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Undersecretary meets EU officials

Brussels

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, held meetings with officials of the European External Action Service in Brussels, in the presence of the Ambassador of Bahrain to Belgium, Bahiya Al-Jishi and the Director of European Affairs and European Union Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shaikha Aysha bint Ahmed Al Khalifa.



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Santana to perform at BIC



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Incitement by Qatari media continuing: Al Romaihi



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Networking VS Nepotism

Trump to meet

Saudi, UAE, Qatar leaders in March



Washington

Senior Saudi, UAE and Qatar leaders will meet with U.S. President Donald Trump in the next couple of months, U.S. officials said, amid efforts by Washington to try to resolve a dispute between the Gulf neighbours.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani are all planning to have bilateral visits with Trump in

March and April, a senior U.S. official said, according to Reuters.

The agenda will include setting up a Gulf Cooperation Council summit, the official said, which Washington hopes will be held later this year, as well as Middle East peace and Iran.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt, cut off travel and trade ties with Qatar last June, accusing it of supporting terrorism

Washington is hoping to lay the groundwork for a summit by the summer.

"We would hope the dispute is resolved before the summit to allow maximum focus on other strategic concerns like Iran," another U.S. official said.

The US and the EU have repeatedly called on the countries to engage in dialogue. The last US-GCC summit was held in May 2017, in the Saudi capital Riyadh, just before the crisis unfolded. Qatar is host to U.S. and international forces at Al Udeid Air Base, which is home to the Combined Air Operations Center. The center coordinates an array of data and intelligence from satellites, drones, radar and U.S. planes flying over hot spots in the Middle East and bombing Islamic State positions. - Reuters

Organising a GCC summit later this year high on US agenda

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Santana to perform at BIC



DT News Network Manama

Ten-time Grammy winner Carlos Santana is bringing his celebrated Divination Tour to Bahrain International Circuit on April 6, Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) announced yesterday.

Santana is a legendary voice of world music and his groundbreaking Afro-Latin-blues-rock fusion transcends musical genres and generational, cultural and geographical boundaries. He has sold more than 100 million records and reached more than 100 million fans at concerts worldwide. To date, Santana has won ten Grammy awards and three Latin Grammy awards. He won a record-tying nine Grammys for a single project Supernatural (including Album of the Year and Record of the year for "Smooth").

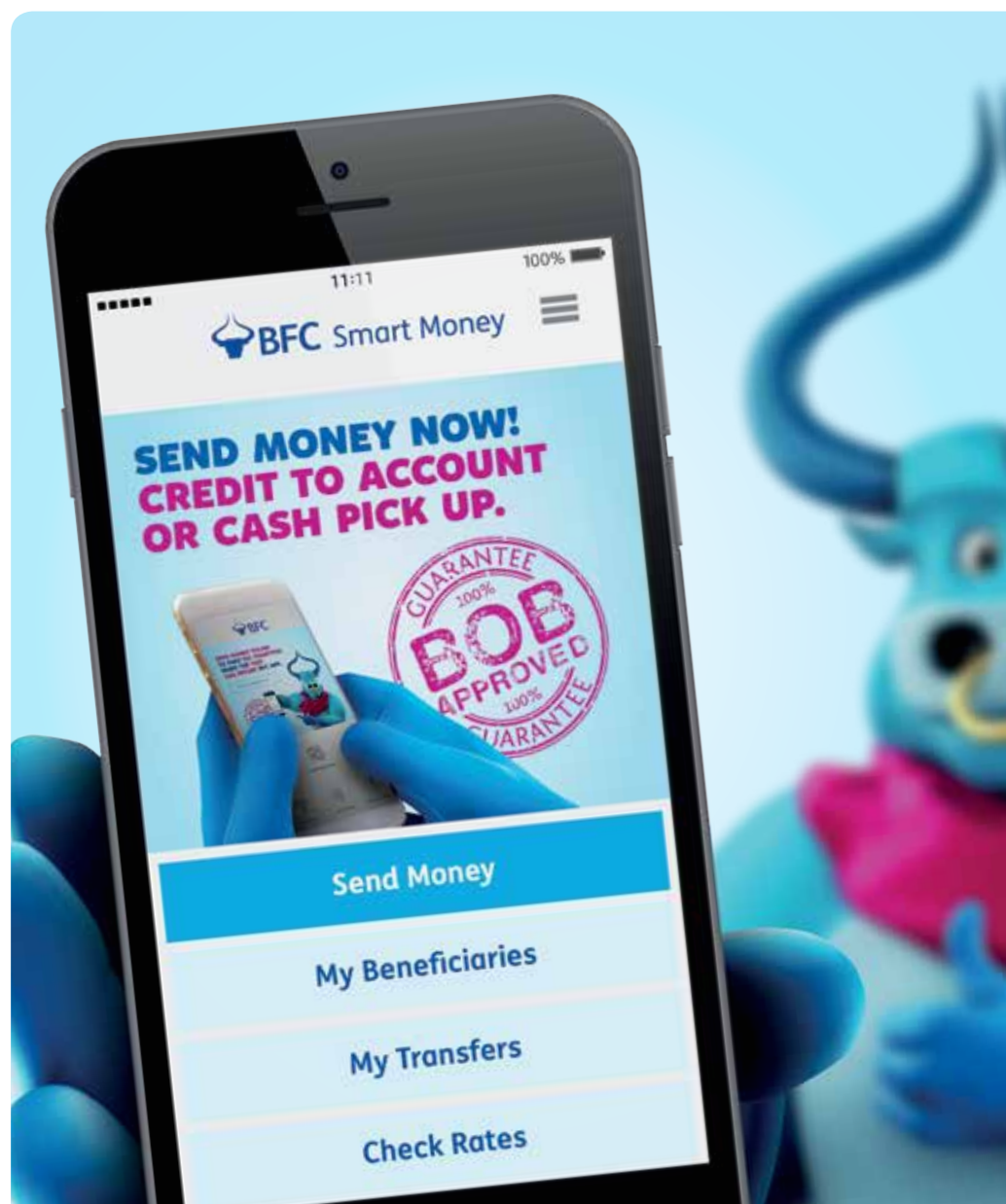
This will be Santana's first-ever performance in Bahrain, where he will be performing passion-infused

songs from over four decades of his career, including his hits from Woodstock to Supernatural and beyond. Rolling Stone calls Santana "one of rock's true virtuosos and guiding lights" and has awarded him #15 on their list of the "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time"

Other accolades received by Santana include a Billboard Century Award and an entry into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2014, he became one of only two music acts in Billboard history to score at least one Top Ten album for six consecutive decades.

All three-day ticket holders to this year's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will be able to attend the night of musical magic under the desert sky. Tickets can be purchased online at BIC's official website, www.bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC hotline on +973-17-450000 or at the BIC stand in Bahrain City Centre and Seef Mall.

- Legendary singer to bring his Divination Tour to Bahrain International Circuit
- The ten-time Grammy award winner to play Friday night of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix on April 6.
- Grand Prix ticket holders to get free entry to night of musical magic under the desert sky.



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Incitement by Qatari media continuing: Al Romaihi



Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi

DT News Network Manama

Information Affairs Minister, Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi, has said that the Arab countries are facing negative media campaigns, which casts a shadow over its influence on the Arab public opinion and its focus on national issues.

In an interview with the Egyptian Al-Mehwar channel, Al-Romaihi said that one of the biggest problems that restrict the impact of the media on Arab viewers today is their attempt to compete with social media networks, something that should not be done by the traditional media.

The minister pointed out that the Arab satellite channels have exceeded 1,300 during the past decade, which increases the responsibility of the Arab media to engage in competitiveness and improve programmes.

Responding to a question about the negative role played by the Qatari Al-Jazeera channel, Al-Rumaihi said that the Qatari media, especially Al-Jazeera, continues to incite against Arab countries and cause harm to everything related to them. Al-Jazeera has recently lost a lot of its influence and no longer has an impact on the Arab viewers because of the lack of credibility and

Al-Jazeera has recently lost a lot of its influence and no longer has an impact on the Arab viewers

principles, he added.

“Al-Jazeera has become unable to convince itself, so how will it be able to convince the Arab viewers?” Al Romaihi wondered.

The minister affirmed that the Qatari crisis exposed the role of Qatar’s Al-Jazeera channel as a tool for the Doha regime to implement its agendas, polish its image and abuse the Arab countries, in general, and the countries calling for combating terrorism in particular.

He asserted that Al-Jazeera has been used badly, and history will not forget what Qatar has done in the region through this institution, which has spread the culture of hatred and caused a great rift among Arab countries and peoples, especially during the so-called Arab Spring. Those who experienced the so-called Arab Spring will never forget the negative role played by Al-Jazeera at the time, a period whose negative results still continue today, he said, stressing that anything can be bought, but not history.

The minister said the situation with Qatar is not a conflict, but rather a firm political stance taken by the four countries calling for fighting terrorism against a state that has caused much damage to the region, pointing out that the 13 demands are still on the table.

When Doha responds to them positively the crisis will end, he said.

On Iran, Al-Rumaihi pointed out that those who try to minimise the Iranian threat or try to convince the Arab viewer that Tehran is not a threat to the Arab countries are ignoring reality, stressing that Iran has tried to interfere in all Arab countries, without exception.

UNESCO-King Hamad prize laureates named

DT News Network Manama

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has announced the laureates of this year’s UNESCO King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies

(ICTs) in Education, Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi, Education Minister, has said.

The national Programme on Mainstreaming ICTs for Education (Programme de Généralisation des Technologies de l’Information et de la Communication pour l’Enseignement, Programme GENIE), from Morocco,

and the Connected Learning Initiative (Programme CLIX), from India, have been declared winners of the prize for articulating the values and principles of the theme of this year’s edition, which is “Use of ICT to Increase Access to Quality Education” with a view to promote innovations in leveraging ICTs for achieving

SDG 4.

The award ceremony will be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in cooperation with the Education Ministry, the minister said.

The 2017 edition of the Prize attracted 700 projects, 143 of which were retained by the jury after they met all the requirements.

SANTANA

DIVINATION TOUR 2018

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Bahrain International Circuit

Labour survey launched

DT News Network
Manama

In an initiative that serves decision and policy makers in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) has announced the launch of the Labour Force Survey 2018 in Bahrain - in accordance with international statistical standards - to measure the size of the local and foreign labour forces along with level of production and activities promoting the national economic growth to achieve the Vision 2030 goals.

The survey aims at providing data to calculate a set of indicators on the size of local and foreign labour forces classified according to their population, social and economic features that contribute in determining priorities of upcoming strategic plans in all economic sectors.

The Authority confirmed the importance of statistics relevant to the labour market comprising the indicators



iGA officials will collect data on the size of local and foreign labour forces as part of the labour force survey 2018

necessary standards of distributing International Monetary Fund data along with International Labour Organization (ILO) indicators that cover the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals indexes. Furthermore, iGA urges all targeted samples, citizens and residents, to constructively cooperate with the survey team in order to achieve the desired objectives and ensure continuous flow

of updated, high-quality data that are in accordance with international standards.

The survey aims at measuring unemployment, employment, participation, economic dependency and wages according to several variations. It also aims at providing data on training programs for job seekers and identifying their past experiences, unemployment and employment data according

to their specializations and qualifications. In addition to identifying occupational structure and economic activity for employees as per a number of variables including average of annual salaries. Moreover, provide data on average number of weekly actual working hours according to job requirements and needs. The survey also aims at providing a set of updated data on labour market statistics to

decision-makers, public and private sectors, researchers, regional and international organizations.

The Authority had previously organized a training course for fieldwork team that comprises of 27 iGA employees - working in Statistics - who have conducted several field surveys in the past. The course had introduced them to the survey methodology and mechanism of entering precise

data as well as confidentiality of attained information.

The survey will be conducted in line with the Economic Statistical Strategy Plan - approved by the GCC Supreme Council, supervised and implemented by the GCC-STAT Center in collaboration with the national statistic entities. Within the Kingdom of Bahrain, the survey is carried-out during the course of one year on randomly selected samples of 4,500 Bahraini and non-Bahraini households comprising labour camps throughout all governorates. These households will be contacted and informed that they are amongst the selected samples to conduct the survey as well as set an appointment to visit them at their convenience. The survey enables the monitoring and fulfilling of varied seasonal information that are available only through field visits taking into account seasonal variables in employment and unemployment.

