

# DT NEWS

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## 11th Hour

### Half-marathon set for Friday

The 21.1-kilometre half-marathon will be held on Friday. The Bahrain Athletics Association (BAA) runners' committee will organise the race, during which up to 400 competitors will cross the distance from the Seef Mall to Khaleeji Commercial and back.

### Tweet of the Day



The UAE has ranked No. 2 worldwide for 'public trust in government' in Edelman's Trust Barometer, the seventh year we have ranked so highly. Our citizens' trust and their confidence in us is our greatest asset and biggest achievement.

@HSHkMohd

Today's Weather

Max	Min
22°C	14°C



P  
02

Lawmakers condemn Qatari Hostility



P  
03

Workers in limbo over unpaid salaries



P  
07

Philippine volcano spews lava fountains

## New technology vital for oil industry: Minister



Minister of Oil, Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa during the opening of Middle East Refining Technology Conference

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN  
zafran@dt.bh

### Manama

Investing in and adopting new technology is vital for the growth of oil industry, said Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa

bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Oil and Chairman of Noga holding, yesterday.

"Although oil prices have taken a tumble in recent years, leading to the subdued profitability of the oil sector, the industry must embrace new

technologies in order to keep up growth," the minister said.

He was speaking during the Middle East Refining Technology Conference (MERTC) which he inaugurated yesterday.

Now in its second edition,

the event, being organised by the World Refining Association in collaboration with the National Oil and Gas Authority, and with the support of Gulf Downstream Association (GDA) and a number of oil companies, is

being held at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain.

Addressing the conference, the minister stressed that innovation and adoption of technology are necessary for the growth of the oil sector. (Continued on Page 3)

# MPS pass proposal to STOP gasoline price hike

DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

Parliamentarians yesterday passed an urgent proposal to stop the recent hike in gasoline prices and referred it to the government for approval.

This came during yesterday's regular weekly meeting of the House of Representatives, chaired by Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla.

The legislators, citing the Royal directives in this regard, demanded the authorities to "stop executing the decision" until the MPs and the government reach a consensus on the issue.

The MPs thanked His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa for stressing the importance of consensus and instructing to postpone the hike for the joint executive-legislative committee to complete its work, and until the National Audit Office ensures that the process falls in line with the laws in force in the Kingdom.

As reported by DT News, earlier this month, Parliamentarians had rejected the sudden decision by the National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) to increase gasoline prices by almost 25 percent. Expressing concerns, the MPs also boycotted their weekly meeting on January 9, a day after the decision came into effect. The decision increased prices of Jayyid fuel (91-octane) from 125fils/litre to 140fils/litre and Mumtaz fuel (95-octane) from 160fils/litre to 200fils/litre.

# Bahraini lawmakers lash Qatari hostility

MPs affirm full support for all measures taken by the UAE to maintain its security and stability

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**P**arliamentarians yesterday strongly condemned the hostile acts of Qatari jets against civilian aircrafts in the region.

In a joint statement issued, the lawmakers said: "The House of Representatives strongly condemns the hostile behaviour of the State of Qatar against UAE civilian aircrafts, which also resulted in endangering the safety of regional civil aviation and the lives of innocent people."

The Council affirmed that the interception is a violation of international conventions, norms and humanitarian values.

Bahrain, the lawmakers said, will support all measures taken by the UAE to maintain its security and stability.

Qatari fighter jets, on January 15, intercepted a UAE flag carrier en route to the Manama forcing both the UAE and Bahrain to file complaints against the country at the UN aviation agency. Qatari officials, however, denied the incident.

In a formal complaint to

the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation, the Emirates said that Qatari acts were a violation of the Chicago Convention, which governs the use of airspace.

Even though Qatari officials denied the incident, Bahrain's Civil Aviation Affairs in Transportation and Telecommunications Ministry released radar tracks proving the interception.

According to the recordings released by Bahrain's state television, Emirates flight No. EK837 was flying from Dubai towards Bahrain International Airport at 3,170 meters (10,400 feet). The footages also showed Qatari fighter jets flying at around 2,590 meters (8,500 feet) and crossed briefly in front of the Emirates plane's flight path.

The MPs also warned in their statement that the "practices of the Qatari regime and its disregard for international laws cannot be tolerated, which at the same time also proves that the hostile Qatari practices are a threat to the peace, security and stability of the region".



Parliament session in progress

## Expats replacing Bahrainis in govt jobs: MP

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN  
muhannad@dt.bh

**A**ll Bahraini retirees in the public sector were replaced by expats from 2013 to 2017, a Bahraini MP claimed.

Speaking during a regular weekly session of the House of Representatives yesterday, Financial and Economic Affairs Committee Member MP Jalal Kadhim said: "A total of 4,250 Bahraini government employees retired in the past four years and they were all replaced by expats."

Kadhim made the claims during a discussion on a reply made by the Civil Service Bureau (CSB)'s on the numbers of temporary Bahraini employees working in the public sector.

CSB, in its reply, told the MP that there are currently 44 temporary Bahraini employees working in the sector, which Kadhim pointed out

as unclear and an evasion to his questions.

Citing his previous meetings with ministers and heads of various authorities on the issue, Kadhim told the session: "A large number of Bahrainis are currently working on a temporary basis in these establishments, which is way more than what CSB claims."

"56 temporary employees are working in the Labour and Social Development Ministry for the past six years," Kadhim said.

There are "more than 400 temporary employees in Education Ministry, 47 in Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry and 132 in the Information Affairs Ministry."

"Why can't CSB be transparent and clear about these figures," he asked stressing that "this reflects occupational instability in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

He told the session that contracts

of non-Bahrainis working in the government sector are renewed automatically biennially, allowing them to lead a "luxurious life at the cost of citizens."

This happens, the MP said, when Bahrainis are being relieved or terminated from their jobs. "This instability is harmful to Bahraini families."

Citing an earlier reply by Finance Minister Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Kadhim said: "There are 4,250 expats employed in government establishments between the years 2013-2017."

"The authorities reply to our queries, claiming they're not sparing any effort to reduce unemployment among Bahrainis, are only mere ink on paper," he said.

"There are Bahrainis working temporarily in the government for over 11 years, without any occupational stability. Because of this,

**"56 temporary employees are working in the Labour and Social Development Ministry, while there are more than 400 temporary employees in Education Ministry, 47 in Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry and 132 in the Information Affairs Ministry"**

they're not eligible for any bonuses, incentives and promotions," the MP stressed.

Replying to the MP was the government's representative at the session, Shura Council and Representative Council Affairs Minister Ghanim Al Buainain.

The minister insisted that the reply to the MP's queries was sufficient and underlined that "they were only directed to the CSB, not any other authority, and only tackled the number of temporary Bahraini employees in the government, not expats".

## New tech vital for oil industry: Minister

(Continued from page 1)  
**T**echnology will help improve operational efficiency and improve financial returns," the Minister said adding: "There is a need to find ways to improve the operational efficiency with innovative technologies and solutions."

In this regard, the Minister said the Kingdom has achieved more than 50 per cent completion in the construction and modernisation project for the replacement and upgrading of the oil pipeline between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The pipeline, Minister said, is being buried in the south of Bahrain, and the project is moving according to the plan and budget.

Meanwhile, an exhibition, held on the sidelines of the conference, witnessed the participation of a number of national and international oil companies including Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco),

Sabic, Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Abu Dhabi Oil Refining Company, Manufacturing Company of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), and many international companies and consultancies in the field of oil refining.

Apart from the minister, Dr. Dawood Nassif, Board Director, Bapco, Dr. Jeff Brown, President, FGE, Mirko Rubeis, Partner and Managing Director, The Boston Consulting Group, Chris Birdsall, Vice President, ExxonMobil Catalyst and Licensing, Fahad M Al-Dawood, Vice President, OTC Project, SABIC and Frédéric Desprésaux, Vice President, Head of Large Industries Business Line, Air Liquide were some of the speakers. Roundtable sessions on cyber-security, process safety, and Promoting dialogue between industry and academia were held.

# Workers in limbo over unpaid salaries

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN  
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### Manama

Several employees of a company in Zinj are struggling to make ends meet, as they haven't been paid salary for months.

Unpaid bills, especially electricity, have made the situation further worse as the employees are also now forced to work in extremely difficult conditions.

"The company in Zinj has been operating without electricity for days now," a person, who wishes not to be named, told *DT News*.

The incident, according to the person familiar with the matter, is also the second in the recent past, where the company has failed to make timely payments.

"Moreover the employees haven't received their salary for almost three months now," the source said.

*DT News* approached the management for their comments on the issue. So far, we haven't received any communication from them.

In a similar incident, earlier this month, it was revealed by the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions (GFBTU) that four major companies in the Kingdom have failed to pay their employees for months.

At that time, GFBTU Assistant Secretary for international relations told *DT News* over 100 employees were struggling without salary for the past 10 months.



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## Opinion

Baria Alamuddin



## In the drugs and arms trade, is Iran getting away with murder?

**P**ossibly one of the biggest scandals of the Obama administration was the blocking of active investigations into Hezbollah and Iran's complicity in the deadly global trade in drugs and armaments. Former US Treasury official Katherine Bauer testified that these investigations were "tamped down for fear of rocking the boat with Iran and jeopardising the nuclear deal." In recent days, the US Justice Department has reopened these investigations. This couldn't come a moment too soon.

We all remember former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad cozying up to Venezuela's Hugo Chavez as part of their anti-American axis. It later came to light that this alliance brought forth a vast drug-trafficking operation, which saw Venezuelan cocaine sales skyrocket from 50 to 250 tonnes a year — mostly bound for the US. In and around 2007, Venezuela's state airline was ferrying large quantities of cash and drugs to Tehran each week, returning laden with weapons and Hezbollah operatives.

Venezuela was just one segment of Iran and Hezbollah's strategy for cultivating crime networks in South America, operating via Lebanese and Syrian communities across the continent. US officials recognized that Hezbollah was becoming one of the largest global crime networks, yet this flew in the face of the criminally naive Obama administration orthodox that the Islamic Republic could be sweet-talked into becoming a constructive member of the international community. Barack Obama's CIA Director John Brennan

was an advocate of cultivating Hezbollah's "moderate elements," commending the movement's success in "assimilating" into the Lebanese political system, just as Hezbollah was rolling up its trousers to wade into the blood-soaked Syria conflict. In reality, the 2015 nuclear deal emboldened Tehran, eased the constraints of sanctions, and removed global pressures as European nations trampled each other in the unseemly stampede to tap into Iran's oil economy.

Figures like Lebanese arms dealer Ali Fayad, who the Obama administration missed an opportunity to extradite from the Czech Republic, are today deeply involved in diverting a flood of Russian heavy weapons to Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan and the wider region. Similar routes transported chemical weapons used by Bashar Assad against his people: Just one strand of a dense clandestine network connecting Iran, North Korea and entities like the Pakistani A.Q. Khan network for smuggling nuclear and ballistic materials.

Hezbollah's ambassador to Tehran, Abdallah Safieddine, reputedly oversaw one of the world's largest drug-smuggling operations, laundering around \$200 million per month out of the US from profits of narcotics imports. At one point an "entire Quds Force network" was active in the US, laundering money and trafficking drugs and weapons. Counter-narcotics officials amassed detailed information about this activity, which ran in parallel with plots to assassinate foreign diplomats and terrorist operations

elsewhere. However, Obama hindered investigations (known as Project Cassandra) by his own law enforcement agencies and blocked preventative action; even though US agents discovered that narcotics revenues were being channelled to Iraqi Shiite militants who were then engaged in killing American troops. Nevertheless, during 2016 some Hezbollah personnel were indeed arrested by US police on drugs trafficking charges.

A DEA official who led these investigations commented: "(Hezbollah) were a paramilitary organization with strategic importance in the Middle East, and we watched them become an international criminal conglomerate generating billions of dollars for the world's most dangerous activities, including chemical and nuclear weapons programs and armies that believe America is their sworn enemy."

Hezbollah previously dabbled in arms smuggling and criminal activity, but observers were dumbfounded by this wholesale shift into global organized crime from around 2006. Hezbollah strongholds became awash with foreign currency, with cash reserves of US dollars in Lebanon doubling to \$16 billion in just a few years. This was massively important in helping Hezbollah rearm and rebuild its infrastructure after the 2006 war with Israel. Hezbollah operations in south Beirut during April 2017 against local drug dealers appear designed to ensure a monopoly over the drugs trade. Hezbollah was criticized for behaving like a state within a state by embarking on such actions.

Iran's shared border with Pakistan and Afghanistan is one of the world's busiest drug smuggling corridors (an estimated 140 tonnes a year). The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is well placed to monopolize this cross-border trade. This has had terrible consequences inside Iran, with up to 10 percent of Iranian nationals estimated to be drug addicts — the highest proportion in the world.

With Hezbollah heavily implicated in Syria, Iranian financial transfers to the movement recently soared to an estimated \$800 million, yet this is exceeded by the approximate \$1 billion a year it is reported to receive from narcotics, arms trafficking and organized crime. Data indicates that the IRGC may double its formal budget (around \$8bn) through illicit economic activities. After encroaching on territory formerly

held by Daesh, Iran's new corridor of control through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon to the Mediterranean opens up lucrative and potentially destabilizing pathways into the heart of Europe.

Tehran's proxy militias of Al-Hashd al-Shaabi (the Popular Mobilization Forces) in Iraq act like gangsters in the expanding territories they control, with militants fighting among themselves to monopolize the oil smuggling trade around Basra; reportedly conducting systematic kidnappings of Sunnis and often murdering them after ransoms are paid; and engaging in the full spectrum of organized crime: Extortion, drugs, expropriating property, terrorizing local people, and the theft of historical artefacts. As primary benefactors of laundered funds from Hezbollah's American narcotics network, Al-Hashd factions are said to be investing these funds in activities to perpetuate Tehran's cultural control: Universities, schools, religious institutions and paramilitary training for young people — all calculated to indoctrinate Iraqi Shiites into Iran's theological model of Wilayat al-Faqih.

