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11th Hour

NHRA team visits Jordan

Amman

A High-level delegation led by National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mariam Adhbi Al-Jalahma visited Amman to get an update on stem cell clinical researches at the University of Jordan. The team held a meeting with University of Jordan President Dr. Azmi Mahafzah and discussed cooperation to lay regulations in stem cell research. It expressed desire to benefit from the Jordanian stem cell therapies and research strategies and regulations to set up a similar projects in Bahrain.

Death of Saudi prince condoled

DT News Network
Manama

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa have sent cable of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the sad demise of HRH Prince Bandar bin Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, praying to God Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in peace. HRH Prime Minister extended sympathies to Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister sent a cable of condolences to the Saudi King. HRH Crown Prince condoled with the Saudi Crown Prince, praying to Allah to rest his soul in peace.

P 11

Geneva Motor Show: Top 5 concept cars to look at

PM directive to implement 14 projects in S Governorate

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has given directives to implement 14 development, service and tourism projects in the Southern Governorate. The directive was issued at the weekly Cabinet session, which was attended by His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. (See Page 3)

CBB mulls digital dinar

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
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Bahrain is toying with the idea of introducing a 'digital dinar', Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) Governor Rasheed Mohamed Al Maraj has said.

'Digital dinar' is one of the ideas the CBB is currently studying, said CBB governor Rasheed Mohamed Al Maraj.

He told *DT News* that the study is in a rudimentary stage. "This is just an idea that we are discussing, it's not been confirmed. We like to examine everything that is going around. It is at an early stage, we are trying to understand how it will work and how it will affect the current situation in the country," he told *DT News* without giving any further details. He said that CBB may license more digital banks after Meem, a subsidiary of GIB, became the first digital bank to get a license in Bahrain. "They offer complete digital banking without having conventional branches, rather everything is done through smartphones and PCs," he said about digital banks. At an event organized by C5 Accelerate last week he told finance professionals, entrepreneurs and government officials that CBB is studying various initiatives including the digital dinar.

Rasheed Mohamed Al Maraj

"We have to distinguish the difference between cryptocurrency and digital currency. Digital currency is just taking the currency from paper-form to digital. We are examining this, how to have a digital dinar. We are thinking about this because we are thinking about the ways add value to the society and drive down the costs," he said.

"If it is easier for the public and the businesses to have a digital dinar to transact from a smartphone, then we have to consider it," he said.

He also said he wants to see more 'disrupters' from the private sector bringing digital payment solutions. "I want to see more solutions like this in Bahrain where people can pay using their phone," he said, adding, "If there is an industry that can change the economy of Bahrain, it is the financial sector. Oil did it for Bahrain in the thirties and forties, now if we cannot do the same with the financial sector then I don't know what will," he said.

P 07

At least 50 killed in Bangladesh plane crash

P 19

Putin ordered to shoot down passenger plane

Formula for excitement

Porsche GT3, F2 to support F1 at Bahrain Grand Prix

Manama

The Formula 1 2018 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix weekend is set to feature non-stop racing on all three days of the motorsport spectacle.

Taking place April 6 to 8 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir, the top flight's one and only desert night race is once again set to be the focus of attention from all across the globe.

While Formula 1 remains the top attraction, there will also be plenty of exciting action in the two top-class support series: the FIA Formula 2 Championship and the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East.

Formula 2 is widely accepted to be the chief feeder series to Formula 1, with many of its graduates moving on to the pinnacle of motor racing after honing their skills at this level.

Formula 2 will be staging the opening round of its 2018 season at the Bahrain Grand Prix. There will be two races, including a feature race on the Saturday of the weekend followed by a sprint race on the Sunday.

The new campaign is set to feature 12 rounds in all, with each meeting running in conjunction with a Formula 1 Grand Prix.

There will be 20 cars on the grid representing 10 teams, including ART Grand Prix, Russian Time, Pertamina Prema Theodore Racing, DAMS, MP Motorsport, Trident, BWT Arden, Campos Vexatec Racing, Carlin and Charouz Racing System.

Last year's champion was Monegasque Charles Leclerc, who has since joined Formula 1 team Sauber, continuing the tradition of successful F2 drivers moving up to the top of the motorsport ladder.

Meanwhile, the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East is the biggest and most popular one-make motor racing championship in the entire region.

Since its inception, it has been the number one choice of the Arab world's most promising circuit racing drivers to broaden their racing experience in a professionally run series.

Drivers race in identical Porsche GT3 Cup Car 911s, supplied by BIC-based orgaisers Lechner Racing.

Supporting this year's Bahrain Grand Prix, the Porsche GT3 Cup is holding its sixth and final round of its 2017/2018 campaign. There will be two races during the weekend, one each on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets to the Formula 1 2018 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix can be purchased at the BIC stand at Bahrain City Centre. They can also be bought online at www.bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000. The prices are amongst the most competitive for any event on the Formula 1 calendar, with prices held at the same level for the fifth consecutive year.

Tickets can be purchased for seating at the Main Grandstand, Batelco Grandstand, Turn One Grandstand, University Grandstands and Victory Grandstands. Main Grandstand seats cost BD150 each for the three days, while Batelco Grandstand tickets are BD120 and Turn One tickets BD100. University and Victory Grandstand tickets cost BD60.

For the first time, fans will be able to purchase a single Friday ticket for the Batelco Grandstand at BD60, or they can buy a two-day ticket for Saturday and Sunday, also for the Batelco Grandstand for BD100.

KIMS Bahrain Medical Centre launches new online services

Manama

KIMS Bahrain Medical Centre (KBMC) has announced launching its latest online service, which would enable patients to log in and check their Lab and Radiology medical results via an easy-to-use web-based portal that is accessible anywhere, anytime.

It features various benefits and advantages including conveniently checking medical results at the patients' preferred time and location, in addition to the ease of use, and confidentiality.

To use the service, first patients need to visit *www.KBMC-pp.com,* then to enter the personal ID number including username, password and medical record number. At this point, a verification code will be sent to the mobile number that is registered in the medical report, following the Radiology and Lab reports are available to view.

"KBMC is committed to embrace the latest digital healthcare services that keep pace with advancements in technology, in order to gain our customers' convenience and satisfaction. We always strive to provide our patients with the superior services that they deserve," said Ahmed Jawahery, Chairman of KBMC.

For more information or to book an appointment, contact KIMS Bahrain Medical Centre on 1782 2123.

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PM directive to implement 14 projects in S. Governorate

DT News Network
Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has given directives to implement 14 development, service and tourism projects in the Southern Governorate.

The directive was issued at the weekly Cabinet session, which was also attended by His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

The Ministerial Committee for Urbanisation and Infrastructure has been asked to study 11 development projects in the Southern Governorate, and instructed them to expedite the work on three projects currently being implemented in the governorate.

The projects are: a model integrated primary, intermediate and secondary school for girls and a youth centre in Zallaq, the Isa Town Souq revamp, the study of the establishment of a new health centre in Khalifa Town, revamping the Riffa Market and the Ain Hunainiya Park, revamping Avenue 96, revamping the Askar Stadium to be used for multiple purposes and activities, installing CCTV cameras at the Riffa Market, revamping the Bu Kawarah Garden and the establishment of a Majlis for the Al-Dour citizens.

Medical regulation

On health, HRH Premier gave directives to the Health Ministry to coordinate with the competent authorities to tighten control over some types of treatment that may be misused for purposes that are criminalised by the law.

The cabinet also discussed the formation of two national committees, comprising representatives from the public and private health sectors. The first one, which is the High Committee for Quality and Clinical Standards, will provide technical advice on how to improve the quality and sustainability of health services. As to the second, which is the High Committee for Medical Training, it aims to build the capacity of medical staff.

The move is in line with the government's keenness to improve the quality of public and private health services, consolidate competitiveness, and promote monitoring and transparency, as the best means to ensure the optimal use of resources in the health sector

The memorandum presented by the Health Minister in this regard was referred to the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs for further study.

HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the Cabinet meeting held yesterday

Cabinet Decisions

- While reviewing the memoranda on its agenda, the cabinet approved, based on a recommendation by the Executive Committee, led by HRH the Crown Prince, a draft-law on reconstruction and bankruptcy, and decided to refer it to the Legislative Branch.
  The bill aims to promote the economic growth-supporting legislation and to encourage investment. It will contribute to updating bankruptcy proceedings and to creating the financial re-structuring of commercial institutions and companies system, except for those subject to the supervision of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).
  The bill also contributes to assisting bankrupt companies to rectify their situation and ensure the rights of all parties.
- The session endorsed the kingdom's accession to the Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and decided to refer a draft law in this regard to the Legislature. Under the bill, the Minister of Finance shall subscribe to the shares of the capital of the bank in the name of Bahrain, while CBB shall be the depositing institution for the subscription in the Kingdom.
- The cabinet approved the ratification of the Third Protocol to the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Bahrain and the United States, and decided to refer a draft law in this regard to the National Assembly.
- The session approved the amendment of BHB's Establishment Law and Internal Regulation. The move, highlighted in a memorandum presented by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, aims to add an e-registration mechanism to facilitate procedures and to amend the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the executive management in relation to vacancies, board meetings and the allocation of responsibilities. The session endorsed a draft decree on amending BHB's Establishment Law and Internal Regulation.
- The session reviewed a draft-law on amending some provisions of the Child Law, promulgated by Law 37/2012, which was proposed by the Council of Representatives. The bill was referred to the Legislative Branch, along with a memorandum explaining the government's opinion, as recommended by the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs, and presented by the Minister of Parliament Affairs.
- The cabinet discussed two proposals submitted by the Council of Representatives on water-pooling in Al-Lawzi, and the treatment of expatriate workers, and endorsed the government's replies to them, as recommended by the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs.
- The session was informed about a report by the Minister of Interior on his participation in the 35th session of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council, recently held in Algiers, and another on his participation in the International Security Coalition meeting, hosted by Abu Dhabi recently.
- The cabinet also reviewed another report by the Minister of Foreign Affairs about the outcomes of the 149th session of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level, held recently in Cairo.

Congratulated

The Cabinet congratulated the laureates of the UNESCO-King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education.

The session lauded the role of the prestigious award which carries a dear name, and contributes to promoting the goals of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) of using ICTs to improve education and develop its output.

Geosciences conference

HRH Premier highlighted the importance of the 13th Middle East Geosciences Conference and Exhibition (GEO 2018), held recently under his patronage and opened on his behalf by Deputy Premier, HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, hailing GEO 2018's outstanding organisation and increasing participation of world oil companies and geoscience experts.

BCCI poll

Referring to the recent elections to the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), the session congratulated the winners, and affirmed the government's support for the trade and industrial sectors, represented by BCCI. Commenting on a report by the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister on BCCI elections, the cabinet also praised BCCI's role in supporting the government's policies regarding the economic development process.

Bird flu

The Prime Minister also gave instructions to take precautionary measures and tighten control to prevent the arrival of bird flu to the country from some areas where the disease had been detected, and requested the relevant authorities to monitor the situation.

Saudi Prince visit

The session lauded the outcomes of the recent visit of the Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, to the United Kingdom, highlighting the role of the visit in strengthening Arab-British relations, citing the strengthening of the UK's stances in support of Saudi Arabia. The gracious welcome accorded to HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the official and public levels reflects the great status enjoyed by Saudi Arabia at both the regional and international arenas, the session said.

HM King hails Jordan's role in boosting regional security

Manama

Jordan plays a major role in supporting the Arab and Islamic causes as well as bolstering regional security, stability and peace, said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

This came as His Majesty the King received Jordanian Armed Forces Chief of Joint Staff Lt-General Mahmoud A. Fraihat and his accompanying delegation, who are in Bahrain to participate in the Joint Committee meetings. BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, HM the King expressed Bahrain's pride in the growing Bahrain-Jordan bilateral ties and expressed his keenness to further bolster them at all level, especially in the military sector.

His Majesty the King passed his wishes to Jordan's King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussain and wished the Joint Committee more success in boosting the fraternal cooperation.

The Jordanian military officials conveyed to His Majesty the greetings of Jordan's King and his best wishes to Bahrain and its people of perpetual progress and prosperity.

The Jordanian official expressed his gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the King for his constant keenness and attention to the development of the firm solidarity bonds between the two brotherly countries.

His Majesty the King praised Jordan Kingdom's role led by HM King Abdullah II in supporting Arab and Islamic issues

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier. They discussed local, regional and international issues, stressing the major role of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in cementing relations between Bahrain and brotherly and friendly countries. HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince underlined the government's keenness to translate that through cooperation with countries sharing development trends and interest in promoting security and stability and fighting terrorism with the Kingdom

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received the President of the World Jewish Congress, Ronald S. Lauder, at Gudaibiya Palace. During the meeting, His Royal Highness highlighted Bahrain's long tradition of respectful coexistence between different religions and faiths, as well as the leadership's commitment to promoting peace and stability across the region and wider world. His Royal Highness also highlighted His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa's recent Royal Order establishing the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence, remarking that this step reflects His Majesty's personal commitment to promoting understanding and dialogue on key interfaith issues. His Royal Highness welcomed Lauder's visit to Bahrain and emphasised the importance of building bridges among cultures and faiths.

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UoB to empower 3,000 women students to launch 30 startups

DT News Network
Manama

Aimed at educating 3,000 female programmers with a target of setting up tech businesses by thirty among them, the University of Bahrain has launched the 'Forsati for her' project in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Microsoft, Think Smart and Tamkeen.

"The road to becoming more than a knowledge economy but an innovation economy starts with having skilled human capital," UoB President Prof Riyad Hamzah said at the launch of the programme yesterday.

The project is part of UoB's five-year Transformation Plan developed in 2016, aimed at making science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education attractive, improving access to technology education, widening active participation in digital literacy, playing an active part in the entrepreneurship ecosystem and increased partnership working.

"With the launch of FINTECH Bay and the Startup Bahrain initiative, it is good timing that we are able to support a project designed to develop highly skilled female programmers," said the President.

"The digital economy requires talent and infrastructure; here at UOB we have the talent." He added

"The 3,000 digitally empowered female students will provide the backbone for Bahrain's emerging digital economy and growing entrepreneurship ecosystem," said Prof Riyad Hamzah.

