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Interception of planes by Qatar condemned

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday condemned the interception of UAE civil planes bound for Manama by Qatari fighter jets, according to a statement by the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority. "This action constitutes a threat to the safety of civil aviation and in violation of the international laws and conventions," a source at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, taking into consideration the flights were regular, scheduled, with well-known route and met the approvals and internationally recognized necessary permits.



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UN alarmed
as US cuts
Palestine aid



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04

'Unjustified
escalation'



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa admiring a painting after receiving Labour and Social Development Minister Jamil bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan and ministry employees at Safriya Palace yesterday. HM the King praised the efforts of the ministry in promoting national development, thanking the minister and the ministry staff for their remarkable efforts to provide job opportunities for citizens as well as train and groom the national work force. The minister paid tributes to HM the King for his support to the ministry.

\$2b Saudi aid for Yemen

Riyadh

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia ordered a deposit of \$2 billion to be paid into Yemen's central bank yesterday to shore up the weak Yemeni currency, the Saudi government said.

The move was made a day after the Yemeni prime minister issued a public plea for funds to prop up the rial and help stave off hunger in the war-torn country.

"It's not a loan, it's a deposit and the legitimate Yemeni government will not have to pay it back," a source close to the Saudi government said.

Its currency, the rial, has lost more than half its value against the U.S. dollar and soaring prices have put some basic commodities out of reach for many Yemenis.

Aid workers on the ground told Reuters they expected the rial to rebound due to the Saudi cash injection.

"It is a strategic move to further damage the North," said one aid worker. It remains to

been seen if civil servants in the South will be paid, which would increase the gap with the North, he said.

Based in the southern port city of Aden, Yemen's Central Bank has struggled to pay public sector salaries on which many Yemenis depend amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

The conflict has unleashed a humanitarian and economic crisis on the impoverished country. A deadly cholera epidemic erupted last year, and the United Nations has said that Yemen could face one of the deadliest famines of modern times.

"Saving the rial means saving Yemenis from inevitable hunger," Prime Minister Ahmed bin Daghr said yesterday. -Reuters



King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

UN alarmed as US cuts Palestine aid



A Palestinian man stands next to a cart carrying a flour sack distributed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Khan Younis refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip (Reuters)

"The US has announced it will contribute \$60 million to the programme budget. There is for the moment no other indication of possible funding. This dramatically reduced contribution results in the most severe funding crisis in the history of the agency,"

-Chris Gunness,
UNRWA spokesman

"The freeze amounted to "cruelty" toward an "innocent and vulnerable population."

-Hanan Ashrawi,
A senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation

"At stake is the access of 525,000 boys and girls in 700 UNRWA schools, and their future,"

-Pierre Krahenbuhl,
UNRWA chief

"UNRWA is not a Palestinian institution, but a UN institution,"

-Antonio Guterres,
UN Secretary General



Palestine PLO-NAD @nadplo
Replying to @nadplo
The U.S. Administration seems to be following Netanyahu's instructions to gradually dismantle the one agency that was established by the international community to protect the rights of the Palestinian refugees and provide them with essential services. #Palestine #UNRWA
2:12 AM - Jan 17, 2018
11 35 18

The UN has expressed serious concern at the US decision to withhold more than half of a tranche of funding for the agency supporting Palestinian refugees.

Washington will hand over \$60m (£43m) of a planned payment to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), but keep back \$65m until it carries out "reforms".

UN Secretary General António Guterres said it could be forced to cut health care, education and social services.

Millions of refugees' dignity and human security were at stake, UNRWA said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accused the US of "targeting the most vulnerable segment of the Palestinian people".

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump threatened to cut aid to the Palestinians over what he called their unwillingness to

negotiate with Israel.

On Sunday, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas sharply attacked Mr Trump's peace efforts, saying he would no longer accept the US as a mediator following its controversial recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The US is the largest single donor to UNRWA, providing \$368m in 2016 and funding almost 30% of its operations to help some five million refugees across the Middle East.

On Tuesday, US state department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters that the Trump administration had committed to a voluntary contribution of \$60m for 2018, so that Unrwa did not run out of funds and schools and health care facilities would not have to close.

An additional \$65m of funding would be "held for future consideration" but not

cancelled, she said.

Ms Nauert explained that the US would "like to see some revisions made in how Unrwa operates", to ensure that the money was "best spent" so that people got the services they needed.

UNRWA Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl, warned that the agency was "now confronted with the most dramatic financial crisis" in its 69-year history.

"Given the long, trusted, and historic relationship between the United States and UNRWA, this reduced contribution threatens one of the most successful and innovative human development endeavours in the Middle East," he said.

"At stake is the access of 525,000 boys and girls in 700 Unrwa schools, and their future," he said.

"At stake is the dignity and human security of millions of

Palestine refugees, in need of emergency food assistance and other support in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"At stake is the access of refugees to primary health care, including pre-natal care and other life-saving services."

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the PLO's executive committee, accused the Trump administration of seeking to "dismantle" UNRWA at Israel's behest.

"This administration is thereby targeting the most vulnerable segment of the Palestinian people and depriving the refugees of the right to education, health, shelter and a dignified life," she said.

"It is also creating conditions that will generate further instability throughout the region and will demonstrate that it has no compunction in targeting the innocent." (BBC)

Raids across Germany target Iranian spies

German authorities on Tuesday conducted searches of homes and businesses belonging to 10 suspected Iranian spies.

The Federal Prosecutors Office ordered the searches after receiving a tip from Germany's domestic intelligence agency.

The suspects are believed to have spied on persons and institutions "on behalf of an intelligence entity associated with Iran," the prosecutor's office said.

No arrests were made during the raids, which were carried out in Baden-Württemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria and Berlin.

The German

magazine Focus, which first reported on the searches, said that the 10 individuals were suspected members of the al-Quds Brigade, the external operations arm of the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp (IRGC).

Iranian agents are believed to regularly spy on Israelis, Jewish institutions, Iranian dissidents and other targets abroad.

Focus reported that the 10 persons are suspected of spying on Israeli and Jewish targets.

Germany authorities have not confirmed the report.

Long history of espionage

Earlier this month, Germany summoned Iran's ambassador



in Berlin after a 31-year-old Pakistani student was convicted of spying for Iran on Social Democratic Party (SPD) politician Reinhold Robbe.

Robbe was the former head of the German-Israel Friendship Society.

The Islamic Republic and its Lebanese Shiite ally, Hezbollah, have long been accused of

carrying out multiple deadly attacks on Jewish and Israeli targets abroad.

Last April, federal prosecutors filed charges against two men suspected of spying on the opposition People's Mujahedin of Iran (MEK) on behalf of Iranian intelligence.

The Paris-based MEK seeks to overthrow Iran's theocratic government and is widely disliked inside the country, where it is labeled a terrorist organization. The Iranian government blamed the group for stirring up unrest earlier this month.

Formerly listed as a terrorist organization by the EU and

United States, the MEK has also been accused of carrying out covert operations on behalf of Israel and the United States.

Iran has been linked to the assassination of multiple dissidents, mostly Kurds and MEK members, throughout Europe.

In 1992, four Iranian-Kurdish opposition leaders were assassinated in a Berlin restaurant by Iranian agents.

The assassination in Berlin, and another three years earlier against Kurdish dissidents in Austria, occurred at a time when the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan was leading a low-level insurgency in Iran. (DW)

Truth has many sides,

says artist Ali Merza

Deputy Premier Shaikh Ali opens 44th Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition



Deputy Premier His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa inaugurating the 44th Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition yesterday



DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

"I have exhibited my works in several places and participated in several competitions but this is the first time I am showcasing an installation," said Bahraini artist Ali Merza who won the first place at the 44th Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, which began here yesterday.

"I am happy to have won this prize, it is an honour," he said. Deputy Premier, HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, opened the Exhibition, who was deputised by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister. The expo is being held under the patronage of HRH Prime Minister.

Organized by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), this year's edition of the exhibition is being held in a tent set by BACA next to Arad Fort in celebration of "Muharraq as Capital of Islamic Culture 2018".

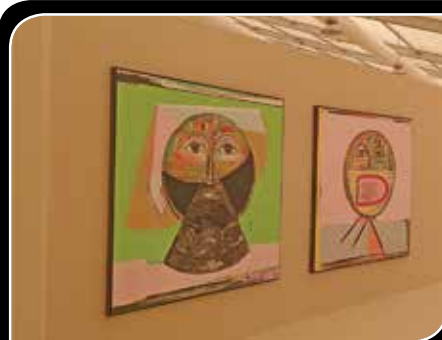
Speaking about his thought process behind the art piece that won him the first prize, Ali Merza said, "Each man contemplates the truth from a certain perspective and expresses it from his own point of view considering its opposite as invalid. Nowadays, convincing

others with one point of view regarding any issue/idea seems impossible. Disagreement about any truth means there is an opposition to opinions. While thinking about these thoughts, several questions preoccupied me. Why we've been created differently? When population increased, opinions varied because each eye has a different view of truth, even for a unique scene. What is the benefit of human existence within such divergence of views? While drawing, I wonder if it's my duty to make life beautiful for people, and convinced them that it merits to be lived? Not sure. I realize that even if artistic/philosophical orientations are multiplied, only life is the reality, it's the truth we lived despite differences of views, and anything else is an area of research/experience for the artist," he said.

"The regional and international successes of the Bahraini fine art movement prove the creativity of Bahraini artists who have embraced the various international artistic trends and schools," HH Shaikh Ali said.

Fifty-three artists, including Bahrainis and residents, have showcased their creative pieces at the event. The works presented by artists tackled various subjects using different mediums and techniques - painting, photography, installation, sculpture and others. A competition, supervised by an international jury, was held during the opening ceremony.

"Our belief in our creative artists increases year after year. Visitors from the Arab and Islamic countries will come to our city and discover the beautiful side of our nations, such bright image of which we are proud and keen to project to the world," said BACA President, Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa.



Paintings and other art works of various artists on display at the exhibition





My Opinion

Ahdeya Ahmed

Deputy-Editor-in-Chief

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Qatar...What if ?

When a country has caused so many problems, harbored terrorists and funded others, you expect that when its being told it will be held accountable for the losses of lives as a consequence to its acts, it will at least avoid more losses. But when it arrogantly puts the lives of hundreds of others at risk, you realize that this country is not prepared to acknowledge its mistakes that I will refer to as crimes, yet it continues to act as a threat to its neighbors.

Qatar this week intercepted UAE flights to Bahrain with two warplanes, an act that cannot be justified since the UAE aircraft had abided to all the international aviation standards.

And I could just imagine how the passengers on that flight felt when they saw these interceptions and what they may have led to.

Passengers airlines being intercepted by Mirage warplanes!!

Such hostile acts that endanger the lives of hundreds of civilians can never be justified and Qatar needs to seriously consider its past acts that has already torn apart its brotherly relations with its closest neighbours. Its intervention in other countries affairs in an attempt to be a leader in the region obviously backfired and Qatar has been labelled as a terrorist harboring country.

In simple analysis, when Qatar funded the Houthis, terrorist cells and acts of crime and sabotage in Bahrain with a direct interference in our sovereignty and the sovereignty of other states including Egypt and Libya, that led to the deaths of hundreds through all the wars it triggered, Qatar's intentions towards its neighbors became loud and quite clear.

Terrorist cells funded by Qatar succeeded in taking the lives of many innocent people who were either protecting their country or their neighbors. The terrorist acts in Bahrain did not just cost the lives of Bahraini citizens but also UAE soldiers who were serving in Bahrain and protecting us.

Can these atrocities just be deleted from our minds and history. Of course not.

Can deaths resulted by its support to the Houthis and Muslim brotherhood in neighboring states be forgotten, forgiven and deleted.

Of course not.

Can the fact that Qatar has threatened the stability of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt be forgotten? Of course not, especially when the display of its muscles continues through intercepting civilian aircrafts.

Therefore, the last thing Doha needs is an accident that can cause the lives of civilians onboard a commercial flight.

The four boycott states have repeatedly denied the possibility of military intervention in Doha and this surely reflects their wisdom and patience but can what happened this week be viewed as a military intervention from Doha.

What we today ask ourselves is: What is next?

(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.)

'Unjustified escalation'

Manama

Bahrain yesterday refuted the allegations made by Qatar that military aircraft belonging to the United Arab Emirates violated its airspace.

In a memorandum filed to the UN Security Council, Kingdom's mission to the United Nations in New York, citing radar recordings, told the Council yesterday that the United Arab Emirates aircraft didn't violate Qatari airspace and was on a committed flight path to Bahrain.

Radar footages delivered to the UN Council showed that the UAE aircraft was flying away from Qatari airspace and that Qatar violated international law by intercepting the UAE aircraft.

This, Bahrain said, is "an irresponsible and unjustified escalation by Qatar."

Bahrain also called upon the State of Qatar to respect international law and to abide by the principles of good neighbourliness and not to repeat such unacceptable acts which endanger the lives of innocent civilians and threaten international peace and security.

