

# DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

News of Bahrain

Saturday, February 25, 2017 Issue No. 7303

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Oil world cautious on Trump's next move



▶▶ P 08

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Trump promises to expand military

Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday promised a historic buildup of America's already vast military, but said he hoped he would never need to use it. We are "putting in a massive budget request for our beloved military and we will be substantially upgrading all of our military," Trump told the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) just outside Washington.

US commander makes secret Mideast trip

Qamishli

The top US military commander for the Middle East made a secret trip to northern Syria yesterday to meet a US-backed alliance fighting the Islamic State group, the alliance's spokesman said.

Iraq air force strikes IS targets in Syria

Baghdad

The Iraqi air force struck members of the Islamic State group inside neighbouring Syria on yesterday, officials said, adding that the targeted militants were responsible for recent bombings in Baghdad.

# Nerve agent used to kill

Kuala Lumpur

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's half brother was assassinated with a lethal nerve agent manufactured for chemical warfare and listed by the UN as a weapon of mass destruction, Malaysian police said yesterday.

Releasing a preliminary toxicology report on Kim Jong-Nam's murder at Kuala Lumpur airport, police revealed the poison used by the assassins was the odourless, tasteless and highly toxic VX.

The news brought condemnation from South Korea, which slammed the use of the nerve agent as a "blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and other international norms".

Kim died on February 13 after being attacked at Kuala Lumpur International Airport by two women, who are seen on CCTV footage shoving something in his face. He suffered a seizure and was dead before he reached hospital. An autopsy revealed traces of VX -- a



Kim Jong-Nam

fast-acting toxin that sparks respiratory collapse and heart failure -- on the dead man's face and in his eyes.

Tiny amounts of the poison are enough to kill an adult, whether it is inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

"I am outraged that the criminals used such a dangerous chemical in a public area," said Environment Minister Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

It "could have caused mass injuries or even death

to other people". One of the two women arrested after the attack fell ill in custody, police said, adding she had been vomiting.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar has previously said the woman who attacked Kim from behind clearly knew she was carrying out a poison attack, dismissing claims that she thought she was taking part in a TV prank. "The lady was moving away with her hands towards the bathroom,"

VX: the deadly chemical

Code-named by US scientists who mass produced it, VX is an organophosphate compound and one of the deadliest chemical agents ever manufactured. Stockpiled by the US in huge quantities during the Cold War, VX is perhaps 10 times as powerful as the Sarin toxin.

Odorless and clear when pure, it has the appearance of motor oil and is stable enough to be transported. It is also hard to detect, an advantage for a would-be assassin. Downsides are that it lingers, potentially

entering the country," he told reporters. He added that "if the amount of the chemical brought in was small, it would be difficult for us to detect". A leading security expert said it would not have been difficult to get VX into Malaysia in a diplomatic pouch, which are not subject to regular customs checks. (AFP)

contaminating areas for long periods of time.

"It can kill an adult weighing 70 kilogrammes with just five milligrammes on the skin," said Yosuke Yamasato, former principal of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Chemical School.

What does it do?

It strikes the nervous system fast. A high dose can kill in minutes when inhaled, as the blood vessels in the lungs rapidly spread the compound into the bloodstream and vital organs.

# Kim Jong-Nam

# Normal life, just a dream for former child soldiers



A child soldier of a rebel group in south Sudan

Paris

**H**unted by indelibly painful memories, deprived of schooling and strangers to their own families, for former child soldiers returning to normal life is tough as being in combat.

They face daily battles that can last years as they piece their lives together.

"I had nightmares long after being freed. I had flashbacks

of fighting in the bush," says Alhaji Sawaneh, a 30-year-old from Sierra Leone.

Forced to fight from the age of 10 with Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front, Sawaneh recounted his experiences to a Paris conference that focused on the estimated 246 million children living in conflict zones worldwide.

Some 17,000 child soldiers

have been recruited since 2013 in South Sudan and roughly 1,500 in Yemen since 2015, according to data published this week by UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund.

In Nigeria and neighbouring states, the Boko Haram Islamist group recruited an estimated 2,000 child fighters last year alone.

Sawaneh says he bore arms for two years before UN

peacekeepers rescued him in 2000.

A child protection agency took him and has been trying to locate his family.

"That is our priority -- to reconnect a child with his family is the best means of reintegrating him into society," explains Crystal Stewart, child protection advisor with an NGO, the International Rescue Committee.

Yet that process can prove time-consuming.

"When they are kidnapped young they don't necessarily know where they are from or how old they are. That sometimes requires painstaking research," added Stewart.

In the meantime, former child fighters are fostered, but Sawaneh said his hopes of finding a loving environment were soon crushed.

"My foster family made me work at home. I was like a slave," he said.

"But I

harboured a dream -- to continue with my studies."

Eventually, he managed to secure a grant to go back to school.

## 'Stigmatised'

Studying was likewise what kept Alberto Ortiz going. The young Colombian hailing from a poverty-stricken family decided at the age of 12 to join the FARC rebel movement.

"I thought I was going to solve all my problems and help my family financially," said Ortiz, now aged 22.

"They (the FARC) told me if I'd had enough then I could leave -- but I found I was caught in a trap."

After three years he managed to escape and is now being aided by a government programme.

Ortiz, now studying finance at Santiago de Cali university, finds society shuns him for his past.

Helping former child fighters to recover their

confidence and reintegrate into their communities is a long, drawn-out process.

"Former child soldiers can be rejected because they have committed violence," explains Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF's emergency programmes director.

The organisation is trying to convince local religious leaders, who have some influence, to welcome former fighters back into society.

Following the conference in Paris, Tunisia, Kazakhstan and Myanmar joined 105 other countries who have already signed up to principles and guidelines drawn up in 2007 on child fighters and their social reintegration.

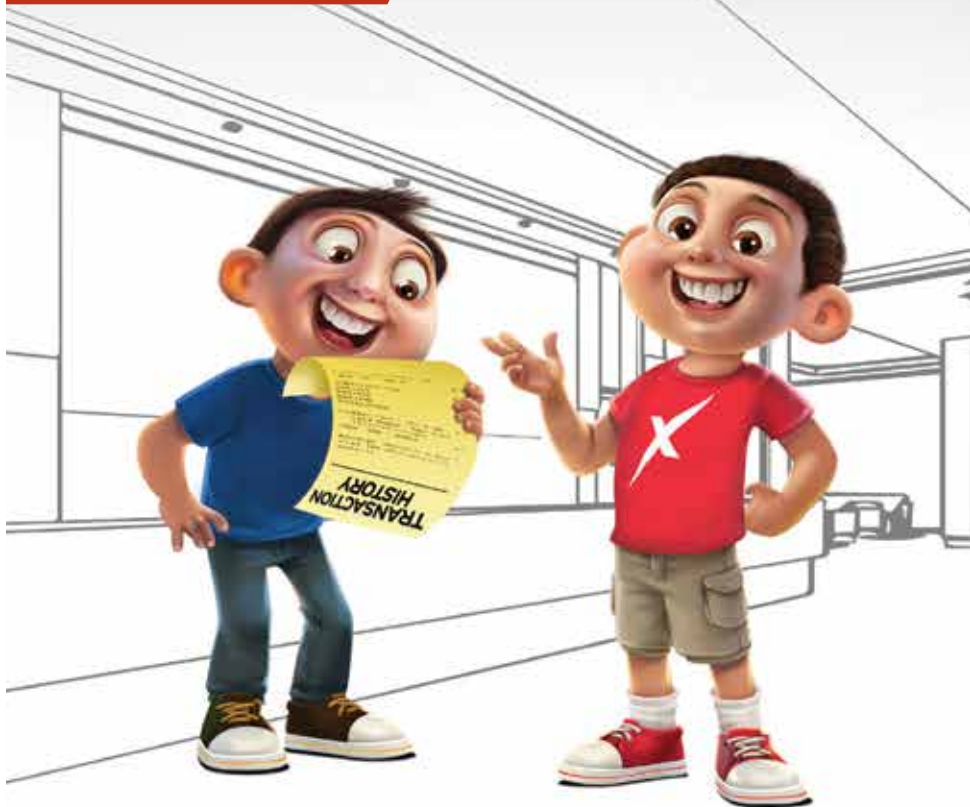
In the ensuing decade, more than 65,000 children have been rescued from armed forces, according to UNICEF, even if thousands remain in their clutches. -(AFP)

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Two children enrolled with Sierra Leonean troops

# Boy dies after long battle with cancer

DT News Network news@dt.bh

**Manama**

A Bahraini child passed away yesterday after a long battle with cancer.

Khalifa Ali died on the hospital bed after his Lukemia condition deteriorated.

His family members had pleaded to the authorities to facilitate the procedures to treat him abroad.

Khalifa emerged on different social media platforms as the "cancer fighter".

Several videos online showed him speaking about his battle with cancer.

His mother had stated earlier that the doctors had advised to take him to Saudi Arabia for treatment.

Reportedly, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa had earlier ordered the authorities to facilitate the boy's treatment procedures abroad.

# Terror blast in Northern Governorate

DT News Network Manama

A terrorist blast occurred in the Northern Governorate yesterday. The explosion, which occurred around 9 pm near Shakhura village, damaged a police patrol vehicle and two civilian cars. Interior Ministry confirmed that no human losses were reported.

# 64-yr-old acquitted in minor abuse case

DT News Network Manama

The High Criminal Court has acquitted a 64-year-old cold store owner accused of sexually assaulting a minor girl due to lack of proof.

The girl was reportedly accustomed to going to the cold store with her disabled brother, but one day she went

to her father asking him to go and beat the cold store owner because he molested her.

The defendant, however, denied committing any foul play, stating that his wife and children were always present in the cold store.

The accused was charged with sexually assaulting the under-aged girl.

# Man jailed for hiding fugitive

Representational image

DT News Network Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced a Bahraini man to three years behind bars for hiding his schoolmate who was wanted in several cases. The defendant is believed to have concealed the fleeing

man in a Hamad Town House owned by his uncle's husband. His whereabouts were revealed to police via a tip-off by an undercover agent.

Cops then raided the house and arrested the defendant, the fugitive and the house

owner who was later freed because it appeared that he wasn't aware that the schoolmate was wanted. "He told us that he wanted a place for him and his buddy so they could study. We didn't know anything about his friend," the owner told prosecutors.

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# Woman injured in terror blast

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**Manama**

A Bahraini woman was injured in a blast that occurred in Sanabis on Thursday night.

Interior Ministry said the woman sustained minor injuries as she was passing through the site when the blast took place. The ministry confirmed that police took the necessary procedures.

The incident was widely condemned by many. Governor of Capital Governorate Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa visited the victim who was admitted to Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC).

Shaikh Hisham stressed on the importance of unifying



Shaikh Hisham (second from right) inquiring about the condition of the woman at SMC

Mane'a added that the victim underwent medical surgeries and her condition is stabilising. Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Hospital Affairs Dr. Waleed Al

## Bahrain to host forum on domestic violence

DT News Network  
Manama

Bahrain will host the 11th forum for sociologists in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states on November 21-23 under the patronage of Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan.

The Bahrain Society of Sociologists will organise the

event in cooperation with the Arabian Gulf Association of Sociologists and the Labour and Social Development Ministry.

The three-day symposium will focus on combating aspects of domestic violence in the GCC member states. The forum will coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence

against Women, which falls on November 25.

The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject domestic violence and other forms of violence.

### Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



## Compact Gardens

This year's Bahrain International Garden Show (BIGS) is organized in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 22-26th February at the Bahrain International Exhibition Center and is featuring the latest agricultural innovations in utilizing limited resources to create small compact or mini gardens or green spaces in order to achieve agricultural development and sustainability.

The theme of current year BIGS is "Compact Gardens", which is very much related to the situation in the country. With high population density and limited land area and urban spaces make it difficult to have any significant green spaces especially in the center of Manama, where the majority of population resides. The common understanding is that greenery development is to be provided by the government organizations and such development has little impact on health of the individuals. With this background, awareness is required that small and compact gardens can be made even with small spaces and in urban areas but require a will to do for which information is being provided at BIGS. Many organizations like Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), University of Bahrain and others are displaying and demonstrating unique ideas in utilizing limited spaces to easily create environmental friendly homes and compact gardens.

The theme of "Compact Gardens" is to be taken as a priority based on the urban population increase and decreasing green cover in the country. Small urban gardens can produce volumes of food, flowers, fragrance, beauty,

and require little time to manage and maintain. Urban gardeners with a windowsill, indoor pot, balcony, verandah, courtyard or backyard can all grow incredible edibles for the kitchen table, fragrant cut flowers or vibrant color, privacy screens and much more.

At the BIGS 2017, visitors will benefit from the variety of displays relating to gardening in a small spaces including design ideas for Roof and Terrace Gardening, Container gardening, Vertical gardens and raised bed gardening.

A section in the exhibition has also been allocated to showcase pictures of local homes and buildings with creative ways to introduce different plants and flowers that are suited to limited spaces based on our weather conditions and resources. Other sections have been allocated to showcase practical ideas and solutions for designing small spaces in residential areas such as balconies, roofs and exteriors, focusing on the beneficial impacts of greenery development that can avoid and minimize pollution. In addition such greenery is not only aesthetically appealing but also beautifies residences and can provide fresh produce based on the owners' needs.

BIGS has now become a platform for experts and enthusiasts to further develop their expertise and knowledge with the latest best practices in the industry. BIGS is playing a major role in developing the agricultural sector by expanding green areas, increasing local produce and achieving food sufficiency. The various competitions held also enhance the awareness in using available spaces for greenery development

and changing our weather pattern to eliminate the adverse impacts due to climate change which is a big threat to island countries.

It is envisaged that this year's theme of Compact Gardens will provide good information to the residents to maximize available space and resources to create more fruits and vegetable gardens. This can be achieved by various methods and techniques and require limited water and resources. The rain water, AC water and household used water can be easily used. BIGS is also displaying on how much carbon emissions a person produces per day and how plants can help reduce these emissions.

