

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Issue No. 7271

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Today's Weather

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Trump slapped with lawsuit in New York

Lawyers have filed a lawsuit against Donald Trump, accusing him of violating ban on accepting payments from foreign governments.



P 21

Teamwork shown in Bahrain Merida's first-ever World Tour



P 24

Nadal breaks the jinx



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Public sector employees to get increment

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has directed to disburse the annual increment of public sector employees, which was suspended earlier.

The decision is in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa that rationalisation of expenditure should be based on consensus between the executive and legislative.

Earlier, all annual bonuses of public sector employees were suspended as per a circular, issued by the Deputy Prime

Minister and the Financial Affairs and Rationalising Expenditure Ministerial Committee Head Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

The circular, which excluded military personnel, had mentioned that the decision to suspend the bonus was due to financial crisis, which resulted in state revenues reduction due



The increment will be paid on the salaries for the month of January

Ahmed Al Zayed
Civil Service Bureau President

to oil price drop. The decision had created a wave of public resentment and pushed the country's representatives to hold an extraordinary meeting.

Confirmed

Civil Service Bureau (CSB) President Ahmed Al Zayed confirmed that CSB had approved granting the annual increment for eligible employees with effect from January 1, 2017. "The increment will be paid on the salaries for the month of January. The decision is in line with the directives issued by the Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa during the Cabinet meeting," Al Zayed said.

(See also Page 3)

Cabinet decisions

▶ The Cabinet session reviewed a draft law proposed by the Council of Representatives on cancelling Article 353 of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law 15/1976. The bill was referred to the Representatives Council, along with the government's opinion.

▶ The Cabinet endorsed a proposal on establishing a mini central market in Isa Town, which is consistent with the government's plans to spread mini markets across residential areas.

▶ The session discussed a proposal submitted by the Council of Representatives pertaining to the children of low-income families in kindergarten. Appropriate decision will be taken on the matter.

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Probe initiated into fake documents case

DT News Network
Manama

The prosecution has opened an investigation into the case of two companies accused of filing fake documents, DT News has learnt.

The authorities closed-down the companies on Sunday following complaints filed by the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry.

The complaint was filed against a person who presented the documents to the ministry, confirmed Capital Governorate Chief Prosecutor Mohammed Al Maliki.

Al Maliki said that the audit company director's signature and stamp on the documents presented by the suspect were counterfeited.

"When the ministry cross-checked the documents and the electronic history of the companies, it was discovered that they were all submitted by one person, the suspect. The prosecution has initiated its investigations to determine the whereabouts of the case," Al Maliki added.

Earlier, the Ministry had wrote off the company's commercial registration for submitting fake documents and closed-down both companies.

The ministry had clarified, both companies submitted fake documents through Commercial Registration Portal "Sijilat" in order to raise the irregularities and renew their CR.

Court hears evidence against Nabeel Rajab

DT News Network
Manama

The prosecution yesterday presented evidence against Nabeel Rajab, accused of spreading false information about the Kingdom, a judicial source said.

The prosecution submitted a report that confirmed Rajab was in charge of his Twitter account where allegedly offensive tweets were posted, the source said.

The defence, for its part, reiterated its case that Rajab was not in control of his account at the time the tweets were posted.

The court had ordered the appointment of an expert from the interior ministry's cyber crimes unit to determine who was operating Rajab's Twitter account.

The hearing has been adjourned to February 21.



The detective who led investigations into the case of Nabeel Rajab will give evidence on that day.

Rajab is accused of spreading false news and rumours and inciting propaganda during wartime, which could undermine the war operations by the armed forces and weaken the nation. The defendant reportedly published also remarks termed offensive against the Ministry of Interior.

According to the indictment

list, he alleged that the Ministry of Interior is torturing prisoners, humiliating them, denying them from education and degrading their dignity. He, as per the same, depicted the measures taken by the security forces during the Jaw Prison riots as torture.

Rajab, who had been pardoned for health reasons in 2015, was rearrested in June and is on trial on a list of charges, including insulting a state institution and Saudi Arabia in online postings.

Court had last month ordered Rajab freed pending the trial on charges of spreading false information.

But the prosecution decided to keep Rajab in custody pending questioning in another cyber crime case on a similar charge of spreading false news about the situation in the Kingdom.

Sad demise



Manama

Long term Bahrain resident and well known music teacher and pianist for the Sacred Heart School Bahrain, Solina P. Advincula, passed away last Sunday. She was an active choir member of the Sacred Heart Church. The Funeral Mass will be held at The Sacred Heart Church, Manama, tomorrow at 2pm. Burial will be at Salmabad Cemetery at 3pm. Thereafter, a condolence gathering is arranged at the British Club, Ballroom at 5pm. She leaves behind Son: Ryan Rene P. Advincula, Marketing Communication Manager of Gulf Hotel Bahrain, Daughters Marian, Faith, Monick and Michelle all residing in Bahrain.



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Ministers asked to limit foreign travel



DT News Network
Manama

Chairing the regular weekly Cabinet session at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has asked ministers to limit foreign travel to urgent necessity, stressing that their participation should be confined to the events approved by the Council of Ministers.

The move is aimed at rationalising expenditure and cutting government spending, Cabinet Secretary-General Dr. Yaser bin Essa Al-Nasser said in a post cabinet session statement.

The Prime Minister has given instructions to re-structure leases at the Isa Town traditional market, commensurate with the nature of activities there, and requested the Ministry of Works, Municipalities



Dr. Yasser bin Essa Al Nasser

Affairs and Urban Planning to tighten control to ensure that the rental of these shops is in accordance with their activities and consistent with the regulations in force in order to prevent violations.

On development, the Prime Minister has directed to carry on efforts to achieve comprehensive development, as well as to expand infrastructure projects and complete them as per schedule and Government Action Plan.

In this context, the session reviewed a memorandum

presented by the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning on the roads, sanitation and construction projects that had been awarded or tendered during 2016. The report showed that 74 tenders, worth BD55 million, had been awarded, and 98 projects, valued at BD97 million, had been put out to tender.

Fine arts

The Prime Minister also lauded the role of fine arts and expos in enriching the cultural scene, showcasing artistic talent and preserving the creative works of pioneering artists.

He praised, in this regard, the 43rd Bahrain Fine Arts Exhibition, which he patronised recently, and its role in boosting fine art, in particular, and the cultural movement in the country, in general.



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Import of birds from Kuwait

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain has imposed a temporary ban on importing all types of live birds from Kuwait due to the outbreak of bird flu H5 N1. The Agricultural Affairs and Marine Resources at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, announced the pre-emptive measure.

In a statement tonight, it declared a state of emergency at all entry points, in cooperation with competent Government authorities for the required measures to be taken.

Undersecretary for Agriculture and Marine Resources Shaikh Khalifa bin Isa Al-Khalifa has given directives to set up a specialised veterinary team to conduct the necessary surveys at all farms

so as to deal with any epidemic which may infect poultry.

He declared Bahrain H5 N1-free, urging all bird breeders to quickly report any suspicious case and coordinate with competent authorities for necessary measures to be taken.

Kuwait had notified the OIE-World Organisation for Animal Health, reporting 285 dead birds due to the infectious disease.

Heart of the Matter

Lamees Alhassar



Character makes the person

There is a beautifully old saying, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," that in the truest sense embodies what being human is all about. Since the time a person is conscious of his or her own existence in the world, he or she lives by hope. We don't know what the next instant will bring, but we are hopeful that it will be better than the current one.

There are occasions in life when one feels hopeless. It doesn't happen often to most of us, but when it does we don't enjoy doing any of the stuff that makes us happy. Like playing a game of soccer with friends, going to the movies, reading a book or even having an ice-cream. We feel that the weight of the world has descended upon us and all that we can do is lie down and close our eyes to shout out all worldly stimuli. Fortunately for most of us, such times are rare and we soon snap out of these dark periods. That is because human beings are by nature hopeful.

If ever one wants one's community or nation to achieve greatness, the surest way of doing that is by giving its children hope. Hope like faith can move mountains. We should never deny our children the hope for a better future. With hope we give them the incentive to work hard and fulfil their heart's desires. When we educate our children we raise their hopes, when we feed and clothe them well and provide adequate medical care we stoke their hope. Hope is like a glowing ember which can be fed with oxygen and made to grow bigger and bigger till it lights an inextinguishable and all conquering fire that makes people reach out for the stars

This fact has been well recognized by bestselling authors around the world, who have made hope the central theme of their books. Writers as diverse as Robin Sharma, Deepak Chopra, Paulo Coelho and Dale Carnegie have managed to sell millions of books because they have realized that hope is the wellspring at which human civilization drinks. They know that hope is the rope that lets you hang on to life and through their books they exhort their readers to be hopeful and keep going.

Come to think of it, any and every human achievement that one can think of must once only have been a hope in somebody's heart. When Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norway left the base camp to make an audacious attempt to become the first people to set foot on Mt. Everest, it must have been their hope of accomplishing their mission that kept them going in spite of the treacherous conditions ranged against them. The bravest and the mightiest of people only have hope to guide them when the chips are down.

In fact the ones who stop hoping are the weakest ones. The ones who hope, willy nilly come on top. To quote Barak Obama, it is the "Audacity of Hope," that gets you through. Another great US President, Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." This is pretty much what I am trying to say here. Hope is like the human breath. It never really deserts you.

That is why people will never really give up hope even in their darkest hour. For in their heart of hearts they know that as surely as the sun rises every day their bad days will give place to good even excellent ones.

Hope makes a human being noble, as it inspires them to strive for better and better. Hope is ingrained into man's DNA. We always hope that tomorrow will be better than today. New cures for old diseases will be found, our longevity will grow further and our quality of life will get better and better. Like somebody wisely remarked, "You are what you think," and mankind has a track record of achieving whatever it hoped would become possible one day.

With this kind of genetic coding primed to making our tomorrow so much better than today, do we really have to spend a moment that is not hopeful? People who are hopeful attract similar people around them and together they create a much better world for themselves and those around them. Talk to any successful corporate or political leader and the first thing that they will ever tell you is that they like to keep positive and hopeful people around them and not negative ones who say no to everything that one proposes.

Don't they always say, "Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and cry alone." In Shakespeare's immortal play Julius Caesar, Caesar has this to say about Cassius, a man who would later conspire to have him assassinated-

Let me have men about me that are fat,
Sleek-headed men and such as sleep a-nights.
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look.
He thinks too much. Such men are dangerous.

Hope is the fuel that propels human growth and evolution. It is in everyone's interest to be well stocked on this fuel, so as to have a long and fruitful journey ahead. The best part about hope is that anyone can have hope in whatever situation they might be. Hope is that lifeline which tells you that you can do better than what you are currently doing. If you hang on to the hope it will make your life better and better one step a time.

Is there any earthly reason for anyone to not be hopeful?

(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.)

Development to 'continue'



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with National Unity Assembly members at Al Safriya Palace

DT News Network Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday expressed Bahrain's resolve to continue the march of development and modernisation and further strengthen principles of citizenship based on justice, equality and equal opportunities.

HM the King said this while receiving Supreme Committee's President of the National Unity

Assembly (NUA), Dr. Shaikh Abdullatif Mahmoud Al Mahmoud, and his accompanying delegation at Al Safriya Palace.

King Hamad lauded NUA's role in bolstering principles of the national action and praised its efforts in holding the Gulf Union Conference in Bahrain.

NUA Supreme Committee President Dr. Al Mahmoud extended to HM the King greetings from the participants of the two-day

conference. He also hailed the Royal initiative to achieve full-fledged Gulf Union - a call which was backed by HM the King in his keynote address marking the National Day on December 16, 2013.

Dr. Al Mahmoud paid tribute to Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa on the occasion.



Nass Group and Nass Corporation Chairman Sameer Nass congratulated the employees who were awarded by the Labour and Social Development Ministry during the 2016 Excellence Award Ceremony. Nass Group Chairman Sameer Nass received the award from the Labour and Social Development Ministry for excellent effort in supporting the national economy. Nass employees who won the awards are: Abdalnabi Ali Isa Marhoon (HSE Manager, Nass Contracting), Fuad Khalil Abdulla (Operations Manager, Gulf City Cleaning Company), Hasan Isa Ali Al Derazi (Salesman, Nass Commercial), Falah Hasan Abdulla (Administrator, Abdulla Ahmed Nass & Sons), Majeed Ahmed Salim (Assistant Manager, Gulf City Cleaning Company), (Sayed Abbas Ali Hashim (Carpenter, Artland Interior). Above, Nass Group and Nass Corporation Chairman Sameer Nass with the award winners

Drive against parking space reservation evokes good response



Santhosh Rajendran/DTNN
Santhosh@dt.bh

Manama

Muharraq Governorate's drive against illegal reservation of parking space has received good response from the public.

