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Sunday, April 30, 2017 Issue No. 7367

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11th Hour

Thousands march for environment in US

Washington

Tens of thousands of people marched yesterday from the US Capitol to the White House to show support for climate-change science and protest President Donald Trump's rollbacks of environmental protections.

Tweet of the Day

Our message is simple. We will fight to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel to sustainable energy. #ClimateMarch @SenSanders

Today's Weather

	Max	Min
	36°C	25°C



Greater US role urged for Mideast peace

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (R) meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas in the capital Cairo

Cairo

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi yesterday urged the United States to help restart negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, a statement from the presidency said.

The statement came after Sisi met Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas who will meet US President Donald Trump in Washington on Wednesday for talks on reviving the stagnated Middle East peace process.

Sisi said it was "important that the United States returns to play an active role in efforts to resume negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel", the statement said.

The two "agreed that the two-state solution is the only way to bring stability to the region", it added.

Sisi said a 2002 Arab peace initiative should be the basis for a comprehensive solution.

The Saudi-led initiative offered normalised relations with Israel in exchange for resolving the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

When Abbas meets Trump on Wednesday it will be the first encounter between the two men, but will follow a series of US contacts with the Palestinian leader.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have repeatedly run aground despite periodic US efforts to revive them, most recently by former secretary of state John Kerry.

But Abbas, who met in Ramallah recently with CIA chief Mike Pompeo and Trump's special representative Jason Greenblatt, has said Trump is "seriously considering a solution to the Palestinian issue".

Shortly after taking office, Trump alarmed Palestinians by calling into question his administration's support for a two-state solution, a bedrock of US policy.

But he has since warned Israel against "unrestrained" building of settler homes in the occupied West Bank. - AFP

Turkey blocks Wikipedia, fires 4,000

Istanbul

Turkey yesterday blocked all access to Wikipedia and banned television dating shows, adding to fears of a crackdown after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's victory in a referendum on enhancing his powers.

The government also dismissed almost 4,000 public officials in the latest wave of the purge under the over nine-month state of emergency that has followed last July's failed coup.

Turkey's Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) said it had implemented the ban against online encyclopedia Wikipedia.org with an administrative order.

Turkish state media said the ban was imposed because Wikipedia had failed to remove content promoting terror and accusing Turkey of cooperation with various terror groups.

Reacting to the ban, Wikipedia's founder Jimmy Wales wrote on Twitter: "Access to information is a fundamental human right. Turkish people, I will always stand with you to fight for this right."

In a decree issued late Saturday evening, Turkey also banned hugely popular television dating shows, a move that been mooted for months by the government.

Under a separate decree, 3,974 public officials were dismissed by Turkey including more than 1,000 people working with the justice ministry and over 1,000 staff employed by the army.

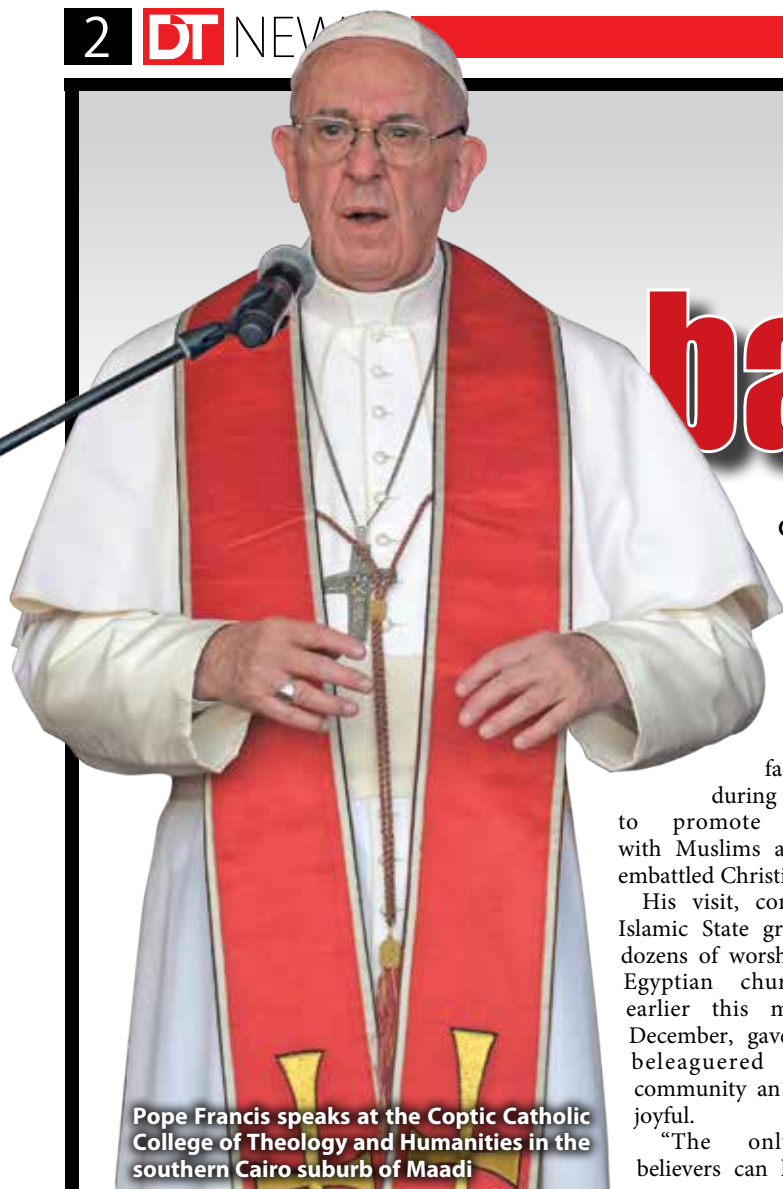
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Pope Francis speaks at the Coptic Catholic College of Theology and Humanities in the southern Cairo suburb of Maadi

'Dialogue can battle extremism'

Cairo

Pope Francis

appealed for dialogue to battle extremism as he addressed thousands of faithful yesterday during a visit to Egypt to promote reconciliation with Muslims and support its embattled Christians.

His visit, coming after the Islamic State group (IS) killed dozens of worshippers in three Egyptian church bombings earlier this month and in December, gave the country's beleaguered Christian community an occasion to be joyful.

"The only fanaticism believers can have is that of

charity," the pope said at a mass for Egypt's Catholics.

"True faith... moves our heart to love everyone... It makes us see the other not as an enemy to be overcome but a brother and sister to be loved," he told a crowd of about 15,000 pilgrims.

"It spurs us on to spread, defend and live out the culture of encounter, dialogue, respect and fraternity."

The mass came on the second and last day of Francis's visit, which saw him plead for tolerance and peace on Friday as he visited a Coptic church bombed by IS in December.

