

DT NEWS

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News of Bahrain

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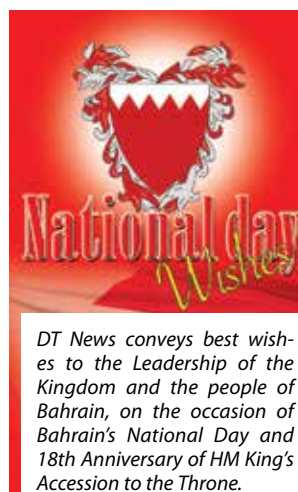
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HM King thanks ISS astronauts

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa expressed thanks in reply to an audio and video message of congratulations sent by the astronauts onboard the International Space Station (ISS), marking the National Day and the anniversary of HM the King's Accession to the throne.

The ISS astronauts hailed, in their message from orbit, strong relations binding the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Bahrain and the wise policy of HM the King, promoting dialogue between civilizations and co-existence.

HM the King said that he looked forward to seeing a Bahraini astronaut among the ISS crew soon, wishing them a safe and successful return to their country and families.

Iran exposed

Houthi militias used Made-in-Iran missile to target Saudi Arabia: US

Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the 'hostile practices' of the Iranian regime in the region hailing the recently released UN report as a direct proof to the regime's hidden hand in supplying missiles to Houthi rebels in Yemen.

"The report issued by the United Nations unequivocally clarified the negative interference and hostile practices of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Republic of Yemen," the statement said.

The United States on Thursday presented for the first time pieces of what it

said were Iranian weapons supplied to the Houthis, describing it as conclusive evidence that Tehran was violating U.N. resolutions.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that debris from a missile fired at Riyadh, and another shot down near Mecca in July, points to a common origin, according to AFP news agency.

The arms included charred remnants of what the Pentagon said was an Iranian-made short-range ballistic missile fired from Yemen on Nov. 4 at King Khaled International Airport outside Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh,

as well as a drone and an anti-tank weapon recovered in Yemen by the Saudis.

US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said during a press conference held in Washington, "It was made in Iran then sent to Houthi militants in Yemen."

Haley said the missiles were Iranian Qiam-class short-range ballistic rockets and pointed to valves that she said proved their origin. The Qiam-1 is based on a modified Scud design.

Responding to the findings, Bahrain said that through this acts Iranian regime is attempting to push the region into prolonged crisis.

They are supplying "Houthi militias with dangerous rockets" that threatens the lives of the people, security of the sea lanes and peace in the region.

The international community, Bahrain said, should come forward to hold Iran accountable for its blatant interferences in the region.

"Iran supports terrorism, trains terrorists, smuggles weapons and explosives, and establishes terrorist groups in Bahrain - funded and trained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the Lebanese Hezbollah," the statement said.

This, Bahrain points out, completely contradicts

the principle of good-neighbourliness and noninterference in the internal affairs affirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The statement also reiterates the Kingdom's support to the UN's Envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed in finding a political solution by eliminating all forms of external interference in the Republic of Yemen.

In a similar statement, Saudi Arabia welcomed the report and called on the international community to take immediate action to hold Iranian regime accountable for its aggressive actions. (Agencies)

US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, with a piece of the missile in Washington, says a Qiam guidance unit, below, is evidence of Iranian manufacture

Bahrain welcomes UN report on Iran's violations



P 03

Iran travel ban:
MP to vote
on proposal



P 05

Govt rejects
proposal to
ban concerts,
Halloween parties



P 24

Smith leads
Aussies
fightback

Moments of joy

Bahrain celebrates 46th National Day



The Chairman,
Board of Directors, Management and Employees
of ASRY would like to congratulate
the leadership and people on our

National Day



www.asry.net

Manama

World leaders yesterday joined the Kingdom in celebrating the anniversary of its establishment as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by its founder Ahmed Al-Fateh, the 46th Anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member and the 18th Anniversary of HM the King's Accession to the Throne.

They extended heartfelt congratulations to HM the King, wishing him many happy returns and lauded the landmark achievements attained by the Kingdom under HM King's leadership.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier also received similar congratulatory cables.

US President Donald Trump, in a statement to HM King, wished him abundant health and happiness, and further progress and

prosperity to Bahrain and its people. Similar cables of congratulations were sent by Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Her Majesty Elizabeth II, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and by the leaders of Arab, Islamic and friendly countries.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa also received cables of congratulations from senior members of the Royal Family, Council of Representatives Speaker, Shura Council Chairman, ministers, senior officials, MPs, Shura Council members, dignitaries, governors, municipal councillors, Bahrain's ambassador abroad, heads of diplomatic missions in Bahrain, heads of sport associations, federations and clubs, as well as the citizens marking Kingdom's celebrations.

His Majesty exchanged cables of congratulations with Prime Minister, the Crown Prince, and with Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and President

of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW). HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince also exchanged similar cables of congratulations on these national occasions.

Celebrations were also organised at Bahrain's embassies all over the world. In Kuwait, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah took part in the activities organised by Bahrain's Ambassador Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

In France, Ambassador Dr Mohammed Abdul Ghaffar, Cultural Advisor Shaikha Wafa bint Abdulla Al-Khalifa hosted a lunch banquet for Bahraini students.

Meanwhile, in a message marking the occasion, Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs Hesham bin Mohammed Al Jowder said, "We look at Bahrain's future with hope in light of the farsighted vision of HM the King which will make Bahrain more advanced and prosperous in various fields as well as boost its regional and international status."

Iran travel ban: MP to vote on proposal



Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

Manama

Parliamentarians tabled an 'urgent proposal' seeking to impose a travel restriction on Iran in response to "the regime's repeated, blatant and illegal

interferences in the internal affairs of Arab and GCC states".

The proposal, according to a group of Bahraini legislators, requires blocking all means of travel to and from the Islamic Republic via airspace, ports, and territorial waters.

However, Shura Council

and Representative Council Affairs Minister Ghanim Al Buainain, in a written reply, pointed out that a travel ban on Iran is already in place in Bahrain as per a ministerial resolution issued on January 4, 2016.

The measures, Al Buainain

said, were taken following attacks on Saudi embassy in Tehran and consulate in Mashhad.

At that time, the minister said, Bahrain required all Iranian diplomats to leave the Kingdom within 48 hours, closed all Bahrain mission in

Iran and recalled all diplomats working there.

The minister, in his reply, also told the MPs that on 12 January 2016, "Bahrain's Transportations and Telecommunications Ministry announced ceasing air traffic connection with Iran as well

as prevented Iranian ships and vessels from using Bahraini seaports."

The Minister's reply will be reviewed on Tuesday when MPs convene to hold their regular weekly session at the House of Representatives in Gudaibiya.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

The Government and people of the Kingdom on the occasion of Bahrain's National Day
and the Anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad's Accession.

VIVA



Minister honours workers of GPIC



DT News Network
Manama

The Labour and Social Development Ministry organised a ceremony to honour distinguished workers of the private sector on Wednesday.

The event, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad, was attended, among others, by Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Minister said that the annual ceremony recognises the Bahraini workforce in carrying out their duties with professionalism, sincerity and excellence.

Among those honoured was Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) Safety, Security, Health and Environment Manager Jassim Darwish, who received the accolade for his outstanding performance.

Senior analyst in

the Technical Services Department Khalid Janahi was also recognized for having proven his ability to successfully carry out his responsibilities.

In a statement, GPIC President Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery thanked and appreciated the Minister for his efforts in organising the ceremony and said it is recognition of the important role of private sector workers in nation building.

Bahrain National Day Celebrations by the Pakistan Club in Bahrain

Rehan Ahmed,
Chairman Pakistan Club



The Pakistan Community in Bahrain is a large and vibrant community and is intermingled with the local people sharing similar beliefs, culture, traditions and social norms. Pakistani community members have been living in the country for past many decades. The Kingdom of Bahrain is not a foreign country to us but is an equal homeland to over 100,000 community members. The foundation of the 'Pakistan Club' in Bahrain was made in February 1948.

The Pakistan Club and the Pakistani community is celebrating the 46th Bahrain National Day celebrations with great fervour and enthusiasm. Like last years, the community has lined up impressive programmes to celebrate the National Day on 16th December and His Majesty King's Accession Day to the throne on December 17th. As a continued tradition, the Pakistan Community will join His Excellency Javed Malik, Ambassador of Pakistan and invited guests for cake cutting on December 15th at Pakistan Club. The impressive event organized by the Chairman and Board members of Pakistan Club will enthusiastically mark the Bahrain National Day celebrations. The programme also includes national anthem of both countries, cultural and traditional songs, dances and tableau by Pakistan School children. A special Bahrain National Day Cricket

Tournament is also organized in the morning on 15th December. The programmes are organized to pay tribute to the people and the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain on this auspicious occasion.

The community will also hold separate programmes in other areas of the country, at industrial locations, national parks, entertainment areas, residential and commercial complexes and labour accommodations in Manama, Sitra, Muharraq and Riffa to keep the momentum of celebrations on till the end of the month showing our deep love and affection towards the Bahraini leadership and its people and signifying the dynamic role of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to this beautiful country and friendly people of Bahrain.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Bahrain enjoy cordial ties with similar views on bilateral, regional and international issues and the historic landmark visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Pakistan which was reciprocated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan has paved the way for further strengthening the already existing cordial ties between the two brotherly countries. The Pakistani community is greatly indebted to the support and guidance from the Government led by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince

Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the First Deputy Prime Minister, the Crown Prince and the Deputy Supreme Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF).

On behalf of the Pakistan club and its members, it gives me immense pleasure to extend warm greetings and felicitations to HM, the leadership and to the friendly people of Bahrain on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain. I am confident that the mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries will continue to deepen and expand in the years to come.

On behalf of members and executive committee of Pakistan Club, I once again congratulate His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and the First Deputy Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on the 46th National Day and 18th anniversary of HM King's accession to throne.

Congratulations and Best wishes to

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

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister

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

and to the Government and the People of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of

National Day

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Govt rejects proposal to ban concerts, Halloween parties



Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

A proposal to ban music concerts and Halloween parties in the Kingdom has been rejected by the Government saying such events "are purposeful and have cultural and intellectual value".

Making the proposal MPs Mohammed Al Maarifi and Mohsen Al Bakri said that the ban is necessary to save public money and to "respect the emotions of fellow Muslim nations and tragic conditions in Iraq, Syria and Yemen."

The proposal demanded

"Cultural cooperation shouldn't be affected by political, security situations"

to "put a leash" on music concerts and Halloween parties organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA).

In its reply rejecting the proposal, the authority said: "BACA ensures that

the events it organises are purposeful and have a cultural and intellectual value".

