

### Russia reopens ferry route to North Korea

**Moscow**  
Russia has resumed sea trips to isolated North Korea after a two-month break, the RIA news agency reported on Monday quoting the head of the company operating the route. The vessel, North Korean-flagged Mangyongbong, left the Russian port of Vladivostok for North Korea's Rajin on Sunday, RIA said citing the company's director general Vladimir Baranov.



### France proposes law against harassment

The French government proposed a bill focusing on sexual harassment and sexual violence against minors, aiming to eventually make harassment against women in French streets an offense that will be punished with fines. Gender Equality Minister Marlene Schiappa said she has been setting up workshops across France to discuss the bill, which also to extend the statute of limitations for sexual assaults in cases involving minors.



The EU is committed to the continued full and effective implementation of all parts of the 'Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action' Iran agreed in July 2015 in Vienna. Non-proliferation is a major element of world security and rupturing that would be extremely damaging,"

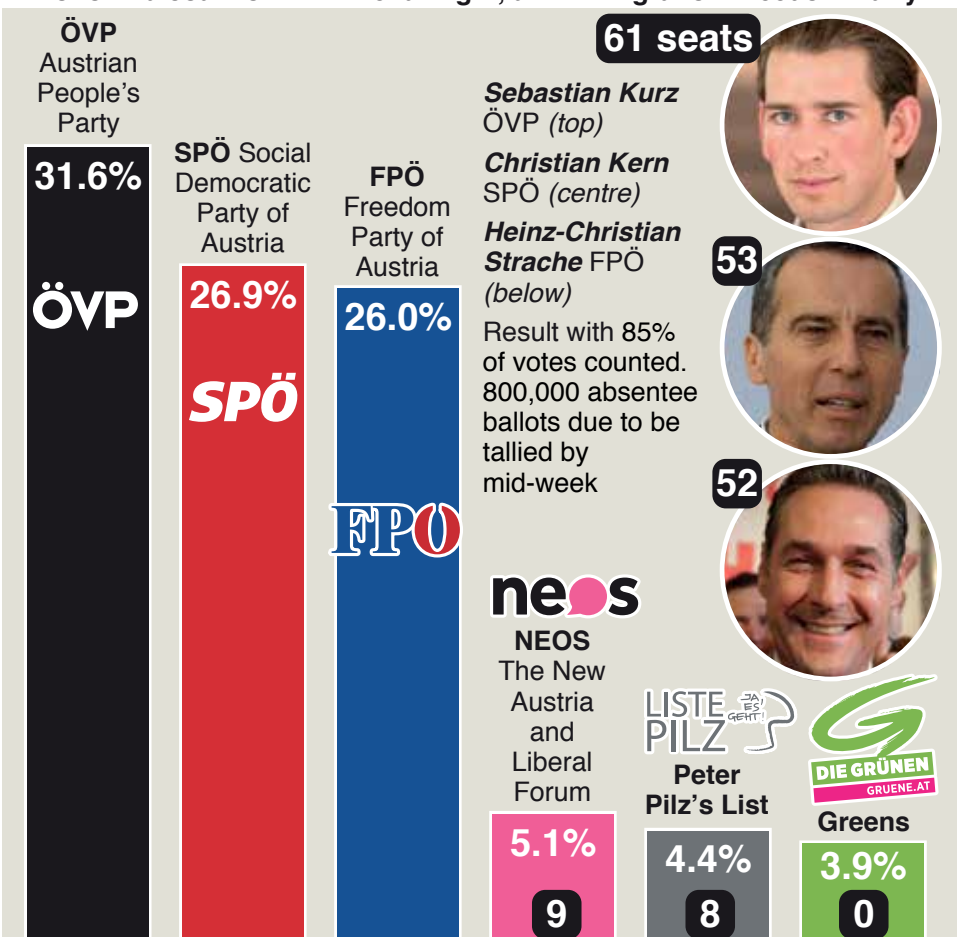
**-Federica Mogherini**

EU foreign policy chief



## Austria's snap election results

The conservative People's Party, led by Sebastian Kurz, has won 61 seats in Austria's 183-seat National Council. Short of a majority, Kurz is likely to form a coalition with the far-right, anti-immigration Freedom Party