The SCE is showing a house at the pavilion adopting green principles include conserving for energy, water, waste and recycling besides good insulation and ventilation. The house shows the concept of roof garden and utilization of renewable energy by using solar panels and LED lights for energy efficient lighting. The organic waste generated at the household can be utilized in making compost at the garden. Recycling bins are to be provided for storing aluminium, paper, glass and plastics.

We have a major role to play in improving our home and immediate surroundings to enhance our and family's health status. At minimum, we can do the following:

- Separate the organic waste at home and use in making compost.
- Reuse material for the compact garden including plastic bottles, jars and containers in making flower containers.
- Reuse wooden material, planks and pallets in making containers and barriers for holding soil and compost.
- Use recycled water in greenery development.

Head of Waste Disposal Unit, Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain. (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.)

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Dr John Panackel, Chairman Pravasi Guidance Centre

**Santhosh Rajendran**  
santhosh@dt.bh

**Manama**

**Students should** be educated to follow a plan right from day one of the academic year to avoid stress while preparing for exams. Parents and teachers are the right people to guide and de-stress students, opine experts in the educational sector.

"Parents and teachers, being on the front line, are the most influential people in motivating students during pre-exam period. A word of praise or a small recognition can go a long way and help the child gain self-confidence," says Dr Lina Lewis, Principal, Al Wisam School.

She believes that parents and teachers play a pivotal role in guiding children during their stress period. They can measure the level of stress and difficulty in learning different subjects. They can ask the child to do a self-assessment and ask them to identify their strength and weakness.

"The most powerful way of motivating a child is actually setting time to listen to the child and be able to understand their needs. The student's voice is the road to change and once the child is heard, academic improvement can follow," says Lina.

Competitions to excel both in studies and extra curricular activities are rising than it was ever before. In the rat race to attain new heights, students face exam hurdles.

The unconditional love from parents and teachers will transform students to understand their real-self and avoid destructive thoughts. Most children suffer from anxiety and fear of exams.

"As the students struggle to face the daunting task of writing exams how to respond to the stressful situation is most important. By taking a few steps, parents can help ease their troubles and help prepare for exams. The best thing to do is to be always with them, providing all kinds of help", says Dr John Panackel, chairman,

Pravasi Guidance Centre.

Even though the exams are at the hand, it is not necessary to study all the time. Devoting adequate time for revision and recreational activities will freshen up the mind to stay calm, clear and focused.

Amrithavarshini Sathya, a student of Class 10, preparing for board exams said that she is getting good support from teachers and parents.

"The topics are complete so we get ample time for preparing for exam. We are strictly advised not to mug up, but to understand the subject clearly. During our study vacations, we (students) communicate with our teachers via *Whatsapp* chat group, and clear our doubts," says Amrithavarshini.

Sidharth Sunil, another student who is also preparing for his board exams said that his inspiration is his mother's planning and support. "My mother is very helpful in preparing timetables for me, with plenty of breaks in between. Her timetables have proved to be very helpful in the past also. I think we feel a lot of pressure during the pre-exam time, but as long as we have a regular schedule there is nothing to worry about", says Sidharth Sunil.

Teachers and parents often fail the child by complimenting the successful children and ignoring those who are not so successful. Teachers, in particular, need to embrace them, praise students' achievements and acknowledge the child's efforts. Students' reflection on their accomplishments can be a strong motivator. Encouraging students to create an achievable schedule or study plan would improve their chances for success.

"Though we give moral support to students, parents have to create a calm and serene atmosphere at home and encourage them with words of inspiration. Parents should seek advice from the experts and experienced teachers to guide their child during pre-exam period. This will create an atmosphere of less stress at home", says Dr Ravi Warrior, Principal, Quality International School.



Amrithavarshini Sathya



Sidharth Sunil



"The most powerful way of motivating a child is actually setting time to listen to the child and be able to understand their needs."

**Dr Lina Lewis,**  
School Principal, Al Wisam School



"Parents have to create a calm and serene atmosphere at home and encourage them with words of inspiration. Parents should seek advice from the experts and experienced teachers to guide their child during pre-exam period"

**Dr Ravi Warrior**  
Principal, Quality International School

# Combating exam stress

Only parents, teachers can de-stress students: Experts

GULF HOTELS GROUP  

## Invitation to the Annual General Assembly Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company's Shareholders.

The Board of Directors of Gulf Hotels Group cordially invites the shareholders to attend the Annual Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 12.00 Noon at Awal Ball Room 3 at the Gulf Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain. In case the quorum is not reached in the first meeting, the second meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017, at the same venue and time to discuss the agenda listed below and to take appropriate decisions.

**A. Agenda of AGM**

1. Reading out the previous AGM minutes held on 14 Mar 2016 and approving it.
2. Discussing the Chairman's report about the group business for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and approving it.
3. Listening to the external auditor's report on the Company's financial position for the financial year ending 31st December 2016.
4. Consider and approve the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
5. Approving the Board of Director's recommendation on the appropriations according to the following.
  - I. Transferring BD 1,592,222 to Statutory Reserve.
  - II. Consider and approve the proposal of the Board of Directors regarding the distribution of cash dividends at 25 fils per share or 25% of the paid up capital equivalent to BD 5,134,968. Dividend distribution will commence on 20 March 2017.
  - III. Consider and approve the proposal of the Board of Directors regarding the distribution of bonus shares of 10% (1 share for every 10 shares held) of the issued capital equivalent to 20,544,988 shares amounting to BD 2,054,499 for the Financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
  - IV. Providing an amount of BD 224,200 towards contribution to Charitable Institutions
  - V. Providing an amount of BD 10,000 towards contribution to support Academic Research and national promotion institutions.
  - VI. Transferring BD 9,405,530 to Retained earnings.
6. Approve the Board of Directors remuneration of BD 267,000 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
7. To discuss company's compliance with the Corporate Governance Guidelines and the Central Bank of Bahrain's requirements.
8. Discharge the members of the Board of Directors from their liabilities for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
9. Appointment/Reappointment of external auditors for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 and authorize the Board of Directors to determine their remuneration.
10. To ratify the appointment to the board of (due to acquiring of Bahrain Tourism Company and related conditions mentioned in the offer document):  
Mr. Ahmed Janahi nominated by Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Co.  
Mr. Reyadh Al Mahmeed nominated by Social Insurance Organization  
Mr. Adel Maskati representing erstwhile Bahrain Tourism Co. (BTC)
11. New matters that may arise as per Article 207 of the Commercial Companies' Law.

**B. Agenda of EGM**

1. Reading out the previous EGM minutes held on 10th May 2016 and approving it.
2. Approving amendment needed to address changes in Article and Memorandum of Association due to increase in capital from BD 20,544,988 to BD 22,599,487 as a result of bonus share.
3. Authorizing Chairman of the board or his representative to sign on all required changes in front of notary public.

**Farouk Yousuf Almoayyed**  
Chairman of the Board

# Suicide blast kills 51 near Al-Bab

Syrian rebels walk in the town of al-Bab



## Al-Bab

**A**n Islamic State group suicide bomber killed 51 people outside Syria's Al-Bab yesterday, in a major blow just hours after rebels seized the town from the jihadists.

In a statement distributed online, the group said its suicide bomber "drove his car bomb into the middle of a gathering of Turkish soldiers

and apostates working in Susian".

At least 51 people were killed in the blast, most of them civilians, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The monitoring group said the car bomb had targeted twin command posts at a rebel base in Susian, about eight kilometres (five miles) from

Al-Bab.

Rebel field commander Abu Jaafar said that fighters, Turkish soldiers, and civilians had gathered at Susian for an overnight meeting "to organise a security apparatus and set a plan for rebuilding Al-Bab".

"This information reached the (IS) sleeper cells, which prepared a car bomb" that

detonated at Susian.

Abu Jaafar, who was near Susian at the time of the attack, said hospitals in the area were full of wounded.

Separately, two Turkish soldiers were killed in a suicide attack in Al-Bab yesterday as they were carrying out road checks, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said.

The strategic town, just 25

kilometres (15 miles) south of the Turkish border, was the jihadists' last stronghold in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

A source inside Al-Bab said stray cats were on the bombed-out streets yesterday, sniffing at the bodies of alleged IS fighters.

Doors of shops in the town's main marketplace had

been blown open by bomb blasts, and boxes of food and medicine were scattered on the ground.

A rebel scrawled the name of his battalion -- "Mutasem Brigades" -- on a wall.

In the town's south, rescuers and bulldozers were pulling bodies from the rubble, careful not to detonate any mines left behind by IS. -(AFP)

## Turkish 'coup suspects' seek asylum in Greece: Police

**T**wo Turkish soldiers wanted for their alleged role in the July coup plot have sought asylum in Greece saying their lives were in danger back home, said a police source said.

The two men made the request in the small border town of Orestiada near Turkey on Monday, the source said.

The source did not reveal their names but said the soldiers had been arrested.

On January 26, a Greek court rejected Turkey's request to extradite eight other Turkish soldiers who fled on July 16 a few hours after the failed coup.

It said the men's lives would be in danger back home. This has angered Ankara which has put out a fresh extradition request for the men.

The move has put a severe strain on diplomatic ties between the two neighbours.

## UN 'disturbed' by light sentence for Israeli soldier

Geneva

**A**n 18-month prison sentence for an Israeli soldier who shot dead a wounded Palestinian assailant is an "unacceptable" punishment for "an apparent extra-judicial killing", the UN said yesterday.

United Nations human rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani further charged the Jewish state with having "a chronic culture of impunity" regarding cases involving Israeli troops and Palestinians.

In March 2016, Israeli Private Elor Azaria was caught on video shooting Palestinian Fattah al-Sharif in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron.

The video showed Sharif, 21, lying wounded on the ground, shot along with another Palestinian after stabbing and wounding a soldier, according to the army.



Elor Azaria (R), who shot dead a wounded Palestinian assailant

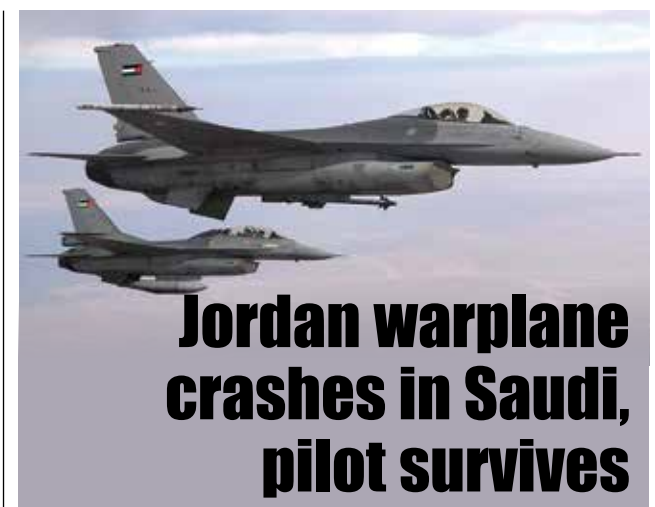
Azaria then shoots Sharif in the head without any apparent provocation.

After a months-long trial, Azaria was on Tuesday sentenced to 18 months in prison, with a further 18 months suspended.

"We are deeply disturbed

at the lenient sentence," Shamdasani said.

"While the prosecution and conviction are very welcome steps towards accountability, the punishment... is difficult to reconcile with the intentional killing of an unarmed and prone individual," she added.



## Jordan warplane crashes in Saudi, pilot survives

Riyadh

**A**Jordanian F-16 warplane crashed in Saudi Arabia yesterday but its pilot survived, the Saudi-led military coalition fighting rebels in Yemen said.

"Technical reasons" caused the crash of the US-built aircraft in the Najran district on the Saudi side of the border with Yemen, the coalition said.

It added that the pilot was in good condition.

Separately, the United Arab Emirates army command

announced the death of one of its soldiers fighting in Yemen as part of the coalition.

He was the second Emirati soldier in a week to die in Yemen, raising to around 80 the number of troops from the UAE killed in coalition operations against the rebels.

In March last year, two Emirati pilots were killed when their Mirage warplane crashed in Yemen because of what the coalition called a "technical fault".

## Saudi king eyes investment, skills on rare Asian Tour



King Salman bin Abdulaziz

Riyadh

**S**audi Arabia's King Salman begins today a three-week Asian tour likely to seek investment and technical expertise as the world's biggest oil exporter looks to diversify its economy.

Almost 50 years since the last trip by a Saudi monarch to Japan and Indonesia, Salman will visit those countries as well as Malaysia, China, and the Maldives.

"This visit will be the first time for 46 years, so symbolically it's very important," said Shigeto Kondo, a research fellow at The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan.

Salman's first stop will be close ally Malaysia, which the late king Abdullah visited 11 years ago.

But the Japan and Indonesia visits, where Salman is expected to seek further economic ties with the world's

third largest economy and the most populous Muslim nation respectively, are expected to be the highlights of the trip.

Tokyo and Riyadh have been discussing how Japan can contribute since Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visited last year.

"So we can expect some sort of framework for cooperation being announced during (the) king's visit," Kondo said.

Japanese firms are already

helping to train young Saudis in technical skills vital for replacing millions of foreign workers in the kingdom.

Salman will be in Jakarta from Wednesday to Friday, followed by five days on the resort island of Bali, Indonesian media reported.

Saudi Arabia's cabinet on Monday approved preparation of a series of economic cooperation memoranda with the Asian countries.

These included a proposal for Saudi and Indonesia to work together on small and medium business development.

In Malaysia, Riyadh is looking for industrial, commercial and human resources cooperation, the cabinet said.

Saudi media reported that Salman will also stop in China -- the largest source of imports to the kingdom -- and the Maldives. -(AFP)

# Good times over for Western expats in Saudi

## Riyadh

**S**eventeen years after first setting foot in Saudi Arabia, Dominic Steck shipped his two cats and returned to Germany with his wife and school-age children, who hardly know their homeland.

As Saudi Arabia steps up efforts to employ more of its own people, and with economic growth slowing, the ranks of well-paid white-collar expatriates like Steck are thinning.

