

# DT NEWS

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News of Bahrain

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Saudi women will be allowed to drive motorcycles

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## PM hails Bahrain-Saudi relations

Manama

**P**rim Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa yesterday hailed Saudi's pivotal role in serving the Arab and Islamic nations and dealing with regional security and stability.

In a statement to Saudi "Al-Yawm" newspaper, the Premier expressed his confidence in the ability of Saudi to maintain the security and stability of the region and achieve its people's well-being.

HRH the PM said, "Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are one entity."



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eye stronger ties



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Blockchain  
technology expert  
Alex Tapscott  
speaks about the  
sudden frenzy in  
Bitcoin trading



HM the King during the celebrations held at Sakhr Palace

# 'Affirm commitment to unity, tolerance'

DT News Network  
Manama

**B**ahrain yesterday marked its 46th National Day with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa leading the celebrations in the Sakhr Palace.

HM the King arrived at the ceremony accompanied by a constellation of cavalry as the artillery fired twenty-one rounds to salute His Majesty.

In his speech, His Majesty the King told the nation that there is "no better occasion than this to affirm our commitment to our

national principles based on unity, depth of belonging and tolerance of coexistence, which protect Bahrain against the forces of destruction and division."

King Hamad stressed that this is an occasion to renew the pledge of loyalty to the sacrifices of the martyrs of the homeland, "who came to its aid and gave their souls to defend its sovereignty".

"Today, Bahrain is at the forefront of the global development race according to performance indicators in all fields of work," said HM the King adding: "This

is an incentive which makes us, with God's help, advance with the same strength and determination to continue the blessed journey of our development."

Shortly after the speech HM the King conferred medals of appreciation on national work pioneers.

The celebrations mark the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain 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. His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, were present.

The Malaysian Prime Minister extended sincere congratulations to HM King Hamad on the glorious National Days, wishing Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.

Najib began his three-day official visit with an audience with King Hamad at Shaikh Hamad palace earlier, during which he was honoured with the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance of the First Class.

His Majesty also conferred the Bahrain Medal of the First Class on the Malaysian Defence Minister, Hishammuddin Hussein during the ceremony.

King Hamad, who visited Malaysia in April this year, lauded the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed on the sidelines of his visit.

HM King patronises National Days' celebrations

# fireworks light up capital



Fireworks display in progress



Capital Governorate presenting a token of appreciation for the support

Harpreet Kaur/ DTNN  
reporter@dt.bh

## Manama

A perfect blend of awe-inspiring fireworks and rhythmic music transformed festivities in the Capital Governorate to an enchanting experience for thousands who thronged the Water Garden City project for National Day celebrations.

Live performances by the Interior Ministry music team, as well as operettas by Mohamed Abdel Rahim, Mohamed El Tamimi and Hanan Reda, offered the crowd one of the most unforgettable experiences of the National Day festivities.

"The wide participation is a clear indication of their love and loyalty to this country," Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Governor of the Capital Governorate, Chairman of the Higher Committee for the celebration

told *DT News*.

He added: "This also tells the story of cohesion and unique glory of the loyal people and leadership that establishes the titles of allegiance and creates a bright future."

The festivities at the Water Garden City Project also offered huge surprises to the participants in the form of several gifts, which included an MG360 car from Zayani Investments.

Tamkeen's market for entrepreneurs and games village for children turned out to be an instant hit among revellers at the event organised with the support of 30 government and private entities.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Director General of Amman Municipality, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee for the celebration, said the huge turnout is "an affirmation of loyalty to our wise leadership and our belonging to our homeland."

Commenting

on the success, Mohammad Ali Al Khozai, Chairman of the Capital Municipal Council, told *DT News* that the capital had been working for the past three months to ensure its success. "We are glad to see the huge turnout for this event."

"I would like to thank all the organisations for their coordination and efforts to ensure security, smooth traffic flow and management of the stalls," he added.



A local band



A musical performance



Shaikh Hisham addressing the audience

# Bahrain, Malaysia eye stronger ties

## HRH Crown Prince holds talks with Malaysian Prime Minister

Manama

**B**ahrain is committed to strengthening its relations with Malaysia by boosting investments and bilateral trade across a range of sectors, said His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Prince Salman, during a meeting with the Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaysia, Mohammad Najib Abdul Razak, at Gudaibiya Palace, also emphasised the importance of private sector in enhancing bilateral ties.

"Malaysia's economic achievements are phenomenal, so is the role it plays in supporting safety and security in the region particularly through its participation in the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition," said HRH Prince Salman while underlining Kingdom's commitment to engage in mutually beneficial cooperation.

His Highness the Crown Prince also stressed the importance of boosting official visits between the two nations to increase bilateral trade and investment.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness welcomed the growth of relations between Bahrain and Malaysia, supported by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Najib Razak expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet His Royal Highness and praised the Kingdom's commitment to furthering bilateral relations.

His Royal Highness and the Malaysian Prime Minister reviewed a range of bilateral initiatives and ways to further develop relations across various sectors.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss current regional and international developments and issues of mutual interest.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also held a luncheon in honour of Razak's visit to Bahrain.

Earlier in the day, the Malaysian Prime Minister visited the Economic Development Board (EDB) and discussed ways to enhance trade ties in the presence of Deputy Premier, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and EDB officials.

During the visit, the Malaysian Premier was informed about EDB's work and strategic plan.

EDB's Chief Executive Officer, Khalid Al-Rumaihi, briefed him about EDB's role in consolidating and supporting the economic policies of the kingdom, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and efforts to diversify the Kingdom's economy.

Referring to EDB's plans and strategies to develop various economic sectors, Al-Rumaihi highlighted EDB's keenness to intensify its efforts in the current phase to consolidate investments in financial services, information and communication, logistics, manufacturing and tourism.

EDB chief pointed out that there are promising horizons to enhance economic relations with Malaysia, given the two countries' flourishing economic march, and distinguished international status in the Islamic banking sector.

Al Rumaihi also stressed EDB's keenness on strengthening investment cooperation with Malaysia highlighting the country's experience and economic weight in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

The Malaysian Prime Minister expressed his delight in visiting the EDB and for being informed about its experience in promoting Bahrain's promising economic opportunities.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa bestowed the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance of the First Class upon Malaysian Prime Minister, Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, in recognition of his role in bolstering bilateral relations, during a reception held at the Shaikh Hamad Palace



In pictures, the Crown Prince with the Malaysian Prime Minister during a reception





## My Opinion

Ahdeya Ahmed

### Happy National Day The fireworks generation... the 1980s

**E**very year we celebrate national day we evaluate what we have politically and economically achieved and what we forget to look into is how we as a nation have stood together in good and bad times and succeeded in protecting our country against our enemies.

When we were children and those who are a few years younger or older than I am will relate to what I will now write about. To make this easier I will gladly say I am 44 and by my generation I mean those who remember how we used to celebrate national day.

A teapot, snacks and we get into dad's car and drive to the locations where fireworks were held. We would get stuck in traffic and never grumble because what was awaiting us was the fun of the year, the national songs and our fireworks.

Life was simple and we weren't the Starbucks generation. We were the tea and the car drive, all the way to the fireworks generation.

Life was simple and our dreams were simple. National day was associated to fireworks and songs about Sheikh Isa may his soul rest in peace. I still remember this song that had our beloved kings name in it "Ya BuHamad Sheikh el balad..teslam lena ebladena" and its translation is the "The Father of Hamad is the ruler of our country, God bless our country."

We learnt to love Sheikh Isa and Hamad's name was also associated to him, and we after him had already loved our future king.

He was the son of the modest down to earth leader we had known as children and our hearts were all open to his son, our new leader.

And this just reminded me of how modesty in its own form is greatness.

If you are from my generation, you would also remember Adhari Park, Andalus Garden and the Water Park. These were the places we used to go to during our national day breaks. There was no such thing as three days break in Paris. We loved and enjoyed our own country and our love for it made us wait for this day to come.

You might also remember when the first fast food chains were opened. Wimpy opened before Dairy Queen and many of our birthday parties were held in DQ.

You would also remember the first time Baskin Robbins was opened with its 31, 32, or 33 flavours. And this was all in the early 1980s. To us, Wimpy followed by Baskin were the best treats ever. That's how we celebrated national day.

We had nothing else. We only had those, yet life was beautiful.

Today we and our children have much more and I will not say life was more beautiful then.

No, life is of course more beautiful now if we have kept our country and our families together and we did.

We succeeded.

So today when we celebrate our national day we should celebrate the fact that we kept it all together. We were always one family and we will always remain to be that. THAT is our accomplishment.

*(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.)*



Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) yesterday received at the SCW's premises the Wife of Malaysian Prime Minister, Datin Paduka Seri Hajjah Rosmah Mansor, in the presence of HH Shaikha Mariam bint Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Wife of Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa. Princess Sabeeka reviewed with Rosmah Mansor Bahraini women's achievements and emphasised the importance of exchanging expertise among Islamic countries to avail of each others' experiences in the fields of women advancement. The Malaysian Premier's wife said that she is looking forward to opening up new horizons of bilateral cooperation, especially in the women empowerment field.

# A tribute to the fallen heroes

## Manama

**R**ich tributes were paid yesterday to the fallen heroes of the Kingdom with HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa affirming that the "nation will not forget those who lost their lives while defending the homeland."

In a statement on the eve of the Commemoration Day, HH Shaikh Nasser said, "Bahraini people have every right to be proud of the nation's martyrs and the sacrifices they had made to protect the nation and defend its capabilities and achievements."

The Commemoration Day, which falls on December 17, is an opportunity to pay homage to the late servicemen and commemorate their bravery and sacrifices for the sake of defending the nation's sovereignty and protecting its citizens and residents.

This day, Shaikh Nasser said, is an opportunity to recall with pride their dedication in the service of the homeland, and their courage and bravery while



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa (file)

defending the nation.

"I am proud of living with the martyrs of Bahrain and having close ties with them," said Shaikh Nasser.

"I witnessed them racing to the battlefields of dignity and glory, carrying their lives in their hands for the sake of the homeland."

"They will be granted

heavenly rewards," added HH Shaikh Nasser, the Representative of HM the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and the Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

HM the King's decision, HH Shaikh Nasser said, to associate the Commemoration Day with

the Anniversary of HM the King's Accession to the Throne reflects the royal pride in the sacrifices of the late soldiers.

In a statement released separately, Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi said, "The sacrifices of our heroic soldiers have always been valued by the wise leadership and all the people of Bahrain."

"The Commemoration Day has a big historical significance," the minister said adding that it shows that the leadership, government and people of Bahrain never forget the sacrifices of its heroes who fell in the line of duty."

The Minister paid tribute to the staff of the BDF, Interior Ministry and National Guard who gave their lives, in defence of their religion, homeland, the Arab identity and humanity.