Meanwhile, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation told UN Security



The first incident involved Emirates Flight EK837 while the second involved Etihad flight EY23B traveling from Abu Dhabi International Airport to Bahrain International Airport.

Council, in a briefing, that the UAE military aircraft accused by Doha of violating Qatari airspace was flying over the UAE airspace over a training zone acknowledged by the two countries and that its mission did not last more than 30 seconds.

Gulf News reported that the meeting, which included presentations and a short video by the GCAA and the UAE Armed Forces, showed radar footage documenting in real time the two separate incidents of interception of

two military cargo aircraft that were flying over the Arabian Gulf by Qatari Mirage fighters.

Dr Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, reportedly said at the briefing that the actions by the Qatari aircraft against the UAE aircraft and the international air safety showed clearly that the authorities in Qatar are determined to escalate the situation.

Dr Gargash also Tweeted on Wednesday that the

Bahrain refutes Qatar's allegation at UN Council

UAE's response to Qatar's jets intercepting two Emirati civilian aircraft will be "balanced and legal".

"There are two explanations for the developments in the Qatar crisis and the exposure of the civilian planes. First, it is Qatar's increased concern and confusion, and second, it was a desperate attempt in fear of marginalisation," Dr Anwar Gargash tweeted.

"Our response will be balanced and legal, and our goal is the safety of the region and the passengers."



Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, yesterday met Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Yemen, and his accompanying delegation at his office in the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat. They discussed UN efforts to restore security and stability in Yemen and ways to intensify efforts to deliver humanitarian aids. The Secretary-General reiterated that any political solution in Yemen should be based on the GCC Initiative as well as the outcomes of the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference and UNSC resolution 2216. Dr Aluwaisheg, the GCC Assistant Secretary General for Political and Negotiations Affairs, also attended the meeting. In picture, the GCC Secretary General receiving the UN Secretary-General's Envoy

Bahrain Auto Fair Inaugurated

DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, inaugurated the Bahrain Auto Fair 2018 (BAF), the biggest automobile festival in the Kingdom at the Bahrain Financial Harbor yesterday.

The event organized by SolidVision in cooperation with Eleven & Bridge is being held in an area of 20,000 square meters in the heart of Manama under the patronage of Shaikh Hisham.

Simultaneously held with the 4th edition of Bahrain Shopping Festival - Shop Bahrain - the expo is a unique annual forum for all carmakers and car enthusiasts. The event is expected to attract more than 40,000 visitors from all over GCC countries with people of all age groups.

On the occasion, the Governor of the Capital expressed his desire to promote such activities that

contribute to tourism in the Kingdom.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Daij Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the event, praised the support provided by the Capital Governorate for the festival, stressing that the support will lead to achieving the objectives of the fest.

Bahrain Auto Fair 2018 is showcasing diverse recreational activities with a test drive area to try out a wide variety of cars - classic and exotic cars, motorbikes and modified cars.

A number of special car modification companies are also on hand to provide visitors with a unique opportunity to modify their cars. A food court with a variety of food and beverages, other exclusive activities such as raffle draws are also organized at the venue.

Car finance companies and banks are also participating in the event. The expo will conclude on January 21.



Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, at the Bahrain Auto Fair, yesterday

New private school fee regulations outlined



Undersecretary for Educational Affairs and Curricula Dr. Fawzi Al-Jowder with principals

DT News Network
Manama

Under new performance-based criteria, only schools rated "Good" or "Excellent" will be authorised to increase students' fees by five per cent, pending board of directors' approval, Education Ministry Undersecretary for Educational Affairs and Curricula Dr. Fawzi Al-Jowder said yesterday.

This was disclosed after Dr Al-Jowder held a meeting with principals representing high-performing schools to update them on the new fee regulations. The new fee readjustment procedures will take effect at the beginning of the school year 2018/2019, in

line with the ministerial edict dated August 27, 2017.

In case the increase in school fees exceeds the nominal 5pc benchmark, the approval of the school board and parent's council would be required for the hike to be endorsed.

Fourteen private schools are rated as high-performing, out of 73 privately-owned educational establishments.

Dr. Al-Jowder said that any increase would be performance-based, taking into account the review reports, periodically released by the Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA).

He urged representatives of the high-performing school to

Only schools rated Good, Excellent to be allowed to hike fees

communicate with students' parents before increasing school fees, stressing the ministry's keenness on encouraging private education investment.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Private and Continuous Education Jaffer Al-Sheikh and Private Education director Ahlam Al-Amer.

BPL 2018 Quiz at ISB today

DT News Network
Manama

HK Sports with Exelon will be organising the preliminary round of the stride BPL 2018 Quiz today at the Indian School Bahrain, Isa town at 6 PM.

The Charu Sharma Quiz show

is part of the Bahrain Premier League and will be held at the Indian School Bahrain on January 25. Bahrain Premier League is the first franchise based T20 cricket tournament held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. The quiz

has brought forth six teams of very bright high school students under one platform to compete against each other in three rounds of exciting game strategy and all the kids have exceptional skills in terms of participation, healthy competition, speed and accuracy.



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Baghdad

When Iraqi forces drove Islamic State militants out of eastern Mosul a year ago, Nashwan Shakir Mahmoud raced back to his home, hoping that his red and white 1955 Chevrolet coupe had survived three years of war and upheaval.

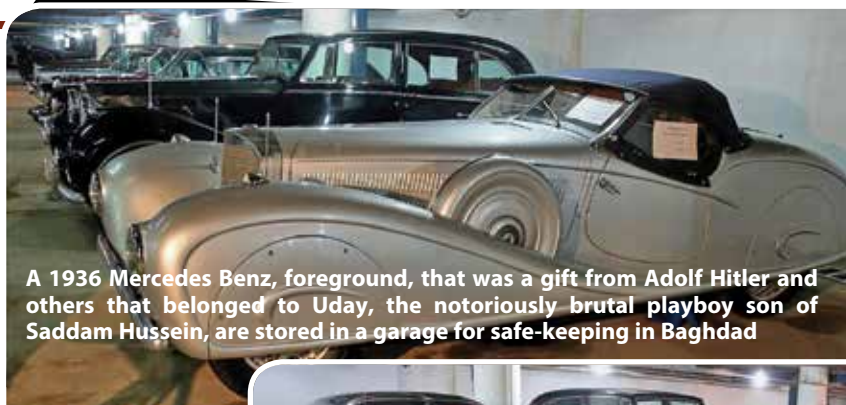
When he saw that it had only suffered light damage from a mortar shell that landed nearby, he was overjoyed. "I had an unspeakable feeling, I sighed in relief when saw it," he said.

He spent 10 days carrying out his own repairs and then drove it all the way back to Baghdad, a 13-hour journey that would have taken four in a modern car. "When I reached Baghdad," he said, "people were stopping me in the streets to take pictures and videos. It was like a dream to me and to the people."

The 49-year-old father of six is part of a small community of vintage and classic car aficionados who are hoping to rekindle their passion now that the war against the Islamic State group is over. For many, the cars remind them of happier times in Iraq, before decades of war and chaos, which they hope are finally coming to an end.

"These cars have something spiritual that lets you feel the happiness of the good old days," said Mahmoud, who also owns a 1964 GMC pickup. The pickup is in a mechanic's garage in Mosul's Old City, in an unsecured area cordoned off by security forces.

Mahmoud had two other classic cars — a 1957 Dodge Coronet and a 1967 Dodge pickup — but U.S. soldiers towed them away in 2006 after warning him against parking them on the street without getting them repaired,



A 1936 Mercedes Benz, foreground, that was a gift from Adolf Hitler and others that belonged to Uday, the notoriously brutal playboy son of Saddam Hussein, are stored in a garage for safe-keeping in Baghdad

saying militants could use them to conceal roadside bombs. He said he cried when they were taken away.

Car enthusiasts and collectors, even car clubs in various countries, make a distinction based on a model's age, with "vintage" cars considered to be those from the period of 1919 to 1930. Models after that are usually classified as "classic" cars and anything over 50 years of age is called "antique."

Iraq's vintage and classic cars date back to the period between the discovery of oil in the 1920s and the booming 1970s, when the country was awash in petroleum wealth and boasted some of the finest roads in the region.

Much of that infrastructure was destroyed in the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and the 1990 Gulf War. The sanctions in the 1990s made it difficult to secure spare parts. In the chaotic years after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, many collectors kept their cars hidden or locked up, while the daily bombings, and the blast walls and barbed wire that sprouted across Baghdad and other cities, took the



A collection of luxury classic cars used by the Hashemite monarchy from 1921 until 1958

pleasure out of driving.

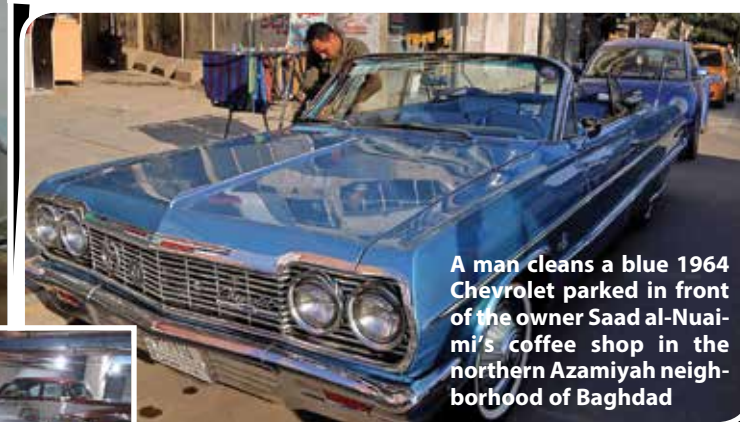
Now, many of those barriers have come down, and some collectors feel more comfortable showing off their treasures.

Saad al-Nuaimi, 65, has parked six classic models in front of his coffee shop in Baghdad's northern Azamiyah neighborhood, including green and blue 1954 Chevrolet Bel Airs and two Townson cars from mid

1960s. Three others, including a 1952 Chevrolet and a 1959 Townson, are being repaired.

"When you feel secure, you have the guts to get money out of your pocket to enjoy such beauties," he said.

Many Iraqis from war-battered areas are desperate to sell old cars, and as Iraqi forces have driven IS back over the past three years, more and more models have appeared on the market, al-Nuaimi said. His latest acquisition was a badly damaged maroon 1952 Chevrolet from



A man cleans a blue 1964 Chevrolet parked in front of the owner Saad al-Nuaimi's coffee shop in the northern Azamiyah neighborhood of Baghdad

Salahuddin province, where IS was driven out in 2015.

He restores the cars himself, ordering spare parts from Europe and the United States.

The Iraqi government keeps its own trove of vintage and classic cars, including a rare 1904 Jeep Levon and luxury models used by the Hashemite monarchy from 1921 until 1958, including a 1936 Mercedes-Benz that was a gift from Adolf Hitler. Others belonged to Uday, the notoriously brutal playboy son of Saddam Hussein.

Some have had their body work restored but do not have working engines, while others are in very poor condition.

The collection is stored in a garage for safe-keeping and is only rarely exhibited to the public. Adil al-Ardawi, the vintage and classic car expert in charge of the royal collection, says at least 1,000 troops were assigned to protect the cars

"These cars have something spiritual that lets you feel the happiness of the good old days," said Mahmoud, who owns a 1964 GMC pickup.

when they were used in a parade last year to mark the 100th anniversary of Baghdad's al-Rashid Street.

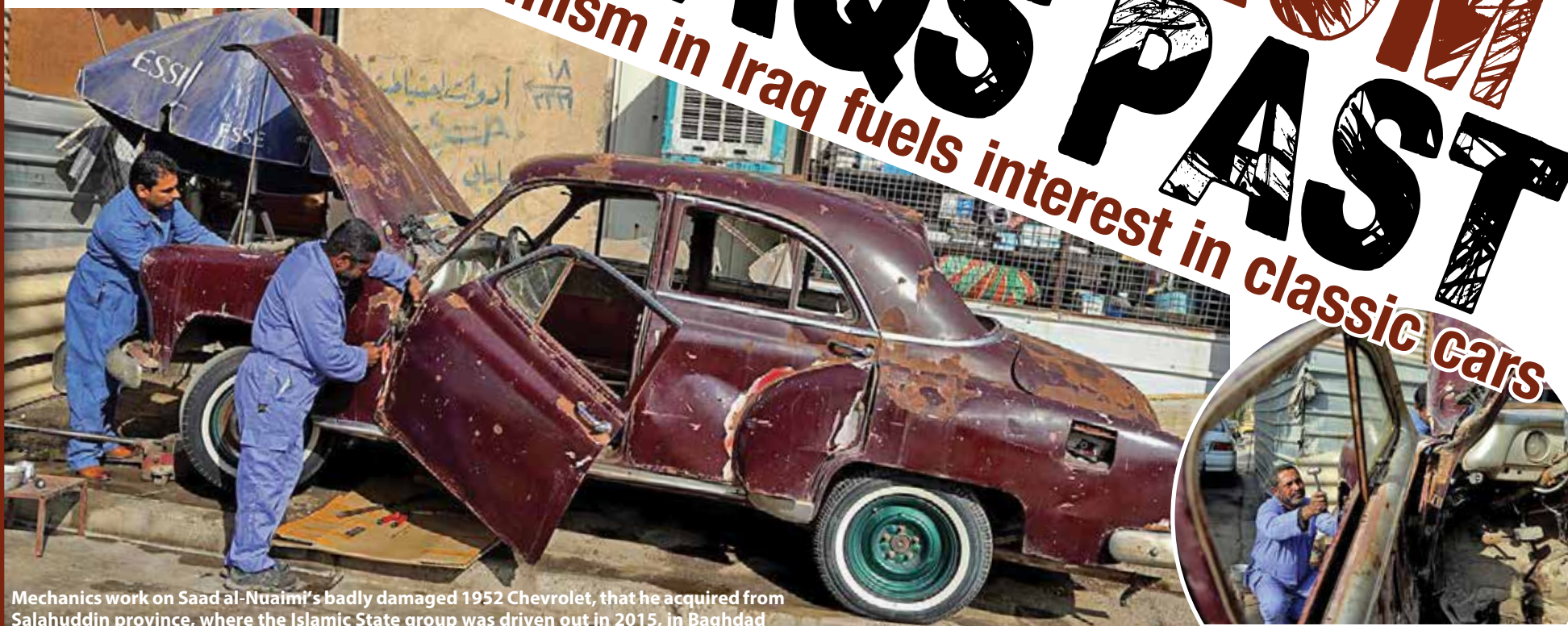
Ahmad Shukor, a 39-year-old engineer who runs a Facebook page devoted to documenting Iraq's vintage and classic cars, says only around 100 remain nationwide. He says a third were in Mosul, and that many of them may have been damaged or destroyed.

