

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

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News of Bahrain

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Gadget ban
will not affect
Gulf Air: CEO



► P 05

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the Day



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11th Hour

Bahrain condemns missile attacks on Saudi cities

Manama

Bahrain condemned in the strongest terms the ongoing ballistic missile attacks on Saudi cities by putschists in Yemen. "The attack is clear evidence of arms smuggling in Yemen to undermine efforts to reach a settlement to Yemen crisis," said Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Egypt's Sisi to visit US on April 3

Washington

The White House announced Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will make an "official visit" to Washington on April 3, ending years in which the Egyptian president had been kept at arm's length amid rights concerns.

Coalition 'probably' had role in Mosul casualties

Mosul

The US-led anti-jihadist coalition said yesterday it "probably" played a role in civilian casualties in west Mosul, as the UN and Amnesty International called for greater efforts to protect civilians. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are still trapped in west Mosul.

Arab leaders oppose US policy shift

Sweimeh, Jordan

A draft statement to be presented before the Arab summit being held here opposes plans by President Donald Trump to move Washington's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and alternatives to a Palestinian state.

The draft, which was drawn up by the Palestinian delegation, was approved by Arab foreign ministers on the eve of the summit meeting in the Jordanian Dead Sea resort

of Sweimeh. Arab League member states "reaffirm their commitment to the two-state solution and to the right of the State of Palestine to restore its sovereignty over the territories occupied in 1967, including east Jerusalem," the draft says.

It calls on "all countries to respect UN Security Council resolutions that reject Israel's annexation of occupied east Jerusalem" and "not to move their embassies" from Tel Aviv to the Holy City. Since taking

office in January, Trump has indicated he is willing to break with decades of US policy by moving the embassy and being open to a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if both sides agree it. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas is to join other Arab leaders at the summit. He will meet Trump next month.

Bigger turnout

The Arab Summit is expected to have a bigger turnout

than recent Arab summits, Jordanian officials say, and security forces cast a high profile in the capital Amman with armoured vehicles standing at traffic junctions as leaders flew in.

While they are highly unlikely to bridge rifts over the regional role of Iran or wars in Syria and Yemen, Arab leaders remain united in supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We are concerned that

there should be an Arab consensus on the Palestinian file so that this reflects clearly in the discussions of Arab states and their leaders with the new US administration," Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki told Reuters.

The Palestinians want Arab East Jerusalem - which Israel captured in a 1967 war - as the capital of a future state encompassing the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

-Agencies

Heated debate over proposed 5pc tax

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

Manama

The House of Representatives yesterday witnessed heated debate over a proposal to impose an additional five per cent tax on companies making an annual net profit of BD0.5 million.

The MPs disagreed on the report of the Council's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, which recently passed the proposal submitted by Public Utilities and Services Committee chief Hamad Al Dossary and a group of MPs last month.

The proposal adds an article to Law 21 of 2001 with regards to commercial companies, instructing to impose a 5 per cent tax on the annual net profit of companies making more than BD0.5 million a year.

According to the presenters of the proposal, 40pc of the private establishments operating in Bahrain annually achieve this figure.

The first opposing voice



Abdulhalim Murad to the proposal came from the council's Second Deputy Speaker Abdulhalim Murad, who suspected that the proposal is not compliant with the Islamic Sharia and suggested to refer the matter to a religious panel to approve it before voting on it.

Murad's statements created an argument between him and MP Jalal Kadhim, who was one of the MPs who moved the proposal.

Kadhim criticised several MPs' rejection of the proposal including Murad.

The Council's Speaker Ahmed Al Mulla intervened to break the deadlock, which ended with Murad and Kadhim exchanging heated



arguments with accusations of disrespecting one another.

When given the mic again to speak about the proposal, Kadhim said that imposing taxes on commercial establishments is similar to procedures followed in fellow GCC countries.

"Bahrain has always been a tax free zone, while all types of taxes are imposed on us in other countries.

"In Oman, Kuwait and Qatar, similar taxes are imposed on companies making annual net profit of BD5,000 to BD375,000 with percentages ranging between 5pc to 55pc.

"We only suggested 5pc on companies making



Hamad Al Dossary BD500,000," Kadhim said.

"Net profits of private companies and banks in Bahrain cross BD500 million a year, and deducting only 5pc wouldn't affect them much, but would benefit the State budget," he commented.

Kadhim condemned how some MPs rejected the proposal, but agreed imposing fees and taxes on citizens in the past.

Demanding MPs to pass the proposal, Al Dossary insisted that the proposed 5pc is trifle in comparison with the huge profits annually achieved by private banks and companies operating in Bahrain.

After showing a couple of



Isa Al Kooheji reports proving that some banks made annual net profits of BD570 million last year, Al Dossary asked: "Can't they support the country which provided them with all sorts of facilities to operate with only 5pc of their net profits?"

"They are all aware of the tough economic situations in the Kingdom and they should assist the state in overcoming the crisis.

"Everyone in this council is seeking creating new revenues to the state budget during these tough conditions. Why do they reject when we submit proposals to support the state," Al Dossary said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Saudi shoots down 'smuggled' Yemen rebel missiles

A damaged school building in the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah after a missile attack

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia intercepted four missiles fired by Yemeni rebels yesterday, a Saudi-led coalition said, in what it described as evidence of arms smuggling through a rebel-held Red Sea port.

The coalition has said previously that it destroyed much of the Shiite rebels' missile capability early in its two-year-old bombing campaign and says persistent launches show they are receiving new deliveries from abroad.

"Early this morning, four missiles were intercepted," the coalition said.

"The ongoing missile attacks on Saudi cities provide clear evidence of the arms smuggling that continues to take place in Yemen, notably through the port of Hodeida."

The coalition said that the missiles targeted Khamis Mushait, which houses the

coalition's main airbase for its operations in Yemen, and Abha, another city close to the Yemeni border.

It said they were intercepted without casualties or damage.

The coalition has previously accused Shiite Iran of smuggling weapons to its coreligionists, a charge Tehran denies.

The coalition has enforced an air and sea blockade of rebel-held areas since the start of its intervention in March 2015.

Hodeida is the main port of entry for UN-supervised aid deliveries to rebel areas.

The UN World Food Programme said on Friday that a third of Yemen's 22 provinces were on the brink of famine.

It said it was providing food to around seven million people each month but that was less than half the 17 million who were going

hungry.

Earlier this month, the coalition called on the United Nations to take full control of Hodeida to facilitate "ending the use of the port for weapons smuggling."

The UN rejected the request, saying the responsibility to protect infrastructure and civilians could not be shifted to other parties.

Sunday marked the second anniversary of the launch of the coalition's intervention.

Hundreds of thousands poured into the streets of Sanaa in a show of support for the Shiite rebels, who still control the capital as well as most of the north and the Red Sea coast.

More than 7,700 people have been killed since the intervention began, most of them civilians, according to World Health Organization figures.
-(AFP)

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Proposing taxes not our job: MP

From Page 1

On his part, MP Isa Al Kooheji rejected the proposal, stating that "introducing taxes isn't our job".

"As citizens, it is not our duty to think on behalf of the Government on how to increase its revenues. The government has ministers, experts and consultants. They should come up with means to increase the incomes of the state, not us," Al Kooheji remarked.

Another opposing voice, Ali Al Muqla, commented, "Imposing this new tax

harms employers and puts unnecessary burdens during this economic crisis. We must keep in mind that any taxes imposed on traders and business owners will definitely reflect on citizens."

Not in the right place

A representative of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry said that Law 21 of 2001 with regards to commercial companies isn't the concerned law to introduce new taxes.

The official said the law only regulates the operation of companies.

"Such proposals should be referred to Finance Ministry and not Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry," he added.

Shura Council and Representatives Council Affairs Minister Ghanem Al Buainain also supported the official's statements, saying that imposing taxes couldn't be made by amending existing laws that are not concerned.

The MPs finally voted for referring the five per cent tax proposal back to the committee so it could be studied and reviewed in a more appropriate manner.

Police stop expatriate workers' march at Sanad



The protest was over unpaid salaries

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

Workers of a construction company who were marching towards the Ministry of Labour & Social Development demanding unpaid salaries were stopped by the police yesterday.

Protesting over unpaid salaries, the employees marched towards the Ministry premises on Zayed town. But, the men only reached till Sanad as they were stopped by the police. Most of the workers were Indian and Bangladeshi expatriates.

"The employees came from four different labour camps. Some of them were from Riffa, while others were from Eker and Sitra," said a source.

A source from the company told *DT News* that the delayed payment of salaries have been an ongoing issue for the past one year.

"We have not been getting our salaries on time since last year. Since December, we have not received our salaries at all. The labourers have been hit hard by non-payment of salaries since they have no savings to rely on," he said.

"Although they paid a

paltry BD20 for food, many of us are struggling. Many have to depend on credit purchases to meet their expenses and are not able to send money back home," he said.

"The company is struggling because it lost out on some projects and some of its clients have delayed their payments. I have been at this company for the past 35 years and this is the first time it has gotten into such major trouble. More than a decade ago, we had a similar issue but it was sorted out quickly," he added.

"We heard that the company has communicated with the embassies and the authorities have agreed on settling the issue," he said.

On Tuesday, around 75 Indian nationals visited the Indian Embassy to plead for help. Reportedly Bangladesh nationals have also sought help from their embassy.

The labourers have been hit hard by non-payment of salaries since they have no savings to rely on, and many have to depend on credit purchases to meet their expenses

Gold worth 10,000 BD robbed

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

In yet another gold theft that shook the city, Rajnikanth Kichadia, 59, owner of the World Jeweller, was robbed yesterday of gold ornaments worth 10,000 BD right outside his shop, opposite Jawad House in Manama at 11:40 am, reports said yesterday.

A group of four unidentified persons reportedly hit him on the head and ran away with the jewellery.

Kichadia was waiting at the door with the jewellery before going back to his son's workshop when the thugs struck him and took away the gold.

According to a source, the

incident is the fifth within an year's time, and the authorities have not solved a single case. All the victims were aged more than 50, the source said.

Kichadia is reportedly injured in head. He is also suffering from shock but recouping fast, the reports said.



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'Foreigners needn't be treated equally in education'



Mohammed Al Maarifi



Abbas Al Madhi

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

A veteran parliamentarian said yesterday that the expatriates need not be treated equally with the citizens when it comes to free services such as education.

Services Committee head Abbas Al Madhi, who has been representing Al Dair and Samahej areas in Muharraq for a decade, raised the issue in the weekly meeting of the House of Representatives held at Gudaibiya yesterday.

The House was discussing the committee's report on a proposal to impose annual fees of BD400 on non-Bahraini students in public schools.

Defending the proposal, Al Madhi said, "I am not ashamed of saying it. My principle is that a Bahraini citizen should be given a distinguished status in his own country. We must respect all residents including the expats, but making them equal to our own citizens isn't acceptable," he said, adding that some expats are earning more than double of what Bahrainis are earning, and what if they pay more fees for their children's education?

Criticising other MPs who rejected the proposal, Al Madhi commented, "It will be a disaster if we can't make a distinction between our citizens and the expats at least in education and employment. This should be fundamental to any country

that respects its people."

"We have Bahrainis working abroad, and they are paying fees for their children's education. Let's treat this issue in the same way. Nothing more and nothing less," Al Madhi said.

The MPs who rejected the proposal included Isa Al Kooheji, Mohammed Al Maarifi, Khalid Al Shaer and Anas Buhindi.

Al Kooheji said that imposing the new fees is unfair on the people who left their countries to serve ours". Buhindi said that it was "unjust". Al Shaer tackled the issue from an economic standpoint, stating that imposing the fees would push expats away from Bahrain, and it might harm the national economy.

Al Maarifi said the fees would eventually be borne by employers, mentioning the state's mandate in the cases of expats working for the public sector.

This was, however, supported by Shura Council and Representatives Council Affairs Minister Ghanem Al

Buainain.

"Logically, the employers will bear the costs of the foreign employees in their children's education. It is mentioned in the work agreements that they should, whether they be in private or public sectors," he said.

There were others who took the occasion to reject the proposal as well as support it. The House, however, decided to set aside the committee's report for two weeks to revise it before bringing it back to the discussion table.

DT News had reported earlier that the proposal, submitted by MP Jalal Kadhim stipulated the amendment of the seventh article of the existing Law 27 of the year 2005 with respect to educational services in the Kingdom in imposing revised annual fees of BD400 on non-Bahraini students in public schools.

The current law, however, lays down that fundamental (primary and intermediate) and secondary education should be free for all in public schools in the Kingdom.

"It will be a disaster if we can't make a distinction between our citizens and the expats at least in education. It's fundamental to any country that respects its people."



