

DT NEWS

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News of Bahrain

200 Fils

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Barguil takes Izoard stage



P 24

Tweet of the Day



Thanks to @algore for not only calling attention to the crisis of climate change, but also for rallying people around the solutions.

@SenSanders

Today's Weather

	Max	Min
	42 °C	32 °C

UN adds Syrian armed groups to sanctions list

United Nations

The UN Security Council yesterday added two armed groups in Syria, two money exchange businesses and four individuals to a sanctions blacklist for their alleged ties to the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. The names were contained in an annex to a US-drafted resolution on combating terrorism that was adopted unanimously by the council.

11th Hour

Saudi Arabia sets up state security agency

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's King Salman issued a decree yesterday setting up a new security agency for the oil-rich kingdom which will be overseen by him directly, the SPA news agency said. The new agency, which will be headed by intelligence chief General Abdel Aziz bin Mohammed al-Houeiriny, would manage several departments of the interior ministry.



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Trump lashes out as presidency hits six-month mark



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Construction firm sacks 99 Bahraini employees

Terror link: Kuwait expels Iran envoys

Kuwait City,

Kuwait yesterday expelled Iranian diplomats and closed some embassy missions after the emirate's top court convicted a "terror" cell of links to the Islamic republic, the foreign ministry said.

Kuwait, which has a sizeable Shiite minority, is trying to mediate an end to the Gulf's worst crisis in years after Saudi Arabia and its allies cut ties with Qatar in June.

They severed relations with Qatar over accusations it is too close to Iran and funds extremists.

A Kuwaiti supreme court ruling last month convicted 21 people belonging to a cell that had been formed and trained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

"Iranian sides helped and

supported the cell members," Kuwait's foreign ministry said in a statement. A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP around 15 Iranian diplomats were expelled. He declined to comment on whether the Iranian ambassador was among those ordered to leave.

Kuwait also ordered the closure of the Iranian "military, cultural and trade" missions, the official said.

Iranian authorities meanwhile summoned Kuwait's charge d'affaires, state-run IRAN news agency reported.

Kuwait's supreme court last month sentenced the mastermind of the cell to life in jail and condemned 20 others to various prison terms for links with Iran

A Kuwaiti supreme court ruling last month had convicted 21 people belonging to a cell that had been formed and trained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards

and Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, and plotting terror attacks in Kuwait.

Tensions rise

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah, who is also acting information minister, confirmed Kuwait had taken diplomatic action against Iran.

"Following the supreme court ruling on the case... the government of Kuwait has decided to take measures, in

accordance with diplomatic norms and the Vienna Convention, towards its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

The latest development comes amid escalating tension in the Gulf, involving Qatar and four Arab countries -- Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

Analysts have warned the crisis could break apart the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council. Kuwait has not

imposed sanctions on Qatar and has positioned itself as a neutral party in the crisis.

Kuwaiti authorities busted what they said was a "terrorism" cell with ties to Iran in August 2015 and seized large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives.

Cell members were convicted of working for Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Lebanon's Hezbollah. They were also convicted of smuggling explosives from Iran.

The only Iranian member of the cell was sentenced to death in absentia by the lower court early last year.

Kuwait's interior ministry on Tuesday said 14 convicts were on the run while the newspaper, *Al-Seyassah*, has said they had fled to Iran by sea. - AFP



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister with Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Malaysian Minister of Defence and Minister with Special Functions, at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. Both discussed a wide range of regional and international issues, including security cooperation with Malaysia to effectively combat global terrorism and extremist ideologies.

US: Iran aided terror attacks in Bahrain

DT News Network Washington

Labelling Iran the world's top government sponsor of terrorism, the US State Department has said that Tehran had provided weapons, funds, and training to Bahraini groups that carried out attacks on the Bahraini security forces.

On January 6, 2016, Bahraini security officials dismantled a terrorist cell, linked to Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force (IRGC-QF), which was planning to carry out a series of bombings throughout the Kingdom of Bahrain, the US State Department said in its 'Country Reports on Terrorism 2016' released on

Wednesday.

"Iran used the IRGC-QF to implement foreign policy goals, provide cover for intelligence operations, and create instability in the Middle East," the report said.

"Iran has acknowledged the involvement of the IRGC-QF in the conflicts in Iraq and Syria and the IRGC-QF is Iran's primary mechanism for cultivating and supporting terrorists abroad," the report said.

In 2016, Iran supported various Iraqi terrorist groups, including Kata'ib Hezbollah, as part of an effort to bolster the Assad regime in Syria.

(Continued on Page 4)

Trump lashes out as presidency hits six-month mark



US President Donald Trump greets members of the US military alongside Vice President Mike Pence (L) following a meeting at the Pentagon in Washington

Washington

Donald Trump hit the six-month point of his turbulent presidency yesterday in combative style -- lashing out at his own attorney general over the probe into Russia's alleged election meddling that has dogged him from day one.

Since taking office on January 20, Trump has been on a roller coaster ride, and the gut-wrenching twists and turns looked set to continue after Jeff Sessions vowed to stay on at the Justice Department despite a stinging public rebuke from the commander-in-chief.

Publicly abandoning an influential early supporter, the 71-year-old Trump suggested Sessions had betrayed him in stepping back from investigations into alleged Kremlin-Trump collusion -- and said he wished he had never hired him.

"How do you take a job

and then recuse yourself? If he would have recused himself before the job, I would have said, 'Thanks, Jeff, but I'm not going to take you,'" Trump said.

"I think is very unfair to the president," Trump said. "It's extremely unfair, and that's a mild word, to the president."

Yesterday, Sessions said he had no plans to resign in the wake of the blistering criticism.

"I have the honour of serving as attorney general. It is something that goes beyond any thought I would have ever had for myself," the Republican former senator said.

"I plan to continue to do so as long as that is appropriate," he added.

When asked how he could continue to work without the confidence of Trump, Sessions replied: "We are serving right now. The work we are doing

today is the kind of work we intend to continue."

'Brutal process'

Trump's expansive remarks to The New York Times painted a picture of a president preoccupied by allegations against him -- chief among them that his team may have colluded with Moscow to help tilt the election in his favour.

In the interview, he warned special counsel and former FBI director Robert Mueller that some Trump family finances should be off-limits to his wide-ranging investigation.

Asked if Mueller looking at finances unrelated to Russia would be a red line, Trump responded, "I would say yes."

"I have no income from Russia. I don't do business with Russia," he added.

Trump's first six months in the White House have been as chaotic and contentious as any

How do you take a job and then recuse yourself? I think is very unfair to the president, says Donald Trump

for a new president in living memory.

Making good on a promise to shake up Washington, the Republican billionaire-turned-world leader has shattered norms at every turn, abandoning the usual presidential decorum and caution.

But his bold and unambiguous campaign promises remain unrealized, as he has struggled to turn word into legislative deed, most notably in enacting health care reform.

"It is tough. It's a very narrow path, winding this way. You think you have it, and then you lose four on the other

side because you gave. It is a brutal process," he said.

"Smart people, tough people -- couldn't get it done."

The White House yesterday lauded Trump's success in nominating a Supreme Court justice -- conservative Neil Gorsuch -- and overseeing a growing economy.

"President Trump's impact on the economy has been immediate, spurring job creation across the country," the White House claimed.

"Just six months in office, President Trump has taken historic action to eliminate wasteful and costly regulations that have stood in the way of hardworking Americans."

IS falling 'very fast': Trump at Pentagon

Washington

The Islamic State group is falling "very fast," US President Donald Trump said yesterday as he visited the Pentagon for a military strategy meeting.

"We're doing very well against ISIS. ISIS is falling fast, very fast," Trump said, using another acronym for IS.

Trump's comments come at the six-month mark of his presidency, for which he campaigned by vowing to quickly defeat IS.

While the strategy to beat the jihadists in Iraq and Syria follows largely that of the Obama administration, Trump has given battlefield commanders more power to call in strikes and make real-time decisions.

IS has suffered a string of setbacks over the past two years, including the loss of their Iraq bastion Mosul earlier this month.

The intense destruction of the city and ongoing operations to retake Raqa in Syria have led critics to say the Trump administration is paying less attention to protecting civilians.

Trump signed an executive order soon after taking office giving his generals 30 days to come up with a revised plan to wipe the jihadists out.

The review resulted in an "annihilation campaign" against IS, but details are still being discussed and it has been broadened into a wider regional strategy.

Trump's brief comments actually came after he was asked whether he would be sending troops to Afghanistan, where the US has been since late 2001.

"We'll see," he said.

Pentagon officials have said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is considering adding around 4,000 troops to augment the current "train and advise" mission for local forces.

Also attending Thursday's meeting at the Pentagon were Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and General Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Construction firm sacks 99 Bahraini employees

Harpreet Kaur
reporter@dt.bh

Cash-strapped G.P. Zachariades Civil Engineering & Contractors, popularly known as GPZ, has terminated 99 Bahraini employees.

The construction company was in focus recently as a group of workers organised a public protest in Sanad last month, demanding pending salaries.

"The company is facing a lot of difficulties in paying salaries for workers and dues for contractors. It's mainly a cash flow problem. Nearly BD30 million dues has to be paid to the contractors," Labour Ministry Assistant



Workers of G.P. Zachariades Civil Engineering & Contractors protesting at Sanad. (File Photo)

Undersecretary for Labour Affairs Dr Mohammed Ali Al Ansari told DT News.

"If the ministries release BD2 million for the projects they did for different

ministries, the company could easily be able to make the payment for the workers," he said.

"We do know about the issue and the company is now

in a process of restructuring and downsizing. The company employs nearly 1000 expatriate workers and 190 Bahraini workers," he said.

"We are closely working

with the company to transfer the workers to other organisations," he said.

"In the coming weeks, we will visit the GPZ and meet the workers and help them transfer to other organisations. We urge workers to be patient as we are negotiating with other organisations to provide workers equivalent jobs and salaries," he said.

"We are also requesting workers to quit who are approaching retirement age," he said.

"All the pending salaries of the workers are now cleared and the Labour Ministry will do as much as it can to reduce the burden of the workers," Al Ansari added.

Man falls in pit, injured

Manama

A worker sustained injuries after he fell into a pit dug for drainage work in Hamad town yesterday. The worker, a Bangladesh national, sustained minor injuries in the accident. Another man, a Pakistani national, also sustained injuries while attempting to rescue him.

"The Bangladeshi worker was working in the area. The Pakistani man jumped in to save him but became breathless and fell unconscious. The Pakistani man was unconscious when he was being taken an ambulance," said a resident in the area.

OIC Meeting

Jeddah

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will hold an emergency meeting on July 24 to discuss the latest developments in Al-Quds and ways to stop the Israeli aggressions on Al-Aqsa Mosque.

MP for new traffic signal system to reduce accidents



Mohammed Al Maarifi

DT New Network/DTNN
news@dt.bh

Manama

The traffic signal systems in the Kingdom need to be updated by implementing new techniques that aims at reducing accidents and traffic violations at crossroads, MP Mohammed Al Maarifi has said.

The MP submitted an innovative proposal last week to this effect to adjust traffic signals so that it would "blink"

several times before changing from green.

The MP, who also head the Human Rights Committee in the House of Representatives, said that traffic lights should be adjusted so it would flash five times while on the green colour before changing to yellow than red to notify drivers that they have to stop soon.

"This proposal is aimed at maintaining traffic safety and reducing accidents and violations near junctions," Al Maarifi said.



Countdown timer installed at a traffic signal in Saudi Arabia

His proposal comes few months after the government rejected a similar request from the parliament to install countdown timers at traffic signals for the same reasons and similarly to fellow GCC countries.

Meanwhile, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry, which is in charge of road planning in the Kingdom, said the "timers are not efficient and create confusion near intersections".

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Bahrain has made great strides: PM

DT News Network
Manama

Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday said that the Kingdom of Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has made unprecedented achievements.

“Our ambitions are big and without limits for our nation and people and we do the impossible to achieve them and to smooth out any obstacles and challenges along the way, and our cooperation with the Legislative Authority is exemplary, thanks to our collective visions and shared goals”, HRH the Premier said.

HRH the Prime Minister’s remarks came while receiving the Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla, following the issuance of the royal order adjourning the third session of the fourth legislative term,



HRH Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa with Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla

yesterday.

“We have together succeeded in organizing our circumstances politically, economically and socially and we have succeeded in dealing with issues regionally and internationally as a result of our close cooperation,” HRH the Premier added.

His Royal Highness expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation of the efforts exerted by Shura Council members and Members of Parliament (MPs) in carrying out their legislative and

monitoring responsibilities that serve the interest of Bahrain and its people.

“The policy consecrated by HM the King in upholding the principles of development, modernization and consolidation of the fundamental pillars of the State of the Law and Institutions have yielded the fruits of consolidating the cooperation between the executive and legislative branches in every manner that will serve Bahrain and its development in all fields,” HRH the Premier said.

“The close cooperation between the executive and legislative bodies will remain the firm principle of our government, our key goal being the revival of the nation and satisfaction of citizen’s ambitions and maintaining their livelihood gains,” HRH the Premier said.

HRH the Premier praised the efforts of the MPs and Shura Council members throughout the third session of the fourth legislative term during which numerous significant laws and legislations have been

issued, including the unified family law, and other laws and legislations that contributed with more regulation of social, economic and political life aspects for facilitation of citizens’ living and charted the features of the prosperous future we aspire for the nation and its citizens. HRH the Premier expressed his aspiration that the upcoming legislative session will witness more efforts to complete the achievements in the interest of the nation and to fulfill citizens’ ambitions, reiterating

the government’s keenness on continuation of the policy of cooperation and consultation with the Legislature.

The Speaker and the Chairman of the Shura Council expressed their gratitude and appreciation of HRH the Prime Minister for his diligence regarding everything that supports the cooperation and partnership between the executive and legislative branches.

They affirmed that the government under the premiership of His Royal Highness has worked to achieve this cooperation and transformed it into substantial reality felt by all citizens.

The numerous directives of His Royal Highness instructing the ministers and officials to cooperate with the Legislature have had tremendous impact in accomplishing numerous dossiers in the interest of the nation and its citizens, they stressed.

Crown Prince meets Head of the Court of Cassation

DT News Network
Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister met Chancellor Abdulla bin Hassan Al Buainian, Head of the Court of Cassation and Deputy President of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Gudaiybia Palace, yesterday.

The meeting between His Royal Highness and Chancellor Abdulla bin Hassan Al Buainian took place following a number of new appointments to the Court of Cassation and the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission (LLOC).

The appointees, who also attended the meeting, included Chancellor Ma’asuma Abdulrasul Isa, Puisne Judge at the Court of Cassation, Chancellor Nawaf Abdulla Hamza, President of the LLOC and Chancellor Mohammed Ahmed Mujbel, Deputy President of the LLOC. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with Chancellor Abdulla bin Hassan Al Buainian at Gudaiybia Palace, yesterday

highlighted that the Kingdom of Bahrain continues to develop its legal and judicial system under His Majesty King Hamad’s leadership, which is enshrined by the National Action Charter and safeguards the rule of law and justice for all.

