

# DT NEWS

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News of Bahrain

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Tweet of the Day



We are grieving with Parkland. But we are not powerless. Caring for our kids is our first job. And until we can honestly say that we're doing enough to keep them safe from harm, including long overdue, common-sense gun safety laws that most Americans want, then we have to change.

@BarackObama

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## 11th Hour

### Florida shooting: FBI was warned on shooter

Florida

The FBI has confirmed that it was warned about the teenager who allegedly carried out a mass shooting at his former school in Florida. Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder, reportedly left a comment on a YouTube video last year stating: "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."

### K P Oli is 41st Prime Minister of Nepal

Kathmandu

KP Sharma Oli, chairperson of CPN-UML, has taken oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal, two months after his Left alliance routed the ruling Nepali Congress in the country's historic parliamentary and local polls. President Bidhya Devi Bhandari appointed the 65-year-old Oli as the country's 41st Prime Minister.



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Egypt kills 53 militants in week-long offensive



HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, with Saudi Minister of Health Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah at Riffa Palace yesterday. Dr. Tawfiq, who is on a visit to the Kingdom, lauded Bahrain's achievements in the healthcare sector. HRH Crown Prince affirmed that under the directives of His Majesty King Hamad, the interests of Bahraini citizens remain the focus of development and the foundation of all initiatives.

## Leadership condoles with Queen of Denmark

DT News Network Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier have sent cable of condolences to Queen Margrethe II of Denmark on the death of her husband Prince Henrik. They have extended heartfelt condolences to Queen Margrethe II, the royal family and the friendly Danish people.

# RBAF officers to join Russia's space mission

DT News Network Moscow

Director of the Russian Space Corporation (Roscosmos), Igor Komarov, has welcomed His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's call for officers of the Royal Bahraini Air Force (RBAF) to take part in the rehabilitation programme of the space trip to be organised along with Russian astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

Roscosmos chief was

speaking while receiving the Bahraini Ambassador to Russia, Dr Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Saati.

The joint space trip is within the framework of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Komarov said that the Russian leadership had given directives to enhance cooperation with Bahrain in the field of space, particularly after HM King Hamad's successful visit to the Army-2016

international military forum, held in Moscow in 2016, and the signing of an agreement on military and technical cooperation between the two countries.

He asserted that Roscosmos will sign a cooperation agreement with Bahrain's National Space Science Agency (NSSA), on the sidelines of Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS) in November, noting that under the agreement, Russia will provide technical

support for Bahrain in the field of space sciences.

The agreement also stipulates that NSSA and Roscosmos will exchange information and visits.

Roscosmos director told the ambassador that the Kingdom of Bahrain had been invited to attend the launch of the new space shuttle to ISS in March.

He expressed optimism that Bahraini-Russian space cooperation will benefit many civil sectors.



Svindal clinches downhill gold

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Duterte offers kill bounty for rebels to save on war costs

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Roscosmos welcomes HM's call for bilateral cooperation in the space field

# Florida school shooter was 'crazy about guns'

## Parkland

The man accused of opening fire at a Florida high school on Wednesday, killing 17 people, was a troubled former student who loved guns and was expelled for unspecified disciplinary reasons, police and former classmates said.

Nikolas Cruz, 19, was arrested about an hour after a shooting rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel told reporters.

Cruz, who had been expelled from the school for reasons that have not been made public, was found with multiple ammunition magazines and one AR-15-style rifle, Israel said.

"We already began to dissect his websites and the things on social media that he was on and some of the things that came to mind are very, very disturbing," Israel said.

Chad Williams, 18, a senior at Stoneman Douglas High School, remembered Cruz as a troubled classmate from middle school. He said Cruz would set off the fire alarm, day after day, and finally got expelled in the eighth grade.

More recently, Williams saw Cruz carrying several publications about guns when they ran into each other at the high school. Williams thought Cruz was there to pick up a younger sibling.

"He was crazy about guns," Williams told Reuters by the side of the road near the high school. "He was kind of an outcast. He didn't have many friends. He would do anything crazy for a laugh, but he was trouble."

Jillian Davis, 19, said she was in a school Junior Reserve Officer



Nikolas Cruz appears in a police booking photo after being charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder

Training Corps with Cruz in the 9th grade. She remembered him as a quiet and shy young man who would almost change personality when angry. He talked a lot about guns and knives but no one took him seriously, she told Reuters.

"I would say he was not the most normal or sane kid in JROTC. He definitely had a little something off about him. He was a little extra quirky," said Davis, who graduated from the school last year.

Math teacher Jim Gard told the Miami Herald Cruz had been banned from returning to campus while carrying a backpack.

"There were problems with him last year threatening students, and I guess he was asked to leave campus," Gard told the newspaper in an interview. Administrators sent an email to teachers warning them about Cruz, Gard told the paper.

Another student, 17-year-old

## Worst mass shootings in U.S. history

The attack on Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is the 18th school shooting in the U.S. within the first 45 days of 2018 — more than twice as many as at this time last year

Date	Fatalities (excludes death of shooter during incident)	Injuries
Oct 2017	Las Vegas, Harvest Music Festival	58
Jun 2016	Orlando nightclub	49
Apr 2007	Virginia Tech	32
Dec 2012	Connecticut	27
Nov 2017	Texas	26
Oct 1991	Texas	23
Jul 1984	California	21
Aug 1966	Texas	18
Feb 2018	Florida	17
Aug 1986	Oklahoma	15

Source: Gun Violence Archive

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junior Dakota Mutchler, told reporters at a hotel in nearby Coral Springs that he hadn't spoken with Cruz in more than a year. Students were reuniting with their parents and friends at the hotel.

Mutchler said he declined to communicate with Cruz, a former friend, after the suspect contacted him two weeks ago on Snapchat.

"Everybody that knew of him had a sort of suspicion about him," Mutchler said. Cruz had once told him he had used a pellet gun in his backyard for target practice, he said.

Travis Julmice, an 18-year-old senior, said he had not been in a class with Cruz since middle school.

"You could tell he was a little off," Julmice told Reuters at the Coral Springs hotel. "He was always like a troubled kid, getting in-school

suspension a lot. And detentions."

However, Broward County Public Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie told reporters outside the school after the shooting that the school had no indication Cruz was a danger. "Typically, you see in these situations that there potentially could have been signs out there," he said. "But we didn't have any warnings, there weren't any phone calls or threats that we know of that were made."

Runcie later said Cruz was still a student at Broward County Public Schools but declined to provide further details.

Israel said earlier Cruz may have been enrolled at Taravella High School in Coral Springs after his expulsion but the sheriff did not know if Cruz still attended Taravella. (Reuters)

## Accused faces 17 murder counts

### Parkland

Florida teen Nikolas Cruz was booked yesterday on 17 premeditated murder counts in horrific Florida school shooting that unfolded Wednesday afternoon.

Cruz, described as a loner by a former classmate, had once been expelled from a Parkland, Florida, high school for disciplinary reasons.

Investigators believe that the suspect pulled the fire alarm to draw people out and get a higher death toll, according to a law enforcement source.

He is also believed to have concealed himself among the hundreds of students fleeing the school, according to the Broward County Sheriff's Office. Investigators were able to identify Cruz from school security videos and found him in a nearby neighborhood in Coral Springs, Florida, according to police.

Officers arrested him without incident. He is talking to investigators, according to a law enforcement source.

## His family life

As for his family life, Cruz was adopted by Lynda Cruz, said Kathie Blaine, her cousin.

More than three months ago, on November 1, she died after battling the flu and then pneumonia, Blaine told CNN. Cruz's father had died more than a decade ago due to a heart attack.

Blaine said she had last seen Lynda Cruz about 20 years ago and had never met Nikolas Cruz.

When asked who Cruz lived with since both of his adoptive parents had died, she said: "Nikolas was on his own. He is 19. He was an adult on his own. It's really at this point, I don't understand it anymore than anyone else does. I can't believe it. I can't believe any of these school shootings. I never met him."

Cruz had been living with a friend's family since his mother died last year, Jim Lewis, a Ft. Lauderdale attorney who represents the family, told CNN affiliate WPEC.

"His mother had died back in November of last year, and this family took him in," Lewis told the news station.

Cruz was friends with the family's son who went to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"They offered him a home and tried to help the kid out because he really didn't have any other place to stay," Lewis said. (Fox 4 News)

## His digital life

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said Cruz's digital profile contained what he called "very, very disturbing" content.

He had a variety of gun and violence-related postings on social media sites.

Postings under the name Nikolas Cruz included threatening comments under videos on YouTube and other sites, including "I whana shoot people with my AR-15" (sic), "I wanna die Fighting killing s\*\*t ton of people" and "I am going to kill law enforcement one day they go after the good people."

On his Instagram page, Cruz posted a photo of a shotgun, in another photo he is shown brandishing a pistol that appears to be a type of BB gun. In other pictures he is covering his face with a kerchief, and brandishing long knives.

Police say Cruz was armed with multiple magazines and at least one AR-15 style rifle.

The suspected shooter bought the firearm in the past year and had passed the background check to make the purchase, according to a US official briefed on the investigation.



Police say Cruz was armed with multiple magazines and at least one AR-15 style rifle.

# UoB revokes decision to expel 160 students



Supriya Reginald/DTNN  
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## Manama

**T**he University of Bahrain (UoB) has revoked the decision to expel 160 underperforming first-year students who did not meet the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 1, *DT News* has learnt.

The decision followed an appeal by the students who faced expulsion. They will be allowed to re-register.

"This is the first and last time the expelled students

will be given a chance to re-register," the academics programmes and graduate studies vice president, Dr Waheeb Alnaser told *DT News*. The students, who could not meet their first semester GPA requirement, were earlier given a five-day window to appeal.

The university rule to penalise underperforming students was announced last year, making it applicable for those who enrolled in 2017. As per the rules, those with a GPA below 2 would be slapped with two warnings before

expulsion. Earlier, claims on social media platforms said around 400 students were expelled for not meeting the GPA criteria. The University responded by saying that the figure was exaggerated.

A committee was also formed to look into the claims and those with valid grievances were given a chance to appeal. Following the university decision, 160 students appealed.

"All students with a valid reason were given a chance to re-register. They were advised to repeat the courses

studied in the first semester," Dr Waheeb Alnaser told *DT News*. The students who are now back will be under a probation programme similar to the one for students who could not achieve the required cumulative GPA of 2 and above, he added.

To help the 160 students to integrate into the system, the university has also introduced a new programme. "An academic and social coaching session has been formed by the Student Affairs, effective from today," said Dr Waheeb Alnaser. "The University is

**The University of Bahrain has revoked its decision to expel 160 underperformers. These students will now be allowed to re-register, repeat the courses studied in the first semester**

a place to study, learn and work hard, not relax," he said adding that the decision will "set an example for other students."

Some expelled students, mainly from Saudi Arabia and

Jordan, attributed their dismal performance to an unfamiliar coeducational environment.

Dr Waheeb Alnaser said students should take education seriously. "Students must work hard," he said.

## 'Blockchain-based payments ideal for Bahrain'

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN  
zafran@dt.bh

## Manama

**B**ahrain should follow Dubai's example and implement a blockchain based payments platform to provide the government with instant reconciliation and settlement, according to a visiting expert.

Introducing blockchain technology will dramatically reduce reconciliation time, said Dubai based blockchain expert Waqas Mirza.

Mirza's company Avanza Solutions was awarded a project by the Dubai government to implement a citywide blockchain based payments platform.

He said that with the implementation of the platform they were able to reduce the transaction reconciliation time from forty-five days to around two hours.

"We have gone live in

two government entities, Knowledge and Human Development Authority and Dubai Electricity & Water Authority.

"The project is not meant to go live with a big bang go-live approach where you have 40 entities onboard because that would be a catastrophe, that is why you go step by step, we want to start with two and go from there. Every month we plan to onboard two to three entities and banks, and by the end of 2018 we plan to have the whole city live," he said.

When asked if Bahrain and other GCC countries should follow the example he said, "They should, it's not about whether they can or not, they should. There is a lot of efficiencies that come with this, it certainly comes with a lot of benefits."

Explaining how he achieves the dramatic reduction reconciliation time using

blockchain he said: "What we are trying to do is address reconciliation and settlement of government funds. In Dubai, the payment gateway is connected with almost 40 government entities and a dozen banks. For example if a resident pays his electricity bill using the payment gateway it facilitates this transactions, it will debit their bank account and go to the biller for the payment.

"During this process there are a lot of transfer of files between government entities and then the funds are transferred to government entities. The problem is not with the payment from the customer's side, the customer does not face any issue. However, the problem is with the back-end.

"The problem is reconciliation of books between 40 government entities, the government payment platform

and the banks, every party's books has to match and only then the department of finance release funds to different government entities.

