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News of Bahrain

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From left: Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Kuwaiti Emir Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Qatari Emir Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Oman Deputy Premier Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, UAE Vice President and Dubai Ruler Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, GCC Secretary General Dr. Abdullah Al Zayani at the opening of the 37th GCC Summit

PHOTO CREDIT: MOHAMMED THASLEEM

DT News Network Manama

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries must upgrade and activate defence and security pacts in order to confront threats of terrorism; protect Gulf nations and its people; and preserve achievements, said

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, stressing that security and development are interrelated.

He was speaking as the chair of the inaugural session of the 37th GCC Summit, which opened yesterday at the Al Sakhir Palace in the presence of distinguished

guests. HM King welcomed the GCC leaders, stressing deep-rooted fraternal relations binding member states and peoples.

"Our meeting convenes in the backdrop of unprecedented political and economic circumstances which affect all countries in the world," King Hamad said, urging the highest level of cooperation.

"This can help the GCC pursue its successful march and influential role in the international arena."

King Hamad also paid tribute to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, hailing the leader's farsighted vision that contributed largely to elaborating the work orientations of the future.

HM King also commended GCC Secretary-General Dr Adbullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, assistants and General-Secretariat staff for consolidating the council.

(see pages 2,3,4 and 5)

Highlights of HM King's speech

- Success of the GCC member states in confronting extremism and terrorism cherished
- The Arab Security 1 drill is as an essential quantum leap towards strengthening security cooperation among the GCC countries
- GCC Common Market, the power and water grid, the planned customs union and the modern telecommunications and transportation network projects appreciated
- The Economic Development Commission's role in bolstering member states and enhancing sustainable development stressed
- GCC's pivotal and active role in seeking political solutions and initiatives to the crisis facing countries emphasized.

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CP, PM meet UK Prime Minister



The Crown Prince and the Prime Minister during a discussion with the British Prime Minister Theresa May, yesterday

Bahrain, UK for greater ties

DT News Network
Manama

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday

received and held discussions with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Theresa May.

During the meeting, HRH Prince Salman highlighted May's participation in the 37th

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit as a reflection of the long-standing ties.

Emphasizing shared commitments, Prince Salman also underscored the wide-ranging opportunities that

exist particularly in the economic, strategic and security areas to further develop bilateral ties.

While stressing on the importance of regular exchange of bilateral visits, the Crown Prince said that similar stances adopted by Bahrain and the UK on various issues served to expand bilateral ties and attain strategic goals.

The Crown Prince and UK Prime Minister also discussed a number of key issues of regional and international importance. Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa was also present.

The British Prime Minister was also earlier received by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The Prime Minister asserted that her participation in Summit reflects the strong GCC-British ties.

"Gulf security, our security"

The British Prime Minister Theresa May also took time out from the two-day trip yesterday to visit the Khalifa bin Salman Port. "Gulf security is our security," she said, while praising the strategic value of Britain's relations with the Kingdom.



Prince Khalifa receiving Theresa May

"This is a particularly special moment for me because it's my first time as Prime Minister on board a Royal Navy ship, and it's a very proud one too as I have the privilege of talking to you, our brave men and women, who put yourselves on the line to keep our country safe and protect Britain's interests," she said standing on the flight deck of HMS Ocean surrounded by 300 sailors, airmen and Marines.

"And as Britain steps up to forge a new, positive, confident role for our country on the global stage, the Royal Navy will be an important part of our vision, pursuing our objectives of security on land and at sea and helping to ensure the free flow of international trade," she added, highlighting the strategic importance of the

oil and gas supplies from the Middle East.

The Prime Minister also passed her festive greetings to British troops and said she was delighted to "see and hear for myself the terrific work that you're doing out here where, more than ever, Gulf security is our security".

To Riffa Fort

The British Prime Minister also found some time to visit the landmarks in Bahrain.

During a visit to Riffa Fort, she hailed the Bahraini talents lauding the 200-year-old UK-Bahrain relations.

She also interacted with a number of Bahraini youngsters. May was received by Southern Governor Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa.



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Theresa May during his visit on board HMS Ocean



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa receives the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to the 37th GCC Summit

**DT News Network
Manama**

The miserable situation in some Arab countries due to terrorism, domestic struggle and bloodshed, is an imperative result of the alliance of terrorism, sectarianism and flagrant interference, said the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

In his speech at the opening of the 37th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit in Bahrain yesterday, King Salman called for GCC leaders and people to intensify their efforts and work together in dealing with the current highly complicated circumstances in Arab region.

“The current situation in the region requires all of us to work together and deal with them with unity and determination so as to help boost the development and prosperity of our countries and people,” he said

King Salman further said that efforts were being exerted to end the struggle in Yemen, and is hopeful of achieving security and stability under the leadership of its legitimate government. This is also in

line with the GCC initiative, outcomes of the national dialogue and UN Security Council resolution No. 2216, thanks to the endeavours offered by the UN special envoy to Yemen.

“As for the situation in Syria, we are all saddened to see what is happening there, including killings, displacement and suffering of the Syrian people,” King Salman said adding that the world community should intensify efforts to stop bloodshed and find a political solution guaranteeing security and stability as well as preserving the unity and integrity.

“Despite the important achievements attained by the GCC, we should gear forward to a better future that guarantees the aspirations of the GCC citizens towards more prosperity and dignified

living that support the regional and international peace.”

King Salman also expressed his appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the government and people of Bahrain for the warm hospitality and good reception.

He also expressed satisfaction with the achievements attained by the competent agencies of the GCC council over the past year in accordance with mechanisms adopted by the council.

“The establishment of the Economic and Development Affairs Commission which began its work recently to promote joint action in the economic and development fields aims to raise the level of cooperation and coordination,” he stated.

“GCC leaders and people should intensify their efforts and work together in dealing with the highly complicated circumstances Arab region is facing now”

“Intensify efforts to confront terrorism”



PHOTO CREDIT: MOHAMMED THASLEEM

The flags of GCC countries taking part in the Summit are seen outside the venue



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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa receives the (from left) Emir of Kuwait HH Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister for Council of Ministers Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said and Emir of Qatar Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, upon their arrival yesterday to participate in the 37th GCC Summit hosted by Bahrain

GCC leaders express 'Dwindling oil prices a challenge'

DT News Network
Manama

The 37th GCC Summit comes amidst rapid international changes and critical conditions that require joint coordination among GCC countries, according to Kuwaiti Emir Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

"The region is currently faced with grave challenges, with dwindling oil prices being a major concern," he stated.

Shaikh Sabah stressed on the need for a shift in national ideologies as well as fresh cooperation in many fields, in order to cope with these challenges.

He also highlighted the need for increased strategies to bolster GCC cooperation to reinforce solidarity among the Gulf nations.

Meanwhile, he also maintained that terrorism posed a mounting threat to regional security and stability, calling for concerted efforts to eliminate it.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with the Emir of Kuwait Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah

The Emir recounted that Kuwait had hosted peace talks on Yemen to restore peace in the war-torn nation.

"The GCC also underscores firm support of a political

solution to the conflict in Syria," he said

Speaking on developments in Iraq, Shaikh Sabah expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the fight

against the so-called Islamic State (IS), as he wished the country a prosperous and bright future.

On the Palestinian conflict, the leader regretted that efforts



to establish peace remained at an impasse, noting that the international community was preoccupied with other issues.

On ties with Iran, he said there needs to be constructive

dialogue between the GCC and the Islamic Republic.

Shaikh Sabah also urged Tehran to cease meddling in the internal affairs of other nations.



GCC leaders take part in the Summit



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa welcomes the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE's Vice President and Prime Minister and the Ruler of Dubai to participate in the 37th GCC Summit here

“The current GCC Summit will help ensure better future for the citizens in the GCC states and greater role for the GCC on the regional and international areas,” Saudi King

solidarity with Kingdom



The stamps launched marking the 37th GCC Summit

GCC Summit stamps issued

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama
Two stamps marking the 37th GCC Summit, have been launched by the

Bahrain Post at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications. The stamps bear the photo of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The design is inspired from the logo of

the campaign launched by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA). The summit stamps are worth 250 fils and 500 fils and are available at all Bahrain Post branches.



Soldiers parade during the welcoming of GCC leaders to the Summit

PHOTO CREDIT: MOHAMMED THASLEEM

Public holiday on Prophet's birth anniversary

DT News Network
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Manama
The Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday issued a circular specifying the public holiday marking the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The Kingdom's ministries, directorates and public institutions will be closed on Sunday, December 11 (corresponding to 12 Rabi Al-Awwal 1438H).

GCC countries' relationship at its best: Minister

DT News Network
Manama

The GCC countries today experience the best phases in their relationships throughout history as there are no differences on viewpoints among them, according to

Minister of Information Affairs Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi.

The minister expressed his delight at the presence of more than 350 representatives from 52 Gulf, Arab and international media organisations,

including from the GCC countries, Morocco, Jordan, and Egypt.

The Minister affirmed the provision of all facilitations for media representatives and journalists to cover the 37th GCC Summit in Bahrain.

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ATM thief caught



Representational image

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A man who tried to steal from an ATM by breaking it open, has been arrested. The evidence was obtained from CCTV footage at the crime scene.

"The man came to the ATM with what appeared to be a crowbar and attempted to smash it open," according to official sources.

"When he failed to break open the machine from the top part, he tried to break it from the bottom.

"When all his attempts failed, and an alarm began to sound, he left the scene.

Fingerprints lead to arrest of robbers

DT News Network
Manama

Finger prints left on a juice bottle and CCTV footage helped nab two men who allegedly stole from Manama cold stores.

The knife wielding men robbed several stores at Abu Ghazal area in Manama. However they were caught, thanks to the prompt action of the police.

"We were told that the two men, possibly in their twenties, came to a cold store, behind the US Embassy, and demanded cash from the owner," an Interior Ministry official was

quoted in the ministry's *Al Amn* publication.

"After collecting the money, they made their way to another cold store in the area and repeated the same scene, again walking away with the day's collections."

A third cold store was also robbed, using the same modus-operandi. A police team dispatched to the crime scene found that two of the cold stores had no CCTV cameras installed, according to the official.

"All we were told was that two men came in a car, brandished a knife and left with



One of the coldstores that was robbed

the cash."

However the suspects were identified from the third cold store's CCTV footage. The officers were able to retrieve the registration number of

their car from a camera facing the road.

One of the suspects had left on the counter, a bottle of juice; he had taken from the store itself.

Following which, one of the suspects was nabbed shortly and questioning him led to the arrest of his accomplice.

The car and knife were also recovered along with the cash.

Upon further investigation, it was learnt that the duo were involved in similar crimes earlier. The men specifically targeted businesses that did not have a CCTV camera.

Install CCTV cameras

A Ministry official has urged business shops to install surveillance cameras.

"This is very useful in identifying prowlers and thieves. Investment in such systems is negligible but the benefits are several times greater."