BACA also told the MPs that most of the events and activities organised by BACA are the result of "official cultural agreements and protocols between the Kingdom and other countries".

"Cultural cooperation between the Kingdom and the countries of the world shouldn't be affected by political and security situations of the region," the Government replied to MPs.

The statement also clarified that BACA has no association with the Halloween parties and events organised by individuals.

This response and further details to the MPs' demands will be discussed in the presence of government representatives on Tuesday during the weekly session of the House of Representatives.

Kingdom's
46th
National
Day

U.S. Ambassador
Justin Siberell



Congratulations and best wishes on the 46th anniversary of Bahrain's independence

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy and the people of the United States of America, I congratulate the people and government of Bahrain as you commemorate the Kingdom's 46th National Day.

We value our longstanding bilateral relationship with Bahrain and thank His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for their continued commitment to a strong and strategic partnership. Our enduring and historic friendship was most recently exemplified by the Crown Prince's engagement with President Trump at the White House. While in Washington, our two countries celebrated the signing of an extension to our bilateral defense cooperation agreement and a number of important commercial agreements valued in the billions of dollars.

Our Free Trade Agreement is also a sign of the value of our bilateral relationship and our strong commitment to the shared prosperity of our two peoples.

Scanners at exits



Eye scanners used in Iraq to identify individuals.



Fingerprint systems are implemented in airports across the world. For representatives purpose only.

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

MPs will discuss this week the possibility of installing eye and fingerprint scanners at all entry points to prevent "terrorists or permanently deported individuals from entering Kingdom".

The proposal, submitted almost three-years back by Committee Head Abdullah Binhowail, requires eye and fingerprint scanning mandatory for all visitors entering the Kingdom.

"The proposal aims to prevent terrorists from entering Bahrain and ensure that blacklisted individuals will not be able to re-enter after possibly changing their details and identities," Binhowail said earlier.

"This proposal would regulate entry to the Kingdom and prevent unwanted individuals from entering or re-entering Bahrain using fake documents or identities," Binhowail said.

The efforts of the government, represented by Interior Ministry, will be reviewed in the presence of senior police officials during the upcoming weekly meeting of the House of Representatives.

Bahrain
Dec. 16

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A GLOBAL VISIONARY...

VKL Holdings and Al Namal group of Companies is extremely popular for its real estate, property development and management, construction, health and hospitality divisions.

By making use of the most advanced techniques in all of its numerous divisions, VKL Holdings have carved its own niche in and around the Kingdom of Bahrain.

At the helm of the group, Dr Varghese Kurian, a qualified civil engineer, continues to steer the group to the forefront of its businesses in the Gulf and abroad, with his vision and understanding of the needs of his clients.

His hard work, determination, and the quest for perfection are the other qualities that make these groups pioneers in their respective fields. Al Namal -VKL Group Chairman Dr Varghese Kurian recently was honoured with an award from Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan on the occasion of the Kingdom's celebration of the Anniversary of HM King Hamad's Accession to the Throne and the National Day.

Last month, Dr Varghese Kurian received Global Excellence Award instituted by Indian Television Channel Janam TV from the Indian Minister of Science and Technology Dr Harsha Vardhan in the presence of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitaraman. He has won Kairali TV Bahrain Business Award which was distributed by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Dr Varghese Kurian, a prominent Bahrain based businessman and philanthropist was recognized by the Indian government with a Pravasi Bharthiya Samman Award earlier.

Dr Varghese Kurian is noted for his successful leadership skills in various sectors and his endless contributions to the social welfare and charity causes, both in Bahrain and India.

"To win the respect and recognition of my country for my achievements and to be able to contribute to the understanding between Bahrain and India are rich rewards for me," he says.



Appreciation from Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani



Award from Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan



Honour from Mohan Lal, Indian Actor



With Indian Minister VK Singh



Kairali TV Bahrain Business Award



Honour from Mammootty, Indian Actor



A camel is brought in for foot surgery at the Dubai Camel Hospital in Dubai

Hospital for camels

Dubai
Pristine operating theatres and state-of-the-art medical equipment are featured in a new Dubai hospital that opened last week - exclusively for camels.

Camels remain an important part of the Gulf Arab state's heritage. Camel races and camel beauty pageants are a favourite recreation for locals, and some beasts fetch millions of dollars at auctions in the country.

Preserving that heritage is part of the purpose of Dubai Camel Hospital, which cost 40 million dirhams (\$10.9 million) and is the first of its kind in the world, said Mohamed Al Bulooshi, the hospital's director.

"We found that we must care for camels not only by breeding and

raising them, but also by being able to medically treat them," Bulooshi said.

Staffed by a team of international veterinarians, the hospital can treat 20 camels. It's also equipped with a mini-race track to get the camels up and running after their medical procedures.

Its customized equipment was adapted from equestrian medical equipment to accommodate camel treatment. A surgery starts at \$1,000 and an X-ray or ultrasound at \$110.

The hospital intends to help in the research and development of camel medicine, Ahsan Ul Haq, the facility's head of marketing and finance, in an effort "to unfold the secrets of this strange desert animal," he said. (Reuters)

Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



Using & Conserving Hot Water

Water is a basic commodity and is heavily subsidized in the country, due to which its use and misuse is increasing. We are not conserving water, particularly due to lack of awareness. Though the Government is continuing their efforts in finding ways and means to enhance water production, thus people should also do actions to reduce their water consumption.

Approximately sixty percent of total household water supply is used inside the home in kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Considerable quantity of water is consumed in watering the lawn, maintaining greenery, plants and washing cars. Since this activity is mostly done by the servants or maids, they are more extravagant in the use. More sprinkling of water does not mean more cleaning is accomplished.

With the drop in temperatures and persisting cold weather, use of hot water at home, offices, commercial centers, educational buildings and institutions have increased many folds.

In winter, heating water for showers, laundry and washing

makes up more than a third of an average household's water and energy use, so it is important to heat water efficiently and conserve the water and energy.

The main areas of hot water usage in homes are bathroom and kitchen. Bathing consume up to 200 liters of hot water, depending on the duration of bath and type of shower head. Laundry consumes hot water. A standard warm cycle on a top loading washing machine may use up to 50 liters of hot water.

The amount of hot water used in the kitchen depends on how we wash our utensils. For dishes washed by hand in a sink full of water will typically use around 10 liters of hot water.

The main hot water wastage is when we open the tap and wait for hot water to come which goes to the drain. The other aspect is leakage in water equipment and piping. A tap dripping at one drop per second wastes 800 liters of water per month.

With the new water tariff implemented, there is a strong need that all residents and organizations sincerely initiate to reduce our energy and water usage leading to

conserving our resources thereby reducing the costs. Since past decades we have been very extravagant with the use of our precious resources like fuel, energy and water but this is the high time that we take these aspects very seriously, not only to save our money but to save our resources and environment.

Here are a few tips to reduce our hot water wastage and for conserving water:

- Turning the hot water faucet off while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Using low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- Ensure geyser, washing machine and dish washers are of right capacity based on number of users.
- Install the equipment close to the point of use to minimize heat loss in pipes like putting geyser in kitchen and bathroom.
- Pre-rinse the dirty dishes using cold water, or scrape them clean before putting them in the dishwasher.
- Use washing machine and dishwasher only when full.
- Do not waste water when you open the hot water tap, collect this water in a bucket and use it for some other purposes like cleaning and watering plants.

Head of Waste Disposal Unit, Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain. (rahmed@sce.gov.bh)

*** Head of Waste Disposal Unit, Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain. (Email: rahmed@sce.gov.bh)**

The Management & Staff of
AL NAMAL & VKL GROUP OF COMPANIES,
congratulate & extend warmest Greetings to
The Royal Family, Government &
the People of Kingdom of Bahrain.
on the occasion of,

46TH NATIONAL DAY KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

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(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.)

AL Adil opens in Umm Al Hassam



Manama

To the cheering of thousands of fans, popular movie star Tamannah Bhatia inaugurated the 39th store of Al Adil Supermarket Co LLC, in Umm Al Hassam yesterday along with the iconic store's Chairman Dr. Dhananjay Datar, the food tycoon popularly known as 'Masala King'.

The store located opposite Copper

Chimney restaurant is the third Al Adil Supermarket in Bahrain.

"Our commitment to quality foodstuff, freshness and the affordable pricing is a tribute to all women who demand nutrition at the best price for their family," Dr. Dhananjay Datar said.

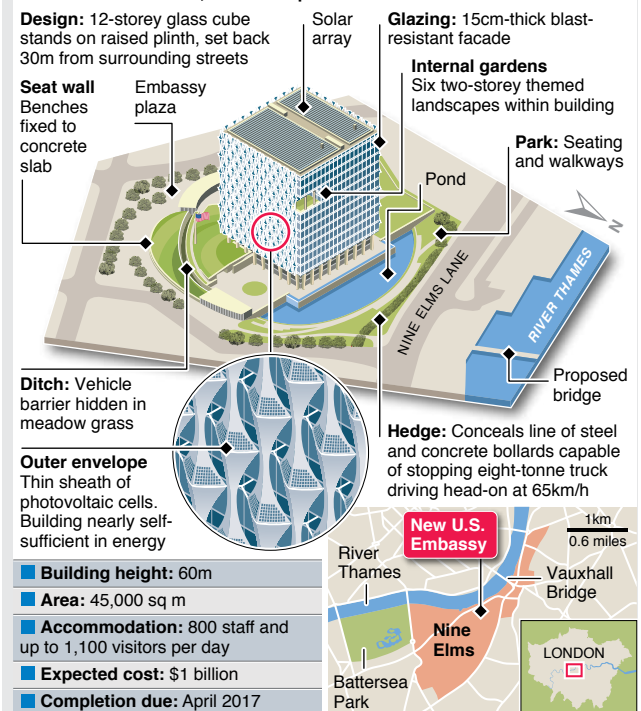
Tamannah Bhatia was all praise for the Al Adil enterprise, saying, "Food is a great cultural connection between

people and countries. By showcasing the best of Indian foodstuff, Dr. Datar's Al Adil and Peacock brand have brought a significant slice of India to the Gulf."

As a special Opening Offer, Al Adil is offering 50% off on 200 items in its store. In Bahrain, there are two other Al Adil stores: one in Manama (opposite Al Hamra Cinema) and the second at Yateem Centre.

New U.S. Embassy in Nine Elms, London

A new U.S. Embassy, designed by Philadelphia-based architects Kieran Timberlake, is due to open in the Nine Elms area of London



A new U.S. Embassy designed by Philadelphia-based architects Kieran Timberlake is due to be dedicated by President Donald Trump in the Nine Elms area of London's Wandsworth in early 2018.

