

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

News of Bahrain

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Issue No. 7632

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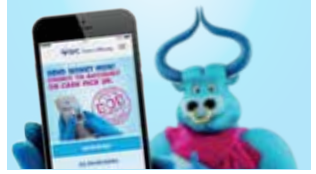
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US facing threats from China Russia: Mattis

New York

US Defence Secretary James Mattis has said competition between great powers, not terrorism, is now the main focus of America's national security. The US faced "growing threats from revisionist powers as different as China and Russia", he said, unveiling the national defence strategy. In an apparent reference to Russia, he warned against "threaten[ing] America's experiment in democracy". "If you challenge us, it will be your longest and worst day," he warned.



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Murder of teenager: Accused arrested, interrogated



It's time to get your ice skates on

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UNRWA cries foul over US aid denial

Jerusalem

The head of the United Nations agency for Palestinians said yesterday the US decision to freeze of tens of millions of dollars in aid resulted from diplomatic disputes rather than the agency's performance.

The US State Department this week froze two planned payments worth more than \$100 million to the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA), with a spokeswoman saying it was linked to necessary "reform" of the agency.

But Pierre Krahenbuhl, UNRWA's commissioner general, said the agency had not been informed by the United States of any new reform demands, and was "caught up" in a dispute between the Palestinian leadership and the US administration.

"I have to look at this as not related to our performance but a decision and a debate that was caught up in the aftermath of what of course was the General Assembly resolution on Jerusalem and other matters," Krahenbuhl said in an interview in Jerusalem.

"My perception is there is a debate in the US administration about funding to the Palestinians and our funding got caught up in that."

The US gave around \$700 million in support to the Palestinians last year, of which about half went to UNRWA, which has a non-political mandate to provide schooling, healthcare and other services to Palestinians across the Middle East.

Israel and some American politicians accuse the agency of bias, with Israeli leaders saying its existence perpetuates the conflict.

The Palestinian leadership has cut ties with President Donald Trump's administration since his controversial December 6 recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

It said that the US under Trump can no longer be mediator in peace talks with Israel.

The United Nations General Assembly voted to condemn the US decision on Jerusalem.

Trump had been pushing to restart peace talks but on January 2 he tweeted that the US gives the Palestinians "HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS" and gets "no appreciation or respect."

"With the Palestinians no longer willing to talk peace, why should we make any of these massive future payments to them?"

On Tuesday his administration suspended \$65 million to UNRWA, followed Thursday by another \$45 million in food aid destined for the agency. - (AFP)

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Jeddah Tower works get a \$165m boost

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JEDDAH TOWER



works get a \$165m boost

Dubai

The world's tallest skyscraper in Jeddah will soon begin its infrastructure works with the signing of a 620 million riyal (\$165 million) contract by real estate developers.

Once completed, the massive mixed-use tower will rise over a kilometre (3,281 feet) dwarfing the Burj Khalifa, which is over 828 meters, by 177 meters or 580 feet.

The contract was awarded to Al-Fouzan General Contracting

Co and the work is to be finished within 12 months, Jeddah Economic Co, the consortium behind the project, said in a statement carried by Reuters.

Originally projected to cost \$1.2 billion, the project, according to an earlier statement, will be finished by 2020 to become the first structure to reach the one-kilometre-high mark.

The project, formerly known as Kingdom Tower, was developed by Jeddah Economic Co as part of the Jeddah Economic City project which overlooks the Red sea. Jeddah Economic City is a commercial and residential project of 57 million square feet (5.3 million square meters), that will feature homes, hotels and offices, as well as tourist attractions.

According to *inhabitant.com*, the projected world's tallest building will require 80,000

tons of steel and 5.7 million square feet of concrete specially engineered to withstand the saltwater of the nearby ocean.

Jeddah Economic Company, has confirmed to CNN that the project will be completed by 2020, as scheduled.

"As of 2020, we'll start seeing things: you'll see the tower, you'll see the shopping mall, you'll see many other projects," CNN quoted Mounib Hammoud, CEO of Jeddah Economic Company as saying.

Inspired by folding leaves

The tapered tower, reportedly inspired by the folded leaves of a desert plant, will change its shape every few floors to mitigate the effect of high winds.

The design, created by American architect Adrian Smith, who also designed Burj Khalifa, incorporates many unique structural and aesthetic features.

The tower reportedly will have a gross floor area of 2.6 million square feet (243,866 square meters) over 252 stories, and the world's highest observation deck at 2,178 feet (664 meters) off the ground, with a 5,382 square feet (500 square meter) outdoor platform.

It will also house a five-star Four Seasons Hotel and 97 affiliated serviced apartments, and offices on seven floors. There will also be four "residential tiers" that will include 325 apartments.

"An estimated 59 elevators will service the building; the observatory elevator will travel at a speed of 10 meters per second," a report by *inhabitant* said.

"When you first arrive at the tower, you are already 20 meters above sea level," Hammoud told CNN adding: "Therefore, it's like every floor is a different experience (in) that building."

In a recent statement to *Gulf News*, Hammoud confirmed that land

will be available and ready for development by local and international investors with all support services and utilities that includes: state-of-the-art infrastructure, district cooling, gas networks, streets furnishing and finishing, generous public open spaces, gardens and other elements of an environmentally friendly smart city.

He added: "The project offers the tallest tower in the world, a sustainable mixed-use environment, residential apartments for most budgets, a tourism retail and leisure destination and a business center. Jeddah Economic City Project will anchor the growth of Jeddah and will offer thousands of job opportunities for young Saudis in various fields."

Jeddah Tower's construction fits into Saudi Vision 2030, a government plan that aims to diversify the economy in the kingdom and reduce its dependence on oil.

Burj Khalifa
828m/2,717 ft
Dubai

Suzhou Zhongnan
Centre
727m/2,392 ft
Suzhou

Signature
Tower Jakarta
638m/2,093ft
Jakarta

Shanghai Tower
632m/2,073ft
Shanghai

Makkah Royal Clock
Tower Hotel
601m/1,972ft
Mecca

Tianjin Chow Tai
Fook Binhai Centre
530m/1,739ft
Tianjin

Taipei 101
508m/1,667ft
Taipei

Shanghai World
Financial Centre
494m/1,614ft
Shanghai

International
Commerce
Centre
484m/1,588ft
Hong Kong

Murder of teenager: Accused arrested, interrogated

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

A twenty-year-old Bahraini man was arrested and interrogated for stabbing an Arab national to death in the eastern suburbs of the Capital late on Wednesday.

The defendant reportedly stabbed the 18-year-old Sudanese victim twice in the chest and abdomen. The assault occurred during a brawl that occurred in a yard in Hooraa, killing the victim on the spot.

Family and Child Prosecution Chief Attorney Amina Isa confirmed in a statement issued on Thursday that the defendant was arrested by the Capital Police Directorate (Hooraa Police Station) shortly after the incident took place and that he was interrogated by the prosecution on the next day of the murder.

"Hooraa Police Station reported that a previous dispute led to a brawl that broke out between a number of individuals in an open



Abdullah Hameed

yard in Hooraa on Wednesday night. The matter escalated when the defendant initially threatened the victim with a knife and later stabbed him twice, once in the left of the chest and then on the same side of the abdomen, resulting in the latter's death," the Chief Attorney said in the statement.

She explained further saying, "The Public Prosecution initiated its investigations immediately after it was informed of the incident, as it moved to the crime scene and examined the body of the victim. The victim's body was examined

by an official coroner who stated in his report that the death occurred as a result of a chest wound, resulting in a myocardial rupture."

Isa added that the defendant confessed to his crime in the interrogations of the prosecution, which ordered to detain him while further investigations continue in order to refer him to the criminal court.

The victim was identified as Abdullah Hameed, a Sudanese resident in Hooraa, as confirmed by a close relative.

A relative who preferred anonymity told *DT News* that "the dispute initially began between the victim and the defendant on Tuesday night in the camping area in Sakhir", adding that "he was ambushed by the killer and five of his relatives in Hooraa" and that "they were friends".

The victim's body was laid to its last resting place in Manama Graveyard on Thursday afternoon. He is survived by his parents, two younger brothers and a younger sister.

“The defendant has confessed to his crime during interrogations of the prosecution. Investigations are continuing to refer him to the criminal court, according to Chief Attorney



Amina Isa



MP Mohammed Al Maarifi

Provide BD100 monthly allowance to citizens: MP

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

Amidst the rapidly increasing cost of living, a Bahraini MP has demanded the Government to grant each citizen an allowance of BD100 monthly.

MP Mohammed Al Maarifi recently confirmed in a statement he posted on his personal page on Instagram that he submitted a bill that requires the Government of the Kingdom to disburse monthly allowances of BD100 to each Bahraini citizen since birth until they're employed "or married in the case of female citizens".

Al Maarifi claimed in his statement that "this will replace the insurance against unemployment and restructure the subsidy by injecting state funds into the pockets of beneficiaries and preventing the exploitation of

subsidies by the non-eligible". "This bill will have a significant impact on activating internal markets, lighten the increasing financial burdens on the breadwinners of Bahraini families and serve the welfare of Bahraini citizens," the MP explained.

Al Maarifi clarified further, "The proposed law will guarantee every citizen the maximum benefit from government support, where the needs of citizens and their financial priorities will vary, as it affects the lack of access to large parts of government support for those eligible. This proposal will restore the financial balance of the Bahraini wage earners and the ability to manage expenses in a way that suits them."

He added, "The disbursement of these funds is financed by including the social security and

disability allowance as well as pumping amounts from the State budget to ensure their continuity and that they cannot be interrupted or suspended under any circumstances."

The MP also said that his proposal comes to serve the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the Legislative (Parliament and Shura Councils) and Executive (Government) Authorities to reach a consensus to cease imposing financial burdens on citizens.

Al Maarifi's bill comes in the midst of various austerity, cost-cutting and subsidies removal procedures taken by the Government in recent years. The most recent procedures were increasing the prices of gasoline on January 8 this year and imposing taxes on certain products considered harmful to consumers' health by the beginning of the year.

Reckless ambulance driver arrested, suspended

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

A reckless ambulance driver was arrested and suspended from work after posting videos online of himself over-speeding with blaring music while on a rescue mission in the Capital last week.

The Bahraini driver posted several videos on his personal account on SnapChat last week, bragging about his driving skills and speaking about an elderly woman he was supposed to rescue in Juffair area in the eastern parts of the capital. In the videos, he was seen driving over 150 kmph on Awal Avenue in Juffair and jumping red lights while the sirens were switched on. "A journey of action," as he described it in one of the videos. The videos were soon



A screenshot of the video of the man driving over 140 kmph in Juffair

leaked to various local social media networks and drew nationwide condemnation as "the driver's behaviour reflected irresponsibility and disregard of the humanitarian duties of ambulance staff" as

commented by many online.

Health Ministry confirmed in a statement issued on Tuesday night that it has launched a probe into the case and rejected the behaviour by the ambulance crew.

"This is a personal behaviour and doesn't reflect the ministry's policies. Every employee has pledged and vowed at the time of his/her graduation to maintain the sanctity of the profession, respect it and abide by the laws of the health institution they work for," the ministry said, confirming that the man worked at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

"In regards to the video circulated on social media showing an ambulance driver over-speeding, the driver was arrested and relevant legal procedures were taken," the General Directorate of Traffic in Interior Ministry said.

Thinking
green

Rehan Ahmed



WATER CONSERVATION

Water is essential to our survival, it is essential to human health. The human body can last weeks without food, but only days without water. Thus, water is at the core of sustainable development. From food and energy security to human and environmental health, water contributes to improvements in social well-being and growth, affecting the livelihoods of billions.

The quantity and quality of water is being affected with time. Water conservation has become an important subject and includes all the policies, strategies and activities to sustainably manage the natural resource of fresh water and to protect and meet the current and future human demand. Population, household size, way of living, habits and affluence all affect how much water is consumed by an individual and a family.

The goals of water conservation efforts include ensuring availability of water for present and future generations, where the withdrawal of freshwater from an ecosystem does not exceed its natural replacement rate. It includes Energy conservation as water pumping, delivery and wastewater treatment facilities consume a significant amount of energy. In some regions of the world over 15% of total electricity, consumption is devoted to water management.

The key activities that benefit water conservation are any beneficial reduction in water loss, use and waste of resources, avoiding any damage to water quality and improving water management practices that reduce the use or enhance the beneficial use of water.

A fundamental component to water conservation strategy is communication and education outreach of different water programs. Developing communication that educates water users and the general public is another important strategy utilized in water conservation.

Water conservation programs involved in social solutions are typically initiated at the local level, by either municipal water utilities or regional governments. Common strategies include public outreach campaigns, tiered water rates (charging progressively higher prices as water use increases), or restrictions on outdoor water use such as lawn watering and car washing. Cities in dry climates often require or encourage the installation of xeriscaping or natural landscaping in new homes to reduce outdoor water usage.