His Royal Highness noted that the Kingdom has prioritised the institutional development of the judicial system by launching a number of initiatives aimed at improving standards and judicial procedures.

His Royal Highness further noted that security, justice and the economy are important pillars of advanced societies and are

integral foundations that support Bahrain’s international standing and reputation across different fields.

His Royal Highness congratulated the new officials on their appointments, wishing them success in their future endeavours.

The Crown Prince also praised the efforts of the Supreme Judicial Council to implement the Judiciary Strategy 2020, which has contributed to raising the efficiency and performance of the Bahraini judiciary, as well as the Supreme Judicial Council’s, and the LLOC’s, role in modernising and strengthening the institutional structure of the judicial system.

Bahrain participates in non-proliferation meeting

DT News Network
Washington

Bahrain and the United States have held their first bilateral meeting on Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The two sides discussed practical challenges and dangers posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) proliferation to world security and peace and exchanged expertise regarding relevant international agreements and aspects of future cooperation in the field between the two friendly countries. The Bahraini delegation, headed by Ministry of the Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, comprised members of the National Committee on Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Brigadier

Samir Al Zayani from the Bahrain Defence Force, Dr Jassim Al Meha from the Ministry of Health, First Lieutenant Qassim Salah from the Ministry of Interior and Khalid Al Jahmi from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism..

The US delegation was headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Arabian Gulf Affairs in the Near East Bureau at the U.S. Department of State, Timothy Lenderking and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Non-Nuclear and Counter-Proliferation (ISN/NNCP) Ann K. Ganzer, and included representatives from the US Departments of State, Department of Justice, Department of Defence, Department of Energy, Department of Commerce and Department of the Treasury.

Iran aided terror attacks in Bahrain

From Page 1

“**Iran views** the Assad regime in Syria as a crucial ally and Syria and Iraq as crucial routes to supply weapons to Hezbollah, Iran’s primary terrorist partner. Iran has facilitated and coerced, through financial or residency enticements, primarily fighters from Afghanistan and Pakistan to participate in the Assad regime’s brutal crackdown in Syria,” the

report said. “Iranian-supported militias in Iraq have committed serious human rights abuses against civilians and Iranian forces have directly backed militia operations in Syria with armoured vehicles, artillery, and drones,” the report said. The Iranian government maintains a robust cyber terrorism programme and has sponsored cyber attacks against foreign government and private sector entities, the report said.

5 Bahrainis among Forbes' 100 most powerful bizwomen list

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

Five Bahrainis have figured among 100 women named as most powerful businesswomen in the Arab world in a list compiled by Forbes Middle East.

Y K Almoayyed & Sons Managing Director Mona Almoayyed, Batelco CEO Muna Al Hashemi, Bahrain Mumtalak Holding Company Chief Financial Officer Suha Karzoon, Al Salam Bank Chair Shaikha Hessa Al Khalifa and Securities & Investment Company CEO Najla Al Shirawi are the people who



Mona Almoayyed



Muna Al Hashemi



Najla Al Shirawi



Shaikha Hessa Al Khalifa



Suha Karzoon

made it to the Forbes' list of 100 most powerful Arab businesswomen.

Among the five, Almoayyed ranked the highest after achieving rank 9. Al Hashemi ranked at 16, Karzoon at 27, Shaikha Hessa at 57, and Al Shirawi at 89. Lubna S.

Olayan from Saudi Arabia, who is the CEO of Olayan Financing Company, was ranked as the Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen of 2017.

"This year in particular, women across the Arab world appear to be cracking the remaining glass ceilings, and

nowhere more so it seems than in the banking sector. The region's banks have raised several high-achieving and long-serving women to its highest positions, with the industry representing 28% of our 2017 list. Saudi Arabia took the lead in high-

level appointments. Rania Mahmoud Nashar, CEO of Samba Financial Group, became the first woman to head a commercial bank in the Kingdom, Latifa Homoud Alsabhan was promoted as the CFO of Arab National Bank, and Sarah Al Suhaimi, CEO of

NCB Capital, was appointed as chair of the country's stock market, Tadawul, as the Kingdom looks to join MSCI emerging markets index. The region's governments have also appointed women to key roles in finance and industry," Forbes stated.

"To compile these rankings, we collected information from annual reports and company websites, as well as other primary sources. We looked at: Company revenues or GDP in the case of government departments and ministries, years of experience, scope of the role or ministry," Forbes stated explaining the criteria while compiling the list.

AFC president among 50 most powerful football figures

DT News Network
Manama

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President, FIFA Vice President Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa has been ranked among the top 50 most influential football personalities in the world for 2017.

The ESPN network has also ranked Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa atop most influential football figures in the Asian continent.

The ESPN list, the second since 2015, featured other leading football personalities, including FIFA president, heads of continental and national federations, presidents of world football clubs and other current and retired star players, coaches and others. The ESPN Network portal shed



Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

light on the AFC achievement under the presidency of President Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa who took over in 2013. It highlighted his dedicated efforts to unify

the Asian football community, enhance championship, combat corruption and match-fixing, in addition to turning Asia into a destination for mega sport events.

BAHRAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
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Semi-Annual Interim Dividends for the Year 2017

With reference to the meeting of the Board of Directors of Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) B.S.C held on July 20th, 2017 the Board approved the distribution of 10 fils per share as interim dividends for eligible shareholders who are listed in the share register as of July 20th, 2017.

The distribution of interim dividends will start from August 3rd, 2017. Eligible shareholders who are listed in the share register should contact our Service Registrar as follow:

Karvy Company Share W.L.L.

Office No. 74 ,7th Floor Zamil Tower, Bld. 31, Road 383, Block 305

(Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain).

Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa
Chairman

batelcogroup.com
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Minister receives UK ambassador

DT News Network
Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, received here yesterday the UK Ambassador to Bahrain, Simon Martin, in the presence of the British consultants specialised in organising and assessing the work of civil society organisation and NGOs.

The meeting is within the framework of the follow-up on the action programme

implemented by the Labour and Social Development Ministry and the British Embassy.

They discussed ways to enhance joint cooperation and exchange expertise to develop civil society organisations and NGOs as well as developing the supervisory role of the NGOs' Directorate at the Labour and Social Development Ministry in combating money laundering and terror funding.

The minister lauded the

depth of the Bahrain-UK friendly relations, and praised the steady growth of bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially social and development fields.

Humaidan praised the British expertise, and highlighted the need to take advantage of it in developing the projects of NGOs and community partnership to consolidate the services delivered in the field of voluntary work and NGOs' support.

Wide Angle



Joel Indrupati

Passwords and Pin Numbers: A Memory Muddle?

How many passwords can one remember? And, what about PIN numbers? Or those security-answers?

To unlock or open software and hardware systems today, it looks like we all need a personal memory that must rival the elephant's.

For our email, for our computer, for our mobile device, for our phone banking service, and for our TV receiver, we are now forced to remember a growing number of passwords and pin numbers.

And "the number of passwords one would need to remember is directly proportional to the sum of the electronic devices one is buying and the web services one is registering for."

This law (which was just postulated by yours truly) could have some exceptions. But companies are going the extra mile, to make our password-memory fun. Well, fun for them but frustrating for us.

They conduct free mental health check-up on us - perhaps for Alzheimer's or Amnesia - by asking us to participate in mind exercises.

They test our cerebral resilience by telling us that our password must contain at least one capital letter, one small letter, one number, and at least one 'special character'.

One Special character?

Shylock, of Shakespeare? The Joker from Hollywood? Crime Master Gogo from Bollywood?

No. They tell us it could be an exclamation mark or an ampersand, a hash or a comma, a double quote or a dollar sign.

After all this, if you still don't remember the password when you need it, you are in for trouble. You will have to answer a few security questions, the answers to which you should, now, remember.

And then they might let you reset the password.

A few days ago, no matter how many times I tried, I was unable to enter into an online web service. So, after several attempts, with all those different old passwords I could remember, I finally gave up.

And I sought to reset the password. I entered my email address after clicking on 'forgot password' section and I got the 'reset password' link by email.

Now, when I tried to make up a password, imagine my annoyance when the system says: 'Sorry. You cannot use any previously used passwords!'

Yes. I had tried to use an old one. But that is because, tell me, how many words can I really, effectively, remember?

And as if that is not enough, some websites are even telling me, "We have noticed that you have not changed your password for a long time. We recommend you change it".

There are OTPs too; One-time passwords which work if you have your phone handy when you are booking or buying online.

So, when you travel to another country and use a different temporary number, you will need another phone. Or a phone with dual Sim Card provision. Otherwise, you won't get text messages from the banks and other web service providers to help you reset.

In one way, I agree of course, it is good to see the online services becoming more and more secure. But on the other hand I feel the websites should allow us to create and use passwords without too many conditions and restrictions.

Recently, a telephone banking service told me I cannot even use two consecutive digits in my pin number! Is that not a needless restriction?

Anyway, thanks to the new biometrics-enabled devices, which recognize fingerprints and faces, at least some of the problems are now reducing.

But then, complaints aside, let us remember our past.

If we had remembered scores of telephone numbers in our head before the advent of mobile phone, we can remember these passwords and pins too.

(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.)

Macron to repair damage after army chief quits

Istres

President Emmanuel Macron attempted yesterday to mend fences with the military after the resignation of the armed forces chief in a row over budget cuts for which France's new leader has drawn criticism.

General Pierre de Villiers quit on Wednesday after being publicly slapped down by Macron for protesting the government's plans to slash 850 million euros (\$980 million) from this year's defence budget.

His resignation capped a week-long spat, during which Macron made clear he would brook no insubordination as commander-in-chief, drawing a mix of criticism and respect.

Yesterday, he reassured the troops that they had his support despite the spending cuts.



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) and newly appointed French chief of military staff General Francois Lecointre deliver a speech during a visit to the French air force base

Saying he "deeply respected" the military, which is engaged in operations against jihadists in Syria, Iraq and West Africa while also defending against attacks on home soil, Macron said: "I know what the nation owes you."

He also repeated his promise to hike the defence budget by over a billion euros in 2018, in line with

his promise to raise defence spending to 2 percent of GDP -- about 50 billion euros -- by 2025.

De Villiers, a highly respected figure who prided himself on speaking truth to power, riled Macron after telling a parliamentary committee last week he would not allow the armed forces to be "screwed".

MH370 search reveals hidden undersea world

Sydney

The painstaking search for missing flight MH370 has uncovered a previously unknown undersea world of volcanoes, deep valleys and soaring ridges, according to detailed maps released by Australia.

Although no trace of the Malaysia Airlines plane was found during the search in the southern Indian Ocean -- the most expensive ever of its kind -- large volumes of data showing a detailed picture of the sea floor had to be collected to guide the probe.

Scientists are hopeful the new maps will give their community greater insight into oceans.

"It is estimated that only 10 to 15 percent of the world's oceans have been surveyed with the kind of technology used in the search for MH370," Geoscience Australia's environmental geoscience chief Stuart Minchin said late Wednesday.

"(That makes) this remote part of the Indian Ocean among the most thoroughly mapped regions of the deep ocean on the planet.

Missing Pets



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



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



BLUE - Male Red Point Siamese, 1 yr, not wearing collar or ID, gate left open, may have been STOLEN, Saar (Almarkh 35 Ave/Cinema Saar), 19/1/17, BD50 REWARD, **35637527 or 35016599**



DIGGY - Male Shih Tzu/Maltese mix, 4.5 yrs, white w black spots, neutered (green tattoo mark where neutered), micro-chipped, not wearing collar or ID, gate left open, Bahraini young men tried to lure him to their truck, Busaiteen (last seen near roundabout), 5/6/17. **34477574**



NOUS - Male Gray British Blue Shorthair, 4 yrs, lifts left leg while walking due to surgery, pink mark on right side of face, not wearing collar or ID, escaped from house, likely stolen, Hamad Town (Roundabout 17), 25/3/17. **36250888**



TOTO - Male Shitzu, 8 yrs, neutered, pet sitter walking three dogs off lead and Toto ran away, barks at men and other dogs, not wearing collar or ID, Saar (close to Geant Easy), 21/4/17, REWARD BD100 **33366234 / 35592368 / 34356018**

Germany vows economic steps against Turkey

Berlin

Germany yesterday vowed stinging measures hitting tourism and investment in Turkey and a full "overhaul" of their troubled relations, signalling its patience had snapped after Ankara's arrests of human rights activists.

The government stepped up its travel advisory for the NATO ally as Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel warned it could no longer guarantee its citizens' safety in the face of "arbitrary" mass arrests, a step set to hit a sector crucial to Turkey's ailing economy.

A day after his ministry summoned Turkey's ambassador, Gabriel interrupted his holiday and returned to Berlin to deliver his unusually strong comments towards President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Relations between Turkey and Germany, home to three million ethnic Turks, have been badly strained, particularly since the failed coup a year ago against Erdogan.

Gabriel said Germany would review state guarantees



German Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel addresses a press conference

for foreign investment in Turkey and urge businesses not to put their money there, and also reconsider its

support for billions in EU financial flows earmarked over coming years for the long-time aspirant to membership of the bloc.

A Social Democrat, Gabriel made clear he was speaking for the coalition government led by conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel, and her spokesman soon tweeted that the steps were indeed "necessary and indispensable".

Gabriel recalled that Turkey, having long seen itself as "a member of the European family", had levelled Nazi jibes at Germany, and accused Erdogan of worsening a crisis that Berlin had repeatedly sought to ease through dialogue. (AFP)

Relations can't be based on 'threats': Turkey

Istanbul

Turkey yesterday told Germany that their relations could not be founded on "blackmail and threats" after the German foreign minister vowed measures that would limit investment in an escalating row.

"Our relations cannot be pursued based on blackmail and threats but through internationally accepted norms and principles," the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement, accusing German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel of

a "one-sided and distorted approach".

The Turkish foreign ministry however accused Germany of putting those "on trial and German guests, who come to our country as tourists, on the same scale."

China willing to help ease tensions in Gulf

Beijing

China is confident that Gulf countries have the wisdom to resolve divergence and is willing to play a constructive role to help ease tensions according to the will of regional parties, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Wednesday.

Wang made the remarks when meeting with visiting United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of State Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber.

China is a good friend of the Gulf countries, said Wang, expressing the hope that the current Gulf crisis can be properly resolved.

Wang said that China stands by the principle that the crisis should be resolved through political and diplomatic means

and all relevant parties should take due responsibility.

According to Wang, the crisis should be settled within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and outside countries should play a constructive role.

"Concerned parties should sit down for talks as soon as possible and show flexibility in dealing with each other," Wang said, adding that reaching a consensus on fighting terrorism of all forms is the first priority.

