

# DT NEWS

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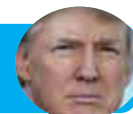
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## Zayed Future Energy Prize winners honoured



P 05

11th Hour

Support for blast victims lauded

Manama

Northern Governor, Ali bin Al-Shaikh Abdulhussain Al-Asfoor, has extended thanks and appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, for his directives to follow up and provide support to the citizens who were affected by the terror explosion that had targeted an oil pipeline in Buri village.



P 04

Alpha One Medical fund



P 10

Egypt buoyed by M&A activity

# UAE jets destroy Houthi command centre



The command centre destroyed by UAE fighter jets

Hais, Yemen

UAE jets have destroyed a Houthi militia command and communication centre in western Yemen.

The aircraft struck the "strategically located" base that was used to store weapons and ammunitions in Hais district of Taiz province, the UAE state news agency WAM reported.

Hais is about 15 miles from the Red Sea coast and 45 miles north of Mocha, which has seen some of the fiercest fighting between the Iran-backed Houthi militiamen and Yemeni government forces.

The UAE is part of the Saudi-led coalition supporting the internationally recognized government against the militia, who seized the capital Sanaa in 2014.

The destruction of the Houthi center will "severely impact communication among the Houthi militia fighters who are stationed in different parts of the district", the WAM report said.

The bombing raids provided fire support to the advancing Yemeni government forces in Hais.

Images from the UAE military show the explosions at the targets.

It was not clear on which date the airstrikes took place.

The UAE aircraft also conducted a "precise airstrike" against a Houthi militia vehicle, which was loaded with ammunition and weapons.



Al Selwady to face Leary in Jordan

P 22

# Masterpieces from Kuwait's Al Sabah collection is here



HRH Princess Sabeeka visiting the Al-Fann Art exhibition

## Manama

**H**er Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), yesterday inaugurated the exhibition "Al-Fann: Art from the Islamic Civilization", which features selections from 'The Al Sabah Collection' in Kuwait.

The exhibition, co-organised by BACA and Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, is one in a series of events held this year within the calendar of the "Muharrraq, Capital of Islamic Culture 2018".

The Director-General of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Shaikha Hussah Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah

**The exhibition, co-organised by BACA and Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, is one in a series of events held this year within the calendar of the "Muharrraq, Capital of Islamic Culture 2018"**

and Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) were present at the ceremony.

In her inaugural address, Princess Sabeeka praised the efforts of Dar Al-Athar Al Islamiya in

Kuwait in preserving the genuine Islamic heritage, which is still the focus of experts from all over the world.

"The collections by Shaikh Nasser Al Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Shaikha Hessa Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah are one of the

most comprehensive and distinctive collections of Islamic arts in the world," said Princess Sabeeka.

HRH Princess Sabeeka toured the expo which features various sections dedicated to wood, glass, textiles, ceramics, metalwork, ornaments, stones, jewellery, calligraphy, development of decoration in geometric forms, plant decorations as well as the portrayal of living forms.

Shaikha Hussah expressed her gratitude to HRH Princess Sabeeka for her gracious patronage and her personal attendance at the exhibition, and also thanked Shaikha Mai for the opportunity to exhibit the valuable collections.

## How it started?

**I**n July 1975, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Ahmed al-Sabah showed his wife, Sheikha Hussah Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, a splendid enamelled glass bottle dating from the Mamluk period (Egypt or Syria, 14th century), the first object of Islamic art he had acquired during one of his travels. It marked the start of an extraordinary adventure that mingled intelligence, love, research, curiosity and farsightedness.

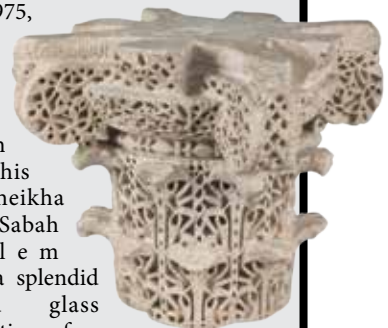
In eight years of concentrated and passionate work, the couple collected about 20,000 works of art, including masterpieces, many of which are deserving of study for the way they shed new light on techniques and little-known aspects, or intriguing pieces whose provenance has yet to be unravelled.

On the occasion of the Kuwait's National Day in February 1983, Sheikh Nasser and Sheikha Hussah offered their country the inestimable gift of the permanent loan of their collection to the National Museum of Kuwait.

The collection is now regarded by international authorities as one of the most comprehensive collections of Islamic art in the world.

It has continued to grow since its inception increasing its strengths in all categories arms and armour, calligraphy, carpets and textiles, coins, glass, hardstones, ivory, jewellery, manuscripts and miniatures, metalwork, stone and stucco, and woodwork.

The collection has long had an active programme of the publication of volumes focused on its holdings, which is ongoing. (*Thamesandhudson*)



# Giant lift removes skidded plane

## Trabzon

**T**urkish authorities are using a large crane to lift a passenger plane that skidded off a runway in northern Turkey and stopped on the side of a slope just meters away from the Black Sea.

The Pegasus Airlines Boeing 737-800, with 168 people on board, overshot the runway while landing at Trabzon Airport on Jan. 13. All passengers and crew were evacuated and no one was

injured.

Ambulances and fire extinguishing trucks were on standby Thursday as the crane lifted the plane up the slope. Workers involved in the recovery posed for a group photograph in front of the half-dangling plane.

Turkish media said the pilots told investigators the plane's right engine experienced a sudden surge of speed that forced it to swerve to the left, toward the sea.



The Pegasus Airlines Boeing 737-800 being removed from the accident site

# Toys without GCC safety requirements seized

DT News Network  
Manama

The Directorate of Standards and Metrology at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism has confiscated 11,055 toys that are not compatible with GCC safety requirements.

These toys doubled in size when water got absorbed, which can cause severe injury if swallowed.

The Director of Standardization & Metrology Mona Alalawi indicated that some samples were taken for examination and proved that these do not match the GCC regulation for toys.

She added that an inspection campaign was carried out to

stop the entry of these products from the main suppliers. The campaign included 50 shops in various governorates in the Kingdom.

The directorate confiscated these toys offered for sale.

The owners of these shops were also informed of the need to import safe toys by requesting the manufacturer to provide proof of compliance with GCC toys regulation.

The Directorate of Standards and Metrology has called on all toy traders to ensure that imported toys are in accordance with the requirements and sold in the places designated for games to prevent the child from consuming them as edible sweets.



The toys seized by the authorities

# Boy killed in fight

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN  
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

An 18-year-old boy was killed after he got into a fight with another boy and a group of people in Hooraa late Wednesday.

The boy killed has been identified as Abdullah Hameed, 18, a Bahraini citizen of Sudan origin.

"The incident took place around 11:00 pm in Hooraa when the two boys got into a fight," an eyewitness said. He said that the friends and brothers of the other boy who killed Abdullah got involved in the fight which resulted in the death.

"Abdullah was beaten up brutally by a sharp steel rod in his chest, stomach and head. Later his head got hit by a stone when he fell," the eyewitness said.

"After the incident, the other boy ran away but was arrested by the police just within a

few hours and the police are investigating the matter," the source added.



Abdullah Hameed

**The boy was beaten up by a steel rod in his chest, stomach and head. His head got hit by a stone when he fell**

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# Alpha One Medical fund

Sram & Mram, Proviva announce launch of close ended Pharma fund

JOINT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AS



Dr Sailesh Lachu Hiranandani, Dr Satya Prakash and Gurujee Kumaran Swami at the event.

## DT News Network Manama

**A**lpha One Medical Fund, a close ended Pharma Fund, was launched yesterday at a ceremony held at Amwaj Islands.

The fund is a result of a collaboration between Sram & Mram Resources Limited, a conglomerate based out of Bahrain and Proviva Pharma Inc., Canada, a healthcare major at the Gulf Residence, Amwaj Islands, Bahrain.

Commenting on the launch, in a joint statement, Sram & Mram

Resources and Proviva Pharma Inc said: "Pharmaceutical and healthcare industries across the world have been looking for a new revolution which has not happened in the past 20 years."

"We have not seen a new invention in the fields of medicine. The healthcare industry is about to witness a new order with the launch of the Alpha one medical fund."

The objective of the Global Pharma fund, according to Dr Sailesh Lachu Hiranandani,

Chairman, Sram & Mram, would be investing and incubating new pharmaceutical innovations. Gene Therapy, Biotechnology, Microbiology, and nanotechnology are the areas of interest.

He added: The fund would also work to create synergies between various companies performing clinical trials and may also be used to set up one of the best clinical trial institutes in India and ASEAN countries.

Hailing the efforts of Dr Satya Prakash, President, Proviva

Pharma Inc. in this regard, Dr Hiranandani, said: "Indians have been at the forefront on medical innovations and Dr Satya Prakash is an example of how Indians have risen through the ranks in any fields of excellence."

In his comments, Dr Satya Prakash said his "efforts would never have reached the zenith without the efforts of his team." Proviva, he said, is committed to providing the best of medical help to all the needy people.

The fund would be coordinated

by Yamini Shrishti Swami, Shivani Joshi under the guidance of Natesh Sharma.

Commenting on the move, Directors of Sram & Mram Renuka Pullat and Manoj Todi said future looks bright for the medical fraternity and hope this heralds a new era in the annals of the medical fraternity."

The event was attended by Gurujee Kumaran Swami, a renowned religious figure from India. He praised the initiative and wished all success.

## Trump denies US embassy relocation within a year

### Washington

**P**resident Donald Trump denied on Wednesday that the planned relocation of the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem would take place within a year, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he expected it to happen by then.

Reversing decades of U.S. policy, Trump in early December recognized

Jerusalem as Israel's capital and set in motion the process of moving the embassy from Tel Aviv, imperilling Middle East peace efforts.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said last month the embassy move was "probably no earlier than three years out, and that's pretty ambitious," a timeframe that administration officials have attributed to the logistics of

finding and securing a site as well as arranging housing for diplomats.

Netanyahu, according to Israeli reporters traveling with him on a trip to India, said on Wednesday: "My solid assessment is that it will go much faster than you think - within a year from now."

Asked about Netanyahu's comment, Trump told Reuters in an interview that was not the

case. "By the end of the year? We're talking about different scenarios - I mean obviously that would be on a temporary basis. We're not really looking at that. That's no."

Trump promised, however, that it would be "a beautiful embassy but not one that costs \$1.2 billion," referring to what he says was the cost of the new U.S. embassy in London.

## Ministry vows to take strict action against price manipulators

### DT News Network Manama

**T**he Directorate of Consumer Protection at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism monitoring prices said certain shops in the Kingdom are selling goods at prices other than the "advertised" prices."

This, the Directorate said, is a clear violation of the articles (5) and (6) of Consumer

Protection Law, as well as article (15) of the same law and warned that administrative and legal measures will be taken against violators.

The move falls in line with the Consumer Protection Law No. 35 of 2012 and its executive regulations issued by Ministerial Decision No. 66 of 2014, as well as Law No. 62 of 2014 on combating commercial fraud.

# Winners of Zayed Future Energy Prize honoured



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa with students at Bahrain Bayan School

DT News Network  
News@dt.bh

**Manama**

His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, visited Bahrain Bayan School yesterday to honour the winners of Zayed Future Energy Prize.

The 11 students, which formed the Ecoboosters received a majestic acknowledgement as HH

Shaikh Nasser visited the school, praised the students' talents and honoured them in a ceremony.

Aya bint Hisham Al Khalifa, Mariam Nasir, Abdullah Al Majid, Zainab Al Daisi, Jood Al Shirawi, Zain Ali, Haya Mahmoud, Ali Al Mandil, Noura Bani Hammad, Zainab Khalaf and Zain Al Balushi had won the Zayed Future Energy Prize in the Global High School-Asia category in Abu Dhabi.

The competition, which featured projects in the field of sustainable energy and

green technology from all over the world, was part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. Ecoboosters won the competition with their Bayan School Ecolab360 project.