For them, the good times are over. Steck said that to reduce costs, his employers "sent the Westerners" away. "I have to admit, they will save a lot," he said with a chuckle.

Cost-cutting, financial problems and a drive to employ more Saudis have all led to a noticeable reduction in expatriate employment as the Arab world's largest economy adjusts to lower crude prices.

Saudi Arabia, which exports more oil than any other country, since last year has pursued its "Vision 2030" economic diversification effort to broaden its investment and business base, while placing more Saudis in the private sector. The drop in global oil prices by about half since 2014 left the kingdom with a huge budget deficit and billions of dollars in debt to private firms, chiefly in the construction business.

Saudi Binladin Group alone laid off around 70,000 expats from poorer countries, but the impact of slower economic growth has gone further

and left many Western expatriates also saying goodbye. Latest official figures showed almost nine million foreigners employed in the kingdom but that was before the worst of the economic pain struck, sending home expats like Steck.

"People are leaving because there's not enough business for their contract to be renewed," said a foreign manager in the consumer electronics sector whose business is down 10 percent.

"Everybody's margins are seriously under pressure. There's not a business out there that's really doing well," he said, declining to be named.

More pain is expected come July when the government plans to impose a levy on foreign workers with dependents.

The fee will start at 100 riyals (\$27) a month, rising to 400 riyals monthly by 2020, according to a government document seen by Bloomberg News.

### 'So expensive'

The electronics manager said his company will make its nearly 300 expatriates, largely Indians, Pakistanis and Filipinos, pay these charges themselves. With most of them earning less than 10,000 riyals monthly, this will encourage them to either send their families home or quit -- creating space for hiring Saudis, he said.

According to the document seen by Bloomberg News, the government will also raise monthly fees paid by employers who hire more foreign workers than Saudis as part of a

programme to encourage local hiring.

Abdulrahman al-Zamil, chairman of Saudi Arabia's Zamil Group which employs thousands of foreigners, said the government will continue to increase such fees if necessary "because they need to be fair to the country" and ensure jobs for locals. The new levies add to rising costs including water and electricity bills as the government cuts subsidies, noted a foreign diplomat.

"The cost of doing business is so expensive," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Western expatriates, often more highly paid than their Asian or Arab counterparts, said they could afford the new family levies, but admit that the lucrative packages that drew them to the kingdom are becoming harder for companies to maintain.

These include housing allowances worth thousands of dollars each month, family flights home and, in many cases, international school fees. There is no income tax in the kingdom although it plans to introduce taxes on some consumer items this year.

### 'Not as lucrative'

"Budgets are getting tighter and I don't think it's as lucrative as maybe it was" for expats, said an Australian engineer, lured to the kingdom with his family, partly out of a sense of adventure but also because of the financial benefits.

Three years later, he is going home, with his firm still "owed a lot of money" by its Saudi contractor. -AFP

## Seera Investment Bank

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016



### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 December 2016

	2016 US\$ '000	2015 US\$ '000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and balances with banks	3,787	2,396
Due from banks	34,003	40,700
Non-trading investments	26,487	30,529
Investments in ijarah assets	28,892	74,100
Investment in real estate	10,476	10,476
Other assets	2,321	5,271
Property and equipment	5,353	5,578
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>111,319</b>	<b>169,050</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Term financing	12,413	14,496
Other liabilities	7,703	6,952
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>20,116</b>	<b>21,448</b>
<b>OWNERS' EQUITY</b>		
Share capital	145,643	145,643
Reserves	10,073	10,172
Accumulated losses	(68,243)	(17,977)
Equity attributable to shareholders of the parent	87,473	137,838
Non-controlling interest	3,730	9,764
<b>TOTAL OWNERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>91,203</b>	<b>147,602</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>111,319</b>	<b>169,050</b>

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 US\$ '000	2015 US\$ '000
Net cash from operating activities	3,929	7,085
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities	(7,152)	48,670
Net cash used in financing activities	(2,083)	(32,320)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(5,306)</b>	<b>23,435</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	43,096	19,661
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>37,790</b>	<b>43,096</b>

These consolidated financial statements were extracted from the audited consolidated financial statements on which Ernst & Young issued an unqualified report dated 16 February 2017 and were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors. The detailed financial statements are available at the Bank's official website.

Hamad Al Ameer  
Chairman

Abdulla Janahi  
Chief Executive Officer

Mubarak Al Hemeiri  
Board Member

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 US\$ '000	2015 US\$ '000
<b>INCOME</b>		
Rental income from investment in ijarah assets	9,642	9,083
Depreciation on investment in ijarah assets	(6,743)	(9,427)
Management fees relating to ijarah assets	(248)	(266)
Financing cost relating to term financing obtained to purchase ijarah assets	(861)	(1,325)
Other income relating to ijarah assets	151	1,163
Gain on disposal of ijarah assets, net	2,232	5,018
Other operating expenses relating to ijarah assets	(411)	(1,838)
<b>Net income from investment in ijarah assets</b>	<b>3,762</b>	<b>2,408</b>
Profit on amounts due from banks	330	192
Profit on financing contracts	-	2,027
<b>Net funding income</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>2,219</b>
Fee and other income	1,835	2,803
Gain on sale of investment classified as held for sale	-	1,256
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,927</b>	<b>8,686</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Staff expenses	3,546	3,546
General and administration expenses	1,349	1,330
Depreciation on property and equipment	272	269
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,167</b>	<b>5,145</b>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR BEFORE FX LOSSES, UNREALISED FAIR VALUE (LOSSES) GAINS, PROVISIONS AND IMPAIRMENT</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>3,541</b>
Foreign exchange loss	(848)	(816)
Unrealised fair value (losses)/gains on investment	(2,156)	1,803
Provisions and impairment	(54,056)	(1,728)
<b>NET (LOSS)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(56,300)</b>	<b>2,800</b>
Attributable to:		
Shareholders of the parent	(50,266)	2,800
Non-controlling interest	(6,034)	-
	<b>(56,300)</b>	<b>2,800</b>

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 US\$ '000	2015 US\$ '000
Balance at beginning of the year	147,602	145,172
Net (loss)/income for the year	(56,300)	2,800
Unrealised loss on remeasurement to fair value	(99)	(370)
<b>BALANCE AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>91,203</b>	<b>147,602</b>

# Oil world cautious on Trump's next move



**London**  
Oil bigwigs are trying to figure out strategies to deal with the impact that Donald Trump's blizzard of plans to boost the US industry will have on the world market.

If Trump keeps his promises on lower corporation tax, oil sector deregulation and tax incentives on exports, it could lead to an influx of US crude oil -- something which may challenge the price rises of the last six months.

At the International Petroleum Week conference in London, the new US policies were cited as one of the most influential factors on oil in 2017, along with growth of the Asian market and tensions in the Middle East.

Abhishek Deshpande, an analyst at French corporate and investment bank Natixis, told that even if Trump's policies were imposed, they would not necessarily be favourable to the US petrol industry.

"The oil producers may look at it positively, as it will make the US crude oil jump higher. But for the rest of the US, the refiners would feel the pain, and possibly pass on the impact to the public" he said.

"For the rest of the world, the Middle East would have to find new markets, which means more crude to sell," he added.

Energy Security Analysis, Inc president Sarah Emerson also warned that Trump's

ideas could be difficult to implement.

"All of that is working against the huge question about deficit, and some Republicans and all the Democrats would have to object," she said during a speech at IP Week.

She said political change in the US "could bring about a marginal deterioration in our market".

### Risks for Iran, Mexico

Trump could also tackle deregulation in the energy sector, wiping out the regulations put in place by his predecessor Barack Obama.

Last but not least, oil industry insiders said Trump's unpredictability in geopolitics could give rise to dramatic

swings in the market.

"The most significant problem would be the tense relationship with Iran, but there is also Mexico," Deshpande said.

Trump has called the agreement between Tehran and world powers over its nuclear programme "one of the worst deals I've ever seen".

And as for Mexico, Trump has promised to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he says is too stacked in Mexico's favour, and has not ruled out ditching it entirely.

Such measures would disrupt exports from Iran and Mexico, which would then look for alternative markets for their production and could lower prices. -(AFP)

# Google rolls out AI tool to combat online trolls

Paris

Google said it will begin offering media groups an artificial intelligence tool designed to stamp out incendiary comments on their websites.

The programming tool, called Perspective, aims to assist editors trying to moderate discussions by filtering out abusive "troll" comments, which Google says can stymie smart online discussions.

"Seventy-two percent of American internet users have witnessed harassment online and nearly half have personally experienced it," said Jared Cohen, president of Google's Jigsaw technology incubator.

"Almost a third self-censor what they post online for fear of retribution," he added in a

blog post on Thursday titled "When computers learn to swear".

Perspective is an application programming interface (API), or set of methods for facilitating communication between systems and devices, that uses machine learning to rate how comments might be regarded by other users.

The system, which will be provided free to media groups including social media sites, is being tested by *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *Wikipedia*.

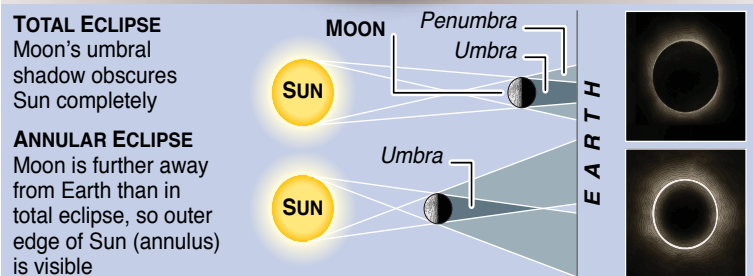
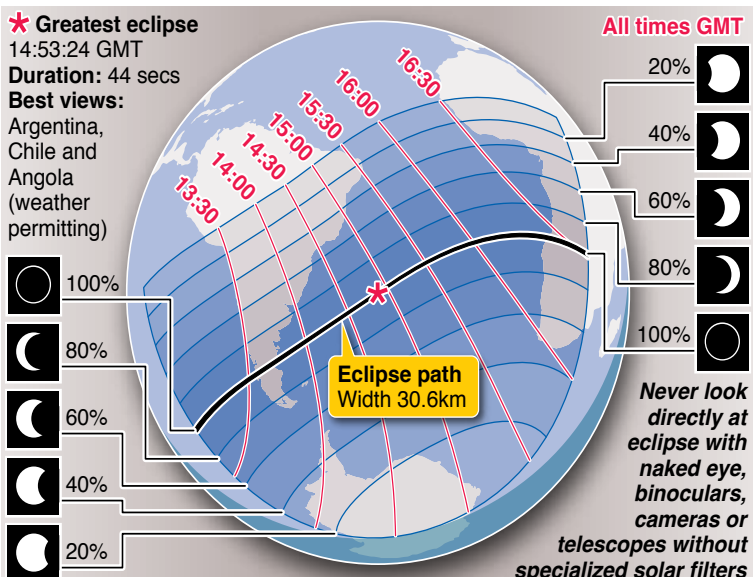
Many news organisations have closed down their comments sections for lack of sufficient human resources to monitor the postings for abusive content. -(AFP)



Representational image

## Annular eclipse in Southern Hemisphere

An annular eclipse of the sun takes place in the Southern Hemisphere on February 26, along a narrow path running through South America and Africa. In surrounding areas, people will see a partial eclipse



## New WhatsApp Status Feature

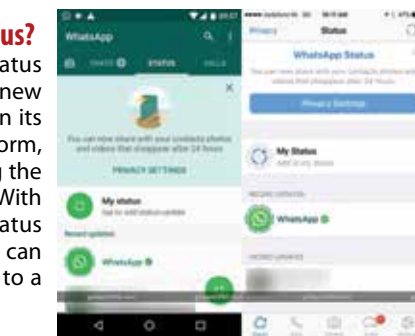
Within days of announcing its revamped 'Status' feature, WhatsApp has rolled it out to users worldwide; it was available only in Europe when it was announced. The new WhatsApp Status feature is available on iPhone, as well as Android and Windows devices.

### What is WhatsApp Status?

The new WhatsApp Status feature is the company's new way to engage people on its instant messaging platform, and this will be replacing the old text form of status. With the new revamped Status feature, WhatsApp users can now change their status to a short video or photos.

### What else is new?

The rollout also sees the addition of the Camera tab on the left, symbolised with a camera symbol. It's here that users can easily shoot photos or record videos to use as Status updates, or, share regularly with their contacts.



### Who can see your WhatsApp Status?

Those who can see your status are My contacts, My contacts except, and Only share with. By default, WhatsApp Status updates created by you are visible to all contacts. Users who change their status with an image or video, will be also shown the view count on the app.

### Inspired by Snapchat Stories

The new WhatsApp Status no doubt take cues from Snapchat's Stories, and is being seen as the company's first attempt to move away from the traditional messaging app that is being followed. The revamped Status also looks inspired by Facebook's change of profile and cover pictures that notifies other users. (ndtv)



Cool Trends



## China becomes Germany's top trade partner

Germany

China overtook the United States last year to become Germany's biggest trading partner for the first time, official data showed, a shift likely to reassure Berlin.

The figures showed that the total volume of trade between China and Germany climbed by four percent to just under 170 billion euros (\$180 billion) in 2016. (AFP)



## BFC opens branch at Wadi Al Sail Mall

DT News Network  
Manama

Bahrain Financing Company (BFC), the leading money transfer and foreign exchange company in the Kingdom is expanding its branch network with the opening of its 47th branch tomorrow at 9am.

The new BFC branch is located at the basement of the Wadi Al Sail Mall in West Riffa. The first 100 customers transacting at the new branch will receive a gold coin. BFC has welcomed all its customers to visit the new branch tomorrow.

“I’m here to build something for the long-term. Anything else is a distraction.”

Mark Zuckerberg

Facebook



# TIPS to manage your money better

Cash flow is the fuel that keeps a business running smoothly. To make sure your company isn't running on empty, check your current practices against these techniques used by the top money managers.