New technology poses a few new options for consumers, features such as full flush and half flush toilet reducing the water consumption and waste. Also available are modern shower heads that help reduce wasting water. Old shower heads are said to use 5-10 gallons per minute, while new fixtures available use 2.5 gallons per minute.

It is alarming to know that Cape Town in South Africa, one of the world's iconic tourist destinations, could run out of water by April 2018 as the city's worst drought in a century risks forcing residents to join queues for emergency rations. "Day Zero" - the date taps are due to run dry as city authorities are planning to build desalination plants and drill underground boreholes. At the current rate of water consumption, the city is likely to reach Day Zero on 22 April.

There is a real risk that residents will have to line up. At a trial water collection site, similar to an estimated 200, the city may introduce, people line up between metal fences waiting to fill up containers from standpipes. A maximum 25 liters of water will be provided per person/ day instead of more than 87 liters of water consumed per person/ day.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 7.5 liters per capita per day to meet domestic demands. Around 20 liters per capita per day will take care of basic hygiene needs and basic food hygiene. Poor water quality and absence of appropriate sanitation facilities are deadly, some 5 million deaths per year are caused by polluted drinking water. The WHO estimates that providing safe water could prevent 1.4 million child deaths from diarrhea each year.

We need to understand that 60% of total household water supply is used inside the home in three main areas: the kitchen, the bathroom and the laundry room. Saving water is easy for everyone to do. Let us try the following water conservation tips at home:

- Turn off the water tap while tooth brushing, shaving and face washing.
- Use low flow taps in wash basins.
- Clean vegetables, fruits, dishes and utensils with minimum water. Don't let the water run while rinsing.
- Run washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full.
- Using water-efficient showerheads and taking shorter showers.
- Learning to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
- Repair and fix any water leaks.
- Use dual flush toilets which use up to 67% less water than conventional toilets

RESPECT AND CONSERVE WATER, ACT NOW & DO YOUR PART.

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

(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.)

Saudi cash injection bolsters Yemeni rial

Aden

Saudi Arabia's move to inject US\$2 billion cash into Yemen has helped ease concerns regarding falling currency in a country that depend mostly on imports for food.

According to reports, Yemeni rial witnessed a sharp increase following the announcement of the massive cash injection by the Saudi Arabia Central Bank.

Following the move, in response to a plea for help by Yemen's president and prime minister, the Rial, on Thursday, rose 16 per cent against the dollar.

"Interfere with saving the Yemeni rial now and not tomorrow. The salvation of the rial means saving the Yemeni people from an imminent starvation," Yemen's Prime Minister Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr pleaded on Tuesday.

"As the value of the rial goes up, the living conditions of Yemeni citizens will change for the better," the Saudi information ministry said following the cash injection.

The economy of the Arab world's poorest country has been pushed to the brink of collapse by a civil war that

began with the takeover of the capital by Iran-backed rebels in September 2014. The government has been unable to pay salaries for more than a year, and the rial has more than halved in value against the dollar, leaving Yemenis unable to afford food staples and bottled water.

Yemen's rial stood at 215 to the dollar in early 2015 but had dropped steadily to about 500 against the dollar this month. On Thursday, money changers across the country - including in the rebel-held capital Sanaa and the government bastion of Aden - reported the dollar trading at between 420 and 450 rials.

The Saudi-backed government has now capped the exchange rate against the dollar at 390 rials, but money changers across the country appeared to have turned a blind eye.

President Abdrabu Mansur Hadi transferred the central bank from Sanaa to Aden in 2016 but the rebels still operate their own central bank from the capital.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia sent its ambassador Mohammed Al Jaber to Aden on Thursday, three years after

he fled Yemen as the Houthis overran Sanaa.

Prime minister Ahmed bin Dagher, receiving the ambassador, thanked the kingdom and asked Riyadh and Abu Dhabi to send experts to audit the fund's transfer, the loyalist news agency Saba reported.

Meanwhile, in a move yesterday, Canada said it will provide \$12 million to aid groups in Yemen.

Friday's announcement of \$12.1-million in aid brings Canada's total humanitarian assistance for Yemen to \$65-million since March 2017. A senior government official indicated more funding could be announced for the poor Middle Eastern country this year.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain are leading members of the military coalition that intervened in the Yemen conflict in March 2015 to support the country's internationally recognised government.

The war has left more than three-quarters of the population in need of humanitarian aid and 8.4 million at risk of famine, according to the United Nations.



First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the West Asian Athletics Federation, President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF) and President of the International Combat Week Supreme Organising Committee and Fourth World Amateurs MMA Championship His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa on Thursday received sponsors of the events organised in Bahrain under the patronage of His Majesty the King's Representative of Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa. The ceremony was held at Al Wadi Palace in the presence of Youth and Sports Affairs Minister Hisham Al Jowder and representatives of sponsoring companies, newspapers and official authorities. Shaikh Khalid praised the support received and said it contributed to the success of the events held. Among those honoured were *DT News* Editor-in-Chief Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood, who thanked HH Shaikh Khalid and stressed the newspaper's supportive stances towards Shaikh Khalid's initiatives that support the Bahraini youth and sports movement.

Education Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi yesterday received the second batch of Quran recording of outstanding reciters at the Bahrain Centre for Gifted Students. The recordings were presented to the minister by Academic Talented Group Chief Dr. Budoor Bouhajji, who also revealed plans to release the third edition of the project. The initiative was first launched in 2008 as part of efforts to hone the skills of gifted students at all educational levels.



Gasoline price hike: Court to examine complaint on Feb 11

Complaint filed against govt stating the implementation of fuel price hike violates Law 52 of 2006

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

A case filed against the sudden decision of gasoline price increase will be examined by the Supreme Administrative Court on February 11, *DT News* has learnt.

According to *Al Ayam* daily, the court has set the date to see the complaint lodged by a group of attorneys in Bahrain against the government for implementing the gasoline price hike decision two weeks ago without publishing it in the Official Gazette.

The attorneys announced on January 10, two days after the sudden increase of gasoline prices, that they have complained to the court

rejecting the implementation decision, which they said: "Violates Law 52 of 2006 and is against the Kingdom's constitution".

They insisted that "no authority has the right to individually take a decision without following the proper legal and constitutional channels", adding that "the complaint isn't related to the national economic strategies but is to ensure legal procedures are strictly followed and that no similar actions reappear in the future".

As reported on *DT News* on January 9, the National Oil and Gas Authority raised the prices of gasoline in the country without any prior announcements. The price of Jayyid fuel (91-octane) was increased to 140fils/litre after

The court will see the complaint lodged by attorneys against the government for implementing the gasoline price hike decision

it was sold for 125fils/litre and Mumtaz fuel (95-octane) price was also increased from 160fils/litre to 200fils/litre. This is the second time gasoline prices are increased in the Kingdom within two years after a similar decision was implemented in January 2016.



Works Ministry releases data on requests received

DT News Network
Manama

Communications Director at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Fahad Buallay revealed that the Communications Directorate received 975 requests during the fourth quarter of 2017.

Buallay added that year 2017 witnessed a leap in the performance of the directorate, which resulted in them winning 'Best Practice in Community Participation's Award' of the 2017 eGovernment Excellence Award.

The event was organized by the eGovernment under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. Buallay explained that the Works Affairs is keen to keep pace with the modern technology and social media in order to be able to relate to all parties in the community.

The award reflects the Ministry's success in fields related to information technology and telecommunications, which aims to serve citizens and residents.

Buallay explained that the Ministry pays attention to all requests and applications. The number of requests, which the Ministry responded to within 10 days from the date of receipt, or less, amounted to 331 requests out of the total number of requests.

According to Buallay, the figure reflects the active interaction between the Ministry, citizens, and residents, especially with the up-to-date communication means and channels by which the Communications Directorate of the Ministry stays in touch with the people and attend to their needs.

During the fourth quarter of last year, the Roads Sector received a total of 733 requests and complaints, while the sanitary sector received 158 requests and complaints during the same period.

Buallay explained that November targeted the highest number of requests, with 374 requests, then came October with 304 requests and finally December with 216 requests.

According to Buallay, most requests were directed to the Ministry via Tawasul System (641 requests), then came the phone with 276 requests, personal visits (29 requests and



Fahad Buallay (17 requests), then the radio with five requests, newspapers and Twitter with three requests, and one written request.

The most repeated applications in the roads sector centered around roads paving and maintenance, roads revamp and expansion and construction of new roads, while applications for the sanitary sector included construction and maintenance of sewerage networks, construction of storm water drains and manholes and sewerage networks maintenance. The Ministry is keeping up with the recent and most modern social media technologies in order to stay in touch with all groups of the Bahraini society, through both the Twitter and Instagram account @Bahrain_works.

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IN OMAN, AN ANCIENT MEDIATION RECEIVES A MAKEOVER

Omani Mahmoud bin Yousef Temtemi found himself in a pastoral predicament this autumn -- his neighbour's flock of sheep had overrun his farm and gobbled up his crops, threatening his income.

Rather than make a scene or turn to the police, Temtemi chose to raise his complaint in Omani tradition: through the local "sabla", or council.

Dressed in a robe and embroidered cap, Temtemi took his place on a sunny Friday morning at his neighbourhood sabla in the village of Ghala -- held outdoors on a patch of sidewalk.

"The farm is our livelihood," Temtemi told an AFP correspondent attending the meeting. "I told myself I would lodge a complaint at the sabla, where the owner of the sheep would be present."

In Ghala, just outside the capital Muscat, the sheikh humbly brings breakfast for meetings of the council. The youngest serves coffee.

The fellowship broke the ice for the mediation Temtemi sought. Acknowledging a problem needed to be solved, the men filed over to the meeting hall -- a sparse room with little more than benches built into the walls.

The elders listened to the farmer's story, discussed, then decided on compensation from the sheep owner.

"He will pay 150 riyals (\$390) and keep an eye on his sheep," said a satisfied Temtemi.

Oman's sabla is a unique form of consensus building that many see as central to the Gulf nation's traditions, and which some want to see adapted to the age of the smartphone.

"This council is where the old and

young come to learn. The youth learn manners from their elders," grey-bearded Sayeed bin Khalfan Nabhani said in Ghala.

Nabhani said the history of the sabla goes back "ages", but some 40 years ago -- after Sultan Qaboos took power in Oman -- it was granted a degree of government recognition.

"From the early 1970s, you had the governor and judge sitting at the council, along with witnesses and people of the villages -- plus the person with the problem," said Nabhani.

A solution is often found before the judge is called to get involved, he said.

- Sabla 2.0 -

In far-flung areas, the sabla remains central to life, but even there it is changing, with women for example reserving the hall for their own meetings.

Hilal al-Siyabi, an Omani community activist, believes the sabla can -- and should -- keep up with the times.

In the lush Muscat suburb of Sael, a new kind of sabla is under construction.

A shell of a building stood off the main road, a mountain range in the background.

Siyabi's voice echoed as he pointed to where LCD screens would be installed and computers set up for a future internet cafe.

"We are leveraging on the concept of sabla to do something much better -- something which is beneficial to today's community," he said.

This centre would embrace the whole family, he explained, with a special emphasis on the young.

Siyabi said an exploratory meeting three years earlier was packed with curious residents -- notably women.

"Young women," he said. "They were excited to have such a centre. They said, 'We are not working but we are going to sell our precious gold to contribute to something like this.'"

Siyabi said the government has fully supported the initiative, which seeks to build on tradition in a changing world and keep conflict resolution local.

He sees the sabla evolving from its role as a mediation authority to a town hall-style forum and community centre.

- Royal consensus -

For Muscat-based public policy analyst Ahmed al-Mukhaini, the sabla is a "microcosm" of the Omani state: discreet and tribal.

"You don't hang out your dirty linen," Mukhaini said, adding it was no surprise the government supports the continuation of the sabla.

Under Sultan Qaboos, Oman has not replaced the sabla -- now a "benign form of assembly", the analyst said, but institutionalised it, with modern forms of government continuing to function in the same patriarchal and hierarchical way.

"In Oman they spend a lot of time on consensus building, versus majority-based decisions," Mukhaini said.

Authorities in Muscat continue to recognise tribal chiefs as official representatives, registered with the interior ministry.

Each tribe's "rasheed", or interlocutor, functions as a conduit to the government, often feeling out sentiment on domestic policy changes, such as recent healthcare privatisation proposals.

"I'm not aware of any other country where tribal leaders are on a payroll or where the system of sheikhdom is controlled by the government," Mukhaini said.

Even the modern Shura council, Oman's only elected body, is dominated by tribal heavyweights -- not the technocrats and intellectuals found in the council of state appointed by the sultan.