Khalid Al Shaer



Minister Ghanem Al Buainain

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MBBS, MD, FICMCH, ARCOG (UK)
Diploma In Reproductive Medicine
and Embryology (Germany)
Specialist
OBS & Gynecology



Dr. Ann Bahiah
MBBS, MBCHB, CABM
Head of the Department
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Gadget ban will not affect Gulf Air: CEO



Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

Manama

The recent US and British restrictions, banning certain electronic devices onboard flights originating from Middle Eastern and North African countries, will not affect the national carrier, said Gulf Air CEO Maher Al Musallam yesterday.

"The restrictions do not apply to flights originating from the Kingdom," Al Musallam told *DT News*, adding that the national carrier operates two daily direct flights to the UK, but no direct flights to the US.

"The current rules being implemented by authorities in the UK and the US do not allow electronic goods in passenger cabins on some inbound flights from Middle Eastern and North African nations but the rules do not apply to flights originating from the Kingdom of Bahrain," Al Musallam reassured.

"Gulf Air operates two daily (morning and evening) direct flights to and from London Heathrow T4 operating an A330 service that affords our premium passengers with distinctive comforts including fully-flat bed seats and optimum onboard entertainment along with the airline's award winning Gulf Air Sky Chef and Sky Nanny services. En-route to London Heathrow, Gulf Air's economy class passengers can also enjoy the very latest in comfort, technology and extensive in-flight entertainment options," Al Musallam said, confirming that Gulf Air passengers are not prohibited from carrying laptops and tablets onboard flights to London.

"Bahrain's national carrier does not currently



Maher Al Musallam

operate a direct service to any destinations in the USA. However, passengers can take advantage of the airline's codeshare agreement with American Airlines to travel from Bahrain via its twice daily London Heathrow service, daily Paris service or daily Frankfurt service to seven different American cities. The destinations include New York, Boston, Miami, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Raleigh-Durham and vice-versa," The CEO explained.

US operations not hit

"At present, Gulf Air's direct London operations have not been impacted, yet we are ready for any eventuality. Our primary focus continues to be the safety and security of our passengers, crew and fleet, and on ensuring convenient, comfortable and seamless travel solutions for all," Al Musallam said.

"Gulf Air passengers can continue avail the airline's convenient double daily

service to and from London Heathrow T4 and its codeshare agreement with American Airlines in order to travel to/from 7 American cities via London, Paris or Frankfurt, all with their electronic devices with them onboard their flight," he reassured.

Anyhow, the CEO mentioned that the newly announced restrictions will affect international aviation.

Elaborating further, Al Musallam said, "These new security measures will impact the aviation market globally as passengers, especially

premium travelers, who are used to being connected 24/7 and for whom travel has never disrupted their connectivity or access to various smart devices may alter their routes globally with regards to transatlantic flights. That's not all, it is distinctly challenging to implement these security measures in the short time span that was given to airlines to comply with them. The potential business impact of these new measures will also be considerable, affecting airlines beyond the region with some airlines witnessing an uptake while others see a decrease in passengers on their transatlantic routes."

"Passengers are aware of the updated security measures on flights operating certain routes to the US and the UK, Gulf Air passengers can continue to travel with ease at this time, with their electronic goods onboard across any of our network of 42 destinations in 25 countries. The airline's premium offering makes travelling with a laptop and other smart devices easier, with various opportunities both onboard and in the airline's dedicated Gulf Air Falcon Gold Lounges in all of Bahrain International Airport, Dubai International Airport and London Heathrow T4, to charge their devices, connect to the internet and access their devices - on the ground and in the air," he added.

The current rules being implemented by authorities in the UK and the US do not allow electronic goods in passenger cabins on some inbound flights from Middle Eastern and North African nations but the rules do not apply to flights originating from the Kingdom of Bahrain



Saudi Arabian Insurance Company B.S.C.(c)

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2016

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2016 BD	2015 BD
Gross premiums written	100,047,019	87,288,156
Reinsurance premiums ceded	(72,080,610)	(67,629,031)
Excess of loss premiums	(529,415)	(447,315)
Net premiums written	27,436,994	19,211,810
Movement in provision for unearned premiums	(505,366)	(1,023,285)
Net premiums earned	26,931,628	18,188,525
Gross claims paid	(66,222,879)	(54,267,112)
Reinsurance share of claims paid	47,999,124	43,326,172
Net movement in outstanding claims	(1,326,852)	(1,618,213)
Net claims incurred	(19,550,607)	(12,559,153)
Reinsurance commission and fees	3,628,966	3,100,516
Policy acquisition costs	(3,630,780)	(2,762,856)
Profit commission	(46,452)	490,570
Net underwriting result	7,332,755	6,457,602
Interest income	1,727,243	1,665,326
Share of profit in an associate	1,533,324	823,822
Impairment of available-for-sale investments	-	(29,982)
Dividend income	89,652	76,908
Other income	162,971	1,179,534
Other income	3,513,190	3,715,608
Expenses		
Operational and technical expenses	(4,408,240)	(3,529,085)
Profit for the year	6,437,705	6,644,125
Taxation	(54,137)	(85,133)
Net profit for the year	6,383,568	6,558,992
Other comprehensive income		
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss subsequently		
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	(459,213)	(7,315)
Recycling to profit or loss on impairment	-	29,982
Other comprehensive income for the year	(459,213)	22,667
Total comprehensive income for the year	5,924,355	6,581,659

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2016 BD	2015 BD
Assets:		
Bank balances and cash	18,786,076	24,123,929
Guarantee deposits	7,438,949	4,595,378
Investment in an associate	8,989,724	7,456,400
Available-for-sale investments	1,100,190	1,559,403
Premiums and reinsurance receivables	5,980,747	5,884,137
Due from related parties	2,799,277	2,299,927
Reinsurers' share of unearned premiums	877,475	953,043
Reinsurers' share of outstanding claims	18,129,901	15,200,404
Deferred policy acquisition costs	325,606	280,473
Other receivables and prepayments	974,662	550,546
Group treasury account	29,027,642	22,182,668
Property and equipment	602,964	690,511
Total assets	95,033,213	85,776,819
Liabilities and Equity:		
Liabilities		
Gross unearned premiums	5,531,467	5,101,669
Gross outstanding claims	26,828,425	22,572,076
Deferred commission income	173,098	173,291
Reinsurance payable	11,684,129	10,310,378
Taxes payable	218,988	192,892
Due to related parties	409,190	464,925
Accounts payable and accruals	2,311,660	1,830,972
Employees' terminal benefits	1,112,204	1,011,423
Total Liabilities	48,269,161	41,657,626
Equity		
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000
Statutory reserve	4,426,509	3,788,152
Investment revaluation reserve	(234,577)	224,636
Retained earnings	22,572,120	20,106,405
Total equity	46,764,052	44,119,193
Total liabilities and equity	95,033,213	85,776,819

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the audited financial statements on which Deloitte & Touche-Middle East has issued an unqualified audit opinion. Interested parties may obtain a copy of the full annual reports at the office of the company at P.O. Box 60139, Building 852, Road 3618, Al Seef District, Manama 436, Kingdom of Bahrain.

City overrun with illegal, shaky houses

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

Most of the houses in the capital city of the Kingdom are either a ramshackle or illegally built, said a study made by the DTNews.

Because of the severe housing problem in the city, people including the expats are mostly driven to those kind of houses, said the study yesterday.

Most of the building owners construct extra rooms on terraces to accommodate more tenants. Those additions are illegal and the safety measures have been sparse. More than one family is usually crammed into such shaky houses, which have been furtively built on the edges of terraces blinding the eyes of the authorities, said the study.

A resident living in one of such crude houses on road 407 said, "We have been here for two months but our neighbours have been living in those shanties for years with children. We know the houses are illegally built but we are without much options as housing takes all the money from us."

A building on 411 is at the risk of falling down any time, its foundation being ruined for a long time. The house is still in one piece because the tenants have been supporting it with hollow bricks. It has been rented to a few expat labourers.

Still another on 523 is much



An entrance to one of the buildings on road 523

worse. Thin pieces of plywood have been used for walls, and those tiny huts have also been given to families for rent.

The study said that eight out of 10 houses falling apart are such shanties constructed illegally.

Responding to the situation, Mohammed Ali Alkhozai, Chairman of Capital Municipal Council, said that the issue is still important before the council, but lack of complaints from the tenants are preventing us from taking actions against the owners.

Jassim Redha, General Secretary of Capital Municipal Council, said a few such issues have come before us and we have sent them notices. At the same time, there are houses for which we have given permission to make additions, but only in the purview of the existing rules. We have also given clear instructions on the number of tenants to be allowed in each such house, said Jassim Redha.

He told DT News that further investigations into such illegal constructions would only help the council to study more on the issue and initiate legal steps.



Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of Interior Purchasing Directorate

The Ministry of Interior invites vendors for the following tender:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond	Tender Fees	Closing Date		
				Day	Date	Time
Supply of Medicine for MOI (Term tender for 2 years)	05/2017	BD 5,000	BD 50	Wednesday	19/04/2017	13:30

- Those who are Capable and want to participate in the above tender can buy its document by visiting Bahrain tender board web site and download the tender document starting from **Wednesday 29/03/2017** (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh>) using credit card or through cashier by cash or cheque at the finance department in the police fort, and to enclose with the offer an Initial Bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of %1 of the tender value whichever amount is lesser, Knowing that no initial bonds value shall be less than BD. 100/-. The initial bond should be in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.
- For further inquiries please call the **Tenders & Contract division office - MOI on 17390543 during the working hours.**
- Specified above Offers should be deposited in the tender box provided at Tendering submission office, Tender Board's Office at Al Moayyed Tower, Seef Area, (7th Floor).
- This tender should comply with the provisions of the General Tenders Regulations, no. (36) For the year 2002, and its executive Regulations No. (37) For the year 2002.
- In addition these conditions has to be considered:
 - Enclose copy of the Commercial Registration Bill, for the current year, and has to be included/matched with the tenders subjects.
 - Form no. (T B 02) is to be filled completely, mentioning the Total Tender Value and Unit Price (accordingly).
 - Enclose a certificate of compliance with the employment percentages for Bahraini manpower issued by the Ministry of Labour.
 - All tenders documents (Original / Copy) which has been submitted with the offers should be stamped with the company's Stamp.
- This advertisement is considered to be a supplementary to the tenders Documents.

BD300,000 collected daily as traffic fine

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN
muhannad@dt.bh

The General Directorate of Traffic is collecting around BD300,000 as traffic fine every day, according to reports yesterday.

Details of the figure came out following a discussion in the House of Representatives on a bill to include revenues from all public establishments in the state budget.

In the discussion, MP Jamal Dawood said, revenues, taxes and fees have always raised questions. However, the total of these non-oil revenues has been estimated to be more than



MP Jamal Dawood

BD224 million in a year, he said.

He further elaborated that 15,000 traffic offences are charged daily, and on the basis of a fine of BD20 collected per case, the total amount would BD300,000 a day. Which means, BD110 million by way of fine in an year, he said.

According to the latest data, over 600,000 new vehicles are registered each year. A fee of BD20 per registration will make another BD12 million, he said.

The income from these two traffic areas alone is tagged above BD120 million. Income from other non-oil areas when added up can easily make BD224 million in an year, he claimed.

General Director of Traffic, Colonel Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa said the daily traffic violations detected on a day has, however, been reduced to 15, 000 from 20, 000 earlier.

By Invitation

Dr. Jassim Haji



Going down the Digital Transformation Road

The way of survival and gaining competitive advantage these days are best achieving by adopting a digital transformation in every level of operations in any company. Top executives in any company should develop and appoint a new cadre of leaders who will drive digital exploration and change. This is necessary because digital business will be a unique journey, often into unknown territory using emerging management tools and techniques. It is not a prepackaged, one-time transformation like customer relationship management, enterprise resource planning and other waves of technology change. Some new leaders can be developed by accelerated empowerment internally. However, some new blood also will be needed to bring in new skills and a fresh perspective. And this is very critical to be followed in the Kingdom of Bahrain in order embed the digital concept and school of thought deep in the roots of the Bahraini companies and enable them to leverage digital business in every piece of their operations.

Born digital companies, such as Google for example, possess high digital leadership talent sources. Some of these companies have tens of thousands of employees, which makes them large enough to be internally competitive academy firms that sometimes develop more talent than they need. Another source is the mobile telecommunication sector, which grew very rapidly through the nineties and decades later but has since slowed, yielding a surfeit of high-competency, experienced tech business talent. A third source is the top end of the technology management consulting industry.

Further, chief information/digital officers, chief marketing officers, and legal and regulatory officers need to collaboratively and creatively explore and assess the timing of major new market opportunities that digital technologies will enable. These executives must agree how to judge or nudge the triple tipping point, judge when it is most likely to arise or nudge it to occur at a time that suits

the company's competitive need. Sometimes the tipping point can be brought forward, for example, by investing in clever marketing to influence market social acceptability or investing in active lobbying of the regulator to permit the innovation. In other circumstances, the company may wish to delay the tipping point by raising customer doubts and fears, lobbying regulators to control the actions of new entrants, or acquiring key technologies to stop others from gaining access. Thoughtful strategy can adjust the timing of the tipping point to your advantage but never rely on inhibiting a digital innovation indefinitely.