He's now in the final stages of opening a showroom in the central city of Najaf. The owners of more than 60 cars have agreed to display them there when the showroom opens in the coming months.

"We want to prove that Iraq is not done yet," he said. (AP)

CARS FROM IRAQ'S PAST

Optimism in Iraq fuels interest in classic cars



Mechanics work on Saad al-Nuaimi's badly damaged 1952 Chevrolet, that he acquired from Salahuddin province, where the Islamic State group was driven out in 2015, in Baghdad

Tamkeen joins hands with MEET ICT & BITECH

Manama

Bahrain's Labour Fund "Tamkeen" has announced becoming a strategic partner for the Information and Communication Technology Conference "MEET ICT" and the Bahrain International Technology Exhibition "BITECH".

The event, organised by the BTECH and Worksmart, will be held under the patronage of Kamal Ahmed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications from February 13 to 15.

This partnership includes the organisation of special events between Tamkeen and private IT institutions and companies during the MEET ICT conference. Tamkeen will also effectively participate in the conference sessions, in addition to providing support to companies participating in BITECH.

Commenting on the deal, Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, said, "Tamkeen's continued support for companies in Bahrain stems from its keenness to strengthen the ICT sector in the Kingdom."



MEET ICT and BITECH will be held under the title "Embracing The Digital Transformation"

BTECH Chairman Ubaydli Al-Ubaydli said that organising both MEET ICT and BITECH fall in line with the national trend towards advancing the technology sector as one of the important sectors in economic diversification.

He pointed out that Bahrain has all the qualifications necessary to proceed with the development of the ICT sector, from an advanced legislative structure, trained expert local competencies, and proximity

to the major regional markets.

Ahmed Al Hujairi, CEO of Worksmart affirmed the importance of Tamkeen's support in achieving this regional technological event's objectives.

Al Hujairi said that MEET ICT and BITECH will be held under the title "Embracing The Digital Transformation" and will focus on the business model which is ever-changing as a result of continuous technological developments.

Ebdaa funds 2200 projects



The board meeting in progress

DT News Network

Manama

Ebdaa Microfinance Bank announced funding 2200 beneficiaries helping them to turn their ideas and work plans into projects or for their existing projects through the bank's financing services.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ebdaa Microfinance Bank, Mona Yousuf Almoayyed, revealed this during a recent board

meeting.

Mrs Al-Moayad praised the role played by AGFUND, which owns 40% of Ebdaa Bank – Bahrain and shareholders such as Khalid Kanoo and Abdul Hamid Diwani in supporting the bank's progress.

Dr Khalid Al-Ghazzawi, CEO of Ebdaa Bank, said that the bank was able to stop bleeding of accumulated losses and move to balance between expenses and revenues,

thanks to the quantum leap by adopting bold reforms in terms of internal structure and operations.

The Bank of Creativity records positive growth figures in 2018 despite economic challenges.

On the sidelines, some of the bank's distinguished employees were honoured by Mona Al Moayad and the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Nasser Al Qahtani.

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- Root Canal Treatment & Gum Disease Treatment

- Laser Dentistry: TMJ pain management,
- Treatment of black gums, Gingivectomy & Mouth Ulcer Treatment.
- Children Dentistry, Sealants and Fluoride Treatment.
- Oral Surgery & Wisdom Tooth Removal
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Specialist
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Dr. Agnelo M. Reveredo
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Voters list correction: BCCI accepts applications



The committee will announce receiving application in the second week of February

**DT News Network
Manama**

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) members whose names did not appear in the voters' list, or whose data are incorrect can file their appeals.

"Those who apply to have their names inserted or their data amended will be notified of the committee's decision

by phone, Fax or E-mail one day following the date of their application," said Chairperson of the elections committee for the 29th session for the board of directors of the BCCI Jassim Hassan Abdul A'Al.

He added: "Voters' lists will be available on the Chamber's official website, as well as the applications for insertion or amendment."

This came as BCCI's elections committee held its third meeting headed by Abdul A'Al in the presence of all committee members.

The committee, Abdul A'Al said, will announce receiving applications in the second week of February.

The move is as per Article (51) for the year 2013 of BCCI's executive bylaw.

Turkey blasts U.S. plan for Syrian border

A U.S. plan to form a 30,000-strong, Kurdish-led border security force in Syria has infuriated Ankara, which is threatening to launch an offensive against Kurdish militia forces in Syria's Afrin region



Turkey: President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** says U.S. is trying to create "terror army" by training **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)**, which are dominated by **People's Protection Units (YPG)** – Kurdish militia Turkey says is allied to larger terrorist group

Turkey could soon launch unilateral military assault against YPG on Afrin canton and possibly Manbij



Source: Stratfor Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS

Bitcoin slumps to \$10,000

London/Tokyo

Bitcoin skidded a further 12 percent yesterday, marking an almost halving in value from its peak price, with investors spooked by fears regulators could clamp down on the volatile cryptocurrency that skyrocketed last year.

The price of bitcoin, the world's biggest and best known cryptocurrency, fell to as low as \$10,000 on the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange, the lowest since Dec. 1.

Bitcoin touched a peak of almost \$20,000 in December - and indeed crossed over

that threshold on some exchanges - but has since been roiled by several large sell-offs.

Other cryptocurrencies plunged as well. Ethereum and Ripple were both down heavily after reports South Korea and China could ban cryptocurrency trading, sparking worries of a wider regulatory crackdown.

"There is a lot of panic in the market. People are selling to try and get the hell out of there," said Charles Hayter, founder of Cryptocompare, which owns cryptocurrencies.

"You have more

regulatory uncertainty...and because of these falls you have these other outfalls," he said, referring to the collapse of some cryptocurrencies in the recent slump in prices.

With South Korea, Japan and China all making noises about a regulatory swoop, and officials in France and the United States vowing to investigate cryptocurrencies, there are concerns that global coordination on how to regulate them will accelerate.

Officials are expected to debate the rise of bitcoin at the upcoming G20 summit in Argentina in March.



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), held a workshop for the airport's stakeholders to discuss the National Operations Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) platform, which aims to ensure a smooth transition to Bahrain International Airport New Passenger Terminal Building. In attendance were senior officials from the Bahrain Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), other government authorities, Gulf Air, Bahrain Airport Services (BAS), Airlines, Bahrain Airport Company management, and other representatives of key organisations operating at BIA. BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah said: "These workshops will serve as an effective communication platform that will create alignment over time." The first in a series of workshops highlighted the new and advanced technology that will be used in the terminal.

Brexit bill set to clear parliament

London

British MPs are set to give the green light Wednesday to a key Brexit bill whose turbulent passage through parliament has dealt damaging defeats to Prime Minister Theresa May, but it faces further opposition from the upper house. The House of Commons is expected to vote to approve the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, which would repeal the 1972 law which made Britain a member of the European Union.



France abandons plan for new airport

Paris

France abandoned plans for a new \$709.80 million airport in western France in favour of expanding an existing airport in Nantes. Supporters of the proposed airport, designed to handle four million passengers a year initially, argued it would aid economic development in the Loire-Atlantique region and that the existing inner-city airport was congested and a security risk.



I want to make clear we will gauge the new Austrian government by its actions, and I told the chancellor this. That is what counts and the things I have just heard on Europe policy make me confident we can achieve very close cooperation."

-Angela Merkel,
German Chancellor



Trump's first year successes

Donald Trump has presided over the most buoyant economic conditions of any recent U.S. president in his first year, but his unpopularity could prevent him from capitalising on it in November's midterm election.

Trump has achieved some substantive goals, including passing a significant tax cut, appointing Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and

defeating so-called Islamic State in Syria. However, his job approval rating from Gallup remains stuck below 40 percent -- the lowest since President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Congress has passed the most sweeping overhaul of U.S. tax system in more than 30 years, cutting the corporate rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. Trump has rolled back 67

of President Obama-era regulations, stimulating businesses and fueling a \$5.4 billion rise in stock market value.

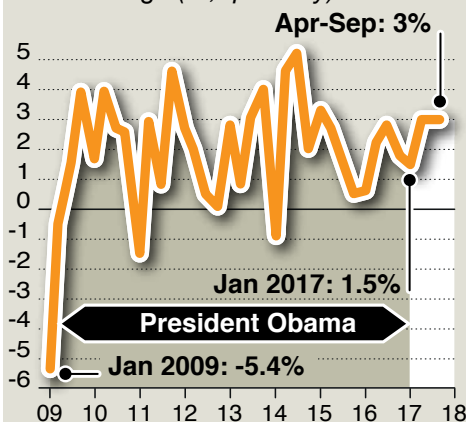
Trump also ended 2017 with more than 1.8 million new jobs -- but his jobs growth trails Obama's record in five of the last eight years -- and the economy expanded by at least 3 percent for two quarters in a row.

Donald Trump has presided over the most buoyant economic conditions of any recent U.S. president in his first year, but his unpopularity could prevent him from capitalising on it in November's midterm election



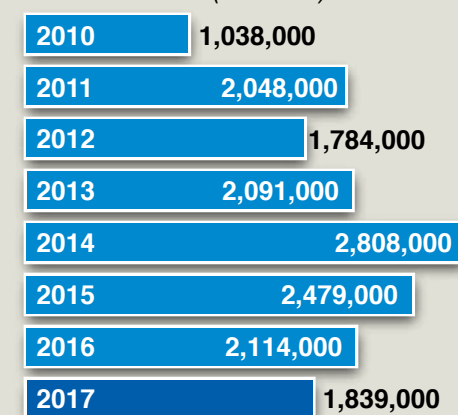
Economy: GDP has expanded from 1.5% to 3% for two quarters

GDP change (% quarterly)



Jobs: U.S. businesses created 1.8 million new jobs in 2017

Annual increase (Jan-Dec)



Tax reform: Will cost \$1.5 trillion over 10 years. Corporate tax rate cut from 35% to 21%. Companies will only be taxed on U.S. earnings



Sources: BEA, Bureau of Labor Statistics, White House Pictures: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS

Inspired buys British School

Manama

Inspired, a leading global operator of premium schools, announced that it has acquired 100% of the British School of Bahrain (BSB) bringing its portfolio to over 30 schools in 10 countries.

Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) worked with Inspired during the setup process and will continue to support the growth and expansion plans of Inspired in the Kingdom.

"We are delighted to support Inspired and we will continue to work with them to expand and grow as a premium and innovative school operator," Dr. Simon Galpin, Managing Director of Bahrain EDB said.

Inspired is a leading premium schools group in Europe, Australia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America educating over 24,000 students across a global network of over 30 schools in 10 countries.

Inspired said it will



Nadim M Nsouli, Founder & Chairman of Inspired

actively evaluate expansion opportunities for the school in Bahrain due to the increasing demand for premium education.

BSB has around 2,500 students in Bahrain.

"We believe this represents an exciting development for both Inspired and BSB and look forward to working with the BSB leadership team to build upon the

schools' impressive history of providing families in Bahrain with a world class international education," Nadim M Nsouli, Founder & Chairman of Inspired said.

Julie Anne Gilbert, Head of School, stated, "We are excited to join the Inspired community of schools that will provide multiple opportunities for growth for BSB's teachers and students."

Volkswagen sells record 10.74m vehicles in 2017

Frankfurt

German automaker Volkswagen had record sales of 10.74 million vehicles last year, but saw its bid to

keep the title of world's largest carmaker reportedly disputed by the rival Renault Nissan Mitsubishi alliance.