Al-Rumaihi hailed the martyrs' valour and heroic stances in confronting extremist and terrorist organisations and staving off their threats to the security of the Arabian Gulf.



Pictures for representative purpose only

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN  
zafran@dt.bh

**T**he booming popularity of Bitcoin is only the beginning of the growth and development of digital assets, crypto-currencies and the application of the blockchain technology, according to Blockchain technology expert Alex Tapscott.

Talking to *DT News* on the unprecedented surge witnessed by Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies, Tapscott said, "The development has caused an international frenzy, with people from all over the world investing and trading with such currencies in order to make a profit."

According to him one of the reasons for the frenzy is social media. "News of early investors becoming millionaires and billionaires have blown up on social media."

He, however, also points out that while excitement has been stirring up at one end, anxiety about it being a 'bubble' has been evolving at the other.

"Many have called it the biggest bubble the world has ever seen," Tapscott warns.

In this regard, Tapscott said he is more excited about the technology behind bitcoin "rather than the short-term financial rewards or risks it has to offer".

"I am more interested in the technology behind it, not in giving investment advice," he told *DT News*.

He said the Blockchain, a technology invented by Satoshi Nakamoto in order to create Bitcoin is as revolutionary as the internet. He said that countries must not wait in adopting the technology.

"Bitcoin is a better accounting system than any we have ever devised,

"Its a ledger that allows us to



Alex Tapscott

### What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is a new currency that was created in 2009 by an unknown person using the alias Satoshi Nakamoto. Transactions are made with no middlemen – meaning, no banks! Bitcoin can be used to book hotels on Expedia, shop for furniture on Overstock and buy Xbox games. But much of the hype is about getting rich by trading it. The price of bitcoin skyrocketed into the thousands in 2017.

### How Bitcoin works?

Bitcoins are completely virtual coins designed to be 'self-contained' for their value, with no need for banks to move and store the money.

Once you own bitcoins, they possess value and trade just as if they were nuggets of gold in your pocket. You can use your bitcoins to purchase goods and services online, or you can tuck them away and hope that their value increases over the years. Bitcoins are traded from one personal 'wallet' to another.

A wallet is a small personal database that you store on your computer drive, on your smartphone, on your tablet, or somewhere in the cloud. (*CNN/Economic Times*)

know who owes what money in a way that is peer to peer and relatively anonymous,

"This is something that is relatively new," he points out.

He added: "What Bitcoin is worth is very subjective, it's in the eye of the beholder, the same I think can be said for the FIAT currencies. So the value today may seem very high but it is relatively low to most other asset classes such global equity market."

Looking ahead, he said, "Bitcoin is the first digital

asset but it's not going to be the last."

He said that there are lots of new kinds of technologies like Ethereum which is a platform to run applications in a decentralized way.

"Soon you will see the third class of digital assets which in fact will have a claim on something; with digital assets functioning a lot like securities," he said adding: "What I can say right now is that we are really just in the beginning stages of all this."

## Blockchain technology expert Alex Tapscott speaks about the sudden frenzy in Bitcoin trading

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- ▶ Treatment of paediatric problems like tonsillitis, adenoid hypertrophy and glue ear.
- ▶ Videolaryngoscopy for diagnosis and treatment of hoarseness and Acid Reflux disorders.



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# National day festivities grip nation

## Embassy in London marks Accession, National Days

DT News Network  
Manama

**C**elebrations were held by Bahraini embassies all over the world yesterday in commemoration of the establishment of the modern Bahraini state, an Arab and Muslim country founded by Ahmed Al-Fateh in 1783, the 46th anniversary of its full membership in the United Nations, and the 18th anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

On the occasion, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Kingdom, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa hosted a reception and luncheon.

Minister of State for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, Minister of State for International Development and Minister of State for the Middle East at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Alistair Burt, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, Tobias Ellwood, former Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and current

Chairmen of the Conservative Party Council for the Middle East, Hugo Swire, the former Chief of the Defence Staff, David Richards, the Advisor of the Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Abdullah bin Hassan Saif, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, a number of prominent British government officials, members of the House of Commons and Lords, Ambassadors, diplomats in Britain, businessmen and Bahraini students studying in Britain took part in the festivities.

In his speech on the occasion, the Ambassador hailed the historic bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom for more than two centuries, adding that the friendship between the two kingdoms has been based on common values and principles.

The event included an exhibition of paintings by Bahraini students in Britain and Bahraini folk food.

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority held entertainment and promotional programmes at the Lancaster

Palace. The highlight of the day was the performance of the Interior Ministry's military band which won the admiration of the audience.

Separately, in a message, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Shaikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah extended deepest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, 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.

In a statement on the occasion, he said, "The National Days of Bahrain are a celebration of the success of the reform project spearheaded by HM the King, and the quantum leap made by the Kingdom in various fields."

In pictures, highlights of festivities held in Bahrain



Bahrain-Keraleeya Samajam(BKS) celebrated Bahrain National Day yesterday at their premises in Segaya. The highlight of the celebration was the creation of world's largest paper collage portraits of Bahrain rulers- His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. The portrait was the combined effort of the 46 artists of the BKS Painters Club. Photo by Sathyan Perambra



Spectacular fireworks held to celebrate Bahrain National Day at Bahrain International Circuit thrilled spectators last night. These photos were contributed to DT News by Bahrain resident and Photographer Muhammad Kamran.

Saudi women check a car at an automobile showroom in the Red Sea resort of Jeddah. (Reuters)

# Saudi women will be allowed to drive motorcycles

## Riyadh

**S**audi Arabian women will be able to drive trucks and motorcycles, officials have said three months after the kingdom announced a historic decision to end a ban on women driving.

In September, King Salman issued a decree saying women will be able to drive

from next June as part of an ambitious reform push in the conservative kingdom.

The Saudi General Directorate of Traffic gave details of the new regulations that will follow the lifting of the ban on the official Saudi Press Agency late on Friday.

"Yes, we will authorise women to drive motorcycles"

as well as trucks, it said, adding that the royal decree stipulates that the law on driving will be "equal" for both men and women.

There will be no special licence plate numbers for female-driven cars, it said.

But women involved in road accidents or who commit traffic violations will

be dealt with at special centres that will be established and run by women. Its historic decision to allow women to drive from next June has been cheered inside the kingdom and abroad -- and comes after decades of resistance from female activists, many of whom were jailed for flouting the ban. (Reuters)

# Egypt reopens ancient library

## ST. Catherine's

**E**gypt reopened yesterday an ancient library which holds thousands of centuries-old religious and historical manuscripts at the famed St. Catherine Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in South Sinai.

The inauguration ceremony, attended by Egyptian and western officials, comes after three years of restoration work on the eastern side of the library that houses the world's second largest collection of early codices and manuscripts, outnumbered only by the Vatican Library, according to Monk Damyanos, the monastery's archbishop.

"The library is now open to the public and scholars," said

Tony Kazamias, an adviser to the archbishop, adding that restoration work is still underway without specifying a completion date.

The ancient library holds around 3,300 manuscripts of mainly Christian texts in Greek, Arabic, Syriac, Georgian, and Slavonic among other languages. It also contains thousands of books and scrolls dating to the 4th century.

At least 160 of the manuscripts include faint scratches and ink tints beneath more recent writing, according to Kazamias, who believes the palimpsests were likely scraped out by the monastery's monks and reused sometime between the 8th- 12th centuries.

During the library's renovation, archaeologists apparently found some of Hippocrates' centuries-old medical recipes. The ancient Greek physician is widely regarded as the "father of western medicine."

"The most valuable manuscript in the library is the Codex Sinaiticus, (which) dates back to the fourth century," said the Rev. Justin, an American monk working as the monastery's librarian. "This is the most precious manuscript in the world," referring to the ancient, handwritten copy of the New Testament.

The library also held some ancient paintings which are currently on display in the

monastery's museum.

"There are beautiful paintings in the manuscripts. When you turn the (pages) there is a flash of gold and colors. It is a living work of art," said Justin.

The officials also inaugurated the Mosaic of the Transfiguration situated in the eastern apse of the monastery's great basilica. It mosaic covers 46 square meters and features a rich chromatic range of glass paste, glass, stone, gold and silver tesserae. Jesus Christ is depicted in its center between the prophets Elias and Moses.

The 6th century mosaic was created at the behest of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian, who also requested building the monastery. St. Catherine's,

## Women and the World

Meredith Ann O'Connell



## Feminism: Misunderstood

**W**hen Merriam-Webster Dictionary announced that the Word of the Year for 2017 was feminism, it was hardly surprising. Women were everywhere this year: their achievements and the issues they face were the topic of many a news article, so it is unsurprising that feminism was one of the most searched words online. Yet feminism continues to be misunderstood and viewed as a "bad word." Far from accomplishing its goals, feminism needs the support of all women in order to move forward.

Merriam-Webster defines feminism as "the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes" and "organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests." The theory is simple: a woman's gender should not impede their ability to run for office, vote, hold a job, study, etc. Feminism does not mean that women hate men, or are better than men, or should have privileges over men. Feminism does not mean that women should abandon their families and stop acting "feminine," it simply means that women should be able to have choices.

Yet even today, feminism is considered a bad word, a word that makes people—both men and women—uncomfortable. Studies show that girls don't want to call themselves feminists because it makes them seem "uncool" or "difficult." Numerous celebrities, when questioned, have said that they don't identify as feminists because they don't want to be labeled. It seems as though the word itself is the problem—after all, if you asked these celebrities if they felt women should, for example, receive equal pay to men, they would likely agree. The very word feminism (and feminist) has been twisted so that even women—the very people it is trying to help—shy away from the concept.

There is also the prevailing argument that feminism isn't needed anymore. While many countries have enshrined equality in their laws, socially there is plenty of work to be done. As the United States proved in 2017, no country is living in a post-feminism era. There are women who say, "I have everything I need or want, I don't see how I'm oppressed" or "I don't feel constricted because I am a woman." These women are free to feel this way, but just because they do not feel discriminated against does not mean thousands and millions of other women don't suffer because of gender discrimination.

Feminism has accomplished a lot, but it still has far to go. Feminism needs all women on board. To do this, let's start with getting the definition correct.

