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DAILY TRIBUNE

News of Bahrain

Friday, April 28, 2017

Issue No. 7365

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Russian spy ship sinks off Turkey



P 02

Tweet of the Day



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Today's Weather		
	Max	Min
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11th Hour

Jihadists admit to being at Brussels during attack

Madrid
Two suspected jihadists arrested in Spain have admitted to being in Brussels airport at the time of the deadly March 2016 attack but deny involvement, a court spokesman said yesterday. Mohamed Lamsalak and Youssef bin Hammou "have admitted that they were at the airport when the bombs went off," said a spokesman for the National Court, which specialises in terrorism.

Syria accuses Israel of strikes near Damascus

Damascus
Syria accused Israel of firing several missiles yesterday at a military position near Damascus airport, triggering a huge explosion and prompting a call from the regime ally Russia for restraint.



P 19

Duterte says he is helpless against China



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One hundred days of Trump administration

Crown Prince highlights multiculturalism

DT News Network Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, received Rt Rev Thomas Kanjirappallil Oommen, the Bishop of Madhya Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India, at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

During the meeting, the Crown Prince highlighted Bahrain's longstanding success in promoting and fostering principles of coexistence and



multiculturalism, remarking that these values represent an important feature of Bahrain's national identity. The Crown Prince also highlighted that His Majesty King Hamad continues to play a crucial role in upholding these values, which directly support the nation's reputation for openness and diversity across the region and worldwide.

The Crown Prince went on to recognise the steady growth of Bahrain-India ties, which he said are underpinned by a long history of close cooperation. His Royal Highness emphasised the positive role that Indian citizens continue to play in Bahrain's development.

For his part, Rt Rev Thomas Kanjirappallil Oommen expressed his pleasure at the opportunity to meet His Royal Highness, and praised the Kingdom's commitment to the principles and values of coexistence and multiculturalism.

Oil prices rebalancing after accord: OPEC



Istanbul

Global energy markets are moving in the right direction after oil prices fell to historic lows due to oversupply, Qatar's energy minister said yesterday, praising OPEC members for their adherence to a "successful" November deal to cut production.

Minister of Energy and Industry Mohammed Saleh Abdullah Al-Sada told the Atlantic Council summit in Istanbul that a decade of high oil prices had led to a dangerous oversupply, price falls and now an "unprecedented shrinkage" in investment.

But in an unusual move, OPEC members agreed in November to cut production by 1.2 million barrels per day for six months beginning from the start of the year in a bid to shore up prices.

The move was also partly matched by non-cartel producers led by Russia and the critical question is whether OPEC will take new action at its next meeting on May 25.

"A balancing was bound to happen. What we want to do is to hasten that process of balancing," said Al-Sada.

Speaking in Paris, OPEC's Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo said he was "confident"

that a consensus was building among cartel countries and non-members on maintaining the agreement at the May talks.

"It takes time because of the number

involved -- 24 countries -- every country has an important role to play," he said.

Al-Sada hailed the fact that compliance to the November agreement has been almost 98 percent including all participants and had sometimes been over 100 percent among OPEC members, meaning they had exceeded the output cuts demanded.

Compliance has historically been a problem within OPEC and Al-Sada said that adherence to past agreements had been on average only 70 per cent.

"The agreement was very successful and it helped the process of rebalancing," he said. "It (the market) is picking up. We hope to get a more accelerated balancing process in the second half of the year."

'Boom and bust'

The energy minister of Saudi Arabia Khalid al-Falih said earlier this month that the output cuts might have to be prolonged in order to achieve the desired rebalancing of the market.

Without directly echoing his Saudi counterpart's comments, Al-Sada said the rebalancing was coming but would still take time.

"The market today is well supplied and will be for the next years. The upturn is definitely going to come and the market will balance, yes, not in the coming two years but in four or five," said Al-Sada

Oil prices currently hover just around \$50 per barrel after shedding around half of their value since mid-2014. - AFP



Russian spy ship sinks off Turkey

the Liman, a Russian naval spy ship



A picture of the ship believed to be the Youzarsif H, which was carrying livestock when it collided with the Russian vessel

Istanbul

A Russian naval spy ship yesterday sank in the Black Sea off Turkey's coast after hitting a Togo-flagged vessel packed with livestock but all of its 78 crew were rescued by Turkish coastguards.

The Russian military said the Liman -- a former research ship re-fitted as an intelligence vessel -- had a hole ripped out of its hull in the collision with the Youzarsif H.

The collision, whose precise circumstances remain to be explained, took place in fog outside the northwestern entrance to the Bosphorus Strait, one of the world's biggest shipping thoroughfares that passes through Istanbul into the Sea of Marmara.

The Liman was struck at 11:53 local time (0853 GMT) with the ship sinking three hours later at 2:48 pm (1148 GMT), Turkish and Russian sources said.

The Turkish coastguard said in a statement that the Togo-flagged vessel Youzarsif H was carrying a cargo of livestock.

It said that of 78 Russian personnel on board the ship, 63 were rescued by the Turkish coastguard and the other 15 by the Youzarsif H itself.

They were then transferred to a Turkish military ship, it said, without giving further details. "All the personnel were evacuated," it said.

'Sad accident'

Turkish media said the Youzarsif suffered minor damage and went on its way after the incident.

The Russian defence

ministry confirmed the ship had gone down and said the crew were safe and would be taken from a Turkish vessel back onto a Russian ship.

Turkish news agency Dogan said the area where the ships collided was shrouded in thick fog at the time, suggesting that the incident was accidental.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim spoke to his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev by phone over the incident, describing it as an accident and expressing his sadness, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

It was not known where the Liman was sailing from or its destination.

The ship was built as a hydrography research vessel in 1970 but turned into a spy ship in 1989 and armed with an Iglu missile launcher, according to public records.

'Russia wants it back'

Russian warships have travelled frequently through the Bosphorus Strait to and from the Syrian coast, where a navy presence has been deployed to bolster Russia's air campaign in support of President Bashar al-Assad.

In February, military sources told Russian media that Liman would be observing NATO's Sea Shield exercise in the Black Sea.

Cem Devrim Yaylali, an Istanbul-based Turkish naval expert and editor of the Bosphorus Naval News website, said the Liman had

previously been to the Syrian coast but it was not clear where it was headed on this occasion.

"A collision is not something that happens very frequently," he said.

He said the incident was an embarrassment for the Russian authorities as the Liman was likely carrying sensitive surveillance equipment that Moscow would want returned.

"I imagine there will be a salvage effort to raise the ship before anyone else sees it," he said.

"If the ship cannot be salvaged then Russia surely will try to take away the sensitive equipment from on board by divers."

'Syria Express'

As a Black Sea littoral state, Russia is allowed to have its military ships pass through the Bosphorus under the 1936 Montreux Convention on the Straits.

The intense traffic of Russian vessels to and from Syria -- known as the Syrian Express -- has caused immense curiosity in Istanbul where the warships pass through the heart of the city in full view of ship-spotters.

"There have been collisions but I cannot recall once that a military ship has sunk afterwards," Russia's former navy chief of staff admiral Viktor Kravchenko told the Interfax news agency. "This is an event that is out of the ordinary," he said. (AFP)

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Building evacuated in Hooraa

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

The Capital Municipal Council yesterday evacuated a building on road 1831 and compound 318 in Hooraa yesterday.

The evacuation followed the Municipal Council chairman's visit to the area along with the other council members after the Council received several complaints about the building.

"Our officials inspected the building a few days ago and gave a report. After that we visited the building on Wednesday. We have taken note of the severity of the problem. Under our supervision, the tenants are already evacuated," Chairman of Capital Municipal Council Mohammed Ali Alkhozai told DT News.

Asked what action will be



Chairman of Capital Municipal Council Mohammed Ali Alkhozai along with his team

The evacuation followed the Municipal Council chairman's visit to the area along with the other council members

taken further, he said: "The matter is now before the Public Prosecution. Now the court will decide whether to repair or

demolish the building," he said. Alkhozai has urged the dwellers to stay away from the tilted building which has a

large crack. "The building is a serious threat to the people around the area. We have requested the Public Prosecution to fast track the legal procedure so that the building can be either demolished or repaired to avoid mishaps in the area," the Capital Municipal Council Chairman added.



The building which was evacuated in Hooraa



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INJAZ 'Company of the Year' contest winners announced



Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa and Dr. Abdul Rahman Jawahery (centre) with officials

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

The winners of the 2017 INJAZ 'University Company of the Year' and 'School Company of the Year' contest was revealed at an award ceremony held at Crown Plaza yesterday.

"Machla" team from Ibn Khuldoon National School won "High School Company of the Year", and "Royal Creators" team from the Royal University for Women won

the "University Company of the Year" in the competition organized by INJAZ in which 20 teams participated.

"Step" team from Jidhafs Secondary Girls School won the High School Product of the Year 2017, "Ghamza" team from the University of Bahrain won the University Product of the Year 2017, "Special Needs Future" team from Al Estiqlal Secondary Girls School won High School Company for Best Social Impact 2017 and "Yabilha Puzzle" team from the University of Bahrain won

University Company for Best Social Impact 2017.

"INJAZ Bahrain is grateful for the support of all its partners, volunteers, coordinators and students for their contribution in making the 2016-2017 academic year a resounding success. The competition reflects the skills, creativity and initiative demonstrated by the participating student teams, and how crucial planning, teamwork, problem-solving and communication are to achieving success as they progress professionally

as Bahrain's future business leaders of Bahrain," said Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Executive Director of INJAZ Bahrain, at the concluding ceremony.

"This year we have once again exceeded all expectations, this has been a record-breaking year for INJAZ Bahrain," said Chairman of INJAZ Bahrain, Dr. Abdul Rahman Jawahery

"We firmly believe every student has the right to achieve their full potential, and as mentors and leaders it is our responsibility to

ensure Bahrain's youth and our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills in this crucial time of their development," said Dr. Abdul Rahman Jawahery.

"We are delighted to support the various initiatives launched by INJAZ Bahrain, which comes in parallel with Tamkeen's efforts in developing youth leadership skills and motivating entrepreneurship and innovation spirit within them, as well as providing them with the necessary tools and basic experience that

help them access the labour market and even establish their own businesses," commented Dr. Ebrahim Janahi, Chief Executive of Tamkeen.

"We are proud of the competition's level of participation, and confident that such a competition has strengthened the students' interest in entrepreneurship, especially with having 70% of Bahraini youth interested in establishing their own businesses, according to a recent survey by E&Y," Dr. Ebrahim Janahi.

Bahrain-US ties reviewed

DT News Network
Manama

Advisor of HM the King for Economic Affairs, Dr. Hassan Abdullah Fakhro, received US Ambassador to Bahrain, William V. Roebuck yesterday.

Welcoming the US ambassador, the King's economic affairs advisor praised the amicable relationship between both countries and peoples.

The ambassador praised the bilateral ties affirming his country's keenness on boosting these ties in all fields, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain more progress and prosperity.

The two sides reviewed the ties and ways to develop them in various fields. They also explored several topics and issues of shared interest.



Advisor of HM the King for Economic Affairs, Dr. Hassan Abdullah Fakhro with US Ambassador to Bahrain, William V. Roebuck

One lane to be closed on Zallaq highway

DT News Network
Manama

To carry out road maintenance works on Zallaq highway near University of Bahrain one lane will be closed on stages and another lane will be provided for traffic flow, the Ministry of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning said.

