

DT NEWS

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News of Bahrain

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Eight tourism outlets temporarily closed

DT News Network news@dt.bh

Manama

At least eight tourism outlets, including lounges, nightclubs and a restaurant, will be suspended for violating

the Kingdom's laws and regulations and harming national tourism.

Located in different parts of the Capital Governorate, the outlets have been temporarily shutdown for periods of one month to three months, while the permit renewal of

some them was rejected. This comes as per a decision taken by Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayid bin Rashid Al Zayani on Thursday.

According to the latest edition of the Official Gazette, the suspension followed the issuance of resolutions 108,

109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115.

They were closed as per the recommendations of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority CEO Shaikh Khalid bin Humood Al Khalifa.

According to the minister's decision, the outlets violated

the provisions of tourism regulations in Bahrain in a way that harm national interest.

Similar decisions were taken by the minister during the past 12 months, shutting down a number of first class restaurants, bars and discos in a few hotels in the capital.

Meet our demands, UAE tells Qatar

Abu Dhabi

The United Arab Emirates warned Qatar yesterday that it faces "divorce" from its Gulf neighbours unless it takes seriously a list of demands including the closure of *Al-Jazeera* television. Anwar Gargash, the UAE's state minister for foreign affairs, issued the warning more than two weeks into the region's worst diplomatic crisis in years.

Gargash accused Qatar of leaking a document containing the demands by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt, which have cut diplomatic ties and accused Qatar of sponsoring terrorism. The demands have not been officially unveiled but *Al-Jazeera* news channel said overnight Thursday they were handed to Qatar by Kuwait, which is mediating the dispute.

According to the document posted on social media, the four countries demand that Qatar closes *Al-Jazeera*, downgrades diplomatic ties with Iran and shuts a Turkish military base in the emirate.

The list of demands has not been officially confirmed. Gargash alleged Qatar had leaked them in "an attempt

to abort the mediation in a childish act that we have grown accustomed to from our brother".

"It would be wiser that (Qatar) deal seriously with the demands and concerns of the neighbours or a divorce will take place," he wrote on *Twitter*. The demands confirm that "the crisis is profound," Gargash added. Qatar faces a choice of either stability and prosperity, or isolation, he said. "Perhaps the solution is in parting ways."

The list of 13 demands circulating on social media also says Qatar must cut ties to groups including the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement. Qatar is also required to hand over opposition figures wanted by its three neighbours and Egypt. In addition to *Al-Jazeera*, it must shut online information sites that it supports, according to the reported demands.

"The brother (Qatar) must realise that the solution for its crisis lies not in Tehran or Beirut or Ankara or Western capitals or in media outlets, but in regaining the trust of its neighbours," Gargash said. (AFP)

Demands put forward by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE and Egypt

- 1 Shut down diplomatic posts in Iran, expel any members of Iran's *Revolutionary Guard* and only conduct trade with Iran that complies with U.S. sanctions
- 2 Close a Turkish military base
- 3 Sever all ties with "terrorist organizations" including *Muslim Brotherhood*, *Islamic State*, *Al Qaeda* and *Hezbollah*
- 4 Stop funding any extremist entities designated as terrorist groups by four countries and U.S.
- 5 Hand over all individuals wanted by four countries for terrorism
- 6 Shut down broadcaster *Al-Jazeera* and its affiliate stations
- 7 Shut down news outlets that Qatar funds, including *Arabi21* and *Middle East Eye*
- 8 Refuse to naturalise citizens from four countries and expel those currently on its territory
- 9 Provide detailed information about opposition figures whom Qatar has funded in four countries
- 10 Align itself politically, economically and otherwise with *Gulf Co-operation Council*
- 11 Pay unspecified sum in compensation to four nations for damage or costs incurred by Qatar's policies in recent years
- 12 Agree to all demands within 10 days or they will be considered void
- 13 Consent to be monitored for compliance with demands, with monthly reports in first year, every three months next year, then annually for 10 years

Man killed in farm was carrying bomb

Manama
Director-General of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science has said that a probe into the case of a body found in Hajer village on June 19 indicated that the man was transporting a high-grade bomb for use when it exploded, killing him on the spot.



P 02 Multiple attacks kill 50 in Pakistan



P 03 Speed limits raised on major highways



P 19 Egypt tycoon jailed for diva murder freed

Multiple attacks kill 50 in Pakistan



Pakistani residents gather along a road as smoke billows after a twin blasts at a market in Parachinar

Peshawar

Multiple blasts and a gun attack killed more than 50 people and wounded at least 170 in three Pakistani cities on the last Friday of Ramadan, Islam's holiest month, as officials warned the toll could rise.

Authorities said 37 people were killed and more than 150 wounded when twin blasts tore through a market in Parachinar, capital of Kurram district, a mainly Shiite area of Pakistan's tribal belt.

Local official Nasrullah Khan said that the first blast detonated as the market was crowded with shoppers preparing for the Eid ul-Fitr festival marking the end of Ramadan.

"When people rushed to the site... to rescue the wounded, a second blast took place," he said.

Basir Khan Wazir, the top government official in Parachinar later said that apparently both the blasts were carried out by two suicide bombers.

"We have transported 15 injured to Peshawar but condition of 15 to 20 injured people were critical," Wazir said and warned that the death toll could rise.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for security to be beefed up as he condemned the attack, saying that no Muslim could ever imagine committing such a "horrific" act.

Local lawmaker Sajid Hussain Turi, the owner of the market, said bazaars in Parachinar had been

barricaded off and vehicles banned from the area.

Parachinar was the location of the first major militant attack in Pakistan in 2017, a bomb in a market which killed 24 people in January and was claimed by the Pakistani Taliban. In March a second Taliban attack killed a further 22 people.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Improved security?

The twin blasts in Parachinar followed a bombing earlier in the day in southwestern Quetta that killed at least 13 people. Investigators said the attack targeted police. It was claimed by both the local affiliate of the Islamic State group and by Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), an offshoot of the Pakistani Taliban, according to the SITE monitoring group.

Officials at the city's Civil Hospital said at least 13 people were killed and around 20 injured, mostly by shrapnel. Police officials said nine policemen were among the dead.

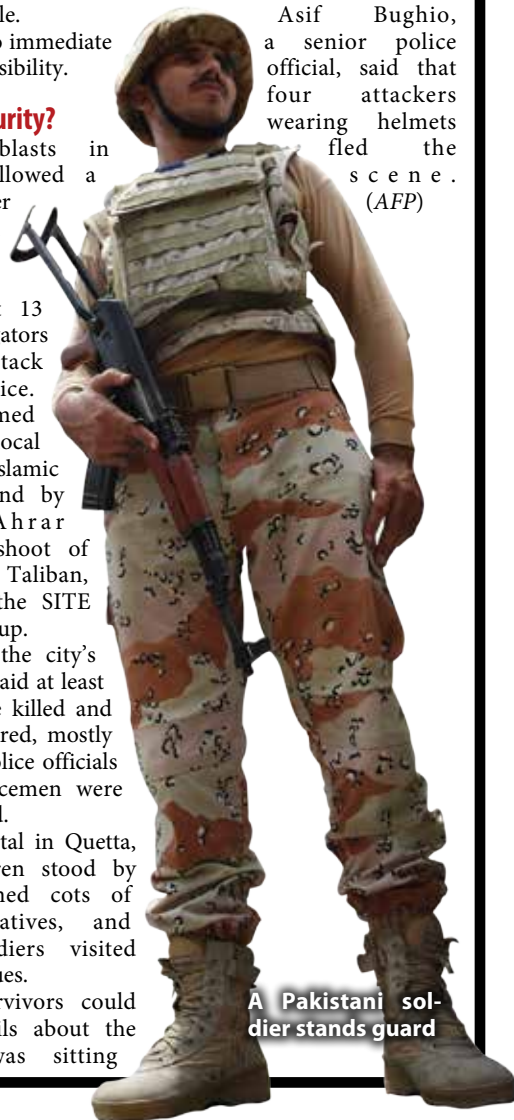
At the hospital in Quetta, worried children stood by the bloodstained cots of wounded relatives, and Pakistani soldiers visited injured colleagues.

Stunned survivors could give few details about the attack. "I was sitting

on a chair. There was an explosion. I got injured and fell down," said one victim, Gulzar Ahmad.

Separately, gunmen on motorcycles Friday shot dead four policemen sitting at a roadside restaurant at SITE area in southern port-city Karachi.

Asif Bughio, a senior police official, said that four attackers wearing helmets fled the scene. (AFP)



A Pakistani soldier stands guard



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Speed limits raised on major highways

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN news@dt.bh

As per the instruction of the Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa to readjust speed limits on the Kingdom's roads, the authorities have raised speed limits on several highways.

Beginning Thursday, speed limits on both sides of Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway were raised from 100 km/h to 120 km/h in the area between the flyover near the University of Bahrain (Zallaq Highway) and the middle flyover above Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway (Isa Town and Mina Salman exits).

This makes this part of the highway the third to have a maximum speed limit of 120

km/h, along with King Hamad Highway (Durrat Al Bahrain) and Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway, which was modified last week.

However, the General Directorate of Traffic or Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry are yet to make any comments on this, but signs were already fixed on the highway yesterday morning.

Additionally, sources confirmed that the speed limit on King Faisal Highway near Bahrain Financial Harbour (BFH) has also been raised from 80 km/h to 100km/h from today.

According to recent statements of senior officials in the General Directorate

of Traffic, majority of over-speeding offences were reported by the smart cameras installed at BFH junction on this highway, as drivers cross the green signal while driving over 80 km/h, believing that the cameras would only snap pictures of them if they jump the red light. The officials clarified that the cameras would report over-speeding vehicles whether the signal is green or not, in order to "enhance safety on junctions".

Today will also witness an increase in the maximum speed of Shaikh Isa bin Salman Bridge, linking the Mother Island and Muharraq.

The modifications come as per the Premier's directives to reconsider the speed limits applied on the main roads and highways, and modify them to ensure they are commensurate with the traffic movement, and that they meet the requirements of safety to reduce traffic violations and to ensure the application of the law on violators.



Speed on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway has been raised from 100 km/h to 120 km/h between the flyover near the University of Bahrain and the middle flyover

Shaikh Abdullah is US envoy



Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued decree No. 43 for 2017 appointing Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador for the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will implement the decree that comes into effect from the date of its issuance.

Moon-sighting panel meet

Manama

Moon-sighting panel will meet at Supreme Islamic Affairs Council premises today to confirm crescent sighting reports to decide on Eid-Al-fitr. Public are urged to report crescent sightings to the panel.

2017 eGovt Excellence Award nomination deadline extended

DT News Network Manama

The Organising Committee of the eGovernment Excellence Award 2017 - held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information & Communication Technology (SCICT) - has announced that the nomination period and registration of work was extended to July 13.

The extension aims to provide more time for entities wishing to participate and improve their submitted work as well as present it at its best, the committee said.

Participants may submit their work on the award's official website which contains all the details associated with the categories, criteria and method of registering work online.

Held annually under the

patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister as one of the initiatives which aim at valuing national initiatives in the ICT field, it provides participants with the opportunity to assess their work by jury members who represent a group of local, regional and international experts who also own many years of experience in the ICT sector.

The jury's diversity of specialisations ensures objectivity in the assessing mechanism and allows participants to develop their work as well as enhance it according to the latest IT advancements to strongly compete with similar projects in a rapidly evolving sector.

Information & eGovernment Authority Enterprise Architecture & Information Technology Director as well as Award's Organising Committee

Chairman Dr. Khalid Ahmed Al Mutawah said that during the past eight years, the award was able to create a local weight for itself amongst interested individuals and entities working in the IT sector.

"This is especially since government entities have been demanding to hold such an award as the honouring of entities reflects the quality of work and possession of local faculties capable of professionally dealing with technology to become involved in providing government services which benefits a large number of audiences," he said.

"Based on these requests, the award is being held this year in its ninth edition and nomination period has been extended so as to enable these entities to provide their work in the best manner that meets all the requirements."

Entities can register in various categories - Government Awards categories comprise 'Best eGovernment Website', 'Best Government-to-Government eService', 'Best Practice in Community eParticipation', and 'Best eGovernment Integrated Services for Individuals or Businesses'.

Multi Sectors Awards categories encompass 'Best Application for Smart Devices'; combined with Citizen Awards categories of both 'Best eConcept' and 'eCitizen' which reflects the extent of the public's confidence in the eServices presented by the Information & eGovernment Authority based on a large number of transactions conducted electronically by winners along with the large amounts of payments paid online as service fees.

HH Shaikh Mohammed will honour the winners.

Warning issued against new wave of cyber attacks

DT News Networks news@dt.bh

Manama

Cyber security authorities yesterday warned of a new wave of cyber attacks targeting social media users in Bahrain.

The General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security in Interior Ministry said that "multiple hacking attempts by fake accounts on social media networks have been detected recently".

Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security General Director Colonel Bassam Al Miraj called upon the public to be vigilant and cautious to such attempts.

"Vigilance is necessary at this stage. Do not open random, suspicious or sourceless links, in order to avoid any infiltrations that may be carried out by lawbreakers who seek to exploit these operations in extortion and defamation," The official said in a statement issued here yesterday.

Bahrain condemns terror attack

DT News Network Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned the terror bombing of a police checkpoint in Quetta, west of Pakistan, killing and injuring scores of people, including policemen.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended its profound condolences to the Pakistani government, families and relatives of the victims, wishing speedy recovery to those wounded in the act of terror.

Bahrain stands with Pakistan in its war against terrorism and supports its efforts to underpin security and peace, the statement added.

Solidarity summit

Manama

Bahrain Ambassador to Bahrain and Permanent Representative to the Arab League Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahmane bin Rashid Al-Khalifa attended the two-day summit aimed at highlighting the Ugandan model of tackling the refugee issues and find funds to deal with the humanitarian plight of refugees.

