

# DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

Wednesday, January 3, 2018 Issue No. 7615

News of Bahrain

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Tweet of the Day



Since taking office I have been very strict on Commercial Aviation. Good news - it was just reported that there were Zero deaths in 2017, the best and safest year on record!

@realDonaldTrump

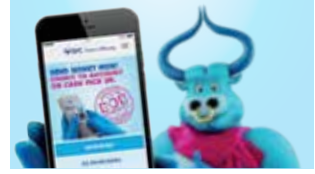
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## 11th Hour

### King receives Crown Prince, BDF Chief

**Sanaa**  
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, received His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier and BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa at Al-Sakhir Palace, yesterday. HM reviewed with them the future plans to develop the BDF armament, hailing the BDF-led efforts to protect homeland and citizens' security. "The brave BDF servicemen deserve all our support," said HM, in the presence of Deputy Premier HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa and Royal Court Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa. The meeting focused on domestic issues aimed at nation-building and development march.

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN  
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

It was heartbreak for Bahraini fans as Oman squashed their dream of seeing their football team reach the final of the Gulf Cup.

Oman, which won the Gulf Cup back in 2009, will once again play in the final after defeating Bahrain in a thrilling match. Both teams put up an intense fight but Oman was fortunate to come off with a win as the result of a self-goal. The disaster struck in the 29th minute as Bahraini forward Mahdi Abd Al Jabbar headed the ball into his own net.

Despite the attacking intent and the high intensity in the match, goal-keepers of either team were rarely tested in the first 20 minutes. A 30 yard shot by an Omani attacker in the 28th minute forced a spectacular save from the Bahraini keeper. As a result, a corner was awarded to Oman in the 29th minute and in his attempts to defend it Al Jabbar



Bahraini forward Mahdi Abdul Jabbar battles for the ball against Omani players in the hotly contested Arabian Gulf Cup semifinal at the Jaber International Stadium in Kuwait yesterday

headed the ball to the back of the net. The goal changed the game entirely and forced Bahrain to attack without any inhibitions, which made the game more high paced. Bahrain's attacks were mainly channelled through the right

wing with a number of crosses lofted in to test the Omani defence. Bahrain dominated the attack with excellent wing play on the right and the constant pressure almost resulted in a clear-cut chance but the last-ditch tackle from

an Omani defender prevented a shot from 12 yards out. A few minutes later Al Jabbar thought he was clean through on goal only to be flagged offside. Bahrain continued to have the lion's share of ball possession, however, clear-cut chances

were far and few between.

Oman started the second half defending deep with Bahrain's high pressing game making it difficult for Oman to maintain possession. Bahrain's first substitution took place when Ibrahim Ahmed Habib came on for Ahmed Abdulla Ali. Soon Al Jabbar was presented with a chance but the Omani defenders took the ball off him. The substitute Habib had a chance to make it level but his shot was blocked. Habib's second attempt following a corner missed the goal.

What looked like Bahrain's best chance came from a set piece as a long ball was whipped in from the left-hand side and the ball fell to an excellent area in the box for the Bahraini players to attack, however, the play was stopped by the referee to call a foul. Bahrain's continued attacks did not result in the goal.

In the second match of the day, UAE won 4-2 against Iraq in penalties after both teams failed to score in extra time.



P 02

Iran protest: death toll rises to 21



P 03

Lack of quorum: Parliament session postponed



P 19

Pakistan summons US ambassador



# Lack of quorum: Parliament session postponed

MPs during a previous session



DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

## Manama

The regular weekly session of the House of Representatives was postponed yesterday due to lack of quorum, *DT News* has learnt.

The meeting has been reportedly rescheduled for tomorrow with the same work agenda for yesterday's

cancelled session.

This comes as the majority of MPs, including the Speaker of the House Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla, weren't able to attend the meeting for several reasons, mainly for being busy with official assignments abroad.

Al Mulla and three fellow MPs are currently participating in the 11th GCC Parliament Speakers Meetings held in the Kuwaiti

Capital.

The impact of the quorum on the course of the regular weekly meetings of the House has been a repeated scene lately. Several sessions ended early because of lack of quorum in the past few months, but, this is the first time the entire session is postponed for the same reason.

According to the bylaws of the council, at least 21

members of the 40-member house should be present for a session to continue.

MPs will discuss several matters on Thursday that include the answers of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister to queries regarding the latest statistics on criminal, civil and Sharia cases seen by the courts, and Information Minister's explanation on the Kingdom's media strategy, in

**The meeting has been reportedly rescheduled for tomorrow with the same work agenda of yesterday's cancelled session**

addition to a number of bills and proposals.

It's worth mentioning that Shura Council members also cancelled their regular meeting this. The meeting

was supposed to be held last Sunday and was postponed to the same day next week, as "it fell between two public holidays" (Saturday and New Year Holiday).

# Harassed expat workers seek their passports back

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN  
reporter@dt.bh

## Manama

Complaints by expatriate workers are on the rise after sponsors continue to illegally confiscate passports with no action by the officials.

A Filipino expatriate is stuck in a courtroom battle after her sponsor confiscated her passport and refused to give her a release.

Jeny Agbulig, an expatriate from the Philippines, who worked for Transport Offshore Reclamation Contracts, a private firm, as

a staff cleaner and a caterer assistant is still waiting anxiously to get hold of her passport.

"Since May 2017, I have been trying to get my passport and my release but there seems to be no hope," Jenny told *DT News*.

"I have been living off my friend's money and there are days I couldn't even afford to buy food and pay my bills. Neither the officials are of any help nor the embassy. Only after so many months the court put a travel ban on my sponsor and blocked his account but still, there seems to be no sign of my passport,"



Jenny

Jenny said.

*DT News* had reported on the incident previously when Jenny's sponsor cancelled her visa demanding a ransom to get her passport back.

Similarly, an Indian expatriate, Rajesh whose father passed away on December 24, 2017, is still unable to return to his hometown as his sponsor allegedly refused to hand over the passport to him.

"Rajesh can't leave the country until his visa expires or he gets an exit pass. The officials do not seem to be



Rajesh

ask the Indian embassy for help but there seems to be no hope. The case has gone to the court and we have no clue how long the legalities will take," A said a source.

"I am so helpless and this is the most unfortunate thing that anyone could experience. All I asked was my passport to go back and perform the last rites of my father and take care of my mother who is very ill after my father's death," Rajesh said.

"I really hope this matter gets solved and I will be able to go back to my home

# Motorists urged to follow safety instructions at traffic junctions



A screen shot of the video of a women regulating traffic

DT News Network  
Manama

The General Directorate of Traffic has cautioned motorists against the dangers of stopping at junctions during traffic accidents and trying to regulate traffic flow at non-working signal.

The directorate's warning came few days after a video showing a woman in traditional attire (Abaya) regulating the flow of traffic at a busy intersection in the Capital went viral on local social media networks.

The woman was seen in the video directing the vehicles on one of the busiest intersections in the kingdom, the one between Oman Avenue and Highway 35 near Zinj, while the traffic signals broke down.

"The General Directorate of

appreciation to initiatives of citizens to ensure traffic safety and warns of the risks of stopping their vehicles at traffic junctions during accidents or try to regulate traffic flow at a non-working signal," a statement issued yesterday by the directorate read.

The directorate urged the public to "call the operations room to report traffic signal with a technical fault to deploy the nearest patrol to the reported location".

"There are traffic rules that the traffic personnel follow to regulate traffic flow and no one can handle such task without receiving the appropriate training," the directorate asserted, while also hailing the contributions of volunteers in serving the community under the

**A Filipino expatriate is stuck in a courtroom battle after her sponsor confiscated her passport and refused to give her a release. Similarly, an Indian expatriate whose father passed away is still unable to return to his hometown as his sponsor allegedly refused to hand over the passport to him**

# PM calls for more effective 'cooperation mechanisms'

Kuwait/Manama

**Prime Minister** HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday urged countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to unify their stances saying that "the once effective cooperation mechanisms are no longer suitable for the current situation and its economic and security challenges."

Nations in the GCC, Prince Khalifa said, should indulge in more welfare activities to bring "prosperity to the region, after a burdensome year of incidents".

HRH the Prime Minister said this while speaking with Kuwaiti Amir, Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the presence of Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Shaikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and Prime Minister, Shaikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The Prime Minister was in Kuwait on a fraternal visit. The visit, HRH the Premier said, is for "ensuring the bilateral cooperation between our two countries and pushing it forward to achieve the hopes and ambitions of

our two brotherly peoples".

Discussions focused on the overall regional and global issues and their effects on the region.

Shaikh Sabah and HRH the Prime Minister stressed that consultative and coordination meetings will continue "to further bolster bilateral ties and promote them as a role model for relations between countries".

HRH Premier said that the gracious welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation reflect the

advanced level of the Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations.

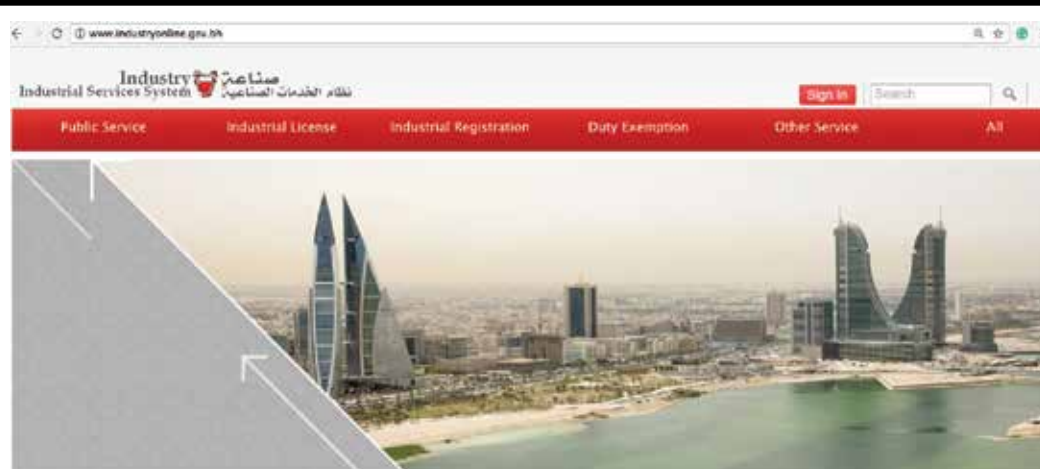
"I am delighted on this occasion to praise the development and growth witnessed by Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of the sisterly State of Kuwait," the Prime Minister told Kuwaiti Amir.

HRH the Premier was bidden farewell at the airport by his Kuwait counterpart and his deputies as well as senior officials, the Bahraini Ambassador to Kuwait and the embassy staff members.



In pictures, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa with Kuwait Amir Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other Ministers and officials during his visit to Kuwait

# 60-day deadline for Industrial registration



### What is the importance?

The certificate, according to the Ministry, is a must for any official purposes and should be displayed in the factory.

### Why I must register?

The industrial registration is according to the law no. "81" for the year 2006 in ratification of the Unified GCC industrial Organization law "system".

### When I can apply?

The New factories should apply for the industrial registration within 60 days following the commencement.

### How to register?

Access the Ministry's website at [www.moic.gov.bh](http://www.moic.gov.bh) and click on the industry icon or use the link [www.industry.bh](http://www.industry.bh)

### For inquiries

Contact the Industrial Development Directorate at [iddinfo@moic.gov.bh](mailto:iddinfo@moic.gov.bh) or at 17359000.

### Manama

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism has announced a 60-day deadline for new factories to complete the

registration process as per the requirements of the Unified Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) industrial regulation law.

The move, in line with the

law no: "81" for the year 2006 in ratification of the Unified GCC industrial Organization law "system", requires each industrial plant in the Kingdom to register its plant

within 60 days of its actual production.

The certificate, according to the ministry, issued will be valid for a year and can be renewed annually.

The certificate should be produced on request or while dealing with the ministries and institutions of the Kingdom and GCC in all matters related to the plant

transactions.

All factories in the Kingdom are listed in the database of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

## Get ready for VAT

### Manama

The Ministry of Finance has announced its commitment to implementing the Value Added Tax (VAT) in 2018.

The move, according to the Ministry, falls within the framework of a joint commitment of the GCC member states and in line with the decisions of the GCC leaders as well as the unified agreement concluded in this regard.

The Ministry added that the government will take all procedures in cooperation with the

legislative branch to approve VAT law, prepare the private sector and the commercial institutions and ensure the provision of the needed logistic and technical preparations.

Similar procedures were taken last year regarding preparation to implement the tax on selected commodities which became effective last

December and includes tobacco and its by-products as well as fizzy and energy drinks.



## AGU graduate students to organise conference

### Manama

Students of the College of Graduate Studies at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) are organising the first student conference between January 22 and 24.

The Conference titled "The First Gulf Conference for Education and Human Development" aims to exchange experiences among educators.