The lane closure will be effective during weekend days only, from Thursday April 27 at 11:00 p.m. to Friday May 28 at 5:00 a.m. All road users are requested to observe and obey the traffic rules for safety of all road users.

China pips UAE, US as top exporter to Bahrain

Saudi top importer

Manama

China with exports to the Kingdom valued at around BD135 million pipped the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America as the top trading partner of Bahrain in the first quarter of 2017, according to the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) report released yesterday.

Closely following China, in this regard, is the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with exports of BD118m, whereas the USA with BD83m is ranked third, the foreign trade report said.

However, when it comes to importing from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia enjoys the top position with imports of BD141m. The USA is second with BD115m and the UAE is third with BD68m.

The report, for the first quarter of 2017, further

states that trade balance, the difference between exports and imports, declined in the value of the deficit reaching an amount of BD399m.

BD1.124bn imports

As per the report, the imports value has reached around BD1.124 billion, with the top ten countries account for 65 per cent of the imports value and 35pc for other countries.

The value of the exported national origin has reached approximately BD594m in the first quarter of 2017. The top ten countries account for 85pc of the exported national origin value and 15pc for other countries.

Iron ores top

As for exported products, agglomerated iron ores and concentrates emerged as the top products exported in first quarter 2017 with

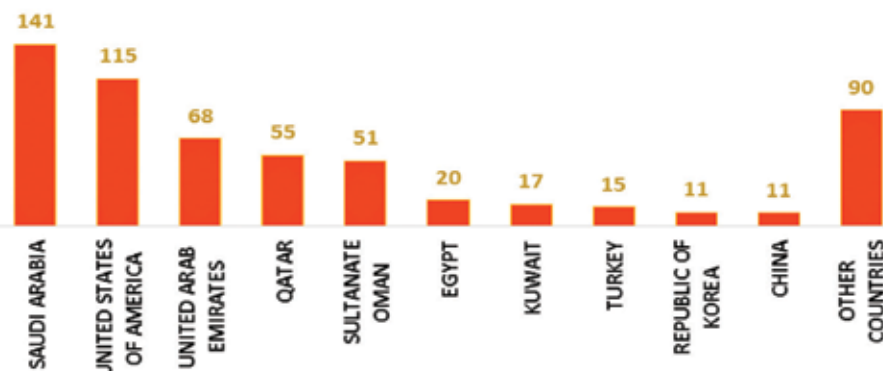
BD100m. Aluminium wires were positioned as the second products imported with a value of BD74m and rectangular alloyed aluminium plates stood third for exported products with BD53m.

Four-wheel drive cars

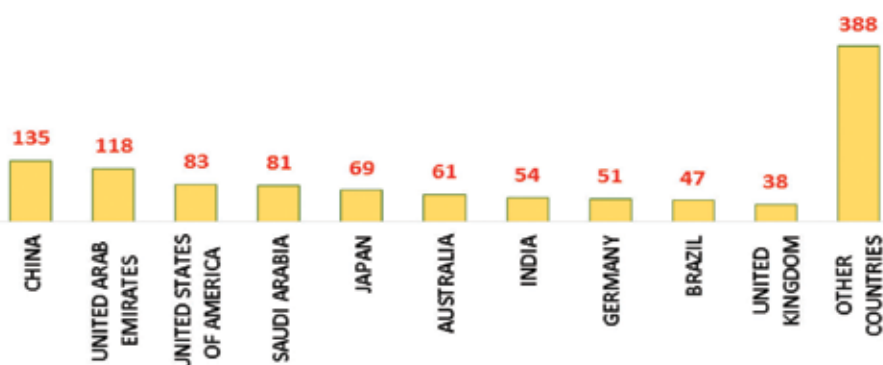
In regards to the re-exported field, the value has reached BD132m. The top ten countries account for 91pc of the re-exported value and 9pc for other countries. Saudi Arabia was ranked as the first country to re-export from Bahrain with BD55m, China ranked as the second with BD22m, and UAE as the third with BD18m.

Four-wheel drive cars emerged as the top product re-exported from Bahrain with BD26m, cigarettes came as second products with BD15m, and Sedan cars came as the third with BD6m.

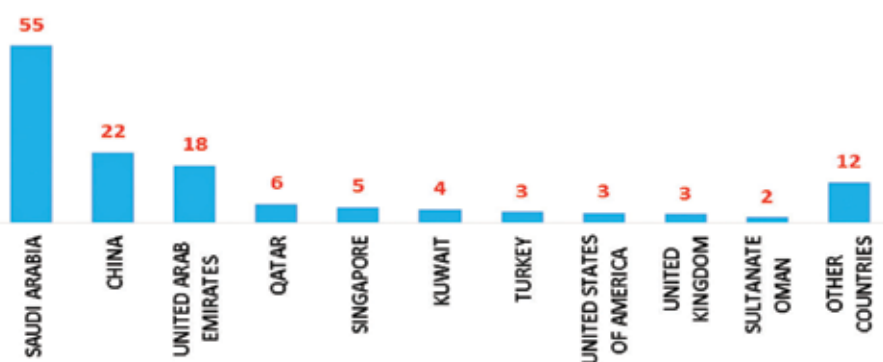
Exports to Top 10 Countries From Bahrain (Million Bahraini Dinars)



Imports By Top 10 Countries (Million Bahraini Dinars)



Re-exports to Top 10 Countries (Million Bahraini Dinars)



Value of exported national origin reached nearly BD594m in the First Quarter of 2017



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The closing date for all applications is Saturday 6th May 2017.

Wide Angle



Joel Indrupati

Nizam of Hyderabad: Miserly or Magnanimous?

As my alma mater began its 100th anniversary celebrations on Wednesday, 26 April, I thought I should pay tribute to the man who founded it.

The founder of India's prestigious Osmania University, was an incredible man - amazing and eccentric - who had adorned the cover of TIME magazine on 22 February 1937, which had rightly called him "the richest man in the world".

In fact, the opening lines of TIME's cover story had said: "India has no native state so rich, potent and extensive as Hyderabad which is about the size of the United Kingdom and there last week the Royal Family of the Asatia (Asaf Jah) Dynasty celebrated the Silver Jubilee of "The Richest Man in the World," Lieut. General His Exalted Highness Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan, the Nizam of Hyderabad & Berar".

It continued further, in this way: "Because the scheduled Coronation Durbar next winter of British King & Emperor George VI has had to be cancelled by His Majesty (TIME, 15 Feb 1937), there is no immediate prospect for the world to see such another Indian spectacle of pomp and power as that of the Jubilee Durbar..."

Such was the pomp and power of the Nizam of Hyderabad then that the entire world stood aghast, with awe and wonder!

But his seventh and last Nizam of Hyderabad was also a top-rate miser. An eccentric scrooge.

On the one hand he was so wealthy that he had the Jacob diamond, about the size of a lime, 280 carats, which he used as a paper-weight on his desk. And on the other hand, he was so stingy he had kept on wearing the same old fez cap for 35 years!

On the one hand he had given, then, a huge 25 million pound contribution to the British exchequer during First World War. On the other hand, he used to smoke cigarette butts left behind by his guests, saying there was still a lot of tobacco left in them!

On the one hand, in 1947, as wedding gifts to Princess Elizabeth (now, Queen Elizabeth II), he had his jewellers 'Cartier' present her with a diamond necklace and a tiara. On the other hand, he used to switch off electricity in his Hyderabad palace to save on small electricity bills!

In fact, once, when doctors tried to do an ECG (Electro Cardiogram) test on him, they discovered there was no power in the palace because he had ordered his palace officials to cut electricity, to save money. The doctors had a tough time convincing him that electric power was needed for the ECG machine to work, and for his own good.

Anyway, despite his cheapskate temperament, I am glad he established a huge University by a Royal Charter in 1917, with his name 'Osman'.

And just recently, in 2015, this Osmania University was rated the No.1 State University of India from among 350 such universities, by India Today-Neilson Survey.

From this university, which turned 100 now, thousands of graduates, had passed out; including yours truly.

Also recently, in 2001, Osmania was awarded five-star status by the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) by India's University Grants Commission.

Surprisingly, though the Nizam was very parsimonious towards himself, he was very generous towards his subjects.

Osmania Hospital, one of the biggest hospitals in South India then, was also built by him.

He spent 2 million rupees at the time to build a palatial structure and threw it open to the public in 1921.

Is it not strange that some of history's most eccentric rulers have often given their citizens some amazing developments?

(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.)

Syria to buy latest Russian anti-missile system: Assad



Representative picture

Damascus

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said Damascus is negotiating with regime ally Moscow to buy the latest Russian anti-missile system to repel Israeli and American attacks.

"It's natural that we should have such systems," he said, quoted by Syria's official SANA agency on Thursday, the same day as Damascus accused Israel of firing several missiles at a military position near its international airport.

"Israel has been committing aggressions on the Arab states surrounding it since its creation in 1948," Assad said in the interview with Venezuelan

channel *Telesur*.

"It is natural for us to negotiate with the Russians now with a view to strengthening (our) systems, whether to face any Israeli threats from the air or the threats of American missiles."

"That has become a real possibility after the recent American aggression on Al-Shayrat air base in Syria," he added.

The US military fired 59 Tomahawk missiles at the base overnight on April 6-7 following a suspected chemical attack on a rebel-held town in Idlib province that left 87 dead, including many children.

Washington said the regime

base was the launchpad for the attack, a charge Damascus denies.

Russia's military said a day after the attack that Syria's air defences would be boosted.

"To protect Syria's most sensitive infrastructure, a complex of measures will be implemented in the near future to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the Syrian armed forces' air defence system," said spokesman Igor Konashenkov

For its part, Israel has carried out multiple air strikes in Syria since the country's civil war erupted in 2011, most of which it has said targeted arms convoys or warehouses of its

Lebanese arch-foe Hezbollah, a key supporter of Assad's regime.

Assad also said that no country which had aided the Syrian opposition should be allowed to take part in Syria's post-war reconstruction.

"All the states which stood against the Syrian people and took part in the destruction and sabotage will never take part in rebuilding Syria. That is final," he said.

International organisations estimate that reconstructing Syria, devastated by a six-year war that has left over 320,000 dead, will cost upwards of \$300 billion (275 billion euros). (AFP)

Missing Pets



TOTO - Male Shitzu, 8 yrs, neutered, pet sitter walking three dogs off lead and Toto ran away, barks at men and other dogs, not wearing collar or ID, Saar (close to Geant Easy). 21/4/17. **33366234 / 35592368 / 34356018**



SULTAN - Male, 2 yrs, neutered, mostly white/ beige w darker patch on back and mouth, likely not wearing collar or ID, long sorted story - but said to possibly be at a farm in Saar and can't get straight answers, 21/4/17. **66339925**



DODONG - Male Persian, 1 yr 7 mos, neutered, not wearing collar or ID tag, gate left open - ran outside house, Adliya (near Burj Omran Apartments), 22/4/17. **37133189**



SNOW - Female Dilmun, 9 mos, all white, spayed, not wearing collar or I.D. tag, climbed over garden wall, Mahooz (next to Ibn Al Nafees Hospital), last seen in area on 11/4, REWARD for safe return BD50, 6/3/17. **39800310**



LILLY - Female Cockatoo Parrot, only had for three days, was spooked and flew away, dark gold coloured ring on leg, near Al Areen Hotel and Spa (close by Lost Paradise and Al Areen Wild Life), 25/4/17. **37196558**



JUNIOR - Male Husky/Malamute mix, black/white, one blue/one brown eye, 1 yr, gate left open, not wearing collar or ID, Janabiya (next to El-Mercado Mall & Al-Ayam newspaper), 17/1/17, REWARD 300BD, **66656566 / 39696716/39666004/33446564**

Sisi to accept court decision on island transfers



Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (R) receiving Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, upon the latter's arrival in the capital Riyadh last week (file image)

Cairo
Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said Wednesday he will not interfere in any decision the courts or parliament take on a controversial move to transfer two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.

