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DAILY TRIBUNE

News of Bahrain

Wednesday, November 22, 2017 Issue No. 7573

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Tweet of the Day



People in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands still need help. I'm grateful for the relief organizations who are part of this effort, and glad that @ClintonFdn could play a role.

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11th Hour

Exhibition Center consultancy pact signed

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism has appointed Tilke to provide consultancy services for the new exhibition and conference center that will be located in Sakhir. An agreement to this effect was signed by Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning.

Edict on money laundering

Manama Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, issued a ministerial edict stipulating the commitments of notary public and legal documentation officers to implement measures and controls specified in Decree-Law 4/2001 on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.



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Jewellery Arabia opens

HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa inaugurating the Jewellery Arabia expo



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Bahrain FM slams Iran's aggression



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House rejects proposal to 'limit' jurisdiction of MPs



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Overcoming challenges

Anti-terror law to get more teeth

House of Representatives passes proposal to toughen punishment for sheltering terrorists

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

Manama

The House of Representatives yesterday passed a proposal that instructs to toughen the penalties on acts of sheltering individuals involved in terror crimes as part of the efforts to combat terrorism in the Kingdom.

The MPs voted for a report by Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee supporting a proposal to amend Law 58 of 2006 with regards to protecting the society from terror crimes.

The amendment was proposed by the House of Representatives' Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla and MPs Khalid Al Shaer, Adel Al Asoomy, Jamal Dawood and Mohammed Milad.

It stipulates that those who shelter terrorists are to be treated as terrorists in terms of legal accountability and penalties.

"The amendment is important as terror crimes have been on the rise in countries across the world, and this includes the Kingdom of Bahrain. The most recent terrorist acts reported here were the deadly explosion in a police bus on October 27 and sabotaging the oil pipelines recently. This requires blockading terrorism following all the available legal means," said Committee Chairman Abdulla Binhowail, justifying the proposal presented before the House.

"Cover for terrorists motivates them to be persistent in committing terror crimes, as they're provided with a safe shelter by the individuals targeted in this law," said Binhowail. (Continued on Page 5)

Bahrain FM slams Iran's aggression



Manama

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, yesterday criticised Iran for making aggressive statements against Arab League.

"Those who claim that the Arab league is useless are the same ones who are targeting to destabilise and overthrow Arab countries," Shaikh Khalid wrote on *Twitter* in response to the statements made by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Rouhani, in a statement to state TV earlier, called the regional organisation of Arab countries as "old, worn-out, exhausted and ineffective."

"Only Iran and Iran's agents are screaming and cursing the

Arab Leagues decision," the Minister responded on his *twitter* handle.

The Minister also warned that such acts would not have any effect on the Arab countries that are determined to defend their sovereignty.

Earlier, during an emergency session of the Arab League in Cairo, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have called on all to unite and confront Iran over its role in the regional conflicts.

In a statement, Adel al-Jubeir, Saudi Foreign Minister, said Iran was aiming "to destabilise and fuel sectarian rift" in the region.

He also warned that Saudi will not stand idly by in the face

of the Iranian "aggression".

Saudi Arabia "will not hesitate to defend its national security to keep its people safe," Jubeir said in opening remarks at the meeting.

During the meeting, Shaikh Khalid said that Hezbollah movement in Lebanon was "in total control" of the country.

"Iran's biggest arm in the region at the moment is the terrorist Hezbollah arm," he said.

He added that Hezbollah "does not just carry out operations inside the borders of (Lebanon), it also crosses its borders to all of our nations," making it "a threat to Arab national security."

The Minister also criticised officials in Lebanon for making irresponsible statements and urged to show more dignity in their statements.

"Lebanon's officials must come up with facts or honour themselves with silence. Their words are offensive to Lebanon and to the history of Lebanon," he posted on his *Twitter* account.

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates supported the Saudi request for the extraordinary meeting, which was also approved by Djibouti, the current chair of the pan-Arab bloc, according to a memorandum. *(With input from agencies)*

Putin briefs Trump, Saudi King on Syria

Sochi

Russia's Vladimir Putin discussed Syria yesterday with his US counterpart Donald Trump and Saudi Arabia's King Salman after a surprise summit with Bashar al-Assad.

The surprise talks were part of Moscow's effort to reboot the Syrian peace process, following military successes on the ground.

Putin informed Trump of "the main results" of his summit with Assad "at which the Syrian leader confirmed his commitment to the political process, (and) conducting constitutional reform and presidential and parliamentary elections," the Kremlin said.

Separately, Putin discussed Syria with the Saudi king, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, touting Moscow's recent initiative to bring Assad's regime and its opponents together for a "congress." *(AFP)*

Hariri visits Egypt



Hariri shakes hands with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi

Cairo

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri held talks yesterday on the political crisis triggered by his resignation with the Egyptian president who, together with France's leader, is reportedly trying to mediate a solution that would involve rolling back Hariri's resignation.

Hariri, who flew to Cairo from Paris earlier in the day, resigned in a televised message on Nov. 4 from Saudi Arabia. "Inshallah (God willing), tomorrow's Independence Day in Lebanon will be a feast for all Lebanese," he told reporters after talks and dinner with the Egyptian leader.

The celebrations are traditionally attended by the president, the prime minister and also the parliament speaker — three pillars of Lebanon's political system, with the president traditionally a Maronite Christian, the speaker a Shiite and the prime minister a Sunni.

Hariri met with el-Sissi at the presidential palace in Cairo's upscale Heliopolis district and a cryptic statement by the Lebanese leader's press office later said the two discussed the "latest developments in Lebanon and the region." *(AP)*

US sanctions thirteen Chinese, North firms

Washington

The United States yesterday imposed sanctions against 13 Chinese and North Korean organizations Washington accused of helping evade nuclear restrictions against Pyongyang and supporting the country through trade.

The action, coming one day after President Donald Trump put North Korea back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism, was announced by the U.S. Treasury in a statement on its website.

The sanctions included blacklisting three Chinese companies, Dandong Kehua Economy & Trade Co., Dandong Xianghe Trading Co., and Dandong Hongda Trade Co., which the Treasury Department said have done more than \$750 million in combined trade with North Korea. The new sanctions also hit several North Korean companies that send workers to countries such as Russia, Poland, Cambodia and China. United States authorities said they are seeking to cut off the money North Korea makes from the export of labor. *(Reuters)*

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House rejects proposal to 'limit' jurisdiction of MPs

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

Manama

The House of Representatives yesterday rejected a proposal that its members claimed will "cripple" their jurisdiction.

The proposal came up during the Council's regular weekly session, which was chaired by the First Deputy Speaker Ali Al Aradi.

In the session, the majority of the MPs voted against a report issued by the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee in support of a proposal to amend some of the Council's internal regulations.

According to some of the opposing members, the proposal "denies MPs of their right to discuss the government's replies to their proposals and limits their jurisdictions".

The proposal was initially submitted by MPs Mohammed Milad, Abdulrahman Buali, Isa Turki, Mohammed Al Maarifi and Osama Al Khaja, with the aim of "saving MPs time and effort to discuss laws and legislations instead of the replies of the government to their proposals".

They also said the "long time taken in discussing the government's replies makes members feel bored and lazy to continue the session".

According to the presenters, "discussing and commenting on the government's replies to MPs' proposals disrupts the work of the council and harms the interests of the state and citizens" considering it "a time-wasting procedure".

MP Al Maarifi withdrew from the list of presenters of the proposal before the discussion began.

Depressing proposal

One of the main opposing voices to the proposal was Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee Chairman Abdulla Binhowail, who considered it as "a depressing proposal" to Bahraini citizens.

"This is a depressing proposal to Bahrainis. It further weakens our already weak council. Bahraini citizens now consider the House of Representatives as a powerless council. We have completed three years and we have few months remaining for this legislative term to end, and we failed to question at least one minister. Why restrict MPs of conveying the opinions of citizens," Binhowail opined.

He continued lashing at the presenters of the proposal saying, "This is unfortunate as we represent the people of Bahrain and we took an oath to defend their rights. We couldn't stand together to question a minister, why vote for a proposal that restricts us. After four years, what did this council really give to the people of Bahrain who are now depressed. Ministers are not even worried by the council as they know how helpless it is."

Binhowail's statements were unpalatable for some of the members, including the government's representative in the session and Shura Council and Representative Council Affairs Minister Ghanim Al Buainain.

Minister Al Buainain was the first to reply



Hamad Al Dossary



Khalifa Al Ghanim



Ghanim Al Buainain

saying, "Ministers treat this council with utmost respect and appreciation. The MP's description of the council is rejected and unacceptable. The House of Representatives enjoys all jurisdictions that could be utilised by MPs whenever needed."

MP Hamad Al Dossary was also provoked by Binhowail's remarks. He said in his reply, "I reject what MP Binhowail said about the house being powerless. I have heard His Majesty the King multiple times saying that this is one of the best councils that worked and achieved. This council may have not questioned any ministers in the past three years, but it passed important legislations that are related to combating terrorism and other key matters."

Binhowail responded to the comments of the minister and Al Dossary saying, "What I have said is reflecting what the Bahraini citizens are saying and feeling. They believe that the council is weak, not me. If we can't criticise or express our opinions about the council, why are we here for?"

Several other MPs including Jalal Kadhim, Dr. Ali Bufarsen, Jamal Buhassan and Khalifa Al Ghanim expressed their rejection to the "crippling" proposal.

Buhassan called for adopting regulations similar to the ones followed in fellow GCC countries, referring to the Kuwaiti National Assembly, which grants each MP unlimited time to discuss and debate any matter.

Kadhim called upon his fellow MPs to "avoid wasting time" discussing the committee's report and to either vote for or reject it.

Al Ghanim mocked the proposal saying, "If MPs aren't allowed to speak out and discuss during their session, it would be better if they stayed home and not convene every week."

Two of the presenters of the proposal, Mohammed Milad and Abdulrahman Buali, helplessly defended their proposal, claiming that "it would save MPs' time and effort to discuss important legislations other than the government's response to their proposals".

Buali also added that the proposal would prevent repetition of the same discussions. Their statements didn't change the opinion of the majority of MPs who were determined to reject the proposal.

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Prof. Odeh Al-Jayyousi

Innovative SMEs in a Globalized Market: Go Global Strategy

I was intrigued by the definition of the key performance indicator (KPI) set by Leipzig University innovation center in Germany. The KPI is to establish 40 SMEs per year. This explains the high number of SMEs in Germany. Moreover, the department for the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship at Leipzig University has a program to build the capacity of students on e-commerce and on-line marketing to help SMEs to go global. The key message is that for small countries and firms, it is imperative to go global to find a niche market and make a profit. Innovation is defined as a core competency for SMEs who plan to be competitive in the global market.

The key question is how Bahrain can learn from the model of Leipzig University in strategic positioning and marketing innovation. A number of lessons can be learned in light of the global best practice. SMEs have high likelihood and capacity for all types of innovations including product, process, marketing, and organizational than big firms. Organizational innovations rather than technological innovations are crucial in explaining the global competitiveness of firms. This implies that creating a sound platform to market innovation in GCC is a key to diffuse and create value from SMEs.

Innovation in SMEs is critical for achieving competitiveness, resilience, and growth in a global market economy. For companies in Bahrain in the finance, technology, food, aviation, services and logistics, pursuing innovation at the global arena means the ability to commercialize new products and services so as to extend the technology frontier. The strength of global value chains is an indicator of the firm's export and innovation capacity. Empirical studies show that there is a positive relationship between exporting and innovation activity.

The capacity of the GCC to capture the value of research is vital for economic development. Many institutions in GCC like IBTIKAR, Dhahran Innovation Valley, Tamkeen, and Fab labs are key components in the innovation ecosystem. Also, universities in GCC are well-positioned to be incubators and centers for innovation and entrepreneurship. Close collaboration between industry and academia is necessary to ensure SMEs success. The mandate of universities is to mainstream innovation in research and development so as to support GCC needs and priorities and to address critical challenges in health, education, business and technology. Unlocking the intellectual capital through partnerships in research and development is critical for innovation. The adoption and diffusion of technological innovations through R&D institutions are essential for supporting SMEs in a new global economy.

To sustain innovation, both universities and SMEs in GCC must institutionalize innovation through developing smart KPIs along with innovation strategies, culture, and systems. Organizational innovation is underpinned by the constant search for new opportunities and a focus on action since innovation is achieved through everyday practice. Necessary conditions for an innovative SME include investing in human capital and R&D and harnessing global partnerships. In sum, SMEs to go global is a good model to pursue and to make it a reality.

Head of Innovation and Technology Management, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain, E-mail: odehaj@agu.edu

(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.)