Held under the theme of "Educational Horizons with an Innovative Vision", the event will focus on topics including future planning, the role of education in establishing and strengthening national values among citizens of the Gulf, recent issues and trends in the field of education for individuals with learning difficulties, disabilities and autism will be discussed among

several others.

The conference will also handle contemporary issues in gifted education, guidance programmes and their role in confronting students' educational problems. It will review scientific perspectives of psychological research in light of current educational issues, as well as obstacles that threaten the educational process and limit human development.

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# Tunisian girls rebel against uniform



Siwar Tebourbi (C), an 18-year-old Tunisian high school student, with many of her classmates is up in arms over the fact that girls must wear uniforms while boys wear what they want to school

In Tunisian high schools, the dress code is not uniform. Actually, it is: but only for girls. Boys can wear what they like, and now the girls are up in arms.

One morning, instead of turning up for class wearing the regulation navy blue smock, a defiant group of adolescent girls came to school in white T-shirts instead, demanding an "end to discrimination".

At the elite Bizerte public school in the north, as is the case in most high schools in the North African country, pupils have to sign a school rule stipulating that wearing a uniform applies to girls only.

One day in September, supervisors reminded senior female students who did not abide by this rule that if they did not wear the smock, a loose-fitting, long gilet, they would be sent home.

Ironically, the warning was passed

on during a philosophy class -- about the human body.

This "injustice" inspired many of the girls to take to social networks and vent their feelings, 18-year-old Siwar Tebourbi told AFP.

She said the girls agreed to take collective action from the following day "to demand that this discrimination must cease".

So dozens duly turned up for class, wearing white. Several boys did the same, in solidarity with their classmates.

How did the school authorities react? By saying nothing. Thus was born the "Manish Labsetha" ("I won't wear it") campaign, referring to the offending garment.

## 'A terrible message'

It was the culmination of a dispute that had been brewing for years.

Outraged that the navy blue was

imposed on everyone in primary and secondary school but was compulsory in high school only for girls, pupils regularly appeared without it, risking expulsion or seeing their parents summoned.

Monia Ben Jemia, head of the Association of Democratic Women of Tunisia, an independent feminist group, called the smock rule "a terrible message" because it implies that young girls' bodies can have a disruptive effect on their peers.

She called it a complete aberration, especially since the country's new constitution of 2014 says that men and women are equal.

The high school students who launched the campaign, both male and female, are also against what they perceive as a wider "hypocrisy".

"They drill into us at school that men and women are equal, but in practice this is not the case," said

Adam Garci, 17.

That the navy gilet is actually supposed to erase social inequalities between pupils is a source of some amusement to Tebourbi.

"If it was really meant to conceal any differences between rich and poor, then boys as well as girls would have to wear it," she smiled.

Imposing the blue uniform on girls at a time when their bodies are undergoing change is not a trivial issue, said her friend Farah Ben Jemaa.

## Rather embarrassing

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one senior education official found it difficult to explain exactly what was happening.

He acknowledged the sensitivity of the subject, even though Tunisia is considered to be a pioneer in North Africa and the Middle East in the field of women's rights.

If the official line is that equality between men and women is an asset, large sections of Tunisian society remain conservative and "there is resistance", said Ben Jemia, at the Association of Democratic Women of Tunisia.

In the courtyard of another school in Bizerte, the Habib Thameur Lycee, equality is a topic for passionate debate among students.

Of around 15 boys asked about it, just one -- Nader -- spoke up for the traditional view.

"Girls must cover the shape of their bodies," he said.

The others were firm backers of the campaign.

One final year pupil tried to argue with a supervisor seeking to enforce the rules.

"But madame," he asked. "What if the regulation is wrong?"

## Revolution generation

She thought for a moment. "For me, it's not unfair, it's the rules. That's the way it is," she murmured.

School director Iadh Toulgui admitted that the supervisor's view was unlikely to sway pupils who had lived through the revolution of 2011, which toppled a 23-year police state and brought about freedom of expression. (AFP)

**How did the school authorities react? By saying nothing. Thus was born the "Manish Labsetha" ("I won't wear it") campaign.**



Siwar Tebourbi (C) says the girls agreed to take collective action to demand that the school uniform discrimination cease



# Trump sounds open to Korea dialogue



## Washington

**P**resident Donald Trump sounded open yesterday to the possibility of an inter-Korean dialogue after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a rare overture toward South Korea in a New Year's address.

In a morning tweet, Trump said the U.S.-led campaign of sanctions and other pressure were beginning to have a "big impact" on North Korea. He referred to the recent, dramatic escape of at least two North Korean soldiers across the heavily militarized border into South Korea. But he also alluded to Kim's comments Monday that he was willing to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics, which will be hosted by South Korea next month.

"Soldiers are dangerously fleeing to South Korea. Rocket man now wants to talk to South Korea for first time. Perhaps that is good news, perhaps not - we will see!" Trump said, using his derisive moniker for the young North Korean leader.

In response to Kim's overture, South Korea on Tuesday offered high-level talks on Jan. 9 at the shared border village of Panmunjom to discuss Olympic cooperation and how to improve overall

ties. North Korea did not immediately react to the South's proposal. If there are talks, they would be the first formal dialogue between the Koreas since December 2015. Relations have plunged as the North has accelerated its nuclear and ballistic missile development that now poses a direct threat to America, South Korea's crucial ally.

The U.S. administration, however, will be suspicious of any effort by Kim to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington. Pyongyang could view a closer relationship with Seoul has a way for reducing its growing international isolation and relief from sanctions that are starting to bite the North's meager economy.

In his New Year's address, Kim repeated fiery nuclear threats against the United States. He said he has a "nuclear button" on his office desk and warned that "the whole territory of the U.S. is within the range of our nuclear strike."

Kim's overture was welcome news for a South Korean government led by liberal President Moon Jae-in, who is less confrontational toward North Korea than Trump and favors dialogue to ease the North's nuclear threats. (AP)

## South Korea offers Olympic talks with North

South Korea has proposed high-level talks with rival North Korea to find ways to cooperate on February's Winter Olympics in the South

**Panmunjom:** Proposed meeting of two Koreas at border village on Jan 9. Would be first formal dialogue since Dec 2015



Figure skaters **Ryom Tae-Ok** and **Kim Ju-Sik** (right) are only two North Korean athletes who qualified for PyeongChang Games

North has missed official deadline to confirm participation, but skaters could still compete via invitation from International Olympic Committee

North Korea has participated in Olympics before, but not in South Korea - it boycotted 1988 Seoul Games. North Korean athletes have won 56 medals in total, but only two from Winter Games



# Oil trades near strongest levels since mid-2015



## Singapore/London

**O**il prices posted their strongest start to a year since 2014 yesterday, with crude rising to mid-2015 highs amid large anti-government rallies in Iran and ongoing supply cuts led by OPEC and Russia.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures CLc1 traded broadly flat at around \$60.40 a barrel by 1425 GMT after hitting \$60.74 earlier in the day, their highest since June 2015.

Brent crude futures LCOc1, the international benchmark, were also flat at around \$66.80 a barrel after hitting a May 2015 high of \$67.29 earlier in the day.

It was the first time since January 2014 that the two crude oil benchmarks opened the year above \$60 per barrel.

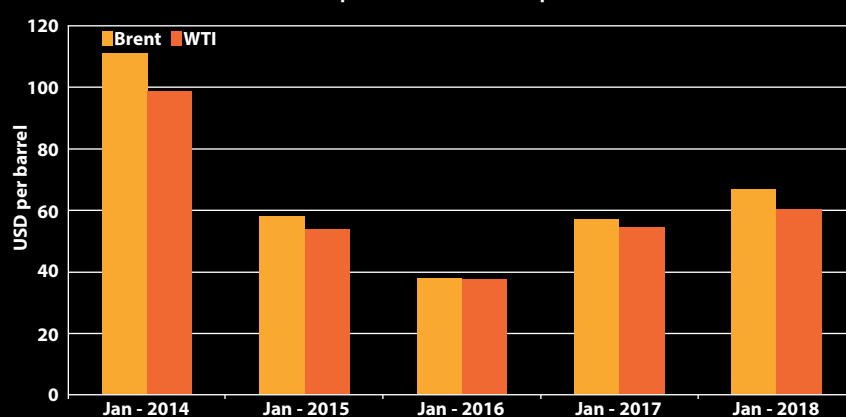
"Growing unrest in Iran set the table for a bullish start to 2018," the U.S.-based Schork Report said in a note to clients on Tuesday.

Iran is OPEC's third largest crude producer. Iranian oil industry and shipping sources said protests have had no impact on oil production or exports so far.

"Geopolitical risks are clearly back on the crude oil agenda after having been

## Oil Price January opening values

Brent and WTI crude oil futures opened 2018 above \$60 per barrel for the first time since 2014



Henning Gloystein | Reuters

Source: Thomson Reuters Eikon

absent almost entirely since the oil market ran into a surplus in the second half of 2014," Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB, said, also citing Kurdistan and Libya.

Even without the unrest in Iran, which is a major oil exporter, market sentiment was bullish.

"Falling inventories globally and strong economic growth offset the restart of the Forties pipeline and the resumption of production following a pipeline outage in Libya," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at futures brokerage Oanda in Singapore.

The 450,000 barrel

per day (bpd) capacity Forties pipeline system in the North Sea returned to full operations on Dec. 30 after an unplanned shutdown.

Oil markets have been supported by a year of production cuts led by the Middle East-dominated Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and Russia. The cuts started in January 2017 and are scheduled to cover all of 2018.

U.S. commercial crude oil inventories have fallen by almost 20 percent from their historic highs last March, to 431.9 million barrels.

Strong demand growth,

especially from China, has also been supporting crude.

However, rising U.S. production, which is on the verge of breaking through 10 million bpd, is somewhat hampering the outlook into 2018.

"We think U.S. tight oil production growth warrants close monitoring as it could spoil OPEC's market-balancing efforts, pushing the market into surplus in 2018," Barclays bank said.

U.S. oil production C-OUT-T-EIA, driven largely by onshore tight shale oil fields, has risen by almost 16 percent since mid-2016, to 9.75 million bpd at the end of last year. (Reuters)

# CrediMax, Mastercard Launch Masterpass



Trophy from MC to CrediMax

## Manama

**C**rediMax and Mastercard have launched Masterpass service in Bahrain for the first time by integrating the service in the CrediMax Digital Wallet - MaxWallet.

Masterpass is a digital payment service from Mastercard that enables consumers to make fast, simple and secure digital payments – across devices and channels – anywhere you want to shop: online, in-app and in-store.

“The dual functionality of Masterpass and Masterpass QR in our MaxWallet service will enable our users to take advantage of a seamless payment experience, regardless of whether they are paying online, in-store or in-app – indicating the onset of a new era of digital payments in Bahrain,” said Yousif Ali Mirza CrediMax Chief Executive

“We will continue to



Yousif Ali Mirza, CrediMax Chief Executive



**CrediMax MaxWallet is accepted in many merchants and offers wide range of payment solutions in particular payment by QR which is fast, simple and a pleasant method”**

collaborate with leading industry players like CrediMax to design and introduce products and solutions that leverage our cutting-edge technology and drive adoption of cashless systems,”

said Pankaj Kathuria, Area Business Head, Northern Gulf, Mastercard.

The integration of Masterpass, according to CrediMax, enhances the existing functionality of

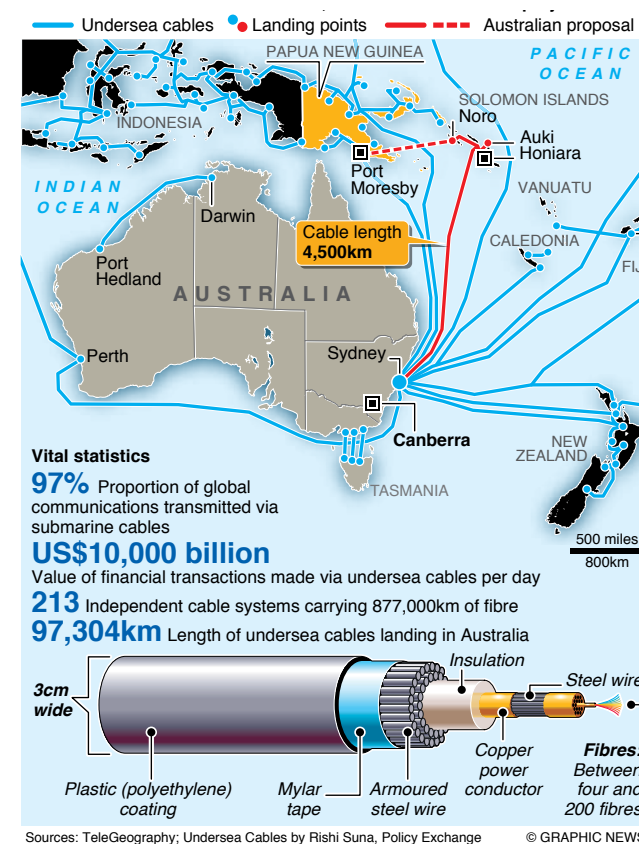
MaxWallet, which already allows users to pay in-store using Masterpass QR technology. Using Masterpass, users can now also use the digital wallet to make online purchases.