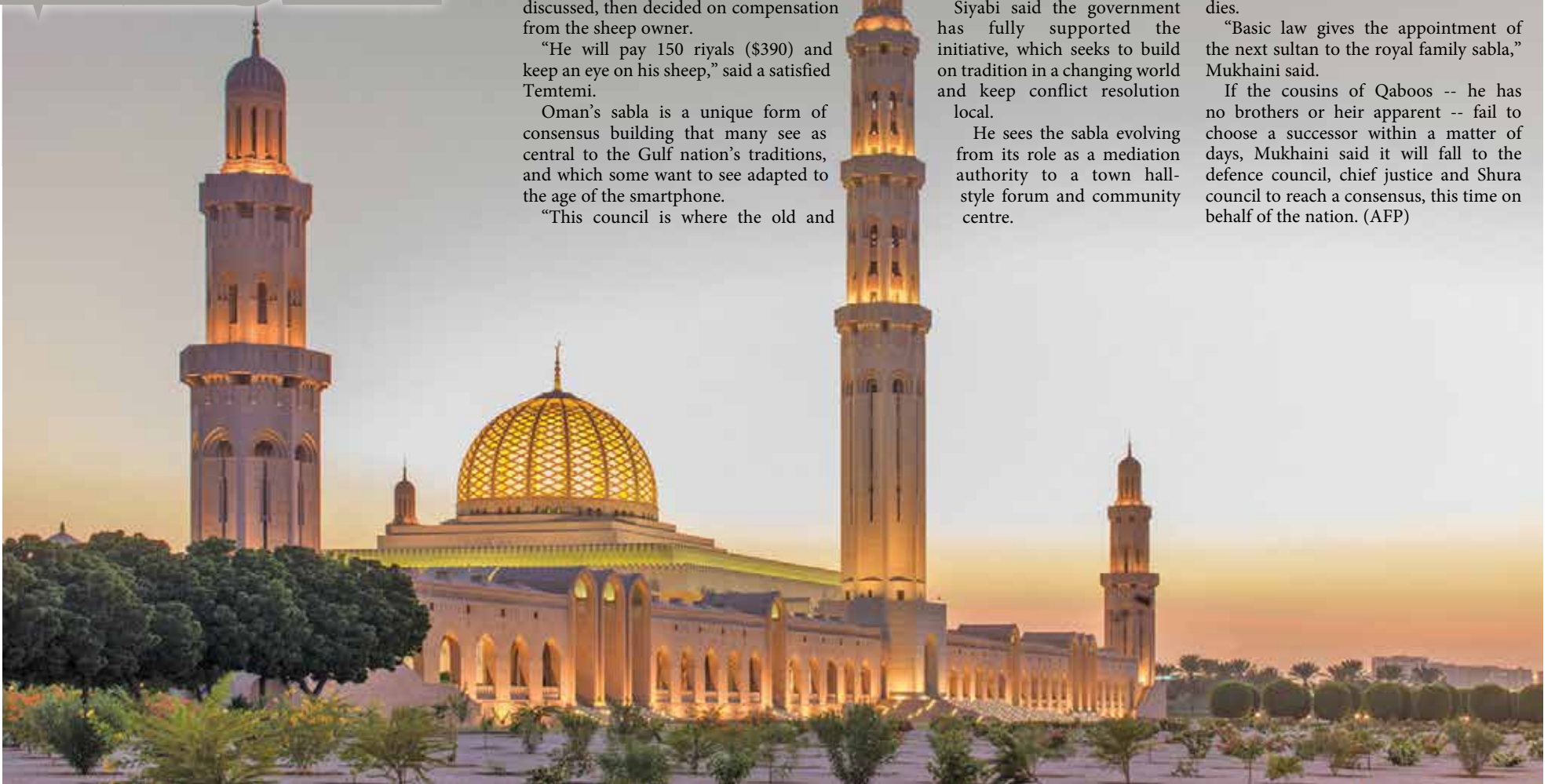
"The system that remains until now keeps tabs on public opinion or resentment," said the analyst.

When Qaboos overthrew his father in a bloodless coup in 1970, the British-educated ruler reached out to the tribes in an early radio address, reassuring tribal leaders and promising to institutionalise their role.

The sabla is so important to Omani culture that it will even decide who will succeed the 77-year-old sultan when he dies.

"Basic law gives the appointment of the next sultan to the royal family sabla," Mukhaini said.

If the cousins of Qaboos -- he has no brothers or heir apparent -- fail to choose a successor within a matter of days, Mukhaini said it will fall to the defence council, chief justice and Shura council to reach a consensus, this time on behalf of the nation. (AFP)



Manama

Shop Bahrain, the largest shopping event in Bahrain, announced the launch of 'VIVA's Winter Wonderland', an outdoor ice skating rink behind Al A'ali Shopping Complex in Seef District.

The fun-filled event will run until the 17th of February and includes a number of activities, such as an outdoor market and live performances.

"We are delighted to be a part of Shop Bahrain for the second year in a row. Our strategic partnership aims to support national initiatives that seek to stimulate the national economy and attract visitors to the Kingdom," said the Chief Commercial Officer for VIVA Bahrain, **Karim**

Tabbouche.

"The 'VIVA Winter Wonderland' event will provide the whole family with the perfect opportunity to enjoy the festive season in a unique experience where they can enjoy skating and shopping in the open air," he added.

Head of Tourism Relations at the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, Reem Tawfiqi said: "We would like to thank VIVA Bahrain for its continuous support of the Bahrain Shopping Festival and its exclusive partnership of the VIVA Winter Wonderland. The month-long event brings together elements of shopping and fun in one area for the entire family to enjoy."

The 'VIVA Winter Wonderland' is open daily to visitors during the weekdays from 4 pm to 10 pm with tickets priced at BD4 for children and BD5 for adults. During the weekends, the event will be held from 4 pm to 12 am, and tickets are BD3 for children and BD4 for adults. VIVA's customers will get an exclusive discount of BD0.500 per price.

Launched on January 11, Shop Bahrain aims to revitalise tourism, retail and restaurant sectors by providing a unique shopping experience filled with fun activities, prizes and delicious food further positioning the Kingdom as a welcoming destination for families in the Gulf region.

Shoppers and visitors can learn more about "Shop Bahrain" through the website: www.shopbahrain.com or through the account @shopbahrain on the social networking channels Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

The Festival organisers have also launched a dedicated WhatsApp channel on +33480480973.

Shop Bahrain launches VIVA Winter Wonderland

It's time to get your ice skates on



The fun-filled event will run until the 17th of February

By Invitation



Reem Benshams

"To have it all" - Work & Family Balance

The question women secretly ask themselves:

"Can we really have it all?"

Can we balance between our fast-paced careers and our hectic family life? Is it even possible?"

The answer: It depends.

What do you define 'balance' as? What is having it all?

Is it to perform adequately or excel in both areas or is it to be able to attain the lifestyle attained by our male counterparts?

What if the missing piece to this complex puzzle is not necessarily to do exactly what men themselves do, but rather understand how their mechanism works? If you are like the countless women today who say, "we want to live like men", where they 'supposedly' can balance perfectly between their careers and family, and can even get a good night sleep at the end of the day, then let us look at this from a whole other perspective.

Many of the stereotypical households - where the man comes back late and exhausted from a successful day at work, spends time with his family over dinner then rests until the next day - indicates that men have inherently used a technique which has given them comfort in their lifestyle. They may spend time with their loved ones but that quality time is not what mothers would define as excelling in the family life, but rather the adequate performance of the bare minimum. In this scenario, men have prioritized their efforts, mostly investing themselves qualitatively in work and quantitatively with their family.

Now I'm not criticizing this technique, on the contrary, I applaud men for making peace with their priorities. But rather it is like they say, balancing work, sleep & a social life equally is near impossible. Therefore whatever priority

we set, whether it is sleep and work or a social life and sleep, the lowest on the priority list shall have the least performance by default. Thus you can choose which stages of your life you would prefer to perform qualitatively in one area and quantitatively in another, and then you could shift it where you deem it fit. It must be noted that prioritizing does not mean that you are sacrificing your whole career life to nurture your family, but rather that you have control of when you are to perform adequately and in which areas.

To perform less than your optimum doesn't necessarily mean that the performance is less than average, yet that is what we are all afraid of. So the question we ask ourselves, is prioritizing -hence having a relative balance in performance - a good enough solution especially for those who seek to touch the stars?

My answer again is, it depends.

What is reaching the stars to you? Is it to be happy and comfortable? Or is it -like the millennial generation likes to put it- making a greater change?

This is why it all depends. You are the main factor in this equation, what do you want?

(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.)

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Duterte STOPS sending workers to Kuwait



Manila

The Philippines suspended sending workers to Kuwait yesterday, a day after President Rodrigo Duterte said abuse by employers there had driven several domestic helpers to suicide.

Kuwait expressed surprise at the move and said it was in touch with Manila to try to resolve the issue.

Philippine Labour Secretary Silvestre Belo said no more Overseas Filipino Workers would be sent to Kuwait “pending investigation of the

causes of deaths of about six or seven of our OFWs. He did not refer to specific cases or say when the deaths took place.

There are more than 250,000 Filipinos in Kuwait, the Philippine foreign ministry estimates, most working as domestic helpers. There are also large numbers in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Duterte, who is hugely popular among the Filipino diaspora, said on Thursday the Philippines had “lost

Philippine Labour Secretary Silvestre Belo said no more Filipino Workers would be sent to Kuwait “pending investigation of the causes of deaths of about 6 or 7 of our OFWs.

four women” in Kuwait, referring to domestic helpers he said had been abused and committed suicide. He said

he was aware of many cases of sexual abuse against Filipino women and wanted to raise it with Kuwait and “state the

truth and just tell them that it’s not acceptable anymore”.

Kuwait’s Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled al-Jarallah expressed “surprise and sorrow” over Duterte’s remarks, saying that legal proceedings had been taken in the cases of the four domestic workers mentioned by the president.

“We have begun immediate contacts with Filipino authorities to examine the extent of this statement and to try to refute the erroneous information that came in it,”

state news agency KUNA quoted Jarallah as saying.

Jarallah said there were more than 170,000 Filipino workers in Kuwait, all protected by laws that shield them from abuse.

More than 2.3 million Filipinos are documented as working abroad. Collectively they remit more than \$2 billion of their income back to the Philippines every month, money that fuels robust consumer spending in one of the world’s fastest-growing economies. (Reuters)

India sends tax notices to cryptocurrency investors

New Delhi

India has sent tax notices to tens of thousands of people dealing in cryptocurrency after a nationwide survey showed more than \$3.5 billion worth of transactions have been conducted over a 17-month period, the income tax department said.

Tech-savvy young investors, real estate players and jewellers are among those invested in bitcoin and other virtual currencies, tax officials told Reuters after gathering data from nine exchanges in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Pune.

Governments around the world are grappling with how to regulate

cryptocurrency trading, and policymakers are expected to discuss the matter at a G20 summit in Argentina in March.

The Indian government has issued repeated warnings against digital currency investments, saying these were like “Ponzi schemes” that offer unusually high returns to early investors.

But it has not so far imposed curbs on an industry estimated to be adding 200,000 users in India every month.

B.R. Balakrishnan, a director general of investigations at the income tax

department in the southern state of Karnataka, said notices were sent following the survey to assess the penetration and patterns of virtual currency trade. “We cannot turn a blind eye. It would have been disastrous to wait until the final verdict was out on its legality,” he told Reuters.

The tax department has asked people dealing in bitcoin and other virtual currencies such as ethereum and ripple to pay tax on capital gains. They have also asked for details about their total holdings and the source of funds in the tax notice seen by Reuters.

India has issued repeated warnings against digital currency investments

found that investors were not reflecting it on their tax returns and in many cases, the investment was not accounted for,” Balakrishnan said.

An Indian finance ministry official said a committee was looking into the possibility of imposing restrictions on virtual currencies and that eventually parliament would have to legislate a regulatory regime.

“We

Officials at Zebpay, India’s leading bitcoin exchange, said the industry was adding near 200,000 users every month with an estimated trade volume of about 20 billion Indian rupees (\$315 million).

“Many of our customers are treating digital currency like gold,” said Zebpay co-founder Saurabh Agarwal.

Aman Kalra, marketing head of Coinsecure, a bitcoin exchange in New Delhi, said more than 150 bitcoins were changing hands every week through its platform. The company has 100,000 registered users and is now launching a platform to sell ethereum and other digital currencies.

“I don’t think anyone in the government should label our business as a ‘Ponzi scheme’, we are not doing anything illegal,” said Kalra.

Tax inspectors said they sought help from experts in

blockchain, the technology that underpins bitcoin, to conduct the survey.

In some cases, tax officials themselves participated in the trade to identify loopholes after they found investors had poured in billions of dollars through unregulated exchanges.

The biggest worry for New Delhi, the finance ministry official said, was how to protect investors trading on offshore exchanges.

