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11th Hour

Hawar Development
committee set up

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa has issued a decree (77 of 2017) establishing the High Committee for the Development of Hawar Islands. Supreme Council for the Environment President His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa will chair the panel with members from ministries, business community and the EDB.

Amnesty's allegations false: Govt

DT News Network
Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday rejected the allegations of an Amnesty International report on human rights situation in the Kingdom, saying what it called "suppression of opposition" as false.

"The country exerts utmost efforts to promote and protect human rights in spite of external interference in its affairs and sovereignty, sectarian and extremist dangers, regional conflicts and intolerance," the Ministry said in a report entitled "The Legal protection of Human Rights - Achievements and Challenges". Amnesty's accusation of "suppression of

'Suppression of opposition' not true

Kingdom respects human rights

the opposition" contained false allegations and interpretations, the Ministry said in the report, harshly criticising the erroneous methodology adopted by Amnesty to prepare their report.

The Ministry said that Amnesty did not even mention its method of verifying the credibility of its sources, and the objective indicators it had set for itself in reading media reports or other references. "Amnesty as a human rights

organization should review with the authorities concerned the information rather than level false allegations based on false information from vague sources," the Ministry said.

"It would be detrimental to the Organization to adopt its report as a method that deviates from a careful human rights concern," said the Ministry, harshly criticising the Amnesty report. The Ministry said that the Kingdom recognizes the process of promoting respect

for and protection of human rights, a process that is free of challenges and difficulties.

"Bahrain seeks, in accordance with the law, to confront and deal with these acts while safeguarding human rights by providing national protection mechanisms that monitor the respect of national laws and institutions without prejudice to individual rights in social, political and civil rights," the Ministry said.

(Continued on Page3)

No arbitrary detention in Kingdom

With regards to Amnesty International's recommendations on freedom of expression and arbitrary detention, the Ministry said that the Public Prosecution of the Kingdom performs its duties with full objectivity and in full compliance with the provisions of the law. No one is accused for exercising political activity established by the Constitution and the law, unless an offense is expressly committed by law.

The Ministry confirmed that after examining the legal status of the prisoners referred to in the report, it was found that they had been convicted under final judicial rulings in criminal cases unrelated to human rights and after a trial that met all standards of justice and transparency.

On Amnesty's recommendation, "Immediately stop harassment and targeting of human rights defenders," the report contained general and ambiguous terms that were not specific to the Ministry so that the Ministry could respond. The Ministry explained that legal means have been provided to ensure criminal and disciplinary accountability for those charged with committing acts of torture or cruel or degrading treatment. The Public Prosecution of Bahrain has affirmed its keenness to confront these facts as provided by the law and to conduct them in criminal liability, extending to the determination of disciplinary responsibility.



P 06

Construction of
Medical City to
begin in 2018



P 20

Jerusalem
'should be
Palestinian
capital'



P 24

Chelsea go
second with
easy win



Best wishes and heartfelt greetings to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier

The Government and the loyal people of Bahrain
On the occasion of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession Day
National Day and Bahrain Police Day. We vow to continue to protect the nation.



The Minister of Interior
and all the Ministry of Interior affiliates



Bahrain blasts Amnesty, says allegations are false

From Page 1

As for Amnesty International's recommendation on freedom of assembly, the Ministry stressed the keenness of the Ministry of Interior to ensure that there is no prohibition on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly and that the exercise of this right is in accordance with legal provisions to ensure the safety of participants of these gathering and marches, and to maintain public order and morals as well as protect the rights and freedoms of others, according to Decree-Law No. (32) for the year 2006, that amended certain provisions

of Decree-Law No. (18) of 1973 on public gatherings and rallies. The Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms that all persons arrested, including those mentioned in the report, were arrested in accordance with legal procedures and not for their exercise of their right to expression or for any other reason related to human rights.

Use of force, torture

Regarding the allegations of the use of force, torture and other ill-treatment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that, in accordance with the decision of the Attorney-



General of 2012, the Special Investigation Unit of the Kingdom of Bahrain operates independently in the Public Prosecution. Its legal practices shall be exercised under the power of its Chairman, and the Attorney-General shall supervise its work with administrative oversight. The Unit is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all allegations of murder, torture and ill-treatment attributed to persons in leading positions, whether they were civilian and military, who are under "command responsibility in accordance with international standards.

The General Secretariat Ombudsman was also established, which is an administratively and financially-independent body in the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry of Interior has also established a new Directorate of Internal Investigations, which is responsible of examining complaints related to allegations of wrongdoing by any members of the public security forces. It has also issued the Code of Conduct for Policemen under

Ministerial Resolution No. 14 of 2012. It is derived from the best international practices and codes of conduct for law enforcement officials of the United Nations. Ministerial Decree No. 24 of 2014 was

issued to promulgate the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms, in line with the basic principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials of the United Nations. With regard to allegations of arbitrary deprivation of nationality and forced deportation, the Ministry stated that the deprivation of nationality occurs in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom and is only in accordance with the mechanism provided by the law - a Royal Decree - either on the basis of judicial decisions or upon the order of the Minister of the Interior after receiving the approval

of the Cabinet. The Ministry referred to the right to appeal against the decision to revoke citizenship by persons involved before the Bahraini judiciary in accordance with legal procedures.

The Ministry affirmed that the Government has compensated victims of human rights violations. The Government adopted the civil settlement initiative to compensate the victims of the events of February and March 2011 upon the proposal of the National Committee that was established to follow up on the recommendations of the report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry.

Violation of law forced action against Al-Wasat

As for the shutdown of Al-Wasat newspaper, the report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the legal procedures to suspend Al-Wasat newspaper in June 2017 came as a result of the newspaper's repeated violations to the Law of Press, Printing and Publishing of 2002, and the national and international press and media covenants, through its involvement in spreading rumours and false news that would incite sectarian hatred, racism and harm the Kingdom's relations with fraternal and friendly countries, and serve extremist organizations in light of the violence and

terrorism taking place in the Kingdom. The most notable violations that took place in the last three years, and the procedures taken against them are as follows:

In the past years, the Public Prosecution, under Article 80 of the Press, Printing and Publishing Law, has summoned a number of Al-Wasat authors to question them after publishing news and reports that would stir sectarian divisions, threaten national security, incite hatred and disregard laws. Opinion articles that included violations were published in the newspaper 4-6 times a month.

Court upholds Daesh supporter's jail term

DT News Network
Manama

The High Appeals Court yesterday upheld the ten-year jail sentence and stripping of citizenship of a Daesh supporter.

The court ruled by accepting the appeal in form, rejected it in substance, and upheld the sentence, said Advocate General Ahmed Al Hammadi, Chief of Terror Crime Prosecution.

The defendant was tried and convicted for forming and joining a terror group, illegal possession of firearms for terrorist purposes and spreading false news. The

High Criminal Court on June 15 sentenced him to ten years, stripping his citizenship and confiscating the seized items.

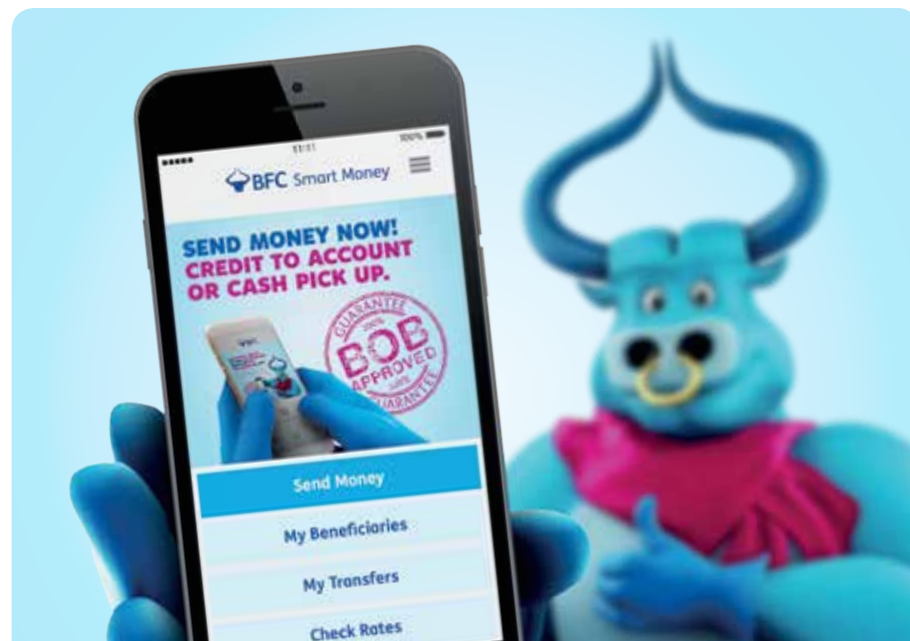
The case was charged after the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID) received tips about an individual who expressed extremely anti-police, anti-government and pro-Daesh views.

The investigations led to one of the most dangerous members of the Daesh group who forged links between its elements inside Bahrain and its fighters abroad. He supplied the Daesh group with vital information including names and details of Interior Ministry

officers to target them via terrorist attacks.

The suspect had distorted the image of Bahrain, its Judiciary Authority and security agencies in social media, especially with regards to human rights and inmates' treatment. He was apprehended in accordance with legally-prescribed procedures and referred to the Public Prosecution.

The defendant appeared in custody before the High Criminal Court. His case was deliberated by the court, which heard his defence argument and the Prosecution statement which insisted on maximum possible penalty.



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14 December... Bahrain Police Day

In a comprehensive report on security services

HM the King stresses on the nation's security and safety and solidarity among its loyal people

MOI- Police Media Centre



The security and stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain is a blessing and a result of police efforts and their sacrifices and round-the-clock commitment. Their dedication is inspired by the wise thoughts and ideas of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Police personnel function under the directives and follow-up of His Excellency Interior Minister Lt-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to ensure security and stability in Bahrain. The Bahrain Police Day is celebrated not only to express thanks and appreciation for the sacrifices of sincere and loyal men, but also to reaffirm loyalty to HM the King and faith in his leadership. A survey of the security situation in Bahrain shows that the blessing of security is essential for the growth of various sectors. HM the King was clear on this when he said: "The issue of security and stability is very important and should always be kept in view. Every citizen and resident should be devoted to this idea. Loss of security means loss of five essential elements: religion, soul, mind, honour and money and Islam calls for their protection. As Almighty God said: 'Who provides them with food against hunger, and with security against fear'.

Taking into account HM the King's views, the Interior Ministry has put in place plans and adopted security projects to achieve the ultimate goals which are the security and safety of the public and the protection of public and private property. Statistics show a decline in the crime rate this year. The Operations Room (999) took an average of 4,078 calls every day which shows security commitment and interaction between securitymen and various sections of society.



Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science solves cases

The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science solved a large number of cases in 2017 and, through a specialised team, helped arrest terrorists and those involved in attempts to harm the national security. It also organised workshops and events in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), including a workshop on human-trafficking.

Anti-corruption and Economic & Electronic Security deals with 1,500 cases

The General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic & Electronic Security dealt with 68 cases, while the Anti-economic Crime Directorate investigated 977 cases. The Cyber Crime Directorate tackled 464 cases. The General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic & Electronic Security website www.acees.gov.bh was launched to inform people about its duties and operations and tell them how to report cases and offer information through the hotline and email. The website also offers an e-form to report cases. The department continues to hold campaigns, workshops and seminars to promote integrity and transparency and develop the culture to fight cyber crimes.

Civil Defence deals with 6,091 cases

The General Directorate of Civil Defence dealt with 6,091 cases this year using state-of-the-art technology for better performance. It also organised 157 lectures and awareness seminars. The Civil Defence centres received visits by NGOs and students from 159 schools and pre-schools. It also held 25 lectures on evacuation.

Legal Affairs continues with its excellent performance

The Legal Affairs Directorate continues to represent the Ministry on legal panels and at conferences and meetings, in addition to the sessions of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives. It also studies security-related proposals on laws and regulations and drafts legal memorandums and recommendations. The department was involved in the revision of 77 legal proposals referred from the Shura Council



and the Council of Representatives and was involved in another 19 legal proposals and decisions. Its team assigned to implement court verdicts won the e-government Award for Excellence for its system of fines and granting bail.

