

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

Friday, August 18, 2017 Issue No. 7477

News of Bahrain

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Real rout Barca for Super Cup



▶▶ P24

Tweet of the Day



My thoughts are with the victims of this barbaric terrorist attack in the great city of Barcelona and with their brave emergency services.

@SadiqKhan

Today's Weather

	Max	Min
	42 °C	31 °C

11th Hour

Leadership condoles with Saudi King

Manama
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa sent a cable of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud over the death of Prince Bandar bin Fahd bin Saad bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in eternal peace.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister also extended condolences to the Saudi leaders.

Saudi reopens Qatar border to pilgrims

A general view of the Qatari side of the Abu Samrah border crossing with Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday ordered the reopening of its border with Qatar to pilgrims.

The Salwa border crossing, also known as Abu Samrah, a key passage for pilgrims on the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, has been closed since June in a diplomatic crisis that saw Riyadh cut ties with Doha for its support to extremists.

Saudi King Salman authorised "the entry of Qatari pilgrims to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through Salwa border crossing to perform Hajj, and to allow all Qatari nationals who wish to enter for Hajj without electronic permits", state news agency SPA announced.

He also ordered that private jets belonging to Saudi airlines be sent to Doha airport "to bring all Qatari pilgrims at his expense".

The Hajj is to take place this year at the start of September and it is expected to draw around two million Muslims from around the world.

Qatar's foreign minister welcomed the decision. "The government of Qatar welcomes the decision and will

respond positively," Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani told a press conference in Stockholm.

The decision to reopen the frontier for Qatari pilgrims came shortly after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met with Qatari envoy Sheikh Abdullah bin Ali bin Abdullah bin Jassim al-Thani, a member of Qatar's ruling dynasty.

It was the first public high-level encounter between the nations since the crisis erupted.

The Qatari foreign minister, however, said Sheikh Abdullah had acted on a "personal initiative" by meeting the crown prince on Wednesday in the Saudi city of Jeddah and not on behalf of the Doha government.

Saudi Arabia last month said Qatari pilgrims would be allowed to enter the kingdom for Hajj this year but imposed several travel restrictions, including flying in only on airlines approved by Riyadh.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates severed diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar. (Agencies)

Bahrain welcomes border opening

DT News Network news@dt.bh

Slamming the Qatari authorities for politicising Hajj, Bahrain Foreign Affairs Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, yesterday hailed the "exceptional facilities" provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Qatari pilgrims.

Terming move as a "great historical responsibility", the minister said that the effort is "challenged only by deniers".

On his official Twitter page, the Minister reminded the Qatari authorities that such facilities granted by Saudi Arabia to the Qatari pilgrims are "not obtained by any other Islamic country before."

The Minister also condemned Qatari authorities and the media for raising baseless allegation that



Saudi is denying their right to perform Hajj.

"This is a great historical responsibility," the minister said praising the Saudi Royal directives to facilitate the entry and stay of Qatari pilgrims during Hajj.

Saudi King authorised "the entry of Qatari pilgrims through Salwa border crossing"



13 dead as van rams crowd in Barcelona 'terror attack'



Construction company workers protest over salary dues



UAE to fund \$15m monthly to Gaza

13 dead as van rams crowd in Barcelona 'terror attack'

Barcelona
At least 13 people were killed yesterday when a driver deliberately slammed a van into crowds on Barcelona's most popular street in what police said was a "terror attack".

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack which caused panic on the streets of Spain's largest city and drew condemnation from world leaders.

"We can confirm there are

13 dead and more than 50 injured," regional interior minister Joaquim Forn said in a tweet.

Catalan police said they had arrested one suspect, and denied earlier reports that the perpetrator was holed up in a bar near the scene.

The famous Las Ramblas is one of Barcelona's busiest streets, lined with shops and restaurants and normally thronged with tourists and street performers until well

into the night.

Police said there had been a "huge collision" between a van and pedestrians on the thoroughfare and a police source said officers were seeking a total of two suspects.

Spain's royal family condemned the assault in unusually strong terms, vowing that their country would not be "terrorised" by extremists.

'Bodies on the floor'

Witnesses spoke of a scene of carnage, with bodies strewn along the boulevard as others fleeing for their lives.

"When it happened I ran out and saw the damage," local shop worker Xavi Perez said.

"There were bodies on the floor with people crowding round them. People were crying. There were lots of foreigners."

Witness Aamer Anwar told Britain's Sky News television that he was walking down Las Ramblas, which he described as "jam-packed" with tourists.

"All of a sudden, I just sort of heard a crashing noise and the whole street just started to run, screaming. I saw a woman right next to me screaming for her kids."

Spain had so far been spared the kind of extremist violence that rocked nearby France,

Terror attack hits Barcelona's Las Ramblas

A van has ploughed into crowds in Barcelona's Las Ramblas tourist area, killing at least one person and injuring several others



Source: BBC

© GRAPHIC NEWS

Bahrain condemns attack

Manama
Bahrain condemned the terrorist attack in Barcelona and expressed solidarity with the Kingdom of Spain in confronting terrorism and preserving the security of its citizens and the residents living on its territories.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement yesterday, extended

heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wished speedy recovery for the injured who were wounded in the attack.

It reiterated Bahrain's firm rejection of violence, terrorism and extremism and called for concerted international efforts to root out the heinous scourge that threatens global security.



Injured people are attended after the van ploughed into the crowd

Belgium and Germany.

But it was hit by what is still Europe's deadliest jihadist attack in March 2004, when bombs exploded on commuter trains in Madrid, killing 191 people in an attack claimed by

Al Qaeda-inspired extremists.

Ethan Spibey, a charity director on holiday in the city, said he and several others had locked themselves in a nearby church after yesterday's van ramming.

"All of a sudden it was real kind of chaos... people just started running screaming," he told Sky. "There was kind of a mini stampede."

Local Tom Gueller, who lives on a road next to Las Ramblas he saw the van speeding along the boulevard.

"It wasn't slowing down at all. It was just going straight through the middle of the crowds in the middle of the Ramblas," he told BBC Radio.

A Greek diplomat in the city said three nationals had been wounded -- a woman and two children -- without providing details.

Yesterday's attack, which followed similar incidents in Britain, Germany and France, drew widespread condemnation. (AFP)



US President Donald Trump

"The United States condemns the terror attack in Barcelona, Spain, and will do whatever is necessary to help. Be tough & strong, we love you!"



British Prime Minister Theresa May

"My thoughts are with the victims of today's terrible attack in Barcelona and the emergency services responding to this ongoing incident. The UK stands with Spain against terror."



French President Emmanuel Macron

"All my thoughts and solidarity of France for the victims of the tragic attack in Barcelona. We remain united and determined."



Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy

"Terrorists will never defeat a united people who loves freedom against barbarism. All Spain is with victims and families"



Russian President Vladimir Putin

"What happened once again confirms the need for a genuine unification of efforts by the entire world community in an uncompromising battle with the forces of terror"



A white van suspected of ploughing into pedestrians in Barcelona (source: The Sun)

Construction company workers protest over salary dues

Protestors at Andalus Garden yesterday evening

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

Over 50 employees of a construction company staged a protest at Andalus Garden yesterday demanding the release of pending salaries.

The agitating workers claimed that about 200 employees working in the company were not paid since November last year.

Jagan, a protesting employee told *DT News* that the company has also falsely informed the ministry that "the dues were cleared" which is not right.

"They have paid a few of the employees," he said adding: "Thirty Bahraini employees were paid but all

"We are struggling everyday financially"

of us who are expatriates weren't paid."

"They have lied to the ministry and the public and this has made us even more anxious," he said. "We are struggling everyday financially."

"They have ruined our careers and even our visas are expired now," he said.

According to Jagan, most of them were recruited in 2016 when the company bagged some major contracts.

The company, he claimed, however, "failed to make payment to the suppliers" resulting in the projects getting delayed.

This also resulted in the company getting "fired by the clients," said Jagan.

The employees, however, "continued to work until April," Jagan claimed adding: "Even though we weren't paid since November."

"A total of five months' salaries from December to April are pending now," he said

He also alleged that the company is now refusing to communicate with them.

"We are totally in the dark," he said. "We weren't even fired by the company."

"When we call them, they don't answer," he said.

Quran reciting should be on the curriculum: MP

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

A **Parliamentarian** yesterday proposed making Quran reciting compulsory in the school curriculum, saying "the wrong recitation of the Holy Book has become one of the negative phenomena prevalent in our society".

"The current teaching of the Quran does not fulfil the purpose and does not reflect the absolute status of the Holy Quran in our lives," said MP Jamal Dawood.

His proposal requires teaching the subject to all Muslim students as part of the curriculum followed by the public schools in Bahrain.

The proposal also requires that Muslim students should not be allowed to take part in any other religious classes other than Islamic and in non-Islamic activities such as "preaching, guidance and prayer at all levels of education".

"Private educational institution shall abide by the curricula, books and study hours approved by Education Ministry," Dawood said.



MP Jamal Dawood

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5 new schools to be built: Minister



The Minister with other officials during the visit

Manama Five new schools, with advanced facilities, will be opened during the 2017-18 academic year in the governorates of the Kingdom, it was revealed yesterday. "The schools for boys and girls will be environment-friendly and will be established in conformity

with international standards," said Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuami praising the directives of the leadership to establish 'developed' schools in the Kingdom.



The Minister said this while touring a number of newly built schools to follow up the preparations for the new academic year, which begins on September 10, 2017.

The newly constructed schools house new lighting technologies to save energy and preserve environment, soundproof classrooms, anti-slip vinyl flooring, elevators, as well as advanced electronic systems. Classrooms, laboratories, sport and multipurpose halls and offices were also constructed using eco-friendly technology.

Future shines bright for solar

Bahrain to invest more in renewable energy



Energy Minister with other officials during a photocall

Manama Bahrain aims to generate 5 per cent of its total electrical energy from renewable sources by 2025, said Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza yesterday.

"Renewable energy will be rewarding for all parties in terms of clean energy," the

Minister said adding: "It would also create new jobs for Bahrainis."

The Minister, citing the huge declines in the cost of solar energy, said, "Solar energy will help save large quantities of gas that are consumed to generate electricity, which can then be used in major industrial projects."

In this regard, the Minister also pointed out that the Sustainable Energy Unit, which promotes the use of solar energy in the Kingdom, "seeks to cooperate and provide technical support to major projects in Bahrain".

The Minister also assured that experts from the unit are ready to provide technical

advice and assistance to "any existing or future projects in the country" while stressing on the need to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

The Minister was visiting the Avenues Mall development project to inspect the work progress of integrating solar energy solutions at the facility, which includes installation

of solar panels on external parking garages.

United Nations Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative Amin Al Sharkawi and the Director of the Sustainable Energy Unit as well as Mohammed Salahuddin Consulting Engineering Bureau Chairman of the Board of Directors and a representative

of the project's owner, Nasser Abdul Salam, officials and engineers were present.

The minister thanked all officials and developers for their cooperation with sustainable development initiatives and their response to the implementation of the solar energy applications in the complex.



Palestinians fill bottles and buckets with water at a communal water tank at al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City

UAE to fund \$15m monthly to Gaza

Gaza City

The United Arab Emirates will provide \$15 million a month to Gaza, a Palestinian politician said yesterday.

Mohammed Dahlan has been based in exile in the UAE since falling out with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and being expelled from his Fatah movement.

He has been improving relations with Hamas to the chagrin of the West Bank-based Abbas.

"Fifteen million dollars will be pumped monthly from the beginning

of next month to the Palestinian Joint Liability Committee in support of relief, humanitarian and development projects in the Gaza Strip to alleviate their suffering," Samir Al-Mashharawi, an ally of Dahlan, said in a statement.

The committee was established in the wake of agreements made between Dahlan and Hamas in early July in Cairo.

