

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

Sunday, March 26, 2017 Issue No. 7332

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Meet Nabil, the bee whisperer

▶▶ P 02

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Today's Weather

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▶▶ P 09-14

11th Hour

3 inmates die in fire after fight in Mexican prison

Mexico

A fire started by inmates at a prison in northern Mexico left at least three prisoners dead and one person injured, officials said yesterday, just days after 29 detainees escaped through a tunnel. The large blaze broke out Friday night at the prison in the capital of Ciudad Victoria after inmates staged a protest.

KARBABAD DISCOVERIES REVEAL

1st ever credit pact

The age-old contract was about borrowing dates for a period of one year

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN muhannad@dt.bh

A stone tablet found near Qal'at Al Bahrain archaeological site in Karbabad recently is reported to carry a loan agreement, which is said to be the first ever in the human history carved on stone.

Archaeologists say the stone tablet with the loan agreement was probably the first in history and was made between two individuals who lived on the island 2500 years ago.

The agreement, according to the archaeologists, was about one of them borrowing some dates from the other on the promise of returning one year later.

The tablet also carries the names of witnesses for the agreement, which according to the explorers, was a sign of the civilised behaviour prevailed in that age and which was rare in many parts of the world.

The stone is also the first to have cuneiform writings supposed to have its origin in the first millennium BC.

The stone tablet was, however, discovered by a team of international and local archaeology specialists under the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Tourism (BACA).

According to Archaeological Affairs Counsellor at BACA Dr Pierre Lombard, the carving dates back to around 503-04 BC.

Dr Lombard said this during a recent lecture at Bahrain National Museum to announce the new set of discoveries in Bahrain last year.

"The agreement carved on one side of the tablet shows it was written in 19th year of King Darius I, who ruled Babylon during the time (around 503-504 BC), in Akkadian language, used to be popular during the time," he said.

He said that based on the inscription, it is assumed that the borrower had returned the dates next year during the month of Tashrit (September or October). And when it was returned, the names of the witnesses were scratched, and along with that the name where the agreement had taken place, too, he said.

"It could have been Qal'at Al Bahrain," he added.

DT News had reported on Thursday that archaeological teams from Bahrain, France, Denmark and Japan had made five important discoveries in 2016.

The materials including the tablet, gold pieces, coffins and pottery crafts, aging thousands of years, were found at different parts of the island, proving the island had connections to ancient civilisations including Mesopotamia and the Greek.



Credit contract made in Akkadian script



Witness names seen scraped



Side with date carved

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Meet Nabil the bee whisperer

Bees like him better than their honey



Nabil Alkawry

Arunita Praharaj/DTNN
news@dt.bh

While many would wince at the thought of being covered by bees, the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain is an exception to it.

34-year-old Nabil Alkawry is one of the few people in the Kingdom to run an apiary

and the only man who can comfortably cover himself with honeybees.

Producer of over 15 litres of pure, raw and natural local honey a year, Nabil is an employee of the security forces by day and a bee whisperer by early evenings, nurturing his little hives in a friend's

farmhouse in Tubli.

"If I do not come and see them, I have trouble sleeping," says the dedicated beekeeper. Explaining why he does not get stung, he says: "They know me now. My brother and I loved honey and started beekeeping together. Although a few years later my brother passed

away in an accident, I continued to look after the bees in his memory. So, they are like my children."

Having spent countless hours learning secrets of bee farming with his late brother, his interest in saving the honeybee has now become a passion. Not only does he have several beehives in Tubli, he is also on call for the community – for emergency beehive removals.

If he is successful in removing the bees, he brings them back to his friend's farm and lets them settle down for a while, before moving them into the apiary where they get down to the work of producing honey.

Apart from producing organic honey, Nabil is also proficient in providing "apitherapy" or "bee sting therapy" which is meant to

create a healing response through the pituitary and adrenal glands by spurring the development of endorphins – the body's natural painkiller.

patients with arthritis, eczema, tendinitis and many more physical ailments," Nabil says. The father of three, Nabil has been farming bee for more than 10 years and intends to make it bigger if he receives the right kind of support.

"Little bees have a great hand in food reaching our tables. It is important that we make an effort to expand such ventures as these tiny workers of nature are on the verge of becoming extinct. I am trying to do my best but I often struggle with funds," says Nabil.

You can follow Nabil as he decodes the secret life of bees on his Instagram handle: alkawry222.



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Bee sting therapy or 'apitherapy' which Nabil has mastered is cure to many suffering from arthritis, eczema, tendinitis and other physical ailments



For a change, bees rest on Nabil's palm

Auction centre to end illegal car trade



Mazen Ahmed Al Umran

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

With an aim to curb the menace of illegal sale of second-hand cars in the Kingdom, Capital Municipal Council has decided to open an auto auction centre here.

The foundation stone for the centre will be laid in Tubli within the next 18 months, authorities stated yesterday.

The auto auction centre project, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, has a plot

in Tubli adjacent to Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway and is currently in its design stage, according to Capital Municipal Council Deputy Chairman Mazen Ahmed Al Umran.

He stressed that eliminating the illegal sale of cars will be the top priority of the auction centre.

"We have had this issue for many years where people park cars in public spaces and roads to display it for sale. Not only are they breaking the law but they are also putting the customers at risk because

they are not trusted sellers. They may sell rebuilt cars and customers may naively purchase it from them. The auction centre will be a trusted place where customers can buy without worrying about such risk. We will have high-quality standards and all the cars will be tested before being out on sale," he said.

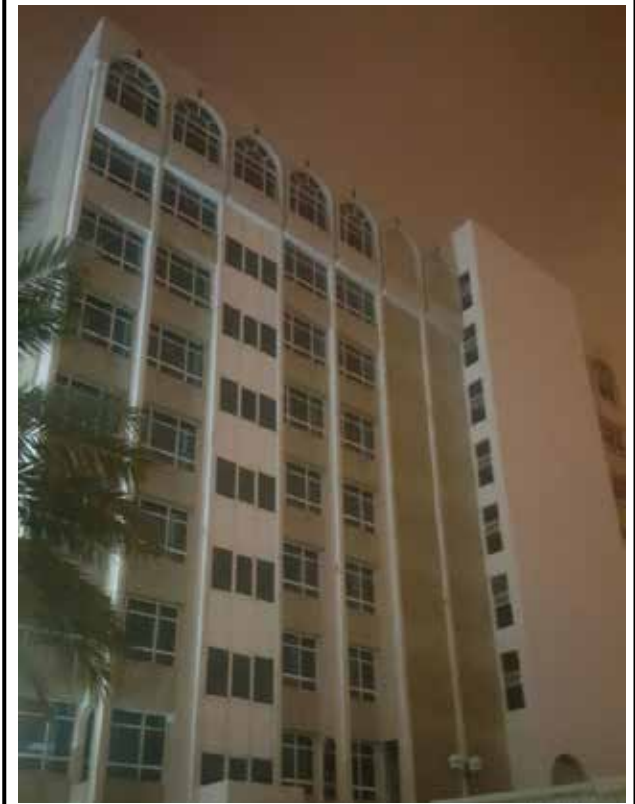
"The centre can be used to sell second-hand cars including antique ones. We will invite the major car companies to participate and allocate office space for them

inside the centre. They will also have designated areas where they can sell their automobile either at fixed prices or hold auctions. The centre will feature exclusive deals and bargains that would not be available in the market," he added.

The project has been approved by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning.

"This concept has already been implemented in Dubai and I believe we can implement it here in Bahrain as well," he said.

Earth Hour in Bahrain



Ministry of Works and Municipalities participated in Earth Hour yesterday by turning off the lights of its buildings and subsidiary projects



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Minister of Education Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi patronised the "Together We Protect It" event held at the Um Ayman Primary Girls School yesterday. He expressed the Ministry's pride in the creative efforts of public schools to integrate technology in education



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received Kingdom University President Dr. Yousef Abdulghaffar and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Scientific Research, Dr. Nader Al Bastaki. The minister was briefed on the preparations for a symposium on sustainable buildings and renewable energy to be held in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Network on April 15 and 16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, under the patronage of the minister



Undersecretary for Labour Affairs Ministry Sabah Al Dossary yesterday opened a workshop organised by the Ministry on Labour law for the private Sector. The Labour Ministry's Legal Consultant Dr. Abdulbassit Abdul-Mohsen delivered a lecture in the presence of 55 human resources officials from private sector companies and institutions



Mohammed Afzal Bhatti, member of Overseas Pakistanis Advisory Council (OPAC) Bahrain presided over the Pakistan Day celebrations at Sadoon Camp in Sitra. Ch. Ghulam Nabhi, Raja Sadiq Shad, Mian Shahid, Miza Jameel, Ijaz Yousif, Tajammal Bajwa and other senior Pakistani community social workers were present at the ceremony

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SHUKAT CC won by 6 runs against BFC CC in a friendly match organised by Pakistan Club Bahrain on the sidelines of the Pakistan Day celebrations. Pakistani cricketer Imran Nazir was the chief guest at the event



Hajen Construction Managing Director Shukat Ali opened the company's new office in Zinj near Al Kindi Hospital in the presence of Pakistani Cricketer Imran Nazir



Girls Guide celebrated mother's day at National Bank of Bahrain Elderly Home in Isa Town under the guidance of guide specialist Mutazah Samhan

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Public Announcement relating to Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C.

26 March 2017

Receipt of Offer Document and Resumption of Trading

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BAHRAIN MIDDLE EAST BANK B.S.C. RECEIPT OF FORMAL VOLUNTARY UNCONDITIONAL OFFER TO ACQUIRE UP TO 33.1% OF THE ISSUED AND PAID UP CAPITAL OF BAHRAIN MIDDLE EAST BANK B.S.C. ("BMB") WHICH REPRESENTS ALL THE OUTSTANDING SHARES OF THE ISSUED AND PAID UP CAPITAL OF BMB (OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY OWNED BY THE OFFEROR AND THE PARTIES ACTING IN CONCERT WITH IT) IN CASH

Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. ("BMB") shareholders are hereby informed that AN Investment W.L.L. has conveyed to the Board of Directors of BMB on 23 March 2017 a formal voluntary unconditional offer for the shareholders of BMB to acquire up to 33.1% of the issued and paid up capital of BMB in cash under the terms summarised below. The Board of Directors of Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. confirm that it has, in accordance with the TMA, appointed Grant Thornton Abdulaal as an independent professional advisor to advise on AN Investment W.L.L.'s offer.

Following this announcement, documents relating to the offer will be made available to the shareholders of BMB as described below:

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

THE OFFER DOCUMENT OF THE OFFEROR HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF BAHRAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF BAHRAIN VOLUME 6 – TAKEOVERS, MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS MODULE.

THE CENTRAL BANK OF BAHRAIN, THE BAHRAIN BOURSE AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND TOURISM ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF THE STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ANY LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR ANY LOSS HOWEVER ARISING FROM OR IN RELIANCE UPON THE WHOLE OR ANY PART OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE DIRECTORS OF BAHRAIN MIDDLE EAST BANK B.S.C. ISSUING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. TO THE BEST OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF OF THE DIRECTORS, WHO HAVE TAKEN ALL REASONABLE CARE TO ENSURE THAT SUCH IS THE CASE, THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT ACCORD WITH THE TERMS OF THE OFFER RECEIVED FROM AN INVESTMENT W.L.L. AND CONTAINS NO MATERIAL OMISSIONS LIKELY TO AFFECT THE IMPORTANCE AND COMPLETENESS OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

Shareholders should not rely on only this announcement but should refer to the contents of the offer document and the offeree board circular. If you are in any doubt about the contents of this announcement and the aspects of the offer you should consult a licensed securities dealer or licensed institution in securities, a bank manager, solicitor, professional accountant or other professional advisors.

Details of the offer

Securities for which the offer will be made

The ANI offer is to acquire 80,097,018 ordinary shares which have a par value of USD 0.25 each in Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. ("BMB") representing 33.1% of BMB's issued and paid up capital of Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. ("BMB Shares"), which represents all the outstanding shares of the issued and paid up capital of BMB (other than those already owned by ANI and the parties acting in concert with it) in cash (the "Offer").

The Offeree

Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. (the "Offeree" or "BMB") is registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism ("MOIC") with Commercial Registration number 12266 as a Public Bahraini Shareholding Company. BMB has an issued and paid-up capital of USD 60,500,831.50 made up of 242,003,326 shares of USD 0.25 each. It is also licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain ("CBB") as a Conventional Wholesale Bank. Its securities are listed on Bahrain Bourse.

The Offeror

AN Investment W.L.L. (the "Offeror" or "ANI") is registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism ("MOIC") with Commercial Registration number 86835 as a With Limited Liability Company. ANI has an issued and paid-up capital of BHD 20,000 made up of 400 shares of BHD 50.00 each. The shares of ANI are not publicly listed on any stock exchange.

Identity of Parties acting in concert

ANI and Al Fawares Holding Company KSC (c) are acting in concert. At the request of ANI and following discussions with the CBB, Al Fawares Holding Company KSC (c) will retain its shareholding in Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C., until at least 20th February 2019 to ensure a stable and smooth takeover and business integration. Hence, they are considered to be acting in concert as per the CBB rulebook.

Shareholding of ANI and Parties acting in concert

ANI currently owns 42.97% of the ordinary shares in BMB and Al Fawares Holding Company KSC (c) owns 23.93% of the ordinary shares in BMB. ANI along with Al Fawares Holding Company K.S.C., hold 66.9% of the entire issued share capital of BMB.

Major Shareholders of the Offeror

The summary of principal shareholdings in ANI as of this date is given below:

Name of Shareholder	Holding
Huseyin Basaran	70.00%
Ardases Saro Kavafyan	15.00%
Murat Solak	15.00%

Board of Directors

Name of Director	Title
Huseyin Basaran	Director
Murat Solak	Director

Consideration of the offer

The consideration for the offer is USD 0.1322 per share (the "Offer Price"). The Offer Price was determined by ANI based on assessment by ANI of the financial and non-financial information provided by BMB during the due diligence exercise carried out by ANI on BMB.

Shareholders eligible of the offer

Shareholders of BMB whose names appear in the BMB share register at the close of business on 29 March 2017 (the "Record Date") will be eligible to receive the BMB offer.

