

# DT NEWS

**DAILY TRIBUNE**

Monday, February 20, 2017 Issue No. 7298

**News of Bahrain**

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**Iraq launches assault on IS-held Mosul**



▶ P 07

*Tweet of the Day*



There's a lot of people in the city right now who fear that Washington won't have their back. Well, New York City will have your back.

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## BOOSTING TIES



**HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister with Conor Burns, British parliamentarian and Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Bahrain, at Riffa Palace yesterday. The British MP and HRH Crown Prince discussed bilateral cooperation, regional and international developments in the context of maintaining security in the region**

## 11th Hour

### 20 killed in Somalia car bombing Mogadishu

Some 20 people were killed yesterday when a car packed with explosives blew up near a busy intersection in the Somali capital Mogadishu, officials and witnesses said.

### White House denies difficulty to fill post

**Washington**  
A top aide denied that President Donald Trump is having difficulty filling the key post of national security advisor because of White House moves to politicize the office.

### UAE signs \$1.2 bn in deals as arms fair opens

**Abu Dhabi**  
The four-day International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) kicked off yesterday in Abu Dhabi with the Emirates announcing 21 deals worth more than \$1.2 billion. Brigadier-General Rashid Mohammed Al Shamsi said that the Emirates struck deals with 15 local companies and six international firms to bolster its land and naval forces.

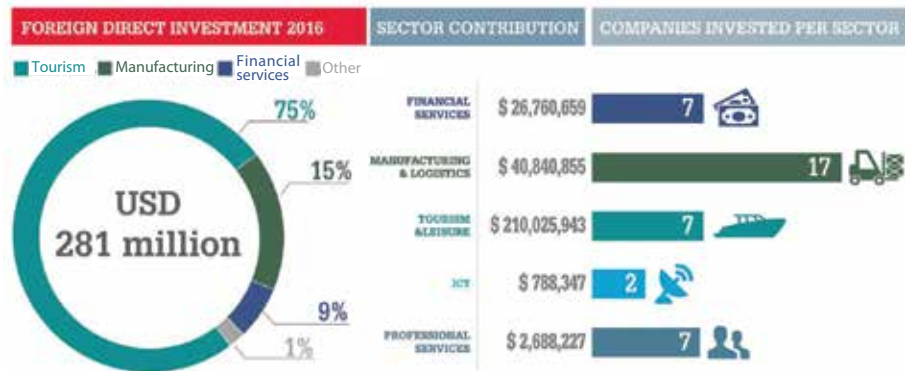
# FDI into Kingdom crosses BD106 million

**DT News Network Manama**

Forty new companies invested a total of BD106 million (\$281m) in 2016, the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), the investment promotion agency of the Kingdom, said yesterday. These new companies are expected to generate a total of 1,647 jobs opportunities over the next three years.

The companies represent regional and international organisations, including companies from India, China, the United States, and Germany among others. 17 companies specialise in manufacturing and logistics, 7 in financial services, 7 in leisure and tourism, 7 in professional services and 2 in information and communication technology.

## FDI Achievements in 2016



In terms of investments, the tourism sector attracted 75 per cent of total investments whilst the manufacturing and logistics sector accounted for 15 pc, and the financial services sector a further 9 pc. As a result, the total amount of investment attracted last

year was double that of 2015, which stood at BD53.6 million invested by 22 companies.

“Our success in doubling the investments during last year comes as a result of unifying our efforts with various government bodies,” said Khalid Al

Rumaihi, Chief Executive of the EDB.

“Investors in Bahrain enjoy an attractive business environment that offers cost-effective operations, advanced infrastructure, as well as the abundance of an experienced bilingual workforce,” he said.

One of the companies attracted by the EDB includes Armacell, a world leader in flexible insulation foams. The company plans to invest around BD 6m on its new plant at Bahrain International Investment Park which will produce elastomeric rubber insulation for the US\$3 billion heating, ventilating, and air conditioning market in the GCC.

Furniture giant IKEA also announced its BD 48 million investment to establish its largest flagship store in the Gulf, covering a total area of 37,000 sqm. Various other companies including CIMC, Euroscot, Mukta A2 Cinemas, Ziraat Bank, Mastercard, Amazon Web Services and Palestine Investment Bank Bahrain have also established new investment projects in Bahrain.



# Lack of parking space hits vendors at Central market

Muhammad Mansour/DTNN  
muhammad@dt.bh

## Manama

The lack of parking space has affected business at Manama Central Fish Market, the Kingdom's largest fish market, with dwindling sales.

"There are no space for customers to park their vehicles near the market which is affecting our business," said a Bahraini vendor at the market said yesterday.

"The issue of the limited parking space for customers has always been there. But in recent years, the shipping trucks delivering fruits and vegetables to the nearby



Fish vendors at the Manama Central Fish Market. Lack of parking space for customers has affected sales at the market. Fish vendors at the Manama Central Fish Market. Lack of parking space for customers has affected sales at the market.

vegetables market have overtaken whatever tiny space our customers had to park their vehicles. We also have customers coming in from Saudi Arabia who repeatedly complain about the lack of regulation of traffic here," said



drivers who double park. Our customers complain that they pay traffic fines when they come to the market instead

of buying fish. Many of them stopped coming here and go to Jidhafs Central Market," said Abdulaziz another vendor.

It's noteworthy that some of the trucks drivers, who travel for long distances from Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, spend a night or two in their trucks that are parked near the market.

Capital General Secretariat (formerly municipality) had stated earlier that it's coordinating with Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry to commence road maintenance in the parking lots allocated to trucks as well as market traders and visitors.

Mohammed Mirza, who has been in the business for over 50 years.

"If no adequate parking spaces are provided for them, the customers won't come to our market anymore," he said, adding that the authorities have given them several promises to develop the market in the past, but with no action taken.

"Fruits and vegetables are given the priority here, that's why the trucks had slowly overtaken the parking space allocated for our customers through the years. Additionally, traffic police patrols deal strictly with



Trucks parked at spaces allocated for customer's vehicles at the Manama Central Market

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## Lecture held on 'Women and violent extremism'



From Left- Dr Nelly Lahoud, Baria Alamuddin and Dr Elisabeth Marteu  
DT News Network  
Manama

The IISS Middle East hosted a lecture by award winning journalist and *Al Hayat* Foreign Editor, Baria Alamuddin. The lecture on 'Women and Violent Extremism', focussed on accounts of more than a thousand Saudi women at home and abroad. The lecture, was chaired by IISS Consulting Senior Fellow for Middle East Policies Dr Elisabeth Marteu, and introduced by IISS Senior

Fellow for Political Islamism Dr Nelly Lahoud. She denounced extremism and violence while supporting social rights movement in an acceptable way. Women surveyed showed an understanding of terrorist groups' methods of demeaning women through sex trafficking, whether Muslim women, or abducted non-Muslim minority women and highlighted the travails of kidnapped Yazidi girl Nadia Murad, an ISIS survivor.

Alamuddin also shed light on the militant attitudes of some Muslim women who are based in the West or are Western converts. Measured by the numbers and nationalities of the so-called ISIS jihadi brides, conservative lifestyles clearly do not mark the motive behind radicalised thinking. The lecture was attended by Simon Martin British ambassador to Bahrain, U.S. Ambassador William Roebuck and other dignitaries.



# Municipality 'hiding' 120,000 garbage bags: Municipal councilor

DT News Network news@dt.bh

**Manama**

**U**nearthing a major scam, a Muharraq Municipality councilor has revealed that the municipality is 'hiding' around 120,000 waste bags in its warehouses that are supposed to be given to citizens.

The revelation comes in the wake of the municipality's claim that "there are no garbage bags available" for use of its citizens.

Interestingly, Muharraq Municipal Council's Financial and Legal Committee Chairman Ghazi Al Murbati recently posted a footage showing the stocked bags inside the municipality's stores.

The video also showed a big poster on the authority's doors stating "there no



Ghazi Al Murbati

garbage bags available now". "It has been a long time since citizens were provided with the bags, which they are entitled to on a monthly basis. What the municipality did is unacceptable, especially that it's a matter related to public health and the environment. It can only be explained as the bureaucracy aiming to halt

the interest of the nation and its people," Al Murbati said in a statement.

He also demanded the technical services directorate in the municipality to immediately distribute the bags among beneficiaries and prevent a possible environment disaster in Muharraq.

The municipality, on the other hand, explained in a statement that "the bags are kept at the warehouses as per certain administrative procedures".

A total of 4600 bags were distributed on Thursday as a temporary procedure to cover the current shortage while the procedures are completed, the statement read, adding that the distributed bags were only given to Muharraq residents.

**Councilor Al Murbati has posted a footage showing bags at municipality's stores**



(Left) A poster at the Muharraq municipality saying no bags are available for distribution; (Right) bags stacked at the municipality's warehouse

# Coast Guard rescues 1,171 people in 2016



Brigadier Siyadi (left)

DT News Network news@dt.bh

**Manama**

**M**ore than 1000 people were rescued from Bahraini waters last year, the latest figures have showed.

Interior Ministry's Coast Guard has carried out various search, rescue and assistance



operations in 2016 which included 1171 individuals and 464 boat, stated, Coast Guard Commander Brigadier Alaa Siyadi, yesterday

"The Coast Guard also dealt with 57 accidents and issued 259 maritime ban violations, 630 registration and licencing violations, 437 fishing violations and 118

residency violations," Brig. Siyadi confirmed. The official also noted various efforts taken by the Coast Guard to improve its performance, mentioning the recent launch of the landing ship 'Safra 1' and the 36 training courses conducted last year, benefiting 317 coast guards from Bahrain and GCC countries.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

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	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Bronze Tier Winner</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Yaser Al Satrawi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nissan Sunny</p>

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# Premier hails Kuwait relations

DT News Network  
Manama

**Prime Minister** HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has affirmed that the fraternal Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations have reached an advanced level as the two brotherly countries share joys, and are proud of each other's landmark achievements.

"The Kingdom will never forget Kuwait's standing with it under various circumstances, under the leadership of the Amir, HH Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," HRH Premier said.

The Premier made the statements while receiving, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, who handed over to him an invitation to attend the



Prince Khalifa receives an invitation to attend the 56th National Day celebrations of Kuwait from Shaikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, who handed over to him an invitation to attend the 56th Anniversary of Kuwait's National Day, and the 26th Anniversary of the Liberation Day.

# Countries must unite against cross-border crimes, says Minister

DT News Network  
Manama

**Minister of Interior** Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa called for an international coordination among countries to fight cross-border crimes, as he participated in the International Defence Exhibition and Conference "IDEX 2017" in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

"With the development and spreading of cross-border crimes, there is urgent need for international coordination to fight them, as such tasks cannot be carried out by one country, especially if the crime has foreign sources. This requires further international

cooperation through legislations and alliances to internationally fight crimes and criminals," he said.

The conference was inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Emir of Dubai in the presence of Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Defence Ministers, Army leaders, specialists and experts from 57 countries, in addition to 1235 local and international defense industry companies also attended.

Shaikh Rashid also participated in "Coalition", the first meeting of the Interior Ministers of member countries of the International Security Work Group on an invitation from Lt-General Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

During the meeting, a brief on the experience of the Kingdom in dealing with the use of social media in spreading and adopting measures against terrorism was also presented.

It was also decided to launch the 'Coalition' as an international work group that cooperates to achieve security of societies through exchange of expertise.

The Coalition's General Secretariat will be based in UAE and will be responsible of drafting the operational module of the coalition.

The coalition will also work to support cooperation between member countries through exchange of expertise, experiences and successful practices, especially in fighting cross-border organised crimes and preventative measures. The group also extended support fighting all forms of extremisms and addressing challenges faced by security forces in monitoring borders.



Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa speaking at the conference yesterday

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Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Chairman Khalid Almoayed with Vice-Head of the Council and board member Jawad Al Hawaj and members of the Bahraini side of the Bahraini-Russian Joint Business Council. The BCCI received the Chairman of the Russian side of the Joint Business Council and Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (RCCI) Vladimir Dmitriev at Bait Al Tijjar yesterday. BCCI is hosting a Russian business delegation in Al Majlis Hall today

## 'Productive Families' award on March 2

DT News Network  
Manama

**The Labour** and Social Development Ministry will organise a ceremony at the Sharifa Al-Awadhi Children and Youth Club in Riffa on March 2 to announce the winners of HRH Princess Sabeeka's Award for Productive Families. The event will be held

under the patronage of Wife of His Majesty the King & Supreme Council for Women Chairwoman H R H Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

A total of 180 participants from Bahrain will vie for the award, in addition to 12 other contenders from the GCC and Arab countries. The Arab

countries will also take part in an exhibition held on the sidelines of the ceremony.

Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan underscored the importance of the award which aims at encouraging and motivating low-income families to secure an extra source of income.



## THINKING MATTERS

With Soman Baby



### Kerala Chief Minister's Visit— A Jump Starter

**W**hat is the reason for this grand reception, befitting a Head of State, for a Chief Minister from just one state of India?

Many people in Bahrain had this question on their minds last week.

But, the answer is simple.

"It is because 20 per cent of Bahrain's population comprises people from this one state of India," according to HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Economic Development Board.

It was, in fact, on HRH the Crown Prince's invitation that Pinarayi Vijayan, the Chief Minister of the Kerala State of India visited Bahrain.

And as the Crown Prince says, Keralites make up the majority, among the working population, not only here in Bahrain, but also in all the GCC countries.