Coordination meeting held

Manama

A coordination meeting was held yesterday to discuss sustainable economic development projects and Kingdom's long-term fiscal security.

The meeting follows the 2017 Government Forum, during which His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, directed government officials to lead a series of workshops to identify key objectives for the upcoming Government Action Plan (2019 - 2022).

Commenting on the outcomes of the meeting, Mohammed bin Ebrahim Al Mutawa, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs said citizens remain at the heart of development efforts. The meeting also discussed policies that underpin the Kingdom's diversification efforts by regulating public expenditure and increasing revenues.

The final outcomes will be handed over to the Ministerial Committee for Financial Affairs and Rationalising Expenditure for approval, following which it will be discussed at the first workshop which is anticipated to take place next week.

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Plea to give parity to degrees obtained from China rejected

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

Manama
The House of Representatives yesterday rejected an "urgent" proposal to equalise the certificates of Bahraini graduates from Chinese universities who were allegedly sent by the government on scholarships.

MP Jalal Kadhim, one of the MPs who made the proposal, said "several complaints were received from the graduates who remained jobless for two years".

"They spent eight years of their lives and they cannot be employed because their certificates wouldn't be



Adel Al Al Assoomy equalised here. They studied for six years in Chinese universities and spent two years here without benefiting from their certificates," Kadhim said

The MP questioned "why would the government send them on scholarships and



Jalal Kadhim later refuse to accept their certificates".

MP Adel Al Assoomy was one of the supporters of the proposal and said, "Some graduates obtained certificates from reputed international universities that are ahead of



The House of Representatives in session

us here by hundreds of light-years, but Education Ministry wouldn't recognise these certificates. Education has developed worldwide and we should cope with it. This matter should be reconsidered."

MP Mohsen Al Bakri

criticised that the proposal was "urgently" submitted, while it could be referred as an ordinary proposal to the concerned committee in the council.

"If this was proved right, then we should form an

investigative committee to look into this behaviour of the Education Ministry," Al Bakri added.

However, majority of MPs voted against the proposal and it was not passed onto the government.

Proposal passed



Khalid Al Shaer
From Page 1

"Cover for terrorism is a direct threat to the safety and security of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and its citizens and residents. This law comes as a supportive legislation to the efforts paid by the Kingdom in the field of combatting terrorism and its supporters," Binhowail added.

One of the presenters of the proposal, MP Jamal Dawood, said, "Toughening penalties against individuals providing cover for terrorism and terrorists is an essential need nowadays, considering the increasing terrorist acts targeting Bahrain."

Dawood also mentioned that "huge amounts of money is invested to tempt some individuals to help provide cover for terrorism and terrorists".

"A person who shelters a terrorist is a terrorist," the legislator added.



Abdulla Binhowail

On his part, Dr. Ali Bufarsen said, "26 cops were killed by terrorists and more than 3,000 of them sustained medium and serious injuries in recent years. Terrorism didn't spare civilians either, as many of them were martyred or injured as a result of terrorist acts. Iran shelters at least 230 wanted terrorists. All those who support, fund and provide cover for criminals wanted in terror crimes should be subjected to the toughest punishments."

MP Khalid Al Shaer was also one of the supporters of the proposal and told fellow MPs, "Bahrain seriously suffers from



Jamal Dawood

terrorism. Each terrorist seeks executing the perfect crime, and the last chapter of this crime is to find a shelter and a hideout. This is an organised process as there are certain individuals tasked to shelter terrorists after they are done with their heinous crimes. This includes providing food, shelter and clothes. They could be hidden for more than three to four months, until they find a way to escape the country or situations simmer down. Sheltering terrorists is the continuation of the terror crime and tougher penalties are needed."

Toughening penalties against individuals providing cover for terrorism and terrorists is an essential need nowadays, considering the increasing terrorist acts targeting Bahrain, said MP Jamal Dawood

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Overcoming challenges

Manama

“Who said that disability stops dreams and ambitions? A person with the desire to be a champion will become one when possessed with ambition and desire.”

These are the words by Shaikha Al Shaiba who is set to participate in the IRONMAN 70.3 Middle East Championship Bahrain to be held on November 25 in Bahrain.

Challenge is most prominent title of Shaikha Al Shaiba's athletic career.

When watching triathlon races, she dreamed of being a participant, but was always discouraged, especially because she has a handicapped right arm, which was amputated when she was just a year and a half old.

Shaikha Al Shaiba lived in a family that encouraged her to realise her dream, which grew bigger when His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, presented her with full support.

Speaking of this support, she said: “When I met with His Highness

Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, I felt wonderful. His words of encouragement were the biggest incentive to me to participate in the Ironman Middle East Championship.”

Being the first Bahraini to participate in the race with one arm, she said that HH Shaikh Nasser gave her full support and said that he would encourage her to achieve her dream of reaching the finish line.

Shaikha related her story saying, “The challenge was initially between me and myself, especially since many people told me that I cannot achieve this dream because of my amputated arm. But this discouragement only encouraged me to realise this dream and participate in this championship.”

Shaikha is confident that her participation will be a message to all people, not only those with special needs or disabilities. She is trying to prove that disability does not kill desire, drive and determination.

She has participated on behalf of Bahrain earlier in an Olympic Championship in Kuwait.

She concluded saying that her ambition in this championship was to reach the finish line.

“I am confident that I can do it, no matter what the difficulties are, and whatever my outcome. I will aspire to achieve this goal and I hope that everyone will grant me their support and encouragement.”



Al Shaiba and HH Shaikh Nasser during an interview with MBC TV Channel

Shaikha Al Shaiba

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Middle East's premier jewellery and watch exhibition 'Jewellery Arabia 2017' opened its doors yesterday at Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre with the presence of over 600 exhibitors from 30 countries.

The expo, inaugurated by His Royal Highness, Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, showcases an extensive collection of eye-catching jewellery, luxury times pieces and fine writing instruments of various price points from across the globe.

The five-day exhibition, held over an area of 21,000 square meters, provides buyers from all the world an opportunity to find high-quality suppliers, valuable market insights and a platform to interact with industry experts from leading brands.

In his inaugural address, HRH the Premier emphasised government's full support to the local industry to help them flourish saying, "the gold and jewellery industry is a genuine Bahraini heritage, and we are very proud of the reputation of Bahraini gold jewellery in the region and neighbouring countries."

"Despite the global challenges, both politically and economically, which are causing difficulties in accelerating the pace of development, Bahrain, thankfully, is making steadfast strides towards development. It is still developing in all fields, which has entitled it to be a beacon that attracts major companies in specialised exhibitions," HRH the PM said.

Prince Khalifa then toured the pavilions and expressed his admiration for the latest innovations in gold and silver handicrafts.

Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, extended utmost appreciation and gratitude to HRH Premier for patronising Jewellery Arabia

2017. He affirmed that the jewellery sector is given top priority within the Ministry's strategy as part of the Economic Vision 2030.

Made in Bahrain

Bahrain's pavilion at the expo turns the spotlight on the highest standards the Kingdom's local industry has gained over the years in jewellery manufacturing and designing.

Buyers will find locally produced gold and pearl jewellery from five of the Kingdom's top jewellers at the Bahrain pavilion.

The 72 sqm pavilion is organised by the GCC Gold and Jewellery Association, a registered trade association under the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs.

"The exhibition will provide Bahraini companies with a platform to promote its world-famous pearls, intricate designs, quality craftsmanship and innovations to a global audience," said Mohammed Sajid, Chairman of GCC Gold and Jewellery Association.

The expo features national pavilions by Hong Kong, India, Singapore and Thailand. Fine jewellers from Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, and Germany are also making a splash at the expo.

Vibrant Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Jewellery Manufacturers Association (HKJMA) has brought a 49-strong group of jewellers to the expo. The exhibitors are grouped in a themed zone exclusively for jewellery companies based in Hong Kong.

"The exhibition is an important gateway to enter the Middle East market for wholesale and retail opportunities," said Wings Cheung, General Manager, HKJMA.

The Hong Kong pavilion, Cheung said, displays the essence of Hong Kong's vibrant jeweller sector with diverse and comprehensive

designs covering a broad price range and targeting a wide variety of markets.

Hong Kong has maintained a strong presence at Jewellery Arabia since the show's inception in 1992.

Buyers in Bahrain, according to Jennifer Cheng, Export Assistant of Prestige Jewellery and regular exhibitor, keep up to date with the latest jewellery trends, "creating a fantastic opportunity for us to introduce new designs".

He said they are bringing exclusive creations including jewellery encrusted with coral or turquoise to meet market needs here.

Peter Lec, Sales Representative of AP Creations said that the timing of the exhibition coincides with wholesale buyers seeking to merchandise in November next year. "We participated for the last 6 years and obtained good results," he added.

GIA Seminars

GIA (Gemological Institute of America), a world leader in gems and jewellery education, will offer complimentary seminars to all visitors at Jewellery Arabia 2017.

As the creator of the famous 4Cs of diamond quality and the 7 Pearl Value Factors, GIA is considered the world's foremost authority in gemology.

GIA experts will offer attendees insights into the different aspects of gems and jewellery through complimentary 45-minute seminars. Topics include diamond colour on the D-to-Z scale, fluorescence in diamonds, pearl history and value factors, synthetic diamonds and ruby sources.

"GIA has provided education and laboratory offerings for Jewellery Arabia visitors since 2012," said Nirupa Bhatt, Managing Director for GIA in India and the Middle East. "This exhibition provides a great platform to spread awareness about gemmological education," he said.



Jewellery Arabia opens



Heavy rain lashes Saudi

Riyadh Saudi authorities have closed schools and universities after flooding in the kingdom's second-largest city, Jiddah, and the country's Red Sea coastal regions.

Residents were also warned by the Kingdom's weather authorities to expect more rain to fall.

"Rain will continue in Jeddah while heavy rain is expected in Makkah and Taif," the Saudi General Authority of Meteorology & Environmental Protection, said in its latest weather update posted on Twitter.

Videos shared on Twitter and other social media sites on Tuesday show people stranded in tunnels and on roads with cars engulfed by floodwater.

Schools have also been closed in the areas of Mecca and Taif. Saudi Civil Defense warns that heavy rainfall is expected to last until at least Wednesday morning.

The wet weather is expected to continue in Jeddah and Makkah through to Thursday, according to the General Authority of Meteorology and Environment Protection.

A report by national said that the several flights were delayed due to the rain.

"We value our esteemed guests and recognise that due to these weather conditions

they might want to change their travel plans or cancel, therefore it was decided to exempt all affected tickets that were issued with confirm bookings that are affected by the weather from all restrictions and penalties," the report quoted the Saudi Airlines as saying.

Flooding happens almost every year in Jiddah and other

western cities in Saudi Arabia. The most devastating flood in recent years was in 2009, when more than 100 people died.

An anti-corruption committee led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says a purge that began earlier this month is partly related to the 2009 Jiddah flooding. (Agencies)



Courtesy The National

Acon to open more branches

Manama

Acon Travels & Tours announced opening more branches in Bahrain as they kickstarted November holiday season with its first batch of travellers to Georgia.

Announcing the move, the company, in a statement, said its Dana Mall branch will open doors next month.

"Acon focuses chiefly on clients' demands and needs wherever they may choose their worldwide destinations, be it family medical, educational, leisure, business, Umra, vacations or holidays," said Naser Karukapadath, CEO & Executive Director.

The company further said it



Naser Karukapadath has several group departures scheduled for the month of December with a fixed departure on 13th December.

Acon said it has several fixed packages to different parts of the world scheduled for 2018.

Danat seminars in Jewellery Arabia



Peter Balogh

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

DANAT, the Bahrain Institute for Pearls & Gemstones, is offering seminars on a wide range of topics by expert gemmologists on each day of the five-day event at its pavilion in the Al Fanar Hall.

Lectures will focus on topics including the new sapphire discoveries in Madagascar, ruby deposits in Asia as well as the history and exploitation of natural pearls in the Isle of Cubagua, in northeastern Venezuela and which was discovered by Christopher Columbus.

"Visitors, enthusiasts and clients are welcome to visit our stand in the Al Fanar Hall to enhance their knowledge of the history of precious stones while enjoying other complimentary offerings including a dazzling exhibit of exquisite jewels from different parts of the world," said Kenneth Scarratt, Chief Executive Officer of DANAT. The daily lectures will begin at 7 pm with the last talk scheduled to begin at 9 pm.

Peter Balogh from the Funda Prehistoria (Prehistoric Foundation) will be giving a public talk uncovering the



Vincent Pardieu

findings of an archaeological expedition on Cubagua island in the Caribbean in which a treasure of natural pearls dating to 15th Century was found buried in a clay jar. He will be joined by the globally renowned gemologist, Vincent Pardieu from VP Consulting.