Cleverly designed landscape defences protect the \$1 billion, 12-storey glass cube from attack. To the north, an English yew hedge hides a line of concrete and steel bollards capable of stopping a truck driving head-on at over 40 miles per hour (65km/h).

A semi-circular pond, in effect a 100-foot (30.5-metre) moat, offers a further line of defence to the building which

stands on a raised plinth, its defensive wall disguised by a waterfall.

A wall of seating fixed to thick slabs of truck-proof concrete offers defence from the south, behind which the landscape rises in a military-style embankment with sharp changes of level -- an obstacle to hostile vehicles but easily crossed by Marines.

A thin sheath of photovoltaic cells which can generate more than 345,000kWh of energy cover the chancery building, making it self-sufficient if under attack. Its facade is covered with six inch-thick (15cm) bomb-proof glazing.

Al Salam Bank celebrates National Day, Women's Day



Group's female staff members are pictured with Executive Management at the ceremony on the occasion of Bahraini Women Day and Bahrain National Day

Manama

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain joined the celebrations to mark Bahrain's National Day, the 18th Anniversary of

His Majesty King Hamad's Accession to the Throne and Bahraini Women's Day at a ceremony held at the Sheraton Hotel, Bahrain.

The celebration was held in the presence of the Director and Group CEO Yousif Taqi, Executive Management and employees of the

bank.

On this special occasion, Yousif Taqi, the Director & Group CEO of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain said we

take this opportunity to extend our sincere wishes and congratulations to the people and leadership of Bahrain.

The ceremony concluded with a short documentary video of the Bank's achievements since its establishment of 10 years.

India's trade deficit narrows

New Delhi

India's trade deficit INTRD=ECI narrowed to \$13.83 billion from \$14.02 billion in the previous month, government data showed on Friday. Merchandise exports INEXP=ECI for November rose 30.55 percent from a year ago to \$26.20 billion. Goods imports INIMP=ECI last month were \$40.02 billion, a gain of 19.61 percent from a year ago, data from the commerce and industry ministry showed.



Amazon to pay 100 million euros

Milan

Italy's inland revenue service said on Friday it had reached an agreement with Amazon to settle outstanding tax claims covering the period 2011-2015. Amazon will pay a total of 100 million euros (\$117.95 million) to resolve the dispute, the tax agency said. In April, Milan tax police said it believed the world's largest online retailer had evaded 120-130m euros of taxes in Italy.



A possible breakdown of the Iran nuclear deal would send the wrong signal when it came to trying to resolve the situation around North Korea,"

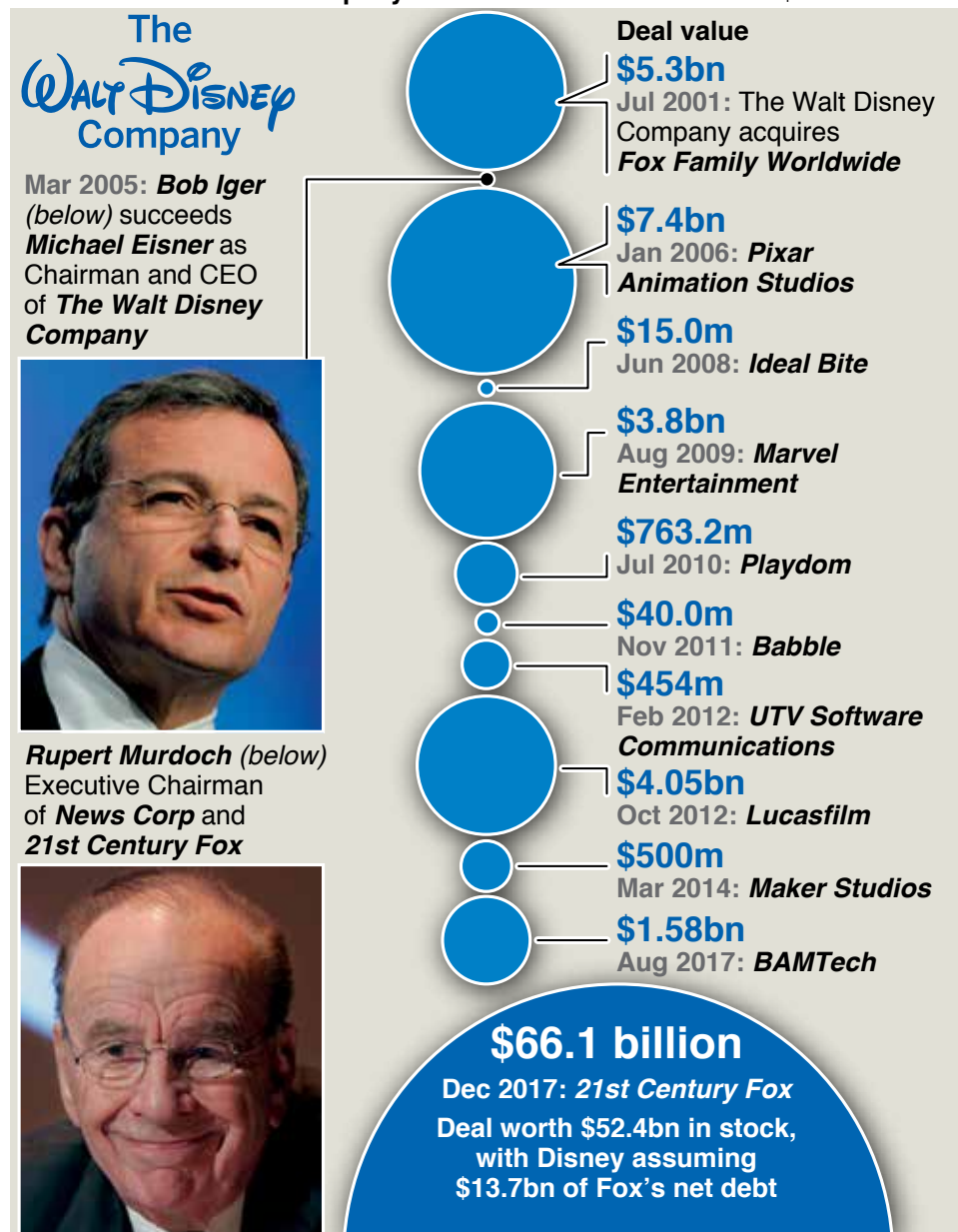
-Sergei Lavrov,

Russia's Foreign Minister



Disney's 21st-century acquisitions

Disney CEO Bob Iger's \$66.1 billion deal to buy film, TV and other assets of Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox will create the world's biggest entertainment company with a market value of about \$166bn



Sources: CNBC, Crunchbase, Reuters Pictures: Associated Press

© GRAPHIC NEWS

Amazon backs down in spat with Google

Amazon has started selling Google's Chromecast devices two years after it originally removed them from its store.

Amazon said it removed them to end customer confusion about which services were available on which device.

Google retaliated by blocking access to YouTube on some Amazon gadgets and threatening further restrictions.

In September, Google stopped YouTube playing on the Amazon Echo Show. It said it took the step because the



way Amazon got the video-sharing service working on the device was "broken". Amazon's decision to restock some

Google products is believed to have emerged from "productive discussions" the two have had to end the dispute.

US shale will leave OPEC with a difficult 2018: IEA

Washington

"We see that 2018 might not be quite so happy for OPEC producers," the Paris-based organization said in its latest monthly report Thursday.

The IEA said that there were signs that the rise in U.S. crude oil supply was likely to continue into 2018.

Major oil producing group OPEC and ten non-OPEC producers led by Russia continue to cut production in order to boost global oil prices and rebalance markets put out of kilter in 2014 by a glut in supply and lackluster demand.

One of the main beneficiaries of these cuts is the producers' major competitor, U.S. shale oil. U.S. oil producers are staging a dramatic comeback amid a recovering oil price that has allowed many of them to restart operations.

The IEA forecast that

non-OPEC supply — which includes the U.S. — was set to rise by 600,000 barrels a day in 2017, and 1.6 million barrels a day in 2018. It also noted that global oil supply rose 200,000 barrels a day in November to 97.8 million barrels a day (mb/d), adding that this was "the highest in a year, on the back of rising U.S. production."

In November at a meeting in Vienna, OPEC and non-OPEC members agreed to extend their oil output cuts until the end of 2018, giving markets a further boost. At the same time, U.S. crude oil output was rising, the IEA noted.

"Just as the OPEC oil ministers were sitting down in Vienna, our colleagues at the U.S. Energy Information Administration released data showing that for September U.S. crude oil output increased month-on-month by 290,000 b/d to reach 9.48 million barrels a day,

the highest monthly average since April 2015 and 928,000 b/d above a year ago," the IEA said.

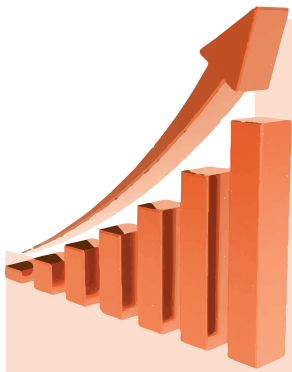
"Preliminary weekly data suggests that U.S. production increased further into early December. Recently, U.S. drilling activity and well completion rates have picked up again, suggesting higher production to come in a few months ... Consequently, we have raised our annual growth forecast for total U.S. crude oil to 390,000 b/d this year and 870,000 b/d for 2018," the IEA added.

Looking at next year, it believes that total global supply growth could exceed demand growth, predicting there could be a surplus of 200,000 b/d in the first half of 2018. It then estimates that it could revert to a deficit of about 200,000 b/d in the second half of next year, leaving 2018 as a whole showing a "closely balanced market." (CNBC)

Did You Know?



Aramco was founded in 1933 by Standard Oil of California (now Chevron). After gaining a concession from King Abdulaziz to search for oil. Finally, in 1938 they struck oil in commercial quantities in Dammam well number 7. It was known as the California-Arabian Standard Oil Company at the time of its inception, then its name changed to the Arabian-American Oil Company before finally changing to Saudi Aramco.



CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

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

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

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

Bitcoin hits new record as warnings grow louder

A coin representing the bitcoin cryptocurrency is seen on computer circuit boards in this illustration picture. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/File Photo

London

Bitcoin blasted to another all-time high of almost \$18,000 on the Bitstamp exchange yesterday, up 9 percent on the day, as warnings grew over the risks of investing in the highly volatile and speculative instrument.

The cryptocurrency's staggering recent price rises -- more than 1,700 percent since the start of the year -- have driven worries that the market is a bubble that could burst in spectacular fashion.