Hamas is considered a terrorist organisation by the United States, European Union and Israel.

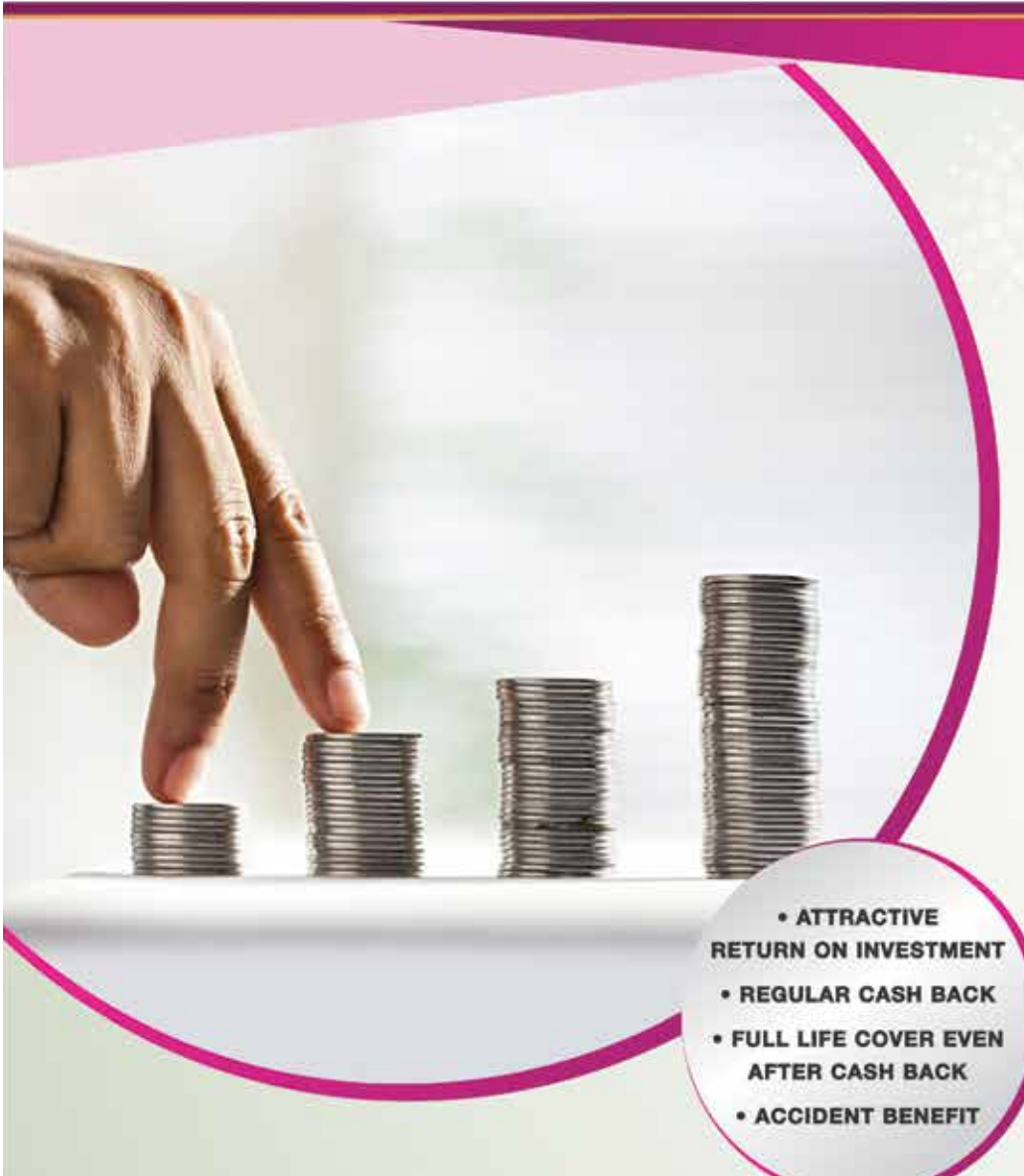
On Friday, Hamas leaders and Dahlan

allies again met in Cairo to discuss easing the blockade of Gaza with Egyptian officials.

The Rafah crossing from Egypt has been largely closed in recent years due to disputes between Hamas and Cairo.

Israel has maintained a crippling blockade on Gaza for a decade.

Seeing his two longtime adversaries moving closer, Abbas has sought to weaken Hamas -- reducing electricity funding for the strip and cutting salaries of state employees there. (AFP)



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Wide Angle



Joel Indrupati

What do I think of 'The Crown'?

It does not matter to 'The Crown' what I think. But I suppose I can still express my thoughts on it.

I am not talking here about Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 'The Crown' and the powerful head of the now jaded and faded British Empire.

I am talking about the TV series 'The Crown' made on her life.

In July, I had set a one-month goal to complete watching this Netflix TV series, and I am glad I accomplished it.

All the ten episodes - set during 1947-1955, spanning the time of her engagement to Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, to the time of her differences with her sister Princess Margaret, over her sister's affair with Peter Townsend - are extremely engaging.

The TV series covers the period of British Empire under Prime Ministers Clement Attlee, Winston Churchill (during his second term) and Anthony Eden.

In the background, we see the diplomatic problems related to the independence of India, 'the jewel in the crown' of the British Empire; And also to the times of US President Dwight Eisenhower and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

We see a few flashbacks. Of her interesting exchanges with her father King George VI, and with her uncle King Edward VIII who abdicated the throne -- to marry the twice divorced Miss Wallis Simpson of USA.

The TV series gives us a peek into what could have transpired, behind closed doors, in palaces and parliament buildings.

It gives us a keyhole view, into The Crown's interactions with her family members and with her Prime Ministers.

It gives us her innocent misdemeanours, as a novice - she was only 25 when she became the Queen - and also her clever manipulations, as she understands her role as the Queen.

It gives us her private struggles and her public triumphs.

Not everyone may agree with Peter Morgan, the writer of the series. Some critics say he was not accurate in the portrayal of the world's most famous royal family.

But "They're still living, and you have to take that stuff really seriously," he said in an interview to 'The Hollywood Reporter' (THR, 14 August 2017); which shows he must have researched a great deal, before surmising some of these scenes.

No wonder this drama is nominated for an Emmy this year. And some are predicting a six season series of 'The Crown'.

Claire Foy, as 'The Crown', did not seem like a good actress at first, but as the series progressed, I began to love her performance. Vennesa Kirby, as Princess Margaret, was beauty and spirit personified.

Initially, I felt Sir Winston Churchill was caricatured a bit. But then, I realized that this was set during his later years, when he was very old, and when he refused to let go of his office.

The locations, of English countryside and palace interiors, are very beautifully shot.

As an Indian, I am angry that India had suffered under 'The Crown' of British imperialism. But Britain's advances in communication and transportation, long before telegraphy, and its administrative effectiveness, across continents, cannot be denied.

I write this piece, sitting in a coffee shop in London, near Buckingham Palace, after a visit to some historic places here. And I must say I am awed at the beauty and the grandeur of this place; a place from where the once famous British Empire was run.

This TV series shows us how 'The Crown' had struggled, how it succeeded at times and failed at times, and how it had affected the politics of far-flung countries across the globe.

But, most importantly, it shows us how 'The Crown' actually affects the person wearing it.

(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.)

Nile dam to benefit all: says Sudan

Khartoum

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir said yesterday that the construction of Ethiopia's controversial Grand Renaissance Dam on the Nile River would not impact water supplies to Egypt as feared by Cairo.

Visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, for his part, said the project was a "win-win" for the peoples of all three countries if it was not politicised.

Construction of the massive dam on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia has poisoned relations between Cairo and Addis Ababa, with Egypt fearing its share of water from the Nile will be hit once the project is completed.

"We are fully committed to ensure that the Egyptian

share of the Nile water will not be affected because of the building of the Renaissance Dam," Bashir said at a joint press conference in Khartoum with Desalegn.

Egypt, which is almost totally reliant on the Nile for agriculture and drinking water, says it has "historic rights" to the Nile guaranteed by treaties from 1929 and 1959.

The treaties grant it 87 percent of the river's flow, as well as the power to veto upstream projects, according to Cairo.

The Blue and the White Nile rivers converge in Khartoum and from there run north into Egypt as the Nile.

Desalegn called for the issue of the dam not to be politicised.

"This is more of a technical issue and it is not political," he



Omar al-Bashir

said. "If we don't politicise it, then we will reach a conclusion that is a win-win for all our people."

Bashir said Khartoum too had concerns initially about the safety of the dam, which when complete will be the largest in

Africa.

"If anything happens to the dam, it will be crisis for Sudan because of the huge amount of water the dam will be storing," said Bashir.

"But Ethiopia has made some changes to the dam's structure, and now we are satisfied."

French firms Artelia and BRL are currently carrying out technical studies on the project.

The dam is designed to feed a hydroelectric project that would produce 6,000 megawatts of power -- tantamount to six nuclear-powered plants.

Ethiopia began building the dam in 2012 and initially expected to commission it in 2017. Ethiopian media reports say that only about 60 percent of the construction has so far been completed.

Missing Pets



MAX - Male, 7 yrs, wearing red collar - no ID tag, watched by friend at farm in Sanad and escaped out door (near Taawon School & Saadeddin Pastry Shop), owner lives in Hidd - so could be trying to go back home, 2/8/17. **39833933/39611992/36663559**



POPPY - Female Miniature Poodle, 2 yrs, micro-chipped, wearing black collar w pink paw print ID tag, has health issue, possibly **STOLEN**, Budaiya (Beach Villas/by new road works/back of farmers market), 10/3/17, **REWARD 200BD, 36636955 or 36366128**



LEXIE - Female terrier/poodle mix, 4 yrs, missing from inside villa compound wall - gate closed but dog missing, perhaps stolen, wearing collar w wife's friends name/number, Galali (near Mumtaza supermarket), 30/4/17. **38302789**



ROLLY - Male, 1 yr, bent tail, brown eyes, all black, ran away when owner was out of country, not wearing collar or ID tag, owner has very special bond with Rolly, Isa Town (near Isa Town Club), 15/5/17. **33157048**



BUBBLES - Female, 4 yrs, spayed, owner was away - always let out in garden for a bit - but this time did not come back, not wearing collar or ID tag, Nuwaidrat (behind Jawad), 200BD **REWARD** for safe return, 26/06/17. 39448662 or 33787650

US blacklists Paris, Brussels attacker

Washington

The United States yesterday added the suspected jihadist bombmaker said to have supplied the gangs behind the deadly attacks in Paris and Brussels to its terror blacklist.

French and Belgian authorities believe a militant known as Ahmad Alkhalid provided suicide vests and explosives expertise before the November 13, 2015 attacks on a Paris concert, bars and football crowd that left 130 dead.

He is thought to have fled to Syria, but remained in contact with a gang that later carried out the March 22, 2016 bombings at Brussels airport and a metro station that killed 32 people.

On Thursday, the United States added Alkhalid to what is now a 32-strong list of senior figures in the so-called Islamic State group now dubbed "specially designated global terrorists."

"A Syrian national, Alkhalid traveled to Europe, where he helped plan the Paris attacks and manufacture the explosive belts used in that plot, which killed and injured hundreds of people, including a number of

Smoke rises from a damaged BMW car after a controlled explosion as French police inspect the site after they arrested a suspect on the A16 motorway, near Marquise, northern France, on August 9, 2017, following an attack on servicemen who were hit by a BMW which drove down a quiet street in the upmarket western Paris suburb of Levallois-Perret.



Americans," the department said.

"Following his return to Syria shortly before the attacks in Paris, Alkhalid continued to guide ISIS operatives in Europe on making the bombs used in the March 2016 Brussels attacks."

Alkhalid's false passport was used in Greece in September 2015, where he is thought to have arrived among refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria, before heading to Belgium.