Conditions precedent to the offer

The Offer is unconditional.

Suspension of Trading

Trading in BMB Shares will be suspended on the Bahrain Bourse ("BHB") at the end of the trading hours on the Record Date, until payment has been effected to the BMB Shareholders accepting the ANI offer.

Offer documents to shareholders

The offer documents (including offer document, offeree board circular, containing details of the ANI offer, the views of the BMB board of directors on the offer and the written advice of the professional adviser as to whether the offer is, or is not, fair and reasonable and the reasons thereof together with any other information it considers to be relevant to enable shareholders to reach an informed decision on the ANI offer and the Acceptance and Transfer form) will be made available in an electronic format to all BMB shareholders on BMB's website and on the Bahrain Bourse. The abovementioned documents will also be available at the offices of Karvy Computershare W.L.L. in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Offer acceptance procedures

The offer will be open for acceptance from 2 April 2017 (the "Offer Opening Date") to 16 April 2017 (the "Offer Closing Date") (the "Offer Period").

All the eligible BMB shareholders willing to accept the ANI offer, prior to acceptance, will be required to hold the BMB shares in a trading account with a registered broker in BHB. As part of the acceptance procedures they will be required to hold the BMB shares in a trading account with a registered broker in BHB. As part of the acceptance procedures they will be required to forward to the Receiving Agent, Karvy Computershare W.L.L., a completed Acceptance and Transfer form, copies of identification documents and a statement of account from the BHB in respect of their BMB shares that are being surrendered during the Offer Period held in electronic form with a registered broker in BHB. Please refer to section 3.8 entitled "Offer Acceptance Procedures" and section 4 entitled "Procedures for Accepting the Offer" of the ANI offer document for further details.

All announcements will be made through the BHB and will be available on the website. Some of these announcements will also be made through newspapers published in the Kingdom of Bahrain as required by the TMA.

According to the ANI offer document cash settlement for the offer shall be effected by the BHB on the trading system through registered brokers. On the settlement date, the BHB shall effect the transfer of shares and update the shareholders registry of BMB to reflect change of ownership. Based on the actual number of shares transferred, the settlement consideration at USD 0.1322 per share shall be settled by the broker acting on behalf of ANI to BHB. In turn, BHB shall settle amounts due to each broker acting on behalf of individual selling shareholders of BMB subject to and as per BHB settlement rules.

Further details will be included in the offer documents that will be sent to the shareholders of BMB pursuant of BMB pursuant to the Central Bank of Bahrain Rulebook Volume 6 – Takeovers, Mergers and Acquisitions Module.

ANI Post-Acquisition Strategy

ANI intends to maintain BMB's commercial registration. BMB will continue to operate under normal course of business and maintain its operations as a subsidiary of ANI where disruption to or cessation of any significant line of operations of BMB is not expected to occur as a result of the proposed acquisition of shares under the offer.

Key Dates

Record Date	29 March 2017
Offer Documents Forwarding Date	30 March 2017
Offer Opening Date	2 April 2017
Offer Closing Date	16 April 2017
Offer Acceptance / Rejection Announcement Date	17 April 2017

Key Parties

The Offeree	The Offeror	Share Registrar & Receiving Agent	Professional Independent Advisor to the Offeree
Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. Building 135, Road 1702, Block 317, Diplomatic Area Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain Tel : (973) 17 532345 Fax : (973) 17 530987	AN Investment W.L.L. Building 135, Road 1702, Diplomatic Area Flat 121, Block 317 Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain Tel : (973) 17 532345 Fax : (973) 17 530987	Karvy Computershare W.L.L. Office No 74, 7th Floor, Al-Zamil Tower Building No 31 Road No 383 Block No. 305 Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain Tel : (973) 17215080 Fax : (973) 17212055	Grant Thornton Abdulaal Al Nakheel Tower, 12th Floor P.O. Box 11175, Kingdom of Bahrain Tel : (973) 17500188 Fax : (973) 17500199

Students receive academic honours



The recipients of the Al Bassam Award with Education Ministry officials

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

Four hundred students from the Kingdom were honoured with the Al Bassam Award for Scientific Excellence at the Ministry of Education hall in Isa Town yesterday.

Saudi Ambassador Ahmed Al-Bassam handed over the awards to the students at a function organised by the Society of Islamic Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to support and provide educational sponsorship to students who have excelled in their academics.

"The award is a great platform for the people of the country to innovate and strive for excellence in their academic life," Adel bin Rashid Bousaiba, Director of Social Services and Projects at the Islamic Education Association told

DT News.

"Six committees are working continuously to improve the quality, performance and provide the best services for this scientific and cultural award which has benefited over 3035 students since its establishment," he said.

The patron of the award, Ahmed Al Bassam commended the efforts and dedication of the students in the field of science.

"I extend my sincere congratulations to the students who are privileged to receive the Al Bassam Award for Scientific Excellence and ask them to keep working hard, strive for excellence and serve the country well," Al Bassam stated.

He also mentioned the rise in the number of outstanding students in the field.

Al Bassam Award for Scientific Excellence was

established in 2009 at the initiative of the family of the late Abdullah bin Sulaiman Al Bassam to encourage the students of the Kingdom

to innovate and strive for excellence by honouring outstanding students in the secondary and preparatory stages.

Women and the World

Meredith Ann O'Connell



Too Dangerous to Leave?

The most dangerous time in an abusive relationship is the moment the woman decides to leave. When the woman finds the courage to leave, the abuser has lost his power and control, and in order to regain that control he may escalate his behavior. Statistics show that around 75% of abuse victims who are murdered are killed when they try to leave. Yet despite these facts, women are not afforded the resources or protection they need in order to make a new life. This needs to change.

Women in abusive relationships are usually encouraged by friends and family members to leave; "why don't you leave?" is a common enough refrain, one that is sometimes used to blame the victim for why she is in the situation. Yet although society encourages women to leave abusive partners, the aftermath may be equally difficult to deal with. Besides having to deal with practical issues (such as housing, financials, etc.) the woman may have to deal with an angry abuser, who tries to win her back, perhaps resorting to stalking, threats and violence.

Restraining orders are one way to protect women from their former partners. Yet even restraining orders have not prevented women from being attacked. Furthermore, sometimes the police dismiss allegations of stalking or threats of violence until it is too late—which is completely unacceptable. All threats against someone's life must be taken seriously and investigated, no matter the victim's gender or background.

Despite the current situation, organizations are pushing forward to ensure that women find the strength, support and protection they need to move on to the next chapter in their lives. In the Basque region of Spain, a non-profit has been launched with the hopes that one day it will be rolled out across the country. Edemm offers 24-hour protection free of charge to women who have fled abusive partners. All of the bodyguards Edemm employs, including its founder, are women, and they provide support to vulnerable women, some of which are too afraid to venture outside or go about their daily lives.

While it may not be possible to provide around-the-clock protection services to all women who have left an abusive partner, more effort is needed. Making the decision to leave an abusive partner should not be a dangerous decision, but the best decision a survivor of abuse can make.

(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.)

RAFIDAIN BANK BAHRAIN BRANCH



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 31 December 2016	2016 BD	2015 BD
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	639,077	543,032
Due from banks and financial institutions	10,647,883	9,266,063
Loans and advances	535,385	535,779
Due from Head Office and other branches	1,225,477	1,225,477
Equipment and other assets	84,883	81,012
TOTAL ASSETS	13,132,705	11,651,363
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Due to banks and financial institutions	61,014	59,351
Customers' deposits	5,167,222	4,595,219
Due to Head Office and other branches	3,230,844	2,463,237
Other liabilities	1,286,746	1,280,851
TOTAL LIABILITIES	9,745,826	8,398,658
EQUITY		
Branch capital	1,500,000	1,500,000
General reserve	227,044	227,044
Statutory reserve	190,989	175,854
Retained earnings	1,468,846	1,349,807
Total equity	3,386,879	3,252,705
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	13,132,705	11,651,363

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Year ended 31 December 2016	2016 BD	2015 BD
Interest and similar income	343,324	284,137
Interest and similar expenses	(6,720)	(7,123)
NET INTEREST INCOME	336,604	277,014
Net gain on foreign currencies	7,548	8,434
Other income	8,250	11,700
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	352,402	297,148
Write back / (provision) for impairment on credit losses - net	1,232	(33,554)
NET OPERATING INCOME	353,634	263,594
Staff expenses	75,658	86,667
Other operating expenses	126,628	114,689
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	202,286	201,356
Net income for the period	151,348	62,238
Impairment provision released - net	-	319,434
NET INCOME AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	151,348	381,672

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS Year ended 31 December 2016	2016 BD	2015 BD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income for the year	151,348	381,672
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	6,048	6,131
(Write back) / provision for impairment on credit losses - net	(1,232)	33,554
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities:	156,164	421,357
Mandatory reserve with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(60,000)	(45,000)
Due from banks and financial institutions	-	(5)
Loans and advances	1,626	24,350
Other assets	(9,727)	(607)
Due to banks and financial institutions	1,663	2,605
Customers' deposits	572,003	736,930
Due to Head Office and other branches - net	767,607	(179,866)
Other liabilities	5,895	(320,405)
Net cash from operating activities	1,435,231	639,359
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of equipment	(191)	-
Net cash used in investing activity	(191)	-
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Transfer to Head Office	(17,175)	(7,615)
Net cash used in financing activity	(17,175)	(7,615)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,417,865	631,744
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	9,675,095	9,043,351
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	11,092,960	9,675,095

Hamid Ahmed Dakheel
General Manager

Ernst & Young
Auditors

Malabar Gold & Diamonds opens 173rd showroom



Officials during the inaugural ceremony

DT NewsNetwork
Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has extended its presence in Bahrain by opening a new showroom in Temple road here on March 23.

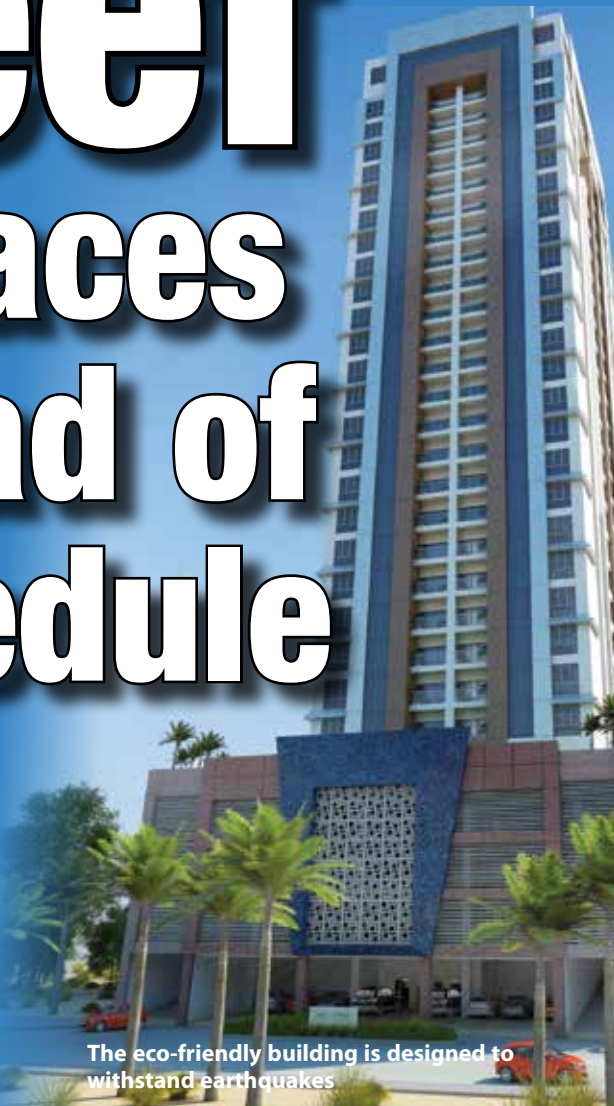
Hesham Zaal Khalifa Zaal Al Buflaseh along with Abdul Salaam KP, Group Executive Director, Malabar Group, jointly inaugurated the 173rd showroom globally in the presence of

Sakkeer P, Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mohammed Rafeeq, Branch Head Malabar Gold & Diamonds, management members, dignitaries & well-wishers.

As a part of the inaugural offer, customers will get an assured free gift on every gold (GCC) exchange and no making charges on 8 gram gold coins until April 1.

Seef Terraces ahead of schedule

Construction work on the project is nearly sixty per cent complete



The eco-friendly building is designed to withstand earthquakes

Manama

The award-winning family focussed residential project of Dadabhai Group properties, Seef Terraces is progressing well ahead of the schedule with completion set for end-2017, the company said in a statement.

Located in Seef District, Seef Terraces is a 29-storey freehold tower comprising 173 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with large private terraces offering a high-quality lifestyle in a neighbourhood that blends residential, commercial and leisure space.

Construction work on the project, which started in May 2016 and expecting completion by December 2017, is nearly 60 per cent complete.

Commenting, Dadabhai Noon Real Estate managing Director Shabeer Dadabhai said, "Our target is to place one slab every 10-days, hence three slabs per month. So far 25 slabs have been placed. Work on the 26th slab is currently underway."

"Block works have been completed till the 22nd floor, tiling is ongoing with



Shabeer Dadabhai the 10th floor ready whereas mechanical and electric works have been completed till the 18th floor," he added. Features include tennis and squash courts, BBQ area, jogging track, cinema, indoor basketball court, a large outdoor landscaped play area for children, separate gymnasium, steam, sauna and jacuzzi for women and men, a large infinity pool with lounge area and outdoor jacuzzi on the rooftop level.

The eco-friendly building is also designed to be earthquake-resistant.

60pc sold out!

The project's exclusive sales agent Pegasus Real Estate's managing director Aziz

Mithaiwala said 60pc of the project has been sold out, while buyers comprise of 18 different nationalities.

"A majority of the buyers are from Bahrain followed by other GCC nationals and expatriates of various nationalities from the region."

Prices start at BD60,500 and go up to BD160,500 for large three-bedroom apartment on the top floors.

The developer has also entered into a partnership with Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB), a leading Bahraini Islamic bank, whereby residents of Bahrain wanting to buy apartments in Seef Terraces can avail a mortgage loan.