Digital business fundamentally changes the core of products and services. The value that customers experience often becomes more data centric and digitally controlled. Cars have remote control smartphone apps and jewelry is 3D-printed on demand. Both the competencies required to create that value and the pathways to its delivery are unusual, challenging and often resisted. However, once companies engage and start to develop the new competencies and pathways, their power and attractiveness often grows quickly. Traditional players that have enjoyed dominance for decades can find others suddenly seizing these new routes. The walls that once defended one industry from another crumble and lines become blurred and ill defined. Defending your old core will not do; instead, go after the new opportunities and build your part of the new platform before someone else uses it to control your business.

There are many examples of this effect. Apple entered and took considerable market power over the music industry with iTunes. Amazon entered and took considerable control over the book industry with Kindle. Apple is now in the payments business via Apple Pay. Perhaps the most startling of recent times is the way the digital behemoths have been penetrating and starting to set direction in the car industry. Google has its self-driving car experiments and Uber is investing in autonomous vehicle research. By using digital and information technology engineering ideas and principles, Tesla Motors has already become a significant player in the industry.

As digital technology penetrates products, the sensor and software capabilities yield valuable data. Whether collected and stored over time or immediately analyzed in real time, data creates new value. Today, data is commonly collected, processed and accessed in the cloud. In some ways, parts of the value that customers get are moving to the cloud to build a cohesive and suite of cloud-hosted services that are tightly integrated which incentivize customers to get more of such services. Starting the digital transformation journey might seem difficult with an unknown stable destination, but it all clears once the first step is taken with thorough strategic planning.

(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.)

Gulf Air launches Flight Status facility

Manama

Gulf Air in partnership with GOAG, a global provider of digital flight information, has launched an online Flight Status Facility on the airline's official website gulfair.com.

The facility provides booked passengers with real-time information on their Gulf Air flights including customised flight trackers, destination, weather and flight status alerts via email/SMS/Twitter in English, Arabic, German and French.

Commenting, Yahya Ali Buali, Gulf Air Director Sales & Marketing said: "With this new facility we are keeping our passengers fully abreast of any changes to their journey and giving them destination-specific information so as to enhance their travel experience both with Gulf Air and at their final destination."

"As a leader in the aviation industry, Gulf Air understands that today's connected traveller values transparency and real-time information above all else," said Ev Jordan, EVP Flight Status, OAG.



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Website: www.licinternational.com

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2016

	2016 BD	2015 BD
Assets:		
Motor vehicles and furniture	17,458	19,825
Intangible Asset	157,818	3
Statutory deposits	495,969	489,457
Investment securities	599,612,775	522,538,022
Term deposits with banks	18,162,059	8,513,934
Premiums receivable	1,975,630	1,813,061
Reinsurance contracts receivable	36,781	19,771
Accrued interest income	8,714,020	7,497,531
Other assets	6,086,843	5,927,799
Bank balances and cash	45,313,828	21,736,824
Total assets	680,573,181	568,556,227
Equity and liabilities:		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000
Statutory reserve	6,424,587	5,904,927
Contingency fund reserve in Oman	179,701	164,921
Investments fair value reserve	(2,077,996)	(5,175,405)
Retained earnings	29,991,593	27,329,429
Proposed dividends	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total equity	56,517,885	50,223,872
Liabilities		
Life Insurance Fund	605,322,348	498,803,289
Employees' end-of-service indemnity	10,611	9,007
Due to The International Agencies Company Limited	37,314	313,220
Due to Life Insurance Corporation of India	105,626	11,399
Zakat and tax provisions	647,254	647,254
Reinsurance contracts liabilities	557,660	317,620
Claims payable	3,076,328	3,166,790
Other current liabilities	4,848,155	5,613,776
Loan payable	9,450,000	9,450,000
Total liabilities	624,055,296	518,332,355
Total equity and liabilities	680,573,181	568,556,227

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	2016 BD	2015 BD
Revenues:		
Premiums:		
First year	14,424,052	11,792,529
Renewal	42,492,078	47,858,194
Single premium	95,674,117	90,917,485
Unit link premium	38,868	103,120
Group insurance premium	367,870	2,072
Reinsurance ceded	(295,915)	(144,260)
Discount on commutation of premium	(1,613,100)	(4,118,727)
Net insurance premium revenue	151,087,970	146,410,413
Income from Investments	30,970,324	23,823,352
Other income	1,551,507	747,935
Unrealised gain/(loss) on Investments at fair value through profit or loss	5,050,318	(6,531,049)
Impairment loss recognised on investment securities	(2,352,624)	(2,313,699)
	186,307,495	162,136,952
Expenses:		
Claims incurred	(65,370,239)	(44,517,531)
General and administrative expenses	(8,257,867)	(8,465,668)
Finance cost	(66,076)	(66,844)
Addition to Life Insurance Fund	(107,416,709)	(104,559,582)
	(181,110,891)	(157,609,625)
Profit before zakat and income Tax	5,196,604	4,527,327
Zakat and income tax expense	-	(5,880)
Profit for the year	5,196,604	4,521,447
Other comprehensive income		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net change in fair value on available-for-sale investments during the year	3,097,409	(6,901,349)
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	3,097,409	(6,901,349)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	8,294,013	(2,379,902)

The financial statements have been audited by M/s Deloitte & Touche - Middle East. A copy of the annual report will be available at the registered office of the Company

Vijay Kumar Sharma
Chairman

Rajesh Kandwal
CEO & Managing Director

Huawei expands Mideast HQ, signs ICT deal



The ribbon cutting

Manama

Huawei, a leading global ICT solutions provider, inaugurated the newly expanded office premises of its Middle East headquarters in Bahrain.

The opening was held in the presence of Kamal Ahmed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Qizhenhong, Chinese Ambassador to Bahrain and Khalid al Rumaihi, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board of Bahrain.

Huawei also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bahrain Polytechnic to contribute network equipment to their IT lab, to cultivate the next generation of ICT talent in the country.

The new premises will occupy 33,906 sqft and include an advanced enterprise showroom demonstrating how

Huawei's new ICT solutions are tailored for various vertical sectors, a 3-cloud room for operators' business success, and a fully-equipped training center.

"Increasing our office space three-fold marks a major milestone of Huawei's presence

in Bahrain. As the Middle East economy rallies ahead in its digital transformation, our expanded office, showroom and training centre, aims to use Bahrain's strong position as an ICT Hub in the region by fostering more effective cooperation with our

customers and partners," said Paul Fengnan, CEO of Huawei Bahrain.

Kamal Ahmed, said, "Our strategy for Bahrain is to transform it into a digital economy, partnering with leading global companies like Huawei whose knowledge

and services will ensure that customers have the most advanced technology available."

Khalid al Rumaihi, CE of Economic Development Board of Bahrain said, "We have a number of support offerings in place to assist existing and

prospective ICT companies in their expansion and Huawei is a global and highly recognisable brand that is a testament to that supportive business environment. We look forward to continuing our work together on future projects."



The MoU signing



Taking a tour

Global Institute holds career guidance seminar

Manama

Global Institute for Management Science conducted a one-day Career Guidance Seminar in Accounting and Finance for more than 200 Students from across Bahrain at the Institute auditorium.

The seminar focused on providing a proper exposure to a range of careers for students and working professionals.

The inaugural session of the seminar was presided by Dr. Girish Chandran, Chairman Global institute, and Arun Kuumar Sharma, Principal, New Millennium School who was also the Guest of honour. Aruna Suresh, who is expected to be declared as the youngest ACCA

record holder in the world at the age of 17, was honoured on the occasion.

Following the ceremony, Aruna interacted with the audience and shared her experience during her journey with ACCA.

Various career options in Accounting and Finance available after 12th std., were discussed in the seminar.

School of business

Global Institute, one of the largest institute in the country, has launched their new division, Global school of Business, on this occasion. Courses offered in this division are: ACCA, FIA, LCCI, CMA, CIMA, CPA and CFA.



Dr Girish Chandran presents a memento to Arun Kuumar Sharma and Aruna Suresh



Tesco gets £214m penalties on false accounting

London

Supermarket Tesco has agreed to a fine and compensation costs totalling \$268 million after an accounting scandal at Britain's biggest retailer, the Serious Fraud Office said yesterday. Under a SFO deal that draws a line under the scandal stretching back three years, Tesco will not face prosecution. However, charges have previously been brought against three former Tesco executives.

**WTO hands China partial win in poultry spat**

Geneva

China won a partial victory at the World Trade Organisation in a dispute over tariffs imposed on its poultry products by the European Union. Between 2006 and 2009, Brussels set up a wide range of tariffs on poultry imports. The EU then cut separate deals with Brazil and Thailand to reduce costs on imports from the two countries. Beijing claimed it deserved the same deal.



There were dozens of meetings, among them with Mr Kushner's company and with Mr Kushner (Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner) himself. It's normal business. Kremlin was not aware of these meetings at the time as they were routine work of the bank

Dmitry Peskov

Kremlin spokesman



Mexican Food Festival at The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa Margarita Mexicana

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa will be launching Mexican Festival at the hotel's award winning Mexican dining destination Margarita Mexicana

True Mexican cuisine

The festival will bring authentic and sizzling spices of true Mexican cuisine with a ballet of entertainers (dancers and singers) specially flown in from Mexico for the "Festival".

Mexican Music

The Mexican Ballet will be welcoming the guests as they arrive at the main Lobby. This will be supported with a lively atmosphere of Mexican music till the entrance of Margarita Mexicana Restaurant. Specialties include country line dancing and Mariachi music.

Feast of favourites

The festival promises a feast of Southern favourites. The special menu includes an awe-inspiring array of the famous Mexican dishes, sweet delights and traditional refreshments.

Fun aplenty

Adding to the festive feel, the festival will include a host of fun and engaging activities for the guests done by the Mexican ballet, including country line dancing and Mariachi music.

"This year's Mexican Festival is taking place from 31st March till 10th of April 2017. The festival will come alive in the idyllic indoor setting of our Margarita Mexicana and the upper foyer of our Lobby Lounge that will be transformed into a true Mexican ranch complete with the Mexican Ballet"

Ali Amralla

Director of Business Development and Strategies



SBI Life to enter Bahrain

DT News Network Manama

SBI Life is set to enter Bahrain in the next financial year and is awaiting regulatory permission to open a branch here.

The life insurance venture has already received approvals from Irda (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority) and is awaiting Central Bank of Bahrain's final approval.

SBI-Life will be the second Indian insurer to enter the Gulf after LIC International which is headquartered in Bahrain and has branches in Dubai, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.

"SBI-Life has been working on expansion plans for a while now. We are excited about this opportunity as Bahrain

has an excellent economic model to support our growth through its regulatory and business policies. Moreover, there is a diverse non-residential Indian population which makes it a suitable fit for SBI," said a top executive from SBI-Life, India.

Commenting on Bahrain's viability for insurance companies, the top executive added: "Having the highest insurance penetration of 2.1 per cent among the GCC countries makes Bahrain an extremely viable option for insurers. What better than catering to an aware population that understands the importance of having insuring themselves and their loved ones. It makes our jobs easier."

Initially, the insurer

aims to focus on the non-residential Indian population and expand its services to the locals in good time.

"An organisation like SBI-Life will greatly benefit both the local and Indian citizens residing here," said Prabha Singh, the Chief Executive Officer of SBI in Bahrain.

SBI-Life is an insurance joint venture between India's largest state-owned banking and financial service, State Bank of India and BNP Paribas Cardiff. As of February 15th, SBI Life is ahead of all its peers in the private sector in terms of business premium clippings at 55 per cent to Rs 8,035 Crores. At present, around 40 per cent of SBI's 20,000 branches sell SBI Life's products.

Trump signs order to roll back Obama climate measures

Washington

President Donald Trump claimed an end to the "war on coal" yesterday, as he moved to roll back climate

protections enacted by predecessor Barack Obama.

Trump ordered a review of powerplant emission rules and a series of other steps designed

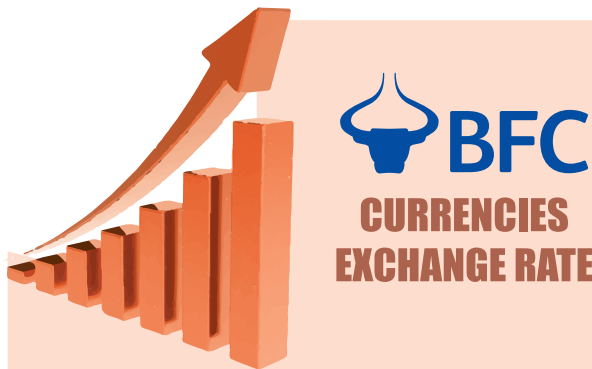
to unwind the regulation on fossil fuels, calling into question US commitment to global emission targets.



Did You Know?



