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News of Bahrain

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Uber 'flying car' launch by 2020

San Francisco Uber said yesterday it wants to launch a system of flying cars to move people around cities, with a goal of putting demonstration projects in place by 2020. The ridesharing giant announced a series of partnerships to manufacture "vertical takeoff and landing" (VTOL) vehicles and put networks in place, a system dubbed Uber Elevate. - AFP



P 04

Bahrain, Thailand for stronger ties



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Embassies training individuals to take part in elections: MPs

COPS HUNT FOR GANG LEADER IN FLESH TRADE

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN zafran@dt.bh

Manama

Police have launched a manhunt to nab the leader of a gang who reportedly operated a flesh trade racket in Muharraq.

The authorities began the search for the expatriate gang after receiving a tipoff about an Indonesian woman being held captive in Muharraq. The woman was reported to have been in a bad state and was locked up in an apartment.

According to information released by the Ministry of Interior in its publication *Al Amn*, three men have already been nabbed while a police investigation is going on to catch the fourth person who is believed to be the gang leader. "Our source told us that the woman had been trying to escape for several months but had failed to do so. After getting information on her whereabouts, we obtained a search warrant from the Public Prosecution and raided an apartment where she had been held captive," said Muharraq Governorate Police Director General Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan. "We found she

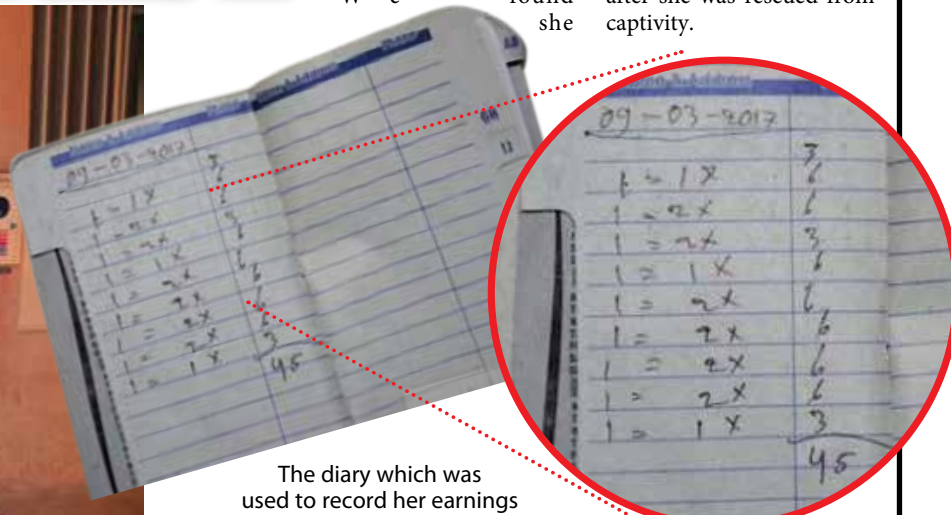
had a mobile phone but it was damaged and there was no way she could have contacted anyone for help. The team also recovered clothes and contraceptives," he said.

The woman told police that she worked as a housemaid until a cold-store salesman offered her help in finding a better job. "She agreed and gave him her phone number. The number was passed on to the gang who then contacted her and asked her to run away after promising her a better-paid job," he added. The woman was brutally beaten up each time she tried to escape from the apartment. One of their clients had a change of heart and filed a case in the police station.

"He told us about the woman and said she had been locked up for several months. He said she was in a bad condition and sought help to get out of the place. The man said he felt sad after he saw the woman, who pleaded with him to report the matter to the police," General Brigadier Al Hassan said. The woman has been transferred to a shelter for abused women after she was rescued from captivity.



The building where the woman was held captive



The diary which was used to record her earnings

Woman pushed into flesh trade, held captive in an apartment in Muharraq

International Youth Conference opens



DT News Network
news@dt.bh

The ninth International Youth Conference opened yesterday at the University of Bahrain in the presence of more than 1,000 participants from over 29 countries.

The opening ceremony was patronised and attended by His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

This year's conference has

the slogan 'Give Back' and focuses on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)s and the role of the youth in achieving them.

The event is organised by Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme and the League of Arab states.

In his keynote address, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa called for more global collaboration to achieve the development goals put forward by the United Nations to serve humanity and to eliminate poverty.

"The difference of cultures, origins or beliefs aren't an obstacle in the path of improving the lives of others," he said.

Shaikh Nasser also highlighted that by implementing SDGs, "We are fulfilling the dreams or visions that world leaders seek to achieve."

"They are guidelines for our decisions and steps on public and private affairs."

Commenting on the slogan, "Give Back", HH Shaikh Nasser said, "The slogan tell the world that it is time for them to give back some of what

the planet offered us, in a way that ensures its sustainability and preservation."

"Give Back reflects the content of the 17 sustainable development goals that should guide humanity towards a life of goodness and giving," he added.

Guest of honour at the conference, Australian Author and Motivational Speaker Saroo Brierley expressed his gratitude to the Kingdom for annually hosting the conference.

He praised the step taken by the Kingdom in offering youth the opportunity to

Minister Al Jowder presenting a memento to HH Shaikh Nasser plan innovative schemes to serve humanity and eliminate poverty.

On the occasion, Youth and Sports Affairs Minister

Hisham Al Jowder presented HH Shaikh Nasser a memento as a token of appreciation for his patronage of the conference.



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Embassies training individuals to take part in elections: MPs

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Some foreign embassies in the Kingdom are supporting and training individuals who seek to enter the electoral race in 2018, several MPs told the House of Representatives yesterday.

In their regular meeting held at the House of Representatives in Gudaibiya, the parliamentarians strongly criticised foreign embassies for training parliamentary candidates as the elections are fast approaching.

The MPs also demanded Foreign Affairs Ministry to intervene and prohibit diplomatic corps from directly contacting citizens.

"Some foreign embassies are communicating with citizens, who seek to contest in the



The House of Representatives in session yesterday

2018 parliamentary elections, and sending them allegedly to attend training courses abroad. These courses' objectives are unknown. We consider this as clear interference in the internal affairs of the

Kingdom which will affect the parliamentary elections that are usually organised in accordance with international norms and standards," the MPs said in a joint statement issued after the meeting.

The MPs also hinted at training institutions in the Kingdom, such as the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, affirming "Bahrainis don't need political training from abroad".

"The House of Representatives declares its condemnation, and rejection of such calls, which constitute blatant interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom and are contrary to the duties of diplomatic missions and foreign embassies in any country and constitute a departure from the rules established by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations," the statement read.

The Council, while condemning these actions, called upon the Foreign Affairs Ministry to play its role and take decisive measures against embassies that carry out such acts. The council also called on authorities concerned to not accept any candidate for the upcoming elections in case they participated in such courses.

Expatriate injured in car mishap

DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

An Asian expatriate sustained serious injuries after he was hit by a speeding car while crossing the road at the King Faisal Highway.

The injured is Mojahid Iqbal, 43, a Pakistani expatriate. The car was driven by a Bahraini man. The officials arrived immediately at the crime scene and the expatriate was rushed to the Salmaniya Medical Complex as he sustained serious injuries.

One of the sources at the Ministry of Interior confirmed the car accident on the highway. The authorities are taking necessary steps and the case will be further investigated by the public prosecution, sources at the Ministry of Interior said.

Cops to turn counsellors to tackle illegal workers

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Muharrag police have come up with a novel approach to tackle illegal 'free visa' workers in the governorate through counselling and guiding.

Discussions are underway with the authorities in Muharrag to implement new measures to tackle the illegal workers in a more humane way.

Muharrag Governorate Police Director General Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said that an approach focused on 'counselling and guiding' will help many of those workers who end up in illegal status after being tricked by agents.

"The intention is not to nab and hand them over to the authorities concerned to be deported. We are

looking at bringing them in and correcting them. This is because we believe that such people who have no work will, sooner or later, graduate to becoming criminals," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"We do not know what they are doing and how and where they are living. We just find them loitering around, doing odd jobs and somehow making ends meet," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"We would want to know what they are up to, guide and counsel them, get in touch with their sponsors and employers and try and correct their status," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said, adding that in their opinion, nabbing and deporting illegal free visa workers is the last possible step the authorities can do.

In most cases, such workers

have been tricked into coming to Bahrain and are victims, Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"They have sold their land, jewellery, houses and other property to pay agents to come here and work and when they find that they have no job, they are bound to take to crime sooner or later since they have to repay the loans they have taken from banks in the Kingdom or send money home to their families," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"We are looking to stop crimes from happening. If such people are allowed to remain as they are, they would be a danger to society sooner or later. This would lead to an unsafe and unhealthy environment in our society," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

Asian cleaner attacked in Diraz

DT News Network/DTNN
news@dt.bh

Manama

An Asian cleaner was brutally attacked the other day in Diraz. Reports confirmed that the man was assaulted by a group of masked men who asked him not to come and clean their neighbourhood again.

Northern Area Municipality

General Director Yousif Al Ghatam condemned the assault in a statement issued yesterday.

"The attack on a cleaner while performing his duties in Diraz on April 23 by a group of masked men who threatened him not to clean the area is unacceptable," Al Ghatam stressed.

He explained in his statement that the victim was attacked by four masked men

who beat him and injured him.

"Will any sane person object to cleaning their area. They must be a group of troublemakers who intend to create chaos in the area," said the official on threatening the cleaner.

Al Ghatam described the incident as "hideous" and stressed that the community should fight such unruly behaviours.

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Kingdom plans new law to regulate real estate sector

Manama

A new law is on the anvil to regulate and stabilise the growth of the real estate sector in Bahrain, announced Deputy Prime Minister HH Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday.

"The move will enhance the stability of the sector," said Shaikh Khalid while opening the Gulf Construction Expo (GC Expo 2017), the

Gulf PropertShow and the Gulf Interiors Exhibition (gulfInteriors 2017). He was deputised by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the new bill forms part of a move to cope with the rapid developments and the investment boom witnessed in the real estate sector.

He, however, revealed that

the efforts to address the issue of stalling real estate projects led to the revision of the existing two-year-old law by the government.

The deputy premier also commended the efforts exerted by the private sector in boosting the specialised exhibition industry. The expo will continue until April 27, with the participation of 135 exhibitors.



Shaikh Khalid with ministers and top officials during the opening ceremony



The Prime Minister with Thai PM General Prayut Chan-o-cha during the reception held at Gudaibiya palace

Bahrain, Thailand for stronger ties

Manama

Bahrain and Thailand yesterday established a framework for expanding bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation.

A total of 26 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed between the Kingdom and Thailand in a meeting held at the Gudaibiya Palace in the presence of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha.

The two countries also decided to boost cooperation across sectors including agriculture, public health, education, tourism, transportation and to promote joint ventures between private sectors. Decisions were also taken to reinforce coordination on regional and global developments in international forums.

A statement issued following the meeting said that Foreign ministers of both countries were assigned to follow up the work of the joint supreme committee, which will be held soon.

Relevant ministers were also commissioned to activate the signed agreements, memoranda of understanding and executive programmes totalling 26.

Other major decisions taken include the amendments of a number of articles regarding avoidance of double taxation between Bahrain and Thailand. The deal was signed by Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Don Pramudwinai.

On agricultural cooperation, an MoU was signed by Minister Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam Khalaf and Minister of Agriculture and Cooperative, General Chatchai Sarikulya.

On Education, the University of Bahrain and Prince of Songkla University signed an MoU in the presence of Dr. Riyadh Yusuf Hamza and Dr. Chusak Limsakul.

The meeting was followed by a lunch banquet hosted by the Prime Minister in honour of the Thai Prime Minister

and the accompanying delegation. A number of senior Bahraini officials were also present.

Earlier, during a reception held at the Gudaibiya place for General Prayut Chan-o-cha, the Prime Minister urged the Gulf Cooperation Council nations to strengthen ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states.

"This would help consolidate security and stability, build bridges of cooperation and coordination and push GCC-Asian relations forward," stressed the Prime Minister, expressing his desire to consolidating trade and investment cooperation, particularly food security.

The Thai leader congratulated HRH the Premier on being conferred the Arab League's Development Shield Work, hailing Bahrain's landmark strides in all fields.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain is the closest friend to Thailand in the region", Chan-o-cha said, commending the Premier's directives which strengthened joint ties.

APA meeting begins

DT News Network news@dt.bh

Bahrain yesterday kick started the standing committee meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Association on economic and sustainable development.

The two-day conference was inaugurated by House of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Al Mulla

at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel.

"In this meeting, we seek to adopt advanced legislations, initiatives and intelligent solutions to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the United Nations Summit in September 2015 and the Declaration of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its 132nd meeting," said Al

Mulla in his opening remarks. In this regard, Al Mulla also praised the Indonesian Parliament's initiative to establish a special parliamentary committee on SDGs.

"The meeting will discuss issues of great importance to the Asian continent in light of the extraordinary economic challenges the world is witnessing."



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11th General Recruitment Expo begins

More than 2000 jobs up for grabs

DT News Network Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan yesterday inaugurated the 11th edition of the General Recruitment Exhibition organised by the Ministry.

The two-day exhibition being held from April 25-26 targets qualified jobseekers from various academic disciplines. More than 70 commercial establishments are offering jobs

to fill more than 1,200 vacancies in addition to 800 vacancies available for jobseekers from the Ministry's "Available Vacancies Databank," according to the minister.

"The ministry continues to organise variety career shows on a wider scale to expedite the recruitment of jobseekers and meet the growing demand from fresh graduates entering the labour market," said the Minister in his inaugural speech.