## Australia red-flags Chinese cable project

**A**n undersea cable project by China's Huawei, aimed at delivering internet to the Solomon Islands, has been banned from connecting to Australia's broadband network on the advice of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). Instead, Canberra will majority-fund the US\$85 to \$100 million project.

The plan, which was to connect the Solomons and Papua New Guinea to Sydney via a 4,500-kilometre submarine fibre optic cable laid by a U.S.-British firm, had the backing of the Asian Development Bank for a \$23 million loan. But in July 2016, the Solomons government abruptly switched to a subsidiary of Chinese telecom giant Huawei.

In 2012, amid ASIO concerns that Beijing could use the company's telecommunication equipment for spying, Huawei was banned from tendering for Australia's National Broadband Network (NBN). Also in 2012, the U.S. House Intelligence Committee reported that Huawei and ZTE, a fellow Chinese telecom giant, posed a threat to U.S. national security.



## Specialised training for Ithmaar Group Board of Directors

**I**thmaar Group, which includes Ithmaar Holding and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, and IB Capital, a Bahrain-based Islamic investment firm, commissioned the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) to deliver an interactive training course for members of its Board of Directors. The course was delivered in two parts: the first part, focused on IFRS9 regulations, anti-money laundering (AML) and compliance issues; while the second part, which was delivered by Mirza Baig, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of CTM360, a cyber-threat management company, focused on cyber security and the latest Information Technology (IT) trends.



From right, Ithmaar Group Chairman, Prince Amr Al Faisal, Board Members, Sheikh Mohamed Abdullah Abdelkarim Elkhareiji, Omar Abdi Ali, Elham Ebrahim Abdulla Hassan, Abdulshakoor Hussain Tahlak, Tunku Yaacob Khyra and Sheikh Zamil Abdullah Al-Zamil at the training session.



From right, Abdul Rahim, Board Members, Mohammed A. Rahman Bucheerei, Dr. Amani Khaled Bouresli and Abdelhamid Mohamed Aboumoussa at the training session.

## Egypt to extend state of emergency

Cairo

Egypt is to extend its state of emergency for three months from January 13, state news agency MENA reported. Egypt first imposed the current emergency in April after two church bombings killed at least 45 people. It was extended in July and again in October. The latest extension was to "take (measures) necessary to confront the dangers and funding of terrorism and safeguard security."



## Airbus delivered over 700 jets in 2017

London

Airbus delivered over 700 aircraft in 2017, breaking a company records and meeting its core industrial target for the year, sources said. Exact figures have been kept under wraps ahead of an announcement on January 15, but the sources said Airbus handed over a record monthly total of jets in Dec., surpassing the previous monthly peak of 111 seen in the closing weeks of 2016.



I do not believe the strength of this cooperation needs change because we leaving the European Union, so long as it is understood that this involves working together, not simply rule taking."

-David Davis,  
Britain's Secretary of State



# NBB, Mastercard cash back promotion



MasterCard Promotion Winners

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has named 10 lucky winners of its special promotion for Mastercard credit and debit card customers.

### Maximum of US\$10,000

The winners each won back the total amount of purchases they made during the promotion period, up to a maximum value of US\$10,000.

#### Winners are:

1. Hussain Abedali Hasan Rabia,
2. Mohamed Khaled Mohamed Ebrahim Alansari,
3. Ismail Abdulnabi Ali Alajmi,
4. Adel Mohamed Ghuloom Abdulla,
5. Khalid Mohammed Rashid Bin Dayneh,
6. Faheema Abduljalil Abdulla A Karim Al Shehabi,
7. Mahmood Mohamed Ali Humaidan,
8. Amy Wanda Gabaon Ramos,
9. Faisal Mohamed Ahmed Abdulla Ateeq,
10. Layla Yousif AlMoayyed.

"We're extremely happy to announce the winners of our exciting Mastercard promotion for 10 of our lucky credit and debit card holders. NBB's commitment to our customers and to rewarding them for their loyalty remains a core focus for the Bank and just part of the value that we aim to provide through this and other exciting promotions that we are offering across our broad range of products and services."

**Aziz Al Ahmed,**  
Chief Executive - Retail,  
Commercial and SMEs  
Banking



Manama

Subscription is open for the BD100 million Sukuk issued at a par value of BD1 each on 8 January 2018 for a period of 3 years and ending on 8 January 2021, announced Bahrain Bourse (BHB).

The subscription will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30am until 1:00pm and on Thursday from 9:30am until 11:00am.

The annual fixed return on these securities is 4.8 per cent, and will be paid every

six months on 8 July and 8 Jan. every year throughout the period of this issue.

Minimum subscription amount is BD500 (500 Sukuk). Minimum allotment will be 10,000 Sukuk per subscriber applying for an amount of BD10,000 and above, while the remaining quantity will be allocated on pro-rata basis.

Upon listing of the Sukuk, which is expected to be on the 21st of January 2018, investors will be able to trade them in the secondary market through a registered

broker at BHB during the trading session, which is held on a daily basis from Sunday to Thursday.

The Central Bank of Bahrain issued the Government Islamic Leasing (Ijarah) Sukuk on behalf of the Government of Bahrain. The Government of Bahrain directly guarantees the Sukuk securities.

Bahraini and Non-Bahraini investors can directly subscribe the Government Islamic Leasing (Ijarah) Sukuk Issue 25 through the primary market of BHB.

## Hyundai, Kia flag slow recovery

Seoul

South Korea's Hyundai Motor and Kia Motors yesterday flagged 4 per cent sales growth in 2018, suggesting a slow recovery from a slump linked to their lack of SUVs in the United States and diplomatic tensions with China.

Hyundai and smaller affiliate Kia said demand was expected to soften in the U.S. and Chinese markets as they unveiled a combined sales target of 7.55 million vehicles this year, from 7.25 million vehicles last year.

Sales slumped 7 percent last year from 2016, falling well short of the firms' target of 8.25 million vehicles and marking their third

consecutive annual miss, as buyers in China and the United States increasingly shunned sedans for SUVs. (Reuters)

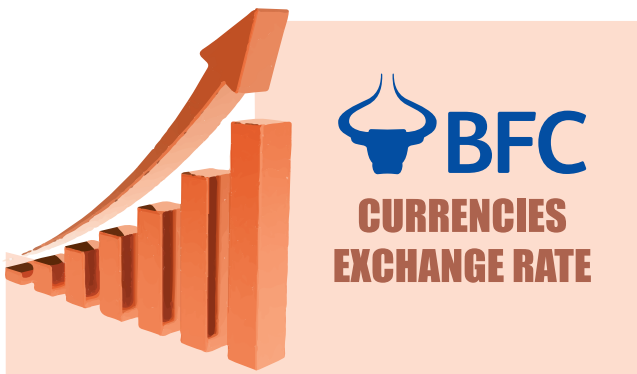


Hyundai Motor's vehicles are displayed at a showroom in Goyang, S Korea



**Did You Know?**


Seventy-two percent of the U.S. adult online population now uses Facebook. This number jumps to 82 percent among U.S. users aged 18 to 29. If your business isn't on Facebook, these numbers should scare you into action.



**BFC**  
CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2920	0.2896
BANGLADESH	0.00483	0.00458
CANADA	0.3018	0.2985
DENMARK	0.0627	
EGYPT	0.0241	0.0218
EURO	0.4501	0.4476
HONGKONG	0.04970	0.04930
INDIA	0.00582	0.00585
INDONESIA	0.00003017	0.00002855
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010964	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000300	
JAPAN	0.00352	0.003450
JORDAN	0.5362	0.5354
KOREA	0.00039646	
KUWAIT	1.254	1.254
MALAYSIA	0.0938	0.0936
NEW ZEALAND	0.2616	0.2616
NORWAY	0.0481	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00365
OMAN	0.98220	0.98340
PAKISTAN	0.00366	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00758	0.00747
QATAR	0.10386	0.10381
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10065	0.10071
SINGAPORE	0.2834	0.2814
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02850	0.02840
SRI LANKA	0.00283	0.00246
SWEDISH	0.0479	
SWITZERLAND	0.3891	0.3861
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011730	0.011710
TURKEY	0.1024	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5076	0.5047
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102850	0.102870
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

Rates are for indication purpose only. For firm rates or for currencies not listed above please call Bahrain Financing Company. Telephone: 17228888, Website: www.bfc.com.bh



**GULF INTERBANK RATES**

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3799	0.3354
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.0873	0.2877	0.2540
OMAN	0.3849	0.3820	0.3878	0.3425
QATAR	3.6420	3.6143	3.6699	3.2405
UAE	3.6730	3.6451	3.7011	3.2681
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7215	3.7787	3.3366



# UAE rise, Saudi still soft after petrol hike

**Closing Bell**

- SAUDI fell 0.3pc to 7,172 points.
- DUBAI rose 1.2pc to 3,411 points.
- ABU DHABI gained 1.0pc to 4,442 points.
- QATAR climbed 1.1pc to 8,620 points.
- EGYPT edged up 0.1pc to 15,035 points.
- KUWAIT dropped 1.5pc to 6,313 points.
- BAHRAIN fell 0.7pc to 1,322 points.
- OMAN rose 0.2pc to 5,094 points.

**Dubai** Stock market in the United Arab Emirates rose as they opened for the first day of trade in 2018, while Saudi Arabia continued to slip after a hike in domestic gasoline prices.

The Dubai index had a poor 2017, falling 4.6 per cent, but it rose 1.2pc on Tuesday as stocks in the blue-chip Emaar group, which were beaten down last year by the slump in Dubai's real estate market, surged in particular.

Flagship Emaar Properties, which had been trading near 12-month lows, climbed 3.6pc in modest trading volume. Emaar Development, which had sunk from November's initial public offer price of 6.03 dirhams to a record low of 5.02 dirhams, rebounded 3.9pc to 5.29 dirhams, while Emaar Malls added 2.8pc.

"The recent sell-off in the UAE markets has brought up some interesting value buying opportunities," Dubai's Al Mal Capital said in a weekly report.

"December has seen high quality companies like Emaar and Aramex retreat more than 10pc, each of them for their own specific reason. As we move to the New Year, we believe that investors will take a fresh look at the market and re-value these companies," it said. Aramex edged down 0.2pc on Tuesday.

A Reuters poll of leading Middle East fund managers, published on Sunday, found 54pc expect to raise their allocations to regional equities over the next three months and none expects to reduce them, the most positive balance since August.

Gulf Navigation sank 3.9pc after its board decided to raise issued and paid-up capital by 448.3 million dirhams (\$122.2 million) to 1 billion dirhams through a rights issue of new shares.

Abu Dhabi's index gained 1.0pc on the back of banks, with First Abu Dhabi adding 2.0pc, while Qatar climbed 1.1pc as Masraf Al Rayan, the most heavily traded stock, surged 2.4pc.

But Saudi Arabia fell 0.3pc; it had dropped 0.5pc on Monday after the government raised domestic gasoline prices. Riyadh was the only major regional market to trade on Monday.

Medical insurer Bupa Arabia climbed 2.1pc after signing a services deal with national oil firm Saudi Aramco.

Kuwait's general index, which contains many second-tier and speculative stocks, dropped 1.5pc, but the Kuwait 15 index of blue chips slipped only 0.3pc. (Reuters)

## Alba Power Expansion Project celebrates 3m hrs without LTI

**Manama**  
Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) Power Expansion Project - Power Station (PS) 5 and Power Distribution System (PDS) - celebrated an extraordinary record of 3 million work-hours without Lost Time Injury (LTI) as of end December 2017.

GE - GAMA Consortium, the EPC Contractor for PS 5 Project, achieved 2 million work-hours without LTI, while Siemens, the EPC

**"This landmark achievement is a result of Alba's on-going commitment to best Safety standards," Tim Murray**

Contractor for PDS, achieved 1 million hours without LTI.

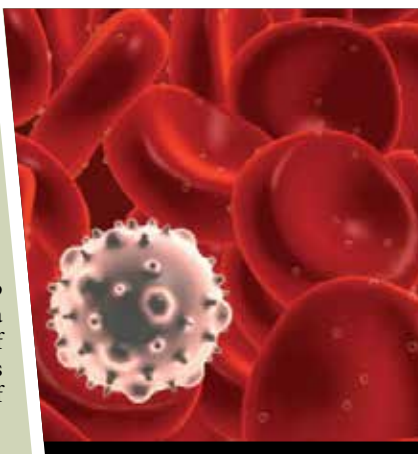
Speaking on this occasion, Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray, said: "This landmark achievement is a result of Alba's on-going commitment to best Safety standards. I thank our contractors - GE-GAMA Consortium and Siemens - for aligning with Alba's Safety standards and partnering with us in our journey towards Safety Tomorrowland."





