



# Lifestyle

Friday Times

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Actress Monica Bellucci arrives to be honored with the Filming In Italy and Italian Institute of Culture Los Angeles Creativity awards in Hollywood, California.—AFP

**Kava, the drink soothing the stress of NY millennials**



## Lifestyle | Features

## Super Mario ready for leap into anime film

Japan's Nintendo yesterday said it was working on an anime movie starring its iconic video game character Super Mario in collaboration with the US studio behind the "Despicable Me" series. Shigeru Miyamoto, the renowned game creator of "Super Mario Bros" and "Donkey Kong" at the Kyoto-based video game giant, has been working with Chris Meledandri at Illumination Entertainment to produce the Mario anime. "People have told me making games is similar to making movies and I've been flattered by people saying things like 'If you can make a game, you can make a movie,'" Miyamoto told reporters in Tokyo.

"But they are totally different," said the creator who has some previous experience in directing short movies. "One is interactive and the other is a passive experience," he said, noting film-making requires film-making experts and Meledandri was an "experienced producer." In the past decade, Meledandri has produced the "Despicable Me" series, "The Secret Life of Pets" and other box-office hits. "I got along with him. But it took more than two years to make an announcement since we agreed to do something together," he said.

Miyamoto said he and Meledandri had already made progress in production though the release date is yet to be fixed. He said they would scrap the project if they decided they were unable to make an "entertaining" film, he said. "We've already discussed its script many times and have made quite a lot of progress ... between the two of us," he said. Once done, the film will be distributed by Universal Pictures, Miyamoto said. The announcement came the day after Nintendo posted stellar earnings thanks to strong sales of its new Switch console and software titles. Global sales of the Super Mario Odyssey title for Switch topped nine million since its launch last October.

Miyamoto told the briefing that the company's "ultimate goal" is that everyone would have a Switch console for their personal use. Nintendo also said it was planning to release a new Mario Kart title for smartphones in the year from April. There was a Hollywood live-action film with Super Mario characters in 1993 but it scored limited success at the box office. — AFP



## Republic Records chief on leave over harassment allegations

The head of Republic Records, one of the biggest music labels whose acts include Ariana Grande, Lorde and The Weeknd, was placed on leave Wednesday after sexual harassment allegations. Republic president Charlie Walk becomes one of the highest profile figures in pop music to be swept up in the rising #MeToo movement against workplace harassment, despite the industry's notoriously louche reputation. Universal Music Group, the world's largest label conglomerate which includes New York-based Republic, said Walk had been put on leave as an outside law firm investigates the accusations against him.

"Republic Records is committed to a safe workplace environment where employees are treated fairly and respectfully," a company statement said. The action comes two days after Tristan Coopersmith, founder of a California wellness studio for women called Life Lab, posted an open letter accusing Walk of harassment when she worked under him in the 2000s at Columbia Records, part of Sony Music. She wrote that the married Walk made lewd comments about his sexual fantasies, grabbed her thigh under the table at business dinners and once pushed her onto his bed at an event at his home.

"To you, Charlie Walk, what you did was normal. It was a power you perceived to have earned, with a right to exercise it," she wrote. "But to me it was insulting, confusing and objectifying. And it was a secret that I held for a very long time, my experiences only spilling out in flashbacks and nightmares," said Coopersmith, who said she was paid to stay quiet when she reported his behavior and left the company. Bob Lefsetz, who writes an influential newsletter in the music industry, followed up with accounts by more people, both named and anonymous, who shared similar stories about Walk's character.

Walk in a statement published by entertainment industry site Deadline denied the allegations and said he had never received complaints about his behavior in his more than 25-year career. "I have consistently been a supporter of the women's movement and this is the first time I have ever heard of this or any other allegation—and it is false," he said.—AFP

## MOTORBIKE CRASH CASUALTY GERARD BUTLER ON A YEAR OF PAIN

He has cultivated an image as a tough guy over two decades of starring in action thrillers but no role could have prepared Gerard Butler for his excruciating motorbike crash. The 48-year-old Scot—best known as hard-as-nails Spartan leader Leonidas in 2006 action fantasy "300"—was riding in Los Angeles in October when his motorbike and a car collided, sending him somersaulting into the air. "I fractured five bones in my right foot and had a micro fracture in each foot and a pinched nerve and a bruised bone, and injured my ankle and both knees," he tells AFP.

The damage couldn't have come at a worse time, as he was in the middle of publicizing climate thriller "Geostorm" while also shooting scenes for heist movie "Den of Thieves" and military actioner "Hunter Killer." "I was in seven countries over five weeks and I could barely walk, and it was maybe the toughest period of my life—going on talk shows, pretending you're good," he recalls

with a grimace. In terms of aches and scrapes, last year was a doozy, the actor told AFP in a recent interview in Beverly Hills to promote his role as an elite cop in "Den of Thieves." "I put on 25 pounds (11 kilograms) — at one point I was 30 pounds heavier just to play that character and in the final day of shooting I hurt my knee during an action scene," he said.

### Washboard abs

"Unfortunately I'd already committed to starring in another movie eight days later—'Keepers,' in Scotland—which, when I arrived, I realized was all on the side of a mountain—six weeks walking up and down a mountain. "By the time I'd finished that both knees were screwed. And then I had a motorbike accident where I landed on my knees, so it's been an interesting year of challenges." Born in Paisley, on the outskirts of Glasgow, Butler broke Hollywood with his legendary rippling washboard abs—some critics unkindly and inaccurately suggested they were digitally-enhanced—as marauding King Leonidas in Zack Snyder's "300."

His more than two dozen roles since have included a gangster in Guy Ritchie's "RocknRolla" (2009), a vigilante killer in "Law Abiding Citizen" (2009) and an alcoholic drug-abusing biker in "Machine Gun Preacher" (2011). He has also shown his soft side in romantic comedies like 2007's "P.S. I Love You," "The Ugly Truth" in 2009 and opposite Jennifer Anniston in "The Bounty Hunter" (2010).

He can be still periodically be found saving the president or the planet from befalling calamity of varying degrees of ludicrousness in big, brainless actioners like "Olympus Has Fallen" and its sequels.

His latest project, Christian Gudegast's "Den of Thieves," opened two weeks ago to lukewarm reviews but has matched its production budget with a respectable \$30 million box office. His 48th movie, it follows the intersecting lives of the major crimes unit of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department—known as the "Regulators"—and the "Outlaws," an elite band of robbers.—AFP



In this file photo Actor Gerard Butler arriving for the premiere of the film "Den of Thieves" in Los Angeles, California.—AFP





This file photo shows the tombstone of Polish-French composer and pianist Frederic Chopin at the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris.



This file photo shows a woman reading a magazine on a bench in front of the monument of Polish pianist Frederic Chopin in Warsaw Lazienki Park. — AFP photos

## Poland to post Chopin collection online

Poland's Fryderyk Chopin Institute (NIFC) on Tuesday said it would make its entire collection devoted to the 19th-century composer available online for free by 2020. "Chopin will be the first great composer to have all of his musical scores digitised" and openly accessible by all, NIFC deputy director Maciej Janicki told reporters. Nearly 40,000 Chopin items from the UNESCO world heritage collection—including photographs and paintings of the Polish-French romantic composer, scholarly articles and manuscripts—will be put online, Janicki added.

Anyone will be able to download recordings from the global

Chopin piano competition that the Warsaw-based institute organizes in addition to researching, documenting and promoting Chopin's work around the world. Janicki says the most innovative part of the open-source project—which will be available in English and Polish and is being cofinanced by the European Union—is the sheet music. Visitors to the site will not only be able to search for and download particular scores or excerpts but will also be able to run all kinds of analyses of the rhythm, harmony, melody and other aspects of the music.

"They won't just be simple scans or PDF files," said Marcin

Konik, who manages the NIFC library. Chopin was born in 1810 in Zelazowa Wola, near Warsaw, to a French father and Polish mother. He fled his homeland just before the 1830 uprising against the occupying forces of Tsarist Russia. The pianist lived in Vienna and then Paris, where he died aged 39 after years of poor health. His body is buried in Paris, while his heart rests in Warsaw's Holy Cross church. — AFP

## Paradise lost: 'Anote's Ark' shows Kiribati on the brink

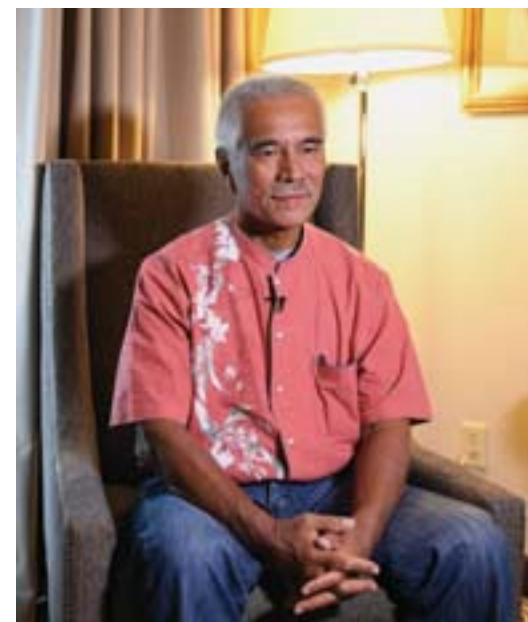
With its pristine sands, glistening saltwater flats and gently swaying palms, Kiribati ought to be a tropical paradise—but this precarious slice of heaven on Earth is living on borrowed time. The low-lying Pacific nation of 33 atolls and reef islands is facing the unstoppable rise of the sea and will be gone before long, making its people the world's first nation of climate change refugees. "I've been trying to communicate to the international community that we have a problem. It's a small part of the larger challenge on climate change, but our case is more immediate," former Kiribati president and climate activist Anote Tong tells AFP.

"We're at the bottom end of the spectrum, where we are the most vulnerable. We are on the front line. Before anyone else is affected, we will be." Tong, who ruled the isolated nation for 12 years until completing his third term in 2016, is the focus of "Anote's Ark," a new film documenting the plight of Kiribati's 110,000 inhabitants and the struggle for the survival of 4,000 years of Kiribati culture. Documentarian Matthieu Rytz follows Tong in the later years of his presidency as he travels the world pointing out that his homeland lies barely two meters (6.5 feet) above sea level and the islets are facing an emergency.

### 'Incredible story'

"They are most likely to be uninhabitable well within the century, before they disappear," Tong told AFP at the Sundance Film Festival in the US state of Utah, where "Anote's Ark" had its world premiere last week. "Already we have had communities who had to relocate because the village, the community they used to have, is no longer there. "We have communities where the seawater has broken into the freshwater pond and destroyed food crops."

"Anote's Ark" is the first feature film directed by Rytz, a Canadian photographer who was exposed to the plight of the islanders and persuaded Tong to be part of a film. The documentary follows the statesman on his journey through international halls of power leading up to the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. "It was an incredible story—a head of state who knows he won't have a state within a generation," Rytz told AFP. The filmmaker was clear from the beginning that he didn't want to make just another climate change movie following politicians or celebrities at summits around the world.—AFP

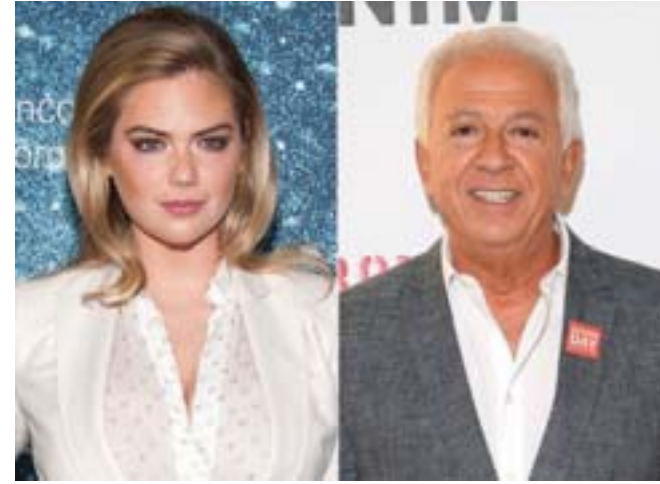


Former Kiribati president Anote Tong discusses his campaign to save the low-lying Pacific nation from global warming, the subject of Canadian filmmaker Matthieu Rytz's documentary "Anote's Ark." — AFP



Lifestyle | Fashion

# Model Kate Upton accuses Guess exec of sexual harassment



Kate Upton and Paul Marciano

Supermodel Kate Upton has accused fashion giant Guess's co-founder Paul Marciano of sexually harassing women. Upton, 25, did not cite a specific incident in her criticism Wednesday of Guess co-founder and creative director Marciano, who is 65. Upton, who was once the face of Guess, became the latest star to add her voice to the global #MeToo campaign against sexual misconduct, that kicked off following accusations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. "It's disappointing that such an iconic women's brand @Guess is still empowering Paul Marciano as their creative director #me too," Upton wrote on Twitter.

She repeated this on Instagram and added: "He shouldn't be allowed to use his power in the industry to sexually and emotionally harass women #metoo." Marciano co-founded Guess in 1981 and has been its executive chairman and chief creative officer since 2015. Upton is married to star Houston Astros pitcher Justin Verlander, and is known for appearing on the cover of Sports Illustrated swimsuit editions. She has also done some acting. She became a celebrity spokesmodel for Guess in 2011. Other models holding that position have included Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford, and more recently Gigi Hadid. — AFP

## Madrid Fashion Week



Spanish designer Agatha Ruiz de la Prada (center) walks on the catwalk with models after presenting her Fall/Winter 2018/19 collection during the Madrid Fashion Week, in Madrid.







Models present creations by Spanish designer Agatha Ruiz de la Prada at the Fall/Winter 2018/19 collection during the Madrid Fashion Week, in Madrid. — AFP photos

## Historic French fashion label **Paul Poiret** is revived



Photo shows French designer Paul Poiret.

**T**he historic French fashion label Paul Poiret has been resurrected and will show its first collection in nearly nine decades at Paris fashion week next month, the brand said. The legendary designer and bon vivant, who with Coco Chanel is credited with liberating women from Victorian era corsets, was the first couturier to launch his own brand of perfume. Backed by the South Korean department store chain Shinsegae, the revived brand is being led by Belgian entrepreneur Anne Chapelle, owner of the Ann Demeulemeester and Haider Ackermann labels.

“The house will present its first ready-to-wear autumn-winter collection designed by artistic director Yiqing Yin,” the label said. Rising Franco-Chinese creator Yin launched her own couture house in 2011 and was later admitted into the elite haute

couture ranks, which is limited to a few dozen brands. Her designs first hit the headlines when the French actress and “Amelie” star Audrey Tautou wore one of her spectacular white pleated dresses to preside over the awards ceremony at the Cannes film festival in 2013. Yin said that she intended to continue in the Paul Poiret tradition, “liberating women’s bodies and spirits”. Poiret invented the shirt dress and was famous for using strong colors. A friend of artists Matisse, Pablo Picasso and Raoul Dufy and dancer Isadora Duncan, his brand folded after the Wall Street Crash of 1929. A number of historic French fashion brands have been revived in recent years including Vionnet and Schiaparelli. — AFP





Funmi Illori (left) talks to the children from Bethel Nursery and Primary school about the importance of reading in Lagos.



A young couple walks through The Jazz Hole.



A small minibus that has been converted into a mobile library parked in the parking lot of the Bethel Nursery and Primary school, in Lagos. — AFP photos

# ON THE ROAD WITH NIGERIA'S FIRST MOBILE LIBRARY

Funmi Illori once had a dream about creating the biggest library in Africa. Now she drives vans packed with books to poor areas of Lagos to help children discover a love of reading. "Readers are what?" she asks about 15 youngsters, sitting on little plastic stools in a classroom in a small converted lorry. "Leaders!" they shout back in unison. One of Illori's iRead Mobile Library vans recently stopped at the Bethel primary school in the working class district of Ifako, in the heart of megacity Lagos. Inside the school compound, slides and seesaws rust in the humid air. The head teacher, Ruth Aderibigbe, said her 200 or so pupils only have textbooks at their disposal.

"Books cost a lot of money," she said. When iRead turned up at the school two years ago with its wide selection of books, from toddlers' coloring books to children's novels, plus a few for adults, she welcomed it in with open arms. "The children involved in the program now speak and spell better in English," she said. Inside the van, a young boy aged about 10 held a copy of "Half of a Yellow Sun", the international bestseller by the Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The book has clearly been well-read: its spine barely held the pages.

Adichie last week became embroiled in controversy after a French journalist asked her during a visit to Paris whether there were any bookshops in Nigeria. "I think it reflects very poorly on French people that you have to ask me that question," she responded, going on to rue what she said was France's racist and colonial view of Africa. Illori is aware of the row and understands why the question would offend. But she sees a wider problem and has dedicated herself to trying to resolve it. "Public libraries are functional in Nigeria, well, at least in Lagos. But not many people maximize the use of them," she said.

## 'Books in a basket'

"We need to catch new readers from a young age. In rural communities, there are children that have never held a book. I advocate for community libraries everywhere. Just as churches are springing up, libraries should be springing up." Illori is a former primary schoolteacher who began a book-lending business in 2003. "Books in a basket. I was going door-to-door," she recalled. Books could be borrowed for just a few hundred naira (a couple of dollars) but her experience led her to realize that few adults in Nigeria's bustling economic hub had the luxury of having time to read.

Ten years after starting the "books in a basket" scheme, she came up with the mobile library idea and applied for funding from a Nigerian government development initiative. The pitch was successful and landed her 10 million naira, which, with the exchange rate at the time, was the equivalent of about \$60,000. With it, she bought a lorry and a small minibus.

## African books

Now, thanks to the grant and sponsors, she has been able to take on 13 employees, buy 1,900 books and four vans. She visits four to six schools every day, organizing reading workshops on evenings and at weekends for out-of-school children in slum areas with the help of volunteers. The vans function like real libraries: children



Students from the Bethel Nursery and Primary school sit and read books in the i-Read mobile library.

choose a book that they read at home, bring it back the following week and write a compulsory "review" on what it's about. Sade chooses her favorite adventure story, even though she already knows it off by heart.

"Reading is my hobby. Books give me ideas and they help me know better," she says. Adinga plumps for "Bioenergy Insight", a magazine on renewable energy that he found on the shelves. "Are you sure you're going to read that?" asks one of the volunteers, amused. The young boy pulls a face and puts back the magazine, eventually choosing a comic book. Afterwards, the schoolchildren, dressed in white and green uniforms with a bow tie for the boys, proudly troop back into class. Tucked under their arms are books such as "Toy Story" or "Goldilocks and the Three Bears".

Illori looks and says there's something missing. "We need more African children's books now," she says. As Adichie said in an interview published in *The Atlantic* in February 2017, the books she read as a little girl "and I think this is true for many other young children in countries that were formerly colonized, didn't reflect my reality". —AFP



A small minibus that has been converted into a mobile library parked in the parking lot of the Bethel Nursery and Primary school, in Lagos.