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Flexi Permit system presented at UN

DT News Network
Manama

The Flexi Permit, a Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) initiative allowing foreign workers to sponsor themselves, was highlighted at a United Nations forum yesterday. During the forum organized in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, the Bahraini delegation represented by the LMRA CEO, Ausamah Abdulla Al Absi, presented the pioneering initiative.

The Flexi Permit reflects Bahrain's long-standing commitment to increasing its international and regional competitiveness by strengthening the role of the private sector, the LMRA CEO said.

The much-lauded two-year permit enables expatriates to work for multiple employers on a full time or part time basis, provided the job does not require a professional license to be exercised.

The eligible permit-holder is liable to pay BD 200 as work visa fee and BD 144 towards healthcare with a monthly payment of BD 30.

Following its launch July



LMRA CEO Ausamah Abdulla Al Absi speaking at the UN forum

2016, the LMRA received an average of around 50 expats every day with over 2,000 expatriate workers becoming legal residents as of January 2018.

Ausamah Abdulla Al Absi added that the Flexi Permit enables the Kingdom to capitalise on available opportunities at low-cost and within existing legal frameworks, all while improving employment conditions for Bahrain's irregular or temporary workforce.

Over 48,000 permits are expected to be issued within two years as part of the pilot project, the first of its kind in

the Middle East.

In September 2017, the LMRA extended the eligibility of Flexi Permits to expatriates who are not in possession of their passports, provided the passport has a six month validity.

The permit, a blue card carrying basic information and photograph of the permit holder, will considerably reduce illegal practices in the labor sector.

The permit has been adopted as a best practice example of effective management of migrant labor markets at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

By Invitation



Prof. Odeh Al-Jayyousi

Innovative stories: Sustainability simplified

Why sustainability science needs a story? Scientists are criticized of not being the best communicators since they compile their facts in a series of ANDs. Simply said, scientists must be able to tell us a compelling story which includes AND, BUT, and THEREFORE. This is the key message that Randy Olson (a scientist in Harvard who became a filmmaker in Hollywood) is conveying in his inspiring book "Houston, We Have a Narrative; Why Science Needs a Story". In many cases, a simple understanding in economics can resolve major policy debates like carbon tax, waste management, water tariff, and climate policy. In addition, a basic knowledge in biology and chemistry can inform policy makers and the public about the concept of sustainability. How can scientists tell the story of sustainability to both policy makers and the public?

Digital technology contributed to create a generation of screenagers who lost touch with ecology and suffer from "nature-deficit-disorder". How a tree takes carbon dioxide and makes oxygen through photosynthesis is one basic lesson in sustainable circular economy. Re-thinking our daily habits like taking a shower, drinking coffee, and driving a car is vital to shape public policy and market incentives. Therefore, to mitigate climate change human needs to re-think their daily habits since "little things matter". One lesson is to know our water footprints in our daily diet and activities. For example, a 100-gram chocolate bar consumes about 1700 liters of water; 1 kg of beef consumes about 150 liters of water and one tree makes about 8,000 sheets of paper.

Sustainability is about asking the right questions about consumption patterns and life styles. How palm trees in Bahrain and GCC contribute to planet health and human wellbeing? This question can be a topic for an action research for students to understand the concept of eco-system services and trade-offs. How plastic bags can harm coral reefs in the Hawar Island and Red Sea? This is a good way to teach life-cycle analysis and the cost of plastic litter on marine life.

Sustainability is about collective action. Re-examining the basics and having a fresh look at ecology can provide new insights to a sustainable society. When I asked students in the Middle East whether they are aware that a palm tree has a male and female, only few are aware of this fact. Therefore, I use this example to reflect on the meaning and value of understating the hidden connections as seen in waste-energy processes, bio-mimicry, and the dynamics of water and life cycles. System thinking and imagination is another important lesson in sustainability. Sustainability is about hindsight and foresight. Reviving historical memory of Saba' dam is a basic lesson in sustainability. Sustainability is about smart solutions that make sense to both people and nature, but screen-agers do not read reports, therefore scientists must Tweet and develop a video game and infographics to get message across.

Prof. Odeh Al-Jayyousi, Head of Innovation and Technology Management, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain,
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(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.)

Ban junk food to fight diabetes, says expert

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

Junk food must be banned in schools and hospitals as a step to fight the prevalence of diabetes, according to Prof Nam Cho a world-renowned researcher in diabetes.

Prevalence of diabetes has grown at a rapid rate in recent decades and the reason behind it is the changing lifestyle and diet, said Cho, who is the president of International Diabetes Federation said.

He said that governments need to be proactive in fighting diabetes. "The government can take steps in increasing the awareness about the disease. This is something that is very important. The mass media should also be involved in this," he told DT News.

"I would absolutely recommend banning unhealthy



Prof Nam Cho

food in schools and hospitals. Hospitals have cafeteria with food providers making junk food available, why is that? The simple answer is that fast food is easy to prepare and convenient, but it is unhealthy," he said.

Speaking about the increase in diabetes cases, he said, "It is because of the lifestyle changes. Society now is more

Prevalence of diabetes has grown at a rapid rate in recent decades and the reason behind it is the changing lifestyle and diet. Governments need to be proactive in fighting diabetes, said Prof Cho, who is the president of International Diabetes Federation

westernized now, when I say westernized I am talking about the junk food and the modernization that has led to lack of exercise. While the lifestyle change and the diet change has contributed a lot towards the increase in diabetes, things like pollution also negatively affect ones health," he said.

"Serving size also matters, we have a World Health Assembly meeting in Geneva in May, the theme of the

meeting will be 'junk food and serving size. We are taught to finish our meal even if we are full, but this is not healthy," he said.

"Diabetes is a disease which the patient has to be proactively be involved in managing the disease, the doctor cannot do it for them. The doctors can give him an insight of the disease, provide medicine and teach how to manage the disease. But it is the patient who is eating the food," he said.

Ring Road expansion

Manama

Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Essam bin Abdulla Khalaf toured Muharraq Ring Road Expansion Project site at the section located between Hidd Interchange and the Interchange of Amwaj entrance and Galali.

The project is now 75 per cent complete.

The minister said the present phase of the project comprises expanding the road at the part extending from Amwaj Entrance to Hidd Entrance from two lanes at each direction to three lanes at each direction.



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Travel frenzy

Public lined-up for a rare promotional offer at Country Mall on Thursday evening. The promotional offer brought a huge crowd to the mall. The just BD1 offer was part of opening the new branch of Dairy Travel, a local travel agency, which offered trips, reportedly to Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait. The offer included bus tickets, hotel stay and even food. Hundreds flocked to the mall to purchase the packages.



VAT for beginners- Part 3

Preparing for Value Added Tax in Bahrain



By Gaurav Khurana
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Are all businesses/suppliers liable to pay VAT?

• The answer is No.

- The following businesses/suppliers are or may not be liable to pay VAT:
 - ▶ A business operating below the VAT threshold is not liable to pay VAT. For GCC, the threshold is approximately BHD 37,500 (i.e. USD 100,000). Hence a small cold store or a tailor shop having annual revenue less than BHD 37,500 may not be liable to pay and collect VAT.
 - ▶ Businesses that only supply exempt goods or services.
 - ▶ Businesses that only supply zero-rated goods or services.
 - ▶ Business only having transactions subjected to Reverse Charge VAT – in such cases Buyer pays VAT and not Seller.
- Rest all business are liable to VAT and need to undertake the prescribed compliances.

What are the implications (and prescribed compliances) of being liable to VAT?

If a business is liable to VAT, it needs to undertake compliances as outlined below:

-  Taking VAT REGISTRATION number
-  Monthly PAYMENT of VAT (Output VAT less Input VAT) and filing of VAT RETURN
-  Issuance of correct TAX INVOICE on all supplies
-  Maintenance of RECORDS (invoices, accounts, sales / purchase list, export & import documents, VAT returns, etc) for 6-20 yrs
-  Check / review (ASSESSMENT) of VAT returns with books of accounts by Tax office
-  Keeping track of CHANGES IN LAW & complying with the same

Note: Non-VAT registered businesses should maintain their books and records to demonstrate (when required) that they are not liable to VAT and hence not registered.

If a person is not liable to VAT, can he still register for VAT purposes?

Yes. Under the GCC agreement there is an option for voluntary registration, provided that the annual supplies in the relevant Member State is not less than the voluntary registration threshold.

The voluntary registration threshold is 50% of the mandatory registration, which is equivalent to approx. BHD 18,750 (USD 50,000).

What are the benefits of VAT registration?

A registered VAT business can benefit from the below:

Collect VAT from its buyers. If a business is unregistered but exceeded the mandatory registration threshold of BHD 37,500, it will still be liable to pay VAT but not eligible to collect the same from its Buyer.

Claim input VAT credit on purchases made from registered VAT businesses

Can issue VAT invoice to its Buyers who can (subject to their conditions) claim Input VAT credit (and reduce its costs of operations).

Be compliant with law.

(This is **part 3** of a multi-part series presented by award-winning VAT Experts Dhruva Advisors – Bahrain. **Part 4** of the series will be published on Wednesday)

***This series is only for educational purposes. To receive advice for a specific business scenario, please consult a tax expert.



Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2017

Statement of Changes in Head Office Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	2017	2016
	BD'000	BD'000
ASSETS		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain	33,685	16,703
Current accounts with banks and financial institutions	33,518	46,985
Deposits with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	31,535	73,778
Investment at fair value through other comprehensive income	178	160
Investments at amortized cost	112,606	76,137
Derivative assets	520	245
Loans and advances	241,628	202,818
Interest receivable	1,863	2,075
Other assets	649	996
Premises and equipment	659	357
Total Assets	456,841	420,254
LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS		
Liabilities		
Current accounts from banks and financial institutions	1,171	1,011
Deposits from Head Office, other branches and affiliates	103,591	123,106
Borrowing under repurchase agreement	-	14,427
Customers' deposits	318,923	256,270
Derivative liabilities	349	283
Interest payable	2,325	1,947
Other liabilities	4,794	2,726
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	309	338
Total Liabilities	431,462	400,108
Head Office Funds		
Capital	15,800	12,350
Reserves	484	484
Fair value reserve	170	152
Unremitted profit to Head Office	8,925	7,160
Total Head Office Funds	25,379	20,146
Total Liabilities and Head Office Funds	456,841	420,254

	Capital	Reserves	Investment Revaluation Reserve	Unremitted Profits to Head Office	Total
	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000
Balance at January 1, 2016	11,250	484	106	6,678	18,518
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	46	7,160	7,206
Profits remitted to Head Office	-	-	-	(6,678)	(6,678)
Addition of capital	1,100	-	-	-	1,100
Balance at December 31, 2016	12,350	484	152	7,160	20,146
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	18	8,925	8,943
Profits remitted to Head Office	-	-	-	(7,160)	(7,160)
Addition of capital	3,450	-	-	-	3,450
Balance at December 31, 2017	15,800	484	170	8,925	25,379

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	2017	2016
	BD'000	BD '000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the year	8,925	7,160
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation	254	157
Premises and equipment written off	5	14
Impairment charge for credit losses - net	339	870
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	44	41
Fair value of derivative assets and liabilities	(209)	(51)
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	9,358	8,191
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Compulsory regulatory cash reserve with Central Bank	(2,800)	470
Deposits with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	-	11,377
Loans and advances	(39,149)	(27,695)
Interest receivable	212	(961)
Other assets	347	(598)
Customers' deposits	62,653	25,564
Borrowing under repurchase agreement	(14,427)	14,427
Interest payable	378	990
Deposits from Head Office, other branches and affiliates	(20,000)	16,230
Other liabilities	2,068	(2,200)
Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities	(1,360)	45,795
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of premises and equipment	(561)	(86)
Payments for employees' end-of-service Benefits	(73)	-
Payments for acquisition of investments at amortized cost	(71,980)	(25,505)
Proceeds from redemption of investments at amortized cost	35,511	20,163
Net cash used in investing activities	(37,103)	(5,428)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net profits remitted to Head Office	(7,160)	(6,678)
Net cash used in financing activities	(7,160)	(5,428)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents	(45,623)	33,689
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	12,879	(20,810)
Cash and cash equivalents end of year	(32,744)	12,879
Cash and cash equivalent include:		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain excluding compulsory regulatory reserve	22,765	8,583
Current accounts with banks and financial institutions	33,518	46,985
Deposits with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	15,735	61,428
Current accounts from banks and financial institutions	(1,171)	(1,011)
Deposits from Head Office, other branches and affiliates	(103,591)	(103,106)
	(32,744)	12,879

The above statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the statement of Profit and Loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in Head office funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended have been extracted from the financial statements of Arab Bank Plc, Retail Bank, a branch of Arab Bank Plc, Jordan for the year ended December 31, 2017, which were approved and authorized for issue by the management on February 22, 2018 and signed on its behalf by Mr. Mohamed Assem Abdelkhalik, Country Manager, and on which an unqualified audit opinion was issued by Deloitte & Touche – Middle East, Kingdom of Bahrain on February 22, 2018.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	2017	2016
	BD'000	BD'000
Interest income	21,285	16,308
Interest expense	(9,969)	(6,261)
Net interest income	11,316	10,047
Fee and commission income – net	2,249	2,079
Foreign exchange gain	449	387
Other income	704	697
Total financial income	14,718	13,210
Allowance for credit losses – net	(339)	(870)
Total financial income after net provisions	14,379	12,340
Staff costs	(2,514)	(2,328)
General and administrative expenses	(1,916)	(1,996)
Premises and equipment expenses	(770)	(699)
Depreciation	(254)	(157)
Total operating expenses	(5,454)	(5,180)
Net profit for the year	8,925	7,160
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	18	46
Total other comprehensive income for the year	18	46
Total comprehensive income for the year	8,943	7,206

Non-cash Transaction:

During the year an amount of BD 3,450 thousand (2016: BD 1,100 thousand) was allocated to Head Office capital against deposits with Head Office.