Volkswagen sales rose 4.3

percent from 10.30 million in 2016, when Volkswagen passed Japanese rival Toyota to become the globe's largest auto producer for that year.

The figures show the Wolfsburg-based company continuing its effort to move past a scandal that broke in September 2015 over cars it had rigged to cheat on diesel emissions tests. Sales last year were boosted by a strong December, when sales rose 8.5 percent. For the year, the company saw big jumps in Russia and Brazil, and significant gains in China and the United States.

"We are thankful for the trust of our customers," CEO Matthias Mueller said in a statement. (AP)



Did You Know?



Despite being one of the top 10 richest men in the world, Ingvar Kamrad (founder of IKEA) lives in a small home, eats at IKEA, and uses the bus. Once, he was even refused entry to a gala where he was to receive the Businessman Of The Year Award, simply because he arrived on the bus.



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



Representative picture
(Courtesy Business Insider)

Gulf stock markets end mixed

Dubai

Gulf stock markets were mixed yesterday with Masraf Al Rayan, Qatar's second-largest bank by market value, pulling the Qatari stock index 0.2 per cent lower.

Shares in Masraf Al Rayan sank 2.7 per cent after the bank reported a 9.6pc drop in fourth-quarter net profit to 466 million riyals, below an average 562.5 million riyal forecast by three analysts polled by Reuters.

Qatar National Bank also missed forecasts with a 5.2pc rise in fourth-quarter net profit to 2.85 billion riyals (\$783 million). But the Gulf's largest lender raised its cash dividend for 2017

to 6 riyals per share and its stock was up 0.7pc.

Among the gainers, Medicare Group surged 7.0pc in its heaviest trade since March; it has doubled from its November low.

Saudi Arabia's index closed 0.1pc higher at 7,540 points, coming off the day's high after approaching major technical resistance on last July's peak of 7,586 points.

Top petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries gained 0.8pc, while Saudi Automotive Services rose 1.0pc after estimating its annual net profit expanded 15pc, on an 11pc gain in sales.

In Dubai, the index rose 0.5pc as the most heavily

Closing Bell

SAUDI edged up 0.1pc to 7,540 points.

DUBAI rose 0.5pc to 3,542 points.

ABU DHABI added 0.4pc to 4,635 points.

QATAR fell 0.2pc to 9,159 points.

EGYPT rose 0.7pc to 15,199 points.

KUWAIT fell 0.3pc to 6,603 points.

BAHRAIN gained 0.8pc to 1,332 points.

OMAN fell 0.2pc to 5,032 points.

traded stock, Union Properties, gained 0.9pc. Emaar Malls was the top performer, adding 2.2pc, although trading volume fell from Tuesday's level, which was the highest since early 2016. (Reuters)



Bahrain Development Bank board yesterday accepted the resignation of Sattam Sulaiman Al-Gosaibi, group Chief Executive Officer, and thanked him for his performance during his tenure at the bank, wishing him success in his future endeavours.

Russia helping N. Korea skirt sanctions: Trump

Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump said yesterday Russia is helping North Korea get supplies in violation of international sanctions and that Pyongyang is getting "closer every day" to being able to deliver a long-range missile to the United States.

"Russia is not helping us at all with North Korea," Trump said during an Oval Office interview

with Reuters. "What China is helping us with, Russia is denying. In other words, Russia is making up for some of what China is doing."

With North Korea persisting as the major global challenge facing Trump this year, the president cast doubt during the 53-minute interview on whether talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would be useful. In the past he has not ruled out

direct talks with Kim.

He declined to comment when asked whether he had engaged in any communications at all with Kim, with whom he has exchanged insults and threats, heightening tensions in the region.

"I'd sit down, but I'm not sure that sitting down will solve the problem," he said, noting that past negotiations had failed. (Reuters)

Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge which is power; religion gives man wisdom which is control.
-Martin Luther King, Jr.



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Thursday, January 18, 2018

11

71 students awarded CILT Diploma



Certificates being awarded to the students

Bahrain Polytechnic hosted the sixth Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) International awarding ceremony to students majoring in the Bachelors of International Logistics Management who completed their diploma and international certificate from CILT.

The awarding ceremony took place at the Bahrain Hall on 10th January 2018 under the patronage of Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The ceremony was attended by a number of members of the executive and senior management team, staff, and

students' parents.

The Dean of Business and Logistics Dr. John Webb congratulated the graduates on behalf of the Chairman and the CEO on this academic achievement which will contribute to providing more skilled Bahrainis in the labour market. He also thanked the logistics tutors for their role

in contributing to developing education in the Kingdom, especially since Bahrain Polytechnic is characterized as the only institution in the region to launch a logistics programme with international standards while meeting the needs of the labour market.

The Polytechnic is proud to be a contributor to moving

the Kingdom forward by providing Bahraini graduates, such as the ones awarded by CILT, one of the largest logistics institutes in the world. This puts the Polytechnic on track to meet the Bahrain 2030 Vision and government work program 2015-2018.

Since 2012, the Polytechnic graduated 500 students with

the diploma and international certificate from CILT.

To conclude, Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa delegated Bahrain Polytechnic's Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Mohamed Al Aseeri, to hand the students the diploma in logistics and transport and CILT international certificates.

ISB celebrates Tamil Day



Highlights of the event

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated Tamil Day at its campus in Isa Town on January 14, 2018.

The programme which marks the first day of the four-day-long Pongal festival in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu was organized by the school's Tamil Department.

The Tamil Day celebration was attended by Guests of Honour Bharathi Tamil Sangam Founder Mohammed

Hussain Malim, Bharathi Tamil Sangam Former President Abdul Qaiyum, ISB EC Member Premalatha N.S, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, Vice Principals, Head Teachers and students.

The programme commenced with the school prayer followed by the National Anthem of Bahrain and India, followed by the traditional

lighting of the lamp.

Maths Department HOD B Senthil welcomed the gathering. ISB EC member Premalatha N.S spoke about the beauty and the importance of Tamil language in the world and how the festival of Pongal is being celebrated over the years in Tamil Nadu.

Haji Paul and Srikanth Sreedharan (Head Teachers of Activities) and Tamil Teacher Regi Job coordinated

the programme.

Students of IV and V performed the Invocation Dance. The folk dance was presented by the students of VI to VIII and the senior students performed a Tamil skit. A group of students of IV to XII presented Tamil songs. The winners of different competitions were awarded certificates and trophies.

R Chinnaswamy from PET dept. proposed the vote of thanks.

ISB starts online admission registration

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) has started the online admission registrations for classes from LKG to XII from yesterday.

The link is available on the Indian School website as "registrations" under "admission".

The applicants can complete the registration process online and the school will be contacting the applicants for interview and written test at a later stage.

For further queries the applicants can contact the school office in Isa Town - Tel: 00973-17684166 and Riffa on: +973-77377000. Email: info@indianschool.bh



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday received Kingdom's newly-appointed ambassadors. The ambassadors were Dr. Juma Ahmed Al Kaabi (Oman), Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullatif (Germany), Abdulrahman Mohammed Al Qa'ood (India), Ahmed Yousef Al Rowaii (Jordan), Mohammed Ghassan Mohammed Sheikho (Indonesia), Ahmed Mohammed Al Dosary (Japan), Ibrahim Mahmoud Al Dosary (Tunisia), Fouad Sadiq Al Baharna (Algeria) and Ahmed Abdullah Al Hajeri (Thailand). The Deputy Premier congratulated the ambassadors wishing them success in their duties to further consolidate the Kingdom's ties with these countries and assist Bahraini citizens abroad.



Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, Dr. Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza yesterday paid a field visit to EWA Customer Services Center in Muharraq. The minister, accompanied by Electricity and Water Affairs (EWA) CEO Shaikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa and a number of officials, met the EWA customers present to listen to their needs and observations about the services provided.



Royal Court Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Pakistani Ambassador Dr. Juma Ahmed Al Kaabi on the occasion of the end of his diplomatic stint. The minister conveyed the greetings of His Majesty the King and His Majesty's appreciation of the ambassador's efforts in strengthening the cooperation ties.



Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Khalid Almoayed alongside first vice-chairman Khalid Al Zayani and board members Ahlam Janahi and Khulood Al Qattan have recently received at Bait Al Tijjar a Palestinian business delegation headed by the chairman of Jericho Chamber of Commerce Tayseer Hameeda in the presence of the Palestinian Ambassador Taha Mohammed Abdulqader.



The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPCI) recently organized a training course for its employees. The course was conducted by the company's training department.



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdul-lah Al Khalifa received Bahrain's Ambassador to Indonesia Dr. Mohammed Ghasan Sheikh who presented a copy of his doctoral thesis from India's Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University. Shaikh Khalid praised the ambassador's efforts and the significance of his research that addressed marginal economy and its negative consequences on society and economic development.



Bahrain Bayan School laureates yesterday returned to a warm welcome after winning the 2018 Zayed Future Energy Prize in the Global High Schools category. Education Minister Dr. Majid Al-Nuaimi welcomed the students on their arrival at the Bahrain International Airport. Also present at the airport were Undersecretary for Resources and Services Dr. Mohammed Mubarak Juma'a, Undersecretary for Educational and Curricula Affairs Dr. Fawzi Abdulrahman Al-Jowder, Bahrain Bayan affiliates and laureates' parents.



ni Ambassador Javed Malik on the meetings of His Majesty King Hamad the ambassador's efforts in consoli-



Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Khalid Almoayed received at Bait Al Tijjar the Chairman of the Association of Engineering Offices Mazen Alumran accompanied by members of the association. The meeting discussed the current situation of engineering offices in Bahrain and the obstacles curbing their growth, knowing that there are 200 engineering offices, 140 of which are owned by Bahrainis.



any (GPIC) organised a specialised course in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to enable employees to face any emergency situation in daily work or public life.



In recognition to associates efforts and contributions during the past year, Sheraton Bahrain Hotel held its 36th Annual Associates Party on January 06, 2018 at Al Taj Ballroom. The event highlights the associate's performance. The party was filled with entertainment, amazing food & beverages and interaction with the management team and associates.



CELEBS

@missmayim
#TuesdayThoughts Watched The Big Sick last night and cried my eyes out because @kumailn loves her SO MUCH



Mary Winstead joins Will Smith in 'Gemini Man'

Los Angeles

Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead has been roped in as the lead actress in "Gemini Man", opposite actor Will Smith. The action thriller, directed by Ang Lee, will go on floors next month, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

The film sees Smith playing two opposing roles: one of Henry, an aging assassin who wants to get out of the business, and that of his ultimate opponent, a clone who is 25 years younger and at the peak of his abilities that has been tasked to kill him.

Winstead will play an operative who works for the same company as Henry and has been ordered to keep a watch on him.

However, she soon teams up with him.

Clive Owen is in talks to play one of the villains of the movie, the head of the cloning programme. (IANS)

FELT A RESPONSIBILITY PLAYING DONATELLA VERSACE: CRUZ

Los Angeles

Hollywood star Penelope Cruz says she felt a "responsibility" playing Italian fashion designer Donatella Versace in the series "The Assassination of Gianni Versace".

The Academy Awards winner's comment comes just days after the designer expressed her distaste for the new Ryan Murphy series in an interview with Italian press last week, reports dailymail.co.uk.

During an appearance on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show", Cruz said: "You feel much more responsibility (playing a real person). When Ryan called me..."

I said 'I need to make (a) phone call and talk to Donatella about this before taking the job'."

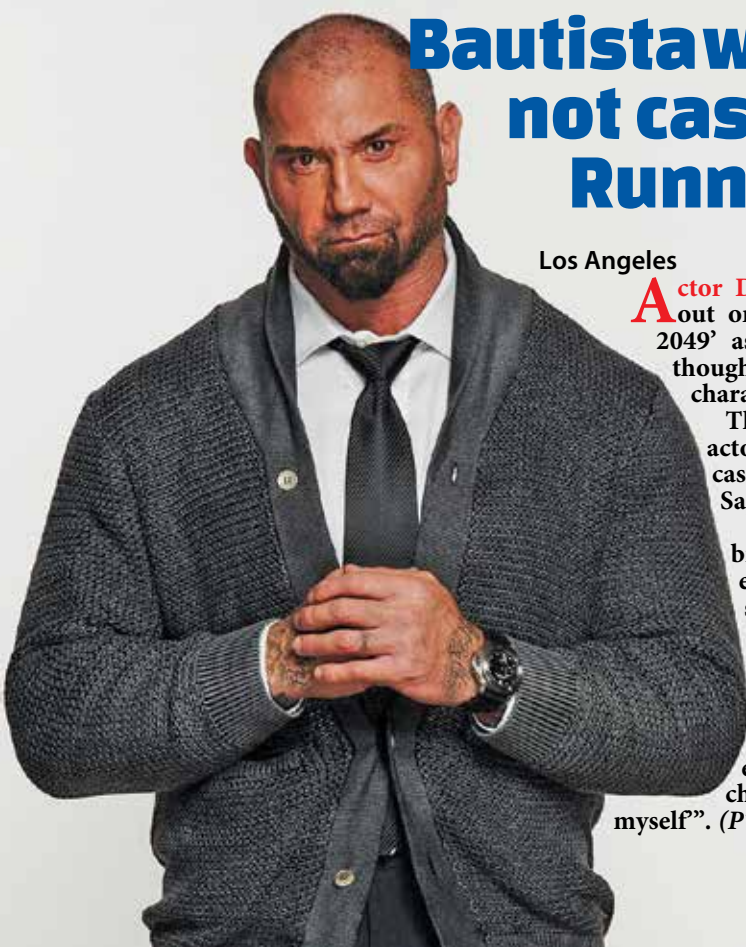
Cruz, 43, only felt comfortable with the role after speaking to Donatella herself. (IANS)



STARRY
Birthday
Jason Segel

January 18, 1980

Known for his comedic roles on CBS's *How I Met Your Mother* and NBC's *Freaks and Geeks*. He's played memorable roles in such films as *Knocked Up*, *The Five-Year Engagement* and 2011's *The Muppets*.