Harding Stowe pours Kava into a bowl to be served at Brooklyn Kava in New York. — AFP photos



Alex Crawford kneads Kava powder in water as he makes a batch of Kava to be served at Brooklyn Kava.



A bowl of Lemon Mint Kava served at Brooklyn Kava.

# KAVA, THE DRINK SOOTHING THE STRESS OF NY MILLENNIALS

It's been a mainstay in the South Pacific for thousands of years. Now stressed-out millennial New Yorkers are kissing goodbye to alcohol and gulping down a mildly narcotic drink to ease the pain of long hours, bottleneck commutes and Donald Trump. Kava—a root ground to powder, mixed with water and then strained—might taste like muddy water and make fans gag without a fruit juice chaser or blended into a “kavatail,” but it's the mood enhancer taking the edge off for those struggling to cope with hectic modern life. The effects include a mild numbing of the tongue and lips, relaxation and euphoria—feelings in short supply in congested, rat-race New York, a cacophony of noise, sleep deprivation and yelling.

“If any city needs to relax a little bit and calm, slow down, it's New York”

“If any city needs to relax a little bit and calm down, slow down, it's New York,” says Harding Stowe, the 31-year-old owner of Brooklyn Kava in the rapidly gentrifying, artistic neighborhood of Bushwick. “I really think it's going to explode and I think it's starting right now.” Kava may be steeped in tradition and ceremony on Pacific islands such as Fiji, but in the West, it is seen increasingly as a healthier alternative to booze by younger people who want to go out, but not wake up with a hangover the next day. “It's very relaxing. It's not like alcohol or drugs,” says Brooklyn artist Sabrina Cheng, 26, a recent convert.

“I have a very low tolerance for alcohol anyways. But kava, you can hang here all day, read your book, have the laptop, talk.” With teenagers and millennials drinking less alcohol than their parents, entrepreneurs jumping on the bandwagon believe a less booze-soaked future might be just around the corner. “It's not as cool anymore to go to bars every night,” explains Stowe. “People want something new and they want something healthy.”

## Anxiety

An initial kava boom in the West in the 1990s fueled low-quality exports which—combined with little understanding of the plant—

led to negative publicity about health concerns and prohibitions in Europe. That all led to a bust. But while the US Food and Drug Administration warned in 2002 of a “rare” but potential risk of severe liver injury associated with kava-containing products, kava is again seeing another boom, and exports from Fiji alone more than doubled from 2012-16. “Unlike in the 1990s, the scholarly understanding of the plant is much better. It has been widely studied and it's generally perceived as safe and beneficial,” says Zbigniew Dumiński, a researcher at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

There is a well-established scene in Florida, yet kava has been relatively slow to take root in America's most populous city, where there are only three kava lounges but 10,000 bars, with drinks after work and happy hours part of daily life. Astonishingly two of the lounges are a short walk from each other in Bushwick, known for its artistic scene and influx of young people drawn by more affordable rents. This is the perfect breeding ground for the American kava customer: residents in their mid-20s, embarking on stressful careers, navigating relationships, battling chronic subway delays and, in a Democratic city, dealing with Donald Trump blues.

“I went through quite a lot of anxiety with my previous job and this definitely helped a lot,” says Phil Mai, 25, a financial analyst at a media firm in Manhattan, sitting at the bar in House of Kava on Ladies Night with his girlfriend Susie. “I used to drink alcohol two-three times a week and, on a weekend, sometimes binge,” he says. “I think I had my last drink probably like two weeks ago.”



Herbalist Macon McGinnis, 25, sits under a mural on the wall at Brooklyn Kava.

## Trump effect

The House of Kava has a string of theme nights to keep people hooked: open-mic nights that bring in rappers, poets and stand-up comics and while most people are in their mid-20s, recently people in their mid-60s have started stopping by. “I'm from a conservative family and I'm the only liberal, so given the state of the world, that is like the biggest stresser in my life, I would say,” says Kellianne Holland, 24, who works for a non-profit when asked what makes her most anxious. Dimly lit, the bar is incredibly mellow. Susie draws. Another woman is buried in a laptop. Someone else is reading and one couple talk softly to one another. There is none of the yelling synonymous with the New York bar scene.

“As opposed to a normal bar, I haven't had anyone threaten to burn the bar down or start a fight,” jokes House of Kava manager Ryan Lloyd. Business is taking off, he says—and it's the same vibe over at Stowe's rival Brooklyn Kava. When Stowe first opened in February 2016, he initially worried he'd made a mistake. “People didn't know what kava was,” Stowe said. “Lately, it's just been amazing how slammed it gets,” he says, believing things really took off about six months ago.

“There are different stressful things that have happened in America, you know with Trump getting elected,” he said. “I think all those things have contributed.” Stowe is now busy planning other locations, collaborations and pop-ups—he is talking to both a yoga studio and a meditation studio about selling it there. So has President Trump helped his business? “I hate to say it, but probably,” he says.— AFP



Different types of Kava are listed on the menu at Brooklyn Kava.



# American Artist Jackie Kazarian exhibits art collection in Kuwait



By Faten Omar

In collaboration with National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and the US Embassy in Kuwait, American Artist Jackie Kazarian exhibited her art collection at the Modern Art Museum in Sharq on Wednesday. In his opening speech, Ambassador of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman said, "On the heels of the Ghraim festival, this exhibition affirms that Kuwait has a long list of ongoing cultural activities on its national calendar. We are delighted to support these activities by bringing American artist Jackie Kazarian here to display her artwork along with the museum's many other fine pieces of modern art."

He added, "Kazarian is an abstract artist who uses a variety of media to paint, draw, and collage. Her artwork is inspired by nature-weather phenomena, waterfalls and flows, trees and plants - and also by architecture, particularly by urban spaces. Kazarian's work is in many private and public collections, and her paintings, draw-



ings, installations, and videos have been exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide, including the United States, Spain, Japan, Syria, and now - for the first time in the Gulf - Kuwait." Her paintings are known for their emotional content, vivid colors and kinetic brushwork.

Artist Kazarian expressed her happiness about participating in Kuwait and thanked the US Ambassador and Secretary General of the National Council Ali Al-Youha for their support. Kazarian who has been passionate about art since she was young, has more than 30 years of experience. She has a Masters degree in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a Bachelor degree of Science in Zoology from Duke University. "I use a variety of drawing techniques using ink, watercolor, gouache and acrylic on paper," she said.

Kazarian will work intensively with students from Kuwait University this week, onsite at the Souq Al-Mubarakiyya and at Free Atelier. In her workshops she will teach tips and tricks of the trade. Also she will give one more public lecture at the Contemporary Art Platform.









## KEEP YOUR **HEALTHY EATING PLAN** MOVING FORWARD THIS YEAR WITH THESE RECIPES

**A**re you having success with your goal to make more healthy meal choices for the new year or has it been difficult to stay on track? There is a variety of resources available to you to make that job easier. One of those resources is the Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), through the Montana State University Extension Service and USDA. They have a website, [buyeatlivebetter.org](http://buyeatlivebetter.org), that features nutritious, low-cost and simple-to-fix meals. Two of the following recipes come from calendars prepared on a yearly basis by the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Complete calendars are available through the university.

### FISH AND NOODLE SKILLET

**I**t is recommended that we include fish in our meals at least two times per week. This healthy and easy-to-prepare fish and noodle skillet will provide one of those fish meals. The recipe includes the inexpensive and now a popular menu item - ramen noodles. If desired, salmon also could be used in place of cod, however the cod is less expensive.

#### Ingredients:

Makes 4 servings  
 1 tablespoon oil (canola, olive or vegetable)  
 1 pound white fish (cod, tilapia)  
 1 cup onion, chopped (1 medium)  
 1 carrot, diced  
 1 package (14-ounce) frozen stir fry vegetables (thawed and drained)  
 1 cup water

1 package (3-ounce) chicken flavored instant ramen noodles (broken into pieces)

#### Preparation

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Cut fish into chunks (about 1 to 2 inches) while oil is heating. Add fish, onion and carrot to oil. Sauté until fish is cooked through and vegetables are tender, about 6 minutes. Add the thawed stir fry vegetables to the skillet. Stir and heat about 2 minutes. Add the ramen noodle seasoning packet to the water. Stir into the skillet. Add the ramen noodles to the skillet when the water simmers. Stir to moisten the noodles. Cover the skillet and cook until done, about 2 minutes. Serve immediately.

### Lentil stuffed peppers

**I**f you are looking for an eye-appealing and delicious vegetarian dish, try these stuffed peppers. Rather than baking the filling in the peppers in the traditional way, the stuffed peppers in this recipe have the filling and peppers each prepared separately and then combined before serving. For variety in color, use a mix of red, orange and yellow peppers. If your grocery store does not have the red lentils called for in the recipe, substitute brown or green instead. Brown and green lentils tend to hold their shape more after cooking, unlike red lentils that will be softer after cooking.

#### Ingredients

Makes 6 servings  
 2 medium yellow onions  
 2 stalks celery  
 2 carrots  
 6 sprigs oregano  
 1 tablespoon olive oil  
 4 cups vegetable stock, divided

3 cups red lentils  
 6 bell peppers  
 3 ounces feta cheese  
 Fresh-cracked black pepper, to taste

#### Preparation

Finely dice the onions and celery. Peel and finely dice the carrots. Reserve the top parts of the oregano sprigs and chop the remaining leaves. Heat the oil to medium temperature in a large saucepot. Add the onions, carrots and celery; sauté for 5 minutes, then add 1 cup of the vegetable stock and the lentils. Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, until the lentils are fully cooked. Cut off the tops of the peppers, leaving the stems attached and remove the seeds. Place the peppers in a shallow pot with the remaining 3 cups vegetable stock. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes, then remove from heat and drain. In a bowl, mix together the lentil mixture, the chopped oregano, feta and black pepper; spoon the mixture into the peppers. Serve the peppers with the stem tops ajar. Garnish with reserved oregano tops.





# Sauteed Duck Breasts are elegant entree for Valentine's Day

By Sara Moulton

With Valentine's Day looming, here's an elegant entree that any basic cook can execute with ease. I'm talking about duck breasts with a five-ingredient sauce, the making of which requires all of 15 minutes of hands-on time. But first, let's address a few common misconceptions about duck. Pekin duck - the kind of duck called for in this recipe and the one most readily available at stores and online - is not gamy. It's also not fattening, especially if you remove the skin. (I'll confess that I love the skin. It's where all of the crispiness lives.)

Finally, though, there are at least three other reasons to roll with a duck breast on this special occasion, none of which has anything to do with health: it's scrumptious, it cooks as quickly as a steak or a pork chop, and it's a great landing pad for any of the sauces you would put on either of those meats.

The sauce in this recipe for Sauteed Duck Breasts is a classic of French cuisine: shallots, wine, cream, mustard and peppercorns. The cream doubles as a thickener because that's the superpower it develops when it's reduced. Don't have green peppercorns at hand? Use crushed black peppercorns. Or, if you'd prefer to lose the sauce's peppery bite, leave out the peppercorns entirely.

Two tips about cooking duck breast: First, let it cook for the majority of the necessary time with the skin side down so that the skin becomes crispy and the fat is rendered out. Leave the hot fat in the pan as it accumulates; it helps to melt even more fat from the skin. Secondly, be sure to let the duck breast rest after it's been cooked. As with any other animal protein, cooking the breast chases its juices to its outside layers. As the breast rests, the juices are reabsorbed, which prevents the duck from drying out when sliced.

## SAUTEED DUCK BREASTS

### Ingredients

Start to finish: 40 minutes (15 minutes hands-on)  
 Servings: 2  
 2 Pekin duck breast halves (about 8 ounces each)  
 2 tablespoons minced shallots  
 1/3 cup dry white wine  
 1/2 cup heavy cream  
 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
 1 tablespoon drained green peppercorns in brine

### Preparation

Using a very sharp knife, lightly score the skin on each duck breast half in a crisscross pattern, all the way down but not through the meat. Pat the duck dry. Sprinkle the skin side lightly with the salt and in a large, cold skillet, place the duck, skin side down. Turn the heat to medium and cook until the fat starts to render out into the pan. Reduce the heat to medium-low and continue cooking the duck breasts until the skin looks very crispy, about 8 minutes. Do not pour off the fat; the liquid fat in the pan helps to render out the fat in the skin.

When the duck skin is crisp, transfer the breasts to a plate. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon of the fat from the pan (reserve it for another use, such as sauteeing vegetables). Return the duck to the skillet, skin side up, and cook for another 3 to 5 minutes for medium-rare. Transfer the duck to a clean plate, skin side up. Cover it loosely with foil and let it rest for 10 minutes before slicing.

Add the shallots to the pan and cook them over medium heat, stirring, for 1 minute. Add the wine to the skillet, increase the heat to high and simmer until the wine is reduced to about 2 tablespoons. Add the cream, bring it to a boil and simmer until it is reduced by one-third and thickened, about 3 minutes. Whisk in the mustard, peppercorns, duck juices from the plate the duck is resting on and salt to taste. To serve: Put the duck breasts on a cutting board, skin side down, and slice them very thin at an angle. Transfer the slices to each of two plates and spoon some of the sauce over each portion.





# Cheesy jalapeno snacks for the Super Bowl? Score!

By Ellie Krieger

Everything about jalapeno poppers is fun. It's no wonder they're a bar-food staple. They require minimal commitment - each is just a bite or two with no cutlery necessary. As the name suggests, you just pop one in your mouth and let the flavor begin. Inside their golden crisp coating there's the thrill of the pepper and eating it is a little like accepting a playful dare, because you never know exactly how much heat it will pack. They say 1 in 10 has some kick to it. No worries though, because the center is packed with a creamy, cheesy filling to immediately quench any heat.

This recipe delivers all that enjoyment, but in a more healthful way than the typical fried version, so you feel just as good after eating them as you do while you are popping away. These are baked, so while they are amply crispy thanks to their olive oil-coated panko bread crumb crust, they are not at all greasy. Also, their creamy stuffing is less dense, taking advantage of a light blend of cheeses, ricotta and whipped cream cheese spiked with just enough shredded Monterey Jack. You will love serving them at a game-day party not only because they are fun for your guests, but also because they can be made in advance and reheated - which means you'll be in on the fun as well.

## Baked Jalapeno Poppers

### Ingredients

2 ounces grated Monterey Jack cheese (1/2 cup packed)  
1/3 cup whipped cream cheese  
1/3 cup part-skim ricotta cheese  
2 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro leaves  
10 medium jalapeno peppers, halved lengthwise  
3 tablespoons flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt (divided use)  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper (divided use)  
2 large eggs  
1 cup plain panko bread crumbs

1 teaspoon garlic powder (granulated garlic)  
1 tablespoon olive oil

### Preparation

Position a rack in the upper third of the oven; preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a baking sheet with cooking-oil spray. Stir together the Monterey Jack cheese, cream cheese, ricotta cheese and cilantro in a bowl, until well incorporated. Use about 2 teaspoons of the mixture to fill each jalapeño half. Spread flour on a plate and season with 1/4 teaspoon of the salt and 1/8 teaspoon of the pepper. Beat the eggs in a separate

bowl. Spread the panko bread crumbs on a separate plate and season with the garlic powder and the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Toss the seasoned bread crumbs with oil until evenly coated.

Toss each stuffed jalapeno in the seasoned flour, shaking off any excess, then in the egg and finally in the seasoned panko, shaking off the excess. Each piece should be coated all around in the mixture. Arrange the coated jalapenos, cut sides up, on the baking sheet. Roast (upper rack) for 30 to 35 minutes, until the coating is golden brown and the cheese has melted a bit. Serve warm.





## Comic

### WORD SEARCH

#### More 70's Songs

Find and circle all of these songs from the 1970's that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will spell the names of ten music groups from the 70's.

N A D M T H E G A M B L E R A T S R E P U S  
E W Y R R N I A R D N A E R I F E M P L E H  
R I O C E A M E R I C A N W O M A N A S B E  
O R U D R A U E A H P A R G O T O H P T D S  
S R R B N E M O N A M R D L T Z B A G H R G  
E E E E R U V O Y O T E E E E O H N H G E O  
G V S L A O S A N T L C E U H T I R T I B N  
A E I B L L T A E T U R R E N C I S O N A E  
R F X D N I H A W T O M A N I U T O N R I  
D T T I R P V O E S M I H A Z M T A B R R P  
E H E S E I A A N R A A D T M Y N E A E A N  
N G E T C W F I T N L W E E I N O N D H C A  
D I N R N I A T R I O O R R I W O N E T U C  
O N A U A M M H A D R N U E D R B O Y U D I  
N S C H D S A A A W I A S I A T O N C O A R  
T H M E T P N H G G A S O H E I C A G S U E  
S O Y V S A S G H I O Y S R E D I R W O L M  
T B B O A A Q T I N N Y U B A D G I R L S A  
O E D L L E S N G S M E K N A M C I G A M I  
P Y S S E Y E Y N O B E W O O D S T O C K S  
T H O I L E D N O O N R E T F A E V O L Y M

- |                   |               |                |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| AFTERNOON DELIGHT | DREAM ON      | MAGIC MAN      | SHE'S GONE      |
| AMERICAN PIE      | DREAM WEAVER  | MAIN STREET    | SIGNS           |
| AMERICAN WOMAN    | DRIFT AWAY    | MARGARITAVILLE | SOUTHERN NIGHTS |
| ANNIE'S SONG      | EBONY EYES    | MY LOVE        | SUMMER NIGHTS   |
| BAD GIRLS         | FIRE AND RAIN | MY SHARONA     | SUNDOWN         |
| BARRACUDA         | HELP ME       | NIGHT FEVER    | SUPERSTAR       |
| BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY | IMAGINE       | PHOTOGRAPH     | THE GAMBLER     |
| BROTHER LOUISE    | LAST DANCE    | PIANO MAN      | WITHOUT YOU     |
| CRAZY ON YOU      | LET IT BE     | REUNITED       | WOODSTOCK       |
| DELTA DAWN        | LOVE HURTS    | ROSE GARDEN    | Y.M.C.A.        |
| DOV'T STOP        | LOW RIDER     | SHADOW DANCING | YOU'RE SIXTEEN  |

### Yesterday's Solution

#### More 1950's Songs

I M W A L K I N R E B E L R O U S E R  
P L N T L R A D E L T T I L E S A M Y  
A Y E W S E E E Y B E H S I E S S Y L  
L E L G H E U R R L L L E A M T N R E  
L N P O D I C N L I L U C W A A M T R  
S O A O A E T I E E F R E G I Y M E E  
H H S D S L C E B V U N G M T N I A C  
O Y O N Y U M E L I A E O I O U D H N  
O E R I L E H O S I R Y L L O N A F I  
K N O G E T L E S L G A L L U N D L S  
U O L H U A A O E T N H E E T O S A O  
P M L T R N T E O O G I T I N O S M Y  
G G I I C I T E S D U R L N W O E I D  
O E N R E T H R B O M L O H I K L N N  
D T S E B I E M L Y Y O A W U N E G A  
D A T N T P H O N L A T T J N E G O D  
R J O E N I O T A N A M D N A S R M M  
I O N O O T P C H A N C E S A R E L I  
B B E O D V E D O O L B G N U O Y E J