GPIC participates in Garden Show

Manama

The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) is taking part in the Bahrain International Garden Show 2018 as part of its policy of supporting the environment and encouraging steps that would increase the country's green areas.

The show is being held at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre from February 22 to 25 on the theme, Food Safety and Human Health.

The show, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad, is being held with the support of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty, President of the Supreme Council for Women, Chairperson of the Consultative Council of the National Initiative for Development for the Agricultural Sector and Honorary President of the Supreme Organizing Committee of the show.

Her Royal Highness visited GPIC pavilion during the opening ceremony along with guests and dignitaries. HRH was received by Company President Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery and the members of the Executive Management.

HRH Princess Sabeeka praised GPIC's efforts to support the environment and the agricultural sector and its growing interest in the environment. She also praised the Company's achievements and applauded its winning local, regional and international



HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa with GPIC President Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery at GPIC stall

awards in the field.

She also spoke about the Company's safety record and its efforts to encourage community activities and events to promote environmental awareness.

Dr. Jawahery thanked Her Royal Highness for the visit and said it was an opportunity to inform her about the Company's initiatives in the field of environmental care, in particular her patronage of the National Initiative for the Development of the Agricultural Sector, which aims at spreading awareness of an agricultural culture, developing educational and training systems and supporting and

rehabilitating farmers.

Dr. Jawahery said that GPIC is proud of its cooperation with all of the green initiatives launched by Her Royal Highness and comes from its desire to develop green spaces and creating awareness of the importance of the agricultural sector in achieving sustainable development. He said the show is one of the most important events in the Company's calendar and asserted the Company is keen to provide sponsorship and set up a pavilion, where it displays the products it manufactures.

Visitors to the pavilion are introduced on the importance and methods of using fertilizers,

including the premium urea fertilizer produced by the Company, which is exported to the world's leading markets. Samples of this fertilizer are also distributed free of cost to those attending the show, in addition to educational brochures.

Dr. Jawahery thanked the show organizers, in particular the Secretary General of the National Initiative for the Development of the Agricultural Sector, Sheikha Maram Bint Isa Al Khalifa, and praised their efforts to prepare for the event. He also praised those behind the setting up of GPIC pavilion and said it received accolades from the visitors and guests every year.

Entrepreneurship training camp held

DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

A batch of 27 Bahrainis successfully completed an integrated training programme on entrepreneurship by the Institute of "Ebdaa Hub" under the title "Entrepreneurship Camp".

The ten-day programme ended with participants completing an examination with a professional certification from the British Center for Enterprise Management and Entrepreneurship.

These graduates represent the first batch of the training programme to reach 300 Bahraini entrepreneurs and employees this year, providing them with the basic skills and knowledge required to launch private projects and to further ensure the implementation of the best international standards in management and the various work joints.

The training programme consisted of four basic modules; Fundamentals of Management, Fundamentals of Marketing, and Fundamentals of Financial Accounting, as well as the basic personal skills of the entrepreneur

and entrepreneur.

"The Entrepreneurship Camp is in line with national efforts to stimulate entrepreneurship in Bahrain, encourage entrepreneurship, create jobs, reduce import bills and diversify national economy," stated Khalil Al-Qahri, CEO of Ebdaa Hub.

"Through this camp, we aim to provide a shared space between the gathering of entrepreneurs where they showcase the opportunities and challenges, which will contribute to the exchange of practical knowledge among them and benefit from their experiences," Al-Qahri added.

He pointed out that entrepreneurs in the Kingdom of have opportunities to benefit from the system of support provided to them in addition to laws such as the allocation of part of government procurement from small and medium enterprises, and the launch of the Council for the development of small and medium enterprises, which is currently working on a comprehensive national plan to promote those institutions, 90 per cent of the national economy.



Participants at the training camp

Lulu launches major project in Indian state

Visakhapatnam

Retail major Lulu Group has officially launched one of the largest project of its kind in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Through a PPP route the group would set up an integrated project, comprising 7000 capacity a world-class convention centre, 2 million sq. feet shopping mall and a luxury hotel on the beach road in the Harbour Park area of Visakhapatnam aimed to making it a global destination for "Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism.

The foundation stone

of the project was laid by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of CM Chandra Babu Naidu, Union Ministers Suresh Prabhu,

Ashok Gajapathy Raju, YS Chowdary, Yusuffali MA, CMD, Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director, Ananth AV, Director of Lulu Group,

state ministers, diplomats and delegates from across the world.

Once completed, the project will create more than

5,000 direct and indirect employment to another 5000.

"We hope to complete this prestigious project by 2021," said the group's Chairman

& MD Yusuff Ali MA. "It'll also provide a world-class shopping experience to both tourists and the residents of Sunrise state".



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu unveiling the plaque during the foundation stone laying ceremony of Lulu group mixed use project at the Partnership summit in Visakhapatnam yesterday. Also seen are CM Chandra Babu Naidu, Union Ministers Suresh Prabhu, Ashok Gajapathy Raju, YS Chowdary, Yusuffali MA, CMD, Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director, Ananth AV, Director of Lulu Group

Tax cut fuels record profit for Berkshire

New York

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc on Saturday reported a record quarterly and annual profit, fueled by a big cut in the U.S. corporate income tax rate championed by President Donald Trump.

Fourth-quarter net income increased roughly fivefold to \$32.55 billion, or \$19,790 per Class A share, from \$6.29 billion, or \$3,823 per share, a year earlier. (Reuters)



Volkswagen profit roars back

Frankfurt

The world's largest carmaker Volkswagen appeared back in racing form Friday, as its 2017 results revved back to levels not seen since before its devastating "dieseltgate" emission cheating scandal.

VW said in a statement it had booked an 11.4-billion-euro (\$14 billion) bottom line last year, more than double the 5.1 billion euros earned in 2016. (AFP)



“I don't think I'm going to exactly play that card. But we'll have to see. If the sanctions don't work, we'll have to go phase two. Phase two may be a very rough thing, may be very, very unfortunate for the world. But hopefully the sanctions will work.”

Donald Trump
U.S. President



Malabar Gold & Diamonds opens its 213th global outlet in Kuwait

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched a new store in Kuwait, located next to Olive Hypermarket in Jaleeb Al Shuyoukh.

Special Inaugural Offers

- ✓ **Main attraction: Free Gold Coins**
- ✓ **Customers get one gram gold coins on every KD 250 worth diamond jewellery purchase**
- ✓ **Customers get a gold coin on every KD 150 worth gold jewellery purchase.**
- ✓ **Offers valid until March 03 2018.**

Inauguration

The new showroom was inaugurated by Colonel Ibrahim Al Duay, Jaleeb Al Shuyoukh area Police Commander in the presence of General / Ali Hamdan Al-Daihani, Farwaniya Governorate Consultant & Acting Manager of the Governor's Office, Shamlal Ahamed MP, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Abdul Salam KP, Group Executive Director - Malabar Group, management team members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, well-wishers & guests.



Eighth in Kuwait

Having 7 outlets spread across Kuwait, this is Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 8th outlet in Kuwait. By opening the new showroom in Jaleeb Al Shuyoukh, the total number of showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds will jump to 213 globally.

Exquisite range of collections

This new outlet unveils a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewellery. The exquisite range of collections in the new outlet can hold you spell-bound with their awe-inspiring beauty and classic designs. Like all their other outlets, this outlet also will exhibit a wide range of diverse and trendy designs in gold (18K, 22K & 24K), IGI certified diamonds and precious gem jewellery from Italy, Singapore, Bahrain and India.

Malabar Group has established its presence in the Kuwait market in a surprisingly short span of time. The group strives to continue embarking on its journey by further expanding in the near future. In Kuwait, Malabar Gold & Diamonds also operates in Al Rai – Lulu Hypermarket, Souk Al Watya – Maliya, Dajeej – Lulu Hypermarket, Fahaheel, Hawally - Grand Hypermarket, Mahboula & at Al Salam Mall, Salmiya.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is one among the big 5 jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 210 retail outlets spread across nine countries

AI and 5G in focus at top mobile fair



The world's biggest mobile fair will be held from February 26 to March

Paris

Phone makers will seek to entice new buyers with better cameras and bigger screens at the world's biggest mobile fair starting Monday in Spain after a year of flat smartphone sales.

But with no major innovations awaited in handsets, analysts expect the four-day Mobile World Congress in Barcelona to focus on new uses for artificial intelligence (AI) and the looming deployment of super-fast 5G wireless networks.

Smartphone giants Huawei, LG or HTC are not expected to launch a new flagship device at the annual show, so Samsung will have the opportunity to grab the spotlight when it unveils its S9 and S9+ phones on Sunday on the eve of the fair. The teasers suggest major changes to the camera, which will reportedly allow for "super slow-motion" videos and a new camera lens that improves low-light photos: features some of its rivals already offer.

The camera "seems to have become a major source of differentiation for the latest generation of smartphones," said mobile phone analyst Ben Wood of CCS Insight.

Samsung suffered a humiliating recall of its Galaxy Note 7 device in 2016 after several devices exploded but its Galaxy 8 smartphone was a consumer and critical success.

The company remained the world's biggest seller of smartphones in 2017 with a 21.6 per cent market share, up from 21.1 per cent in the previous year, according to research firm IDC.

Apple, which as usual will not be present at the show, was the second biggest vendor at 14.7 per cent.

'Sea of sameness'

Overall global smartphone sales for 2017 were virtually flat -- down 0.1 percent at 1.47 billion units -- as phone makers struggled to come up with innovations that encourage customers to upgrade their devices.

"The sea of sameness continues to erode the impact that new models have on the market," said Wood.

In addition to better cameras, phone makers will focus on introducing bigger screens in mid-market devices, not just flagship ones, to try to boost their sales said Ian Fogg, senior director of mobile and telecom at IHS Markit. (AFP)

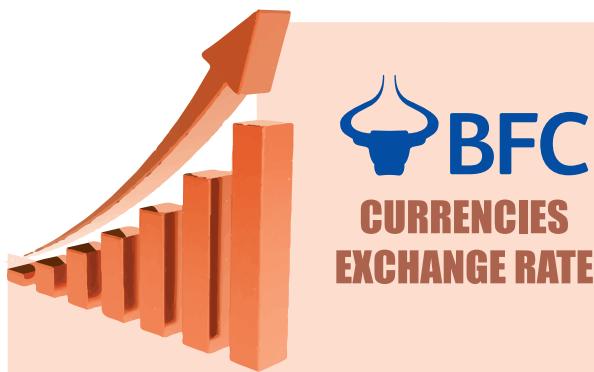
OFFERS

Special inaugural offers were announced by Malabar Gold & Diamonds on the occasion of the opening. Customers get one gram gold coin absolutely free on every KD 250 worth diamond jewellery purchase & for every gold jewellery purchase worth KD 150 customers will get a free gold coin. These offers are valid until March 03 in the Jaleeb Al Shuyoukh outlet only. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled a huge collection of jewellery in gold, diamonds and precious gems from different parts of the world to enthrall the jewellery lovers.