Police Aviation accounts for 1,261 flights

The Police Aviation was involved in 1,261 flights this year to prevent crimes, detect pollution and monitor maritime borders. The flights totalled 15202500 hours [CHECK. FIGURE TOO HIGH]. The helicopters were equipped with air surveillance cameras for better performance.

Coast Guard helps 492 boats, rescues 851 individuals

The Coast Guard has increased the number of vessels, speed boats and maritime patrols to prevent and reduce crime. It uses the latest technology such as the radar system and electrophoresis cameras. The department helped 492 boats and rescued 851 individuals this year. It also monitored fishing violations and deployed security patrols for competitions organised by various authorities, including the General Or-



- More than 26 million travellers entered and departed Bahrain in 2017

- Governorates continue to play their social and security roles to meet citizens' needs and demands

- The Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) introduces e-system at Ports Directorate to improve services for travellers

ganisation of Youth & Sports, and sailing clubs.

Fatal accidents decline by 40%

The General Directorate of Traffic achieved the World Health Organisation goal by reducing fatal traffic accidents by half, beating the deadline by four years. It managed to reduce fatal traf-

fic accidents by 40% and traffic violations by 50%. The department endeavours to reduce accident-related deaths through awareness programmes among road-users. This has enabled it to win the e-government Forum 2017 Award for best government practices. It also managed to bring many services into the e-system thereby

processing 10,000 applications per day. There are around 700,000 vehicles registered in Bahrain and the department runs traffic safety projects and awareness campaigns covering 123 schools and pre-schools with 12,053 students, a project for 1,649 students from 24 secondary schools and bike projects for 570 students.

Rescue Patrols (Najda) deal with 14,000 cases

The rescue patrols (Najda) dealt with 14,000 cases, including accidents, and provided 4,092 community services until October 2017. In the same period, the Anti-narcotics Directorate dealt with 905 cases and seized about 169kg of drugs and 39,282 pills of psychotropic substances. In terms of training, the Interior Ministry offered 352 courses in Bahrain and 108 courses abroad. It also offered scholarships to 59 officers to enable them to continue with their higher education.

26 million visit Bahrain

A total of 26 million travellers entered and departed Bahrain in 2017 while 160,000 visas were issued. The Nationality, Passports and

Bahrain stands first in the Middle East in traffic safety thanks to smart cameras which help reduce accidents

Residence Affairs (NPRA) launched an e-system at the Ports Directorate to facilitate the services for travellers at the ports and link them to the security authorities concerned. The system was implemented in phases, starting with the sea ports, then covering the Bahrain International Airport and finally King Fahad Causeway.

Ports Security: Operations room at Causeway improved

The General Directorate of Ports Security dealt with 415 cases this year through the Bahrain International Airport Police Directorate, 80 cases through the King Fahad Causeway Police Directorate and 76 cases through the Marine Ports Police Directorate. The department also improved the causeway's operations room, increased the number of CCTVs at the airports and coordinated with the Bahrain Airport Company to install an X-ray device at the logistics gate to inspect products.

Customs Implements Development Strategy

The Customs Affairs implemented a strategy for 2017-2020 to offer better customs services, ensure smooth passage for travellers and goods and reinforce community security. It continued to develop its e-services and the system of e-payment of fees. It also introduced customs procedures to improve efficiency of inspections and an operations room with hi-tech facilities with representatives from the government organisations concerned, to deal with the increased number of travellers during holidays and to handle emergencies.

RAP offers courses and wins awards

The Royal Academy of Police (RAP) held a number of training courses and specialised programmes. It compulsorily included human rights in the International Law and International Humanitarian Law courses in its master's degree programme to promote the human rights culture and focus on constitutional, legal and judicial guarantees. It also introduced a one-year human rights diploma, a reformation and rehabilitation organisation diploma and a community service diploma. In 2017, the academy won the first position in the International Pace-sticking Championship held at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst. It also took part in the first Bahrain Open Mixed Martial Arts Championship and won three gold medals and two silvers besides a gold medal in the second Bahrain Open Mixed Martial Arts Championship. It also held, for the ninth consecutive year, a summer camp in cooperation with Tamkeen for 1,023 students in the 12-17 age group. The academy also launched a four-year programme, in cooperation with Al Mabara Al Khalifiya Organisation, to improve the skills of the youth in the 13-17 age group and encouraged them to realise their full potential and be active members of society.

Police Band Takes Part in Prestigious Foreign Events

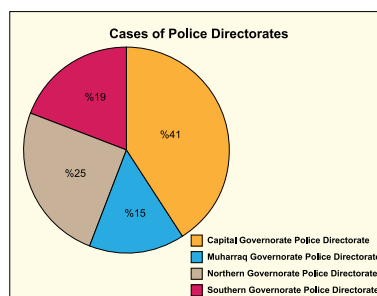
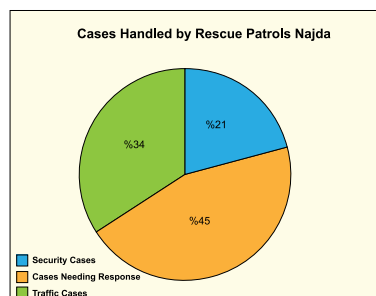
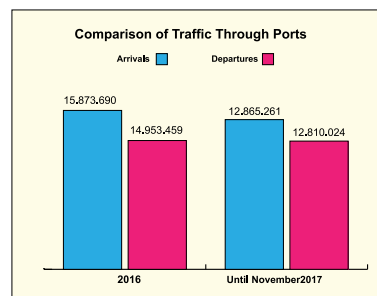
The Police Band continues to take part in official events and celebrations, as well as festivals, to promote the spirit of nationalism and community partnership. This year it took part in 262 events in Bahrain and two abroad, including 'This is Bahrain' conference in the US.

Human Resources wins 3 international awards

The organisational excellence team of the Human Resources won three awards as part of the 11th session of the International Stevie Awards. They are considered the most prestigious international awards in creativity and organisational excellence. There were around 3,500 entries from more than 50 countries, organisations and major companies.

Financial transactions through e-government exceed BD53 million

The Information and e-Government Authority facilitated the issuance of licences in a record 10 days instead of many months, reducing the waiting period by more than 90%. In October 2017, HE the Interior Minister launched the advanced edition of the government portal bahrain.bh with an improved and easy-to-use design and a host of services. From February 2016 to September 2017, more than 50,000 applications were pro-



cessed with financial transactions exceeding BD53 million from January to September this year, signifying a rise by 63% compared to the figure for 2016. The Authority also won the International Excellence Award in Geographic Information Systems 2017 in Dubai for its Tasarh system and an award in India for its excellence in organisational planning in information technology and communication.

Health Affairs Gets Canadian Accreditation

Six clinics of the Directorate of Health and Social Affairs were granted the Canadian Accreditation for the third consecutive year, while a new clinic was opened in the Reformation and Rehabilitation Directorate in Jau. The department also introduced the mobile clinics project, followed up on the health check-ups for those suffering from chronic diseases, signed a training agreement with the Hamad University Hospital and developed an e-system to assess the clients' satisfaction.

Reformation and Rehabilitation gives prizes to inmates

The Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre and the detention centre for women held 147 events, including religious lectures, in which the women inmates won the 22nd Grand Bahrain Quran Competition and took part in another Quran competition held under the patronage of the Interior Ministry Undersecretary. Ten inmates won prizes for winning the grand competition, while

Organisational Excellence team of Human Resources wins three Stevie Awards for creativity and excellence

Legal Affairs wins e-government Excellence Award

Traffic wins e-government Forum 2017 Award for best government practices

73 were handed certificates of appreciation.

14 Lectures Held at Juvenile Care Centre

The General Directorate of Women Police held 14 lectures at the Juvenile Care Centre and one on child abuse at the Children and Mothers Welfare Society. The department also took part in the 20th International Leaderships Forum in the UAE and an Interpol meeting in France to fight crimes against children.

Governorates continue their community and development roles

The governorates continued their distinguished community and development roles through society-based projects. The Muharraq Governorate introduced various community projects while the Southern Governorate interacted with

the public through WhatsApp and coordinated to install security and traffic cameras and held awareness campaigns, including an e-campaign for the camping season. The Capital Governorate organised a number of activities, including the third Manama Business Week that attracted 5,000 participants and the fifth summer programme. It also launched a campaign to ensure security and safety in the Manama souq. The Northern Governorate organised a host of activities, including a drive in Salmabad to remove old and abandoned cars.

Sports Association achieves milestones

In all, 110 Interior Ministry personnel distinguished themselves in sports in 2017 after taking part in 14 local and international cham-

ampionships in various sports specialities. In Abu Dhabi International Championship for Jiu-jitsu Professionals, a player of the Public Security Sports Association won the silver medal while an MOI player won the third position in the Asian Bodybuilding Championship. The MOI team won the first position in the International Police Golf Championship in Germany and the IFPP Championship.

Police Media has nearly half million Twitter followers

To interact with media resources transparently and accurately, in 2017 the Police Media Centre at the Police Media Directorate posted on its website more than 771 news items on the Interior Ministry and its activities. In addition there were 189 TV footages of MOI events, films and awareness clips. Al Amn Radio show organised 35 episodes on security and social issues and introduced live coverage through the MOI YouTube channel moi_bahrain. To interact with the community, the department dealt with 270 comments through the Good Morning Bahrain radio show, entertained 282 complaints referred to by the authorities concerned and took note of 430 observations in the local media. The Police Media Directorate focuses more the social media owing to its importance for all community members. The Interior Ministry Twitter account has 4,19,000 followers and its Instagram 1,15,000, where 1,706 photos and 79 videos have been posted. The Police Media Centre website has had 2,60,904 visitors while 'Al Amn' magazine has had 121 issues in Arabic and 98 in English. Thirty-nine issues of 'Al Amn' seasonal magazine were concerned with scientific and police research. An 'Al Amn' weekly page is dedicated to publishing matters related to security awareness and the activities of the Interior Ministry, while the department has allocated a weekly column to promote security culture. Fifty-one columns have been published so far. Its 'Watani' magazine is meant for children and aims to develop among them a sense of loyalty and belonging to the nation apart from promoting security culture.

Construction of Medical City to begin in 2018

Supreme Health Council Chairman Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa at the Gulf Medical Expo



Manama

Construction works at King Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz Medical City will begin in the first few months of 2018, officials in charge of the project confirmed yesterday.

While speaking during the second edition of the Gulf Medical Expo, Arabian

Gulf University Deputy President Khalid Tabbara confirmed that the city will include 300 beds, research centres, conferences centre and employees and students' homes.

As reported yesterday, the Gulf Medical Expo is patronised and inaugurated by the Supreme Health Council

Chairman Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa on Tuesday.

Supported by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) and Health Ministry, the exhibition is organised by Ajyal Consultancy, in cooperation with New Line Organising for Exhibitions and Conferences

at Bahrain International Exhibitions and Conventions Centre and concludes today.

In the expo, Lt. Gen. Dr. Shaikh Mohammed was briefed about the project and the progress of work by Tabbara, who confirmed that the preliminary stages of the project are ongoing.

The second edition

of the expo provides the largest forum for medical practitioners to learn about the latest technologies and assistive tools to help creativity and production in the field of medicine, with the participation of more than 100 medical institutions in Bahrain and abroad.

Capital Governorate announces National Day Picture Contest



Salah Al Dossary

Manama

Capital Governorate invited the public to click pictures of the National Day celebrations to get a chance to iPhones and iPhone accessories.

Information and Follow-up Director Salah Al Dossary said the best five pictures will win an iPhone 8 plus device, an iPhone 8, an Apple Watch and AirPods.

"The contest comes as continuation of the governorate's efforts to mark the National Day celebrations every year," Al Dossary said, while inviting those interested to check out the governorate's account on *Instagram* @CG_Bahrain for more details.

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Residents seek more public toilets in Capital area

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

Residents are demanding more public toilets in the Capital area.

The entire stretch from Manama souq until the Salmaniya area and further have only one public toilet.

The toilet which is at the Main Manama Bus Terminal has its female section locked while the male section is in a really poor condition.

"The officials need to start investing in projects that would further initiate a healthy and cleaner environment," said a resident, urging authorities to invest in projects for a healthy and cleaner environment.