- |                |                 |               |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ALL SHOOK UP   | FLAMINGO        | LUCILLE       | SOUL ON FIRE    |
| ALMOST GROWN   | GET A JOB       | MAYBE         | STAGGER LEE     |
| AT THE HOP     | GOODNIGHT IRENE | MONEY MONEY   | THE BELLS       |
| BIRD DOG       | I'M A MAN       | MR SANDMAN    | THE WIND        |
| BLUE MONDAY    | I'M WALKIN'     | PERSONALITY   | TIPITINA        |
| CHANCES ARE    | JIM DANDY       | REBEL ROUSER  | TOM DOOLEY      |
| CHANTILLY LACE | JUKE            | ROLLIN' STONE | TRY ME          |
| CRY            | LITTLE DARLIN'  | SEA CRUISE    | WHITE LIGHTNING |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | LOVELY AVENUE   | SINCERELY     | YOUNG BLOOD     |
| EL PASO        | LOUIE LOUIE     | SO WHAT       |                 |

The hidden sentence is: PLEASE SEND ME SOMEONE TO LOVE

### CROSSWORD 1825



#### ACROSS

- (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.
- Kill by throwing stones at.
- A flat wing-shaped process or wingle part of an organism.
- A short amusing opera.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- A local computer network for communication between computers.
- Part of a dress above the waist.
- Insectivorous usually semiaquatic web-footed amphibian with smooth moist skin and long hind legs.
- Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
- Evergreen tree of eastern Asia and Philippines having large leathery leaves and small green-white flowers in compact cymes.
- Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- A polite name for any woman.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- Closed with a lace.
- Sole genus of the family Naiadaceae.
- The beginning or early stages.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- A state in New England.
- Steady recurrent ticking sound as made by a clock.
- The 17th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
- A cap with a flat circular top and a visor.
- (Greek mythology) The Titan who was father of Atlas and Epimetheus and Prometheus in ancient mythology.
- Any of several herbivorous leaping marsupials of Australia and New Guinea having large powerful hind legs and a long thick tail.
- Either of two flat triangular bones one on each side of the shoulder in human beings.
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- Muslims collectively and their civilization.
- A scolding nagging bad-tempered woman.
- A disorderly outburst or tumult.
- God of fire.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- Somewhat hard.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine.
- Tag the base runner to get him out.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- A port in eastern Georgia near the mouth of the Savannah river.
- Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- A barrier constructed to contain the

#### DOWN

- With no effort to conceal.
- (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- An easy return of a tennis ball in a high arc.
- (of snakes and eels) Naturally footless.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- Of or relating to located near the iris of the eye.
- Marked by excessive self-indulgence and moral decay.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- A long piece of brightly colored cloth (cotton or silk) used as clothing (a skirt or loincloth or sash etc.) in India and Pakistan and Burma.
- A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
- The basic unit of money in Ghana.
- Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- Moving very fast.
- A metric unit of volume equal to one tenth of a liter.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- Of the appetites and passions of the body.
- Philosophical system developed by of Lao-tzu and Chuang-tzu advocating a simple honest life and noninterference with the course of natural events.
- A small bottle that contains a drug (especially a sealed sterile container for injection by needle).
- A plaything that is ridden up and down by children at either end.
- Small biscuit (rich with cream and eggs) cut into diamonds or sticks and baked in an oven or (especially originally) on a griddle.
- The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- Having any of numerous bright or strong colors reminiscent of the color of blood or cherries or tomatoes or rubies.
- Garlic mayonnaise.
- (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
- Receives blood from lower limbs and abdominal organs and empties into the posterior part of the right atrium of the heart.
- A musical composition consisting of a series of songs or other musical pieces from various sources.
- An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
- Wearing a turban.
- Type genus of the Gavidae.
- A poisonous colorless flammable gas used in organic synthesis and to dope transistors and as a poison gas in warfare.
- A gray lustrous metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A river that rises in western New Mexico and flows westward through southern Arizona to become a tributary of the Colorado River.
- A recurring sleep state during which rapid eye movements do not occur and dreaming does not occur.
- An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- Any competition.
- A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
- Standard time in the 6th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 90th meridian.
- A light touch or stroke.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).

### Yesterday's Solution



### Daily Sudoku




### Yesterday's Solution






## TV Listings



01:10 Larceny  
02:45 The Net  
04:40 The Phantom  
06:30 Batman v Superman: Dawn Of Justice  
09:05 Batman Unlimited: Mechs vs. Mutants  
10:25 Larceny  
12:00 The Net  
13:55 Batman v Superman: Dawn Of Justice  
16:30 Project Almanac  
18:20 Nick Of Time  
19:55 Jason Bourne  
22:00 Sudden Death  
23:55 Bloodrayne: The Third Reich



00:50 Lone Star Law  
01:45 Treehouse Masters  
02:40 Preposterous Pets  
03:35 Escape To Chimp Eden  
04:00 Escape To Chimp Eden  
04:25 Whale Wars  
05:15 Whale Wars  
06:02 North America  
06:49 Lone Star Law  
07:36 Meet The Orangutans  
08:00 Meet The Orangutans  
08:25 Escape To Chimp Eden  
08:50 Escape To Chimp Eden  
09:15 Treehouse Masters  
10:10 Preposterous Pets  
11:05 North America  
12:00 Escape To Chimp Eden  
12:28 Escape To Chimp Eden  
12:55 Whale Wars  
13:50 Whale Wars  
14:45 Preposterous Pets  
15:40 North America  
16:35 Lone Star Law  
17:30 Treehouse Masters  
18:25 Keeping Up With The Krugers  
19:20 The Lion Queen  
20:15 Bad Dog  
21:10 Escape To Chimp Eden  
21:38 Escape To Chimp Eden  
22:05 Keeping Up With The Krugers  
23:00 Blood Ivory  
23:55 North America



00:40 New Tricks  
01:35 Holby City  
02:30 Eastenders  
03:30 Benidorm  
04:20 Stella  
05:05 New Tricks  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 Casualty  
07:20 Holby City  
08:15 Doctors  
11:15 Casualty  
12:10 Holby City  
13:05 Eastenders  
15:05 Casualty  
16:00 Doctors  
16:30 Doctors  
17:00 Doctors  
17:30 Doctors  
18:30 Bad Move  
19:00 New Tricks  
20:00 Father Brown  
20:55 Death In Paradise  
22:00 Poldark  
22:55 Doctors  
23:25 Bad Move  
23:50 New Tricks




00:00 The First 48  
01:00 The First 48  
02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
03:00 Fritzl By Fred Dinenge  
04:00 The First 48  
05:00 The First 48




06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
08:00 The First 48  
09:00 Escaping Polygamy  
10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath  
11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
12:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
13:00 The First 48  
14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
15:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
16:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
17:00 Homicide Hunter  
18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
19:00 It Takes A Killer  
20:00 Jo Frost On Britain's Killer Kids  
23:00 Killer Kids



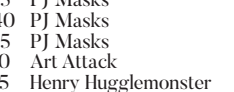
00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
01:20 NASA's Unexplained Files  
02:10 Freaks Of Nature  
03:00 How The Earth Works  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 Tanked  
05:30 How It's Made  
06:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
06:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
07:00 Ultimate Survival  
07:50 How It's Made  
08:15 How It's Made  
08:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
09:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
09:30 Tanked  
10:20 How The Earth Works  
11:10 Don't Blink  
11:35 Don't Blink  
12:00 The Carbonaro Effect  
12:25 The Carbonaro Effect  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:15 How It's Made  
13:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
14:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
14:30 Tanked  
15:20 Ultimate Survival  
16:10 How The Earth Works  
17:00 Don't Blink  
17:50 The Carbonaro Effect  
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect  
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
19:30 How It's Made  
19:55 How It's Made  
20:20 Tanked  
21:10 Don't Blink  
21:35 Don't Blink  
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect  
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect  
22:50 Prehistoric  
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:50 Held Hostage: People Magazine Investigates  
01:45 House Of Horrors: Kidnapped  
02:40 Killer Confessions  
03:35 Murder Book  
04:30 Held Hostage: People Magazine Investigates  
05:25 California Investigator  
05:50 California Investigator  
06:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
07:10 Swamp Murders  
08:00 California Investigator  
08:25 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
09:15 California Investigator  
10:10 Swamp Murders  
11:05 I'd Kill For You  
12:00 Married With Secrets  
12:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
14:45 Swamp Murders  
15:40 I'd Kill For You  
16:35 Reasonable Doubt  
17:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
18:25 California Investigator  
18:50 California Investigator  
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
20:15 Swamp Murders  
21:10 I'd Kill For You  
22:05 Grave Secrets  
23:00 Murder Online  
23:55 I Speak For The Dead




00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
00:35 Binny And The Ghost  
01:00 Hank Zipzer  
01:25 Alex & Co.  
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:05 Binny And The Ghost  
03:30 Binny And The Ghost  
03:55 Hank Zipzer  
04:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
04:20 Hank Zipzer  
04:45 Alex & Co.  
05:10 Alex & Co.  
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
06:25 Binny And The Ghost  
06:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks  
07:00 Jessie  
07:25 Tangled: The Series  
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
07:55 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
08:20 Elena Of Avalor  
08:45 Bunk'd  
09:10 Stuck In The Middle  
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
10:25 Lolirock  
10:50 Lolirock  
11:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
12:05 Hank Zipzer  
12:30 Alex & Co.  
12:55 Alex & Co.  
13:20 Lolirock  
13:45 Lolirock  
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
15:00 The Zhuzhus  
15:15 K.C. Undercover  
15:40 Bunk'd  
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
16:10 Elena Of Avalor  
16:35 Bizaardvark  
17:00 Tangled: The Series  
17:25 Descendants Wicked World  
17:30 Stuck In The Middle  
17:55 K.C. Undercover  
18:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
18:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
19:10 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny  
19:15 Bunk'd  
19:40 Girl Meets World  
20:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
20:10 Liv And Maddie  
20:35 Jessie  
21:00 Tangled: The Series  
21:25 K.C. Undercover  
21:50 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
22:15 Bizaardvark  
22:40 Stuck In The Middle  
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks  
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
23:45 Lolirock



00:15 PJ Masks  
00:40 PJ Masks  
01:05 PJ Masks  
01:30 Art Attack  
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Loopdidoo  
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:35 Calimero  
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:05 Art Attack  
03:30 The Hive  
03:40 Loopdidoo  
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:10 Art Attack  
04:35 Loopdidoo  
04:50 Calimero  
05:05 Art Attack



05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:00 Art Attack  
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:45 Loopdidoo  
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
07:15 Calimero  
07:30 PJ Masks  
08:00 P-King Duckling  
08:25 Jungle Junction  
08:40 Special Agent Oso  
09:00 Handy Manny  
09:15 PJ Masks  
09:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
10:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
10:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
10:55 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
11:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
11:50 The Lion Guard  
12:15 The Lion Guard  
12:45 Sofia The First  
13:10 Sofia The First  
13:35 PJ Masks  
14:00 PJ Masks  
14:30 Doc McStuffins  
14:55 P-King Duckling  
15:20 Vampirina  
15:45 Sofia The First  
16:10 Puppy Dog Pals  
16:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
17:00 Messages From Miles  
17:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates...  
17:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
18:00 Goldie & Bear  
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
18:55 Sofia The First  
19:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
19:55 Doc McStuffins  
20:10 The Lion Guard  
20:35 P-King Duckling  
21:00 Vampirina  
21:30 PJ Masks  
22:00 PJ Masks  
22:25 Sofia The First  
22:50 P-King Duckling  
23:20 Puppy Dog Pals  
23:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers



00:15 Yukon Men  
01:05 Kings Of The Wild  
01:50 Deadliest Job Interview  
02:35 Sean Conway: On The Edge  
03:20 Street Outlaws  
04:05 Alaska Monsters  
04:50 Deadliest Catch  
05:35 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Backroad Bounty  
06:45 How Do They Do It?  
07:10 How Do They Do It?  
07:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
08:20 Backroad Bounty  
09:10 Deadliest Catch  
09:55 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
10:45 Deadliest Catch  
11:30 Yukon Men  
12:20 Backroad Bounty  
13:05 How Do They Do It?  
13:30 How Do They Do It?  
13:55 Deadliest Catch  
14:40 Yukon Men  
15:30 Kings Of The Wild  
16:15 Deadliest Job Interview  
17:05 Sean Conway: On The Edge  
17:50 Blowing Up History  
18:40 Tesla's Death Ray: A Murder Declassified  
19:25 Yukon Men  
20:15 Street Outlaws  
21:00 Diesel Brothers  
21:50 Supertrucks  
22:40 Fast N' Loud  
23:30 Gold Rush




06:00 Supa Strikas  
06:25 Milo Murphy's Law  
06:50 Right Now Kapow  
07:15 Mech-X4  
07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
07:45 Walk The Prank  
08:10 Walk The Prank  
08:35 Right Now Kapow




09:00 Right Now Kapow  
09:25 Mighty Med  
09:50 Mighty Med  
10:20 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures  
10:45 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures  
11:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
11:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
12:00 Kid vs. Kat  
12:25 Two More Eggs  
12:30 Kid vs. Kat  
12:55 Kirby Buckets  
13:20 Kirby Buckets  
13:45 Supa Strikas  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Supa Strikas  
14:40 Right Now Kapow  
15:05 Right Now Kapow  
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law  
15:55 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
16:00 The Suite Life Of Zack & Cody  
16:25 Lab Rats  
16:50 Lab Rats  
17:15 Mech-X4  
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man  
18:05 Supa Strikas  
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man  
18:35 Walk The Prank  
19:00 Gravity Falls  
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law  
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
19:55 Mech-X4  
20:20 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
21:10 Kid vs. Kat  
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Lab Rats  
22:35 Phineas And Ferb  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:00 Tia Mowry At Home  
01:00 The Big Eat - Middle East  
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Chopped  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
06:50 Anna Olson: Bake  
07:15 The Kitchen  
08:05 The Pioneer Woman  
08:30 The Pioneer Woman  
08:55 Siba's Table  
09:25 Siba's Table  
09:55 Cooking For Real  
10:25 Cooking For Real  
10:55 The Kitchen  
11:45 Cooking For Real  
12:10 The Pioneer Woman  
12:35 The Pioneer Woman  
13:00 Siba's Table  
13:30 Siba's Table  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Chopped  
16:00 The Kitchen  
17:00 Cooking For Real  
17:30 Cooking For Real  
18:00 Chopped  
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
20:00 Guy & Hunter's European Vacation  
20:30 Guy & Hunter's European Vacation  
21:00 Beach Bites With Katie Lee  
21:30 Beach Bites With Katie Lee  
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
23:00 Chopped



00:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Cash Trapped  
03:25 Inside Windsor Castle



04:20 Martin Clunes: Islands Of Australia  
05:15 Don't Tell The Bride  
06:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
07:05 Cash Trapped  
08:00 Inside Windsor Castle  
09:00 Martin Clunes: Islands Of Australia  
10:00 Don't Tell The Bride  
11:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
11:50 Cash Trapped  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Emmerdale  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
15:10 Cash Trapped  
16:00 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
17:00 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
17:50 Don't Tell The Bride  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:15 Emmerdale  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 Cash Trapped  
21:00 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
22:00 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Emmerdale  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 How 2 Win  
01:00 Cowboys & Outlaws  
02:00 The Colour Of War  
03:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
03:50 Ancient Aliens  
04:40 Clash Of The Gods  
05:30 How 2 Win  
06:20 The Colour Of War  
07:10 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
08:00 The Colour Of War  
09:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
10:00 Ancient Aliens  
11:00 Clash Of The Gods  
12:00 How 2 Win  
13:00 Cowboys & Outlaws  
14:00 The Colour Of War  
15:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
16:00 Ancient Aliens  
17:00 Clash Of The Gods  
18:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
19:00 Cowboys & Outlaws  
20:00 Clash Of Warriors  
21:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
22:00 Ancient Aliens  
23:00 Bible Secrets Revealed



00:20 Swamp People  
01:10 Swamp People  
02:00 American Pickers Best Of  
02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island  
03:40 The Warfighters  
04:30 Swamp People  
10:10 Mountain Men  
14:20 Swamp People  
18:30 Ultimate Wheels  
19:20 Counting Cars  
19:45 Counting Cars  
20:10 Fifth Gear  
21:00 American Pickers  
21:50 Pawn Stars  
22:15 Storage Wars  
22:40 Forged In Fire  
23:30 Ultimate Wheels



00:15 Places We Go  
00:45 Miguel's Feasts  
01:10 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
01:40 Places We Go  
02:05 Places We Go  
02:35 My Pacific Quest  
03:30 Raw Travel  
03:55 Raw Travel



## TV Listings

04:25 The Food Files  
 04:50 The Food Files  
 05:20 Street Food Around The World  
 05:45 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
 06:15 My Restaurant In India  
 06:40 My Restaurant In India  
 07:10 Places We Go  
 07:35 Places We Go  
 08:05 My Pacific Quest  
 09:00 Raw Travel  
 09:25 Raw Travel  
 09:55 The Food Files  
 10:20 The Food Files  
 10:50 Street Food Around The World  
 11:15 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
 11:45 My Restaurant In India  
 12:10 My Restaurant In India  
 12:40 Places We Go  
 13:05 Places We Go  
 13:35 My Pacific Quest  
 14:30 Raw Travel  
 14:55 Raw Travel  
 15:25 The Food Files  
 15:50 The Food Files  
 16:20 A Is For Apple  
 16:45 The Food Files  
 17:15 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
 17:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 18:10 Places We Go  
 18:35 Places We Go  
 19:05 My Pacific Quest  
 20:00 A Is For Apple  
 20:30 The Food Files  
 21:00 The Food Files  
 21:30 The Food Files  
 22:00 Raw Travel  
 22:25 Raw Travel  
 22:55 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
 23:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 23:50 Places We Go



00:10 Nazi Megastructures  
 01:00 Supercar Megabuild  
 02:00 To Catch A Smuggler  
 03:00 Science Of Stupid  
 03:30 Science Of Stupid  
 04:00 Nazi Megastructures  
 05:00 The Indestructibles  
 05:30 The Indestructibles  
 06:00 Supercar Megabuild  
 07:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind  
 08:00 Seconds From Disaster  
 09:00 The Indestructibles  
 09:30 The Indestructibles  
 10:00 Explorer XL  
 11:00 The 2000s: The Decade We Saw It All  
 13:00 Supercar Megabuild  
 14:00 Inside  
 15:00 The Long Road Home  
 16:00 Explorer XL  
 17:00 Taboo  
 18:00 Drugs Inc  
 19:00 The Long Road Home  
 20:00 Explorer XL  
 20:50 Taboo  
 21:40 Drugs Inc  
 22:30 The Long Road Home  
 23:20 Startalk