Did You Know?



Everyone thinks the iconic logo represents a spinning propeller. Everyone is wrong. Contrary to popular belief, the logo existed before it ever graced a propeller. Call it a bloody-brilliant piece of marketing, call it a badass design that tricks the eyes, but don't call it the origin of the BMW roundel.



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3017	0.2992
BANGLADESH	0.00472	0.00453
CANADA	0.3032	0.3000
DENMARK	0.0653	
EGYPT	0.0237	0.0219
EURO	0.4699	0.4674
HONGKONG	0.04967	0.04927
INDIA	0.00600	0.00584
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002823
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000317	
JAPAN	0.00367	0.003600
JORDAN	0.5359	0.5351
KOREA	0.00039884	
KUWAIT	1.263	1.263
MALAYSIA	0.0987	0.0984
NEW ZEALAND	0.2805	0.2806
NORWAY	0.0500	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00363
OMAN	0.98168	0.98301
PAKISTAN	0.00354	0.00341
PHILIPPINES	0.00751	0.00725
QATAR	0.10381	0.10404
SAUDI ARABIA	0.1006	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2894	0.2874
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03360	0.03350
SRI LANKA	0.00277	0.00244
SWEDISH	0.0495	
SWITZERLAND	0.4100	0.4069
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013600	
THAILAND	0.012120	0.012120
TURKEY	0.1047	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5307	0.5278
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102850	0.102870
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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OMAN	0.3849	0.3606	0.4109	0.3589
QATAR	3.6420	3.4118	3.8877	3.3958
UAE	3.6730	3.4409	3.9208	3.4247
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5130	4.0030	3.4965

By Invitation

Reem Beshams



Networking VS Nepotism

There is no shame in standing on the shoulders of giants and building on what resources others wish to offer. The only shame is when we tend to forget the positivity of 'networking' and its advantages due to exploitation and misuse. Rather than giving opportunities, today networking has been contorted to limit many individuals of society and is benefiting only a handful.

Keep in mind that 'Networking' if used unfairly becomes 'Nepotism', and this phenomenon is heightening in Bahrain and all over the world.

Wasta (Arabic: وِطْيسَة wāṣiṭah) is an Arabic word that loosely translates into nepotism, 'clout', or 'who you know'. This is where an unqualified person attains a highly qualified job due to the fact that a family member or friend had 'pulled connections'. The sad truths about this reality are: crucial positions are lost to unqualified individuals, and many others are unable to climb up the ladder of success no matter their persistency, qualifications, or skills. It is an undeniable truth that nepotism is crippling society, but we must not confuse it with networking.

"Isolation is a dream-killer" was the title of an inspiring TED Talk by Barbara Sher, where she narrated the astounding occurrences which lead to where she is today. One of the unforgettable occurrence was about a woman in Memphis.

Barbara had asked the audience in a session to stand up and say the dream they wish to achieve, whether small and insignificant or great and life-changing. A woman from Memphis started explaining how hard her life was; she was a single mother of a sick daughter who had been physically and mentally abused by her ex-husband whom continuously stalked her. All this woman wanted was to rest, to regain her strength and clear her head. However, the obstacles in her path were paralyzing. Barbara Sher had then asked another question to the audience "Who can help? Who is willing to find for this woman a solution?" A man rose from the audience and offered a cruise ticket he won from a marathon; a public health nurse rose, offered to aid the daughter as she was already in need for a patient to give pro-bono free work; a police officer sitting far back in the audience had offered his assistance to relieve her from the stalker. And now, the woman from Memphis, who had coincidentally attended a session by Barbara is now a teacher who helps children with similar traumatic experiences.

The astonishing aspect is not the fact that the woman had miraculously gotten what she dreamed of, but rather the reality that any dream could be made possible if there are the right connections and how these connections create a ripple effect.

Barbara kept on repeating that the world is a network of people with enormous amounts of information and connections. Therefore we mustn't eradicate networking because it is not the key to solve nepotism. We mustn't start from scratch thus isolating ourselves from people who have the means to aid our goals. Let us not take the regressive approach; we are in a globalized world where connections are what develop us. So, yes, find connections and utilize them yet without hindering others.

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

Saudi oil minister: market rebalancing

New Delhi

Saudi Arabia hopes OPEC and its allies will be able to relax production curbs next year and create a permanent framework to stabilise oil markets after the current supply cut deal ends this year, its oil minister said on Saturday.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is reducing output by about 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) as part of a deal with Russia and other non-OPEC producers.

The pact, aimed at propping oil prices, began in January 2017 and will run until the end of 2018.

Saudi Arabian oil minister Khalid al-Falih said OPEC and its allies were committed to bringing balance and stability to the market and that he hoped it would be possible to ease output curbs next year.

"A study is taking place and once we know exactly what balancing the market will entail we will announce what is the next step. The next step may be easing of the production constraints," he told reporters in New Delhi.

"My estimation is that it will happen sometime in 2019. But we don't know when and we don't know how".

Falih said OPEC was determined to translate the



Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih (C) leaves after a meeting in New Delhi, India

success of the deal to curb supply into a permanent framework with other major producers.

"What we want is an evergreen framework that brings producers from OPEC and non-OPEC (countries) together in a market monitoring fashion that allows us to take quick decisions," he said.

Steering wheel

"I think everybody has learnt, producers as well as consumers, that a market without a steering wheel is very destructive, very damaging to the interests of all," he said.

Falih said compliance with the output cuts in January was "exceptional."

Oil prices have doubled from their lows in 2015-2016 after the cuts.

Falih said the market had absorbed rising U.S. shale oil production, as output from countries such as Venezuela and Mexico had declined.

U.S. oil inventories fell last week.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, in March cut production and exported less than 7 million bpd due to seasonally soft demand.

Falih said that in January-March, Saudi Arabia's oil production was well below the production cap, with exports averaging below 7 million bpd.

India focus

State oil company Saudi

Aramco has signed a preliminary deal to invest in India's planned 1.2 million bpd West Coast refinery. Falih said Aramco was also looking at buying stakes in existing major refiners and expansion projects in India.

He did not specify the size of stake Aramco will take in the west coast refinery, but added "the more the better."

India aims to expand its refining capacity by 77 per cent to about 8.8 million bpd by 2030. Falih said Saudi Arabia would also sign oil supply deals as part of the agreement to buy stakes in Indian refineries, a strategy the kingdom has adopted to expand its market share in Asia and fend off rivals. (Reuters)

Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another steppingstone to greatness.
-Oprah Winfrey



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Sunday, February 25, 2018

11

BSB students excel in World Scholars Cup

This year, The British School of Bahrain (BSB) entered a delegation of 53 students into the World Scholars Cup (WSC) national round competition held at St. Christopher's School.

The teams of three consisted of sixteen junior teams (Years 7-9) and two senior teams (Years 10-11). The competition was the biggest ever held in Bahrain with over 500 delegates in total competing to be selected for the global round.

This competition started with the team debates, each team having to debate with three different teams, on motions across all the subjects, from policy to poetry. This was followed by a scholars challenge in the afternoon. The afternoon finished with a



collaborative writing activity. The next day brought about some excitement and entertainment, starting with

the scholar's bowl and each team in the auditorium was given a 'clicker'. After lunch, the talent show entertained

all the students. The evening ended with the awards ceremony that was also attended by parents.

The winners have qualified to the global round, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2018. BSB students

enjoyed the experience of learning, interacting and having fun with other students from different schools.

"BSB is very proud of all our students who won medals and trophies. A particular mention must be made for two of our Junior teams, who did exceptionally well in the competition! They took away both the first and second place champion teams trophy. We would also like to congratulate Farah Al Aradi for getting the first place champion scholar trophy. We also cannot forget our two senior teams! One of them achieved a fourth place Champion team trophy and the member of the other team, Alexandra Roberts, received the third place Champion Scholar's trophy," BSB said in a press release.



Paintings by Shilpa Santhosh Class : VI U The Indian School Bahrain

St Chris staff 'Walk To Work' to raise awareness for 'World Down Syndrome Day'



World Down Syndrome Day is marked worldwide on 21 March. Every year, people across the world come up with innovative ways to raise funds, and awareness, for this cause. St Christopher's staff and students

have arranged some creative ways of supporting this very worthy cause this year.

Recently 21 members of staff left Saar at 4.30 am and walked to the Senior School campus in Isa Town to raise

awareness. The journey took them 2 hours and 20mins!

The school will also be holding a t-shirt design competition. The winning design will be worn by staff and students on March 21.



First Deputy Speaker of the Representatives Council Ali Al Aradi held a meeting with a Moroccan delegation comprising parliamentary advisors, former MPs and businessmen. The meeting discussed ways to boost cooperation, availing of the Moroccan parliamentary experience and issues of common interest.



Health Minister Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh received recently Services Committee Abbas Al Madhi. The meeting discussed ways to be implemented in Bahrain to optimise health services and which is hoped to be approved soon.



Pakistan's Special Envoy in GCC Javed Malik met with Kuwaiti Ambassador and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps of Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al Sabah on his visit to Dubai on occasion of National Day of Kuwait.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for International Affairs Dr. Shaikh Abdullah met with prominent members of the European Parliament in Brussels. The Undersecretary started the meeting with members of the executive office of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECRG) with the delegation's visit to Bahrain next month.



President of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) Maria Khoury headed the National Institution's delegation that participated in Asia Pacific Forum (APF) of Human Rights National Institutions (NHRIs) on the sidelines of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) meeting in Geneva. NIHR delegation also participated in the Arab Human Rights Institutions Network presided by the Algerian National Human Rights Committee in the discussion of the human rights situation in Palestine, especially in Eastern Jerusalem, with the participation of Arab and foreign human rights national institutions.



National Institution of Human Rights (NIHR) Secretary-General Dr. Khalifa bin Ali Al-Fadhli visited the delegation to Bahrain, and commended solid relations binding the two countries. NIHR Secretary-General is currently submitting recommendations and monitoring the situation of human rights in Bahrain.



Head of the Representatives Council... the health system project that will... and spotlighted the Public Health Law



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhusain Mirza received Swiss Consul to Bahrain Humbert Vincent Boeme and FAST Protect, technical director Carsten Tschritter, in the presence of Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) Executive Vice President of Distribution and Customer Services Adnan Mohammed Fakhroo. The minister praised the ties between the two friendly countries in the fields of electricity, water and renewable energy and was briefed by on the latest technologies implemented by FAST Protect in the field of industrial security for ministries and government institutions.



bin Ahmed Al Khalifa held a series of meetings with... off his visit to the European Parliament by meeting... (ECR). The meeting dealt with several issues as well as



The Royal Institute for International Relations hosted at its headquarters in the Belgian capital Brussels Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for International Affairs Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa to give a lecture in a special symposium on regional developments in the Gulf region, in the presence of chairmen of centres for strategic studies, ambassadors, specialists and mass media. DERASAT Chairman pointed out the similarity between Bahrain and Belgium, stressing that both countries have represented since the antiquity two important centres for trade and culture.



el received a US Senate delegation, currently on visit... general briefed the delegation about the NIHR role in



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) presented BKS Literary Award to Indian poet Prabha Varma and BKS Lari Baker Award to architect G. Sankar. Above, Indian short story writer T Padmanabhan presenting the award to Prabha Varma in the presence of G Sankar and BKS President PV Radhakrishna Pillai.

CELEBS

J.K. Rowling @jk_rowling

My whole family's out watching #BlackPanther and I stayed here to work on the novel and I'm currently full of a bitter, aching regret.



Friendship with Kardashian 'one-sided'

Los Angeles

Actress Jennifer Lawrence believes her friendship with reality TV star Kim Kardashian West is "one-sided" as she is a huge fan of the reality TV star.