Qatar's policies towards GCC destructive: Shaikh Nasser

National campaign launched in support of Royal Guard Commander

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
news@dt.bh

Manama

A national campaign has been launched to support the Royal Guard Commander, Brigadier His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who recently affirmed the stance of the Kingdom and regional states against the conspiring policies of Qatar against Bahrain and GCC and Arab countries.

HH Shaikh Nasser's statements came while he delivered a speech at the closing ceremony of the Royal Guard Ramadan Sports Tournament, which was patronised and attended by the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa on Wednesday.

The Royal Guard Commander condemned in his speech the conspiracies of Qatar with Iran and the enemies of the nation against the Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other Arab states.

He described Qatar's policies as attempts to bring destruction upon the nation and to separate it.

Without specifically naming Qatar, HH Shaikh Nasser said, "Their evil conspiracies, hostile ambitions and their



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa speaking at the closing ceremony of Ramadan Sports Tournament as HRH Crown Prince looks on

of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, highlighting the role of Bahrain's martyrs who died while on their national duties.

He reiterated the readiness of Bahrain Defence Force soldiers and Royal Guards in protecting the Kingdom and the nation under the command

of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, highlighting the role of Bahrain's martyrs who died while on their national duties.

HH Shaikh Nasser's speech

HH Shaikh Nasser's speech was admired by local and regional officials, citizens and netizens including Royal Guard Special Force Commander



was admired by many local and regional officials, citizens and netizens, including the Royal Guard's Special Force Commander Major HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, launching an online campaign under the slogan "We are all Nasser bin Hamad".

Among the audience were

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Defence Affairs Minister Lieutenant-General Yusuf bin Ahmed Al Jalahma, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and a number of senior BDF officers.

As reported earlier, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Yemen and other Arab and

Islamic states severed all ties with Qatar over its supporting policies to terrorism and meddling in other countries' domestic affairs.

Recent revelations and evidences proved Qatar's roles and coalition with Iran to create chaos in Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, while pretending to join hands with the same countries on surface.

New curricula to boost skills: Minister



Officials and dignitaries at the Ramadan Majlis hosted by the Minister of Education Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi

DT News Network

Manama

Several new curricula will be introduced next year in the various stages of education, the ministry of education has said.

"We will also ameliorate some of the curricula, including those in the kindergartens, to ensure that we keep abreast with the latest trends in learning and acquiring skills,"

Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi said.

"The curricula are the core of the learning process and we are keen on improving them so that we are always up to international standards," the

minister said as he received guests at his Ramadan majlis. Arabic, English, Maths, civil education, religious education and IT will receive special attention, he said.

"Teachers will be given specific training programmes to ensure they have the adequate tools and skills to deal with the new and improved curricula and therefore be able

to instil the new knowledge in the students," he said.

"The ministry will provide digital books to boost electronic learning and online education in the kingdom," he added.

Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



CELEBRATING EID UL FITR

The culmination of the holy month of Ramadan is with the festival of Eid ul Fitr or Feast of Breaking the Fast. Eid is considered as a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide and to show a common goal of unity. The main aspects of Eid are congregational prayers in masjids, open areas and parks, get together of families and friends at home or restaurants, making and eating special dishes and wearing ceremonial dresses.

Eid festival like other local, national and religious festivals often have a major impact on the environmental resources. Extra food, drinks and clothing's are made, used and consumed. People spend huge amount of money in buying these items. Visiting public places, malls and entertainment location cause massive littering. The environmental consideration of the festival is often being neglected and forgotten causing adverse impact on local resources.

The celebrations and festivity are often extravagant and cause excessive pollution of all forms. The day starts with the special prayers whereby men, women and children gather to offer prayers. The site of praying after the ritual is often plagued by water bottles, tissue papers, litter, rubbish and waste scattered all over the place and even blowing in the air and migrating to nearby safe heavens for unaesthetic accumulations.

Special food is prepared in houses which are visited by the relatives and neighbours. This cause great food wastage often due to under utilization as food is prepared more than the number of visitors and with a feeling that any dish prepared should not be finished. On the other hand, people also eat limited quantity of special food less than expected or prepared which ultimately becomes waste. This includes special breakfast, lavish snacks, sumptuous lunches and extravagant dinners during the festival days.

To supply the residents with the required quantity of food, government make huge efforts in procuring the food items for local consumption. It includes meat, poultry, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, cereals, grains, packaged food etc. Meat and poultry is lavishly eaten during the Eid holidays. The demand of chicken, meat and related meat products increase to around 50% of the normal demand, which in itself is very high.

Eid also prompt extra buying of food items and eatables, which are out of shelves quickly in the super markets and cold stores during the last days of Ramadan. This trend again leads to more wastage as the food items bought are not being fully and efficiently utilized and ultimately end up in garbage bins.

Over the period of years, the festivities are increasing with more buying of items and eatables per head. Consumption of eatables has increased many folds in the Kingdom and people have become more wasteful due to rise in income, living standards and affordability. But affordability does not mean that wastage should increase.

Let us change our attitude towards festivity and wastage and celebrate the festival in the right environmental spirit.

Here are some points to be considered for Eid ul Fitr celebrations:

- * Buying clothes and dressings with minimum packaging.
- * Buying food items in calculated quantities based on the actual requirements and cooking based on number of guests to be served.
- * Educating guests in avoiding left over's and wasting food.
- * Avoid using disposable cutlery, plates, napkins, tissues etc.
- * Giving left over food to the less privileged people in the neighbourhood

Let us celebrate the Eid in an environmental friendly way.

Head, Waste Disposal Unit, Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain (Email: rahmed@sce.gov.bh)

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

Drug peddling case: Court upholds verdict against five accused

DT News Network Manama

The Supreme Appeals Court yesterday upheld the sentences issued against five Asian men convicted in connection with a drug case.

The accused were earlier handed down sentences between 1 to 10 years in prison, but they were all ordered to be expelled from Bahrain once they completed their jail term.

Three of the accused were slapped with large fines of BD10,000 each while their co-accused were ordered to pay BD3,000 each.

The five men were charged



Representational image

with using marijuana illegally, but the first, second and third accused were also indicted for peddling the drug.

The incident unfolded when

the first accused, a Filipino, was discovered possessing drugs for the purpose of selling. Therefore, he was tracked down by an officer in plainclothes,

who eventually contacted him and requested him to buy BD50 worth of marijuana.

He accepted the money and asked him to meet him in Riffa. Police officers stalked him when he handed the drugs to the undercover agent.

The accused, who was working as a manager in a local restaurant, admitted to his crimes during questioning, telling prosecutors that his friends - the other defendants - were also involved with him.

He expressed readiness to help prosecutors to arrest them red-handed. And he trapped them.

Three accused get three years jail term for terror crime



Representational image

DT News Network Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced three accused to three years behind bars each for detonating a gas cylinder in Sitra.

The incident occurred on February 27, 2017, where the cylinder exploded after the defendants placed it in the middle of burning tyres.

The accused men were captured following police investigations and the first accused told prosecutors that the second accused was the one who plotted to blow up the cylinder.

"He (the second defendant) told me he had a gas cylinder which he wanted to detonate. He asked me to agree on that and we later met the third accused.

At around 11:00 pm (on February 27, 2017) we detonated the cylinder with the use of tyres and firebombs. The trio was charged with detonating a cylinder for terrorist purposes.

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Yemen cholera cases could jump to 300,000: UN

Geneva

A cholera outbreak in war-ravaged Yemen will probably have infected more than 300,000 people by September, up sharply from the current tally of nearly 193,000 cases, the United Nations said yesterday.

"Probably at the end of August we will reach 300,000" cases, UN children's agency (UNICEF) spokeswoman Meritxell Relano told reporters in Geneva during a conference call.

Since the outbreak was declared in April, an estimated 1,265 people have died, she said.

"The number of cases continue to increase," Relano said, adding that all of the 21 governorates in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, have been affected.

She said children had been hit hard by the outbreak, accounting for half of the registered cases to date. But only a quarter of the people

who have died so far were children.

Cholera is a highly contagious bacterial infection spread through contaminated food or water.

Although the disease is easily treatable, doing so in conflict-torn Yemen has proved particularly difficult.

Saudi Arabia on Friday announced it was contributing \$66.7 million towards an anti-cholera programme in Yemen run by UNICEF and the World Health Organization. (AFP)



Yemeni women sit next to aid baskets donated by Kuwait during the holy month of Ramadan

US, Russia hotline for Syria still in use: US



Washington

Russian and US military officials are still using a special hotline to communicate about operations in Syria, a US official said yesterday, days after Moscow said it was severing the connection.

Russia on Monday said it would stop using the so-called "deconfliction" line in response to a US pilot shooting down a regime war plane in northern Syria, with Moscow accusing Washington of

failing to issue a warning. But Colonel Ryan Dillon, a spokesman for the US-led coalition, told reporters in a video call that "the deconfliction line is in use." "It is in use to make sure that... our air crews and ground forces are safe," he said.

The Russian defence ministry said yesterday it had conducted a "surprise mass missile strike" against IS targets, using cruise missiles fired from the Mediterranean.

Dillon would not say if Russia had used the line to warn the Americans ahead of the strike, but a US defence official confirmed that it had.

Sunday's shoot-down saw a US pilot fire on a regime warplane as it "dropped bombs" on US-backed local forces.

Moscow quickly said it would stop using the line, but the reality is that the communication channel is a vital link between Russia and the United

States to make sure the two powers avoid mishaps in Syria's confusing battlespace.

After the United States launched a cruise missile attack on a regime air base in retaliation for a suspected chemical weapons strike on civilians, Moscow made a similar threat in April.

But it later emerged that Russia and the United States continued to use the hotline even after Moscow said it was hanging up. (AFP)

Saudi Arabia raises foreign player quota

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia will increase by 50 per cent the quota of foreign footballers in its pro league, as part of broader efforts to develop sports in the kingdom.

Six foreigners instead of four will be allowed per team in the Abdul Latif Jameel League, the Saudi Football Federation decided, in a ruling carried by the state press agency late Thursday. The ruling applies to the 14-team league from next August when the new season begins.

Under wide-ranging plans for social change and economic diversification announced last year, the kingdom wants more of its citizens exercising while raising Saudi Arabia's global competitiveness in selected sports.

As part of that effort, "the managing board of the Saudi Football Federation has decided to increase the number of professional non-Saudi players in the clubs", said Adel bin Mohammed Ezzat, who heads the federation.

He was quoted by the official *Saudi Press Agency*.

The government has also talked of privatising football clubs, most of which are reportedly owned by the state.

Syria regime penetrates eastern province

Beirut

Syrian regime forces yesterday broke into the eastern Deir Ezzor province for the first time since 2014, a monitor said, after seizing territory from Islamic State group jihadists.

Government forces control part of Deir Ezzor city and the adjacent military airport, but IS holds the vast desert province and most of the provincial capital.

"Backed by Iranian, Lebanese and Iraqi fighters, the Syrian army entered Deir Ezzor province from

the southeast, near the Iraqi border," said Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

He said the pro-government forces had advanced eight kilometres (five miles) into the province.

They are now just 12 kilometres (less than eight miles) from the key T2 oil pump, which lies on a pipeline extending from Iraq through central Syria to its western coast.

Syria's desert, known as the "Badiya", extends over 90,000

square kilometres (35,000 square miles) from central Syria to the borders with Iraq and Jordan to the east and southeast.

Much of the Badiya has been held by IS, but Syria's army has been chipping away at it for months.

In addition to capturing key oil fields and infrastructure, government forces are keen to break IS's stranglehold on regime-held districts of Deir Ezzor city.

An estimated 100,000 civilians are living under IS siege.



Smoke rises following a reported air strike on a rebel-held area in the southern Syrian city of Daraa.

Meddling in religious affairs: Germany warns Turkey



Berlin **B**erlin yesterday warned Ankara against interfering in how people in Germany practised their religion, as a new row erupted over a new "liberal" mosque in the German capital.

Diyabet, which oversees religious activity in Turkey, on Wednesday voiced distaste over the Berlin mosque where men and women pray side-by-side, saying it was incompatible with the principles of Islam.

Diyabet's criticism sparked strong words from Germany, with foreign ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer firmly rejecting the Turkish agency's comments "which are targeted at limiting people's right to practise their religion and freedom of opinion".

"How, where, when and in which manner people worship is not a matter for the state," said the spokesman.

"According to our understanding, the state has absolutely no authority over the assessment of theological questions. Rather, it has the duty to protect freedom of religion as well as freedom of opinion or press," stressed Schaefer.

Interior ministry spokesman Tobias Plate added that comments that "endanger domestic peace in Germany is something that cannot be accepted."

"We will be sure to express that bilaterally in every channel of dialogue that the interior ministry is responsible for," he added.

Berlin's new mosque, located in a rented room on the third floor of the Protestant Johanniskirche (St. John's Church) building, welcomes all Muslims -- Sunni or Shia, Alawite or Sufi, and comes complete with female imams.

Ties between Ankara and Berlin have been strained since the failed coup in Turkey, and tensions have worsened over multiple issues including a referendum campaign to expand President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's powers.

Relations plunged further after Turkey imprisoned Deniz Yucel, a German-Turkish journalist with Germany's Die Welt daily, on terror charges earlier this year. (AFP)

UAE Foreign Ministry denies operating prisons in Yemen

Abu Dhabi

The United Arab Emirates yesterday denied it operated any prisons in Yemen, after Human Rights Watch accused it of running "informal detention facilities" in the war-torn country.

The UAE is a key member of a Saudi-led military coalition that entered Yemen's conflict in 2015 to battle on the government's side against Iran-backed Huthi rebels.

"The Emirati state, a member of the Arab coalition, does not administer or supervise any prison in Yemen," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Human Rights Watch said on Thursday that the UAE runs at least two "informal detention facilities" in Yemen and has reportedly transferred detainees to a base in Eritrea.

The New York-based group said the UAE also runs detention facilities in southern provinces home to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and a local affiliate of the Islamic State group.

