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Germany weighs sanctions against Iran

Berlin

Germany is lobbying among European allies to agree new sanctions against Iran in an attempt to prevent U.S. President Donald Trump from terminating an international deal curbing Tehran's nuclear program, *Der Spiegel* magazine reported on Saturday.

The report cited diplomats in Brussels as saying that Germany was pushing for new sanctions together with Britain and France to show the United States that European allies were taking Trump's criticism against Iran seriously.

A German foreign ministry spokeswoman and another

government spokesman both declined to comment on the report.

Germany wants to punish Iran for its missile program and its meddling in conflicts in other Middle East countries, such as the war in Yemen and Syria, the report said.

Above all, the aim of the

Europeans is to prevent the United States from terminating the nuclear agreement sealed in 2015, as repeatedly threatened by Trump, *Der Spiegel* reported. Iran said last week it would retaliate against new sanctions imposed by Washington after Trump set an ultimatum to fix "disastrous flaws" in a

deal curbing Tehran's nuclear program. Trump has said he would waive nuclear sanctions on Iran for the last time to give the United States and European allies a final chance to amend the pact. Washington also imposed sanctions on the head of Iran's judiciary and others. -Reuters



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11th Hour

Airstrikes pound Syria's Afrin

Beirut

Turkey opened a new front in Syria's war yesterday, launching airstrikes against a U.S.-backed Kurdish militia in Afrin province that raise the prospect of worsening relations between Ankara and NATO ally Washington. The operation sees Ankara confronting Kurdish fighters allied to the US at a time when ties between Turkey and US - appear dangerously close to a breaking point. (Reuters)



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Saudi shoots down Houthi missile fired toward Narjan



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Hazy, dusty weather in parts of Bahrain

US Govt shut down

Washington

The US government shut down at midnight on Friday after Democrats and Republicans, locked in a bitter dispute over immigration and border security, failed to agree on a last-minute deal to fund its operations.

But both sides may now be even less willing to make concessions because a political defeat on the issue could be costly, especially with the control of Congress up for grabs at midterm elections later this year.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed a stopgap funding measure on Thursday. But Republicans then needed the support of at least 10 Democrats to pass the bill in the Senate. While five Democrats ended up voting for the measure, five Republicans voted against it.

Democratic leaders wanted the measure to include protections from deportation for about 700,000

undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children.

Despite bipartisan negotiations, Republican leaders refused to include those protections, and neither side was willing to back down.

Trump, who had made strict measures on immigration a cornerstone of his presidential campaign, last week rejected a bipartisan proposal.

He said he wanted to include any deal for Dreamers in a bigger legislative package that also boosted funding for a wall and tighter security measures along the U.S. border with Mexico.

Schumer met with Trump on Friday afternoon and later said he had reluctantly agreed to include the border wall in the negotiations but that it still was not enough to persuade Trump to find a compromise.

McConnell said he would seek over the weekend a new funding bill that covered the federal government through to Feb. 8.

A Senate Democratic source said that was still too far out. Democrats had argued for an extension of just four or five days to force both sides into serious negotiations on the immigration issue. - Reuters

(More on Page 6)

No talks until govt reopened: Trump

Washington

President Donald Trump and Republican lawmakers took a tough stance yesterday after the U.S. Congress failed to fund federal agencies, saying they would not negotiate on immigration until Democrats help end the government shutdown. "The president will not negotiate on immigration reform until Democrats stop playing games and reopen the government," White House spokeswoman Sarah

Sanders said. Her message was echoed by Republicans in Congress, leading to speculation that Washington could be in for a prolonged battle that has interrupted government services. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer gave a stinging portrayal of Trump as an unreliable negotiating partner, saying the two sides came close to an agreement several times only to have Trump back out at the urging of anti-immigration conservatives. -Reuters

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Saudi shoots down Houthi missile fired toward Najran

Representative image

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Dubai

Saudi Arabia's Air Defense forces intercepted a ballistic missile fired by Houthis from Yemen's Saada toward the city of Najran on Saturday, according to the spokesman for the coalition supporting legitimacy in Yemen, Colonel Turki Al-Maliki.

Al-Maliki said that at 8 p.m. local time, the air defense forces detected the launch of a ballistic missile by the Iran-backed Houthis from Yemeni territories toward Saudi Arabia.

Colonel al-Maliki said that the missile was in the direction of the city of Najran and was deliberately launched to target civilian and populated areas, and was intercepted and destroyed by the Saudi Royal Air Defense Forces. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

Al-Maliki said that the hostile action taken by the Houthi forces proves the continued involvement of the Iranian regime in supporting Houthi armed groups in clear defiance of UN Resolution 2216 and Resolution 2231.

He said they aimed at threatening the security of Saudi Arabia and threatening regional and international security and added that firing ballistic missiles at populated cities and villages is contrary to international humanitarian law.

Colonel Al-Maliki renewed his call for the international community to take more serious and effective steps to stop Iranian violations, including continued smuggling and the transfer of ballistic missiles and weapons to terrorist groups, and to hold them accountable for their defiance of international norms and values.

Earlier last week, Saudi Arabia's Air Defense forces intercepted a ballistic missile fired by the Houthis toward Jazan. Saudi forces succeeded in intercepting the missile before reaching its target.

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Higher govt spending to offset gains from VAT, says report



DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

Benefits associated with the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) to Bahrain's fiscal position are expected to be diminished by elevated government spending, according to a report. While introduction of VAT will create an additional stream of revenue for the nation, elevated government spending to limit social instability will offset any gains from VAT.

"Elevated spending, in a bid to limit social instability, will severely constrain improvements in Bahrain's fiscal position, even as VAT is introduced," the report stated.

The report noted that the impact of the tax will differ

among GCC countries. UAE, which has the strongest retail sector, will benefit the most from the tax, the report noted. "VAT will be a bigger boost for government revenues in the UAE, given its larger consumer base and importance of retail spending for the economy, especially from overseas visitors. Moreover, with Abu Dhabi and Dubai attracting wealthy visitors, we believe that consumers will be able to absorb higher costs," the report noted. "In Saudi Arabia, the fiscal impact of VAT will be lower, especially as the government introduces cash transfers to the most vulnerable households to limit the negative impact of VAT," the report stated. Saudi and UAE have already implemented VAT. Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman are yet to implement. "Kuwait will see limited fall-out from the failure to introduce VAT. The country benefits from tremendous oil reserves and financial buffers. While the limited political willingness to implement fiscal reforms in Kuwait will limit the scope to reduce exposure to fluctuations in oil prices, long-term risks are limited," the report stated.

The report noted that the impact of the tax will differ among GCC countries

Hazy, dusty weather in parts of Bahrain



The hazy, dusty view of Bahrain on Sunday

DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

Dusty and hazy conditions continued in parts of Bahrain, with poor visibility, accompanied by 1000 metres, less at first and strong north-westerly winds.

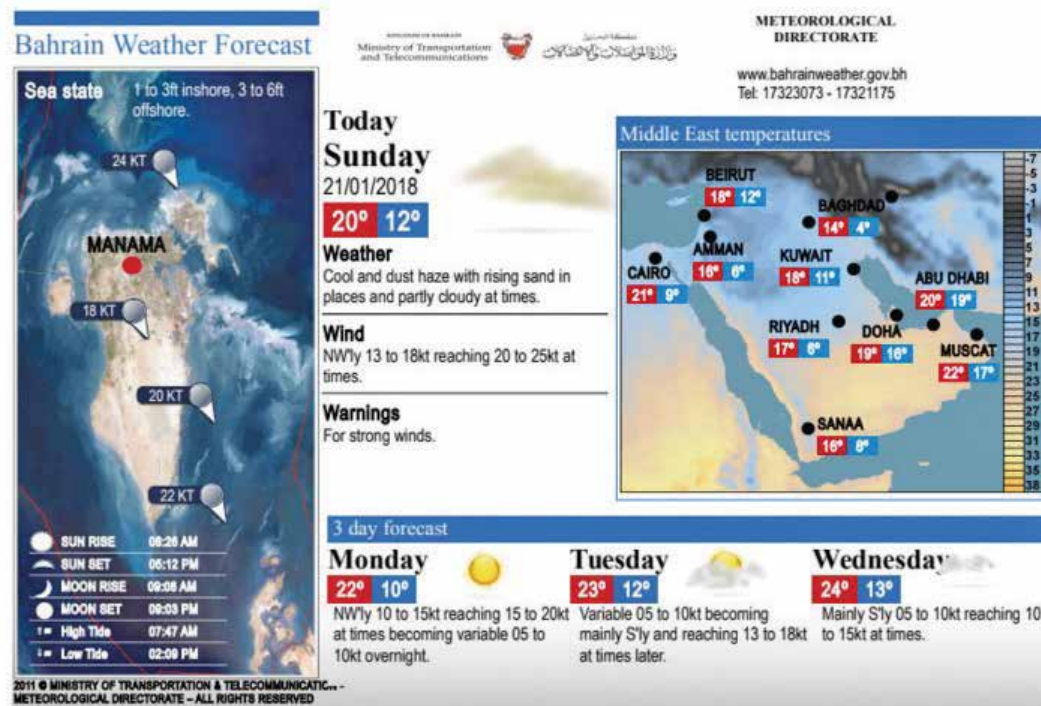
The official weather account of the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications - Meteorological Directorate - said that dust haze expected to affect the Kingdom reducing the visibility to less than 1000m during the morning associated with strong westerly winds causing rough seas.

The department has requested the public, to be cautious, and follow weather bulletins and updates on social media networks.

While Ministry of Interior issued a statement on their social media stating, "General Directorate of traffic calls up road users to be cautious of dust, drive in the right lane, follow the speed limits and keep a safe distance between the vehicles."

Further People were quick with their comments about the weather conditions.

"A severe sandstorm is on



the way, close all your windows and don't let your children play outside. Those with breathing problems should be cautious," Mohammed Ateeq tweeted yesterday. Moreover, the weather condition did affect many

companies too; where Bahrain Auto Fair was closed for the day. Bahrain Auto Fair further issued a statement stating that "Bahrain Auto Fair management would like to inform their dear visitors that due to the unfortunate weather

conditions, the Bahrain Auto Fair will be closing today. We will be announcing new dates and timings very shortly as Bahrain auto fair will be extended. Your convenience and safety is our priority."



Mary Justine Todd

70 women graduate in women crisis care

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

Seventy women who successfully underwent Women's Advocacy Certification Training received graduate certificates at a function held at the British Club, Adliya yesterday.

Women's Crisis Care International (WCCI) trained the 2018 batch to support women in Bahrain who face

domestic or sexual violence. "The programme runs for a period of four days, where there is a series of in-class work and out of class work, where we cover topics from sexual violence, domestic violence, subconscious mind, history of advocacy movement, women's rights in Bahrain to legal issues," said Mary Justine Todd, CEO of WCCI.

"With these advocates now graduated and certified they

will step up as active on duty advocate volunteer and work as per their shift as WCCI operates 24 hours a day and they will be on duty whenever there is a need," said Todd.

"A program like this in a country like Bahrain is equally beneficial as it is for any other country in the world as whenever there is a victim of any domestic or sexual violence, in order for them to develop the likelihood of post-traumatic stress disorder

and further help them to cope up with the traumatic event is extremely important," said Todd.

"We have been operating on a full scale since January 2016, but in 2017 WCCI responded to approximately 250 cases. Further, WCCI would like to express the most sincere gratitude for all of the support offered in their endeavours to support victims of abuse," she added.

Until now, WCCI has

been operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in English, with Arabic available during weekday working hours.

However, with the new group of advocates, WCCI plans to launch an additional Arabic speaking programme. Beginning February 20, help will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 3844 7588 or visit their office partner, American Mission Hospital, in Manama, Saar, or Amwaj.

Tojjar 18 Bloc enters BCCI board poll fray

DT News Network
Manama

Tojjar 18 bloc, representing several businessmen and women, will run for the 29th board of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) election this March, Samir Abdulla Nass, head of the bloc said yesterday.

The Tojjar 18 bloc is the biggest commercial alliance so far to run BCCI's elections with 15 members including two businesswomen. Beside Samir Nass, the bloc includes two businesswomen, Batool

Mohammed Dadabhai, Sonya Mohammed Janahi, along with Dr. Abdul Majeed Ali Al Awadhi, Mohammed Abdul Jabbar Al Kooheji, Khalid Mohammed Najibi, Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan, Waleed Ebrahim Kanoo, Entrepreneur Engineer Aaref Ahmed Hejres, Entrepreneur Abdulhamid Abdulhussain Al Asfoor, Entrepreneur Uzair Mohammed Usman, Professor Waheeb Al Khajah, Fareed Bader, Business Leader Basem Mohammed Al Saie and Entrepreneur Jameel Al

Ganah. Shedding light on the nature and formation of the Tojar 18 bloc, Nass said: "It is a group of dedicated business leaders and entrepreneurs with cumulative experiences in diversified sectors and industries with strong track records, achievements and knowledge. Entrepreneurs that built their businesses and faced challenges and adversity with local, regional and global partnership, as well as running successful businesses covering all business categories form large entities with thousands



Samir Abdulla Nass

of employees to medium and small operations (SME's)".