The "Red Sparrow" actress is a huge fan of the reality TV star and her famous family and when she discovered that she would be interviewing Kim for "Jimmy Kimmel Live!", she went to Kris Jenner's house for dinner and bonded with the family.

Speaking to *people.com*, Lawrence, 27, said: "I don't know that she'd call me her friend. It's probably a one-sided friendship."

"When I found out that I was going to be interviewing her I was like, 'Oh my God, my whole life has been building up to this moment.' (IANS)

ROBBIE FEELS HER JOB IS NOT "GLAMOROUS"

Actress Margot Robbie believes her job is not 'glamorous' as compared to her other friends' occupations. The 27-year-old actress said she feels envious of her friends who work in offices and they get to slip into smart suits every day.

"I feel like my friends who work in offices have more glamorous jobs. They do their make-up, put on a tailored skirt and blouse and go to work."

I go to work in my pyjamas and my Ugg boots and we are pretty much on a glorified construction site, sitting in the dirt on plastic chairs using Portalooos and eating fried food," Robbie said. (TOI)



Brown gives Rihanna \$30,000 diamond chain

Los Angeles

Singer Chris Brown sent singer Rihanna an expensive birthday gift for her birthday.

Brown spent \$30,000 on a diamond chain for Rihanna's birthday on February 20, a source told *hollywoodLife.com*.

And "he sent it over with 30 red roses", the insider added.

The source said Rihanna

actually enjoyed the gift and she "was happy he remembered her birthday, but she's not going to wear the chain" because "it's not her style at all anymore".

The source added: "It's something she would have worn back when they were together, but she's a grown woman now and she's changed."

The "Work" hitmaker didn't try to hide it either from her boyfriend Hassan Jameel. The source said she was "open and honest" about the unexpected birthday gift from Brown. (IANS)



STARRY
Birthday
Isabelle Fuhrman

February 25, 1997

She became known for her role as a demonic child in *Orphan* and she plays the ruthless Clove in *The Hunger Games*. She also played Max in the 2014 film *Dear Eleanor*.



George Ezra won't party on tour

London

The 24-year-old singer/songwriter - whose new album, 'Staying At Tamara's', is out on 23 March - used to party hard when he first found fame but these days lots of sleep and a healthy lifestyle win out over big nights out.

George Ezra told *The Guardian*: "The first year of

touring I indulged - it's hard not to at 19, and people want to show you the best party every night. But it catches up with you. Peers of mine drink every night and it doesn't affect their performance, but I am not that guy. If it's my name above the door and I can't sing, there's no point the show going ahead. (*femalefirst.co.uk*)

Witherspoon praises 'A Wrinkle In Time'

It was very awkward: Mark Wahlberg



Los Angeles

Actress Reese Witherspoon has praised "A Wrinkle In Time" director Ava DuVernay for representing different kinds of women within her movie.

The 41-year-old actress stars as Mrs. Whatsit in the upcoming Disney movie based on the 1962 novel of the same name by Madeleine L'Engle, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

She says that the production will be important for young people everywhere as the diverse cast -- which includes the likes of Oprah Winfrey and Mindy Kaling -- means everyone is equally represented.

When asked how important she thinks the movie will be, Witherspoon said: "I read the book as a little girl, and I really was excited when Ava explained her vision for the film." (*IANS*)



Actor Mark Wahlberg has admitted it was 'very awkward' for him when he was paid more than his 'All the Money in the World' co-star Michelle Williams for the film's reshoots.

It was reported that Wahlberg was paid USD 1.5 million while Williams made less than USD 1,000 for the reshoots with veteran actor Christopher Plummer, who had replaced Kevin Spacey in the film after allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced against him.

Wahlberg later donated the entire amount to the Time's Up movement and, now in an interview, said it was the 'right thing' to do.

'It didn't take much to make the decision.

It was just the right thing to do, you know? And Michelle is a fantastic actress. (*PTI*)



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HOW TO REACH US

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

OUT & ABOUT

SCENAMADRE

Date: 27 March - 27 May 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Bahrain National Theatre

In celebration of the World Theatre Day, the Bahrain National Theatre hosts SCENAMADRE, an exhibition curated by the Accademia Albertina Di Belle Arte in Torino, Italy. The display features a collection of models that illustrate the history of theatre set design and highlights the story of scenic architecture in the world of theatre, scenography and stage design.

MUSIC AND MIRRORS BY JAMAL ABDULRAHIM

Date: 4 - 30 April 2018, 9:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Art Centre

Bahraini Artist, Jamal Abdulrahim, has been presenting abstract and experimental art throughout his 30 years of works. Such works were representations of his continuous studies and research of lines, colours and compositions. In this upcoming solo exhibition, Music and Mirrors, Jamal Abdulrahim revisits the Realism school of art and presents his newly developed approach to this classic school.

AFTER WORK BARBEQUE @ OASIS

Date: Every Thursday

Venue: Ramada Bahrain Adliya

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more information, please call +973 17742000 or visit our website: www.ramadabahrain.com

BAHRAINI FARMER'S MARKET

Date: till 31st March 2018

Venue: Budaiya Botanical Gardens

Bahrain Farmers Market targets promoting Bahrain's agricultural products and highlighting the development taking place in Bahrain's agricultural sector. It also aims to contribute to improving the Bahraini farmers' income through a marketing system prepared by the Agriculture and Marine Resources to assist in meeting the farmers' aspirations.

FOOD IS CULTURE III

Date: 21 January - 25 February 2018, 7:00-9:00pm

Venue: Bahrain National Museum

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

MOVENPICK HOTEL

Date: Every Monday

Venue: Silk's restaurant

Time: 7.00 pm to 11.00pm

Seafood Night - The freshest catch of the day

Experience a unique medley of super succulent seafood delicacies and taste the freshest catch every Monday on Seafood Night at Silk's restaurant. What makes it an ideal night out for seafood lovers? The best selection of popular and traditional seafood dishes. On the buffet table is a vast range of aquatic delicacies, from sushi, sashimi, seafood dim sum, tempura, oysters, slipper lobster and tiger prawns, to popular fish such as grouper and red snapper. Our talented team of chefs will prepare your favourite catch, just the way you like it. Seafood Night is priced at BD 24 net and BHD 29 net per person including unlimited selected wines, beers and soft drinks from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm. For more information, call +973 17 460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com.

KABABNA

Date: Every Tuesday

Venue: Silk's restaurant

Time: 7.00pm to 11.00pm

Grilled to perfection at Silk's restaurant. Embark on a delicious journey of kebabs every Tuesday evening. Join us for dinner at Silk's restaurant and bite into succulent grilled kebabs with your choice from 16 different marinades. We'll turn, char and cook them to mouth-watering perfection. Try our signature Arabic Salad Island, a carefully prepared selection for guests to enjoy, complimented by freshly squeezed refreshments at only BHD 18 net

or BD 30 including unlimited selected wine and beer. Call +973 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com for bookings.

THURSDAY NIGHT OUT

Date: Every Thursday

Venue: Gallery lobby and Silk's restaurant

Time: 7.00pm to 11.00pm

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SWISS FONDUE

Date: Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday

Venue: Silk's restaurant and Outdoor terrace

Time: 7 pm onwards

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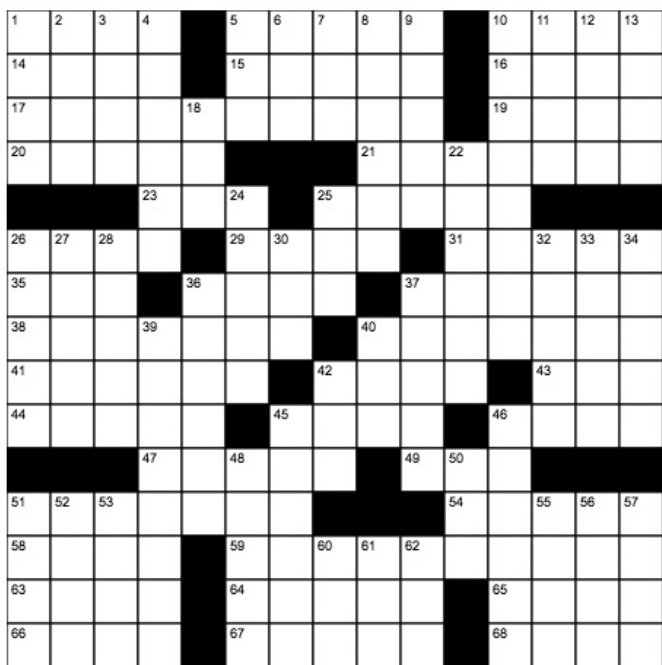
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CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



Across

1- First king of Israel; 5- Advil rival; 10- Fall prey to a banana peel, say; 14- "Casablanca" role; 15- Stopwatch-holder; 16- Write software; 17- Official in charge of a post office; 19- Let ___; 20- Sealy rival; 21- Cock; 23- Ballad ending; 25- Garr and Hatcher; 26- ___ for All Seasons; 29- Diary of ___ Housewife; 31- Silt deposit; 35- Little one; 36- To ___ (exactly); 37- Rupture; 38- Illbred; 40- Room for infants; 41- Mite; 42- Hearing organs; 43- Hi-___ monitor; 44- Gesture of indifference; 45- Wyo. neighbor; 46- Up ___ good; 47- Biblical abode of the dead; 49- Actor Brynner; 51- Shower alternative; 54- Rough files; 58- Cuatro doubled; 59- Proprietor of a bookstore; 63- Coral formation; 64- Thoughts; 65- A Chaplin; 66- Not kosher; 67- Aluminumbronze coin of Iceland; 68- Tax experts: Abbr.;

Down

1- Drinks slowly; 2- Burn balm; 3- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 4- Tin plate; 5- ___ loss for words; 6- Fleur-de-___; 7- CPR giver; 8- Swerved; 9- Miscalculation; 10- Cutting instrument for paper; 11- Trent of the Senate; 12- ___ delighted!; 13- Jury member; 18- Ginnie ___; 22- Edmonton team; 24- Like most movies; 25- ___ kwon do; 26- Collection of maps; 27- Sponge; 28- Fighting; 30- Club ___; 32- January, in Juárez; 33- Seductively beautiful woman; 34- Authority; 36- Correctly; 37- Rush; 39- Rebuff; 40- Capture; 42- It's a moray; 45- No one; 46- Aztec god of rain; 48- Jazzman Blake; 50- Suffix with fail; 51- Low-quality diamond; 52- Super server; 53- Biblical pronoun; 55- Sow chow; 56- Clinton cabinet member Federico; 57- Ladies of Spain: Abbr.; 60- ___ the fields we go...; 61- Chiang ___-shek; 62- Ukr. or Lith., once;

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Your creative nature will no longer be repressed! As you look around your home, you realize you feel the need to spruce it up a bit. Motivated by a desire to give dinner parties and invite family members who live far away to come for a visit, you get to work repainting, wallpapering, and maybe even sending.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You've always had psychic ability, and today it's at a peak. Perhaps not coincidentally, you're likely to be contacted by a close friend or lover from your past. He or she isn't calling to renew your relationship but rather for advice. Your heightened abilities today make you the ideal confidant. Listen closely and advise what your heart tells you is right.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Prosperity is just around the corner, if it isn't here already. All your efforts are about to pay off and in a big way. It may be that a big proposal gets accepted at work, or perhaps a manuscript that you've penned lands you a publisher. Your innate talent and good fortune combine to bring wonderful things your way. Enjoy this welcome change of events!

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



There is passion in the air, and you're convinced that you're the one electrifying the air around you. To be blunt, you can think of little else but sex today. Perhaps it's a result of working too hard for too long and not taking the time to indulge your sensual side. Well, there's no time like the present. Why not invite a certain special someone for a home-cooked meal?