The foreign ministry rejected the allegations as "totally unfounded", saying UAE forces "respect international conventions on armed conflicts". (AFP)

Bomber blows himself up among civilians fleeing Mosul

Mosul

A suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday among civilians fleeing Mosul's Old City, where Iraqi forces are gaining ground against jihadists mounting a fierce but desperate defence, officers said.

Ahmed Hashem, a major and medic in the Iraqi army speaking from a field hospital, said the attack took place in the Mashahda neighbourhood of the Old City.

"We received 12 people killed and more than 20 wounded in our field hospital, including women and children," he said.

A colonel in the army's 16th infantry division said it was difficult to get a definitive casualty toll because the area where the attack happened was not fully cleared.

"The suicide bomber infiltrated a group of displaced people and blew himself up among them before reaching our troops," he said.

Thousands of civilians have fled the Old City of Mosul since Iraqi forces launched their most perilous assault yet against the Islamic State group.

N.Korea conducts rocket engine test

Seoul

North Korea has tested a rocket engine that could be fitted to an intercontinental ballistic missile, a US official said, in an apparent provocation ahead of a summit between President Donald Trump and the leader of South Korea.

President Moon Jae-In heads to Washington next week to meet Trump for the first time since taking office in May, as tensions soar on the Korean peninsula over Kim Jong-Un's nuclear weapons programme.

The US official confirmed that Pyongyang tested a rocket engine on Thursday,

on condition of anonymity and without providing further details.

Political science professor Yoo Ho-Yeol at Korea University said the test was "a carefully calibrated act of provocation ahead of the summit".

The North Korean regime

will closely follow the meeting to gauge Seoul and Washington's future course of action concerning Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear arsenal and missile development, he said.

"The North has been building up missile capability for decades. The general consensus among experts here is that if left unchecked, the North would be able to have ICBMs in the near future", Yoo said.

Also Friday, Moon oversaw the test-firing of a home-grown missile with a range of 800 kilometres (500 miles).

The presidential Blue House said the South's test was meant as a warning against the North's provocative acts over the past months.

North Korea's last rocket engine test came in March and was apparently timed to coincide with the visit of US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Beijing, where he warned that regional tensions had reached a "dangerous level".

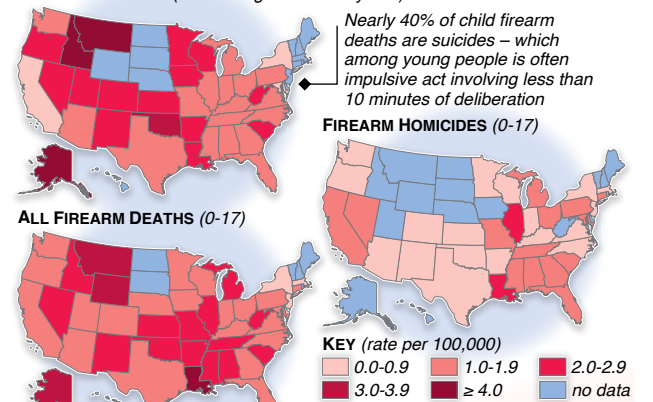


Representative picture

Childhood gun suicide rising in U.S.

Around 1,300 U.S. children under the age of 17 die from gun-related injuries every year, about 500 of which are self-inflicted, according to a study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

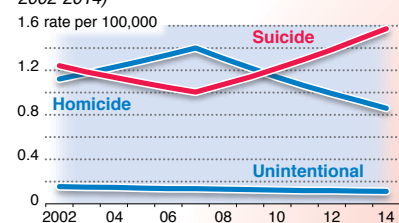
FIREARM SUICIDES (children aged 10 to 17 years)



Child plays with U.S. Marine Corps rifle during Fleet Week, New York City, May 2017

FATAL FIREARM INJURY RATES BY INTENT

(children aged 0-17, 2002-2014)



Sources: American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC, USA Today
Data from 2010-2014, unless otherwise stated
Picture: Getty Images
© GRAPHIC NEWS

Qatar Airways seeks 10% stake in American

New York

Qatar Airways, its Middle Eastern business pressured by a diplomatic row with neighbours, is seeking as much as a 10 per cent stake in American Airlines, the US carrier said yesterday.

The surprise investment push by Qatar Airways was disclosed by American Airlines in a securities filing Thursday saying the Qatari company planned to buy at least \$808 million in American shares.

In addition, Qatar Airways's chief executive told his counterpart at American that the carrier sought a stake of about 10 percent.

The outreach drew a frosty response from the US carrier, which said the intended purchase "was not solicited by American Airlines and would in no way change the Company's Board composition, governance, management or strategic direction."

American's bylaws require board approval to stakes of 4.75 percent or more. Qatar Airways said it would not exceed this level without board approval and would "make all necessary regulatory filings."

"Qatar Airways sees a strong



This combination of pictures shows an American Airlines plane sitting on the tarmac of McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nevada and a Qatar Airways plane landing at the Hamad International Airport in the Qatari capital Doha.

investment opportunity in American Airlines," the company said in a statement.

"Qatar Airways believes in American Airlines' fundamentals and intends to build a passive position in the company with no involvement in management, operations or governance." At the Paris Air Show this week, Qatar Airways was named the world's top airline for passenger service by Skytrax, a closely-watched industry prize.

American has had its differences with Qatar

Airways, among other Middle Eastern carriers, over state subsidies the US air travel industry says violate international agreements.

American chief executive Doug Parker has joined an effort with the leaders of Delta Air Lines and United Airlines to urge a crackdown by President Donald Trump on an alleged \$50 billion in state subsidies to Qatar Airways and two other state-backed Middle East carriers that they argue allows the airlines to illegally compete in the US

market.

Parker alluded to the controversy in a letter to employees Thursday, which adopted a skeptical tone toward Qatar's motives.

"While anyone can purchase our shares in the open market, we aren't particularly excited about Qatar's outreach, and we find it puzzling given our extremely public stance on the illegal subsidies that Qatar, Emirates and Etihad have all received over the years from their governments," Parker said. (AFP)

Geely seals Proton deal, eyes Lotus production

Kuala Lumpur

The parent of Malaysia's Proton said yesterday that Chinese auto giant Geely will inject \$40 million and an SUV product into the loss-making carmaker, as it looks to access a Southeast Asian market dominated by Japanese automakers.

DRB-HICOM group managing director Syed Faisal Albar said Geely will invest 170.3 million ringgit (\$39.7 million) cash and its SUV Boyue platform worth 290 million ringgit for the 49.9 percent stake in Proton it agreed to buy in May.

Geely will also pay Proton 51 million pounds (\$65 million) for a 51 per cent stake in British sports-car maker Lotus, he said.

"With Zhejiang Geely Holding Group on board,



Proton can now eye the huge Southeast Asian passenger car market with renewed confidence," he said at the signing ceremony of the deal, which was attended by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Zhejiang Geely Holding Group chairman Li Shufu.

Najib hailed the merger, saying it will end "handouts from the government" for troubled Proton.

Proton was formed in 1983 as part of an ambitious national industrialisation plan, but has suffered from a reputation for unimaginative models.

Tesla mulls entering music streaming biz

New York

Electric carmaker Tesla said it was considering ways to enter music streaming amid a report it may launch a unique new service. The high-end carmaker, which already has a tie-up with streaming leader Spotify in some international markets, said it was aiming at ways to please drivers.

"We believe it's important to have an exceptional in-car experience so our customers

can listen to the music they want from whatever source they choose," a Tesla spokesperson said.

The company was responding to a report that Tesla had reached out directly to major music labels about creating its own service.

Technology news site Recode said Tesla was discussing the creation of a service unique to the automaker which would be integrated into the cars.

Facebook launches plan to combat online extremism

Cool Trends

US social media giant Facebook launched a campaign in Britain yesterday to counter the spread of online extremism. Facebook seeks to educate charities and other organisations on how to fight hate speech.

Earlier this year, Group of Seven (G7) leaders had urged online giants like Facebook and Google to do more to curb extremist content online. "The fight is moving from the battlefield to the internet," May said at the time.

More curbs

British government has rolled out new rules to crack down on terrorist and criminal financing. Businesses like banks, estate agents and accounting and payment firms will have to carry out "stringent and targeted checks" to make sure that money "is from a legitimate source and will not be used to fund terror acts".

Civil Courage Initiative

The Online Civil Courage Initiative (OCCI) will act as a forum for charities and other nonprofit organisations to share their experiences of extremism and develop "best practices" to tackle the issue, both on and offline. There are already OCCI schemes in France and Germany.

Jo Cox

Partners in the new initiative include the Jo Cox Foundation, which was established in memory of the British member of parliament who was assassinated last year by a man with links to neo-Nazi organisations. Other partner organisations include anti-hate groups from the Jewish and Muslim communities.

"We use technology like AI (artificial intelligence) to find and remove terrorist propaganda, and we have teams of counterterrorism experts and reviewers around the world working to keep extremist content off our platform."

- Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook chief operating officer

EU agrees to extend Russia sanctions

EU leaders agreed to roll over damaging economic sanctions against Russia for another six months because Moscow has failed to meet its Ukraine ceasefire commitments, EU president Donald Tusk said. "Agreed. EU will extend economic sanctions against Russia for their lack of implementing the Minsk agreement," Tusk tweeted at an EU leaders summit in Brussels. The decision will be formalised in July and become effective on July 31.



China regulator inspects loans to major firms

Beijing China's banking regulator has ordered an inspection of potentially risky loans to major Chinese companies that have invested heavily overseas, one of the firms under scrutiny said. Dalian Wanda Group said other domestic companies caught up in the review include AC Milan owner Rossoneri Sport Investment Lux, Club Med's Fosun Group and HNA Group.



This year's results show that, even during a severe recession, our large banks would remain well capitalized and this would allow them to lend throughout the economic cycle, and support households and businesses when times are tough."

- Jerome Powell

US Fed Governor



Record-breaking Forth bridge set for opening

Scotland's landmark £1.35 billion (\$1.7bn) Queensferry Crossing over the Forth Estuary will be the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world when it opens to traffic in summer 2017

QUEENSFERRY CROSSING
South tower 202m, Central tower 210m, North tower 202m. Spans: 650m, 650m. Total length: 2,633m. Deck height 55m.

QUEENSFERRY CROSSING Replaces Forth Road Bridge as main route

Deck: Consists of 122 steel / concrete sections lifted by crane and erected out from each tower by cantilever

Viaducts: Launched incrementally from shore across supporting piers

Cables: Cross mid-span to boost strength of structure, allowing more slender towers and lighter deck

Tower: Reinforced concrete

Road: Two-lane motorway plus hard shoulder in each direction

Windshielding Reduces need for bridge closure in adverse weather

Opening: Aug 30, 2017. Bridge will briefly close Sep 2-3 to allow 50,000 members of public to walk across

Airbus to install new "black boxes"

Airbus will install Automatic Deployable Flight Recorders (ADFRs) and new Cockpit Voice Data Recorders (CVDRs) on its airliners. The ADFR is an aerofoil which can fly in the slipstream and float on water

ADFR: Mounted flush into skin of aircraft's tail

CVDR: Capable of recording 25 hours of voice and flight data, an increase from current 2-hour limit

ADFR: Deploys automatically using spring system in event of water submersion or structural deformation of aircraft

Aerofoil: Designed to float indefinitely and transmit location and ID of aircraft emergency beacon via satellite

Hydrostatic sensors trigger deployment at depth of 2 metres

ELT: Emergency Locator Transmitter

Lightweight data recorder does not need same crash-protection as regular recorder

Sources: Airbus, Aviation Week, Flight Global, L3 Aviation Products © GRAPHIC NEWS

Russia launches TurkStream gas deep-water phase

Moscow Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday launched the deep-water phase of the TurkStream gas pipeline project, calling Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan from a ship off the Black Sea coast. TurkStream will deliver Russian gas to Turkey and is eventually intended to serve the European Union. "Go!" Putin said, pressing a button on the Pioneering Spirit pipelaying ship, the world's largest construction vessel, to formally launch the work, accompanied by Gazprom energy giant's chief Alexei Miller.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, accompanied by Gazprom Chief Executive Officer Alexei Miller, launches the joining of the shallow and deep-water sections of the TurkStream gas pipeline

The Kremlin strongman also phoned Erdogan from the ship in an effusively friendly exchange covered at length by Russia's state Rossiya 24 channel. Speaking on a white dial phone, Putin praised the speedy progress of the project, attributing this to backing from Erdogan. "Where in our country it takes years, I'm not exaggerating, on various administrative agreements, with Turkey we do this in a few months," Putin said. Russia first floated the project in 2014 after the European Union blocked plans for a pipeline under the Black Sea to Bulgaria, at the height of the Ukraine crisis.

Then a diplomatic crisis in November 2015 over Turkey's shooting down of a Russian bomber on the Turkish-Syrian border delayed the project, which was revived when bilateral relations were mended last year. The two leaders spoke for around 15 minutes and then agreed to speak again later, while Erdogan said "Spasibo," or thank you, twice, Russian television reported. The Turkstream project will see the construction of two lines, each capable of carrying 15.75 billion cubic metres of gas per year. The first is due to be completed in 2018 and the second in 2019. The idea is not just to supply gas to Turkey but also to turn it into a transit country for Russian gas heading to the European Union, replacing Ukraine. "If our partners want this, we are ready to supply gas via Turkey to southern and southeastern Europe," Putin told Erdogan at the launch, quoted by the Kremlin website. Russia also plans Nord Stream 2, a twin pipeline under the Baltic Sea to Germany, but the project has been delayed due to opposition from countries including Poland.

Russia threatens Telegram app

Moscow Russia's state communications watchdog threatened yesterday to ban the Telegram messaging app, saying the company behind the service had failed to submit company details for registration. In a message on its website, the Roskomnadzor agency warned that "time is running out" for Telegram to comply with the law. Otherwise "Telegram must be blocked in Russia," it said. The free instant

messaging app has attracted about 100 million users since its launch in 2013. In an unusual move, the agency's chief, Alexander Zharov, addressed Telegram's secretive Russian chief executive, Pavel Durov. "I publicly call on the Telegram team and personally Pavel Durov: carry out the Russian law!" Zharov wrote, adding: "The choice is yours." The watchdog said it had been sending messages to the company "practically every day" asking it to send company information for Roskomnadzor's register. Durov, who has previously refused to bow to government regulation that would compromise the privacy of users, called the threat "paradoxical" on one of his social media accounts. He said it would force users, including "high-ranking Russian officials" to communicate via apps based in the United States like WhatsApp.

