

# DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

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News of Bahrain

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11th Hour

Lane to be closed on King Hamad Highway

Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning announced that it will carry out maintenance works on the King Hamad Highway near Alba traffic signals.

The right lane will be closed for southbound traffic and another lane will be provided for traffic movement, said the ministry.

The closure will be effective from Thursday, January 4 at 10:00pm to Saturday January 6 at 5:00am.

## Change in Iran must come at home: Macron

Paris

Iran creates high tension and its regional presence is destabilising, says French President.

Change in Iran must come from the Iranian people alone, not from abroad, French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday.

In a speech to foreign diplomats, Macron said that "today there is a crisis in Iran. This crisis (comes from) the free expression of the Iranian people."

"Our role is to be on the lookout, demanding, scrupulous" to ensure that protesters' rights are not abused.

The deadly unrest in Iran began one week ago. Hundreds have been arrested, social media apps have been blocked and pro-government rallies have quickly followed. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian postponed a planned visit to Tehran this week.

The French leader also said he wants to see the emergence of an accord limiting Iran's regional presence that is considered destabilizing, ticking off its actions in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah

notably fought in Syria at the side of President Bashar Assad, backs a rebel group fighting in Yemen and has had a prime political role in Lebanon, where it is based.

Such actions, Macron said, "destabilize the region ... and contribute to maintaining elements of high tension."

Meanwhile, following the heroic uprising of the people of Izeh (in Khuzestan province) where the repressive forces were unable to confront the people and many of the regime's agents ran away, the clerical regime dispatched many groups of IRGC and Bassij forces from the surrounding areas to suppress the people, and practically imposed an undeclared curfew in this city.

Guards and other agents are constantly patrolling on vehicles or on foot across the city, especially during the night.

So far, more than 1,000 people have been arrested and detained in jails and are subjected to torture and other ill-treatment over the past one week and many have been denied access to their families and lawyers.



French President Emmanuel Macron (file)

## Bahrainis condemn atrocities against people

Manama

The people of Iran have once again risen in the face of their brutal regime. Protests have erupted in around 80 cities across Iran and violence has led to 21 deaths in the past few days. While the world watches in interest, many await an end to the Islamic Republic, according to a report issued by Citizens for Bahrain.

The report stated that these developments have been a big issue of discussion, with almost all Bahrainis supporting the right of Iranians to protest

against their regime. Many Bahrainis saw that after years of Tehran wasting billions of dollars meddling in Arab states, including Bahrain, it was good to see Iranians taking a stand.

"The people of Iran deserve to be liberated from this regime. This regime has given them nothing but increasing poverty, curbs on freedoms and isolation from the world. They should stand strong as this is going to be a rough journey," said Abdullah, age 28, from Manama.

"We hope that Iran doesn't end up becoming like Syria



13-year-old Armin Sadeghi was shot dead by the Iranian police at Esfahan on New Year. Around 30 anti-regime protestors have been killed since the unrest against the ruling regime has gained momentum.

where the army massacres people just to stay in power. If a crackdown takes place then it's going to get ugly. I hope the people of Iran will be able to overthrow this brutal regime

and join the world in fighting terror," said Fatima, age 32, from Isa Town.

"The international community should put more pressure on the Islamic regime

in Iran to step down and for free and fair elections to take place in what is supposed to be a democracy. The people have woken up and it does not seem like they will put back to silence," Mariam 30, Manama.

"The poverty and lack of opportunities within the Iranian society has resulted in this uprising. Iranians seem to have nothing to lose anymore. Their government has sucked them dry and they simply don't want to continue living in poverty anymore" Khalid 36, Riffa. (Continued on page 3)



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Excise tax pulls down cigarette sales



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Spotlight on rental policy





# On a mission

## HM King reviews progress of space rehabilitation programme

### Manama

**B**ahrain's preparations are in full swing to take part in a space expedition along with Russian cosmonauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

This came as His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa visited the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) yesterday and reviewed the progress of a rehabilitation programme implemented to prepare RBAF officers for the Kingdom's upcoming space programmes.

HM, the King was briefed by the Royal Bahraini Air Force (RBAF) Commander of the rehabilitation programme implemented for the RBAF officers.

RBAF commander stressed that the "Bahraini pilots are eager to participate in the space trip".

HM, the King valued highly the move and said, "This is within the framework of cooperation between the two friendly countries".

Bahrain's space ambitions got a big boost when HM

the King established a first-of-its-type national authority for aerospace sciences back in 2014 for establishing a sound infrastructure for observing outer space and Earth. In 2016, Bahrain's growth in the area was further boosted by the signing of a collaboration between the UAE Space Agency and the Bahraini National Space Science Agency.

### Collaboration with Russia

Russian Astronauts, in a recent message, told HM the

King that they are "hoping to see a Bahraini astronaut soon among them onboard International Space Station (ISS)".

The statement, an audio and video message, was relayed from the International Space Station (ISS) by astronauts working with the Russian Space Agency - Roscosmos on the occasion of Bahrain's National Days.

HM the King, in his reply, told the astronauts in ISS that Bahrain is "looking forward to seeing a Bahraini astronaut

among the ISS crew soon."

### Future plans

While reviewing plans to enhance the combat capability of the BDF units, HM King said that the training programmes adopted by BDF command "falls in line with the most modern training methods."

His Majesty also voiced deep pride in BDF's brave personnel, citing their courageous participation in the Saudi-led Operation Restoring Hope in Yemen.

HM King Hamad congratulated the graduates of the 12th batch of officer cadets – the Ahmed Al Fateh Brigade and wished them further success.

BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Yussef bin Ahmed Al-Jalahma, Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, and a number of senior officers accompanied HM the King during the visit.





# Excise tax pulls down cigarette sales

New price list posted at a cold store

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BAHRAIN

Dear Sir

Please find the new Price Structure for British American Tobacco products with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017.

ITEM	CASH PRICE (OUTER)	CREDIT PRICE (OUTER)	Consumer Price	
	BD. File	BD. File	BD. File	BD. File
DUNHILL FINE CUT (GOLD, WHITE, RED)	20.890	20.910	21.500	2.200
DUNHILL (BLUE, GOLD, WHITE, CARLTON)	18.930	18.950	19.500	2.000
DUNHILL SWITCH (Conv. 8mg Conv. 5mg Blue/Black, Blue/Silver)	18.930	18.950	19.500	2.000
VOGUE (LILAS, MENTHE)	18.940	18.960	19.700	2.000
KENT 3 TEK (BLUE, SILVER, WHITE)	18.930	18.950	19.500	2.000
KENT NANO TEK (SILVER)	18.930	18.950	19.500	2.000
LUCKY STRIKE 20's (BLUE, SILVER, CRUSH)	13.400	13.420	13.750	1.400
BENSON & HEDGES 20's	15.390	15.410	15.750	1.600
BENSON & HEDGES 10's	15.390	15.410	15.750	0.800
ROTHMANS 20's	13.350	13.370	13.750	1.400
ROTHMANS 10's	13.350	13.370	13.750	0.700
PALL MALL 20's (BLUE, SILVER, RED, WHITE)	11.560	11.580	11.800	1.200
PALL MALL 10's (BLUE, SILVER)	11.560	11.580	11.800	0.600
JPGL 20's	11.560	11.580	11.750	1.200
JPGL 10's	11.560	11.580	11.750	0.600
LONDON 20's	9.600	9.620	9.800	1.000
JPGL NAVY CUT 20's	9.560	9.580	9.750	1.000
JPGL NAVY CUT 10's	9.560	9.580	9.750	0.500
GOLD FLAKE 20's	9.540	9.570	9.750	1.000

You are kindly requested to note new price which should be reflected in your orders.

Thanking You

ALI BUCHEER  
MANAGER

DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

## Manama

**I**t seems like government's tough anti-smoking initiatives along with the recent tax hikes are discouraging smokers from continuing their habit at least for now.

Several cold store operators in the Kingdom told *DT News* that there is a dramatic decline in cigarette sales volume after

the implementation of the excise tax.

However, sales of the carbonated drinks are yet to feel the pinch.

Consumers, according to cold-store operators, are now buying less number of cigarette packets than earlier.

Mohammed Islam, a Bangladesh national, told *DT News* that he may have to "stop smoking altogether" to stay within his budget.

He said he was forced to

return from a store without buying cigarettes after finding the new price tags.

"While living on a small salary, any increase in prices affects us greatly. I can't afford to pay double for anything, whether it is cigarettes or food or rent."

"Now, if I choose to smoke like I used to, I may not have enough money to send back to Bangladesh.

"So I will have to cut down or stop completely," he said.

Accounts of cold-store salesmen also gave us the same picture.

"Price hike has forced heavy smokers, who usually buy 2 to 3 packets a day, to cut down," a cold store salesman told us.

The doubling of prices, according to cold-store operators, are scaring the customers away.

"I have had many customers come in, ask the price of cigarettes and leave without buying anything."

A cold store salesmen from Anwar Al Zinj in Bilad Al Qadeem told *DT News* he is expecting "a lot more of this".

"There are many who are poor but kept up the cigarette habit as they could afford it," he said. "But it doesn't seem to be the case anymore."

Another cold store salesman in Manama, Majeed, pointed out that there are many who smoke 3 to 4 packets of

cigarettes a day. "They will feel the pinch, even if they are rich. They are going to buy less."

However, for Energy drinks, things are still rosy. According to cold-store owners, companies are yet to transfer the burden of the price hike to consumers as "old stokes are selling at old prices" now.

Revised estimates also state that even though prices of other fizzy drinks have increased sales are still strong.

## Atrocities condemned

(Continued from page 1)

**T**he 1979 Islamic revolution of Iran was one of the most disturbing incident that took place in the Middle East. Iranians were fooled by Khomeini who led their country and the region into chaos... From meddling in the affairs of other countries to exporting an extremist ideology, this regime has done no good to its people or the world in the past 39 years. We hope this swept away forever," said Abdulrahman, age 40, from Manama.

"Iranians national wealth has been spent on Hezbollah, the Houthis and terrorist groups in Bahrain. I'm not surprised Iranians are angry. The real question is why they've tolerated this terrible system for so long," said Fatima, aged 27, from Manama.

"The Islamic Republic in 2011 stirred up trouble in Bahrain and brutally suppressed protests in Syria. It is now getting a taste of its own medicine," said Rawan, age 34, from Muharraq.



A motorist was arrested after sharing a video on social media showing him racing on one of the main roads in the Kingdom. The General Directorate of Traffic also confiscated his car for reckless driving. "The driver was over speeding and endangered his life and the safety of others," said an Interior Ministry statement yesterday. The department also called upon road users to follow the law for their safety.



## Wide Angle



Joel Indrupati

## A Button and A Book: Trump Strikes Back!

**“U**S Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was caught crouching under Donald J. Trump’s Oval Office desk on Wednesday, in an attempt to disconnect Trump’s newly installed nuclear button”.

No. That’s not true.

It is just a piece of satirical news in the “The Borowitz Report” published in ‘The New Yorker’ on 3 January 2018.

Andy Borowitz, a New York Times best-selling author and a comedian, has been writing for the New Yorker, since 1998. And I find some of his satire on current news very funny.