"Monthly loan instalment for a typical one-bedroom apartment starts at BD425 per month while a two-bedroom flat will cost BD500 per month payable over 20-years," said Mithaiwala.

"The mortgage process can be facilitated through our head office in Seef while other direct construction-linked payment plans are also available for buyers," he added.

Kavalani and sons receives ISO 9001:2015 certification

Manama

Kavalani and sons W.L.L. has become one of the first few companies in Bahrain to successfully implement ISO 9001:2015.

The company was guided by Smartskills Consultancy CO. S.P.C., Bahrain and certified by Global Certifications Limited, Dubai.

The certificate was presented to Prashant Gandhi, Mukesh Gandhi, and Devkishan Gandhi - Directors, Kavalani and sons W.L.L. by Vikas Goyal (Global Group) in the presence of Jaydeep Mishra (Smartskills Consultancy Co. S.P.C., Bahrain).

The awarding ceremony took place yesterday at

Kavalani and sons office in Bahrain Investment Wharf.

Kavalani and sons W.L.L. is a supplier of Industrial, Construction and Marine Equipment. They offer more than 60,000 products from the world's market leading brands under one roof.



Prashant Gandhi, Mukesh Gandhi, Devkishan Gandhi (middle), receiving the certificate from Vikas Goyal (left) and Jaydeep Mishra (right)



Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of Interior Purchasing Directorate

The Ministry of Interior invites vendors for the following tender:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond	Tender Fees	Closing Date		
				Day	Date	Time
Supply of building and electrical materials for MOI (Term tender for 2 years).	04/2017	BD 2,500.000	BD 50	Wednesday	26/04/2017	13:30

- Those who are Capable and want to participate in the above tender can buy its document by visiting Bahrain tender board web site and download the tender document starting from **Sunday 26/03/2017** (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh>) using credit card or through cashier by cash or cheque at the finance department in the police fort, and to enclose with the offer an Initial Bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of %1 of the tender value whichever amount is lesser, Knowing that no initial bonds value shall be less than BD. 100/-. The initial bond should be in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.
- For further inquiries please call the **Tenders & Contract division office - MOI on 17390543 during the working hours.**
- Specified above Offers should be deposited in the tender box provided at Tendering submission office, Tender Board's Office at Al Moayyed Tower, Seef Area, (7th Floor).
- This tender should comply with the provisions of the General Tenders Regulations, no. (36) For the year 2002, and its executive Regulations No. (37) For the year 2002.
- In addition these conditions has to be considered:
 - Enclose copy of the Commercial Registration Bill, for the current year, and has to be included/matched with the tenders subjects.
 - Form no. (T B 02) is to be filled completely, mentioning the Total Tender Value and Unit Price (accordingly).
 - Enclose a certificate of compliance with the employment percentages for Bahraini manpower issued by the Ministry of Labour.
 - All tenders documents (Original / Copy) which has been submitted with the offers should be stamped with the company's Stamp.
- This advertisement is considered to be a supplementary to the tenders Documents.

GPIC exceeds targets



GPIC holds Ordinary General Meeting

Manama
Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) exceeded all its production targets for the year 2016 and achieved new records without a lost time accident, it was announced.

This was revealed during the company's 38th Ordinary General Meeting (AGM) held in the presence of Company Chairman Dr. Ahmed Al Sharyan, Talal Isa Al-Sultan, representative of the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) of Kuwait and Khalid Bin Ali Al-Qarni from

the Saudi Basic Industries Company (SABIC).

GPIC Chairman, while explaining 2016 achievements, said that the company successfully reduced spending and increased its production despite challenges faced by the petrochemical industry. He said the company exceeded all production targets set by its Board of Directors.

The production of Urea reached 704,003 metric tons, a new record, while Methanol and Ammonia production reached 445,880 metric tons and 467,539 metric tons,

respectively. The combined production of the three reached 1,617,422 metric tons – also a new record.

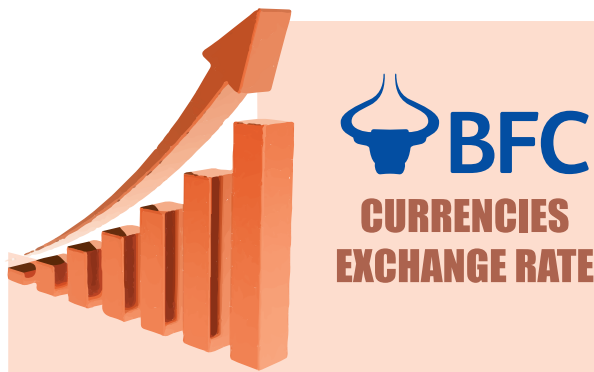
Explaining further, he said, “1,188,824 million tons of the Company's products were shipped on 64 vessels at the best prices.”

Commenting, GPIC President Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery said the Company achieved more than 25 million hours without a lost time accident and that there has been no untoward incident since May 2002.

Dr. Jawahery said the

carbon dioxide recovery plant helped the company reduce carbon emissions and maintain environmental safety according to standards set up by the Bahrain Government in coordination with the Supreme Council for Environment.

He also said the training and development centre had been developed into an Academy of Leadership and Learning, which had enhanced the efficiency of human resources and helped them keep abreast of technical and scientific developments.



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2971	0.2947
BANGLADESH	0.00506	0.00475
CANADA	0.2945	0.2914
DENMARK	0.0569	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0219
EURO	0.4059	0.4038
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00582	0.00577
INDONESIA	0.00002997	0.00002894
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003520	0.003450
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5351
KOREA	0.00038401	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.087500	0.0873
NEW ZEALAND	0.2767	0.2744
NORWAY	0.0473	
NEPAL	0.00387	0.00353
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00365	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00777	0.00753
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2730	0.2710
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03120	0.03110
SRI LANKA	0.00277	0.00249
SWEDISH	0.0451	
SWITZERLAND	0.3826	0.3801
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012800	
THAILAND	0.010990	0.010990
TURKEY	0.1105	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4796	0.4766
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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



A donation of BD2,000 was presented by Garfield Jones, Chief Executive Officer of the Gulf Hotels Group to Farida Almoayyed, Chairwoman of Bahraini Association for Intellectual Disability & Autism. Dr Ahmed Malallah Al Ansari, Vice Chairman and Marc Reissing, Director of Operations of the Gulf Hotels Group were present during the ceremony held at the Gulf Executive Offices. In pic, from left, Dr Ahmed Malallah Al Ansari, Vice Chairman; Farida Almoayyed, Chairwoman of Bahraini Association for Intellectual Disability & Autism; Garfield Jones, Chief Executive Officer of the Gulf Hotels Group and Marc Reissing, Director of Operations of the Gulf Hotels Group

Top honour for Gulf Hotel

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa received a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Partnership from the Destinations of the World during the year 2016. Hamed Nofal Contracts Manager and Carla Sfeir Regional Product Director from Destination of the World presented the award to Director of Business Development and Strategy, Ali Amralla in the presence of Carina B. Mores Sales Manager for Travel Trade. The Gulf Hotel has been ranked by the Destination of the World as one of the Top Producing Hotels in the Bahrain



Gulf Hotel and Destinations of the World Certificate Award officials during the ceremony

GULF INTERBANK RATES

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

Happy Bangladesh Independence and National Day

Independence Day is commonly associated with parades, political speeches, fairs, concerts, ceremonies and various other public and private events celebrating the history and traditions of Bangladesh.

For centuries, Bangladesh has been a true charmer. Storytellers believe that the nation's weavers wove with magic; the muslin they produced was so soft that large metres of the material would fit within a tiny matchbox. Traders would travel across seas to catch hold of a few metres of the Dhakai weaver's magic. Till date, tales of beautiful Bangladesh's fine quality of silk and muslin run far and wide. Except today, Bangladesh also charms people with its colourful culture, soulful music, rich cuisine, exotic wildlife and one of the finest economic development programmes launched by the world-renowned Bangladeshi economist and scholar, Muhammad Yunus. It is a land where time stood still but progress continued. It is a land that managed to hold onto its innocence and splendour despite the adversities. Bangladesh has been deemed as

an exemplary country after achieving majority of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

On this day, 46 years back, this charming nation won her identity and independence after a 9-month long struggle headed by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Today, Bangalees around the world proudly celebrate their sweet freedom, their beautiful language and their individuality. They honour the struggles of the great leaders and martyrs who happily sacrificed their lives for the nation.

On this special occasion, the Bangladeshi Embassy is hosting a Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the Bangladeshi Embassy, Villa 71, Road 56, Block 356, Al Gufool Avenue at 9am and a National Day Reception at the Diplomat Radisson Blue, Grand Ambassador Suite between 7.30pm-9.30pm.

We salute Bangladesh's spirit and wish it a land full of dreams and prosperity for successfully moving forward as an independent and sovereign nation for another wonderful year!

The National Martyr's Memorial





Glorious Independence Day



Md. Abdul Hamid

On the occasion of our great Independence and National Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad.

The great Independence Day is a glorious one in our national life. On this historic day, I recall with profound respect Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who proclaimed country's independence on March 26, 1971 after inspiring the whole nation with Bangalee nationalism and preparing them for independence. Under his charismatic leadership, we achieved our much-awaited independence through a nine-month long armed struggle. Today, I pay my deep tributes to the martyrs and valiant sons of the soil, who made the supreme sacrifices in the war of liberation. I also recall with deep reverence our four National Leaders, valiant freedom fighters, organisers, supporters and people from all walks of life for their unmatched valour, immense contributions and courageous role that accelerated the achievement of our victory. I remember with deep respect our foreign friends who extended their wholehearted support directly and indirectly in our war of liberation in 1971. The contributions of all would be written in golden letters in the history of our independence forever.

One of the prime objectives of our hard-earned independence was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Keeping that in mind, the present Government has been rendering untiring efforts in materialising the

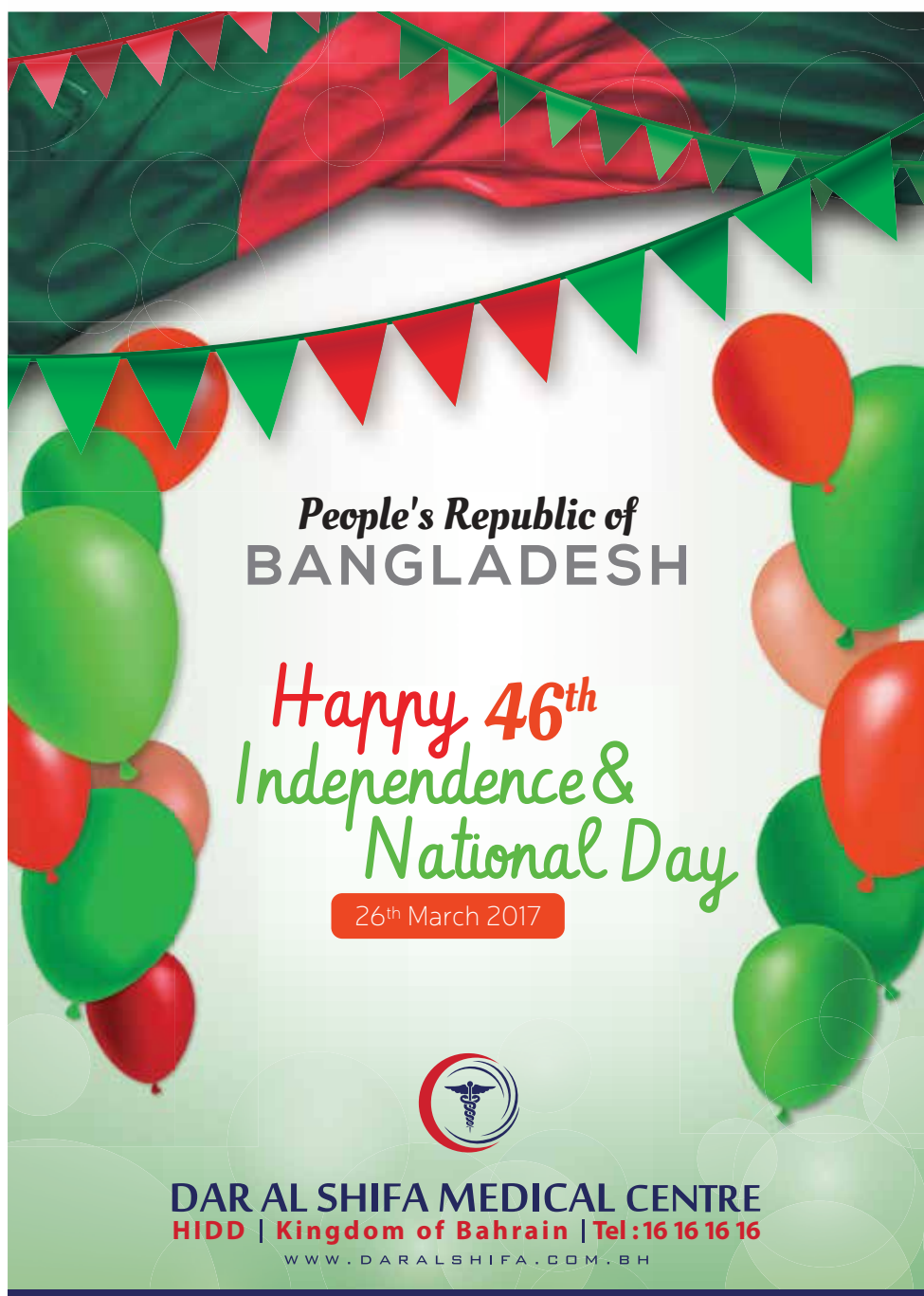
objectives of independence. The growth rate of GDP and per capita income is increasing constantly and the rate of poverty is decreasing. In the meantime, we have achieved some significant progress in the fields of agriculture, education, health, rural infrastructure, communication, energy and power, trade & commerce, ICT, SME sectors. It is notable that our country has attained food-sufficiency owing to the huge development in agriculture. We have also been able to export food grains in a small scale. The pace of advancement in the sector of empowerment of women, youth & sports, women and children, social safety net etc. is continuing. The mega project of the Padma Bridge is underway by our own resources. At the same time, we have also attained remarkable development in private sector including the area of readymade garments, pharmaceuticals, ceramic and ship-building industry. Country's financial sector along with Bank and Insurances has been expanded. Bangladesh is now being branded as a role model of development in the outside world. Our achievement in the international arena is also commendable. Our expatriate Bangladeshis have also been making significant contributions to our national economy through sending 'their hard-earned remittances. Nevertheless, we have to go a long way for achieving the desired goals of independence. I believe that sincere and concerted efforts from all strata irrespective of party affiliation are imperative to reach the goals.