### Drinking tea lowers glaucoma risk

**P**eople who drink hot tea daily may be less likely than others to develop glaucoma symptoms, U.S. researchers say. Compared to coffee, soft drink and iced tea drinkers, study participants who consumed a cup or more of hot caffeinated tea daily had 74 percent lower odds of having glaucoma, the study authors report in the British Journal of Ophthalmology. (Reuters)



### Compound fighting blood cancer found

**A** pathbreaking series of compounds designed and synthesized at Northwestern's Center for Molecular Innovation and Drug Discovery (CMIDD) has been shown to starve multiple myeloma, a rare form of blood cancer, of its favourite food, glucose, according to a recent study. (Xinhua)



# Boosting child's immunity

**F**or parents, nothing could be more worrying than a child who's constantly fighting a cold, nursing a cough or coping with a recurrent flu. These illnesses can sideline them from school and other things that make childhood fun, like play dates and parties. And though every parent is doing his/her best, the nagging questions crop up: Am I doing enough? Can I do more? Am I a bad parent? Your child's health isn't just down to good genetics or introducing expensive supplements. It also starts at home. Building your child's resistance to germs can be a simple daily affair that can start during the school holidays and continue throughout the school year.

#### 1. You don't play together enough

Engaging in family activities is a good way to bond, but going out shouldn't only involve trips to the mall or your favourite eateries.

It's never too late to start a new family tradition, so you could use the last few days before the school year kicks off to introduce quality family outdoor time.

Activities like cycling, going for a walk at a nearby park, or just enjoying a picnic expose children to fresh air and exercise. This helps improve natural levels of Vitamin D, which can strengthen the body's immune system

#### 2. You haven't unleashed the power of probiotics

It never hurts to increase your child's intake of probiotics. Why?

Because a healthy gut leads to a stronger immune system, higher levels of good gut flora, and a stronger defence against stomach upsets and other infections.

Beyond introducing it as a daily supplement, dairy products like milk, yogurt and even probiotic drinks can be easily incorporated into daily meals, making it a fun, low-maintenance way to improve your child's health.

#### 3. Your child isn't getting adequate ZZZS

"I wish my kids could spend even more time on their mobile devices," said no parent ever.

Beyond establishing a proper sleep routine, your child also needs quality sleep every night. One of the keys to

this is establishing a daily cut-off time for your children's use of electronic devices to ensure they don't go to bed over stimulated.

Look into creating a relaxed, cosy environment with night lights and blackout curtains. Adopting an old-school, but time-tested approach – telling them a bedtime story – can help calm a child down and put him in the mood to snooze.

#### 4. Vital vitamins are missing

Don't force your child to eat their greens; it's a battle you'll never win. For this, a little creativity (and trickery) is key.

Disguise vegetables by adding greens into breakfast smoothies – sweeten the drink with some fruit and they'll be none the wiser. You could also shape vegetables like their favourite snacks (anyone for carrot fries?).

Reward good behaviour with vitamin-rich foods they naturally enjoy like apples, raspberries and blueberries made into frozen fruit popsicles or homemade jam.

Don't overlook the good fats found in avocado and eggs, or cooking with high-quality extra virgin olive oil, or having a fish dish weekly – all these are steps that will help maintain a strong immune system.

#### 5. You don't practise good hygiene

Your kid will imitate you, so watch your actions, especially when it comes to personal hygiene. One of the most underrated ways to prevent back-to-school bugs is simply helping them keep clean.

A good habit to show (and teach) is to get your kids to wash their hands before meals, and after returning from school or the playground.

To keep this routine fun, try singing together with them a special song as they wash their hands to ensure they do a thorough job. (channelnewsasia)

### Body's built-in weighing scale help combat obesity



**H**uman body consists of an internal body weight sensing system that operates like bathroom scales, registering body weight and signalling the brain to reduce food intake, researchers have found. The system, which regulates weight gain by calculating body weight and fat mass, could lead to a better understanding of the causes of obesity as well as new anti-obesity drugs.

The results also explain why several studies have coupled sitting habit with obesity and bad health. It is because the "internal body scales give an inaccurately low measure when you sit down. As a result you eat more and gain weight," the researchers said.

"We have found support for the existence of internal bathroom scales. The weight of the body is registered in the lower extremities. If the body weight tends to increase, a signal is sent to the brain to decrease food intake and keep the body weight constant," said John-Olov Jansson, Professor at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg in Sweden. (IANS)

## PET VET

Dr. Rajani Rajesh



### Importance of blood test in your pets

**B**lood tests in healthy pets will help to determine a base line for future blood results. Sick or senior pets often have more than one disease affecting them, complicating diagnosis and treatment. Blood tests can help pinpoint the problems. The blood test will show up certain proteins, enzymes, and white

blood cells that may indicate an underlying health condition. Usually, diseases like diabetes, kidney and liver diseases, or anemia are quickly identified in blood work and the appropriate treatment can be carried out.

#### When Is Blood Work Necessary?

- Sick and emergency situations: helps to make immediate decisions by vet.
- Preanesthetic testing: prior to your pet's surgery, dentistry, or other procedures that require anesthesia. To know if anesthesia is safe for your pet and allows them to make adjustments if any abnormality present.
- Preventive care screening: helps to discover disease and will avoid significant medical expenses and risks to your pet's health. Older animals are more at risk for chronic conditions like kidney or liver disease and endocrine problems.
- Medication monitoring: Periodic blood work while your

pet is on medication as some medicines has side effects.

#### There are the tests that are routinely performed

- A complete blood count (CBC) tells you if your pet has an infection, if inflammation is present, or if your pet is anemic.
- A complete blood chemistry panel including electrolytes provides information about your pet's liver, kidneys, and pancreas, as well as other functions of the body, such as blood sugar, hydration and endocrine disorders
- A urinalysis identifies an infection or inflammation in the urinary tract.
- A thyroid function test detects whether or not your pet's thyroid gland is functioning properly. Thyroid disease is very common in older cats and dogs.

If your vet recommends arranging a blood test for your pet, remember that this is to check for any signs of disease or infection and start treatment at the earliest possible time.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa at Al-Sakhir Palace yesterday. HM the King reviewed with them future plans to develop the BDF armament and units, hailing the BDF-led efforts to protect national achievements, maintain development march and defend the homeland and citizens' security.



Minister of Labour and Social Development Jameel Humaidan met a number of officials in a northern governorate in the presence of member of the municipal council, community organisations and ways to overcome difficulties facing charities.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received the newly appointed US Ambassador Justin Siberell. The Minister praised the strong relations between the two countries, which, he said, are reinforced by cooperation in various fields, especially in the fields of electricity, water and renewable energy.



The newly elected Executive Board of Pakistan Club under the Chairman Rehan Ahmed organised the New Year Celebrations at Pakistan Club, Bahrain yesterday. The event was attended by Pakistan club board members, past Chairman, women wing representatives and senior members.



Palakkad Toastmasters conducted Youth Leadership Awards ceremony. 20 participants showcased their acquired speaking skills. The winners were: Best speaker, best evaluator and best table topic.



Member of community activists and representatives of civil society organisations in the western region of the province, Hussein Ali Alkhayat. They discussed a number of issues related to the affairs of charities and noble and volunteer work in these associations.



Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammad Al-Rumaihi received the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Polytechnic Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa in the presence of CEO Dr. Jeff Zabudsky and Deputy CEO for Resources and Information Affairs Shaikh Ali bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa. The minister reviewed ways to enhance cooperation with Bahrain Polytechnic in the fields of community service and educational and training programmes deployment, especially in electronic media.



Acting Supervisor of the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre LTC Adnan Bahar honoured distinguished officers and personnel in appreciation of their dedication and hard work. He said the honouring would be a motivation for their colleagues to exert more efforts in fulfilling their duties.



Leadership programme 2017 Grand Finale at Shaikh Isa Auditorium, The Indian School on Friday. Contest for speaking skills in front of parents, friends, Toastmasters and top community leaders. Contest for public speaking and a commentary were conducted.



Members of the Palakkad Toastmaster Club conducted its 155th meeting themed Bahrain National Day and Christmas to mark the occasions. Above, Club President Sajitha Madan Mohan and members at the event.



## Bieber sees in 2018 with Gomez

**J**ustin Bieber flew into Mexico to celebrate new year with Selena Gomez.

The on/off couple reportedly saw in 2018 together after meeting up in Cabo San Lucas on Sunday night - where she was partying with her pals - for some low-key celebrations watching fireworks with close friends.

A source said: "He and Selena spent time together again. They were very low-key and dressed casually.

"They rang in the New Year together and enjoyed watching fireworks over the ocean."

Another source added: "Justin had a great new year's Eve with Selena. He is looking forward to 2018 with her.

"It was a special evening shared with a few close friends in a beautiful place." (femalefirst.co.uk)

## Brooklyn settles well in New York

London

**S**inger James McVey, member of the boy band The Vamps, thinks Brooklyn Beckham, his friend and son of former footballer David Beckham and fashion designer Victoria, has settled in well to life in New York.

Brooklyn, 18, an aspiring photographer, relocated to New York to pursue his studies back in September 2017, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"I spoke to him the other week actually I shaved my head after seeing him do the same thing. He inspired that and I went through a stage of us going to the gym quite a bit and since he moved to New York I've not seen him," said McVey.

"We celebrated his 18th and I haven't seen him since then. It's a shame that he is the other side of the world. I am sure we will bump into each other again soon. I do keep in contact. I think it's great. His photography and the skateboarding, he really fits in with that New York lifestyle," he added. (IANS)

Ashley Tisdale @ashleytisdale  
Happy New Year! New year new chance to grow, challenge yourself, reach for your dreams and know that ANYTHING is possible! Love you all



## Klass doesn't stick to resolutions

Los Angeles

**S**inger Myleene Klass says she doesn't stick to New Year resolutions.

The 39-year-old always makes some pledges for the coming year even though she knows she won't stick to them, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"I think I do what everybody does, I make New Year's resolutions and break them five minutes later, they are meant to be broken, surely? I don't go for anything that's too unreachable," Klass told BANG Showbiz.

In 2018, Klass is planning to brush up on her language skills.

Asked what her 2018 resolution will be, she said: "Try harder at learning Spanish, I've got to work on my Spanish, that's my resolution, it's something in my power that I can do." (IANS)



STARRY  
Birthday  
Mel Gibson

January 3, 1956



Directed and starred in the 1995 film *Braveheart*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. His best known roles as an actor include Martin Riggs in the *Lethal Weapon* series.

# JAKE GYLLENHAAL'S HOLLYWOOD 'EXCUSES'

Los Angeles

**A**ctor Jake Gyllenhaal admits he cannot excuse the recent "apparent sickness" in the movie industry after a number of sexual harassment allegations were made against actors and producers, but he insists films are "extraordinarily powerful tools" for making change and communication.



He said: "You know, you think about Brokeback [Mountain] - I've had people come up to me over the years and say how that movie changed their life or how it made them realise something - and you see the power of movies.

"I have spent a lot of time in my career making excuses for the absurdity of our world - Hollywood - and all of its confusion, apparent sickness over the past few months that we've discovered, the complications, the vanity.

"But what I will never accept is anyone telling me that movies aren't an extraordinarily powerful tool for communication." (femalefirst)

# Spielberg told Laura to avoid plastic surgery













**A**ctor Laura Dern, who featured on 'Jurassic Park' when she was just 23, said director Steven Spielberg told her to avoid plastic surgery on her face. Reportedly, the 50-year-old said she is grateful to the director for the advice.

When I was 23, right before a close-up on 'Jurassic Park', Spielberg said to me, "People will tell you what you could do to your face years from now. Don't you ever touch your face."

"He was saying, 'Your face is perfect, it's female, it's emotional'. I am determined to be human in my acting, and when you own your power and your womanhood, you grow into your beauty." (TOI)

# Top Album Sales this Week

- 1  **Revival**  
Eminem
- 2  **Reputation**  
Taylor Swift
- 3  **The Beautiful & Damned**  
G-Eazy
- 4  **Pressure**  
Jeezy
- 5  **A Pentatonix Christmas**  
Pentatonix
- 6  **The Anthology: Part I, The First Five Years**  
Garth Brooks
- 7  **Divide**  
Ed Sheeran
- 8  **What Makes You Country**  
Luke Bryan
- 9  **From A Room: Volume 2**  
Chris Stapleton
- 10  **Star Wars: The Last Jedi**  
Soundtrack



# START CAMERA ACTION

## David F. Sandberg defends Shazam! Movie

London

**D**avid F. Sandberg has urged haters to wait and see 'Shazam!' before criticising the DC Extended Universe movie.

The 36-year-old filmmaker will be helming the new superhero film, which has been penned by Henry Gayden and Darren Lemke, but although not much information is known about the film at the moment, Sandberg has warned fans against assuming what it will be like this early in the process.