According to the municipality, vehicle owners have been blocking public roads using chains, iron rods and cement blocks to reserve spaces for vehicle parking, causing much inconvenience to the public.

Obstructions were removed at Shaikh Hamad Avenue near Muharraq old market, Abdulrahman Al Fadel Road, Shaikh Isa and Shaikh Abdulla Avenues during the drive against illegal reservation.

Shop owners were warned that they would be held legally accountable if obstacles were not removed within a stipulated time. Inspired by Muharraq Governorate's action, representatives of other municipalities have too sought action against road obstruction and unauthorized reservation of public spaces by vehicle owners. "This is the right move against illegal parking reservation. We are



Mohammed Al Khaza'ee in the process of proposing a similar action soon. The road in front of a shop is not a commercial property. It's for public use," said Mohammed Al Khaza'ee, Chairman, Manama General Secretariat.

"Many shops reserve these spaces for their customers. They use cans, buckets and other blockades to reserve spaces. We will



Ahmed Al Ansari take action against these kinds of illegal acts by removing them permanently. Imposing fine on the sponsor will be an effective method," he added.

According to residents, illegal reservation of traffic space is mainly done by food outlets. The streets are often choked by illegally parked cars. Reserving parking space for potential customers creates havoc.

Food outlets, which serve grilled items, are always busy during nights. "Chaos created by these shops are terrible,"

said Valerie Saturnina, who lives in Gudaibiya. "They sometimes use sandwich boards to block the space. If they find a parked car, which is not their customer's, they ask us to remove it. I do not think they are supposed to do that," she said.

"Illegal parking reservation is a problem in Bahrain, especially in places like Manama, Muharraq, and Riffa. The number of cars per

family is higher in Bahrain which is a major reason for traffic chaos," said Ahmed Al Ansari, Southern Area Municipal Council Chairman.

"Many prefer to park their cars in front of their shops. So, the shop owners install iron rods and lock them with chains, which is illegal. We are seriously looking at how to resolve this. May be we can convert some of our un-used land into car parks," he said.

Blocking roads using chains, iron rods and cement blocks to reserve spaces for parking is causing much inconvenience to the public




Iron rods and bricks blocking the road



Illegal reservation of space by a vehicle owner

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US open to joint ops with Russia

Trump torpedoed Pacific trade pact

Washington

US President Donald Trump is open to conducting joint operations with Russia to combat the Islamic State group in Syria, his spokesman said yesterday.

"If there's a way we can combat ISIS with any country, whether it's Russia or anyone else, and we have a shared national interest in that, sure, we'll take it," press

secretary Sean Spicer told reporters when asked about the prospect of joint military action in Syria.

Change in trade moves

President Donald Trump yanked the United States out of a major Pacific trade deal Monday, making good on an election campaign promise and delivering a hammer blow to Asian allies.

Trump said he had

"terminated" the Trans-Pacific Partnership -- a trade deal binding the United States, Australia, Canada, Japan, Vietnam and seven other allies against growing Chinese economic clout.

Together, TPP members represent 40 percent of the world economy.

After signing an executive order, Trump said he would be "going back to those countries one-on-one" to find

terms more favorable to the United States.

"We are going to have trade but we are going to have one-on-one," he said.

"And if somebody misbehaves, we are going to send a letter of termination -- 30 days and they'll either straighten it out or we are gone."

Egypt military assistance

US President Donald Trump

is committed to providing military assistance to Egypt, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Monday, after the new Republican leader spoke with counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Trump "underscored the United States remains committed to the bilateral relationship, which helped both countries overcome challenges in the region for decades," Spicer said.

Washington's annual \$1.3 billion in military aid was briefly suspended under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama in 2013, following the ouster of then president Mohamed Morsi, but was fully reinstated in 2015.

Ties have nonetheless been fraught amid disagreements over a rights crackdown and Egypt's support for renegade Libyan general Khalifa Haftar. (AFP)

Chief opposition negotiator Mohammad Alloush (Center)



Rocky start to talks

Astana

Pace talks with Syrian rebels and the war-torn country's government got off to a rocky start yesterday.

The Syrian rebels' representatives vowed to keep fighting if peace negotiations with the government of President Bashar al-Assad fail, as the first day of talks in the Kazakh capital Astana ended with no apparent breakthrough.

Monday's meetings,

organised by key players Russia, Turkey and Iran, could have marked the first time armed rebel groups negotiated directly with the Assad regime since the conflict erupted in 2011.

But the rebels backed out of direct talks because of the regime's continued bombardment and attacks on a flashpoint area near Damascus.

However, they took part in indirect talks with the

government and held a three-way meeting with Russia, Turkey and the United Nations, an encounter rebel spokesman Yehya al-Aridi described as "long and productive".

"If the negotiations succeed, then we are with the negotiations," another rebel spokesman Osama Abu Zeid told on Monday.

"If they don't succeed, unfortunately we'll have no choice but to continue fighting."

France FM in Saudi to reaffirm 'partnership'

Riyadh

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday to reaffirm the allies' "strategic partnership", as European concerns mount over US President Donald Trump's foreign policies.

Ayrault, on his first ministerial visit to the kingdom, "will discuss the main regional issues, particularly the situations in Yemen, Iraq, Libya and Syria",

the French foreign ministry said in a statement.

The minister is to meet his Saudi counterpart Adel al-Jubeir as well as King Salman. France's ties with Saudi Arabia have grown under President Francois Hollande.

At the same time, Riyadh has been building alliances beyond with the US, to counter Iran, after concerns that former president Barack Obama had eased US policy towards Riyadh's regional rival.



Jean-Marc Ayrault

Indonesia holds IS-linked group deported from Turkey

Jakarta

Indonesian police have detained 17 people with suspected links to the Islamic State (IS) group after Turkey deported them due to concerns they wanted to enter Syria, an official said yesterday.

Hundreds of people from Indonesia, which has the world's biggest Muslim population, have flocked to join IS in the Middle East in recent years, stoking fears that radicals could launch attacks on home soil on their return.

The group, which included several children, was arrested at the international airport serving Jakarta on Saturday after arriving on a flight from Istanbul, said national police spokesman Rikwanto. Turkish authorities became suspicious the group was planning to enter Syria, where IS controls territory, and decided to send them back to Indonesia.

Gang rape in Sweden streamed live on Facebook

Stockholm

Three young men suspected of gang raping a woman in Sweden and livestreaming the attack on Facebook have been detained, police said, urging social media users on Monday to turn over the footage.

The suspects, aged 18, 20 and 24, were arrested early Sunday in an apartment in Uppsala, 70

kilometres (45 miles) north of Stockholm, in the presence of their 30-year-old victim after members of a Facebook group saw the attack streamed live and alerted police.

The closed Facebook group has 60,000 members.

Josefine Lundgren, 21, was one of the first to call authorities.

She told *daily Expressen* that the 24-year-old suspect, a repeat offender considered by police to be the main attacker, "tore the clothes off" his victim before raping her.

The attacker also "had apparently filmed everything and took pictures that he put on (messaging site) Snapchat," she said.

At a press conference on Monday, investigators appealed to social media users who had images of the attack to turn them over to police.

"We have some picture and video material. But we don't have any images showing the attack itself," Uppsala deputy chief prosecutor Magnus Berggren said.



Manama
Well-known Bahrain-based businessman, Dr. Varghese Kurian, the Chairman of VKL holdings and Al Namal Group of companies recently held a celebration for his employees.

The event, a lavish annual New Year meal, was participated by more than 3500 employees. On this occasion, Dr. Kurian thanked the employees for their contributions. Dr. Kurian's versatile business spreads

Touching hearts

across many different sectors, including real estate property development, constructions, health and hospitality divisions. In pictures, highlights of the event.



Trafco announces promotions

DT News Network
Manama

Trafco Group has announced promotions for their senior executive management members, effective January 2017.

General Manager Sridhar has been promoted as Group Chief Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager Sameer Abdulla Alkhan as Assistant Group Chief Executive Officer.

Sridhar, a Chartered Accountant by profession, had held the positions of Group CFO and General Manager prior to this promotion during his 22 years of association with Trafco. Sameer with his additional role as Board and Corporate Governance Secretary and Compliance



Sameer Alkhan Sridhar
Officer has been with the group for over 18 years.

Trafco Group, listed in Bahrain Bourse, is a major food importer, a manufacturer of dairy products & mineral water as well as retailer and logistic service provider. This year the group enters into its 40th year of operations.

Delicious French week ends with Opera Dinner



French Week at City Centre

- 1300 Dinars raised for local charities
- Over 50 sponsors involved with French Week

Manama

French Week 2017 ended on a high note with an Opera Dinner at the Sofitel Hotel. The event was attended by the patron Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Khalifa and over 300 guests, who were entertained by opera singers from France.

Speaking at the closing Opera Dinner, Bernard Regnaud-Fabre, stated: "The 4th edition of French Week had over 25 events take place, all of which embraced the imprint of French innovation, culture and lifestyle in the many parts of everyday life here in Bahrain.

The weeklong celebration saw a packed schedule, including two art exhibitions that showcased the paintings of Aime Venel and photography of Maia Flore.

Over 500 music fans attended the concerts of Yasmine Hamdan and Gypsy Jazz; while a world premiere of the film, Dalida was also shown during the Week. The beautiful Orchestre de Chambre de Versailles, conducted by Anne-Claude Villard, performed at the Louboutin Gala dinner as well as for two consecutive days at Bahrain City Centre.

French food was also highlighted with over 10

gastronomy events taking place at venues around Bahrain, and promotions of French products at Lulu, Carrefour, Jawad, Géant and Al Jazira have also taken place.

An anchor event during French Week included the visit of iconic French fashion designer, Christian Louboutin. A Gala Dinner, with over 350 guests, was held in his honour at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. During the evening a charity raffle also took place, raising over 1,300 Dinars for two local charities; the RIA Institute and the Down's Syndrome Society.

The visit of a high-level delegation from Alsace in France, headed by André Reïchardt, Senator of the Bas-Rhin and President of Access Alsace was also part of the event.

Over the weekend, shoppers were welcomed to the So French stand at Bahrain City Centre, which had a range of events, shows and more taking place, including three street artists specially flown from France, who enchanted the public with their juggling and acrobatic skills. A lucky winner from the mall also took home a Renault car, with the keys being handed over at last night's Opera Dinner.

Alba scoops top Awards



Alba CEO Tim Murray

Manama
Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) has won the 2017 Occupational Excellence Achievement Award and the 2017 Significant Improvement Award by the National Safety Council (NSC) -

USA, the company said in a statement. The NSC Occupational Excellence Achievement Award is granted to organisations that meet strict criterions based on the results in their safety performance in accordance

with the OSHA requirements in the USA. Commenting on the award, Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray, said: "Winning the 2017 Occupational Excellence Achievement Award and the 2017 Significant

Improvement Award by NSC is rewarding as it recognizes our efforts in our journey towards Safety Excellence, which in turn will boost employee productivity as well as the Company's performance."

Al Salam Bank to serve special needs customers



Anwar Murad - Deputy Group CEO of Banking

Manama

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain yesterday announced the launch of its banking services and facilities in its branch located in the Seef District that will serve customers with special needs.

New services include a dedicated car parking access, customer service counter, well-equipped ATM services for customers with special needs.

Anwar Murad, Deputy Group CEO of Banking at Al Salam Bank-Bahrain said: We invite our customers with special needs to visit our Seef District branch that features

latest core banking technology enabled for visual and auditory banking means to serve the special needs customers.

He further added that the branch is equipped with an ATM for visually impaired, a dedicated customer service counter to open new account or enquire on banking services and transactions, in addition, the Bank also allocated car parking access with entrance area adapted for customers with special needs.

Besides, the staffs are trained to communicate in sign language with customers of hearing disabilities.

Iraq builds new airport in Karbala

Karbala
Iraqi officials laid the cornerstone of a new airport near Karbala Monday, mostly to handle the millions of pilgrims who flock to the holy Shiite city each year.

BCCI to hold a forum tomorrow

Manama
The industrial sector committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) headed by the second vice-chairman Abdulhameed Al Kooheji is holding a forum tomorrow at 11 am in Al Majlis Hall on

the ground floor of Bait Al Tijjar. The move follows the committee's successful participation in Canton



Al Kooheji

Fair held in China last October. The forum will exhibit the outcomes of the committee's participation in Canton Fair, and share investment opportunities suitable for the Bahraini market and industrialists from various options.