Pardieu's daily lectures will focus on the latest discoveries of blue sapphires in Madagascar, a major sapphire supplier since the 1990s. More recently, new sapphire deposits in the northeast region, near Ambatondrazaka, were found to have produced exceptionally high quality 50 carat stones, the finest quality during the past three decades.

Pardieu gained comprehensive experience in key positions in the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences (AIGS) and the Gübelin Gem Laboratory. He will also enlighten visitors and gemstone enthusiasts on newly found amphibole ruby deposits.

The international guest speakers will be joined by DANAT's team of experts who will also be talking about pearl testing in DANAT at different scheduled times every day.



A newly-built walkway in Tubli Bay was officially opened yesterday to the public. Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry Undersecretary Dr. Nabeel Mohammed Abul Fateh inaugurated the infrastructure project which covers 8000 square metres. The opening ceremony was attended by MP Ali Al-Ateesh, Capital Trustees director-general Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa and other officials citizens. The first phase of the project, which cost BD500, 000, includes a 400-metre-long-walkway and green spaces covering an overall 8000 square metres, in addition to other family-oriented facilities.



'Old Markets Committee' discuss plans for Manama Souq

Manama
The Old Markets Committee held a meeting at Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) to discuss the latest developments in the old Manama souq project.

Several topics were discussed on the occasion which included the grants provided and budget for the development of the souq, which will be presented to BCCI's Board of Directors. The discussion also focused on launching Manama Souq's website, installing signage boards and incubators for innovative crafts.

Headed by the Chief



The meeting was headed by Chief Executive Officer of BTEA Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa, the meeting was held in the presence of the First Deputy Chairman of the BCCI and Head of the Old Market Committee, Khalid Rashid Al Zayani, the

members of the Old Markets Committee.

"It is our pleasure to witness the joint cooperation between all concerned governmental

and private bodies in order to achieve the objectives of the project and its overall success," said CEO of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al

Khalifa adding: "It is important that the project is executed based on best practices to enhance and position the Manama Souq as a significant touristic and commercial destination."

Further commenting on the meeting, the First Deputy Chairman of BCCI and Head of the Old Market Committee, Khalid Rashid Al Zayani, stressed that the government has taken great strides to revive the souq which is one of the most popular attractions in the Kingdom for shoppers looking for original and distinct products.

BisB launches 'BisB Digital'



Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has launched a new and enhanced 'BisB Digital' to assist customers with all their banking transactions safely and securely, anywhere, anytime.

BisB Digital

'BisB Digital' is an umbrella term for a group of digital services offered by BisB, including Online Banking, Mobile Banking and Video Banking.



"Our 'BisB Digital' works in line with the bank's digitization strategy to further improve and broaden our range of secure banking services and features. The newly upgraded platforms now provide customers with total convenience at their fingertips as they offer innovative features such as setting up financial goals, withdrawal of cash without any card from BisB ATMs, local and international transfers, settling utility or credit cards bills, and much more."

-Dalal Ahmed Abdullah Al-Qais,
Head of Retail Banking



"This is a step towards the future of banking and we encourage all of our valued customers to register for the BisB Online Services at www.eBisB.com and download the BisB Mobile App through Google Play or App Store. Fingerprint and face recognition technology are two parts of the security features of this new service."

-Hassan Amin Jarrar,
Chief Executive Officer

For more information visit BisB.com or call 17515151.

Bahrain to host Hospitality and Restaurant expo



Officials during the press conference
DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Bahrain is to host its first International Hospitality & Restaurant Expo which is scheduled to take place from 21st- 24th March 2018 at the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Center.

The Bahrain Hospitality and Restaurant (BHR) forum and expo; one of the most anticipated Hospitality & Restaurant Expo; BHR Expo 2018 is being held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa.

The event which is being organised by Culinaire & Beyond, Bahrain's very own home-grown Hospitality & Restaurant experts announced that the forum will be a catalyst to boost creativity and growth in the Hospitality & Restaurant sectors in Bahrain.

This initiative is an extension of the first initiative taken in May this year under the patronage of Shaikh Khaled Bin Humood Al Khalifa C.E.O. Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Center to add value to two sectors that require thought, time, and attention to be able to prosper. The Press Conference was

inaugurated by CEO Culinaire & Beyond Leena Ahmed al Mannai at the BCCI, Majlis hall yesterday where she shared a detailed review of BHRExpo2018.

The four-day Expo will begin with a Culinary tour organised by the official tour partners @Bahrain for International exhibitors and visitors to truly understand the flavours, culture and creativity of Bahrain.

The Forum which will take place on the 22nd of March which will also mark the beginning of the three-day International exhibition.

She further stated, "Great care has been taken in crafting a memorable experience for exhibitors and visitors, and the Exhibition also entails the first ever Regional Culinary competition managed in partnership with a world-renowned food expert Chef Rosario Scarpato."

"The culinary competition would attract emerging players of the hospitality industry (chefs in freestanding and hotel restaurants) in the GCC area and the BHRExpo 218 would be a fantastic opportunity to host an event of this stature in the Kingdom of Bahrain," said Rosario,

CEO of The I Factor a Hong Kong based company


Labour Fund Tamkeen took this opportunity to announce their strategic partnership with the BHRExpo2018.

Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi Chief executive of Tamkeen stated, "Restaurant & Hospitality sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain are very vital and promising. We are keen to see our impact on the growth of these sectors and we will continue supporting it through our wide range of support including financial and training solutions in addition to grants and advisory services"

Yousef Al Khan, Director of Marketing & Tourism Promotions at Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority told DT News, "The expo will provide a brilliant opportunity for local business to learn, network and add value to hospitality sector in the kingdom."

Mubarak Al-Moosa Facilitation Director BCCI mentioned that the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry were pleased to extend their support to Culinaire & Beyond for holding Bahrain Hospitality & Restaurants EXPO 2018.

Did You Know?



The difference in power generation between oil and solar energy is like comparing a Formula 1 racecar and a professional cyclist. If the energy from solar power generation doubled every decade for the next 100 years, it would still be behind oil significantly.




BFC
CURRENCIES
EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2931	0.2907
BANGLADESH	0.00483	0.00459
CANADA	0.3022	0.2990
DENMARK	0.0630	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0218
EURO	0.4529	0.4504
HONGKONG	0.04970	0.04930
INDIA	0.00582	0.00584
INDONESIA	0.00003017	0.00002855
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010964	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000300	
JAPAN	0.00352	0.003450
JORDAN	0.5362	0.5354
KOREA	0.00039520	
KUWAIT	1.254	1.254
MALAYSIA	0.0929	0.0929
NEW ZEALAND	0.2621	0.2622
NORWAY	0.0481	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00365
OMAN	0.98027	0.98340
PAKISTAN	0.00366	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00761	0.00744
QATAR	0.10386	0.10381
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10065	0.10071
SINGAPORE	0.2829	0.2809
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02830	0.02820
SRI LANKA	0.00278	0.00246
SWEDISH	0.0481	
SWITZERLAND	0.3904	0.3873
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011690	0.011680
TURKEY	0.1039	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5075	0.5046
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102850	0.102870
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3798	0.3344
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.1901	0.2877	0.2532
OMAN	0.3849	0.3820	0.3878	0.3414
QATAR	3.6420	3.6147	3.6695	3.2302
UAE	3.6730	3.6455	3.7008	3.2576
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7219	3.7783	3.3259

Markets stay weak, ADNOC plans boost Abu Dhabi

Dubai
Most Middle East stock markets fell yesterday, weighed down by geopolitical worries, but Abu Dhabi was boosted by government plans to privatise parts of Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.

Saudi Arabia's stock index fell 0.4 per cent on the back of weak banks and cement shares. National Commercial Bank, the largest lender, lost 1.8pc while Riyadh Bank fell 1.2pc. Northern Cement lost 1.1pc.

Food maker Savola dropped 2.3pc to 35.65 riyals after Morgan Stanley cut its target price for the stock to 44 riyals from 50.6 riyals.

In Abu Dhabi, the index edged up 0.5pc after ADNOC's chief executive described in an interview a major shake-up plan to privatise its services businesses, venture into oil trading and expand partnerships with strategic investors. On Monday, the

company detailed plans for the initial public offer of shares in its distribution unit.

These steps could attract fresh portfolio funds to Abu Dhabi and increase its weighting in global equity indexes.

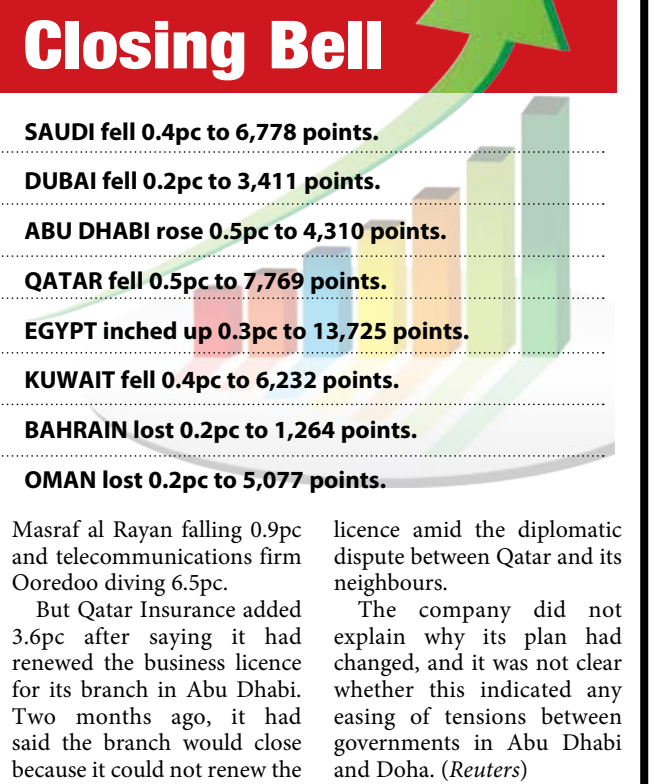
Telecommunications firm Etisalat gained 1.2pc and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank rose 2.1pc.

In Dubai, the index fell 0.2pc as Emaar Properties declined a further 1.0pc to 7.60 dirhams, testing major technical support at that level, which was its low early this month and resistance between March and May.

The stock has been sliding since last week, when it priced the initial public offer of its local real estate development unit in the lower half of an indicative range.

Qatar fell 0.5pc to a new six-year closing low as large caps slipped, with Islamic bank

Closing Bell



- SAUDI fell 0.4pc to 6,778 points.
- DUBAI fell 0.2pc to 3,411 points.
- ABU DHABI rose 0.5pc to 4,310 points.
- QATAR fell 0.5pc to 7,769 points.
- EGYPT inched up 0.3pc to 13,725 points.
- KUWAIT fell 0.4pc to 6,232 points.
- BAHRAIN lost 0.2pc to 1,264 points.
- OMAN lost 0.2pc to 5,077 points.

Masraf al Rayan falling 0.9pc and telecommunications firm Ooredoo diving 6.5pc.

But Qatar Insurance added 3.6pc after saying it had renewed the business licence for its branch in Abu Dhabi. Two months ago, it had said the branch would close because it could not renew the

licence amid the diplomatic dispute between Qatar and its neighbours.

The company did not explain why its plan had changed, and it was not clear whether this indicated any easing of tensions between governments in Abu Dhabi and Doha. (Reuters)

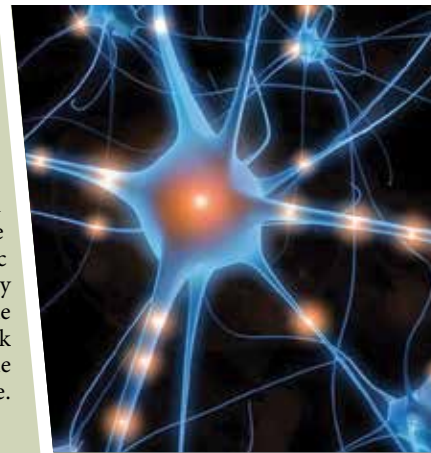


Bahrain Airport Company, Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah spoke on national economic diversification as a panelist at the two-day Economic Diversification Forum held at the Four Seasons hotel. Under the patronage of the Economic Development Board (EDB) and organised by the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) and Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB), the forum focused on ways of ensuring that the Kingdom adapts to new economic realities.