"Today the process is very clunky, it takes the department of finance up to 45 days to tell the government entity about the funds that they have collected on their behalf. The situation is such that there are transactions coming from 40 different government entities with files coming from banks and other parties and the department of finance trying to deal with these files and transactions. This is the problem we are trying to solve with blockchain. We want to bring down these 45 days of friction and wastage to instant reconciliation."

"In our case all 40 government entities will be connected to our blockchain platform called Cipher and so will the banks. This is how we



Waqas Mirza

achieve instant reconciliation through cipher: we ask the government entity to stamp a blockchain node when a transaction is made in addition to stamping in their logs and ERPs.

"When the transaction comes to the payment gateway we ask the gateway to do the same. The transaction is sent to the banks and then it is stamped by the bank as well and the bank sends back an acknowledgement back. So

when the transactions has been stamped by all the parties you achieve consensus. What does this do? This eliminates the need for reconciliation. Reconciliation programmes have been written for the past 30 to 40 years to act as a second eye to make sure everyone's book match but blockchain inherently does that for you. What we do is we reconcile the transaction as and when it happens, eliminating the 40 days of wastage."

## HRH Crown Prince hails bilateral ties with Japan



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday received Kiyoshi Asako, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Bahrain, in Riffa Palace, to mark the end of his service in the Kingdom. During the meeting, His Royal Highness highlighted that under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain remains committed to further strengthening cooperation with Asian countries across the economy, trade and culture. The Japanese ambassador expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet with His Royal Highness, and acknowledged His Royal Highness' ongoing contribution to the strengthening of bilateral ties between the two countries

## Al Najma lift HM the King Football cup

Manama

**A**l Najma club yesterday claimed the HM the King Football Cup by beating Muharraq Club in the final held yesterday in the presence of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Nasser, the Representative to HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee took pride in attending the

final match on behalf of HM the King and welcomed the Royal support for sports and youth movement, which provides further impetus for bringing more achievements to the homeland.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa presented Al Najma players with gold medals and the tournament cup and silver medals to Muharraq, the runner-up team.

Speaking on the occasion, Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad

Al Khalifa extended his congratulations to Al Najma Club chaired by Isa Al Qattan on the outstanding accomplishment.

His Highness hailed the winning team's extraordinary efforts and remarkable team effort displayed throughout the tournament and extended congratulations to Bahrain Football Association led by Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa on the exceptional organisation of the game.

## CCG raises more than BD8000 to help cancer patients



Handing over ceremony  
DT News Network  
reporter@dt.bh

**T**he Cancer Care Group (CCG) raised over BD8000 to help Cancer patients in the Kingdom through its 'Charity Gala Dinner'.

The gala dinner, held under the patronage of Ministry of Health on 13th December 2017 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, raised BD8360 which was presented to Bahrain Cancer Society (BCG) at a meeting held at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam.

Thirty-five Cheques amounting to a total of BD8360 were handed over to President of Bahrain Cancer Society, Dr Abdul Rahman Fakhro, by Dr P. V. Cheriyan, President of Cancer Care Group (CCG), in the presence of K. T. Saleem, General Secretary CCG, Sudheer Thirunilath, Treasurer CCG and other Executive members.

"We are pleased to make our humble contribution to Bahrain Cancer Society for the well being of the Cancer patients in Bahrain on the brink of our 3rd Anniversary," Dr P. V. Cheriyan, President CCG said.

He explained: "The activities of CCG includes regular hospital visit to cancer wards to support the needy, awareness programmes at schools, universities, medical camps and seminars in association with traffic and civil defence directorate and visits to the psychiatric hospital."

"We bring reputed Oncologists from India to provide guidance and also to help the patients going back to India to continue their treatment

at reputed Cancer centres at affordable rates," he said.

The ceremony was attended by over 50 members of CCG Executive Committee members, Advisory Board, Ladies' Wing and Voluntary Group.

Radhakrishna Pillai, President, Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam and Ahmed Ali, Secretary General, Bahrain Cancer Society spoke on the occasion.

Supporters of the event include Ebrahim Khalil

Kanoo, The New Indian School, Jashanmal & Sons, Shaikha Hessa Girl's School, Trafco, Al Noor International School, National Fire & Safety, Bidayaat Events Management, Bin Faqeh Real Estate, Bahrain Financing Company (BFC) and Malabar Gold.

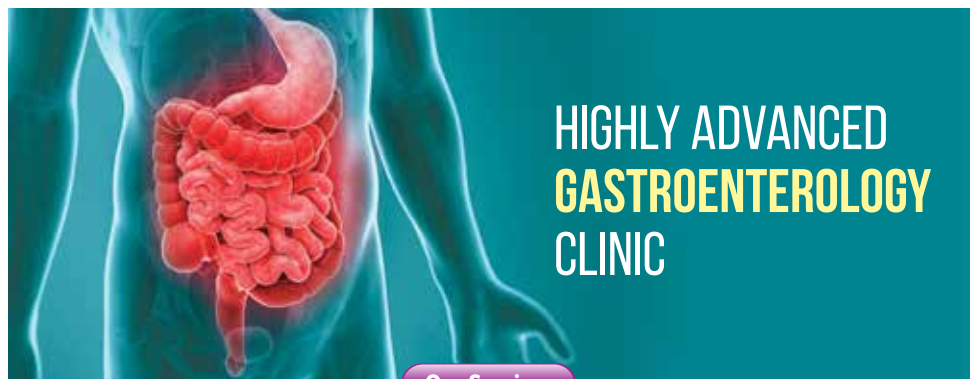
Speaking on the occasion, Dr Abdul Rahman Fakhro emphasised the need for early detection and treatment to avoid further complications in future.

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Consultant Gastroenterology



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# Egypt kills 53 militants in week-long offensive

**Cairo**  
Egypt's military and police forces have killed a total of 53 militants and arrested 680 suspects in a week-long offensive to crush insurgents that is focused on the Sinai Peninsula, a military spokesman said yesterday.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who is seeking re-election in March, ordered the armed forces in November to defeat militants within three months after an attack on a mosque in Sinai killed more than 300 people.

The attack was the deadliest of its kind in Egypt, which is the Arab world's most populous country and a main regional ally of the United States.

The security operation, which involves the army, navy,

air force and police, began last Friday and targeted "terrorist and criminal elements and organizations" in north and central Sinai, parts of the Nile delta and the western desert, Colonel Tamer al-Rifai told a news conference broadcast on state television on Thursday.

He said forces have destroyed over 1000 kg (2205 lbs) of explosives, 378 militant hideouts and weapon storage facilities including a media center used by the militants.

He added that 680 people, some of them suspected militants or wanted criminals, were also detained in the operation.

The air force, which has carried out more than 100 airstrikes in northern and central Sinai since the operation began, has focused on militant hideouts outside residential areas to avoid hitting civilians, air force Brigadier General Alaa Dawara said.

Major General Yasser Abdel Aziz of the Military Operations Authority said the operation would end when Sinai was free of "terrorists".

"It could be extended or shortened according to the situation and that is what



Egyptian Army's Armoured Vehicles are seen on a highway to North Sinai during a launch of a major assault against militants, in Ismailia, Egypt

**The security operation, which involves the army, navy, air force and police, began last Friday**

will be determined in the coming days," Abdel Aziz told journalists.

He said after the military operation, Egyptian authorities would push ahead with a comprehensive development plan for Sinai.

Outside the peninsula, the Egyptian military said the operation would cover parts of

the Nile Delta and the Western Desert, where other militants have waged attacks, some believed to be staged out of neighboring Libya.

The insurgency poses the greatest challenge to the government in a country that is both the most populous in the Arab World and a main regional ally of the United

States.

Insurgents have been targeting security forces since 2013 when the army led by Sisi, then the army chief, ousted President Mohamed Mursi, of the Muslim Brotherhood, following mass protests against his rule.

Some local residents have raised concerns over food

and medicine shortages in the peninsula after the army blocked all access to the area.

Rifai said the armed forces has cooperated closely with local authorities to coordinate the delivery of food, medical assistance and other supplies in compliance with local and international laws and human rights norms. (Reuters)

## Growing Hezbollah arsenal a threat

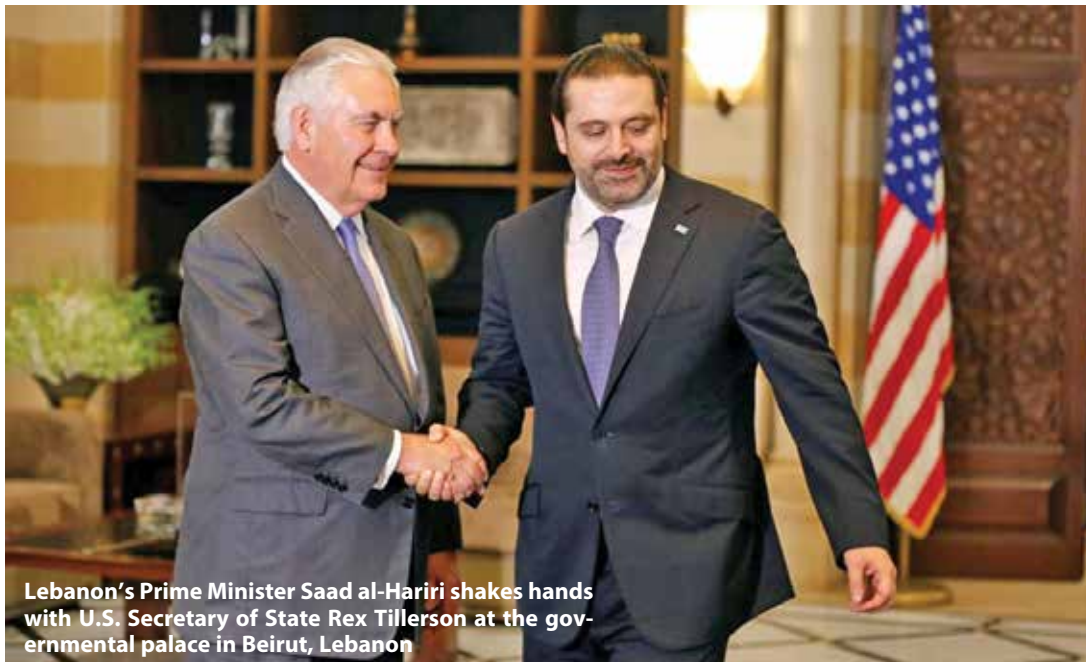
**Beirut**  
U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said yesterday that Lebanon's security was threatened by the growing arsenal of the Iran-backed group Hezbollah and its involvement in regional conflicts.

Speaking alongside Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri in a Beirut news conference, Tillerson also said the United States was engaging with Lebanon and Israel to ensure the border remained calm.

Hezbollah, which is deemed a terrorist organization by the United States, is part of Hariri's government. Its military strength has grown since the last major conflict with Israel in 2006.

Tillerson urged Lebanese leaders to uphold the country's commitment to staying out of regional conflicts, a reference to Hezbollah's role in wars around the Middle East including in neighboring Syria where Iran also holds major sway.

Lebanon is a big recipient of U.S. military support. Tillerson said Washington remained committed



Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at the governmental palace in Beirut, Lebanon

to supporting the Lebanese army and internal security forces.

The United States has been mediating between Lebanon and

Israel over their border dispute. In apparent reference to the maritime dispute, Tillerson said: "We've asked no one to give up anything".

He added that constructive discussions were underway and he urged the Israelis to be constructive. (Reuters)

## US never gave 'heavy arms' to Kurdish YPG

**Beirut**  
U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said yesterday the United States had "never given heavy arms" to the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia and there was therefore "nothing to take back".

The YPG is the main component of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces alliance that has seized vast territory from Islamic State in Syria.

Washington is focused on defeating IS in Syria. Ankara wants to prevent Syria's Kurds from gaining autonomy and fuelling Kurdish insurgents on its soil and last month launched a military incursion into the Afrin region of Syria to sweep the YPG from its southern border zone.

Tillerson also said the United States has had "fruitful meetings" with Europeans on the Iran nuclear deal, but said work on this issue was not yet over.

## Wide Angle



Joel Indrupati

## The Days of Digital Distortion: What Can We Do?

**P**eople who are somewhat ignorant, but fully fervent, are present in all classes, in all religions, and in all countries.

There is nothing wrong I think, for instance, if I swell with pride when people-with-great-power suddenly say good things about my country.

There is nothing wrong I think if I become over-enthusiastic when celebrities convert to, or endorse, my religion. Or if I become over-excited when I see a video or a message that strongly supports my religious, social or political belief system.

But I think it is wrong – very wrong – if I start forwarding related messages and videos without verifying.

Real seekers of ‘truth’ are careful. Very careful. They check, double check, and – sometimes- triple check, before forwarding information to others.