00:20 Searching For The Snow Leopard  
 01:10 Monster Croc Wrangler  
 01:35 Monster Croc Wrangler  
 02:00 Planet Carnivore: Perfect Killers  
 02:50 Animal Fight Club 4.5  
 03:45 World's Deadliest  
 04:40 Lion Kingdom  
 05:35 Planet Carnivore: Perfect Killers  
 06:30 Animal Fight Club 4.5  
 07:25 World's Deadliest  
 08:20 Lion Kingdom  
 09:15 Pythonathon  
 10:10 Urban Jungle: Wilderness Rising  
 11:05 Lion Kingdom  
 12:00 Shocking Sharks  
 12:55 Vanishing Kings: Desert Lions Of Namib  
 13:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
 14:45 Wild 24

15:40 Nordic Wild  
 16:35 How Big Can It Get  
 17:30 Borneo's Secret Kingdom  
 18:25 Mystery Of The Lynx  
 19:20 Wild 24  
 20:10 Nordic Wild  
 21:00 How Big Can It Get  
 21:50 Borneo's Secret Kingdom  
 22:40 Mystery Of The Lynx  
 23:30 Shocking Sharks



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 00:36 Rabbids Invasion  
 01:00 Rabbids Invasion  
 01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
 01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
 02:12 Winx Club  
 02:36 Winx Club  
 03:00 Harvey Beaks  
 03:24 Harvey Beaks  
 03:48 The Loud House  
 04:12 The Loud House  
 04:36 Breadwinners  
 05:00 Breadwinners  
 05:24 Get Blake  
 05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 07:24 Rabbids Invasion  
 07:48 Get Blake  
 08:12 Harvey Beaks  
 08:36 Sanjay And Craig  
 09:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 09:48 Henry Danger  
 10:12 Game Shakers  
 10:36 Regal Academy  
 11:00 Winx Club  
 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 12:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 12:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 13:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 13:24 Massive Monster Mayhem  
 13:48 Hunter Street  
 14:12 I Am Frankie  
 14:36 The Thundermans  
 15:00 Rabbids Invasion  
 15:24 School Of Rock  
 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 16:36 The Loud House  
 17:00 Massive Monster Mayhem  
 17:24 I Am Frankie  
 17:48 Hunter Street  
 18:12 Henry Danger  
 18:36 Rabbids Invasion  
 19:00 School Of Rock  
 19:24 Game Shakers  
 19:48 The Thundermans  
 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 20:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 21:24 Sanjay And Craig  
 21:48 Rabbids Invasion  
 22:12 Breadwinners  
 22:36 Harvey Beaks  
 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:17 Shimmer And Shine  
 00:39 Shimmer And Shine  
 01:01 Max & Ruby  
 01:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 01:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 01:47 The Day Henry Met  
 01:52 The Day Henry Met  
 01:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 02:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 02:41 Zack & Quack  
 02:52 Kid-E-Cats  
 02:58 Kid-E-Cats  
 03:04 Shimmer And Shine  
 03:26 Nella And The Princess Knight  
 03:38 Paw Patrol  
 04:01 Little Charmers  
 04:13 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 04:24 Dora The Explorer  
 04:46 Max & Ruby

05:06 The Day Henry Met  
 05:11 Nella The Princess Knight  
 05:35 Shimmer And Shine  
 05:59 Wallykazam!  
 06:21 Zack & Quack  
 06:32 The Day Henry Met  
 06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 07:00 Rusty Rivets  
 07:13 Paw Patrol  
 07:37 Dora The Explorer  
 08:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
 08:10 Kid-E-Cats  
 08:15 Kid-E-Cats  
 08:21 Bubble Guppies  
 08:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 09:05 Paw Patrol  
 09:07 Paw Patrol  
 09:30 Shimmer And Shine  
 09:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
 10:15 The Day Henry Met  
 10:21 Paw Patrol  
 10:44 Rusty Rivets  
 11:07 Wallykazam!  
 11:30 Bubble Guppies  
 11:54 Team Umizoomi  
 12:17 Shimmer And Shine  
 12:39 Shimmer And Shine  
 13:01 Max & Ruby  
 13:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 13:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 13:47 The Day Henry Met  
 13:52 The Day Henry Met  
 13:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 14:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 14:41 Zack & Quack  
 14:52 Kid-E-Cats  
 14:58 Kid-E-Cats  
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 18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 19:00 Rusty Rivets  
 19:13 Paw Patrol  
 19:37 Dora The Explorer  
 20:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
 20:10 Kid-E-Cats  
 20:21 Bubble Guppies  
 20:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 21:07 Paw Patrol  
 21:30 Shimmer And Shine  
 21:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
 22:15 The Day Henry Met  
 22:21 Paw Patrol  
 22:44 Rusty Rivets  
 23:07 Wallykazam!  
 23:30 Bubble Guppies  
 23:54 Team Umizoomi



00:20 Chilly Christmas  
 01:50 A Miracle On Christmas Lake  
 03:50 Pet Pals In Windland  
 05:15 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder  
 06:45 Chilly Christmas  
 08:15 The Angry Birds Movie  
 09:55 Pet Pals In Windland  
 11:20 The Angry Birds Movie  
 13:00 Lego DC Comics: Justice League Cosmic Clash  
 14:25 The Great Gilly Hopkins  
 16:05 The Little Rascals  
 17:30 The Dog Lover  
 19:15 Jem And The Holograms  
 21:15 Lego DC Comics: Justice League Cosmic Clash  
 22:40 The Great Gilly Hopkins



01:55 Quitters  
 03:35 Jeff, Who Lives At Home

05:00 Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins  
 06:55 Wayne's World 2  
 08:35 Once I Was A Beehive  
 10:35 Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins  
 12:30 Wayne's World 2  
 14:10 Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks  
 16:00 The Tiger Hunter  
 17:35 The Bucket List  
 19:15 Murder Of A Cat  
 21:00 A.C.O.D.  
 22:30 Double Take



00:20 The Stanford Prison Experiment  
 02:30 Noble  
 04:20 The Last King  
 06:05 Newsies: The Broadway Musical  
 08:25 Noble  
 10:20 The Last King  
 12:05 The Last 100 Days Of Diana  
 13:45 Dare To Be Wild  
 15:25 XV: Beyond The Tryline  
 17:10 Lorenzo's Oil  
 19:30 The Man Who Knew Infinity  
 21:25 A Mighty Heart  
 23:25 When Life Keeps Getting In The Way



01:25 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins  
 02:50 Ploddy Police Car  
 04:20 Monkey King: The Hero  
 06:00 Last Wizard  
 07:25 Rock Dog  
 09:05 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin  
 10:35 Quest For A Heart  
 12:05 Micropolis  
 13:40 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins  
 15:05 Ploddy Police Car  
 16:30 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest  
 18:15 Quest For A Heart  
 19:45 Simba The King Lion  
 21:55 Papelucho & The Martian  
 23:20 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest



00:55 Dirty Grandpa  
 02:40 Hail, Caesar!  
 04:30 My All American  
 06:30 Beverly Hills Cop 3  
 08:20 Dan In Real Life  
 10:05 Arachnophobia  
 12:00 Hail, Caesar!  
 13:55 Everest  
 16:00 Cinderella Man  
 18:30 The Proposal  
 20:25 The Boss  
 22:10 Sisters



00:40 Mythbusters: The Search  
 01:30 How Do They Do It?  
 01:55 Food Factory  
 02:20 Mysteries Of The Missing  
 03:10 Storm Chasers  
 04:00 Nextworld  
 04:48 Mythbusters: The Search  
 05:36 How Do They Do It?  
 06:00 Food Factory  
 06:24 Mysteries Of The Missing  
 07:12 Storm Chasers  
 08:00 How Do They Do It?  
 08:26 Nextworld  
 09:14 Mythbusters: The Search  
 10:02 Storm Chasers  
 10:50 How Do They Do It?  
 11:14 Food Factory  
 11:38 How Things Work  
 12:26 Nextworld  
 13:14 Mythbusters: The Search  
 14:02 How Do They Do It?  
 14:26 Food Factory  
 14:50 Storm Chasers  
 15:38 Nextworld  
 16:26 How Things Work

17:14 Mythbusters: The Search  
 18:02 Storm Chasers  
 18:50 Nextworld  
 19:40 Mythbusters: The Search  
 20:30 Strip The Cosmos  
 21:20 How Do They Do It?  
 21:45 Food Factory  
 22:10 Storm Chasers  
 23:00 You Have Been Warned  
 23:50 Nextworld



01:15 Committed  
 03:00 Tadpole  
 04:15 Tiptoes  
 05:45 The Assignment  
 07:30 Bad Santa  
 09:00 The Painted Veil  
 11:15 Heartlands  
 12:45 Nurse Betty  
 14:45 Committed  
 16:15 The Gift  
 18:15 Proof  
 20:00 Interview With A Hitman  
 21:45 Shattered Glass  
 23:30 Boys And Girls



00:00 Married At First Sight  
 01:00 Married At First Sight  
 02:00 Mistresses  
 03:00 House Of DVF  
 04:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year  
 05:00 Project Runway  
 06:00 Married At First Sight  
 07:00 Married At First Sight  
 08:00 Mistresses  
 09:00 House Of DVF  
 10:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year  
 11:00 Project Runway  
 12:00 Married At First Sight  
 13:00 Married At First Sight  
 14:00 Mistresses  
 15:00 House Of DVF  
 16:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year  
 17:00 Mistresses  
 18:00 Devious Maids  
 19:00 Devious Maids  
 20:00 Project Runway All Stars  
 21:00 All Hail The Veil  
 21:45 All Hail The Veil  
 22:25 All Hail The Veil  
 23:00 Mistresses



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 00:42 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?  
 01:50 The Spouse House  
 02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
 03:20 Our Little Family  
 04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras  
 04:50 Ultimate Shopper  
 05:35 Say Yes To The Dress  
 06:00 7 Little Johnstons  
 06:45 Our Little Family  
 07:30 Our Little Family  
 08:15 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 08:37 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 09:00 Cake Boss  
 09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners  
 10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...  
 10:55 Love, Lust Or Run  
 11:17 Love, Lust Or Run  
 11:40 Love, Lust Or Run  
 12:02 Love, Lust Or Run  
 12:25 Love, Lust Or Run  
 12:47 Love, Lust Or Run  
 13:10 Iyanla: Fix My Life  
 13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
 14:40 Cake Boss  
 15:02 Cake Boss  
 15:25 Cake Boss  
 15:47 Cake Boss  
 16:10 Cake Boss  
 16:35 Cake Boss  
 17:00 Hodges Half Dozen



00:00 America's Dark Secrets De-classified  
 01:00 Ghost Hunters International  
 02:00 Ghost Hunters International  
 03:00 Expedition Unknown: Hunt For Extraterrestrials  
 04:00 Expedition Unknown: After The Hunt  
 05:00 America's Dark Secrets De-classified  
 06:00 Bizarre Foods With Andrew Zimmern  
 07:00 Mysteries At The Museum  
 08:00 House Hunters International  
 08:30 House Hunters International  
 09:00 House Hunters International  
 09:30 House Hunters International  
 10:00 Salvage Dawgs  
 10:30 Salvage Dawgs  
 11:00 Hotel Impossible  
 12:00 Mysteries At The Museum  
 13:00 Mysteries At The Museum  
 14:00 House Hunters International  
 14:30 House Hunters International  
 15:30 House Hunters International  
 16:00 Hotel Impossible  
 17:00 Salvage Dawgs  
 17:30 Salvage Dawgs  
 18:00 Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations  
 18:30 Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations  
 19:00 Bizarre Foods With Andrew Zimmern  
 20:00 House Hunters International  
 20:30 House Hunters International  
 21:00 House Hunters International  
 21:30 House Hunters International  
 22:00 Texas Flip And Move  
 23:00 Building Off The Grid: Alaska Range



00:05 Detroiters  
 00:30 Idiotsitter  
 00:55 Tosh.0  
 01:20 Tosh.0  
 01:45 Tosh.0  
 02:10 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
 02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
 03:24 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alvagef  
 03:50 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
 04:15 Lip Sync Battle  
 04:40 Workaholics  
 05:05 Workaholics  
 05:30 Workaholics  
 05:55 Workaholics  
 06:20 Workaholics  
 06:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show  
 07:15 The Jim Gaffigan Show  
 07:40 The Jim Gaffigan Show  
 08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show  
 08:30 The Jim Gaffigan Show  
 08:55 The Dude Perfect Show  
 09:20 The Dude Perfect Show  
 09:45 I Live With Models  
 10:10 I Live With Models  
 10:35 I Live With Models  
 11:00 Kroll Show  
 11:25 Kroll Show  
 11:50 Kroll Show  
 12:15 Kroll Show  
 12:40 Kroll Show  
 13:05 Disaster Date  
 13:30 Disaster Date  
 13:55 Friendszone  
 14:20 Friendszone



## Stars

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

Aries, something you've wanted badly shows up causing serious temptation! Think carefully before making a decision that could cause drastic changes. Vibrations of self control is available if you choose to accept them. Your contributions are held in high esteem and very welcome. Taking one more look at a perplexing problem reveals answers you have sought for some time. On a personal note, if you demand too much you could do irreparable damage. The mood to see about your personal financial affairs is prominent. You could be quick witted and fast with your words; stay in control of this or you could create a rift. Enjoy some time outside this evening; now could be the time to try out one of your new electronic gadgets with a friend, Aries.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

Taurus, your mind is focused on what needs to be done; when blockages occur you become hard to deal with. Friends call on you to pitch in on a large project; your contributions help more than you know. The budget for this project forces you to do with less but the group overcomes to complete a nice finished product. You stay quiet when someone comes in with some gossip; avoid adding your thoughts as this is petty behavior you don't like. When a minor emergency arises you think of taking from savings; remember you don't need every item you want. You are impractical later when you spend money on an item you feel you need to stay in competition with others. Money matters could prove tough if you continue spending foolishly, Taurus.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

Gemini, you realize your worth and have a much better opinion of yourself. You could discover that you have warm feelings for an elder or a person in authority. You stumble upon something you have been wanting to purchase; be mindful of your budget and you could actually find it at a better price another time. Keep an eye on your pocket book as there could be someone wanting you to be generous when perhaps you shouldn't. You could be overwhelmed with getting your affairs in order; this could pertain to personal business or a work situation. You could seem anxious when you're actually only impatient; make sure to take a deep breath and try to slow down. Someone compliments your taste and beautiful or handsome appearance, Gemini.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Cancer, accomplishment is the name of the game as you wrap up your plans to complete a project; positive results soon! You keep your eyes on the prize as you cut a straight path to reaching a certain milestone in life; this could indicate marriage, birthday, retirement or the like. The energy of the day is connected as though magically. An initiation into a club you'd rather not join is near. This may mean experiencing something unwanted, but remember we sometimes find joy through unwanted events. You could look deeply at yourself and those you surround yourself with. You like duties and tasks required by your job or profession. Self-respect is growing; you feel content this evening as you open a letter from someone you miss, Cancer.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

Leo, you could feel this day is one of boredom and a total waste of time; in actuality, surprising results could be set into motion, keep your eyes open to this possibility. If you feel disjointed or excluded there could be a good reason; can you think of any your quirks and unusual way of thinking is admired by some you spend time with. You lend a helping hand to a friend in need that's helped you in the past. Your ideas about eternity and what happens as we age are striking; listen to intuition when seeking answers in this area. Your down to earth approach to a project turns out to be more valuable than you thought. You figure out a workable plan for the team to use. Your love of beautiful things is highlighted as you visit a museum or antique shop, Leo.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

Virgo, your focus is on finishing up the details of a project your happy to see ending. You're serious about getting your emotional affairs in order and coming to some realizations spurs this on. The sense of confusion and fog-giness lifts and drifts away; try meditating and focusing on your desires to help with this. While you're certain of your methods and direction, others aren't and they don't mind saying so in what could seem a very rude manner. Take a moment and listen to the other side of things; your open minded attitude snaps to the obvious conclusion with ease. You ponder the afterlife, various mysteries of other spiritual realms, the possibility of their existence. Make no decisions this evening as you'd only have to redo them tomorrow, Virgo.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Libra, you know who you are and, as you examine it, you feel good about your direction. If there are rough edges, as there are with most human beings, flaws help us to remain humble if we're smart enough to see them. A sense of peace, prosperity and general happiness are prominent just now and into the year. This is by and large nice a period for you as you meet new people and go new places; you'll look back on this time with fondness. You complete tasks or duties almost automatically and with speed and accuracy that others appreciate; you could be considered for a raise! If you encounter problems or slow-downs, you'll figure out how to get around or fix them; let your unique interests or hobbies relax you into the evening. Sweet dreams, idealistic Libra.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Scorpio, something or someone you absolutely can't resist shows up unexpectedly! You wrestle with doing the right thing; remember, we get what we give. If you insist on having your way in a certain situation you could do irreparable harm; this is written in the stars, heed it. You could allow yourself to be misled as you have in the past; learn from past mistakes or you set yourself up to have to learn again. You desire to keep something you have loved and worked hard for; you're in a position to find the will to win if you choose. When you're called on for a donation of time or money you gladly oblige and plan to help further. You could feel lonely or discarded; have you hurt someone's feelings meditate and relax with someone special tonight, Scorpio.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

Sagittarius, you're in touch with the feelings and opinions of others, perhaps too much so. Time spent with someone close to your heart recharges your mind and your spirit. Your new exercise program and food changes agree with you and someone says so. A feeling of comfort and satisfaction is prevalent at this time and into the month. Your skills of persuasion could land you in trouble; be careful who you share financial plans with. Circumstances give you the perfect opening to perform at your highest level regarding your work. You could become restless if you spend too long in a meeting or at an appointment. You may not like the new information you receive, but it's nice to have a clue when something shocking is headed your way, Sagittarius.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Capricorn, stay on the straight and narrow right now instead of taking risks. You struggle to be satisfied with mundane, ordinary things but now's not the time to try anything you're uncertain about. You may have to deal with some painful truths about yourself; remember, though, you can only fix it if you can see it! Mental powers are strong and clear. You have no shortage of dear friends who love you. You're in touch with those around you and they know it; everyone looks to you to solve any problems or blockages that arise! You suspect someone of trying to do something behind your back or of talking about you to others; keep this to yourself and continue to observe. You hear scandalous gossip this evening regarding someone you know, Capricorn.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**

Aquarius, there are those at work today that don't like your new methods and they say so. It would be best to stick with the old ways at work and let things proceed as usual. You could want to recede and stay to yourself today but be careful not to come across as pouting or brooding. Continuing your organizational tasks could prove a valuable distraction and produces rewarding results. This could be the evening you try a new recipe for dinner as you continue on your quest for health. Give some special attention to your life-mate this evening, there could be a bit of insecurity involved. Someone needs your help on a matter of private issues. It's okay to be assertive! You can clearly see the problem and counsel this dear one on how to solve it, Aquarius.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

Pisces, you may come face to face with your insecurities and thinking; it could seem as though you are on the outside looking in. The realm of dreams and cosmic laws will continue to be a fascination you can't do without; let yourself relax when you research these subjects. Items you have looked for will become available to you perhaps via the internet. Watch your money; just because you have it doesn't mean you absolutely have to spend it. If you feel disgruntled with your home or belongings, remember this energy will be short lived. You may hold something against someone that you think let you down; release this and keep going. At home you may enjoy a late nap and early dinner with loved ones who could surprise you with a small gift, pisces.