Bitcoin has climbed almost 80 per cent so far in December alone, putting it on track for its best month in percentage terms since December 2013.

On Friday it reached as high as \$17,900 on the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange.

While bitcoin has added another fifth to its value since Monday, trading has been slightly calmer than the wild price swings the market has seen in recent weeks, with volatility lower since the launch of bitcoin futures from Cboe Global Markets on Sunday.

Market-watchers said bitcoin's price was being lifted by the launch of rival CME Group's bitcoin futures contracts on Sunday.

"The hope (is) that futures signal the unlocking of institutional money into the digital arena and (that there will be) a rapid demand increase and ratification of the technology and its principles," said Charles Hayter, founder of industry website Cryptocompare.

But outside of the crypto

market, worries continue to grow about the amount of money piling into the space.

A study by Anglia Ruskin University, Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University released on Friday said bitcoin could pose a threat to the financial stability of traditional currencies and markets.

"Our evidence finds that the price of Bitcoin has been artificially inflated by speculative investment, putting it in a bubble," said Larisa Yarovaya, one of the report's authors and a lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University.

"Although bitcoin is not regulated by governments, it could still have a knock-on effect on traditional markets due to the interconnectedness of cryptocurrency markets

with other financial assets."

Others, however, say bitcoin's total market size -- around \$300 billion -- mean the impact of any future price collapse would not be large enough to have a knock-on effect on financial stability.

The BBC reported late on Thursday that the head of Britain's Financial Conduct Authority, Andrew Bailey, had warned that bitcoin buyers should be prepared for the possibility that they could "lose all their money".

Outages on some of the world's biggest exchanges this week, which left millions of investors unable to access their funds during periods when trading volumes are high, have also fuelled concerns about the fragility of the market's infrastructure. (Reuters)

India raises import tax on cellphones

New Delhi

India has increased the import tax on dozens of electronic products such as mobile phones and television sets, a government statement said, to help curb supplies from overseas and build up the domestic industry.

The rise in tax from 10 percent to 15 percent on handsets will make imports of phones - including most of Apple's iPhone models - more expensive at a time the company's revenue growth is slowing in India's \$10 billion smartphone market.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a flagship Make-in-India programme to expand the domestic industrial



A woman talks on her mobile phone on a pavement in Kolkata, India

base, and one of the areas showing success is electronics.

Pankaj Mohindroo,

president of the Indian Cellular Association, said on Friday the tax hike will boost domestic

manufacturers who are making about 500 million cellphones a year, more than double the output three years ago.

Eight out of 10 phones sold in 2017 have been made locally, data from Counterpoint Research showed.

Samsung Electronics assembles in India most of the handsets it sells in the country.

Apple currently only assembles its iPhone SE models in India and imports its others. The company has sought a range of incentives and tax relief from the government for it to expand its manufacturing in India, but government officials have said they are unlikely to make exemptions for Apple. (Reuters)

Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.
-Paul Ryan



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Saturday, December 16, 2017

11



City International School celebrated Bahrain National Day at its campus in Hidd. Students were dressed in traditional Bahraini attire and waved flags chanting songs depicting their love for the Kingdom.

NMS-DPS celebrates Annual Day



Lighting of the lamp by chief guests and school's officials

The New Millennium School-DPS celebrated its 13th Annual Day amidst great zest, vibrancy and elation.

Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha was the Chief Guest for the evening. Assistant Undersecretary for Special and Continuing Education Jaffer Al Shaikh, Educational Specialist Nada Alsayed, Al Hilal Group MD Ronnie Middleton were

the Guests of Honour.

The programme commenced with the Bahrain National Anthem followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the distinguished Guests and the school Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Pillai escorted by the Principal.

The welcome address was delivered by the School Head Boy and Head Girl. Dr.

Ravi Pillai congratulated the students, parents and teachers on their achievements.

Principal Arun Kuumar Sharma presented the School's Annual Report of the academic session 2016 - 17. This was followed by the Prize Distribution Ceremony.

The cultural programme based on the theme 'Peaceful Co-existence' commenced with

a scintillating invocation dance.

Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha stated that he was very pleased to note that NMS-DPS motivates its students by facilitating them with opportunities and this serves as an impetus to their stellar performance.

School Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai, urged the students to hone and sharpen their talents

and potentials to not only carve a niche for them and bring laurels to the school but also aim to bring glory to their nation.

Principal Arun Kuumar Sharma, opined, that education or success, was incomplete or futile without keeping in view the goal of serving one's society and thereby serving the whole world.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the School Head Boy Arjun Varma and Head Girl Reet Verma. The smart anchors for the evening were Maanya Sharma, Aryan Kaul, Fariha Khan, Zeba Mariam, Femi Ivan and Ekansh Vashisth.

The programme culminated with the Indian National Anthem.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak at the Sheikh Hamad Palace yesterday. Deputy Premier Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa and other senior officials on ways to bolster the outstanding relations of cooperation between the two countries in all fields.



Under the patronage of the Assistant Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Faisal bin Jabur Al Doseri, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a farewell party in honour of Turkey's Ambassador to Bahrain Hatun Demirel. The party was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during her tenure.



The Ministry of Interior held two training courses which benefited more than 100 employees affiliated with different directorates. The Department of Human Resources Department organized the courses under the patronage of Assistant Undersecretary for Human Resources Brigadier Adel Abdulla Amin.



A number of activities of the National Day Festival is taking place at the Bahrain International Circuit. The festival includes a wide range of events, including a shopping fair, which has shops for sale and display.



King bin Mubarak Al Khalifa earlier welcomed the Malaysian Premier upon arrival at the Bahrain International Airport. The Malaysian Prime Minister is on an official visit to Bahrain, where he will hold talks with



During the ceremony, the assistant minister praised the efforts exerted by the



Bahrain embassy in Kuwait hosted a celebration marking Bahrain's 46th National day and the anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne. Bahraini Ambassador to Kuwait Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah. The ceremony was also attended by a number of senior officials in Kuwait.



Undersecretary of the Information Affairs Ministry Abdulrahman Mohammed Bahar visited a number of directorates marking the celebrations of the Anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne, and the National Day. The undersecretary conveyed greetings from the Information Affairs Minister to the Ministry's staff, and his congratulations to them marking the National Days.



President of the Cassation Court and Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council Chancellor Abdullah bin Hassan Al Buainain received Ambassador of Sudan to Bahrain, Ibrahim Mohamed Al-Hasan Ahmed Saad. Welcoming the recently-appointed ambassador, Chancellor Al Buainain praised the cooperation ties especially in the judicial and legal fields, wishing him success in the duties of his mission.



y with a wide range of products, as well as entertainment programs for children, activities, games and children's karting.



Ellen DeGeneres @TheEllenShow
I got Will Smith started on Instagram with a #TBT of the Fresh Prince. You're welcome.



Prince Harry, Markle to wed on May 19

London

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding will be held on May 19 next year, Kensington Palace announced on Friday.

The couple confirmed their engagement last month and said the wedding ceremony would take place at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The royal family will pay for the wedding, including the service, music, flowers and reception, the BBC reported.

Prince Harry and Markle have been dating since July 2016 and made their first public appearance as a couple in September. (IANS)



Nicole Kidman is amazing: Kravitz

Los Angeles

Singer Lenny Kravitz, who was engaged to Nicole Kidman between 2003 and 2004, says the actress is an amazing person.

Kravitz opened up about his former wife Lisa Bonet and Kidman in an interview, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"Nicole is amazing," he said. Kidman produced and co-starred with Kravitz's daughter Zoe in "Big Little Lies".

"Zoe and she hadn't spent time together since she was younger, since Nicole and I were together, so that was great," he said.

While talking about Bonet, Kravitz said: "We were mirror images of each other, male and female. It was quite extraordinary. I hope to have a great love again." (IANS)



Eminem releases new album 'Revival'

Los Angeles

Rapper Eminem's ninth studio album "Revival" is available now. Released via Aftermath/Shady/Interscope Records, "Revival" was executive-produced by Dr. Dre and Rick Rubin.

"#Revival out now," Eminem tweeted on Friday.

The album features the previously released singles "Untouchable" and "Walk on water" (featuring Beyonce Knowles).

The album also includes appearances by singers Alicia Keys, P!nk, Ed Sheeran and Skylar Grey.

"Revival" is the follow-up to "The Marshall Mathers LP 2", a 2013 release that debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart. (IANS)



STARRY
Birthday
Anna Popplewell

December 16, 1988

British actress best known for her role as Susan Pevensie in *The Chronicles of Narnia* films. She began appearing as Lady Lola in the series *Reign* in 2013.

Wahlberg named most overpaid actor

Los Angeles

Actor Mark Wahlberg has topped Forbes magazines list of 'The Most Overpaid Actor Of 2017'.

The list is based on a valuation which included the performance of an actor's last three non-animated, large-scale movies released prior to June 1, 2017, reports *forbes.com*.

Wahlberg made over \$68 million pre-tax this year. Wahlberg pulled in only \$4.40

at the box office for every dollar spent on his services. His low return numbers were fuelled by several high profile bombs.

Actor Christian Bale was ranked second on the list with a \$6.70 return on investment of \$1.

He was followed by Channing Tatum (\$7.60) and Denzel Washington (\$10.40) at the third and fourth position.

Brad Pitt rounded off the top five with \$11.50 return on an investment of \$1. (IANS)

MIDDLE EAST MOVIE BUZZ

Jarhead

Are we ever going to get to kill anyone?" asks a young marine toward the end of "Jarhead." It may be a strange question to hear in a war movie, but "Jarhead," about an unusual war, the first gulf war, is a curious example of the genre.

Adapted from Anthony Swofford's best-selling memoir of the same title -- a profane, scabrous prose poem alive with wit and anger -- the film tries to convey not only the terror and thrill of military life, but also the frustration and tedium. This is something of a challenge: how to evoke a jittery, anxious state of boredom without inducing it in the audience.

And "Jarhead," directed by Sam Mendes from a screenplay by William Broyles Jr., half succeeds. It has moments that capture the peculiar mixture of stress, fatigue and impatience evoked in Swofford's reminiscences of his time in the United States Marine Corps. There are scenes full of surreal, desperate comic energy, like a football game played, for the benefit of visiting journalists, in gas masks and protective suits in 112-degree desert heat; and a feverish Christmas party fuelled by contraband booze and hip-hop that ends in accidental fireworks.