"The national economy is facing unprecedented challenges that requires a qualitative alliance between businesses and merchants

at different levels, with support from conglomerates and small and medium-sized enterprises, beside close coordination and cooperation between authorities and relevant national bodies

in the country to face the challenges with the sense of responsibility and common interest," said Nass.

"The only difference between local challenges, regional and international challenges is related to modern management methods, leaderships ability to manage crisis and the state's position in the circle of action and reaction," he said. Nass stressed that the main objective of the bloc is to transform BCCI into an influential partner in economic decision-making, by becoming a real representative to its members.

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My Opinion

Ahdeya Ahmed
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When we take life for granted

Lucky are those people who can barely feel what others go through.

Its easy to switch of and not brother with what's going on around you but I simply cant and wanting to know more about people around me doesn't stem from my journalistic curiosity but from being a normal human being who wants to learn more about l8ge and how to deal with different issues.

We all have stories to tell and our stories shouldn't just define who we are but should impact others who can learn from our experiences.

Our stories are both happy and sad and we have all gone through ups and downs, turbulences and the most beautiful experiences. They are all experiences who created the human beings we have become today.

It is these stories that help us parents too raise a better generation, a generation capable of making a difference.

Why should we settle for just learning from our own inner circle stories when we can explore our outer circles and learn from them

People have stories to tell. Whether when you are in a coffeeshop when you sit and listen to a waiter or waitress talking about a personal problem or a colleague at work who just wants to get something out? I believe that being a good listener makes you a good person especially when listening helps u become a better person.

At the coffee shop I am sitting now as I write my column walked in a cleaner who had a story to tell, a story we can all learn from .with a big smile he serves everyone.But this man who has been working here for seven years has literally been invisible and the story he has beyond ones imagination. As simple as this may sound but its his bitter reality. He lost his wife and three year old son in a fire that destroyed everything in his life, took away everything he earned since he starting working at the age of 14 and above all lost his family. He yet serves everyone with a smile. My friends and I heard his story and all we could talk about was how trivial the issues we complain about every day is.When you here peoples stories you realize how blessed you are with everything ypu do have in life.We tend to grumble about everything and if we open our ears and eyes ti other peoples stories we will always remember the blessed lives we have, the lives we should never take for granted.

(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.)



The award recipients with Guru Gurujee Kumaran Swami

DT News Network Manama

Spiritual Guru Gurujee Kumaran Swami, who was in the Kingdom recently, distributed the annual Bharat Gaurav (Pride of India) awards to Indians as well as persons of other countries who have made social contributions to the community.

Members of the Indian community in Bahrain joined the visiting expatriate Indians who were recipients of the awards at the Intercontinental Regency Hotel in Manama. The awardees included Dr Satya Prakash, President Proviva Pharma, Canada; Catus Pereira, President Indian Club; Bhagwan Asarpota former chairman of the Indian Community

Relief Fund Bahrain; Abdul Sattar, CEO, President group; Renuka Pullat, Director Sram & Mram; Mohammed Manzor, Chairman, Exelon group; and Rajesh Srivastav, M. D Films Today, were awarded for their contributions to the society and industry.

Gurujee Kumaran Swami said he chose Bahrain as the venue for the award function this year as he was heartened by the Kingdom's spirit of coexistence, peace and harmony.

"Bahrain is an attraction to the world, just for its diversity," said the founder of the World Peace & Adhyatma Jyotish Trust.

He appreciated the Kingdom's focus on humanity in these globally troubled times. "Humanity is our religion; we believe in love peace

and harmony. People are different, but humanity is the same. We live differently but humanity is what unites us," he said while giving away the awards. He added that his work in India included helping the elderly and feeding the poor. "Our aim is to feed every hungry person. We have extended this campaign to different parts of the world," he said. He also stressed that in a fast-moving world, people are losing respect for the elderly and expressed his intent for a global plan to support the old. "Even the elderly deserve to enjoy every bit of life," he said. Indian celebrities including Sarah Khan, Priyala Gore, Krati Agarwal, Yamini, Sanatan Ahuja, Simran and Anirudh Dave also joined the event.



Bharat Gaurav Awards presented

Washington

Donald Trump's first anniversary as US president was marred by chaos yesterday as Congress struggled to reverse a government shutdown and mass demonstrations erupted in cities across the country.

Essential federal services and military activity are continuing, but

hundreds of thousands of public sector workers will be sent home without wages and even active duty troops will not be paid until a deal is reached to reopen the US government.

Highlighting the deep political polarization, crowds estimated to number in the hundreds of thousands took to the streets of major US cities to march against the president and his policies.

"This is the One Year Anniversary of my Presidency and the Democrats wanted to give me a nice present," Trump, who is in Washington instead of celebrating the anniversary at his Mar-a-Lago resort, wrote on Twitter in reference to the shutdown.

"Democrats are far more concerned with Illegal Immigrants than they are with our great Military or Safety at our dangerous Southern Border," he tweeted, later

accusing the opposition party of "holding our Military hostage."

The impact of the shutdown will be felt more strongly if it lasts into the coming work week.

But signs that the government was not open for business were already appearing on Saturday.

"The Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island are closed due to a lapse in appropriations," a notice on the National Park Service's website said, while a sign at US military cemetery in France where 4,409 Americans are buried read: "Due to the US Government shutdown, this site is closed to the public."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis wrote in a memo that "daily operations around the world" will continue, but "training for reservists must be curtailed" and that "active forces will stay at their posts adapting their training to achieve the least negative impact on our readiness to fight."

'Holding pattern'

There have been four government shutdowns since 1990. In the last one in 2013, more than 800,000 government workers were put on temporary leave.

"We're just in a holding pattern. We just have to wait and see. It's scary," Noelle Joll, a 50-year-old furloughed US government employee, told AFP in Washington.

Joll was also affected by the 2013 shutdown, but "this one feels a lot more ominous," she said.

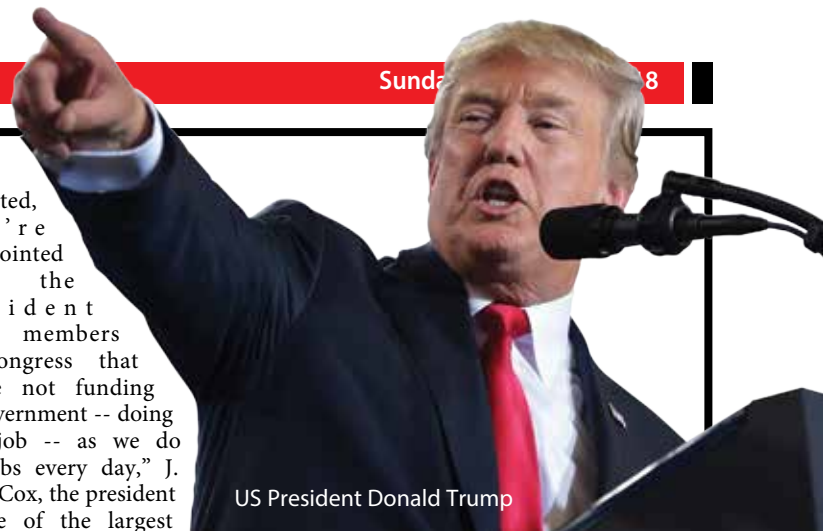
"I think our members are

frustrated, they're disappointed in the president and members of Congress that they're not funding the government -- doing their job -- as we do our jobs every day," J. David Cox, the president of one of the largest unions representing government workers, said on CNN.

A deal had appeared likely on Friday afternoon, when Trump -- who has touted himself as a master negotiator -- seemed to be close to an agreement with Democratic Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer on a measure to prevent the expulsion of undocumented migrants who arrived in the country as children.

But no such compromise was in the language that reached Congress for a stop-gap motion to keep the government open for four more weeks while a final arrangement is discussed -- and Republicans failed to win enough Democratic support to bring it to a vote.

Congress reconvened for a rare Saturday session, where leaders of both sides traded accusations of responsibility for the shutdown. (AFP)



US President Donald Trump

Trump marks year one with shutdown

US government shutdown: What does it mean?

Many thousands of federal workers will not report for work on Monday morning if the impasse is not solved.

That will not include those in so-called essential services like law enforcement, the military, air traffic control and social security -- ones that protect "life or human property".

Even then, not all staff will turn up. Thirteen per cent of workers at the Department of Homeland Security will be furloughed, as will half of those at Health and Human Services, according to contingency plans cited by The New York Times.

Some of those who do work during the shutdown may not be paid until after funding is restored. CNN warned that some zoos and museums may close while funding is withheld. Special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, however, will continue, according to the broadcaster. (independent)

The Senate side of the United States Capitol in Washington

Women and the World

Meredith Ann O'Connell



Diversity and Confidence: Because All Women are Worth It

Diversity and inclusion have been a hot-button topic lately, and diversity in the advertising world is no exception. For every feel-good

advertisement, there seems to be another that completely misses the mark (think the Kendall Jenner Pepsi ad, or H&M's "Coolest Monkey in

the Jungle" sweatshirt). Yet the latest L'Oreal Paris ad is a perfect study in how to get diversity right, and also how to promote confident women who do not need external validation to feel good about themselves.

The ad for L'Oreal's Elvive beauty line features women—and one man—of different backgrounds and ages discussing their hair. What sets it apart from other inclusive ads is the fact that it includes a hijab-wearing Muslim woman, British beauty blogger and businesswoman Amena Khan, who also happens to be one of their Brand Ambassadors. Wearing

a bright pink hijab and a serious expression, Khan tells the camera that "Whether or not your hair is on display doesn't affect how much you care about it."

Hair care ads usually consist of gorgeous models swinging around their long, shiny, impossibly healthy hair in an attempt to convince the consumer that their hair will be as perfect as the model's if they buy the product. By including Amena Khan, L'Oreal defies traditional beauty advertising in that it does not demonstrate what the product can do—the consumer has to be convinced by the woman speaking. Given that hijab-wearing girls

are often teased about their hijabs and are asked ridiculous questions such as whether they wash their hair, the inclusion of a hijabi in a hair care ad is important.

Besides promoting diversity, L'Oreal's ad also takes on inner confidence and self-worth, two issues that women struggle with and which advertising unfortunately does little to boost. While the other women complain about the color and texture of their hair, Khan asserts that "You're doing it for yourself and you don't have to show it off to the rest of the world to validate that you care about yourself." In a time where women

feel the pressure to look flawless for their social media accounts, this suggestion that women don't need validation for their looks is radical. It promotes self-care, which so many women forget to do while trying to look outwardly perfect.

The pressure on women to look and act perfect does not boost their confidence and sends a negative message. Promoting images of one type of women rather than showing the diversity of women further negates this confidence. Therefore, it is encouraging to see a beauty company highlight diversity and self-care.

China, Russia bigger threats than terrorism: US



Mattis unveils new strategy focused on Russia and China, takes Congress to task over impasse

Washington

China's fast-growing technological and military capabilities make it a greater threat to America than terrorism, the US Department of Defense has claimed in a new strategy report.

The document also says Russia is an equally prominent threat for the same reasons, and says that both countries seek "to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model".

Confronting China and Russia and staying ahead of their quickly expanding military capabilities are the Pentagon's "principal priorities" and will require "increased and sustained investment," according to an 11-page unclassified summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy, released Friday.

The two US rivals are actively seeking to "co-opt or replace the free and open order that has enabled global security and prosperity since World War II," according to the report.

To counter that effort, America will "thwart their use of coercion and

intimidation to advance their goals and harm US interests."

The report, a summary of a more detailed classified document mandated by Congress, outlines Defense Secretary Jim Mattis's views on geopolitics and threats facing the US one year into President Donald Trump's term.

On Russia, it reflects a US foreign policy team that never bought into their leader's early enthusiasm for President Vladimir Putin.

"Great-power competition – not terrorism – is now the primary focus of US national security," Mattis said in a speech outlining the plan Friday at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington.

He said "everything we do in the department must contribute to the lethality of our military" because "our competitive edge has eroded in every domain of warfare – air, land, sea, space and cyberspace – and it is continuing to erode."

But the unclassified summary of the strategy offers few specifics of how US

forces should be structured to combat that threat, how many conflicts those forces must be ready to contest – possibly simultaneously – or the budget assumptions driving the document.

The report singles out China's military modernisation and expansion in the South China Sea as key threats to US power. It also highlights Russian actions to undermine democratic processes in Georgia, Crimea and eastern Ukraine, as well as Moscow's efforts to "shatter" the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"China and Russia are now undermining the international order from within the system by exploiting its benefits while simultaneously undercutting its principles and 'rules of the road,'" according to the report.

