

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

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News of Bahrain

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Tweet of the Day



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11th Hour

Macron tops poll, to fight Le Pen for presidency

Paris Pro-European Emmanuel Macron will face far-right candidate Marine Le Pen in the second round of France's presidential election, projections showed yesterday, making him clear favourite to emerge as the country's youngest leader in modern history.

Netanyahu's warning on Holocaust Day

Jerusalem Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday threatened to destroy those who call for the destruction of Israel, in a speech to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Kingdom to boost ties with Malaysia



HRH Crown Prince with Datuk Mohammed Anuar Taib at Rifa Palace yesterday

DT News Network Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, received Datuk Mohammed Anuar Taib, Executive Vice President of Petronas and CEO of Upstream, at Riffa Palace yesterday.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness highlighted Bahrain's commitment to developing the Kingdom's energy sector in support of efforts to strengthen industry and economic diversification across the region.

In boosting the Kingdom's energy sector, Bahrain will be exposed to various markets, creating new opportunities to strengthen the national

economy, the Crown Prince highlighted.

His Royal Highness outlined that the Kingdom of Bahrain seeks to expand its economic relations with the friendly Asian countries, particularly the Kingdom of Malaysia, and to achieve new levels of cooperation that reflect the depth of Bahraini-Malaysian relations. His Royal Highness went

on to note that Bahrain will continue to explore new opportunities for bilateral cooperation with Malaysia, especially within the energy sector.

His Royal Highness underscored Bahrain's eagerness to continue working with international companies, which allows the Kingdom to draw on extensive experience in the oil and gas sector to

help achieve its development goals.

Datuk Mohammed Anuar Taib expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Royal Highness for the opportunity to meet with him, praising the Kingdom's ambitions to increase cooperation with Malaysian companies based on the distinguished relations between the two countries.



P 05

Tamkeen to reward firms with more locals



P 06

Qataris speak of joy at release

Port of call



ITS Carabiniere, the Italian warship that arrived at Mina Salman port yesterday as part of a goodwill visit. Italy is keen to improve its cooperation with Bahrain and the GCC, Francesco Pagnotta, Commanding officer of the ship, said. ▶▶ P 02

Ambush on military convoy kills 10 in Western Iraq

Habbaniyah, Iraq

An ambush by the Islamic State killed 10 members of the security forces yesterday in western Iraq, where federal and other forces recently ramped up an anti-jihadist offensive. A local commander said the attackers were disguised and took advantage of a sandstorm to ambush a convoy near the town of Rutba, a remote outpost on the road to Jordan.

"Daesh (IS) members armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers attacked civilian and military vehicles carrying soldiers near Rutba," an army lieutenant colonel said.



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Italy aims to boost its presence in the Middle East

On a Goodwill Mission

Italian warship makes port of call at Mina Salman

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

ITS Carabiniere, an Italian warship, called at the port of Mina Salman on a goodwill visit yesterday, as part of its deployment to the Middle East. The ship will remain in Bahrain until Wednesday.

During its stay in Bahrain, ITS Carabiniere will participate in a series of interactions with the Bahrain Navy.

"Italy is keen on increasing its presence here with our ships. These kinds of visits are one of the examples of our interest here," said Francesco Pagnotta, Commanding officer of ITS Carabiniere to DT News, when asked about Italy's interests in the Middle East.

The warship, a Bergamini-class anti-submarine frigate of the Italian Navy docked in Bahrain after making ports of calls at Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan. The frigate, which left Italian waters in December last year was part of the international fleet that was stationed in the Gulf of Aden to combat international piracy. It

is expected to return home by June.

"We are keen to cooperate in anti-piracy operations as well," said Pagnotta adding that Italy is keen to improve its presence in the Arabian Gulf and its cooperation with Bahrain.

He stressed that the move is aimed at supporting the Gulf cooperation Council (GCC) nations in preserving Maritime security.

"We will always try to improve our presence here, but of course we have to keep in mind the monetary aspects as well.

"I believe it is possible to strengthen our relationship and we will do that in future," he told reporters while guiding media representative on a tour of the ship, yesterday afternoon.

Pagnotta, who will be meeting many high ranking Bahrain naval officials, said, "We are looking forward to holding a naval exercise with Bahraini ships. Our cooperation with the Bahrain navy has been long-

lasting and it will continue."

Italy is currently providing training to Bahraini students at its naval academy in Italy.

Explaining more about the deployment of ITS Carabiniere in the Middle East, Pagnotta said that Italy aims to strengthen its on-going cooperation with trans-regional allies and develop relationships with potential partners.

"Main themes of the naval campaign are maritime safety and surveillance, strengthening cooperation and naval diplomacy."

In this regard, he stressed that the South East Asia and Australia naval campaign, which started from Italy on 20 December 2016, reflects an international vision that converges and outlines this century as the "blue one".

"The "blue growth" is considered a key factor for sustainable development of the countries where the sea is a key resource for growth, employment and scientific and technological advancement," he explained.

The deployment has been organised with the support of Fincantieri, Leonardo, MBDA Italia, Elettronica, Telespazio and Drass.



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Workshop assembling used surgical tools shut



The workshop that was used to manufacture surgical tools for the local market

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) and Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry have shut down a workshop assembling used surgical tools imported from a neighbouring country to distribute in the Kingdom.

The workshop was operating in the backyard of a villa to illegally manufacture surgical tools for the local market, according to NHRA.

"The tools were made in the workshop using construction

materials so it could be distributed in the local markets," NHRA explained.

"NHRA coordinated with Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry to visit the workshop, which has been operating without a permit from the ministry. All the tools and equipment detected at the workshop were confiscated," the statement added.

Engineering Safety Consultant at the Authority Nada Al Sayigh confirmed that the workshop is not qualified to manufacture and maintain medical tools in accordance to international standards.

Local variety shrimps sold in regional markets

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

Manama

Local variety shrimps are being openly sold in regional fish markets while shrimping is banned in Bahrain, videos shared by netizens indicate.

Pictures of large quantities of fresh shrimps being sold in central markets in Saudi Arabia are widely shared on local social media networks.

Interestingly, catch and sale of shrimp are banned in Bahrain as per a decision taken by Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam Khalaf issued on March 7.

The minister's decision bans shrimping for six months, between March 15 and September 15. According to the resolution, violators are subjected to fines and penalties that include imprisonment and confiscation of boats and fishing equipment. Local fishermen had held a series of meetings recently with the concerned officials, including Minister Khalaf. They repeatedly demanded to harden punishments against violators and to intensify monitoring of coasts, exits and markets.

Probe sought

As a response to the circulating videos, MP Ali Al Ateesh demanded the authorities

to launch an immediate investigation into the smuggling of fresh shrimps.

"We demand to know how these large quantities of shrimp reached a local market in a neighbouring country," the MP questioned.

"We understood the goals of imposing the ban and we support the protection of marine wealth. But we don't understand how local variety shrimps are being sold in regional markets when Bahraini fishermen are prohibited from catching them. Official statistics show that our fish stock is declining. We demand the export of local fish to be banned by the authorities concerned," he added.



Pictures of local variety shrimps being circulated in social media. Videos shared by netizens say the shrimps are being sold in Saudi central markets



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Crown Prince: Role of youth vital for Kingdom's progress

DT News Network
Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister welcomed this year's recipients of the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP), at Riffa Palace yesterday.

The Crown Prince highlighted the pivotal role Bahrain's youth play in driving sustainable development and in helping to secure the country's prosperous future. The Crown Prince also highlighted that the continued success of Bahrain's youth is one of the many achievements of the Kingdom's ongoing development programme led by His Majesty King Hamad.

Speaking on the important role of the CPISP, the Crown Prince stressed that the programme, now in its 18th

edition, continues to deliver educational opportunities for exceptional Bahraini students. The Crown Prince went on to highlight that this was a proud moment which marks the beginning of a promising future for the CPISP students, as they prepare for an academic career in world-class institutions.

The Crown Prince expressed his gratitude to all the organisations that continue to support the work and objectives of the CPISP, and extended his congratulations to the students for meeting the rigorous standards of the application process for the Scholarship Program.

The Crown Prince extended his thanks and appreciation to the staff of the CPISP, who play an important role liaising with renowned international universities and supporting the students from their enrolment through to graduation.



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa shaking hands with a student

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CPISP scholarship recipients for 2017

The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP) has announced the winners of its 2017 scholarships, who make up the Program's 18th Group of scholars, and who include the following students:

▶ **Shehab Fadhel Al Shehabi** / St. Christopher's School

▶ **Zaid Maki Al Sekari** / Bahrain Bayan School

▶ **Abdulla Ebrahim Janahi** / St. Christopher's School

▶ **Shaikha Lulwa Bint Mohamed Bin Ali Al Khalifa** / Ibn Khuldoon National School

▶ **Noora Khaled Al Hashimi** / Bahrain Bayan School

▶ **Eyad Nabeel Al Moamen** / Al Hidayah Al

Khalifiya Secondary Boys School

▶ **Khaled Kamal Ajaj** / East Riffa Secondary Boys School

▶ **Hasan Borham Hamadto** / Muharraq Secondary Boys School

▶ **Zahra Saeed Al Basri** / Khawla Secondary Girls School

▶ **Batool Saeed Taraif** / Jidhafs Secondary Girls School

▶ **Ghadeer Mohamed Al Jabal** / Oaima Bint Al Noaman Secondary Girls School

The 2017 scholarship recipients were selected among 360 Bahraini applicants from governmental and private schools in and outside of Bahrain who met the Program's qualifying

application criteria.

The final selection criteria included their Grade Point Average, as well as the results of the IELTS and SAT examinations, leadership training, and the Critical Thinking course, which were organized by the CPISP as part of the candidacy training last year.

The CPISP gives its scholarship recipients the opportunity to choose their own fields of study from international universities of their choice that they gain acceptance to.

The Program has awarded a total of 166 university scholarships to outstanding Bahraini students since its establishment in 1999 by HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



HRH Crown Prince with winners of 2017 CPISP scholarships

Tamkeen to reward firms with more locals



(From L to R) Yousif Ali, Qusay Al Arayedh, Dr. Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, Dr. Nasser Qaedi, and Fahad Bu Ali during a press conference held yesterday

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

Manama
Tamkeen yesterday announced the launch of its new employment reward system 'Taqdeer' to honour organisations that exceeded their Bahrainisation target.

"Any company that has one employee above the LMRA quota is eligible to apply and would receive a financial grant from Tamkeen, said Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, the Chief Executive of Tamkeen.

This was announced at a press conference held at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) tower.

Dr Janahi said the move is part of Tamkeen's ongoing effort to create more job opportunities for Bahrainis.

Explaining further, Dr Janahi said the reward can be used by the companies to pay

their expenses.

"This can be used for paying municipality fees (not including fines and violations), electricity and water bills, GOSI, CR and SIO fees, health insurance of Bahraini employees as well as their training and development expenses," he said.

The grant can be utilised over two periods (six months each) for expenses incurred over the past twelve months from applying.

Dr Janahi, however, said the size of the financial grant will depend on the points gained.

Points will be calculated based on the number of employees in the company and their average salary.

When asked about the application process, Qusay Al Arayed, Executive Director of Operations told *DT News* that all required is logging on to Tamkeen web portal and apply.

"Create an account for

The programme is launched with an aim to encourage firms to hire more Bahraini employees

your company by registering through our website and activate it by visiting any of our branches."

The Bahrainisation rate will be monitored by Tamkeen for over a period of six months, before the first part of the grant will be approved. The payments will be processed over two six-month periods.

All relevant invoices and receipts can be submitted through the online portal.

All companies with an active commercial registration in Bahrain and exceeds its Bahrainisation rate requirement are eligible for the programme.

He, however, warned that Tamkeen has created an internal monitoring system to prevent misuse. The programme is also fully integrated with LMRA, Al Arayed said.

Meanwhile, Dr Janahi said that Tamkeen is constantly improving its programmes to enhance the prospects of Bahrainis in the job market.