United Nations Resident Coordinator Amin El Sharkawi and Economic Development Board Managing Director Simon Galpin attended the event.

L-R: Simon Galpin, EDB Managing Director, Prof Riyad Hamzah, President of UoB, Amin El Sharaka, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP President to Bahrain, and Cameron Mirza, UoB Director of Transformation, at the launch

University of Bahrain students at the launch

Property expo from tomorrow

L-R: Mohammed Isa Sanad, Saleh A.Noor Faqihi, Aseel Al Mohandes and Mohammed Mahmood at the press conference

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain's first-ever property expo bringing together developers, managers and brokers will be held on March 14 and 15 under the patronage of the Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, Esam bin Abdullah Khalaf, it was announced at a press meet yesterday.

The expo is organized in partnership with Tamkeen Foundation and logistical support from Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The event will be held at the Bahrain Convention Centre at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

"The Bahrain Property Brokerage Expo 2018 will promote a culture of property investment, and support professionals wanting to work in the real estate sector," said Nasser Al Ahli, President of the Bahrain Real Estate Association.

The expo is expected to attract GCC property investments to the Bahraini market; gather property brokers, property developers, service providers and financial institutions under one roof.

2018 'Bahrain For All' festival announced

DT News Network
Manama

More than 55,000 people from 40 local and expatriate communities will take part in the upcoming 'Bahrain For All' festival which will be held on March 30 at Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park in Hidd. Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Filipino, Jordanian, Ethiopian, Thai, Bangladeshi, and Egyptian artists, among others, will perform at the show. Special needs children from RIA Institute and Hidd Rehabilitation Centre will also put on special performances.

Tamkeen is the strategic partner of the 6th edition of the festival, which will focus on bridging gaps between Bahrain's communities and supporting local entrepreneurs, with over 250 market stalls dedicated to businesses and productive families. It will also offer a range of live shows, including performances by local DJs and emcees. Organiser Nivedita Dhadphale said: "This year, we're offering a platform to promote entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurism has become a valuable part of Bahraini identity and self-image. By ensuring their success, we can improve our standards of living and contribute towards forming a prosperous society. We are happy to be able to give them such an opportunity where they can market their products as well as engage closely with diverse communities."

More than 55,000 people are expected at the Tamkeen-supported cultural show

By Invitation

Mustafa Sameer Qattorah

Quality Assurance Specialist

Change, in The Changing Era

Do you remember the last time you were playing videogames and had a long run of losing games against someone? What did you do to Change that? Let me guess, you've changed your controller, your players or even your team. You may have won one or two matches due to these changes, but in the overall process you've lost.

If you have done this I would congratulate you, at least you've tried to Change.

Some other people will not change a thing and keep on trying even if they know for sure that there is an obvious fault in the system they are using.

We are resisting Change by nature, we love to protect the status que. It is nice to have a routine; it is simple, and it is relieving. But in most cases these systems and routines become outdated and will prevent us from winning. However, we fall in love with these systems and routines to the point of addiction where we prefer losing over change. We make it very hard or nearly impossible to change.

Fighting the change does not occur only on the smaller scale of personal level, it is unfortunately embedded in the culture of many organizations.

Organizations will start thinking of change only when it is matter of life or death; when it is the last resort where everything else failed.

There are two main ways organizations use to change: Attitudinal and Structural.

Attitudinal Change:

It is the typical way of change which most of organizations use. It is the use of motivational tools of incentives and punishment, or the use of behavioral changes of training and coaching to influence a change in the organization. Sometimes it is even only posters and memos which no one bother to read. You know what I'm talking about, it is a show if "we would like to change", not an action of "we will change".

It is basically trying to influence a behavior with a particular attitude to foster change.

It works at times, but it is highly reversible, and it requires a lot of efforts to maintain the change.

Structural Change:

We can look at the structural change as a top to bottom change rather than the other way around. It starts from the finding the root cause of the problem in the system and ends with a self-sustaining cure for the injury. It is different than the usual Band-Aid we use to cover the wound (attitudinal).

It is usually accompanied by words like re-engineering and re-designing the processes to emphasize on the process improvement; irreversible and sustainable.

It requires commitment and dedication from the leadership, because such changes often lead to changes in the organizational structure and in the responsibilities and accountabilities of the team. In other cases, it may lead to changes in the personnel themselves.

The differences between attitudinal and structural change are obvious even to a blind eye. I can understand if organizations are seeking ease in the change, I can understand if they fear the risks involved in a structural change.

What I can't understand are organizations observing the rapid change in everything around them and they are still decisive of remaining the same.

Nowadays change is a necessity for organizations to survive in highly competitive and changing markets. Stop for a second, look around you, learn where you need change, and embrace the change culture into your organization. When you sense the outcomes, you can thank me later.

(*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.*)

ArtBAB returns

Presents 15 galleries and 13 independent artists from 11 countries

Manama

The third edition of Art Bahrain across Borders (ArtBAB) will open doors on March 14, at the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre.

The exhibition, free and open to the public from March 15 - March 18, will be held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council For Women (SCW).

The contemporary art fair, which is the flagship project of the Art Bahrain across Borders movement , is a collaborative venture with Tamkeen and since its launch in 2016.

The event has created a new international trajectory for Bahraini artists around the world, with exhibitions in the UK, New Delhi and Mumbai.

This year, ArtBAB will see an exciting list of impressive line-up of 15 galleries and 13 independent artists from 11 countries. It will host more than 35 Bahraini artists, exhibiting over 100 works.

14 March 2018 – Official Opening
15-18 March 2018 – Public Viewing

Alon ZakaimFine Art

Among the galleries exhibiting this year are Alon ZakaimFine Art from the UK which will be showcasing works including Mauro Peruchetti's Arab Jelly Baby; this cartoon-like work mirrors the modern social environment, strongly reflecting the natural dialogue between civilisations directly relating to the exhibition space.

Samara Art Gallery

Located in the heart of Gujarat, India, Samara Art Gallery will be bringing over a combination of Indian and international artworks. Also exhibiting is Tsekh Art Gallery, one of the most respected art galleries in Ukraine; associated with Ukrainian installation art.

Galerie Bruno Massa

Galerie Bruno Massa, USA, operates at the forefront of the most dynamic international markets. Based in New York and Paris, they will be bringing to Bahrain the very latest cultural evolutions.

Antonello Ghezzi

The renowned Italian artist collective Antonello Ghezzi will be presenting Blow Against the Walls – for this performance, visitors will blow bubbles against barriers that represent universal divides. As the bubbles impact the wall and go through it, a canvas will capture the expressions of these people and their breath. The performance is part of the on-going project BLOW, which has been shown in Paris, Athens for DOCUMENTA 14, Bologna and Beirut.

Educational talks

The fair's 2018 programme will also include a series of significant educational talks. Curated by Amal Khalaf, ArtBAB Conversations will present talks, performances and panels that explore recent initiatives and projects by artists, curators and institutions, looking at contexts, exchange, modes of production and collaboration in their work.Tamadher Al Fahal (Designer, TEDx Speaker and Co-founder of Ulafa's Initiative) will take to the stage to speak about Curatorial Exchange, shedding light on areas of cultural conflict and religious misconceptions influenced by her upbringing in the Arab world. Valeria Mariani, head of projects for the Crossway Foundation, will also be hosting an informal session on the Foundations alumni and alternative education models in the region. Paul-Gordon Chandler, an author, interfaith advocate and renowned art curator will also be speaking about the international perspective beyond the region, more specifically the works of Khalil Gibran.

Hasan Hujairi

Beyond the exhibitors of this versatile and inclusive fair, ArtBAB will include the work of Hasan Hujairi, a Bahraini composer, sound artist and independent researcher. Hujairi's work builds on his academic interest in Historiography and Ethnomusicology which he has presented all over the world. He will be debuting a sound performance translating John Cage's Lecture on Something Lecture on Nothing into Arabic. This stimulating live performance will adapt the space of ArtBAB, embracing the culture of the exhibition experience as a performance space.

"The PosH-RacK"

UAE's homegrown Lifestyle brand "The PosH-RacK" is launching their "TPR Art Edit " and taking Fann-A-Porter Art Gallery , Mina Siddique Designs & The Workshop to exhibit for the first time in Bahrain. 'Zayed graduates and current students will participate at ArtBab through a special performance on the evening of the 13th and in a group exhibition during the fair.'

kids@artbab workshop

The fair will also collaborate with not-for-profit organisations and, for the first time, the kids@artbab workshop will focus on developing skills and creating a foundation for Bahraini artists in the future.

"The most exciting thing about ArtBAB is that it has consistently offered a new narrative on how one understands modern Bahrain. Seen through the interpretative art of its finest artists and most creative mind, one gets to experience a new Bahrain where an ancient heritage is decoded and brilliantly put together on canvas and through sculptures," said ArtBAB Fair and Programme Director, Kaneka Subberwal.

She continued, "We launched in the UK in May 2016 – since then, there has been an increase of 22.5% in sales as on December 2017. With India, our first two shows in Delhi and Mumbai saw a total of 11 works being sold. This for a huge market like India, where buyers are traditionally used to buying Indian art was a very big footprint as it establishes an impact on a discerning Indian art collector."

Alongside the fair, ArtBAB continues its highly successful international Artist Development Programme which focuses on connecting the art of Bahrain to the global art community and vice versa. Launched at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2016, ArtBAB's programme has since been to India and will continue with an event in Russia in 2018/9.

AFS gets ISO 27001:2013 certification

Manama

Arab Financial Services (AFS), a leading regional payment solutions provider and FinTech enabler, has announced receiving the International Standard Organization ISO 27001:2013 certification.

AFS said it completed a comprehensive ISO 27001:2013 security audit across its departments which was conducted by ControlCase, the global leader in Compliance as a Service (CaaS).

Left to right: Neil Pavis - Deputy CEO, AFS; B Chandrasekhar - CEO, AFS; Suresh Dadlani - COO, ControlCase; Karolien Holsters - Global Account Manager, ControlCase; Kunal Taneja- Head of Operational Risk and Information Security, AFS at the awarding ceremony.

Bangladeshi plane crashes in Nepal, killing at least 50

Kathmandu

A Bangladeshi airliner crashed yesterday after making an unexpected turn in cloudy weather as it came in to land at the airport in Nepal's capital, killing at least 50 people, officials said.

There were 71 people on board the US-Bangla Airlines plane arriving from Dhaka when it clipped the fence at Kathmandu and burst into flames, said Raj Kumar Chettri, the general manager of the hill-ringed airport.

Those aboard included 33 Nepali passengers, with 32 from Bangladesh, one from China and one from the Maldives.

"All of a sudden the plane shook violently and there was a loud bang," one of the survivors, Basanta Bohora, told the Kathmandu Post daily. "I was seated near a window and was able to break out of the window."

The accident was the latest to hit mountainous Nepal, which has a poor record of air safety. Small aircraft ply an extensive domestic network and often run into trouble at remote airstrips.

"We have recovered 50 dead bodies so far," said army spokesman Gokul Bhandari. Although several people had been rescued from the burning wreckage of the Bombardier Q400 series aircraft, nine people were still unaccounted for, he added.

Chettri said that moments after the plane received permission to land, the pilot said he wanted to go in a northern direction. Asked by the control tower if there was a problem, he replied in the negative.

The plane was then seen making two rounds in a northeast direction, Chettri said. Traffic controllers again asked the pilot if things were OK, and he replied, "Yes".

The tower then told the pilot his alignment was not correct, but there was no reply, Chettri added.

"The plane should have come from the right direction," Chettri said, adding that it hit the airport fence, touched the ground and then caught fire.

It was not immediately clear if the pilot had issued a "Mayday" call, or distress signal.

Many of the bodies that lay on the tarmac, covered with cloth, were charred, witnesses said. Thick plumes of smoke could be seen from the aircraft at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

The aircraft that went down on Monday was 17 years old, data from tracking website Flightradar24.com showed. It descended to an airport altitude of 4,400 feet (1,341 m) and then climbed to 6,600 feet (2,012 m) before crashing about two minutes later, the website said.

Bombardier said on Twitter it was saddened by the accident.

"Our thoughts are with those injured, and their families," it said. "More information to follow."

There have been a series of accidents at Kathmandu in the past.

In March 2014, a flock of birds shattered the windshield of a Malaysia Airlines jet as it landed in Kathmandu. The same month, a rear wheel of an Airbus A320 operated by an Indian budget airline caught fire after landing.

In 1992, all 167 people aboard were killed when a Thai Airways flight from Bangkok crashed while trying to land in Kathmandu.

US-Bangla Airlines is a unit of the US-Bangla Group, a U.S. Bangladeshi joint venture company.

The two pilots and two cabin crew were Bangladeshi nationals, airline spokesman Kamrul Islam said in Dhaka.

"Our team will fly to Nepal as soon as the airport is open," he added. "We are in touch with Nepali authorities."