"I fulfilled my part, and it is now in the parliament and with the judiciary. We won't interfere," Sisi said live on television during a conference in the Suez canal city of Ismailiya.

The deal to hand over the islands, signed during an April 2016 visit by Saudi King Salman during which Riyadh showered Egypt with aid, provoked accusations in Egypt that Cairo had "sold" the strategic islands.

The accord has sparked street protests and a legal battle between the government, which insists along with Sisi that the islands are Saudi, and lawyers opposed to the measure.

"From the start, we told our (Saudi) brothers that we will go through procedures, but that we will not interfere with the technical side, and that the ratification will be done according to legal and constitutional rules," Sisi said on Wednesday.

Cairo said the two islands -- Tiran and Sanafir -- were Saudi territory to start with, but had been leased to Egypt in the 1950s, and Sisi has personally insisted publicly that the islands are Saudi.

The State Lawsuits Authority, the government's legal representative, has been battling in courts with lawyers opposed to the deal.

In June, an administrative court ruled against the transfer.

That ruling was upheld in January by Egypt's top administrative court which sided with the arguments of Khaled Ali, the lawyer who had initially demanded for the transfer be blocked.

But on April 2, the urgent matters court in Cairo ruled that the highest administrative court's ruling was invalid.

The State Lawsuits Authority filed an objection and the advisory "State Commissioners Authority is currently preparing its report

to be presented" in court, Ali said Wednesday.

After that, the constitutional court will hear arguments by the two sides, Ali said.

At the same time, the government has sent the deal to the parliament.

On April 10, parliament speaker Ali Abdel Aal referred the deal to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee for deliberations.

"We, as the executive authority, have concluded our responsibility, finished it and submitted it," Sisi said on Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia has been a main financial backer of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi since the former army chief toppled his Islamist predecessor in 2013. (AFP)

Gulf states reject 'terror' and 'interference'

Riyadh

Gulf Arab states pledged yesterday to fight "terrorism" and "foreign interference" across the region.

In a joint statement following a summit in Riyadh, interior ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council said they were determined to prevent "harm to their national unity, the provoking of sectarian tensions and support for terrorist groups."

Iran is accused of interfering in the internal affairs of the GCC states, particularly of stirring unrest in Bahrain and supporting rebels in Yemen -- charges Iran denies.

They said GCC states had shown determination to build bridges of cooperation with other states in the region.

"The biggest challenge facing any state in the modern world is preserving its national unity against foreign and domestic threats," said Saudi Interior Minister Prince Mohammad bin Naif, who chaired the summit.

The GCC states "continue to face dangerous challenges emanating from Iranian and Iraqi soil," he said.

Two Saudi soldiers killed in rocket attack in Yemen



Yemeni fighters loyal to the Saudi-backed Yemeni president hold a hill-top position northwest of the central city of Taiz

Riyadh

Two Saudi soldiers were killed yesterday in a rocket attack near the border with war-torn Yemen, the interior ministry said.

They died in a simultaneous landmine explosion and rocket attack while on duty patrolling the border around Jazan, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official SPA news agency.

Saudi Arabia leads a Gulf coalition that has battled Iran-backed Huthi rebels in Yemen for two years. The coalition is allied with forces loyal to internationally recognised President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi.

Hadi's forces have struggled to wrench control of large swathes of Yemeni territory from the Huthis, who control the capital Sanaa, much of the northern highlands and key ports on the Red Sea coast.

Turkish woman jailed for 'terror propaganda' in TV phone-in

Istanbul

A Turkish court on Wednesday handed a woman who phoned into a top television talk show to complain about military operations in the Kurdish-dominated southeast a one year and three month sentence for "terror propaganda."

The woman, Ayse Celik from Diyarbakir in southeast Turkey, in early 2016 phoned into the Beyaz Show on Kanal D to raise alarm over the human cost of the relentless military crackdown on Kurdish

militants.

While jailing her, the court in Istanbul acquitted the show's producer Kadir Turnali and 38 people who had supported Celik's comments, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

The security forces have since 2015 pressed a campaign against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the Kurdish-majority southeast, which the government says is aimed at flushing out militants but activists claim has killed civilians.



A screen grab of Beyaz show when ayse Celik called in

Gaza power cuts cause humanitarian crisis

Jerusalem

Constant fuel shortages and insufficient infrastructure have brought about a "humanitarian crisis" for Palestinians in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, the World Bank said yesterday.

In a report ahead of an international donor conference next week, it said that foreign aid alone cannot rescue the stagnant Palestinian economy without practical changes and Israeli cooperation.

Gaza's sole electricity plant frequently runs out of fuel for its generators and rations power supplies to as little as four hours per day.

The Islamist Hamas movement seized power in Gaza in 2007 from the Ramallah-based Fatah organisation of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

It imports diesel for the generators through Abbas's Palestinian Authority (PA), but the rivals are in constant dispute over payment, leading to constant shortages.

JIB okays 15pc cash dividends



Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly of Jordan Islamic Bank approves the balance sheet for the year 2016

Manama

The General Assembly of Jordan Islamic Bank (JIB), a subsidiary of Al Baraka Banking Group yesterday agreed to distribute cash dividends to shareholders at 15 per cent of the paid capital and to increase the bank's capital by US\$42.3 million/ share in the amount of 20pc as free shares.

"Thus, the Bank's capital has become US\$ 253.9m instead of US\$211.6m and the increase will be covered from retained profits," JIB said in a statement.

Commenting on the result, Adnan Ahmed Yousif, Chairman of the Board of Directors of JIB and the President & Chief Executive of Al Baraka

Banking Group pointed out that despite downturn in global economy, the bank was able to reinforce its status and provide the best Islamic banking products and services to reap several worldwide prizes and sharia & credit ratings from international institutions.

By the end of 2016, profits before tax grew by 12.1pc to US\$118.1m compared to US\$105.4m in 2015. Net profits after tax grew by 11pc to US\$76.2m compared to US\$68.7m in 2015.

Musa Shihadeh, CEO / General Manager of Jordan Islamic Bank indicated that the growth of the revenues reached 10.8pc amounting to US\$313.1m compared to US\$282.5m at the end of 2015. The growth of

joint investments profits prior distribution reached around 11.6pc, amounting to US\$279.1m compared to US\$250.2m in 2015.

Growth in Shareholders' equity reached about 10.1pc, amounting to US\$483.4m compared to about US\$438.9m at end of 2015. The Return On Average Equity (ROAE) after tax reached about 16.52pc.

At the end of 2016, the growth in the total balances of saving schemes reached around 7.8pc to around US\$5.69bn, distributed to about (903) thousand active accounts compared to around US\$5.28bn in 2015 distributed to around (816) thousand active accounts.

Growth in the total balances of financing and

investment reached around 3pc amounting to US\$4.57bn distributed to 239 thousand transactions compared to around US\$4.45bn at end of 2015 distributed to 201 thousand transactions.

By the end of 2016, the number of beneficiaries of the bank's financings reached around 167,299 thousand beneficiaries and the outstanding balance of financing amounted to about US\$1620m.

Concerning the future plan of the bank for the year 2017, Shihadeh said that bank would open two new branches, six offices and will continue to make available alternative energy in the sites of the Bank, by generating electrical power using solar cells.

Xpress Money launches Mother's Day campaign

Manama

Xpress Money announced it has launched a 'Mother's Day for Kids without Mothers' campaign to transform the lives of abandoned children in the Philippines on the occasion of Mother's Day.

The campaign has been launched by Xpress Money as part of its CSR platform, H.O.P.E, in collaboration with Virlanie Foundation in the Philippines.

As part of the campaign, between April 21st and May 14th, Xpress Money will contribute a part of the transfer fees an OFW pays to send money to the Philippines.

"For every remittance to the Philippines, Xpress Money will make a contribution to transform the lives of these children," said Ashwin Gedam, Vice President of Global Marketing, Xpress



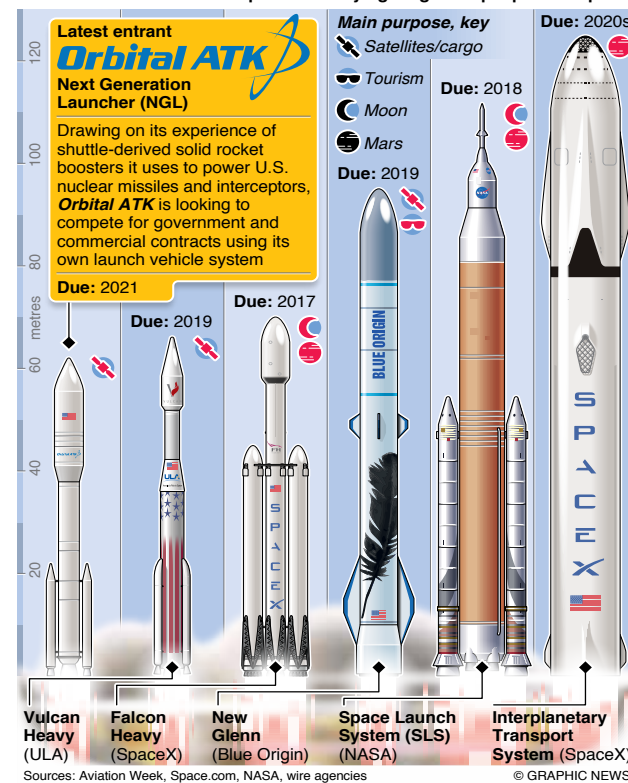
Ashwin Gedam Money.

The initiative will also raise funds for a Mother's Day Feast for the children of the Virlanie Foundation in Manila.

"By visiting www.xpressmoney.com/hope, anyone can nominate a woman, be it, their mothers, sisters or friends, residing in Manila, to spend a few hours on Mother's day with these children who are deprived of a Mother's love," Xpress Money said in a statement.

The increasingly crowded U.S. space race

NASA is setting its sights on the moon once more – with a view to future manned missions to Mars – which is encouraging commercial companies to build rocket boosters capable of carrying cargo and people into space



BCCI holds B2B meeting with Chinese delegation



Officials during the meeting

Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) in cooperation with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) held yesterday B2B meetings at Golden Tulip Hotel.

Bahraini and Chinese business owners from sectors including construction, building materials, ICT, energy and mineral resources,

food and beverages, machinery, electronic, finance and trade participated.

On the occasion, the Chairman of the Chamber Khalid Al Moayed affirmed the chamber's keenness to support local business and encouraged Bahraini business community to seek opportunities overseas by partnering with their counterparts from around the world.

Head of the Chinese

delegation and Director General of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Li Qingshuang commended the chamber on its efforts to foster business and encourage liaison. Bahrain Economic Development Board's Senior Officer of International Offices Mohammed Al Madani delivered a presentation on the features of the Bahraini Economy.

Philippine minister bans new open-pit mines

Philippine socialite-turned-environment minister Regina Lopez caused ire in the mining industry Thursday by announcing a ban on new open-pit mines, a move that threatens over eight billion dollars in investments. Lopez, who has already ordered the closure of 23 mines this year, told reporters she would not allow any new open-pit mines to operate, even those that gained government approval before she assumed office.