After the recent exchange between the leaders of North Korea and USA, the cyberspace was flooded with jokes and memes. All about the nuclear button both leaders are purported to have.

True to his now-well-known style - on hearing that Kim Jong-Un, the head of North Korea said he has the nuclear button on his table at all times - US President Donald Trump tweeted: “I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!”.

Whether that particular Trump tweet was necessary or not, has soon become a matter of debate.

But even before the debate on “the button” died down, a newer debate on “the book” has come up in the USA.

Extracts from a new book “Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House” by Michael Wolff, have hit the Internet and are causing great controversy.

The book which is not set for release until Tuesday apparently features fiery quotes from former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon and potentially embarrassing depictions of life and work inside the White House.

Needless to say, as I write this I am also reading the latest news on cnbc.com that “A lawyer for President Trump demands an apology and a retraction of material from an explosive new book by Michael Wolff about the White House”.

The lawyer’s letter to the author Michael Wolff and publishers Henry Holt & Co. reads : “Mr. Trump hereby demands that you immediately cease and desist from any further publication, release or dissemination of the Book, the Article, or any excerpts or summaries of either of them, to any person or entity, and that you issue a full and complete retraction and apology to my client as to all statements made about him in the Book and Article that lack competent evidentiary support Wolff and Henry Holt and Company did not immediately respond to requests for comment.”

While we are unsure as to the content of the book, and while we must, of course, desist making assumptions, we must accept the fact that in today’s day and age, it is almost impossible to stop people from talking.

Unlike in the past when mass media has had editors who wielded enormous control, social media can take the news - and some rumours along with it - faster and farther than was ever imagined.

If we must give both sides a fair chance to express themselves, we must of course accept that for every writer with an opinion, there could also be an opponent with a completely different opinion.

So, when Kim Jong-Un boasts that he has the entire US mainland within the range of his nuclear missiles, and when an author publishes a one sided view of what transpired in the white house, we cannot think that there will be no opposition to that thinking.

Retaliating to the aggressive talk of opponents has always been the staple act of politicians. And all this talk of bigger buttons and of banning books must be taken. But, with a pinch of salt.

*(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)*

# AGU signs deal for medical city



### Manama

**T**he Arabian Gulf University (AGU) yesterday announced signing a contract for the construction of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City with the Saudi Fund for Development.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Bahrain Minister of Education Dr Majid Al Nuaimi and Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr Abdullah Abdul Malik Al Shaikh and a number of VIPs.

“This signing is the actual beginning and launch of construction work on the Medical City project, as the project contractor has begun the work of building the medical city on the site,” said Dr Khalid Abdul Rahman Al Ohaly, President of AGU during the signing ceremony.

The University President thanked the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for his royal generosity to build the Medical City with a sum of one billion Saudi riyals. He also extended gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his donation of a million square meters of land in a strategic location for the construction of the Medical City project.

In his opening speech, he said that the Medical City was designed by expertise and competencies from various



In pictures, officials during the deal signing ceremony

medical specialisations from all GCC countries.

“Over 60 workshops were held in the last period, attended by more than 100 experts to design the medical city, working closely with the National Health Regulatory Authority. We are currently working side by side with the Supreme Council of Health to include the Medical City under the health services covered by the health insurance of the Kingdom of Bahrain, to provide medical services to all residents of the Kingdom.”

He added: “I extend my thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for the support of the Government

of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the University and for financing the Medical City project through the Saudi Fund for Development. We also extend our gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Al-Khalifa for his generous sponsorship of the University providing for all its needs, and granting land to build the Medical City project on”.

He confirmed that the Medical City will be a distinctive addition to the residents of the Southern Governorate, as well as the residents of Bahrain and the Gulf community.

The Medical City will include 300 beds and a full range of outpatient clinics, in addition to 15 operating

rooms and quality support medical services such as advanced laboratories and a pharmacy.

The three objectives of the Medical City are: the education and training of the students of the College of Medicine in the University who hail from GCC countries to benefit all health services in the Gulf, providing the faculty at the College of Medicine of AGU to practice their medical professions, and establishing centres for clinical research to address health issues prevalent in Arab Gulf States, such as diabetes, obesity, cancer and cardiovascular diseases. At the end of the ceremony, a film was presented showing the designs of King Abdullah Medical City.



# Spotlight on rental policy

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN  
reporter@dt.bh

**L**andlords will soon have the power to ask tenants to evacuate, without taking the matter to court, under a new rental policy, said a top official.

According to Mazen Al Umran, Deputy Chairman of the Capital Secretariat Council, the tenant will have to evacuate, if the contract is not renewed.

He was speaking to *DT News* on the sidelines of a meeting held at the Capital Municipal Council where the Council met with Nasser Al-Ahli, Chairman of Bahrain Real Estate Association to discuss the new rental policy and its effects on the real estate business in Bahrain.

"There are concerns about the new rent law, where tenants fearing a price hike



The meeting held at the Capital Municipal Council

soon," Dr Maha Al-Shehab, Chairman of the Committee of Information and Public Relations in the Council said.

Meanwhile, Nasser Al-Ahli, Chairman of the Bahrain Real Estate Association pointed out that the new law will speed up the development of real estate investments in the Kingdom, especially in the Capital.

"In the old law there was ambiguity about the rights of the landlord, but now it is clear," he said adding: "Previously, there was a delay in the courts, but with the new law the eviction process has become much easier."

"The biggest problem in the previous law, Al Ahli

said, was that Bahrain was divided into two regions with different characteristics and requirements, but with a single law. "Now with the new law, all the other laws and decrees get annulled."

"In 1988 and 1989, the action began to pass the new law and it was finally enacted in 2014. According to Article (4) in the new law, if the leases expire, after three years of legal issuance, that is in 2018, all leases will have to be renewed."

He also said that it was difficult to get the law implemented earlier as tenants had been living in the houses for a really long time.

"So a time frame of three years was given to all the contractors to renew their contracts to guarantee the rights of both the parties," he said.

He further emphasised the need to register contracts, pointing out the importance

of raising the awareness in this regard. The law stipulates the establishment of a contract registration office in each municipality.

On the other hand, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Capital Municipal Council Mazen Al-Umran told *DT*

*News*, "As of February 2018, the tenants must sign a new contract."

"It is necessary to renegotiate with the lessor or vacate the site," he said adding: "Most of these contracts are really old with the rents being too low and later on becoming a burden for landlords with these contracts were never renewed."

"Further, when the landlords asked the tenants to evacuate the place, the process took forever to complete as the case went to the court."

"Thus, under this law, all the landlords must make a new contract that would benefit both the landlord and the tenant, and further if these new contracts are not signed by February 2018, the landlords have the right to ask the tenants to evacuate the place without involving court into this," Mazen added.

**"In the old law there was ambiguity about the rights of the landlord, but now it is clear"**

## Handle with care

### UN rights officials urge the Iranian authorities

#### United Nations

**T**he top United Nations human rights official has urged the Iranian authorities to handle the protests that have taken place around the country "with great care" so as not to further inflame violence and unrest.

"I am deeply disturbed by reports that more than 20 people, including an 11-year-old boy, have died and hundreds have been arrested during the recent wave of protests in Iran," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, in a statement that urged the authorities to investigate all deaths and serious injuries that have occurred so far.

He said the Iranian authorities must respect the rights of all demonstrators and detainees, including their right to life, and guarantee their safety and security. Calling for thorough, independent and impartial investigations of all acts of violence that have taken place, the UN rights chief said there must be a concerted

effort by the authorities "to ensure that all security forces respond in a manner that is proportionate and strictly necessary, and fully in line with international law."

Zeid stressed that Iranian citizens who take to the streets to express their discontent have a right to be heard, and that the issues they raise should be resolved through dialogue, with full respect for freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

"It is incumbent on the authorities that their actions do not provoke a downward spiral of violence, as occurred in 2009," he warned. "The authorities must take all steps

to ensure that this does not happen again."

The High Commissioner urged the authorities to release from detention any protestors who have been arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, or penalized in any way, for expressing their views and protesting in a peaceful manner. "Peaceful protests must not be criminalised," he said. "They are a legitimate part of the democratic process."

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres deplored the loss of life in the wave of protests in Iran and said that further violence must be avoided.

A statement issued by a UN spokesperson said the Secretary-General is following with concern recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"He urges respect for the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, and that any demonstrations take place in a peaceful manner. Further violence must be avoided," the statement said. (UNI)

**"Iranian authorities must respect the rights of all demonstrators and detainees"**

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Screen grabs from a video shows a nurse at a maternity hospital in Taif, Saudi Arabia grabbing a baby by the neck and forehead

A group of Saudi nurses who filmed themselves laughing while squashing the face of a newborn baby hospitalised with an infection have been fired.

The baby's parents became aware of the shocking treatment by the nurses after footage emerged online and was shared on social media.

The video shows one of the nurses grasping the baby by its neck and forehead and cruelly squashing the helpless infant's face as her colleagues giggle.

Three members of staff at a maternity hospital in Taif, Saudi Arabia, were soon identified and tracked down.

### Three members of staff at a maternity hospital in Taif, Saudi Arabia, were soon identified

Abdulahdi Al-Rabie, Taif Health Affairs spokesman, said: 'The Health Affairs investigated the source of the video and was able to identify the nurses who appeared in the video and the hospital where the incident took place.'

The nurses, who have not been named, were immediately suspended

after they were tracked down.

Their medical licenses have now been revoked and they are banned from practising nursing in other health departments.

The baby's father told Saudi media the baby was in the hospital for ten days for treatment for a urinary tract infection and was shocked when he saw the video being widely shared on social media.

Social media users were horrified at the footage. One wrote: 'How dare they do this?'

'All three nurses should thank God I was not the baby's mother. I'd squeeze all your faces much harder.' (*Daily Mail*)

# Saudi fires nurses for squashing a newborn baby's face

Nurses filmed themselves squashing a newborn baby's face in Saudi Arabia

Video shows one nurse grabbing the baby by its neck and giggling

It was shared on social media and the three nurses responsible fired

## Egypt detains 75 people in human trafficking probe: state media

Cairo

An Egyptian prosecutor has ordered the detention of 75 people following an investigation into suspected human trafficking, state media reported yesterday.

A 14-month investigation by the Administrative Control Authority, the country's anti-corruption body, found that the group was made of government officials, Egyptian citizens, and foreigners, state news agency MENA said.

Authorities arrested the defendants in raids across the country, from the capital Cairo to the northern city of Kafr el-Sheikh.

The probe showed that they were involved in "bribery, profiting from public office, forging official documents, and human trafficking" among a host of other offences.

Egypt passed legislation in 2016 to crack down on a growing smuggling industry along its northern seaboard. The law imposes prison terms and fines on those found guilty of smuggling potential migrants or acting as brokers or middlemen.

It also imposes prison sentences on those who provide shelter to trafficked migrants, and gather, transport or otherwise facilitate their journey. (*Reuters*)

## Russia denies report that seven planes destroyed in Syria shelling

Moscow

Russia denied a report in daily newspaper Kommersant that seven Russian planes had been destroyed by rebel shelling at Syria's Hmeymim air base on Dec. 31, the TASS news agency on Thursday quoted the defence ministry as saying.