The spiritual leader of the world's almost 1.3 billion Catholics also became the first pope to visit the headquarters of the grand imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmed al-Tayeb, one of the Muslim

world's leading religious authorities.

'Historic occasion'

Also on Friday, Francis met Coptic Orthodox patriarch Pope Tawadros II, and both attended an emotional service at the church attacked in the December suicide bombing.

They prayed at a makeshift shrine for its victims, who were mostly women.

They also signed a joint declaration pledging to "strive for serenity and concord through a peaceful co-existence of Christians and Muslims".

On Saturday, the crowd cheered and released yellow and white balloons as Francis lapped the Cairo stadium in a golf cart, waving to the crowd as a chorus sang a joyous hymn.

Worshippers old and young, nuns and priests, had been bused in under tight security with Egypt under a state of emergency following the church bombings.

It was, said Coptic Catholic engineer Maged Francis, a "historic occasion".

"It's unlikely it will ever happen again," he said. "Today joy has eclipsed the sadness of the last few weeks." The stadium chosen for Saturday's mass is on Cairo's outskirts and easier to secure, but in 2015 it saw clashes between football fans and a stampede that killed 19 people.

After the mass, the pope travelled to a seminary in Cairo where he urged his audience to promote dialogue. Heavy security surrounded his tightly scheduled trip as he travelled from one engagement to another in a closed car.



Pope Francis during a meeting with religious

'Peace is holy'

IS has threatened further attacks after the suicide bombings that killed 29 people in Cairo in December and 45 people in the cities of Tanta and Alexandria north of the capital earlier this month.

On Friday, the 80-year-old pontiff denounced violence and "demagogic" populism in an address to a Muslim-Christian conference.

"Peace alone... is holy

and no act of violence can be perpetrated in the name of God, for it would profane his name," Francis said.

He criticised what he called "demagogic forms of populism... on the rise", saying they were unhelpful to peace.

In another speech attended by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the pope also called

for "unconditional respect" for human rights.

Egypt has the largest Christian community in the Middle East.

While most of Egypt's Christians are Coptic Orthodox, about 272,000 are Catholic.

Francis's visit comes 17 years after Pope John Paul II made a trip to the Arab world's most populous nation.

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98pc of cinemagoers in Bahrain are from Saudi: top official

DT News Network
Manama

As the clerics in the neighbouring Saudi Arabia were warning citizens about the 'depravity' of cinemas and music concerts, it turns out that they were actually enjoying action flicks on the silver screens in Bahrain.

This is according to the opinion of a top Saudi official, who told Saudi newspaper *Al-Hayat*, in an interview, that the greater majority of cinemagoers in Bahrain are from Saudi Arabia.

Ahmed Al Mulla, Saudi Film Festival Director also said that this is unique considering the fact that Saudis are also visiting other destinations in the region including Egypt and Dubai with the same intention.



“But these higher percentages are recorded only in Bahrain,” he pointed out.

According to him, around 98 per cent of cinemagoers in Bahrain are from Saudi Arabia, where entertainment does not

enjoy the highest priority. “I learned about this trend from some of my friends in the showbiz in Bahrain,” said Al Mulla adding that art is important for human beings and its absence will “turn them

into monsters”. This new statistics should be read along with the recent statement by Khalid al-Falih, the oil minister of Saudi, that the government there is considering opening cinemas.

“The extremist religious idea must be eradicated from the cultural situation, not just from cinema but from music, sculpture and other art forms,” Al Mulla said while stressing that culture and arts in the kingdom have been criminalised for 30 years.

“We were demanding to alleviate this fierce attitude before it harms the country, but no one listened,” said Al Mulla.

Saudis are voracious consumers of online videos and rank among the world’s top viewers of YouTube.

Of late, talks about reopening cinema halls have gained great mileage in the kingdom where now private film screenings are also held. In fact, Saudi Arabia has created a

government agency to support private firms organising entertainment events, under a wide-ranging “Vision 2030” plan for economic and social reform.

However, Saudi Arabia’s highest-ranking cleric warned in January of the “depravity” of cinemas and music concerts.

Many have predicted that cinemas will reopen there soon, especially after the formation of the General Authority for Entertainment, which re-allowed organising music concerts, which were not possible earlier.

A Bahraini official recently revealed that the Bahrain Cinema Company (Cineco) has been requested to study the possibilities of establishing cinema halls in Saudi Arabia.



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Breaking down language barriers

British Ambassador Simon Martin

US Ambassador William V. Roebuck

Bahrain ELTP network holds 6th annual conference

DT News Network Manama

The Bahrain ELT Professionals Network (ELTPN) organised its sixth annual conference "ELT: Teachers as Learners" yesterday at Bahrain Polytechnic.

The conference, an annual platform that brings together English teachers and educators to share experiences and enhance their teaching skills, was attended by more than 250 participants. Opening ceremony was held in the presence of US Ambassador William V. Roebuck, British Ambassador Simon Martin, British Council Bahrain Director Alan Rutt and representatives of the local educational field.

In his opening remarks, British Council Bahrain Director Alan Rutt said, "This conference is a wonderful opportunity for English Teachers in Bahrain to come together and share their experiences and to take away new ideas that will help them to develop professionally."

"This professional development will result in

improved quality of English language teaching in the classroom which will enable thousands of learners to achieve their goals and ambitions," he added.

Keynote speakers for the conference were Adrian Tennant from the United Kingdom and Nicky Hockly from Spain. Additionally, the conference presented a total of 15 breakout sessions delivered by 15 local and regional trainers. Participants also had access to the latest ELT publications from participating international exhibitors such as Express Publishing, Macmillan, and National Geographic Learning.

On the occasion, Bahrain Polytechnic CEO, Dr. Jeff Zabudsky said, "It is the ability of students and employees to communicate in English that allows them to compete on the global stage."

He stressed that conferences such as the ELTPN provides wonderful opportunities to bring together English teaching professionals to share best practices and envision the future English language teaching in the Kingdom.

Organised annually

by the ELT Professional Network, this year the conference is sponsored by the British Council, the American Embassy, Dar Al Ma'rifa English Language Centre, CrediMax, and Ahlia University as well as Tamkeen; this year's conference strategic partner.

The Bahrain ELT Professionals Network aims to help educators in the field of English Language teaching to share information, to find working partners and to collaborate on events and projects.

On the occasion, ELT Professional Network Chairperson, Dr. Hussain Dhaif said "On behalf of the Steering Committee of Bahrain ELT Professionals Network it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to our sixth ELT conference. It is thrilling to see that this annual conference has become a land mark on the ELT scene in Bahrain. We are also confident that this conference will be a valuable opportunity for all of us to take a fresh look at our classroom methodology and techniques in order to enhance our classroom performance".