French authorities say they found traces of his DNA on explosive vests used by Brahim Abdeslam -- who blew himself up in a crowded Paris cafe -- and his brother Salah, who abandoned his un-used.

The US terror designation forbids Americans from conducting business with Alkhalid and any assets he is found to possess in areas under US jurisdiction will be seized.

In the same announcement,

the State Department blacklisted Abu Yahya al-Iraqi -- also known as Iyad Hamed Mahl al-Jumaily -- whom it said was a senior lieutenant of Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. (AFP)

IS-held Raqa 'worst place' in Syria: UN



Displaced Syrian boys from Raqa push a wheelbarrow full of jerry cans to a nearby canal to collect water

Geneva

Territory still controlled by the Islamic State group in Raqa is "the worst place" in Syria, the UN said Thursday, as fresh reports emerged of more civilians killed by US-led coalition air strikes.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 21 children were among at least 59 civilians killed since Monday in the air strikes aimed at dislodging the jihadists from Raqa.

"The worst place probably today in Syria is the part of

Raqa that is still held by the so-called Islamic state," the UN's humanitarian pointman for Syria, Jan Egeland, told reporters in Geneva.

The UN estimates there are up to 25,000 civilians trapped inside Raqa, the jihadist group's erstwhile de facto Syrian capital.

"They are encircled by the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) fighters and they are used seemingly as human shields by the Islamic state," Egeland added, noting the "constant air raids" by the US-led coalition.

US insists military ready to counter N Korean threats

Santiago

Senior US officials insisted they are ready to respond to any North Korean attack yesterday, after a White House aide dismissed talk of a "military option."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson are trying to pressure North Korea to halt its nuclear weapons programme and come to the table.

While they stress they want to convince Kim Jong-Un's regime through diplomatic means of the need to disarm, they have not dropped the threat of military action.

But their stance was partly undermined on Wednesday when President Donald Trump's strategy chief, Steve Bannon, told a news magazine: "There's no military solution."

A day later, Mattis and Tillerson faced questions about Bannon's remarks as they appeared with their Japanese counterparts at a State Department press conference.



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (C) clapping hands while viewing a stage during his inspecting the Command of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army (KPA) at an undisclosed location.

"I don't want to comment on what Mr Bannon's remarks were in that particular interview," Tillerson said.

"I think we have been quite clear as to what the policy and the posture towards North Korea is," he said. "Our approach has been endorsed by the president."

Tillerson warned again that

North Korea faced a "bleak future" if it does not agree to negotiate disarmament, and Mattis insisted that US regional allies are ready.

"In close collaboration with our allies, there are strong military consequences if the DPRK initiates hostilities," the Pentagon chief told reporters.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	2017 US\$ '000	2016 US\$ '000
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,848	7,398
Receivables and other assets	946	976
Due from a related party	73	108
TOTAL ASSETS	8,867	8,482
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,034	982
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,034	982
EQUITY		
Share capital	7,833	7,500
TOTAL EQUITY	7,833	7,500
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	8,867	8,482

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Year ended 30 June 2017 US\$ '000	Year ended 30 June 2016 US\$ '000
OPERATING INCOME		
Fee and other income	13,305	12,381
Total operating income	13,305	12,381
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Staff compensation and benefits	(9,314)	(8,646)
General and administration expenses	(3,131)	(2,763)
Professional and consulting fees	(1,143)	(1,232)
Total operating expenses	(13,588)	(12,641)
Foreign exchange gain	283	260
NET INCOME AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Year ended 30 June 2017 US\$ '000	Year ended 30 June 2016 US\$ '000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income for the year	-	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Due from a related party	35	(108)
Receivables and other assets	30	198
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	52	(1,535)
Net cash from (used) in operating activities	117	(1,445)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Proceeds from the issuance of share capital	333	2,500
Net cash from financing activity	333	2,500
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
	450	1,055
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year	7,398	6,343
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	7,848	7,398

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Share capital US\$ '000	Shares pending allotment US\$ '000	Retained earnings US\$ '000	Total equity US\$ '000
As at 1 July 2016	7,500	-	-	7,500
Net income for the year	-	-	-	-
Issuance of share capital	333	-	-	333
As at 30 June 2017	7,833	-	-	7,833
As at 1 July 2015	2,645	2,355	-	5,000
Net income for the year	-	-	-	-
Issuance of share capital	4,855	(2,355)	-	2,500
As at 30 June 2016	7,500	-	-	7,500

These summarized statements have been extracted from the audited financial statements of Arcapita Investment Management B.S.C.(c), an Investment firm Category I (Islamic Principles) licensee regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain. These financial statements have been audited by Ernst & Young and approved by the Board of Directors on 23rd July 2017.

MBM to open new showroom



Managing Director Rajan Chettayil speaks at the press conference.

Manama

Manama Building Materials (MBM) will inaugurate their new showroom in Manama on Saturday at 10am. The details of the opening were revealed yesterday at a press conference held at the Taste

Buds Restaurant.

Managing Director Rajan Chettayil said the new showroom will serve as a one-stop building solution for all its customers. Further, the new division has a wide range collection of international branded building material

products. The highlight of the showroom is the Live Jacuzzi and Steam Cubicles which can be experienced first-hand before the purchase.

"I take this opportunity to thank all our valued customers who have continually shown confidence in our products

and inspired us to extend the best of services and enables us to provide value for their money," Rajan Chettayil, Managing Director, said.

MBM is part of a leading business group which has evolved in various fields like hypermarkets, supermarkets.

automobile service stations and furniture manufacturers-cum-exhibitors in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The group has been running successfully for the last twenty-five years under the group name GSF & Sola. It was the most popular building material shop in the

kingdom before and now it has been merged with M/S. Great Trading Co. WLL, Hamad Town with multiple outlets.

General Manager Raja Punjabi, Director C.Ravi and CEO Gopal Subrahmanyam also attended the press conference.

Melbourne retains world's most liveable city crown

Melbourne has topped a list of the world's most liveable city for the seventh year running but terrorism and diplomatic tensions are eroding living conditions worldwide. The survey by the Economist scores cities on five broad categories: stability; healthcare; culture and environment; education and infrastructure.



Major hubs lost

The Australian city was ranked number one out of 140 cities, slightly ahead of the Austrian capital Vienna, with the Canadian trio of Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary competing the top five. Major hubs like New York, London, Paris and Tokyo were hives of activity but lost points due to high levels of crime and overcrowded public transport.

Medium sized cities

Medium-sized cities in wealthy countries fared best, as they can foster a range of recreational activities without leading to high crime levels or overburdened infrastructure.

Terror on rise

More broadly, global stability continued to weaken due to the increase in terror-related incidents world wide. "Violent acts of terrorism have been reported in many countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, France, Pakistan, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the US," the report found.

US on the decline

The United States had seen a decline in a number of its cities over the past few years related to growing unrest. "This stems in part from unrest related to a number of deaths of black people at the hands of police officers," the report found. "In addition, the country has seen protests held in response to President Trump's policies and executive orders."



Global stability down

Increased diplomatic tensions -- from Russia and the Ukraine, to North Korea's nuclear threat and Iran's relationship with its neighbours -- was leading to declining stability scores around the world.



Cool Trends

Treaty to curb mercury exposure takes effect

Paris
A 128-nation treaty to curb exposure to the dangerous heavy metal mercury entered into force Wednesday, the United Nations announced on the convention's website. Adopted in 2013, the Minamata Convention on Mercury was named for the Japanese fishing town in which thousands were poisoned by the deadly element in the mid-20th century.



US jobless claims hit 6m low in August

Washington
New claims for US unemployment benefits fell sharply in early August, reaching their lowest weekly level in six months, according to Labor Department data released Thursday. The new figures suggested labor markets continued to tighten and that the jobless was likely to remain near its current 16-year-low of 4.3 percent.



Aside from Lufthansa, we are in contact with two other interested parties from the aviation industry. The negotiations have been going on for weeks and all three airlines were financially sound and large enough to offer Air Berlin a secure future while keeping Germany as an operations hub."

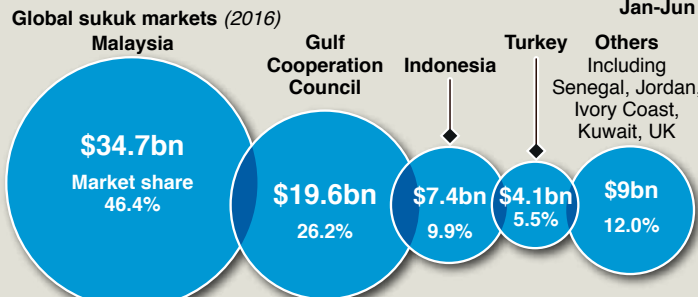
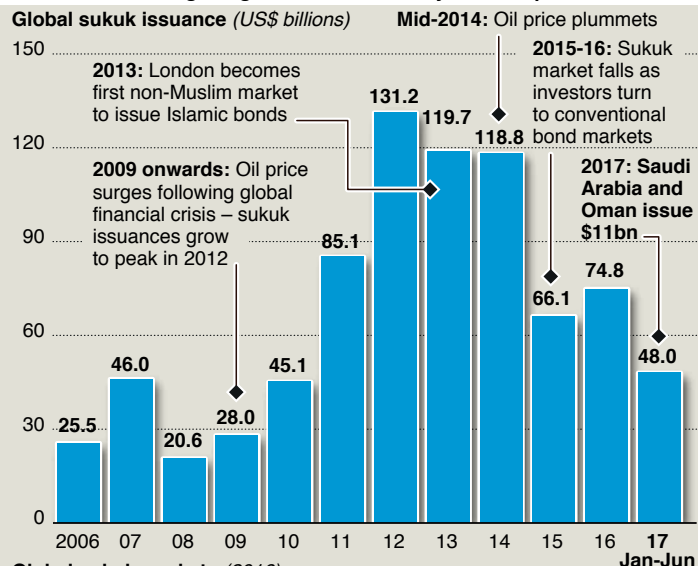


Thomas Winkelmann

Air Berlin chief executive

Low oil prices drive sukuk markets

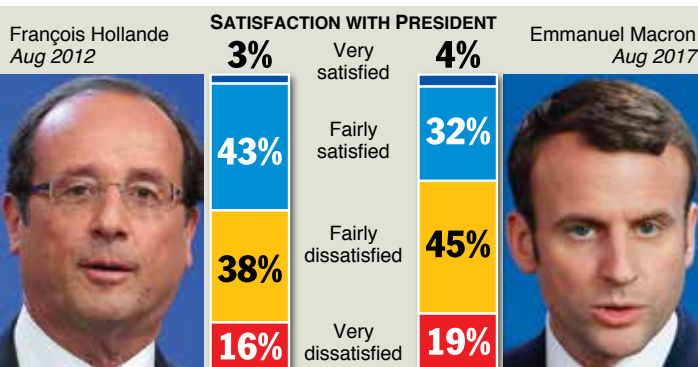
Global sukuk markets – Islamic bonds that comply with Sharia law – surged in the first half of 2017 to \$48 billion, driven by governments covering budget deficits caused by weak oil prices



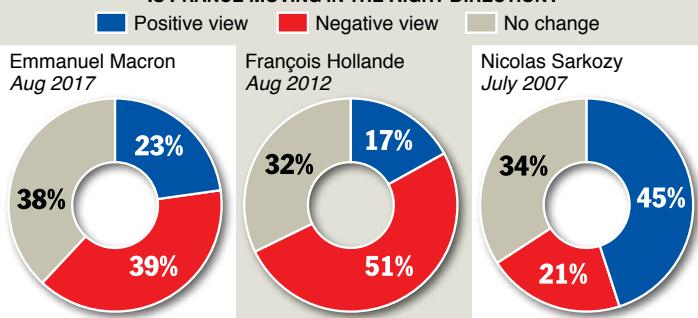
Sources: Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre, PwC, S&P Global © GRAPHIC NEWS

Macron's popularity wanes after 100 days

French President Emmanuel Macron is now more unpopular than his predecessor François Hollande after his first 100 days in office, according to an Ifop poll for Le Figaro



IS FRANCE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?