Iran has reportedly become deeply complicit in arms smuggling throughout Africa. Nigeria, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Senegal and other states are key proliferation hubs, with a broad range of African insurgent and terrorist groups benefiting from Iranian military munificence. Several West African states also became integral parts of Hezbollah's cash-laundering network for billions of dollars of drugs money flooding out of the US. Sudan had been a key ally in facilitating Iranian arms smuggling towards conflicts that claimed countless lives. However, GCC states notched up a remarkable success in drawing Sudan away from Tehran's orbit.

Intelligence officials describe a standard operating procedure of Hezbollah, Quds Force and Iranian diplomats establishing connections through the Lebanese diaspora across Africa and the Americas. Front companies and smuggling routes are then established and evangelical Shiite institutions are set up to cultivate local support and nurture proxy groups. These channels are then exploited for a variety of illicit purposes. Iran's support for the Houthis in Yemen, meanwhile, offers opportunities to expand new routes through Somalia, the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian Ocean.

The US Justice Department's reopening of investigations into Iranian crime networks may have to start from scratch, having lost institutional expertise and on-the-ground sources after Project Cassandra was closed down. We have yet to see whether these investigations are a stepping stone to decisive action against Iran and its proxies, or whether this is more empty rhetoric against both Tehran and the Obama administration.

After the investigation announcement, Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah came out with a vigorous denial of any involvement in drugs, claiming that such activities violated the movement's fundamental principles. I fervently wish this was true, just as I wish that Hezbollah had adhered to its founding principles of being a Lebanese nationalist bastion against Israel — yet a mountain of evidence tells us otherwise.

All this illustrates why Tehran constitutes a greater proliferation threat than Pyongyang. While tiny North Korea is an isolated and encircled failed state in Far East Asia, imperialist oil-rich Iran is expanding out of Central Asia, through the Middle East and towards the shores of Europe. Tehran is furthermore aggressively branching out through Africa, Latin America and South Asia, profiting from organized crime to bankroll its blueprint for paramilitary expansionism. With each successive year that the world turns a blind eye to these activities, Iran becomes stronger, more belligerent, wealthier and wider-reaching.

Even though the Trump administration is willing to revisit evidence of Hezbollah's role in narcotics and arms trafficking, much of the West remains stubbornly in denial that Iran, Hezbollah and Al-Hashd al-Shaabi are pursuing a coherent long-term strategy for aggressively expanding their influence. What will it take for Europe to wake up to the Iranian proliferation threat? Automatic weapons in the hands of Eastern European anti-democracy militias? The streets of Hamburg, Paris and Barcelona awash with heroin? Or a 9/11-style major terrorist atrocity?

Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.

*(The article was published previously by Arab News)*

*(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.)*

## Bapco, Technip to sign Bahrain refinery deal

Manama

**B**apco and Technip consortium will sign Bahrain refinery expansion contract by the end of this month, said Oil Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa yesterday.

Speaking on the sidelines of

the 2nd Middle East Refining Technology Conference, the Minister said: "Expansion works, expected to enhance refining capacity to 400 thousand barrels, will begin in about 48 to 50 months."

When asked about the progress of the Bahrain-

Saudi Oil pipeline works, the minister said: "More than 50% of the replacement and upgrading works of the 70-year old Bahraini-Saudi oil pipeline had been completed."

The pipeline, ready to run by the end of 2018, will be buried underground far away from

residential areas and will be monitored by security agencies.

The minister also revealed that total oil investments in projects under construction during 2018 tops \$6 billion. On oil prices, the minister said he expects oil prices to exceed \$70 per barrel during 2018.

## Dair sewerage works completed

Manama

**D**air Sewerage Network Project, which serves 47 houses and real estates in Block 231 has been completed, said Sanitary Engineering Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Asma Murad.

The BD221,985 project was awarded to Kingdom's Asphalt.

Dair sewerage network will be connected to the Muharrag Sewage Treatment Plant. The plant was inaugurated in 2014 and constructed in partnership with the private sector.

# BCCI election: Sharaka Group names candidates

Sixteen candidates have announced their candidacy for the upcoming election

DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

Sharaka group yesterday announced its candidates for this year's Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry election.

Sixteen candidates have announced their candidacy for the upcoming election, which also includes Khalid Al Zayani, the current BCCI First Vice Chairman. Three businesswomen have also announced their candidacy.

The candidates are Rameez al Alawadee, Ahmed Abdulla bin Hindi, Ahmed Sabah Alsloom, Abdul Wahab



Candidates during a photocall

Alhawaj, Abdul Hakim Dewani, Riyad Albayrami, Dr. Lamyia Al Mahmood, Isa Shaikha Hind Salman Al Nasser Alahli and Mihammed Abdul Rahim, Ali Mahmood, Khalifa, Nabeela AlKhayer, Fakro.

## BIA records 10pc growth in cargo traffic during 2017

Manama Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), announced that the airport has witnessed a 10 per cent growth in cargo traffic during 2017.

Cargo traffic at the airport for the cumulative period from January to December 2017 reached a total of 289,434 tonnes, compared to the 263,956 tonnes handled during the year 2016.

BAC Chief Commercial Officer, Ayman Zainal said: "This level of growth reflects not only the airport's capabilities of handling significantly large cargo transfers but also that Bahrain continues to be a hub for logistics operations. The Airport Modernisation Programme currently underway at the airport will ensure that its capacities will be increased even further, making it capable of serving

very high volumes relative to its size."

A record 26,700 tonnes of cargo and mail were processed by BAC in December 2017 alone, up from the 25,055 tonnes recorded in the same month last year. This 7% growth includes 15,422 tonnes

in imports, 6,333 tonnes in exports, and 4,705 tonnes in trans-shipments.

BAC is the authority responsible for enhancing BIA and increasing the airport's contribution to the local economy in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. In its operational role, BAC is responsible for elevating the airport's operations, infrastructure and services.

**A record 26,700 tonnes of cargo and mail were processed by BAC in December 2017 alone, up from the 25,055 tonnes**





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## By Invitation

Marjan Modara



## When a year ends and another starts

During the last few days of each year everyone starts talking or posting about how good or bad that year had been. It was the same when 2017 was on the verge of ending and individuals started circulating comments, posts, and jokes all through the social media.

I started noticing that most of the comments were on how bad of a year 2017 was and in a way, everyone was glad for it to be coming to an end.

Under the influence of the common feelings, I also started thinking how bad it was and began preparing myself for a better year yet to come.

New Year night came along with its enigmatic fog and we celebrated the evening in an environment of good food, our favorite songs, and fore mostly amongst great friends and family.

It wasn't until a couple of days into the new year of 2018 that I sat down to look back into my events of the past year and started reading my 2017 Planner.

Allow me take a break here and go back in time to the start of 2017 when I had decided to journal my days and put down the events and the emotions associated with it. A friend had given me a perfect planner as a gift and I thought it couldn't have been timelier to have wished-for one.

The idea of journaling though had been passed on to me in one of my meditation workshops in which the facilitator was strongly advocating for us to put down our thoughts and emotions immediately after every session in order to have something written and concrete to come back to as reference any time in the future we needed to get the sensation of the occurrence we experienced in that moment.

And that's why when I sought for the truth of what my year had been like in 2017, my journal was the best source to go back to.

The first thing which I realized was that I stood true to my resolutions of 2017 and had managed to achieve 7 of the 8 tasks planned for. The feeling of accomplishment was so ecstatic that made me even more determined to bring forward the one task that was not achieved and include it in the resolutions of year 2018.

The second thing I realized was how many lovely events and fulfilling goals I had experienced during the year which had already gone down the memory lane but were recalled back through the documented journal in my hand.

Detoxing and getting fit, performing professional and self-development talks and presentations, deciding to continue with my PhD, youngest son graduation, lovely family trip after a long time, successful proposal defense, children doing well in their individual lives, lovely relationships, and last but not least ending the year with a trip that made me realize that I have arrived at the point which I have been aspiring to reach in regards to self-content were the highlights of year 2017.

All of the above made me realize what a wonderful year it had been regardless of its ups and downs because when you start looking at your ups and how lucky you are with family, friends, and your feeling that you have arrived where you have always aspired to be, you start looking forward to another wonderful if not better new year ahead.

Therefore, one should never say I am glad a bad year is over, but rather say looking forward to another good and better one ahead. Because no matter how bad the old one had been, once one goes back and reviews it there were wonderful events in it regardless.

*(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.)*

# BIC all set for Desert Beats music festival



## Manama

The stage is set for an unbelievable day of live music and entertainment as the Desert Beats festival takes place on Friday at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhr.

The highly anticipated event is set to feature some of the biggest stars in the music industry as well as a selection of top local talent.

The performers, beginning with Tom Abelis and DJ Gustavito, will start taking to the stage from 2pm and the show will go on until late at night. Music lovers will be able to enjoy a wide variety of food and beverages at the venue.

Tickets are now available for Desert Beats. They cost BD20 for adults and BD10 for those less than 15 years old, while children aged seven and below can get in for free.

## Kool & The Gang

Kool & The Gang is a legendary American funk and R&B band. They have been a force in music ever since they first assembled in 1964, having sold over 70 million albums worldwide and having won multiple prestigious awards. Among their biggest tracks are "Celebration", "Get Down On It", "Cherish", "Joanna", "Ladies' Night", "Jungle Boogie" and "Big Fun", to name only a few. Today, the group enjoys global fame and recognition and a following that spans generations due in part to their widely sampled catalogue. Kool & The Gang's drum beats, bass, guitar and signature horn lines lace the tracks of numerous artists, including Jay-Z, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Cypress Hill, P Diddy and the Beastie Boys.

## UB40

UB40 are a legendary British reggae and pop band. They have long been topping the international charts, with big hits such as "Food For Thought", "Red Red Wine", "Can't Help Falling in Love" and "I Got You Babe". Since their inception in 1978, they have sold over 70 million records worldwide, and have been nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album four times. Since reuniting three years ago, all original UB40 founding members Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey have developed into a formidable touring trio. They have done a world tour and have visited places such as North and South America, Nigeria, South Africa, Dubai, Europe and Papua New Guinea.

## Unity

Unity are a Latin Tribute to Michael Jackson. They are a testament to the power of music and one man's indomitable spirit. The passion project of Peruvian-born, Miami-raised producer/multi-instrumentalist/arranger Tony Succar, Unity features more than 100 musicians, such Latin superstars as Tito Nieves, Jon Secada and Obie Bermúdez, and the mixing magic of Jackson's legendary engineer Bruce Swedien. Succar grew up listening to his parents play Jackson's music, and by 13 had begun his own music career. He has married Jackson's timeless pop and R&B tunes, such as "Thriller," "Billie Jean," "I Want You Back", "Man In the Mirror," "Earth Song" and "They Don't Care About Us", to his glorious salsa and tropical rhythms.

## Adam Kadabra

Adam Kadabra is a popular Scottish street busker. Hailing from Glasgow, his talent has been heard all around the world. He is not your everyday acoustic player: using a technique called "Lap Tapping", he rests the guitar on his lap and powerfully taps the frets and strings to create a captivating cacophony. Learning this style came to fruition after a small accident which fractured one of Adam's fingers, making it difficult to play the guitar as normal. To this day, Kadabra has been true to this way of playing, giving him a unique and recognisable sound that can be heard wherever his music takes him.

## Youri Menna

Youri Menna is an Italian singer, guitarist and songwriter. He is known to be one of the most famous "buskers" in the world, with over five million people attending his concerts and over one million views on YouTube in the past seven years. Youri has created his unusual worldwide celebrity status by constantly performing live in Paris (an average of 200 concerts a year) in extraordinary places such as Sacré Coeur, Saint Michel, Notre Dame, the Champ de Mars, Opéra Garnier and in the Parisian Metro system. Youri is an independent artist and has already sold 32,000 albums with original songs and popular cover versions to more than 80 countries around the world. He is known as a very talented singer, charismatic entertainer and a multilingual songwriter.

## Majaz

Majaz is an earthy, four-piece Fusion/World/Progressive band from Bahrain. Their progressive-driven fusion of genres, forged by their unconventional blend of instruments, has been widely recognised, making them one of the island's most unique musical acts. Majaz performances deliver what can often be portrayed as a progressive trip that travels through different cultures, carrying its passengers towards a whirlwind of various dimensions of sound.

## Mo Zowayed

Mo Zowayed is a Bahraini indie folk singer and songwriter. Combining vocal hooks with guitar-driven melodies, Mo creates a soulful, upbeat sound with cracking, memorable choruses reminiscent of The Lumineers and Mumford and Sons, whilst his lyrics evoke feelings of wanderlust and draw heavily on transient experiences. The

music is brought to life by talented, highly experienced musicians - some of whom have recorded for and toured with First Aid Kit, Angus & Julia Stone and Hurts. Mo Zowayed and his band have toured the US. In early 2017, Mo was one of the headline acts at Bahrain's pre-eminent musical event, The Spring of Culture, sharing the stage



with artists such as Tom Jones and UB40.

# Philippine volcano spews lava fountains



The danger zone around the crater has been expanded from 6km to 8km, but some residents have still tried to sneak back home.

## Legazpi, Philippines

The Philippines' most active volcano spewed fountains of red-hot lava and massive ash plumes anew yesterday in a dazzling but increasingly dangerous eruption that has sent more than 56,000 villagers fleeing to evacuation centres.

Lava fountains gushed up 700 meters above Mount Mayon's crater and ash plumes rose up to 3 kilometres Monday night. At least three major blasts followed yesterday, including an explosion at nightfall that was capped by one of the most massive lava displays since the volcano started acting up more than a week ago, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

"We couldn't sleep last night because of the loud rumblings. It sounded like an

airplane that's about to land," Quintin Velardo, a 59-year-old farmer, told *The Associated Press* at an evacuation center in Legazpi city where he took his wife, children and grandchildren yesterday.