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



You have an innate psychic ability that only needs some fine-tuning and strengthening for it to develop into a formidable power. Even now you sometimes find yourself reading other people's thoughts. This sensitivity gets you into trouble sometimes, but mostly it works to your advantage.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



You surprise yourself by signing up for a group lesson rather than a private one. This is unlike you; nevertheless, you find you enjoy the social interaction. Besides, whether you're learning cooking or rock climbing, it's always much more fun to learn with others. That way, you can learn from their mistakes and they from yours. It's bound to be a fun, adventurous day. Enjoy it.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



You've been working especially hard and you're beginning to wonder if all your effort has been for naught. A restructuring at work leaves you wondering just exactly where you fit in or if you even fit in at all. You may have a troubling few days, but will be relieved to learn that the higher-ups have big plans for you in the newly organized, streamlined company.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



You're bubbling over with confidence and enthusiasm. Not surprisingly, those around you respond in kind. Your smile is contagious, and you have people joking and laughing with you throughout the day. You'll have much success in whatever you do today, although group efforts will likely prove more rewarding. Romance figures prominently in the evening.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Your natural intuition and sensitivity will be heightened today. You're able to read the thoughts and feelings of others and interpret them accurately. Alas, you can't use this skill as effectively on yourself. Some old issues have reemerged, causing you some distress. These issues are blocking you in some way. You won't be able to move forward with your life until you resolve them once and for all.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



A new relationship is likely to form soon, and it will probably be with someone who's already in your life. Perhaps it's someone you knew in high school and you just recently got back in touch with, or perhaps a colleague at work suddenly begins to pay you a lot of attention. Romance is definitely in the air today, so keep your eyes open for subtle cues from the people in your life.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



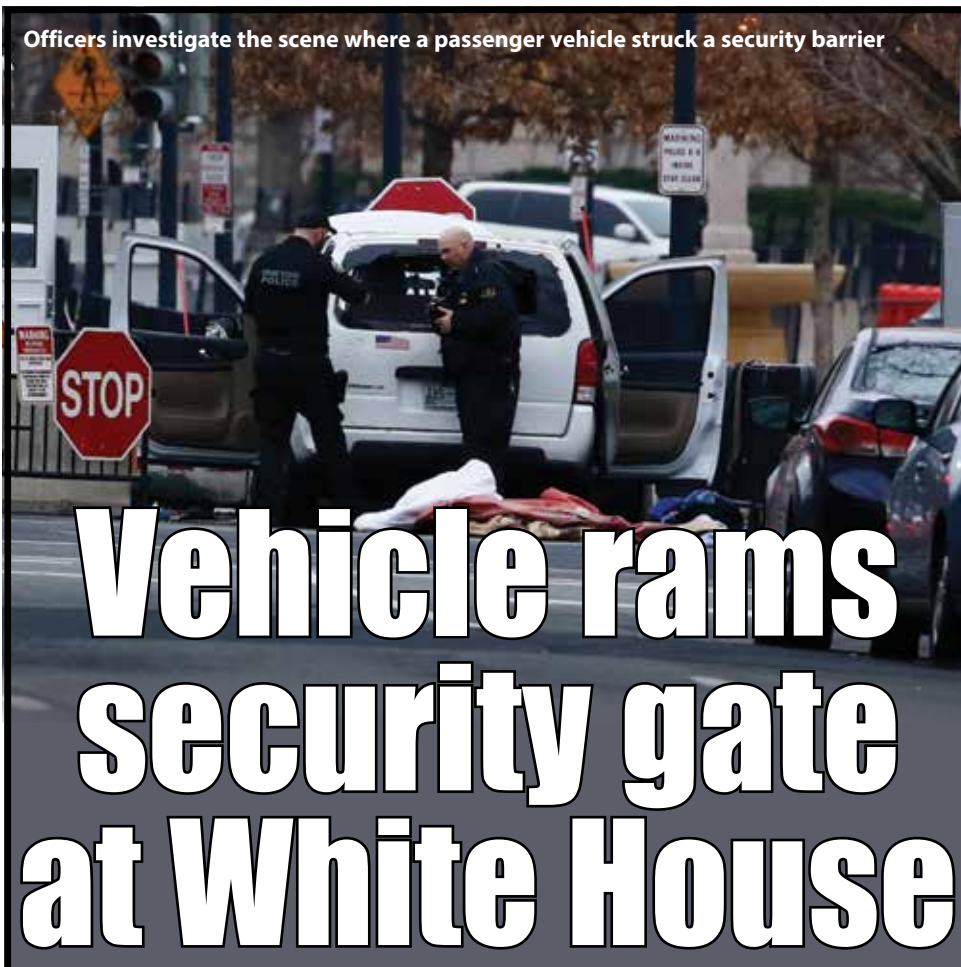
Your head is somewhat in the clouds today. This isn't necessarily a bad thing; it just means that it's difficult for you to get any work done. Much as you'd rather be elsewhere, you really do need to stay focused on the projects at hand. By all means, plan an exit strategy from the mundane routine of your day-to-day life, but don't expect to make your escape today.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Your heart and intuition will rule today much more than your mind. Trust what your instincts tell you. If you're in a sales profession, you can expect the orders to come rolling in today, as your extrasensory perception helps you know your clients' needs almost before they do. Plan a romantic encounter with someone you love, and put your ESP to work on him or her tonight.

Officers investigate the scene where a passenger vehicle struck a security barrier



Vehicle rams security gate at White House

Washington

A 'mentally ill' woman who tried to ram a white minivan into a security barrier outside the White House was carrying a gun.

Jessica R. Ford, 35, of La Vergne, Tennessee is said to have intentionally rammed her Chevrolet Uplander 2008 into the gate.

Police said Friday night that she was charged with gun possession and other offences after the incident Friday afternoon at around 3.30pm.

Law enforcement sources told CNN she appeared to have mental health issues and is known to the Secret Service.

The Washington Post

reported that she tried to jump the fence at the White House in April 2017.

Courts documents said she was approached by Secret Service on that occasion and told an agent 'I'm going to jump the fence'.

She then then ran toward the White House fence and tried to get over the barrier before she was stopped by officers.

According to the Post, Ford has had other encounters with the Secret Service 'resulting in numerous arrests for a variety of criminal violations'.

The white vehicle remained at the scene afterwards with its rear windshield smashed.

Its license plate was from

Tennessee.

The White House was in lockdown immediately afterwards and the president was inside with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the time.

CNN reports that the incident was not directed towards President Trump.

The lockdown was lifted at around 4pm, at which time Prime Minister Turnbull left. According to Secret Service officials, no shots were fired.

Trump praised the handling of the situation on Twitter Friday saying: 'Thank you to the great men and women of the United States @SecretService for a job well done!' (MailOnline)

#PollToday



Another set of sanctions has been imposed over North Korea by the US. Do you expect North Korea to give up its nuclear and missile programmes?

Yes No Cant Say



"I'm glad that the UK government seems to be moving towards a more detailed position. However if the media reports are correct I am afraid that the UK position today is based on pure illusion."

Donald Tusk
EU President

Rest in sight

London braces for coldest weather



A National Severe Weather Warning has been issued by Britain's Met Office, saying snow showers are expected to hit London and southeast Britain as well as eastern Britain from Monday.

Three bombs hit Myanmar, 2 injured

Three bomb explosions rocked the western Myanmar city of Sittwe and left two people injured.

Woman attacked by shark at Sydney

A 55-year-old woman was mauled by a great white shark during a leisurely swim on a Sydney beach.

S.Korea welcomes sanctions on North

South Korea welcomed fresh unilateral sanctions described as the heaviest ever adopted by the US against North Korea, and said the measures would contribute towards the common goal of the denuclearisation of Pyongyang in a peaceful manner.

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Car bombs kill 45 in Somalia

Mogadishu

The death toll from twin car bomb blasts in the Somali capital late on Friday has risen to 45 from the initially reported 18, a senior government official said yesterday.

Al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab militants claimed responsibility for the attack near the president's residence and a hotel close by.

"The death toll from last night's blasts has risen to 45, and 36 others were injured,"

the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Separately, a police officer said he was sure of 36 deaths.

"At least 15 people including a military officer and a local official died outside the palace last night.

And more than that were injured. They were mostly palace guards and guards of officials who were at the scene. The death toll may rise," Major Mohamed Abdullahi told Reuters on Saturday. (Reuters)

Philippine Catholics protest drug killings, death penalty



Participants display placards as they participate in a procession against plans to reimpose death penalty and intensify drug war during "Walk for Life" in Luneta park, Metro Manila

Manila

Around a thousand Catholics in the Philippines marched in Manila on Saturday to protest President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody war on drugs and his efforts to reinstate the death penalty.

The protests come a day after students in the capital and provincial universities held demonstrations against Duterte, and a day before the 32nd anniversary of the "People Power" revolution that drove dictator Ferdinand Marcos into exile.

Catholic devotees prayed

the rosary and sang hymns as bishops and the Philippines' own cardinal read sermons against what they say are not "pro-life" policies in the government.

The protesters carried banners and placards with the message "Protect and Defend the Sanctity of Life and Marriage," "End Impunity" and "Stop the Killings."

Despite criticism of the Philippine leader's bloody war on drugs campaign, Duterte remains wildly popular and a trusted public official in the Southeast Asian nation. (Reuters)

Pakistan acquits 12 men accused of child sex abuse

Lahore

A Pakistani court acquitted 12 men of child sex abuse and blackmail charges on Saturday, the latest verdict in a massive paedophilia scandal that rocked the country in August 2015.

The abuse and extortion scandal, which authorities have called the largest in Pakistan's history, allegedly involved hundreds of victims in Punjab province.

Two of the accused were jailed for life in April last year.

Judge Chaudhry Ilyas acquitted the men of "sexual

abuse of a young boy and making a video to blackmail his family," a court official told AFP.

Prosecutors produced 16 witnesses against the accused men, but could not prove the charges, the official said. Another court official confirmed the details.

In the village of Hussain Khanwala in Kasur, southwest of Lahore, videos were made of at least 280 children being sexually abused by a gang who blackmailed their parents by threatening to leak the videos. (AFP)

Stolen painting by French master Degas found on bus

Paris

French customs police have found a painting by 19th century master Edgar Degas that was stolen nine years ago from a museum in Marseille in the luggage compartment of a bus near Paris, the government said on Friday.

Degas' 1877 painting Les Choristes, or The Chorus Singers, is done in pastels and depicts a line of men singing in the opera Don Juan. It's valued at about US\$1 million.

The police were making random checks on a bus at a highway rest area about 30km (19 miles) east of Paris on February 16 when they found it and the Orsay museum confirmed its authenticity, the



The stolen painting by French painter Edgar Degas, which was found in a suitcase on a buss near Paris earlier this month

culture and budget ministers said in a statement.

The statement gave no information about why the painting was on the bus or who left it there.

The French artist is most famous for his paintings and sculptures of dancers and is often associated with the Impressionist movement. (Reuters)

Rescuers say cannot keep up with air strikes

Fire breaks out in a building after a bombing raid

Beirut

Rescuers in Syria's eastern Ghouta said the bombing would not let up long enough for them to count the bodies, in one of the bloodiest air assaults of the seven-year war.

Warplanes pounded the rebel enclave on Saturday, the seventh day in a row of a fierce escalation by Damascus and its allies, an emergency service, a witness and a monitoring group said.

Residents holed up in basements and medical charities decried attacks on a dozen hospitals, as the United Nations pleaded for a truce in Ghouta, the only big rebel bastion near the capital.

The Damascus government and Russia, its key ally, say they only target militants. They have said they seek to stop mortar attacks injuring dozens in the capital, and have accused insurgents in Ghouta of holding people as human shields. There was no immediate comment from the Syrian military.

A surge of rocket fire, shelling and air strikes has killed over 500 people since Sunday night, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The dead included more than 120 children.

The Britain-based monitor said raids hit Douma, Zamalka and other towns there on Saturday, killing 31 people.

First responders searched for survivors after strikes on Kafr Batna, Douma and Harasta, the Civil Defence in eastern Ghouta said. The rescue service, which operates in rebel territory, said it had documented at least 350 deaths in four days earlier this week.

"Maybe there are many more," said Siraj Mahmoud, a civil defence spokesman in the suburbs. "We weren't able to count the martyrs yesterday because the warplanes are touring the skies."

As the bombs rain down, some hitting emergency

centres and vehicles, workers have struggled to pull people from the rubble, Mahmoud said. "But if we have to go out running on our legs and dig with our hands to rescue the people, we will still be here."

A witness in Douma said he woke up in the early hours on Saturday to the sound of

a squadron of jets bombing nearby. The streets have mostly remained empty.