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Audience at the conference

Call for bigger role in urban planning

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

The Manama Municipal Council should be given a greater role in scrutinising key decisions in terms of planning and development, the Deputy Chairman of the Council has said.

Mazen Ahmed Al Umran

called on to include Manama Council members in the High Urban Planning Committee to have a greater say in the urban planning.

“We need to have a greater say in the urban development of the Capital, to better serve the people,” he stressed.

Explaining further, Al Umran said that the Council, as of now, enjoys only a limited

power, even though it is one of its key responsibilities, since its formation.

Currently, the High Urban Planning Committee has eight members, with HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister as Chairman.

“We are looking forward

to working closely with the members of the High Urban Planning Committee, who are responsible for the entire Kingdom.

Highlighting, Al Umran said that he is seeing this as the only way to ensure the Council’s participation in the development of Manama.

“It is under our jurisdiction, but we were not able to

participate as much as we liked,” he said.

Moving on, he, however, said that the Council has made a big impact in the society with its development programmes

“The calibre of people in the Council are immense. We have engineers, businessmen, doctors, civil servants, finance experts etc. all under one roof.”



Mazen Ahmed Al Umran

“This has helped us to achieve a lot despite budget restrictions,” he stressed.

Women and the World

Meredith Ann O’Connell



The “Lady-Oriented” Movie Genre

“The story is lady-oriented, their fantasy above life,” read the Indian Central Board of Film Certification’s letter denying the certification of the film Lipstick Under My Burqa. Although an appellate court recently overturned the Board’s ruling, allowing the controversial Indian film to make it to theatres, it begs the question: what is wrong with a lady-oriented film?

Films geared toward women specifically are nothing new: there’s a whole genre known as “chick flicks,” movies with female protagonists which are almost invariably about romance. In a way, it is ridiculous that movies are labeled as chick flicks: it basically implies that no man should watch or enjoy the film. It also suggests that women are not interested in films about war, science fiction, etc. Furthermore, the movies that fall into the chick flick category often seem to be a bit lacking in intelligence and depth. There are plenty of movies with romance as the central plot that aren’t labeled chick flicks, movies with intricate story lines that aren’t, well, vapid.

Yet when a movie that’s geared toward women or has a female protagonist that is smart or brings up challenging subjects, it is often treated with disdain. Or it is considered “controversial” because it tackles topics, which are rarely dealt with onscreen, especially women’s issues. Cue the backlash for Lipstick Under My Burqa: the film is sensitive and deals with mature topics, which were also the reason for its initial ban. But these are real issues that women are dealing with around the world. Lipstick Under My Burqa is not a “fantasy above life” anymore than one’s typical chick flick or a typical Bollywood movie. It is not farfetched: the problem is that it suggests things that are uncomfortable to men and society at large.

Regardless of the content of chick flicks, why is there a problem that movies are “lady-oriented?” The majority of films are about male protagonists and male characters. Half the time, female characters only exist in films as love interests or they are randomly included to increase diversity. Books and movies have for too long centered around male characters and the male gaze.

There is no reason why there can’t be more realistic films about women and their lives. Women make up half the population and they enjoy going to the movies just as much as men. At the end of the day, there’s room for all stories at the box office.

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

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Cosplay with hijabs

Ange, a young Indonesian Muslim cosplayer dressed as the Kamen rider Gaim

A cosplay enthusiast takes part in the "Hijab Cosplay" event in Subang Jaya

Nurul Syakirah poses as a mascot for the "Hijab Cosplay"

Nurul Athirah, a young Malaysian Muslim cosplayer dressed as "Kagamine Rin"

Nana dressed as a character from Zootopia

Kuala Lumpur

Muslim women dressed as superheroes, princesses, and mighty sword-wielding warriors took part in a hijab cosplay event in Malaysia yesterday, where the role-playing craze continues to grow. Around 20 women showcased their love for anime with elaborate make-up and costumes while still wearing their traditional hijab -- the headscarf worn by many Muslim women in Malaysia -- at the event at a mall on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur.

Many participants took photos with each other, mingled and networked, sharing costume and make-up tips.

Nur Azlina, a 21-year-old university student, decked out in a "Power Ranger" outfit, said a hijab did not hinder her cosplay

skills and that there had been a lot of positive reaction.

"Some people are sometimes surprised when they see my hijab... but it doesn't bother me. My friends and my family support me and I also get invited to birthday parties to attend with my costume," she said.

"I love cosplay and I get to make new friends here and also in the international cosplay community."

Raja Muhammad Rusydi, a 20-year-old male cosplay enthusiast who also took part in Saturday's showcase said he hoped such events will generate more interest among hijab-wearing women to take part in cosplay activities.

"I support them. If they love the character and have the passion, they should do it."

In cosplay, short for costume role-play, enthusiasts gather to imitate characters from anime series, comics and video games, many drawn from Japanese pop culture.

The cosplay fad has swept much of the world and has been popular for over two decades in Malaysia.

But hijab cosplay has only become popular in the last few years in the Southeast Asian nation and has generated much buzz among those in the cosplay scene. (AFP)

Nurul Shafiqah, a young Malaysian Muslim cosplayer dressed as "Hatsune Miku"

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Iran candidates square off in first TV debate



Iranian presidential candidates (L to R) Mostafa Hashemitaba, Hassan Rouhani, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Eshaq Jahangiri, Ebrahim Raisi and Mostafa Mirsalim attend a live debate on state TV

Tehran

The six candidates standing in Iran's presidential election squared off in their first ever live television debate Friday, with moderate President Hassan Rouhani coming under fire from a key rival.

Televised debates are a relatively new feature of Iranian presidential elections, and are

believed to have influenced the results in 2009 and 2013.

Ahead of the May 19 poll, the interior ministry had announced a ban on live television debates, triggering an outcry that prompted a reversal of its decision. Three live debates are now expected to take place.

Rouhani, who is hoping for a second term in office, and

conservative rivals Ebrahim Raisi and Tehran mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf all rejected the ban.

On Friday, during the first live debate, Ghalibaf hammered Rouhani and his confidant and first vice-president, Eshaq Jahangiri, with both sides trading accusations of "lies" and making "insincere" comments.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Turkey, US can turn Raqqa into 'graveyard' for IS: Erdogan

Istanbul

Turkey and the United States can join forces to turn the Islamic State jihadist group's de-facto capital of Raqa in Syria into a "graveyard" for the extremists, the Turkish president said yesterday.

The Turkish government is pressuring Washington to stop backing Kurdish fighters as an ally in the fight against IS jihadists in Syria, in a dispute that has limited cooperation between the NATO allies.

