

# DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

News of Bahrain

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## 11th Hour

### 82 prisoners released

**Manama**  
**H**is Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has issued a Royal Decree, pardoning and releasing 82 inmates who served part of their jail terms. The decree was issued on the occasion of the anniversary of HM's Accession to the Throne and National Day

### Kuwait forms new Cabinet

**Kuwait City**  
**K**uwait formed a new cabinet yesterday, led by Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Sief Palace yesterday, and the Prime Minister presented a list of new ministers. The Amir then issued a decree for the new cabinet. Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was appointed as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. - IANS



P  
02

Blast in Times Square



P  
04

30% stake for RCO in Seef properties



Members of "This is Bahrain" delegation appearing in an Israeli TV programme

# 'This is Bahrain' in hot water over Israeli trip

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN  
muhannad@dt.bh

### Manama

**T**he ongoing visit of a Bahraini delegation to Israel drew nationwide condemnation during the past two days, especially that its members were received and accompanied by Israeli officials, and not Palestinians. "This is Bahrain", a civil society interfaith group, which is on a four-day visit to Israel, calls for globally promoting religious freedom, coexistence and tolerance.

The group members

appeared on Israeli TV channels in a visit that was said to be official and at a time when Arab and Muslim capitals are boiling over US President Donald Trump's recent controversial declaration of Al Quds (Jerusalem) as the capital of Israel.

They were shown while touring the alleys and markets of the old city.

This has been the most discussed matter in Bahrain since Saturday, the day when footage showing several members of the group speaking to Israeli news

channels went viral online.

The delegation included people from different religions, sects, churches, temples and groups living in Bahrain.

They were accompanied by 'This is Bahrain' President Betsy Mathieson.

### 'Message of peace'

While speaking to Israeli journalists, group member and Shite Scholar Fadhel Fateel said, "Our message is a message of peace to everywhere in the world. Shiites in Bahrain and other countries don't have any

grudge or hate against any religion or sect. We come to Al Quds to carry with us a message of peace and to visit this historic and religious landmark."

Mathieson also appeared in the same televised report saying, "We come here to the historic ancient city of Jerusalem to carry with us a message of peace."

### Public uproar

The visit created a wave of anger among the different segments of the Bahraini society, becoming the most trending topic on local social

media networks.

Thousands of Bahrainis condemned the visit and considered it as "a step towards the normalisation with Israel" and reiterated the Bahraini stance towards the Palestinian cause since the 1940s, rejecting Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands.

Some of them even demanded the closure of the society as they claimed that "it is insulting to the history and reputation of the Kingdom by adopting such unwelcome initiatives."

(Continued on Page 3)

Anger on social media against the group's visit to the Jewish country



# BLAST IN TIMES SQUARE

A 27-year-old Bangladeshi national has been taken into custody with serious injuries after a suspected pipe bomb he was carrying malfunctioned and exploded prematurely inside a Midtown Manhattan subway station Monday morning.

Commuters said they felt a blast in the Subway tunnels underneath the Port Authority Bus Terminal around 7:30am. The bus terminal is a major transit hub for people commuting to and from New Jersey by bus, and is located just a block from Times Square.

Police have taken one man into custody, who was wearing a pipe bomb with wires and a battery pack, a source told the *New York Post*. He was injured when the bomb malfunctioned, but is alive and in stable condition, according to the FDNY.

The FDNY says a total of four people were injured and that the injuries were non-life-threatening. The injured count includes the suspect.

While the suspect has not been identified by name, the *Post* reports that he is 27-year-old Bangladeshi national who lives in Brooklyn and has been in the U.S. for seven years. He was carrying an ID that listed his name as Akayed Ullah.

Former NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton told *MSNBC's* Morning Joe that the suspect 'supposedly was setting the device off in the name of ISIS' and that it was 'definitely a terrorist attack, definitely intended'.

CNN reports that it appears the Subway was not the intended target of the pipe bomb, and that it may have went off prematurely.

They also learned that the device was homemade and could have caused catastrophic damage if it went off as intended.

The Port Authority is the largest in the country and the busiest in the world - serving about 225,000 commuters a day.

Video from above the 'Crossroads of the World' showed lines of police and emergency vehicles, their lights flashing, lining the streets and no other vehicle traffic moving.

Everything around the Port Authority in the 42nd Street area was shut down - a surreal scene of still at what would ordinarily be a bustling rush hour.

New Jersey Transit buses headed to the Port Authority were diverting to other locations following the explosion.

NJ Transit says buses are taking passengers to Secaucus and Hoboken. From there, they can take trains or PATH into the city.

Trains, PATH, light rail and ferries are honoring bus tickets into New York.

NYPD sources say the suspect is Bangladeshi and has been in the US for seven years.

His motivation has not been established yet but it comes on the heels of a Muslim day of rage in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital, last week where thousands of Muslims protested over President Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The decision - which breaks with decades of tradition in international policy - has drawn widespread criticism from Muslims and Christians around the world.

Previous presidents have refrained from such direct involvement in the Middle East's historic conflict but Trump proudly waded in. Moving the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was a campaign promise which he now boasts about fulfilling.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted Monday morning that the president had been briefed on the situation. (*Daily Mail*)

## Pipe bomb terror attack at Manhattan's Port Authority Bus Terminal 'carried out in the name of ISIS by Bangladeshi man', former NYPD commissioner claims



**1:58pm**  
**Bomber is 27-year-old man**  
 The suspected bomber is a 27-year-old man, according to the former NY police commissioner Bill Bratton.

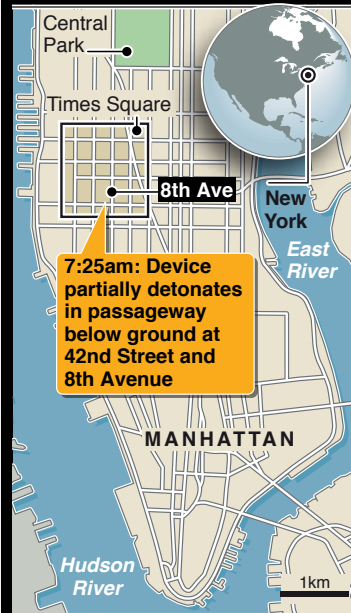
**1:43pm**  
**Male suspect had explosives 'strapped on' body**  
 The male suspect had explosives strapped on when they exploded, law enforcement official told AP.

**1:36pm**  
**Donald Trump briefed on attack**  
 The US President has been briefed on the explosion in New York, the White House said.

**1:32pm**  
**Just one person injured, in addition to the suspected bomber**  
 Just one person has been injured in addition to the suspected bomber, CNN reported. The bomb went off prematurely and had been intended to cause far greater damage.

**1:29pm**  
**Bomb found on subway platform**  
 The bomb was reportedly found on a train platform, which suggests it was intended to be detonated in a train carriage.

**1:27pm**  
**'Isil-inspired attack' - Bill Bratton**  
 Former NY police commissioner Bill Bratton has claimed the attack was inspired by Isil.



# 'This is Bahrain' in hot water

From Page 1

**A**dditionally, they shared old pictures showing Bahrainis protesting and taking part in Arab-Israeli war in the 1940s, to further emphasise on the stance of the people of Bahrain towards the Arabism of the Palestinian lands.

The matter also escalated as several lawmakers pledged to hold the group accountable for the "shameful visit". This included Second Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Abdulhalim Murad, the council's Permanent Committee for the Support of the Palestinian People Committee Chairman Mohammed Al Emmadi, MP Ghazi Al Rahma to mention a few.

Al Rahma commented on his official page on Twitter that "the group doesn't represent the people of Bahrain and it should be disowned".

"This is Bahrain, by its action, have humiliated all Bahrainis, and this matter will not casually pass through. Holding it accountable for its heinous act is a national duty," Al Rahma said while pledging to take action against the group.

### 'No official visit'

In its first response to the online frenzy, 'This is Bahrain' affirmed in a written statement that "the visit isn't official" and that "the delegation isn't representing any official establishment".

The statement read, "This is Bahrain delegation visiting Israel and comprising of expatriates from various religious affiliations living in Bahrain does not represent any official entity".

"With reference to reports

carried by some media and social networking sites about the visit of a delegation from "This is Bahrain" to Israel and Occupied Jerusalem, the society confirms that the delegation, which includes some foreign nationals from different religions residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain, does not represent any official body in the Kingdom. The delegation represents solely the society and has undertaken the visit on its own initiative," the society said in its statement.

It also mentioned, "The initiative by 'This is Bahrain' is based on the principle of tolerance and coexistence, an approach embraced by the Kingdom of Bahrain and a feature of its society, and aims to visit Islamic, Christian, Jewish and other holy sites across the world."

Fateel stressed on the same and clarified further by tweeting, "Firstly, the visit of Al Aqsa Mosque is desirable for every Muslim, and secondly, it is a religious delegation, not a political one. Thirdly, the delegation stressed the position of His Majesty the King on the just Palestinian issue and that Al Quds is the capital of occupied Palestine and fourthly there is no normalisation or any letter to Israel with us. Fifthly, there is no fair media coverage and the source has fabricated our speech."

"We are not a government delegation and we don't believe in the normalisation with the Zionists. I represent only myself and the statement

was cropped and edited. Bottom-line is that we attended a religious conference for tolerance and coexistence and visited the Al Aqsa Mosque and we affirmed the right of the Palestinian people in their state with Al Quds as its capital," Fateel added.

### Not kicked out

Several Palestinian and regional

news agencies reported that the delegation was asked to leave the premises of Al Aqsa Mosque by the Palestinian Endowments. However, this couldn't be confirmed.

Despite Fateel's confirmation of visiting the mosque, a member of the group told DT New that "they weren't asked to leave the mosque as they didn't even visit it".



Fadhel Fateel speaking to Israeli media



A picture shared online of protests in Bahrain during the Arab-Israeli war in the 1940s



A picture posted online claimed to be of Bahraini soldiers taking part in the Arab-Israeli war in the 1940s



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## My Opinion

Ahdeya Ahmed

### Iraq...torn between civil war, ISIS and preserving its Arab identity

I spent the day today on Baghdad's streets. I just needed to see for myself this Arab capital that I had just heard of for more than decades. Needed to listen to Elias Khodher and Nadhem Ghazalis songs while driving around Baghdad

After all, these were the singers my dad used to listen and used to tell us how Iraq was beautiful. I needed to live art, culture and breath its air. I also needed to see the county once torn apart because of sectarianism that led to the death of more than half a million Iraqis. I couldn't help wonder how can a country where you see Christmas trees in its airport upon arrival can be the same country in which Sunnis and Shiite Muslims killed each other. How can the same streets on which Christmas trees and Santa costumes are sold be the streets where Muslims killed each other just because they differed over an issue that happened more than 1400 years, incidents that are misinterpreted and used by some political leaders under the umbrella of Islam to create rifts in different societies for their own personal interests.

Unfortunately this rift in Iraq led to a civil war that cost the lives of more than 600,000 people including innocent children.

Its strange how welcoming, generous and loving the people of Iraq and how they're the same people who one day killed each other. Its simply sad to see these fun loving people became victims of sectarianism also because of how rich they were and how some counties wanted to rip them off and put their hands on its wealth. Unfortunately this plan succeeded. Their wealth has become a treasure others benefit from. What just remains to be something they are holding on to is their Arab identity, regardless of the Iranian interference that is very clear.

On its streets, you see how friendly people are. I went into one store and while chatting with the sales lady I asked her if she in any way was affected by the civil war. Her story was as short, simple yet extremely sad. She said her dad was a taxi driver and one night on his way back home he was stopped on the street and shot in the head by members of the opposite sect.

She was only 12 when she was orphaned.

Imagine how many sad stories did the 600,000 people who were killed in the civil war have left behind.

Yes Iraqis have defeated ISIS. Yes they celebrated defeating ISIS and achieved unity, hopefully one with a purely Arab identity but the fact remains to be that you sense how this precious land is still bleeding. We lost Iraq as a protective armour for the Arab world. All we can hope for now is that its people become their own protective armour and at least protect their land and the only greatness left for them, their Arab identity.

*(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.)*

# 30% stake for RCO in Seef properties

DT News Network  
Manama

In a historic move, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa granted orphans and widows under the umbrella of the Royal Charity Organisation a 30 percent stake in Seef Properties.

The decision was announced by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the 20th-anniversary celebration of the Seef Mall.

"HM The King has given directives to grant orphans and widows under the umbrella of the Royal Charity Organisation 30pc of the company's shares in support of charity and humanitarian work," said HH Shaikh Nasser, the Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Charity Organisation.