*(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.)*



where the monastery is located, is an area revered by followers of the Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Like the Old City of Jerusalem, it has become a popular destination and an attraction not only for pilgrims

but also tourists from the world over. The 6th century monastery, one of the oldest Christian Orthodox ones, is home to a small number of monks who observe prayers and daily rituals unchanged for centuries. (AP)

## Top toys and technology for holiday season 2017



**Anki Overdrive Fast and Furious**  
App-enabled driving game  
\$170 ▼

**Lego BOOST Creative Toolbox**  
App-enabled, programmable building bricks  
\$160 ▼

**Amazon Echo Dot**  
Hands-free, voice-controlled smart home device  
\$50 ▼

**Apple AirPods**  
Wireless bluetooth earphones  
\$160 ▼

**Teach'n Tag Movie**  
Interactive robot designed to keep children active  
\$50 ▼

**Sphero Ultimate Lightning McQueen**  
App-enabled remote controlled car  
\$300 ▼

**Hatchimals Surprise**  
Twin interactive pets with unique egg hatching encounter  
\$70 ▼

**WowWee Fingerlings Baby Monkey**  
Miniature interactive pet  
\$40 ▼

**Nintendo Switch**  
Hybrid home and portable games console  
\$300 (Super Mario Odyssey game: \$60) ▼

**FurReal Roarin' Tyler, The Playful Tiger**  
Artificially intelligent pet  
\$120 ▼

# Iraq plans new oil pipeline network

Baghdad

**I**raq plans to build a pipeline network to carry oil products across all its territory as an alternative to expensive and hazardous transport by tanker truck, Oil Minister Jabar al-Luaibi said on Saturday. The network is part of a "strategic" plan for oil transportation that includes pipelines to deliver crude and oil products to neighbouring countries, he said.

The only crude pipeline now in operation in Iraq links the northern, semi-autonomous Kurdish region to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

All other crude pipelines were shut down or destroyed in the past 35 years as a result of wars and conflicts. Iraq, OPEC's second-largest producer after Saudi Arabia, once had an extensive network of pipelines to export its crude.

One of them carried Iraqi



Iraqi Oil Minister Jabar al-Luaibi (L) shakes hands with Alexander Dyukov, head of Russian oil producer Gazprom Neft during tour at the Badra oilfield in Kut province

oil across Syria to Lebanon's Mediterranean coast, another to Turkey's Mediterranean coast, largely bypassing the Kurdish region, and one to the Red Sea

across Saudi Arabia.

Iraq earlier this month announced plans to build a crude pipeline to fellow OPEC member Iran. (Reuters)

## Recycled rocket soars with recycled capsule

SpaceX racked up another first on Friday, launching a recycled rocket with a recycled capsule on a grocery run for NASA.

### Second-time flier

Falcon rocket blasted off, taking flight again after a six-month turnaround, with a Dragon supply ship, also a second-time flier. The Dragon reaches the space station Sunday.

### Back in 10mins

Within 10 minutes of liftoff, the first-stage booster was back at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, standing upright on the giant X at SpaceX's landing zone.

### 5000 pounds of goods

This time, the capsule is hauling nearly 5,000 pounds of goods, including 40 mice for a muscle-wasting study, a first-of-its-kind impact sensor for measuring space debris as minuscule as a grain of sand and barley seeds for a germination experiment by Budweiser, already angling to serve the first beer on Mars.

"The reality is, the business of space is dominated by launch costs ... so getting the costs down is important for everyone,"  
**Kirk Shireman,**  
NASA's station program manager

The company aims to reuse rockets — and capsules — far more than twice. The only way to get thousands of people into space — the ultimate goal of Musk — is by drastically cutting launch costs,

**Jessica Jensen,**  
a SpaceX manager



Cool Trends

## Bill retains U.S. eCar tax credit

Washington

**A compromise** Republican tax bill released late Friday does not eliminate a \$7,500 electric vehicle tax credit as Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives had previously proposed. The electric vehicle tax credit starts to phase out after a manufacturer sells 200,000 plug-in vehicles. After that point, the credit is still available for at least three more months before phasing out.



## Defector in S Korean military hospital

Seoul

**The North** Korean soldier, 24-year-old Oh Chong Song, was transferred to the military hospital on Friday from a trauma center at Ajou University Hospital south of Seoul, where his treatment for gunshot wounds and pre-existing conditions included two major operations. The official declined to provide a specific schedule for Oh's questioning.



North Korea must earn its way back to the table. The pressure campaign must and will continue until denuclearization is achieved,"

-Rex Tillerson,

U.S. Secretary of State



## MiG-15 celebrates 70 years of flight

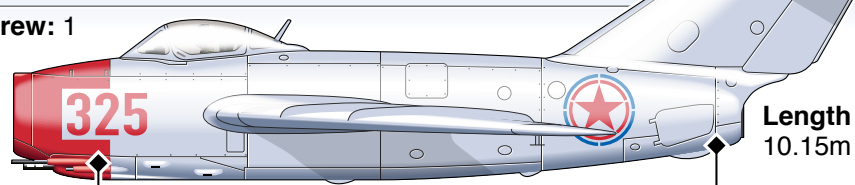
The MiG-15, the Soviet jet that stunned the West during the Korean War, remains in service 70 years after it first took to the skies

**MIKOYAN-GUREVICH MIG-15** (NATO codename "Fagot")

**Maximum speed:** 1,078km/h (Mach 0.87) at sea level

**Range:** 805km **Service ceiling:** 15,545m

**Crew:** 1



Length  
10.15m

**Armament:** 1 x 37mm and 2 x 23mm cannons, plus rockets or bombs

**Engine:** VK-1 turbojet, 26.7kN thrust (copy of British Rolls-Royce Nene)

■ **Dec 30, 1947:** First flight

■ **1949:** Enters service – first Soviet fighter with ejection seat, pressurised cockpit and swept wing

■ **1950:** Makes Korean War debut, quickly proving superior to Western jets and giving communist forces aerial advantage until hurried delivery of U.S. **F-86 Sabre**



■ **1953:** West obtains intact MiG-15 with defection of North Korean pilot, **No Kum-Sok**. At end of war, U.S. Air Force claims 10 to 1 kill ratio for MiG-Sabre battles\*

■ **1956:** MiG-15s flown by Egyptian Air Force during Suez Crisis

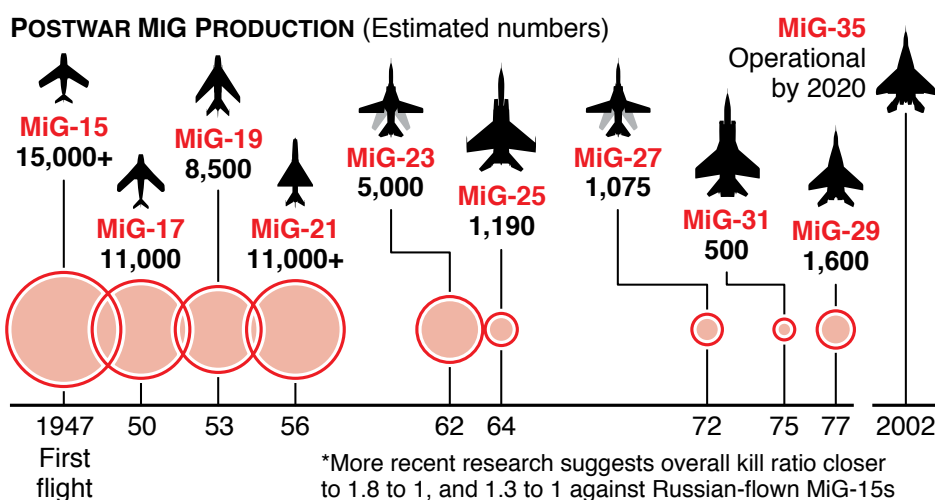
■ **1950s:** Chinese MiG-15s engage Republic of China and U.S. aircraft in combat over Taiwan Strait

■ **1960s:** Basic MiG design proves capable again during Vietnam War, in form of more advanced **MiG-17**

■ **1970s-present:** Two-seat **UTI** trainer version continues to serve air forces of many countries into 1990s. North Korea remains sole operator



**POSTWAR MIG PRODUCTION** (Estimated numbers)



Sources: Airforce Technology, Global Security, RAND Corporation, Smithsonian Institution

Picture: Twitter

© GRAPHIC NEWS

# Al Masri detained in Saudi



Sabih Al Masri (file)

Amman

**Sabih al-Masri**, Jordan's most influential businessman and the chairman of its largest lender Arab Bank, was detained in Saudi Arabia for questioning after a business trip to Riyadh, family sources and friends said yesterday.

A Saudi citizen of Palestinian origin, Masri was detained last Tuesday hours before he was planning to leave after he chaired meetings of companies he owns, according to the sources.

He is the founder of Saudi Astra Group, which has wide interests in diversified industries ranging from agro-industry to telecommunications, construction and mining across the region.

"Masri was heading to the airport and they told him to stay where you are and they picked him up," said a source familiar with the matter who asked not to be named.

He canceled a dinner in Amman on Wednesday that he had invited board members of Arab Bank and business associates to attend

on his return.

Masri could not be reached for comment. The Saudi authorities did not respond to requests for comment.

"He has been answering questions about his business and partners," said a source familiar with the matter who did not elaborate nor confirm he was held.

Masri, who comes from a prominent merchant family from Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, amassed a fortune from partnering with influential Saudis in a major catering business to supply troops during the U.S.-led military operation to retake Kuwait from Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War.

He was elected chairman of Arab Bank in 2012 after the resignation of Abdel Hamid Shoman whose family had founded the bank in Jerusalem in 1930.

The bank, which has earned a reputation of resilience in the face of political upheaval, played a prominent role in supporting former Palestinian leader, the late Yasser Arafat during past Middle East turmoil.

Arab Bank, which operates

in 30 countries and five continents, has an extensive network in Palestinian territories where it is the largest bank. It also owns 40 percent of Saudi Arabia's Arab National Bank ANB.

Masri led consortium of Arab and Jordanian investors who bought a 20 percent stake in Arab Bank Group from Lebanon's Hariri family business empire for \$1.12 billion last February.

He was also instrumental in agreeing in 2015 to settle litigation brought by hundreds of Americans who accused Arab Bank of providing financial services in the West Bank that facilitated militant attacks in Israel.

Masri is also the leading investor in the Palestinian territories with a large stake in Paltel, a public shareholding company, which is the largest private sector firm in the West Bank.

Masri's family ranks among the wealthiest in the Palestinian territories, with majority holdings in real estate, hotels and telecommunications firms set up after a self-rule agreement with Israel in 1993. (Reuters)

# May wins Brexit boost

London

**A**fter a turbulent few months when some predicted she

could be gone by Christmas, British Prime Minister Theresa May finally has some good news with a deal on Brexit -- but any reprieve will likely be short-lived.

The EU's decision Friday to move to the next stage of negotiations with Britain was a much-needed success for May, whose leadership has

been dogged by doubts since a disastrous snap election in June.