Mobile phone technology with the Internet has become a dangerous thing. Especially, in the hands of the less-informed and the over-passionate.

Just because a bearded Arab man, in a thobe, has said ‘Jai Siya Ram’, his video cannot be forwarded saying that the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi has said it during a recent Hindu Temple’s foundation there. You cannot. Unless you are very very sure that the man who said it was really really the Crown Prince.

Just because a cute young boy is seen reciting a lot of verses from the Bible, his video cannot be forwarded saying he is UK’s Prince George; and that the boy is being taught scriptures well. You cannot. Unless you are very very sure that the boy was really really Prince George.

Actually, mobile phone technology with the Internet connection has become a wonderful thing, too. You can easily search for, find images, read news-items, and know for yourself -- if what you are forwarding is really true.

The biggest war we would soon be fighting, I am sure, would be that against inaccurate information.

Getting to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is becoming harder and harder. And perhaps our unconscious participation in spreading unverified information is increasing this hardship.

Unlike how people used to go to physical libraries to check, in the past, we now visit recognized and reputed newspapers and news websites.

But, sadly, we are facing problems here too. When publishing houses hire people with inadequate training in professional journalism, things can go wrong.

Even news-websites are seen giving needless credence to unverified social media posts.

And then, these days, there’s this new wave of strategic and systematic promotion of falsehoods, misinformation, fake stories, and abusive trolling, by some socio-political groups.

But, Truth is Truth. And as consumers of truth, we must hold all official news channels, newspapers and news websites accountable.

And as users of social media apps, we must refuse to participate in the spread of falsehoods.

Armed with a mobile phone or laptop, one should not falsify information, or abet ‘misinformation mongers’ in their spread of viral lies.

Data mining, I think, will soon have the tough job of separating truth and lies.

Getting through the dense jungle of compressed bits and bytes, digging into thick clouds of cyberspace, finding chronologically stored information, and analysing how truth got morphed over time; That is what truth seekers in the cyber world should soon become adept at.

Forensic methods to unravel and uncover the falsifiers of truth and legal systems that can seek and punish the malicious ones. Those are the growing needs of the digital world.

We should keep fighting for truth, against the onslaught of doctored videos and fake news. We must prevent Internet Rumour and keep campaigning against viral forwards of myths and hoaxes.

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

## Brussels

**N**ATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg yesterday announced that the alliance will expand its military training mission in Iraq and help the conflict-ravaged country develop new academies and schools for its armed forces.

NATO already has a small team of military and civilian personnel in Iraq and uses mobile teams to train national forces in de-mining, countering home-made bombs and dealing with explosives. The allies have also trained Iraqi troops in neighboring Jordan.

“We will scale up,” Stoltenberg said after talks with NATO defense ministers in Brussels, though he declined to say how many personnel the effort would involve or where it would operate. He said the mission would not be used for combat, but rather to train Iraqi officers so they in turn can train their own troops.

NATO diplomats suggest the expanded mission could involve up to 200 personnel. The diplomats declined to be identified because the effort is still in the planning stages.

The training would take place in the capital Baghdad, other Iraqi cities and even in neighboring countries like Jordan. Germany’s defense minister mentioned the possibility that some might take place in the northern city of Erbil.

Iraq is struggling to emerge from the chaos that followed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that

toppled dictator Saddam Hussein. After the invasion, the temporary U.S.-led administration disbanded the Iraqi army, leaving tens of thousands of trained personnel jobless and bitter.

Many took up arms, and while the insurgency has waned in recent years, the Islamic State group flourished. IS has now been dislodged from the third of Iraq that it once held, but the group still poses a threat and the Iraqi armed forces remain relatively weak.

“We believe that it’s in NATO’s best interests that we project stability at the government of Iraq’s request,” U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters.

“We will go to a consistent mission in Iraq to build the capabilities that they believe they need to sustain this effort and protect their people from an uprising of another type of terrorist organization,” he said.

Stoltenberg declined to say how long the training might go on. The U.S. and NATO fought in Afghanistan for over a decade and helped build up local forces there for several years.

“One thing is to win on the battlefield, but afterwards we have to make sure that we are able to stabilize the country, and enable the local forces... the local authorities to be in charge,” he said. “It’s dangerous to leave too early because then we may be forced back into combat operations.” (AP)

# NATO to expand military mission in Iraq



## Missing Pets



**MALTY** - Male Shih Tzu, 6 yrs, mostly brown, wearing black collar - no ID tag, very friendly, gate left open by contractor, Hamad Town (roundabout 21), 7/2/18. **66334468**



**ZARA** - Female domestic shorthair/Persian mix, 2.5 years, spayed, not wearing collar or ID tag, escaped house boundary, Hidd (block 109 close to City International School), 26/1/18. **32165655 or 36022000**



**ZOE** - Female Persian mix, 2 yrs, spayed, microchipped, all white, wearing collar w bell - no ID tag, disappeared from garden, Awali (near Awali Church), BD100 REWARD for safe return, 6/2/18. **39609175**



**GATSBY/MIMING** - Female Sokoke, 2 yrs, wearing blue and green collar - no ID tag, escaped while door open, Salmaniya, 6/2/18. **66382279**



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



**MEMO** - Male Chihuahua, 3 yrs, wearing blue collar - no ID tag, door left open, Sanad (near Alhekma School), 17/1/18. **33878897**

Scrap trains decorated with graffiti sit at Istanbul Haydarpasa railway station



# Back on track

## Trains to return to historic Istanbul station

**B**uilt in the first decade of the 20th century as Europe's gateway to the east, Istanbul Haydarpasa railway station stands proudly on the Asian side of the Bosphorus, its gothic towers looming over the waters.

The imposing facade has witnessed and survived more than a century of turbulent and sometimes tragic history; the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, World War I, the deportation of Armenians, military coups and a devastating November 2010 fire that destroyed the roof.

But this most historic of railway stations now lacks its most fundamental component -- trains.

Since 2013, the celebrated terminus has not seen any train traffic after being shut for restoration work and a major upgrade of Turkey's railway network.

With the refurbishment stalling, top local officials openly spoke of plans to sell off the station, possibly turning it into a hotel, shopping centre or entertainment complex.

The situation sparked alarm among Turkish architecture and heritage activists, who staged weekly demonstrations to salvage its future.

In 2012, when the number of trains pulling in and out of the station had already dropped

off, Haydarpasa -- pronounced Haydarpasha and named after the neighbourhood where it is located -- was placed on the watch list of endangered heritage by the World Monuments Fund NGO.

### 'Trains to come back'

However, Turkish architecture activists, local officials and Turkish State Railways (TCDD) told that the station's future as a railway terminus was now assured after a period of uncertainty.

"It will remain in public ownership. There were debates but right now there is no such danger (of privatising) the train station," Aykurt Nuhoglu, the mayor of the Istanbul district of Kadikoy where the station is located, told AFP.

"The trains will begin to arrive as of 2019."

An official from TCDD added, asking not to be named: "It is being restored as a train station, nothing else is being considered."

Once the station is reopened, it should be the terminus for the new high-speed trains from Ankara which are currently stopping in Pendik, well outside the centre, as well as again being a hub for commuter trains.

### 'Murder on the Orient Express'

Haydarpasa station -- designed by two German architects -- was inaugurated in its current form in 1909, five years before the outbreak of World War I.

It was a symbol of the friendship between the Ottoman Empire and imperial Germany under Kaiser Wilhelm II, who yearned to expand Berlin's influence deep

into the Middle East and had sealed a strong relationship with Sultan Abdulhamid II.

The station was to be the key hub of the kaiser's dream of a Berlin to Baghdad railway passing through Constantinople, Aleppo and Mosul, with a branchline south to Damascus.

One of the darkest moments in its history came on April 24, 1915 when Haydarpasa was used as the start point for the deportation of the first convoy of Armenians rounded up in Istanbul. Turkey denies Armenian assertions that the ensuing mass slaughter amounted to genocide.

Until its closure five years ago, Haydarpasa was a busy station, with commuter trains but also overnight services to towns in eastern Turkey like Kars and Van, as well as a service going as far as Tehran.

It was also the starting point of the Istanbul-Baghdad train service -- the Taurus Express -- which features in the opening chapter of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express" but is now indefinitely suspended.

### 'Historic solidarity'

"Haydarpasa is not just a building of architectural importance but is at a critical point for the railways," said Ishak Kocabiyik, a former general secretary of Turkey's United Transport Workers' Union.

"There were attempts to turn this land into a trade centre and a cruise port. We have so far stopped such attempts by using our right to opposition," he added.

Activists insist that it was only due to pressure from civil society that plans to transform the station into a hotel or shopping complex were thwarted.

"Our solidarity was a mission that will go down in history," said lawyer Ersin Albuz, a key force in the campaign. "We will keep going until all trains stop here and when that happens, only then will we end our campaign."

Some architects accuse the government under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a former mayor of Istanbul, of

trampling on heritage in a drive to modernise the city, but the government insists it is merely implementing much-needed infrastructure improvements.

### 'Like back in the old days'

These include a major revamp of Turkey's railway network, which at the start of the millennium had barely changed from its pre-WW I layout, meaning most Turks took the bus or plane.

But what activists now want is the entire area around Haydarpasa to be revitalised and the terminus to become as bustling as any station in Europe.

"We want commuter trains and regional trains to stop there, just like back in the old days," said Kocabiyik, indicating a degree of scepticism about the authorities' assurances for the station's future.

The head of the Istanbul Chamber of Architects, Sami Yilmazturk, who has been bitterly critical of the government's infrastructure drive, described the station as a "gate of Istanbul on Europe".

Vowing to keep watch on the government's plans, he said: "Today it is being restored as a train station but I am concerned that might change two days later." (AFP)

For five years, Istanbul Haydarpasa railway station has not seen any train traffic after being shut for restoration work





An employee pumps petrol into a car at a petrol station in Hanoi, Vietnam

# Oil rises on Saudi pledge to cut output, weak dollar

## London

Oil rose towards \$65 barrel yesterday, supported by Saudi Arabia's comment that it would rather see an undersupplied market than end an OPEC-led deal to withhold production too soon, and by a weak U.S. dollar.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said on Wednesday the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries would do better to leave the market tight than end the deal on cutting output too early. Saudi Arabia is OPEC's top producer.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, rose 32 cents to \$64.68 as of 0943 GMT, extending the previous session's gain of \$1.64. U.S. crude was up 58 cents at \$61.18.

"Khalid al-Falih gave his strongest

hint yet that exiting the current supply agreement is unlikely to be on the agenda this year," said Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM.

Oil also gained as the U.S. dollar weakened, falling to a 15-month low against the yen. A weaker dollar makes oil and other dollar-denominated commodities cheaper for holders of other currencies, potentially boosting demand.

"It seems that al-Falih felt this comment was necessary to stabilise oil prices," said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch of the Saudi minister's preference for a tighter market than an early boost in production.

"Prices are being additionally boosted by the fact that the U.S. dollar has been significantly weaker since yesterday."

The OPEC-led deal to cut output by 1.8 million barrels per day, almost 2 percent of global supply, started a year ago. Producers have succeeded in whittling down an excess of crude in storage that had been weighing on prices.

However, rising output in the United States is balancing the supply cuts by other producers.

U.S. crude production hit a record 10.27 million barrels per day, the Energy Information Administration said on Wednesday, more than Saudi Arabia pumps with Riyadh's voluntary curbs on its output and not far from Russia.

With domestic production rising, U.S. crude inventories increased last week by 1.8 million barrels, although the gain was less than analysts had expected. (CNBC)

## US strikes may have killed scores of Russian fighters in Syria

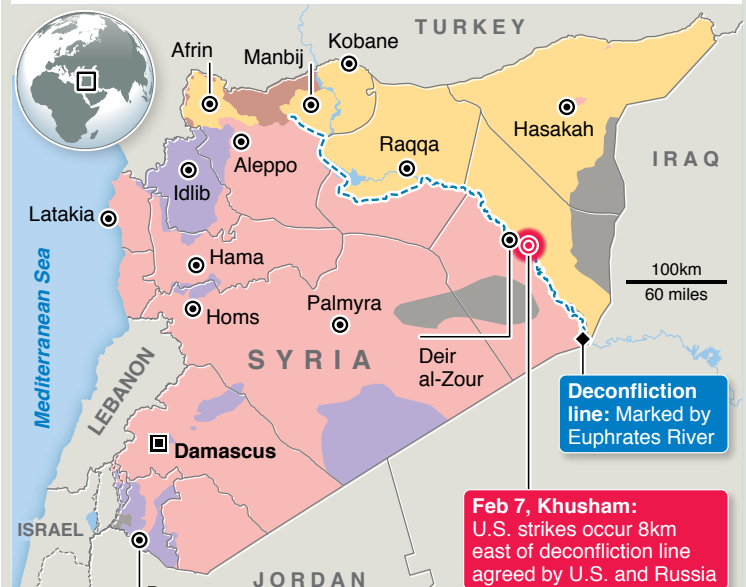
U.S. forces killed scores of Russian mercenaries in Syria last week in what may be the deadliest clash between citizens of the former foes since the Cold War, according to one U.S. official and three Russians familiar with the matter.

