

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

News of Bahrain

Friday, March 24, 2017

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HM thanks well-wishers for attending wedding



» P 02

Tweet of the Day



We will all move forward together, never giving in to terror or allowing the voices of hate & evil to drive us apart

@theresa_may

Today's Weather	
	Max
	Min
	26°C
	19°C



P 03

MoH fee hike hits traders hard



P 05

Indian fishermen detained in Iran still await release



P 24

Saudis smash Thai hopes

Man held for driving car at crowd

Antwerp Belgian security forces arrested a man yesterday after he drove into a shopping area at high speed in the port city of Antwerp, officials said.

Authorities found a rifle and bladed weapons in the car after the suspect, identified by prosecutors as 39-year-old Mohamed R., tried to flee and was detained in the northern city.

The man was "under the influence of something" but it was not clear what substance, a source close to the investigation said.

11th Hour

Palestinian teen shot dead by Israeli troops

Ramallah

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian teenager yesterday in the occupied West Bank and seriously wounded three other Palestinians, the Palestinian health ministry said in a statement. It did not give the circumstances, but said the shooting happened near the Jelazoun refugee camp.

250 feared dead in migrant boat sinkings

Rome Around 250 African migrants are feared to have drowned in the Mediterranean after rescue boat found five corpses and two partially submerged rubber dinghies off Libya. Spanish charity Proactiva said its boat Golfo Azzuro had recovered the five dead bodies close to the dinghies, about 15 miles off the Libyan coast.

Three get death for Qurrayah bombings

DT News Network Manama

The High Criminal Court yesterday sentenced three persons to death and four to life in prison for their role in the terror bombings in Qurrayah that targeted police officers.

The court also sentenced eight persons to 15 years and two to 10 years and ordered the confiscation of all materials seized in their possession. The 16th and 17th accused received 10 years in prison each. Two of the eight accused were also

ordered to pay a combined BD1541. The accused were arrested in connection with detonating explosives in Qurrayah in which several police officers were injured.

According to court files, the accused targeted police officers and spread panic among citizens and residents of the Kingdom. The court files said the third accused was spearheading the group, while the first and second accused were providing him with the necessary guidance and support. The third accused,

after he was arrested, guided police officers to a place where explosives and locally-made weapons were stashed. Police officers also unearthed arms from the 14th accused, court files of the case revealed.

The 13th accused revealed the explosives storage location and the 15th accused disclosed details about a Kalashnikov and an ammunition-holding magazine.

The accused persons' conviction was established based on their statements,

witnesses' testimonies and technical proofs.

According to the court documents, the accused had formed and joined a terror cell that made explosive devices and firearms and used them against policemen in acts of terror in the Northern Governorate.

They used the weapons to inflict heavy casualties among the public security forces and material damage in order to cause panic and spread chaos among citizens and residents, the court documents said.

'IS soldier' attacked London

London

British police yesterday identified the man who killed three people in a rampage outside parliament as a 52-year-old with a string of convictions but none for terror offences.

The Islamic State claimed the assailant behind the deadliest attack on British soil in 12 years was one of its "soldiers" acting on a call to target countries in the US-led coalition fighting jihadists.

Police named him as English-born Khalid Masood and said he had convictions for assault including grievous bodily harm, possession of offensive weapons and public order offences ranging from 1983 to 2003. However, authorities said Masood had never been convicted of any terrorism offences.

"(He) was not the subject of any investigations and there was no prior intelligence about his intent to mount a terrorist attack."

Some media said Masood, reportedly a married father-of-three, was believed to have worked as an English teacher and had given that as his occupation when he rented the car in a town outside Birmingham used in Wednesday's rampage.

"He was a nice guy. I used to see him outside doing his garden," Iwona Romek, a former neighbour said. Police said five men and three women arrested in overnight raids in the central city of Birmingham and London were being investigated "on suspicion of preparation of terrorist acts". - AFP

(See also Page 20)



HM thanks well-wishers for attending wedding

DT News Network
Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa has thanked well-wishers who attended the marriage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa.

HM the King and HRH the Premier congratulated Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa and his son Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa. They wished Shaikh Mohammed a happy married life.

HM the King thanked all well-wishers on their good feelings, wishing them all abundant health and happiness and constant success. The Crown Prince expressed thanks to the King and the Premier on their good feelings, praying to the Almighty to protect HM the King and HRH the Premier and bless them with abundant health and happiness.

His Majesty King Hamad, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa and Prince Salman received at Al-Rawdha Palace well-wishers on the marriage of Shaikh Mohammed.

The well-wishers included senior members of the Royal Family, Shura Council Chairman, Council of Representatives Speaker, ministers, senior officials, diplomats, guests and invitees. They all congratulated HM the King, the Premier, the Crown Prince and Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa on the occasion, wishing Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa a happy married life.



MoH fee hike hits traders hard

Arunita Praharaj/DTNN
news@dt.bh

Manama

The Ministry of Health's (MoH) decision to hike cigarette licence fees has negatively affected the small and medium businesses in the Kingdom.

In the past, MoH had charged only BD25 for small and BD50 for medium businesses as fees for selling cigarettes. But the new rules of the MoH have made it mandatory to pay a fee of BD300 and BD500, for small and medium businesses, respectively.

To start a business, a proprietor needs to get a

commercial registration and pay fees for specific licenses separately besides the annual fee to renew the license.

Once all payments and regulations are met, the company receives approval from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to commence a business.

The hefty hike in the fees only adds to the costs of separate licenses and renewal processes, distressing small businesses like cold-stores.

"Last year I renewed my license paying BD160. But this year, I had to pay around BD600 because of the cigarette licence fee hike. While, the bigger supermarkets and hypermarkets can afford

such a hike, it is impossible for small businesses like us to pay hefty fees," said one of the cold-store owners in the island.

Cold-stores in the Kingdom are extremely popular among households for basic dairy products, cold-drinks, snacks and cigarettes.

Expressing his concerns another cold-store owner said: "Supermarkets and hypermarkets are not heavily impacted by these issues because they sell a wide variety of products, earn higher profits to manage costs and they are often sponsored by a cigarette company but small businesses have no such support.



The hefty hike in cigarette license fees has affected the small and medium businesses in Bahrain

"Due to the new rules, our profits have been on an all-time low and we are struggling to make ends meet because we have to pay salaries to those who work in our shops, along with the rent, electricity and water charges which are also on the rise."

The Bahrain Malayalee Business Forum, an industry organisation of a large number of small business

owners in the Kingdom, has urged the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce (BCCI) for support and the Chamber has assured them that they will raise the issue with the relevant authorities.

"We think it is unfair to hike the license fee to such a great extent. They have to create different and more logical categories of fees for small and medium firms

rather than charging them both at the same rate. Not only will the hefty fees stop these ventures from expanding, it will also force people to evade fees," said Ahmed Al Saloom, Head of Restaurants and Coffee Shops of the BCCI.

The Chamber is making efforts to persuade the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Commerce to find a solution to the problem.



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A'ali flower show to bloom from today



Rows of flowers set ready for the exhibition

Manama

The first edition of the flower show opens its doors today in Hoorat A'ali.

Locally produced flowers will go on display in the exhibition, which is assumed to be the largest of its kind in Bahrain.

The producers will exhibit high quality flowers, which include the special 'Al Ward Al-Muhammadi' orchids and chrysanthemums.

Undersecretary for Agriculture and Marine Resources Shaikh Khalifa bin Isa Al-Khalifa said, "The

importance of the exhibition is to highlight the cost of these types of flowers running into millions of dollars when imported from other countries."

He paid tribute to Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) for her support in the venture. He also underlined the efforts undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in achieving self-sufficiency and not relying on import for flowers.

Wrong details stamped on passport pages

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

The bizarre case of two Indian nationals who got their passports stamped with other people's details on visa pages was solved in two days.

Jithin Kumar and Sumith were the passport holders who had wrong details stamped on their passports.

Kumar had details of another Indian national pasted on to his passport

while Sumith had details of Kumar posted on his.

The duo had submitted their passports to IVS Global Services for renewing them. Sumith said he checked the passport immediately after receiving it from the office and noticed the error.

"Jithin collected his passport first after the renewal, and I collected mine after a while. Soon after it came into my hand, I checked it and found the error. It was Jithin's details that were entered on my page. I was shocked but I immediately notified them, and I called Jithin to inform the situation," said Sumith.

According to Kumar, the details entered on his visa page was that of someone else's. "Initially I was furious, I had to travel to Europe urgently. But I am glad because the issue was set quickly. If there had



Kumar's passport posted with someone else's details

been a delay or a complication, my travel would have been affected," he said.

A senior manager from IVS Global Services clarified that the mistake was not

on their part. "We do not stamp the visa pages. This is the responsibility of the Immigration office and this looks like a mistake from their part," the official said.

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- 27th Monday : MALAYALAM LITERATURE QUIZ
- 28th Tuesday : KAVYA SAYAHNAM
- 29th Wednesday : NATARANGU
- 30th Thursday : VAYALAR GANA SMRUTHI

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Friendship Gesture



The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) donated a cheque for BD2,000 to Bahrain Red Crescent Society for its work on the Bangladesh Maternal and Child Health (MCH) project. RCSI Bahrain's president, Professor Sameer Otoom presented the cheque to Bahrain Red Crescent Society Secretary General, Dr Fawzi Amin, following a meeting at the Busaiteen campus

Indian fishermen detained in Iran still await release

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

Despite orders from Iranian courts, the 30-odd Indian fishermen, who were detained by Iranian cost guards in October 2016, were not as yet released by the Iran port officials, reports said yesterday.

They are still languishing in their seized boats, moored somewhere in the port vicinity, said the reports.

According to Justin Anthony, President of International Fishermen Development Trust (INFIDET), who was making the follow up negotiations for the release, the fishermen are still not given permission for their return albeit the orders have been issued on 14 March 2017 to each one of them in hand by the sponsor in the presence of the port administrator.

Anthony said that he had spoken to one of the detained fishermen, George, on 20 March 2017, and, according to him, they were told they could return after five days from 14 March.

Time was lost in the delay in paying penalty to the authorities. But it has been confirmed that the court issued release orders after completing that formality by



The fishermen waiting for their release from Iran port

the sponsors, said Anthony.

Each time the fishermen raised questions to the port officials, the answer was contained in just one word—"soon", said Anthony.

Anthony said, "They have been contacting the Indian Embassy in Iran to let them know the plight of the fishermen. The detained men have not been given food and water to sustain their life."

"They were held under strict surveillance of the armed forces. Even to attend nature's call, they were taken to the toilet one by one," he said quoting reports from Iran.

However, on further enquiry, it was reported that somebody had approached them and handed Rs 8000 for procuring medicines and food, he said.

Not only the fishermen are worried but their families are also growing anxious, as the release is getting inordinately delayed.

According to latest reports, Iranian officials are waiting for the ongoing holidays to pass. Once the holidays are over officials will release the fishermen, the reports said.

There were 15 men in three boats that set sail from Bahrain

in October 2016—all Indian expats. They were Kiruba, George, Jacob, Anto and Ravi in Al Shumal; Varghese, Claudin, Sagar, Sreejith and John Kennady in Daynat Mariam; and Rajesh Kumar,



WhatsApp image of the court release order

Saleth Raja, Seenu, Vincent and Prasanth in Mughalaf.

The men in Al Shumal and Dayanat Mariam were put into jail and later returned to boats. Their passports and mobile phones, which were first seized, were released after 30 days, Anthony said, adding that they have been totally denied of the minimum living conditions they required in spite of the negotiations being

made to Indian Embassy and Iranian authorities.

Another group of 15 men which set sail from Dubai, has Balamurugan from Ramnad district in Tamil Nadu.

According to him, their sponsor rarely visited them, and he did not know if the penalty has been paid for them, although they had been taken to court several times.

New Isa primary school set to open



Minister of Education on an inspection visit to the school

Manama

The new Isa Town School for Boys is all set to open for the new academic year 2017-18.

Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi announced the inauguration as he visited Isa

Town School for Boys, where he met the administrative staff.

He was briefed on preparations being undertaken by the authorities to raze down the old building by the end of this school year.

25pc progress in Muqaba sewerage network

Manama

The Sanitary Engineering Planning and Projects Director of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Nazha Abu Hindi said that the Ministry has achieved 25 per cent progress in Muqaba Sewerage Network Project, which is hoped to serve 140 houses in the area.