Study carried out with sample of 1,001 persons representative of French population aged 18 years and over, between August 7-9

Sources: AFP, Le Figaro Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

India clears \$650m Boeing army chopper deal: sources

New Delhi
India approved a \$650 million purchase of six attack choppers Thursday from US aviation giant Boeing, officials said, as it boosts its military might amid border tensions with China and Pakistan.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which approves big-ticket purchases, gave the green light to acquire six additional Apache helicopters after 22 were bought as part of a \$2.5 billion deal in 2015.

Two defence ministry sources told AFP on the condition of anonymity that the deal was approved exclusively for the army, without providing further details including a date for delivery.

"DAC approved procurement of

six Apache helicopters along with associated equipment for the army totally about 4,168 crore rupees (\$650 million)," an official told AFP by text message. The initial batch of 22 Apaches -- equipped with Hellfire and Stinger missiles -- replaced the Indian Air Force's ageing fleet.

Soon after the first Apache acquisition, the army put in a separate request for a fleet of at least 39, one of the officials told AFP.

It will be the first time the Indian army has received attack helicopters and it hopes to deploy the craft along India's high-altitude frontiers -- particularly its border in the east with regional rival China.

New Delhi and Beijing are locked in a tense impasse over a strategic

Himalayan plateau where hundreds of Indian and Chinese soldiers have been squaring off against each other for more than three months.

India -- the world's largest defence importer -- has been investing tens of billions in updating its Soviet-era military hardware to counter longstanding territorial disputes with its nuclear-armed neighbours.

India has signed several big-ticket defence deals since Prime Minister Narendra Modi stormed to power in 2014.

In April, it signed a military deal with Israel worth nearly \$2 billion which includes an advanced defence system of medium-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and communications technology.

Alibaba profit doubles

Shanghai
Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba said yesterday its net profit almost doubled in the latest quarter on the back of solid revenue growth in its core shopping business and in cloud computing.

Alibaba, which has made billionaire founder Jack Ma one of China's richest men and a global e-commerce icon, has seen its New York-listed shares soar 80 percent since last December on perennially robust earnings.

With those shares at all-time highs,



Founder and chairman, Jack Ma

the company's market worth has been fast approaching that of industry leader Amazon.

Alibaba said net income in the quarter which ended June 30 was 14.7

billion yuan (\$2.2 billion), a year-on-year increase of 94 percent.

Alibaba thoroughly dominates e-commerce in China mainly through its Taobao platform, and its continued strong earnings performances have underlined the strength of the sector even as the country's broader economic growth has slowed.

Overall revenues in the quarter rose 56 percent to 50.2 billion yuan, beating the \$7.2 billion average of analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

Did You Know?



Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in India has the highest number of listed companies in the world with an estimated 5689 companies. National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India has around 1750 companies.



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3066	0.3030
BANGLADESH	0.00478	0.00467
CANADA	0.3056	0.3014
DENMARK	0.0628	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0217
EURO	0.4498	0.4456
HONGKONG	0.04968	0.04928
INDIA	0.00595	0.00593
INDONESIA	0.00003073	0.00002885
IRAN TUMAN	0.000323	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000304	
JAPAN	0.00359	0.003520
JORDAN	0.5350	0.5354
KOREA	0.00038200	
KUWAIT	1.249	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.0904	0.0900
NEW ZEALAND	0.2806	0.2793
NORWAY	0.0497	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00368
OMAN	0.98014	0.98314
PAKISTAN	0.00369	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00761	0.00736
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10058	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2811	0.2791
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03000	0.29900
SRI LANKA	0.00270	0.00247
SWEDISH	0.0498	
SWITZERLAND	0.3991	0.3942
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011560	0.011540
TURKEY	0.1137	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4950	0.4902
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102810	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37780	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	0.3870	0.3411
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.5506	0.2931	0.2583
OMAN	0.3849	0.3749	0.3951	0.3483
QATAR	3.6420	3.5477	3.7388	3.2956
UAE	3.6730	3.5779	3.7707	3.3237
SAUDI	3.7500	3.6529	3.8497	3.3934



Markets end week on firm footing

Representative picture

Dubai

Most major stock markets in the Gulf rose yesterday with Saudi Arabia's index gaining strength from positive company-specific news while shares of one of Egypt's property developers dropped as its quarterly earnings missed estimates.

The Riyadh index added 0.7 per cent as all 12 listed banks rose, with Alawwal Bank adding 2.4pc.

At the e b Telecommunications climbed 2.5pc to 8.21 riyals in its highest traded volume since June 2016 after it swung to a quarterly net profit of 55.4 million riyals (\$14.8m) from a loss of 58.1m riyals a year ago.

But it closed well off its intra-day high of 8.78 riyals. While some of the profit gain was due to higher revenues, most was due to the sale of

communications towers, the company said.

Saudi Steel Pipes gained 1.3pc after one of its units won a 250m riyal contract to manufacture pipes for oil giant Saudi Aramco.

Elsewhere, the Dubai index rose 0.3pc with activity dominated by Union Properties, up 3.7pc, and GFH Financial, up 2.8pc.

Both stocks have been volatile in recent days, GFH because of a big capital increase and Union Properties because it posted a big quarterly loss as it fixed accounting errors; the stock has now regained the level where it was trading before the announcement of the loss.

Abu Dhabi National Energy jumped 3.3pc in heavy trade. The stock soared 24pc this week; last week the company said it swung to a tiny profit

Closing Bell

SAUDI ARABIA rose 0.7pc to 7,179 points.

DUBAI edged up 0.3pc to 3,601 points.

ABU DHABI edged down 0.1pc to 4,493 points.

QATAR rose 0.9pc to 9,106 points.

EGYPT fell 0.2pc to 13,119 points.

KUWAIT added 0.5pc to 6,886 points.

BAHRAIN decreased 0.9pc to 1,299 points.

OMAN fell 0.5pc to 4,889 points.

in the second quarter from a year-earlier loss, aided by higher oil prices and a one-off gain.

Dana Gas however fell 3.2pc, helping drag Abu Dhabi's index down 0.1pc.

Qatar's index added 0.9pc.

In Egypt, shares of Sixth of October Development and Investment fell 1.1pc to a four-month low after its second-quarter net income of 129.8m Egyptian pounds (\$7.3m) missed analysts' estimates. (Reuters)

Moody's downgrades rating of ICICI's MTN notes to Ba2

Mumbai

Moody's has downgraded ratings on forex debt of ICICI Bank raised through its Bahrain branch under the medium term notes programme even as it retained the ratings on the bank's foreign currency senior unsecured debt.

"We've downgraded the provisional ratings on the foreign currency senior unsecured MTN programme of ICICI Bank's Bahrain branch to Ba2 from Baa3, because the forex bond ceiling for Bahrain is now at Ba2," Moody's said in a note today. "At the same time, we've retained the Baa3 rating on its foreign currency



File picture showing a logo of ICICI Bank

senior unsecured debt raised through this branch," Moody's said.

The city-headquartered bank declined to comment.

The branch's counterparty

risk assessment has also been downgraded to Ba1(cr)/not prime (cr) from Baa3(cr)/P-3 (cr), as the agency has downgraded the local currency country risk ceiling for Bahrain

to Ba1. "The downgrading of the provisional ratings on the foreign currency senior unsecured MTN programme for the bank's Bahrain branch to Ba2 is solely on account of the forex bond ceiling of Bahrain, which was downgraded to Ba2," it said.

Similarly, the downgrading of the branch's CRA to Ba1(cr)/NP(cr) is solely on account of the local currency country risk ceilings of Bahrain, which was downgraded to Ba1. "All other ratings under the MTN programme of the bank remain unchanged," Moody's said, adding the outlook on all ratings is also stable. (PTI)

GPIC honours students



In pictures, GPIC Chairman Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery with students during the honouring ceremony

Manama
Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) organised a ceremony to honour 280 students whose parents are employees of the company.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, President of GPIC. Also present, were the GPIC labour union Chairman, Yaqoob Yousef, union board members and parents of the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jawahery congratulated the students and their parents on their achievements and reiterated the company's commitment to continue supporting children's education in line with the directives of the Board of Directors under the Chairmanship of Dr Ahmed Al Sharyan.

In his address, the President urged them to follow the path

towards excellence to secure their future and contribute directly to the development of Bahrain. He said the leadership is keen to develop the human capital through education and added that the GPIC Education Programme looks at fulfilling the company's social responsibility towards the community.

Dr Jawahery said the Crown Prince International Scholarship Programme gives outstanding students the opportunity to continue their education in the world's most prestigious universities and that creates a generation of knowledge and competence.

Dr Jawahery called on the students to emulate the role

of their parents to continue success and excellence. He also called on them to follow the example of GPIC, a company that has made a name for itself as being amongst the best in the world. He thanked the students for their efforts in achieving outstanding results and wished them every success in the future. He also

thanked the Chairman and union board members for their initiative to prepare for and organize the ceremony and its cooperation with the company's Management to meet the needs of employees.

Yousef, in his address, thanked the GPIC management and praised its interest in taking care of not

only employees but also their families. He called upon the students to strive to achieve excellence every year and stressed on the importance of loyalty towards the country and its wise leadership.

GPIC annually honours outstanding students who obtain 90 per cent or more marks in their academics.



GPIC annually honours outstanding students who obtain 90 per cent or more marks in their academics.



Asgharali Perfumes celebrated the Independence day of Pakistan and India on 14 and 15 August 2017 at its headquarters in Hidd, Bahrain. On the occasion, Asgharali perfumes greeted staffs members and held various activities with the support of the management



Deputy Premier, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received Indian Ambassador, Alok Kumar Sinha, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. The deputy premier valued highly the role played by the Indian expatriate community in the Kingdom's development and progress.



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday received the newly-arrived Qatari Ambassador Rami Saleh Warikat. He stressed strong historic bilateral relations and his keenness to further boost them.



Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik was the Chief Guest at a dinner organised at the Gulf hotel by Prominent Businessmen Aref Sadeq and Fahad Aref Sadeq to announce the Arabian Cricket Carnival and celebrate Pakistan Independence Day. The Ambassador appreciated Aref Sadeq and his team for their efforts to promote cricket in Bahrain and assured them of all possible support in the Arabian Cricket Festival which is being organised in Bahrain



National Institution of Human Rights (NIHR)'s President Saeed Al-Faihani received a delegation from Bahrain Human Rights Society, headed by Aqeel Al-Meharri. Abdullah Al-Durazi, Vice President, Maria Khoory Head of Economic and Cultural Rights Committee and Shaikha Al-Elaiwee, Legal Researcher from the National Institution's side were also present during the meeting.



Director-General of the Northern Governorate Police, Brigadier Abdullah Khalifa Al-Jiran, met Deputy Chairman of the Northern Municipal Council, Ahmed Mohammed Al-Kooheji, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation.



Torch of Love and Peace Society celebrated 70th Independence Day of Pakistan. The event was sponsored by the Bahraini community and organised by Salma Haseeb. Muharraq Municipal Council Chairman Mohammed Abdullah Al-Kooheji was the Chief Guest.



A cultural event and reception was organised by the Indian Embassy on the evening of 15th August to mark the 70 years of India's freedom. The event was attended senior officials, several MPs, diplomats, business leaders and Indian community members.



Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Assistant General Secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee General Secretary Abdulrahman Askar received at his office in Seef the Bahrain Cricket Association president Saleem Elyas and members of the new board.