At least four Su-24 bombers, two Su-35S fighters and an An-72 transport plane, as

well as an ammunition depot, were destroyed by the shelling, Kommersant said on its website, citing two "military-diplomatic" sources.

In the single biggest loss of military hardware for Russia since it launched air strikes in Syria in autumn 2015, more than 10 servicemen were wounded in the attack by "radical Islamists", the report said. (*Reuters*)

## Missing Pets



**KHANFAROOSH** - Male, 1 yr, escaped home and then STOLEN, not wearing collar or ID tag, Hamad Town (roundabout 4), BD100 REWARD for safe return, 20/12/17. **39972224**



**MACY** - Female long-haired, silver/grey, 6 yrs, spayed, not wearing collar or ID tag, chased off compound by stray cat, from Hamala Hills area - but likely stolen and in any area, REWARD for safe return, 26/11/17. Whatsapp **34515853/34200869/38023260**



**BABOU** - Male Coton de Tulear, 4 yrs, all white, microchipped, escaped after dog walk, likely picked up, wearing white necklace/no ID tag, Sakir Camps/ Dilmon Paradise area, BD200 REWARD for safe return, 1/1/18. **37199478 or 36446893**



**RITA** - Gone missing same time as SHATZO, Female Shih Tzu, 1.5 yrs, very friendly, recently shaved, wearing red collar - no ID tag, escaped from home (may be stolen), Zayed Town (block 720), 20/10/17. **36061716**



**CHICKOY** - Male, Shih Tzu, 1 yr, not wearing collar or ID tag, slipped out of building, last seen rescued/taken by a passerby heading towards Dasman area, Arsa/Gudaibiya area, 31/12/17. **33313588/35963629/36577269**



**SHATZO** - Gone missing same time as RITA, Male Shih Tzu, 1.5 yrs, very friendly, wearing blue collar - no ID tag, escaped from home (may be stolen), Zayed Town (block 720), 20/10/17. **36061716**



# Rasheed Al Maraj named Central Banker of the Year



DT News Network  
Manama

**R**asheed Mohammed Al Maraj, the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), has been named as the best central bank governor in the Middle East for 2018 by *'The Banker'*.

The award, according to the leading UK-based magazine, recognises Al Maraj's contribution in adopting a progressing stance to develop a "world-leading regulatory environment for financial services – coupled with a forward-looking embrace of digital innovations and financial technology" in the Kingdom.

The annual recognition by the magazine under the *Financial Times* Group celebrates the officials that have best managed to stimulate growth and stabilise

their economy.

"Beyond a growing economy and low inflation environment, over the past 18 months, the CBB has pursued a number of eye-catching initiatives in the fintech sector," the magazine said in an article.

The article noted that under the governorship of Al Maraj "Bahrain has built on its already impressive credentials as a globally minded financial centre".

"Bahrain may not be the largest financial centre in the Gulf, but it is one of the most sophisticated," the article said.

Al Maraj, who assumed CBB's governorship in 2005, according to *The Banker*, was instrumental in launching a dedicated regulatory sandbox for fintech start-ups in June 2017.

The framework offered

by the CBB is a virtual space open to existing licensees, as well as new local and foreign firms. The testing phase is nine months with a maximum three-month extension. A dedicated fintech unit established in October 2017 oversees the approval process for participation in the sandbox.

"Collectively, these changes will open up new opportunities for business and investment structures to be developed in the country. In addition, they bring Bahrain's structuring options to the level of best international practices," said *The Banker*.

Among other achievements, *The Banker* points out that the CBB has issued a new directive recognising both locally domiciled and foreign exchange-traded funds (ETFs) as collective investment undertakings. It means banks and other financial institutions can list ETFs established in Bahrain on licensed exchanges, while also permitting the registration of offshore ETFs. Notably, the new directive recognises both conventional and sharia-compliant funds.

"It is for these reasons that Al Maraj has claimed the Middle East Central Bank Governor of the Year award for 2018," *The Banker* said.

**The award, according to the leading UK-based magazine, recognises Al Maraj's contribution in adopting a progressing stance to develop a "world-leading regulatory environment for financial services – coupled with a forward-looking embrace of digital innovations and financial technology"**

## Design flaws in new computer processor chips

**D**esign flaws in processor chips (CPUs) by AMD, ARM and Intel could allow hackers to trick apps into revealing sensitive data such as passwords. The CPU "kernel" – the core of the operating system – is leaking memory.

Researchers from Google's Project Zero team, academia and cybersecurity firms found two flaws in June 2017, dubbed "Spectre" and "Meltdown," in computer chips that affect nearly all modern computers.

Some fixes, in the form of software updates, have been introduced or will be available in the next few days, said Intel, which provides chips to about 80% of desktop computers and 90% of laptops worldwide.

CPUs use a process known as "speculative execution" to optimise performance, using different types of memory to store data and code temporarily.

In many cases, that information is supposed to be secure from attempts to hack it, but these two bugs allow malicious code to read the entire operating system without permission, stealing passwords and login files.

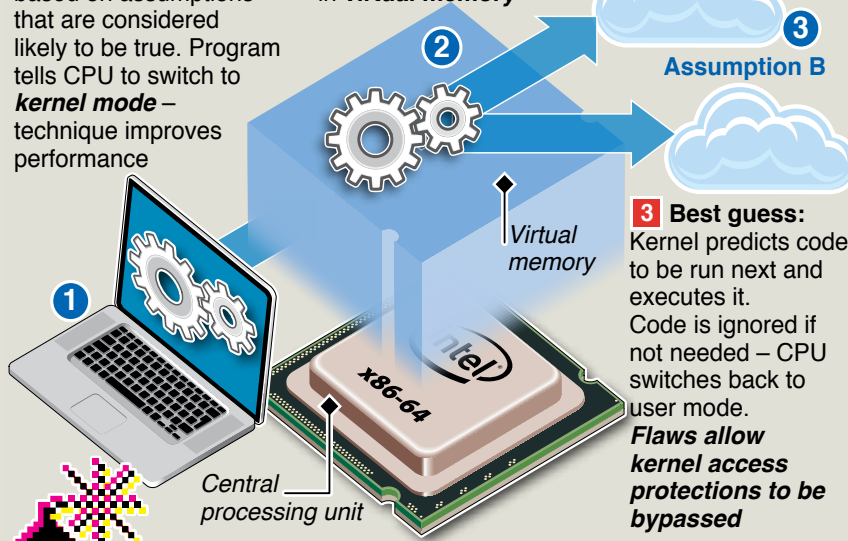
**1 Speculative execution:** Program executes instructions based on assumptions that are considered likely to be true. Program tells CPU to switch to **kernel mode** – technique improves performance

**2 Kernel mode:** During speculative execution, code and data remains invisible in **virtual memory**

**Assumption A**

**Assumption B**

**3 Best guess:** Kernel predicts code to be run next and executes it. Code is ignored if not needed – CPU switches back to user mode. **Flaws allow kernel access protections to be bypassed**



**Patches** **Meltdown:** Most dangerous flaw could let hackers steal data such as passwords and login files  
**Spectre:** Flaw affects CPUs in smartphones and tablets. Patches move kernel into separate address space – expected to cause five to 30 percent slow down to processing speed

Sources: Popular Mechanics, The Register, Reuters

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## US suspending security aid to Pakistan: report

Washington

**T**he U.S. State Department said yesterday it was suspending security assistance to Pakistan until Islamabad takes action against the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network, which Washington believes is destabilizing the region.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said she could not provide a dollar value for the suspended aid because the administration was still calculating the types of aid affected by the decision. She said some of the aid could still be permitted if Islamabad takes decisive action against the groups.

"Today we can confirm that we are suspending ... security assistance only to Pakistan at this time until the Pakistani government takes decisive action against groups including the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network. We consider them to be destabilizing the region and also targeting U.S. personnel," she told a regular news briefing. (Reuters)



# A decade of success



## Jet Airways celebrates successful operations between the Gulf and India

### Gulf

**J**et Airways, India's premier, full service international airline, yesterday completed ten years of operations to the Gulf region. The airline connects ten destinations in the Gulf with nine metros and emerging cities in India.

The first Jet Airways flight 9W 592 landed in Bahrain in 2008, marking an important milestone for the airline, as it was the first privately-owned Indian carrier to provide direct air connectivity between the Gulf region and India.

Over time, the airline expanded services to include Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Doha, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Riyadh and Sharjah to its Gulf network. In the course of completing a decade of successful operations, Jet Airways has flown nearly 200,000 flights, carrying over 25 million guests between India and the Gulf region.

Today, the airline operates 600+ weekly flights on 33 unique routes between India and the Gulf.

Shakir Kantawala, VP Gulf, Middle East & Africa, Jet Airways, said, "We are delighted at having completed a decade of successful operations in the Gulf which have played a significant role not only in growing our business but also in the realization of the airline's vision of connecting India with the World. Today, we are the preferred carrier on the Indo-Gulf sector and remain committed towards maintaining that position. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the regional Gulf Governments as well their national Civil Aviation authorities for constant guidance and encouragement. We also thank all our patrons - the vast multitude of

expatriate Indians who travel us while visiting families and friends, as well as the travel trade community, for their unstinted support that has stood us in good stead."

Kantawala also added, "We would like to reiterate our commitment to providing guests from the Gulf region an exceptional flying experience, characterised by convenience, seamless connections to India and the World, and Jet Airways' trademark spirit of Indian hospitality. Our operations

**Airline has flown over 25 million guests in a decade, between the Gulf region and India**

in the Gulf provide a unique gateway for connecting to not just 44 destinations in India but also onwards to Bangkok, Colombo, Dhaka, Hong Kong, Kathmandu, and Singapore in the East and the Far East. In addition, our codeshares and interline partnerships with leading airlines help us connect our guests to several other destinations in Africa, Europe and North America."

With the Gulf accounting for over nearly 50 percent of the originating air traffic to/from India, the region represents a huge market in terms of passengers. Along with its strategic partner - Etihad Airways, Jet Airways is the most preferred carrier on the Indo-Gulf sector. Additionally, with growing economic ties between India and countries in the Gulf, Jet Airways is expanding its cargo operations on this sector, in tandem.

The airline offers over 1700

tons of weekly cargo capacity on the India - Gulf - India route, using a mix of B-737 and Airbus A330 services. Commodity mix from India to Gulf includes perishables like fruits, vegetables, meat, and consignments like courier, garments, fabrics, pharmaceuticals. Valuable comprising of jewelry, as also leather and leather products are uplifted as cargo capacity on the India - Gulf routes. Out of the Gulf destinations, cargo items on shipment to India comprise of Courier consignments, unaccompanied baggage, and miscellaneous items.

The percentage growth in the dense India - Gulf market has been rather impressive over the last ten years, where uplift/tonnage ex-India has notched up to 462% and Gulf to India has been 365%. This massive growth can be attributed to the airline's

reliable services, coupled with customer service excellence and innovative marketing by Jet Airways' Cargo.

India's No. 1 airline has also executed numerous guest benefit programmes under its 'Think India, Think Jet Airways' campaign to ensure the guests can avail the best flying experience at an unmatched value proposition. The airline has introduced several avant-garde solutions such as 'Priority Advantage', #JetAdvance, Fare Lock and Fare Choices aimed at expanding convenience for its guests. Offering its wide-body services on select flights, the airline's guests over the years have enjoyed its hallmark in-flight services, delectable menu options, carefully curated wine and liquor selection, endless hours of award winning in-flight entertainment and the warmth of our Indian welcome.