Al Jaber said that the UAE is committed to resolving the crisis through political and diplomatic means and has no intention to interfere in the domestic affairs of Qatar or other countries.

The UAE hopes that relevant parties can reach consensus on



UAE Minister of State Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber (L) and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R)

fighting terrorism and honour the agreements already signed and their commitments already made, he said.

"China is an influential and

responsible country," said Al Jaber, adding that the UAE appreciates China's objective and impartial position on Gulf affairs.

Saudi lets Qataris go on hajj, despite diplomatic row

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia said yesterday that Qataris wanting to perform this year's hajj will be authorised to enter the kingdom for the pilgrimage, despite a diplomatic spat between the two countries.

In a statement, the Saudi hajj ministry said Qataris and residents of the Gulf emirate could join the pilgrimage as they were already "electronically registered for the hajj" and they had the necessary permits from Riyadh and Doha.

But the ministry has imposed restrictions on Qatari pilgrims arriving by plane, saying they must use airlines in agreement with the Saudi authorities.

They also needed to get visas on arrival in Jeddah or Medina, their sole points of entry in the kingdom, the ministry added.

The hajj, a pillar of Islam that capable Muslims must perform at least once in a lifetime, is to take place this year at the beginning of September.

Israel, Palestinians brace for more unrest at holy site



Palestinian protesters shout slogans during a demonstration in Jerusalem's Old City

Jerusalem

Israel's army boosted security yesterday and braced for possible unrest on the eve of the main weekly Muslim prayers after security measures imposed at a sensitive Jerusalem site angered Palestinians.

Officials were reportedly in talks to defuse the crisis, which followed a deadly attack last Friday on police near the site that includes the Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

The controversy over the clampdown including the use of metal detectors at entrances to the Haram al-Sharif compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, also resonated beyond Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by phone on Thursday on the issue.

The White House said it was "very concerned" about the tensions and called on Israel and Jordan, the holy site's custodian, to work toward a solution.

UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov also expressed concern and called on "moderate voices to speak up against those who try to fuel tensions".

Remove Jerusalem metal detectors, Erdogan tells Israel

Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday urged his Israeli counterpart Reuven Rivlin to swiftly remove metal detectors that have outraged Muslim Palestinian worshippers at a sensitive holy site in annexed east Jerusalem.

Palestinians have been refusing to enter the Haram al-Sharif compound since Sunday, when Israel began installing metal detectors at entrances to the site following an attack that killed two police officers.

"Within the framework of freedom of religion and worship there can be no impediment for Muslims" entering the holy site, the Anadolu news agency quoted Erdogan as telling Rivlin.

"Given the importance that Haram al-Sharif carries for the whole Islamic world, the metal detectors put in place by Israel should be removed in the shortest possible time and an end put to the tension," Erdogan added.

Batelco group posts BD19m profit in H1

- ▶ **Gross Revenues at BD181.1M (US\$480.4M);**
- ▶ **EBITDA of BD64.0M (US\$169.8M), representing a 35pc margin;**
- ▶ **Consolidated net profit at BD19.0M (US\$50.4M);**
- ▶ **59pc of revenues and 52pc of EBITDA sourced from markets outside Bahrain;**
- ▶ **Cash and bank balances of BD157.4M (US\$417.5M);**
- ▶ **Earnings per share of 11.4 fils with an approved interim cash dividend of 10 fils per share;**
- ▶ **Subscriber base of over 9.5 million, an increase of 4pc YoY.**

DT News Network
Manama

Batelco Group has posted a net profit of BD19m for the six months ended June 30, 2017. The Group continued with its promising start to the year with net profit showing improvement over Q1 2017.

The Group's Gross Revenues of BD181.1M (US\$480.4M) have remained steady year-on year with a slight 1 per cent decline compared to the same period in 2016. The gross revenues for the second quarter of 2017 show a 1pc decrease compared to Q2 2016 but an increase of 2pc compared to Q1 2017.

EBITDA for the period was BD64.0M (US\$169.8M), a 10pc decline year over year, and quarter on quarter decline of 12pc compared to Q2 2016. EBITDA for Q2 2017 was in line with that of the previous quarter with only a 2pc marginal decline. The YoY drop in EBITDA is a partly due to increased operating expenses compared to 2016, mainly higher network and IT costs as a result of network enhancements and additional sites across the Group. Despite the reduction in EBITDA, the Group continues to sustain its robust EBITDA margin of 35pc.

For the first six months of the year, the Group



Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

reported Net Profit of BD19.0M (US\$50.4M), a 16pc decline compared to the corresponding period in 2016 and a quarter on quarter decline of 17pc over Q2 2016. However, Net Profit is up by 32pc compared to Q1 2017 as Q1 results were impacted by the share of loss from the Group's investment in Sabafon, Yemen, due to the continued instability in the region caused by political unrest.

The Group's balance sheet remained strong; as of 30 June 2017 net assets were BD532.9M (US\$1,413.5M) with substantial cash and bank balances of BD157.4M (US\$417.5M). Earnings per share were 11.4 fils and the Board of Directors approved



Batelco Bahrain CEO Muna Al Hashemi

an interim cash dividend for shareholder of 10 fils per share for the six month period.

Commenting on the results for the first six months of 2017 Batelco Chairman Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said that Batelco Group continues to be immersed in a lengthy period of harsh competitive pressure and the impact of this is reflected in the Group's financial results.

"This operating environment is due to circumstances in the telecom industry, not just in Bahrain but across the geographies in which we operate. However, our strategy is evolving so that we are prepared to meet the ongoing changes in the



Ihab Hinnawi

industry. We are investing in restructuring and training to ensure we have the right mix of skills and expertise across our management an general staff teams."

"Another key area where we are continuously evolving is on strengthening the relationship we have with our customers by focusing on the overall customer experience rather than just customer services. We are client and customer focused across all sectors from the general public to government, medical, banking and beyond."

"Additionally, our combined Group-wide efforts to pool resources is making good progress an helping to support our efforts to reduce costs," Shaikh Mohamed added.

EasyJet wins AOC in Austria, upgrades outlook

London

EasyJet has secured an air operator's certificate in Austria that will enable it to keep flying across the EU after Brexit, the low-cost carrier said Thursday, and lifted earnings guidance.

The news, which comes one week after the British low-cost airline revealed it had applied

to Austrian authorities to establish a new Vienna-based EasyJet Europe division, was contained in a trading update.

"Our European AOC (air operator's certificate) has now been awarded and the first flight by an EasyJet Europe aircraft takes place today," said the company's outgoing chief executive Carolyn McCall.

Air France unveils Joon - the 'millennials' airline

Paris

Air France on Thursday unveiled a new lower-cost subsidiary called Joon that will specifically target well-travelled millennials.

A new medium-haul service will begin operating from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris later this year, with long-haul flights to follow in summer 2018.

The French carrier unveiled

details of its new service after resolving a lengthy dispute between the management and pilots over the establishment of the subsidiary.

Joon is "especially aimed at a young working clientele, the millennials (18 to 35 year-olds), whose lifestyles revolve around digital technology", Air France said in a statement, without elaborating on what new technology would be deployed.

China orders tech firms to ramp up censorship

Beijing

China has ordered the country's biggest technology firms to immediately "rectify" violations and shut accounts that publish "bad information", in the latest move by authorities to tighten policing of the web.

The Cyberspace Administration of China said it held a meeting this week with representatives from domestic

tech giants Baidu, Sohu, Tencent, Netease and Phoenix to inform them of multiple violations in content published on their platforms.

The offences listed Wednesday by the authorities included misinterpreting policy directives, disseminating false information, distorting Chinese Communist Party history, plagiarising photos, and challenging public order.

Philippines eyes opening telecoms to foreign control

Manila

Limits on foreign ownership of the Philippine telecom industry should be lifted to attract investment and improve its service, a senior minister said Thursday.

Currently foreign firms can own a maximum 40 per cent of Philippine utilities, including telecom companies, which

should be raised, according to Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia.

"If we want to attract foreign direct investment, they have to have a larger stake in the investment," he told reporters.

"Forty percent seems rather low. By raising that to 70 percent, it seems more attractive," he added.

Musk says successful maiden flight for Falcon Heavy unlikely

Washington

SpaceX CEO and founder Elon Musk has downplayed the chances of a successful inaugural flight for his Falcon Heavy space launch vehicle, admitting there is a "good chance it would not make it to orbit in its first launch."

Development of the booster rocket, which is powered by 27 engines, has proven to be "way harder than the team initially thought," he told the International Space Station Research and

Development conference on Wednesday.

Falcon Heavy will be the most powerful rocket booster in the world, capable of delivering a 54 ton payload into orbit.

Musk said that combining three Falcon 9 rockets together had multiplied vibrations throughout the vehicle making it difficult to test without a launch.

The maiden test flight is due to take place toward the end of the year.

The billionaire added that the best way to re-invigorate public interest in space was to build a lunar colony.

"If you want to get the public fired up, you've got to put a base on the moon," he said, in order to continue the dream of the Apollo missions.

SpaceX announced in February it had finalized a deal with two private citizens to be sent around the Moon in what would mark the farthest humans have ever

traveled to deep space.

Fellow billionaire Jeff Bezos, the CEO of Amazon, also announced in March his intention to build lunar vehicles and habitat modules in order to establish colonies, and has submitted a collaboration proposal to NASA.

Musk, who has said he wants to send an unmanned lander to Mars by 2020, added Wednesday that any colonization efforts should rely as much as possible on resources available on the planet.

Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and Tesla



ECB holds steady as markets wait

Frankfurt

The European Central Bank held its key interest rates and a mass bond purchase programme unchanged, sending a message to financial markets looking for hints its easy money policy will soon end. Interest on the bank's main refinancing operations stood at 0.0 percent, on its marginal lending facility at 0.25pc and on deposits at -0.4pc, meaning banks pay to park money with the ECB.



UK to decide on Murdoch's Sky takeover

London

Britain will decide whether to formally investigate the proposed takeover of pan-European satellite TV Sky by Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox. Karen Bradley, the minister for culture, media and sport, said she was "still minded" to launch an in-depth investigation into the £11.4-billion bid for the 61-pc of Sky not yet owned by 21st Century Fox.



"We (European Central Bank) need to be persistent, and patient as really there isn't any convincing sign of pickup in inflation."

Mario Draghi

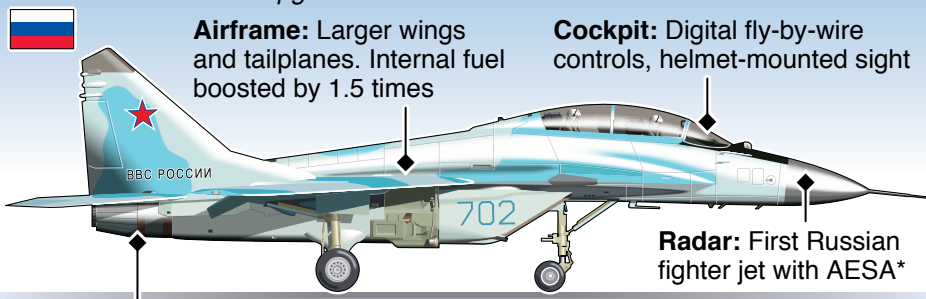
ECB chief



Russia readies new MiG-35 fighter jet

Russia's newest fighter jet, the MiG-35, which has been in development for over a decade, is expected to be showcased at the MAKS Air Show outside Moscow as engineers finalize testing on the aircraft

MIG-35 FULCRUM-F: Upgraded version of MiG-29. First deliveries due 2019



Airframe: Larger wings and tailplanes. Internal fuel boosted by 1.5 times

Cockpit: Digital fly-by-wire controls, helmet-mounted sight

Radar: First Russian fighter jet with AESA*

Engines: 2 x Klimov RD-33 turbofans – 12 percent more power than previous models. Optional thrust vectoring

Armament: 30mm cannon, 7,000kg payload. Optical / laser targeting pod for precision attack

Maximum takeoff weight	29,700kg	Speed	Mach 1.94 (2,400km/h)
Engine thrust	176kN	Range	2,000km

PERFORMANCE COMPARISON



Eurofighter Typhoon: Multi-role jet

Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II
U.S. stealth fighter

Maximum takeoff weight	23,500kg	Maximum takeoff weight	31,800kg
Engine thrust	180kN	Engine thrust	191kN
Speed	Mach 2.0 (2,500km/h)	Speed	Mach 1.6 (1,900km/h)
Range	1,390km	Range	2,220km
Armament	27mm cannon, 7,500kg payload	Armament	25mm cannon, 8,160kg payload

*Active electronically scanned array. Radar system produces signal emissions across wide range of frequencies, making detection and jamming more difficult

Sources: Airforce Technology, Aviation Week, U.S. Air Force

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US, European police say 'dark web' markets shut down

Washington

US and European police yesterday announced the shutdown of two huge "dark web" marketplaces that allowed the anonymous online trade of drugs, hacking software and guns.

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions said underground websites AlphaBay and Hansa had tens of thousands of sellers of deadly drugs like fentanyl and other illicit goods serving more than 200,000 customers worldwide.

"This case, pursued by dedicated agents and prosecutors, says you are not safe, you cannot hide. We will find you, dismantle your organization and network, and we will prosecute you," Sessions said in a warning to dark web entrepreneurs.



Representational image

The announcement came three weeks after AlphaBay stopped functioning with no explanation.

On July 5, the Canadian national who ran AlphaBay, Alexandre Cazes, was arrested in Thailand. Earlier this week, Cazes was found dead in his Thai police cell, with police saying he apparently hanged himself with a towel.

AlphaBay's shutdown

sent traffic flooding into the smaller Hansa marketplace.

But that new traffic, tens of thousands of users, was unaware that Dutch police had already secretly taken control of Hansa, giving them the ability to identify and track buyers and sellers of illicit goods.

The Hansa market has also now been shut down, said Europol executive director Rob Wainwright.

Audi pulls 'sexist' China ad after public outcry

Shanghai

German automaker Audi apologised yesterday over an advertisement it aired in China that was slammed as sexist for showing a bride-to-be being roughly examined like a piece of livestock.

The Chinese-language spot for Audi's used-car division, which appeared online and also reportedly in movie theatres, was criticised on social media for depicting an anxious mother-in-law crashing the wedding to pull and prod the bride, even prying her month open to check her teeth.



Representational image

Separate statements by Audi AG and the used-car division apologised and said the ad had been pulled.