Samsung blames Galaxy Note 7 fires on faulty batteries

The world's biggest smartphone maker Samsung blamed faulty batteries yesterday for the fires that hit its flagship Galaxy Note 7 device last year, as it sought to draw a line under the humiliating recall. In total 3.1 million devices were recalled as authorities in the US and elsewhere banned the device from use on planes and even from being placed in checked luggage.

Cool Trends



S8 in line

The firm's next model, the Galaxy S8, had been expected to be unveiled at next month's Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. But Samsung's Koh said it would be delayed to ensure it had no safety problems.

700 researchers

Samsung said it deployed around 700 researchers and engineers on its investigation, testing more than 200,000 fully-assembled devices and more than 30,000 batteries. It did not identify the battery makers, but independent investigators UL and Exponent agreed with the findings.

Design flaws

One of the defective batteries had a design flaw that pushed down its right corner, while the other had faulty internal welds, said Kevin White, principal scientist at Exponent. Around 1,000 different parts from some 450 suppliers were needed for each Galaxy Note 7.

Corrective actions

Samsung acknowledged that it provided the battery specifications, adding in its statement: "We have taken several corrective actions to ensure this never happens again. The lessons of the past several months are now deeply reflected in our processes and in our culture."

Sister company Samsung SDI confirmed it was one of the battery makers, saying in a statement it had mounted its own investigation into the units and now had "a more thorough verification process".



Koh Dong-Jin

Full year results

Samsung Electronics is set to announce fourth-quarter and full-year results on Tuesday and has estimated the cost of the recall at \$5.3 billion.



McDonald's earnings edge down

McDonald's reported slightly lower fourth-quarter earnings Monday as strong sales in Britain, Japan, China offset a drop in the United States. Comparable sales fell 1.3 per cent in the latest quarter. Net income for the fourth quarter was \$1.2 billion, down a hair from the year-ago period, while revenues were \$6.0bn, down 5pc. High-growth comparable sales rose 4.7pc from the year-ago period, thanks to China.



CBB Treasury Bills Subscribed

The BD70 million issue of Treasury Bills made this week has been subscribed by 100 per cent. The bills, carrying a maturity of 91 days, have an issue date of 25th January 2017 and maturity date of 26th April 2017. The weighted average rate of interest is 2.18%, compared to 2.16% for the previous issue. The approximate average price for the issue was 99.452% with the lowest accepted price being 99.444%. The total outstanding value of Government Treasury Bills is BD1.785 billion.



“It's not about how to get started; it's about how to get noticed”

Steve Case

Former CEO and chairman of America Online (AOL)



NBB branch geared for special need customers

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) branch located at Al Istiqlal Highway in Sanad is now ready to cater to the bank's specially challenged customers.

Special ATM

In the Al Istiqlal branch, NBB has installed a specially designed ATM to cater to the visually impaired. The ATM has been placed lower to ensure the ease of use and to enhance accessibility.

Special priority

The branch offers priority to specially challenged customers and ensures that all relevant banking services have been tailor-made to suit their needs ensuring an elevated branch experience.

Timings

The Istiqlal branch is open from Sunday to Thursday. On Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, timings are from 7.30am to 1.00pm and from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. On Mondays and Wednesdays, the branch is open from 7.30am to 1.00pm.



"We have strived to provide an environment which addresses specific concerns of the physically challenged or the visually impaired and make certain that they can now enjoy a banking experience along with other customers of NBB. We will continue our efforts to improve such services in the near future."

Jean-Christophe Durand
CEO of NBB



Kareema wins luxury villa, Ali gets BD500 salary through KFH 'Libshara'



Khalid Rafea, Executive Manager and Head of the Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, hand over the prizes to Kareema and Ali

Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) yesterday announced Kareema Sayed Mahdi Ahmed and Ali Mohammed Ahmed as the December 2016 Grand Winners of the "Libshara" Investment Saving Account.

Kareema won a luxury villa at Ishbiliya Village, while Ali Mohammed will receive a monthly salary of BD500 for one year.

Surprised by the news, an elated Mrs. Kareema said, "The news was a surprise to me. I was speechless when I received the news and I thanked Allah for this wonderful surprise."

Ali said: "I am glad about this prize, which I thank Allah

first of all on winning it. I would also like to thank Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain on providing such prizes for the savers and granting opportunities for everyone to win."

Commenting, Khalid Rafea, Executive Manager and Head of the Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, stated: "This villa is one of three luxury villas at Ishbiliya Village offered by the Bank for savers with "Libshara", there is still an additional remaining villa as well as luxury cars, monthly salary prizes as well as monthly cash prizes".

The draw for the "Libshara" Savings Account was held recently at the bank's main branch in the Bahrain World Trade Centre.

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain's "Libshara" Savings Investment Account is a Sharia compliant savings account that presents valuable prizes.

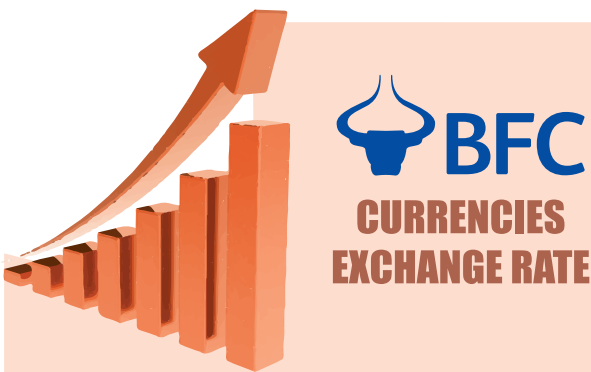
For every BD50 saved with KFH-Bahrain's "Libshara" Savings Account clients are entitled to a raffle entry; so the more and the longer you save the more chances you have of winning.

78 lucky winners will win instant cash prizes every month, totalling above \$77,000 the grand draws on special occasions and events. Eligible clients for entry into the Grand Prize Draws will get the opportunity to win one of 3 luxurious villas at Ishbiliya Village, 3 luxury cars and 6 monthly salaries for a one year period.



Did You Know?

The size of the windows on a 787 Dreamliner are the largest of any airplane to date, measuring at 47 by 28 centimeters (or 19 inches high). According to Boeing, this makes the 787's windows 65% larger than any other aircraft window.



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2920	0.2895
BANGLADESH	0.00523	0.00478
CANADA	0.2897	0.2865
DENMARK	0.0575	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0219
EURO	0.4111	0.4089
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00615	0.00565
INDONESIA	0.00002997	0.00028890
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003480	0.003410
JORDAN	0.5365	0.5351
KOREA	0.00037314	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.087700	0.0873
NEW ZEALAND	0.2751	0.2738
NORWAY	0.0471	
NEPAL	0.00406	0.00347
OMAN	0.97962	0.97962
PAKISTAN	0.00373	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00784	0.00758
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2701	0.2681
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02930	0.02920
SRI LANKA	0.00279	0.00252
SWEDISH	0.0457	
SWITZERLAND	0.3849	0.3824
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012600	
THAILAND	0.010900	0.010880
TURKEY	0.1076	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4772	0.4743
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.4677	0.3774	0.3302
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.6012	0.2858	0.2500
OMAN	0.3849	0.3845	0.3853	0.3371
QATAR	3.6420	3.6384	3.6456	3.1894
UAE	3.6730	3.6693	3.6767	3.2166
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7463	3.7538	3.2840

Saudi shines, Kuwait bull run slows

Dubai

Saudi Arabia outperformed other Gulf stock markets yesterday as several major stocks bounced after poor earnings earlier this week, while a bull run in Kuwait slowed and Egypt rebounded sharply from a slide triggered by tax fears.

The Saudi index rose 1.7pc in the highest trading volume since Jan. 2. Food maker Savola, which had dropped 2.0pc on Sunday after reporting a shock fourth-quarter loss, jumped 5.4pc.

The company's earnings were squeezed in part by tough price competition in a slowing Saudi economy, but the stock's rebound suggested many investors were looking forward to a stronger non-oil economy this year as Riyadh delays new austerity steps.

The Kuwaiti index, which rose 15.6pc between the end

of last year and Sunday, added a further 0.6pc on Monday in the highest trading volume since mid-2013.

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the biggest bank, climbed 2.9pc; it extended its gains in the final minutes of trade after posting a 40pc rise in fourth-quarter net profit to 75.9 million dinars (\$248.9m). EFG Hermes had forecast a profit of 69.2 million dinars.

Eight of the 10 most heavily traded Kuwaiti stocks fell and none rose, however, a sign of increasing profit-taking pressure that could conceivably bring the bull run to an end.

In Dubai, the index fell 0.3pc as Shuaa Capital pulled back 9.8pc after a two-week rally. Trading volume in the stock was the highest since last September.

Abu Dhabi dropped 0.9pc as banks slipped. Qatar edged

Closing Bell

SAUDI rose 1.7pc to 7,103 points

DUBAI fell 0.3pc to 3,707 points

ABU DHABI dropped 0.9pc to 4,658 points

QATAR edged down 0.1pc to 10,950 points

EGYPT jumped 2.2pc to 13,003 points

KUWAIT climbed 0.6pc to 6,680 points

OMAN rose 0.3pc to 5,770 points

BAHRAIN gained 1.2pc to 1,274 points

down 0.1pc but Doha Bank rose 2.5pc.

The bank reported an 84.8pc decline in fourth-quarter net profit to 35m riyals (\$9.6m).

Egypt's share market index rebounded 2.2pc after dropping 4.6pc in the two

previous days, after Reuters reported authorities were considering reintroducing a stamp duty charge on stock market transactions.

Commercial International Bank, the largest bank, climbed 3.5pc. (Reuters)

Gulf Air revamps corporate offering

Manama

Gulf Air has rolled out the airline's revamped Falcon Corporate Programmes: Falcon Corporate Plus and Falcon Corporate Loyalty – tailored offerings that will benefit both employers and employees in companies.

Designed exclusively for the corporate traveler, Falcon Corporate Plus offers competitive flight fares, discounted rates and exclusive benefits for corporates – giving them a dedicated account manager and support team alongside customizable privileges and employee incentives. Falcon Corporate Loyalty is a frequent flyer



GF Aircraft

programme created to reward both companies and employees every time they travel with Gulf Air, giving

members enhanced savings and rewards.

Gulf Air Chief Commercial Officer, Ahmed Janahi

commented: "It's never been easier to plan business or holiday travel with Gulf Air and, as we continue to enhance our products and services, it is equally important to reward our loyal customers with a tailored corporate incentive program that appeals to corporates and small and medium enterprises (SMEs)."

Companies wishing to enroll in Falcon Corporate Plus or Falcon Corporate Loyalty and/or receive more information can visit corporate.gulfair.com, email b2b.support@gulfair.com or corporate.loyalty@gulfair.com, or contact any Gulf Air sales offices.

Fresh Look



Aston Martin's new logo

Aston will soon begin using engines and electronics developed exclusively by AMG and potentially, could start using a new logo as well. Auto Guide recently uncovered a trademark for use with various Aston Martin merchandise, including furniture and advertising. Interestingly however, a second filing for the same logo was made last week and it stipulates the logo may be used for leather, clothing, mobile phones and automobile chassis' - as well as for the 'design of land vehicles', i.e. cars.



Koenigsegg Regera in Bordeaux

To date we've only seen the Koenigsegg Regera in two colours: the concept in light blue, and the production model in red.

It may take a while until we see more of them trickling out of the factory in Ängelholm and out onto the open road, in whatever colours their fortunate customers order them in.

But in the meantime the Swedish automaker's own employees have been enticing us with their own (theoretical) builds. It's done up in a deep shade of Bordeaux-tinted carbon-fibre with black and gold accents, and an interior done up in coffee shades of brown and beige.



NISSAN

Exterior

The new GT-R's exterior gets a complete makeover across the front end. The new chrome matte finish "V-motion" grille represents one of Nissan's latest design signatures. It has been enlarged to provide better engine cooling and features an updated mesh pattern. A new hood, which flows flawlessly from the grille, has been significantly reinforced, contributing to stability during high-speed driving. The rear of the car also received a thorough makeover. These changes don't result just in a sportier-looking car, they create an aerodynamically efficient vehicle, with less drag but retaining the same amount of downforce as the current GT-R to keep it stable at high speeds.



The Nissan GT-R is one of the world's most iconic supercars, and the Middle East is a key market for it.