"The infrastructure of the Capital needs a major upgrade as we really lack basic necessity of any country that is public toilets," said a resident.

"There are barely any public toilets that individuals can use in Capital. The one and only toilet around Sh Hamad Road, Sh Abdullah Road or closer to the Manama Souq area would be one at the Main Manama Terminal, which is also in a poor condition with the women section of the toilet always being locked."



The condition of the toilet at the main terminal

"A lot of people especially men use public grounds for urinating purpose which later leads to bad urine stench in the entire area, which is really unhygienic. A lot of restaurants don't allow or welcome random individuals to just walk in and use the restroom. It is more difficult for women and children as the Capital of the Kingdom lacks one of the most basic necessity," another resident said.

"Especially with officials

revamping the entire Capital and souq area the officials need to realise that public toilets are a must not just for tourists but also for the residents and commuters in the area. Definitely, there need to be more municipal toilets in the area as it's not just the concern of basic cleanliness or hygiene but a proper living," he added.

The people in the Capital are raising their voice for one of the most basic needs that are toilets at public spaces.



Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik

Pakistani community to celebrate National Day: Ambassador

Manama

In order to celebrate the strong bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Bahrain, the Pakistani Community under the patronage of Pakistan Embassy in Bahrain will be organizing a series of events to mark the National day of Bahrain and to show their solidarity with His Majesty and the people of Bahrain.

In his statement Pakistan's Ambassador in Bahrain said that "there is a large Pakistani community that lives, works and does business in Bahrain and they play a vital role in the society. They share very positive brotherly relations with their Bahraini brothers and sisters and join each

other's celebrations."

This year, the Pakistani community has planned a series of events in which they will not only celebrate the National Day of Bahrain but also pay tribute to the strong social, cultural and brotherly relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Javed Malik said that the Pakistani community though these events shows its appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Crown Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the government and people of Bahrain for the warmth and the

affection with which they are always welcomed to live in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Events

The Pakistani Community has planned events across the Kingdom in order to allow maximum participation for all segments of society. The events would be held in Manama, Riffa, Muharraq, Juffair and other areas.

Community organizations like Pakistan Club Bahrain, Pakistan Bahrain Friendship Society, Pakistan School, in addition to Pakistani professionals, doctors, engineers, bankers, accountants, workers, as well as Pakistani women, and

Pakistani Youth in Bahrain have all been activated to participate in the Bahrain National Day celebrations.

Ambassador of Pakistan, Javed Malik would personally participate in most of the events as the Chief Guest along with distinguished personalities from Pakistani and Bahraini communities will be present.

Ambassador Javed Malik appreciated the dynamic and visionary leadership of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, and the Crown Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

"Under the leadership of His Majesty, Bahrain has established itself as model

of tolerance. The positive and welcoming policies of His Majesty have made it possible for people from various cultures, faiths and backgrounds to live in this multicultural and inclusive society and on the National day of Bahrain, everyone stands united in celebrating Bahrain as a global village of peace and tolerance," he said.

Indian cultural centre to come up in Bahrain

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

A new BD58000 Indian cultural centre could soon be built in Bahrain for the Kannada community, a government official from India said.

The cultural centre, which will cater to the Kannada community will help bring together over 50 official and unofficial Kannada groups.

The details were revealed to DT News by Dr. Arathi Krishna, Deputy Chairman of Non Resident Forum, Government of Karnataka, India, who was in Bahrain yesterday.

However, community members are hoping to receive more funds from the government of India.

Dr. Krishna, who held meetings with several Kannada communities in the Kingdom, said that, "The members have shared many concerns, needs and wants. One of the things they would like see is a new community



Dr. Arathi Krishna

centre. Currently, there are many Kannada groups in the kingdom, but they would like to a place where they can all come together."

The previous government in Karnataka had given them about 1 crore Indian rupees but their estimate is that they will need 10 crores to build the centre. "During the meeting the community members requested me to help obtain a further 5 crore Indian rupees funding from the government. They want the works to be underway within the next year and are also collecting funds from the members as well," Dr. Krishna added.

She has requested help from the Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha to support

the local efforts, which he has agreed to.

She said that there are around 20,000 people from Karnataka in Bahrain.

During the meeting the community members made a request to the Karnataka government to allot land in India where NRI's could purchase and build houses.

They also requested a cut in the huge fees charged by educational institutions where NRIs have to pay a lot more than citizens residing in the country. They also requested to allow NRI students to be eligible for local examinations at the institutes.

Dr. Krishna, who also received a similar concern from the community in Saudi, assured them that she would take the matter up with the education minister.

The community members have also complained about the number of flights from Bahrain to Mangalore and Bangalore and have also expressed their concern about being treated unfairly at the Mangalore airport.

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SEGAYA 17 36 22 33

Mumtalakat's real estate arm gets new Board of Directors

Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain announced the appointment of a new board of directors at its real estate arm, Bahrain Real Estate Investment (Edamah).

The new board of directors at Edamah are chaired by Khalid Alromaihi and include: Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Dr. Maher Abdulaziz Alshaer, Yaser Abduljaleel Alsharifi, Ahmed Dhaffer Alomran, Amin Ahmed Al Arrayed, Hala Ali Yateem, Husain Rajab and Rasha Mohammed Sabkar.

Welcoming the appointment of the new board members, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa

and Chairman of Mumtalakat said, "We are delighted to welcome the new board

members at Edamah and would like to thank the former board members for their stewardship

"Edamah's role in Bahrain's economy is vital and we look forward to working with the new board to continue developing the company further" - Deputy Prime Minister.



Khalid Alromaihi

of Edamah. We are confident that the competencies and expertise within the new board

will be crucial in strengthening the company by supporting its development plans and the

executive management team in executing Edamah's strategy."

"As the real estate arm of Mumtalakat, Edamah's role in Bahrain's economy is vital and we look forward to working with the new board to continue developing the company further," added the Deputy Prime Minister.

Edamah is mandated to develop, promote and manage a diverse portfolio of real estate assets in Bahrain. With the appointment of its new board members, Edamah will continue to develop world class real estate developments. Edamah is currently investing in new real estate projects and upgrading existing properties that will benefit the commercial, tourism and hospitality sectors in Bahrain.

iGA wins Award for Tasareeh

Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) won the 'Excellence in GIS Implementation 2017' Award for its Tasareeh platform during the GISWORX17 Conference - one of the most significant conferences specialized in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) field in the GCC region.

The conference was held in Dubai between December 12 and 13 with the attendance and participation of government leaders, experts and academics from various countries.

On the occasion, Authority's Systems Development & Maintenance Director Shaikha Manar bint Abdullah AlKhalifa stated that winning this award is a reflection of the successful efforts exerted in developing projects under Tasareeh, which will contribute in securing the

infrastructure that supports sustainable economic growth.

The support of the Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Services & Infrastructure Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla AlKhalifa has played a prominent role in the success and development of the project.

The project also enabled users to receive automatic notifications via email regarding the progress of the transaction.

In addition to the availability of all the services and submission of applications 24/7, along with accelerating the pace of delivering in a record period that reaches 10 days compared to several months in the past -this has resulted in saving more than 90per cent of time required for completion.

BAC receives Occupational Health and Safety Award

Muharraq

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), was recognised with the Occupational Health and Safety Award by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development during a ceremony for distinguished private sector workers and establishments.

Held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the ceremony took place at the Gulf Convention Center and was attended by many prominent organisations and businesses in the Kingdom.

BAC Chief Executive Officer,



Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan presenting the award

Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah 18001:2007, we are extremely proud of our track record and are happy that it is being recognised at a national level. In the aviation industry, there is no higher priority than the

well-being of passengers and staff, and this award further highlights our commitment to those values while we continue our collaboration with our partners at BIA."

Carrefour opens flagship hypermarket at Bahrain Mall

Manama

Majid Al Futtaim, the leading shopping mall, communities, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, has announced the opening of its new flagship Carrefour hypermarket at the Bahrain Mall.

The opening follows Majid Al Futtaim's recent acquisition of Retail Arabia and is part of the rebranding process. With the opening of the new flagship hypermarket

the total number of Carrefour stores in Bahrain will increase to eleven.

Jerome Akel, Country Head for Carrefour Bahrain, commented on this occasion: "We are proud to announce the opening of our new flagship at Bahrain Mall as it marks a major milestone for Carrefour in Bahrain. We have finalised the rebranding process of all six former Geant stores to Carrefour and the new hypermarket becomes our second flagship in the

Kingdom. We look forward to welcoming our loyal customers and offering them an exceptional shopping experience reflecting our brand's commitment to create great moments for everyone everyday"

This opening is in line with Carrefour's regional expansion strategy, and the new hypermarket will cater to daily customer needs by offering convenience, unbeatable choice and value for money.

The store will feature Carrefour's bespoke in-store food concepts such as the Healthy Kitchen, live cooking stations for fresh barbecue meals and an Arabic bread & sweets corner.

In addition, the hypermarket will offer more than 90,000 food and non-food products and a wide range of household goods. Bahrain Mall is conveniently located, giving customers easy access to their daily shopping needs.



Inauguration of the new hypermarket

ASRY board meeting confirms optimism for 2018



ASRY Chairman - Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Al Khalifa

Manama

ASRY, the leading ship and rig repair facility in the Arabian Gulf, has held its 150th meeting of the Board of Directors at the company's headquarters in Bahrain, under the chairmanship of Shaikh Daij bin Salman Al-Khalifa,

Stable oil prices, focus on core strengths, and new projects will underpin improved performance

Chairman of ASRY.

The Board reviewed the positive progress made over

the second half of 2017, as well as the general improvement in the company's position

throughout the year.

Following in the meeting Shaikh Daij commented: "Looking ahead to 2018, it was agreed there is further optimism for the company's future, with several significant new projects set to materialise next year.

"Anticipating some

stabilisation in the global oil price, the company will focus on its core strengths of ship and rig repair."

He also said that "the coming year will also see the ongoing roll-out of its roadmap for developing and securing the business for the foreseeable future."

Turkey to finalise S-400 deal with Russia

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that his government is close to finalising a deal to obtain Russia's S-400 missile defence system – a source of worry for Turkey's NATO allies

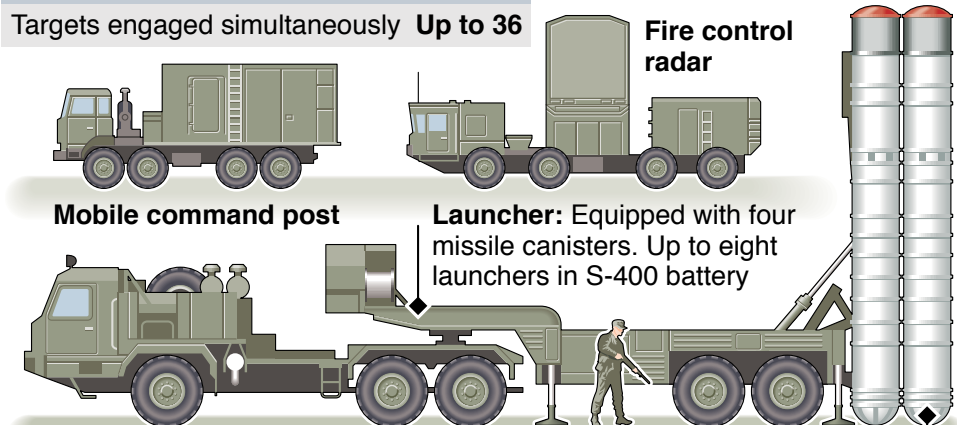


S-400 TRIUMF (SA-21 Growler)

Maximum detection range	600km
Maximum altitude	30km
Maximum target speed	4.8km/sec
Targets engaged simultaneously	Up to 36

Missile ranges

9M96:	120km
48N6:	250km
40N6:	400km



Each canister holds four short-range missiles or one longer range missile

Sources: Associated Press, Army Technology

© GRAPHIC NEWS

CBB announces partnership endorsing BFB

Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (the "CBB") has announced a partnership yesterday officially endorsing the launch of Bahrain FinTech Bay (the "BFB") and its Fintech initiatives in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The announcement is the most recent in a series of steps affirming the CBB's commitment to developing Bahrain into a leader of Fintech innovation and investment in the GCC region.