"Joblessness is a challenge that requires mustering of efforts by all official and private entities to provide jobs for the growing number of jobseekers and to maintain the ratio of joblessness within normal safe limits," he added.

The exhibition's most noticeable feature was the availability of 2,000 vacant jobs in various sectors and disciplines, added the minister.

Career Week 2017 inaugurated



Education Minister Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi visiting a stall at the exhibition

DT News Network Manama

Education Minister Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi inaugurated the Career Week 2017 at Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) with the participation of 16 government and private institutions, yesterday.

Al Nuaimi expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the exhibition organisers and the participants.

The Ministry of Education (MoE)'s Acting Undersecretary for Educational and Curriculum Affairs and BTI's general director Dr. Fawzi Al Jowder said the exhibition is aimed at attracting secondary

school students and familiarise them with the needs of the local labour market. The exhibition will assist them in choosing the course of study and seek jobs in public and private sector establishments.

The annual career show will enlighten the students and alumni on available jobs and the required specialisation.



Minister Jameel Humaidan inaugurating the exhibition

UCB organises Career Day



Prof. Salah A. A. Emara

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN reporter@dt.bh

The University College of Bahrain (UCB) organised its Annual Career Day at its Saar Campus yesterday. The event was held for providing job opportunities to students.

"The Career Day is a great opportunity for graduates to network with employers and make career choices. Not only the students benefit immensely from this interaction but also

enable them to prepare for the world of recruiting," said Prof. Salah A. A. Emara, President of UCB.

The Annual Career Day serves as a platform for students to bring together graduates with potential employers. Bahrain Islamic Bank, Batelco, Zain, Nestle, Ahrafs BGDC, Tamkeen, Memac Oglivy, Mesk Holdings, Skip lino and One GCC took part in the Annual Career Day.



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Saudi writer wins top Arab fiction award

Abu Dhabi

A Saudi novelist has won the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, becoming the third author in 10 years from the Kingdom to grab the Arab world's most prestigious literary award.

Mohammed Hasan Alwan won for his novel "A Small Death", which is a fictionalised account of the life of a Sufi scholar and philosopher, Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi, from his birth in Muslim Spain in the 12th century until his death in Damascus.

The novel follows Ibn Arabi's mystic Sufi experience and heroic travels from Andalusia to Azerbaijan, via Morocco, Egypt, the Hijaz in today's western Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Turkey, according to an abstract posted on the prize



Saudi Arabian writer Mohammed Hasan Alwan (2L) poses for a photo with Palestinian novelist and chair of the judging committee Sahar Khalifeh (L) and fellow writers after winning the 2017 International Prize for Arabic Fiction in Abu Dhabi website.

"Of a sensitive and anxious nature, Muhyiddin struggles with inner turmoil throughout the course of his travels," the

abstract said.

Though "90 percent of the novel is fiction," Alwan said after receiving the award "I felt the pain while writing it."

"Ibn Arabi remains a controversial figure... but I believe that a reader of the novel would not disagree with the human side it portrays," he added.

Alwan, 38, was for the second time among the shortlisted novelists after his novel "The Beaver" made it to the last six in 2015. Its French edition went on to win the best Arabic novel translated into French for that year.

This year, Alwan competed with five other authors from Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya. Born in Riyadh, he graduated with a doctorate in international marketing from Carleton University in Canada, and has published five novels.

Alwan was chosen in 2010 as one of the 39 best Arab authors under the age of 40 by the Beirut 39 project.

Dubbed as the "Arabic Booker", the \$50,000-prize is supported by the Booker Prize Foundation in London, but it is funded by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority.

The two other Saudi novelists who previously won the prize were Abdo Khal in 2010 for his "Throwing Sparks" and Raja Alem, who shared the top prize in 2011 for her novel titled "The Dove's Necklace".

"The culture and arts arena in Saudi Arabia has been rather active over the past 10 years," Alwan said.

"The Saudi society is going through a phase of massive change. There is a young population facing various intellectual changes, which brings on many questions... When such questions are posed, novelists find their chance to repose them in a literary form," he added.

Last year, Palestinian author Rabai al-Madhoun won the award that was launched in 2008. (AFP)

By Invitation



Yenus S

Post Deash Iraq doesn't seem rosy.

The so called Islamic State (Daesh) is on the verge of collapse. The question is: Will its eventual elimination ushers peace and stability to Iraq? Political pundits are pessimistic, given the existence of scores of militant groups promoting own agenda, with divergent interests.

The pieces of evidence show that the country will be far from being stable for some time to come. Observers say that to avoid infighting and blood-letting, the warring factions need to reach a comprehensive political settlement before matters go out of control.

The motives behind the warring factions indicate that each group has its own interests. The Kurds want an 'independent state' something the governing Shia party strongly opposes. The Iranian factor has also been a point of contention among ordinary Iraqis. Iran has been and continues to meddle in Iraq's state affairs and in fact it has infiltrated every government establishment.

Last week Iran named a new ambassador to Iraq, General Iraj Masjidi, a Quds force commander and an Iranian Revolutionary Guard official, who has years of experience working with Shiite militants allied to Iran. The General is expected to promote Iranian influence in every government organ ranging from politics to economy to security matters.

The sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shias is well established and too much talked about. The new conflicts involving the inter-Shia political parties for power and the dangerous Shia -Kurd confrontation have recently attracted the interests of political observers.

The Northern Iraq, the birth place of Kurds, which is currently witnessing brutal wars with Daesh, remains the flash point of conflict between Shias and Kurds. The Kurds want every Deash (IS) liberated area to be included in the 'Kurdish autonomy', most of which is rich in oil. This idea doesn't appear to go well with the central government controlled by the Shia political parties.

The ultimate aim of the Kurds is believed to be to carry out a referendum and create an independent state 'Kurdistan'.

Reuters in its April 20, 2017 issue reported that the main Shia political parties strongly oppose the expected Kurdish referendum for independence.

Ammar al-Hakim, president of the National Alliance, a coalition of main Shiite political parties, said that the Iraqi Shiite ruling coalition would oppose Kurdish plans to hold a referendum on independence after the defeat of Islamic State. He continued, "If the referendum happens, it will be unilateral and advised the Kurds against any unilateral move to annex a disputed oil-rich region which they had gained during the war against the Jihadists".

The 'Kurdish dream' will likely destabilize Iraq. Last week, the Kurdish flag was raised on government buildings in Kirkuk province, the strong hold of Kurds. The move has received strong condemnation from the ruling party.

As the Kurd and Shiites squabble, the Sunnis are also drafting their proposals to at least administer their own provinces and end the presence of Iran backed Shiite militias from their regions that are currently committing alleged crimes against the local population and promote sectarian killings.

Years of fighting shows that there remains a deep mistrust among the three major sects in Iraq. The Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds do not seem to live together side by side as it was in the old days.

The way forward depends on the governing party's readiness to share power and include other sects in the political discourse of the country. The ball is in the ruling Shiite party's court.

Pundits predict that in the absence of political inclusiveness, there is a great possibility that Iraq will remain unstable for years to come. And that Iran will fill the security and intelligence vacuum through its proxy militias, throwing Iraq into worst political crisis it has ever witnessed in its history.

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

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Iraq holding Qatar hunting party's ransom money: PM



An image grab taken from a handout video released by the Iraqi Interior Ministry, shows Qatari men who were kidnapped while hunting in southern Iraq in 2015 boarding a plane at Baghdad airport following their release.

Baghdad
Iraq is holding hundreds of millions of dollars Qatari negotiators had brought to Baghdad as ransom money for the release of kidnapped hunters, the prime minister said yesterday.

A hunting party consisting of 24 Qataris and two Saudis kidnapped in southern Iraq in

December 2015 was released last week and flew back home from Baghdad on Friday, according to officials in the three countries.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told a news conference that Qatari negotiators had come to Baghdad prior to the release with what he said

was hundreds of millions of dollars in ransom money.

"The Qatari government sent its envoy to Iraq and asked to bring a private plane," Abadi said.

"We were surprised that there were big bags, so we seized them and they contained hundreds of millions of dollars," he said.

"This money was brought in without the approval of the Iraqi government. We have a central bank and a judiciary," he said, explaining he would insist due process be followed.

"Hundreds of millions to armed groups? Is this acceptable," Abadi asked, without specifying to which groups he was referring.

The hunting party was released without word from the Iraqi interior ministry or any other official on who had kidnapped them in the first place nor what the terms of their release were.

Sources close to the negotiations however said that their release was part of a broad regional deal between

Iran and Qatar involving the evacuation of residents from government-controlled villages in northern Syria.

Qatar has long been thought to have sway on some rebel groups in Syria, including the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front that besieged the villages. (AFP)



INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS At 31 March 2017 (Reviewed)

(Amounts are expressed in thousands of US dollars)

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME	Three months ended 31 March		INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	31	31	INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the three month period ended 31 March 2017	Three months ended 31 March	
	2017	2016		March 2017	December 2016		2017	2016
OPERATING INCOME			ASSETS			OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income from construction contracts	2,928	1,518	Cash and bank balances	38,161	40,066	Profit for the period	8,179	3,201
Income from investment in real estate	1,141	1,359	Accounts receivable	41,668	38,237	Adjustments for:		
Income from investments	-	868	Investment in real estate lease right receivables	9,275	9,246	Depreciation	400	425
Fee for management and other services	240	660	Investments	19,763	18,983	Net share of income / loss from investment in a joint venture and associates	(35)	145
Net share of income / (loss) from investment in a joint venture and associates	35	(145)	Investment in a joint venture and associates	91,664	91,629	Realised loss on sale of investments	-	(868)
Other income	321	814	Investment in real estate	41,318	41,564	Gain on sale of investment in real estate	(772)	(992)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	4,665	5,074	Property, plant and equipment	16,289	16,090	Recoveries from impaired receivables	(6,134)	-
OPERATING EXPENSES			Other assets	7,331	7,040		1,638	1,911
Staff costs	1,366	1,086	TOTAL ASSETS	265,469	262,855	Net changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
General and administrative expenses	868	634	LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY			Liabilities:		
Financing costs	214	32	Accounts payable	110,978	108,323	Short-term deposits (with an original maturity of more than 90 days)	7,380	(7,559)
Property related expenses	67	36	Financing from a bank	15,539	16,408	Accounts receivable	6,586	(2,075)
Depreciation	105	85	Total liabilities	126,517	124,731	Receivable from real estate lease right	(29)	(4,061)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	2,620	1,873	Equity			Other assets	(291)	-
NET OPERATING PROFIT	2,045	3,201	Share capital	114,604	114,604	Accounts payable	3,281	-
Recoveries from impaired receivables	6,134	-	Less: Treasury shares	(651)	(651)	Net cash from (used in) operating activities	18,565	(11,784)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	8,179	3,201		113,953	113,953	INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Attributable to:			Reserves	1,413	1,413	Proceeds from sale of investment in real estate	-	4,277
Equity shareholders of the parent	8,184	3,205	Retained earnings	9,951	9,118	Purchase of available-for-sale investment	(780)	-
Non-controlling interest	(5)	(4)	Equity attributable to parent's shareholders	125,317	124,484	Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(599)	(1,600)
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (US cents)	2.87	1.13	Non-controlling interest	13,635	13,640	Purchase of investment in real estate	(2,865)	-
			Total equity	138,952	138,124	Sale of investment in a joint venture and associates	-	7,693
			TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	265,469	262,855	Proceeds from sale of investments	-	263
						Net cash (used in) from investing activities	(4,244)	10,633
						FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
						Net movement in financing from a bank	(869)	(6,601)
						Dividend paid	(7,977)	-
						Cash used in financing activity	(8,846)	-
						NET MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5,475	(1,151)
						Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	32,617	40,430
						CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	38,092	39,279
						Non cash transactions:		
						Transfer from investment in real estate to accounts receivable	-	9,153
						Transfer from accounts receivable to investment in real estate	3,883	-

Reviewed By **Khaled Saoud Al Sanousi** Chairman
Ernst & Young
Murad Al Ramadan Chief Executive Officer

Fuelling growth

Bahrain Jet Fuel Company, BAC sign 'Aviation Fuelling Restructuring Agreements' at the Bahrain International Airport



Officials during the deal signing ceremony

Manama

Bahrain Jet Fuel Company, a Bahraini joint-venture company between The Oil and Gas Holding Company (nogaholding) and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) yesterday announced signing an Aviation Fuelling Restructuring Agreements resulting in a more streamlined and efficient aviation fuel supply, operation and maintenance process at the Bahrain International Airport.

The restructuring, in line with the directives of the Prime Minister, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, is part of the BIA's on-going Airport Modernisation Programme (AMP). The

signing ceremony was attended by the Minister of Oil, Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Kamal Ahmed.

"Although the economy of Bahrain is increasingly diversified, the oil and gas sector remains as the primary catalyst of government economic growth. Nogaholding is spreading several strategic initiatives such as BJFCo to fuel sustainable economic growth and provide paradigm shift and income sources in line with Bahrain Vision 2030 and beyond," said Minister of Oil, Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Previously, Bahrain

Aviation Fuelling Company (BAFCO) was in sole control of most of the Kingdom's aviation fuelling & distribution functions, but now the responsibility will be split among more than one entity, resulting in more efficient overall operations.

The agreements were signed by the Oil and Gas Holding Company (nogaholding), Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO), Bahrain Aviation Fuelling Company (BAFCO), British Petroleum (BP), Chevron, and the recently established BAC Jet Fuel Company (BJFCo).