"The huge America, the coalition and Turkey can join hands and turn Raqa into a graveyard for Daesh," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told an Istanbul meeting, using an alternative name for the IS group.

"They (the jihadists) will look for a place for themselves to hide," he said.

Erdogan's comments come ahead of a meeting with President Donald Trump on May 16 in the United States, their first face-to-face summit since the American leader took office in January. Ankara is hopeful about

the future of the relationship with Washington under Trump after ties frayed in the final years of Barack Obama's administration.

The two countries have bitterly disagreed over the role of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in Syria.

Turkey sees the group as a terrorist group linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been waging a deadly insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984.

But for the United States, the YPG is essential in the fight against IS jihadists.

The dispute has until now held up any joint American-Turkish operation to seize Raqa and Erdogan is clearly hoping for a breakthrough at his meeting with Trump.

Turkey this month announced it had completed its half-year Euphrates Shield operation in northern Syria against jihadists and Kurdish militia, although it is keeping a presence to maintain security in towns now under control of pro-Ankara Syrian rebels.

Erdogan said he would present Trump at their meeting next month with "documents" proving the YPG's links to the PKK, which is designated as a terror group by Ankara and Washington.

"We are telling American friends not to take a terror group along with them," the Turkish leader said.

Turkey on Wednesday carried out several strikes in Syria and Iraq against separatist Kurdish rebels and their allies, drawing the wrath of US officials who accused Ankara of lacklustre coordination.

The strikes in the Sinjar area of northern Iraq were against positions held by the Yazidi Protection Units (YBS), a militia supported by the PKK.

"We launched strikes against Sinjar, and the other place (in Syria) and killed 210 to 220 terrorists there. Why? You cannot play with this nation," Erdogan said.

He hinted at future operations against the YPG and PKK in Iraq and Syria. (AFP)

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- ◆ Bleeding in the brain (stroke)

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JANUARY
20Inauguration
of Donald J.
Trump, 45th
U.S. President

■ **Day 1:** Trump signs his first executive order, towards dismantling of **Affordable Care Act** or **ObamaCare**

■ **Day 2:** Women's protests against Trump agenda are biggest demonstrations since Vietnam War

■ **Day 4:** Trump signs executive orders to scrap President Obama's flagship **Trans-Pacific Partnership** trade deal with 11 countries, and ban foreign aid to groups that provide abortions

■ **Day 6:** Executive orders to prepare for "immediate construction" of U.S.-Mexico border wall and slash federal funds from migrant "sanctuary cities"

66

Executive orders, memoranda and proclamations signed (as of April 25)



■ **Day 8:** Executive order to ban refugees and immigrants from certain Muslim-majority countries triggers legal backlash



Trump fires acting attorney general **Sally Yates** (above) for opposing travel ban. Three days later Federal Judge **James Robart** halts ban

19

Visits to golf courses

■ **Day 16:** White House claims British intelligence helped Obama administration "wiretap" Trump during election campaign

Trump's bumpy 100 days



■ **Day 23:** During dinner with Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** (above) at Trump's private Florida club, news emerges that North Korea has test-fired a ballistic missile. **Club becomes impromptu situation room as guests and waiters look on**



■ **Day 25:** Trump's National Security Adviser (NSA) **Michael Flynn** (above) resigns after revelations that he had discussed sanctions on Russia with Russian Ambassador to the U.S., **Sergey Kislyak**, prior to Trump taking office

■ **Day 27:** Trump's nominee to run Department of Labor, **Andrew F. Puzder** withdraws after admitting he employed an illegal immigrant as house cleaner

■ **Day 28:** Trump repeals **Obama environmental rule to protect waterways from coal mining waste**. Trump's NSA replacement, ex-navy Seal Vice Admiral **Robert Harward**, turns down offer

■ **Day 38:** Navy Secretary nominee **Philip Bilden** withdraws his name

534

Vacant administration appointments

22

Key positions confirmed by Senate

■ **Day 40:** Trump signs bill nullifying Obama-era rule aimed at blocking gun sales to people who are mentally ill

■ **Day 46:** Revised "judgeproof" executive order reinstates Muslim travel ban



■ **Day 56:** Federal judge **Derrick Watson** (above) blocks travel ban indefinitely

■ **Day 65:** President's signature health-care bill to replace **Obamacare** is abandoned after it fails to win enough support from Republicans in Congress

■ **Day 68:** Trump signs executive order to scrap Obama-era **Clean Power Plan** which limits carbon emissions from power plants

■ **Day 72:** Senate Intelligence Committee turns down request by Trump's former security adviser Flynn for immunity in exchange for his testimony into Trump campaign ties to Russia

■ **Day 77:** Launches 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles against Syrian airfield while hosting Chinese President **Xi Jinping** at Mar-a-Lago

■ **Day 79:** U.S. Senate confirms **Neil Gorsuch** (left) to Supreme Court – President's most significant congressional victory to date

74

Days at White House
7 trips to Mar-a-Lago

■ **Day 82:** Trump gets tough with North Korea – "sending an armada, very powerful" – however, USS Carl Vinson-led Carrier Strike Group sails away from Korean peninsula, 5,600km away to Indian Ocean.

White House blames "miscommunication" with Pentagon



900+

Tweets by
President Trump

■ **Day 84:** U.S. military drops its most powerful non-nuclear bomb on so-called Islamic State positions in Afghanistan

■ **Day 86:** North Korea mounts spectacular display of its military might



■ **Day 89:** Trump signs **Buy American, Hire American** executive order

■ **Day 95:** President announces that U.S. will impose a 20% tariff on imported softwood timber from Canada. **Gallup poll finds just four in 10 Americans approve Trump's performance**

■ **Day 96:** Federal court blocks executive order to cut federal funding from so-called sanctuary cities

■ **Day 100:** President Trump backs down on Mexico border wall funding

APRIL
29

Indians throng temple to crack US visa curbs



Hyderabad

Hundreds of Indians gather daily at a 500-year-old Hindu temple in southern India where they pray for a single wish -- an increasingly elusive US visa.

The Chilkur Balaji temple dedicated to Lord Balaji -- a re-incarnation of Hindu god Vishnu -- on the outskirts of Hyderabad city, has long been a one-stop solution for prospective Indian immigrants seeking US visas, earning it the sobriquet of 'visa temple'.

But temple officials say the place has seen an increase in visitors since the election of US President Donald Trump, who this month signed an order seeking to reform the "H-1B" work visa system.

The "H-1B" visas are highly sought after by aspiring Indian immigrants but Trump's push to make the permits available only to the most-skilled or highest-paid applicants has many worried.

Software engineer Shreekanth Angirekula was among the fortunate ones, having recently secured a US visa after repeated rejections.