On *Twitter*, Sandberg responded to fans who claimed that the movie would be inspired by DC's "New 52" version of the character and one went on to suggest to "steer clear of this movie till the DCEU gets a reboot.

Sandberg replied: "Not to stop you from having an opinion about something that doesn't exist yet, it's the internet after all, but as I designate a movie the obligatory Best/Worst Ever!!

"I find it helpful sometimes to have more info than a few characters names. Sometimes I'll even wait for a trailer of some sort if I really want to go crazy." (femalefirst.co.uk)



# OUT & ABOUT

## HOW TO REACH US

"Out & About", a ready reckoner for the events taking place on the island, is published from Friday to Tuesday. To be included, please send the matter to the following email ID : [news@dt.bh](mailto:news@dt.bh)

### FRIDAY WINTER BRUNCH

**Date:** till February 9th  
**Venue:** Bahrain Bay Kitchen

The known lavish culinary offerings, including five unique food stations serving Arabic, Western, Indian, Japanese and Chinese delicacies and winter inspired dishes using seasonal ingredients to live the season spirit including stews, BBQ, roasted chestnuts, fondue, Raclette and more. Guests may enjoy special chestnut giveaway after their meal. Shisha is also available on the restaurant terrace during brunch hours. The offer is available only on Fridays.

### CUT BRUNCH

**Date:** January 1-31  
**Venue:** Wolfgang Puck Steakhouse

Indulge into Wolfgang Puck's favorite dishes. CUT Brunch served every Friday from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

### CUT ON THE HOUR

**Date:** January 1-31  
**Venue:** Wolfgang Puck Steakhouse

Enjoy a two-course meal in 60 minutes with your choice of tea or coffee!

### CUT THE LOUNGE TO THE CHASE

**Date:** January 1-31  
**Venue:** CUT Bar & Lounge

Enjoy Wolfgang Puck's signature bites and drinks with chic music.

### THE BLUE HOUR

**Date:** re/Asian Cuisine  
**Venue:** Blue Moon Lounge

Signature cocktails & Bites at Blue Moon Lounge is the perfect offer to try while enjoying the best view from the 50th floor.

### ULTIMATE SKIN TREATMENT BY MCCM



**Date:** January 1-31  
**Venue:** Four Seasons

Experience an exclusive selection of innovative face and body treatments connected with high technology and complemented with cosmetic products penetrating deeply that produces faster and visible results with MCCM. MCCM Portugal holds a long record and experience in the field of aesthetic medicine and medical cosmetics. Combining technology, entrepreneurship and experience, these 4 exclusive ultimate effective skin treatments focuses on using precise and essential active principles and ingredients that can be tailored for each need of different body and different skin whilst giving the right care and attention that reflect visible results.

### SATURDAY BRUNCH

**Date:** January  
**Venue:** Bahrain Bay Kitchen

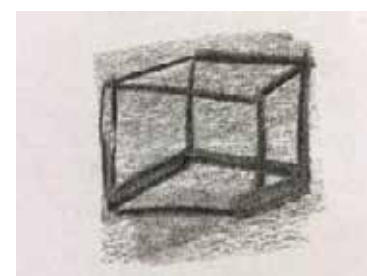
Four Seasons is offering a wide selection of Arabic favorites such as lamb Ouzi, cold mezzes and much more. It's just the perfect offer for you and your family. End your Saturday fun with a tasty shisha on the terrace.

### RE/IMAGINE YOUR SATURDAYS

**Date:** January 1-31  
**Venue:** re/Asian Cuisine

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay invites you to discover the perfect Saturday Brunch at re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck. Soak in the immersive views from the 50th floor and feast on mouthwatering Asian selections like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons.

### AN ODE TO LIFE - AN EXHIBITION BY THE BOX, A CREATIVE COLLECTIVE



**Date:** 14 December - 31 January 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm  
**Venue:** Qal'at al Bahrain Site Museum

In their inaugural exhibition, THE BOX, a Bahrain-based collective of creative works representing various concepts, talents and ideas, presents art installations and sculptures at the Bahrain Fort Site to raise awareness about preserving the environment surrounding the site.

### BAHRAINI FARMER'S MARKET



**Date:** till 31st March 2018  
**Venue:** Budaiya Botanical Gardens

Bahrain Farmers Market targets promoting Bahrain's agricultural products and highlighting the development taking place in Bahrain's agricultural sector. It also aims to contribute to improving the Bahraini farmers' income through a marketing system prepared by the Agriculture and Marine Resources to assist in meeting the farmers' aspirations.

### 6TH BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM

**Date:** 1 - 16 January  
**Venue:** Bahrain National Museum

Sculpture, an ancient art form can be considered a bold and noticeable art form. Its importance throughout time has not diminished and we at the Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities ("BACA") would like to continue in commemorating this art form.

The 6th Bahrain International Sculpture Symposium will be held at the Bahrain National Museum from the 1st of January to 15th of January. This year, the Symposium will be led by the honorary head, the renowned sculptor Adam Henein.

Since its inception, the symposium has attracted sculptors from around the region and the world in a unique environment of cultural exchange and creative collaboration. In this edition of the symposium, celebrating Muharrag the Capital of Islamic Culture 2018. Upon completion, the final sculptures will be located in the historic old capital of Bahrain, Muharrag.

### THE INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL



**Date:** 4, 5, 11, 12 January 2018, 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Bahrain National Museum

Collaboration with The Indian Embassy, The Bahrain National

Museum is hosting the Indian Film Festival. The films have been selected from many categories, and will be featured with English subtitles. The movies include 04 Jan: MARY KOM, 05 Jan: KAHANI, 11 Jan: DRISHYAM, 12 Jan: QUEEN

### AL-FANN: ART FROM THE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION OF THE AL-SABAH COLLECTION



**Date:** 19 January - 30 June 2018  
**Venue:** Bahrain National Museum

The exhibition invites the public to explore the great and multifaceted nature of Islamic culture through the spectacular al-Sabah collection of Islamic Art. Broadly divided into two parts, the display illustrates a chronological progression broken into four stages (from the very beginning of the Islamic period up to and including the three great empires of the sixteenth century) and tackles themes that run transversely through Islamic art; mainly, calligraphy, geometric decoration, vegetal, figurative art and jewellery.

### THE LAND OF DILMUN, WHERE THE SUN RISES

**Date:** 5 December 2017 - 11 March 2018  
**Venue:** The Hermitage State Museum

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities showcases significant Dilmun artifacts from the permanent collection of the Bahrain National Museum at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, one of world's largest museums, that shed light on life in Dilmun between the 3rd and 1st millennium BCE.

### 8 IN 1 EXPO 2018



**Date:** 11th January 2018 to 14th January 2018

**Venue:** Bahrain International Exhibition Centre

8 in 1 Expo is a Biggest international Exhibition specialized in different fields among GCC that contains six exhibitions including, Bahrain International Modern House, Bahrain International Technology Expo, Health and Beauty International Expo, Fashion Time Exhibition and Perfume Expo.

### THE STAMP SEAL: HALLMARK OF DILMUN AND ITS HIDDEN ART



**Date:** 12 October 2017 - 20 September 2018  
**Venue:** Bahrain National Museum

'The Stamp Seals: Hallmark of Dilmun and its Hidden Art', draws on the permanent collection of the Bahrain National Museum and some highlights from the National Museum of Kuwait. The display illustrates an exceptional selection of seals spanning the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE and examines the use, techniques, diversity and splendour of the Dilmun seals.

### LITTLE MEN



**DATE:** 3rd January  
**Venue:** Bahrain cinema club, Juffair

Jake is a quiet, sensitive middle schooler with dreams of being an artist. He meets the affably brash Tony at his grandfather's funeral, and the unlikely pair soon hit it off. The budding friendship is put at risk, however, when a rent dispute between Jake's father, Brian, and Tony's mother, Leonor, threatens to become contentious. The film won the Crystal Bear Award in the Generations section at Berlin International Film Festival.

# Classifieds

Reaching the right audience

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

17

News of Bahrain



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## Public Notice & Tender

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN  
 Ministry of Education  
 Directorate of Material & Supplies  
 Tenders & Contracts Section  
 The Ministry of Education invites quotations for the following tender:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond	Tender fees	Closing Date		
				Day	Date	Time
Providing equipment and instruments of Science laboratories for Jaw girls school (Primary, intermediate, Secondary)	M/59/2017	BD 500/-	BD 15/-	Wednesday	7/2/2018	13:30

- Those who are Capable and want to participate in the above tender has to call the Tenders and Contracts Section (17278225-17278151-17278492- 17278214) during the working hours and Collect the appropriate tender document after paying non-refundable fees specified above **starting on 02/01/2018** and to enclose with his offer the Initial Bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of 1% of the tender value (whichever amount is the lesser), provided that no initial bonds value shall be less than BD. 100/- . The initial bond should be in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee, cash or Insurance Policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.
- Tenderer can purchase tenders documents online through the Bahrain Tender Boards' portal <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh/>
- For any enquires or assistance related to the e-tendering, please contact the help desk on Tel: +97317566617 e-mail: [helpdesk@tenderboard.gov.bh](mailto:helpdesk@tenderboard.gov.bh)
- Offers should be deposited in the tender box provided at Tendering submission office, Tender Board's Offices at Arcapita building No.551-Road 4612 Block 346, Bahrain Bay - Manama, (Ground Floor) on the above date before 1:30 pm.
- Articles of the Decree by Law no. (36) for the year 2002, regarding the regulation of government tenders and purchases, together with its executive regulations issued in Decree No. (37) for the year 2002, and its modification No. (29) for the year 2010, must be observed [www.tenderboard.gov.bh](http://www.tenderboard.gov.bh)
- In addition, these conditions has to be considered:
  - Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate for the current year, must include the tender subject as one of its activities.
  - Submit Grand Prices and Unit Prices (according to condition) to Form No. TB 02.
  - Enclose a copy of a valid certificate of compliance with the employment percentage for Bahraini manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
  - All documents submitted as part of tenders (original or copies) must bear the stamp of your Company/Establishment/ the owner of the tender.

This advertisement is considered to be a supplementary to the tender Documents.

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I, Akhil Nair, S/O Sreekumar Raghavan Pillai, holding Indian Passport No. K7439411, dated 2013/02/04 issued at Bahrain, having permanent residence at Kunnumpurathu, Manakarai, Sasthamcotta, Kollam, Kerala presently residing at Flat/Villa: 304, Building No. 419, Road No. 336, Block No. 311, Block Name Manama/ Al Salmaniya will henceforth be known as Shivaay Sreekumar, objections if any, may be forwarded to EMBASSY OF India, P.O.Box 26106, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

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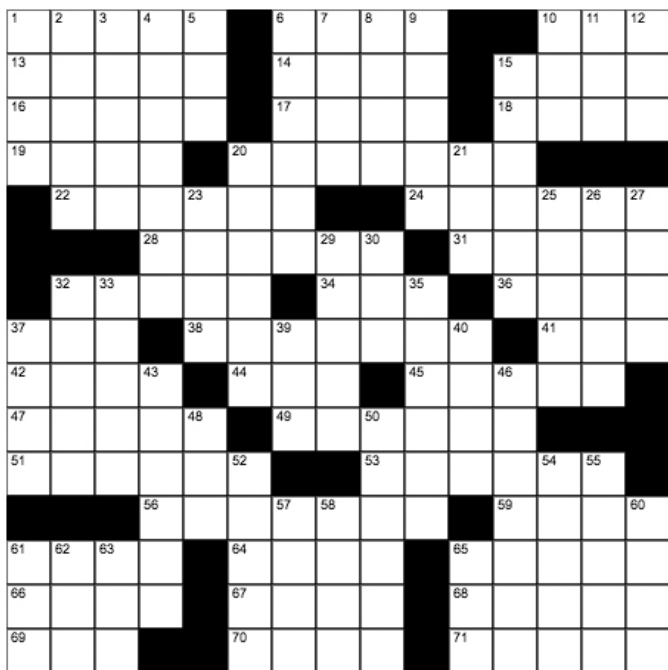
### DEADLINE

Lineage 11am  
 Display 9am  
 Cancellation 12pm

### WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday  
 8 am - 6 pm

# CROSSWORD



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	W	A	L	T	5	S	A	C	R	A	10	A	P	E	R	
14	O	D	E	A	15	U	S	H	E	R	16	C	R	E	E	
17	E	V	E	R	18	Y	T	H	I	N	19	T	O	R	T	
20	R	E	L	E	21	U	T	O	P	I	A					
23	R	E	N	A	M	E	S	26	C	A	R	R	I	E	R	
27	O	N	A	G	E	R	28	R	O	B	U	S	T			
29	L	E	T	O	N	30	L	A	D	L	E	31	I	A	N	
34	E	R	I	N	35	D	A	N	A	E	36	H	A	R	E	
37	O	O	38	R	I	T	A	S	39	R	O	T	O	R		
40	N	A	41	U	G	H	T	42	L	A	M	E	N	T		
43	S	T	A	44	S	H	E	S	45	G	E	N	E	S	I	S
46	O	I	L	E	R	S	47	A	R	A	I	L				
48	P	N	I	N	49	T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	
54	H	E	S	55	E	L	L	E	N	56	N	O	E	L		
57	S	A	M	E	58	D	I	E	T	S	59	D	E	V	I	