Source: Österreichischer Rundfunk Pictures: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS

# KFH net profit increases 12pc



Chairman of Kuwait Finance House Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq

Earnings per share 24.26 fils, an increase of 11.8pc

**Kuwait**  
Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that "KFH has realized a KD137.9 million net profit to shareholders until end of Q3 2017 compared to KD123.1 million for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 12 per cent.

Financing income reached KD542.1m i.e. a growth of 1.5pc compared to the same period last year. Total operating income until the end of Q3 2017 reached KD525.1m, i.e. a growth of 9.1pc and net operating income reached KD311.7m, i.e. a growth of 19.8pc compared to the same period last year.

The operating expenses decreased for the period by KD 7.75m, i.e. a decrease of 3.5pc over the same period last year. Earnings per share until the end of Q3 2017 reached 24.26 fils, compared to 21.69 fils for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 11.8pc. Total Assets reached

**Total operating income of Kuwait Finance House increased by 9.1 per cent to KD 525.1 million and total financing income increased by 1.5pc to KD 542.1 million. Growth in the financing portfolio by 13.4pc to KD 9.27 billion, Depositors' accounts increased by 8.7pc to KD 11.59 billion**

KD17.40 billion i.e. an increase of KD902m or 5.5pc compared to end of year 2016.

Financing portfolio reached KD9.27bn i.e. an increase of KD1.1bn or 13.4pc compared to end of year 2016. Depositors' accounts reached KD11.59bn i.e. an increase of KD926m or 8.7pc compared to end of year 2016. Shareholders' equity reached KD1.85bn i.e. an increase of KD35.5m or 2pc compared to end of year 2016.

Al-Marzouq explained that the realized profits are attributed to the efficient execution of the bank's strategy by focusing on the core banking business while achieving stable and

sustainable growth across the Group banks in various countries.

KFH-Turkey is leading the participation banks in Turkey. It offers a wide range of financial services while expanding and penetrating new markets.

KT Bank Ag in Germany has also achieved good growth. KFH-Malaysia managed to map out a new customer-centric strategy based on offering retail and corporate financial services in the Malaysian market.

KFH-Bahrain inked several financing agreements for several real estate development projects. It increased its market share in the retail market.

## Neutron star smash-up the 'discovery of a lifetime'

**Paris**  
"Truly a eureka moment", "Everything I ever hoped for", "A dream come true" -- Normally restrained scientists reached for the stars Monday to describe the feelings that accompany a "once-in-a-lifetime" event.

The trigger for this meteor shower of superlatives was the smash-up of two unimaginably dense neutron stars 130 million years ago, when T-rex still lorded over our planet.

Evidence of this cosmic clash hurtled through space and reached Earth on August 17 at exactly 12:41 GMT, setting in motion a secret, sleepless, weeks-long

blitzkrieg of star-gazing and number-crunching involving hundreds of telescopes and thousands of astronomers and astrophysicists around the world.

It was as if a dormant network of super-spies simultaneously sprung into action.

The stellar smash-up made itself known in two ways: it created ripples called gravitational waves in Einstein's time-space continuum, and lit up the entire electromagnetic spectrum of light, from gamma rays to radio waves.

Scientists had detected gravitational waves

four times before, a feat acknowledged with a Nobel Physics Prize earlier this month.

But each of those events, generated by the collision of black holes, lasted just a few seconds, and remained invisible to Earth- and space-based telescopes.

The neutron star collision was different.

It generated gravitational waves -- picked up by two US-based observatories known as LIGO, and another one in Italy called Virgo -- that lasted an astounding 100 seconds. Less than two seconds later, a NASA satellite recorded a burst of gamma rays. (AFP)