

MERCEDES-BENZ COLLECTION 2017

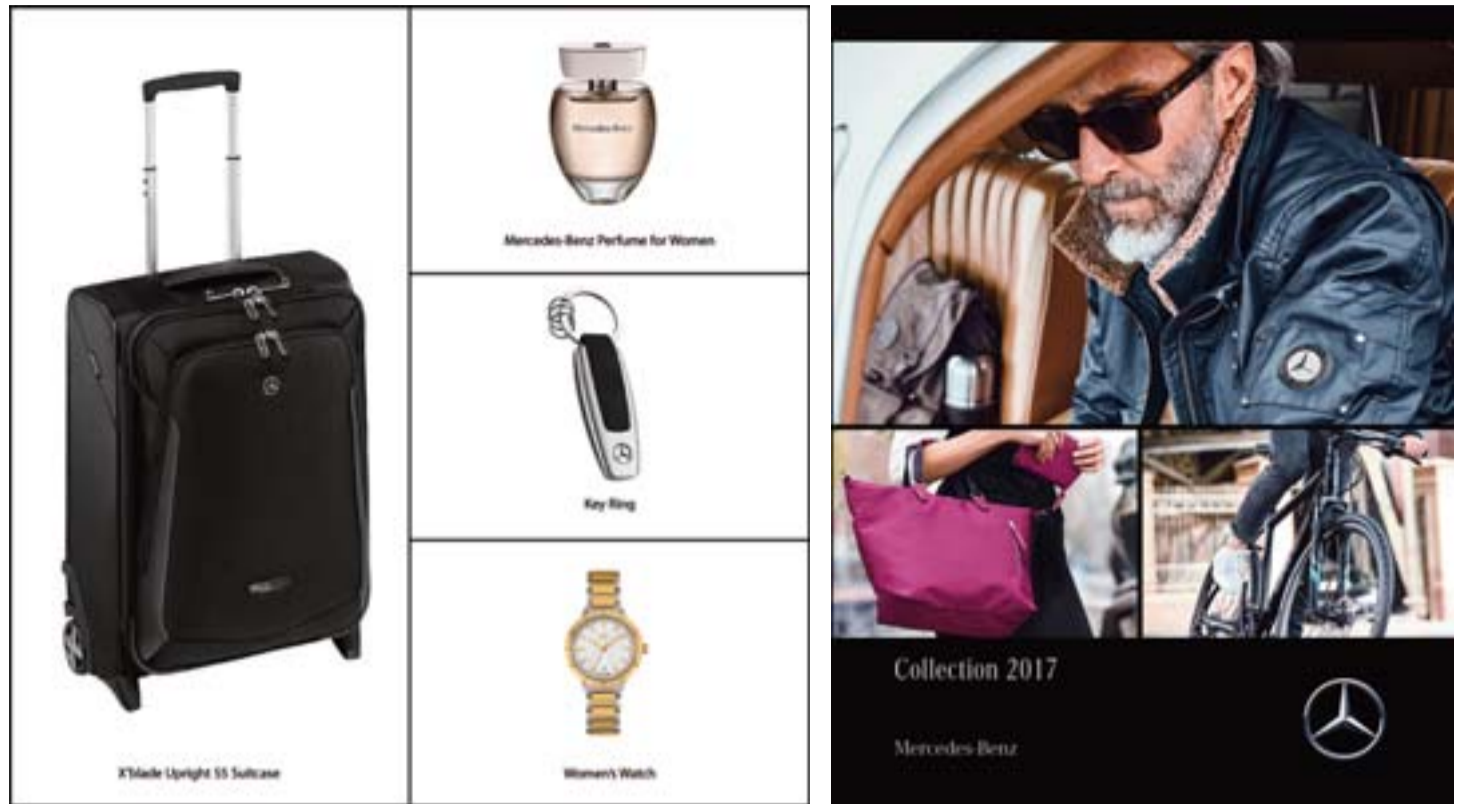
A NEW RANGE OF IRRESISTIBLE ACCESSORIES

KUWAIT: The new Mercedes-Benz 2017 Collection catalogue is out now and is available at Boutique and accessory locations of A R Albisher & Z Alkamezi Co Kuwait. The extensive range of top quality lifestyle collection and popular merchandise for both adults and children have also arrived. Showcasing the new items, the Mercedes-Benz collection catalogue displays over 500 products across 146 pages, with a wide variety of high quality watches, clothing, cufflinks, sunglasses, pens, sporting accessories, travel goods, key rings, gift ideas, AMG and Maybach equipment. The new selection also contains official replica products of race drivers, stylish Hugo Boss polo shirts, as well as the noble products of the Driver's Choice Collection from MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY.