### Create a cash flow budget

A cash flow budget helps to ensure that you can comfortably pay all your expenses and enables you to manage your revenues and expenses proactively.

Key components include a sales/revenue forecast, anticipated inflows, such as accounts receivable, anticipated outflows, such as cost of goods sold, debt repayments, and operating expenses.

It's important to keep your cash flow budget up-to-date and to make sure that it reflects changes in your operating environment and your plans for your business.

### Know the sensitivities in your cash flow

It's important to pin down which items such as price, volume, or overheads - will have the most impact on your cash flow.

Cost of goods sold, for example, has a significant impact on your cash flow, yet is difficult for you to change. At the same time, competitive pressures may prevent you from increasing prices.

Cash flow is also affected by inventory days and accounts receivable days.

### Manage the credit you are extending to your customers

There are a number of different ways to improve how you manage your receivables. Establishing effective credit policies is an important part of successful cash flow management.

You might also think about how you can encourage clients to pay more quickly. For example, consider discounts for early payments, or charge interest on accounts that are past due.

While interest and late charges may actually become a source of income for your business, it's important to apply some due diligence. Extremely late payments are more likely to become write-offs and will also keep some of your working capital tied up.



### Keep your payables up-to-date

Regularly reviewing your accounts payable schedule helps determine how well you are keeping up with your credit obligations.

A useful practice is to have an "aging schedule," which shows you how much you owe, to whom, and whether you are current or past due on any bills.

### Reduce expenses

Look for ways to cut back: for example, can the cost of promotional materials (such as printing or production) be reduced without compromising their quality and impact? When business volume steps up, bring in temporary, contract, or part-time help before committing to additional full-time staff.

An independent audit may reveal redundancies and inefficiencies that you can address.



# Boeing picks UK for first European factory

London

Boeing has chosen to open its first European factory in Britain, the US aircraft giant said yesterday, in a boost for UK manufacturing ahead of Brexit.

The 20 million-pound (\$25m) facility employing 30 people will be in the city of Sheffield, northern England. Boeing said it would start recruiting staff from next year.

Boeing Sheffield will supply wing parts for the group's 737 short-haul and 777 wide-body passenger planes, a statement said.

Boeing, which employs 2,000 non-manufacturing roles in Britain, added:

“Our decision to start manufacturing high-value components in the UK is a step-change in our engagement and a further example of Boeing's

commitment to grow here, supporting the UK's long-term prosperity,” Michael Arthur, president of Boeing Europe, said in the statement.

Boeing yesterday said its move abroad “is part of a broader plan... to begin in-house manufacturing of key actuation components and systems in the US and the UK to enhance production efficiency and reduce cost in its supply chain”. (AFP)

# Geant and Gulfmart offering mega discounts

Manama

Geant and Gulfmart is offering mega clearance discounts up to 50 percent on selected Mobiles, Laptops, Garments, Textiles, Footwear, Housewares, Sports, Luggage / Toys & DIY items.


Customers who spend BD 20 will get free comforters every Wednesday and Thursday. This offer is valid only in Geant Enma and Wadi Al Sail Mall.

Meanwhile Geant's amazing Bread Festival will continue until March 4.



Mega clearance sale at Geant and Gulfmart

### Did You Know?



Microsoft and Apple actually worked together for years on software for the first Macintosh computer – until Microsoft announced its competing Windows, which sparked a rivalry between Bill Gates and Steve Jobs that lasted for decades.




**BFC**  
CURRENCIES  
EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2969	0.2945
BANGLADESH	0.00506	0.00475
CANADA	0.2926	0.2895
DENMARK	0.0566	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0219
EURO	0.4041	0.4020
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00582	0.00576
INDONESIA	0.0002997	0.0002891
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003490	0.003420
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5351
KOREA	0.00038166	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.087200	0.0870
NEW ZEALAND	0.2758	0.2744
NORWAY	0.0472	
NEPAL	0.00387	0.00353
OMAN	0.97962	0.97962
PAKISTAN	0.00365	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00777	0.00752
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2711	0.2690
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03100	0.03090
SRI LANKA	0.00277	0.00249
SWEDISH	0.0451	
SWITZERLAND	0.3807	0.3782
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012600	
THAILAND	0.010990	0.010970
TURKEY	0.1108	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4778	0.4749
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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

### GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.4693	0.3722	0.3338
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.2444	0.2818	0.2528
OMAN	0.3849	0.3899	0.3800	0.3408
QATAR	3.6420	3.6893	3.5953	3.2247
UAE	3.6730	3.7207	3.6259	3.2522
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7988	3.7019	3.3203

**Paris**  
World equity markets were under pressure yesterday as analysts ran out of ways to justify Donald Trump inspired stock valuations, but some said the party may not be completely over.

The dollar stuttered, while Wall Street, Asian and European markets fell after Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin lowered US growth expectations and appeared to temper Donald Trump's belligerence towards China's currency policy.

European stocks extended early losses as soon as index futures pointed to a weaker opening on Wall Street.

At the opening bell, New York indeed capped a winning streak that had seen the New York market

through 10 straight record-breaking sessions while global investors looked on in "awe and disbelief" as Mati Greenspan, Senior Market Analyst at eToro, put it.

But for now, the Trump-fuelled global rally is showing signs of petering out with analysts suggesting the exuberance about hoped-for spending and tax cuts may have been overdone.

#### Dollar retreats

The dollar lost some of its recent shine, another sign that cracks may be appearing in investors' belief that US economic strength will make them richer day after day.

## Closing Bell

London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.7 pc at 7,222.63

Frankfurt - DAX 30: DOWN 1.4 pc at 11,786.10

Paris - CAC 40: DOWN 1.1 pc at 4,835.86

New York - Dow: DOWN 0.2 pc at 20,767.58

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 0.5 pc at 19,283.54

Oil - West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 43 cents at \$54.02 per barrel

Oil - Brent North Sea: DOWN 50 cents at \$56.32

In corporate Europe, some heavyweights saw heavy losses in response to annual results.

Vivendi in Paris dropped nearly four percent after posting a 35-percent decline in net profit.

Royal Bank of Scotland shares dropped more nearly six percent in London.

Frankfurt heavyweight BASF shed close to three percent after the chemicals giant reported a "challenging" 2016.(AFP)

## Police arrest 'world's cheapest smartphone' firm boss for fraud

### New Delhi

The former managing director of a little-known Indian company that claimed to be selling the world's cheapest smartphone has been arrested for fraud, police said yesterday.

Mohit Goel, boss of the domestic handset maker Ringing Bells, was taken into custody in Ghaziabad late Thursday after a distributor complained it had not received phones worth 1.6 m rupees (around \$24,000).

Ayam Enterprises said it had paid 3 million rupees (\$45,000) after Goel persuaded it to distribute the Freedom 251 smartphone in November 2015 but only received 1.4 m rupees' worth.

Deputy superintendent of police Manish Kumar Mishra



Mohit Goel

said Goel had been arrested in Ghaziabad, which is on the outskirts of New Delhi, on Thursday night and was to appear in court on Friday.

"He's been charged with fraud and forgery. Investigations into the matter

will continue," Mishra said.

Mishra said police were on the hunt for four other officials of Ringing Bells who were named in Ayam's complaint.

Ringing Bells, based in the Delhi satellite city of Noida, was set up in September 2015

and began selling mobile phones via its website last February.

The demand for the Freedom 251, which was priced at 251 rupees, was so great that its website crashed within hours of the launch.

At the time, Ringing Bells reportedly claimed that it was receiving hundreds of thousands of hits per second, without clarifying how many of those were converted into orders.

Goel has reportedly said Ringing Bells was ready to pay back its distributors by March 31. Goel quit as Ringing Bells' managing director in December, handing over the reins to his brother. Mishra said at least three other similar cases have been filed against Goel over the past year.(AFP)

# Qatar's 'GAS CAPITAL OF THE WORLD'

## Ras Laffan

**P**erched on a northern tip of Qatar, about an hour's drive from the gleaming capital Doha and at the end of "Route 77", stands the secretive city of Ras Laffan.

Behind its closely guarded gates, Ras Laffan is home to 30,000 people, the best white truffles in Qatar, apparently, and a turtle conservation project.

It is also one of the most significant industrial sites on the planet.

"Welcome to the gas capital of the world," says our guide Wissam, as he ushers a small group of journalists into Ras Laffan on a rare government-invited press tour of the site.

Ras Laffan is Qatar's port for the production and export of liquefied natural gas, an industrial process whereby gas is cooled to -162 degrees Celsius (-260 Fahrenheit), allowing it to be more easily shipped around the world.

The LNG comes from the huge North Field, 80 kilometres (50 miles) further north of Ras Laffan, a 6,000 square kilometre (2,316 square mile) site in Gulf waters, almost half the size of Qatar itself.

Since the first shipment sailed to Japan in 1997, Qatar now produces up to 77 million tonnes of gas each year.

In context, a study by Royal Dutch Shell published this month said worldwide demand reached 265 million tonnes in 2016.

Using those figures, tiny Qatar is responsible for 30 percent of the global LNG market.

Qatar's annual volume of production not only gave its name to the road that leads to Ras Laffan, but ensures its position as the world's biggest LNG exporter.

"We will remain for a long time the leader in LNG," says Saad al-Kaabi, the head of state-owned energy giant Qatar Petroleum, which owns and operates Ras Laffan.

Qatar's gas reserves are so vast it can maintain production at current rates for another 137 years.

In 1997, Qatar's exports were valued at around \$5 billion.

Many million tonnes of LNG later, that figure reached \$125 billion by 2014, according to trade data site the Observatory of Economic Complexity.

World Bank figures show that Qatar's gross domestic product was about \$11 billion in 1997 and \$165 billion in 2015.

In short, Ras Laffan is the reason why there are so many skyscrapers in Doha, why Qatar has an award-winning airport and airline, why Paris Saint-Germain

have won four Ligue 1 titles in a row, why Britain has a new tallest building and why the emirate will host the 2022 football World Cup.

## Like a James Bond set

Normally Ras Laffan remains firmly out of bounds but, for a few hours at least, the curtain has been partially lifted on the huge refinery. Security though remains tight.

Video is not allowed and pictures are only permitted on one part of the tour. The visit is conducted almost exclusively by coach. It is not a place to break rules.

Workers, culled from 54 different countries, who breach a speed limit on a Ras Laffan road can be instantly sacked. No ship's crew member is allowed out when their boats are being loaded with LNG, a process that can take 24 hours.

Qatar is a largely secretive country but commercial and security reasons could also lay behind its reluctance to show off Ras Laffan.

The site has the feel of a vast James Bond film set. It is a metal forest of huge pipes, loading arms, holders, tank farms, cooling systems, docks, ships and "trains that don't move" -- where the natural gas is converted into LNG.

There are also five fire stations, workers' accommodation and, more surprisingly, somewhere in this vast complex is a picnic area. Above everything, flare stack flames burn constantly into the blue sky.

Within minutes of travelling back down "Route 77", the coach passes a goat herder, a symbol of the country's past.

In the vehicle's mirrors, Ras Laffan's flames can still be seen burning, a symbol of Qatar's present and future. (AFP)



All pictures show parts of the Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar's principal site for production of liquefied natural gas, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of the capital Doha. (KARIM JAAFAR / AFP)



Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa , BREEF Honorary President Shaikh Faisa Al Khalifa, attended the 16th Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup yesterday at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club in Sakhr



Supreme Council for Youth & Sport First Vice Chairman and Bahrain Royal Equestrian & Endurance Federation President and Commander of the Royal Guards Special Force Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and institutions that wish to participate in Bahrain International Defence Exhibition and Conference 2017 (BIDEC). The event will be held from October 16-18 and is considered to be a major opportunity to discuss on current security developments within the military field



Food City Chairman, Mohamed Saad Ebrahim inaugurated the new Food City outlet ( take away & delivery) in Riffa



Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong and officials of the China Embassy participated in the recently held 10th Jawad Mini Marathon. The Chinese ambassador asserted that the embassy and Chinese nationals in Bahrain will continue to support the social development of the Kingdom and contribute for the betterment of its cause of Bahrain





aisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club Shaikh Abdullah bin



ifa met with several companies to exchange ideas and experience



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister, Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received Jafari Consultants (JAFCON) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akbar Jafri and other company officials yesterday. The delegation invited the minister as the keynote speaker for a productivity conference to be held in April. The minister accepted the invitation and said his participation supports the government plan to diversify the economy away from the oil sector



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The Rotary club of Sulmaniya, Rotary club of Manama and Rotary club of Adliya jointly organised a social evening to celebrate 112 years of Rotary International at Abdel Wahab restaurant in Moda Mall

The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) organised its 121st Free Medical Camp at the labour accommodation of REEF Facility Management, Reef Island. Six senior medical consultants and six paramedical staff from various hospitals conducted medical examinations and more than 200 workers from the company benefitted from the camp. Indian Embassy Assistant Consular Officer (Labour) Jitendra Kumar Sinha was present at the medical camp along with ICRF volunteers and company officials



Dr.Latifa Al Algoud, Chief of Girls Guides at the Ministry of Education organised workshops for girls guides leaders in cooking, planting and different activities



# CELEBS

Kim Kardashian West @KimKardashian  
 I write my kids a letter each year reflecting on the year we had together & fun memories. I'll give the letters to them when they turn 21



## Tom Cruise to reconnect with daughter Suri



Los Angeles  
**A**ctor Tom Cruise is reportedly ready to reunite with daughter Suri after more than three years.

According to a source, Cruise "has some reprioritising in his life" after mourning the loss of his mother Mary Lee South, who died at age 80 earlier this month, reports [aceshowbiz.com](http://aceshowbiz.com).

"Tom now wants to re-establish his relationship with his daughter and begin seeing her on a regular basis," the source told *In Touch* magazine. Cruise is "ready to ramp up his relationship with her in a big way".

The source said Cruise knew Suri will need some time to warm up to the situation.