The approval followed an 11th-hour deal struck last week by the prime minister and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker on the terms of the divorce, including Britain's financial settlement. (AFP)



Theresa May

# Did You Know?



Aramco, the most-prized jewel of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has a couple of prized jewels of its own – the Ghawar and Safaniya oil fields. The Ghawar oil field is the world's largest onshore oil field and produces roughly 5 million barrels a day. The Safaniya oil field is the world's largest offshore oil field and produces around 1.2 million barrels a day, enough to meet China's daily demand alone.



**BFC**  
CURRENCIES  
EXCHANGE RATE

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

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

## GULF INTERBANK RATES

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



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond and Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai attend the UK-China Economic Financial Dialogue at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China

# China, UK pledge to strengthen ties

## Beijing

**C**hina and Britain have vowed to continue and strengthen cooperation on a wide range of economic, financial and trade issues, including speeding the introduction of a London-Shanghai stock connect programme.

In a joint statement on Saturday, coinciding with an official visit to China by British finance minister Philip Hammond, the countries also said they opposed trade protectionism and reaffirmed their support for the World Trade Organisation as a key pillar of the global trade system. The statement comes

as China, in an unusual step, accused the United States and the European Union of breaking promises that they made when China joined the WTO.

Speaking at a press conference in Beijing together with Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai, Hammond said the two countries were also discussing a long-awaited London-Shanghai stock connect programme, as well as a possible scheme to connect their bond markets.

"We have agreed to accelerate the final preparations for the London-Shanghai stock connect

initiative and we've agreed to commence feasibility studies for a UK-China bond connect and for mutual recognition of funds between the two jurisdictions," he said.

Hammond, who also visited a separate forum on Saturday where the London and Shenzhen stock exchanges signed a pact on supporting innovative companies, said he hopes to see more Chinese small firms "make the most of our country's startup expertise, networks and capital raising capabilities."

Other areas of cooperation highlighted in Saturday's joint statement include

encouraging each country's banks to increase their presence and activity in the other country, the promotion of China-U.K. cross-border yuan business, an agreement to cooperate on ultra-low-emission vehicles, and support of the yuan as a settlement currency.

China and the U.K. will establish a new joint expert group to exchange views on macroeconomic and fiscal policy, the joint statement said. Former British PM David Cameron will also be involved in a proposed \$1 billion bilateral investment fund, the statement added. (Reuters)

# Tobacco industry trumps as court cancels labeling rules

## New Delhi

**A**n Indian court on Friday quashed federal rules that mandated stringent graphic health warnings on tobacco products, lawyers involved in the case said, in a decision seen as a major victory for the tobacco industry and a setback for health advocates.

India's Supreme Court last year ordered enforcement of the government's 2014 federal rules that required 85 percent of a tobacco pack's surface to be covered in health warnings, up from 20 percent earlier,



despite protests by the tobacco industry.

At the same time, the top court had asked a court in southern Karnataka state to

rule on the dozens of tobacco industry pleas that challenged the federal rules.

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday struck down the government's 2014 notification, said Aradhana L, a lawyer at Poovayya & Co, who represented tobacco companies including India's ITC and Philip Morris International Inc's Indian partner, Godfrey Phillips India Ltd.

India's tobacco packaging rules were among the world's most stringent and aimed at reducing tobacco consumption

which kills more than 900,000 people a year. The World Health Organization estimates tobacco-related diseases cost India about \$16 billion annually.

A government survey earlier this year found that 62 percent of cigarette smokers thought of quitting because of warning labels on the packets.

Industry lawyer Sajan Poovayya cheered the move. "Bye Bye gruesome warnings on tobacco packages," he said on Twitter after the verdict. (Reuters)

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. -Colin Powell



## New Horizon celebrates Bahrain National Day

**T**he Bahrain National Day was celebrated at New Horizon School, Janussan campus with great splendour.

The Arabic department organised an array of events to commemorate the day. The celebrations kicked off with the variety entertainments highlighting the tradition and culture of the Kingdom.

The programme consisted of Arabic recitation, songs, Arabic dances, stage show and a speech by Zahra Khalil.

The staff and students were attired in red and white in honour of the national flag. The whole campus was decorated in the same colours enhancing the festive mood.

A traditional exhibition organised by the Arabic department was the special feature of the day.

Activities like henna designing, pony ride, face painting and different games provided great entertainment to the students and resembled a mini carnival.



Highlights of the event



## Bahrain National Day: NIS celebrates with zest and fervour



Highlights of the event

**T**he New Indian School, Bahrain celebrated the 46th Bahrain National Day at its campus with great zest and fervour.

The celebration began with the unfurling of the National flag of Bahrain accompanied by the school

band.

Special assemblies were conducted, featuring a wide range of programmes that included Quran recitation, patriotic song specially composed for the occasion by the Vice Principal, Dr. George Mathew, speeches

highlighting the significance of the day, action song by the kindergarten section and traditional dances and performances exhibiting the spirit of Bahrain.

The kindergarten and the primary section students lined

up to form NIS with a heart symbol exhibiting their love for the nation.

Director, Dr. V. Gopalan in his address praised the country for its benevolence and reminded everyone of the duty to contribute to the development of the kingdom.

T. T. Thomas, chairman of the school blessed all the members of the staff and the students and extended his greetings. Principal, Gopinanth Menon also extended his best wishes and reiterated that every resident of Bahrain has a bounded

duty towards the betterment of the nation.

Students also engaged in decorating their classrooms to suit the occasion. Decked up in red and white, the entire school was buzzing with national pride and patriotic fervour.



Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammad Najib Abdul Razak visited Bahrain's National Theatre where he was welcomed by the President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa. The Malaysian Premier and his delegation attended a symphony orchestra performance at the iconic theatre. Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Education Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi and a number of government officials were present.



The Bahraini Ambassador to the United Kingdom Fawaz bin Mohammar Al Khalifa hosted a reception and luncheon on the occasion of the national day celebration. The reception was attended by the Minister of State for the Americas, Canada, Minister of State for International Development, Minister of State for the Middle East at the Foreign Commonwealth Office, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence Tobias Ellwood and a number of other members of the British government.



National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) Chairperson Maria Khoury has received independent expert at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Amal Salman Al-Dosari. Khoury lauded the prominent role played by Al-Dosari at the CRC, and its efforts in the fields of childhood and youth.



Marking the Kingdom's celebrations of the glorious National Day, and the 18th Anniversary of His Majesty Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne, the Secretariat-General of the National Institution for Human Rights held a ceremony. Chairperson and members of the Council of Commissioners, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat-General attended.



President of the Cassation Court and Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) Chancellor Abdullah Hassan Al Buainain received Dr. Wafaa Al Wafi, who dedicated to him a copy of her doctoral thesis themed (Online International Commercial Arbitration) from the French University of Toulouse 1 Capitole. Chancellor Al Buainain expressed his appreciation of her research efforts culminating in the compilation of this dissertation, wishing her success.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al-Khalifa and Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs and Egyptians Abroad Khaled Youssri Rizk. They attended by Egyptian Ambassador Soha Al-Far, reviewed relations between the two brotherly countries, issues related to cooperation, especially with regards to consular affairs.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa patronised, at Sakhir Palace yesterday, the celebration marking the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain 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. Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammad Najib Abdul Razak, were also present. HM the King conferred medals of appreciation on national work pioneers during the ceremony.

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Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik was the Chief Guest at Bahrain National Day celebrations organised by Pakistani Community in Muharraq hosted by Rafaqat Hussain and Mian Shahid, Ejaz and others. Also present were, MP Khalifa Al Ghanim, and Chairman Muharraq Council Dr. Mohammad Al Sinan and a large number of Bahraini and Pakistani community members. The Pakistani Ambassador was also the Chief Guest at a ceremony organised by Pakistan Club to Mark Bahrain National Day. Chairman of Pakistan Club Rehan Ahmed, Secretary General Sami Ur Rehman and Pakistani community members attended.



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Rights (NIHR) held  
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Abdulla Mohamed Juma and Mohamed Salahuddin organised the yearly reunion of Manama Secondary school alumni class of 1962-63 which was attended by 33 members and friends. Abulqassim Shirazi hosted the annual dinner party at Salahuddin Garden. Yousif Eid Bokhammas presented prizes. The next yearly event will be hosted by Abdulatif Al Aujan.



alifa received  
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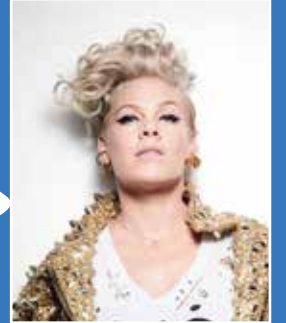
President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received Lebanese Minister of Culture Dr. Ghatas Khouri and discussed with him cultural cooperation. BACA President also briefed him on the cultural activities planned by Bahrain for 2018 and presented him with an invitation to attend the opening of "Muharraq Capital of Islamic Culture" functions in January 2018



The Medical Centre of the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) organized a blood donation camp in cooperation with the Salmaniya Medical Complex Blood Bank at the Company's headquarters. Eighty two Company employees donated blood during the campaign

# CELEBS

*P!nk @Pink*  
Chris Cornell dedicated all of the proceeds from his song *The Promise* to support refugees and children. Help us #KeepthePromise for Chris Cornell



## Clooney working on Watergate series

**London**  
**A**ctors and filmmakers George Clooney and Grant Heslov, along with screenwriter-producer Matt Charman, are said to be working on a limited series that will explore the Watergate scandal that had forced then US President Richard Nixon out of office.

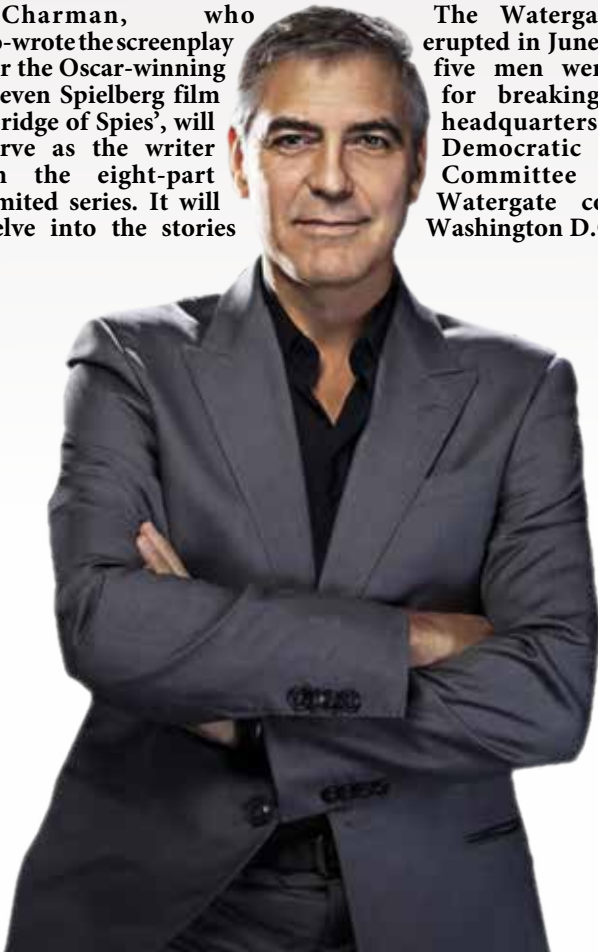
Charman, who co-wrote the screenplay for the Oscar-winning Steven Spielberg film 'Bridge of Spies', will serve as the writer on the eight-part limited series. It will delve into the stories

of certain key figures in the infamous scandal.