## COUNTRY CODES

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



Health

# Galapagos hosts nursery for new species of giant tortoise

**PUERTO AYORA, Ecuador:** Crowded under a rock in the Galapagos archipelago, the baby tortoises wait for the sun to go down to leave their shelter. Nothing disturbs these eastern Santa Cruz tortoises (scientific name *Chelonoidis donfaustoi*), which were determined just two years ago to be a new species native to the Ecuadorian islands that inspired Charles Darwin. Kept safe on Santa Cruz island and raised in captivity, their nursery is one of three centers in the archipelago's national park where 12 species of giant tortoises, unique in the world, are bred.

Stretching their necks and poking their heads out of tiny shells, they nibble on nu-

tritious, starchy leaves of tropical plants brought in from the continent 1,000 kilometers away. Digestion plunges them into afternoon slumber. "We let them stay a little hungry. That way, when they return to the wild they go looking for their food," the director of the national park, Walter Bustos, said.

**Long lifespan**

It's not yet time to let the tortoises go free. For that, their shells have to be 23 to 25 centimeters long, meaning around four or five years of age. That's an insignificant span for these reptiles that can live up to a century

and a half, reaching up to two meters long and weighing up to 450 kilograms. The eggs hatched several months earlier in the center, with several broods. In all, the park now has 120 of the eastern Santa Cruz tortoises born in captivity, joining the better-known Galapagos giant tortoise (*Chelonoidis nigra*) on this string of volcanic islands in the Pacific.

**Ancient genus**

Giant tortoises arrived in the Galapagos around three or four million years ago, and it appears ocean currents likely scattered them across the islands. They developed into 15 species, of which three are extinct, each

adapting to its territory. The tortoise population was decimated by pirates and whale-hunters who captured them for their meat, and who introduced invasive species such as dogs, goats and rats.

The tortoises' fat, transformed into oil, for a long time fueled street lamps in Ecuador's capital Quito and the city of Guayaquil on the Pacific coast. "The tortoises are sorts of engineers in the ecosystem," Washington Tapia, a biologist at the US-based Galapagos Conservancy, said. "Through their movements they shape their environment, creating spaces where other species can develop, and they are the best sowers of grain that exist." —AFP

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**Kuwait Times**

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# Business

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**38** Equities battle rising global bond yields to snap end-Jan losing streak



**40** Expansion of Ethiopia's first industrial park reopens old wounds



**41** Row over monkey tests takes shine off Daimler's record profits



HYDERABAD, India: An Indian farmer with his produce waits to negotiate with traders at a wholesale vegetable market in Hyderabad. —AFP

## Govt appeals to rural India in budget before election

### Finance Minister Jaitley announces national healthcare scheme

**NEW DELHI:** India's government promised hundreds of billions of dollars to develop poor rural areas and help struggling farmers in its annual budget yesterday, looking to win over voters ahead of the next general election. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the government would spend \$220 billion on rural infrastructure, including building new roads and toilets and bringing electricity to millions of rural households.

Jaitley also announced a national healthcare scheme that will enable half a billion poor Indians to access up to 500,000 rupees a year for treatment, a key step in a country where many people have little access to affordable medical care. But small businesses and the rural economy were the main focus of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government's last full-year budget before national elections due by May 2019.

"While making the proposals in this year's budget, we have been guided by our mission to especially strengthen agriculture, rural development, health, education, employment, MSME (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) and infrastructure sectors of the Indian economy," Jaitley told parlia-

ment as he summed up the budget. "I am sure the new India which we aspire to create now will emerge." The majority of India's 1.25 billion population lives in the countryside, and winning rural voters is key to election victory in the world's largest democracy.

The government promised in the previous budget to double farmer incomes in the next five years and bring 10 million households out of poverty by 2019. But many still live and work in near penury at the mercy of loan sharks and a harsh climate, and rural disaffection has stoked protests

and a rise in farmer suicides in recent years. Access to water is particularly problematic in India, where less than half of all agricultural land is irrigated.

#### World's largest healthcare program

"The budget was expected to be pro-farmer as agrarian distress was rising and there has been a

widespread outcry over the crop slowdown from the farming community across India," said Sujana Hajra, chief economist at Anand Rathi Securities. "The government's increased spending will augur well for the rural economy and boost growth and

employment, which is crucial in changing public sentiment." Jaitley also cut corporate tax on small and medium-sized businesses, a move he said would enable them to reinvest more of their profits and create much-needed jobs.

And he said the government would help some states subsidize machin-

ery for farmers to destroy crop stubble to deter burning after the harvest. The burn-off in the northern farming states of Haryana and Punjab last year caused pollution across the region to spike at levels considered hazardous to health for weeks on end. Announcing the healthcare scheme, Jaitley said India would be unable to realize the demographic

dividend of its burgeoning youth population without healthy citizens. "This will be the world's largest government-funded healthcare program," he said. India lacks sufficient doctors for its huge population, and state-run hospitals are stretched to breaking point.

On education, Jaitley said India had succeeded in getting more children into schools, but that the quality of teaching needed to improve. "Technology will be the biggest driver in improving the quality of education," he said. Analysts said the budget shortfall of 3.5 percent in the fiscal year 2017/8 was in line with expectations. Next year's target has been set lower, at 3.3 percent. India's economic growth slumped to 5.7 percent in the first quarter of the current financial year—the lowest in three years—but has since bounced back.

The government estimates the economy will grow by 7.2-7.5 percent in the second half of the current fiscal year and has said the country is on track to achieve growth of eight percent "soon". The Bombay Stock Exchange's benchmark Sensex index fell 0.46 percent or 165.52 points on the budget announcement. —AFP

“

India, which we aspire to create now will emerge

”



## Business

# Equities battle rising global bond yields to snap end-Jan losing streak

## Wall Street set for flat open, stock futures signal

**LONDON:** European stocks rose yesterday after three days of losses, although US and German bond yields near multi-year highs checked gains in world stock markets and kept them from testing recent record highs. Stock markets in Europe rose 0.25 percent, supported by a flurry of mostly positive earnings results, while Japan's blue-chip stock index bounced 1.7 percent off four-week lows and MSCI's all-country equity index was marginally higher.

US equity futures however pointed to a flat open for Wall Street ahead of earnings announcements from tech giants Apple, Alphabet and Amazon.com.

January's last trading session on Wall Street ended in the red, but US indexes still ended with monthly gains of over 5 percent. World stocks enjoyed a record 15-month winning streak.

This week's meeting of the US Federal Reserve was more hawkish than expected, but confirmed what markets had already expected - an interest rate rise is likely in March, said Markus Huber, a trader at Brokerage City of London Markets.

"In light of today's flood of earnings in Europe and the United States, the Fed meeting will most likely have only a limited and temporary impact on markets," Huber predicted. Global equity markets are torn between buoyant economic growth and double-digit company

earnings, on the one hand, and the possibility that US and euro zone central banks will tighten policy faster than expected. The growth momentum was confirmed by manufacturing activity surveys yesterday that showed Asian factories getting off to a strong 2018 start and Europe posting solid growth.

Boeing and Facebook were the latest to reinforce the solid US earnings growth picture. European markets cheered improved performance at Unilever and Royal Dutch Shell. Huber said results from the likes of Amazon and Apple would be crucial. "It will be essential that those companies not only deliver in regard to earnings expectations but also show that the momentum going forward remains strong," he added. Equity bullishness is being tempered, however, by rising global bond yields.

**World stocks enjoyed 15-month winning streak**



The Fed held interest rates unchanged on Wednesday but raised its inflation outlook, no longer saying it expected price growth to stay below 2 percent. It also flagged "further gradual" rate increases. That wording convinced many that rates could rise four times this year, rather than three. US 10-year Treasury yields surged to near four-year highs above 2.75 percent after the Fed statement, while German Bund yields on Thursday rose to fresh two-year highs at around 0.74 percent.

Two-year US yields are near decade-highs



**NEW YORK:** The day's closing numbers are displayed after the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange in New York.—AFP

and could rise further should jobs data due today confirm sustained labor market strength. "Long-ended US yields are still rising and that's spilling over on the European market and (German) Bunds especially," said Commerzbank rates strategist Rainer Guntermann. Pressure is building on euro zone authorities, too, to curb stimulus, with employment at record highs and Thursday's manufacturing surveys confirming the bloc's

growth boom. On currency markets, the dollar's post-Fed bounce fizzled, pushing it down 0.1 percent against a basket of currencies. The euro gained 0.2 percent to \$1.2440, just off recent three-year highs of \$1.2538. The British pound rose 0.25 percent, after a 5 percent gain in January, its biggest monthly rise since May 2009, owing to broad dollar weakness and expectations of a Brexit deal more favorable to the UK.—Reuters

## Italy's Enel takes stand against powering cryptocurrency miners

**MILAN:** Europe's biggest power utility Enel has taken a stand against the energy-hungry industry of mining cryptocurrencies, saying it has "no interest whatsoever in selling power" for the purpose. In a brief statement yesterday, the Italian company said it had reached the decision after careful study and analysis. Bloomberg reported on Tuesday that Enel was in talks to sell power from renewable energy plants to the Swiss cryptocurrency company Envion AG.

Utilities worldwide have seen rising demand from miners of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, which need large quantities of energy to power computers to solve complex maths puzzles to validate transactions and earn more of

the currency as a reward. "Enel has undertaken a clear path towards decarbonisation and sustainable development and sees the intensive use of energy dedicated to cryptocurrency mining as an unsustainable practice that does not fit with the business model it is pursuing," the company said.

In a recent report, Morgan Stanley said global power demand from cryptocurrency mining was around 22 terawatt hours (TWh), but that increasing demand meant consumption could surge in 2018 to 125-140 TWh - or about 0.6 percent of world consumption. Most bitcoin mining is carried out in China, where energy costs are comparatively cheaper. But last month China's Bitmain Technologies said it was looking at bitcoin mining sites in Quebec in light of expectations of a potential Chinese crackdown on cryptocurrency mining.

State-controlled Enel, which owns a majority stake in Spanish utility Endesa, is one of Europe's top renewable energy players and is focusing on green energy to help offset the crisis in traditional power generation.—Reuters

## Emerging stocks dip as investors eye more hawkish Fed

**LONDON:** Encouraging factory growth data from markets such as Turkey and China failed to lift emerging equities yesterday as a more hawkish Federal Reserve fuelled an uptick in US Treasury yields, dampening investor appetite. MSCI's benchmark emerging stocks index fell 0.2 percent, as a strong performance in emerging Europe failed to offset earlier weakness in the Asian session.

The Fed upgraded its inflation outlook and flagged further policy tightening this year at its meeting ending on Wednesday, citing solid gains in employment, household spending and capital investment. US 10-year Treasury yields briefly shot up to 2.754 percent, a level last seen in April 2014, casting a pall over emerging markets and dispelling some of the rosy picture from manufacturing activity data.

US interest rate futures are now almost fully pricing in three rate hikes this year, compared to two at the start of the year, while some see a possibility of four rate rises. "Now that Fed is signaling faster hikes we could have temporary dollar strength and EM weakness, but the fundamentals are the same," said Per Hammarlund, chief emerging markets strategist at SEB. "This is just a temporary correction, rather than a fundamental shift in sentiment."

Foreign investors poured \$30 billion into emerging markets in January, a seven-month high and the best start to a

year since 2015, according to Institute of International Finance data. In emerging Europe, Turkish stocks rose 1 percent after Turkey's factory activity grew at the fastest rate in almost seven years in January. Other big gainers included Russia, up 0.9 percent after manufacturing activity hit a six-month high, and Poland up 0.7 percent, as new factory orders expanded at their fastest in three years.

Asian bourses struggled, with Chinese mainland shares down almost 1 percent. Yet China's manufacturing growth remained elevated in January, suggesting some resilience. "The world economy and China in particular have started the year on a relatively firm footing and that's good news for emerging stocks and assets," said Hammarlund.

In India, stocks initially fell more than 1 percent after the announcement of a long-term capital gains tax on equities. The market later steadied to trade flat. The government also unveiled a budget allocating billions of dollars for rural infrastructure and a health insurance program. The rupee weakened about 0.35 percent. South Africa's rand was the other main currency underperformer, down 0.2 percent.

President Jacob Zuma has asked prosecutors to drop corruption charges, responding as pressure mounts for him to step down. The Czech crown was steady against the euro ahead of a central bank meeting today at which it is expected to raise rates by 25 basis points to 0.75 percent. Czech manufacturing sentiment held at a seven-year high in January. "All the signs are that the economy is red hot, the labor market is booming, wage growth is picking up strongly ... so even though inflation hasn't picked up as much, the central bank is correct in expecting that there will be a pick up at some point," said Hammarlund.—Reuters



# VIVA Records KD 40 Million as a Net Profit In 2017

*revenues reached KD 278 Million*

*Board of Directors recommended distributing cash dividends of 30 fils per share*

# VIVA



VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the financial results for the full year ended on 31 December 2017; whereby VIVA's revenues reached KWD 278 million compared to KD 279 million recorded during 2016; whereas the net profit in 2017 reached KWD 40 million. On quarterly basis VIVA recorded a remarkable performance with revenues rising by 7.2% to reach KD 73.4 million during Q4-2017 compared to KD 68.5 million recorded during the same quarter in 2016. On the other hand, VIVA achieved a 10% growth in net profit of KD 11.8 million during Q4-2017 compared to a net profit of KD 10.8 million reported during Q4-2016. These results reflect VIVA's focus on achieving superior customer experience, high quality of services, innovative promotions and packages offered to its customers to meet their needs and expectations, inspired by our customers' confidence which motivates us to provide the best services with the highest possible quality.

Commenting on announcing the annual financial results, Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman, VIVA's Chairman, has stated that "Despite the high competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti Telecom Market, VIVA was able to achieve a growth in the profitability and sustain the operational efficiency to ensure generating positive return to our shareholders. VIVA achieved these results due to an integrated management approach by a highly professional team that reinforces VIVA's substantial and positive role as a leading telecommunications company that always provides intelligent communications solutions to satisfy the needs of its customers and meet their needs."

He added that "VIVA has demonstrated its ability to achieve a growth in the net profit amidst the current hard economic conditions and strong competition witnessed in the year 2017 which resulted from the decline in telecom tariffs thus pressurizing the profit margin of all telecom companies in Kuwait. VIVA managed to achieve net profit of KWD 40.1 million (earnings per share of 80 fils) during the FY 2017 growing at 1% compared to net profit of KWD 39.8 million (earnings per share of 80 fils) during FY 2016.

On the other hand, VIVA has enhanced shareholders' equity base to stand at KWD 168 million at the end of 2017 with a growth rate of 26% compared to 2016. These results achieved by VIVA during 2017 reflect the efficient business strategy adopted by the company to achieve outstanding results in spite of the increasing competitiveness. Also, VIVA managed to achieve positive earnings for its shareholders as a result of the commitment to elevate the quality of customer service and improving the operational efficiency". The Board of Directors has recommended distributing cash dividends of 30 fils among the shareholders representing 30 percent of the nominal share value for the year ended 2017 subject to the approval of the Ordinary General Assembly of the company.

On his part, Eng./ Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Badran, VIVA's CEO said that "Results of 2017 came in line with VIVA goals and ongoing ambitions to achieve an increase in its operational businesses and strengthen its leadership in the telecom market. It is noteworthy to mention that VIVA won this year "Speedtest Award Winner 2017 – Kuwait's Fastest Mobile Network" by Ookla, and it is pioneer in the middle east in providing the latest products

and services to its customers among telecom operators in the middle east region, and achieved successfully the establishment of the first Voice Over LTE (VoLTE) interconnection in the Middle East and North Africa region in partnership with local networks, and was the first telecom company in Kuwait that has successfully tested the fifth-generation "5G" in its lab, which fosters its leadership in providing the latest technology that will enable customers to exchange information and communicate at higher speeds. Al Badran added that "We have exerted great efforts in 2017 through our integrated team work to establish a solid and strong base that insures the company's continuing successes in light of the strong competition in the Kuwaiti telecom market. VIVA achieved good levels of revenues and record a growth in the profitability in addition to improving the company's financial and operational efficiency. As a result, VIVA recorded revenues of KWD 278 million during FY 2017 and achieved net profit of KWD 40.1 million (earnings per share of 80 fils) in 2017, whereas the operating profit has reached KWD 42.6 million during the same year. On the other hand, VIVA customer base has reached 2.3 million at the end of December 2017.

On his part, Mr. Mohammed Bin AbdulMohsen Al-Assaf, VIVA's CFO, said that "During 2017, VIVA's financial results reflected its ability to compete and achieve growth in revenues during Q4-2017, and maintain its position as the second largest telecom operator in the Kuwaiti market in term of revenues in the telecom sector. The company managed to decrease its leverage ratio due to its conservative financial policy to reach 0.05x at the end of 2017 as compared to 0.36x recorded at end of 2016. On the other hand, VIVA managed to

sustain healthy profitability ratios in light of intense competition where Return On Assets (ROA) has reached 14% while return on shareholders' equity (ROE) has reached 24% in 2017. "We will continue our hard work in implementing our strategy to maintain our competitive edge and achieve further growth and success in the Kuwaiti telecom market through offering innovative products and services in line with the latest technology to meet our customers' needs" he added.

#### About VIVA

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things 'More' for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established a pioneer position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation "4G LTE" network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability, and has been recognized as "Speedtest Award Winner 2017 – Kuwait's Fastest Mobile Network", based on Ookla's analysis of Speedtest Intelligence data in Q2-Q3 2017.

For more information, visit VIVA at one of its 89 branches or on [www.viva.com.kw](http://www.viva.com.kw) or any of its authorized dealers across Kuwait.



## Business

# Expansion of Ethiopia's first industrial park reopens old wounds

## Relocation of 300 farmers sparks anger among locals

**DUKEM, Ethiopia:** The scenic road from Addis Ababa to the small town of Dukem is peppered with signs of industry: warehouses and factories, garages and gas stations, newly-built rail tracks and a freshly paved highway. Dukem, just a short drive south of the capital, is home to Ethiopia's first industrial park, the Chinese-owned Eastern Industrial Zone (EIZ), and some of the country's most fertile land.