The Chief Minister, therefore, had had a very busy schedule, topmost among them being his audiences with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH the Crown Prince.

I was privileged to be at all the three audiences, and found that their discussions were very fruitful.

With all the three leaders talking about the long-standing relations between Bahrain and India, and the Kerala State in particular, expressing their appreciation for the hard work and loyalty of the Malayalee community for generations, and stressing on their beliefs that the relationship will strengthen further, it was clearly a valuable trip.

The Chief Minister also extended an invitation to all the three leaders to visit Kerala.

The welcome accorded to Kerala's Chief Minister and the discussions he had had here with Indian and Bahraini business communities, I believe, are ushering in a new era. An era of rejuvenation of the age-old ties Bahrain has had, with India, and specifically, with its State of Kerala.

During his three-day visit, the Chief Minister also found time to inaugurate the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam.

It was by the dynamic initiative of Shaikh

Khalifa bin Daij Al-Khalifa, President of HRH the Crown Prince's Court that this special visit came to fruition.

It is pertinent, I feel, to mention that just a few months ago, Shaikh Khalifa bin Daij had received a special award "The Bahrain-Kerala Friendship Award" from the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan when Shaikh Khalifa visited Kerala for the Bahrain-Kerala Friendship Summit 2016.

The summit had marked the silver jubilee celebrations of Bahrain Returnees' and Residents' Association (BRAIN) held at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala State.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Daij Al Khalifa, who received BRAIN's first award, then extended an invitation from HRH the Crown Prince to the Chief Minister to visit Bahrain.

And I am confident that this association is, arguably, the only organisation formed by people who returned to India from any foreign country. And we must make a special note of the fact that it was formed 25 years ago!

Such is the love of Keralite community for this beautiful Kingdom of Bahrain!

One of the highlights of the Chief Minister's visit was the 'Bahrain-Kerala Business Investment Forum' held at the Four Season's Hotel.

Organised by the Bahrain Economic Development Board, this forum had given a unique opportunity for investors of India and Bahrain to discuss bilateral business concerns.

The highlight of the forum was a panel discussion, with Bahraini and Indian business leaders. With the panellists comprising frontrunners from Bahrain who invested in India, and vice versa, it turned out to be a very fruitful interaction.

But, most importantly, when the Chief Minister invited the investors to participate in the fulfilment of 'Nava Kerala Mission' for a new Kerala, there was genuine interest expressed by the investors attending the meet.

This, I think, should remain the main focus - if Kerala wants funding from Non Resident Indians, and from Foreign Investors.

It will secure along with it, warm and cordial relations with a country that is poised to become a power house in business. The Business Friendly Bahrain.



DT News Network

Manama

**T**he High Criminal Court has sentenced a man to five years behind bars for stealing BD6 from a car cleaner.

The incident happened on September 26, 2012, where the defendant and the other unidentified men assaulted and robbed the cleaner. They also hijacked the car which he was washing.

The cleaner reported the

**The defendant and his accomplices reportedly threatened and assaulted the car cleaner with a knife, before driving away with the car**

incident to the car owner who, in turn, alerted the police.

"The cleaner told me that they threatened him with a knife and physically attacked him before they drove away

with the car," the vehicle owner said. The car was eventually recovered, but it was partly damaged. Thus, the defendant was fined BD100 for the damages caused to the car.

## Body of student to be flown home

DT News Network  
Manama

**T**he body of Ansu Jacob, the 15-year-old school girl who committed suicide on Saturday, will be kept at Sacred Heart Church in Manama today at 8.30am to pay last respects, the family sources told *DT News*.

After the ceremony, the body will be flown to her hometown in Kottayam district of the Indian state of Kerala. The family members will accompany the body which will be taken on Air India Express to Kerala in the afternoon. Ansu, the daughter of Jacob Machukad Kuruville and Kochumol, was set to appear for her board exams in March. The reason for the suicide is yet to be known.

## Speak out

Send your comments to  
letters@dt.bh

**T**his is in response to *DT News* articles relating to the effects of torrential rain that affected the Kingdom during last two days. It was horrible for the residents here and a rain fall as this was not witnessed

in the Kingdom in last three decades. The efforts of the authorities and emergency services to clean up the city and residential areas is to be lauded. This should be taken as a learning lesson to renovate the drainage system. With the changing climate pattern, heavy rains should be expected in the future.

*Farhan Naushad*



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# Pipeline leak kills contractor



**Riyadh**  
**A** contractor was killed and three other workers were injured in a pipeline leak in Saudi Arabia, state-owned oil giant Aramco said yesterday.  
 "Saudi Aramco regrets to inform the death of one contractor, and three other injuries involving one employee and two contractors," Aramco said in a statement.  
 An emergency response team contained the "limited" leak, the company added in the statement

Aramco tweeted that the leak occurred at the Abqaiq facility, located 60 kilometres (37 miles) southwest of the company's main Dhahran compound.  
 The two contractors have since been discharged from hospital. -(AFP)

# Kuwait MPs fight proposed fuel price hike



Kuwaiti MPs vote on legislation during a session

**Kuwait City**  
**A** parliamentary panel in Kuwait yesterday approved draft legislation calling for the scrapping of government plans to raise petrol and power prices to combat a budget deficit.  
 The financial and economic affairs committee said in its decision that "no increases in public charges and commodity prices" can be applied without a law being passed in parliament, its secretary Safa al-Hashem told reporters.  
 The decision will now

go before the Gulf state's parliament for a vote that is expected to pass because a majority of lawmakers supports preventing the government from raising such charges.  
 Under Kuwaiti law, the government has the power to reject parliamentary decisions -- but MPs can also override such a rejection by a two-thirds majority in a fresh vote.  
 In a series of measures aimed at financing a budget shortfall resulting from low oil prices, the government

increased fuel prices and also plans to apply sharp rises in power and water prices in May.  
 Kuwait posted its first budget deficit of \$15 billion in the 2015-2016 fiscal year after 16 years of healthy surpluses.  
 It expects a higher deficit in the year ending March 31, and has also projected a shortfall for the next fiscal year.  
 The International Monetary Fund urged Kuwait that month to enact further subsidy reforms to trim its budget deficit. -(AFP)

# Kuwait jails senior official for joining IS group



Representational image

**Kuwait City**  
**K**uwait's supreme court yesterday sentenced a top bureaucrat to 10 years in jail for joining and fighting with the Islamic State jihadist group in Syria and Iraq.  
 The court also fined the unnamed Kuwaiti national, who was a top official at the Kuwait municipality, \$30,000 and convicted him of calling other people to join IS.

The ruling is final and cannot be challenged.  
 Kuwaiti courts have sentenced a number of IS members, sympathisers and financiers to various jail terms.  
 Authorities in July said they had dismantled three IS cells plotting attacks, including a suicide bombing against a mosque and against an interior ministry target.

# Netanyahu held secret Arab peace meeting

**Jerusalem**  
**I**sraeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met secretly with Arab rulers last year to hear then US secretary of state John Kerry pitch a regional peace plan, an Israeli newspaper reported.  
 It said Kerry wanted the sides to endorse six principles. They included a call for Israel to vacate territory it occupied during the 1967 Six-Day War, subject to land swaps agreed between the two sides.  
 Kerry's parameters envisioned a Palestinian state and both would share Jerusalem as the "internationally recognised capital of the two states".

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# Iraq launches assault on IS-held Mosul



Tanks and armoured vehicles of the Iraqi forces, advance towards the south of Mosul

## Al-Buseif

**I**rqi forces seized 10 villages from the Islamic State group yesterday, launching a daunting operation to retake west Mosul which aid groups warned will put civilians in grave danger.

Advancing from several directions, the forces moved towards Mosul airport, which lies just south of the city, marking a new phase in Iraq's largest military operation in years.

The Islamic State group has put up stiff resistance to defend Mosul, the city where its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed a "caliphate" straddling Iraq and Syria in 2014.

"Our forces are beginning the liberation of the citizens from the terror of IS," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in a short televised speech.

A top army commander then announced that forces led by federal police units retook villages south of Mosul, including Athbah, which leaves them within striking distance of the airport.

The sky south of Mosul was black with smoke from air strikes and artillery as thousands of forces in armoured convoys worked converged on the airport.

"They're desperate," Ali, a Rapid Response officer, said in the village of Al-Buseif as helicopters flew overhead,

tracking the last IS fighters attempting to flee.

"They will try to cause as many losses as possible, because they know they will die anyway," his colleague Alaa said.

The jihadists overran Mosul and swathes of other territory north and west of Baghdad in 2014, routing security forces ill-prepared to face the assault.

The Iraqi government launched the offensive to reconquer Mosul on October 17, throwing tens of thousands of forces into the long-awaited counter-attack with air and ground support from a US-led coalition fighting IS in Iraq and Syria. *-(AFP)*

## Forces battling IS in Mosul

### Counter-Terrorism Service

The CTS is an elite Iraqi special forces unit that has spearheaded assaults in most key battles against IS. It did most of the fighting in east Mosul and is expected to enter west Mosul in the coming days.

### Kurdish forces

The peshmerga are the armed forces of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region. They nominally answer to the federal government but in practice operate independently, battling IS along a long front in the country's north.

### US-led coalition

A US-led international alliance is carrying out air strikes against Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, and providing training, arms and equipment to forces opposing the jihadists.

### Army

The army has begun playing an enhanced role in operations against the jihadists since it was revitalised by US-led training after several of its divisions collapsed during the IS offensive two years ago.

### Turkish troops

Deployed at a base near Mosul from which they have carried out artillery strikes against IS. Turkish troops are also present inside Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region.

## Civilians confused over 'stay at home'

### Arbil

**T**he first four months of the Iraqi offensive on Mosul were marked by relatively low displacement but the civilians who remain in the city's west face more dangers than ever.

In the east, the Iraqi forces adopted a strategy of protecting civilians by keeping them at home.

Since the offensive against the Islamic State group was launched in October, around 200,000 civilians are estimated to have fled their homes, according to the United Nations.

"We know that IS targets people who try to flee, causing many casualties," Abdulwahab al-Saadi, said a top commander of the elite Counter-Terrorism Service.

"Of course it would be easier for us to bomb the jihadists with heavy weapons if the city was emptied of its inhabitants, but as our main goal is to preserve the lives of civilians, we are convinced they will be better protected if they stay at home," he said.

But 19-year-old Taha Ahmed thinks those who can should leave the city, as he did with his family after two months of brutal fighting.

"We escaped at 2:00 am. There were a lot of families with us. IS was shooting at us but we kept running," he said.

"I would tell the people (on the western side) if there is heavy shelling they should hide at home in a safe place. And if they have a chance to get out, it's better to flee."

## '350,000 children trapped in west Mosul'



Displaced Iraqi children sit at a camp where Iraqi families are taking shelter as Iraqi forces continue their military operation to recapture Mosul from Islamic State

### London

**A**round 350,000 children are trapped in western Mosul, Save the Children warned yesterday as Iraqi forces launched a fresh offensive on jihadists defending the strategic city.

"Iraqi forces and their allies, including the US and UK, must do everything in their power to protect children and their families from harm, and avoid civilian buildings like schools and hospitals as they push deeper into the city," said the London-based charity's Iraq country director, Maurizio Crivallero.

He warned that escape is not an option for most families, who risk summary execution by fighters from the Islamic State group, sniper fire and landmines --

but they are also running out of food, water and medicine.

"This is the grim choice for children in western Mosul right now: bombs, crossfire and hunger if they stay -- or execution and snipers if they try to run," Crivallero said in a statement.

He added: "Safe escape routes for civilians must also be established as soon as possible."

Save the Children warned that "the impact of artillery and other explosive weaponry in those narrow, densely-populated streets is likely to be more deadly and indiscriminate than anything we have seen in the conflict so far".

The 350,000 figure relates to people under the age of 18, a charity spokeswoman confirmed



## By Invitation



Richard Banks

## Analyzing Big Data

**T**oday's media, when it isn't fixated on the new US President, is full of speculation and comment on the sudden and unexpected arrival of the future. The future as defined by new technology – an era so new that it doesn't yet have a name. Whether it's called the fourth industrial revolution, the second-industrial revolution, the digital revolution, or even, The Singularity, it's clear that something's going on and we need to pay attention. The basic theme is that robots and AI will take our jobs and leave us living on Universal Basic Income or will even decide to kill us all (think Skynet – the sentient machine from the Terminator films). Or maybe that our robot and computer friends will usher in a new utopia where today's environmental, social, medical and economic problems are consigned to history like a second dark age. Either way, such speculation makes for great headlines. But let's pause for a second and try to understand what is happening and what it means. Three key technological trends; big data, cloud computing and machine learning have converged. Convergence is what matters – none of the three are sufficient on their own to effect great change. But together they are.

The planet is awash with data. 90% of all data was created in the last two years and the total size of the datasphere is growing exponentially – doubling once every 1.5 years. If you don't know how big zettabytes or brontobytes are – you soon will. However, data is just data. It is useless without analysis (which turns information into knowledge which can then be used to create insight from which we can make decisions). But AT&T's main mobile phone database, for example, contains more than a trillion lines of information. Do you fancy analyzing a trillion lines of data? It's impossible for a human to manipulate this amount of data. That's what the Big in Big Data means – too large a dataset for humans to analyze.