Despite the danger, he said he needed to return to his village, about 8 kilometres from the erupting volcano, to take his cow and water buffalo to safety. A few minutes later, the volcano belched a massive column of grayish ash that punched through white clouds into the blue sky. "There it goes again," Velardo said, his family huddled near him.

Authorities warned a violent eruption may occur in hours or days, characterized by more rumblings and pyroclastic flows — superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds,

vaporizing everything in their path.

After Monday's explosion, officials raised Mayon's alert level to four on a scale of five, and the danger zone was expanded to 8 kilometres from the crater, requiring thousands more residents to be evacuated, including at least 12,000 who returned to their homes last week as Mayon's rumblings temporarily eased and then scrambled back to the emergency shelters. (*washingtonpost*)

Mayon volcano spews ash as it erupts anew yesterday, as seen from Legazpi city, Albay province, southeast of Manila, Philippines

## Quake hits off Alaska, tsunami threat lifted

### Washington

A powerful 7.9-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Alaska early Tuesday, sparking tsunami warnings along the Pacific coasts of the US and Canada that were later called off.

The quake struck at 12:31 am (0931 GMT) in the Gulf of Alaska, 280 kilometres (175 miles) southeast of the town of Kodiak, the US Geological Survey said, revising a preliminary estimate of 8.2 magnitude.

The epicentre was 10 kilometres under the seabed.

The National Tsunami Warning Center did confirm a tsunami, meaning the water levels were slightly above normal.

Waves of less than one foot (30 centimetres) were detected in parts of southern Alaska, authorities said. As a precaution, officials in those areas encouraged residents to remain at higher ground.

But the monitoring centre later cancelled



Traffic during the tsunami warning in Kodiak, Alaska

warnings and watches for coastal regions in Alaska, Canada's British Columbia and the US West Coast "because additional information and analysis have better defined the threat."

Heather Rand, who was 580 kilometres away in Anchorage, told *CNN* it felt like the longest earthquake she had ever experienced. (*AFP*)

## 6.1-magnitude quake hits Jakarta

### Jakarta

A strong earthquake struck off the southern coast of Java, Indonesia's main island, yesterday, rocking buildings in the country's capital, Jakarta, and sending people fleeing into the streets in panic.

The magnitude-6.1 earthquake struck around 1:34 p.m. about 100 miles southwest of Jakarta, with its epicenter in the Indian Ocean. As of yesterday evening, there were no other official reports of injuries, and no fatalities had been reported.

Reports on social media suggested that buildings in the capital shook for several seconds, with some being evacuated.

Around Jakarta, panicky Indonesians fled schools, office buildings and other high-rises.

"It felt like a giant rock had dropped either in the hallway or just outside the building," said Marcoen Stoop, a Belgian businessman who lives on the 35th floor of an apartment building in Jakarta. "Then, the building



People gathering Tuesday outside the City Tower office building in Jakarta after an earthquake struck 100 miles away, off the southern coast of Java

started swaying and the swaying increased steadily," he added, saying the rocking lasted less than a minute.

Six students at a vocational high school in West Java Province were seriously injured when tiles fell

from the school's roof, according to a statement released by Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman for Indonesia's national disaster management agency. Two other students were slightly injured. (*nytimes*)

## Avalanche engulfs skiers after volcano erupts

### Tokyo

A member of Japan's self-defence forces died and about a dozen skiers were injured after a volcano erupted near a ski resort, triggering an avalanche and sending rocks raining down on the slopes.

The skiers were injured when they became trapped by the avalanche or were hit by falling volcanic rocks from Mount Kusatsu-Shirane, according to local media. Five were seriously injured, but none was in a critical condition, rescuers said.

Five other members of Japan's ground self-defence force who were taking part in training manoeuvres in the area were rescued, some with injuries including fractures.

Three other people caught in the avalanche were also rescued, Japanese media said on Tuesday. Among the injured



Ambulances and fire trucks parked at a ski resort in the town of Kusatsu

were four people hurt by shattered glass while on a gondola at the resort in Gunma, north-west of Tokyo. About 100 people were evacuated from the area.

"There was this huge boom, and a big plume of totally black smoke rose up," one skier told *NHK*. "I had absolutely no idea what had happened." (*theguardian*)

# Gulf Marcom names GM, Creative Director

Manama

**G**ulf Marcom has made key additions to its management team to bolster company's presence in response to the demands of a changing market.

It has appointed Simon Chapman as General Manager and Degal Pinto as Creative Director.

Simon recently held the role of managing director at Saatchi & Saatchi in KSA. Before that, he was Client Services Director for GMASCO in Dubai. He held the same role at agency Imagination in London and has also acted as GM of Saatchi & Saatchi in Kuwait.

Degal comes with over 18 years of agency experience in Bahrain, New Zealand and India. He brings proven knowledge of creative strategy, communication and management. His work covering categories such as telecoms,

FMCG, hospitality and automotive.

Commenting on the appointments, Thamer Al Muqla, Gulf Marcom Group's MD, said: "Simon and Degal join us as we enter our next phase of development. Having worked with many major agencies and brands they will be a great asset to Gulf Marcom."

Khamis Al Muqla, Gulf Marcom Group Chairman, added, "We welcome Simon and Degal. We see these as key appointments for the growth and continued success of Gulf Marcom."

Gulf Marcom started in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 1974 and manages many local, regional and international clients. Gulf Marcom is a part of Gulf Marcom Group, a Bahrain based strategic holding company that manages a portfolio of industry pioneers in marketing communications.



Khamis Al Muqla, Chairman GMG (second from left), Thamer Al Muqla, Managing Director GMG (first from right), Simon Chapman, General Manager (second from right) and Degal Pinto, Creative Director (first from left)

## As US raises tariffs, India backs free trade



**I**ndian Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned Tuesday against a new wave of protectionism, saying that trade barriers pose a danger to the world on par with climate change and extremist attacks.

Modi delivered the message in a speech just hours after the U.S. government of President Donald Trump approved tariffs on imported solar-energy components and large washing machines in a bid to help U.S. manufacturers.

"Forces of protectionism are raising their heads against globalization," he told a crowd of business and government leaders in the opening address at the World Economic

Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "It feels like the opposite of globalization is happening."

"The negative impact of this kind of mindset cannot be considered less dangerous than climate change or terrorism," Modi added, without directly mentioning Trump or the U.S.

He urged governments not to turn to isolation, driving home his point by quoting Indian independence leader Mohandas Gandhi: "I don't want the windows of my house to be closed from all directions. I want the winds of cultures of all countries to enter my house with aplomb and go out also."

Modi, the first Indian prime minister to make Davos' opening address, was to be the gathering's highlight until Trump decided to come as well. Trump is due to speak Friday, and the tariffs his administration approved this week will overshadow his arrival to a forum that has long been firmly in favor of free trade. Modi's speech follows on from Chinese President Xi Jinping's address to the Davos elite at last year's event. (Reuters)

# Adeeb Ahamed gets top award

Mumbai

**I**n recognition of his contribution to the hospitality industry, Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Twenty14 Holdings was presented the Hurun Industry Achievement Award in Hospitality & Retail Real Estate 2017.

The Hurun Real Estate Leadership Summit and Excellence Awards, marking the achievements of the real estate sector in India, were held at the Four Seasons, Worli on Thursday.

Adeeb has made a mark for himself on the global level, engaged in various sectors including hospitality, organized retail and financial services. Twenty14 Holdings, the hospitality arm of Abu Dhabi-based conglomerate LuLu Group International, led

by Adeeb was founded in 2014 to capitalize on the growth in the global hospitality industry. The company currently has assets worth more than \$650m spread across the UK, Middle East and India.

In India, the group marked its entry into the hospitality sector with the acquisition of a hotel in Kochi in 2015, which is under renovation. Since then Twenty14 Holdings has invested in two other properties in Bengaluru, that are under various stages of development. With the first phase of development already underway in Kerala and Karnataka, the group is on the lookout for investment options in other major cities across India.

Twenty14 Holdings recently acquired the Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh - The Caledonian



Adeeb Ahamed

in Scotland for \$120m and has also made a £110m agreement with property developer Galliard Homes to create a luxurious five-star hotel at 1-5 Great Scotland Yard, the former headquarters of London's Metropolitan Police. The firm co-owns the landmark Sheraton Oman Hotel in Muscat and

owns the Steigenberger Hotel Business Bay in Dubai and three properties in India.

Other winners of the evening include Abhishek Lodha of Lodha Developers, Niranjan Hiranandani of Hiranandani Developers, Irfan Razak of the Prestige Group and Anand Pirama of Piramal Realty.



Adnan Ahmed Yousif thanking Majeed H. Alawi and Jozsef Peter Szalay

On the occasion of the retirement of Majeed H. Alawi - Executive Vice President - Head of Internal Audit and Jozsef Peter Szalay - Senior Vice President - Head of Credit and Risk Management at Al Baraka Banking Group, the Group held a farewell party attended by President & Chief Executive of the Group Adnan Ahmed Yousif, Executive Management members and staff of the Group and Al Baraka Islamic Bank Bahrain. Both Alawi and Szalay have been in the Group since its inception, and both have banking experience of nearly 40 years, during which they held several senior positions in a number of well-known international institutions. Al-Alawi is a Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, UK (1980). Szalay holds an M.A. (Econ.) from University of Budapest and a Banking Certificate from the Institute of Canadian Bankers. He is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at INSEAD France.



### UK puts brake on \$15.7bn Sky deal

**London**  
**Rupert Murdoch's** \$15.7 billion takeover of Sky is not in the public interest and should be blocked unless a way is found to prevent the media tycoon from influencing the network's news output, Britain's regulator said. The ruling complicates a separate plan by Walt Disney to buy Sky. Disney had hoped Murdoch would own 100pc of the broadcaster by the time it completed its takeover.



### JPMorgan in \$20bn investment plan

**Washington**  
**JPMorgan Chase & Co** unveiled a \$20 billion investment plan on Tuesday to increase wages, hire more, open new branches and expand its business as it takes advantage of sweeping changes to the U.S. tax law and improved regulatory environment. As part of the five year plan, the largest U.S. bank by assets will increase wages for 22,000 employees by an average of 10 percent.



“The United States will not recognise North Korea as a nuclear weapon state. If the North wishes to return and be in the good graces of the international community, it knows what it has to do, it has to take steps toward denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.”

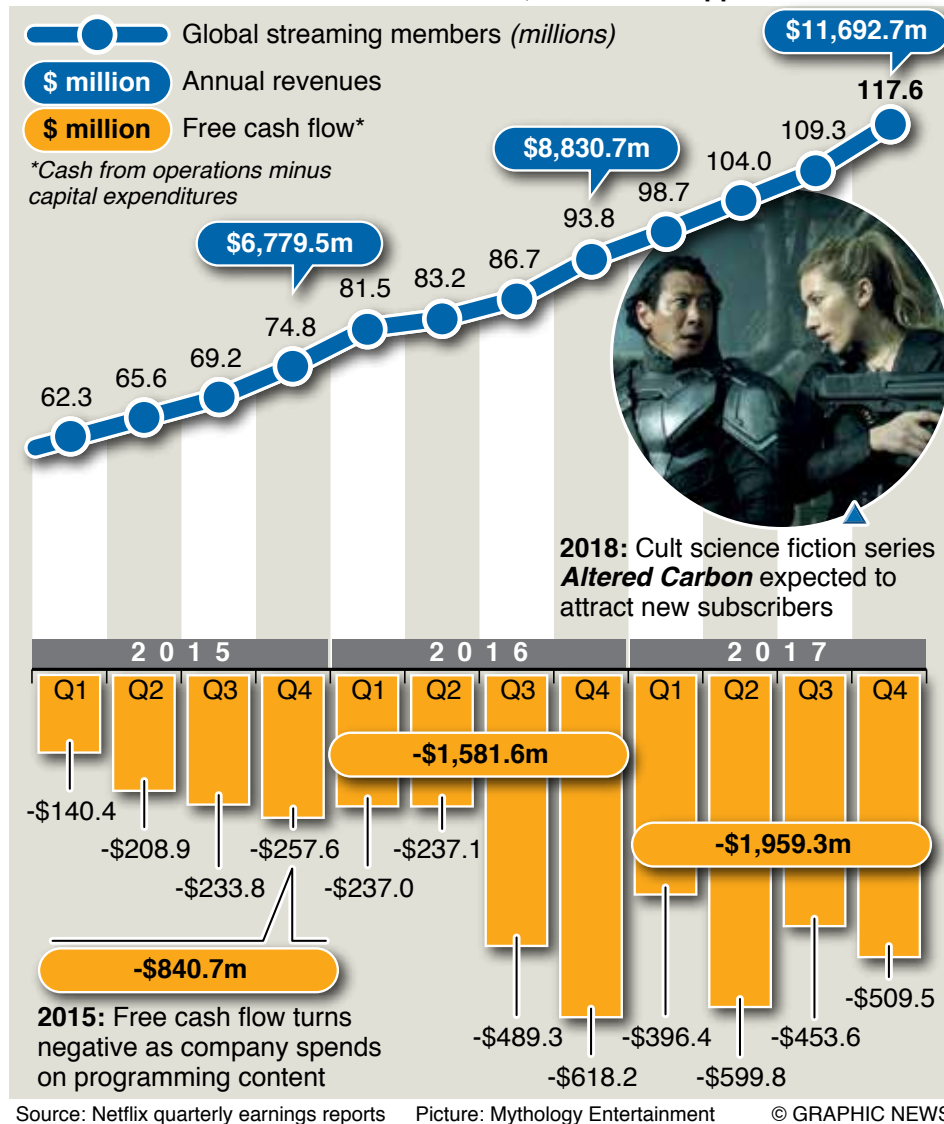
-Robert Wood

U.S. disarmament ambassador



### Netflix valuation hits \$100bn

Netflix reported 8.3 million new subscribers in the past three months, sending the streaming giant's value to over \$100 billion for the first time. Netflix made \$11.7 billion in 2017, but losses topped \$1.9bn



# Renewable Energy policy in focus at S.U.N forum



#### Manama

**Bahrain's Net Metering Policy** will be detailed at the Solar Utilities Network (S.U.N) forum on 7th February at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The Bahrain Unit for Sustainable Energy (SEU) a joint initiative of the UNDP and the Ministry of Electricity and Water, will detail Bahrain's strategy for energy efficiency and sustainability through net-metering.