According to Abu Hindi, the project comprises extension of 670m long main connections, 860m long sub-connections, construction of 160 inspection chambers and connecting 140 houses to the network in Block 517 in Muqaba.

The BD831,814 project was earlier awarded to Abdul Karim Al Jahrami Contracting.

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State Secrets and the Age of Leaks

The secret is out! This is what newspapers, news-websites and social media tweets, boasted last week.

They announced that when the 90 year old Queen Elizabeth II, the longest ruling monarch of UK, passes away, the secret code that would be used is "London Bridge is down".

When this code is transmitted from Buckingham Palace, to UK's Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, and to BBC Worldwide, the recipients will immediately know that the Queen is no more. And they will swiftly begin the necessary arrangements, make appropriate announcements, and initiate procedures for royal succession.

Apparently, this secrecy is needed in order to prevent switchboard operators, and other intermediaries, at the palace from learning the news, before it is formally announced through official and reliable channels.

But what I found strange and amusing is that,

suddenly, there was an all-pervasive excitement in the world of news. I saw a mysterious awakening among the news-reporters at the very thought of the monarch passing away; and at the revelation of this code.

Many news websites published headlines with attention-grabbing fonts. And it was evident they were over-excited at the prospect of announcing the impending departure of a venerable royal, from this world. It was as if the revelation

of the code was just too startling and too juicy to be contained to news desks.

I keep wondering, however, about how the queen would be reacting, as she reads these news bits and websites - discussing her death and funeral plans.

Of course, she knows, and we know, that all of us must return to our maker one day. And that we have to stop this earthly sojourn and head outward, when we get the call.

But, wouldn't it be a bit unnerving to see the huge hullabaloo around your own death, when you are still alive?

In 1952, when her father King George VI died, the code was "Hyde Park Corner", and in 2002, when her mother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, died, the code was "Operation Tay Bridge".

But it has been a sixty-five years since the previous UK monarch died.

And, I think, in this long time, many technological advances are making 'state secrecy', a term of

obsolescence.

Even in 2002, when Queen Mother died, smart phones, were still being tested. Facebook, Twitter, or WhatsApp did not exist. And phones with cameras were just making their entrance.

Today, I am sure virtually everyone in the queen's palace is connected to the Internet from their phones.

So, who would wait for the news from the formal BBC channel? Anymore?

These are days of leaks, and hacking. And for all that you know, you might see a tweet, or a Facebook post, or a WhatsApp image, that could leak out the news, even before TV channels announce it.

These days, government organizations with all that huge bureaucratic machinery are finding it hard to conceal classified information.

So, unlike in the past, when the death of King George VI was announced four hours after it happened, the news of the queen's death could actually come out instantaneously.

Here are two questions I still do not have answers for.

One, how often will newspapers keep getting excited, in the next ten years, if the queen stays on, to celebrate her centenary on earth?

Two, how can the royal administration keep the same secret code, when it is no longer a secret?

Whatever the answers, one other thing is worthy of admiration. Prince Charles' patience.

(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.)

Saudi postpones film festival after sandstorm

Riyadh

The launch of Saudi Arabia's main film festival has been postponed to next week due to a sandstorm, organisers said yesterday.

The opening of the fourth Saudi Film Festival, slated to run from March 23-28 in the Gulf coastal city of Dhahran, was suspended after the storm hit the kingdom earlier this week.

The festival will now open on Monday and run for six days.

This is the third consecutive annual film festival in Saudi Arabia after a hiatus of seven years.

The kingdom late last year began a cautious push to introduce entertainment.

Among the events on offer for Saudi spectators have been the New York theatrical group iLuminate, the Comic-Con pop culture festival, and WWE wrestling.

Saudi Arabia has created a government agency to support private firms organising entertainment events, under a wide-ranging "Vision 2030" plan for economic and social reform.

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Missing Pets



DREAMY - Female Chihuahua, 10 yrs, light beige, bald patch (birthmark) on backside, spayed, micro-chipped, not wearing collar or ID tag, gate left open, Karbabad (near Portuguese Fort), 19/3/17. 50BD REWARD. **39889026 or 36689026**



SILVER - Male Himalayan, 6 yrs, responds to name, brown area on mouth, not wearing collar or ID, Muharraq (Municipality Road close to Midway Supermarket), 11/3/17. **33229248**



RICKY - Male German hepherd, long hair, 2 yrs, purple collar - no ID, responds to name, ran out of garage, New Zinj-Bilad Al Qadeen (near Adhari and Mahooz) 21/3/17, EWARD for safe return. 33193340/39432714/33339543/36606072



LOUIE - Male Siamese, 5 yrs, right canine tooth slightly chipped, neutered, not wearing collar or ID, garden cat - went over the high fences, may have been STOLEN, Barbar (near Jawad Dome), BD500 REWARD, 9/2/17. **36326666**



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



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

Roadside blasts kill 10 Egypt soldiers



Fifteen jihadists were also killed in the fighting, the military said in a statement. (file picture)

Cairo

Ten Egyptian soldiers were killed in two roadside bombings as they clashed with Islamic State group jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula, the military said yesterday.

Fifteen jihadists were also killed in the fighting, the military said in a statement, without saying when the incidents took place.

The military said the clashes broke out when soldiers raided "an extremely dangerous" jihadist hideout.

It said soldiers found a cache of explosives and bombs ready for use as well as grenades and ammunition.

The Islamic State group had said in a statement on Wednesday afternoon that it blew up two army vehicles during clashes south of the Sinai city of El-Arish.

The jihadists have killed hundreds of soldiers and policemen since the army overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 and cracked down on his supporters.

The attacks have mostly been confined to Sinai,

which borders Israel and the Palestinian Gaza Strip, but the jihadists have also struck elsewhere.

In October 2015, the group claimed responsibility for bombing a Russian airliner carrying holidaymakers from a south Sinai resort, killing all 224 people on board.

In August, the military announced it had killed the group's top leader in Sinai, identified as Abu Duaa al-Ansari, without providing further

details.

The group has been unable to replicate its strategy in Iraq and Syria of seizing population centres, with one attempt in 2015 ending with the army unleashing F-16 fighters to force them to withdraw from the town of Sheikh Zuweid.

They have also forced Coptic Christians to flee the peninsula after killing seven of them in El-Arish, after a bombing of a Coptic church in Cairo in December that killed 29 people.

Bahrain condemns attack

Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the terrorist bombing in central Sinai Peninsula, urging close international coordination and cooperation to reinforce the world peace and security.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement condoled with the families of the martyrs and affirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Egypt in confronting all sorts of violence, extremism and

terrorism.

The statement also vowed support to Egypt's incessant endeavours to reinforce security and stability across Egypt.

The ministry while reiterating Bahrain's unflinching position in renunciation of terrorism urged "close international coordination and cooperation to reinforce world peace and security and to realise all peoples' aspirations for development and prosperity."

Indian man sentenced for spying

Abu Dhabi

A UAE court has sentenced an Indian expat to 10 years in prison followed by deportation for espionage, local press reported yesterday.

An Abu Dhabi appeals court found an unnamed

man guilty of "sharing sensitive information about movements of military ships" with an unspecified country, according to the *Gulf News daily*.

The United Arab Emirates last year sentenced an Indian

citizen to five years in prison for spying for his country, Gulf News reported at the time.

A number of other expatriates have been convicted of espionage in the UAE in recent years, including Pakistanis and Qataris.

Mubarak corruption: Court to probe again

Cairo

An Egyptian court ordered yesterday a renewed corruption probe into ousted president Hosni Mubarak, who has been cleared for release after almost six years in detention, judicial officials said. The court ruling to reopen the investigation after it had been dropped would not affect a prosecution decision to

release Mubarak after his acquittal in another case, the officials said.

Mubarak, 88, remains in a Cairo military hospital.

The new investigation centres around allegations that he, his wife, two sons and their wives received gifts from the state-owned *Al-Ahram* newspaper valued at about \$1 million.

An investigative judge had agreed in 2013 to drop

the probe after they paid back the amount, but the prosecution appealed.

He is also being investigated separately for illicit gain, but has not been referred to trial.

On March 2, Egypt's top appeals court had acquitted Mubarak of involvement in the killing of protesters during the 2011 revolt that toppled him.

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23 March 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISPATCH OF AN INVESTMENT W.L.L. OFFER DOCUMENT IN RELATION TO A VOLUNTARY UNCONDITIONAL OFFER TO ACQUIRE UP TO 33.1% OF THE ISSUED AND PAID UP CAPITAL OF BAHRAIN MIDDLE EAST BANK B.S.C. ("BMB") WHICH REPRESENTS ALL THE OUTSTANDING SHARES OF THE ISSUED AND PAID UP CAPITAL OF BMB (OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY OWNED BY ANI AND THE PARTIES ACTING IN CONCERT WITH IT) IN CASH

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ANI hereby announces dispatch of the Offer Document, setting out, among other things, the detailed voluntary unconditional offer to acquire up to 33.1% of the issued and paid up capital of BMB which represents all the outstanding shares of the issued and paid up capital of BMB (other than those already owned by ANI and the parties acting in concert with it) in cash, an indicative timetable and procedures for acceptance in respect of the offer to BMB's Board of Directors on 23 March 2017. ANI had earlier announced its firm intention to make an offer dated 22 March 2017 to acquire up to 100% of the issued and paid up capital of BMB.

EXPECTED TIMETABLE OF THE OFFER:

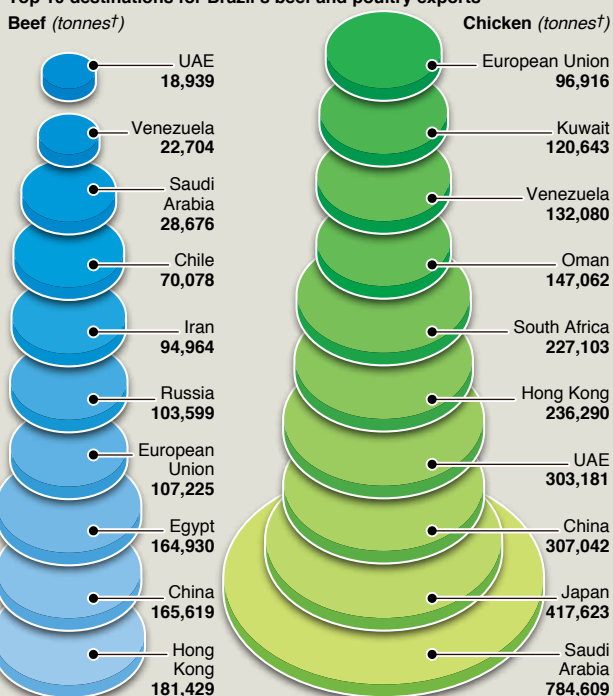
Set out below is expected timetable of the Offer as extracted from the Offer Document. The timetable set out below is indicative only and any changes to the timetable will be announced.

Firm Intention of ANI Offer	22 March 2017
Receipt of the Offer Document	23 March 2017
Record Date	29 March 2017
Date of availability of Offer Document and the Board Circular to BMB Shareholders	30 March 2017
Offer Opening date	2 April 2017
Offer Closing date	16 April 2017
Offer Acceptance / Rejection Announcement	17 April 2017
Offer Settlement Date	20 April 2017
Resumption of trading in BMB shares	23 April 2017

Brazil's meat scandal prompts import bans

Fallout from Brazil's tainted-meat scandal – in which inspectors are accused of taking bribes to allow exports of spoiled beef and poultry – has widened with import bans by Hong Kong, China and the EU*

Top 10 destinations for Brazil's beef and poultry exports



*European Union ban on meat coming from four specific Brazilian plants
†Beef data for 2016, chicken data for 2015

Uber vows to fix company image

Uber is vowing to improve following a series of ugly revelations and high-profile departures that have hurt the ride-hailing firm's reputation

- Feb 23:** Google self-driving car spinoff **Waymo** files federal lawsuit accusing Uber of stealing its laser sensor technology
- Feb 28:** Kalanick forced to apologise after being caught on dashcam video cursing at one of his drivers over pay rates
- Mar 8:** In wake of New York Times exposé, Uber pledges to ban use of "Greyball" software tool, which allegedly helps its drivers evade regulators in cities that oppose ride-hailing service
- Mar 19:** President **Jeff Jones** (right) and mapping chief **Brian McClendon** both resign – latest in string of executives to leave Uber, including AI Labs head **Gary Marcus** and engineering director **Raffi Krikorian**
- End March:** Uber planning to release first diversity report as part of commitment to fix company's perceived male-dominated culture
- Late January:** Uber reportedly loses more than 200,000 customers in one weekend after being accused of breaking New York City taxi strike amid protests over President **Donald Trump's** immigration ban
- Feb 2:** Uber CEO **Travis Kalanick** (centre) steps down from position on Trump's business advisory council following intense public criticism of his ties to U.S. administration
- Feb 21:** Kalanick orders internal investigation, led by former U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder**, into claims of sexual harassment and sexism at Uber made in blog post by former employee **Susan Fowler** (left)

Sources: Bloomberg, FT Pictures: AP, SusanFowler.com/Shalon Van Tine © GRAPHIC NEWS



Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency is able to permanently infect an Apple Mac computer so that even reinstalling the operating system will not erase the bug, according to documents published yesterday by WikiLeaks.