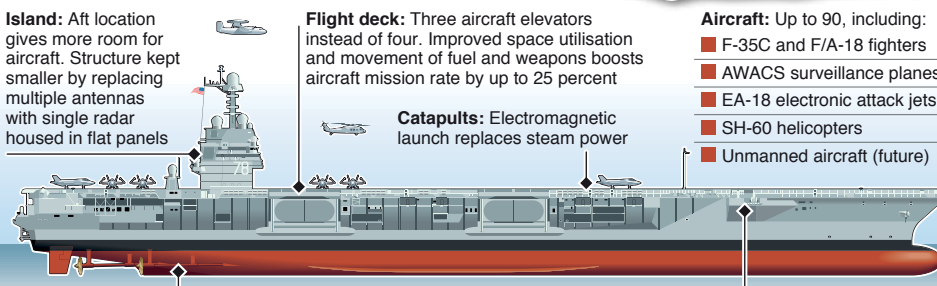
"The lack of consideration ... caused the public to view the advertisement as disrespectful to women. We hereby extend

our most sincere apology," the used-car unit said.

Audi AG's statement said it "deeply regrets" any offence caused by the ad, which it said "does not correspond to the values of our company in any way".

U.S. Navy to test next-generation supercarrier

President Donald Trump is scheduled to preside over the commissioning on July 22 of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford. The \$12.9 billion vessel is the first in a new generation of aircraft carriers, featuring a host of changes over the current Nimitz-class fleet



Island: Aft location gives more room for aircraft. Structure kept smaller by replacing multiple antennas with single radar housed in flat panels

Flight deck: Three aircraft elevators instead of four. Improved space utilisation and movement of fuel and weapons boosts aircraft mission rate by up to 25 percent

Catapults: Electromagnetic launch replaces steam power

Aircraft: Up to 90, including:

- F-35C and F/A-18 fighters
- AWACS surveillance planes
- EA-18 electronic attack jets
- SH-60 helicopters
- Unmanned aircraft (future)

Propulsion: Two nuclear reactors generate 600MW of electricity – triple that of Nimitz-class carrier

Technology: Greater automation enables less crew and lower costs. Maintenance reduced by 30 percent

Armament: Integrated system controls ship sensors, anti-air weapons (missiles and guns) and countermeasures

Specifications	Nimitz-class	USS Gerald R. Ford
Commissioning date	1975 (USS Nimitz)	2017 (planned)
Displacement (fully loaded)	88,000 tonnes	100,000 tonnes
Aircraft	60+	75+
Crew (including air wing)	5,200	4,539
Cost (2016)	\$8.9 billion*	\$12.9 billion

	Nimitz	Flight deck:
		18,200 sq m
	Gerald R. Ford	18,943 sq m
		Length: 333m

Sources: U.S. Navy, Navy League Hampton Roads, U.S. Government Accountability Office

*Inflation adjusted

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Did You Know?



Every minute of downtime outage costs Facebook approximately \$24,420. The "prolonged" outage that lasted for 19 minutes in August 2014 cost the company almost \$427,000 – and you thought you were pissed when Facebook goes down.



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3074	0.3038
BANGLADESH	0.00493	0.00467
CANADA	0.3064	0.3021
DENMARK	0.0617	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0217
EURO	0.4437	0.4395
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00605	0.00591
INDONESIA	0.00003074	0.00002900
IRAN TUMAN	0.000323	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000304	
JAPAN	0.00352	0.003450
JORDAN	0.5350	0.5351
KOREA	0.00038632	
KUWAIT	1.249	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.0909	0.0902
NEW ZEALAND	0.2838	0.2824
NORWAY	0.0488	
NEPAL	0.00389	0.00367
OMAN	0.97962	0.98327
PAKISTAN	0.00369	0.00359
PHILIPPINES	0.00774	0.00743
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10058	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2805	0.2785
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03050	0.03040
SRI LANKA	0.00270	0.00246
SWEDISH	0.0486	
SWITZERLAND	0.4054	0.4006
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.012700	
THAILAND	0.011410	0.011430
TURKEY	0.1135	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5015	0.4967
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102810	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37780	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3950	0.3368
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.9589	0.2991	0.2550
OMAN	0.3849	0.3673	0.4033	0.3438
QATAR	3.6420	3.4759	3.8160	3.2535
UAE	3.6730	3.5055	3.8485	3.2812
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5790	3.9292	3.3500



Qatar continues rally, SABIC boosts Saudi

Dubai
Qatar's stock market continued rebounding yesterday from lows hit after its diplomatic rift with neighbouring Arab states, while strength in top petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries buoyed Saudi Arabia.

The Qatari index rose 0.4 per cent to 9,542 points. It had closed at 9,924 points on June 4, just before the crisis erupted, and has rebounded more than 10pc from its low at the start of July.

Doha Bank gained 2.0pc after reporting its first-half net profit rose to 716 million riyals (\$197m) from 708m riyals year ago, as operating income gained 4.8pc.

Drilling rig provider Gulf International Services added 3.5pc and telecommunications company Ooredoo surged 2.8pc.

Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia's index rose 0.4pc as Saudi

Basic Industries climbed 1.1pc to 99.90 riyals. Morgan Stanley raised the stock to overweight from equal-weight and lifted its price target to 122 riyals from 86 riyals.

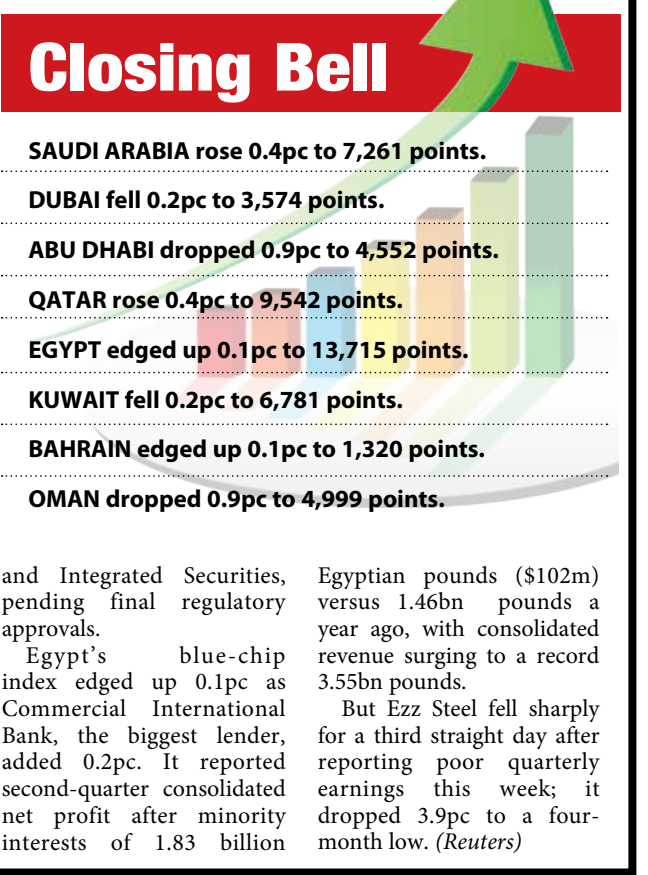
Alinma Bank, the most heavily traded stock, stayed strong after Wednesday's better-than-expected quarterly earnings, adding a further 3.7pc.

Tihama Advertising jumped 5.8pc after announcing the sale of its entire stake in Ad Art Median Co for 4m riyals (\$1.1m).

Dubai's index edged down 0.2pc as Amlak Finance soared 14.3pc and was the most heavily traded stock after real estate developer DAMAC said it was partnering with Amlak to sell second homes to customers. DAMAC fell 2.0pc.

Shuaa Capital soared its 15pc daily limit after saying it had executed an agreement to acquire Integrated Capital

Closing Bell



- SAUDI ARABIA rose 0.4pc to 7,261 points.
- DUBAI fell 0.2pc to 3,574 points.
- ABU DHABI dropped 0.9pc to 4,552 points.
- QATAR rose 0.4pc to 9,542 points.
- EGYPT edged up 0.1pc to 13,715 points.
- KUWAIT fell 0.2pc to 6,781 points.
- BAHRAIN edged up 0.1pc to 1,320 points.
- OMAN dropped 0.9pc to 4,999 points.

and Integrated Securities, pending final regulatory approvals.

Egypt's blue-chip index edged up 0.1pc as Commercial International Bank, the biggest lender, added 0.2pc. It reported second-quarter consolidated net profit after minority interests of 1.83 billion

Egyptian pounds (\$102m) versus 1.46bn pounds a year ago, with consolidated revenue surging to a record 3.55bn pounds.

But Ezz Steel fell sharply for a third straight day after reporting poor quarterly earnings this week; it dropped 3.9pc to a four-month low. (Reuters)

Facebook to test news story paywalls: report

San Francisco
Facebook will test limiting the number of published news stories that can be read for free on its Instant Articles platform for premium publishers, US media reported on Wednesday.

The leading social network has become a major source of news for people, triggering complaints by publishers that they lose control and revenue when their stories are shared free at Facebook.

A paywall is under construction in Facebook's Instant Articles section where the social network has agreements with select outlets to publish directly to the platform, according to a story



Representational image initially published online at TheStreet.

with Google's AMP that also optimizes content from select media for mobile web browsing.

Facebook head of news partnerships Campbell Brown said at a digital publishing conference in New York on Tuesday that the social network is responding to publishers' concerns with the move, TheStreet reported.

Facebook in October will begin testing a feature that limits to 10 the number of stories that can be accessed in its "Instant Articles" section and guides readers to publisher home pages to consider buying subscriptions, according to media reports.

The service was launched two years ago and competes

Dali to be exhumed in paternity case



Visitors walk around Salvador Dali's tomb inside the Teatre-Museu Dali (Theatre-Museum Dali)

Figueras

Salvador Dali's remains are to be exhumed from his Spanish hometown in an effort to test a fortune teller's claims the renowned surrealist is her father.

The artist's body is buried in the elaborate museum of his work Dali designed himself in the northeastern Spanish town of Figueras, where he was born over 110 years ago.

Pilar Abel, a 61-year-old who long worked as a psychic in Catalonia, says her mother had a relationship with the artist when she worked in Cadaques, a picturesque port where the painter lived for years.

If Abel is confirmed as Dali's only child, she could be entitled to a slice of at least 25 per cent of the huge fortune and heritage of one of the most celebrated and prolific painters of the 20th century, said the woman's lawyer Enrique Blaquez.

Upon his death in 1989 at age 84, Dali's estate was estimated to be worth 136 million dollars (118 million euros), according to his lawyer at the time.

It included at the time hundreds of paintings as well as several properties in Catalonia as well as merchandising rights.

The Salvador Dali Foundation -- which manages the late artist's estate -- tried unsuccessfully to fight off the exhumation with a court appeal.

Authorities will begin removing the over one-tonne

Dali's estate was estimated to be worth 136 million dollars

A child touches Salvador Dali's tombstone inside the Teatre-Museu Dali (Theatre-Museum Dali) in Figueras



slab covering the tomb of the eccentric artist, who died with no known child heirs, after visitors have cleared out for the day from the Dali Theatre-Museum.

Forensic scientists will take DNA samples in the form of bone or tooth fragments directly from the grave where Dali was buried and they will then be sent to Madrid to undergo the necessary tests.

The museum, a top tourist site that drew over 1.1 million visitors last year, will be covered in some places with cloth to prevent drones from capturing images of the exhumation, which is expected to take several hours.

The Salvador Dali Foundation will provide details of the exhumation at a press conference on Friday at 8 am (0600 GMT).

'Saddened'

Abel has already provided a saliva sample for comparison, with results expected within a matter of weeks.

"I just want to know the truth. I am very positive, very happy," Abel told reporters at a Madrid hotel on the eve of Dali's exhumation.

In an interview last month, just days after a court ordered the exhumation, Abel said her grandmother first told her she was Dali's daughter when she was seven or eight years old,

and her mother admitted it much later.

Abel is from the city of Figueras, like Dali, and she said she would often see him in the streets.

"We wouldn't say anything, we would just look at each other. But a glance is worth a thousand words," she said.

Spain's Culture Minister Inigo Mendez de Vigo said he was "saddened" by the exhumation but he stressed that the court order must be obeyed.

Notoriously eccentric, Dali's life was marked as much by the genius of his work as by his own extravagances.

A question has always hung over his sexuality, with some claiming he was a closet homosexual who preferred to watch others having sex rather than taking part.

But according to Abel's lawyer Blaquez, his affair was "known in the village, there are people who have testified before a notary".

Dali and Gala

Born on May 11, 1904 in Figueras to a bourgeois family,

If Abel is confirmed as Dali's only child, she could be entitled to a slice of at least 25 per cent of the huge fortune and heritage of Salvador Dali

Dali developed an interest in painting from an early age.

In 1922 he began studying at the Fine Arts Academy in Madrid, where, despite being expelled twice, he developed his first avant-garde artistic ideas in association with poet Federico Garcia Lorca and the filmmaker Luis Bunuel.

Soon he left for Paris to join the surrealist movement, giving the school his own personal twist and rocketing

to fame with works such as "The Great Masturbator."

Returning to Catalonia after 12 years, he invited French poet Paul Eluard and his Russian wife Elena Ivanovna Diakonova to Cadaques.

She became his muse -- he gave her the pet name Gala -- and remained at his side for the rest of her life.

They never had children and she died in 1982, seven years before Dali's death.



Visitors walk around Salvador Dali's tomb inside the Teatre-Museu Dali



Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, received at his Majlis in the Al-Wadi Palace, the Malaysian Minister of Defence and Minister with Special Functions, Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, and his accompanying delegation. HH Shaikh Nasser welcomed the Malaysian Minister, and lauded the depth of the Bahraini-Malaysian relations of friendship.



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, and Minister with Special Functions, Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, and his accompanying delegation, including Lieutenant-General Yussef bin Ahmed Al-Jalahma, and Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General, were received at the Bahraini Ministry of Defence. The commander-in-chief affirmed that the Malaysian Minister's visit aims to strengthen the relations between the two friendly countries.



Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong met with Minister of Sports Hisham bin Mohammed Al Jowder, to discuss and enhance the bilateral cooperative relations in youth and sports between China and Bahrain



The 9th summer camp of the Royal Academy of Police (RAP) continued yesterday with a host of visits and fun activities. Organised in cooperation with Tamkeen, the students visited the Bahrain National Museum.



received yesterday the Malaysian Minister of Defence accompanying delegation. Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Dheyab bin Saqr Al-Nuaimi, were also present to strengthen military cooperation between the two



Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, received yesterday the UK Ambassador to Bahrain, Simon Martin, in the presence of the British consultants specialised in organising and assessing the work of civil society organisation and NGOs. The meeting is within the framework of the follow-up on the action programme implemented by the Labour and Social Development Ministry and the British Embassy.



Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa received writer and former minister of state Mohammed Hassan Kamaluddeen. He hailed his prolific writings and publications, which enriched Bahraini literary and intellectual life, wishing him continuous success. Kamaluddeen hailed the keen interest of HH Shaikh Khalifa in intellectual and literary issues.