The CBB and its recently announced FinTech & Innovation Unit will work closely with the BFB to support the development of the Bahrain Fintech ecosystem and ensure the participation of financial institutions seeking to innovate and invest in Fintech. In addition, the CBB will work closely to support innovators at the BFB in providing access and guidance to its regulatory framework, including the



Central Bank of Bahrain Regulatory Sandbox.

On this occasion, Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj, Governor of the CBB, said: "BFB's launch complements our initiative to introduce a comprehensive regulatory framework for Fintech and to encourage its adoption by market participants as they look to prepare for the future."

Maissan Al Maskati, Chairman of FinTech Consortium Bahrain said: "We believe that close coordination on all matters pertaining to the development of new innovation will be important in promoting Bahrain's advanced, robust and fintech friendly regulations to innovators globally."

AGB wins number of Islamic Business and Finance Awards

Manama

Three banking units of Al Baraka Banking Group B.S.C. (ABG), the leading Islamic banking group based in Bahrain, won the Islamic Business and Finance Awards 2017.

Adnan Ahmed Yousif, President and Chief Executive of Al Baraka Banking Group also won CSR in Islamic Banking Award 2017 for his outstanding contribution in this field.

The three units of ABG won the following awards: Best CSR in Islamic Banking in Syria - Al Baraka Bank Syria



Mohammed Halabi, CEO of Al Baraka Bank Syria receives the award

- Best Islamic Bank in Syria, - Al Baraka Bank Syria - Best Islamic Bank in Lebanon - Al Baraka Bank Lebanon - Best Islamic Bank in Turkey - Al Baraka Turk Participation Bank.

The awards were received by Mohammed Halabi, Chief Executive Officer of Al Baraka Bank Syria at the awards ceremony which was held on

December 12, 2017 in Dubai.

In its 12th year, the Islamic Business and Finance Awards focus on honouring excellence in Sharia'a compliant financial and banking services. A

panel of arbitrators and experts selects a selection of institutions, followed by a six-week voting period.

Winners are selected based on the number of votes each institution receives. For prizes such as Best Islamic Bank, it is based on key performance indicators and audited financial results, while the award of the best banking personality of the year depends on vote of the majority of the members of the jury.

Adnan Ahmed Yousif said, "Winning these prestigious awards motivates us to continue work on the implementation

of our strategies with a view to serving the development needs of the countries in which we operate through our CSR program, which we implement and whose goals are linked to UN sustainable development goals."

He added, winning these awards makes us feel proud of our belonging to Al Baraka Banking Group. It is also an international recognition of the outstanding achievements of the Group and its units, their prestigious positions, as well as their effective contribution to development of Islamic banking industry.

Did You Know?



Until 1974, banks could (and usually would) refuse to issue a credit card to a woman unless she was married and her husband co-signed for the card. A divorced woman was considered too much of a risk because she “couldn’t keep a marriage under control.”



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

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

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

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

Corporate news weakens Dubai, Saudi

Dubai Corporate news pulled down stock markets in Saudi Arabia and Dubai yesterday, while Abu Dhabi was supported by a strong new listing.

The Dubai index dropped 1.4 per cent as Emaar Properties sank 6.2pc to its lowest close since June, in its heaviest trade since June.

Emaar said it would pay a special dividend of four billion dirhams (\$1.1bn) related to its listing of Emaar Development - 3bn dirhams next month and 1bn after its annual general assembly in April.

That equates to a dividend of 0.56 dirham a share. The market had originally expected Emaar to distribute about one dirham per share, and expectations had then been revised to around 0.67 dirham based on the assumption that the entire proceeds of the 20pc listing would be paid.

Neighbouring Abu Dhabi edged up 0.1pc with sentiment supported by a firm debut by

the fuel distribution unit of Abu Dhabi National Oil Co after the market's first initial public offer in six years.

ADNOC Distribution opened at 2.90 dirhams against its IPO price of 2.50, and closed at 2.65. There had been concern about the debut because the initial pricing range of the IPO was lowered and Emaar Development had a weak debut in Dubai last month.

In Saudi Arabia, the index fell 0.4pc as Saudi Electricity plunged 9.9pc in its heaviest trade since June 2016.

The stock had climbed 3.5pc on Tuesday in anticipation of the government announcing hikes in electricity tariffs, and after the close, the regulator revealed higher tariffs for residential and commercial users from Jan. 1.

But the company said it would pay the government a fee equivalent to the rise in tariffs, so there should be no positive impact on its profits.

The most heavily traded

Closing Bell

SAUDI ARABIA fell 0.4pc to 7,094 points.

DUBAI dropped 1.4pc to 3,404 points.

ABU DHABI edged up 0.1pc to 4,384 points.

QATAR surged 2.2pc to 8,207 points.

EGYPT gained 0.4pc to 14,651 points.

KUWAIT climbed 0.7pc to 6,238 points.

BAHRAIN was flat at 1,264 points.

OMAN rose 0.3pc to 5,066 points.

stock, real estate firm Dar Al Arkan, jumped 9.9pc after falling for two days. It has soared since mid-November, when international index compiler MSCI said it was adding the stock to its Saudi Arabia Index.

Al Tayyar Travel, whose founder has been detained in Saudi Arabia's sweeping crackdown on corruption, edged down 0.4pc. The company announced a transformation plan that includes new products such as insurance and holiday activities, and boosting reservations on electronic

platforms. Qatar's index gained 2.2pc to its highest level since mid-October in the heaviest volume since June. It has been rebounding for four straight days from near six-year lows where it had languished for a month, depressed in part by the boycott of Qatar by four other Arab states.

Late on Tuesday the government released a 2018 state budget plan that includes a 2.4pc rise in spending. It said it expected to award 29bn riyals (\$8.0bn) of contracts to support growth in the private sector next year. (Reuters)



Al Namal -VKL Group Chairman Dr Varghese Kurian receiving award from Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan on the occasion of the Kingdom's celebration of the Anniversary of HM King Hamad's Accession to the Throne and the National Day.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.
-Martin Luther King, Jr.



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Thursday, December 14, 2017

11

SCHOOLS CELEBRATE



Celebration at Pakistan Urdu School

Manama

Schools in Bahrain organized the Kingdom's 46th National Day with great enthusiasm and fervour at its campuses with a series of events depicting patriotic feelings towards the beautiful nation.

The Indian School Riffa Campus

Bahrain National Day was celebrated by the Indian School Riffa campus children by the longest human formation of 'I love Bahrain' on the campus.

The fete was accomplished by the combined effort of 4325 students from LKG to class III under the guidance of the staff.

ISB Executive Committee Members Saji Antony and

Jayafar Maidani hoisted the national flag in the presence of Riffa Campus Principal Sudhir Krishnan, Vice Principal Pamela Xavier, Staff Representative Priya Laji, Head Teachers and Coordinators.

The grandparents of the school's Bahraini students were the special invitees to the show who commended the school's effort to imbibe the spirit of the nation among all students.

An aura of patriotism filled the air with the sweet sound of Bahraini music everywhere and students and staff dressed in the flag colours or traditional attire.

The exhibition of local culture, henna designing, sharing of Bahraini delicacies and greeting one and all on the occasion of



Celebration at New Millennium School

the National Day added to the portrayal of the local ambience at School.

New Millennium School - DPS

Bahrain National Day was celebrated by students of New Millennium School

- DPS with posters of Bahrain reflecting the message of national unity.

Students dressed up in traditional Bahraini costumes filled the air with feelings of celebration and excitement. Students participated with zeal in a

Bahraini dance showcasing the glorious traditions, customs and culture of Kingdom.

School Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Geetha Pillai and Principal Arun Kumar Sharma congratulated and extended best wishes to His

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the People of Bahrain on the occasion of National Day.

Pakistan Urdu School

Pakistan Urdu School also celebrated Bahrain National Day with full zeal and enthusiasm.

Arabic department exhibited Bahraini culture in a beautiful manner. Students were dressed in traditional Bahraini attire and waved flags chanting songs depicting their love for the Kingdom.



I Love Bahrain at ISB Riffa Campus



Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday held his weekly Majlis at Riffa Palace. Members of the royal family, senior government officials and members of the private sector were present.



Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday received the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Kingdom of Bahrain Hatun Demirer, at Riffa Palace. The meeting marked the end of the Ambassador's service in the Kingdom. During the meeting, the Crown Prince highlighted the importance of continuing to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Turkey across various sectors.



Wife of His Majesty the King & Supreme Council for Women Chairwoman HRH Princess Sabeeka bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday presented a plaque to Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery, President of the General Professional Institute of Civil Servants (GPIC). Princess Sabeeka honoured GPIC President Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery for being chosen the "Best Professional in the Engineering Field", headed by Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday deputised Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan to attend the 33rd annual honouring ceremony of hard-working workers and outstanding establishments in the private sector, held under HM the king's patronage. The ceremony, held as part of the kingdom's celebration of the Anniversary of HM King Hamad's Accession to the Throne and the glorious National Day, was attended by MPs, scores of officials, public personalities, labour leaders, trade and economic figures, representatives of trade unions and professional societies, dignitaries, heads and CEOs of private sector companies and guests.



Prime Minister's Adviser HH Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa bid farewell yesterday evening to President of the Russian Republic of Komi Sergey Gaplikov and his accompanying delegation. Shaikh Salman lauded the visit of the delegation and its positive results, stressing strong relations between Bahrain and Russia and their perpetual growth at all levels.



Chief of Staff of the TGS Brigadier General Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday bid farewell to the staff of the TGS Brigadier General Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa on his arrival for the 2017 Forum.



Adviser of Political & Economic Affairs at the Crown Prince's Court & Tamkeen Chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa yesterday met GPIC President, Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery. During the meeting, Dr Jawahery presented a cheque for BHD 100,000, marking the ninth installment of the GPIC's ten-year BHD 1 million pledge to CPISP.





Government officials, members of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives, members of municipal councils, religious and community leaders, journalists, and diplomats attended the Majlis



HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, received at SCW headquarters yesterday sponsors of the Bahraini Women's Day "Women in Leadership". HRH Princess Sabeeka was presented with the concluding report on the Bahraini Women's Day 2017 work programme. HRH Princess Sabeeka commended the outgoing Turkish envoy's role in bolstering relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields



Wife of His Majesty the King & Supreme Council for Women Chairwoman HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, yesterday received, at the SCW headquarters in Riffa, outgoing Turkish Ambassador Hatun Demirer. HRH Princess Sabeeka hailed advanced cooperation and partnership binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Turkey. HRH Princess Sabeeka commended the outgoing Turkish envoy's role in bolstering relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields



BDF Lt. General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi met US Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs Robert Karem and his accompanying delegation, on the sidelines of the 13th Manama Dialogue. The BDF Chief of Staff also met with Egyptian Assistant Defence Minister for Foreign Relations Major General Abdul Fattah Abdulrahman Al-Kishki and the Head of the Strategy Department of the Turkish General Staff Major General Mustafa Oğuz along with their accompanying delegation. The Chief of Staff had received Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Gen. Zubair Mahmood Hayat on Friday on the sidelines of the 13th Manama Dialogue



On the occasion of the Kingdom's celebrations of the 46th National Day and the day of the accession of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Embassy in the United Kingdom held a dinner in the Hague, Netherlands, on Tuesday. In his speech, the Ambassador Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa welcomed the attendees and reflected on the long historical relationship between Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Among the honoured guests were Ambassadors and diplomats, including the dean of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives from the Dutch Foreign Ministry, officials from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and a number of businessmen and entrepreneurs with ties to Bahrain



Batelco yesterday held an EGM (Extra-Ordinary General Meeting) to discuss proposed changes to Batelco's Memorandum and Articles of Association. The meeting, held at Batelco's Hamala headquarters was attended by Shareholders, Company Directors and Batelco management

CELEBS

Ellen DeGeneres @TheEllenShow
 The California firefighters are heroes. I'm grateful to every one of them. You can show your support right here. <http://ellen.tv/2Agrc4n>



Witherspoon gets 'wreath' tribute

Los Angeles
Actress Reese Witherspoon's fans are celebrating the actress by hanging 'Wreath Witherspoons' in their homes during the Christmas season.