In its second release allegedly from the CIA's arsenal of hacking tools, WikiLeaks also said that it appears the US spy agency has been able since 2008 to insert it bugs onto new and unused iPhones by intervening in Apple's supply and distribution network.

The release follows the initial publication on March 9 by the anti-secrecy group

of thousands of pages of instructions and code from what it called the entire CIA arsenal of hacking tools.

The documents are generally believed to be genuine although the CIA has not acknowledged this.

The publication of the documents sparked a US counterintelligence investigation into how the documents leaked out from the CIA and made their way to WikiLeaks, with some people pointing fingers at the agency's use of private subcontractors as a likely source.

The newest documents focus on how the CIA targets Apple's popular personal electronics to spy on users.

They show the CIA developed a tool in 2012 called "Sonic Screwdriver" that can hijack an Apple computer's password-protected boot process from peripheral devices like adapters and USB drives.

By doing so, they can inject a undetectable bug deep into the computer's essential firmware that will not be erased even when the computer is reformatted.

The manual for the "NightSkies" bug shows that the CIA developed it in 2008 to be implanted physically in brand new iPhones.

"While CIA assets are sometimes used to physically infect systems in the custody of a target, it is likely that many

CIA physical access attacks have infected the targeted organization's supply chain including by interdicting mail orders and other shipments," WikiLeaks said.

The documents provide a glimpse into the workings of the CIA. One showed the agency urgently trying to adapt NightSkies to a certain Apple laptop.

The agency "has the opportunity to gift a MacBook Air to a target that will be implanted with this tool," one 2009 document said.

"The tool will be a beacon/implant that runs in the background of a MacBook Air that provides us with command and control capabilities." (AFP)



The Bahrain-Japan Business and Friendship Society (BJBFS) organised a presentation by Dr. Riyadh Najeeb Rehani, Director, Executive Office, SBI Pharmaceuticals, Japan. In his presentation titled 'A Japanese Pharmaceutical product could be the Miracle drug', Dr. Rehani gave an overview of the 5 ALA (Amino Levulonic Acid) discovered by Dr. Tanaka of Japan. A brief presentation was also given by Prof. Ziad Al Naeb and Prof. Abdul Hadi of Arabian Gulf University on the experiments performed on the product. The event was held at Imari Restaurant in The Domain Hotel yesterday. Nasser Al Arayedh, Deputy President and on behalf of the Mubarak Kanoo, President, welcomed the participants. The event was also attended by Aysha Buaneq, Undersecretary, Ministry of Health, Karim al Shaker and Dr. Dhafer Al Umran.

UK retail sales rebound in February

London

British retail sales rebounded strongly last month despite Brexit jitters, official data showed Thursday, sparking a spike in the pound. Retail sales rallied 1.4 per cent in February after a drop in January when rising food and fuel prices weighed on consumer spending, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement. Expectations had been for a much smaller increase of 0.4pc.



Ford lowers profit forecast

New York

US auto giant Ford said yesterday its first quarter earnings would come in well below analysts' expectations. Ford projected first quarter adjusted earnings of 30 to 35 cents per share, falling far short of the 47 cents expected by analysts. But Ford said was standing by its full-year earnings estimate of \$1.64 per share, according to chief financial officer Bob shanks.



“What we are suffering now is a blow, a punch to the stomach. We have to recover, to reorganise our forces, to travel around the world and to show that what happened here was that a few people did wrong but that the system or the industry was not at fault”

Blairo Maggi

Brazil Agriculture Minister



Asgharali launches 'Ansam Al Oud'

Asgharali has launched 'Ansam Al Oud', the latest addition to its astonishing perfume collection

Timelessly matured

'Ansam Al Oud' according to Asharali represents a modern and sophisticated woody oriental fragrance, as timelessly matured as a scent gets. An initial woody, earthy, balsamic and floral hit into a warm woody, sandalwood, amber and Oudh scents as its main characteristics.

Irresistible

'Ansam Al Oud' arrives in a 75ml capacity in a sleek bottle designed with glass edges and undeniably irresistible for attention

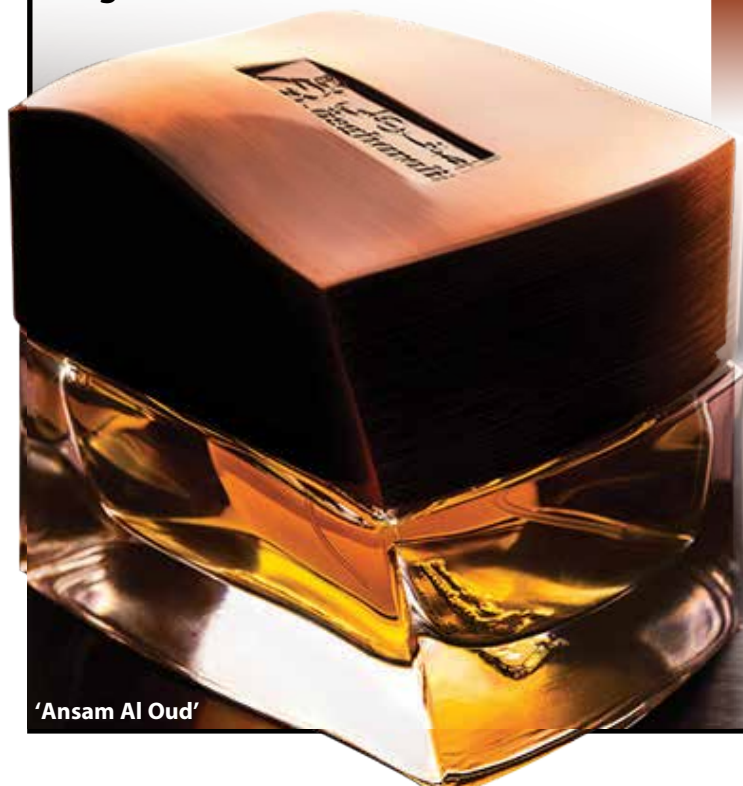
“At Asgharali, we are very excited to introduce our newest and exclusive addition 'Ansam Al Oud' which was almost 2 years in the making, a bold and woody oriental scent that expresses your strong personality”

Spokesperson

Asgharali

100 outlets

Asgharali laid its footprint in the perfumery market and related business interests with over 100 retail and franchised outlets in the Middle East and South Asia and over 40 distributors worldwide in regions from Eastern Europe to South America.



'Ansam Al Oud'

BisB declares 5pc dividend

العامّة العادية



Officials during the Annual General Meeting

Manama

The Ordinary Annual General Meeting of Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) yesterday approved the board's recommendation to pay 5 per cent cash dividend for the fiscal year 2016.

As per the decision, the bank will distribute cash dividend of BD5,051,007 equivalent to 5 per cent of paid-up capital or 5 fils per share.

The meeting, headed by Dr. Esam Abdulla Fakhro, Chairman of the Board of

Directors of Bahrain Islamic Bank, was held in the Bahrain Bourse's Hall at Bahrain Financial Harbor Building yesterday.

The meeting approved all items in its meeting agenda including the proposal to distribute BD282,829 as remuneration to the board members for the financial year ended on 31/12/2016.

Approval were also given to the proposal to transfer BD842,144 from the net profit for the year ended 31

December 2016 to the statutory reserve and the transfer of BD 2,391,656 to retained earnings.

The bank's 2016 Corporate Governance Report, proposal to absolve members of the Board of Directors of all their actions during the financial year ended on 31/12/2016 and the reappointment of the members of the Shari'a Supervisory Board and external auditors KPMG Fakhro for the financial year 2017 were approved among other decisions.

Red carpet Fashion show

Manama

Bahrain Fashion Night and Exhibition titled 'Red Carpet' will take place on 31 March and 1 April at Al Taj Ballroom, Sheraton Bahrain Hotel.

The show, which is in its third edition, is organised by Chairperson of Medpoint Events, Shaikha Noora Al Khalifa in association with Fuchsia Events and Management.

Commenting on the show, Shaikha Noora said, "The Fashion show will be hosted in collaboration with the finest fashion choreographers,



Makeup artist, and hair stylist from Bahrain."


"We have Designers from Saudi, Morocco, Pakistan, India, Dubai, showcasing their latest Couture collections," she added.

The event will be followed by a B to B Exhibition on the 1st April 2017. A part of the revenue from the event will be given to a local Charity in Bahrain.


Fashion Show Timings :

March 31, 7 pm onwards (Ticket for the Fashion show & Dinner: 20BD). Exhibition Timings: 31st March: 2pm -7pm; 1st April: 10am - 8pm.

Did You Know?



Parents who are concerned about how their children's names may affect them in life can now hire services to name their kids for them. Services have popped up all over the US and Europe, with one Swiss agency charging \$29,000 to research and recommend your child's name.



BFC
CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2971	0.2947
BANGLADESH	0.00506	0.00475
CANADA	0.2945	0.2914
DENMARK	0.0569	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0219
EURO	0.4059	0.4038
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00582	0.00577
INDONESIA	0.0002997	0.0002894
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003520	0.003450
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5351
KOREA	0.00038401	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.087500	0.0873
NEW ZEALAND	0.2767	0.2744
NORWAY	0.0473	
NEPAL	0.00387	0.00353
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00365	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00777	0.00753
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2730	0.2710
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03120	0.03110
SRI LANKA	0.00277	0.00249
SWEDISH	0.0451	
SWITZERLAND	0.3826	0.3801
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012800	
THAILAND	0.010990	0.010990
TURKEY	0.1105	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4796	0.4766
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.4699	0.3732	0.3316
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.4614	0.2826	0.2511
OMAN	0.3849	0.3888	0.3810	0.3385
QATAR	3.6420	3.6791	3.6052	3.2032
UAE	3.6730	3.7105	3.6359	3.2304
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7883	3.7121	3.2982

Most Gulf bourses recover

Egypt rebounds as foreign funds buy



Representative picture

Dubai

Most stock markets in the Gulf made small gains yesterday, recovering some of the week's losses, but trading volumes remained very low. Egypt rebounded as foreign funds bought shares there.

The Saudi stock index climbed 0.7 per cent as the petrochemical sector regained some of the previous session's heavy losses, after Brent oil bounced from a four-month low hit on Wednesday. Saudi Kayan Petrochemical rose 1.3pc.

The insurance sector, which has been very volatile in recent days, also firmed with all but four of the 35 listed insurers advancing. Buruj Cooperative Insurance jumped 9.3pc and was the top performer on the exchange.

Egypt's index climbed 1.2pc with trading volume nearly doubling from the previous session as foreign funds were net buyers of equities, exchange data showed.

The top two gainers in that index were private equity firm Qalaa Holdings, which jumped 6.8pc, and investment firm EFG Hermes, up 4.2pc.

Dubai builder Drake & Scull climbed 2.2pc after it sold its ownership stake in a Dubai development project, One Palm, to Omniyat Properties, its partner in the scheme. The value of the sale was not disclosed.

A 1.1pc decline in shares of heavyweight Emaar Properties dragged on Dubai's index, which fell 0.4pc.

Abu Dhabi's index added 0.3pc but saw its lowest daily volume since mid-December.

Closing Bell

- SAUDI ARABIA added 0.7pc to 6,879 points
- DUBAI fell 0.4pc at 3,461 points
- ABU DHABI edged up 0.3pc to 4,495 points
- QATAR rose 0.5pc to 10,445 points
- KUWAIT gained 0.3pc to 7,043 points
- EGYPT rebounded 1.2pc to 13,032 points
- OMAN added 0.3pc to 5,635 points
- BAHRAIN rose 0.6pc to 1,376 points

Dana Gas rose 2.3pc.