UAE Exchange Bahrain held draw for "ISB Fees back offer" and "EWA Pay back offer" for the month of October, November and December 2017 on 4 January 2018 at Manama branch (Promotion period - 10 September to 31 December 2017). Representative from MOIC and UAE Exchange officials were present during the event. Three winners were selected each for ISB and EWA promotion where in each winner will get back their Indian School fees paid and EWA bill paid up to a maximum of BD45/- and BD30/- per month respectively.



## Philippines fines Sanofi

Manila

The Philippines has suspended clearance for Sanofi's dengue vaccine Dengvaxia and fined the French drugmaker a symbolic \$2,000 citing violations on product registration and marketing, the health secretary said on Thursday. "They were fined and their certificate of product registration was suspended," Health Secretary Francisco Duque told Reuters.



## Powerball jumps to \$550M

Des Moines, Iowa

No winning tickets were sold for the \$460 million Powerball drawing. The jackpot jumps to an estimated \$550 million for Saturday's drawing. That would make it the nation's 8th largest lottery prize ever. Powerball is played in 44 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The odds of winning are one in 292.2 million.



I know it is difficult, I know it is frustrating, I know it is disappointing for people and I apologise,"

Theresa May,

British Prime Minister to patients. Earlier this week, National Health Service recommended to cancel all non-urgent appointments and operations until next month.



## CEOs earn average wage in three days

The average chief executive of Britain's FTSE 100 top companies has earned the same in the first three days of 2018 as the typical worker will make in the entire year, according to the High Pay Centre and CIPD\*



Britain's top-paid CEOs	Company	Annual salary
1. Sir Martin Sorrell	WPP	£48.1m (€54.1m)
2. Arnold Donald	Carnival	£22.4m (€25.2m)
3. Rakesh Kapoor	Reckitt Benckiser	£14.6m (€16.4m)
4. Pascal Soriot	AstraZeneca	£13.3m (€15.0m)
5. Erik Engstrom	Relx	£10.5m (€11.8m)
6. Bob Dudley	BP	£8.4m (€9.5m)
7. Albert Manifold	CRH	£8.0m (€9.0m)
8. Nicandro Durante	British American Tobacco	£7.6m (€8.5m)
9. Flemming Ornskov	Shire	£7.5m (€8.4m)
10. Ben Van Beurden	Royal Dutch Shell	£6.9m (€7.6m)
Median British workers' salary		£28,758 (€32,339)

\*Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development – association for human resource management

Source: High Pay Centre Pictures: Associated Press, Getty Images, Twitter

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The average chief executive of Britain's FTSE 100 top companies has earned the same in the first three days of 2018 as the typical worker will make in the entire year, according to the High Pay Centre and Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).

The CIPD, the professional body for human resources, calculated that company bosses earn £4.5 million (€5.06), or £12,300 (€13,821) every day of the year. They will take less than three days to surpass the £28,758 (€32,315) average salary.

When looking at a chief executive's median pay, researchers found that bosses earned 120

times more than the average employee, despite an average 17 percent drop in CEO pay in 2017 amid pressure over excessive compensation from investors and the government.

The report on "Fat Cat Thursday" showed the best-paid boss -- advertising company WPP's Martin Sorrell -- on £48.2 million (€54.2m).

Arnold Donald of cruise company Carnival follows Sorrell with £22m, (€24.7m) and Rakesh Kapoor of consumer goods company Reckitt Benckiser, is in third place -- despite seeing his pay fall from £23.1m (€26m) to £14.6m (€16.4m).

# Oil at highest since 2015

Representative picture (Guardian)

London

Oil rose further above \$68 a barrel yesterday to the highest since May 2015, supported by unrest in Iran that has raised concerns about supply risks, cold weather in the United States which is boosting demand and OPEC-led output cuts.

Six days of anti-government protests in OPEC's third-largest producer have added a geopolitical risk premium to oil prices, although Iran's production and exports have not been affected.

Brent crude LCOc1, the international benchmark, was unchanged at \$67.84 a barrel at 1151 GMT and traded as high as \$68.27. U.S. crude CLc1 rose 20 cents to \$61.83

and also touched the highest since May 2015.

"The protests in Iran add more fuel to the already bullish oil market mood," said Norbert Rucker, head of commodity research at Swiss bank Julius Baer.

"We believe that today's oil prices project an overly rosy picture, stick to our cautious view and see the market at risk of profit-taking," Rucker added.

Freezing weather in the United States has spurred short-term demand, especially for heating oil.

Aside from the spike in May 2015, oil is trading at its highest since December 2014 - the month in which the Organisation of the Petroleum

Exporting Countries decided to stop cutting output, a move that deepened a price collapse.

Analysts at JBC Energy said the price reaction to the Iranian unrest was overdone.

OPEC, supported by Russia and other non-members, began to hammer out a deal to cut supplies again in 2016, aiming to lift prices by removing a glut built up in the previous two years.

Their cuts started a year ago and compliance has been high, aided by involuntary output declines in Venezuela, whose economy is collapsing, plus unrest in Nigeria and Libya. Producers have decided to extend the deal until the end of 2018. (Reuters)

## Tesla falls on production delay

Tesla Inc shares fell 3.5 percent in premarket trading on Thursday, setting the company up to lose nearly \$1.9 billion in market value after it pushed back a production target for its much-anticipated Model 3 sedan yet again.

Analysts, however, stayed upbeat, saying the electric car maker had finally set an achievable target for their



mass-market sedan that is priced at \$35,000.

Tesla said on Wednesday it would likely build about

2,500 Model 3s per week by the end of the first quarter, half the number it had earlier promised. The company now expects to reach its goal of 5,000 vehicles per week by the end of the second quarter.

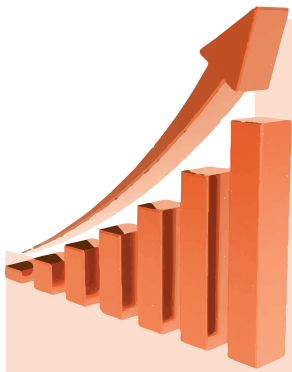
"We believe that Tesla may have finally set a beatable production target," Nomura Instinet analyst Romit Shah wrote in a note to clients. (Reuters)



**Did You Know?**



According to traffic analytics firm, Parse.ly, Facebook now sends more referral traffic to news sites than Google. They revealed to Fortune that their latest estimates show Google drove 38 percent of traffic, while Facebook drove around 43 percent.



**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

# Mideast markets rise on oil, global trend

## Dubai

Gulf stock markets rose yesterday, buoyed by rising oil prices and record closes on Wall Street, while strength in the United Arab Emirates' biggest bank boosted Abu Dhabi's market in particular.

The Abu Dhabi index climbed 1.5 per cent to its highest level since mid-August as First Abu Dhabi Bank surged 2.4 pc to 10.90 dirhams, bringing its gains in the last three days to 6.3 pc.

The stock rose on Wednesday above its 200-day average for the first time since September, triggering a minor double bottom formed by the lows since October. Of 10 analysts polled by Reuters, one has a "strong buy" on the stock, five have a "buy" and four have a "hold", with a median target of 11.75

dirhams.

Dubai's index edged up 0.1 pc to 3,464 points following four days of gains. Amlak Finance added 2.9 pc after saying it signed a memorandum of understanding with Egypt's Marseilia Group to develop a property project in Cairo.

Dubai's medium-term technical outlook turned positive this week as it began to rebound from the bottom of an uptrend channel dating back to early 2016. Technically, a rise in coming months to near the top of the channel would not be surprising, and would take the index above 3,700 points.

Saudi Arabia's index rose 0.7 pc to its highest level since early October, passing resistance around 7,200 points, which was support in August and September.

## Closing Bell

SAUDI rose 0.7 pc to 7,277 points.

DUBAI edged up 0.1 pc to 3,464 points.

ABU DHABI climbed 1.5 pc to 4,548 points.

QATAR rose 0.3 pc to 8,631 points.

EGYPT fell 0.4 pc to 14,782 points.

KUWAIT gained 0.8 pc to 6,454 points.

BAHRAIN dropped 1.0 pc to 1,312 points.

OMAN rose 0.3 pc to 5,105 points.

Any clean break - another daily close above that level on Sunday - would point up to at least the September peaks around 7,400 points.

Al Rajhi Bank added 1.6 pc after its 2 pc gain on

Wednesday.

Egypt's blue-chip index fell 0.4 pc. But Glaxo Egypt surged 7.0 pc after reporting a 26 pc year-on-year rise in third-quarter consolidated net profit. (Reuters)

# Rahul Gandhi to visit Bahrain, address NRIs

## New Delhi

All India Congress Committee president Rahul Gandhi will next week embark on a visit to Bahrain, his first foreign trip after becoming party chief, during which he will address a convention of NRIs and is likely to meet the country's prime minister.

According to party sources, Gandhi will be the state guest of the Kingdom of Bahrain and will address NRIs settled there on January 8.

He will leave for Bahrain on January 7 and is likely to return on January 9. The

NRIs settled there have invited him.

Gandhi is also likely to meet Bahrain's Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the members of the Royal family, the sources said.

They said that he was to also address NRIs in Dubai but that visit has been postponed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to visit the UAE later this month.

Party sources say Gandhi's visit to Bahrain will be on the lines of his US trip last year. (PTI)



Rahul Gandhi (Reuters)



# 'Uber for blood'

An ingenious drone delivery service known as "Uber for blood" has slashed the delivery time of life-saving medicine to remote regions of Rwanda from four hours to an average of half an hour.

A partnership between Zipline, a Silicon Valley robotics company, and the country's health ministry has delivered more than 5,500 units of blood over the past year, often in life-saving situations. Never before have patients in the country received blood so quickly and efficiently.

While commercial drone delivery in wealthier countries is still at the testing stage, hampered by busy skies and strict regulations on airspace, Zipline is delivering blood to 12 regional hospitals from a base in the east of Rwanda. Each hospital serves about half a million people.

The use of drones is helping to reduce maternal deaths – a quarter of which are the result of blood loss during childbirth – and high incidences of malaria-induced anaemia, which is common in children.

Drone delivery also means hospitals can store less blood, which means less waste as blood spoils

quickly.

Now Zipline plans to work with the government of Tanzania, a country of 56 million people, to launch what it claims is the world's largest drone delivery network.

Keller Rinaudo, Zipline's co-founder and chief executive officer, said the move will make east Africa a world leader in drone logistics.

"Some of the biggest, most powerful technology companies in the world are still trying to figure out how to do this. But east Africa is showing them all the way," he said. "The work in Rwanda has shown the world



what's possible when you make a national commitment to expand healthcare access with drones and help save lives."

The idea for the drones came during a visit Rinaudo made to the Ifakara health institute in Tanzania, in 2014. He met a graduate student who had built a mobile alert system for health workers to text emergency requests for medicine and vaccines. A network of community health workers used the mobile alert system to make thousands of requests.

But there was a problem – there was no way for the government to fulfil these requests. "It became clear that this was a database of death filled with

thousands of names, addresses, ages and phone numbers," said Rinaudo.