The SEU presentations by Dr. Khalid Burashid, (SEU Senior Technical Advisor) and Alexander Al Samahiji, (SEU's Solar Expert) will outline the billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the national grid, known as net

metering.

The S.U.N Event will also cover topics on, Renewable Energy Technology, Renewable Energy - Challenges and Opportunities, Job Creation and Skilling for the Challenges of Solar and Renewable Energy.

Keynote speakers at the event include; Toufic Hawat, PhD Chief Technology Advisor/BD-Regional Manager MENA Region HUAWEI Smart Solar and Dr. Praveen Saxena, CEO Green Jobs Council, India and.

“The S.U.N Event is in line with promoting the ground-breaking work of the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve its renewable energy

**S.U.N takes place alongside the Gulf Industrial Fair at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center.**

goals and vision. The Solar Utilities Network is an initiative supported by Bahrain Solar Association to promote a network of expertise and provide a platform for knowledge exchange for those in the solar and renewable energy sectors,” says Jubran Abdulrahman, Managing Director of HCE.

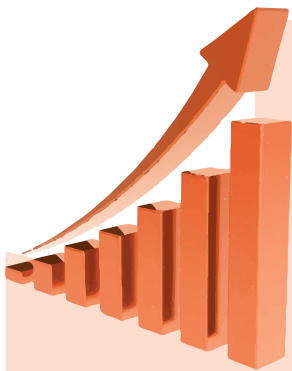


A “VAT Law and Accounting Workshop” was held recently at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Manama. Guest of Honour of the event, organised by Phil-Bahrain Business Council (PBBC) in cooperation with the Relax for Events Management, was Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain, Alfonso A. Ver. Discussions focused on VAT system and its application in countries around the globe to improve the delivery goods and services. The activity was spearheaded by PBBC President, Nestor S. Ballano and other officials. Resource speakers were PBBC Vice President, Lyn Le. Altarejos and Virgilio Altares, CPA. Ambassador Ver handed over Certificates of Appreciation to resource speakers, which was followed by an open forum.

## Did You Know?



Rather than using mechanical mowers, Google regularly employs a flock of 200 goats to naturally mow and fertilise the lawns.



## BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

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

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

## GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3799	0.3354
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.0873	0.2877	0.2540
OMAN	0.3849	0.3820	0.3878	0.3425
QATAR	3.6420	3.6143	3.6699	3.2405
UAE	3.6730	3.6451	3.7011	3.2681
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7215	3.7787	3.3366

# Gulf markets firm, ex-div Emaar pulls down Dubai

Courtesy Bloomberg

**Dubai** Most Gulf stock markets were firm yesterday, with Saudi index edging up 0.2 per cent, but blue chip Emaar Properties dragged down Dubai's index as the stock went ex-dividend.

The Saudi index edged up 0.2pc on the back of strength in a few blue chips, with Al Rajhi Bank adding 0.6pc and telecommunications firm Mobily rising 1.1pc.

Saudi Kayan fell 2.0pc after reporting a fourth-quarter net loss of 220.3 million riyals (\$58.7 million) versus a profit of 91.6 million riyals a year ago. The loss was much smaller than the 417 million riyal loss forecast by NCB Capital; SICO Bahrain had predicted a 90 million riyal loss.

But Dubai's index fell 0.7pc as Emaar tumbled 5.8pc. Monday was the last day for shareholders to

claim a 0.42 dirham special dividend related to the listing of Emaar Development.

Most of the rest of Dubai's market was strong, however, with gainers outnumbering losers 22 to nine. GFH Financial surged 3.4pc and construction firm Arabtec jumped 3.5pc.

Other Dubai property firms were mixed, with Union Properties up 2.3pc and Deyaar up 1.9pc, but DAMAC down 0.3pc.

Shuaa Capital rose 1.8pc as it confirmed regional newspaper reports that it was negotiating a potential acquisition of Kuwait-listed Amwal International Investment. Amwal rose 0.2pc in unusually active trade, after leaping 20pc on Monday.

In Kuwait, the biggest bank, National Bank of Kuwait, fell 0.9pc after reporting fourth-quarter

## Closing Bell

SAUDI rose 0.2pc to 7,494 points.

DUBAI fell 0.7pc to 3,479 points.

ABU DHABI gained 0.3pc to 4,644 points.

QATAR rose 0.5pc to 9,255 points.

EGYPT fell 0.3pc to 15,197 points.

KUWAIT edged up 0.1pc to 6,630 points.

BAHRAIN edged down 0.1pc to 1,334 points.

OMAN fell 0.2pc to 4,978 points.

earnings that were in line with estimates, while its proposed cash and bonus share dividend were the same as last year. The stock had risen 2.1pc on Monday in anticipation of the earnings.

Qatar's index rose 0.5 per

cent in active trade as Aamal gained 4.8pc after saying a unit had spent about 179.5 million riyals (\$49.3 million) buying residential assets in Doha, a deal which would boost the unit's revenue by about 9pc on year. (Reuters)



Zahra Alherz, the winner of 2016 Delonghi Bahraini Chef Competition, is heading to Vienna, Austria where she will receive an once-in-a-lifetime experience and training with award-winning Executive Sous Chef Franz Pichler at The Ritz-Carlton, Vienna. The two-day competition for Bahraini nationals was held last December as a lead up to the 2016 National Day events at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain. "The Bahraini Chef Competition is one of the many events we have in place to develop Bahraini talents as part of our commitment to the local community," says Soufiane Elallam, EAM-Sales & Marketing. The competition will resume next December 2018. In picture, from left: Soufiane Elallam, EAM-Sales & Marketing, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain; Zahra Alherz, Winner of the 2016 Delonghi Bahraini Chef Competition; Yann Lejard, Executive Sous Chef, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain



### Breakthrough towards cancer blood test

Scientists have made significant progress towards a universal blood test for cancer. This would radically change diagnosis, treatment and crucially survival rates for sufferers. In a huge breakthrough, a new blood test aims to identify cancers before they develop. Called CancerSEEK, it has been trialled by scientists at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, US, and has detected eight common cancer types. (AFP)



### People more likely to die on weekends

Turns out, patients are more likely to die during off-hours or on weekends - whether due to a brain bleed, a heart attack or a blood clot in the lungs. Doctors call it the "weekend effect". A new study showed that the "survival trends during the odd-hours have improved in the past decade or so". (ANI)

In recent months, Silicon Valley executives have been speaking out about the purposely addictive designs of smartphones and social media, which make them hard to put down for anyone, but particularly teenagers. Now, a new report puts numbers to the warnings, tying a sudden and large drop in adolescents' happiness with the proliferation of smartphones, and finding that the more hours a day teens spend in front of screens, the less satisfied they are.

The report, "Decreases in Psychological Well-Being Among American Adolescents After 2012 and Links to Screen Time During the Rise of Smartphone Technology," was published Monday in the journal *Emotion* using a large national survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders conducted annually by The University of Michigan. After rising since the early 1990s, adolescent self-esteem, life satisfaction, and happiness plunged after 2012, the year smartphone ownership reached the 50 percent mark in the U.S., the report said. It also found that adolescents' psychological well-being decreased the more hours a week they spent on screens, including the Internet, social media, texting, gaming, and video chats. The findings jibe with earlier studies linking frequent screen use and teenage depression and anxiety.

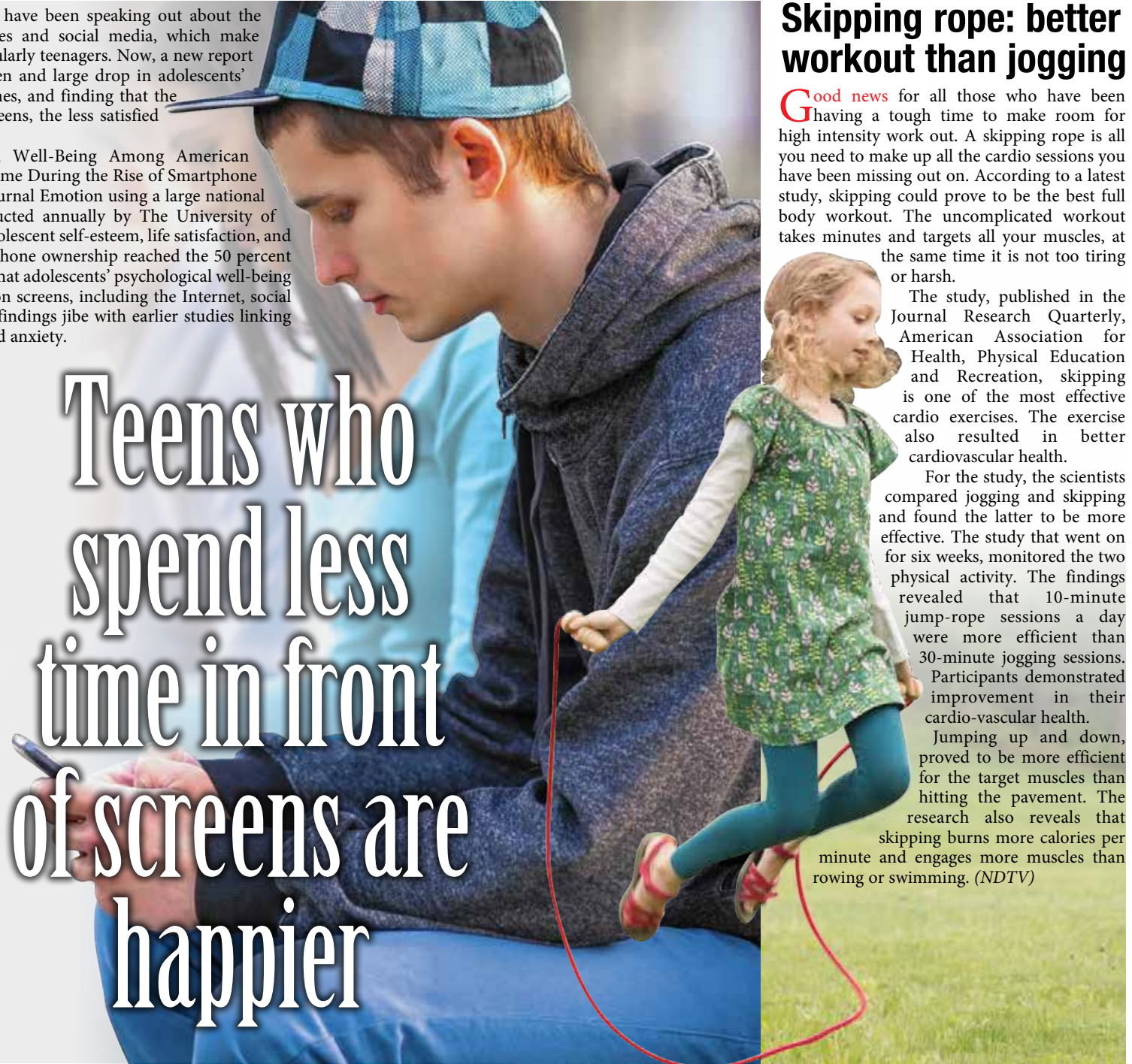
The ubiquity of the devices has mushroomed in the past six years: the percentage of teens who had smartphones jumped from 37 percent in 2012 to 73 percent in 2015 to 89 percent at the end of 2016, according to data from the Pew Research Center and the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The study graphed correlations between happiness and screen activities and non-screen activities such as sports, in-person interaction, religious services, print media and homework. For all the non-screen activities, the correlation was positive; for the screen activities it was uniformly negative.

"When I made that graph I got up and took my kids' Kindle Fires and shoved them in the back of a drawer," said Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University and the study's lead author.

Twenge, who is also the author of "iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy - and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood," called the relationship of screen and non-screen activities "zero sum" - if you are doing one, it takes time away from the others.

Diane Tanman of Chevy Chase, MD worries that is the case for her sons, who are 11, and 15. "Like playing games in the field like they used to when they were little - they used to do that and I think it made them more happy," she said. (The Washington Post)



# Teens who spend less time in front of screens are happier

### Skipping rope: better workout than jogging

Good news for all those who have been having a tough time to make room for high intensity work out. A skipping rope is all you need to make up all the cardio sessions you have been missing out on. According to a latest study, skipping could prove to be the best full body workout. The uncomplicated workout takes minutes and targets all your muscles, at the same time it is not too tiring or harsh.

The study, published in the *Journal Research Quarterly*, American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, skipping is one of the most effective cardio exercises. The exercise also resulted in better cardiovascular health.

For the study, the scientists compared jogging and skipping and found the latter to be more effective. The study that went on for six weeks, monitored the two physical activity. The findings revealed that 10-minute jump-rope sessions a day were more efficient than 30-minute jogging sessions.

Participants demonstrated improvement in their cardio-vascular health.