For more than a decade, it has been on the front-line of a government-led push to turn the still overwhelmingly agricultural country into Africa's manufacturing hub. Chinese companies are constructing five industrial zones, while the government plans to have 15 industrial parks nationwide by June 2018. Last year, the EIZ, which hosts companies ranging from shoe manufacturers and steel-makers to leather processors and car assemblers, embarked on a new expansion phase.

The move, which means expropriating an additional 167 hectares of rural land around Dukem and the relocation of around 300 farmers, has sparked anger among locals and reopened old wounds. "We were the first," Shewangizaw, a middle-aged farmer who lost his fields to an Ethiopian-owned factory back in 2006, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation bitterly. He and around 40 other farmers were relocated - without fair compensation, they argue - when

some of the first factories arrived in the area a decade or so ago.

"I don't have any land now," said his 72 year-old neighbor, Bashada, who lost nearly five hectares of farmland then and now rents one hectare from an older neighbor for 10,000 birr (\$367) a year. The group is campaigning to have its case heard by the federal government. "It's not fair," said Shewangizaw. "Our families were just destroyed. At the time compensation paid to us was so, so cheap. And we don't have any land to farm or live on now."

### ANGRY ONCE MORE

Muhammed Tilahun, vice-head of the Dukem Land Development and Management Office, said the local government was now addressing the concerns of farmers. That includes 190 farmers and their children who lost their land back in 2007 and are

now being given additional land to support them, he said. Yet the anger expressed by Shewangizaw and his fellow farmers is echoed across much of central Ethiopia, which has experienced rapid urbanization and fledgling industrialization over the past decade.

In 2014, a plan to expand Addis Ababa into the surrounding region of Oromia - in effect swallowing up small towns like Dukem - sparked mass protests. The demonstrations later spread across the country, resulting in hundreds of deaths and eventually

“ I don't have any land now ”



ETHIOPIA: A farmer drives through his fields near Goticha, a small village facing demolition to make way for the expansion of the nearby Eastern Industrial Zone. —Reuters

prompting the government to impose a nine-month state of emergency. Peace has now returned to Dukem's streets, but farmers whose land has been earmarked by the EIZ for future development are frustrated and angry once more.

"Our land came from our ancestors," said Telahn Chaka, a 57-year-old farmer in nearby Goticha village, who said he would lose his remaining farmland this year. "I was hoping to give it to my children too. Now I have nothing for them to inherit." He and his neighbors tried to resist the plan, he recounted,

prompting the local police to briefly detain four of them. Solomon Basha, spokesman for the Dukem town administration, disputed this account.

"No farmers are protesting the expansion now," he said. "No farmers were arrested or killed in this process." The EIZ has promised to build a hospital, a school and a market centre for farmers in addition to a total of 113 million birr compensation for the latest phase of expansion, Basha said. Each farmer will receive 500 square metres of replacement land in addition to compensation, he added. —Reuters

## Australia toughens foreign investment rules amid China concerns

**SYDNEY:** Australia announced tougher restrictions on foreign buyers of agricultural land and electricity infrastructure yesterday amid fears over rising Chinese influence. Foreign investors now need to demonstrate when purchasing farmland worth more than Aus\$15 million that the property has previously been widely marketed to locals for a month to allow them an adequate opportunity to buy.

Treasurer Scott Morrison insisted Canberra still welcomed foreign investment in agricultural land "where it is not contrary to the national interest". In a similar vein, foreign purchases of electricity infrastructure will also come under greater scrutiny, with a range of new restrictions including an assessment of the "cumulative level of ownership within a sector".

"Electricity distribution and transmission infrastructure are critical national assets and a key national security safeguard is the diversity

of ownership of these assets," Morrison said. "The government is committed to an open foreign investment regime that strikes the right balance in managing national security risks, while promoting job opportunities and enabling economic growth." The announcement comes amid growing concern over Chinese influence in Australia, although China was not cited in the latest amendments.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing "always encourages" Chinese companies to abide by local laws and regulations. "But at the same time we also hope that host countries can create enabling, open, fair and transparent environment for Chinese enterprises' investment and operation in their countries," ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing.

### Spy warnings

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last year announced wide-ranging reforms to espionage and foreign interference legislation, singling out China as a focus of concern, citing "disturbing reports" about Beijing's influence. It came after he ordered an inquiry following media revelations that the national spy agency warned political leaders two years ago about receiving donations from two billionaires with links to the Chinese Communist Party. —AFP

## Bitcoin skids to two-month low

**LONDON:** Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, skidded almost 10 percent yesterday to its lowest since late November, as a Facebook ban on cryptocurrency adverts and a growing regulatory backlash against the nascent market frightened investors. Yesterday's drop to as low as \$9,165.40 on the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange left bitcoin trading at less than half the peak of almost \$20,000 it reached in December. It slid more than 26 percent last month, in its worst monthly performance since January 2015.

Other cryptocurrencies, including Ripple, the third-largest by market value, and Bitcoin Cash, have also fallen by at least 10 percent in the last 24 hours of trading, according to Coinmarketcap.com. Ethereum was up slightly on the day. Last year's explosive rise in the value of digital coins and the flood of new retail investors drawn to the market have rattled global regulators nervous about a sector used largely for speculation.

Facebook said in a post on its website this week that it was banning all advertising that "promote financial products and services that are frequently associated with misleading or deceptive promotional practices, such as binary options, initial coin offerings and cryptocurrency". It was not clear whether the ban would



TOKYO: In this picture, Coincheck president Koichiro Wada (L) attends a press conference in Tokyo. —AFP

affect all cryptocurrency adverts on the social media site. Facebook could not immediately be reached for comment.

India's finance minister vowed yesterday to eliminate the use of cryptocurrencies. A \$530 million hack of Japanese cryptocurrency exchange Coincheck late last week has also weighed on the market, along with a subpoena US regulators sent to two of the world's biggest cryptocurrency players, Bitfinex and Tether.

"Sentiment towards cryptocurrencies is turning sour with negative headlines pouring out from left, right and center," said Fawad Razaqzada, an analyst at FOREX.com "Concerns that Facebook is banning ads and major crypto exchanges shutting down have really silenced the hype and some people are probably having second thoughts about investing their hard-earned cash into digital currencies." —Reuters



## Business

# Row over monkey tests takes shine off Daimler's record profits

## Net profits soared by 24% to 10.9 billion euros

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** German luxury car-maker Daimler yesterday announced record profits for 2017 thanks to strong SUV and truck sales, but the results were overshadowed by the firm's connection to controversial diesel exhaust tests on monkeys. Daimler said net profits soared by 24 percent last year to 10.9 billion euros, with a little help from a roughly one-billion-euro boost from sweeping US tax reforms. "The Daimler workforce has once again succeeded in breaking the records set in the previous year," chief executive Dieter Zetsche said.

Group revenues were up seven percent to 164 billion, in line with analyst expectations, while underlying, or operating profits, climbed 14 percent to 14.7 billion euros. The company was muted in its outlook for 2018, however, predicting that unit sales and revenues would only "slightly" increase, in step with forecasts for global demand for motor vehicles. Operating profits for 2018 are expected to be "of the magnitude of the previous year", Daimler said, as investments in new technologies such as electric and self-driving cars begin to weigh on the bottom line.

The group, which also makes Smart cars, said unit sales climbed to a record 3.3 million vehicles last year, driven by robust demand for its Mercedes-Benz urban SUVs and E-Class models, particularly in China. Daimler's vans and trucks meanwhile enjoyed double-digit growth, led by the North America region. As a result of the group's strong year, Daimler said it would raise dividends to an all-time high of 3.65 euros per share compared with 3.25 euros per share for 2016.

## Alibaba net profit soars 35% as Singles Day pays off

**BEIJING:** Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba yesterday posted a 35 percent surge in net profit in the third quarter, fuelled by a record-breaking sales bonanza during its annual Singles Day shopping festival. The company said profit jumped to 24.1 billion yuan between October and December, compared to 17.9 billion yuan in the same quarter in 2016. Alibaba runs an annual promotion on November 11 that draws the country's growing consumer class which can buy an array of products at the click of a button on their smartphones.

Last year's event recorded 168.2 billion yuan in payments, a 39 percent increase from the 2016 festival. Rivals such as JD.com had also reported brisk business on November 11. "Alibaba had another great quarter driven by the continued strength of the Chinese consumer and the wide and innovative range of services we provide for merchants and consumers," Alibaba chief executive Daniel Zhang said in an earnings report.

It also promised record bonuses of up to 5,700 euros to some 130,000 employees in Germany, out of 289,000 staff worldwide. The positive results come as Daimler is embroiled in a row over its role in tests that exposed monkeys to toxic diesel fumes in a US lab in 2015. The experiments, revealed in a New York Times article last week, were commissioned by a now defunct research body funded by Daimler and fellow German auto giants BMW and Volkswagen.

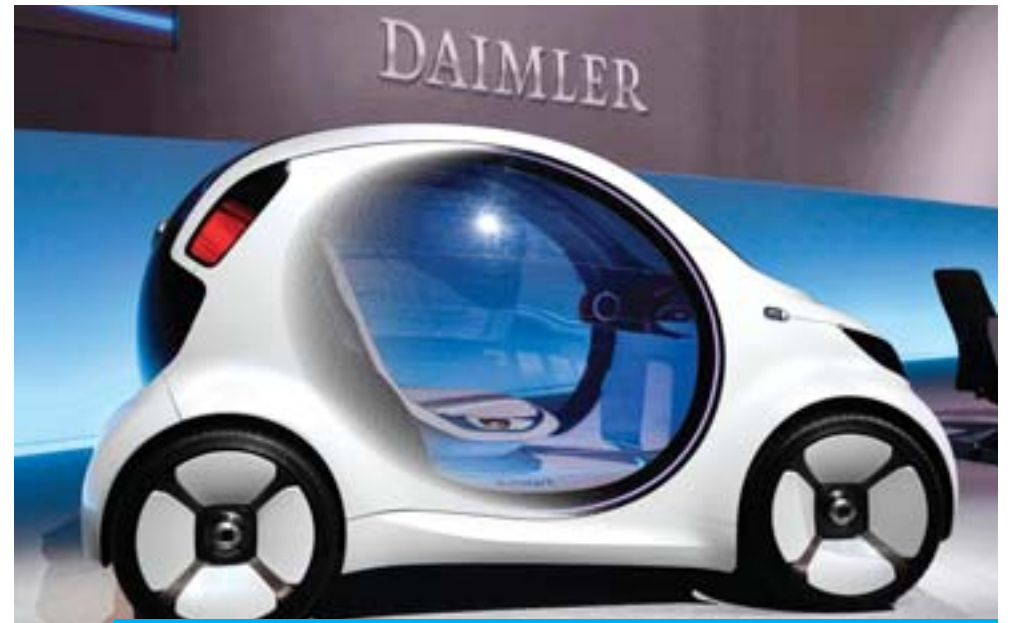
### Appalled

The same organization, the European Research Group on Environment and Health in the Transport Sector (EUGT), also carried out tests on human volunteers. Daimler has said it was "appalled" by the revelations and on Wednesday suspended an employee who had sat on the board of EUGT, identified by German media as the firm's head of environmental protection, Udo Hartmann. "Such experiments go against Daimler's values," Zetsche told

reporters in a conference call, vowing the company "would do everything to shed light on the matter". He declined to give further details, saying Daimler wanted to finish its internal investigation first.

Daimler shares lost 1.63 percent to 72.53 euros in early afternoon trading in Frankfurt, against a Dax index that was largely flat. The controversy has brought fresh scrutiny to the powerful German car industry and the lengths automakers have gone through to hide the harmful effects of diesel engines. The crisis first erupted in 2015 when Volkswagen admitted to

“Such experiments go against Daimler's values”



**STUTTGART:** A smart visionEQ is on display during the annual press conference of German auto giant Daimler AG in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany.—AFP

installing cheating devices in millions of diesel cars to make them seem less polluting in lab tests than they were in real driving conditions. Suspicions have since spread to other carmakers, including Daimler, and several German cities are mulling diesel bans to combat air pollution.

### Diesel sales slip

Daimler's sales of diesel cars have slipped by "two to three percent" in Europe in the wake of the technology's fall from grace, but diesels still account for more than half of all engines sold, Zetsche said. German carmakers—who bet heav-

ily on diesel as the more environmentally-friendly alternative to gasoline-powered cars—have responded to the "dieselgate" scandal by speeding up their transition to the cleaner, greener cars of the future. Like its rivals, Daimler is pouring money into developing electric and automated vehicles, as well as e-mobility services like car-sharing and ride-hailing through apps. Daimler said it had increased its spending on research and development by another 15 percent in 2017 to 8.7 billion euros. "It's about nothing less than the reinvention of individual mobility," said Zetsche.—AFP

## Ice, ice baby: Unilever posts rising 2017 profits

**THE HAGUE:** Food and consumer products giant Unilever yesterday posted soaring 2017 profits of 6.5 billion euros, after a year of "major change" when it spurned a Kraft Heinz takeover bid. The announcement came a day after Unilever announced it was adding to its popular ice-cream ranges, which include Magnum, by scooping up Romania's leading ice-cream maker, Betty Ice, for an undisclosed price.

Net profit leaped 16.9 percent on sales of 53.7 billion euros, up 1.9 percent year-on-year, which chief executive Paul Polman said "demonstrates the progress we have made in transforming Unilever into a more resilient and more agile business". "We have delivered a good all-round performance with competitive growth," he said in a statement, adding the company had also made two billion euros in savings during the year.

"This puts us well on track towards our savings target of EUR6 billion, and a targeted underlying operating margin of 20 percent by 2020," Polman

said. The Rotterdam-based Unilever, which employs some 169,000 people around the world, owns more than 400 household brands including Dove beauty products, Knorr soups, Lipton teas, Magnum ice cream and Marmite. Since rejecting the bid by its US rival Kraft Heinz in February 2017, Unilever has sought to prove to shareholders that it is better off on its own and has vowed better profitability.

The company has been under "immense pressure to convince investors that it can go-it-alone," said companies analyst Simran Jagdev from the Economist Intelligence Unit. Now Unilever's "aggressive acquisitions and new brand launches have paid off and helped it end a tough year on a positive note," he added. The company bought up or took stakes in 11 companies in 2017, with a heavy focus on organic and natural products including Mae Terra organic food in Brazil and Pukka Herbs organic herbal tea in Britain.

"We are evolving the portfolio at an accelerated pace to ensure we have the platforms in place for long-term growth," Polman said. Following the tensions triggered by Kraft Heinz's unsolicited bid, Unilever unveiled a 3.5-billion euro restructuring plan and announced the spin-off of its margarine division, hoping to soothe investors concerns after rejecting the proposed tie-up which would have valued the group at \$143 billion.—AFP



**DAVOS:** Alibaba Executive Chairman Jack Ma speaks during the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, eastern Switzerland.—AFP

utive Daniel Zhang said in an earnings report. "We are excited by the continued momentum in new retail, which came to life during another record-breaking 11.11 Global Shopping Festival," Zhang said. Alibaba, which has made billionaire founder Jack Ma one of China's richest men and a global e-commerce icon, has been on a roll, regularly beating revenue estimates. The New York-listed company said revenue jumped 56 percent to 83 billion yuan in the third quarter.—AFP



## Sports

# CAS overturns doping bans on 28 Russian athletes

## CAS reduce lifetime Olympic bans to suspension from this year's Games

**ZURICH:** Twenty-eight Russian athletes have had their Olympic doping bans overturned and their results from the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi reinstated after their appeals were upheld by sport's highest tribunal yesterday.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said in a statement that it had found insufficient evidence during last week's hearing in Geneva that the 28, banned by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), were guilty of anti-doping violations in Sochi.

However, it is not clear yet whether any of the 28 will be able to compete in the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, which start on Feb. 9. "With respect to these 28 athletes, the appeals are upheld, the sanctions annulled and their individual results achieved in Sochi 2014 are reinstated," said the Lausanne-based tribunal.

Eleven other athletes were confirmed by CAS to have committed doping violations. However, CAS reduced their lifetime Olympic bans to a suspension from this year's Games.

The IOC had previously banned Russia from Pyeongchang as a result of its "unprecedented systematic manipulation" of the anti-doping system. Individual Russian athletes are able to compete as neutrals if they can prove their anti-

doping credentials but the IOC said yesterday that the 28 would not necessarily be invited to Pyeongchang. "Not being sanctioned does not automatically confer the privilege of an invitation," it added.

The confirmation of eleven cases "clearly demonstrates once more the existence of the systemic manipulation of the anti-doping system at the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014," it added.

The IOC regretted that CAS "did not take this proven existence of the systemic manipulation of the anti-doping system into consideration for the other 28 cases." Cross-country skier Alexander Legkov, who won gold in the 50 kilometres and silver in 4x10 km, and Alexander Tretyakov, who won gold in the men's individual skeleton, were

among those to be cleared.

Bobsleigh double gold medallist Alexander Zubkov was one of the eleven whose doping offences were confirmed. Russian Olympic Committee President Alexander Zhukov said the CAS ruling had restored the "good name" of Russian athletes, Interfax news agency reported.

Jim Walden, lawyer for Russia's former anti-doping chief-turned whistleblower Grigory

### Individual results achieved in Sochi 2014 are reinstated



**PYEONGCHANG:** Matthieu Reeb, secretary general of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), arrives at a press conference to announce the court's decision regarding dozens of Russian athletes banned for doping, in Pyeongchang yesterday. —AFP

Rodchenkov, said the ruling provided "a very small measure of punishment for some athletes but a complete 'get out of jail free card' for most."

Walden added that Rodchenkov "testified fully and credibly" at CAS and his evidence was verified by forensic evidence and other whistleblowers. Russia has repeatedly denied any state involvement in the doping which was exposed by an independent report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

CAS said its mandate was "not to determine generally whether there was an organised scheme allowing the manipulation of doping control samples...but was strictly limited to dealing with 39 individual cases and to assess the evidence applicable to each athlete on an individual basis."

A total of 43 Russian athletes were banned by the IOC. Three more are still waiting to have their appeals heard and one- bobsledder Maxim Belugin-has not appealed. —Reuters

## Two Koreas, Shiffrin and Hanyu: Key moments for Pyeongchang

**PARIS:** After years of preparation, athletes from around the world will take part in the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, from February 9-25. Competition will be fierce, and will produce a crop of golden memories. AFP Sport picks out a few of the most anticipated moments.

### OPENING CEREMONY

Friday, February 9, 8:00 pm: The two-hour extravaganza that launches the Winter Games at the Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium will be memorable for at least one reason. Athletes from North and South Korea will march as one, wearing the same uniforms and under the unification flag—a pale blue Korean peninsula on a white background. A total of 22 North Korean competitors will be in Pyeongchang for the Games, with most of them joining a unified Korean women's ice-hockey squad. The North's decision to compete in the Games, taking place just 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of the heavily fortified border that divides the Koreas, is seen as a diplomatic coup, following months of surging tensions over the North's nuclear and missile tests that triggered fears of war.