Souq.com was founded by Ronaldo Mouchawar in 2006 and today it is the largest online retailer in the Middle East, with 3,000 employees. It attracts over 45 million visits per month and has localised operations in the KSA, UAE and Egypt.



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

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

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

Markets edge up

Emaar Malls jumps as Amazon seals Souq.com deal

Dubai

Most Gulf stock markets edged up yesterday although trading volumes were generally low, while Emaar Malls jumped in Dubai after the company appeared to lose a contest with Amazon.com to acquire Middle Eastern online retailer Souq.com. Emaar Malls added 3.6 per cent, outperforming Dubai's stock index, which dropped 0.2pc.

The company's shares had dropped 2.8pc in the previous two days on news it was making an \$800 million bid to acquire e-commerce operator Souq.com, which could have put it in a bidding war with Amazon.com. The U.S. company had agreed in

principle to buy Souq.com.

In a report, investment bank Exotix listed possible concerns for minority shareholders in Emaar Malls' bid, including whether the online retail industry had synergies with retail mall management, and whether buying Souq.com would be an optimal allocation of capital.

On Tuesday, Amazon.com and Souq.com said jointly that Amazon had agreed to acquire the Middle Eastern firm, apparently ending the battle.

Abu Dhabi's index edged up 0.1pc and Qatar rose 0.3pc, buoyed by Vodafone Qatar, which gained 4.4pc and was the most heavily traded stock.

The Saudi Arabian index

Closing Bell

SAUDI rose 0.3pc to 6,873 points

DUBAI fell 0.2pc to 3,447 points

ABU DHABI edged up 0.1pc to 4,470 points

QATAR rose 0.3pc to 10,462 points

KUWAIT gained 0.3pc to 7,052 points

EGYPT edged up 0.1pc to 12,983 points

OMAN fell 1.1pc to 5,543 points

BAHRAIN dropped 0.4pc to 1,378 points

rose 0.3pc. Saudi Automotive, which offers services to motorists, saw unusually heavy trading and was the

most active stock; it surged 4.1pc.

In Kuwait, the market index gained 0.3pc. (Reuters)

Batelco boosts Saudi presence

Manama

Batelco announced it has completed an initiative aimed at enhancing its presence in Saudi Arabia.

The enhancement project includes the deployment of four new Point of Presence (PoPs) in Saudi Arabia with each PoP connected through a different cable system to Batelco's global network, the company said in a statement.

Batelco Bahrain CEO Muna Al Hashemi said the projects are designed to support the growth of the company's global business while ensuring network diversity, avoiding single points of failure, providing better country resilience and efficient use of international capacities.

"The Saudi Arabian market is among the fastest growing in the region and our



Adel Al Daylami - Batelco Chief Global Business Officer new setup will ensure that enterprise customers in Saudi and international carriers will benefit from a reliable end-to-end service offering," she said.

Batelco Chief Global



Batelco Bahrain CEO Muna Al Hashemi Business Officer, Adel Al Daylami explained that Batelco today has more than 26 PoPs deployed around the globe with a focus on the MENA region and with Saudi Arabia being the heart of the region it

requires unique attention, as it is such a vital part of the overall network.

"Batelco's PoPs are distributed around the globe and connected through different cable systems to the network to avoid a single point of failure. Additionally, our core PoPs are distributed over redundant geographical zones in the region, so even if a whole country is down, our network continues to provide the service to our clients," Al Daylami said.

"Furthermore, with this enhancement, we are pleased to announce that our Global Ethernet services are positioned in a much better way considering the robust topology deployed in Saudi Arabia, hence passing the value of such initiatives to our end customers," Al Daylami added.



11

Health

Wednesday, March 29, 2017



Meningitis outbreak kills over 140 in Nigeria

An outbreak of meningitis in several states of Nigeria has killed at least 140 people.

It has been reported over the last week in six states and has so far infected more than 1,000 people. Meningitis causes an acute inflammation of the outer layers of the brain and spinal cord.

The current outbreak is the worst in Nigeria since 2009 when it killed at least 156 people. (BBC)



Measles outbreak across Europe

Measles is spreading across Europe wherever immunisation coverage has dropped, the World Health Organization is warning.

The largest outbreaks are seen in Italy and Romania.

In the first month of this year, Italy reported more than 200 cases. Romania has reported more than 3,400 cases and 17 deaths since January 2016.

Washington

People who received regular lifestyle counselling online were able to lower their blood pressure as much as a medication would, researchers said.

Their study involved 264 people with high blood pressure and an average age of 58.

The subjects' average blood pressure began at around 140/90 mmHg, meaning they had what is clinically known as stage 1 hypertension.

Most were already taking at least one drug to cut their blood pressure.

Patients enrolled through the website of the Heart and Stroke Association of Canada and were randomly assigned to either an e-counselling group or a control group.

Both groups received emails during the year-long trial, first weekly, then monthly.

Those in the e-counselling group

were "provided links to online multimedia and interactive tools to increase motivation and skills to begin and sustain a heart-healthy lifestyle," the study said.

"These included video clips featuring characters discussing their own high blood pressure diagnosis and efforts to make lifestyle changes, as well as tools for tracking diet and level of physical activity."

The control group saw more generic information about heart-healthy living.

By the end of the study period, the more engaging online content seemed to have had an effect, and patients in that group reduced their systolic blood pressure -- the higher number in a blood-pressure reading -- by 10 millimetres of mercury (mmHg).

That was a statistically significant difference compared to the control group, which saw a 6 mmHg

reduction.

"The electronic counselling intervention had an effect similar to that of adding an additional blood-pressure-lowering medication," said lead study author Robert Nolan, associate professor at the University of Toronto.

"We think this lifestyle counselling intervention can complement and optimise the effectiveness of medical therapy to reduce high blood pressure."

The study was released at American College of Cardiology's annual meeting in Washington. (AFP)



Web-based counselling lowers blood pressure as much as meds: study

A natural pregnancy is in the works for cancer patients

Women who suffer from cancer will be able to have a natural pregnancy, thanks to a groundbreaking procedure that could be regularly performed in New York for the first time.

Fertility doctor George Kofinas has submitted a plan to the state Health Department to open a reproductive surgery centre specialising in ovarian-tissue harvesting and transplantation.

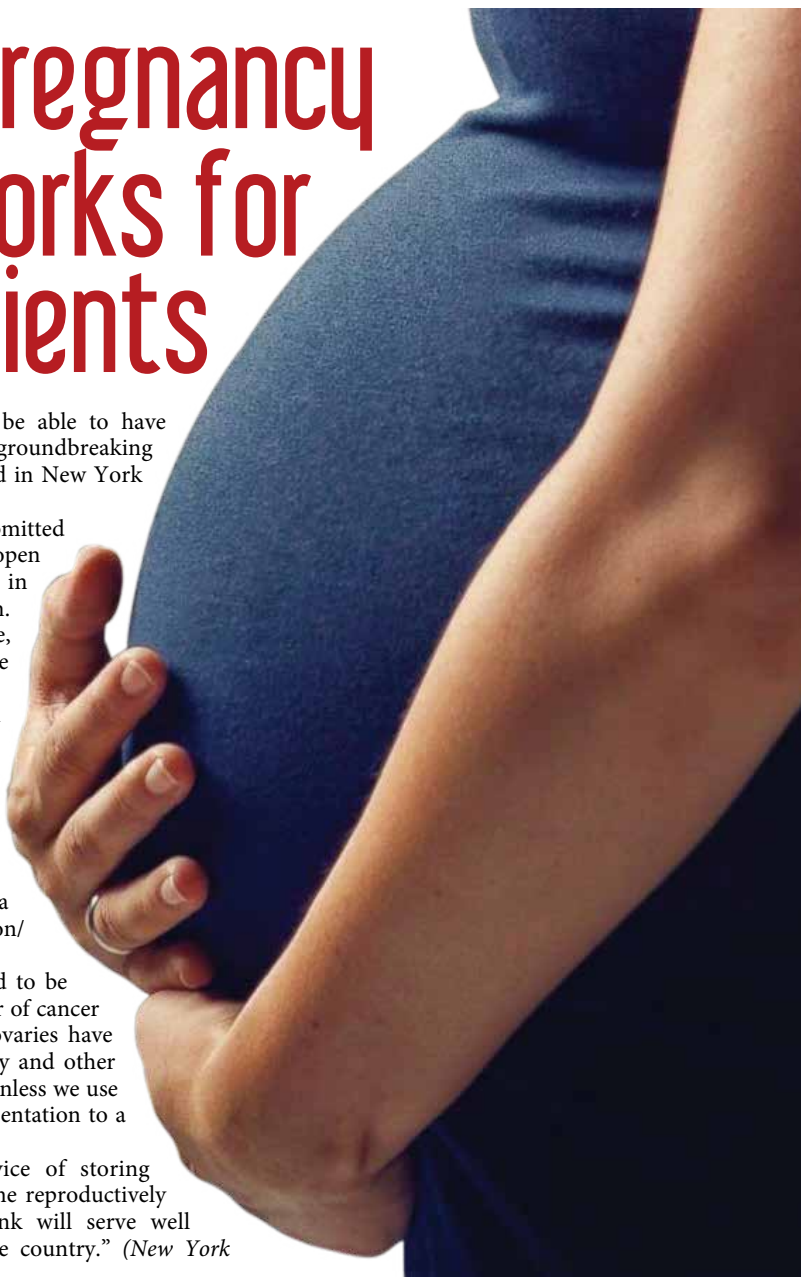
Chemotherapy causes ovarian damage, and women who undergo the treatment are typically left unable to get pregnant.

But under the procedure — akin to a skin graft — a slice of a woman's ovarian tissue that contains eggs is removed before chemo and stored and frozen.

When a woman is recovered from chemo and cancer free, the tissue is transplanted back into her ovary. Her reproductive function is restored, and she can have a natural pregnancy without in-vitro fertilization/egg donations.

"The demand for this service is projected to be very high. We have an ever-growing number of cancer survivors that come to us now and their ovaries have been completely destroyed by chemotherapy and other kinds of treatment and we can't help them unless we use donor eggs," Kofinas said in a March 9 presentation to a Health Department review panel.

"Providing these people with the service of storing their ovarian tissue for the time they become reproductively active is a unique service which we think will serve well in the metropolitan area, the state and the country." (New York Post)



PET VET

Dr. Rajani Rajesh

Seborrheic Dermatitis

Seborrhea, is also known as Seborrheic Dermatitis, a skin disease seen in dogs and rarely in cats. It is characterized by increased scale formation, occasionally excessive greasiness of the skin and hair coat, and often secondary inflammation and infection. With seborrhea, the sebaceous glands of the skin produce an excessive amount of sebum. So dogs will smell bad due to the buildup of oil on the skin and hair. Seborrhea is mostly seen as secondary condition to other diseases like allergies, endocrine disorders, dietary deficiencies, malabsorption disorders, parasites, and autoimmune disorders. There are two common forms of seborrhea: oily and dry . The majority of animals will have a combination of both oily and dry seborrhea.

It is seen more frequently in American Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Basset Hounds, West Highland White Terriers, Dachshunds, Labrador and Golden Retrievers, and German Shepherds.

Diagnostic techniques include a thorough physical examination; skin scrapings for parasites; fungal and bacterial cultures of the skin and hair; a fecal examination; and blood tests . Sometimes a biopsy of the skin may be necessary. A diagnosis of primary (inherited) seborrhea is made only once all other causes have been ruled out.

Treatment will mainly focus on controlling the condition. This may include using a combination of antibiotics (oral and topical), antifungals, and sometimes allergy medications,shampoos and conditioners to keep the skin clean and to soothe the animal. Your veterinarian will let you know which combination and frequency of bathing best works for your pet's condition.Fatty acids and vitamin/mineral supplements may help in cases of a deficiency or a condition that responds to certain vitamins and minerals in the diet.

With an appropriate dietary and supplement regimen for your dog will help control the condition and reduce the chances that a secondary infections develop.

(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.)



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa deputized Deputy Prime Minister & Chairman of Gulf Air Board of Directors Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa to inaugurate the 12th edition of the Gulf Water Conference/Exhibition. The event organised by the Society for Water Sciences and Technology is themed "Towards integrated water strategies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries."