"We've designed Zipline to solve the second half of this problem. We know who needs medicine, when and where. And now, we can get them that medicine as quickly as possible."

This year, the firm aims to deliver a range of medical products – including blood transfusion supplies, HIV medication, antimalarials, sutures and UV tubes – to four bases in Tanzania, supporting more than 1,000 clinics.

In Rwanda, when a doctor or medical staffer at one of the 12 clinics needs blood, they send a WhatsApp message or log on to Zipline's order site. They are then sent a confirmation message saying a Zip drone is on its way.

The drone flies to the clinic at up to 60mph. When it is within a minute of the destination, the doctor receives a text. The drone then drops the package, attached to a

parachute, into a special zone near the clinic before returning to base.

Critics of the scheme in Rwanda have questioned why the authorities have invested in hi-tech schemes when demand for basic infrastructure, roads and health centres still exceeds supply. Zipline and the government have not revealed the cost of the project.

But a spokesman for the Rwandan health ministry said: "The ministry and Rwanda Biomedical Center are happy to use such innovative

technology to reduce the average delivery time from four hours to less than 45 minutes, with quick and reliable delivery [of] blood products." (theguardian)

**How  
Rwandan  
delivery  
robots  
are  
saving  
lives**



**A Silicon Valley robotics company has teamed up with the Rwandan health ministry to hasten the delivery of vital medicines to hospitals in remote areas**

A Zipline worker technician launches a drone in Muhanga.





Interior Minister Lt-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa attended the conclusion of the naval exercise of the Coast Guard (the Vigilant Guard 6) which was held with the participation of various directorates and security units, including the Special Security Force, Police Aviation, the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science and police directorates.



As part of a series of inspection visits to different projects, Minister Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf has toured the Ministry's Roads Projects and Maintenance Directorate and project contractor Nass Company.



Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received in his office United Nations Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Amin al-Sharqawi. The Minister paid tribute to the wise leadership, stressing keenness on supporting and encouraging clean energy as part of efforts to achieve sustainable development.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received a delegation from Sandis. The minister was briefed on the company's activities and projects in the fields of consulting and auditing the level of efficiency of using renewable energy and rationalizing energy consumption.



The US Ambassador to Bahrain Justin Siberell got informed about the work mechanism at the Communication Centre and the Complaint Office of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR). He voiced appreciation of the service provided by NIHR through its free hotline (80001144), stressing the key role of the institution in boosting human rights in Bahrain.



Baloch Club Bahrain elected new office-bearers and discussed the roadmap for the year 2018/19. In picture, seated (L-R): Dr Majeed Baloch, Azeem Jan Baloch, Abdul Wahab Baloch (L-R): Abdul Baqi Baloch, Pervez Baloch, Abdul Wahid Baloch.





...ferent projects in the Kingdom's governorates, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning  
...ed Alba and Nuwaidrat Interchange Revamp Project. The minister was accompanied by the min-  
...ctor Sayed Bader Alawi, a number of engineers from the Ministry, the project consultant PARSONS



Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi received the newly-appointed Sudanese  
Ambassador to Bahrain Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Hassan. The minister lauded the strength of the broth-  
erly Bahraini-Sudanese relations which, he said, are based on mutual love and respect, as well as on  
shared keenness on regional and global security and peace.



...n Dynamic Energy, led by its CEO George  
...renewable energy investment, as well as  
...ng consumption.



President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received newly appointed US Ambassador Justin Si-  
berell. She stressed the importance of maintaining bridges of civilisational and humanitarian communication between both countries, lauding strong bilateral  
relations mainly in the cultural field.



...e upcoming terms  
...o Baloch. Standing



Bahrain based laughter Ambassador and certified laughter yoga teacher Mathew Thomas conducted a Laughter Yoga seminar for Himalaya Toastmasters Club, Kathmandu, Nepal.  
The participants practised stress release techniques and laughter exercises.





EBS

## Swift wants 'Shake it off' copyright suit dismissed

Los Angeles  
**S**inger Taylor Swift's lawyers have asked a federal judge to dismiss the copyright lawsuit regarding her 2014 hit track "Shake it off".

According to the lawyers' argument on Wednesday, the phrase "players gonna play and haters gonna hate" is a musical cliché that should be in the public domain, reports *variety.com*.

In a footnote, they also cited numerous other references to "players" and "haters" in pop culture, including the 1977 song "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac, which includes the lyric -- "Players only love you when they are playing", and "Playa hater", the 1997 Notorious B.I.G. song.

Swift was sued in September, 2017 by songwriters Sean Hall and Nathan Butler. They have also co-penned "Playas gon' play" for the girl group 3LW in 2001. (IANS)

Louis Tomlinson @Louis\_Tomlinson  
Whichever way we end up doing it I'll make it as fair as possible !



## 'Bright' sequel with Will Smith in works

Los Angeles

**A**merican internet entertainment company Netflix will move forward with a sequel to "Bright" -- a fantasy film starring Will Smith and Joel Edgerton. According to Netflix, David Ayer, who helmed "Bright", will write and direct the sequel. Smith and Edgerton are expected to return as an LAPD officer and his orc partner respectively. Original screenwriter Max Landis will not return.

"Bright" got mixed reviews when it opened on December 22. Ayer picked up a story with modern-day sensibilities but added mythological characters to give it a fantastical touch -- while addressing real issues.

The action-thriller tells the story of two police officers, one human, the other an orc, who get thrown in together but bond and get to know each other during a rough night. (IANS)



## BLANCHETT TO BE CANNES JURY PRESIDENT

Los Angeles

**O**scar-winning actress Cate Blanchett will be the 12th woman to lead the jury of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

The officials of the festival announced the news on Wednesday, reports *variety.com*.

The actress will preside over the competition for the fest's 71st edition, which will take place from May 8-19.

"I have been to Cannes in many guises over the years; as an actress, producer, in the marketplace, the gala-sphere and in competition. But never solely for the sheer pleasure of watching the cornucopia of films this great festival harbours," Blanchett said in a statement. (IANS)



## Now you know it



Canadian singer-songwriter Shawn Mendes gained his popularity through video-sharing app Vine, where he would release six-second snippets of him signing renditions of popular songs (*thefactsite*)





STARRY  
Birthday  
Coco Jones

January 4, 1998

She rose to fame for her role as Roxie on the Disney Channel movie Let It Shine. Disney featured her on the radio program Next Big Thing, or N.B.T.

# Brad Pitt uses real name when flirting

Los Angeles  
**A**ctor-producer Brad Pitt prefers to use his given name for flirting.  
Pitt flirted with a woman and introduced himself as “William” on a caffeine run at Coffee Commissary here.  
“He arrived by motorcycle, wearing sunglasses, jeans and a leather jacket,” a source told *pagesix.com*.  
The source added: “Pitt struck up a conversation with a blonde in line. She was acting overly bubbly and looked a little like Kate Bosworth, but it wasn’t her.  
“When the woman said, ‘I’m Lydia’, Pitt put out his hand and said, ‘Hi, I’m William’. She replied, ‘Oh, you look like a Bradley’. And he responded, ‘Well, that’s my middle name’ and smiled and winked at her.” (IANS)



# Bruno Mars collaborates with Cardi B

Los Angeles  
**G**rammy winning singer Bruno Mars has teamed up with hip-hop star Cardi B for a new remix of “Finesse”. The song is from Mars third album, “24K Magic”.  
“We out here! #FinesseVideo,” Mars tweeted yesterday. Cardi B also shared a brief video of the song and wrote: “I had so much fun doing this video. It felt like a BBQ.” This year, Mars has received six Grammy nominations including Album of the Year and Record of the Year for “24K Magic”. The 60th annual Grammy Awards will take place on January 28. (IANS)



1. Perfect  
Ed Sheeran Duet With Beyonce

# TOP 10 Songs this Week



2. Rockstar  
Post Malone Featuring 21 Savage



3. Havana  
Camila Cabello  
Featuring Young Thug



4. No Limit  
G-Eazy Featuring A\$AP Rocky & Cardi B



5. Thunder  
Imagine Dragons



6. Gucci Gang  
Lil Pump



7. MotorSport  
Migos, Nicki Minaj & Cardi B



8. Too Good At Goodbyes  
Sam Smith



9. Bad At Love  
Halsey



10. Bodak Yellow (Money Moves)  
Cardi B

(billboard)



# 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 MCM. MCM 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

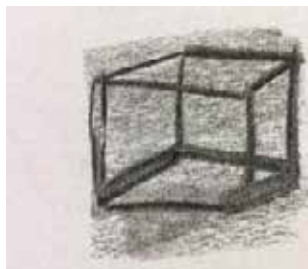
Four Seasons is offering a wide selection of Arabic favorites such as lamb Ouzi, cold mezzes and much more. It's just the perfect offer for you and your family. End your Saturday fun with a tasty shisha on the terrace.

### 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: KAHAAANI, 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.



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Friday, January 5, 2018

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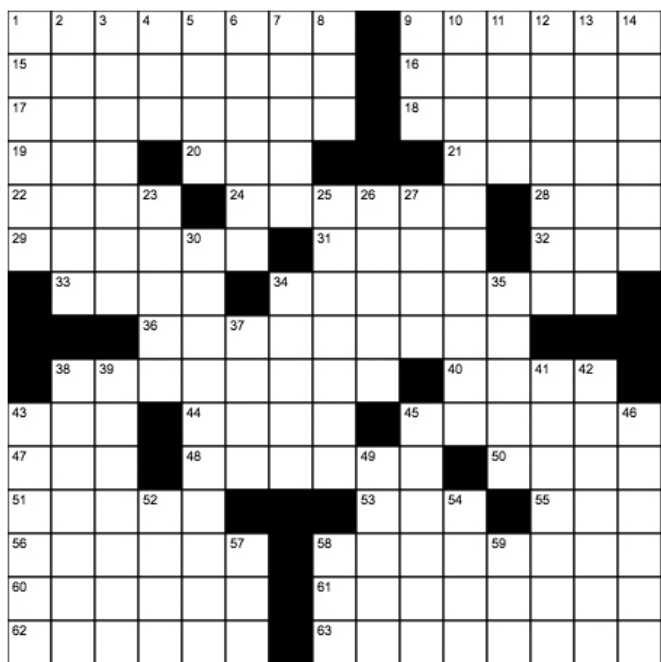
Lineage 11am  
Display 9am  
Cancellation 12pm

### WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday  
8 am - 6 pm



## CROSSWORD



### Across

1- Long-finned tuna; 9- Ad astra per \_\_\_\_; 15-Interlocution; 16- Frightens; 17- Piano composition; 18- Biblical dancing girl; 19- Mandela's org.; 20- Shade of green; 21- \_\_\_\_ your life!; 22- Eye drop; 24- John of "Full House"; 28- Fingers; 29- Bars legally; 31- Extinct flightless bird; 32- Bee follower; 33- Shrivelled, without moisture; 34- Textile fabric; 36- Mayfly; 38- Pertaining to time; 40- \_\_\_\_ Romeo; 43- Bleat of a sheep; 44- \_\_\_\_ go brag!; 45- Begg; 47- Naval rank, briefly; 48- Hunting cat; 50- Blind piece; 51- Room at the top; 53- Droop; 55- EMT's skill; 56- Fit with clothes; 58- Renounce; 60- Cantankerous; 61- Produces milk; 62- Disease of livestock; 63- Softshell clams;