In Qatar, the index advanced 0.5pc with 70pc of traded shares gaining. Islamic lender Masraf Al Rayan was the top performer, climbing 2.8pc.

Kuwait's index, which had jumped 2.0pc on Wednesday, added a further 0.3pc with trading volume staying very high. The largest logistics company in the Gulf, Agility, jumped 3.2pc. (Reuters)

China-backed bank approves 13 members

Beijing
The China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said yesterday it has approved 13 new prospective members including Canada, in a coup for Beijing after Washington failed to dissuade US allies from signing up.

The Beijing-headquartered multilateral lender, which began operations earlier last year, has been seen by some as a rival to the World Bank and the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank, which was founded in 1966.

The \$100 billion AIIB



AIIB president Jin Liqun

counts several major European countries among its shareholders after they joined up despite Washington's objections. The bank announced approval of 13 new members Thursday, including Hong Kong, Canada, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Ireland, Hungary, Belgium,

Peru, Ethiopia, and the Republic of Sudan.

They will officially join AIIB after making their first deposit of capital and finishing required domestic processes, bringing the bank's total membership to 70, it said in a statement. "The interest in joining AIIB from around the world affirms the rapid progress we have made to establish the Bank as an international institution," AIIB president Jin Liqun said in the statement. The United States and Japan -- the world's largest and third-largest economies, respectively -- have notably declined to join the bank.

The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth..
 — John F. Kennedy



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Friday, March 24, 2017

11

NMS-DPS CELEBRATES KG GRADUATION CEREMONY 2016-17

New Millennium School – DPS held a graduation ceremony to felicitate One Hundred Eighty Four kids of the Kindergarten on 16th March 2017 at ‘The Kingdom Hall’ in the school premises. This ceremony acknowledged the potential of the little scholars of KG II who were graduated during the academic session 2016-17. The top One Hundred and Fourteen academic achievers of KG I and the students with 100 per cent attendance were also endowed during the award ceremony.

The event began with a welcome address by the students of KG II, Maham Zehra, Anay Suhas Wadekar, Antara and Aryan Upponni followed by the reading of the verses from the Holy Quran. The kids dressed in complete traditional grandeur and style illuminated the stage with a display of the invocation dance which showcased the colours of life and its beautiful essence. The chief guest and the principal distributed certificates and blessed the young graduates. It was a memorable moment for parents who proudly witnessed the accomplishment of their kids.

Dr. Ravi Pillai, Chairman, Geetha Pillai, Managing Director and Arun Kumar Sharma, Principal congratulated the students and appreciated the parents and the staff for their continued support. The ceremony ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dhanyashree Manivanaan and Sai Umesh.



New Millenium School-DPS Staff Get Together

The Management of New Millennium School – DPS organised a staff get together in ‘Ramee Grande’, Seef on 15th March 2017 themed ‘GRATITUDE’.

Participants showcased their talents through various cultural activities including dance, song, poem, qawwali, movie presentation etc.

The school’s facebook page was also launched during the event.

The staff expressed their gratitude towards the Management for the support rendered throughout.

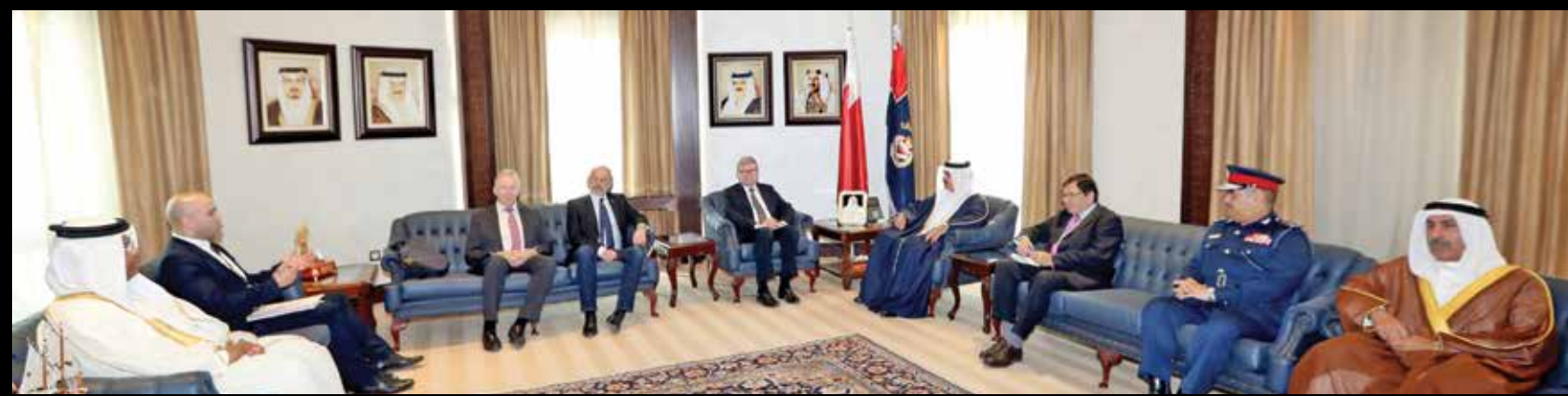




HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, welcomed to his office several winners representing national clubs and youth delegations, who won top places in the youth and sports sectors, in the presence of Hisham Al-Jowdar, Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs. On this occasion, Shaikh Nasser underscored the remarkable achievements established by Bahraini youth, stressing the support of the Kingdom's leadership. Shaikh Nasser stated that rewarding young people who won top honours is in line with HM the King's directives



BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal, visited a number of BDF units, where he inspected their progress



Interior Minister Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received a delegation from the French-Bahrain Friendship Society accompanied by MP Abdulrahman Bu Majeed. The meeting was also attended by Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan, Interior Ministry Undersecretary, Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Major-General Mohammed Buhamood and French Ambassador to Bahrain, Bernard Régnault-Fabre



Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Khalid Al-Jarrah, met with French parliamentary delegation led by National Assembly MP Jean-Luc Lévesque. The meeting shed a scope light on promising areas of cooperation and construction technology between friendly countries to deepen relations



President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received at Bahrain National Museum yesterday the US Ambassador to Bahrain William Roebuck, in the presence of a delegation from Smithsonian Institution for history, art and culture who are in Bahrain at an invitation by BACA



Pakistan's Ambassador Javed Malik hoisting flag at Pakistan Embassy in Bahrain on Pakistan Day



Royal Bahrain Hospital (RBH) celebrated Mother's Day on March 21, 2017 in a unique way. RBH hosted female students from Khawla Secondary School at its maternity ward, who in turn congratulated the mothers and distributed gifts on behalf of the school.





Old Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, paid inspection visits to... he was briefed about their readiness, training programmes and work



Interior Minister Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received yesterday Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa after he was appointed as ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by Deputy Interior Minister, Interior Ministry Undersecretary of Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs, Chief of Public Security, Interior Ministry Undersecretary, Governors and the General Coordinator of Governorates



Member of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Khalid Al Moayed received in Bait Al Tijjar yesterday a... Reitzer. The meeting hailed the bilateral relation between Bahrain and the French Republic and... The meeting also stressed on the importance of encouraging the business communities of both... and forge partnerships



Secretary General of Supreme Council of Women Hala Al Ansari received a French delegation of MPs and businesspeople headed by Upper Rhine region's MP Jean-Luc Reitzer. Al Ansari briefed the visiting delegation on the SCW's strategic plans, projects, initiatives led by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and President of the Supreme Council of Women, as part of its National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Bahraini Women ratified by His Majesty the King



in Ma-



Assistant Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Faisal bin Jabr Al Dossari yesterday chaired, at the General Court of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in the presence of a number of officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the second follow-up meeting on the preparation of Bahrain's report on Child Rights and Rights of Persons with disabilities



Advisor to HM the King for Media Affairs Nabil bin Yaqoob Al-Hamar received at the Gudaibiya Palace today Bahraini traveler, Dr. Fahad Ibrahim Al-Shehabi, who presented him with a copy of the third part of his travel literature book series entitled "In the Eye of the Beholder".



Fourteen disciples of Chitralkha Ajith, a renowned dance teacher in Bahrain will perform their Bharatanatyam Arangetram (debut dance performance) on the 25th of March 2017 at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam. P V Radhakrishna Pillai, President of Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam will be the Chief Guest and P Unnikrishnan, Chairman of SPAC WLL will be the Guest of honour



Propel Consult held its first HR Innovation Conference, in strategic partnership with Tamkeen and babsaudi.com, at the Swiss Bel-hotel in Bahrain. In attendance were over 70 HR professionals from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. According to Barry Prost, Director with Propel Consult, "the purpose of the conference was to promote the sharing of ideas about the latest trends and best practice in the HR industry and to provide a networking opportunity for HR professionals in the Kingdom of Bahrain".



Tom Cruise falls for M:I co-star Vanessa Kirby

Tom Cruise has "fallen" for his Mission: Impossible 6 co-star Vanessa Kirby, according to reports.

A source told InTouch Weekly that Cruise was very impressed by Kirby's role in *The Crown*, and told producers that she should be cast for the sixth installment of *Mission: Impossible*.

"Tom flipped for her work," said the source. "He told the other MI producers that he had to have Vanessa for a crucial role in the franchise's sixth installment."

Once the pair were on set, there was "instant chemistry," according to the source. "He's blown away by her endless charm and energy."

Cruise was married to Katie Holmes from 2006 until 2012, and the pair have one daughter, Suri (ten), together.



Tristan Evans @TheVampsTristan Allied.....SUCH a powerful movie! Truly outstanding! I highly recommend it!



Kate Winslet was called 'blubber' during her childhood

Oscar-winning actress Kate Winslet has revealed that she was bullied and fat-shamed during her childhood and was called "blubber".

Winslet opened up about her bad childhood memories at the fourth annual "WE Day UK" event here on Wednesday, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I was always comparing myself to others. They called me 'blubber', they teased me for wanting to act. Locked me in the cupboard and would laugh at me," Winslet said.

"I wasn't the prettiest and I was even told that I'd be lucky in my acting if I was happy to settle for the fat girl parts. I'd never let go of that, and they'd say, 'You're just not what we're looking for, Kate'. I'd hear that a lot. This unkindness made me feel truly horrendous," she added.

Winslet shared that due to her over-sized figure she was often cast in weird roles, but she didn't mind doing them as she loved acting.



STARRY
Birthday
Jim Parsons

March 24, 1973

For his role as Sheldon Cooper on *The Big Bang Theory*, he won two consecutive Emmy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series and has received praise from multiple associations.

Adele enjoys record-breaking tour of Australia



Grammy winning singer Adele broke records in every city she visited during her eight-concert tour in Australia. Adele sold as many as 600,000 tickets during her tour Down Under, which included the biggest single concert ever held on Australian soil in Sydney's ANZ stadium, where she performed in front of 100,000 people, reports dailymail.co.uk. Tour promoter Michael Coppel told the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "It's the highest-selling tour I've ever been involved with, which is quite remarkable after working with Pink and U2 and Fleetwood Mac and Roger Waters." Coppel suggested Adele's achievement may never be repeated again.



MICHAEL SHANNON IN 'DEADPOOL 2'

Actor Michael Shannon might play the role of Cable in upcoming superhero film "Deadpool 2". While no deal has yet been made, Shannon has been the top choice for the role, reports variety.com. An official release date for Ryan Reynolds' sequel has not yet been announced. "John Wick" fame director David Leitch has been roped in to direct "Deadpool 2" after Tim Miller dropped out due to creative differences with Reynolds. "Deadpool", which released in 2016, minted \$782.6 million at the box office worldwide. Earlier, it was announced that "Atlanta" actress Zazie Beetz has also joined the cast as mutant mercenary Domino. (IANS)

Now you know it



American singer, songwriter, pianist and actress Alicia Keys gave a live music performance during the 2016 UEFA Champions League Final's opening ceremony.