"It's a miracle. I couldn't get a visa for the last two years but after visiting the temple everything went off smoothly," Angirekula, 33, said.

"I am not superstitious but there was definitely divine intervention," he said.

More than 100,000 devotees visit the temple every week, for visas and other reasons.

They proffer their passports and a flower before the deity as they circumambulate the inner sanctum of the temple 11 times while chanting Hindu hymns.

Once the wish is granted, worshippers must return to make 108 rounds of the sanctum.

Chief priest Ranga Rajan said devotees come from across the country in pursuit of visas.

"Same passport, same documents, same embassy and same applicant, but their visas were rejected before coming to the Lord," Rajan said.

"It's all Balaji's blessings," he said, adding "it's not superstition but spiritualism".

The temple's supposedly magical powers gained repute in the 1980s after a group of engineers visited the temple to pray for visas.

They were all granted their wish, and soon, hordes of aspirants followed in their wake.

"I have applied for the visa for (my) studies and I hope Balaji will make it happen," student Raja Shekhar Reddy said.

"This visit has boosted my confidence," he said. (AFP)



French will decide EU future in May 7 vote

Brussels

French President Francois Hollande said that voters in France must decide their future in Europe in the May 7 presidential vote pitting europhile candidate Emmanuel Macron against the anti-EU Marine Le Pen. Speaking at his last EU summit, Hollande said the French people had every reason to stay in the European Union, tacitly backing Macron, his former economy minister.



EU 27 must stay united in Brexit talks: Tusk

Brussels

EU President Donald Tusk yesterday urged the bloc to keep a united front at a special Brexit summit in Brussels, saying it will also help Britain if they can reach a deal. "We need to remain united as the EU 27. It is only then that we will be able to conclude the negotiations, which means that our unity is also in the UK's interest," Tusk told reporters.



There will inevitably be a price and a cost for Britain, it's the choice they made. We must not be punitive, but at the same time it's clear that Europe knows how to defend its interests, and that Britain will have a less good position outside the EU than in the EU,"

Francois Hollande, French President



TIPS to start an online business

In today's world, most of the activities take place online, and it is a Win-Win situation for everyone. Many big businesses have spent millions of dollars on attracting their audience through online services. If you wish to start an online business, use the following tips to achieve success and change your destiny for good.

Setting up your business

No matter what you're trying to sell, there will be hundreds of other online retailers who have started their business with a similar idea. The advantage most of them have is that they are already established. You'll be competing with them, and so your strategy should be good enough to survive in the competitive online world. While setting up your business, you'll have to focus on other important aspects of registering your business, registering a domain name, and getting a web hosting service.

Creating your online store

If the first look of your website is not effective, people might not spend quality time on your website, and this can result in a loss. This is not all. Apart from maintaining the stylishness, you need to be sure that it is functional and interesting. If you're planning to sell things online, investing in the right E-commerce software is even important. At the same time, setting up a merchant account should be on your mind.



Content matters

You're selling your products and services online, and so you need engaging content for their description. In fact, you need quality content throughout your website and even on social networking sites. Social networking sites are important, and you'll get quality leads from there. So, make sure that the content posted on your website and social networking sites are worth reading.

Finances

As compared to a retail shop, your expenses might be less, but it is still important to look for savings in every possible way. No business owner wants to fall into the trap of loans and start looking for debt settlement to avoid bankruptcy. We hope you have this point in mind. Accordingly look for savings and move ahead with your plans.

Be ready for losses

Being confident that you'll make a profit is a good thing, but over confidence can ruin everything. So, to be on the safe side, be ready for losses and look for strategies that can help in countering the negative situation. Many people make the mistake of not having a plan B, and that could mean disastrous. So, being ready for losses will help you come up with an alternative plan to keep you going and convert the negative situation into a positive one. (TGDaily).



US to review trade pacts

Donald Trump

Washington

President Donald Trump will sign a decree ordering a review of "violations and abuses" of international trade pacts signed by the United States, including the 164-member World Trade Organization, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced Friday.

The news came amid of a week of tough talk from the Trump administration on trade matters, with import duties imposed on Canadian lumber and renewed threats to "terminate" US participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"This is an executive order addressing specifically violations and abuses under existing trade agreements," Ross told reporters. "That's what differentiates it from some of the earlier ones we've had. This is focused more narrowly on the agreements themselves."

The decision follows last month's executive order directing the Commerce Department to identify "cheaters," either countries or specific firms, that contribute to the \$500 billion annual US trade deficit.

"As far as I can tell, there has never been a systematic evaluation of what has been the impact of the WTO agreement on the country as an integrated whole," Ross said.

He acknowledged that the United States is currently running a trade surplus for the export of services.

But accounting for goods alone, the United States still has a global trade deficit of some \$700 billion, 47 percent of which comes from trade with China, he said.

The study will review agreements to ensure they increase US growth and strengthen the country's manufacturing base before recommending remedial actions in 180 days, according to the White House.

The US has 20 free trade agreement partners and 42 bilateral investment treaties, the White House said.

Trump will sign the order on the 100th day of his presidency, a symbolic occasion he will also mark with a Pennsylvania tool factory tour and one of his signature campaign-style rallies.

Earlier in the week the US president hedged his agreement to renegotiate -- rather than exit -- NAFTA, with a warning to Canada and Mexico that the US will jettison the trade accord if there is no "fair deal."



Al Salam Bank-Bahrain has announced "Danat Al Salam" draw winners for the month of April with a combined prize pool of US\$67,500. The cash prizes were handed over by Taha Fareed, Relationship Manager - Retail Banking department to Entesar Mahdi Khalil, who won the second Gmash Grand prize of US\$30,000. Additionally, Ameena Abdulla Mohamed won the Fusoos Grand prize of US\$10,000, Yahya Ali Mujadami and Ahmed Ali Alaiwi won the Fusoos monthly cash prize of US\$5,000 each while 35 winners won cash prize of US\$500 each. Congratulating all the winners, Mohammed Buhijji, Acting Head of Retail Banking, said, "We are delighted to be able to add value to the lives of our customers with "Danat Al Salam" saving scheme."

Did You Know?



SpaceX's billionaire CEO Elon Musk has said that he named his spacecraft "Dragon" after the fictional "Puff the Magic Dragon," from the hit song by music group Peter, Paul and Mary. Musk said he used the name because many critics considered his goals impossible when he founded SpaceX in 2002.

Oil earnings surge but investments dwindling

New York

Rising crude prices drove huge profits for US oil industry giants, but key figures in the sector have raised concerns about low investments in exploration and production.

They warn that continued tepid oilfield investment creates the threat of a supply crunch down the road.

As petroleum prices have stabilized over the last year following actions by OPEC, oil companies have ramped up investment in key US shale regions such as the Permian Basin in Texas.