The people of our country have a great love for democracy, development and peace. They do not support any sorts of violence including militancy and terrorism. We should keep in mind that the thriving of democracy and its institutionalisation is very important for attaining overall development. Therefore, we have to maintain patience, self-restraint, and forbearance in our national life along with showing respect to others' opinion in a democratic pluralism. I hope that people from all strata would play their due role from their respective positions to attain the objectives of independence and fulfil the hopes and aspirations of our people. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt of transforming Bangladesh into 'Sonar Bangla'. The present Government has set 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' to materialise Bangabandhu's dream into reality. It is my expectation that people from all walks of life would contribute towards building an IT-based happy and prosperous Bangladesh through implementing the Vision by the golden jubilee celebration of our independence.

On this auspicious day of independence, I urge all, living at home and abroad, to work unitedly imbued with the spirit of war of liberation and democratic norms to expedite further progress and democratic advancement of the country.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.


Md. Abdul Hamid
President
People's Republic of Bangladesh



People's Republic of BANGLADESH

Happy 46th Independence & National Day

26th March 2017



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Let's join our hands to build a prosperous 'Sonar Bangla'

I convey my heartiest greetings and congratulations to my countrymen as well as all expatriate Bangalees on the occasion of the great Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. The 26th March is the day of earning self-identity of our nation. It's the day of breaking the shackles of subjugation. On the eve of the Independence Day. I recall with deep gratitude the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose undisputed leadership we earned our beloved independence. I pay my deep homage to the 3 million martyrs and 200 thousand women who lost their innocence in the War of Liberation. I also pay my tributes to four national leaders who led the War of Liberation. My homage goes to the valiant freedom fighters, including the wounded ones. I

extend my sympathies to those who had lost their near and dear ones and were subjected to brutal torture during the war. I recall with gratitude our foreign friends who had extended their whole-hearted support and cooperation for the cause of our liberation.

The Bangalee nation had fought against Pakistani rulers' oppression and deprivation for long 23 years under the leadership of Bangabndhu. They were compelled to hold general elections in 1970. Bangladesh Awami League led by Bangabandhu won an overwhelming majority in the elections. But the Pakistani rulers instead of handing over the power to the majority party in a democratic way; they launched repressive measures against them. Bangabandhu in his 7th March historic address at the then Racecourse Maidan declared, "The struggle of this time is for freedom. The struggle of this time is for our

independence." He instructed the Bangalee nation to resist the enemies.

The occupation forces unleashed a sudden attack and started killing innocent and unarmed Bangalees on the black night of the 25th March 1971. They killed thousands of people in cities and towns, including Dhaka. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman officially proclaimed the independence or Bangladesh at the first hour of the 26th March 1971. Bangabandhu's proclamation was spread all over the country through telegrams, tele-printers and EPR wireless. The international media also had circulated Bangabandhu's proclamation of independence. Under the brave and dauntless leadership of Bangabandhu, we earned the ultimate victory on the 16th December 1971 after a 9-month bloody war.

The independence earned

through supreme sacrifices of millions of people is the greatest achievement of Bangalee nation. To ensure that this achievement remains meaningful, all have to know the history of our great liberation war and retain the spirit of independence. The history has to be passed on from generation to generations.

Being imbued with the spirit of the freedom struggle, the Awami League government has been working relentlessly to develop the country. During the last 8 years, we have implemented expected development programmes in all sectors. As a result, Bangladesh has emerged as a 'Role Model' of socio-economic development. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041, Insha Allah.

We have executed the verdict of the killing case of

Baugabandhu and most of his family members. The verdicts of cases against those who committed crimes against humanity are also being executed. Our government is maintaining 'zero tolerance' policy to tackle militancy and terrorism. We have stopped to take over power in an undemocratic way through the 15th amendment of the constitution. On this auspicious day, I urge the countrymen to foil any plot of the anti-liberation, communal forces and anti-development and anti-democratic forces together.

Being imbued with the spirit of our great liberation war, let us take a fresh vow to advance our country's development and democracy. Let us join our hands to build a non-communal, hunger-poverty-free and happy- prosperous



Sheikh Hasina

'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. On this historic day, this is our commitment.

Joi Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister
The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Promising technical excellence and efficiency



The 14-storey building in Hidd. Client: Bin Faqeeh; Main Contractor: Al Jameel Construction SPC

Adnan Gate Contracting W.L.L., through its wealth of experience and knowledge, has earned a reputation for technical excellence, integrity and efficiency and has won appreciation for quality, safety and innovation.

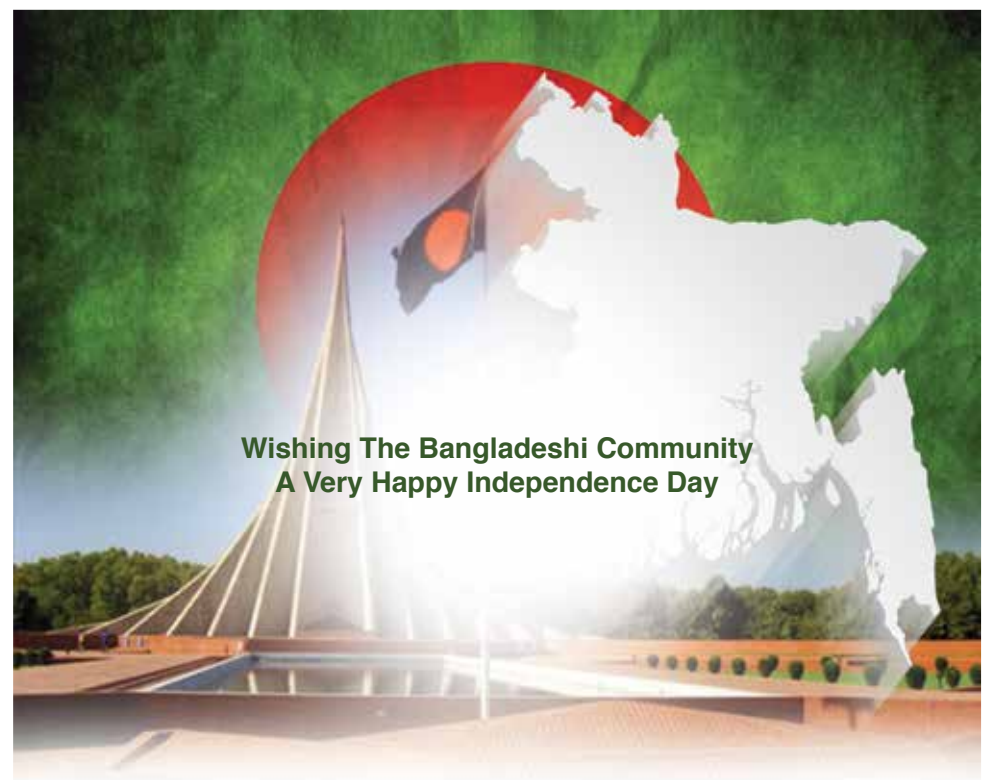
The company, established in 1998 to serve the contracting

needs of Bahrain has its offices in Muharraq.

Some of the projects that Adnan Gate Contracting has been involved with includes 52 villas in Amwaj Islands of Saud Kanoo, 200 villas in Busaiteen of Almoayyed contracting, 200 villas in Galali of Manara Development, a 26 storey building in Seef

and two 35 storey buildings of Orchid Developers in Juffair.

Adnan Gate Contracting also has an interior design company called Gypsum Décor which provides works of ceilings, bulkheads, shadow lines, cover lighting, tiles, waterproofing, partition walls, and much more.



Wishing The Bangladeshi Community
A Very Happy Independence Day



Mr. Mohd Ainul Hoque
Managing Director



ADNAN GATE CONTRACTING W.L.L
Interior, Gypsum, Decor and construction



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AYEFSHA REAL ESTATE S.P.C
Business and Office Management

Bldg. 636, Road 51, Muharraq 214 Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel. 39243392 - 33243392 Email: ainul.bh@gmail.com

RENEW OUR PLEDGE

►► **Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P** Foreign Minister, People's Republic of Bangladesh

On this day, 46 years back, the greatest Bengalee of all time and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh in the early hours of March 26, 1971. People from all walks of life responded to his clarion call, participated in the War of Liberation and achieved victory on the 16 December 1971 to give us an independent Bangladesh. On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Independence and National Day, I convey my

heartfelt greetings and warm wishes to my compatriots living at home and abroad.

I recall the supreme sacrifices made by the 3 million martyrs. I also pay my deep respect to the two hundred thousand women who sacrificed their honour for our freedom. My sympathy goes to those families who lost their near and dear ones during the Liberation War. We also express our gratitude to the wounded freedom fighters.

I also pay my gratitude to people from all walks of life and especially the members of the

diplomatic front who, during and after our Liberation War, played a courageous role that created the ground for obtaining moral, financial and military support from the global community in favour of the Liberation War. Enormous contributions from our foreign friends have been written in golden letters in the history of our Liberation War—we are privileged to recognise their contribution and bestow honour as “Friends of Bangladesh”.

Bangabandhu's daughter and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared 'Vision- 2021' (to

build a middle-income country by 2021) and 'Vision-2041' (to build a developed country by 2041) in line with the spirit of the liberation War and the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build a 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal). We have since then attained the status of a lower middle-income country and are on track to become a middle-income country well before 2021.

Bangladesh was acclaimed as a 'role model' for successfully achieving many of the 'Millennium Development

Goals' (MDGs). The 71st United Nations General Assembly last year adopted the 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs). Even before that, we had already started working to align our national plan in line with the agenda 2030. With Bangabandhu's daughter and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the helm of affairs, Bangladesh will be on course to meet the objectives and targets under SDGs.

I thank all the members of the Ministry of Foreign affairs and our Missions abroad who have

been working with sincerity, dedication and commitment in achieving our foreign policy objectives and implementing development goals. I congratulate Bangladesh Diaspora in every corner of the world which is immensely contributing to the strengthening of the image of Bangladesh.

I may add that the Bangladesh Parliament on the 11th March 2017, has unanimously adopted a Resolution declar-

Bangladesh enjoying excellent relationship with



**I'M CELEBRATING IN DHAKA
WITH SOME TASTY RASGULLA.
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY TO
ALL MY BANGLADESHI FRIENDS.**

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On this day, in 1971, Bangladesh proclaimed her independence and through a 9-month bloody struggle, emerged as a sovereign nation on 16 December. Every year, on this occasion, we cherish a rare happy coincidence in the history of Bahrain and Bangladesh – that these two brotherly nations came out on the world map as independent nations on the same day and in the same year, 16 December 1971. This unique commonality has provided an extra thread further strengthening the special bondage of friendship between our two countries.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relation in 1983, Bangladesh and Bahrain have been enjoying an excellent bilateral relationship based on our common values, shared perceptions and common religio-cultural customs and traditions. We have continuously endeavoured to exploit the immense potentials for its further expansion in various sectors.

On this happy occasion, I would like to convey my sincere greetings to the people of Bahrain and beloved Bangladeshi compatriots. We pray for the salvation of the departed souls of valiant freedom fighters who dedicated their lives for our freedom.

The father of our nation,



Maj. Gen. K.M. Mominur Rahman (Retd), Ambassador Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujibur Rahman, the martyrs, the freedom fighters – all dreamt of a prosperous country.

Today, Bangladesh has emerged as a “development surprise” in terms of GDP growth and socio-economic parameters. We have proved the doomsayers wrong — and this was through our resilience, our determination, and our innovative and indomitable spirit as well as a combination of bold measures of the present government that have unleashed a growth trajectory and have taken us on the threshold of becoming a middle-income country.

Our development model is based on harnessing domestic resources and providing an enabling environment for foreign investment. During the last seven years, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in improving

infrastructure, power generation, communications and development of ports. The country's dream physical infrastructure project, the Padma Bridge (costing \$3 billion) is being built with our resources.

Although garments Bangladesh's prime export item, are diversifying our export products and Bangladesh is now producing everything from ships to chips.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that today women's advancement and their integration in the development process of Bangladesh are widely recognised and appreciated. Bangladesh ranks 6th among 142 countries in the Global Gender Gap report of 2014. We have made education free for girls through grade 12 and have plans to make it free up to the tertiary level. We are ranked seventh in terms of political empowerment of women. In the current national parliament, there are 70 women parliamentarians. And, you may know that our prime minister, opposition leader, deputy leader of the House and the speaker are all women.

Our achievement in the international arena is also commendable. The contribution of Bangladesh in addressing the climate change issue is being acclaimed by the world community. Bangladesh has become one of the largest contributors in peace keeping missions, under

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and at great rates. BFC provides a safe and reliable service to remit money back to loved ones in Bangladesh through EzRemit and MonyGram. EzRemit is BFC's own leading money transfer product, which was

established in 2003 and is currently present in over 30 countries with more than 46,000 agent locations.

There are two main services for customers sending money back to Bangladesh; Cash Pick up through our

EzCash (EzRemit) MoneyGram enabling customers to send money within 12,000 payout locations and EzCredit where customers can receive money to



Working unitedly under Vision 2021

▶ Md. Shahriar Alam, M.P

State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
People's Republic of Bangladesh

also 25th March as the "Day of Genocide. We should, therefore, renew our pledge to work for the country from our respective positions imbued with the spirit of Liberation War to build the 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal) of Bangabandhu's dream.
Joy Bangla!
Joy Bangabandhu!

Bahrain

United Nations umbrella and has earned image abroad as professional and competent contingents. Our expatriate Bangladeshis have also been making significant contributions to our national economy through their hard-earned remittances.

Today, Bangladesh nationals represent the second largest expatriate community in Bahrain. It is gratifying that their positive contributions are well appreciated by the government as well as people of Bahrain.