"Tom knows she won't just go jumping back into his arms, and that he's going to have to take it slow and steady to show her he's back in her life for good," the source said. (IANS)

## Scarlett to host 'Saturday Night Live'



Los Angeles

**A**ctress Scarlett Johansson has been announced to host the TV show "Saturday Night Live" on March 11.

This will be the fifth time she will host the late night sketch comedy, joining Ben Affleck, Candice Bergen and Justin Timberlake.

The announcement was made on "Saturday Night Live" Twitter page on Thursday, reports [aceshowbiz.com](http://aceshowbiz.com).

The makers posted a photograph which featured sticky notes with the hosts and music guests for March 4 and 11 episodes written on them.

The "Avengers: Age of Ultron" actress will be promoting her new movie "Ghost in the Shell", which is set to release on March 31.

Lorde will be the musical guest, making her debut solo performance on "Saturday Night Live".

Johansson previously hosted the show on January 14, 2006, April 21, 2007, November 13, 2010 and on May 2, 2015. (IANS)



STARRY  
*Birthday*  
 Lee Evans

February 25, 1964

British comedian and actor known for his humour. He has appeared in the films *Mouse Hunt*, *The Fifth Element*, and *There's Something About Mary*.

## Now & Then



### Tobias Maguire

Tobias Maguire is an American actor and producer. He began his career in the late 1980s. His first appearance in a feature film was a non-speaking part in *The Wizard*. He is known for playing the title character in Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* film trilogy. He was nominated for the Golden Globe Awards and received two Saturn Awards, including one for Best Actor.

# Kanye to launch make-up brand

Los Angeles

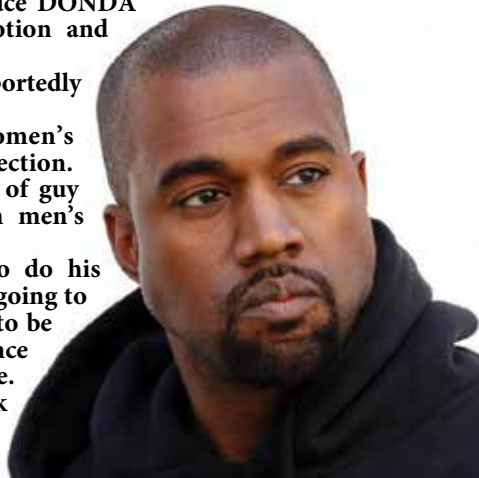
Rapper Kanye West is reportedly planning to launch a new cosmetic line inspired by his late mother Donda West.

According to a source, West has already filed legal documents declaring his intention to produce 'DONDA' brand make-up, perfumes, lotion and other cosmetics.

West's cosmetic line will reportedly be for both men and women.

"Kanye will have a women's collection and a men's collection. He is a ground breaking sort of guy and believes the future is in men's makeup," the source told.

"He wears make-up and so do his friends. He thinks all men are going to be wearing it soon and wants to be ahead of the curve. Appearance is very important to Kanye. He wants all guys to look great," the source added. (IANS)



## MIDDLE EAST MOVIE BUZZ

### CHILDREN OF HEAVEN

The young hero of Majid Majidi's "Children of Heaven" is played by Mir Farrokh Hashemian, a desolate-looking boy with huge brown eyes and a way of sending tears suddenly rolling down his cheeks. Those tears well up with some regularity during this film about 9-year-old Ali, his younger sister Zahra (Bahareh Seddiqui) and their scheme for sharing a pair of his tattered sneakers. The children want to hide the fact that Zahra's shoes have been lost because this will be a hardship for their parents. The family's carefully detailed poverty, which reflects the filmmaker's own childhood experience, colours everything that happens in this story.

Events in the film are seen through the children's ingenuous eyes, as is so often and artfully the case in Iranian films. In "Children of Heaven," life is sweet despite countless hardships, and no reality beyond the economic intrudes upon a fairy tale atmosphere.

One of the film's most elaborate episodes finds Ali and his father (Amir Naji) undertaking a punishing bike ride so that the father can seek gardening work among Teheran's rich. It's typical of Majidi's reliance on the expected that this journey of hope ends in frustration. And that a lonely rich child materializes out of nowhere, eager to make Ali his instant best friend.

The film's two young stars are as guileless as possible, even when the film contrives to turn the shoe issue into its main dramatic focus. Ali and Zahra meet secretly in the middle of each school day to pass along the sneakers, but that proves to be no solution. Ali, against all odds, determines to run a long-distance race and win the third-place prize of running shoes for Zahra. (nytimes.com)



## The Oscar nominations

The nominees in the main categories ahead of the February 26 awards ceremony in Hollywood

### Most nominated

La La Land 14

Arrival 8

Moonlight 8



### Best film

- ★ Arrival
- ★ Fences
- ★ Hacksaw Ridge
- ★ Hell or High Water
- ★ Hidden Figures
- ★ La La Land
- ★ Lion
- ★ Manchester by the Sea
- ★ Moonlight

### Best actor

- ★ Casey Affleck Manchester by the Sea
- ★ Andrew Garfield Hacksaw Ridge
- ★ Ryan Gosling La La Land
- ★ Viggo Mortensen Captain Fantastic
- ★ Denzel Washington Fences

### Best supporting actor

- ★ Mahershala Ali Moonlight
- ★ Jeff Bridges Hell or High Water
- ★ Lucas Hedges Manchester by the Sea
- ★ Michael Shannon Nocturnal Animals
- ★ Dev Patel Lion

### Best foreign language film

- ★ Land of Mine (Denmark)
- ★ A Man Called Ove (Sweden)
- ★ The Salesman (Iran)
- ★ Tanna (Australia)
- ★ Toni Erdmann (Germany)

### Best director

- ★ Damien Chazelle La La Land
- ★ Mel Gibson Hacksaw Ridge
- ★ Denis Villeneuve Arrival
- ★ Kenneth Lonergan Manchester by the Sea
- ★ Barry Jenkins Moonlight

### Best actress

- ★ Isabelle Huppert Elle
- ★ Ruth Negga Loving
- ★ Natalie Portman Jackie
- ★ Emma Stone La La Land
- ★ Meryl Streep Florence Foster Jenkins

### Best supporting actress

- ★ Viola Davis Fences
- ★ Naomie Harris Moonlight
- ★ Nicole Kidman Lion
- ★ Octavia Spencer Hidden Figures
- ★ Michelle Williams Manchester by the Sea

### Best animated feature

- ★ Kubo and the Two Strings
- ★ Moana
- ★ My Life as a Zucchini
- ★ The Red Turtle
- ★ Zootopia

© AFP



A model presents a creation for fashion house Etro during the Women's Fall/Winter 2017/2018 fashion week in Milan, yesterday. (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 use one of the following: [outandabout@dt.bh](mailto:outandabout@dt.bh), or call 38444680.

## GROUNDING & PROTECTION WORKSHOP

**Date:** 25 Feb 10:15 am – 1 pm  
**Venue:** Serenity Meditation, Yoga and Reiki Centre- Janabiya

We have all come into contact with people who drain our energy. They can leave us feeling tired, with a headache and sometimes feeling sick. How do we peacefully combat this? Find out about the importance of grounding and protecting your energy field. In this workshop, we experience different ways to disconnect from those who drain us. We look at our energy as a precious entity, and learn to protect ourselves from energy drainage.

## IZAKAYA SUNDAY

**Date:** 26 Feb 7 pm - 11:30 pm  
**Venue:** Bushido (restaurant & lounge) - Manama

Izakaya is a type of informal Japanese food gathering.

Food items are served in small portions, similar to Spanish Tapas.

Izakaya dining includes a wide variety of Bushido's signature dishes.

Food is normally ordered slowly over several courses rather than all at once.

Guests can re-order dishes as much as they like. Dishes on the menu include Bushido's famous volcano roll, the scrumptious rock shrimp tempura and the mouth-watering beef tenderloin with teriyaki sauce.

## CURRY NIGHT | CHOICES

**Date:** 27 Feb 7 pm - 11:30 pm  
**Venue:** ART Rotana- Muharraq

Join us for a night of the best Desi Cuisine! Spice up your Monday nights with aromatic curries from across the Desi region including all your favorites and authentic drinks made to order.

## FREE IMMIGRATION ROADSHOW - AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND, BAHRAIN

**Date:** 27 Feb 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
**Venue:** Downtown Rotana- Manama

## HIGHLIGHT

### SPRING OF CULTURE

**Date:** February 23 onwards  
**Venue:** Different Venues

Bahrain's 12th Spring of Culture has kicked off with an energetic musical performance by the German group Groove Onkels. The band will be performing throughout the weekend with four street performance acts this season. Groove Onkels' show will be followed by an open invitation "Bucket Drumming" workshop, led by the band itself, in which young and old participants can learn from the masters how to create rhythmic beats from random objects. On Friday 24th, the Groove Onkels' will perform in the Khalifa Al Kubra Garden in Riffa at 4pm, followed by a performance at 6pm in the Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park in Hidd. The band will finish the night with another performance at Block 338 in Adliya, starting at 8pm. On Saturday 26th the band will perform another three shows at Seef Mall in Seef District, at 11am, 4pm and 7:30pm. The performances are themed around recycling and environmental awareness, using only jumps, kicks, slaps and throws to create great beats with household objects. Entrance to all of these family friendly performances is free of charge.



Immigration Roadshow is brought to you by Success Global Limited, a licensed immigration consulting firm based in Wellington, New Zealand. This roadshow is part of our global immigration events covering New Zealand, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. The roadshow represents an excellent opportunity for those of you who are considering to move to Australia or New Zealand either for permanent settlement or for a temporary stay such as work and study. While building on previous success stories around the world, our senior licensed immigration team will be providing important information about immigration, work and study opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. As a participant, you will learn how your partnership with Success Global can help you achieve your dream to migrate to a country famous for quality lifestyle and promising career opportunities.

### MONDAY NIGHT BOOKCLUB

**Date:** 27 Feb 7 pm – 8 pm  
**Venue:** Words BookstoreCafé-Jannusan

The Women by T.C. Boyle. T.C. Boyle's dazzling new novel turns his fictional sights on the colorful and outlandish Frank Lloyd Wright. Boyle's incomparable account of

Wright's life, as told through the experiences of the four women who loved him, blazes with his trademark wit and inventiveness. There's the Montenegrin beauty, Olgivanna Milanoff, the passionate Southern belle Maude Miriam Noel, the spirited and tragic Mamah Cheney, and his young first wife, Kitty Tobin. Boyle deftly captures these very different women and in doing so, creates a gripping drama about marriage, the bargains men and women make, and the privileges and pitfalls of genius and fame.

### GINGHAM IN BLUE - AN ART EXHIBITION

**Date:** 01 Mar 7 pm - 04 Mar 6 pm  
**Venue:** Words BookstoreCafé-Jannusan

I have always been interested in drawing faces and people. In this series of paintings I have tried to incorporate both my love of texture and textiles combined with my drawings and paintings. My paintings are built on layers of drawing, paint, stencils, stamps and pieces of fabric, hence the title, 'Gingham in Blue'. The gingham fabric is present and significant in all the paintings of this collection.

### MAKE YOUR MOMMA PROUD LIVE

**Date:** 3rd March 2017, 6.30pm  
**Venue:** The Indian School Ground, Isa Town

One of the biggest and well-known music bands in the Philippines is coming to Bahrain exclusively for Modern Exchange customers. Make Your Momma Proud known popularly as M.Y.M.P will be performing live on March 3 at the Indian High School Ground, Isa Town.

M.Y.M.P., an acoustic band from the Philippines consists of five members. It is a tribute to lead singer Chin Alcantara's mom. She saw him start with the guitar but never got to see him play professionally. They have rose to stardom through the release of their soulful albums many of which has been certified as Platinum. It is MYMP's first performance in the Kingdom and promises to be a mesmerizing experience for the Filipino community. The process of getting a pass for this exciting program is quite simple. Do a transaction of any amount to the Philippines from Modern Exchange before 03rd of March and get a free pass for the event.

## MARK YOUR Calendar

### BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL GARDEN SHOW

**Date:** February 22, and will be open to the public from the 23rd to the 26th of February 2017  
**Venue:** Bahrain International Convention & Exhibition Centre

This year's Bahrain International Garden Show will feature the latest agricultural innovations in utilizing limited resources to create small gardens or green spaces in order to achieve agricultural development and sustainability. To achieve this goal, the theme of the show is "Compact Gardens", with the University of Bahrain designing a special display, demonstrating unique ideas in utilizing limited spaces to easily create compact gardens. A section in the exhibition has been allocated to showcase pictures of local homes and buildings with creative ways to introduce different plants and flowers that are suited to limited spaces and our climate. Another section has been allocated to showcase practical ideas and solutions for designing small spaces in residential areas such as balconies, roofs, and exteriors, focusing on the positive impacts of limiting pollution, beautifying residences, and providing fresh produce for the owners' needs, said National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) Secretary-General Shaikha Maram bint Isa AlKhalifa.

### 2017 FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

**Date:** April 14-16  
**Venue:** Bahrain International Circuit (BIC)

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) announced its highly anticipated launch of ticket sales for the 2017 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix. Tickets are being sold with an 'Early Bird' discount of up to 20%. The offer is available only until January 27 and it covers tickets to BIC's Main Grandstand and Turn One Grandstand. There is also a 10% reduction on ticket prices to the Batelco Grandstand, University Grandstands and Victory Grandstands. Children aged 12 years old and younger can get their tickets for half the price. The Bahrain Grand Prix is set to be the third race on the Formula 1 calendar for 2017 and it will be the fourth Grand Prix hosted under floodlights in Sakhir. With the previous night races hailed as the most enthralling and action-packed ever seen at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", the exciting build up for next year's event has already begun. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com) or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

## HIGHLIGHT

### OPERA: "ANTAR WA ABLA"

**Date:** 25th February, 8:00pm  
**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre

Experience one of the most important theatrical productions in the Arab world, "Antar Wa Abla", and learn why it has won such widespread popularity and acclaim since its debut in July 2016 in Beirut in commemoration of Arab Tourism Day. This historical opera, produced by Opera Lebanon, showcases



pre-Islamic literature and poetry, Arab heritage, and timeless stories that address important social and human issues through relatable characters in exceptional circumstances.