Minister of Education Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi patronized yesterday an honouring ceremony of the first batch of Vocational Counseling Diploma graduates held in the ministry's hall. The Minister presented 51 graduate teachers and social counselors with their certificates, wishing them success. The Minister also honoured experts and specialists at the Education Ministry for their contribution to implementing the diploma programme



Bahrain School officially opened two new state of the art sports facilities yesterday: a new multipurpose field and a new swimming pool. The ceremony was attended by BISA board members including board chairman Mohammed Al Khateeb, Director of Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Dr Dhafer Al Umran, Assistant Undersecretary for GCC and Arab Countries Affairs, Aimee Cutrona, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Capt. Cory Howes, Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain, and Dr. Terry Greene, Bahrain School Principal, among other dignitaries



Bahrain Airport Services actively participated in the Annual Careers Day at the U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain which was held from 13th to 15th March, under the patronage of Education Minister Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi



Ministry of Education Girls Guides celebrated Mothers Day at National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) elderly home in Isa Town, under the guidance of guides specialist Mutazah Samhan





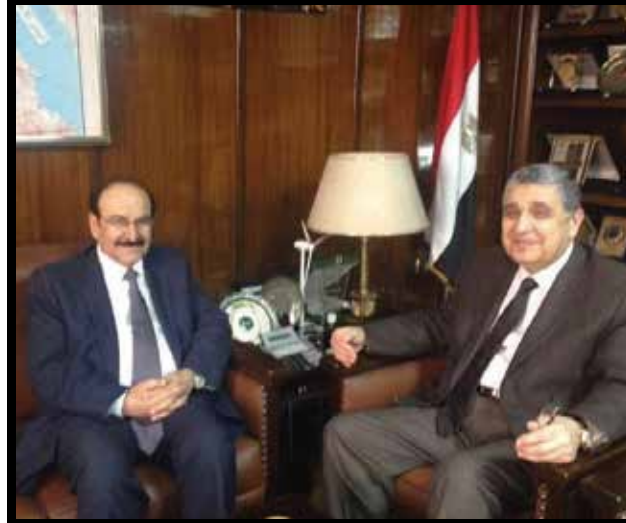
BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa patronized the 3rd military mass wedding at the BDF Officers Club yesterday. Minister of Defence Affairs Maj. General Yusuf bin Ahmed Al Jalahma, BDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Shaikh Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Defence Ministry Undersecretary Major General Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and senior officers attended the celebration. The BDF Commander-in-Chief congratulated newlyweds and presented them with commemorative gifts



Minister of Interior Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received the Turkey Ambassador Hatun Demirer, in the presence of the Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan. The meeting reviewed the two countries' bilateral ties and discussed various issues of shared concern



Minister of Information Affairs Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi yesterday received the Head of the Egyptian Press Union Abdul Mohsen Salama and congratulated him on his election, wishing him success to pursue the historic march of the association. The minister hailed the long-standing role of the Egyptian press in championing Arab and Islamic causes, defending Bahrain's Arab identity, security, stability and sovereignty and rejecting any foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Arabian Gulf region. Separately, the Minister met with Egypt's State Information Service (SIS) Chairman Salah Abdel Sadaq, on the sidelines of the official visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Egypt. The Minister praised deep-rooted historic fraternal relations between Bahrain and Egypt and their progress at all levels



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza met Egyptian Electricity and Energy Minister Dr. Mohammed Shaker, on the sidelines of the visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa to Egypt. The two sides discussed joint cooperation between Bahrain and Egypt. The Egyptian officials stressed their country's expertise in developing electrical services and promoting the renewable energy sector. They approved a national target to meet 20 per cent of the needs in electricity through the development of renewable energy by 2020



University of
on Minister



The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa recently hosted its annual colleague's party, as part of its commitment to enhance cohesion and the organisational cross-relationships among the employees and their families. The annual party began with a welcome speech by Garfield Jones, the Gulf Hotels Group CEO. This was followed by awards for long services, best accommodation and 'Employee of the year'



Noopuradwani 2017, the classical dance debut of students trained by Chitralekha Ajith, was held at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam(BKS) in the presence of chief guests BKS President P.V Radhakrishna Pillai and SPAC Group Chairman P. Unnikrishnan



UAE Exchange Bahrain in tune with their #SayWow Campaign organised a Felicitation Event for their staffs "Radiance", where various initiatives were launched to support Employee Growth and Employee Engagement. Top Performers of the year 2016 were rewarded on the occasion



Liam @LiamPayne
Thank you to everyone for the love and
supportive messages for myself and @
CherylOfficial It really means a lot



Idris Elba wants to do action-packed films

Los Angeles

Actor Idris Elba wants to star in an action-led fighting films like "Rocky" after doing a year's training to become a professional K1 kickboxer for the documentary "Fighter". "My agent has been fielding boxing scripts left, right and centre. They're not imaginative enough, though. Maybe one day I'll do a fight film but what would be the story? Comeback king of the year? I don't know," Elba told *Metro* newspaper. "I feel like I have more of a foundation in the art of fighting now for roles that require action-led fighting," he added, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. (IANS)

'I still want to make El Chapo film'

Mexican actress Kate Del Castillo still wants to tell drug kingpin El Chapo's life story so that all her drama from the past two years counts for something. The jailed crime lord, real name Joaquin Guzman, contacted Kate before he escaped prison in 2015 and asked her to mastermind a biopic. Del Castillo met with El Chapo's lawyers and started making calls about a possible movie. Her interest reached Sean Penn, who asked her to set up an interview with the crime boss while he was on the run, during which Penn interviewed Guzman at his jungle hide-out, embarrassing Mexican authorities. She has since become a wanted woman in her native Mexico, but now El Chapo has been recaptured, she still wants to make his life story. (TOI)



STARRY
Birthday
Brendan Gleeson

March 29, 1955

Dublin-born actor who is perhaps best known for his role as Professor Alastor 'Mad Eye' Moody in the Harry Potter films. His other famous films include *Gangs of New York*, *In Bruges* and *Mission: Impossible II*.

Zayn Malik worried about Styles's solo album

Los Angeles

Singer Zayn Malik is worried that his former One Direction bandmate Harry Styles could "overshadow" him in the future with his debut album. "Zayn has been flying high on his success as a solo artist, but he's stressing out big time now that Harry's coming out with a new album," a source told *Hollywood Life* magazine. Malik has been working hard on his solo career since leaving the British boyband back in 2015. He released his breakthrough solo album "Mind of Mine" in 2016 and has gained much success ever since. But now, he is worried that Styles is going to steal his "thunder" with a new LP, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. (IANS)



Marriage can wait for Stefani, Shelton

Los Angeles

Singers Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton are not rushing into a marriage yet as they are happy dating.

Stefani and Shelton are not rushing into engagement or wedding since they are no longer in "the honeymoon phase" of their relationship, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The pair had reportedly been planning to get married later this year. They had also met with vendors to "finalise wedding arrangements", a source told *Hollywood Life* magazine.

However, the No Doubt band member and Shelton are still enjoying their current status of being boyfriend and girlfriend. (IANS)

Tom Holland didn't consult with past Spidey actors

Actor Tom Holland says he didn't reach out to actors Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield to prepare for the role of Spider-Man in Marvel Cinematic Universe films.

Holland is currently gearing up for 'Spider-Man: Homecoming'. Maguire and Garfield have previously portrayed the superhero in different film franchises. "I wasn't in touch with them (Maguire and Garfield). They both said some really lovely things about me online. I met Andrew at the BAFTAs the other day. It was cool. He's such a nice guy and we had a great chat and went our separate ways," Holland told.

Holland said that when he met Garfield, they mainly talked about their professional careers. "We just talked about how fantastic he's been doing and all the brilliant movies he's been in lately. He talked to me about how excited I must be and how happy he was for me. It was all great," he said. (TOI)

Sandra Bullock open to expanding her family

Actress Sandra Bullock is open to having more kids. The 52-year-old actress, who already has two kids, is reportedly planning to expand her brood in the future as motherhood is one thing she is most proud of.

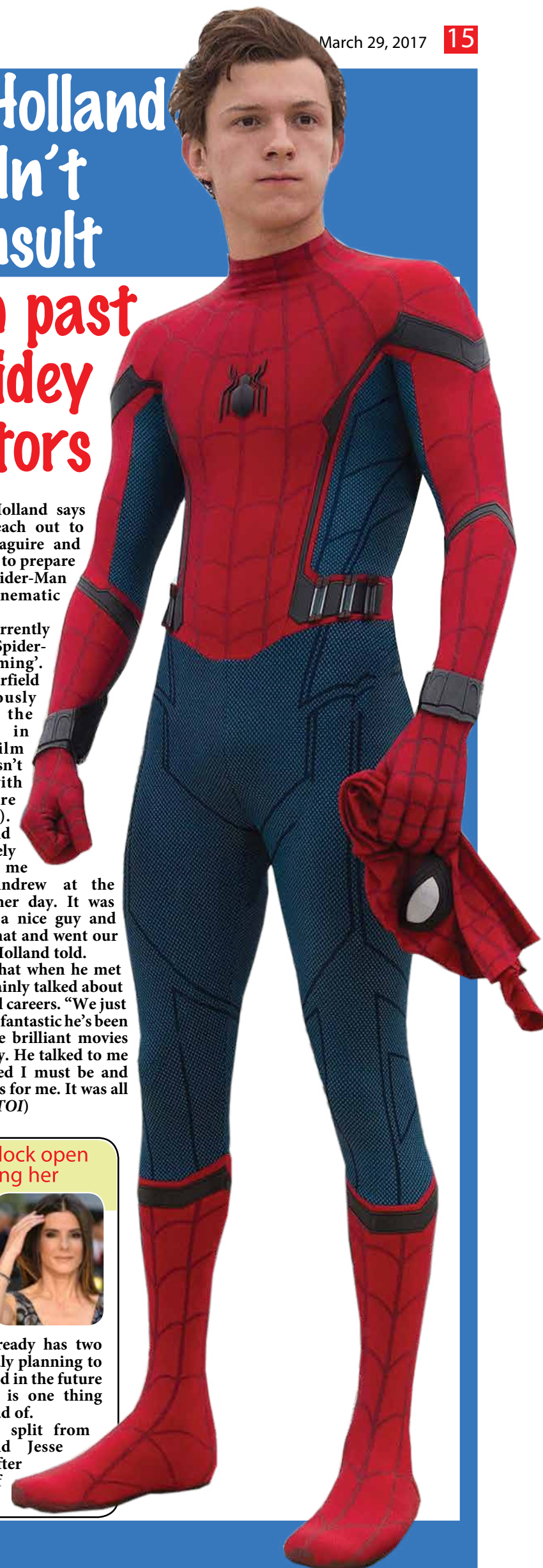
Bullock, who split from her ex-husband Jesse James in 2010 after five years of marriage. (TOI)

TOP

**BOX
OFFICE** *Movies*

Beauty and the Beast	\$90.4 million
Power Rangers	\$40.3 million
Kong: Skull Island	\$14.7 million
Life	\$12.5 million
Logan	\$10.3 million
Get Out	\$8.8 million
Chips	\$7.7 million
The Shack	\$3.8 million
The Lego Batman Movie	\$2.1 million
The Belko Experiment	\$1.9 million

(AFP)



OUT & ABOUT

HOW TO REACH US

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

MARK YOUR Calendar



2017 FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

Date : April 14 to 16
Venue : BIC Sakhir

The Bahrain Grand Prix is scheduled to take place in Sakhir. It will be the third of 20 races in the 2017 FIA Formula 1 World Championship. Aside from Formula 1, the weekend's events will also include racing from other major international and regional championships, plus loads of family entertainment. All tickets are for all three days of the Formula 1 weekend. The prices offered by BIC are amongst the most competitive in the world for any event on the Formula 1 calendar. Tickets can be purchased at the BIC stand located at Bahrain City Centre, online at www.bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

BAHRAIN FARMERS MARKET

Date: On Saturdays
Venue: Budaiya Gardens

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

BOOK FAIR



ARCH 24th - 30th 2017
n to 10pm @ KCA - VKL Audito

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

Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) in association with 4PM News will be organizing a Book Fair from March 24 to 30 at the KCA-VKL auditorium in Segaya with lot of cultural programmes. The other programmes: March 28, 7.30pm : Poetry Evening. March 29, 7.30pm: Folk songs. March 30, 7.30pm : Tribute to Malayalam poet Vayalar Ramavarma. The Book Fair will be offering 25% discount on all books. There will be books on children's literature, fiction, non-fiction, and general references. For more details contact 17579871/36458398/38382100.

LADIES NIGHT WITH 50% DISCOUNT

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

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SUNDAY GLOW

Date : Every Sunday
Venue : Gulf Spa - Gulf Hotel

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MOTHER'S DAY IN ZAHLE RESTAURANT

Date : Every Sunday
Venue : Zahle Restaurant - Gulf Hotel

Have a Lebanese Mother's Day at the iconic Zahle with excellent food and lively entertainment, as the restaurant presents an evening of authentic Arabian galore!! When you dinin at Zahle, mum gets to eat for FREE!! Mezze, grills, kebab and so many more delicious dishes await! On March 21 from 7pm onwards!