Kingdom celebrates World Book Day

DT News Network
Manama

Education Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain National Commission for Education, Science and Culture, Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi, inaugurated the "Read" campaign, organised by the ministry's Public and Technical Education sector, in cooperation with the Isa Cultural Centre and the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs at the Al-Khansaa Primary Girls School as part of World Book Day celebrations.



Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi with students on World Book Day

Campaign to encourage reading habits

The minister said that the Education Ministry had

provided libraries across the kingdom's public schools with more than half a million books, and the Knowledge Resources Centre with 98,000 books, to encourage students to read, highlighting the importance of reading in acquiring knowledge and in promoting the values of tolerance, co-existence,

dialogue and cultural openness.

The minister also opened a three-day celebration organised by the Public Libraries Directorate at the Knowledge Resources Centre in Muharraq with the participation of all its counterparts in the four governorates.

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Screenshot of Tamkeen web portal

Tensions ease as Sisi meets King Salman



Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud (R) receiving Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, upon the latter's arrival in the capital Riyadh.

Riyadh

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi received a royal welcome from King Salman as he landed yesterday in Saudi Arabia for a visit to boost ties after months of tension.

Salman, surrounded by key Saudi officials, greeted Sisi as he stepped off the plane in the capital Riyadh and hosted him for lunch, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

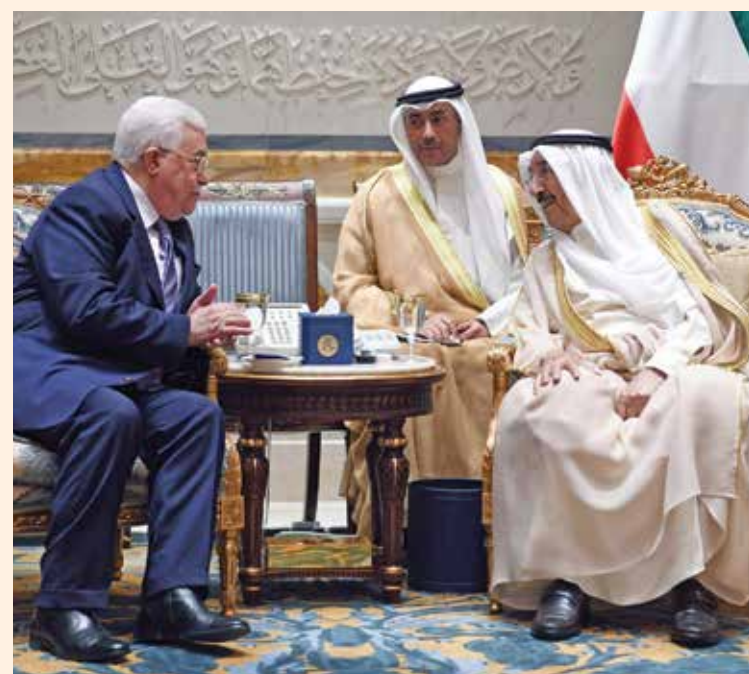
The Egyptian presidency announced the visit in a statement on Friday, saying Sisi's trip was in response to an invitation by Salman and aimed at "bolstering strategic relations between the two countries".

It said Salman and Sisi would discuss "regional and international issues of common interest".

"The struggle against terrorism which threatens security and stability" in the region and beyond would top their agenda, it said.

Sisi met Salman on the sidelines of an Arab League summit in Jordan last month to break the ice after months of apparent tensions between the two allies.

That encounter on March 29 came days after Egypt announced that Saudi energy giant Aramco had resumed delivering shipments of petroleum products after abruptly suspending them in October.



A handout picture provided by the Palestinian Authority's press office (PPO) shows Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas (L) meeting with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, in Kuwait City.

Qataris speak of joy at release

Doha

Two Qatari hunters who endured a 16-month hostage ordeal in Iraq spoke Sunday of their joy at being released, in the first public comments since the group were freed.

Mohammed Marzouki was among 24 Qataris and two Saudis who were on a hunting trip in a mainly Shia area of southern Iraq when they were kidnapped in late 2015.

They flew back to Doha on Friday following their release under a complex regional deal linked to the Syrian civil war. "When I saw the lights

of Doha, I felt like life was beginning again -- my happiness is indescribable," Marzouki told the local Arabic daily newspaper, Al-Sharq.

"My joy at returning to the homeland is a feeling that cannot be described in words."

A fellow hostage, Khalid bin Dhafer Al-Dosari, told the same newspaper that "all our aches and pains disappeared once we reached our homeland".

The hunting party, believed to include prominent members of the Qatari royal family, were captured in mid-

December 2015 and held captive until they were freed on Friday.

There was never any claim of responsibility for the kidnapping of the hunters, who were widely believed to have been taken by militias with close ties to Tehran.

While the terms of the group's release have not been made public, it has been reported that Qatar paid millions in ransom to secure their freedom.

After flying home on Friday, the hunters were met at Doha's Hamad International Airport by the country's emir,

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The release deal was linked to the evacuation of thousands of people from the Syrian government-held towns of Fuaa and Kafraya, long besieged by rebels.

The evacuations marked the end of the first stage of a deal brokered by rebel backer Qatar and regime ally Iran.

Wealthy citizens of Sunni Gulf states venture to countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq to hunt with falcons without the bag limits and conservation measures they face at home. (AFP)

Petrol price hikes: Kuwait Court backs government

Kuwait City

Kuwait's appeals court ruled yesterday that a government decision to raise petrol prices was in line with the constitution, overturning a decision by a lower court.

It said the decision to raise prices was within the cabinet's powers.

Ali al-Ali, one of several lawyers who filed the suit against the government, said on Twitter the group intends to challenge the latest ruling in Kuwait's supreme court, whose decisions are final.

Kuwait has been hit hard by a sharp drop in crude prices since June 2014.

The OPEC member recorded a budget shortfall of \$15 billion in the fiscal year to March 2016.

It was the first deficit since the fiscal year to March 1999.

In response, the government adopted austerity measures including hikes in the prices of electricity, water and fuel.

In September, it raised the cost of fuel by up to 80 per cent depending on its grade, the first such increase since 1998.

The action was met with stiff opposition by lawmakers, who this month filed motions to question the prime minister in parliament over the price hike and other issues.

Israeli attack on Syria military camp kills 3

Damascus

An Israeli attack on a Syrian training camp near the Golan Heights killed three members of a pro-government militia yesterday, an official from the forces said.

The Al-Fawwar camp in Syria's southwestern Quneitra province is used by the National Defence Forces (NDF), which command some 90,000 fighters across Syria.

The NDF official said that two fighters were also wounded in the Israeli attack, but said it was unclear whether the damage was inflicted by an air strike or shelling.

Another Syrian source inside the training camp said that around 6:00 am local time (0300 GMT), "security guards at the camp saw what looked like three fireballs coming towards the camp."

"Then there were several consecutive blasts because of the explosion of ammunition warehouses" that firefighters worked hard to extinguish, the source said.

The source also said that they were "Israeli rockets" but could not specify what kind of missiles may have been used.



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Interim Condensed Consolidated
Financial Statements
For the three months ended 31 March 2017
albasmelter.com



INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 31 March 2017

	31 March 2017 Reviewed BD '000	31 December 2016 Audited BD '000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	904,977	847,500
Other asset	4,272	4,320
Deferred tax asset	10	10
	909,259	851,830
Current assets		
Inventories	170,480	163,422
Trade and other receivables	127,979	92,065
Bank balances and cash	89,885	66,413
	388,344	321,900
TOTAL ASSETS	1,297,603	1,173,730
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	142,000	142,000
Treasury shares	(1,305)	(4,965)
Statutory reserve	71,000	71,000
Capital reserve	249	249
Retained earnings	774,704	779,813
Total equity	986,648	988,097
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	116,165	6,489
Employees' end of service benefits	1,693	1,554
Derivative financial instruments	231	-
	118,089	8,043
Current liabilities		
Borrowings	35,338	45,235
Trade and other payables	157,488	132,355
Derivative financial instruments	40	-
	192,866	177,590
Total liabilities	310,955	185,633
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	1,297,603	1,173,730

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the three months ended 31 March 2017 (Reviewed)

	31 March 2017 BD '000	31 March 2016 BD '000
Sales revenue	190,415	156,454
Cost of sales	(154,064)	(143,183)
GROSS PROFIT	36,351	13,271
Other income	733	653
Gain on foreign exchange	86	475
Selling and distribution expenses	(4,227)	(3,022)
General and administrative expenses	(6,487)	(6,500)
Finance costs	(577)	(649)
Changes in fair value of derivative financial instruments	(271)	-
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD BEFORE TAX	25,608	4,228
Tax	(7)	-
PROFIT AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	25,601	4,228
Basic and diluted earnings per share (fls)	18	3

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the three months ended 31 March 2017 (Reviewed)

	31 March 2017 BD '000	31 March 2016 BD '000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Profit for the period before tax	25,608	4,228
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	16,700	17,897
Amortisation of other asset	48	48
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	338	466
Reversal of provision for slow moving inventories	(19)	(4)
Reversal of provision for impairment of trade receivables - net	(4)	(20)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	25	62
Changes in fair value of derivative financial instruments	271	-
Interest income	(31)	(4)
Finance costs	654	613
	43,590	23,286
Working capital changes:		
Inventories	(7,039)	12,339
Trade and other receivables	(35,910)	10,331
Trade and other payables	(4,291)	(35,053)
Cash (used in) from operations	(3,650)	10,903
Employees' end of service benefits paid	(199)	(334)
Tax paid	(7)	-
Net cash flows (used in) from operating activities	(3,856)	10,569
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(74,213)	(7,522)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	11	101
Interest income received	31	4
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(74,171)	(7,417)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Borrowings availed	154,160	33,840
Borrowings repaid	(54,381)	(37,832)
Finance costs paid	(830)	(706)
Purchase of treasury shares	(601)	(217)
Proceeds from resale of treasury shares	3,151	101
Net cash flows from (used in) financing activities	101,499	(4,814)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	23,472	(1,662)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	66,413	116,009
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH	89,885	114,347

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the three months ended 31 March 2017 (Reviewed)

	Share capital BD '000	Treasury shares BD '000	Statutory reserve BD '000	Capital reserve BD '000	Retained earnings BD '000	Proposed dividend BD '000	Total BD '000
Balance at 1 January 2017	142,000	(4,965)	71,000	249	779,813	-	988,097
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	25,601	-	25,601
Net movement in treasury shares	-	3,660	-	-	-	-	3,660
Loss on resale of treasury shares	-	-	-	-	(1,110)	-	(1,110)
Dividend	-	-	-	-	(29,600)	-	(29,600)
Balance at 31 March 2017	142,000	(1,305)	71,000	249	774,704	-	986,648
Balance at 1 January 2016	142,000	(4,905)	71,000	249	731,698	7,768	947,810
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	4,228	-	4,228
Net movement in treasury shares	-	(51)	-	-	-	-	(51)
Loss on resale of treasury shares	-	-	-	-	(65)	-	(65)
Balance at 31 March 2016	142,000	(4,956)	71,000	249	735,861	7,768	951,922

These interim condensed consolidated financial statements were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 23 April 2017 and signed on their behalf by:


Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa
Chairman


Tim Murray
Chief Executive Officer


Yousif A. Taqi
Director

Invest in Infrastructure, Human Capital: Minister



Minister of Finance, Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa

Manama

The Minister of Finance, Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa yesterday urged Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to help finance investment in infrastructure and human capital to generate inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create jobs.

In his statement to the 95th Meeting of the Development Committee, the minister stressed that designing policies that foster robust and inclusive growth would promote access to quality education and healthcare for all and provide improved equality of

opportunity.

The session was held in Washington, D.C. on the sidelines of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings. The statement was delivered on behalf of Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

“Recognising the critical role the WBG play a major role in addressing the challenges,” the Minister said while welcoming the positive momentum achieved thus far towards

making it a better and stronger institution through utilization of efficiency and realignment measures.

“Increased support for developing countries will be critical in helping them achieve their development needs, said the Minister. He also expressed his support to World Bank’s strategy of collaborating with the private sector, which improves productivity and job creation.