Its multi-performance character allows the driver to be completely immersed in the GT-R's capabilities, whether navigating corners on a twisting mountain road or simply running weekend errands in the neighbourhood. We are very excited to be introducing the new 2017 model to its fans and customers in the region"

Samir Cherfan
Managing Director of
Nissan Middle East

More Power

Manama

Nissan yesterday launched the new 2017 GT-R across the Middle East, the latest iteration of Nissan's flagship performance vehicle, boasting a revised look both inside and out as well as major driving performance enhancements and more power. The 2017 models represent the most significant changes made to the GT-R since it was introduced in 2007, with Nissan also announcing the immediate availability of its GT-R NISMO in the region.

Interior

The entire dashboard and instrument panel are new and covered with high-quality leather artfully stitched together with TAKUMI precision. The shape of the dashboard adopts a "horizontal flow" that delivers a sense of increased stability. Integrated navigation and audio controls reduce the number of switches from 27 in the previous model to only 11 in the 2017 model. An enlarged 8-inch touch-panel monitor features large icons on the display screen to make it easy to operate. The shift paddles are now mounted to the new steering wheel, allowing drivers to change gears in mid-turn without having to take their hands off the wheel.

V6

The GT-R's award-winning 3.8-liter V6 24-valve twin-turbocharged engine—each unit handcrafted by its own TAKUMI technician—now delivers 565 HP (EUR 570 PS) at 6800 rpm and 467 lb-ft of torque. It comes mated to a 6-speed dual-clutch transmission. That familiar GT-R tone also has been upgraded. The resonance of the new titanium mufflers and Active Sound Enhancement (ASE) enhance the driving experience. A more rigid body structure and new suspension result in better stability through quick lateral transitions and higher overall cornering speed. Providing the grip are sticky 20 inch tires, wrapped around new "Y-spoke" machine-finished forged aluminum wheels.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Tunisian Interior Minister Hédi Majdoub at Al Safriya Palace and hailed deep-rooted historic relations binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and Tunisia. The minister conveyed to HM the King greetings and appreciation from Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi. Separately, King Hamad received Supreme Committee's President of the National Unity Assembly (NUA), Dr. Shaikh Abdullatif Mahmoud Al-Mahmoud, and accompanying delegation

Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received a delegation led by Council Chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh, and the National Unity Assembly (NUA) Committee at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday to discuss rationalizing public money expenditure



Supreme Council for Youth and Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President and Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Rear Admiral Didier Piaton Commander of the French Forces in the United Arab Emirates, in the presence of Supreme Council for Youth and Sport First Vice Chairman and Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation President HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa



Minister of Interior Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa held a session with Tunisian Interior Minister Hédi Majdoub and agreed to form a joint committee to activate security cooperation between the two countries



Oil Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Korean Ambassador Park Ho. The meeting reviewed relations between the two countries and ways to consolidate cooperation in all areas, with a focus on oil and gas



Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik hosted a Special Dinner at his residence. Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Muhammad Zakauallah, Javed Malik, Commander Navcent Vice Adm. Kevin Donegan, Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Tunisian Ambassador Muhammad bin Yousaf, Omani Ambassador Abdullah bin Rashid Ali Al-Medlwi were present



Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) yesterday received a delegation from Viva Bahrain led by Chief Government Affairs Officer, Zeyad bin Faisal Al Khalifa, and discussed cooperation to enhance the cultural scene. The meeting was part of the BACA's cooperation strategy with government and private institutions to promote the national cultural movement



The Trade and Industry (BICA) yesterday received a delegation from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to discuss the committee's experience in rationalizing the



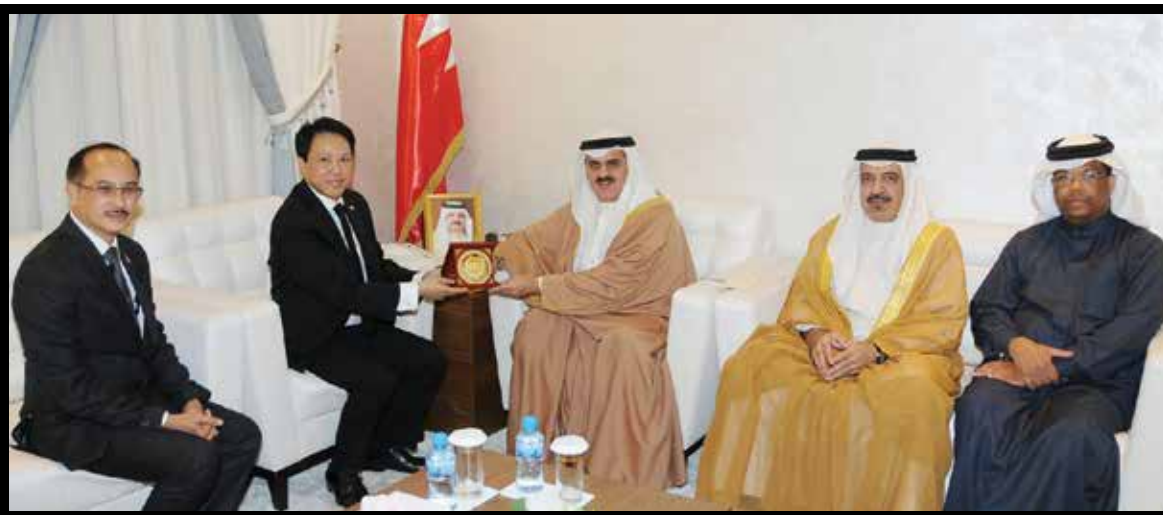
Salman Al Khalifa received Parliament Chairman Ahmed Al Mulla, Shura their Deputies and Head of the Council's Financial and Economic Affairs yesterday. The Premier lauded the Royal directives to ensure regulations of laws based on consensus between the executive and legislative branches



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa yesterday patronised a book launch titled (Researches and studies of Dr. Jalil Ibrahim Al-arrayed in University Education and Science Teaching). The ceremony was held at Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa Lecture Hall at Beit Al-Quran in the presence of Shura Council Chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh, Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Salem Al Arrayed and a number of diplomats



BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Commander of the National Guard Lieutenant-General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa. They reviewed cooperation between the BDF and the National Guard and issues of shared interest. Separately, BDF Chief received Rear Admiral Didier Piaton Commander of the French Forces in the United Arab Emirates. The meeting reviewed cooperation and ties of steady friendship between Bahrain and France (first from left)



Parliament Chairman Ahmed Al Mulla yesterday received Thailand Ambassador Chayapan Bamrunghong and discussed boosting parliamentary cooperation. The Speaker praised the solid bilateral relations, and highlighted the significance of strengthening joint action and unifying visions in the interest of the national interests



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister, Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received a high-level delegation of Chinese companies looking at investments in the electricity and water sectors. China Engines and Engineering assistant general manager Ge Jian and Chinese high voltage cables company official Mr. Huang Jianping, along with Chinese Embassy officials, were part of the delegation



Minister of Follow-up Affairs Mohammed Al Mutawa yesterday received Philippine President's Envoy to the GCC countries Dr. Amable Aguiluz on his arrival at Bahrain International Airport. Philippine Ambassador Sahid Glang, Education Ministry Undersecretary for Resources and Services Dr. Mohammed Mubarak Juma'a, HRH Premier's Court Assistant Undersecretary for Information and Follow-up Dr. Ibrahim Al-Dosary and other Education Ministry officials were also present



and Retail sector committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) has held a meeting in Bait Al Tijjar chaired by Board Member and Chairman Jawad Al Hawaj. Despite persisting economic challenges, the committee expressed its confidence in the sector to create jobs and contribute to invigorating the national economy



In collaboration with the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO), the U.S. Embassy Marines handed out gifts collected from the 2016 Toys for Tots campaign to children at an event hosted by the RCO. The head of the Programmes and Activities Section at RCO, Alaa Yousif Budalama, attended the event. The mission of the Toys for Tots Programme is to collect new, unwrapped toys each year and distribute those toys to less fortunate children in the local community

CELEBS

P!nk @Pink
 Dissent is the cornerstone of democracy. you've missed the entire point of having rights- or more accurately- you've probable never had to..



Actress, producer and director Natalie Portman in at Golden Globe Awards 2017

'War movies aren't usually my thing'



Actress **Jennifer Aniston**, who will soon be seen in Alexandre Moors' Iraq war drama 'The Yellow Birds', said that she finds such kind of movies 'very hard to watch'.
 The 47-year-old star revealed that the war drama is not something she enjoys doing that much. "War movies aren't usually my thing. I find them very hard to watch," Aniston said before adding, "(but) the way this script read, and the vision that Alex had it was really connecting into the humanity of the soldiers," she said. (TOI)



Madonna explains her speech at Women's march

Washington
Pop diva Madonna has defended her fiery, expletive-laden speech at the anti-Trump Womens March in Washington, D.C., saying her words were "taken wildly out of context", a media report said yesterday.
 At the protest march on Saturday the singer said that at times she has been angry after the election and thought "an awful lot about blowing up the White House", CBS news reported.
 Later in a statement on Instagram, Madonna said she was trying to express there are two ways to respond to US President Donald Trump's election: with hope or with outrage.
 She said she hoped to effect change "with love".
 Madonna wrote that she did not promote violence and people should listen to her speech "in its entirety rather than one phrase taken wildly out of context".
 Cable news networks broadcasting her speech cut away after Madonna used several expletives. MSNBC later apologised.
 Madonna's performance at the Women's March may have caught the attention of the new Trump administration. (IANS)



STARRY
Birthday
Ed Helms

January 24, 1974

Comedic actor who first gained recognition on *The Daily Show*, then went on to play the character Andy Bernard on the NBC series *The Office*.

Rowling shuts down 'The Cursed Child' movie trilogy rumours

Author J K Rowling has put full stop to rumors that a 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' movie trilogy was in the works, saying it is not true.



It has been only two months since the spin-off 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' was released, and rumour about 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' movie trilogy has spread widely. Taking to *Twitter*, Rowling was quick to react to the speculation. "I know a lot of people are looking

for reasons to be cheerful today, but there is NO TRUTH to the rumour about a #CursedChild movie trilogy," she wrote.

Last week, theme park journalist and historian Jim Hill signalled on the Unofficial Universal Orlando Podcast that a 'trilogy of movies that will be based on Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' was in the works. (TOI)

LU HAN'S SO DOWN TO EARTH: MATT DAMON

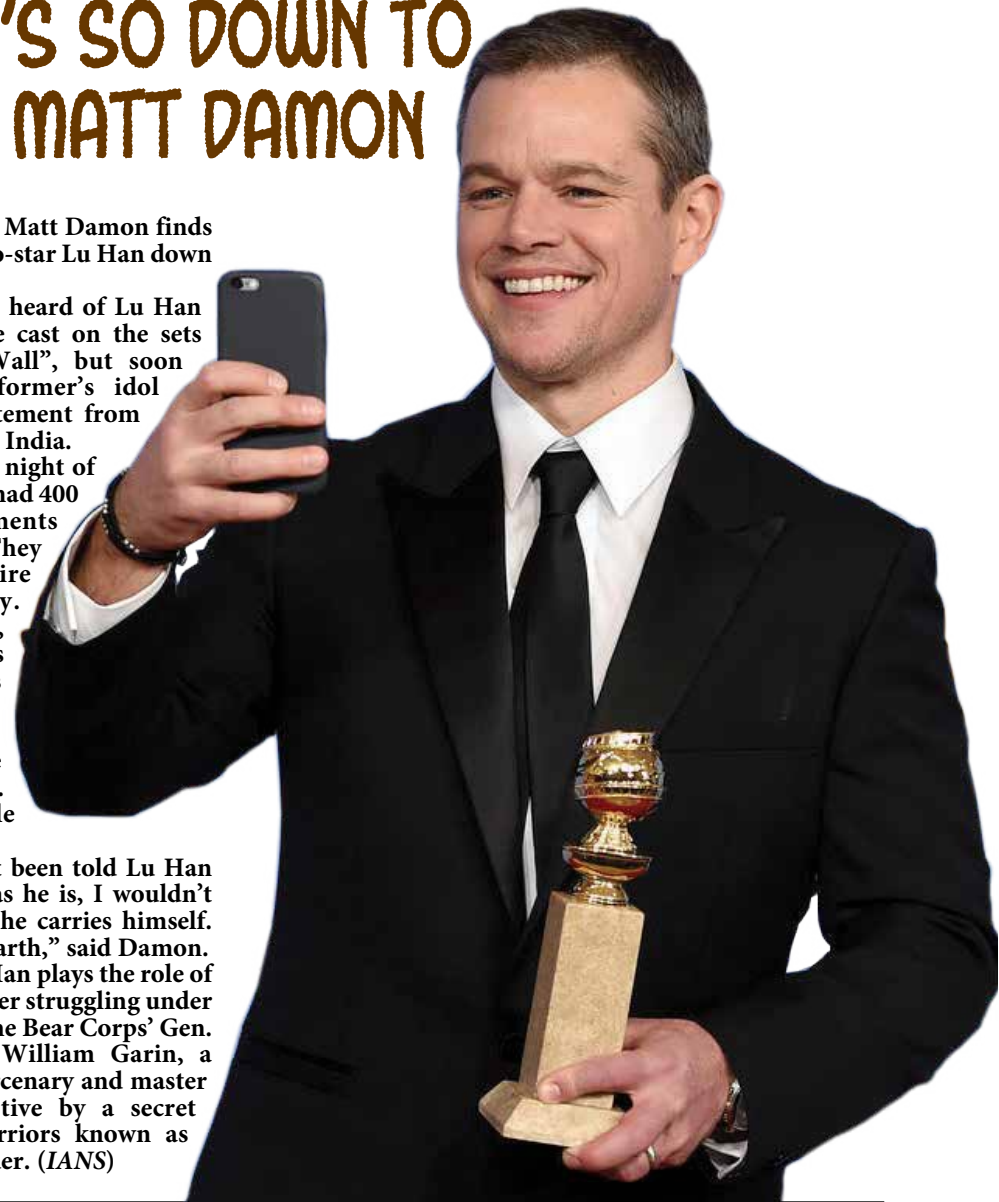
Los Angeles **H**ollywood star Matt Damon finds his Chinese co-star Lu Han down to earth.