The daily routines -- basically rifle-cleaning, arguing, hydration and masturbation -- are efficiently evoked. The Arabian landscape (or rather its California stand-in) is shot in harsh, desaturated tones by Roger Deakins, whose camerawork produces some haunting images. In this empty space, almost entirely devoid of greenery or topographical variation, people seem like abstractions -- lonely, clumsy ciphers at once solitary and stripped of individuality. (*nytimes*)

HALLE BERRY 'DONE WITH LOVE' AFTER SPLIT

Actress Halle Berry said she is "done with love" following her split from music producer Alex Da Kid.

Reportedly, the Oscar winner wrote that in an *Instagram* Story on Wednesday. She also shared a photograph of rope in the shape of a heart and added three emojis of a flexed arm muscle.

A few hours earlier, it was revealed that Berry, 51, and the music producer had split after several months of dating.

The former couple first went public with their relationship in September when they posted black and white photographs of themselves cuddling on their respective social media accounts.

Berry hinted at the break-up in an *Instagram* post on Wednesday too. "Grow out got me feelin' some kinda way every day ain't perfect..." she wrote. (TOI)

Now & Then



Amy Adams

Amy Adams is an American actress. She is known for both her comedic and dramatic performances, and as of 2017, is among the highest-paid actresses in the world. She has received several awards, including two Golden Globe Awards, and has been nominated for five Academy Awards and six British Academy Film Awards. Adams made her feature film debut with a supporting part in the 1999 satire *Drop Dead Gorgeous*. After relocating to Los Angeles, she made several guest appearances in television.



OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO REACH US

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

RITZ-CARLTON WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY VILLAGE

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

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

RITZ GOURMET TAKEAWAYS

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

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

RITZ FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

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

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

RITZ BUBBLY CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

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

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

RITZ GRAND CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

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

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

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

RITZ NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: STUDIO 54

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

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

BAHRAINI FARMERS MARKET



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

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

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL FESTIVITIES

Date: Till December 31, 2017
Venue: Four Seasons

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

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

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

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

For orders: +973 17115500

FESTIVE SEASON AT THE GULF HOTEL

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

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

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

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

On 24th December we are offering 3 yuletide options for your Christmas Eve dinner. From the traditions of the Vigilia di Natale in Italy at our La Pergola Italian restaurant, to the panoramic view of the Juffair Skyline at Fusions restaurant to the lavish buffet in Al Waha, all featuring the finest delicacies from sumptuous starters of the hamachi sashimi, zucchini carpaccio and to the main course of the well-loved stuffed turkey roulade that will get the guests in the festive mood.

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

Tickets is a must.

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

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

cheese puffs, ricotta tart with chocolate and kumquats and almond macaroon galette for the finishing.

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

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

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

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

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

1KG BURGER CHALLENGE



Date: Till 31st December 2017
Venue: Sherlock Holmes, Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

BIG just got BIGGER! Are you up for the Sherlock Holmes BIG BURGER CHALLENGE Finish our Home made 1kg burger and take home an exclusive Sherlock Holmes T-Shirt and get Your Name and Date immortalized on our Wall of Fame! Available for Launches Only BD 19++ inclusive of a drink and fries! For more information 17713000

SUNDAY-LADIES NIGHT



Date: Till 24th December 2017
Venue: Z lounge club

Getting through the work week can be a real struggle. For those who crave a much deserve break and a little end of the week fun. Come Sunday, have no fear, ladies night to the rescue. Complimentary bubbly for ladies till midnight guaranteed to quench your thirst.

Free Entry for Ladies and Couples and Complimentary Bubbly for Ladies till Midnight.

TYPHOON HOSPITALITY EVENING

Date: Till 30th December 2017
Venue: Typhoon Bar, Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

Don't worry that you missed your weekend. We at Typhoon have created our own hospitality weekend for the industry people. So if you are working in a hotel or restaurant, join us and enjoy your self-created weekend. Every Saturday and Sunday only Valid ID is required.

SASTRA PRATIBHA AWARDS DISTRIBUTION

Date: December 22
Venue: Cultural Hall

The top grade achievers of Sastra Pratibha contest will be honoured during the award ceremony organized by Science India Forum (SIF) Bahrain on December 22 at the Cultural Hall Auditorium, in Marina. Dr. V.N.Rajasekharan Pillai, the former Chairman of University Grants Commission-UGC, presently the President of Mewar University, Rajasthan will be the guest of honor of the ceremony. Indian Embassy Second Secretary Anand Prakash will inaugurate the award ceremony function. Vijnana Bharati Secretary General A. Jayakumar, Science India Forum Middle East Co-ordinator T.M.Nandakumar, SIF Bahrain Advisory Board chairman Dr. Ravi Warrior will deliver their felicitation speech. SIF President Rajesh Kumar will preside over the function. The "Sastra Pratibha" title achievers among the students will receive their trophies and Certificates from Dr. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai and Anand Prakash. Certificates for the "A+" grade achievers will also be given away during the function. The Bahrain Science Innovation Congress-2017 contest winners also will receive the award at the ceremony.

An Interaction session, "Meet the Scientist" is scheduled to conduct on December 22 morning at Ramada hotel at 10:00 am and 11:30am. The students who achieved the "Sastra Pratibha" titles in the Sastra Pratibha Contest 2017 will have the opportunity to attend the same. Also the "Sastra Pratibhas 2017" will have the opportunity to visit any of the Indian Science and Technology Organizations organized by Science India Forum Bahrain free of cost in January 2018.

Classifieds

Reaching the right audience

Saturday, December 16 2017

17

News of Bahrain

DT NEWS

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SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Required for a leading media agency in Bahrain.
Relevant Experience Mandatory.
Send CV to Classifieds@dt.bh

RECEPTIONIST

Required for a leading Money Exchange company in Bahrain. Good Communication Skills mandatory. Female candidates preferred.

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

Required for a well established Events & marketing Company in Bahrain. Driver Licence is compulsory. Send CV to Classifieds@dt.bh

ADMIN ASSISTANT

required for a Leading company in Bahrain. Female Candidates preferred. Minimum 3 years Experience & Good Communication skills mandatory. Send CV to Classifieds@dt.bh

HR EXECUTIVE

Required for a leading Exhibition Management company in Bahrain. Good Communication Skills mandatory. Female candidates preferred. Send CV to Classifieds@dt.bh

SENIOR SALES Manager

Required for a well established Events & marketing Company in Bahrain. Driver Licence is compulsory. Send CV to Classifieds@dt.bh

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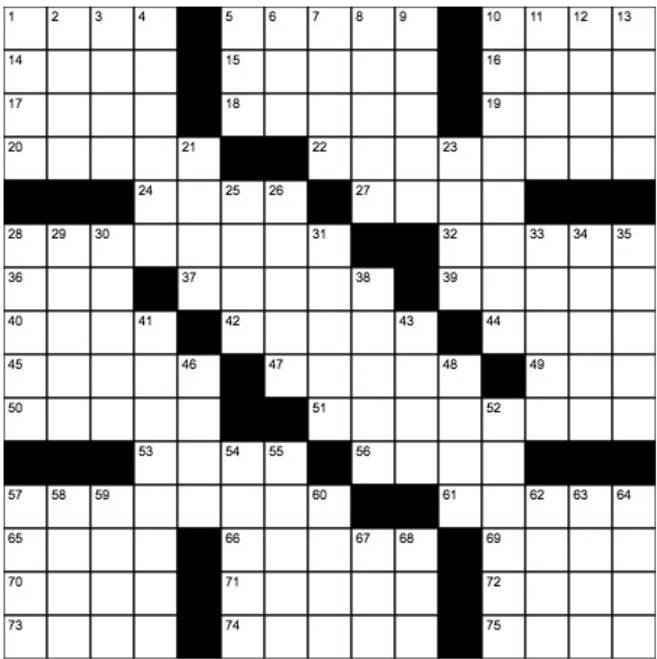
DEADLINE

Lineage 11am
Display 9am
Cancellation 12pm

WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday
8 am - 6 pm

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Prego rival; 5- Keen!; 10- Run into; 14- Israel's Abba; 15- Ready ____; 16- Mont Blanc, par exemple; 17- Coalition; 18- Opposite of o'er; 19- Singer Young; 20- Vends; 22- Footwear; 24- Org.; 27- Clapton of rock; 28- Supremacy; 32- Heals; 36- Satisfied sound; 37- Figure skater Cohen; 39- Basic monetary unit of Sweden; 40- Very, in Vichy; 42- Distributed cards; 44- 1999 Ron Howard film; 45- Assert; 47- Designer Mizrahi; 49- Shoe width; 50- Hopper of Hollywood; 51- Rulers; 53- Kitchen addition; 56- Scandinavian capital city; 57- Cutting instrument for paper; 61- South American ruminant; 65- ____ moss; 66- Stone marker; 69- Café au ____; 70- Wile E. Coyote's supplier; 71- Weird; 72- "Jaws" boat; 73- Tide type; 74- German industrial city; 75- Call for;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



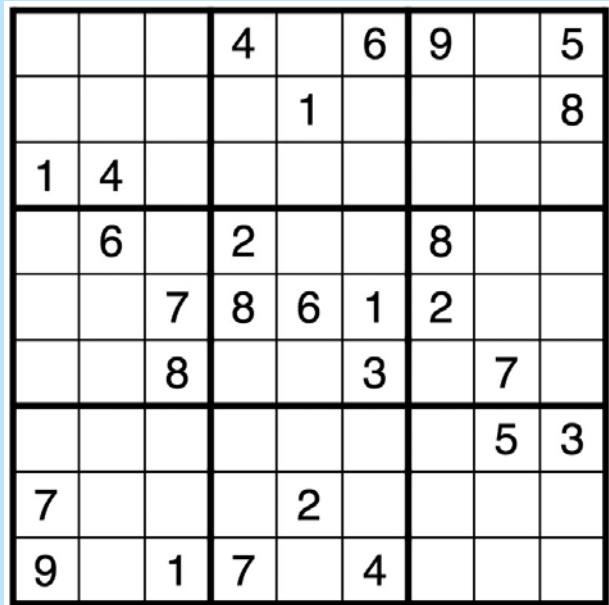
Down

1- C.S.A. soldiers; 2- Word that can precede bodied and seaman; 3- London jail; 4- Naked; 5- Prefix with profit or fiction; 6- Before, before; 7- Med. school class; 8- From head ____; 9- Alternate; 10- Care of the fingernails; 11- Gen. Robt. ____; 12- Heroic; 13- Prefix with conference; 21- Flat sound; 23- Select; 25- Food fish; 26- Japanese-American; 28- Bring forth from the egg; 29- Steve of country music; 30- In the lead; 31- Aspect; 33- Cowboy display; 34- Computer key; 35- Rescues; 38- 1836 siege site; 41- Duck; 43- Knocks lightly; 46- Wrestling surfaces; 48- Honeycomb unit; 52- Deodorant type; 54- We're Off ____ the Wizard; 55- Some Art Deco works; 57- Bridge; 58- Gospel singer Winans; 59- ____ Camera; 60- Sun. speeches; 62- River in central Switzerland; 63- House rodents; 64- Somewhat; 67- Whopper; 68- Poet's dusk;