Already hundreds have gone to the police and courts with complaints of transactions in virtual currencies that turned out to be fraudulent, said Pavan Duggal, a Supreme Court lawyer specialising in cybercrimes. “Considering cryptocurrencies are here to stay, the govt must consider granting limited legality while ensuring that these are not used for crypto crimes,” he said. (Reuters)



Storm damage to cost Germany 500m euros

Berlin

German insurers estimated yesterday that ferocious gales that battered Germany caused 500 million euros (\$614 million) in damages, as the number of dead across the country rose to eight. The Netherlands bore the initial brunt of Thursday's severe storms which slammed in with winds of up to 140 kilometres an hour off the North Sea before barrelling across northern Europe



Al Assaf to lead Saudi Davos delegation

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's delegation to the World Economic Forum in Davos next week will be led by state minister Ibrahim al-Assaf, who was released from detention related to an anti-corruption purge. Assaf, who was also a former finance minister and a board member of Saudi Aramco, was among people detained by a new anti-corruption body.



Germany is a key player and it must demonstrate leadership in Europe and the world,"

Christine Lagarde,

IMF Managing director



Blood test detects common cancers

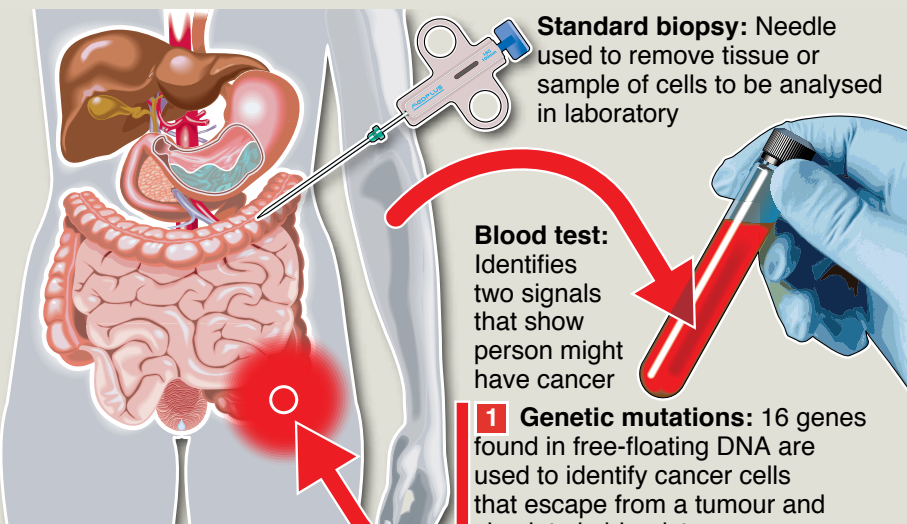
A blood test can detect the presence of eight common cancer types, long before symptoms of the disease arise. CancerSEEK detects tiny amounts of DNA and proteins released into the bloodstream from tumours.

The work, reported in the journal Science, could one day lead to a tool for routinely screening people and catching tumours when chances are best for a cure.

Researchers, led by Nickolas Papadopoulos, Bert Vogelstein, and others at Johns Hopkins University in

Baltimore, Maryland, sequenced parts of just 16 genes often mutated in different types of cancer. They then added eight known protein biomarkers characteristic of specific kinds of cancer.

In blood samples from 1,005 patients with eight types of tumours that had evidently not yet metastasised, the test detected between 33% and 98% of cases, depending on the tumour type. The sensitivity was 69% or higher for ovarian, liver, stomach, pancreatic, and oesophageal cancers -- all types that are difficult to detect early.



Standard biopsy: Needle used to remove tissue or sample of cells to be analysed in laboratory

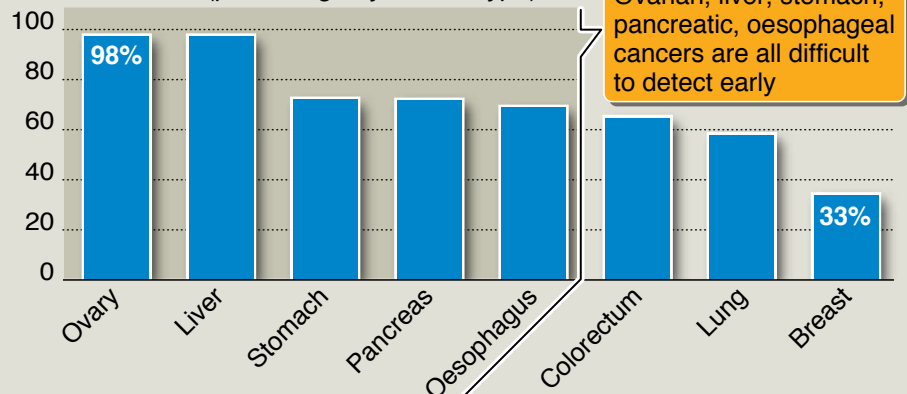
Blood test: Identifies two signals that show person might have cancer

1 Genetic mutations: 16 genes found in free-floating DNA are used to identify cancer cells that escape from a tumour and circulate in bloodstream

2 Proteins: High levels of eight proteins in blood samples also indicate that a person may have cancer

3 Results: In blood samples from 1,005 patients with eight types of tumours, test detected between 33% and 98% of cases

Cases detected (percentage by tumour type)



Sources: Nickolas Papadopoulos et al., Science, Medscape

© GRAPHIC NEWS

Sunken tanker may be leaking heavy oil

Flames and smoke from the Iranian oil tanker Sanchi is seen in the East China Sea

Beijing

A sunken Iranian oil tanker may be leaking heavy bunker fuel as well as light oil off the east coast of China and the best remedy was to recover the vessel, officials said yesterday.

It was unclear how much bunker fuel was left aboard the tanker when it sank on Sunday after being ablaze for days but experts estimated it may have been carrying about 1,000 tonnes at the time of collision.

"There have been multiple appearances of oil slicks of different sizes and types at the sinking spot and nearby... the slicks exceeded 200 sq kilometers (77 sq miles) on Thursday," Huo Chuanlin, of the State Oceanic Administration's Ecological

Protection Department, told reporters.

It was not immediately clear where the oil could wash up or the extent of the damage it could cause.

The large tanker Sanchi (IMO:9356608) sank in the world's worst oil ship disaster in decades. The crew of 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis are all believed to have been killed.

The tanker had been adrift and ablaze after crashing into the freighter CF Crystal (IMO:9497050) on Jan. 6. Strong winds pushed it away from the Chinese coast, where the collision happened, and into Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Huo said no oil spills had been detected near the coast,

though it was hard to predict the impact on ocean life.

The SOA on Thursday reported three slicks covering a combined area of just 20.7 square km.

Bunker fuel is the heavy oil used in ships' engines and is difficult to remove from the sea once spilled, unlike condensate fuel - an extremely light form of oil - that was being shipped at the time of the collision.

Officials on Friday said the ship was carrying 111,300 tonnes of condensate before the accident. Most of the fuel evaporated after the ship caught fire.

They said recovering the vessel was risky and challenging, as the remaining condensate could catch fire again. (Reuters)

France says no to idea of giant Channel bridge



Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson

London/Paris

France yesterday politely rejected Boris Johnson's idea of building a giant bridge across the English Channel after Brexit, saying that, while far-fetched ideas were worth considering,

there were plenty of major European projects to finish first.

Foreign Secretary Johnson, who led the campaign to leave the EU in the 2016 referendum, broached the idea of

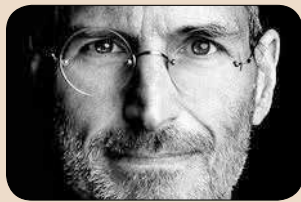
building a 22-mile Channel Bridge during a visit to Britain by French President Emmanuel Macron, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported.

Britain's most prominent Brexiteer even explained

some of his ideas on Channel crossings to Macron, who the newspaper reported gave a short but positive reply.

France's finance minister, though, gave the idea short shrift. (Reuters)

Did You Know?



Steve Job's secretary told him that she was late for work because her car wouldn't start. That very afternoon, Jobs came back and threw her a set of keys to a brand new Jaguar saying: "Here, don't be late anymore."



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

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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

Oil prices fall as US output rise outweighs stock falls

A worker walks past a pump jack on an oil field owned by Bashneft in Bashkortostan, Russia

London
Oil prices slid yesterday, putting them on course for the biggest weekly falls since October, as a bounce-back in U.S. production outweighed ongoing declines in crude inventories. Brent crude futures LCOc1 were at \$68.54 a barrel at 1304 GMT, down 77 cents from their last close. On Monday, they hit their highest since December 2014 at \$70.37. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures CLc1 were at \$63.26 a barrel, down 69 cents from their last settlement. WTI marked a December-2014 peak of \$64.89 a barrel on Tuesday. The International Energy Agency (IEA), in its monthly

report, said that global oil stocks have tightened substantially, aided by OPEC cuts, demand growth and Venezuelan production hitting near 30-year lows. But it warned that rapidly increasing production in the United States could threaten market balancing. "Explosive growth in the U.S. and substantial gains in Canada and Brazil will far outweigh potentially steep declines in Venezuela and Mexico," the IEA said of 2018 production. U.S. crude oil production stood at 9.75 million barrels per day (bpd) on Jan. 12, data from the Energy Information Administration showed. The IEA said it expects this to

soon exceed 10 million bpd, overtaking OPEC behemoth Saudi Arabia and rivaling Russia. Analysts also pointed to an expected demand slowdown at the end of winter in the northern hemisphere and excessive long positions in financial oil markets as a likely brake on any upward momentum in prices. ANZ bank said "an upcoming soft patch in demand and extreme investor positioning does open up the possibility of some short-term weakness". Overall, however, oil prices remain well supported, and most analysts do not expect steep declines. The main price driver has

been a production cut by a group of major oil producers around the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Russia, who started to withhold output in January last year. The supply cuts by OPEC and its allies, which are scheduled to last throughout 2018, were aimed at tightening the market to prop up prices. In the United States, crude inventories fell 6.9 million barrels in the week to Jan. 12, to 412.65 million barrels. That's their lowest seasonal level in three years and below the five-year average marker around 420 million barrels. (Reuters)

Saudi Arabia's refined oil exports offset crude curbs

London
The share of Saudi Arabia's exports of refined oil products steadily rose throughout 2017, offsetting a drop in overseas crude oil sales as the kingdom complied with a global supply pact, the International Energy Agency said on Friday. Saudi exported 6.9 million barrels per day of crude oil in October, down around 760,000 bpd from a year earlier, the world's energy watchdog said in its monthly report, citing data from the Joint Organization Data Initiative (JODI). But at the same time, exports of refined products such as diesel, gasoline and aviation



A view shows Saudi Aramco's Wasit Gas Plant (Reuters)

fuel rose 155,000 bpd from a year earlier, bringing total "liquid" exports to 8.5 million

bpd in October. Although the total volume is lower year-on-year, the share

of refined products accounted for 19 percent of total exports in October, up from around 13 percent a year earlier. Saudi Arabia has invested in a number of huge refineries in recent years in order to meet growing domestic demand and sell product overseas as it takes advantage of its large crude resources. Those included the 400,000 barrel per day SATORP plant in Jubail, a joint venture with France's Total. OPEC agreed to lower production in 2017 and has agreed to maintain output cuts for the whole of 2018 to help bring oil stocks in OECD industrialised countries down to their 5-year average.

Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced every day.
-Jim Rohn



CAMPUS

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Saturday, January 20, 2018

11

St Christopher's honours outstanding students

More than 250 students, families, honoured guests and staff attended the highly celebrated St Christopher's Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards Evening last week.

This ceremony is held annually to recognise the School's continuing outstanding examination success. St Christopher's is proud to offer a wide range of subject choices, led by a specialist tutorial system and with programmes tailored to support all students to achieve their full academic potential.

The School authorities said they were delighted to see high numbers of students achieve notable academic excellence year on year. 2016/17 recognised 88 GCSE students for their academic excellence,



Students who received the awards during a photocall

while 10 IB and 23 A level GCE students achieved awards, and 21 students were recognised with Edexcel Special Awards for their outstanding performances.

Following the National Anthem of the Kingdom of Bahrain and addresses from Ed Goodwin OBE (Principal of

St Christopher's School), and Amanda McQuaid (Regional Development Director, Pearson Education), student ensemble, Jawhara, performed Iza Ngomso by Christopher Tin, and Trombonist and student, Marco Maggi, played Konzertino by Ferdinand David.

The GCSE Certificates were presented by Nick Wilson (Head of Senior School), assisted by Adrian Walker (Assistant Head of Senior School) and Sarah Tierney (Head of Year). The A-level and IB Diploma Certificates were presented by Nick Wilson, assisted by Hilary Rowark

(Assistant Head of Senior School) and Andrew Beck (Head of Year). The Edexcel Special Awards were presented by Amanda McQuaid (Pearson Education).

The Alumni addresses were made by Ishaan Mittal, currently studying Chemical Engineering at the University

of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA and by Abdullah Elqaq, who is studying Electrical Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA. Other St Christopher's students have gone on to study for degree courses in some of the most prestigious universities around the world.

Indian School marks Punjabi Divas

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Punjabi Language Department celebrated Punjabi Divas 2018 on Monday.

The programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest community leader Kamaljit Chauhan and K.E Kanoo Vice President K.N Singh in the presence of ISB EC Member Mohammad Khursheed Alam, Principal VR Palaniswamy, vice-principals and staff.

In his speech, Kamaljit Chauhan highlighted the contribution of Punjab and Punjabi Language in different fields of India. He appreciated the efforts rendered by the students and teachers to make Punjabi Day programme a success.

The Guest of Honour K.N. Singh wished all the students and the audience the very best of the Punjabi

Day. EC Member Khursheed Alam wished all the students and explained the literary contribution of Punjabi Language.

The programme started with the National Anthem of Bahrain and India and school prayer followed by the recitation from Qur'an and Guru Granth Sahib. Prayer of Shabad was performed by the students followed by the lighting of Lamp. Punjabi Teacher Rewa Rani welcomed the gathering.

Trophies and certificates were awarded to all winners of different competitions. This was the grand finale of the week-long celebrations when many competitions were organised for the Punjabi Third Language students. The main competitions were in Hand Writing, picture composition and poem recitation.

BIS celebrates annual day



Highlights of the event

"Rendition" was the theme for the 3rd Annual Day Celebration of Bahrain Indian School -BIS which was celebrated on Thursday at Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Hall, Segaya. The evenings saw a mesmerizing blend of cultural programmes that were impeccably orchestrated to portray the unmatched calibre of the students of BIS.

Anand Prakash, Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain was the Chief Guest and Jaffar Al Shaikh, Asst. Under Secretary for Educational and Curriculum Affairs, Ministry of Education, Guest of Honour, graced the occasion. The guests were welcomed at BIS by Saji Jacob and Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma.

The guests addressed the audience



and enlightened them with their words of wisdom.

The mesmerizing evening saw magnificent confluence of melodious orchestra, frolicsome dances, mesmerizing dance performances highlighting Indian & International culture, musical drama on 'Snow white and seven dwarfs' to the classic English skit on Macbeth.

The gala event also highlighted the achievements of the School in terms of academics and infrastructure through Annual Report followed by the release of the School Magazine.

The entire show was greatly appreciated by all the guests for the exuberant display of talent and commitment by the students & teachers of the school.



Highlights of the event



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday inspected a number of military units and was briefed about ongoing activities. The BDF Commander inspected and praised the combat and administrative readiness of the units.



Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Al Mulla... Ahmed Yussef Al-Ruwaie in the presence of Chairman... mittee, MP Abdulla bin Huwail, and MP Abdulrahman... wished him all success in performing his diplomatic d...



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza visited Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world, on the sidelines of his participation at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2018. The minister was received by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Saeed bin Mohammed Al-Tayer, UAE Energy Ministry Undersecretary Dr. Matar Hamed Al-Nayadi and other senior officials.



Pakistan's Ambassador Javed Malik was the Chief Guest at a Special Environmental Seminar organised by Pakistan Club Bahrain. Also present were Chairman Pakistan Club Rehan Ahmed, President Bahrain Society of Engineers Masoud Ebrahim A-Hermi, Sajid Sheikh, Afzal Bhatti, Tariq, Qamar Ul Hasan, and other guests



The Security Committee at the Northern Governorate, ch... grammes and social projects to contain the security situa... development of a work mechanism for the logistical prepar...



received newly-appointed Bahraini Ambassador to Jordan, Minister of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, Mr. Bu Majeed. The speaker congratulated the ambassador and his duties.



Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Al Mulla received a number of diplomats including Egyptian Ambassador to Bahrain Suha Ibrahim Refa'at, Malaysian Ambassador Agus Salim Haji Yusuf and Japan's outgoing Ambassador Kiyoshi Asako. The Speaker stressed the Parliament's support for promoting economic and investment relations with their respective countries.



Sports Minister Hisham bin Mohammed Al Jowder and Deputy Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club High Committee HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa attended the twelfth race of the season, 2017-2018. Royal family members, representatives of sponsors and the equestrian and horse-racing fans were present.



chaired by Governor Ali bin Al-Shaikh, discussed necessary production during its 11th meeting. The meeting also discussed the arrangements for the mid-February phase.



Northern Governor Ali bin Al-Shaikh received the citizens whose house was damaged as a result of the terror attack on an oil pipeline in Buri. The Governor got assured about the living conditions of the citizen's family, and discussed with him the arrangements and procedures of the compensation.

CELEBS

@Zendaya
 “First of all”, “bottom line” and “end of story” are all phrases you should avoid when arguing with me cause that means war.



Rachel Weisz to star in sci-fi film ‘Cloud One’



Actor Rachel Weisz is set to play the lead in independent sci-fi project ‘Cloud One’.
 Reportedly, Goran Dukic, who helmed ‘Wristcutters: A Love Story’, is directing the film from a script he penned. The film is based on a short story by Etgar Keret. The movie is expected to start filming soon. Weisz has two films set to release in 2018: the Lionsgate drama “The Mercy,” which also stars Colin Firth, and “The Favourite,” which features Emma Stone and Joe Alwyn. (PTI)

Russell Brand wants help in ‘perfect present’ for royal couple

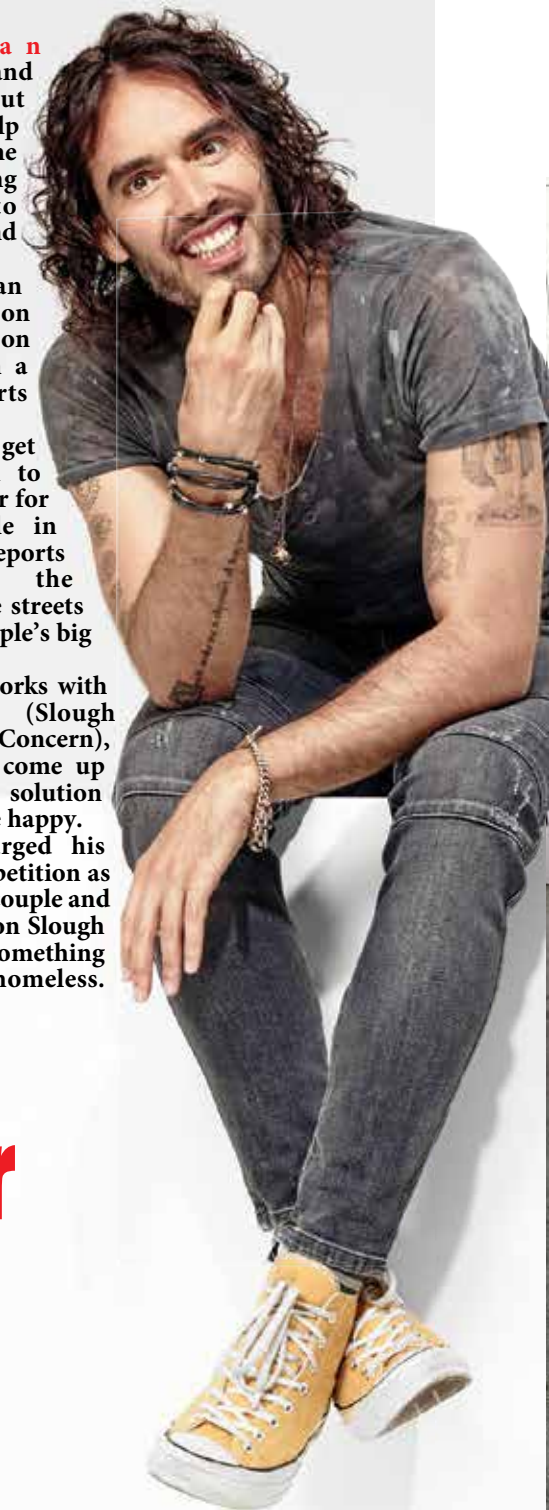
London

Comedian Russell Brand has reached out to people to help him in giving the “perfect wedding present” to Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.
 The comedian posted a video on YouTube calling on his fans to sign a petition, reports mirror.co.uk.

His plan is to get Slough Council to buy a new shelter for homeless people in the area, after reports they wanted the homeless off the streets for the royal couple’s big day.

Brand, who works with charity SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern), reckons he has come up with the perfect solution to keep everyone happy.

Brand has urged his fans to sign the petition as a present to the couple and to put pressure on Slough Council to do something to help the homeless. (IANS)



Katy Perry

habitually late for ‘American Idol’

Los Angeles

Singer Katy Perry continuously “turns up late” for judging the singing-based competition show “American Idol”.

Production sources told tmz.com that she is almost always late to the audition rounds, showing up 10-25 minutes after call time.

While it has been frustrating for the show’s producers, the other judges -- Luke Bryan and Lionel Richie -- haven’t been all that upset and their chemistry is good, said the sources. (IANS)



STARRY Birthday Evan Peters

January 20, 1987

Actor best known for playing different roles on the season-by-season scenario-shifting FX series *American Horror Story*. He also plays the character Quicksilver in *X-Men: Days of Future Past*.

MIDDLE EAST MOVIE BUZZ

Mustang



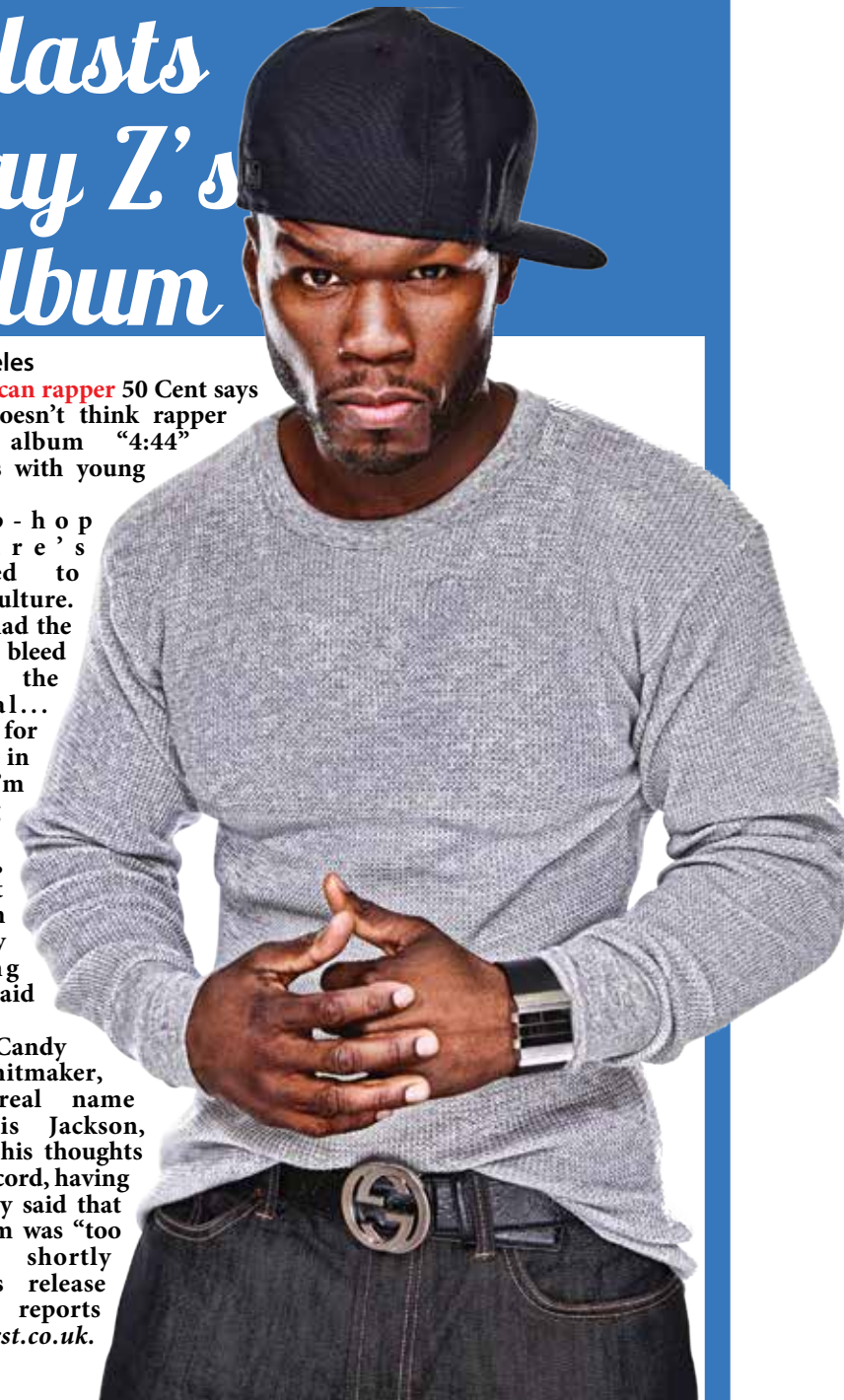
Full of life even as it depicts lives in lockdown, “Mustang” is a stunning debut feature by Deniz Gamze Ergüven about five sisters in rural Turkey. Confined to their grandmother’s house, the girls bridle against losing their freedoms in a story grounded in both laughter and tears, and above all in the resilient strength of these girls against soul-deadening strictures.