The combined aim is to streamline operations between the parties. BAPCO,

BP and Chevron have been awarded the right to supply aviation fuel and provide aircraft refuelling services at BIA, while the purchase of the hydrant system assets were taken over by, BJFCo from its current owners.

BJFCo awarded BAFCO the right to operate and maintain the hydrant system, while a hydrant usage agreement, signed by BJFCo, BAPCO, BP, and Chevron, grants the entities funding and usage rights concerning the hydrants, and a permission agreement sees BAC granting BJFCo the right to use the hydrant system.

"The agreement marks a turning point for the Bahrain aviation industry," said BAC

CEO, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalal.

Bassem Battisha, Chevron's Country Chairman in Bahrain and BAFCO Director said: "This allows us to continue to serve our customers with reliable jet fuel supply and support the long-term objectives of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Bahrain Airport Companies."

"We remain fully committed to Bahrain's aviation sector and we would like to express our thanks to the Government of Bahrain for their continued support and enabling the success of this partnership", commented Christian Tabet, Managing Director Air BP Middle East & North Africa.

Al Baraka completes distribution to shareholders

Manama

Al Baraka Banking Group announced it has completed yesterday the distribution to shareholders for the year 2016 as approved by the Assembly General meeting (AGM).

The shareholders will be receiving cash dividends amounting to US\$11,39 million equal to 1 cent per share (1pc), while Bonus Shares amounting to US\$57,46m equal to 1 share for every 20 shares (5pc) of issued and paid-up capital has been added to shareholders position post to AGM.

Applicable Zakah related to cash dividend is cent 0.38 per share that shareholders has to pay by their own, while the bank will pay the remaining part of Zakah as approved by the AGM.

The share registrar (Karvy Computershare) has been appointed to handle the dividends distribution, where shareholders can collect the dividends cheques from their offices

BCCI food committee preparatory meeting



Khaled Al Amin

Manama

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is holding an open meeting regarding merchants' preparations for the Holy Month of Ramadan tomorrow at 11:00am in Al Majlis Hall on the ground floor of Bait Al Tijjar, announced Board member and head of the Food and Agriculture committee Khaled Al Amin

"Following the success of signing a pact vowing not to raise prices initiated by the committee 4 years ago, a similar pact will be signed by food merchants during this open meeting," said Al Amin

It is worth mentioning that the Food and Agriculture committee plans holding an awareness seminar prior to the Holy Month on the proper way of purchasing and storing food.

KFH net profit increases 13.1pc Earnings per share 6.79 fils, an increase of 13pc

Kuwait

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) yesterday announced a net profit for KFH shareholders of KD38.6 million for the first quarter of 2017, an increase of 13.1 per cent when compared to KD34.1m for the same period last year.

Net finance revenues reached KD100.1m, a growth of 3.1pc compared to the same period last year. Total operating income reached KD168.6m, a growth increase by 22.6pc and net operating revenues reached KD98.7m, i.e. a growth of 55.6pc compared to the same period last year.

Total operating expenses decreased by KD4.2m, which



Hamad Al Marzouq

is a decrease of 5.7pc over the same period last year.

Earnings per share for the first quarter of 2017 reached

6.79 fils, compared to 6.01 fils for the same period last year, an increase of 13pc.

Total deposits reached KD10.914 billion, an increase of KD252m or 2.4pc compared to end of year 2016.

In addition, KFH's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) reached 17.96pc, higher than the required limit of 15pc, thus reiterating the strength of KFH financial position.

Commenting on the results, Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that the balanced performance is attributed to the efficient execution of the bank's strategy by focusing on the core banking business

while achieving stable and sustainable growth across the Group banks in various countries including Turkey, Bahrain, Malaysia, Germany, and others.

He illustrated that the economic challenges the Kuwaiti banking sector faces lie in the difficulty of expanding domestically due to the relatively small geographical area and the limitation of the local market.

He added that KFH Group is successfully achieving its goals based on the markets in which it operates. Every Group bank in Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain and Germany is working in a way consistent with the nature of those markets, in line with the strategy of KFH.

Alba Manager is Commissioner of NIHR

Aluminium Bahrain announced that its Training Manager, Rawdha Al Aradi, has been appointed as a part-time member of the Board of Commissioners of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) as announced. The announcement was made on Thursday in the Royal Decree 23/2017 issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Khalifa.



Coca-Cola reports lower earnings

New York
Coca-Cola reported lower earnings yesterday on restructuring costs and flat volumes as it touts new low-sugar beverages in response to flagging demand for soda. Net income in the first quarter was \$1.2 billion, down 20.3 percent from the year-ago period. Revenues fell 11.3 percent to \$9.1bn, reflecting lower sales from bottlers that were sold.



Former White House national security advisor Michael Flynn was supposed to seek permission and receive permission from both the secretary of state and the secretary of the army prior to travelling to Russia to not only accept the \$33,000 dollars payment but to attend Russia's RT television gala, where he sat at a table with Russian President Vladimir Putin,"

Jason Chaffetz
Republican Representative



Brinc-Batelco IOT Hub on way

Batelco has teamed up with Brinc, an ultra-hands-on Internet of Things (IoT) hardware accelerator, to launch its new operation in the Middle East, the Brinc-Batelco IOT Hub

Batelco Bahrain CEO Muna Al Hashemi and Brinc Chief Development Officer and Head of Brinc MENA, Yasin Aboudaoud sign the agreement



In Q3, 2017
Brinc-Batelco IOT Hub will be launched towards Q3 2017 in the Batelco Commercial Centre building in Manama. The deal was signed recently by Batelco Bahrain CEO Muna Al Hashemi and Brinc Chief Development Officer and head of Brinc MENA, Yasin Aboudaoud at Batelco's headquarters.

IoT hardware
The project aims at providing programmes and services tailored for IoT hardware start-ups and entrepreneurs looking for speed, access and the know-how to build successful companies.

Focus on start ups
Brinc MENA is planning to provide an opportunity for start-ups in the region to access mentorship, product design and development guidance, manufacturing and exposure to regional and global investors and markets, all in one programme. On-site business, manufacturing and distribution experience will also be offered.

"Our goal is to eventually extend our offering of comprehensive programmes and services tailored for hardware start-ups as well as expertise and know-how of manufacturing in China to the growing numbers of hardware founders in the Middle East. By providing start-ups with access to prototyping resources typically only available in Asia, we aim to harvest regional talent and showcase the ability to connect technology growth with product development and manufacturing in China,"

Yasin Aboudaoud
Head of Brinc MENA,

"This partnership is in line with Batelco Bahrain's strategy of driving innovation and supporting the growth of the economy, especially in the telecommunications and technology sector,"

Muna Al Hashemi
Batelco Bahrain CEO

"Bahrain has a very strong pool of local talent that requires the opportunity to develop, grow and deliver innovative hardware based on the requirements of today's global technology marketplace,"

Mike Stanford
Batelco Bahrain Chief Marketing Officer

About Brinc
To date, Brinc has supported 100's of founders from around the world and invested in and supported more than 30 start-ups, with a portfolio that raised more than \$18M USD in follow along funding and has products shipping in 100's of stores around the world.

Inovest reports Q1 net profit of US\$8.2m

Manama
The Inovest Group yesterday announced financial results for the first quarter of 2017, reporting a consolidated net profit attributable to equity shareholders of US\$8.2 million as compared to a net profit of US\$3.2m in the first quarter of 2016.

Earnings Per Share for the first quarter of 2017 amounted to US cents 2.87 compared to an Earnings Per Share of US cents 1.13 for the same time period in 2016.

The company's operating income was US\$4.7m in comparison to US\$5.1m in the first quarter of last year; while operating expenses stood at US\$2.6m in comparison to US\$1.9m in the first quarter of 2016. Additionally, Inovest reported recoveries from impaired receivables of US\$6.1 as a result of settlements with clients.

Speaking about the results, Khaled Al Sanaousi, Chairman



Khaled Al Sanaousi of the Inovest Board of Directors said, "On a Group level, we expect to further cement our performance through our construction arm, Tamcon, which continues to deliver upon and be awarded significant high level contracts."

CEO, Murad Al Ramadan, said, "We expect further recoveries throughout this year whilst we will also continue to improve our operating income by enhancing the performance of our existing investment portfolio and that within our



Murad Al Ramadan construction arm, Tamcon.

Looking ahead, Al Ramadan said that the company has many projects in its pipeline focusing on opportunities in the education, healthcare, and F&B and retail sectors.

"All this ultimately ties into our strategic intention to diversify our investment portfolio to include new sectors and markets beyond local boundaries," he added.

He said the company expects the coming quarters to be productive and prolific.



Malabar Gold & Diamonds has unfurled the latest collection of jewellery specially designed for the festive season. Indian Film actress Tamannaah Bhatia unveiled the collection in the presence of Najeeb. K - Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Oman; Salish Mathew, Head - Branding & Marketing; Khamis Al Mandhari, Director - Malabar Gold & Diamonds and invited guests at an event held at Oman Avenues Mall in Oman on 22nd April

Did You Know?



Until 1974 Kia didn't actually produce a single car. Instead, they produced many variations of a funky looking three-wheeled pick-up truck that kind of reminds us of a certain wheeler-dealer. After producing their first car they moved onto lorries by 1975, then finally moved into focusing on cars in the 1980s.

GF names Voyager as Georgia GSA



Ahmed Janahi, Gulf Air Chief Commercial Officer (left) and Mariam Kvrivishvili, General Director at Voyager Ltd are seen at the signing ceremony where Voyager Ltd was appointed Gulf Air's General Sales Agent (GSA) in Georgia to represent the airline and sell Gulf Air services and products on its behalf.

Dubai

Gulf Air (GF) has named Voyager Ltd as its General Sales Agent (GSA) in Georgia to represent the airline and sell Gulf Air services and products on its behalf. With direct flights between Bahrain International Airport and Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport starting from 22nd June 2017, Voyager Ltd will facilitate ticket sales from/to Tbilisi and beyond, across the Gulf Air network.

Ahmed Janahi, Gulf Air Chief Commercial Officer said: "Tbilisi is our newest addition to the Gulf Air network and we are happy to appoint one of the best travel agencies in Georgia as our GSA."

Mariam Kvrivishvili, General Director at Voyager Ltd said: "This truly is an important step for the development of Georgia's tourism sector, as well as the promotion of the country's travel potential across Gulf

Air's network."

The announcement took place at the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai where the airline was present alongside Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority.

Gulf Air will operate direct flights to Georgia's capital city of Tbilisi, with 3 weekly flights to/from Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport from the GCC, MENA, Indian Subcontinent & Far East regions starting from 22nd June 2017.

Saudi's Alawwal in talks with SABB



Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's Alawwal Bank, in which the Royal Bank of Scotland has a stake, on Tuesday agreed to enter talks on a possible merger with HSBC-affiliated Saudi British Bank (SABB).

In a statement on the Saudi Stock Exchange, Alawwal, formerly Saudi Hollandi, said its board of directors "resolved to start initial discussions" with SABB but this "does not necessarily mean that the merger will take place".

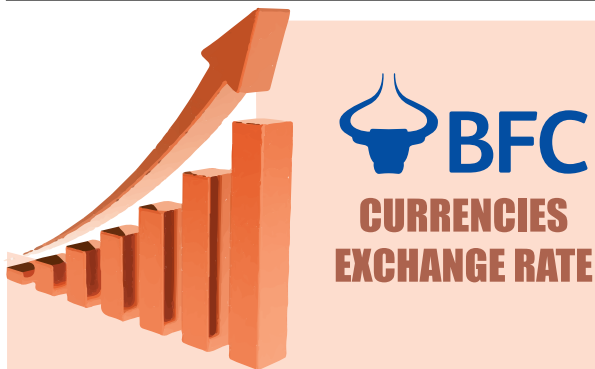
Alawwal said it foresees no involuntary staff layoffs if the proposed merger were completed.

The announcement came as US-based Citigroup said it has received a licence to return and operate as an investment bank after a 13-year absence from the kingdom, Bloomberg News reported.

Citigroup sold its 20 percent stake in Saudi Arabia's Samba Financial Group in 2004.

Kingdom Holding Co, a global investor chaired by Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, has shares in Citigroup.

Under wide-ranging economic and social reforms the oil-dependent kingdom is opening its economy more widely to investment and seeks to expand the private sector.



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2909	0.2885
BANGLADESH	0.00494	0.00464
CANADA	0.2839	0.2808
DENMARK	0.0583	
EGYPT	0.0241	0.0219
EURO	0.4166	0.4145
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00602	0.00599
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002904
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003590	0.003520
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5350
KOREA	0.0003852	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.088500	0.0883
NEW ZEALAND	0.2667	0.2627
NORWAY	0.0461	
NEPAL	0.00391	0.00368
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00369	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00780	0.00760
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2753	0.2733
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03030	0.03020
SRI LANKA	0.00273	0.00249
SWEDISH	0.0459	
SWITZERLAND	0.3862	0.3837
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012700	
THAILAND	0.011150	0.011180
TURKEY	0.1108	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4917	0.4887
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.4833	0.3787	0.3433
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.3565	0.2868	0.2599
OMAN	0.3849	0.3831	0.3867	0.3505
QATAR	3.6420	3.6252	3.6588	3.3160
UAE	3.6730	3.6561	3.6900	3.3443
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7328	3.7673	3.4144



Bahrain Bourse (BHB) and Bahrain Flour Mills Company signed yesterday an agreement to assign Bahrain Bourse as a Share Registrar of the company. The agreement was signed by Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, and Mohammed Abdul Wahab Nass, the Chief Executive Officer of Al-Matahin

HYGROMA IN DOGS



A hygroma is a fluid-filled swelling surrounded by a thick capsule of fibrous tissue that develops under the skin. Hygromas are not tumors. Hygromas are typically not painful. They occur in response to repeated trauma to the tissue over a bony prominence. That is one reason why the elbow is the most common site for hygromas to develop.