I recognize deeply and convey my sincere thanks and gratitude, on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh, to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for extending their generous support and cooperation to me, to my mission and to our community. Also, I thank different ministries, agencies and my diplomatic colleagues of the Kingdom for their unflinching support to us.

We pray for peace, prosperity and security for both Bangladesh and Bahrain. Long live brotherhood and friendship between the two countries. May Allah the Almighty bless us all.

to Bangladesh

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Today is 26 March-our great Independence day. This is the day of breaking shackles of 24-years subjugation: a day of reaching the enlightened world from the abyss of darkness. On this very day in 1971, the Bengalee nation started the War of Liberation against the misrule, exploitation and torture of the Pakistani autocratic brutal ruler with the clarion call of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On this very day, I recall with deep reverence the great Hero and the greatest Bangalee of all time the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman whose vigorous leadership inspired the Bengalee nation in the War of Liberation. I pay my homage

to our 3 million martyrs and 2 hundred thousand mothers and sisters whose supreme sacrifice and dishonour ushered us an independent and sovereign Bangladesh coloured in red and green. I remember all the martyrs of all the movements and struggles including from anti-colonial movement to the historical language movement and the mass upsurge of 1969- whose blood coloured our homeland and their memory is shining in our national flag. Achievement of our independence has made these sacrifices glorious and meaningful. The occupation forces unleashed a sudden attack and started killing innocent and unarmed Bangalees on the black night of the 25th March 1971. They killed thousands of people in



cities and towns, including Dhaka. The present Parliament on 11 March 2017 unanimously adopted a resolution to observe 25 March as "Day of Genocide" marking the brutality carried out by the Pakistani Army on the black night of March 25, 1971. 26 March is a day to remember the great leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman, war heroes and their contributions as well as to take the oath to realise the spirit of our Liberation War which motivated the Bengalee Nation to make supreme sacrifices. This is also an occasion to introduce our new generation to the true history of our Liberation War.

The Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working tirelessly to materialise the dream of the father of the Nation for a secular as well as hunger and poverty free prosperous Bangladesh. As a result, Bangladesh is marching forward with US\$1466 per capita income, more than 7.1% growth rate and US\$32 billion of foreign currency reserve, Today, Bangladesh is a role model to the outer world. These changes

in Bangladesh are towards prosperity and welfare. And, you, my expatriate brothers and sisters are a part of this onward movement. Today's more than US\$14.91 billion of remittance is the outcome of your love for the motherland as well as your families. This remittance is contributing significantly to the development process.

To keep up with this pace of development we all will be working unitedly under "Vision 2021" declared by Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to transform Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and follow the path of development to take Bangladesh at the level of a developed country by 2041. We pledge this on this day of independence. Joy Bangla! Joy Bangabandhu!

'Committed to serving the communities'

"Freedom in the mind, Faith in the words, Pride in our Souls, Let's value our freedom by not forgetting the sacrifices of the martyrs. It's time for us to unite and bring the reforms by starting a revolution! Let us pray and fight to every subsequent 26th March," the management of Linnas Medical Centre said in their National day greetings to all compatriots living at home and abroad.

Linnas Medical Centre W.L.L. is the first Bahraini-Bangladeshi Friendship medical centre in Bahrain. Having state-of-the-art facilities and highly trained medical staff, it aims to reach out to all community for everyday health-care needs.

The centre was pioneered through the combined efforts of some Bangladeshi investors in Bahrain with the slogan of 'leading you to better health'. Everybody working at the Centre comes from different

field and expertise.

"Linnas Medical Centre started to operate as of 1st of August 2017 having only two General Practitioners. Now, we have more expert and experienced doctors and more facilities have opened like Dental, Radiology, Laboratory, Orthopaedic, Gynaecology, and Internal Medicine and will open more soon. An in-house pharmacy is also going to be in place by the end of the second quarter of the year."

"At Linnas Medical Centre, we guarantee personalised care, genuine concern and a sincere commitment to the overall well-being of society. We believe that healthcare is simply not about detecting, diagnosing, informing or treating an individual but it is about helping people to lead a wholesome and healthy life. We are located beside the Manama main bus terminal and it is very easy for all the community to come here."

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATION & BEST WISHES

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BANGLADESH
AND
THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH
IN THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
AND
ALL THE PEOPLE OF MY BELOVED COUNTRY

46th
INDEPENDENCE DAY

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LINNAS MEDICAL CENTER

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info@linnasmedical.com www.linnasmedical.com

BANGLADESH: A UNIQUE DESTINATION FOR TOURISTS

Blessed with scenic beauty, low hills, forest, large lakes, beautiful rivers in deltaic plains, the longest beach on earth, and a rich and diversified culture, Bangladesh is an ideal place for tourists. It has the world's longest unbroken sandy sea beach and some archaeological sites representing ancient Buddhist civilization. In recent times, with the gradual development or infrastructure facilities and increasing exposition, Bangladesh is fast emerging as an attractive tourist spot on the global map. Our tourist attractions are widely spread throughout the country. There are 8 divisions



A tiger in Sundarbans Tiger Reserve

and 64 districts in Bangladesh. The major tourist spots of Bangladesh are in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Cornilla, Barisal

and Sylhet. There are many tourist packages which offer different kinds of sightseeing opportunities.

The National Museum

houses an excellent collection of archaeological finds, sculptures and paintings. Architectural trends, both traditional and contemporary, are reflected in Curzon Hall, High Court and new Supreme Court Building. The National Memorial at Savar commemorating the martyrs of the Liberation War of 1971 and Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Rayerbazar in memory of the martyred intellectuals of Liberation War stands out with their own unique architectural designs constantly reminding the visitors of the greatest sons of the soil.

Miles of golden sands, towering cliffs, surfing waves, rare conch shells, colourful pagodas, delightful sea food - this is Cox's Bazar, the tourist capital of Bangladesh. Here the world's longest unbroken straight 120 km long clean sandy beach slopes gently down to the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal with a background of chain hills covered with deep green Forests.

The amazing beauty of the golden sun setting behind the waves of the sea is very charming. The attractive local variety of handloom products of the Rakhyne tribal families are good buys. Their unique way of life and costumes attract visitors. Cox's Bazar tourist resort has a Golf course in addition to varied other tourist facilities.

Kuakata in Patuakhali district is one of the few tourist spots in Bangladesh where nature survives in pristine, unspoiled grace. With its unspoiled vast sea shore along groves of coconut trees, colourful Rakhyne tribal life, Shima Temple having 70 feet high statue of Buddha, the highest in Asia, thousands of varieties of fish and holy yearly Hindu Rush festival are added attractions in Kuakata for the

visitors.

The three hill districts of Rangamati, Banderban and Khagrachari are inhabited by a number of distinctive enterprising tribal people like the Chakmas, the Tripuras, the Murang and Marmas - all preserving their age old cultures, colourful rituals, dances and music. Here the glistening greenery sits on the purple hills around lakes-manmade and natural.

Nilgiri is one of the tallest peaks and popular tourist destination in Bandarban, Bangladesh. Nilgiri is about 2200 feet above the sea level and situated at Thanci Upazilla, just 47 kilometer south-east from Baridarban town. Nilgiri is the most attractive place for those who love adventure, hills and clouds. In winter, the entire area is covered with the dense of fog. It is a nice place for campfire in winter season.

Srimongol is known as the tea capital of Bangladesh. For miles and miles in all directions, the visitor can see the tea gardens spread like a green carpet over low lying land and slopping hills. A visit to the tea plantation in Sylhet, especially in Srimongol is a memorable experience.

Situated amidst splendid panorama, Tamabil is a border outpost on the Sylhet-Shilong Road, about 55 km away from Sylhet town. Besides enchanting views of the area, one can also catch a glimpse of rolling stones across the border from Tarnabil. Jaflong is a scenic spot nearby with tea

gardens and beautiful rolling hills.

Located about 320 kms south-west of Dhaka, Khulna is the country's third biggest city. It serves as the gateway to the port of Mongla and Sundarbans, A journey by paddle steamer from Dhaka to Khulna along the southern river system running through the green countryside is an unforgettable experience. About 32 kms from Khulna are the popular tourist attractions of Khan Jahan All's 60 domed ancient Mosque (1459 AD) and his mausoleum at Bagerhat. The area is dotted with many ancient Mosques giving it the name of Mosque City. This is one of the UNESCO world heritage sites.

The Sundarbans is a natural region in southern Bangladesh and extreme southern part of the Indian state of West Bengal in the vast river delta on the Bay of Bengal. It is the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world. The Sundarbans covers approximately 10,000 square kilometres most of which is in Bangladesh. The Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sundarbans South, East and West are three protected forests in Bangladesh. This region is densely covered by mangrove forests, and is the largest reserves for the Bengal tiger. The Sundarbans National Park is a National Park, Tiger Reserve, and a Biosphere Reserve located in the Sundarbans delta in the Indian state of West Bengal.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH
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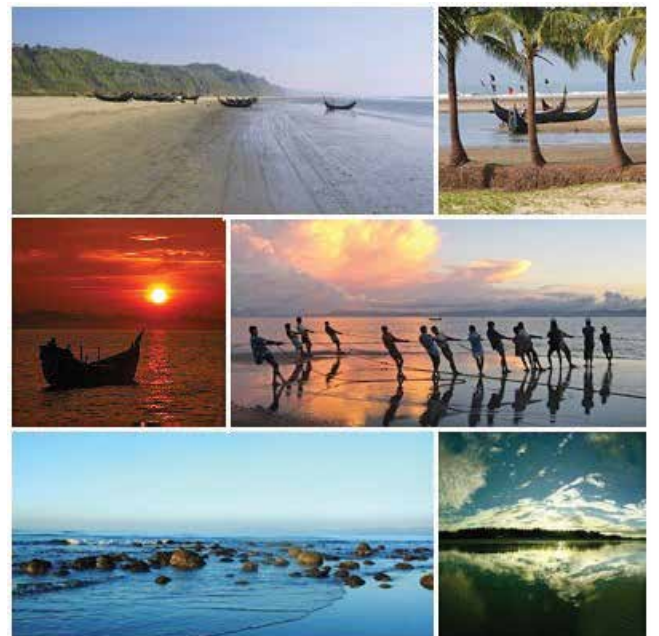


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CELEBS



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 Someone asked me what the best part of being in a band is. I answered with, "the best part is feeling welcomed & at home everywhere we go"

Colin Farrell joins Tim Burton's 'Dumbo'

'Happiness makes person beautiful'

Actor Colin Farrell is in negotiations to join Eva Green and Danny DeVito in Tim Burton's 'Dumbo'.

The 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' actor is expected to play the role of Holt, the widowed father of two kids from Kentucky, in the upcoming Disney live-action movie.

Eva Green is tapped as Colette, a French trapeze artist who works for the evil Vandemere, and DeVito who will play Medici, the man who runs a smaller circus acquired by the villain who is yet to be cast.

'Dumbo' centres on a big-eared circus elephant mocked for his large ears, but he learns to use them as wings to fly.

The project will reunite Eva Green with Tim Burton who directed her in his previous two movies 'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children' and 'Dark Shadows'. (TOI)



Los Angeles

Actress Kristen Bell thinks being a good person is the "quickest" and easiest way to feel beautiful about yourself.

The "Frozen" star believes beauty comes from within and feels self-esteem is the most important part when it comes to feeling good about yourself.

"The beauty lesson that is paramount, is your beauty comes from inside, not out. You can make yourself look however you want to look but you will not feel beautiful until you have self-esteem, and you will not get self-esteem until you participate in estimable acts," Bell told *people.com*. (IANS)

Keira Knightley presumed 'Pirates...' would be a 'disaster'

Los Angeles

Filmmaker Richard Curtis has revealed that while filming for 2003 film "Love Actually", actress Keira Knightley presumed that the popular fantasy series "Pirates of the Caribbean" would be a disaster.

Knightley played the role of Elizabeth Swann in the film franchise.

In an op-ed written for *The Radio Times*, Curtis said it has been a "particular delight" for him to see how "brilliantly" the cast of "Love Actually", including Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth and Alan Rickman has blossomed over the years, reports *variety.com*.

Later on, he recalled a funny incident when he asked Knightley what else she is working on and she replied that her another project is "some pirate thing - probably a disaster," referring to the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise that eventually made the actress a big star. (IANS)



Gyllenhaal to fight ISIS in upcoming movie

Jake Gyllenhaal is all set to star in a drama about an American who joins the fight against Islamic state in Syria.

Gyllenhaal will be reteaming with 'Life' director Daniel Espinosa for this project, which is an adaptation of the Rolling Stone article, 'The Anarchist vs. ISIS'. Espinosa is set to direct the film adaptation and will produce under his newly formed production banner BOZI alongside Ninestories' producers Gyllenhaal and Riva Marker. (TOI)



STARRY
Birthday
 Leslie Mann

March 26, 1972

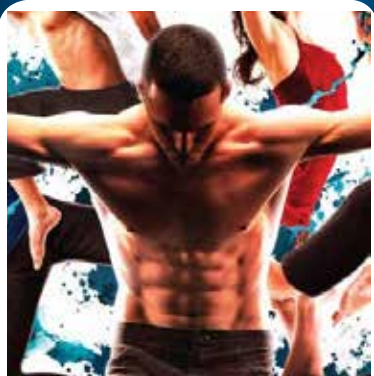
Longtime comedy actress whose credits include *Knocked Up, 17 Again, Funny People, Vacation, The Other Woman and The 40-Year-Old Virgin. She married Judd Apatow.*

OUT & ABOUT



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

MARK YOUR Calendar



TRACES

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

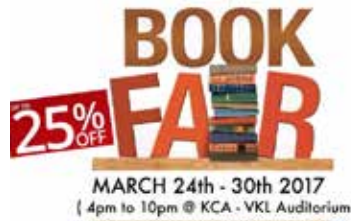
Fresh, urban and seriously high energy, contemporary circus trail-blazers, the hit show Traces is more than just a display of acrobatic brilliance through film clips and narration. Set to a fantastic soundtrack ranging from Rock 'n' Roll to Blues to Hip Hop, this thrill-a-minute show is presented by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

BAHRAIN FARMERS MARKET

Date: On Saturdays
Venue: Budaiya Gardens

The fifth edition of the Bahrain Farmers Market is open at the Budaiya Gardens. More than 40 Bahraini farmers are participating to provide a variety of local agricultural products. Many leading local restaurants will participate to present local food and drinks with the aim of introducing local food to the visitors of various nationalities. Bahrain Farmers Market targets promoting Bahrain's agricultural products and highlighting the development taking place in Bahrain's agricultural sector. It also aims to contribute to improving the Bahraini farmers' income through a marketing system prepared by the Agriculture and Marine Resources to assist in meeting the farmers' aspirations. Bahrain Farmers Market will be open every Saturday until April 29 from 8 am to 12 noon.