Clooney and Heslov will be the executive producers, with sources said that Clooney may also direct part of the series.

Sonar Entertainment, which will produce, inked a first look deal with Clooney and Heslov's Smokehouse Pictures last year.

The Watergate scandal erupted in June 1972 when five men were arrested for breaking into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate complex in Washington D.C. (TOI)



## Chastain applauds Salma Hayek

**Los Angeles**

**A**ctress Jessica Chastain has applauded actress Salma Hayek for coming forward with sexual harassment allegations against disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

"I thank you Salma Hayek for sharing your story. Your voice is important and needed right now. You are creating a place of great healing," Chastain tweeted on Wednesday, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

She added: "I ask all of our male allies in this industry, why have your journeys been so different from ours?"

Hayek joined the ranks of Hollywood women accusing movie producer Weinstein of sexual misconduct and called him "monster" in an op-ed she wrote for the *New York Times*.

"For years, he was my monster," Hayek wrote in the opinion piece in which she included descriptions of sexual harassment, bullying and threats. (IANS)



## Streep responds to Tom Hanks' remark

**Los Angeles**

**H**ollywood legend Meryl Streep has finally responded to the remarks Tom Hanks made, calling her 'high maintenance'. And her answer is like 'mother' of all comebacks.

While attending the premiere of her upcoming movie, 'The Post', Streep addressed the joke the actor recently made about her being "high maintenance."

She said, "Just check the amount of time he took in hair and makeup and how much I did, and you'll find out who's high maintenance."

The three-time Oscar winner also dropped a little trivia about the phrase and its relation to the film. "By the way, the movie is dedicated to Nora Ephron, who claims that phrase - high maintenance - as her own," noted Streep. (TOI)



**STARRY Birthday**  
**Nat Wolff**

December 17, 1994

Actor and singer who first rose to fame as a member of The Naked Brothers Band with his younger brother Alex. He portrayed Isaac in the 2014 film *The Fault in Our Stars* and Quentin in the 2015 film *Paper Towns*, both based on novels by John Green.



## Affleck continues to receive treatment

London

**A**ctor Ben Affleck appeared to have returned to a residential rehab facility, in his ongoing battle to conquer his struggle with alcohol addiction. Reportedly, it is confirmed that the 45-year-old actor is continuing to receive treatment for his alcohol addiction.

"He is continuing after care. It is part of his daily regimen," said a source.

The 'Justice League' first sought treatment for his substance abuse in 2001 and completed a second programme earlier this year, but sources now say that whilst his "main priority" is his children.

He has been spotted at various treatment centres around Los Angeles in recent weeks, and the publication reports the star has "worked hard to assemble a system of support that includes different treatment centres." (TOI)

## 'Mamma Mia!' sequel better than the original

London

**A**ctor Amanda Seyfried, who plays the role of Sophie in 'Mamma Mia!', has promised fans that the upcoming sequel is going to be better than the original.

Seyfried said she too was doubtful when she was approached for a follow-up initially.

"Truthfully, when they were like, 'We're making Mamma Mia 2' I was like, 'That's going to be terrible.' But it's not! It's amazing," she told.

The film, titled 'Mamma Mia!: Here We Go Again', will focus on Donna's,

Meryl Streep younger days. Actor Lily James plays the younger Donna in the movie.

"As soon as you see Lily on screen, you're like, 'Oh my God, that's Donna! I'm seeing Donna when she was wild and young and free, and she has the essence that Meryl brought to it. And it's kind of extraordinary,'" Seyfried said. (TOI)



# NO, Johnson won't run for president

Los Angeles

**H**ollywood actor Dwayne Johnson announced that he was not considering to be running for president.

But, it looks like he has again changed his mind.

According to source, the 45-year-old actor is actually considering running for President of the United States, but in the year 2024.

In an interview with a leading US publication, Johnson said, "I couldn't do both [make movies and run for President]. Realistically, as we go into 2018, when you look at my slate as we're developing and shooting into 2019 and 2020, the slate goes deep into 2021, so it feels like the realistic consideration would be 2024."

Though Johnson had political ambitions on his mind, he never set out to start a viral guessing game of whether or not he will run for president. (TOI)



## Sinitta planning 'juicy' autobiography

Los Angeles

**S**inger Sinitta is ready to spill "juicy" secrets about her life in a new autobiography.

Sinitta, who dated music mogul Simon Cowell and actor Brad Pitt in 1980s, says she is publishing a tell-all book about her life in the new year.

"I have an album coming in the new year, really exciting -- and a book," Sinitta told *thesun.co.uk*.

"So look out for that. It's an autobiography. It's really juicy and a long time coming, but it's coming," she added.

Sinitta also had a public spat with Cowell earlier this year after he removed her from "The X Factor". But the pair have made up since then. (IANS)



# OUT & ABOUT

## HOW TO REACH US

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

### RITZ-CARLTON WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY VILLAGE

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

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

### RITZ GOURMET TAKEAWAYS

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

The Ritz Gourmet Lounge offers a selection of gourmet desserts and festive hampers filled with heavenly delights like minced pies, 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

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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.

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### 1KG BURGER CHALLENGE



**Date:** Till 31st December 2017  
**Venue:** Sherlock Holmes, Gulf Hotel

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### SUNDAY-LADIES NIGHT



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

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### TYPHOON HOSPITALITY EVENING

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

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### 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 Rajeesh 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.

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Sunday, December 17, 2017

17

News of Bahrain

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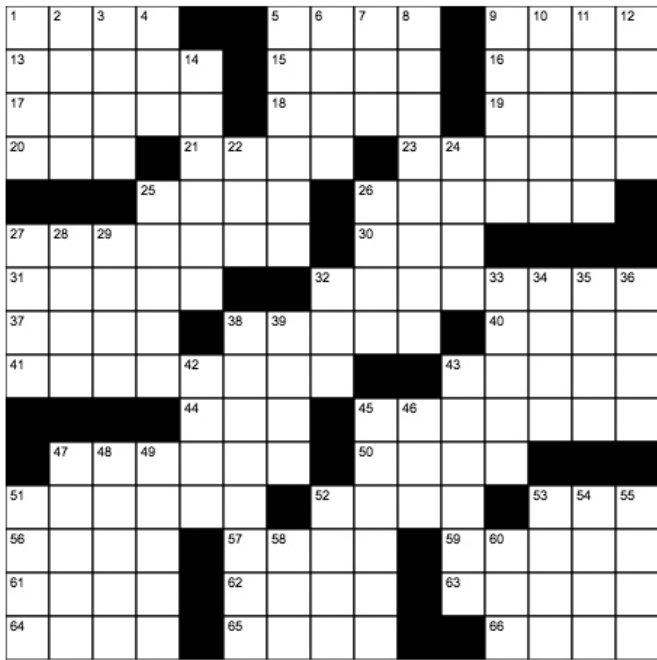
### DEADLINE

Lineage 11am  
Display 9am  
Cancellation 12pm

### WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday  
8 am - 6 pm

## CROSSWORD



### Across

1- Shrivelled, without moisture; 5- Tax experts: Abbr.; 9- Actress Ward; 13- Smells; 15- Furnace output; 16- Brag; 17- Greek marketplace; 18- Other, in Oaxaca; 19- Shrinking Asian sea; 20- Barrett of Pink Floyd; 21- Modernists; 23- Hose; 25- Dampens; 26- Standards of perfection; 27- Rumor; 30- Jazzman Adderley; 31- Dole out; 32- Annoy; 37- Tidy; 38- Toned down; 40- "Pure Guava" band; 41- Abandoned; 43- Seductively beautiful woman; 44- Competitor of Tide and Cheer; 45- Conceive; 47- The Last Frontier; 50- Pen points; 51- Obvious truth; 52- A long way off; 53- Avg.; 56- Hill dwellers; 57- Prefix with dynamic; 59- Narrow street; 61- Cambodian currency; 62- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 63- Gravy, for one; 64- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_\_ Seko; 65- Adverse fate; 66- Mrs. Dick Tracy;

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



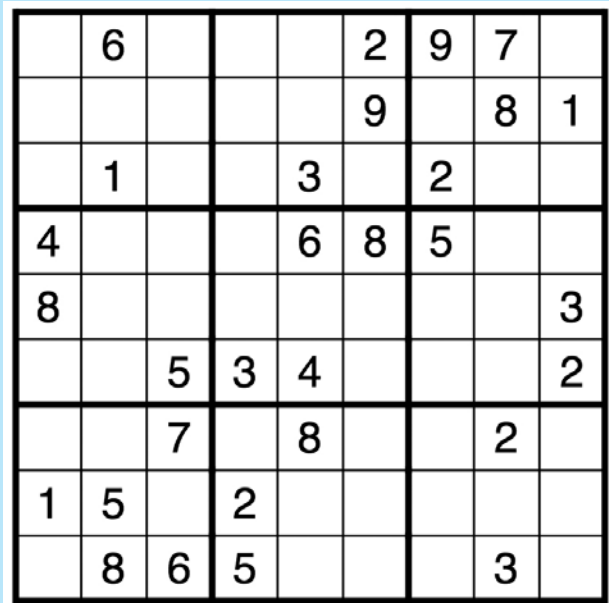
### Down

1- In order (to); 2- Jittery; 3- Cross; 4- Stray; 5- Hard to please; 6- Teachers' favorites; 7- Swiss river; 8- Norm; 9- Milan's La \_\_\_\_; 10- Swashbuckler Flynn; 11- Bank offerings; 12- Holemaking tools; 14- Most reasonable; 22- LAX posting; 24- Himalayan legend; 25- Penned; 26- As to; 27- Clock pointer; 28- Robt. \_\_\_\_; 29- Banned orchard spray; 32- Addams family cousin; 33- Tiny branches; 34- Ethereal: Prefix; 35- High schooler; 36- Feminizing suffix; 38- Dairymaid; 39- Arthur Ashe's alma mater; 42- Colleen; 43- Native Israelis; 45- Disclose; 46- Soccer standout Hamm; 47- Army leader; 48- Old stringed instruments; 49- Bridal path; 51- Sailors; 52- Suffix with buck; 53- Swing around; 54- Gumshoes; 55- Changes color; 58- Feeling of self-importance; 60- Back muscle, for short;