### Across

1 Clipped conjunction; 6 Abominable snowman; 10 Diddley and Derek; 13 Bed down; 14 K6; 15 Cad; 16 Really bother; 17 Skilled; 18 Viscount's superior; 19 From the U.S.; 20 Erin; 22 Give, as homework; 24 Country; 28 Mistreats; 31 Sample; 32 1972 Derek and the Dominos hit; 34 Fond du \_\_\_, Wis.; 36 Dollop; 37 Univ. aides; 38 Angers; 41 Comparative suffix; 42 Rude dwellings; 44 Tread the boards; 45 Harvests; 47 Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 49 Hawk homes; 51 Mother of Calcutta; 53 Kind of price; 56 Created by humans; 59 Asta's mistress; 61 It's blown among the reeds; 64 French actor Jacques; 65 Floor worker; 66 Cattle group; 67 Beige cousin; 68 Related on the mother's side; 69 Airline to Oslo; 70 Mariners can sail on seven of these; 71 Horne and Olin;

### Down

1 On a cruise; 2 South American ruminant; 3 French beans?; 4 Rumor; 5 Decide; 6 Pines for; 7 Hamburg's river; 8 Narrate; 9 That is to say...; 10 Feather scarf; 11 Belonging to us; 12 Choice: Abbr.; 15 Sale indicator; 20 Large lizard; 21 \_\_\_ King Cole; 23 Adjectiveforming suffix; 25 Long Island town; 26 Siouan speakers; 27 Wyo. neighbor; 29 Delight; 30 Droop, sink; 32 Diploma word; 33 Moving; 35 Cherry red; 37 Yonder thing; 39 Nipper's co.; 40 Look for; 43 Appeared; 46 Unintelligent; 48 Country bordered by Canada and Mexico; 50 Half the diameter; 52 Pays to play; 54 Atari founder Bushnell; 55 Actress Scacchi; 57 Clublike weapon; 58 Gillette product; 60 Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 61 Startled cries; 62 Actress Arthur; 63 Surgery sites, briefly; 65 \_\_\_ Aviv;

## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU

3		4						7
	7				4			
6				7				2
		5	2			1		
2		3		9		7		5
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	9			3				1
			8				7	
1						5		6

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	7	6	5	4	2	3	9	8
9	3	5	8	7	1	4	6	2
4	8	2	6	9	3	7	1	5
5	4	8	3	1	9	2	7	6
6	2	9	7	8	4	5	3	1
3	1	7	2	5	6	9	8	4
2	9	3	1	6	5	8	4	7
8	6	4	9	2	7	1	5	3
7	5	1	4	3	8	6	2	9

### How to play:

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

## Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



You may find yourself thinking of looking for a new job in order to increase your income. But there is probably no need to take such a drastic step. It's possible that your boss has been considering giving you a raise - you may soon be pleasantly surprised.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You have a lot of charm and social skills. This is an unbeatable combination, and is especially strengthened with the current astral energy. Be sure to go the extra mile today, even if you aren't in the mood to do so. Someone in a position of power and authority may ask you to join him or her for dinner, or perhaps you'll be invited to "perform" at a party.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



This is a day when you could greatly benefit from spending some time outdoors in quiet reflection. Even a half-hour's walk through a city park will help you feel more rested and grounded. You have been working especially hard lately, and need some time to refill the well of your soul. Don't deny yourself some downtime. Otherwise, you're at risk of burning out.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You're a hard and conscientious worker, and sometimes you work so hard that you neglect to take any time for yourself. This is admirable in the short run, but not so wise in the long run. You do no one any good if you burn out from sheer exhaustion. You must learn how to pace yourself and balance your life in such a way that there is ample time for work.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Today may find you longing for some spots of colour in your life. Do what you can to brighten up your home environment. Even buying a few flowering plants and some colourful scatter rugs and artwork will make a world of difference. You don't have to spend a lot of money to brighten your home and lift your spirits.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Today you may discover that you have more in common with your neighbours than you thought. It's likely that some sort of local event has brought all your neighbours together under one roof. You go as an obligation, but stay out of interest and a genuine willingness to participate. There is nothing like rolling up one's sleeves and working together to tackle a common goal.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



You may receive some kind of windfall today. It may be that a rich old relative dies and leaves you some unexpected cash. Or perhaps an investment is paying off better than you dared hope. This is just what you need to perk up your spirits! Be smart about how you handle this money. Our suggestion is that you eschew short-term gratification in favour of long-term security.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Romance is very much highlighted today. All the planetary energies indicate that you and your partner are operating on precisely the same wavelength. It's no wonder that the two of you have been getting along so well lately. Perhaps it's time to take the next important step in your relationship. No matter at what stage you are, there is always a higher plane to aspire to.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Anything you attempt to do today is likely to turn out really well. You have an ambitious nature, so by all means take advantage of these auspicious conditions to pursue your career-related goals. You will find that you have strong focus and a clear understanding of what needs to be done in order to get ahead. Go ahead and get started. There is absolutely nothing holding you back.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today you'll likely find that you begin to make real progress on a project that may have been stagnating for a while. You can't help but feel gratified that all of your hard work is finally beginning to pay off. Good for you! You have earned every success that is due to come your way. But don't rest on your laurels! Continue to work hard so that you can achieve even greater recognition.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Today you'll likely awake, look around your home environment, and realize that there is much room for improvement. Fortunately, you are just the person for the job. You are creative and have tremendous decorating talent. Since it's likely that you will have some visitors this evening, why not spend the day reorganizing and sprucing up your home.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



You are a hard and conscientious worker, and certainly have been applying your skills and doing your best for some time now. The time is ripe for you to reap some benefits from all your efforts. The good news is that all signs indicate that a big career leap is just around the corner for you. Continue to work hard and be patient and soon it will all prove worthwhile.



**Islamabad**  
**Pakistan** has summoned the U.S. ambassador to protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's angry tweet about Pakistani "lies and deceit", which Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif dismissed as a political stunt.

David Hale was summoned by the Pakistan foreign office on Monday to explain Trump's tweet, media said. The ministry could not be reached for comment but the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad confirmed yesterday that a meeting had taken place.

Trump said the United States had been rewarded with "nothing but lies and deceit" for "foolishly" giving Pakistan more than \$33 billion in aid in last 15 years. "They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!" he tweeted on Monday.

His words drew praise from Pakistan's old foe, India, and neighbouring Afghanistan, but long-time ally China defended Pakistan. Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi yesterday chaired a National Security Committee meeting of civilian and military chiefs, focusing on Trump's tweet. The meeting, which lasted nearly three hours, was brought forward by a day and followed an earlier meeting of army generals.

Relations with Washington have been strained for years over Islamabad's alleged support for Haqqani network militants, who are allied with the Afghan Taliban. The United States also alleges that senior Afghan Taliban commanders live on Pakistani soil, and has signalled that it will cut aid and take other steps if Islamabad does not stop helping or turning a blind eye to Haqqani militants crossing the border to carry out attacks in Afghanistan.

In 2016, Taliban leader Mullah Mansour was killed by a U.S. drone strike inside Pakistan and in 2011, al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was found and killed by U.S. troops in the garrison town of Abbottabad.

Islamabad bristles at the suggestion that it is not doing enough to fight Islamist militants, noting that its casualties at the hands of Islamists since 2001 number in the tens of thousands. (Reuters)

## Chocolate likely to get extinct in 30 years

**London**  
 With warmer global temperatures and dryer weather conditions threatening the survival of the fragile cocoa plant, which could see chocolate disappear by as early as 2050, scientists are exploring the possibility of using the gene-editing technology CRISPR to evolve crops that can survive environmental challenges.

Scientists from the University of California are teaming up with food and candy company Mars to explore CRISPR technique to help tiny cocoa seedlings to survive and thrive in the dryer, warmer climate, Businessinsider.com reported.

Experts have warned that



increase in warmer global temperatures and dryer weather conditions could see chocolate disappear by as early as 2050.

The cacao tree -- which produces cocoa beans -- can only grow within a narrow strip of rain forested land roughly 20 degrees north and south of the Equator, where temperature, rain, and humidity all stay relatively constant throughout the year. (IANS)

## #PollToday



**Iran's Supreme leader blames unrest on 'enemies' and analysts say the reference is a swipe at Israel. Do you think Israel is behind the protests?**

Yes  No  Cant Say



"Unfortunately - in fundamental ways, the world has gone in reverse. On New Year's Day 2018, I am not issuing an appeal. I am issuing an alert - a red alert for our world."

Antonio Guterres  
 UN Secretary-General

## Rest in sight

**Two killed climbing Table Mountain**



Two climbers were killed abseiling on Cape Town's Table Mountain on New Year's Day, with hundreds of tourists stranded on the summit for hours during the rescue effort.

## Berlin prison hit by 3 escapes in a week

Berlin authorities came under fire after a single city prison was hit by three jailbreaks or walk-outs in a week, with five inmates still on the run.

## Sixty IS militants killed in Afghanistan

Sixty Islamic State (IS) militants were killed after Afghan security forces raided hide-outs in Nangarhar province.

## Six killed in cylinder blast in Pak hospital

At least six people were killed and 12 others injured in a gas cylinder blast at a hospital in Pakistan's northern Attock district

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## 9 killed in Brazil prison riot

**Brasilia**  
**Nine inmates** were killed and their bodies were set on fire in a riot on Monday at a prison in Brazil's central state of Goias, local authorities said.

Military Police Commander Divino Alves told local media the melee broke out on Monday afternoon between members of rival gangs at the prison in Aparecida de Goiania, the second largest city in the state, and it took officials nearly two hours to restore order.

The Executive Superintendence of Prison Management said in a statement that inmates in section C of the prison invaded section B, and started a fire. Firefighters were called in to battle the flames, and smoke could be seen rising from the facility. Another 14 inmates were injured in the fighting and they returned to their cells after receiving emergency treatment, according to Brazil's G1 news website. (Xinhua)

## 12 injured in New York apartment fire



The New York fire department says at least twelve people are injured

**New York**  
**At least 12 persons** were injured early yesterday after a huge fire tore through an apartment building in New York, reports said.

The fire started in the Bronx building at about 5.30am and spread to multiple floors, *express.co.uk* reported.

New York City Fire Department tweeted that over 200 fire fighters "continue to operate on scene this morning of a 6-alarm fire, 1547 Commonwealth Ave" in Bronx.

While none of the casualties is thought to be in life-threatening condition, further details of the injuries are not known.

The blaze comes several days after another fire in New York City, started by a three-year-old playing with a stove, claimed the lives of 12 people. (IANS)

## Flyer who said 'Bom-Del' booked for bomb call

**Mumbai**  
**An Indian businessman** charged with making a bomb threat at a Mumbai airport claims he was misheard by a telephone operator while asking for the "Bom-Del status" - the status of his Bombay-to-Delhi flight.

Vinod Moorjani was arrested at Mumbai international airport on Sunday while waiting to board a flight to Delhi with his family. The airport has the city code BOM, because Mumbai was formerly known as Bombay.

Police allege that Moorjani, 45, was frustrated with flight delays and used a phone booth in the airport to call its toll-free number, warning the operator "bomb fata hai" - a bomb has exploded. He then immediately hung up.

Investigators claim he made the threat in order to delay all outbound flights from Delhi so he would not miss a connecting flight to Rome, according to Press Trust of India.

Moorjani has appeared in court charged with criminal intimidation and other offences. (theguardian)

Construction work is underway at what residents call the "old bridge" that runs across the centre of Mosul



# Mosul's destroyed bridges: a major challenge for residents

## Mosul, Iraq

**I**t used to take Ahmad Meysar just a few minutes to reach his university across a bridge over the river Tigris in Iraq's Mosul.

But now -- with whole districts still devastated some five months after the Islamic State group was forced out

-- the journey takes him over two hours as most of the vital links between the two halves of the city remain in ruins.

"To be sure of being on time for the start of lessons at university at eight in the morning," the 20-year-old student says he sets off "at around 5:30 or six".

Across the Nineveh region where Iraq's second-largest city is located, some "90 per cent" of the 70 bridges have been totally or partially destroyed, said Marwan Abderrazaq from the local roads department.

Some of Mosul's bridges were blown up by IS jihadists

as they faced a nine-month Iraqi onslaught, while others were destroyed by government forces and the firepower of a US-led coalition backing them up.

They have been reduced to pillars jutting out of the waters of the Tigris or collapsed into piles of concrete.