The supposed sin of Lale, the narrator, and her four sisters — ages extending into the teenage years — was to romp with boys at the beach on the last day of school. Their real offense is being girls with uncontrollable independent spirits in a patriarchal culture. The anxious grandmother and uncle who look after the sisters forbid them to leave the house, and turn the place into a “wife

factory.” Lale, Nur, Ece, Selma and Sonay keep on pushing, sneaking away to see a soccer game, and boys, and the walls keep on closing in. Virginity tests are administered by a doctor; bars are put on the windows; prospective husbands are entertained over tea.

Ergüven, who was born in Turkey, brings deft timing and an unapologetic appreciation of beauty to the story, qualities missing from other, schematic portrayals of clashes with traditional mores, Turkish or otherwise. Feather-light camerawork by David Chizallet and Ersin Gok is matched by a nimble screenplay written by Ergüven with Alice Winocour. The ensemble of young actresses is a constantly restless and real presence, the perspective filtered mostly through the cheeky Lale. *(nytimes)*

50 Cent blasts Jay Z’s album



Los Angeles

American rapper 50 Cent says he doesn’t think rapper Jay-Z’s album “4:44” resonates with young people.

“Hip-hop culture’s connected to youth culture. He just had the maturity bleed off into the material... It’s cool for me, like, in my car, I’m listening to it. But the kids, I don’t see them actually listening to it,” said 50 Cent.

The “Candy Shop” hitmaker, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, clarified his thoughts on the record, having previously said that the album was “too smart” shortly after its release in 2017, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. *(IANS)*

CARDI B INKS FIRST MOVIE DEAL



Los Angeles

Rapper Cardi B has signed her first movie deal. She will begin filming in March, reports *tmz.com*.

There is no information about the film’s title or other details.

A source said that because of the filming, Cardi had to turn down other gigs in March that would have made her between \$100,000 to \$200,000. *(IANS)*


Now & Then



Julia Fiona Roberts

Julia Fiona Roberts is an American actress and producer. She became a Hollywood star after headlining the romantic comedy *Pretty Woman* (1990), which grossed \$464 million worldwide. She has won three Golden Globe Awards (out of eight nominations) and has been nominated for four Academy Awards for her film acting, winning the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in *Erin Brockovich* (2000).

Public Notice & Tender



The Indian School
Kingdom of Bahrain
P O Box 558

SEALED QUOTATIONS ARE INVITED

Designing, Proofing, Printing and supply of School Diary.

Tender document is available in The Indian School website www.indianschool.bh

Sealed tender addressed to Hon. Secretary should be deposited in the tender box kept in EC room, Admin block, Isa Town Campus on or before 28th January 2018, 10 am.

For further details please contact 17684166

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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.

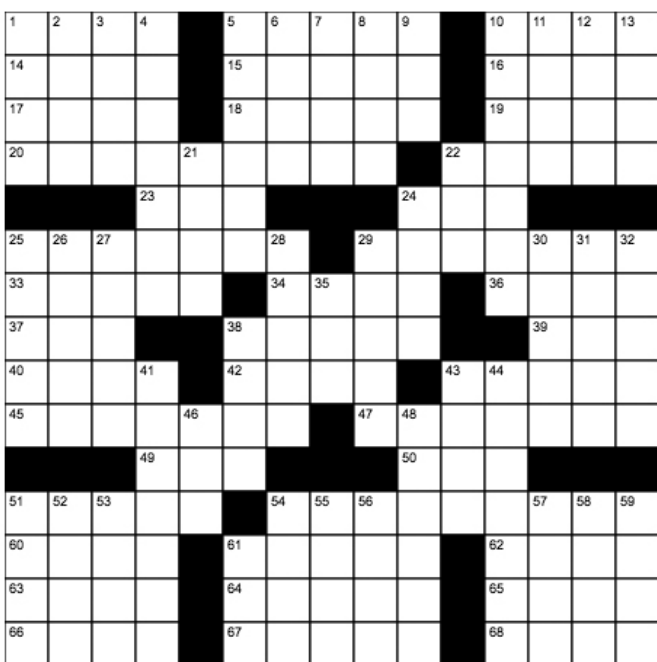
THE LAND OF DILMUN, WHERE THE SUN RISES
Date: 5 December 2017 - 11 March 2018
Venue: The Hermitage State Museum
The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities showcases significant Dilmun artifacts from the permanent collection of the Bahrain National Museum at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, 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.

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Scorch; 5- Pie nut; 10- H.S. junior's exam; 14- Woe ____; 15- Caribbean island; 16- Charisma, atmosphere; 17- Precisely; 18- Illuminated; 19- Lustful look; 20- Bistro; 22- Fountain treats; 23- Charged atom; 24- "The Matrix" hero; 25- Massacre; 29- Asses; 33- Minimum; 34- Caustic solutions; 36- Med. school subj.; 37- ABA member; 38- Abrasive mineral; 39- Biblical high priest; 40- Dagger; 42- First-class; 43- Broadcaster; 45- Sorrow; 47- Historic county in E Scotland; 49- ____ Dawn Chong; 50- Bolted down; 51- Start of a Shakespeare title; 54- Magic; 60- Seasonal song; 61- One in a cab, say; 62- Pub offerings; 63- Dixie pronoun; 64- Excuse; 65- Capone's nemesis; 66- Snakes; 67- Pertaining to the small intestine; 68- Prom partner;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



Down

1- Web locale; 2- Those, to Juan; 3- Amo, amas, ____; 4- Keeps; 5- Picket; 6- ____ Brockovich; 7- Adorable; 8- Adjoin; 9- Doze; 10- Clumsy person; 11- Took action against; 12- District; 13- Salts; 21- Castle defense; 22- DC bigwig; 24- Meddlesome; 25- Group of students; 26- State Farm rival; 27- Like most movies; 28- St. ____ fire; 29- Jeter of the Yankees; 30- Diciembre follower; 31- Some locks; 32- Agitates; 35- Monetary unit of Japan; 38- Naturalness; 41- Registers; 43- Opposed; 44- Erin; 46- ____ de Cologne; 48- Medical; 51- Novelist Seton; 52- In order (to); 53- Quick sharp bark; 54- Window ledge; 55- Garfield's pal; 56- Singer McEntire; 57- Zeno of ____; 58- Adventurous exploit; 59- "____ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 61- Thor Heyerdahl craft;

BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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 have been worrying about something you did recently that you aren't very proud of. Today you'll discover that all that worrying was for nothing. The reality you've been trying to run away from lately will be right before your eyes and you'll see that it isn't so bad after all.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Not all friendships are the same. You may have learned that the hard way, but that's OK. Today you could feel like putting your friendships in some kind of order and getting a bit of perspective on things. It's time to figure which of your friends are there when you need them, which of them show how much they care about you, and which ones do not.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Not only do you want to live life to the fullest every second, you also feel like you need to leave your special mark on the world you live in. You just have to be creative in life. You can't help it. That great project you've been thinking about for a while is just beginning to take shape. Today you may find some of the materials you needed to really get things going!

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Your mind is in a period of great activity, and your curiosity about the world around you is practically insatiable. You're interested in anything and everything. You want to be able to understand everything from the simplest to the most complicated. Nothing could get in the way of your thirst for knowledge.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



It's very difficult for you to reconcile your desire for creativity and originality in your life to the constraints that society puts on you to be an efficient, productive person. This is one of the great dilemmas facing a lot of people these days. It's as if you have to hide your real personality in order to live up to what other people expect of you.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



You seem to have a lot of resentment toward someone who may have hurt you. Don't keep these feelings inside or they'll eat away at you. Take advantage of your day today to put all your cards on the table and forget about revenge, because it could just turn against you. Instead, why don't you try to reach out to that person and explain your feelings to him or her?

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Today you may feel like hiding yourself away in your ivory tower and watching the performance that is going on before your eyes. And why not, if this allows you to get the perspective you need on things? Use this period to give things their real value and to see where certain people fit into your world. You're a very lucky person to be able to find this kind of balance in your life.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Have you been wanting to talk to your partner about something important? Well, it's up to you to make the first move. In fact, that's just what your partner is waiting for you to do. Take advantage of your day today to tell your partner exactly what you expect from him or her and to share some of your worries. You're someone who is lucky enough to know what you want.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



You enjoy your freedom. You're a very independent person and you hate it when anything gets in your way. That's all right, but you may want to take a look at your financial situation even if that's not really your thing. You tend to resent having to deal with these lowly material questions, but if you don't, you could severely restrict your freedom to live life to its fullest. Be reasonable about things.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today is a good day to take chances. You may be quite successful if you're ready to defend the things you really care about. Pretend that you're the director of a film and that you've just met a potential producer for your movie. You just happen to have your script in hand. Are you ready to move up in the world? Are you ready for success?

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



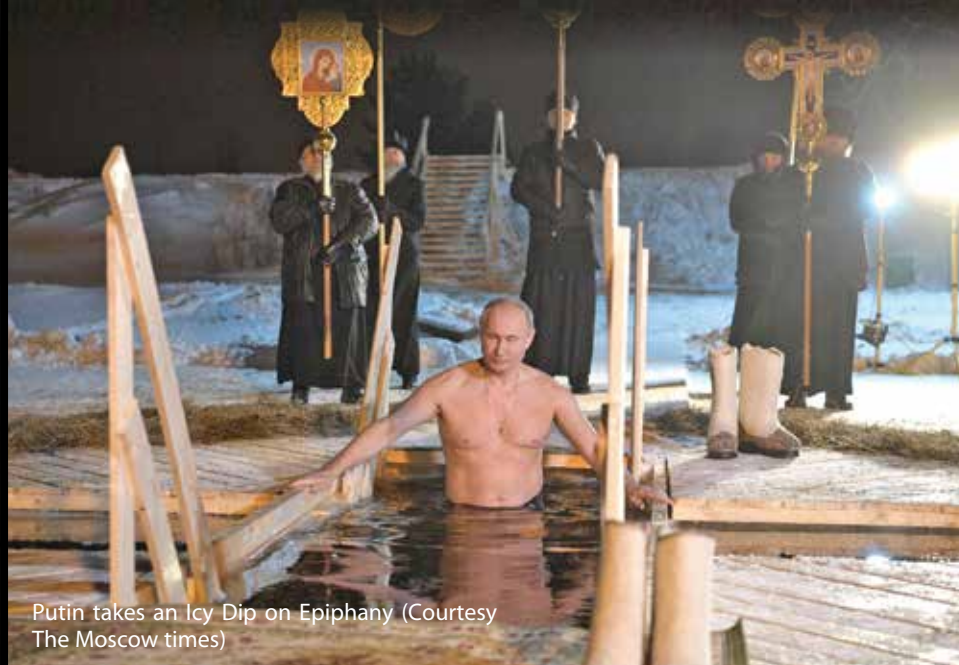
You have a kind of creativity that knows no bounds today, and a kind of originality that knows no limits. How are you going to go about expressing this rich creativity that abounds inside of you? If your environment doesn't allow you to express this creativity, change environments and try to make a new reality for yourself.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



This is an ideal day to take a look at your financial situation, so get out your bank statements or dividend reports. Try and pretend that you're with your banker and describing your situation as objectively as possible, without overestimating what you bring in or underestimating what you spend. You won't regret this process.

Putin takes icy plunge



Putin takes an Icy Dip on Epiphany (Courtesy The Moscow times)

Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin along with millions of Orthodox believers braved freezing temperatures to take a barechested plunge into icy water in a traditional ritual marking the baptism of Jesus.

Surrounded by Orthodox priests and glittering religious icons, and with the temperature hovering around minus 5 degrees Celsius (23 Fahrenheit), Putin lowered himself into waters of Lake Seliger some 350 kilometres (220 miles) northwest of Moscow.

Many other Russians followed suit, submerging themselves in lakes and rivers in a widely-observed ritual

normally taking place on January 18 and 19 that last year saw two million people take the plunge.

The president marched over the ice covering the lake wrapped in a cream sheepskin coat and wearing traditional knee-high felt boots as priests chanted and waved an incense lamp, in footage shown on state television.

Asked by a journalist: "Is it cold?" Putin braved it out: "No, it's great."

Then wearing just swimming trunks, he lowered himself into a hole cut in the ice, puffing slightly and crossing himself, a crucifix hanging around his neck. He then held his nose and immersed himself fully.

It was the first time the 65-year-old, who regularly poses barechested on wilderness expeditions, publicly took part in the ritual.

However, his spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Putin "has been plunging into an ice hole for a number of years now," quoted by TASS state news agency.

Putin's latest macho exploit comes as he bids for a fourth Kremlin term in March polls.