Hygromas tend to be more common in dogs that are sedentary and spend more of their time lying down, especially for large and giant breed dogs, the repeated trauma of lying down on hard surfaces like hardwood, tile, or concrete floors can produce an inflammatory response in the tissue under the skin over the elbow. The body tries to protect the inflamed area by creating the equivalent of a "pillow".

If the trauma continues, the hygroma will grow larger. Hygroma which grow to an unwieldy size or become infected, it will need to be treated with appropriate antibiotic therapy, and may need to be removed surgically.

Changing the dog's bedding generally solves the problem though sometimes special pads or bandages for the elbows must be constructed. If the dog begins to lie on softer more pliant materials, the hygroma is likely to simply resolve over 2-3 weeks. Using donut-shaped padding over the elbow, like placing the 'hole' of the donut over the hygroma will protect the hygroma from further contact with anything

hard surfaces. Hygromas can be prevented by providing soft bedding, especially beds made of orthopedic foam. Animals recovering from surgery should be turned from side to side multiple times during the day. The most important is to ensure that a large or giant breed dog is not allowed to become overweight or obese. The extra weight greatly increases the risk for trauma to the tissue over bony prominences.

(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.)

New malaria vaccine on way?

Nairobi
A new malaria vaccine will be tested on a large scale in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi, the World Health Organisation said Monday, with 360,000 children to be vaccinated between 2018 and 2020.

The injectable vaccine RTS,S could provide limited protection against a disease that killed 429,000 people worldwide in 2015, with 92 percent of victims in Africa and two-thirds of them children under five.

"The prospect of a malaria vaccine is great news. Information gathered in the pilot will help us make decisions on the wider use of this vaccine," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director for Africa.

The vaccine should be used alongside other preventative measures such as bed nets, insecticides, repellents and anti-malarial drugs, the WHO said.

"Combined with existing malaria interventions, such a vaccine would have the potential to save tens of thousands of lives in Africa," Moeti said.

"This vaccine is a weapon amongst others, it is one of the tools at our disposal," she added.

The vaccine, also known as Mosquirix, has been developed by the British pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, a three-country pilot will on children aged five to 17 months.

The drug passed previous scientific testing -- including a phase three clinical trial between 2009 and 2014 -- and was approved for the pilot programme in 2015.

'Huge impact'
 The aim of the trial is to assess the effectiveness of the vaccine as well the feasibility of its delivery to populations at risk as four successive doses must be given on a strict timetable.

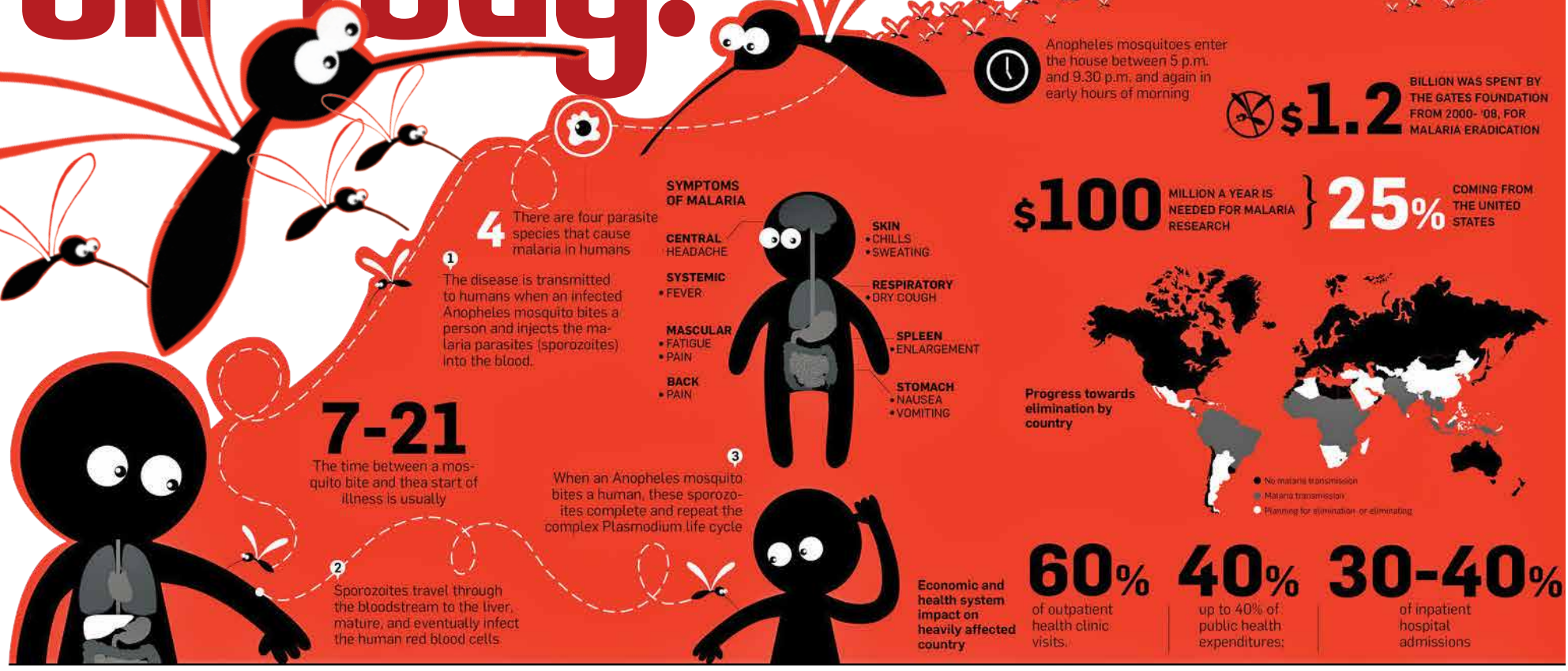
The immunisation cycle is not in sync with routine childhood inoculations against diseases such as hepatitis, measles and meningitis, with injections required at five months, six months, seven months and two years.

Symptoms of malaria include fever, muscle pain and headache as well as vomiting and diarrhoea.

While RTS,S does not promise full protection against the mosquito-borne disease it is the most effective potential vaccine so far developed reducing the number of hospitalisations and blood transfusions.

Kenya, Ghana and Malawi were selected for the trial because malaria rates are high and they have a long history of use of bed nets and other interventions.

The large-scale pilot is the latest step in decades of work seeking to eradicate malaria with the numbers dying falling nearly two-thirds since the turn of the century.



4 There are four parasite species that cause malaria in humans

1 The disease is transmitted to humans when an infected Anopheles mosquito bites a person and injects the malaria parasites (sporozoites) into the blood.

7-21 The time between a mosquito bite and the start of illness is usually

2 Sporozoites travel through the bloodstream to the liver, mature, and eventually infect the human red blood cells.

3 When an Anopheles mosquito bites a human, these sporozoites complete and repeat the complex Plasmodium life cycle

Symptoms of Malaria:

- CENTRAL HEADACHE**
- SYSTEMIC**
 - FEVER
- MASCULAR**
 - FATIGUE
 - PAIN
- BACK**
 - PAIN
- SKIN**
 - CHILLS
 - SWEATING
- RESPIRATORY**
 - DRY COUGH
- SPLEEN**
 - ENLARGEMENT
- STOMACH**
 - NAUSEA
 - VOMITING

\$1.2 BILLION WAS SPENT BY THE GATES FOUNDATION FROM 2000-08, FOR MALARIA ERADICATION

\$100 MILLION A YEAR IS NEEDED FOR MALARIA RESEARCH

25% COMING FROM THE UNITED STATES

60% of outpatient health clinic visits.

40% up to 40% of public health expenditures;

30-40% of inpatient hospital admissions

Progress towards elimination by country

- No malaria transmission
- Malaria transmission
- Planning for elimination or eliminating

Anopheles mosquitoes enter the house between 5 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. and again in early hours of morning



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa deputised Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa to open the Gulf Construction Expo (GC Expo 2017), the Gulf Property Show and the Gulf Interiors Exhibition (gulfInteriors), yesterday. All of them organised by Al Hilal Conference and Exhibitions at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre



The graduation ceremony of a specialised military session was held at the Royal Guard, Under the patronage of Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa. A briefing about the session's theoretical and practical programmes, as well as the exercises conducted throughout it, was presented. HH Shaikh Nasser presented the graduates with certificates and awarded the outstanding ones



Minister of Health Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh held a meeting with Thai counterpart, Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, within the framework of the official visit of the Thai Prime Minister, General Prayut Chan-o-cha, to Bahrain yesterday. The Minister stressed Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa's directives on the importance of bolstering Bahrain's cooperation with Thailand at all levels, especially in the health sector, based on the solid ties



Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik welcomed Senator Nuzhat Sadiq and Senator Taj Haider at the Embassy. The senators are visiting Bahrain to attend the meeting of Asian Assembly Standing Committee





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-ocha, who is currently on an official visit to Bahrain, at Al-Sakhir Palace yesterday. Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa were present



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received copies of the credentials of four newly-appointed Ambassadors to Bahrain, during a special ceremony held at Sakhir Palace yesterday. The newly appointed ambassadors are Agus Salim Haji Yusof of Malaysia, Koo Hyun-mo of the Republic of Korea, Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta of the Republic of Brazil and Ambassador and Head of EU Delegation to Bahrain, Michele Cervone



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa yesterday received Dr. Ali Abdul Khaliq Al Qarani the General Director of the Arab Bureau for Education in the Arabian Gulf States, former education ministers and officials participating in the Education Seminar on "The Role of Teacher in Efficiency of Education" hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain. Minister of Education Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi was present on the occasion. The seminar was organised by the Arab Centre for Educational Research in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)



Asian Parliamentary Association (APA)'s standing committee meeting on economic and sustainable development was inaugurated by Parliament Chairman Ahmed Al Mulla yesterday at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel



Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received Vice Admiral Donato Marzano, Commander in Chief of the Italian Navy Fleet (CINCNV) and his accompanying delegation. The Minister noted that their visit to Bahrain reflects the constant interaction between the officials of the two countries and their keenness to coordinate issues of common concern

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) held a blood drive in cooperation with Salmaniya Medical Complex at its offices in Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay. Mumtalakat organised the drive to raise awareness on the importance of voluntary blood donation, As part of its commitment to support the local community.



Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB), one of Bahrain's leading Islamic retail banks, is participating in the Gulf Property Show. In pictures, KHCB CEO Khalil Ismail Al Meer flanked by KHCB staff during the event

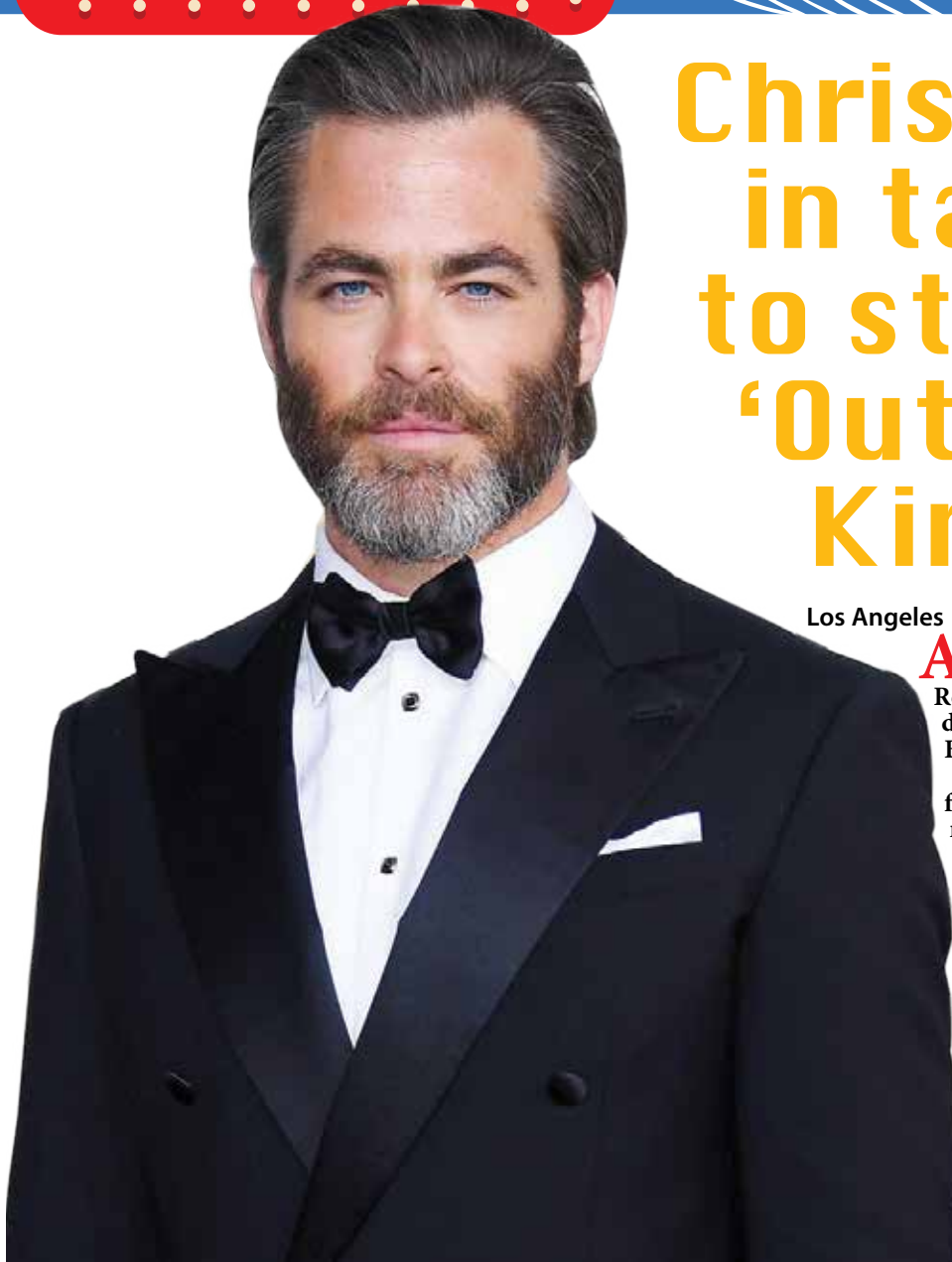


Overseas Advisory Council of Pakistan member Muhammad Afzal Bhatti arranged a farewell dinner in honor of Malik Zafar (Vice Principal, Global Institute) at his residence Blue Jurdab Garden

CELEBS

So there is this crazy awesome thing I'm doing to support @NoKidHungry and I need your help....
<http://nokidhungry.org/pink>

P!nk @Pink



Chris Pine in talks to star in 'Outlaw King'

Los Angeles

Actor Chris Pine is in talks to star as Scottish King Robert the Bruce in period drama "Outlaw King" with Ben Foster.