Jumping up and down, proved to be more efficient for the target muscles than hitting the pavement. The research also reveals that skipping burns more calories per

minute and engages more muscles than rowing or swimming. (NDTV)

## PET VET

Dr. Rajani Rajesh



### Zoonotic diseases from birds

Diseases that can be passed from animals to humans and vice versa are called zoonotic diseases. Various diseases that can be passed from chickens, turkeys, ducks, pigeons, parrots, parakeets, sparrows, finches, crows, raptors and other birds to people. Often these diseases do not make birds appear ill but can

cause serious illness in humans. Zoonotic diseases associated with birds include avian tuberculosis, avian influenza, erysipelas, ornithosis, cryptococcosis, salmonellosis, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacteriosis etc. Some important diseases with zoonotic importance are listed below.

**Salmonellosis:** Salmonella bacteria is transmitted through feather and fecal dust, as well as through the egg. Symptoms of Salmonellosis include nausea, diarrhea, fever, a headache, severe abdominal crampss,

**Avian Mycobacterium:** Tuberculosis is caused by inhaling microscopic airborne organisms that are shed in infected birds' feces. Persons infected may develop lymphadenitis & pulmonary disease similar to tuberculosis

**Avian Chlamydiosis:** is also known as Psittacosis and Parrot Fever. Normally produces symptoms such as eye infections, diarrhea, and respiratory problems.,

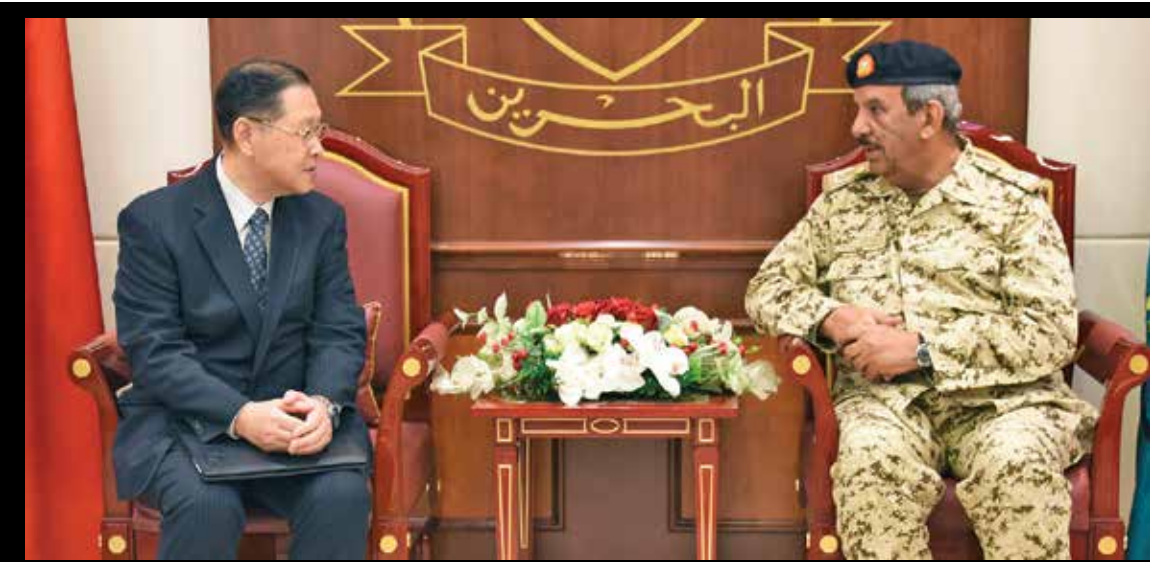
**Avian Influenza Virus:** It is transmitted through coming into contact with the fecal matter of infected birds.

**Campylobacteriosis:** Bacterial infection that causes gastrointestinal problems. It is usually transmitted through fecal contamination of food and water. Diarrhea, weight loss, and lethargy are common.

For the most part, the danger of transmission of disease from birds to people is relatively low. However, certain risk groups such as the very young, the elderly and the immune compromised should take extra care. If reasonable measures are taken the chance of problems developing for you and your birds should be lessened. Always wash your hands after handling birds or cleaning aviaries. Wear disposable gloves, particularly when handling dead birds. Control mites, ticks and insects in aviaries with pest strips or insecticides. Clean regularly. Do not allow dust and debris to build up. Use a face mask and gloves.



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received the Royal Family members and senior state officials, with whom he reviewed topics related to local issues. The Premier expressed the Bahraini



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Bahrain Kiyoshi Asako. The Commander-in-Chief welcomed the Ambassador and thanked him for his efforts to boost bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation. The meeting was attended by General Command Court Director Major General Hassan Mohammed Saad and Military Cooperation Director Read Admiral Mohammed Hashim Al Sada.



Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani received Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik. Minister praised the efforts made by the Ambassador during his mission, and praised the contribution made by the Embassy in developing bilateral relations between Bahrain and Pakistan.



Defence Minister Lt. General Yusef bin Ahmed Al Jalahma received South Korean Ambassador Koo Hyun-Mo. They discussed the deep-rooted relations between the two countries.



Defence Minister Lt. General Yusef bin Ahmed Al Jalahma received Kuwaiti Military Attaché Colonel Nasser Abdulaziz Al Samhan. The Minister praised historic relations between both countries.

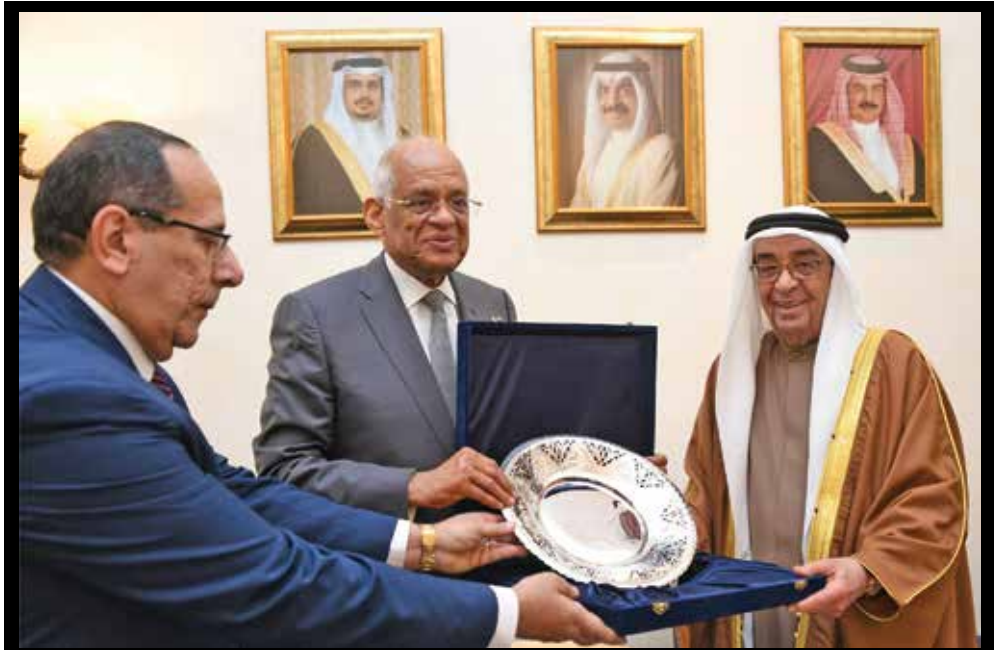


Pakistani and Bahraini community united to pay tribute to the outstanding services of Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik at a special appreciation dinner organised at Gulf Hotel. Shaikh Dajj Al Khalifa, Khalid Al Zayani, Sajid Sheikh, Rana Rashid, Isa Abdul Rahim, Ahmed Bin Hindi and Akram Chaudhary were present.

The 7th Cong...  
cial authority



people's patriotic stances.



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa received Egypt's Speaker Dr. Ali Abdel Aal Ahmed and his accompanying delegation. The Deputy Premier welcomed the delegation's visit which comes as part of the deep-rooted cooperation at the directives of the two leaderships.



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ion between



Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani received Ambassador of Bahrain to Germany, Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, wishing him success in the duties of his diplomatic assignment. The minister cited the remarkable growth of bilateral trade between both countries.



Electricity, Water Affairs Minister Abdulhussain Mirza, on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, met Jordan's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Saleh Al Kharabsheh. The Ministers discussed cooperation in the use of solar energy and benefiting from Jordanian legislative expertise.



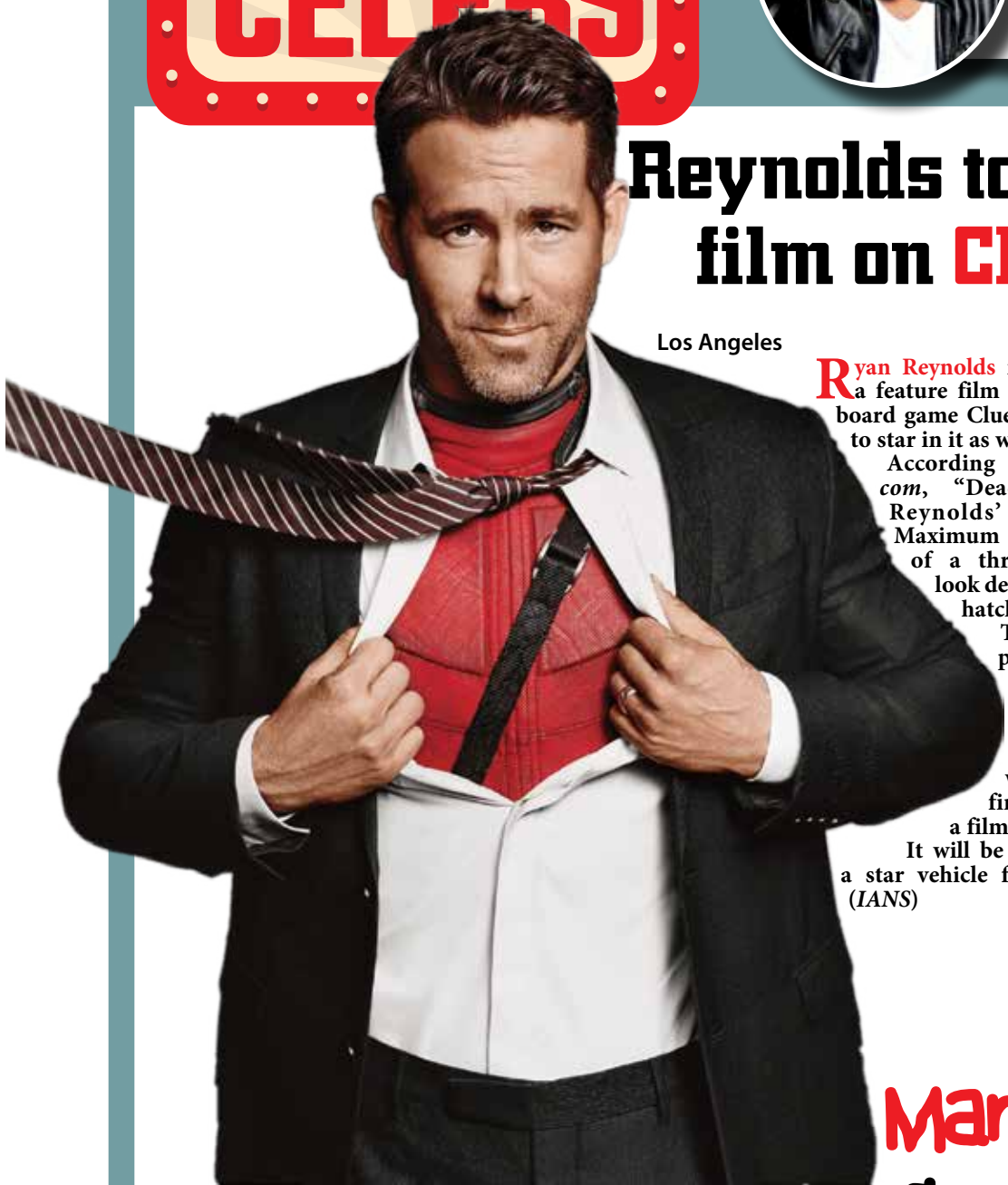
stituent Judicial Session for Military Prosecution officers kicked off at the BDF Military Judiciary under the patronage of Chief of Staff of BDF Lt. General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi. Officers from the military judi-  
ces of brotherly countries (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait) are taking part in the session alongside officers from the military judicial authorities of BDF and the National Guard.

# CELEBS



**Bruno Mars @BrunoMars**

When you got one song in the top 10 but Cardi B got three. LETS GO @iamcardib !!! Thank you to...



## Reynolds to develop film on Clue game

Los Angeles

**Ryan Reynolds** is developing a feature film based on the board game Clue. He is likely to star in it as well.

According to *deadline.com*, "Deadpool" star Reynolds' banner Maximum Effort is part of a three-year first look deal with Fox to hatch projects.

The first project is a live action film based on the board game Clue, which was first made into a film in 1985.

It will be developed as a star vehicle for Reynolds. (IANS)

*I don't think about the audience*

London

**British star** Eddie Redmayne has said that he doesn't think about the audience when it comes to picking the next film he will star in.

Redmaune says he goes by his instincts when it comes to taking up a project, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

"I'm really embarrassed to say that I don't think about the audience when I choose a job. I tend to react to a script and go on an instinct, and whether I find it entertaining. Is it a film I'd be interested in seeing?" said Redmayne.

He added: "I'm an old fan of Aardman's from everything, so it was a bit of a no-brainer. But their capacity to be so inclusive, audience-wise, is a wonderful thing. (IANS)



## Mariah Carey goes bowling with son



Los Angeles

**Singer Mariah** Carey went bowling with her six-year-old son Moroccan.

She took to social media to share a photograph of their experience at the bowling alley.

"Bowling with that boy," Carey captioned the image on her *Instagram* account, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

Last week, Carey had shared a photograph of her and former husband Nick Cannon celebrating Marthin Luther King day together with Moroccan and his twin sister Monroe.