So, machine learning techniques have enabled computers statistically to crunch vast data sets and, with scalable cloud-based computing, we also have access to the processing power necessary to do that crunching. So, for the first time in human history we can both capture and manipulate planet-wide, industrial-scale data. I can see three main ways in which this can and should change all our lives. It will change the way we work. The current models show that routine cognitive tasks (bookkeeping, paralegal work, driving etc.) will be automated out of existence in the same way that routine manual labour (assembly line work, for example) already have. Humans will be left with non-routine manual work – such as caring for the elderly – and non-routine cognitive work (creative, managerial, judgmental). In extreme scenarios, nearly 50% of labour in the US could be put out of work. Even in less extreme scenarios and assuming that new jobs are created doing things we cannot imagine – the potential for disruption is huge.

It will change the ways in which and how long we live. If our jobs change or disappear then the patterns of our lives will change too. What transport networks will we need if most vehicles are autonomous? Could we live wherever we wanted or will we only be able to afford urban ghettos? Major data-driven advances in medical and life sciences could shift the emphasis from care of the sick to upgrading the well. Will those advances benefit us all or just the wealthy few? It must change the way we think. We need to learn to manage the machines and algorithms which work for us. We need to make sure that they are working for us – not for a minority, for malevolent actors or for themselves. To do that we need to understand how they work and how to adjust them to produce the outcomes we want. We will need new forms of economic and political thinking and organisation which look beyond the quantity of outcome to the quality of outcome.

Humans determine the qualitative parameters which guide the machines. We tell them what we want maximized or optimized and what that optimization will look like. The machine then gets to work to deliver the outcome we have asked it for. Even if our goals are benign (or not actively malevolent) our human stupidity and bias can produce artificial stupidity and bias on a massive scale. The law of unexpected consequences works well in the datasphere. I have given the biggest of big pictures in this short piece. Much is missing. I hope that those who understand this trend will forgive me. My intention, however, is to give a background for the second article which will look at Bahrain and the GCC's future in the light of the convergence of these three technological forces. I intend to draw both positive and negative conclusions for this country and its region.

*Richard Banks is consulting editor to Euromoney Conferences. The opinions voiced in this article are his alone.*

*The GCC Financial Forum 2017 - co-hosted by the Bahrain Economic Development Board- will be held in Bahrain on 27 -28 February 2017. Further details can be found at [www.euromoneyconferences.com/bahrain](http://www.euromoneyconferences.com/bahrain)*

*(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.)*

# iGA to research on foreign investments

DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

## Manama

**I**n an initiative to equip decision-makers in setting appropriate policies to attract more investments, Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) is conducting the Foreign Investment Surveys for Bahrain.

The survey is being conducted in collaboration with Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), Central Bank of Bahrain, and Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism with the purpose of measuring the volume of foreign investments in the Kingdom.

In regards to the survey, iGA Director General of Statistics Dr.

Nabeel bin Shams stated that these surveys aim at building an integrated database of foreign investment statistics in the Kingdom and to equip decision-makers with accurate, updated statistics in the field of investment.

"The survey enables them to take necessary decisions in order to create the right climate to attract investments. It also aims to provide global organisations with statistics that show Bahrain's position within the international investments map, identify the role of foreign investment in national economy, as well as distribute the investment in the Kingdom according to the economy sector, while showing the extent of its impact on the various sectors," Dr Nabeel stated.

The survey aims at identifying the foreign investment sources in the country according to investment countries and their nationalities.

It also aims at distinguishing the attracted investment sectors in the purpose of focusing on them or shifting to other development sectors which do not attract foreign investors.

The Information & eGovernment Authority invites all establishments of foreign investments which have been selected to collaborate with field researchers, assigned by the authority, to disclose required information.

The authority commits to abide by complete confidentiality in handling the data for statistical purposes only - under Decree Law No. 7 of 1977.

## Shop Bahrain announces final raffle draw winners

DT News Network  
Manama

**S**hop Bahrain organizers announced the winners of the fourth and final weekly raffle draw where three lucky winners won cars from YK Almoayed & Sons, the Bahrain Shopping Festival Strategic Partner.

From the Gold tier, Alia Khenji won an Infiniti QX70, while Sayed Hussam Adnan from the Silver tier won a Nissan Altima. Yasser Al Satrawi from the Bronze tier won a Nissan Sunny.

The Festival that was held from 19 January and until 18th February hosted a number of entertaining activities and weekly raffle draws that include 12 cars, airline tickets, and over 25,000 valuable prizes.



**Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, and Shaikh Ali Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa president of Bahrain Football Association, signed an agreement to support the training and employment of Bahrainis in the sports sector. Under this agreement Tamkeen will support training for a number of Bahrainis and will provide them with professional certificates in various fields such as coaching, physical therapy, accounting and others, to equip them with the necessary skills to work in various sports clubs**

## Experts to speak at insurance forum

DT News Network  
Manama

**T**he 13th Annual Middle East Insurance Forum (MEIF 2017), being held in partnership with the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), is set to commence on February 20 in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

More than 400 high level attendees are expected to attend the forum which aims to explore "Current Challenges and their Implications on the Regional Insurance Industry - The Road Ahead", the theme of this year's event.

Senior industry leaders and experts will discuss on a number of key topics to help regional insurance and Takaful companies meet existing restraints and identify new strategies, solutions and frameworks to pursue individual growth and overall

industry advancement.

Day one of the Forum will be kicked off by notable speakers including Executive Director of Financial Institutions Supervision at the CBB, Abdul Rahman Al Baker, in addition to Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) and Mark Cooper, General Representative of the Middle East and Director of Lloyd's Limited.

Al Baker Executive Director of Financial Institutions Supervision at the CBB, said: "The Forum will once again serve as an important platform for exchange and mapping out the road ahead for the insurance and Takaful markets across the MENA region. The programme will look at key areas of challenge and opportunity and serve as a means by

which to develop new and innovative ideas to drive further industry development and growth."

Other highlights of the event include the presentation of the "EY 2017 Middle East Insurance Report" by Sanjay Jain, Director and MENA Insurance Leader at Ernst & Young on day two of the Forum.

MEIF 2017 will also announce and award the "Best Insurance Company in the MENA Region" at the forum.

This flagship event spearheaded by the Central Bank of Bahrain is held with the support of the BIA and sponsored by Braxtone Insurance Management, Protection, Ta'zur, SNIC, ARIG, and GIG.

Visit [www.meifbahrain.com](http://www.meifbahrain.com) or contact [meif@finmarkcoms.com](mailto:meif@finmarkcoms.com) +973 17749759 for more details.



### CNPC signs \$1.77 bn Abu Dhabi deal

Abu Dhabi

The China National Petroleum Corporation yesterday secured an eight-percent share in an onshore oil concession in Abu Dhabi in a deal worth \$1.77 billion, the Emirati company said.

The Chinese giant signed a deal with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company for a stake for Onshore Petroleum Operations. (AFP)



### PSA to keep German jobs if it buys Opel

Berlin

French automaker PSA has pledged to keep Opel plants in Germany running if a planned merger goes forward, and to refrain from layoffs until at least 2019, a report said yesterday.

PSA has confirmed it is interested in taking over Opel, the German arm of US giant General Motors.

But the plans have sparked fears in Germany that Peugeot will cut jobs that overlap with existing positions in France. (AFP)



Look well to this day. Yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well therefore to this day

Francis Gray

Irish artist



## Tips For effective Business Communication

Whether you have high hopes of being the next renowned CEO or just preparing for an upcoming job interview, it's important to learn how to communicate like a professional. These tips to help you have the confidence you need to conquer the corporate world.

#### Open Meeting

It is easier to communicate your passion and how you feel to your team via open meetings. In this kind of forum, they will not only hear what you are saying, they will also see and feel it. This approach still remains one of the best approaches to communicate effectively with a team.



#### Display Confidence and Seriousness

Ensure that you display confidence and seriousness to ensure that you will not be taken for granted. When your team members notice any uncertainty and lack of seriousness when you're communicating with them, they are likely to treat the information with disdain or disregard.

#### Use Simple Words

The truth is that everybody cannot be on same page when it comes to vocabulary. Therefore, to be effective in your communications with your team members, use words that can be easily understood. When ambiguous words are used, you can be misunderstood and/or waste precious time having to explain yourself.



#### Emails

In official settings, communication via email remains potent. It will enable you to pass messages to members of your team without pulling them out of their work stations.



#### Use Visuals

Place visuals at strategic positions around the work stations of your team. They should not just hear the message, they should also see it. This gives room for better comprehension.



#### One on One

Experts have been able to prove that some people understand better when you take them aside and talk to them on a one-on-one basis. Ensure that you maintain eye contact with them to enable the message to sink in.

#### Use Presentations

Some people grasp messages easily when pictures and sounds are involved. Using presentations like Microsoft Power Point to communicate with your team will give them the opportunity to refer back to it if they aren't clear about certain things.



#### Listen to Your Team Members

Communication is intended to be a two way street. Don't just talk because you are the leader without listening to anyone else. Encourage them to open up so you can be well guided when communicating in the future with them. You have two ears and one mouth - so you must listen more than you speak.

#### Use Body Language

Your body language will pass your message faster and better. Master the art of using body language when communicating with your team. Stand/sit up straight, use smiles, handshakes and eye contact.

#### Communication via Training

Your training should be tailored towards communicating certain information to your team members. Most employees take training serious, especially when it's part of their appraisal.

# BD 2.3 m net profit for SICO

DT News Network Manama

Securities & Investment Company (SICO), licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain registered BD 2.3 million net profit compared with BD 2.8 m in 2015, a decrease of around 18 percent due primarily to the continued volatility of regional and global equity markets during the year.

Operating income reduced by around 6 pc to BD 7.9 m from BD 8.4 m the previous year. Total operating expenses reduced to BD 5.3 m from BD 5.5 m in 2015. Basic earnings per share in 2016 were Bahraini fils 5.5 versus 6.6 fils for the previous year.

For the fourth quarter of 2016, net consolidated profit was BD 2.4 m compared with BD 548 thousand for the last three months of the previous year; while total operating income was BD 2.9 m versus BD 1.7 m for the corresponding period in 2015. Operating expenses amounted to BD 1.3 m (4Q15: BD 1.0 m).

As at December 31 total balance sheet footings stood at BD 147.1 m compared with BD 112.8 m at the end



Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa



Najla M. Al Shirawi

of the previous year.

SICO continued to maintain a strong capital base, ending the year with shareholders' equity of BD 58.1 m net of BD 2.1 m dividends distributed earlier in the year (2015: BD 58.4m), and a very strong consolidated capital adequacy ratio of 61.1 pc. Investments at fair value through profit or loss were BD 28.0 m (end-2015: BD 14.3m).

Assets Under Management increased by 19 pc to BD 395.9 m from BD 332.3 m in 2015, while assets under custody with the Bank's wholly-owned subsidiary - SICO Funds

Services Company (SFS) - increased to BD 1.9 bn from BD 1.7 bn at the end of 2015.

"The results reflect clients' continued confidence in SICO's capability to deliver a resilient performance in challenging conditions," Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of Securities & Investment Company (SICO), said.

Putting the financial results of 2016 into context, Najla M. Al Shirawi, Chief Executive Officer of SICO, said that the company had adopted a forward-looking, proactive approach throughout the year.

## New amenity kits by Gulf Air

DT News Network news@dt.bh

Manama

Gulf Air, this month rolled out new, branded (Cerruti 1881 and Guy Laroche) amenity kits for the airline's premium Falcon Gold passengers in addition to Gulf Air Kids Entertainment Packs for the airline's younger passengers.

The amenity kits feature signature products by Aigner and are available on all



Gulf Air Amenity Bag and Kids Pack


medium and long-haul flights for the airline's Falcon Gold Class passengers.

The Kids Entertainment Packs, tailored for the airline's 3-12 year old passengers

travelling in both Falcon Gold and Economy Class cabins feature items including an aviation themed backpack, activity book, toys, hats and more.



### Did You Know?



Canon was established by a movie camera repairman, who wanted to introduce European-style cameras into Japan. Leica, the leading camera manufacturer at the time, was his biggest inspiration. Allegedly, he tore a Leica camera apart and was baffled by what he saw: "I was surprised that when these inexpensive materials were put together into a camera, it demanded an exorbitant price. This made me angry"



### CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2969	0.2945
BANGLADESH	0.00517	0.00476
CANADA	0.2944	0.2913
DENMARK	0.0572	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0219
EURO	0.4082	0.4061
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00586	0.00575
INDONESIA	0.00002997	0.00002896
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003500	0.003430
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5351
KOREA	0.0003782	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.087000	0.0869
NEW ZEALAND	0.2767	0.2754
NORWAY	0.0476	
NEPAL	0.00387	0.00035
OMAN	0.97962	0.97962
PAKISTAN	0.00358	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00778	0.00756
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2706	0.2686
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03090	0.03080
SRI LANKA	0.00277	0.00251
SWEDISH	0.0456	
SWITZERLAND	0.3843	0.3818
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012600	
THAILAND	0.010970	0.010990
TURKEY	0.1093	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4780	0.4751
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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

### GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.4716	0.3764	0.3321
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.4100	0.2850	0.2515
OMAN	0.3849	0.3855	0.3843	0.3391
QATAR	3.6420	3.6478	3.6362	3.2082
UAE	3.6730	3.6789	3.6671	3.2356
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7560	3.7440	3.3034

# Banks support Saudi, Egypt retreats

**Dubai** Stock markets in the Middle East were mixed in modest trading volumes yesterday with Saudi Arabia and Qatar outperforming because of support from the banking sector, while Egypt fell as the currency hit a three-month high.