Appointed Jor- both countries'



Manpower Of- nic, Social and e also present



by Ateyatalla Sinan was the

CELEBS

Niall Horan @NiallOfficial
 ...lanta and Orlando! I'm taking one of my great
 friends @coreyharp over for these shows



Stone becomes world's highest-paid actress

Los Angeles

Emma Stone has been named the world's highest-paid actress by *Forbes*, surpassing Jennifer Lawrence, who claimed the top spot in 2016 and 2015.

Stone, 28, collected \$26 million, due to her Oscar-winning performance in the movie-musical juggernaut "La La Land", reports *variety.com*.

Stone spoke on gender parity earlier this year, sharing that her male co-stars have taken salary cuts so she could receive equal pay.

Actress Jennifer Aniston was runner-up with \$25.5 million. While she continues to receive millions in royalties even a decade after "Friends" ended, the actress, who appeared "The Yellow Bird," also monetises different endorsements. (IANS)



Zayn Malik reveals his backup plan

London

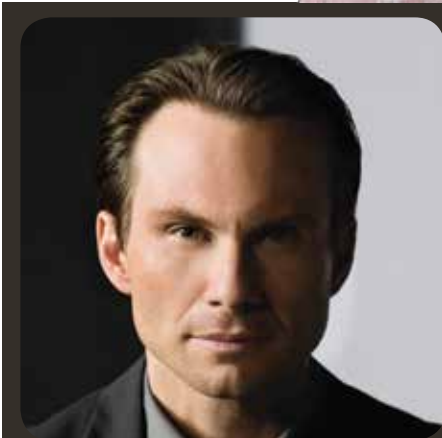
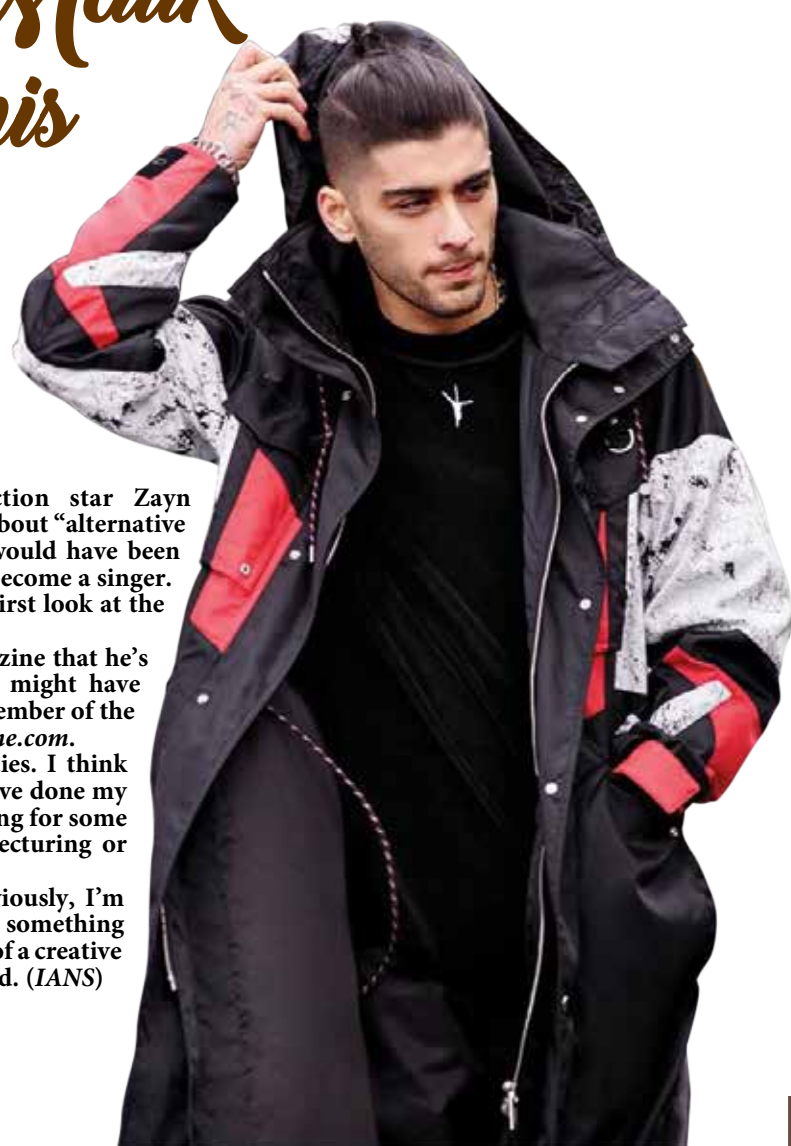
Former One Direction star Zayn Malik, who thinks about "alternative realities", says he would have been at a university had he not become a singer.

E! News was given an exclusive first look at the singer on the cover of *VMAN 38*.

Malik, 24, admitted to the magazine that he's been curious about what his life might have looked like had he not become a member of the One Direction band, reports *eonline.com*.

"I think about alternative realities. I think I'd be at university and I would have done my English degree. I think I'd be looking for some employment to do with English lecturing or literature," he said.

"I love poetry and writing...obviously, I'm a songwriter-so, it would've been something that would still give me the feeling of a creative outlet within my writing," he added. (IANS)



STARRY
Birthday
 Christian Slater

August 18, 1969

Actor who has played leading roles in such films as *The Legend of Billie Jean*, *Heathers*, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, and *True Romance*.

McConaughey enjoys reel-life superpowers

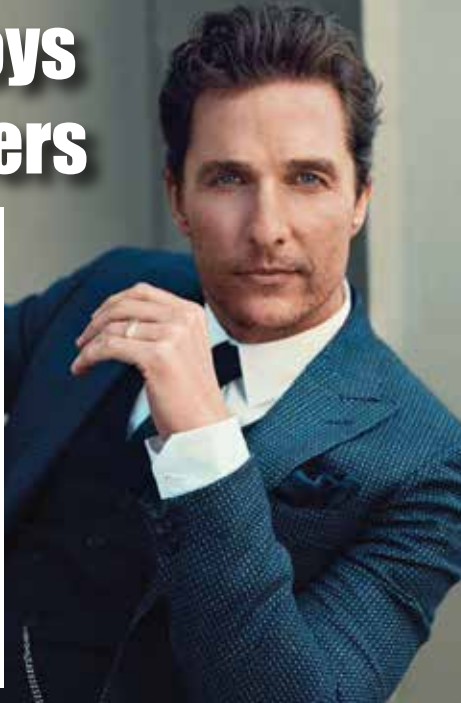
Los Angeles

Actor Matthew McConaughey, who plays a sorcerer and a shape shifter in forthcoming film "The Dark Tower", says it is fun to play a character with superpowers.

"The Dark Tower" is an American science fantasy film, directed and co-produced by Nikolaj Arcel.

The movie is based on the continuation of the novel series written by Stephen King, and stars Idris Elba as Roland Deschain, a gunslinger on a quest to protect the Dark Tower -- a mythical structure which supports all realities. McConaughey is his nemesis named Walter O'Dim and the Man in Black.

McConaughey's character also has the ability to play with the minds of the people with words or touch. (IANS)



Tatum to star in 'Bloodlines'



Actor Channing Tatum is set to produce and star in a film based on author Melissa Del Bosque's upcoming book 'Bloodlines'.

'Bloodlines: The True Story of a Drug Cartel, the FBI, and the Battle for a Horse-Racing Dynasty' follows two FBI agents one of the them a rookie as they work to take down members of a drug cartel wrapped up with quarter horse racing in Texas.

Tatum, 37, is producing through his production company along with 'Fifty Shades of Grey' producer Michael De Luca.

Jonathan Herman will adapt the screenplay for the film. No director is yet attached to the project. (TOI)

HUGH JACKMAN IN AWE OF ZENDAYA

Los Angeles

Actress Zendaya of "Spider-Man: Homecoming" fame says actor Hugh Jackman was impressed by seeing her stunt work on the set of their upcoming musical "The Greatest Showman".

In the film, about showman P.T. Barnum and the creation of his iconic circus, Zendaya plays the role of a trapeze artist. Zendaya trained for months in order to perfect the acrobatic skill, reports *ew.com*.

"I got to accomplish something and try a new skill I never thought I'd ever do in my whole life, but I did it. Scratch that off the bucket list," she said.



The actress is still amazed that "The Wolverine" star is wowed by her. (IANS)



Now you know it

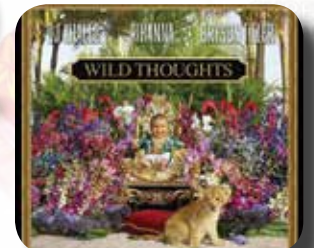


American singer-songwriter Alicia Keys gave a live music performance during the 2016 UEFA Champions League final's opening ceremony, the first in the history of the league

TOP 10 Songs this Week



1. Despacito
Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee Ft. Justin Bieber



2. Wild Thoughts
DJ Khaled Featuring Rihanna & Bryson Tiller



3. Unforgettable
French Montana Featuring Swae Lee



4. That's What I Like
Bruno Mars



5. Believer
Imagine Dragons



6. I'm The One
DJ Khaled Featuring Justin Bieber, Quavo, Chance The Rapper & Lil Wayne



7. Attention
Charlie Puth



8. There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back
Shawn Mendes



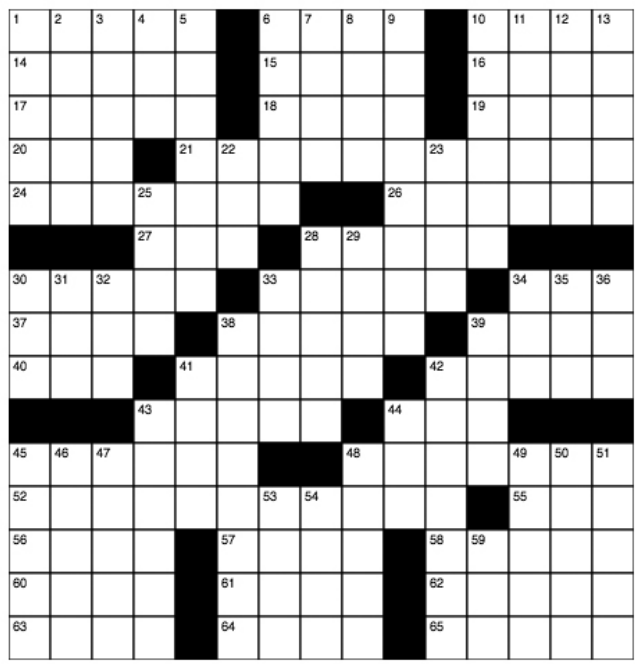
9. Shape Of You
Ed Sheeran



10. Body Like A Back Road
Sam Hunt

(billboard)

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Toothbrush brand; 6- Oceans; 10- Those, to Juan; 14- Chocolate tree; 15- Draw with acid; 16- Aloe ____; 17- Bohemian; 18- "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 19- Enthusiastic liveliness; 20- Shelter; 21- To have hallucinations; 24-Laborious; 26- Legit; 27- Message in a bottle?; 28- ____ acid; 30- Swiftiness; 33- Where the action is; 34- Lentil and spice dish; 37- So-so grades; 38- Imitating; 39- Floe; 40- 007 creator Fleming; 41- Apparel; 42- Thaw before takeoff; 43- Curt; 44- Nada; 45- Ancient ascetic; 48- Methods; 52- Eggs order; 55- China's Chou En-____; 56- Fraternal org.; 57- Amos or Spelling; 58- Beau; 60- Stuck in ____; 61- Actor McGregor; 62- Advil rival; 63- Makes lace; 64- Title for Agatha Christie; 65- Approvals;