On the occasion, the Minister also commended the International Finance Corporation (IFC), saying that it had demonstrated its

ability to play a leadership role in mobilising private capital.

However, Shaikh Ahmed said that in order to address the financial costs of fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IFC should play a leading role in synchronising partnership across the entire WBG, reinforcing the “One World Bank Group” model.

The Minister also highlighted the ability to generate better jobs, particularly for youth and women, as an essential requirement for promoting sustainable economic growth, stability and social cohesion.



IBDAR names Sejiny as CEO

Manama

Bahrain-based wholesale Islamic Investment bank, Ibdar Bank, has announced the appointment of Ayman Sejiny as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank.

Sejiny brings over 24 years of Investment and Corporate Banking experience, having held senior roles in a number of leading local, regional and international financial institutions such as Barclays, CITI Bank and ABN Amro.

Previous to his appointment with Ibdar, Sejiny was the Group CEO of Bahrain based Bank Alkhair, which has a presence in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Malaysia. Prior to this he was Board Member and Chief Executive Officer of Barclays Capital Saudi Arabia where he managed Barclay’s three business sectors consisting of Barclays Capital, Barclays Wealth, and Barclays Sales and Treasury. He is also the Chairman of Bahrain Financing Company Group (BFC), holds positions on various boards regionally and internationally, and has spoken at numerous banking and finance conferences in Bahrain, KSA, UAE, UK and the USA.

Commenting on the appointment, Chairman of Ibdar Bank, Tareq Sadeq said: “I am pleased to welcome Ayman Sejiny as Chief Executive Officer of Ibdar Bank. Ibdar is building a fresh thinking, world class management team, and the appointment of Sejiny to the helm of the Bank is aligned with that vision.”

Sejiny said: “My focus will be to further hone the investment strategy, and spearhead efforts to develop the Debt Capital Market (DCM), Equity Capital Market (ECM), Private Equity, Asset Management and Treasury and Capital Market business lines.”



Waqf fund organised its sixth corporate governance workshop in which 23 CEOs and board members of the fund’s member institutions participated. The workshop made several observations and recommendations regarding corporate culture and the challenges it faced. One of the participant, Dr. Nabil El-Hage, a corporate governance expert and former professor at Harvard Business School highlighted the growing importance of regulatory compliance in the banking industry and the need for board members to be extra vigilant in this regard. The Waqf Fund has 22 member institutions including the Central Bank of Bahrain.

FOCUS

Saudi unveils reforms, reshuffles Cabinet

Saudi Arabia yesterday reversed its austerity measures and restored benefits for civil servants and military personnel. The series of orders issued also shuffled cabinet, and replaced the head of the army which for two years has been fighting rebels in neighbouring Yemen. Below are the key points from Saturday's royal decrees



1) New US envoy

Prince Khaled bin Salman bin Abdulaziz appointed as the US ambassador, replacing Prince Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki.

2) Army Chief

The head of the army Lieutenant General Eid al-Shalwi was removed. Fahad Bin Turki was promoted to replace him.

3) Salary bonus

Saudi military personnel in the Yemen operation will receive a salary bonus of two months. Ended the restrictions on compensation for state workers. Payments would start by the end of May. Analysts have estimated that restoring the financial perks would put around 50 billion to 80 billion riyals (\$13.3 billion to \$21.3 billion) annually in consumers' pockets.

4) Fired minister

Fired Minister of Civil Service Khaled al-Araj, who will be investigated by a committee of the Royal Court. The *Arab News* reported late last year that Araj was under investigation by the kingdom's anti-corruption commission for the alleged "irregular hiring" of his son.

5) New culture minister

Dismissed Minister of Information and Culture Adel al-Turaifi and replaced him with Awad al-Awad.

6) New information minister

Minister of Communication and Information Technology Mohammed al-Suwaiyel also lost his job, replaced by Abdullah al-Swaha.

7) New governors

The king changed some regional governors, along with numerous senior bureaucrats including the head of the General Authority of Sports as the kingdom tries to provide more athletic activities for its people.

New tax on way

A tax on tobacco and sugary drinks will be introduced in coming weeks, raising up to 10 billion riyals annually. Officials also aim to hike domestic fuel and water prices in coming months, raising an additional 29 billion riyals. And a 5 percent value-added tax on most products is to be imposed at the start of 2018.



This file handout picture released by the official *Saudi Press Agency* (SPA) shows Saudi Arabian air force pilot, Prince Khaled bin Salman, as he sits in the cockpit of a fighter jet at an undisclosed location, after taking part in a mission to strike Islamic State (IS) group targets in Syria. Prince Khaled bin Salman, son of current King Salman, was named by Saudi Arabia as ambassador to its major ally the United States in Washington, with which ties are improving under President Donald Trump.

Israel to bring in 6,000 Chinese labourers

Jerusalem

Israel signed an agreement with China to bring in 6,000 Chinese construction workers as the country seeks to address a housing shortage contributing to high property prices. However, Israeli media reports said Israel had acceded to Chinese demands that the labourers not work in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.



President Trump's agenda is to make sure that we have free and fair trade and I think, as you know, the United States is probably the most open trading market there is for both goods, services and investment."

Steven Mnuchin
US Treasury
Secretary



Alba Q1 net income up by US\$57m

Okays dividend of BD29.6m



Chairman, Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa



Chief Executive, Tim Murray

Manama

Auminium Bahrain (Alba) yesterday announced financial results for the first quarter of 2017 reporting a jump in its top-line and bottom-line performance, driven primarily by higher LME prices.

The company also approved a dividend of BD 29.6 million (US\$78.7m) to be paid from April 2nd 2017.

Alba's total sales for the first quarter of 2017 jumped by 22 per cent YoY to reach BD190.4m (US\$506m) versus BD156.4m (US\$416m) for the same period in 2016. The company posted a net income of BD25.6m (US\$68m) compared to BD4.2m (US\$11m) in Q1 2016, an increase of 506pc YoY.

LME cash-average for the first quarter of 2017 was US\$1,850/t up by 22 per cent YoY. LME inventories were

at 1.8m mt in March.

Sales volume during the period was up by 4.9pc YoY (242,932 mt) and production up by 5.6pc YoY (248,776 mt).

Global physical demand remains healthy with world consumption up by 6pc YoY. Asian demand rose by 7pc YoY led by Chinese consumption (+8pc YoY). MENA demand grew by 5pc YoY driven by major infrastructure spending in Saudi Arabia (+13pc YoY). In addition, demand in North America surged by 3pc YoY supported by firm growth in the auto production while Europe consumption rose modestly by 2pc YoY attributed to good demand in construction and automotive sectors.

World production rose by 9pc YoY supported by Chinese output (+17pc YoY), leading the world market to be in surplus with China

(+664Kt) and in deficit w/o China (-414Kt).

Commenting on Alba's financial performance in Q1 2017, Chairman, Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa said: "Together with our solid financial basis, we will be able to transform Alba as Line 6 will shape our future for the generations to come."

Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray added: "Alba continues to improve its underlining performance through leveraging the recent gains in LME prices. Despite the recent power outage incident, Alba still expects to deliver strong results in 2017."

Alba's Management will be holding a conference call on Tuesday to discuss Alba's financial performance for the first quarter of 2017 as well as outline the Company's priorities for the remainder of the year.

Did You Know?



Jack Ma is definitely a character you will be seeing more of. Currently the chairman of Alibaba, he started the company in his apartment in 1999 with 18 initial workers (the name "Alibaba" was chosen as a reference to the story Alibaba and the Forty Thieves). Jack Ma flunked math and his college entrance exams and at one point couldn't get a job at KFC. He went from being an English teacher earning \$15 per month to one of the top 35 richest people in the world.



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2955	0.2931
BANGLADESH	0.004982	0.004733
CANADA	0.2883	0.2852
DENMARK	0.0579	
EGYPT	0.0245	0.0215
EURO	0.4132	0.4111
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00582	0.00593
INDONESIA	0.0002997	0.0002900
IRAN TUMAN	0.000323	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000311	
JAPAN	0.00355	0.00348
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5351
KOREA	0.00038912	
KUWAIT	1.244	1.244
MALAYSIA	0.0879	0.0874
NEW ZEALAND	0.0269	0.3270
NORWAY	0.0463	
NEPAL	0.00383329	0.00363790
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00365245	0.00359372
PHILIPPINES	0.00776	0.00753
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10058	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2746	0.2726
SOUTH AFRICA	0.0309	0.0308
SRI LANKA	0.00272632	0.00248855
SWEDISH	0.0457	
SWITZERLAND	0.3868	0.3843
SYRIA	0.00174	0.00174
TAIWAN	0.0127	
THAILAND	0.01114	0.01114
TURKEY	0.10934	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4769	0.4739
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.10281	0.10281
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37780	0.37800
YUAN	0.0567	0.0567

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



Saudi boosted by perk restoration

Dubai

Saudi stocks rose in heavy volumes yesterday as investors cheered news that King Salman had issued a royal decree restoring financial allowances for civil servants and military personnel, while Egypt fell steeply on profit taking.

The allowances were reduced last September as part of austerity measures due to low oil prices. Officials said on Saturday the cuts had been cancelled because of better-than-expected budgetary performance in the first quarter of 2017.

The move is likely to boost consumption, benefiting the retail and food sectors, according to economists at Riyadh-based Alrajhi Capital.

On Sunday consumer cyclical shares, which have been underperforming the market in the past year, were among the top gainers, helping push the index up 1.0pc.

Electronics retailer Jarir surged 8.3 per cent in

its heaviest daily trading volume this year and home improvement retailer Saudi Company for Hardware (SACO) jumped 8.9pc in unusually heavy trade.

Shares of the Gulf's largest dairy producer, Almarai, rose 1.7pc after reporting a first quarter net profit of 328.3 million riyals (\$87.55 million), up 13.7pc from a year earlier. Four analysts polled by Reuters forecast a net profit of 337.4 million riyals.

Almarai attributed its improved results to better cost management, lower commodity costs and lower general expenses and said it will continue "to focus on costs control, efficiency gains and cash-flow preservation".

Other sectors such as banks, especially those exposed to the retail segment, are also likely to benefit from the restored allowance to the Saudi, the Alrajhi analysts said.

"The reversal of the allowance cut also highlights

Closing Bell

SAUDI rose 1.0pc to 6,969 points

QATAR lost 0.4pc to 10,197 points

EGYPT dropped 2.8pc to 12,545 points

KUWAIT added 0.08pc to 6,819 points

OMAN flat at 5,475 points

BAHRAIN edged up 0.2pc at 1,337 points

improved confidence in the economy, which is positive for the equities market in general," said Alrajhi Capital.

Sunday also marks the first day of the Saudi stock exchange settling trades within two business days of execution, a practice called T+2, rather than the previous same day settlement.

In contrast to the Saudi market, other bourses in neighbouring Gulf states experienced a quiet day. Kuwait's index edged up 0.1pc in below 10-day average

volumes, while in Qatar the index lost 0.4pc, with petrochemicals producer Industries Qatar dropping 1.8pc as crude oil prices fell to a three-week low on Friday. Stock markets in the United Arab Emirates were closed for a public holiday.

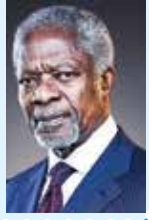
Cairo's index dropped 2.8pc to 12,544 points, its largest single day decline since Jan. 23, as local traders exited positions with all but two of the 30 most traded shares declining, bourse data showed. (Reuters)



Several employees of the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) Youth Committee took part in a special event organised by the Bahrain British Business Forum. The Youth Committee, the first of its kind, was recently formed at GPIC with employees under 30 years old as its members. Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani, who spoke at the event, highlighted Bahrain's current economic conditions and expert predictions for the rest of the year. The forum now has 450 members.

Knowledge is power.
Information is liberating.
Education is the premise
of progress, in every
society, in every family.