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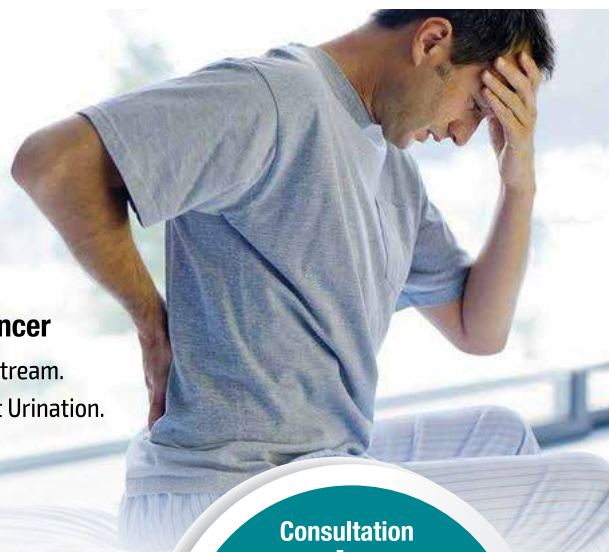
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This is in response to *DT News* story, "Father fakes kidnapping of son for money", published yesterday. As reported in your daily paper, the boy was found near a coffee shop yesterday evening in Juffair. It was also reported that this was a fake kidnap claim made by his father.

This is a criminal act and the father should be brought before the full law of Bahrain. I would just like to revert back to August 2016 when a small girl went missing, that person is now in jail for 5 years, so this father must also get the same fate. After he completes his sentence, he should be deported without taking into consideration his profession. He should also go on the offenders list for kidnapping a minor. He should be stripped of his Bahraini citizenship and deported as a criminal.

kindest Regards
N B

PET VET

Dr. Rajani Rajesh



Terrapins as pets

Terrapins are the small species of turtles living in fresh water. Terrapins are highly recommended choice as a starter pet. As pets, they come with a huge advantage of a longer average life expectancy (around 30 years), and also, they do not require any training, unlike most other pets.

Box terrapins are the most common pets and are also called box turtles. They are small in size and grow to maximum length of six inches. They are omnivorous, and so eat meat that includes fish, turkey, and chicken. Also, they eat a lot of vegetables and fruits. The disadvantage of keeping box terrapins as pets is that they require very careful handling and as such are not recommended as pets for little children. If the terrapin is dropped, the shell may break as the shell and skin are very sensitive. Reptiles can carry Salmonella. Wash your hands before and after handling the terrapin or its equipment, to reduce the spread of infection.

A healthy terrapin has clear, bright eyes and a smooth shell. The skin should be smooth and without blisters, which could be a sign of infection.

Terrapins can suffer from various ailments due to incorrect feeding or due to foul water. Some common conditions are soft shell due to lack of calcium. This can be corrected by offering small bits of cuttle- fishbone and cod liver oil with food. Blindness and other deformities are due to vitamin A and D deficiencies. This can be corrected by sunlight and cod-liver oil. Mouth infection can occur by foul water. Infected ones will be reluctant to eat with partly open mouth and have a nasty smell. Isolate them as it is infectious to others. In all these conditions it is better to seek a veterinary care as soon as possible.

(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.)

Pension hike rejection irks MPs



Al Ammadi

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhammad@dt.bh

Parliamentarians yesterday strongly denounced a Government decision to discard annual pension hike.

This comes as the Government rejected a proposal stipulating 3 to 4 percent annual hike in pension payment to employees in the public sector as suggested by lawmakers.

During the weekly session held in Gudaibiya yesterday, several MPs vented their ire at the decision.

MP Abdulrahman Bumjaid questioned the Government's justification to reject the



Al Ahmad

proposal. "The government is saying there are now insufficient funds to cover this increase. This makes us ask about the profits made by the Pensions Fund," Bumjaid said.

Sharing a similar opinion, the Council's Economic and Financial Committee Deputy Chairman Mohammed Al Ahmad said, "We understand that our proposal brings additional expenses. But shouldn't the government be more concerned about the millions of wasted Dinars rather than the pension expenses." "This rejection by the government leaves us in a fix. What should now we



Al Bakri

possibly do to enhance their living standards?" laments Al Ahmad.

MP Jalal Kadhem pointed out that the 4pc increase is



Kadhem

not substantial. In defence, he also noted that "pensions are periodically increased by 7 to 8pc in the neighbouring GCC countries". Voicing



MP Bumjaid

his rejection on the issue, MP Mohsen Al Bakri said, "Pensioners are being treated unfairly and their pensions must be revised". "The cost

of implementing this proposal isn't huge. It may even be less than the miscellaneous expenditure of a minister," he said.

On a different note, MP Mohammed Al Ammadi pointed out that the matter should be referred to the Government as a draft law and not as a proposal, if we really want to make this happen.

He insisted that "MPs are utilising the wrong legislative jurisdictions. We need a law that stipulates this increase."

Revenue: BD103m, Expense: BD202m

The revenue generated by the Pension Fund is insufficient to meet the expenses in this regard, the session was told.

"Until last September, the revenues of the fund haven't crossed BD103 million, while pension requirements in the same period were above BD202

million," said Shura Council and Representatives Council Affairs Minister Ghanim Al Buainain.

He was speaking on behalf of the Government during the session.

Responding to the queries, the minister said the effort is on maintaining such a key fund for the

longest period possible.

The minister also emphasised: "Rejecting the proposal doesn't mean that the Government isn't concerned about enhancing the situations of pensioners."

Al Buainain said the decision was taken considering "the deteriorating financial

conditions of the Pensions' Fund.



KHCB celebrates Bahraini Women's Day



Khaleeji Commercial Bank held a lunch party and a cooking class, where the 'Khaleeji ladies' were invited to an eventful afternoon of fun, cookery and entertainment. The event took place at Gulf Hotel on 1st December 2016, as part of Bahraini Women's Day celebrations. Commenting on the occasion, Khalil Al Meer, CEO of KHCB said, "Every woman at KHCB has dedicated her professional career not only for the success of the bank, but has also contributed greatly in being the driving force of the social community and Bahrain's economy as a whole."

NASS CORPORATION B.S.C.



NOTICE AND AGENDA FOR EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nass Corporation BSC, cordially invites the shareholders to attend the Extra Ordinary General Meeting to be held at A. A. Nass Auditorium, Applied Science University, Al Ekar, Kingdom of Bahrain at 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 14th December 2016 to discuss and approve the following agenda. If the quorum is not present, the 2nd meeting will be held on Wednesday, the 21st December 2016 at the same venue and time. Further, if the quorum is not present, the 3rd meeting will be held on Wednesday the 28th December 2016 at the same venue and time.

• Agenda of Extra Ordinary General Meeting:

- To approve the minutes of the previous Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the company held on 21st March 2016.
- To approve to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Nass Corporation BSC (CR No. 60037) in accordance with the legislative decree No (50) of 2014, regarding amendments to certain provisions of the Commercial Companies Law No. (21) of 2001, and the Central Bank of Bahrain & Financial Institution Law No. 64/2006, and the regulation issued to effect its provisions.
- To approve the registration of a new branch and/or a subsidiary company of Nass Contracting Co. W.L.L (a subsidiary company of Nass Corporation BSC) CR No. 17537, in the United Kingdom "U.K" in order to explore potential business opportunities for the company.
- To approve the incorporation of 'REMAL' a new subsidiary company of Nass Corporation BSC (CR No. 60037) with an issued capital of BD 50,000 in order to engage in sand dredging and sand washing activities and to subscribe 60% of the issued share capital in the new company subject to approval of MOICT.
- To authorise Mr. Adel Abdulla Nass, to sign on behalf of Nass Corporation BSC, all concerned papers, documents and to submit the applications to Bahrain Investors' Centre, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and sign the amended Memorandum and Articles of Association of Nass Corporation BSC.

Sameer Abdulla Nass
Chairman

Note: Item 4 of the above agenda is newly added post publication of the EGM notice and agenda on 28th November 2016 after approvals from MOICT and CBB.

Fly for free at Gravity Indoor Skydiving

Manama

Gravity Indoor Skydiving yesterday announced that it will host a "Free Day" open to the public on December 16, 2016, as part of its one year anniversary and part of Bahraini National Day celebrations.

Expressing excitement over the positive outcome that the past year has brought to Gravity, General Manager of Gravity, Khawla Alhammadi,

said, "Our first year has been overwhelming, as we have surpassed all expectations in terms of business, services provided, and customer contentment. It is extremely satisfying to see what we have achieved in such a short time."

This one-time offer is extended to all nationals, residents, and tourists of Bahrain. Bookings will be taken by phone on +973 131 000

00 or at the Gravity reception starting tomorrow.

Commenting on the offer, Alhammadi said, "Credit must be given to our customers who have experienced the thrill of human flight, to our business partners who have been instrumental in our success, to the owning company for investing in this project, as well as to the Gravity team for doing an amazing job."



This one-time offer is extended to all nationals

Al Salam Bank launches new credit card payment service

Manama

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain has launched its latest credit card payment gateway service channel in partnership with Benefit, Bahrain's national electronic network for financial transactions.

Customers, according to the bank, will now be able to pay their credit card bills online using any Benefit enabled debit card with a payment option between the outstanding balance or minimum payment or any other amount.

Commenting on the move, Mohammed Buhijji, Acting



Mohammed Buhijji

Head of Retail Banking said, "The Credit Card Payment gateway offers customers a

safe and secure environment by using any local Debit card when paying their credit card bills without the need to visit a branch and wait in long queue."

Mohammed Buhijji further added: We will continue to bring innovative Shari'a-compliant banking products and services with more value-added benefits and features."

The payment gateway is available on www.alsalambahrain.com and it can be accessed by entering credit card number and CPR number when processing payment.

Ramli Mall announces Bake Sale

Manama

Ramli Mall has announced the second edition of the Bake sale which will be held on 9th December, 2016 between 5pm and 9pm.

The table registrations are free. Those wishing to participate can *whatsapp* to 39054585.

Apart from the bake sale, there will be plenty of entertainment activities for children and grown-ups alike.

Cup cake decorating competition for children,



Last year's (2015) Bake sale event set up and participants.

Magic show to enthrall all age groups and a musical band will add more colour to the festive mood.

Urban Slice Pizza now in Riffa



After huge success with their first store in Juffair, Urban Slice Pizza has opened its second branch in Riffa. MP Ali Bufarsan officially inaugurated the branch in the presence of Chairman A.D Zafar. Numerous followers and community members attended the event. "Fresh ingredients, signature sauces, large sizes, good service, consumer value and authenticity are the pillars of our success", said Managing Director Amr Roshan. Urban slice plans to open more locations in Bahrain in 2017.

Gulf Hotels Group bids farewell to Aqeel Raees



Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) CEO Shaikh Khalid bin Humood Al Khalifa presents a memento to Aqeel Raees (top, left) in the presence of Gulf Hotels Group Chairman of the Board Farouk Yousuf Almoayed. On the right, guests at the event

Manama

The Gulf Hotels Group held a farewell reception in honour of Aqeel Raees who retired from his position as Chief Executive Officer, after over 42 years of service with the group. The farewell reception was held on 29 November 2016 at Al Dana Ballroom in

Gulf Convention Centre and attended by a number of senior officials & Businessman.

Thanking Raees for the rapid changes Gulf Hotel saw under his leadership, Mohamed Hussain Yateem, Director and Chairman of the Board Executive Committee of the Gulf Hotels Group

said, "Aqeel's hard work and experience led to his promotion to the position of CEO in 2002. The Gulf Hotel became the Gulf Hotel Group. The turnover increased by 145 per cent. Our net profits increased by 260pc or 18.6pc annually." He also pointed that the Group's plans for the Dubai

operation is on track.