Inspired by a 2014 episode of "The Mindy Project" -- which is aired in India on Comedy Central, the decor involves simply transforming a traditional holiday wreath with tacked-on pictures of the Award-winning actress, making it a 'Wreath Witherspoon'.

The trend has grown more and more popular over the past few years, and this season it has reached full-force, with scores of fans sharing photographs of their "Big Little Lies" star-inspired handiwork on social media, reports *dailymail.co.uk*. Witherspoon has joked in the past that some of her friends use the Christmas-themed nickname during the holidays. (IANS)



Coster-Waldau afraid of ghosts

Los Angeles
Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau doesn't believe in ghosts, but is "still afraid" of them.

In an interview with *Metro* newspaper, the 47-year-old actor admitted that he cannot watch horror movies about spirits, including "Mama" which he starred in back in 2013, because he is terrified of the other-worldly beings, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

"I don't but I'm still afraid of them. I can't watch ghost movies. I did a ghost movie a couple of years ago called 'Mama' and I still haven't seen it. So clearly I'm lying when I say I don't believe in them," said Coster-Waldau. (IANS)

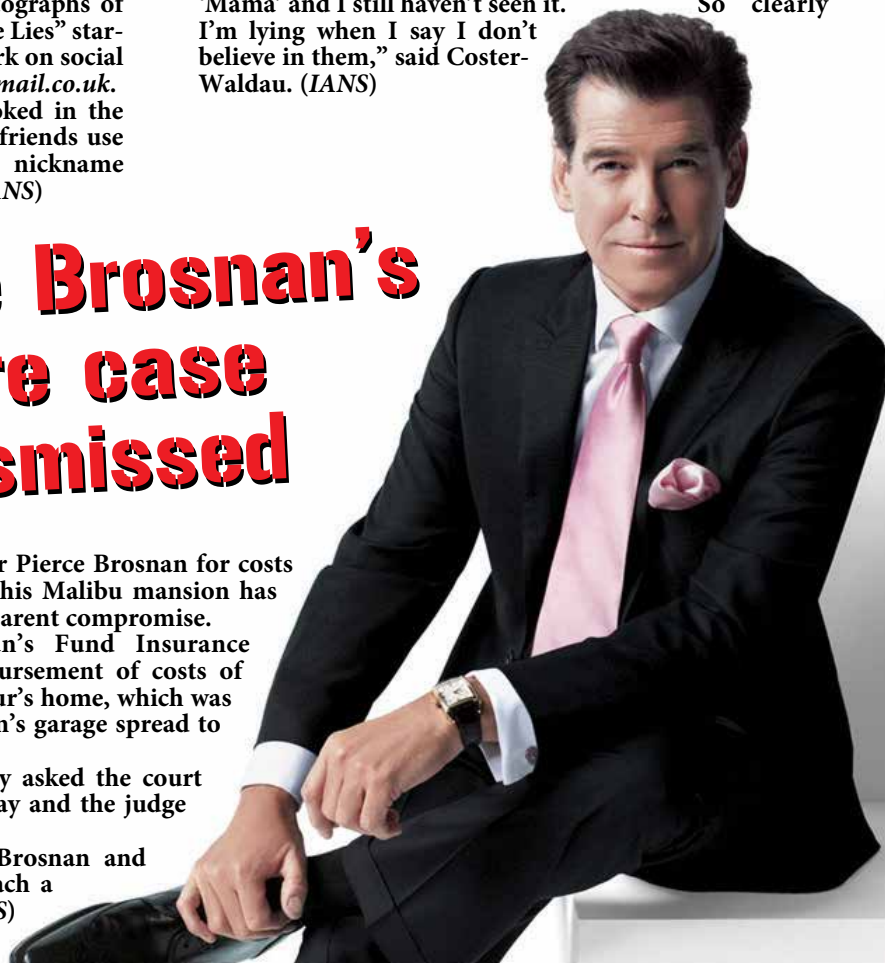
Pierce Brosnan's fire case dismissed

Los Angeles
Alawsuit filed against actor Pierce Brosnan for costs related to a 2015 fire at his Malibu mansion has been dismissed -- after an apparent compromise.

Last month, the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company had sought reimbursement of costs of repairs to Brosnan's neighbour's home, which was damaged after fire in Brosnan's garage spread to the adjacent property.

But the insurance company asked the court to dismiss the case on Tuesday and the judge agreed, reports *tmz.com*.

The action suggests that Brosnan and the company managed to reach a confidential settlement. (IANS)



STARRY Birthday Vanessa Hudgens

December 7, 1987

Singer and actress who starred in Disney's *High School Musical*. Her debut album, *V*, was certified Gold in 2006. She portrayed Rizzo in the 2016 Fox broadcast of *Grease Live!*

BRITISH ROYALS ATTEND STAR WARS... PREMIERE



Los Angeles

Prince William and Prince Harry attended the premiere of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

William and Harry -- who proposed to actress Meghan Markle last month -- have a cameo in the movie as they visited the film set in April last year. They will appear as Stormtroopers and will reportedly give Benicio Del Toro a slap on the backside.

When they arrived, the royals were greeted by the small droid BB-8 and diehard fans before the European premiere of the film in Kensington, west London, reports *mirror.co.uk*.

The brothers then met members of the cast and crew, and Harry was later presented with a Stormtrooper's helmet.

The film's stars Mark Hamill, Adam Driver, John Boyega and Daisy Ridley were also on hand as fans. (IANS)



REGINA HALL IN TALKS TO STAR IN 'SHAFT' SEQUEL

London

Actor Regina Hall is in negotiation to star along side Samuel L Jackson in 'Shaft' sequel.

Tim Story is directing the movie, which is seen as a continuation of the story of the private detective that first appeared in the 1971 action film that became a pop culture phenomenon,

according to reporter.

Jackson is reprising the role he first played in John Singleton's 2000 update, with Jessie T Usher playing Shaft's son. Richard Roundtree is set to reprise his role as Shaft, while Alexandra Shipp is also returning for the film.

Kenya Barris and Alex Barnow have written the script for the sequel. (TOI)

TOP

BOX OFFICE *Movies*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Coco | \$18.45mn |
| 2. Justice League | \$9.66mn |
| 3. Wonder | \$8.44mn |
| 4. The Disaster Artist | \$6.36mn |
| 5. Thor: Ragnarok | \$6.2mn |
| 6. Daddy's Home 2 | \$5.9mn |
| 7. Murder on the Orient Express | \$5.16mn |
| 8. The Star | \$3.7mn |
| 9. Lady Bird | \$3.4mn |
| 10. Just Getting Started | \$3.2mn |

'The Shape of Water' gift for me: Hawkins

Los Angeles

Actress Sally Hawkins calls getting a Golden Globe nomination in the Best Actress category for her role in fantasy drama "The Shape of Water" a beautiful gift.

She added that working with the team was an "extraordinary and heart expanding experience".

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association on Monday announced nominees for this year's 75th annual Golden Globe Awards, an event that annually honours the best in television and films. She has been nominated for Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama.

"What a beautiful gift. Thank you with all my heart to the Hollywood Foreign Press for honouring this special film and my part in it. I am so very humbled by this acknowledgment," Hawkins said in a statement. (IANS)



DT NEWS

Show Time

16 Thursday, December 14, 2017

STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI (Pg-13) (Action/Adventure/Fantasy) New

Starring: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill
CINECO (20) : Daily At (Imax 3D): 11.30 Am + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 Pm Daily At (Atmos): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 Pm + 12.00 Mn Daily At: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 Pm + 12.00 Mn (12.30 Mn Thurs/Fri) Daily At (Vip Ii): 11.30 Am + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 Pm Daily At (Vip I): 10.30 Am + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At (3D): 12.45 + 3.45 + 6.45 + 9.45 Pm + (12.45 Mn Thurs/Fri)
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 11.15 Am + 11.45 Am + 2.15 + 2.45 + 5.15 + 5.45 + 8.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 + 11.45 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 2.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 8.30 + (10.30 + 11.30 Pm Thurs/Fri) Daily At (3D): 10.30 Am + 1.30 + 4.30 Pm
AL JAZIRA : Daily At: 2.00 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 8.45 + (10.45 Pm + 11.45 Pm Thurs/Fri)
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 Pm Daily At (3D): 10.30 Am + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 Pm

THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER (18+) (Drama/Thriller) New

Starring: Nicole Kidman, Colin Farrell, Barry Keoghan
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 11.15 Am + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 10.45 Am + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 11.15 Am + 4.00 + 8.45 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 Pm

THE BACHELORS (15+) (Drama/Comedy) New

Starring: J.k. Simmons, Odeya Rush, Jean Louisa Kelly
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 11.30 Am + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 1.45 + 6.30 + (11.15 Pm Thurs/Fri)
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 Pm

AMAN YA SAHBY (Pg-15) (Arabic/Comedy) New

Starring: Saad El Soghayar, Mahmoud Ellithy, Safinar
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 11.30 Am + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 Pm

MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI (Pg-15) (Animation/Drama) New



Starring: Gaspard Schlatte, Sixtine Murat, Paulin Jaccoud
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.00 + 1.45 + 3.30 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 11.00 Am + 2.45 + 6.30 + 10.15 Pm

JEEPERS CREEPERS III (18+) (Horror/Thriller) New

Starring: Stan Shaw, Gabrielle Haugh, Brandon Smith
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 Pm
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 Pm

GHOST HOUSE (18+) (Horror/Thriller) New

Thriller) New

Starring: Scout Taylor-Compton, James Landry Hebert, Mark Boone Junior
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.45 Am + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 Pm
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 Pm

DADDY'S HOME 2 (Pg-15) (Comedy)

Starring: Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Mel Gibson
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 Pm + 12.00 Mn + (1.00 Am Thurs/Fri)
SEEF (II): Daily At: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 2.30 + 7.00 + (11.30 Pm Thurs/Fri)
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 2.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 Pm

JUST GETTING STARTED (Pg-15) (Comedy/Crime)

Starring: Morgan Freeman, Tommy Lee Jones, Glenna Headly
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 11.00 Am + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 12.30 + 4.45 + 9.00 Pm

COCO (Pg) (Animation/Adventure/Comedy)

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael Garcia Bernal, Benjamin Bratt
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 11.45 Am + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 Pm

JUSTICE LEAGUE (Pg-13) (Action/Adventure)

Starring: Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 Pm + 12.00 Mn
SEEF (II): Daily At: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 Pm



Drama/Romantic)

Starring: Idris Elba, Kate Winslet, Beau Bridges
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 Pm
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 Pm

JUNGLE (15+) (Adventure/Drama)

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Alex Russell, Thomas Kretschmann
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 4.15 + 9.00 Pm

MURDER ON ORIENT EXPRESS (Pg-15) (Crime/Thriller)

Starring: Daisy Ridley, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 11.00 Am + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 Pm

THE FOREIGNER (15+) (Action/Thriller/Crime)

Starring: Jackie Chan, Pierce Brosnan, Charlie Murphy
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 Pm

PADDINGTON 2 (Pg) (Adventure/Comedy/Family)

Starring: Ben Whishaw, Sally Hawkins, Hugh Grant
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 11.45 Am + 4.45 + 9.45 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 11.45 Am + 4.30 + 9.15 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 Pm

THOR, RAGNAROK (Pg-15) (Action/Adventure)

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, Mark Ruffalo
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 2.00 + 7.00 Pm + 12.00 Mn
SEEF (II): Daily At: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 Pm

WONDER (Pg-13) (Drama/Family)

Starring: Julia Roberts, Jacob Tremblay, Owen Wilson
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 Pm

SEEF (I) : Daily At: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 Pm

THE SON OF BIG FOOT (Pg) (Animation/Adventure)

Starring: Cinda Adams, Bob Barlen, Cal Brunker
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 Pm
SEEF (II): Daily At: 12.45 + 4.30 + 8.15 Pm + 12.00 Mn

JIGSAW (18+) (Crime/Thriller/Horror)

Starring: Matt Passmore, Tobin Bell, Callum Keith Rennie
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.45 Am + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 Pm

THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD (15+) (Action/Comedy)

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Gary Oldman, Samuel L. Jackson
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 Pm

GHOSTSTORM (Pg-15) (Action/Thriller/Sci-Fiction)

Starring: Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 Pm

UNEXPECTEDLY YOURS (Pg-15) (Filipino/Romantic/Comedy/Drama) New

Starring: Sharon Cuneta, Robin Padilla, Julia Barretto
SEEF (II): Daily At: (1.00 Am Thurs/Fri)
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 Pm + 12.00 Mn

FUKREY RETURNS (Pg-15) (Hindi/Comedy/Drama/Romantic)

Starring: Pulkit Samrat, Manjot Singh, Ali Fazal
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 10.45 Am + 3.30 + 8.15 Pm

PUNYALAN PRIVATE LIMITED (Malayalam)

Starring: Jayasurya, Nyla Usha, Aju Varghese, Vijayaraghavan
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 11.45 Am + 4.30 + 9.15 Pm
AL HAMRA : Daily At: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 Pm + (12.00 Mn Thurs/Fri)

Rolling up with the kind of intergalactic swagger that gives us a cosmically infuriating phone prank within the first five minutes, 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' is a work of supreme confidence: witty, wild and free to roam unexplored territory. If J.J. Abrams's franchise-rebooting 'The Force Awakens' (2015) was the creation of a boy who lovingly dusted off old toys and put them through their expected poses, its superior sequel is made by a more inventive kid—maybe one with a sideline as his block's most inspired D&D Dungeon Master—who asks: Why can't a Rebel fleet be commanded by Laura Dern in a purple wig?