New possibility to cure leukaemia

Scientists have found a new possibility to cure leukemia, a deadly disease that strikes patients as young as seven. Scientists found that a molecule, called CD22, can serve as a potent target for the killer cells of acute lymphoblastic leukemia. It works by genetically modifying a patient's own immune cells to seek out and attack leukemia cells that have a molecule called CD19 on their surface. (IANS)



light pulses can control neuron activity

Specially tailored, ultrafast pulses of light can trigger neurons to fire and may be used to help patients with mood problems. Researchers used light to excite a light-sensitive channel in the membrane of optogenetic mouse neurons. When the channels were excited, they allowed ions through, which caused the neurons to fire. (Xinhua)

PET VET



Dr. Rajani Rajesh

Feline Lower Urinary Tract Infection (FLUTI)

Feline lower urinary tract disease involves the structures that make up the lower portion of the urinary tract. Urinary bladder and the urethra. FLUTI previously referred as feline urologic syndrome (FUS). The potential causes of this infection are bladder infection, bladder stones, inflammation of the bladder or urethral obstruction. Urethral obstructions almost always occur in male cats because the urethra in the male cat is much narrower than that of the female cat. In the male, small bladder stones often cause an obstruction as they pass out of the bladder and through the urethra. Plugs can also occur in the male cat causing an obstruction. It is also noticed that stress can play a major role in the development of UTI. Stressors may include changes in the number of family members (both human and animal); changes in the litter box location, litter type, or cleanliness; changes in diet; and changes in the routine (e.g., no longer goes outside, owner no longer plays with cat).

Symptoms of FLUTI are prolonged squatting or straining in or out of the litter box and not producing urine or only a small amount, frequent urination or straining, pain while urinating (meowing or howling), urinating outside of the litter box, blood in the urine, frequent licking of the genital area, lack of appetite etc. The cat with urethral obstruction on progression of disease the cat will begin to vomit and will become very depressed and lethargic. If not treated, urethral obstructions are usually fatal.

If your cat is exhibiting the symptoms of urinary tract disease you should schedule an appointment with your veterinarian. Depending on findings of your vet, this condition can be treated with catheterization, antibiotics, analgesic medication, surgical removal of bladder stones, therapeutic diets, and increase in water consumption. By keeping stress low, you may be able to decrease the risk of your cat having further episodes.

(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.)

Slow pace in old age may indicate heart diseases

Are you facing difficulty in taking rapid steps? Beware, it may indicate the risk of chronic heart illness.

Older adults with walking problems are at a higher risk of developing heart diseases, a new study says.

The study, published in the journal of the American Geriatrics Society, stated that the link between heart disease risk factors and walking difficulties was greater in people belonging to the older age group.

Aging enhances the

problems of balance, muscle strength and flexibility, physical strength that could also lead to numerous limitations and disabilities.

Heart disease risk factors such as smoking, living with diabetes, obesity or being physically inactive were linked to having a slower walking speed, the researchers noted.

The results showed that the more risk factors people had for heart disease, the faster their decline in walking speed. (IANS)

WHY

some people sweat more

People with higher body fat percentage sweat more

You are in an air-conditioned room and everyone is looking fresh but your armpits are soggy and you don't like the way your body smells, so you avoid proximity. Sounds familiar? Sweating a lot can be a big bummer if you want to look neat, clean and dry. And if your sweat stinks more than most, the matter gets worse. All this happens besides the fact that you are slim and indulge in moderate activity. Here are some explanations why you may sweat more than others.

The traditional thought:

Traditionally, people have associated more sweating to having a higher body fat percentage and less sweating to a higher level of aerobic activity. However, a recent study at American College of Sports Medicine presented some results which contradicted the traditional ideas.

Body fat and aerobic activity associated with other factors:

Though the traditional generalized rule may apply in many cases, there are many other factors which are associated to one's body fat percentage and aerobic fitness which also play a keen role in determining how much you sweat.

More body fat means more weight:

If you have a higher body fat percentage, it sure means that your body weighs more. Now, your body will have higher insular properties which may result in more sweating. This is what the traditional insight is. However, more body fat also means more body mass and this could also be the leading factor for more sweat production, and not the insular property of fat.

Higher aerobic activity means less weight:

Aerobic fitness, also called VO2 max, can make a person leaner. Thus, less sweat production happens due to a smaller body frame.

Change in core temperature due to heat generation:

The change in one's core temperature was measured in terms of per unit body mass. This was in response to the heat generated by their body during pedalling with no 'insulation effect'. This heat generation accounted for 50 per cent variation in one's core temperature.

Change in core temperature due to body fat percentage:

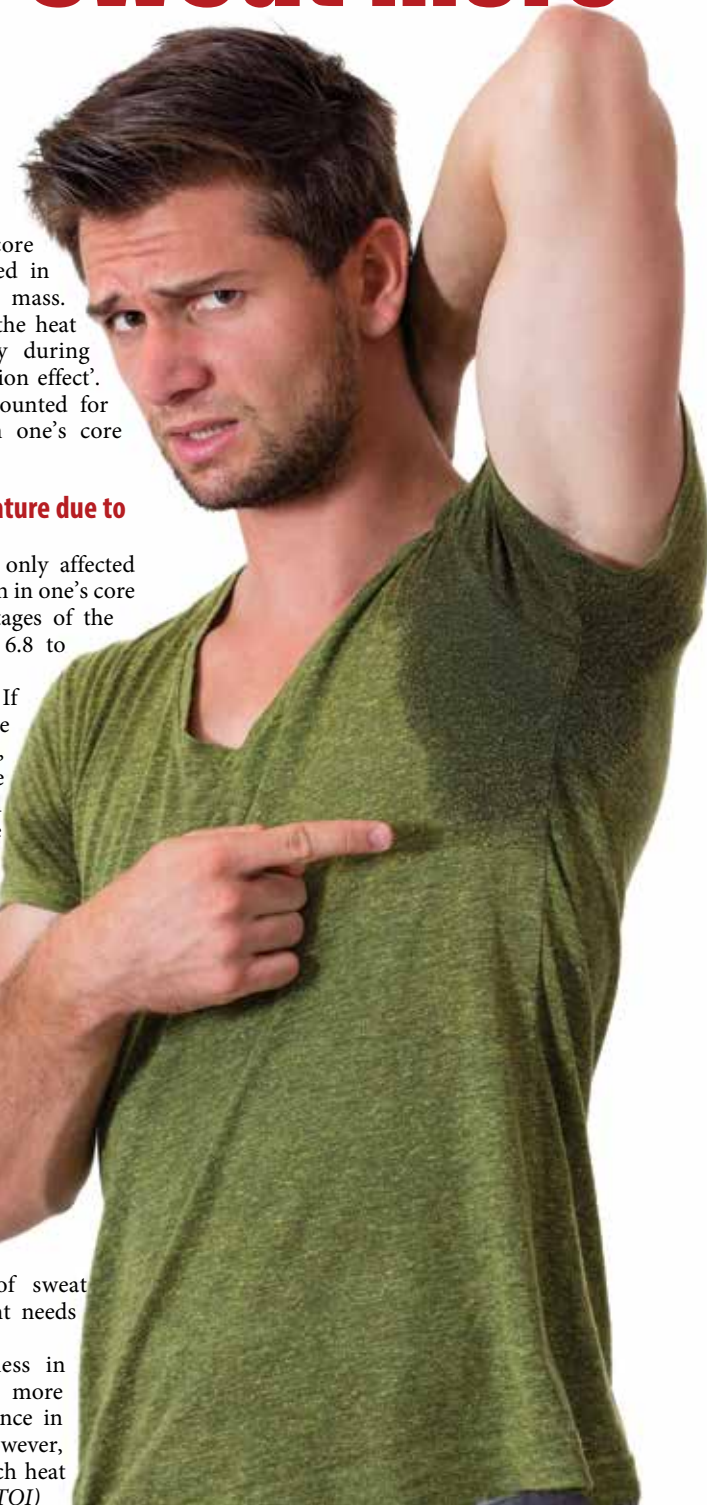
The body fat percentage only affected 2.3 per cent of the variation in one's core temperature. The percentages of the participants varied from 6.8 to 32.5 per cent.

This translates to this: If two people weigh the same and pedal at the same rate, they will heat up at the same rate. This would be true regardless of the differences in their height and body size.

Traditional wisdom false?

One must note that traditional mindset is not false but only the reasoning behind it is not true. People with higher body fat percentage sweat more not because of thermal properties of sweat but because higher weight needs hauling.

Similarly, aerobic fitness in isolation does not make more than a 4 per cent difference in variation of sweat rate. However, it is more about how much heat your body is generating. (TOI)





BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received US Ambassador Justin Hick Siberel. The Commander-in-chief welcomed the newly-appointed ambassador, wishing him success in his duties, praising the deep-rooted ties between the two countries and peoples.



Under the patronage of Interior Minister Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the 'Society of Safety Engineers' Middle East Chapter was held. The event was attended by Prince Med bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan, Deputy Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa and Customs President Shaikh Ahmed



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) honoured Marhaba, the meet-and-greet service and lounge provider, for its many years of service at Bahrain International Airport. The company, part of UAE-based Dnata, had been present at the airport since 2012. Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of BAC Kamal Ahmed said: "We wish Marhaba and Dnata the best of luck in their future endeavours." This year the newly registered Hala Bahrain will take over the meet and greet function, including providing CIP (Commercially Important Person) handling services.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received Caspian Balestra Group CEO Marty for its projects in renewable energy. The minister was briefed on the steps the group is taking to expand its



The 4th International Conference for a Euro-Mediterranean Community of International Arbitration opened yesterday in Bahrain. The Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA) is organising the event in cooperation with the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and under the patronage of the Foreign Ministry and the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry



Batelco Chairman with Guernsey Directors and



The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority's (TRA) Board of Directors held their third meeting this year, at TRA's headquarters in the Seef District. During the meeting, Board members discussed key issues related to the telecommunications sector.



Public Prosecution Chief Dr. Ali bin Fadhul Al Buainain has received the Chief of Egypt's Public Prosecution, Nabil Sadiq, and Assistant Chief of Prosecution, Chancellor Mustafa Suleiman. They signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two sides to include all forms of terrorism and its finances, state security crime and organized crime in general.



2th professional development conference and exhibition of American... Faisal bin Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Saud, Oil Minister Shaikh Moham... Deputy Interior Minister Shaikh Talal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Capital... bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



Interior Minister Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received US Ambassador Justin Hicks Siberell, in the presence of Deputy Minister of Interior Shaikh Talal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa. The minister welcomed the recently-appointed ambassador, wishing him success in the duties of his new posting. The Minister praised the amicable bilateral ties, citing the cooperation in the security fields.



Youssefiani and Regional Director Al Hakam Al Taleb and praised his presence and investment in solar energy projects in Bahrain.



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa deputised Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa and Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa to attend a reception ceremony hosted by Omani Ambassador Abdullah bin Rashid Al Medilwi at the Diplomat Hotel marking Oman's 47th National Day. Senior officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Bahrain and invitees also attended the celebration.



oman Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa along with Board Director Oliver McFall and Batelco Group CEO Ihab Hinnawi recently met by Government officials to discuss the unwavering commitment of the Batelco Group to Guernsey. Above, Members of Batelco Board of Batelco Group senior management with SURE senior management and States of Guernsey government officials following the meeting



President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa discussed with DHL Express for Middle East and North Africa CEO Nour Suliman about boosting cooperation in the interest of enhancing Bahrain's cultural movement. The meeting highlighted the significance of upgrading the cultural infrastructure as Bahrain is a leading regional and global cultural center.