Bautista was almost not cast in 'Blade Runner' sequel

Los Angeles

Actor Dave Bautista almost missed out on starring in 'Blade Runner 2049' as director Denis Villeneuve thought he was too young to play the character.

The 'Guardians of the Galaxy' actor and Villeneuve recalled the casting of Bautista for the role of Sapper Morton in the film.

"The vulnerability that Dave brought to the character was essential for the movie to be a success," said Villeneuve.

Bautista said the experience of working in the film was first for him as it "was something completely different from anything I'd ever done, actually playing a character who was older than myself". (PTI)

Thought Khloe will never have kids: Kris

Los Angeles

Reality TV personality Kris Jenner was "ecstatically surprised" when her daughter and reality TV star Khloe Kardashian told her she was pregnant because she didn't think she would ever have kids.

Khloe announced the news on the latest "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" episode, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*

After that, Kris said: "Hearing this news is the most special thing I think anyone can ever tell me.

I'm ecstatically surprised.

"I always thought that maybe Khloe would be one of those women who didn't have kids and I struggled with that. It made me really sad because there was no one that was born to do this more than Khloe." (IANS)



Evans: Downey Jr irreplaceable as Iron Man

Los Angeles

Actor Chris Evans believes his co-star Robert Downey Jr is 'irreplaceable' as Iron Man and said no one else could play the iconic character better than him.

Downey Jr plays Tony Stark, the man with iconic suit of armour, in the Marvel Cinematic Universe that started with 2008 film 'Iron Man'. Evans portrays the role of Steve Rogers aka Captain America in the MCU. Both the actors will reprise their respective roles in 'Avengers: Infinity War' and 'Avengers 4', which is presumed to be their last film in the franchise.

Speaking with media, Evans said, "It's low-hanging fruit to say (Robert) Downey. He's such a wonderful guy and is so talented, so experience, and so supportive. He's always been in my corner and I've always felt supported by him." (PTI)



TOP 10

BOX OFFICE Movies



1. Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle \$28.1mn
2. The Post \$19.3mn
3. The Commuter \$13.7mn
4. The Greatest Showman \$12.4mn
5. Insidious: The Last Key \$12.4mn
6. Star Wars: The Last Jedi \$11.8mn
7. Paddington 2 \$11mn
8. Proud Mary \$9.9mn
9. Pitch Perfect 3 \$6mn
10. Darkest Hour \$4.4mn

(boxofficemojo)

Katie Holmes goes make-up free

New York

Actress Katie Holmes slipped into a vintage-inspired khaki wool coat and cloche hat with no make-up to combat the chilly temperature for her outing here with a male friend.

The 39-year-old's statement jacket featured large pocket detailing and complementing buttons while she draped her camera over the piece and around her neck, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

She teamed her heat-inducing piece with a pair of cropped wide-leg lightwash denims which drew attention to her burgundy leather boots.

She donned a 1940s cloche-style hat in a grey wool over her brunette pixie crop and sported a pair of matching mittens as she arrived to see the Michelangelo; Divine Draftsman and Designer exhibition at the Met. (IANS)



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CASIO TONE BANK,

KEY BOARD MT T50 with Stand, Black Color, Contact :3335690

MULTI GYM

Rarely Used- in Good condition, Contact: 38950916

FOR SALE

Various used Household/ Kids items for sale in Isa town, Contact: 33458800



Automobiles

TOYOTA YARIS

2012 Model, 55000 KM, In mint condition, Contact : 32317671

TOYOTA COROLLA

2009 model, White Color, 138000 KMS, Passing until 2019, In good condition for BHD 1850 Contact: 33830591

TOYOTA YARIS

-Green Color.148000k KM, Passing until 2019 in good condition. 2nd Owner- BHD 1550. Contact : 38185155

TOYOTA YARIS

Manual Shift, White Color, 120000KM, Passing until 31-05-2018. Good condition BHD 1150. Contact: 36294798

HONDA CIVIC

Blue Color, 200000KM, Passing until 31-08-2018. Good condition, BHD 750. Contact: 38185155

TOYOTA ECHO

Manual Gear, White Color, 200000 KM, Passing until 31-08-2018 in good condition BHD 700. Contact :33830591

TOYOTA YARIS.

White color,142000 KM, Passing: 31-10-2018,Good condition BHD 1300, Contact:-36294798

SHONEEZ MOTORS

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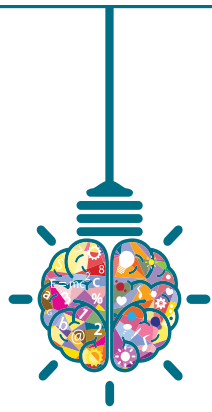
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HOW TO REACH US

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

OUT & ABOUT

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A FAMILY GETAWAY

Date: January 14-25

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

Make the most of family #RCMemories together and enjoy signature experiences, Ritz-Kids activities, exquisite dining options or simply soaking up the Bahrain sun.

Families can enjoy our Reconnect package this upcoming holiday weekend starting from SAR 1200++. The package offers a daily per night resort credit of SAR 250 to use on dining and resort experiences, a morning breakfast buffet at La Med, as well as a 20% savings on treatments at the signature Ritz-Carlton Spa.

With new outdoor heated pools, moms and dads can truly relax and enjoy the cool-breezy Bahrain winter, while the little ones partake in Ritz Kids activities all weekend long, like feeding our famous pink flamingos.

Prefer not to drive? KSA residents residing in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia (Dammam, Al Khobar and Dhahran) can opt for an exclusive experience with a chauffeured Rolls-Royce Ghost to transport them from the comfort of their own home to our luxury beachfront resort. Arriving in style, the unique journey across the border continues with overnight Club Level or Villa accommodations, including unlimited access to food and beverage offerings at the resort's elite Club Level Lounge. Package begins at SAR 2350++.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is located in the Al Seef district in Manama, Bahrain. For additional information about the resort or for reservations, guests can call the hotel directly at (+973) 1758

0000 or visit The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain website at ritzcarlton.com/bahrain.

ULTIMATE SKIN TREATMENT BY MCCM

Date: January 1-31

Venue: Four Seasons

Experience an exclusive selection of innovative face and body treatments connected with high technology and complemented with cosmetic products penetrating deeply that produces faster and visible results with MCCM. MCCM Portugal holds a long record and experience in the field of aesthetic medicine and medical cosmetics. Combining technology, entrepreneurship and experience, these 4 exclusive ultimate effective skin treatments focuses on using precise and essential active principles and ingredients that can be tailored for each need of different body and different skin whilst giving the right care and attention that reflect visible results.

RE/IMAGINE YOUR SATURDAYS

Date: January 1-31

Venue: re/Asian Cuisine

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

AN ODE TO LIFE - AN EXHIBITION BY THE BOX, A CREATIVE COLLECTIVE

Date: 14 December - 31 January

2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Qal'at al Bahrain Site Museum

In their inaugural exhibition, THE

BOX, a Bahrain-based collective of creative works representing various concepts, talents and ideas, presents art installations and sculptures at the Bahrain Fort Site to raise awareness about preserving the environment surrounding the site.

BAHRAINI FARMER'S MARKET

Date: till 31st March 2018

Venue: Budaiya Botanical Gardens

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

THE 44TH BAHRAIN ANNUAL FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

Date: 17 January - 7 March 2017,

8:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Tent at Arad Fort

In its 44th edition, the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition celebrates the creativity and ingenuity of the artists in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Every year, the art community gathers to present their finest work, uninhibited by a subject or theme. The result is a colourful display of styles, techniques, through different mediums of expression. Under the patronage of HRH Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, the exhibition this year presents a collection of local and International artists residing in Bahrain.

THE LAND OF DILMUN, WHERE THE SUN RISES

Date: 5 December 2017 - 11

March 2018

Venue: The Hermitage State Museum

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities showcases significant Dilmun artifacts from the permanent collection of the Bahrain National Museum at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, one of world's largest museums, that shed light on life in Dilmun between the 3rd and 1st millennium BCE.

AL-FANN: ART FROM THE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION OF THE AL-SABAH COLLECTION

Date: 19 January - 30 June 2018

Venue: Bahrain National Museum

The exhibition invites the public to explore the great and multifaceted nature of Islamic culture through the spectacular al-Sabah collection of Islamic Art. Broadly divided into two parts, the display illustrates a chronological progression broken into four stages (from the very beginning of the Islamic period up to and including the three great empires of the sixteenth century) and tackles themes that run transversely through Islamic art; mainly, calligraphy, geometric decoration, vegetal, figurative art and jewellery.

THE ROAD TO PALESTINE .. NOT SO CLOSE, NOT SO FAR

Date: 7 - 31 March 2018, 9:00am

- 8:00pm

Venue: Art Centre

The exhibition sheds light on Jerusalem - the permanent Capital of Islamic Culture - and features works of iconic cartoonist Naji AlAli. The works of the late Palestinian artist will be on display for the first time in Bahrain

presenting topics of the occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem in a series of cartoons that AlAli produced since his early career and until his assassination in 1987.

FOOD IS CULTURE III

Date: 21 January - 25 February

2018, 7:00-9:00pm

Venue: Bahrain National Museum

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

BETWEEN MUHARRAQ AND SEVILLE: A BOLZA - BUSSAD DIALOGUE

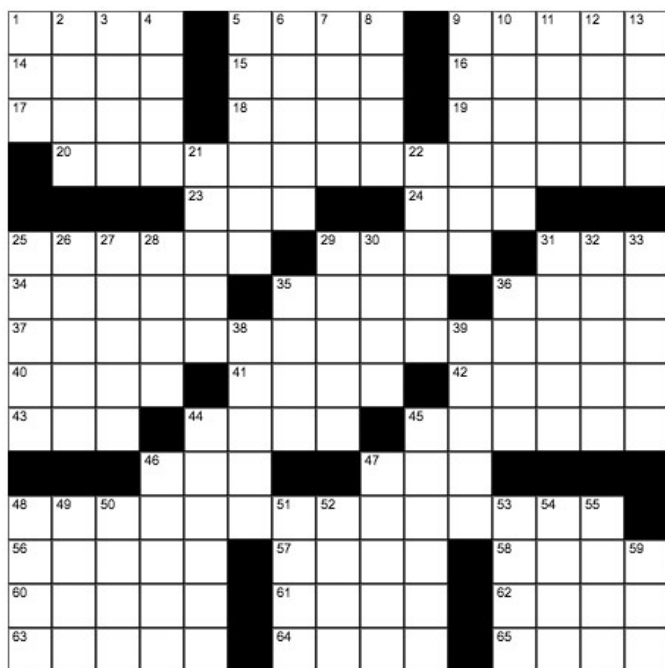
Date: 20 January - 20 March

2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Bahrain National Museum

Exploring the beauty of Arabic calligraphy and the mystery of the Arabic language, the collaboration between Bahraini artist Ebrahim Bussad and Orientalist artist based in Spain Elisabeth Bolza creates an artistic dialogue that connects East and West through a series of collage works about the city of Muharrak.