The character Bruce was first profiled as the Scottish royal in actor-filmmaker Mel Gibson's "Braveheart" who after betraying William Wallace and allowing the British to capture the rebel leader would go on to fight the British for Scotland's freedom following Wallace's death.

In this version, Bruce will take centre-stage and include not only his fight against the British, but also the Catholic Church over the idea of a free country, reports variety.com. (IANS)



Madonna biopic in the works

Los Angeles

Universal is developing singer Madonna's biopic titled "Blonde Ambition". The studio has picked up rights to Elyse Hollander's "Blonde Ambition" screenplay about Madonna's first album, reports variety.com.

"Blonde Ambition" led the 2016 version of the Black List - an annual ranking of the best unproduced screenplays in Hollywood. Hollander's script received 49 votes among the 250 executives voting. The project details Madonna's efforts in the early 1980s in New York to get her first album released while navigating fame, romance, and the dismissive attitude of the music industry at the time. (IANS)



STARRY Birthday Jet Li

April 26, 1963

Wushu martial arts champion and actor who won the Hong Kong Film Award for Best Actor for the 2007 film, The Warlords. He has also appeared in the action films Lethal Weapon 4 and Romeo Must Die.



London

Legendary singer Elton John, who was hospitalised for a bacterial infection, is now comfortably resting at home.

He was forced to cancel his entire upcoming schedule for April and May performances at The Colosseum at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas due to his health.

According to a statement from his representative, the musician contracted a "harmful and unusual" infection in the wake of his trip and tour in South America, reports eonline.com. (IANS)

Elton John recovering after hospitalization

'I get insecure in front of the camera'



Tokyo
Actress **Zoe Saldana** says she gets insecure and conscious as soon as camera starts rolling.

When asked her about other genres she wants to explore, Saldana said that she wants to try her hand at comedy.

"It is so funny because whenever the camera are not on, I am much more comfortable with being myself. I get so insecure and self-aware when the cameras are on," Saldana said during a Disney press meet for "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2."

She added: "I think too much. But I would like to see whether or not I will be able to be funny in a movie or play." (IANS)

'I won't push my kids into acting'



Actor **Ben Affleck** says he does not want to push his children into acting right now.

The 44-year-old actor says he would not want his kids to experience the "downside" of fame before they attain a suitable age.

"I think it's a hard thing. I love being an actor, I got into it as a child and I wouldn't change that. But I also wouldn't want to take my kids and push them out there before they were 18.

"If they are 18 and they want to make those choices and do that kind of thing, that's fine. But being a child actor, I just know too much of the downside of what that can be like," Affleck said. (TOI)

TOP BOX OFFICE Movies

The Fate of the Furious	\$38.4million
The Boss Baby	\$12.7million
Beauty and the Beast	\$9.7 million
Going in Style	\$4.91million
Smurfs: The Lost Village	\$4.8 million
Born in China	\$4.79million
Unforgettable	\$4.78million
Gifted	\$4.6million
The Promise	\$4.1million
The Lost City of Z	\$2.1million

(AFP)

I think we allow men to get away with things: Theron



Actress **Charlize Theron** says she thinks men have it easy, while women have to struggle through a lot even in today's times.

The 41-year-old actress says society is responsible for it and the mindset needs to change.

"I do think that men have it a lot easier than women. I think men are forgiven for their mistakes much easier than women. It's a societal thing. I think we allow men to get away with things and we're harsher with women," says Theron.

The 'Fate of the Furious' actress says sometimes women end up being the "worst enemies" of other women. (TOI)

OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO REACH US

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

MARK YOUR Calendar

KIDNEY CARE EXHIBITION

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

Thanal Bahrain Chapter is gearing up for a Kidney Care Exhibition from May 4 to 6 at the Indian School Bahrain with the support of the Ministry of Health (MoH) in order to spread awareness about kidney care and arrange free kidney screening. The organisers said MoH has agreed to loan all the specimens required for the exhibition like human body, kidney and other human organs to exhibit for the educational and demonstration purpose. MoH and Thanal has established a mutual partnership for disseminating awareness initiative among the public in the Kingdom focusing mainly the expatriates. Thanal is a charitable organization rendering various humanitarian services like dialysis and palliative care centres, medical clinics, ambulance services etc and running the biggest stand alone dialysis facility in India equipped with 80 dialysis machines functioning in four units by doing more than 5,000 dialysis every month, thus benefitting almost 500 under-privileged patients.

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



GULF PROPERTY SHOW

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

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

THE PEARLING PATH EXHIBITION

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

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

FILM: LION

Date: May 10, 7pm
Venue: Bahrain Cinema Club Juffair

Lion is a 2016 biographical film directed by Garth Davis (in his feature debut) and written by Luke Davies, based on the non-fiction book A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley with Larry Buttrose. The film stars Dev Patel, Rooney Mara, David Wenham and Nicole Kidman.

The film, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 10, 2016, was given a limited release on November 25, 2016, by the Weinstein Company before opening generally on January 6, 2017. It was released in Australia on January 19, 2017 and in the United Kingdom on January 20, 2017.

FILM: INDIGNATION

Date: April 26, 7pm
Venue: Bahrain Cinema Club Juffair

Indignation takes place in 1951 as Marcus Messner, a brilliant

HIGHLIGHT

INDIAN CLUB SET TO HOST CARNATIC MUSICAL TRIBUTE EVENING

Date: May 13
Venue: The Indian Club

Indian classical music fans are in for a real treat as The Indian Club plays to host to a rich and spectacular musical tribute concert to the Great Composers of Carnatic Kritis which is titled as – "Samarpanam", by Ms. Ananya Ashok, a renowned and famous award winning vocalist and disciple of Madurai Sri. T.N. Seshagopalan.

The tribute concert, organized by Nellai Entertainers in association with The Indian Club, will be held at the Club's Sanskar Hall on Saturday 13th May, starting at 6.30pm; Ms. Ananya Ashok will be accompanied on Mr. Shajith Shankar on the Mridangam, Mr. Jayakumar on the violin and Mr. Sajeevan on the Ghatam.

Hailing from a very musically family, Ms. Ananya received her formal training from renowned violinist, Smt. Anuradha Sridhar; Ms Ananya has performed at venues and sabhas right across India – namely Chennai, Kerala, Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Mysore and Coimbatore, as well as international venues across USA and Singapore; Ms Ananya is "A" Grade artist of all India Radio and doordarshan and performed in other private TV channels. She is a recipient of The ACTA Music Fellowship award in 2011 from the State of California for her she is also perusing her Masters in Carnatic music at the Madras University.

This will undoubtedly be a popular event for all music enthusiasts and with free entry for all, there is sure to be a big crowd – get there early and grab your seat for what promises to be a great evening's entertainment.

For further details admission to "Samarpanam" concert will be free to all music lovers, For more details about this Program pls call Mr. Nanda Kumar (Entertainment Secretary) on 3643 3552 and Mr. Ilango (The program coordinator) on 3913 2131.



working class Jewish boy from Newark, New Jersey, travels on scholarship to a small, conservative college in Ohio, thus exempting him from being drafted into the Korean War. But once there, Marcus's growing infatuation with his beautiful classmate Olivia Hutton, and his clashes with the college's imposing Dean, Hawes Caudwell, put his and his family's best laid plans to the ultimate test. The film was nominated for the Best First Feature Award at Berlin International Film Festival.

FILM: LA LA LAND

Date: May 17, 7pm
Venue: Bahrain Cinema Club Juffair

La La Land is a 2016 American romantic musical drama film written and directed by Damien Chazelle, and starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone as a musician and an aspiring actress who meet and fall in love in Los Angeles. The film's title refers both to the city of Los Angeles and to the idiom for being out of touch with reality.

Chazelle wrote the screenplay in 2010 but did not find a studio willing to finance the production without changes to his design. Following the success of his 2014 film Whiplash, the project was picked up by Summit Entertainment. La La Land was premiered at the Venice Film Festival on August 31, 2016, and was released in the United States on December 9, 2016. It has grossed \$440 million worldwide on a production budget of \$30 million.

La La Land received critical acclaim and was regarded as one of the best films of 2016. Critics praised Chazelle's screenplay and direction, Gosling and Stone's performances, Justin Hurwitz's score and the film's musical numbers. It won in every category it was nomi-

nated for at the 74th Golden Globe Awards, with a record-breaking seven wins, and received 11 nominations at the 70th British Academy Film Awards, winning five. It received 14 nominations at the 89th Academy Awards, tying the record for most nominations with Titanic (1997) and All About Eve (1950), and won 6 Academy awards for Best Director, Best Actress (Stone), Best Cinematography, Best Original Score, Best Original Song ("City of Stars") and Best Production Design.

FILM: PATERSON



Date: May 3, 7pm
Venue: Bahrain Cinema Club Juffair

Paterson is a 2016 drama film written and directed by Jim Jarmusch. The film stars Adam Driver as a bus driver and aspiring poet named Paterson and Golshifteh Farahani as his wife who dreams of being a country music star and opening a cupcake business.

It was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Palm Dog Award. The film was released in Germany on November 17, 2016, by K5 International. It was then released in France on December 21, 2016, by Le Pacte, and released in the United States on December 28, 2016, by Amazon Studios and Bleeker Street.

WORLD LAUGHTER DAY CELEBRATIONS

Date: May 7
Venue: St Christopher's School, Sar.

World Laughter Day is observed on the first Sunday of May. The World Laughter Day came into existence in 1998; the day was introduced by Dr Madan Kataria, the founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga Movement.

Laughter yoga showed an exponential growth and became popular world wide. It resulted into 8000 Laughter Clubs worldwide on all the 5 continents. World Laughter Day is celebrated across the world with an aim of promoting world peace, brotherhood and friendship among all. This day reminds the society that laughter is the best medicine to ward off dangers of modern day monotonous and mechanized lifestyles. People from different walks of life celebrate World Laughter Day with great enthusiasm crossing all social, professional and personal barriers.

The celebration includes Laughter March, Video presentation, Laughter Yoga, Grounding Dance followed by prayer for World Peace. Admission is free, Participants need to register the names. For registration and more details 39867041

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Foreman	5 years	15
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Tiling & Marble mason	10 years	20
Shuttering carpenter	5 years	30
Steel Fixer	5 years	30
Painter	3 years	10

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

ELECTRICAL – GULF EXPERIENCE ONLY:	EXPERIENCE	POSITIONS
Engineer with EPP& EWA license	5 years	5
Electrician – with valid Bahrain EDD License	5 years	10
Electrician – without EDD License	5 years	40

PLUMBING – GULF EXPERIENCE ONLY:	EXPERIENCE	POSITIONS
Engineer	5 Years	10
Plumber	5 years	40

HVAC – GULF EXPERIENCE ONLY:	EXPERIENCE	POSITIONS
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Engineer	5 years	5
A/C Technician	5 years	15
A/C chilled water pipe fitter	5 years	30
A/C duct fitters	5 years	40

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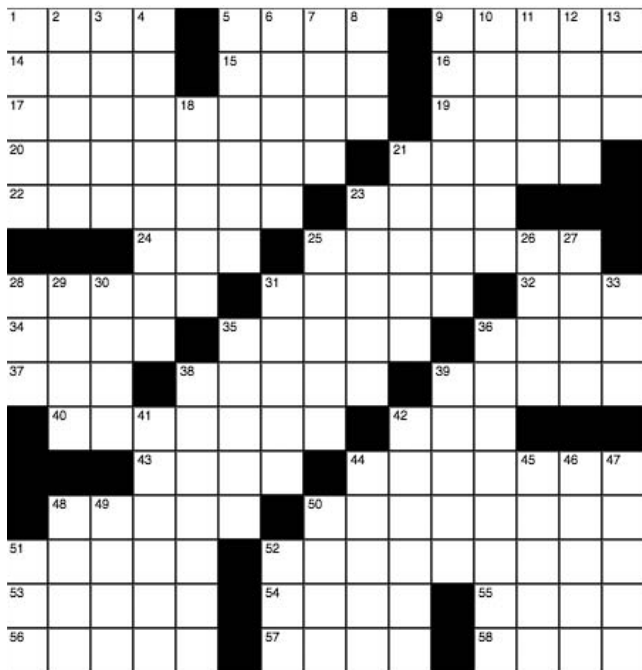
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Across