Trump agrees to NAFTA, no exit -- for now

President Donald Trump hedged his agreement to renegotiate -- rather than exit NAFTA -- with a warning to Canada and Mexico Thursday that the US will jettison the trade accord if there is no "fair deal." Trump's unrelenting back-and-forth seemed certain to keep Washington's two closest trade partners on edge as they move to revamp one of the world's biggest trading blocs.



One has to be very tentative in this, one thing that may have come out of the meetings is that perhaps the risk of trade protectionism may have somewhat receded,"

Mario Draghi
ECB chief on Trump's economic policies



The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain launches the Midweek Island Retreat

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain has announced a unique room package named "Midweek Island Retreat tailored to the local residents of Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province

Lavish buffet

The Midweek Island Retreat entails a dedicated Deluxe Room for guests during the day, and includes a lavish buffet lunch in La Med restaurant for two adults. For couples with children, the package is also inclusive of one child up to the age of 6 years old.

Thalassotherapy

Throughout the day, guests can also enjoy the indoor pools as well as a sports club with a Hammam and, for ladies, a Thalassotherapy pool providing a wide range of recreation opportunities and pampering treatments. The fitness center is equipped with cardiovascular machines, free-weights, stretch and weight stations, and offers a variety of classes by dedicated trainers that help deliver fitness results such as Yoga, ballet, Pilates, tennis and squash.



"We are pleased to be able to re-structure our operations to cater to Midweek Island Retreat guests by preparing the rooms for early check in at 8am with a warm welcome for a daily staycation home away from home,"

Soufiane El Allam,
Executive Assistant
Manager- Sales & Marketing

What is special?

A full day of pampering and unwinding within the Hotel's resort facilities with the added convenience and comfort of a day-use Deluxe room from 8:00am to 6:00pm.

Sandy beach

An ideal day package to enjoy the hotel's leisure facilities starting from 600 meters of stunning white sandy beach sweeping around a lagoon and its private island. The lush landscaped gardens allow guests to relax at the main hotel pool or lounge by the infinity pool while enjoying fresh beverages, indulging in culinary masterpieces in the resort's reputed restaurants, soaking up the sun in a beach cabana or stopping by one of the intimate Jacuzzis.

The package also offers guests a 15pc value savings on all spa treatments at The Ritz-Carlton Spa.

The Midweek Island Retreat is available Sundays to Wednesdays and valid till August 31st 2017.

For reservations call +973 17586868 or email reservations.bahrain@ritzcarlton.com

BIM to enhance competitiveness

BHB holds presentation on Bahrain Investment Market



Bahrain Bourse presenting details of Bahrain Investment Market to the audience

Manama

Family businesses remain a significant contributor to Arab economies non-oil GDP, with the segment contributing to around 95 per cent of all private sector business in Bahrain, it was revealed yesterday.

Bahrain Bourse (BHB), quoting a recent report, said this during a presentation held on its newly launched Bahrain Investment Market (BIM) for members of the Bahrain Family Business Association (BFBA) and Bahrain Businessmen's Association (BBMA).

BIM, according to BHB, is an equity market for growing business ventures in Bahrain and the wider MENA region. BIM, a dedicated Tamkeen support programme, was launched in March 2017. Features

include: Easier admission and financial disclosure rules, access to global investors and guidance services through specialised professional advisory firms among other benefits.

Commenting on the benefits of BIM, CEO of the Bahrain Bourse, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said, "Family businesses and fast-growing entrepreneurial ventures stand to benefit greatly from the Bahrain Investment Market. Its model is designed to enable business owners to raise capital quickly and at a relatively low cost while remaining largely in control of management and decision-making processes."

President of the BFBA Khalid Kanoo said, "Family businesses are strategically important to the national

economy. Hence, it is critical to have initiatives such the Bahrain Investment Market which enable these businesses to enhance their corporate governance and scale up their operations in order to become more competitive in today's globalized economy."

For his part, Chairman of the BBMA Ahmed bin Hindi noted, "One of the major factors which contribute to private sector growth is access to a wide range of financing sources that cater to a wide range of private sector segments. The Bahrain Investment Market is a welcome addition that will help fill an important financing gap for companies who want to publicly list but are not yet able to meet the Bahrain Bourse Mainboard's criteria."

Did You Know?



Kia actually began as a bicycle manufacturer? They started making parts for bikes in the 1940s before proceeding to launch Korea's first motorscooter in 1957. They followed this up by working in partnership with Honda to make motorcycles.



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2885	0.2861
BANGLADESH	0.00494	0.00461
CANADA	0.2841	0.2810
DENMARK	0.0584	
EGYPT	0.0241	0.0219
EURO	0.4174	0.4153
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00599	0.00600
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002901
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003550	0.003480
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5350
KOREA	0.00038372	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.088900	0.0889
NEW ZEALAND	0.2636	0.2595
NORWAY	0.0462	
NEPAL	0.00391	0.00368
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00369	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00779	0.00757
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2745	0.2725
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02990	0.02980
SRI LANKA	0.00273	0.00249
SWEDISH	0.0461	
SWITZERLAND	0.3869	0.3844
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012700	
THAILAND	0.011140	0.011110
TURKEY	0.1114	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4942	0.4913
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102810	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	0.4837	0.3790	0.3398
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.6734	0.2870	0.2573
OMAN	0.3849	0.3829	0.3869	0.3469
QATAR	3.6420	3.6231	3.6610	3.2829
UAE	3.6730	3.6539	3.6922	3.3108
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7305	3.7696	3.3802

Saudi banks strong in light of brewing changes

Dubai Shares in two Saudi banks that are in early merger talks moved in opposite directions yesterday while other regional markets ended the week down as investors had little fresh company earnings and news to reallocate their funds or build positions.

Alawwal Bank extended the previous session's 8.6 per cent gains, adding 2.2pc. Shares in Saudi British Bank (SABB), however, slipped 0.9pc after jumping 6.8pc on Wednesday. Six other commercial lenders rose, with the largest by assets, National Commercial bank up 1.0pc.

If Alawwal and SABB were to merge they would form the third largest bank by assets. Analysts have said that although the merger is generally positive for both banks, Alawwal would be able to reap the benefits of lower cost of deposits.

Other analysts pointed out that though this may not be a harbinger of other

potential bank mergers in Saudi Arabia, the industry's landscape will start to change and competition will start to stiffen.

Earlier this week, Citigroup obtained a licence to conduct capital markets business in Saudi Arabia, after an absence of almost 13 years. Also, a senior executive of Dubai's Emirates NBD, which already has a license to operate in Saudi Arabia, told Reuters they have plans to expand their presence in the kingdom in the next 12 months.

Petrochemicals, most of which have still to report earnings, reversed from declines earlier in the session and closed modestly higher. Saudi Kayan Petrochemical added 0.6pc after falling as much as 1.1pc earlier in the day.

Dubai's index lost 0.6pc near a 4-1/2 month low as decliners outnumbered gainers 20 to 12.

Emaar Malls dropped 4.8pc as its shares went ex-dividend on Thursday. Dubai Financial Market, the only listed

Closing Bell

SAUDI ARABIA added 0.4pc to 6,946 points

DUBAI fell 0.6pc to 3,417 points

ABU DHABI lost 0.6pc to 4,513 points

QATAR dropped 1.1pc to 10,090 points

EGYPT retreated 1.2pc to 12,526 points

BAHRAIN lost 0.1pc at 1,332 points

OMAN rose 0.3pc to 5,525 points

exchange in the Gulf, lost 2.5pc.

In neighbouring Abu Dhabi, the index also fell 0.6pc, dragged down by losses in blue chips. Developer Aldar Properties, which has yet to report first quarter results, fell 1.8pc.

Qatar's index dropped 1.1pc to touch a fresh 20-week low. Only one share rose while 16 others declined.

"First quarter results from Qatar have so far not been a game changer for the market," said a Doha-based asset

manager.

The country's largest petrochemical producer, Industries Qatar, fell 3.0pc, wiping out gains made on Wednesday after announcing that first quarter net profits grew by a third on the previous year.

In Egypt, the index retreated 1.2pc on profit taking. Some of the previous session's outperformers eased, with Global Telecom Holding down 0.7pc.

Kuwait's bourse was shut for a public holiday. (Reuters)

Kia plans \$1bn plant in India



New Delhi

South Korean car maker Kia Motors said yesterday it will build a new 1.1 billion plant in India, marking its entry into one of the world's fastest growing markets as sales in neighbouring China have sagged.

Kia Motors said in a statement it would manufacture up to 300,000 cars a year at the new factory in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, starting in late 2019. Kia and its sister company Hyundai Motor have seen sales in China,

the world's biggest car market, hammered by the fallout from a diplomatic spat between Seoul and Beijing over a US missile defence system. The company plans to produce a compact sedan and compact SUV especially for the Indian market at the new plant.

India is the world's fifth biggest auto market and is growing rapidly. Nearly four million cars were sold there last year and PriceWaterhouseCoopers predicts that will rise to almost seven million by 2022. (AFP)

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.
- Isaac Asimov



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Friday, April 28, 2017

11

Bahrain Indian School investiture ceremony

The Investiture Ceremony of Bahrain Indian School for the academic session 2017-2018 was held to handover duties from the outgoing office bearers to the newly designated ones. Ritu Verma, Director of BIS was the chief guest of the function which was presided by Dr. Heena Rachh (The Principal) and Dr. Preet Kamal (Coordinator). The newly chosen students were presented badges and sashes by Ritu Verma and Dr Heena Rachh. All the members of prefectorial body and the office bearers took the pledge to serve the school and fulfil their responsibilities.



The newly elected prefectorial body and office bearers of BIS



Spring is in the Air

Students in the Seniors at the British School of Bahrain showcased their musical talent at a Spring concert at the school campus in Hamala this week on the theme film and theatre. Head of Seniors, Mr Khalil Ahmed, congratulated the students and thanked Alex Dittrich and Guy Shepherd for directing the event.



Students performing during the event





Parliament Chairman Ahmed Al Mulla received a delegation from Kuwaiti parliament comprising Dr. Waleed Ibrahim Al-Tabatabai and Dr. Khalil Abdullah Abul yesterday. The Kuwaiti delegation conveyed greeting of Kuwait's parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, emphasizing the significance of exchanging visits for further bolstering the Gulf parliamentary relations. Bahrain's Parliament Secretary-General Abdullah Al-Dossari and Sultan Arada of Kuwait's Embassy were present



The British Embassy in Bahrain held a typical garden party hosted by Her Excellency Helen Martin. Over 500 guests from the United Kingdom and Bahrain enjoyed the unique and deep rooted relation between the two countries.