The Bahrain Philanthropic Society has received a donation of BD10,000 from National Bank of Bahrain. The Bank's cheque was presented by Abdul Aziz Al Ahmed, General Manager, Domestic Banking Group to Dr. Tawfiq Kamal, the Vice President of Bahrain Philanthropic Society. The cheque presentation ceremony was attended by Aref Jamsheer, Board Member of the Society and Nasser Mohamed Nasser, NBB Board Secretary.



um, Bahrain Institute of Political Development, Supreme Council of Women and Salman Cultural Centre. They were also involved in workshops and fun games as part of the second week activities of the camp.

CELEBS

Ellen DeGeneres @TheEllenShow
 .@greysonchance, I was proud of you when we met 7 years ago and I'm proud of you now.



Doing action role has been my childhood dream



Actress Alicia Vikander said she always wanted to do an action role and featuring in the reboot of 'Tomb Raider' is everything she could have asked for. The 28-year-old Oscar-winning actress said playing unusual characters is a thrilling experience for her. "I'm emotionally drawn to something that's very different from what I've done before. Naturally, that gives me an extra thrill. I have mostly done dramas and indie films in my career..."

"But I don't know how many times I've watched big adventure films like 'Indiana Jones' or 'The Mummy'. I love to get embraced in all those big journeys and to do an action role has always been a child's dream of mine," Vikander said. The 'Danish Girl' actress will be stepping in actress Angelina Jolie's shoes as Lara Croft in a new movie adaptation of the popular video game series. (TOI)

Jennifer Lawrence vomits at Broadway show

New York

Actress Jennifer Lawrence vomited during a performance of Olivia Wilde's Broadway show "1984".

Lawrence got sick midway through the show and jumped up from her seat and vomited in the lobby at the Hudson Theatre on Monday night, reports *pagesix.com*.

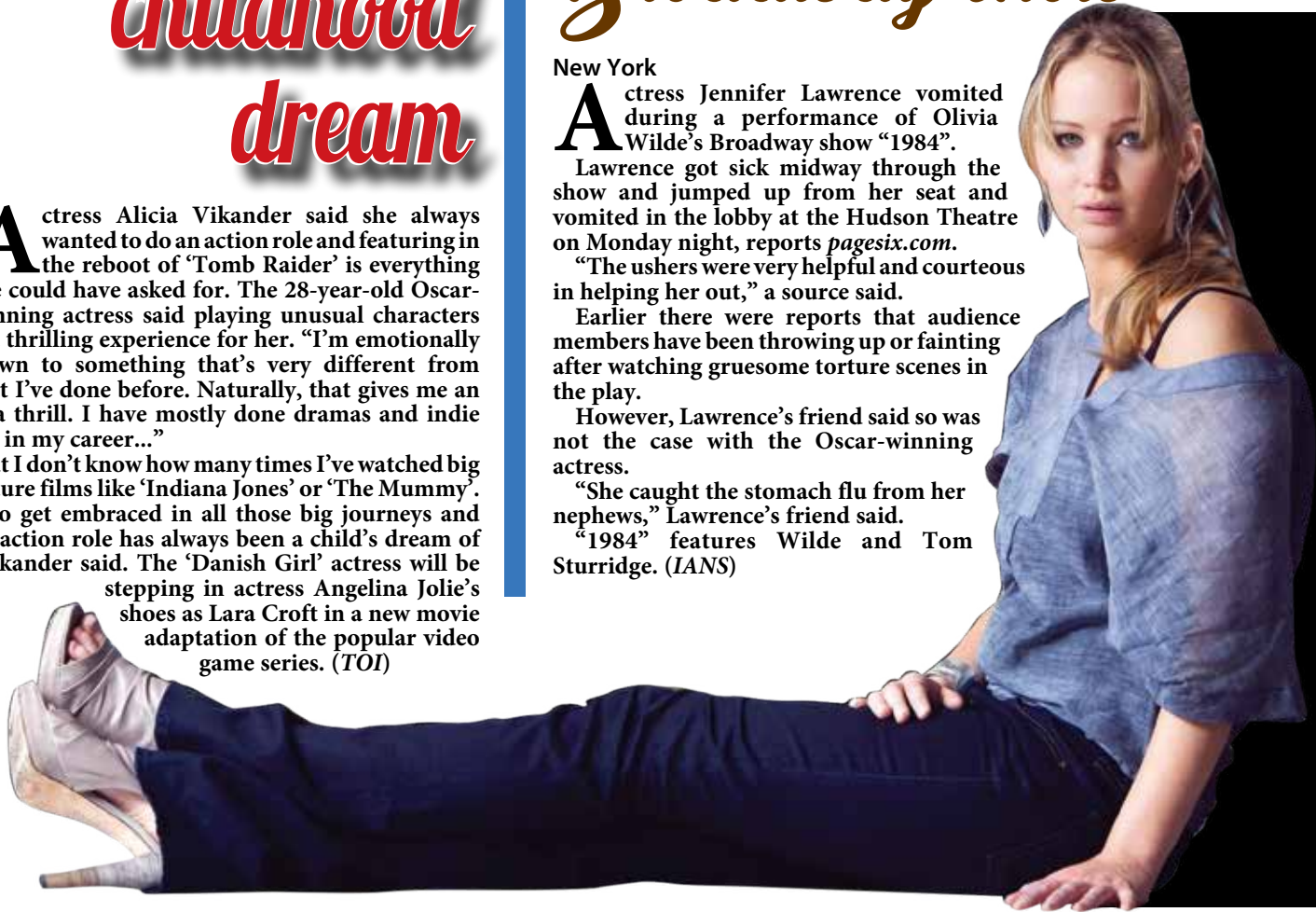
"The ushers were very helpful and courteous in helping her out," a source said.

Earlier there were reports that audience members have been throwing up or fainting after watching gruesome torture scenes in the play.

However, Lawrence's friend said so was not the case with the Oscar-winning actress.

"She caught the stomach flu from her nephews," Lawrence's friend said.

"1984" features Wilde and Tom Sturridge. (IANS)



STARRY Birthday Rebecca Ferguson

July 21, 1986

British pop singer who was a runner-up on The X-Factor. She was later offered a record deal with Columbia Records.

Kevin Hart reportedly cheating on wife

Miami

Actor Kevin Hart was seen getting cozy with a mystery woman outside a luxurious hotel after reportedly partying together during his birthday bash. In a video obtained by Radar Online, Hart, who celebrated his birthday on July 6, was sitting very close to the woman inside a car.

They could be seen chatting and laughing while looking at their surroundings once in a while. The woman later got out of the vehicle with the actor, who bid her farewell before getting back into his car, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

"It's obvious they were up to no good. She kept looking over her shoulder, and Kevin was pop-eyed when another guest walked by," an insider told the website. (IANS)



I tore rib muscle from sneezing

Los Angeles

Actor Billy Crystal says he once tore a rib muscle from sneezing. Crystal made an appearance on the TV show "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on Monday night and explained why he had to reschedule his interview, which was originally planned for last month, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

"I tore a rib muscle from sneezing, and I literally could not breathe," the 69-year-old said.

Describing it as the "weirdest injury ever", Crystal said he had been dozing off in front of the television when a violent sneeze jolted him awake.

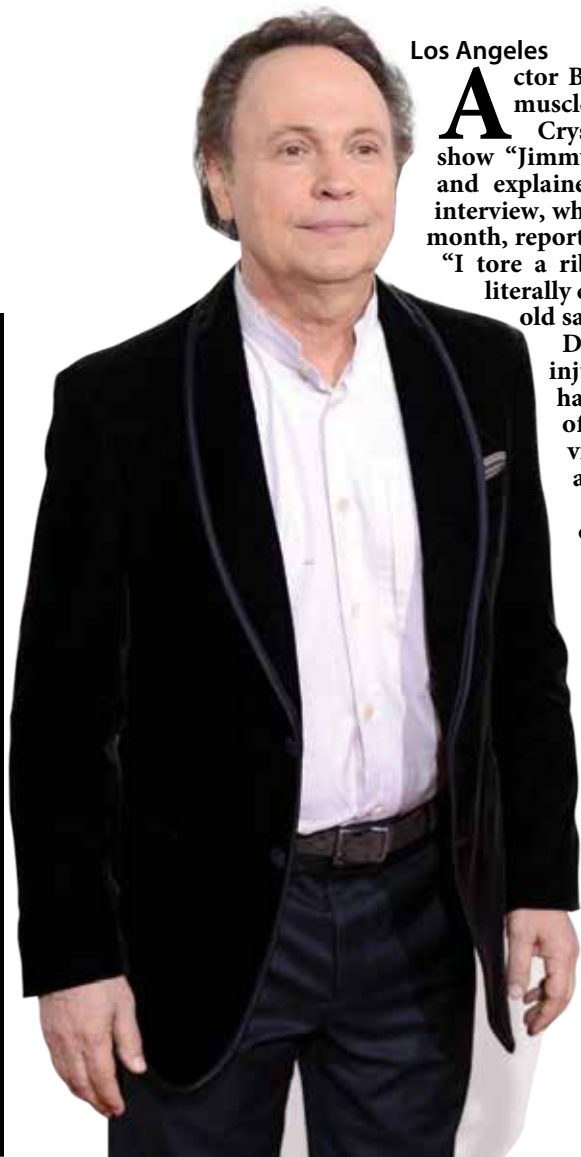
"Folks, if it was a cartoon, my arms are flying off my body, my eyes are coming out of my head, people in the room are now naked because it blew their clothes off," Crystal said. (IANS)

PAUL NICHOLLS 'LUCKY TO BE ALIVE' AFTER FALL

'Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason' star Paul Nicholls said he is lucky to be alive after smashing his leg following a fall from a Thai jungle waterfall. The actor, who was trapped for three days, was discovered by locals in a rock pool at the Khun Si Falls on the island of Koh Samui, Thailand.

"I am lucky to be alive. I had a phone with me but I fell from such a height into the water it was unretrievable. It took such a long time to find me. It's an understatement to say it wasn't a great situation. It wasn't that I was lost," he said.

"The problem was I couldn't move to get out of there. I've got a broken leg and I'm missing a kneecap. It needs complete reconstruction". (TOI)



Now you know it

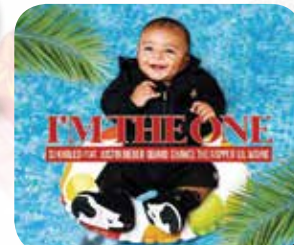


Canadian-born New Zealand actress Anna Paquin's first television role was a Sookie Stackhouse in HBO show, True Blood, which in 2008 earned her a Golden Globe for 'Best Actress'

TOP 10 Songs this Week



1. Despacito
Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee Featuring Justin Bieber



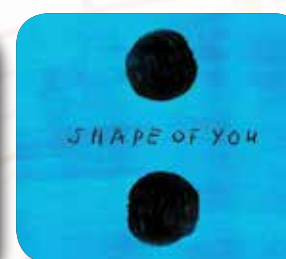
2. I'm The One
DJ Khaled Featuring Justin Bieber, Quavo, Chance The Rapper & Lil Wayne



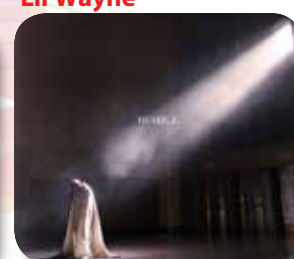
3. That's What I Like
Bruno Mars



4. Wild Thoughts
DJ Khaled Featuring Rihanna & Bryson Tiller



5. Shape Of You
Ed Sheeran



6. Humble.
Kendrick Lamar



7. Believer
Imagine Dragons



8. Body Like A Back Road
Sam Hunt



9. Congratulations
Post Malone Featuring Quavo



10. Unforgettable
French Montana Featuring Swae Lee
(billboard)

OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO REACH US

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

MARK YOUR Calendar

FRIDAY BRUNCH AT FLAVOURS ON 2



Date :30th June 2017 to 29th December 2017

Venue :Downtown Rotana

Explore diverse culinary cultures every Friday from 12 pm until 4 pm and indulge in a stylish and contemporary setting with live cooking stations and oversize cocktails and mocktails bar.

Tempt your senses with the best Friday Brunch buffet in town at Flavours on 2 for only BD 26* including selected beverages, BD 21* including soft drinks and juices. The fun will not stop here! You can also enjoy ALLDAY free pool access and free valet parking. Children will also have a great time with their very own modern supervised Kids room filled with toys and games for all ages.*Prices are subject to 10% service charge & 10% government. Opening hours: Every Friday from 12 until 4 pm. Contact details: For more information, please call 1311 9999 or email : flavours2.downtown@rotana.com

BUSINESS LUNCH BUFFET

Date :28th June 2017 to 31st August 2017

Venue :Swiss-Cafe Restaurant, 10th Floor

Description :Swiss-Cafe Restaurant offers a daily lunch buffet featuring wide choice of healthy salads, Mezzeh, International main courses and homemade desserts.

Only at BHD 8 NET per person including of Soft Drinks and Water. Rate is inclusive of 10% service charge and 10% government levy. For reservations and information, please contact us on +973 66310041

EXPLORATIONS, ENCOUNTERS AND REMEMBERED STORIES: 200 YEARS OF BRITISH-BAHRAINI RELATIONS

Date: Till 31 August 2017

Venue: Bahrain National Museum

The rise of piracy in the Arabian Sea in the 18th and 19th centuries resulted in a time of unrest that challenged prosperity and regional trade enterprise. In 1816, a friendly agreement between the British representatives in the Gulf and the Sheikhs of Bahrain secured the protection of shared interests. The agreement was formalised in 1820 with the signing of a General Treaty of Peace, that ushered a new episode in the political and cultural history of both nations. Over the past 200 years, the nature of the British-Bahraini relationship has evolved and the ties between the two nations were strengthened. Above all, this relationship was shaped by varied explorations, encounters and personal stories. This exhibition draws on the first explorations of Bahrain and its archaeological landscape. It celebrates a few of those who have played a major role in bringing global attention to Bahrain. By shifting the focus from artefacts to people and their documented encounters with local Bahrainis, we attempt to shed light on different perspectives of the bicentenary long British-Bahraini relationship.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with the British Council in Bahrain.

DINING PLEASURES MEET BUSINESS SUCCESS

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton Primavera

The signature Italian restaurant Primavera offers a three-course business set lunch by two Michelin starred chef Oliver Glowig. Diners can choose one starter or one first course, one main and one dessert and enjoy a relaxing lunch with beautiful views over the landscaped gardens and the poolside. Price: BD 15.000++ per person including soft beverages
Timings: Sundays to Thursdays, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact details for more information: (+973) 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

BACK TO THE 80S AT PRIMAVERA

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton

Cure your Saturday blues by kicking off the week with a throw-back to the 80s. DJ Elena will be playing your favorite old school tunes throughout the night while enjoying cocktails prepared by our creative mixologists and aperitivo menu created by Chef Alfonso Ferraioli.