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



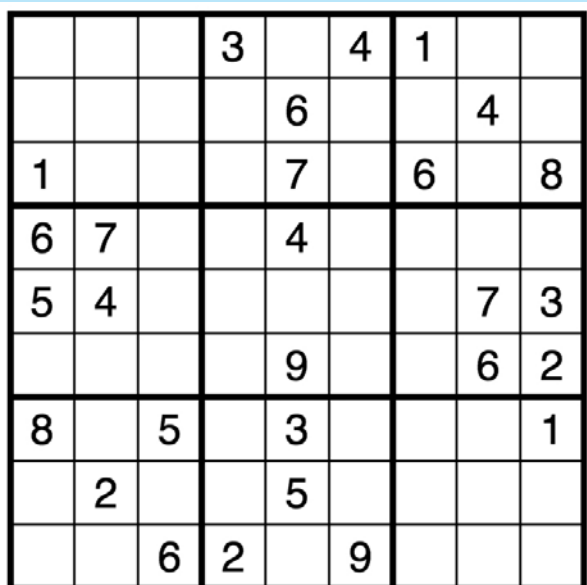
### Down

1- Congenitally attached; 2- Pride woman; 3- Berrylike; 4- High-pitched; 5- \_\_\_\_ d'etat; 6-Female beast; 7- Attack; 8- Wide shoe size; 9- Pompous sort; 10- Adapted for climbing; 11-\_\_\_\_ Alto, CA; 12- Blue books?; 13- Reconstruct; 14- In \_\_\_\_ (sort of); 23- Composer Ned; 25- Inflexible; 26- Highway stop; 27- Baltic feeder; 30- Mill morsel; 34- Reason for a raise; 35-Runs without moving; 37- Israeli dance; 38- Blast of a trumpet; 39- Shifting eastward; 41- Hooked; 42- Power plug transformer; 43- English photographer; 45- Caper; 46- Emphasis; 49- Convocation of witches; 52- Intestinal sections; 54- " \_\_\_\_ grip!"; 57- Scandinavian rug; 58- Gore and Hirt; 59- Leg, slangily;

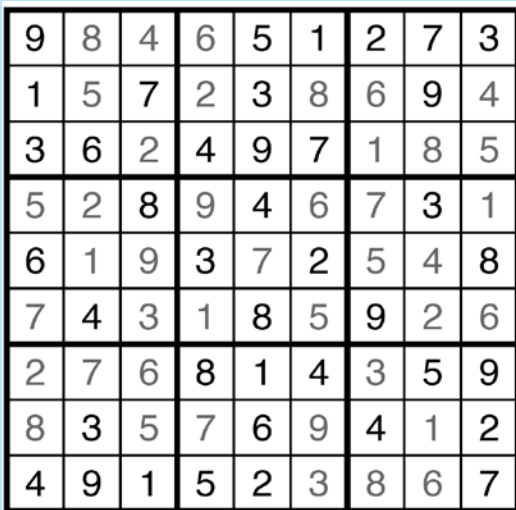
## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### 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)



Someone close to you might not be feeling very well, and you might feel the need to remain nearby and take care of this person. By all means do this. However, bear in mind that your empathic abilities are operating at a very high level today, and therefore you could actually experience some of their discomfort.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



A goal that you may have been working toward for a long time might still seem very distant right now. Therefore, today you could actually find yourself giving up on it. This doesn't imply that what you want will never happen. In fact, sometimes letting go of a dream can actually cause it to manifest.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



A member of your household may be having troubles, and therefore you might consider staying home from work in order to help them get through it all. Nonetheless, you have career responsibilities that you need to fulfill. Whether to stay home or go to work may be a difficult decision to make today, but be sure you weigh all possible factors.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



An important career concern could require considerable effort on your part today in order to enable you to advance whatever it is you're trying to accomplish. At some point during the day, you may be plagued by doubts as to your ability to do this. However, don't let this cause you to panic. All you need is to muster a little energy and stay focused.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



A trip that you wanted to take may have to be postponed, probably for financial reasons. You'll want to make the journey in the company of someone who's financially strapped right now. This could be disappointing, but remember that this is only a delay. You'll be able to have your vacation at a later date. Don't be afraid to start making the arrangements.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



The need to complete an important task could have you mustering a far higher level of self-control than you're used to. Perseverance and determination could dominate your mood, and therefore you could accomplish wonders. However, be sure to take breaks occasionally, and remember to relax from time to time. Above all, don't be so focused on your work that you forget to eat.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



A business or romantic partner could be in a rather schizoid mood today. You'll probably spend a lot of time together, and during the course of the day your friend could jump between enthusiasm and gloom. This could drive you crazy, as you won't know how to respond. All you can do is make sure all attention stays focused on the issues at hand.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Generally, you tend to be rather ingenious where work is concerned, but today you may feel that the fountain of innovation has totally dried up. No matter how hard you try, you probably won't be able to muster any new ideas whatsoever. Chances are your biorhythms are low, and therefore your mind is working at a slower pace than usual. Concentrate on routine tasks today.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



A crisis of values may confront you today. Someone you care about might need you to do something for them that you don't feel comfortable doing, and this could put you in a tough spot. You probably won't want to do it, but your friend needs your help. Consider every possible contingency before saying yes or no.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today you might feel a little gloomy without knowing why, and you could spend a lot of time trying to find a reason. There probably isn't any concrete reason. It's likely that you're simply responding to low biorhythms. This is, therefore, a great day to go for a workout. This way you can get the endorphins going and feel a lot better by late afternoon. Then you should actually feel like going out.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



A close friend or love partner you haven't seen for a while could finally make arrangements to see you. You therefore could spend much of the day in a great mood, looking forward to the encounter ahead. You'll have a lot of fascinating information to share. It might be a good idea to cut your visit a little shorter than you'd like and make arrangements for another meeting.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



The house might seem rather empty today, as most of the other members of your household are probably out and about. This is, however, a good time for you to take care of some projects of your own that you've been putting off. They might be tedious and rather boring, but think how good you'll feel when they're done! In the evening you might entertain some visitors.



# Did N.Korean missile hit own city?

Representative image

**Seoul** **N**orth Korea may have accidentally hit one of its own cities with a missile, it has been claimed.

Satellite images show damage caused by a failed test launch that struck Tokchon, a city of 200,000 in the interior of Kim Jong-un's secretive state, according to a US government official.

The Hwasong KN-17 medium-range rocket was fired from Pukchang Airfield in South Pyongan Province, 40 miles north of Pyongyang on April 28 last year, it is claimed.

But it failed shortly after take-off, the Diplomat reports, before crashing down in the Chongsin-dong area of Tokchon, apparently damaging what looks like an agricultural or industrial building.

The unnamed source

pointed out where the rocket had landed and Google Earth images taken on May 18 last year, just weeks after the launch, appear to show damage to a greenhouse-style structure at the same spot.

The official, who is described as having knowledge of North Korea's weapons programmes, told the Diplomat that the missile's flight lasted just one minute before suffering engine malfunction and travelling 25 miles northeast before crashing down.

Had it completed its flight without failing, it may have been destined to land in the northern parts of the Sea of Japan, the Diplomat reports.

There have been no reported deaths as a result of the apparent stray rocket, but the damaged building is close to heavily populated areas.

In November, North Korea

test-fired its most powerful ICBM ever which is likely capable of striking almost anywhere on earth.

Kim Jong-un could be seen walking alongside a huge new mobile launch platform, which Pyongyang said was specifically constructed for the missile, before the rocket was maneuvered into place.

The Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile was launched eastward from Pyongsong in North Korea's South Pyongan Province.

It flew for around 50 minutes, reaching an unprecedented altitude of 2,800 miles, before splashing down in the Sea of Japan around 620 miles away.

It marked the first missile launched since one was fired across Japan and into the Pacific Ocean on September 15. (Reuters)

## #PollToday



**Reports say that North Korean missile has landed in its own soil after engine malfunction. Do you think the country could terribly fail if it engages in a war?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"It is absolutely unacceptable that North Korea is trampling the strong desire of Japan and the rest of the international community for peaceful resolutions and continuing with its provocative behaviour."

**Shinzo Abe**  
Japan's Prime Minister

## Rest in sight

**SA train blaze after fatal collision**



At least 12 people were killed and 180 injured in South when a passenger train collided with a truck and burst into flames

**Rare 'bomb cyclone' hits eastern US**

The East Coast of the USA is likely to be slammed by a "bomb cyclone", as a rapidly intensifying Atlantic storm heads inland.

**Deadly storm blasts across Europe**

French Alps were on maximum avalanche alert after Storm Eleanor swept through Europe, killing at least three people, grounding planes and fanning wildfires in Corsica.

**Taiwanese man probed over N Korea oil sales**

A Taiwanese businessman is under investigation on suspicion of selling oil to North Korea in violation of UN sanctions.

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## Indian pilots grounded after 'mid-air row'

**Mumbai**

**A**n Indian airline said yesterday it had grounded two pilots over allegations they had a fight and both briefly stormed out of the cockpit during a New Year's Day flight from London to Mumbai.

Jet Airways is investigating claims that a male pilot slapped his female colleague during a heated argument while the plane was in the air with 324 passengers on board.

Reports in several Indian newspapers, quoting unnamed sources, said the

mid-air altercation led the female pilot to leave the cockpit in tears and she had to be persuaded to go back in by cabin crew.

At one point the male pilot also left the cockpit, leaving the controls briefly unattended, the Times of India claimed.

"A misunderstanding occurred between the cockpit crew... However, the same was quickly resolved amicably and the flight... continued its journey to Mumbai, landing safely,"

Jet said in a statement. (AFP)

## Qatari-owned jewels stolen in audacious Venice robbery



Jewelled objects on display at the Treasures of the Mughals and Maharajahs Exhibition at Doge's Palace in Venice

**Venice**

**T**hieves made off with several items of Indian maharajas' treasures owned by a member of the Qatari royal family after an audacious heist on Wednesday at the Doge's Palace in Venice, police said.

Italian authorities investigating the theft put at around €1 million (US\$1.2 million) the overall value of

the collection of Treasures of the Mughals and the Maharajahs on display. News reports estimated the value of the stolen items in the millions of euros.

Two thieves got away with earrings and a brooch on the final day of a four-month exhibition covering some 270 items showcasing five centuries of Indian craftsmanship. (AFP)

## Fat hedgehogs put on diet

**Ramat Gan, Israel**

**S**herman, an adult hedgehog, was brought to the Israeli wildlife hospital in the Ramat Gan Safari Zoo two months ago when he could barely walk.

The medical team quickly realised there was nothing wrong with his legs. He was simply overweight.

Sherman weighed 1.6kg, almost twice the average hedgehog weight of between 600 to 900g.