More than 200 contract soldiers, mostly Russians fighting on behalf of Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad, died in a failed attack in the oil-rich Deir al-Zour region, two of the Russians said. The U.S. official put the death toll in the fighting at about 100, with 200 to 300 injured, but was unable to say how many were Russians.

The attack took place on February 7, when the U.S. says hundreds of pro-government fighters supported by tanks and artillery advanced on a base east of the Euphrates River held by U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and American advisors. U.S. forces responded with aircraft and artillery fire, forcing the attackers to retreat.

### AREAS OF CONTROL (as of February 14, 2018)

■ Syrian government and allies    ■ U.S.-backed Kurdish groups  
■ Rebels    ■ Turkey and allies    ■ So-called Islamic State (IS)



**WHAT U.S. SAYS:**  
 It killed more than 100 pro-government fighters in air and artillery strikes launched to repel assault on base held by U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and American advisors

**RUSSIA:** Defence Ministry says no members of its armed forces were in vicinity. Private military company sources say more than 200 contract soldiers – most of them Russian – may have been killed in failed assault

Sources: BBC, Bloomberg, New York Times, Syria Live Map

© GRAPHIC NEWS

## Winners of "CrediMax Gives You More" campaign

CrediMax has named Sameer Qassim Fakhroo as the winner of 2017 "CrediMax Gives You More" campaign for Audi A8 model 2018.

"CrediMax aims to continuously enhance its position, maintaining its leading role in the market through the launch of unique promotional campaigns. We have recently introduced our 2018 campaign "We Give The Max" giving away a total of 12 luxurious prizes (6 Lexus ES 350 and 6 1KG Gold Bars) along with a large variety of added value offers, promotions and many instant rewards to our valued customers"

**Yousif Ali Mirza,**  
CrediMax Chief Executive



2017 Grand Prize Winner

For more information on CrediMax's products and service and latest offers and promotions, call 17117117 or visit [www.credimax.com.bh](http://www.credimax.com.bh)



## India's January trade deficit widens

New Delhi

India's trade deficit widened to \$16.30 billion in January from \$14.88 billion in the previous month, government data showed on Thursday. Merchandise exports for January rose 9.07 percent from a year ago to \$24.38 billion. Goods imports last month were \$40.68 billion, a jump of 26.10 percent from a year ago, data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed.



## Tutu quits as Oxfam ambassador

Johannesburg

South African Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu stepped down as an ambassador for Oxfam on Thursday, citing disappointment at the British aid agency's embroilment in a sex scandal involving staff in Haiti after a massive 2010 earthquake. The 86-year-old Nobel Peace laureate pulled out of public life in 2010 due to his advancing years but had continued to represent Oxfam even in retirement.



“We have tangible evidence of the destructive interference of some Western countries” in Russia's domestic affairs ahead of a presidential election next month. If it does not stop we will have to take tough counter-measures,”

- Maria Zakharova

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman



## House of Samsonite opens in Bahrain



The House of Samsonite is a format that offers all travel related solutions under one roof through Samsonite Group Portfolio brands like Samsonite, American Tourister, High Sierra and Lipault.

**1470**  
square feet store

Located in City Centre shopping mall, the newly inaugurated 'Yousif Abdul Wahab Al-Hawaj & Sons' Samsonite Store' enjoys an area of around 1470 square feet.



*Discover America Week*



U.S. Ambassador Justin Siberell, as part of the Discover America Week 2018, attended the store opening. He was taken on a tour of the shop by General Manager Abdul Wahab Al-Hawaj.

## Free Trade agreement

Siberell, highlighted the success of American products and franchises in Bahrain under the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (FTA). After the ceremony, he visited the Al Hawaj Store in City Centre Mall and then had dinner at the American franchise restaurant Shake Shack.



# Saudi signs deal to test blockchain payment tech



Dubai

Saudi Arabia's central bank has signed a deal with U.S.-based Ripple to help banks in the kingdom settle payments using blockchain software, as Gulf regulators begin to explore new forms of financial technology.

The pilot programme is the first of its kind to be launched by a central bank, allowing banks in Saudi Arabia to use Ripple's software to instantly settle payments sent into and out of the country, the company said late on Wednesday.

This will allow Saudi banks

to make faster, cheaper and more transparent cross-border transactions, Ripple said, adding that the central bank would provide training to Saudi banks interested in the program.

Most regulators in the Gulf initially expressed scepticism about fintech and last year the Saudi central bank warned citizens against trading bitcoin because it was outside the bank's regulatory reach.

But Bahrain, keen to boost its role as a regional financial center, has been exploring the use of digital currencies and in

the last few months, regulators in some larger Gulf economies have followed suit.

The Saudi central bank is working with the United Arab Emirates central bank to issue a digital currency that would be accepted in cross-border transactions between the two countries, UAE central bank governor Mubarak Rashed al-Mansouri told Reuters in December.

Earlier this week, the regulator of Abu Dhabi's international financial center said it might create rules for exchanges handling virtual currencies. (Reuters)

# Indian bank is cheated of \$1.8 billion in complex fraud

New Delhi

Indian investigators are probing a \$1.8 billion bank fraud, an official said Thursday, with a wealthy jeweller reportedly using fake bank documents to obtain overseas loans.

State-owned Punjab National Bank said in a Wednesday statement that the "fraudulent and unauthorised transactions" had been discovered in January in a single Mumbai bank branch "for the benefit of a few select account holders with their apparent connivance."

India's Central Bureau of Investigation began its probe soon after the bank made the discovery, said Abhishek Dayal, an agency

spokesman. Numerous Indian media outlets have linked the scam to billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi.

Authorities have not publicly accused Modi in the \$1.8 billion fraud but say he is under investigation for allegedly cheating Punjab National Bank of \$43 million by using fake bank "letters of understanding" to get loans. The official complaint says Modi, along with his wife, brother and business partner, worked with a pair of bank employees to get the letters.

None could be reached for comment Thursday.

Indian news reports say the alleged \$43 million scam is a part of the larger fraud.

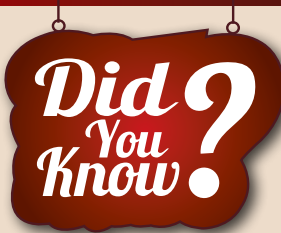
All left the country in early

January, before the alleged fraud was uncovered, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, quoting unidentified officials.

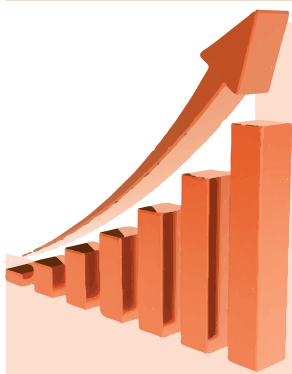
Bank officials say the \$1.8 billion scam appears to have gone on since 2011, but was only discovered in January. Most involved letters of understanding sent to overseas offices of Indian banks, which made the actual loans, said Sunil Mehta, Punjab National Bank's managing director.

Mehta said the fraud remained under investigation, but the bank would take responsibility where it should.

"The bank will honour all its bona fide commitments," Mehta said. (AP)



'Bimbo' is a brand of soft drink manufactured and marketed by Coca-Cola, Inc.



**BFC**  
CURRENCIES  
EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3020	0.2996
BANGLADESH	0.00479	0.00453
CANADA	0.3062	0.3029
DENMARK	0.0653	
EGYPT	0.0237	0.0219
EURO	0.4693	0.4668
HONGKONG	0.04967	0.04927
INDIA	0.00596	0.00591
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002832
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000317	
JAPAN	0.00363	0.003560
JORDAN	0.5359	0.5351
KOREA	0.00039788	
KUWAIT	1.261	1.261
MALAYSIA	0.0991	0.0982
NEW ZEALAND	0.2773	0.2774
NORWAY	0.0496	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00367
OMAN	0.98168	0.98301
PAKISTAN	0.00353	0.00341
PHILIPPINES	0.00763	0.00733
QATAR	0.10381	0.10397
SAUDI ARABIA	0.1006	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2888	0.2868
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03290	0.03280
SRI LANKA	0.00283	0.00244
SWEDISH	0.0498	
SWITZERLAND	0.4106	0.4074
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013600	
THAILAND	0.012090	0.012080
TURKEY	0.1044	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5304	0.5275
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	0.4026	0.3472
KUWAIT	0.2855	30.9967	0.3049	0.2630
OMAN	0.3849	0.3605	0.4110	0.3545
QATAR	3.6420	3.4107	3.8889	3.3545
UAE	3.6730	3.4398	3.9221	3.3831
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5119	4.0043	3.4540



**Dubai** Saudi Arabia's stock market rose yesterday, encouraged by strong global bourses and a slight rebound in oil prices, while hopes for an interest rate cut boosted Egypt. But much of the Gulf was sluggish because of mediocre corporate earnings. The Saudi index gained 1.2 per cent in a broad rally; gainers outnumbered losers by 140 to 39. Al Rajhi Bank added 2.9pc in its second heaviest trading volume this year. Saudi Investment Bank rose 2.9pc after saying it would pay an annual dividend of 0.6 riyal per share, up from 0.5 riyal for 2016. But telecommunications firm Mobily, which had plunged 7.1pc on Wednesday after reporting its fourth-quarter net loss more than doubled, dropped a further 2.3pc. In Dubai, the index edged

down 0.2pc as DAMAC Properties, which on Wednesday revealed a 47pc drop in fourth-quarter net profit, lost 1.2pc. The biggest real estate firm, Emaar Properties, slipped 0.3pc after it reported a 16pc fall in fourth-quarter net profit to 1.36 billion dirhams (\$370.3 million), below SICO Bahrain's forecast of 1.61 billion dirhams. Union Properties edged down 0.1pc after reporting an annual loss of 2.38 billion dirhams (\$649 million) against a year-ago profit of 211.4 million dirhams; the figures implied a fourth-quarter loss of roughly 90 million dirhams. In Abu Dhabi, the index slipped 0.3pc as telecommunications firm Etisalat fell 0.6pc. It posted a 12pc fall in quarterly profit to 1.97 billion dirhams, while SICO Bahrain had forecast 2.21 billion dirhams. Aldar Properties dropped 3.1pc after reporting a 28pc decline in full-year profit

**Closing Bell**

- SAUDI rose 1.2pc to 7,510 points.
- DUBAI fell 0.2pc to 3,330 points.
- ABU DHABI dropped 0.3pc to 4,577 points.
- QATAR fell 0.4pc to 9,028 points.
- EGYPT added 1.1pc to 14,966 points.
- KUWAIT slipped 0.2pc to 6,764 points.
- BAHRAIN fell 0.2pc to 1,340 points.
- OMAN added 0.2pc to 5,017 points.

attributable to owners, partly because of a one-time charge of 495 million dirhams. The company raised its annual dividend to 12 fils per share from 11 fils in 2016. Qatar's index fell 0.4pc as Mesaieed Petrochemical lost 1.4pc, despite reporting a slight rise in annual profit and a hike in its dividend to 0.7 riyal per share from 0.6 riyal. In Egypt, the index rose 1.1pc as real estate developer SODIC surged 7.0pc. Economists predicted the central bank would start a gradual easing of monetary policy at its meeting after the close on Thursday, thanks to falling inflation rates. (Reuters)



A delegation of the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), led by its President, Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery, took part in the 24th meeting of the Arab Fertilizer Union (AFA) in Cairo, Egypt. The event this year was held on the theme, Struggle for sustainable agriculture and environmental protection in the Arab world. The meeting discussed current policy developments and their impact on the fertiliser industry, future outlook and fertiliser status in major markets. It addressed issues related to future prospects as well as global developments in the fertiliser and food security markets.

It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure.  
**Bill Gates**



# CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Friday, February 16, 2018

11

## ISB organises Bahrain Sports Day

**T**he Indian School Bahrain (ISB) organised Bahrain Sports Day on Tuesday in compliance to the Ministry of Education directives to promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle.

The school held inter-house football, basketball and cricket matches in which students from four houses actively participated. The programme was conducted by the Physical education Teachers under the supervision of HOD Saikat Sarkar.

“The Bahrain National Sports Day is an excellent initiative to motivate staff and students to work out and instil the culture of sport as

a healthy lifestyle”, said ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan and Secretary Saji Antony.