1. Shape Of You
Ed Sheeran

TOP 10 Songs this Week



2. Hardwired...To Self-Destruct
Metallica



3. 24K Magic
Bruno Mars



4. Trolls
Soundtrack



5. Moana
Soundtrack



6. The Breaker
Little Big Town



7. The Ultimate Collection
Garth Brooks



8. NOW 61
Various Artists



9. La La Land
Soundtrack



10. Windy City (billboard)
Alison Krauss

OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO REACH US

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

MARK YOUR Calendar



TRACES

Date: March 23,24&25
Venue: Bahrain Bay

Fresh, urban and seriously high energy, contemporary circus trail-blazers, the hit show Traces is more than just a display of acrobatic brilliance through film clips and narration. Set to a fantastic soundtrack ranging from Rock 'n' Roll to Blues to Hip Hop, this thrill-a-minute show is presented by the internationally acclaimed circus phenomenon "The 7 Fingers". The charismatic artists' lives are revealed as we, the audience, are gradually drawn into their story. By the final, dramatic climax of the show, we are on the edge of our seats, willing them to pull off the seemingly impossible! "A spectacular delight that will rob you of your breath" (Sunday Times). "A fix of pure urban adrenaline Mad, pulse-raising magic" (New York Times).

BAHRAIN FARMERS MARKET

Date: On Saturdays
Venue: Budaiya Gardens

The fifth edition of the Bahrain Farmers Market is open at the Budaiya Gardens. More than 40 Bahraini farmers are participating to provide a variety of local agricultural products. Many leading local restaurants will participate to present local food and drinks with the aim of introducing local food to the visitors of various nationalities. 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. Bahrain Farmers Market will be open every Saturday until April 29 from 8 am to 12 noon.

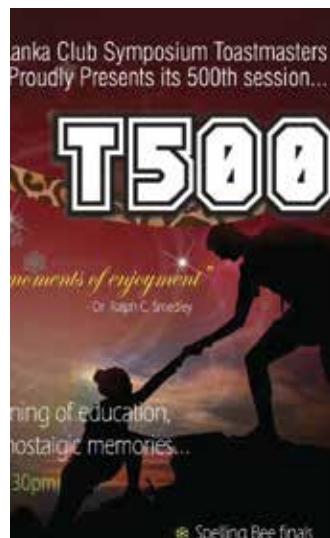
BOOK FAIR



Date: March 24 - 30, 4pm-10pm
Venue: KCA Auditorium Segaya Kerala Catholic

Association (KCA) in association with 4PM News will be organizing a Book Fair from March 24 to 30 at the KCA-VKL auditorium in Segaya with lot of cultural programmes. There will be 'Varnam 2017' a painting competition for school children on Friday 11am onwards and a solo cartoon exhibition 'Pravasoottan' by V.R Sathyadev from 7.30pm onwards. On Saturday (March 25) 7.30pm, Dar Al Shiffa Medical Centre Dr Razia Muhammed will give an awareness talk on health issues. A seminar and discussion on changing literary writing style and reading habits will be held on Sunday 7.30pm. A quiz based on Malayalam literature will be held on March 27, Monday at 7.30pm. The other programmes: March 28, 7.30pm : Poetry Evening. March 29, 7.30pm: Folk songs. March 30, 7.30pm : Tribute to Malayalam poet Vayalar Ramavarma. The Book Fair will be offering 25% discount on all books. There will be books on children's literature, fiction, non-fiction, and general references. For more details contact 17579871/36458398/38382100.

SRI LANKA CLUB SYMPOSIUM TOASTMASTERS 'T500'



Date: Today, 6pm
Venue: Baan Saeng Thai Auditorium

Sri Lanka Club Symposium Toastmasters will be holding their mega event 'T-500' to commemorate their landmark

500th session at 6pm on Friday at Baan Saeng Thai Auditorium. The evening shall be adorned with an array of educational segments and entertainment performances by the Toastmasters and the event will be graced by the Toastmaster's International World Championship Finalist, Miss Kaishika Rodrigo.

LADIES NIGHT WITH 50% DISCOUNT



Date: Every Tuesday
Venue: The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa
Ladies night out with 50% off for the ladies at all our restaurants, lounges and Spa!!
For more info 17713000

GHASSAN SALIBA LIVE AT ZAHLE RESTAURANT

Date: Today, 2017
Venue: Zahle Restaurant- Gulf Hotel

Zahle presents Ghassan Saliba, who came all over from Lebanon, is performing live in Zahle Restaurant, exclusively for ONE NIGHT only!!

"NOWRUZ" PERSIAN NEW YEAR AT TAKHT JAMSHEED

Date: 17 - 24 March, 2017
Venue: Takht Jamsheed

Indulge in traditional Persian cuisine as Takht Jamsheed Restaurant celebrates Nowruz which marks the first day of spring. Award winning restaurant - Takht Jamsheed welcomes the New Year with Chef's special à la carte menu.

SUNDAY GLOW

Date: Every Sunday
Venue: Gulf Spa - Gulf Hotel

Get 15% off upon your choice for one of the Gulf Spa luscious body scrubs that leave you glowing: Aromatic Basil and Mint, Sweetness Sugar or Summer Skin Cooler!!

MOTHER'S DAY IN ZAHLE RESTAURANT

Date: Every Sunday
Venue: Zahle Restaurant - Gulf Hotel

Have a Lebanese Mother's Day at the iconic Zahle with excellent food and lively entertainment, as the restaurant presents an evening of authentic Arabian galore!! When you dinin at Zahle, mum gets to eat

for FREE!! Mezze, grills, kebab and so many more delicious dishes await! On March 21 from 7pm onwards!

THAI FRIDAY NIGHT

Date: Every Friday Night
Venue: Royal Thai Restaurant - Gulf Hotel

Thai Friday Nights with live cooking counters serving, papaya salad, satays, carvings and unlimited selection of main-courses with an all you can eat menu!! For only BD15 NET per person inclusive of 2 selected beverages!

THE SEAFARER



Date: 22 March 7 pm - 25 March 11 pm
Venue: Manama Theatre Club-Manama.

The Manama Theatre Club will be performing acclaimed Irish playwrights' 'The Seafarer' - a dark comedy, a supernatural ghost story and a modern day story of guilt and the demon 'drink'. It is Christmas Eve, and Sharky, erstwhile fisherman/van driver/chauffeur, gathers with friends at the dingy flat he shares with his cantankerous blind brother to drink booze and play cards. As the brothers drink Christmas Eve into Christmas Day with friends old (Ivan and Nicky) and new (the dapper and sinister Mr Lockhart), Sharky is reminded of a bargain he made in prison—and suddenly finds himself playing a game of poker with his soul set as the highest possible stake. Conor McPherson is one of Ireland's leading playwrights and his work has been performed throughout UK and America including The Weir, Port Authority, Dublin Carol, and Shining City, which premiered on Broadway.

BAHRAIN TOASTMASTERS DIVISION-K ANNUAL CONTEST

Date: Today
Venue: Bahrain Society of Engineers Hall Juffair

Bahrain Toastmasters Division-K Annual Contest will be held on Friday 24th March 2017 at Bahrain Society of Engineers hall Juffair. The contest starts at 8.00 am till 5.00pm. The contest will be in four categories - International speech, Evaluation, Humorous, and Table Topics. The contestants are the winners from 4 area contest. The winners

will participate in district level and then in international level. DTM Philip De Mello will be the guest of honor. Registration is open for all toastmasters and guests. For more details and registration please contact Dr. Suresh Moorthy on 33721291.

A NIGHT OF FILIPINO UNITY WITH QUEENIE PADILLA

Date: Today 7 pm - 10 pm
Venue: Swiss International Palace Hotel Manama-Manama

A Night to Unite the Filipino Community in Bahrain with Queenie Padilla (a former Philippine Actress / daughter of Robin Padilla) with the cooperation of Philippines Embassy and different Filipino Organization in Bahrain.

NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS

Date: Today 7 pm - 11:30 pm
Venue: ART Rotana- Muharraq

Take a journey through the historic streets of New Orleans and enrich yourself with a melting pot of vibrant cultures. Join us at Flames and discover a lavish spread of buffet with live station options each with their own iconic southern cuisine delicacies. Guests will also have the opportunity to sample a special tailored offering of brews, malts and wines from USA while enjoying the vibrant music scene of the 'Big Easy' with our live Jazz band on the terrace.

PAACT MUSICAL PROGRAM

Date: April 21
Venue: Jashanmal Auditorium, Indian School, Isa Town

INTERADS in association with Palakkad Arts and Cultural Theatre (PAACT) is organizing a musical program 'Pathinte Niravil Paact-Swaralayam' on Friday, April 21 at Jashanmal Auditorium, Indian School, Isa Town. The morning session, Chembai Sangeetholsavam 2017 Season 4, from 9am to 2.00pm will be devoted to Indian classical music followed by a melodious evening event, Niloltsavam 2017 Season 4 from 5.00pm until 11pm. In case of enquiries, please contact PAACT President Jyothykumar Menon on 39851646.

PEARLING PATH WALKATHON

Date: 25 March, 8:30am
Venue: Muharraq Meeting Point: Al-Hala Cub Parking

In cooperation with the Bahrain Road Runners (BRR), the Pearling Path Walkathon, will gather around 300 participants who will walk the Path back and forth starting from Al-Ghous house in the South, to the Seyadi house in the North, with a total distance of 6.5 km. Along the walk, information on each property of the Pearling Path will be available highlighting the history and story of the building and its relation to the Pearling narrative.

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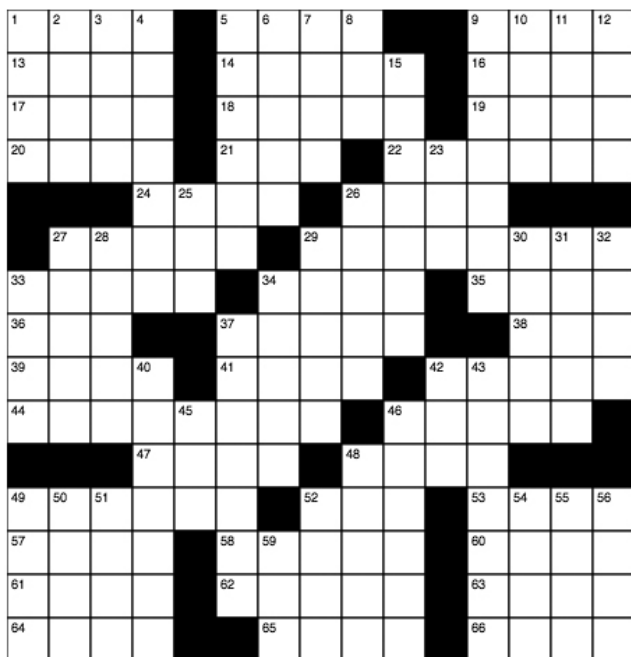
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1	T	U	G	S	5	L	H	A	S	A	10	A	S	E	C	13
14	A	R	O	O	15	P	O	T	T	S	18	D	O	S	E	
17	T	A	B	L	E	S	P	O	O	N	19	D	U	A	L	
20	E	L	I	A	S	21	O	E	D	I	P	U	S			
23	C	T	R	24	E	G	R	E	T							
26	A	B	B	E	29	O	G	R	E	31	S	I	T	A	R	
35	S	E	I	P	U	R	R	37	S	C	O	R	I	A		
38	P	R	O	V	I	S	O	40	E	A	R	N	E	S	T	
41	E	N	T	I	C	E	42	I	T	T	Y	43	A	L	E	
44	R	E	A	T	A	45	A	L	O	E	46	R	T	E	S	
47	A	R	O	S	E	48	D	D	E							
51	P	A	D	L	O	C	K	54	I	N	E	P	T			
58	E	L	O	I	59	A	F	F	O	R	D	A	B	L	E	
63	P	I	N	T	64	L	O	E	S	65	T	O	O	N		
66	S	T	A	Y	67	A	R	E	S	68	A	N	T	S		

Across

1- Beginning on; 5- Zeno of ___; 9- Bar bills; 13- Score; 14- Infomercial knife; 16- Journalist Jacob; 17- Division word; 18- Vows; 19- Part of QED; 20- Resting place; 21- Daughter of Cadmus; 22- Except if; 24- Cubs slugger Sammy; 26- Scottish Celt; 27- Commandment word; 29- Increase by procreation; 33- Disgrace; 34- Winder for holding flexible material; 35- Gin flavoring; 36- Chatter; 37- Fall guy; 38- Actress Jillian; 39- Small combo; 41- Deck quartet; 42- Forceps; 44- Located; 46- Legal wrongs; 47- A wedding cake may have three of these; 48- Gyro meat; 49- Horrify; 52- Prefix with content; 53- Technical sch.; 57- Jutting rock; 58- Sarge's superior; 60- Big book; 61- Scrabble piece; 62- Bedeck; 63- Bard's river; 64- Iowa city; 65- Formerly, formerly; 66- Falls behind;