Price: BD 10.000++ per person
Timings: Saturdays, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Contact details for more information:

(+973) 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

THALI BUSINESS LUNCH

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton

Welcome to the Land of Sensory delights – Dine like a Maharajah in Nirvana, where a world of sensory delights and authentic Indian cuisine will transport your palate to new heavens.

Price: BD 12.000++ per person
Timings: Sundays to Thursdays, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Nirvana

Contact details for more information: (+973) 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

BURGERS AND BREWS

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton

Enjoy one pint of Peroni paired with your choice of our juicy beef or chicken burger.

Price: BD 12.000 net per person

Timings: Daily, 12 p.m. onwards

Location: Burlington Club

Contact details for more information: (+973) 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

SURF AND TURF

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton

Indulge in a sumptuous plate of prime tenderloin and Omani lobster at Plums. The prime tenderloin can be substituted with rib eye or Australian Wagyu and the Omani lobster with tiger prawns or shrimps.

Price: Starting from BD 33.000++ per person

Timings: Daily, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Location: Plums

Contact details for more information: (+973) 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

BEACH LOUNGE

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton

Enjoy beachfront dining experience and beautiful outdoor scenery at the newly launched Beach Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain. The lounge is located between Kahlo Club and La Plage which makes it a perfect venue to enjoy the best of both outlets.

Price: a la carte

Timings: Wednesdays to Saturdays, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Location: Beach

Contact details for more information: (+973) 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

THE AFTER WORK CHILL

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton

Lean back and chill before the weekend at Thai Lounge. Enjoy one complimentary pint of Kirin Ichiban draught for every order of the same beverage. A

perfect treat for friends and colleagues after a busy work week.

Price: a la carte

Timings: Wednesdays, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Location: Thai Lounge

Contact details for more information: Please call 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

LADIES NIGHT AT THAI

Date: July

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton

Ladies get one complimentary beverage from an assorted choice of beverages. Enjoy a chilled midweek evening as you partake with friends in Thai lounge accompanied by the beats of our DJ.

Price: Complimentary

Timings: Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Location: Thai Lounge

Contact details for more information: Please call 1758 6499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

KIDS FOR ALL SEASONS SUMMER CAMP

Date: July 1 –September 30

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

Kids For All Seasons Summer Camp will be held from July 1 to September 30 at the Kids For All Seasons Club located in the lower lobby. Operating Hours:

Sunday to Wednesday: 9:00am - 6:00pm. Thursday to Saturday: 9:00am - 8:30pm. Kindly note that the summer camp will be complementary for in-house guests and spa members. Activities: Swimming lesson/ cooking classes/ French ,English and Hindi basic language writing/ gypsum painting/ t-shirt painting/ non-motorized outdoor fun/ mini soccer/ yoga/ dancing classes and many more fun and educational programs. Kids under the age of 4 must be accompanied by their parents or nanny.

FRIDAY BRUNCH

Date: Fridays

Venue: Bahrain Bay Kitchen International

Friday Brunch: The known lavish culinary offerings, including five unique food stations serving Arabic, Western, Indian, Japanese and Chinese delicacies. Shisha is also available on the restaurant terrace during brunch hours. Serving hours: Every Friday from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Reservations: +973 17115500.

SUMMER CASH BACK!

Date: From 1st July to 30th August

Venue: The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

This Summer, earn 20% of your total bill at any of our outlets and spend your cash back on your next visit. For more info 17713000

4 FOR FORTY

Date: Every Monday

Venue: Zahle Restaurant, The Gulf Hotel Bahrain

Brunch with International and regional dishes, chilled as well as cooked to order seafood. Mexican band, face painting, balloon twister - all you can eat buffet! For more info 17713000

FRIDAY BRUNCH AT AL WAHA

Date: Every Friday

Venue: Al Waha Restaurant, The Gulf Hotel Bahrain

Dine for four and pay BD 40 NET only at Zahle Restaurant every Monday of the week! For more info 17713000

FOSTER YOUR LITTLE CHEFS INTEREST

Date: 29 July 2017

Venue: The Gulf Hotel Bahrain

Encourage your children to be a professional cooker with our Executive Pastry, Chef Daniel starting from 10:00am - 12:00pm. BD 18 NET including a 2-course lunch (Kids for free). For more info 17713000

DIM SUM GALORE

Date: 3rd to 29 July 2017

Venue: China Garden Restaurant, The Gulf Hotel Bahrain

An All-You-Can-Eat Dim Sum Special Menu with a range of veg, meat and fish options from China Garden! BD 12 net per person For more info 17713000

TROPICAL FRIDAY NIGHTS

Date: Every Friday

Venue: By the pool, The Gulf Hotel Bahrain

Relax and party at The Gulf Hotel Bahrain's lagoon swimming pool every Friday for only BD 15 net per person, inclusive of 2 drinks, BBQ, grills and soothing chill out music! For more info 17713000

CREW NIGHT WITH 50% OFF

Date: Every Monday

Venue: The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

Hospitality & air crew relax and enjoy your night to be served with 50% off on all restaurants upon presentation of crew ID! For more info 17713000

LADIES NIGHT

Date: Every Tuesday

Venue: The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

Ladies night out with 50% off for the ladies at all our restaurants, lounges and Spa! For more info 17713000

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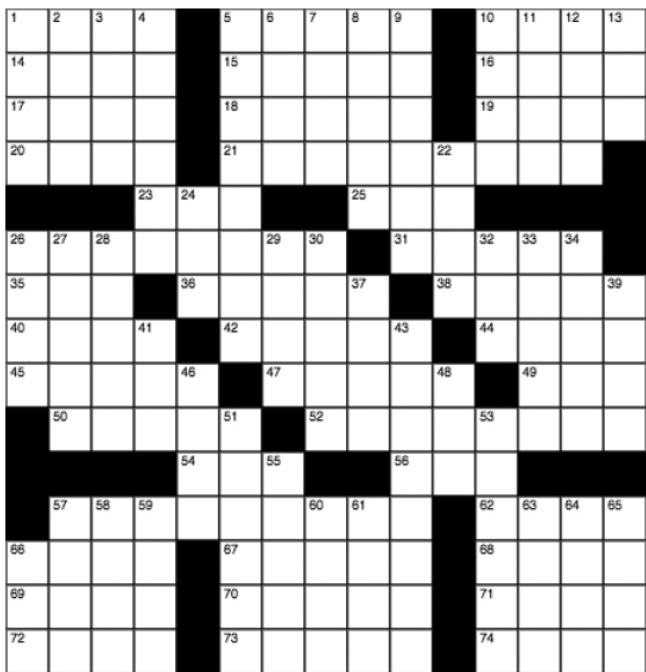
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CROSSWORD



Across

1 WWII battle site; 5 Angry with; 10 Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy; 14 Twin in Genesis; 15 Texas shrine; 16 Put a lid ___!; 17 Talk wildly; 18 More tender; 19 Kodak rival; 20 ___ Rabbit; 21 Bonnet with a large brim; 23 Manipulate; 25 Faulkner's "___ Lay Dying"; 26 Living in the open water; 31 Lowbudget prefix; 35 Game with Skip cards; 36 Actor Romero; 38 ___ Gay; 40 First man; 42 Like most movies; 44 Elevator man; 45 Utah's ___ Mountains; 47 Eight singers; 49 Holiday start; 50 Light ___; 52 Stocky; 54 Susan of "L.A. Law"; 56 Ending for legal or Japan; 57 Gazette; 62 Pouches; 66 Take ___ your leader; 67 Prince Valiant's wife; 68 Dairy product; 69 Hebrew month; 70 March honoree, briefly; 71 An apple ___; 72 "Cast Away" setting; 73 Flavor; 74 Votes against;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



Down

1 Balkan native; 2 Former Russian ruler; 3 Alley; 4 Surpass; 5 Jaw muscle; 6 Baseball's Felipe; 7 Mend socks; 8 Low life?; 9 Knobbed; 10 Bank offering; 11 "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 12 Fissure; 13 ___ standstill; 22 Pleasing; 24 Jiff; 26 Island feast; 27 Gandhi's land; 28 Haunted house sounds; 29 Golfer Aoki; 30 Trap; 32 Lennon's lady; 33 Short letters; 34 Antipasto morsel; 37 Nerve network; 39 I'd hate to break up ___; 41 1959 Kingston Trio hit; 43 Remove air from; 46 Helps; 48 Boob tubes; 51 Meal; 53 Toady; 55 Seaport in the Crimea; 57 Sparks and Beatty; 58 And others: Abbr.; 59 Sported; 60 Enlivens, with "up"; 61 Coup d' ___; 63 Opera set in Egypt; 64 Pottery material; 65 The ___ limit; 66 ___ tai;

BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Key in to your sensual, beautiful nature. Take time each day to tend to your soul and make sure it gets the nourishment it needs to radiate into the world. Unexpected people are likely to appear out of nowhere, so don't be surprised when a former lover comes knocking on the door.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You may feel a nervous restlessness today that's urging you to get moving. A journey to one place may send you off to another, which may take you on an adventure to some completely different place. It may seem like you're on a crazy scavenger hunt. The energy of the day could leave you feeling ragged, but don't give up. Your persistence will pay off in the end.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



A good tip to remember is to be careful about what you say about other people. If you're speaking about someone who isn't present, act like he or she is. What's your motivation for saying the things you say? Is it necessary to speak in such a way? A negative comment about someone is going to resonate through the cosmos. People could lose trust in you.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You may need some time alone today to bring yourself back to centre. Independence is the key idea to keep in your back pocket. Make sure you're not becoming a victim to a commitment you made long ago. As the landscape changes, you must also change. Stubborn actions will be detrimental on a day like this. Be honest and grateful for the things you have.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Don't automatically think that beauty has to be defined by old-fashioned standards. It's time to change the definition. There is no need to squeeze yourself into a socially constructed mold that doesn't resonate with who you truly are. Your job isn't to try and make sure everyone loves you. There's only one person you need to satisfy and that is you.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Issues may get a little heavier than you'd like today. Your job is to infuse some levity and humour into the situation. Your adaptability will be put to the test as other people remain steadfast in their opinions. Be conscious of how you use your words. Other people, especially superiors or elders, may be offended by careless, offhand remarks.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



If the doorknob doesn't turn today, don't force it. You will only break it. Perhaps you need to try another door. If things don't flow smoothly into place, then they probably weren't meant to be. Life shouldn't always be a struggle. Your job is to enjoy it. Remember that the next time you're in a long line. View the situation as a period of rest.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Your new approach to things might get some flack from superiors today, but don't let that stop you. Realize that your independent and somewhat rebellious nature helps to keep the world in balance. Don't give up the fight when authorities insist that their way of doing things is best when in fact it's simply old. Use your will and determination to combat the forces from above.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



You might be called upon to choose between two ways of handling a situation. The old way suddenly conflicts with the new. Which way are you going to proceed? Don't be thrown off course by fast talk and neon lights just because they grab attention. On the other hand, don't assume that the way that has worked forever is still the best. Use your intuition to choose the best route for you.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Unexpected events could shuffle the cards when you least expect it. If you haven't kept a close eye on the deck, you might get thrown for a loop. Don't be discouraged. Everyone else is playing under the same rules as you. If the dealer seems crooked, go to another table. Don't fall victim to the same trick twice.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Your sense of self may be challenged today, and you might have trouble keeping your seat during the joust. Keep in mind that the way others see you isn't necessarily the way you are. Don't feel like you have to change direction to please anyone. Your only responsibility is to you. Bizarre events may occur, urging you to change your thinking.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



As you follow the path toward acquiring the latest, greatest, fastest, and best, you may have left behind some fundamental values. Don't lose sight of the principles that make up your foundation. You could be shaken today when your ego goes on trial for pig-headed behaviour. Stay in check and be conscious of the way you project yourself to others.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (C) following his arrival at Cagayan de Oro airport on the southern island of Mindanao.

Duterte makes visit to warzone

Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte made a surprise visit to the wartorn city of Marawi yesterday where troops are still engaged in a brutal fight to crush Islamic State group-inspired militants.

Duterte flew by helicopter into the local military headquarters in a show of support for troops who have been engaged in an almost two month-long battle that has claimed over 500 lives.

"He really showed his courage, he showed his strong support for our soldiers in their fight in Marawi City,"

said Lieutenant Colonel Jo-ar Herrera, spokesman of military forces in the warzone.

"It boosted morale and the fighting spirit of the men and women of Task Force Marawi," Herrera told local media.

Duterte, who was dressed in military camouflage, thanked the soldiers for their efforts and gave out watches and other gifts to cheer the soldiers up, Herrera added.

The president, who declared martial law over the southern Philippines as the fighting began on May 23, stayed inside the camp,

inspecting firearms seized from the militants, before departing, the spokesman said.

The fighting in the southern city of Marawi, the Muslim capital of the largely Catholic Philippines, has become the greatest challenge facing Duterte, the first president to hail from the country's troubled south.

The president has asked lawmakers to allow him to extend martial law over the south until the end of the year to deal with the militant threat but critics fear this would edge the country closer to dictatorship. (AFP)

Britain's Johnson meets high-tech robots in Japan

Tokyo

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson yesterday shook hands with one of Japan's high-tech robots, a humanoid candidate to carry the torch as part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Johnson, kicking off a trip to Japan, visited the robotic centre at Waseda University, which works closely with Britain's University of Birmingham on robotic technologies.

He witnessed a demonstration of WABIAN II, which resembles a tiny astronaut that Waseda hopes will make the list of torch runners for the Games.

"No kidding!" Johnson said, when told of the plan.

Smiling, he walked with the humanoid and also shook hands with it.



Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson shakes hands with a humanoid robot Wabian2

Johnson also observed a demonstration of a disaster recovery robot, named Octopus -- a four-armed,

four-wheeled crawler designed to clear rubble and save lives in areas with complex terrain.

#PollToday



Do you think Germany's measures against Turkey will have a major impact on the Turkish economy?

Yes No Cant Say



If China, unilaterally changes the status quo of the tri-junction point (where the boundaries of China, India and Bhutan meet), it is a straight challenge to our security, both sides must pull back troops and work things out with talks

Sushma Swaraj,
Indian Foreign Minister

Rest in sight

Germany nets record 3.8-tonne cocaine haul



Customs officials in Germany seized a record haul of cocaine in the northern port city of Hamburg, smuggled from South America in shipping containers.

France lifts ban on embalming HIV deceased

France lifted a ban on embalming the bodies of HIV-positive people, ending three decades of discrimination in death against people infected with the AIDS virus.

Bolivia seizes one ton of cocaine heading to Brazil

Bolivian police have announced the seizure of one ton of cocaine worth some \$10 million and destined to be shipped to Brazil.

Germany stages raids against child porn suspects

German prosecutors carried out nationwide raids against people believed to possess child pornography, targeting nearly 70 prime suspects.

