



Wednesday, February 22, 2017



Leading seeds stumble in Dubai

Kerber survives



Angelique Kerber

Dubai

Former world number one Angelique Kerber survived as three of the top five seeds were bundled out of the Dubai Tennis Championships yesterday.

The top seed and winner of two Grand Slams in 2016 dispatched fellow German Mona Bartel 6-4, 6-3 in a second-round match.

World number two Kerber is battling to recover the WTA top ranking she claimed last September when winning the US Open, only to see Serena Williams reclaim it with victory at last month's Australian Open.

"I'm happy about my performance, I was trying to play my game and focus on every point, I felt strong," Kerber said.

The German next plays Puerto Rico's Monica Puig, whom she lost to in the Rio Olympic gold medal match last August.

"That match will be completely different," Kerber said. "I will try to do my best against her."

Puig ousted 15th seed Caroline Garcia of France 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.

US Open finalist Karolina Pliskova, last week's Doha winner and the second seed, was dumped out in straight sets by France's Kristina Mladenovic 6-2, 6-4.

Number three seed Dominika Cibulkova fell victim to Ekaterina Makarova 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, having also lost to the Russian in the Melbourne third round. (AFP)

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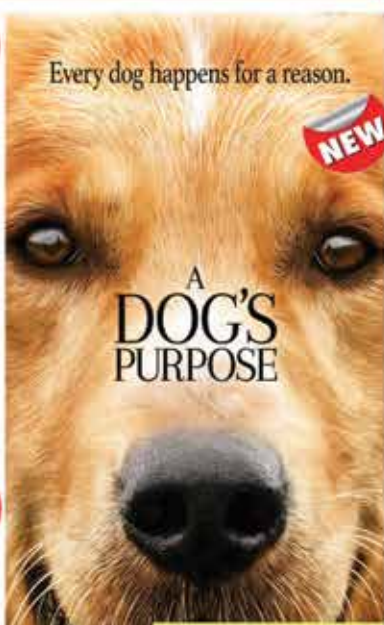
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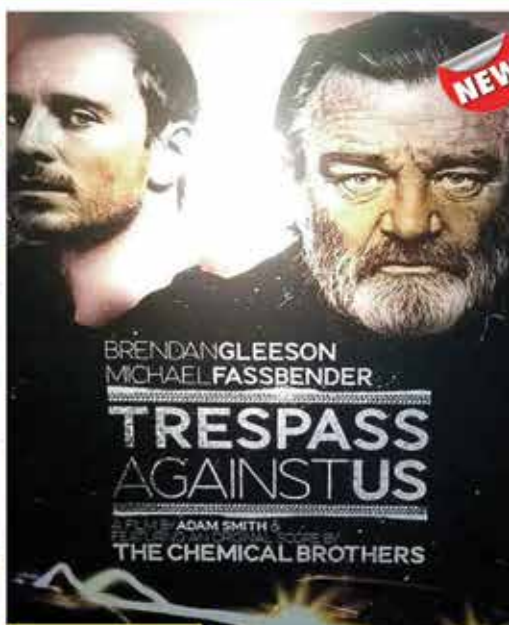
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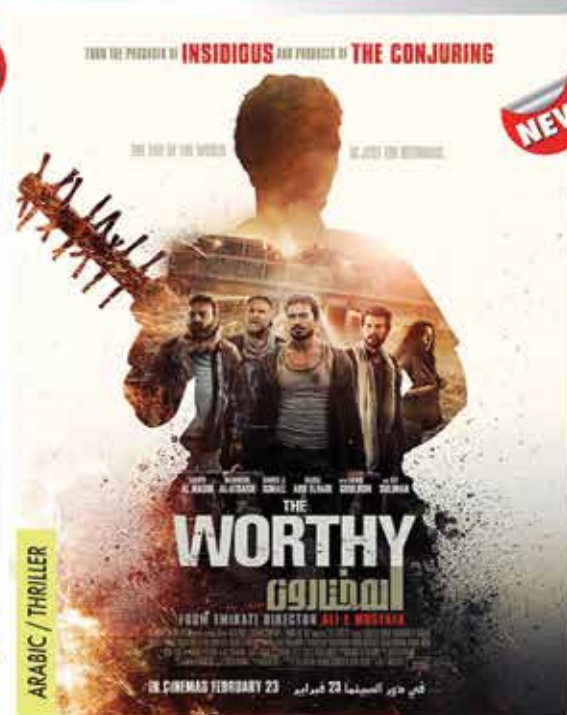
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