The singer is currently dating 24-year-old dancer Bryan Tanaka. (IANS)



**STARRY Birthday**  
Matthew Lillard

January 24, 1970

Actor known for his roles in the 1996 horror film *Scream* and as Shaggy the 2002 film *Scooby-Doo*. He has also appeared in *What Love is*, *Area 57*, *Without a Paddle*, and *She's All That*.

# 'Camila'

## TOPS BILLBOARD MUSIC CHARTS



Los Angeles

**A**merican-Cuban singer-songwriter Camila Cabello is the first woman in three years to top the Billboard 200 chart with her debut full-length album "Camila".











"Camila", which released on January 12, landed the first position on the Billboard 200 chart since Meghan Trainor's "Title" on January 31 in 2015, reports *billboard.com*.

Billboard is a cult magazine for musicians worldwide.

The Billboard 200 chart ranks the most popular albums of the week in the US, based on multi-metric consumption, which includes traditional album sales, track equivalent albums (TEA) and streaming equivalent albums (SEA).

The new chart was posted on the website on Tuesday. (IANS)

# Top Album Sales this Week

- 1  **Havana**  
Camila Cabello  
Featuring Young Thug
- 2  **Perfect**  
Ed Sheeran
- 3  **Rockstar**  
Post Malone  
Featuring 21 Savage
- 4  **Finesse**  
Bruno Mars & Cardi B
- 5  **Bad At Love**  
Halsey
- 6  **Thunder**  
Imagine Dragons
- 7  **No Limit**  
G-Eazy Featuring A\$AP Rocky & Cardi B
- 8  **New Rules**  
Dua Lipa
- 9  **Too Good At Goodbyes**  
Sam Smith
- 10  **MotorSport**  
Migos, Nicki Minaj & Cardi B



# START CAMERA ACTION

## Jonathan, Sophia join

### 'The Incredibles 2'

Los Angeles

**A**ctors Jonathan Banks, Sophia Bush and Isabella Rossellini have joined the voice cast of upcoming Disney.Pixar's "The Incredibles 2".

Disney.Pixar on Monday shared a cast list that includes a few more names as well as character details for previously announced stars, reports *hollywoodreporter.com*.

Banks will be voicing the character of Rick Dicker. He is a government leader who helps the Parr family keep their superhero identities secret as head of the Super Relocation Programme.

Bush will voice Voyd, a young Elastigirl fan who aspires to be a superhero and has the power of creating voids, allowing objects to appear and disappear. And Rossellini voices Ambassador, who advocates for superheroes to be legalized. (IANS)



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

**OUT & ABOUT**

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

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

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

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

**COLLECTIVE**  
**Date: 14 December - 31 January 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm**  
**Venue: Qal'at al Bahrain Site Museum**  
In their inaugural exhibition, THE BOX, a Bahrain-based collective of creative works representing various concepts, talents and ideas, presents art installations and sculptures at the Bahrain Fort Site to raise awareness about preserving the environment surrounding the site.

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

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

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, the exhibition this year presents a collection of local and International artists residing in Bahrain.

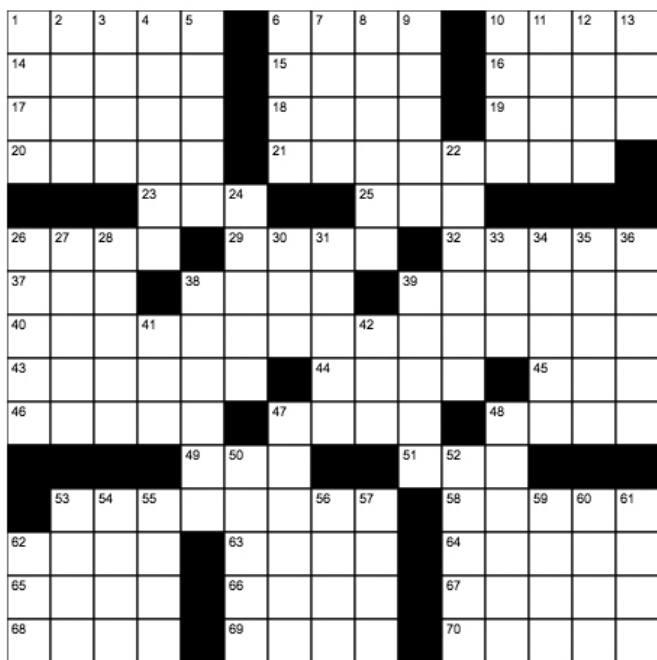
**THE LAND OF DILMUN, WHERE THE SUN RISES**  
**Date: 5 December 2017 - 11 March 2018**  
**Venue: The Hermitage State Museum**  
The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities showcases significant Dilmun artifacts from the permanent collection of the Bahrain National Museum at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, one of world's largest museums, that shed light on life in Dilmun between the 3rd and 1st millennium BCE.

**AL-FANN: ART FROM THE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION OF THE AL-SABAH COLLECTION**  
**Date: 19 January - 30 June 2018**  
**Venue: Bahrain National Museum**  
The exhibition invites the public to explore the great and multifaceted nature of Islamic culture through the spectacular al-Sabah collection of Islamic Art. Broadly divided into two parts, the display illustrates a chronological progression broken into four stages (from the very beginning of the Islamic period up to and including the three great empires of the sixteenth century) and tackles themes that run transversely through Islamic art; mainly, calligraphy, geometric decoration, vegetal, figurative art and jewellery.

**THE ROAD TO PALESTINE .. NOT SO CLOSE, NOT SO FAR**  
**Date: 7 - 31 March 2018, 9:00am - 8:00pm**  
**Venue: Art Centre**  
The exhibition sheds light on Jerusalem - the permanent Capital of Islamic Culture - and features works of iconic cartoonist Naji AlAli. The works of the late Palestinian artist will be on display for the first time in Bahrain presenting topics of the occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem in a series of cartoons that AlAli produced since his early career and until his assassination in 1987.

**FOOD IS CULTURE III**  
**Date: 21 January - 25 February 2018, 7:00-9:00pm**  
**Venue: Bahrain National Museum**  
Food is Culture is a creative experimental project that aims to bridge together the mediums of art and food. Running in parallel with the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, this experiment sheds light on creative processes that take place when two individuals (from different creative disciplines) collaborate. Every year five artists and five chefs get together and work to produce a creative product; be it a painting, installation, video, cake, drink, all or something completely different. The result of their two months' work, which is documented in a short film and a publication, will be presented during the course of the week, where they share and display their collective creations.

# CROSSWORD



**Across**  
 1- Grassly plain; 6- Mother of Ares; 10- Goes out with; 14- Pianist Claudio; 15- That's \_\_\_ haven't heard; 16- Catch a view of; 17- Hagar the Horrible's dog; 18- Vintner's prefix; 19- Reclined; 20- Surfer wan nabe; 21- Highly productive; 23- Pea holder; 25- Finish first; 26- Impetuous; 29- Brio; 32- March man; 37- Turkish honorific; 38- Envelope part; 39- Breadwinner; 40- In spite of; 43- Richards of "Jurassic Park"; 44- Scots Gaelic; 45- Buckeyes' sch.; 46- Country singer Tucker; 47- ... \_\_\_ forgive our debtors; 48- Dagger; 49- Cut (off); 51- Summer hrs.; 53- Undated; 58- Cut; 62- Actress Ward; 63- Mischief-makers; 64- Bellowing; 65- Cauterize; 66- Futile; 67- Hotelier Helmsley; 68- Stumble; 69- Tolkien tree creatures; 70- Item having exchange value;

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



**Down**  
 1- Money; 2- Florence's river; 3- TV horse; 4- Flourish made after a signature; 5- Perform better than; 6- Cager's target; 7- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 8- Fame; 9- Garlic sauce; 10- Ego; 11- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 12- Large-scale; 13- Thesaurus wd.; 22- Certifiable; 24- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 26- Charged; 27- Greek marketplace; 28- Glossy fabric; 30- Well, \_\_\_-di-dah!; 31- Church areas; 33- Old California fort; 34- Conjunction; 35- Inward feeling; 36- Bicker; 38- Closing number; 39- Relaxed; 41- Method; 42- Credit-tracking corp.; 47- Tarzan, e.g.; 48- Gazes fixedly; 50- Antipasto morsel; 52- Milan's La \_\_\_; 53- Antlered animal; 54- Jai \_\_\_; 55- Waterproof cover; 56- Roasting rod; 57- IRS IDs; 59- Outback hoppers; 60- Windmill part; 61- Part of QED; 62- Fast flier;

## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU

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

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

**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)



Don't fritter away your time with a person who isn't going to change his or her mind about something. This is one of those days in which you may end up wasting your time and everyone else's by continuing to insist that things be done a certain way. If you want to do something your way, then do it.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



More than likely there is a person in your world who desperately wants to get closer to you. Conflict is apt to arise tonight if you don't open up and let this person in a bit closer. It could be that you're quick to snap back with a forceful opinion, but be careful that you don't scare them away entirely. This person wants to share more of an intimate space with you.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



It may be easy for you to show up at a party or answer the phone when you know that it's your best friend calling with good news, but where are you when the going gets rough? Make sure you show your support to people in all situations. Don't be just a fair-weather friend. Your loyalty to others may be tested today when conflict arises and tempers get high.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Realize that your inner state of mind is quite apparent to people just by the look on your face. Don't think you can hide things from others, especially today. You're better off just saying how you feel even if you think someone may be put off by it. Your emotional state should be strong, so use this to your advantage.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Your opinions are apt to be strong today and you may feel on top of the world. Remember, however, that there are other people who share the world with you, so don't disregard them as you plough through the day. Expressing your thoughts should be no problem, but expressing your emotions could be a whole different matter.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Realize that you may be controlling other people's actions without even consciously knowing it. This is one of those days in which emotional outbursts could explode in your face as a result of other people's reactions to your pressure. Don't feel like you need to take on the responsibility of everyone else's actions. You may be having a hard enough time dealing with your own personal issues.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Beware of unexpected circumstances today. The good news is that your flexible attitude is perfectly suited to deal with the twists and turns that this day is likely to offer. While other people may get upset when their plans go awry, you'll find that you can surf the waves easily and turn any situation into a positive one.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Come out of your shell today and try not to be so aloof. You will never find the exact path you want to be on until you explore the different options. The good news is that you should be feeling quite strong emotionally, giving you the confidence to approach people with authority, thereby earning their respect and faith in whatever project you're involved with now.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



You may be wondering why everyone is getting so touchy when you see this as being just a normal day. Cut other people some slack when you think they aren't wearing as big a smile as you are. If you want people to trust you, you need to prove that you can bring yourself to the same level that they're on. Show a greater understanding of other people's needs.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



It could be that you don't feel as if you can begin your day until you've made it clear to someone that you have an issue that needs to be dealt with. You have a greater amount of emotional strength than usual, and you'll find that it's important that you hold on to this feeling against all odds. Other people may try to strike you down with their words, but pay attention to what they're saying.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Don't let another person's small, thoughtless comment ruin your entire day. People may be a bit stingy with everything from money to emotions to time spent with loved ones. The more you tell someone else that they're wrong, the more that person is going to reject your advice. In general, this is a good time to simply stay out of other people's way.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



You may be feeling a bit tired and worn out lately. Don't push yourself to do things when you know that your body needs rest. It could be extremely tempting to roll with the crowd and participate in all the fun. You don't want to miss out on a single thing going on around you. Resist the temptation to disregard the important messages that are coming from your body.



# N Korea condemns flag, Kim photo burning

Members of conservative groups burn an image of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un during a rally

**Seoul**  
**N**orth Korea Tuesday strongly criticized the burning of its national flag and photos of its leader Kim Jong-un during a protest rally against its planned participation in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang in South Korea.

In an article published by the *Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)*, Pyongyang accused South Korean conservatives of unscrupulously "letting out reckless remarks chilling the hardly-won atmosphere of improved inter-Korean relations."

The article also accused leaders of the Korean Patriots Party, a far-right party that burned North Korean flags

and leader Kim Jong-un's photos during Monday's rally, of leading these acts that they described as unforgivable atrocities.

The article also dismissed claims by these groups that the North agreed to participate in the games to buy itself time to complete its nuclear program, disrupt the South Korea-U.S. alliance and find a way out of United Nations imposed economic sanctions.

South Korea's presidential office on Tuesday also released a statement seeking public support for North Korea's participation in the PyeongChang Games, and reiterated president Moon Jae-in's position that it will bring about stability and peace on the Korean

peninsula.

The statement urged that the North's delegation for the Games, which are scheduled to begin on Feb. 9, be welcomed warmly into the country.

Tension between North and South Korea - which have technically remained at war for more than 65 years - have escalated over the last two years owing to repeated weapons tests by North Korea.

After two years of suspended talks and no diplomatic contact, the two countries earlier this month agreed to march under the same flag for the winter Olympics and to hold military dialogues in the future to avoid border friction. (EFE)

## Japan's latest overtime example: Xiang Xiang

**Tokyo**  
**B**y popular demand, Tokyo's new panda cub Xiang Xiang is working extra hours from yesterday, the latest example of overtime in a country famous for its hard-working "salarymen."

Ueno zoo's first baby panda since 1988 will be on display for an extra two hours every day until the end of January and working a full seven-hour day from February to cater to the thousands of fans of the cuddly celebrity.

Munching on bamboo shoots and nuzzling her mother, the bright-eyed seven-month-old has been the object of major media attention, with visitors clad in panda paraphernalia



Xiang Xiang the panda

flocking to see her since her first public appearance in December. More than a quarter of a million fans entered a lottery to get a first glimpse but zoo officials initially limited visitors to 400 per day during a

three-hour window.

Until the end of January however, panda fans can get a first-come, first-served ticket to see Xiang Xiang, who will be on display for five hours a day. (AFP)

### #PollToday



**Do you think Pakistan knows about Taliban leaders living in the country, but are resisting to take action against them?**

Yes  No  Cant Say



"The violence in Afrin disrupts what was a relatively stable area in Syria and distracts from the international effort to defeat ISIS. We are calling all parties to remain focused on defeating ISIS."