Just like the more than 10 dangerously-overweight hedgehogs who were brought to the hospital before him in the past months, Sherman was immediately put on a strict weight watchers programme with a personalised exercise plan and controlled feedings. (Reuters)



**An overweight hedgehog sits on top of a scale displaying the weight at Ramat Gan Safari Zoo**



# Root falls short as Aussies fight back

## BRIEF SCORE

England 5 for 233 (Root 83, Malan 55\*) v Australia

England's Dawid Malan plays a shot (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

### Sydney

England skipper Joe Root again missed out on an elusive first century in the series as Australia fought back with two late wickets on the opening day of the fifth Test yesterday.

Root was out to a superb diving catch by Mitchell Marsh at square leg for 83 in the day's penultimate over before Jonny Bairstow was caught behind in the final over.

Root slumped to his haunches in dismay after missing out on a hundred following his fourth half-century of the series.

Root and Malan recovered

England's first innings with a 133-run stand after the tourists had slumped to 95 for three following the loss of Melbourne double-centurion Alastair Cook.

Malan lived a charmed life in his half-century, surviving a run out attempt and a dropped Steve Smith catch to provide stoic support for his skipper.

At the close, England were 233 for five with Malan left unbeaten on 55 off 160 balls when Bairstow was caught behind off Josh Hazlewood for five.

Root reached his half-century off 82 balls cover driving Mitchell Marsh for four, but Malan was fortunate

not to be run out two balls later.

Malan, on 28, cut towards backward point and there was confusion over the run with Root steaming down the pitch and Malan stuttering and then setting off for the non-striker's end.

But the throw from wicketkeeper Tim Paine was off target and bowler Nathan Lyon was unable to effect the run out with Malan well out of his ground.

Malan had another life on 34 when Smith dropped a sharp ankle-high chance at slip off Lyon.

Only last week in Melbourne Smith put down two catches in Alastair Cook's

unbeaten double century.

Cook, who carried his bat through the England first innings in the fourth Test for an unbeaten 244, looked on his way to another big score until Josh Hazlewood struck in the 33rd over.

Hazlewood's leg before wicket appeal was turned down on-field, but on review the ball was found to be just pitching in line with the left-hander's leg stump and hitting middle and Cook was given out for 39 off 104 balls.

It was the third time in the series Cook has fallen lbw and it left him just five runs short of 12,000 career Test runs in his 152nd Test match. (AFP)

## Ferrari's final step will be the hardest

### London

Ferrari's final step back to becoming a Formula 1 world champion again will be the hardest, admits Sebastian Vettel.

Though Ferrari made a huge improvement in 2017 to go from a winless '16 F1 season to challenging Mercedes for the title, it has still not taken a driver to the championship since Kimi Raikkonen's 2007 success or won a constructors' crown since '08.

Vettel believes Ferrari can carry its momentum from last year into 2018, but acknowledged going from underdog title challenger to being capable of ending Mercedes' four-season run of championship doubles was another step.

"Obviously the regulations stay roughly the same. I think we have a good and healthy platform to build on at the beginning of the year so I hope we can continue," said Vettel.

"What we have to do is take that final step. If you look back it's always that final step that's the hardest.

"There's a lot of work going on already and for the last couple of months focusing on next year, trying to make the car faster, with more power into the power unit, and then we'll see where we are."

Prior to 2017, Ferrari had not been in a championship fight since Fernando Alonso's 2010 near-miss and his shock title shot in '12 (above) in a car that was rarely a match for the frontrunners.

It was the first time Vettel had been a title contender since the last of his four straight successes with Red Bull in 2013.

"In the end as a driver you want to win, and obviously when you are competitive at the beginning you don't know if it will be enough to fight for the championship," he said. (autosport)



Sebastian Vettel (file pic)

## De Villiers hungry for big test runs

### Cape Town

South Africa are backing AB de Villiers to show his class and score heavily as he continues his return to the test arena, captain Faf du Plessis said ahead of their three-test series against India.

Former world No.1 batsman De Villiers took almost two years out of first-class cricket to concentrate on the shorter formats and spend more time with his young family. But the 33-year-old is now back for South Africa as they begin a busy home schedule with the opening test against India at Newlands today.

"What's important with AB is that he is fresh and hungry to score big runs. He has had a good break," said Du Plessis yesterday.

"He feels mentally strong

and he wants to put in big performances, so I think that's half the battle already. When you have a high-quality player like him, if you get the mental side of things right, he can be a good asset."

De Villiers scored a quick-fire half century -- his 40th in test cricket -- on his test return in the brief Boxing Day test against Zimbabwe in Port Elizabeth last week, but this will be a much tougher examination.

"I don't know when the next test series against India is, but it's probably the last time a lot of us play against India and there's no better way than playing a series in South Africa," Du Plessis said of South Africa's experienced line-up. (Reuters)



AB de Villiers (file pic)



# Late Bellerin goal gives Arsenal draw

London

**H**ector Bellerin's stunning injury-time strike earned Arsenal a point against Chelsea in one of the most entertaining matches of the Premier League season so far.

The two sides shared an incredible 33 chances, with the heroic keeping of Gunners' Petr Cech and Blues' Thibaut Courtois ensuring only four goals were conceded. Courtois had made exceptional stops to deny Alexis Sanchez and Alexandre Lacazette before he was finally beaten when Jack Wilshere fired high past him in the 63rd minute.

The lead only lasted four minutes, Eden Hazard converting from the spot to level after his foot had been caught by Bellerin.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger labelled Anthony Taylor's decision "farcical", adding "you could give 10 penalties like that a game".

Chelsea must have thought they had secured all three points when Marcos Alonso flicked home substitute Davide Zappacosta's low cross after 84 minutes.

But in the second minute of stoppage time, Bellerin produced an exceptional half-volley to earn the Gunners a point. There was more drama

seconds from the end when Zappacosta's shot thundered off Cech's crossbar.

It was error-strewn and exhilarating end to a back-breaking festive period for both sides. Arsenal, playing their sixth game in 19 days, just had the upper-hand in the opening exchanges.

Sanchez saw a shot come off both posts after a stunning stop from Courtois, before the Belgian pushed away a low strike from Lacazette.

The French summer signing was a constant menace to the Blues' defence. He had another low effort come off the heel of Courtois and was denied again when

his turn and shot was pushed around the post.

However, it was the unlikely sources of Wilshere and Bellerin - with just two goals between them in all competitions this season at kick-off - who managed to find a way past Courtois.

Wilshere, who had not scored in the top flight since May 2015, gave the Gunners the lead when he smashed home high past the goalkeeper from eight yards.

And with the Gunners staring at defeat, Bellerin, who conceded the penalty, produced a brilliant side-foot half-volley to raise the roof at the Emirates. (BBC)

## Costa back with a bang as Atletico thrash Lleida

Diego Costa celebrates his first goal (Picture courtesy: theguardian)



London

**D**iego Costa enjoyed a typically eventful return to action for Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, scoring within six minutes of coming off the bench in his side's 4-0 Copa del Rey win at Lleida Esportiu but appearing to injure his knee in the process.

Costa turned Juanfran's low cross into the net in the 69th minute for Atletico's third goal in the first leg of the last 16 tie against third division Lleida but immediately limped to the sidelines. He did return to the pitch, however, and completed the game.

Diego Godin had headed Atletico in front in the 33rd minute following a free kick and Fernando Torres slid in to double the lead, completing a sweeping counter-attack although he was fortunate not to be ruled offside.

Antoine Griezmann completed the rout with a goal from a free kick in stoppage time, moments after the home side had defender Marc Trilles sent off for a second yellow card.

The win put Atletico on the verge of the quarter-

finals, with the second leg at their Wanda Metropolitano stadium on January 9.

Spain international Vitolo, a 40 million-euro signing from Sevilla who spent the first half of the season on loan at Las Palmas, also made his debut for Atletico by coming on in the second half.

Costa completed a £57million move back to Atletico from Chelsea in September, having left the club in 2014 after firing them to the Liga title. The move was delayed by the club's ban on registering new players which expired on January 1.

Costa gave his side an extra edge, charging into challenges and provoking opponents as well as starting and finishing the move for the third goal, his first strike for Atletico since scoring against Chelsea in April 2014. Last year's runners up Deportivo Alaves won 3-1 at tiny island side SD Formentera, while Sevilla beat Cadiz 2-0 with first-half goals from Nolito and Jesus Navas.

In the other match, Rodrigo grabbed a late equaliser for Valencia against Las Palmas. (Reuters)

## Vardy likely to miss FA Cup return to Fleetwood

London

**L**eicester striker Jamie Vardy is a major doubt for his fairytale return to Fleetwood on Saturday.

The England forward is struggling with a groin injury and is yet to train ahead of the FA Cup third round game at Highbury.

Vardy joined Leicester from Fleetwood for £1million in 2012 and has become an

international as well as winning a shock Premier League title in 2016.

But he is unlikely to make

an emotional return to the Cod Army after suffering the injury at Liverpool last weekend.

Boss Claude Puel said: "We will see. If he is not 100 per cent, then we will not risk him."

"He is not training with the team and is just doing some exercises in the gym so, for the moment, it is not good for him."

Wes Morgan and Danny Simpson are missing with hamstring injuries, but Adrien Silva is expected to start following his delayed debut on New Year's Day. The midfielder is now registered after the Foxes missed the deadline by 14 seconds in August as they tried to push through a £22million deal from Sporting Lisbon.

"For Simpson, I don't know when he can come back into competition," said Puel. "For now, he is in the gym. (eurosport)



Ainsley Maitland Niles of Arsenal and Cesc Fabregas of Chelsea battle for possession



Hopman Cup

# Roger Federer, Bencic cruise

Perth

**R**oger Federer secured another victory for Team Switzerland in the Hopman Cup yesterday with a 7-6, 7-5 win over USA's Jack Sock, while team-mate Belinda Bencic followed suit with a 7-6, 6-4 win over CoCo Vandeweghe.

Federer opened the match with an ace, giving his opponent an idea of what was to come, putting Sock under pressure to make a number of unforced errors in the opening set. Nonetheless, the American held out to a tie-break, eventually losing.

Sock put up a good effort against the former world no.1 but Federer was back on form in the second set, and able to serve out the set to win, despite a few

errors on his part.

In previous rounds, Team Switzerland claimed clean sweeps against both Japan and Russia.

Later yesterday, Federer's team-mate Belinda Bencic beat CoCo Vandeweghe 7-6, 6-4 which was enough to seal their place in the final - the first time Switzerland has reached this stage of the

competition since 2001.

In the morning session at Perth, Russia took on Japan, with Karen K h a c h a n o v

despatching Yuichi Sugita 6-4, 6-2, while Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova could not hold off Naomi Osaka who won 6-4, 3-6, 7-6. In the mixed doubles match, Russia won 4-1, 4-0.

Switzerland will meet with the winners of Group A in the final on Saturday. (eurosport)

Federer returns the ball

## Kyle Edmund reaches last eight

Brisbane

**K**yle Edmund beat Chung Hyeon in three sets to reach the quarter-finals of the Brisbane International as he continues to fly the flag for Britain in Australia.

The 22-year-old was on court for two hours and 40 minutes in beating the South Korean 7-6 (7-3) 5-7 6-4.

Separated by just eight spots in the world ranking, Edmund edged a tight opening set in a tie-break, which failed to yield a single break of serve. The Brit saved a break point in game 11 before reeling off six straight points in the tie-break from 1-3 down.