Seef Properties, a leading real estate development company in Bahrain, was established in 1999 by the Government of Bahrain as a publicly listed company with an aim to manage Seef Mall and other government properties. It continues to attract a large number of visitors thanks to its wide range of international brands including retail, restaurants and leisure facilities for children and adults, as well as hundreds of stores suitable to different lifestyles.

Yesterday's announcement was made in the presence of the Board of Directors of Seef Properties and the Executive Management of the company.

The company, Shaikh Nasser said, is now one of the most important tourist, commercial and economic destinations for



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the anniversary celebration at Seef Mall

citizens, residents, visitors and tourists, which significantly contributes to driving the growth and development in the area surrounding Seef Mall." The mall enjoys branches in Muharraq and Hamala.

Seef Properties recorded net profits of BD7.93 Million for the first nine-months of 2017, an 11.2pc increase from BD7.13 posted during the same period last year. Net profits for the third quarter of 2017 was BD2.73m compared to BD2.64m in the same period last year.

His Majesty the King's decision was hailed by Essa Mohammed Najibi, Chairman of Seef Properties, CEO of Seef Properties Ahmed Yusuf and Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of RCO.

"Launched as a wholly owned company by the Housing Bank, shares of Seef Properties was later listed on the Bahrain Bourse. The move, Najibi said, was aimed at transferring national wealth to citizens.

Seef Mall has announced

month-long activities as part of its anniversary celebrations. This includes the "Shop and Win" campaign launched earlier this month. The campaign allows shoppers who spend BD20 at any of the mall's shops and restaurants in Seef District to win BD1,000 on a daily basis. A stage performance of the animation Ice Age will be held from December 21 to 23, followed by a Chess Championship on December 29 and 30. A fireworks display will add more sparks to the festivities.

## Joining hands to promote a green, healthy life style



Giving away seedlings

Harpreet Kaur/ DTNN  
reporter@dt.bh

Sitra

Efforts to keep the capital city of Bahrain clean and beautiful got a green boost yesterday when officials and the public joined their hands to promote a greener environment.

The event held on Sitra Walkway included distribution of seedlings, a walkathon as well as a medical check-up camp to raise awareness regarding the clean and green environment and to promote a healthy lifestyle.

"The event was a huge success in terms of crowd turnover," Mohammed

Ali Al Khozai, Chairman of Capital Municipal Council told DT News.

Titled 'In love with Bahrain', the festival, organised by Capital Secretariat Council along with the Bahrain Sports for All Federation Organisation, forms part of Bahrain National Day activities.

Chairman and Board Members of the Capital Secretariat Council, Cabinet members, President and members of the Bahrain Sports For All Federation and a number of heads of municipal councils and municipal members were present.

Workshops for kids, held on the sidelines of the event, helped them gain awareness on the importance of

clean environment and "how they can contribute to the society".

When asked about the future programmes of the Council, Al Khozai said, "The first is to develop a strategy on the basis of the directives given by the leadership."

"The Capital Secretariat Council is committed to providing high-quality municipal services to residents and residents of the capital," he added.

The Council, according to Mazen Al Umran, Vice Chairman of the Capital Secretariat Council, will organise follow up events at the Karbabad Beach and the Bab Al Bahrain in the coming weeks.

# Arab states' stance on Jerusalem welcomed

# House to write to US Congress on Trump move

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN  
muhannad@dt.bh

**Manama**

In the aftermath of the controversial statements of US President Donald Trump last week, declaring Al Quds (Jerusalem) as the capital of Israel, the House of Representatives here in Bahrain is planning to send a letter of objection to US Congress.

This was unfolded as the council's Permanent Committee for the Support of the Palestinian People, chaired by MP Mohammed

Al Emmadi, held a meeting on Sunday to discuss the matter.

Committee members announced several recommendations that included requesting the House to issue a statement clarifying the position of Bahrain rejecting such a step, and drafting an official letter from House of Representatives to the US Congress to clarify the point of view of the Legislative Authority of this resolution and to "remind it of its dangers to the security in the region".

"The American role has become biased towards the occupier against the Palestinian




people who want to live in peace by establishing a state with Al Quds as its capital," Al Emmadi said.

He also confirmed that MPs will organise a symbolic protest during their weekly meeting today to express their disagreement with such "reckless decisions" and to reiterate the support of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Al Quds as its capital.

Al Emmadi added that "the decision will not change the historic facts" stressing that "Al Quds is the eternal capital of the State of Palestine".



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HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the weekly cabinet meeting held yesterday

**DT News Network Manama**

The weekly Cabinet meeting chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday discussed the latest developments in the Palestine-Israel peace process. The Cabinet affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad, recognises the Palestinian cause as central to Arab and Islamic affairs. The Cabinet stressed Bahrain's support for the Palestinian right to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Cabinet also highlighted the importance of avoiding any measures that could lead to delaying the ongoing efforts to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process. The Cabinet went on to welcome the stance of the Arab League regarding

Jerusalem at the extraordinary meeting held recently by Arab foreign ministers in Cairo. The Cabinet also commended Arab and Islamic countries across the world for demonstrating their support to Jerusalem and the Palestinian people. The Cabinet greeted His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on the occasion of the Kingdom's National Day and the 18th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne. Bahrain's National Day commemorates the establishment of the Bahraini state during the reign of Shaikh Ahmed Al Fateh in 1783 AD, and the 46th anniversary of the Kingdom being fully recognised by the United Nations. **US visit** During the meeting, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince reviewed the outcomes of his recent visit to the United States, including bilateral meetings with President Trump and U.S.

Administration officials. The Cabinet discussed the range of bilateral agreements signed during the visit, which signalled a new phase in Bahrain-U.S. ties across defence, the economy and trade. The Cabinet paid tribute to Bahraini soldiers who sacrificed their lives defending the country, while recognising that Bahrain's Commemoration Day, which falls on 17 December, is a reminder of selfless dedication and commitment. During the meeting, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister, reviewed the outcomes of the GCC summit held in Kuwait last week. The Cabinet praised the important role of Kuwait, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in hosting the summit, which emphasised the importance of strengthening intra-regional collaboration and cooperation.

The advertisement is approved by HEC under HEC No. 081317.

# it's time to act

AlQaed at the IISS Manama Dialogue



**DT News Network Manama**

Politically or ideologically motivated crimes are on the rise in the cyber world with the Information & eGovernment Authority alerting the Computer Energy Response Team (CERT) regarding serious security issues more than 50 times during 2017, said a top iGA official.

“The nature of the cyber-crimes today has changed,” warned Mohamed Ali AlQaed, by (iGA) Chief Executive,

adding: “It is now used for political, racial, religious or other motives.”

He was talking during a special Panel Discussion entitled ‘Cybersecurity Innovation and the Middle East’ during the IISS Manama Dialogue: 13th Regional Security Summit.

Ministers and senior officials from the Gulf and the rest of the World attended the event hosted by Bahrain from 8th-10th December.

This change, according to Al Qaed, demonstrates the

“seriousness of cybersecurity risks, latest developments of attacks risks relevant to the methods of detecting them and protection”.

The risks, however, has also resulted in developing the (Cyber Hawks) initiative, which contributed in increasing the collaboration amongst various public entities to detect and address possible penetration attempts as well as contain them as fast as possible, Al Qaed told the participants.

Rapid developments in technology were cited as one of the reasons. “Such widespread has accompanied an increase in the risks of several penetrations and cyber-attacks that reach the most vital sectors and targets infrastructures. Thus, they have become a concern for public and private entities as well as individuals.”

The Chief Executive further commented that in light of this technological advancement, the Authority seeks – in collaboration with

all the entities in the Kingdom – to address these cyber-attacks and threats. It will also cooperate with the Anti-Economic Crimes Directorate at the Interior Ministry’s General Directorate of Anti-Corruption & Economic & Electronic Security in order to detect cyber-crimes, in line with the concern and follow-up of the Interior Minister H.E. Lt. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla AlKhalifa.

AlQaed also highlighted the importance of the

human element in terms of sharpening its skills and gaining new experiences as iGA initiated a series of security awareness programmes and specialized training courses all-year-long for public sector employees. Through the Thiqa (Cyber Trust) programme and across its three levels (Practitioner, Progressive and Excellent); the Authority also evaluates and measures employees’ efficiencies and readiness in facing and addressing cybersecurity risks.



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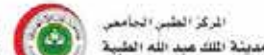


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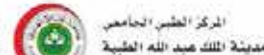


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# NOGA takes a big step

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN  
zafran@dt.bh

**N**ogaholding, the investment and development arm of Bahrain's National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA), yesterday celebrated its inaugural issuance into the international debt market under its newly established Global medium-term note programme.

"The programme which raised a capital of \$1 billion in its initial transaction was the largest corporate issuance within the region," said Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Oil and & Chairman of nogaholding.

The US\$1 billion noted, with a maturity date of 2027, was rated at the sovereign level and substantially oversubscribed with the order book reaching US\$3.8 billion.



Delegates at the event

"Indeed, it was the largest corporate issuance within our region this year," the Minister said adding: "As such, it serves as a strong vote of confidence in the management, strategy and direction of Nogaholding

and the Kingdom of Bahrain."

With a broad participation by institutional investors around the world, the issuance also marks the beginning of new relationships for nogaholding with some of the



Shaikh Mohammed speaks during the event yesterday

largest and most sophisticated fund managers globally.

nogaholding is 100 per cent owned by the Government of Bahrain and plays a fundamental role in the execution of the Kingdom of

Bahrain's policy in the oil and gas sector and stewardship of the Kingdom of Bahrain's investment in oil, gas and petrochemical assets.

"The debt raised from this, and future issuances, will be an important tool in enabling nogaholding to deliver on its stated objectives of developing commercially attractive projects across the oil and gas value chain, to the benefit of the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain," the Minister said. "The issuance comes at an inflection point for our company, as its rate of growth both in terms of investment and profitability accelerates with a number of important projects now underway."

The nogaholding team, Shaikh Mohammed said, led by Qaisar Zaman and assisted by Hassan Al Alawi worked

**Celebrates inaugural US\$1 billion Global Medium Term Note**

tirelessly for many months to make this concept a reality.

On Bapco Modernization programme, the minister said that it is "progressing well". "We are pleased to confirm the continued strong progress of this commercially attractive and strategically important project, and we remain on course to take final investment decision in 2018," he added.

## Saudi lifts cinema ban

Riyadh

**S**audi Arabia lifted a 35-year-old ban on cinemas yesterday, prompting celebrations from film fans, directors and movie chains eyeing the last untapped mass market in the Middle East.

The first theatres could start showing films as early as March, the government said, part of a liberalising reform drive that has already opened the door to concerts, comedy shows, and women drivers over the past year.

Cinemas were banned in the early 1980s under pressure from Islamists as Saudi society turned towards a particularly conservative form of the religion that discouraged public entertainment and public mixing between men and women.

But reforms led by 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman have eased many of those restrictions, as the government tries to broaden the economy and lessen its dependence on oil.

"Opening cinemas will act as a catalyst for economic growth and diversification," said Minister of Culture and Information Awwad bin Saleh Alawwad.

"By developing the broader cultural sector we will create new employment and training opportunities, as well as enriching the Kingdom's entertainment options."

In a nod to conservatives, the government said the films



Saudis watch composer Yanni perform at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, December 3, 2017

would be censored to make sure they remain "in line with values and principles in place and do not contradict with Sharia Laws and moral values in the kingdom."

"Saudi Arabia is always in the news, but it's nice to be in the news in this way," said Los Angeles-based Saudi director Haifaa Al Manour, who released the first full-length feature shot entirely in the kingdom, Wadjda, in 2012.

"I feel like we're about to relive what Egypt was like in the '50s," she said, referring to the explosion of film-making in what is now the epicenter of Arabic popular cinema.

Prince Mohammed has also sought to promote a more tolerant form of Islam and crack down on extremism, a cause Mansour said would be furthered by films.

"If you want to fight terrorism, you need to give

people a love of life. A love of life comes from joy, and cinema is joy."

Thousands of Saudis currently travel to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and other countries for their entertainment. The government has said it wants to retain the money spent on those trips.

Regional cinema chains have also been eyeing the Saudi market, keen to tap the spending power of the young people who make up roughly 70 percent of the kingdom's population. Dubai-based mall operator Majid Al Futtaim, which owns the VOX Cinemas chain, said it wanted to open the first movie theater there.