Down

1- Not "fer"; 2- Unit of loudness; 3- Cereal grain; 4- Refuse floating on water; 5- Self-centered person; 6- Climbing vine; 7- Within (prefix); 8- Volcano output; 9- Lattice; 10- Suffix with concession; 11- Prejudice; 12- Concordes, e.g.; 15- Normally; 23- Hockey goal part; 25- Cheer for Manolete; 26- Conjecture; 27- Puppeteer Lewis; 28- Nun wear; 29- Doled (out); 30- Factory; 31- Yarns; 32- Cravings; 33- Cpls.' superiors; 34- One on track?; 37- Kneecap; 40- Power problems; 42- Aunt Polly's nephew; 43- Describing the path of a satellite; 45- Feel lousy; 46- Aptitude; 48- Dens; 49- Proceedings; 50- Prissy; 51- Lacking color; 52- Heath; 54- Bright star; 55- Air pollution; 56- Change for a fifty; 59- Form of poem, often used to praise something;

BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



A blast of energy is headed your way today.. You will find that there is no shortage of physical adrenaline in your pocket. Don't delay, because there are opportunities now that may not be there for you later. Action is the name of the game for you and you will find that you will be noticed and properly rewarded for your efforts.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You may run into some emotional roadblocks today. This could be due to a lack of honesty on your part. Make sure you are spreading the truth at all times. A strong energy might challenge your ego and don't be surprised if this force is quite emotionally charged. Conflict may arise if you aren't being honest about your feelings as soon as they arise.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



There is a fun loving boisterous energy to the day that should give you a great deal of power and self-confidence. You will be extremely effective in everything you put your hands to, . Remember to love yourself and believe 100% in the things that you say and do. Generate passion from the heart that strikes with forceful love. You will be responded with love as well.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You might be getting a bit forceful with your emotions today. Don't be surprised if you are like a fire breathing dragon when you speak. Sparks are apt to fly. Strong feelings have been building up within you. Now is a time to release them. People need to hear what you have to say. You are doing yourself and others a disservice by keeping it all bottled up inside.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



This is a fantastic day for you, and you will find that you have a great deal of physical power to play with. Engage in activities that put this incredible strength to good use. Tackle projects vigorously and feel free to roar loudly. People would not be wise to cross your path today because you have a great deal of energy with which you won't hesitate to strike back.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



This is a good day to stand up for yourself and make it known that you are not a pushover. Use the power of the day to follow through on projects that may have lost momentum. Pick up the reins on where you left off and take control of the direction of your life. Feel free to be a bit more aggressive than you normally would. Show others of your incredible worth.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



If you want to shine brightly, then do so. Maintaining balance in your world includes being a bit selfish sometimes. Feel free to radiate your beauty outwards to the world. If you aren't in a situation that you are happy with, change the situation. There is no reason for you to be miserable. Keep yourself from being pushed around by other's whims.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



People would be wise to get out of your way today. You might find yourself feeling like a steam engine whose engine is stoked to the brim with fiery hot coals. You are most likely quite adamant about the course you are on and no one is likely to pull you off track. If people look carefully, they might even be able to see the steam coming out of your ears.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



The fiery charge of the day is helping you press through with the projects you have brewing. Set things in motion now. Get out of the background and onto the centre of the stage. Your rocket is on the pad ready to take off. All you have now is to ignite the engine. Use the power of your emotions to deliver a powerful boost that will propel you to the stars.

(Dec 22nd- Jan 20th)



You might be quite charged with energy, but somehow you may feel as if you have nowhere to aim it. The force is there, but the direction may not be. Conversing with other people may only confuse you more. Listen to yourself above all others. You know yourself better than anyone else knows you. You have nothing to fear. Don't let doubt consume you.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)

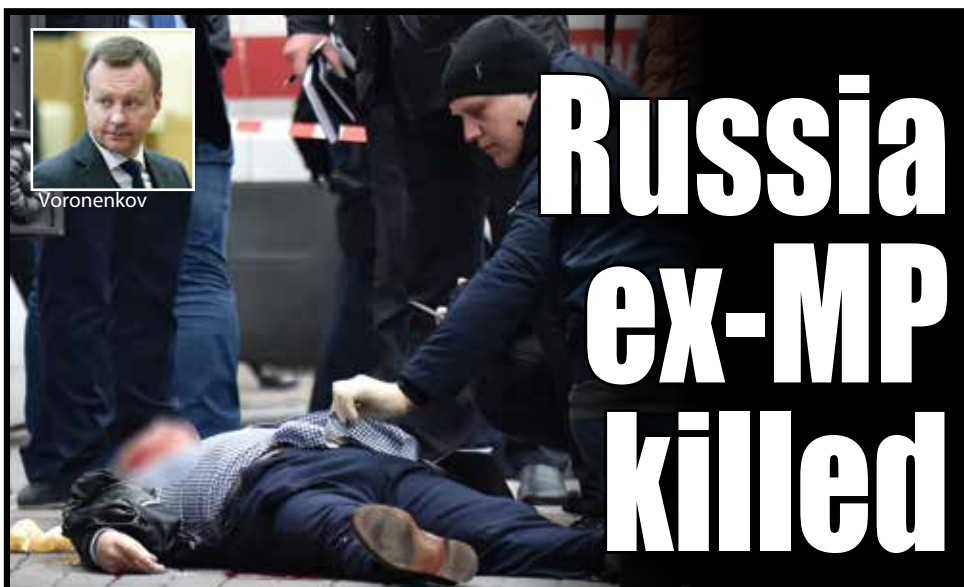


Arguments that may have been slowly brewing are now coming to a climactic point for you, . Don't be surprised if heated opposition rears its head today. Most likely, this is a result of your own doing. Cycles of anger are reaching a critical climax and your stubborn character is coming head to head with an equally strong force. Try not to take yourself too seriously.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



There is no need to frown when another person walks by, just because that person may be unknown to you. We must break this habit of living our lives in fear. Take active steps toward curing this trend by not stepping down when forces try to intimidate you with their brute strength. Promote the pictures of peace and serenity. Bring more of your innards outward.



Voronenkov

Russia ex-MP killed

Experts examine the body of Voronenkov

Kiev
A former Russian MP wanted by Moscow for fraud was shot dead in broad daylight in the heart of the Ukrainian capital yesterday in what Kiev branded "state terrorism".

Kiev police chief Andriy Kryshchenko confirmed in televised comments that "the identity of the dead man has been established" as former Communist lawmaker Denis Voronenkov.

Police were weighing the possibility that Voronenkov, a 45-year-old Kremlin critic, was targeted in a contract killing "considering the identity of the victim, his activities and how the crime was carried out," Kryshchenko said.

Voronenkov's bodyguard and the gunman were both injured in the shootout that occurred in the centre of Kiev.

They were both being treated in hospital, Kryshchenko said, adding that the gunman's identity

had yet to be established. Voronenkov's murder comes as Moscow and Kiev remain locked in a bitter feud over Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014 and its support of a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko blamed Russia for what he said was a "cunning murder", saying Voronenkov's killing was an "act of state terrorism", his spokesman Svyatoslav Tsegolko wrote on Facebook.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov swiftly dismissed Kiev's accusations as "absurd" in comments to Russian news agencies, adding that Moscow "hopes that the killer and those behind him will be found".

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing that Moscow was "shocked" by Voronenkov's murder and thought it indeed looked like a "planned contract killing", Russian news

agencies reported.

Voronenkov and his wife Maria Maksakova, also a former lawmaker and a well-known opera singer, left Russia for Ukraine last year.

Voronenkov received Ukrainian citizenship in December after he testified against Ukraine's ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, who was ousted in February 2014 amid pro-Western protests.

Voronenkov told Ukrainian media in February that he had repeatedly received threats from Russian security services.

Moscow and Kiev have been locked in a bitter dispute since Russia seized Crimea in March 2014, plunging ties between Moscow and the West to their lowest point since the Cold War.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko blamed Russia for what he said was a "cunning murder", saying Voronenkov's killing was an "act of state terrorism". (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think IS is trying to establish themselves in Europe?

Yes No Can't Say



"My heart goes out to the victims and their families in London. No act of terror can shake the strength and resilience of our British ally,"

Barack Obama
Ex US President

Rest in sight

China, Nepal discuss joint military exercises



China's defence minister met his Nepal counterpart Thursday pushing ahead plans to hold joint military exercises, a move likely closely watched by India as Beijing boosts its influence.

Arms depot explodes in Ukraine, Kiev blames 'sabotage': military

A series of explosions hit a munitions depot in eastern Ukraine overnight, the military said Thursday, blaming the incident on an "act of sabotage".

Second score for Australian airline in a week

A regional Australian airline plane made an emergency landing Thursday after the pilot was forced to shut down an engine, barely a week after a propeller fell off another aircraft mid-flight.

Sea ice hits new record low at both poles

The sea ice cover in the Arctic and Antarctic hit new record lows for this time of year, marking the smallest polar ice caps in the 38-year satellite record.

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Health care vote postponed in blow to President Trump

Washington

US President Donald Trump's bid to repeal his predecessor's signature health care law suffered a bitter blow Thursday, as opposition from within his Republican Party forced the delay of a crucial vote in Congress.

"No vote tonight," a House leadership source said, signaling a stunning political setback for Trump to win sufficient support for a Republican bill repealing and replacing Obamacare.

The president and his

lieutenants repeatedly voiced optimism about the bill's prospects and said they had made progress in convincing doubters to join his camp in dismantling the Affordable Care Act. But the votes for Trump's plan -- dubbed the American Health Care Act -- weren't there.

"I am still a no at this time. I am desperately trying to get to yes," said Mark Meadows, chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, whose members have demanded major changes to the plan.

Indian MP admits hitting air steward with slipper

Mumbai,

An Indian politician brazenly admitted yesterday that he hit a steward on an Air India flight 25 times with his slipper during a row over a seat.

Ravindra Gaikwad, an MP in India's lower house for the Hindu nationalist Shiv Sena party, claimed that the attendant had insulted him first on the Pune to New Delhi flight.

"What did he say, that I hit him with my hand? I hit him 25 times with a slipper," an unrepentant Gaikwad told ANI news agency in video footage posted on its Twitter page and aired on Indian news channels.

Indian media reports said Gaikwad claimed he had a business class ticket but that Air India put him in an economy seat for the



Ravindra Gaikwad

Thursday morning flight to India's capital.

After first complaining to an air hostess Gaikwad, who represents a constituency in the western state of Maharashtra, then got into a heated argument with the senior flight attendant.

"(The steward) said 'I will complain to (Indian Prime Minister Narendra) Modi', so I hit him," said Gaikwad.

"Should I have to listen to this abuse?" he added.

South Korea raises sunken Sewol ferry

Donggeochado,

South Korea's sunken Sewol ferry emerged from the waters yesterday, nearly three years after it went down with the loss of more than 300 lives and dealt a crushing blow to now-ousted president Park Geun-Hye.

Television pictures showed one side of the 145-metre-long vessel, its white structure rusted and filthy, above the waves between two giant salvage barges.

The complex operation -- one of the largest raisings of an entire ship ever attempted -- comes as the third anniversary approaches of one of the country's worst-ever maritime disasters.



The damaged ferry between two barges after being raised

Almost all the dead were schoolchildren and it is thought that nine bodies still unaccounted for may be trapped inside the sunken ship. Raising the ferry intact

has been a key demand of the families of the victims.

Several relatives watched the much-anticipated operation unfolding from a boat near the site.

Philippines' Duterte reignites martial law fears

Manila,

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned yesterday he may impose martial law and suspend elections for tens of thousands of local posts, fuelling concerns about democracy under his rule.

Duterte said he was considering both measures as part of his controversial campaign to eradicate illegal drugs in society, and that martial law would solve a range of other security threats.

"If I declare martial law, I will finish all the problems, not just drugs," Duterte told reporters in a pre-dawn briefing after returning from



Duterte

neighbouring Thailand, which is under military rule.

Duterte said that, as part of martial law, he may create military courts to hear cases against terrorists.

Since easily winning presidential elections last year and taking office nine months ago, Duterte has given conflicting statements on whether he intended to impose military rule.

LOW-TECH attack is 'new norm'

8 held in UK on suspicion

London
The eight people arrested following the attack outside the British parliament are being investigated "on suspicion of preparation of terrorist acts," police said Thursday.