"Aqeel had a major role in achieving all this performance. As a result, the Gulf Hotel Group today manages five properties with the sixth on the way and inshallah soon we will see some of our restaurants being franchised outside of Bahrain.

"Internationally Aqeel was recognised for his leadership qualities when he was awarded world hotels Leadership Award 2013," said Yateem.

Raees began his career with Bahrain Petroleum Company "Bapco" as Clerk in the Accounting Department. He stint with Bapco continued for

about 10 years. He then moved on to join the hospitality and tourism sector, when he joined the Gulf Hotel in 1974. He is married to Faega Al Khaja and has four children. Two of them are doctors, Mazen and Ayman, and others are Lawyers, Nezar and Dana, by profession.



Report

Malaysia, Bahrain, UAE dominate IFDI Report

Malaysia, Bahrain and the UAE continue to dominate the IFDI (Islamic Finance Development Indicator) report for the 4th consecutive year, even as the global average value declined to 8.8 in 2016 from 9.9 in 2015. Malaysia posted a slight decline in its overall IFDI performance in 2016. Outside of the top 15, noteworthy emerging countries that have moved up the IFDI rankings are South Africa, Morocco, Tanzania, Japan and Russia. Among the regions with high potential in Islamic finance is West Africa.

IFDI report

IFDI report examine key statistics, top performers and the trends across five indicators that are significant for the development of the US\$2 trillion Islamic finance industry across 124 countries. The report developed by Thomson Reuters and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) was revealed during the World Islamic Banking conference (WIBC) 2016, held in Bahrain.



"Despite lower financial performance by some in 2015, we maintain a positive outlook for the industry projecting those Islamic finance assets to reach US\$3.5 trillion by 2021"

"Currently, West Africa, and Africa in general, is at a stage where there is a need to broaden the source of funds required to support its large infrastructure deficit and plug its revenue shortfall caused by the global commodity slump, and Islamic finance can be the solution. The recent sovereign issues in Africa will not only serve as an impetus for other African governments to follow suit and diversify their financing instruments via sukuk, but they will help the Islamic finance industry to mature and pave the way for private sector growth and the development of capital markets in countries where they are still nascent"

Nadim Najjar, Managing Director at Thomson Reuters, Middle East and North Africa



"Currently, West Africa, and Africa in general, is at a stage where there is a need to broaden the source of funds required to support its large infrastructure deficit and plug its revenue shortfall caused by the global commodity slump, and Islamic finance can be the solution. The recent sovereign issues in Africa will not only serve as an impetus for other African governments to follow suit and diversify their financing instruments via sukuk, but they will help the Islamic finance industry to mature and pave the way for private sector growth and the development of capital markets in countries where they are still nascent"

"Currently, West Africa, and Africa in general, is at a stage where there is a need to broaden the source of funds required to support its large infrastructure deficit and plug its revenue shortfall caused by the global commodity slump, and Islamic finance can be the solution. The recent sovereign issues in Africa will not only serve as an impetus for other African governments to follow suit and diversify their financing instruments via sukuk, but they will help the Islamic finance industry to mature and pave the way for private sector growth and the development of capital markets in countries where they are still nascent"

Khaled Al Aboodi, CEO of ICD

KEY FINDINGS

1. Unprecedented oil price storm hindered Islamic finance performance, but not asset growth

Although the drop in oil prices did not impede the growth of global or GCC Islamic finance assets (except for Kuwait which reported a 3 per cent decline in assets), it did lead to a decline in profitability measures such as ROA. It also negatively impacted the equity performances of Takaful and Shariah-compliant equities. Sukuk was the least vulnerable of the asset classes, however the sector witnessed lower issuance volumes in 2015.

Assets grew by 7pc

Islamic finance assets grew 7pc hitting US\$2 trillion at the end of 2015. In 2015, Saudi Arabia held the largest amount of Islamic finance assets worldwide (US\$447 billion), while Malaysia dropped in ranking to hold the 3rd largest asset base (US\$434bn). Iran remains the world's 2nd largest Islamic finance jurisdiction (US\$414bn).

2. Research and education

Islamic education institutions are found in abundance in Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan. In the west, Luxembourg and Belgium are joining the ranks. The UK has also benefited from the demand for Islamic finance education from Islamic markets. There were 622 Islamic finance education providers in 2015, while 2,224 research papers were produced worldwide between 2013 and 2015.

4. Lack of CSR transparency

Corporate Social Responsibility is another indicator that was weaker in terms of development. There is still a need for better transparency of Qard al-Hasan - one of the components of CSR funds disbursed - as few institutions disclosed their amounts.

5. The buzz diminishes slightly

The popularity of Islamic finance declined due to a slight fall in the number of conferences held and exclusive news items, sliding to 112 and 17,795 respectively in 2015. The most extensive Islamic finance news was generated from the GCC which soared on the back of numerous stories on how the drop in oil prices impacted the Gulf and Middle East's different Islamic finance sectors.

3. Need for better corporate governance

Even though there are 35 countries with at least one type of Islamic finance regulation in practice there is a need for several countries to strengthen their financial reporting framework for Islamic financial institutions. This is evidenced by the low number of disclosed items that need to be reported in annual or financial reports. Malaysia and Pakistan made great strides in upholding Shariah governance framework during 2015, while African nations Nigeria and Morocco are moving towards a centralized Shariah board approach. There were 1,068 Shariah scholars representing different Islamic financial institutions in 2015.



HH Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Advisor to HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, CBB Governor Rasheed Al Maraj and Dr. Ahmed Abdulkarim Alkholifey inaugurate World Islamic Banking Conference



Raheed Al Maraj delivers key note speech

'Fintech a game changer, says CBB governor

World Islamic Banking Conference (WIBC) gathers leading global Islamic finance players in Bahrain

Manama

Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) Raheed Al Maraj yesterday confirmed that the CBB will soon introduce regulations to facilitate Fintech solutions, which is a game-changer in the banking business.

He was speaking at the opening of the World Islamic Banking Conference (WIBC) at the ART Rotana Hotel, Amwaj Islands.

"Financial Technology or Fintech is leading the way," said Al Maraj urging Islamic banks to come forward and take the lead in this area.

"Islamic banks must make full use of these technological enhancements and invest more in this space," he added.

Commenting on the theme of the conference - economic uncertainties: vigilance and growth, Al Maraj further highlighted the need to be more risk-sensitive in uncertain economic

conditions.

"Risk management practices must be up to date, awareness levels high and risk mitigation in place," he pointed out.

Moving on, the CBB governor also emphasised the need to groom a second line of management "to ensure, as much as possible, a lasting institutional legacy behind us".

"We need a set of people whose ethical conduct, strategic thinking, leadership qualities and technical knowledge are above par," he pointed out while addressing over 1,300 Industry leaders at the conference held under the patronage of Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Highlight of the morning session was speeches by Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Dr. Ahmed Abdulkarim Alkholifey and Governor of Astana International


Financial Centre (AIFC) Dr. Kairat Kelimbetov.

The Governors' remarks were followed with an exceptional line-up of seasoned and respected industry practitioners who took stock of the challenges faced by Islamic banking on the global front and the stagnation in Sukuk issuance worldwide. These talks were followed by the launch of three insightful intelligence reports and sessions on ethical finance and asset management.

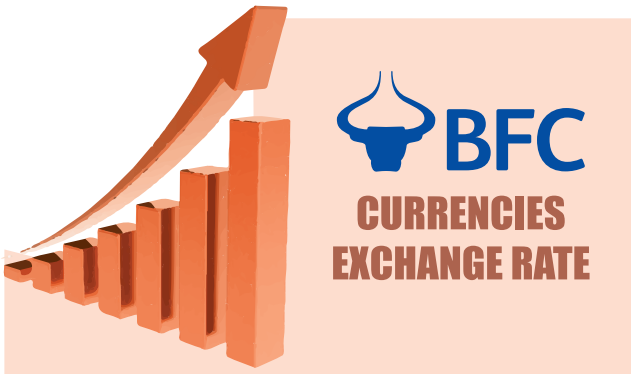
Today at Summit

The summit continues today and will feature the highly anticipated speeches by Khalid Hamad Abdul-Rahman Hamad, Executive Director - Banking Supervision, Central Bank of Bahrain and Abdulla Mohammed Al Awar, CEO, Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre. (Also see page 10)

Did You Know?



Instagram has now surpassed Twitter in terms of active monthly users. At last count, Instagram had 400 million users, as compared to Twitter's 320 million.



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2875	0.2850
BANGLADESH	0.00487	0.00479
CANADA	0.2903	0.2872
DENMARK	0.0577	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0434
EURO	0.4124	0.4103
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00630	0.00567
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002886
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003470	0.003400
JORDAN	0.5365	0.5351
KOREA	0.00037231	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.087100	0.0869
NEW ZEALAND	0.2730	0.2716
NORWAY	0.0473	
NEPAL	0.00368	0.00348
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00365	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00789	0.00762
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.27350
SINGAPORE	0.2701	0.2681
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02930	0.02920
SRI LANKA	0.00273	0.00255
SWEDISH	0.0444	
SWITZERLAND	0.3820	0.3794
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.012300	
THAILAND	0.010800	0.010790
TURKEY	0.1161	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4892	0.4562
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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	0.4795	0.3729	0.3341
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.2158	0.2824	0.2530
OMAN	0.3849	0.3891	0.3807	0.3411
QATAR	3.6420	3.6821	3.6024	3.2276
UAE	3.6730	3.7134	3.6330	3.2551
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7913	3.7092	3.3233



Manama

Bahrain continues to stand out in the area of Islamic finance development bagging top ranks in the GCC and Mena regions.

This is based on the Islamic Finance Development Indicators (IFDI) which is an annual barometer that represents the overall development of the Islamic finance industry worldwide.

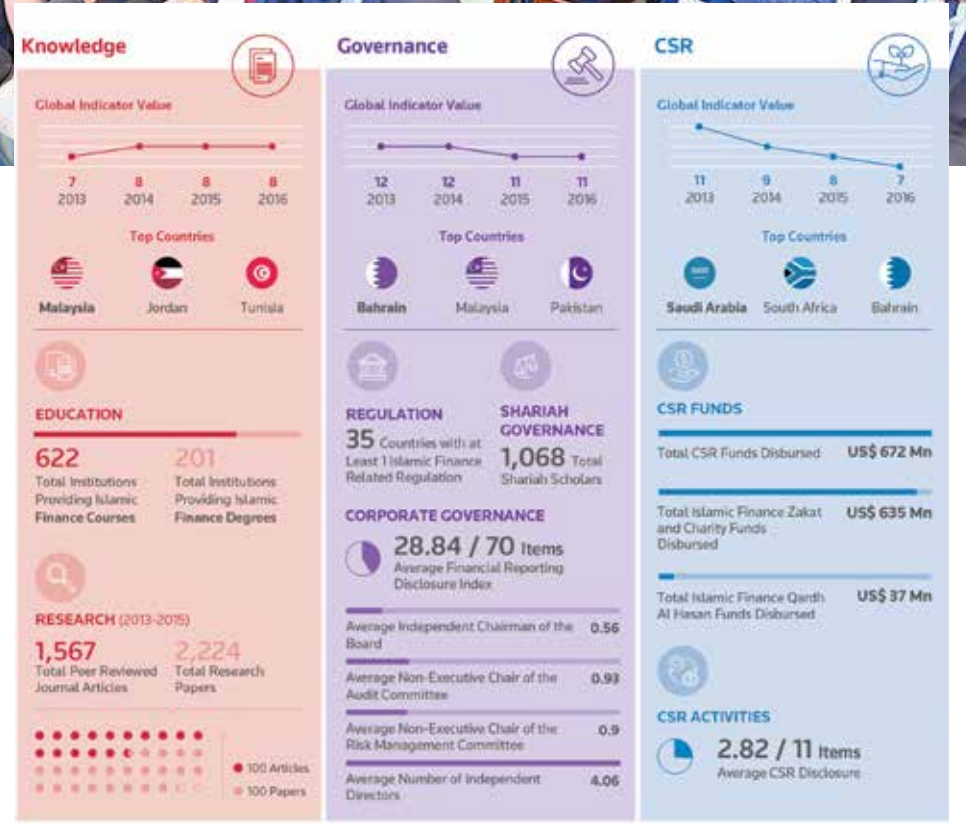
According to the report, Bahrain leads the GCC's Islamic finance development for the fourth consecutive year.