On this occasion, the Indian School expresses its sincere thanks to the leadership for promoting this special day, which reinforces the concept of a cultural, sporting community and establishes the field of sports as a strategic base, they said.

“The Indian School’s physical education programs offer students the opportunity to not only be physically active today but the opportunity to teach skills and behaviours conducive to maintaining physical activity for a lifetime”, ISB Principal VR Palaniswamy said.



Highlights of the event

## NMS – DPS observes Bahrain Sports Day

**T**o commemorate the Bahrain Sports Day, a series of sporting events were held at the New Millennium School, DPS-Bahrain.

Students from the junior and senior sections of the school enthusiastically participated in various

sports events. The staff members competed with the students in a friendly football match.

Principal Arun Kumar Sharma addressed the students and emphasized the importance of sports in a student’s life. He

applauded the efforts of the students and the teachers for making the event a huge success.

He also thanked the Ministry of Education for giving opportunity to the Schools to be the part of Bahrain Sports Day.



Highlights of the event



Bahrain Indian School celebrated Bahrain Sports Day with Physical education exercises followed by Inter-house Basketball tournament. A game between Students and teachers were also organised. BIS Director Ritu Verma highlighted the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle and stressed the need of being sportive in every sphere of life.



Interior Minister Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah, in the presence of Chief of Public Security Major-General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan. The Minister pointed out that the National Plan to Respond to Emergencies and Nuclear Radiation is being reviewed for further development in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency to back local efforts in this regards.



The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Mubarak received Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment Justin Siberell. During the meeting, they reviewed a number of cooperation opportunities between Bahrain and USA. The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Assistant Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Eman Al Doseri and Economic Advisor to the Minister Dr. Schumann.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received JGC Group of Companies Vice Chairman Koichi Kawana and his accompanying delegation. The Minister reviewed with them the latest plans in the electricity, water and renewable energy sectors. The visitors informed the minister about their latest investment activities in Bahrain and the region and opportunities for cooperation.



Cabinet Affairs Minister Mohammed Al Mutawa received UAE Ambassador Abdelridha Abdullah Al Khoury. The minister praised the exemplary ties based on kinship and shared destiny between the two countries and peoples, noting the ambassador's efforts in boosting cooperation in various fields.



President of the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB) Shaikh Salman bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa received the outgoing UAE Ambassador Abdul Ridha Abdulla Al Khoury. SLRB president praised the distinguished Bahraini-UAE relations, and the steady growth of their joint cooperation.



Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) CEO Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa received Georgian Ambassador Giorgi Janjgava. During the meeting, BTEA CEO stressed on the importance of bilateral relations and further enhancing areas of cooperation between both countries across all fields especially the tourism sector.



In cooperation with INJAZ Bahrain, AKhalifa Foundation (MKF) hosted a program is aimed at discovering the talents of young women and encouraging them to embark on a career in technology. The program focuses on finding innovative solutions to the challenges of the future through creativity, innovative thinking, and teamwork.



Muhammad Qasir (M.D Relax Event Management Company) organized first time Live Bhangra, Folk, Pop, Rap music event by Pakistani singer Malkoo. The Chief Guest was Murad Wazir (H.O.C. Pakistan Embassy Bahrain).



Toastmasters Area 12 (Division B, District 20) conducted Speech Contest of the competition with Area and Division Directors and the contest officials.



Al Zayani received newly-appointed US Ambassador... common issues and the development of bilateral relations. Undersecretary of Commerce Affairs Nader Al Moayyed, Economic & Commercial Officer of the US Embassy Gary...



Saudi Health Minister Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah has visited Engineer Health Centre and was briefed about medical facilities and services. Present were Supreme Council for Health (SCH) President Lieutenant-General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al-Khalifa and Health Minister Faeqa bint Said Al-Saleh. Saudi Health Minister is leading a high-level delegation on visit to Bahrain to be updated on health services and the prospects of cooperation between the two countries.



Southern Governor HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa received the outgoing Japanese Ambassador Kiyoshi Asako. The ambassador conveyed to the governor a verbal message of thanks and appreciation addressed by Emperor Akihito of Japan to Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa in reply to his congratulations on Japan's National Day and the emperor's birthday.



As part of Discover America Week 2018, US Ambassador Justin Siberell visited "The Avenues-Bahrain" shopping complex where he was welcomed by the Director of the Avenues-Bahrain, James Waugh. The Director took the ambassador on a tour of American outlets and franchises at the complex. Ambassador stopped and met employees at many of the US retailers, noting the success of American products and franchises in Bahrain under the Bahrain-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA).



Rayaat Scholarship Program of AlMabarrah the 'Innovation Camp' workshop. The entrepreneurial spirit of students and motivation in the field of economy. The workshop focused on the challenges of the business world through teamwork.



Gulf Marcom Team participated in the 1.7km marathon Color run which was held at the Sports Village by Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) to mark the 2nd Bahrain Sports day.



Winners at Indian Delights Restaurant, Salmaniya, In picture, winners...



On the occasion of Bahrain National Sports Day, Lulu Hypermarket announced its support of the Al Najma Club Football Team for the current season. To mark the occasion, Club President Isa Hasan Alqattan joined Lulu Hypermarket Director for Egypt & Bahrain Juzer Rupawala to unveil the smart club football jersey emblazoned with the player number, club logo and Lulu logo.

# CELEBS



Ricky Martin @ricky\_martin  
My heart is with all the families of the victims in  
#Florida #GunControl



STARRY  
*Birthday*  
The Weeknd

February 16, 1990

Born Abel Tesfaye, he is an R&B performer whose debut album, *Trilogy*, was gold-certified. He has won multiple awards, including a Juno Award for Breakthrough Artist of the Year.

## Janney's special Oscar moment

Los Angeles

Actress Allison Janney says it is an extraordinary feeling to see 'Oscar nominee' put in front of her name.

The actress has been nominated for an Oscar for the first time in the Best Supporting Actress category for her role as Tonya Harding's mother LaVona Golden in biopic "I, Tonya".

"It's pretty extraordinary to hear that phrase in front of my name: 'Oscar nominee'. I'm having a special moment right now.

It feels pretty exciting," *hollywoodreporter.com* quoted Janney as saying. (IANS)



## SEYDOUX JOINS DIRECTOR ENYEDI'S NEXT

Actor Lea Seydoux has joined the cast of 'The Story of My Wife', the new film from Hungarian director Ildiko Enyedi. Enyedi's 'On Body and Soul' won the Golden Bear at last year's Berlin Film Festival and is a nominee for the Best Foreign-Language film Oscar.

According to report, Seydoux and Norwegian actor Anders Baasmo Christiansen will play a married couple in the twisted love story, an adaptation of the novel of the same name from Hungarian poet and writer Milan Fust.

Fust's novel was first published in Hungary in 1942. (PTI)



## If I'm Meryl Streep, pay me well

Los Angeles

Actress Viola Davis says she is compared to icons like Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Sigourney Weaver but she is nowhere close to them when it comes to remunerations and job opportunities.

At a session here, the award-winning actress opened up about feeling underpaid and overlooked throughout her 30-year career, reports *people.com*.

"I have a career that's probably comparable to Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Sigourney Weaver," Davis said.

"They all came out of Yale, they came out of Juilliard, they came out of New York University. They had the same path as me, and yet I am nowhere near them. Not as far as money, not as far as job opportunities, nowhere close to it."

Davis, who is black, said her compensation has not been comparable to her white contemporaries. (IANS)



## Now you know it



American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift's first single was called Tim McGraw, which reached the top ten songs for the country charts in 2006. (*thefactsite*)

# DEV PATEL TO STAR IN DAVID COPPERFIELD FILM

Los Angeles

**I**ndian-origin British actor Dev Patel is set to play David Copperfield in the new retelling of Charles Dickens' story—"The Personal History of David Copperfield".

Reportedly, the film will be directed and written by 'Veep' creator Armando Iannucci.

The project will offer a modern take on Dickens' title character as he navigates a chaotic world to find his elusive place within it.

The original 'David Copperfield' was first published in 1850 and describes the journey of the titular protagonist, from impoverished childhood to becoming a successful author, thanks to perseverance and despite a lack of personal discipline. (IANS)



# I'm quite a private person

Los Angeles

**A**ctor Gary Oldman says he is a private person and not good with crowds.

It has been a good year for Oldman. He won a Golden Globe, a SAG Awards honour, tributes at the Santa Barbara and Palm Springs film festivals for his role as Winston Churchill in the film "Darkest Hour".

"This has all taken some getting used to," *latimes.com* quoted Oldman as saying.

"I'm quite a private person. I've never been any good with crowds. It's all very nice. No complaints.

But there's an energy of people coming at you that you absorb. It's quite frenetic," he added. (IANS)



# Tessa to star as jewel thief Doris Payne

**T**essa Thompson has been chosen to essay the role of notorious jewellery thief-Doris Payne.

The source revealed the news that was later substantiated by the 'Thor: Ragnarok' actor herself.

The 34-year-old actress took to Twitter to express her excitement, "After chasing Doris and her story for years- and then keeping this secret for awhile- I'm screaming that this dream is coming true. She is a deeply fascinating woman.

So pleased to bring this story to the screen with CodeBlack & Lionsgate. Beyond grateful".

Thompson will portray the character of Payne, a woman who gained notoriety for her jewel heists across the world. (ANI)



**God's Plan**  
Drake



**Finesse**  
Bruno Mars & Cardi B



**Pray For Me**  
The Weeknd & Kendrick Lamar



**Havana**  
Camila Cabello  
Featuring Young Thug



**Stir Fry**  
Migos



**Rockstar**  
Post Malone Featuring  
21 Savage



**Meant To Be**  
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# TOP 10 Songs this Week

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## HOW TO REACH US

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



## SCENAMADRE

**Date: 27 March - 27 May 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm**

**Venue: Bahrain National Theatre**

In celebration of the World Theatre Day, the Bahrain National Theatre hosts SCENAMADRE, an exhibition curated by the Accademia Albertina Di Belle Arte in Torino, Italy. The display features a collection of models that illustrate the history of theatre set design and highlights the story of scenic architecture in the world of theatre, scenography and stage design.

## MUSIC AND MIRRORS BY JAMAL ABDULRAHIM

**Date: 4 - 30 April 2018, 9:00am - 8:00pm**

**Venue: Art Centre**

Bahraini Artist, Jamal Abdulrahim, has been presenting abstract and experimental art throughout his 30 years of works. Such works were representations of his continuous studies and research of lines, colours and compositions. In this upcoming solo exhibition, Music and Mirrors, Jamal Abdulrahim revisits the Realism school of art and presents his newly developed approach to this classic school.

## AFTER WORK BARBEQUE @ OASIS

**Date: Every Thursday**

**Venue: Ramada Bahrain Adliya**

Bring your colleagues and friends and start your weekend with us! Enjoy unlimited Food and Beverage for only BD 14++. Every Thursday from 5:30 PM until 9:00 PM. See you!!! For more information, please call +973 17742000 or visit our website: www.ramadabahrain.com

## BAHRAINI FARMER'S MARKET

**Date: till 31st March 2018**

**Venue: Budaiya Botanical Gardens**

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

## FOOD IS CULTURE III

**Date: 21 January - 25 February 2018, 7:00-9:00pm**

**Venue: Bahrain National Museum**

Food is Culture is a creative experimental project that aims to bridge together the mediums of art and food. Running in parallel with the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, this experiment sheds light on creative processes that take place when two individuals (from different creative disciplines) collaborate. Every year five artists and five chefs get together and work to produce a creative product; be it a painting, installation, video, cake, drink, all or something completely different. The result of their two months' work, which is documented in a short film and a publication, will be presented during the course of the week, where they share and display their collective creations.

## MOVENPICK HOTEL

**Date: Every Monday**

**Venue: Silk's restaurant**

**Time: 7.00 pm to 11.00pm**

**Seafood Night - The freshest catch of the day**

Experience a unique medley of super succulent seafood delicacies and taste the freshest catch every Monday on Seafood Night at Silk's restaurant. What makes it an ideal night out for seafood lovers? The best selection of popular and traditional seafood dishes. On the buffet table

is a vast range of aquatic delicacies, from sushi, sashimi, seafood dim sum, tempura, oysters, slipper lobster and tiger prawns, to popular fish such as grouper and red snapper. Our talented team of chefs will prepare your favourite catch, just the way you like it. Seafood Night is priced at BD 24 net and BHD 29 net per person including unlimited selected wines, beers and soft drinks from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm. For more information, call +973 17 460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com.

## KABABNA

**Date: Every Tuesday**

**Venue: Silk's restaurant**

**Time: 7.00pm to 11.00pm**

Grilled to perfection at Silk's restaurant. Embark on a delicious journey of kebabs every Tuesday evening. Join us for dinner at Silk's restaurant and bite into succulent grilled kebabs with your choice from 16 different marinades. We'll turn, char and cook them to mouth-watering perfection. Try our signature Arabic Salad Island, a carefully prepared selection for guests to enjoy, complimented by freshly squeezed refreshments at only BHD 18 net or BD 30 including unlimited selected wine and beer. Call +973 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com for bookings.