Down

1- Florida's ____ National Forest; 2- Less common or less cooked; 3- Behaved; 4- ____ Cruces; 5- Period of being a boy; 6- Vends; 7- List finish; 8- Rights org.; 9- Causing intense surprise; 10- Nevertheless; 11- Psalms interjection; 12- Use a soapbox; 13- Less loony; 22- Hung neighbor; 23- Hebrides island; 25- Functions; 28- Spring up; 29- Department store department; 30- Biol. or chem.; 31- Pod occupant; 32- Dusk, to Donne; 33- Simians; 34- Agnus ____; 35- Circle segment; 36- Bigger than med.; 38- Apprehended; 39- Waist band; 41- Contradict; 42- Show; 43- Beliefs; 44- Big Apple sch.; 45- Convocation of witches; 46- Above; 47- Muzzle; 48- River that flows through Paris; 49- Santa's aides; 50- "Circle of Friends" author Binchy; 51- Fathers; 53- Caucus state; 54- 60 grains; 59- Corrida cry;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	C	R	U	M	B	6	R	E	B	A	10	F	A	C	E
14	H	O	R	A	E	15	E	L	O	N	16	E	T	A	L
17	O	M	A	H	A	18	N	A	P	E	19	L	I	N	A
20	P	A	L	A	T	21	I	A	L	22	R	O	L	L	O
24	27	R	I	L	L	25	H	O	I	S	T	E	D		
26	27	I	N	C	I	T	E	29	B	A	I	L			
30	M	O	O	S	31	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	O	U	S
37	A	L	O	H	A	39	U	N	O	40	D	O	N	T	S
41	C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	43	A	S	K	A	T
45	45	A	E	R	Y	46	G	R	A	P	H	S			
48	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	52	E	R	I	C			
53	E	N	S	U	E	S	54	A	C	A	D	E	M	I	A
58	N	E	A	R	59	T	O	D	O	61	D	O	I	N	G
62	T	A	G	S	63	E	R	I	N	64	L	U	N	G	E
65	S	M	E	E	66	D	R	N	O	67	E	S	T	E	S

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



If there is something you need to fight for, this is the time to do it. For a while now you've been doing research on the best way to proceed. The time has come to take action. You have an extra boost of vitality, and your warrior instinct is strong. You feel like a volcano ready to expel boiling hot lava.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You may not feel in the mood to fight today. If someone challenges you, talk your way out of it. You will probably be able to win any battle with your words. Try sensitive reasoning instead of open combat. Listen carefully to the concerns of the opposing side and make your move accordingly. This isn't a contest. It's a conversation among friends.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Take pride in your nurturing instincts. Rescue an injured bird or join a conservation group. Do something to help save the whales. Take a more active role in the preservation of the planet. Become a concerned citizen who regularly speaks out for what you believe in. Don't let other people's political agendas get in the way of your true purpose.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Something or someone may urge you to make a major move. Be sure you make it in the right direction. Remember that strength lies in numbers. To conquer, people must unite. Factions of people continuing to fight among themselves only aggravate the problem. The key is to accept one another's differences and work together on the larger issues.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Your ego is strong today, and you have a strong will. This is a good time to put your plan for world domination into effect. Be sure you channel your powerful emotions into positive outlets. Create rather than destroy. Energy that isn't used in a positive way will end up manifesting as accidents or hostility toward people who don't deserve it.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Focus more of your power on your home and family life. Take care of domestic issues and stick to household chores and duties. The more you do to your home, the more others will be inspired to pitch in and help. You may find it difficult to connect with certain people, so it might be best to give yourself some time alone.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Don't be surprised if emotions flare up between you and someone close on a professional or social level. The issue may be difficult to resolve now. People feel rather sensitive. If they hear something they don't like, especially an opinion that may seem too critical, they're likely to shut down. You might want to consider saving anything of a sensitive nature for tomorrow.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



People may be coming on strong, but you will be right there to meet them with an equally powerful rebuttal. The problem is, the person who confronts you is talking about apples and you're talking about oranges. Get off your soapbox for a minute and listen to the real issue. Don't get caught in misunderstandings or things could backfire later.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



If something doesn't make sense to you, question it. Be strong and confident. Don't let others take advantage of your sensitive and nurturing personality. Your general tendency is to give more than you receive, but this may leave you feeling depleted. Put an end to this cycle. Be conscious of how you distribute your energy. Do something for yourself.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Try to control your aggression. People are likely to be a bit more sensitive than usual. You can use your powerful nature in positive ways by turning your energy inward and conquering the demons within. It may feel like others are trying to put a monkey wrench in your gears, so be careful.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



It's time to be more aggressive regarding your needs. Think of your heart as a powerful muscle that needs a tough workout. You'll want to surround yourself with positive people who believe in you and support your efforts. Pump yourself up with vitality and self-confidence. Make time for exercise and meditation. Bring more balance and harmony to your life.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



You're in the hot seat today. Other people might put you on the spot for no apparent reason. This uncomfortable feeling could lead to tension if you overreact. Be careful that you have all the facts on the issue before you react. The whole situation may be a big misunderstanding. Maintain a level head tempered with kindness and respect.

BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU

					4			
		3	8			4		2
4	8						3	
				1			6	8
8			9	3				7
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4	2	7	5	6	8	9	3	1
5	3	9	4	1	2	7	8	6
8	6	1	9	3	7	5	2	4
7	4	8	6	2	9	3	1	5
9	1	3	8	4	5	6	7	2
6	5	2	1	7	3	8	4	9
2	7	5	3	9	1	4	6	8
3	9	6	2	8	4	1	5	7
1	8	4	7	5	6	2	9	3

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FROZEN in time

DIANA'S TRAGIC FAIRYTALE

London

From her engagement to Prince Charles as a shy teenager to her roles as doting mother, humanitarian and global celebrity, Diana's turbulent life still captivates people around the world.

Young, beautiful and fun, she seemed refreshingly informal when she married the heir to the throne in 1981 at age 20, after what the media and palace officials portrayed as a fairytale romance.

But the acrimonious breakdown of her relationship with Charles, during which every salacious detail was played out in the world's newspapers, would shake the monarchy to the core and drive her to self-harm.

For many people the public image of Diana remains fixed as she was in an extraordinary 1995 interview in which she spoke out about her feelings over her husband's affair with Camilla Parker Bowles, her own infidelity and her history of self-harm.

The way she spilled secrets, stripping the monarchy of its mystique and casting doubt on Charles's ability to be king, drew horror in some parts of the British establishment.

But for many ordinary people, her troubles -- revived once again in a slew of new

documentaries and interviews -- made her only more popular.

"Like Marilyn Monroe, she has frozen in time. She was like a creature locked in a piece of amber. There forever -- beautiful, young, vulnerable and damaged," said royal biographer Penny Junor.

13 dates before marriage

Born on July 1, 1961, Diana grew up in an aristocratic family with ties to the monarch -- her father worked for the late king George VI and Queen Elizabeth II.

She grew up with three siblings, in a childhood marred by the bitter break-up of her parents.

She left school at 16 with no qualifications and went to finishing school in Switzerland, before getting a job in a nursery in London.

From the moment she was linked to Charles, however, her life changed.

The prince was under increasing pressure to find a bride, and at the age of 32, he proposed -- perhaps too soon.

Diana said they only met 13 times before their wedding.

She quickly fulfilled her primary duty as princess, with the birth of an heir, William, the following year, followed by Harry two years later.

Diana was a hands-on, adoring mother, and also possessed a remarkable empathy that drew people to her. Coupled with a strong sense of style, she rode a wave of popular and media enthusiasm for the monarchy.

She used her position to champion some of the most marginalised groups in society, shaking hands with patients with AIDS and leprosy, who were viewed as pariahs at the time.

But beneath the surface she was in turmoil, plagued by bulimia and wracked by self-doubt made worse by the feeling that her husband did not love her -- and the rest of the royals did not care.

Crossed a line

Rumours that the

marriage was in trouble broke into the open in 1992, after Andrew Morton lifted the lid on Diana's misery with a revelatory book, tactically endorsed by the princess herself.

That year ended with the bombshell announcement that the royal couple would separate.

The scandal only deepened with further recriminations and allegations appearing in the media, before first Charles and then Diana admitted to being unfaithful.

In her 1995 interview with the BBC's Panorama programme, Diana gave her version of events, admitting her affair with army officer James

Hewitt, but also criticising the royals and questioning her husband's ability to be king.

This crossed a line. A few weeks later, the queen, who had already publicly expressed her sadness at the situation, wrote to both Charles and Diana urging them to seek a divorce.

On August 28, 1996, the divorce was granted and Diana was stripped of her title of Her Royal Highness. The fairytale was over.

'Queen of people's hearts'

Still a princess, Diana remained in the public eye.

She found new love in Dodi Fayed, the son of millionaire businessman Mohamed Al Fayed, who was also killed with her on August 31, 1997, as their car was chased by paparazzi through the streets of Paris.

The outpouring of public grief was immense.

Millions of flowers were left outside her home at Kensington Palace, and thousands lined the streets of London to pay their last respects at her funeral.

Much of the popular anger over her death was directed at the royal family, fuelled by the queen's initial refusal to return to London to greet the crowds, and there was a surge of republicanism.

Two decades on, public support for the monarchy is as strong as ever and Charles -- with Camilla -- has to a large extent been rehabilitated.

But neither will likely ever match the popularity of his first wife, the self-styled "queen of people's hearts". (AFP)



Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, arriving at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Central London



Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales (L), and her sons Prince Harry, (C) and Prince William, as they gather for the commemorations of VJ Day in London

Philippine police kill 25 more after Duterte's death call

Police officers work at a crime scene, where an alleged drug dealer was killed during a police anti-drug operation, in Manila

Manila
Police in the Philippine capital shot dead 25 drug suspects in another round of anti-drug raids, authorities said yesterday, as they followed President Rodrigo Duterte's call for dozens of deaths a day.

The killings, carried out in Manila from Wednesday to yesterday morning, came after police shot dead 32 drug suspects in the province neighbouring the capital early in the week in what was billed as a "shock and awe" operation against drug traffickers.

Manila police spokesman Senior Superintendent Erwin Margarejo said the 25 were killed in 18 various operations against drug suspects.

"It is a simultaneous police operation. All the units and stations of MPD (Manila

police district) conducted their own operations," Margarejo said.

Duterte on Wednesday praised the killings of the 32 suspects in Bulacan province, describing the operations as "good".

"If we could kill another 32 everyday, then maybe we can reduce what ails this country," Duterte said.

However national police spokesman Senior Superintendent Dionardo Carlos insisted that officers in Bulacan and Manila had killed only in self-defence.

"Can you blame the police now when the initial action is perpetrated by the suspect?" he said.

Duterte easily won last year's presidential election largely on a vow to kill tens of thousands of drug traffickers and addicts, which he said

was necessary to stop the country's slide to narco-state status.

Police have killed more than 3,500 people in drug raids since Duterte came to office in the middle of last year, according to government data.

More than 2,000 other people have been killed in drug-related crimes and thousands more murdered in unexplained circumstances, according to the police.

He has also repeatedly assured policemen that he will protect them if they are charged for killing drug suspects as part of his campaign.

Rights groups have warned Duterte, who has said he would be "happy to slaughter" three million drug addicts, may be orchestrating a crime against humanity. (AFP)

Malala wins place at Oxford

London
Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban for advocating education for girls in her native Pakistan, announced yesterday she has won a place to study at Oxford University.

"So excited to go to Oxford!!" the 20-year-old posted on Twitter, along with a picture of the message she received confirming her acceptance on the philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) course.

The announcement came on the day that students across Britain received the



Malala Yousafzai

results of their A-levels, exams taken at the end of secondary school.

Yousafzai did not reveal her results, but said: "Well done to all A-level students -- the hardest year. Best wishes for

life ahead!"

She was just 15 years old when she was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in October 2012 as she travelled by bus home from an exam to her village in the Swat valley.