The report is jointly produced by Thomson Reuters and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), the private sector development arm of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

The report measures five key components that combine to depict the overall picture of the state of Islamic finance in a market - namely Quantitative Development, Knowledge, Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Awareness.

According to the IFDI, Bahrain is ranked first in the GCC and MENA regions, and second only to Malaysia out of 124 countries that contribute to the US\$2 trillion Islamic finance industry.

Strong governance
IFDI continues to rank



"The key factors in Bahrain's success are regulatory clarity, government support for Islamic finance and the presence of support institutions such as AAOIFI, IIFM, IIRA, CIBAFI and the Waqf Fund. Bahrain has an ecosystem that works. Our consistent high ranking in the IFDI report is a testament to this"

Khalid Hamad,
Executive Director Banking Supervision at the CBB and the Chairman of the Waqf Fund.

Bahrain first globally in terms of Governance based on regulatory environment and governance mechanisms. The regulations cover Islamic financial institutions including Islamic asset management and Sukuk. Bahrain also has the most effective Shari'ah governance measures as indicated by its top ranking in Shari'ah

Governance sub-indicator.

Solid performance
According to IFDI, Bahrain is among the top ten countries for the other indicators as well. For the Knowledge indicator, its Islamic finance ecosystem is supported by 17 providers offering Islamic finance related education including universities and institutions.

Bahrain hosted 20 Islamic finance related events in 2015, the report points out while that adding that the industry was covered by 1,582 exclusive news articles.



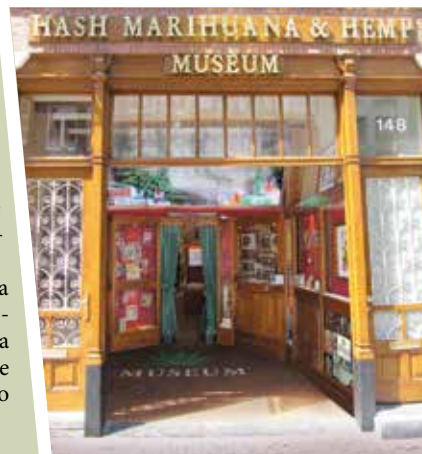
ASRY chairman Shaikh Duaij bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday inspected the company's safety measures as part of an ongoing Safety improvements programme. The Chairman was accompanied by Acting Chief Executive Officer, Magdy Mustafa, Security Manager, Abdulla Al Muraihi, and Safety Consultant, Mahmood Abdul Aziz. Following the tour which included all company workshops, Shaikh Duaij, said, "The company is fully determined that previous safety lapses must never be repeated, and only through constant and perpetual training and vigilance will the overall safety culture continue to improve."



No smoking in cars with children

A new law comes into force in Scotland on Monday banning smoking in cars when children are present, as part of the government's plans for a "tobacco-free generation".

Under the law smokers face a £100 (\$127, 119 euros) on-the-spot fine if caught lighting up in a private vehicle where under-18s are present. The penalty increases up to £1,000 if a case goes to court.



Uruguay to have marijuana museum

Marijuana-friendly Uruguay will soon have a museum dedicated to pot.

"It is a way to connect people who love nature, art and science," said the director of the museum, Eduardo Blasina.

The museum, opening Friday in Montevideo, will help people learn more about one of the world's oldest crops, Blasina said.

Malaria in Roman Empire?



Miami ADNA Analysis of 2,000-year-old teeth unearthed from an Italian graveyard has offered hard evidence that malaria existed during the Roman Empire, researchers said Monday.

The findings are based on mitochondrial DNA -- genetic material inherited from one's mother -- extracted from teeth belonging to 58 adults and 10 children at three imperial-period Italian cemeteries, their report in the journal *Current Biology* said.

Two of the adults in the cemeteries, which date to the 1st and 3rd centuries, were found to have genomic evidence of malaria. Specifically, it was the kind that today causes disease from the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*.

"There is extensive written evidence describing fevers that sound like malaria in ancient Greece and Rome, but the specific malaria species responsible is unknown," said Stephanie Marciniak of Pennsylvania State University.

"Our data confirm that the species was likely *Plasmodium falciparum*, and that it affected people in different ecological and cultural environments."

Malaria currently kills nearly 450,000 people every year, the majority of them children under the age of five.

Researchers still do not know much about malaria in the Roman Empire, including whether it was a native disease or sporadically imported.

The first DNA evidence of malaria in ancient Rome was detected in 2001 in the skeleton of a child estimated to be 1,500 years old.

The latest study suggests malaria was more widespread than previously known.

"Malaria was likely a significant historical pathogen that caused widespread death in ancient Rome," said study author Hendrik Poinar, director of McMaster's University Ancient DNA Centre. (AFP)



Colosseum in Rome

Egypt says international organs trade network arrested



Representative image

Cairo

Egyptian authorities announced yesterday the arrest of 25 members of an international network allegedly trafficking in human organs, including university professors and doctors.

"Today at dawn, the largest international network for trading human organs has been captured," the country's Administrative Control Authority said in a statement on its website.

The network "is made up of Egyptians and Arabs taking advantage of some of the citizens' difficult economic conditions so that they buy their human organs and sell it for large sums of money," it said. The authority, which is responsible for tracking corruption cases in state institutions, said 25 people were arrested including university professors, doctors, medical workers, owners of medical centres, intermediaries and brokers. They were found in possession of "millions of dollars and gold bullion", it said. (AFP)

Magic-mushroom boosts cancer patients' mindset

Miami Cancer patients often experience mental anguish and stress, but a single dose of a hallucinogen found in psychedelic mushrooms, along with psychological counseling, improved their mindset, two studies said Thursday.

The approach "significantly lessens mental anguish in distressed cancer patients for months at a time," said the findings in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

The first study, led by researchers at New York University's Langone Medical Center, involved 29 people who were given psilocybin,

a naturally occurring component of so-called "magic mushrooms" that is an illegal drug in the United States.

All the people in the study had advanced cancers, whether involving the breasts, gastrointestinal tract or blood.

They had also been diagnosed as suffering from serious psychological distress related to their disease.

After their treatment, 80 percent experienced lasting relief from their distress for more than six months.

A similar study by researchers at Johns Hopkins University involving 51 patients also showed big



Image for representation only

improvements in anxiety and depression. Most patients said their quality of life improved,

and they had more energy, better relationships with family members and were doing well

at work.

"Several also reported variations of spirituality, unusual peacefulness, and increased feelings of altruism," said NYU Langone in a statement. "Our results represent the strongest evidence to date of a clinical benefit from psilocybin therapy, with the potential to transform care for patients with cancer-related psychological distress," said lead investigator Stephen Ross, director of substance-abuse services in psychiatry department at NYU Langone.

"If larger clinical trials prove successful, then we could ultimately have available a

safe, effective, and inexpensive medication -- dispensed under strict control -- to alleviate the distress that increases suicide rates among cancer patients."

Participants experienced no major side effects such as hospitalization or more serious mental health conditions.

Researchers believe that psilocybin activates parts of the brain that are influenced by serotonin, a chemical thought to play a role in mood and anxiety. Experts warned that some people should not be considered candidates for psilocybin therapy, including adolescents and those with schizophrenia. (AFP)



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa receiving GCC leaders on their arrival to the Kingdom yesterday to attend the 37th GCC Summit



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received at Al Sakhir Palace British Prime Minister, MP Theresa May marking her first visit to the Kingdom to attend the 37th GCC Summit as Guest of Honour



The Emir of Kuwait Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah held discussions with British Prime Minister Theresa May at Sakhir Palace yesterday. The accompanying delegation also attended



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques received at Sakhir Palace yesterday. They discussed ways to bolster bilateral relations and other developments. The accompanying delegation also attended



The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bahrain (FCCIB) held its first anniversary Gala Dinner on the 5th of December at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain. The keynote speaker was Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani. Oil Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, Chairman of Tamkeen, Khalid Abdulrahman Khalil Almoayed, Chairman of BCCI and French Ambassador, Bernard Regnaud Fabre were present



On the side-lines of opening the Media Centre for the 37th GCC Summit, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani launched a collection of books. The Minister also launched a documentary book titled "Bahrain: A Journey of Progress" authored by Younis Hashim Al Kooheji



Undersecretary of Commerce Affairs Nader Al Moayed honoured the trainees in the "Trade Capacity Building Training Programme for GCC Countries", under the patronage of Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani





...ly Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud yesterday British Prime Minister Theresa May. They discussed bilateral cooperation as well as the latest regional developing delegation also attended



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received British Prime Minister MP Theresa May during her visit yesterday to the Royal Bahrain Naval Force (RBNF)'s naval base in Hidd, in the presence of BDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi. RBNF Commander Rear Admiral Shaikh Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and senior BDF officers were present



...mmit, Minister of Information Affairs authorized by Dr. Abdullah Al Khalifa "Bahrain Through Post Cards" au-



The exhibition held on the sidelines of the 37th GCC Supreme Council Summit opened at the Media Centre under the patronage of Minister of Information Affairs Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi. Oman News Agency (ONA) is also involved with 32 pictures that highlight the participation of the Sultanate in the development march of the GCC



President of the national Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), Dr. Abdulaziz Hassan Abul, received yesterday US Ambassador William Roebuck. Complaints, monitoring and follow-up Committee Chairperson Maria Antoine Elias Khoury, Acting Secretary-General Chancellor Yasser Shaheen and Director of ICT, Fahad Al-Maalla were also present



President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received Board Chairman of Bahrain Bay and Arcapita Chief Executive Atef Abdulmalik. They discussed cooperation to boost Bahrain's standing on the cultural tourism map



Bahrain Bourse (BHB) recently organised an advanced training workshop for BHB's Board of Directors and Executive Management on "Corporate Governance", in collaboration with Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF)

CELEBS

Yoko Ono @yokoono
Go outside, and tune into nature. Because you are part of nature, too.