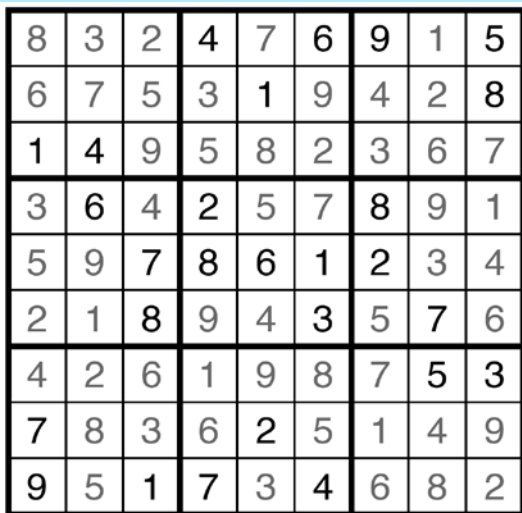
## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### How to play:

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

## Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Don't take anything too seriously today. People may be careless with their words and end up hurting feelings or even breaking hearts. Don't read too deeply into what's said. Your overanalyzing of the situation could lead you to suspect scenarios that have no basis in reality.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Yes, it's your turn now. Perhaps you've been waiting for something, but the timing hasn't been right. Perhaps there has been a mental or physical roadblock in the way. Wait no longer. The time is here. Don't make excuses and don't hold back. The more you contribute, the more richly you'll be rewarded.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Don't get too bogged down in details today. If you keep trying to perfect every aspect of the package before you send it out, you'll end up missing the boat and the package won't go at all. Keep things moving quickly. Don't worry so much about insignificant matters.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You may be talking a lot today, but that's natural. You have a great deal to say, so why not say it? You'll have your way with very little effort. Enjoy yourself and feel free to treat yourself in the way you deserve to be treated. Respect yourself and others will respect you. Sit up straight and be proud of who you are.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



You may find it hard to stick to a task today. Your mind may feel fragmented. It may be hard to focus. If this is the case, don't worry too much about it. Perhaps it's the Universe telling you that it's OK not to focus. Keep things light and carefree. There's no need to stress out about something that only exists in your mind.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Go out and play today. Escape your work mode and have fun. Drive someplace new and take a long walk outside with friends. You have a lot of energy, so share your enthusiasm with others. There's an exciting buzz in the air that you should tap into and contribute to. Take a break from the mundane and have an adventure.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Get some of your thoughts on paper today. Communicate your feelings in a journal or write letters or emails to people you haven't seen in a while. Keep the tone light. You have a lot of information to share whether you realize it or not. This is a good day to dress up, go out, and have fun. Share a meal with friends and save your worries for another day.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



You're the certified expert on many topics, so spread your knowledge around. Others will attend to your words. Use them carefully. You may jump from subject to subject, but that's OK. The unexpected adventures you encounter will keep you entertained. Don't worry about the consequences. Go out and have fun. The energy of the day is electric!

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Don't worry so much about others today. Your job is to have fun. Keep things balanced by not delving too deeply into one specific topic or project. The aspects indicate variety, so spend some time on many things. You may discover an untapped talent or a new interest. Enjoy the exploration.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



If you don't express yourself today, people might get the impression that something is wrong. The person you're talking to may think that he or she is boring you. Contribute something to the conversation. Strong opinions are flying, and yours is as valid as anyone else's. Keep it lively and witty.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



This is a great day to shop. Join friends and hit the stores to add more beauty and pleasurable items to your life. Stay away from the cheap and shoddy. You deserve quality. Turn the expedition into a social event and have fun. You'll have a great time with your friends even if you don't buy anything.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



You may feel like you're slowly ploughing through mud, but things are starting to look up. A weight has been lifted and you're ready to take flight. You might soon be back to your old self again. At the very least, it somehow feels easier to be you. The time is right to throw a party or hang out with a large group of friends.



North Korea's Kim Jong-un during a phone call (file photo)

# Kim changes NKorean phone numbers

**Seoul**  
**P**aranoid Kim Jong-un has changed every phone number in North Korea - after a telephone directory was smuggled abroad.

The jumpy dictator has ordered engineers to bring in new numbers for everyone listed in the book - which included Kim's security services.

During the summer, an internal directory containing numbers for government departments, as well as other private lines was smuggled out, causing a headache for the authorities.

It ended up in China and later pages were published on news website *Daily NK*. Several people have since been arrested on suspicion of treason.

Now the outlet has reported that secretive Kim has shut down all the landline telephone services - causing havoc for merchants.

And it could take six months to make the changes.

A source told *Daily NK*: "The directory is about 500 pages long and was published in 2003. It contains the phone numbers of all department offices and security desks across the country."

"There are numbers for various companies and their managers, Workers' Party offices, judicial offices and criminal hotlines, prosecutors' offices, and many other offices and government departments."

According to another source, traders are facing difficulties with the outage as they can no longer easily coordinate business with partners in other regions. They are now being forced to use costly mobile phones.

Another source in North Hamgyong Province added: "Many are feeling uneasy now, because in the markets in South Pyongan Province,

we have not been able to contact other merchants in the Pyongsong market.

"Landline phone services are preferred among merchants due to their cheaper usage fees over mobile services, so this has really caused us a lot of problems."

Even workers in state-owned companies are complaining, demanding a speedy return of landline services as they fear the increased costs associated with mobile phone usage.

Workers away on business trips must also now use personal mobile phones in order to keep their managers updated on their trade activities.

People have been heard complaining about the country's "turtle pace" compared to the rest of the world, suspecting that it may be six months before service is restored. (*thesun.co.uk*)

## Ancient Biblical city found intact underwater

**Athens**  
**A**rchaeologists have uncovered "mind-blowing" architecture almost perfectly intact from the ancient Biblical city of Corinth - despite being wiped out by a devastating earthquake 1,400 years ago.

The Greek city, which was rebuilt in 44BC by Roman Emperor Julius Caesar, holds major significance for Christians.

Jesus's disciple Paul is said to have visited there and wrote two letters about his time in



Baiae was an ancient Roman town on the northwest shore of the Gulf of Naples

Corinth - featured in the New Testament.

Just days ago, another group of archaeologists

in Italy were amazed to discover the historic resort of Baiae in perfect condition. (*dailystar.co.uk*)

### #PollToday



North Korea's UN ambassador says US must be held accountable if anyone is to be blamed for possession of nuclear weapons by his country. Do you agree?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"Our possession of nuclear weapons was an individual self-defensive means of defending our sovereignty and rights of resistance and development from the US nuclear threat and if anyone is to be blamed for it, the US must be held accountable."

Ja Song-nam  
North Korea's UN ambassador

### Rest in sight

**Philippines tropical Storm kills 3**



A tropical storm barrelled into central Philippines, killing at least three people and injuring at least six

**US woman charged using Bitcoin to fund IS**

US prosecutors have charged a New York woman with using Bitcoin and other crypto-currencies to send funds to the Islamic State group.

**Strong quake hits Indonesia's Java, kills 3**

A powerful magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck the island of Java in Indonesia, with authorities reporting three deaths and damage to hundreds of buildings.

**'Youthquake' named Oxford's word of 2017**

"Youthquake" was crowned as Oxford Dictionaries' word of the year 2017, following a five-fold increase in usage.

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## Billionaire founder of drug firm's death 'suspicious'



Honey and Barry Sherman

**Toronto**

**C**anada's global pharmaceutical giant Apotex has confirmed the death of its billionaire founder Barry Sherman, after police reported two "suspicious" deaths at the couple's upscale Toronto home.

Police did not identify the victims, who were found on Friday, but Canadian media named them as Sherman and his wife Honey, prominent Canadians whose deaths

sparked an outpouring of grief among the country's political elite.

"We've been informed of the tragic news that Barry and Honey Sherman have unexpectedly passed away," said the Twitter account of Apotex, which Sherman founded in 1974.

The company, which made its name producing generic drugs, grew to employ more than 11,000 people worldwide. (AFP)

## Say cheetah!



Some 'Kodak moments' are down to unintentional perfect timing. This picture of a cheetah appears to show the animal grinning from ear to ear. The photograph was shot by Saeed Al Jafar, 48, from Kuwait, in the Masai Mara, Kenya. (Source: Caters News Agency)

## Rahul Gandhi extends family grip on Congress

**New Delhi**

**I**ndia's Rahul Gandhi took over yesterday as president of the main opposition Congress, becoming the sixth member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty to head the party that has ruled the country for much of its independent history.

Fireworks erupted over the party headquarters in New Delhi drowning out the voice of his mother Sonia Gandhi as she handed over the reins of power to her 47-year-old son, who now faces the tough task of ousting the right-wing

government of premier Narendra Modi.

Rahul, wearing a long flowing white kurta, smiled and waved from the dais adorned with posters of his late grandmother and father, former prime ministers Indira and Rajiv Gandhi.

"I accept this position with the deepest humility, with the knowledge that I will always be walking in the shadow of giants," Gandhi said in his acceptance speech which quickly became an attack on Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). (AFP)

# Shaikh Mansour, football's richest owner



Shaikh Mansour

**S**haikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan hasn't a worry in the world...

The Manchester City owner has amassed a £17 billion fortune,

mainly thanks to his booming International Petroleum Investment Company.

Shaikh Mansour is the deputy Prime Minister of his native United Arab Emirates, minister of presidential affairs, as well as member of the ruling family of Abu Dhabi.

The 47-year-old Mansour is even buddies with Richard Branson, owning a large stake in the British entrepreneur's Virgin Galactic spaceship company.

And if that's not enough, his Premier League team are bossing English football at the moment.

They could even add a Champions League crown to their trophy cabinet this season, which would make Mansour's investment seem sound.

But who is Mansour and what does he spend his money on?

Let us invite you into his world of wealth, including a £400m yacht he let one of Hollywood's biggest movie stars borrow.

## Football teams

In 2008 Shaikh Mansour bought Man City with his Abu Dhabi United Group for £210m and has ensured The Citizens buy the best talent in the world.

But the Shaikh Mansour is a shrewd businessman and

doesn't throw his money away that easy.

In fact, the day City signed Gareth Barry for £12m from Aston Villa, he also made a \$1.4bn profit selling a stake in Barclays he bought months earlier. Mansour launched a second team in the MLS in New York in 2013, luring Frank Lampard and David Villa to New York City F.C. in recent years.

And he expanded his City Football Group portfolio with the acquisition of Aussie football team Melbourne City F.C. in 2014.

Real Madrid's recent World Club Cup opponents, Al-Jazira SCC are also owned by Mansour, where he is chairman.