Amid a chill in relations with Washington, it was an opportunity for the strongman to show off his fitness as US counterpart Donald Trump faces questions over his waistline. (AFP)

Ex-Catalan leader says can govern region from Belgium

Barcelona

Catalonia's former leader Carles Puigdemont, who was sacked by Madrid over his attempt to break from Spain, said Friday he can govern the region from Belgium as he eyes a comeback after scoring big in elections.

"There are only two options: in prison I would not be able to address people, write, meet people," Puigdemont, who is in

self-imposed exile in Belgium and risks arrest on charges of rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds if he returns to Spain, told Catalunya Radio.

"The only way is to continue doing it freely and safely."

"Nowadays big business and academic research projects are essentially managed using new technology," he added.

"These aren't the kind of normal conditions we would

have liked, but it's sadly much harder to do it (govern Catalonia) from the Spanish state, where we would be in prison."

Puigdemont, who was sacked along with his cabinet on October 27 after the regional parliament declared independence, is the only candidate of Catalonia's separatist bloc to lead the region.

#PollToday



International Energy Agency says the United States is set to overtake Saudi as the world's number two oil producer after Russia. Do you think this would reignite the supply glut war pushing the oil prices down?

Yes No Cant Say



Today, thanks to the efforts of all the nations involved, the Daesh military organisation in the Levant is almost completely defeated. I'm confident that in the coming weeks we will achieve a military victory on the ground."

Emmanuel Macron
French President

Rest in sight

India to offer yoga classes in Davos summit



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's delegation to the World Economic Forum at Davos will offer yoga classes on the icy slopes.

Somali troops rescue 32 children

Somali authorities said troops stormed a school run by al Shabaab and rescued 32 children who had been taken as recruits.

Iraqi teen denies attempted bombing of London train

An Iraqi teenager on Friday pleaded not guilty to allegations he was behind the attempted bombing of a London underground train last year which left 30 people injured.

Russian student injures six in an axe attack

A Russian teenager attacked a group of younger students with an axe, injuring six people, before setting his school on fire, investigators said.

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Turkey shells Syria's Afrin region as military op begins



Protesters waving giant flags of the YPG and other parties and militias, during a demonstration against Turkish threats

Sugedigi

Turkish artillery fired into Syria's Afrin region yesterday in what Ankara said was the start of a military campaign against the Kurdish-controlled area.

The cross-border bombardment took place after days of threats from Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan to crush the Syrian

Kurdish YPG militia in Afrin sees as growing Kurdish strength across a wide stretch of north Syria.

"The operation has actually de facto started with cross-border shelling," Turkish Defence Minister Nurettin Canikli said, adding that no troops had crossed into Afrin.

1.3 million children displaced by Iraq's war with IS: UNICEF

Geneva

About half the 2.6 million people displaced in Iraq after a three-year war with Islamic State militants are children and persisting violence hampers efforts to ease their suffering, the United Nations said on Friday. "We believe that as a result of the conflict, a lack of investment over the years,

and the poverty ... that there are 4 million children now in need across Iraq," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF chief representative in the country.

He told a Geneva news briefing by telephone from Baghdad that 1.3 million of the 2.6 million displaced by the often devastating fighting with Islamic State were children.

Melted nuclear fuel seen inside Fukushima reactor



A photo taken by a robotic probe shows a part of what is believed to be the handle of the fuel rods container and melted fuel

Tokyo

The operator of Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant says a long telescopic probe has successfully captured images of some melted fuel inside one of its three damaged reactors, providing crucial information for its cleanup.

Tokyo Electric Power Co.

said Friday the fishing rod-like device carrying a camera went deep into the plant's Unit 2 primary containment vessel. The images showed that at least part of the fuel breached the core, falling to the vessel's floor.

Melted fuel has previously only been documented inside Unit 3.

B'desh thrash SL for biggest win



Mushfiqur Rahim became the third half-centurion in the innings and hoisted the hosts to 320 for 7

Dhaka

Tamim Iqbal smashed 84 as Bangladesh hit 320 and then inflicted further misery on Sri Lanka to claim their biggest win in one-day cricket on Friday.

Sri Lanka, under new coach Chandika Hathurusingha, were skittled out for 157 and the performance will set new alarm bells ringing after they lost to Zimbabwe in their previous match in the three-nation contest.

But Bangladesh celebrated their victory.

"If you look at (the) recent past, it is one of our best wins," said captain Mashrafe Mortaza.

"I think Tamim could have got a hundred. Shakib also could have gone on."

The 28-year-old left hander Tamim plundered two sixes and seven fours as Bangladesh came within four runs of their record one-day score against Sri Lanka.

He was given strong support by Shakib Al Hasan who made 67, and took three for 47 to claim man of the match honours, and Mushfiqur Rahim on 62.

Tamim put on a scintillating 99 for the second wicket with Shakib before wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella successfully reviewed a not-out decision to end his 102-ball innings.

Sri Lanka, rebuilding under Hathurusingha after their worst year in international cricket, never posed a serious threat as they lost by 163 runs.

With captain Angelo Mathews missing due to injury, Thisara Perera hit the top score of 29 while wickets regularly tumbled at the other end. Hathurusingha saw his side collapse in 32.2 overs.

Perera, who took three for 60, was also his side's most effective bowler. (AFP)

BRIEF SCORES

BAN VS SL

Bangladesh 320 for 7 (Tamim 84, Shakib 67, Mushfiqur 62, Perera 3-60) **beat Sri Lanka 157** (Perera 29, Shakib 3-47, Rubel 2-20, Mashrafe 2-30) **by 163 runs**

ENG VS AUS

England 6 for 274 (Bairstow 60, Hales 57, Starc 4-57) **beat Australia 9 for 270** (Finch 106) **by 4 wickets**

NZ VS PAK

New Zealand 271 for 7 (Guptill 100, Taylor 59, Raees 3-67) **beat Pakistan 256** (Sohail 63, Shadab 54, Henry 4-53, Santner 3-40) **by 15 runs**

Root and Woakes carry England to 2-0 lead

Brisbane

England's top order fired in unison to give them a four-wicket win in the second one-day international against Australia on Friday as Aaron Finch's second straight hundred for the hosts could not prevent them falling 2-0 behind in the series.

Chasing 271 for victory in Brisbane, England reached their target comfortably with 34 balls to spare and need one more victory to wrap up the five-match series.

Finch had scored 107 in Australia's five-wicket loss in the first match and continued

his fine form with 106 on Friday to help his side post 270 for nine after the hosts won the toss and opted to bat.

Yet the target was not steep enough for Eoin Morgan's side who looked comfortable despite losing last-match centurion Jason Roy to fast bowler Mitchell Starc for two in the first over.

Roy's opening partner Jonny Bairstow hit 60 and added 117 for the second wicket with Alex Hales, who made 57, to put England firmly on course for victory.

The touring side, who were beaten 4-0 in the Ashes

tests, lost both Bairstow and Hales in quick succession to debutant paceman Jhye Richardson and then Morgan to Starc in a minor wobble but it was not enough to derail their march towards victory.

Test captain Joe Root and wicketkeeper Jos Buttler steadied the innings with a stand of 68 before the latter fell to Starc for 42.

Left-arm paceman Starc also dismissed Moeen Ali in the same over to pick up his fourth wicket of the innings, handing Australia a faint hope of victory. (Reuters)



Jos Buttler's 32-ball 42 took England towards their target

Black Caps sweep ODI series 5-0

Wellington

New Zealand inflicted a rare 5-0 one-day international series whitewash over Pakistan on Friday with a 15-run win at Wellington's Basin Reserve.

A century to Martin Guptill

helped the Black Caps set a 272 total that proved too much for Pakistan after Matt Henry tore through their top order.

Pakistan were all out for 256 with one over remaining.

It is only the third time Pakistan

have been on the wrong end of a 5-0 ODI clean sweep after they succumbed by the same margin to Australia in 2010 and the West Indies in 1988.

New Zealand have won by a 5-0 margin only once before, when they hosted the West Indies in 2000.

The result extends New Zealand's winning streak in all forms of the game to 12 matches, a record for the team, and means they are undefeated at home since March last year.

Pakistan captain said his side, particularly the batsmen, had failed to take their chances.

"The main thing is the batting has not clicked throughout the whole series, that's why we lost," he said.

"The bowling unit was very good sometimes. We had opportunities but we didn't grab them." (AFP)



Faheem Ashraf of Pakistan attempts to run out Martin Guptill of New Zealand during game five

Kyrgios topples idol Tsonga



Australian Open: Day 5 highlights

World number one Rafa Nadal stormed into the fourth round of the Australian Open with a 6-1 6-3 6-1 victory over Bosnia's Damir Dzumhur, while home favourite Nick Kyrgios ousted Jo-Wilfried Tsonga with a hard-fought win.

Kyrgios will face world number three Grigor Dimitrov next, following the Bulgarian's victory over Andrey Rublev.

Women's world number two Caroline Wozniacki and fourth-seed Elina Svitolina also eased to third round wins at Melbourne Park along with Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova, Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro and Belgian Elise Mertens.

Estonian Anett Kontaveit pulled off the only major upset of the day as she knocked out French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, leaving Maria Sharapova and Angelique Kerber as the only two former grand slam winners left in the women's draw.

Former world number ones Kerber and Sharapova will face off in their highly-anticipated third round fixture today.

Meanwhile, sixth-seed Marin Cilic, Briton Kyle Edmund, Argentine Diego Schwartzman and Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta progressed to the fourth round of the men's draw. (Reuters)

Melbourne

Australia's Nick Kyrgios won an electric four-setter with his idol Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to advance to the round of 16 at the Australian Open yesterday.

The 17th seeded Kyrgios needed three tiebreakers to win a crunch match with the former finalist 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/5) in 3hr 17min in a spectacular night match on Rod Laver Arena.

It pitches the volatile Australian into a round of 16 showdown with Bulgaria's world No.3 Grigor Dimitrov on Sunday.

Kyrgios, urged on by his home crowd, traded breathtaking volleys with Tsonga, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2008 Australian final when Kyrgios

was a 12-year-old fan.

"It was amazing. I've never won a match on this court before but playing Jo I was obviously very nervous," Kyrgios said.

"He was a guy I looked up to as a kid, still do, he's a great guy. I'm just so happy to get through.

"I was getting prepared for a fifth set in that (fourth set) tiebreaker.

"I thought he was going to hit two big first serves and I was in a lot of trouble but I stayed composed, tied to make some returns and fight it out."

The match had some drama just after the third set when an incensed Tsonga yelled at the chair umpire in French about a vocal member of the crowd.

Tsonga was heard to say "bring him here, he needs to come down

here".

He said it three times before the umpire warned the French star, telling him: "You have to stop, you have to stop. Nothing good can come from it."

Tsonga was then issued with a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Kyrgios won his first home ATP Tour title at the lead-up Brisbane International -- beating Dimitrov along the way -- and is looking to go further than a quarter-final appearance in Melbourne three years ago. (AFP)



Nick Kyrgios of Australia returns a shot during the men's singles third round match against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France

Caroline Wozniacki



Angry Wozniacki battles past Bertens after tantrum

Melbourne

Second seed Caroline Wozniacki overcame a late temper tantrum to forge into the fourth round of the Australian Open with a 6-4 6-3 win over Kiki Bertens yesterday.

Serving for the match at 5-3 under the lights of Rod Laver Arena, the former world number one harangued the chair umpire when a line call went against her and pounded her racquet into the blue hardcourt when Bertens saved a second match point.

Bertens, seeded 30th, cancelled out a third match point with a ripping return down the line but Wozniacki sealed the fourth with a huge serve that the Dutchwoman could only fire long.

In her previous match, Wozniacki had to save two match points on an epic comeback from 5-1 down in the third set against Croatian Jana Fett, so she was thrilled to avoid another drawn-out battle against Bertens.

"Right now I'm playing with house money," the Dane, a semi-finalist at Melbourne Park in 2011, said in her post-match interview on court.

"Right now I've got nothing to lose ... I got a second chance and I'm going to try to take it and see how far I can go."

Wozniacki will meet Slovakian 19th seed Magdalena Rybarikova for a place in the quarter-finals. (Reuters)

Grigor Dimitrov



Dimitrov battles past Rublev into last 16

Melbourne

Bulgaria's world No 3 Grigor Dimitrov wrestled with his serve before dousing young Russian Andrey Rublev to reach the round of 16 at the Australian Open yesterday.

Dimitrov, who needed five sets to scramble past American qualifier Mackenzie McDonald in the second round, held on for a fluctuating 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win in just over three hours on Rod Laver Arena.

He will next face Australia's 17th seed Nick Kyrgios for a place in the quarter-finals.

But Dimitrov is grappling with his serve and gave up 15 double faults, including an embarrassing three when he was serving for the third set. His unrestrained joy upon winning showed his relief at finally putting Rublev away in the topsy-turvy contest. (AFP)

Marco Asensio's late winner lifts Real in Copa first leg at Leganes



Real Madrid's Marco Asensio in action

Madrid

Marco Asensio's late strike earned Real Madrid a 1-0 first-leg lead in their Copa del Rey quarterfinal with Leganes.