Tanaka 'always had a thing' for Mariah

Los Angeles

Singer Mariah Carey's beau Bryan Tanaka says he "always had a thing" for her. The "Without You" hitmaker attended the "Mariah's World" premiere party in New York City with the back up dancer where he gushed about their "connection" and "mutual admiration" for each other, reports *eonline.com*.

Tanaka said: "I've always had a thing for Mariah. I love her so much. Just make sure you tune in to the show and you'll see kind of how everything happens ..." (IANS)

FILMING 'COLLATERAL BEAUTY' HELPED SMITH DEAL

Los Angeles

Actor Will Smith believes filming "Collateral Beauty", in which he plays a man who has suffered a personal tragedy, helped him deal with his own father's death.

The 48-year-old actor was left devastated when his father Willard Carroll Smith Sr. died in November but said that starring in the drama film has made it easier to cope with his personal loss.

"This has been one of the greatest confluences of life and art that I've ever experienced," Smith told *people.com*. (IANS)



Jackie Chan to star in Five Against a Bullet

Los Angeles

Legendary actor Jackie Chan has been roped in to star in director Joe Carnahan's upcoming action film "Five Against A Bullet" as one of the bodyguards.

Lorenzo di Bonaventura is producing the project though his Di Bonventura Pictures banner.

The film is set in a small Mexican town under attack by the drug cartel. The story centres on five world-weary bodyguards who are signed on to protect a Mexican politician after his father is murdered by a cartel, ahead of an election, reports *variety.com*.

Bruce Willis was attached several years ago to star in "Five Against A Bullet" but is no longer on the project.

Carnahan is currently attached only as the writer.

Chan, who has been acting in films since late 1960s, has appeared in more than 150 films. (IANS)



Mariah Carey's wedding delay guilt

Los Angeles

Singer Mariah Carey worried about "disappointing" businessman James Packer when she postponed their wedding to focus on her tour.

In the opening episode of Carey's new reality show "Mariah's World", the singer and her manager Stella can be seen concerned about juggling plans for the marriage, which was ultimately cancelled as the couple split in October, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

Stella asked: "I feel like you'll be putting your professional life before your personal life and it makes me feel bad but dare I say, do you postpone the wedding?"

Carey said: "It is slightly overwhelming because we are pretty much putting together this entire tour in two weeks. You know...there's a lot to think about." (IANS)



Los Angeles
Actress Reese Witherspoon's children think she is cool because she knows how to use image sharing mobile service *Snapchat*.

The 40-year-old, who has Ava and Deacon with former husband Ryan Phillippe and four-year-old Tennessee with actor Jim Toth, says her children are impressed with her knowledge of the social media app because "most moms" don't know how it works. "At least, I know how to work *Snapchat*. I think, you know, most moms don't," *etonline.com*.

"(My children) are like, 'You actually know what *Snapchat* is and you're actually sending us a lot of *Snapchats*,'" she added. (IANS)

Reese Witherspoon is a 'cool' mother

Beyoncé leads with Grammy Nominations

London

Beyoncé, Drake, Rihanna and Adele lead the nominations for the 59th annual Grammy Awards, the organization behind the ceremony announced yesterday.

With nine nods for "*Lemonade*," an album and film that explored race and infidelity, Beyoncé had more nominations than any other artist. But in each of the top three categories she will compete directly against Adele, the British diva whose album "*25*" was one of the music industry's biggest success stories in years.

For album of the year, "*Lemonade*" and "*25*" will also contend with Drake's "*Views*," a monster streaming hit; "*Purpose*," Justin Bieber's comeback vehicle; and "*A Sailor's Guide to Earth*" by the country singer Sturgill Simpson, a critical favourite but modest seller that may be the year's wild card. For record of the year, an award for the performer and producers of a single track, Beyoncé's "*Formation*" faces off against Adele's "*Hello*," along with "*7 Years*," a mellow hit by the Danish group Lukas Graham; "*Stressed Out*" by the pop duo Twenty One Pilots. (*nytimes*)



Bieber has never used Tinder

Los Angeles

Grammy Award-winning singer Justin Bieber says that he has never used the dating app *Tinder*.

Bieber, who will make an appearance on "*The Ellen DeGeneres Show*" on Tuesday, shared that he has never used the app and discussed with the show's host Ellen

DeGeneres if he is dating anyone or not, read a statement.

"I'm not dating anybody. Single! I'm not really looking either. I haven't (been on *Tinder*)," Bieber said.

The episode will be aired on Romyed NOW channel. (IANS)



Gaga criticised over her unrecognisable face



Los Angeles

The X Factor viewers have gone wild over social media over singer Lady Gaga's "completely different face" during her performance on the talent based show.

Gaga performed on the show on Sunday night, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

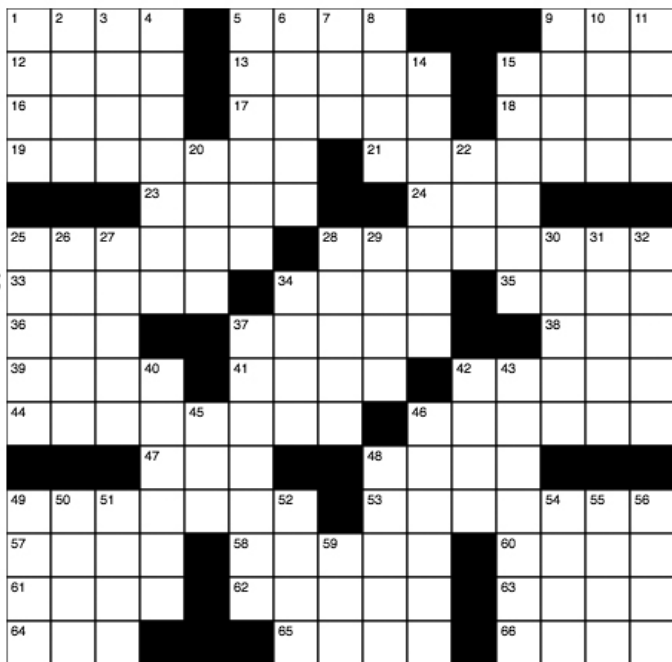
Following her performance, fans took to the social mediasite to question whether Gaga has had a nose job or other surgery to alter her features.

Rather than complementing the 30-year-old's vocals on her new single "*Million reasons*", users slammed her "unrecognisable" looks - with one viewer even branding her an "imposter".

One *Twitter* user wrote: "How is that Lady Gaga? She has a completely different face! Who is this imposter?"

Another added: "Are we all not going to say anything about Lady Gaga's face? I mean she's had some work done. Or is it just me?" (IANS)

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	M	O	S	S	5	S	T	O	R	K	9	P	E	E	L	
14	A	C	U	T	15	T	O	T	O	E	16	A	X	L	E	
17	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	I	V	E	18	D	H	O	W	
20	M	A	N	N	E	R	21	S	E	P	22	A	L	O	I	D
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31	L	I	M	N	32	Z	E	A	L	33	S	K	I	R	L	34
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45	A	L	G	O	R	E	46	T	I	T	A	N	47			
49	A	P	A	R	T	50	T	A	G	T	E	A	M	51		
55	P	U	N	C	T	U	A	L	56	R	I	A	L	T	O	57
59	O	L	E	O	60	P	R	O	V	I	N	C	I	A	L	61
62	H	E	S	A	63	T	O	P	A	Z	64	I	S	L	E	65
65	L	E	E	T	66	S	T	E	L	E	67	D	E	E	S	68

Across

1- Personal quirks; 5- Pressing need; 9- Architect I.M.; 12- ___ of Man; 13- Singer Shore; 15- Profit; 16- Designer Christian; 17- Jack Sprat could ___ fat; 18- Coffee servers; 19- Beg; 21- Initially; 23- ___ girl; 24- Actor Linden; 25- Missouri feeder; 28- Make pretty; 33- Embankment; 34- Poet Angelou; 35- Days of ___; 36- 7th letter of the Greek alphabet; 37- Dog-___ (like some used books); 38- ___ the season...; 39- Currency exchange fee; 41- Pub potables; 42- Wipe off; 44- No long-distance charge; 46- Bottles; 47- Put down, in slang; 48- ... ___ saw Elba; 49- Breathe; 53- Teases; 57- Floe; 58- Papal garment; 60- Bluesy James; 61- Without full use of a leg; 62- Mineral used as a gem; 63- Tatum's dad; 64- Lady of Sp.; 65- Mayberry boy; 66- Mex. miss;

Down

1- It may turn; 2- The doctor ___; 3- Coagulate; 4- Notched; 5- Think; 6- Lasso; 7- Thunder Bay's prov.; 8- Grandma; 9- Henry VIII's sixth; 10- Half of zwei; 11- Technical sch.; 14- Shorttempered person; 15- Culpable; 20- Suffix with cigar; 22- Blubber; 25- Fold; 26- Release; 27- Be of use to; 28- European capital, in song; 29- Deli breads; 30- Little bits; 31- Frolic; 32- Affirmatives; 34- Boy or man; 37- Hearing distance; 40- Methuselah's claim to fame; 42- Waiting for the Robert ___; 43- Oakland outfit; 45- In shape; 46- Change into ice; 48- Zhou ___; 49- OPEC units; 50- Back; 51- Humorist Bombeck; 52- Switch ending; 54- Interstellar dist.; 55- Coup d' ___; 56- Yemen's capital; 59- PC program;

BEETLE BAILEY®



SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Yesterday's confusion has given way to revitalized energy, reawakened enthusiasm and the desire to push on ahead. You may have decided to concentrate in some way on your own self-expression, and you're full of ideas and in touch with possible opportunities.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Objectives that may have seemed doubtful yesterday may seem clearer and more workable for you today. For the most part, you want to pursue dreams and goals which you have wanted to pursue for a long time but might not have been able to do; yet now you see the way ahead clearly. Don't be attempted to move without planning, however.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



An increased enthusiasm toward plans and goals shared with others might have you constantly on the phone with your colleagues today. Excitement grows as ideas are shared. Take care, however, when considering different avenues of approaching the situation. You don't want to have so much on your mind that you're confused.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



The opportunity to increase your income by taking on additional work responsibilities could present itself to you at this time. This might seem like a very attractive prospect which isn't likely to come around again, so you'll probably want to charge right in. This is a good idea, but don't feel you have to get everything done at once.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Your physical energy is likely to be very high at this time, as are your enthusiasm and optimism for the future. A chance to expand your horizons through travel or education, or both, might come your way, and your head could be spinning with ideas as to how to approach it. You might have to pare down your choices to those that appeal the most to you.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Your awareness of the thoughts and feelings of others, partly through ESP and partly through plain old common sense, is going to be particularly acute today. You might be surprised at what you're sensing, as people may have more respect and admiration for you than you ever considered! You might find this inspiring, and delve into whatever it is.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Group activities and social events might take up much of your time today. Your energy and enthusiasm are high, so you'll probably be inclined to channel more of yourself into these events than you usually do. New friends, particularly men or those involved in the arts, could come onto the scene. Expect to finish the day with your head spinning with intriguing information.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Career-oriented projects could be the primary focus for your energy today. This could be work done on the job, or creative projects of your own that might go public in some way. You're feeling especially motivated right now, and so you'll probably accomplish wonders. Your concentration is high, and therefore it is likely that what you do today will surpass at least somewhat any efforts you've put out in the past.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Ideas for your own personal self-expression might be fuelled today by ideas and visions that come from foreign countries, possibly from the distant past. You'll probably put a lot of effort into your own projects, at least for part of the day. Sports or exercise could also play a major role in your activities at this time, as your physical energy is high.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



News of possible profits through land investments could come your way today. If you've been thinking of purchasing a home, or any kind of property, this is the time to consider it. You might expend a lot of time and energy exploring the possibility, though it is unlikely that you'll find just the opportunity that you've been looking for.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Social events or short visits, or both, in your near neighbourhood could lead to receipt of some interesting gossip, useful information, or both. Though you'll enjoy the conversations, you'll probably ignore the gossip and try to make use of the information, so don't be surprised if your mind starts going a thousand miles an hour. Make notes of your sources and write down your own insights.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Your health is glowing and your energy high, so you'll want to make the best possible use of this and move on ahead, particularly toward improving your financial situation. You might take on some extra work for this purpose, perhaps connected with a job you have, or perhaps something you do on your own. The only danger, is that you keep going after you're tired.