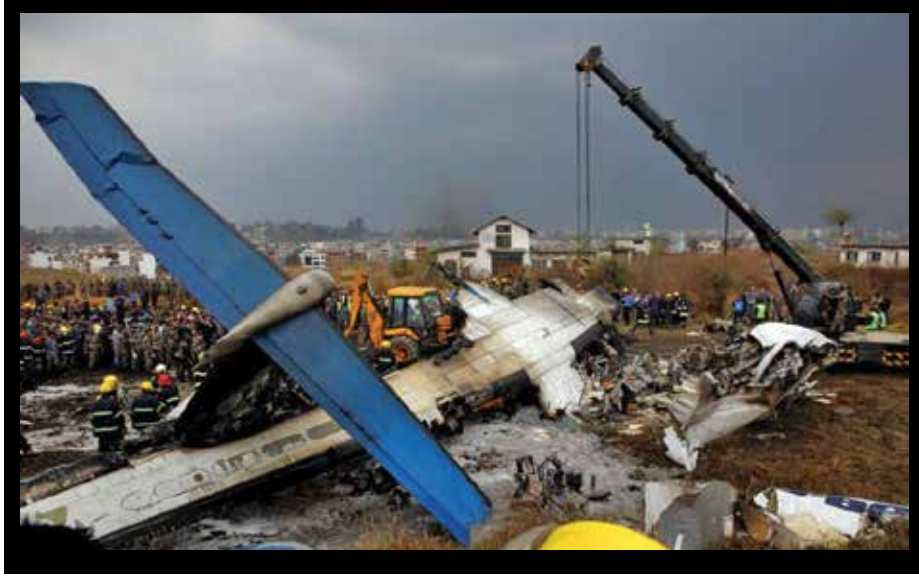
The Bangladeshi carrier, which launched operations in July 2014, operates Bombardier and Boeing aircraft. (*Reuters*)

Plane crashes at Kathmandu airport

A plane carrying 71 passengers and crew has crashed as it came in to land at Nepal's Kathmandu airport, killing at least 49 people

Mar 12, 14:20 local time (08:35GMT) Bombardier ***Dash 8 Q400*** turbopro, operated by Bangladeshi airline ***US-Bangla***, crashes and bursts into flames just short of runway at Tribhuvan International Airport. Four crew and 67 passengers on board. Over 20 survivors hospitalized, some in critical condition

Source: FlightRadar24 © GRAPHIC NEWS



In pictures, resuce workers at the wreckage of a US -Bangla airplane after it it crashed at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal

GHG posts Net Profit of BD 11.036 million

Shareholders approve a Cash Dividend of 30%.

Manama

Gulf Hotels Group (GHG) announced financial results for the year ended 31st December 2017 reporting a total Gross Operating Revenue of BD37.261 million compared to BD36.376m in same period 2016, an increase of BD884,543 or 2.43 per cent.

The Group generated a Net Profit of BD11.036m in comparison with BD10.007m achieved in the same period 2016 (before the one-time bargain profit of BD 6.126m), an increase BD1.029m or 10.28pc.

This was announced by Chairman, Farouk Yousuf Almoayyed during the group's forty eighth Annual General Meeting held yesterday in Awal Ballroom 3 at The Gulf Hotel.

Almoayyed highlighted the challenges facing the hospitality industry which has experienced declining occupancies and room rates over the past 4 years. Recently published figures by market analysts, STR, indicate a drop in Revenue per Available Room (REVPAR) of 11.8pc across the hotel industry in Bahrain during 2017, with both occupancy percentages and average room rates declining during the year.

He stated that profitability is further affected by significant increases in costs such as utilities, although he welcomed recent changes in duties that will help the restaurant business but cautioned that the positive impact of change in duties could be wiped out once VAT is introduced.

Chairman, Farouk Yousuf Almoayyed

Almoayyed added that Gulf Hotels Group would continue to expand and renovate its properties, opening the Gulf Executive Residence in Juffair in Quarter 3 of 2018 as well as branching out into the Dubai hotel market and the Sri Lankan retailing sector.

Adding to comments of the Chairman, CEO Garfield Jones stated, "Overall the Group has performed well in 2017 although the declining trend in the hospitality sector is a real concern".

He further said that the Group is in the process of completing a major bedroom renovation in its Crowne Plaza property and during 2018, would be undertaking a complete renovation of the Gulf Convention Centre as well as upgrading the Gulf Hotel's Al Waha, La Pergola, Sherlock Holmes and Fusions outlets. "The La Pergola project is particularly exciting as it will be reopened under the guidance of 2 star Michelin chef, Giancarlo Perbellini" he stated.

CEO, Garfield Jones

He also said that the Fusions Restaurant, which will have the addition of an outdoor terrace, will be reopened under the guidance of the Gulf Hotel's Bahraini chef, Tala Bashmi and will be renamed "Fusions by Tala".

Focus on technology to achieve SDGs

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

The role of technology in achieving Sustainable Development goals was the focus of a full day workshop held yesterday.

The workshop, organised by Bahrain Centre for Strategic and International and Energy Studies the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia, aimed at understanding how technology could accelerate progress towards achieving SDGs

Among those who attended included Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Chairman of Derasat Board of Trustees and Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kingdom of Bahrain, Amin El Sharkawi, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Haidar Fraihat, Director, Technology for Development Division, ESCWA, and Dr. Zakaria Al-Khaja, Deputy CEO, Information and e-Government Authority.

Amin El Sharkawi speaking at the event

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa speaking at the event

The workshop was held under the title "Technology and Innovation: Means of Economic Diversification". Sessions.

In his keynote speech, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa highlighted the important role research institutions have to play in understanding innovation: "The most important conclusion is that innovation is not a random act; in fact, most of the useful innovation that is delivered by society's creative geniuses is the result of purposeful effort."

The United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, Amin El Sharkawi, emphasized the joint role of the Government of Bahrain and the United Nations in raising awareness on the role of SDGs in the development of Bahrain. "UNDP in Bahrain firmly believes in promoting knowledge to grasp new trends in technology and promote a labour force that is ready for the future economy, as well as ensure prospective workers to keep up with the digital age."

He added: "The Arab region has started to update and develop policies to integrate the realization of the SDGs within national policies. Bahrain is one of the aforementioned active countries."

Dr. Haidar Fraihat, Director, Technology for Development Division at ESCWA, stated: "This workshop affirms the active and effective role of UNESCWA and its partners to serve the Arab Region."

One of the highlights of the day was the session on national initiatives on technology and innovation for Economic Diversification, which brought together Deputy CEO of IGA, Zakaria Al-Khaja, Dr Mazen Mohamed Ali of the University of Bahrain, and entrepreneurs Khalifa Al Mannai, Managing Director of Mannai Tech and Wafa Al Obaidat, CEO of Obai & Hill to discuss youth, technology, economic diversification and gender equality.

Other sessions included "STI and Economic Diversification: Technology as a Socio-Economic Development Driver" moderated by Dimo Calovski from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and a session on regional and international perspectives on technology and innovation with participation from Andrew Cockburn, Head of Trade, Technology and Smart Cities at the Department of International Trade in the United Kingdom.

Alba wins International Safety Award with Merit

Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) announced winning the 2018 International Safety Award with Merit from the British Safety Council for its year-round diligent efforts towards maintaining safety and well-being of its employees.

Alba's CEO, Tim Murray

Alba will be awarded at the International Safety Awards Gala Dinner, which will be held on 27 April 2018 at Grosvenor House Hotel, London, UK.

Commenting on winning the 2018 International Safety Award with Merit, Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray said: "Employee Safety and Health has always been our number one priority as we truly believe that Safety and Productivity are mutually inclusive. We have built an excellent track record for Safety in recent years and I thank our employees for their hard work and commitment."

The International Safety Awards by the British Safety Council recognises and rewards organisations that are committed to corporate safety and health.

CrediMax and BENEFIT roll out unified QR Code

Abdulwahed Al Janahi

Yousif Mirza

Manama

CrediMax and BENEFIT announced their collaboration to roll out a unified QR Code payment option where MaxWallet and BenefitPay customers will be able to complete payments at registered merchants through their smartphones.

The applications work where customers can use the electronic payment process by scanning a QR code when purchasing from any of the registered merchants.

Commenting on the agreement, Chief Executive of CrediMax, Yousif Ali Mirza said, "This agreement comes in line with the national drive to stimulate innovation in online payments through MaxWallet or BenefitPay, providing secure and easy payments feature through smartphones."

"Our primary objective in this agreement is to provide customers with a wider choice of e-payments through smartphones. We are working closely with all partners to provide the service to different businesses and government institutions, which will be announced soon," said Chief Executive Officer of BENEFIT, Abdulwahed Al Janahi.

Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+ launches in Bahrain

Samsung Gulf Electronics Co. introduced to Bahrain the Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+. The launch event took place yesterday at the Ritz Carlton hotel.

Advanced camera

Redesigned with a new Dual Aperture lens that powers an innovative low light camera, Super Slow-mo video capabilities and personalized AR Emoji, the Galaxy S9 and S9+ ensure users do not miss a moment and make their everyday epic.

Powerful stereo speakers

The Galaxy S9 and S9+ deliver an enhanced entertainment experience with powerful stereo speakers tuned by AKG, immersive audio with Dolby Atmos® and a refined edge-to-edge Infinity Display – a key staple in Samsung's design heritage.

	Galaxy S9	Galaxy S9+
OS	Android 8 (Oreo)	
Display	5.8-inch Quad HD + Curved Super AMOLED, 18.5:9[9,10] (570ppi)	6.2-inch Quad HD + Curved Super AMOLED, 18.5:9[9,10] (529ppi)
Body	147.7mm x 68.7mm x 8.5mm, 163g, IP68[13]	158.1mm x 73.8mm x 8.5mm, 189g, IP68[13]
Camera	Rear: Super Speed Dual Pixel 12MP AF sensor with OIS (F1.5/F2.4) Front: 8MP AF (F1.7)	Rear: Dual Camera with Dual OIS - Wide-angle: Super Speed Dual Pixel 12MP AF sensor (F1.5/F2.4) - Telephoto: 12MP AF sensor (F2.4) Front: 8MP AF (F1.7)
AP	10nm, 64-bit, Octa-core processor (2.7 GHz Quad + 1.7 GHz Quad)[12] 10nm, 64-bit, Octa-core processor (2.8 GHz Quad + 1.7 GHz Quad)	
Memory	4GB RAM 64GB/128GB/256GB + Micro SD Slot (upto 400 GB)[13]	6GB RAM 64GB/128GB/256GB + Micro SD Slot (upto 400GB)[11]
SIM Card	Single SIM: Nano SIM Dual SIM (Hybrid SIM): Nano SIM + Nano SIM or MicroSD slot	
Battery	3,000mAh	3,500mAh
	Fast Wired Charging compatible with QC 2.0 Wireless Charging compatible with WPC and PMA	

Galaxy S9	S9 (64GB)	BHD	315.00
	S9 (128GB)	BHD	335.00
	S9 (256GB)	BHD	355.00
Galaxy S9+	S9+ (64GB)	BHD	355.00
	S9+ (128GB)	BHD	375.00
	S9+ (256GB)	BHD	395.00

"The Galaxy S9 and S9+ enable consumers to shoot great photos and videos anywhere, it's a smartphone that's designed to help them connect with others and express themselves in a way that's unique and personal to them; we have reimagined the smartphone camera for today's generation and the way they communicate, helping them unlock powerful experiences and share them effortlessly."

Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile (IM) Division at Samsung Electronics Gulf.

Just for Bahrain

- Save 20% off the best available rates at 170 participating Marriott International Hotels across the Middle East & Africa, in addition to 20% off at 370 restaurants and 70 spas.
- Apparel Group has come on board as a fashion partner of Samsung S9 and S9+ thus including offers from their 28 international brands, across fashion, lifestyle and food & beverage sectors including Levis, Juicy Couture, Aldo, Nautica, New Balance and more.
- Galaxy ENTERTAINER is also available via Samsung Members. The service includes over 2,00015 buy 1 get 1 free offers that provide unparalleled access to global hotspots including restaurants, cafés, premium spas, leisure attractions, golf clubs and much more.

From March 16

The Galaxy S9 and S9+ will be available across major retailers and Samsung brand shops in Bahrain starting March 16th and will be offered in Midnight Black, Titanium Grayand a new hue, Lilac Purple. The price for both smartphones will be dependent on memory size:

For more information about the Galaxy S9, visit http://www.samsungmobilepress.com, news.samsung.com/galaxy or www.samsung.com/galaxy.

CFO says he left Abraaj

Dubai

The chief financial officer of Dubai-based Abraaj Holdings told Reuters he had left the embattled private equity company. Two other senior executives are also preparing to leave, three people with direct knowledge of the matter said. The investment firm, which manages $13.6 billion in assets, is also considering a round of job cuts, they said.

"We recognize how important it is to secure the deal on the implementation period as soon as possible. I want to stress that we are very close to a deal at this time,"

Robin Walker,

Brexit minister

ABG, six units win top awards

Manama

The Bahrain based Al Baraka Banking Group (ABG) announced that the Group and six of its units won Islamic Finance News Awards 2017 through the annual comprehensive referendum conducted by the Islamic Finance News magazine.

Al Baraka Banking Group won Bahrain Deal of the Year Award and Regulatory Capital Deal of the year Award for its US$ 400 million Tier 1 Sukuk.

For the fifth consecutive year, Al Baraka Bank Egypt won the award as the Best Islamic Bank in Egypt, Al Baraka Bank Lebanon won the award as the Best Islamic Bank in Lebanon, Al Baraka Islamic Bank won the award as the Best Islamic Bank in Bahrain, Al Baraka Bank Syria won the award as the Best Islamic Bank in Syria, Jordan Islamic Bank won the award as the Best Islamic Bank in Jordan and Al Baraka Bank South Africa won the award as the Best Islamic Bank in South Africa.

On this occasion, Adnan Ahmed Yousif, Board member and President & Chief Executive of Al Baraka Banking Group said: "The subsidiary banking units of our Group have come to be amongst the leading financial institutions in servicing their communities and are most established in terms of their expertise and knowledge of the local markets, which reflect the success of Al Baraka Banking Group's vision and strategy."

The Islamic Finance News magazine based in Kuala Lumpur is an international institution specialized in providing news for the Islamic financial sector.

The CEOs & General Managers of the wining units received these awards in the annual ceremony, which was held in the city of Dubai on Sunday 11th March 2018.

Air India Summer Schedule

Manama

Air India has announced the summer schedule effective from March 25 to October 27, 2018. According to the revised schedule Flight IX 474 in sector BAH/CCJ departs from Bahrain daily at 1.20pm and arrives at Kozhikode at 8.10pm. The Flight IX 473 CCJ/BAH departs from Kozhikode daily at 10.10am and arrives in Bahrain at 12noon.

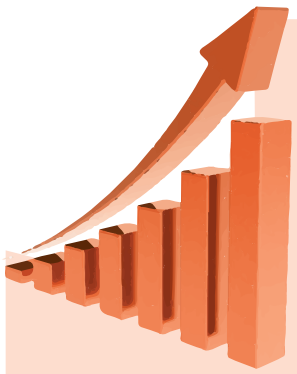
According to the new schedule Flight IX 474 BAH/COK departs from Bahrain daily at 1.20pm and arrives at Cochin at 9.45pm. The Flight IX 473 COK/BAH departs from Cochin daily at 8.35am and arrives in Bahrain 12noon.