RED CARPET FASHION SHOW

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

Bahrain Fashion Night and Exhibition titled 'Red Carpet' will take place on March 31 and April 1 at Al Taj Ballroom, Sheraton Bahrain Hotel. Fuchsia Events and Management is bringing the Fashion Show and lifestyle exhibition to Bahrain for the 3rd consecutive year. Being the 3rd successful year of Red Carpet, the organizers have received an overwhelming response from both local as well as international designers. The Glamorous Fashion Night on the 31st March will be a flamboyant fashion show along with an exquisite dinner for guests. The fashion show will be hosted in collaboration with the finest fashion choreographers, makeup artist, and hair stylist from Bahrain. The fashion show will be staged for VVIP, VIP invitees from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The designers from Saudi, Morocco, Pakistan, India and Dubai will be showcasing their latest couture collections and the event will be followed by a B2 B Exhibition on the 1st April 2017. A part of the revenue from the event will be given to a local Charity in Bahrain. Fashion Show Timings: March 31, 7 pm onwards (Ticket for the Fashion show & Dinner: 20 BD). Exhibition Timings: 31st March: 2pm - 7pm; 1st April: 10am - 8pm.

ANNUAL CAR SHOW



Date : April 7
Venue : Khalifa Khalifa bin Salman Park in Hidd

Dallah Family Day and Annual Car Show will be held on Friday April 7 in Khalifa Khalifa bin Salman Park in Hidd. It will be a fun filled day for the family as there will be kids entertainment, fun activities, foodstalls, marketing stalls, carshow and much more. For more information contact : +97336994343 Email: khalid.bukhari@hotmail.com

PAACT MUSICAL PROGRAM

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

INTERADS in association with Palakkad Arts and Cultural Theatre (PAACT) is organizing a

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

MEXICAN FOOD FESTIVAL



Date : March 31 - April 10
Venue : The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa Margarita Mexicana

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa will be launching once again, the ever popular Mexican Festival that will be held at the hotels famous and award winning Mexican dining destination Margarita Mexicana.

The festival will bring authentic and sizzling spices of true Mexican cuisine with a ballet of entertainers specially flown in from Mexico.

"This year's Mexican Festival is taking place from 31st March till 10th of April 2017. The festival will come alive in the idyllic indoor setting of our Margarita Mexicana and the upper foyer of our Lobby Lounge that will be transformed into a true Mexican ranch complete with the Mexican Ballet", Said Ali Amralla Director of Business Development and Strategies.

The Mexican Ballet will be welcoming the guests from the minute they arrive at our main Lobby. This will be supported with a lively atmosphere of Mexican music till the entrance of Margarita Mexicana Restaurant; from there you can smell the irresistible aromas of the smoked barbeque grills that are sure to transport our guests to the heart of the South.

The Mexican Food Festival promises a feast of Southern favourites. The special menu includes an awe-inspiring array of the famous Mexican dishes, sweet delights and traditional refreshments.

Adding to the festive feel, the Mexican Food & Cultural Festival will include a host of fun and engaging activities for the guests done by the Mexican ballet, including country line dancing and Mariachi music.

GUITARIST PACO RENTERIA

Date : 6 April 2017, 8:00pm

Venue : Cultural Hall

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

THAI FRIDAY NIGHT

Date : Every Friday Night
Venue : Royal Thai Restaurant - Gulf Hotel

Thai Friday Nights with live cooking counters serving, papaya salad, satays, carvings and unlimited selection of main-courses with an all you can eat menu!! For only BD15 NET per person inclusive of 2 selected beverages!

THE PEARLING PATH EXHIBITION

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

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

PERFORMANCE BY MUSIC LEGEND TOM JONES

Date : April 7, 8pm
Venue : Bahrain Bay

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

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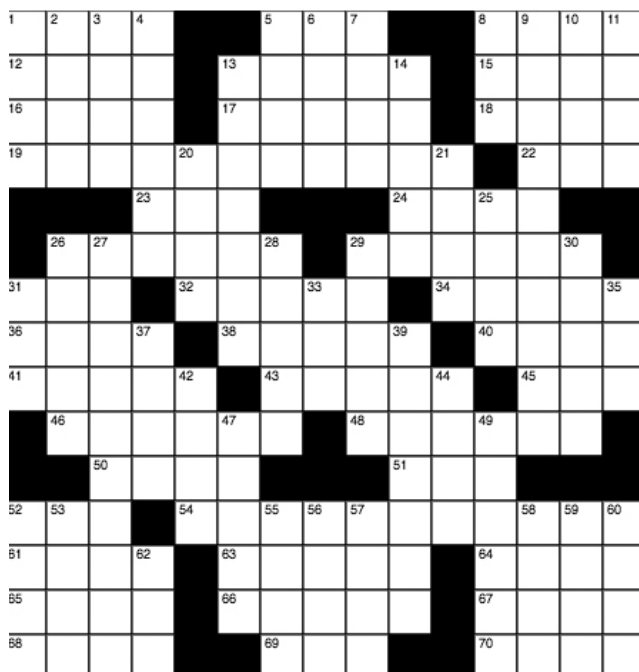
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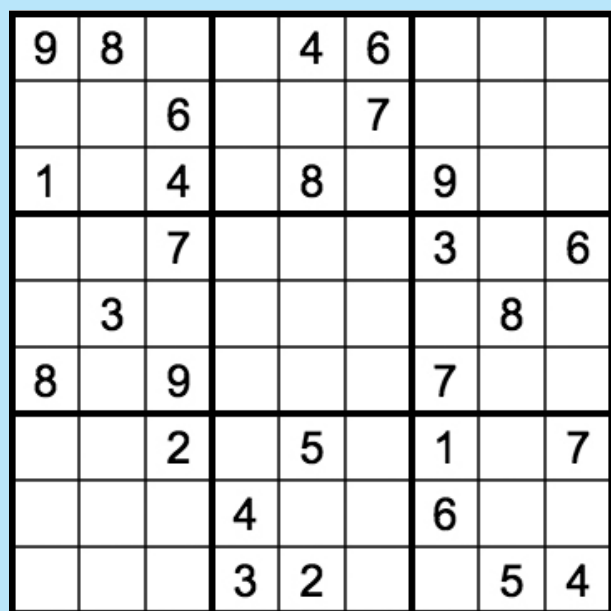
Down

1- Impressed;; 2- Prefix with conference;; 3- Smell ___;; 4- Beliefs;; 5- Overhaul;; 6- Gen. Bradley;; 7- Ike's ex;; 8- Legal ending;; 9- Tubular pasta;; 10- ___ but known...;; 11- Ancient Greek coin;; 13- Butch, e.g.;; 14- ___ your life!!; 20- Actor Julia;; 21- Slips;; 25- Uh-uh;; 26- Acid type;; 27- Subdivision of a species;; 28- ___ Perot;; 29- Utopias;; 30- Queues;; 31- Opposite of WSW;; 33- Zeta follower;; 35- Mao ___-tung;; 37- Plaintiff;; 39- Afternoon performance;; 42- Rocker Clapton;; 44- Seniors' org.;; 47- Ages;; 49- Italian sausage;; 52- An apple ____;; 53- Court plea, for short;; 55- Speck of dust;; 56- TV horse;; 57- Scandinavian capital;; 58- Scored 100 on;; 59- What you do to a joint, prior to a heist;; 60- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax;; 62- After taxes;;

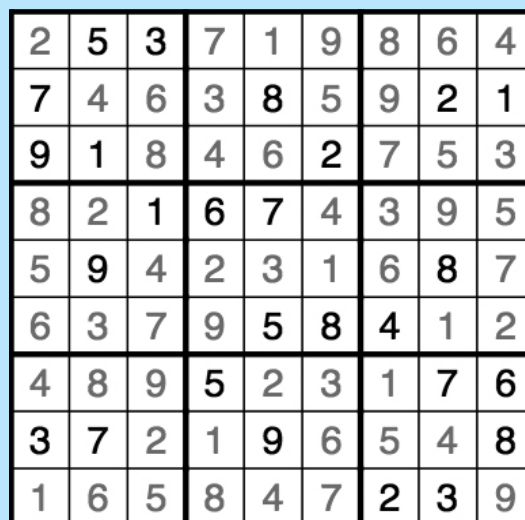
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Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



You may not be having the best of luck when it comes to matters of the heart, and you may feel you need to take some sort of action. Be careful of acting just for the sake of creating movement. Perhaps the best policy for you now is to relax where you are and wait for the perfect love to come to you. Your battery will be well charged when the time comes to use it.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Love and romance are in the air tonight, so feel free to let loose. Instead of being a passive, gentle, soft kind of love, the emotion you feel may be more forceful and passionate. Roll with this feeling as you seduce the object of your desire. Take charge in the bedroom as you lure your mate with your fantastic love of life and desire to have a good time.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



If you haven't gotten the love you want lately, perhaps it's because you haven't asked for it. If you're involved with someone and feel unfulfilled, consider having a heart-to-heart talk about your needs and what you want out of the relationship in order to be happy. If you aren't in a relationship now and want to be, you need to be more aggressive.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Feel free to upset the equilibrium in order to have your needs met, especially in the bedroom. In an effort to maintain the peace and keep everything on an even keel, you've neglected your desires for the sake of pleasing someone else. Making compromises for others can be noble, but it may never get you exactly what you want.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Nothing is too hot for you to handle, but why do you insist on burning your hand when you don't have to? Are you trying to prove to someone that you can take the heat without being affected by it? You can get burned just as easily as anyone else even if you deny it. Do things for you and not to prove something to other people.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Your physical energy is strong. Your desire for passion and love is intense. Combine these two forces for a passionate night of love and romance. No one will be able to resist your power. The key now is to make sure that you aren't giving yourself away to someone who's unworthy of your love. Match yourself with a person who appreciates you for the amazing person you are.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Matters of the heart may not be going smoothly. Perhaps someone's approach has been too aggressive. Maybe you've been too pushy about what you want. Tension builds up and creates disharmony instead of love. Perhaps you need to examine the dynamics of the relationship. Tough times may indicate that the honeymoon is over.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



When it comes to love and romance, you're probably on fire. You have an incredible passion for love now, making you one of the most desirable catches around. Partner with someone who shares your thirst for adventure, spontaneity, and the bizarre. You need someone who can keep up with your erratic and powerful energy. If the person you're with doesn't fill the bill, look elsewhere.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



If things aren't going smoothly in a romantic relationship, be careful about blaming yourself. A partnership means that two people work together equally. If this isn't the case, let your partner know how you feel. While the passion may run high between you, the real glue that will hold you together is sincerity, sensitivity, and mutual understanding.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Your sex drive is apt to be strong today. This could be the only thing on your mind. Every person you see may stir feelings in you, even though you may already be committed to someone. If you aren't in a relationship, this is the time to make a move. Your desire for love is strong, so you should take action.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Bring more fire and passion to your love life. Spark things up by being more adventurous. The bolder you are, the more response you will get. Even though you may like to plan ahead and take things slowly, your romantic life is one area where you might do better taking the opposite approach. Have confidence and be spontaneous in all matters having to do with love.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Recent conflicts may stir up some anger in you. This is a powerful force, and you could be tempted to get into a big fight. Put the weapons away and bring out the olive branch. Take that energy that has built up and use it to fuel your romantic affairs instead of warlike ventures. Defuse the situation by sharing passionate nights with the one you love.

Russia, Iran ink deals as Rouhani visits Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani

Moscow

Russia signed yesterday a string of bilateral agreements with Iran as President Vladimir Putin hosted his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani for his first official visit to Moscow.

The meeting between Putin and Rouhani, who have grown closer through their mutual support of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, mostly focused on flourishing economic ties in the fields of energy and industry.

Putin said in televised comments after the meeting that trade between the countries had "grown more than 70 percent" last year.

"This is truly a good result considering that it was achieved in unstable global conditions and amid persistent volatility on the commodity and currency markets," Putin said.

A joint statement published by the Kremlin said that "special attention" had been paid to cooperation in energy, with both sides pledging to continue efforts to stabilise the international market.

In addition to cooperation

on Syria, energy and defence ties have deepened between Iran and Russia in recent years

Rouhani is looking to boost Iran's economy ahead of elections in May, in which he is expected to stand for a second term. (AFP)

IS releases Farsi video threatening Iran

Tehran

The Islamic State group threatened Iran for its role in the region's conflicts, in a rare Farsi-language propaganda video released on Monday.

The 36-minute video, entitled "The Farsi Land: from Yesterday till Today", was issued through IS's social media channels from Diyala province in neighbouring Iraq.

A masked man directs his message to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"O, Khamenei, you cursed person who controls the so-called Islamic Iranian regime, rest assured that soon we will destroy your house like this," he says, pointing to ruins behind him.

'Monster' cyclone Debbie batters northeast Australia

Ayr

A "monster" cyclone smashed into northeast Australia yesterday, cutting power, damaging buildings and uprooting trees, with coastal residents battling lashing rain and howling winds.

Great Barrier Reef islands popular with foreign tourists were battered by the category four storm which slammed into the coast of Queensland state with destructive wind gusts of up to 270 kph (167 miles) near its broad core.

There were fears its arrival would coincide with early morning high tides and cause severe flooding, but it slowed



Palm trees blow in the wind in the town of Ayr in far north Queensland before making landfall between the towns of Bowen and Airlie Beach in the early afternoon.

By late evening it had been downgraded to category two and was expected to weaken further.