1- Basilica area;; 5- Grazing sites;; 9- Burning gas;; 14- Slather plaster on the upper surface of a room;; 15- Ed and Mel of baseball;; 16- Devoured;; 17- Carnival;; 19- Herring type;; 20- Frozen dessert;; 21- March honoree, briefly;; 22- Remove spots;; 23- Hook's helper;; 24- Believer's suffix;; 25- Began;; 28- Debonair;; 31- October birthstones;; 32- Russian space station;; 34- Fencing blade;; 35- The cruelest month?;; 36- Prepare a stamp;; 37- ___ favor;; 38- Dined at home;; 39- San ___, California;; 40- Naught;; 42- Cul-de-___;; 43- Slippery fish;; 44- Where junk may be held;; 48- Unit of weight in gemstones;; 50- Mild personality disorder;; 51- Cut into small pieces;; 52- Self-styled;; 53- Sonata movement;; 54- Director Riefenstahl;; 55- Dimensions;; 56- Parody;; 57- Butter alternative;; 58- Notable periods;;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



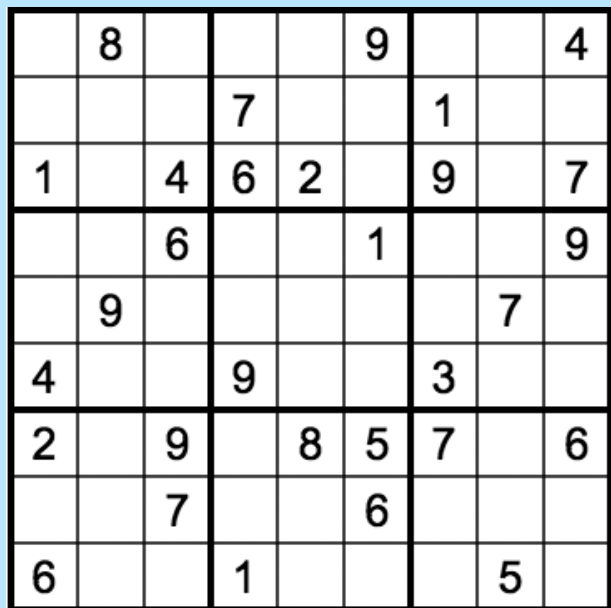
Down

1- Bitterly pungent;; 2- Freedom from war;; 3- Fathers;; 4- Optional;; 5- Go ballistic;; 6- Patriot Allen;; 7- Energy source;; 8- Compass reading;; 9- Rankles;; 10- Little flap;; 11- Gillette razor;; 12- Potatoes' partner;; 13- Tolkien creature;; 18- Delete;; 21- Little;; 23- Stigma;; 25- Parsley piece;; 26- Discharge;; 27- Gaming cubes;; 28- Equinox mo.;; 29- Atop;; 30- Flying start?;; 31- Unfolds;; 33- "Citizen Kane" studio;; 35- Leaning;; 36- Ball game;; 38- Leading;; 39- New Zealand native;; 41- Shipworm;; 42- Workroom;; 44- River that flows through Paris;; 45- Light ___;; 46- District in Tokyo;; 47- ___ Park, Colo.;; 48- Karate blow;; 49- Florence's river;; 50- Seasonal song;; 51- Gown renters: Abbr.;; 52- ___pitch softball;;

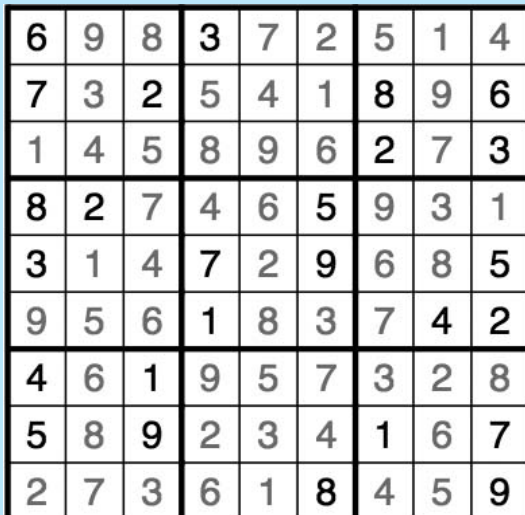
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Sometimes friends become a person's real family. Your friendships are deep and enduring. Many people are eager to give you help today, so why are you reluctant to receive it? Haven't you been the one promoting the benefits of warm, sincere friendship? The day ahead makes you aware of your talents and reinforces just how important such friendships really are.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You've made it over the hump. You've moved beyond the problems of the recent past and are entering a more peaceful phase. You will complete your projects at work, and your domestic life will be the picture of bliss and harmony. Enjoy this period of rest and relaxation. It will soon be followed by a period of intense longing requiring your total attention.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



The outlook for today is excellent. The current alignment of the planets and the somewhat oppressive atmosphere of the past few days inspire you to change your surroundings and visit new places. Why not plan a little trip? All signs indicate that now is the best time for such an adventure. If you delay, you will feel stuck in the same old routine again.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



This will be a day rich in reflection. You're able to observe what is going around you while still retaining your distance. Other people's ambitions will seem amusing to you as they play their parts more like caricatures than real people. Stepping back like this does you good. You should do it more often.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Some long-awaited recognition could come your way today. You're finished with the hassles you've experienced recently and have now entered a calmer period. Those who could only criticize before can't find enough words to praise you. Take the compliments at face value. There's nothing wrong with being happy with yourself.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



You have a day of profound reflection ahead. While you may be tempted to think about how far you've come, your time would be better spent thinking about what the future holds. You've entered a period of rethinking your identity and objectives. These aren't small things. You will need every ounce of energy at your disposal to make it through this time of transition.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



This would be an ideal day to take extra good care of your body. Don't kid yourself that those back problems will just go away - ditto that pain in your knee. Pick up the phone and make that appointment with the physical therapist. It won't hurt you to set aside your ambition and responsibilities for one day.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



You may have recently modified the material aspects of your life. Was it sufficient to stop there? More profound changes might be in order. Take a look at what motivated you to create the life you live now. Pay special attention to the choices you've made in your professional life. Are you sure you're doing what you were meant to do? Are your talents being used to their fullest?

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



This will be a great day to meditate. You may be a bit dissatisfied with yourself because your various projects have yet to take form. You're impatient, but who wouldn't be? This waiting period has lasted for about two months, but will soon end. The planets ask you to consider only what is essential. Don't allow yourself to start new projects based on anything superfluous.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



It's an excellent day, but be careful not to go overboard. You might be tempted to think that minor financial difficulties are already behind you. Alas, they are not. What you do today provides the blueprint for your future. Continued efforts to stabilize your behaviour will provide the future security you desire.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



You're in the home stretch now! Kiss your worries goodbye. Your efforts pay off in spades as people listen to your advice and bend over backward to please you. Although certain details in your love life still need ironing out, it's safe to coast for a while. You've spent months in this process of self-transformation and you deserve a little rest.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Your life certainly seems to revolve around human contact. You're an outgoing, cheerful, engaging conversationalist who enjoys bringing people together, though lately you've been yearning to be alone. Don't ignore any urge you feel for solitude. Even though it's an unusual need for you, it's still a valid one.



A file picture showing Eman in the hospital

'Eman weighs 171 kilos'

Indian doctors defend 500kg weight loss row

Mumbai
Indian doctors yesterday angrily rejected claims that they had lied about the amount of weight an Egyptian once believed to be the world's heaviest woman had lost following surgery.

The sister of Eman Ahmed Abd El Aty alleged that her sibling, who previously weighed 500 kilogrammes (1,100 pounds), had not shed half her weight as specialists at a Mumbai hospital had claimed.

"Today Eman weighs 171 kilos," Muffazal Lakdawala, the doctor leading Abd El Aty's treatment, said, adding that the claim made by her sister Shaimaa Selim in a social media video post was

"complete hogwash". In videos provided last week by Saifee Hospital, where the 37-year-old had bariatric surgery last month, a visibly slimmer Abd El Aty could be seen sitting up and smiling while listening to music. In an accompanying statement doctors said the woman, who had not left her home in Egypt's Mediterranean port city of Alexandria for two decades until she arrived in India's commercial capital in February, had lost 250 kilos.

But in a video posted on Facebook and reported widely by Indian media on Tuesday, Selim accuses the hospital of lying, saying her sister had not lost as much weight as doctors had claimed.

"The pictures don't lie, the pictures can't lie," Lakdawala said, suggesting that Selim had only raised complaints after doctors suggested that Abd El Aty could soon leave India, where she has been receiving treatment free of charge, to return to Egypt.

Abd El Aty's family say that as a child she was diagnosed with elephantiasis, a condition that causes the limbs and other body parts to swell, leaving her almost immobile.

The Egyptian has suffered several strokes and faced a series of other serious ailments owing to her weight including diabetes, high blood pressure, hypertension and sleep deprivation. (AFP)

Humans contaminate 'fossil' groundwater: new study

Vienna
Human activity risks contaminating pristine water stockpiled deep underground since the age of the mammoths, said a study yesterday that warns of a looming threat to a critical life source. So-called "fossil" groundwater -- more than 12,000 years old -- trickled into sub-surface aquifers long before it could be tarnished by pollution from farming and factory chemicals.

Generally stored at depths of more than 250 metres (820 feet) under the Earth's surface, the ancient resource had been assumed to be shielded from



Representative picture

pollution by humans -- who rely on it more and more as shallower sources dry up.

Now, researchers have found traces of modern-era rainwater in wells that bring "fossil" groundwater to the surface -- pointing to a contamination risk.

"It's a bit like going to an old folks' home and suddenly realising there are also little kids running around. That's great, except if the little kids have the flu," said study co-author James Kirchner of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think Bahrain needs to do more to tackle 'Free visa' workers?
 Yes No Cant Say



Yemen today is experiencing a tragedy of immense proportions. We are witnessing the starving and the crippling of an entire generation,"

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General

Rest in sight

20 dead as boat capsizes in Senegal



At least 20 people, almost all women, were killed when a wooden boat capsized off Senegal's central coast in a delta region popular with tourists.

Mexico on alert after nuclear material theft

Authorities in Mexico put several states on alert Monday after thieves stole nuclear material used in medical equipment that is dangerous if not handled properly.

Thailand sets date for king's cremation

Thailand will hold the cremation for its late king Bhumibol Adulyadej on October 26, the junta announced yesterday.

Pakistan hangs four militants: military

Pakistan hanged four militants involved in attacks on civilians, police and troops after they were convicted by the military courts.

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India plans to tag cows to curb smuggling

New Delhi

India could issue millions of cows with unique identification numbers, the latest effort to protect the sacred animals amid a spike in violence by Hindu vigilantes against farmers accused of cattle smuggling.

The government has told the Supreme Court that millions of cows will

be tagged with a tamper-proof plastic tag linked to a national database in a bid to curb smuggling within India and beyond its borders.

"Each animal will have a unique number that will have details like age, breed, sex, height, colour, horn type and special marks," a senior officer from India's home ministry said.

Thai man murders child, kills himself on FB Live



Wuttisan pictured with his baby daughter who he killed live on Facebook

Bangkok

A man in Phuket filmed himself killing his child and then himself on Facebook Live, Thai police said yesterday, the latest example of the social network's live-streaming function being used to broadcast grisly crimes.

Officers on the southern resort island said they were alerted to the video by friends of the man and rushed to an abandoned hotel near the international airport on Monday afternoon.

"They had already died when I arrived there," Lieutenant Jullaus Suvannin,

one of the first on the scene, said, adding a smartphone was found propped up against a wall.

Police said they believed the man had previously argued with the mother of the murdered child, an 11-month girl. The man had hung himself and his daughter, they said.

Channel 3 television broadcast footage of the child's distraught mother, flanked by relatives, picking up both her daughter's body and the man's corpse from the local hospital on Tuesday.

Facebook was not immediately available for comment. (AFP)

SK jails man who torched ex-president's birthplace

Seoul

A South Korean court jailed a man for setting fire to the birthplace of late dictator Park Chung-Hee in protest at the behaviour of his scandal-hit daughter, President Park Geun-Hye.