BOOK FAIR



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

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

LADIES NIGHT WITH 50% DISCOUNT

Date: Every Tuesday
Venue: The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

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SUNDAY GLOW

Date: Every Sunday
Venue: Gulf Spa - Gulf Hotel

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MOTHER'S DAY IN ZAHLE RESTAURANT

Date: Every Sunday
Venue: Zahle Restaurant - Gulf Hotel

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

you dinin at Zahle, mum gets to eat for FREE!! Mezze, grills, kebab and so many more delicious dishes await! On March 21 from 7pm onwards!

RED CARPET FASHION SHOW

Date: March 31 and April 1
Venue: Al Taj Ballroom, Sheraton Bahrain Hotel.

ahrain Fashion Night and Exhibition titled 'Red Carpet' will take place on March 31 and April 1 at Al Taj Ballroom, Sheraton Bahrain Hotel. Chairperson of Medpoint Events, Shaikha Noora Al Khalifa Al Khalifa in association with Fuchsia Events and Management is bringing the Fashion Show and lifestyle exhibition to Bahrain for the 3rd consecutive year.

Being the 3rd successful year of Red Carpet, the organizers have received an overwhelming response from both local as well as international designers. "The Glamorous Fashion Night "on the 31st March will be a flamboyant Fashion Show along with an Exquisite Dinner for our guests. The Fashion show will be hosted in collaboration with the finest fashion choreographers, Makeup artist, and hair stylist from Bahrain. The Fashion show will be staged for VVIP, VIP invitees from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. We have Designers from Saudi, Morocco, Pakistan, India, Dubai, showcasing their latest Couture collections, the event will be followed by a B to B Exhibition on the 1st April 2017. A part of the revenue from the event will be given to a local Charity in Bahrain, Shaikh Noora said. Fashion Show Timings: March 31, 7 pm onwards (Ticket for the Fashion show & Dinner: 20 BD). Exhibition Timings: 31st March: 2pm - 7pm; 1st April: 10am - 8pm.

MINI OLYMPICS | INTER SCHOOL



HOCKEY

Date: 28 Mar 12 pm - 29 Mar 2 pm
Venue: Bahrain National Stadium- Ar Rifa'

Hockey will be introduced for the first time in the Mini Olympics festival organised by Bahrain Olympic Committee. The hockey activity will feature inter school competitions in Under 15 and Under 11 categories

PAACT MUSICAL PROGRAM

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

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

WAHINE TUESDAY



Date: 28 Mar 6 pm - 9 pm
Venue: Trader Vic's, Bahrain-Manama

Wa-hey! It's Puka Puka night at Wahine Tuesday! Wahine-Tuesday, Trader Vic's ever-popular ladies' night returns after the hot summer break inside Trader Vic's Bar, taking place every Tuesday evening.

GUITARIST PACO RENTERIA

Date: 6 April 2017, 8:00pm
Venue: Cultural Hall

Paco Rentería is México's most successful guitarist at present and is in fact considered by critics as one of the best in the world. To date, he has composed over 300 pieces that illustrate his inimitable musical style. Rentería performs hundreds of concerts annually in front of legions of fans around the globe, including some of the world's most prominent venues with the likes of Carlos Santana and Luciano Pavarotti. His memorable concerts are renowned for their high levels of excitement, energy and emotion.

ODU TRIO

Date: 27 Mar 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Venue: Alliance Francaise Bahrain- Isa Town

On the occasion of the month of the Francophonie, the French Embassy in Bahrain and the Alliance Française (Isa Town) are organizing an "Oud Trio" performance by 3 musicians coming from different regions to showcase the blend of cultures through their musical performance.

THE PEARLING PATH EXHIBITION

Date: 18 April - 4 August, 8:00am - 8:00pm
Venue: Bahrain National Museum

Four years after the inscription of the "Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy" site on the

UNESCO World Heritage List, the exhibition will showcase the built vision for the site through architectural models, images, studies and mock-ups of the different components of the project. From the conservation aspects to the new architectural interventions, the exhibition will give an in-depth overview of this unique project that aims to spearhead the rehabilitation of the Old City of Muharraq.

PERFORMANCE BY MUSIC LEGEND TOM JONES

Date: April 7, 8pm
Venue: Bahrain Bay

Legendary performer and recording artist Sir Tom Jones is set to perform at the electrifying grand finale of this year's Spring of Culture festival. Tom Jones has cemented his place amongst music's icons following a critically acclaimed career that has spanned five decades and includes hits such as "It's Not Unusual", "Kiss", "Delilah", "What's New Pussycat", "I'll Never Fall In Love Again" and "If I Only Knew". Tom Jones' concert at the Spring of Culture 2017's grand finale has been organized by the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), and tickets for the performance can be purchased on March 25 at the Spring of Culture stand at City Centre Bahrain Entrance 4 and online at www.springofculture.org.

IZAKAYA SUNDAY

Date: 26 Mar 7 pm - 10 pm
Venue: Bushido (restaurant & lounge) - Manama

Izakaya is a type of informal Japanese food gathering. Food items are served in small portions, similar to Spanish Tapas. Izakaya dining includes a wide variety of Bushido's signature dishes. Food is normally ordered slowly over several courses rather than all at once. Guests can re-order dishes as much as they like. Dishes on the menu include Bushido's famous volcano roll, the scrumptious rock shrimp tempura and the mouth-watering beef tenderloin with teriyaki sauce.

LATIN FOOD FESTIVAL



Date: 29 Mar 7 pm - 10 pm
Venue: The K-Hotel- Manama

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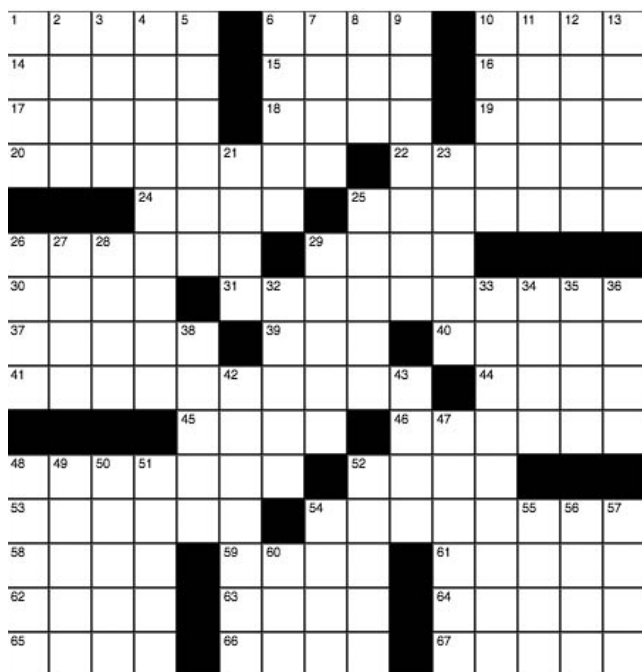
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	A	L	P	S	5	U	N	I	T	S	10	A	B	E	D	
14	M	O	U	E	15	R	A	T	I	O	18	D	A	D	E	
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23	24	L	E	S	S	O	N	S	26	A	S	T	R	I	D	E
27	O	N	T	A	P	E	28	P	E	T	R	E	L			
29	T	O	R	M	E	30	C	O	R	E	A	31	L	G	A	
34	I	L	I	E	35	T	H	E	I	R	36	T	E	R	N	
37	C	A	N	38	S	U	I	T	E	39	M	I	D	A	S	
40	G	U	A	R	D	S	42	T	I	R	A	D	E			
43	A	S	I	N	I	N	E	45	M	O	N	E	Y	E	R	
46	L	I	N	E	N	S	47	P	A	R	I	S				
48	O	D	E	A	49	O	C	U	L	O	M	O	T	O	R	
54	S	E	S	55	L	A	N	E	S	56	M	O	B	S		
57	S	A	S	E	58	E	L	Y	S	E	59	E	A	S	T	

Down

1- Mosque leader;; 2- Yard tunneler;; 3- Bluenose;; 4- Moving stairway;; 5- Wiggle room;; 6- ___ voce (softly);; 7- Passing notice;; 8- Adversary;; 9- Having a valid will;; 10- Circumference;; 11- Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde";; 12- Related on the mother's side;; 13- Summed;; 21- Too;; 23- Corrodes;; 25- Glossy fabric;; 26- Disagreement;; 27- Poi source;; 28- Queue after Q;; 29- Ruhr city;; 32- Disney deer;; 33- Person affected with rheumatism;; 34- Electrically charged particles;; 35- Give up;; 36- Flat sound;; 38- In reserve;; 42- Smokers receptacle;; 43- Cheerio!;; 47- A wineshop;; 48- Influential person;; 49- Acid type;; 50- Bolshevik leader;; 51- Having wings;; 52- Greek fabulist;; 54- Auditorium;; 55- FDR's fireside ___;; 56- Mandlikova of tennis;; 57- Tolkien tree creatures;; 60- Rage;;

BEETLE BAILEY



SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Confusion about money might be on your mind today. This doesn't necessarily mean that your finances are in chaos. Chances are that you face unfamiliar options concerning your financial future, and so you may be in no position to make any kind of decision. Don't feel that you have to do it today. It would be best if you waited a few days.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



A relationship that you may have recently formed might have you in a dither today. This could be romantic or some other sort of acquaintance. You might not be sure about which way you want this involvement to develop. This isn't the day to think much about it, as things probably won't become clear today.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



You might be feeling somewhat under the weather. You're probably stressed and in need of rest. Work concerns could also be confusing. You might have a lot of tasks to do and not be certain where to start. Maybe you shouldn't start today at all. Perhaps you need to take the day off to rest and then tackle it tomorrow when you're feeling like yourself again.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Recent successes have you feeling especially pressured to continue on your path. You may have to make some choices regarding your activities outside of career and family. You may have a lot of interests that all mean a lot to you, which makes it difficult to make choices. Don't try to consider it today. Your mind is a bit befuddled.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



A letter or call from a relative could result in the prospect of an unexpected house guest. You might be in a quandary as to what to do about it. Your schedule could be crammed with other responsibilities. Don't feel pressured into making any decisions today. Think about it for a day or so and list your options. Consider them all and then make your decision.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Travel plans might have you confused. You may have a number of possibilities in mind, and all seem equally attractive. It probably isn't feasible to go for them all. You may also face decisions regarding your education. You're probably going to have to make a choice, but today isn't the day to do it. Confusion is likely to reign. Wait a few days and then consider your options carefully.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



New earning possibilities could have you in a quandary over which one is the best for you. There are a number of solutions - technology may be one of them - but this isn't the time to make any important decisions. Everything may seem equally attractive to you! Professional advice might help, but even so, don't feel you have to make a decision right away.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Your life may seem to be at a crossroads. A number of different possibilities could be opening up to you. The only thing that seems certain now is that changes are on the horizon. You will be facing some choices, but today isn't the day to consider them. Confusion reigns supreme. Be like Scarlet O'Hara and think about it tomorrow! You will be more focused and less doubtful by then.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Others' attitudes toward you may seem to be changing. You may not be sure what this means. The fact is, you're changing, and some of your friends may like what you're becoming and others may feel less comfortable. You can't stop what's happening. It's going to be a very positive process in the long run. It just may be difficult now. Bear with your friends and yourself.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



A number of different and unexpected professional and personal possibilities might have you a bit confused about which way you want to go. You may face a choice of some kind, but right now you aren't really sure about the direction you want to take. Don't rush it. It isn't necessary to do it all today. Wait a few days, consider your options.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Today you might face a choice. You might be thinking in terms of relocating to advance your career, but you could be confused about your options. You might be grappling with several options. Input from family members isn't likely to help at this time. Wait a few days and then think seriously about what you want to do.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



An intellectual problem may prove confusing, and reading and research reveal contradictory information. You might also hear some gossip that doesn't seem quite right. This isn't the day to believe everything you read or hear or to try to make sense of anything that has you befuddled. You will be in a better space later. Put it aside for a few days and then tackle it.

Blasts kill 3, injure 30 in Bangladesh



Bangladesh police and Army at the hideout

Dhaka

At least three people were killed and 30 wounded yesterday in two explosions in Bangladesh's northeastern city of Sylhet where army commandos stormed an Islamist extremist hideout, police and hospital staff said.

Two "powerful" blasts went off some 400 yards (metres) from the hideout, targeting a huge crowd of people and police officials who were witnessing the commando operation, police said.

"At least three people including a policeman were killed," Sylhet police spokesman Zedan Al Musa said.

More than 30 people were wounded including several army, police and elite security officers, Sylhet Medical College Hospital medical officer Atiqul Islam said.

Police have not blamed any

group for the blasts, which occurred as commandos engaged in a day-long gunfight with suspected Islamist extremists holed up in a five-storey building.

The commandos backed by armoured personnel carriers launched the operation after a more than 30-hour standoff that began early Friday morning when police sealed off the place after suspected militants detonated small bombs.

Armed forces spokesman Colonel Rashidul Hasan said earlier that 78 people who were trapped in the building for more than a day were rescued by the commandos.

"The operation began in the morning and is still going on," he said, adding the commandos "exchanged fire" with the suspected militants who were confined in a ground-floor apartment

of the building.

The spokesman could not say how many extremists were in the building, but police said there were at least two including a woman.

Police used loudspeakers to ask the extremists to surrender, but they refused to give up, Musa said.

The raid came after a series of suicide attacks on security camps by extremists this month including one at a police checkpoint near the country's main international airport on Friday night.

Two of the attacks including Friday's blast in which the suicide attacker was killed were claimed by Islamic State group.