Two-thirds of the 12 listed banks on Saudi Arabia's bourse gained, lifting the index 0.1 percent.

Alawwal Bank added 2.7 pc, with most activity occurring in the last hour of the session.

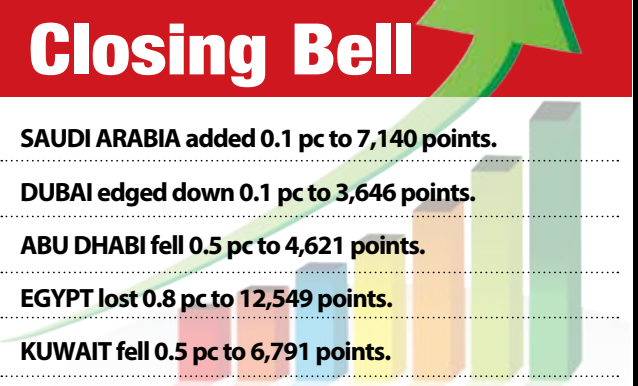
The largest Islamic lender, Al Rajhi Bank, added 0.4 pc after the bank gained market share in corporate banking last year.

Qatar's index climbed 0.9 pc in a broad-based increase as Qatar National Bank added 1.8 pc.

Dubai's index edged down 0.1 pc as builder Arabtec dropped 3.9 pc and peer Drake & Scull lost 2.6 pc.

Large caps weighed on Abu Dhabi's index, which fell 0.5 pc. First Gulf Bank lost

## Closing Bell



- SAUDI ARABIA added 0.1 pc to 7,140 points.
- DUBAI edged down 0.1 pc to 3,646 points.
- ABU DHABI fell 0.5 pc to 4,621 points.
- EGYPT lost 0.8 pc to 12,549 points.
- KUWAIT fell 0.5 pc to 6,791 points.
- QATAR added 0.9 pc to 10,917 points
- OMAN edged up 0.3 pc to 5,858 points.
- BAHRAIN inched down 0.2 pc to 1,321 points.

0.7 pc and Etisalat dropped 1.1 pc.

Egypt's index retreated 0.8 pc as bourse data showed foreign investors were net sellers to the tune of about \$175 million - a very large amount by the standards of that market.

Foreign investors bought stocks heavily in the months after the Egyptian pound was floated on Nov. 3,

which caused the currency to depreciate, making equities much cheaper for international buyers.

In the last couple of weeks the pound has been rebounding, however, and it was quoted at 15.77 per U.S. dollar yesterday. The appreciation has made stocks more expensive for foreigners and encouraged some to book currency gains. (Reuters)

# Seminar on finance solutions held

**DT News Network Manama**

As part of its efforts to support the training and development needs of the local and regional financial sector, the Bahrain Institute for Banking and Finance (BIBF) held a Financial Technology seminar (FinTech) focusing on the upcoming trends in FinTech pertaining to Bahrain and the wider GCC market.

The seminar was led by

experts from Europe and the GCC including MasterCard and Upaid, who discussed the upcoming trends in FinTech especially focusing on payment solutions for the Middle East as a whole.

The experts also collaborated with the attending audience to discuss how to integrate these solutions as part of Islamic banking operations and activities.

"The BIBF strives to provide comprehensive business

solutions and exceptional learning opportunities that match local and regional market conditions. The seminar shed light on the inventive and ingenious financial technology solutions that have transformed the sector, and presents a framework for how these solutions can be integrated as part of enormously successful Islamic finance sector," BIBF's Deputy Director Dr. Ahmed Al Shaikh said.

Head of the BIBF Islamic

## BCCI to hold business forum



**DT News Network Manama**

The ICT committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) headed by bureau member Ahmed bin Hindi and in cooperation with GS1 Bahrain is holding a seminar on standard barcoding tomorrow at 11 a.m. in Al Majlis Hall of Bait Al Tijjar.

All members of the business community have been invited to attend this seminar which will be conducted in Arabic and English by CEO of GS1 Bahrain Raed Al Samahiji. Interested participants can contact 17380094.

## Ministry launches new e-service

**DT News Network news@dt.bh**

**Manama**

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism launched a new electronic service "My CR".

The service allows the investors after entering the Commercial Registration Portal "Sijilat", to find all relevant investors CRs and data directly without entering additional information such as CPR or CR number through a single window.

It also allow investors to renew CR and find out CR irregularities. The investor can also find out electronic certificate, operation financial assets.

Finance Center, Mujtaba Khalid also showcased a customisable app, developed in-house by the BIBF Islamic Finance Centre in partnership with European based UPaid that facilitates Islamic retail banking consumers to manage their finances, make Shariah compliant investments and make both online and offline payments.

The Islamic Finance Centre is launching its online e-Learning portal on the February 26.



Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth.  
— Bradley Whitford



# CAMPUS

campus@dt.bh

Monday, February 20, 2017

11

## CALL FOR NEXT GENERATION OF JOURNALISTS TO APPLY FOR FUTURE NEWS WORLDWIDE 2017

### Scottish Parliament will host the third international youth journalism conference

#### Manama:

The British Council has issued a global call for the next generation of journalists to apply for a place at Future News Worldwide 2017, the international conference for youth journalism.

Supported by some of the world's leading media organisations, including Reuters, Facebook and Google News Lab, the 2017 conference will take place in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, on 6 and 7 July. Attendance at the conference is fully funded for all successful applicants, including travel to and from Edinburgh.

Now in its third year, Future News Worldwide 2017 will bring together 100 student journalists from across the globe for an intensive two-day journalism and media programme in Scotland's capital, where they will have exclusive access to talks and training from some of the

world's most high-profile media figures. Alongside a programme of skills workshops, delegates will network with other aspiring and established journalists, building strong and lasting connections to the next generation of media leaders across the globe.

Jackie Killeen, Country Director of the British Council in Scotland, said: "This is an exceptional opportunity to learn directly from leading media figures about the craft of good journalism, and to gain a unique insight into the changing ways news is delivered. The global connections made at the conference will be invaluable to the students as they launch and progress their careers in international journalism".

Future News Worldwide 2017 is a partnership programme between the British Council and some of the world's leading media organisations: Reuters, CNN, BBC, Facebook, Google News

Lab, The Economist, The Herald and Times, STV, as well as the Scottish Parliament and the UK Schools of Journalism.

The programme is open to undergraduate students aged 18-25 who are passionate about journalism in any form. Application is via the website [www.britishcouncil.org/future-news-worldwide](http://www.britishcouncil.org/future-news-worldwide) and closes on 28 February 2017.

"Future News Worldwide taught me that you don't have to be from a particular part of the world to be a great journalist; we can all improve journalism with access to the same knowledge" said Tiya Miki Chirwa, Malawi, Future News Worldwide alumna. "It's about broadening your knowledge, sharpening your skills and making connections with other young journalists from around the world"

For more information visit the website or contact [FutureNewsWorldwide@britishcouncil.org](mailto:FutureNewsWorldwide@britishcouncil.org).



Members of the St Chris Student Community Service Captain Team: Kamilah El Kanfoudi, Urvi Ashar, Diva Lobo and Kyla Reekie, Zach Shamma and Eli Saghbini  
Back row (R-L): Kristina Bourner, Jo Holland, Nick Wilson (Head of Senior School), DHL representative, Lee Churchill, DHL representative

### Teachers to visit United World Schools Project

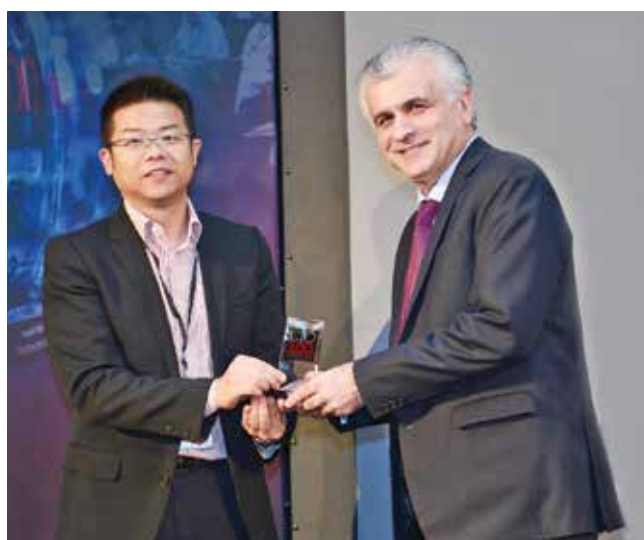
#### Manama

Kristina Bourner, Community Service Co-ordinator, Jo Holland, Learning Support Teacher and Lee Churchill, Year 1 Teacher, will be visiting the recently opened St Chris United World Schools Project in Gurase, Nepal this week.

Having been irreparably damaged by the catastrophic earthquake, the re-building of the school was financed by the fund-raising efforts of the staff and students of the St Chris Senior School and the wider St Chris community, under the auspices of United

World Schools (UWS).

UWS are a non-profit organisation based in the United Kingdom who work to create educational opportunities for children living in the world's poorest regions. Many of the children in Gurase previously had to walk 3-4 hours to reach the nearest school through difficult and dangerous terrain. Crossing rivers using unstable rope bridges was often a routine feature of the journey. Funds raised have been used to build the school, including a library, and to provide clean water and teaching resources for 200 students and their teachers.



Dr. Jassim Haji, the Bahraini executive and technological researcher, has received CIO100 award which was presented by Mr. Dan Hu, Country Manager from Alibaba Cloud MEA. This award ceremony was organized by Computer News Middle East (CNME) and recognizes best CIOs in the region. This is the sixth consecutive year for Dr. Haji to win this award, which makes him the only recognized executive in the Kingdom of Bahrain and Middle East to achieve this and the first time in CNME's history for a single person to win the award six times on a row. These awards come after a long time of achievements and hard work by Dr. Haji which have enriched the technological field in the Kingdom of Bahrain and influenced the region.



### Polytechnic Holds All Staff Gathering

Under the patronage of Acting CEO Dr. Mohamed Al Aseeri, Bahrain Polytechnic held its annual all staff gathering at the Polytechnic's Bahrain Hall, where all employees were addressed on the latest updates from all departments and directorates in preparation for the start of the second semester.

The gathering was opened by Dr. Hasan Almulla, Deputy CEO of Academic Services, on behalf of the executive management.

Dr. Almulla stressed that the achievements of the Polytechnic all contribute to its Strategic Plan 2015-2019, the government action plan 2015-2018, and seeks to be an active contributor to achieve the Bahrain 2030 Vision.

Executives, directors, deans, and managers from various departments within the Polytechnic presented their key achievements and latest updates during the last semester, including their future plans for the coming period

and its accordance with the goals of the Polytechnic's strategic plan.

Dr. Al Aseeri welcomed the members of the academic and administrative bodies, and conveyed the greetings of the Board of Trustees to them. He stressed that the reason of conducting this gathering is for employees to be informed of all matters relating to the Polytechnic, including plans and projects, in order to be more connected and productive.

### Researcher Connect

#### Manama

Researcher Connect is training program designed to sharpen early-stage researchers and higher studies student writing and communications skills to increase their chances of being published and participating in international conference. The program is fully sponsored by the British Council and seats are limited. To register or for more information, please call 17266166 or email us on [marwa.alawi@britishcouncil.orh.bh](mailto:marwa.alawi@britishcouncil.orh.bh) Regarding Researcher Connect new dates:

- 23 & 25 February 2017 at Ahlia University
- 26 - 28 February 2017 at Ahlia University





Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received the Muharraq Governor Salman bin Hindi and his sons yesterday at the Gudaibiya Palace



BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, in the presence of Minister of Defence Affairs, Lt.General Yusuf Al Jahma and Chief of Staff Lt. General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, welcomed yesterday a delegation from the United States National Defence University (USNDU) led by General (Ret) Gregory S. Martin. The meeting was attended by Defence Ministry Undersecretary Major General Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, General Command Court Director Major General Hassan Mohammed Sa'ad, Inspector General Major General Abdullah Hassan Al Nuaimi, Assistant Chief of Staff for Supply and Catering Rear Admiral Yusef Ahmed Malallah, Military Cooperation Director Rear Admiral Mohammed Hashim Al-Sada, senior BDF officers, the US Ambassador to Bahrain William Roebuck and Commander of the US Fifth Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command Vice Admiral Donegan Kevin



BBK Al Hayrat Instant Millionaire Grand Prize hand over ceremony was held yesterday at the Ritz Carlton. Dr. Azad Kareem Kassim, the winner of contest was welcomed by Reyadh Sater, BBK Chief Executive in the presence of BBK management







Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday met with General (Ret) Gregory S. Martin along with students of the United States National Defence University (USNDU) participating in the CAPSTONE Course, at Riffa Palace. During the meeting, Prince Salman stressed the Kingdom's longstanding commitment to educational excellence and specialised training in various fields



Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received at Sakhir Air Base yesterday a BDF task force taking part in the "Restore Hope Operation" in Yemen as part of the Saudi-led Arab coalition. The Commander hailed their dedicated efforts in performing their sacred national duty and praised bravery and sacrifice of the task force members yesterday at the Gudaibiya Palace



Labour Market Regulatory Authority CEO also Head of National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ausamah Al Absi, yesterday received a United States congressional delegation. Al-Absi briefed the US delegation on Bahrain's legislative and laws for the protection of expats labour, the establishment of a centre to support and protect expatriate workers that includes a shelter for human trafficking victims



Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba), the Bahrain-based international aluminium smelter, welcomed the German Ambassador to the Kingdom Alfred Simms-Protz and Deputy Head of Mission Wolfgang Haagen to strengthen commercial ties with industries in Germany. Alba's Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray and Director of Administration Waleed Tamimi welcomed the delegation and expressed thanks for their visit



President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received yesterday Russian Ambassador to Bahrain Vagif Garaev. The Russian ambassador praised Bahrain's cultural achievements, thanking BACA President for organising the Russian Films Days throughout this year at Bahrain National Museum and Arad Fort



CEO of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Shaikh Khalid bin Humood Al Khalifa, received yesterday Vice-Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (RCCI), Vladimir Dmitriev, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting focused on reinforcing bilateral relations and tourism cooperation



Ombudsman Nawaf Mohammed Al-Ma'awda received UK Member of Parliament and Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Bahrain, Color Burns MP. Al-Ma'awda welcomed MP Burns and briefed him about the Ombudsman office, stressing the role of the watchdog in fostering human rights in the Kingdom



The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Medical University of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS) for the continued operations of the joint-venture, Mobile Diabetes Unit. The MoU was signed during a meeting at the Bahrain Financial Harbour between RCSI President, Professor Sameer Ootom and Bahrain Diabetes Society President and Supreme Council for Health Chairman, Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Primary Care and Public Health and BDS Vice President, Dr Mariam Harmas Al Hajeri



# CELEBS

Grasy Kardashian @iKylieFornia  
if its bringing constant pain to your life, it could be anything, except love



## Ed Sheeran's fitness plan for parents

Los Angeles

**S**inger Ed Sheeran has had a gym and swimming pool installed in his parents' house because he wants to make sure they live long and healthy lives.