Why can't we have planets of blood-red sand, herds of rampaging alien cattle or adorable puffin-esque porgs invading the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon like wanna-be copilots?

That kid is writer-director Rian Johnson, previously a maker of such mind-colonizing indies as 'Brick' and 'Looper'. Here, he's been given awesome license to steer this beloved series into hyperspace. (His chapter should be studied by Hollywood execs tempted to entrust their billion-dollar properties to the humorless.) 'The Last Jedi' scrapes the psychologically dark edge of George Lucas's original middle chapter, 'The Empire Strikes Back', but carries that grandeur with ease. Centrally, Johnson creates a running head-to-head dialogue—almost a mystical form of FaceTime—between Rey (Daisy Ridley), rising warrior of the Resistance, and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver, as tortured as he was in Martin Scorsese's religious-themed 'Silence'), a furious Darth Vader in the making. Their running conversation hints at the inevitability of their meeting in the flesh; it even vibrates with a sexual charge. 'Star Wars' has long been a form of Wagnerian opera, but rarely has it treated space and time this pliantly. (timeout)

Classifieds

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Thursday, December 14 2017

17

News of Bahrain



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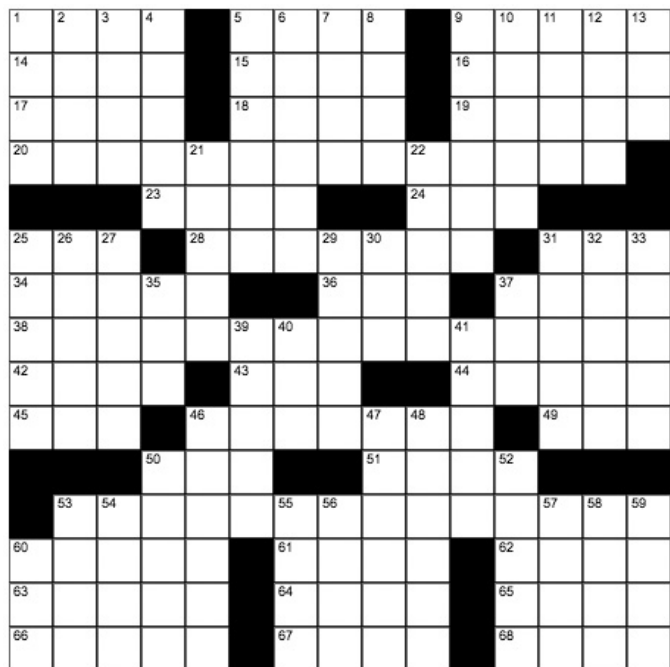
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Lineage 11am
Display 9am
Cancellation 12pm

WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday
8 am - 6 pm

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



Across

1 Fancyschmancy; 5 Dirty Harry's org.; 9 Have ___ to pick; 14 London greeting; 15 Controversial orchard spray; 16 Ulan ___; 17 Public disturbance; 18 ___ Lisa; 19 Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"; 20 Elucidation; 23 "Damn Yankees" role; 24 It's a moray; 25 Burma's first prime minister; 28 Chooses; 31 Stout relative; 34 Ways to the pins; 36 PC linkup; 37 Concert halls; 38 In spite of; 42 French girlfriend; 43 Second sequel tag; 44 Perfect; 45 Part of RSVP; 46 Six legged creatures; 49 Function; 50 Any person; 51 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author; 53 Tending to sleep walk; 60 Skylit lobbies; 61 "Casablanca" role; 62 Ballerina Pavlova; 63 Big name in hotels; 64 Intend; 65 Pulls; 66 Psychics claim to have a sixth one; 67 Adjectiveforming suffix; 68 Sports figure?;

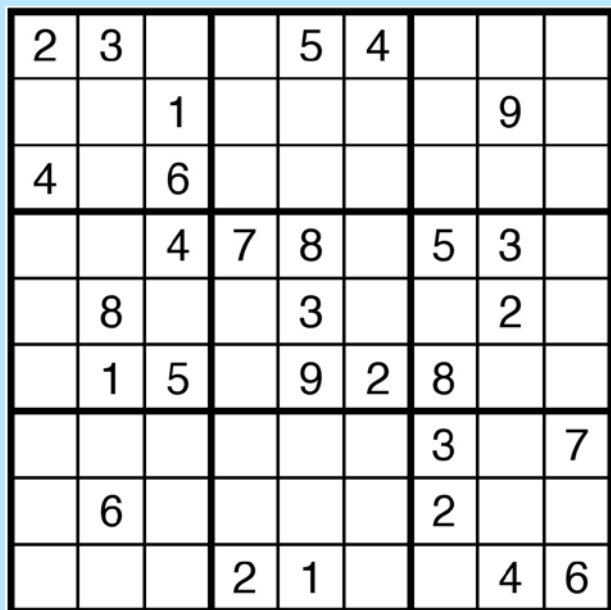
Down

1 Persian fairy; 2 Actor Ken; 3 Place for a coin; 4 The Hilton, e.g.; 5 Specimen; 6 Consisting of flowers; 7 Window piece; 8 Darn!; 9 Subsidies; 10 Pesto ingredient; 11 "Beetle Bailey" dog; 12 High time; 13 Sin; 21 Big name in vermouth; 22 MetLife competitor; 25 Arm bones; 26 Wynonna's mother; 27 Wait ___ Dark; 29 Noted spokes-cow; 30 Feline; 31 Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 32 Horne and Olin; 33 Bird of prey, score in golf; 35 Female sheep; 37 Eccentric; 39 Fungal infection; 40 Towel word; 41 JapaneseAmerican; 46 From birth; 47 Leading to a result; 48 New Orleans university; 50 Leaves out; 52 Atty.tobe exams; 53 Eye sore; 54 Port of Algeria; 55 Actress Rogers; 56 Air bubble; 57 Hardware fastener; 58 Swenson of Benson; 59 Dramatic troupe; 60 Sighs of relief;

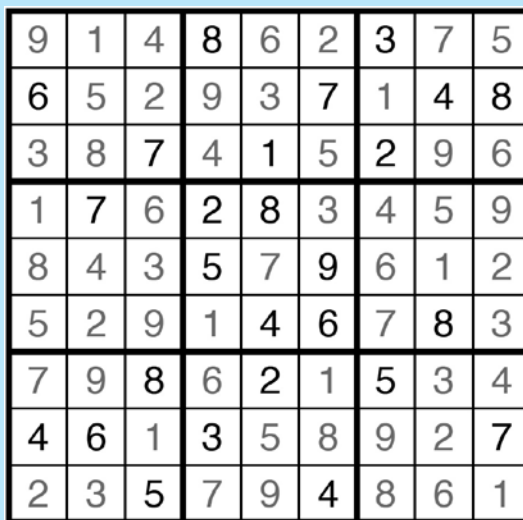
BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Communication with family members and the special person in your life could be frustrating today. Either you aren't in accord or you keep missing each other. Don't be frustrated. It's the planetary energy running a little interference. By tomorrow this aspect will have passed and you'll once again find yourselves.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



What a relief! Your energy is returning, especially regarding affairs of the heart. Today you'll be freed from the bonds of doubt about your judgment. With you, self-doubt is an especially touchy subject. You're miserable when your confidence is gone. The energy flow has been reestablished.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Thoughts of romance and dreams of a wonderful evening with that special someone are foiled by work that needs to be done right away. This might concern finances. It could involve a lot of deep thought on subjects that don't particularly interest you. Don't let this get you down. Get through the chores and then plan your evening. It won't be too late to have fun.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You might be planning to attend a social event today. You're looking forward to it. Paperwork could take up so much of your time today that you wonder if you can make it. The paperwork doesn't seem to be that urgent. Do as much as you can and then take off and go to your party. You deserve it.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Frantic communications involving a project or family affairs could have you feeling scattered and unfocused. Too many important concerns have hit you at once. It can be confusing, but take them one at a time and don't be tempted to try to accomplish everything at once. Your mind is steady and analytical today. Go with the flow and all will get done.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Good news about money could fill you with ideas about how to spend it, particularly on your home. Maybe you need new furniture or have been thinking about painting or redecorating. This is a great time to do it as long as you're careful and not to let your exuberance get the better of you. You don't want to have to repaint or take unwanted furniture back to the store.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Your mind is sharp and ready to take on anything thrown your way. Family members or friends could pick up on this pretty quickly, so don't be surprised if they come to you for help and advice. You'll probably give a lot of it today, so be prepared. Paperwork might be a bit overwhelming. As long as you take it one step at a time, you'll get it all done.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Books and magazines on psychic, spiritual, or metaphysical matters could take up a lot of your attention today. Your inclination could be to let your routine tasks go in favour of continuing to read calling all your friends to tell them what you've learned. Save it for this evening. You're too conscientious to let your work slide, and you'd feel derelict in your duty if you did.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



A fairly recent goal that you've set for yourself might seem a bit overwhelming. You might wonder if you'll get it done. Though you could easily become distracted, you can focus when you try, and this is what you should do now. Finances may need attention, and possibly paperwork, but this is only routine work.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today you should feel especially optimistic and enthusiastic about life. You'll have a lot of great ideas about what to do with your day, but unfortunately, your ability to put these plans into motion will probably be curtailed by other responsibilities. This could have you champing at the bit all day, but what the heck? Tonight you can do whatever you want!

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)

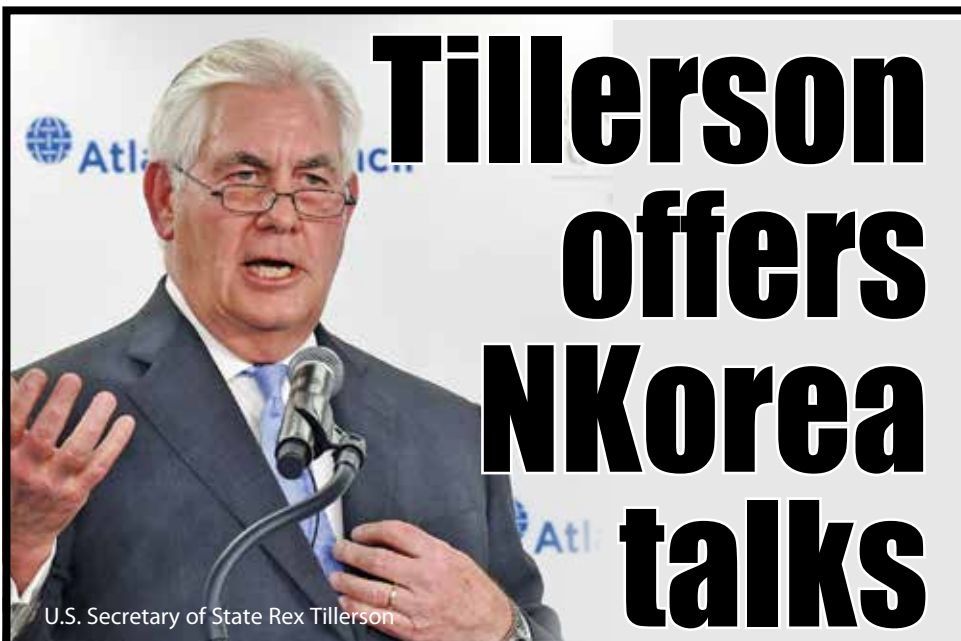


Discussions about religion could come up during your day. A recent rush of intuitive revelations could cause you to want to expound on your beliefs, but this could backfire. This isn't the day to try to convince others of anything. This also isn't a good day to think in terms of getting away for a while. Kick around a few ideas, but make definite plans later.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Friends or a group with which you're affiliated might run into financial difficulties and ask for your advice. It wouldn't be a good idea to give it, at least not today. Your thoughts aren't as focused as they should be. You might use a little intuition to guide you. Your ability to see under the surface is good now.