HH Shaikh Nasser praised the creative ability and hard work of the students involved as well as the role of teachers. Following the honouring ceremony, HH Shaikh Nasser toured the school. He was briefed by Dr Shaikha May bint Sulaiman Al Otaibi, the Chairperson of the Bahrain Bayan School Board of Directors about the current

and future projects undertaken by the school.

"The EcoLab 360 is intended to be an innovative and pioneering "hands-on" sustainability education platform to be built at the primary school cafeteria building of the BBS. EcoLab 360 will be a comprehensive

educational platform on sustainable practices of water, energy and waste management," said the school in a statement, describing Ecolab 360.

The aim of ecoboosters is to spread awareness of, educate and implement sustainability solutions and to create an

innovative, sustainability education platform at the school and to inspire students.

"EcoLab 360 will focus on 5 R's: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Raise Awareness and Renewable Energy and will strive to make global citizens who will lead by example," the team stated.




HH Shaikh Nasser at Bahrain Bayan School



Students greeting HH Shaikh Nasser

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## Wide Angle



Joel Indrupati

## Dan Brown's New Book: Robert Langdon's Latest Chase

In mid-November, when I went to purchase 'Origin', the latest book of Dan Brown, I had asked how many copies had been sold, till then.

The cashier at Jashanmal bookshop in Seef Mall had replied, 66. And it had been barely a week, since the book was released.

So, I knew that - like me - there were a few in this island country who wanted to quickly learn about the latest escapades of Robert Langdon.

In this fifth book featuring the fictitious Harvard Professor of Religious Iconology and Symbology - but the seventh book written by Dan Brown - we first see a meeting at a monastery; a Benedictine Abbey on the mountain of Montserrat, in Catalonia, Spain.

Edmond Kirsch, a billionaire inventor, futurist and atheist, tells three religious leaders - a Roman Catholic Bishop, a Jewish Rabbi and an Islamic Imam - that he will make known to world, a new discovery. He tells them that the discovery "will not shake your foundations. It will shatter them".

The suspense takes a long while to loosen itself because of the author's somewhat needless longish prose. But, as a reader, I did not mind it because of the delectable concoction into which I was thrown.

As in all the four earlier books, we see Robert Langdon unravel clues and uncover secrets, giving us an entertaining and educational tour as we scramble through the pages, with him.

And, as in all the four earlier books, we see him in the company of yet another beautiful and brilliant young lady.

In fact, this time, she is the Director/Curator of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. And, our story becomes more intense as we learn that she is also the future queen of Spain; after her recent engagement to Spain's Crown Prince.

Now, one of the most fascinating things about any Dan Brown story is the way it is woven around art and architecture, philosophy and literature, and even science and technology, which is what the plot revolves around.

And this book follows the pattern giving us mindboggling information. From the poetry of William Blake to the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, from the Miller-Urey experiments on evolution theory to the growing application of artificial intelligence, from apostasy in the Catholic Church to the new phenomenon of online fake news, Dan Brown covers it all.

No wonder Edmond Kirsch's car, a Tesla, has on its number plates these words: "And the Geek shall inherit the earth".

In a television interview I saw on YouTube, Dan Brown admits that Edmond Kirsch's character is a made from the blending of futurists Ray Kurzweil and Elon Musk.

For some strange inexplicable reason, even more than 'Da Vinci Code' and 'Origin', my favourite will always be 'Angels and Demons'.

In 'Angels and Demons', it was the Vatican City, in 'Da Vinci Code' it was Paris and London, in 'The Lost Symbol' it was Washington DC, and in 'Inferno' it was Florence, Venice and Istanbul, that we get to know closely. This time, in 'Origin', it is Madrid and Barcelona. We get to learn a lot about the cities, and their history.

One thing is certain. Dan Brown's research and storytelling skills cannot be brushed aside as mediocre.

I loved the book. But I have come across some reviewers being very rude in their criticism of this book. And I attribute it to the 'sour grapes' attitude of reviewers who cannot stomach the fact that Dan Brown has sold millions of books.

The erudite Robert Langdon will be remembered for years to come. Perhaps, on the lines of Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot.

*(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: Egypt raises extreme concern

The Blue Nile river flows near the site of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam near Assosa, Ethiopia

Cairo

Egypt's president yesterday expressed his "extreme concern" to Ethiopia's visiting prime minister over the lack of progress in talks on the impact of a massive upstream dam that Egypt fears could cut into its vital share of the Nile.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has warned that Egypt's share of the Nile, which provides nearly all its freshwater, is a red line. But he has also sought to reassure Ethiopia and Sudan that Egypt has no intention of going to war.

El-Sissi was grim-faced during most of a news

conference he jointly addressed with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn after the two held talks in Cairo.

El-Sissi said he appreciated Ethiopia's repeated assurances that the dam, which is about 60 percent complete, would not have a negative impact on Egypt, but he said studies must still be completed and that all sides should abide by their findings.

He said Ethiopia has rejected Egypt's proposal to bring in World Bank experts as neutral arbitrators on the dispute over the likely impact of the dam on Egypt's share of the Nile.

Desalegn, according to el-Sissi, wanted a

different team of experts, but the Egyptian leader said the proposal still stands and cautioned that recruiting non-World Bank experts would take much time and debate.

Egypt is a mostly desert country that depends on the Nile for almost all of its water needs. Its 95 million people grow by at least a million every year, further straining its water resources and posing a perpetual challenge to its economic development.

"I expressed our extreme concern over the continuation of the state of stagnation besetting the tripartite technical track," which is aimed at examining the impact of

the dam on Egypt and Sudan, el-Sissi said.

Of special concern to Egypt is the speed at which a planned reservoir is filled behind the dam and the method of its annual replenishment. Egypt fears that a quick fill would drastically reduce the Nile's flow.

"The people of Ethiopia did not nor will ever subject Egyptians to danger," said Desalegn, who is making his first visit to Egypt as prime minister. "We will not hurt your country in any way and will work closely together to secure the life of the people of the Nile basin and take them out of the cycle of poverty." (AP)

## Missing Pets



**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**



**CALVIN** - Male Persian/Angora mix, 4 yrs, grey and white, neutered, microchipped, very shy, not wearing collar or ID tag, possibly STOLEN, Saar Saraya (near St Christopher School/ Nakheel Ctr), BD100 REWARD for safe return, 15/12/17. **39180314**



**GINGER** - Male, 1 yr, not wearing collar or ID tag, jumped from window, very innocent and tame - not street smart, Manama (near Sacred Heart Church opposite BFC branch), BD10 REWARD for safe return, 10/10/17. **33228746**



**DODONG** - Male Persian, 1 yr 7 mos, neutered, not wearing collar or ID tag, gate left open - ran outside house, Adliya (near Burj Omran Apartments), 22/4/17. **37133189**



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



**TINKER BELL** - Female Shitzu mix, 3 yrs, spayed, black w white mark on chest/chin, wearing patterned collar, followed someone out, suspect STOLEN, behind St Christophers Junior School (by Twin Palms Riding School), 12/1/17. **39975151**

# Iraqi president vowses full support for war on terror

## Bahraini Parliamentary delegates, Iraqi President hold talks

Baghdad

**Iraqi President** yesterday vowed full support and solidarity for Arab nations in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Acknowledging the efforts exerted to bring peace in the region, Fuad Masum said, "Iraq is continuing its efforts to fight terrorism, dry up its sources and confront all parties supporting it."

He was speaking with a Bahraini delegation headed by First Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives, MP Ali Al-Aradi.

The Bahraini delegation, on an official visit to the country at the invitation of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, includes MPs Majid Al-Majid,



Bahraini delegates visited Iraq at the invitation of Iraqi Council of Representatives

the Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, Dr Majeed Al-Asfoor, Hamad Al-Dossary, Khalid Al-Shaer and Mohammed Al-Jowdar.

During the meeting, President Masum lauded the

wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and his constant keenness on championing Arab causes at various international gatherings.

The first deputy speaker conveyed greetings from the

Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla, to Iraqi leadership and people, hailing Iraq's anti-terror efforts and reiterating Bahrain's firm stances in support of Iraq's security, stability and unity.

The visit, Al-Aradi said, will enhance Bahraini-Iraqi parliamentary cooperation, and broaden areas of bilateral cooperation, in light of the political developments and the economic changes that are taking place and affecting the

entire region.

MPs Majid Al-Majid, the Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, Dr Majeed Al-Asfoor, Hamad Al-Dossary, Khalid Al-Shaer and Mohammed Al-Jowdar attended.

## AGU's Cultural Cafe sheds light on Autism treatment, diagnosis



Officials during the forum organised by AGU

Manama

**Within the** Cultural Cafe activities series of the College of Graduate Studies at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism programme organised a forum "Autism Spectrum Disorder: Where Educational and Medical Sciences Meet".

The speakers were Associate Professor and coordinator of the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Programme at AGU, Dr Elsayed Elkhamisi, and Dr Maisa Al-Khunaizi from the Psychiatric Hospital in Bahrain. The discussion was moderated by the Associate Professor of Special Education and Head of the Department of Learning Disabilities, Dr

Maryam Isa Al-Sherawi.

The cafe shed light on the similarities and differences among the educational and psychological perspective and the medical perspective in dealing with autism spectrum disorder, especially in the cases of diagnosis, intervention or treatment.

Dr Elsayed Elkhamisi pointed out that due to the lack of general confirmed medical indications or symptoms on all cases of autism, the global diagnosis issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the American Psychiatric Association is based on behavioural, not medical indicators and symptoms.

On her behalf, Dr Maisa Al-Khunaizi said that although

a child's medical examination identifies the genetic and neurological problems suffered by the child, the child's diagnosis in a psychiatric hospital depends on the assessment of their behavioural and social aspects. In terms of intervention or treatment, Dr Al-Khunaizi indicated the availability of some medical and pharmaceutical treatments for autism; however, they are not suitable for all cases of autism.

Meanwhile, Dr Elkhamisi presented a series of sensory, behavioural and cognitive interventions conducted with these children, indicating that the person who carries out diagnosis chooses the appropriate method for each child separately.

## NIHR holds regular meeting

Manama

**The National** Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) Board of Commissioners held its fourth regular meeting.

The session, chaired by NIHR Chairperson Maria

Khoury, updated complaints procedures, legal assistance and measures undertaken through the electronic system.

The NIHR Board of Commissioners approved the amendments of complaints

procedural guidelines which were implemented in 2015.

The board also accepted a number of donations in support of the international forum on trade and human rights, to be held by the NIHR late in February.

## Gulf conference in January

Manama

**The first** Gulf Conference for Education and Human Development will open on 22 January in Bahrain.

The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) is hosting the two-day event under

the theme "Educational Horizons, Innovative Vision".

Leading GCC experts specialised in human resource development will take part in the first edition of the conference.

"The papers will focus

on the role of education in developing human resources

GCC talents, tapping into local and world practices and honing their skills to assume leading positions", said conference secretary-general, PhD student Said bin Mushabab Al-Qahtani.

## Bahrain to host Gulf Future Education, Technology forum

Manama

**Bahrain will** host the Gulf Future Education & Technology Forum under the patronage of Education Minister Dr Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi on May 18 and 19.

This exhibition aims to harness technology as a tool to enhance the efficiency of education for students and helps them to build a professional future.

The forum focuses on the

Digital Empowerment in Education, it is a gathering of education and technology experts to discuss and exchange insights on the importance of technology in the development of education.

## OIC meeting set for Sunday

Riyadh

**The Organization** of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers will hold an emergency meeting on Sunday in Jeddah at the

request of Saudi to discuss the repercussions of the launching of a ballistic missile by the Houthi militias on Riyadh.

A preparatory meeting at the delegates level will precede the ministerial session to discuss

its draft final communiqué.

Ministerial Contact Group on Yemen will also convene on the sidelines of the meeting to discuss the political, security, and humanitarian developments in Yemen.

**Dubai**

The Middle East's largest airline, Emirates, announced yesterday it struck a deal with Airbus to purchase 20 A380 aircraft with the option to buy 16 more in a deal worth \$16 billion, throwing a lifeline to the European-made double-decker jumbo jets.