CROSSWORD



Across

1 Comic Foxx; 5 Slippery; 9 Like some furniture; 14 Concert halls; 15 Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 16 Clan; 17 Bearing; 18 Melody; 19 Country singer Gibbs; 20 Planes, trains, and automobiles, e.g.; 23 Small island; 24 Farm female; 25 Director's shout; 29 Moreno of "West Side Story"; 31 Simile center; 34 Brush a horse; 35 Needy; 36 Lend of tennis; 37 In spite of; 40 Voice of America org.; 41 Tabula ____; 42 Less healthy; 43 Opposite of NNW; 44 Abominable snowman; 45 Indistinct; 46 Ballet step; 47 Sniggler's catch; 48 Comprehensible; 56 Stratum; 57 Toward the mouth; 58 Othello villain; 60 Swell; 61 Charge per unit; 62 Delves; 63 Crooked; 64 ____ Three Lives; 65 Switch ending;

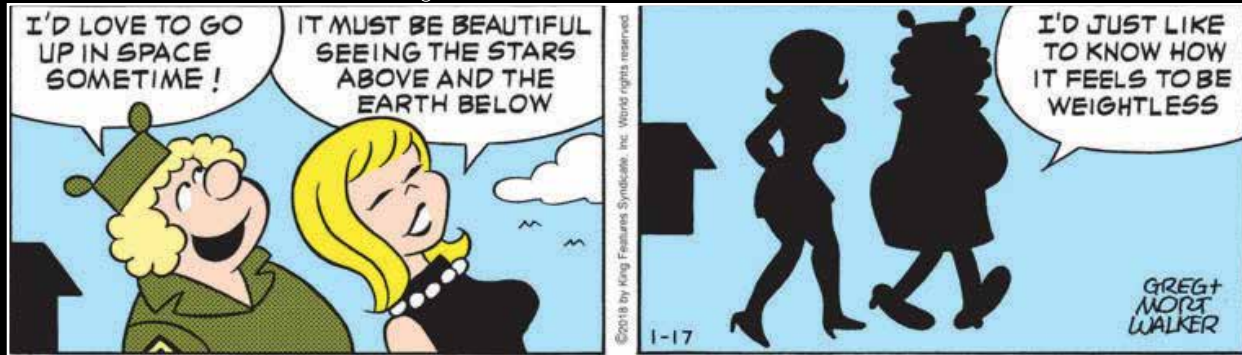
Down

1 CD ____; 2 Bluepencil; 3 Antlered animal; 4 Comic Carvey; 5 Dines at home; 6 Blow one's top; 7 Jester Jay; 8 River of Flanders; 9 Capital of Canada; 10 Narrow mountain ridge; 11 Soprano Te Kanawa; 12 Spanish river; 13 Dresden denial; 21 A Judd; 22 Aquarium fish; 25 ____ Dei; 26 Crucifix; 27 Comedienne Fields; 28 Caucus state; 29 Martini's partner; 30 Bit; 31 Walled Spanish city; 32 More rational; 33 Wrathful; 35 Excellent, slangily; 36 Just lying around; 38 Head lock; 39 Nabisco's ____ Wafers; 44 Composite plant; 45 Arranged in strata; 46 Golfer Calvin; 47 Related on the mother's side; 48 Forearm bone; 49 Scottish refusals; 50 Aborigine of Borneo; 51 Amos or Spelling; 52 Shrinking Asian sea; 53 Wait; 54 Den; 55 Breakfast brand; 59 Barcelona bear;

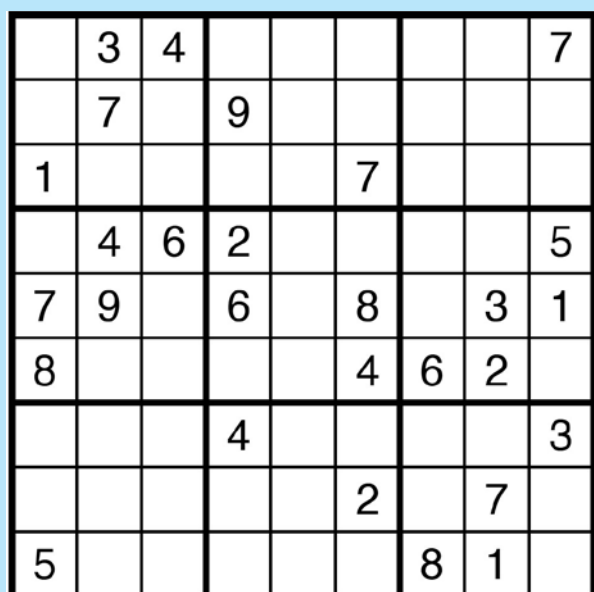
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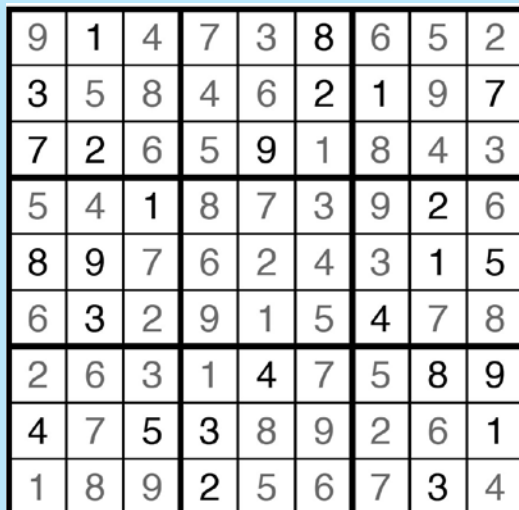
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Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



An intense conversation with a close friend or romantic partner could bring you closer to this person. You probably share a number of goals, and discussions could lead to how you could work together in order to make them happen for both of you. You're more likely to take the lead.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Discussions with others could result in new plans and opportunities for advancing yourself on any level you wish: career, financial, or social. Inner resources may come to light that you might not have been aware of before. You could also decide to make use of creative abilities that have lain fallow for a while.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Your life circumstances may have altered so much in the past few months that you could be in an entirely different space than ever before. Success and good fortune have increased your self-image, and business and money matters should be going well. Today you should pause to take some time to assess your situation and decide in which direction you want to go.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You may have preferred not to acknowledge your own psychic abilities in the past, but today they could prove impossible to ignore. Visions from others could pop into your mind all day. This shouldn't be treated as something strange, but rather you should regard it as a source of inner power.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



The recent completion of one or more long-term goals may cause you to pause today and consider what you're going to aim for next. Don't be afraid to be more ambitious than before, because you've acquired an inner power that gives you more confidence and a stronger belief in yourself. It is belief in our self-worth that gives us power to move mountains.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Recent career advances may have you wondering where to go next. You could be considering taking some time off to travel or perhaps advance your education. You aren't likely to want to rest on your laurels. Striving to reach new horizons is important to you, and today is the perfect day to consider what horizons are the most critical to you now. Nonetheless, it's important to be sure.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



A new and highly compelling interest may have captured your imagination. You could find it difficult to think of much else, and so it might be a good idea to try to find the most beneficial ways to pursue this subject. Your abilities for in-depth study are enhanced by intuition, so reading could well prove especially beneficial right now.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Today you might turn your attention toward discovering new ways to advance yourself financially. You're likely to be more aware than usual of your inner power. Reading about various possibilities could be enlightening, especially as you're feeling particularly capable today and therefore more likely to be able to zero in on whatever method is best for you.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Events both in your personal and public arenas could give you a new and unexpected sense of power over your own destiny. Perhaps hard work has paid off in career and financial advancement. Support from friends and family are likely to spur you on to further accomplishments, particularly in areas requiring leadership. If you make good use of these abilities now, this trend could continue.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Visitors in the home could share stories of strange experiences of some sort, perhaps intense and vivid dreams, visions, or maybe premonitions that have come true. This could spark some deep thought, causing you to reflect on similar experiences of your own. It might be a good idea for you and your friends to attend some classes or workshops on psychic development.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Today you could enter a new romantic relationship, or you could experience a new sense of unity and commitment within an existing one. Whichever it is, the relationship might become very intense, so be sure that you and your partner make the effort to give each other plenty of space. Powerful bonds can lead to great strength as a couple.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Today you're likely to be feeling especially fit and healthy and able to take on the most monumental of tasks. Therefore, you could well decide to clean out the basement or tear all the weeds out of the backyard. Take care to pace yourself! These things need to be done, but not all at once. It's just as important for you to enjoy yourself as to spend the whole day working.

DT NEWS Show Time

19 Thursday, January 18, 2018

GULEYBHAGAVALI (Tamil / Action / Comedy)

Starring: Prabhu Deva, Hansika Motwani, Revathi
DANA: Timings: 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 Pm

DIWANJI MOOLA GRAND PRIX (Malayalam/Comedy/Sport/Thriller)

Starring: Kunchacko Boban, Nyla Usha, Nedumudi Venu
DANA: Timings: 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 3.45 + 9.00 Pm

THAANA SERNDHA KOTTAM (Tamil/Action/Comedy)

Starring: Suriya, Keerthi Suresh, Rj Balaji
DANA: Timings: 11:00,13:45,16:30,19:15,22:00
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 11.15 Am + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 Pm

12 STRONG (Action / Drama / History)

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Michael Shannon, William Fichtner
DANA: Timings: 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30
CINECO (20) : Daily At (Imax 2D): 10.45 Am + 1.30 + 4.15 + 7.00 + 9.45 Pm + (12.30 Mn Thurs/Fri) Daily At: 10.15 Am + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 Pm + 12.00 Mn + (12.45 Mn Thurs/Fri) Daily At (Vip I): 9.45 Am + 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 Pm

SEEF (II) : Daily At: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 Pm + (12.45 Mn Thurs/Fri)
SAAR : Daily At: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + (11.15 Pm Thurs/Fri)
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:15,13:45,16:15,18:45,21:15,23:45

JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE - 2D (Action / Adventure / Comedy)

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart
DANA: Timings: 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15
CINECO (20) : Daily At (Atmos): 9.00 Am + 11.30 Am + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 Pm + 12.00 Mn
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 11.15 Am + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 10.45 Am + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 13:00,17:15,21:30,23:45

MASTERPIECE (Malayalam / Thriller)

Starring: Mammooty, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Unni Mukundanin
DANA: Timings: 11:00,14:00,17:00,20:00,23:00
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 2.15 + 8.15 Pm

AADU 2 (Malayalam / Comedy)

Starring: Rajesh Tailang, Shreedhar Dubey, Zoya Hussain
DANA: Timings: 11:00,13:45,16:30,19:15,22:00,00:45
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 Pm
AL JAZIRA : Daily At: 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 Pm + (12.00 Mn Thurs/Fri)
AL HAMRA : Daily At: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 Pm + (12.00 Mn Thurs/Fri)

TORBAL RAYEH JAY (Bahraini / Comedy)

Starring: Ali Al Ghurair, Khalil Al Rumaithy, Noura Al Balushy
DANA: Timings: 11:00,13:00,15:00,17:00,19:00,21:00,23:00,01:00
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 11.00 Am + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 Pm + (1.00 Am Thurs/Fri)
SAAR : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + (11.00 Pm Thurs/Fri)

NIRDOSH (Hindi / Mystery / Suspense / Thriller)

Starring: Manjari Phadnis, Arbaaz Khan, Mukul Dev
DANA: Timings: 11:00,13:00,15:00,17:00,19:00,21:00,23:00,01:00
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 Pm

TORBAL RAYEH JAY (Bahraini / Comedy)

Starring: Ali Al Ghurair, Khalil Al Rumaithy, Noura Al Balushy
DANA: Timings: 11:30,13:30,15:30,17:30,19:30,21:30,23:30
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 9.00 Am + 11.15 Am + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 Pm
AL JAZIRA : Daily At: 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 Pm + (12.00 Mn Thurs/Fri)
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 10.45 Am + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:30,13:30,15:30,17:30,19:30,21:30,23:30
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:15,13:15,15:15,17:15,19:15,21:15,23:15

TIGER ZINDA HAI (Hindi /



Action / Adventure / Thriller)

Starring: Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Sajjad Delafrooz
DANA: Timings: 11:15,14:15,17:15,20:15,23:15
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 Pm
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 11.15 Am + 5.15 + 11.15 Pm

THE COMMUTER (Crime / Drama / Mystery)

Starring: Liam Neeson, Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson
DANA: Timings: 11:00,13:00,15:00,17:00,19:00,21:00,23:00,01:00
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 Pm + 12.00 Mn + (1.00 Am Thurs/Fri) Daily At (Vip Ii): 10.00 Am + 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 Pm
SEEF (I) : Daily At: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 Pm + (11.30 Pm Thurs/Fri)
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:30,13:30,15:30,17:30,19:30,21:30,23:30

BUNYAN AND BABE (Animation/Adventure/Comedy)

Starring: John Goodman, Jeff Foxworthy, Kelsey Grammer
DANA: Timings: 11:00,12:45,14:30,16:15,18:00,19:45,21:30,23:15
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 9.00 Am + 11.00 Am + 1.00 + 3.00 Pm
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:15,13:00,14:45,16:30,18:15,20:00,21:45,23:30

FERDINAND - 2D (Animation/Adventure/Comedy)

Starring: John Cena, Kate Mckinnon, Bobby Cannavale
DANA: Timings: 10:45,12:45,14:45,16:45,18:45,20:45,22:45
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 9.15 Am

+ 11.30 Am + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 Pm
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 11.15 Am + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:00,15:15,19:30

THE PIRATES OF SOMALIA (Biography / Drama)

Starring: Billy Magnussen, Philip Ng, Terry Chen
DANA: Timings: 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 Pm
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 Pm + 12.00 Mn
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:30,13:45,16:00,18:15,20:30,22:45

INSIDIOUS : THE LAST KEY (Horror/Mystery/Thriller)

Starring: Billy Magnussen, Philip Ng, Terry Chen
DANA: Timings: 11:30,13:30,15:30,17:30,19:30,21:30,23:30
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.00 Am + 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 Pm
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 11.30 Am + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 11.45 Am + 4.30 + 9.15 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 13:15,17:30,21:45

DOWNSIZING (Comedy / Drama / Sci-Fi)

Starring: Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Hong Chau
DANA: Timings: 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.00 Am + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 Pm
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 12.45 + 6.00 + (11.15 Pm Thurs/Fri)
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 Pm

THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:15,13:45,16:15,18:45,21:15,23:45

THE POST (Biography / Drama / History)

Starring: Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Sarah Paulson
DANA: Timings: 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 11.00 Am + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 Pm
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 10.45 Am + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 Pm
SAAR : Daily At: 3.30 + 8.45 Pm
WADI AL SAIL : Daily At: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 Pm
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:30,13:45,16:00,18:15,20:30,22:45
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 13:30,15:45,18:00,20:15,22:30

COCO (Pg) (Animation/Adventure/Comedy)

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael Garcia Bernal, Benjamin Bratt
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 9.00 Am + 11.15 Am + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 Pm

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (Pg-13) (Adventure/Drama/Musical)

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams, Zac Efron
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 9.45 Am + 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 Pm
SEEF (II) : Daily At: 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 Pm

BLEEDING STEEL (Pg-15) (Action/Thriller/Sci-Fiction)

Starring: Jackie Chan, Callan Mulvey, Tess Haubrich
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.15 Am + 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 Pm

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

Starring: Jackie Chan, Pierce Brosnan, Charlie Murphy
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 Pm

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

Starring: Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Mel Gibson
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.15 Am + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 Pm

PITCH PERFECT 3 (Pg-15) (Adventure/Comedy/Musical)

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Hailee Steinfeld
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.30 Am + 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 Pm

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

Starring: Daisy Ridley, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 10.45 Am + 4.00 + 9.15 Pm

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

Starring: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill
CINECO (20) : Daily At: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 Pm

DARKEST HOUR (Biography / Drama / History)

Starring: Gary Oldman, Lily James, Kristin Scott Thomas
THE WALK CINEMA : Timings: 11:00,15:15,19:30,23:45



Sure, Christopher Nolan's 'Dunkirk' blew us away with its immersiveness. But if you prefer your WWII movies to have a little dialogue, some shapeliness and a bit of powerhouse acting, director Joe Wright's tense profile of the rising prime minister Winston Churchill is the war film to beat. Wright, it's worth remembering, has been on those gory French beaches before with 2007's 'Atonement', capturing the whole of the British evacuation and its surrounding chaos in a legendary five-minute

tracking shot. As if pulling a been-there-'Dunkirk'-that, he now shifts to the tense strategy sessions, bunker hand-wringing and political gamesmanship that fed into England's finest hour. It is a film of verbal ammunition, and its calibre is high.

At first you won't believe you're seeing Gary Oldman - still, in some perverse way, the alive presence from 'Sid and Nancy' - buried under what must be pounds of prosthetic facial architecture. (The radical makeup work is by artist Kazuhiro Tsuji.) But

your mind quickly gets you where you need to be, as we watch Oldman's Churchill crouching on his bedroom floor to capture a wayward cat, downing a breakfast of Scotch and cigars and mixing it up with his cowed, dutiful secretary Elizabeth (Lily James). The performance is a marvel, not merely leaping over what could have been a stunt, but deepening into a soulful portrayal of wartime leadership, tinged with ego, doubt and the demands of a terrible moment. (timeout)



Head of North Korean delegation Jon Jong Su talks with his South Korean counterpart Chun Hae-sung

Koreas to form combined team, march together in Olympics

Seoul

The two Koreas will field a combined women's ice hockey team and march together under one flag at next month's Winter Olympics in the South, Seoul said on Wednesday, after a new round of talks amid a thaw in cross-border ties.

North and South Korea have been talking since last week - for the first time in more than two years - about the Olympics, offering a respite from a months-long standoff over Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear and missile programmes, although Japan urged caution over the North's "charm offensive".

The two Koreas will compete as a unified team in the Olympics for the first time, though they have joined forces at other international sports events before.

North Korea will send a delegation of more than 400,

including 230 cheerleaders, 140 artists and 30 Taekwondo players for a demonstration, a joint press statement released by Seoul's unification ministry said, adding the precise number of athletes will be hammered out after discussions with the IOC.

Prior to the Games, the sides will carry out joint training for skiers at the North's Masik Pass resort and a cultural event at the Mount Kumgang resort, for which Seoul officials plan to visit the sites next week.

The delegation is expected to begin arriving in South Korea on Jan. 25, the statement said.

The North will separately send a 150-strong delegation to the Paralympics.

Twenty nations meeting in the Canadian city of Vancouver agreed on Tuesday to consider tougher sanctions to press North

Korea to give up its nuclear weapons and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned the North it could trigger a military response if it did not choose dialogue.

Seoul has proposed a joint ice hockey team, which triggered an angry response from athletes in the South suddenly being told they may have to play alongside total strangers.

"I don't know if it will happen, but a joint team will be a good opportunity for ice hockey to shed its sorrow as a less-preferred sport as many Koreans will take interest," South Korean President Moon Jae-in told players during a visit to a training centre.

The number of petitions to the presidential Blue House's website opposing a unified team climbed to more than 100 this week, with the most popular petition gaining more than 11,000 votes.

#PollToday



Trump said he will withhold \$65 million in Palestinian aid. Do think world nations will come together to help Palestine with more money as suggested by the US President?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



No incursion into UK airspace has ever taken place, and no Russian plane has been forced to land or even change its course. Russian planes carry out the routine flights in international airspace,"

Spokesman,
Russian Embassy London

Rest in sight

Myanmar police shoot dead seven protesters



Myanmar police shot dead seven demonstrators, while 12 were injured in troubled Rakhine State, after a local gathering celebrating an ancient Buddhist Arakan kingdom turned violent.

Catalan parliament reconvenes

Catalonia's new parliament elected a pro-secession speaker, thus virtually guaranteeing that the chamber's push for independence for Spain's northeastern region will continue.

Russia scolds Britain for casting it as an aggressor

Russia scolded Britain on Wednesday for casting it as an aggressor and said Prime Minister Theresa May was more interested in public rhetoric than dealing with the real threats facing the West.

Turkey to extend state of emergency

Turkey is set to extend a state of emergency for the sixth time since it was imposed following failed 2016 coup attempt.

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[/newsofbahrain](https://www.youtube.com/newsofbahrain)

Netanyahu says India's Gandhi an inspiration



Indian Prime Minister Modi assists Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's wife Sara as Netanyahu looks on

New Delhi

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the home of Mahatma Gandhi on Wednesday, saying modern India's founding father and promoter of peace was an inspiration for humanity.

Netanyahu is making the first visit by an Israeli prime minister in 15 years and the nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rolled out the red carpet, seeing Israel as an ally

in the fight against terrorism.

The two men, accompanied by Netanyahu's wife, Sara, went to Gandhi's ashram on the banks of a river where Netanyahu tried his hand at a spinning wheel, a pastime Gandhi made popular while he was jailed during British colonial rule.

"An inspiring visit to the hearth of one of humanity's great prophets of inspiration - Mahatma Gandhi", Netanyahu and his wife wrote in the guest book.

China says Iranian oil tanker wreck located



The Sanchi, which was carrying 136,000 tonnes of light crude oil from Iran, ran into a cargo ship off China earlier this month

Beijing

The wreck of an Iranian oil tanker that collided with a cargo ship off China this month has been located, Beijing said Wednesday, but gave no new details about the environmental impact of the disaster.

The Sanchi, which was carrying 136,000 tonnes of light crude oil from Iran, ran into Hong Kong-registered bulk freighter the CF Crystal on January 6, sparking a fire

that Chinese rescue ships struggled to extinguish.

It sank on Sunday after a new and massive fire erupted, sending a cloud of black smoke as high as a kilometre above the East China Sea. The bodies of only three of the 32 crew members -- 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis -- have been found.

On Monday Chinese ships scrambled to clean-up a massive oil spill.

UK 'minister for loneliness'

London

Britain appointed a "minister for loneliness" on Wednesday to tackle what Prime Minister Theresa May described as "the sad reality of modern life" affecting millions of people.

Tracey Crouch, a junior minister for sport and civil society, will take on the role as part of a broader strategy to combat loneliness in Britain.

"For far too many people, loneliness is the sad reality of modern life," May said.

The ministerial appointment



follows a recommendation from a committee in memory of Jo Cox, a lawmaker for the opposition Labour party who was murdered by a far-right extremist.

"Jo experienced and

witnessed loneliness throughout her life especially as a new student at Cambridge University and separated from her sister Kim for (the) first time," the Jo Cox Foundation wrote on Twitter.

Relieved Dimitrov survives huge five-set scare

Melbourne

Relieved world No.3 Grigor Dimitrov survived a massive scare to beat American qualifier MacKenzie McDonald in five sets and reach the third round of the Australian Open on Wednesday.

The Bulgarian needed to pull out all stops to see off the 186th-ranked McDonald, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 0-6, 8-6 in the 3hr 25min night match on Rod Laver Arena.

Dimitrov, who is ranked only below Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, drew on all his experience to avoid his first defeat to a qualifier at a Grand Slam.

McDonald attacked the third seed's signature backhand, limiting

him to only five winners in the marathon match and restricted Dimitrov to just 28 percent of second service points with the Bulgarian committing nine double faults.

It was a mighty relieved Dimitrov who lived to fight another day, and line up a third round clash with young Russian Andrey Rublev.

"What can I say, it was a tough day," he said.

"I'm most happy with that. He was playing absolutely unbelievable, he deserves a lot of credit."

Dimitrov said the pair had practised together in California, where McDonald had a

successful college tennis career with UCLA.

"He has improved so much. I just had to fight and the experience in the end really helped me," Dimitrov said.

"I'm very happy with win, not because of the way I played, but because of the way I fought. It all came down to a few points here and there."

The stylish Bulgarian claimed the biggest title of his career when he beat Belgium's David Goffin in the ATP Finals in London among his four titles for the year.

But he has never been beyond the semi-finals of a Grand Slam,

reaching the last four at Wimbledon in 2014 and in Melbourne last year.

McDonald, 22, was making only his second appearance at a Grand Slam after his debut at 2016 US Open.

The American has a successful college tennis background, winning the 2016 NCAA singles and doubles titles before turning professional. (AFP)

Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria returns a shot during the men's singles second round match against Mackenzie McDonald of the United States



Wozniacki battles back from the brink

Melbourne

Second seed Caroline Wozniacki saved two match points as she battled back from 5-1 down in the deciding set to beat Melbourne Park debutante Jana Fett 3-6 6-2 7-5 in the second round of the Australian Open on Wednesday.

Former world number one Wozniacki was simply outplayed by the Croatian for large parts of the

match but rallied when the 21-year-old blinked and knocked off six straight games on the trot avert the upset and claim her place in the third round.

"That was crazy, I don't know how I got back into the match," said a relieved Wozniacki.

"I'm very proud of the way I came back. It was definitely very difficult. Definitely wasn't my best match, especially in the beginning.

"All of a sudden seeing myself down, almost out of the tournament, I started playing better and started really playing the tennis that I wanted to play."

Fett, ranked 119th in the world, played some brilliant shots throughout the contest and rattled off eight straight points to win the opening set in 33 minutes.

Fired by the first of two rows with umpire Richard Haigh over delayed challenges, Wozniacki worked her way back into the contest to take the second stanza when Fett hit a return long.

The Croatian refused to fade away, though, and Wozniacki threw her racket to the ground in disgust after being broken for 3-1 with Fett driving home her advantage to stand on brink

of the third round at 5-1 40-15 up.

"I was thinking at that point she still has to win four more balls to win this match," said Wozniacki.

"I felt like I was one foot out of the tournament. She served a great serve down the T, as well. It was just slightly out. I was kind of lucky.

"Then I felt her tighten up just slightly. I thought to myself ... 'make her win it, don't give it to her'."

Fett twice served for the match but nerves got the better of her both times and Wozniacki took full advantage to set up a third-round meeting with Belgian Kiki Bertens. (Reuters)

Kyrgios fined for colourful language

Melbourne

Australia's volatile Nick Kyrgios has been fined for a colourful directive to the rowdy crowd during his opening round win at the Australian Open.

The 22-year-old was slapped with a \$3,000 penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct early in his 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 win over Brazilian Rogerio Dutra Silva in a night match on Hisense Arena on Monday.

The Australian was among six players fined a total \$15,000 for indiscretions in qualifying and the main draw's first phase at the year's opening Grand Slam.

Croatia's Borna Coric was hit with a

\$5,000 penalty for racket abuse during his defeat to Australia's John Millman.

Argentina's Diego Schwartzman and Romanian Marius Copil were fined \$2,000 each for the same offence.

Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik was handed two \$1,000 fines and American Stefan Kozlov was penalised \$1,000, both for audible obscenities during qualifying. (AFP)

Australian Open: Day three Highlights

Melbourne

World number one Rafa Nadal eased to a second round victory at the Australian Open on Wednesday while third seed Grigor Dimitrov was made to work hard to reach the third round in a five-set thriller against American Mackenzie McDonald.

Caroline Wozniacki progressed to the last 32 of the women's draw and will be joined by Ukrainian Elina Svitolina and Jelena Ostapenko.