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Well experienced in Tutoring Stay in with Home family Preferably Fluent in English Speaking and writing Work Visa Provided

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Well experienced with Arabic / Oriental and Indian Cuisine. For Staying in home Work Visa Provided

**Female Stewardess**

For Private Home events and parties services. Work Visa Provided

**Female Cleaners**

Well experienced in Housekeeping Minimum of 2 years Work Visa Provided

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Well experienced in Driving Should have valid GCC licensed Work Visa Provided

**Certified Babysitter/ Nannies**

Well experienced in taking care of babies Preferably Fluent in English Work Visa Provided

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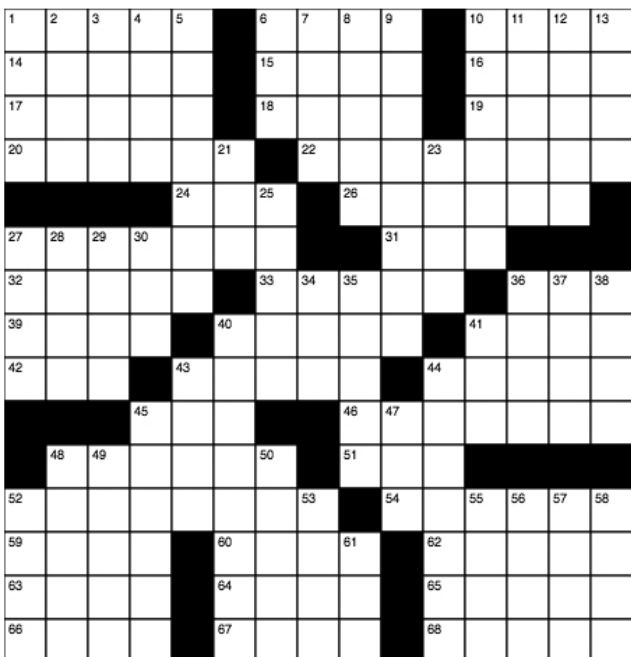
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# CROSSWORD



**Across**

1- Island near Sicily; 6- Basilica area; 10- Timber wolf; 14- Nut of an oak; 15- Regrets; 16- Cabinet dept.; 17- Unemotional; 18- Blueprint detail; 19- Madras dress; 20- Flowerchild; 22- Collecting; 24- Cleaning agent; 26- Globe; 27- Narc; 31- Electrically charged atom; 32- Greek marketplace; 33- Cara or Castle; 36- Codebreaking org.; 39- Melody; 40- Frosting; 41- Highway; 42- French possessive; 43- Appliance brand; 44- Hawk's home; 45- 24-hr. bank feature; 46- Waterfall; 48- Trojan War hero; 51- Acapulco aunt; 52- Having dark hair; 54- Stage plays; 59- Kansas city; 60- River to the Ubangi; 62- Hives; 63- Chinese weight; 64- Leaf tool; 65- Horne and Olin; 66- Goes astray; 67- Anything \_\_\_?; 68- Snap course;

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



**Down**

1- Pulverize potatoes; 2- Broadway opener; 3- Coil; 4- Stumble; 5- Accessory; 6- Poetica; 7- Insect stage; 8- Appears; 9- Fleeing; 10- Reduce; 11- Studio sign; 12- European capital; 13- Not a dup.; 21- Storm center; 23- Foot covering; 25- Author Jong; 27- Makes lace; 28- Shivering fit; 29- Heaps; 30- Quattro minus uno; 34- Tin Tin; 35- Make into law; 36- Nick Charles's wife; 37- Stated; 38- Zip-Doo-Dah; 40- Not ripe; 41- room; 43- To (just so); 44- By and large; 45- Historical records; 47- Assist; 48- Bellowing; 49- Swiss mathematician; 50- Great bargain; 52- Sever with the teeth; 53- Lodge members; 55- District; 56- Department store department; 57- An apple ...; 58- Slugger Sammy; 61- Wide shoe size;

## Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Your romantic side is flying high. People in general, and your own partner in particular, are going to seem especially attractive to you. Don't be surprised if you find yourself wanting to go to a movie featuring the star you find the sexiest of all! You could also see someone you think of as a friend in an entirely different light. A busier social life is in the wind.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



New people you meet are likely to be favourably impressed with your manners and social skills. Don't be surprised if later on this brings you some corporate kudos! If you've been planning on making a move, this is the day to do it. Your health is radiant, and you're probably looking great. This is, therefore, an excellent time to plan an evening out with friends.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Romantic feelings blossom today; in general, people suddenly appear more attractive than usual. Lovers and potential lovers seem unusually attentive. You could also be feeling very creative, and you might want to try your hand at poetry or fiction. Reading romantic novels or going to romantic movies could also be very appealing.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You might wake up this morning, look around you, and decide that you want to spend as much time as possible working on your home. You could well be bored with your decor, and want to make some changes. Spend the day coming up with ideas, then in the evening try to analyse the situation and see what's feasible at this time.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Today, you could receive a very affectionate and supportive letter or phone call from someone close to you. Communications with others should go smoothly, and intelligent conversations are likely to take place. A favourite female author, musician, or actress could release a new book, album, or video that you'll want to seize upon right away.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Your financial affairs could look especially rosy at this time. Some benefits are definitely coming your way, though everything is not quite as promising as it seems, and you could well find yourself with less than you were hoping for. Think of whatever gain may be coming as something extra; don't count on it.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



You should be happier than usual with what you see in the mirror, because your inner beauty is more visible than usual on your face. You could also be feeling especially sociable, and both old and new friends will find your company especially congenial. Romance blossoms, though there is a tendency to see your partner through rose-coloured glasses. Hang on to your common sense, but not too much.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Today you might find yourself more inclined than usual to actively explore your interests in the arts. You might find yourself wanting to stroll through an art gallery, or attend a concert or play. Your interest may be in the motivations of the artists as much as in the works themselves. Don't be surprised if you are especially drawn to the more tormented of the great artists, like Beethoven or Van Gogh.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



A friend whom you haven't seen for a while could surprise you with a phone call or short visit. A lot of interesting news and useful information could be exchanged, benefiting both of you. You may make a number of short journeys throughout the day, as you have a lot to do. A small increase in income could also be in the works.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Today, you could want to spend some of the financial rewards brought on by all of your hard work of late. This will certainly make you very happy; however, don't get carried away and go all-out spending it! Treat yourself a little - go out with a friend and celebrate. Do take care, however, to exercise a little good sense. You don't want to buy too much and have to take a lot of it back to the store.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Today, you might find yourself thinking longingly of exotic lands, and possibly making plans to travel to them. You might also find yourself wondering about the potential for romance abroad! Romantic daydreams may distract you from your more serious responsibilities, so it's important to stay focused.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)

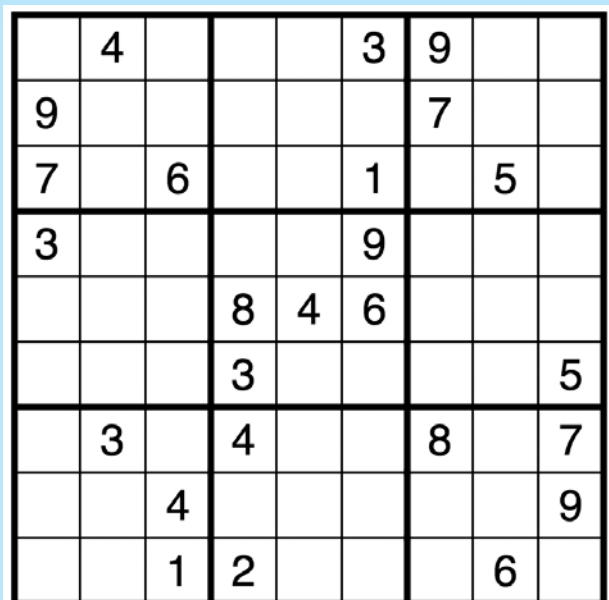


A small sum of money may come your way. It could be that someone pays you what they owe you, or you could actually win a small amount in a lottery. Or you could find \$20 floating in the street! Romance is very much on your mind, and if you can't get together with your romantic partner this evening, you might curl up with a romantic novel or video. Enjoy!

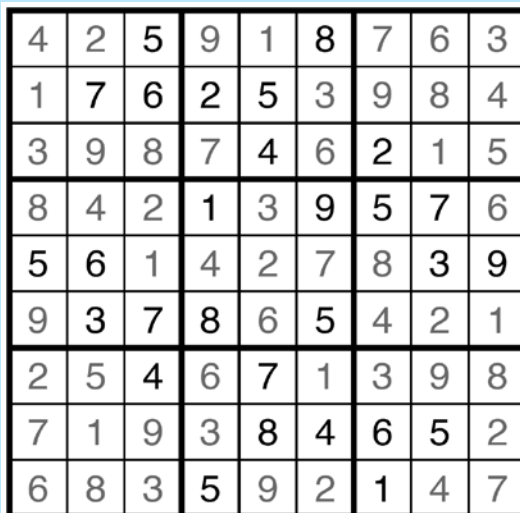
## BEETLE BAILEY



## 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.



US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson(L) listens to Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray

# US vows 'no mass deportations'

## Mexico City

**U**S officials promised Mexico no "mass deportations" or use of military force to expel immigrants, moving to calm tensions over President Donald Trump's vow to crack down on "bad dudes" illegally residing in his country.

US Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with Mexican ministers who expressed "concern and irritation" over Trump's combative stance on trade and migration ties with Mexico.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Tuesday issued new orders to step up the arrest and deportation of illegal immigrants, many of them Mexicans.

But Kelly promised at a news conference in Mexico City that "there will be no, repeat, no mass deportations. Everything we do in the DHS will be done legally."

"There will be no use of military force for immigration operations," he added.

Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray, who met with Tillerson, repeated his vow not to let the United States impose migration reforms on it "unilaterally."

"There is concern and irritation among Mexicans about what are seen as policies that could be detrimental for Mexicans in Mexico and abroad," he said.

Tillerson said the two sides "reiterated our joint commitment to maintaining law and order along our shared border by stopping

potential terrorists and dismantling the transnational criminal networks moving drugs and people into the United States."

But he agreed that cooperation on security had to work both ways.

"We underscored the importance of stopping the illegal firearms and bulk cash that is originating in the United States and flowing into Mexico," he said.

Kelly said the two countries were also cooperating on ways to stop US-bound migrants traveling up through Mexico from the impoverished and violent nations of Central America.

Meanwhile, a few dozen protesters gathered in front of the US embassy to demand a halt to Trump's rhetoric against Mexico. -(AFP)

# Boy saved by massive anti-venom dose

## Sydney

**A** 10-year-old Australian boy has survived a bite from one of the world's deadliest spiders after taking a record 12 vials of anti-venom.

Matthew Mitchell was helping his dad clear out the back shed at their home north of Sydney when he was bitten on the finger by a funnel-web spider, that had been lurking in his shoe.

"It sort of clawed onto me and all the legs and everything crawled around my finger and I couldn't get it off," he said.

His family used his shirt as a compression bandage to try and slow the venom's spread and rushed him to hospital.



Deadly funnel-web spider

He experienced convulsions but survived after being given 12 vials of anti-venom,

which local media said was an Australian record.

The funnel-web spider is among the world's deadliest spiders. Its venom attacks the nervous system causing foaming at the mouth, muscle spasms and potentially death.

The spider was caught and taken to the Australian Reptile Park where it will be milked as part of their program to develop anti-venom.

The 10-year-old was "as lucky as they get", said Australian Reptile Park general manager Tim Faulkner.

Australia is home to a startling number of the world's deadliest creatures, including snakes, spiders and octopuses.

## #PollToday



Do you think the restaurants in the Kingdom follow rules ?

Yes  No  Can't Say



The police found that the rail accident killing 148 people in last November was a conspiracy hatched across the border

Narendra Modi  
India's prime minister

## Rest in sight

Le Pen snubs questioning in 'fake jobs' probe



French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen refused to attend questioning over claims she broke the rules on the use of Parliament funds.

Pakistan says gas leak behind Lahore blast

An explosion that killed seven people and caused panic in Lahore was caused by a gas leak and not a bomb as police had earlier stated, officials said yesterday.

Protest in Bangladesh over Greek goddess statue

Hundreds of supporters of a hardline Bangladesh group staged protests yesterday calling for the statue of a Greek goddess installed at the Supreme Court to be destroyed or removed.

Japan PM denies involvement in land deal

Rare scandal was swirling around Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday as he was forced to deny involvement in a shady land deal by a religious school.

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# Cash handler held over toy notes in India ATM

## New Delhi

**I**ndian police have arrested a cash handler after notes in a bank ATM were replaced with children's toy bills, an officer said yesterday.

Mohammad Isha is accused of stealing the real cash and substituting it with fake bills earlier this month when he was refilling the State Bank of India machine in New Delhi.

"After entering the ATM with the cash bag, Isha removed the notes from the ATM tray and replaced them with the dummy cash," said the officer on condition of anonymity.

"We interrogated him at



Representation image length and he has confessed to the crime."

The dummy 2,000-rupee (\$30) bills were marked 'Children Bank of India' -- and carried the misspelt pledge "I promise to pay the barer two thousand coupons".

Isha will face trial for cheating and theft.

# Five year jail term for Hitler-inspired extremist

## London

**A** right-wing extremist from London who described Adolf Hitler as "his God" was jailed for five years for terrorism and hate crimes over his social media posts.

Sean Creighton was sentenced at a court in London after using social media to call for Muslims and Jews to be killed.

An investigation was launched after a photograph was posted of Creighton holding a rifle and standing in front of a Nazi flag.