Did You Know?



The famed and inherently familiar Hayabusa is one of the world's fastest two-wheelers and is known to ride at a maximum speed of 300 km/h or 186 mph.



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2932	0.2896
BANGLADESH	0.00491	0.00469
CANADA	0.2905	0.2862
DENMARK	0.0597	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0217
EURO	0.4302	0.4260
HONGKONG	0.04985	0.04945
INDIA	0.00607	2.00591
INDONESIA	0.00003057	0.00002907
IRAN TUMAN	0.000323	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000304	
JAPAN	0.00355	0.003480
JORDAN	0.5350	0.5351
KOREA	0.00038085	
KUWAIT	1.249	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.0904	0.0902
NEW ZEALAND	0.2793	0.2780
NORWAY	0.0463	
NEPAL	0.00388	0.00366
OMAN	0.97962	0.00360
PAKISTAN	0.00370	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00783	0.00752
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10058	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2761	0.2741
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03020	0.03010
SRI LANKA	0.00270	0.00247
SWEDISH	0.0462	
SWITZERLAND	0.3979	0.3931
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.012700	
THAILAND	0.011340	0.011340
TURKEY	0.1137	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4882	0.4834
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102810	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37780	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	#REF!	0.3868	0.3392
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.7362	0.2929	0.2568
OMAN	0.3849	0.3752	0.3949	0.3463
QATAR	3.6420	3.5499	3.7365	3.2764
UAE	3.6730	3.5801	3.7683	3.3042
SAUDI	3.7500	3.6551	3.8473	3.3735

European equities stumble on poor data; oil steadies

A trader works on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Jones Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange

Key figures

- London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.3pc at 7,416.59 points
- Paris - CAC 40: DOWN 0.5pc at 5,254.69
- Frankfurt - DAX 30: DOWN 0.8pc at 12,697.06
- EURO STOXX 50: DOWN 0.6 percent at 3,534.01
- Tokyo - Nikkei 225: UP 0.1pc at 20,132.67 (close)
- Hong Kong - Hang Seng: FLAT at 25,670.05 (close)
- Shanghai - Composite: UP 0.3pc at 3,157.87 (close)
- New York - Dow: DOWN 0.2 percent at 21,357.62
- Euro/dollar: UP at \$1.1181 from \$1.1152 at 2100 GMT on Thursday
- Pound/dollar: UP at \$1.2731 from \$1.2684
- Dollar/yen: DOWN at 111.24 yen from 111.30 yen
- Oil - Brent North Sea: DOWN 2 cents at \$45.20 per barrel
- Oil - West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 17 cents at \$42.57

London
Europe's main stock markets and Wall Street stumbled yesterday on disappointing economic data heading into the weekend.

The oil market slipped slightly after initially edging higher and remains on course for its fifth weekly decline, dogged by concerns over a stubborn supply glut.

European stock markets are "on the back foot, with a host of eurozone PMI surveys... providing a somewhat cautious assessment," said analyst Joshua Mahony at trading firm IG.

Shares in London were on course for a fourth straight day of losses a year to the day after Britain shocked its neighbours by voting to leave the European Union, with the FTSE 100 index of leading shares sagging 0.3 per cent mid-afternoon.

Sterling strengthened 0.3pc Friday but Tuesday's close of \$1.2661 compared with its day-before-Brexit level of \$1.4797 for a 12-month fall of 15pc. Eurozone private sector business activity slowed sharply in June but was still

running at more than six-year highs, a closely watched survey showed on Friday.

Data monitoring company IHS Markit said its June Composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) came in at 55.7 points, the lowest reading in five months and down from 56.8 in May.

'Down to earth'

Any reading above the boom-bust 50 points line indicates the economy is expanding.

"After a string of exceptionally strong figures, the composite PMI for the eurozone has come down to earth in June," said UniCredit economist Edoardo Campanella.

"While the decline in the composite PMI was driven by a slowdown in the services industry, which is often subject to substantial monthly volatility, the manufacturing sector remains in good shape," he cautioned.

The PMI measures companies' willingness to

invest in their business and so gives a good idea of how well the underlying economy is performing.

Asian stock markets limped into the weekend, with energy firms still struggling after a bruising few days. Oil prices

slipped marginally at the end of a tumultuous week which saw New York crude collapse to a ten-month low on concerns over a global supply glut and US production overshadow output cuts by both OPEC and Russia. (AFP)

Dutch app to stop kids texting on bikes



The Hague

In the Netherlands, the national phone company is developing a smart way to stop kids texting while cycling -- a growing cause of teenage accidents.

A new app from phone company KPN will block internet and phone signals to a cyclist's smartphone while they are in the saddle.

"This system is part

of a broad campaign to highlight to children, the most vulnerable, the dangers of using their smartphone on their bikes. These are two things that really don't go together," said KPN spokeswoman Victorina de Boer.

The traffic body has joined forces with KPN to develop the special system which unlocks the bike and at the same time

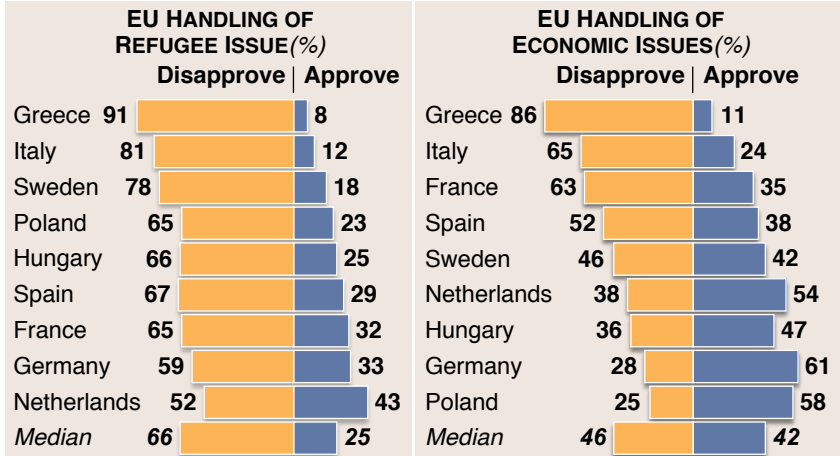
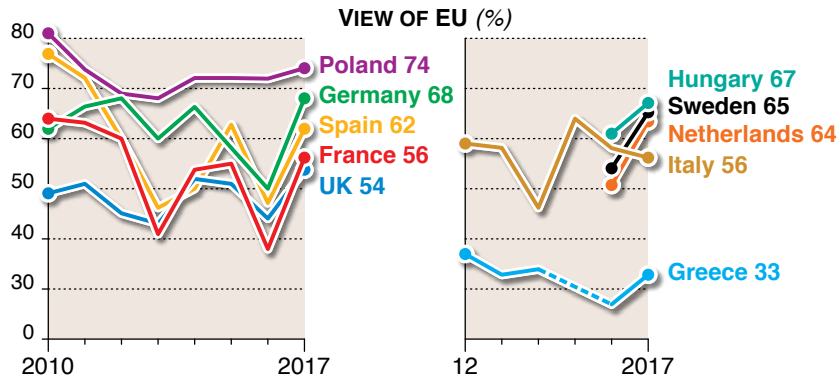
communicates with the cyclist's phone.

Instead of unlocking the bicycle with a key -- the usual method in The Netherlands in a bid to stop thefts -- the cyclist uses a mobile app which then sends a signal to KPN once the bike is unlocked.

Once in the saddle, internet and phone signal links are cut, except for the 112 emergency number.

Support for EU surges in wake of Brexit vote

Support for the European Union among its citizens has jumped sharply since the Brexit vote a year ago, even as Europeans express doubts about the EU's handling of migration, trade and the economy



Source: Pew Research Center survey of 9,935 respondents in 10 European countries between Mar 2 and Apr 17, 2017

© GRAPHIC NEWS

"Sega Forever" classic games collection

Sega is reissuing almost every video game from its back catalogue on iOS and Android, for free. The *Sega Forever* initiative will allow gamers to play titles with advertisements, or pay \$1.99 to have them removed



Sega: Japanese video game developer produced several home game consoles but became third-party game developer after failure of *Dreamcast*

FEATURES

- Save game progress to cloud storage
- Global high score leaderboards
- Compatible with Bluetooth controllers such as *Gamevice*
- Allow offline play

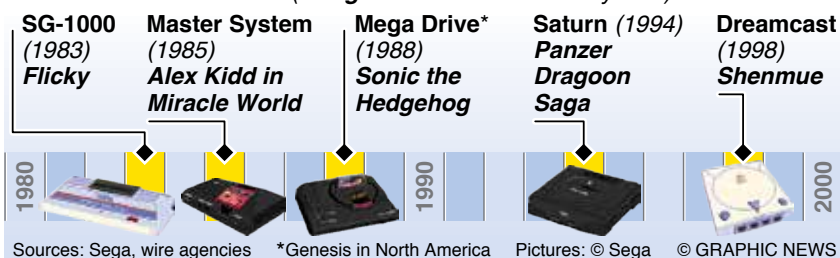


Around 88 million *Sonic the Hedgehog* games have been sold since 1991

INITIAL RELEASES (new titles added every two weeks)



SEGA CONSOLE HISTORY (and game of note for each system)



Sources: Sega, wire agencies *Genesis in North America Pictures: © Sega © GRAPHIC NEWS



US President Donald Trump

Trump's Mexico border

wall, a solar generator?

Washington

President Donald Trump's new proposal to make his signature border wall with Mexico a solar generator seems a bright idea for a leader who has focused on reviving coal, but it would face huge regulatory hurdles.

The wall was a central feature of Trump's campaign and he has continued to promote it in the early months of his presidency, though it has found little support in Congress, which has declined to provide funding.

And despite the US leader's repeated statements, Mexico has consistently derided the idea that it would pay for the wall's construction, valued at between \$8 and \$40 billion.

But Trump on Wednesday revived the plan, with a renewable energy twist.

"I will give you an idea that nobody has heard about yet," he said. "The southern border. Lots of sun, lots of heat. We are thinking about building a wall as a solar wall. So it creates energy. And pays for itself."

The Solar Energy Industries Association cautiously welcomed the announcement, at least for its nod to an industry Trump has shown little support for.

"We are glad to hear that the president appreciates the many benefits of solar energy," Dan Whitten, SEIA's vice president of communications, said in a statement.

"We agree this could be a cost-cutting, environmentally friendly approach, but we're going to wait to comment further until we see a more detailed plan."

But others are skeptical the plan could work in practice, although large solar arrays in Texas and California already

have proven economical, more so than natural gas or coal in some cases.

For solar to be economical, there needs to be a buyer in relatively close proximity, said Anya Schoolman, executive director of Community Power Network, a grassroots organization that promotes local and regional solar projects.

"These panels are out in the middle of nowhere, it's not clear who would buy the energy."

Schoolman added: "It is further complicated by the fact it crosses state boundaries."

Not only does each state have different regulations, so does each utility company and each regional transmission organization, which runs the power grid in each state or group of states.

"Just the regulatory barriers to doing it would probably make it prohibitive," Schoolman said.

Edward Alden of the Council of Foreign Relations said a solar array would be better than just a barricade, but "the long distances between the border and the places where the power is needed would likely make it uneconomical."

"And I don't believe that the administration has actually taken a serious look at this idea," he said.

Powering 220,000 homes

A wall covered with solar panels, if properly angled to get the most amount of the sun, would certainly generate a large amount of energy if the regulatory and technical barriers can be

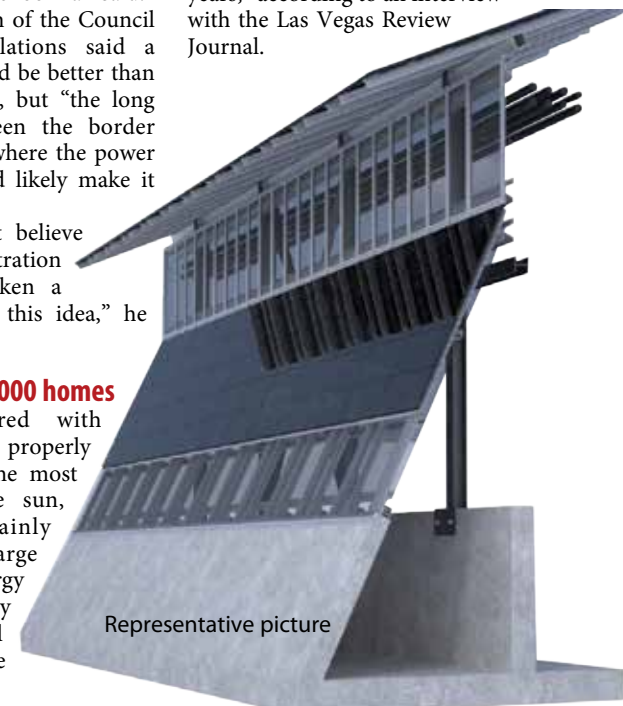
overcome.

Elemental Energy, an Oregon-based solar installation firm, estimated a wall with 10-foot-high (three-meter) solar panels would generate 7.28 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity each day, enough to power 220,000 average-size homes annually, according to Business Insider.

The cost of the solar installation would be between \$1.4 billion and \$4.2 billion, not including the cost of the wall, according to the report.

Hundreds of companies have put in bids to work on the border wall, should it ever be built, including one from Las Vegas businessman Tom Gleason that involved using solar panels.

He said his wall would cost around \$6 million per mile to build, would generate two megawatts of electricity per hour and "will pay for itself in 20 years," according to an interview with the Las Vegas Review Journal.