– Kofi Annan



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Monday, April 24, 2017

11

RCSI BAHRAIN LAUNCHES 'FUTURE DOCTORS' ROADSHOW



Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) hosted its inaugural 'Future Doctors'

Roadshow event this week at the Zayed University Convention Centre in Academic City, Dubai.

45 students from 16 high schools in Abu Dhabi and

Dubai attended the two-day event, aimed to introduce participants to the 'life of a student at RCSI Bahrain' and the 'life of a doctor'.

RCSI Bahrain CEO, Stephen

Harrison-Mirfield and Director of Admissions, Dr Declan Gaynor gave an introduction to the university and the medical programmes it offered.

Interactive workshops in

ultrasound and communication skills and a screening of a real-life laparoscopic gallbladder removal procedure was also organised for the participants.

An open question-and-

answer session was also held and the participants were presented with certificates to acknowledge their contribution to the programme.



Eight Students represented Bahrain School yesterday at the Bahrain Island Spelling Bee, which was held at Alia School. Two of them, Kate Farrell and Ali Hubail will be attending the championship round on Wednesday, where they will be competing with 15 of the top spellers in the island.



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received intellectuals yesterday. The Premier lauded the citizens' stances towards the Arab League's accolade to him



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik and wished him success in assuming his diplomatic duties. The two sides discussed the outcome of visits. Separately, the Deputy Premier received Sri Lankan Ambassador Dr. A. Saj U. Mendis and reviewed the possibility of benefiting from the Sri Lankan skilled workforce in the hospitality sector



Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan yesterday received MP Ali Al Mukla and discussed boosting cooperation in the interest of citizens. The minister pointed out the ministry's efforts to provide employment opportunities for youth seeking employment at private enterprises, prepare national professional cadres, ensure an inspiring work atmosphere, in addition to provide protection and social care for citizens



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha yesterday. Dr. Mirza praised the growing bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and India



Interior Undersecretary for Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA), Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa received Azerbaijani Director General of Customs, in the presence of Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa. The meeting discussed topics of common interests



Information & eGovernment Authority Chief Executive (CE) Mohammed Ali AlQaed received, at his office last week, Dr. Fahad Ebrahim AlShehabi, who presented a copy of his book entitled 'In the Eye of the Beholder'. The third edition of the series of books in the field of travel literature documented by historical, social, political and tourism aspects of the many countries visited by the AlShehabi



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received US Ambassador to Bahrain William Roebuck and discussed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various fields. The Premier has valued highly the US Administration for its understanding and support towards the Kingdom of Bahrain and its friendly countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and other Arab countries



Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa met with the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri at Riffa Palace yesterday. The Crown Prince expressed his pride on the selection of the city of Muharraq as the capital of Islamic culture. President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa also attended the meeting



Minister of Interior Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa attended the final ceremony of the MOI Olympic Shooting Championship. Royal Family Council Director General and Head of Bahrain Shooting Association Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan and Interior Ministry Undersecretary, Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa were present



Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received the Chief Executive Officer, LMRA Ausamah Al Absi yesterday. The Minister welcomed Al-Absi, who presented him with a handbook titled "National Referral System for Victims of Trafficking in Persons", which highlights the role of governmental and non-governmental entities in combating this crime within the vision and mechanisms of the National Strategy for Combating the Trafficking in Persons



In partnership with Bahrain Beachcombers, the U.S. Embassy organised a beach clean-up at Nurana Island Beach in honor of Earth Day. The US Ambassador to Bahrain William Roebuck and embassy staff participated in the beach clean-up, along with Coca-Cola Bahrain and AE-COM Engineering Firm, who sponsored the event



Customs President Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday received MP Jalal Al Mahfoudh of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee. Boosting cooperation in the interest of citizens were discussed, as well as a number of drafts on promoting customs work that will be discussed by the Representatives Council in the upcoming stage



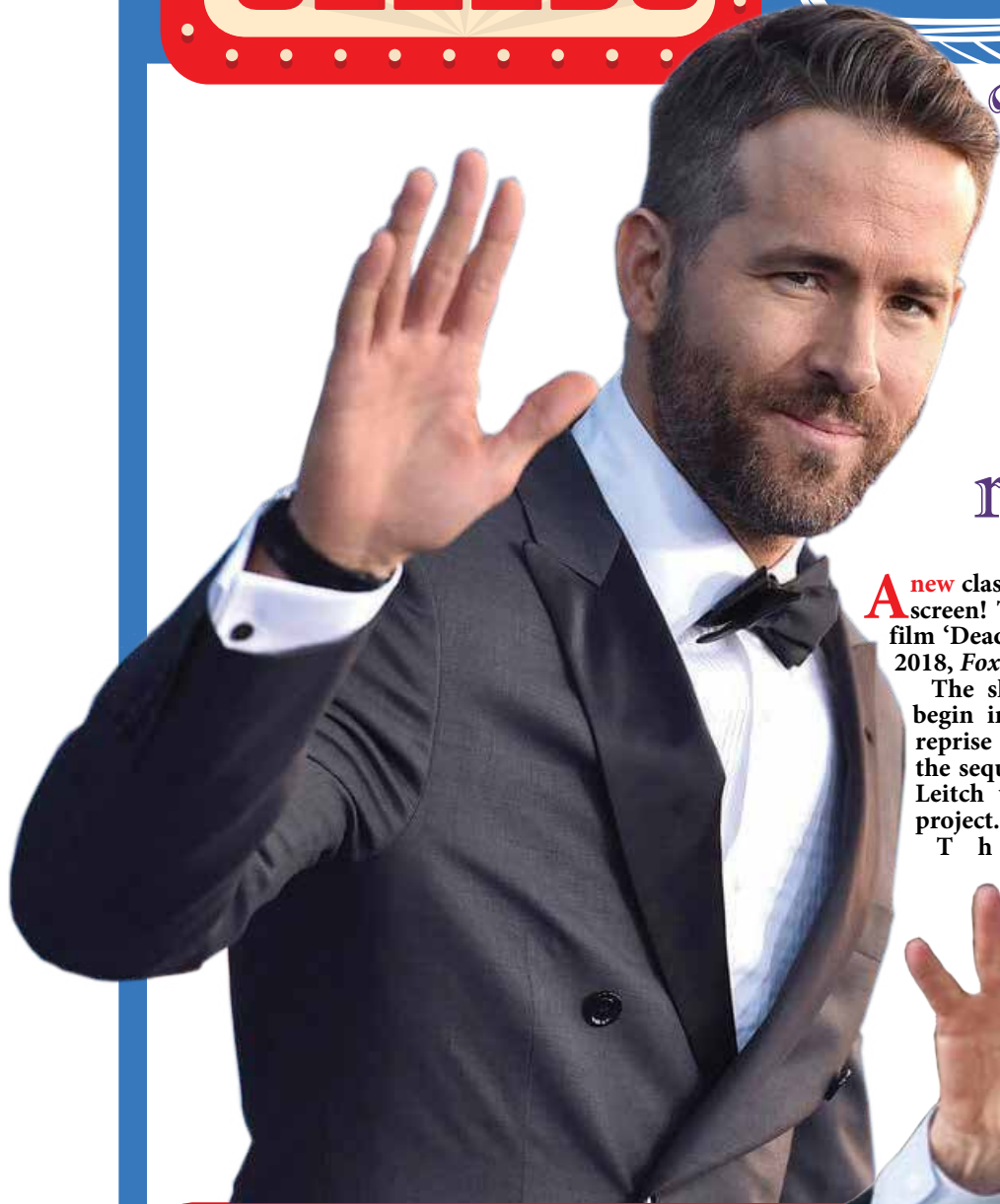
The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) concluded a seminar on pearling and gemstones delivered by international gemologist Vincent Pardieu yesterday. The seminar was organised by the pearl, gold and jewellery sector committee of the Chamber headed by board member Deema Al Haddad in cooperation with the Gem and Pearl Testing Laboratory. Industry and Commerce Ministry assistant under-secretary for domestic trade Hameed Rahma alongside members of the sector were present



Batelco Group CEO Ihab Hinnawi and Batelco Bahrain CEO Muna Al Hashemi, along with members of Batelco's Board of Directors and executive management were delighted to have the opportunity to welcome overseas and local business customers to enjoy Batelco's hospitality in the prestigious setting of the BIC Paddock Club, for the 2017 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix

CELEBS

Ellen DeGeneres @TheEllenShow
 Mary Kay, I think you're wonderful. I'm glad you didn't have to call the cops. #FirstDates



'Deadpool' sequel locks down a release date

A new class of superhero is returning to the big screen! The follow up to the superhero 2016 film 'Deadpool' will hit the theatres on June 1, 2018, Fox announced recently.

The shoot for the sequel is scheduled to begin in June. Ryan Reynolds is all set to reprise his role as the titular superhero in the sequel, while 'John Wick' director David Leitch will sit behind the camera for the project.

The movie has made some new cast additions, recruiting Josh Brolin to play Cable and Zazie Beetz will appear as Domino. This will be second outing for Brolin with Marvel Cinematic Universe as he also portrays Thanos in 'Avengers' franchise.

Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick reunite to write the script, with Drew Goddard assisting on the script as well. (TOI)

Osbourne attacked by sandwich



Singer Kelly Osbourne has revealed that she was once attacked with a Subway sandwich shortly after she came into limelight in 2002.

The 32-year-old shot to fame when her family invited the cameras into their home for their show "The Osbournes", but she says she wasn't prepared for the scrutiny she would receive over her weight. (IANS)

Spielberg's Pentagon Papers film to release

Los Angeles

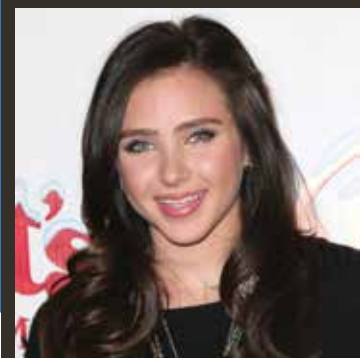
Steven Spielberg's untitled Pentagon Papers drama, which is rumoured to star Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, will open in limited release on December 22.

It will expand nationwide on January 12, 2018, a week after the Golden Globes broadcast, reports *variety.com*. Hanks is said to play Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee, with Streep handling the role of publisher Katharine Graham. (IANS)



Celeb Facts

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



STARRY
Birthday
Ryan Newman

April 17, 1974

She became popular for her role as Ginger Falcone in the Disney sitcom, *Zeke and Luther*. She received additional recognition for her roles in *Zoom* and *Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!*

Wyatt's daughter wants sister

London

Singer Kimberly Wyatt, who is pregnant with her second child, is not telling anyone the gender of her unborn baby, but her daughter Willow is hoping for a sister.

"She's adamant she's getting a baby sister and there's no telling her otherwise...We always wanted Willow to have a sibling and really hoped they would be as close in age as possible, although you don't always get to choose when these things happen," Wyatt told *Hello!* magazine, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

Since getting pregnant, Wyatt has found Willow wants to be closer to her and is more affectionate.

She said: "She definitely senses there's a change coming because she wants to be close to me more, but I have to admit I love that - I'll take as many cuddles as I can get. I think she's going to be a brilliant mummy's little helper with the baby though and I'm so excited to see it happen and watch their bond grow." (IANS)

Vin Diesel had 'secret script' for Groot

Los Angeles

Actor Vin Diesel, the voice of Groot in "Guardians of the Galaxy" and baby Groot in its sequel, says that he had a secret script where he was told what the talking tree was trying to say.

"Groot is -always challenging to play. As an audience what you hear is, 'I am Groot', but he is expressing himself and you have to try and convey what he intends to say and his emotions in those three words," Diesel told *dailystar.co.uk*.

"I actually had a secret script where I was told what Groot was trying to say. That made him a lot of fun to voice."

He had to say the line again in 16 different languages for international versions of the movie.

"Korean was interesting. It was cool though because in some countries people have only heard my characters with voice actors. It was good to know people would finally hear me," he said. (IANS)



Fashion tip of the week



(harpersbazaar.com)

Styling Takeaway: In a black leather jacket, black Paige jeans, a black brimmed hat and green booties

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: news@dt.bh, or call 38444680.