"We are very happy about this announcement, as you can imagine, we have been waiting for it for quite some time," said chief executive Alain Bejjani. (Reuters)

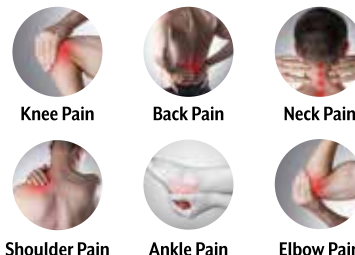
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# Alba in deal with Bechtel

## Manama

**A**luminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) announced signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Bechtel Co. (Bechtel) to explore further opportunities of growth with Line 6 Expansion Project, which will result in Alba becoming the world's largest single-site aluminium smelter.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister attended the MoU signing ceremony between Alba and Bechtel, which was held during the reception organised by the

Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) in collaboration with American Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-Bahrain Business Council on 30 November 2017 in Washington DC.

Other cross-sector trade agreements were also signed between Bahrain and U.S. companies during the reception.

The MoU was signed by Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray and the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bechtel Group Inc. Brendan P. Bechtel during the reception.

Speaking on this occasion, Alba's CEO Tim Murray said: "Alba is one of the industrial

cornerstones of the Kingdom of Bahrain. We are deeply committed to the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030 and proudly partake in the development of the society in which we operate.

Alba and Bechtel have a long-standing business partnership. We are excited at exploring further opportunities with Bechtel, which will consolidate Alba's status as one of the most modern and largest single-site smelters in the world."

Bechtel currently is the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management (EPCM) contractor for Alba's landmark Line 6 Expansion Project.

## VP Pence facing awkward MidEast visit

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence will visit the Middle East for three days in December, amid growing criticism of President Trump's declaration recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

**1 Sun, Dec 17:** Pence flies from Washington to Tel Aviv and goes straight to Jerusalem for bilateral meeting with Israeli President **Benjamin Netanyahu**. He then lights menorah at Western Wall

■ **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** refuses to meet Pence

**2 Mon, Dec 18:** Pence gives signature speech at Knesset to detail why Israel is most cherished ally of U.S.

■ **Coptic Pope Tawadros II** of Egypt refuses to meet Pence. Snub could harm White House efforts to support Christian communities in Middle East

**3 Tue, Dec 19:** Pence flies to Cairo for bilateral talks with President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**. Gives press conference at site of world famous Giza pyramids

**4 Tue, Dec 19:** Pence returns to Washington D.C. via Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Stopover includes meet-and-greet with U.S. troops and their families

Sources: Axios, Haaretz, Bloomberg

Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS



On the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day, Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain along with its real estate arm, Edamah reaffirmed their on-going commitment towards gender parity in a reception at the company's premises on Thursday. The reception gathered the company's female employees and senior Bahraini women engineers in its portfolio companies representing Gulf Air, Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), Batelco, Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC). During the celebration, Mahmood H. Alkooheji, Chief Executive Officer of Mumtalakat recognised their hard work and achievements. Speakers at the reception shared their stories within the engineering sector. Muna Al Hashemi - Deputy CEO of Batelco Group, Basema Al Mahroos - Senior Vice President of APICORP and Linda Mattar - Vice President Projects in Edamah spoke on the occasion.



# VoWiFi service launched for the first time in Bahrain

Manama

**B**atelco yesterday announced the launch of Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) across the Kingdom.

Claimed to be the first service of its kind in the Kingdom, Batelco said, in a statement, "This new introduction follows on from the successful launch earlier this year of Voice over LTE (VoLTE)"

VoWiFi taps into any WiFi connection the customer may have, be it at home, the

office or out and about in public WiFi enabled areas. Calls will seamlessly and automatically be switched between VoLTE and VoWiFi to ensure a superior customer experience.

Similar to VoLTE, the new Voice over WiFi service will deliver faster call setup and superior high-quality (HD) voice calls.

The service is currently applicable to iPhone 6 or later models with customers required to update their phone to the

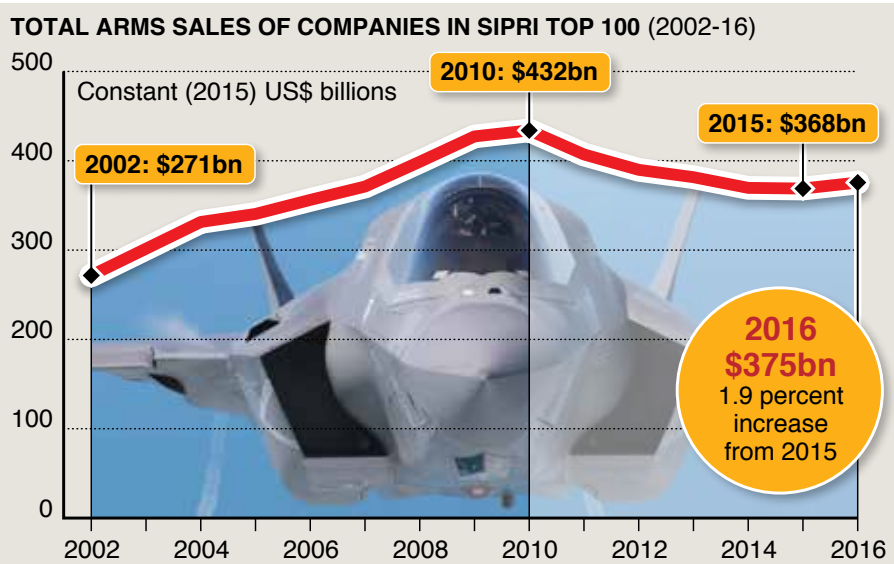
latest iOS software to enjoy the service. Locally, VoWiFi does not cost any extra; the service consumes from the customer's selected package minutes allowance, with any additional calls charged at the standard rates.

A converged network infrastructure, the company said, allows Batelco to maximise its network capabilities and speed up the deployment of more new innovative services for its customers.



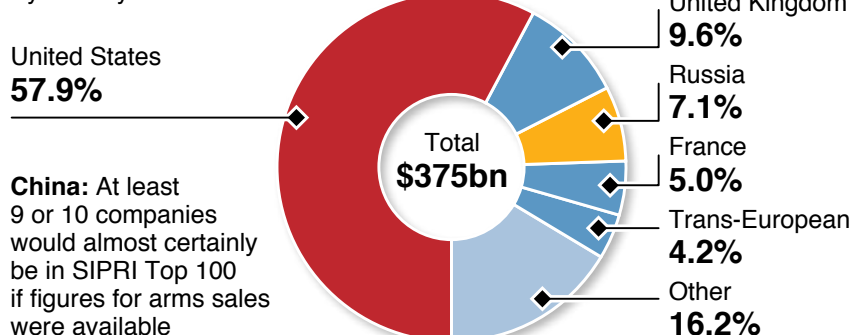
## Arms sales rise for first time in five years

Sales of weapons and military services increased in 2016 – the first year of growth since 2010 – according to global arms industry data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)



## SHARE OF ARMS SALES OF COMPANIES IN SIPRI TOP 100 (2016)

By country



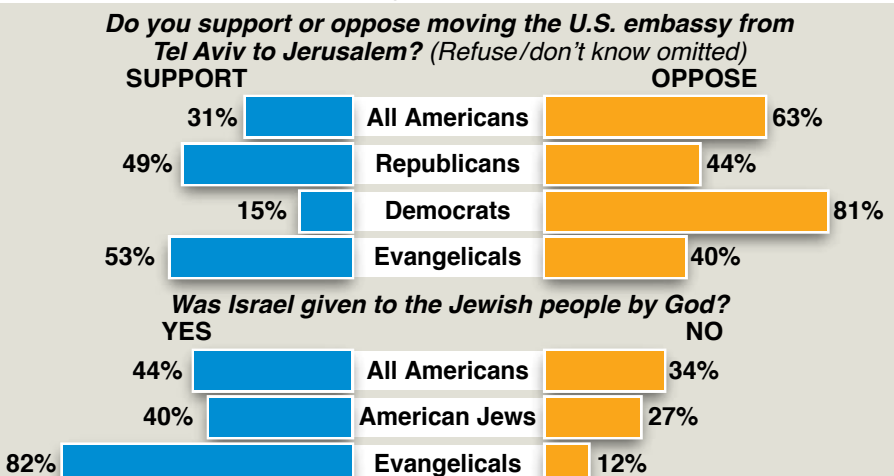
Source: SIPRI

Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS

## Evangelicals back Trump on Jerusalem

Polls show that more than six in 10 Americans oppose President Donald Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, while white evangelicals embrace the move



First question: Nielsen Scarborough/University of Maryland poll of 2,000 American adults Nov 1-6. Margin of error: 2.19%, released by the Brookings Institution. Second question: Pew Research Center poll conducted June 2013

Sources: Brookings Institution, University of Maryland, Pew Research Center

© GRAPHIC NEWS

# Top honour for Ithmaar

## Named best Islamic Retail bank in Bahrain



The award was received on behalf of Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, by the Ithmaar Bank Head of Commercial and Financial Institutions, Abdulla Talib.

Manama

**I**thmaar Bank has been named as the Best Islamic Retail Bank in Bahrain in a ceremony attended by senior bankers from across the Middle East.

The award was received on behalf of the Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, by the Ithmaar Bank Head of Commercial and Financial Institutions, Abdulla Talib.

"Winning this award is testimony to the fact that the vision spelled out by the Ithmaar Bank Board of Directors, led by the Chairman His Royal Highness Prince Amr

Al Faisal, is being translated into a tangible reality," said Abdul Rahim.

"Enhanced customer satisfaction, as well as the subsequent growth of our core retail banking business, is great reward in itself and I am confident that the recognition will help inspire us to even greater achievements," said Abdul Rahim.

Ithmaar Bank was presented the prestigious award following a comprehensive selection and review process conducted by a committee of high-level economists and banking professionals, as well the research department of the

Union of Arab Banks and the World Union of Arab Bankers.

Wissam Fattouh, Secretary General, World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB) and Union of Arab Banks (UAB) congratulated Ithmaar Bank on winning the award and wished the Bank continued success.

"Winning the Best Islamic Retail Bank in the Bahrain category is testimony to Ithmaar Bank's reputation for excellence, and we congratulate them on this major achievement," said Fattouh.

"It is a great achievement and a powerful testimony to the Bank's remarkable success," he said.

## Did You Know?



The maximum amount of Bitcoins that will be produced - 21 million coins. Today already produced about 12 million bitcoins. extraction algorithm is complicated and reduces the number of coins found in 2 times every few years, so the process of mining uneven.



## BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

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

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

## GULF INTERBANK RATES

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

# Saudi pulls back as Dar Al Arkan bubble bursts

## Closing Bell

SAUDI fell 0.6pc to 7,100 points.

DUBAI rose 0.6pc to 3,414 points.

ABU DHABI climbed 1.4pc to 4,356 points.

QATAR gained 1.2pc to 7,923 points.

EGYPT edged up 0.1pc to 14,427 points.

KUWAIT edged down 0.1pc to 6,156 points.

BAHRAIN edged down 0.03pc to 1,265 points.

OMAN fell 0.4pc to 5,041 points.

### Dubai

Saudi Arabia's stock market pulled back yesterday as a bubble in shares of real estate firm Dar Al Arkan burst.

The Saudi index retreated 0.6 per cent as Dar Al Arkan, which had gained as much as 3.4pc in early trade, closed 9.9pc lower at 12.60 riyals. It was by far the market's most heavily traded stock.

Dar Al Arkan had jumped from around 7.50 riyals in mid-November, when international index compiler MSCI said it was adding the stock to its Saudi Arabia Index. Retail investors piled into the stock in recent days, drawn by its volatility.

But the stock climbed far beyond what many analysts considered fair value, to about 51 times trailing earnings, according to Thomson Reuters data. Three analysts surveyed by Reuters have a median target price of 5.00 riyals for the stock; two rate it a "hold" and one a "sell".

Saudi cement shares stayed strong, however. They have been rising in recent weeks, partly on hopes that the government will spend more heavily on major construction projects next year after three years of austerity. Riyadh is expected to release its 2018 state budget next week.

Jouf Cement jumped 5.9pc

to its highest level since early 2016 in heavy trade.

Qatar's index shot up in late trade to close 1.2pc higher, rebounding from the six-year lows it has been languishing at for much of the last month. Qatari Investors Group, which traded at around 23 riyals in mid-November, surged 3pc to

33.48 riyals.