National Guard Director of Staff Major-General Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Khalifa yesterday received a delegation from Islamic Republic of Pakistan's National Defence College, led by Air Vice Marshal Faheem-Ullah Malik yesterday. Welcoming the Pakistani military delegation, the staff director praised the two countries' distinctive friendship ties. The visit was part of ongoing cooperation between the National Guard and the Pakistani Army





Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday received members of the Bahrain National Jiu-jitsu team, which won two gold and one bronze medal at the Abu Dhabi World Professional Jiu-jitsu Championship, held recently in Abu Dhabi



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa paid an inspection visit to one of the BDF military units yesterday. The BDF chief reviewed the latest plans and development of military and training aspects as well as administrative and combat readiness and the workflow on implementation of all assigned duties and tasks



Minister of Education Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi received Al Wasat editor-in-chief Dr. Mansour Al Jamry and the newspaper's managing editor Aqeel Mirza yesterday. The minister commended the successful organising of the secondhand book fair organised by Al Wasat in Jid Hafs Intermediate Boys' School that attracted large number of visitors in the period April 20-22. Acting Undersecretary for Education and Curriculum Affairs, Dr. Fawzi Al Jowder also present



Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan and member of Parliament (MP) Abdullah Ali Bin Huwayl reviewed the ministry's projects and jobseekers' qualification programmes. The meeting discussed the ministry's various community welfare services provided across the society by the ministry-affiliated community centres all over the Kingdom's governorates as well as the services provided to the elderly and disabled persons



Had an official birthday celebrations for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at a Britannic Majesty's British Ambassador Simon Martin and his wife Sophie worlds of Business, politics and Media gathered to express and honour a between the UK and the Kingdom of Bahrain



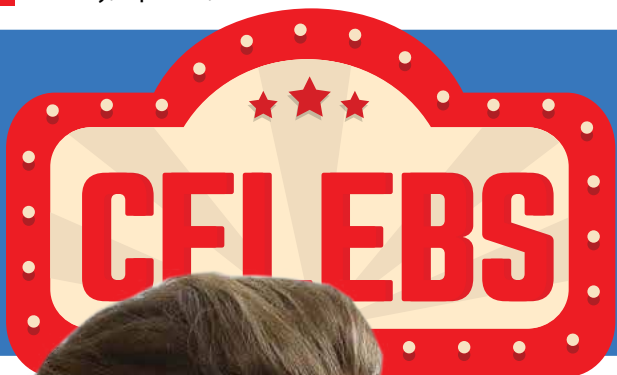
President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received former Spanish King Juan Carlos at the Bahrain National Museum yesterday. The President welcomed the Spanish monarch, commending deep-rooted cultural relations binding the two friendly peoples and countries



The President of Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC), Khamis Al-Maqla recently presented a copy of the book "Bahrain Tennis Club Forty Years of Accomplishments and Progress" to the President of the Saudi Arabia Tennis Federation, Tawfiq Bin Yahya Moafa and to Aso Adel Mehaldeen, President of the Iraqi Tennis Federation. It highlights historic and valuable information over four decades of activities at the club and its role in developing tennis in Bahrain, the Gulf region and other Arab countries



Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) lead Bahrain's delegation to the Central Region Communications Conference (CRCC) from 17 to 19 April 2017 which was held at Washington, DC, headed by TRA's Director of Cyber Security, Dr. Khalid bin Duaij Al Khalifa. CRCC is an annual conference, organized by the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), led in conjunction with the Department of State and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and this year's theme is "Cyber Incident Response: Key to Mission Assurance"



Mike Epps @TheRealMikeEpps
Shout out to everybody this morning we are
blessed to live another day. Do something
positive for somebody who needs Some up lifting.



I'm the worst liar: Emma Watson

London

Actress Emma Watson considers herself as "the worst liar".

The 27-year-old says even though she earns her living "telling the truth under imaginary circumstances", she is awful at lying, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

During a conversation with *Interview* magazine, the "Beauty and the Beast" star was asked if she considered acting to be a form of lying.

She replied: "Ugh, no! Acting is telling the truth under imaginary circumstances. I cannot think of a worse way to describe acting. Also, I'm the worst liar ever."

"I remember trying to get into clubs when I was just about to turn 18. They'd ask my age -- and my friends were already in the door, it was not even a big deal -- and I was like, 'I can't do it.' It's terrible. They were like, 'You're an actress, what's wrong with you? Get it together, woman'." (IANS)



Ben Affleck enjoying singlehood post-divorce

Los Angeles

Actor-filmmaker Ben Affleck is reportedly not interested in getting into a serious relationship since his divorce from actress Jennifer Garner.

The "Justice League" star doesn't want to start a relationship anytime soon because he's taking some time for himself and wants to avoid anything serious, reports *hollywoodlife.com*.

"Ben is looking forward to remaining healthy from his recent stint in rehab and is looking forward to the single life. He doesn't want to be tied down in a relationship. He wants to enjoy being single for a while till he gets back to doing some great films both in the directing and acting realm," said a source.

Affleck and Garner filed the divorce papers earlier this month without the aid of lawyers.

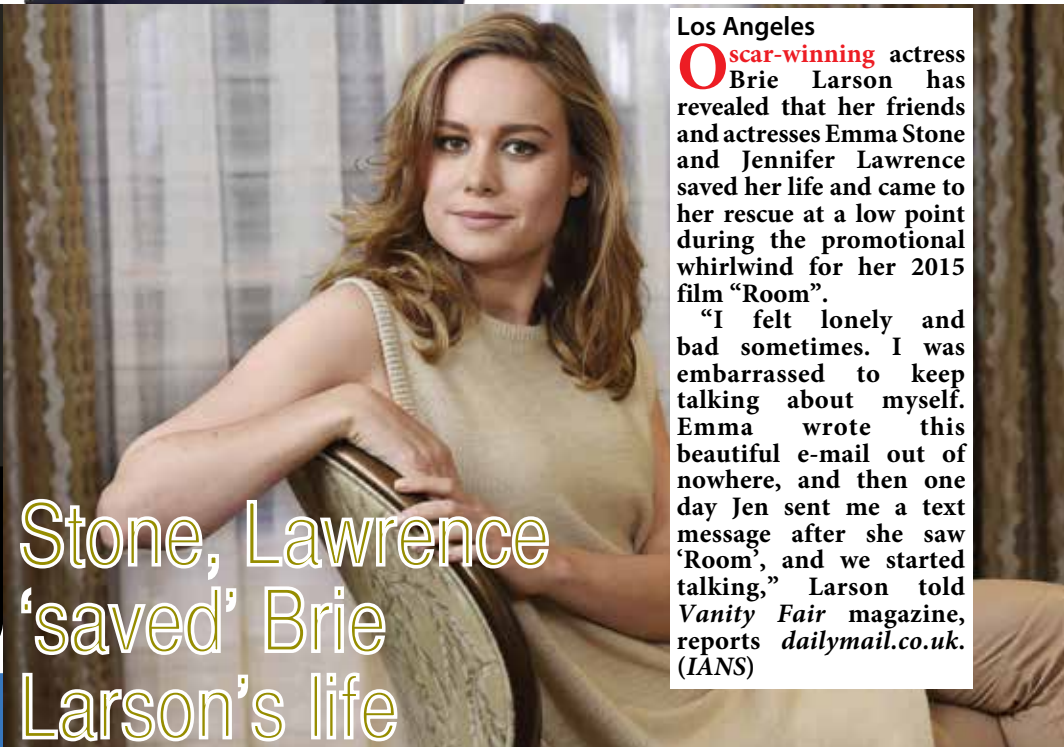
The estranged couple chose a coordinated legal strategy to end their marriage amicably as they were both seeking joint legal and physical custody of their three children and negotiating a financial settlement. (IANS)



STARRY
Birthday
Jessica Alba

April 28, 1981

Star of James Cameron's *Dark Angel*, a role that won her an ALMA Award for Breakthrough Actress of the Year in 2001. She appeared in *Sin City* and was named the Sexiest Woman in the World.



Los Angeles

Oscar-winning actress Brie Larson has revealed that her friends and actresses Emma Stone and Jennifer Lawrence saved her life and came to her rescue at a low point during the promotional whirlwind for her 2015 film "Room".

"I felt lonely and bad sometimes. I was embarrassed to keep talking about myself. Emma wrote this beautiful e-mail out of nowhere, and then one day Jen sent me a text message after she saw 'Room', and we started talking," Larson told *Vanity Fair* magazine, reports *daily mail.co.uk*. (IANS)

Stone, Lawrence
'saved' Brie
Larson's life



Karen Gillan's character was meant to die in 'Guardians...'

Los Angeles

Actress Karen Gillan says her character Nebula in the "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise was supposed to die at the end of the first movie.

The 29-year-old, who plays the blue-skinned alien assassin in "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2", is grateful that her character Nebula lived on as she's in the sequel, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"It was a surprise for me because when I read the script for the first movie my character died in it. And then when we got close to shooting that, suddenly her ending was rewritten, and then it was rewritten again," Gillan told *Radio Times* magazine.

"So I just didn't know what was going on. And then she didn't die in the first movie and I was really excited about that," she added.

Gillan sees a lot of possibilities for Nebula in the "Avengers" franchise and the third instalment of "Guardians" movie. She hopes the character gets to fulfil her wish to murder her stepfather Thanos in one of the stories. (IANS)

McGregor to star in 'Christopher Robin'

London

Actor Ewan McGregor is in talks to star in "Christopher Robin". The movie will be based on the adult version of the character by the same name from A.A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh" stories.

McGregor will portray the adult Christopher Robin, who has lost his sense of imagination and becomes a businessman, reports hollywoodreporter.com. "World War Z" and "Quantum of Solace" helmer Marc Forster will direct the live-action project, while "Hidden Figures" writer Allison Schroeder is set to take a new pass on the script. (IANS)



Now you know it



American singer, songwriter and actress Lady Gaga taught herself to play piano by ear when she was just four years old.



1. Shape Of You
Ed Sheeran

TOP 10 Songs this Week



2. That's What I Like
Bruno Mars



3. Humble
Kendrick Lamar



4. Sign Of The Times
Harry Styles



5. Something Just Like This
The Chainsmokers & Coldplay



6. iSpy
KYLE Featuring Lil Yachty



7. Mask Off
Future



8. XO TOUR Llif3
Lil Uzi Vert



9. Body Like A Back Road
Sam Hunt



10. Paris
The Chainsmokers
(billboard)

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

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.



CANNES FESTIVAL IN BAHRAIN



Date: May 3
Venue: Alliance Française

The Café des Images (Alliance Française Cinema Club) invites you to celebrate the Cannes Festival with the screening of Laurent Cantet's masterpiece *Entre les murs / The Class* (Gold Palm at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival) on Wednesday, 3rd May, 2017 at 7:30pm at Alliance Française (Isa Town, Educational area).

The talented Bahraini film director Salman Yousif (*Steps, There Will Be Light, The Rooster*) attended Laurent Cantet's masterclass at 2015 Femis summer university (French National Film school). He will share with the public his experience with this remarkable film director and his understanding of the film thanks to his unique experience in France.

In the first part of the evening, as usual, a Bahraini short movie will be shown. For this special Cannes celebration, the film *Nostalgia* will be shown in the presence of the film director, Ahmed Fardan.

At the end of the screening, a debate will be held by Mr. Dominique Chastres, Counsellor for Cooperation and Culture of the French Embassy, and Mr. Salman Yousif.

The public will be given the chance to enjoy a French buffet dinner before the screening of the films and during the intermission.

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.

WORLD LAUGHTER DAY CELEBRATIONS
Date: May 7
Venue: St Christopher's School, Saar.

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. Sajeewan 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.



The Saar Laughter Club is celebrating World Laughter Day on Sunday 7 May 6pm to 7.30pm at Infants Hall of St Christopher's School, Saar. 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

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 nominated 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 Bleecker Street.