The 26-year-old wants his parents John, 60 and Imogen, 57, to be fit, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

"I think any kid at my age starts getting worried about their parents' health. I have bought them a cross-trainer and built them a swimming pool," he told *The Sun*.

"They are now training and swimming every day. I want them to be able to hang out with their grandkids for a very long time," he added.

However, in his own home, Sheeran has opted to build a pub, where he intends to host parties in the coming years. (IANS)

## Jolie gets emotional at Cambodian movie premiere

**A**t the world premiere of her passion project 'First They Killed My Father' in Cambodia, Angelina Jolie referenced her deep connection to the place, since it is where her first child, Maddox, is from.

"I cannot find words to express what it means to me that I was entrusted with telling part of the story of this country," she said. "This film was not made to focus on the horrors of the past, but to celebrate the resilience, kindness and talent of the Cambodian people."

The 41-year-old also said that the film is her way of thanking the nation.

"Without Cambodia I may never have become a mother. Part of my heart is and will always be in this country. And part of this country is always with me: Maddox." (TOI)



## TIMBERLAKE PLANS TO SHOW 'THE GRADUATE' TO HIS SON

Los Angeles

**S**inger-actor Justin Timberlake says he has the responsibility to show his son the 1967 film "The Graduate".

Timberlake was part of a Q&A session on Thursday alongside songwriter-producer Max Martin and producer Karl Johan Schuster (aka Shellback). The musician and actor talked about working on both the soundtrack and as a voice actor on the film "Trolls", reports *variety.com*.

He joked that he will eventually have to have a conversation with his two-year-old son about the movie's use of the Simon & Garfunkel track "The sound of silence".

"At some point, I have a very specific responsibility to show him 'The Graduate'," Timberlake said.

"Because he's going to hear 'The sound of silence' and he's going to be like 'That's from my daddy's movie'."

As for the Oscar-nominated track "Can't stop the feeling", Martin talked about the process of knowing when a song is ready to release. (IANS)



### Celeb Facts

Fans of Katy Perry began throwing chapsticks at her when she was performing "I kissed a girl" on stage because of the lyrics "tastes of her cherry chapstick".



**Fashion tip of the week**



(harpersbazaar.com)

**Styling Takeaway:** Chrissy Teigen proves that you can never go wrong in an all-black look—especially when you have a floor-length black duster coat to show off.

**T**he *Royals*' star Elizabeth Hurley has said she and actor Hugh Grant share a great bond despite ending their romantic relationship long back

The pair dated for 13 years before they split in May 2000 and the 51-year-old actress said they have managed to maintain a close friendship and are still 'best friends'. "We are best friends. We look out for each other," she said.

Meanwhile, talking about the secret of her fitness, Elizabeth said she does not have a mantra for staying in shape. "I don't think there is any secret, really, is there? We all know, it's not going to bed too late, not drinking too much alcohol, eating lots of vegetables, all those sorts of things." (TOI)



**Elizabeth Hurley 'best friends' with ex Hugh Grant**

**Biel has to eat in shower: "This is just mother life"**

**T**otal Recall' star Jessica Biel has said most of the time she ends up eating her meals in shower because of her 22-month-old son, Silas.

The 34-year-old actress revealed that she is too busy to think about food most mornings because she is so focused on feeding her little boy and getting him ready for the day.

Discussing a photo she posted on *Instagram* of a coffee cup and empty plate in the shower, the star told 'Tonight Show' host Jimmy Fallon, "This is just mom life. I don't know if anybody else does this, (but) I don't have time for anything. I'm feeding (Silas) in the morning, trying to get ready." (TOI)



**Zoe Saldana welcomes third son**

Los Angeles

**A**ctress Zoe Saldana and husband Marco Perego have welcomed their third child -- a boy.

"Marco and I are elated to share the news of the birth of our son Zen," the actress announced on *Instagram* on Saturday, reports *usmagazine.com*.

"We couldn't feel more blessed with the new addition to our family. Three boys... oh boy!" (IANS)



**STARRY**  
*Birthday*  
**Chelsea Peretti**

February 20, 1978

American stand-up comedian and television actress known for her work on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, a Fox program that premiered in 2013.



# OUT & ABOUT

## HOW TO REACH US

"Out & About", a ready reckoner for the events taking place on the island, is published from Friday to Tuesday. To be included, please use one of the following: [outandabout@dt.bh](mailto:outandabout@dt.bh), or call 38444680.

### SUSHI ART | WU RESTAURANT

**Date:** 21 Feb 7 pm – 11 pm

**Venue:** ART Rotana- Muharraq

Dive into our all you can Sushi ART concept every Tuesday at WU Restaurant and Lounge nestled right by the beach at ART Rotana. Indulge your sushi cravings with our all you can eat and drink Sushi ART promotion and feast your senses on a fresh Sushi center stage filled with a plethora of sumptuous Maki, Sashimi and more delicious favorites! Enjoy selected beverages throughout the evening plus a set menu of hot dishes delivered to the table for you and your guests to share.

### WALKING TOUR OF MUHARRAQ- PEARL TRAIL

**Date:** 22 Feb 9 am – 11 am

**Venue:** Muharraq- Muharraq

Explore Bahrain's Pearling Trail in Muharraq (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and follow in the footsteps of Bahrain's pearl divers during much of Bahrain's history until the early 1930s. For part one, our journey starts at Siyadi House and ends at the House of Coffee.

### LECTURE: PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING TIMES OF CRISIS IN THE ARAB WORLD

**Date:** February 22, 6.30pm

**Venue:** Bahrain National Museum – Auditorium

During periods of crisis, physical structures and administrative mechanisms in place to safeguard cultural heritage are often dismantled or destroyed. Due to declining State authority, archaeological, historic and

## HIGHLIGHT

### MAKE YOUR MOMMA PROUD LIVE

**Date:** 3rd March 2017, 6.30pm

**Venue:** The Indian School Ground, Isa Town

One of the biggest and well-known music bands in the Philippines is coming to Bahrain exclusively for Modern Exchange customers. Make Your Momma Proud known popularly as M.Y.M.P will be performing live on March 3 at the Indian High School Ground, Isa Town.

M.Y.M.P., an acoustic band from the Philippines consists of five members. It is a tribute to lead singer Chin Alcantara's mom. She saw him start with the guitar but never got to see him play professionally. They have rose to stardom through the release of their soulful albums many of which has been certified as Platinum. It is MYMPs first performance in the Kingdom and promises to be a mesmerizing experience for the Filipino community. The process of getting a pass for this exciting program is quite simple. Do a transaction of any amount to the Philippines from Modern Exchange before 03rd of March and get a free pass for the event.



artistic treasures are threatened by direct damage, looting, abandonment and neglect. Such detrimental conditions affecting cultural heritage are heightened and challenge preservation initiatives needed to administer critical first aid measures.

The preservation of cultural heritage during times of ongoing conflict may seem superfluous, even inappropriate, amidst heavy death tolls. However, its use in post-crisis recovery is globally regarded as valuable assets that can and should be utilised for long-term cultural, social and economic development.

### FILM: KING CORN

**Date:** Wednesday 22nd February 2017, 7pm

**Venue:** Bahrain Cinema Club, Juffair  
King Corn is a feature documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food nation. In the film, Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, best friends from college on the east coast, move to the heartland to learn where their

food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America's most-productive, most-subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat—and how we farm.

### MAGIC UNLIMITED IN BAHRAIN

**Date:** 23 Feb 6 pm - 25 Feb 9 pm

**Venue:** The Cultural Hall- Manama

Prepare to be amazed by the most entertaining live illusion show of this time! Magic Unlimited will captivate audiences of all ages with this spectacular act who have toured all over Europe, Asia and America but never the Middle East. Now brought to you by Motiv8 Events & Media for the first time in the GCC!

### THE SECRET POLICE LIVE IN CONCERT

**Date:** 23 Feb 9 pm - 24 Feb 11:30 pm

**Venue:** The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa- Manama

THE SECRET POLICE Live in Concert back from the UK by popular demand at Sherlock Holmes!! Thursday 23 Feb, 2017 starting at 9:00pm and Friday 24 Feb, 2017 starting at 12:30pm.

### NOCTURNE FOR PIT ORCHESTRA

**Date:** March 9

**Venue:** Bahrain National Quarry

A sound live performance involving the laborers of the Bahrain National Quarry. A project by Ilaria Lupo in collaboration with Rabih Beaini, and the participation of Hasan Hujairi.

### BAHRAIN ANNUAL FINE ARTS EXHIBITION 43

**Date:** On-going till 17 March 2017, 8:00 am 8:00 pm

**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre

The Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, in its 43rd edition, celebrates the creativity and ingenuity of the local artists. Every year, the art community gathers to present their finest work, uninhibited by a subject or theme. The result is a colorful display of styles, techniques, through different mediums of expression.

### THE SELFLESS HOLY GROUND

**Date:** Sunday - Thursday 19 March - 13 April, 8 am - 8:00 pm

**Venue:** Art Centre

The exhibition features interactive installations by artist Othman Khunji created through the use and application of cutting-edge technology, including Arduino sensors/actuators, 3D printing, laser cutting, and water jet engraving. The collection explains and portrays the contrast between the traditional self-sacrificing, selfless, altruistic symbol that Mecca has always represented for Muslims, and the contemporary self-centered, selfish, egocentric aura that has become synonymous with one's journey to our most holiest of places.

## MARK YOUR Calendar

### 2017 CHERRY TREE TROT RACE

**Date:** Saturday, 11th of March, 2017

**Venue:** Bahrain International Circuit (BIC)

The Cherry Tree Trot (CTT) is a day of fun and races sponsored by the American Women's Association(AWA). It is one of the oldest and highest profile charity events in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The CTT is organized to raise money for over 35+ Bahraini charities supported by AWA. The high profile event is held every two years. It is also a fun day out for participants who are mentally and physically challenged, with the primary event being a 2k race designed especially for them. There are three categories: 1) Adults (over 18 years of age), 2) Children and 3) People in Wheelchairs.

The participants with mental and physical challenges will be supported in their race by students, volunteers from private schools, and adult volunteers; including many from the American Forces based in Bahrain. Included in the other race events are a 2k, 3k, 5k and 8k race for able-bodied participants of various ages. There is also a 3k walkathon for those who like to take things a little easier, such as families with pushchairs or strollers. Children ages 6-12 can enter the 2k race, ages 13 and up can enter the 3k, 5k and 8k races. All ages can walk in the walkathon. Spectators are welcome and are not charged. Register online at [www.adnanevents.org](http://www.adnanevents.org) till 23rd February 2017.



### OPERA: "ANTAR WA ABLA"

**Date:** 25th February, 8:00pm

**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre

Experience one of the most important theatrical productions in the Arab world, "Antar Wa Abla", and learn why it has won such widespread popularity and acclaim since its debut in July 2016 in Beirut in commemoration of Arab Tourism Day. This historical opera, produced by Opera Lebanon, showcases pre-Islamic literature and poetry, Arab heritage, and timeless stories that address important social and human issues through relatable characters in exceptional circumstances.

## HIGHLIGHT

### BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL GARDEN SHOW

**Date:** February 22, and will be open to the public from the 23rd to the 26th of February 2017

**Venue:** Bahrain International Convention & Exhibition Centre

This year's Bahrain International Garden Show will feature the latest agricultural innovations in utilizing limited resources to create small gardens or green spaces in order to achieve agricultural development and sustainability. To achieve this goal, the theme of the show is "Compact Gardens", with the University of Bahrain designing a special display, demonstrating unique ideas in utilizing limited spaces to easily create compact gardens. A section in the exhibition has been allocated to showcase pictures of local homes and buildings with creative ways to introduce different plants and flowers that are suited to limited spaces and our climate. Another section has been allocated to showcase practical ideas and solutions for designing small spaces in residential areas such as



balconies, roofs, and exteriors, focusing on the positive impacts of limiting pollution, beautifying residences, and providing fresh produce for the owners' needs, said National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) Secretary-General Shaikha Maram bint Isa AlKhalifa.