In Dubai, the index rose 0.6pc as real estate firm Emaar Development, which hit a record closing low of 5.34 dirhams last week, rebounded 2.6pc to 5.49 dirhams. Its shares were sold in last month's initial public offer at 6.03 dirhams. (Reuters)



Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Supervisory Committee for Bahrain Women's Day 2017, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, has honoured Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) retired Engineer Hanan Al Masqati. This came on behalf of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day 2017, which is dedicated to women in the field of engineering. The ceremony was attended by Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla, Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, senior officials and guests. GPIC President Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery congratulated Al Masqati, who has been with the Company since its inception. Al Masqati is one of the first Bahraini engineers to join the Company, in 1982. She holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Cairo in Egypt, and has undergone several training courses within and outside Bahrain. She has also represented the Company in forums and specialized conferences. More than 80 leading engineers in various fields have been honoured on the occasion this year. Above, Shaikh Khalid honours Hanan Al Masqati.

## The adventure mobile

**L**and Rover introduced the 2018 Range Rover SV Autobiography SUV, one of several new editions from its Special Vehicle Operations factory. This is the most decadent variant of the model available, with thick leather seats, massive 10-inch, tough-screen entertainment systems, and, in the extended wheelbase version, four feet of legroom, reclining seats, and an ice-box refrigerator as well.

It comes with a 557-horsepower supercharged V8 engine.

Pricing starts at just under \$210,000.



## Baby Porsche

**T**he Porsche 718 Cayman GTS is the souped-up version of Porsche's littlest sports car. It can reach 60 mph in 3.9 seconds on the 365-horsepower flat-four cylinder engine and super lightweight frame. Top speed is 180 mph.

Pricing starts at \$82,950. Deliveries start in March 2018.



## McLaren Senna: Track-focused hypercar

**M**cLaren has pulled the covers off the second Ultimate Series model; a lightweight, track-focused hypercar called the Senna. With extreme, aero-optimised bodywork, a stripped-back cabin and a 789bhp twin-turbo V8.

Named after three-time Formula 1 World Champion Ayrton Senna, McLaren says a portion of the car's profits will go to the foundation set up in his name. (*autoexpress*)



## Urus to snag Nurburgring record

**W**ith a 0-62 time of 3.6 seconds and a top speed quoted at 190 mph, the new Lamborghini Urus is not lacking for performance credentials. But before all's said and done, it will go for at least one more.

Car reports that Lamborghini is already planning to take its new crossover to the Nurburgring in pursuit of the production-SUV lap record. And it's fairly confident it will take it by a comfortable margin.

The current lap record belongs to the another high-performance Italian crossover – the Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio – which set a time of 7:51.7 just a couple of months ago. (*carscoops*)

## The electric superstar

**T**he 2018 BMW i8 Roadster is the open-top version of the German automaker's plug-in hybrid supercar. This year's i8 comes with a new motor that produces 143bhp for a total gas-plus-electric power output of 374bhp.

The all-electric range is 34 miles on one full charge. The car can go to 62 mph in 4.6 seconds, with a top speed of 155 mph. The roof deploys in 16 seconds at speeds of less than 31 mph.

Pricing starts at \$169,000.



Luxury wheels that will drive 2018

# LOS ANGELES AUTO SHOW

From a \$2 million Mercedes to an all-electric car, automakers have the best planned for the new year. A few were uncovered at the LA Auto show. Let's have a look at it

## Electric wonders

**B**MW came to the LA with a lot of electric variants. The X7 electric SUV and BMW 8 Series electric concept were two of the most exciting.

Everything in the X7 is oversized: it comes with three rows of seating, an updated, edgy take on the signature BMW kidney grilles, 23-inch wheels, a large panoramic glass roof and a 12.3-inch instrument cluster. A six-seat option with captain's chairs is available. The production version will emerge next year.

The 8 Series Concept coupe features a V8 engine and (most likely) optional all-wheel-drive. BMW says it will offer the production versions in convertible and Grand Turismo form when they come out next year.

Pricing is expected to start at around \$110,000.



## Mercedes-Benz Project One

**T**he Mercedes-Benz Project One has been around for a year now, but this is the first time it has shown up in real life in California.

At an expected sticker price of more than \$2 million, the hybrid supercar can make more than 1,000 PS and reach top speeds of more than 217 mph. The technology inside comes directly from Formula One racing.

The car is still in concept status, but when it does go on sale for real, production will be extremely limited. (*economictimes*)

## Fastest Corvette ever

**T**he 2019 Corvette ZR1 Convertible recently made its world debut. It has a 755 horsepower, LT5 6.2L supercharged engine with a new, more efficient intercooled supercharger system that offers 52 per cent more displacement volume than the supercharger on the current \$ 80,000 Corvette Z06.

Pricing for the ZR1 convertible will start at \$123,995; a coupe version will ring in just under \$120,000. They both will go on sale in the spring of 2018.





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa yesterday visited his Advisor for Cultural and Scientific Affairs Dr. Mohammed bin Jaber Al-Ansari at his house. HM the King wished Dr. Al-Ansari abundant health and happiness, commending his prolific efforts and crucial role in serving Bahrain in the intellectual, cultural, literary and political fields.



Cape Verde President Jorge Carlos Fonseca received Supreme Council Chairman and Bahrain Royal Equestrian & Endurance Federation President mad Al Khalifa who is on a visit to Cape Verde to attend the African in which a match was held between KHK Boxing's boxer Faisal Arami Maximus. HH Shaikh Khalid exchanged with the Cape Verdean President and ways to bolster them, especially in the youth and sports fields.



Advisor of HM the King for Youth and Sports Saleh Bin Hindi has received Egyptian Ambassador Soha Ebrahim Mohammed Rifaat. The advisor of HM the King for youth and sports praised the deep-rooted bilateral ties, noting Egypt's role at the various levels.



Under the Patronage of Assistant Foreign Minister Abdulla bin Faisal bin Jabur Al Doseri the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in honour of the Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong on the occasion of completing his tenure as ambassador to the ceremony, Assistant Foreign Minister presented a commemorative gift marking the occasion and wished the Ambassador.



Supreme Council for Youth and Sports deputy general secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee general secretary Abdulrahman Askar and representatives of 18 national sports federations attended a meeting to prepare a list of candidate athletes to play for Bahrain at next year's edition of the Asian games to be held in Jakarta. BOC Arab and International Relations manager Fajer Jassim made a visual presentation on the games rules and venues of competition, in addition to the number of sports to be include at the games.



AIMAb... tion c... organ... event... was a... the B... Zain b... as stu... of the... oured... studen... taken... tivities



Saturday Biryani Party was held in different locations in the Kingdom in cooperation with Bahrain Financing Company





Minister for Youth & Sport First Vice President HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa... and Congolese boxer, Junior... talks on bilateral relations



Education Minister Majid Al Nuaimi has honoured two students who had won international scientific creativity contests. The minister honoured Dana Hussain Barakat from Shaikha Hessa Girls' School who created an animated cartoon character aimed to preserve the environment. She was the sole Arab student among more than 2,000 contestants worldwide.



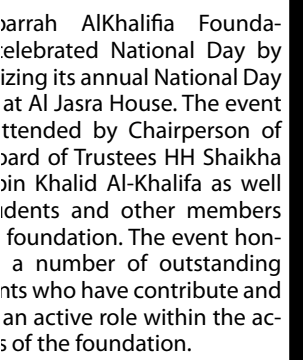
Chairman BCCI Khalid Al Moayed alongside Vice-chairman Khalid Al Zayani and board members Afnan Al Zayani and Ahlam Janahi received at Bait Al Tijjar a South Korean business delegation. During the meeting, the delegation expressed interest in entering the Bahraini market and forging partnerships with Bahraini Business owners.



... hosted a farewell ceremony... Kingdom. At the end of the... assador further success.



Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) celebrated Bahraini Woman's Day with an honouring ceremony for its outstanding employees.



... barrah AlKhalifa Founda-... celebrated National Day by... izing its annual National Day... at Al Jasra House. The event... attended by Chairperson of... board of Trustees HH Shaikha... bin Khalid Al-Khalifa as well... dents and other members... foundation. The event hon-... a number of outstanding... ents who have contribute and... an active role within the ac-... of the foundation.



First board meeting of the Pakistan Club was held at the club premises in the presence of Chairman Rehan Ahmed, Vice chairman Muhammad Afzal Bhatti and General Secretary Sami Ur Rahman.



As part of the Bahrain National Day celebrations Sindhi Sangat Bahrain Chairman Saif Channa and board Members arranged a Musical Sindhi Cultural Night at Salt N Pepper Restaurant, Sanad.



On the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day, Tender Board held a celebration earlier this week as a token of appreciation for its female employees and their efforts and contributions to the growth and success of the board over the past years. During the celebration, Secretary General of Tender Board Hayam Al Awadhi praised and expressed her gratitude to every employee and Bahraini woman for their hard work and the vital role they play in the prosperity and development of the Kingdom.

# CELEBS

@RealHughJackman  
 Over 7 years ago we began the journey to get @ GreatestShowman made into a major motion picture. Through all of the (literal) blood, sweat and tears .... giving up was never an option. As it is said - with great risk comes great reward. Thank you



## 'Pitch Perfect' about female empowerment: Ruby Rose



Los Angeles **Australian actress-DJ-model** Ruby Rose says she was attracted to upcoming film "Pitch Perfect 3" because it is about female empowerment.

Rose has joined the franchise as a member of a rival music group to the Barden Bellas. She loves how the films depict strong female friendships.

"I love that 'Pitch Perfect' is about friendship. The girls have relationships and crushes but the central story is about how much they mean to one another and about female empowerment," Rose told *dailymail.co.uk*.

"The Bellas are all very different in terms of size, sexuality, race and personality, and together they're so strong, which is great because kids can look up to these women," she added.

Rose was thrilled to work with Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson in the film. (IANS)

Los Angeles **Singer Liam** Payne says fatherhood has "changed him in every single way".

Payne welcomed his son Bear with singer Cheryl in March.

"It's changed me in every single way. It's the first thing you think about in the morning and the last thing you think about at night... It's his first Christmas. He's only going to be interested in the wrapping paper, so buy the shiniest one," Payne told *etonline.com*.

The 24-year-old singer is looking forward to the festive period.

"My holiday plans are to spend some beautiful time with my son and to eat my own weight in lovely Christmas food. You might see a different Liam after Christmas and then you'll see post-Christmas Liam with a new year resolution, hopefully," he said. (IANS)



Fatherhood has changed Liam Payne

## Making films help Jodie Foster evolve

Los Angeles **Actress-director** Jodie Foster says the reason she likes to make movies is because it helps her evolve as a person.

"Some directors love cranes and CGI and spectacle, but that is not why I make movies. I feel like I make movies because there are things I have to say in order to figure out who I am or my place in the world, or for me to evolve as a person," Foster told *The Observer newspaper*, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

Her comment comes after Foster said that she found acting "cruel and hard".

"I don't think I would have been an actor had I not been thrown into it at the age of 3. It's just not my personality. Maybe that is what has made my work interesting. But it has been really cruel and hard to be an actor... It is hard for me to live with myself as the idea of celebrity," she said. (IANS)





## Ellie Goulding smitten by new beau

New York **Singer Ellie** Goulding is reportedly smitten with her new boyfriend Caspar Jopling.

Goulding is getting serious with the art dealer and has been staying more in New York so that she can spend more time with him, reports *thesun.co.uk*.

"It's a big commitment but Ellie doesn't want to endure a transatlantic romance. She is in the fortunate position where her job enables her to be based in different countries when her schedule isn't packed with promo duties and shows," the source said.

The source added:

"Currently it's much easier for her to travel than it is for Caspar, and Ellie is willing to put the work in. Any free time she has is mainly spent in New York and it really helps that she loves spending time there."

"She hasn't moved over full-time as she still has her pad in London but who knows what the future holds?" (IANS)



## Joan Collins doesn't follow trends

Los Angeles

**Veteran actress** Joan Collins says she has never followed beauty trends.

The 84-year-old follows an advice which was given to her by a female friend, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

"An actress friend of mine gave me some advice years ago. She said, 'You don't have to follow trends or fads. Find something that suits you in your 30s and stay with it,'" Collins told *OK! magazine*.