### ALPINE SKIING

Sunday, Feb 11, 11:00 am: The men's downhill is the blue ribbon event of alpine skiing. Racers will average 105 kilometres (65 miles) per hour down the Jeongseon Alpine Centre slope, pushing their bodies and equipment to the limit. The race will be particularly poignant following the on-piste deaths of popular Frenchman David Poisson and German teenager Max Burkhardt earlier this season. Norwegians Aksel Lund Svindal and Kjetil Jansrud will likely top bookmakers' odds on a slope said to favour the more technically able downhillers.

### BIATHLON

Sunday, February 11, 8:15 pm: Martin Fourcade will carry France's flag at the opening ceremony, but his competition starts two days later when he lines up for the men's sprint. France's most decorated winter Olympian, with four medals including two golds, will be battling for more honours during the Games and after a strong World Cup season is expected to be a top contender for the pursuit and individual titles which he claimed in Sochi in 2014. The 29-year-old biathlete will face his biggest rival in the shape of Norway's Johannes Thingnes Bo.

### ALPINE SKIING

Sunday, February 11, 10:15 am: When Mikaela Shiffrin rocks off the back of her skis to exit the start gate of the giant slalom at the Yongpyong Alpine Centre, she will harbour hopes of a rare multi-medal haul. The 22-year-old American already has 40 World Cup victories to her name, and won Olympic slalom gold in 2014 — but she is looking for much more in Pyeongchang. The giant slalom is followed by her slalom title defence, the super-G, downhill, combined

and team events. A good start in the giant slalom could see Shiffrin join the pantheon of alpine greats.

### SNOWBOARDING

Monday, February 12, 1:30 pm: Born in Long Beach, California, American snowboarder Chloe Kim is poised to become one of the faces of the Pyeongchang Games when the 17-year-old whizkid makes her Olympic bow. Kim's parents are from South Korea, and her grandmother still lives there, so she can expect vocal support from local fans as she looks to complete the formality of qualifying in the women's halfpipe. Such was Kim's prodigious talent that at 13, she could have challenged for gold at the 2014 Sochi Games, if not for the minimum age requirement of 15. Provided she keeps her nerve, the Winter Youth Olympic champion and three-time X Games winner clearly has the game to capture what would be an emotional gold in front of her number one fan-her granny.

### SKI JUMPING

Monday, February 12, 9:50 pm: Haunted by the memory of her flop in Sochi four years ago, Japan's Sara Takanashi launches her bid for Olympic redemption in the women's normal hill. But despite being the most successful women's jumper of all time, Takanashi has suffered an alarming dip in form with rivals Maren Lundby and Katharina Althaus emerging as the gold medal favourites in Pyeongchang. A World Cup winless drought stretching back almost a year has done little to restore her brittle confidence, but if anyone can turn it around it is the mercurial 21-year-old Japanese. Takanashi, who will be Japan's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony, needs one more World Cup victory to set a new record total for men and women of 54. But it is Olympic gold she covets most, and the pressure will be on. —AFP



## Sports

# N Korean athletes land in South for Winter Olympics

## 799,000 out of 1.18 million tickets available sold

**SEOUL:** North Korean skiers and skaters arrived in the South yesterday to take part in the Pyeongchang Winter Games, setting the stage for a “peace Olympics” after a year of high tensions over Pyongyang’s nuclear programme.

Eight days before the opening ceremony, the 10 athletes were among a delegation that landed in Gangneung, on South Korea’s east coast, after a rare direct flight between the two halves of the divided peninsula—for which a special exemption had to be sought from US sanctions.

In black fur hats, they made their way through the terminal and onto buses without saying a word to a pursuing pack of reporters, while well-wishers outside held up banners depicting reunification flags—a blue Korean peninsula on a white background.

“We are one,” read one of the banners. In the past year tensions reached fever pitch as Pyongyang carried out a series of weapons tests—including intercontinental ballistic missiles that brought the US mainland into range, and its most powerful nuclear blast to date — while Kim and US President Donald Trump traded personal insults and threats of war.

But the Games have triggered a sudden apparent rapprochement between the two Koreas. For months, the North ignored repeated entreaties from Seoul for it to take part in a “peace Olympics”, letting deadlines for registration slip by.

But in his New Year speech Kim finally expressed a willingness to send a delegation to Pyeongchang, setting a flurry of talks and visits in motion. The two Koreas in January held their first high-level talks for two years at Panmunjom, the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone that splits the peninsula. Pyongyang agreed to send athletes, cheerleaders, officials and an art troupe to the

South, and both sides decided to march together under the unification flag at the opening ceremony, and form a joint women’s ice hockey team.

Yesterday’s arrivals—three cross-country skiers, three alpine skiers, two short-track speed skaters and two figure skaters—will compete for the North. They followed a dozen North Korean female ice hockey players who arrived last week and have been training with their Southern counterparts for what will be the first unified team in 27 years. It has been accorded its own three-letter Olympic code, COR.

### FOAL EAGLE

But the joint team has not met universal acclaim in the South, with critics saying that Seoul has made too many concessions to Pyongyang to secure its participation, and has effectively denied some of its own players

### Setting stage for a “peace Olympics”

the chance to compete on the Olympic stage.

At the same time, some say the North is seeking to gain advantage from its participation, and reports say it will mark the anniversary of the founding of its regular military with a major military parade a day before the opening ceremony.

Earlier this week, Pyongyang unilaterally called off a joint cultural event slated for Sunday at the North’s scenic Mount Kumgang, underscoring the fragility of the agreements. “Pyongyang must stop acting unpredictably and fulfill agreements sincerely,” the Seoul-based Korea Herald said in an editorial Thursday. “One cannot erase the impression that the South is trying hard not to pique the North.”

And there are doubts about how long the warmth will last after the Games. Seoul and Washington agreed to delay the giant annual Foal Eagle and Key Resolve joint military exercises, which always infuriate Pyongyang, but only



**GANGNEUNG:** Members of a North Korean delegation of 32 people, including 10 athletes of the North Korean Olympic team, arrive at the Athletes’ Olympic Village in Gangneung yesterday ahead of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. —AFP

until the end of the Paralympics in March.

### DOPING SCANDAL

The Pyeongchang Games have suffered none of the controversies over infrastructure delays that have marred previous Olympics, but have struggled with issues of their own. Until it agreed to take part, the security threat from the North raised fears for athlete safety among some countries, and ticket sales have been slow.

As of Wednesday 799,000 out of 1.18 million tickets available had been sold, or 68 percent, with chief organiser Lee Hee-Beom admitting: “We have many expensive tickets left, so we need some emergency measures to boost ticket sales.”

And hanging over the competition is the vast

Russian doping scandal. The IOC banned Russia from Pyeongchang after the McLaren report, which documented a vast Moscow-backed scheme to artificially enhance its athletes’ performances in previous Games.

In December, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said clean Russian competitors would be allowed to take part in South Korea under a neutral flag as “Olympic Athletes from Russia”.

Those who want to do so are being forced to pass a unique set of anti-doping tests. At first 500 were thought to be potentially eligible, before the number was cut to 389. And Russian Olympics officials said last week that only 169 had been approved. —AFP

## China warn of ‘real difficulties’ at Pyeongchang Olympics

**SHANGHAI:** China are striking a bleak tone for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and warning they will need luck if they are to avoid going home empty-handed—four years before they host the Games for the first time.

Nobody is saying that China have given up on medal success from February 9-25, but high-level sports officials seem to see it as a stepping stone to Beijing 2022, when abject failure is unthinkable. China unveiled their Olympic squad on Wednesday and will take 82 athletes to South Korea, an increase on the 66 that travelled to Sochi four years ago.

But Sun Yuanfu, a senior winter sports official, warned that public expectations should be low and said that Chinese winter sports suffered from “a poor foundation”. “If we are lucky, we can get some gold medals. If not, we may get none,” Sun told the state Xinhua news agency in unusually downbeat terms.

“We have to work for the best and be prepared for real difficulties.” China have come a long way in the Summer Olympics, topping the medals table at the Beijing 2008 Games and coming second at London 2012 and third at Rio 2016.

With rising incomes and the growth of the middle class in China, coupled with an aggressive push by the government, winter sports are booming too. But that is yet to translate into Winter Games success and at Sochi 2014, China won just three golds, all in speed skating.

Sun warned that while China was improving slowly in some other disciplines, “there is no essential breakthrough in general and Chinese participation still relies on the sports it is traditionally good at”.

That means short-track speed skating, figure skating and freestyle skiing, he said. “As the hosts of the next Winter Olympics, the performance of the Chinese delegation at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics should follow an upward trend,” he cautioned. “But so far the trend is not obvious, indicating a poor foundation in our winter sports.”

### HOME UPSET?

That is not to say China are surrendering all hope in Pyeongchang. They are homing in on the women’s 3,000m and

men’s 5,000m relays in short-track, and four-time world champion Wu Dajing is relishing getting one over the South Koreans in front of their home crowd.

“The team-event gold is our most wanted as it represents the collective strength of our country in this sport,” said Wu, a 500m silver medallist at Sochi 2014. “To win it over the hosts in their house would be really satisfying,” he said.

China also have hopes for medals in men’s and women’s aerials—the freestyle skiing discipline—and in figure skating, where reigning pairs world champions Sui Wenjing and Han Cong are strong favourites for gold in their Olympic debut.

The duo have already tasted success at Gangneung—the venue that will be used for the Olympics—taking gold at the Four Continents Championships last year. China and Han will be hoping that Sui, who missed much of 2016 injured, can stay healthy.

There are also expectations for China in snowboarding, in the form of Liu Jiayu and Zhang Yiwei. China has enlarged its squad for South Korea in an attempt to become competitive in a broader range of disciplines, again with the 2022 Beijing Games coming into view.

For example, at Pyeongchang, Chang Xinyue will become China’s first female Olympic ski jumper. Women’s ski jumping only arrived at the Olympics for the first time at Sochi. —AFP



# De Silva hits ton in strong Sri Lankan reply

## De Silva's second successive Test century

**CHITTAGONG:** Dhananjaya de Silva struck a century and shared 187 runs in an unbroken second wicket stand with Kushal Mendis as Sri Lanka gave a strong reply to Bangladesh in the first Test in Chittagong yesterday.

De Silva made an unbeaten 104 while Mendis hit 83 not out, guiding Sri Lanka to 187-1 at stumps on the second day. Earlier, Rangana Herath and Suranga Lakmal took three wickets each to help the visitors dismiss Bangladesh for 513 in their first innings. The pair came together after spinner Mehedi Hasan got rid of Dimuth Karunaratne for a duck shortly after Bangladesh's innings ended with skipper Mahmudullah Riyad unbeaten on 83.

De Silva led Sri Lanka's batting charge with his aggressive approach and brought his fourth Test hundred off 122 balls with a cover drive off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam. This is de Silva's second successive Test century after scoring an unbeaten 119 in Sri Lanka's last match against India in New Delhi in December. Bangladesh, who are now leading Sri Lanka by 326 runs, wasted two reviews against Mendis and also dropped two chances offered by the right-hander. Mehedi dropped Mendis on four

off paceman Mustafizur Rahman at second slip, before Imrul Kayes grassed another chance—this time off Mehedi's bowling—with the batsman on 57.

The hosts, who resumed the day on 374-4, added 139 runs to their overnight score with Mahmudullah leading the charge on the second day. Mahmudullah added 58 runs with debutant Sunzamul Islam for the eighth wicket, after three quick wickets rattled the home side early in the morning. Spinner Herath brought Mominul Haque's majestic knock to an end in the third over of the day when the left-handed batsman flicked a catch to Mendis at forward short-leg. He made 176. Mominul who hit 16 fours and a six, faced 214 balls and added just one run to his overnight score. Herath struck again as Mosaddek Hossain lofted a catch to Lakshan Sandakan at mid-on after making just eight.

Mehedi took Bangladesh past 400 with a lovely straight drive off paceman Lakmal, before smashing Herath for a six. But he was soon run out for 20 by Lahiru Kumara at third man. Sunzamul made 24 runs before he was stumped off left-arm wrist spinner Sandakan. —AFP



**CHITTAGONG:** Sri Lanka cricketer Dhananjaya de Silva (R) plays a shot as the Bangladesh wicketkeeper Liton Das (L) looks on during the second day of the first cricket Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. —FP

## All Blacks legend Carter hints Japan will be last hurrah

**HONG KONG:** All Blacks great Dan Carter dropped a clear hint that he will retire in 2020 after his upcoming stint in Japan—but said he had no ambitions to coach his world-beating national team. Speaking to AFP in Hong Kong, where Carter arrived this week with his French club Racing 92, for the Natixis Cup exhibition fixture against South Africa's Sharks, the 35-year-old said retirement was looming fast.

Carter, widely hailed as the best fly-half to grace the game, will see out this season with Racing before embarking on a two-year stint with Kobelco Steelers, which will straddle the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan.

"It's (retirement) obviously just around the corner... but exactly what I do, I'm not a hundred percent sure yet," he said, ahead of Saturday's game. "But you know I'm still really enjoying

playing and that's why I signed to play a couple more years in Japan so that'll take me through to 2020, sort of mid-2020... that's when my contract finishes in Japan."

Speculation has been high about Carter's plans after he stops playing but the two-time World Cup winner, now retired from national duty, said he had his eye on the commercial side of rugby, rather than coaching.

"I think immediately after rugby going straight into coaching you know, I don't think I'll be ready for that," he said, when asked about coaching the All Blacks. "To be honest the coaches work harder than players. They're away every weekend for games, it's quite a big commitment."

Carter played 112 times for New Zealand and remains the highest points-scorer in Test history. He moved to Racing in 2015, winning the prestigious Top 14 in his first season and helping the team reach the European Champions Cup final in 2016 — a first for the club and "a huge achievement" for Carter. Though he has suffered a string of injuries in recent months, he says he is working hard to be fit and return to the team for the latter part of the season. —AFP

## Matsuyama goes for rare three-peat at Phoenix Open

**LOS ANGELES:** Japan's Hideki Matsuyama knows he'll join an exclusive club if he can grab a third straight Phoenix Open title this week. "I love it here," Matsuyama said as he prepared to tee it up Thursday at TPC Scottsdale. "Being able to win twice the last two years have been really memorable

for me and quite an honor. "I'm going to do my best this year to three-peat and if I was fortunate enough to do that, I think I would join the "King", Arnold Palmer, as the only three-peat winner. That would be something."

Palmer won three times in a row in Phoenix from 1961-1963. Over the last 40 years on the US PGA Tour, only Tiger Woods, Tom Watson, Stuart Appleby and Steve Stricker have won the same tournament three years on the trot. Woods has done it four times.

Matsuyama came from behind to

capture both of his Phoenix titles in four-hole playoffs. In 2016, he trailed Rickie Fowler by two strokes with three to play and won the playoff by sinking a seven-footer for par. Last year, he trailed former US Open champion Webb Simpson by four strokes going into the final round and lifted the trophy thanks to a 12-foot birdie putt at the fourth hole of sudden death.

He'll play with Fowler and Simpson in the first two rounds. "It's going to be kind of weird to play with them to-

morrow," Matsuyama said. "But hopefully we can all play well and be there together on the back nine on Sunday."

Matsuyama's win last year marked a fifth victory in nine starts worldwide, a stretch that included a victory in the World Golf Championships HSBC Champions. He isn't riding the same wave of success this year, but he turned in an impressive 69 on a tough final day at Torrey Pines on Sunday to finish tied for 12th and was tied for fourth at the Tournament of Champions. He'll face some stiff competition

this week, including from Jordan Spieth, Jon Rahm and Justin Thomas. Five of the top seven in the world are entered and 23 of the top 30. But Matsuyama believes his game is moving in the right direction. "It's hard to compare a year ago where I was, where my game was. I haven't really played well this year up until the last day there at Torrey Pines," Matsuyama said. "My short game is getting a lot better and coming to Phoenix it seems like something always good happens." —AFP

## SCOREBOARD

**CHITTAGONG:** Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of 1st test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka yesterday at Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka trail Bangladesh by 326 runs with 9 wickets remaining

### Bangladesh 1st innings

Tamim Iqbal b Dilruwan Perera	52
Imrul Kayes lbw Lakshan Sandakan	40
Mominul Haque c Kusal Mendis b Rangana Herath	176
Mushfiqur Rahim c Niroshan Dickwella b Suranga Lakmal	92
Liton Das b Suranga Lakmal	0
Mahmudullah Not Out	83
Mosaddek Hossain c Lakshan Sandakan b Rangana Herath	8
Mehedi Hasan Run Out Lahiru Kumara	20
Sunzamul Islam st Niroshan Dickwella b Lakshan Sandakan	24
Taijul Islam b Rangana Herath	1
Mustafizur Rahman c Niroshan Dickwella b Suranga Lakmal	8
Extras Ob 0lb 4nb Open 5w	9
Total (129.5 overs)	513
all out	
Fall of Wickets: 1-72 Iqbal, 2-120 Kayes, 3-356	

Rahim, 4-356 Das, 5-376 Haque, 6-390 Saikat, 7-417 Miraz, 8-475 Islam, 9-478 Islam, 10-513 Rahman

Bowling: Suranga Lakmal 23.5-4-68-3-2.85 (1w,2nb); Lahiru Kumara 15-1-79-0-5.27 (1w); Dilruwan Perera 27-4-112-1-4.15 (2nb); Rangana Herath 37-2-50-3-4.05; Lakshan Sandakan 22-1-92-2-4.18 (3w); Dhananjaya de Silva 5-0-12-0-2.40.

### Sri Lanka 1st innings

Dimuth Karunaratne c Imrul Kayes b Mehedi Hasan	0
Kusal Mendis Not Out	83
Dhananjaya de Silva Not Out	104
Extras Ob 0lb Onb Open 0w	0
Total (48.0 overs)	187-1
Fall of Wickets : 1-0 Karunaratne	
To Bat: Chandimal, Dickwella, Silva, Perera, Herath, Lakmal, Sandakan, Kumara	
Bowling: Mustafizur Rahman 7-1-31-0-4.43; Sunzamul Islam 15-1-52-0-3.47; Mehedi Hasan 8-0-45-1-5.62; Taijul Islam 17-3-56-0-3.29; Mosaddek Hossain 1-0-3-0-3.00.	



## Sports

# Cavaliers edge Heat 91-89 as Celtics thump Knicks

**LOS ANGELES:** LeBron James scored 24 points and came up with a crucial late block as the Cleveland Cavaliers edged the Miami Heat 91-89 on Wednesday in a duel for third place in the NBA's Eastern Conference. "King" James prevented James Johnson from getting a shot off at the final buzzer as Cleveland held on for the win in their first game since Kevin Love was sidelined with a broken hand. Love is expected to miss six to eight weeks—just more bad news in a tough January for the Cavs, who finished the month with a 6-8 record. "I just wanted to keep the ball between me and the basket," James said of his late-game stop.