Tillerson offers NKorea talks

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

Washington

Washington's top diplomat Tuesday expressed willingness to talk with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) without precondition, indicating a softening of the hawkish U.S. stance though the White House publicly remained unrelenting.

"We're ready to have the first meeting without precondition," Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said at the 2017 Atlantic Council-Korea Foundation Forum, an annual policy forum co-hosted by think tanks Atlantic Council and Korea Foundation.

"Let's just meet," he told an audience of around 300, adding, "We can talk about the weather, if you want."

However, the White House, responding to Tillerson's remarks, said there was no policy change on the DPRK.

"The president's views on North Korea (the DPRK) have not changed," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement released soon after Tillerson's speech.

It was not the first time that Trump and Tillerson appeared to be not on the same track over the Korean Peninsula issue.

Trump snubbed his state secretary over two months ago when the latter was trying to reach out to Pyongyang to start a dialogue.

"Save your energy Rex," Trump tweeted.

Tuesday's remarks showed Tillerson's efforts to seek a peaceful solution amid escalating tension on the peninsula.

"Can we at least sit down and see each other face to face, and then we can begin

to lay out a map, a roadmap, of what we might be willing to work towards?" Tillerson said at the forum.

"It's not realistic to say we're only going to talk if you come to the table ready to give up your program," he said, referring to the DPRK's longtime devotion to nuclear and missile programs and fast advancement in the technology and Trump's warning of military intervention if the programs were not halted.

Tillerson said dialogue is possible whenever Pyongyang is ready.

The remarks came two weeks after the DPRK successfully test-fired a newly developed intercontinental ballistic missile, drawing strong condemnation from the international community. (*Xinhua*)

Ice balls wash on Russian coast

Moscow

Strange ice balls that washed up on the coast may have

been caused by oil pollution, an ecological expert has said. A video shows the strangely

uniformly sized ice balls washing up in the Gulf of Finland in north-western Russia.

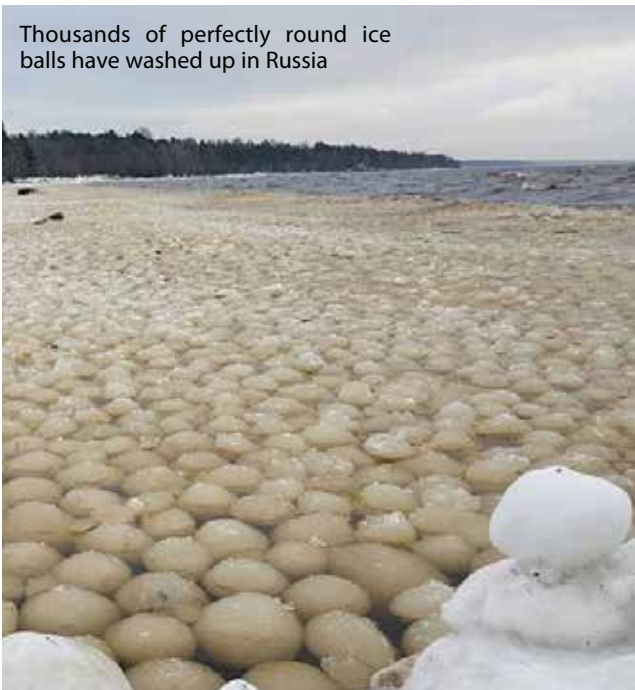
Ecologist Ilya Leukhin told local media that oil spills in the water could have created the ice balls but she was not the only one with a possible explanation for the phenomenon.

Yuriy Shahov, who videoed and shared the sight online, said: 'Seems that someone has thrown snowballs into the Gulf.'

Some believe that snow was rolled together by the waves, or that what look like ice balls could in fact be stones covered with ice.

The balls were up to 17 cm (7 inches) in diameter and no definitive explanation for their existence has been accepted.

Others, though, had less plausible explanations as to why the ice balls had formed. (*MailOnline*)



Thousands of perfectly round ice balls have washed up in Russia

#PollToday



Do you think US - North Korea talks will take place in 2018 as Tillerson shows readiness?

Yes No Cant Say



"We are losing the battle. Those before us were lucky. They could say they didn't know. And it was true. We've known for about 20 years now. And every day that goes past, we know a little more."

Emmanuel Macron
French President
about climate change

Rest in sight

Duterte's martial law again extended



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte won martial law powers across the southern third of the country for one more year to combat Islamic militants and leftist rebels

Defects found at China nuclear reactor project

Defects were found in equipment for a third-generation nuclear reactor under construction in southern China with the problematic parts being replaced

Bhutto's son takes up destiny

A decade after Pakistan's first female leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated, her son Bilawal is striving to reclaim his mother's mantle.

Homeless man pilfers €300,000

Police in Paris are hunting an opportunistic homeless man who "landed himself a Christmas present" by taking advantage of an unlocked door to steal €300,000 in cash from Charles-de-Gaulle airport.

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US helicopter window falls on Japanese school ground

Osprey aircraft on the tarmac at the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma



Tokyo

A Japanese boy has been injured after a window fell off a US military helicopter and landed on a school playground - the second such incident in a week.

The window crashed down in a sports ground where 50 children were playing at an elementary school near the Futenma marine airbase in the country's south just after 10am local time.

Officials from the city of Ginowan said the metal frame fell from a CH-53 transport helicopter leaving a boy with minor arm

injuries.

The US military said it was taking the 'regrettable' incident 'extremely seriously' and was opening an investigation.

Last week, a part of another US military helicopter fell on a nearby kindergarten roof, but no one was injured.

"This is a regrettable incident and we apologise for any anxiety it has caused the community,' the military said of the latest incident, urging local residents to stay clear from where the object landed 'for safety purposes'. (*MailOnline*)

Republican Roy Moore loses Alabama Senate race

Washington

Republican Roy Moore, accused of pursuing and molesting multiple teenage girls while in his 30s, was defeated by his Democrat rival Doug Jones in Alabama's special Senate election on Tuesday.

Jones had 49.5 per cent of the vote against Moore's 48.9pc, with 91pc of precincts reporting, according to AP.

"Thank you, Alabama!" Jones told supporters in a Birmingham hotel ballroom after the result was declared. "I am truly overwhelmed."

"At the end of the day, this entire race has been about dignity and respect. This

campaign has been about the rule of law. This campaign has been about common courtesy and decency," Jones told supporters.

The former U.S. attorney became the first Democrat to win a Senate seat in the deep red southern state since 1992, trimming the Republican Senate majority to 51-49.

His victory was fuelled by huge turnouts and near-unanimous support from black voters in Alabama, local analysts said.

The CNN exit poll found 30pc of the electorate was black and 96pc of black voters backed Jones. (*Xinhua*)

Selfie time!



French President Emmanuel Macron and actor and Former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger take a selfie in front of the Eiffel Tower after the One Planet Summit in Paris, France. (Courtesy: EPA)

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, centre, flanked by other leaders poses for photographs during



Jerusalem 'should be Palestinian capital'

Istanbul

Leaders from the world's main Pan-Islamic body yesterday urged the international community to recognise East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital after US President Donald Trump declared Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel.

The emergency summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul said it declared "East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine" and invited "all countries to recognise the State of Palestine and East Jerusalem as its occupied capital", according to the final statement.

They declared Trump's decision "null and void legally" and "a deliberate undermining of all peace efforts" that would give impetus to "extremism and terrorism".

The statement said the OIC summit regarded Trump's move "as an announcement of the US administration's withdrawal from its role as sponsor of peace" in the Middle East.

It added that Washington's decision amounted to

A protester wears a mask - illustrated with Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock mosque - at a rally in Istanbul near the venue of the summit



Islamic nations gather to seek united stance against Jerusalem move by the U.S.

"encouragement of Israel ... to continue its policy of colonialism, settlement, apartheid and ethnic cleansing".

The OIC groups together 57 member states. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan convened the meeting, seeking a coordinated response to Trump's announcement last week.

Regarding himself a champion of the Palestinian cause, Erdogan denounced Israel as a state defined by "occupation" and "terror", in a new diatribe against the Israeli leadership.

"With this decision, Israel was rewarded for all the terrorist activities it has carried out. It is Trump who bestowed this award even," he said.

"I am inviting the countries who value international law and fairness to recognise occupied Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine," he said, adding that Islamic countries would "never give up" on this demand.

In an angry address, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said the United States had lost its role as the mediator in the peace process between

Saudi King Salman criticises Trump's Jerusalem decision

Riyadh

Palestinians have the right to Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as their capital, Saudi King and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said yesterday, echoing calls at the Islamic summit in Istanbul.

"The kingdom has called for a political solution to resolve regional crises, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to establish their independent state with east Jerusalem as its capital," the king said.

The king renewed his condemnation of President Donald Trump's decision, saying it "represents an extreme bias against the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem that have been guaranteed by international resolutions". (AFP)

Israel and the Palestinians, denouncing Washington as biased in favour of the Jewish state.

"Jerusalem is and will forever be the capital of the Palestinian state ... There will be no peace, no stability without that," Abbas said.

He slammed the recognition by Trump as a "gift" to the "Zionist movement" as if he "were giving away an

American city".

"We do not accept any role of the United States in the political process from now on. Because it is completely biased towards Israel," he said.

Earlier, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu indicated that Ankara would be pushing for OIC states to recognise East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. (AFP)



Rohit's 208* powers India to victory

BRIEF SCORE

India 392 for 4 (Rohit 208*, Iyer 88, Dhawan 68) beat Sri Lanka 251 for 8 (Mathews 111*, Gunaratne 34, Chahal 3-60) by 141 runs

India's Rohit Sharma plays a shot

Mohali, India

Skipper Rohit Sharma rose to the occasion when it mattered most as his record breaking third double hundred guided India to a series-levelling 141-run win against Sri Lanka in the second ODI yesterday.

Rohit smashed an unbeaten 208 off 153 balls to fire India to a mammoth 392 for four, a total that proved to be too much for Sri Lanka as the visitors ended way behind at 251 for 8 with Angelo Mathews' unbeaten 111 going in-vain.

While Rohit stole the show with another sensational knock, Shikhar Dhawan (68 off 67) and rookie Shreyas Iyer (88 off 70) played the

supporting role to perfection.

India virtually batted Sri Lanka out of the game by posting the highest-total at this ground, surpassing the 351 for five South Africa made against Netherlands in 2011.

It was not the only record that was shattered on a day when India were under pressure to perform after the debacle in Dharamsala.

Rohit, captaining the side in his first full series, singlehandedly won the game for India with an innings that comprised as many as a dozen sixes and 13 fours.

After completing his first 100 runs off 115 balls, the stylish opener was simply unstoppable, blasting the next 100 runs off 36 balls to

complete a famous double ton in the 50th over of the innings.

His last double hundred, 264 at the Eden Gardens three years ago, had also come against Sri Lanka while the maiden one (209) was recorded against Australia at Bengaluru in 2013.

Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Chris Gayle and Martin Guptill are the others who have breached the 200-run mark in 50-over cricket.

However, the Rohit special came on a batting beauty, two days after Indian batsmen failed miserably against the moving ball in Dharamsala.

Sri Lanka pacers were on the money in the series opener but they put up a performance they would like to forget sooner than later. (PTI)

Azarenka to return to action in Melbourne

London

Former world number one Victoria Azarenka has been awarded a wildcard for the Australian Open.