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 use one of the following: outandabout@dt.bh, or call 38444680.

PEARL NIGHT

Date: Wednesday and Friday
Venue: Golden Tulip Bahrain Hotel,

Bahrain from the past was counting on the pearls until day has the famous pearls. Golden Tulip Bahrain is obliged to give an opportunity to try your luck on our Seafood night on Wednesday and on Friday Brunch to acquire a real pearl. Last week few guests from Saudi Aramco achieved real pearls on our Seafood Night and they were blissful. Golden Tulip Bahrain Hotel welcomes you to win a chance to try your luck.

WALKING TOUR OF MANAMA SOUQ

Date: 7 Dec at 9am
Venue: Manama

Join us for a walk through the Manama souq and discover its hidden gems. We will take you to the most interesting historic places and at the same time show you the traders while sampling the traditional food on offer. For more details and to sign up please email info@expatangelsbahrain.com

MATERIAL GESTURE BY ANNE HOLTROP

Date: 7 Dec at 7pm
Venue: Bahrain Fort Museum

Material Gesture, by Anne Holtrop, award winning Dutch architect & designer of the Bahrain pavilion at the Milan Expo 2015. There is something magical about the architecture of Anne Holtrop. Magical because what we see is not exactly what it appears to be, or what we think is there is not really there or simply has another form.

KOREAN CINEMA NIGHT 2016

Date: December 7,14,21&28
Venue: Seef 1 Cinema 13

HIGHLIGHT

THE DELONGHI BAHRAINI CHEF COMPETITION

Date: December 13&14.
Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

Ready, Steady, Go! It's time to Cook! The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain has the pleasure to announce the launch of The DeLonghi Bahraini Chef Competition, a dedicated two day cooking competition for Bahraini nationals, to take place on December 13th and 14th at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

As part of The Ritz-Carlton's Community Footprints program, the 'DeLonghi Bahraini Chef Competition' will take place during the celebrations of the Kingdom's national day with the aim to empower the aspiring Chefs of Bahrain and invest in nationals possessing outstanding culinary talent, allowing them to develop further in their field of choice.

Candidates who wish to apply are required to be a minimum of 18 years old and are to post a video of themselves making a dish of their choice on Instagram tagging @Bahrainichefcompetition



and using the hashtag #Bahrainichefcompetition. A panel of judges composed of 5 renowned chefs and food connoisseurs will review the videos and create a shortlist of candidates. The final line-up of 16 participants will battle it out over a two-day competition event, to be held at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain on December 13th and 14th, 2016. At the event, participants will perform a 2-hour cooking contest, with the judges selecting the final winner.

With its focus on developing local talent, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain and DeLonghi will award the winner an exclusive culinary experience and exposure with a Michelin star chef at one of The Ritz-Carlton properties in Europe. The winning dish will also be featured at one of the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's restaurants.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Christian Zandonella, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain said: "We are thrilled to celebrate the Bahrain National Day with the creation of this event. We look forward to witnessing exceptional individual performances at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain during the event."

Don't forget that Korean Cinema Night 2016 is just around corner. Free admission on a first come, first served base. First movie: Ode to My Father on December 7. Ode to My Father is a 2014 South Korean drama film directed by Yoon Je-kyoon. Starring Hwang Jung-min and Yunjin Kim, it depicts modern Korean history from the 1950s to the present day through the life of an ordinary man, as he experiences events such as the Hungnam Evacuation of 1950 during the Korean War, the government's decision to dispatch nurses and miners to Germany in the 1960s, and the Vietnam War. It is currently the second highest-grossing film in the history of Korean cinema, with 14.2 million tickets sold.

FORT CAMP

Date: 8 - 9 December 2016, 4:00 - 9:00pm
Venue: Bahrain Fort Site Museum

As part of the celebrations for the

Bahrain National Day, Bahrain Fort Site Museum is organising a camp that includes many activities and workshops for adults and kids. Free admission.

CONCERT BY MOHAMMED ABDU

Date: 8 December 2016, 8:00pm
Venue: Bahrain National Theatre

Mohammed Abdu is a true living legend of Arabic music. Gifted with a distinctly powerful yet sweet voice from and incredible oud-playing ability, Abdu's talents were clear from an early age and was soon discovered while still a teenager in the early 1960's after singing on the local radio. Five decades on, "The Artist of the Arabs" as he is widely known is still going strong. The concert will feature some of the artist's most beloved songs which he released over his illustrious career, from early classics to more modern hits spanning the golden era of Arabic music of the 20th century to today.

PATRIOTIC POEMS

Date: 8 December 2016, 8:00pm
Venue: Bahrain Fort Site Museum

Open invitation . As part of the celebrations for the Bahrain National Day, Bahrain Fort Site Museum is organising Poetry night with Ahmed Albado, Munira Alsubaie and Mohammed Almudhi.

VIBES PRESENTS: DANCING QUEENS

Date: 8 Dec at 8pm
Venue: Imari Japanese Restaurant at the Domain Hotel

Vibes returns for its last event of 2016! Dancing Queens. For our last event of 2016 Vibes is always proud to have all our friends and we would like to thank you for your endless support in each and every event we host. Hence we are hosting a gathering for our friends in the stunning Domain Hotel. With 4 DJs spinning the tunes you want to hear and a beautiful crowd this should be a legendary night for all.

HERITAGE TALE IN THE FORT TENT

Date: 8-9 December 2016, 5:30pm
Venue: Bahrain Fort Museum, fort Camp

"Who ate alfalfa?" storytelling of a heritage tale that will teach the kids lessons of morals and wisdoms. The characters of the tale will be present! Free admission. 6-11 years.

NOVOTEL FAMILY DAY

Date: 9 Dec at 1pm
Venue: Novotel Bahrain Al Dana Resort

It's Family Time, join our amazing kids and family beach party with brunch and many kids activities, take advantage of the charming weather and beautiful shows: Magic show; Solo fire dance; Host fun & games.

MARK YOUR Calendar

KHALED FOUAD AND DALIA AT NATIONAL DAY FESTIVAL

Date: December 14 to 17
Venue: Bahrain International Circuit



Fouad Dalia

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) announced the first two artists who will be performing live as part of its National Day celebrations from December 14 to 17.

One mega artist will be taking to the stage on each night of the BIC National Day Festival, which is being organised by "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" for the fourth successive year. The artist performing on opening night on Wednesday will be popular Bahraini singer Khaled Fouad. The following evening, another well-loved Bahraini singer in Dalia will be entertaining the crowd in Sakhir.

The four-day event is being held with the support of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Doors will be open on each day from 4pm until 10pm. Tickets cost only 500 fils and they can be purchased at the gate.

Khaled Fouad and Dalia are only two of the artists who have been announced by BIC for the National Day Festival. The others will be revealed soon.

Follow us on our Instagram account @BIC_NATIONALDAY to get updates on the event.

Aside from the concerts, also set to be a part of the festivities are a full shopping experience, corporate exhibition space, children's activities and a play area, cultural shows, food and beverage outlets, and so much more.

With so much to offer, the festival is a perfect platform to showcase what the business community has to offer in a social atmosphere.

For more information on the BIC National Day Festival, visit the circuit's official website www.bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

HIGHLIGHT

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Date: December 8th 2016 at 5.30pm
Venue: Downtown Rotana

With the much-anticipated festive season soon approaching, Downtown Rotana, the stylish luxury hotel located in the heart of Bahrain's capital, is gearing up to host its first Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 8th 2016, and has put together an exciting agenda that promises an unforgettable evening for guests and visitors of all ages.

The biggest attraction will be an enormous gingerbread house that will stand tall at the main hotel lobby. Expected to reach 4 metres in height and 6 metres in width, created using over 380kg of gingerbread dough, the hotel aims to take the lead for building one of the largest gingerbread houses in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The evening will also include an appearance by Santa where children will get the opportunity to meet him and receive token gifts, and will conclude with the



customary lighting of the Christmas Tree which traditionally marks the official start of the festive season. A key highlight of the evening will be the choir which will consist of people of different ages, as well as Downtown Rotana's choir which will consist of 19 of staff members.

Speaking on the event, Mr. Patrice Cornee, General Manager of Downtown Rotana said: "This year we will be celebrating Downtown Rotana's first festive season and inaugural Christmas Tree Lighting; we want it to be memorable. We have put together an exciting program for the evening and we hope our guests are mesmerized. The festive season is a very important time for the hotel, we are anticipating many guests coming into town and we want them to feel like they are at home away from home."

Downtown Rotana's Christmas Tree Lighting will take place at the hotel lobby on December 8th 2016 at 5.30pm; festive canapés and beverages being served throughout.