## THURSDAY NIGHT OUT

**Date: Every Thursday**

**Venue: Gallery lobby and Silk's restaurant**

**Time: 7.00pm to 11.00pm**

Relish prime US beef, unlimited exotic cocktails, beers, wines and gourmet food cooked to perfection every Thursday at Silk's restaurant from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm. To set the perfect mood for an eventful night, our resident DJ will be playing tunes as guests dine for only BHD 32.00 net per person, including unlimited beverages. Call +973 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com for bookings.

## SWISS FONDUE

**Date: Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday**  
**Venue: Silk's restaurant and Outdoor terrace**

**Time: 7 pm onwards**

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**Venue: Gallery lobby, Silk's restaurant and Flamingo bar**

**Time: 12.30 PM to 4.00pm**

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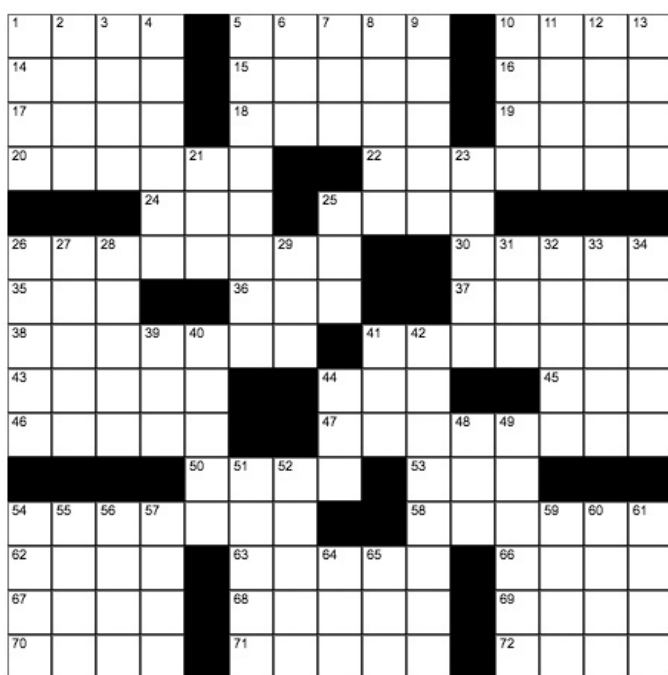
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# CROSSWORD



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### Across

1 Again; 5 Wake Island, e.g.; 10 Domesticate; 14 "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 15 Forget it!; 16 Olive genus; 17 Barbershop request; 18 Goes into business; 19 Makes brown; 20 Refrigerator; 22 Macaroon flavoring; 24 Actor Vigoda; 25 Narrate; 26 Veteran; 30 Available; 35 Year in Edward the Confessor's reign; 36 Hosp. section; 37 Like Eric the Red; 38 Codfish; 41 Recluse; 43 \_\_\_ nous; 44 Weeding implement; 45 Jazzman Adderley; 46 Way to cook; 47 Engrave; 50 Mayberry lad; 53 Golf prop; 54 Bess's predecessor; 58 Humbert Humbert's obsession; 62 In \_\_\_ land; 63 One tenth, usually; 66 "Rhyme Pays" rapper; 67 Eastern nanny; 68 Romanov rulers; 69 Change direction; 70 Part of an eye or camera; 71 Clogs, e.g.; 72 Whirlpool;

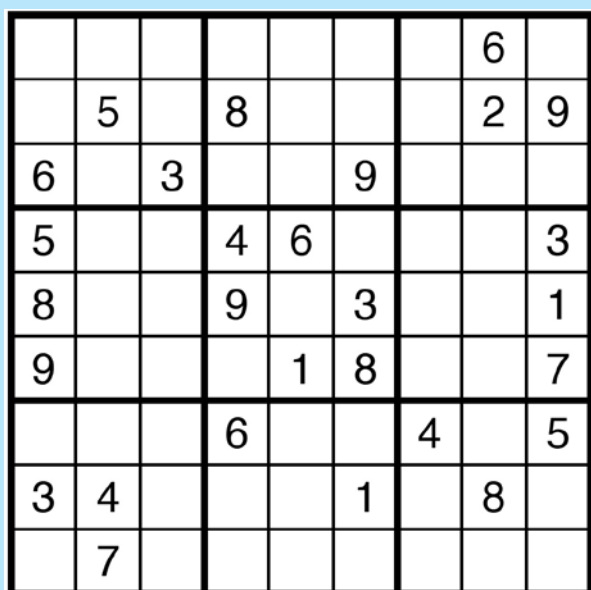
### Down

1 Prefix with meter; 2 Pusher pursuer; 3 Writer Wiesel; 4 Burrowing marsupial; 5 Deficiency of oxygen; 6 Summit; 7 Be in the hole; 8 Knight's weapon; 9 Disinfectant brand; 10 Dorothy's dog; 11 King of comedy; 12 Course list?; 13 Bridge seat; 21 Japanese sash; 23 Duplicate; 25 Capote, to friends; 26 Old card game; 27 Grassy plain; 28 Judicial rulings; 29 Environmental prefix; 31 \_\_\_ de guerre; 32 Singer Lopez; 33 Take \_\_\_ at (try); 34 Golfer Calvin; 39 Horace's "\_\_\_ Poetica"; 40 Divulge; 41 Great length of time; 42 Uneasy; 44 Get a move on; 48 Corp. honcho; 49 Experience again; 51 Annie of "Designing Women"; 52 Whiskey type; 54 Airline to Tel Aviv; 55 Hobbling; 56 Enthusiastic liveliness; 57 Sounds of relief; 59 Chilled; 60 Prepared to drive; 61 Give it \_\_\_; 64 Chinese "way"; 65 Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.;

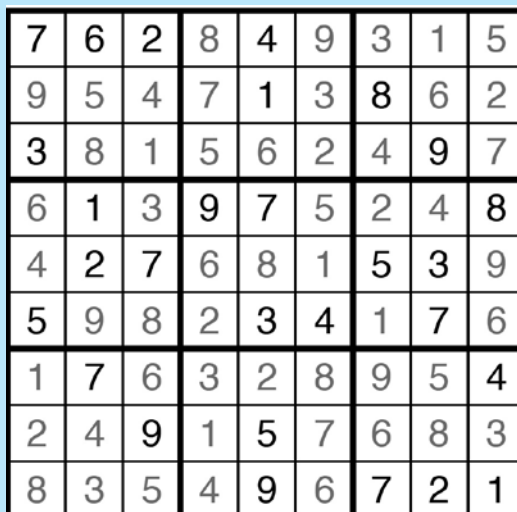
## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU



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

## Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Your home might need some work today. You and other members of your household could decide to join forces and get everything done. This might simply involve a thorough cleaning, or it could mean major repairs of some sort, perhaps plumbing or electrical. If the latter, it isn't a good idea to try to do this yourself.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Expect a lot of letters and phone calls from lovers, close friends, or children today. You might also want to make a few yourself. Some positive and interesting information may have come your way that you'll want to share with those close to you. You could also want to try your hand at writing. You'll want to make sure that you remember whatever it is you learn today.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Studying some paperwork involving your finances could bring a pleasant surprise. You're better off than you thought! Dividends or benefits of some kind might be forthcoming. You could decide to treat yourself, buy some gifts for your family, or perhaps do some work on your home. Do take care to avoid impulse buying, and don't go crazy spending. You don't want your funds to disappear as quickly as they came!

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Today some information might come your way that inspires you to come up with some valuable new ideas. Your own intuitive faculties are operating at a very high level, and therefore your insights could prove valuable. Make sure you cover every possible contingency. This knowledge could be used to advance your own career and financial interests.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Your intuition, physical and intellectual energy, and insight are at an all-time high today. You'll probably want to spend much of the day alone, reflecting on your ideas and deciding how you want to put them to work for you. At some point, you may want to put your thoughts in writing.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



You could well be bubbling over with physical energy today. You might want to spend your day visiting with friends. You could pick up some interesting information from them, which you might be able to put to work for you. You could lay plans for finally attaining a long-term goal; perhaps a lucky break made this possible. Expect to spend most of your day talking and planning!

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Visitors in your home, perhaps invited by others in your household, could put a crimp in your desire to be alone and hash out your thoughts today. Your mind is sharp and ideas should come thick and fast. Don't get so irritated with the situation at home that you sabotage your plans. You might want to go off somewhere by yourself.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



You're very intuitive by nature, and today you should be feeling especially so. Don't be surprised if you spontaneously tune in to the ideas and emotions of those around you, or even if you and someone else come up with the same words at the same time. Use your insights to increase your understanding of others. You might also find that they bring artistic inspiration.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



This should be one of those days when you feel as if you could conquer the world. You feel strong and determined, and willing to do whatever it takes to get wherever you want to be. A goal could be attained at this time, ambitions realized, or perhaps a lucky break could come your way. This is an excellent day to seek a new job, ask for a raise, or make a favourite project a success.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



A business or love partner could bring opportunities for advancement your way today. You may decide to draft or execute legal papers that could be very important to your future. Travel might somehow be involved. Romance looks promising today. Your confidence and enthusiasm are showing in your face and could make you seem more attractive than usual.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



The hard work and good business sense that you've put into your job may finally be paying off. Expect some positive changes to take place at the workplace this week. Today you're likely to be feeling especially energetic and decide to give your house a thorough cleaning. Don't try to do this on your own, however. You need to conserve your energy.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Insights that may come welling up from the past could be put to work for you in a positive way. You could use them as inspiration for a creative project of some kind, or you could just make them work for you in your day-to-day dealings with others. You should be feeling especially romantic today, and you might want to go shopping for clothes made of soft, touchable fabrics.

# Tallest wooden skyscraper set for Tokyo in 2041

**Tokyo** Japanese architects have unveiled plans for the world's tallest wooden skyscraper.

The 1,148-foot (350-metre) tower, housing shops, homes, offices and a hotel, will become the tallest building in Japan when it is completed in 2041.

Positioned in central Tokyo, the aim of the £4.2 billion (\$5.9 billion) structure is to turn the Japanese capital into an environment-friendly city and help 'transform the city into a forest', architects behind the plans said.

Designs for the structure were drawn up by Tokyo-based architectural firm

Nikken Sikkei, but the building will be constructed by the Forestry arm of the Sumitomo Group, one of Japan's largest business conglomerates.

Currently referred to as the W350 Project, named after its height, it is not clear which woods have been chosen as the building material.

The tower has 70 stories above ground and is made of a combination of wood and steel, with more than 6.5 million cubic feet (0.2 million cubic metres) of wood making up 90 per cent of the construction material.

Nikken Sekkei's plans outline a braced tube structure that is able to

withstand strong winds, as well as Japan's frequent earthquakes.

As well as offices, a hotel, shops and residential units, the completed tower will feature a garden roof, balconies covered with greenery, water features and large internal open spaces filled with natural light.

Brock Commons Tallwood House, a 174-foot-high (53-metre) student accommodation tower opened at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, last autumn, holds the current record for the world's tallest primarily wooden building. (MailOnline)



W350 Project

## Woman joins handbag in X-ray machine

**Dongguan**

A woman in China caused a stir when she climbed into an X-ray machine during a security check at a railway station in Dongguan, Guangdong province, local media reported.

Security staff at the station got a shock when they saw an image of a person appearing on their X-ray machine display on Sunday, Pear Video reported.

This turned out to be a woman who - concerned about losing the money in her handbag - climbed into the X-ray machine with it when asked to put the bag through



Screengrab from a video showing an X-ray image of the woman inside the machine

the security check, the report said.

A video shows the woman emerging from the machine and climbing off the belt.

Two X-ray images showed an outline of the woman kneeling on all fours among the luggage on the belt. (CNA)

### #PollToday



Do you think Duterte is sending all of Philippine forces on bounty hunting with his latest offer?

Yes  No  Cant Say



"I really hope that the talks on Brexit will take a turn, so that no damage will be incurred for anyone. I'm not a big optimist. So far I haven't seen any progress than can really reassure me."

Boyko Borisov  
Bulgarian Prime Minister

### Rest in sight

Vatican denies ex-pope disease



The Vatican denied a German magazine report that former Pope Benedict was suffering from a paralyzing disease of the nervous system.

Two Russians jailed in US for hacking

Two Russians were sentenced to 12 years and four years in prison, respectively, for hacking computer networks of major companies in the US.

Ethiopian PM submits resignation

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has submitted a letter of resignation, amid protracted anti-government protests and nationwide state of emergency last year.