Senator John McCain of Arizona, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a statement that he was pleased with the strategy because "it gets the big decisions right, prioritises the threats we face, and offers clear guidance for making tough choices." (Bloomberg)

Eleven killed and 46 injured in bus crash in north-western Turkey



The bus, whose passengers were mainly families on their way to a nearby ski resort, crashed in the region of Eskişehir.

Ankara

Eleven people were killed and 46 injured when a bus taking families on a skiing trip crashed in north-western Turkey, local officials said.

The bus, which was making an overnight journey from the capital, Ankara, to the western city of Bursa, crashed into trees on a motorway in the region of Eskişehir, its governor Ozdemir Çakacak told the Dogan news agency.

Roads were empty, and neither wet nor frozen, Çakacak said.

The two drivers, who sustained slight injuries, have been arrested and the cause of the crash is being

investigated.

Passengers were mainly families with children who were going to Bursa to spend upcoming half-term holidays at the nearby Uludağ ski resort.

It is not yet known if any children were killed.

The state-run Anadolu Agency quoted the bus driver as telling police that he veered toward the side of the road to avoid what he thought was a stray dog.

Turkey has a poor road safety record with more than a million accidents and 7,300 deaths in 2016, according to official statistics. (theguardian)

Fire at a warehouse near Delhi kills 17 people

New Delhi

At least 17 workers have died after a massive fire broke out at a firecracker factory on the northern outskirts of the Indian capital.

A dozen fire engines took three hours to extinguish the blaze in the Bawana industrial area of New Delhi.

Fire chiefs said 17 bodies have been recovered so far and one injured worker has been taken to hospital. A search operation is continuing for any more workers trapped in the two-storey structure gutted by the blaze.

The cause of the fire is not yet known.

There are fatal accidents nearly every year in India as people work in makeshift factories in the absence of proper safety standards.

In June of last year, 23 workers were killed when a blast occurred while they were producing firecrackers in Kheri village in the state



People watch fire at a factory in Bawana industrial area in north-west Delhi on Saturday evening.

of Madhya Pradesh in central India. The explosion triggered a blaze that engulfed the factory before firefighters put it out.

India has a huge demand for firecrackers, which are used in religious festivals and weddings.

Factories start producing firecrackers months before the nation's biggest Hindu festivals when people set them off in celebration. (PA)

2nd MERTC meet from Jan 23-24

Executives of oil companies, experts and specialists will participate

Manama

The 2nd Edition Middle East Refining Technology Conference (MERTC) will take place under the Patronage of Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Oil, on January 23 and 24.

The conference is organized by the World Refining Association in collaboration with the National Oil and Gas Authority, and with the support from a number of oil companies such as Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco), Sabic, Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Abu Dhabi Oil Refining Company, Manufacturing Company of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), and many international companies and consultancy in the field of oil refining industry.

The conference will witness the participation of business executives of a large number of national, regional and global oil companies and their deputies as well as petroleum consultancy companies, technological industries, experts, specialists and managers of companies operating in the field of oil refineries. The will be more than 350 participants, that



Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Oil

are interested in the field of refining technology in the technical, research and academic institutions, from all over the world.

The Minister of Oil expressed his great appreciation in having the world refining association selecting the Kingdom of Bahrain to introduce the series of MERTC for the second time on the land of the Kingdom;

vital area, and achieved by the first conference of the impressive results, which the Kingdom hosted earlier in year 2017.

The conference will discuss many subjects, including: relevant projects involving refining techniques and future global digital enhanced strategic projects to raise the level of refineries, technical and management of carbon emissions and regional projects and strategies to retain talent and competitiveness in the Middle East, the optimal investment and benefit from the research and commercial development and integration opportunities in refining and petrochemicals, in the hands of experts and specialists. This conference will also represent an opportunity to reach out to the exhibition accompanying the strategic decisions in the oil industry and world markets and discuss projects in the field of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

The conference is organized by the World Refining Association in collaboration with the National Oil and Gas Authority

Ithmaar Bank urges customers to adopt BenefitPay app

Manama

Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail Bank, said the Kingdom has taken a major leap towards transforming itself into a cashless society with the introduction of the National Electronic Wallet Payment System, BenefitPay, and urged its customers to try the easy, secure and revolutionary alternative to cash.

BenefitPay, a joint initiative of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and the Benefit Company (Benefit), enables purchases via smart phones through a special application. The application enables customers to pay using registered debit cards, the features to be made available shortly include payment using credit cards, prepaid cards and bank accounts. The first of its kind solution, which was launched in July, is the latest milestone in the CBB-led charge to transform Bahrain into a cashless society with the involvement and support of local banks and financial institutions.

"Ithmaar Bank has long played a pioneering role in the establishment and subsequent development of Islamic banking in the region, and we are pleased to work together with the CBB, as well as banks and other financial institutions like Benefit, to reinforce Bahrain's position as a key regional banking and finance hub," said Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim. "The BenefitPay solution is a perfect example of this very type of cooperation, and the pronounced effect it can have on our industry," he said.

BenefitPay streamlines



CEO Ahmed Abdul Rahim

BenefitPay enables purchases via smart phones through a special application

payments by allowing consumers and merchants to eliminate both cash and cards and instead use a smartphone application to pay for purchase electronically, securely, and immediately. BenefitPay is currently available at select stores and the participating merchant list is quickly growing. It enhances convenience for both the buyer and the seller.

"This revolutionary technology could go long way towards transforming Bahrain into an efficient, cashless economy," said Abdul Rahim. "It is both safe and easy to use, and could well redefine the way we shop and even how we interact with cash. To fully realize this great potential however, customers will need to start using the app for themselves," he said.

Facebook to boost 'trustworthy' news

San Francisco

Facebook announced it will ask its 2 billion users to rank their trust in news sources, in its latest attempt to combat the spread of misinformation on the social network.



Quality news

The new "trusted sources" ranking, which starts next week, would aim to "make sure the news you see is high quality" and "helps build a sense of common ground" rather than sow division, co-founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said. To do so, he said, Facebook decided to rely on member surveys as the most "objective" way to rank trust in news sources. The new ranking system would hopefully separate news organisations that are only trusted by their readers or watchers, from ones that are broadly trusted across society.

Major updates

The latest move comes a week after Facebook announced a major update to its user feed that highlights what friends and family share on the network, over advertisements, celebrity and media posts. The company cast the change as part of a refocus on "community" – prioritising social interactions and relationships – while acknowledging it would likely result in people spending less time on the platform.



Fix social network

Known for annual personal goals ranging from killing his own food to learning Chinese, Zuckerberg's stated mission for this year is to "fix" the social network. He plans to target abuse and hate, and interference by nation states.

"The network would seek to prioritise news that is trustworthy, informative, and local. There's too much sensationalism, misinformation and polarisation in the world today. Social media enables people to spread information faster than ever before, and if we don't specifically tackle these problems, then we end up amplifying them."

Mark Zuckerberg,
co-founder and chief executive of Facebook



Cool Trends

T to create unbreakable password

You can lock every door and window of your house, but if you use a skeleton key the odds are pretty good someone is probably going to end up robbing you blind. The same is true of your passwords. If your passwords are not unique and unbreakable, you might as well open the front door and invite the robbers in for lunch. The following are a few tips that might help you develop passwords that are especially complex, nearly unbreakable, but also memorable.

L
P
S

Nursery Rhymes

One preferred method of coming up with complex passwords that pass every IT security policy out there – even those that require 15 character passwords – is the nursery rhyme technique.

Choose one of your favourite nursery rhymes, capitalize the first letter of each sentence, replace certain letters with numbers, and follow that up with an exclamation point or some other symbol at the end. For example, take the nursery rhyme Little Boy Blue, which goes like this:

“Little boy blue, come blow your horn. The sheep’s in the meadow. The cow’s in the corn.”

Now you transform that replacing any “s” with “5” and any “l” with a 1 or a 7. Here’s the new password.

“7bbcbYhT5itmTcinc!”

That’s an 18 character password that includes numbers, letters, uppercase, lowercase and at least one special character.

Use Industry Lingo

One alternative of this is using very specialized industry lingo to come up with the phrase. Nursery rhymes or even movie quotes could be guessed with a computer algorithm running through as many possibilities as a computer can manage. However, industry-specific lingo is much harder to guess.

For example, if you’re a nurse, your phrase might be:

“The aortic coarctation led to an agonal response, BLS and finally intracerebral infarction.”

Replacing “a” with 0 results in the following password:

“T0clt00rb0fii!”

This is only 14 characters rather than 18, but much harder to guess.

Use a Keyboard Pattern

Here’s a fun password approach that uses the same technique as the smartphone login pattern. In this case, what you’re going to use is your keyboard. Draw some kind of recognizable pattern on your keyboard, and then use the letters and numbers as the password. For example, let’s say you create a pattern on your keyboard as shown below.

If you start this pattern at the number 3, it should be pretty easy for you to draw out the pattern each time. If it helps, you might even draw recognizable images or letters on top of the key-



board. In the case above, the password ends up as follows:

“3waxcvgy7890=-”

Using this approach, you can alter the complexity of the pattern to lengthen the password. A hacker could potentially run an algorithm through that would attempt every password possible on a keyboard by connecting every key to one another, so making the pattern as complicated as possible – such as going back and forth or making complex, diagonal lines – should make that kind of hacking much more difficult.

(makeuseof.com)



Google suspends fact-check

San Francisco
Google has suspended its fact-check feature in its Search and news results after its algorithm wrongly linked a Washington Post fact check to a Daily Caller article about US Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation team, the media reported.

Noting that the feature proved to be too faulty for

public use, Google attributed the decision to an investigation by The Daily Caller News Foundation after it published a story lambasting the tech giant for wrongly appending a Washington Post Fact Checker debunk to one of its stories.

“We launched the reviewed claims feature at the end of last year as an experiment with the aim of helping people

quickly learn more about news publications,” *The Daily Signal* quoted a Google spokeswoman as saying.

“We said previously that we encountered challenges in our systems that maps fact checks to publishers and on further examination it’s clear that we are unable to deliver the quality we’d like for users,” she added. (IANS)

GFH shares begin Nasdaq Dubai trading

Manama

GFH Financial Group announced the inclusion of Single Stock Futures Contracts on the Group’s shares available for trading on Nasdaq Dubai’s equity futures market with effect from 16 January.

GFH joins 16 other leading UAE-listed companies whose futures already trade on the Nasdaq Dubai market. These include leading companies listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), Dubai Financial Market (DFM) and Nasdaq Dubai. Among them are Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Aldar Properties, Arabtec Holding, DP World, Dubai Islamic Bank, DXB Entertainments, Emaar Properties, Etisalat and Union Properties, among others.

The addition of contracts on GFH’s shares were added to the futures market, which was established in September 2016, as a result of Nasdaq Dubai’s development strategy, which aims to add



Hisham Alrayes, CEO of GFH further depth and breadth to the futures market as it works to provide derivatives trading opportunities in regional assets.

Hisham Alrayes, CEO of GFH, said, “We’re pleased to see GFH’s shares included alongside the UAE’s leading listed companies on Nasdaq Dubai’s equity futures market. GFH’s shares continue to be among the

most actively traded on the DFM and GFH is the first non-UAE based company to be listed on Nasdaq Dubai futures market. The continued development of the region’s capital markets is a win-win for companies and for our investors who are now being given greater freedom and options to better manage and hedge their exposures”.

Twitter finds 1,062 more Russia-backed accounts

San Francisco

Twitter has identified an additional 1,062 accounts associated with the Russia-backed Internet Research Agency (IRA) accused of interfering with the 2016 US presidential election.

This brings IRA-linked accounts to a total of 3,814 that posted 175,993 tweets, approximately 8.4 per cent of which were election-related, the micro-blogging

platform said in a blog post on Saturday.


“We are emailing notifications to 677,775 people in the US who followed one of these accounts or retweeted or liked a Tweet from these accounts during the election period,” Twitter said, adding that it has already suspended these accounts.

Twitter has told a US Senate committee that the micro-


blogging platform is working towards alerting its users who may have seen Kremlin-linked advertisements during the 2016 election.

Appearing before the US Commerce, Science and Technology Committee this week, Carlos Monje, Twitter’s Director of US Public Policy, said Twitter would ‘inform individually’ everyone who saw tweets from accounts linked to IRA. (IANS)

Did You Know?



Twitter did not invent the hashtag. Hashtags date back to 1988, when people communicated via chat rooms called Internet Relay Chats (IRCs). The first hashtags made their way to Twitter in 2007, when Chris Messina, formerly of Google and now a lead developer at Uber, proposed using them as a way to lump together related tweets. The simple searchable tags instantly caught on.