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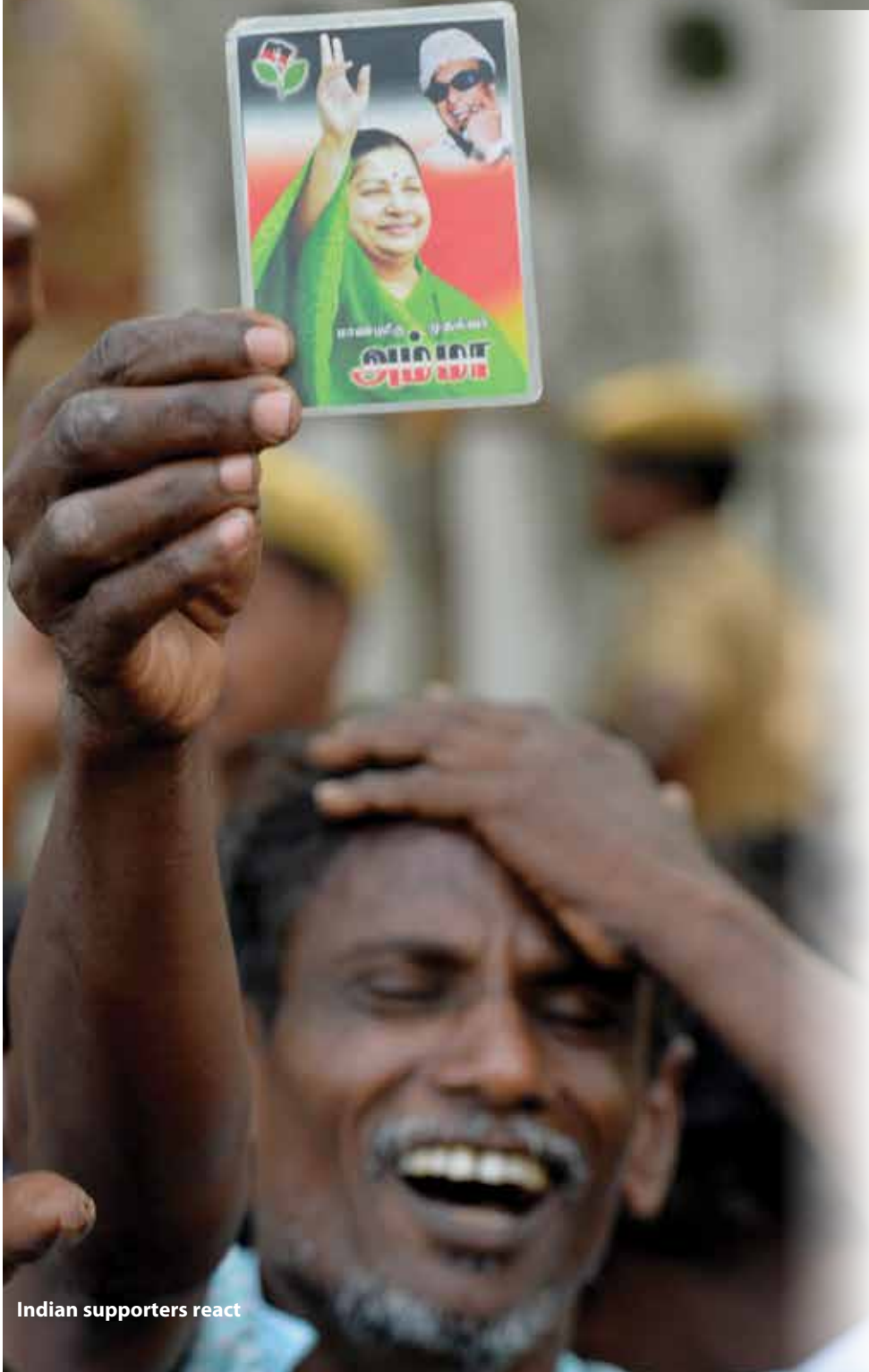
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Mass grief

as Indian political star buried



Indian supporters react



Indian supporters of Indian politician and actress Jayalalithaa Jayaraman, light candles

Chennai

Hundreds of thousands of mourners paid an emotional final farewell yesterday to Indian politician Jayalalithaa Jayaram as the former movie star who enjoyed god-like status was buried alongside her screen lover.

A day after the 68-year-old died following a massive weekend cardiac arrest, huge crowds lined the street of Chennai as Jayalalithaa's coffin was taken to its final resting place in India's main southern city.

Mourners clambered onto statues, trees and soft drinks stalls that lined the city's Marina beach, eager to view the cortege. Television put the number of mourners at around one million.

Despite being twice jailed over allegations of corruption, the woman known simply as Amma, or mother, was a revered figure in her fiefdom of Tamil Nadu state and one of India's most popular and successful politicians as a populist champion of the poor.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew to Chennai to pay his own respects, streams of her supporters lined up outside a hall in the city centre where her casket was on display.

While the coffin was wrapped in an Indian flag, many of the mourners were wearing scarves with the red, white and black colours of Jayalalithaa's party.

Many of the women mourners screamed hysterically and wept, although there were no reports of serious unrest amid a large security presence. "It is a very sad day. She was an essential part of the state. She was meant for greatness," said Christina Paun, a 34-year-old university professor who was among

those queuing to pay their respects. "She had a very difficult life in a male-dominated society but she was always different. She was always great. She had perfect control over her emotions.

Famed for a vast sari collection that won her comparisons with Imelda Marcos, Jayalalithaa was also one of India's most polarising politicians, seen by some as an autocratic and secretive leader.

But nothing could dent her popularity in Tamil Nadu, where she was elected chief minister on four occasions in a period when it became one of India's most prosperous states.

Jayalalitha first made her name starring in movies alongside M. G. Ramachandran, who later became her political mentor before his death nearly 30 years ago.

Although most Hindus are cremated, Jayalalithaa had requested in her will that she be buried alongside her former co-star in his memorial building. As her coffin was lowered into the ground inside the mausoleum, thousands of petals were scattered on top.

Hundreds of devotees had kept a round-the-clock vigil outside the private hospital in Chennai -- the city formerly known as Madras -- since she was first admitted in September suffering from a fever.

When she first fell ill one supporter set himself on fire, while an elderly man suspended himself from a crane with steel hooks pierced through his skin. "The people are very depressed. We were expecting her to recover even yesterday. She is the bravest lady in the world," said Manohar, a businessman who was among the queue of mourners. (AFP)

Populist schemes

Jayalalithaa earned the loyalty of many voters with a series of populist schemes, including "Amma canteens" that provided lunch for just

three rupees (five cents) and vast election-time giveaways.

Several of her supporters resorted to self-harm

when she was briefly jailed in 2014 on charges of corruption.

Her conviction, later overturned on appeal,

sparked mass protests and even some reported suicides.

Jayalalithaa's death has plunged one of India's most

economically powerful states into a period of political uncertainty.

Her trusted cabinet aide, O Panneerselvam, was

sworn in as chief minister, but observers are uncertain whether a loyalist who lacks mass support will be able to rule smoothly.

#PollToday



Does Bahrain have even more scope to develop its tourism sector?

Yes No Can't Say



America... is our enemy, we have no doubt about this. The Americans want to put as much pressure on us as they can

Hassan Rouhani
Iran's President

Rest in sight

Mali prison raid frees at least 47 inmates



Suspected jihadists stormed a prison in central Mali and freed at least 47 inmates including a jihadist fighter, injuring two guards.

Pakistan to probe hiring of 50 govt employees from one family

Pakistan promised an inquiry after a southern province was found to have employed almost 50 members of the same family.

Obama targets Trump in final speech on terror

President Barack Obama delivers his final address on the fight against terrorism Tuesday, in a speech aimed at his successor who has not yet publicly outlined his own anti-terror strategy.

14 killed in shootout with Mexico police

Mexican police working with military troops killed 14 suspected criminals in a shootout in the crime-plagued state of Veracruz on Monday.

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Aleppo

'Twitter girl' safe

Family flees army advance

Aleppo

A seven-year-old Syrian girl whose Twitter account from Aleppo gained international attention has fled her home amid heavy fighting, but she and her family are safe for now, her father said Tuesday.

With her mother's help, Bana al-Abed had been posting heart-rending tweets in English on life in the besieged eastern districts of Syria's Aleppo.

But as Syrian government forces edged closer to their home in recent days, the Abed family fled and the Twitter updates slowed.

"Our house was damaged in bombardment," her father Ghassan said by phone from east Aleppo, two-thirds of which has been seized by advancing government forces.

"The army got really close to our neighbourhood. We fled to another part of east Aleppo and the family is doing well," he said, adding that "the internet connection is very weak here."

Since late September, Bana and her mother Fatemah have garnered more than 211,000 followers by tweeting regular updates on battered Aleppo.

Pictures of massive white columns of smoke, captioned "Aleppo right now. We (are) so scared," are interspersed with shots of Bana reading or scrawling in a notebook.

The account captured the attention of novelist JK Rowling, who responded to a picture of Bana poring over an electronic copy of the "Harry Potter" series.

On November 29, Bana's account tweeted a photograph of a heavily damaged building, with the caption: "This is our house, My beloved dolls died in the bombing of our house. I am very sad but happy to be alive."

Several days later, Bana wrote that she was sick: "I have no medicine, no home, no clean water. This will make me die even before a

bomb kill me."

Many of the tweets have included cries for help, but the messages grew increasingly desperate at the weekend.

On Sunday night, Fatemah posted: "We are sure the army is capturing us now. We will see each other another day dear world. Bye."

The account fell silent for 24 hours, prompting concerned followers to launch a #WhereisBana hashtag.

An update followed on Monday night, reading: "Under attack. Nowhere to go, every minute feels like death. Pray for us. Goodbye - Fatemah."

Online supporters of President Bashar al-Assad have bashed the account and sent Bana and her mother death threats.

And in an October interview with Danish broadcaster TV2, Assad alleged that footage posted by

Bana was "promoted by the terrorists or their supporters."

"It's a game now, a game of propaganda, it's a game of media. You can see anything, and you can be sympathetic with every picture and every video you see. But our mission as a government is

to deal with the reality," he said.



Syrian Bana al-Abed, who with the help of her mother had been posting heartrending tweets

Fatemah, the mother of Syrian Bana al-Abed, films her daughter

Ironman 70.3 preparations in full swing, athletes arrive

DT News Network
Manama

International participants of the Ironman 70.3 Middle East Championship scheduled for Saturday had started arriving.

They were welcomed yesterday by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The event is held under the patronage of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Stating that the Kingdom is proud to hold international events at the Ironman 70.3 Middle East Championship's level, Shaikh Nasser called on Bahraini athletes to seize this golden opportunity.

"I am very happy at the number of Bahrainis registered to compete in the event. This shows the level of reputation this sport has gained in a very short period. The championship is an extraordinary large-scale sporting event and we are

eagerly awaiting for it. I am happy with the efforts put in place by the the organising committee members to make this event a resounding success," noted Shaikh Nasser.

Meanwhile, Maryam Bu Kamal, the in-charge of Al Mala'ab Programme, affirmed that a constant coverage has been given to the event, and an exclusive episode will be hosted next Saturday. The IRONKIDS and IronGirl taking place tomorrow at 5pm and 6pm at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) are also witnessing a large turnout.



Ironman delegations

Premier league 2016 2017

Table		Points	played
1	Chelsea	34	14
2	Arsenal	31	14
3	Liverpool	30	14
4	Man City	30	14
5	Tottenham	27	14
6	Man Utd	21	14
7	West Brom	20	14
8	Everton	20	14
9	Stoke City	19	14
10	Bournemouth	18	14
11	Watford	18	14
12	Southampton	17	14
13	Middlesbrough	15	14
14	Crystal Palace	14	14
15	Burnley	14	14
16	Leicester	13	14
17	West Ham	12	14
18	Sunderland	11	14
19	Hull City	11	14
20	Swansea City	9	14

Legend: ● Won ● Drawn ● Lost
 ● Champions League (C1)
 ● C1 Preliminary round
 ● Europa League
 ● Relegation



Slutsky quits as CSKA Moscow coach

Moscow

Leonid Slutsky has resigned as coach of CSKA Moscow after seven hugely successful years and will leave after today's Champions League match with Tottenham Hotspur, the Russian champions said. CSKA play the Premier League side at Wembley with both clubs already out of the Champions League but with a Europa League spot up for grabs, while CSKA are third in the Russian Premier League.

Dybala set to return as Juve target top spot

Turin

Argentine striker Paulo Dybala is set to make his long-awaited return for Juventus when the Italians host Dinamo Zagreb today looking to secure top spot in Champions League Group H. With Gonzalo Higuain only recently returning from a muscle problem.