They also said that five people remained in critical condition and two more had life-threatening injuries after the attacker ploughed into pedestrians on Wednesday before stabbing a policeman and being shot dead.

Police named the attacker as 52-year-old Khalid Masood, who

had a string of convictions but none of them terror-related.

The eight arrested included two women and five men arrested at three addresses in the central city of Birmingham and a woman arrested in London.

The police statement said that there had also been a raid in Wales in which no arrests were made.

"Detectives are continuing to search" the sites that were raided, the police said.

It said the seven arrested in Birmingham were being held under the Terrorism Act.

Khalid Masood: 'A nice guy' turned extremist

London

The man who mowed down pedestrians and stabbed a policeman in Wednesday's deadly assault outside Britain's parliament has been identified by police as 52-year-old former convict Khalid Masood.

Known by "a number of aliases", London's Metropolitan Police said he had been convicted for a string of offences but none of them terror-related.

Born on Christmas Day 1964 in Kent in southeast England, Masood had been living in the West Midlands where

armed police have staged several raids since the attack, storming properties in the city of Birmingham.

Over the course of two decades, Masood chalked up a range of convictions for assault, grievous bodily harm, possession of offensive weapons and public order offences, police said, with the offences taking place between 1983 and 2003.

But Masood

had never been convicted of terrorism offences and "was not the subject of any investigations," the police said, noting there was "no prior intelligence about his intent to mount a terrorist attack".

At 52, his age has been highlighted by commentators as unusual, with most Islamist extremists behind similar attacks far younger.

Prime Minister Theresa May said he was once investigated by the intelligence service MI5 "in relation to concerns about violent extremism".

Although the police believe Masood acted alone, the Islamic State group claimed he was one of its "soldiers" acting on a call to target countries fighting the jihadists in Iraq and Syria.

'A nice guy'

Masood rented the car used in the attack from the Solihull branch of Enterprise, on the outskirts of Birmingham, the company confirmed in a statement.

According to the BBC, he told the car rental company that he was a teacher.

"He was a nice guy. I used to see him outside doing his garden," Iwona Romek, a former neighbour of his told the Birmingham Mail.

"He had a wife, a young Asian woman and a small child who went to school," she added, pointing out that the family had abruptly moved out of their house in Winson Green, a neighbourhood in western Birmingham, around Christmas.

Other media have reported that he was a married father-of-three.



A screengrab taken on March 22, 2017 from footage from an ITN helicopter shows members of the emergency services working on Westminister bridge after a car ran into several pedestrians

Paris

A man with a car, a knife and murderous intent -- the London attack shows the "new norm" of low-tech terror, experts say.

Analysts who have studied similar attacks say their crude nature makes them almost impossible to prevent and easy to copy, posing a major headache for security services.

The Islamic State group on Thursday claimed the attack on the British parliament that left three dead, saying it was "carried out in response to calls to target coalition countries".

In 2014, IS's then propaganda chief Mohammed al-Adnani urged sympathisers in the West to attack "unbelievers" wherever they were and with whatever came to hand, with police and soldiers a particular target.

In Thursday's attack, a man mowed down pedestrians on Westminister Bridge before jumping out of the vehicle and stabbing to death a policeman before he was shot dead.

Berlin and Nice

The attack was reminiscent of three other attacks in the West in the past eight months.

In December, a 24-year-old Tunisian drove a stolen truck into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12 people.

Last July, another radicalised Tunisian, who like the London attacker was described by Islamic State as one of its "soldiers", ploughed a truck into crowds watching fireworks in the southern resort of Nice, killing 86.

The United States has also been targeted by low-tech attackers apparently acting alone.

In November, a student used a vehicle and knives to injure 13 on a university campus in Ohio.

Over the past decade, Israel has seen a growing number of vehicle ramming attacks, particularly in Jerusalem, with Palestinians using cars, trucks or even tractors to randomly mow down pedestrians, soldiers or police.

In the latest deadly incident in January, a Palestinian drove a truck

at a group of Israeli cadets, killing four and wounding another 15.

Back in Europe, less than a day after the carnage in London, a man was arrested on Thursday after he tried to drive at high speed into a crowd of people in the Belgian port of Antwerp.

Emily Winterbotham, a research fellow at the London-based Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) specialising in extremism and radicalisation, said it was inevitable there would be more such attacks.

"Attacks of this nature, the willingness of someone to use everyday objects, cars, knives, are incredibly difficult to prevent," she said.

They "seem to be the new norm and we can do everything as far as possible to prevent them but they do happen and we need to prepare for that in order to respond in an appropriate manner". (AFP)



Emirates offers laptop 'handlers' to cope with ban

Dubai

Dubai's Emirates airline yesterday announced it will provide a free packing-and-handling service for passengers on flights hit by a US ban on electronic devices larger than a standard smartphone.

Emirates will allow

passengers to hold on to their laptops and tablets after checking in until boarding time, when security staff at the gates will themselves pack the devices into boxes and load them onto the flight.

"Our new complimentary service enables passengers,

particularly those flying for business, to have the flexibility to use their devices until the last possible moment," said Tim Clark, president of Emirates.

The devices will be returned to their owners upon arrival in the United States free of charge.

The service from Emirates, which prides itself as an airline of choice for business travellers, is also available for passengers transiting through Dubai International Airport.

The US ban on laptops and tablets applies to flights from 10 airports in the region,

including direct flights to the United States from Dubai International Airport and Ataturk Airport in Istanbul.

US airlines do not operate direct flights out of the airports included in the ban.

A similar British ban covers all airports in Turkey, Jordan

and four other countries, but not the United Arab Emirates.

Both countries have cited credible threats to civil aviation from Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group as the reason for the ban, which has come under criticism for targeting majority-Muslim countries.

Indian School steal semis spot



Players compete in the deciding intermediate boys championship matches

DT News Network

Manama

The Indian School yesterday completed the semi-final line-up of the intermediate boys stage football championship, at the Fourth Mini Olympics.

With three teams tied up on five points in all three groups, the best runners-up team was decided through round robin matches as the Indian School scored victories over Ibn Al Haitham Islamic School (3-1) and Hawar School (2-0) to punch the fourth and last ticket into the competition's semi-finals.

Late on, organisers conducted the draw for the semi-finals, scheduled for Sunday with Group 'A' winners Creativity taking on the Indian School, while Group 'C' Al Naseem faces Group 'A' winners Kanoo International School.

Meanwhile, the primary boys stage football championship semi-finals will take place on Sunday, when Group 'A' winners Hawar face Group 'B' winner Budaiya and Al Hekma, who topped Group 'C', take on Group 'D' winners Al Naseem. It will be followed by the final and the awarding ceremony later in the day.

Action in the Mini Olympics continued today with the opening stages of the mini handball and the taekwondo events, in addition to cricket matches, all taking place at Isa Sports City facilities in Riffa.

Competitions in basketball for boys and girls, in addition to mini volleyball, table tennis and the girls football championship, have already concluded earlier this week, while aquathlon, swimming, jiu jitsu, hockey, athletic and karting are still to come over the coming week.

The last day of competition will feature hockey and athletics events on March 29, while the curtain will come down on the Mini Olympics on March 30 when the closing ceremony takes place.

Bowling: Bapco lead

Manama

Bapco beat the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) 8-0 to lead in the second week of the Bahrain Industrial Bowling League Golden Triangle League 2017 at the Fun Land Bowling Centre in Manama.

The winning Bapco team now have 14 points, while EWA are still on zero points.

Top scoring for Bapco was team captain Mohammed H.

Janahi (258) high game and (670) high series and for EWA, Rule Cruz 253) game and (607) series.

In another match, Banagas were 6-2 winners over Pioneers and remain in third place with eight points, Pioneers dropped to second with 10 points with the top scorer for Banagas being

Osama Khalifa Khalfan of Banagas (264) game and (695)



Bapco team

series and for Pioneers it was senior) with (263) game and Khalifa Khalfan (the father and (661) series.

Three Teams beat the Pros



The Pros' team from left, Waive, Foster, Stimson and Dutson

Manama

Three teams managed to beat the Royal Golf Club's team of PGA Professionals in the Club's annual Pros Challenge.

First place went to the team of brothers Badea and Ebrahim Esbai and playing partners Fahad Al Hakam and Khalifa Daij (nett 58.1), followed in second by Iftikhar Butt, Naem Khan, Rehman Tipu and Atta Yousafi (59.3) with the husband and wife pairings of David and Dena Wales and Rob and Debbie Lane (59.9) in third.

The Professionals' team, consisting of Director of Golf Philip Waive, Golf Sales Manager Ben Stimson, Tournament Coordinator Adam Dutson and newly

arrived Retail Manager Oliver Foster, achieved a team nett score of 60.

"Well done to the three teams who beat us and to all those who participated," said Dutson after the match. "This is a popular annual tournament for our members with those managing to beat the pros enjoying bragging rights for the rest of the year!"

Results:

1) Ebrahim/Badea Esbai, Fahad Al Hakam/Khalifa Daij (gross 62/nett 58.1),

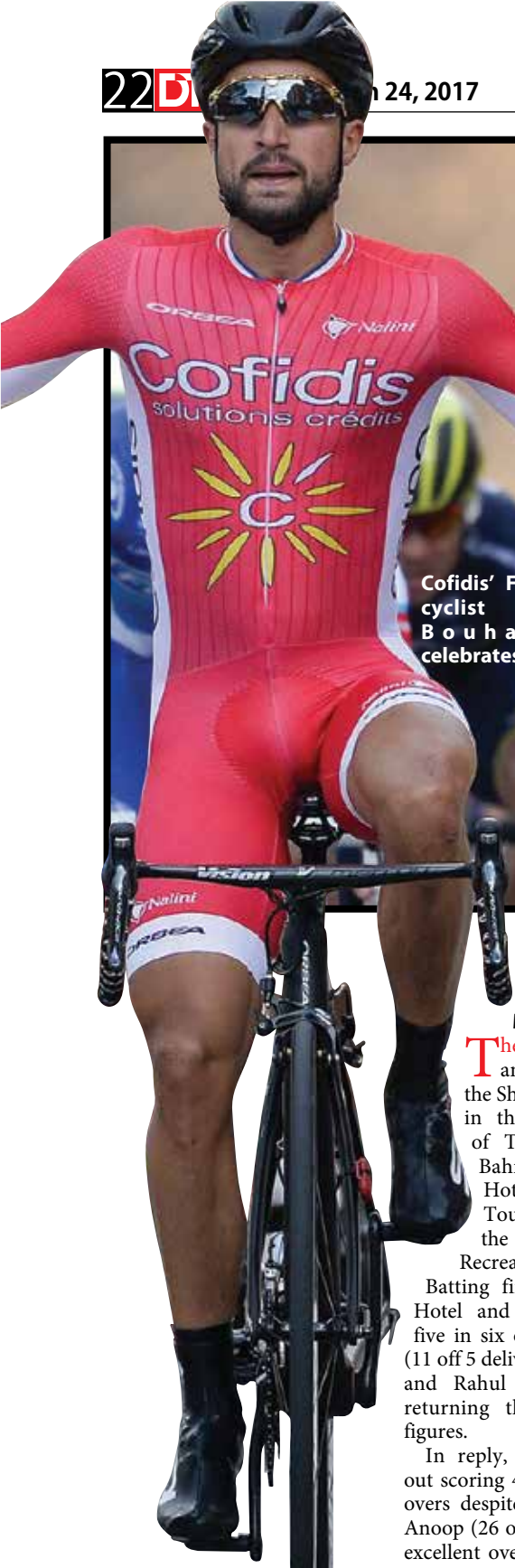
2) Iftikhar Butt/Naem Khan/Rehman Tipu/Atta Yousafi (gross 68/nett 59.3),

3) David/Dena Wales, Rob/Debbie Lane (gross 65/nett 59.9).

Pros' Team: Adam Dutson/Philip Waive/Ben Stimson/Oliver Foster (60).



A plan to include physical literacy programmes within the Nursery Curriculum were reviewed at a meeting attended by representatives of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. Supreme Council for Youth and Sports deputy general secretary and BOC general secretary Abdulrahman Askar and ministry assistant undersecretary for Youth Authorities and Centres Khalid Al Kooheji had discussions on this topic at the meeting. Rashid Al Zayani of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports general secretariat, BOC sports affairs executive director Abduljalil Asad and General Organisation for Youth and Sports representative Abdulreda Al Mosawi were also involved in discussions to qualify coaches for children and clubs



Cofidis' French cyclist Nacer Bouhanni celebrates

Igualada

French sprinter Nacer Bouhanni won the fourth stage of the Tour of Catalonia on Thursday after it was shortened by 60km due to snow.