People preparing to cross one of the last two bridges open for civilians in Mosul, Iraq

## Traffic problems

For millions of residents in Mosul and the broader region the disappearance of the bridges they used to rely on has turned daily life into an arduous obstacle course.

Thanks to support from the World Bank and United Nations two temporary bridges have gone up in Mosul and three more are under construction.

That means locals no longer have to make lengthy detours to the few towns where the river could be traversed.

But the limited options still mean that student Meysar and others wanting to cross still face major delays.

Hundreds of cars lined up as they queued to reach the other side on a recent morning, forming a traffic jam that stretched for several kilometres.

The frustrating waits occur daily at the two functioning bridges -- even for pedestrians.

Fathiya Subhi, 44, carries one of her children on her shoulders as she looks to reach the other side of the river.

She is making the crossing by foot as she "cannot afford the taxi fare" across.

With the bridge choked full with cars and scooters it takes her over 30 minutes

just to dodge and weave her way across the 330-metre (1,000-foot) bridge.

"We cannot live like this!" she exclaims.

"When the government returned didn't it also have to rebuild everything for the people living here?"

## Changing habits

The jams and delays crossing the river have forced taxi driver Yahya Ahmed to change the way he works.

He has decided that from now on he is going to stick to the eastern side of the river where he lives and will no longer take passengers to the other bank.

"Before we used to cross from one side to the other without thinking about it," Ahmed, 37, says.

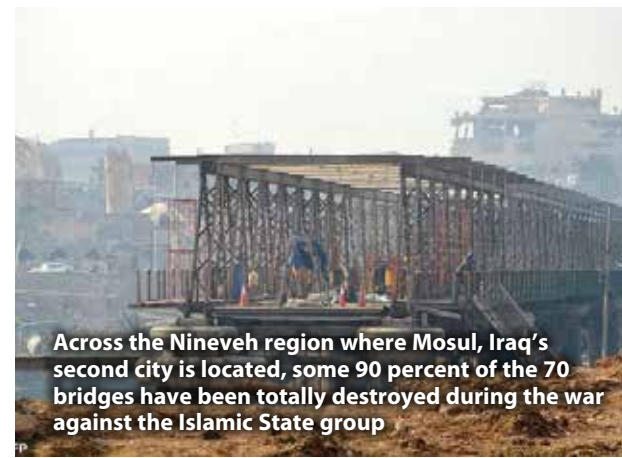
"But now it takes two-and-a-half hours so I just work on one side."

Engineer Hussein Nabil is at work helping to try and rebuild what residents called the "Old Bridge" that ran across the centre of Mosul since it was built in 1934.

But he says the metallic structure will only be "restored in six months" and it will take until August -- over a year after Baghdad announced Mosul's "liberation" -- for the first cars to be able to cross. (AFP)

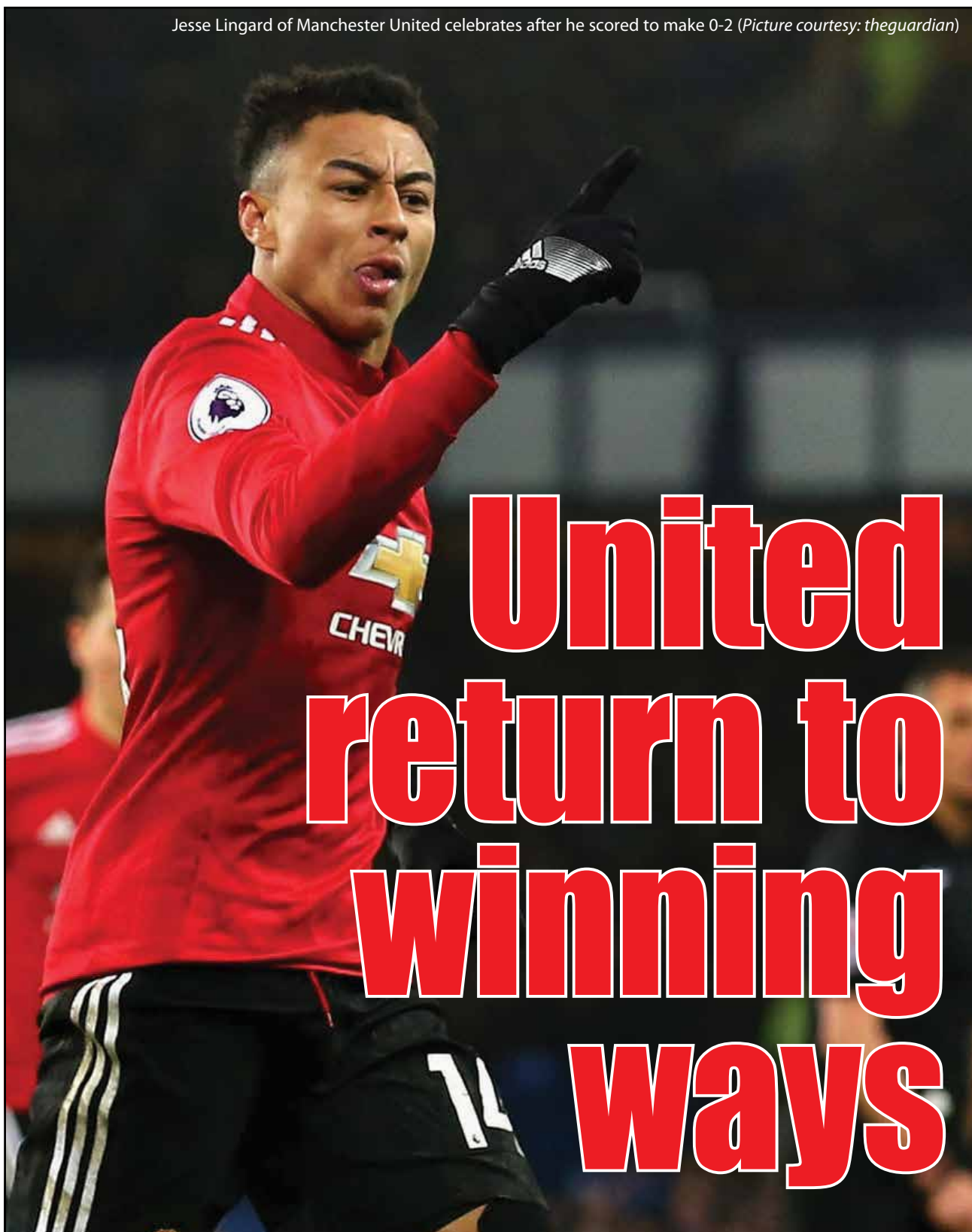


A bridge in Al-Muthanna neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq



Across the Nineveh region where Mosul, Iraq's second city is located, some 90 percent of the 70 bridges have been totally destroyed during the war against the Islamic State group

Jesse Lingard of Manchester United celebrates after he scored to make 0-2 (Picture courtesy: theguardian)



# United return to winning ways

## Liverpool

**M**anchester United brought an end to a run of three successive draws as goals from Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard secured a 2-0 victory over Everton at Goodison Park.

In a bright start, home keeper Jordan Pickford was quickly out to claim as Lingard threatened, and with four minutes gone Everton's former United star Wayne Rooney almost grabbed the limelight when his shot was blocked by Phil Jones and spun behind.

But the game soon entered a scrappy spell, with the ball zipping around a wet playing surface on a rainy night and neither side able to gain much control.

On the quarter of an hour

mark, Paul Pogba set out to change that as he fired in a low cross that eluded the waiting Juan Mata before Martial blasted over from long range.

As the tempo picked up, Everton's Tom Davies had a 25-yard strike deflected behind for a corner, and when the ball fell to Nikola Vlasic his shot was wayward.

With 24 minutes gone, United were grateful to Marcos Rojo for a superb sliding block to deny Oumar Niasse as the Everton forward tried to make something of a through pass by Vlasic.

Pickford stopped a Rojo header and then blocked from Martial after Luke Shaw and Pogba had created the opening.

With the rain increasing

as the half drew towards a conclusion, Jesse Lingard shot wide after a purposeful run and, in the final moments of the half, Rooney was booked for fouling Martial as the United man tried to break.

United began the second half strongly and Pickford tipped over a dipping Mata strike before the midfielder came even closer after 50 minutes, bending an effort past the keeper but seeing it rebound off the post.

Shaw's low cross was cut out well by Cuco Martina with Lingard waiting in the middle, and then Pogba sent an angled effort past the post as the visitors began to totally dominate.

And after 56 minutes they broke through as Martial struck, Mata and Pogba

combining to set him up on the edge of the area and a superb curling finish from the edge of the box giving Pickford no chance for his ninth goal of the season. Home boss Sam Allardyce made a double change shortly after the hour, taking off Yannick Bolasie and Rooney and replacing them with Aaron Lennon and James McCarthy. (espn.in)



Wenger argues with referee Mike Dean

## Arsene Wenger charged by FA

### London

**A**rsenal manager Arsene Wenger has been charged by the Football Association over comments made to match officials after Sunday's 1-1 draw at West Brom.

The Frenchman was angry after referee Mike Dean gave the Baggies a last-minute penalty, which they scored.

It is alleged the 68-year-old's conduct in the match officials' changing room was abusive and that he questioned the integrity of the referee.

With just a minute remaining at The Hawthorns, Calum Chambers was penalised after Kieran Gibbs pushed the ball onto his arm, but Wenger felt his player had not deliberately handled.

Football's laws state handball must be a "deliberate act" and the distance between the opponent and ball should be considered. Chambers was standing about two metres from Gibbs.

Speaking yesterday, before the charge was announced, Wenger said: "It was very disappointing.

"What is more frustrating for me is it happened many times this season - at Stoke, Watford, Man City, now West Brom.

"It is a concerning coincidence for me. That is why as well I was not at all happy with the movement the referee made as to why he gave the penalty. It did not correspond at all with what happened.

"On that front, it's a bit worrying." (BBC)

## Leicester City will not rush Jaime Vardy return: Puel

### London

**L**eicester City will not hasten striker Jamie Vardy's return from a groin strain but the England international could play against his former club Fleetwood Town in Saturday's FA Cup fixture, manager Claude Puel has said.

Vardy has scored nine goals in 21 league games for Leicester this campaign but was sidelined for the club's 3-0 victory over Huddersfield Town on Monday after picking up a minor

injury in last weekend's defeat at Liverpool.

"Jamie isn't long-term," Puel told reporters. "He is not bad. He felt something against Liverpool and it was a precaution about him. We will see for the next game - it's an important game for him in the cup. We will see." (Reuters)



Jamie Vardy (file pic)

## ▶▶ Hopman Cup

# Federer wins in straight sets

Perth

**R**oger Federer

continued preparation for his Australian Open title defence with a 6-3, 7-6 (8) win over Karen Khachanov at the Hopman Cup, helping give Switzerland a 2-0 win over Russia.

Federer's playing partner Belinda Bencic beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in a later women's singles match Tuesday

to give Switzerland its second consecutive win in Group B.

The 36-year-old Federer had his service broken by the 21-year-old Khachanov in the opening game, but rebounded to break back immediately and won the opening set in 29 minutes.

Khachanov matched Federer impressively with backhand winners in the second set before a back-and-forth tiebreaker. Federer saved a set point in the tiebreaker and won on his third match point after a successful challenge.

"I had to work hard, experience helps sometime," said Federer, who beat Rafael Nadal in the Australian

Open final last year. "It's good to be free-swinging and young, like he is. I remember those days ..."

The win came before a record crowd of 13,943 at Perth Arena, an attendance which eclipsed one of Federer's matches last year in the Western Australia state capital.

Earlier, the United States beat Japan 2-1 after an illness withdrawal by one of the Japanese players. But the win may come at a cost after Jack Sock injured his hip.

Sock slipped on the court during the first set of his match against Yuichi Sugita, grabbing his hip. He was forced

to retire at 1-1 in the second set after losing the first set 7-6 (1).

Hopman Cup director Paul Kilderry said he thinks Sock will be OK for the unbeaten US team's important third game.

"He has had some treatment on it and he feels he'll be good to go," Kilderry said. "He said if felt uncomfortable out there, so I think he was just a little nervous about doing more damage."

The US team had already led 1-0 after Japan's female player, Naomi Osaka, withdrew with an unspecified illness, handing CoCo Vandeweghe a 6-0, 6-0 win. (AP)

Roger Federer returns the ball  
(Picture courtesy: xinhua)

## Wozniacki races to victory



Caroline Wozniacki

Auckland

Caroline Wozniacki capped 2017 with the biggest win of her career when she claimed a maiden WTA Finals triumph in October and the Dane has carried that momentum into the new season with a ruthless display to kick off her Auckland Classic campaign.

The top seed has a chance to usurp world number one Simona Halep with a victory in New Zealand and the 27-year-old needed just 58 minutes to race past American Madison Brengle with a 6-3 6-0 triumph in their first round encounter yesterday.