Damon had not heard of Lu Han before joining the cast on the sets of "The Great Wall", but soon realised the performer's idol status, read a statement from Universal Pictures India.

"Before his first night of shooting, Lu Han had 400 flower arrangements sent by fans. They filled the entire hotel hallway. Apparently, when he travels to location, fans will buy up all of the tickets on the plane or the train he's riding. It was a little overwhelming.

"But, if I hadn't been told Lu Han is as huge a star as he is, I wouldn't know by the way he carries himself. He's so down-to-earth," said Damon.

In the film, Lu Han plays the role of Peng Yong, a soldier struggling under the command of the Bear Corps' Gen. Damon stars as William Garin, a battle-scarred mercenary and master archer taken captive by a secret army of elite warriors known as The Nameless Order. (IANS)



MOVIES... COMING SOON... on next week



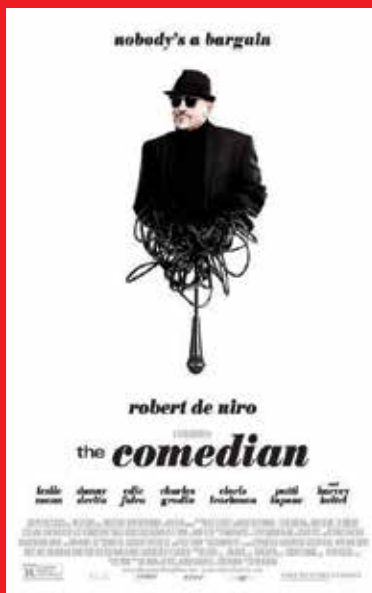
The Space Between Us

Director: Peter Chelsom
Stars: Britt Robertson, Janet Montgomery, Asa Butterfield, Carla Gugino



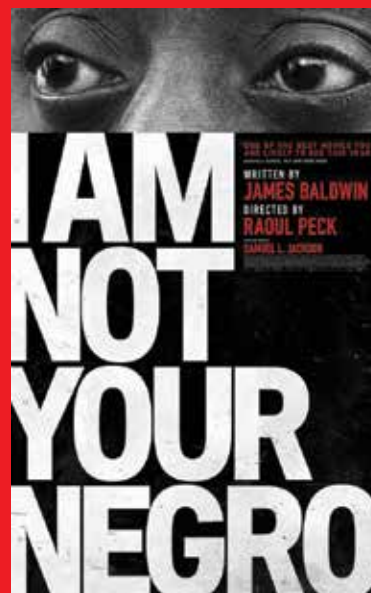
Un Padre No Tan Padre

Director: Raúl Martínez
Stars: Zamia Fandiño, Camila Selser, Jacqueline Bracamontes, Jessica Sula



The Comedian

Director: Taylor Hackford
Stars: Robert De Niro, Leslie Mann, Danny DeVito, Edie Falco



I Am Not Your Negro

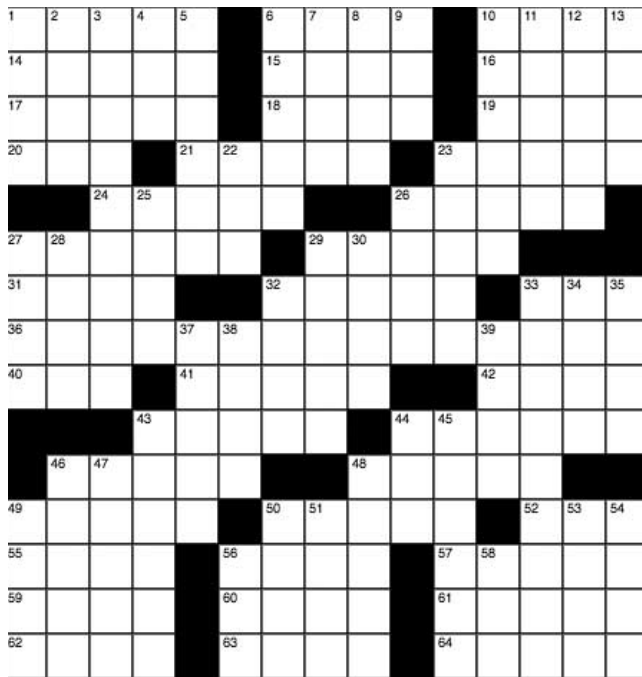
Director: Raoul Peck
Stars: Samuel L. Jackson, James Baldwin, Dick Cavett



Rings

Director: F. Javier Gutiérrez
Stars: Vincent D'Onofrio, Laura Wiggins, Aimee Teegarden, Johnny Galecki

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Belle or Bart;; 6- Gen. Robt. ____; 10- Out of the wind;; 14- Golfer Palmer, to his army;; 15- Cordelia's father;; 16- Male swine;; 17- Radioactive gas;; 18- "Jurassic Park" actress;; 19- Knowledge;; 20- Spring mo.;; 21- Australia's ____ Rock;; 23- Leaves port;; 24- Late bloomer?;; 26- Fills to the gills;; 27- Dated;; 29- Icon;; 31- Mother of Hermes;; 32- Yoga posture;; 33- Sephia maker;; 36- In spite of;; 40- British verb ending;; 41- Article of bedding;; 42- Diamond family name;; 43- Me too;; 44- Crownlike object;; 46- World- weariness;; 48- Tribal symbol;; 49- Sandy bathing beach;; 50- Foremost part;; 52- Guido's high note;; 55- Behind schedule;; 56- Change direction;; 57- Devoured;; 59- List finish;; 60- Shipped off;; 61- Pee Wee of the Dodgers;; 62- Boxer Oscar ____ Hoya;; 63- Keats creations;; 64- Metal fastener;;

Down

1- Franklin D.'s mother;; 2- Mouse catcher;; 3- Calcium-iron garnet;; 4- Carnival site;; 5- Soprano Scotto;; 6- Born before, senior churchman;; 7- Sly look;; 8- "...countrymen, lend me your ____"; 9- Sea eagle;; 10- Remove by melting;; 11- Sarge's superior;; 12- Viscounts' superiors;; 13- "____ Tu" ('70s hit); 22- Are we there ____?; 23- Astronomer Carl;; 25- "Saint Joan" playwright;; 26- Yemen's capital;; 27- Prefix with present;; 28- Asian country;; 29- Japanese immigrant;; 30- Damon of "Good Will Hunting"; 32- Excuse me;; 33- 0.621 miles;; 34- Party to;; 35- Juan's water;; 37- Magazine copy;; 38- Asian cuisine;; 39- Be bold;; 43- Bassett or Lansbury;; 44- Jailbird;; 45- Furry swimmers;; 46- Tickle pink;; 47- Birth-related;; 48- Legal wrongs;; 49- Answered a charge;; 50- Give eats;; 51- Actor Auberjonois;; 53- ____ majesty;; 54- Again;; 56- Brandy letters;; 58- Former nuclear agcy.;;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	A	K	I	T	A	6	D	A	D	S	10	C	O	R	T
14	C	A	N	E	D	15	E	P	I	C	16	A	N	E	W
17	A	L	L	A	H	18	N	E	M	O	19	N	E	N	E
20	D	E	A	R	I	21	D	E	T	O	N	A	T	E	
24	B	R	R	25	S	T	O	O	L	S					
27	P	O	R	C	I	N	E	31	I	N	N				
32	A	B	O	U	T	33	M	E	N	S	A	36	P	I	A
39	N	E	A	P	40	S	A	R	A	H	41	S	A	B	E
42	S	Y	D	43	R	I	P	E	N	44	C	A	T	E	R
45	T	A	C	46	N	A	U	G	H	T	Y				
48	S	T	O	C	K	Y	50	Y	E	N					
52	D	U	O	D	E	N	A	L	53	S	E	P	T	I	C
59	U	L	N	A	60	E	L	E	E	61	A	R	R	A	U
63	A	L	I	T	64	S	E	A	R	65	T	O	U	T	S
66	L	A	C	E	67	S	S	S	S	68	E	P	E	E	S

BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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)



Is a bit of redecorating in order? This is a perfect time to spruce up your home. Rather than rush into a project that you might later regret, it's better to spend the day with colour and fabric swatches. Once you're happy with a scheme, then you can pick up a paintbrush. Think hard before making a decision.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You have the creative ability to make a real go of your music or writing. Why not put it to better use? Are you afraid to take the risk? Today you may be inspired to rise above your fear as you read a book or hear a piece of music that moves you to want to create one of your own. It's never too late to get started.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Prosperity isn't just around the corner - it's here. Your finances are looking better than ever. Don't rely on this money, however. The whole point of a windfall is that it's unexpected, and thus can be used for luxuries or indulgences that you wouldn't normally allow yourself. If you begin to spend a windfall before it arrives, it's no longer a windfall but just another paycheck.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You've never looked better. As a result, people are drawn to you and you have an unusually large circle of friends. This is fun but time consuming, as everyone seems to want a piece of you. Try to keep your feet on the ground. Don't let your vision become clouded by all the flattery you receive.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



You've always been interested in the arts, and now you want to explore that interest on a deeper level. A visit to a museum isn't likely to do the trick. Instead, why not enroll in a class or sign up for a lecture series? A few artists, in particular, capture your interest. Make it a point to concentrate on them first.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Errands seem to rule the day. You spend most of it in the car, running hither and yon. Don't be surprised if you run into an old friend you haven't seen in a while. The casual pleasantries you exchange could develop into something more. Perhaps you will discover a common interest and decide to build a business based on it. Keep your eyes (and mind) wide open.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



The planetary configuration makes you likely to reap the benefits of all your hard work. The little windfall you receive is nice, to be sure, but don't think of all of it as fun money. Put a good amount aside in a savings or investment account. You can use the rest to kick up your heels a bit. Why not invite a friend to dinner at the nicest restaurant in town?

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Keep your mind on the present. As much as you'd like to be somewhere else, your daydreaming is getting out of hand. If you're sincere in your desire to explore other lands, begin some research. For now it's better to focus on any problems that make you want to run away. Open a dialogue with anyone with whom you've had a misunderstanding.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



There's passion in the air today. You can feel it. The feeling is so strong that the air almost pulsates. What are you going to do about it? If you're in a romantic relationship, plan an intimate evening together, free of chores and daily tasks. If you're single, peruse your little black book and see if there are any relationships worth warming up.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Has the opposite sex always been so attractive? Today they seem especially so, and capture your attention right and left. One person, in particular, you've always considered a platonic friend, but today seems interested in you romantically. Perhaps this person is just picking up on your vibes. He or she may make a wonderful partner, so don't immediately dismiss the idea.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Your poise and gracious nature serve you well now. The best thing you can do today is spend time around other people. Go to a party or other social gathering tonight. The evening is bound to be a resounding success as you radiate warmth and energy and people respond in kind. Allow everyone the pleasure of basking in your glow.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Creativity and romance are a good combination, and today both are in top form. Why not get out the good stationery and craft a love note that will set that special someone's heart aflutter? Cater to your romantic nature, ideally with a partner at your side. Even if you're alone, a bubble bath will do wonders for your soul.

OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO REACH US

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

COOKBOOK BOOKCLUB

Date: 25 Jan 7 pm – 9 pm

Venue: Words BookstoreCafé-Jannusan

Palestine on a Plate by Joudie Kalla : Palestine on a Plate is a tribute to family, cooking, and home--old recipes created with love that brings people together in appreciation of the beauty of this rich heritage. Immerse yourself in the stories and culture of Palestine through the food in this book. The rules of our CookBook Club are simple. Look through the book, pick a recipe to prepare, and bring the finished dish to our meeting where we will all indulge in a glorious feast!

SILK SUN CATCHER WORKSHOP

Date: 25 Jan 9 am - 11:30 pm

Venue: The Art House- Budaiya

In this class your instructor, Sana Asad will teach you how to use paints to create a one of a kind hand painted silk sun catcher. You can chose any design from Mandal , Marine , Botanica etc . No experience required! You will be able to take your unique accessory home to hang and display. These also make special gifts!

FILM SHOW: KRISHA

Date: January 25, 7pm

Venue: Bahrain Cinema Club Juffair

Krishna is a 2015 American drama film written and directed by Trey Edward Shults in his major directorial debut, and produced by J.P. Castel and Jonathan R. Chan, and is the feature-length adaption of the 2014 short film Krishna also directed by Shults. The film stars Krishna Fairchild, Robyn Fairchild and Bill Wise.

When Krishna shows up at her sister's Texas home on Thanksgiving morning, her close and extended family greet her with a mixture of warmth and wariness. Almost immediately, a palpable unease permeates the air, one which only grows in force as Krishna gets to work cooking the turkey and

HIGHLIGHT

SHOP BAHRAIN FESTIVAL

Date: Ongoing till 18 Feb 2017

Time: Weekdays 4:00pm to 10:00pm

Weekends 4:00pm to 12:00am

Venue: Shop Bahrain Festival City Bahrain Bay



The third-edition of the Bahrain Shopping Festival, 'Shop Bahrain', is a unique 30-day celebration of Bahrain's hospitality and tourism offering for the entire family and boasts a wide range of events and unbeatable promotions for residents and visitors. The festival will mirror the Kingdom's position as an accessible family destination, renowned for its close proximity to the Gulf countries with easy access through the King Fahad Causeway and the Bahrain International Airport. The Festival will offer an incredibly diverse range of retail experiences. Shop Bahrain will feature a 'Festival City', located in Bahrain Bay, and will boast a number of activities for the entire family including games, food stalls along with live entertainment and performances.

The 'Festival City' is a fun-filled event boasting a number of activities for the entire family including games and food stalls along with live entertainment. Entrance Fee: BD 2.

THALI BUSINESS LUNCH

Date: Till Jan 31

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

Welcome to the Land of Sensory delights - Dine like a Maharajah in Nirvana, where a world of sensory delights and authentic Indian cuisine will transport your palate to new heavens. Timings: Sundays to Thursdays, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

BAHRAIN-UK ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Date: Monday, February 6th

Venue: Golden Tulip Hotel

A full day training course for Bahrain UK Alumni on how to be a successful leader through public speaking and persuasive communication.

Seats are limited!

For more information call us on 32210993 or email us on alumni.bahrain@britishcouncil.org

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL SELF DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE - CREATING CHANGE

Date: February 7-9

Venue: Al Mamlaka Hall BCCI Manama

Bahrain Meditation Centre for Self-development presents the 4th

International Self Development Conference - Creating Change. The 'Creating Change' Conference is all about navigating the waves and winds of change, discovering how to remain calm amidst chaos, and learning how to guide our thoughts, feelings and actions towards the most positive outcomes. When we are able, amidst the outer waves of change, to steer the self towards a safe and stable state of mind, then we can effectively innovate and generate positive change. Throughout the conference we will be using the tool of meditation to help us develop a deeper understanding of the self. People have used meditation as a technique for thousands of years, to develop concentration, regenerate inner power, attain self-mastery, and ultimately initiate change for personal and world benefit. Developing the ability to concentrate, to rule over one's thoughts, to maintain a clear mind, and to nurture appropriate values and attitudes, are all keys to attain self-mastery.

We invite you to join us for these few days of experiential learning from which you will emerge refreshed, rejuvenated, powerful and ready for change. The conference is for people from all sectors of society: corporate, social, educational and anyone wishing to learn how to embrace change and to grow and emerge as a leader. It is for those who wish to be more effective in their work and relationships and who are passionate about making a difference in the world.

TASTE TOUR

Date: Till 18 Feb 2017

Time: Based on each restaurant's operating hours

The 'Taste Tour' will return this year and will include a total of 29 participating restaurants. Participants will be able to sample dishes and vote for their favorite restaurants. They will also have the opportunity to win An Infinity Q50 car from YK Almoayyed & Sons as part of a 'The Taste Tour' raffle draw.

RESEARCHER CONNECT TRAINING WORKSHOP

Date: February 26 – 28

Venue: TBC

Researcher Connect is training program designed to sharpen early-stage researchers and higher studies student writing and communications skills to increase their chances of being published and participating in international conference.

The program is fully sponsored by the British Council and seats are limited. To register or for more information, please call 17266166 or email us on marwa.alawi@britishcouncil.orh.bh

MARK YOUR Calendar

TREATING CHRONIC CONDITIONS & DISEASES WITH HOMEOPATHY

Date: 25 Jan 10 am – 12 pm

Venue: Words BookstoreCafé-Jannusan

Do you have a child with chronic eczema, allergies, Autism, ADHD, speech delays and other childhood developmental, behavioral and communication disorders? Are you living in fear of getting cancer, diabetes or depression because it runs in your family; struggle with addictive tendencies or have chronic inflammation? Join Mariette Carstens, homeopath and holistic behaviour therapist, for a workshop dealing with and delving deeper into Homeopathic Timeline Treatment. What are the causes? What are the symptoms? Learn how to address the symptoms as well as the causes. See how the Homeopathic Timeline Treatment can help you deal with those inherited blockages.



MUSICAL EVENT "WATAN SE"

Date: January 27

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Commemorating 70 years of Indian Independence, Choice Advertising and Publicity in association with Indian Institute for Performing Arts (IIPA) is bringing forward "Watan Se", a scintillating musical evening for all music lovers in Bahrain. The event scheduled to be held on 27th January 2017 at the Bahrain Conference Centre, Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Pankaj Udhas is unique with his outstanding melodious voice which soothes and floats the listeners to a diverse level of experience. He will be accompanied by Mr. Joshi Bimal Gautham on Israj, Qureshi Naser Hussain on Mandolin, Rajendra Singh on Violine, Rashid Mustafa on Tabla and Nirmal Singh Pawar on Dolak all well known, international performers in their respective fields.



"It gives us immense pleasure to announce such an exceptional and outstanding music program presented by a very versatile music genius such as Pankaj Udhas for the music lovers of Bahrain especially to commemorate 70 Years of our Independence of our Great Nation, India", said Ambilikkuttan, Managing Director & Principal, IIPA. For any further information and enquiries, please contact Dr. Nidhi S Menon, Event Coordinator on 38803215.

HIGHLIGHT

2017 FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

Date: April 14-16

Venue: Bahrain International Circuit (BIC)

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) announced its highly anticipated launch of ticket sales for the 2017 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix. Tickets are being sold with an 'Early Bird' discount of up to 20%. The offer is available only until January 27 and it covers tickets to BIC's Main Grandstand and Turn One Grandstand. There is also a 10% reduction on ticket prices to the Batelco Grandstand,



University Grandstands and Victory Grandstands. Children aged 12 years old and younger can get their tickets for half the price. The Bahrain Grand Prix is set to be the third race on the Formula 1 calendar for 2017 and it will be the fourth Grand Prix hosted under floodlights in Sakhir. With the

previous night races hailed as the most enthralling and action-packed ever seen at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", the exciting build up for next year's event has already begun. Tickets can be purchased online at www.bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

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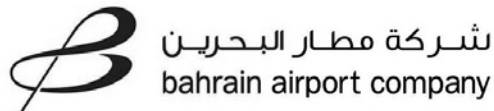
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TENDER



BAHRAIN AIRPORT COMPANY (S.P.C.) wishes to invite local companies through this open public invitation to submit their prequalification applications for the following services:

Prequalification Title	Prequalification No.	Doc. Fees	Prequalification Closing	
			Date	Time
Infrastructure works related to Maintenance Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Hangar at Bahrain International Airport - Prequalification	BAC/195/2017	BD 25/- non-refundable	Wednesday 22 February 2017	1:30 pm

- Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) is responsible for managing and operating Bahrain International Airport in line with the Company's strategy, which aims at elevating the Kingdom's aviation industry and making it a major contributor to the GDP.
- Bahrain Airport Company invites interested local Contractors who are qualified and experienced in infrastructure works to submit their prequalification documents to tender for the **Infrastructure works related to Maintenance Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Hangar at Bahrain International Airport**. The work comprises mainly of Aircraft parkings, new Taxiway, AGL lighting, substation, engine run up area, compass calibration pad, and overall infrastructure modification works associated with the project. For any enquires or assistance related to the e-tendering, please contact the help desk on Tel: +973-17566617. For more information please contact the purchasing department of Bahrain Airport Company Tel: +973-17353385 or +973-17353286

Interested contractors with relevant experience are kindly requested to collect the appropriate documents online through the Bahrain Tender Board's portal <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh> from **Tuesday 24th January, 2017**.

Duly filled prequalification applications along with the necessary supporting documents of the company shall be deposited in sealed envelopes in the prequalification box provided at the Tender submission office at the following address on the date specified above before 1:30 pm:

Tender Board Office
7th Floor, Almoayyed Tower
Seef District,
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel. +973-17566666

- The Envelopes shall be marked with "Infrastructure works related to Maintenance Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Hangar at Bahrain International Airport - Prequalification documents" without any identification of the Contractor.
- The submitted prequalification application shall be in the arrangement of one original hard copy and two electronic copies (pdf format).
- Bahrain Airport Company, and after review and evaluation of the submitted applications, will invite the short listed respondents to participate in a Request for Proposal for the intended project.

PUBLIC UTILITY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police, Fire, Ambulance	- 999
Drainage	- 80001810
Coast Guard	- 17700000
Traffic and Accidents	- 199
Electricity, Water	- 17515555
Meteorological Centre	- 17235235
Consumer Protection	- 17574700
Municipal Emergencies	- 39609331
Complaints Line at TRA	- 81188

PUBLIC SERVICE NUMBERS

Local Call Assistance	- 100
Local Directory Enquiries	- 181
International Call Enquiries (Country & Area Codes)	- 191
Weatherline	- 17 236 236
Flight Information	- 17 339 339

HOSPITALS

Salmaniya Medical	- 17288888
KIMS Medical Centre	- 17822123
Royal Bahrain Hospital	- 17246811
BDF Hospital	- 17766666
Awali Hospital	- 17753333
Al Kindi Hospital	- 17240444
Al Hilal Hospital	- 17344199
Al Amal Hospital	- 17602602
Al Jazira Hospital	- 17288000
Psychiatric Hospital	- 17279300
Bahrain Inter'l Hospital	- 17598222
Ibn Al Nafees	- 17828282
International Medical City	- 17490006
Al Noor Specialist Hospital	- 17260026
American Mission Hospital	- 17253447
Bahrain Specialist Hospital	- 17812222
Gulf Dental Speciality Hospital	- 17741444

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Kingdom of Bahrain



The Bahrain Petroleum Company BSC (Closed) hereby invites tender for the following:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond (BD)	Tender Documents Fees (BD)	Tender Submission		
				Day	Date	Time
LICENSE TO OPERATE A CONVENIENCE STORE FACILITY AT AL-RAWDHA & MUHARRAQ & CENTRAL MARKET SERVICE STATION NOTE: Purchase Tender Documents Deadline: 02-Mar-2017 13:30	T160197(43)	1,000/-	25/-		Wednesday 15 th March, 2017	01:30 pm

Interested Contractors with proven capabilities and experience in providing the above services may Purchase the Tender documents online using e-Tendering system from WWW.TENDERBOARD.GOV.BH from **Monday January 23, 2017**. Tender documents can be downloaded after paying the non-refundable tender fees as specified above. An Initial Bond should be enclosed for the amount specified above or 1% of the bid value, whichever is lesser (in any case Initial Bond shall not be less than BD 100/-), payable by a Manager's Cheque, Certified Cheque, Letter of Guarantee or Insurance policy issued by Local Agencies Cash. The bond shall remain valid throughout the tender period specified in the relevant tender documents. For more information please call the following numbers: 36027245-17755845- 17752995 – 17757044.