The United Nations says nearly 400,000 people live in eastern Ghouta, a pocket of satellite towns and farms under government siege since 2013, without enough food or medicine. (Reuters)

UN backs Syria ceasefire

United Nation

The UN Security Council yesterday unanimously demanded a 30-day ceasefire in Syria, as new air strikes on the rebel enclave of Eastern Ghouta took the civilian death toll from seven days of bombing to more than 500.

With support from Russia, the Security Council approved a resolution calling for a ceasefire "without delay" to allow for humanitarian aid deliveries and medical evacuations.

"Every minute the council waited on Russia, the human suffering grew," the US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, told the Security Council, accusing Russia of stalling.

"As they dragged out the negotiations, the bombs from Assad's fighter jets continued to fall. In the three days it took us to adopt this resolution, how many mothers lost their kids to the bombing and the shelling?" (AFP)

Both suspects in Kuwait murder of Filipina held

Beirut

The employers of a Filipina maid found dead in a freezer in Kuwait were both arrested in the Syrian capital Damascus, a Lebanese judicial official said on Saturday.

Syrian authorities surrendered Nader Essam Assaf to Beirut on Friday because of his Lebanese citizenship but his Syrian wife Mona remains in custody in Damascus, the official said.

The murder of Joanna Demafelis sparked outrage in the Philippines and prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to impose a departure ban for Filipinos planning to work in Kuwait.

The 29-year-old's body,

which allegedly showed signs of torture, was found earlier this month inside a freezer in the abandoned apartment unit of the detained couple.

The couple have been the subject of an Interpol manhunt since Demafelis's body was found more than a year after her family reported her missing.

"The couple were arrested in Damascus. They were the subject of an Interpol red notice and the Syrian authorities handed the husband over to Lebanese custody on Friday morning," the official said.

"Syria kept custody of the wife because she is a Syrian national," he added. (AFP)

Dozens killed in multiple attacks in Afghanistan

Kabul

At least 23 people, mostly soldiers, were killed and more than a dozen wounded in a series of attacks and suicide bombings in Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said, the latest assaults on the war-torn country's beleaguered security forces.

In the biggest attack, Taliban militants stormed an army base in the western province of Farah overnight, killing at least 18 soldiers.

"Last night a big group of militants attacked an army base in Bala Buluk district of Farah. Unfortunately, we lost 18 soldiers, two soldiers were wounded. We have sent more reinforcements to the area," defence ministry spokesman Daulat Wazir said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Deputy provincial governor Yunus Rasooli said the authorities had sent a fact-

finding delegation to Bala Buluk to investigate the assault.

In another attack, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the diplomatic area of Kabul during the morning rush hour, killing at least three people and wounding five others, deputy interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told AFP.

"At around 8:30 am, a suicide bomber on foot, well-dressed with a necktie on, was identified at a checkpoint. He blew up his explosives, killing three and wounding five others," he said, updating an earlier toll.

A security source who requested not to be named said the explosion happened near a compound belonging to the National Directorate of Security (NDS), the Afghan intelligence agency. The NDS compound is located near the NATO headquarters and the US embassy. (AFP)

Ivanka flashes a heart for Team USA



Ivanka Trump, left, watches with Kim Jung-sook, wife of the South Korean President and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, right, during the men's Big Air snowboard competition at the 2018 Winter Olympics

Pyeongchang

Ivanka Trump played America's cheerleader at the Winter Olympics on Friday, when she flashed a heart sign for Team USA during the snowboarding.

But Ivanka ensured she kept on message when it came to politics and during an earlier dinner with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, she pledged to maintain her father's 'maximum-pressure campaign' to push for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

Today, the First Daughter was pictured, in a Team USA hat and red snowsuit, cheering and smiling as she watched snowboarders vying for medals at the men's Big Air competition at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

She was joined in the stands by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Kim Jung-sook, International Olympic Committee

member and 1998 ice hockey gold medalist Angela Ruggiero, as well as a rather gloomy looking White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The trio watched as Team USA's Kyle Mack landed himself an Olympic silver medal in the men's snowboard big air, with some impressive stunts and twisting leap called the 'Bloody Dracula'. Gold went to Canada's Sebastien Toutant and bronze to Britain's Billy Morgan.

Ivanka, who will lead the U.S. delegation at the closing ceremony Sunday, was later seen posing for selfies and chatting with Kim Jung-suk.

The first daughter's arrival in the country is a deliberate riposte to North Korea after Kim Jong-un sent his sister Kim Yo-jong to the opening ceremony of the Winter Games, along with an army of 100 cheerleaders, completely upstaging Vice President Mike

Pence in the process.

Interestingly, Yo-jong was referred to by many as 'the Ivanka of North Korea' - as both wield a powerful influence over the respective leaders of their countries.

Last night, shortly after landing, Ivanka met President Moon Jae-in for dinner where the Korean leader joked that whenever he spoke to Donald Trump on the phone, he'd ask about ticket sales for the Olympics, the New York Times reports.

Moon also highlighted the importance of easing tensions between the North and South, and credited: 'President Trump's strong support for inter-Korean dialogue.'

'North Korea's participation in the Winter Olympic Games has served as an opportunity for us to engage in active discussions between the two Koreas, and this has led to lowering of tensions on the peninsula,' he said. (MailOnline)

Ledecka clinches second gold

Pyeongchang

Ester Ledecka became the first woman to claim gold medals in two sports at a Winter Olympics with a win in the snowboarding parallel giant slalom.

The 22-year-old Czech, who earned a shock victory in the skiing super G last Saturday, beat Germany's Selina Jorg to win her second gold.

She is the fifth athlete to win in two sports at one Games and the first in unrelated events with the previous double wins coming in Nordic events.

Ramona Theresia Hofmeister took bronze.

Asked if she was the "queens of the Games", Ledecka said: "I don't feel like that but it sounds good, for sure."

"It was quite tough to change

myself into a snowboarder. I had one week for it and until yesterday I didn't feel good, but today I found the snowboarder in me, luckily.

"I love racing. This is the best thing about my job - the racing. I just feel good in my bubble and focus on myself, my riding and I think it helps me." (BBC)

Norway secure 38th medal

Pyeongchang

Norway secured a record 38th medal at a Winter Olympics with bronze in the inaugural alpine skiing mixed

team event as Switzerland took gold.

Norway passed the United States' tally of 37 medals, won at the 2010 Vancouver Games,

with victory over France in the bronze-medal decider.

Switzerland beat Austria for gold in the event which sees four-strong teams compete in

head-to-head slalom races.

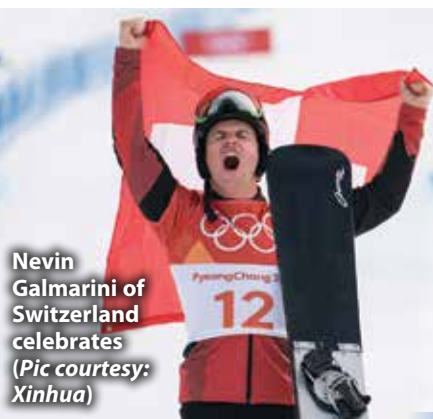
Great Britain were knocked out in the quarter-finals by Norway.

The British team of Alex Tilley, Charlie Guest, Laurie Taylor and Dave Ryding beat the United States in the opening round but lost on a tie-break in the last eight.

Switzerland came from behind to win 3-1 in the final with Daniel Yule, Wendy Holdener and Ramon Zenhaesern winning their races after Austrian Katharina Liensberger beat Denise Feierabend in the opener. (BBC)



Team Norway celebrate after the team event final (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)



Nevin Galmarini of Switzerland celebrates (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

Nevin Galmarini wins parallel giant slalom

Pyeongchang

Switzerland's Nevin Galmarini beat South Korea's Lee Sangho to win gold in the men's parallel giant slalom at the Winter Olympics.

Galmarini won by 0.43 seconds in the final but Lee still claimed silver to win South Korea's first Olympic

medal on snow.

Slovenia's Zan Kosir beat Frenchman Sylvain Dufour to take bronze.

Lee had earlier come from behind to beat Kosir by 0.01 seconds in a dramatic semi-final. (BBC)

Morgan claims bronze in big air

Pyeongchang

Billy Morgan won bronze in the men's snowboarding big air to secure Great Britain their highest medal tally in Winter Olympics history.

The medal for Morgan, 28, is Team GB's fifth in Pyeongchang, taking them past

the four medals won in 1924 and 2014. It follows a skeleton gold for Lizzy Yarnold as well as bronze medals for Dom Parsons, Laura Deas and Izzy Atkin.

In the big air event, Canada's Sebastien Toutant won gold with a score of 174.25. (BBC)

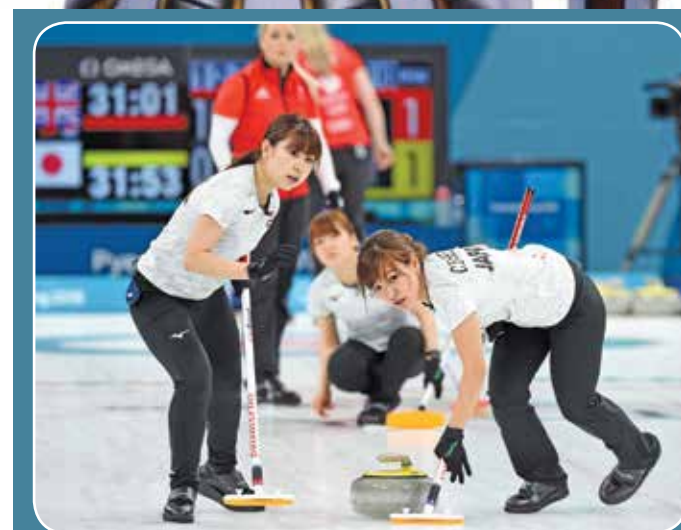


Bronze medallist Billy Morgan of Britain poses for photos (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

MEDAL TABLE

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. Norway	13	14	11	38
2. Germany	13	8	7	28
3. Canada	11	8	10	29
4. United States	9	8	6	23
5. Netherlands	8	6	6	20

Ester Ledecka celebrates



Chinami Yoshida (R) of Japan competes during the women's bronze medal game of curling against Britain at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games at Gangneung Curling Centre, Gangneung, South Korea, yesterday. Japan won 5-3 and claimed the bronze medal. (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

Ronaldo hits double as Real crush Alaves

Madrid
Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema were on the scoresheet as a Real Madrid side shorn of several stars continued their impressive form with a 4-0 victory over Alaves.

Ronaldo took his 2018 goal tally to 12 with a brace either side of a cool finish from Bale, whose long-term future at Madrid has been the subject of speculation this week.

Ronaldo could have completed his hat trick after Bale won a last-minute penalty, but

the Madrid captain instead allowed Benzema -- who like Bale has had to deal with growing criticism -- to take the kick and he fired into the corner of the net.

With the brace, Ronaldo took his career tally in La Liga to 299 goals, though Madrid claim he's already reached his landmark 300. The discrepancy is a 2011 goal that is officially credited to Pepe after Ronaldo's free kick deflected off of the defender's back. But Real Madrid have always credited the goal to Ronaldo in their own records.

The result means Zinedine Zidane's men have now accumulated 18 points from their last seven

games, during which run they have scored 29 goals, to boost their hopes of getting back into the top two in La Liga.

It took a while for the defending champions to break Alaves' resistance though, with the in-form visitors showing the qualities which had seen them win four of their previous six games to escape the relegation zone.

The hosts dominated possession in the first half but, perhaps missing the influence of key quintet Luka Modric, Toni Kroos, Marco Asensio, Sergio Ramos and Marcelo, found it difficult to create chances.

Benzema slipped with only the goalkeeper to beat following a four-on-one breakaway while Bale had two half-chances but could not find the back of the net either.

Reports in Spain claimed this week that Bale has "run out of credit" at the Bernabeu, but he almost answered his doubters with an audacious overhead kick which went just wide.

The Wales international's second opportunity came after he intercepted an attempted pass by Fernando Pacheco just outside the six-yard box, but the Alaves keeper managed to save his own blushes. (PA Sport)

India beat SA, seal series 2-1

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates (Pic courtesy:realmadrid)

Cape Town
Bhuvneshwar Kumar kept his calm and defended 19 runs in the final over as India defeated South Africa by seven runs in the third and final Twenty20 International at the Newlands in Cape Town yesterday. With the thrilling victory, India won the three-match series 2-1.