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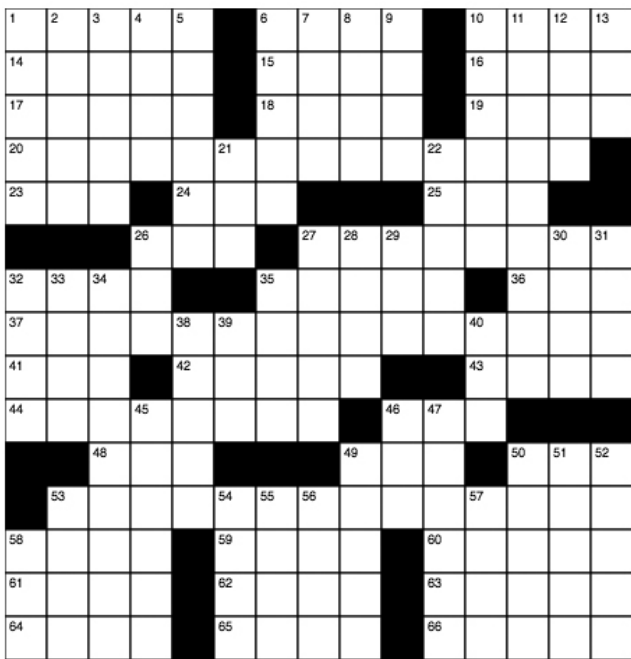
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# CROSSWORD



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### Across

1- Wise ones; 6- Pile; 10- Ladies of Sp.; 14- Ancient Indo-European; 15- Spanish stew: \_\_\_ podrida; 16- Furnace output; 17- \_\_\_ cotta; 18- Nair rival; 19- Over- 50 org.; 20- Unreachable; 23- Comrade; 24- Sailor; 25- Moo goo \_\_\_ pan; 26- Haul; 27- State of USA; 32- Numbered work; 35- First-stringers; 36- Lilt syllable; 37- Adding vitamins, say; 41- Hearst kidnap grp.; 42- Rub out or remove from memory; 43- Sgts., e.g.; 44- Salve; 46- Take a load off; 48- Narc's org.; 49- Female fowl; 50- General on Chinese menus; 53- One purpose of a driver's license; 58- Prolific author, briefly; 59- Work without \_\_\_; 60- Long stories; 61- Sunday seats; 62- Rich soil; 63- Parisian pupil; 64- Start of a counting rhyme; 65- Harper's Bazaar illustrator; 66- Insertion mark;

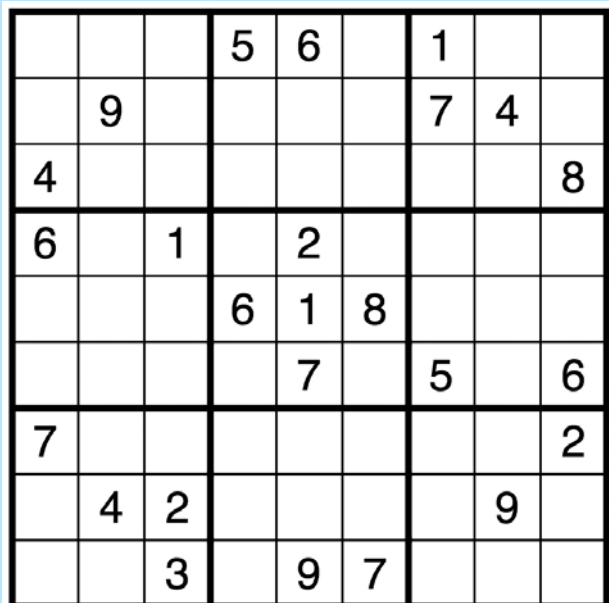
### Down

1- Showed interest; 2- Sports area; 3- Rotating; 4- Tombstone lawman; 5- Shape up; 6- High public esteem; 7- Zeno of \_\_\_; 8- One of the Baldwins; 9- Route; 10- 8th month of the Islamic calendar; 11- Lifelike; 12- Bern's river; 13- Indy 500 sponsor; 21- Inexperienced; 22- Brightly colored lizard; 26- Cookbook abbr.; 27- This is only \_\_\_; 28- Russo of "The Thomas Crown Affair"; 29- Crazy \_\_\_; 30- Buck follower; 31- Without; 32- \_\_\_ buco; 33- Hungarian sheepdog; 34- Changeable; 35- \_\_\_ for All Seasons; 38- Geneva's lake; 39- Afore; 40- Big bang cause; 45- Minuscule; 46- Blink of an eye; 47- Momentarily; 49- Blackjack request; 50- Large cat; 51- Italian white wine; 52- Get-go; 53- Arrow poison; 54- Yarn; 55- Are you \_\_\_ out?; 56- Accomplishment; 57- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 58- Gibbon, e.g.;

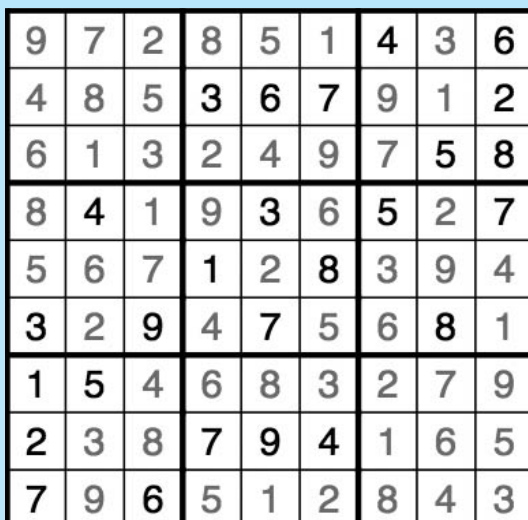
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## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### How to play:

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

## Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



You may have turned a page in the book of love. For the past month or so, you have likely been devoting the major part of your energy to finding emotional and romantic fulfillment. Today, you feel compelled to meditate on all the agitation of the past month in an effort to understand exactly what it means. Certain deeds were done, certain words were said.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



The day ahead should be fairly calm, and you'll be able to take advantage of the opportunity to pay some attention to your emotional life. You and your partner may have hit some rough weather in the past month, and the seas have not completely calmed. Perhaps you should set the stage for a romantic dinner.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Today, it's almost as though you're graduating from college with a degree in love. And it's an honours degree, at that. Today, your morale is so strong that you are able to look at relationships from all sorts of angles. You can see what's right and what's wrong not only in your own love life, but in your friends' relationships as well. What do you say, is it time to go on to graduate school?

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Peace and harmony seem to be thriving today. Believe it and enjoy it. Now is the time to return from the desert island where you've been hiding for the past few days. In any case, if life on land is unpleasant, you can always return to your solitude. However, don't be away too long, as the forecast for romance is bright...

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Have you resolved to stop dating? Not you! Don't be surprised if you're extraordinarily popular today, in spite of the fact that your self-confidence has undergone a change. It is still very much present, but is now fed from an internal source rather than an external one. It is nice to be popular, to be sure, but it is no longer as important to you as it once was.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



The day ahead should be fairly pleasant, giving you a chance to think about your love life. Today, you feel as though you're looking through a photo album. As certain images come to mind you are flooded with emotion. If you explore these intense feelings you should be able to draw some valuable conclusions about the past month.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



It's true, passion is seductive. But passion is not always a positive emotion, especially when it puts you at risk of veering off your path. Today's aspects suggest that you consider whether the people you tend to fall in love with are ultimately beneficial to your life. Do you often find yourself in the embarrassing situation of being with a person you no longer care about, yet you're too bashful to tell them?

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



You're going to be offered a good exercise in simplicity today. It may be that someone offers you a promotion or all kinds of honours. The test will be to see if you become filled with self-importance, even to the point where you change the way you dress. Or, on the contrary, will you remain unflustered, thinking that all the fuss over you is wonderful but isn't really of great importance?

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Luck is surely smiling down on you at the moment. Doors are opening up that you hadn't even known were there. But your response is strange. Why is it that you don't seem to have much enthusiasm for what is being offered at the moment? A few months ago you would have jumped for joy and now something is making you feel pensive and circumspect.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



If you are required to wrap up an agreement with partners or work in a group situation today, it would be better to hold off a bit if you can. Your way of collaborating with people is in the process of changing, and this is making it difficult right now for you to focus all of your energy on the forces you are organizing. You should choose your partners and collaborators with care, and by all means don't rush...

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



If you have made some strong resolutions lately, most notably concerning your professional life, wait a little bit before putting them into action. Your resolutions may have been made when you were in a panic and not when you were feeling particularly wise. Take the time to look over your objectives. Contrary to what people may have been advising.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



What relationships do you need to be concerned with? The current configuration suggests there are issues that need addressing. If this is the case, try to assert yourself more than is normal for you. Your natural humility sometimes pushes you to retreat and afterward you feel bad about it.



# US enters China claimed waterway

## Washington

**A**US aircraft carrier strike group is patrolling in the South China Sea, said the US Navy, days after Beijing told Washington not to challenge its sovereignty in the waterway.

China asserts ownership of almost all of the resource-rich waters despite rival claims from several Southeast Asian countries. It has rapidly built reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes.

The USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group was engaging in "routine operations in the South China Sea," the navy said in a statement on its website.

It noted that the ships and aircraft had recently

conducted exercises off Hawaii and Guam to "maintain and improve their readiness and develop cohesion as a strike group."

"We are looking forward to demonstrating those capabilities while building upon existing strong relationships with our allies, partners and friends in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region," strike group commander Rear Admiral James Kilby said in the statement.

China's foreign ministry said ships and aircraft were allowed to operate in the area according to international law.

But Beijing "firmly opposes any country's attempt to undermine China's sovereignty and security in

the name of the freedom of navigation and overflight," spokesman Geng Shuang told journalists Wednesday, responding to reports that the Vinson was headed to the South China Sea.

"We also urge the US to refrain from challenging China's sovereignty and security and to respect regional countries' efforts to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea," he said.

Washington says it does not take sides in the territorial disputes but has several times sent warships and planes to assert freedom of navigation in the Sea, sparking protests from Beijing. - (AFP)

# Shooting of teen heads to Supreme Court

## Washington

**S**ergio Hernandez died at 15, shot dead by policeman Jesus Mesa. His would have been a story of American violence both tragic and banal if the victim had not been in Mexico and the shooter in the US.

The thorny legal question raised by the cross-border homicide heads to the US Supreme Court tomorrow.

At issue is whether the teen's family has the constitutional right to sue Mesa, a Border Patrol agent, in US courts.

The shooting occurred June 7, 2010. Hernandez was playing around with three friends in the dry riverbed of the Rio Grande that separates the Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez from its Texan neighbor El Paso.

The four friends were racing



Maria Guadalupe Guereca, cries while remembering her murdered son Sergio Hernandez

up the concrete embankment to touch the barbed-wire fence on the US side, and racing back down.

Their game bothered Mesa, who was patrolling the area. He shot Hernandez in the head, and he died just 60 feet from the border on Mexican soil.

The Border Patrol agent explained that Hernandez and his friends had refused to obey his order and had thrown rocks at him.

According to the family of the victim, the teen was shot while unarmed and presented no danger.

## #PollToday



Do you think it's tough to get a job in Bahrain?

Yes  No  Can't Say



We continue to hear news of violent clashes in Democratic Republic of Congo. I strongly feel the pain of the victims, especially the children ripped from their families and schools to be used as soldiers

Pope Francis

## Rest in sight

Turning 93, Mugabe rules out retirement



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, who turns 93, has no plans to give up power, saying he has no "acceptable" successor.

France blames cyberattacks on Moscow

Suspected Russian cyberattacks on the French presidential campaign are "unacceptable", said France's foreign minister, adding it was clear that pro-Europe candidate was being targeted.

Four dead as 'worse storm in years' buffets California

A devastating storm billed by forecasters as the worst to hit California in years pounded the southern half of the state, wreaking devastation that claimed four lives, authorities said.

One dead, 27 hurt in Belgium train derailment

One person died and 27 others were injured -- three of them seriously -- when a train derailed yesterday shortly after leaving a station east of Brussels, officials said.

For more, catch us online at:

[www.newsofbahrain.com](http://www.newsofbahrain.com)

[/nobonline](https://www.facebook.com/nobonline)

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# Malaysia seeks N Korean fugitives in Kim killing

## Kuala Lumpur

**M**alaysian police said yesterday they believe five North Koreans were involved in the murder of the half-brother of leader Kim Jong-Un, with four having fled the country on the day of the killing.

Seoul said the announcement proved Pyongyang was behind the murder of Kim Jong-Nam, who died after being squirted in the face with an unidentified liquid at Kuala Lumpur Airport.

Four North Korean men were being sought over the killing, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Noor Rashid Ibrahim told reporters, in addition to their compatriot Ri Jong Chol who was arrested earlier.

Suspects Ri Ji Hyon, O



Noor Rashid Ibrahim

Jong Gil, Ri Jae Nam and Hong Song Sac, aged between 33 and 57, entered Malaysia in February or late January, the police chief said.

Three more North Koreans were wanted for questioning, he said.