"That's just the rules I've always been taught and I was happy to be able to get that last stop. "It's a good win for us." Jae Crowder drained a three-pointer from a James assist with 1:21 left to play to give Cleveland a three-point lead. Miami's Josh Richardson answered with a floater with a minute remaining before Cleveland's Isaiah Thomas made two free-throws to build the margin to 90-87 with 18.8 seconds to play.

Kelly Olynyk's layup trimmed the deficit to one point with 12.1 seconds remaining. With seven left Cleveland's Kyle Korver made the first of two free throws and Johnson, with James defending him, was unable to release the potential game-tying jump shot before time expired.

"We needed a win like this, where we win a game on our defense," said James. The Cavs entered the contest as the NBA's worst-ranked defensive team but limited Miami to 3-of-28 from three-point range.

## Southampton dominate but held by fellow strugglers Brighton

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Southampton fans are a restive bunch these days, and the mood at St Mary's was lifted little by a controlling but ultimately impotent performance at home against Brighton on Wednesday.

That an equaliser salvaged a 1-1 Premier League draw, after conceding an early penalty, was scant consolation for fans furious that the club is sitting in the relegation zone despite having pocketed some 75 million pounds (\$107 million) for the sale of Virgil van Dijk to Liverpool.

Southampton failed to buy a replacement defender, and their protracted courting of Spartak Moscow winger Quincy Promes fizzled out earlier on Wednesday as the transfer window closed. Sources say the clubs had finally agreed a fee - believed to be more than 25 million pounds - but that the deal had been left too late, leaving the Russians unable to replace the Dutchman.

They harried the Heat into 20 turnovers as they held an opponent to less than 90 points for the first time since November. "It's a good step in the right direction," James said.

### BLOWOUT IN BOSTON

Elsewhere, the Orlando Magic rebounded from a heartbreaking loss to the Houston Rockets with a 126-105 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers. Marreese Speights scored a game-high 21 points and Evan Fournier added 20 points for the Magic, who made 18 of their 32 three-point attempts and set a season-high for three-point percentage.

The Brooklyn Nets snapped a four-game skid with a 116-108 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers. Spencer Dinwiddie scored nine of his 27 points in the fourth quarter for the Nets and D'Angelo Russell, playing his fifth game back after knee surgery, added 22 points.

It was a blowout in Boston, where the Eastern Conference-leading Celtics overcame the absence of Kyrie Irving to down the New York Knicks 103-73. The Celtics, up by five midway through the third quarter, more than doubled that lead in less than two minutes, seizing an 11 point lead and never letting the Knicks get within single digits again. Terry Rozier, making his first career NBA start, produced his first career triple-double with 17 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds for Boston, adding two steals and two blocked shots.

In Portland, C.J. McCollum scored 50 points to lead the Trail Blazers to a 124-108 victory over the Chicago Bulls. McCollum scored 28 points in the first quarter, a club record for a

That left Saints manager Mauricio Pellegrino unable to bolster his struggling side further following the 19 million-pound record signing of Monaco striker Guido Carrillo last week.

Argentine Carrillo gave a good account of himself up front once he was introduced in the 46th minute for Dusan Tadic, but how Pellegrino missed an incisive striker in the Promes mould as they laboured up front, looking to cancel out Glenn Murray's 14th-minute penalty.

"After the goal we controlled the game completely, but we could not play quick enough to break their defence," Pellegrino told reporters. "Little by little they would drop, and it got harder and harder for us to find space."

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg hit the bar with a fortunate charged down deflection before Pellegrino really went on the attack after the break, introducing Carrillo and tricky midfielder Sofiane Boufal. But it took a defender, Jack Stephens, to hit their 64th-minute equaliser with his second goal in two games, nudging the ball home from James Ward-Prowse's mis-hit free kick.

Saints threw Italian international striker Manolo Gabbiadini on with 10 minutes to go, but despite holding much of the possession - and repeatedly sweeping the ball from side to side of the St Mary's pitch - the hosts lacked the penetration needed for a winner. —Reuters



CLEVELAND: LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers goes to the basket against the Miami Heat on Wednesday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. —AFP

quarter and the most in a single period in the NBA this season.

McCollum joined Houston's James Harden as the only players to score 50 points in just three quarters this season. In Phoenix, a horrifying broken left ankle to Suns reserve guard Isaiah Canaan overshadowed the hosts' 102-88 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Canaan had slashed to the rim for a layup in

the waning seconds of the first quarter and came down awkwardly, his left leg twisting beneath him.

He sat still on the court awaiting aid from medical staff and was eventually taken off on a stretcher as shocked teammates and opponents looked on. The Suns quickly issued a brief statement saying he had a broken ankle. —AFP

## Evergreen Brady not the retiring type

**MINNEAPOLIS:** Tom Brady said yesterday he has no plans to retire anytime soon as he prepares to lead the New England Patriots into his eighth Super Bowl against the Philadelphia Eagles this weekend. The 40-year-old quarterback could win an extraordinary sixth Super Bowl ring in Minneapolis on Sunday at an age when most NFL players are already comfortably settling into a life beyond the sport.

Brady, however, who attributes his remarkable longevity to his strict diet and fitness regime, told reporters he would like to play on until his mid-40s after another dazzling season in which he amassed a league-leading 4,577 yards.

The California-born signal-caller was responding to comments by Patriots president Jonathan Kraft earlier Thursday in which he said Brady had earned the right to choose his own retirement date. But Brady was having none of it.

"Why does everyone want me to retire so bad?" he said. "I'm having fun. The team's doing good. I'm really enjoying it. "I obviously really enjoy the experience of playing in this (Super

Bowl) game. "It's been a dream come true for me, many times over, and you know it takes a lot of hard work to get here. "We're working hard this week, we had a good practice today. I'm not thinking about retirement - I'm thinking about the Super Bowl and trying to win the most important game of the year."

### RECORDS AT RISK?

Brady will already become the oldest non-kicker to play in the Super Bowl when he suits up at the US Bank Stadium on Sunday. And at five months past his 40th birthday, he will comfortably eclipse his great rival Peyton Manning's record for being the oldest quarterback to win the championship if he bags another Super Bowl against the Eagles. Manning was 39 when he led the Denver Broncos to a fairytale win over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50 two years ago.

If Brady plays into his mid-40s, he could rival records set by Steve DeBerg, who became the oldest quarterback to start an NFL game when he led the Atlanta Falcons against the New York Jets in 1998. DeBerg, a back-up quarterback, also became the oldest player ever included on a Super Bowl roster, at the age of 45 years and 12 days, when the Falcons appeared in Super Bowl 33 in 1999. "I've always wanted to play until my mid-40s, so we'll see," Brady said of breaking DeBerg's records. —AFP



## Sports

# Conte under pressure as Bournemouth shock Chelsea

## Defeat left Chelsea in fourth place in Premier League

**LONDON:** Antonio Conte had no doubt the pressure on his position would intensify after his Chelsea side's stunning 3-0 defeat by Bournemouth at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday. The Blues head coach insists his Chelsea team, the reigning Premier League champions, are over-achieving this season-but claims he is "relaxed" if members of the club's hierarchy view things differently. Defeat left Chelsea in fourth place in the Premier League, just two points above Tottenham Hotspur and Conte accepted there were concerns over whether the Blues would qualify for next season's Champions League.

"The pressure, it's normal. It's normal for a coach, for a manager," Conte said. "It's normal if you are Chelsea's coach. "After the first game this season, you (the media) tried to put pressure on my job. But I'm trying to do my best."

The Italian added: "If someone doesn't think this club deserves this table (position) or deserve this situation. I repeat: we are doing everything, we are doing 120 percent. I'm exploiting this squad at the maximum level.

"But, if someone doesn't agree about this, I'm here. I have to accept every situation. I'm very relaxed about this. I know that I'm doing a great job, a great work, me and the staff and the players." There have been reports that Conte has angered Chelsea's Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich with thinly veiled criticism of the London club's transfer policy.

## Blatter to take legal action against FIFA

**MANCHESTER:** Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, currently serving a ban from the sport, told Reuters yesterday he is considering legal action against the global football body in an attempt to clear his name.

Blatter, who led FIFA for 17 years, was handed a six-year ban for ethics violations, imposed amid the biggest corruption scandal to shake world soccer's governing body in 2015.

The 81-year-old Swiss said that while "for the time being there is no legal action", he and his lawyers were working on a potential case.

"My aim is to look into the decision of FIFA's Ethics Committee in view of informations, and even evidences that I have received, in the meantime, in connection with my suspension," Blatter told Reuters via email.

"We are working on this case - and looking forward for development." It is likely that any legal action from Blatter would take place in the Swiss civil courts. FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In December 2016, Blatter lost an appeal in the

### 'Reality'

Asked whether the transfer business conducted by Chelsea's top four rivals had made the task of claiming a top four finish harder, Conte replied: "We have to understand that, if we want to speak about football and if we think to understand football we know very well this (a top four place) will be very difficult for us.

"If we want only to dream and not see the reality-in this case, I can tell you now we can fight to win the title this season!", added Conte, whose side are huge 18 points behind leaders Manchester City.

"It will be very important to look at the reality and to know that, if we are able to reach a place in the Champions League, it will be a great success for us. Otherwise we have a normal season.

"My task is to try to be more realistic and try to transfer this to the players, because the players... if they know and understand the danger... But the players are fantastic in their commitment. They understand very well what our situation is in this season."

New signing Olivier Giroud watched the game from behind the dug-out but Conte said: "I don't think now is the right moment to speak about Giroud after a bad defeat."

"Now the most important thing is to understand we have to fight. This season will be very tough. We must be ready to struggle this season for everything."

Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the suspension. CAS ruled that Blatter had authorised payments to Michel Platini, then the European football boss, worth over \$2 million that amounted to "undue gifts" and therefore violated FIFA's code of ethics.

Blatter had resigned in June 2015 after several dozen football officials, including FIFA executive committee members and former members, had been indicted in the United States on graft charges, along with two sports marketing firms.

The former FIFA president was not among those indicted, but became embroiled in scandal when he was banned from all football-related activity the following December by FIFA's Ethics Committee along with Platini.

The men were banned, initially for eight years, over a payment of 2 million Swiss francs (\$1.98 million) that FIFA made to Platini in 2011, with Blatter's approval, for work done a decade earlier. The bans were reduced to six years by FIFA's appeals committee in February 2016.

Blatter, who has denied all charges against him, had compared the FIFA Ethics Committee investigation to "the inquisition".

In 2015 Swiss prosecutors opened a criminal investigation into Blatter on suspicion of criminal mismanagement and misappropriation but no charges have yet been brought. The man who headed FIFA from 1998 to 2015 says he intends to attend June's World Cup in Russia after a personal invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin. — Reuters



**LONDON:** Chelsea's Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard (C) controls the ball during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Bournemouth at Stamford Bridge in London on Wednesday. — AFP

### 'BEST FEELING'

Goals from Callum Wilson, Junior Stanislas and Nathan Ake in 16 second-half minutes secured Bournemouth's impressive victory. The win moved Bournemouth up to tenth place, although they remain just five points clear of the bottom three.

Eddie Howe said the victory at Stamford Bridge was the best moment in his nine years, spread over two spells, as Bournemouth manager. Howe, who has steered the club through the leagues from third division League One, said: "This is the best (feeling) because of the performance. — AFP

## West Ham suspend director over racism allegations

**LONDON:** West Ham yesterday suspended director of recruitment Tony Henry while the Premier League club investigates allegations that he made racist remarks about African players. According to the Daily Mail newspaper, Henry said the Hammers wanted to limit the number of African players because "they have a bad attitude" and "cause mayhem" when they are not in the team.

Henry, it was claimed, suggested it was a policy supported by club management but insisted West Ham had "nothing against the African race at all". The club announced on Thursday that Henry had been suspended while an investigation takes place.

"The club can confirm that director of player recruitment Tony Henry has been suspended pending a full and thorough investigation," West Ham said in a statement. "West Ham United will not tolerate any type of discrimination and has, therefore, acted swiftly due to the serious nature of these claims.

"The West Ham United family is an inclusive one where, regardless of gender, age, ability, race, religion or sexual orientation, everybody feels welcome and included." The Mail reported that Henry sent an email on January 27, in response to an inquiry about a footballer of Cameroonian descent, to another senior West Ham official and an agent. In the email, Henry allegedly wrote: "We don't want any more Africans and he's not good enough." When asked by the Mail why that was the case, Henry reportedly highlighted "problems" with their former striker Diafra Sakho, who left West Ham to join French club Rennes on Monday. — AFP



## Sports

# Dortmund boss relieved Aubameyang saga is over

## Arsenal spent a new club record £56m for Aubameyang

**BERLIN:** Borussia Dortmund coach Peter Stoeger says now that the Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang transfer saga is finally over his side can refocus on their football as they prepare to face resurgent Cologne today.

"It became a topic behind which no one could hide," Stoeger explained.

"It's good that it's over, because the topic attracted such an incredible amount of attention," Stoeger told Bild.

Arsenal spent a new club record £56 million (\$79.2m, 63.7m euros) on Wednesday to sign the Gabon striker and end weeks of speculation.

Stoeger, who took charge in December, dropped Aubameyang for Dortmund's first two Bundesliga matches of 2018, yet has defended the star striker.

"In my time, he was never late (to training)," said Stoeger.

"He once skipped a team meeting and once trained badly because he obviously wanted to send a signal, but otherwise he behaved properly.

"I cannot say that the boys (team) were so upset (by his behaviour)."

Nevertheless, Stoeger is delighted the saga is over-for all parties concerned.

"If we had sent him to the stands and possibly kept him until summer, the topic would have never been settled and there would have been no winner," admitted Stoeger.

With Aubameyang gone, Dortmund have signed Belgian striker Michy Batshuayi on loan from Chelsea for the rest of the season.

He is unlikely to start at Cologne on Friday, but Stoeger hinted he could feature off the bench.

"He is ready to go and there is no training arrears to make up," said the Austrian of Batshuayi.

English teenager Jadon Sancho, 17, is set to make his fourth start while Dortmund's new Swiss centre-back Manuel Akanji could make his debut after signing from Basel.

Dortmund start the weekend sixth in Germany's top flight after drawing their last three games.

Despite their placing at the bottom of the table, resurgent Cologne are on a four-match unbeaten run under Stoeger's successor Stefan Ruthenbeck.

Only a late equaliser at home to Augsburg last weekend denied them four straight wins.

It is a remarkable turn-around as their first win this season only came on December 16 — shortly after sacking Stoeger, who joined Dortmund just a week later.

Manchester City's 12th straight league home win, thanks to goals from Fernandinho, Kevin De Bruyne and Sergio Aguero, took them to 68 points - level with Tottenham Hotspur in 1960-61 as the best record by any club after 25 matches of an English top-flight season.

Manchester United are on 53 points with Chelsea dropping to fourth on 50, the same as third-placed Liverpool. Spurs moved to within two points of the pair on 48.

Pep Guardiola's all-conquering City took their tally of goals in all competitions this season to 100 when the outstanding De Bruyne, who had provided a superb first-half assist for Fernandinho to shoot home, scored their second. Frenchman Laporte, signed from Athletic Bilbao for a City club record of 57 million pounds (\$80.9 million) on Tuesday, slotted into their defence comfortably.

His debut left Guardiola enthusing: "Yesterday he made the first training session but today we saw how good he is. He made an amazing, amazing performance." The match of the night at Wembley, though, played in front of a record crowd for a Premier League game of 81,978, proved a disappointing one for Jose Mourinho as his own major signing Alexis Sanchez failed to shine after United had conceded a "ridiculous" early goal.

Eriksen cashed in with a neat finish after



**DORTMUND:** File photo taken on November 21, 2017 shows then Dortmund's Gabonese forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang running with the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group H football match BVB Borussia Dortmund v Tottenham Hotspur at the BVB Stadion in Dortmund. — AFP

mund just a week later.

Ahead of Friday's match, Cologne's director of sport Armin Veh has criticised Stoeger for his training methods while at the club.

"Having 13 injured players is not a coincidence and I assume that something went wrong

in our training management," Veh told Cologne-newspaper Express in pinning the club's injury woes on Stoeger. "As colleagues, we've always got on and as the manager of Cologne, it was my job to analyse the situation and make the right conclusions." — AFP

Spurs had launched a long ball straight from kickoff that was flicked on by Harry Kane and Dele Alli.

### THIRD FASTEST

Timed at just under 11 seconds, it equalled the third fastest goal scored in the Premier League era after the 10-second efforts netted by former Spurs favourite Ledley King and Newcastle United's Alan Shearer.

When Phil Jones, who was bullied by Kane for the first goal, hammered the ball clumsily into his own net when trying to clear from Kieran Trippier's cross midway through the first half, Mourinho conceded that the own goal "mentally killed us".

"After 10 seconds, we made a ridiculous mistake," Mourinho told reporters. "My players have watched the Tottenham kickoff many, many times. It was a really, really bad goal."

Antonio Conte suffered one of his worst Premier League defeats at Chelsea after three second-half goals in the space of 16 minutes from Callum Wilson, Junior Stanislas and Nathan Ake earned Eddie Howe his best top-flight win with the Cherries.

"We have to accept it's a bad result and understand that we have to fight this season," Conte told the BBC. West Brom's defeat left them rooted at the foot of the table while

Southampton also remain in the bottom three despite largely dominating while coming from behind to earn a 1-1 draw at home to fellow strugglers Brighton & Hove Albion.

Brighton are just a point above the relegation zone alongside Newcastle, who have now not won a home league match in eight attempts after goalkeeper Karl Darlow's 85th-minute own goal earned Burnley a 1-1 draw at St James' Park.— Reuters



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

SPANISH LEAGUE		
Real Sociedad v Deportivo La Coruna	23:00	beIN SPORTS HD 3
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA		
Koln v Borussia Dortmund	22:30	beIN SPORTS HD 5
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Olympique Marseille v Metz	22:45	beIN SPORTS HD 6

## Man City win to go 15 points clear as Man United suffer

**LONDON:** Manchester City tightened their stranglehold at the top of the Premier League on Wednesday by trouncing bottom club West Bromwich Albion 3-0 as nearest rivals Manchester United suffered a chastening 2-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur.

Pep Guardiola's runaway leaders, whose new record signing Aymeric Laporte enjoyed an impressive debut, surged 15 points clear of their neighbours, who were outplayed by Spurs at Wembley after Christian Eriksen scored in just under 11 seconds.

The last night of the transfer window provided a fascinating backdrop to the midweek fixture list with Chelsea's final-day signing Olivier Giroud doubtless shocked at Stamford Bridge to see the champions suffer a remarkable 3-0 loss to Bournemouth.



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CLEVELAND: Justise Winslow #20 of the Miami Heat handles the ball against the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

## Cavaliers edge Heat 91-89 as Celtics thump Knicks