The world number three is still searching for her first grand slam triumph but after emerging victorious in the elite eight-woman event

in Singapore, her raised levels of play could see her make that breakthrough in Melbourne later this month.

Wozniacki is also searching for a first triumph in Auckland after reaching the final in 2015 and despite being tested by Brengle early the contest, the Dane pulled away once she found her rhythm and claimed the last seven games to seal victory.

"I thought I played pretty well, especially considering it's the first match back of the year," Wozniacki told reporters. "It took me a couple of games to kind of just get the rhythm and then I started playing better and better." (Reuters)

## Murray withdraws from Brisbane

Brisbane

Andy Murray has withdrawn from the Brisbane International due to a 'right hip complaint' tournament organisers said yesterday.

Murray's hip injury severely hampered his 2017 season after finishing 2016 as the world number one.

Brisbane was scheduled to be Murray's competitive return to the court.

Murray said: "I'm very disappointed. I came here with every intention of making a strong start to the year but sadly my team and I don't feel that I'm where I need to be just yet to compete at

the highest level"

"I have always enjoyed competing in front of the Queensland fans. I look forward to returning in the near future"

He was scheduled to play Ryan Harrison in the second round.

Some early

reports suggested that Murray still intends to compete at the Australian Open.

Speaking to the press upon his arrival in Brisbane Murray admitted there were concerns over his hip still but stressed he wanted to just enjoy playing tennis again.

I just want to be

Andy Murray during the press conference



able to play tennis," Murray said.

"I don't mind if it's 30 in the world level. I would love it to be No 1 in the world level, but yeah, I just want to play. When that's taken away from you, you realise how important it is.

"I want to get back to playing my best tennis and winning the biggest tournaments. But if I don't, I'm okay with that. I just want to keep playing. On a day-to-day basis, it's difficult to tell exactly what my level is, when you've had such high expectations for quite a long time." (eurosport)

## Konta pushed to the brink again

Brisbane

**Britain's Johanna**

Konta was pushed to the brink for the second time in as many rounds before advancing to the quarter-finals while world number two Garbine Muguruza of Spain succumbed to leg cramps in her opening clash at the Brisbane International yesterday.

Konta, who overcame local hope Ajla Tomljanovic

4-6 6-1 6-4 in two hours and 26 minutes at the Pat Rafter Arena, set up a meeting with the winner of the match between Ukraine's Elina Svitolina and Croatia's Ana Konjuh.

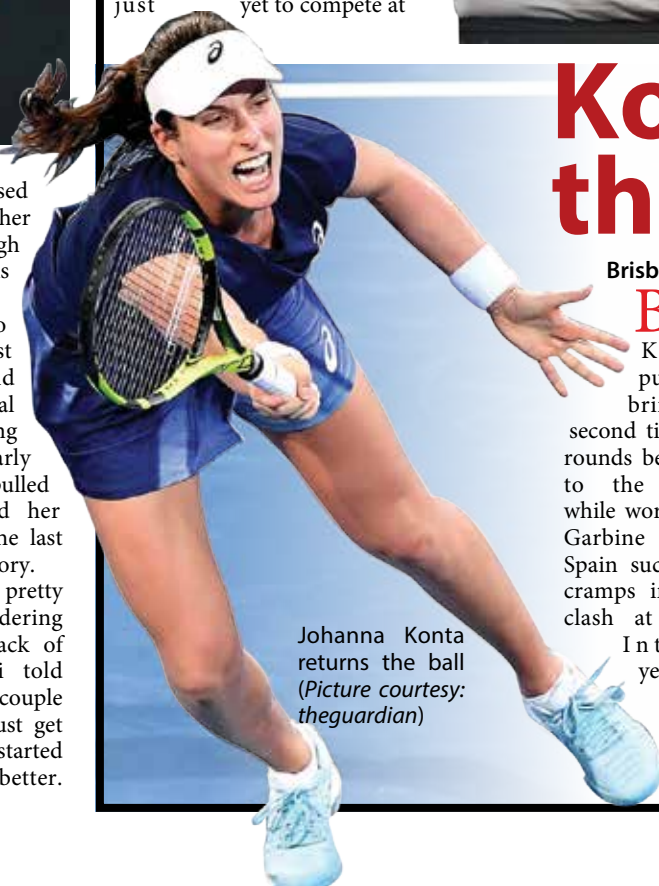
The Briton faced 13 break points in the first set and struggled with her rhythm as the big-hitting Tomljanovic stormed into an early lead.

Konta, who had similar struggles with her serve in her opening match against American Madison Keys, a U.S. Open finalist, on Monday, responded with

a better performance to level the contest.

The world number nine raced to a 5-2 lead in the deciding set before Tomljanovic showed signs of fighting back. However, Konta held on to finish the job.

"She made that very difficult, so that's a credit to her and she played incredibly freely at the end of the third set," Konta said after the match. "There wasn't a lot in it so I'm very happy to have just stayed tough and just come through that." (Reuters)



Johanna Konta returns the ball  
(Picture courtesy: theguardian)

**Manama**

**B**ahrain-Merida team manager Brent Copeland believes that Bahrain-Merida's leader Vincenzo Nibali can wear yellow again in Paris when he rides this year's Tour de France.

After a disappointing showing in 2017, Bahrain-Merida are throwing everything at the French Grand Tour, with 2014 champion Nibali returning after a two-year absence. It will be Nibali's first real assault on the Tour's general classification since he finished fourth in 2015.

Copeland has confidence in the Italian, who finished third at the Giro d'Italia and second at the Vuelta a Espana last season.

"Vincenzo is a champion who when he sets his target on a race, he goes there to win. That's his main objective," Copeland said.

"He's a rider who has finished on the podium 10 times in the last years. He's an incredibly consistent rider and I think that his chances of winning the Tour de France are good. We'll support him and his training staff with everything they need to get to the Tour in the best possible shape."

Sending Nibali to the Tour has been on the cards for 2018 since the start of last season.

However, with the Giro d'Italia going through his native Sicily once again, the 33-year-old Nibali was tempted to ride his home Grand Tour yet again. Team priorities prevailed in the end, with the Vuelta a Espana

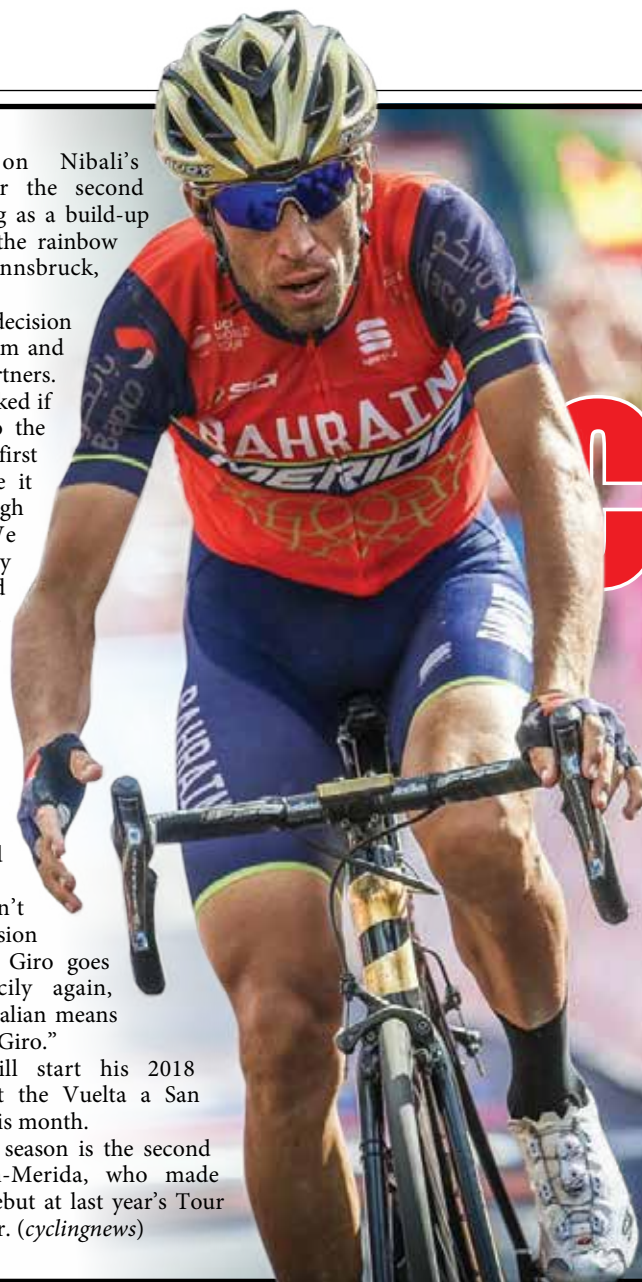
featuring on Nibali's calendar for the second year running as a build-up to a tilt at the rainbow jersey in Innsbruck, Austria.

"It was a decision from the team and the main partners. Vincenzo asked if he could do the Giro in the first year because it went through Sicily. We were okay with that and we asked him to do the Tour de France in the second year if he did the Giro in the first," explained Copeland.

"It wasn't an easy decision because the Giro goes through Sicily again, and being Italian means he loves the Giro."

Nibali will start his 2018 campaign at the Vuelta a San Juan later this month.

The 2018 season is the second for Bahrain-Merida, who made their race debut at last year's Tour Down Under. (*cyclingnews*)



Vincenzo Nibali (file pic)

**Tour de France**

# Copeland backs Nibali to win



Felipe Massa (file pic)

## Mercedes will prioritise Hamilton in 2018: Massa

**London**

**M**ercedes will back Lewis Hamilton in the 2018 Formula 1 championship fight, according to his former title rival Felipe Massa.

Hamilton clinched his fourth world championship last year, fending off Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel with Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas 58 points adrift.

Mercedes operates a policy of letting its drivers race, but Massa, who was narrowly beaten to the 2008 title by Hamilton, believes the world champion team will focus on

the Briton next year.

"[For 2018] the team is completely on his side 100 per cent," Massa said.

"So he has no issue with his team-mate like he had maybe before [with Nico Rosberg]."

"So many things are really on his side and he can just make himself better and better all the time."

Hamilton won nine grands prix in 2017, including five of the six following the summer break on the way to clinching the title with two races to spare.

His fourth title moved him

into an elite list of drivers with four titles or more that features only Michael Schumacher, Juan Manuel Fangio, Sebastian Vettel and Alain Prost.

Massa was impressed with the way Hamilton handled problems with the Mercedes early in the year and the consistently high level he managed to achieve across the season.

"Hamilton did the perfect job," said Massa. "He had some little issues in some races at the beginning of the season. (*autosport*)"

## Too many people negative about F1

**London**

**F**ormula 1 newcomer Pierre Gasly feels "way too many people" are critical of modern grand prix racing.

The 2017 season featured F1's first multi-team title fight since the switch to V6 hybrid engines in 2014, but the new higher-downforce cars were not conducive to wheel-to-wheel battles, with overtaking figures plummeting as a result.

The championship also came in for criticism due to the amount of engine component-related penalties that regularly shuffled up the grid and drew the ire of F1's new sporting boss Ross Brawn.

But when asked about grid penalties, Gasly said he was reluctant to criticise F1 as he felt it already got a disproportionate amount of flak.

"I don't want to talk negative about Formula 1," he told Autosport, "because I think there are way too many people who are talking about it in a negative way."

"And it is a great series, great cars and people should be more positive about it." (*autosport*)



Pierre Gasly (file pic)

# Sharapova survives

Shenzhen, China

**M**aria Sharapova was made to work hard for a victory at the Shenzhen Open, coming from behind to beat unseeded American Alison Riske 4-6 6-3 6-2 in the second round yesterday.

The five-times grand slam champion fired 34 winners and saved seven out of 10 break points to get past her spirited opponent and set up a quarter-final clash with Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas who beat local hope Zhang Shuai 6-3 6-7(5) 6-4.

Twice a finalist at Shenzhen, Riske used power and precision to breeze through the first set and went up 2-1 in the second to leave Sharapova in trouble. The Russian then reeled off five of the next six games to level the contest at one set apiece.

Sharapova did not let the momentum slip in the deciding set, winning the final four games of the match to prevail in two hours and 22 minutes.

"I'm glad I got this kind of match," Sharapova said. "These are the kind of matches you need, especially with such a short preparation going into the Australian Open in terms of match play."

Earlier, Kristyna Pliskova, the twin of former world number one Karolina Pliskova, stunned French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 6-1 6-4 and stormed into the second round.

World number seven Ostapenko, who beat returning multiple major champion Serena Williams in an exhibition match in Abu Dhabi over the weekend, was undone by Pliskova's powerful serves.

"My serve was great today, especially in the first set," the world number 61 said after her second career win over a top 10 opponent. "I feel like it's fast here, so that can be tricky for both of us, and the first of us playing fast won the point."

Pliskova next takes on Romania's Ana Bogdan, who comfortably defeated Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-4 6-2. (Reuters)

Shenzhen Open



Maria Sharapova reacts (Picture courtesy: xinhua)