The Dubai-based Emirates already has 101 A380s in its fleet and 41 more on order, making it the largest operator of the jumbo jet.

"This new order underscores Airbus' commitment to produce the A380 at least for another ten years," said Airbus chief salesman John Leahy.

Emirates Chairman and Chief Executive Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said the order "will provide stability to the A380 production line."

Al Maktoum and Leahy made the comments in a statement after the deal was signed in Dubai on Thursday morning.

Emirates, which is owned by the Dubai government in the United Arab Emirates, said the additional A380s will be delivered to the airliner from 2020 onwards and that some of the new A380s will be used as fleet replacements.

Leahy had warned only three days earlier that if the company couldn't work out a deal with Emirates, it would have to shut down the superjumbo's production line. Airbus has spent years developing the double-decker as skeptics questioned whether it could generate enough demand to justify its

cost and the bigger runways it requires.

An Airbus A380 has a list price of \$445.6 million, but airlines and manufacturers often negotiate lower prices.

Airbus delivered just 15 of the planes last year, and aims to deliver 12 more this year.

Leahy told reporters Monday that Emirates is the only airline with the ability to commit to a minimum of six planes a year for a minimum of eight to 10 years, or what is needed to make the Airbus programme viable.

"It's positive news for both sides," airline analyst John Strickland of JLS Consulting said. "The A380 is critical to Emirates' hub-and-growth strategy and equally the airline is key to Airbus' continuation of the program. It will be a great relief to Airbus to have secured this order, but they have to work aggressively to secure orders from other airlines too now."

Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said the deal reflects Emirates' commitment to advancing "Dubai's vision to grow further as a world-class destination and aviation hub." Dubai's main airport, where Emirates is based, is among the busiest in the world with more than 80 million travelers passing through in 2016.

# Airbus gets a \$16bn Emirates lifeline

## India plans to raise health spending by 11pc in budget



India's Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley  
New Delhi

India is poised to raise its public health spending by 11 per cent in the annual budget next month, after rejecting Health Minister J.P. Nadda's demand for a much bigger increase to ramp up disease control, according to government sources and documents.

Nadda sought a "bare minimum" budget of nearly \$10 billion for 2018-19 - 33 percent higher than last year - in a letter to the finance minister on Nov. 26, which Reuters has reviewed.

Nadda argued the funds were needed for expanding vaccination coverage and free

drugs distribution, and also to ward off a growing threat of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and diabetes, which killed 6 million people in India in 2016.

His request was not approved: the health budget is expected to rise by 11 percent to \$8.2 billion, three government officials told Reuters. They declined to be named or be identified further as the discussions were confidential.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government last year set a target of raising annual health spending to 2.5pc of India's GDP by 2025, from 1.15pc now.

## Plans to cut tax rates soon

New Delhi

India will cut rates on some products and services under the new Goods and Services Tax (GST), the finance minister said on Thursday, in a bid to encourage greater compliance as revenues have dipped since the landmark reform was announced in July.

The Goods and Service Tax Council comprising federal and state finance ministers, agreed to lower tax rates on 29 goods and 53 services from Jan. 25, Arun Jaitley said after

the meeting.

Businesses have raised concerns about high rates of taxation and cumbersome processes in GST, billed as India's biggest tax reform in 70 years.

The goods on which GST will be lowered include biofuel-run buses, used motor vehicles and diamonds and precious stones.

Tax on sales of liquefied petroleum gas by private firms for domestic use has been reduced to 5 percent from 18 percent. (Reuters)

# WhatsApp inches closer to business accounts

Messaging application WhatsApp is allowing business accounts for the first time, a step that brings the free service closer to a plan that would make money for its corporate parent, Facebook Inc. Some businesses already use WhatsApp, with 1.3 billion users, to answer inquiries from customers.

Set up automatic greetings

See statistics about their messaging

Set up a profile page with hours of operation and other information

Allows users



**Matt Idema,**

WhatsApp Chief Operating Officer

"What we saw was a need for businesses to have more efficient tools,"

## Facebook owned

Facebook bought WhatsApp in 2014 for \$19 billion, attracted by the size of its user base. WhatsApp used to charge a \$1 annual subscription fee but dropped it in 2016, leaving the service without a source of revenue.

## From Play Store

Business accounts will be available a WhatsApp Business application in the Google Play store in Britain, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico and the United States. In coming week, more countries will be added and eventually a version for Apple iPhones.

## India test-fires long-range missile

New Delhi

India tested its longest-range intercontinental missile yesterday, the defence ministry said, part of efforts to build a nuclear deterrent against Pakistan and China. The 5,000-km range (3,107-mile) Agni missile was tested from an island in India's eastern coast in the Bay of Bengal, the ministry tweeted. It said the launch was "a major boost to the defence capabilities" of India.



## Mexico repeats won't pay for border wall

Mexico City

Mexico's foreign ministry reiterated yesterday that the country will not pay for the construction of a wall along the U.S. southern border under any circumstances, following a series of posts on Twitter by U.S. President Donald Trump. The ministry also pushed back against Trump's assertion on Thursday morning that Mexico is "the number one most dangerous country in the world."



History tells us a very bitter lesson about North Korea. They have a long habit of ratcheting up their militarization and then, you know, going into a lull for a while trying to persuade people that they're changing their ways, changing nothing and then ratcheting up again,"



-Malcolm Turnbull,

Australian Prime Minister on dialogue between North and South Korea

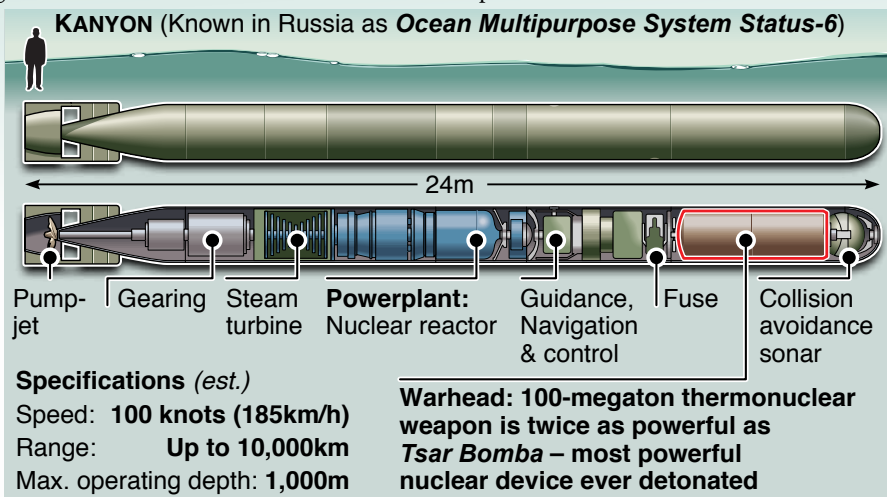
## Existence of Russian doomsday torpedo confirmed by the US

A key U.S. nuclear weapons document confirms the existence of a Russian long-range nuclear torpedo capable of rendering large areas of enemy coastlines uninhabitable for generations.

Kanyon, known in Russia as Ocean Multipurpose System Status-6, is reportedly a very long range autonomous underwater vehicle that has a range of 10,000km, a maximum depth of 1,000m, and a speed of 100

knots, according to claims in leaked Russian documents.

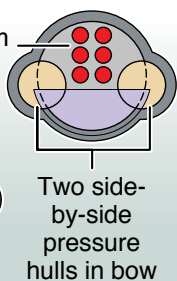
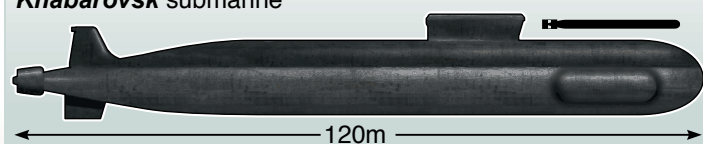
Kanyon's payload is a 100-megaton thermonuclear weapon twice as powerful as the Tsar Bomba, the most powerful nuclear device ever detonated.



### KHABAROVSK SUBMARINE

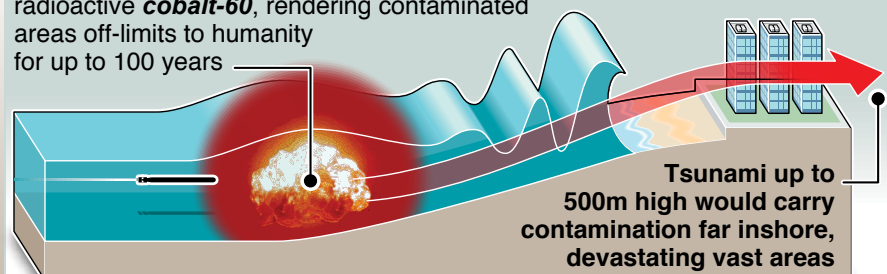
Main launching platform of Kanyon likely to be new nuclear-powered *Khabarovsk* submarine

Khabarovsk thought to be custom built to field up to six Kanyon torpedoes fired forward



Two side-by-side pressure hulls in bow

**Weapon:** Reported to be "salted" with highly radioactive *cobalt-60*, rendering contaminated areas off-limits to humanity for up to 100 years



Sources: Global Security Drawings based on rendering by naval analyst H.I. Sutton © GRAPHIC NEWS



# Aramco ink deal to convert crude oil to chemicals

Dhahran

Saudi Aramco signed a deal yesterday with two U.S. firms for pilot use of their technologies to convert crude oil to chemicals, helping the state company expand its petrochemical business.

Aramco wants to develop its downstream business as the government prepares to sell up to 5 percent of the world's largest oil firm in an initial public offering (IPO) this year.

The agreement with CB&I and Chevron Lummus covers "technology that will directly convert crude oil into chemicals," Aramco Chief Executive Amin Nasser said at the company's headquarters in Dhahran.

Under the deal, the three firms will pilot technologies to turn 70 to 80 percent of crude intake into chemicals, Nasser said. The aim would be to commercialise the process in two years, he added.

"Our strategy is to use oil as a major petrochemicals feedstock in our future projects, leveraging one of the world's largest and lowest-cost oil reserves," he added.

Aramco has been integrating its refining with petrochemicals to serve the company's plans to expand its market share, as well as its efforts to expand its refined products portfolio.

Aramco signed a preliminary deal in November with Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC)

to build a chemicals complex to convert crude oil to chemicals directly, bypassing the refining stage, with start-up seen in 2025.

"The use of oil in the petrochemicals sector is likely to become a key source of oil demand growth in the 2020s - in fact, growing by more than 50 percent over the coming two decades," Nasser said.

He said using oil as a feedstock would "secure a large and reliable home for our future oil production."

Aramco pumps about 10 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil and plans to raise its refining capacity to 8 million to 10 million bpd from around 5 million bpd now. (Reuters)

# U.S okays \$500m Saudi military deal

Washington

The U.S. State Department on Wednesday approved a possible huge military sale to Saudi Arabia of continuation of missile system support services for an estimated cost of 500 million U.S. dollars.

According to an announcement published by the Defence Security

Cooperation Agency under the U.S. Defence Ministry, the agency has notified the Congress of this sale later on Wednesday.

According to the document, Saudi Arabia has requested to purchase continued participation, technical assistance, and support in the Patriot Legacy Field Surveillance Programme

(FSP), the Patriot Advanced Capability 3 (PAC-3) FSP and the Patriot Engineering Services Programme (ESP).

The purchase list also included Patriot and HAWK Missile System spare parts and repair and return management services and component repairs, and other related elements

of logistics and programme support.

The principal contractors are Lockheed Martin, Bethesda, MD for the FSP and Raytheon Company, Andover, MA for the ESP. Support teams of four to 10 people will travel to Saudi Arabia on a temporary basis for one to three weeks at a time. (Xinhua)



## Did You Know?



Americans buying a Volvo can get a free holiday to Sweden to test drive their new car. All costs, including airfare and shipment of the car, are covered by the Volvo Overseas Delivery programme.



## BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

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

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

## GULF INTERBANK RATES

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

# Egypt buoyed by M&A activity

### Dubai

Mergers and acquisition activity in the health sector lifted Egypt's stock market yesterday, while Gulf markets mostly moved sideways.

Nozha International Hospital jumped 10 per cent to 75.62 Egyptian pounds and Cleopatra Hospital surged 7.4pc after Nozha said Cleopatra was seeking regulatory approval to make a mandatory tender offer for all of Nozha.

Cleopatra, advised by EFG Hermes, will offer Nozha shareholders 90 pounds per share and intends to delist its acquisition, Nozha said.

The hospital companies are not members of the blue-chip EGX30 index, but the

news buoyed sentiment in the market as investors hoped it could presage more M&A activity in a strengthening Egyptian economy.

The index climbed 1.4pc as EFG Hermes gained 2.5pc and the biggest bank, International Commercial Bank, added 2.4pc.

Saudi Arabia's index was almost flat but National Medical Care rose 5.0pc after saying it had signed a 300 million riyal (\$80 million) contract to provide services for three years to GOSI, the Saudi social insurance agency.

Petrochemical firm PetroRabigh surged 4.0pc to its highest close since August 2015 in heavy trade.

Dubai's index fell 0.3pc, with DAMAC Properties

## Closing Bell

SAUDI essentially flat at 7,539 points.

DUBAI fell 0.3pc to 3,531 points.

ABU DHABI dropped 0.2pc to 4,625 points.

QATAR rose 0.5pc to 9,200 points.

EGYPT climbed 1.4pc to 15,413 points.

KUWAIT gained 0.6pc to 6,639 points.

BAHRAIN edged up 0.1pc to 1,333 points.

OMAN slipped 0.2pc to 5,024 points.

slipping 1.7pc and amusement park operator DXB Entertainments losing 3.3pc.

Qatar's stock index rose 0.5pc as Widam jumped 8.2pc in its heaviest trade

since October. It said annual net profit rose to 108.1 million riyals from 91.3 million and proposed a dividend of 4.25 riyals per share, up from 3.5 riyals for 2016. (Reuters)

# NYT wins Trump's 'Fake News Award'

### Washington

United States President Donald Trump has declared *The New York Times* as the winner of the 'Fake News Award'

Among other recipients of Trump's unique award were *ABC News*, *CNN*, *Time* and *The Washington Post*

Trump announced the award by a tweet on Wednesday.

The website *GOP.Com* — where the winners were listed — crashed soon after Trump announced his Fake News Awards.

"2017 was a year of unrelenting bias, unfair news coverage, and even downright fake news. Studies have shown that over 90 per cent of the media's coverage of President

Trump is negative," it said.

In a subsequent tweet, Trump said despite some "very corrupt and dishonest" media coverage, there are many great reporters he respects.

"And lots of GOOD NEWS for the American people to be proud of!" he said.

Topping the list was *The New York Times*' Paul Krugman story which claimed on the day of Trump's historic, landslide victory that the economy would never recover.

*ABC News*' Brian Ross was positioned second. It "CHOKES and sends markets in a downward spiral with false report," the website said.

*CNN* received the third prize for "FALSELY" reporting

that candidate Donald Trump and his son Donald J Trump Jr. had access to hacked documents from WikiLeaks.

*The Time magazine* was placed fourth for "FALSELY" reporting that Trump removed a bust of Martin Luther King, Jr. from the Oval Office.

*The Washington Post* was placed last for "FALSELY" reporting the president's massive sold-out rally in Pensacola, Florida was empty.

"Dishonest reporter showed picture of empty arena HOURS before crowd started pouring in," it said.

In another tweet, Trump alleged that "the dishonest media" was not reporting about "the true story" under his administration.



"ISIS is in retreat, our economy is booming, investments and jobs are pouring back into the country, and so much more! Together there is nothing we can't overcome — even a very biased media. We ARE Making America Great Again!" Trump tweeted.

Representative picture (Courtesy Al Ahram)

### Coffee With A Health Boost

It's not enough to swap to skimmed milk in your latte anymore in a bid to make it a better choice. According to Pinterest, healthier coffee options have seen a 218 per cent increase in saves. Options include using alternatives to cows' milk or adding health-boosting spices such as cinnamon, or adding a beetroot powder to your latte, which is packed full of potassium for maintaining healthy blood pressure.



# FOOD

## TRENDS

### FOR

# 2018



### Snap Peas

Often referred to as sugar snap peas, they can be eaten raw as well as cooked, and have an addictively crunchy texture and a really sweet flavour. They're a good source of fibre and vitamin C and are great in pretty much everything and work equally well tossed in salads and stir fries or served as a side dish with a garnish with mint. If you are going to eat them raw, just remember to peel out the stringy bit from the middle of the pod so you don't end up needing dental floss.

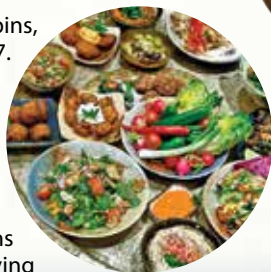
### Ghee

Clarified butter, widely used for centuries in Indian cooking is a godsend if you're lactose or casein intolerant, as these properties are removed during the clarification process. It's also a good source of vitamins A, D and E. And, it contains butyrate, an essential short-chain fatty acid that promotes bone health, aids fat burning and digestion and tackles inflammation.



### Moroccan Cuisine

Moroccan food has seen a huge increase in pins, up a massive 2,579 per cent at the end of 2017. Bursting with flavour and colour, it involves a host of spices with health benefits, such as digestive aid cumin, disease-fighting saffron, antioxidant cinnamon and inflammation-busting ginger. What's even more crucial is that Moroccan food is traditionally slow cooked, which means you get maximum flavour without destroying important nutrients.



### Plant Protein



With a huge surge of interest in adopting a vegan lifestyle, it's no wonder plant protein is having a moment. Pinterest has reported a 417 per cent increase in saves of plant protein pins, such as whole grains, beans and legumes as well as plenty of nuts and seeds. Some vegetables, such as kale, can also be a good source of protein too.



The biggest food trends of 2017 were distinctly whimsical; with edible glitter sprinkled over everything and all manners of cuisine - from toast to spaghetti to cupcakes - bedecked in 'unicorn' colours. But if you feel like you can't bear to see another plate of sparkly food, fear not - the biggest dining trends of 2018 are set to be rather more sensible.

## RECIPES

### Sun and Snow Pudding

#### Ingredients

- ▶▶ 250 gm fresh cream
- ▶▶ 500 gm pineapple
- ▶▶ 300 gm powdered sugar
- ▶▶ 5 teaspoon corn flour
- ▶▶ 4 drops edible food colour
- ▶▶ 100 gm digestive biscuits
- ▶▶ 2 tablespoon powdered gelatin
- ▶▶ 2 cup milk
- ▶▶ 1 tablespoon lemon juice

#### Method

##### Step 1

Crush the biscuits coarsely. Make sure that the biscuits are not completely powdered. Drain the pineapple syrup and pour it into a vessel. Cut the pineapple pieces into small bits.

##### Step 2

Dissolve the powdered gelatin and 3 tbsp sugar into the

pineapple syrup. Take a pan and add milk to it. Bring the milk to a boil. Mix 5 tsp of corn flour in 4 tbsp cold milk.

##### Step 3

Stir the mixture and then pour it into the boiling milk. Add 3 tbsp sugar and heat the custard over moderate flame for a few minutes. Once it is ready, allow it to cool down.

##### Step 4

Set aside 50 grams of fresh cream

for decoration. Whip the rest of the fresh cream along with remaining powdered sugar in a bowl set over ice-cubes. Add the lemon juice and two drops of lemon colour.

##### Step 5

Now add the custard, coarsely crushed biscuits, pineapple bits and pineapple syrup all together into the cream and put it in the mould you wish to set it in. Mix in ice-cubes till semi-set.





Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman Royal Guard Commander Brigadier Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Commander of the French Naval Forces in the Indian Ocean Admiral Dider Piaton. Brigadier Shaikh Nasser welcomed him, lauding outstanding relations of friendship between Bahrain and France.



Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman Royal Guard Commander Brigadier Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa visited Bahrain to honour the winners of Zayed Future Energy Prize. The 11 students, which formed the Ecoboosters received a majestic acknowledgement as HH Shaikh Nasser visited the school, praised the students' talents and highlighted their achievements.



Education Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi has received French Ambassador Cécile Longé. They explored boosting the cooperation related to general and higher education and teacher training. They also reviewed the efforts to provide French language syllabus in Bahrain's intermediate and secondary schools.



Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman Royal Guard Commander Brigadier Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa visited Bahrain to honour the winners of Zayed Future Energy Prize. The 11 students, which formed the Ecoboosters received a majestic acknowledgement as HH Shaikh Nasser visited the school, praised the students' talents and highlighted their achievements.



Bahrain's Ambassador to Belgium and Head of its diplomatic mission to the European Union and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Dr. Bahiya Al-Jeshi met with National Communication Centre (NCC) Chief Executive, Dr. Mohammed Bahzad. The Ambassador stressed the key role played by the NCC in projecting Bahrain's real and bright image to the world, in light of the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his landmark reforms.



Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB) President Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with other officials. SLRB President stressed the role of the association in promoting real estate projects.



Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman Royal Guard Commander Brigadier Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa visited Bahrain Bayan School yesterday to honour the winners of Zayed Future Energy Prize. Shaikh Nasser visited the school, praised the students' talents and honoured them in a ceremony.



Charity Organisation (RCO) Bahrain Bayan School yesterday boosters received a majestic ceremony.



Southern Governor HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa received Southern Governorate Police Director-General Brigadier Hamad Ali Al Marri. The Governor congratulated the newly appointed police chief, commending his security achievements and expertise.



Al Khalifa received a Bahrain Property Development Association (BaPDA) delegation in serving the real estate sector, particularly property developers, to speed up



Customs Affairs President Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al-Khalifa received delegation from the Jordanian customs and security agencies working at Al-Omari Border Center on the frontiers with Saudi Arabia. He briefed the Jordanian delegation on the entry and exit procedures on the King Fahd Causeway as well the development of strategic artery since its opening, highlighting future schemes.

# CELEBS



@kevinmalejandro  
Just found out that BEDTIME STORY also won BEST IN FESTIVAL for #HSFF So excited for the amazing team that made this happen! #doublewin



## Franco to attend SAG Awards

Los Angeles

After side-stepping the Critics' Choice Awards in the wake of sexual misconduct allegations, James Franco is set to attend the Screen Actors Guild Awards. According to reports, this will be the first time the 39-year-old actor will be seen at a

public event, who has been accused by multiple women of sexual harassment, including former acting students he taught.

A source said, "James will still attend the SAG Awards because there is no reason not to. He will carry

on supporting the cause and moving forward". Franco was last seen during a pre-recorded appearance on Seth Meyers' late show which aired on January 10.

The star is nominated in the Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor category for his new movie 'The Disaster Artist'. (ANI)



## Women in modern films 'always being raped': Knightley

Los Angeles

Actor Keira Knightley said the portrayal of women being subjected to sexual violence in modern films is the reason she prefers doing period dramas. "I don't know about films as much. I don't really do films set in the modern day because the female characters nearly always get raped. I always find something distasteful in the way women are portrayed, whereas I've always found very inspiring characters offered to me in historical pieces," Knightley told.

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor will next be seen in 'Colette', a biopic in which she portrays French novelist Gabrielle Colette. Knightley said there has been improvement in Hollywood in "the last few years" as women's stories are suddenly being viewed as important. (PTI)



## Chastain, Spencer to star in holiday comedy

Los Angeles

Actor Jessica Chastain is reuniting with her 'The Help' co-star Octavia Spencer for a new holiday comedy film. Reportedly, the film, which was bagged by Universal Studios in a bidding war, is centred around the two ladies' obstacle course-like journeys back home in time for Christmas.