#PollToday



Imposing annual fees would push expat students away from public schools in Bahrain

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can't Say



"Why not? But I must ask my people. If my people say OK, they say yes, I will start to prepare,"

Joko Widodo
Indonesia's President on restoring a moratorium on the death penalty

Rest in sight

Clock is ticking on Bob Dylan's Nobel prize money



The Swedish Academy has warned that Nobel literature laureate Bob Dylan has until June 10 to deliver the Nobel lecture, in order to receive prize money of \$910,000.

China holds military drills near restive Myanmar border

China's army held drills near its border with Myanmar yesterday, in a show of strength from Beijing following weeks of clashes between ethnic rebels and Myanmar's military.

Scotland to press for independence vote

The Scottish parliament prepares to call for an independence referendum, just a day before triggering Brexit.

Ousted Thai PM slapped with \$500m tax bill

Thai tax officials slapped ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra with a \$500 million bill yesterday, resurrecting a dispute on the decade-long political rift.

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[/newsofbahrain](https://www.youtube.com/newsofbahrain)

Mystery buyer snaps up Trump's childhood home



The first childhood home of Donald Trump

New York

President Donald Trump's childhood home in the New York borough of Queens has sold for \$2.14 million -- a premium price for the neighbourhood -- to an unknown buyer.

Built by his father Fred in 1940 in the upmarket enclave of Jamaica Estates, the building served as the president's home for the first four years of his life. The address is listed on his birth certificate.

The two-story mock Tudor-style house embellished with red brick sold at auction in January for 54 percent more than its

selling price in December, when a real estate investor paid \$1.39 million for it. The latest sale closed last week.

Fred Trump, a real estate developer who made his fortune building low-cost housing, also helped develop Jamaica Estates.

He moved his family to a colonnaded nine-bathroom mansion he built nearby in 1951.

Asked about the house when he appeared on NBC's "The Tonight Show" in September, then-candidate Donald Trump said it was "sad" the building was on sale at the time. "I want to buy it," he said.

Mice living alongside humans for 15000 years

Miami

Mice began infesting human settlements some 15,000 years ago in the Middle East, said a study that suggested the little rodents have been scurrying underfoot far longer than previously thought.

As soon as hunter-gatherers began settling down rather than roving from place to place, house

mice began to edge out their wild counterparts, said the study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

The research provides the first evidence that, as early as 15,000 years ago, humans were living in one place long enough to impact local animal communities resulting in the dominant presence of house mice.

Sewol ferry 'remains' are animal bones: S. Korea

Seoul

Bone fragments recovered from the wreck of South Korea's Sewol ferry are from an animal and not human remains, the maritime ministry said yesterday, dashing hopes of the relatives of missing victims.

Authorities had earlier announced the pieces were human -- raising the prospect of closure for families of at least some of the nine passengers whose bodies were never found after the 2014 maritime disaster.

But the ministry corrected



Wreck of the Sewol ferry

its initial statement, declaring: "According to test results by the National Forensic Service, they have been confirmed to be seven animal bone fragments."

They were suspected to be pig bones, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said, citing forensic officials.

Montreal

British and US bans on laptops and tablet computers in the cabin of flights are not sustainable in the long term, the head of the association representing airlines said yesterday.

"The current measures are not acceptable as a long-term solution to whatever threat they are trying to mitigate," said Alexandre de Juniac, director general of the International Air Transport Association said.

"Even in the short term, it is difficult to understand their effectiveness. And the

commercial distortions they create are severe," he said in a speech in Montreal.

"We call on governments to work with the industry to find a way to keep flying secure without separating passengers from their personal electronics."

Washington last week banned electronic devices bigger than mobile phones on direct flights to the United States from 10 airports in seven Middle Eastern countries and Turkey.

Britain followed with a similar ban from five countries from the Middle

East and northern Africa, and Turkey.

US officials said the measure was intended to thwart possible attacks on airliners with small explosive devices hidden in consumer electronics.

In theory, it would be harder to hide a bomb in checked luggage because these are usually scanned with more sophisticated equipment.

De Juniac lamented a lack of consultation with the airline industry and "little coordination by governments" in the

measure's rollout.

He pointed to pushback from airlines and their passengers who are questioning the security measure, especially after other Western nations chose not to impose a ban.

"Why don't the US and the UK have a common list of airports?" he said. "How can laptops be secure in the cabin on some flights and not others (from the same airport)."

"And surely there must be a way to screen electronic equipment effectively at airport checkpoints," he concluded. (AFP)

Pakistan extends secret military courts



Representative picture

Preparatory meeting of Foreign Ministers at the summit

Islamabad

An expired Pakistani law allowing secret military courts to try civilians on terror charges was extended by the Senate for another two years yesterday, despite stringent criticism from rights groups. The law expired in January with the controversial tribunals having hanged 12 people and ordered the executions of 149 more.

The courts will now be revived as soon as Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain

signs the amendment to extend them into law, a senior government official said. The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) slammed the move.

"The nationwide concern at a number of recent attacks in the country seems to have once again been misdirected toward a seriously flawed counter terrorism strategy that weakens the rule of law and the struggle for justice," said Sam Zarifi, ICJ's Asia director.

Kids exposed to lead show less intelligence

Miami

Children in New Zealand who were exposed to high levels of lead have grown up to be less intelligent adults than their counterparts who were not as affected, researchers said.

The decades-long study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) shows that the effects of lead, a metal and potent neurotoxin,

can be long-lasting.

The research involved more than 500 people living in the southeastern city of Dunedin in the 1970s and 1980s, an era when leaded gasoline (petrol) was common and the exhaust from vehicles meant most people were exposed to high levels of lead. New Zealand's lead levels were consistently higher than international standards during this time.

Electronics ban on flights not a longterm solution: IATA boss

A Libyan traveller packs his laptop in his suitcase before boarding his flight for London at Tunis-Carthage International Airport

No peace deal in Syria without US role: opposition

Geneva

Apolitical deal to end the Syrian conflict is not possible without a strong US role, the opposition's chief negotiator said, warning that Washington's absence was threatening ongoing peace talks.

Lead negotiator for the main opposition High Negotiations Committee (HNC), Mohamad Sabra, said in an interview late Monday that the UN-backed talks in Geneva remained "stalled".

"There can be no real and viable political solution without the presence of the Americans," he said.

The United States has a "moral duty" to throw its weight behind efforts to end the six-year conflict, he added.

Years of diplomatic initiatives have failed to end



US armoured vehicles at Raqa in northern Syria

the war, which has killed more than 320,000 people and displaced millions since it started in March 2011 with protests against President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Washington has long been the biggest backer of the Syrian

opposition, but it appears to be putting far less diplomatic muscle towards the rebel cause since President Donald Trump came to power in January.

Two UN-backed taskforces co-chaired by the United

States and Russia and aimed at securing ceasefires and access for humanitarian aid in Syria seem to be having less impact.

At the same time, regime supporters Russia and Iran along with rebel-backer Turkey

have been pushing separate negotiations in Astana since January after gains on the ground by Damascus turned the tables in the conflict.

'No partner'

While urging Washington to be

more fully engaged in the peace process, Sabra warned that a deal would be impossible "if the Russians do not withdraw their (military) support for the regime."

Russia's entry into the conflict in September 2015 -- when it began launching air strikes to shore up Assad's forces -- played a significant role in turning the tide for the Syrian regime. "Until now, we don't have a partner in these negotiations," he insisted.

The government has ruled out discussing Assad's possible departure, while the HNC says it will refuse any deal that leaves him in power.

Sabra insisted that "once the transitional government is formed," Assad's regime would end, and he "and his clique will be referred to a fair trial" for their crimes. (AFP)



Alsaei, Almuammari triumph

Manama

Khaled Alsaei and Rashid Almuammari were both victorious in the latest edition of the Bahrain Karting Sprints Championship (BKSC) at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

Alsaei triumphed in the fifth round of the 2016/2017 Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge (BRMMC) while Almuammari continued his winning ways in the 2016/2017 Bahrain SWS Sprints Championship (SSWS).

Both meetings were the penultimate meetings in each highly competitive national

championship, which together makes up the BKSC. In the B R M M C, which is a series for Rotax kart owners, Alsaei triumphed with a spirited finish to the day's events.

He completed the 15-lap event in a total race time of 14 minutes 34.960 seconds, Hussain Hassan (+3.676 seconds) was the runner-up while Muayyad Alabandi (+10.959) was third. Talal Beshara, Alexander Bekkers, and Adam Salem were fourth through sixth, respectively. Anas Lecaillon, Luca Santiago and Sulaiman Alkanderi rounded out the final classification.

Despite the result, Hassan (154 points) continues to lead the title race in the BRMMC's Senior Max category. Alsaei (139) is in second

and Mohammed Mattar (121) third. Leading the Junior Max class was Santiago (103), followed by Bekkers (94) and Lecaillon (93).

In the SSWS, which is an arrive-and-drive championship that sees karters compete in identical Sodikarts, Almuammari (19:34.391) ahead of Abubaker Ali (+0.163) in second with Najashi Rashdan (+8.026) in third.

A total of 21 drivers took part in the Final, which was held over 15 laps. Mohammed Jalal was fourth, Ahmed Ebrahim fifth and Yousif Khamiri rounding out the top six.

Following the seventh round of action in the SSWS, Almuammari (198) remains in first place on the SSWS championship standings, followed by Buhindi (171) in second and Ahmed Ebrahim (147) third. The karters now head to the final round of the BKSC on April 7 at BIKC. Entrance to the karting facility is free of charge.

Inter Hotel Cricket: Downtown Rotana win



Downtown Rotana team

Manama

Downtown Rotana defeated Crowne Plaza by five wickets in the latest matches of The Ritz Carlton Bahrain Sixth Inter Hotel Charity Cricket Tournament 2017 at the Ritz-Carlton Staff Recreation area.

Batting first, Crowne Plaza were bowled out for 48 in six overs with Dighambhar (21 off deliveries, 2x6, 2x4) top scoring and Qamarul Islam (two for four) the best of the bowlers.

In reply, Downtown Rotana reached the target scoring 49 for one in 5.2 overs thanks to a fine effort by Javed (22 off 17, 1x6, 2x4) with Dighambhar (one for five) the best of the bowlers.

24 teams are in the fray playing round-robin group matches followed by the knockout stage with the final set for tomorrow.

This year's official charity is the Child Wish Society.

Other results:

1) Majestic Arjaan by Rotana 59/2 in 4 (Rajeeth 28 off 10, 3x6, 1x4, Nasir 1/7) bt International Hotel Establishment 58/5 in 6 (Kartic 28 off 11, 4x6, Thomsan 1-12) by four wickets.

2) Intercontinental Regency (A) 84/6 in 6 (Naem 50 off 17, 5x6, 4x4 (first 50 of tournament), Adnan 2/5) bt Four Seasons (B) 33 in 4 (Ramsi 22 off 10, 2x6, 1x4), Ram Singh 3/10) by 51 runs.



Brave returns

Manama

The Brave Fighting Championship returns to the Middle East, with the fourth edition on Friday in Abu Dhabi at the IPIC Arena in Zayed Sports City.

South America hosted the third edition of the championship on March 18 in the Brazilian city of Curitiba.

This was the first time, since the launch of this event to organise competitions in various foreign countries, under the directives of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth, Honorary President of the Bahrain Martial Arts Federation, founder of Khalid Bin

Hamad Mixed Martial Arts (KHK MMA), with the aim to introduce and promote Bahrain in various sports, including mixed martial arts, and strengthening Bahrain's position on the international sports map.

The championship will see participation from the strongest and fiercest fighters around the world, including Mexican fighter Masio Fullen and Algerian fighter Elias Boudegzdame, who will face off in the main match of this edition, as well as Jordanian fighters Abdulkareem Al Selwady, Jarrah Al Selawi, Lebanese fighters Mohammad Fakhreddine, Moroccan fighter Ottoman Azaita and Brazilian fighter Marcos Cruz.

Fight Card :

Featherweight Title Main Event: Welterweight Co-Main Event: Cruz. Lightweight:

Welterweight: Lightweight:

Bantamweight Bout: Strawweight Bout: Catchweight Bout (74kg): Light heavyweight Bout:

Elias Boudegzdame vs Masio Fullen, Mohammad Fakhreddine vs Marcus Vinicius Alexandre Rodrigues vs Abdulkareem Al Selwady. Jarrah Al Selawi vs. Daniele Scatizzi. Ottoman Azaitar vs Charlie Leary, Alan Omer vs Robbie Peralta. Jalal Al Daaia vs Frans Mlambo. Atif Hawk vs Jomar-Pa-ac. Kevin Koldobsky vs Ahmed Amir. Marco Knoebel vs Ben Forsyth

Bowling: Bapco beat Pioneers



Banagas team

Manama

Bapco (20 points) defeated Pioneers 6-2 (14) to win the Golden Triangle League 2017 title organised by the Bahrain Industrial Bowling League at the Fun Land Bowling League in Manama.