KALEIDOSTROKES 2017
Date: April 28
Venue: Bahrain Society of Engineers

The Art Exhibition titled "Kaleidostrokes" is a unique project organized by a collective of young artists, which is planned to be held on 28th April, 2017 at Bahrain Society of Engineers (BSOE), Juffair. The novel and distinct theme based exhibit will showcase a wide range of techniques and styles under different themes- Ethnic, Black & white, Nature, Abstract and Bahrain. The purpose of the exhibit is to promote the developing skills of young artists inspired by local and international experts in the field. This art exhibition intends the young artist within the group to support each other to showcase their creative talents to the wider community. With this art rendezvous, we are expecting a floating audience of many art lovers and VIP guests. An inauguration ceremony which is planned to start at 5 pm on 28th April, 2017 inclusive of a fusion dance performance by the young artists themselves will be held inviting the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour to felicitate their presence. This will be followed by a talk on the importance of art in the 21st century, a brief introduction of the artists, their works and a presentation of awards to recognise their efforts in visual arts. Please join us for some intellectual art stimulation and, of course, support our young artists in this digital age.

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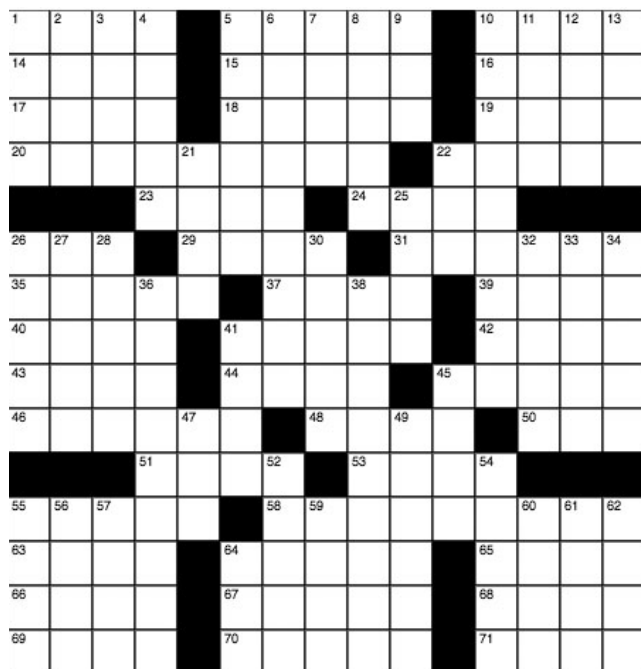
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Across

1- French friends;; 5- Confess;; 10- Land map;; 14- "Chicken of the sea";; 15- Right-hand page;; 16- Fabled fliers;; 17- ___ Hashanah;; 18- Let me repeat...;; 19- James of jazz;; 20- Alexipharmic;; 22- Blender brand;; 23- Future tulip;; 24- ___ kleine Nachtmusik;; 26- Person, slangily;; 29- Noble gas;; 31- Pertaining to the teeth;; 35- Not tied down;; 37- Unattractive;; 39- Accent;; 40- Man, in Milan;; 41- Slowpoke;; 42- Low-cal;; 43- Util. bill;; 44- Blue-pencil;; 45- President before Polk;; 46- One who enjoys inflicting pain;; 48- Vintner's prefix;; 50- Begley and Wynn;; 51- Canadian gas brand;; 53- Coarse file, angry tone of voice;; 55- Marriott competitor;; 58- Credible;; 63- Prefix with dextrous;; 64- Closes;; 65- Good earth;; 66- Irritate;; 67- Old- womanish;; 68- Sunrise direction;; 69- Angers;; 70- Country singer Tucker;; 71- Canonized Fr. women;;

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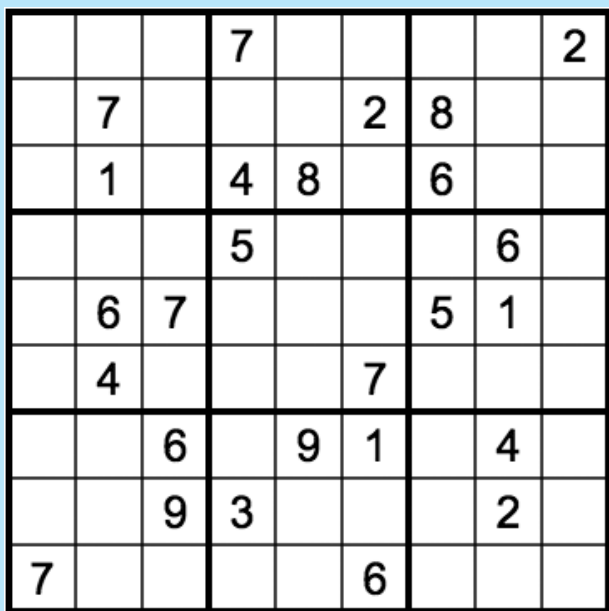
Down

1- Gillette razor;; 2- Unstable particle;; 3- Technical sch.;; 4- Indian term of respect;; 5- New World songbird;; 6- Headed west;; 7- Final Four org.;; 8- Practical;; 9- Pea's place;; 10- Soon;; 11- Trench of the Senate;; 12- Entr ___;; 13- Boris Godunov, for one;; 21- Sand hill;; 22- Undivided;; 25- Pastoral poem;; 26- Depressed spirits;; 27- Alley Oop's girlfriend;; 28- Like some stadiums;; 30- Marsh of mystery;; 32- Sheer fabric;; 33- Chipped in;; 34- Sly looks;; 36- Organizations;; 38- In the strict sense;; 41- Hardens;; 45- Throw;; 47- Fast flier;; 49- Sickness at the stomach;; 52- ___ can of worms;; 54- Heaps;; 55- Mata ___;; 56- Primordial giant in Norse myth;; 57- Skilled;; 59- Reclined;; 60- Fishing vessel, perhaps;; 61- Use a surgical beam;; 62- 911 respondents;; 64- Posed;;

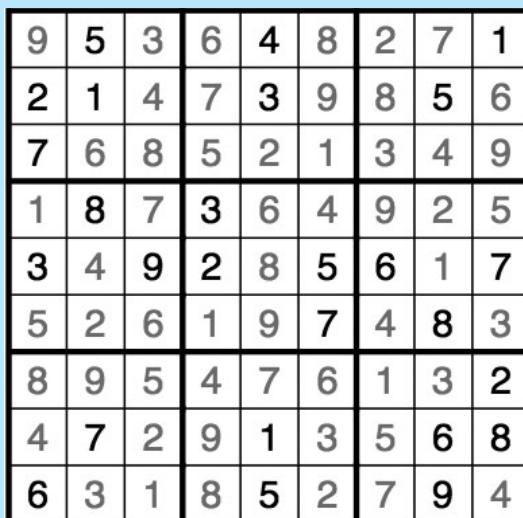
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How to play:

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)



Today you might decide to host a social event in your home, perhaps for friends and colleagues with whom you share intellectual or philosophical interests. Dreams, astrology, or metaphysics could come up. This should be a congenial gathering. You're apt to bond closely with these people. At least one of them might be a potential romantic partner.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



A large gathering, perhaps a festival of some kind, could take place in your neighbourhood today. You could choose to attend with some close friends and your romantic interest. This event could shake everyone up a bit. It could present information that's exciting but also a bit unsettling.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Discussions with friends or colleagues about possible future business enterprises could find you taking notes. Your natural meticulousness should serve you well. It will be important to have accurate records to discuss later. Any new project begun now is likely to succeed, especially if writing, speaking, or another form of entertainment is involved.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Today everyone will notice how attractive, articulate, and charming you are. This is an excellent time to invite friends over or go out with them. Romance should go particularly well. In the course of your conversations, you might become aware of some fascinating and useful information that sparks you on to new interests and possibly new opportunities.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Whether or not you're artistic, inspiration for music, painting, writing, or other creative projects could come to you thick and fast today. Write down your ideas. There could be so many you may not be able to remember them all. You will definitely want to draw upon them later. At least one could involve a new business enterprise with a partner.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



A group activity could involve a number of people, including some close friends, who share your intellectual, philosophical, or spiritual interests. A romantic partner could choose to attend this occasion with you. The conversation is likely to be so stimulating that your mind could spin. Walk home if you can. You will want to clear your head so you can sleep.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Today you might be in the public eye along with some close friends and perhaps a love partner. You may be giving a speech, leading a discussion group, or be the centre of attention at a party. You're likely to hold those around you spellbound, as your oratorical capabilities are very high. Enjoy the attention and make sure you give back what you get.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



A new and exciting person, possibly someone from a distant state or foreign country, could come into your life today. You could spend hours talking. The conversation could make you aware of new fields of interest that you find fascinating. Whether or not you pursue this attraction depends on your situation, but at the very least you will enjoy yourself!

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Some unusual dreams could have unexpected side effects. They could spark new ideas for creative projects or possible innovative concepts to advance your career or social life. They might clue you in to what's in the hearts and minds of those closest to you. Your dreams might say a lot about you. Write them down so you can analyse them. You might be surprised by what they bring to mind.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Social contact with new and exciting people, perhaps at a neighbourhood gathering, could bring intriguing information your way. You could learn about new fields that interest you. There's a possibility of a new potential romantic partner with whom you talk for hours. Whether or not you choose to pursue this depends on your situation.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)

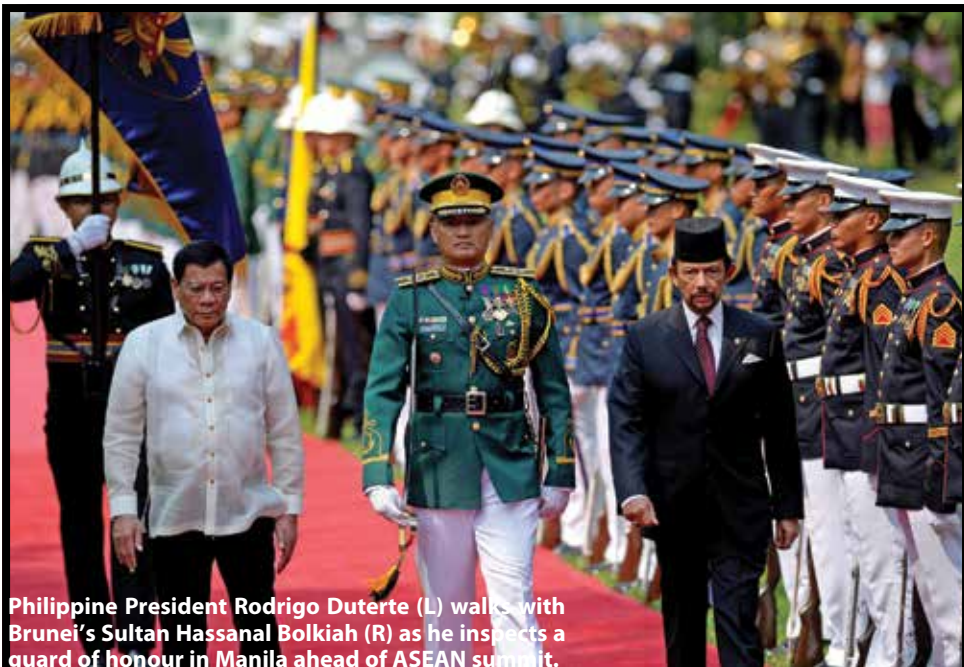


Work might take up a lot of your time today, perhaps job related, perhaps chores around the house. Friends or family may join you, and their conversation could help relieve some of the tedium. Getting the tasks done could free up the rest of the day for socializing, perhaps getting together in the evening with a love partner.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Much of your day is likely to be spent in the company of family, close friends, and a current or potential love partner. Business partners could be involved. This should be a very pleasant, stimulating day for you. People you care about and enjoy will surround you. You're also likely to become more strongly bonded to a romantic partner.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (L) walks with Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (R) as he inspects a guard of honour in Manila ahead of ASEAN summit.