Representative picture



Minister of Interior Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received US Ambassador William Roebuck on Thursday. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest. Separately, the Minister also received Italian Ambassador Domenico Bellato and discussed issues of common interest



Bahrain's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa visited the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre (Al Manar) in North Kensington, London, to offer condolences over the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire



The New Indian School, Bahrain marked the 3rd International Yoga Day at an event held at the school auditorium on Wednesday. The school organised yoga demonstration for the students and lectures on the significance of yoga on human mind and body. Director and Principal, Dr. V. Gopalan shared his views on yoga and emphasized that its practice should be incorporated into our daily routine





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Personal Representative HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa arrived in Belgrade to represent HM the King at the inauguration ceremony of Aleksandar Vucic as Serbia's new head of state. Shaikh Abdullah was welcomed in the Serbian capital by Deputy Prime Minister Rasim Ljajic and senior officials



Minister of Interior Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa attended the ministry's celebrations to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Governors and senior government officials were present. The Minister appreciated the National Anti-drug Committee's efforts and praised its achievement of the five-year strategic goals, mainly the reduction in the supply and demand of narcotics



Minister of Education Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi met some of the high school students who are engaged in community services during the summer vacation as part of the requirements for the academic year 2016-2017. The Minister said that up to 4,373 students are engaged in providing their services in 136 institutions, including health centres, care centres for the elderly, centres for people with special needs and libraries



Under the patronage of the Minister of Health Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh, the United Nations Information Center for the Gulf Countries (UNIC Manama) in collaboration with a group of volunteers and several centers and associations specialized in charity, health and social work celebrated the International Yoga Day at the Saar Mall on Wednesday. More than 300 people participated in the celebration which was organised with a remarkable contribution from Bahraini Yoga Therapy Specialist Prof. Fatima Al Mansoori involved the largest gathering of community groups/civil societies in Bahrain



TASCA Toastmasters Gavel club installation ceremony held in Hotel Ramee Rose. New Ex-Com Members were (Standing) Jothi Basu, Kannan Mahadevan and Deveraj. (Sitting) Vijay Chandran, Suresh Moorthy, Sivaraj, Pon Sankara Pandian and Kannan Kathiresan



Under the patronage of Assistant Chief of Public Security for Operations and Training, the final game of the 7th Al Farooq Ramadan Competition was organised recently, in which the mounted police team won the title after defeating the Customs Affairs teams

CELEBS

Kim Kardashian West @KimKardashian
It's been 3 years since the launch of the #KimKardashianGame! I've had so much fun sharing it with you guys



Nicole Kidman wanted to quit Hollywood

Los Angeles

She is currently enjoying a career comeback, starring in the hit TV drama "Big Little Lies". But Oscar winning actress Nicole Kidman says she wanted to quit Hollywood nearly a decade ago.

The 50-year-old actress made the revelation in an interview with *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

Speaking of the period around 2008, she said: "I think I was pregnant with (daughter) Sunday, and I was like, I'm going to give up acting, I'm done. It's too much."

However, the star was persuaded to stay in the profession by her mother Janelle.

"She said, 'Keep your toe in the water,' because, she said, 'You're going to want that as you get older.'" (IANS)

Gilbert to lead Hamburg's ambitious orchestra

New York

The New York Philharmonic's outgoing music director Alan Gilbert was named yesterday to lead the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra in Hamburg, whose ambitions are rising with a landmark new building.

Gilbert, whose eight-year tenure at the pre-eminent US orchestra has been marked by explorations of new work and growing global outreach, will become chief conductor of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra later this year, it said. (AFP)



Now & Then



Gal Gadot

Gal Gadot is an Israeli actress and model. Gadot is primarily known for her role as Wonder Woman in the DC Extended Universe, starting with *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, continuing as the lead in *Wonder Woman*. She previously appeared as Gisele Yashar in the *The Fast and the Furious* franchise. Gadot was born and raised in Israel. At age 18 she was crowned Miss Israel 2004. She then served two years as a soldier in the Israel Defence Forces where she was a combat trainer.

Ron Howard to take over 'Star Wars' Han Solo spin-off

Los Angeles

Oscar-winning filmmaker Ron Howard has been brought in to complete the hotly-anticipated "Star Wars" Han Solo spinoff after directing duo Phil Lord and Chris Miller were sacked, Lucasfilm said Thursday.

Lord and Miller, the pair behind the acclaimed "The LEGO Movie" and "21 Jump Street," were dropped after clashing with the studio's chief Kathleen Kennedy and writer Lawrence Kasdan, according to reports in the Hollywood trade press.

"At Lucasfilm, we believe the highest goal of each film is to delight, carrying forward the spirit of the saga that George Lucas began 40 years ago," Kennedy said in a statement. (AFP)



Harrelson to star in a superhero film

Los Angeles

Hollywood actor Woody Harrelson has had offers to appear in a superhero film and he is interested in joining that genre. The 55-year-old has joined two big movie franchises after being cast as Colonel in the soon-to-be-released "War of the Planet of the Apes" and he will also play a 'mentor' character to Han Solo in the "Star Wars Anthology" movie.

Although Harrelson is yet to join the Marvel Cinematic Universe or the DC Extended Universe, he is intrigued by those types of blockbusters, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

"We did talk about it actually. We had that talk but it didn't come to fruition. It wasn't the right time. I guess I am open to it. But generally I do love little movies. These little indie movies. There's something I kind of like about them. But this is great. I love this," Harrelson told *Comicbook* website. (IANS)





STARRY
Birthday
Solange
Knowles

June 24, 1986

Singer, model and younger sister of Beyoncé. Her 2016 album *A Seat At The Table* became her first #1 album in the United States.

MIDDLE EAST MOVIE BUZZ

The Little Drummer Girl

Movie makers refuse to learn that big, intricately plotted suspense novels, stuffed with characters, incidents, exotic locations and twists of plot, don't always adapt to the screen with ease. A perfect case in point is "The Little Drummer Girl," the film adaptation of John le Carre's best-selling novel, adapted by Loring Mandel, directed by George Roy Hill, and starring Diane Keaton.

The movie is more breathless than breathtaking, a kind of overdetailed resume of the convoluted le Carre story about an actress recruited by a crack Israeli intelligence team to help catch a particular Palestinian terrorist, a fellow who is supposed to represent the lunatic fringe of the Palestinian liberation movement.

Mr. le Carre's novel, which represents this kind of fiction at its classiest, takes its time and more than 500 pages to introduce its characters and to lay out its complex narrative. The movie takes a little more than two hours, but still seems too long, yet not long enough for either the story or the characters to become involving, believable or even coherent.

"The Little Drummer Girl" looks to have been a production manager's dream film. Yet it spends so much time moving around - from Munich to London to Munich to Mykonos to Athens to Turkey to Munich to Beirut and back to Munich - that watching it can induce physical exhaustion. It's a sightseeing bus that you want to get off.

Like the novel, the screenplay attempts to dramatize - impartially - the positions of the Israeli and Palestinian "moderates," as opposed to the extremist positions on each side. However, whether an assassination is committed by moderates or by extremists, the victim is still dead. *(nytimes)*



Washington's legal drama gets a new title

Sony's upcoming legal drama starring Denzel Washington and Colin Farrell has a new title now. According to the sources, the movie, written and directed by Dan Gilroy, previously known for 2014 'Nightcrawler,' is now titled 'Roman Israel, Esq'.

The project was earlier titled 'Inner City'.

There is no official release date for the film as yet. But, the principal photography has already been completed and the studio is eyeing a fourth-quarter release, which will setup Washington's performance for awards consideration.

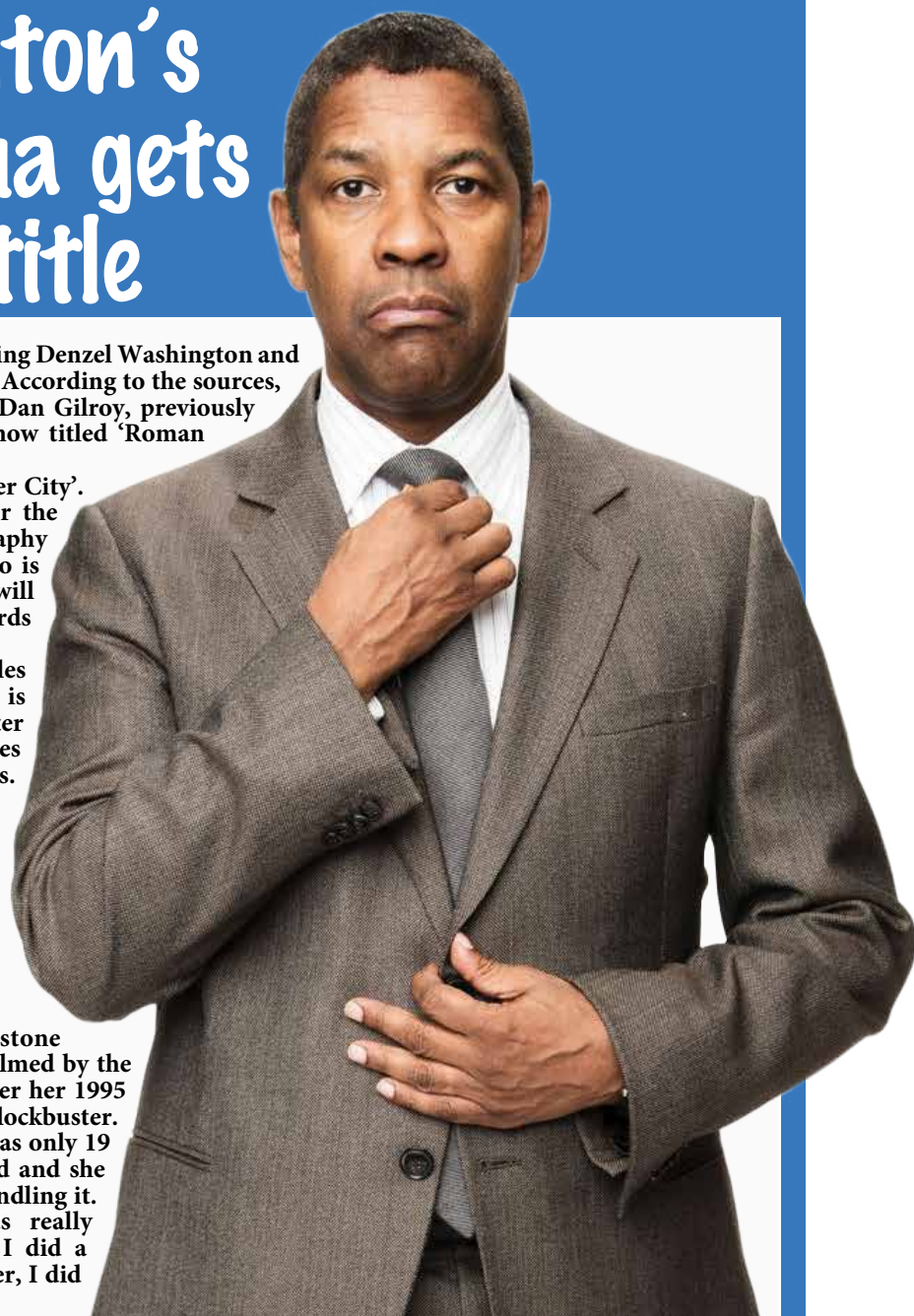
The film tells the story of Los Angeles attorney, played by Washington, who is offered a job at a prestigious law firm after the death of his longtime partner. He takes on a case that has life-altering repercussions. *(TOI)*

Stardom was overwhelming after 'Clueless'



Actress Alicia Silverstone said she was overwhelmed by the stardom she achieved after her 1995 film 'Clueless' became a blockbuster. The 40-year-old actress was only 19 when the film was released and she said she had a tough time handling it.

"I was young and I thought it was really overwhelming and it was really intense. I did a bunch of movies, and then nine movies later, I did 'Clueless,'" Silverstone said. *(TOI)*



Recording artists Snoop Dogg (L) and Wiz Khalifa perform onstage at night one of the 2017 BET Experience STAPLES Centre Concert, sponsored by Hulu, at Staples Centre yesterday in Los Angeles, California *(AFP)*

OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO REACH US

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

MARK YOUR Calendar

IFTAR & GHABGA

Date: During Ramadan
Venue: AL QASR TENT

Al Areen Palace & Spa will create a memorable event during the Holy Month of Ramadan this year, with a 1001 Arabian Nights theme at Al Qasr tent. The festivities will have an Arabic atrium setting, offering a medley of spaces for families, friends, corporate guests and VIPs. Discover our exquisite Iftar and Ghabga buffet of Arabic and International cuisine with live cooking stations for everyone's delight as you gather around for this joyous celebration. It will also include various live counters and BBQ stations.

Iftar Buffet:

Weekdays BD 15++
Weekends BD 17++ (Thursday and Friday)

Daily - from Sundown to 9:00PM

Ghabga Buffet:

Weekdays BD 13.5++
Weekends BD 15++ (Thursday and Friday)

Daily - from 9:30PM to 2:00AM

Price per person inclusive of lavish buffet, Arabic sweets and Ramadan juices.
Live entertainment.

Eid Al Fitr Brunch:

BD 15++
Enjoy a family-friendly Eid Brunch including Arabic and International dishes plus live cooking stations at Al Qasr Tent in Al Areen Palace & Spa from 12.30PM - 4.00PM. There will be live entertainment from our band, face painting, henna, mascot, kids' corner, and many more. Diners will have access to the swimming pool during the period of brunch and a ticket to The Lost Paradise of Dilmun Water Park. You can also stand a chance to win from our Grand Raffle Draw. Served on the second day of Eid.

Price per person inclusive of lavish buffet, Arabic sweets and Ramadan juices.
Live entertainment.