Chastain, who also co-wrote the treatment with Kelly Carmichael, is also producing the film with her company Freckle Films. Carmichael, Celine Rattray, and Trudie Styler are also on board the project as producers. (PTI)





**STARRY**  
*Birthday*  
**Logan Lerman**

January 19, 1992

Actor who plays the lead character in the Percy Jackson films. He starred alongside Emma Watson in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* in 2012. Other films: *The Butterfly Effect*, *The Number 23* and *Noah*

# ANGELINA JOLIE TO RECEIVE ASC AWARD



Los Angeles

**A**ctor-director Angelina Jolie will be honoured by the American Society of Cinematographers with ASC Board of Governors Award. Jolie will be felicitated with award during the 32nd annual ASC Awards for Outstanding Achievement on February 17 at Hollywood and Highland's Ray Dolby Ballroom.

The Board of Governors Award is given to individuals in the industry whose body of work has made significant and indelible contributions to cinema, the ASC said in a statement. "Angelina Jolie sets a high standard. She is a true artist, with a strong vision and collaborative spirit. She has also entertained us through her work, but more importantly has brought significant social issues to our attention," ASC President Kees van Oostrum said.

"For her wide-ranging accomplishments, we are honored to present her with our Board of Governors Award," he added. Previous recipients of the honour include Ridley Scott, Barbra Streisand, Harrison Ford, Christopher Nolan, Warren Beatty, Morgan Freeman, Ron Howard, Sydney Pollack and Martin Scorsese. (PTI)



Los Angeles

**H**ollywood producer Alex Heineman has compared actor Liam Neeson to late cinema icon John Wayne.

"Liam is a modern day John Wayne in some ways," Heineman said in a statement.

"There are not many actors

that can do things with a look. But Liam can do things with one look; he's great at conveying emotions with very little," added Heineman, who along with Andrew Rona has backed Neeson's "The Commuter", helmed by Jaume Collet-Serra. (IANS)

## Liam Neeson is modern day John Wayne

### Now you know it



As a child, Adele's favourite music was from the Spice Girls. She has also said that Etta James and Dusty Springfield have been influential. (thefactsite.com)

## TOP 10 Songs this Week



**Perfect**  
Ed Sheeran Duet With Beyoncé



**Havana**  
Camila Cabello Featuring Young Thug



**Finesse**  
Bruno Mars & Cardi B



**Rockstar**  
Post Malone Featuring 21 Savage



**No Limit**  
G-Eazy Featuring A\$AP Rocky & Cardi B



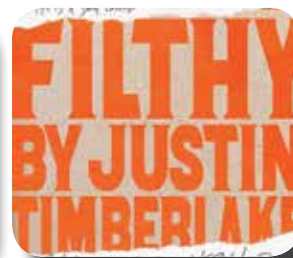
**Thunder**  
Imagine Dragons



**Bad At Love**  
Halsey



**Too Good At Goodbyes**  
Sam Smith



**Filthy**  
Justin Timberlake



**MotorSport**  
Migos, Nicki Minaj & Cardi B

(billboard)

# Classifieds

Reaching the right audience

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 17879914  
 38444687



## Buy & Sell

### MAC BOOK PRO

2.9 Corei7, 2 GB Graphics, 512 GBSSD, 16 GB Memory Contact: 33666773

### CASIO TONE BANK,

KEY BOARD MT T50 with Stand, Black Color, Contact :33335690

### MULTI GYM

Rarely Used- in Good condition , Contact: 38950916

### FOR SALE

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



## Automobiles

### TOYOTA YARIS

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

### TOYOTA COROLLA

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

### TOYOTA YARIS

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

### TOYOTA YARIS

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

### HONDA CIVIC

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

### TOYOTA ECHO

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

### TOYOTA YARIS.

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

### SHONEEZ MOTORS

LEXUS LX570 (2018) = BHD39,999.000 , GAC- GS8 (2018) = BHD9,500.000 , SUZUKI VITARA = BHD8,150.000, TOYOTA TRD 86 = BHD11,500.000, CHEVROLET SPARK = BHD4,499.000 , And much more favorable offers at the showroom! Contact us on :39668636 -17556862, Address: Al Burhama , Rakan Center, Kingdom of Bahrain. Block 354, Road 5447, Bldg 1974, Shop 18



## Education

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

**OUT & ABOUT**

**START THE NEW YEAR WITH A FAMILY GETAWAY**

**Date: January 14-25**  
**Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
Make the most of family #RCMemories together and enjoy signature experiences, Ritz-Kids activities, exquisite dining options or simply soaking up the Bahrain sun.  
Families can enjoy our Reconnect package this upcoming holiday weekend starting from SAR 1200+-. The package offers a daily per night resort credit of SAR 250 to use on dining and resort experiences, a morning breakfast buffet at La Med, as well as a 20% savings on treatments at the signature Ritz-Carlton Spa.  
With new outdoor heated pools, moms and dads can truly relax and enjoy the cool-breezy Bahrain winter, while the little ones partake in Ritz Kids activities all weekend long, like feeding our famous pink flamingos.  
Prefer not to drive? KSA residents residing in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia (Dammam, Al Khobar and Dhahran) can opt for an exclusive experience with a chauffeured Rolls-Royce Ghost to transport them from the comfort of their own home to our luxury beachfront resort. Arriving in style, the unique journey across the border continues with overnight Club Level or Villa accommodations, including unlimited access to food and beverage offerings at the resort's elite Club Level Lounge. Package begins at SAR 2350+-.  
The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is located in the Al Seef district in Manama, Bahrain. For additional information about the resort or for reservations, guests can call the hotel directly at (+973) 1758

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

**ULTIMATE SKIN TREATMENT BY MCCM**

**Date: January 1-31**  
**Venue: Four Seasons**  
Experience an exclusive selection of innovative face and body treatments connected with high technology and complemented with cosmetic products penetrating deeply that produces faster and visible results with MCCM. MCCM Portugal holds a long record and experience in the field of aesthetic medicine and medical cosmetics. Combining technology, entrepreneurship and experience, these 4 exclusive ultimate effective skin treatments focuses on using precise and essential active principles and ingredients that can be tailored for each need of different body and different skin whilst giving the right care and attention that reflect visible results.

**RE/IMAGINE YOUR SATURDAYS**

**Date: January 1-31**  
**Venue: re/Asian Cuisine**  
Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay invites you to discover the perfect Saturday Brunch at re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck. Soak in the immersive views from the 50th floor and feast on mouthwatering Asian selections like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons.

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

**Date: 14 December - 31 January 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm**  
**Venue: Qal'at al Bahrain Site Museum**  
In their inaugural exhibition, THE

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

**BAHRAINI FARMER'S MARKET**

**Date: till 31st March 2018**  
**Venue: Budaiya Botanical Gardens**  
Bahrain Farmers Market targets promoting Bahrain's agricultural products and highlighting the development taking place in Bahrain's agricultural sector. It also aims to contribute to improving the Bahraini farmers' income through a marketing system prepared by the Agriculture and Marine Resources to assist in meeting the farmers' aspirations.

**THE 44TH BAHRAIN ANNUAL FINE ARTS EXHIBITION**

**Date: 17 January - 7 March 2017, 8:00am - 8:00pm**  
**Venue: Tent at Arad Fort**  
In its 44th edition, the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition celebrates the creativity and ingenuity of the artists in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Every year, the art community gathers to present their finest work, uninhibited by a subject or theme. The result is a colourful display of styles, techniques, through different mediums of expression. Under the patronage of HRH Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, the exhibition this year presents a collection of local and International artists residing in Bahrain.

**THE LAND OF DILMUN, WHERE THE SUN RISES**

**Date: 5 December 2017 - 11**

**March 2018**  
**Venue: The Hermitage State Museum**

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

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

**Date: 19 January - 30 June 2018**  
**Venue: Bahrain National Museum**

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

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

**Date: 7 - 31 March 2018, 9:00am - 8:00pm**  
**Venue: Art Centre**

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

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

**FOOD IS CULTURE III**

**Date: 21 January - 25 February 2018, 7:00-9:00pm**  
**Venue: Bahrain National Museum**

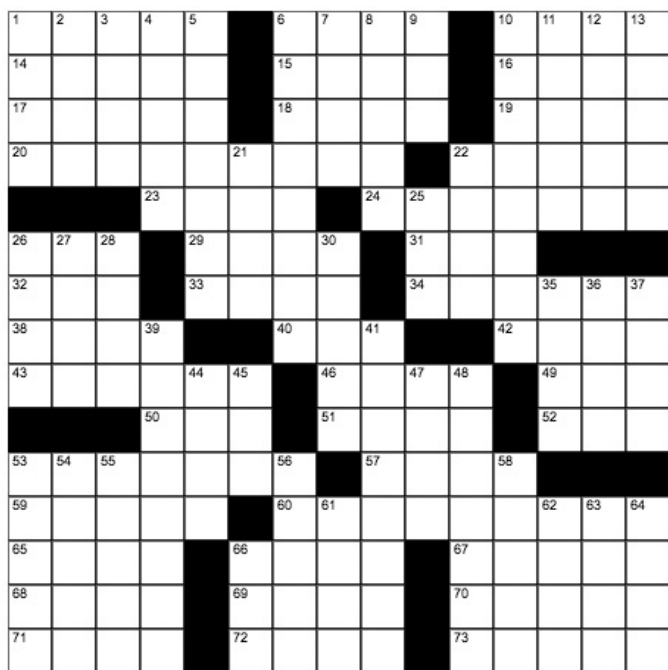
Food is Culture is a creative experimental project that aims to bridge together the mediums of art and food. Running in parallel with the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, this experiment sheds light on creative processes that take place when two individuals (from different creative disciplines) collaborate.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

**BETWEEN MUHARRAQ AND SEVILLE: A BOLZA - BUSSAD DIALOGUE**

**Date: 20 January - 20 March 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm**  
**Venue: Bahrain National Museum**

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

# CROSSWORD



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### Across

1 Conclude by; 6 Actress Ward; 10 Fast fliers; 14 Roman goddess of the moon; 15 Walked; 16 Coagulate; 17 Bugs bugs him; 18 Peter Fonda title role; 19 For \_\_\_ Jolly Good Fellow; 20 Apostates; 22 Scoff; 23 Ricky's portrayer; 24 Orator; 26 Shoebox letters; 29 General \_\_\_ chicken; 31 Clairvoyant's claim; 32 Bud; 33 Flabbergast; 34 Meal; 38 SDI concern; 40 Droop; 42 Japanese rice wine; 43 Curd stuff; 46 Cabbagelike plant; 49 Small batteries; 50 The fruit of a hen; 51 Pianist Gilels; 52 Ave. crossers; 53 Writing space; 57 Notable times; 59 Not odds; 60 Affirmative; 65 Wait; 66 Word processing error; 67 Spud; 68 Western Indians; 69 Thing; 70 Knot again; 71 Sailors; 72 Write software; 73 As a companion;

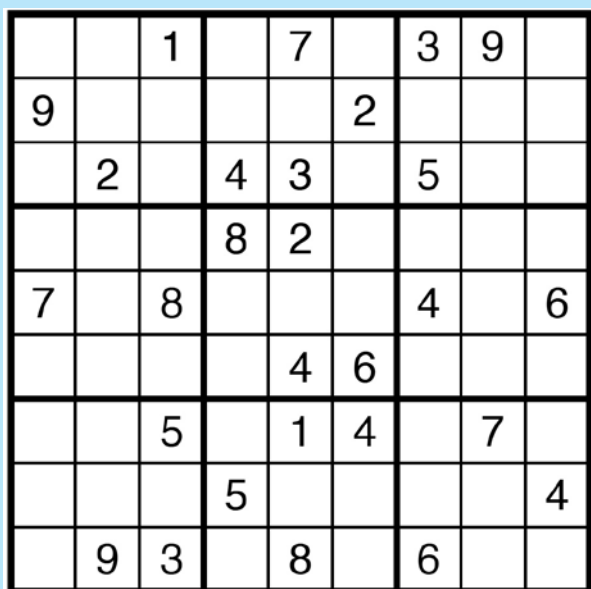
### Down

1 Fulda tributary; 2 Egypt's river; 3 Ruin; 4 On \_\_\_ toknow basis; 5 Goals; 6 Bookish; 7 Author \_\_\_ Stanley Gardner; 8 Silt deposit; 9 Citrus cooler; 10 Intoxicating liquor; 11 Streamlined; 12 We're off \_\_\_ the Wizard; 13 Belle or Bart; 21 Mgr.'s helper; 22 Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 25 For each; 26 Monumental; 27 "From \_\_\_ according to his abilities..."; 28 Hamburg's river; 30 Reptile; 35 Small batteries; 36 Old card game; 37 Mrs. Dick Tracy; 39 Humility; 41 Playful; 44 Cpls.' superiors; 45 Sense of self; 47 Italian bread?; 48 Hyundai model; 53 Comingout; 54 Madonna role; 55 Passover feast; 56 Check words; 58 Madame de \_\_\_; 61 Rushed, drove too fast; 62 Sock \_\_\_ me!; 63 Dresden denial; 64 Golfer Norman; 66 Spasm

# BEETLE BAILEY



# SUDOKU



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

### How to play:

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

# Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



You may be a specialist at manipulating concepts and ideas and using your analytical skills to understand any problem that comes your way. If this is true, people have probably already told you that thinking is fine, but there is a moment when you have to put all that thinking into practice!