But activity outside of the US has remained sluggish, evidence of what the International Energy Agency called a "two-speed" oil market that it warns could lead to a supply crunch.

The investment restraint "brings an additional cause of concern for global energy security at a time of heightened geopolitical risks in some major producer countries, such as Venezuela," the IEA said this week.

Oil majors ExxonMobil and Chevron on Friday reported strong first quarter earnings as they reaped the benefit of higher crude prices.

Exxon's earnings more than doubled to \$4.0 billion on strong profit growth in its exploration and production business.

And Chevron reported \$2.7 billion in profits, a far cry from the loss of \$725 million in the year-ago period when the industry was mired in a two-year slump. Chief executive John Watson said the company remains in belt-tightening mode.

The results came as President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at opening up more offshore territory to development, including in the arctic. Industry officials praised the action, but said any new leasing would not be available until 2019 at the earliest and that production would likely not hit markets for at least a decade.

The improved profits were largely expected as US oil prices were above \$50 a barrel for most of the first quarter, after hovering below \$40 a barrel for most of the comparable period of 2016.

However, the IEA, which represents governments of oil consuming countries, said oil discoveries declined in 2016 and final investment decisions on major projects have slipped to the lowest level since the 1940s.

"The key question for the future of the oil market is for how long can a surge in US shale supplies make up for the slow pace of growth elsewhere in the oil sector," IEA executive director Fatih

Birol said.

Shaky oil prices

Analysts say increased US shale activity was the first to be triggered by higher prices because projects are smaller in scale and require shorter cycle times compared with ventures in remote areas or offshore.

At the same time, the very speed in which shale production can ramp up has acted as a ceiling on oil prices, because of concerns runaway output will flood the market.

ExxonMobil vice president Jeff Woodbury said there were "a lot of variables" behind the company's investment restraint.

While underlying energy demand growth remains solid and OPEC has generally complied with its production limits, Woodbury said, strong growth in North American output and lofty global inventories also factor in to investment decisions.

Woodbury cited a series of discoveries offshore of Guyana on the northern coast of South America as evidence the company remains active in exploration.

The company also has taken advantage of low costs from suppliers in 2016 to shoot 60,000 kilometers of seismic data, the first stage in exploration. (AFP)

SpaceX to launch classified payload

Miami

SpaceX today is scheduled to make its first military launch, with a classified payload for the National Reconnaissance Office, which makes and operates spy satellites for the United States.

No details were made public about the payload, known only as NROL-76, which was first announced last year.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is poised to blast NROL-76 into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida during a two-hour launch window which opens Sunday at 7 am (1100 GMT).

About 10 minutes after launch, the tall portion of the rocket, known as the first stage, will power its engines and fly back toward Earth to make a controlled landing on solid ground at SpaceX's Landing Zone 1 at Cape Canaveral.

The attempt is part of SpaceX's effort to make rocket parts recyclable, rather than jettisoning the costly components after each launch.

The California-based company, headed by internet entrepreneur Elon Musk, has already made several successful landings on solid ground and on platforms floating in the ocean. Until now, the US military has spent billions per year exclusively with United Launch Alliance, a joint operation of aerospace giants Boeing and Lockheed Martin, to launch government satellites.

SpaceX in 2014 filed suit against the US Air Force, saying it unfairly awarded billions of dollars to a single company for national security launches. (AFP)



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2901	0.2877
BANGLADESH	0.00494	0.00461
CANADA	0.2826	0.2794
DENMARK	0.0585	
EGYPT	0.0241	0.0219
EURO	0.4185	0.4164
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00599	0.00599
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002895
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003550	0.003480
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5350
KOREA	0.00038225	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.089100	0.0890
NEW ZEALAND	0.2639	0.2598
NORWAY	0.0459	
NEPAL	0.00391	0.00368
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00369	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00779	0.00757
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2740	0.2720
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02980	0.02970
SRI LANKA	0.00273	0.00248
SWEDISH	0.0458	
SWITZERLAND	0.3871	0.3846
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012700	
THAILAND	0.011110	0.011110
TURKEY	0.1120	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4974	0.4945
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102810	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.4863	3.7943	0.3397
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.6876	2.8734	0.2572
OMAN	0.3849	0.0382	3.8738	0.3468
QATAR	3.6420	0.3619	36.6546	3.2814
UAE	3.6730	0.3649	36.9666	3.3093
SAUDI	3.7500	0.3726	37.7415	3.3787

China-Britain freight train arrives back

Beijing

The first freight train traveling from Britain back to China reached its destination in eastern China's Yiwu city on Saturday after a 19 day journey, according to the China Railway Corporation (CRC).

The trans-continental freight train, loaded with 32 containers, mainly carrying maternity products and soft drinks, departed from London on April 10. Having traveled more than 12,000 kilometers, it passed through seven countries before reaching the Chinese manufacturing and trade hub where small goods such as homeware, garments and

souvenirs are made.

London is the 15th city in Europe added to China-Europe freight train services. The first Chinese freight train arrived in London in January.

The China-Britain freight service paves a safe and efficient trade route by land, strengthening bilateral trade ties and better serving the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, according to the CRC.

China now has express freight services to 28 European cities. Since March 2011, more than 3,500 trips have been made. The figure should rise to 5,000 by 2020. (Xinhua)



The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.
-William Arthur Ward



NMS-DPS Celebrates Earth Day

New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain celebrated 'Earth Day' by organising a plantation drive and a special assembly to brief the students about the environment. Activities like collage making, poem recitation and skit were presented by the students during the assembly.



NMS Adjudged "GOOD" by BQA

The New Millennium School - DPS Bahrain has become the first CBSE (Indian Curriculum) school adjudged "GOOD" by the Education & Training Quality Authority. The School has also been granted the "SILVER" BQA seal

of recognition for its efforts to achieve better performance.

The report of the review, conducted from 5th to 7th December 2016, states that the school has improved greatly over the last review.

School Principal, Arun

Kumar Sharma, who feels that the improvement is a result of the inputs given by the reviewers during the last reviews said, "We have come up from 'Satisfactory' to 'GOOD' and our students, teachers and parents have

started working for the outstanding grade in the next cycle of review."

"We feel grateful to the review team for pointing out our shortcomings and giving clear and specific suggestions for improvement," he added.



Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan, met the President of Arab Union for the Blind (AUB) Dr. Khalid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, who was accompanied by the Chairman of the Friendship Society for the Blind and Chairman of AUB's Media and Public Relations Committee, Hassan Al-Hulaibi. The meeting discussed a number of issues related to the topic in Bahrain and the Arab world



As part of the work of the National Disaster Management Committee to measure readiness of various concerned authorities and enhance the national disaster management plan, an exercise entitled "Bahrain" a scenario of airplane crash in residential area was held on Wednesday. The exercise was held in cooperation with the Bahrain Defence Force, National Guard, Health Ministry, Works and Municipalities Ministry, T Education Ministry, Supreme Environment Council, National Disaster Management Centre and Electricity and water Authority



King Juan Carlos of Spain left Bahrain yesterday wrapping up an official visit to the Kingdom. He was bidden farewell by His Majesty's Personal Representative HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Shaikh Hamad bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa at the Bahrain International Airport



Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Pakistani Ambassador Javed Malik at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussed ways to improve bilateral ties between both countries



Bahraini Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa received Researcher and writer Saqr bin Abdullah Al Ma'awda, who presented him a copy of his new book on Bahrain and marking the 90th anniversary of honouring Ahmed Shawqi as "the Prince of Poets"



Golden Tulip Bahrain Hotel participated in the Arabian Travel Market Exhibition that was held in Dubai, during April 24-27 under the umbrella of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority. Golden Tulip Bahrain Hotel was represented by its General Manager, Abdul Rahim Al Sayed, Sales Manager Mohammad Khalil and Front Office Manager Abbas Shamsan

The Rotary Club of Manama visited a labour camp in Eker, in collaboration with the Migrant Worker Protection Society. The visit comes as part of the Rotary Club of Manama's community service activities and also to mark World Labour Day



s My Nation 2017" with Transportation Ministry,



The Induction ceremony of the newly elected Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) Executive Committee 2017-18 was held at BKS hall. Kerala State Film award winners Vinayakan and Rajisha Vijayan were the guests



CELEBS

Leonardo DiCaprio @LeoDiCaprio
 Heading into this weekend's #ClimateMarch it's important to #KnowYourGHGs and their sources.



Downey's Dolittle project moved



Los Angeles **P**roduction banner Universal Pictures has moved its untitled "Doctor Dolittle" movie with actor Robert Downey Jr. up six weeks from May 24, 2019, to April 12.

Previously known as "The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle", the project had been set to open against Disney's Star Wars: Episode IX", reports *deadline.com*.

Directed by Stephen Gaghan and based on the tales by Hugh Lofting, the "Dolittle" project will be produced by Joe Roth and Jeff Kirschenbaum under their

Roth/Kirschenbaum Films alongside Susan Downey (Sherlock Holmes franchise) for Team Downey.

The project is based on the 1920s tales by Lofting, the "Dolittle" project will be produced by Joe Roth and Jeff Kirschenbaum under their Roth/Kirschenbaum Films alongside Susan Downey (Sherlock Holmes franchise) for Team Downey. (IANS)

Beyonce, Jay Z can't find house



Los Angeles

Singer Beyonce Knowles and husband and rapper Jay Z are struggling to find a house big enough for their expanding family, say sources.

The couple has reportedly decided to stick to a budget of \$80 million for the house. According to *tmz.com*, they are stalling putting an offer on a house over their maximum price point. They looked at a Bel Air home for \$135 million about a month ago. (IANS)

The 2017 Cannes Film Festival jury

18 films will compete from May 17 to 28

Jessica Chastain
American actress
Age 40

Pedro Almodovar
Jury president,
Spanish director,
screenwriter

Gabriel Yared
French composer
Age 67

Will Smith
American actor
Age 48

The diamond-encrusted 70th anniversary Palme d'Or prize

Fan Bingbing
Chinese actress
Age 35

Maren Ade
German director,
screenwriter
Age 40

Paolo Sorrentino
Italian director,
screenwriter
Age 46

Agnes Jaoui
French actress,
director, screenwriter
Age

Park Chan-wook
South Korean director,
screenwriter
Age 53



STARRY Birthday Gal Gadot

April 30, 1985

Won the Miss Israel pageant in 2004 and had her breakthrough film role playing Gisele Yashar in the *Fast and the Furious* franchise. She was cast as *Wonder Woman* in the DC Universe.

'My son likes Spider-Man not Star-Lord'

Tokyo

Actor Chris Pratt says his four-year-old son Jack likes Spider-Man over his superhero avatar as Star-Lord.

Pratt features as Star-Lord in "Guardians of the Galaxy". The actor says he is not sure if his son thinks his fantasy film is cool.

"He knows the first part of the film. I don't know if he thinks it is cool but he has seen the movies that I am in. He knows that I am Star-Lord. But as a matter of fact when I

ask him 'who is your favourite superhero Star-Lord', he says 'no Spider-Man'. He just likes Spider-Man better," Pratt said.

The actor, who is awaiting the release of "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2", added: "I don't know if he fully understands what makes Star-Lord great because Star-Lord doesn't really have any superpowers. Star-Lord can't fly or shoot webs out of his hand...I think he (Pratt's son) is more into super powers." (IANS)



Singer/Songwriter Dierks Bentley (R) performs on the Toyota Mane Stage during day 1 of 2017 Stagecoach California's Country Music Festival at the Empire Polo Club yesterday in Indio, California (AFP)