MARK YOUR Calendar

KIDNEY CARE EXHIBITION

Date: May 4-6
Venue: The Indian School Bahrain

Thanal Bahrain Chapter is gearing up for a Kidney Care Exhibition from May 4 to 6 at the Indian School Bahrain with the support of the Ministry of Health (MoH) in order to spread awareness about kidney care and arrange free kidney screening. The organisers said MoH has agreed to loan all the specimens required for the exhibition like human body, kidney and other human organs to exhibit for the educational and demonstration purpose. MoH and Thanal has established a mutual partnership for disseminating awareness initiative among the public in the Kingdom focusing mainly the expatriates.

Thanal is a charitable organization rendering various humanitarian services like dialysis and palliative care centres, medical clinics, ambulance services etc and running the biggest stand alone dialysis facility in India equipped with 80 dialysis machines functioning in four units by doing more than 5,000 dialysis every month, thus benefitting almost 500 under-privileged patients.

The public can register online to attend the event by visiting www.thanalbahrain.com. For further details contact 38384504, 33433530, 39798122, 39605806, 39857759.



MAMOUN EFFENDI - FUTURE OF ARABS IN LIGHT OF NON-ARAB NEIGHBORS' ENCROACHMENT ON THE REGION

Date: Today
Venue: Abdulla Alzayed For Bahraini Press Heritage

A lecture by Egyptian-American Political Science Professor Mamoun Fandy. Currently the Director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies' Middle East and Gulf Security program, Effendi authored several books including "Media and Politics in the Arab World" and "Victims of Modernity: America and the Arabs after September 11".

MOHAMMED BIN FARIS SONG

Date: Every Thursday 8pm (Till April 24)
Venue: Mohammed Bin Faris Music Hall

Every Thursday evening, we set sail with the musical sounds of Mohammed bin Faris Band in a lyrical voyage which regales audiences with tales of a peeling diver's life from festive melodies to working songs and farewell ballads.

In the 13 years that have passed since its establishment, the band has travelled the world to introduce Bahrain's soulful musical identity through the traditional arts. As part of its participation in this year's Spring of Culture, the band will hold a number of concerts, transporting audiences to a time of tradition. Join us at the Mohammed bin Faris Hall in Muharraq, near the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research.

THE PEARLING PATH EXHIBITION

Date: Till 4 August 2017, 8:00am - 8:00pm
Venue: Bahrain National Museum

Four years after the inscription of the "Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy" site on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the exhibition will showcase the built vision for the site through architectural models, images, studies and mock-ups of the different components of the project. From the conservation aspects to the new architectural interventions, the exhibition will give an indepth overview of this unique project that aims to spearhead the rehabilitation of the Old City of Muharraq.

ROYAL THAI FESTIVAL

Date: Till April 28
Venue: Gulf Hotel

Voted Best Thai Restaurant by the Food and Travel awards, Royal Thai presents The Thai Festival! Starting from the 19th till the 28th of April, guests will be treated to a unique

and exotic Thai experience, from the food to the ambiance and the traditional Thai entertainment flown in exclusively from Thailand.

Thai Master Chef Tawatchai, together with his culinary team will bring the exquisite cuisine and warm hospitality from the "Land of Smiles".

During this festival, our team will be using Thailand's native ingredients to serve the most authentic dishes to all Thai food lovers, including the spicy tom-yum soup, rich Thai red and green curry, fresh papaya salad and much more. Said Chef Tawatchai.

GULF PROPERTY SHOW

Date: May 9 to 11
Venue: Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre

The Gulf Property Show is a boutique showcase for the real estate and property development sectors, that aims to highlight present and future developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Northern Gulf, and provide the opportunity to promote Bahrain's property assets as well as regional and international opportunities for investors in commercial and residential real estate. You can be assured of the best property deals and expertise to help make the dream of owning or investing in real estate come true. This event will showcase & promote products & services from Local & International Real Estate Developers, Investors, Service Providers & Consultants.

THE ART OF SILVERSMITHING

Date: 29 April 2017, 4:00pm
Venue: Bahrain Fort Museum

People of Bahrain are known for their silversmithing craft from the Dilmun era until now. In this workshop you will learn more about the craft and you will get to make your own silver ring. Free Admission. Minimum age 18 years old and above. Silversmithing is the art of turning silver sheet metal into hollow ware (dishes, bowls, porringers, cups, candlesticks, vases, ewers, urns, etc.), flatware (silverware), and other articles of household silver, church plate or sculpture. It may also include the making of jewelry.

JOHN MAXWELL TEAM GLOBAL YOUTH

Initiative - Bahrain
Date: April 29
Venue: My Gym, Seef

Today's youth face many challenges - struggles with confidence, fear of failure, and bullying. As parents, teachers, and leaders, we can do something about it! You and your youth are invited to participate in a world-changing youth movement that will empower youth to be the change they wish to see in the world! During Global Youth Initiative week, youth leadership events will be hosted all over the world. Our goal is to reach 500,000 youth. As a certified member of the John Maxwell Team, I am hosting a local Global Youth Initiative event right here in Seef District.

MUSIC AND MEDITATION

Date: May 1
Venue: Bahrain Society of Engineers, Juffair

Sahaja Yoga Bahrain in association with Opel consultants proudly presents Music and Meditation, a vibrant evening filled with enlightening music that will soothe and nourish the soul. As part of our mission in creating awareness about the Inner Power the Energy that exist in all human beings, we have arranged a "Music and Meditation" program on Monday, May 1, at 5:00pm in the Bahrain Society of Engineers, Juffair. The ensemble of eminent artists include Mahuya Mukherjee from India, who is specialized in Hindustani, Thumri and Sufi style of singing, Sangeetha Ramprasad, a renowned Carnatic musician who has performed in numerous classical concerts in Bahrain and India, Sajith Sankaran on Mridangam, Saji Thaarakam on Tabla and Vigneshwar on the Keyboard. Entry is free. The program includes a demonstration on how to awaken the inner energy in us, known as the Kundalini, about the energy centers, known as chakras and how music goes hand in hand with meditation. All are Welcome. For further details contact 39293955, 36685411, 39575301. Sahaja Yoga Bahrain conducts Free Meditation and Stress Management classes in the Kingdom of Bahrain since 1996. This unique method of Meditation, which is practised in over 140 countries, was founded by Mataji Nirmala Devi in the year 1970.

HIGHLIGHT

ISB MEGA FAIR & FOOD FESTIVAL 2017

Date: October 12 & 13
Venue: The Indian School Bahrain

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) is gearing up for Mega Fair and Food Festival which will be held on October 12 & 13, 2017 in the Isa Town campus. The Indian School Fair is organized to generate funds to sponsor needy students and for staff welfare. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan thanked the community and media for the overwhelming support to the previous fair, which was one of the best in terms of revenue generation and receivables.

Last year around 800 students received benefit in the form of fee concession, he said. The School Fair is a carnival that witnesses a display of colours which include a variety of cultural programmes, orchestra and musical bonanza. It also contains a food festival which is a tasty hit among the crowd that comes in the campus during the carnival. Almost 100 stalls from leading business houses showcase their products and services this year.

ISB Secretary Dr. Shemily P John said that the Fair is a way to reach out to the needy children whose educational future otherwise will be hampered because of non-availability of funds. Being a community school it is the responsibility of the school to support such needy children. Proceeds of the Fair will also go towards staff welfare and creation of a staff contingency reserve.

ISB Fair General Convenor Mohammed Hussain Malim requested the support of the media and the community to make this venture successful. The entire programme will be announced in due course of time. It is a great opportunity to every business and service provider to reach out to a large section of the Bahrain population during the carnival days.



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Tiling & Marble mason	10 years	20
Shuttering carpenter	5 years	30
Steel Fixer	5 years	30
Painter	3 years	10

MEP – GULF EXPERIENCE ONLY:	EXPERIENCE	POSITIONS
Project Managers	10 years	5

ELECTRICAL – GULF EXPERIENCE ONLY:	EXPERIENCE	POSITIONS
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Electrician – with valid Bahrain EDD License	5 years	10
Electrician – without EDD License	5 years	40

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Plumber	5 years	40

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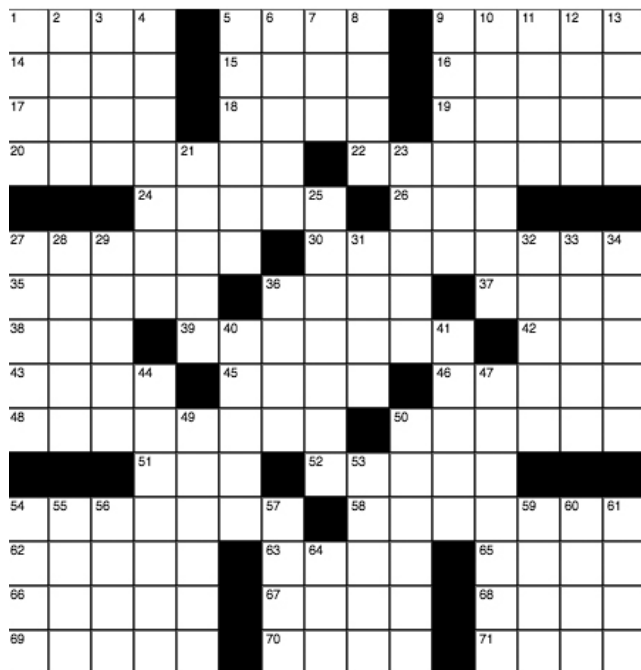
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CROSSWORD



Across

1- Doctrines;; 5- Rational;; 9- Stagnant;; 14- Fall birthstone;; 15- Winter Palace ruler;; 16- Caught congers;; 17- State bird of Hawaii;; 18- Env. notation;; 19- Expressed disapproval;; 20- Cheat;; 22- Rapturous delight;; 24- Tractor pioneer John;; 26- ___ loss for words;; 27- Become visible;; 30- Advocate of citizen sovereignty;; 35- Bit of wisdom;; 36- Stringed instrument;; 37- Ivy League school;; 38- Beam;; 39- Farm vehicle;; 42- Coal container;; 43- Prefix with plasm;; 45- Jacob's brother;; 46- Surround snugly;; 48- Least lengthy;; 50- Ship apartments;; 51- Paris's Pont ___ Arts;; 52- Name on a bomber;; 54- Medieval steel helmet;; 58- Abscess on the gum;; 62- Solo;; 63- Dutch name of The Hague;; 65- Actress Heche;; 66- Herring type;; 67- "Tosca" tune;; 68- Asta's mistress;; 69- Closes;; 70- Are you ___ out?;; 71- "___ Tu" ('70s hit);;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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Down

1- Charged particles;; 2- Gush forth;; 3- The ___ Love;; 4- Thin;; 5- Not as fresh;; 6- Fall bloomer;; 7- Writer Hentoff;; 8- Sea eagle;; 9- Begins;; 10- Having a valid will;; 11- ___-Seltzer;; 12- Dregs;; 13- Swirl;; 21- Distributed cards;; 23- Walk-on role;; 25- Send to school;; 27- ___-ski;; 28- Fuzzy fruit;; 29- Check words;; 31- Caesar's accusation;; 32- Temple leader;; 33- Extraterrestrial;; 34- Looks after;; 36- Glasgow gal;; 40- Pee Wee of the Dodgers;; 41- Kingdom;; 44- In sequence;; 47- Capital of Swaziland;; 49- Beliefs;; 50- Puma;; 53- Marsh of mystery;; 54- Low in pitch;; 55- Mont Blanc, par exemple;; 56- Marsh bird;; 57- Bangkok tongue;; 59- ___ about;; 60- About, in memos;; 61- Grazing sites;; 64- Prince Valiant's son;;

BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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)