## The yacht

Looking at Mansour's prized yacht is enough to make your eyes water... with tears of joy and wonder.

The fifth largest super yacht in the world, it's an absolute beast. Named Topaz, the vessel is a 482ft and was custom-built in Germany by Lurssen Yachts and designed by Tim Heywood in 2012.

It has 8 floors, two helipads, three swimming pools, a gym, jacuzzi and even a cinema.

Right before Brazil kicked off their 2014 World Cup campaign, Leo DiCaprio was spotted hosting a party for 21 of his pals on the Topaz.

Mansour loaned it to the Oscar-winning actor

who soaked up the carnival atmosphere in Sao Paulo with his mates.

Now, that's not a bad number to have on speed-dial.

Recently it was reported that Mansour had to refuel his yacht when he docked at Marmaris port in Turkey.

It was said to have cost him £380,000 to fill up the 730,000 litre tank, and that took 5 hours!

## Cars

Mansour owns a 5 percent stake in Ferarri, which he bought in 2005 with the idea of bringing Formula One to the United Arab Emirates.

His £91m investment worked, and ever since 2009 the world's leading drivers have gone to Abu Dhabi for their annual grand prix.

Alongside Ferarri, Mansour has a 9.1 percent stake Daimler AG (they own Mercedes).

He's also owned a fleet of the world's most astonishing cars.

In his collection he's had a Mercedes SLR-McLaren (£350k), a Lamborghini Reventon (£840k) and a Ferrari Enzo (£2.5m).

Like Floyd Mayweather, Mansour also loves Bugatti Veyron and has 5 of them starting with a value of £1.1m.

To top off his exquisite collection, he has a Porsche 911 GT1, which is worth around £3 million.

After all, Mansour is a petrol head. ([thesun.co.uk](http://thesun.co.uk))

# Smith, Marsh put Eng to the sword

Australia Captain Steve Smith hits the ball to score his double century  
(Picture courtesy: AP)

## Perth

**A**n epic and unbeaten 301-run stand by home captain Steve Smith and Mitchell Marsh struck a heavy blow against England's hopes of keeping the Ashes out of Australian hands on day three of the third Test at the WACA yesterday.

On an agonising day for Joe Root's team, Smith broke bowlers' hearts with his second double-century against the hapless English side after all-rounder Marsh celebrated his maiden ton.

The pair pushed Australia to 549 for four and a first innings lead of 146 runs, rendering England's 403 hopelessly inadequate.

They strode off to a standing ovation, with Smith unbeaten on 229 and Marsh 181 not out, pushing toward a double-century of his own.

"It felt really good yesterday, I was in the zone. I wanted

to cash in today," Smith said before he exited the ground.

"We wanted to be out in the middle and just keep batting."

On day two, Dawid Malan and Jonny Bairstow had English chests bursting with pride after building a 237-run stand for a record fifth-wicket stand in Tests at the WACA.

The mark lasted less than a day, as Smith and Marsh smashed 57 boundaries between them to leave England praying for the mercy of rain.

Showers are forecast for days four and five, but the weather may not be enough to save England, who managed only a single wicket despite no fewer than seven players rolling over their arm throughout the day.

Having torched England for 107 runs in the middle session, Smith and Marsh plundered another 128 after tea, as England's bowlers battled fatigue and the inescapable

knowledge that none of their plans were working.

Having punished England with 215 at Lord's in 2015, Smith set himself a new personal best in a masterclass of patience, precision and timing.

His unbeaten 390-ball knock has him fourth on the list of highest innings at the WACA, with the possibility of further promotion on day four.

He reached the three-figure mark, his seventh against England, when he whipped paceman Stuart Broad through the leg side for four.

The second hundred with a single off all-rounder Moeen Ali, and he bounded down the wicket roaring in triumph to the delight of a big day three crowd.

Marsh celebrated his recall with his maiden Test century, completing a rare family trio of Ashes tons. (Reuters)

## BRIEF SCORE

Australia 4 for 549 (Smith 229\*, M Marsh 181\*) lead England 403 by 146 runs

# Hamilton makes his prediction for 2018

## London

**F**ormula 1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton believes his former team McLaren's switch to Renault power-units for 2018 could be the catalyst the team needs in order to fight for the world championship once again.

Ferrari and Mercedes fought it out for the titles this year, with Red Bull joining the fray near the end of the year. McLaren, meanwhile, remained in the doldrums with Honda power, and the teams last title of any kind was Hamilton's maiden drivers crown back in 2008.

The last constructors title was in 1998, when Mika Hakkinen won that year's drivers title.

McLaren decided they'd had enough of Honda power this year, and the switch to Renault has given the team a confidence boost and, based on Red Bull's three wins with that same power-unit this year, they believe they can be back at the front next year, along with



Lewis Hamilton (file pic)

excellent chassis development. Hamilton has always kept an eye on how his old team have been doing, and finds it quite sad that they are still struggling. But, next year he feels it could be a four-way scrap for the championship.

Ferrari are likely to be closer, if not ahead, of Mercedes. Red Bull will make gains, and if the Renault power-unit is finally on the pace,

McLaren may at last be winning once again.

"Next year, McLaren will have Renault engines, then we may see four teams fighting for the championship," Hamilton said. "I think Red Bull will be quicker and Ferrari for sure will be fast again. We can't stand still - we have to keep moving forwards." (givemesport)



## Williams put off driver announcement to New Year

## London

**F**ormula One team Williams have put off until the New Year an announcement on who will partner Canadian teenager Lance Stroll next season.

A team spokeswoman confirmed no driver news was planned before January, with the 21-race 2018 season due to start in Australia on March 25.

Russian Sergey Sirotkin appears favourite for the drive, the only remaining vacancy on the starting grid, rather than Poland's comeback hopeful Robert Kubica.

Williams have said their decision would be based on performance and have given

few hints about who is likely to succeed now retired Brazilian Felipe Massa at the former champions.

Sirotkin, a 22-year-old development driver for the Renault team this year, has been backed by Russian billionaire Boris Rotenberg and his SMP Racing.

Rotenberg's brother Arkady is a close ally and former judo partner of President Vladimir Putin.

Leaving aside his significant backing, the Russian impressed in post-season testing in Abu Dhabi after he was passed over by Renault when that team were looking to replace Britain's Jolyon Palmer. (Reuters)



Christian Benteke heads home Crystal Palace's first away (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

# Benteke strikes as Palace win

**London**  
Christian Benteke put his penalty misery behind him to inspire resurgent Crystal Palace to their first away win of the season as 10-man Leicester were beaten 3-0.

The striker scored his first goal since May in a victory that came a week after he defied team orders by taking -- and missing -- a penalty against Bournemouth.

Another apology saw him set up the impressive Wilfred Zaha for a goal, with Bakary Sako adding a late third as Palace moved up to 14th.

Roy Hodgson's men are now unbeaten in seven games and their cause was aided by sloppy Leicester, who had birthday boy Wilfred Ndidi sent off in the second half.

Vicente Iborra had a goal disallowed for the hosts, who had previously won four straight games, as they missed the chance to move within two

points of the top five.

Benteke had been in the spotlight after missing the last-minute spot kick in the 2-2 draw with Bournemouth and he was keen to make amends but failed to pounce on Jeff Schlupp's early cross.

Kasper Schmeichel also saved smartly from Ruben Loftus-Cheek during Palace's bright start.

Buoyed by their late 2-1 comeback win against Watford on Tuesday Palace bossed sloppy Leicester and cashed in after 19 minutes.

It was a simple goal but a well-crafted one as Andros Townsend made room to cross for Benteke, who lost Wes Morgan to head in from 12 yards before celebrating with his fingers in his ears.

It was Palace's first away goal of the season but owed much to Leicester's slapdash marking while Schmeichel's positioning was also suspect as he failed to

## OTHER SCORES

Arsenal	1	Newcastle United	0
Manchester City	4	Tottenham Hotspur	1
Chelsea	1	Southampton	0
Stoke City	0	West Ham United	3
Brighton	0	Burnley	0
Watford	1	Huddersfield Town	4

stop Benteke's central header.

Conceding at least woke Leicester up and Benteke almost gifted them an immediate equaliser, heading inches wide of his own goal.

The hosts' penalty appeals then went unanswered when the ball struck Scott Dann and it got worse for Leicester five minutes before the break.

Riyad Mahrez gave the ball away which allowed Benteke to stride forward, hold off the challenge of Ndidi and find Zaha.

The forward sidestepped Ben Chilwell and drilled low

past Schmeichel for his fourth goal of the season.

It was a deserved half-time lead and one which Palace looked to build on -- but Benteke miscued a header from Townsend's second-half cross.

Mahrez, who had been poor, then forced Julian Speroni into a fine low stop but Leicester's plans unravelled further during one madcap minute.

First, Iborra saw his header ruled out for a shove on James Tomkins on the hour before Ndidi saw red just 51 seconds later. (espn.in)

# PSG thrash Rennes 4-2

**Rennes**  
Neymar scored twice as 10-man Paris St Germain asserted their dominance over reigning Ligue 1 champions Monaco with a 4-2 victory at Rennes.

The Brazilian striker, who became the most expensive player ever when he swapped Barcelona for PSG in a 222 million euro deal this August, opened and closed the scoring at Roazhon Park.

His first goal, poked home from a Kylian Mbappe pass early on, brought him to 10 league goals for the season and in the 17th minute he set up the Frenchman for PSG's second.

Giovani Lo Celso and Edinson Cavani both came closer to propelling the capital club further clear before the break but Rennes goalkeeper Tomas Koubek contained the threat.

The hosts reignited the contest when Firmin Mubele halved the deficit with a 53rd-minute goal when Morgan Amalfitano found him in good space to notch.

But PSG turned the screw in the last 15 minutes, Cavani making it 3-1 with a sumptuous chip from distance before Mbappe once again found Neymar for a classy finish beyond Koubek.

Rennes thought they had a lifeline when Presnel Kimpembe conceded a penalty and saw red for his troubles at the death, but Sunderland loanee Wahbi Khazri blasted his spot-kick over the bar.

Monaco had closed the gap on the leaders to six points with their Friday thrashing of St Etienne but the Parisians are now nine points ahead once more. (espn.in)

PSG's Neymar celebrates with teammates



## Eibar beat Valencia

**London**  
Valencia's unlikely title bid stumbled yesterday when they were beaten 2-1 away by Eibar and they now risk falling eight points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona by the end of the weekend.

Japanese international Takashi Inui put Eibar ahead in the 49th minute in heavy rain with the help of some haphazard defending from the visitors.

Santi Mina levelled for Marcelino's side eight minutes later with a simple near-post finish from close range but the visitors failed to build up any momentum with their equaliser and Eibar came back at them even stronger. (Reuters)

# No agreement with Ronaldinho, says Brazilian Party

## Rio de Janeiro

A far-right Brazilian party on Friday denied reports that World Cup-winning footballer Ronaldinho is to be one of its candidates in elections for the Senate.