"So my make-up hasn't changed that much. I still wear bright lipstick and I have a great collection of them," she added. (IANS)

**Emmy Award-nominated actress** who played the title role on the sitcom *Blossom* as well as *Amy* on *The Big Bang Theory*. She won *Young Actress Award* for her role in a *Motion Picture Comedy or Fantasy* in 1988

# MOVIES... COMING SOON... next week



**Star Wars: The Last Jedi**

Director: Rian Johnson  
Stars: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Jones



**Ferdinand**

Director: Carlos Saldanha  
Stars: John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Bobby Cannavale, Jack Gore



**Permanent**

Director: Colette Burson  
Stars: Patricia Arquette, Rainn Wilson, Kira McLean, Devin Albert



**Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle**

Director: Jake Kasdan  
Stars: Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart, Jack Black



**Pitch Perfect 3**

Director: Trish Sie  
Stars: Anna Kendrick, Ruby Rose, Hailee Steinfeld, Brittany Snow

# OUT & ABOUT

## HOW TO REACH US

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

### RITZ-CARLTON WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY VILLAGE

**Date:** December 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Al Khayma (Tent)

Revel in the joys of the holiday season with a special Christmas village. Enjoy a variety of festive offerings including a sweet and savory Christmas buffet, holiday movie classics, Ritz-Kids activities and much more. Santa Claus will also be there for a special warm and jolly welcome all the way from the North Pole.

### RITZ GOURMET TAKEAWAYS

**Date:** December 1-31,  
**Venue:** The Ritz Gourmet Lounge, The Ritz-Carlton

The Ritz Gourmet Lounge offers a selection of gourmet desserts and festive hampers filled with heavenly delights like minced pies, speciality cookies, chocolates and much more. Roasted turkey to-go family dinners can also be ordered beginning December 2. Orders must be placed at least 72 hours in advance.

### RITZ FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

**Date:** December 2 - 26, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** The Lobby Lounge, The Ritz-Carlton

Tea time at The Ritz-Carlton is always grand and the festive season makes it more special. Enjoy traditional scones and pastries with your favorite tea variety complemented by a selection of festive treats – an excellent opportunity to spend picture perfect #RCMemories with family and friends.

### RITZ BUBBLY CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

**Date:** December 2 - 30, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** The Ritz Gourmet Lounge, The Ritz-Carlton

Take pleasure in all the sweet treats of a traditional afternoon tea with a twist. A selection of freshly made scones and carefully baked gourmet cakes will be served alongside your favorite cup of tea or glass of bubbly.

### RITZ GRAND CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

**Date:** Monday, December 25, 12:30 pm-4:30 pm  
**Venue:** Grand Foyer, The Ritz-Carlton

Indulge in a festive celebration of culinary delights highlighted by our chefs'

splendid creations - from live cooking and carving stations, a large seafood and prime rib corner to a delectable spread of heavenly desserts. The grand occasion elevates with live musical entertainment, festive activities, and a special visit from Santa Claus.

### RITZ NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: STUDIO 54

**Date:** Sunday, December 31, 8:00 pm-2:00 am  
**Venue:** Al Noor Ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton

Countdown to 2018 and celebrate with a throwback to the 1970s era of glamour, fashion and indulgence. Join us as we transform our 9,000 square-foot Al Noor Ballroom into the famous Studio 54 complete with disco lights, party favors, an indulgent buffet, live entertainment and performances. Dress is black tie or festive party dress.

### BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY



**Date:** December 16  
**Venue:** Bahrain Bay Kitchen

Bahrain National Day Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen: Traditional Bahraini theme.

Buffet will have authentic Bahraini food items, local music entertainment and the staff will be dressed in the traditional Bahraini clothing. Signature traditional dishes will be available such as: Bahraini ghousi, prawn mmawwash, Bahraini date cheese cake. Serving Hours: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm.

Bahrain National Day at AlHosh - Kids For All Seasons Club: Endless fun activities such as Bahrain national flag cookie decoration, fashion show for best Bahrain national dress, Piñata, Olympic games, face painting, henna tattoo, Bahrain flag making, arts and

crafts, parade.

Wolfgang Puck Restaurants: The chefs at our Wolfgang Puck restaurants have prepared a sweet surprise accompanying every lavish meal on 16th and 17th December. If you are a fan of our forever favorite Sticky Toffee Date Cake, come and join us at CUT by Wolfgang Puck for lunch and dinner or at re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck for dinner and enjoy the complimentary cake.

### BAHRAINI FARMERS MARKET

**Date:** 2nd December 2017 to 31st March 2018  
**Venue:** BUDAIYA BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

### KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL

**Date:** 6th December 2017 to 27th December 2017  
**Venue:** Seef mall - Seef I cinema complex

The 4th edition of the Korean Film Festival kicks off its program in December 2017 every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm at Hall no. 13 at Cinema Complex I at Seef mall. The movies are as follows:

- December 6th: Take Off - A 2009 sports/Drama production, part of the "Take off" film series, starring Ha Jung-woo and Lee Eun-sung.

- December 13, 2017: The Berlin File: a 2013 thriller/drama starring Ryoo Seung-bom and Jun Ji-hoon. The movie was awarded the Baeksang Arts Award for Best Leading Actor in a Film. Jong-seong (Jung-woo Ha), a North Korean ghost agent, interrupts an illegal arms sale in Berlin. A notorious North Korean agent tests the loyalties of everyone involved as Jong-Seong prepares to make the ultimate sacrifice.

- December 20th, 2017: The Fatal Encounter: a 2014 South Korean Thriller Fantasy film based on a real-life assassination attempt on King Jeongjo.

- December 27th, 2017: 200 Pounds Beauty, a 2006 Melodramatic film about a famous pop singer decides to have full-body plastic surgery to change her look and the deep meanings of inner beauty.

All movies will play at Theatre 13 at Seef mall Cinema Complex "Seef I" at 7:00pm. Entry is free and open for everyone.

### FOUR SEASONS HOTEL FESTIVITIES

**Date:** Till December 31, 2017

### Venue: Four Seasons

Turkey To Go: Bring the sophisticated flavours from the celebrated Four Seasons restaurant home with this memorable feast, and spend more time out of the kitchen with your loved ones this Thanksgiving. Available for home delivery or pick up.

Roast Turkey: With chestnut stuffing, turkey sauce, cranberry chutney, mash potato, Brussels sprouts and carrots. - BD 80++ for 8 people.

Honey Baked Spiral Ham: With mashed potato, roasted vegetables and apple sauce - BD 45++ for 8 to 10 people.

Roast Beef: With mashed potato, roasted vegetables and rosemary sauce - Starting from BD 20++ per kg (per kg serves 4 to 5 people).

For orders: +973 17115500

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

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

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

Attachments area

### FESTIVE SEASON AT THE GULF HOTEL

**Date:** Ongoing  
**Venue:** The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

Our festivities began with the lighting of the Christmas tree in the hotel lobby. This marks the beginning of the Christmas and New Year celebrations and everyone is invited to witness the ceremonial lighting! Get mesmerized as this year our team has merged both the festive traditions and the unique Arabic culture presenting the ultimate season bliss. From a traditional Arabic gingerbread house to the fusion of the festive Arabic village!

The festivities is about giving and sharing, this season we are collecting festive wishes for the charity program called "Smile of Bahrain", we hope to collect as much wishes for the organization and we look forward to your kindness to help those children with cancer make their dreams come true.

An uplifting slew of flavors to celebrate the spirit of the season have been crafted by the culinary team for the Christmas Eve dinner and the Christmas day brunch.

On 24th December we are offering 3 yuletide options for your Christmas Eve dinner. From the traditions of the Vigilia di Natale in Italy at our La

Pergola Italian restaurant, to the panoramic view of the Juffair Skyline at Fusions restaurant to the lavish buffet in Al Waha, all featuring the finest delicacies from sumptuous starters of the hamachi sashimi, zucchini carpaccio and to the main course of the well-loved stuffed turkey roulade that will get the guests in the festive mood.

Our Christmas day brunch promises to be filled with all the traditional Christmas trimmings and a treat for all ages at The Gulf Convention Center for only BD 32 net. The Christmas day brunch presents the festive spread of our 10 award winning outlets, featuring exotic festive menus from rock lobster and the red snapper to start with, and followed by a tableau of flavours.

Tickets is a must.

If you're planning to party at home this Christmas, leave the cooking with us! Christmas plum puddings, mulled wine and turkey are available for order!:

Ring in the New Year at The Gulf Hotel Bahrain, as we present to you for the first time live at The Gulf Convention Center, Beauty and the Beats! Featuring an all-female group internationally renowned for a great & diverse night with music beats from the 70's, 80's, 90's, top 100 hits, deep house, house and pop. BD 55 net per person, inclusive of a lavish buffet spread of delectable dessert with apple and cranberry lattice tart, chocolate hazelnut, cream cheese puffs, ricotta tart with chocolate and kumquats and almond macaroon galette for the finishing.

Featuring jazz saxophone player Miss S, to the throbbing beats of Percussionist Ms. Dee and the soulful voice of Ms. Lady S.! This in addition to the vibrant and gorgeous DJ (DJANE - NC), who will be spinning her groove mix-compilations till the wee hours of the party!

In addition you can also choose your celebration from Al Waha restaurant for a guaranteed New Year's gourmet that that will keep your stomach delighted till 2018! To the special New Year ala carte menus from Royal Thai, China Garden, Sato and Takth Jamsheed.

You can also choose to delight your loved one to a New Year's Eve romantic moment at Fusions, Raosi By Vineet, La Pergola and our all exclusive balcony at Royal Thai.

For a more pub style new year's welcome, dance your heart out at the dance floor with our DJ's famous tracks at Sherlock Holmes and Typhoon.

For further information or bookings please call: +973 17 713000



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## Public Notice & Tender

### Kingdom of Bahrain



The Bahrain Petroleum Company BSC (Closed) hereby invites tender for the following:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond (BD)	Tender Documents Fees (BD)	Tender Submission		
				Day	Date	Time
Consultancy Services for Design and Supervision of Construction and Redevelopment of Bapco Service Stations	T170135 (43)	100/-	50/-	Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018	01:30 pm
				NOTE: Purchase Tender Documents Deadline: 27-Dec-2017 13:30		

Interested Contractors with proven capabilities and experience in providing the above services may Purchase the Tender documents online using e-Tendering system from <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh> from **Tuesday December 12, 2017**. Tender documents can be downloaded after paying the non-refundable tender fees as specified above. An Initial Bond should be enclosed for the amount specified above or 1% of the bid value, whichever is lesser (in any case Initial Bond shall not be less than BD 100/-), payable by a Manager's Cheque, Certified Cheque, Letter of Guarantee or Insurance policy issued by Local Agencies or Cash. The bond shall remain valid throughout the tender period specified in the relevant tender documents. For more information please call the following numbers: 36027245-17755845- 17752995 – 17757044-17757054.

- Quotation should be deposited in the tender box provided at the **Tender Submission Office, Tender Board Arcapita Building 551 – Ground Floor Road 4612 – Block 346 Bahrain Bay Manama – Bahrain**, before 01.30 pm on the tender closing date.
- This tender is subject to the provisions of Legislative Decree No.36 of 2002 with respect to Regulating Government Tenders- Auction and the Legislative Decree No.37 of 2002 with respect to the Tender Law's Implementing Regulations.
- The following conditions shall be complied with:
  - Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and be in conformity with the subject tender.
  - Submit quotations on "Tender Submission Form" No. (TB 02).
  - Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by the Ministry of Labour.
  - Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies thereof, which form part of the offer.

Vendors who are not registered in Tender Board E-tendering System shall be required to register through the link below.

<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh/xcap/supplier/suplogin.aspx>

For any inquiry please call help desk email [helpdesk@tenderboard.gov.bh](mailto:helpdesk@tenderboard.gov.bh) or telephone no. +973-17566617.

This announcement is considered as a part of the Tender Documents.