Use your powerful sense of intuition today. Whether you realize it consciously or not, the oceans are creating a tsunami of power that won't be ignored. Make sure you're operating from a solid base before you extend yourself outward. Be careful. It may be fun to play in the waves, but this is one of those times in which you could easily get sucked out to sea.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Respect your superiors today. There's great wisdom to be learned, so keep your eyes and ears open. Hasty actions are bound to get you in trouble. Don't step blindly into situations. Make sure you have all the facts before you proceed. The information is out there, but you have to be patient to find it. Make sure your goals are worthy.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



It's OK to cry today. Releasing is critical to receiving. If you have no sense of fear and restriction, it may be hard for you to experience joy and expansion. Incorporate the good with the bad and let these two powers settle harmoniously within your being. Make the preparations that will let you soar to great heights.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Do something that inspires the passion within you. Don't be discouraged by setbacks - be motivated. Use discipline and patience to set your dreams in motion. Be realistic in your approach. The time has come to face the music. Whatever you do, don't shrink into the background and expect others to take care of things for you.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Take control of your power today. Strip any excess baggage out of your life. Things are coming to a critical climax now. This isn't a time to back down. If anything, it's a time to push the limits even further. Look to the future with the same perspective you had as a child. Rid yourself of jaded thinking and a clouded mind.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



There's a powerful force moving through your life that can't be ignored any longer. Adjustments may be needed in order to take full advantage of the energy at hand. You will find with a healthy balance of restriction and expansion that you can take the reins and set yourself on the road to success. There's a great intensity to today that will seep into every facet of your life.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Seize today. This is the day you've been waiting for. Don't back down from the intensity. You have the power to get ahead in whatever it is you wish to accomplish in this lifetime. You will find your willpower and discipline strong. It's time to grab the opportunities. Take the plunge toward a brighter future and be confident of your success.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Your quest for the new and unconventional, the latest gadgets, and the best technology may come into conflict with a sobering force today. New ways of doing things may suddenly be challenged by a more traditional approach. Realize that the opposition's strength may also be its biggest downfall. It's time to do away with the old and bring in the new.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



For dreams to be actualized, they must have a vehicle through which they can manifest. Today is a day to help bring those dreams to life. Use the incredible grounding force to simultaneously expand your mind and bring it down to Earth in a realistic manner. Combine ancient wisdom with practical planning to help set a powerful wave in motion for the future.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Combine your discipline and expansiveness today and see what manifests. Concentrate on your investments and home. The energy of the day is quite powerful and not something to be taken lightly. You may have much greater control than you realize. Understand that you have to be the one to take the initiative in order to activate the magic of today.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



This is no ordinary day for you, certainly not one in which you should sleep late. Get up and get moving. There are opportunities on your doorstep just waiting for you to grab them. Put away the issues of the past and focus on the future. There are great forces at work today that are coming together in your favour. Stick to what resonates with your soul.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Ground yourself today. Lay a solid foundation for the future. This is a very critical time in which you must think realistically about your future success. You must incorporate an element of restriction into your life before your dreams can actualize. Today is one of those days in which you can fuse a powerful combination of fantasy and reality in order to build success.

Sobbing mother video triggers controversy



An American Airlines Flight (File image)

Washington

Less than two weeks after United Airlines prompted a public relations crisis for dragging a passenger from his seat on an overbooked flight, rival American Airlines is being buffeted by its own controversy.

The airline said on Saturday it is investigating video of a flight attendant angrily confronting a passenger who had come to the defence of a sobbing woman with a baby in her arms.

The viral video, filmed by another passenger, shows a distraught mother carrying her baby boarding the plane moments after the flight attendant had apparently forcibly taken a stroller from

her, with other passengers registering shock.

"We have seen the video and have already started an investigation to obtain the facts," American Airlines said. "The actions of our team member captured here do not appear to reflect patience or empathy, two values necessary for customer care."

The incident on the plane -- scheduled to fly from San Francisco to Dallas -- was filmed by Surain Adyanthaya, who posted the video to her Facebook account on Friday.

"OMG! AA Flight attendant violently took a stroller from a lady with her baby on my flight, hitting her and just missing the baby,"

she wrote. "Then he tried to fight a passenger who stood up for her."

The video does not show the first part of the incident, and begins with the woman crying uncontrollably as a pilot and other airline employees stand by impassively.

Another passenger waiting to board the plane later described the preceding confrontation to the Los Angeles television station KTLA-TV.

"The flight attendant wrestled the stroller away from the woman, who was sobbing, holding one baby with the second baby in a car seat on the ground next to her," Olivia Morgan told the station. (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think Ahmadinejad should have been allowed to contest in Iran Presidential election?

Yes No Cant Say



We clearly announce that we have not and will not support any candidate in the upcoming elections,"

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
Iran's former President

Rest in sight

US Defence Secretary visits strategic Djibouti



US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis arrived for a short visit to Djibouti, a strategic Horn of Africa nation which hosts Washington's only permanent military base on the continent.

Frontrunners Macron, Le Pen vote in election

The two frontrunners in France's closely fought presidential election, centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen, cast their ballots during the first round of voting

US warship in Pacific for Japan navy drills

The US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and other warships started joint exercises with Japan as regional tensions rise over N Korea's missile and nuclear programmes.

Men attacked in India for transporting cattle

Three men who were transporting buffaloes in their truck to a slaughterhouse were attacked by vigilantes in the heart of Indian capital New Delhi, the police said.

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Iran to air presidential debates live after U-turn

Tehran

Iran will air live debates on state television ahead of May's presidential election, the interior ministry said yesterday, reversing a decision to show recorded versions that had triggered an outcry.

"After demands by the Iranian nation and the candidates for a review (of the decision), the presidential elections campaign commission decided... that debates may be broadcast live,"

the ministry said in a statement on official news agency IRNA.

The U-turn came days after the commission, which sets campaigning rules ahead of the May 19 poll, said the debates would not be broadcast live as in previous elections, sparking outrage on social media.

Moderate President Hassan Rouhani and his conservative rivals Ebrahim Raisi and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf all rejected the ban.

Gunmen killed during hunt for militants



Philippine soldiers taking position after a clash with gunmen

Manila

Four gunmen have been killed on a Philippine tourist island as President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the military yesterday to kill remnants of an Islamic militant group behind a foiled mass kidnapping attempt there.

Authorities said the dead suspects and three others on the run were stragglers from a boatload of southern Philippines-based Abu Sayyaf gunmen who sailed to the central island of Bohol this month as part of a plot to kidnap tourists.

The raid had signalled an

escalation of the kidnapping threat from the Abu Sayyaf, who are based on remote islands and also blamed for beheadings and deadly bombings, prompting Duterte to vow deadly retribution.

"I told the military: Do not sleep. Find them. Kill them. I want them dead. Do not give them to me alive," Duterte said about the fresh fighting in Bohol.

"They are animals but if you want me to be an animal, I am used to that. We are the same. I can dish out more than what you can," he told people attending a public sports event.

Thousands March for Science across the USA

Washington

Thousands of people joined a global March for Science on Saturday with Washington the epicenter of a movement to fight against what many see as an "assault on facts" by populist politicians.

US President Donald Trump himself passed dozens of protesters on his way to visit wounded soldiers at a military hospital.

"Stop denying the earth is dying," one sign visible from Trump's motorcade read.

Despite rain, protesters gathered around the Washington Monument for a festive day of music,



Activists and protesters during the March for Science

speeches and teach-ins by scientists disturbed by the rise of so-called "alternative facts" around crucial issues like climate change following Trump's election.

"We have no Planet B,"

read one of the signs. Many demonstrators sported "Keep Our Science Great" caps as they arrived from around the country on Earth Day to highlight the importance of science to daily lives.

...and a former professor at China's Yanbian University of Science and Technology, had been involved in aid programmes for the North.

NKorea detains American: SKorea's news agency

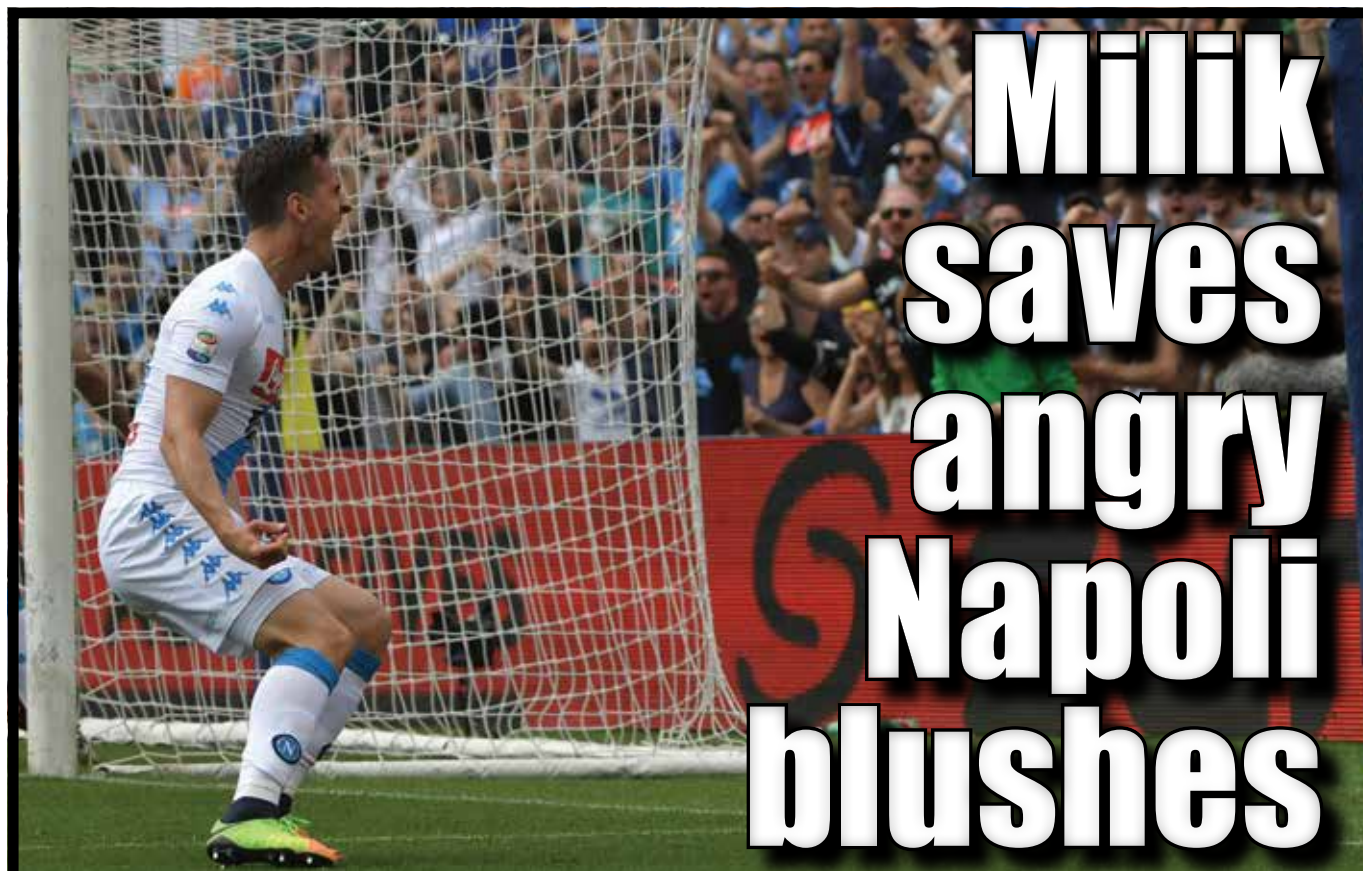
Seoul

AUS citizen has been arrested as he tried to fly out of North Korea, becoming the third American to be detained there, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported yesterday.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the reported arrest, which would come at a tense time in relations between Pyongyang and Washington.

Yonhap quoted sources as saying the man, identified only by his surname Kim, was arrested last Friday at Pyongyang International Airport on his way out of the country.

It said Kim, aged in his late 50s and a former professor at China's Yanbian University of Science and Technology, had been involved in aid programmes for the North.