Among other things, the 2017 catalogue features the all new noble automatic wristwatches: "MB Classic" and "MB Sportive Young GMT", both made of solid stainless steel. The Classic wristwatch has an outward-arched dial with elements inspired by the dashboard of the historic 500K model. The Sportive Young GMT wristwatch has a black dial with several unique levels, as well as an imitation of the rhombic optics of the current S-Class interior. Bracelets made from black and blue Swarovski Crystals also offer a fitting accessory for the style-conscious woman.

Mercedes-Benz is a brand of uncompromising quality which extends across its full range of products, from the road to the boutique. The new additions to the Boutique and Accessories collection offers customers and fans of Mercedes-Benz, a chance to extend their love for the brand whether buying for themselves or as a perfect gift for their loved ones.

Customers can visit the main Boutique and Accessory corner in Shuwaikh service centre from Sat-Thu 8 am to 2 pm during the holy month of Ramadan.



SEOUL: South Korean President Moon Jae-in points to a bulletin board which offers a quick summary of current conditions in the country's employment market and highlights the emphasis the new president and his government place on creating jobs, at the presidential Blue House in Seoul. —AP

MARKAZ: MENA MARKETS TUMBLE IN LINE WITH OIL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently released its Monthly Market Research report. In this report, Markaz examines and analyzes the performance of equity markets in the MENA region as well as the global equity markets for the month of May 2017.

MENA markets, with the exception of Egypt closed in the red for the month of May. Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia and Qatar markets shed 2.2 percent, 2.1 percent, 2 percent and 1.6 percent respectively. Middle East funds pulled out of the UAE markets in view of soft real estate activity and tight liquidity prevailing causing the Dubai and Abu Dhabi markets to decline. Despite positive events such as Trump's visit and MSCI announcing that the inclusion of



Saudi Arabia into emerging markets would happen sooner, fragile outlook on oil turned investors bearish. Kuwait price index and weighted index lost 0.8 percent and 0.9 percent respectively. Egypt was the only bourse in MENA region to gain 5.6 percent last month, as foreign institutional investors welcomed the central bank's efforts to curtail inflation and increased their investments.

Value traded and volumes in May reflected a negative mood, with volume traded, dropping by 35 percent while the turnover in the market declined by 7.2 percent. All MENA markets, barring Qatar and Egypt, witnessed fall in liquidity. Kuwait saw a 75 percent fall in liquidity while it declined by 22 percent in Dubai. Liquidity declines are common in the MENA bourses, especially due to poor trading activity in the month of Ramadan. In terms of valuation, P/E of Morocco (18.9x), Qatar (14.33x), and Kuwait (14.22x) markets were at premium, while the markets of Dubai and Bahrain (9.3x), and Egypt (9x) were the discount markets in the MENA region.

Many blue chips were in the red in May, while companies such as DP World, Kuwait Food Company and Mashraf Al-Rayhan gained 12.5 percent, 11.3 percent and 6 percent respectively.

tively, DP world is expected to expand its operations to countries such as Russia. It has already obtained permission for the container operation of Santos port in Brazil. Expansionary activities improved investor sentiment over the prospects of the company. Among companies that lost, Ezdan Holding plunged by 27.5 percent followed by Kuwait Projects Company that dipped 15.7 percent last month. Ezdan holding's shareholders have given preliminary approval for the company's plans for delisting leading to the selling pressure in the market.

Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia - Deals, Diplomacy and investor confidence

It was indeed beneficial to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia that Mr. Donald Trump made it the choice of his maiden international visit. The visit and the volume of deals signed has put to rest some of the anxieties related to his ascent to power. Trump's visit has surely added feed to the diversification, especially through various deals signed in defense and infrastructure arena.