Mateo Kovacic spurned a great opportunity for Real, whose goalkeeper Kiko Casilla made a good save to deny Claudio Beauvue after

75 minutes.

And Real took advantage after 89 minutes when Theo Hernandez's cross was met by Asensio's fine volley from six yards out.

The win at the Estadio Municipal de Butarque in the outskirts of Madrid gives Real an advantage ahead of next Wednesday's

second leg at the Bernabeu and will come as a relief after recent results.

It was only Real's second win of 2018 and the first came in the same competition, a 3-0 victory at Numancia on Jan. 4.

Zinedine Zidane's men next play Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday in

LaLiga, where they sit an unfamiliar fourth, 19 points behind leaders Barcelona and 10 adrift of second-placed Atletico.

Real head coach Zidane selected only Dani Carvajal and Raphael Varane of his first-team regulars to face their fellow La Liga outfit. (espn)

Pele suffering exhaustion



Pele

London

Pele is in hospital after collapsing due to exhaustion, preventing him from travelling to London for an engagement this weekend, the English Football Writers Association (FWA) revealed on Friday.

The 77-year-old, a three-time World Cup winner, collapsed on Thursday according to the FWA and is being monitored in hospital in Brazil.

The FWA were due to host a dinner in his honour.

Pele "has undergone a series of tests which appear to point to severe exhaustion", said the FWA.

"He is on fluids while doctors monitor his recovery. Thankfully there is no suggestion of anything more serious."

Pele helped inspire Brazil to wins in the 1958, 1962 and 1970 World Cups. (AFP)

Seventh seed Ostapenko sunk by Kontaveit

Melbourne

Estonia's Anett Kontaveit shrugged off a torrid second set meltdown to knock seventh seed Jelena Ostapenko out of the Australian Open on Friday.

The Estonian 32nd seed is into the last 16 at Melbourne Park for the first time after winning a rollercoaster match against the French Open champion 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

"It was tough. she played so aggressive," said Kontaveit after winning in an hour and 53 minutes.

Kontaveit stormed through the first set, setting the tone by breaking Ostapenko in the very first game and repeating the dose three times to take a 5-2 lead.

It made the Latvian world number seven momentarily wake up, returning with power and precision to break back to love for 5-3.



Anett Kontaveit

Ostapenko saved two breaks points in the next but when a wayward forehand gave Kontaveit a third the number 32 seed took the opportunity to break for a fifth consecutive time and wrap up the set 6-3 after 36 minutes.

"I felt I started really well," said Kontaveit, who will play Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro for a place in the quarter-finals. "I felt I played great in the first and third sets." (AFP)

Sainz takes another step towards Dakar victory

Madrid

Carlos Sainz moved a step closer to a second Dakar win on Thursday after finishing the 12th stage with a 44 minute lead over Peugeot team mate Stephane Peterhansel and two days remaining.

"We went pretty easy but towards the end we had a puncture and some gearbox problems, but everything is fine because we've finished the stage which is what matters," declared the Spaniard.

Qatari driver Nasser al-Attiyah won the stage, a 375km timed special between Chilecito and San Juan in Argentina, in his Toyota with Sainz taking it easy and finishing 18 minutes behind.

Peterhansel, the defending champion and 13 times winner, was second.

"I think it's finished now," said the Frenchman, whose hopes suffered a severe blow earlier in the rally when he lost an hour and 45 minutes last



Carlos Sainz of Spain and co-pilot Lucas Cruz of Spain drive their Peugeot.

Saturday in Bolivia.

"We will try to secure second place, so we controlled the gap with Nasser today.

"I'm crossing my fingers for me but also for Carlos - we never know what can happen."

Organisers cancelled the timed stage for motorcycles and quads for weather-related safety reasons.

"Having consulted the competitors

grouped at Fiambala's marathon bivouac, the race direction has taken the decision to cancel the 12th special stage for bikes and quads," a statement said.

Austrian Matthias Walkner is leading the motorcycle standings on a KTM, 32 minutes clear of Argentina's Honda rider Kevin Benavides.

The rally ends in Cordoba on Saturday. (Reuters)

Fury clears licence hurdle, moves step closer to Joshua showdown

London

Controversial boxer Tyson Fury moved closer to his dream all-British world heavyweight showdown with Anthony Joshua when he was told on Friday that he will get his licence back if he passes a medical.

The 29-year-old -- who has not fought since his shock win against Wladimir Klitschko in November 2015 to become the undisputed heavyweight world champion -- cleared a hurdle in his battle to fight again after a meeting with the British Boxing Board of Control (BBC) on Friday.

"Following (an) interview with Tyson Fury at the BBC offices earlier today, the suspension of his boxer's licence will be lifted subject to receipt and clearance of all

medical requirements," a statement read.

That announcement follows another favourable ruling last month as the troubled boxer tries to return to the ring following a positive test for steroids.

In December, UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) cleared Fury to return, after an absence of over two years, following his acceptance of a backdated two-year ban.

Fury -- who will have to bide his time to fight Joshua as the WBA and IBF champion is due to box New Zealand's

WBO titleholder Joseph Parker in Cardiff on March 31 -- had been charged along with his cousin and fellow boxer Hughie, who also failed a test for nandrolone in February 2015. Both insisted the positive tests were a result of eating wild boar that had not been castrated. Fury also failed a test

for cocaine in September 2016 and later admitted using the drug to deal with depression.

(AFP)

Tyson Fury



IOC tests athletes ahead of Winter Olympics

Geneva

Over 14,000 doping tests have been conducted ahead of next month's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in an effort to protect clean athletes and safeguard the Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Thursday.

The Pre-Games Anti-Doping Taskforce along with National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) and International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (IFs) tested over 6,000 athletes from 61 countries. The IOC said there was a 70 percent increase in the number of tests conducted between April and December

2017 as compared to same period in 2016.

"Protecting clean athletes by fighting doping is a top priority for the IOC... we are committed to working with our partners to ensure that Pyeongchang 2018 provides a level playing field for all clean athletes," IOC medical and scientific director Richard Budgett said.

The taskforce, which was set up to monitor and optimise the testing, has placed extra scrutiny on Russian athletes.

Twice the number of Russian athletes were tested in November and December, as compared to those from any other country. (Reuters)

Team Sky will not suspend Chris Froome

London

Team Sky have assured Chris Froome they will not suspend him from competition despite the advice of the head of cycling's world governing body.

David Lappartient, the president of the International Cycling Union, told a French newspaper the team should suspend the four-times Tour de France winner while an investigation continues into how he failed a drugs test at the Vuelta a España last September.

But the Guardian understands Team Sky will still enter Froome for the Giro d'Italia and this year's Tour de France as planned unless any anti-doping rule violation is brought against the 32-year-old before then.

Lappartient, who found out about the failed drugs test the day after taking over from Brian Cookson as head of the UCI last September, told the French regional Le Telegramme he thinks the case against Froome could last

another nine months.

"Sky should suspend Froome," he said. "Now, it's not up to me to interfere. Without wishing to comment on the rider's guilt, it would be easier for everyone [were Sky to suspend him]. It's up to

[Sky's team manager Dave] Brailsford to take his responsibilities.

Quite apart from

that, I think

that's what

the other

rider's

want.

They're

fed up

with the

general image."

A joint investigation by the Guardian and Le Monde in December revealed a urine test taken by Froome showed twice the permitted amount of the asthma drug salbutamol in his system. Froome admitted the adverse finding may never have been made public had the newspapers not investigated.

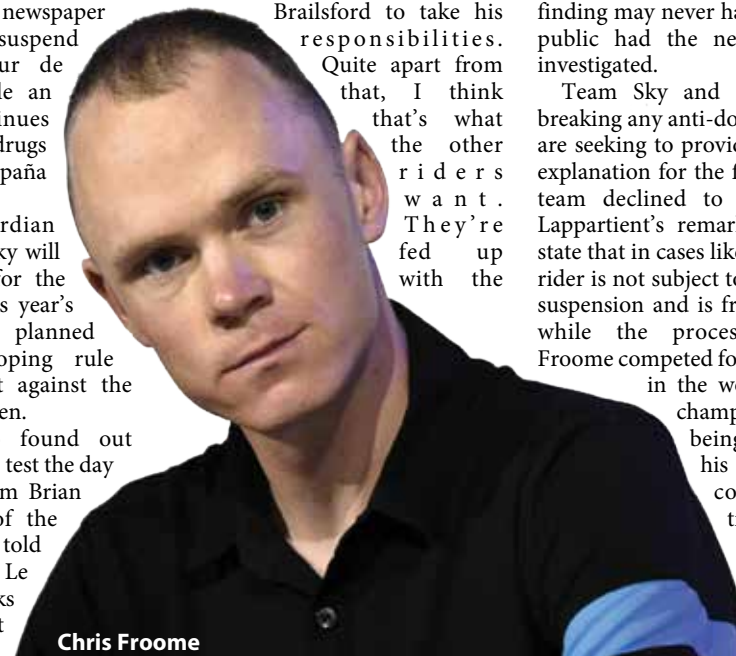
Team Sky and Froome deny breaking any anti-doping rules and are seeking to provide a legitimate explanation for the failed test. The team declined to comment on Lappartient's remarks. UCI rules state that in cases like Froome's the rider is not subject to a provisional suspension and is free to compete while the process continues. Froome competed for Great Britain

in the world time-trial championships after

being notified of his failed test and

continues to train as normal.

(theguardian)



Chris Froome

Peter Sagan: I didn't expect to climb like that



Peter Sagan powers over climb to win stage four of Tour Down Under

Adelaide

On its 20th birthday, the Tour Down Under has a stage win by a world champion. The new finish into Uraidla Friday afternoon promised to shake up the race and duly delivered. The stage finish is sure to go down as an all-time highlight due to the exploits of Peter Sagan.

The new finish, via the category 1 Norton Summit climb, was a stage that had no outright favourite. Predictions were mixed, with riders and sports directors alike suggesting the result could go the way of a climber or a puncheur, but with no one discounting Sagan.

On the climb up Norton Summit, BMC Racing drilled the pace to thin the field but couldn't shake Sagan. The ascent was just seconds slower than when they raced up Norton Summit two years ago. Over the top of the climb, Richie Porte (BMC Racing) and George Bennett (LottoNL-Jumbo) led the attacks and briefly got clear before Sagan made his counter-attack with 3.5 kilometres to race.

Despite being reeled in by the 34-rider group in his wake, Sagan then finished off his early work with a canny sprint finale to take the win ahead of a charging Daryl Impey. With victory came the race leader's ochre jersey.

"It was a really tough day. It was really hot and when we came to the bottom of the last climb, it was not about pain or legs," Sagan said after his finishing his podium duties as stage winner, race leader and holder of the points jersey.

"It was a really strange feeling. I didn't expect I could climb like that in this period." (cyclingnews)



Ruthless Nadal storms past Dzumhur



Melbourne

Top seed Rafael Nadal stormed into the fourth round of the Australian Open with a bludgeoning 6-1 6-3 6-1 defeat of Bosnia's Damir Dzumhur yesterday.

Melbourne's heatwave had relented by the time the 31-year-old Nadal walked on Margaret Court Arena, but the Spaniard was on fire as he battered the 28th seed into submission.

The sole blemish was a dropped service game early in the second set but it only briefly slowed his charge.

"I am in the fourth round. That's because I am doing the right things. Let's see how far I can go," Nadal, beaten in the final by Roger Federer last year, told reporters.

Nadal arrived in Australia with question marks over the state of his knees after he was forced to withdraw mid-tournament from the ATP Finals in November.

Yet back in the kind of sleeveless top in which he launched his spectacular assault on the grand slams in 2005, and wielding his trusty forehand like a lethal weapon, doubts about Nadal's title prospects have quickly been cast aside.

"I needed hours on court, hours of practice, hours of playing sets with different players," Nadal said of his build-up to the year's first

grand slam.

"I think I did a good preparation. I feel I'm playing well."

Argentina's 24th seeded Diego Schwartzman, who Nadal plays next, might prove a tougher obstacle than Dzumhur.

The 25-year-old from Sarajevo had actually walked off court a winner against Nadal in 2016 when the Mallorcan retired from their match at the Miami Masters with an illness.

This time it was Dzumhur who might have sought a quick way out after being allowed two points in the first four games as Nadal started like the scorching wind that had blown through Melbourne Park earlier in the day.

Nadal was 5-0 up in no time before Dzumhur managed to hold serve, prompting a sympathetic cheer from the crowd.

Another flurry of forehand winners helped Nadal into a 2-0 lead in the second set but Dzumhur, who became the first Bosnian to win a Tour level title last year, broke back with a dipping backhand that was too good for Nadal.

Normal service was quickly resumed though and Nadal hammered home a backhand winner to end a superb 26-stroke rally on his way to breaking again in the next game. (Reuters)

Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after the men's singles third round match against Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia and Herzegovina



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