Jim Mattis  
 US Defense Secretary

### Rest in sight

**Indian court rejects bid to ban film**



India's top court rejected a final bid by two states to ban a Bollywood film about a mythical Hindu queen which sparked violent protests by radical groups.

**Bus, truck collision kills 5 in Pakistan**

At least five people were killed and 15 others injured in a collision between a bus and a truck in Pakistan's port city Karachi.

**US urges Pakistan to act against Taliban**

The US has urged Pakistan to immediately take action against the Taliban, after the militant group claimed last week's attack on a landmark hotel in Kabul that claimed 22 lives.

**German pupil 'killed by classmate'**

A pupil at a school in western Germany was killed in a stabbing attack by a classmate

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## Hotel, nightclub evacuated after London gas leak

**London**

**A**most 1,500 people were evacuated from a hotel and nightclub in central London overnight and two train stations were closed following a gas leak, authorities said yesterday.

The area was cordoned off throughout the morning and staff in some nearby offices who arrived for work were later evacuated, an AFP photographer said.

"A ruptured gas main was discovered using detection

equipment and high levels of natural gas were detected in the atmosphere," a London Fire Brigade spokesman said.

"As a precaution, approximately 1,450 people have been evacuated. They are from a hotel and a nightclub."

Charing Cross and Waterloo East train stations, which bring commuters into the capital, were also closed, while Underground trains were not stopping at Charing Cross. (AFP)

## Swollen Seine halts trains as France braces for floods



A man stands by the flooded banks of the river Seine in Paris near the Eiffel tower as the Seine level has risen

**Paris**

**F**rance braced for floods yesterday as the Rhine threatened to overflow and the rapidly rising Seine forced Paris authorities to halt trains on a busy commuter line.

Heavy rains have lashed France for days, leaving 30 departments across the country on flood alert. Some towns and villages in the east are already inundated, leaving homes and shops filled with muddy water.

The Seine, running through the centre of the French capital, had already burst its banks in some places Monday, growing

into a powerful muddy torrent that has submerged riverside parks and footpaths.

It was set to reach 6.10 metres (20 feet) Friday -- a peak last reached in 2016 when floods sent riverside museums scrambling to move artworks from their basements, which was the highest level since 1982.

The height of the Seine is measured not from the riverbed but from a point located at the Austerlitz bridge -- but 6.10 metres is five or six times the normal level of one to two metres. (AFP)

## Hawaii governor: Lost login delayed missile correction

**Honolulu**

**H**awaii's governor did not correct a false missile alert sent earlier this month for 15 minutes because he forgot his Twitter username and password.

David Ige admitted on Monday he knew within two minutes of the alert being sent to phones at 8.07am on January 13 that it was a false alarm. But it took him 15 more minutes to convey this to the public, leaving millions

fearing they were about to be incinerated by a nuclear warhead.

Ige told the Honolulu Star Advertiser this was because he does not know the username and password to his own Twitter account.

So instead of being able to reassure the public himself, he was forced to contact the staff who usually run the account and have them do it instead, causing the delay. (MailOnline)

# Dubai to open HOTEL WITH RAINFOREST

**A**rchitects in Dubai are building the world's first hotel with its own rainforest.

Set to open in 2018, the Rosemont Hotel and Residences will boast over 2 million square feet of hotel, residential, and leisure space, an artificial beach and a glass-bottom pool suspended above the streets of Dubai.

The hotel, designed by ZAS Architects, will be accommodated by a 47-storey tower that neighbours a twin tower of the same height housing 280 residential properties.

All entertainment facilities — including the 75,000 square feet rainforest — will be located in the podium at the base of the two towers.

As a city made famous by artificial islands and record-breaking architecture, Dubai will no doubt welcome the \$550m (£424m)



Sprawling across 7,000 square meters, the outdoor rainforest will feature adventure trails, a sand-less beach, a splash pool, waterfalls, streams, a rainforest cafe and an artificial rain room (pictured).

development project with open arms as it continues to redefine luxury.

Arriving at the hotel is an experience in itself. These artist's renderings show guests being immediately greeted by dynamic 3D

projections which will transform the drop-off point into a rainforest or a huge aquarium.

Once they head into the main foyer, visitors will be greeted by robotic luggage handlers.

Guests and residents can use the on-site bowling alley, trampoline park, or laser tag arena. The hotel will be operated by Hilton Worldwide under its Curio brand.

Sitting atop the five-storey podium at the base of the two towers is the development's main attraction — a 75,000-square foot jungle complete with waterfalls, streams, and a sensory rain system which mimics the rainforest climate.

Also found in the man-made jungle is a prehistoric Jurassic-inspired marsh, a splash pool, a sandless beach, and a rainforest café.

It makes for a pretty spectacular sight.

If you get tired of exploring the rainforest, you can head to the 25th floor and go for a dip in the glass-bottom infinity pool, which offers panoramic views of the city's ever-changing skyline.

The bottom of the pool is also coated in starry lighting.

Connected to the Skypool is an ultra-luxury spa and health club. (*independent.co.uk*)

Arriving at the hotel will be pretty spectacular. The drop-off area will be lit by animated projections inspired by the natural world.



The facade of the hotel tower's (pictured left) is inspired by a flowing river, and will feature lighting animations. The serviced apartment tower (right) is designed to resemble a shell and a pearl.

## US Senate votes to end government shutdown



Protesters rally against the shutdown in New York

**Washington**

**T**he three-day government shutdown is over, as Donald Trump signed a short-term spending bill that would provide a temporary respite from the crisis until 8 February.

The official end to the shutdown came on Monday night after Senate Democrats voted to fund the government for three weeks in exchange for a promise of a future Senate vote on immigration. The compromise broke the standoff

over the fate of Dreamers, undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer announced earlier that his party would support the legislation — which funds the government through 8 February, while extending for six years a popular health insurance program, Chip, that provides coverage to 9 million children.

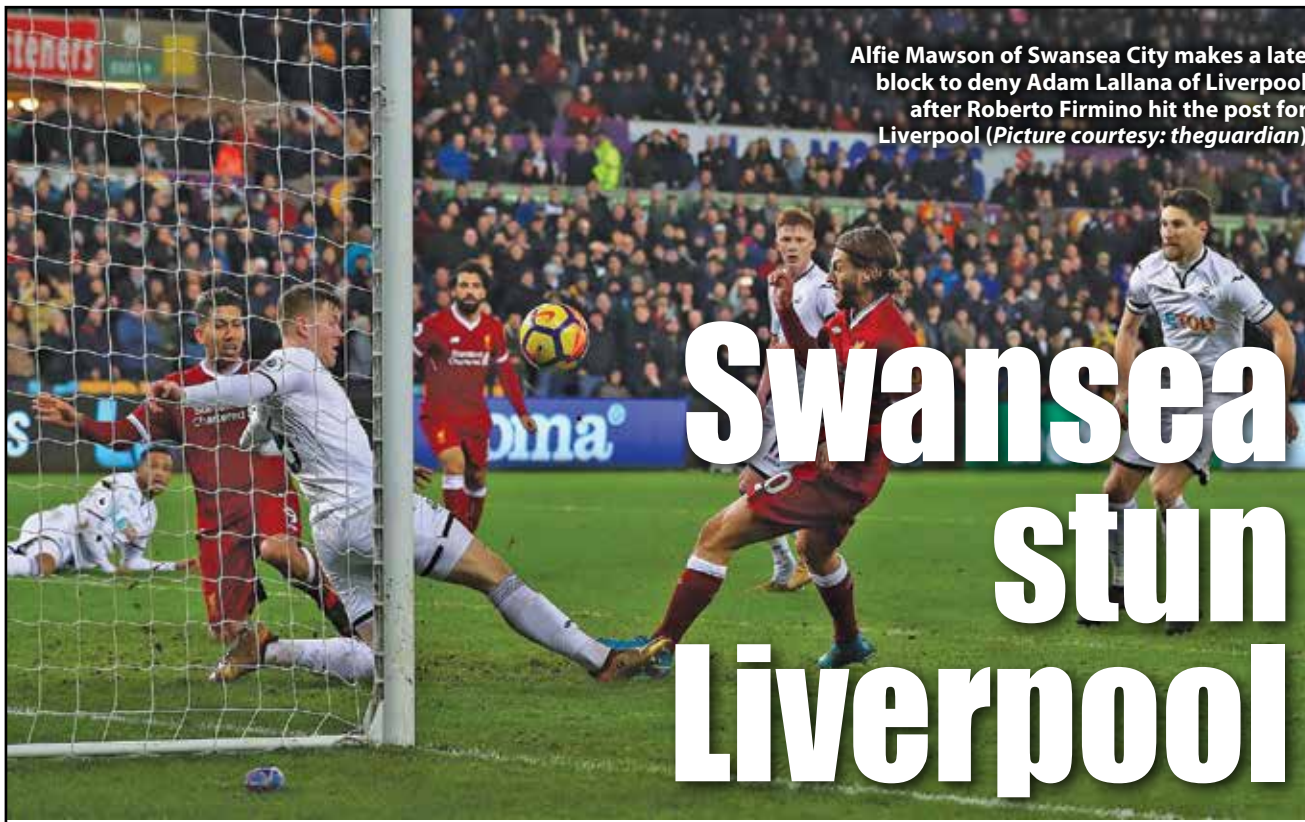
Democrats yielded after Senate majority leader Mitch

McConnell promised to put an immigration bill on the floor in February to address the status of Dreamers, if no bipartisan deal could be reached by then.

The bill passed 81-18. Sixteen Democrats and two libertarian-minded Republicans voted against it. Among them were a number of potential Democratic presidential candidates in 2020 including Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

The bill then went to the House which quickly passed it a vote of 266-150. A total of 45 Democrats voted in favour and six Republicans voted against. It must now be signed by Donald Trump before federal employees can go back to work.

Trump said on Monday afternoon that Democrats "have come to their senses", and said he was open to an immigration deal only if it was "good for our country". (*theguardian*)



Alfie Mawson of Swansea City makes a late block to deny Adam Lallana of Liverpool after Roberto Firmino hit the post for Liverpool (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

# Swansea stun Liverpool

## London

**Swansea produced** one of the shock results of the season as Virgil van Dijk's Premier League debut for Liverpool turned into a nightmare.

Alfie Mawson struck the 40th-minute winner for bottom club Swansea, pouncing on a poor Van Dijk clearance from a corner that Liverpool's £75million record signing possibly should not have conceded.

Liverpool came into this contest unbeaten in 18 games and on a high after ending the unbeaten record of league leaders Manchester City, so few saw this 1-0 defeat coming. It was a frustrating night

for Liverpool but they almost rescued a point in stoppage time when Roberto Firmino's header, from a Van Dijk cross, came back off a post.

Jurgen Klopp's side dominated possession and territory throughout, but their usual invention and spark were badly missing, with 24-goal man Mohamed Salah suffering a rare off-night.

Swansea remain bottom of the league -- albeit on goal difference from West Brom -- but it is now only one defeat in six games under new manager Carlos Carvalhal.

The Portuguese has instilled a real sense of belief that his new charges can avoid

relegation, ever since Swansea suffered a 5-0 humiliation at Liverpool on Boxing Day.

It was no surprise that Liverpool set up camp in the Swansea half, with the hosts content to soak up pressure and break on the counter-attack.

But there was a lack of intensity about much of Liverpool's play, even if Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski had to bravely block at the feet of Sadio Mane in the eighth minute.

Swansea did break the stranglehold for Jordan Ayew to race onto Sam Clucas' pass and find the Liverpool net, but referee Neil Swarbrick

had correctly ruled that the ball had crossed the line and awarded a corner.

With so little defending to do, Van Dijk's presence was felt at the other end and he almost repeated his FA Cup goal against Everton when he glanced Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's corner narrowly wide.

Van Dijk then released Salah with a delicious ball over the top, but the Egyptian could not control his difficult volley.

Oxlade-Chamberlain tested Fabianski after some intricate Liverpool passing, but Jurgen Klopp's were stunned five minutes before the break. (PA Sport)

## Bangladesh cruise to easy victory

### Dhaka

**O**peners Tamim Iqbal and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan continued their rich vein of form as Bangladesh maintained its winning-streak in the tri-nation One-day tournament yesterday, recording a 91-run win against Zimbabwe.

Tamim posted his third successive half-century and Shakib made his second in succession to help Bangladesh to 216-9 on a tricky wicket before the latter finished with 3-34 to dismiss Zimbabwe for just 125 in 36.3 overs.

Tamim scored 76 off 105 balls, including six fours, while Shakib contributed with an 80 ball-51 alongside his three wickets. Pace bowlers Mustafizur Rahman, Mashrafe Mortaza and left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam picked up two apiece.

Zimbabwe needed to win the

### BRIEF SCORE

**Bangladesh 216 for 9 (Tamim 76, Shakib 51, Cremer 4-32, Jarvis 3-42) beat Zimbabwe 125 (Raza 39, Shakib 3-32, Mustafizur 2-16, Sunzamul 2-28) by 91 runs**

match to keep an advantage over the third team in the tournament Sri Lanka but failed to deal with Shakib's spin and Mashrafe Mortaza's pace in the first powerplay.

Together they removed the top order, leaving the African team on 34-4 in 9.2 overs before Sikandar Raza and Peter Moor offered some resistance.

Pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman kept up the pressure, delivering three straight maiden overs, which worked well for left arm spinner Sunzamul Islam. (AP)



Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan bump fists during their partnership (Picture courtesy: AFP)

## Ayrton Senna's final Monaco winning car up for auction

### London

**T**he McLaren MP4/8A driven by Ayrton Senna to his final Monaco Grand Prix win in the 1993 Formula 1 season is to be auctioned by Bonhams in May.