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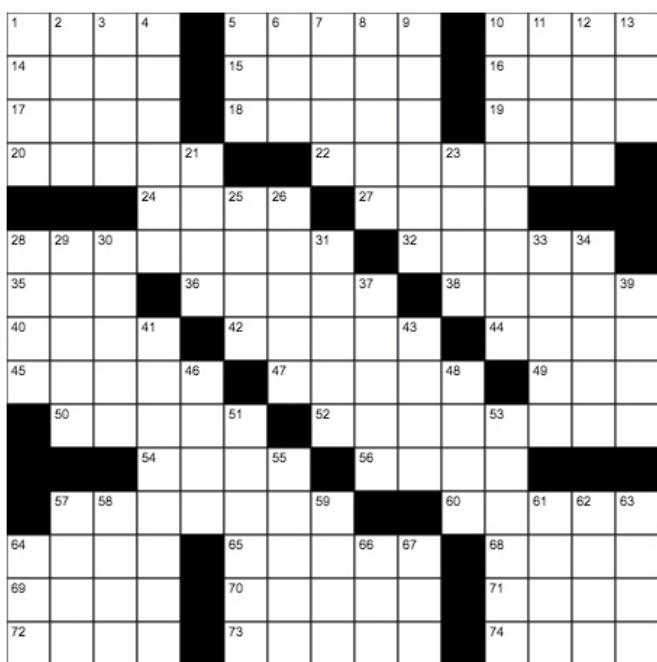
### DEADLINE

Lineage 11am  
Display 9am  
Cancellation 12pm

### WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday  
8 am - 6 pm

# CROSSWORD



**Across**

1- Matador's flourish medium?; 5- Actor's parts; 10- Word that can succeed building, web or burial; 14- Stuck, after "in"; 15- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 16- Drew on; 17- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 18- Heavy footwear; 19- Grandma; 20- Fertile area in a desert; 22- Drunkard; 24- Dove sounds; 27- At hand; 28- Cracks; 32- Reduces speed; 35- Some; 36- \_\_\_ car; 38- Rich cake; 40- Trading center; 42- Smells; 44- Froth; 45- Accustom; 47- Cassette half; 49- Part of TNT; 50- Sporting blades; 52- Gearwheel; 54- Slaughter in Cooperstown; 56- \_\_\_ avis; 57- Frog's perch; 60- Klondike territory; 64- Calf-length skirt; 65- Takes on; 68- State bird of Hawaii; 69- Wild; 70- Bellybutton type; 71- Tax experts: Abbr.; 72- Ad word; 73- Make up; 74- Clue;

# YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



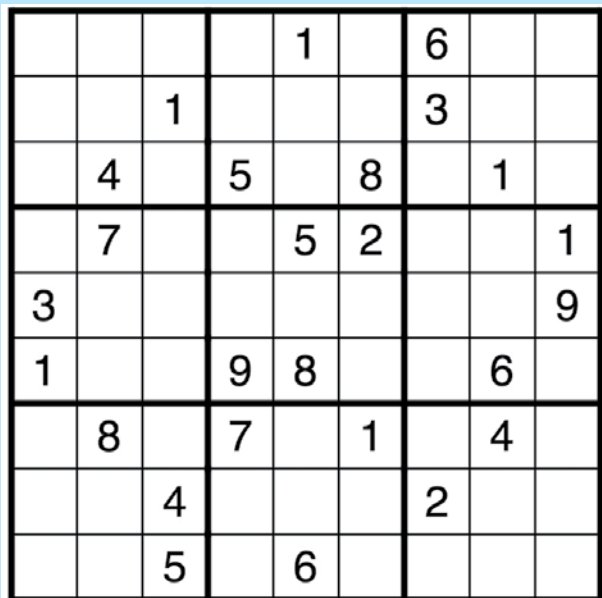
**Down**

1- Roman statesman; 2- District; 3- Places; 4- Morals; 5- Hold up; 6- "Hollywood Squares" win; 7- Booty; 8- Singer John; 9- Talks back to; 10- Impervious to sunlight; 11- Golfer Aoki; 12- Camp sight; 13- Author Le Shan; 14- Tart; 15- Preservative; 16- Hydrox rival; 17- Dispatches; 18- Renown; 19- Senseless; 20- Thick sweet liquid; 21- Unemotional; 22- Penned; 23- Gaze fixedly; 24- Passion; 25- Pianist Gile; 26- Dendroid; 27- Nintendo rival; 28- Start of a counting rhyme; 29- Out of kilter; 30- Actress Loren; 31- Hindquarter; 32- Person of exceptional holiness; 33- Capital city of Peru; 34- Billy \_\_\_ had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 35- Bondclassic; 36- Foreign Legion cap; 37- \_\_\_ even keel; 38- Resting place; 39- Bell and Barker; 40- Ich bin \_\_\_ Berliner; 41- Call on;

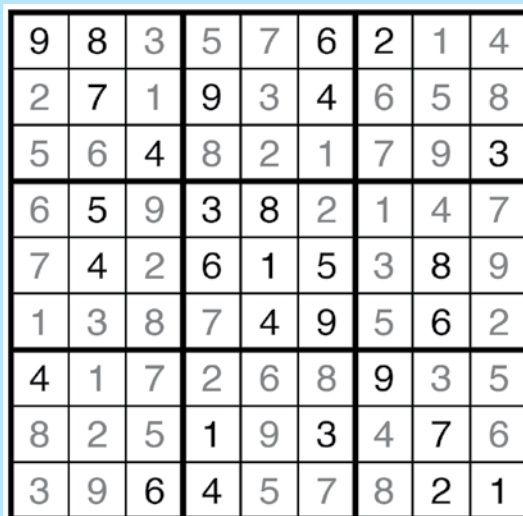
# BEETLE BAILEY



# SUDOKU



# YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



**How to play:**

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

# Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



The current astral configuration could be described as a crisis phase, although today's events won't be unhappy. Communication proves difficult for you. For a long time you've been banking on others noticing and appreciating your talent, but you're beginning to feel like a sucker for being so patient.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You have a pleasant day ahead. Optimism and creativity prevail. You can avail yourself of all the freedom necessary to encounter happiness. Indeed, that newfound happiness may come in the form of a new person who makes your heart beat faster. Don't fall in love too quickly!

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



The day ahead looks promising. Your energy is gradually returning, and you're beginning to feel more enterprising about your domestic life. No doubt today you'll be called on to settle some financial questions related to your domestic needs. While a substantial gift of money or raise would be welcome, you begin to see other ways of making the cash flow.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Try to imagine that you're in your creative workshop and you've given up using all your usual tools in order to find new ways to give form to your inspiration. Another completely different creative style will emerge. Your admirers may be surprised, but no one will be more astonished than you.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Your private life is probably in the throes of great change. This change is likely related to profound transformations that are taking place in your behaviour, in particular your nervousness. If your daily or family life seems stifling to you, there's no need to take your frustrations out on loved ones. Look for answers inside.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



It wouldn't be surprising if you enrolled in a class that's very different from your normal activities. For example, a surfer may get a sudden urge to learn about computers, or a technology guru might take up flower arranging. Those who think they have you all figured out will be taken off guard by your new spontaneity and sense of adventure.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Some of the planetary movements are currently helping you understand that the best place to discover treasure isn't always where other people tell you to look. If people are urging you to get interested in activities that don't interest most people, including you, pay them no heed. You'll discover treasure all on your own provided you follow your own calling.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



No one's more forward thinking than you now. You're in tune with new inventions and trends, and you may have an irresistible desire to join an avant-garde group. The old way of doing things seems old, and you no longer want any part of it. You can't stand working according to the old principles any more. You're in a heated frame of mind. Be careful about stirring conflict.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



You couldn't be in a better position in your personal life. The time is ripe to thumb your nose at your demons for the last time. Complexes, guilt, and fears of all kinds are gone. It could even be that the radical "housecleaning" you'll undertake will affect your professional career as you become aware of how much you've been underestimating yourself.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today's forecast is excellent for you. The celestial bodies can't help but smile on the tempestuous energy of your character. You would be advised to act on your strong intuition. But be prudent in the execution of your actions lest your impulsive spirit stop you from taking recommended precautions.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Devote your energies to human psychology today. It's a good day to try to sell your ideas. Concentrate your efforts on those whose help you need. If you have faith in your originality, your sales efforts are likely to pay off. In fact, there is some chance you'll meet an especially dynamic person who can lead you into some fascinating, unexplored territory.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



There is some likelihood that you'll have an electrifying emotional encounter today. Some of life's more mundane details may trigger arguments that, although violent, are cathartic and short. You've been thinking that it's time for more intensity in your life. Whether you know it or not, you're rethinking all manner of human relationships.

# US man on the run after escaping Bali prison



Denpasar (Indonesia)

A US man convicted on drugs charges escaped Bali's notorious Kerobokan jail in an early Monday morning jailbreak with another American prisoner who was caught almost immediately, an official said.

The pair made a break from the Indonesian resort island's main prison by cutting a hole in the roof with a hacksaw, authorities said. It was not clear how they obtained the tool.

Police are now scouring the palm-fringed island and handing out pictures of escapee Chrisan Beasley,

a 32-year-old arrested in August for carrying five grams of hashish.

Foreigners are regularly arrested for drugs offences on Bali.

Beasley was awaiting a sentencing in his case. It was not immediately clear how much jail time he was facing, but Indonesia has some of the world's toughest drugs laws, with the death penalty available in some trafficking cases.

Beasley's accomplice in the escape, convicted thief Paul Anthony Hoffman, 57, was apprehended before he could make good on the escape.

"Paul was immediately

recaptured by the locals who saw him trying to escape while Chrisan, who climbed up before him, managed to run away," Kerobokan chief warden Tonny Nainggolan told AFP.

Hoffman is serving a 20-month sentence for robbing a number of convenience stores at knifepoint.

Kerobokan houses some of the country's most notorious and high-profile inmates, including members of the so-called Bali Nine which plotted to bring heroin into Australia via Bali. Two members of the group have been executed. (AFP)

# Man who hit pedestrians aimed to kill, says report



Rome

Italian media say an Italian man who drove his car last week into pedestrians near a Christmas market had been aiming to kill.

The ANSA news agency reported Monday that the man is being investigated on suspicion of wanting to carry

out a massacre. His car on Saturday seriously injured a woman at an outdoor skating ring near the Sondrio, northern Italy, holiday market before crashing into a pillar.

Originally, the crash, which slightly injured two other strollers in the pedestrian-only square, was blamed on drunk

driving.

Sondrio's chief prosecutor wasn't immediately available for comment. The reported accusation indicated there was no sign of terrorist aims.

ANSA said the suspect, 27, when he was arrested at the scene, said that he "should have killed more" people. (AP)

## #PollToday



United Nations have found that missiles fired at Saudi Arabia appear to have a "common origin. Do you suspect an Iranian hand in this?"

Yes  No  Cant Say



"The ones who made Jerusalem a dungeon for Muslims and members of other religions will never be able to clean the blood from their hands,"

Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish President

## Rest in sight

Baby formula maker calls global recall



Baby milk maker Lactalis and French authorities have ordered a global recall of millions of products over fears of salmonella bacteria contamination.

## Magnitude 6.0 earthquake hits western Iran:

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake hit western Iran on Monday, state media reported. The center of the quake was near the town of Ezgele, but tremors were also felt in Kermanshah, the largest city in the area.

## Hezbollah to focus on Israel

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, on Monday said the group and its allies in the region would renew their focus on the Palestinian.

## Rohingya methodically raped by armed forces

The rape of Rohingya women by Myanmar's security forces has been sweeping and methodical.

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## London looking at criminal charges over tower fire

London

London police are considering a variety of criminal charges related to the June fire at Grenfell Tower that killed 71 people.

Police told an inquiry Monday that the possible charges include misconduct in public office, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and breaches of fire safety regulation.

No one has yet been charged.

Jeremy Johnson, the lawyer representing the police at the inquiry, said the scope of the police investigation was "unprecedented" in a case that did not involve an extremist attack.

He said police are studying 31 million documents and 2,500 exhibits. (AP)

## India's Rahul Gandhi takes helm of Congress party



New Delhi

India's main opposition Congress party on Monday elevated Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the country's most fabled political dynasty, as its president, preparing to challenge the dominance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of national polls in 2019.

In a long-awaited move, Gandhi, the great-grandson of India's founding prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was elected unopposed to head the party. He will take the reins from his mother Sonia, the party's longest-serving president, since 1998.

Calling it a "historic

occasion", the Congress party said Gandhi would take charge as president on Dec. 16.

Television broadcast images of party supporters celebrating and distributing sweets outside Congress offices in the capital, New Delhi, and the financial hub of Mumbai.

Gandhi's ascent coincides with state polls in Modi's western homestate of Gujarat that are shaping as a test for the prime minister, who has been facing criticism for softening economic growth and poor implementation of a nationwide sales tax. (Reuters)

## Kuwait replaces oil and finance ministers: KUNA

Dubai

Kuwait replaced its oil and finance ministers in a cabinet reshuffle on Monday, state news agency KUNA reported.

Bakhit al-Rashidi was appointed the new oil minister of the OPEC member state and Nayef Falah al-Hajraf was named the new finance minister, KUNA said citing a royal decree.

Shaikh Nasser Sabah

Al-Ahmad, son of the ruling Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was appointed the new minister of defence.