Top scoring for Bapco was Mohammed H. Janahi (229) high game and (677) high series and for the Pioneers was Abdul Latif Hassan

(229) game and Mahmood Omran (633) series.

Banagas (18) finished in second after winning 8-0 when the other team failed to show with top scorer being Raed Ahmad (223) game and Mohammad Al Murbati (564) series.

This week's Master Championship competition will be played by the 12 top players with the highest average in scratch game competition.

Horse show begins



Manama

The championship of the Late Shaikh Faisal bin Hamad Al Khalifa for locally Purebred Arabian Horses got underway at the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club.

The event is being held under the patronage of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, Honourary President of the Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF).

Shaikh Nasser stated that holding such tournaments stems from the keenness to highlight the beauty of

purebred Arabian horses and

Bahrain's distinction in having the finest types of them, commending the good competitive level demonstrated by the participants on the first day of the championship.

Dr Khalid Ahmed Hassan, Chairman of the Championship's Organising Committee, commended Shaikh Nasser's sponsorship of this championship and the support of Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation.

Results (owner, points):

Mares of age 1 year A1:

- 1) Ruya Al-Layal owned by Saeed

- Mohammed Abdullah (91.56 points),
- 2) Bint Al-Noor (Abdul Raouf Ibrahim, 90.44),
- 3) Ak Aliya (Ali Ahmad Abdullah, 90.13).

Mares of age 1 year B1:

- 1) Amlia Al-Khawalid (Khalid Yaqub Al-Mas, 90.56),
- 2) Al-Anoud Al-Zain (Bashar Mustafa, 90.25),
- 3) Shaikhat Al-Anoud (Sharaf Al-Din Abdullah, 89.06).

Mares of age 2 years:

- 1) Jawaher bint Bashir (Abdullah Ahmed, 90.25),
- 2) Aliya Al-Zain (Dr Bashar Mustafa, 89.94),
- 3) Jood Al-Amir (Asmar Stable, 89.06).

TCR added to Bahrain GP

Manama

Leading touring car championship, the TCR International Series, has been added to the support race programme of the 2017 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix to take place at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir from April 14 to 16.

The weekend's support programme now features a pair of top-class international series, namely the FIA Formula 2 Championship and TCR; to go along with the leading one-make regional championship, the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East.

TCR will be holding the second of 10 rounds in its 2017 season at Bahrain.

The championship kicks off on April 1 and 2 at Rustavi International Motorpark in Tbilisi, Georgia, with other events scheduled for Spa (Belgium), Monza (Italy), Salzburgring (Austria), Budapest (Hungary), Oschersleben (Germany), Sochi (Russia), Buriram (Thailand), Zhejiang (China), and Yas Marina

Circuit (Abu Dhabi).

There are 13 teams competing this season, led by defending champions Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing.

Now in its third year, TCR International Series was conceived and launched by Marcello Lotti, the man who revived the FIA World Touring Car Championship back in 2005. He envisioned a new class that could fill a gap at the bottom of the Touring Car pyramid, one that was affordable for car manufacturers and independent teams alike and was capable of offering close and exciting races.

Seven leading brands of car manufacturers are to be represented at in the series' races in Bahrain – Audi, Volkswagen, Honda, SEAT, Alfa Romeo, Opel and Kia.

The addition of the TCR International Series adds to the many attractions already lined up for this year's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

Gilbert shines at De Panne



Belgian cyclist Philippe Gilbert of Quick-Step Floors celebrates as he crosses the finish line

Brussels

Belgian Philippe Gilbert took a solo victory in yesterday's opening stage of the final warm-up event ahead of Sunday's prestigious Tour of Flanders.

The 34-year-old Quick Step Floors rider finished 17 seconds ahead of Australia's Luke Durbridge with Simone Consonni of Italy another 17 seconds further back in third at the end of the 205km first stage of Three Days of De Panne.

It was the former world champion's first victory of the season and came after recent near misses on a pair of cobbled classics -- Gilbert was second

at both E3 Harelbeke and Dwars door Vlaanderen last week.

The Ardennes Classics specialist is targeting the cobbled classics this season as he bids to win the 'Monument' Tour of Flanders for the first time.

A winner of all three Ardennes Classics -- Amstel Gold, Fleche Wallonne and Liege-Bastogne-Liege -- Gilbert's best previous finish at Flanders was third in 2009 and 2010.

He made his winning move on the Mur de Grammont climb 16km from the finish and never looked back.

Wednesday's second stage is a hilly 193km ride from Zottegem to Coxyde.



Supreme Council for Youth and Sports deputy General Secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) General Secretary Abdulrahman Askar received a cable of thanks from Al Ahli Club chairman Khalid Kanoo for his support to the volleyball team at the 35th Arab Clubs Championship in Bahrain. Above, Al Ahli Club celebrating after winning the Arab Clubs Volleyball Championship in Bahrain



Bahrain's National Athletics female team have been congratulated by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of West Asian Athletics Federation, President of Bahrain Athletics Association after finishing in third position and winning the bronze medal, in the 42nd IAAF World Cross Country Championships held in Uganda. The team composed of runners Ruth Jebet, Rose Chelimo, Eunice Chumba and Desi Mokonin (58 points) managed third position in the 10km cross country race, behind Kenya (10) in first position, with Ethiopia (45). Jebet (32 minutes 49 seconds) achieved the best position among Bahraini runners by finishing in seventh position behind the top six all from Kenya. The mixed relay team of composed of Sadik Mikhou, Dalila Abdulkadir, Benson Kiplagat Seurei and Tigist Gashaw came in fifth position in 23 minutes 30 seconds.



Iran's Mehdi Taremi (R) shoots the ball as he plays against China's Mei Fang (L)

Iran beat China

Australia get crucial win

Tehran
Iran's Mehdi Taremi dealt China's World Cup hopes a major blow yesterday, as Australia grabbed a crucial win over UAE to stay in the hunt for an automatic spot at Russia 2018.

Australia, however, can take nothing for granted as they lie in third spot with 13 points after Japan and Saudi Arabia also won to jointly go three points clear in Group B with 16.

Japan ended Thailand's campaign with a 4-0 victory in Saitama, and South Korea squeezed past Syria 1-0 to get back on track after last week's upset to China.

Saudi Arabia grabbed three points in Jeddah with Yahya

al-Shehri scoring the winner in the 53rd minute for a 1-0 victory over Iraq, who languish in fifth place with just four points.

Marcello Lippi's team had raised Chinese hopes with their 1-0 win over the Koreans, but Taremi's goal straight after half-time consigned them to defeat by the same scoreline.

While Iran, Asia's top-ranked team, maintain their four-point cushion from South Korea at the top of Group A, China are second from bottom with only three games to go. China are pumping huge resources into football in an effort to lift themselves among the sport's elite, starting with qualifying for only the second World Cup in their history.

But they may now have to win all of their remaining games against Syria, Uzbekistan and Qatar to reach next year's tournament in Russia.

In Sydney, Australia badly needed a win against UAE and

after a game featuring 42 fouls they ran out 2-0 victors thanks to goals from Jackson Irvine and Mathew Leckie. It allowed the Socceroos to keep pace with Japan and Saudi Arabia in Group B as they hunt for the top-two finish which will give them an automatic berth in Russia.

'Incredibly happy'

Japan had little trouble in their four-goal stroll in Saitama, which featured a 50th international strike for Leicester City forward Shinji Okazaki. Shinji Kagawa gave the hosts the lead in their Asian Group B qualifier with a sharp finish after eight minutes, before Okazaki thundered home a diving header to bring up his half-century in swashbuckling style.

Okazaki's landmark goal, on his 108th Japan appearance, came on 19 minutes in Saitama and effectively killed the contest.

Yuya Kubo and Maya Yoshida added further goals for the Blue Samurai after the break and Eiji

Kawashima saved a late penalty from Adisak Kraisor to deny Thailand a consolation.

Elsewhere, China-based Hong Jeong-Ho struck in the fourth minute as Uli Stielike's South Korea beat Syria 1-0 to remain second in Group A.

Qatar's already slim hopes of qualifying for the tournament also vanished as they went down to Uzbekistan 1-0 in Tashkent.

After their acrimonious 1-0 loss to Iran last week in Doha, Qatar were desperately looking for a miracle but a cracking 65th minute free-kick from Odil Akhmedov put paid to their hopes at the Bunyodkor Stadium.

Qatar continue to languish at the bottom of Group A with just four points after losing five of their seven games. The Uzbeks, who also have never qualified for the World Cup finals before, are in third spot with 12 points, just one point behind South Korea with three games left. (AFP)



Pliskova halts Baroni run

Miami

Czech second-seed Karolina Pliskova booked her place in the semi-finals of the Miami Open yesterday, ending the hopes of Croat veteran Marijana Lucic-Baroni with a 6-3,

6-4 win.

Lucic-Baroni has been enjoying a late career upturn in fortunes at the age of 35 and in January reached the semi-final of the

Australian Open - 18 years after her previous appearance in the last four of a slam in 1999 at Wimbledon.

In Miami she put out fifth-seed Agnieszka Radwanska in the previous round but the confident and in-form Pliskova proved to be a test too far.

The win was sweet revenge for Pliskova who had lost to the Croat in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open in January and now has the best win-loss record of the year (23-3).

The Czech has won two out of four tournaments this season, triumphing in Brisbane and Doha.

The 25-year-old's victory in the Doha final came against Caroline Wozniacki and the pair could face each other again in the Miami semi-final, should the Dane be able to beat Czech Lucie Safarova.

Football

Scores at the time of closing

International friendlies:



Russia	3	Belgium	3
Republic of Ireland	0	Iceland	1
Austria	1	Finland	1
Netherlands	1	Italy	2
Portugal	2	Sweden	3
France	0	Spain	2
Cameroon	1	Guinea	1
Egypt	3	Togo	0
Luxembourg	0	Cape Verde	2
Morocco	1	Tunisia	0
Mozambique	1	Lesotho	0
South Africa	0	Angola	0
Tanzania	2	Burundi	1

Africa Cup of Nations qualifying, preliminary round, second legs:

Mauritius	0	Comoros	2
South Sudan	0	Djibouti	2

Fourth round of 2018 World Cup

CONCACAF qualifying:			
Honduras	1	Costa Rica	0
Trinidad and Tobago	v	Mexico (1900).	
Panama	v	USA (2105).	

Asian zone World Cup qualifiers:



Group A:			
South Korea	1	Syria in Seoul	0
Iran	1	China in Tehran	0
Uzbekistan	1	Qatar in Tashkent	0
Group B:			
Australia	2	UAE in Sydney	0
Japan	4	Thailand in Saitama	0
Saudi Arabia	1	Iraq in Jeddah	0

English League One (1945):

AFC Wimbledon	3	Rochdale	1
Oxford	5	Bury	1
Port Vale	0	MK Dons	0
Sheff Utd	2	Millwall	0
League Two:			
Accrington	v	Cambridge (1945)	

India thrash Australia



India's cricket captain Virat Kohli (L) and Ajinkya Rahane (R) receive the Border-Gavaskar trophy from Sunil Gavaskar

Win test series

Dharamsala

Skipper Virat Kohli said Australia were no longer his friends after India wrapped up a bad-tempered Test series 2-1 with a thumping eight-wicket win in Dharamsala on Tuesday.

Chasing 106 on the penultimate day of the fourth Test, opener Lokesh Rahul hit 51 not out at India's newest Test venue as the hosts seized back the Border-Gavaskar trophy from Australia.

India's stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane (38 not out) hit two sixes in a row off paceman Pat Cummins en route to the team's seventh successive Test series victory, a run that kicked off with their triumph in Sri Lanka in 2015.

But Kohli, who sat out the final Test with a shoulder injury, said any warm feelings he had toward Australia before the Test had evaporated during the bitter contest that ensued between the world's top two sides.

"I thought that was the

case, but it has changed for sure. As I said in the heat of the battle, you want to be competitive but yeah I have been proven wrong," Kohli told a post-match press conference.

"The thing I said before the first Test (about being friends), I have certainly been proven wrong, and you won't hear me say that ever again."

The 28-year-old skipper caused a furore in the second Test after accusing his counterpart Steven Smith of repeatedly abusing the decision review system.

But Kohli, who managed only 46 runs in the series, said the hard-fought series against Australia was the most satisfying of India's recent run, that included victories over New Zealand, England and Bangladesh in an extended home season.

"Unbelievable. This is the best series win so far," said Kohli, who received the Test mace on behalf of India for ending the season as the world's top side.

"The way the Australian team gave us a fight was really amazing, but the way the (India) guys kept bouncing back showed the true character of the side."

India's cricket board rewarded their players who featured in all four Tests with a cash bonanza of \$77,000.

Smith meanwhile apologised for letting emotions get the better of him. On Monday footage indicated he called Murali Vijay a "cheat" for wrongly claiming a catch.

"I have been pretty intense throughout this series. I really wanted to do well for the team. At times I have been in my own bubble and have let my emotions slip. I apologise for that," said Smith. (AFP)

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