She was flown to the central English city of Birmingham for treatment, and has lived there with her family ever since, continuing her education and activism.

Yousafzai was granted the Nobel Peace prize aged 17 in 2014 along with India's Kailash Satyarthi for their championing of children's rights.

#PollToday



Philippine police killed 25 more drug suspects after Duterte's death call. Do you think the death toll will rise in the coming days?

Yes No Cant Say



"To me the economic war with China is everything. And we have to be maniacally focused on that. If we continue to lose it, we're five years away, I think, ten years at the most, of hitting an inflection point from which we'll never be able to recover"

Steve Bannon

White House strategist

Rest in sight

Hundreds of human bone fragments found in Mexico



More than 600 human bone fragments were found in a mass grave outside the Mexican city of Tijuana near the US border.

Two Bangladeshi die taking flood selfies

Two Bangladeshi teenagers have died taking selfies in raging floodwaters.

Russian ban on Jehovah's Witnesses comes into force

Russia's justice ministry has added Jehovah's Witnesses to its black list, formalising a ban for the Christian movement over alleged "extremist activities."

US man sentenced to life for killing Chinese student

A judge in California sentenced a 21-year-old man to life in prison in connection with the death of a university graduate student from China.

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10-year-old rape victim gives birth to baby girl

New Delhi

A 10-year-old rape victim whose plea for an abortion was rejected by India's Supreme Court has given birth to a baby girl, a doctor said yesterday.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was raped several times allegedly by an uncle who has since been arrested.

Last month her parents asked the country's top court to allow her to have a late-

term abortion but the request was turned down.

Indian law does not allow medical terminations after 20 weeks unless there is a threat to either the life of the mother or her child.

"She gave birth through C-section today (Thursday).

Both the girl and her baby are doing fine," doctor Dasari Harish said by phone from the northern Indian city of Chandigarh.

Ancient species of giant sloth discovered in Mexico



The skull of a new species and genus of giant sloth Mexico City

Mexican scientists said Wednesday they have discovered the fossilized remains of a previously unknown species of giant sloth that lived 10,000 years ago and died at the bottom of a sinkhole.

The Pleistocene-era remains were found in 2010, but were so deep inside the water-filled sinkhole that researchers were only gradually able to piece together what they were, the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) said in announcing the find.

Scientists have so far hauled up the skull, jawbone,

and a mixed bag of vertebrae, ribs claws and other bones, but the rest of the skeleton remains some 50 meters (165 feet) under water, the INAH said.

Researchers are planning to bring up the rest by next year to continue studying the find -- including to estimate how big the animal was.

"They'll be putting the pieces together like a puzzle," INAH spokesman Arturo Mendez said.

The skeleton is nearly complete, leading scientists to believe the sloth "fell into the sinkhole when it was dry or had only a little water at the bottom," the researchers said.

Infamous Australian IS fighter 'likely' dead: minister

Sydney

Canberra said yesterday there was a "high probability" a notorious Islamic State fighter from Australia and two of his children had been killed in a US airstrike in Syria.

Reports said Khaled Sharrouf and his sons Abdullah, 12, and Zaraqawi, 11, were killed last Friday while driving near the IS bastion of Raqa.

Sharrouf sparked international revulsion in 2014 when he posted pictures on social media of Abdullah holding the rotting severed head of a soldier.

The father of five had used his other children in propaganda videos, including one that surfaced this year in which he grilled his youngest son about killing non-Muslims as the six-year-old handled guns and knives.

"Nobody will mourn his passing... I can assure you of that," Australia's Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told Channel Nine.

The Australian newspaper and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, both citing unnamed government sources, reported the death of Sharrouf and his sons.

Mass burials for 160 Sierra Leone victims

Freetown

Sierra Leone prepared for the burials of 160 victims of devastating floods yesterday, as fears grew of more mudslides and accusations of government "inaction" over deforestation and poor urban planning mounted.

After it emerged that at least 105 of the dead were children, citizens and experts alike questioned why the government of President Ernest Bai Koroma had not done more to tackle illegal construction in the overcrowded capital of Freetown.

A Red Cross official said

meanwhile that smaller mudslides had occurred since Monday in eastern Freetown and in Sierra Leone's second city of Bo, with the rainy season far from over.

"There is a fear that more trouble is imminent," in Freetown, a coastal city of around one million people, said Abdul Nasir of the International Red Cross.

Adding to the danger, the Office of National Security, which is coordinating the government's response, was informed that a mountain which partially collapsed on Monday had cracked at another point.

Although the death toll is officially 300, rescue workers privately agree the toll is far higher, and one said that in line with an unofficial morgue toll, 400 graves had been dug for the victims, who will be buried over a two-day period.

The UN has said 4,000 people are affected by the mudslides and flooding.

With the aim of clearing the overflowing central morgue, the first burials were due to begin at 1500 GMT in Waterloo, a nearby town where victims of the Ebola crisis were also laid to rest. (AFP)



Relatives enquire on the fate of victims of the mudslide at the Freetown Morgue, Sierra Leone

Secrets of the deep: Senegal's slave shipwreck detective



Graduate students from Dakar's Cheikh Anta Diop university ready to dive during an expedition to find traces of slave shipwrecks

Dakar

Staring out to sea on a flawlessly sunny day, underwater archaeologist Ibrahim Thiaw visualises three shipwrecks once packed with slaves that now lie somewhere beneath Senegal's Atlantic waves.

He wants more than anything to find them.

Thiaw has spent years scouring the seabed off the island of Goree, once a west African slaving post, never losing hope of locating the elusive vessels with a small group of graduate students from Dakar's Cheikh Anta Diop University.

Goree was the largest slave-trading centre on the African coast between the 15th and 19th century, according

to the UN's cultural agency UNESCO, and Thiaw believes his mission has a moral purpose: to heal the open wounds that slavery has left on the continent.

"This is not just for the fun of research or scholarship. It touches us and our humanity and I think that slavery in its afterlife still has huge scars on our modern society," he

said, pulling on a wetsuit and rubber boots for the day's first dive.

Thiaw believes his native Senegal, with its own long and violent history of trade in human flesh, could tell the world more about how modern capitalism was founded on violence inflicted on African bodies.

"The Atlantic slave trade was the foundation of our modernity, so this is a history for all mankind," he added, referring to the so-called "Triangular Trade" of human labour for consumer goods between Africa, the Americas and Europe.

After making final checks on the magnetometer that will run up and down a painstakingly designated strip of seabed for traces of wreckage, Thiaw disappears under the surface of the dark green waves.

1,000 slave shipwrecks

African nations affected by the slave trade have never fully come to terms with it, Thiaw believes, and even today in countries like Senegal, a caste of people still refer to themselves as slaves.

The horrors of the so-called Middle Passage, or journey across the Atlantic, not only industrialised the trade of people but ripped entire societies from their roots.

"The umbilical cord between Africa and its diaspora was broken and in the ocean (slaves) were being seasoned to be other people, to adapt to other conditions," he notes.

Thiaw, who originates from a rural area of Senegal but went on to study in the United States, had become known for his research into slaves' living conditions on Goree island when he was approached three years ago by the US National Park Service and National Museum of African American History and Culture to find a west African base for their "Slave Wrecks" project.

They offered dive training, equipment and expertise and had already helped establish similar dive sites in Mozambique and South Africa, with one historic success.

Artifacts, including shackles and ballasts from the Sao Jose Paquete de Africa, a Portuguese slave vessel that sank in 1794 with more than 200 slaves on board, were dredged up off the coast of Cape Town in 2015.

Around 1,000 slave shipwrecks are believed to dot the seabed between Africa and the Americas, according

to "Slave Wrecks" researchers, but few have been found.

Today's dive, like dozens before it, was unsuccessful.

Precious clues

"We found a modern shipwreck, a big one," the powerfully built Thiaw said, seawater running down his face, but "it's not really what we are looking for."

The trio of wrecks Thiaw seeks -- the Nanette, the Bonne Amitie and the Racehorse -- all disappeared off Goree in the 18th century, taking with them crucial evidence of how enslaved Africans were carried across the harrowing Middle Passage.

The key is building a team of Senegalese archaeological divers who will dedicate themselves to the task, as some of his students graduate and move on.

The overwhelming majority of slave ships were repurposed and simply rotted away after abolition, meaning the slave shipwrecks preserved by the sea will provide precious clues.

'Silence' around slavery

Thiaw complains that there is a lack of interest within Senegal for his work, especially at the institutional level where, he said, there was "very little funding for research".

"I think in Senegal there's a lot of silence surrounding the issue but I think the time is ripe that we start to teach our students and our children how to respect people of different or lower status, slave caste," he said.

Discrimination remains a problem in the country, with some people still referred to as slaves using the word "jaam" in the country's majority Wolof language.

"There are still people, who are still known to be slaves," he said. "Some of them would even tell you proudly: 'yes, I am a slave.'"

Thiaw wants his nation to unflinchingly analyse "the most painful aspects of our history and the contradiction of our history", especially the lingering elements of a class system that designated some Senegalese as worthy only of serving others.

Senegal's past lies somewhere on the seabed between Dakar and Goree, but perhaps also its future.

"We know they are there," Thiaw said. (AFP)

Halep advances to quarters



Simona Halep

Cincinnati

Second-ranked Simona Halep charged closer to taking the world number one ranking yesterday, beating Romania's 15th seed Anastasija Sevastova 6-4, 6-3 to reach the WTA and ATP Cincinnati Masters quarter-finals.

Romania's Halep, a French Open runner-up for the second time in June, can overtake top-ranked Czech defending champion Karolina Pliskova by winning the title in the final major tuneup for the US Open.

"To be number one in the world I think is a big thing," Halep said this week. "If I deserve the place, for sure I will win it."

Pliskova, who faces Italian qualifier Camila Giorgi in a later third-round match, must also fight off Ukraine's Elina

Svitolina, who won her fifth WTA title of the year last week in Toronto to reach a career-high fourth in the rankings. Svitolina faces Germany's Julia Goerges later.

"Of course to be number one is a goal of mine," Svitolina said. "The important thing is to play well at the big tournaments. Then the ranking will be there."

Spaniard Rafael Nadal, the 15-time Grand Slam champion assured of returning to world number one next week, faces countryman Albert Ramos-Vinolas in a night match. Nadal could meet Australian Nick Kyrgios in Friday's quarter-finals.

Nadal was assured advancing past injured Andy Murray for the top spot when Roger Federer withdrew from

Cincinnati on Monday with a back injury.

After an early exchange of breaks, Halep double faulted to surrender another and give Sevastova a 3-2 edge.

She then had a visit from her Australian coach, Darren Cahill, who encouraged more backhands but closed with, "This is on you. Turn this around."

Halep did, breaking to 4-4 and again to claim the set when the Latvian swatted a backhand beyond the baseline.

Sevastova squandered two break points in the first game of the second set and netted a backhand to give Halep a 2-0 edge, but broke back in the fifth game. Halep responded with a drop volley winner to break the Latvian at love for a 4-2 lead. (AFP)

Poland set to defend it's title



During the Coaches' Press conference

DT News Network Manama

Poland are set to defend its title in a highly competitive field in the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship today with Brazil taking on France in Pool B and Russia play Turkey in Pool C with both matches starting at 1pm at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Head coach of Poland (who have a bye today) Maciej Zendel says that they face an uphill task in their quest to repeat the success of the 2015 championship hosted by Argentina.

"It will be very difficult for

us to win this tournament," Zendel said last night in the pre-tournament Press conference held at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Manama, where he was joined by a majority of the head coaches from the other participating nations.

Zendel identified Brazil, Italy and Iran as the teams to beat. But Iran head coach Reza Vakili Farjad suggested all teams have a chance of a medal.

The tournament has additional importance for Japan, whose current players may be the ones that will be flying their flag when Tokyo hosts the next Summer Olympics in three years' time

in Japan.

Meanwhile, several coaches praised Bahrain for the warm welcome they have received upon their arrival and the exceptional overall organisation.

After the preliminaries, the top four teams in each pool move on to the next phase.

Bahrain squad: Yousif Khalifa Alasbool (Head Coach), Abdulla Al Mahroos (Team Manager), Omar Al Majed (Al Najma), Hussain Mansoor (Nabih Saleh), Sayed Mohammed Al Abbar (Al Ahli), Jawher Rashed (Al Najma), Saif Yousif (Captain, Muharraq), Mohammed Jassim (Nabih Saleh), Mohammed Haroona

(Playmaker, Dar Kulaib), Hassan Haider (Muharraq), Hussain Thamer (Dar Kulaib), Hassan Mohammed (Muharraq), Mahmood Abdul Hussain (Al Ahli), Yousif Saif (Muharraq), Sayed Yousuf Ashoor (Muharraq), Hussain Abdulla (Liberio, Dar Kulaib).

Preliminary round schedule:

1pm: Pool B: Brazil vs France. Pool C: Russia vs Turkey.

3pm: Pool B: Cuba vs Japan. Pool C: Chile vs South Korea.

5pm: Pool A: Puerto Rico vs Tunisia. Pool D: Italy vs Czech Republic.

7pm: Pool A: Bahrain vs Egypt. Pool D: Mexico vs China.

Olympic Academy duo for Level 1 course



Nabeel Taha
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Representatives from the Bahrain Olympic Committee's Olympic Academy will be travelling to Abha, in Saudi Arabia this weekend to conduct a five-day course. Academy director Nabeel Taha and executive coordinator Mahmood Yateem will be presenting the course from August 20 to 25.

This level 1 course is part of the National Coaching



Programme, being run and supervised by the Academy with 35 coaches from Saudi Arabia expected to take part.

It is also the sixth course that is organised in line with the agreement signed by the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the Saudi Institute for Leadership Development, recently national instructors Adel Al Asfoor and Ahmed Ali were in Saudi Arabia, where they managed another level 1 course in the City of Ha'il.

Bahrain lose to Argentina, conclude campaign

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Manama

Bahrain under coach Ebrahim Ali concluded its campaign after being narrowly defeated 25-24 against Argentina yesterday,

despite leading 14-12 at half-time in the 21st classification placement match in the 2017 Men's Youth World Handball Championships at the Tbilisi Sports Palace in the capital of Georgia.

The Bahrainis who finished bottom of Group A with one

win against Denmark and four losses to defending champions France, Egypt, Sweden and Norway, battled hard against the Argentines who finished bottom of Group 3 after losing all five matches in the preliminary rounds.

Top scoring for Bahrain

was Ahmed Fadul with 11 goals, the other scorers were Naser Naser, Mohammed Mohammed and Fadhel Al Maqabi (3) and Ahmed Al Ghazal, Yusuf Al Qasimi, Mohammed Eid and Abdulla Al Zaimoor (1).

For Argentina, its scorers

were Mateo Palacias (8) Ignacio Tomas Lopaz Perez (4), Juan Francisco Ceccardi and Nicolas Alejandro (3), Tomas Mariano Gallardo, Fererico Tomas Saud Sulak and Martin Arakaki (2) and Tomas Valentin Canete (1).

In the 23rd placement

match, Algeria edged out Mexico 27-25 after holding a slender 10-9 lead at half-time.

Other placement results (Finals): 17th: Norway bt Serbia 30-25 (17-12).

19th: Brazil bt Georgia 32-23 (16-14).

Napoli punish nine-man Nice



Napoli's Dries Mertens controls the ball

Paris

Napoli took a big step towards the Champions League group stage with a 2-0 win over outclassed nine-man Nice in their play-off, first-leg in Italy on Wednesday.

The Riviera side were down to nine men after 79 minutes when Alassane Pléa was sent off for a second yellow card just after Vincent Koziello's straight dismissal.

Belgian midfielder Dries Mertens had slotted in the opener after 13 minutes with Jorginho doubling the hosts' account with a penalty after 70 minutes. It was a third straight defeat for Lucien Favre's side who have lost their first two French

Ligue 1 matches, and travelled without Mario Balotelli and new signing Wesley Sneijder.

Napoli, third in Serie A and in the Champions League last 16 last year, were a class above the French punishing defensive errors in front of a delighted 50,000 home fans at the San Paolo Stadium.

Napoli took control of the game early with Mertens outwitting the Nice defence and taking advantage of an error by Yoan Cardinale to slot past the advancing Nice goalkeeper. And in the 70th minute it was again Mertens, brought down by Christophe Jallet, who earned the penalty which Jorginho slotted in. (AFP)

Ronaldo leads nominations



Cristiano Ronaldo

Paris

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo leads the nominees unveiled yesterday for the Best FIFA Men's Player 2017 award.

The 32-year-old Portuguese captain is favourite to retain the title he won last year after success in both the Champions League and La Liga. Among the 24 men's nominees are Ronaldo's Real Madrid teammates Dani Carvajal, Toni Kroos, Marcelo, Luka Modric, Keylor Navas and Sergio Ramos.

The list also includes Barcelona rivals Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, as well as Paris Saint-Germain's record signing Neymar.

Champions League finalists

with Juventus, Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and teammate Paulo Dybala are also in the running, alongside former Juventus player Leonardo Bonucci, who has since signed for AC Milan.

The other nominees include Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Borussia Dortmund), Eden Hazard (Chelsea), Antoine Griezmann (Atlético Madrid), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United), Andres Iniesta (Barcelona), Harry Kane (Tottenham), N'Golo Kante (Chelsea), Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich), Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal) and Arturo Vidal (Bayern Munich). (AFP)

Ton-up Root shines bright for England

Birmingham

Joe Root led from the front with a century as England took charge against the West Indies on the opening day of the inaugural day/night Test on English soil at Edgbaston yesterday.

England were 215 for two at tea with Root, who won the toss, unbeaten on 103.

Former captain Alastair Cook was closing in on a century of his own at 85 not out.

The skippers past and present had added an unbroken 176 for the third wicket.

They had joined forces with England faltering at 39 for two after Test debutant Mark Stoneman and Tom Westley were both dismissed for eight.

But from then on the West Indies found life tough against two proven world-class batsmen.

Root's fifty was his 11th in successive Tests -- a new England record and just one shy of South Africa star AB de Villiers's all-time leading mark of 12.

But while his conversion rate of fifties into hundreds has sometimes been a source of frustration to Root, this time the Yorkshireman went on to score his 13th century in 58 career Tests.

The fifth day/night Test worldwide saw Root win the toss under blue skies and on a good pitch.

He decided to bat first, for all the concerns about facing the pink ball and the difficulties of batting in twilight later on.

Left-hander Stoneman's first two scoring shots in Test cricket were both fours.

The 30-year-old eased Kemar Roach through the covers before clipping him off his pads.

It was an encouraging start by the Surrey batsman -- Cook's 12th England opening partner since Andrew Strauss retired five years ago.

But that was as good as it got for Stoneman, brought in after England dropped Keaton Jennings following a run of low scores during the preceding 3-1 home Test series victory against South Africa.

Roach produced a superbly sharp delivery that pitched on middle stump and clipped the top of off to clean bowl



Stoneman and leave England 14 for one.

Westley, still to cement his place at number three, was then lbw on review after missing a drive off first-change Miguel Cummins, with replays showing the ball would have smashed into the middle and leg stumps.

But Cook, who had a lucky break when he edged West Indies captain Jason Holder through a gap in the slips, and Root repaired the damage with a succession of boundaries.

Just before the lunch interval left-hander Cook, England's all-time leading Test run-scorer, completed a 74-ball fifty including 10 fours. (AFP)

SCOREBOARD

England 1st Innings	
D.A. Cook not out	85
M. Stoneman b Roach	8
T. Westley lbw b Cummins	8
J. Root not out	103
Extras (lb8, nb1, w2)	11
Total (2 wkts, 55 overs, 232 mins)	215

Ras Rumman thrash Halat Al Naeem 9-0

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Ras Rumman Youth Centre thrashed Halat Al Naeem Youth Centre 9-0 in its final Group 3 match of the Fifth Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League for Youth Centres, People with Disabilities and Girls (Khalid 5) at the Khalifa Sports City in Isa Town.

Man of the match Qassim Hussain with a first half hat-trick set up the victory for his team as Halat Al Naeem were disadvantaged in the 29th minute when Mohammed Abdulaziz was red carded.

In Group 4 action, Karranah defeated Al Wusta 3-1 with Mahmood Mansour man of the match for the victors, Jidhafs and Jurdab played out a thrilling 3-3 draw with the man of the match being Ali Yaqoub for the latter, Al Dair Club were comfortable 6-2 winners over Sadad, with Mohammed Al Hayki of Al Dair adjudged as man of the match.

The final five matches of the preliminary stages are set to be played today from 5pm.

Meanwhile, the organising committee held a workshop for the teams that are participating in the disabled competition. Eight teams and 16 technical crew members attended the workshop which focused on raising awareness on the technical and administrative sides of the league.

Ali Al-Nabhan, Director of the League said the basic rules of the league were explained to the teams and the technical crews during the workshop, adding eight teams of people with disabilities and divided into two groups of four teams, with matches beginning tomorrow.



Mohammed Al-Hayki receives man of the match award



Mahmood Mansour receives man of the match award



Action between Karranah and Al Wusta



Ali Yaqoub receives man of the match award



Action between Ras Rumman and Halat Al Naeem

Action between Al Dair and Sadad

Today's schedule:

- 5pm: Group 6: Maqaba Club vs Isa Town
- 6pm: Group 7: Saar Club vs Zallaq
- 7pm: Group 7: Arad vs Al Junoob
- 8pm: Group 8: Al Eker Club vs Hamad Town
- 9pm: Group 8: Al Maameer Club vs Bu Quwah



Real rout Barca for Super Cup

Madrid

Real Madrid shrugged off the absence of the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo to cruise past rivals Barcelona 2-0 in the second leg of the Spanish Super Cup to cap a 5-1 aggregate win.

Ronaldo was slapped with a five-game ban for pushing the referee after he was sent-off in the first leg, but his replacement Marco Asensio enhanced his reputation as one of world football's rising stars as he smashed Madrid into the lead after just four minutes.

Karim Benzema then deservedly doubled Real's lead before half-time.

Barca responded with a more spirited second-half showing and were unfortunate not to at least pull a goal back as Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez hit the woodwork.

Victory continues Madrid's run of success under Zinedine Zidane with the European

champions now having lifted seven trophies in the 20 months since the Frenchman took charge. Zidane even had the luxury of leaving first team regulars Gareth Bale, Isco and Casemiro on the bench as Real's strength in depth was demonstrated in a dominant first 45 minutes.

Asensio had already shown the threat he poses with a dangerous run and cross that saw Luka Modric's goalbound effort blocked by Samuel Umtiti before he found the net himself. Just as in the first leg, the 21-year-old sent an unstoppable left-footed shot past Marc-Andre ter Stegen into the top corner from outside the box.

Worst possible start

Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde has suffered the worst possible start to his reign with back-to-back defeats against the Catalans fiercest

rivals and the visitors only briefly threatened to mount a comeback after conceding. Suarez volleyed over before Keylor Navas rushed from his goal to block from Messi.

However, shorn of Neymar after his world record breaking transfer to Paris Saint-Germain and injured captain Andres Iniesta, Barca's star front two lacked the service needed to make a meaningful impact. Indeed, the scoreline could have been a lot more embarrassing for Barca. (AFP)



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema celebrates



Real Madrid's defender Sergio Ramos (C) holds the trophy as he and teammates celebrate their Supercup



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