IFTAR AND GABGAH AT THE KAIMAT AL KHALEEJ TENT



Date: Till June 24

Venue: The Gulf Hotel Bahrain

Iftar BD 19++ per person
Gabhga BD 17++ per person
Weekends: BD 19++ per person
Takht Jamsheed Persian Restaurant Iftar BD 19++ per person.
Outlets Schedule during Ramadan

La Pergola Italian Restaurant:

Breakfast buffet from 6:00 am to 10:30 am BD 10++ per person
Lunch from 12 pm till 3pm, serving Salad and Soup Buffet, Main Course will be at Al Waha Restaurant a la carte menu. BD13++ per person.
Dinner: from Iftar Time till 11:00pm
Serving regular La Pergola a la carte menu.

Sato Japanese Restaurant:

Open Daily for Lunch: 12pm - 3pm
Dinner from Iftar time - 11pm
Serving regular Sato a la carte menu.

Takht Jamsheed Persian Restaurant.

Open daily from Iftar till 9:00pm.
Iftar Buffet BD 19++ per person.

Café Delice

Open Daily form 7:00 AM till 7:00PM
Andalus Lounge:
Open Daily from Iftar time till 11:00pm
Waterside Café
Open daily from 10am till 8pm

EID AL FITR CELEBRATION



Date: During Eid Al Fitr
Venue: The Gulf Hotel

Zahle Restaurant: Our Lebanese restaurant Zahle will launch its new exclusive entertainment program in EID. Famous belly dancer - "The Flaming Duo" with accompanied celebrated Arabic singers for daily live-entertainment. An exclusive dinner set menu will be offered to the guests for dinner during this 3 days celebration. Price: BD 26++

Al Waha Restaurant: Special EID buffets will be served for 3 days in Al Waha for both lunch and dinner with live entertainment by the new in house band - "QBA Inside". Price: BD 19++

Takht Jamsheed Restaurant : Talented all Iranian team will set the stage for a perfect Eid lunch buffet for 3 days, taking inspiration from Persia's Royal place, Takht Jamsheed. Price: BD 19++

Rasoi by Vineet : Celebrate EID this year at Bahrainis Award winning restaurant with an exclusively designed set menu by Michelin Starred Chef Vineet Bhatia. Price: BD 22.000++

ROYAL THAI: THAI FRIDAY NIGHTS



Thai culinary Nights with live cooking counters serving, papaya salad, satays, carvings and selection of main courses with an all you can eat menu.

-Price @ BD15 NET per person inclusive of 2 selected beverages
The Art of Cooking Classes.

The famous art of cooking class will begin on 8th of July every Saturday onwards The Art of Cooking Classes begins with China Garden's Chef Ding, featuring exotic Chinese delicacies.

About the Art of Cooking Classes at The Gulf Hotel Bahrain: The Art of Cooking Class is design for home cooks with busy lifestyles who have a passion for food, we offer intimate hands-on and demonstration classes, from the building blocks of cooking to delicious and exclusive mouthwatering menus, led by our professional chef instructors.

There will be an exclusive Cooking Class on the 29th featuring an exclusive opportunity for Parents with their child to learn together with our Pastry Chef Daniel!

FOUR SEASONS RAMADAN TENT

Main venue: Al Bahrain Ballroom includes the main dining area and shisha lounge overlooking the Arabian Gulf, all dressed up in a modern Arabesque theme.

The buffet: Features a wide selection of traditional Bahraini fare as well as Lebanese, Moroccan, Indian, Turkish and global cuisine with a number of live cooking stations.

For Ghabga:

We will offer an array of Arabic and internationally inspired dishes and desserts.

Pricing:

Iftar = BD 26++ (including beverages: still or sparkling water, soft drinks, chilled juice, Arabic coffee pass around)
Ghabga = BD 28++ (including beverages available at the buffet only)
Shisha = BD 8++

Kids below 5 years = Free

Kids between 6 years and 12 years = BD 12.5++ From 13 years and above = Full price

For groups: (minimum 30 pax)

Iftar = BD 23++ (including beverages)
Ghabga = BD 25++ (excluding beverages)

Timing:

Iftar: Sunset till 8 pm Ghabga from 9 pm till 2 am

During the holy month, a professional live band will be playing mellow traditional tunes (Oud) in the Ramadan tent.

A Ramadan tent will add to the holy celebrations.

Reservations:
17115500

Kids For All Seasons Ramadan Tent

Complimentary access for Iftar and Ghabga guests. A large tent connected to the ballroom will feature the kids club with great number of fun activities. Gergaoun Celebration: on June 10th the Kids for All Seasons Club has arranged many fun activities such as spreading candies, singing traditional songs and storytelling.

Reservations:
973017115500

Bay View Lounge

Bay View Lounge is open nightly after sunset during the month of Ramadan. Guests can replenish and reenergise by enjoying their first cup of freshly brewed coffee or linger over a fragrant cup of aromatic tea.

Re/ Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck

re/Asian Cuisine is presenting an a la carte menu for breakfast as well as a special dim sum style cuisine for lunch and dinner during the holy month of Ramadan.

Breakfast: 7:00am - 11:00am
Lunch: 12:30pm - 3:30pm Dinner:
Weekdays: sunset - 11:00pm
Weekends: sunset - 11:30pm

Restaurant will be closed on Mondays.
Reservations:
17115046

Eid AlFitr

Eid Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen Festivities will commence in Bahrain Bay Kitchen with 3 days brunch buffet, live cooking stations and a vibrant family atmosphere.

Pricing:
BD 27++ (including soft beverages) BD 37++ (including beverages)
Reservations:
17115500

Spa: Ramadan Specials

This Ramadan, dip into a sanctuary of calm and rejuvenate your mind and body with one of our special offers. Book any of the following 30-minute spa tapas of your choice for BD 40.

Back Tension Reliever Express Facial
Detoxifying Body Scrub Shoulder and Neck Massage Foot Massage

CELEBRATE EID AL FITR WITH AL AREEN PALACE & SPA

Date: Second And Third Eid
Venue: Al Areen Palace and Spa

Al Areen Palace and Spa cordially invites guests to a royal brunch at the Al Qasr tent on the second and third days of the blessed Eid Al Fitr.

In Ramadan, Al Areen transformed their Wadi Tent to a One thousand And One Arabian Night themed extravaganza called Al Qasr (The Palace). Now, the fully-fledged Ramadan experience Al Qasr naturally evolves to an aristocratic host to the Eid Al Fitr celebrations.

The brunch will feature national and international cuisines, live cooking stations, from 12:30-4:00 PM. Children will be treated to a plethora of activities including face painting, interacting with mascots, a kid's corner, and a magic show. Mothers will be able to join their daughters at the henna station.

Prices are BD15++ per person, inclusive of a three course all-you-can-eat buffet and the live musical entertainment of DJ Mysterioo Aref.

Guests will also have access to the swimming pool, as well as the Lost Paradise of Dilmun Water Park, inclusive of entry into a raffle contest with prizes including an open Gulf Air ticket and a stay at one of Al Areen's exotic villas.

When asked about his outlook on the event, CEO of Al Areen Investment Company Dr. Essa Faqeeh said "We would be honored to welcome the people of Bahrain, the GCC, and our international guests to join us at Al Qasr during this special time of the year. We are committed to provide our guests with the highest standards in hospitality, complemented by luxurious accommodation and facilities for the entire family. Al Areen Palace & Spa is proud to be a destination for families this Eid."

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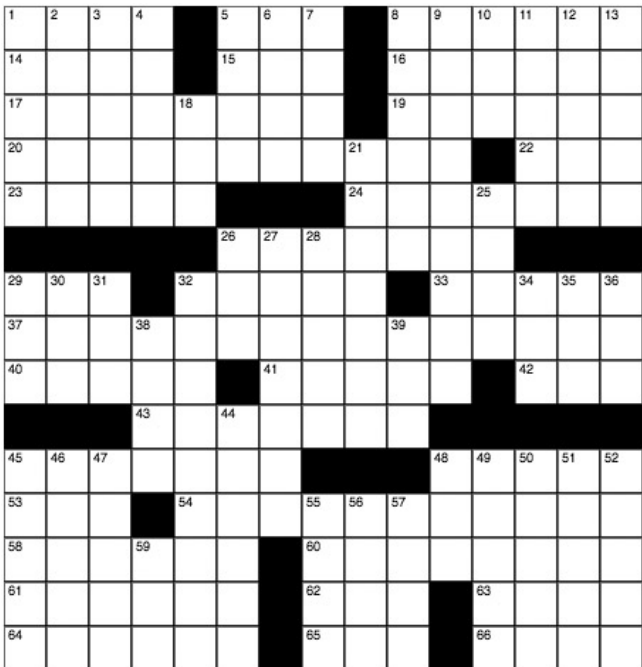
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Across

1- German Helmet;; 5- TNT part;; 8- Goes with the flow;; 14- Ripe for drafting;; 15- Chow down;; 16- "The Raven" maiden;; 17- Air craft;; 19- Timmy's dog;; 20- Supple arms and legs;; 22- Sun. delivery;; 23- Aconcagua's range;; 24- Eternal;; 26- Chisholm Trail terminus;; 29- French pronoun;; 32- Persona non ___;; 33- Early Peruvians;; 37- In spite of;; 40- Purchaser;; 41- In the midst of;; 42- Morse "E";; 43- Clothing;; 45- Roof item;; 48- Actor Lorenzo;; 53- ___ Rosenkavalier;; 54- Make unstable;; 58- Moon of Mars;; 60- Frankincense;; 61- Standards of perfection;; 62- Parking place;; 63- Amos or Spelling;; 64- Yes __, Bob!;; 65- ___ Moines, Iowa;; 66- " ___ Tu" ('70s hit);;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



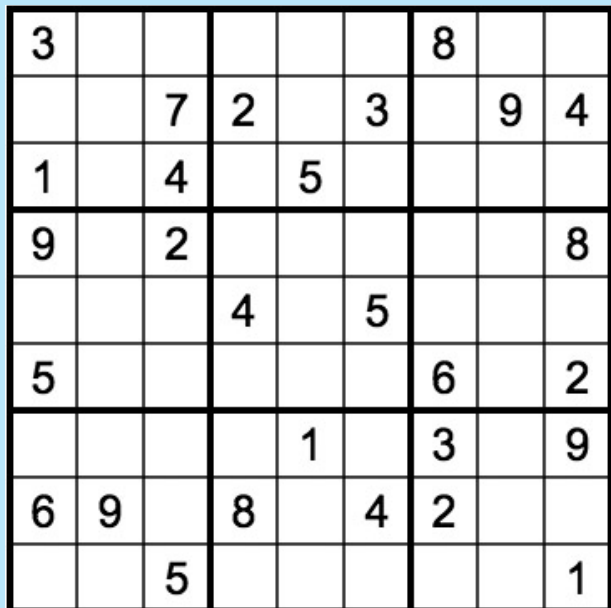
Down

1- Australian marsupial;; 2- Pungent bulb;; 3- Judean king;; 4- Pass into disuse;; 5- Blue hue;; 6- Rajah's wife;; 7- Bit of gossip;; 8- Claim;; 9- Soundproofing;; 10- Ques. response;; 11- Deputised group;; 12- Attempts;; 13- Crystal ball users;; 18- ___ Misérables;; 21- Lake in W Hungary;; 25- Grant temporary use of;; 26- Gallery display;; 27- West Atlantic islands;; 28- "Who's there?" reply;; 29- Bach's "Mass ___ Minor";; 30- Bud's bud;; 31- Pigpen;; 32- Rotating firework;; 34- El ___;; 35- Year abroad;; 36- Cpl.'s superior;; 38- Used to be;; 39- Tiny toiler;; 44- Actually existing;; 45- ___ Ababa;; 46- ___ say more?;; 47- Judge or juror;; 48- Women's ___;; 49- Having wings;; 50- Lesser;; 51- Sky blue;; 52- Big rigs;; 55- Tattled;; 56- Moisturizer ingredient;; 57- Fragments;; 59- Blemish;;

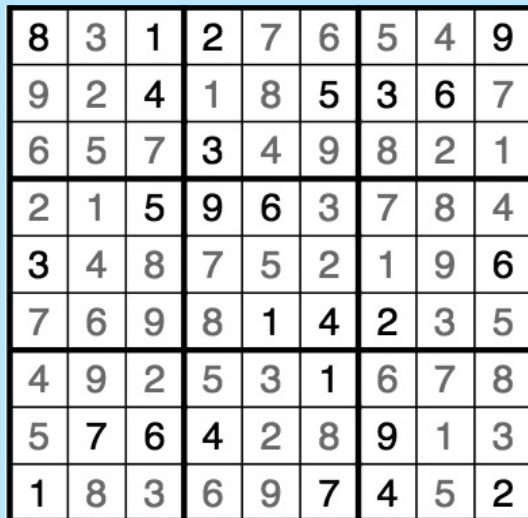
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SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Lay low today. Don't try to force any answers from people. Eat a healthy breakfast and stay away from caffeine. Relate to people on an intellectual or philosophical level and discuss the meaning of life. If you're looking for sympathy, you may need to wait a couple days. People aren't in the mood.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Inspire others to come out of their shells today. Have them join you on the sunny side of the street. Share your cheer with other people and lead them into boisterous discussions about the world. You will be on cloud nine, with a great deal of strength behind your happy-go-lucky emotions. Keep things light and don't worry about tomorrow until it comes.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Keep your cool if something goes wrong today. Don't be so impatient about fixing a problem that you end up doing something rash. You may do more damage than you would if you just let things sit for a couple days. Mull over the situation, talk it out with others, and approach the issue at another time with a different frame of mind.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Play the lottery today. The concept for you is profit with no effort. The windfall will come when you least expect it. The less you try to shape things, the more they will generally flow in your favour. Enjoy the day and don't sweat the details. Things will work themselves out. People may be quite emotionally charged, but don't let their behaviour throw you off balance.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



If you meet someone new today, break him or her in gradually. Don't spill all the beans at once. Let the person warm up to your intense emotional nature before you unleash it full force. People are going to need their space, so make sure you allow enough room for emotional and physical freedom. Think about taking a long trip or short vacation of some sort.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Spare no emotional or monetary expense today. Whatever you put into this day will come back to you tenfold. Feel free to indulge and delight in your fun-loving nature. This day speaks of freedom from restraint of all kinds. Break the chains and explore new worlds in your mind and your physical surroundings.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Today isn't a day to stay inside and sulk. Put the past behind you and move on. Grab opportunities with both hands and rev your engine into high gear. Stop looking at what lies behind and focus on the wide-open horizon in front of you. This is an excellent day to turn up the heat and start brewing some new adventures.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Get your favourite music out of the closet today. Have a dance party in your living room and liven things up with some freshly cut flowers on your table. This is a great day to direct your energies outward into the world. Go on a radical adventure that you didn't think was possible. Plough headfirst into new projects and let your good luck carry you through. Don't worry about the details.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



It may be extremely hard for you to make decisions about anything today. Don't stress about work or the things you need to get done. With today's aspects, it's a day that shouldn't be filled with sour energy from the past. You experience a rebirth every time you wake up in the morning. Venture forth into new adventures!