- Quotation should be deposited in the tender box provided at the **Tender Submission Office, Tender Board Office, 7th Floor, Al Moayed Tower, Seef Area**, before 01.30 pm on the tender closing date.
- This tender is subject to the provisions of Legislative Decree No.36 of 2002 with respect to Regulating Government Tenders- Auction and the Legislative Decree No.37 of 2002 with respect to the Tender Law's Implementing Regulations.
- The following conditions shall be complied with:
 1. Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and be in conformity with the subject tender.
 2. Submit quotations on "Tender Submission Form" No. (TB 02).
 3. Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by the Ministry of Labour.
 4. Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies thereof, which form part of the offer.

Vendors who are not registered in Tender Board E-tendering System shall be required to register through the link below.

<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh/xcap/supplier/suplogin.aspx>

For any inquiry please call help desk email helpdesk@tenderboard.gov.bh or telephone no. +973-17566617.

- This announcement is considered as a part of the Tender Documents.

#PollToday



Is imposing taxes one of the best ways to overcome Bahrain's economic challenges?
 Yes No Can't Say



The mafia phenomenon, which is the expression of a culture of death, must be resisted and fought"

Pope Francis

Rest in sight

Puppies found alive in Italy avalanche hotel



Rescuers recovered three puppies from under the rubble of Italy's avalanche hotel Monday sparking fresh hopes some of the 23 people still missing after five days could be found alive.

Sex toys 'safer' than kids toys: Swedish study

Fewer sex toys contain dangerous chemicals than children's toys, a Swedish inspection authority said in a report.

Poland mulls bracelets for skipping child support

Thousands of people in Poland sentenced for failure to pay child support could end up being fitted with electronic monitoring bracelets, the deputy justice minister said Monday.

Iceland mourns as missing girl found dead in rare crime

Iceland was in mourning on Sunday after a young woman missing for eight days was found dead on a beach, in a rare crime that gripped the nation.

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A man looks through debris of his home that was damaged by a tornado

Deadly storms batter US

18 killed, several injured

Washington

Powerful weekend storms roared through the southeastern United States, killing 18 people as violent weather left a trail of destruction, authorities said.

Families in Dougherty County in the state of Georgia huddled on the side of a road Sunday, surveying the wrath of a storm that destroyed mobile homes and downed trees, according to video posted by county commission chairman Chris Cohilas.

"This is absolutely devastating," Cohilas said in the video uploaded to Facebook. "It looks like a nuclear bomb went off. I've never seen anything like it."

The county's emergency management agency tweeted that shelters were being set up for displaced residents.

At least 14 people had died in south-central Georgia over the weekend, according to the state's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.

Hard-hit Georgia declares state of emergency

5 people are missing

Donald Trump vows federal help for victims

And five were still missing according to Adel Mayor Buddy Duke, amid a scene of flattened houses and trees and cars thrown in a heap like toys.

Four others died and 20 were injured on Saturday morning by a tornado that swept through southern Mississippi, according to that

state's emergency services agency.

President Donald Trump said he had offered his condolences to Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, calling the storms "vicious and powerful and strong."

"On behalf of all of us, condolences," Trump said,

noting that Florida and Alabama had also been impacted. Deal had declared a state of emergency in Georgia for seven south-central counties. He said in a statement that the state would request federal assistance in the storms's aftermath. Authorities warned that more severe weather could threaten parts of the Carolinas, southern Georgia and much of Florida with strong damaging gusts, large hail and a risk of tornadoes. - (AFP)

Ten dead, 30 missing in Malaysian boat accident

Kuala Lumpur

Ten people are confirmed dead and about 30 missing after a boat believed to be carrying Indonesian illegal immigrants capsized in rough seas off Malaysia, officials said yesterday.

The bodies of six women and four men were washed

ashore at a beach near the east coast town of Mersing earlier Monday, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said.

"We believe there were about 40 Indonesians on the boat and we believe they were illegal immigrants," an agency spokesman said.

'No ransom for kidnappers'

Singapore

The Philippine defence chief said yesterday that 25 hostages are still being held by Islamic militants in the southern Philippines but urged that no ransom be paid for their release.

Delfin Lorenzana also told a security forum in Singapore that President Rodrigo Duterte



Delfin Lorenzana

has been under pressure to declare martial law in at least three southern islands where

jihaddists operate, but he did not think there was a need.

The defence secretary (minister) said the companies which employed two recently freed Indonesians had paid a ransom of 20 million pesos (\$400,000).

The two were among seven crew seized from a boat off the southern Philippines in June.

Dozen evacuated after recovery of WW bomb

HongKong

Dozens of people were evacuated yesterday after a World War II bomb was discovered at a construction site in Hong Kong, near a university campus and staff quarters.

67 residents at three blocks of a university hall were moved after the 500-pound (227 kilos) US-made aerial bomb was unearthed on Pok Fu Lam Road, police confirmed.

The bomb was to be

detonated on site yesterday and treated with an "abrasive water-cutting system", a bomb disposal expert told reporters. The whole process was estimated to take around three hours.

Pedestrians and vehicles would be barred from entering the premises, and residents in the blocked area were urged to stay indoors and away from windows in case of accidents.

Unexploded wartime bombs or grenades are frequently

found in the southern Chinese city, which was the scene of fierce fighting between Japanese and British allied forces in 1941.

US and allied air forces bombed Japanese occupiers after the then-British colony fell. Last year police disposed of eight explosive devices found by a hiker.

In 2014 police defused a wartime bomb weighing nearly one ton, the largest yet found in the city.



Representational image

Batelco triumph

Manama

Batelco defeated the Pioneers team 8-0 in the third round of the Bahrain Industrial Bowling League at the Fun Land Centre in Manama. Top scoring for Batelco was Mohammed Sultan (217) high game and (717) high series of the week and for Pioneers its team captain Hussain Al Qaseer (253)

game and (675) series.

In another match, Bapco and the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) shared the points in a 4-4 draw, Bapco guest Ali Maroof (268) high game of the week and Ahmed Janahi (640) for series top scored and for EWA it was guest player Emad Al Jahromi (267) game and (703) series.

Other results (Bowler, Game, Series):

▶ Ministry of the Interior (MOI) (Emerson Gotencio, 259, 653) drew with GPIC (Ahmed Fareed, 256, 677) 4-4.

▶ Banagas (Ali Abdulla, 241, 678) drew with Gulf Air (Yaser Al Khan, 259, Jem Villanueva, 666) 4-4.

Tonight schedule:

- ▶ EWA vs GPIC,
- ▶ Bapco vs Tatweer,
- ▶ Batelco vs Gulf Air,
- ▶ MOI vs Banagas.
- ▶ Bye: Pioneers.



Ali Maroof



M.Sultan

Seven days left in Early Bird discount

Manama

Only seven days remain from today until the end of Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) Early Bird discount on tickets to the 2017 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix. A 20 per cent reduction covers tickets to the Main Grandstand and Turn One Grandstand and there is also a 10pc deduction on ticket prices to the Batelco Grandstand, University Grandstands and Victory Grandstands. Children aged 12 years old and younger can get their tickets for half the price.

All tickets are for three-day access to the Grand Prix weekend, which is scheduled to take place between April 14 and 16 as the third of 20 rounds on the 2017 FIA Formula



1 World Championship. BIC will be presenting its usual selection of family entertainment, including world famous recording artists, as well as stage shows and extensive fun throughout the event.

Tickets can be purchased at the BIC stand at Bahrain City Centre or at Festival City at Shop Bahrain and further information is available at www.bahrainf1.com, or by calling on +973-17-450000.

Indian Club ease past Napco

Manama

The Indian Club reached the quarter finals of The Indian Club Seven-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament 2016-17 following a three-wicket victory over NAPCO Strikers in the Round of 16 at its premises in Gudaibiya.

Batting first, NAPCO Strikers made 40 for five in six overs and in reply, The Indian Club reached the target scoring 41 for three in 4.4 overs.

In another match, Raju CC was a comfortable 17-run winner over Meenumix, who were dismissed for 36 in 4.5 overs with Nijeeth (20) top scoring, after Raju CC earlier thanks

to a fine knock by Raju (26 not out) scored 53 for three in six overs.

A further three Round of 16 games were played last night with the final two games scheduled for this evening with the tournament being completed on Friday starting with the two Semi-finals and the Final.

Other result:

Moore Stephens 45-4 (Pai 22) in 5.3 overs bt Indian Rising Stars 44 all out in 6 overs by 2 wickets.

Tonight schedule:

(8pm): Awan Cricket Club vs Spartans.

(8.45pm): Target CC vs Chak de Stars.



Indian Club team

Teamwork shown in BAHRAIN MERIDA'S first-ever World Tour

Manama

Bahrain's MERIDA Cycling team are satisfied with its debut in the first Tour Down Under from the Middle East which concluded in Australia at the weekend.

"I just can't wait for the next race now," said Philippe Mauduit the sports director.

"For the first time of that race, Niccolò Bonifazio just simply didn't have the legs on the final leg, but they have been working hard and good work so far. As long as you gave 100 per cent, everything is acceptable. I am satisfied with the race in general, because they have shown team spirit and that was our first goal our coming here so now we are just looking forward to the next race and going out of Tour Down Under in great shape."

Yukiya Arashiro, the Japanese veteran in BAHRAIN MERIDA, is also satisfied with our first ever World Tour race after the last stage.

"You know, it's a new team, new start, first race, we are first time here for racing, no?"

"Every day, better and better, no? Maybe soon we will get our first win."

"I feel that this tour was good for us and I am happy to ride for this team."

The team are again in action from today until January 29 in the Tour de San Juan in Puerto Rico, with Sicilian Vincenzo Nibali leading the team along with teammates Manuele Boaro, Valerio Agnoli, Ramunas Navardauskas, Kanstantsin Siutsou and Franco Pellizotti for the next challenge.

Netball tonight

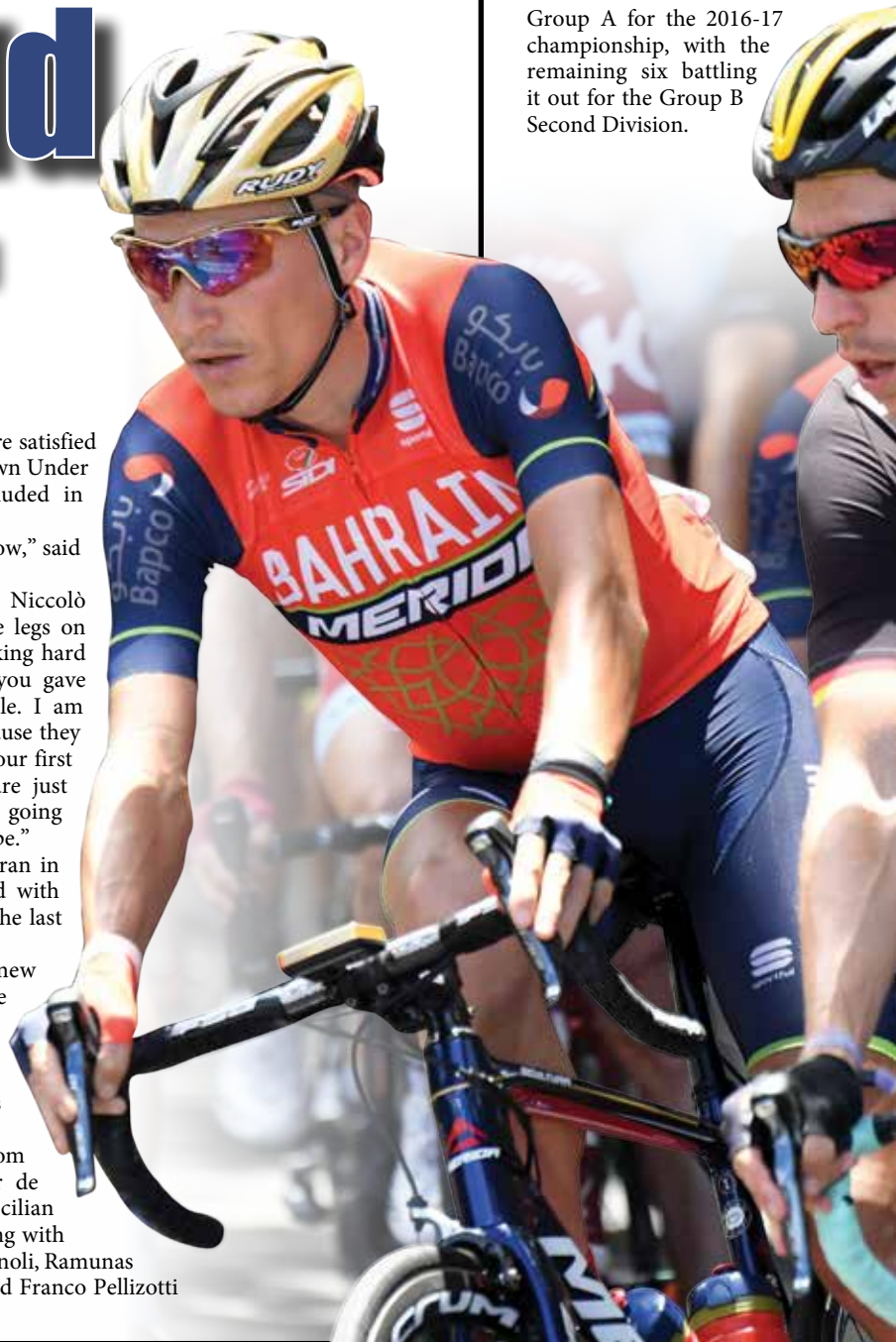
Manama

Five matches are scheduled tonight starting from 7.30pm at the British Club in the second round of the second phase in the DHL Bahrain Expatriate Netball League.

The first matches at 7.30pm are between British Club A and Dilmun Club A in Group A with St Christopher's and Dilmun Club C playing in Group B.

Action continues at 8.10pm when two-time defending champions Rugby Club A face off with British Club B in Group A and Dilmun Club B play Sri Lanka Club in Group B, while action concludes in Group B with Rugby Club B and British Club C at 8.50pm.

The teams were split into two divisions after the 10 teams played a first round-robin to determine Group A for the 2016-17 championship, with the remaining six battling it out for the Group B Second Division.



Arsene Wenger charged

London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was charged with misconduct by England's governing Football Association after an alleged altercation with the fourth official during Sunday's 2-1 Premier League win over Burnley. The veteran French boss was dismissed from his technical area by referee Jon Moss after being angered by the award of a stoppage-time penalty to Burnley.



Deulofeu joins AC Milan

Liverpool

Spanish winger Gerard Deulofeu's on-loan move to Serie A giants AC Milan from Everton finally went through yesterday, the Premier League side announced.

The 22-year-old former Barcelona player -- capped once by Spain -- has played just 13 times for Everton this season. The loan deal is until the end of the present campaign.



Nicola Adams turns pro

London

Britain's double Olympic champion Nicola Adams will make her professional boxing debut on April 8, becoming just the latest high-profile women's fighter to quit the amateur ranks. The 34-year-old was one of the faces of the London 2012 Games, when she made history as the first woman to win Games boxing gold.



Kiwis tame Tigers



New Zealand's Colin De Grandhomme and teammate

Christchurch

Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal branded his side "lazy" after a batting implosion saw New Zealand cruise to a nine-wicket win in the second Test at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Monday.

While Kane Williamson rated it New Zealand's "best day" of the series, Tamim was bitterly disappointed with the way the Test was effectively over in three days after one day was washed out.

"We all took the lazy option," he said, demanding improvement from the top down before they go to India for a one-off Test early next month.

New Zealand were left with a 109-run target which they knocked

off in 18.4 overs after Bangladesh were all out for 173 in their second innings.

Tamim went cheaply for eight in the sixth over and after a brief period of consolidation Bangladesh lost five for 23 in the middle of the innings.

"The way I got out was rubbish," a blunt Tamim said.

"A few of the shots we played could have been much better. I take full responsibility. I take full blame for that because I started it."

The result meant New Zealand swept the Bangladesh tour -- winning the three Twenty20s, three one-day internationals and two Tests -- and moved them ahead of Pakistan to fifth on the world rankings. (AFP)

Result

Bangladesh first innings	289
New Zealand first innings (overnight 260-7)	
Bangladesh second innings (all out, 173)	
New Zealand second innings	
J. Raval b Kamrul Islam	33
T. Latham not out	41
C. de Grandhomme not out	33
Extras (b1, wd1, nb2)	4
Total (one wicket, 18.4 overs)	111
Fall of wicket: 1-56 (Raval)	
New Zealand won by nine wickets	
Series: New Zealand 2-0	

Patriots meet Falcons in Super Bowl LI



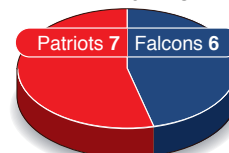
New England Patriots
AFC Champions

Feb 5, NRG Stadium, Houston, TX

Atlanta Falcons
NFC Champions

2016 season
W14-L2-T0
Divisional Championship
v Houston 34-16
Conference Ch'ship
v Pittsburgh 36-17

HEAD-TO-HEAD:
All-time wins



2016 season
W11-L5-T0
Divisional Championship
v Seattle 36-20
Conference Ch'ship
v Green Bay 44-21

Record ninth Super Bowl, aiming to win fifth title since 2001

Patriots have won last four meetings, including 30-23 victory in 2013

Seeking first title after defeat to Denver in 1999

Offence (gained)		GAME AVERAGES (2016)		Defence (conceded)	
Patriots	Falcons	Patriots	Falcons	Patriots	Falcons
27.6	33.8	Points	15.6	25.4	
386.2	415.8	Total yds	326.4	371.2	
117.0	120.5	Rush yds	88.6	104.5	
269.2	295.3	Pass yds	237.9	266.7	

QUARTERBACK PASSING STATS (2016)			
Tom Brady		Matt Ryan	
432	Attempts	534	
291	Completed	373	
67.4	Completion %	69.9	
3,554	Yards	4,944	
28	TD passes	38	
2	Interceptions	7	

Source: NFL

Picture: Getty Images

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Warner wins Border medal

Sydney

Australia's prolific opening batsman David Warner fought off a strong challenge from his captain Steve Smith to become just the fourth player to win back-to-back Allan Border Medals on Monday.

Only Ricky Ponting, Shane Watson and Michael Clarke have previously won consecutive medals in Australian cricket's prestigious annual awards.

Thirty-year-old Warner recorded 269 votes over 248 for Smith and 197 for fast bowler Mitchell Starc.



Next Zlatan' signs for Dortmund

Stockholm

Swedish teenage prodigy Alexander Isak -- dubbed the next Zlatan Ibrahimovic -- signed Monday for Borussia Dortmund for a reported 10 million euros (\$10.7m, £8.6m) after they beat off a host of other top European clubs. Isak, who earlier this month became Sweden's youngest international goalscorer at 17 years and 113 days, had been linked to Real Madrid but joined the Bundesliga club from Sweden's AIK after an apparent change

of heart. The gifted striker scored 10 goals in 24 games in his debut season at AIK in 2016.

"Alexander Isak is a hugely talented striker who many top clubs in Europe wanted to sign," Borussia Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc said told the club website. Borussia are currently fourth in the Bundesliga.

"We are delighted that he has chosen Borussia Dortmund. Both BVB and the player himself are convinced that this transfer has great potential."

India rest two for England T20s

New Delhi

India's premier spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have been rested for the three-match Twenty20 series against England starting this week.

India squad: Virat Kohli (capt), Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Lokesh Rahul, Suresh Raina, Rishabh Pant, Manish Pandey, Yuvraj Singh, Hardik Pandya, Amit Mishra, Parvez Rasool, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ashish Nehra, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mandeep Singh.





Canada's Milos Raonic celebrates his victory against France's Gilles Simon

Fans of Canada's Milos Raonic cheer him

Raonic



Serena

into

last eight



Serena Williams of the US

Melbourne

Third seed Milos Raonic charged home to claim a quarter-final with Rafael Nadal at the Australian Open yesterday, as Serena Williams accelerated towards a record title and the number one ranking.

Raonic had early problems before he recovered under a closed roof to win 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 against the 13th-seeded Bautista Agut in two hours, 52 minutes on Hisense Arena.

The boom-serving Canadian trails the 14-time Grand Slam champion Nadal 6-2 in their previous meetings.

It is the third straight year Raonic has reached the quarter-finals in Australia, and it is also his sixth quarter-final at a major, the most by any Canadian player.

"I was very fortunate to get through today, (because) there were some moments where

it was not looking so good, so I'm happy to find a way to pull through," Raonic said.

A day after defending women's champion and top seed Angelique Kerber also fell by the wayside, Williams beat Barbora Strycova 7-5, 6-4 to set up a last-eight meeting with Johanna Konta.

The American great would gain much from winning in Melbourne, as she would overtake Steffi Graf's Open-era record of 22 Grand Slam titles and end Kerber's short reign as world number one.

In hot afternoon conditions, she fought off the Czech Republic's Strycova in two tight sets, following her sister Venus into the quarter-finals without dropping a set.

"I have absolutely nothing to lose in this tournament," said Williams, 35. "Everything here is a bonus for me. Obviously I'm here to win. Hopefully I can play better, I can only go better."

Britain's Konta, the ninth seed, also reached the last eight with a perfect record in sets after a convincing 6-1, 6-4 victory over Russia's Ekaterina Makarova.

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni wrote another chapter in her fairytale

career revival when she beat American qualifier Jennifer Brady 6-4, 6-2 to reach her first Grand Slam quarter-final in 18 years.

The former teen prodigy, now 34, won the 1998 Australian Open women's doubles with Martina Hingis but she fled her abusive father and suffered a series of injuries to put her career on hold.

Lucic-Baroni will play her quarter-final against US Open finalist Karolina Pliskova, who ended home hopes with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Australia's Daria Gavrilova.

In the men's draw, David Goffin put away Austria's Dominic Thiem 5-7, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-2 to become the first Belgian man to reach the Australian quarter-finals.

Goffin will next play Grigor Dimitrov, who halted the fairytale run of Denis Istomin, the 117th-ranked Uzbek wildcard who shocked defending champion Novak Djokovic in round two.

The bespectacled Istomin won the first set but injury problems set in and he went down 2-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-2, 6-1 to the in-form Bulgarian. (AFP)

Results

Men's singles - 4th rd

David Goffin (BEL x11) bt Dominic Thiem (AUT x8) 5-7, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-2

Grigor Dimitrov (BUL x15) bt Denis Istomin (UZB) 2-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-2, 6-1

Milos Raonic (CAN) bt Roberto Bautista (ESP) 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1
Rafael Nadal (ESP x9) bt Gael Monfils (FRA x6) 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

Women's singles - 4th rd

Johanna Konta (GBR x9) bt Ekaterina Makarova (RUS x30) 6-1, 6-4
Serena Williams (USA x2) bt Barbora Strycova (CZE x16) 7-5, 6-4

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni (CRO) bt Jennifer Brady (USA) 6-4, 6-2
Karolina Pliskova (CZE x5) bt Daria Gavrilova (AUS x22) 6-3, 6-3

Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova

Melbourne

Rafael Nadal fought back to deny mercurial Frenchman Gael Monfils over four sets and reach his first Grand Slam quarter-final since 2015 at the Australian Open yesterday.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion defeated sixth-seeded Monfils 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena in almost three hours and will play Canada's world number three Milos Raonic in the quarters.

It was a gutsy effort from the never-say-die Spaniard, who was down a service break with a fifth set looming before he broke sixth-seeded Monfils twice to clinch victory.

The 2009 champion reached the last eight in Melbourne for the ninth time. He hasn't contested a Grand Slam quarter-final since the 2015 French Open.

"I'm very happy being in the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam after a couple of years without being there," he said.

"I start the season playing quarter-finals in a Grand Slam again, especially on hard court after a couple of years without being in this round which is great news."

It was Nadal's first win over a top-

10 player at a Grand Slam since he defeated number two Novak Djokovic to win the title at Roland Garros in 2014, his last major win.

"Gael is a special player. He is able to play unbelievable shots. It is a pleasure to see him in the top rankings," Nadal said.

"Sometimes it's tough to play against Gael when you don't know what he's going to do. He combines mistakes with great shots."

Nadal will go into his Australian quarter-final with a 6-2 lead over Raonic in their previous meetings.

"He's an opponent that makes you feel that you're playing with a lot of pressure all the time because his serve is huge and he's playing very aggressive from the baseline," Nadal said.

Monfils was broken in his opening service game as Nadal went on to take the first set in 46 minutes.

Nadal lost his service in the sixth game but broke the unpredictable Frenchman three times to open up a two-set lead and was closing in on a straight-sets victory.

But Monfils fought back, breaking Nadal in the ninth game and saving three break points in serving it out to trail 2-1 in sets. (AFP)



Nadal breaks the jinx

Subdues Monfils to break quarter-final drought