Berlusconi claims he ended Cold War

Former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi has made many claims in the course of Italy's rough-and-tumble election campaign, and he added another: he was the key architect behind the end of the Cold War.

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## S.Africa lawmakers choose Ramaphosa to succeed Zuma



President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa addresses MPs after being elected president

**Cape Town**

South African lawmakers formally named wealthy former businessman Cyril Ramaphosa as new president yesterday after scandal-tainted Jacob Zuma resigned under intense pressure from his own party.

Ramaphosa, the only candidate, was approved without a vote by the parliament in Cape Town, chief justice Mogoeng Mogoeng told assembled lawmakers, to loud cheers.

Zuma announced his resignation late Wednesday, and aimed barbs at the African National Congress (ANC) party for vowing to

oust him via a no-confidence vote in parliament.

In a 30-minute televised address, Zuma said he had "come to the decision to resign as president of the republic with immediate effect".

"I have only asked my party to articulate my transgressions and the reason for its immediate instruction that I vacate office," he said.

Zuma, 75, had been embroiled in a divisive power struggle with Ramaphosa, the deputy president.

Ramaphosa won control of the ANC when he was elected as its head in December. (AFP)

## Samba school with anti-graft message triumphs at Rio Carnival



The Beija-Flor samba school parades during the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro

**Rio De Janeiro**

Decrying rampant corruption and social problems in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro's Beija-Flor samba school clinched first place on Wednesday after a two-night parade showdown that crowned Carnival festivities in the sweltering city.

Beija Flor triumphed over 12 other schools with a theme that depicted government employees with gold-lined briefcases and corruption-plagued state oil giant Petrobras turned into a favela, as performers enacted a shoot-out in a school classroom near a coffin containing a young child.

"You call me brother so much, and you abandon me to the throne," the dancers sang. "Greed wears a suit and tie, where hope succumbed."

Anger at corruption reached a fever pitch in Brazil

after a criminal investigation revealed collusion between company executives and politicians to bilk Petrobras out of billions of dollars by overcharging the oil company for contracts.

The samba schools spend months preparing elaborate parades that can cost upwards of \$2 million and feature over-the-top floats and heavily costumed dancers that prance across a 700-meter runway in Rio's sambodrome, as they vie for the prize of bragging rights alone.

Even as some fans spent over \$1,000 to witness the annual parades, Rio was overrun by violence. Actress Juliana Paes was held up by assailants just outside the samba venue and over a hundred were arrested for taking part in thefts during the holiday, despite a ramp-up in security. (Reuters)



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

# Duterte offers kill bounty for rebels to save on war costs

## He aims at armed militia members of Communist Party

### Manila

The Philippine president offered a nearly \$500 bounty for each communist rebel killed by government forces to save on anti-insurgency costs and said insurgents are easier to hit than birds because they have bigger heads.

President Rodrigo Duterte's latest crass remarks, which the government issued to reporters late Wednesday, came after human rights groups condemned him this week for saying troops should shoot female communist guerrillas in the genitals to render them "useless."

"You kill an NPA today and I'll pay you 25,000" pesos, Duterte said in a speech at an air base in central Cebu city, referring to New People's Army guerrillas.

"I was computing that if this drags on for four years ... it'll be very expensive because it's war. If I'll just pay 25,000 for a life, I can save about 47 percent," he said to laughter from the crowd.

There was no elaboration on how he came up with those figures and whether or how the government would pay for claimed kills. Backing up his offer, the brash-talking president encouraged state forces to go for the kill.

"If you work really hard to crawl across the forest, you'll surely be able to shoot even just one. If you can shoot a bird above you, then how much more an NPA whose head is so big?" Duterte said, again eliciting laughter from the crowd.

Regional rebel commander Jaime Padilla, who uses the nom de guerre Ka Diego, said Duterte wouldn't scare the guerrillas into ending their uprising even if he offers a million pesos for each rebel killed because the rebellion has been fuelled by deep social ills such as poverty for nearly a century.

"These are not remarks of a sane president," Padilla

said by telephone. "These are words of a thug or a goon, who reigns like a king in our country."

He said the guerrillas remain open to resuming stalled talks with the administration despite the president's "fascist" style.

Human Rights Watch said Duterte's remarks encourage government forces to commit war crimes instead of instilling a culture of accountability in accordance with international law.

"Duterte's pronouncements normalize the idea that government security forces can do as they wish to defeat their enemies, including committing summary

executions and sexual violence," said Carlos Conde of the U.S.-based rights group.

The volatile president turned up the rhetoric against the communist guerrillas after peace talks brokered by Norway collapsed last year when he protested continuing rebel attacks on government forces. When a rebel leader recently warned that the guerrillas could kill one soldier a day, Duterte countered by threatening to kill five rebels daily and offering to train tribesmen as militias and give them bounties to kill the insurgents.

Duterte is already under international criticism

and facing a preliminary investigation by the International Criminal Court for thousands of deaths in the war on drugs he initiated after becoming president two years ago.

He lashed out at his critics and asked why the ICC was focusing on him when atrocities were occurring elsewhere.

"There are Rohingya who are being slaughtered, but they only chose to indict me. OK, you asked for it, let's have a trial. I will cross-examine you," said Duterte, a former state prosecutor, referring to Muslims fleeing from violence and persecution in Myanmar. (AP)

## First transgender officer joins Philippine army reserves

### Manila

The Philippine military has welcomed its first transgender officer, the defence department said yesterday, swearing in a prominent member of Congress as a reservist.

Geraldine Roman, 50, who became the Catholic-majority nation's first transgender person elected to Congress in 2016, took her oath on Wednesday.

"That indeed makes her the first transgender officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines," defence department spokesman Arsenio Andolong said in a statement.

"Her being part of the (military) underscores the fact that gender is not an issue when it comes to serving the country," he added.

The Philippine military frequently inducts prominent figures like legislators and cabinet members as reserve officers.

Roman was appointed as a lieutenant colonel in the army reserves, alongside two fellow



Geraldine Roman, 50, who became the Catholic-majority nation's first transgender person elected to Congress in 2016, took her oath on Wednesday

House of Representatives members, the statement added.

"War and disaster do not recognise gender, it affects everybody, and everyone must defend and serve our communities, and our country," the statement

quoted her saying during the ceremony.

Born to a politically prominent family based near Manila, Roman changed her gender in the 1990s.

Her political success has been hailed by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender

(LGBT) campaigners in a conservative society where divorce and same-sex marriage are both banned.

The Philippine military last year announced it would accept LGBT applicants "as long as they act and move with dignity". (AFP)

## Pakistan asks Trump to help fund Afghanistan border fence



A Pakistani soldier keeps guard at the Friendship Gate, a crossing point on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

### Miranshah, Pakistan

Pakistan is building a fence along its border with Afghanistan, and it wants Donald Trump to pay for it – or at least some of it.

The 1,800-mile barrier being constructed will help end "the prolonged agony" of the Afghan war and reduce terrorism inside Pakistan, said Nasir Khan Janjua, the national security adviser to Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the prime minister.

Janjua said that Pakistan would like the US president to pay for the barrier – or at least the Afghan side – arguing that the \$532m (£378m) price tag will be a lot cheaper than the \$45bn annual estimated cost of the Afghan war.

At a briefing in Miranshah, the main town in North

Waziristan – one of the semi-autonomous Federally Administered Tribal Areas – Pakistani officials laid out a timetable for construction of the 10ft wire fence running the length of the porous border with Afghanistan.

In a bunker at the headquarters of the army's 7th Infantry Division, Col Wasi Uddin said 11,136 border posts and 443 forts are being installed on the Pakistani side – seven times more than on the Afghan side.

Uddin said Pakistan planned to complete the fence by 2019, apart from a section in the extreme north of the country. The border will be fitted with underground movement sensors and a network of CCTV cameras, Uddin said. (theguardian)

# Svindal clinches downhill gold

## Pyeongchang

Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal became the oldest Olympic alpine skiing champion as he held off Kjetil Jansrud to win downhill gold at the age of 35.

He finished 0.12 seconds ahead of compatriot Jansrud, with Swiss world champion Beat Feuz taking bronze in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Svindal won super-G gold at Vancouver 2010 but finished fourth when favourite for the downhill at Sochi 2014.

"It feels pretty good. I'm extremely happy," said Svindal.

"The record is a thing you think about after, but right now it's just the emotions when you cross the finish line and you see that you're ahead. That's bigger than any record."

Svindal tore his anterior cruciate ligament in a crash in January 2016 and only won his first World Cup downhill race since then in December 2017.

Defending champion Matthias Mayer finished seventh. The Austrian was a surprise winner in Sochi four years ago, clinching gold despite never finishing higher than fifth in a World Cup downhill before. (BBC)



Mikaela Shiffrin from the United States  
(Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

## Shiffrin wins giant slalom gold

### Pyeongchang

American star Mikaela Shiffrin won giant slalom gold in the first of her four events in Pyeongchang.

The 22-year-old, who is expected to challenge for a record four golds in South Korea, finished 0.39 seconds ahead of Norway's Ragnhild Mowinckel.

Shiffrin, slalom gold medallist at Sochi 2014, has pulled out of the super G but is set to race in the downhill, combined and slalom.

Italy's Federica Brignone took

bronze, almost half a second behind Shiffrin.

Shiffrin dropped to her knees and sobbed with joy when victory was confirmed.

"I don't know how to explain it. It's crazy. There's so much emotion," she said.

"I have a lot of events to do still so I have to refocus my energy, but to come to the Olympics after some tough races on the World Cup circuit and to charge like that, it's super cool." (BBC)



Ted-Jan Bloemen (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

### Pyeongchang

Canada's Ted-Jan Bloemen won 10,000m speed skating gold on his Winter Olympics debut as the Games record was broken twice in Pyeongchang.

The 31-year-old, who switched allegiance in 2015 after failing to make the Netherlands team, won in a record 12 minutes 39.77 seconds. He finished 2.21secs ahead of Dutchman Jorrit Bergsma, who earlier broke his own record at Gangneung Oval.

Italy's Nicola Tumolero took bronze, 14.55secs behind Bloemen.

Sven Kramer, who won the 5,000m on Sunday to earn his eighth Olympic title, was unable to add the one gold that has eluded him throughout his career.

## Bloemen sets Olympic record

## Haga produces stunning display

### Pyeongchang

Norway's Ragnhild Haga produced a stunning display to win the women's cross-country skiing 10km freestyle gold by over 20 seconds at the Winter Olympics. Haga clocked 25 minutes 00.5 seconds to finish ahead of 2010 champion Charlotte Kalla from Sweden.

Norway's Marit Bjoergen and Finland's Krista Parmakoski finished tied for the bronze medal, 31.9 seconds behind Haga.

Great Britain's Annika Taylor finished 75th out of 90.

Taylor stopped the clock at 30 minutes and 52.9

seconds, nearly six minutes behind Haga. Haga has already claimed a handful of World Cup podium finishes this season and is ninth in the overall standings, with 16 of the last 19 World Cup 10km freestyle races won by Norwegians. (BBC)

## MEDAL TABLE

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. Germany	9	2	4	15
2. Norway	6	7	4	17
3. Netherlands	5	5	2	12
4. United States	5	1	2	8
5. Canada	4	5	4	13

Aksel Lund Svindal celebrates  
(Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

Ragnhild Haga

# Mane nets hat-trick as Liverpool win



## Liverpool

**Sadio Mane** scored a hat-trick and Mohamed Salah continued his phenomenal run with a 30th goal of the season as Liverpool won 5-0 at Porto to virtually assure themselves a Champions League quarterfinal place.

Mane was in the right place at the right time to score twice in the first half before rifling home his hat trick just before the end, to overshadow the exploits of Salah, whose brilliant individual effort made him the second fastest to the 30-goal landmark in the club's history and the quickest for 122 years.

Roberto Firmino also had an outstanding game and his goal -- his seventh in Europe this season, with only Cristiano Ronaldo scoring more -- was just reward for the Brazilian.

It ensured a comfortable night in the Estadio do Dragao as the Reds' first knockout encounter in nine years at this level passed without major incident.

Liverpool's 28 goals is more than anyone else in the Champions League this term, with 25 coming in their last five games.

It was only their third win in Portugal in 11 attempts but, if they were looking for omens on the two previous occasions -- at Benfica in 1978 and 1984 -- they went on to win the European Cup.

Porto, without injured five-goal top scorer from the group stage Vincent Aboubakar, had won 13 of their last 15 games and conceded just once in the last six, and the early signs were that they would be tough opponents.

A desperate lunge from Dejan Lovren deflected Otavio's shot just over Loris Karius' crossbar as a game of cat-and-mouse developed in the opening 20 minutes.

But with Liverpool dominating possession it was only a matter of time before a team with this firepower would find a way through.