BFC
CURRENCIES
EXCHANGE RATE

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

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OMAN	0.3849	0.3820	0.3878	0.3425
QATAR	3.6420	3.6143	3.6699	3.2405
UAE	3.6730	3.6451	3.7011	3.2681
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7215	3.7787	3.3366



Global stocks rise as shutdown brews

New York
Global stock markets rose on Friday, with major Wall Street indices ending at all-time records, as investors shrugged off a looming shutdown of the US government.

The S&P and Nasdaq both finished at all-time highs, while the Dow also gained. Leading bourses in Europe and Asia advanced, while the dollar recovered some of its losses from the prior session against the euro.

"Investors don't appear particularly bothered about the prospect of a government shutdown, with the assumption being that (a temporary spending bill) will eventually be signed and any economic impact will be minor or non-existent," said Craig Erlam, senior market

analyst at trading firm OANDA.

Congressional Democratic leaders met with President Donald Trump at the White House early Friday afternoon to try to avert a shutdown as a midnight deadline loomed for the Republican-controlled Senate to approve a new funding bill.

Analysts say a government shutdown could damage the economy, particularly sectors that do extensive business with the government and especially if it is prolonged.

But most market watchers do not expect that to happen.

"I think the politicians themselves realise it's probably not in anybody's interest to have this be a long-term shutdown," said JJ Kinahan, chief market

strategist of TD Ameritrade.

"The market realises it's a short-term thing and we're not going to stay shut down forever," Kinahan said investors are fixated much more on corporate earnings reports, which have been good so far, although the bulk of major companies have yet to report.

Fitch Ratings said a shutdown in itself would not impact the US government's top rating, but could further destabilise budget policymaking and "lead to brinkmanship" over raising the debt level before the US Treasury runs out of extraordinary measures to pay the government's bills in March or April.

In Europe, Frankfurt pushed 1.2 per cent higher, while London managed to

break a four-day losing streak despite poor UK retail sales data.

IG analyst Joshua Mahony said the "disappointing set of retail sales figures should be put in the context of shifting shopping habits".

British retail sales slid 1.5 per cent in December from the previous month after consumers had brought forward their Christmas shopping, official data showed.

Retail sales had jumped by 1.0 per cent in November, boosted by Black Friday price reductions, the Office for National Statistics said.

Asian markets mostly rose Friday after another positive week across trading floors. (AFP)

TRAI recommends allowing in-flight internet connectivity

New Delhi
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday recommended that internet services like wi-fi and mobile connectivity should be permitted on domestic and international flights in India.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets and also the world's fastest growing internet services market, and such a step is likely to boost revenue for service providers as well as airlines.

The recommendations, which include providing a

mechanism for the lawful interception and monitoring of wi-fi in aircraft cabins to ensure safety, were provided to the Department of Telecommunications which will draft the final policy.

Once finalised it will, for the first time, allow flyers in India to surf the internet on a plane, a service common in many foreign countries.

India's concerns over a cyber attack have delayed the policy which has been in the making for several months, local media have reported. (Reuters)



An aircraft files near the setting sun in New Delhi

The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.

-Jean Piaget



CAMPUS

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Sunday, January 21, 2018

11



Al Noor School celebrates annual day

The CBSE Section of Al Noor International School celebrated its 24th Annual Day on 18th January 2018.

Alok Kumar Sinha, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain, was the esteemed Chief Guest.

The School Chairman Ali Hasan, School Director Dr. Muhammad Mashood, Principal Amin Mohammed Hulaiwah, Head Teachers of the various sections, officials from the Ministry of Education, Parents and prominent members of the Bahrain community were among those present.

Students presented an entertaining program showcasing the talent of all the age group with emphasis on importance of moral values.

The kids of the kindergarten section added colour to the



occasion with their dazzling performance. The students of the primary section captivated the audience with their synchronized dance movements, a fusion of Indian Classical and Western Beats.

An astounding visual treat was presented by the students of Middle Section on the eight

core values of the School through an alluring theatrical musical drama.

The children depicted the culture and tradition of Bahrain through a graceful dance. The English play, The Wooden Bowl by the senior students enthralled the audience and proved to be very popular.



Highlights of the event

Alok Kumar Sinha handed out trophies to academically meritorious pupils of the CBSE Section. Grade 1 - Christy Joseph and Anirudh Reghunath, Grade 2 - Alakhjot Saini and Vedika Sudheer, Grade 3 - Shanthosh Kumar and Ennaya Abdul Aziz, Grade 4 - Sayed Ounesh

Salik and Viswatheertha Vinu, Grade 5 - Shweta Umesh and Munira Mustafa, Grade 6 - Alex Mathew and Kalyani Kavitha, Grade 7 - Nishanth Nithyananda and Ridhashirin MujeebRahman, Grade 8 - Navaneet Anil Kumar, Pranshu Parva Laklia and Sarathy Ramanan, Grade 9

- Shamila Salik and Amena Abdul Latheef, Grade 11 - Aswin Kadungattil (Science) Mehak Hameed Sheikh (Commerce).

150 Students also received awards for their achievements in the various talent competitions held during the course of the School year.

TradeQuest Students Present Financial Performance at Bourse

The school teams participating in the TradeQuest program recently presented their trading performance during the first period of the program. The presentations were held at Bahrain Bourse's auditorium.

During the presentations, the participating teams presented their financial performance in both Bahrain Bourse and New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

The teams also outlined the main challenges they faced during this period, their risk management techniques, as well as the performance of the companies in their portfolio. They concluded their presentations with the lessons learned from the program.

Towards the end of each of the three trading periods of the TradeQuest program, the schools are required to present their strategy, objectives, and



Students at the Bourse

performance to the Investment Review Committee

The program has been highly supported by various banks and financial institutions throughout the past 19 years.

The 2017-2018 TradeQuest program includes a total of 17 school teams, including 8 private schools and they are: Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School, Bahrain

Bayan School, Bahrain School, Al-Hekma International School, Ibn Khuldoon National School, Naseem International School, Al Noor International School, and St. Christopher's

School, and 9 Government Schools and they are: East Riffa Secondary Boys School, Al Hidd Secondary Girls School, Al-Istiqlal Secondary Girls School, Jidhafs Secondary Girls

School, Khawla Secondary Girls Schools, Al Noor Secondary Girls School, Saar Secondary Girls School, Sitra Secondary Girls School, Al Ta'awon Secondary Boys School.

TradeQuest is a simulated business-education partnership program that focuses on investment trading in world financial markets, which operated for the first time in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 1997 in cooperation with financial institutions and educational parties.

The program aims at stimulating relevant learning through realistic experience by learning the rules and regulations implemented in financial markets, analysing and selecting shares, and managing a portfolio of investment instruments listed at New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and Bahrain Bourse.



Council of Representatives First Deputy Speaker Ali Al Aradi held a meeting with Al-Hekma Movement leader Ammar Al-Hakim. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Bahraini delegation's visit to Iraq at the invitation of Iraq's Council of Representatives. The meeting was attended by Bahrain Ambassador to Baghdad Salah Al-Malki.



A delegation from Bahrain aims to maintain its security and stability.



Information Affairs Ministry Undersecretary Abdulrahman Mohammed Bahar attended a workshop on how to engage with the financial and administrative responsibilities and reports of the National Audit Office (NAO). The workshop aimed to provide participants with the ideas and necessary tools to deal with NAO recommendations and prepare for their implementation.



Vice President of the National Audit Office (NAO) discussed the importance of transparency and accountability in public administration.



The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) hosted a joint meeting between the Corporate Communications teams from the National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) and Saudi Arabian Fertilizer Company (SAFCO). The meeting was attended by NOGA Head of Promotions and Conferences Dr. Hassan Al-Fardan, its Promotion and Conference Specialist Ahmed Al Haddad and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Salman Al Khalifa. Public Relations members of the Executive Management and staff of the Company's Corporate Communications Department were also present.



SAFCO and NOGA officials discussed the importance of effective communication in the energy sector.



Members of the Council of Representatives led by First Deputy Speaker Ali Al Aradi held a meeting with Iraq's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al Jaafari. The First Deputy Speaker affirmed Bahrain's support for Iraqi efforts to ensure security and stability



The President of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa received a group of experts of the World Energy and Environment Council and organisers of the 5th World Energy Environment Conference and Exhibition 2018 held on January 6 in Bahrain. Environmental issues were discussed, notably relating to the reduction of emissions and the sustainability of natural resources.



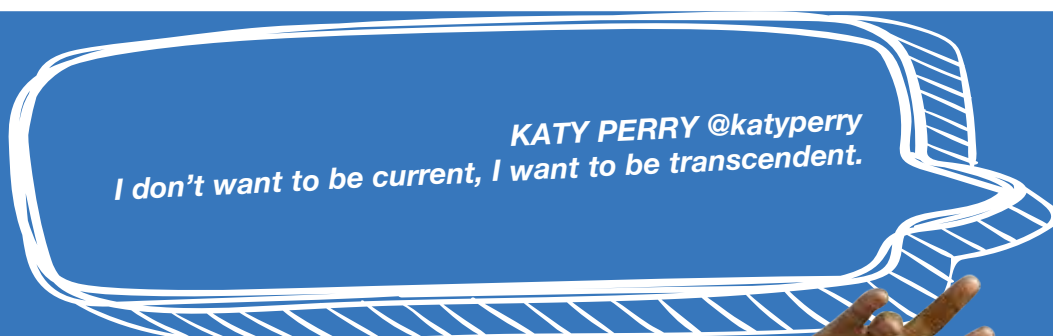
Under the patronage Interior Ministry Undersecretary Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Human Resources Department held a ceremony to celebrate its ISO award for quality assurance and environment. The Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah and Executive Manager of the Bureau Verities Thualfaqr Haider also attended.



Representatives from SAFCO, and the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company. The Relations Supervisor Waleed Al Hussein of SAFCO along with several



Tharol CC beat Sachin Cricket Club in the finals of Spring league cup hosted by Kerala Cobras, a tournament under Bahrain Tennis Ball Cricket(BTC) on Friday. Shijinambu Man was man of the match while Praji Man was man of the series. Prashanth Kurup scored fastest 50 and Ajeesh Kuriakose was all round performer of the final.



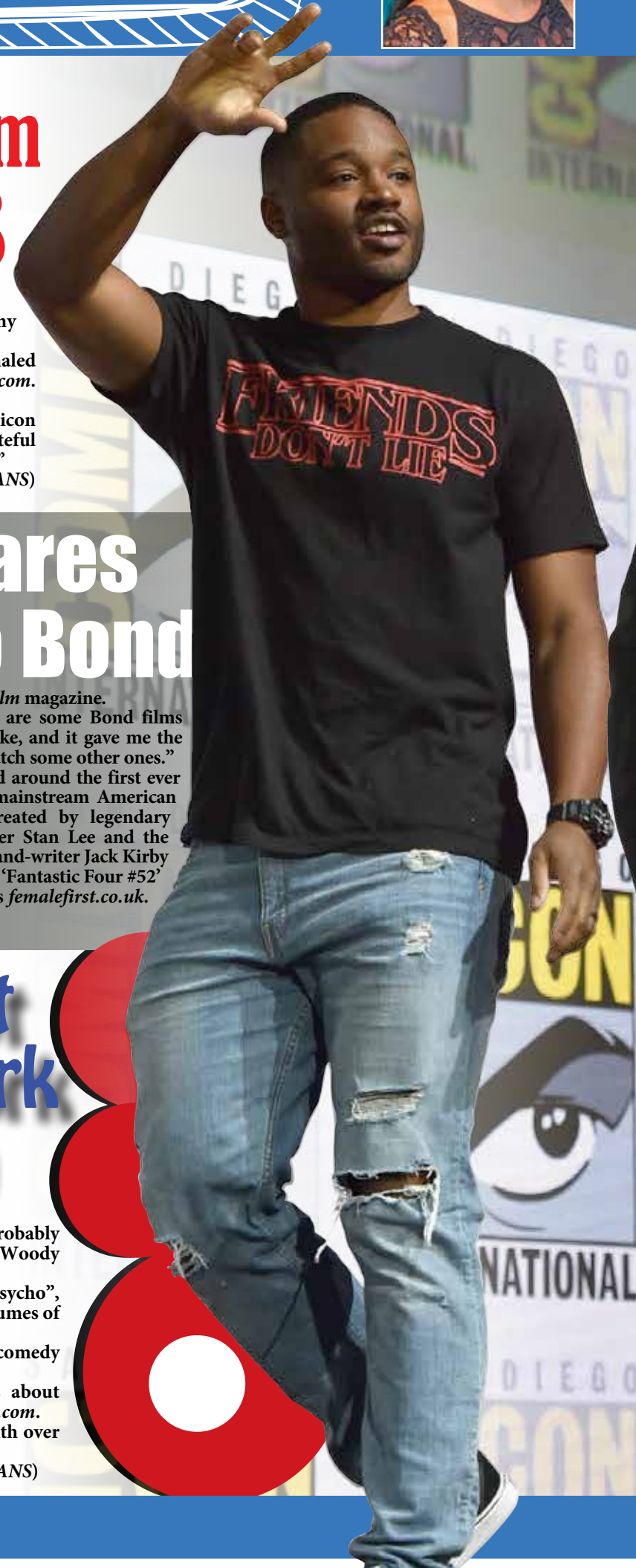
KATY PERRY @katyperry

I don't want to be current, I want to be transcendent.