Milik saves angry Napoli blushes

Milan
Arkadiusz Milik came off the bench to save Napoli's blushes with a late leveller in a 2-2 draw at Sassuolo yesterday. Maurizio Sarri's men travelled to Reggio Emilia trailing second-placed Roma by two points in the battle for automatic entry to next season's Champions League. But having failed to find the net in a messy first half, Napoli hit the woodwork twice on their way to an eighth draw of the campaign that leaves them third, nine points behind leaders Juventus and one off Roma. Juventus, bidding for a record sixth consecutive scudetto, host Genoa later on Sunday

while Roma are at Pescara on Monday. Belgium midfielder Dries Mertens, who has played as a striker during Milik's injury absence, broke the deadlock seven minutes after the restart with a rare header that gave him his 22nd league goal of the season. Sassuolo pulled level seven minutes later largely thanks to Napoli captain Marek Hamsik. His mistimed header back to goalkeeper Pepe Reina was intercepted by Domenico Berardi, who scored in the 59th minute. Napoli should have pulled in front again on 65 minutes but a Mertens free kick rattled off Andrea Consigli's crossbar.

Minutes later, Consigli was quick to collect the ball after Lorenzo Insigne's curler bounced off the inside of the far post. After those reprieves, Sassuolo poured forward sensing an upset and were almost rewarded 10 minutes from the end when Reina could only parry Paolo Cannavaro's flick-on from a free-kick on the right. But moments later, second-half substitute Luca Mazzitelli pounced on Berardi's overhead kick to beat the Spanish keeper down low with his maiden Serie A goal. It prompted Sarri to replace Brazilian midfielder Jorginho with Milik, who with practically

his first touch of the ball had Napoli back on level terms when he controlled Kalidou Koulibaly's nod-down at a corner to sweep past Consigli. It was the Pole's fifth league goal of the campaign and first since September having been sidelined for the best part of six months after rupturing his anterior cruciate knee ligament in October. Napoli regained the momentum but Mertens's drive curled over and Pol Lirola blocked a late Insigne effort. Napoli left the Mapei Stadium amid angry protests after their last-gasp penalty claims were waved away despite a Mertens flick appearing to come off Cannavaro's arm.

Celtic into Scottish Cup final

Glasgow
A second-half penalty by Scott Sinclair sealed a 2-0 win for champions Celtic over bitter rivals Rangers and a place in the Scottish Cup final yesterday. Sinclair's penalty and a first-half effort by Callum McGregor set them up with a May 27 date with Aberdeen -- who beat holders Hibs 3-2 on Saturday -- and a potential domestic treble for the first time in 16 years. McGregor and Sinclair's goals avenged defeat at the hands of Rangers at the same stage last year and extended their unbeaten run to 41 domestic matches this season. It brings to an end a 92-year Hampden Park hoodoo for Celtic, who failed to beat Rangers in the last four of the competition on their previous five attempts since their last victory at this stage in 1925. Celtic manager Brendan

Rodgers said his side were a joy to watch. "Everything you would want from your team to play in terms of composure, temperament and technical quality," purred Rodgers. "We restricted Rangers to very few opportunities and the only disappointment was we didn't score more." His Rangers counterpart Pedro Caixinha felt his side showed Celtic too much respect in the first half. "At half-time we tried to change some things but I think we needed to be more aggressive in defending," he said. "I think they deserved to win but we could have done, and should have done, much better." Rangers kicked off at Hampden but it was to be the closest they were to the ball for the majority of the half. Rangers had conceded just

once in their previous five games, but with Celtic enjoying the lion's share of possession a goal seemed inevitable and it duly came through McGregor. Moussa Dembele brought down Mikel Lustig's long ball over the top of the Rangers defence and laid it back into the path of the Scottish midfielder, whose first-time strike with his left-foot rolled into the bottom corner. Rangers were then relieved to see Dembele, scorer of five goals in five Old Firm appearances, limp out of the game on the half hour with a pulled hamstring to be replaced by Leigh Griffiths. Rangers made two changes at the break with Joe Garner and Andy Halliday making way for Joe Dodoo and Barrie McKay. But just as they started to threaten they conceded a penalty from a quick Celtic breakaway. Goalkeeper Wes Foderingham

hesitated in coming to collect Kieran Tierney's through ball allowing Griffiths to run in on goal and the striker was brought down by a horribly mistimed sliding challenge from James Tavernier. Foderingham nearly made amends as he palmed Sinclair's spot-kick on to the inside of the post but the ball bounced over the line to double Celtic's advantage. Celtic then had two chances in quick succession with Foderingham tipping over a fierce strike from Griffiths before Dedryck Boyata headed over from close range. Despite Celtic's dominance Rangers captain Kenny Miller was presented with a golden chance to pull one back when he got on the end of Tavernier's cross, but sent his weak header straight at Craig Gordon. (AFP)

Football

FA Cup semi-final, Wembley:



Arsenal 2 Man City 1

English Premier League:

Burnley 0 Man Utd 2
Liverpool 1 Crystal Palace 2

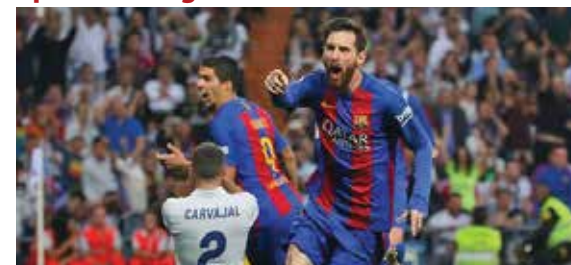
English Championship:

Aston Villa 1 Birmingham 0

Scottish Cup semi-final, Hampden:

Celtic 2 Rangers 0

Spanish La Liga:



Real Sociedad 1 Deportivo la Coruna 0
Celta Vigo 0 Real Betis 1
Las Palmas 1 Alaves 1
Real Madrid 2 Barcelona 3

German Bundesliga:

Freiburg v Bayer Leverkusen (1330),
Schalke v RB Leipzig (1530).

Italian Serie A:



Sassuolo 2 Napoli 2
Chievo 1 Torino 3
Lazio 2 Palermo 2
AC Milan 1 Empoli 2
Sampdoria 1 Crotona 2
Udinese 2 Cagliari 1
Juventus 4 Genoa 0

French Ligue 1:



Toulouse 1 Nice 1
Saint Etienne 1 Rennes 1
Lyon 1 Monaco 2

Russian Premier League:

Tomsk 1 Orenburg 2
Samara 0 Rubin Kazan 0
Krasnodar 2 Arsenal Tula 0

Brave kick starts India edition



Manama

Under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth, Honourary President of the Bahrain Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF), founder of Khalid Bin Hamad Mixed Martial Arts (KHK MMA), the fifth edition of the Brave Fighting Championship was launched in Mumbai, India at the Dome National Stadium of India.

With the participation of 20 fighters from around the world the event organised by BRAVE Combat Federation emanated from the Khalid Bin Hamad Mixed Martial Arts Organisation (KHK MMA).

Matches were attended by members from the All India Mixed Martial Arts Association, combat sports enthusiasts, guests and a large

audience of fans.

Shaikh Khalid expressed his joy at being present in India to attend and follow up the fifth edition of BRAVE Championship matches.

He praised the All India Mixed Martial Arts Association for embracing this championship, and looked forward to opening wider horizons of fruitful cooperation with the Indian Association to promote the culture of mixed martial arts on the continent.

In a night of excitement and thrills, Mumbai hosted 10 bouts in the BRAVE Combat Federation Championship, where fighters delivered high levels of combat performance.

A total of 20 fighters from 11 countries participated from India, Algeria, Canada, Brazil, Poland, the Netherlands, Mexico, the Philippines, Egypt, Britain and Thailand. The

fighters from India numbered at six, followed by Brazil with three fighters, then the Philippines and Britain with two fighters.

The fifth edition of the BRAVE Championship was preceded by an advertisement film, which included a presentation showcasing the championship, since its start in Manama to the final edition hosted by the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, which showed the crowning of the championship belt. It was won by Algerian fighter Elias Boudegzdamme at the expense of Mexican fighter Masio Fullen.

Bahrain Television, represented by its Sports Channel broadcast live the championship, hosted in India, which gave fans and enthusiasts of mixed martial arts in Bahrain the opportunity to follow the event.



Benteke deals blow to old club

Londres

Christian Benteke's double for Crystal Palace against his old club Liverpool dealt perhaps a fatal blow to their hopes of Champions League football whilst boosting Manchester United's chances yesterday.

United had already done their chances no end of good earlier on Sunday as Anthony Martial responded positively to criticism by Jose Mourinho in scoring one and being involved in Wayne Rooney's second beating Burnley 2-0 to move up to fifth spot and a point off Manchester City -- who they play on Thursday.

However, it is Liverpool who will be the most worried about missing out on the lucrative Champions League spot next season as they are just two points clear of United who have two games in hand.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp pondered how Palace

had been in danger of relegation when their performance belied their lowly position.

Palace now look certain to preserve Sam Allardyce's proud record of never being in charge of a club that has gone down.

However, Klopp issued a rallying call to the fans and his players not to give up hope on the Champions League.

"It is frustrating, disappointing of course," Klopp told the BBC.

"Everyone thinks the Champions League has slipped through our fingers but we have one more month to stay positive.

"We have to try everything to squeeze everything out of this season."

Allardyce, who has engineered victories over Chelsea, Arsenal and now Liverpool in recent weeks, said there was a sense of relief that there was clear breathing space now between them and the



Crystal Palace's Zaire-born Belgian striker Christian Benteke (L) celebrates scoring a goal with Crystal Palace's English defender James Tomkins (2L) and Crystal Palace's Serbian midfielder Luka Milivojevic (3L)

bottom three -- they are seven points clear of Swansea.

"It has been hard work but we are looking up," he told

BBC. "We have five games to go but Tottenham on Wednesday will come too early.

"We will have change the

side to get fresh legs into the side. It is a big result today, it makes life so much easier," added Allardyce.

United on the rise

Palace forward Andros Townsend refused to accept they could relax and plan for another season in the Premier League.

"We have seen the other teams at the bottom are winning matches. We are almost there," he told Sky Sports.

United may be down to the bare bones in certain areas because of injury but even with leading scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic out with a serious knee injury and Marcus Rashford rested till a late appearance as a substitute they made light work of a Burnley side who are not out of trouble yet. (AFP)

Tour of Croatia



Nibali takes second place

Cycling world pays tribute to veteran Italian Michele Scarponi

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain Merida Pro Cycling Team were stunned to hear the news that veteran Italian Michele Scarponi an idol, teammate and friend of many in the world of cycling was killed on Saturday after colliding with a van while out training on his bike as the team compete in the Tour of Croatia.

The latest stage came with plenty of action in the final 7kms on the final climb to Učka, just before finish line, three top riders were fighting to take the stage win: Vincenzo Nibali, Caja Rural Jaime Roson and CCC Sprandi Polkowice rider Jan Hirt. The Spanish rider took victory and Bahrain's Vincenzo Nibali passed the finish line in as runner up. Jaime Roson Caja Rural took over the leading position in general classification on the Tour of Croatia.

Nibali was first overall in classification after the latest stage

climb.

After the start in Poreč and just before Pazin, a breakaway of three riders was formed with a 1 minute, 30 second gap. Also the first climb to Učka was led by the three riders, while Bahrain Merida Team was in the front of the peloton.

The climb was followed by a long descent to the coast of Kvarner Bay, then another climb to Kastav and from there race led to the city centre of Rijeka. In Opatija, right on the coast began the final and decisive climb back to Učka, and that's where the group became compact.

Bahrain Merida riders showed excellent performance in giving support to Nibali, with the goal of keeping the first position in general classification after the stage, that might be decisive for the whole race.

After the stage, Sport Director Paolo Slongo commented on the sad news of Scarponi's death and the latest stage: "Scarponi had been Vincenzo's teammate for the last

three years and he was very important for him. We spent together training camps, many times with his family and wonderful twins too. We shared with him a lot of moments."

"The news shocked all of us and we're very sad, but our job - that was Michele's too - is racing and so we started today's stage of Tour of Croatia anyway. Maybe with a knot in our stomach, but this is part of our job.