Attorney General's Public Prosecution, Chancellor... discussed evolving the memoran... cooperation to combat the crimes



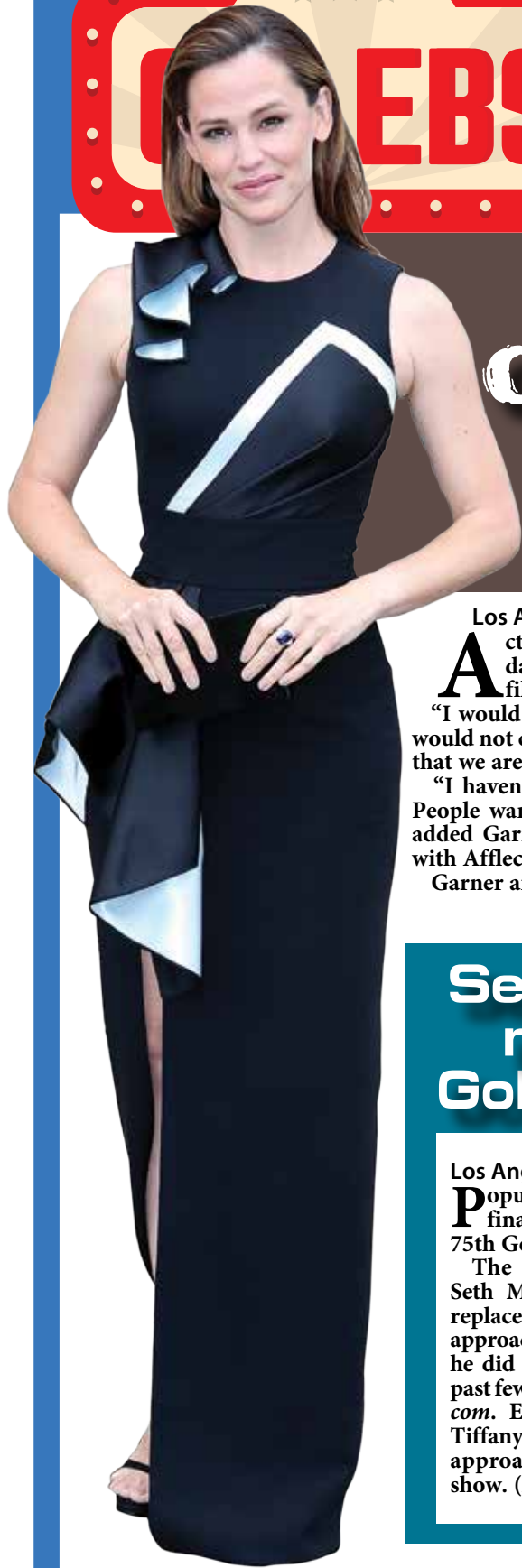
On the occasion of 47th National Day of the Sultanate of Oman, Saar Mall Bahrain held a ceremony in cooperation with Embassy of Oman on Saturday. A number of exemplary personalities, diplomats and delegates from Oman and many Omani students residing in Bahrain attended this ceremony.



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Kim Kardashian @KimKardashian
I teamed up with @Spotify to launch my new profile and today's Crystal Meditation playlist is all about positive vibes, inspired by my new fragrance!



JENNIFER GARNER NOT INTERESTED IN DATING

Los Angeles

Actress Jennifer Garner says she is not interested in dating anyone right now following her split from actor-filmmaker Ben Affleck over two years ago. "I would not have chosen this life for myself or for my kids. I would not choose to be single or be in this position. It's something that we are working through," Garner told *news.com.au*. "I haven't been on a date and I am not interested in dating. People want to set me up and I am just like, 'No thank you'," added Garner, who has children Seraphina, Samuel and Violet with Affleck.

Garner and Affleck are co-parenting their children. (IANS)

Seth Meyers may host Golden Globes

Los Angeles

Popular TV host Seth Meyers is in final talks to host the upcoming 75th Golden Globe Awards. The "Late Night With Seth Meyers" host, who will replace Jimmy Fallon, was approached for it early on but he did not commit until the past few days, reports *variety.com*. Ellen DeGeneres and Tiffany Haddish were also approached to host the show. (IANS)



Majidi and I belong to elite society: Rahman

Panaji, India

Award-winning composer A.R. Rahman says he and Iranian auteur Majid Majidi belong to an elite society as they both have got fatwas.

The Oscar-winning composer brought back the memories of the time when fatwa was issued against the duo in 2015 for "Muhammad: The Messenger of God", the movie on the life of Prophet Muhammed, when he got onto the stage to talk about their next collaboration "Beyond The Clouds" at the first day of the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) on Monday.

"It is great to be here. It feels very unusual and extraordinary to be standing here, working with an Iranian filmmaker who is internationally known. He is a great human being and a very courageous person. We both have got fatwas, we are a very elite society here," Rahman said. (IANS)



Driver unsure on seeing his own movies

Looks like Hollywood actor Adam Driver is still unsure about watching his own movies. Reportedly, the 34-year-old actor is not sure if he's going to watch the upcoming 'Star Wars' movie in which he reprises his role as Kylo Ren, as he finds it 'self-destructive' after a while.

In an interview, when asked if he is going to his upcoming movie 'The Last Jedi', he said, "Undecided. I can't just watch it objectively. I always hate it and then come back to, like, 'Okay, that's fine, it's not about me. It's the story.' I can't watch it once. I have to watch it five times, you know? The movie is over." (TOI)



STARRY Birthday
Scarlett Johansson

November 22, 1984

Acclaimed actress who won a BAFTA award for Best Actress for her role in the 2003 film *Lost in Translation*. She then went on to star in the films *The Prestige*, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* and *Don Jon*.

Keener, Odenkirk cast in 'Incredibles 2'



Disney has signed on Catherine Keener and Bob Odenkirk for its upcoming release 'Incredibles 2'. Reportedly, the duo will lend their voices to unspecified characters in the sequel to the 2004 computer-animated superhero film.

The actors could be two of the 25 newly-announced heroes joining the movie. According to reports, the story will centre more around Elastigirl, who will be out saving the world once more while Mr Incredible is at home looking after their youngest child, Jack-Jack.

Although, the film takes the story forward, no leap will be shown and the plot will proceed right after the cliffhanger ending in the first. Craig T Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L Jackson, Sarah Vowell and Huck Milner will reprise their roles, with original director-writer Brad Bird returning as well. (TOI)

Matt Damon's cameo was 'very surreal'



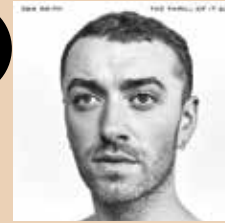
Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige said seeing actor Matt Damon dressed as Loki in a cameo in 'Thor: Ragnarok' was a 'very surreal' moment for him. Damon shocked Feige by taking up the part, where the actor had to dress up as Loki (played by Tom Hiddleston) in the movie, with Chris Hemsworth in the title role.

The MCU prez said, "Who could be Loki? We didn't have any brilliant ideas. At one point, off handedly, Hemsworth goes, 'Well what if I ask my friend Matt?' I said, 'Matt who?'"

"He said, 'My friend, Matt Damon.' 'Okay. Sure. Sure Chris, ask your friend Matt Damon. Give me a break. He's not doing this.' 'Oh he's gonna do it. He's flying down.' The next thing I know, Matt Damon is on set in a full Loki costume, full Loki wig.." (TOI)

Top Album Sales this Week

1



The Thrill Of It All
Sam Smith

2



Red Pill Blues
Maroon 5

3



Texoma Shore
Blake Shelton

4



Live In No Shoes Nation
Kenny Chesney

5



Sweet Southern Sugar
Kid Rock

6



Unapologetically
Kelsea Ballerini

7



NOW 64
Various Artists

8



Beautiful Trauma
P!nk

9



Heartbreak On A Full Moon
Chris Brown

10



Just The Beginning
Grace VanderWaal

(billboard.com)



START CAMERA ACTION

Kolar wins Co-Production Prize

London

Croatian producer Cedomir Kolar will receive this year's European co-production prize, the Prix Eurimages, for his decades-long career in the European film industry.

The honour, presented as part of the European Film Awards in Berlin on Dec. 9, rewards excellence in the tricky business of co-productions, where filmmakers in two or more countries pool resources to finance a movie.

Kolar, who worked with Paris-based Noe Productions before setting up his own shingle, A.S.A.P. Films, has proven an master of combining talent across borders to extraordinary effect. His production of Danis Tanovic's anti-war drama No Man's Land won the Oscar for best foreign-language film in 2002. Ritesh Batra's The Lunchbox, which Kolar helped put together as an Indian-French-German-American-Canadian co-production, was a crossover hit in 2013. (hollywoodreporter)



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

FUEGO: ANTONIO GADES COMPANY



Date: 1 December 2017, 8:00pm
Venue: Bahrain National Theatre

The Antonio Gades Company, a major pillar of Spanish flamenco dance, will be presenting "Fuego", which is inspired by the work of the late Spanish legendary composer, Manuel de Falla. The plot, choreography and lighting made by the late Antonio Gades and the Spanish film director, photographer and writer Carlos Saura. Coinciding with the tenth anniversary of the death of Antonio Gades, the foundation that carries his name decided to undertake a very significant challenge setting up another version of the Manuel de Falla's ballet "Enchanted Love". Titled "Fuego", this production was the second scenic interpretation which the choreographer had of Manuel de Falla's work. Being an exponent of Gades' core idea "return to tradition if you want to evolve", this ballet is a transitional piece between the almost mythical setups in the classic plays, Carmen and Fuenteovejuna. It was also the last of the joint mythical flamenco works by Gades and Saura, with the same overlaying structure they followed in Carmen, first as a film and secondly as a ballet.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION



Date: 16 December 2017, 8:00pm
Venue: Bahrain National Theatre

Coinciding with the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day celebrations, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities presents a variety of events and cultural activities with the participation of a number of musical bands and Bahraini musicians.

Tickets will be available soon at Virgin Megastore.

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DELIGHTS OF GASTRONOMIC ITALIAN-ARABIC FUSION

Date: 23 November 2017, 7:00pm
Venue: Bahrain National Museum



On the occasion of the Week of Italian Cuisine in the World, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in the Kingdom of Bahrain will outline the common roots in food culture between Italy and Arab countries. One-star Michelin Chef Giuseppe Biuso and his Sous-Chef Fabio Falsetti together with the talented Bahraini Chef Bassam Alalawi will inspire the audience with a live cooking demonstration and food-tasting in celebration of the Italian-Arabic historical link.

Chef Giuseppe Biuso is the Executive Chef of the Therasia Resort in Vulcano, Italy, as well as responsible for the restaurant "Il Capperro", who was just last year reconfirmed the Michelin star, thus crowning his dream of becoming part of the prestigious guide.

Chef Fabio Falsetti graduated as "Maestro di Cucina Italiana" from ALMA La Scuola Internazionale di Cucina Italiana (International Italian Culinary School) and won in 2005 the Italian National Award 'Giovani Talenti' (Young Talents), and earlier this year joined Chef Biuso in 'Il Capperro' Therasia Resort Isola di Vulcano.

Chef Bassam Alalawi introduces himself as a self-taught Chef, and Polymath. His interests are not exclusive to Food & Cuisine but rather supplement the field. As the owner of Darseen Café he approaches cooking with an eclectic & modern twist to contemporary flavors, focusing more on the coming together of beautiful combinations, that might not be seemingly obvious, to create soulful food.

Together, the Italian duo along with Bahrain's very own talent will surely be impressing the crowd with their multi-cultural collaborative feast.

MARK YOUR Calendar

ATIF ASLAM LIVE IN BAHRAIN

Date: November 24
Venue: Pakistan School Ground

Rami Productions Middle East W.L.L, a leading event management team in the Middle East is organizing a Mega Musical Event, Atif Aslam Live in Bahrain 2017 on Friday at the Pakistan School Ground, Isa Town at 7.30pm.

Rami Productions has been able to establish shows that are a successful experience for both attendees and supporters with a good track record of providing exceptional entertainment and creative events in the Middle East.

The Mega Bollywood concert will be a remarkable event with the presence of Atif Aslam, the rising Bollywood singer of Indian Film industry along with famous musicians from the Bollywood film industry. Atif Aslam is a Bollywood and Pakistani singer and film actor. Aslam is the youngest recipient of Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, a Pakistani civilian decoration.

A crowd turnover of 8000 people for this mega show is estimated; with the ticket, rates are available from BD 5, followed by BD 10, 15, 20, 30, 50 and 75 at the branches of UAE Exchange, Sharaf DG and Food City. The online ticketing partners are www.wafiapps.com, www.virginmegastore.me, www.togetherbahrain.com.



INTERNATIONAL MICRO DRAMA FESTIVAL IN BAHRAIN



Date: November 24, 10.30am
Venue: BKS

The 2017 International Micro Drama Festival presented by Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam School of Drama will take place on November 24. The festival will begin with the Arabic comedy "The Heart Broken Writer" by Team Citrus which is directed by Abdulla Alqattam. The play handles the subject of a poet who falls ill with Alzheimer because of the prohibition of his works due their sharp nature. This will be followed by a play 'Scream of a Silence' by Swayam Kala Nikethan which is directed by Ramanpreet Praveen. The third play is a silent one "Domestic Violence" by Ahmed Ali Jassim for Team Peace. It will be trailed by Jose Antony and Team's

Malayalam drama "Bali". This will be followed by a silent play by Sadiq Jaffer Jassim titled "We Are Human" for Team Alghadeer. Morning session will end with Dinesh Kuttiyil's drama 'Joker' which expresses sensations of a person who doesn't have the will power to oppose unwanted things happening around him.

Afternoon session starts by 2.00pm with Bahrain Prathibha's emotional production "Um..." directed by Mohan Raj. It is followed by 'All About US' by Team Khwabgaah, directed by A.R Kinger discussing the story of an evening in the lives of a newly divorced couple, who though divorced, still seem to have unresolved issues and how the evening leads them into uncharted waters.