Rihanna to perform at Grammys 2018

Los Angeles

Singer **Rihanna** will be performing at the 2018 Grammy Awards with DJ Khaled and Bryson Tiller. They will perform their smash hit "Wild thoughts". Khaled shared the news with a Twitter post on Friday, reports *variety.com*. The post read: "Fan love. It is go time. I'm performing 'Wild thoughts' at the Grammys with the icon Rihanna and Bryson Tiller. Recording Academy, I'm so grateful for this opportunity. The key is don't stop. I never gave up." The award gala will be held on January 28 in New York. (IANS)



Coogler compares Black Panther to Bond

Los Angeles

Actor **Ryan Coogler** has compared the "Black Panther" movie to a "James Bond" film of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. "When I first started talking to Marvel, one thing they were interested in was for Panther to be their version of James Bond, which I thought was incredibly interesting and exciting. It was a really outside-of-the-box way to look at T'Challa,"

Coogler told *Total Film* magazine. He added: "There are some Bond films that I really, really like, and it gave me the opportunity to go watch some other ones." The movie is based around the first ever black superhero in mainstream American comics who was created by legendary Marvel Comics writer Stan Lee and the equally iconic artist-and-writer Jack Kirby and first appeared in 'Fantastic Four #52' back in 1966, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. (IANS)

Sevigny not willing to work with Allen

Los Angeles

Actress **Chloe Sevigny** says she would 'probably not work with Oscar-winning director Woody Allen again. From "Boys Don't Cry" to "American Psycho", Sevigny has had one of the most prolific resumes of character parts in independent movies. In 2004, she appeared in the Allen's comedy "Melinda and Melinda". Now, Sevigny has expressed reservations about collaborating with the director, reports *variety.com*. "I have my own turmoil that I'm grappling with over that decision," Sevigny said. "Would I work with him again? Probably not." (IANS)

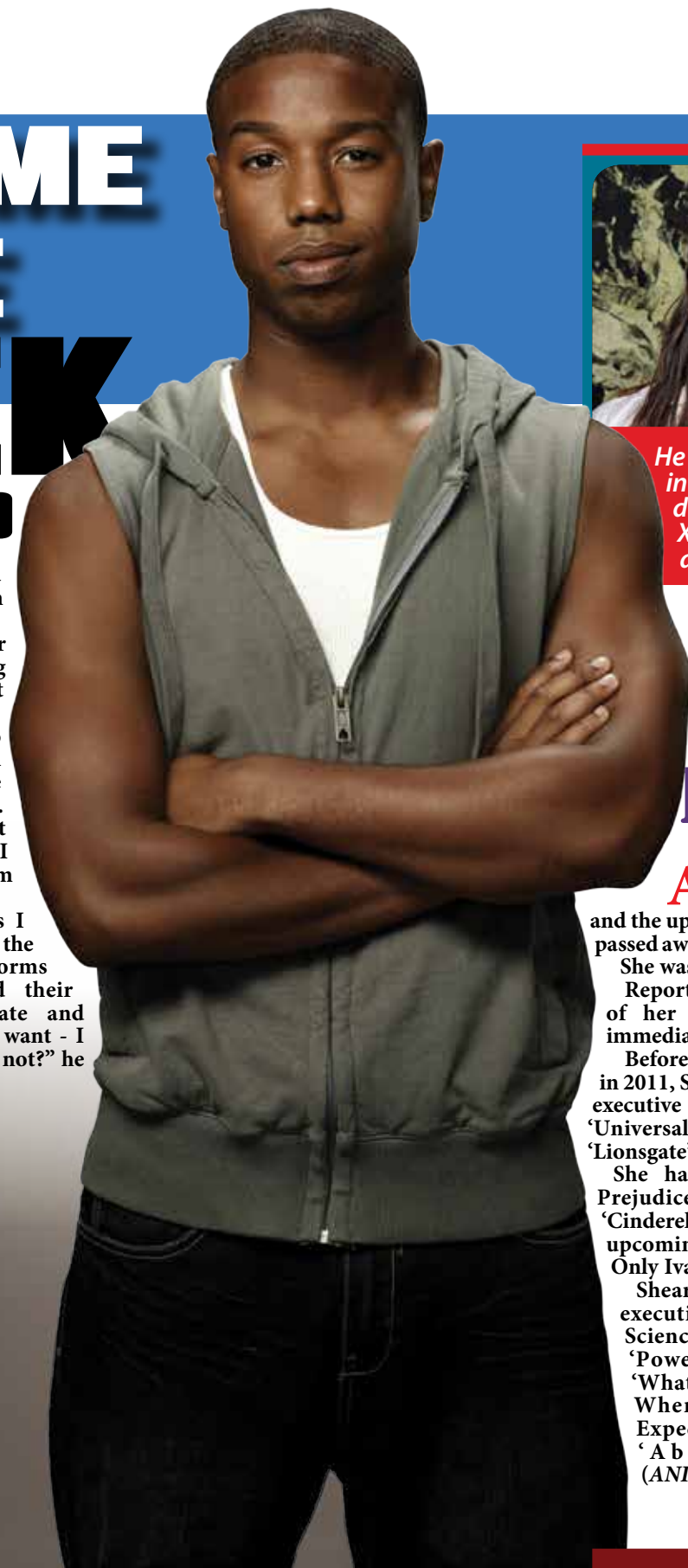


BEST TIME TO BE BLACK IN HOLLYWOOD

Actor Michael B Jordan believes it is a great time to be a person of colour in Hollywood.

In an interview, the 'Creed' actor said Hollywood is moving with the times when it comes to cultural diversity. "It's the best time to be a person of colour in Hollywood who's creative and has original projects. Everybody wants that right now. That's how I feel - I feel it's a timing thing. I'm ambitious," said Jordan.

"I see what actors I look up to have, the types of platforms they have and their ability to create and tell stories they want - I want that. Why not?" he added. (PTI)



STARRY Birthday
Booboo Stewart

January 21, 1994

He became known for his role as Seth Clearwater in the Twilight Saga films. He rose to fame as a dancer and a singer, and portrayed Warpath in X-Men: Days of Future Past. In 2015, he starred as Jay in the Disney TV movie Descendants.

ALLISON SHEARMUR PASSES AWAY

Allison Shearmur, who produced films like 'The Hunger Games', 'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story' and the upcoming 'Solo: A Star Wars Story', passed away at a Hospital in Los Angeles.

She was 53.

Reportedly, however, the cause of her death was not known immediately.

Before becoming a producer in 2011, Shearmur worked as an executive at 'The Walt Disney', 'Universal', 'Paramount' and 'Lionsgate'.

She has produced 'Pride, Prejudice and Zombies', 'Cinderella', 'Nerve' and the upcoming 'The One and Only Ivan'.

Shearmur was also an executive producer of Science fiction film 'Power Rangers', 'What to Expect When You're Expecting' and 'Abduction'. (ANI)



Hanks was afraid of Meryl Streep

Los Angeles

Actor Tom Hanks says he was "afraid" of his "The Post" co-star Meryl Streep. The Steven Spielberg directorial has marked the first time the two Oscar winners have worked together, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"I'm in awe of Meryl Streep. I was afraid of Meryl Streep. I did not know what to say to Meryl Streep," Hanks told The I Paper.

The film follows Katharine Graham (Streep) who, as the first female publisher of The Washington Post, relies on the help of editor Ben Bradlee (Hanks) to catch up with The New York Times to break the story of the classified Pentagon Papers, which expose the US government's lies about the Vietnam War. (IANS)



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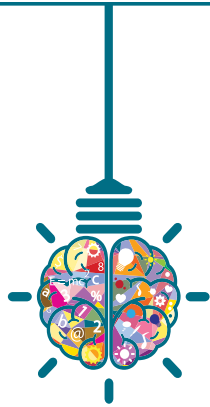
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HOW TO REACH US

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

OUT & ABOUT

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A FAMILY GETAWAY

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

resort or for reservations, guests can call the hotel directly at (+973) 1758 0000 or visit The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain website at ritzcarlton.com/bahrain.

ULTIMATE SKIN TREATMENT BY MCCM

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

RE/IMAGINE YOUR SATURDAYS

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

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

Date: 14 December - 31 January 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm
Venue: Qal'at al Bahrain Site Museum

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

BAHRAINI FARMER'S MARKET

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

THE 44TH BAHRAIN ANNUAL FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

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

exhibition this year presents a collection of local and International artists residing in Bahrain.

THE LAND OF DILMUN, WHERE THE SUN RISES

Date: 5 December 2017 - 11 March 2018
Venue: The Hermitage State Museum

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

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

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

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

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

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

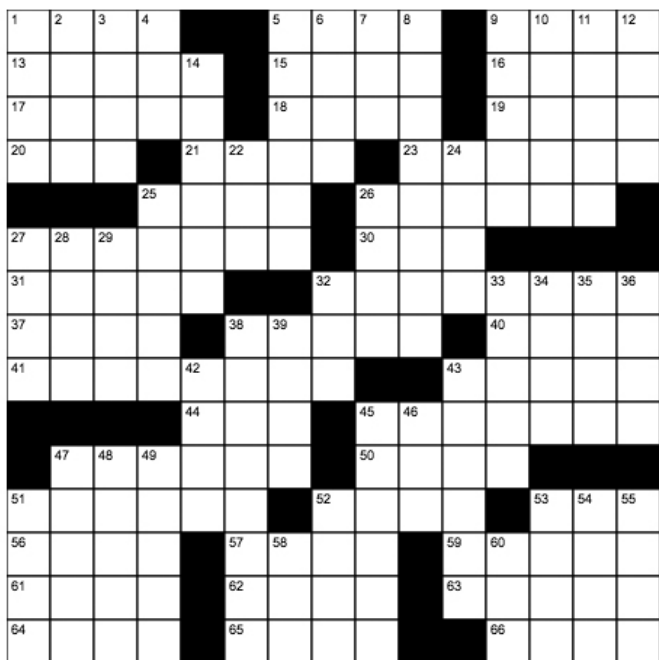
The exhibition sheds light on Jerusalem - the permanent Capital of Islamic Culture - and features works of iconic cartoonist Naji AlAli. The works of the late Palestinian artist will be on display for the first time in Bahrain presenting topics of the occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem in a series of cartoons that AlAli produced since his early career and until his assassination in 1987.

FOOD IS CULTURE III

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

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Weary comment; 5- Blueprint detail; 9- Checkup; 13- Suckle; 15- Singer Perry; 16- Actor Lugosi; 17- Curved moldings; 18- Et ___; 19- Minerals; 20- Crossed (out); 21- Tablet; 23- Hose; 25- Web locale; 26- Mountaineering aid; 27- In the place of; 30- .001 of an inch; 31- Actor's parts; 32- Barren area; 37- Moisturizer ingredient; 38- Unified; 40- Coil; 41- Temperance; 43- Actress Oberon; 44- You ___ here; 45- Club-shaped; 47- Habitual practice; 50- Able was ___; 51- Attic adornment; 52- Career golfers; 53- Boxer Laila; 56- "The Time Machine" people; 57- Apple computer; 59- Command to the band; 61- Horse of mixed color; 62- Honeycomb unit; 63- Litmus reddeners; 64- Harper's Bazaar illustrator; 65- Gin flavoring; 66- ___-daisy;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



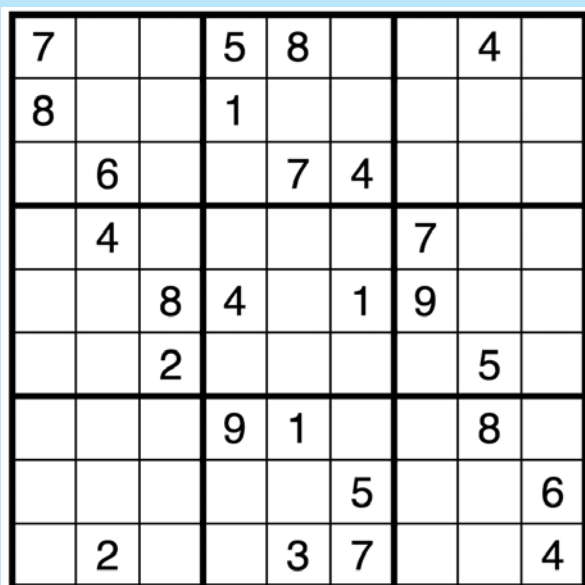
Down

1- Strong as ___; 2- Enormous; 3- TV horse; 4- Legal ending; 5- Climbed; 6- Voting-pattern predictor; 7- British record label; 8- Concur; 9- Deadly virus; 10- Brand name for a copying machine; 11- Coeur d'___, ID; 12- Church service; 14- Catches sight of; 22- Call ___ day; 24- Shout; 25- Point in the desired direction; 26- ___ old cowhand...; 27- 401(k) cousins; 28- Court plea, for short; 29- Oscar Madison, for one; 32- Son; 33- Advil rival; 34- Director Ephron; 35- Blockhead; 36- Graf ___; 38- Vigorous exercises; 39- Stalk; 42- Must've been something ___; 43- Actress Mason; 45- Ringlike formation; 46- Summer sign; 47- Hue; 48- German submarine; 49- Hog; 51- Part of a bird's beak; 52- ___ Alto; 53- Take ___ from me...; 54- Covers; 55- ___-bitsy; 58- Singer Torme; 60- Hosp. section;