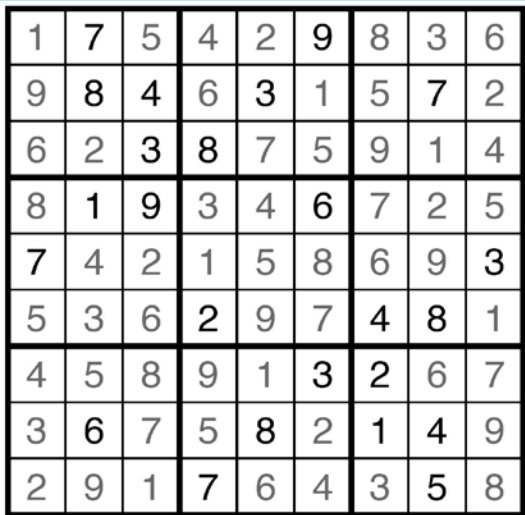
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Today a piece of information for which you've been searching could become known. Your money management skills might be called upon to help out a friend or perhaps a family member. You're likely to have some good pointers to pass on, and gratitude should be forthcoming.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



With the shifting planetary alignment, all of your efforts over the past few weeks could finally bear fruit. Success and good fortune are strongly indicated, especially where money is concerned. Worries about finances are likely to disappear, and you could even receive public recognition.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



A long-awaited vacation or a move you've been hoping to make could finally be possible. Before you go, there may be some paperwork to take care of. Thoughts of business advancement may be playing in your mind, and you might consider taking a course or two to increase your marketability and help you take a step toward achieving your goals.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Heightened imagination and ingenuity could bring new thoughts for advancing yourself in the financial arena. Practical information from outside sources merges with insights to bring useful ideas your way. Consider everything carefully before taking any action. Be open to the advice of others. Whatever you choose to do, today shows promise of being fortunate.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Social events could bring some exciting new contacts your way. Relationships with partners of all kinds should be fruitful and mutually beneficial, particularly when the people are also close friends. If you've been considering entering into a new business partnership, this is the day to start seriously discussing it.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Your efficient, practical abilities are operating at a very high level today. A long-term goal you've been working toward could finally be reached, bringing good fortune and acknowledgment. Your efforts will probably be appreciated. Major advancement could be in the works.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Your strong business sense and practical skills couple with imagination and innovation to bring advancement. Information from far away could prove especially valuable. Relationships with friends should be warm and cooperative. Love relationships could also prove rewarding. Consider blowing off a little steam by going out and having a good time.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Friends and family could visit you today. They're likely to bring new friends whose expertise benefits a project you're working on. You might fantasize about how you're going to spend all the money you're going to make off this project. This is fine as long as you postpone shopping until you have the funds.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



A social event in your neighbourhood, perhaps in your home, could bring useful information for what you can use to advance your career. You could make some valuable contacts. Information received from neighbours could prove enlightening. You should feel optimistic, enthusiastic, and motivated. Whatever you start today should bring success.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



With the current astral environment, your professional and financial interests could take a turn for the better. Any difficulties you may have had seem to disappear as if by magic. Whatever work you're doing in either your career or personally, should run more smoothly. You should be feeling strong, energetic, and optimistic.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



All indications are that you're feeling mentally and physically great. Your professional and financial interests could take a sudden turn for the better. Love matters should also be going well, and children bring great pleasure today. This is a good time to make plans for the future and pursue your most cherished ambitions.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Financial difficulties could be overcome today through the help of someone considerably older than you. Helpful advice could make a future course of action clearer and more practical than it seemed in the past. Your practical ability is heightened, and you're less likely to let strong emotions interfere. Intuitive abilities could also be of assistance.

France stunned by deadly school bus crash

The wreckage of the school bus in Millas, near Perpignan, southern France.

Paris

French authorities were investigating yesterday how a train was able to smash into a school bus, killing five children and ripping their vehicle in half in an accident that has devastated the local community.

Four teenagers died on Thursday in the collision at a level crossing in the village of Millas near the southern city of Perpignan, and local authorities said a fifth child died of their injuries Friday.

Fifteen other children, all aged between 11 and 17, were injured when the bus was torn in two and the train pulled off its rails in France's worst accident involving a school bus in France for three decades.

The bus driver and three train passengers were also hurt.

"The families of those

caught up in the accident are going through something absolutely terrible," said Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, who visited Millas on Thursday.

The accident site was sealed off as police examined whether a technical or human error was to blame.

It has not been confirmed whether the automatic barriers were open at the time of the crash, though national rail operator SNCF said the crossing was "functioning normally", citing witnesses.

Most of the students were from the local Christian Bourquin junior high school, where pupils were in shock as they headed in on Friday.

"I went to sleep at two or three in the morning. I was watching the news, I wasn't able to sleep," said teenager Lorena Garcies, dressed in black.

Her cousin and another friend were on the bus, but escaped with broken bones and trauma.

"I'm trying to be strong for them," she said.

The injured bus driver, a 48-year-old woman, has not yet been questioned, but Perpignan prosecutor Jean-Jacques Fagni said investigators had spoken to the train driver.

"There was good visibility," said regional chief Carole Delga.

"This level crossing wasn't really dangerous and no technical problems had been raised," she told Europe 1 radio.

She nonetheless pledged to modernise dangerous crossings, as a debate broke out about whether enough has been done to secure some 15,000 similar level crossings in France. (AFP)

Corpse resembling a dinosaur found in India

New Delhi

The discovery of a mysterious creature resembling a dinosaur with flesh still on its bones has left scientists baffled.

The partially-preserved corpse was uncovered by an electrician cleaning out a sub-station left untouched for 35 years.

The creature - which was found in Jaspur, a small city in Uttarakhand, India - has now been sent for analysis, including carbon dating, which will reveal its age.

Experts say that although it looks like a small dinosaur that could be near impossible as



The creature resembling a dinosaur was found with flesh still on its bones in an abandoned electric substation

flightless dinosaurs have been extinct for 65 million years.

Dr Parag Madhukar Dhakate, a Conservator with the Indian Forest Service, said that the creature would remain

an enigma until scientific analysis had been completed.

He said: "It looks like a dinosaur, but we can't say anything until all the tests are done." (mirror.co.uk)

#PollToday



Do you think bitcoin price would reach \$20000 by next week?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"It's very hard to discern what North Korea's intent is without, as I said, having a real dialogue. We are open to dialogue. And we hope they will agree to have a dialogue."

Joseph Yun
US envoy for North Korea

Rest in sight

US jets intercept Russian warplanes



A pair of US warplanes intercepted two Russia jets over a part of Syria they were not supposed to be operating in, the Pentagon said.

Nasa find first alien solar system

Scientists on Nasa's Kepler mission have spotted an eighth planet around a distant star, making it the first alien solar system known to host as many planets as our own.

Venezuela first lady's nephews jailed for drugs

Two nephews of Venezuela's first lady have been sentenced to 18 years in prison following their convictions in New York on drug conspiracy charges.

Catholics detained carols in Indian state

Indian police detained dozens of Catholics singing Christmas carols for allegedly trying to convert people, as fears grow over religious freedom in the South Asian nation.

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Sonia Gandhi retires as India's Congress party chief



Congress president-elect Rahul Gandhi with mother Sonia

New Delhi

The leader of India's main opposition Congress party, Sonia Gandhi, has retired from her post, the party confirmed on Thursday.

Her son, Rahul Gandhi, has been elected unopposed as the new president and will officially take charge on Saturday.

Sonia Gandhi, 71, has been the party president since 1998. She was elected to parliament in 1999.

She is, however, not retiring from politics and will continue as a member of parliament, the party said.

Gandhi entered politics in 1994, three years after her husband, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was assassinated.

Her power derived from being the head of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, which has led the Congress party and has ruled India for most of the years since it became independent in 1947. (BBC)

Deer greet jumbo jet



A photographer has captured the moment the final flight of a Boeing 747 was greeted on the runway by a family of deer. The KLM jumbo jet, registration PH-BFR, making its last flight after 23 years of service, had just touched down at Enschede Airport Twente, Netherlands, when three roe deer crossed its path on the runway. The aircraft is the first of KLM's fleet of 747s to be scrapped at the airport.

Asteroid 3200 Phaethon will skim past Earth today

Washington

An enormous asteroid is set to brush past Earth today, Nasa has warned.

The asteroid, called 3200 Phaethon, measures three miles (five kilometres) in diameter, and is classed as 'potentially hazardous.'

At its closest at 22:00 GMT (17:00 ET) today, the asteroid is estimated to be around 6.4 million miles away from our planet - 27 times the distance between the Earth and the moon.

It will be the closest this asteroid has been to Earth

since December 16, 1974, when it was around 5 million miles away, although we were blissfully unaware at the time.

In a statement about the asteroid, which was first discovered in 1983, a spokesperson for Nasa said: "With a diameter of about 5km, Phaethon is the third largest near-Earth asteroid classified as "Potentially Hazardous".

During its fly-by the space agency hopes to take detailed images of the asteroid. (MailOnline)

Saudi filmmakers relish return of the silver screen

This file photo taken on October 20, 2017 shows Saudis attending a short film competition at King Fahad Culture Centre in Riyadh



Dubai

Saudi filmmakers and major cinema chains alike are basking in the news the kingdom will lift its decades-old ban on cinemas, opening a market of more than 30 million people.

At the Dubai International Film Festival on Tuesday, short-film directors talked shop on a seaside veranda, the city's iconic sailing boat-shaped hotel in the background. And Saudi Arabia was on everyone's mind.

Director Hajar Alnaim wore her national pride in the form of a green Saudi flag pinned to her black abaya. She gushed as she recounted how she received the big news Monday.

"I posted a picture of me on the red carpet on Facebook and someone told me, 'What a coincidence! This is a great picture on a great day' ... I

was like, 'what?'"

Alnaim took to Twitter to find out the buzz and was "shocked" to see her government had announced the immediate licensing of cinemas, with the first expected to open in March 2018.

The move is part of a modernisation drive by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is seeking to balance unpopular subsidy cuts in an era of low oil prices with more entertainment options – despite opposition from religious hardliners.