The previous cabinet resigned on Oct. 30 when its information minister was questioned by parliament and faced a no-confidence vote over violations of budgetary and legislative rules. Mohammed Nasser Al-Jabir was named the new minister. (Reuters)

# Why North Korea's nuclear test is still producing aftershocks

North Korea launches a missile

Kim Jong-un

**N**orth Korea's nuclear test in September didn't just generate diplomatic shockwaves but also a 6.3 magnitude earthquake.

Aftershocks have continued ever since, and on Saturday the US Geological Survey said it had detected two more, sparking significant debate about what might be going on underground.

## What happened during the nuclear test?

On 3 September, North Korea tested its most powerful nuclear bomb to date at its Punggye-ri test site in the mountains in its northwest.

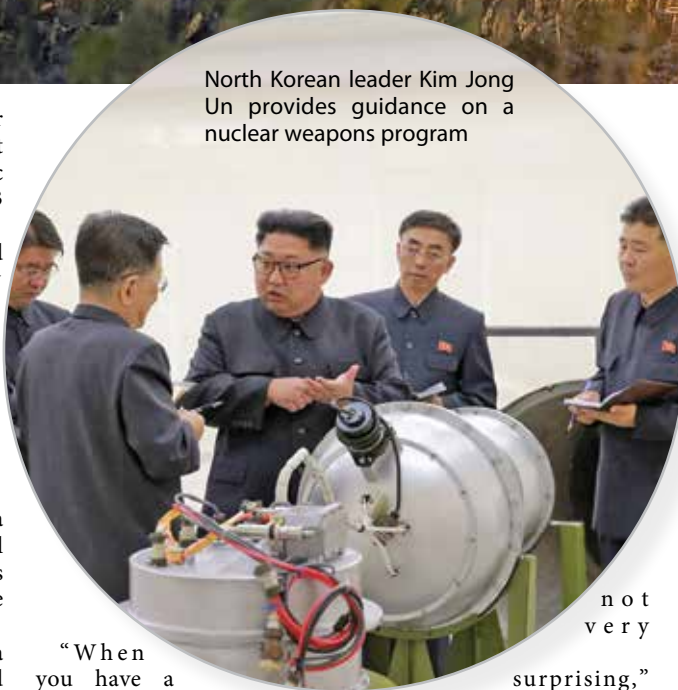
Pyongyang claimed it was a hydrogen bomb, which would have made it a device many times more powerful than an atomic bomb.

Experts have expressed concerns the explosion might have been so powerful it could destabilise the surrounding mountains.

## Why are aftershocks still happening?

According to the USGS, last weekend's tremors were "relaxation events". They measured a magnitude of 2.9 and 2.4.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un provides guidance on a nuclear weapons program



"When you have a large nuclear test, it moves the earth's crust around the area, and it takes a while for it to fully subside. We've had a few of them since the sixth nuclear test," an official told *Reuters*.

The "movement of the earth's crust" is akin to the very definition of an earthquake and scientists say it is only to be expected in the weeks and months after an explosion of that magnitude.

"These aftershocks for a 6.3 magnitude nuclear test are

not very surprising," Dr Jascha Polet, seismologist and professor of geophysics at California State Polytechnic University, told the *BBC*.

After any tremor of that size, aftershocks with declining magnitude are common, as the rock moves around and releases stress.

The area around the quake site "experiences deformation, and this creates areas of increased and decreased stress, which affects the distribution of aftershocks,"

Polet said.

"The fact that the source of the earthquake is an explosion doesn't change how we expect the energy to redistribute," geophysicist and disaster researcher Mika McKinnon, told the *BBC*.

But research on explosions of a similar magnitude as the North Korea nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site in the US where over decades nuclear tests were carried out, has found that the aftershocks of these events were fewer in number and lower in magnitude.

So each location is unique.

## Can tremors destroy the test site?

One of the speculations after the September test was that it would damage the tunnel system North Korea has dug into the mountains at its test site.

"The more energy you put into an area, the more unstable it's going to get," Mika McKinnon explained.

"The more tests are happening, the more energy there is, the more redistribution of stress and the more rocks will be breaking."

There have been some

indications of individual tunnel collapses, she explained. "Seismic signals that look more like rock fall than anything else. That will happen more and more."

But, she adds, there is no way of really knowing whether the entire tunnel system will collapse as this is an engineering problem far more than a scientific one.

It is unclear whether this process already has rendered the current test site unusable but North Korea has hinted its next nuclear test could be above ground.

## Could the tremors cause a volcanic eruption?

Near the Punggye-ri test site is the active volcano of Mount Paektu, a mountain considered holy in North Korea.

"The seismic waves are hitting the volcano and hitting the magma beneath the volcano," McKinnon explained. But she says it is "unlikely that any of this seismic energy would be sufficient to trigger an eruption".

The volcano last erupted in 1903, but the latest underground nuclear test

sparked concern the tremors might trigger another eruption. This has been a point of debate, but there is little data to support this.

A study published in *Nature* last year predicted that the seismic waves of a hypothetical nuclear test at magnitude 7.0 would produce "stress changes" that were not insignificant.

But, as Polet points out, "little is known about what processes can and cannot trigger volcanic eruptions" and there appears to be no documented correlation between the Nevada explosions and activity in nearby volcanic areas, such as Timber Mountain and Long Valley Caldera.

There has also been no activity recorded as a result of nuclear tests conducted near the seismically active Aleutian Islands.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un still seems to trust the holy mountain.

According to *Reuters*, official North Korean media have reported he scaled the volcano on Saturday together with several senior officials to "emphasise his military vision". (*BBC*)

# Ross Taylor puts NZ in command

## Hamilton

**N**ew Zealand edged closer to sealing the series in comprehensive fashion as they set Windies an intimidating target of 444 to win the second Test and level the series. Even though there are still two full days of Test cricket left, Windies' chances of doing the improbable took a massive hit before stumps yesterday with Kieron Powell and Shimron Hetmyer falling very early in the chase. By the close of play, Windies finished on 30/2, needing another 414 runs to win the game.

The victory was set-up by one of the very best in the country's history as Ross Taylor smashed his 17th Test ton, to equal the tally of the late Martin Crowe and current captain Kane Williamson, for the most number of Test centuries by a New Zealand batsman. Taylor joined Williamson at the crease when New Zealand had lost both their openers. They had fetched a healthy lead of 152 after Trent Boult picked up the remaining two Windies wickets very early in the morning but the two quick wickets gave the visitors a sniff.

The experienced duo though batted with precision, with Williamson especially being positive, to once again turn the tables on the Windies. The visitors started off the second session in bright fashion though. The first half of the session clearly belonged to Miguel Cummins, who went through an outstanding spell to get rid of Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls. He first bowled a scorching yorker to Williamson to breach his defence and then followed it up by bowling a well-directed bouncer that was gloved to the wicketkeeper by Nicholls.

He also went on to rattle Mitchell Santner by hitting him on the helmet once, but the allrounder was eventually dismissed by Roston Chase. Taylor at the end displayed calmness despite witnessing the procession. He cut and pulled well on his way to a half-century and once he went past the landmark, the boundaries started flowing at a quicker rate. (*cricbuzz*)



Kane Williamson was cleaned up by a scorching yorker from Miguel Cummins, New Zealand v West Indies, 2nd Test, Hamilton

## Pakistan ban Jamshed for one year in corruption probe

### Islamabad

**F**omer Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed has been banned for a year for failing to co-operate with the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) regarding an investigation into corruption, the governing body said yesterday.

Jamshed, who has played 48 one-day internationals for Pakistan, was suspended from all forms of cricket in February for violating the PCB's anti-corruption code.

"Anti Corruption Tribunal has imposed one year ban on cricketer Nasir Jamshed for

non-co-operation with PCB ACU, more charges will be brought up in near future," the PCB said on their official Twitter account.

The 27-year-old did not participate in the first two editions of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) but is alleged to have played a major role in the spot-fixing scandal that engulfed the Twenty20 tournament earlier this year.

Batsmen Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif were handed five-year bans for their role in the scandal, while paceman Mohammad Irfan and all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz received respective suspensions for 12 and two months. (*Reuters*)



Nasir Jamshed

## Roger Federer named Swiss Male Athlete of the Year



Roger Federer

### Geneva

**F**or the seventh time in life after 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2014, Roger Federer was awarded as Swiss Sportsman of the Year. The Basel native won seven titles this year, including two Grand Slams (Australian Open and Wimbledon), returning in a great style after taking a six-month break from competition last year.

In 2017 Federer also got three ATP Awards: Fan Favourite, Stefan Edberg Sportmanship, ComeBack player. Through a video-message from Dubai, where he is having the pre-season, the World No.

2 revealed: 'My children said to me, "Why are you maybe going to get a prize tonight? It's Rafa who is number one.' With 36.88% of votes, Federer prevailed over Nino Schurter (mountain bike) who got 25.63% and the ski racer Beat Feuz (third with 15.55%).

Also Roman Josi (ice-hockey), Andy Schmid (handball) and Pablo Brägger (gymnastics) were among candidates. The ski racer Wendy Holdener was awarded on the female side. 'So honoured to have won this award', Federer wrote on Twitter. (*tennisworldusa*)

## Serena Williams hints at return

### Washington

**A**merican Serena Williams dropped a large hint that she could soon be back on court competing when she posted an *Instagram* photo of a pair of dazzling gold and white tennis shoes.

Williams, who won her 23rd grand slam singles title at last year's Australian Open before taking time out to have her first child, has entered next month's tournament in Melbourne.

"Be excited. Be very excited..." the 36-year-old said in the post which attracted 135,000 likes in the space of an hour.

Williams gave birth to Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. in September and was married to Alexis Ohanian last month.

Few female players have won grand slams after taking a break to start a family, although Kim Clijsters won the 2009 U.S. Open in her third tournament back after having a daughter.

Australians Evonne Goolagong and Margaret Court also managed it. Court's 24 grand slam singles titles remains a record although only 11 of them were in the professional era. (*Reuters*)



Serena Williams

# BIC lines up offers for National Day

Manama

**Bahrain International Circuit (BIC)** has lined up a series of National Day offers for race fans to enjoy in Sakhir.

The deals feature some of the circuit's most adrenaline-pumping experiences, such as the Ultimate Track Experience, the Land Rover Experience and the Dragster Experience.

The deals, and their new prices, include the following:

Clio Cup Driver Experience and SR1 Driver Experience at BD220, reduced from BD260.

As a major part of BIC's Ultimate Track Experience, the Clio Cup Drive puts you in a Renault-manufactured mean machine that features a 1.6-litre Turbocharged engine that can generate up to 220bhp and 6,000rpm.

In addition, the Radical SR1 drive promises the ultimate adrenaline

rush. The SR1 prototype's engine can generate 185bhp, and it launches from zero to 100kph in 3.6 seconds.

The Clio Cup Passenger Experience at BD15, reduced from BD25.

This comprises an exciting three-lap session of around 40 minutes in the ultra-quick Clio Cup sports car.

The SR3 Passenger Experience at BD25, reduced from BD35.

The Radical SR3 can go from zero to 100kph in 3.4 seconds, and the passenger ride consists of a three-lap session of around 40 minutes.

The Land Rover Driver Experience at BD50, reduced from BD65.

The Land Rover Drive offers the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a Land



Rover vehicle to tackle BIC's off-road obstacle course, guided by a qualified Land Rover Experience instructor. The drives are unique and tailored to each guest, no matter what skill level. One can experience the full line up of Land Rover models, from Range Rover and Discovery Sport to the LR4 and Range Rover Evoque.

Dragster Experience - Buy 1 and 50% off 2nd passenger at BD60, reduced from BD80.

This is one of the circuit's most unique and ultimate-adrenaline activities, and you can finally get in with an unbelievable offer for two persons. The passengers will enjoy the thrill of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second, while seated side by side in BIC's top-of-the-line Dragster.

Each of the National Day offers are available for a limited period only. Visit [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com) or call +973-17450000 today to make an advanced booking.



## Thomas will not ride 2018 Giro d'Italia



Chris Froome celebrates with Geraint Thomas (left)

London

**Geraint Thomas** (Team Sky) has confirmed that he will not ride the 2018 Giro d'Italia due to teammate Chris Froome's decision to ride the corsa rosa next year. The Welshman acknowledged that Froome's attempt at the Giro-Tour double limits his opportunities to lead a team in a Grand Tour, and he said that he will listen carefully to offers from other teams for 2019.