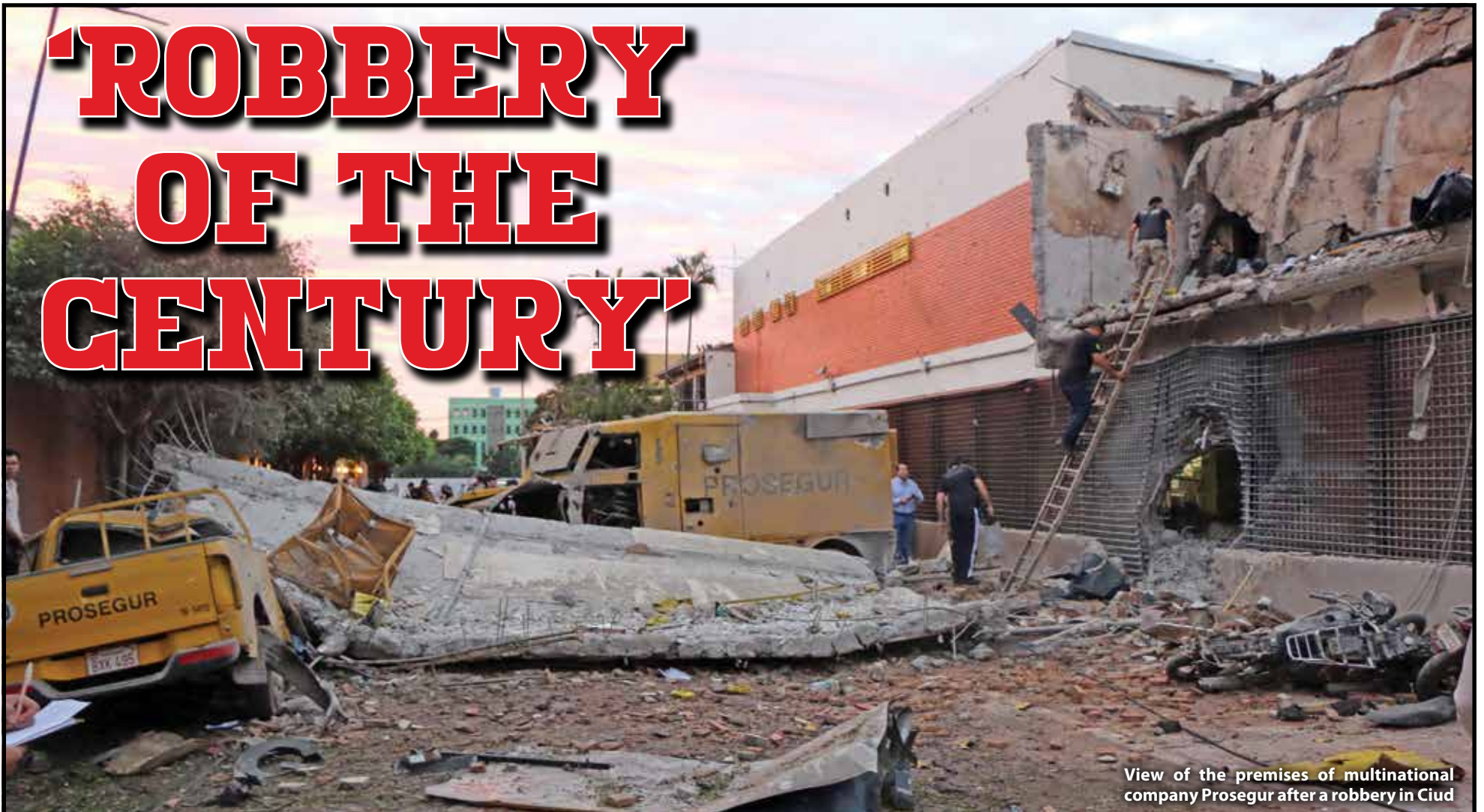
The 48-year-old surnamed Baek was sentenced to 54 months in prison by Daegu District Court for arson at the old home of Park Chung-Hee in the southern town of Gumi last December.

Baek told investigators he was angry that President Park Geun-Hye did not resign or "kill herself" following the emergence of a corruption scandal that finally saw her removed from office last month.

She is now in custody and on trial for bribery.

The memorial hall was gutted in the blaze, with portraits of Park Chung-Hee and his wife lost. No one was hurt.

'ROBBERY OF THE CENTURY'



View of the premises of multinational company Prosegur after a robbery in Ciudad del Este

Asuncion

Dozens of suspected Brazilian gangsters blasted into a secure vault containing millions of dollars in southeastern Paraguay on Monday, leaving a policeman dead in what officials called the "robbery of the century."

Some 50 gunmen with explosives and military-grade weaponry left the city of Ciudad del Este looking like a war zone after a two-hour overnight assault on a security firm and police headquarters, authorities and witnesses said.

A joint Paraguayan-Brazilian police operation against the fleeing assailants on the country's porous border -- near the famous Iguazu waterfalls -- killed three suspects and resulted in "at least four arrests," Paraguay's interior ministry tweeted.

The tweet showed a photograph of a policeman standing over the body of a man in bloodied camouflage clothing. Other pictures on the ministry's Twitter page showed what were apparently the getaway cars snared by police

and a collection of captured ammunition and flak jackets.

Brazilian authorities confirmed there had been a deadly clash but would not give more details.

"There was an exchange of fire," a federal police source for the state of Parana said. "There were dead and wounded but we are not giving more information for now. We're still looking for people."

Brazilian President Michel Temer promised to support Paraguayan police "with all necessary resources."

"The Brazilian government expresses solidarity with the victims of this criminal act and, especially, with the relatives of the dead Paraguayan policeman," he said.

'Like bombs in a war'

Shocked Paraguayan officials said it was an unprecedented attack for Ciudad del Este, a key trading hub near the borders of Brazil and Argentina in an area linked to drug gangs.

The target of the raid was Prosegur, a firm specializing in

safely transporting cash. Far from simply overwhelming security at the facility, the raiders caused multiple diversions around the city, setting vehicles on fire to block roads and detonating explosives near police headquarters.

"The noise rang out around the city like bombs in a war," one man who witnessed the attack, Antonio del Puerto, said.

Television images from the scene showed the Prosegur building was virtually destroyed, with rocket casings lying around and burned-out vehicles in the streets.

Police reports said the attackers included members of First Capital Command, one of Brazil's most powerful drug gangs, which is based in Sao Paulo and has fought turf battles in Rio de Janeiro and across the country's prison system.

Public prosecutor Denise Duarte said the men wore masks and spoke Portuguese, the language of Brazil.

Vault was packed

It remained unclear just how much

the assailants made off with.

Duarte said the Prosegur vault "was full" at the time of the robbery. Police said the vault can hold up to \$40 million in cash but authorities had yet to verify the amount.

The attackers abandoned several vehicles at the site, including armored trucks, one of them mounted with what was described as an anti-aircraft gun.

"The security firm's premises has been destroyed and the attack caused chaos and terror in the city," the governor of surrounding Alto Parana state, Justo Zacarias, told reporters.

"Nothing like this has ever happened in Paraguay."

Paraguay's police chief Luis Rojas said it was "very feasible" that the attackers had help from within the police force.

He said he had contacted security forces in Brazil and Argentina to help catch the robbers.

"I am going to seek the resources and the best men to work to catch these people," he said. (AFP)

Eight arrested

Brazilian police yesterday said eight people have been detained after a heist at a security company across the border in Paraguay dubbed "the robbery of the century."

The police in Parana state displayed a haul of dollars and other currencies in plastic bags, as well as a powerful automatic rifle.

They said in total six assault rifles were captured, along with ammunition, two boats and seven vehicles. However, there was no immediate word on how much money was recovered from the raid which could have netted up to \$40 million on Monday.

In addition to the eight suspects in custody, three other men were killed during a shootout on Monday as the Brazilian gangsters retreated back across the border, officials in both countries said.

As many as 50 people were reported by police Monday to have participated in the attack. They included members of First Capital Command, one of Brazil's most powerful drug gangs, which is based in Sao Paulo and has fought turf battles in Rio de Janeiro and across the country's prison system.



View of a car which was burned during a robbery



Policemen inspect the premises



Policemen and an employee inspect the premises of multinational company Prosegur

Gang steals millions in stunning Paraguay heist

Tour of Romandie

Manama

Yukiya Arashiro will start tomorrow at Tour of Romandie, Switzerland in place of Enrico Gasparotto.

Gasparotto was really looking forward to this race as it is close to his residence but also because he connected Team Bahrain Merida with the foundation he supports and acts as an ambassador - Greenhope.

The slogan of Greenhope foundation is "sports against

cancer" and that is what Luca Cereghetti and his staff are doing, they are taking young people effected by cancer to the sports events, showing them how with determination you can achieve great goals.

Team Bahrain Merida will wear specially designed helmets to honour the Greenhope foundation. Later those helmets will be auctioned with all profit going to the Greenhope foundation.

Hobday wins Audi quattro Cup Series



Winner Hobday in action

Manama

Despite near gale force winds, Sam Hobday (32 stableford points) narrowly managed to win the fourth round of the Audi quattro Cup Series at the Royal Golf Club on count back ahead of Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed (32).

Jim Lanceley (128 points) continues to top the series order of merit for the third consecutive month, while Ben Elsworth (115) now holds second place.

A field of over 50 players turned for battle in the prestigious series which will be played out over a total of six rounds at the Royal Golf Club.

The series winners of the Bahrain tournament will have

an opportunity to go forward and compete in the World finals, which this year will be held at Quivira Golf Club in Cabo San Luca, Mexico, in December.

Over 100,000 players compete in 750 tournaments in 54 countries annually and the Audi quattro Cup has developed into the biggest worldwide amateur golf tournament series.

Registration is open for the next round of the competition which takes place on May 6.

Results: 1) Sam Hobday (32 points on count back), 2) Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed (32). 2s Club Winners: Ashley Price (hole 2), Jason Smith and Ronan Armstrong (hole 7), Pete Donkin (hole 12).



Brownlee impressive on debut

DT News Network Manama

Alistair Brownlee had plenty to celebrate on his birthday weekend and Endurance Elite 13 debut as he topped the podium on his first half distance outing at Challenge Mogan Gran Canaria, Spain.

The dual Olympic champion emerged from the 1.9-kilometer swim in the lead pack, then steadily built a lead on the multi-lap 90-kilometer bike course.

He had a clear five-minute lead as he got onto the half-marathon; by the finish tape that lead had ballooned to eight minutes as he logged a new course record in 4 hours 3 minutes and 9 seconds.

"I think I went okay; I didn't really know what I was doing," said Brownlee.

"Obviously I knew how far it was and what the course was, but it was the little things like making sure I had the right nutrition and had my bike sorted. Definitely a few

things I can improve on but that's really why I wanted to get out and do this race first. Iron out those wrinkles in my pre-race setup."

He will next participate at Ironman 70.3 St. George, another race well known for its hills. Getting to the Ironman 70.3 World Championship is atop his goals list this year. "Obviously to do that I need to qualify and the first step for that is doing the race in St. George."

After her regional championship win at Ironman South Africa despite a back injury, Daniela Ryf (4:38.35) seemed unstoppable, but the two-time Ironman world champion looked to be shaking off some rust still as she finished third in Gran Canaria and used the event like a training session.

HH Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa finished third in his age group just ahead of his coach Mikel Calahorra.

At Ironman Texas, David Plese finished eighth and just like Ryf, Jan Frodeno used the half distance at the Chia Sardinia Triathlon as a race-specific training day and enjoyed himself with a wire-to-wire win.

Bapco Knockout: GPIC beat Tatweer



Pioneers team

Manama

GPIC defeated Tatweer 2404-2315 pins in the first round of the Bapco Knockout Tournament 2017 organised by the Bahrain Industrial Bowling League at the Fun Land Bowling Centre in Manama.

Top scoring for GPIC was Noora Sultan (247) high game and (697) high series and for Tatweer Hassan K. Hubaishi (223) game and Lito Francisco (604) series.

In another match, Batelco edged out Banagas 2575-2534 with the top scorers being

Fawaz Abdulla (289) game and (761) series for Batelco and Osama Khalifa (255) game and (684) series of Banagas.

Other results: Electricity and Water Authority (Ruel Cruz, 240, 677) bt Gulf Air (Yousif Al Awadhi, 253, JM Villaneuva, 640) 2521-2431.

Pioneers (Mahmood Omran, 300, 733) bt Ministry of The Interior (Ahmed Al Hashil, 234, Emerson Gotencio, 656) 2563-2370.

This week schedule (Semi-finals):
GPIC vs Bapco
Bapco vs EWA

Pakistan rout Windies



Yasir Shah

Kingston

Yasir Shah completed a six-wicket haul to spearhead the second innings rout of the West Indies as Pakistan achieved a comfortable seven-wicket victory just after lunch on the final day of the first Test yesterday.

Trailing on first innings

Scoreboard

West Indies 1st Innings - 286

Pakistan 1st Innings - 407

West Indies 2nd Innings

(overnight 93 for 4)

K. Brathwaite b Shah	14
K. Powell c Younis Khan b Shah	49
S. Hetmyer b Shah	20
S. Hope lbw Shah	6
D. Bishoo c Younis b Abbas	18
V. Singh b Amir	9
R. Chase not out	16
S. Dowrich lbw Abbas	0
J. Holder c wkpr Ahmed b Riaz	14
A. Joseph lbw Shah	1
S. Gabriel c Abbas b Shah	0
Extras (lb-5)	5
Total (all out, 52.4 overs)	152

Pakistan 2nd Innings

A. Ali b Joseph	1
A. Shehzad c wkpr Dowrich b Gabriel	6
B. Azam not out	9
Y. Khan lbw Bishoo	6
Misbah ul Haq not out	12
Extras (lb-2)	2
Total (3 wks, 10.5 overs)	36

Result: Pakistan won by 7 wickets

by 121 runs and resuming at the overnight position of 93 for four, the home side were dismissed for 152 after less than two hours' play at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

Needing just 32 runs for a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series, the tourists lost three wickets either side of the interval and it was left to captain Misbah ul Haq to end Pakistan's abysmal run of six consecutive Test match defeats with consecutive sixes off Devendra Bishoo.

Having taken the first four wickets late on the fourth evening, Shah was kept waiting for more success at the start of play on the fifth day as the visitors' faster bowlers took up the challenge of continuing the demolition job by taking the next four wickets.

However, the leg-spinner, who bowled unchanged from one end throughout the morning's play, was not to be denied another five-wicket innings haul.

He wrapped up the innings with the wickets of tailenders Alzarri Joseph and Shannon Gabriel in the space of four deliveries in his 22nd over, finishing with the excellent innings figures of six for 63 and a

match haul of eight for 154.