Deals worth \$110bn were signed, mostly relating to defense. These deals will become effective in the near future as most of them have been already approved. Defense spending forms the bedrock of the visit and deals signed. In a scenario of uncertainties in oil prices and geopolitical tensions, Trump's visit provided fresh assurance on ensuring security in the region and exploring US-Saudi business opportunities. Investors are confident over future business, especially in technology and defense sector, much needed for the Saudi economy now.

Oil market review

Brent crude declined by 2.7 percent in May 2017 declining to \$50.31 compared to \$51.73 at the end of April 2017. OPEC and non-OPEC members decided to extend the current production cuts for a period of nine months up to March 2018. Increasing supplies from the US shale producers and announcement made by US to sell oil in plans to reduce its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) led to the continuing fall in oil prices. Libya's oil production has risen to 827,000 bpd in the beginning of May adding to the supply glut in the market.

YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ENJOYING SUMMER IN AND AROUND LONDON

THE LONDON LOW-DOWN

KUWAIT: Celebrated around the world for its diverse arts and culture, cutting-edge fashion, and iconic landmarks, London can often be a maze for travellers choosing what to do in and around the United Kingdom capital. British Airways, who proudly calls the bustling city of London home, is offering return fares starting from as little as KD124, and a few highlights to make the most of the Great British Summer.

From historic sporting events and music festivals, to palaces and magical attractions, London and the surrounding counties provide the perfect reason for a holiday this summer, whether it be a family vacation, or long weekend getaway. British Airways' crew have put together a list of dates you need to mark in your calendar, and activities to add to your travel must-do list:

Royal Ascot 2017: Tuesday, 21 June - Saturday, 24 June

The Royal Ascot is unarguably the UK's most expensive horse race, attracting the world's finest racehorses to compete for more than GBP 6.58 million in prize money. New this year, visitors can now enjoy the best of British summer and racing with the roll out of The Village Enclosure priced at GBP 67. This addition includes pop up and alfresco dining, adult beverage bars, fine dining restaurants and an unmissable atmosphere with live music all day long.

Henley Royal Regatta: Wednesday, 28 June - Sunday, 2 July

The highlight of the British summer and the ultimate social event in the June calendar, the Henley Royal Regatta is the world's most popular rowing race of its kind. Dating back to 1839, the crowds of sporting enthusiasts and English socialites flock to the banks of the River Thames to support rowing teams competing for the grand titles. There are strict dress codes in place for the exclusive areas such as the Stewards' Enclosure, which require ladies to wear a hat and a formal dress below the knee, and gentlemen are expected to wear blazers and ties, often reflecting the universities they've rowed for. The five-day event is accompanied by plenty of afternoon tea and traditional British fares.

Wimbledon Championships 2017: Monday, July 3 - Sunday, July 16

The Wimbledon Championships is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, and is widely considered the most prestigious. Since the first Championships in 1877, Wimbledon has grown from its roots as a garden-party event to a Grand Slam tournament. The only one of its kind held on a grass surface, Wimbledon

continues to honour many long-standing traditions not least, a royal patronage and eating strawberries and cream.

British Summer Time - Kings of Leon: Thursday 6 July

The 'Barclaycard presents British Summer Time Hyde Park' is an annual music festival that takes place over two weekends at London's Hyde Park. Possibly one of the most famous parks anywhere in the

from Friday 30 June through to Sunday 9 July.

Notting Hill Carnival: Sunday, 27 August - Monday, 28 August 2017

One of Europe's biggest street parties offers visitors a myriad of colour across the two-days, with a daily carnival parade, stunning floats and creatively costumed dancers weaving their way through the streets of London. You will find it hard not to move along to the

can go behind-the-scenes of the widely popular Harry Potter film series, located at the Studios and see where all the magic began. Walk into authentic sets and experience for yourself the charm and spirit that brought the characters to life. The Studio Cafe offers a popular British tradition, afternoon tea, along with freshly prepared food and baked items.