Thomas is due to attend a Team Sky training camp this week, and he told *BBC Wales* that he would avail of the chance to discuss his 2018 programme and his longer-term ambitions with manager Dave Brailsford.

"It's a team sport but at the same time every individual in that team has their own goals and aspirations, what they want to do in their career," Thomas told *BBC Wales* last week.

"I'd love to go to a couple more Grand Tours as a leader and fully target them and just see what I can do, whether that's ninth, winning one, third or fourth, whatever really."

Thomas began the 2017 Giro as Team Sky's co-leader with Mikel Landa, but a crash at the foot of the Blockhaus on stage 9 ended his overall ambitions, and he abandoned the race in the second week.

After placing 15th at the 2015 and 2016 editions of the Tour de France, Thomas was keen to take the opportunity to lead a team in a Grand Tour, and it was initially anticipated that he would again be given his freedom at the Giro in 2018. Froome's decision to ride the Giro, however, means that Thomas will forgo the corsa rosa, and will instead build towards the Tour.

"Last year was unfinished business but with Froomey going there [the Giro - ed.] he's obviously going to be the main guy, so I don't want to go there and just... I've ridden a lot of Grand Tours in support roles now, so I'm just looking to get those bigger opportunities myself," said Thomas, who added that Froome's Giro exertions might have a knock-on effect come the Tour. (*cyclingnews*)



## Bahrain-Merida head to Croatia for training camp

Zagreb, Croatia

**L**ike the majority of WorldTour teams, Bahrain-Merida have decamped to the warmer parts of Europe in preparation for the 2018 season. Unlike the majority, however, the team haven't headed to Spain but rather to the Croatian island of Hvar in the Adriatic Sea.

A little over 80km in length, the riders will be clocking up several laps of the island to get the pre-season kilometres in the legs.

The training camp is also an important two-week period for the riders to dial in their positions on their road and time trial bikes, try on new kit, and acquaint themselves with new teammates and tactics. With the full Bahrain-Merida team in attendance for the camp, the race programmes for the year are likely to be finalised.

The training camp has been coordinated by sports director Vladimir Miholjević, with the training and team activities split between a number of the Sunčani Hvar Hotels on the island of Hvar. The team will hold a general press conference 14 December with team management to outline their 2018 season objectives. (*cyclingnews*)

## Hardeep to challenge Leary

Manama

**H**ardeep Rai made a statement after overcoming the challenge posed by Sam Patterson at Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions with a first-round Knockout.

Hardeep Rai choose KHK MMA Gym for his fight against Sam Patterson training in Bahrain. Hardeep is looking to face experienced opponents as he progresses in his professional MMA career.

Hardeep Rai is looking forward to challenge Charlie Leary.

Leary knocked out Daniele Scatizzi in the third round.

Former UFC fighter Norman Parke challenged the Englishman after Brave 9.

Rai's reason for challenging Leary is personal, in an interview with MMA UK, Leary opined that Hardeep was



beatable.

Hardeep Rai had requested a bout with Charlie Leary following the instance. Hardeep's latest victory came against a training partner of Leary's. Rai faced Sam Patterson from Team Crossface, who wasn't able to stop the first fighter of Asian origin to win a medal at IMMAF World Championships.

# Real Madrid face formidable PSG test

**Nyon, Switzerland**

**H**olders Real Madrid will have to overcome a sizeable obstacle when the Champions League resumes in February after Monday's draw pitted the 12-times winners against Paris St Germain.

Bidding for a third successive title in Europe's elite club competition, Real paid a heavy price for not winning their

group as they were drawn with the big-spending Parisians who were tipped as many people's favourites ahead of the draw in Nyon.

Five-times champions Barcelona will face English champions Chelsea, one of five Premier league clubs in the draw.

Tottenham Hotspur, who topped their group ahead of

Real Madrid thanks to a 3-1 victory at Wembley, will face Serie A champions and last seasons' runners-up Juventus.

Manchester City, who clocked up a record 14th successive Premier League victory on Sunday, are now listed as favourites after being handed a last-16 clash with Swiss club Basel.

Five-times winners Bayern

Munich, who finished below PSG in the group, will be happy with a two-legged clash with Turkish outsiders Besiktas.

Europa League champions Manchester United take on Sevilla, Liverpool will meet Porto and AS Roma's reward for winning their group ahead of Chelsea is a tricky tie against Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk.

The Champions League has

proved beyond even the vast riches available to PSG and last season they were stunned in the last 16 by Barcelona, losing the second leg 6-1 after beating the Spanish side 4-0 in the French capital.

A clash with Real is hardly what they would have desired at such an early stage but with Neymar and Edinson Cavani having scored six goals apiece

in the group, they will be hopeful - if they can keep Real's nine-goal Cristiano Ronaldo quiet.

"This could have been the final, given the power of the two clubs. The last 16 is a bit early, we could say. Logically, we are both challengers for the trophy," Emilio Butragueno, Real's director of institutional relations, said. (*Reuters*)

## Suarez, Messi maintain Barca's La Liga lead

**Madrid**

**B**arcelona restored their lead at the top of La Liga to five points as Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi struck in the final 20 minutes to edge out 10-man Villarreal 2-0 on Sunday.

Daniel Raba's red card on the hour mark for a wild lunge on Sergio Busquets handed Barca the initiative.

And their pressure told when Suarez rounded off a fine team move before Messi blasted home a second to get the Catalans back to winning ways after successive draws with Valencia and Celta Vigo.

"In the second half after the sending-off we had more chances to

win the game," Suarez told *Movistar*.

"They played a very good game tactically and we weren't precise enough, but in the second half we came out with a different mentality to take the three points."

Valencia remain Barca's closest challengers five points back, but Atletico Madrid also maintained their title charge with a 1-0 win at Real Betis to stay six points off the top.

Real Madrid are eight points behind in fourth and Barca will have the chance to go into El Clasico away at Real in two weeks' time with an 11-point lead over their rivals. (*AFP*)



Messi, in an action against Villarreal

## Mourinho in post-match fracas



Mikel Arteta covers his face as he arrives at Manchester City training on Monday.

**Manchester**

**P**olice officers and stewards had to separate up to 20 players and members of staff from Manchester United and City after an extraordinary bust-up in which bottles and punches were thrown and Mikel Arteta, one of Pep Guardiola's assistants, was left with blood streaming down his face.

The incidents have prompted an inquiry from the Football Association, which has asked both clubs for their observations after establishing that the referee did not witness what happened. The governing body could sanction clubs and/or players or staff. Greater Manchester police will launch an investigation if they receive a complaint but will not act unilaterally. As of Monday morning they had not received a complaint from United, City or any alleged victim.

Arteta's eyebrow was split open during a melee in a narrow corridor outside City's dressing room and there were unconfirmed reports that another member of Guardiola's backroom staff needed medical treatment after a confrontation sparked by José Mourinho apparently telling the victorious players to keep their music down. (*theguardian*)

### Champions League Round of 16 draw

1st leg: Feb 13/14, 20/21    Head-to-head    2nd leg: Mar 6/7, 13/14

<b>Juventus</b> ITA Finalist Winner 1985, 1996	First meeting Last season Best finish	<b>Tottenham</b> ENG Group stage Semi-final 1962
<b>Basel</b> SUI Group stage Quarter-final 1974	First meeting	<b>Manchester City</b> ENG Last 16 Semi-final 2016
<b>Porto</b> POR Last 16 Winner 1987, 2004	W0-D2-L2	<b>Liverpool</b> ENG Did not play 5-time winner
<b>Sevilla</b> ESP Last 16 Quarter-final 1958	First meeting	<b>Manchester Utd</b> ENG Did not play Winner 1968, 99, 2008
<b>Real Madrid</b> ESP Winner 12-time winner	W2-D2-L2	<b>Paris St-Germain</b> FRA Last 16 Semi-final 1995
<b>Shakhtar Donetsk</b> UKR Did not play Quarter-final 2011	W3-D0-L1	<b>Roma</b> ITA Did not play Final 1984
<b>Chelsea</b> ENG Did not play Winner 2012	W4-D5-L3	<b>Barcelona</b> ESP Quarter-final 5-time winner
<b>Bayern Munich</b> GER Quarter-final 5-time winner	W2-D0-L0	<b>Besiktas</b> TUR Group stage Quarter-final 1987

QUARTER-FINALS    SEMI-FINALS    CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL  
Apr 3/4, 10/11    Apr 24/25, May 1/2    May 26, Olympic Stadium, Kyiv

Source: UEFA, Gracenote

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### Europa League Last 32 draw

1st Leg: Feb 15    2nd Leg: Feb 22

<b>Borussia Dortmund</b> GER	-	<b>Atalanta</b> ITA
<b>Nice</b> FRA	-	<b>Lokomotiv Moscow</b> RUS
<b>FC Copenhagen</b> DEN	-	<b>Atletico Madrid</b> ESP
<b>Spartak Moscow</b> RUS	-	<b>Athletic Bilbao</b> ESP
<b>AEK Athens</b> GRE	-	<b>Dynamo Kyiv</b> UKR
<b>Celtic</b> SCO	-	<b>Zenit St. Petersburg</b> RUS
<b>Napoli</b> ITA	-	<b>RB Leipzig</b> GER
<b>Red Star Belgrade</b> SRB	-	<b>CSKA Moscow</b> RUS
<b>Olympique Lyon</b> FRA	-	<b>Villarreal</b> ESP
<b>Real Sociedad</b> ESP	-	<b>Red Bull Salzburg</b> AUT
<b>Partizan Belgrade</b> SRB	-	<b>Viktoria Plzen</b> CZE
<b>Steaua Bucharest</b> ROM	-	<b>Lazio</b> ITA
<b>Ludogorets Razgrad</b> BUL	-	<b>AC Milan</b> ITA
<b>Astana</b> KAZ	-	<b>Sporting CP</b> POR
<b>Ostersund</b> SWE	-	<b>Arsenal</b> ENG
<b>Olympique Marseille</b> FRA	-	<b>Sporting Braga</b> POR

ROUND OF 16    QUARTER-FINALS    SEMI-FINALS    EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL  
Mar 8/15    Apr 5/12    Apr 26/May 3    May 16, Lyon

Source: UEFA

Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS



# City eye historic win after derby triumph

Manchester City's David Silva scores the opener against Manchester United at Old Trafford.



Man City edge Manchester derby with 14th straight league win

## City can break record for consecutive Premier League wins

**London**  
Manchester City will have history in their sights when the Premier League title favourites face Swansea City on Wednesday, while their rivals despair of ever catching the runaway leaders.

Pep Guardiola's side surged 11 points clear at the top thanks to a season-defining 2-1 win at second-placed Manchester United on Sunday.

Nicolas Otamendi's second-half strike clinched City's record-equalling 14th successive league victory, forcing United manager Jose Mourinho to concede the title race is probably over.

City can hit a new high by beating Swansea at the Liberty Stadium to break the record they currently share

with Arsenal for consecutive Premier League wins.

But Guardiola won't let his side get carried away with 22 games still to play, especially with second-bottom Swansea fighting for their own survival.

"It means a lot in terms of the way we played for our confidence, but in three days we go to Swansea in the winter time. We are going to face a lot of difficulties," he said.

"In December it is impossible to be champions but that gap is very good for us."

United will look to bounce back from their first home defeat in 41 matches when they host Bournemouth.

If United can barely see City sprinting off into the distance, the

view for champions Chelsea and the rest of the chasing pack is even more dispiriting.

Third-placed Chelsea lag 14 points behind City after a shock 1-0 defeat at West Ham United, while fourth-placed Liverpool are 16 adrift following their frustrating 1-1 draw against Merseyside rivals Everton.

Chelsea boss Antonio Conte claimed Chelsea were no longer in the hunt following their loss in east London and captain Gary Cahill admitted they must bounce back at Huddersfield Town on Tuesday.

"We were just not at the races - for whatever reason that is. It's disappointing to come off and feel like that," he said.

"We have been in good form of late which is why it's so disappointing to

put in a performance like that.

"We have to reflect, we have to pick ourselves up and go again. We have to try to freshen up and get the energy levels back up."

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp showed the strain of seeing his team's faint title hopes go up in smoke in the derby as he grumbled about Everton's penalty equaliser.

Klopp, whose team host West Bromwich Albion in midweek, was seen remonstrating with referee Craig Pawson after the final whistle

before he fumed his way through a tetchy television interview.

Pressed repeatedly by Klopp to reveal whether he thought it was a penalty, the interviewer said it was "soft" but the correct call, to which the German replied: "Then we can stop the interview." (AFP)



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