Flight IX 890 in sector BAH / IXE on Monday, Wednesday and Friday departs from Bahrain at 9.20am and arrives at Mangaluru 6.25pm. Flight IXE /BAH on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays departs from Mangaluru at 6.35am and arrives in Bahrain at 8.20am.

Flight AI 940 in BAH/DEL sector departs from Bahrain on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday at 11 pm and arrives at Delhi at 5 am. Flight AI 939 DEL/BAH departs at 8.15pm on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday from Delhi and arrives here at 9.55pm.

Air India and Air India Express are offering a free baggage allowance of 30 KGs for all sectors. Cabin baggage allowed is 07 Kgs for Air India Express and 08 KGs for Air India flights. This includes duty-free items as well, according to Kishore Joshi, Country Manager, Air India.

Dell's first advertisement was made on the back of a pizza box.



BFC

CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3038	0.3013
BANGLADESH	0.00472	0.00452
CANADA	0.3008	0.2976
DENMARK	0.0655	
EGYPT	0.0237	0.0219
EURO	0.4720	0.4694
HONGKONG	0.04968	0.04928
INDIA	0.00595	0.00583
INDONESIA	0.00002979	0.00002802
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000317	
JAPAN	0.00370	0.003630
JORDAN	0.5359	0.5351
KOREA	0.00040446	
KUWAIT	1.266	1.263
MALAYSIA	0.0990	0.0987
NEW ZEALAND	0.2794	0.2794
NORWAY	0.0506	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00363
OMAN	0.98168	0.98301
PAKISTAN	0.00354	0.00342
PHILIPPINES	0.00747	0.00342
QATAR	0.10381	0.10404
SAUDI ARABIA	0.1006	0.10067
SINGAPORE	0.2910	0.2890
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03330	0.03320
SRI LANKA	0.00278	0.00243
SWEDISH	0.0489	
SWITZERLAND	0.4053	0.4023
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013600	
THAILAND	0.012230	0.012220
TURKEY	0.1041	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5315	0.5286
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	0.3985	0.3561
KUWAIT	0.2855	30.2259	0.3018	0.2697
OMAN	0.3849	0.3641	0.4069	0.3636
QATAR	3.6420	3.4453	3.8499	3.4401
UAE	3.6730	3.4747	3.8827	3.4693
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5475	3.9641	3.5421

Saudi market rise, close at highest level since 2015

Representative picture (Courtesy of Construction Week Online)

Dubai

Saudi Arabian stock market rose 1.1 per cent yesterday helped by expectations for more inflows of foreign money lifted Saudi Arabia as it also surpassed its January peak to close at its highest level since October 2015.

Petrochemicals were particularly strong as National Petrochemical, which had jumped 10pc on Sunday after reporting annual net profit more than doubled, rose by the same margin again.

Saudi Industrial Investment Group, which had gained 10pc on Monday after reporting annual profit increased more than ten-fold, added 5.3pc.

Exchange data released after the close on Sunday showed foreign investors were net buyers of Saudi stocks last week to the tune of $115 million, as they positioned for expected decisions by equity index compilers in the next few months to upgrade Riyadh to emerging market status.

Dubai's index fell 0.7pc despite a 4.5pc gain by banking giant Emirates NBD. ENBD had soared 13.6pc on Sunday after saying it planned a big capital increase, which analysts think will mean raising its 5pc ceiling for foreign ownership.

Losing stocks outnumbered gainers in Dubai by 25 to six. The market has been trading near two-year lows as money flows out for investment in the Saudi bull run.

In Qatar, the market soared after Qatar National Bank said it would raise its ceiling for foreign ownership. The index added 5.0pc, its biggest leap since January 2016.

QNB, in which the government is by far the biggest shareholder, said it would recommend to shareholders increasing its non-Qatari ownership ceiling to 49pc of capital from 25pc.

Shares in some other government-affiliated Qatari companies with 25pc foreign ownership limits also surged on expectations they would take the same action. Industries Qatar jumped 10pc and Qatar Electricity & Water gained 8.7pc.

Egypt's index rose 2.1pc. El Sewedy Electric last traded 10pc higher after saying it had signed a contract with Egyptian Electricity Transmission Co to provide power transmission lines worth 2.12 billion Egyptian pounds ($121 million). (*Reuters*)

Closing Bell

SAUDI climbed 1.1pc to 7,781 points.

DUBAI fell 0.7pc to 3,166 points.

ABU DHABI was flat at 4,534 points.

QATAR jumped 5.0pc to 8,663 points.

EGYPT surged 2.1pc to 16,742 points.

KUWAIT fell 0.6pc to 6,726 points.

BAHRAIN slipped 1.1pc to 1,353 points.

OMAN dropped 0.6pc to 4,875 points.

Batelco participates in Capacity Middle East 2018

Manama

Batelco, in line with its efforts to expand its global reach, has participated in the Capacity Middle East 2018 as a platinum sponsor. The event took place in Dubai from 6 to 8 March.

Batelco's stand displayed its latest portfolio of innovative products and services including the newly launched cable system, Batelco Gulf Network (BGN), Cloud Connect, Regional and Global Centres among other products and services. Batelco also demonstrated its global infrastructure and network which has more than 25 Point of Presence (PoPs) around the globe, with a focus on the MENA region.

A number of Batelco's management, including Batelco Chief Global Business Officer Adel Al-Daylami, represented the Company at the 3-day event.

"With Batelco's ongoing global expansion projects making good progress, we are placing more emphasis on our global partnerships with world-renowned providers to offer end-users an excellent service experience," said Al-Daylami.

Capacity Middle East is an annual event which attracts senior executives from carriers, service providers, ICT providers, data centres, VOIP providers, vendors, and enterprises from the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

Batelco Chief Global Business Officer, Adel Al-Daylami

AMG GT 4-Door Coupe Hybrid to arrive in 2020

The all-new Mercedes-AMG GT 4-Door Coupe won't be limited to the three current flavours, as a high performance hybrid version of the car is expected in a couple of years. Hinted by the brand's chief, Tobias Moers, during the Geneva Motor Show, according to *AutomobileMag*, the faster plug-in hybrid AMG GT 4 should arrive in 2020, if everything goes as planned. "Now, at AMG, hybrid is a performance hybrid. It's not necessarily a long-range (*Carscoops*)

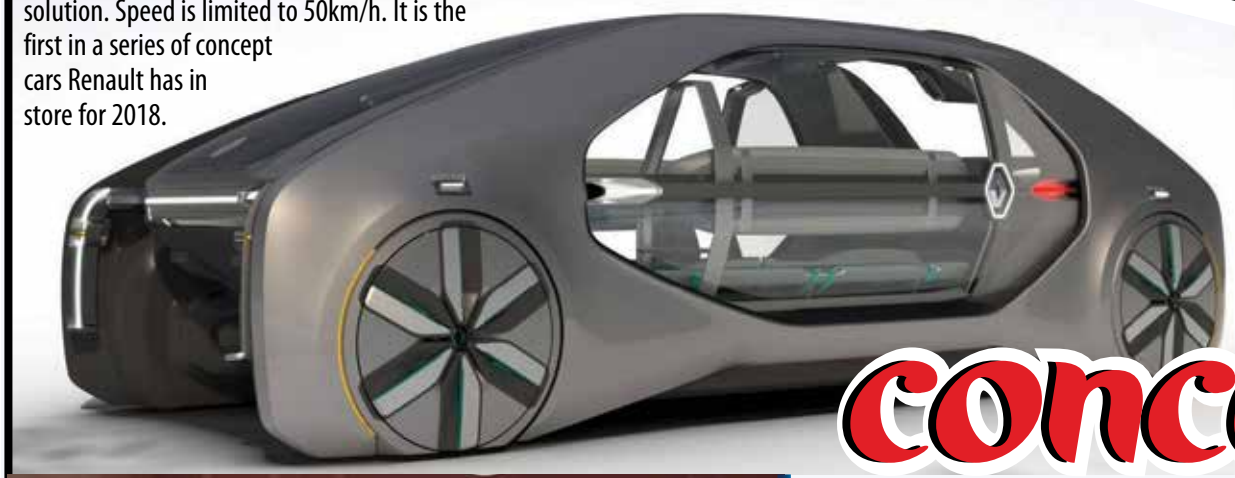
New Chiron Sport makes Geneva debut

The Bugatti Chiron is an incredible hypercar, but now there is a faster version on sale – the Chiron Sport.

Revealed at the 2018 Geneva Motor Show, the Chiron Sport uses the same 1,479bhp W16 that you get with the standard Chiron, however a selection of lightweight components have reduced the kerbweight by 18kg. What's more, there is a new hardcore suspension set-up that comes into play when using the 'Handling Mode' that's been engineered to hone the car's performance when on the track. *(Auto Express)*

Renault EZ-GO

The Renault EZ-Go didn't go unnoticed at the Swiss show. Described by the carmaker as a "robo-vehicle," it is designed for public or private transportation in urban environments. Essentially a connected and autonomous car-sharing concept, the vehicle is designed to simplify urban travel, offering a stress-free and comfortable solution. Speed is limited to 50km/h. It is the first in a series of concept cars Renault has in store for 2018.



Geneva Motor Show

Top 5 concept cars to look at

These weird and wonderful machines, heralding the future of the automotive industry, are always crowd-pleasers at car shows. A host of concept cars are once again making headlines at the Geneva Motor Show, where various models will be on show until March 18, 2018.

Aston Martin Lagonda Vision Concept

The future of Aston Martin's premium brand Lagonda will lie in electric and autonomous vehicles. With the Lagonda Vision Concept, the British carmaker showcases its vision of luxury mobility. Onboard, passengers can pivot their seats to create a cozy, social atmosphere surrounded by prestige materials like carbon and cashmere. Two production Lagonda models inspired by the concept could materialize by 2023.

Volkswagen I. D. Vizzion

The Volkswagen I.D. Vizzion electric and autonomous sedan puts artificial intelligence to use in the automotive industry. In the future, this technology will allow the vehicle to analyze and interpret the many types of situations encountered on the road. The I.D. Vizzion already uses facial recognition to prevent unauthorized users from taking the controls (gestures and voice commands). Moreover, level-five autonomous driving, for fully driverless mobility, allows each passenger to make full use of their time onboard. The I.D. Vizzion "open space" interior proposes a customizable cabin, ensuring the wellbeing of all vehicle passengers.

Hyundai Kite

The Kite electric buggy concept is the fruit of a collaboration between Hyundai and the Istituto Europeo di Design (IED) in Turin, Italy. It's a two-seater buggy with a futuristic look that transforms into a single-seater jet ski. It's certainly impressive, but the chances of this prototype coming to market are slim.

Porsche Mission E Cross Turismo

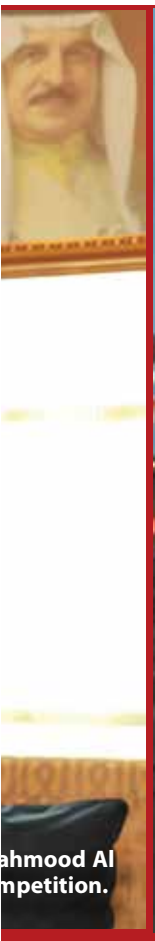
With this new fully electric crossover concept, Porsche debuts innovative display and operating technology with touchscreen and eye-tracking control. A camera in the rear-view mirror detects what the driver is looking at, such as specific onboard instruments, then displays whatever the driver is interested in on a head-up display optimally positioned in the driver's field of vision. (*AFP*)

Southern Governor HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa met Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and discussed social projects which will contribute to promoting social cohesion. Southern Governor praised the directives of Prime Minister to speed up the implementation of service projects in the Southern Governorate, which reflects his keenness to improve public services.

HH Shaikh Khalid presented an award to the *DT News* Editor-in-Chief Captain Ma
Mahmood for the newspaper's media support towards Bahrain Strongest Man co

The Bahrain British Business Forum (BBBF) hosted its Special Interest Group (SIG) for Projects & Construction at the Capital Club in Manama this week. The event organised by Al Hamdan Consulting Office (HCO) brought Industry experts from Twintec Middle East to present a variety of cutting-edge solutions for modern day fibrous concrete construction with members of the forum and their guests.

First Deputy Chairman of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the Bahrain
Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday received sponsors and the Supreme Organizing Committee o
by the Media Office. HH Shaikh Khalid presented an award to Daily Tribune Editor-in-Chief
Bahrain International Circuit Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, Assistant Secretary General
man Sadiq Askar, Assistant Chief of General Security for Operations and Training Brigadier
Bahr, and a number of officials in the ministries and representatives of companies and spo



ahmood Al
mpetition.

HH Shaikh Khalid honoured Director of *Al Ayam* Publishing Rashid Al Hamar

n Athletics Federation, the Honorary President of the Bahraini Federation of Disabled Sports HH Shaikh Khalid bin of the Bahrain Strongest Man competition, which was held under the patronage of His Highness, and organized Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood for the newspaper's media support towards the event. Present were CEO of the of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Secretary General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee Abdul Rah- General Shaikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Information Affairs Undersecretary Abdulrahman Mohammed onsors and the Chairman and members of the Supreme Committee organising the championship.

Commander-in-Chief of BDF Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Jordanian Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. General Mahmoud Abdul Halim Freihat and his accompanying delegation. Chief of staff Lieutenant General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi also attended the meeting. The BDF Commander-in-Chief welcomed the Jordanian Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and reviewed with him bilateral military cooperation.

Advisor of HM King for Media Affairs Nabeel Alhamer received the Swiss Honorary Consul in Bahrain Humbert Vincent Buemi. The Advisor stressed the deep relations between the two countries. The meeting reviewed media cooperation and ways to enhance it, and discussed issues of common interests.

Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa has visited the Al-Shabab Sports Club to track the club's developmental needs and future programmes. The Capital Governor paid the field visit to the Sports Club in Jidhafs area, in the presence of Chairman of Al Shabab Club Mirza Ahmed and Director of Facilities and Projects Department at the Ministry of Youth and Sports Saleh Naji Al-Othman to review the club's developmental needs and future programs. The field visit came inline with capital's aim to contributing and supporting various sports activities for children and youth in the region.

Pinoy Badminton Group President Ric Advincula organized Team Championship Badminton Tournament at the Muharraq Club, Muharraq on Friday

Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) International Trade Legal Affairs Director Walid Al Ghosoon delivered a lecture on anti-dumping laws in accordance with the requirements of the World Trade Organization, at the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC). The lecture was part of the Company's efforts to raise awareness of the requirements of the global market and its laws and challenges

CELEBS

Demi Lovato @ddlovato
I also am awake on my bus avoiding taking my makeup off in every way possible because I'm lazy AF rn. What are y'all doing?

Debicki doesn't plan her film career

Los Angeles

Australian actress Elizabeth Debicki says she has never been good at planning her film career, and likes to go with the flow.

"I have never been very good at planning what film roles I want to do next. I was lucky that I played very different characters last year and they were really challenging in different ways," Debicki said.

"But I am also a theatre actor and I know what roles I want to play in theatre. There are lots of role in literature that I want to tackle. But in films, I see what comes around the corner next," she added.

Debicki entered showbiz in 2011 with a small role in "A Few Best Men". (*IANS*)

HOLLYWOOD REWARDS 'MEDIOCRITY'

Taking a swipe at the Hollywood, Veteran actress Susan Sarandon said that it is 'mediocrity' which is rewarded in the industry.

According to a report, Susan made this remark, while she was in London for promoting her new documentary, 'Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story', which tells the story of silver screen legend Hedy Lamarr. Talking about Lamarr, Sarandon said, "it's certainly not a requirement to be smart in my business."

"Mediocrity is rewarded time and time again. A lot of the time you're hired because you don't ask questions. It takes more time to ask questions, it takes more time to fight for something with integrity," she added. (*ANI*)

Spielberg's movie faces technical glitches

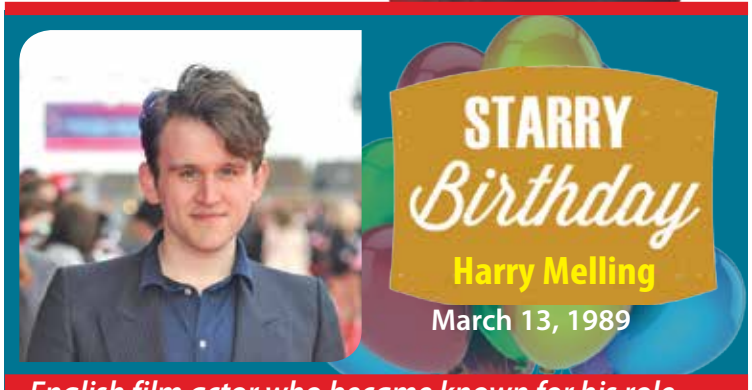
Austin

Veteran filmmaker Steven Spielberg's movie "Ready Player One" had a world premiere here, but not before facing technical difficulties drawing boos from the crowd.

After being announced as the secret screening at this year's SXSW Film Festival, Spielberg's film was hit with technical difficulties during its world premiere on Sunday night. About 100 minutes into the film, the sound went out, drawing boos and jeers from the Paramount Theater crowd here, reports *variety.com*.

The projectionist restarted the movie, which had been paused during a climatic scene, but the sound system failed again.

After a third, successful attempt, the sold-out crowd burst into applause. (*IANS*)

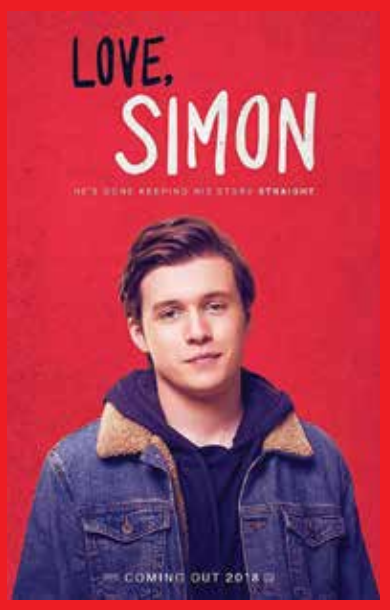


English film actor who became known for his role as bully Dudley Dursley in the Harry Potter film franchise. As a theater actor, he has played roles in King Lear and Women Beware Women.

MOVIES... COMING SOON... this week

1. Tomb Raider

Director: Roar Uthaug
Stars: Alicia Vikander, Dominic West, Walton Goggins, Daniel Wu



2. Love, Simon

Director: Greg Berlanti
Stars: Nick Robinson, Josh Duhamel, Jennifer Garner, Katherine Langford

3. 7 Days in Entebbe

Director: José Padilha
Stars: Rosamund Pike, Daniel Brühl, Eddie Marsan, Ben Schnetzer

4. Josie

Director: Eric England
Stars: Sophie Turner, Dylan McDermott, Daeg Faerch, Kurt Fuller

5. I Can Only Imagine

Directors: Andrew Erwin | Jon Erwin
Stars: J. Michael Finley, Brody Rose, Dennis Quaid, Cloris Leachman

(*www.imdb.com*)

Bon Jovi honoured with Icon Award

Los Angeles

The legendary rock band Bon Jovi was honoured with the first-ever iHeartRadio Icon Award to celebrate their contributions to music during their 35-year career.

At the 2018 iHeartRadio Music Awards on Sunday, the band performed classics like "It's My Life" and "You Give Love a Bad Name", reports *people.com*.

"I want to thank the three-and-half decades of fans that have been listening to Bon Jovi songs," frontman Jon Bon Jovi, 56, said during the band's acceptance speech.

"We've been at this game a long time and the only advice I'll tell this incredible generation of incredible talent is just stay true to who you are, and then they're going to make you guys icons too someday," he added. (*IANS*)

Guillermo del Toro launches scholarship

Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro, who was in his native city for the week-long Guadalajara International Film Festival, announced a scholarship for aspiring Mexican filmmakers.

According to a report, during the festival, del Toro is imparting a series of free master classes to thousands of fans. After his first masterclass, the organisers announced the creation of the Jenkins-Del Toro International Film Scholarship, a USD 60,000 annual award for an aspiring Mexican filmmaker to study abroad at a prestigious film institute. (*PTI*)

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAHRAIN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (BSPCA) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

RUBEN RIVERA
CHERYL NIELSON

BEING TWO OF FIVE (40%) OF THE BSPCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HAVE RESIGNED "EN MASSE" PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 39 OF THE BSPCA CONSTITUTION WHICH STATES:

"THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE DISSOLVED IF AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF ITS MEMBERS RESIGN EN MASSE OR IF THE REMAINING MEMBERS FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER BECOME LESS THAN ONE HALF OF THE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERS.

IN THESE CASES, THE GENERAL MEETING SHALL BE SUMMONED FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE TERM OF ITS PREDECESSOR.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO SUMMON THE GENERAL MEETING WITHIN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF DISSOLUTION."

HEREBY HUMBLY REQUEST THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO SUMMON A GENERAL MEETING OF THE BSPCA TO ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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NOTICE WITH REGARD TO THE CANCELLATION OF LICENSE OF

"Turkiye Finans Katilim Bankasi A.S."

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (10) of 2018 pertaining to the cancellation of license of Turkiye Finans Katilim Bankasi A.S. issued on 11th Jumada II 1439H, corresponding to 27th February 2018, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Wholesale Bank (Branch - Islamic Principles) license of "Turkiye Finans Katilim Bankasi A.S." issued on 24th February 2015, registered under commercial registration no. 93974-1 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of the publication of the above resolution in the Official Gazette.

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HOW TO REACH US

"Out & About', a ready reckoner for the events taking place on the island.
To be included, please send the matter to the following email ID : news@dt.bh

OUT & ABOUT

RECYCLING PALM TREE WORKSHOP

Date: 15 March 2018, 5:00pm
Venue: Archaeologies of Green - Muharraq

Bahrain is well known as «The mother of a million palm trees» Recycling of palm trees is a way to revive the importance of palm trees in our beloved country. This is what we are aiming to in this workshop and in a very simple way ... Children can do this by encouraging them to use raw materials Available everywhere, especially in the palm tree and recycling it. As a result the kids will come-up with something new and beautiful.

FRIDAY BRUNCH AT CUT WITH CHEF WOLFGANG PUCK

Date: Friday, April 6 from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

Celebrity Chef Wolfgang Puck is back in town! Join him for an Asian fusion BBQ and a cutting-edge Friday Brunch. Spend the perfect Friday afternoon in the heart of Bahrain and indulge in a wide variety of delicious homemade comfort food with Wolfgang Puck. Reservations: +973 17115044

BEST OF WOLFGANG PRE F1 PARTY - SATURDAY BBQ WITH CELEBRITY CHEF WOLFGANG PUCK

Date: Saturday, April 7 from 8:00 pm – 2:00 am
Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

Join us for an Asian fusion BBQ party with the celebrity chef himself. Savor an array of special Asian BBQ and street food, while you enjoy the twinkling lights of the Manama skyline and a live DJ in the background.

EASTER BRUNCH AT BAHRAIN BAY KITCHEN

Date: March 30 and April 1 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

We are celebrating Easter with a grand brunch - you just hop on over!
Celebrate the timeless tradition of Easter with friends and family at Bahrain Bay Kitchen.
Savor an exquisitely paired menu of mouthwatering favorites like roasted lamb rack, hot cross buns and chocolate treats. The little ones have something to cheer about too with a fun egg hunt and other engaging escapades. Free access to Kids For All Seasons Easter activities.

FRIDAY SPRING FAIR BRUNCH

Date: Every Friday from April 6 until May 11 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

Spring fairs bring forth many exciting memories to mind. Expect fun, excitement, vivacious colours, floral fragrances and comfortable weather. Every Friday, Bahrain Bay Kitchen's garden will be transformed into a welcoming hive of activity. Lounge in the open air while indulging in new seasonally influenced dishes. Children's hearts will be filled with a sense of delight as they enjoy plentiful fair-style games and activities. Discover pony rides, Ping-Pong, darts and train rides. Throughout these Friday afternoons of indulgence, sip on a refreshing iced tea, chilled milkshake or your desired beverage. The Spring Fair Brunch is a nod to everything that inspires weekend bliss.

RE/IMAGINE YOUR SATURDAYS

Date: Every Saturday from 12:30 pm until 3:30 pm
Venue: re Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck Asian

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay invites you to discover the perfect Saturday Brunch at re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck. Soak in the immersive views from the 50th floor and feast on mouthwatering Asian selections like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons for BD 19++.

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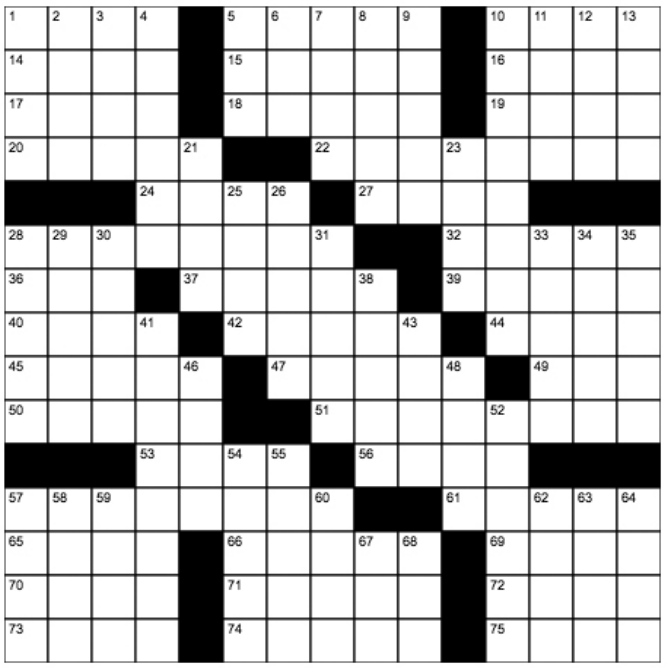

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1 P	2 E	3 S	4 T	■	5 A	6 N	7 E	8 E	9 D	■	10 A	11 G	12 E	13 R
14 C	A	T	O	■	15 F	O	R	T	E	■	16 T	A	L	C
17 B	R	I	M	■	18 I	M	E	A	N	■	19 L	I	S	A
■	20 P	R	O	21 C	R	A	S	T	I	22 N	A	T	E	■
■	■	■	23 R	H	E	A	■	■	24 S	O	S	■	■	■
25 M	26 A	27 O	R	I	■	28 M	29 I	30 G	■	31 S	T	32 R	33 A	34 P
35 I	N	S	O	L	36 E	■	37 T	A	38 J	■	■	39 O	R	A
40 N	O	T	W	I	T	41 H	S	T	A	42 N	43 D	I	N	G
44 E	T	E	■	■	45 A	I	M	■	46 B	A	I	L	I	E
47 S	E	R	48 A	49 I	■	50 E	E	51 L	■	52 A	S	S	E	S
■	■	■	53 B	R	54 R	■	■	55 E	56 T	C	H	■	■	■
■	57 W	58 A	L	K	I	59 N	60 G	P	A	P	E	61 R	62 S	■
63 B	E	L	A	■	64 C	A	R	T	S	■	65 V	E	E	66 P
67 A	N	A	T	■	68 A	R	I	O	T	■	69 E	D	N	A
70 A	T	E	E	■	71 N	A	N	N	Y	■	72 L	O	T	T