Officers have already arrested one North Korean, an Indonesian woman and her Malaysian boyfriend, as well as a Vietnamese woman.

# Anti-coal protest sparks rare Thai junta climbdown

## Bangkok

**T**hailand's military government yesterday shelved plans to build a coal-fired power station in a popular beach region, a rare success for demonstrators in a country where the right to protest has been severely curbed.

Hundreds of protesters had gathered outside government offices in Bangkok since Friday to demonstrate against the junta's decision to approve an 800-megawatt coal plant on the coast of Krabi, a southern region renowned for its tropical beaches and steep limestone

hills.

Three protest leaders were detained on Saturday and held in a barracks prison but released on Sunday in a deal struck with authorities.

In a statement, government spokesman Lieutenant General Sansern Kaewkamnerd said the government had ordered a new environmental impact assessment to decide whether the plant should be built, reversing the cabinet's decision.

Protesters said they would end demonstration in response to the announcement.

# Pilgrims drown during Sri Lanka church fest

## Colombo

**A**t least 11 people including a child and five women drowned when an overcrowded boat carrying Christian pilgrims capsized in rough seas off Sri Lanka's southwest coast yesterday, police said.

The victims had set off in a parade of fishing boats from the tourist resort of Beruwala but halfway into their journey their craft overturned in choppy seas, police said.

"Other fishing boats and volunteers have been able to rescue 32 people, but we still do not have a count on the number of people on board,"



A man looks on after seeing the bodies of his family

said a police officer in the area.

He said searches by navy boats as well as aircraft were hampered by heavy winds and rain.

The boat parade came amid a warning from the meteorological department of winds up to 50 miles an hour.



# BBK Tennis: Parmer beats Sai Raghav



Sparsh parmar

Aidan Payne/DTNN  
aidan@dt.bh

## Manama

**T**op seed Sparsh Parmar had to work mighty hard to defeat fellow Indian and second seed Sai Raghav Balakrishnan 6-4, 4-6, 10-8 to take the title in the final of the Boys 12 years and under category yesterday, in cold conditions on the ninth day of the 22nd Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) Juniors Open Tennis Championship

2017 at the Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) premises in Juffair.

Sparsh managed to narrowly edge the opening set 6-4, but Sai Raghav fought back strongly to win the second set by the same score and in a tense match tie-break, Sparsh did just enough to edge out his opponent 10-8.

On the way to the final, Sparsh knocked out Aseem Khaled 4-0, 4-0 in the Round of 16, then beat Vineesh Mittal 6-0, 6-4 in the quarter

finals and victory against Abdulla Nass 6-2, 6-7(8), 10-3 in the semi-finals, whereas Sai Raghav started with a 6-1, 6-1 win in the Round of 16, then Ervin Godinho was beaten 6-4, 6-2 in the quarter finals and then Mohammed Al Shehabi 7-5, 6-2 in the semi-finals.

The semi-finals of the Boys 18 years and under went according to the seedings, as top seed Yousef Ashraf defeated Hassan Al Qattan in straight sets 6-4, 6-4, while second seed Hamad Abdul

A'al needed to come from a set down to beat Rico Cifra 5-7, 6-4, 10-5.

Today, Anshuman Sonawane takes on Alessandro Bellanto in the Boys 14 years and under final starting at 4pm.

The championship concludes tomorrow with four finals from 4pm, starting with the Unisex 8 years and under and 10 years and under, along with the Girls 14 years and under, followed at 5pm with the Boys 18 years and under.

## Al Ansari wins Bowling Master title



Top three, Abdul Aziz Al Bu Falah, Yaseen Al Ansari and Essa Akbar

### DT News Network Manama

**Y**aseen Al Ansari defeated Abdul Aziz Al Bu Falah 198-186 pins in the stepladder final to win the Babco Interdepartmental Bowling Master Tournament with H/C title at the Ozone Bowling Centre in the Sitra Mall.

In the second/third place match, Al Bu Falah bt Essa Akbar 221-167, Al Bu Falah also won the third/fourth place match 233-221 against Meteb Mubarak, while Mubarak was a 200-167 winner against Ebrahim Abdulla in the fourth/fifth place match.

Each of the 12 participants played 11 round-robin games and one for positioning to

determine the top five stepladder qualifiers.

Tonight the Banagas doubles championship begins consisting of teams of two, and must not exceed 340 as the combined average of the two players. Prizes will be awarded to the top five teams.

Qualifiers (pins):

- 1) Yaseen Al Ansari 2,677
- 2) Essa Akbar 2,635
- 3) Abdul Aziz Al Bu Falah 2,552
- 4) Ebrahim Abdulla 2,550
- 5) Meteb Mubarak 2,532
- 6) Abdul Aziz Al Madani 2,494
- 7) Hassan Qaeid 2,433
- 8) Nabeel Al Obaidly 2,409
- 9) Abdulla Al Aadi 2,328
- 10) Ali Al Heloo 2,297
- 11) Abdulla M. Abbas 2,197
- 12) Khaled Abdulla 2,164.

## Bahrain to participate in Extreme Cycling Race



DT News Network  
Manama

**B**ahrain is set to participate in the Extreme Fat Bike competition taking place on 25 February in Canada, under the directives of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Moussa Karich and Mikel Calahorra will cycle 37km over the ice, facing snow storms and fighting high winds under freezing temperatures below -30C to cross Lake

Saint-Jean, Quebec an event only for the toughest athletes in the world.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, president of the Bahrain Cycling Association, regarding the participation of the two Bahrain representatives said: "We are delighted to have riders represent Bahrain in such a unique event. Although, we don't have similar conditions in Bahrain, the fact that our riders can bring the experience of such events to us. They have been training in the sand and warm conditions, yet we are confident that they can take on such an extreme race. We

look forward to hosting fat bike sand races in the future as it gains more popularity. Cycling in Bahrain continues to grow whether it's through the new pro team Bahrain-Merida, hosting of major event such as the Asian cycling championship, or participating in world championships and top events such as this participation by Mikel and Moussa."

Extreme cold temperatures are fought with special equipment and clothing. Bilodeau Canada, special extreme cold clothing company, made with technical fabric, furs and natural animal skin from Canada spices, will

provide the Bahraini athletes with the proper clothing to support temperatures lower than -30C. Fat bikes are a particular type of mountain bikes designed to ride in harsh terrains such as sand and snow.

The size and thickness of the wheels are bigger and wider than usual bikes to assure the grip and control needed for that kind of surfaces. Karich and Calahorra will be riding FELT bikes, and have been training in the Bahraini desert. "The feeling of riding on snow comparing to sand are very similar which will give us an excellent preparation for the event," Calahorra said.

## Early Bird offer to end in 10 days



### Manama

**L**ess than 10 days remain before the end of Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) Early Bird discount on tickets to the 2017 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix and fans are being called on to take advantage of this fantastic offer, in which ticket prices are slashed by up to 15 per cent for the highly anticipated spectacle.

The discount is available

only until 28 and the 15 per cent reduction covers the Main Grandstand and Turn One Grandstand and a 10 per cent discount to the Batelco Grandstand, University Grandstands and Victory Grandstands.

The Bahrain Grand Prix is scheduled to take place April 14 to 16 in Sakhir. It will be the third of 20 races in the 2017 FIA Formula 1 World Championship.

## BTF to organise Mini Tennis festival

### Manama

**B**ahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) is organising a one-day Future Star Mini Tennis Festival sponsored by RJ Investments Holding at the Bahrain Polytechnic Courts in Isa Town starting at 8.30pm and finishing around 12 noon.

Registration is open to all for the two Unisex categories 10 years and under and 8

years and under, with the emphasis on development and played in a round-robin format followed by a knockout. Tournament director is former Bahrain Davis Cup player Abdul Rahman Shehab (tel 33162621) and entry forms are available at the Bahrain Tennis Federation, Bahrain Tennis Club and JC's Tennis Academy at Riffa Views.



# Last-ball victory for Sri Lanka

## Geelong

**A**sela Gunaratne slammed a pulse-racing 84 to power Sri Lanka to a last-ball victory against Australia yesterday, clinching their Twenty20 series.

Gunaratne pounded the Australian bowlers with five sixes and six fours off 46 balls to get his side home by two wickets to scenes of wild jubilation at Geelong.

The Sri Lankans remain unbeaten in five T20Is in Australia, but this was their finest come-from-behind performance in front of their excited expatriate fans.

With four overs left Sri Lanka needed 52 to win but an undaunted Gunaratne tore into the Australian attack, slamming Moises Henriques for three consecutive sixes and a four and then taking two fours and a six off Andrew Tye's final over.

"Asela's was an amazing innings. We lost too many wickets early but Asela finished the game for us," skipper Upul Tharanga said.

Australia's captain Aaron Finch paid tribute to Gunaratne's dynamic innings.

"When you've got an in-form batter in, it is tough. That was one hell of an innings," Finch said.

"I thought the way we bowled in the middle was outstanding. When you have a good player in good form, they hurt you.

"Sri Lanka played very well there. Take nothing away from them. We have been on the receiving end again. The series is gone, hopefully we can salvage something in Adelaide."

The series may be decided but there is one match to play, in Adelaide on Wednesday, with the Sri Lankans eyeing a clean sweep.

Their triumph in Australia follows a 2-1 T20 series victory over South Africa last month. (AFP)



Asela Gunaratne

## Hamilton

**A**polished Quinton de Kock half century laid the foundation for South Africa's four wicket win over New Zealand in a tense finish to a rain-shortened opening one-day international in Hamilton yesterday.

In a clash that went down to the wire, it was a man-of-the-match performance from de Kock on a wicket that took an exceptional amount of spin in New Zealand conditions.

The departure of de Kock for 69 sparked a middle order collapse as even the New Zealand quicks turned to bowling cutters on the responsive pitch before an AB de Villiers rescue mission saw his side home with a ball to spare.

"We never expected it to turn like that in Hamilton," de Villiers said.

With the fixture reduced to 34 overs a side following heavy rain early in the day, New Zealand posted 207 for seven, boosted by a whirlwind 51 off 23 balls at the end by unbeaten pair Colin de Grandhomme and Tim Southee.

But any thoughts New Zealand had that they were in a strong performance were soon dashed by the way de Kock launched into South Africa's reply.

"At the halfway stage we felt we were right in the game," captain Kane Williamson said.

"South Africa showed their class with the bat, batted very well and their composure towards the end was very important."

South Africa went into the final over of their reply requiring 12 to win, and de Villiers ended the game with a four off the fifth ball of Tim Southee's over.

De Villiers with 37 off 34 balls and Andile Phehlukwayo (29 off 23) combined efforts to get the tourists home.-(AFP)

## Scoreboard

**New Zealand Total (7 wickets; 34.0 overs) 207**  
**South Africa**

Q. de Kock c Taylor b Boult	69
H. Amla c & b Williamson	35
F. du Plessis lbw Sodhi	14
A. de Villiers not out	37
J. Duminy c & b Southee	1
F. Behardien b Southee	0
C. Morris c Boult b Santner	16
A. Phehlukwayo not out	29
Extras (b2, lb3, w4)	9
<b>Total (for 6 wickets; 33.5 overs)</b>	<b>210</b>

## Scoreboard

**Australia Total (all out, 20 overs) 173**

### Sri Lanka

N. Dickwella c Paine b Faulkner	14
U. Tharanga c Richardson b Turner	4
D. Munaweera c Paine b Tye	10
K. Mendis c Paine b Richardson	5
A. Gunaratne not out	84
M. Siriwardana c Turner b Tye	0
C. Kapugedera c Dunk b Cummins	32
S. Prasanna c Head b Faulkner	7
N. Kulasekara c Klinger b Tye	12
L. Malinga not out	1

**Extras (lb2, w5) 7**

**Total (8 wickets, 20 overs) 176**

Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Tharanga), 2-22

(Dickwella), 3-27 (Mendis), 4-40

(Munaweera), 5-40 (Siriwardana), 6-92

(Kapugedera), 7-119 (Prasanna), 8-160

(Kulasekara)

# Smith replaces Dhoni as skipper

## New Delhi

**M**ahendra Singh Dhoni has been removed as skipper of his Indian Premier League team with Australia's Steve Smith replacing him for the upcoming tournament, an official statement said yesterday.

Dhoni, who stepped down as India's limited-overs captain last month, will continue to play as wicketkeeper-batsman for the Rising Pune Supergiants in the Twenty20 franchise-based competition that begins April 5.

"Rising Pune Supergiant today announced the appointment of Steve Smith as their new captain for the forthcoming edition of IPL season 10," a team statement said.

Team owner Sanjiv Goenka said Dhoni "is supportive of the decision,

keeping the franchise's best interests in mind".

Under Dhoni's captaincy, the Pune team finished second last in last IPL season, winning only five games and losing nine.

Some reports said Dhoni took the decision to step down and was not sacked, but team owner Goenka told the Press Trust of India that wasn't the case.

"Dhoni has not stepped down. We have appointed Steve Smith as the skipper," said Goenka.

"Frankly speaking, we did not have a good last season and we wanted someone young to lead the side and revamp it ahead of the upcoming season 10."

There was no immediate reaction from Dhoni. (AFP)



AB de Villiers of South Africa (L) and his teammate Andile Phehlukwayo celebrate winning the one-day international

# De Villiers gets SA home



# Alexandr Dolgoplov completes dream week

Buenos Aires

**A**lexandr Dolgoplov arrived at the Argentina Open with just one win in his past 11 matches, but leaves Buenos Aires as champion after defeating top seed Kei Nishikori 7-6(5), 6-4 in yesterday's final.