When it came, in the 26th minute, it may have owed something to the conditions with rain swirling around the pitch as it had the city all day.

Georginio Wijnaldum's pass reached Mane on the left of the area and his shot squirmed under Jose Sa despite the goalkeeper getting a hefty touch.

If that was the nerve-settler, the second goal was a cause for celebration, coming after James Milner cut in from the left and lashed a right-footed shot against the far post. (PA Sport)

Liverpool's Sadio Mane celebrates (Pic courtesy: AP)

# Real Madrid sink PSG

## Madrid

**Cristiano Ronaldo** scored twice and Marcelo got another as Real Madrid came from a goal down to take a 3-1 lead over Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their Champions League clash at the Bernabeu.

Madrid began at a fierce pace and won an early corner from which they felt Toni Kroos had been fouled, only for the referee -- after giving himself some thinking time -- to wave away the appeals.

Before five minutes had passed Madrid had created more danger, with Cristiano Ronaldo fizzing an effort across goal.

PSG were struggling for a foothold at a raucous Bernabeu and were under pressure again when keeper Alphonse Areola saved from Kroos with seven minutes gone.

Five minutes later, Areola clutched a Marcelo cross after more purposeful Madrid build-up -- but within seconds, PSG could have been in front.

The chance arrived when Marco Verratti fed Neymar,

whose cross was cleared by Raphael Varane with Edinson Cavani waiting to pounce.

With a quarter of an hour gone, Neymar went into the book after a foul on Nacho and, as the game began to settle, the Brazilian saw another dangerous cross cut out.

At the other end, Marquinhos headed clear as Ronaldo lurked, but with 25 minutes played the home side had another chance to test Areola but Ronaldo

blasted his free kick over from just outside the box.

Neymar tried to set up Kylian Mbappe, only for the striker to fail to control, before Marcelo put Ronaldo through with a superb pass on the half-hour but, one-on-one with Areola, the Portugal captain blasted straight at him.

He was made to regret it after 33 minutes when PSG grabbed an away goal, Adrien Rabiot finishing stylishly when the ball was flicked to him by Neymar after a counter down the right.

Ronaldo curled another effort over, but suddenly the tide had turned and Cavani was close to adding a second when his effort was blocked.

But with half-time looming and Areola having denied Karim Benzema with a superb save, Madrid were awarded a penalty when Lo Celso --already booked for an earlier foul -- shoved Kroos and Ronaldo made it 1-1. (Esn)



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates

# Man stole £5m from wife to buy Club

## Dubai

**The man** who owned Portsmouth for six weeks during an ill-fated spell in 2009 has been sentenced to five years in a United Arab Emirates jail for stealing £5m from his wife to fund the purchase.

Sulaiman Al Fahim, who also fronted the Abu Dhabi United Group's deal to buy Manchester City in 2008, was found guilty of forgery, using forged documents and aiding and abetting.

He and an accomplice were found to have stolen the money used to buy Pompey from Sacha Gaydamak, with Al Fahim soon selling the club to Ali Al Faraj.

Al Fahim, 42, did not attend the hearing and was sentenced in his absence.

Prosecutors said that Al Fahim's wife discovered the money was missing after the returns she had expected from a high interest rate account she opened in 2009 did not come in.

She said she contacted the bank's accounts manager, but he "kept stalling" despite her asking him to move the account in September 2011. (BBC)



Sulaiman Al Fahim (file pic)

# Barcelona face team dilemma



Ernesto Valverde (fie pic)

## Barcelona

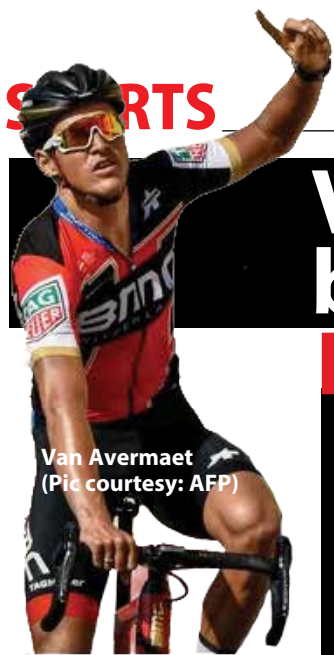
**Barcelona coach** Ernesto Valverde faces a dilemma before his side's potentially tricky trip to in-form Eibar on Saturday, having watched his side's seemingly unassailable La Liga lead cut to seven points from 11 in the last two weeks.

The advantage would normally give the coach room to rotate his squad in order to keep his side fresh for the visit to Chelsea in the Champions League three days later but tiny Eibar's consistency means such a move risks his side falling closer to second-placed Atletico Madrid.

Eibar hail from a town of 27,000 inhabitants in the Basque region and are the smallest team in the top flight. Five years ago they were in the 80-team regional third tier.

They have overcome a rocky start to the season to grow into genuine contenders for a European spot, rising to seventh place in the standings by losing only one of their last 12 games.

That run has included impressive 5-0 and 5-1 thrashings of Real Betis and Sevilla respectively as well as victory over high-flying Valencia. They have also developed a knack for edging tight games, snatching a 1-0 win at Leganes in their last outing with an injury-time goal. (Reuters)



Van Avermaet  
(Pic courtesy: AFP)

## Van Avermaet beats Lutsenko

### Results

**Stage three: German University of Technology to Wadi Dayqah Dam, 179.5km**

1. Greg Van Avermaet (Bel) BMC Racing, in 4 hrs 36 min 04 secs
2. Rui Costa (Por) UAE Team Emirates, at 3 secs
3. Alexey Lutsenko (Kaz) Astana Pro Team, at same time
4. Gorka Izagirre (Esp) Bahrain-Merida, at same time
5. Nathan Haas (Aus) Katusha-Alpecin, at 7 secs
6. Magnus Cort Nielsen (Den) Astana, at same time
7. Odd Christian Eiking (Nor) Wanty-Groupe Gobert, at 9 secs
8. Dries Devenyns (Bel) Quick-Step Floors
9. Miguel Angel Lopez (Col) Astana
10. Jesus Herrada (Esp) Cofidis, all at same time

### General classification

- 1 Greg Van Avermaet (Bel) BMC Racing, in 12 hrs 56 min 44 secs
- 2 Alexey Lutsenko (Kaz) Astana, at 11 secs
- 3 Nathan Haas (Aus) Katusha-Alpecin, at 13 secs
- 4 Gorka Izagirre (Esp) Bahrain-Merida, at 19 secs
- 5 Dries Devenyns (Bel) Quick-Step Floors, at 25 secs

Tour of Oman

### Muscat

**G**reg Van Avermaet (BMC Racing Team) won the charge up the Wadi Dayqah Dam to claim victory on stage 3 of the Tour of Oman.

Rui Costa (UAE Team Emirates) was second with Alexey Lutsenko (Astana) taking third for the second consecutive day.

The stage win saw Van Avermaet move up from second overall to take hold of the race leader's jersey.

Lutsenko moved up to second at 11 seconds and former race leader Nathan Haas, who finished seven seconds down, dropped to third with at 14 second gap.

Astana led a vicious charge up the final climb, which

topped out 8.5km from the finish.

BMC quickly moved to the front of the field and kept up the blistering pace, helping their captain to win.

Van Avermaet managed to rip clear on the drag towards the finish, crossing the line with a significant gap over his rivals.

"I am always happy to win and especially in Oman after so many years. I think the

team did a perfect job. We came at the right moment on the descent with 3km to go, and they put me in a perfect position so I could wait for the perfect moment," Van Avermaet said.

"It was at the hardest point of the climb that I went full gas, and I just hoped that no one could follow and that's what happened so I was really happy that I could cross the line first. (Cyclingnews)

# Madison Keys, Sharapova pull out of Dubai



Madison Keys (file pic)

### Dubai

**F**ormer world number one Maria Sharapova and U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys have pulled out of next week's Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships, the tournament organizers said yesterday.

Five-times grand slam winner Sharapova, who had accepted a wildcard to make her first appearance at the tournament

since 2006, decided to withdraw citing a forearm strain.

Sharapova lost her opening round match at the Qatar Open on Monday to Romania's Monica Niculescu in three sets and is currently ranked 41 in the world. The 30-year-old Russian has a 21-10 win-loss record since her return from a doping ban last April.

American world number 14 Keys, who was expected



Maria Sharapova (file pic)

to make her Dubai debut, has withdrawn due to illness.

"Unfortunately both Maria Sharapova and Madison Keys have regretfully had to withdraw from the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships due to injury and illness," tournament director Salah Tahlak said in a statement.

"We are sorry that neither Maria nor Madison will be able to play in Dubai." (Reuters)

## Verstappen not looking forward to 'ugly' halo

### London

**M**ax Verstappen says he is not looking forward to his new Formula 1 car featuring a 'very ugly' halo, ahead of its reveal next week.

The Dutchman's Red Bull team will launch its RB14 on Monday, before its main rivals Mercedes and Ferrari will unveil their own

challengers three days later.

While Verstappen is eager to see how competitive his new car will be, he is clear that he is not excited about the mandatory addition of the halo.

"The halo - that will be very ugly," he said in a pre-season video interview for Red Bull. "I am not looking

forward to that.

"In general I hope the car will look great and hopefully it is fast. "Hopefully it is a good step forward and we have got straight away a good car for the beginning of the year, so we are not really chasing, like we did last year. That is the most important for us." (Autosport)

# Bahrain Premier League to showcase two key matches



Bahrain Super Giants

### DT New Network Manama

**C**oca Cola Bahrain Premier League T-20 will showcase two key matches at Eden grounds in Isa Town.

Kalaam Knight Riders lead by Azeem ul Haq will face Bahrain Super Giants lead by Deepak Nair.

In the second match, Awan Warriors lead by Qamar

Saeed will face Foursquare Challengers lead by Omran Ghani.

The matches will initiate from morning 07:30 AM. Coca Cola Bahrain premier



Kalaam Knight Riders

league is the first franchise based cricket tournament organised in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The league is now moving in to an interesting stage, as all

teams have bagged two points each after playing two matches each.

This Friday, six teams will be fighting to capture the top position in the points table

to secure their place for the Knock-out stage.

The event is held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Gadzhimuza Gaziev facing Erik Carlsson at Brave



### Manama

**G**adzhimusa Gaziev made an impact at the first edition of Brave Combat Federation against Thiago Vieira from Brazil on a week's notice. Gadzhimusa knocked out Thiago Viera, who had never faced defeat in his entire mixed martial arts career.

The co-main event of the very first edition of Brave Combat Federation ended up in the shocking victory of Gadzhimuza.

Training at Gorec Fight Team at Dagestan, Gadzhimusa is looking for a return after the defeat he suffered at Brave 6: Kazakhstan against Erik Carlsson.

He will face one of the biggest stars in Middle Eastern MMA, Mohammad Ghorabi who had recently joined Brave Combat Federation. Both fighters desperately require a victory to revive their careers.

The two prodigies will clash in Amman, Jordan on March 2nd, 2018. Brave 10: The Kingdom Rises became even bigger with 18 global mixed martial art fight teams clashing in Jordan, which itself is a milestone for the sport in Middle East.

# Gaziev set for the showdown

Garbine Muguruza (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)



## Muguruza rolls past Cirstea

### Doha

**G**arbiñe Muguruza of Spain had very few problems reaching the quarterfinals of the Qatar Total Open, as the reigning Wimbledon champion dispatched Romanian Sorana Cirstea, 6-0, 6-4, in a third-round match yesterday.

The Spaniard was in dominant form against Cirstea, extending her head-to-head record with the Romanian to 3-0 after wins at the Australian Open and Wimbledon last year. Muguruza has now won

consecutive matches for the first time this season.

Muguruza led 6-0, 5-1, before closing out the match. "I think I played very well in the first set, and in the second set she came out much better, reached a high level, I made a few mistakes, and there we go, the match is equal," Muguruza said on court, after the match.

"I like to feel the pressure, to be one of those privileged tennis players that can hope for the title, and it's good," Muguruza

continued. "It's tough when you lose, but I like it."

Muguruza finished the match 5-for-8 on break points, and put a solid 82 percent of first serves into play. Meanwhile, Cirstea had a whopping 43 unforced errors in the match, compared to only 10 winners.

In the first set, Muguruza played composed tennis while Cirstea self-destructed in a flurry of unforced errors. The Romanian had 14 miscues in the set, while

Muguruza had just a single unforced error, and the Spaniard hit more winners in the opening frame by a margin of five to three.

Cirstea was broken at love in the first game of the match, and a backhand winner by Muguruza gave her a second break to lead 3-0, after Cirstea had reached game point with an ace. After a love service game for 4-0, Muguruza broke again before closing out the first set whitewash in the next game with an ace. (*Wtatennis*)



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