Duterte says he is helpless against China

Manila Philippine President

Rodrigo Duterte said there was no point protesting Chinese artificial island building in disputed areas of the South China Sea because it could not be stopped.

Duterte made the comments ahead of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit this week, and he confirmed he would not use the event to pressure China on its expansionism in the strategically vital waters.

"It cannot be an issue anymore. It's already there.

What would be the purpose of discussing it if you cannot do anything," Duterte said.

China has been turning reefs and shoals in areas of the sea claimed by the Philippines and other nations into artificial islands, and installing military facilities there.

The United States has criticised the construction work, warning against militarisation in the waterway where \$5 trillion in annual trade passes.

China's reclamation has also rattled other claimants, which include ASEAN

members Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino, had challenged China by asking a UN-backed tribunal to outlaw Beijing's sweeping claims to the sea and its reclamation work.

The tribunal last year ruled largely in the Philippines' favour.

However Duterte, who came to office shortly before the ruling was issued, adopted a pragmatic approach to dealing with China in a bid to win billions of dollars worth of trade and aid. (AFP)

#PollToday



The US accuses China of militarisation of the South China Sea where \$5 trillion in annual trade passes. And Duterte yesterday said he is helpless. Do you think China is pushing the region into chaos?

Yes No Cant Say



We can only successfully strengthen the monetary union if responsibility and solidarity are closely linked. One way to work for that is to continue working at turning the ESM into a European monetary fund,"

Jeroen Dijsselbloem
Eurogroup chairman

Rest in sight

China-bound illegal donkey hide haul seized



Pakistani police have confiscated more than 4,000 donkey hides that were set to be illegally exported to China where they are highly sought after for their use in traditional medicine.

Four Thai rangers killed by bomb in restive south

Four Thai army rangers were shot dead in an ambush after a roadside bomb toppled their truck in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south, police said.

Russia, Iran abusing Interpol to arrest foes

Russia and Iran are among countries increasingly abusing Interpol red notices to seek the arrest of political opponents, European lawmakers warned Wednesday.

Rare vaquita porpoise found dead in Mexico

An endangered vaquita porpoise was found dead in the Gulf of Mexico, raising the number of dead vaquitas found in 2017 to four.

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10 dead after strikes on rebel-held hospitals



Damage caused by air strike on a hospital

Deir Sharqi

Air strikes on two hospitals in rebel-held northwestern Syria yesterday left 10 people dead including two babies in incubators, a monitor said.

They were among 19 people killed as a result of strikes across rebel-held Idlib province yesterday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

A correspondent in the village of Deir Sharqi, where one of the hospitals was hit, saw extensive damage and wards buried in rubble.

It was the third time in

less than a week that medical facilities in the province, controlled by rebels and jihadist groups, had been hit in air strikes.

"Apparently Russian aircraft... carried out four successive raids at dawn on a hospital on the outskirts" of Deir Sharqi, it said.

"Six civilians in the emergency department were killed, including two babies in incubators, after the destruction of the facility's oxygen generator" which was keeping them alive, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

Brazil arrests 14 over explosive Paraguay heist

Brasilia

Brazilian police said yesterday they had arrested 14 people and seized more than a million dollars of stolen cash after an explosive heist by suspected Brazilian gangsters in neighbouring Paraguay.

Dubbed "the robbery of the century" by officials, the raid in the city of Ciudad del Este near Brazilian border left three robbers and a policeman dead.

The robbers made off with \$8 million, said Prosegur,

the secure cash-transporting company targeted in the operation which saw some 50 gunmen with explosives and military-grade weaponry blast into a secure vault.

On Wednesday Brazilian federal police said in a report they had seized the equivalent of about \$1.4 million in various currencies as well as firearms and explosives.

An official of the force said that two more suspects had been arrested over the heist, bringing to 14 the total arrested since the raid.

Thai mother saw daughter's Facebook Live murder

Phuket

The distraught Thai mother of a baby girl killed by her boyfriend in a murder he broadcast on Facebook Live has described the harrowing moment she stumbled across the video and rushed to alert police.

The killing on Monday evening caused revulsion both in Thailand and around the world, sparking renewed debate about what can be done by social media giants to more quickly remove live broadcasts of violent crimes, suicides and murders.



Jiranuch Trirat in front of the coffin of her daughter Natalie

Jiranuch Trirat, a 22-year-old from Phuket, was left devastated after her boyfriend Wuttisan Wongtalay hanged their 11-month old daughter Natalie from the side of an

abandoned building before taking his own life.

He broadcast Natalie's murder on Facebook Live, a video that Jiranuch came across that evening.

Jail terms over death of Moroccan fishmonger

Rabat

A Moroccan court has sentenced seven people to between five and eight months in prison over the death of a fish seller crushed in a rubbish truck.

Mouhcine Fikri, 31, was killed on October 28 as he protested against the authorities' seizure and destruction of his swordfish, which had been caught out of season.

His death in the northern port of Al-Hoceima sparked nationwide protests.

The Criminal Chamber of Al-Hoceima handed down the sentences Wednesday after a manslaughter trial of 11 people including officials from the fisheries authority and the interior ministry along with employees of the cleaning company, the local prosecutor said.

In a statement carried by the official MAP news agency, the prosecutor said those sentenced to prison also faced fines of \$55 (50 euros) and that the other four suspects were acquitted.



TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS in 10 tweets

ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

From the resounding setbacks in Congress to the stunning policy flip-flops, Donald Trump has certainly been confronted with a steep learning curve in his opening months at the White House.

While the new US president has shown a capacity to change both his tone and his positions, Trump has struggled to convey a clearly articulated worldview.

As the symbolic milestone of his 100th day in power, which falls on Saturday, draws near, a cold, hard reality is setting in for the billionaire businessman who promised Americans he would "win, win, win" for them.

At this stage of his presidency Donald Trump is the least popular US leader in modern history (even if his core supporters still fully support him).

The 70-year-old Trump, whose election victory unleashed a political shockwave around the world, is still clinging to the take-no-prisoners, unpredictable, impulsive style that made him a property mogul and reality TV star.

Since entering office, President Donald Trump has used Twitter to issue declarations on everything from America's geopolitical rivals to his personal feuds with the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

As Trump prepares to mark his 100 days, we look back at 10 Tweets that have characterized the opening phase of his presidency. (AFP)

@realDonaldTrump

Search

- 1** "We will follow two simple rules: **BUY AMERICAN & HIRE AMERICAN**"
-- setting out his governing mantra on January 20 after his inauguration.
- 2** "We must keep 'evil' out of our country!"
-- justifying his ban on travellers from a group of mainly Muslim countries, on February 3.
- 3** "What is our country coming to when a judge can halt a Homeland Security travel ban and anyone, even with bad intentions, can come into U.S.?"
-- reacting after the ban was subsequently blocked on February 4.
- 4** "North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been 'playing' the United States for years. China has done little to help!"
-- voicing frustration with both Pyongyang and Beijing over North Korea's nuclear program on March 17.
- 5** "Why would I call China a currency manipulator when they are working with us on the North Korean problem? We will see what happens!"
-- Trump has an apparent change of heart towards Beijing on April 16.
- 6** "Germany owes vast sums of money to NATO & the United States must be paid more for the powerful, and very expensive, defense it provides to Germany!"
-- Trump takes aim at German leader Angela Merkel, a traditional US ally, after a frosty summit in Washington on March 18.
- 7** "Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!"
-- Trump accuses his predecessor Barack Obama on March 4 of wire-tapping his Manhattan skyscraper during the elections.
- 8** "Don't believe the main stream (fake news) media. The White House is running **VERY WELL**. I inherited a MESS and am in the process of fixing it"
-- defending his performance on February 18 after his first four weeks in office
- 9** "The **FAKE NEWS** media (@nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!"
-- letting rip at some of the biggest names in the US media landscape on February 17.
- 10** "Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't voluntarily leaving the Apprentice, he was fired by his bad (pathetic) ratings, not by me. Sad end to great show"
-- Trump reacts on March 4 to the departure of the "Terminator" star, an outspoken critic of the president and his successor as host of the former reality TV show.

Kung wins snow-hit 2nd stage



Swiss Stefan Kung (L) sprints to win ahead of Ukrainian Andriy Grivko

Results from 136.5km second stage:

1. Stefan Kung (SUI, BMC) 3hr 33 min 15sec,
2. Andrey Grivko (UKE, Astana) same time,
3. Sonny Colbrelli (ITA, Bahrain) 0:20,
4. Alexander Edmondson (AUS, Orica) s.t.
5. Ben Swift (GBR, UAE) s.t.,
6. Fabio Fellingine (ITA, Trek), s.t.,
7. Tosh Van Der Sande (BEL, Lotto), s.t.,
8. Jarlinson Pantano (COL, Trek) s.t.,
9. Diego Ulissi (ITA, UAE) s.t.,
10. Max Richeze (ARG, Quick-Step) s.t.

Overall standings

1. Fabio Fellingine (ITA, Trek), 4hr 39min 07 sec,
2. Maximilian Schachmann (GER, Quick-Step) at 0:08,
3. Jesus Herrada (ESP, Movistar) s.t.,
4. Primoz Roglic (SLO, Lotto-NL) 0:09,
5. Ion Izagirre (ESP, Bahrain) 0:12,
6. Bob Jungels (LUX, Quick-Step) s.t.,
7. Jose Goncalves (POR, Katusha) 0:13,
8. Ruben Fernandez (ESP, Movistar) s.t.,
9. Michael Albasini (SUI, Orica) 0:14,
10. Jonathan Castroviejo (ESP, Movistar) s.t.

Selected others

36. Chris Froome (GBR, Sky) 0:29,
46. Richie Porte (AUS, BMC) 0:33,
49. Tejay Van Garderen (USA, BMC) 0:34.



Overall leader Italy's Fabio Fellingine, of team Trek-Segafredo, is kissed by hostesses

Bulle

Switzerland's Stefan Kung battled wintry conditions to claim Thursday's shortened second stage of the Tour de Romandie as Italian Fabio Fellingine remained in the lead. BMC rider Kung beat Ukrainian Andrey Grivko in a sprint finish to win stage two of the race for the second time in three years.

Kung and Grivko finished just ahead of the chasing peloton after the pair were the two lone survivors of a four-man breakaway that held a six-minute lead at one point.

Originally due to begin in Champéry and cover just over

160km, the stage instead began in Aigle and was reduced to 136.5km with a potentially treacherous descent removed due to chilly temperatures and "light snowfall".

Fellingine, who won Tuesday's prologue, stayed eight seconds clear of German Maximilian Schachmann and Jesus Herrada of Spain.

Twice former champion Chris Froome is 36th but only 29 seconds off the lead ahead of Friday's flat 187km stage around Payerne in western Switzerland.

The race ends on Sunday with an 18.3km individual time-trial.

Seven Cups races today

Manama

Seven Cups races are scheduled today with BD20,500 in prize money up for grabs starting from 3pm and concluding at 5.30pm in the 25th and final race meeting of the season at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club in Sakhir.

The richest race is the sixth at 5.05pm for The Owners Cup for locally bred three years and upwards over 2,000 metres and worth BD6,000.

Other races are Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa Cup (3pm), Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khaliffa Cup (3.25pm), Al Rouda Cup (3.50pm), Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa Cup (4.15pm), Zaid bin Theeb Group Industry and Trade Cup (4.40pm) and the Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa - Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club Cup (5.30pm).