Formula 1 Rolex British Grand Prix: Friday, 14 July - Sunday, 16 July

One for the motor heads and those who love to party, the weekend long Grand Prix is a must-attend event on the international F1 calendar, with tickets starting from GBP 60. Hailed as one of the fastest circuits in the world by F1 drivers, the Silverstone circuit attracts serious car enthusiasts and the creme of the F1 community for a truly great annual sporting event. Visitors can make the most of the motoring championship and camp out over the weekend if they have



three-day tickets to the Grand Prix. The camping grounds are adjacent to and within 150m of Club Corner at the South of the circuit with facilities including toilets, showers and shops.

A touch of royalty all summer long - Buckingham Palace opens to the public

The British monarchy is the most iconic royal family internationally, with its heritage and legacy having a strong resonance with many countries globally. If you're looking to step into centuries of history and visit the London residence of the world's longest-reigning living monarch, then book your tour of Buckingham Palace. One of the few active royal palaces, the tour of the Queen's official London residence covers some of its most lavish State Rooms, the Throne Room, the Gardens, priceless works of art by some of history's finest painters such as Rembrandt, gifts given to the Queen and more.

A full timetable of British Airways' flights to London and beyond is available online here where customers can find the lowest fares and book, pay and check-in online for their flights.



world, today under the British Summer Time Hyde Park event, some of the biggest names in music have performed there including the likes of the Rolling Stones and Bon Jovi. The line-up for 2017 includes a list of impressive acts including the Kings of Leon, Green Day and showcasing a mix of genres - Justin Bieber on 2 July. The festival runs

rhythmic Caribbean beats that fill the air, or fall in love with mouth-watering food drawing inspiration from as all corners of the Caribbean.

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter

On for a limited time, here's one for the family - adults and children

TRADING BLUES? IT'S JUST ANOTHER KICK IN THE VOLATILITY: ANALYSTS

LONDON: Executives at some of the world's biggest banks are warning that challenging market conditions could lead to a fall in second quarter trading revenues, with much of the blame being laid at a familiar door: low volatility.

JP Morgan chief financial officer Marianne Lake, Bank of America chief executive Brian Moynihan and Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman all said last week that Q2 trading revenue is on course to fall by 10-15 percent.

Banks generally find it harder to make money when volatility is low because it lessens their ability to take advantage of big price swings, so it's often a valid, if convenient, explanation.

The trouble is, it doesn't fully bear scrutiny. There are

several reasons why volatility across many markets is at its lowest in years and in some cases, decades.

Among them are structural shifts following last decade's global financial crisis, such as healthier bank balance sheets, lower leverage, tighter regulation and oceans of central bank liquidity that have compressed yields, returns and spreads.

Other factors steady-if-unspectacular global growth, and more sophisticated hedging strategies whereby investors minimize their exposure to volatility by simultaneously buying and selling options.

And there are several well-documented reasons behind the erosion of banks' trading income over the same period-

automation, tighter spreads, increased regulation limiting their trading activities, and, yes, low volatility. But revenue can rise when volatility falls, and vice versa, which raises the question of whether weak trading performance is too easily blamed on "bad" volatility.

The FICC of it

In the first quarter of this year, revenues from fixed income, currency and commodity (FICC) trading at the world's top 12 banks rose 19 percent, to \$21.4 billion from \$17.9 billion a year earlier, according to industry analysis firm coalition. That was despite a widespread fall in volatility. One-month implied volatility in US Treasuries averaged

68 percent in Q1, down from 75 percent in the same period last year, while average one-month implied euro/dollar volatility fell to 8.9 percent from 9.7 percent.

The comparison between the April-June quarters of 2014 and 2015 shows the opposite phenomenon. Average one-month implied Treasury volatility in Q2 2014 was a post-crisis low of 58 percent, jumping to an average 85 percent a year later. Similarly, one-month implied euro/dollar volatility averaged just 5.5 percent in Q2 2014 only to more than double to 12.7 percent in Q2 2015.

Yet FICC revenues at the top 12 banks tracked by Coalition fell 12 percent in Q2 2015 from a year earlier, to \$16.1 billion from \$18.2 billion. —Reuters