"There is no agreement between the party and Ronaldinho for him to launch a bid for a Senate seat," the party, Patriota, said.

Patriota is led by Jair Bolsonaro, a firebrand former army officer dubbed the "Brazilian Donald Trump" who is riding high in opinion polls ahead of next year's presidential elections.

O Globo's website reported Thursday that

former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star Ronaldinho was to run for a seat in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.

The article showed a photograph of Ronaldinho with Bolsonaro, with the footballer holding a copy of a book by the politician.

Patriota's president Adilson Barroso said: "He is not a member of our party, but the door is open and it would be an honour to have him with us."

Ronaldinho, 37, won the 2002 World Cup with Brazil. (AFP)



Ronaldinho (file pic)

Anthony Joshua (file pic)



## Fury has an interesting proposition for Joshua

London

**T**yson Fury may not be set to fight British boxing legend Anthony Joshua, but he is already thinking of ways to make the fight more interesting than just a standard boxing match.

The controversial boxer has had his doping ban backdated by two years, theoretically allowing him to return to the ring to fight despite remaining without a license in the UK.

He tested positive for cocaine back in 2016, and has been a figure of controversy now for the last couple of years.

He plans on making a comeback next year, but the fight with Joshua may not go ahead until at least 2019. With this in mind, he made some interesting comments regarding "AJ" and made the boxer an interesting offer.

"Like I always say, he's nothing but a pumped-up weightlifter," Fury told *iFL TV*. "And when I get in the ring with him, I'll show you all how good I am."

"He won't land a blow, 100 per cent. If he's Superman then I'm definitely Kryptonite."

"And I'd even say, to make it very interesting, for every power punch he lands - a power punch is anything but a jab - I'd give him a £10,000 bonus for every one he landed."

Fury has been offered several opponents by Matchroom boss Eddie Hearn, including Dillian Whyte and Tony Bellew. They are seen as the ideal opponents for Fury to shake off the rust which has gathered for the last two years and allow him a fair challenge once back into the ring. (*givesport*)

# Brave takes the legacy to the world



Hamza Kooheji

Manama

**B**rave Combat Federation had an immensely successful year in 2017 playing a key role in bringing global attention to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Bahraini sports media property reached out to 84 nations to roughly 833 million households and created history as the largest sports

media property in the Middle East. Bahrain also played host to the largest mixed martial arts event ever hosted in the history of Middle East.

Bahrain also witnessed a huge influx of global celebrities, legends of the sport, pop icons and artists joining hands as the part of Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions.

Bahrain's only professional mixed martial artist, Hamza Kooheji made an overwhelming victory by humbling Team Relentless athlete, Mohammed Farhad.

Brave Combat Federation incorporated a car show, food festival and concerts with the signature edition of the event making it larger than ever

before.

Soon after the success of Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions, KHK Sports launched KHK Boxing set to take place in Cape Verde on December 9th, which is yet another landmark for the initiative under the leadership of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

My Tent Or Yours and Barry Geraghty (L) jumps the last flight with The New One and Melon before winning the International Hurdle at Cheltenham (Picture courtesy: theguardian)



## Guitar Pete wins Caspian Caviar Gold Cup

Cheltenham

**G**uitar Pete won the Caspian Caviar Gold Cup at Cheltenham but the race was marred by the death of Starchitect.

Starchitect, runner-up in last month's BetVictor Gold Cup, was leading when it faltered approaching the second-last with a broken hind leg.

Guitar Pete (9-1), ridden by Ryan Day and trained by Nicky Richards, won for the second time this season.

He beat 3-1 favourite Clan Des Obeaux into second with King's Odyssey (9-1) third over two miles and five furlongs.

David Pipe's Starchitect took the lead down the hill but his injury allowed Guitar Pete, Clan Des Obeaux and King's Odyssey to pull through on the final stretch.

The six-year-old was swiftly dismounted by Tom Scudamore as Guitar Pete

went on to pick up a hollow victory.

Pipe said: "No horse deserves that and Starchitect definitely didn't. He was a real tough customer and always tried his heart out."

"This was going to be his day today. It is just a freak accident but they happen. We hope they never do but they do from time to time."

Meanwhile, three-time Champion Hurdle runner-up My Tent Or Yours won the International Hurdle in a thrilling finish from The New One and Melon.

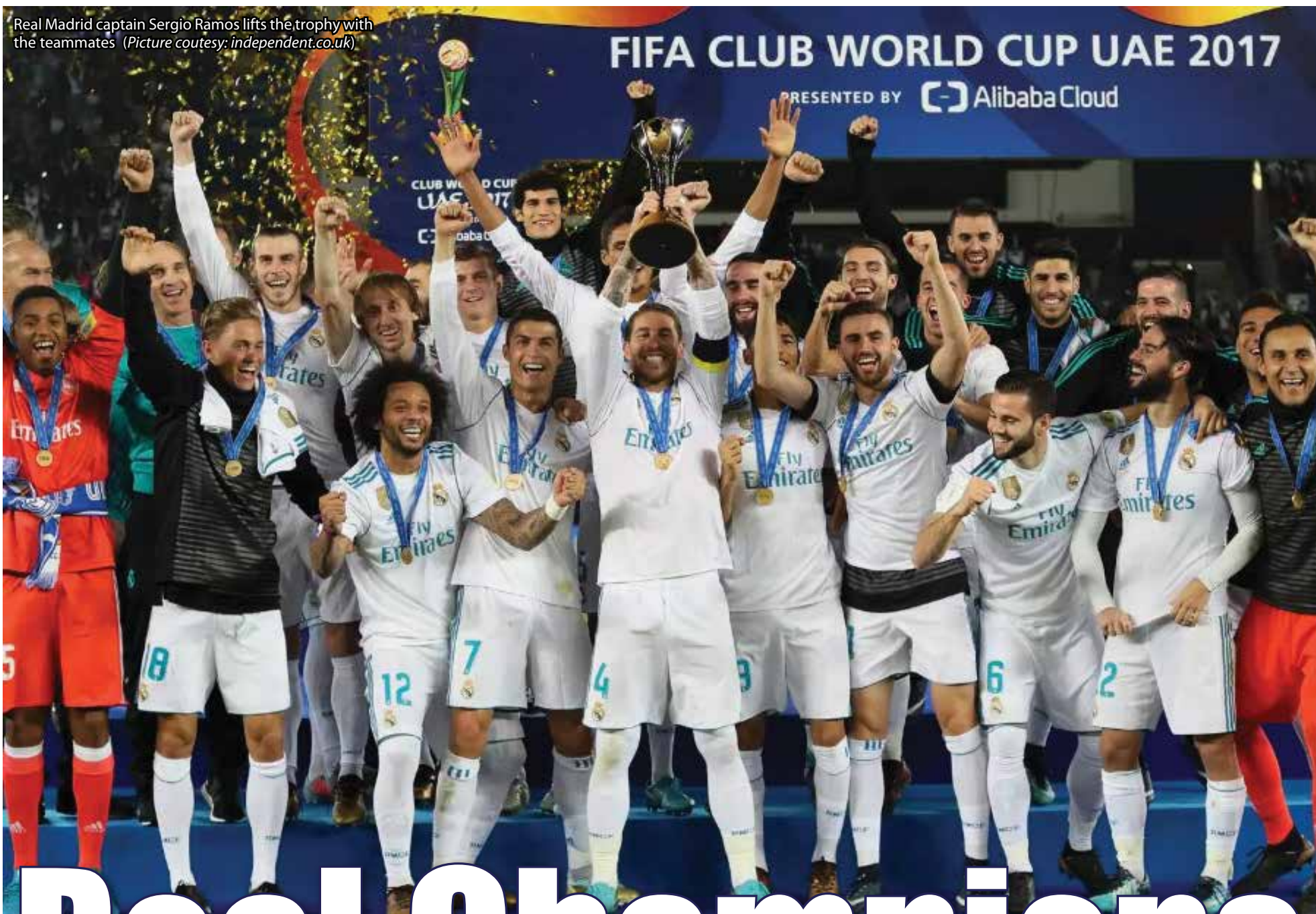
Jockey Barry Geraghty edged the Nicky Henderson-trained victor home for the 10-year-old horse's first win for 1,399 days.

Sam Twiston-Davies returned from injury to ride The New One for his father Nigel and led from the start, but went down by a length and a quarter. (BBC)

Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos lifts the trophy with the teammates (Picture courtesy: independent.co.uk)

**FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP UAE 2017**

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# Real Champions

**Abu Dhabi**

**C**ristiano Ronaldo's superb free-kick gave Real Madrid a 1-0 win over Brazilian side Gremio as they retained their FIFA Club World Cup title in Abu Dhabi.

Portugal forward Ronaldo, voted the Best FIFA Men's Player for 2017 and the Ballon d'Or winner for a fifth time, broke the deadlock after 53 minutes when he clipped the ball over the wall and into the bottom corner.

The hard-earned victory over a stubborn Gremio side at the Zayed Sports City Stadium was Real's third

FIFA Club World Cup since 2014, equalling the record of LaLiga rivals Barcelona.

Real, who beat Al Jazira 2-1 in the semi-final with a goal from substitute Gareth Bale, started brightly as an effort from Karim Benzema was deflected behind.

Ronaldo then curled a shot wide before Isco fired over.

As the half-hour mark approached, the Brazilians had a chance to threaten when Casemiro conceded a free-kick 30 yards out.

Edilson opted for a long-range effort, which flew just over.

Ronaldo found himself with a clear sight of the Gremio goal after benefiting from a deflection, but could not get the ball under control.

As half-time approached, it was then Ronaldo's turn to fire in a free-kick from distance, which again was narrowly too high.

The Champions League holders continued to press early in the second half.

Ronaldo sent another long-range shot wide before the deadlock was finally broken.

The Portugal forward was tripped just outside the Gremio penalty area

by Jailson.

Ronaldo got up to take the free-kick himself and he dink it up over the wall and down into the bottom left corner past the diving goalkeeper.

Gremio, who beat Mexican side Pachuca to secure a place in Saturday's final, were forced to go on the offensive, but lacked any real threat.

It looked like Real had scored again just before the hour, but Ronaldo's effort was ruled out by an offside flag.

Gremio goalkeeper Marcelo

Grohe pushed a 20-yard effort from Luka Modric on to a post as Real continued to press.

With 10 minutes left, Bale replaced Benzema, and the Wales forward soon forced Grohe into another good save, this time tipping his curling shot over.

Earlier yesterday, Pachuca secured third place after a 4-1 win over home club Al Jazira. (eurosport)