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Today begins an exciting period in your personal life. It's time for new beginnings in your relationship. You may be ready to make the changes you and your partner have been considering for quite some time. Moving in together, doing some construction on your house, buying a summer home, or perhaps even having a child.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



If you have been having problems in your relationship or love life in general, don't expect things to get any better today. The people around you might find you extremely irritable! It may seem that anything anyone says gets on your nerves. Even the sweet nothings that your sweetheart whispers in your ear seem like a bunch of hot air!

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



This could be a very studious day for you; actually, it might be better to call it laborious. But you love to work, and you will get all the work you can handle today. It's a good day to work on all those things in your life that still need a little attention in order to stand on their own

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



You probably pay a great deal of attention to what other people think of you. It may often be hard for you to make decisions in delicate situations for fear of being misjudged, even if you know you must. You may run into this dilemma as you go about your day today. Trust your own judgment. It may be much more important to be decisive today.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



You probably enjoy exploring the innermost recesses of your own human nature. Yet today you may need to be a bit more rational. In your personal life, you may feel as if you've been beaten at your own game and this has weakened you. Why not take advantage of this to bring your partner with you on one of your voyages inside yourself?

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



On days like today it's important to take time out to reflect upon the events of the past few days. Is it possible you've decided to change certain things about yourself and your behaviour? If you could just devote a few minutes a day to all the little details in your personality, the changes will go much more smoothly. The atmosphere may help you think.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Over the last few weeks, you may have made some good progress in learning to express your emotions. The great thing is that you probably didn't even notice! But if you aren't careful, there may be some bullheaded person around you today who may try and destroy all the progress you've made. Don't confuse controlling your emotions with repressing them.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



There's no need to go pounding your head against a wall, your day will be challenging, but it's nothing you can't handle. The planetary configurations today will push you to lay the foundation for the projects you've been planning over the last six months. Go with the flow. People sometimes think that you are good at lighting fires but lousy at keeping them going. It's time you proved them wrong!

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today, you may find you have a certain gift for productivity. Everything you touch turns to gold, yet you may be under the impression that you can't provide everything you need for yourself. So what do you do? You start buying everything in sight! Today you might want to think about this bad little habit of yours, Capricorn. You may be tempted to go on a big shopping spree.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Today the people around you could seem much more serious than usual. You could even decide to get away from them and go hide out just for the day, for example, in a movie theatre watching an afternoon film. But you won't find the movie you want to see. Don't try and run away from the gravity of the moment; you may become even more serious.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



You could find the atmosphere today a bit oppressive. The time has come to deal with some of the important questions you may have been avoiding for quite some time. It could be especially important to take a look at your life at home and see what you can do change the negative atmosphere that has come into your life over the past few weeks.

# Turkish jets get Syria's warning

Beirut

Syria said yesterday its air defence would shoot down any Turkish jets that carry out attacks within Syria, a stark warning as tensions soar over apparent preparations by the Turkish military to invade a northern Syrian Kurdish enclave.

From Damascus, Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mekdad said a military incursion into Syria's Kurdish-controlled enclave of Afrin would be "no picnic" for Turkey.

Any such operation would be considered an "aggressive act," Mekdad said.

The escalation comes after the United States disclosed plans to form a 30,000-strong border force in Syria led by the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces in the wake of the victory over the Islamic State group. Turkey reacted angrily to the announcement.

Turkey regards the Syrian Kurdish militia that controls Afrin and other areas along its frontier as an extension of the Kurdish insurgency

within its borders and wants to prevent the establishment of a Kurdish corridor along the frontier.

The U.S. has developed close ties with the Kurdish militia over the shared fight against IS and keeps bases in northeast Syria with the Kurds. But it is not believed to maintain any American forces in Afrin, an enclave that is not linked to the bulk of Kurdish-run territory in Syria.

Earlier on Thursday, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim called on the U.S. to abandon ideas of a Syrian Kurdish border force, saying that Washington has been inconsistent in its statements about its plans.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had called the U.S.-proposed force an "army of terror," and vowed to crush it. He said Turkey would launch a military offensive against the enclave of Afrin and other Syrian Kurdish militia-controlled territories, and was massing troops and tanks on its border.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex

Tillerson told reporters on Wednesday that the United States owes Turkey an explanation for saying that it is supporting the creation of a border security force in northern Syria.

Tillerson said the "entire situation has been mis-portrayed, mis-described, some people misspoke. We are not creating a border security force at all." He said the U.S. intended to provide training to local elements in areas liberated from the Islamic State group.

Turkish leaders were not satisfied. Yildirim said Turkey had received consecutive "statements that contradict each other within the past three days."



Turkey's Prime Minister Binali Yildirim



Turkish military jets

# Lifesaving drone makes first rescue in Australia

Sydney

A pair of Australian swimmers on Thursday became the first people to be rescued in the ocean by a drone when the aerial lifesaver dropped a safety device to distressed teens caught in rough seas.

Australia is leading the use of the technology in surf lifesaving, with dozens of drones being trialled on beaches around the country.

In what is believed to be a world-first drone surf rescue, two boys on Thursday got caught in three-metre (10-foot) swells while swimming off Lennox Head in New South Wales, near the border with Queensland.



Beachgoers onshore raised the alarm to the lifeguards who then alerted the drone pilot, and the aerial lifesaver was deployed in moments.

"I was able to launch it, fly it to the location, and drop the pod all in about one to two minutes," lifeguard supervisor

Jai Sheridan told the Gold Coast Bulletin.

"On a normal day that would have taken our lifeguards a few minutes longer to reach the members of the public."

Other than a little weary from their experience the pair were reportedly unharmed.

## #PollToday



Do you think North Korea, as cautioned by Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull, is currently trying to make people think that they're changing ways, only to come back stronger later?

Yes  No  Cant Say



The Indian government informed that it's putting the deal with Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd. back on the track. This is very important for us and there will be many more deals."

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister

## Rest in sight

Gunmen kill two women working to eradicate polio



Gunmen in Pakistan shot and killed two women working on a polio eradication campaign.

Ukraine passes bill on 'occupied' territories

Ukraine's parliament passed a bill on the "re-integration" of the territories in the country's east controlled by Russia-backed separatists.

Strong storm blasts northern Europe

A powerful storm lashed Europe with high winds and snow Thursday, killing at least two people, grounding flights at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, halting trains and blowing over trucks in several countries.

U.S. government opposes delaying Iraqi elections

The United States supports holding Iraqi parliamentary elections on May 12 as planned by Iraq's government, the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad said.

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## Bus fire kills 52 Uzbeks travelling in Kazakhstan



A bus burns on a road in near the village of Kalybai in Kazakhstan.

Almaty

A bus fire in northwestern Kazakhstan killed 52 Uzbek citizens on a route used by migrant workers heading to Russia, the Kazakh Interior Ministry said on Thursday.

The bus was travelling along a road in the remote Aktobe region that links the Russian city of Samara to Shymkent, a city in southern Kazakhstan close to the Uzbek border.

It was unclear in which direction the bus, a

Hungarian-made Ikarus, had been travelling, but the route is widely used to transport Uzbek workers to and from Russia where they often take work on building sites.

Only five people managed to escape the burning vehicle, the interior ministry's emergencies department said in a statement.

The ministry said the apparent accident had happened at 10.30 a.m. (0430 GMT), but provided no details about its cause.

## China spots four oil slicks from sunken Iran tanker



Beijing

The spill from a sunken Iranian tanker off China's east coast has spawned four oil slicks as authorities prepared to send robots to the wreckage to assess the environmental damage.

The Sanchi, which was carrying 136,000 tonnes of light crude oil from Iran, sank in a ball of flames in the East China Sea on Sunday, a week after colliding with Hong

Kong-registered bulk freighter the CF Crystal.

The bodies of only three out of 30 Iranian and two Bangladeshi crew members have been found.

The State Oceanic Administration of China said late Wednesday that it was monitoring four slicks with a total area of almost 101 square kilometres (39 square miles), roughly the same size as Paris.

## Pakistan, India trade fire in Kashmir, killing four

Islamabad

Pakistani and Indian troops traded gunfire in the Himalayan region of Kashmir on Thursday, leaving three civilians and a soldier dead, officials from both sides said.

In a statement, Pakistan's military accused Indian troops of initiating fire from across the border and targeting Pakistani villages along Kashmir, killing two civilians and wounding five others in the latest "unprovoked" cease-fire violation. Pakistan's foreign

ministry later said the dead were women.

India quickly rejected the claim, saying in fact Pakistan initiated the fire, killing a teenage girl and a soldier on the Indian side of the volatile frontier.

Indian police officer S.D. Singh said at least six Indian civilians and a soldier were also wounded by Pakistani fire and that Indian paramilitary soldiers were "retaliating."

He said Pakistani soldiers fired mortars and automatic gunfire at at least 15 posts in the Jammu region.

# Williams' history of bold driver choices

A decision has been made: Williams have chosen Sergey Sirotkin – and not Robert Kubica – as the man to partner Lance Stroll in 2018. It's fair to say the Russian rookie was a rank outsider for the second seat when Felipe Massa announced his retirement from F1 – but as history tells us, this is far from the first time that Williams have made a bold move in the driver market...

## Jacques Villeneuve

Nigel Mansell caused something of a sensation in 1993 when, having split from Williams after winning the world title, he went over to America and scooped the IndyCar title at the first attempt. Three years later Williams would be involved in another transatlantic transaction – only this time they'd be the ones getting a driver: 24-year-old Jacques Villeneuve.

As the son of legendary Ferrari driver Gilles Villeneuve and a winner of both the Champ

car and the Indy 500, Jacques came with a big reputation (not to mention a fair bit of baggage) – but he still represented something of a risk, especially for a team with world title aspirations – after all, how many drivers had made a similar transition?

Sure, he'd proved himself masterful in brutish but rather rudimentary IndyCar machinery – but could he cut it in a more sophisticated F1 beast? The answer was quick and emphatic. At the first round of the 1996 season, following an exhaustive test programme, Villeneuve stuck his car on pole ahead of much more experienced team mate Damon Hill.

## Heinz-Harald Frentzen

To some extent it was no surprise that Williams moved for Frentzen in '97 – having compared very favourably to then-double world champion Michael Schumacher

in junior formulae, the German had made himself hot property after several years of overachieving in F1 for underdogs Sauber.

What was hugely surprising, however, was the timing of Frentzen's signing leaking out – not to mention the man he'd be replacing. Ordinarily you wouldn't expect a driver who was leading the world title to be at risk of losing his seat, but that's exactly what happened to Damon Hill in 1996, with the Briton being informed of his fate just as his tense championship battle with team mate Jacques Villeneuve was reaching its zenith.