Across

1- Surrender; 5- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 10- Sounds like a kitten; 14- "Roots" author Haley; 15- Concepts; 16- Strong ___ ox; 17- Impetuous; 18- Ancient Greek city-state; 19- ___ avis; 20- Assumed name; 22- Contemptible; 24- Light air; 27- Winds up; 28- Skepticism; 32- Gives off; 36- Nada; 37- Some are kosher; 39- Capital city of Yemen; 40- Frozen treats; 42- Last; 44- Apprehends; 45- Seed covering; 47- Pennies; 49- ___ Angeles; 50- Some Art Deco works; 51- Reassign; 53- Capone nemesis; 56- Queue after Q; 57- Move; 61- Ill will; 65- _____, poor Yorick; 66- Like some vbs.; 69- H.S. junior's exam; 70- Fireplace opening; 71- I ___ vacation!; 72- Austen novel; 73- Mary ___ Lincoln; 74- Intertwine; 75- Blue hue;

Down

1- Irene of "Fame"; 2- Mideast airline; 3- He loved Lucy; 4- Breathe out; 5- Pinch; 6- Altar answer; 7- Congers; 8- The ___ Mutiny; 9- Ruhr Valley city; 10- Person who shoots well; 11- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 12- Tip off; 13- Catch; 21- Immature herring; 23- Citrus coolers; 25- Willingly; 26- Tending to a definite end; 28- Bring together; 29- More pleasant; 30- Hallowed; 31- More delicate; 33- Counting everything; 34- Forbidden; 35- Impudent; 38- Less loony; 41- Abnormally narrowed; 43- Former Fords; 46- Just ___!; 48- Hardens; 52- Marionette; 54- Person of exceptional holiness; 55- Scatter; 57- Floating platform; 58- London greeting; 59- Praise; 60- ... ___ saw Elba; 62- Woe ___; 63- Writer Janowitz; 64- And others, briefly; 67- Begley and Bradley; 68- Gangster's rod;

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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)

Your energy will light up any room you enter today. Feel free to take advantage of this incredible magnetism by initiating and encouraging others to join you in creative activities and bold adventures. However, be careful that your head doesn't get too big. You can be proud without becoming egotistical; otherwise you'll end up losing your followers.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)

Put an extra spring in your step. The slow, steady pace may be something that you're comfortable with, but note that the situations of the day call for something much more dynamic and brave. Pull out your leadership hat and put it on proudly. Today is the day for you to call the shots, instead of compromising in order to get along with others.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)

Be prepared for all-out combat with people today, even though this is pretty much the opposite of your normal style. In fact, "opposite" is the name of the game for you today. Don't be surprised if you walk into an ice cream shop wanting vanilla and all they have is chocolate.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)

Control is apt to be a big theme for you and the people around you today. You'll find such a brutal dispute over who is holding the reins that once someone finally gets a firm hold of them, he or she is apt to take the situation to the extreme. There's an aggressive tone to things that can't easily be ignored. Keep an eye on your associates on a day like this.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)

In general, things should be going extremely well for you today, so don't miss this opportunity to pursue your dreams in every sense of the word. Do things with passion and don't hold back. Remember that your mind and will are the only things stopping you from getting where you want to be. There's a great deal of magnetism at your disposal today.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)

You may feel anxious today, even more so than usual. Your nerves may be quite jittery, and there's a feeling that you may not be on exactly the right track. More than likely, what you need to do is simply calm down and relax. Let your brain slow down and think clearly without the distraction of many people telling you what to do.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)

Other people are the most important aspect of your day today. You'll find that things might get a bit difficult and unruly alone, but if you connect with others, even the most challenging task becomes almost effortless. One toothpick is easily broken, but 50 toothpicks together are as strong as steel.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)

Don't be a pushover today. This is your time to lead. At least get your opinion out in the open and let it be known to the people around you. Put some passion in your day in order to liven things up and get the energy moving. A powerful transformation may take place within you as you start to wield your power instead of give it blindly away to others.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)

You have a great deal of power at your disposal today. You should keep in mind that just about anything you wish for will come true. Don't waste words or actions. Concentrate your energy and focus it on one or two important things instead of dispersing it and thereby diluting your overall power. There isn't anything to fear on a day like this.

(Dec 22nd- Jan 20th)

Be careful of getting into fights today. However, if a squabble or altercation of some sort seems inevitable, don't shrink away and hide. It's important that you face the source of the attack and stand up to whomever or whatever is getting in your path. Conjure up the warrior inside you and you might surprise yourself with the incredible power you have within.

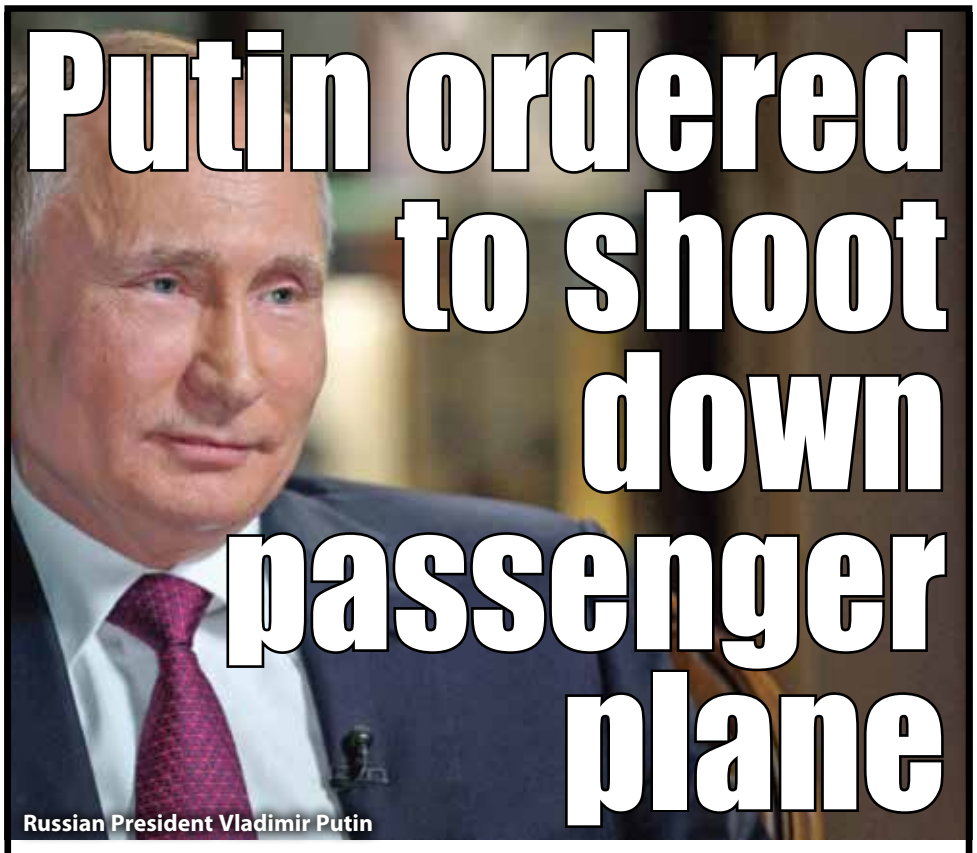
(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)

Issues regarding freedom are apt to come up today in more ways than one. These issues could be connected with opportunities for adventure and travel. Although you initially want to dive into this promised freedom, take time to reflect on what you need in your current situation before making any final decision.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)

There is a great deal of startup energy working for you today. You may feel as if you're walking on hot coals. This isn't a good day to sit on the couch watching TV. The coals will burn you for sure. It's important that you keep moving. Engage in activities that exercise your mind as well as body. You'll feel much better if you can point to something and say that you created it.

Putin ordered to shoot down passenger plane



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave an order to shoot down a passenger plane he believed would be used in a terror attack at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, he said in a new documentary.

The plane was travelling from Ukraine to Turkey when Putin was told it had been hijacked and was on its way to Sochi, where the opening ceremony was about to take place, according to the film.

Putin said he gave permission to shoot down the jet, which had 110 people on board, after security services told him that was the procedure in such situations.

The president was informed just before the ceremony that it was a false alarm -- the plane had not been hijacked and so was not brought down.

When interviewer Andrei Kondrashov asked how he felt during the time between the two calls, Putin said: "I'd rather not talk about that."

The two-hour documentary, released online on Sunday a week ahead of an election Putin is expected to win in a landslide, presents an overwhelmingly positive picture of the president.

The segment about the plane is intercut with images of fighter jets flying through the sky and shots of the Twin Towers on 9/11, with an action movie-style soundtrack.

"Everything's fine," an unshakeable Putin told International Olympic Committee head Thomas Bach after the incident, according to the film.

Putin's slogan in a lacklustre election campaign has been: "A strong president -- a strong Russia".

The documentary was produced and presented by Kondrashov, who is a spokesman for Putin's campaign.

It also features interviews with a number of the Russian leader's allies including former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. (*AFP*)

Climate protest prompts partial evacuation at Louvre

Protesters lay on the floor in front of the iconic 19th century painting "The Raft of the Medusa" at the Louvre

Paris

The Louvre briefly evacuated one its busiest rooms yesterday after black-clad environmental activists staged a protest against oil giant Total's patronage of the Paris museum.

About a dozen protesters lay down on the floor in front of "The Raft of the Medusa", an iconic 19th-century painting by Theodore Gericault showing the shipwreck of a French navy frigate.

The demonstrators entered inconspicuously before lying down in front of the painting chanting slogans against Total, an *AFP* reporter said.

The Louvre confirmed it had evacuated museum-goers from the room for around 10 minutes after the protest around 10.30 am (0930 GMT).

The activist group 350.org, which campaigns against the use of fossil fuels in favour of renewable energy, said it staged the demonstration "to symbolise victims of the oil industry". (*AFP*)

#PollToday

As North Korea keeps silence do you think the meeting between North Korean Leader and US President will happen by May?

○ Yes ○ No ○ Cant Say

"We want to make sure that there's enough of a seed of human civilization somewhere else to bring civilization back, and perhaps shorten the length of the Dark Ages. I think a moon base and a Mars base that could perhaps help regenerate life back here on earth would be really important."

-Elon Musk
SpaceX founder

Rest in sight

Slovak minister quits after journalist murder

Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Robert Kalinak announced his resignation following tensions sparked by the murder of an investigative journalist probing links between the government and the mafia.

Bangladesh ex-PM gets bail

A Bangladeshi court granted bail to former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who was jailed last month for five years for graft, raising a chance her party might take part in a December general election.

'Military land grab' in Rohingya villages

Myanmar is building security installations on top of razed Rohingya villages casting doubt on the country's plans to repatriate hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Attacker killed at Iran envoy's Vienna house

A 26-year-old Austrian was shot dead outside the Iranian ambassador's residence in Vienna after a knife attack on a soldier guarding the building.

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Turkish private plane crash wipes out wedding party

Tehran

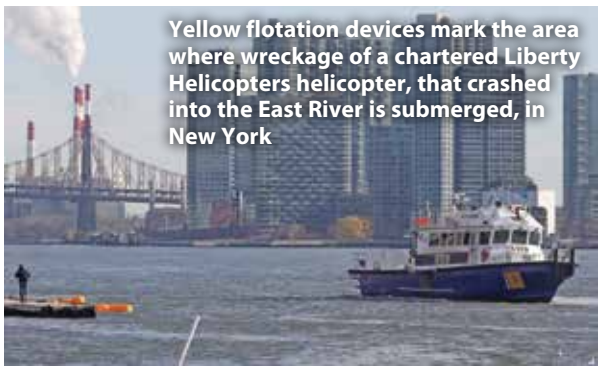
Investigators yesterday found the "black box" from a Turkish private jet that crashed in an Iranian mountain range on its way from the United Arab Emirates to Istanbul, killing all 11 people on board, including a Turkish bride-to-be and her hen night.

Authorities recovered all the dead from the crash site in the Zagros Mountains outside the city of Shahr-e Kord, some 370km (230 miles) south of Iran's capital, Tehran, according to a report by the state-run *IRNA* news agency.

Officials have so far identified eight bodies, including that of Mina Basaran, the 28-year-old daughter of the chairman of Turkey's Basaran Investment Holding, the semi-official *Mehr* news agency reported yesterday.

Heavy rains and wind in the mountain range since the crash on Sunday made it impossible for helicopters to land in the area. Officials hoped to bring the bodies down from the mountain later, *IRNA* said. (*AP*)

Five killed after helicopter crashes into New York River



Yellow flotation devices mark the area where wreckage of a chartered Liberty Helicopters helicopter, that crashed into the East River is submerged, in New York

New York

Federal investigators headed to New York City yesterday to determine what caused a helicopter to crash into the frigid waters of the East River, killing all five passengers aboard, with only the pilot surviving.

Moments before the Sunday evening crash, the pilot sent a distress call over his radio, saying the engine had failed, according to the *New York Daily News*. The red helicopter, which had been privately chartered for a photo shoot, hit the water and turned upside down at about 7 pm EDT (2300 GMT) near the northern end of Roosevelt Island, just east of Manhattan.

The National Transportation Safety Board, the federal agency that investigates civil aviation accidents, sent 14 officials to the city yesterday to determine the cause of the crash. (*Reuters*)

North Korea silence speaks volumes on US talks

Seoul

Pyongyang has maintained a deafening silence as news that US President Donald Trump will meet its leader Kim Jong Un made global headlines -- and analysts say the nuclear-armed North is keeping its powder dry, retaining room to manoeuvre.

Trump last week agreed to meet with Kim by the end of May to discuss Pyongyang's denuclearisation -- which it put on the table in exchange for security guarantees -- and predicted the talks would be a "tremendous success".

But the unorthodox announcement was made on the White House lawn by a South Korean envoy, with no American officials in attendance, and only confirmed by Washington afterwards.

More than 72 hours later, there has been no comment by the North, and nothing on the subject in its official media.

"It was a unilateral statement by Trump," said Koh Yu-hwan, a professor at Dongguk University. "Kim Jong Un just sent him a verbal message" through Seoul's intermediaries. (*AFP*)

BPL 2018 final on Friday

DT News Network
Manama

The final match of the Coca-Cola Bahrain Premier League 2018 between Intex Lions and Awan Warriors will be held on Friday at the Isa Town Cricket ground.

Celebrities from film, entertainment, sports and cultural sectors will be part of the event, which will also have cultural and entertainment programmes for the family audience.

Bollywood film actor and entrepreneur, Suniel Shetty and commentator, cricket player and author, Aakaash Chopra were announced as invited celebrities.