The 28-year-old missed this year's US Open and Belarus' Fed Cup final due to an ongoing child custody battle, and has not played since Wimbledon.

She previously told her fans she was not permitted to take her 11-month-old son, Leo, out of California.

But the two-time Australian Open champion has said she will be returning to the court in Melbourne in January, with the tournament organisers promising to do all they can to ensure she is able to compete.

Tournament director Craig Tiley said: "Vika's current situation is obviously very difficult for her and we have reached out to offer any support we can."

"As a two-time Australian Open champion we've awarded her a wildcard and look forward to seeing her back on court."

Azarenka added: "I'm so excited about coming back to Melbourne for the Australian Open - it's my favourite tournament."
(eurosport)



Victoria Azarenka (file pic)

Konta won't leave the UK to avoid tax

London

British tennis number one Joanna Konta has said she will not be moving from the United Kingdom to reduce the amount of tax she pays.

Like Andy Murray, she has decided to remain a UK resident. Murray lives in Surrey, while Konta has a home in London.

Despite hiring a coach, Michael Joyce, who lives in Florida, Konta says she would prefer to stay a UK resident so there are no limits on the amount of time she can stay in the country:

"For me personally I'm against it. It's not something that would work for me."

"This is my home and I know if you move your residency outside of here, you can only spend a certain amount of time in the country."

"I don't want to be restricted with how much time I get to spend at home."

I'm not going to put myself

in that position so I'll happily pay my taxes and spend my time at home." (eurosport)



Joanna Konta (file pic)



Dortmund players celebrate (Picture courtesy: bundesliga)



Fernando Alonso (file pic)

Hamilton hopes Alonso is in fight

London

Lewis Hamilton hopes his former team McLaren and Fernando Alonso are contenders for the 2018 Formula 1 world championship after their switch from Honda to Renault power.

Hamilton's junior career was supported by McLaren, and he drove for the team in F1 from 2007-2012 before leaving for Mercedes.

Though Alonso and Hamilton's time as McLaren team-mates in 2007 was famously tempestuous, their relationship has improved.

The pair battled for ninth at the end of this year's Mexican Grand Prix as Hamilton recovered from first-lap damage, and the 2017 world champion wants more of that next season.

"I had a great battle with Fernando earlier this year, towards the end of this

season," said Hamilton.

"I'd love to have more battles with him on a much more level playing ground.

"They've had such a difficult time. Given that I grew up with McLaren from 13, I go through qualifying and I always look to see where Fernando is, I always look to see where they are and am watching their progress.

"There's just a natural place in my heart for them, because I achieved a huge amount with them. "I really, really hope next year is a successful year for them, I really hope we are battling with them because McLaren deserve to be at the front.

"I hope with this new power unit they're there with us.

"I hope we have another incredible world champion up there with us fighting for the world championship." (eurosport)

Dortmund triumph

London

Borussia Dortmund finally ended their winless streak in the Bundesliga by beating Mainz 2-0 in Peter Stoger's first game in charge on Tuesday.

Greek defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos broke the deadlock in the 55th minute and Shinji Kagawa sealed it in the 89th after Dortmund missed a host of chances to do so.

It was Dortmund's first league win at the ninth attempt since September, and only the second in 14 games across all competitions.

The side's slump led to

the sacking of Peter Bosz on Sunday, when Stoger took over.

Stoger was sacked by Cologne the week before after his side failed to win in 13 Bundesliga games, but the Austrian coach is respected for leading Cologne to Bundesliga promotion in 2014 and overseeing steady progress in each of the following seasons -- up to this one.

"I admit, after a long time in red and white, the new colour (yellow and black) is a bit unusual. I don't need the black for my figure, but it suits me quite well," said

Stoeger, who oversaw his first Bundesliga win of the season. "It's been a while."

However, Dortmund's uncertainty from their barren spell was clear to see in Mainz.

Suat Serdar rattled the crossbar early on for the home side, and blazed over minutes later, then Abdou Diallo was next to head over.

The home side were aggressive, first to every ball, winning challenges, and Dortmund struggled to create any attacking opportunities.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang should have scored toward the end of the half after a simple ball over

the top, but the Gabon striker fired wide when he had only the goalkeeper to beat.

Raphael Guerreiro then drew a good save from Robin Zentner.

Ten defenders made it hard for Dortmund to break through in the second half, but a foul on Christian Pulisic provided the breakthrough. Omer Toprak deflected Kagawa's free kick onto the post and Sokratis hammered in the rebound.

Dortmund wasted numerous good chances as Mainz tired, but Aubameyang finally set up Kagawa to seal it. (espn.in)

London

MotoGP race winner and three-time World Superbike champion Troy Bayliss will return to full-time competition at the age of 48 in the 2018 Australian Superbike Championship.

Bayliss will ride a Ducati 1299 Panigale R Final Edition for the DesmoSport squad he co-owns with Ben Henry.

It will be Bayliss's first full season of racing in a decade, and his first competitive outing since his two-round cameo in WSBK at the start of the 2015 season.

He said his motivation was to finally win an Australian Superbike crown, having finished runner-up in the series in 1996 and '97 before heading to Europe.

Bayliss admitted he had come close to joining the series midway through this

year to replace injured rider Callum Spriggs.

"Initially, I did want to see another young guy on the bike but after I rode it, I felt that I needed to contest the championship and try and win myself the elusive Australian Superbike title," said Bayliss.

"I definitely feel like I have some unfinished business.

"I have a bit of work to do in terms of fitness but after testing the bike and running it at the Adelaide Motorsport Festival I feel I am definitely up to the task."

Ducati Australia and New Zealand CEO Warren

Lee said getting Bayliss back on a bike was a big coup for the series. (autosport)

Bike legend Bayliss makes racing comeback



Troy Bayliss (file pic)



Harris accepts challenge by Jarrah in Jordan

Manama

Welterweight champion, Carlston Harris accepted to the challenge issued by Jarrah Al-Selawe. Jarrah Al-Selawe had called out Carlston Harris to fight in Jordan and defend the title.

Harris who is from Guyana is

currently training in Brazil and has not fought outside the nation.

Jarrah Al-Selawe, has a three fight win streak in Brave Combat Federation after dominating Carl Booth at Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions in a better fashion than Carlston Harris.

"I would love to fight outside of Brazil. I wouldn't mind fighting

in Jordan. I actually love it. This is for Brave Combat Federation to decide and I'll be there to defend my title. Wherever and whenever, be sure of that," claimed Harris.

Jarrah Al-Selawe is on an impressive 5 fight win streak in his career apart from being undefeated at Brave Combat Federation.

Carlston Harris



'Froome salbutamol case is terrible for the sport'

Bahrain-Merida's Vincenzo Nibali finished second behind Chris Froome at the Vuelta

Vincenzo Nibali (file pic)

Manama

Bahrain-Merida leader Vincenzo Nibali has reacted bluntly to news that Chris Froome (Team Sky) has returned an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) for salbutamol, describing it as terrible news for him and for the sport.

The test took place September 7 following stage 18 of the Vuelta, a race which Froome won overall with Nibali finishing in second place.

Froome and Team Sky are currently in the process of gathering their defence and although the rider has not been suspended, he could face a ban if the UCI fail to accept his case.

The WADA threshold for salbutamol is 1,000ng/ml but according to Team Sky Froome's reading was double that figure.

According to the UCI, Team Sky was notified of the finding on September 20, the day he finished third in the elite men's time trial at the UCI World Championships in Bergen.

"If his case is confirmed as a positive nobody can give me back the emotions I would have felt by winning the Vuelta and climbing on the top step of the podium in Madrid," Nibali is reported as saying by the *Tuttobici* website.

Nibali is currently at the Bahrain-Merida training camp in Croatia.

"For sure this is a terrible news for the sport and for me."

Nibali revealed he also suffers with asthma but suggested rain during the final stages of the Vuelta meant there was no need to use an asthma inhaler that contained salbutamol. (*cyclingnews*)

Froome facing questions over adverse test result

London

Chris Froome is facing questions after returning an "adverse" drugs test at the Vuelta a Espana.

The Team Sky rider had double the allowed level of legal asthma drug Salbutamol in his urine.

Cycling's world governing body the UCI wants more details from the team but says Froome is not suspended.

The Briton, 32, says he increased his

dosage but it was within the legal limits and the UCI is "absolutely right" to ask questions.

Froome says he took his team doctor's advice to up his inhaler use after his asthma symptoms got worse during the Vuelta.

He became the first Briton to win the three-week race around Spain and it followed his Tour de France victory in July. (*BBC*)



Chris Froome (file pic)



Jeff Horn (L) fights with Gary Corcoran

Horn retains world welterweight title

Sydney

Australian Jeff Horn retained his WBO welterweight world title by technical knockout when Briton Gary Corcoran's corner threw in the towel in the 11th round of their contest in Brisbane yesterday.

Horn, a former schoolteacher, won the title by beating multi-division world champion Manny Pacquiao at Brisbane's Lang Park in July and improved his record to 18-0-1 in the more confined space of the city's convention center.

Corcoran enjoyed success getting inside Horn in some wild early exchanges but the champion gradually took control of the contest.

Both fighters ended the bout with bloodied faces but Horn, who had lost four kilograms overnight to make weight, was ahead on the cards of all three judges when the fight ended.

"He definitely pushed me in there," Horn told reporters.

"The timing was off at the

Both fighters ended the bout with bloodied faces but Horn was ahead on the cards of all three judges

start of the fight and I couldn't really get that range very well but as soon as I started working off that jab, I was able to break him down pretty easily."

Corcoran, who had cuts around his eyes checked by the doctor before the decisive round, looked disappointed when his corner brought an end to fight to leave him with a 17-2 record.

"Just too many cuts, I couldn't see the shots coming," the Englishman said. "Fair play to Jeff. He's a good fighter, I'll learn from it and I'll come again." (*Reuters*)

Chelsea go second with

EASY WIN

Huddersfield

Willian scored one and made two others as Chelsea finally turned in a display worthy of Premier League champions to win 3-1 at Huddersfield.

Chelsea boss Antonio Conte declared his side's title defence was over after Saturday's defeat at West Ham, but his players responded and goals from Tiemoue Bakayoko, Willian and Pedro secured them victory at a canter.

Town substitute Laurent Depoitre headed home a fine goal deep in stoppage time but it was a mere consolation for David Wagner's side.

Not since the Blues won 4-0 at West Brom in November had they shown last season's title-winning pedigree, but, masterminded by Willian, they looked back to their slick, efficient best once they had taken the lead late in the first half.

Chelsea's first attempt on target resulted in the opening goal, with Eden Hazard sparking the move which broke the deadlock.

Hazard's flick set Willian free in a central position just outside the penalty area and the Brazilian's diagonal pass was clipped neatly home by Bakayoko from six yards, with defender Chris Lowe's desperate bid to block the ball on the goalline in vain.

Huddersfield had chased and harried throughout the first half but had also enjoyed decent spells of possession without carving out any clear-cut chances.

The home side's best moment before the break came early on when a sweeping move involving skipper Tommy Smith, Elias Kachunga and Aaron Mooy saw the latter's volley from the edge of the box blocked by Cesar Azpilicueta.

Chelsea had been well marshalled for most of the first period. Ngolo Kante blazed a shot over in the 38th minute and Bakayoko directed Willian's cross wide off his shoulder.

But Chelsea doubled their lead in the 43rd minute. Azpilicueta's cross-field pass picked out Marcos Alonso wide on the left and the Spaniard's superb cross evaded Lowe at the far post and was headed home by Willian.

Town boss Wagner sent on fresh legs for the second half as Dean Whitehead replaced Jonathan Hogg, but it made little difference.

Chelsea extended their lead in the 50th minute thanks to another assist from Willian and more good work from Alonso.

Willian touched Alonso's cross back into the path of Pedro on the edge of the area and the latter crashed a right-footed shot into the top corner.

Jonas Lossl denied Hazard at the near post after the Belgian had snaked his way into the area before Town eased the relentless pressure with a rare foray on goal themselves when Tom Ince's effort was headed clear of goal by Andreas Christensen. (*espn.in*)



Cesar Azpilicueta, Victor Moses, Willian, and Pedro celebrate the third goal for Chelsea (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