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today should run quite smoothly for you. You will find that there's a great deal of power fuelling your emotions and that you're able to take that power to the extreme. Use your strong, dynamic nature to win the hearts of others. Lead the charge toward good-natured fun. You will be laid-back, easygoing, and adventurous. Take a long-distance trip in your mind.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Don't get upset if people don't take you quite as seriously as you'd like today. It's in the nature of the day to keep things light and uplifting. Come out of the intensity of the last couple days and laugh out loud. Don't stress over things you don't understand. Go with the flow and keep smiling. You can't go wrong as long as you join in the good cheer.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



You might find that something or someone is purposefully trying to make things difficult for you today. It might seem like you're trying to get a handle on the issues, but somehow things are slipping through your fingers. Don't make any major decisions, and certainly don't try to herd people into corners. Let others have their freedom and consider simply riding out the storm.

Egypt tycoon jailed for diva murder freed



Suzanne Tamim, Hisham Talaat Moustafa (Courtesy of Berlingske)

Cairo
An Egyptian real estate tycoon jailed for the murder of a Lebanese pop diva was freed yesterday as part of a presidential pardon for hundreds of detainees, security officials said.

State television said President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi pardoned a total of 502 prisoners to mark Eid al-Fitr holiday at the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Hisham Talaat Moustafa, who was sentenced to 15 years in jail in 2010 for the murder of Suzanne Tamim, was among those pardoned on health grounds, an interior

ministry official said. Moustafa was released from prison on Friday, he said. A police official at the Torah jail south of Cairo confirmed the tycoon had been freed.

Tamim, Moustafa's lover, was murdered in July 2008 at her Dubai apartment by former policeman Mohsen al-Sukkari.

The court which sentenced Moustafa to jail accused him of having paid Sukkari \$2 million to cut Tamim's throat. Sukkari was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Tamim's killing sparked an outcry in the region, particularly in Egypt where Moustafa was a respected

figure and a businessman associate of ousted president Hosni Mubarak's son and heir apparent Gamal.

Moustafa was also a member of Mubarak's now-dissolved National Democratic Party.

In May 2009, Moustafa was sentenced to jail but a year later an appeals court overturned the verdict on procedural grounds and ordered a retrial. In 2010 he was handed a 15-year prison sentence.

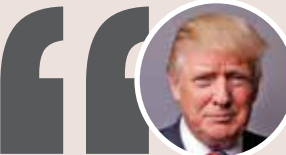
State television said those pardoned by Sisi included people jailed in connection with "demonstrations". It did not elaborate. (AFP)

#PollToday



UAE has issued stern warnings to Qatar to accept demands placed by its Gulf neighbours. Do you think Qatar will change its attitude?

Yes No Cant Say



I mean we're going to have to see in terms -- look, there has been no obstruction. There has been no collusion. There has been leaking by Comey,"

Donald Trump,
US President
on Russia probe chief

Rest in sight

Assange lawyer says UK breaking intl law



Julian Assange's lawyer accused Britain on Thursday of breaking international law by denying the WikiLeaks founder safe passage out of the country if he leaves Ecuador's embassy in London.

'It's a girl!': Tokyo zoo announces panda's sex

A baby panda recently born in Japan is a girl, a Tokyo zoo said yesterday, adding that the little cub appeared to be in good health.

Yellowstone grizzly bear removed from endangered list

Grizzly bears native to Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding area are being removed from the endangered species list, the US government said.

California man visits Disneyland 2,000 days

Disney is used to adoring fans but one man has topped them all, visiting its California theme park 2,000 days in a row.

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Tourist bus hits Paris bridge, four injured

Paris

A double-decker tourist bus became stuck under a central Paris bridge on Friday, injuring at least four passengers, firefighters said.

The bus crashed into the Alexandre III bridge, a tourist magnet due to its ornate structure and views over the Eiffel Tower and River Seine. The Paris fire service said one of the

injured was seriously hurt. The crash came during a large-scale event on the Seine to promote the French capital's bid for the 2024 Olympics, with a floating running track installed across the river just next to the bridge.

A police source said the bus was not travelling along its usual route, having been diverted because of the Olympic event.

Man arrested for selling lizard parts as rare root



Picture shows dried monitor lizard parts allegedly being sold online while being claimed to be rare plant roots

New Delhi

An Indian man has been arrested for selling dried monitor lizard genitals online as a rare root plant believed to bring good luck, Indian forest department officials said yesterday.

The news comes days after Indian and British investigators said they had uncovered a scam in which Indian internet retailers were passing off the lizard parts as the plant, known as Hatha Jodi. The monitor lizard is protected under the Indian Wildlife Act.

Officials believe the

arrested man, Kalki Krishnan, was sourcing the parts from central India's Madhya Pradesh state.

"We have made seizures (of the monitor lizard genitals) and sent them to the lab for tests. We will also ask the court for the arrested man's custody to further our investigations," a divisional forest officer, H.V Girish, said.

Other banned wildlife items were also seized from Krishnan, an official at the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau told the Hindustan Times.

Einstein's marriage formula

London

Albert Einstein may have been a genius when it came to the world of physics -- but the magic formula for marriage eluded him, according to letters up for auction at Christie's.

The man behind the theory of relativity was on less solid ground when it came to relationships, according to a series of letters to his lifelong friend and collaborator Michele Besso.

"What I admired most in him as a man was the manner in which he managed to live for so long peacefully but also durably with a spouse -- an enterprise in which I piteously failed twice," Einstein wrote to Besso's family on March 21, 1955, just after his friend's death, which preceded his own only by weeks.

In an emotional final paragraph, Einstein wrote



Albert Einstein found his marriage to first wife, Mileva Maric

of Besso: "Now he has again preceded me a little in parting from this strange world.

"This has no importance. For people like us who believe in physics, the separation between past, present and future has only the importance of an

admittedly tenacious illusion."

Besso provided moral support to his close friend since their student days in Zurich in the 1890s as Einstein endured marital difficulties with first wife Mileva, from whom he separated in 1914.

Police mull manslaughter charges over London blaze

London

Manslaughter charges could be filed over London's deadly tower blaze, police said yesterday after finding that exterior cladding on the building had failed safety tests and that the fire started with a faulty fridge.

The government ordered immediate checks on the Hotpoint FF175BP fridge freezer model blamed for the June 14 blaze in west London, which left 79 people presumed dead.

Hotpoint-branded fridge freezers were manufactured by Indesit between 2006 and 2009, before Indesit was bought by current owner

Whirlpool.

"We are addressing this as a matter of utmost urgency and assisting the authorities in any way we can," US-based Whirlpool said in a statement.

It also urged owners of Hotpoint fridge freezer models FF175BP or FF175BG to contact them "so that we can register their details and contact them with further information".

In an update on the investigation, Fiona McCormack from London's Metropolitan Police said: "We are looking at every criminal offence from manslaughter onwards."

Inside Senegal's Premier League incubator

French coach Olivier Perrin speaks to players during a training session at the Generation Foot Academie

Dèni Biram Ndaw, Senegal

Long before Sadio Mane and Diafra Sakho battled for Premier League supremacy, the two footballers made their mark at a Senegalese club increasingly recognised as a west African pipeline to the top of the game.

Generation Foot began life as an academy in 2000 and the side became national champions for the first time on June 11, seeing off every adult club in Senegal after being promoted to the elite national league this year.

Its players are all 18 or under, and all obsessed with following their heroes to Europe to play among the world's best. Thirty so far have made it as professionals.

Ibrahima Niane, 18, is just about to leave for Europe after a stunning season at home, scoring 15 goals in his last 15 matches, the best score of any player in the championship.

Bidding goodbye to his mates, he will swap Senegal's blistering summer heat for eastern France and French Ligue 1 side FC Metz, which has a relationship with Generation Foot going back to 2003.

"My objectives are to play over there at the top level and to help my family as well," he said on the gleaming pitch at Generation Foot's combined school and training ground in Deni Biram Ndaw, a village around an hour's drive from the capital.

Gambian forward Ablie Jallow, also 18, will join Niane at Metz, where they could soon be training alongside another former Generation Foot player, midfielder Ismaila Sarr.

Sarr has made a huge splash since arriving at the French side

in July 2016, and could even be snapped up by one of several English, French and German clubs who have shown an interest in his footwork before his compatriots arrive.

Academic backup

Generation Foot's manager Olivier Perrin, who arrived in Senegal in 2013, explained that two players on average were sent to FC Metz each year, leaving the vast majority behind.

"We aren't going to make 110 professionals out of 110 kids, but we also have a social role to play in Senegal, to improve their conditions," Perrin conceded.

"Everything is 100 percent covered, they don't spend a penny and they receive a free education," he emphasised, in a country where around a third of children are able to complete secondary school, often due to family financial pressures.

"There are no transfer fees and in return FC Metz pays for the monthly costs of the academy," Perrin added.

Although Generation Foot has not disclosed the particulars of the FC Metz deal, it has allowed the academy to move into facilities that are luxurious by Senegalese standards, with well-kept pitches and boarding houses for the boys.

"We want Generation Foot players to be ready for anything, as sportsmen and as people," said Perrin.

Lessons of footballers past

Founder Mady Toure, who played in France in the 1990s until a career-ending knee injury struck, had the idea for

Generation Foot after counselling African footballers struggling to get by once he quit the game.

A chance meeting with former FC Metz coach Joel Muller established the partnership that still exists today, which has also proved lucrative for the French side.

Sadio Mane, now the most expensive African player in history, was sold to Salzburg in 2012 in FC Metz's third-largest ever transfer deal.

The local community, said Toure's

communications manager Talla Fall,

has been involved in the Generation Foot from the beginning, and workers on the site are all drawn from the village.

The project also finances Deni Biram Ndaw's village school and clinic.

After such successes, other French clubs are becoming more interested and travelling to Senegal to scout out players.

Olympique de Marseille officials are expected to visit Diambars, an academy in the Senegalese beach town of Saly, next week.



Senegalese player Ibrahima Niane (L) attends a training session

Afghanistan ecstatic over Test status



Kabu
Cricket-mad Afghanistan was euphoric after being awarded Test match status, a rare glimmer of good news amid rising insecurity, though many lamented the lack of sports infrastructure in the conflict-torn country.

Both Ireland and Afghanistan became cricket's 11th and 12th Test nations on Thursday following a

unanimous vote by the International Cricket Council during its annual meeting in London.

"This achievement was a dream for Afghanistan and we have been yearning for this status," said Afghanistan Cricket Board chairman Atif Mashal, hailing it as a "historic achievement".

"We have been

granted the full membership and the Test status, and I congratulate this news to the cricket board, and to the entire Afghan nation."

Afghan cricket has made rapid strides since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001, with the country's premier leg-spinner Rashid Khan making waves in T20 leagues including Indian Premier League this year.

The successes have brought much-needed cheer in a country beset by a wrenching conflict that has resulted in a record number of civilian casualties.

"For a nation like Afghanistan it is a huge and remarkable achievement, the entire nation will be celebrating," said Afghanistan Cricket Board chief executive Shafiq Stanikzai.

"Afghanistan... dared to dream that this would happen and today it has become a reality."

But many fans rued the lack of infrastructure -- and security -- to host international matches.

"Afghanistan does not have many cricket grounds that meet international standards and most importantly security to host games," said

24-year-old Kabul resident Mohammad Daud.

"It's a shame that we have got Test status but don't have the infrastructure to match."

Last year, Afghanistan's national team shifted its base from Sharjah in United Arab Emirates to Noida, Delhi, while India's former batsman Lalchand Rajput replaced Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq as team coach. (AFP)

Contador, Degenkolb headline Trek team

Paris

Alberto Contador will have two powerful climbers alongside him as he targets a third Tour de France title ten years after his first, in an international Trek team unveiled on Friday.

In the mountains, the 34-year-old can count on Colombian Jarlinson Pantano, winner of a stage in last year's race, and Dutchman Bauke Mollema. The Trek team also features Germany's John Degenkolb, recruited in the close season and winner of the Milan-SanRemo and the Paris-Roubaix classics two years ago.

In an international lineup the US-registered team includes riders of seven different nations. Contador has five wins on major tours while 28-year-old Degenkolb has never won a stage on the Tour de France in his three times competing.

Trek team for the Tour de France: André Cardoso (POR), Alberto Contador (ESP), John Degenkolb (GER), Koen De Kort (NED), Fabio Felline (ITA), Michael Gogl (AUT), Markel Irizar (ESP), Bauke Mollema (NED), Jarlinson Pantano (COL)



Srikanth Kidambi of India celebrates

India's Srikanth into Aus Open semis

Sydney

India's Srikanth

overcame compatriot Sai Praneeth 25-23, 21-17 to reach the semi-finals of badminton's Australian Open in Sydney yesterday.

It will be Srikanth's

third straight Superseries semi-final, a turnaround from his modest form of last season.

"It's going great so far, I just want to play well," he said.

"I missed six-seven tournaments last year, I just want to play as many games as possible."