The probe uncovered his wider hate campaign, including leaving offensive stickers in public and ownership of a "White Resistance Manual 2.4" document with details of weapons and explosives.

Creighton was described as a "committed racist" by prosecutor Jonathan Sandiford.

"He was enthralled by Nazism and Adolf Hitler, whom he told police in his interviews was his God," Sandiford told the court.

# Plane turns back as door not totally closed



## Jakarta

**A**n Indonesian passenger plane carrying 192 people from China to Bali was forced to turn back after the crew realised one of its doors was not properly closed.

The Boeing 737 operated by Sriwijaya Air was 1.5 hours into the five-hour flight when its system detected that a passenger door at the front of the aircraft had not shut properly, said spokesman Agus Soedjono.

"The system did not detect this prior to the flight, but when the plane was up in the air, it was detected," he said.

The plane returned to the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, where it had set out from, and was checked for 30 minutes before taking off again for Denpasar, the capital of the resort island of Bali.

The plane was carrying 180 passengers and 12 crew members. No one was hurt or injured in the incident.

# RANIERI SACKING STUNS FOOTBALL WORLD

**Leicester**  
**C**laudio Ranieri admitted his dream had died after he was ruthlessly sacked as Leicester manager in a brutal move that brought the wrath of the football world down on the troubled champions' Thai owners.

Ranieri was axed barely two weeks after the owners gave him their "unwavering support" despite

disastrous results that have left Leicester just one point above the relegation zone.

Leading Premier League bosses including Jose Mourinho and Jurgen Klopp expressed dismay at the move and backed Ranieri, who only last month was named FIFA's coach of the year for scripting one of the most unbelievable stories in football.

British media also aimed withering criticism at Leicester's Thai owners, King Power, who said they had no choice but to oust Ranieri.

The owners were "snakes", "brutal", "cruel", commentators said amid reports Ranieri had lost the backing of senior players over his tactical tinkering.

## - 'My dream died' -

The popular 65-year-old Italian admitted the decision was a huge blow as he had dreamt of staying in charge of Leicester for the rest of his career.

"Yesterday my dream died," Ranieri said.

"After the euphoria of last season and being crowned

Premier League champions all I dreamt of was staying with Leicester City, the club I love, for always. Sadly this was not to be."

Despite the pain of his abrupt exit, Ranieri was determined not to sound a bitter note.

"The adventure was amazing and will live with me forever," he added.

"My heartfelt thanks to everybody at the club, all the players, the staff, everybody who was there and was part of what we achieved.

"It was a time of wonderfulness and happiness that I will never forget. It's been a pleasure and an honour to be a champion with all of you."

Mourinho sympathised with Ranieri after being axed by Chelsea last season following a rift with star players and the Manchester United boss turned up for his press conference on Friday with the initials CR on his training gear in tribute to the Italian.

"It is my little homage to somebody that wrote the most beautiful history of the Premier League," Mourinho said.

"Somebody that probably deserves the Leicester stadium to be named 'Claudio Ranieri' -- and he is sacked." (AFP)



Claudio Ranieri

## Football world reacts

### JOSE MOURINHO

The Manchester United manager wrote on Instagram: "Champion of England and FIFA manager of the year. Sacked. That's the new football. Keep smiling amico. Nobody can delete the history you wrote."



### LUCIANO SPALLETTI

"For Ranieri it's scandalous, unacceptable," said AS Roma coach and fellow Italian Spalletti. "He has to be congratulated. He was the one who created this chemistry in the team and the locker room that made it possible to win the championship. And when you win an English championship against City, United and Chelsea, if you have a little dignity, you even accept to be relegated without touching anything."



### GARY LINEKER

"After all that Claudio Ranieri has done for Leicester City, to sack him now is inexplicable and gut-wrenchingly sad," former England and Leicester player Lineker wrote on Twitter. "I shed a tear last night - I shed a tear for Claudio, I shed a tear for football and I shed a tear for my club," Lineker told BBC radio.



### STEVE CLARIDGE

"Must be a better way of dealing with this than the term 'sacking', move upstairs, bring someone in to 'help', sacking does him a disservice!" former Leicester City striker Claridge wrote on Twitter.



### RIO FERDINAND

"Just seen Ranieri news. Shocked after last night display! Wins the league & still not afforded the time to fight for safety. Unreal scenes!" wrote former ManU defender Ferdinand on Twitter.



## Player power didn't force Ranieri out

**Leicester**  
**L**eicester caretaker manager Craig Shakespeare has laughed off claims a players' revolt was behind the shock sacking of Claudio Ranieri.

The Premier League champions stunned the football world on Thursday by dismissing Ranieri just nine months after he led Leicester to an incredible title triumph.

But Shakespeare, who served as Ranieri's assistant, dismissed claims senior players contributed to the decision by complaining about the Italian's methods to Leicester's Thai owners. "I'm not aware of any senior



Craig Shakespeare

players going to the owners so that's news to me," he told reporters on Friday.

"From a football point of view I have to tell you that the players are very professional.

"They are very hurt and very frustrated. I've not had one problem with them on the training field. They are very diligent and professional.

"They will be very disappointed, like everybody else, that the manager has lost his job."

Shakespeare revealed he spoke briefly to Ranieri by telephone on Thursday after the news broke and described the Italian as shocked.



### ROY HODGSON

The former England manager is keen on a return to the dug out and could be the man to guide Leicester out of relegation trouble. He helped Fulham to survival in 2008 when they looked dead and buried. Saving Leicester would help restore his reputation, which was tarnished by England's wretched form at the 2014 World Cup and their Euro 2016 exit against Iceland.

### FRANK DE BOER

Ranieri was plucked out of the blue to replace Nigel Pearson in 2015 and De Boer is another outsider available. The Dutchman was sacked in November after just 85 days in charge at Inter Milan. He won four league titles in his six years at Ajax and was also Holland's assistant manager. He has been linked recently with Glasgow giants Rangers.



### DAVID WAGNER

The Huddersfield boss has earned many plaudits for the work he has done at the Terriers having turned them into realistic promotion contenders in the Championship. The German took over in November 2015 when Huddersfield were 18th in the Championship and has slowly rebuilt them with limited finances. Wagner is a close friend of Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

### NIGEL PEARSON

The 53-year-old has already had two spells at Leicester and is reported to be favoured by some Foxes players for another return to the club. He was dismissed in June 2015 having guided Leicester to a relegation escape by winning seven of their last nine games to beat the drop having looked certain to go down. However, Pearson's relationship with the owners broke down after a string of bizarre off-field antics and the sacking of his son James.



## Five candidates to replace Ranieri

### ROBERTO MANCINI

The former Manchester City manager is available after leaving Inter Milan last year. He spent a brief time on loan at the Foxes in 2001, playing five times before leaving to become Fiorentina manager after just a month at their old Filbert Street ground.



# Victory for

# 'Proposed'

## DT News Network Manama

The second favourite Proposed owned by Ramadhan Stable, trained by Jaber Ramadhan and ridden by Andrea Atzeni won the richest race for the HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup for imported three years and upwards (H.R.80 and Up) over 2,000 metres and worth BD10,000 yesterday at the 16th meeting of the season at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club in Sakhir.

In second place was the favourite Shogun owned by HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, trained by James Naylor and ridden by Andrew Elliott, third place a further length behind was Vale De Sol owned by Abdulla Fawzi Nass, trained by Fawzi Nass and ridden by Darren Williams, with fourth place a further neck

behind was Felix De Vega owned by Z.M.S Syndicate, trained by Emad Hussain and ridden by Nathan Evans.

Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa ,BREEF Honorary President Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club Shaikh Abdullah bin Isa Al Khalifa, were also present.

### Other results (horse, jockey):

**Race 1:** HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup for locally bred maidens 3 years and upwards. 1,600m BD2,000.

1) Retort/Abdulla Faisal, 2) Al Saida/Oisin Murphy, 3) Al Aghar/Ali Hassan, 4) Brave Lady/Jimmy Quinn.

**Race 2:** HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup for locally bred handicap (0-75) 3 years and upwards. 1,000m straight BD3,000.

1) Ghafiya/Andrew Elliott, 2) Lazzaz/Abdulla Faisal, 3) Waheed/Hussain Makki, 4) Penelope Pitstop/Jimmy Quinn.

**Race 3:** HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup for Arabian Horses 3 years and upwards. 1,600m BD3,000.

1) Obeyan 1620/Oisin Murphy, 2) Krayaan 1646/Jimmy Quinn, 3) Al Saqlawy 1578/Abdulla Faisal, 4) Mlolshaan 1649/Ali Hassan.

**Race 4:** HH Shaikh Hamad bin

Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup for imported 3 years and upwards. 1,400m BD3,000.

1) Thorkhill Star/Abdulla Faisal, 2) Gomati/Stephane Ladjadj, 3) Shipyard/Andrea Atzeni, 4) Sakada/Andrea Fele.

**Race 5:** HH Shaikha Sheema bint Nasser bint Hamad Al Khalifa for imported handicap (0-100) 3 years and upwards. 1,000m straight BD4,000.

1) Dutch Masterpiece/Andrea Atzeni, 2) Celtic Man/Brett Doyle, 3) Absolute Champion/Ali Samir, 4) Bazaruto/Andrew Elliott.

**Race 6:** HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup for locally bred 3 years and upwards. 2,000m BD5,000.

1) Methary/Andrew Elliott, 2) News Breaker/Jimmy Quinn, 3) Knight And Day/Abdulla Faisal, 4) No Doubt/Brett Doyle.

## Players set to take part in tennis festival

### Manama

Young tennis enthusiasts are set to take part in today's Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) organised one-day Future Star Festival Mini Tennis sponsored by RJ Investments Holding at the Bahrain Polytechnic campus courts in Isa Town starting at 8.30am and finishing around 12 noon.

The event is open to the two Unisex categories 10 years and under and 8 years and under, with the emphasis on development in the sport and is being played in a round-robin format followed by a knockout.

Tournament director is former Bahrain Davis Cup player Abdul Rahman Shehab with prizes being awarded to the players with the best forehand, backhand, serve, sportsmanship and medals will be given to all participants.

## Sports programme resumes today



### Manama

A multi-event Sports Programme is set to resume today at six locations across the kingdom, with activities taking place at Dohat Arad walkway in Muharraq, Al Fateh Corniche in Manama, Al Istiqlal Walkway in Sanad, Grand Khalifa Park in Riffa, Budaiya Walkway and A'ali Walkway on Saturday from 4pm and 6pm, where training instructors will be available to guide the participants in training sessions.

There are 13 trainers assigned to run the programme - Bader Sultan, Awatef Al Nejadi, Fatma Al Burshaid, Ali Yousef, Ammar Al Kuwari, Mohammed Naji, Rashid Slais, Salha Al Rumaihi, Mohammed Bakhsh, Layla Al Ali, Fadi Humaidan, Mohammed Al Sharqawi and Murtada Karashi.

This programme is organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), and is part of its annual plan to offer a string of sporting and social activities for the public.

## Kittel wins stage 2 of Abu Dhabi tour



### Abu Dhabi

German sprinter Marcel Kittel of Quick Step held off Caleb Ewan and Mark Cavendish to win a bunch sprint on stage two of the Tour of Abu Dhabi.

Kittel fell on the final kilometre on Thursday and finished three minutes behind stage one winner

three with the overall leader's red jersey on his back.

Saturday's race however will suit neither Kittel nor Cavendish with the 11km Jebel Hafit hill -- so popular with local cyclists -- on the agenda with its 8-9 per cent gradients, this will be one for the climbers. (AFP)

### Scoreboard

#### Stage 2:

1. Marcel Kittel (GER/QSF) 153km in 3h 28min 11sec
2. Caleb Ewan (AUS/ORS) same time
3. Marc Cavendish (GBR/DDD) s.t.
4. Matteo Pelucchi (ITA/BOH) s.t.
5. Phil Bauhaus (GER/SUN) s.t.

#### Overall:

1. Mark Cavendish (GBR/DDD) 342km in 8h 05min 03sec
2. Marcel Kittel (GER/QSF) at 4sec
3. André Greipel (GER/LTS) 8
4. Marco Canola (ITA/NIP) 8
5. Caleb Ewan (AUS/ORS) 8



## Bahrain set for GCC Games

### Manama

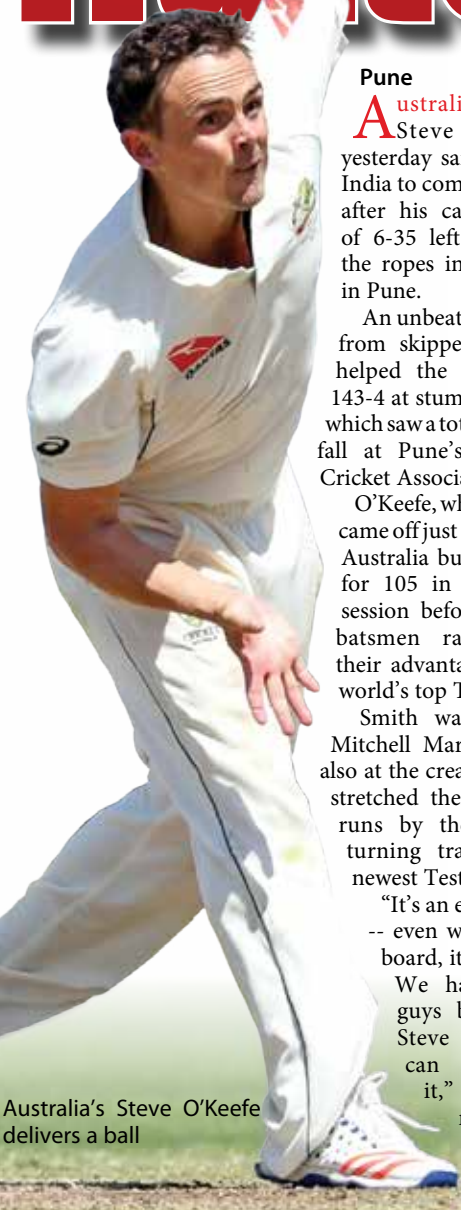
Bahrain will look to regain the GCC Women's Games glory next month when the fifth edition of the games takes place in Doha from March 7 to 17 and hope to win the event for a record third time.