Edmund then failed to capitalise on an early break in the second set,

before winning an equally close decider. He broke in game seven, before missing out on two match points in the ninth, but served out to 15 to book his spot in the last eight.

The world No 50 will now face defending champion Grigor Dimitrov for a place in the last four after the No 1 seed came through a tough test against John Millman.

The Australian wildcard won the opening set before Dimitrov took the next on a tie-break. The Bulgarian world No 3, who saved two match points in the second-set tie-break, then clinched the decider to win 4-6 7-6 (10-8) 6-3.

Edmund's victory was one piece of bright news for British tennis fans following the retirement of Johanna Konta from her quarter-final clash against Elina Svitolina in the women's singles in Brisbane. (skysports)

Kyle Edmund

## Murray withdraws from Australian Open



Andy Murray

London

**A**ndy Murray has withdrawn from the Australian Open because of an ongoing hip problem. The 30-year-old had already pulled out of the Brisbane International event but has now announced he will play no part in the first grand slam of 2018, which starts in Melbourne on January 15.

"Sadly I won't be playing in Melbourne this year, as I am not yet ready to compete," he said.

"I'll be flying home shortly to assess all the options but I appreciate all the messages of support and I hope to be back playing soon."

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley added: "We are fully aware that Andy has been going through a

difficult period with his hip and that he's done everything possible to prepare for the Australian summer.

"Personally, I also know that Andy loves tennis and would do anything to play. This is a very hard decision for Andy and we totally respect it.

"We wish him the absolute best on his road to recovery and look forward to having him back in Melbourne. He is a true champion and one of our favourites."

Murray has not played a competitive match since Wimbledon last summer.

He released a statement on his social media pages on Tuesday where he admitted he was considering surgery to assess the problem, though his preference is to continue rehab and hope that prompts a recovery. (eurosport)

Brisbane

**J**ohanna Konta was forced to retire from the Brisbane International due to injury in her quarter-final clash with Elina Svitolina yesterday.

Ukraine's Svitolina was leading 1-6 7-6 (8/6) 3-2 when Konta called time on her participation at the Pat Rafter Arena after seeking treatment two games earlier.

The British number one had looked in fine form, particularly in the first set, but will now turn her attention to getting fit for the Australian Open later this month.

Konta appeared to be suffering with a right hip problem and, with the first grand slam of the year beginning on January 15, decided not to risk further injury.

Svitolina told *wtatennis.com*: "It's the worst thing that can happen to a player, especially when it happens during a match. It's always very disappointing.

"Hopefully Jo will recover quickly and we will see her back on court soon. She played a really good match today and you can see she's really playing well."

Konta had not reached a quarter-final of an event since August but looked to have returned to form after dominating the first set in which she saved all four break points against her serve.

Svitolina twice served her way out of trouble in the second set to force a tie-break which she eventually won. (eurosport)

Johanna Konta (Picture courtesy: eurosport)

## Konta retires hurt from Brisbane



Austria Marathon

# Ruth clinches first place



Ruth Jebet (file pic)

**Vienna**  
**B**ahrain's Olympic runner Ruth Jebet has caught the limelight internationally once again as she won the first place in the 5-kilometre distance Austria International Marathon.

Rose Chelimo won the third place in the marathon competition; and, Abraham Cheroben assumed the fourth place in the men's 8-kilometre distance race.

This reflects the success of Bahraini sprinters and their outstanding performance at all levels.

Ruth also won the second place in the annual ranking of the US-based Track and Field News Magazine for best runners.

It is worth mentioning that Ruth Jebet had won a golden medal in Rio Olympiad 2016 in Brazil.

# I'm going to the Giro to win again

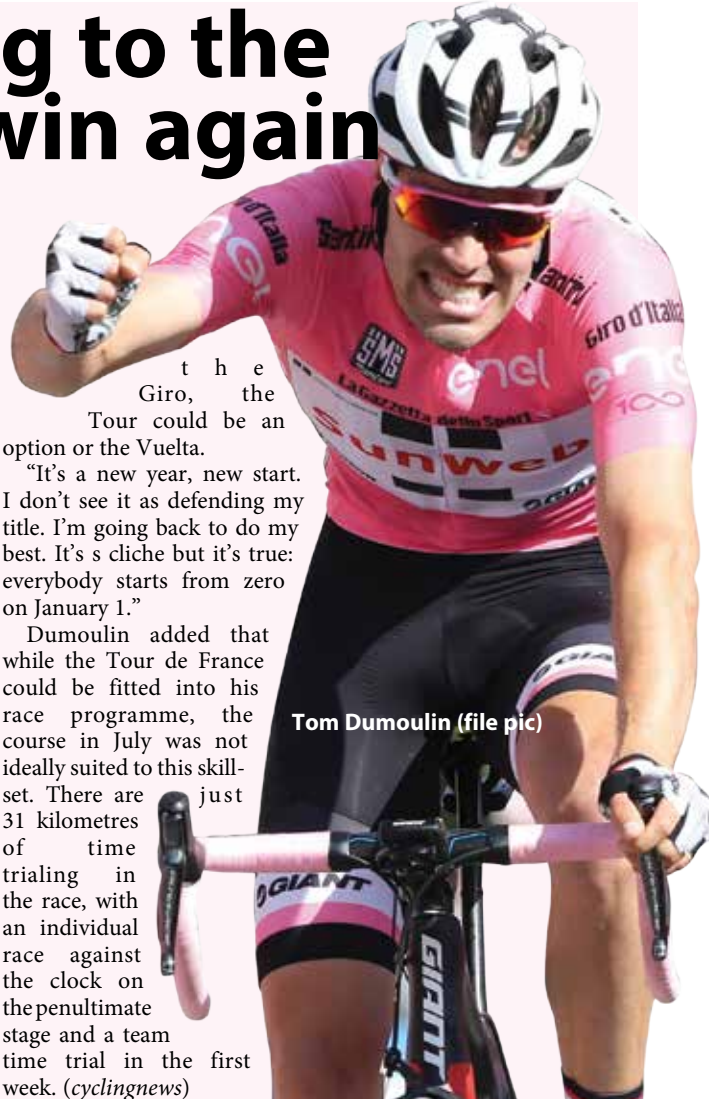
**Berlin**  
**T**om Dumoulin has confirmed that he will target the defence of his Giro d'Italia crown in 2018. The 2017 race winner confirmed the news on stage at the Team Sunweb presentation in Berlin yesterday.

The Dutchman also hinted that the Tour de France could also feature on his race programme but that he was also toying with the idea of competing in the Vuelta a España later in the season.

"We looked at the courses of Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France and the Giro was more favourable to me. I'd like to go for the win again," the 27-year-old said to media attending the presentation.

Dumoulin also confirmed that he would retrace his pre-Giro d'Italia steps from 2017 with an identical race calendar this season.

"It's exactly the same as last year. I'll do Abu Dhabi, Strade Bianche, Tirreno-Adriatico, Milan-San Remo, an altitude camp and then Liège-Bastogne-Liège. I'll skip Amstel [Gold Race] again with pain in my heart. Then I'll head to the Giro. After



Tom Dumoulin (file pic)

the Giro, the Tour could be an option or the Vuelta.

"It's a new year, new start. I don't see it as defending my title. I'm going back to do my best. It's a cliché but it's true: everybody starts from zero on January 1."

Dumoulin added that while the Tour de France could be fitted into his race programme, the course in July was not ideally suited to this skill-set. There are just 31 kilometres of time trialing in the race, with an individual race against the clock on the penultimate stage and a team time trial in the first week. (cyclingnews)

# Thiem, Rublev book semi spots in Doha

**Doha**  
**T**op seed Dominic Thiem and Russian Andrey Rublev progressed to the Qatar Open semi-finals in Doha after grinding out victories over Stefanos Tsitsipas and Borna Coric yesterday. Greece's Tsitsipas, who ousted French fifth seed Richard Gasquet on Wednesday, took the early lead in the first set but Thiem, the only seeded player still in contention for the season-



Dominic Thiem

opening title, fought back to win 7-5 6-4.

"I was serving well again today and returning well. That's what I was working on in the off-season so it already pays off now," Thiem said.

Croatian Coric was expected to overcome Rublev after beating Pablo Carreno Busta in the opening round but the 20-year-old Russian won 6-3 7-5 to set up a semi-final against Guido Pella.

Both Pella and his quarter-final opponent Mirza Basic were surprise contenders in the last eight after knocking out top seeded players and the Argentine world number 64 cruised to a 6-2 6-3 victory over the Bosnian. World number five Thiem will face the winner of the match between France's Gael Monfils and German Peter Gojowczyk in the last four. (Reuters)

# Tiger to start 2018 campaign at Farmers Insurance Open

**London**  
**F**ormer world number one Tiger Woods will make his much-anticipated 2018 debut at this month's Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego, his first official PGA Tour event since missing the cut at the same tournament last year.

Woods, who returned to competition last month in an 18-man exhibition after a near 10-month layoff during which he had spinal fusion surgery, will also play the Feb. 15-18 Genesis Open at Riviera, which is run by the Tiger Woods Foundation.

"I'm very excited to be back at Riviera," Woods, 42, said in a statement on his website yesterday.

"I haven't played at Riviera in a very long time. To be able to play in an event that I used to come to as an amateur, as a junior and now as the tournament host, that is on one of the most historic sites in all of golf, it's a dream come true."

The American 14-times major champion swung freely and with no sign of back pain at last month's Hero World Challenge, where he began his latest comeback and finished tied for ninth in a field including eight of the world's top 10 golfers.

The Farmers Insurance Open begins on January 25 at Torrey Pines. (Reuters)



Tiger Woods (file pic)



The Mayball Solutions SPC held a Family Cricket Fest in gulf air club on 29th December, which was exclusive for families. Team United Boyz win the trophy and Team Kudla Challengers were runners up



## Shenzhen Open

# Sharapova Halep ease into semis

### Shenzhen

**F**or **mer** world number one Maria Sharapova cruised past Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas and into the semi-finals of the Shenzhen Open in China yesterday.

Sharapova, who won 6-3, 6-3, struck 24 winners and five aces to stay on course for a title clash with top-ranked Simona Halep after the Romanian dismissed Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2.

"I'm glad that I ended up being the winner of the match," Sharapova said in a courtside interview. "I didn't play my best tennis and there's certainly a lot of things to improve on in the next. The great thing is that I'm through and have another chance to play tomorrow."

The five-times grand slam champion committed 22 unforced errors in the match but stepped up her game at decisive moments of the contest to get past her spirited rival.

Sharapova's only title in 2017 came at the Tianjin Open, after she came back from a

15-month doping ban, and the world number 59 is aiming for a title-winning start to the year in her first visit to Shenzhen.

"I feel like I'm having a nice little tour of China. It's my fourth Chinese city in a few months," Sharapova added.

"It's obviously been a great welcome here. It took many years for me to play this event but I'm really glad that I did."

Sharapova plays Katerina Siniakova next after the defending champion beat fellow Czech Kristyna Pliskova 6-2, 6-2.

Earlier, fourth seed Irina-Camelia Begu had to work hard to overcome Timea Babos 7-5, 7-5 to set up a semifinal meeting with her compatriot Halep. (AFP)



Simona Halep



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts (Picture courtesy: Xinhua)