This month a police elite unit also stormed a building outside Chittagong, killing four members of Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think illegal car sales rackets are broadly functional in Bahrain?

Yes No Can't Say



Trump has got perfect genes. He has incredible energy and he's unbelievably healthy"

-Steven Mnuchin
US Treasury Secretary

Rest in sight

Tillerson to meet allies as NATO races to save talks



US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will meet with NATO members next week in Brussels, officials said Friday, as alliance diplomats worked to nail down the date.

Kasparov wants chess at African schools

Russia's former world chess champion Garry Kasparov wants to bring the game to a million children in Africa as an educational tool to sharpen their learning skills and build confidence.

Customs agents fraud ring busted in Guatemala

Guatemala busted a ring of at least 15 customs agents, port and transport company workers on Friday for using falsified documents to avoid customs duties.

At least 50 killed by armed men in CAfrica

At least 50 people have been killed and dozens more injured since Tuesday after armed men attacked three villages in the central Bambari region in Central Africa.

For more, catch us online at:

www.newsofbahrain.com

[f/nobonline](#)

[t/newsofbahrain](#)

President's son was Cuba's secret negotiator: cardinal

Havana

Cuban President Raul Castro's son, Alejandro, was the communist island's envoy for secret negotiations with the United States that led to the countries' historic rapprochement, a cardinal close to the talks said.

Speculation had long swirled that Alejandro Castro Espin, the president's 51-year-old son, headed up the secret talks.

But the confirmation from Cardinal Jaime Ortega, the former archbishop of Havana, is the most official

namedrop to date and further boosts the profile of Castro Espin, who is touted as a possible future president of Cuba.

Alejandro, was "at the head of the Cuban delegation," Ortega said in a speech to a conference in the US that was published in the latest issue of a Cuban Catholic magazine.

Ortega, who recently stepped down as head of the Cuban Church, represented the Vatican at the talks, which Pope Francis played a key part in brokering.

Russia trying to gain influence in Libya: US

Washington

Russia is trying to expand its influence in Libya through a combination of military means and oil and weapons sales, a top US general said Friday.

General Thomas Tom Waldhauser, who heads the US military's Africa Command, said Russia is "on the ground" in the border region between Egypt and Libya.

"They are trying to influence the action, we watch what they do with great concern," Waldhauser told Pentagon reporters.

"In addition to the military side of this, we've seen some recent activity in business ventures -- whether it's oil, whether it's weapon sales that perhaps were stopped when the (Moamer) Kadhafi



Lt Gen Thomas D. Waldhauser

regime took place."

A US official this month said that Moscow apparently has deployed military forces to a base in western Egypt.

The official said Russia appears to have sent special operations forces to an air base at Sid Barrani, which is located about 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of the Libyan border.

US charges Lebanese 'Hezbollah financier'

Washington

US authorities arrested a long-wanted alleged Hezbollah financier Friday on charges of violating US terror-related sanctions, after he was apparently deported to the United States from Morocco.

Kassim Tajideen was formally charged in US federal court in Washington nearly eight years after the United States named him a "specially designated global terrorist" for allegedly proving tens of millions of dollars to the Lebanese Shiite movement.

He was charged with multiple counts of violating US terrorism sanctions regulations as well as money

laundering.

According to multiple media reports, Tajideen was arrested on arrival in Casablanca on March 12 on a request by US authorities.

He arrived in the United States early Friday, but the Justice Department would not confirm that he had been handed over to the United States by Morocco.

A commodities trader across the Middle East and Africa, Tajideen was given the terror finance designation in May 2009, which carries sanctions that largely locked him out of global financial networks. The designation named him an "important financial contributor" to Hezbollah.

Wild elephants rescued

Phnom Penh

Eleven wild elephants, including a baby, were rescued from a mud-filled bomb crater in Cambodia yesterday after languishing in the swampy waters for four days, an environmental official said.

"They got in there to drink water and could not get out," Keo Sopheak, the head of the environmental office in eastern Mondulokiri province said.

He also said the three-meter-deep mud pit, created by a bomb during the country's civil war, was located in a protected forest area and had been enlarged by local villagers to store water.



Elephants in the mud crater (AFP)

The elephants were discovered in the crater on Friday, said Keo Sopheak, with only their rounded backs and heads poking out of the pool.

"We had to dig away the

edge of the crater by hand to make a path," the official said, adding that rescuers also pumped water into the crater to thin out the sludge and help the animals climb out.



“

I think it's bizarre. I don't get it

-Paul,
a British tourist

“

The only issue is the kids. I have two kids and the iPad is always in their hands. Maybe they will watch a documentary and learn something useful this time

-Samuel Porter,
A UAE national

“

It's a rule. I follow the rules

-Rakan Mohammed,
A Qatari national

Kuwaiti social media activist Thamer al-Dakheel Bourashed puts his laptop inside his suitcase at Kuwait International Airport in Kuwait City before boarding a flight to the United States on March 23, 2017

Dubai
A controversial ban on carry-on laptops and tablets on flights from the Middle East to the United States and Britain went into effect yesterday -- with less fanfare and frustration than expected.

From Dubai to Doha, passengers on dozens of flights checked in their electronic devices, many shrugging off the measure as yet another inconvenience of global travel.

"It's a rule. I follow the rules," said Rakan Mohammed, a Qatari national who flies from Doha to the US two to three times a year.

"The bigger problem for my family is the no smoking. On a long flight, they become restless after three hours."

At Dubai International, one of the world's busiest

hubs, flag carrier Emirates dispatched staff to guide passengers through one of the most intense travel weekends of the year.

Around 1.1 million people are expected to pass through as the city marks UAE spring break, Dubai Airports said.

An estimated 260,000 travellers were expected each day from Friday through Monday. Dubai International Airport expect 89 million passengers this year.

Staff in red suits could be seen at the airport Saturday carrying signs explaining the electronics ban, ready to appease travellers with games and activities for children.

Government-owned Emirates, which operates 18 direct flights to the US daily, also began a service to enable passengers to use their

electronic devices after check-in and until boarding.

Samuel Porter, who was travelling out of Dubai with his family, nonetheless decided to "avoid delays" at the airport by putting his laptop in the hold.

"The only issue is the kids. I have two kids and the iPad is always in their hands. Maybe they will watch a documentary and learn something useful this time", he told AFP.

The United States this week announced a ban on all electronics larger than a standard smartphone on board direct flights out of eight countries across the Middle East.

US officials would not specify how long the ban will last, but Emirates said that it had been instructed to enforce the measures until at least October 14.

The ban covers electronics sold at Dubai Duty Free, Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths said earlier this week.

'Do what they say'

Adding to the disruption on Saturday, a number of flights out of Dubai and Abu Dhabi airports were delayed due to thunderstorms, including an Emirates flight to Houston.

Travellers using 10 airports across the Middle East and North Africa are subject to the ban.

Britain has also announced a parallel electronics ban, effective Saturday, targeting all flights out of Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Lebanon.

Passengers readying to fly to the UK out of Tunisia Saturday were sceptical, but compliant.

"I think it's bizarre. I don't get it," said Paul, a British tourist on his way home. "I'm also concerned about the security of my own computer... but what can you do."

"You do what they tell you to do and keep quiet," said Khairi, a British-Libyan dual citizen flying out of Tunis.

Royal Jordanian, which operates direct flights to London, New York, Detroit and Chicago, poked fun at the ban on its social media accounts.

The airline suggested alternative in-flight activities, including doing "what we Jordanians do best... stare at each other!"

The restrictions have come under criticism for targeting majority-Muslim countries.

The US ban in particular has raised eyebrows for covering

airports from which American airlines do not operate direct flights.

But the United States and Britain have cited intelligence indicating passenger jets could be targeted with explosives planted in such devices.

Turkish airports began enforcing the ban Saturday, with national carrier Turkish Airlines offering a similar laptop stowage service to Emirates.

Abu Dhabi, home of UAE national carrier Etihad Airways, is one of the few international airports with a US Customs and Border Protection Facility, which processes immigration and customs inspections before departure.

But those flying to the US from Abu Dhabi will still need to check in their electronics, Etihad said. (AFP)

Erdogan says, 'easier' if EU rejects Turkey's bid

Ankara
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday lashed out again in the diplomatic row with the European Union saying it would be "easier" if the EU just rejected Turkey's bid to join the bloc.

Turkey and Europe are locked in a bitter dispute after Germany and the Netherlands blocked Turkish ministers from campaigning in the local Turkish communities for a 'yes' vote on boosting Erdogan's powers in next

month's referendum.

"What? If a 'yes' comes out on April 16, they would not take us into the European Union? Oh, if only they could give this decision! They would make our work easier," Erdogan said at a rally in the southern city of Antalya.

Despite severely strained relations with Brussels, no EU leader has openly said a 'yes' vote would spell the end of Turkey's already-embattled bid to join the bloc.

But Erdogan told the rally that "April 16 would be a

breaking point," referring to EU-Turkey relations if the 'yes' vote wins.

"We will put this (EU-Turkey) business on the table because Turkey is no one's whipping boy," he added, indicating that Ankara could reconsider its relationship with Brussels.

And among some European politicians, there has been discussion over what the future of Turkey's membership process would be.

Kati Piri, the European Parliament's Rapporteur for

Turkey, wrote for Politico Europe earlier this week that if a majority of voters approved the constitutional changes, "the European Parliament will have to assess whether the country's new governance structure meets the EU's Copenhagen accession criteria".

In the referendum Turks will decide whether to approve constitutional changes that would create an executive presidency and would see the role of prime minister axed.



A man walks past a huge billboard picturing Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and with an inscription which translates as "Yes"

Bahrain International Tennis Federation (ITF) Futures

The battle begins

Day one sees 16 men's qualifying singles matches

Andrew Ruppli (SUI)

Shahbaz Khan (IND)

Aidan Payne/DTNN
aidan@dt.bh

Manama

The Sixth Bahrain International Tennis Federation (ITF) Futures Men's Professional Tournament got underway yesterday with 16 men's first qualifying singles matches at the Bahrain Tennis Club premises in Juffair.

Three of the matches went into three sets with Amal Sultanbekov of Uzbekistan defeating Qatar's Jabor Mohammed Ali Mutawa 7-6(6), 5-7, 6-1, German Alexander Braun was a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 winner over Tajikistan's Fariduni Hamid and Isa Mammetgulyev from Turkmenistan worked hard to

beat Andrei Glvac of Slovakia 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Among the GCC competitors, Bahrain's Kareem Abdul Nabi lost 6-1, 6-1 to the third seeded Switzerland player Andrew Ruppli and Yousif Dhaif was knocked out by Germany's Jonathan Morr seeded 12th 6-0, 6-0.

Big local regional winners were Qatari Mousa Shanan Zayed who was a 6-1 6-1 win against Atlymyrat Gurbanov from Turkmenistan and Abdullah Maqdes from Kuwait with a comfortable 6-0, 6-0 victory over India's Avneet Singh.

Top seeded Spaniard Aaron Cortes Alcaraz in the qualifiers beat Turkmenistan's Georgiy Pochay 6-4, 6-1 and second

seeded Swede Milos Sekulic got the better of Anshuman Gulia of India 6-0, 6-1.

The second round of qualifying continues today from 4pm to determine which eight players will compete in the singles event of 32 set to start tomorrow with the finals on Saturday.

A doubles competition will also get underway tomorrow and finish on Saturday.

This Championship in its sixth edition is being held under the patronage of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Top seeds in the main singles starting tomorrow are Tallon Griekspoor (Netherlands, ranked 318), Michal Konecny (Czech Republic, 362), Filip Horansky (Slovakia, 368) and Sanjar Fayziev (Uzbekistan, 380), with wild card entries being awarded to three Bahrain players - Abdul Rahman Janahi, Hassan Abdul Janahi and Yousif Qaed.

The tournament director is Bahrain Tennis Club board member Ali Khonji, while Qatar's Dr Ashraf Hamouda heads the panel of referees and is assisted by Bahrain's Ahmed Al Hawaj.

Other referees include Kuwaitis, Abdel Raoof Abdel Salam, Ali Al Mutairi and Hassan Ashkanani, from

Other results:

- 1) Mohammed Abdel Aziz (Egypt) bt Koonwar Gupta (India) 6-1, 6-2
- 2) Vincent Van Den Honert (Netherlands) bt Omar Al Awahi (UAE) 6-3, 6-0
- 3) Sem Verbeek (Netherlands) bt Gurbanberdi Gurbanberdiyev (Turkmenistan) 6-0, 6-0
- 4) Shahbaaz Khan (India) bt Fahad Al Janahi (UAE) 6-0, 6-1
- 5) Roy Sarut De Valk (Netherlands) bt Eric Lavaud (France) 6-1, 6-2
- 6) Saida'lo Saidkarimov (Uzbekistan) bt Himansu Sagar (India) 6-0, 6-2
- 7) Shonigmatjon Shofayzivev (Uzbekistan) bt Yuriy Roguskiy (Turkmenistan) 6-3, 6-1

Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Al Ajaji, Yousuf Turayf and Jassim Akakah and from Morocco Abdelhaq Jawar, while 20 Bahrainis have been appointed as line judges.

BTA Tennis registration

Manama

Today is the final day for registration for Bahrain Tennis Academy's Junior Tournament being held from March 31 to April 8 at the Dilmun Club in Saar. It will be held in four categories - 8 years and-under, 10 and-under, 12 and-under and 14 and-under and competition will feature matchplay in a round-robin format using the red, orange and full-size courts, along with the corresponding ball, in line with the International Tennis Federation's guidelines.

This tournament is open to all boys and girls who are of an eligible age at the start date. Certificates will be presented to all participants while the winners and finalists will be awarded trophies.

Register by visiting the Dilmun Club's reception or Email the director at dan@bahraintennisacademy.com for more info or to obtain an entry form.

BREEF: Ali Essa takes home Grand Prize



Winners with officials during the prize distribution ceremony

Manama

Ali Essa (52.23 seconds) riding Vivika jumped to victory in the Grand Prix class of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) Showjumping Championship which featured obstacles ranging between from 130-140cm in height at the Bahrain Defence Force Riding Centre in Sakhir on Friday.