"Frank [Williams] phoned me at home and said: 'I've got to do what's right for the team,'" a magnanimous Hill, whose form had fluctuated wildly in '95, would later explain. "I thought: 'I can't argue with that...'" And so it was that Williams parted company with the eventual world champion entirely on their terms – a very rare state of affairs indeed.

## Alex Zanardi

On the face of it, Williams' decision to sign Alex Zanardi for 1999 looked inspired. After all, since arriving in the US Champ Car series as an F1 refugee three years earlier the personable Italian had transformed himself into arguably the most electrifying racer on the planet.

Williams had a long history for employing 'proper racers' – men like Mansell, Rosberg and Jones who would put it all on the line in wheel-to-wheel situations – and Zanardi appeared cut from the same cloth.

But on the other hand, the team knew they were taking a chance. Yes, Villeneuve had transitioned brilliantly from Stateside racing three years earlier, but since then the machinery either side of the Atlantic had diverged massively, with the grooved-tired, narrow-track F1 cars of the day differing hugely from the animals Zanardi has become so adept at manhandling.

In the end it would prove a disaster, with Zanardi failing to score a point over the course of the season before being released a year early from

his contract. "At one point, the whole thing broke down and we lost confidence in each other," Zanardi would explain. "I'd do better than we did and I'm sure they were as pissed off as I was..."

Zanardi's failure didn't stop Williams returning to the Champ Car well for a third time in six years however – in 2001 they took on Juan Pablo Montoya, though having served as the team's test driver in the past, the former F3000 champion represented far less of a risk.

## Jenson Button

With a space to fill alongside Ralf Schumacher in their 2000 driver line-up (following Zanardi's early departure) and few viable options, logic suggested Williams would plump to hand the role to their test driver, F3000 racer Bruno Junqueira.

"I'd pretty much decided we should have Junqueira," the team's tech chief Patrick Head would later explain, "because we were already familiar with him, and the engineers had a high regard for his technical understanding."

But that thinking was turned on its head when the team tried out a 19-year-old by the name of Jenson Button. A karting prodigy with just two seasons of car racing under his belt, the future world champion impressed immediately with his silky smooth style, effortless speed and unerring maturity. A shootout test with Junqueira followed, and though the two drivers were evenly matched, team boss Frank Williams decided to go with his instincts: the drive was Button's.

Not everyone, however, was

impressed by the precocious Briton's appointment. "He's just a puppy," was three-time world champion Sir Jackie Stewart's take. "He'll mess on the carpet. He should have gone to finishing school first..."

Williams' brave decision to give youth a chance would influence driver market forever.

## Lance Stroll

'He's too young!' cried some. 'He's only there because of his Dad's money!' cried others. But in late 2016, as certain quarters poured scorn on their decision to sign 18-year-old Lance Stroll to a race deal, Williams remained steadfast.

"Would you say the same about Max Verstappen and putting him in a Red Bull?" Claire Williams countered when asked if it was a risk to hand Stroll, who was to graduate to F1 straight from F3, a race seat.

"Considering his age he has achieved a huge amount – he's won every championship he's taken part in. Yes he's going to be a rookie, and yes he will make mistakes, but from everything we've seen he's a really fast learner." And having put him through a rigorous on-track development programme, Williams knew that better than most...

"We should give the guy the chance to prove the talent, and prove he deserves the seat," Williams continued – and in the end that's just what Stroll did. Yes, there were mistakes – including a couple in pre-season testing – but there were very few still flinging the 'pay driver' accusation at Stroll when he kept his head as others lost theirs to take a superb podium in Azerbaijan, just eight races into his top-flight career. ([formula1.com](http://formula1.com))



Heinz-Harald Frentzen



Alex Zanardi



Jacques Villeneuve



Jenson Button



Lance Stroll

In late 2016, as certain quarters poured scorn on their decision to sign 18-year-old Stroll, Williams remained steadfast.



# Djokovic survives Melbourne furnace to beat Monfils

## Melbourne

**S**ix-times champion Novak Djokovic emerged from the Rod Laver Arena furnace and into the third round of the Australian Open after putting suffering Gael Monfils out of his misery with a scrappy victory on Thursday.

Both men struggled physically as air temperatures

peaked at 39.9 degrees Celsius with reports of 69 degrees being measured down on the court surface.

But 12-times grand slam champion Djokovic, playing his first tournament for six months because of an elbow problem, was the more durable as he recovered from a woeful start to claim a 4-6 6-3 6-1 6-3 win and take his record over Monfils to 15-0.

The 14th seeded Serb will play Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas in the third round.

"It was brutal," Djokovic who wore a compression sleeve and employed a truncated service action, said.

"I thought, it is going to be a big challenge for both of us. Gael is one of the best

athletes in our sport.

"It was about just hanging in there."

Monfils looked in danger of keeling over from the middle of the second set and throughout the third -- pleading with the match umpire to give them more than 25 seconds between points.

"I was dying on the court for 40 minutes," the 31-year-old told reporters later after having revived in a cold tub.

"It was really warm. It was tough to breathe. I think it was the hardest (conditions) I have played in.

"I tried to cool down. But even with the ice towel, the water, I think my body was super warm."

Djokovic was rumoured to have requested to play his match in the middle of the afternoon, despite the predicted heatwave. (Reuters)

## Australian Open: Day 4 highlights

**W**ith temperatures touching an energy-sapping 40 Celsius and ice-towels in use, third seed Garbine Muguruza and 2014 winner Stan Wawrinka both wilted and were knocked out in the Australian Open second round on Thursday.

Maria Sharapova, in contrast, laid down her title credentials with dominant win against 14th seed Anastasija Sevastova.

Defending champion Roger Federer coolly swept into the third round Thursday as Novak Djokovic survived a gruelling fitness test under the brutal Melbourne sun.

World No 1 Simona Halep was also convincing in her straight demolition of Canadian Eugenie Bouchard. (scroll)

## Sharapova hot for Sevastova, reaches round 3

### Melbourne

**F**or Maria Sharapova, it was a case of revenge being served hot as she fended off her U.S. Open conqueror Anastasija Sevastova 6-1 7-6(4) under a blazing sun to reach the third round of the Australian Open on Thursday.

The crafty Latvian had knocked Sharapova out of the fourth round at Flushing Meadows last year during the Russian's return to grand slam action after a 15-month doping ban.

So prior to their Melbourne Park rematch, former champion Sharapova said she was primed and ready for another drawn out dog-fight against the 14th seed.

Centre court was already a sizzling frying pan by the time the players started hitting up in the first morning match at Rod Laver Arena.

So the 35 degree Celsius (95F) heat may have quickly forced a rethink as Sharapova burst out of the blocks in a hail of winners to roar through the first set in 23 minutes.

Although the next set was a "little dicey," as she wobbled when serving for the match at 5-4, Sharapova was glad to beat a hasty retreat from the broiling conditions.

"It's a warm day. I did my job in two sets against someone that's been troubling in the past for me," she told reporters.

"So, third round of the Australian Open, I don't know, I think I deserve to smile out there after that victory."

Sharapova has often been likened to an "ice queen" by her tour rivals. Former Australian professional Jelena Dokic penned a column in a local tabloid on Thursday that said the Russian had little interest in making friends with on-court foes. (Reuters)

## Konta knocked out

### Melbourne

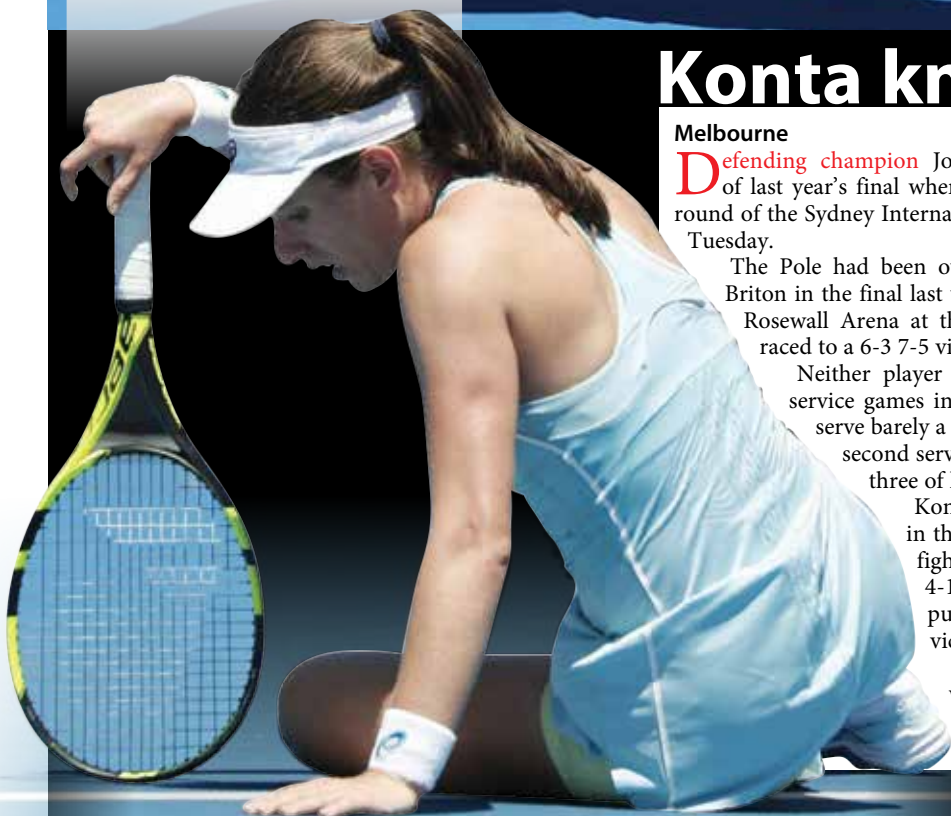
**D**efending champion Johanna Konta suffered a reversal of last year's final when she was bundled out in the first round of the Sydney International by Agnieszka Radwanska on Tuesday.

The Pole had been overpowered in 82-minutes by the Briton in the final last year, but repaid the favour on Ken Rosewall Arena at the Olympic Tennis Centre as she raced to a 6-3 7-5 victory.

Neither player was able to dominate with their service games in the first set, with Konta's second serve barely a factor as she won just two of her 11 second serve points and Radwanska converted three of her five break opportunities.

Konta again had trouble holding serve in the second set but showed signs of a fightback when she broke while trailing 4-1 in the second, but then could not push on as Radwanska sealed the victory in one hour, 49 minutes.

The first round loss continues some worrying early season performances for the 26-year-old world number nine Konta. (Reuters)



# BPL to kick off with road show



## Manama

**Coca Cola** Bahrain Premier League 2018 will kick off with road show and launch of teams today.

Launch of Teams will be held at Bahrain Mall Car park, at 07:00pm.

Bahrain Premier League is the first franchise based T20 cricket tournament held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Bahrain Premier League 2018, will comprise of six franchise squads of thirteen resident cricketers competing in the T20 format of cricket.

The event is organised by KHK Sports and Exelon.

The launch event will be ushered by dance, road show and other promotional events.

The launch of teams will be kickstarted with the road show conducted by the Bahrain Desi Riders on January 19.

35 bikers will join the road show from Hidd, Juffair, Gudaibiya and Riffa. Meanwhile at the Bahrain Mall, various other promotional events will be held.

CEO of KHK Sports, Mohammed Shahid and the President of BPL, Mohammed Mansoor will sign off the Coca Cola Bahrain Premier League 2018 launch of the teams.



Abdul Kareem

## Al Selwady to face Leary in Jordan

### Manama

**Abdul Kareem** Al-Selwady is confirmed to face Charlie Leary in Jordan at Brave 10: The Kingdom Rises on March 2nd, at the Prince Hamzah Sports Hall in Amman.

Al-Selwady has eight victories out of his nine appearances while Charlie Leary who is a veteran in England has been victorious fourteen times out of his twenty two appearances.

Charlie made an impressive comeback against Daniele Scatizzi from Straight Blast Gym Ireland at Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions.

The multi-title winner from England made his ambitions for a rematch against Ottman Azaitar eyeing at the

lightweight championship at Brave Combat Federation.

Al-Selwady felt that Leary was trying to jump the line and challenged for a bout which Leary had accepted. Abdul Kareem Al-Selwady who trains at Fortis MMA, promised that he will finish Da Silva and make him bleed at Brave 9.

The fight ended as a TKO due to a doctor stoppage. The doctor had to intervene at the end of the second round and stop the fight due to a cut suffered by Da Silva.

The fight will be intriguing since this will be for the first time a Jordanian fighter challenging a multi-title winning British fighter in Jordanian soil. Abdul-Kareem commands a vast fan

following in Jordan due to his actions inside and outside the cage.

Recently Abdul Kareem was in International news for his involvement in anti-bullying campaigns and for being vocal about restoring peace in Palestine.

Currently riding a 4 fight win streak and undefeated at Brave, Al-Selwady will face a strong adversary at Jordan soil in front of his friends, family and fans.

Jordan has restored its past legacy in the sport of MMA after the launch of Brave Combat Federation with Jarrah, Al-Selwade, Navras Abzakh and Jalal Al Daaja showcasing steady performances that has stunned the world.

## Virat Kohli named ICC Cricketer of the Year

### Mumbai

**India captain** Virat Kohli had something to cheer on Thursday when he was named ICC World Cricketer of the Year, a day after suffering his first test series defeat as skipper in South Africa.

The 29-year-old was rewarded for his prolific run in the qualification period from Sept. 2016 to the end of 2017 when he amassed 2,203 runs -- including eight centuries -- in tests, 1,818 in ODIs and 299 in Twenty20 internationals.

Kohli, who also led India to the top of the world's test rankings during the period, received the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, which team mate Ravichandran Ashwin had won last year.

The top order batsman, who shone with the bat in South Africa even if his team dropped 2-0 behind in the three-test series, was also adjudged the ODI player of the year.

"It means a lot to win to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for becoming the ICC Cricketer of the Year 2017 and also the ICC ODI Player of the Year," Kohli, who was named captain of both the ICC test and ODI teams for the year, said in an ICC statement.

"I won that back in 2012 also but it's the first time winning the Garfield Sobers Trophy, and it's a huge honour for me. It's probably the biggest of all in world cricket and two Indians getting it back-to-back makes it more special."

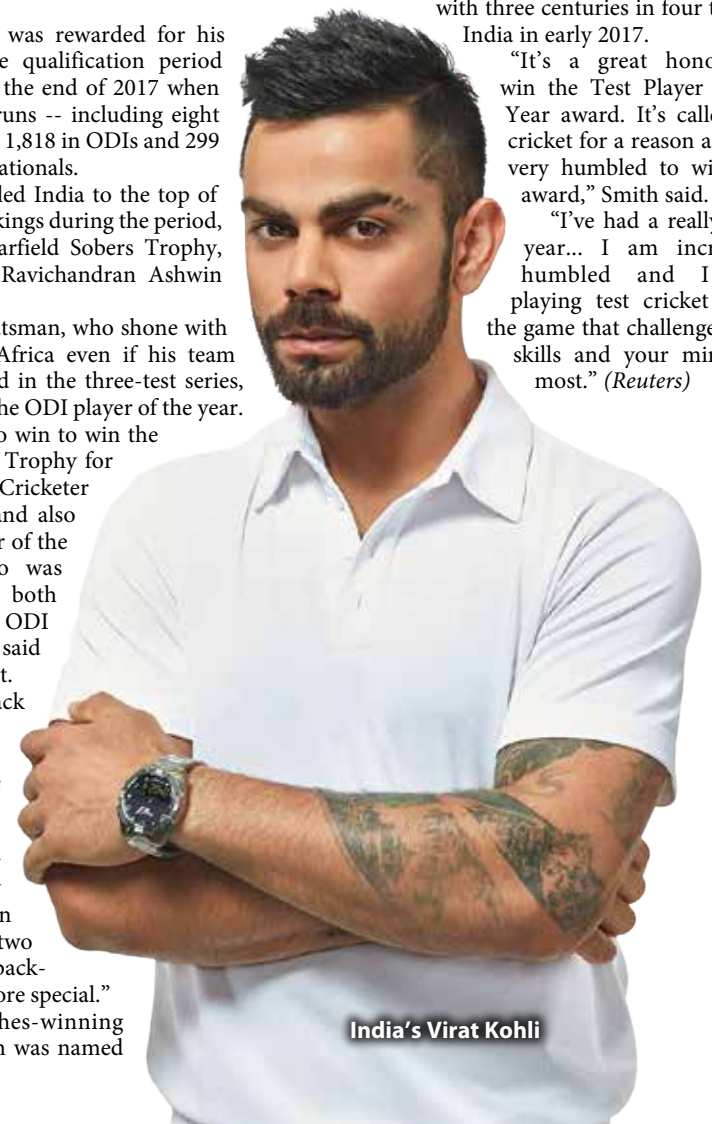
Australia's Ashes-winning captain Steve Smith was named

the Test Cricketer of the Year, having scored 1,875 runs in 16 matches at an average of 78.12, with eight hundreds and five half-centuries.

Smith scored 687 runs at an average of 137.40 against England in the Ashes series to go with three centuries in four tests in India in early 2017.

"It's a great honour to win the Test Player of the Year award. It's called test cricket for a reason and I'm very humbled to win that award," Smith said.

"I've had a really good year... I am incredibly humbled and I love playing test cricket -- it's the game that challenges your skills and your mind the most." (Reuters)



India's Virat Kohli

**Barcelona**

**B**arcelona have had their confidence trimmed by Espanyol snapping their 29-game unbeaten run in all competitions with a surprise win in the King's Cup, and the runaway Liga leaders will be put to the test again on Sunday against thrill seekers Real Betis.

Only Barca and high-flying Valencia have scored more goals than Betis, who have garnered a reputation as one of the most exciting teams in the league this season under attacking ideologue Quique Setien.

The former Las Palmas coach's open approach has had dire consequences for his side's defence, however, which is the third worst in the league, with only basement club Las Palmas and 18th-placed Deportivo La Coruna shipping more goals than them.

Betsy won a wild local derby at fierce rivals Sevilla 5-3 at the start of the month, while earlier this season their swashbuckling style saw them lose 6-3 to Valencia and draw 4-4 with Real Sociedad.

Their last outing was a thrilling 3-2 win over Leganes in which they threw away a two-goal lead before returning hero Ruben Castro came off the bench to strike the winning penalty in his first game back at the club.

Barca have been accused of uninspiring football on occasion this season but last week turned on the style to come from two goals down to beat Real Sociedad 4-2, ending an 11-year hoodoo away to the Basque club and preserving their nine-point lead at the top of the standings.

Despite the danger posed by Barca, Setien ruled out a cautious approach from Betis against the Catalans and also said he would not instruct his players to man-mark Lionel Messi.

"Barcelona are a very difficult team to face, we have some doubts, but we're going to be brave against them, we're sure of that," the coach told radio station Cadena Ser.

"Our destiny is to play, to press them high and rob the ball off them in their half, and as long as they will permit us, to try and cause them problems in their area. (Reuters)

Barcelona's Lionel Messi takes a penalty that is saved

# Barca lose to Espanyol in Cup

# Neymar scores 4 as PSG beat Dijon 8-0

**Paris**

**N**eymar scored four goals and set up two in a dazzling performance as Paris Saint-Germain beat Dijon 8-0 on Wednesday, yet still the Brazil star left the field bitterly shaking his head in disappointment. Perhaps it was hearing some fans jeering him when

he refused to let striker Edinson Cavani take a late penalty. Runaway league leader PSG was already 7-0 up and Cavani needed one goal to become PSG's outright all-time leading scorer.

It was the perfect moment to show generosity but -- perhaps because the pair had previously clashed over a penalty -- Neymar was having none of it. Instead, with some fans chanting "Cavani, Cavani," he jealously guarded the ball as Cavani gingerly approached, and then totally blanked him. Coolly, he sent goalkeeper Baptiste Reynet the wrong way.

The incident in September

-- amusingly known as Penalty-gate -- saw Cavani refusing to let Neymar take a penalty and then missing. It still seems to linger. At the end, Neymar took the match ball from the referee -- players can keep it after a hat trick -- but looked downcast as he trudged off the field at Parc des Princes.

After shaking his head, he even palmed off his Man of the Match award to a PSG staff member as he walked hurriedly back to the dressing room, having not stopped for waiting television reporters. "He was a bit bitter, maybe. A lot of players would have reacted the same way," PSG teammate Thomas Meunier said. "When

you get whistled after scoring four goals and providing two assists, it's a bit ungrateful by the supporters."

Neymar's other goals were a free kick in the 42nd, an assured finish from inside the area in the 57th, and a fine run and shot from just outside of it in the 73rd. "We knew we would suffer, but not as much as this," Dijon midfielder Jordan Marie said. The pick of Neymar's goals was a superb first-half free kick which flew into the top right corner before Reynet moved. The Brazil star set up PSG's second goal for Angel Di Maria and the seventh for Kylian Mbappe. (AP)

# Sanchez likely to join Man Utd

**London**

**A**rsenal forward Alexis Sanchez is likely to join rivals Manchester United this month, his manager Arsene Wenger said ahead of Saturday's Premier League match against Crystal Palace.

The Chilean international is out of contract at the end of the season and was also a target for

Manchester City, but United appear to have stolen a march on their local rivals.

"I worked on transfers for 30 years so it is likely to happen, but at any moment it can break down ... If it doesn't happen, he will play on Saturday," Wenger told a news conference, adding that United midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan could move in the other direction.

"I like the player. We played many times against

him when he was at (Borussia) Dortmund. He appreciated the quality of our games ... The wages would not be a problem," Wenger added.

"This would be an exchange of players and I think one would replace the other," Wenger said, adding that he would still be in the market for more recruits.

Arsenal sold England international Theo Walcott to Premier League rivals Everton on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Barcelona's Lionel Messi takes a penalty that is saved

Alexis Sanchez

Roger Federer of  
Switzerland

# Federer subdues hard-hitting Struff

**Melbourne**

Champion Roger Federer escaped the worst of the Melbourne heatwave but had to knuckle down to avoid getting burnt by feisty German Jan-Lennard Struff as he won 6-4 6-4 7-6(4) to reach the third round of the Australian Open on Thursday.

Looking as cool as a cucumber Federer glided through the opening two sets under the Rod Laver lights but was dragged into a scrap in the

third as the 55th-ranked Struff went for broke.

The 36-year-old was momentarily knocked out of his stride when he slipped 3-1 down but broke back to take the set into a tiebreak on a steamy night.

Struff saved a match point with a searing backhand down the line but fell on the second when Federer crunched a huge serve into the corner.

Federer will meet French 29th

seed Richard Gasquet for a place in the last 16 as he continues his bid for a 20th grand slam title.

Second seed Federer made no apologies for being scheduled to play during the evening session when the temperature, which peaked at 40 degrees Celsius in the afternoon, had dipped to more manageable levels.

"We know it can be very hot here in Australia. I remember the days when we had four days of 40 degrees in a row a few years back. Now we

got two," he said.

"It's definitely a challenge. It's hard to prepare for that in some ways. But you know when you come down here that can happen. I'm happy I played at nighttime. But I would back myself playing during the daytime also."

Federer broke the Struff serve in the fifth game when he ripped a forehand past the advancing German.

That proved enough to take the

first set and he needed just one break, this time achieved with a rasping backhand pass, to claim the decisive break at 3-3 in the second.

Federer could never truly relax though and Struff broke for a 3-1 lead in the third set with some forceful tennis.

His advantage did not last long though as Federer replied in the next game and from then on Federer assumed control.

(Reuters)