France's Alize Cornet handed 12th-seed Julia Goerges a surprise

defeat to snap the German's 15-game winning streak and set up a third round clash with Belgian Elise Mertens, who beat 23rd-seed Daria Gavrilova.

Seed slayers Belinda Bencic and Zhang Shuai, who ousted Venus Williams and Sloane Stephens in the opening round, were knocked out by Thai qualifier Luksika Kumkhum and Czech Republic's Denisa Allertova respectively.

Home favourite Nick Kyrgios, sixth-seeded Marin Cilic and Britain's Kyle Edmund also sealed progression to the third round of men's draw. (Reuters)

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark

Nick Kyrgios

South Africa seal series win over India

Debutant Ngidi's 6 for 39 seals series for South Africa

Pretoria

Debutant Lungi Ngidi took six wickets as South Africa defeated India by 135 runs to claim victory in the second test in Pretoria on Wednesday and also win the series with an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match contest.

Seamer Ngidi, 21, recorded figures of 6-39, his best in first class cricket, as South Africa bowled out India for 151 just before lunch.

India are the top-ranked side in test cricket according to the International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings with South Africa second, though the Proteas will not be able to overhaul the sub-continent side even with a 3-0 series win.

The third test starts at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Jan. 24.

India resumed the final day on 35 for three chasing a victory target of 287, having been dealt a huge blow the evening before when Ngidi bagged the wicket of captain Virat Kohli (5).

Their slender hopes were dealt a further set-back when Cheteshwar Pujara (19) became the first Indian player ever to be run out twice in a test.

Ngidi had a hand in that too as he chased the ball down to the boundary and stopped a four, with his cut-back to AB de Villiers allowing for a bullet throw to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock that saw Pujara short.

Pujara had also been run out first ball in the first innings and has now been involved in six

of India's last eight run-outs in tests.

It would start a procession of wickets as Parthiv Patel (19) picked out Morne Morkel on the fine leg boundary off Kagiso Rabada (3-47), with the big fast bowler pulling off a magnificent catch on the run.

Hardik Pandya (6) was caught by De Kock off Ngidi, before the seamer also induced an edge from Ravichandran Ashwin (3) to the wicketkeeper to leave India reeling at 87 for seven.

Rohit Sharma (47) took the attack to the bowlers before he was magnificently caught at fine leg by De Villiers off Rabada attempting a hook.

The innings wrapped up quickly after that, as Mohammed Shami (28) was caught by Morkel off Ngidi and Jasprit Bumrah spooned a catch to Vernon Philander at mid-off to hand the youngster his sixth wicket and debut match figures of 7-90. (Reuters)

Stokes available for selection despite charge

London

Ben Stokes will now be considered for England selection again despite being charged with affray, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced Wednesday.

Stokes was suspended from international duty by the ECB following his involvement in an incident outside a nightclub in September that reportedly left a man with a fractured eye socket.

As a result, the Durham all-rounder missed the whole of England's 4-0 Ashes series defeat in Australia.

Although England are currently involved in a one-day international series in Australia, the ECB said Stokes was expected to return to England duty for February's Twenty20 matches in his native

New Zealand.

Wednesday's announcement leaves the ECB in a potentially awkward position given they banned Stokes when he had not been charged with any offence and have now made him available for England duty just two days after prosecutors brought charges against him on Monday.

But following a full board discussion, in which they said "all considerations were taken into account", the ECB said it had been agreed that Stokes "should now be considered for England selection".

The ECB said Stokes' intention to contest the charge had been crucial in its decision to allow him to resume an England career that currently comprises 39 Tests, 62 one-day internationals and 21 Twenty20 internationals. (AFP)

South Africa bowler Lungi Ngidi celebrates the dismissal of India batsman Hardik Pandya

BRIEF SCORE

South Africa 335 (Markram 94, Amla 82, du Plessis 63, Ashwin 4-113, Ishant 3-46) **and 258** (de Villiers 80, Elgar 61, Shami 4-49, Bumrah 3-70) **India 307** (Kohli 153, Morkel 4-60) **and 151** (Rohit 47, Ngidi 6-39) **by 135 runs**



Ben Stokes

Zimbabwe overcome Thisara blitz in thrilling win

Dhaka

Sikandar Raza, Hamilton Masakadza and Tendai Chatara combined to lead Zimbabwe to a 12-run win over Sri Lanka, their first victory against a Full Member at a neutral venue in 15 years. Raza made an unbeaten 81 and took the key wicket of Kusal Perera, who made 80.

He also took two catches, off Angelo Mathews and former Sri Lanka captain Thisara Perera. It was the Thisara catch that finally swung the game Zimbabwe's way. Thisara climbed into Graeme Cremer for 15 runs in the 38th over, after his side slipped to 199 for 6 chasing 291 to win.

Wanindu Hasaranga's dismissal in the 40th over didn't deter him either. Thisara hit Cremer over long-off for his second six before an edge through third man brought the equation down to under a run-a-ball. Akila Dananjaya then holed out at cover, and although replays showed that Tendai

Chatara may have marginally overstepped, the third umpire's decision went in favour of Zimbabwe.

Thisara picked singles thereafter but after he had struck a huge six in the 47th over, he struck a low full toss to Raza at deep midwicket. Thisara's exit, after his 37-ball 64 with five fours and three sixes, was the opening Zimbabwe needed as Chatara eked out the last wicket, that of Dushmantha Chameera in the 49th over.

It was Kusal Perera who gave Sri Lanka the early impetus in the chase. He began with cuts and slashes reminiscent of his boyhood hero Sanath Jayasuriya. At the other end, Upul Tharanga survived a scare when the ball hit his leg stump but the bails didn't come off. He chipped a catch to mid-on in the sixth over, and Kusal Mendis, recalled for this tri-series, did the same in the next over. (espncricinfo)

BRIEF SCORE

Zimbabwe 290 for 6 (Raza 81*, Masakadza 73, Gunaratne 3-37) **beat Sri Lanka 278** (Kusal 80, Thisara 64, Chatara 4-33) **by 12 runs**

Sikandar Raza struck a counter-attacking fifty





Zinedine Zidane

Ronaldo leaving Real beyond imagination

Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said on Wednesday he cannot foresee Cristiano Ronaldo leaving the club, despite various reports in the Spanish media saying he is in the middle of a stand-off with president Florentino Perez over a pay dispute.

Ronaldo, 32, signed his last deal with Real in November 2016 until June 2021, but is reported to be demanding another new contract to bring his salary in line with Lionel Messi and Neymar, the top two earners in world soccer.

"I can't imagine Real Madrid without Cristiano, this is his club and the one where he needs to be," Zidane told a news conference. (Reuters)

Ex-McLaren boss returning to F1



Martin Whitmarsh

London

Former McLaren team boss Martin Whitmarsh is returning to Formula One in a temporary role advising the sport's governing body on cost control measures.

A spokesman for the International Automobile Federation (FIA) said on Tuesday that the Briton had been invited to help them "in defining financial regulations for fair and sustainable competition." (Reuters)



Kelechi Iheanacho scores against Fleetwood

Leicester advance to FA Cup fourth round

London

Leicester made history as English football's first beneficiaries of the Video Assistant Referee system after the replay technology was used to award their second goal in a 2-0 FA Cup win over Fleetwood on Tuesday.

When Leicester striker Kelechi Iheanacho ran onto a Riyad Mahrez pass to slot home in the 77th minute of the third round replay, his strike was initially ruled out for offside.

But after a short delay while the attack was being analysed by the VAR assistant Mike Jones, the decision was changed - replays showed

Iheanacho was just onside - and referee Jon Moss awarded a goal.

The VAR system was first used in England earlier this month for Brighton's FA Cup third round tie against Crystal Palace and the League Cup semi-final first leg between Chelsea and Arsenal.

However, this was the first time it had actually been needed to reverse a decision.

"I didn't know if I was onside or offside but I agree totally now that I was onside," Iheanacho said.

"I was concentrating on the goal, I didn't think if I was onside or offside but Riyad

told me that I was onside.

"We just waited to see what the decision was."

Leicester striker Jamie Vardy added: "This man got the goals and has shown that VAR does work."

Former Manchester City youngster Iheanacho had already put Leicester ahead in the 43rd minute at the King Power Stadium, running onto Islam Slimani's pass and firing home.

Leicester's reward for a comfortable win against their third tier opponents is a trip to Peterborough, also of League One, in the fourth round.

VAR, which has already been used in other

competitions around the world, can be called on to rule over goals, straight red cards, penalty decisions and cases of mistaken identity.

Hammers avoid horror show

Elsewhere, Cardiff set up a fourth round clash with Premier League leaders Manchester City as the Championship side won 4-1 in their replay at fourth tier Mansfield.

With City boss Pep Guardiola watching from the Field Mill stands, Bruno Manga put Cardiff ahead in the 34th minute.

Danny Rose equalised for

Mansfield 60 seconds later.

But Neil Warnock's side dominated in the second half and Junior Hoiliet put them ahead in the 66th minute.

Anthony Pilkington made it three after 71 minutes and Hoiliet's second in the 89th minute ensured City will visit south Wales on January 28.

West Ham needed a goal late in extra-time from Reece Burke to clinch a 1-0 win over third tier Shrewsbury at the London Stadium.

Hammers boss David Moyes suffered one of the worst defeats of his career at the hands of Shrewsbury when he was in charge of Everton. (AFP)

Hamilton misses sponsor event but back on social media

London

Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton pulled out of his first sponsor engagement of the year on Tuesday but reappeared on social media after wiping his accounts clean over the Christmas break.

A Mercedes spokesman said the 33-year-old Briton, who won his fourth title last year, had been feeling unwell and was unable to travel to the event in Switzerland

hosted by watch company IWC.

The team sponsor had been notified of his absence already on Monday, he added. Mercedes' other driver Valtteri Bottas attended.

Hamilton later posted a picture on his Instagram account, which is followed by 5.7 million people, of himself standing on a snowy peak with a snowboard.

"2018. A chance to revisit every goal, every challenge, every dream. A chance to be driven, hard

working, positive, and everything you want to be, all over again," he told his followers.

"I will never stop, I have no finish line. Join me this year in reaching beyond your wildest dreams."

It was the only post on what had become a blank slate after he drew condemnation for comments made over Christmas about his young nephew wearing a pink dress.

"Boys don't wear princess dresses," the Briton had said,

in a video on Instagram that he apologised for and took down the next day. Hamilton, or his media team, then proceeded to remove reams of content and photographs from his feeds, giving no explanation for his actions.

The Briton has the biggest following of any F1 driver on social media, boasting also 5.26 million on Twitter, who have been kept up to speed in the past about his celebrity lifestyle. (Reuters)



Lewis Hamilton



Nadal holds off late comeback to win



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during the men's singles second round match against Leonardo Mayer of Argentina

Melbourne

World No. 1 Rafael Nadal continued his quest for a 17th Grand Slam championship with an often hard-fought second-round victory over Leonardo Mayer on Wednesday evening at the Australian Open.

At times, Nadal, the 2009 champion, was left frustrated by Mayer's resilience, but ultimately the Spanish superstar extended his perfect FedEx ATP Head2Head record to 5-0 against the Argentine with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(4) win in two hours and 38 minutes.

"It was an important victory for me," Nadal told Roger Rasheed in an on-court interview. "[Mayer is] always a tough opponent. I had to hit some great shots in the tie-break. I'm happy to be in the third round after a while without being in competition."

Nadal, who is now 53-11 lifetime at Melbourne Park, will face Bosnia and Herzegovina's Damir Dzumhur in the third round. Dzumhur, the No. 26 seed, struck 47 winners in beating John Millman of Australia 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 over two hours and 39 minutes earlier in the day.

"Damir has improved a lot [since we played at 2016 Miami]," said Nadal. "He is a tough opponent... [and] he knows how to play tennis very well... The only way to win is play at a higher rhythm than him and try to play aggressive, try to [play with] the highest intensity possible out there. That's what I going to try. I hope to be ready to

make that happen."

Nadal was troubled on serve by Mayer on three occasions, in the fifth game of the first set when the Spaniard recovered from 15/40 (after two groundstroke errors from Mayer); at 2-3, 30/40 in the third set (with a powerful forehand winner), then, when Nadal served for the match. Mayer broke back for 5-5 in the third set, with a gutsy crosscourt backhand winner that left Nadal flat-footed.

When asked about his failure to close out the match, when he served at 5-4 in the third set, Nadal said, "I was not losing the game because I was too nervous, because I felt too much tension. He played a great game, all the returns in [and] playing so aggressively... I had small chances. I held until deuce two times, but that's it. He really went for the game."

"I could have served a little bit better, maybe, yes. But I didn't serve worse that game than the rest of the games that I won."

Having beaten the Dominican Republic's Victor Estrella Burgos for the loss of three games in the first round, Nadal used his big-match experience to overcome Mayer, who proved to be a different proposition. Nadal committed just 10 unforced errors and struck 40 winners. Mayer, who took a set off Nadal in the 2017 US Open third round, hit 48 winners - including 15 aces - in an encounter that delayed the start of Wednesday's night session on Rod Laver Arena. (*atpworldtour*)