With his remarkable turn in

form this week, the Ukrainian earns his third ATP World Tour singles title and his first since prevailing in Washington, D.C., in July 2012. He also picks up his first win against his Japanese opponent, having lost all five of their previous FedEx ATP Head2Head meetings in straight sets. Dolgoplov gains

250 Emirates ATP Rankings points and receives a cheque for \$97,470.

Dolgoplov didn't drop a set throughout the week and advanced through a challenging draw. He defeated second seed Pablo Cuevas in the second-round and fourth seed Pablo Carreno Busta in the semi-finals before taking out Nishikori. Dolgoplov also handed Nishikori his first to a player outside the Top 50 since 2014, ending a 50-match win streak.

Nishikori was seeking his 12th ATP World Tour singles title, but finishes the week as the first Asian-born player to reach the Argentina Open final. He receives 150 Emirates ATP Rankings points and a cheque for \$51,335.

Nishikori and Dolgoplov will compete next week at the Rio Open presented by Claro. Nishikori is the top seed once again and faces Thomaz Bellucci in the opening round. ([atpworldtour.com](http://atpworldtour.com))



Alexandr Dolgoplov

## Kerber keen for revival, not top spot in Dubai

Dubai

**A**ngelique Kerber insisted yesterday that reviving her flagging fortunes on tour is her main priority rather than reclaiming the world number one ranking from Serena Williams at the Dubai Tennis Championships.

The German two-time Grand Slam champion took over top spot last September when she won the US Open.

However, she promptly lost the honour in Melbourne last month as Williams won the Australian Open, reclaiming her long-held number one ranking in the process.

Now Kerber, who went out in the Melbourne fourth round to American Coco Vandeweghe, is determined

to prove she can still pose a threat on a regular basis.

"I was not feeling good last week in Doha," the German said yesterday as she prepared to start in Dubai in the second round as top seed.

Kerber lost in her opening match in rain-hit Qatar, going down in three sets to promising Russian teenager Daria Kasatkina.

"I must bring that good feeling from the practise courts to the matches. It is just one or two matches that can change it because I am really feeling good."

Kerber will be playing in the Dubai main draw for a fifth time but has never been past the third round.

Should her game click

again, she would have the chance to return to the top ranking by winning the title, with Williams skipping the Middle East legs of the WTA Tour.

Kerber heads a Dubai field which includes US Open finalist and number three Czech Karolina Pliskova, who won the Qatar title on Saturday, WTA Tour Finals winner Dominika Cibulkova, and French Open champion Garbine Muguruza. (AFP)



Angelique Kerber

### Dubai WTA results:

#### 1st round

- Mona Barthel (GER) bt Jelena Jankovic (SRB) 6-1, 6-3
- Caroline Garcia (FRA x15) bt Johanna Larsson (SWE) 6-3, 6-3
- Samantha Stosur (AUS x12) bt Zhang Kai-Lin (CHN) 6-3, 6-3
- Ekaterina Makarova (RUS) bt Zhu Lin (CHN) 6-3, 6-1
- Kristyna Pliskova (CZE) bt Roberta Vinci (ITA x16) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3
- Naomi Osaka (JPN) bt Chang Kai-Chen (TPE) 6-2, 6-4
- Zheng Saisai (CHN) bt Lara Arruabarrena (ESP) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3
- Viktorija Golubic (SUI) bt Cagla Buyukakcay (TUR) 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-2
- Laura Siegemund (GER) bt Silvia Soler (ESP) 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3)
- Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) bt Irina-Camelia Begu (ROM) 6-1, 7-5
- Ons Jabeur (TUN) bt Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS x14) 7-6 (8/6), 2-6, 6-4
- Wang Qiang (CHN) bt Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) 7-6 (7/1), 6-2



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga

# Tsonga secures Rotterdam crown

Rotterdam

**J**o-Wilfried Tsonga shrugged off the absence of his coach to defeat David Goffin 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 yesterday and earn a first career title at the Rotterdam World Tennis tournament.

The French sixth seed, who lost the 2011 final to Robin Soderling, took just under two hours to beat Belgian third seed Goffin, playing his second final in as many weeks after losing in Sofia last Sunday to Grigor Dimitrov.

Tsonga earned his fourth victory over Goffin, who at least had the consolation of

knowing he will be the first Belgian man to crack the world top 10 after his efforts in Rotterdam.

Tsonga, whose coach Thierry Ascione was not present for the final due to personal commitments, said he made many changes in his game for the indoor week.

"I changed my serve, I tried to work on my backhand and returns. I also changed strings. I changed a lot to try and improve my game."

Former world number five Tsonga, 31, will move back to 11th in the rankings on Monday after claiming his first ATP 500 series title since Vienna in 2011 when he beat Juan Martin del Potro.

"I'm just really happy,

this title comes at the right moment," said Tsonga, who now has 13 career titles.

"I put a lot of effort into the comeback, it's all a huge reward for me. This win gives me expectation for the rest of season

"My emotions were inside me, but I was really happy. I felt bad for David, who is a good friend, I wish we both could have won."

Goffin came to the Netherlands having never previously won a match at the event.

"I'm disappointed but at the end I played some good tennis. I started the match well but Jo played better than me, especially at the start of the third set." (AFP)



# Leipzig down Gladbach

**Berlin**  
RB Leipzig cut Bayern Munich's lead at the top of the Bundesliga to five points yesterday as Emil Forsberg and Timo Werner netted in a 2-0 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Leipzig brushed off

consecutive defeats with an impressive display at Borussia Park to trim the lead of Bayern, who had needed a 96th-minute Robert Lewandowski goal to draw 1-1 at Hertha Berlin on Saturday.

Germany hopeful Werner, who is in contention for a call-up when die Mannschaft play England next month, and Forsberg were involved in both goals as RB returned to winning ways after defeats to Hamburg and Dortmund.

Second-placed RB took the lead when Forsberg, who signed a new deal until 2022 earlier this month, slammed home Werner's pass on 31 minutes for the Swedish play-makers sixth league goal this season.

Leipzig's Hungary goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi then saved Thorgan Hazard's penalty on the stroke of half-time sending Leipzig into the break at 1-0.

Werner, who is just 20, doubled

RB's tally with his 12th league goal of the season when he swept Forsberg's final pass past Gladbach's goalkeeper Yann Sommer on 55 minutes to put the visitors

2-0 up.

However, Leipzig endured a nervous final 10 minutes as the hosts turned up the pressure.

Gladbach pulled a goal back nine minutes from time when towering Danish centre-back Jannik Vestergaard beat Gulacsi with a header from a corner.

Leipzig's Austria midfielder Marcel Sabitzer forced Sommer into a diving save in added time as RB chased a third goal. The result leaves Leipzig eight points clear of nearest rivals Borussia Dortmund, who beat Wolfsburg 3-0 at home on Saturday to go third. (AFP)

# 'Beautiful' maiden Tour for Hermans

Muscat

Belgium's Ben Hermans yesterday celebrated "the most beautiful" first big win of his career in the Tour of Oman yesterday.

Alexander Kristoff took the final day honours in a sprint with 30-year-old Hermans avoiding any mishaps in the closing sixth stage.

The BMC rider had topped the overall standings since surprising a group of better fancied rivals with a late attack to win Wednesday's second stage.

He followed that up with Saturday's penultimate mountain stage to set up the win which comes after his second place finish in last month's Tour of Valencia.

Hermans' main claim to fame up to this season was serving as lieutenant to his more decorated compatriot Philippe Gilbert.

But after the former world champion's move to Quick Step Hermans has capitalised on what he says is his "newfound responsibility and freedom" at BMC.

"To be worthy of this confidence I worked really hard over the winter, that's clearly the reason behind my early season form," he said. Looking ahead he added: "The aim now will be to build on this in the Ardennes classics."

Kristoff, followed across the line in Muscat by Eduard Grosu of Romania and Italy's Sacha Modolo, was annexing his third stage of the race.

The Katusha rider described the final dash for the line at the end of Ben Hermans a 152 kilometre ride as "very complicated" due to the headwind on Muscat's Muttrah Corniche.

The Norwegian added: "This week is going to give me a

lot of confidence before my main objectives, the Nieuwsblad (a one day race in Belgium) and the Paris-Nice."

In the general rankings, Portuguese rider Rui Costa came in second at 22sec with Italian Fabio Aru in third at 35sec.

Hermans adds his name to a roll of honour in Oman that includes cycling greats Chris Froome and last year's winner Vincenzo Nibali. (AFP)



Leipzig's Emil Forsberg and Moenchengladbach's Andre Hahn vie for the ball



Belgium's Ben Hermans, from BMC Racing Team, raises his arm in celebration

# Jang takes Australian Open

Adelaide

South Korea's Jang Ha-Na stormed to a three-shot victory in the Australian Open at Royal Adelaide with a blistering eagle-birdie finish yesterday.

The world number six claimed her fourth LPGA tournament win with a sensational flourish to her final round.

Jang, 24, conjured a remarkable finish with an eagle from long range at the 17th followed by a brilliant birdie at the 18th to reach 10-under 282.

Her round of four-under 69 equalled the lowest round of the day but it was done in the

toughest of the conditions with gusty winds.

Jang defeated Denmark's Nanna Madsen on seven-under 285 with a group of four including

Thailand's world number two Ariya Jutanugarn at joint third on six-under 286.

Overnight leader American Lizette Salas, who led by three shots at the 11th hole yesterday, fell away badly to record a five-over 78 and finish tied for seventh.

New Zealand's world number one Lydia Ko never fired in the tournament and finished tied for 46th place. Ko completed just one round under par at Royal Adelaide in her first outing since changing coach, club-makers and caddie. (AFP)



Jang Ha-Na

## Sixth and final stage Results:

- Alexander Kristoff (NOR/Katusha) 2hr 57min 03sec,
- Eduard Grosu (ROM) s.t.
- Sacha Modolo (ITA) s.t.,
- Bert Van Lerberghe (BEL) s.t.,
- Manuel Belletti (ITA) s.t.,
- Ramon Sinkeldam (NED) s.t.,
- Sonny Colbrelli (ITA) s.t.,
- Lasse Hanssen (DEN) s.t.,
- Kristian Sbaragli (ITA) s.t.,
- Roy Jans (BEL) s.t.

## Overall

- Ben Hermans (BEL/BMC) 20hr 56min 20sec,
- Rui Costa (POR) at 22sec
- Fabio Aru (ITA) 35
- Merhawi Kudus (ERY) 58
- Tsgabu Grmay (ETH) 1:12
- Romain Bardet (FRA) 1:17
- Mathias Frank (SUI) 1:19
- Lachlan Morton (AUS) 1:21
- Giovanni Visconti (ITA) 1:33
- Nathan Haas (AUS) 1:38.





Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic (c) scores a goal



# Ibrahimovic sends United into Q-finals

**Blackburn**  
Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic combined to score the winning goal that carried Manchester United through to the FA Cup quarter-finals in a 2-1 win at Blackburn Rovers. United will face Chelsea in a mouthwatering last-eight tie at Stamford Bridge next month as victory maintained Jose

Mourinho's interest in all four competitions in which his side have competed this season. The FA Cup holders were facing the prospect of an unwanted replay after Marcus Rashford equalised Danny Graham's opening goal for the Championship side which prompted Mourinho to bring the high-profile pair off the bench early in the second half. On 75 minutes the gamble paid off as Pogba, from just inside his half, played a pass for Ibrahimovic to chase. The Swedish striker timed his run to perfection, avoiding the offside trap before coolly rolling his 24th goal of the season into the corner of the net from six yards. There was almost a dramatic late equaliser for Rovers after Sergio Romero spilled a shot from Connor Mahoney, recovered to keep out Marvin Emnes' rebound then saw

Anthony Stokes tap the ball in only to be flagged offside. Earlier, Blackburn had taken the lead through a superbly-executed 17th minute move that even had Mourinho sportingly applauding from his position in the United technical area. Emnes carved out the opening with a strong run and skilful move past Marcos Rojo before he slipped through a brilliant pass for team mate Graham who beat Romero with a superb left-foot finish. It was the first goal conceded by United in 471 minutes of league and cup football and Graham, a journeyman 31-year-old with the 13th club of his career, threatened to join the list of this weekend's FA Cup heroes. **Rashford replies** But United had other ideas and took just 10 minutes to draw level as Henrikh Mkhitaryan, continuing his impressive form over the second half of the season, sent Rashford racing away with a magnificent pass from around halfway. His speedy team-mate chased

onto the ball and calmly rounded goalkeeper Jason Steele before converting into an open net. Just before the opening goal, Emnes had already tested United's stand-in goalkeeper with a 25-yard shot that Romero handled easily. And before half-time a long pass from Charlie Mulgrew picked out Craig Conway who held off full-back Ashley Young before firing over from a promising position. But United were also making use of the space that was beginning to appear in the home defence. An Ander Herrera free-kick picked out Jesse Lingard although his header lacked the power to trouble Steele. Herrera was also responsible for a defence-splitting pass which allowed Lingard a shot, which was blocked before Herrera himself tested Steele with a follow-up effort that was well saved. Mkhitaryan tried his luck with a couple of long-range shots that came to nothing and Herrera wasted a free-kick from a dangerous position by passing directly to an opponent in the Blackburn area. (AFP)