It will be trailed by Viswakala Samskarika Vedi Bahrain's 'Chumadu Thanghi Adhava Athani' directed by Hari Kumar Kidangoor.

Festival's last play will be headed by Hareesh Menon and Team- 'What We May Be' which visualizes the hopes, dreams, subjugations and distortions of women confronting different episodes of their life. There will be discussion about each drama after the play, with the involvement of crews, audience and under the guidance of talented Muralee Menon, an alumnus of the School of Drama. B.K.S will provide prizes for best play, director, actor and actress during finale scheduled immediately after last play.

DESIGN YOUR OWN DILMUNI SEAL



Date: 25 November 2017, 11:00am
Venue: Bahrain National Museum

Children will learn about the function and uses of the stamp seals during the Dilmun Period in Bahrain during a guided visit to the newly opened exhibition "The Stamp Seal: Hallmark of Dilmun and its Hidden Art" at the Bahrain National Museum. Each participant will create and design his/her own seal and get inspired by the designs and motifs used by the Dilmun people to personalize their seals 5000 years ago.

This workshop is for kids from 6-10 years old, book your seats and register today!. The workshop will be held on 25 November 2017, and will be re-scheduled every month during the current exhibition

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Wednesday, November 22, 2017 17

News of Bahrain



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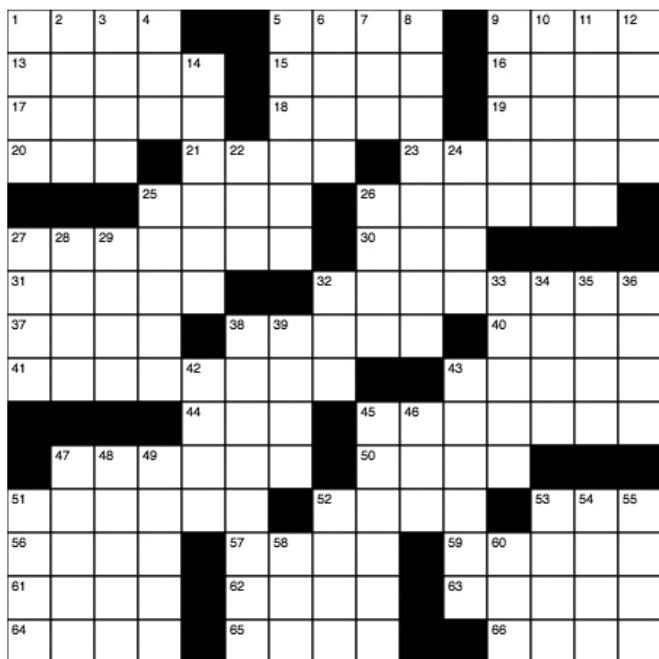
DEADLINE

Lineage 11am
Display 9am
Cancellation 12pm

WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday
8 am - 6 pm

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Pet plant; 5- Traditional prayer ending; 9- Uttered; 13- Pound part; 15- Dole (out); 16- Neighbor of Sask.; 17- Valuable violin; 18- Shoppe sign word; 19- Robin's digs; 20- Vietnamese holiday; 21- Hardware fastener; 23- Teaching of the Buddha; 25- Son of Odin; 26- Soap ingredient; 27- Book of the New Testament; 30- Actress Arthur; 31- Bellowing; 32- Uneasy; 37- Coil; 38- Greenlights; 40- Varieties; 41- Abandoned; 43- Sheep cry; 44- Shortened version of actor Stallone's first name; 45- Dramatic dances; 47- Trojan War hero; 50- Busy as ____; 51- Kiss; 52- Agricultural implement; 53- Large container; 56- Emcee; 57- Change for a five; 59- "Goodnight" girl; 61- Great lake; 62- Small plateau; 63- Spud; 64- Reading rooms; 65- Tiny particle; 66- Large village;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



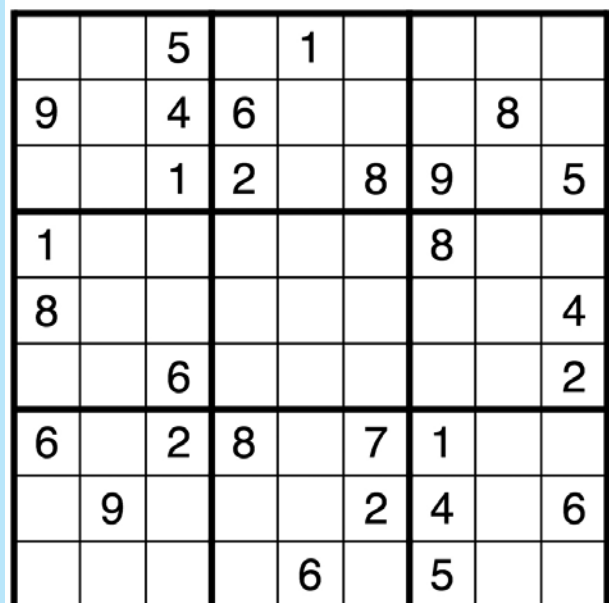
Down

1- Paint layer; 2- Actor Cronyn; 3- ____ the finish; 4- Do something; 5- Love affairs; 6- Dissolve; 7- LAX posting; 8- Unnecessary; 9- Capital city of Yemen; 10- Tip off; 11- "Who's there?" response; 12- Computer input; 14- One or the other; 22- Without delay; 24- Warmth; 25- Snare; 26- Follow orders; 27- 50%; 28- Switch ending; 29- Rude dude; 32- Sought office; 33- French textile city; 34- Gen. Robert ____; 35- Three-player card game; 36- Fast fliers; 38- State of USA; 39- Lock openers; 42- Wait ____; 43- Edible pale-bluish mushroom; 45- Aromatic ointment; 46- Blood letters; 47- Love, Italian-style; 48- Red fluorescent dye; 49- Short letters; 51- Storage shelter; 52- Cancun coin; 53- Rejection power; 54- Once again; 55- Small gull; 58- Hockey goal part; 60- Rodent, betrayer;

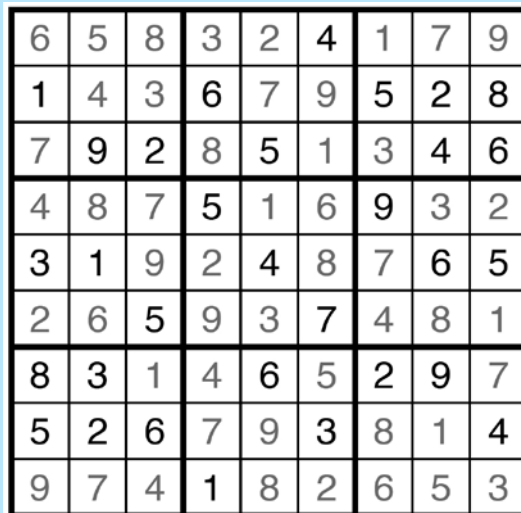
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SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Today you might be in the right mood to organize. High-tech equipment may be of help in this project, and so could the help of friends. An optimistic, enthusiastic attitude will sustain you through any tasks. You will be more than happy with what you've accomplished by day's end. Treat yourself.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You could feel especially amorous today. If you're romantically involved, you could have an overwhelming urge for an intimate dinner with your significant other. If you're uninvolved, expect that status to change shortly. A new person could cross your path and sweep you off your feet. Or you could see an old friend in a new light.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Necessary cleaning or repairs in the home could inspire you to go a bit further and do some redecorating. Get rid of old furniture or other castoffs to make room for new objects that make your home look more attractive. Friends and your special someone could volunteer to help you. Make a party of it!

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Important new information could come your way, perhaps through classes, books, or conversations with friends. This might open new personal and professional doors for you. You could learn new skills with technology, enhance your artistic ability, or both. Whichever you choose, this is a great day to train your talents. In doing so, you could form some powerful new friendships.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



New learning and improved communication with friends and family add greatly to your sense of self-esteem. A task into which you've put some effort over the past several weeks has been completed successfully. You're now basking in the glow of others' admiration. You may even have a few extra dollars to spend. You've worked hard for this and deserve it.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



An improvement in your relations with a love partner or close friend has you feeling optimistic about the future and even more so about the present. Your sense of self-worth is strong and you're formulating positive ideas about your life in the months ahead. Don't make any definite plans now. Write them down and go back to them later when the rosy glow has faded a little.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



An unexpected raise could have you feeling especially generous toward those you love. Your gifts will be appreciated, but take care that you don't wipe out all you've gained. Romantic ideals could permeate your consciousness, and you'll be thinking wonderful thoughts about a passionate encounter with your love partner. Go for it.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Falling in love at first sight is something you never thought would happen, but it could happen today. A romantic involvement may follow or not, but the high you get from meeting a new person will make you feel better about yourself and life. A sense of adventure may have you longing to take a trip to a distant land. If you've wanted to plan a vacation, do it today.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Movies that involve a lot of special effects might be especially appealing to you now. You may decide to learn more about how such effects are produced. You might also want to try your hand at computer graphics. The far reaches of your imagination might surprise you. Have fun with this. You could make it work for you in the future.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Life is an adventure. At least, that's the attitude you take today. Flush with past success and basking in the affection of friends, you're feeling especially confident and enthusiastic. You'll consider if not adopt any possible option for your future, even if it involves taking off for an exotic land! It will involve learning and meeting new people who share your interests.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)

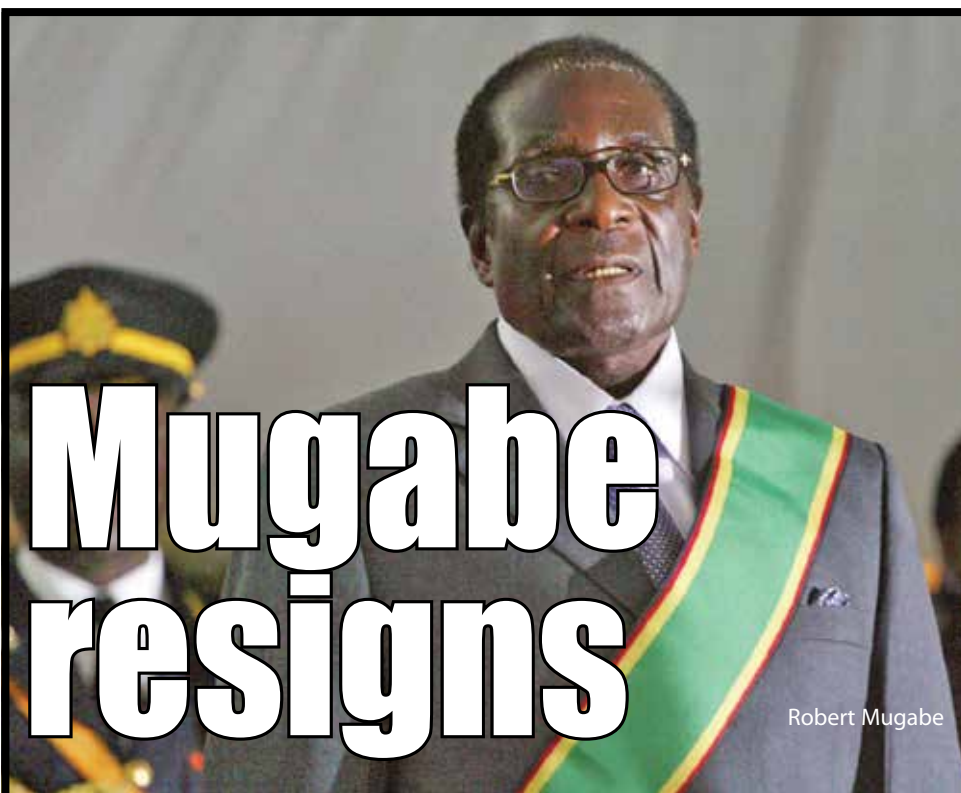


A new unity and purpose could create a more positive atmosphere regarding your career. Recognition and an increased income are just over the horizon. Don't be surprised if changes lie in store. You could end up in an entirely different profession! The support and affection of friends can see you through the transition.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Optimism and excitement permeate any get-togethers that you're involved in today. You and those around you tend to see only positive trends for the future - success with few obstacles. You need to hang onto that attitude because there are always obstacles. You might forge a new support group with some of these upbeat individuals. Make the most of it!



Mugabe resigns

Robert Mugabe

Harare
Robert Mugabe resigned as Zimbabwe's president yesterday, a week after the army and his former political allies moved to end four decades of rule by a man once feted as an independence hero who became feared as a despot.

His former vice president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, whose sacking this month prompted the military takeover that forced Mugabe out, will be sworn in as president today or tomorrow, Patrick Chinamasa, legal secretary of the ruling ZANU-PF party, told Reuters.