Argentina referees plan to go on strike

Buenos Aires

Argentina's top referees have called a strike from Thursday to demand better security for officials at matches, jeopardising the country's weekend football programme. Sunday's Buenos Aires derby between River Plate and Boca Juniors could be among the casualties if the strike goes ahead.

IMMAF coming to Bahrain in 2017

DT News Network
Manama

The IMMAF World Championships, the world's most prestigious amateur Mixed Martial Arts tournament, is coming to Bahrain in 2017. This incredible development is even more shocking considering it will be the first time the event has been held outside Las Vegas, Nevada.

The implications are huge for Bahrain, as the event will bring some of the best fighters from all over the world, with some of the best prospects on the planet battling for worldwide recognition as well as the aspiring Arab MMA fighters in the Middle East, who now have a clear goal to aim towards.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sport First Vice Chairman



Shaikh Khalid with Kerrith Brown, President of the IMMAF and Denzin White, CEO of the IMMAF

and Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation President HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa has attended the last two IMMAF World Championships, building important relationships with key players in the organisation. In July 2016, Team Bahrain attended and won a bronze medal through young fighter Farhad Abdulrazaq and is a

symbol of Bahrain's progress in the sport through KHK MMA.

The announcement is a result of the passion and patronage of Shaikh Khalid and his close confidante Mohammed Shahid finally paying dividends for the people of Bahrain.

Shaikh Khalid's dedication to MMA is unquestionable and is seen in evidence at KHK MMA which he helped to build with the CEO Mohammed Shahid. They have been developing their grassroots in MMA through having a professional and amateur team who train at the KHK MMA stable, with world class facilities and coaching.

They also launched their new organisation Brave Combat Federation in September and their first two shows were a roaring success, bringing high profile fighters from around the world to Bahrain.

Wales, Wagstaff clinch Monday Madness golf

DT News Network
Manama

The duo of David Wales and Stephen Wagstaff (26 points) enjoyed a comfortable win in the fifth and penultimate competition of the Coca-Cola Monday Madness Night Golf Series at the Royal.

This was their second consecutive win in the series and puts them in joint first place in the overall order of merit, alongside the pairing of Ali Al Hakam and Ali Al

Kowari. Chris Meyer and partner Wayne Giles (21) clinched the runners up spot and youngsters Al Hakam and Ali Kowari (20) narrowly clinched third place on count back with.

Wales collected an additional prize for winning a nearest the pin side contest on hole 12 and Saud Al Sharif was nearest to the pin on hole 16.

Adam Dutton, the Royal Golf Club's Tournament

on behalf of Coca-Cola.

Results:

1) David Wales/Stephen Wagstaff (26 points), 2) Chris Meyer/Wayne Giles (21), 3) Ali Mohamed Al Hakam/Ali Al Kowari (20 on count back), 4) Jamie Bowen/Michael Brightmore (20), 5) Yaseen Le Falher/Saud Al Sherif (19 on countback).

Nearest the Pins: David Wales (hole 12) and Saud Al Sherif (hole 16).



From left, Wagstaff and Wales with runners up Giles and Meyer

Pristine CC crush Union Group

DT News Network
Manama

Pristine CC crushed Union Group by 70 runs in the latest matches of the BFC sponsored BCL Diamond League at the Busaiteen Grounds in Muharraaq.

Batting first, Pristine CC scored an impressive 171 for four in 20 overs thanks to fine knocks by Asim (74 off 55 deliveries), Faisal (36) and Waheed (26) with Nadeem (two for 25), while Union Group in reply were bowled out for 101, with the main resistance from Nadeem (30) and Sanjay (23) with Ashwaq (two for 22) the pick of the bowlers.

In another match, Zayani Motors scored 170 for 20 with the main scorers being Wasiq (96) and Sagar (40).



David Warner

Australia reclaim series

Canberra

David Warner slammed his sixth one-day century of the year to lead Australia to a crushing 116-run victory and reclaim the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series off New Zealand yesterday.

Warner smashed 119 off 115 balls to propel the Australians to an imposing 378 for five after being sent into bat. They then bowled out the Black Caps for 262 off 47.2 overs at the bat-friendly Manuka Oval.

New Zealand had to win in Canberra to keep alive their hopes of retaining the trophy after losing by 68 runs in the opening game in Sydney on Sunday. Warner led the way in Australia's third-highest ODI total and was supported by skipper Steve Smith's 72 off 76

balls and Travis Head's 57 from 32 balls, while Mitchell Marsh bludgeoned seven sixes in a unbeaten 76 off just 40 balls.

The Black Caps made a spirited attempt to chase Australia's hefty total and were 177 for three when Jimmy Neesham fell in the 31st over for 74, ending a 125-run stand with skipper Kane Williamson.

Williamson was dismissed nine overs later for 81 off 80 balls with five fours and two sixes, and with him went New Zealand's faint hopes of reeling in the Australian target.

Williamson's gamble on sending the Australians into bat backfired spectacularly when the home side feasted on a perfect batting wicket.

The pugnacious Warner set the tone with his 10th ODI

BRIEF SCORE

Australia 5 for 378 (Warner 119, Marsh 76, Smith 72, Head 57) beat **New Zealand** 262 (Williamson 81, Neesham 74, Cummins 4-41) by 116 runs

century -- the third century in his last five ODI innings and his first against New Zealand.

Only three other Australian batsmen have scored more hundreds in ODIs -- Ricky Ponting (30), Mark Waugh (18) and Adam Gilchrist (16).

"It was a fantastic wicket and once you keep wickets in hand you can make 100 runs in the last 10 overs," Warner said. (AFP)



"He is somebody who I worked with as a player and his personality and professionalism were excellent throughout my period as interim manager"

Gareth Southgate about Sammy Lee

REST IN SIGHT

La Liga wants 3 billion TV audience by 2018

Doha

La Liga is targeting a global television audience of three billion people by the end of next season, a senior league official told a football conference in Qatar yesterday.

Lulic facing ban over Rudiger race comments

Milan

Lazio star Senad Lulic could be handed a multiple-match ban for controversial comments made to Roma defender Antonio Rudiger in a fiercely-contested capital derby in Serie A on Sunday.

Federer, Serena skip IPTL over India cash crunch

New Delhi

Tennis stars Roger Federer and Serena Williams have both pulled out of an exhibition tournament in India next week as a result of the country's cash crunch, organisers said yesterday.

Feng bids to continue fine Dubai form

Dubai

China's world number four Shanshan Feng will look to extend her domination in the Omega Dubai Ladies Masters when she seeks a fourth title in last five years.

Rio the 'most perfect imperfect Games' - IOC

Lausanne

"Everything worked" during the Games in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year, the International Olympic Committee said yesterday, insisting the event was the best it could be under difficult circumstances.

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Duncan Watmore out for season

London

Young **Sunderland** forward Duncan Watmore will miss the rest of the season with a cruciate ligament injury, the Premier League club announced yesterday.

Watmore, 22, was stretchered off after a collision with Christian Fuchs during Saturday's 2-1 win over Leicester City.

He subsequently visited a specialist in London and scans revealed he is facing a long period on the sidelines.

Zidane determined to win group

Madrid

Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane insists the European champions aren't prepared to settle for second place behind Borussia Dortmund in Champions League Group F despite the potential for an easier last 16 tie.

Madrid need to beat the German giants at the Santiago Bernabeu today to secure top spot and the second leg of their last 16 clash at home.

However, given Real can't face Barcelona or Atletico Madrid even if they do finish second, as clubs from the same

country are kept apart, winning the group could prove more dangerous with Bayern Munich or Pep Guardiola's Manchester City potential opponents.

"We're only thinking about winning. We're not going to look at or think about other things," said the Frenchman, who led Madrid to their 11th European Cup in his first season in charge in May. "We want to finish top of the group."

Real extended an unbeaten run stretching back to April to 33 games thanks to Sergio Ramos's stoppage



Zinedine Zidane

time equaliser at Barcelona in El Clasico on Saturday to maintain a six-point lead over Barca at the top of La Liga.

Indeed, Real remain on course for five trophies this season having already pocketed the European Super Cup and with the Club World Cup to come in Japan later this month.

You have to highlight the side's work rate," added Zidane.

However, despite the stellar start to his coaching career in line with his feats as one of the greatest players of his generation, Zidane remains humble enough to admit luck has been on his side during a rollercoaster ride in 2016. (AFP)

Bjorn to captain Europe at 2018 Ryder Cup

London

Denmark's **Thomas Bjorn** will captain the European team at the 2018 Ryder Cup in Paris, Ryder Cup Europe announced yesterday.

Bjorn, 45, vice-captain for four previous Ryder Cups, succeeds Northern Irishman Darren Clarke.

"It's a huge honour for me to be named European captain for the 2018 Ryder Cup in Paris," Bjorn said in a statement on the Ryder Cup website.

"This is one of the greatest days in my career."

Bjorn, who is Denmark's most successful golfer, has played in three Ryder Cups, finishing on the winning side

in 1997, 2002 and 2014, and twice finished second in the British Open.

He was vice-captain of this year's team who lost 17-11 to the United States at Hazeltine.

A 15-time European Tour winner, he had been the favourite for the non-playing post, after Ireland's Padraig Harrington said he wanted to play at the event, and was chosen ahead of Scotland's Paul Lawrie.

"I have lived and breathed the European Tour for so long and now I will do the same with the Ryder Cup for the next two years," Bjorn added.

"I studied a lot of captains as a player and as a vice-captain

and always wondered what that feeling would be like to be the one leading out a team of 12 great players.

"Now it's my turn to do just that and it is an exciting moment for me."

Bjorn will be only the fourth man from outside the British Isles to captain Europe after Spanish pair Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal and Germany's Bernhard Langer.

He was chosen by a five-man panel of the three most recent captains -- Clarke, Paul McGinley and Olazabal -- plus European Tour chief executive Keith Pelley and European Tour tournament committee member Henrik Stenson. (AFP)



Thomas Bjorn



Fernando Alonso



Mercedes will 'consider' Alonso

London
Mercedes boss Toto Wolff says Fernando Alonso must be considered among the potential replacements for Nico Rosberg next year.

Rosberg's surprise retirement announcement on Friday leaves Mercedes with a limited amount of time to find a new teammate for Lewis Hamilton. Senior team members met at the team's factory in Brackley on Monday to discuss the decision, but with most the grid already under contract for 2017 their options could be limited.

Alonso has one more year to

run on his current McLaren deal, but has made no secret of his desire to return to a winning car before the end of his career. He was teammates with Hamilton at McLaren for one explosive season in 2007 before the resulting fallout saw Alonso leave the team at the end of the year.

The prospect of managing the two drivers is thought to be too risky for Mercedes, but speaking in an interview with *Sky Sports* at the team's factory on Monday, Wolff did not rule out a bid for the Spaniard.

"You have to consider Fernando," Wolff said. "He is a

driver I respect a lot. He combines talent, speed and experience. It's all there.

"But he is in a contract with McLaren-Honda at the moment and we just need to weigh all the other options up."

However, McLaren executive director Zak Brown is confident his star driver is not going anywhere next year.

"We have a contract with Fernando and he is very happy," he told *Sky Sports*. "Obviously he wants to be winning races, as do we, but I am not worried about that scenario. We are very comfortable where we are at." (*espn.in*)

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