The details were revealed during a press conference held yesterday at the Park Regis Hotel. Mohammed Shahid, CEO of KHK Sports, Mohammed Mansoor, President of Bahrain Premier League and officials from CBA were present.

Viewership crosses 200,000

The online viewership of the Bahrain Premier League had crossed 200,000 during the semi-finals all across GCC, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

"We were successful in nurturing the growth of cricket to the next level while providing a career opportunity for the youth in sports. We thank the support of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa that made this possible. We have received an overwhelming response from the International athletes, celebrities and entertainment professionals," said Mansoor, President of Bahrain Premier League.

"The initiative held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was a progressive initiative and had captured the attention of the cricket playing nations around the world for the very first time. The franchise-based initiative brought together business and sports for the very first time in the community of cricket in Bahrain. Development of sports has far-reaching effects on the economy, tourism, cultural relations, diplomatic relations, hospitality and service sector," Mohammed Shahid, CEO of KHK Sports told reporters at the Press Conference.

Mohammed Shahid, CEO of KHK Sports with Mohammad Mansoor, President of BPL

Organising committee of the Bahrain Premier League 2018 presided by Mohammmed Shahid (CEO of KHK Sports) and Mohammad Mansoor, President of Bahrain Premier League at the official Press conference

Actor Suniel Shetty to make appearance

Manama

Indian film actor and entrepreneur, Suniel Shetty will make his appearance as an invited celebrity at the finals of the Coca Cola Bahrain Premier League 2018.

Suniel Shetty is noted for his contribution towards the film industry and for his entrepreneurial ventures in India including real estate and media investments.

The film actor and entrepreneur is a keen supporter of sports initiatives by Bahrain. He was an invited celebrity during Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions held in Bahrain.

He will return to the Kingdom of Bahrain to extend support towards Coca Cola Bahrain premier League 2018 held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa by Mohammed Shahid, CEO of KHK Sports and Mohammad Mansoor, CEO of Exelon.

The finals will be held at the Isa Town Cricket grounds. The tickets for the public are sponsored by KHK Sports and Exelon and that also enables the public to witness the event for free for the first time.

Suniel Shetty

S. Africa defeat Australia

Port Elizabeth

Kagiso Rabada put aside his disciplinary concerns to set up a series-levelling win for South Africa on the fourth day of the second Test against Australia at St George's Park yesterday.

South Africa won by six wickets after Rabada's fast bowling ensured they needed to chase a modest 101 runs for victory.

The fast bowler, who has been suspended from the remaining two Tests of the series, took six for 54 as Australia were bowled out for 239 in their second innings.

South Africa lost four wickets before Theunis de Bruyn hit the winning runs.

AB de Villiers, whose 126 not out enabled South Africa to lead by 139 runs on the first innings, hit a quick 28 off 26 balls before he was caught at short leg off Nathan Lyon with 20 runs still needed.

Rabada took the first three of the five Australian wickets that fell for the addition of 59 runs on Monday. He had match figures of 11 for 150 - the fourth time in his 28-Test career that he had ten or more wickets in a match.

He was found guilty of a Level 2 ICC Code of Conduct offence of 'inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with a player'. Rabada has received a fine of 50 per cent of his match fee and three demerit points after a disciplinary hearing following his denial of the charge.

Rabada has accumulated eight demerit points within a 24-month period, automatically leading to a two-match suspension. The incident happened in the 52nd over of Australia's first innings of the second Test, when moving towards the slips, Rabada made contact with Steve Smith with his shoulder. (*AFP*)

South Africa's Kagiso Rabada bowls

India sail to 6 wicket victory

Colombo

India strengthened their chances to qualify for the final of the Nidahas Trophy 2018 after recording a comprehensive six-wicket win against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

India chased down 153 in 17.3 overs with nine deliveries to spare as the middle-order pair of Manish Pandey (42*) and Dinesh Karthik (39*) stitched an unbeaten 68-run stand for the fifth wicket.

The contest was reduced to 19-overs-a-side after a lengthy rain delay. India lost openers Rohit Sharma (11) and Shikhar Dhawan (8) cheaply before Suresh Raina's dazzling cameo as he smacked two fours and as many sixes in his 15-ball 27 to offset the advantage Akila Dananjaya had given his team with the scalps of openers. KL Rahul (18), who replaced Rishabh Pant in the playing XI, was looking good during his stay but was dismissed in an unlucky manner, becoming the first Indian batsman and tenth overall, to be out hit-wicket.

When Rahul departed, Sri Lanka had faint hopes with India 85/4 in 9.5 overs but a calm-headed display from Pandey and Karthik ensured India sailed in the chase. (*TOI*)

BRIEF SCORES

India 153 for 4 (Pandey 42*, Karthik 39*, Dananjaya 2-19) **beat Sri Lanka 152 for 9** (Kusal Mendis 55, Thakur 4-27) **by six wickets**

South Africa 382 (De Villiers 126*, Elgar 57, Amla 56, Cummins 3-79) **and 102 for 4 beat Australia 243** (Warner 63, Rabada 5-96, Ngidi 3-51) **and 239** (Khawaja 75, Rabada 6-54) **by 6 wickets**

Shardul Thakur wheels away after taking a wicket (*Pic courtesy: AP*)

Indian Wells

Simona Halep survives

California

Top seed Simona Halep narrowly avoided an upset in the BNP Paribas Open third round on Sunday, digging deep for a 1-6 7-6(3) 6-2 win over world No. 165 Caroline Dolehide, while 16-year-old Amanda Anisimova also advanced to the fourth round.

Romanian Halep was outplayed by American Dolehide in the first set at Indian Wells but slowly exerted her authority and, after surviving a second-set tiebreak, gradually wore down the tiring teen to secure victory.

Wild card Anisimova, meanwhile, took out ninth seed Petra Kvitova 6-2 6-4, ending the Czech's win streak at 14 matches following tournament titles in St. Petersburg and Doha.

It was another highly impressive performance by junior US Open champion Anisimova, who became the first 16-year-old to reach the fourth round since Viktoriya Kutuzova in 2005.

"I'm still in shock," Anisimova, who is ranked 149th in the world, told reporters.

"She's the best player I have ever played, and it was the biggest court I have ever played on."

Anisimova has not dropped a set in three matches. She defeated 23rd seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the second round.

"I was enjoying the moment, but at the same time, I was trying not to make myself nervous because of the huge crowd, and everything, and the big stage," she said.

French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko was beaten 6-3 6-3 by Croat Petra Martic. (*Reuters*)

Results:

Third round:
Simona Halep bt Caroline Dolehide 1-6, 7-6(3), 6-2
Wang Qiang bt Kristina Mladenovic 6-1, 6-2
Marketa Vondrousova bt Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2
Petra Martic bt Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-3
Maria Sakkari bt Coco Vandeweghe 6-2, 6-4
Amanda Anisimova bt Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-4
Karolina Pliskova bt Zhang Shuai 7-5, 5-7, 6-3
Second round:
Angelique Kerber bt Ekaterina Makarova 3-6, 6-4, 6-2
Sloane Stephens bt Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 7-5. (*Xinhua*)

Simona Halep plays a shot

Djokovic beaten by Taro Daniel

Taro Daniel hits a return

California

Novak Djokovic suffered a shock defeat by world number 109 Taro Daniel of Japan as he was knocked out of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells. The 30-year-old lost 7-6 (7-3) 4-6 6-1 in the second-round tie on his first appearance since an injury ended his Australian Open challenge in January.

Djokovic had further surgery on a persistent elbow injury in February.

"It felt like first match I ever played on the tour. Very weird. I completely lost rhythm," said the Serb.

"I was grateful to be out on the court after surgery that quickly but at the same time I just didn't feel good at all."

"I was not even supposed to be here because of the surgery that was only five, six weeks ago." (*BBC*)

Results:

Second round
Roger Federer bt Federico Delbonis 6-3, 7-6(6)
Feliciano Lopez bt Ernesto Escobedo 6-4, 6-3
Sam Querrey bt Mischa Zverev 6-4, 7-5
Yuki Bhambri bt Lucas Pouille 6-4, 6-4
Dudi Sela bt Kyle Edmund 6-4, 6-4
Milos Raonic bt Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 6-4
David Ferrer bt Tennys Sandgren 6-2, 7-6(3)
Gael Monfils bt John Isner 6-7(5), 7-6(3), 7-5
Philipp Kohlschreiber bt Tim Smyczek 1-6, 6-4, 6-4
Marin Cilic bt Marton Fucsovics 7-5, 6-3 (*Xinhua*)

Novak Djokovic reacts

Carrick to retire at end of season

London

Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

Carrick, 36, has played 463 times for United since joining from Tottenham for £18m in 2006 and won 34 England caps.

"There comes a time when your body tells you it is time to stop. That is where I am at," he said.

Carrick added it was "looking likely" that he will take up the club's offer of a first-team coaching role at the end of the season.

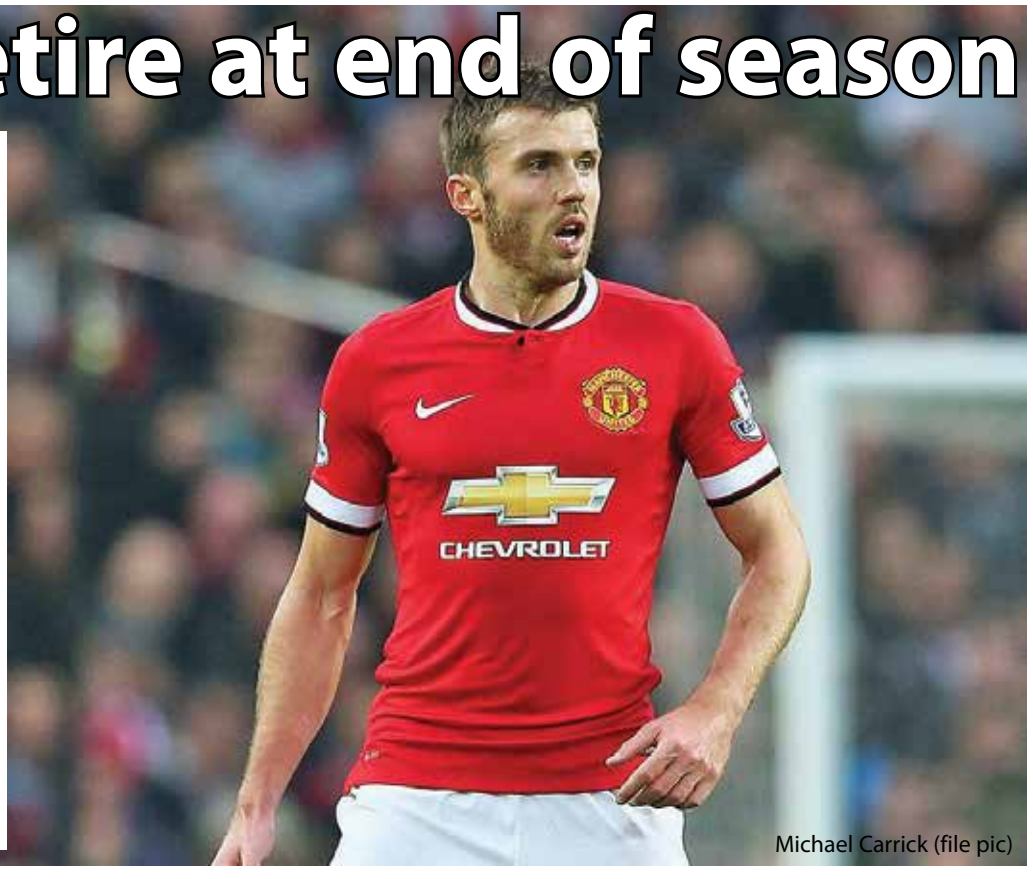
In January, manager Jose Mourinho said he would be "very happy" if Carrick decided to stay at the club in a non-playing capacity.

He has been restricted to only four appearances this season because of an irregular heart rhythm.

Carrick said: "After the heart issue, I had two or three days thinking 'am I going to carry on?' I got back fit and wanted to finish on my own terms.

"I need to keep myself fit and ready. Hopefully I can get some game time and I am still enjoying training. I am trying to help a lot more because I understand where I am at."

Carrick joined West Ham as a youth player and made more than 150 appearances for the Hammers before moving to Spurs in 2004. (*BBC*)



Michael Carrick (file pic)

Martial fit for Sevilla clash

London

Anthony Martial is fit and available for Manchester United's Champions League round of 16, second-leg game at home to Sevilla, manager Jose Mourinho said yesterday.

The French forward missed last week's Premier League victories over Crystal Palace and Liverpool but trained on Monday ahead of the visit of the Spanish club on Tuesday.

Midfielder Paul Pogba remains a doubt, however, as United try to capitalise on the 0-0 draw in the first leg in Spain.

"I don't know if (Pogba) is fit but he trained after you left," Mourinho told a news conference after a training session that was open to the media. "Martial is fit yes."