"It was tough for me during the last series in Australia and I was happy to get back among the wickets here," he said after

receiving the 'Man of the Match' award.

Shah was expected to pose an immediate threat at the start of play but it was Mohammad Amir who initiated the final tumble of wickets, inducing an error of judgement from Vishaul Singh, who was bowled offering no shot to the left-arm fast bowler.

Mohammad Abbas replaced Amir and almost immediately struck two critical blows. Nightwatchman Bishoo, who had defied the Pakistanis for over an hour, flashed at a wide delivery to be well caught by Younis Khan at second slip

for 18.

Shane Dowrich was then trapped palpably LBW two balls later at 129 for seven and the die was effectively cast.

Jason Holder joined Roston Chase and the pair hinted briefly at a repetition of the resistance they showed a year earlier when the West Indies batted through the last day at the same venue to ensure a draw in the second Test of

a four-match series against India.

History was not to be repeated, though, as Wahab Riaz replaced Abbas and accounted for the West Indies captain via a catch behind as Holder essayed a loose drive, providing the opportunity for Shah to finish off the innings in the next over.

"It's pretty frustrating because we need to see our young players learning and improving at the top of the batting order," said a disappointed Holder in the aftermath of defeat. (AFP)

Double joy for National trading



The Indian Club Indian Expatriates 7-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament 2017 - The Bahrain Blues Team

Manama

National Trading playing in Group A enjoyed double success in the latest matches of The Indian Club Indian Expatriates Seven-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament 2017 at its premises in Gudaibiya.

In its first game, National Trading defeated Think Food by four wickets as the latter

were dismissed for 28 in 5.2 overs and then reached the target scoring 29 for two in 4.5 overs, then in the second match they easily won by five wickets against The Indian Club Members team who managed 43 for five in its six overs, then thanks to a quickfire 23 not out by Abdulla saw his team home for victory in scoring 44 for one in 3.1 overs.

Other scores:

1) Group C Bahrain Blues 27/4 in 6 bt Zarwan 27/2 in 6 after a Super-Over.	vs RIB.
2) Group B: Indian Club 39/1 (Prakash 20no in 5.1 bt BMMI 38/5 in 6 by 5 wickets.	2) (8.45pm): Group D (8.45pm): Chak de India vs Tisca.
Tonight schedule:	3) (9.30pm): Group D Chak de India vs Telli Kings.
1) (8pm): Group D: Supernet Cargo	4) (10.15pm): Group C: Central Café vs Bahrain Blues.

Windy Challenges for Watson Salver



Infonas Watson Salver Prize Winners

Manama

The Infonas sponsored Watson Salver competition was keenly contested last weekend at Awali Golf Club (AGC) with local golfing superstar Rashid Al Qutami winning the top prize and this season's hottest lady player, Nicky Park, coming in best overall runner up and top lady player.

Both players were delighted to walk away with a brand-new set of golf clubs presented by Infonas Managing Director Hamad al Amer and Club Captain Bill Scarth.

This competition has been played at AGC for nearly 60 years, since 1959 when the then Club President and Bapco Refinery Superintendent, Noel Watson presented the salver for an annual competition.

This is the first year that Infonas has sponsored at AGC and attracted a field of 80

players, with very high winds giving rise to some impressively high scoring, with players finding themselves in previously like known parts of the Course. Such tough conditions gave rise to an unusual +1 Competition Standard Scratch. With this and the added difficult of the bogey format, only six players in a field of 80 actually 'beat the course'.

After the competition a closing ceremony was held with an array of impressive raffle prizes up for grabs.

Final results:

- 1) Overall Winner: Rashid Al Qutami (+3)
- 2) Overall Runner Up and Best Lady: Nicky Park (+2)
- 3) Essa Al Qutami
- 4) Ebrahim Al Hashel
- 5) Jeff Barrett
- 6) Henrik Wessels
- 7) Mario Carangan Jr
- 8) Adnan Al Sowaidi
- 9) Ali Al Khowari
- 10) Dave Bailey



The High Organising Committee of the 10th edition of the Nasser bin Hamad Ramadan Football Tournament announced during its second coordination meeting that 16 teams would participate in this event starting on May 21, following a meeting chaired by the Deputy Head of the High Organising Committee, Hassan Ismail, in the presence of Tournament Director Ali Al-Majed. The meeting discussed a number of topics, including the participation of 16 teams with the draw expected in the coming days

Felline wins rainy Romandie prologue



Italy's Fabio Felline, of Trek-Segafredo team, is kissed by hostesses after winning the 4.8 km prologue of the Tour of Romandy UCI protour cycling race

Aigle

Italy's Fabio Felline won yesterday's opening prologue at the Tour de Romandie as race favourites Chris Froome of Britain and American Tejay Van Garderen struggled in the rain.

Trek rider Felline, 27, covered the 4.8km in 5min 57sec finishing two seconds ahead of Britain's Alex Dowsett (Movistar) with Australian Alexander Edmondson (Orica) seven seconds off the leader.

Three-time Tour de France champion Froome -- a two-time winner of the Swiss race -- opted to start among the early riders to avoid the rain but his tactics backfired on a slippery surface.

The Sky rider lost 29 seconds to the winner, with BMC's Van Garderen conceding 34sec.

The Swiss race is designed to prepare riders for July's Tour de France with Wednesday's stage to Champéry over a mountainous route with wintery conditions forecast.

Results (opening 4.8km prologue):

1. Fabio Felline (ITA, Trek) 5min 57sec,	7. Vasil Kiriyenka (BLR, Sky) 10,
2. Alex Dowsett (GBR, Movistar) at 2sec,	8. Tom Bohli (SUI, BMC) s.t.,
3. Alexander Edmondson (AUS, Orica) 7,	9. Johan Le Bon (FRA, FDJ) 11,
4. Maximilian Schachmann (GER, Quick-Step) 8,	10. Christoph Pfingsten (GER, Bora) s.t.
5. Victor Campenaerts (BEL, Lotto-NL) same time,	Selected others
6. Primoz Roglic (SLO, Lotto-NL) 9,	78. Chris Froome (GBR, Sky) 29,
	108. Richie Porte (AUS, BMC) 33,
	113. Tejay Van Garderen (USA, BMC) 34

Gasquet falls, Thiem through

Barcelona

Richard Gasquet's return to court from appendix surgery was short-lived at the Barcelona Open on Tuesday as the Frenchman lost 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) to Japan's Yuichi Sugita.

The world number 91 lost in qualifying and was only handed a place in the main draw after

compatriot Kei Nishikori's late withdrawal with a wrist injury.

But despite blowing three match points when serving for the match at 6-5 in the third set, Sugita regained his composure to edge a final set tie-break to make the third round.

Dominic Thiem is safely into the last 16 as the third highest

seed left in the draw brushed aside Britain's Kyle Edmund 6-1, 6-4.

Australia's Bernard Tomic will be Andy Murray's opponent when the world number one gets his tournament underway on Wednesday after seeing off big-serving German Dustin Brown 7-5, 4-6, 6-2.

Another German had a better day though as 20-year-old eighth seed Alexander Zverev saw off clay court specialist Nicolas Almagro 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-4.

Rafael Nadal also begins his quest for a 10th title in Barcelona on Wednesday against Renzo Olivo or Rogerio Dutra Silva.

Football

Scores as of closing

Premier League:



Chelsea 4 Southampton 2

English Championship:

Wolves 0 Huddersfield 1

German Cup semi-final:

Borussia 1 Frankfurt 1

Spanish La Liga:



Sporting Gijon 1 Espanyol 1
Granada 0 Malaga 2
Atletico Madrid 0 Villarreal 1

Russian Premier League:



Spartak Moscow 1 Ural Yekaterinburg 0
Rostov 1 Ufa 0

ASIAN CRICKET

Bahrain lose out to Saudi

Aidan Payne/DTNN
aidan@dt.bt

Manama

Bahrain were beaten by six wickets against one of the favourites Saudi Arabia yesterday in its second match and the third round of round-robin matches of the International Cricket Council (ICC) 2017 World Cricket League (WCL) Asia Region Division One in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The national team were bowled out for a disappointing 78 in 20 overs with just opener Janaka Chaturanga (18 off 33 deliveries, 3x4), Tahir Dahir (12 off 20, 1x6) and Awad

Other scores:

- 1) Bhutan 58/0 in 5.1 overs (Jigme Singye (38no) bt China 56/10 in 20.3 overs (Zhang Yue Fei, 14, Ye Weiji 13; Jigme Singye 8/24) by 10 wickets.
- 2) Qatar 160/10 in 45.2 overs (Tamoor Sajjad 32, Khurram Shahzad 26, Mohammed Rizlan 24, Nouman Sarwar 22, Qalandar Khan 20; Nopphan Senamontree 3/35, Kamron Senamontree 2/22, Wanchana Uisuk 2/34) bt Thailand 100/10 in 36.4 overs (Daniel Jacobs 50no; Awais Malik 4/17, Mohammed Nadeem 2/25) by 60 runs.

Khan (10 off 10, 2x4) the only Bahrain batsmen to reach double figures.

Saudi Arabia's Imran Arif and man of the match mpooned up the Bahrain tail with amazing figures of four

for four in three overs, while Ibrarul Haq (four for 36) in seven overs also impressed.

Saudi Arabia in reply reached the target in scoring 79 for four in 20.1 overs thanks to good knocks by Hammad

Standings (after three rounds): (played-won-lost-points):

1) Qatar	(3-3-0-6),
2) Saudi	(2-2-0-4),
3) Kuwait	(2-1-1-2),
4) Bahrain	(2-1-1-2),
5) Thailand	(3-1-2-2),
6) Bhutan	(3-1-2-2),
7) China	(3-0-3-0).

Today's schedule:

- 1) Bahrain vs Qatar,
- 2) Saudi Arabia vs Kuwait,
- 3) Thailand vs China.

Saeed (27 off 43, 4x6, 1x6) and Mohammed Abbassi (21 not out off 29, 2x4, 2x6), while Bahrain's wickettakers were claimed by Jabbar

Amjad (two for 14) in six overs, Janaka Chaturanga (one for six) in two overs and Mohammed Iqbal Noor (one for 10) in five overs.

Bahrain prepared for this championship with five friendly matches in Sri Lanka,

winning three and losing two and getting acclimatised and getting used to turf wickets.

Under head coach Rexie Arunvasagam and manager Syed Rizwan Shah, the squad comprises comprises the captain, Azeem Ul Haq, Tahir Dar, Babar Ali, Junaid Niazi, Gamini Perrera, Imran Butt, Janaka Chaturanga, Mohammed Ismail, Amir Gondal, Mohammed Sameer Fayaz, Mohammed Iqbal, Awad Khan, Bilal Mansoor, Jabbar Amjad,

The teams competing in the tournament are hosts Thailand, Bhutan, Bahrain, China, Kuwait, Qatar and

Saudi Arabia, with the winner of the qualifier progressing to the ICC WCL Division 5 which will be staged in September 2017. Five regional qualifiers will play alongside two teams relegated from Division 4 and one team from Division 5.

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


**DT News Network
Manama**

Khaled **Alsaei** was crowned the MAX category champion in the Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge (BRMMC) following the narrowest of victories in the season-ending race held at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

Alsaie won the championship finale by just 0.504 seconds ahead of Abdulla Al Thawadi and (+4.078) in front of Hussain Hassan.

That earned him enough points to just get by with the title, as he topped the overall classification by just two points.

In other classes, Talal Beshara was named champion of the BRMMC's Junior Max category, Anthony Genocchio was victorious in the BRMMC's Max Masters, and Rashid Almuammari was crowned champion in the Bahrain Sodi Sprint Championship (SSWS). Both the BRMMC and the SSWS make up the annual Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship (BKSC).

In the BRMMC, Alsaie headed into the concluding meeting engaged in a heated battle for the title with Hassan and Mohammed Mattar.

In the pre-final race, things were set up for a nail-biting finish as Hassan showed off his pace by winning ahead of Alsaie. But in the Final, it was Alsaie (14 minutes 24.596) who did enough to clinch the victory in 14 minutes 24.596 seconds and win the season crown.

Hassan's classification in third cost him some crucial points, while

Mattar was ranked fourth.

Alsaie (195 points) topped the standings, followed by Hassan (193) a close second.

In the Junior Max class, Beshara (14:39.659) had twice the reason to celebrate by taking home both the race and season wins as he dominated ahead of runner-up Alexander Bekkers (+15.629) with Anas Lecaillon claiming the last podium spot.

Beshara (140) topped the standings followed by Lecaillon (125) with Bekkers (117) third.

Genocchio clinched the Max Masters crown 50 points ahead of Mohammed Faqihi, while Batelco Racing Drag965 were the BRMMC's Entrant winners with 664 points overall for the season.

Meanwhile, in the SSWS, Almuammari won the season's title but only after Buhindi raced to the chequered flag in a thrilling final race.

Buhindi outprinted Almuammari by a mere 0.084 seconds as 17 karters took to the grid for the last SSWS race, with Yousif Khamiri (+9.430) securing the final podium place.

Almuammari (252) topped the standings followed by Buhindi (233) with Ahmed Ebrahim (153) in third.

Following all the racing, the winners were presented their respective trophies by officials.

The BRMMC is the BKSC's category for Rotax kart owners while the SSWS is an arrive-and-drive championship where competitors race against each other in identical Sodikarts.



ALL WINNERS PODIUM

**Alsaie won the
championship
finale by just
0.504 seconds**

Alsaie

clinches Max title