India was in control of the match before debutant Christiaan Jonker decided to give the visitors a late scare. Jonker smashed 49 off 24 balls before falling to Bhuvneshwar in the final ball of the match. Jonker, who hit two sixes and five fours, took South Africa closer to the challenging target, but failed to take them home as they managed 165/6 in chase of 173.



Team India celebrate (Pic courtesy: BCCI)

Bhuvneshwar (2/24) took two South African wickets, while Hardik Pandya (1/22), Jasprit Bumrah (1/39), Shardul Thakur (1/35) and Suresh Raina (1/27) chipped in with a wicket apiece.

South Africa found it tough to negotiate India bowler from the start as they lost opener Reeza Hendricks

(7) to Bhuvneshwar in the third over. The second wicket came after 6.2 overs but the hosts could add just 35 more to the score.

The Proteas were reduced to 45/2 when Raina dismissed David Miller in the tenth over. Miller hit a six and two fours for his watchful 24 off 23 balls. It was skipper JP Duminy who changed

the scoring rate with two successive sixes off Axar Patel in the 12th over, soon after Thakur dropped Heinrich Klaasen in the previous ball.

But it did not cost India much as Pandya got rid of Klaasen (7) in the 13th. Jonker then kept the hosts in the hunt, hitting Raina for consecutive fours in the next over. (TOI)

Bayern's winning run ends with draw

London
The Bayern Munich juggernaut was slowed by stubborn Hertha Berlin on Saturday as the Bundesliga leaders' 15-match winning run came to an end with a goalless draw.

The dominant hosts failed to find a way past a resolute Hertha rearguard as Bayern failed to win for the first

time in any competition since late November. Jupp Heynckes' men had won 11 league games in a row and scored at least two goals in every match they have played since Christmas, including five against Besiktas in the Champions League in midweek, but found Hertha's Norwegian goalkeeper Rune Jarstein in impressive form.

The point extended Bayern's lead at the top of the table to 20 points, although the likes of Bayer Leverkusen, RB Leipzig and Borussia Dortmund can cut that lead later this weekend. The numbers have little meaning now, though. The title is all but Bayern's and has long been so.

Bayern fielded their attacking big

guns, with Robert Lewandowski, Arjen Robben, Franck Ribery and Thomas Muller all starting, but a Hertha side who have won just once this year proved too tough a

nut for them to crack Lewandowski was looking to score in a club record 12th consecutive home game, but Jarstein denied him on a number of occasions. (PA Sport)



Action from Bayern v Hertha Berlin (Pic courtesy: fcbayern)

Eddie Hearn wants to set up two fights

London

Eddie Hearn wants to set up two fights between Anthony Joshua and Deontay Wilder.

The boxing promoter is keen for the heavyweight stars to clash at Wembley and in Las Vegas.

Joshua has revealed that he will fight the

Bronze Bomber after he has taken on WBO champion **Joseph Parker**.

Hearn told *Yahoo Sports*: "We'd fill up that arena with Brits."

"We're open to a US fight for the Wilder fight."

"I think it makes sense to do two, not because we want any rematch clause, but because it's the biggest fight in world boxing."

"Why not run it twice? The Anthony Joshua (file pic) fans would love to see it."

"Run it twice. One at Wembley and once in Vegas, or at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, somewhere like that."

Wilder has claimed that the WBA, IBF and IBO champion is a "nobody" in America.

But Joshua, 28, suggested he would only take the trip across the pond to "cement his legacy" in the sport.

The American heavyweight has also accused the British bruiser of avoiding him for two years.

Bronze Bomber must first dispose Luis Ortiz, 38, in the seventh defence of his crown. (*thesun.co.uk*)

Alonso dismisses debate over halo introduction

London

McLaren driver Fernando Alonso says "there should not be any debate" about the halo cockpit protection device introduced for the 2018 Formula 1 season.

The halo, which was pushed through by the FIA on safety grounds, has been widely criticised, with Mercedes F1 boss Toto Wolff saying this week he would remove it "with a chainsaw" if he could.

Asked whether everyone would forget about the device a few races into 2018, Alonso told *Sky Sports*: "Yeah, I'm sure of that."

"And again, this is a safety device, it's head protection for the drivers, so there should not be any debate on that, as long as it's a safety device."

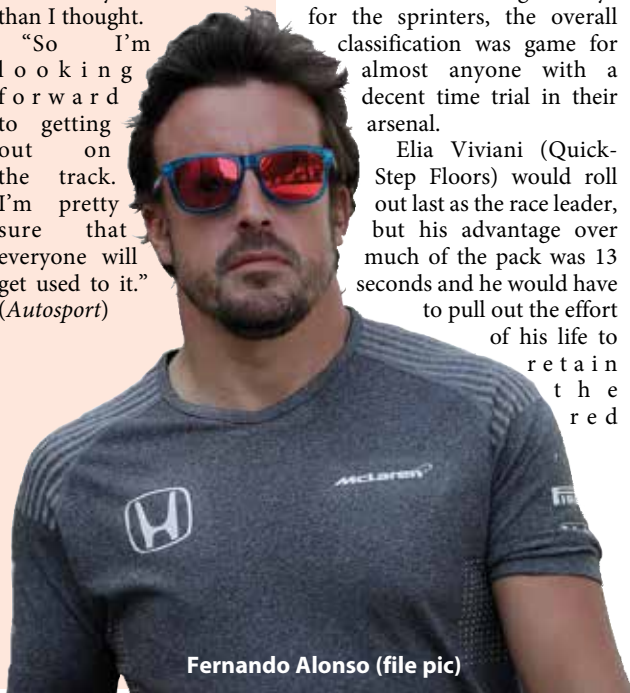
"Yeah, aesthetics aren't the best at the moment, and in the future I'm sure that the sport and the teams will find a way to make it a little bit nicer, for the fans, and for the cars to look a little

bit better."

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel expressed a similar sentiment during the launch of his team's new halo-fitted SF71H car.

"During the seat fit it was okay," Vettel said. "It was actually less intrusive than I thought."

"So I'm looking forward to getting out on the track. I'm pretty sure that everyone will get used to it." (*Autosport*)



Fernando Alonso (file pic)

Hala joins Brave tour to Jordan

Manama

Bahraini singer, Hala Al Turk is announced among the brand ambassadors for Brave Combat Federation.

Hala became popular when she was selected for *Arabs Got Talent* in 2011 and she subsequently signed to Platinum Records.

Hala had performed during Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions hosted in Bahrain.

The performance was a part of the inaugural activities for the fight night. The popular Bahraini singer will join the world tour scheduled by the mixed martial arts organisation for 2018.

Brave Combat Federation had announced that promoting cultural and social initiatives will be a priority while hosting sports events across the world.

Hala being of born Jordanian and Bahraini decent made the perfect candidate to be the brand ambassador for the tour to Jordan by the sports media established in Bahrain under the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The initiative will highlight and strengthen cultural and social relation between nations.

Brave has hinted that more talent from GCC will be joining the ever expanding team of

brand ambassadors to tour the world.

"Hala was selected among the list of Bahraini influencers due to her International appeal and portfolio of achievements. We are proud that she will represent the Kingdom of Bahrain as the representative of the youth of Bahrain and we believe that it will be an opportunity for her to perform around the world. As an influencer this is indeed an achievement only a few can claim in the Kingdom of Bahrain and it is noteworthy that Hala had accomplished this early in her career," said Valeria Lang, Chief Operating Officer of Brave Combat Federation.



Hala Turk

Rohan Dennis takes Abu Dhabi lead

Abu Dhabi

Rohan Dennis (BMC Racing) surged into the overall lead at the Abu Dhabi Tour after taking victory in the key time trial on stage 4.

The Australian completed the 12.6km course in a time of 14:21, some 14 seconds quicker than his closest rival Jonathan Castroviejo (Team Sky), while his teammate Miles Scotson finished third a further two seconds back.

Dennis now leads Castroviejo in the overall standings by the same margin he beat him by in the time trial.

World champion Tom Dumoulin (Team Sunweb) was one of the favourites going into the stage but suffered a mechanical, which was fatal to his chances of victory.

After three straight days for the sprinters, the overall classification was game for almost anyone with a decent time trial in their arsenal.

Elia Viviani (Quick-Step Floors) would roll out last as the race leader, but his advantage over much of the pack was 13 seconds and he would have to pull out the effort of his life to



Rohan Dennis celebrates on the podium (Pic courtesy: abudhabitour)

retain the lead jersey.

Team Sunweb set the early benchmark, with Nikias Arndt going around the course in a time of 14:43, beating the likes of Alex Dowsett (Katusha-Alpecin) as he crossed the line. He would enjoy almost half an hour in the hot seat before Scotson came in and booted him off.

Dennis set off while Scotson was still out on course and there was little time to get comfortable for the young Australian before he too was bumped down a spot in the standings as Dennis went 16 seconds quicker. (*Cyclingnews*)

Al Maryah Island to Al Maryah Island, 12.6km

1. Rohan Dennis (Aus) BMC Racing, in 14 hrs 21 min
2. Jonathan Castroviejo (Esp) Team Sky, at 14 secs
3. Miles Scotson (Aus) BMC Racing, at 16 secs
4. Jos van Emden (Ned) LottoNL-Jumbo, at 16 secs
5. Wilco Kelderman (Ned) Team Sunweb, at 16 secs
6. Brent Bookwalter (USA) BMC Racing, at 17 secs
7. Nikias Arndt (Ger) Team Sunweb, at 22 secs
8. Patrick Bevin (NZI) BMC Racing, at 23 secs
9. Alejandro Valverde (Esp) Movistar, at 27 secs
10. Alex Dowsett (GBR) Katusha-Alpecin, at 29 secs

General classification

1. Rohan Dennis (Aus) BMC Racing, in 11 hrs 21 min 10 secs
2. Jonathan Castroviejo (Esp) Team Sky, at 14 secs
3. Miles Scotson (Aus) BMC Racing, at 16 secs
4. Jos van Emden (Ned) LottoNL-Jumbo, at 16 secs
5. Wilco Kelderman (Ned) Team Sunweb, at 16 secs

(*Cyclingweekly*)

Liverpool move up to second with win

Mohamed Salah celebrates scoring
Liverpool's side's second goal
(Pic courtesy: theguardian)



Liverpool's Emre Can (C) celebrates with teammates
(Pic courtesy: Independent.co.uk)



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**Liverpool took their
goal tally for the
season to 103 as
they claimed second
place in the Premier
League, 4-1**

Liverpool

Liverpool took their goal tally for the season to 103 as they claimed second place in the Premier League with a comfortable 4-1 win over West Ham.

Mohamed Salah, with his 31st of the season, again got on the scoresheet, while Emre Can, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane also struck.

West Ham hit the bar through Marko Arnautovic in the early stages, but were outplayed and managed just a consolation through substitute Michail Antonio.

Liverpool, who also won 4-1 at the London Stadium in November, were dominant and could have had more for their efforts, with both Salah and Mane striking the woodwork.

The Hammers, whose supporters wore T-shirts commemorating the 25th anniversary of Bobby Moore's death,

offered little and the result prolonged their manager David Moyes' miserable record at Anfield. The former Everton and Manchester United boss has now not won at the ground in 15 attempts.

It also proved an ineffective Hammers debut for Patrice Evra, with the former United defender booed throughout.

The game got off to a lively start, with both sides hitting the woodwork in the opening minutes.

Salah looked certain to open the scoring with just two minutes gone after being teed up by Firmino, but Adrian touched his low shot on to the post.

West Ham initially responded positively with Arnautovic breaking clear of Virgil van Dijk and attempting to beat Loris Karius with a delicate chip.

His effort was almost perfect, but the Liverpool keeper just managed to brush the ball with an outstretched arm to

push it on to the bar.

The Hammers failed to build on that moment of near-brilliance and Liverpool soon assumed control.

Adrian had to be alert as a cross from Andrew Robertson threatened to drift into the top corner and the Spaniard then saved from distance from Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Liverpool's breakthrough came just before the half-hour as Salah delivered the cross for Can to head home from a corner.

It was a goal the hosts deserved and Salah should have doubled the lead before the interval when he headed a Robertson cross over from close range.

The Egyptian quickly made amends for that miss after the restart, continuing his prolific season by turning a low shot past Adrian after a tenacious run by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. (PA Sport)