Alnaim admits that she was once susceptible to those hardliners, but a Saudi government scholarship – one of thousands of annual grants – to study film in Los Angeles changed her world.

"I wasn't accepting. I wasn't even able to convince my family to go to Bahrain and let me watch a movie before

I went to the United States to study film. My perspective has changed ... my family's perspective has changed," she said.

Alnaim says her short-film *Detained* – about a Syrian asylum seeker under interrogation by US Homeland Security over the actions of her father – offers a window into the Muslim perspective, and that of the West.

One decade ago, Saudi filmmaker Abdullah al-Eyaf captured the longing of his countrymen for the silver screen in a documentary.

"Cinema 500km" is the tale of a Saudi crossing his country's borders for the first time, just to see a film.

"It's funny, right?" remarked Hanaa Saleh Alfassi, a Saudi director taking part in the Dubai film fest.

"We're ready for a long time for all these bans to be

lifted," she said.

Alfassi's own film *Lollipop* also tackles restrictions, legal and social.

"It's a coming of age story about a girl who gets her period for the first time and decides to hide it from her family in order not to cover her face," she said.

Saudi women are required to wear a black abaya and veil, although in recent years some women have started showing their faces.

Alfassi's film was inspired by a pamphlet she used to see advising women to "protect" themselves by veiling, with an image of two lollipops.

"One is wrapped and has no flies and the other one is unwrapped and has flies."

But for her the message is misleading, because "in Saudi, most people are covered and they still get harassed".

When Alfassi's main character starts wearing the veil, she is "sexualised" by society and harassed by a friend's father. Spoiler alert: the harasser confuses the protagonist and his daughter.

Alfassi acknowledges that cinemas may start by screening "uncontroversial" selections, but she foresees the industry blossoming as Saudis become used to theatre-going.

"The cool thing about cinema is the film doesn't come to you. You're going to enjoy that film with strangers."

Major cinema chains are clamouring to break into the untapped Saudi market, where the majority of the population



Visitors enter Saudi Comic Con (SCC) held earlier this year in Jeddah

is under 25.

US giant AMC Entertainment on Monday signed a non-binding agreement with Saudi Arabia's vast Public Investment Fund to build and operate cinemas across the kingdom.

It will face stiff competition from regional heavyweights, namely Dubai-based VOX Cinemas, the leading operator in the Middle East.

The CEO of VOX parent company Majid Al Futtaim, Alain Bejjani, said on Monday his company was eager to expand into Saudi Arabia.

"We ... are

committed to developing Vox Cinemas in Saudi Arabia and (to) make sure that every one of our Saudi customers will have a Vox Cinema close to them where they will be able to experience what they have been experiencing outside Saudi Arabia – in Saudi Arabia," he said.

Bejjani predicts that cinemas will be "the cornerstone of a whole new economic sector", generating jobs and developing Saudi content and talent. (AFP)

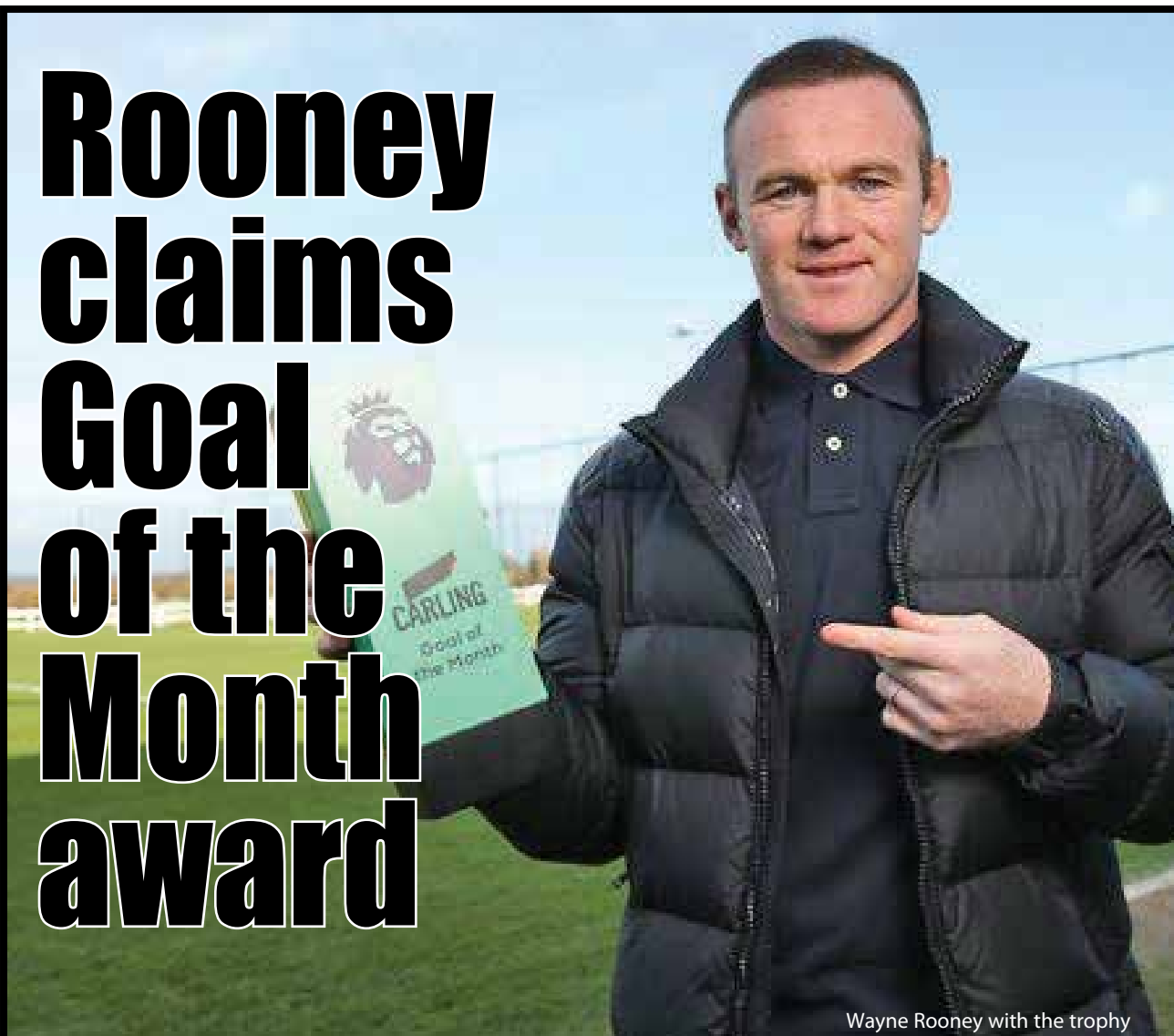


Saudi filmmaker Ali Kalthami stands next to the poster for his film "Wasati" or "Moderate" and other Saudi short films recently shown at Cinema Akil in Dubai.



Hajar Alnaim

Rooney claims Goal of the Month award



Wayne Rooney with the trophy

Manchester

Wayne Rooney has won November's Premier League Goal of the Month award for his strike from his own half in Everton's win over West Ham United.

Rooney, 32, scored a hat trick in the 4-0 win over the Hammers in the final game

before caretaker manager David Unsworth handed over the reins to incoming full-time boss Sam Allardyce, who was watching from the stands at Goodison Park.

Captaining his boyhood club on the night, Rooney produced the long-range effort to complete his treble in the

66th minute. Goalkeeper Joe Hart's long clearance landed in front of Rooney, who struck the ball back over his former England colleague's head and into the unguarded net.

The goal was reminiscent of his famous goal at Upton Park for Manchester United in 2014, when he beat Adrian

Lopez from just inside the West Ham half for the first of his brace in a 2-0 win.

Since returning the Everton in the summer after 13 years at Old Trafford, Rooney has scored nine goals in 15 Premier League appearances, including five in his last four games. (*espn.in*)



Diego Maradona (file pic)

Mbappe should replace Bale, says Maradona

London

Diego Maradona has told Real Madrid they should offload Gareth Bale and replace him with Kylian Mbappe.

The Wales international cost Madrid a then world-record fee of £85.3m when he signed from Tottenham in 2013, but has missed the majority of this season through injury.

Meanwhile, following his move from Monaco, Mbappe has caught the eye in Paris Saint-Germain's attack which includes Neymar and Edinson Cavani.

Maradona made his feelings clear in an interview with Spanish newspaper AS when he said: "I told Florentino

[Perez, Real president] to sign Mbappe but he told me had Cristiano Ronaldo."

Asked where signing Mbappe would leave Bale, Maradona said: "They should sell Bale, they should give him away. I expect Florentino wouldn't, but maybe he can do a deal, and let Bale go to AC Milan or Inter."

"They have to sign Mbappe, for me he's the next big thing, he could overtake many players."

Bale has a chance to win over the Argentina legend when Real Madrid take on Gremio in the FIFA Club World Cup final in Abu Dhabi today. (*Reuters*)

Morata back for Southampton clash



Alvaro Morata (file pic)

London

Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata has recovered from a back problem and is in contention for today's Premier League game against Southampton, manager Antonio Conte said on Friday.

Spain international Morata has made 15 league appearances for Chelsea this season, scoring nine goals but missed the 3-1 win over Huddersfield Town on Tuesday.

Morata has returned to training and Conte expects his first-choice striker to shake off the lingering back pain to be ready for Saturday's clash against 11th-placed Southampton.

"He trained with us two days ago and today. He has this pain in his back but he is in contention for tomorrow's game," Conte told a news conference on Friday.

"I think he (Drogba) is more powerful but don't forget Alvaro has a lot of space for improvement. He is strong physically, he is a technical player and I see a great future for him."

Conte said defender David Luiz's knee injury is "serious" and added that the player would be assessed on a day-to-day basis with no definite timeline for a return to action. (*Reuters*)

Sanchez, Ozil will not be sold in January

London

Arsenal will not sell Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil during the January transfer window, manager Arsene Wenger has said.

Both players are out of contract at the end of the season and are yet to agree new deals, and there has been speculation that Arsenal could sell the influential pair in January to avoid seeing them leave for free in the summer. But when asked in a news conference on Friday if Sanchez and Ozil would see out the season at Arsenal, Wenger said: "I can tell you a global answer -- yes. They will all stay."

"I will analyse every case individually and separately, but overall I would say my wish and my desire is that everybody stays."