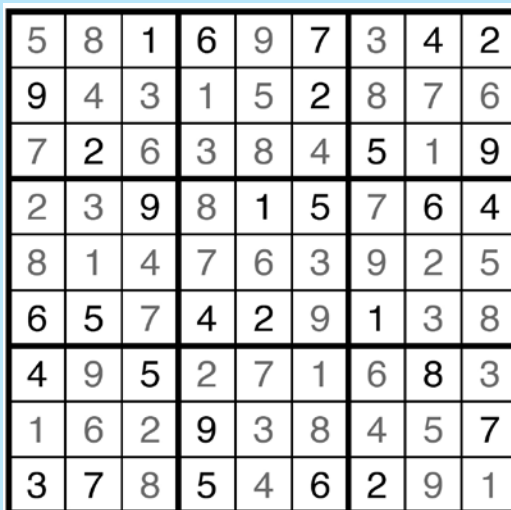
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S U D O K U



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)



Some boring paperwork regarding money might need to be executed today. Bills may need to be paid, deposits put in the bank, and new accounts opened. You could spend some time formulating new plans. This probably will take up a lot of your time, but there will still be enough for you to go shopping.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Your level of physical and mental energy should be very high today, and so you could feel restless throughout the morning. As a result, you might spend your afternoon and evening out and about, shopping, paying visits, or attending classes or lectures. Some stimulating discussions could take place. At some point, you might find yourself admiring a park or garden.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Your level of imagination and inspiration should be operating at a very high level today, so if you've been planning to start a new artistic project, this is the day to do it. You're also likely to be feeling quite intuitive, so don't be surprised if you find yourself tuning acutely in to the thoughts, feelings, needs, and desires of others, even strangers.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



A group with which you're affiliated could ask you to take care of a few tasks. This might involve making phone calls, running errands, or both. Your energy and enthusiasm are high, so this is a good day to prove how valuable your work is and how efficient you are. Make sure that you don't take on too much, however.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Important projects, either job related or personal, might need to be completed today in order to meet a deadline or fulfil a promise. This could require a lot of mental and physical effort on your part, which could prove somewhat stressful. Others might lend a hand, however. It's very important for you to remember to pace yourself.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



A long-awaited vacation may be coming up soon for you. The study of travel books might be on your agenda for today. You could spend much of your day making the necessary arrangements, making phone calls, completing paperwork, and running errands. You might need to set up the care of pets or plants for your absence. Excitement runs high and so does enthusiasm.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



This could prove to be a very busy day. Someone close to you might come to you for advice on how to manage their resources, perhaps because of successes you've had in the past. This might take up more time than you'd planned for, but you'll enjoy helping your friend. Information received from TV or newspapers could bring a new interest into your life.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Social events, probably family related, could take up a lot of your time today. They might involve outings, perhaps to parks or other recreational areas. You'll enjoy it, but your mind may be on other matters, possibly projects you're involved with. Some stimulating conversations with someone close to you could take place.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Your home today could be like Grand Central Station, with lots of people coming and going and a lot of activity taking place within the house itself. The phone could be also ringing off the hook. You might wonder if your sanity will remain intact, but you'll make it through without going nuts. The problem is that there could be so much stimulation that you'll be too geared up to sleep. Take a walk before going to bed.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



This is probably going to shape up to be a busy and rather chaotic day. You might find yourself spending a lot of time out and about. You may need to run a lot of errands and see a number of people. A friend might accompany you. Phone calls might need to be made in order to make arrangements for future events, and someone might take up too much of your time calling to chat. Pace yourself!

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Today you should be feeling very energetic, both physically and mentally, and you're likely to feel rather anxious for some physical activity. Go for a workout if you have time or for a short walk if you don't. A lot of your time is likely to be spent working on challenging tasks that keep your mind active. You should be pretty keyed up by the evening.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



A lot of physical and mental energy could be channelled today into artistic projects of some kind. Your intuition is running rather high, so you might know instinctively what friends, lovers, and children are feeling before they tell you. You could also pick up a lot of their anxieties as well. You'll need to relax a little. Go for a workout and then attend a concert or sporting event.

Melania is the favourite Trump



The First Family (from left)- Donald Trump, Jr; Melania Trump; President Donald Trump; Ivanka Trump; Eric Trump; and Tiffany Trump

Washington

On the eve of the one year anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration, a survey has revealed his wife is viewed more favourably by people than he is.

The poll included whether respondents viewed the most prominent members of the First Family 'favourably' or 'unfavourably'.

In addition to beating out the Commander in Chief in the popularity contest, Melania Trump has also stacked up as the most popular person overall, according to an *Economist/YouGov* poll released on Friday.

The 47-year-old mother of Barron Trump, 11, is the only family member included in the poll that is viewed more favourably than unfavourably.

And she's the only one whose favourability rating

has grown over the course of her husband's first year in office, with a current rating of 48 per cent favourable and 33pc unfavourable.

The eldest Trump sons landed just above the President's son-in-law, rounding out the rear of the pack.

Donald Trump Jr came in at being viewed 36pc favourably and 49pc unfavourably.

Eric Trump fared slightly worse than his older brother. Eric's favourability rating was listed as 32pc, and his unfavourable rating at 43pc.

A different poll, conducted by *NBC News* and *the Wall Street Journal*, showed President Trump with just a 39pc approval rating for his job performance.

By their count, that makes Trump the lowest-rated President at one year in to his Presidency, as compared to former Presidents Barack

Obama, George W Bush and Bill Clinton.

The *NBC-Wall Street Journal* poll showed job performance approval ratings of George W. Bush's (82pc for George W Bush, 60pc for Clinton and 50pc for Obama at the same points in their respect terms of office.

Based on a Gallup poll, the Hill determined that Melania Trump is also the only member of her family to have gone up in ratings over the last year.

She started out in January 2017 being viewed favourably by 37pc of respondents in that poll, and in December the same poll showed her favourability rating at 54pc.

The Gallup poll showed President Trump's favourability rating at 41pc, which is two percentage points lower than did the *Economist/YouGov* poll. (*MailOnline*)

#PollToday



How long do you think US Government shutdown would last?

- Less than 1 week
- 7 - 15 days
- 15 - 30 days
- More than 1 month



"The native Amazonian peoples have probably never been so threatened on their own lands as they are at present. Amazonia is being disputed on various fronts,"

Pope Francis

Rest in sight

'Pope' of French cuisine dies



Paul Bocuse, one of France's most celebrated chefs, has died at the age of 91.

67 Afghan security force members freed

Afghan security forces have freed 67 soldiers and police officials from a Taliban-run jail in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Roadside bomb kills 1 in Afghanistan

At least one person was killed in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan's Paktia province yesterday.

China's gender imbalance reduces

China's gender imbalance was further reduced in 2017 due to the introduction of the "second-child policy".

For more, catch us online at:

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Pope holds outdoor mass in front of 200,000 worshipers



Pope Francis (R) greets members of an indigenous group from the Amazon region, at the Coliseum Madre de Dios, in Puerto Maldonado, Peru.

Trujillo, Peru

Pope Francis was set yesterday to hold a huge outdoor mass in a coastal region of Peru struggling to rebuild in the wake of devastating floods last year.

His visit to Trujillo province, some 560 kilometres (350 miles) north of Lima, will be a change of pace after a politically charged first day in the Latin American country where he railed against "great business

interests" for endangering the Amazon and its tribes.

The mass will take place on a wide swathe of beach able to accommodate 500,000 people, in the historic town of Huanchaco popular with surfers and known for its distinctive reed watercraft known as "caballitos de totora."

Many had already begun gathering there Friday night in anticipation of the pontiff, despite persistent drizzle. (*AFP*)

Thai police arrest 'kingpin' in Asian wildlife trafficking

Kabul

Four gunmen attacked Kabul's landmark Intercontinental Hotel on Saturday and started shooting at guests, officials said, in an assault that is still under way.

"Four attackers are inside the building," an official at the National Directorate of Security (NDS) spy agency told *AFP*. They are "shooting at guests", he said.

Another official said the attackers were armed with small weapons and rocket-propelled grenades when

they entered the hotel, which often hosts weddings, conferences and political gatherings.

"They are now on the third and fourth floors fighting with our forces. We don't know the details of casualties yet but they set the kitchen on fire," interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told *AFP*. The fourth floor of the hotel is also on fire, the NDS official said.

A Ministry of interior spokesman confirmed that several attackers have entered the hotel. (*AFP*)

Putin visits war museum



Russian President Vladimir Putin watches an exhibit dedicated to the breakthrough the Nazi Siege of Leningrad in the World War II, at a war museum in Kirovsk, in Leningrad region.

Endangered orangutan shot before being decapitated

Jakarta

Acritically endangered Bornean orangutan found dead in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan province on Monday died three days earlier from air rifle wounds before it was decapitated, Indonesia's Centre for Orangutan Protection said.

Authorities previously said the great ape appeared to

have been stabbed multiple times in the latest in a string of unnatural orangutan deaths on the island to which they are native.

A necropsy carried out by police and the centre found 17 air rifle bullets in the male orangutan corpse, "proving" it died because of humans, said Ramadhani, the centre's habitat protection manager.

"Our strong suspicion is that this orangutan died because it was shot using an air rifle through the heart, lungs and stomach," he said in a statement on the centre's website.

The World Wildlife Fund estimates there are 104,700 Bornean orangutans, known for their broad faces and dark brown fur, left in the world. (*Reuters*)

Christian Coleman breaks 60m indoor world record



Clemson

American world 100m silver medallist Christian Coleman broke the 60m indoor world record, clocking 6.37 seconds at a meeting in Clemson, South Carolina.

Coleman's mark beat the previous record of 6.39 set twice by fellow American Maurice Greene, in 1998 and 2001.

The performance is subject to ratification by athletics' world governing body the IAAF.

"Great start to my career," tweeted Coleman, who aged 21 is in his first full year as a professional athlete.

It beats his previous best of 6.45, which he recorded when he won the US indoor championship last year.

"I'm in disbelief," said Coleman's coach Tim Hall. "This was his season opener. It was totally unexpected."

"We talked a little bit more before the final and like I always tell him, I said: 'Relax, no pressing and allow the run to happen.' That was the result."

Coleman ran 9.82 seconds, the fastest 100m of 2017, at the US outdoor collegiate title meeting.

Expected to be America's next great sprinter, he finished behind Justin Gatlin and ahead of world record holder Usain Bolt in the 100m at last year's world championships in London.

The 2018 World Indoor Championships take place in Birmingham from 1-4 March. (BBC)



Bottas changed Mercedes' view

Valtteri Bottas (file pic)

London

Pairing Valtteri Bottas alongside Lewis Hamilton has changed the way the Mercedes Formula 1 team thinks about internal rivalries between its drivers, according to team boss Toto Wolff.

Mercedes had a difficult time managing the dynamic between Hamilton and 2016 F1 world champion Nico Rosberg, as their battles for the championship became increasingly vitriolic.

Multiple controversies developed between the two, concerning the use of engine modes, pit strategy, on-track collisions, personnel swaps between the garages, and how the team managed their rivalry away from

the circuit, but the team always believed in the positive benefit of Hamilton and Rosberg pushing each other to the limit on track.

Hamilton has credited improved harmony within the team in 2017 as a major part of his championship success, and Wolff feels a healthier working relationship between Bottas and Hamilton proved crucial in helping Mercedes beat Ferrari to both titles.

"Nico put us in front of a fate accompli - there was not even a discussion - and it was difficult to find the right driver, but we gave it some time to decide and eventually we got just the right guy into the team," Wolff said.

"In the past I always believed that a very fierce rivalry between

team-mates would be good for the team because they would be pushing each other.

"The lesson I learned is that is probably not true - you need two team-mates that perform at a high level that keep pushing each other in the car, but the rivalry shouldn't spill over into controversy outside of the car. "The mindset and the relationship between the two made us stronger, gave an open and honest environment, and fundamentally our very fast, difficult car we got it into a good place also because the two worked so well together."

(Autosport)

Carlos Sainz wins race for second time

Bolivia

Carlos Sainz won the Dakar Rally for the second time as he drove his Peugeot to victory in Argentina yesterday.

The Spaniard, 55, and compatriot co-driver Lucas Cruz finished ahead of Qatar's two-time winner Nasser Al-Attiyah in a Toyota.

The double world rally champion first won in 2010 with Volkswagen.

His latest victory brought the Peugeot works team a third win in a row - and also their last as they have already announced they will not compete again.

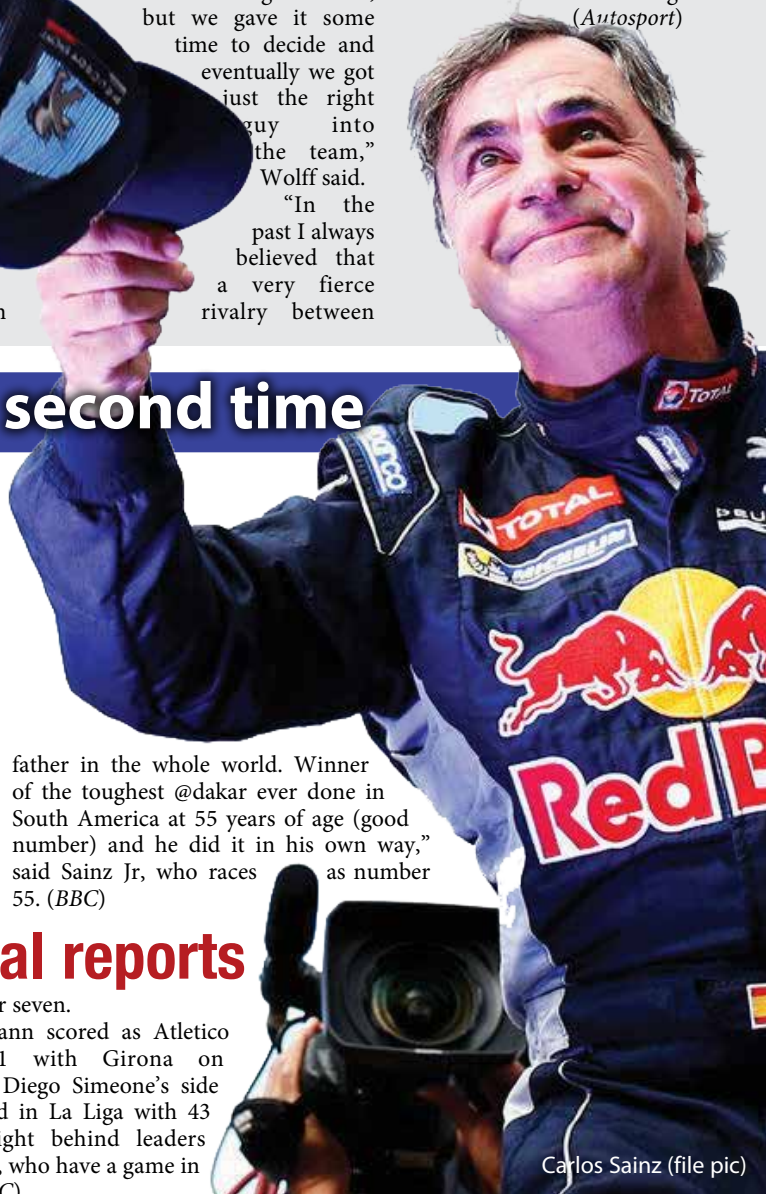
Sainz held a 46-minute advantage over Al-Attiyah before the final stage and, despite finishing the stage ninth, held off his rivals to win by 43 minutes 40 seconds.

"[Peugeot] have already won two times, but I think I deserved this victory because we have put a lot of effort into this car," he said.

"At the beginning I said we'll take it a little bit easier, but Peugeot said we'd have to go flat out. I raced a couple of days and pushed really hard, but then the race was a case of not making mistakes."

Sainz's son, Carlos Jr - who drives for Formula One team Renault, posted his congratulations on Twitter.

"I am probably the proudest son of his



father in the whole world. Winner of the toughest @dakar ever done in South America at 55 years of age (good number) and he did it in his own way," said Sainz Jr, who races as number 55. (BBC)

Carlos Sainz (file pic)

Barcelona denies Griezmann's deal reports

London

Barcelona have "strongly denied" claims they have agreed to sign Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann this summer.

Griezmann, 26, is under contract until summer 2022 but Spanish newspaper Sport claims a deal has

been done between Barcelona and the France forward.

Barca added they had "objections" to the reports "and reiterates its full respect" for Atletico.

It has also been reported Barca have given Philippe Coutinho the number 14 shirt so Griezmann can

be number seven.

Griezmann scored as Atletico drew 1-1 with Girona on Saturday. Diego Simeone's side are second in La Liga with 43 points, eight behind leaders Barcelona, who have a game in hand. (BBC)

Vardy, Mahrez score as Leicester see off Watford

London
Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez fired Leicester to a routine 2-0 win over Watford as Claude Puel's powers of recovery continued.

Winger Mahrez maintained his fine form with a third goal in six games after Vardy's first-half penalty put the Foxes ahead.

Leicester moved up to seventh in the Premier League while Watford's struggles continued with Marco Silva's side having won just once in 11 games.

The Foxes still needed a fine Harry Maguire block on Andre Gray to clinch victory but boss Puel has now lost just four of his 18 games in charge.

He took over in October, as Leicester's third manager of 2017, after Craig Shakespeare was sacked while the club were in the bottom three.

The Hornets are 10th but they are just four points above the relegation zone.

Despite Watford's energetic start they relied on stand-in

goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis, in for the injured Heurlho Gomes, to keep them level early on.

Vardy shrugged off Molla Wague and forced Karnezis into a smart stop before the Greece international blocked Wilfred Ndidi's close-range strike.

Watford's only win in their previous 10 league outings came in a 2-1 victory against Leicester on Boxing Day and their fragile defending underlined a lack of confidence.

But they survived the early scares and Kasper Schmeichel gathered Abdoulaye Doucoure's low drive after 19 minutes.

Leicester's early promise waned as a scrappy game struggled to ignite but Troy Deeney almost opened the scoring after 33 minutes when he finished low past Schmeichel, only to be ruled marginally offside. (PA Sport)



Jamie Vardy of Leicester celebrates

Arsenal dismantle Crystal Palace 4-1

London

Arsenal eased to a 4-1 victory over Crystal Palace on Saturday as Alexis Sanchez was left out of the squad ahead of his expected move to Manchester United.

Gunners boss Arsene Wenger said that the Chile international could be involved if the deal had not been completed, but he was again omitted. Unlike last week, however, when Arsenal lost 2-1 at Bournemouth without the forward, his teammates made light work of his absence here against a poor Palace side.

The hosts were four goals up inside the opening quarter of the game, with Nacho Monreal, Alex Iwobi, Laurent Koscielny and Alexandre Lacazette all hitting the target.

Luka Milivojevic struck a consolation for visitors as Wenger's side won their first match of 2018 to move within five points of the Premier League top four.

Mesut Ozil and Jack Wilshere both shone in a side which could soon boast more attacking options, should Henrikh Mkhitaryan join as part of the Sanchez deal, while Borussia Dortmund officials confirmed an enquiry had been made about Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

That sort of firepower was not required to beat an out-of-sorts Palace, who could hold out for just six minutes at the Emirates Stadium.

Iwobi had the game's first chance, but saw his shot tipped over by Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey and from the resulting corner Monreal arrived unmarked to head home Granit Xhaka's delivery with ease.

The second goal was not long in coming as Monreal turned provider for Iwobi and the Nigeria international stretched out to steer a low cross past the helpless Hennessey.

Roy Hodgson watched on glumly as Arsenal added another from their next corner as the static Palace defence allowed Monreal to drift it at the back post and cross for the fit-again Koscielny to bundle in a third.

Arsenal were in complete control and it showed with the superb move which led to them moving four goals ahead at the midway point of the first half.

Wilshere picked up the ball in plenty of space and fed Ozil, whose deft flick was perfect for Lacazette to slot home his first goal since the 3-1 defeat to Manchester United on December 2. (Espn)

Chelsea cruise past Brighton

London

Eden Hazard moved past the 100 career league goals milestone with two strikes as he orchestrated Chelsea's 4-0 win over Brighton & Hove Albion at the AMEX stadium.

Hazard and teammate Willian had the reigning Premier League champions two goals ahead within six minutes before the Belgium playmaker added another and Victor Moses netted near the end to take them above third-place Liverpool in the table.

Seagulls boss Chris Hughton, yet to see his side take a point from any of the top six, reverted to a back five against the Blues -- but it was soon apparent they would not be breaking their duck just yet.

Only three minutes had elapsed when Moses reached the byline and his cut-back found its way to Hazard, who sidestepped Lewis Dunk before firing home.

And three minutes later Hazard and Michy Batshuayi combined in a blur of backheels before Willian provided the finish from just inside the area.

It was a stunning goal and ruthless stuff from a Chelsea side who had scored only once in their previous four matches.

They were hit by injuries to four players as well as bans for Alvaro Morata and Pedro following Wednesday night's chaotic FA Cup tie against Norwich.

But for a spell the Blues looked as though they would score every time they went forward with Hazard leading the charge, teeing up first Willian and then Batshuayi whose efforts were saved by Mathew Ryan.

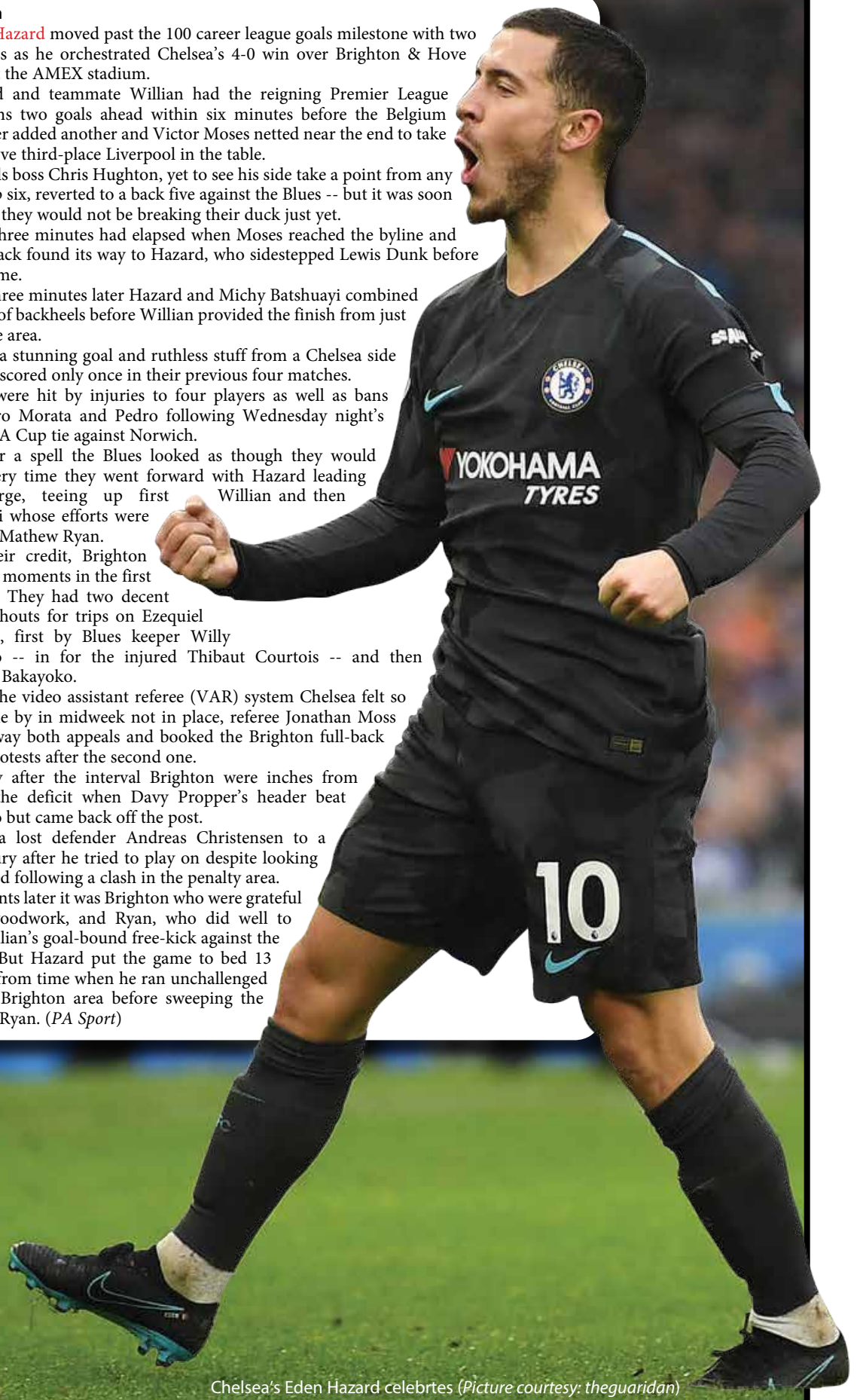
To their credit, Brighton had their moments in the first half, too. They had two decent penalty shouts for trips on Ezequiel Schelotto, first by Blues keeper Willy Caballero -- in for the injured Thibaut Courtois -- and then Tiemoué Bakayoko.

With the video assistant referee (VAR) system Chelsea felt so hard done by in midweek not in place, referee Jonathan Moss waved away both appeals and booked the Brighton full-back for his protests after the second one.

Shortly after the interval Brighton were inches from halving the deficit when Davy Propper's header beat Caballero but came back off the post.

Chelsea lost defender Andreas Christensen to a head injury after he tried to play on despite looking very dazed following a clash in the penalty area.

Moments later it was Brighton who were grateful to the woodwork, and Ryan, who did well to palm Willian's goal-bound free-kick against the upright. But Hazard put the game to bed 13 minutes from time when he ran unchallenged into the Brighton area before sweeping the ball past Ryan. (PA Sport)



Chelsea's Eden Hazard celebrates (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

Kerber smashes Sharapova



Angelique Kerber returns a shot (Picture courtesy: Xinhua)

Melbourne

Angelique Kerber signalled her return to form by battering Maria Sharapova 6-1 6-3 in the third round of the Australian Open.

Kerber looked at her best for some time as she polished off Sharapova in 64 minutes.

The 21st seed obliterated Sharapova in the first set, and while the Russian looked like offering some resistance in the second, she faded right at the

end. Kerber won 86 per cent of points on her first serve while Sharapova could only manage 37pc.

"Of course this was quite a big match," Kerber, who began working with new coach Wim Fissette at the end of last year, told reporters. "Maria is a champion. She's always dangerous, especially at the grand slams.

"But I was really trying to not think about everything around

and everything about the match, about against who I was playing. I was just more trying to go out on the special court for me and play good tennis."

As much as this was a resounding declaration of Kerber's return to top form, it also showed just how much progress Sharapova has to make as she orchestrates her own return.

Sharapova, back in Melbourne after testing

positive for a banned substance here in 2016 resulting in a 15-month ban, had looked menacing in the opening two rounds.

But Kerber, who plummeted down the rankings last year after finishing the year before at number one, broke her serve in the first game of the match and that set the tone for what followed. (Eurosport)

Djokovic makes progress



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot (Picture courtesy: Xinhua)

Melbourne

Novak Djokovic's game was back but question marks remain about his body after a straight-sets win over Albert Ramos-Vinolas in the third round of the Australian Open.

After his struggles in the heat against Gael Monfils, Djokovic looked much more assured in a 6-2 6-3 6-3 victory over his Spanish opponent. But Djokovic appeared to tweak something in his upper left leg or lower back at the end of the first set and twice

needed treatment.

He said: "It was a straight sets win but almost two and a half hours, it wasn't that easy, I had to earn all of my points. I knew Albert is a great fighter.

"For me it's taking one match at a time. I had some incredible memories in Melbourne Park and that comes back every time I step out on the court but I have to be more humble with my expectations this time because I haven't played for six months, but I'm very happy

with where my game is."

Having spent six months sidelined by an elbow problem, it is not surprising that Djokovic is experiencing a few physical niggles back in the heat of grand slam competition.

The problem did not affect him too badly, though, with Ramos-Vinolas unable to apply any real pressure as Djokovic moved through to a fourth-round clash with young Korean Chung Hyeon, who knocked out fourth seed Alexander Zverev in five sets. (PA Sport)

Berdych overpowers Del Potro

Melbourne

Not many players overpowered Juan Martin del Potro but Tomas Berdych did just that to win 6-3 6-3 6-2 and reach the fourth round of the Australian Open for the 10th time yesterday.

Del Potro arrived in Melbourne with high hopes having re-entered the world's top 10 for the first time since 2014 but was no match for the 19th-seeded Czech.

"Maybe it's the good air here," Berdych said on Hisense Arena to explain his consistency in the year's first slam.

Berdych struck 52 winners on his way to setting up a clash with Italian Fabio Fognini.



Tomas Berdych celebrates

"I think he was just better than me today," del Potro, who had led 5-3 in their previous meetings, told reporters.

"He hit very hard, he served very well and played a smart game. He deserved to win. No excuses today." (Reuters)

Zverev collapses to defeat by Chung

Melbourne

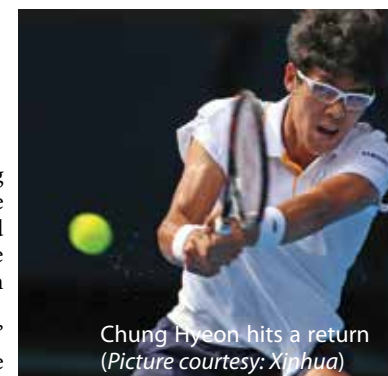
Relentless South Korean Hyeon Chung ground fourth seed Alexander Zverev into submission in a ferocious battle of young guns to reach the fourth round of the Australian Open yesterday.

German wunderkind Zverev led by two sets to one but 58th-ranked Chung was unflappable and roared back to win 5-7 7-6(3) 2-6 6-3 6-0. It all proved too much for 20-year-

old Zverev complaining bitterly to the umpire that the lights should be switched on despite it being only 6 p.m. in overcast Melbourne.

"I can't see anything," the German told the official.

The lights were duly switched on but once the bespectacled Chung took the fourth set, there only looked to be one winner. Zverev double-



Chung Hyeon hits a return (Picture courtesy: Xinhua)

faulted twice to gift Chung a break at the start of the fifth and when he dropped serve again two games later he demolished his racket. (Reuters)

Mohammed Shahid inaugurates the trophy unveiling and launch of teams

BPL: Team launch, trophy unveiled

Manama

Launch of Teams for Coca Cola Bahrain Premier League 2018 was held at Bahrain Mall Car park, at 07:00 PM on Friday.

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

The Bahrain Premier League 2018, will comprise of six franchise squads of thirteen resident cricketers competing

in the T20 format of cricket.

The event is organised by KHK Sports and Exelon.

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

The launch of teams kickstarted with the road show conducted by the Bahrain Desi Riders. 35 bikers joined from Hidd, Juffair, Gudaibiya and Riffa.

Meanwhile at the Bahrain Mall, various other promotional events were held. CEO of KHK Sports, Mohammed Shahid

and the President of BPL, Mohammed Mansoor sign off the Coca Cola Bahrain Premier League 2018 launch of the teams.

The opening ceremony and match-day one of the Bahrain Premier League 2018 will take place on 26th January, with group matches being played out over three consecutive weekends to determine the four qualifiers for the Semi-Finals.

The Grand Final of the competition is scheduled for March 9th, 2018.

RKCT beat Falcons



Asim - Pristine Harpreeth - RKCT Jegan -Awali Bapco Riaz - Liaison Safdar - BDS Bassali

DT News Network

Manama

RKCT beat Falcon by 97 runs in the latest matches of the CBA Cricket Division C T20 tournament.

Toss was won by RKCT and elected to bat first, opener Harpreeth scored brilliant half-century and well supported by Guru who scored 42.

At the end of 20 overs RKCT scored 193 runs.

Chasing the target, Falcon all-out for 96 runs, Sooraj and Vishal took two wickets for RKCT.

Other scores:

Mumbai Raiders 146/7 in 20 overs (Fazal 37, Rizwan 31, Waseem 2/36) beat Muharrag Eagles 93/10 (Noman 35, Shakeel 3/11) by 53 runs.

Pristine 129/7 in 18.3 overs

(Asim 73) beat Lanterns Z XI 126/7 (Farhan 38, Shakeel B 3/23) by 3 wickets.

SNCS Transfast 68/4 in 10.3 overs (Faisal 23, Sachin 2/2) beat Central Café 67/10 (Adil 20, Anish 4/7) by 6 wickets.

Shahzad Zafar 102/3 in 15.5 overs (Majid 31, Shoaib 29) beat Tornado 86/10 (Gigin 25, Khalid 4/14) by 7 wickets.

Awali Bapco 203/4 in 18.1 overs (Jegan 99, Ravi 54, Suhail 3/29) beat Panthers 199/8 (Talha 50, Asad 31, Sukesh 2/32) by 6 wickets.

Division C 25 over Tournament:

Kerala XI 119/7 in 23.1 overs (Sajeer 31, Umar 3/22) beat Mudabbar CC 118/10 (Hasham 25, Athul 3/24) by 3 wickets.

Union Group 158/8 in 25 overs (Siva 44, Zaiab 4/38) beat Pak Hawks 103/10 (Khalil 37,

So hail 3/22) by 55 runs.

ACL Haseena 110/2 in 13 runs (Saeed 40, Waqas 37) beat LuLu 109/10 (Pradeep 41, Ali 4/21) by 8 wickets.

Unique CC 70/6 in 17 overs (Azhar 25, Shohaib 2/13) beat Pak CC 67/10 (Faisal 19, Asar 4/18, Jijo .K 3/5) by 4 wickets.

Knock out T-20 Division D: Sprite 90/6 in 15 overs (Zeeshan 29, Anand 3/12) beat MNCA Arabian Oryxes 89/8 (Haider 18, Zafar 2/13) by 4 wickets.

Liaison 206/5 in 20 overs (Riaz 91, Fakhar 43, Umar 3/23) beat Asma CC 179/9 (Shoaib 51, Abbasi 51, Sadeer 4/45) by 27 runs.

Division B T20 Tournament: BDS Bassali 214/6 in 20 overs (Safdar 89, Rafi 52, Jabir 3/30) beat BOC 140/6 (Noman 56, Rizwan 2/20) by 74 runs.

Porte wins on Willunga as Impey takes lead

Adelaide

Richie Porte (BMC Racing) won the Willunga Hill stage of the Tour Down Under for the fifth year in succession but narrowly missed out on the leader's jersey after a late fightback from Daryl Impey (Mitchelton Scott).

Porte distanced his rivals with two searing attacks and secured the stage win but Impey paced himself up the final climb, coming past a number of challengers – to take second on the stage.

He finished eight seconds back and did enough to take the leader's jersey on countback from Porte.

Tom-Jelte Slagter (Dimension Data) finished third on the stage and now sits third overall with one stage remaining.

Overnight leader, Peter Sagan, cracked on the lower slopes of the climb and dropped down the GC.

"I tell you what that was the hardest one to win so far," Porte said.

The stage came alive just before the climb when EF-Education First accelerated in the crosswinds just before the final climb.

The move split the peloton and BMC Racing briefly looked in disarray with Porte scrambling at the back of the reduced peloton as his team failed to manage the situation at first.

They regained control before the road kicked up and Rohan Dennis was put to work on the lower slopes of Willunga as the riders faced a stiff headwind. (cyclingnews)



Richie Porte celebrates (Picture courtesy: eurosport)



Federer fires past Gasquet



Roger Federer

“I’m coming in this year well-equipped, fully fit, I know that five sets is not an issue this year, while last year that was a bit of a question mark.”

Melbourne

Number two seed Roger

Federer continued his serene progress at the Australian Open with a 6-2 7-5 6-4 win over Richard Gasquet in the third round.

Federer is yet to drop a set as he continues his title defence at Melbourne Park and the 36-year-old never looked unduly troubled against the Frenchman, winning in 1hr 15mins.

There were some flashy exchanges between two of the most stylish one-handed backhanders in the game, but Federer was no match for the 29th seed as he took full control on Rod Laver Arena.

Federer had a minor wobble at 4-2 in the third set when Gasquet carved out his first break point of the entire match, and then took the Federer serve.

But Federer sensed a chance at 5-4 and broke Gasquet again to seal the win, with two magnificent backhands ending the match.

“The match was close, tough games, the end

could have gone to a tiebreaker then you never know,” Federer said on court.

“I was able to be a bit more on the offensive than he was, maybe I was protecting my second serve a bit better than him.”

“My expectations are a little different because I had a great season last year,” he added.

“I’m coming in this year well-equipped, fully fit, I know that five sets is not an issue this year, while last year that was a bit of a question mark.”

He will next face his first career meeting with Hungarian Marton Fucsovics for a place in the quarter-finals.

“He came to train with me in Switzerland last year,” said Federer. “He was great, super nice guy, hard-working, he’s a great baseliner, really strong, so I’m happy I know him a little bit.”

The Swiss goes on to face Marton Fucsovics in the fourth round, the world no. 80. (Eurosport)