"I can't say that this news influenced the performance of riders today, but for sure the mood of Vincenzo above all was not one of the best, but I don't know if this influenced the victory or not.

"Today's winner was really strong and he deserved to take the stage. At the finish they were three riders fighting for the first place and Vincenzo is not so fast. Anyway he tried to sprint, but he was second.

"What it's important according to me ahead of next aims is that the team worked very well and that rode full speed on the climb".

Cycling world reacts

- ▶ "There are no words. A great person and a great cyclist has left us. R.I.P Michele Scarponi." Alejandro Valverde (Movistar)
- ▶ "Devastated to hear the news about Scarponi. Can't believe it. My thoughts with all his friends, family and team." Geraint Thomas (Team Sky)
- ▶ "Our thoughts and prayers go to the family, friends and team

of Michele Scarponi, who passed away this morning in a traffic incident." Quick-Step Floors

- ▶ "Your smile will last forever. Ciao Michele Scarponi. Our deepest sorrow to his family and Astana Team from all Team Bahrain-Merida." Bahrain-Merida
- ▶ "So difficult to believe..." UAE- Team Emirates

Softball cricket: Double joy for Chak de India



The Indian Club Indian Expatriates 7-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament 2017 - The Chak de India Team

Manama

The Indian Club Indian Expatriates Seven-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament 2017 at its premises in Gudaibiya saw Chak de India enjoy double success with victories against RIB (by four wickets) and then against BIC (by six wickets) in the latest round-robin matches.

The top performance over the weekend came from Faisal (37 not out) as Spartans scored 59 for four to defeat Zarwan 35 all out in 5.5 overs by 24 runs.

Scores:

- 1) Spartans 59/4 (Faisal 37no in 6 bt Zarwan 35 all out in 5.5 by 24 runs.
- 2) Chak de India 17/2 in 2.4 bt RIB 16 all out in 3.5 by 4 wickets.
- 3) Maharashtra Mandal 41/5 in 6 bt BMMI 24 all out in 5.5 by 17 runs.
- 4) Chak de India 28/0 (Sunil 22no in 2.5 bt BIC 27 all out in 5.1 by 6 wickets.
- 5) Target CC 50 all out (Ameer 23) in 6 bt Kansara 17 all out in 5.2 by 33 runs



Bahrain defeat hosts in opening win

Aidan Payne/DTNN
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Bahrain defeated hosts Thailand by 138 runs in its opening match yesterday in the second round-robin matches of the International Cricket Council (ICC) 2017 World Cricket League (WCL) Division One in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Batting first, Bahrain scored a massive 362 for four in its 50 overs with man of the match Janaka Chaturanga (110 off 91 deliveries, 7x4, 10x6) and Mohammed Sameer (108 off 102, 9x4, 4x6) leading the way to victory, with good contributions coming from the skipper Azeem Ul Haq (47), Tahir Dar (30 not out), Imran Ali Butt (25) and Junaid Aziz (18 not out), with Nopphon Senamontree (three for 70) the best of the bowlers.

In reply, Thailand were dismissed for 224 in 46.3 overs with the main scorers being Ryan Raina (71), Wanchana Uisek (38), Sameer Gawas (26) and Nopphon Senamontree (23), while Bahrain's best bowlers were Tahir Dar (four for 21), Babar Ali (two for 21), Junaid Aziz (two for 36) and Jabbar Amjad (one for 47).

Bahrain had earlier played five matches in Sri Lanka prior to the championship to get acclimatised and get used to turf wickets.

Under head coach Rexie Arunvasagam and manager Syed Rizwan Shah, the squad comprises the captain, Azeem Ul Haq, Tahir Dar, Babar Ali, Junaid Niazi, Gamini Perrera, Imran Butt, Janaka

Chaturanga, Mohammed Ismail, Amir Gondal, Mohammed Sameer Fayaz, Mohammed Iqbal, Awad Khan, Bilal Mansoor, Jabbar Amjad,

The teams competing in the tournament are hosts Thailand, Bhutan, Bahrain, China, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, with the winner of the qualifier progressing to the ICC WCL Division 5 which will be staged in September 2017. Five regional qualifiers will play alongside two teams relegated from Division 4 and one team from Division 5.

This round of matches for Asia sees the seven teams play each other in a league with matches played on three grounds in the city of Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Each team will play a total of six matches spread over a 10 day period concluding on May 1 at Prem Tinsulanonda International School, Chiangmai Gymkhana and Royal Chiangmai Golf Club.

Other scores:

Qatar 280/5 in 50 overs (Tameer Sajjad 76, Zaheer Ibrahim 49, Iman Al Haq 37; Suprit Pradham 3/54, Damber Gurung 2/56) bt Bhutan 66 all out in 26.3 overs (Tenzin Wangchuk 14no, Tenzin Wangchuk 12, Damber Gurung 10; Mohammed Nadeem 3/17, Zaheer Ibrahim 2/3, Mohammed Awais 2/15) by 174 runs.

Kuwait 460/7 in 50 overs (Aamir Javed 144, Usman Waheed 110, Ali Zaheer 65; Feng Yu 3/87) bt China 57 in 16.4 overs (Duckworth/Lewis method) (Ye Weiji 25; Haroon Shahid 8/19) by 293 runs.

Sanchez caps Arsenal fightback



Arsenal's Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez (L) celebrates scoring the second goal with Arsenal's Brazilian defender Gabriel

Londres

Alexis Sanchez earned Arsenal an FA Cup final showdown with Chelsea and gave Arsene Wenger renewed hope of salvaging a troubled campaign as the gritty Gunners fought back to beat Manchester City 2-1 yesterday.

When Sergio Aguero put City ahead in the second half of a bruising semi-final, Wenger's side were on the verge of another dispiriting defeat in arguably the worst season of the Frenchman's 21-year reign.

But, despite being outplayed for long periods, Arsenal summoned a spirit and desire too often missing from their performances this term.

Nacho Monreal's equaliser forced extra-time and Sanchez's predatory finish in the additional period secured a final date with Premier League leaders Chelsea back at Wembley on May 27.

Arsenal's third FA Cup final in the last four years -- they won it in 2014 and 2015 -- gives them a record 20 appearances in the showpiece match of the famous old competition.

Crucially, it presents Wenger with a chance to mute the mounting criticism from his club's supporters who want him to resign.

City came close to striking first when the diminutive David Silva rose to meet Aguero's cross with a header that Petr Cech pushed over.

Silva departed due to injury soon after, but City monopolised possession and Arsenal were often reduced to kicking their opponents out of their rhythm.

Aguero and Raheem Sterling combined to bundle the ball into the net just before

half-time, but the goal was controversially ruled out because Leroy Sane's cross was adjudged to have gone out as it looped over the bar before curling back into play.

To City's frustration, television replays suggested a tiny part of the ball was still in play before it reached Aguero.

Yet Arsenal's play still lacked conviction and by the 62nd minute the scoreline finally reflected City's dominance.

When Yaya Toure seized the ball after Aaron Ramsey's mistake deep in City's half, the Ivorian spotted Aguero and sent a long pass towards the striker.

Aguero surged away from Monreal and, although his first touch almost ruined the chance, he recovered to lift a deft finish over Cech for his 30th goal this season.

If that felt like the knockout blow, Monreal had

other ideas and he hauled the Gunners off the canvas in the 71st minute.

Having laboured for so long, Arsenal suddenly sprang to life and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain swung over a superb cross to the far post, where Monreal timed his run perfectly to slot home from close-range for his first Arsenal goal in over two years.

City almost hit back immediately, with Toure's 25-yard volley pushed onto a post by Cech before Fernandinho headed against the crossbar from Kevin de Bruyne's corner.

Danny Welbeck couldn't win it for Arsenal with a fine curling strike before extra-time, but Sanchez came to Wenger's rescue with a far more prosaic effort in the 101st minute.

Sanchez has been a problem for Wenger with his mood swings this season and he was well below his best for long periods once again. (AFP)

Nadal wins 10th Monte Carlo title

Monte Carlo

Rafael Nadal won the Monte Carlo Masters for a record-breaking 10th time with a dominant 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Spanish compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas yesterday.

The 30-year-old Nadal, who now has 50 clay court titles and 70 in all, will be aiming for a 10th French Open title as well next month.

It was Nadal's first title in almost a year and further cemented his place in history as he became the first man in the Open era to win the same event 10 times.

He won eight Monte Carlo titles in a row from 2005 to 2012 but then lost to Novak

Djokovic in the 2013 final.

He won the title again last year and then added the Barcelona crown a week later, yet had not lifted a trophy since, losing three finals already this year, including January's Australian Open against Roger Federer.

Nadal's 50 clay titles breaks the record he shared with Guillermo Vilas since April last year when he lifted his ninth trophy in Barcelona.

"I cannot explain the feelings that I have," Nadal said.

"I had a tough start to the season. When I first played here in 2003 as a qualifier I reached the third round.

"Now, a lot of years later, this is something I could have never dreamt. Thanks to life for giving me this opportunity."

The great Spaniard needed just 76 minutes and three match points to see off his compatriot on Sunday.

The left-hander now has 29 Masters titles, one behind the all-time record of 30 held by Novak Djokovic.

He has now won an ATP event for the 14th consecutive year after losing his first three finals of 2017.

Nadal was hardly challenged by his 29-year-old countryman, who was playing the best tennis of his career after seeing off world number one Andy Murray on his way to the final. (AFP)



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates and bites the trophy during the prize ceremony after winning the Monte-Carlo ATP Masters Series Tournament final tennis match

Valverde wins fourth Bastogne-Liege title

Ans

Spain's Alejandro Valverde continued his stunning start to the season by winning the prestigious Liege-Bastogne-Liege race for the fourth time yesterday. The 36-year-old overhauled Irishman Dan Martin in the final 300 metres to add to his fifth win at Fleche Wallonne on Wednesday.

It has been a remarkable start

to the season for a man turning 37 on Tuesday.

He has won four stage races -- the tours of Catalonia, the Basque Country, Andalusia and his home region of Murcia -- already this season, and two one-day classics.

On Wednesday he extended his record of Fleche Wallonne successes to five and has now added a 'Monument' victory to

his remarkable accolades.

Only the great Eddy Merckx, with five, has won Liege more times than Valverde.

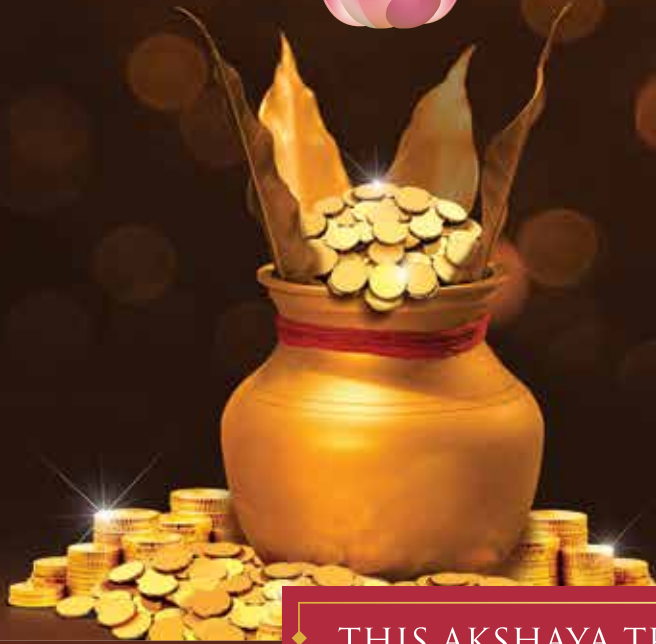
Victory in the epic 258km race came 11 years after Valverde first tasted success at Liege.

The day started with a minute's applause in memory of Italian Michele Scarponi, who died on Saturday in a training accident with a van in central Italy.

Spain's Alejandro Valverde of the Movistar team, celebrates as he crosses the finish line in Mur de Huy during the Fleche Wallonne cycling race



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