After a close first game, Praneeth faltered in not maintaining the pressure on Srikanth, who steadily grew in confidence and closed out the match and will face China's Shi Yuqi in Saturday's semi-finals.

Chinese fourth seed Shi progressed with a 21-17, 21-12 win over Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus.

South Korea's Lee Hyun-Il knocked out Chinese eighth seed Tian Houwei 17-21,

21-15, 21-18 and will next face China's sixth ranked Chen Long.

Chen won a 78-minute struggle over two-time Olympic and five-time world champion Lin Dan 21-16, 12-21, 23-21.

China's sixth seed Sun Yu won a re-match of last year's women's final when she knocked out India's defending champion Saina Nehwal 21-17, 10-21, 21-17.

Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, recovering from flu, dug deep to beat India's fourth-ranked Pusarla Sindhu, 10-21, 22-20, 21-16 and advance to the semi-finals of the women's event.

The top seed will face Japanese third seed Akane Yamaguchi, who powered past China's Chen Yufei, 21-15, 21-14.

Japan's Nozomi Okuhara also made it to the last four following a 21-12, 23-21 victory over compatriot Sayaka Takahashi.



Justin Gatlin

Gatlin dreaming of 'historic' Bolt duel

Sacramento

Justin Gatlin says the prospect of lining up for one final duel against Usain Bolt is driving his weary body as he attempts to book his place on the US team for August's World Championships.

The 35-year-old former Olympic and world champion said racing against Bolt in what will be the Jamaican superstar's farewell to track and field would be "special."

"It's a part of history," Gatlin told reporters at the US trials in Sacramento.

"For me, when I made my comeback into the sport, I said to myself, 'I just want to be shoulder to shoulder with him.'"

"Watching him run in the Olympics in 2008, when I was sitting at a restaurant, I said to myself, 'I want to run with that guy.'"

"There's no fear -- just a total respect for how fast he is, the competition he brings. So I want to make it to these last finals."

Gatlin's rivalry with Bolt has been one of sprinting's most compelling narratives since the

American returned to track and field in 2010 after a four-year doping ban, the second drug-related sanction of his career.

But with the exception of a lone Gatlin victory in a Rome Diamond League meeting in 2013, the rivalry has been one-sided. Bolt leads Gatlin 8-1 in head-to-head meetings, a record which includes two Olympic and world 100m finals.

This season, Gatlin's preparations have been plagued by a series of niggling injuries that have disrupted his training.

"It set me back a couple of weeks, about three weeks. So I've just been clawing to get back to where I needed to be," Gatlin said. In the circumstances, reaching London for one last showdown with Bolt would be especially satisfying, Gatlin said.

"It would be the toughest year for me. But it would be an honour to get through and show the fortitude that I have," he said.

Gatlin was a comfortable winner of his 100m first-round heat at Sacramento's Hornet Stadium on Thursday in a brisk

10.00 seconds.

Yet the dominant US sprinter of his generation acknowledges he is being nudged aside by a new crop of athletes, led by 21-year-old Christian Coleman, the fastest man in the world this season who clocked 9.82 earlier this month.

"It's a foreign experience. I'm usually the young guy," Gatlin joked. "To be able to run with these guys and hang with them, I'm enjoying it and having fun."

Vinales sets pace for Dutch MotoGP



Spanish MotoGP rider Maverick Vinales of the Movistar Yamaha

Assen
World championship
leader Maverick Vinales rebounded from his struggles in Barcelona with the fastest time across the first two practice sessions on Friday ahead of the Dutch MotoGP.

The Yamaha star finished a disappointing 10th at the Catalan GP a fortnight ago but comfortably outpaced German rookie Jonas Folger

and defending champion Marc Marquez at Assen on a day that featured heavy rain.

"I feel good, this is a track I like. The bike is working good and already from this morning we had a good set-up for this afternoon," said Vinales, who has won three of the seven races this season.

"We gained a lot of good information for qualifying. We are trying and discussing

the chassis, but as I always say: when we have grip, the bike is really nice to ride. Today it was easy to ride and control, and it was nice to feel good again."

The Spaniard posted a best lap of 1min 33.130sec, with Folger 0.367sec behind, as most of the leading names made the top 10 with the exception of Ducati's Jorge Lorenzo, 14th at 1.393sec.

The 22-year-old Vinales, twice a winner at Assen in the support classes, tops the standings with 111 points, but four riders are within striking distance of the leader.

Andrea Dovizioso, who has closed to within seven points of Vinales after back-to-back wins in Italy and Spain, was fourth quickest with veteran Italian Valentino Rossi sixth on the second

Yamaha. Nine-time world champion Rossi briefly led this year's championship after three successive podium finishes in Qatar, Argentina and the United States.

But the veteran Italian has slipped worryingly off the pace and is now fifth in the standings, 28 points behind Vinales.

Rossi has seven wins in MotoGP at the Assen track which has staged a world

championship round every year since 1949.

"This day was tough, as always in Assen, but in the end it was quite positive for me because I was in the top five this morning and in sixth position this afternoon," said Rossi.

"It was very important to stay in the top 10 for Q2 on Saturday because it looks like the weather will be worse then." (AFP)

South Africa beat England by three runs

Taunton
South Africa beat England by just three runs to win the second Twenty20 international at Taunton yesterday and level the three-match series at 1-1.

England, set a target of 175, were on course for a series-clinching win while Jason Roy (67) and Jonny Bairstow (47) shared a second-wicket stand of 110.

But when Roy was controversially given out obstructing the field -- the first time this had happened in a T20 international -- after being hit by a throw from the deep, having veered off his original course running between the wickets, the innings fell away.

England's cause was not helped by batting second under increasingly dark skies in a match that started at 1600 GMT despite a lack of floodlights on the ground, although home skipper Eoin Morgan did opt



South Africa's Andile Phehlukwayo (2nd L) celebrates with teammates

to field first after winning the toss.

A target of 12 off the last over became four off the last

ball after Liam Dawson hit Andile Phehlukwayo for a boundary.

But he could not repeat the

trick and South Africa had a narrow win.

The series concludes at Cardiff on Sunday.

Windies, India one-day opener abandoned

Port of Spain

Heavy rain forced the abandonment of the first one-day international between the West Indies and India at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Friday.

India had made 199 for three off 39.2 overs before the downpours prevented any further play.

The second match takes place at the same venue on Sunday.

ICC confirms plans for World XI

London

Plans for the full resumption of international cricket in Pakistan moved forward yesterday when the sport's global governing body said it wanted to send a World XI to the country later this year.

With the exception of Zimbabwe's tour two years ago, Pakistan have had to play all of their 'home' matches outside of the country since a 2009 terror attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore.

But Friday saw the International Cricket Council, following the

conclusion of its annual meeting in London, announce that plans for a World XI to play in Pakistan later this year were "continuing to be developed".

The ICC board said it had agreed to support a three-game Twenty20 series between Pakistan and a World XI in a bid to help revive international cricket in the country.

All the matches would take place in Lahore and be accorded full Twenty20 international status, the ICC said, adding "further details will be announced in due course."

Cilic, Muller, Dimitrov into Queen's semis



Luxembourg's Gilles Muller



Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov

London

Marin Cilic set up a semi-final clash with Gilles Muller at Queen's Club as the Croatian powered to a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Donald Young yesterday.

Having lifted the Queen's trophy in 2012, Cilic fancies his chances of adding a second title as the highest ranked player left in the draw following the shock exits of Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka and Milos Raonic.

The world number seven has yet to drop a set in three matches en route to his

fourth semi-final appearance at the Wimbledon warm-up event in west London.

Cilic, who also finished as Queen's runner-up in 2013, was pushed hard by Young, but the former US Open champion fired 11 aces to see off the American world number 55 in one hour and 26 minutes.

"I'm

playing really well this week. I'm feeling great on the court," said Cilic, who is chasing his second ATP title this year.

"It is another match without losing serve, so that's extremely pleasing."

Luxembourg's Muller is through to his first Queen's semi-final after defeating 2010 champion Sam Querrey 6-4, 7-6 (7/5).

Muller has won the first two ATP Tour titles of his career this year, helping him climb to a career-high ranking of 26, and he now has a seven-match winning streak on grass.

The 34-year-old's huge serve was on full display when he won the 's-Hertogenbosch title on grass last week and once again he used it to devastating effect against Querrey.

The 2010 Queen's champion, Querrey is no slouch on grass either, but Muller held his nerve in two tight sets.

"I was never top 30 before

in my life, and now this year for the first time I have a "2" in front of my ranking. That means a lot," he said.

"Those are things you dream of as a kid, so when it happens it feels good."

Grigor Dimitrov is another former Queen's champion hoping to get his hands on the silverware again and the Bulgarian moved into the last four with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win against Russia's Daniil Medvedev.

With Medvedev suffering a shoulder injury during the pre-match warm-up and needing lengthy treatment before he could start playing, it was no surprise Dimitrov won the first set after sprinting into a 5-0 lead.

Medvedev, ranked 60th, gamely levelled the match at one set all, but Dimitrov was too strong in the decider as the world number 11 booked a semi-final clash with Tomas Berdych or Feliciano Lopez.

Dimitrov, who won Queen's in 2014, will be looking to reach his third ATP Tour final in 2017. (AFP)



Croatia's Marin Cilic celebrates

Evans tested positive for cocaine

Britain's Dan Evans

London

British world number 50 Dan Evans has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for cocaine.

Evans, 27, provided a positive sample when he was tested during the Barcelona Open in April and the International Tennis Federation announced on Friday he will be banned with effect from June 26 "pending determination of the case".

"This is a very difficult day for me and I wanted to come here in person to tell you guys face to face," Evans said at a London Hotel on Friday where he took no questions but made a statement.

"I was notified a few days ago that I failed a drugs test in April where I tested positive for cocaine.

"It's really important you know this was taken out of competition and the context was completely unrelated to tennis.

"I made a mistake and I must face up to it. I do not condone for one second to anyone that this was acceptable behaviour.

"I've let a lot of people down - my family, my coach, my team, sponsors, British tennis and my fans.

"I can only deeply apologise from the bottom of my heart. This has been an extremely sad and humbling experience."

Martina Hingis tested positive for cocaine at Wimbledon in 2007 and was subsequently suspended for two years.

Richard Gasquet had been issued with the same suspension in 2009, but it was reduced to a little more than two months when the ITF's tribunal panel ruled he had taken the substance inadvertently.

"On 24 April 2017, Mr Evans, a 27-year-old player from Great Britain, provided an anti-doping sample to the TADP in association with his participation in the Barcelona Open, an ATP World Tour event, held in Barcelona, Spain," an ITF statement read.

"That sample was analysed by a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratory in Montreal, Canada, and was found to contain cocaine and its metabolite.

"In accordance with Article 2.1 of the TADP, Mr Evans was charged on 16 June with an Anti-Doping Rule Violation."

Kvitova hammers out warning

Birmingham

Petra Kvitova, the two-time Wimbledon champion whose career was almost ended by a knife attack, reached her first semi-final since the incident seven months ago by winning her third straight-set match at Birmingham on Friday.

The popular, grasscourt loving Czech did that with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) win over Kristina Mladenovic, the fifth-seeded French player, achieved her last-four spot in what is only her second tournament since her comeback.

Last month Kvitova slipped away from Paris with an empty feeling after losing in the second round of the French Open, while Mladenovic became the home star of Roland Garros by ending the title defence of Garbine Muguruza.

But on Friday was Kvitova's turn to receive the applause, as she revealed that many parts of her incisive grass court game are in working order and that many things may still be possible despite enduring problems with the injured hand.

Federer eases into semi-finals at Halle

Berlin

Roger Federer eased closer to a ninth title at the Halle grass court tournament when he demolished defending champion Florian Mayer of Germany 6-3, 6-4 in the quarter-finals. The world number five, building up to an assault on an eighth Wimbledon title in July, will next face Karen Khachanov, who defeated fellow Russian Andrey Rublev 7-6 (10/8), 4-6, 6-3 in his last-eight clash.

Verstappen on top as Red Bull dominate



The car of Max Verstappen of Netherlands and Red Bull Racing is removed from the circuit

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Baku

Max Verstappen delivered a practice double and a dramatic crash yesterday and then declared it as his and Red Bull's 'most positive' day of the year.

The 19-year-old Dutchman dominated the action in both sessions ahead of this weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix before he ended up hitting the wall in the final minutes of the afternoon's action.

"To be first with not an ideal lap! First of all, I went out of the garage with yellow flags and a Virtual Safety Car, so you cannot warm up the tyres as you want to, so still to be up there is very positive.

"To stay there will be really difficult, but at least we have better pace than normal, but I felt really good in the car."

Verstappen clocked a best lap in one minute and 43.362 seconds to outpace Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes by 0.100, but ended the session ignominiously by hitting the wall at Turn One.

On a day of heat and incident, including a red-flagged halt to the action in both sessions, Verstappen's Red Bull team-mate Daniel Ricciardo was third fastest in second practice ahead of Kimi Raikkonen and his Ferrari team-mate championship leading four-time champion Sebastian Vettel.

Canadian Lance Stroll, who scored his first F1 points for Williams at his home event

earlier in June, was sixth ahead of Sergio Perez, who crashed in the morning session, Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso, Esteban Ocon in the second Force India and, unexpectedly, three-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes.

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso's ill luck also continued in the afternoon when after driving impressively he was forced into early retirement with an engine failure in his McLaren Honda car.

Verstappen topped both sessions -- ahead of Ricciardo in the morning and Bottas in the afternoon, when the Australian was third.

"The car was working straightaway so the correlation is good and I think from the engine side we had a little bit of an update," added Verstappen.

He crashed in the final minutes at the first corner, damaging the right rear suspension.

"It was very weird, to be honest," he said. "I locked up and I was still trying to make the corner

-- and then I decided to play it safe and take the exit road." But then, suddenly, I lost the rear and then I had a four wheel power slide into the barriers." Hamilton conceded it had been a challenging day, but pointed to Bottas's speed for encouragement.



Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen