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Bus crash kills 28 in northern India: police



The wreckage of a bus lies in a gorge following an accident near the Indian town of Rampur

Shimla

At least 28 people were killed yesterday after a bus plunged into a deep gorge in a Himalayan region of northern India popular with tourists, police said.

The accident occurred around 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the hill resort of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh state, said police superintendent Soumiya Sambasivan.

"28 people have died and seven are injured. All the bodies have been identified," she said.

The bus was taking around 40 people from Kinnaur district towards Solan when

it rolled roughly 200 metres down a gorge to the banks of a river.

Images from the scene showed emergency workers conducting a rescue operation with the help of local volunteers.

Last week, 16 pilgrims died in a bus crash in neighbouring Jammu and Kashmir state, while in April 44 people were killed in Himachal Pradesh in a similar accident.

India has some of the world's highest traffic fatalities with more than 150,000 deaths annually due to poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

Head of 'Mafia Capitale' sentenced to 20 years



Prosecutor Giuseppe Cascini (standing C-L) speaking at Rome's tribunal (file photo)

Rome

The ringleader of a gang whose criminal tentacles reached into almost every department of Rome's City Hall was sentenced to 20 years in prison by an Italian court yesterday.

Massimo Carminati, 59, a convicted gangster with a history of involvement with violent far-right groups, had been accused along with 45 others of operating a "mafia-style" network that used extortion, fraud and theft to divert millions of euros destined for public services into their own pockets.

His right-hand man and fellow defendant Salvatore Buzzi, 61, was handed a 19-year jail term by the court at the capital city's Rebibbia jail.

The scandal, which led to a 20-month trial in the high-security prison, had been dubbed "Mafia Capitale" by the media.

But judge Rosanna Ianniello said Carminati and Buzzi were guilty of corruption but not of mafia association.

"The sentence is stiff, but the whole trial revolved around the question: 'Was it mafia or not?'" Carminati's lawyer Ippolita Naso said.

"Mafia Capitale does not exist," she said.

Of the 46 people on trial, five were acquitted, including two men accused by prosecutors of being the link between the criminal band and the powerful 'Ndrangheta mafia in Calabria in southern Italy.

India picks BJP backed leader as new president



India's President elect Ram Nath Kovind is greeted during a ceremony after his election
New Delhi

India elected a new president from the bottom of the Hindu caste system yesterday, only the second time since independence a head of state has been chosen from the marginalised group.

Ram Nath Kovind won the largely ceremonial position with more than 65 percent of the vote by members of India's parliament and state assemblies, the election commission said.

The 71-year-old former

lawyer and state governor from the downtrodden Dalit community was nominated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party for the post.

Analysts said the election of Kovind would help Modi tighten his grip on power and accrue political capital by sending an important message to the Dalits, a long-disdained electoral group once known as "untouchables".

The opposition Congress Party also put forward a Dalit candidate, a former

parliamentary speaker Meira Kumar.

But Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party assembled enough electoral college votes to push through its candidate and the outcome was expected.

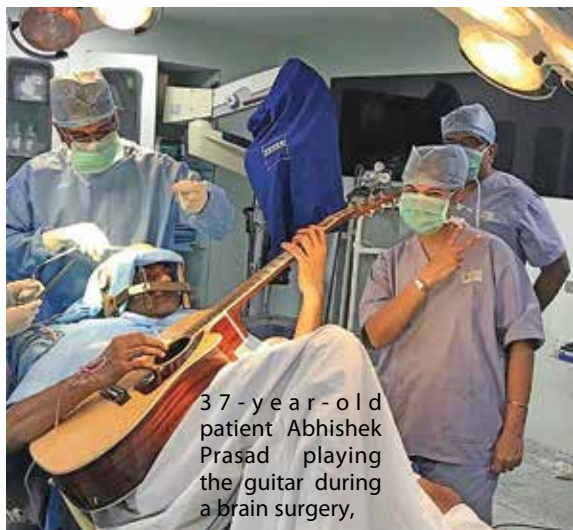
"Congratulations to Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji on being elected the President of India! Best wishes for a fruitful and inspiring tenure," Modi wrote on Twitter.

Kovind, in a sobering address after being declared president-elect, said it was an "emotional moment".

"It has been raining in Delhi since morning, and reminds me of my childhood in our ancestral village home, where we siblings used to huddle around the walls to avoid water from the leaking roof when it rained," he said.

"Even today the country will have so many Ram Nath Kovinds working as daily wagers, farmers... sweating for their next meal. I want to tell them that I am going to the 'President House' as their representative." (AFP)

Indian man who played guitar during brain surgery makes recovery



37-year-old patient Abhishek Prasad playing the guitar during a brain surgery,

Bangalore

An Indian man who strummed the guitar as surgeons operated on his brain demonstrated yesterday how the unusual procedure had cured the problem hindering his ability to play.

Abhishek Prasad had been suffering a neurological disorder that caused his fingers to cramp in one hand, preventing him from strumming properly.

The 37-year-old sought treatment from numerous specialists before doctors at Bangalore's Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital recommended a bizarre procedure to reverse the condition known as "musicians dystonia".

Surgeons drilled into his skull

under anaesthetic and attached an electrode that allowed them to pinpoint where in the brain needed "burning" to cure the rare nerve disorder.

"During this entire surgery Abhishek was fully awake and was playing the guitar, since this problem only comes when he tries to play," Dr Sharan Srinivasan said in a statement.

"This feedback was very important for the doctors to get the exact location of the target to be lesioned."

Prasad described the surreal experience of being conscious on the operating table during the seven-hour procedure as his fingers slowly became more dexterous.

Thai court charges disgraced 'jet-set monk' with rape

Bangkok

A Thai court charged a disgraced former monk yesterday with the rape of an underage girl, fraud and money laundering, after he was extradited from the US.

Thailand is an overwhelmingly Buddhist nation with around 300,000 men in orange robes, but the clergy are beset by high-profile scandals.

Wiraphon Sukphon, 37, was arrested on arrival at Bangkok's main airport late Wednesday from the

US where he established an unofficial Buddhist teaching centre after fleeing Thailand in 2013.

He faces a total of five charges, including raping a minor under 15 years old, which carries a jail term of up to 20 years.

"The Criminal Court has accepted to hear the case against Wiraphon," Worranan Srilum, a spokesman for the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) police unit, said.

Fewer 'good air' days in China despite official efforts

Beijing

Chinese cities had fewer "good air" days in the first half of 2017 compared to the same period last year despite government efforts to curb incessant smog, according to official data.

China has vowed to target coal-burning and vehicle emissions, increase investment in clean energy and punish polluters in a bid to improve the air quality of the world's second largest economy.

But the measures had yet to bear fruit in the six months of the year.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection's monitoring department said

338 cities reported "good" or "excellent" air quality on 74.1 percent of days in the first half, down 2.6 percentage points from last year.

In Beijing and the surrounding area, the proportion of "good air" days dropped 7.1 percentage points from last year to 50.7 percent, while the density of hazardous particulate (PM2.5) climbed 14.3 percent.

Residents of northern China were angered by the air pollution last winter after nearly a ninth of the entire country was smothered in severe smog mid-December.

What makes a dog man's best friend? It's in the genes

Miami

Dogs that are extra friendly share certain genetic similarities with people who are born with a developmental disorder sometimes called the "opposite of autism," which makes them hyper social, researchers said Wednesday.

The report in the journal *Science Advances* pinpointed changes in two genes that are related to extreme social behaviour in dogs, and also in people who are born with Williams-Beuren Syndrome.

People with this condition tend to be highly outgoing, gregarious, empathetic, interested in prolonged eye contact, prone to anxiety and may have mild to moderate learning disabilities and intellectual impairment.

The findings offer new insights into how dogs became domesticated and

split paths from their wolf ancestors years ago.

"It was once thought that during domestication dogs had evolved an advanced form of social cognition that wolves lacked," said co-author Monique Udell, an animal scientist at Oregon State University.

"This new evidence would suggest that dogs instead have a genetic condition that can lead to an exaggerated motivation to seek social contact compared to wolves."

Researchers studied 18 domesticated dogs and 10 captive gray wolves to see how social they were toward people and how they performed on problem-solving tasks.

Given the task of lifting a puzzle box lid to get a sausage treat, the canines were rated on how much they turned to a human in the room for help.

McMahon bid for title at Ironman

DT News Network
Manama

Brent McMahon will make a bid for the title at Ironman Lake Placid, New York, US this weekend as he seeks to secure enough points to qualify for the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, US.

It has been an up-and-down season for the Canadian who took second place at Ironman Arizona late last year to begin racking up qualification points in one of the first races that counted toward the 2017 Ironman World Championship.

A defence of his Ironman Latin American Championship title in Brazil back in May would have secured an automatic spot in

Kona. Instead, McMahon fell ill in the lead-up to that race and pulled out early on the marathon.

Now back on track, he is making his first appearance at the longest-running Ironman event in North America, known for its challenging bike course through the Adirondack Mountains in New York.

"After a rough go at Ironman Brazil I came home, regrouped and got healthy," says McMahon. "This last block of training has gone really well with lots of bike miles and hills to prepare for the 7000 feet of climbing in Lake Placid. I'm excited to try a new Ironman that is sure to challenge but suits my strengths."



Belgium stun runners-up Norway

Breda, Netherlands

Elke Van Gorp and Janice Cayman gave Belgium their first-ever win at the women's Euro as the Red Flames stunned 2013 runners-up Norway 2-0 in Breda yesterday.

Van Gorp slammed in a rebound in the 59th minute past Norway keeper Ingrid Hjelmseth who had cleared Tessa Wullaert's header following a cross from Belgium's Davina Philtjens.

Eight minutes later, Cayman headed in a long throw-in that had found its way through the Norwegian defence.

Ahead of the tournament in the Netherlands, Norway won nine of ten competitive meetings with Belgium.

But the Belgians, propelled by a noisy crowd, had the first chance when Van Gorp saw her left-footed effort stopped by Hjelmseth just three minutes into the game. Norway then took the reins, with Ada Hegerberg heading over the crossbar and Caroline Graham Hansen slamming her volley over with just Belgian keeper Justien Odeurs to beat. (AFP)

Kaur leads India past Australia, into final

Derby

India stunned defending champions Australia by 36 runs to secure a spot in the Women's World Cup final after an undefeated 171 by Harmanpreet Kaur provided the platform for victory yesterday.

With their first win over six-time champions Australia in World Cup knockout cricket, India will now play tournament hosts England in the sold-out Lord's final on Sunday.

Australia, set 282 to win and what would have been a record World Cup chase if successful, got off to a terrible start as they lost three wickets inside the opening eight overs.

Despite some impressive hitting from Elyse Villani, who recorded her best ODI score of 75, they were never able to keep up with the required run rate and were dismissed for 245 with 11 balls to spare.

Earlier, Kaur's unbeaten 171 -- her third ODI century, which came off just 115 balls and included 20 fours and seven sixes -- underpinned India's 281 for four.

India, who reached their only previous final in 2005, had experienced a disappointing start of their own as they sunk to 101-3, including the dismissal of inspirational captain Mithali Raj for 36.

However, Kaur, 28, revitalised the innings with a rapid fourth-wicket



Australia's Alex Blackwell is bowled as Indian team celebrate victory (picture courtesy: theguardian)

partnership of 137 with all-rounder Deepti Sharma.

Kaur, who scored her first hundred outside of India, was named player-of-the match.

In a match reduced to 42 overs after heavy rain delayed the start until 13:45pm (1245 GMT), India looked likely to score under 200 until Kaur cut loose. India, calling on their knowledge of the pitch, having won all four group stage matches they contested at Derby, decided to bat first after winning the toss.

However they were left in a perilous position when opener Smriti Mandhana (six) departed in the first over and Punam Raut (14) joined her in the pavilion not long after.

Kaur took on the role of aggressor as she and Raj made

steady progress, before leg-spinner Kristen Beams bowled Raj for 36 having been dropped the previous delivery.

Kaur continued to attack in a merciless display of hitting, requiring 26 balls to move from her half-century to triple figures, when she was almost run out scampering a two to reach the landmark.

That scare and the wicket of Sharma did little to deter her, using only 18 balls to then bring up her 150. (AFP)

SCOREBOARD

India	
S. Mandhana c Villani b Schutt	6
P. Raut c Mooney b Gardner	14
M. Raj b Beams	36
H. Kaur not out	171
D. Sharma b Villani	25
V. Krishnamurthy not out	16
Extras (w9, nb1, lb3)	13
Total (4 wickets, 42 overs)	281
Australia	
B. Mooney b Pandey	1
N. Bolton c&b Sharma	14
M. Lanning b Goswami	0
E. Perry c Verma b Gayakwad	38
E. Villani c Mandhana b Gayakwad	75
A. Blackwell b Sharma	90
A. Healy c Pandey b Goswami	5
A. Gardner c Raj b Yadav	1
J. Jonassen run out (Goswami)	1
M. Schutt c Goswami b Sharma	2
K. Beams not out	11
Extras (w6, lb1)	7
Total (all out, 40.1 overs)	245

Spieth in tie for lead at British Open

Southport

Jordan Spieth produced one of his best major championship efforts to take a share of the lead alongside fellow Americans Brooks Koepka and Matt Kuchar after the first round of the British Open.

The trio all shot five-under-par rounds of 65 at Royal Birkdale yesterday and hold a collective one-stroke lead over Paul Casey and South African former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel.

It is extremely tight at the top of the leaderboard, with those players who missed some unpleasant weather coming in off the Irish Sea early in the morning succeeding in shooting low scores.

But some of Spieth's big-name rivals were left trailing, with Rory McIlroy and world number one Dustin Johnson both one over par for their rounds.

Spieth, the world number three, avoided the grim early-morning conditions on the Southport links as he went out with reigning champion Henrik Stenson and promptly fired a flawless round featuring five birdies and not a single



Jordan Spieth

dropped shot.

"I couldn't have done much better today," admitted the Texan, even if he agonisingly failed to convert a putt for birdie at 18.

"Everything was strong. I thought I'd give it a nine across the board for everything -- tee balls, ball-striking, short game and putting. So things are in check. It's just about keeping it consistent."

Winner of both the Masters and US Open in 2015, Spieth had failed to break par in his last five opening rounds at a major before coming to the north-west English coast this week. (AFP)

PSG edge AS Roma

Los Angeles

Paris Saint-Germain edged AS Roma 5-3 on penalties on Wednesday after they played to a 1-1 draw in a friendly international football match in Detroit, Michigan.

Brazilian defender Marquinhos gave the Ligue 1 giants the lead in the 36th minute, but Roma responded with a strong second-half performance that saw Sadiq Umar nab the equalizer in the 60th minute.

Under the rules of the International Champions Cup friendly tournament the match was then settled by a shootout.

Only Roma's Gerson failed to convert, and Marquinhos capped his night with the decisive

penalty. Brazil international Dani Alvez made his debut for PSG, starting at right back a week after he signed with the French club in a deal worth a reported 14 million euros (\$16 million).

Alves played 69 minutes and was perhaps lucky not to concede a penalty in the 57th, when his slide tackle caught Diego Perotti in the area.

PSG's Spanish coach Unai Emery was satisfied with what he saw from Alves, who won three Champions Leagues and six La Liga titles at Barcelona and who many had expected to end up with former manager Pep Guardiola at Manchester City.

"He played with his experience," Emery said.

"He talks a lot on the pitch, he also brings a lot in attack."

The match drew more than 36,000 to Comerica Park, home of Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers.

Paris had seized the lead nine minutes before halftime. A neat combination between Thiago Motta and Jese saw the ball fall to Marquinhos, who fired home a right-footed shot from the centre of the area.

The French club continued to push, with Lucas Moura firing straight at Roma keeper Alisson, but the lead remained at 1-0 at halftime.

With six changes for Roma and two for PSG, both clubs struggled to

find a rhythm to open the second half.

But Roma gradually increased the pressure and were rewarded on the hour mark a pass from Gerson saw the speedy Sadiq put in behind and the 20-year-old Nigerian put the ball through Alphonse Areola's legs.

Blaise Matuidi had three late chances for PSG, including blazing over from close range in the 85th minute and an injury-time effort.

In the shoot-out, the first five penalties were converted before

Gerson, the third penalty-taker for Roma, missed. (AFP)



Marquinhos #5 of Paris Saint-Germain celebrates

Bolt, Van Niekerk all set to shine in Monaco



Usain Bolt

Monaco

Usain Bolt and Wayde van Niekerk, the man tipped to take over from the retiring Jamaican as track and field's next superstar, headline a glittering cast at today's Diamond League meeting in Monaco.

The event offers one final tune-up ahead of next month's world championships in London, from August 4-13, where eight-time Olympic gold medalist Bolt will bring down the curtain on his incredible career.

The Stade Louis II, the home of French football champions Monaco, provides an idyllic backdrop on the Mediterranean coast for Bolt's second-to-last appearance.

It is just the second time the 11-time world champion is running in Monaco, after 2011, with the 100m scheduled for 1935 GMT as Bolt looks to dip under the 10-second barrier for the first time this year.

"This race is mostly about execution and working on my flaws," Bolt said. (AFP)

Celtic enjoy trouble-free European cruise

Glasgow

Scott Sinclair bagged a double as Celtic eased to a 4-0 win over Linfield in the second leg of their Champions League second round qualifier to seal a 6-0 aggregate victory.

The Hoops, who triumphed 2-0 in a fiery clash in Belfast last week where the match was overshadowed by sectarian fears, got off to the perfect start when Sinclair fired them into a fourth-minute lead.

A lack of clinical finishing meant it took until the 47th minute for Australian international Tom Rogic to double Celtic's advantage over the Northern Ireland champions.

Sinclair added a third in the 55th minute before substitute Stuart Armstrong wrapped up the scoring in stoppage time to book their place in their third qualifying round where they will face Rosenborg.

Celtic will host the Norwegian champions, who needed extra time to see off Dundalk, in Glasgow next Wednesday.

"Some of the football at this stage

of the season was very good," said Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers.

"We were a bit wasteful in the first half but our intensity wore them down in the end."

After nasty scenes marred the first leg in Belfast, the travelling Linfield fans were escorted into the ground under a heavy police escort, but their presence failed to inspire

David Healy's side, who had

no answers to the dominance of their hosts. Like the first leg, Sinclair opened the scoring. Olivier Ntcham, making his competitive debut following his summer switch from Manchester City, fired in a shot from outside the box which deflected perfectly into the path of the English winger who gleefully swept the ball into the net.

The signs looked ominous for Linfield as the Hoops pinned them in their own half with Moussa Dembele somehow slicing a half-volley wide from close range.

Former Man United keeper Roy Carroll, so impressive in the first leg, then had to look sharp to keep out Dembele's diving header before the Frenchman pulled a shot wide of the post when Rogic had sent him through on goal.

Rogic was then presented with a golden chance in first-half stoppage time but the Australian somehow clipped his effort wide from eight yards. (AFP)



Scott Sinclair (file pic)

Isner, Karlovic advance, Mannarino out at Newport



John Isner (file pic)

Washington

US top seed John Isner and second-seeded defending champion Ivo Karlovic advanced to the quarter-finals of the ATP Hall of Fame Championships with straight-set triumphs Wednesday at Newport, Rhode Island.

Isner, the 2011 and 2012 winner at the grass-court event, fired 13 aces in defeating Australian qualifier Sam Groth 6-2, 6-4. The hard-serving American improved to 3-0 all-time against Groth, who dropped prior meetings in Davis Cup ties this year and last year, with the 61-minute triumph.

Croatia's Karlovic, 38, defeated American Denis Kudla 6-4, 6-4 to reach the final eight. Karlovic, seeking his ninth career ATP crown, lost the 2014 and 2015 Newport finals before downing Gilles Muller 14-12 in a third-set tiebreaker to win last year's championship

match.

Isner advanced to a quarter-final matchup against fellow American Dennis Novikov, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Canadian Frank Dancevic.

Karlovic booked a quarter-final meeting with Germany's Peter Gojowczyk, who eliminated Russia's Konstantin Kravchuk 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Germany's Tobias Kamke pulled the biggest upset so far, ousting French third seed Adrian Mannarino 7-6 (7/5), 7-5. He will next face Australian qualifier Matthew Ebden, who defeated sixth-seeded Slovakian Lukas Lacko 6-1, 7-6 (7/2).

Also advancing was fourth-seeded Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert, who outlasted Spain's Adrian Panenche-Maceiras 7-5, 2-6, 6-3. His next opponent American Bjorn Fratangelo, who ousted Australian Akira Santillan 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-1. (AFP)

Froome: Let Landa take on next year

France

Mikel Landa can come back next year and challenge Chris Froome for Tour de France victory, the current champion believes.

Landa was lying fourth at the Tour after yesterday's final mountain stage at 1min 36sec, despite working for Sky team leader Froome throughout the race, and having ridden in May's Giro d'Italia.

The 27-year-old Basque has already said he's leaving Sky at the end of the year to look for a role as a team leader, and Froome has no doubts he will come back in 2018 to challenge the Briton, who is on the brink of a fourth overall success.

"He did have a tough first week in this year's race but, keeping in mind he did the Giro d'Italia, he's come up through the race remarkably well," said Froome.

"He's really been there for me in the moments when it's been tough up there in the mountains. I'm extremely grateful for that.

"He's got the engine to ride with the best in world and he's certainly capable of coming back to contest the overall victory."



Great Britain's Christopher Froome celebrates his overall leader yellow jersey on the podium

Landa has already set out his stall: he wants to be number one. "Let's be clear about this, this can't happen to me again. I won't go back to being a number two," he told journalists on the second rest day.

In 2015 he played second fiddle to Fabio Aru at the Giro d'Italia, giving up his own aspirations to help the Italian, who finished second to Alberto Contador while Landa

was third. It was one of the reasons he then left Astana to join Sky, ostensibly to be the team leader at the Giro.

However, illness cost him and he quit the race after 10 stages when sitting eighth overall in 2015 and earlier this year, as co-leader with Geraint Thomas, a crash in stage nine ended his overall hopes, although he battled back to win the mountains jersey. (AFP)

Brajkovic, Grmay best on stage 18

Aidan Payne/DTNN
aidan@dt.bh

Manama

Bahrain's Merida Pro Cycling Team rider, Janez Brajkovic (Slovenia) and Tsgabu Grmay (Ethiopia) finished 43rd and 44th respectively in joint times of four hours 49 minutes and three seconds on the 18th stage yesterday of the 104th Tour de France from Briancon to Izoard over 179.5km in the last of the Alps mountain range.

Brajkovic and Grmay were eight minutes and 30 seconds behind the stage winner, Frenchman Warren Barguil (4:40:33) of Team Sunweb.

During the latest stage of

Bahrain Merida positions:

Results from stage 18, a 179.5km run:

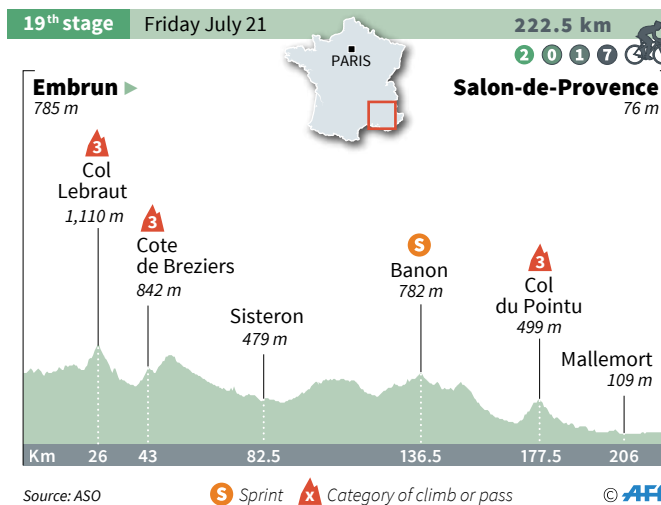
- 45. J Brajkovic (SLO, one hour 57 minutes 22 seconds)
- 61. Cink (CZE, 2:31:50)
- 72. T Grmay (ETH, +2:36:25)
- 108. Y Arashiro (JPN, +3:15:17)
- 120. J Moreno (ESP, +3:27:34)
- 123. S Colbrelli (ITA, 3:33:28)
- 147. G Bole (SLO, +3:52:41)
- 164. B Bozic (SLO, +4:15:09)



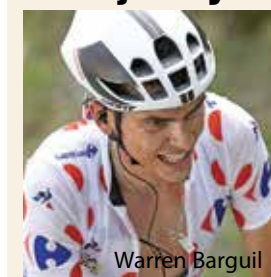
Janez Brajkovic (file pic) 25:46), Sonny Colbrelli (Italy, 111th, +25:46), Grega Bole (Slovenia, 126th, +28:33) and Borut Bozic (Slovenia, 154th, +28:33).

the tour, Bahrain's other six riders classified were - Yukiya Arashiro (Japan, 105th, +23:50), Javier Moreno (Spain, 109th, +25:46), Oldrej Cink (Czech Republic, 110th,

The tour resumes today with the 19th stage (and longest of the tour) taking the remaining (169) riders onto a relatively flat course from Embrun to Salon-de-Provence over 222.5km.



Barguil sews up mountains Tour jersey



Briançon, France

Warren Barguil became the first rider to sew up a Tour de France jersey yesterday as his lead in the king of the mountains competition became insurmountable.

The 25-year-old Frenchman needs only to reach the Tour finale in Paris to claim the polkadot jersey.

Barguil started the day with a 49-point lead over Primoz Roglic in the competition with a maximum 58 points available before Paris.

But Roglic failed to score a single point on the first category Col de Vars climb during Thursday's 179.5km 18th stage, where a maximum of 10 were available.

It meant Sunweb rider Barguil maintained his 49-point lead with only 48 points left.

Barguil's teammate Australia's Michael Matthews is also close to tying up the sprinters' green jersey, which he should do on today. (AFP)

French will fight for Tour for years to come

France

Romain Bardet believes French cycling is in a strong place and has several young riders who can challenge for Tour de France glory for years to come.

Bardet took third place on the epic 18th stage of the Tour yesterday.

Warren Barguil moved up a place to ninth overall and secured victory in the king of the mountains competition. With Thibaut Pinot having finished third on the Tour in 2014 and fourth in May's Giro d'Italia, French cycling is in a great place on the Grand Tour scene, and a first victory in the Grand Boucle since Bernard Hinault in 1985 is getting closer.

"In the next few years there will be several Frenchmen fighting to win the Tour de France, and that's good," said Bardet. (AFP)



France's Romain Bardet rides in a breakthrough



Riders of the USA's Cannondale Drapac cycling team (From R) Australia's Simon Clarke, USA's Taylor Phinney, Colombia's Rigoberto Uran and USA's Andrew Talansky ride during the 179.5 km eighteenth stage of the 104th edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Briancon and Izoard, French Alps (AFP)



France's Warren Barguil celebrates as he crosses the finish line

◀ P23 Froome: Let Landa take on next year

24 Friday, July 17

Barguil takes Izoard stage

France
Frenchman Warren Barguil won his second stage of the Tour de France on the imposing Col d'Izoard yesterday as compatriot Romain Bardet snatched back four seconds from overall leader Chris Froome.

Bardet finished third on the day to take some bonus seconds that lifted him above Rigoberto Uran into second overall and closed the gap to Froome to 23sec.

Colombian Darwin Atapuma finished second, 20sec behind Barguil with Bardet winning the sprint for third against Froome and Uran.

But with only Saturday's time-trial left in which to make a significant difference to the standings, reigning champion Froome looks set to claim a fourth Tour de France title.

It was a thrilling battle on the final hors category climb at the end of the 179.5km Alpine 18th stage from Briancon to the Col d'Izoard.

Atapuma was part of an original 54-man

breakaway that splintered over the two huge climbs of the day.

He reeled in Kazakh Alexey Lutsenko halfway up the Izoard climb while the peloton led by Bardet's AG2R team, at one point eight minutes back, started to close in.

Barguil made his move with 6km to go but still had two minutes to make up on Atapuma, catching him with 1.4km left and leaving him behind inside the final kilometre.

Behind that Bardet launched an attack 3km from the finish but Froome and Colombian Uran stuck to him like glue.

Briton Froome attacked next but couldn't stay clear and once they hit the final kilometre it was a battle of wills to the line.

Uran gave up two seconds and dropped to 29sec off Froome, but is widely regarded a better time-trialist than Bardet.

Italian Fabio Aru was struggling over the final 6km and having started the day in fourth at 53sec, dropped below Froome's Spanish team-mate Mikel Landa (1min 36sec) to fifth at 1:55. (AFP)

Thursday July 20
 2 0 1 7

18th stage 179.5 km

- 1 **W. Barguil** 4h40:33 (FRA/Sunweb)
- 2 **J.D. Atapuma** at 0:20 (COL/UAE)
- 3 **R. Bardet** at 0:20 (FRA/AG2R)
- 4 **C. Froome** at 0:20 (GBR/Sky)
- 5 **R. Uran** at 0:22 (COL/Cannondale)

Overall

- 1 **C. Froome** 78h08:19 (GBR/Sky)
- 2 **R. Bardet** at 0:23 (FRA/AG2R)
- 3 **R. Uran** at 0:29 (COL/Cannondale)
- 4 **M. Landa** at 1:36 (ESP/Sky)
- 5 **F. Aru** at 1:55 (ITA/Astana)

Points

- 1 **M. Matthews** 364 pts (GBR/Sunweb)

Mountains

- 1 **W. Barguil** 169 pts (FRA/Sunweb)

Source: ASO © AFP



Stage winner Warren Barguil celebrates on the podium