The 93-year-old Mugabe had clung on for a week after an army takeover, with ZANU-PF urging him to go. He finally resigned moments after parliament began an impeachment process seen as the only legal way to force him out.

Wild celebrations broke out at a joint sitting of parliament

when Speaker Jacob Mudenda read out Mugabe's brief resignation letter and suspended the impeachment procedure. Mugabe, who has been confined to his Harare residence, did not appear.

People danced and car horns blared at news that the era of Mugabe -- who had led Zimbabwe since independence in 1980 -- was finally over. Some held posters of Mnangagwa and of army chief General Constantino Chiwenga.

Despite the outpouring of joy on the streets, his downfall was as much the result of in-fighting among the political elite as a popular uprising, although thousands of people rallied against him in the days after the army intervened last week.

The army seized power after Mugabe sacked Mnangagwa, ZANU-PF's favourite to succeed him, in a bid to smooth a path to the presidency for his wife Grace,

52, known to her critics as "Gucci Grace" for her reputed fondness for luxury shopping.

Since the crisis began, Mugabe has been mainly confined to his "Blue Roof" mansion in the capital where Grace is also believed to be.

ZANU-PF chief whip Lovemore Matuke told Reuters that Mnangagwa would be sworn in within 48 hours and that he would serve the remainder of Mugabe's term until the next general election, which must be held by September 2018.

"I am very happy with what has happened," said Maria Sabawu, a supporter of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), outside the hotel where the impeachment process was happening.

Mugabe has led Zimbabwe since a guerrilla struggle ended white-minority rule in the country formerly known as Rhodesia. (Reuters)

Cigar-shaped asteroid came from another solar system

Washington

A rocky cigar-shaped object detected in space last month came from another solar system, astronomers said Monday as they confirmed an unprecedented observation.

The discovery may provide clues as to how other solar systems formed, said the researchers, who published their study in the British journal Nature.

The asteroid, named Oumuamua by its discoverers, is one-quarter mile (400 meters) long and highly elongated --perhaps 10 times as long as it is wide.



An artist's impression of the first interstellar asteroid

That odd shape is unprecedented among the some 750,000 asteroids and comets observed in our solar system where they formed, said the researchers.

They concluded that the

cigar-shaped thing is from another solar system due to data on its orbit.

Asteroids like Oumuamua enter our solar system about once a year, these scientists said. (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think sanctions will make national spirit of Koreans stronger as claimed by Kim Jong-un?

Yes No Cant Say



"The hostile forces' desperate efforts to block the advance of North Korea make the indomitable spirit of the Korean workers stronger and make them produce a great miracle startling the world,"

Kim Jong-un
 North Korean leader

Rest in sight

US conducts airstrikes on Afghan opium labs



The US has conducted a series of airstrikes targeting opium processing labs in Afghanistan as part of a campaign targeting the Taliban's \$200 million-a-year drug trade.

U.S. threatens to sue Harvard

The U.S. Justice Department has threatened to sue Harvard University to force it to turn over documents as it investigates whether the Ivy League school's admission policies violate civil rights laws.

Pakistan arrests 16 for illegal border crossing

Sixteen foreigners were arrested in Pakistan's Balochistan province for illegally trying to cross the country's border into Iran.

China delivers 1,000 tonnes of rice to Syria

A total of 1,000 tonnes of rice donated by China has been delivered to Syria's northwestern city of Latakia.

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Nigeria mosque attack: suicide bomber kills dozens



A suicide bomber has attacked a mosque during early morning prayers in Nigeria.

Kano, Nigeria

At least 50 people were killed yesterday when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque in northeast Nigeria, police said, in an attack blamed on Boko Haram jihadists.

The blast happened during early morning prayers at the Madina mosque in the Unguwar Shuwa area of Mubi, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) by road from the Adamawa state capital Yola.

It was the biggest attack in Adamawa since December 2016, when two female suicide bombers killed 45 people at a crowded market in the town of Madagali.

Security analysts said yesterday's bombing again underlined the threat posed by Boko Haram, despite an overall decline in deaths from attacks by the group last year.

Adamawa state police spokesman Othman Abubakar told AFP that at least 50 were killed in the Mubi attack.

"It was a (suicide) bomber who mingled with worshippers. He entered the mosque along with other worshippers for the morning prayers.

"It was when the prayers were on that he set off his explosives."

Asked who was responsible, Abubakar said: "We all know the trend. We don't suspect anyone specifically but we know those behind such kind of attacks."

The attack bore all the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the Islamist militants whose insurgency has left at least 20,000 people dead and more than 2.6 million others homeless since 2009. (AFP)

Sharapova named in India luxury housing fraud probe



Maria Sharapova

New Delhi

Five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova is under investigation by Indian police for cheating and criminal conspiracy after the collapse of a luxury housing project that she endorsed, a lawyer said yesterday.

The firm behind the development is alleged to have taken millions of dollars from homebuyers before the project folded.

Piyush Singh, a lawyer representing one of the buyers, said that police had filed initial charges of cheating and criminal

conspiracy against Sharapova as part of a wider case against the firm Homestead Infrastructure Development.

The 30-year-old tennis star travelled to India in 2012 to launch the luxury high-rise apartment complex -- named Ballet by Sharapova -- which prospective buyers were told would house a tennis academy, a clubhouse and a helipad.

The website of the project quotes Sharapova as saying her goal was to "make the owners feel like they own something special and different". (AFP)

KEITA IS LIVING THE DREAM

When you have received more votes than any other midfielder in a public poll organised by the Bundesliga, driven your team to a historic second place in the league and secured a record £48m African transfer fee, you have got a few highlights of the year to look back on.

But none of the above makes the list of RB Leipzig's Guinea star Naby Keita.

Instead, his best moment of 2017 came when realising a fantasy formed as he grew up in the Guinean capital Conakry: playing in the Champions League.

"It's been a dream of mine since I was a young boy," the 22-year-old tells *BBC Sport*.

"Even back then, I had decided that one day I would play in the Champions League. Luckily we had a wonderful season last season, we worked really well and the reward was the match against Porto."

Keita missed Leipzig's inaugural Champions League group game, a 1-1 draw at home to Monaco in September, because of injury.

He made his Champions League debut in a 2-0 defeat at Besiktas before Leipzig finally won a group game, beating two-time European champions Porto 3-2 at home in October.

Two very important spectators were inside the Red Bull Arena that night.

"When I was young, I told my parents, 'I promise you I'm going to play in the Champions League and for my first match, I'll invite you to come and watch me play,'" he says.

"Luckily, I was able to do that and I was very happy. It was a moment of pride. It also greatly encourages me in everything I do."

In some ways, it represented a small payback for his mother, who could have been forgiven for having a few flashbacks during the match.

Such was her son's obsession with football that whenever he was taken shopping, Naby would endlessly look for things to kick, making life even tougher for his cash-strapped family.

"My mother always said that going shopping with me was very expensive - many things got broken," he told the Bundesliga website. "Still, I always looked forward to those trips."

There was one break that really counted, though - when his talents were spotted while playing street football, a popular pastime throughout Guinea.

Whenever he is home, his friends beseech Naby to play with them on the street - where both cars and opponents have to be negotiated - even if Africa's priciest player does not always now give his best.

"I've loved playing street football since I was very young," explains the turbo-charged midfielder.

"When I go home, my friends organise small tournaments and people come to watch us play. I also enjoy that as I get to play with people, but it's not as important to me as it is to my friends. "It makes them very happy, even if I do just a couple of minutes, because the pitch is quite dangerous so I have to be careful I don't injure my feet or legs."

That the silky Keita has graduated from navigating the traffic in Conakry to that found in a Bundesliga midfield owes plenty to former Guinea star Dianbobo Balde and, prior to that, to his talents being spotted on the tarmac.

"This nice gentleman saw me play street football and thought that if I was supported, I could become a great player," recalls Keita.

"He then took me under his wings, and spoke to my parents. He worked to find sponsors and said it would be good if I went to Europe to see if I was really good. That's how I ended up in Istres."

After trials at French sides Lorient and Le Mans failed in 2011, Keita rocked up at a talent-spotting tournament organised by Celtic legend Balde in Marseille two years later. (*BBC*)



Naby Keita (file pic)

Hamilton gets 'Guard of honour' from Mercedes

London

World champion Lewis Hamilton received a spectacular welcome when he came to celebrate his and Mercedes' 2017 success with his team in the UK on Monday. Hamilton was first honoured at their power unit plant in Brixworth, before he headed to their Brackley base where he was greeted with a 'guard of honour' from staff.

"This a very emotional day," said Hamilton. "I was not expecting this, thanks everyone for the warm welcome. Today is something that I will never forget, turning up at the front gate of the factory and seeing everyone out on the street to welcome me - I'm blown away. This has been an incredible year, it's been an incredible journey together."

Hamilton has the chance to win his 10th Grand Prix of the year at this weekend's season finale in Abu Dhabi, after which he and Mercedes will be officially crowned with their fourth world championships at next month's FIA Prize Giving Gala.

"Since I was fortunate enough to join this team in 2012, I have seen it go from strength to strength," added Toto Wolff, Head of Mercedes-Benz Motorsport. "I still see many of the same faces who were here when I joined, but also new faces as we have continued to build the strength of this group. We are fortunate to have the right resources, which isn't always a given, but importantly we have the right people."

"We have not allowed ourselves to become complacent, but remain motivated and energised. For me, I could not imagine working with a better group of people. I would

like to say thank you very much to all of you."

Wolff's fellow team boss Niki Lauda echoed his colleague's comments, saying: "For the fourth time in a row I'm in the fortunate position to say thank you to the entire team. 2017 has been a challenging year because of the rule change. A rule change always means uncertainty; no one knows what the other guys are doing."

(formula1)



Lewis Hamilton



London

Fernando Alonso is "very optimistic" that he'll be in the championship fight next season taking on Lewis Hamilton and the Red Bull drivers for the World title.

The double World Champion was asked by Sky Sports to rank his rivals for next year's Drivers' Championship and gave a surprising assessment.

Although Sebastian Vettel was Hamilton's toughest rival this season and is on course to finish runner-up in the championship, Alonso reckons his Ferrari replacement will fall by the wayside.

Instead, he believes it will be McLaren and Red Bull taking on Hamilton for the 2018 title.

"We'll put me here on the top," he told Sky Sports when asked to rank next year's championship contenders.

"We are very optimistic that next year will be

the year we come back to the top.

"Then I will put Lewis as the World Champion now and I'll put Max, Daniel and then I'll put second step all these three guys [Raikkonen, Bottas and Vettel]."

Asked to then rank Hamilton among Formula 1's World Champions, the Spaniard replied: "I think he is one of the greatest, obviously he has won four titles now."

"It is true that the last three titles, the Mercedes' World Championships were in a dominant car so those are a little bit easier. "But," he added, "I consider him one of the greatest because when he was with McLaren in difficult times he was still performing supreme and still winning races in cars that weren't in a position to win races."

"He deserves the success because he was always at the top of his level." (planetf1)

Williams deny Kubica deal is done

London

Williams

are

talking to

Robert

Kubica about

the Polish

driver

making a

comeback

with

them next

season but

a decision

has yet

to be

made on a

replacement for

Felipe Massa, the

Formula One team said

yesterday.

Responding to media

reports that a deal had been

done, Williams said no

driver announcement was

imminent.

"Although

conversations

are

ongoing with Kubica, it

is still yet to be finally

decided who will replace

Massa," they said in a

statement.

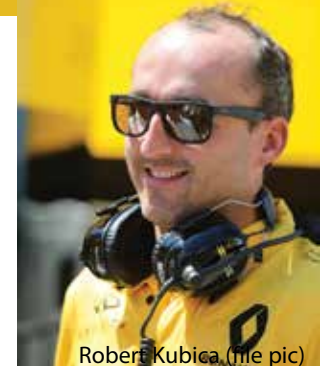
"We will make an

announcement when we

have something to announce

but nothing is planned this

weekend in Abu Dhabi."



Robert Kubica (file pic)

Sunday's race at Yas Marina is the last of the season, with Brazilian Massa saying farewell to the sport he entered in 2002.

Canadian teenager Lance Stroll is certain to stay with the former world champions but a handful of drivers are in the frame to replace Massa.

They include the 32-year-old Kubica. The Pole partially severed his right forearm in an horrific 2011 crash during a rally he entered for fun before the start of that Formula One season, and there are lingering doubts about his arm movement.

However the Pole has twice tested a 2014 Williams car, after failing to secure a seat at Renault, and is being represented by retired 2016 world champion and former Williams driver Nico Rosberg. (Reuters)

Brave 9 gets the largest global coverage



Brave president and KHK MMA CEO Mohammad Shahid

Manama

Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions have broken records as the most covered combat sports event in the MENA region by worldwide media. Apart from being covered by media in over fifty five nations, the event was also

covered in 18 languages. This includes English, German, French, Arabic, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Japanese, Portuguese, Thai, Hindi, Malayalam, Filipino, Spanish, Turkish, Swedish, Polish and Punjabi.

The reach the event has

received has gained global attention upon the Kingdom of Bahrain and for the GCC region. The growth of combat sports has reached new heights as KHK Sports has announced the launch of KHK Boxing after the success of Brave Combat Federation.

This came as a shocking surprise to the rest of the world as most International promotions are studying the rapid progress made by Brave Combat Federation to stay abreast of the rapidly transforming combat sports industry.

Indian MMA Community thanks HH Shaikh Khalid

Manama

Indian Mixed Martial Arts community hailed the initiatives of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for the growth of Mixed Martial Arts in India. Aditya PS, President of All India Mixed Martial Arts Federation stated in the latest press conference in Bangalore, India. Initiatives under the guidance of HH Shaikh Khalid has been instrumental to educate and guide Indian Mixed Martial Arts community in the recent years which helped in strengthening ties between India and Bahrain.

Brave Combat Federation has featured a maximum number of Indian fighters at the International level that led to other global promotions turning their attention to India following the footsteps of KHK MMA. AIMMAF had worked under the guidance of Mohammed Shahid, CEO of KHK MMA which led to their participation in two amateur international tournaments in Bahrain which featured Indian fighters.



Aditya PS

“Indian mixed martial arts community is thankful for the opportunity we have received in Bahrain. The sport was revived by the impact of the actions led under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Multiple

amateur championships held in Bahrain featured Indian mixed martial artists. The visit of His Highness to India during the fifth edition of Brave Combat Federation sanctioned by AIMMAF has motivated Indian MMA Federation and athletes

to intensify our pursuit towards excellence. The emergence of Brave Combat Federation as a true global promotion that stands for the development of the sport is a factor that transformed the sport in the region,” said Aditya PS.

Fury to face top three rated heavyweight



Tyson Fury (file pic)

London

Tyson Fury has said he will be facing a top three ranked contender for his comeback fight after being out the ring for over two years.

Fury hasn't fought since he beat Wladimir Klitschko in 2015 to become the undisputed heavyweight champion.

Since then he has faced personal issues that have kept him out of the sport.

The Gypsy King in on the comeback trail returning to the gym and has been looking impressive during his mitt work session with trainer Ben Davison.

Fury said he will prove his worth in his comeback fight saying he will be facing someone in the top three of the heavyweight division.

He tweeted: “I’ll prove my worth in my first comeback fight after 2.5 years out the ring! It will be som1 in top 3! All bums anyway. 1name.”

Fury, 29, has mentioned the month of May in 2018 as a possible date for his comeback fight.

The ex-world champ seems willing to fight anybody just to get back inside the ropes.

The Hayemaker suffered a bizarre torn bicep that has forced him out of the O2 clash.

But Fury wasted little time in offering his services as a replacement for the Londoner.

He tweeted: “Who wants to see me & @TonyBellew go at it heavyweight style? Manchester vs Liverpool northwests finest. (thesun.co.uk)

Island Classic Charity Golf: AMH to celebrate 20th anniversary

DT News Network

Manama

American Mission Hospital (AMH) will be celebrating the 20 th Anniversary of the Island Classic Charity Golf Tournament. This tournament will be officially opened on November 23, held under the patronage of His Majesty the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at His Majesty’s golf course in Saffriya.

AMH CEO/ Chief Medical officer Dr. George Cheriyan said, “Firstly, we would like to thank His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, our kind patron for the use of his private golf course. We have completed 20 years of hosting this

prestigious event and the event continues to be as ever popular as when it was started. Around 200 golfers will participate in this three day event each playing 18 holes of premium golf.”

The tournament is designed as a handicapped team event and will follow the Florida format, in which all players play their shot from the position determined to be the best ball. All players in a foursome team will have an equal opportunity to contribute to the overall outcome and score of the team.

Teams will be divided into two flights – Championship and Premier Flight and three winners from each category will be awarded.

Jose Izquierdo earns Brighton draw Stoke



Pascal Gross of Brighton (C) celebrates his side's first equaliser with teammates (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

London
Jose Izquierdo snatched a point for Brighton as they twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Stoke.

The Seagulls' club record signing struck after an hour to extend their unbeaten run to five matches.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting had fired Stoke, looking to climb into the top 10 with a win, into an early lead.

Then a frantic two minutes before the interval saw Brighton equalise through Pascal Gross, before Kurt Zouma headed home his first Stoke goal.

But Izquierdo had the final say with his second goal since his £13 million summer switch from Club Brugge to secure a point.

A surprisingly open game

saw Stoke defender Ryan Shawcross have an early header tipped over by Mathew Ryan, before Brighton got into their stride.

Davy Propper's through-ball sent Izquierdo haring clear only to curl his shot around Lee Grant but also wide of a post.

Brighton went close again when a Gross free-kick was met by the head of Propper, but the ball flew straight into the arms of Grant.

The hosts were in the ascendency, but suddenly found themselves behind in the 28th minute when Xherdan Shaqiri lifted a long ball into the area.

Lewis Dunk misjudged the flight, but Choupo-Moting read it perfectly, expertly bringing the ball down before

sidefooting past Ryan Grant.

It was the Cameroon forward's third goal of the season, and his first since the brace which earned a 2-2 draw against Manchester United in September.

Brighton were then incensed when Shawcross tripped Glenn Murray in the box, only for referee Lee Mason to refuse them what looked a clear penalty.

Nevertheless, just before the interval Brighton hauled themselves level courtesy of a third goal of the season for Gross.

The impressive Propper tip-toed past four Stoke defenders before being forced out wide, from where he laid the ball back for Gross to smash through the legs of

Grant.

But moments later Stoke retook the lead, Choupo-Moting heading Darren Fletcher's corner back across goal for Zouma to nod home his first Potters goal.

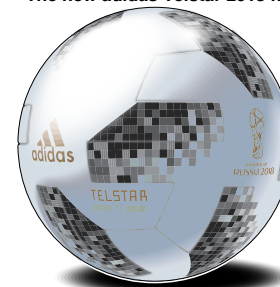
However, Zouma was at fault when Brighton equalised for a second time on the hour mark, missing his header and allowing Murray to touch the ball through to Izquierdo.

The winger initially tried to cross the ball, but it bounced back off Kevin Wimmer, allowing Izquierdo to prod home from close range.

Peter Crouch came on for Stoke, setting a new Premier League record with his 143rd substitute appearance in the process, but he was unable to mark it with a winner. (espn.in)

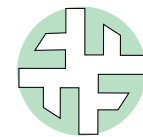
Telstar 18: World Cup match ball

FIFA have unveiled the official match ball for the World Cup in Russia. The new adidas Telstar 2018 harks back to their first match ball in 1970



TELSTAR 2018

Russia: Modern interpretation of the iconic Telstar which was used from 1970-74, based on similar carcass to 2014 Brazuca



Six panels glued in seamless construction, with distinct 3D textured surface for greater control and grip



1970-74 TELSTAR

Mexico: Designed for black-and-white TV – 32 hand-stitched leather panels



1978-82 TANGO

Argentina, Spain: Sealed seams cut water intake



1986 AZTECA

Mexico: First synthetic ball with improved durability



1990 ETRUSCO

Italy: Polyurethane foam layer increases response and water resistance



1994 QUESTRA

U.S.: Polyethylene foam increases energy return, boosts speed



1998 TRICOLORE

France: Syntactic foam matrix layer further increases energy return



2002 FEVERNOVA

Korea/Japan: Durable woven chassis, syntactic foam. Speed can exceed 130km/h



2006 TEAMGEIST

Germany: 14-panel thermal-bonded layer. Surface responds more evenly for better control



2010 JABULANI

South Africa: Eight panels. Aero grooves improve flight stability



2014 BRAZUCA

Brazil: Six thermally-bonded TPU panels

Sources: FIFA, adidas

© GRAPHIC NEWS

Everton's Niasse charged with diving

London

Everton striker Oumar Niasse has become the first Premier League player to be charged by the Football Association for "successful deception of a match official".

The Senegal international won a controversial penalty, after minimal contact from Scott Dann, during Saturday's 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace.

Leighton Baines scored the spot-kick, and Niasse later scored his side's second equaliser at Selhurst Park.

Everton will contest the charge.

New laws were introduced in May allowing players to

be charged after a game for simulation.

Carlisle forward Shaun Miller was the first to be banned for two games, in October.

Bristol City defender Bailey Wright was suspended for two games earlier this month after being found guilty of simulation. He went down in an off-the-ball incident with Fulham's Aboubakar Kamara, whose red card for the clash was later rescinded.

Manchester City forward Bernardo Silva and Watford's Richarlison have both avoided charges this season. (BBC)

'I want to stay at barca forever'



London

Sergi Roberto says he has no plan to leave Barcelona as he hopes to stay at the club for the rest of his career.

A graduate of the club's youth system, the midfielder turned right-back has been a regular in the Barca senior squad

over the last three years.

The 25-year-old has been linked to a move to Manchester City and Juventus

as his contract expires in June 2019, but the Catalan club have no interest in letting him go.

And Spain international Roberto has assured that he intends to extend his deal and hopes he never has to leave Camp Nou.

"Barca is the club of my life and I want to stay here forever, so it's clear that nobody should worry about my renewal," he told Sport.

"I am at the best club in the world and I was lucky to have moved from the academy to the first team.

"I never stopped working to help the first team and now I am happy to be consolidated, it has not been easy."

President Josep Maria Bartomeu also has no doubts that he will stay put, saying: "I have no doubt that Sergi will continue with us, he's a reference player, an example, he knows he has to stay with us until he says, we've been talking for days."

Roberto has missed Barca's last two games with a hamstring injury and although he will miss another two big games, he has promised he will be fit for the Clasico, which takes place just before Christmas.

"My recovery is going well, but I will not get there in time to play against Juventus or Valencia," he added. "Yes, I will be ready for the game against Madrid." (goal.com)



Oumar Niasse (file pic)

Sergi Roberto (file pic)

Nibali to target Worlds

London

Bahrain-Merida leader Vincenzo Nibali has revealed he is tempted to target the Tour de France once again after the inclusion of pave and the short mountain stage in the Pyrenees created a route similar to when he won the race in 2014. However, Nibali has not yet counted out his home Grand Tour, the route of which is due to be unveiled later this month. Nibali also confirmed he will include the Ardennes Classics in his 2018 race programme.

Bahrain Merida's Nibali has already confirmed he will ride the Vuelta a Espana to prepare for the hilly World Championships in Innsbruck, Austria. He has put off a final choice between targeting the Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France until after the presentation of the corsa rosa on November 29.

The Giro d'Italia starts in Israel and it is expected to include three stages in Sicily, including a mountain finish on Mount Etna, near Nibali's hometown of Messina.

Giro d'Italia organiser RCS Sport is hoping to convince Chris Froome to ride the Giro d'Italia and this could also influence Nibali's final decision. He may prefer to avoid a clash with the Team Sky leader in Italy in the hope of then beating him in France in July.

Nibali revealed his race plans for 2018 while collected a series of prizes in Italy on Monday. He won the Giglio d'Oro prize in Tuscany and then travelled to Milan to collect a Tuttobici Oscar.

He opted to target the Giro d'Italia and Vuelta a Espana in 2017, finishing third behind Tom Dumoulin and Nairo Quintana in May and then second to Froome in September. He ended his 2017 season on a high by winning Il Lombardia with a solo attack. Since then, Nibali has had little time for holidays and has started to plan and prepare for 2018.

"I'm already working towards next season. I didn't really have a holiday this year, I used the time to have a plate removed from my collarbone and to move house. I've got the first Bahrain-Merida training camp on December 7 and I'll make my season debut at the Vuelta a San Juan on January 21," Nibali explained to *Corriere dello Sport*.

"Liege-Bastogne-Liege and the Vuelta are two definite goals for 2018. I'll ride the Amstel Gold Race, Fleche-Wallonne and Liege-Bastogne-Liege.

"We'll decide between the Tour and the Giro after we've seen the route of the Giro. I can't hide that I'd like to return to the Tour but it'd be difficult to miss the Giro if it passes through Sicily. It's a tough choice. We'll evaluate things as a team and consider the season as a whole."
(cyclingnews)



Vincenzo Nibali (file pic)