Jack Wilshere is another player whose Arsenal contract



Arsene Wenger (file pic)

expires at the end of the season and Wenger revealed he will begin talks with the 25-year-old midfielder later this month about the possibility of a new deal. Wilshere spent last season on loan at Bournemouth and has made only eight starts so far this campaign, all but one in cup competitions, with his only Premier League start in the 0-0 draw against West Ham United on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)

Federer clinches Sports Personality Of The Year award



London

Tennis star Roger Federer has won the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year for a record fourth time after a public vote.

The 36-year-old Swiss topped the poll ahead of five other shortlisted nominees. Federer became the first man to win Wimbledon eight times and extended his record to 19 Grand Slam titles in 2017.

Boxer Muhammad Ali and athlete Usain Bolt are the only other people to have won the BBC award three times.

Federer said: "It makes me incredibly proud that the UK public have chosen me as the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year."

"The support that the UK crowds give me whenever I'm here

is amazing, and to be recognised on the shortlist alongside some of the greatest sportspeople of all time is extremely humbling."

He was shortlisted by an expert panel this year alongside Tom Brady (American football), Katie Ledecky (swimming), Tatyana McFadden (Para-athletics), Sally Pearson (athletics) and Michael van Gerwen (darts).

The vote was carried out on the BBC Sport website.

At 35, victory over Croatia's Marin Cilic made Federer the oldest man in the Open era to claim the Wimbledon singles title.

Earlier in the year, he returned from six months off to recover from a knee injury and won the Australian Open with a five-sets victory in the Melbourne final over old rival Rafael Nadal.

The overseas award will be part of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony which takes place at the Echo Arena in Liverpool on Sunday. (BBC)

Bedene to play for Slovenia

London

Aljaz Bedene has cited the opportunity to play Davis Cup and Olympic tennis as his reasons for switching allegiance back to Slovenia in 2018.

The 28-year-old world number 49 represented Great Britain from March 2015, having moved to live in Welwyn Garden City and become a British citizen, but will now revert to representing Slovenia.

Bedene had attempted to play in the Davis Cup for Great Britain, which would have

allowed him to qualify for the Olympic Games.

However, a decision by the ITF prevented him from doing so, having already represented Slovenia, meaning his home country is now his only hope of playing in the event – and subsequently the Olympics.

"I have proudly called Britain my home for the last nine years and so many people there have made me feel welcome both in the UK and abroad," said the British number two.

"I am also particularly grateful for the support the LTA have shown me in that time and in fighting my case for the GB Davis Cup eligibility."

"It was a dream of mine to be able to compete for a country

that has given me so much in the Davis Cup."

"One of my main goals for my career going forward will be to play for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo." (Sportsbeat)

Aljaz Bedene (file pic)

Williams's driver path is financial, says Felipe Massa

London

Ex-Formula 1 driver Felipe Massa says his former team Williams is on a 'financial path' with the decision over its 2018 driver line-up.

Massa announced his retirement for the second year in a row towards the end of the 2017 season, leaving a vacant seat alongside Lance Stroll at Williams.

Robert Kubica appeared to be the leading contender for the drive, but following the post-Abu Dhabi Grand Prix test, Russian Formula 2 racer Sergey Sirotkin emerged as the favourite to secure the position.

Asked if he was

surprised that Kubica appeared to be out of the running, Massa said: "The path of the team is financial, including Kubica, so it does not surprise me."

"But I don't know what will happen, I'm not following the team now."

"My thoughts are in other things and what I'm doing from now, and it's not F1 anymore."

Massa has regularly been linked to a move to Formula E at some point after his F1 career, but he said any talks along those lines are still in the early stages.

"I have some talks with some teams, with some people, but everything is in the very beginning," he said.

"There is nothing that I can say that is close, but it will appear quickly." (autosport)



Felipe Massa

Massa (file pic)

F1 set for two-second speed boost in 2018

London

Formula 1 cars are predicted to be over two seconds per lap faster in the 2018 season, according to the latest simulation data Pirelli has been given by teams.

The revamp of technical regulations this year to make cars faster, more spectacular and harder to drive achieved its aim of cutting lap times by around five seconds over 2015 levels. The pace was faster at every track this year.

The peak was Sepang, where Lewis Hamilton's Malaysian Grand Prix pole position time was nine seconds faster than two years ago – although factors including weather, time of year and track resurfacing also played a part.

But teams' understanding of the regulations is still relatively immature, which means there are more big gains to come in 2018. (autosport)

Roger Federer (file pic)

Tyson Fury declares himself 'the king'



London

Tyson Fury claims he is "the king" of the heavyweight division as he plans his return to boxing after an absence of more than two years.

Fury accepted a backdated two-year ban from UK Anti-Doping for a violation this week, and the British Boxing Board of Control are meeting in January to discuss renewing the 29-year-old's licence.

Fury, undefeated in 25 fights and a former WBO, IBF and WBA champion, thinks his record makes him stand out from the crowd.

Speaking to *The Telegraph*, he said: "Someone labelled it the four kings right now, four undefeated heavyweight fighters in myself, Anthony

Joshua, Joseph Parker and Deontay Wilder.

"But I labelled it 'three peasants and a king'. There's only one king of the division and that's me."

With Fury set to return to the sport for the first time since shocking Wladimir Klitschko in November 2015, a fight with Anthony Joshua has been discussed.

Promoter Eddie Hearn believes it would be the "biggest fight in British boxing history", and Fury says he would have no trouble winning it.

"He is a big strong lad, good power, good physique, but what else can I say? There are levels to this game, and my boxing ability is way more advanced than his is," he said. (*skysports*)

Brave MMA Athletes celebrate Bahrain National Day

Manama

Mixed Martial Artists of Brave Combat Federation and global celebrities celebrated Bahrain National Day around the world.

The athletes thanked the Kingdom of Bahrain for providing a global platform for athletes without distinguishing language, cultures, religion and race.

They expressed their gratitude and respect towards His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The athletes expressed their support and thanked His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for supporting the sport of Mixed Martial Arts and establishing Brave Combat Federation that is developing the sport Internationally.

The Kingdom of Bahrain made immense progress in the sport and is one among the global leaders when it comes to combat sports.

Bahrain national team made significant progress in the amateur division and the Kingdom hosted the biggest IMMAF World Championships till date under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

"Within a year the Kingdom of Bahrain reached out to nations around the world bringing together over 140 athletes from over 32 nations through the international platform established in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Brave Combat Federation. This is an achievement that the sports media property have made during the initial year of operation. We are overwhelmed by the international community of athletes reaching out to express their gratitude towards the Kingdom of Bahrain and towards the vision of our leader His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for developing the sport of Mixed Martial Arts and for his exemplary support and leadership in this initiative," said Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation.



Bahrain-Merida presented new jersey for 2018



Manama

Bahrain-Merida on Thursday unveiled a 2018 team kit that makes slight changes from their inaugural jersey in 2017.

The 2018 jersey is predominantly red with a blue stripe on the front. Representing the Kingdom of Bahrain,

the name Bahrain is written in gold lettering, gold being royal colour, while Merida is written in white.

Because the team's clothing technical partner, Sportful, supplied a collarless aero jersey, the flag of Bahrain moved this year from the collar to the back of the jersey, along

with the team's acronym - TBM (Team Bahrain-Merida).

The heart of the team's logo, an arabic pattern, is featured on the back of the jersey as well to help the Bahrain-Merida directors differentiate riders in peloton from the other red teams. (*cyclingnews*)

Most teams would suspend Froome: Copeland

Hvar, Croatia

Bahrain-Merida team manager Brent Copeland believes that Chris Froome should sit out of racing while his Salbutamol case is resolved. Froome returned an adverse analytical finding (AAF) for double the allowable limit of the asthma medication during this year's Vuelta a España.

Froome was notified of the findings on September 20, but the issue only came to light on Wednesday through revelations from *Le Monde* and the *Guardian*. Copeland emphasised that his issue was not with Froome or Team Sky themselves, but argued that continuing to ride while the case is ongoing gives cycling a bad

public image.

"I've known Chris for years, and I must be very clear that this isn't against him. I think that Chris can come back stronger than before, I know him and his mindset," Copeland said at Bahrain-Merida's training camp in Croatia.

"If you have a code of conduct or an ethics code then you should follow that. September 20 is when they were notified and Chris still presented himself at several events and [Team Sky] were negotiating with RCS about the participation of him at the Giro d'Italia, knowing what they had on their plate, which is difficult for me to understand as a manager." (*cyclingnews*)

Brave CF Champions

Brent Copeland (file pic)

Smith leads

Aussies fightback

Smith was on 92 at stumps, with Shaun Marsh on 7, with the home side, having trimmed England's first innings lead to 200 runs

Perth

Jonny Bairstow kept his head with a fine century for England but Steve Smith showed a captain's poise to guide Australia to 203 for three at the close of day two of the third Ashes Test yesterday.

Smith was on 92 at stumps, with Shaun Marsh on seven, with the home side, already 2-0 up in the five-match series, having trimmed England's first innings lead to 200 runs.

Bairstow marked his first Ashes ton with a cheeky celebration before lunch, nudging his head against his helmet in a nod to his infamous 'headbutt' of Australia opener Cameron Bancroft.

The wicketkeeper's sparkling 119 helped push England to 403, their highest innings total in Australia since January, 2011.

However, England's joy was tempered by the runs that went begging, having lost six wickets for 35 in the final 10 overs of the morning session to leave the door well and truly open for Australia.

Smith opened it wider with an innings of typical poise, anchoring a 124-run partnership with Usman Khawaja after seamer Craig Overton removed openers David Warner (25) and Cameron Bancroft (22).

The game remains evenly poised but England's hopes of containing Smith and Australia may have suffered a blow when Overton sustained an apparent injury in his chest area.

England also rued some poor fielding with Khawaja reprieved on 39 after he nicked behind, but a lead-footed Joe Root appeared to completely miss the flight of the ball.

Two overs later, Smith struck a sumptuous cover drive for four to bring up his half-century and stepped up a gear to make Root pay.

Khawaja drove into the covers off Moeen Ali to bring up his 10th Test half-century but was trapped lbw by Chris Woakes on the next ball he faced.

Western Australian Marsh played watchfully to stumps, and Australia remain well-positioned to eat into England's lead on day three.

Promoted up the order to six, Bairstow shared in a 237-run stand with Dawid Malan, the highest by an England pair at the WACA and their best fifth-wicket partnership ever in Australia.

Spinner Nathan Lyon broke the stand, forcing Malan to miscue his shot high into the air to be caught for 140. (Reuters)

BRIEF SCORE

Australia 3 for 203 (Smith 92*, S Marsh 7*) trail **England** 403 (Malan 140, Bairstow 119, Stoneman 56, Starc 4-91, Hazlewood 3-92) by 200 runs



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Australia's Captain Steve Smith