Zlatan Ibrahimovic also trained with the squad although Mourinho did not offer any clues as to whether the Swedish striker might be involved against Sevilla. (*Reuters*)

Middle East, Al Naseem, Modern Knowledge triumph

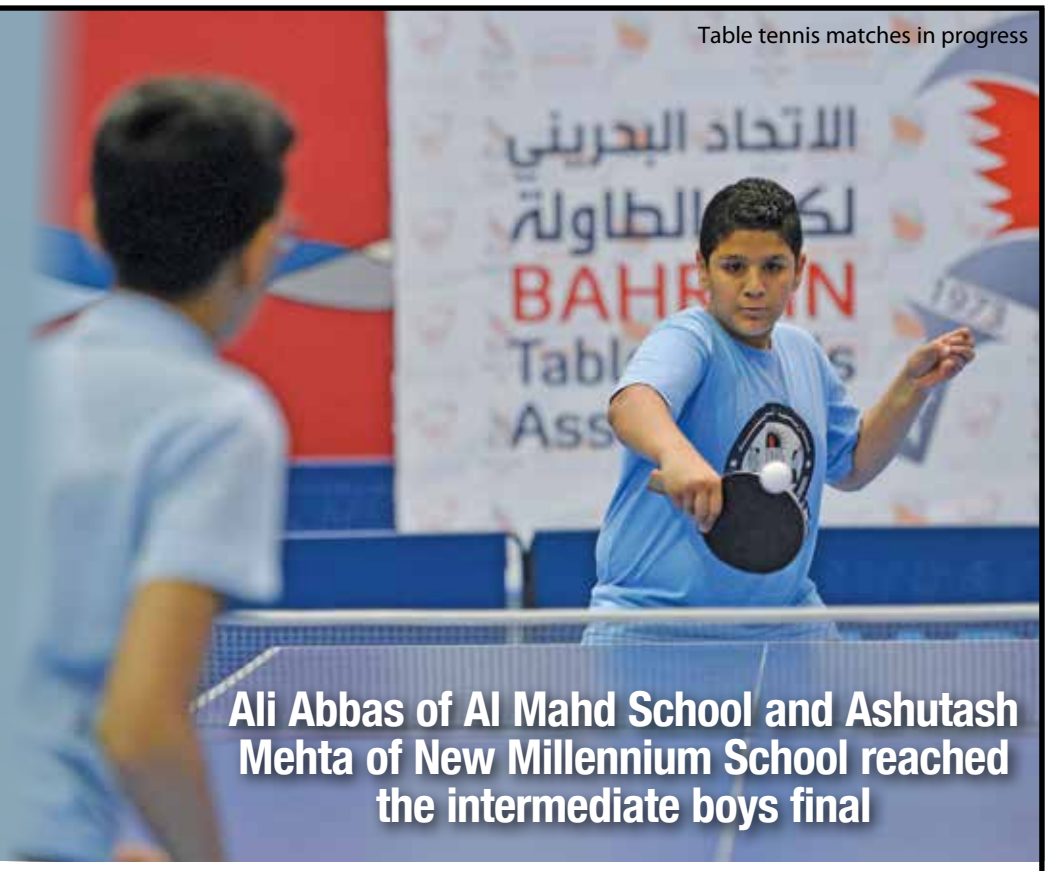


Table tennis matches in progress

Ali Abbas of Al Mahd School and Ashutash Mehta of New Millennium School reached the intermediate boys final

Action from boys basketball matches

DT News Network
Manama

Al Naseem School, Modern Knowledge School and Middle East School had winning start in the primary boys basketball championship in the Fifth School Mini Olympics.

The Mini Olympics is being organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education with more than 3,500 from 58 schools competing in a record 20 sports this year.

Staged at the Bahrain Basketball Association gym in Um Al Hassam, 154 students from 20 government school took to the court and battled in their respective group matches as Al Naseem 'A' and 'B' teams dominated Group 'A' to take an early lead.

Al Naseem 'A' beat Indian School 'A' 2-0, then edged their 'B' team 3-2. In the same group, Al Naseem 'B' defeated Al Hekma 'B' 1-0, before beating Abdulrahman Kanoo 'B' 2-0.

In the other groups, Modern Knowledge 'B' scored three consecutive wins over Sacred Heart 'A' 1-0, Al Naseem 'C' 8-0 and Indian School 'A' 2-0, to top Group 'B', while Middle East School 'A' ruled Group 'C' with wins over Innovative School 2-0, AMA 'A' 4-2 and New Millennium 'A' 2-0.

Basketball action continues today with the second round of the basketball tournament from 9.30am, where the qualified teams will be decided.

Elsewhere, the girls basketball tournament got underway at the Bahrain Sports Federation or People with Disabilities Gym, with Shaikha Hessa School winning their first of a double-game tie against Modern Knowledge t 4-1, while the latter took the second game 5-3.

In table tennis, the first round of the primary and intermediate stages took place at the Bahrain Table Tennis Association gym in Riffa. The finals will be held today.

Ali Abbas of Al Mahd School and Ashutash Mehta of New Millennium School reached the intermediate boys final, while Ahmed Jaffer and Ali Saleh will face off in the primary stage gold medal match.

The Mini Olympics aims to spread and promote the values and principles of the Olympic among government and private schools in the Kingdom, and motivate them to practice sports activities and follow a healthy life style.

Among main objectives of this event is to discover promising sports talent, build a solid foundation and involve them in competitive sporting activities organized by sports clubs and associations.

It also aims to establish competitive sports activities organized at the school.

Table tennis matches in progress

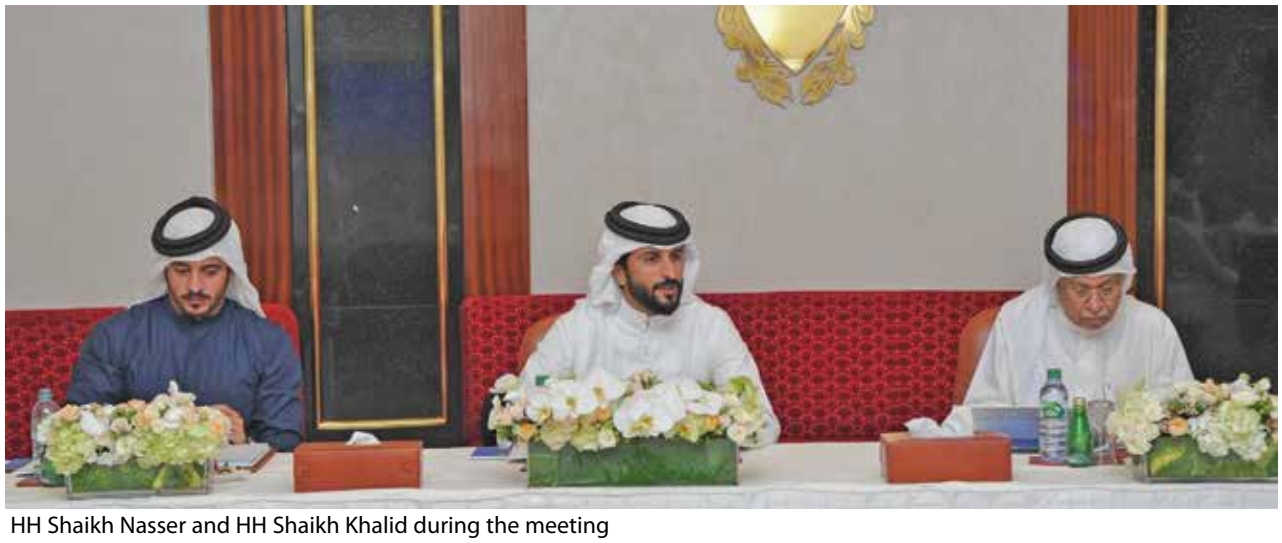
Highlights from the boys basketball matches

Shaikh Nasser launches "Response" Programme

DT News Network
Manama

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, launched a programme to develop the youth and sports sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain, namely "Istijaba" (Response).

The programme represents an initiative to implement a key part of Bahrain's Reform Programme, which is spearheaded by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the vision of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.


HH Shaikh Nasser and HH Shaikh Khalid during the meeting

The programme was officially unveiled during the meeting of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, which was chaired by HH Shaikh Nasser in the presence of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports President of the Bahrain Athletics Association and Shaikh Isa bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Second Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and a number of their Excellencies, members of the Council.

The Response Programme came under Decree 1 for the year 2018 to form a Committee for coordination, implementation and follow-up, that is specialised in preparing periodic reports and recommendations to develop and to find required solutions to achieve the Council's ambitions.

Composed of Abdullah Jehad Al Zain, Ayman Tawfiq Al Moayyed, Anmar Ahmedi and Ahmed Abdulghani, the Committee will work hand in hand with the President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Bahrain Olympic Committee and all the government agencies involved in this sector.

HH Shaikh Nasser confirmed that the launch of the Response Programme aims to organise and better manage the government budgets.

Kittel beats Peter Sagan to win Stage 6

Marcel Kittel celebreates

Tyrrhenian, Italy

Marcel Kittel (Katusha–Alpecin) edged out Peter Sagan (Bora–Hansgrohe) to claim stage 6 of Tirreno–Adriatico, while Team Sky's Michal Kwiatkowski retains the overall lead.

Fernando Gaviria clipped the wheel of a Quick-Step Floors team-mate with 10km to go to decimate the peloton, but, somehow, Pete Sagan, who was on the wheel of the Colombian, managed to avoid the carnage to chase down those at the front.

However, Kittel was able to hold off the challenge of the three-times world road race champion to take the stage, his second of the seven-stage race.

Gaviria's lead-out man Maximiliano Richeze claimed third. Kwiatkowski finished safely in the peloton to retain his overall lead going into the final stage time trial on Tuesday. BMC's Damiano Caruso is second some three seconds back with Movistar's Mikel Landa a further 20 seconds back.

Geraint Thomas endured more problems as he suffered a puncture towards the end of the stage. (*Eurosport*)

Askar confidence of 'Response' success

DT News Network
Manama

General secretary of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) Abdulrahman Askar commended the step taken by HH Shaikh Nasser in Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman and BOC president to launch a new programme titled 'Istijaba' (Response), to develop the youth and sports sectors in Bahrain.

Askar affirmed the importance of such initiative, which will undoubtedly add more progress to both sectors and is one of several programmes recommended by Shaikh Nasser in recent years. He stressed that the program, which aims at optimizing the investment of sports facilities in accordance with an integrated plan that contributes to enhancing the financial resources of youth and sports sectors.

It also looks for new sources of financing, and is considered a distinguished national project.

Abdulrahman Askar

Mercedes' qualifying pace still 'unknown'

Valtteri Bottas (file pic)

London

Mercedes Formula 1 driver Valtteri Bottas says the team's one-lap pace is "unknown" going to Australia because it did not feel the need to discover it during pre-season testing.

Lewis Hamilton set Mercedes' fastest time over two weeks at Barcelona but was 1.3 seconds slower than Sebastian Vettel's pacesetting Ferrari, with Bottas another tenth behind.

But Mercedes came out on top during the race simulations and Bottas said its focus on long runs means it will not have an indicator of its pure pace until qualifying for the Australian Grand Prix in two weeks.

"The long runs and race simulation was very positive," said Bottas.

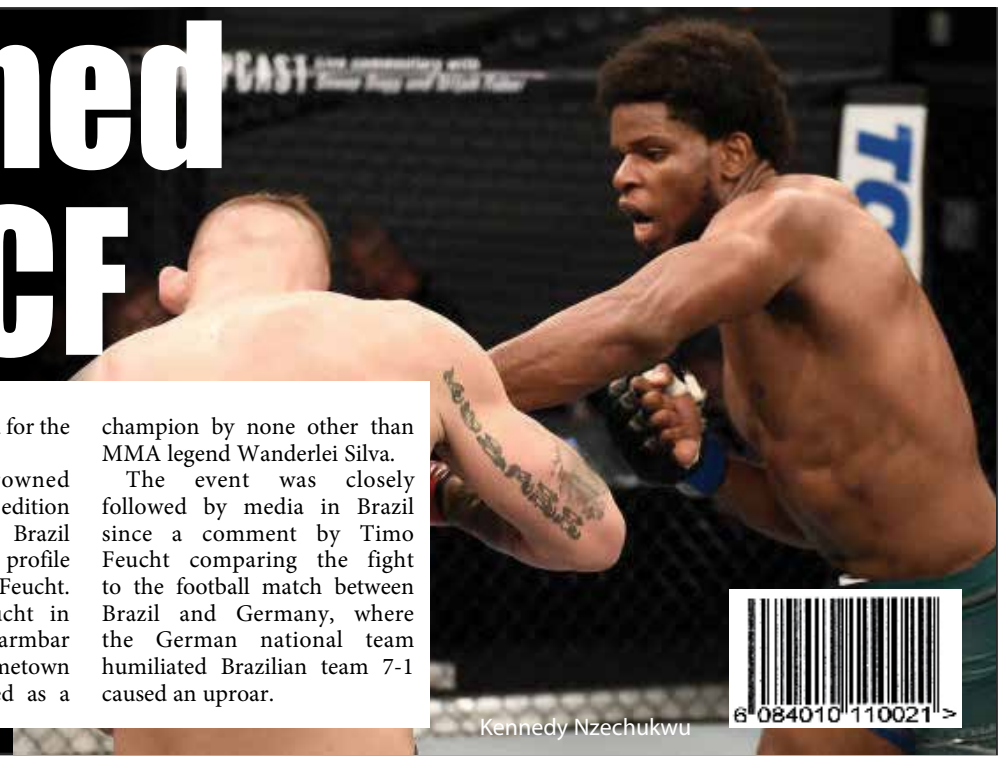
"We don't think we're anyway near one second ahead of everyone - that's not the case. [But] it was positive.

"It's nice to get some race simulation under my belt and feel the tyres and the car in the long run.

"There's so much more time in testing to try different things in the car and get comfortable in there. Lewis was pretty much doing the same.

"For us, I have to say the pure one-lap pace is unknown, but I guess we'll find out in a couple of weeks." (*Autosport*)

Kennedy signed with Brave CF



Kennedy Nzechukwu

Manama

Brave Combat Federation has signed Kennedy Nzechukwu from Fortis MMA, Dallas, Texas. He is a teammate of Abdul Kareem Al Selwady and has an undefeated MMA record.

Standing at 193 cm tall with an incredible reach advantage he is a legitimate threat for any fighter in the Light-heavyweight division. His previous fights were at the Dana White's Tuesday Night Contender Series 7 against Anton Berzin at the UFC Fight Pass and against Andre Kavanaugh both of which he had won.

At Brave Combat Federation, in Brazil, he will face the hometown hero and Light-Heavyweight Champion, Klidson Farias de Abreau for the championship.

Klidson was crowned champion at the eighth edition of the event hosted in Brazil where he faced the high profile German prospect, Timo Feucht. Klidson submitted Feucht in the second round by armbar before of an ecstatic hometown audience, to be crowned as a champion by none other than MMA legend Wanderlei Silva.

The event was closely followed by media in Brazil since a comment by Timo Feucht comparing the fight to the football match between Brazil and Germany, where the German national team humiliated Brazilian team 7-1 caused an uproar.

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