Bowling and golf victories hailed



Askar with members of the Bahrain the golf junior team



Askar welcomes the Bahrain bowling team at the reception

Manama

Bahrain's national bowling and golf teams were hailed after outstanding results at their respective regional competitions recently.

The bowlers took two medals at the First Arab Junior Championships in Cairo, Egypt with Osama Abdulrahman taking the singles event gold medal, while compatriot Omar Rashid bagged the bronze after fierce competition at the International Bowling Centre.

In the GCC Junior Golf Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the golf team captured three medals, including two in the singles and one in the team event.

The nationals bagged the team event gold medal, while Ali Al Kuwari and Eid Adel took the silver and bronze medals, respectively in the singles section.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports deputy general secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) general secretary Abdulrahman Askar was among

top officials congratulating and welcoming the teams at a reception ceremony at the committee premises in Seef.

Also present at the reception were BOC member and Women's Sport Committee chairwoman Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Bahrain Bowling Association president Ahmed Al Nuaimi, Bahrain Golf Association board members along with other associations board members and representatives of the BOC.

Cyclists ride 'for peace' in MidEast tour

Eilat

A group of cyclists have embarked on a multi-day tour in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories as part of an effort to promote peace in the Middle East.

Around a dozen riders are part of the five-day event, intended to promote and preview the main race set for March 2018, which will follow a similar course but will also include part of Egypt.

The tour began on Monday in the Jordanian capital Amman, with the cyclists set to reach Jerusalem on Friday after having crossed southern Israel and part of the occupied West Bank.

"I believe that sport worldwide has a very strong voice, a very positive voice, and a very direct voice, and let's say a simple voice," said Gerhard Schoenbacher, the Austrian director of the tour.

"It's not as complicated as politics and religion." The aim of next year's main event is to encourage peace initiatives in the region, according to organisers.

"We fight each other in the race, but after the race you're friends again, and in the race you're good colleagues," said Dutch rider Annemiek van Vleuten.

"So I think maybe that atmosphere, it's good maybe to bring it to the Middle East," she said.



Bahrain open MMA, boxing begin today

Manama
Bahrain Open Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing Championship will begin today at the Khalifa Sport City Hall.

BMMAF is organising the event, under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Honorary President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation, in cooperation with the Khalid bin Hamad Mixed Martial Arts.

Commenting on the championships, Colonel

Khalid Abdulaziz Al-Khayat, President of BMMAF, Head of the Championship's Organising Committee, confirmed that the event comes within the calendar year will witness three championships.

"Through its programmes, the federation seeks to implement the vision of Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, which is based on the creation of an ideal environment to encourage and push Bahraini youth to practice mixed martial arts and formation of teams for international competition," said Al Khayat said.

He added: "The championship is the first of the Federation's official championships since its formation last June, and aims to give local fighters the opportunity to highlight their energies and combat abilities, which serves to achieve the main objective of choosing distinguished fighters to join the national team in order to prepare for upcoming international events, particularly the national MMA team at the World Amateur Championship to be hosted by Bahrain in November this year." The Organising

Committee has set the dates for the Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing competition. The boxing competition will be held today with the official weight examination held from 9am to 11am and the competition launching at 4pm. Tomorrow the Mixed Martial Arts Competition will be held, with the official weight examination from 9am to 11am and competitions starting at 4 pm.

Under the directives of Shaikh Khalid, the committee decided to allow free entry to the public to attend the fights, which will be hosted at the Khalifa Sport City Hall.

End of era for Merc?



Sochi

Ferrari championship leader Sebastian Vettel said yesterday he was hoping to spring "a surprise" and end rival Mercedes' three-year domination at the Russian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The four-time world champion leads this year's title race ahead of Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes by two wins to one after three races in what is shaping up to be a two-way tussle for the title.

Mercedes have won all three Russian Grands Prix held at the Sochi Autodrom -- Hamilton twice and retired Nico Rosberg once -- and have led every lap since the inaugural race in 2014.

"On paper it's been a strong track for Mercedes so they will be very strong, everything else would be a surprise," the German Vettel said on Thursday.

"I think, and I feel, there's also a couple of corners where the (Ferrari) car was already good last year.

"The DNA of the car is still in a way similar, even though obviously the rules have changed and the car feels different... there should be places on the track where we should be strong.

"There were places last year where we were weak and we hope

to be stronger this year and then we'll see where we are."

Talking to reporters at the circuit, Vettel was also asked to comment on suggestions that he and three-time champion Hamilton will benefit from team orders that require their respective team-mates to act as "number two" drivers.

"I think the way we've raced in the last two and a half years, everything straightforward, sometimes it was close, sometimes it was too close as well..." he said, rejecting the notion of Ferrari team orders.



Vettel

Football

Scores as of closing

Premier League:



Manchester City 0 Manchester Utd 0

Spanish La Liga:



Alaves 0 Eibar 0
Sevilla 2 Celta Vigo 1
Athletic Bilbao 2 Real Betis 1

Russian Premier League:

Amkar Perm 0 Krasnodar 2
Anzhi Mkhachkala 3 Tomsk 3

Champions League 2016-17

SEMI-FINAL, 1ST LEG - MAY 2/3 Form W D L

REAL MADRID v ATLETICO
Santiago Bernabéu
All-time head-to-head
Won 137 Drawn 62 Won 67

Form ●●●●●● Goals for / against 13 / 5

Competition statistics (per match)

7.50	Shots on target	4.70
7.10	Shots wide	5.70
523	Passes	423
6.60	Crosses	4.20
52%	Possession	50%

MONACO v JUVENTUS
Stade Louis II
Head-to-head
Won 1 Drawn 1 Won 2

Form ●●●●●● Goals for / against 17 / 2

Competition statistics (per match)

4.80	Shots on target	5.00
4.80	Shots wide	6.20
315	Passes	516
5.50	Crosses	5.60
46%	Possession	55%

Karim Benzema Real Madrid striker has provided most assists (11) for Ronaldo's century of Champions League strikes

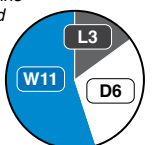
PERENNIAL FAVOURITES: Real Madrid, 11-time European champions, aiming to be first team to successfully defend Champions League title

Knock-out matches in Champions League

Real	Titles: 1998, 2000, 02, 14, 16	85
Bayern	2001, 13	83
Barcelona	2006, 09, 11, 15	82
Man Utd	1999, 2008	62
AC Milan	1994, 2003, 07	57

CITY RIVALS: Real have ended Atletico's European dream for last three seasons, including wins in 2014 and 2016 finals

Real: European record vs other Spanish teams



Sources: UEFA, Gracenote Picture: Newscom © GRAPHIC NEWS

Bahrain take on Kuwait today

Aidan Payne/DTNN
aidan@dt.bh

Action resumes today in the fifth round of round-robin matches today in the International Cricket Council (ICC) 2017 World Cricket League (WCL) Asia Region Division One in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Bahrain with two wins (against Thailand and Qatar) from its three matches take on Kuwait today who have won one match against China and lost out to Qatar and Saudi Arabia so far in its three matches played.

The Bahrain national team prepared for this championship with five friendly matches

in Sri Lanka, winning three and losing two and getting acclimatised and getting used to playing on turf wickets.

Under head coach Rexie Arunvasagam and manager Syed Rizwan Shah, the squad comprises the captain, Azeem Ul Haq, Tahir Dar, Babar

Ali, Junaid Aziz, Gamini Arachchige, Imran Ali Butt, Janaka

Chaturanga, Mohammed Rafeh, Aamar Shahzad, Mohammed Sameer, Mohammed Iqbal, Awad Khan, Bilal Mansoor and Jabbar Amjad.

In other matches scheduled, tournament leaders Saudi Arabia (3-0) take on Bhutan (1-2) and Qatar (3-1) play China (0-4), while hosts Thailand have a bye.

The winner of the qualifier progresses 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 Monday at Prem Tinsulanonda International School, Chiangmai Gymkhana and Royal Chiangmai Golf Club.

BIC to host weekend of Open Track and Ultimate experiences

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) will be holding back-to-back evenings of exciting track action today and tomorrow in Sakhir.

Today the hugely popular Open Track Night will be welcoming motoring enthusiasts to drive their very own road cars or bikes down BIC's world-renowned 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix Track, while tomorrow a series of Ultimate Track Experiences will be on offer to the public.

Action will take place on the 2.55-kilometre Inner Track.

Today Open Track Night will be held under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlighting system from 4pm to 11pm and allows people to drive for a whole night, or for just half a night or a single 30-minute session.

Friends or family members who would like to accompany a participant as a passenger in their car can also pay for the chance.

Meanwhile, a pair of passenger rides are sure to give motorsport fans an exceptional new thrill. The Clio Cup Passenger ride gives clients a look into the racing capabilities of one of the world's most popular sports cars and comprises a single three-lap session of around 40 minutes or the Radical SR3 Passenger Ride which can go from zero to 100kmh in 3.4 seconds and comprises a three-lap session of around 40 minutes.

Action tomorrow is from 8am to 4pm with three activities from the Ultimate Track Experience.



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April 28, 2017

'SOLID'

Sharapova wins

AGAIN

round tie.

"I'm happy. I executed my game plan and I was solid," said a relieved Sharapova, whose comeback is deeply controversial and has a wild card to play in the Stuttgart event where she has been a champion three times.

Stuttgart

Maria Sharapova picked up a second win in as many days on her comeback from a 15-month doping ban yesterday, beating fellow Russian Ekaterina Makarova at the Stuttgart WTA tournament.

The 30-year-old five-time Grand Slam winner dominated Makarova, ranked 43 in the world, for a 7-5, 6-1 win in just one hour, 20 minutes, in the second-

On Friday she will face Estonian qualifier Anett Kontaveit, who beat French Open champion and fifth-seed Garbine Muguruza of Spain in the second round, for a place in the semi-finals.

"I haven't played her, she is one of the few girls on the tour I haven't faced yet," said Sharapova.

"She has been playing some great tennis here and this is a great opportunity for both of us."

There was none of the rust or nerves Sharapova showed in beating Roberta Vinci 7-5, 6-3 in Wednesday's first round -- the first day she was eligible to play after testing positive for meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open.

This was a far more polished, confident display from Sharapova, who hit nine aces and 29 winners against Makarova.

But there is still work to do before facing Kontaveit as Sharapova also had seven double faults and made 19 unforced errors.

"Practice and playing are so different and you can only prepare the best you can, so it's

good to finally play," said the former number one.

"The reaction and anticipation you need are so hard to replicate in training and these are the things I need." Makarova, who has now lost all of her seven matches against Sharapova, put up a fight as the first set followed serve, but was broken in the final game. Sharapova pumped her fist and let out a scream as she converted her second set point.

It was all Sharapova in the second set as she won six straight games after Makarova won the first on her serve. Stuttgart has always been a happy hunting ground for Sharapova in the past and she has won three finals and tasted defeat just once in four previous appearances.

Having also been given wild cards to play at the Madrid and Rome tournaments, Sharapova must wait until May 16 to learn if she will get a wild card for the French Open.

However, there appeared to be no end to the criticism Sharapova has encountered on her comeback.

Eugenie Bouchard was the latest player to attack Sharapova, who the Canadian branded a "cheater" over her return from a drugs ban.

Bouchard has suggested the Russian should be kicked out of tennis for life and said the Women's Tennis Association was sending the wrong message in allowing Sharapova to come back from her 15-month suspension. (AFP)

Russia's Ekaterina
Makarova returns to
Russia's Maria Sharapova



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