Coming in second place was Saber Salman Faraj came second on Bahrain BDF (59.78, 4 faults), followed by Ahmed Mansoor (62.67, 4 faults) in third place on Alteka Du Fort BDF.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Akbar (60.38) riding Elessi Horse Pride collected 65 points and won the title for the second adult class held in two phases with obstacles at 115-125cm. The second and third places went to Ali Hani Al Yabis and Ahmed Mansoor respectively.

The first adult class was won by Mayoof Al Rumaihi riding Brestal over obstacles of 100-110cm, while Sayed Mohammed Mahmood finished in second and Hani Al Yabis in third. Al Rumaihi was on top form during the championship as he also captured the second class for junior participants and Jamiela Haseid won the first junior class.



Action from one of the handball matches

Barbar clinch handball title



Handball winners at the awarding ceremony

DT News Network Manama

Barbar yesterday clinched the mini handball championships as part of the ongoing Fourth Mini Olympics at the Bahrain Handball Association gym in Umm Al Hassam.

Both Barbar and Al Ahli in the four-team round robin final round finished on seven points from three matches, with the former having a better goal difference, which proved decisive.

The tournament started on Friday with 11 teams divided into two groups, with each of the group winners and runners-up playing off for the title as Barbar and Al Tadamon qualified from Group A and Al Ahli and Tubli from Group B.

Yesterday's programme also included competition in taekwondo and jiu jitsu at The Bahrain Sports for Disabilities Federation hall, which was open to both boys and girls and each featured 15 weight categories.

In taekwondo, Al Noor School dominated most of the competition in both the

primary and intermediate age categories, with winners of the boys intermediate stage being Mohammed Husain (-33kg, Al Bilad Al Qadeem), Yousif Husain (37-41kg, Othman bin Affan) and Husain Ali (49-53kg, Imam Ali).

Meanwhile, the finals of the boys primary and intermediate stages, in addition to swimming events are due to take place today at the Bahrain Football Association grounds in Riffa.

In the intermediate stage championship semi-finals, Creativity take on the Indian School, while Al Naseem face Kanoo International School, to be followed by the match.

The primary championship stage semi-finals sees Group A winner Hawar face Group B winner Budaiya, while Al Hekma who topped Group C take on Group D winner Al Naseem, with the winners facing off in the gold medal match later today.

Mini Olympics action concludes on March 29 with hockey and athletics events, while the curtain will come down on the Mini Olympics on March 30 when the closing ceremony takes place.



Athletes compete in one of the taekwondo weight category clashes



Taekwondo winners



Taekwondo winners with officials at the prize-presentation ceremony

Taekwondo: Primary Boys (23-25kg):

- 1) Ali Al Hamad (Ahlia);
- 2) Adam bin Jamal (British);
- 3) Nooh A Munem (Al Bayan);

- 1) Muath Anas (Al Mahd);
- 2) Salem Hasan (Al Noor);
- 3) Abdulla Jamal (Hassan bin Thabit).

27-30kg:

- 1) Ali Husain (Aali);
- 2) Shahin Adnan (French);
- 3) Kevin Munther

(British). 30-33kg:

- 1) Abdulla Jaffer (Sitra);
- 2) Yazan Falah (Al Naseem);
- 3) Mohammed Ahmed (Bader Al Kobra).

33-37kg:

- 1) Mohammed Anwar (Omar bin Al Khattab);
- 2) Benjamin (British);
- 3) Bassil Ayman (Othma bin Affan).

37-41kg:

- 1) Husain Ali (NJIS);
- 2) Ali Mirza (Al Raja);
- 3) Abdulla Hani (New Vision).

41-5kg:

- 1) Ibrahim Ali (Al Noor);
- 2) Khalid Al Atawi (Al Falah);
- 3) Theo Daras (St Christopher's).

53+kg:

- 1) Isa Jaffer (Ibn Al Nafis);
- 2) Yousef Ayman (Bader Al Kobra);
- 3) Ahmed Ali (Al Raja).

Primary Girls (21-23kg):

- 1) Jawaher Luqmani (Al Noor);
- 2) Daewina Manoj (Indian School);
- 3) Sama Ahmed (Al Salam).

23-25kg:

- 1) Fatma Jaffer (Salmabad);
- 2) Prakruthi Saju (British School);
- 3) Asya Hasan (Safra).

25-27kg:

- 1) Elaf Omar (Palms);
- 2) Um Al Baneen Sadeq (Middle East);
- 3) Khawla Hassan.

27-29kg:

- 1) Fatma Mahdi;
- 2) Yasmine Aqeel (Al Noor);
- 3) Noora Ahmed (Al Shuwaifat).

33-37kg:

- 1) Maryam Al Shakhoori (Al Naseem);
- 2) Sara Ebrahim (Al Noor);
- 3) Maya Salah (Al Noor).

44kg:

- 1) Dana Ali (Al Noor);
- 2) Toolin Baher (Al Noor).

41-44:

- 1) Amal Al Alawi (Isa Town);
- 2) Noor A.Hameed (Um Khuolthom);
- 3) Gathya Mahdi (Al Naseem).

Arrogate wins Dubai thriller

Jockey Mike Smith (2nd-R) rides Arrogate to win the Dubai World Cup race in the Meydan Racecourse



Dubai

Overwhelming favourite Arrogate won the \$10 million Dubai World Cup yesterday, overcoming a poor start to become the sport's biggest earning horse with \$17 million to its name.

The Bob Baffert trained colt with 51-year-old jockey Mike Smith in the saddle came home ahead of Gun Runner in second and Neolithic who took third place.

Four-year-old Arrogate went into the race as the

odds-on favourite after an impressive win in the Breeders' Cup Classic but after a slow start out of the stalls, Smith had to weave his way through the field.

Gun Runner was ahead at the turn but Smith and Arrogate stepped up their final push down the straight at Meydan as Baffert claimed a third win in the race.

Baffert admitted that he feared the worst for his horse after the sloppy start.

"That was 'Plan F'," said

Baffert. "But that's the best I've ever seen in my life, it's unbelievable"

"I guess he knew where he was but it just goes to show you how great this horse is, he's just a great horse. Mike did a great job, he didn't panic."

Gun Runner battled hard to keep out Neolithic at the head of the chasing pack but the night belonged to Arrogate who now has seven wins from eight starts.

Smith admitted he had

been caught by surprise at the start.

"I missed the break completely because he's used to having a man in the gate with him, but things happen for a reason," he told reporters.

"This horse can do anything, he can win in the lead, he can come from dead last, he hasn't even taken a breath.

"I get a lot of the glory, but there's a big team who deserve a lot of credit." (AFP)

Qatar MotoGP: Vinales on pole

Doha

Torrential rain forced qualifying at the season-opening Qatar MotoGP to be cancelled yesterday leaving Yamaha's Maverick Vinales to start Sunday's race from pole position.

The entire practice and qualifying schedule for MotoGP, Moto2 and Moto3 under the floodlights of the Losail track was postponed as storms lashed the desert venue leaving the circuit dotted with pools of standing water.

There will be no qualifying session on Sunday with starting grid positions based instead on combined practice times.

Vinales, 22, who dominated Thursday and Friday practice in Qatar after also sweeping the board at winter testing, will start from pole ahead of Andrea Iannone on a Suzuki and world champion Marc



Maverick Vinales of SAG Team

Marquez on a Honda.

"It's been very strange, and strange that it rains in Qatar," said flying Spaniard Vinales

who backed the decision to cancel the day's action.

"It was difficult today, it wasn't ok for wet tyres or dry

tyres -- it was too risky to go out. For me it's safety first and it's tricky conditions."

Nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi, however, is down in 10th place on a Yamaha after being completely overshadowed by teammate Vinales, 16 years his junior.

Jorge Lorenzo, another former world champion, will start in 12th place on a Ducati.

Riders had feared that racing on a wet track under lights would be too dangerous and that such conditions would compromise visibility.

"When it rains here, there is also a strong wind and a lot of sand on the track," said Rossi, a four-time winner at the desert track.

More storms are forecast for Saturday night, raising the prospect that the race could even take place on Monday, as was the case in 2009.

Hamilton grabs pole



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (C), teammate Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas (L) and Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel (R) pose together

Melbourne

Triple world champion Lewis Hamilton fought off late bids from Sebastian Vettel and team-mate Valtteri Bottas to seize pole position in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Saturday.

Hamilton in a Mercedes clocked a record lap of one minute 22.188 seconds to claim his 62nd career pole and his sixth in Australia into Sunday's race in Melbourne.

Ferrari's Vettel made a valiant late bid to snatch pole off Hamilton but finished just 0.268secs down, although fractionally quicker than Bottas.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took fourth ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, while Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo crashed out in the final Q3 session.

It was dominant Hamilton's fourth successive pole in Melbourne and his fifth in his last six Australian GPs.

"It's been a fantastic weekend so far. I'm incredibly proud of my team," Hamilton said.

Hamilton will be chasing his third win in Melbourne.

Vettel gave promise of fighting for Ferrari's first win

in Melbourne since Kimi Raikkonen's victory in 2007, with his bold showing.

"I lost a bit in turn one and in turn nine I tried a bit too much, but I don't think it would have been enough," said Vettel, who claimed Ferrari's first front row since Singapore in 2015.

Hamilton's pole time was 1.7 seconds quicker than his qualifying time last year.

Australia's big hope Ricciardo crashed his Red Bull at turn 14 looking to post a good time in Q3 and will start 10th off the grid.

Sergio Perez, Nico Hulkenberg, Fernando Alonso, Esteban Ocon and Marcus Ericsson all failed to make it through the top 10 shootout.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen had a lock-up into turn six on ultrasoft tyres before he posted a time to stay alive into Q2.

McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne had a fuel-flow issue which sent the Belgian to the pits and knocked out in Q1.

Vandoorne was joined by Antonio Giovinazzi, Kevin Magnussen, Lance Stroll and Jolyon Palmer to be eliminated in the first session of qualifying.

FOOTBALL

2018 World Cup qualifying, European zone:

Group A --

Luxembourg 1	-	France 3
Bulgaria	-	Netherlands (1945)
Sweden 4	-	Belarus 0

Group B --

Andorra 0	-	Faroe Islands 0
Switzerland	v	Latvia (1945)
Portugal	v	Hungary (1945)

Group H --

Bosnia and Herzegovina 5	-	Gibraltar 0
Cyprus 0	-	Estonia 0
Belgium	v	Greece (1945)

Scores as of closing

Kuldeep flips India's fortunes

Dharamsala

Wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav said it was a dream come true to grab four wickets on debut and spin India right back into the game after Steve Smith hit his third ton of the series yesterday.

Kuldeep was informed on the morning of the series-deciding match that he would be handed his Test cap with skipper Virat Kohli having failed to recover from his shoulder injury.

But the 22-year-old showed few signs of nervousness, bewitching the Aussie batsmen with his guile and unorthodox action to return with figures of 4-68.

"I am very happy. It's a dream come true for me. In a Test match I could not have asked for more than this," Kuldeep said after the first day's play.

"The wicket was good to bat on, the ball was not turning wicket. I tried to bowl just wicket to wicket.

"Obviously I have worked a lot on my variations. The wrong'un, the flipper and the normal chinaman."

The visitors squandered a promising start to be bowled out for 300 just minutes before the close of play after winning the toss and electing to bat first.

The Aussies owed their total to Smith who smashed 14 fours in his fine 111-run knock to become the first Australian skipper to hit three centuries in a Test series in India.

The 27-year-old also became only the second visiting captain to achieve the feat after England's Alastair Cook.

The Aussie looked firmly in control, having cruised to 131-1 at lunch but Kuldeep's scintillating spell meant the tourists lost their remaining wickets in the last two sessions.

At stumps, India had played out one over without scoring any runs.

With the series tied 1-1 going into the finale, the hosts must win the match to regain the Border-Gavaskar trophy.

"Credit to the Indians for bowling well, we had to grind ourselves to get to 300," said wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew

Scores at stumps :
Australia 1st innings:

D. Warner c Rahane b K. Yadav	56
M. Renshaw b U. Yadav	1
S. Smith c Rahane b Ashwin	111
S. Marsh c Saha b U. Yadav	4
P. Handscomb b K. Yadav	8
G. Maxwell b K. Yadav	8
M. Wade b Jadeja	57
P. Cummins c and b K. Yadav	21
S. O'Keefe run out	8
N. Lyon c Pujara b Kumar	13
J. Hazlewood not out	2
Extras (b1, lb10)	11
Total (for all out, 88.3 overs)	300

India 1st innings:

L. Rahul not out	0
M. Vijay not out	0
Extras (0)	0
Total (for no loss, 1 over)	0

Wade, who made 57.

"It was good to get some runs but it's 1-1 in the series and we need to play really well tomorrow (Sunday)."

India's ploy to keep Kuldeep (4-68) under wraps and use him for the final Test paid rich dividends.

The chinaman bowler picked his first international wicket when he had David Warner (56) caught by stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane in the slips.

The bowler broke down as he hugged his teammates to celebrate the occasion.

Kuldeep struck again soon to send back Peter Handscomb (eight) with a ball that turned in sharply and hit the stumps.

Glenn Maxwell also lost his wicket to the wrist-spinner, misreading a googly only to see the ball clipping the off bail.

Smith had put on 134 runs for the second wicket with Warner after Australia lost opener Matt Renshaw in the second over of the day.

The unassuming captain underlined his reputation as the world number one Test batsman, reaching his 20th century

in the process
a n d seventh
hundred in his last eight
Tests against India.

The skipper raised his bat and helmet to acknowledge the standing ovation from a grateful Australian dressing room.

Smith's efforts meant he remained on top of the batting chart in the series with a whopping 482 runs from seven innings.

He finally lost his wicket to spinner

Ravichandran Ashwin, with Rahane taking another catch in the slip region.

Smith's run in the series has been in contrast to Kohli who managed only 46 runs from three Tests.

Before this game, Kohli played 54 Tests on the trot without missing a match since November 2011.

Ashwin took his tally to 79 in the 2016-17 season, the most by any bowler in one season, surpassing South African Dale Steyn's 78 scalps. (AFP)

India's Kuldeep Yadav (L) celebrates the wicket of Australia's Glenn Maxwell with teammate Umesh Yadav