The 26-year-old beat Italy's Davide Cimolai and Daryl Impey of South Africa in a sprint finish as American Tejay Van Garderen maintained his overall lead.

But treacherous conditions on a long descent meant to start the stage resulted in the day's racing being shortened to just 134km.

A short category two climb near to the finish saw the race explode into life as several overall contenders, including France's Romain Bardet and Alejandro Valverde of Spain, attacked in a hope of gaining some time.

And while most specialist sprinters were dropped from the leading group at that stage, Bouhanni hung on before comfortably winning the sprint.

Spain's Samuel Sanchez remains in second place, 41 seconds behind his BMC teammate, while Britain's Geraint Thomas of Team Sky is third at 44sec.

Three-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome is fifth at 49sec.

Friday's 182km fifth stage is likely to be decisive as it finishes with an 8.4km climb to Lo Port de Tortosa at an average nine percent gradient.

Bouhanni sprints to Catalonia stage win

Inter Hotel cricket: Domain Hotel win

Manama

The Domain Hotel and Spa edged out the Sheraton by one run in the latest matches of The Ritz Carlton Bahrain Sixth Inter Hotel Charity Cricket Tournament 2017 at the Ritz-Carlton Staff Recreation area.

Batting first, The Domain Hotel and Spa scored 47 for five in six overs with Rohan (11 off 5 deliveries) top scoring and Rahul (one for eight) returning the best bowling figures.

In reply, Sheraton missed out scoring 46 for three in six overs despite a fine effort by Anoop (26 off 13, 2x6) and an excellent over by Raj (two for



The Domain Hotel and Spa team six to help secure victory.

24 teams are in the fray playing round-robin group matches followed by the

knockout stage with the final set for 28 March.

This year's official charity is the Child Wish Society.

Other Results:

1) Movenpick scored 48/2 in 5.4 (Raja Ram 27 off 12, RajaRam 1/3) bt The Ritz-Carlton (B) 42/4 in 6 overs (18 off 9, 1x6, Saleem 1/7) by four wickets.

2) Intercontinental Regency (A) 91/4 (Yasir 35 off 10, 2x6, 5x4, Azam 1/1) bt Swiss Bell 22/5 in 6 (Malinga 6 off 2, 1x6, Azhar 1-10) by 69 runs.

3) Best Western 51/4 in 6 (Punkaj 21 off 14, 1x6, 2x4, Ritesh 1/3, Mahi 1/3) bt Four Seasons 47/6 in 6 (Mahi 14 off 8, 1x6 balls 1x6) by four runs.

Karting set for enticing battles

DT News Network Manama

Racing is set to intensify at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) today as the penultimate round of the Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship (BKSC) takes place in Sakhir.

The BKSC will see battles in both round five of the 2016/2017 Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge (BRMMC) and round seven of the 2016/2017 Bahrain SWS Sprint Championship (SSWS).

Competing drivers will have plenty to fight for as only one meeting remains before the end of the current season with all the action held along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre Commission Internationale de Karting track.

The first group of karters

on track at 3.45pm, will be the BRMMC participants in a Free Practice session. The SSWS runners follow at 4.10pm as they go straight into qualifying with the BRMMC's qualifying session be held right after at 4.30pm. The SSWS Pre-Final is then scheduled to flag off at

4.50pm, with the BRMMC Pre-Final at 5.15pm and both will be held over 11 laps.

This paves the way for the SSWS Final, starting at 5.40pm. The BRMMC Final will then be on the track for a 6.15pm start and both finales are to be held over 15 laps.



File picture showing a previous race

Heading into Friday's racing, Mohammed Mattar (121 points) holds a narrow lead over Hussain Hassan (117) in the BRMMC's Senior Max category after five rounds of competition, with Khaled Alsaie (94) a distant third.

In the BRMMC's Junior Max class, Luca Santiago (73) is in first place, followed by Sulaiman Alkanderi (67) with Anas Lecaillon (62) in third, while the BRMMC Max Masters, Anthony Genocchio (90) holds a commanding lead over Mohammed Faqihi, with Faqihi (25) way behind in third.

In the SSWS, Abdulla Buhindi (171) is the current championship leader, followed by Rashid Almuammari (159) in second and Ahmed Ebrahim (122) in third.

Horse racing: Six races today

Manama

Six Cup and one support race are scheduled today with BD16,500 in prize money up for grabs starting from 2.45pm in the 20th race meeting of the season at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club in Sakhir. The three richest races worth BD3,000 each are for the Shaikh Sultan bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup at 4pm, National

Guard Cup at 4.50pm and the Silver Cup sponsored by the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club at 5.15pm.

Other races are at 2.45pm for the Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup, a support race at 3.10pm, Shaikh Sultan bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup at 3.35pm and Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup at 4.25pm.

Newcastle sign Sami Mavinga

London

Newcastle have signed French prop Sami Mavinga from Top 14 side Lyon in time for next season, the English Premiership club announced Thursday.

Also arriving at the northeast club is Jersey flanker Gary Graham, the son of former Newcastle prop George.

Mavinga impressed Falcons

boss Dean Richards while playing for Lyon against Newcastle in the European Challenge Cup earlier this season.

"That put him on our radar, and from there it has been a case of watching more of him in action and getting a fuller picture of what Sami can offer," said Richards in a club statement.

Football

2018 World Cup qualifying,
Asia zone:



Syria 1 Uzbekistan 0



Iraq 1 Australia 1



Thailand 0 Saudi Arabia 3



UAE 0 Japan 2

Fairytale end for Podolski Dortmund

Lukas Podolski admitted his Germany farewell could not have been scripted better after netting the superb winner in the 1-0 friendly win over England. It was only fitting that the Galatasaray forward should claim his 49th goal on his 130th -- and final -- international appearance in Wednesday's emotional farewell. "The way it finished up was like in a film," said Podolski.



China keep dream alive, Qatar slump

Doha Marcello Lippi's China stunned South Korea 1-0 in a politically charged World Cup qualifier yesterday to give themselves a glimmer of hope of reaching next year's tournament in Russia.

Yu Dabao stooped unmarked to head in the game's only goal on 34 minutes, prompting rapturous celebrations as China registered their first win in the final group qualifying stage.

Yu's goal was China's first in qualifying since September -- spanning some 407 minutes of football -- and handed them only their second win over the Koreans in 32 attempts.

Australia had less to celebrate as they were pegged back 1-1 by Iraq in Tehran, while Syria beat Uzbekistan 1-0 to stay in contention for a play-off spot.

In late games in the Gulf, Iran edged Qatar 1-0 to open a four-point lead over South Korea while Japan beat the United Arab Emirates 2-0 to move into an automatic qualifying spot.

China had been bottom of Group A and winless after five games, but they will allow themselves to dream of a miraculous revival after beating Uli Stielike's Koreans.

Only the top two teams in Group A and B gain automatic entry to Russia 2018, but the two sides that finish third will go

into a play-off series. Lippi, who masterminded Italy's victory at the 2006 World Cup, was hired at great cost in October and China were noticeably more solid as they kept South Korea at bay while creating a series of chances of their own.

Following Chinese anger over South Korea's deployment of a controversial missile defence system, the game was played in front of a heavy security presence.

But Yu raised the roof at Changsha's Helong Stadium when he stole past South Korea's static defence to flick home a corner at the near post.

The game opened up in the second half but South Korea were unable to convert any of their chances, including Ji Dong-Won's header which was brilliantly kept out by goalkeeper Zeng Cheng.

Meanwhile, 2022 hosts Qatar's chances of qualifying suffered a potentially fatal blow when they were beaten 1-0 by Iran in Doha.

Qatar's woes deepen

Qatar coach Jorge Fossati had accused his Iranian counterpart Carlos Queiroz of making unflattering remarks about the Gulf team but the match itself never lived up to expectations with both teams failing to provide the spark.

Iran who had beaten Qatar 2-0 in the first game between the two sides, however, defended well and

struck the only goal of the match through Mehdi Taremi in the 52nd minute after receiving an assist from Karim Ansarifard.

Qatar's woes were compounded when Syria scored off a second half stoppage time penalty to beat Uzbekistan in Tashkent.

Igor Krimets fouled Firas al-Khatib and Omar Kharbin converted to give the Syrians their second win after they had earlier upset China.

Iran now have 14 points from six matches virtually assuring them a spot in Russia, while South Korea

are second on 10 and Uzbekistan on nine, with Qatar right at the bottom on four, having lost four of their games so far.

Meanwhile in Group B, Australia have much to ponder after their 1-1 draw against Iraq left them with work ahead to secure their spot in Russia.

Matthew Leckie scored five minutes before half-time but Ahmad Yaseen's finish on 76 minutes condemned Australia to a fourth draw in six games.

The Socceroos, now with 10 points, began the day third in Group B behind Saudi Arabia and Japan, and level on points with United Arab Emirates -- who visit Sydney on Tuesday.

Also in Group B, Japan avenged their first leg defeat to the UAE with a 2-0 victory to jump to second spot behind Saudi Arabia.

UAE had scored a shock 2-1 win over the Asian giants in the first leg, but a 13th minute goal by Yuya Kubo put Japan ahead in Al Ain.

Kubo was in the thick of the action again in the second half providing the cross for Yasuyuki Konno to score from the left of the six-yard box.

In Bangkok, Mohammed Al Sahlawi and Salman Almuwashar scored either side of Tanaboon Kesarat's own goal as Saudi Arabia beat Thailand 3-0 to stay top of Group B on goal difference from Japan. (AFP)



Qatar's forward (L) Sebastian Soria vies for the ball against Iran's defender Milad Mohammadi (R)



Qatar's Akram Hassan Afif reacts after losing

Saudis smash Thai hopes

Bangkok

Saudi Arabia slapped Thailand down in a crushing 3-0 victory at a World Cup qualifier yesterday, with two strikes sandwiching a devastating own-goal from the War Elephants on their home turf.

The win cements Saudi Arabia's leading spot in Group B and propels the team one step closer to the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

It also ended Thailand's hope of exacting revenge over the hotly-contested penalty kick that handed the Saudis a 1-0 win in the final minutes of a match in Riyadh last September.

But passionate roars from Bangkok's fan-packed Rajamangala stadium on Thursday were not enough to propel the players to victory.

Saudi Arabia's sharpshooter Mohammed Al Sahlawi put his team on top early on when he took a pass

from Nawaf Al Abid down on his chest and struck the ball into the net in the 25th minute.

Thailand held up an admirable defence throughout most of the match and looked dangerous a number of times.

But the team was unable to deliver a goal and morale plummeted after Tanaboon Kesarat accidentally turned the ball into his own net in the 84th minute as he tried to block a cross.

The brutal defeat was sealed in an action-packed finale as Taisir Al Jassim set Salman Almuwashar up for for killer strike in injury time in the 92nd minute.

Thailand remains at the bottom of the table after losing every match in the qualifying round save for a 2-2 draw with Australia in November. (AFP)



Bert van Marwijk (C), the head coach of the Saudi Arabia national football team, celebrates his team's win

Pliskova eases through in Miami

Miami

Second seed Karolina Pliskova cruised into the third round of the Miami Open, the Czech beating American qualifier Madison Brengle 6-1, 6-3 on Thursday.

While her serve was not at its best, the 25-year-old Pliskova never looked in danger, comfortably dominating while winning 78 percent of return points.

"There were a few tight games but I think I was pretty solid. It went quite easy and I was really happy to spend only an hour out there because it's pretty hot and humid and so I am happy to save some power for the later matches," said Pliskova.

"The serve wasn't really great and hasn't

been for the last few weeks but I think my game from the baseline was better, it's improving, my backhand is better, I was feeling pretty good just want to improve the serve a bit now," she added.

Pliskova reached the semi-finals of Indian Wells last week and she said she was keen to avoid a repeat of last year when she made the last four in California but fell at the first hurdle in Miami.

"It's a big tournament and I wanted to make it better this year. I will be ready for the next one," said the Czech, whose twin sister Kristyna is also in the Miami field.

Later on Thursday, Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki takes on American qualifier Varvara Lepchenko while sixth-seeded Spaniard Garbine Muguruza faces another American Christina McHale.



Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic returns a shot against Madison Brengle



Saudi forward Salman Mohammed Muwashar celebrates scoring the third goal for his team