This year's Games features 13 sports - handball, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, taekwondo, shooting, athletics for people with disabilities, chess, fencing, bowling, tennis, athletics and equestrian. Supreme Council for Youth and Sports deputy Secretary-General, Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member and Women's Sport Committee chairwoman Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa will lead the Bahraini delegation.



Shaikha Hayat

# O'Keefe, Smith flatten India



Australia's Steve O'Keefe delivers a ball

## Pune

**Australian spinner** Steve O'Keefe yesterday said he expected India to come back fighting after his career-best haul of 6-35 left the hosts on the ropes in the first Test in Pune.

An unbeaten half century from skipper Steve Smith helped the tourists reach 143-4 at stumps on day two, which saw a total of 15 wickets fall at Pune's Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

O'Keefe, whose six wickets came off just 24 balls, helped Australia bundle India out for 105 in the afternoon session before the visiting batsmen rammed home their advantage against the world's top Test team.

Smith was on 59 and Mitchell Marsh on 21 was also at the crease as Australia stretched their lead to 298 runs by the close on a turning track at India's newest Test venue.

"It's an exciting contest -- even with 300 on the board, it's still gettable. We have seen two guys bat well. Like Steve Smith, you can get runs on it," O'Keefe told reporters.

"I think they are going to get

back stronger and better in their second innings and they are going to put up a lot of fight as you would expect from this Indian unit.

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed three wickets, including openers David Warner and Shaun Marsh.

Smith, who was dropped three times, went on to register his 21st Test half-century in his 51st match.

First innings top-scorer Matt Renshaw, who did not open the batting after being off the field with nausea during most of India's innings, hung on with Smith for a 52-run partnership.

Renshaw (31), who also had to temporarily retire ill with a stomach upset during his first innings knock on Thursday, once again found it hard to cope with the heat as he suffered from bouts of dehydration.

But the Indian fielders were also left feeling the heat as they dropped four catches.

Ishant Sharma finally clung on to a skier at long-off after Renshaw mistimed a hit off Jayant Yadav. Smith then steadied the innings with Mitchell Marsh as the duo tackled the spinners with aplomb.

**Kohli's rare duck**  
But it was O'Keefe who stole

the show earlier in the day with a blitz of wickets after lunch that saw India's middle and lower order crumble as the hosts conceded a 155-run first innings lead.

O'Keefe was largely ineffective in the morning session but then bamboozled the Indians.

"I probably went into my comfort zone like I bowl in Australia but then I worked with Sri (Sriram Sridharan, Australia's spin consultant) in the break and it worked," said O'Keefe.

The 32-year-old's stunning spell put Australia firmly in charge in the opening contest the four-Test series but it was a day to forget for Indian captain Virat Kohli, who was dismissed for a rare duck. (AFP)

## SCOREBOARD

Australia 1st innings (overnight 256-9)	
M. Vijay c Wade b Hazlewood	10
L. Rahul c Warner b O'Keefe	64
C. Pujara c Wade b Starc	6
V. Kohli c Handscomb b Starc	0
A. Rahane c Handscomb b O'Keefe	13
R. Ashwin c Handscomb b Lyon	1
W. Saha c Smith b O'Keefe	0
R. Jadeja c Starc b O'Keefe	2
J. Yadav st Wade b O'Keefe	2
U. Yadav c Smith b O'Keefe	4
I. Sharma not out	2
Extras (nb1)	1
Total (all out; 40.1)	105

## Football Scores:

### Spanish La Liga:

Las Palmas 0 Real Sociedad 1

### German Bundesliga:

VFL Wolfsburg 1 Werder Bremen 2

### French Ligue 1:

Nantes 3 Dijon FCO 1

Nice 2 Montpellier 1



## Kyrgios two wins away from title

### Marseille

**Nick Kyrgios** kept on course to defend his Marseille Open title with a 6-3, 6-3 quarter-final victory over Slovak qualifier Norbert Gombos yesterday.

The 21-year-old Australian fired down 15 aces and lost just six points on serve in a ruthless display that lasted less than an hour.

In today's semi-final he will face Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who thumped compatriot Gilles Simon 6-4, 6-1.

"I thought I served and returned really well today," said Kyrgios. "All that matters is that I'm going out there and playing every point hard."

"I think I'm pretty aggressive on my returns, particularly here where I'm trying to get in the first big hit."

A year ago, Kyrgios beat Marin Cilic in the final.

Tsonga came through a



Nick Kyrgios

quarter-final between two twice former winners thanks to converting four of seven break points.

The 31-year-old, on a seven-match winning streak, is bidding to win a second tournament in successive weeks after triumphing in Rotterdam last week. (AFP)

## Results:

### Quarter finals

Nick Kyrgios (AUS x3) bt Norbert Gombos (SVK) 6-3, 6-3  
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA x2) bt Gilles Simon (FRA x7) 6-4, 6-1

## Rory McIlroy reveals interest in Trump's rise

### London

**Former world number one** Rory McIlroy has revealed his fascination with Donald Trump after taking to the fairways with the controversial US President. Trump is a keen golfer and McIlroy accepted an offer from the commander-in-chief to join him for a round at the Trump International Golf Club in Florida last weekend.

Trump's contentious comments and actions have been criticised by some in the world of sport.

But while Northern Ireland's McIlroy refrained from offering his views on his latest playing partner's political policies, the former British Open, US

Open and PGA Championship winner did reveal he was intrigued by Trump's rise to power. "I really got into it once Trump ran because I knew him a little bit but at the same time I was intrigued how a successful businessman could transition into running for the highest office in the land," McIlroy told the *Guardian* on Friday.

"It is a totally different process from the UK. He obviously came at it from a completely different angle. 'I've said it to the man himself; on a Tuesday night at a tournament, if there was a live (political) debate, I would get room service, stick on CNN and just watch.' (AFP)

## New putter helps Fichardt to lead

### Johannesburg

**A new putter** helped South African Darren Fichardt to a 66 yesterday and a one-shot clubhouse lead in the rain-affected Joburg Open golf championship.

"New putter, new grip and I am very comfortable," said the 41-year-old seeking a fifth European Tour triumph and first since the 2013 Africa Open.

"Putting is scoring and it is nice to stand over a putt and feel like you are going to make it."

Pretoria-born Fichardt tops the leaderboard with an 11-under 132 after playing the east and west courses at a soggy Royal Johannesburg and



Darren Fichardt

Kensington Golf Club.

Torrential rain Thursday caused a backlog and there was a further delay Friday, meaning many competitors will only complete their second round Saturday.

South African Jacques Kruyswijk lies second, one shot behind, after adding a rollercoaster 70 to a first-round 63.

Title-holder Haydn Porteus (67) of South Africa, Anton Karlsson (68) of Sweden, Stuart Manley (67) of Wales and Aaron Rai (69) of England are a stroke further back.

Among those who will not make the halfway cut are former major winners Trevor Immelman (69) of South Africa and Darren Clarke (73) of Northern Ireland. Hot putting helped Fichardt to four birdies in the first six holes and an eagle three at eight saw him

## Scoreboard:

132 - Darren Fichardt	66-66
133 - Jacques Kruyswijk	63-70
134 - Anton Karlsson (SWE)	66-68, Stuart Manley (WAL) 67-67, Haydn Porteus 67-67, Aaron Rai 65-69
135 - Merrick Bremner	68-67, Keenan Davidge 67-68, David Drysdale (SCO) 64-71
136 - Jens Fahrbring (SWE)	68-68, Mark Foster (ENG) 69-67, Scott Jameson (SCO) 69-67, Jake Roos 67-69, Pontus Widegren (SWE) 68-68
Selected	
143 - Trevor Immelman	74-69
148 - Darren Clarke (NIR)	75-73
Note: second round to be completed Saturday morning	

# ALONSO

## upbeat over 'aggressive' new McLaren



Fernando Alonso  
London

**F**ernando Alonso said the new McLaren-Honda MCL32 revealed yesterday looked "fast and aggressive" as the Formula One outfit looks to close the gap on rivals in the upcoming 2017 world championships.

Alonso, who will race alongside Belgian youngster Stoffel Vandoorne this year, said he couldn't wait for the new season to get underway in Australia in late March.

"What I've seen of the MCL32 appears to be really promising -- the new regulations seem to be well thought-out, and the cars look fast and aggressive," the 2005 and 2006 world champion said.

"The aim is to look respectable this year -- and I'd like to think we can achieve that," added the Spaniard, who was sixth last season as his team came 10th.

The new-look model with a longer nose and bulkier tyres features an attractive retro colour scheme of orange and black and was unveiled at the outfit's Woking base.

"We're fully focused on



Stoffel Vandoorne

returning our team to the top step of the podium -- a task we view as a multi-year project," executive committee principal Mohammed Bin Essa Al Khalifa said.

Racing Director Eric Boullier did not mince his words when he stated that the team's ambition was "to narrow the delta between us and the front-running teams".

McLaren have not won a GP since Jenson Button took the Brazil race in 2012, while their last world title was with Lewis Hamilton in 2008. (AFP)



New McLaren-Honda MCL32

## Ferrari unveil new F1 car

Rome

**F**errari unveiled a faster and visibly changed new single seater car yesterday in which Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen will bid to rival Mercedes next season.

The Italian constructor struggled last season finishing behind Mercedes and Red Bull in the constructors' championship.

Ferrari have not won a drivers' championship in a decade with Finn Raikkonen the last driver to triumph for the Italian stable in 2007.

Named the "SF70" in reference to Ferrari's 70 years in competition the car is as usual largely red with black trim with a



This handout picture released yesterday by the Ferrari press office shows the new Formula 1 of the team Ferrari, the SF70H (H for hybrid)

sweep of new features following regulation changes aimed at speeding up Formula 1.

The SF70, the 63rd model of the Ferrari racing car, has more aerodynamic downforce and more mechanical grip on top of much wider Pirelli tyres, giving

increased grip

and faster cornering.

The lengthened nose and the arrow-shaped wing are also a consequence of the new regulations, as is the obvious white-coloured shark fin on the engine cover.

The hubs and wheel-caps have been altered to allow for faster wheel changes at pit stops and the enhanced braking and steering are more powerful.

The nose of the Ferrari is

markedly wider than the rival Mercedes W08 unveiled at Silverstone by Lewis Hamilton on Thursday on the back of three consecutive world championship titles for the German team.

Germany's Vettel and Raikkonen came fourth and sixth respectively in the 2016 world championships while Ferrari itself were third in the constructors standings.

The Italian outfit is challenging for a first world title since Raikkonen won in 2007, and a first constructors title since 2008.

Raikkonen is due to put the SF70 through its paces at Barcelona on Monday as the world championships series gets underway in Australia on March 26. (AFP)

### Wayne Rooney

Captain of England and Manchester United

#### Everton

- Aug 2002 Premier League debut
- Oct 2002 First league goal

#### England

- Feb 2003 England's youngest player (aged 17)
- Sep 2003 First England goal, the country's youngest ever scorer

#### Manchester United

- Aug 2004 Joins team in a deal reportedly worth up to \$41.7 million
- Feb 2006 Scores twice as United wins League Cup final
- May 2007 Wins first of 5 Premier League titles with United
- May 2008 United wins Champions League final
- Oct 2010 After expressing desire to leave United, performs a U-turn and signs a new 5-year contract
- May 2013 Left out of Alex Ferguson's final 2 games as United manager. Denies a transfer request
- Feb 2014 Signs new contract
- Aug 2014 Captain of United
- May 2016 United wins FA Cup
- Jan 2017 250th goal, surpasses Bobby Charlton's record as the team's top goalscorer of all time

- Jul 2006 First World Cup appearance
- Jun 2014 First World Cup goal
- Aug 2014 Captain of England
- Nov 2014 Youngest England player to reach 100 caps
- Sep 2015 50th goal, breaks Bobby Charlton's goal-scoring record for England



Born October 24, 1985  
in Croxteth, Liverpool  
AFP Photo/Oli Scarff

#### Career highlights

Goals scored

17 Everton

250 Manchester United

53 England



As of Feb 24

AFP

Source: Officialwayner Rooney.com/manutd.com



# Dubai loss ends Kerber dream

## Svitolina to face Wozniacki in final

Angelique Kerber of Germany leaves the court

**Dubai**

Angelique Kerber lost the chance to return to the top of the WTA rankings, after losing 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) to Elina Svitolina yesterday in the Dubai Tennis Championships semi-finals.

Had Kerber won the tournament, she would have retaken the world number one spot she held after winning the US Open in September, until Serena Williams wrestled it back in claiming Australian Open glory last month.

But Kerber, winner of two Grand Slams in 2016, fell victim to back problems during her match with Svitolina, who has now won her last three meetings with the 29-year-old German.

The top seed produced eight double-faults and left the court for medical treatment when a set and a break down.

Her return produced some momentarily inspiring tennis, with two bouts of light rain adding to complications.

It finally took a winning second-set tiebreaker from Svitolina to end the drama, sending the challenger into a Saturday title showdown against Caroline Wozniacki, who reached her

second final in as many weeks, beating Anastasija Sevastova 6-3, 6-4.

Denmark's former world number one, currently 15th, took just 90 minutes to beat her Latvian opponent and move into the title match at the Aviation club.

Wozniacki lost to Czech Karolina Pliskova in the Doha final last weekend.

"It's been a pretty good couple of weeks for me, I'm very happy with how I have been playing. Very happy how I have managed to get through these two weeks," Wozniacki said.

"It's been very tiring mentally. The fact that I have just been staying in there and keep grinding, I'm kind of proud of that." (AFP)

**Results:**

**Semi-finals**

Caroline Wozniacki (DEN x10) bt Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) 6-3, 6-4  
Elina Svitolina (UKR x7) bt Angelique Kerber (GER x1) 6-3, 7-6 (7/3)

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark reacts



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