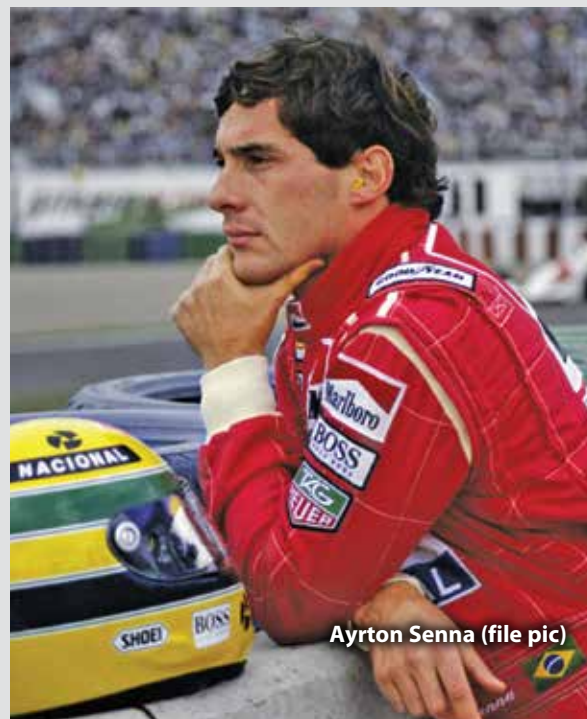
Senna used this car - chassis number six - to claim his sixth and last victory in Monaco, a record that still stands 25 years on.

He also drove the car in a further seven races that year, finishing second behind eventual champion Alain Prost on the chassis' debut at the fifth round in Spain.

Following its final race at the Italian GP, where Senna retired after contact with Damon Hill and then Martin Brundle, chassis six was used as a spare car for the final two events in Japan and Australia - both of which Senna won.

The Ford-powered MP4/8A is listed by Bonhams as being "startlingly well-preserved" and in "running order". Although Bonhams will not quote an exact estimate, it expects the McLaren to fetch a high seven-figure sum when it goes up for auction on May 11 at the Monaco Sale.

In November last year Michael Schumacher's final Monaco Grand Prix-winning 2001 Ferrari sold for \$7.5million, making it the most valuable modern era F1 car ever sold at auction. (Autosport)



Ayrton Senna (file pic)



Romain Grosjean (file pic)

# 'I could race in F1 until I'm 40'

### London

**R**omain Grosjean feels like he could race in Formula 1 until he turns 40.

The 31-year-old has completed six full seasons in F1, following a short stint with Renault, and has a contract to continue with Haas for a third season in 2018.

It remains unclear whether the former Lotus driver will stay on at Haas for a fourth season or pursue a move elsewhere on the grid.

"I still have a long way to go to the end," he told Autosport.

"I started when I was 27 really in Formula 1, so I feel like I can go a long way, maybe 40, or just before 40.

"I still believe I've got eight, nine seasons ahead, so I'm pretty good."

Grosjean has said he would like to eventually return to Enstone and race for the Renault works team again.

The Frenchman said he still has hopes of making a move back, but added he still has ambitions to be successful with Haas.

"It would be nice, especially as Renault is going up with better and better cars," he said. (Autosport)

# BIC gears up for Open Track Night



Action from the previous race

DT News Network  
Manama

Race fans can satisfy their need for speed on Thursday when Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts an Open Track Night for cars and motorbikes.

Open Track is one of the most popular and highly subscribed events at BIC and it is once again expected to attract a wide number of motor racing enthusiasts from all over the Gulf.

Those taking part will be able to experience BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Track while BIC's state-of-the-art floodlighting system brilliantly illuminates the facility.

Aside from the Open Track, also

available at BIC for all speed enthusiasts will be a pair of passenger rides in a Clio Cup car and a Radical SR3 prototype.

The Clio Cup passenger ride gives clients a look into the racing capabilities of one of the world's most popular sports cars. This Renault-manufactured mean machine features a 1.6-litre Turbocharged engine. It can generate up to 220bhp and 6,000rpm, and it has a paddle shift racing gearbox and an FIA-specification roll cage and seats.

The Radical SR3 boasts an RPE-Suzuki Generation 1,340 DOHC engine. It can go from zero to 100kmh in 3.4 seconds, and also has a six-speed sequential gearbox and paddle gearshift system.

Thursday's action will be held from 4pm until 11pm. Registration begins at 3pm.

## Vuelta a San Juan Villalobos takes a big WIN

Pocito, Argentina

Roman Villalobos scored a major victory for his Canel's-Specialized team, latching onto a late breakaway with Lotto Soudal's Tiesj Benoot, then riding a strong tailwind to a sprint victory over Ricardo Escuela (A.C.A. Virgen De Fatima) on stage 2 of the Vuelta a San Juan.

Villalobos also took the race lead over Escuela thanks to the time bonus. Benoot finished third on the stage and sits third overall, being caught just on the line by the chasing peloton.

Villalobos now enjoys a four-second lead in the general classification over Escuela, with Benoot at six and overnight leader Fernando Gaviria (Quick-Step Floors) down to fourth at eight seconds.

The win is the biggest of Villalobos' career, and the 27-year-old Costa Rican said it was dream that was hatched the morning of the stage.

"I told my teammates in the morning before the stage that I wanted to win," he said at the post-stage press conference. "We knew that we'd have to have a strong team to be in the first part of the peloton but with experience I could win the stage." (Cyclingnews)



Roman Villalobos celebrates

## Nibali sets out new race schedule



Vincenzo Nibali (file pic)

Manama

Bahrain-Merida's leader Vincenzo Nibali has laid out the races which he will enter in preparation for the Tour de France after he was forced to pull out of what was planned to be the first race of his season with illness.

Nibali travelled to Argentina to take part in the Vuelta a San Juan, but was forced to withdraw ahead of the opening stage on Monday as he suffered from a fever and stomach problems.

Instead, according to Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero*, the four-time Grand Tour winner will now start his season a month later than planned, heading to the Tour of Oman which starts on February 13.

From there the Bahrain's Nibali will ride three Monuments over the course of the spring, starting with Milan-San Remo in March before heading the Belgium for the Tour of Flanders and

Liège-Bastogne-Liège in April.

After concentrating on one-day races in the spring, Nibali then looks likely to have a break from racing, with his final Tour preparation coming at the Critérium du Dauphiné, which starts on June 3, just over a month before the start of the Tour de France on July 7.

Depending on his condition coming out of the Tour de France, where he is expected to be one of the favourites to take the yellow jersey, Nibali is also expected to race the Vuelta a España before heading to the World Championships in Innsbruck where a hilly parcours will also suit his style of racing.

The Italian enjoyed a consistent 2017 season, finishing third at the Giro d'Italia and second at the Vuelta a España, before finishing off the year with a popular home victory at Il Lombardia. (Cyclingweekly)

## Joshua on Usyk's radar at heavyweight

London

Oleksandr Usyk says he will move up to heavyweight and take on Anthony Joshua but not until he has proved he is the best cruiserweight in the world.

The Ukrainian takes on fellow unbeaten cruiserweight Mairis Briedis in the semi-final of the World Boxing Super Series, in Riga, Latvia, this Saturday.

Usyk is the No 1 seed and wants to prove he is the best cruiserweight in the world and although he is not looking past Briedis, he has not ruled



Anthony Joshua (file pic)



Oleksandr Usyk (file pic)

out moving up and meeting Joshua. "I will but let's wait for a while," he exclusively said.

"I will move up to heavyweight and show them all how good I am. I think you can see yourself, I will fight

him (Joshua). Not yet though.

"But it is a question everybody keeps asking me, so once we go face to face, we will find out. It will be good. "First of all, I like Britain because that is where boxing was born. The fans over there still follow me and watch me, so I will always try and show them my best."

Usyk has been sparring with London duo Isaac Chamberlain and Mikael Lawal, as well as Mateusz Masternak and Dmitry Kudryashov as he gets ready for Briedis. (Skysports)

# Wozniacki advances to semis

## Melbourne

**F**ormer world number one Caroline Wozniacki marched into her second Australian Open semi-final by beating Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro 6-0 6-7(3) 6-2 in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

After a one-sided start in a midnight match at Rod Laver Arena, Wozniacki met stiff resistance from the 39th-ranked Spaniard who dug deep to save a match point in the second set before outclassing the Dane in the tiebreak.

Second seed Wozniacki steadied herself, however, raising her game to bully Suarez Navarro from the baseline and grab another three match points on serve. Wozniacki secured victory when Suarez Navarro hit long and she will meet Belgian Elise Mertens for a place in the final.

"I knew it wasn't going to be that easy ... In the second set I had the chance to close it out so I was disappointed I didn't do that," Wozniacki, who made the semi-finals in 2011, said on-court.

"I'm just proud that I managed to stay cool and finish it off in the third set," she added. "(Mertens) has had an amazing start to the year. It's going to be a tough one but I'm excited for it." (Reuters)

Caroline Wozniacki celebrates (Picture courtesy: Xinhua)

Elise Mertens of Belgium (Picture courtesy: Xinhua)

# Kyle Edmund beats Grigor Dimitrov

## Melbourne

**K**yle Edmund continued his remarkable run at the Australian Open by beating third seed Grigor Dimitrov to reach his first grand slam semi-final.

With Andy Murray sidelined, it was beyond all wild hopes at the start of the tournament that Britain would have a man through to the last four but Edmund has come of age at Melbourne Park and this was his finest moment yet.

Making his debut on Rod Laver Arena, the 23-year-old did not allow the occasion to get to him and took advantage of an opponent not at the top of his game to win 6-4 3-6 6-3 6-4.

Edmund, who will face Marin Cilic in the last four, is first British man other than Murray to make the last four here since John Lloyd in 1977 and only the fourth in the Open era. There was an agonising wait for Edmund as Dimitrov challenged on the final point but his forehand was shown to be marginally long and the Yorkshireman could celebrate a superb achievement.

Dimitrov was excellent in his fourth-round victory over Nick Kyrgios but has otherwise struggled this tournament. He was taken to five sets by qualifier Mackenzie McDonald in round two and then served 15 double faults against Andrey Rublev in the following round. (PA Sport)

Kyle Edmund celebrates (Picture courtesy: Xinhua)

# Mertens crushes Svitolina in massive shock

## Melbourne

**U**nseeded Elise Mertens produced a spellbinding display to beat fourth seed Elina Svitolina 6-4 6-0 and reach the Australian Open semi-finals.

Ukrainian Svitolina was riding a nine-match winning streak this year but was outplayed by the 37th ranked Belgian in 73 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

The aggressive Mertens smashed 16 winners to win the opening set and held her nerve to keep up the pressure on the world number four in a one-sided second set.

After barely putting a foot wrong in the contest, the 22-year-old fired down a 26th winner to seal a date with Caroline Wozniacki in her first grand slam semi-final. (Eurosport)

# It's all about me, says Pliskova

## Melbourne

**K**arolina Pliskova may have been somewhat confused by being compared to a cucumber after reaching the quarter-finals of the Australian Open but she was crystal clear about what she needed to do to go a step further.

The sixth seed burnt the midnight oil in her all-Czech fourth round grudge match against Barbara Strycova, finally clinching a 6-7 6-3 6-2

victory at 1.35 a.m. local time on Tuesday morning.

The pair fell out last year when coach Tomas Krupa switched from Strycova to Pliskova, with David Kotyza later moving the other way.

Pliskova was clearly a little nonplussed when the on-court presenter described her as "cool as a cucumber", later explaining she had never heard the expression before.

"I don't know if this is something from Australia?" Pliskova said with a smile, before agreeing that she had not been particularly bothered about going a set down.

"I was fine. Obviously the first set took me some energy, some power. I had some chances. I didn't play well on them," the 25-year-old added.

"She didn't play anything, like, any perfect shot. Everything was my mistake. Next time I knew I had to play everything better." (Reuters)

Karolina Pliskova (Picture courtesy: thenational.ae)





# Cilic through after Nadal retires

**Rafael Nadal struggled with a muscle strain in his upper right thigh from late in the fourth set before abandoning the match**

Melbourne

**M**arin Cilic beat Rafael Nadal 3-6 6-3 6-7 6-2 2-0 at the Australian Open in Melbourne after the Spaniard retired hurt.

A wincing Nadal struggled with a muscle strain in his upper right thigh from late in the fourth set before abandoning the match at 3-6 6-3 6-7(5) 6-2 2-0, leaving a packed Rod Laver Arena crushed with disappointment.

It was only the second time the world number one has retired in over 250 grand slam matches, his last, coincidentally, during the 2010 quarter-finals against Andy Murray.

"It's not the first time here," an ashen-faced Nadal told reporters.

"I am a positive person ... but today is an opportunity lost to be in a semi-finals of a grand slam."

Of the seven grand slam quarter-final defeats of his career, five have now come on the blue hardcourts at Melbourne Park.

The 16-times grand slam champion said he felt the strain in the third set but was

not affected until the fourth when it twinged during a scramble for a drop-shot. He signed off his news conference on a sour note, complaining that too many players were getting injuries.

"Somebody who is running the tour should

think a little bit about what's going on," said the Spaniard. "I don't know if they have to think a little bit about the health of the players.

"Not for now that we are playing, but there is life after tennis. I don't know if we keep playing in these very, very hard surfaces what's going to happen in the future with our lives."

It overshadowed a majestic performance from sixth seed Cilic who reached his second Australian Open semi-final eight years after losing to Murray at the 2010 tournament.

"It was an unbelievable performance from both of us and it's really unfortunate for Rafa," Cilic told Jim Courier during his post-match interview. *(Eurosport)*



Rafael Nadal leaves the court  
*(Picture courtesy: Xinhua)*



Marin Cilic reacts *(Picture courtesy: Xinhua)*



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