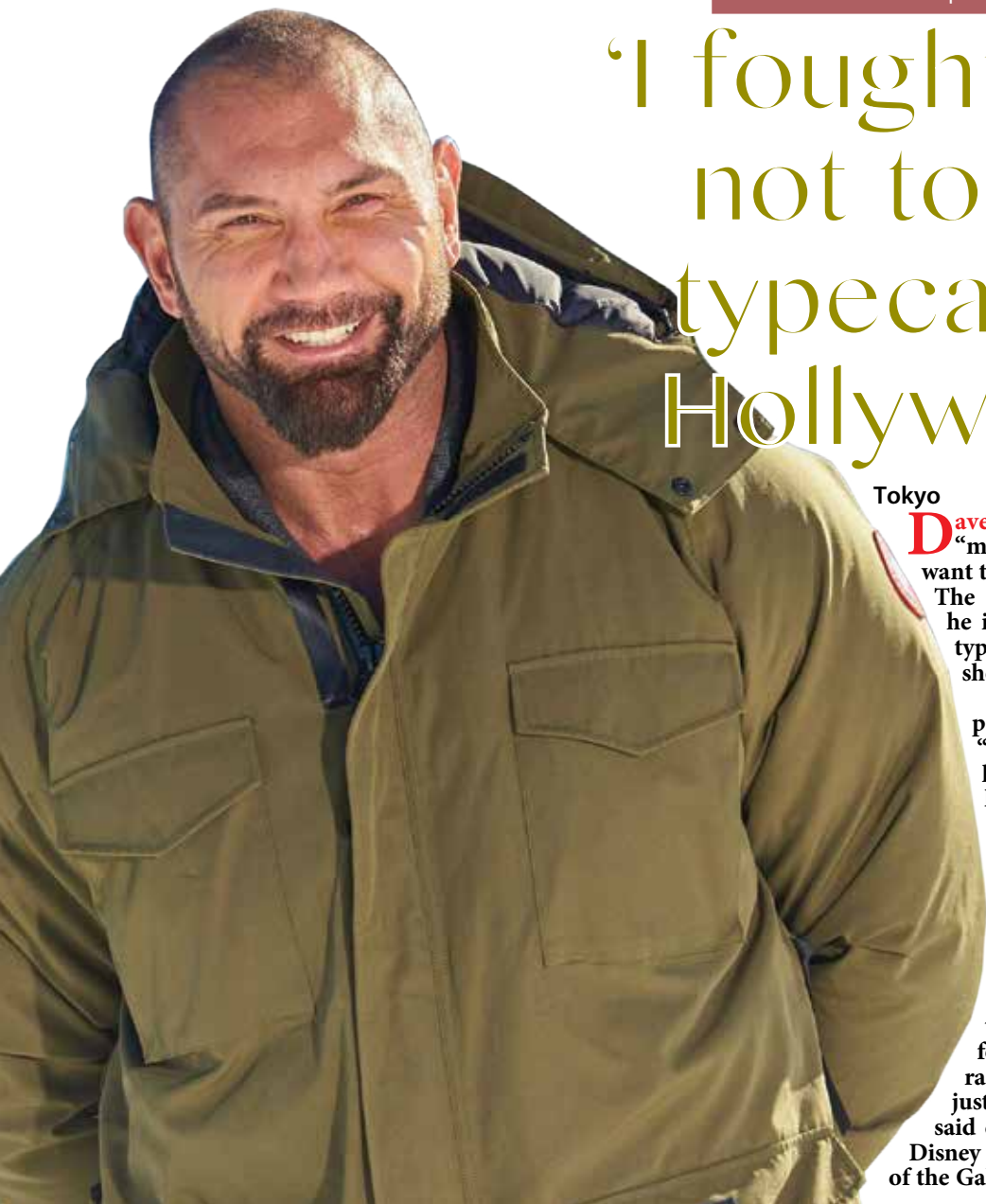
'I fought hard not to get typecast in Hollywood'

Tokyo

Dave Bautista thinks he is a "misfit in life", but doesn't want to be a misfit in Hollywood. The wrestler-turned-actor says he is fighting hard not to get typecast as a musclehead, and show his range as an artiste.

Bautista added that being part of film franchise "Guardians of the Galaxy" has opened many doors for him. Bautista says "You will see me in a whole different light in the next few years".

"They are actual actor roles (that he is working on)...That is some of the stuff that I fought really hard for and they (the projects) are the doors that 'Guardians...' opened for me. They showed my range as an actor and not just a musclehead," Bautista said during an interview at a Disney press meet for "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2." (IANS)



Los Angeles

Singer Gwen Stefani has ruptured her eardrum and was forced to cancel a live performance.

Stefani was supposed to headline the 21st annual Power of Love gala inside the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Thursday, but she was unable to board her flight to Sin City under doctors orders, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"I am so sorry that I cannot attend tonight (Thursday), but I wanted to send a message of congratulations to Andre Agassi and my very dear friend Ronald Pearlman," Stefani said in a video.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving for such a special award. The gala supports all the work being done at the Cleveland Clinic and Lou Ruvo Centre for Brain Health, which is an amazing organisation," she added. (IANS)



Gwen Stefani ruptures her eardrum

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 send the matter to the following email ID : news@dt.bh

MARK YOUR Calendar

KIDNEY CARE EXHIBITION

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

Thanal Bahrain Chapter is gearing up for a Kidney Care Exhibition from May 4 to 6 at the Indian School Bahrain with the support of the Ministry of Health (MoH) in order to spread awareness about kidney care and arrange free kidney screening. The organisers said MoH has agreed to loan all the specimens required for the exhibition like human body, kidney and other human organs to exhibit for the educational and demonstration purpose. MoH and Thanal has established a mutual partnership for disseminating awareness initiative among the public in the Kingdom focusing mainly the expatriates.

Thanal is a charitable organization rendering various humanitarian services like dialysis and palliative care centres, medical clinics, ambulance services etc and running the biggest stand alone dialysis facility in India equipped with 80 dialysis machines functioning in four units by doing more than 5,000 dialysis every month, thus benefitting almost 500 under-privileged patients.

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



CANNES FESTIVAL IN BAHRAIN

Date: May 3
Venue: Alliance Française

The Café des Images (Alliance Française Cinema Club) invites you to celebrate the Cannes Festival with the screening of Laurent Cantet's masterpiece *Entre les murs / The Class* (Gold Palm at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival) on Wednesday, 3rd May, 2017 at 7:30pm at Alliance Française (Isa Town, Educational area). The talented Bahraini film director Salman Yousif (*Steps, There Will Be Light, The Rooster*) attended Laurent Cantet's masterclass at 2015 Femis summer university (French National Film school). He will share with the public his experience with this remarkable film director and his understanding of the film thanks to his unique experience in France.

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

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

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

FILM: LION

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

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

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

WORLD LAUGHTER DAY CELEBRATIONS

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

The Saar Laughter Club is celebrating World Laughter Day on Sunday 7 May 6pm to 7.30pm at Infants Hall of St Christopher's School, Saar. World Laughter Day is observed on the first Sunday of May. The World Laughter Day came into existence in

HIGHLIGHT

ISB MEGA FAIR & FOOD FESTIVAL 2017

Date: October 12&13
Venue: The Indian School Bahrain

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) is gearing up for Mega Fair and Food Festival which will be held on October 12 and 13 in the Isa Town campus. The ISB Fair is organized to generate funds to sponsor needy students and for staff welfare. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan thanked the community and media for the overwhelming support to the previous fair, which was one of the best in terms of revenue generation and receivables. Last year around 800 students received benefit in the form of fee concession, he said. The School Fair is a carnival that witnesses a display of colours which include a variety of cultural programmes, orchestra and musical bonanza. It also contains a food festival which is a tasty hit among the crowd that comes in the campus during the carnival. Almost 100 stalls from leading business houses showcase their products and services this year.

ISB Secretary Dr. Shemily P John said that the Fair is a way to reach out to the needy children whose educational future otherwise will be hampered because of non-availability of funds. Being a community school it is the responsibility of the school to support such needy children. Proceeds of the Fair will also go towards staff welfare and creation of a staff contingency reserve. The school has one of the lowest fee structures and it caters to the educational needs of all sections of the society. Majority of the students belong to the economically lower and middle class families.

ISB Fair General Convenor Mohammed Hussain Malim requested the support of the media and the community to make this venture successful. The entire programme will be announced in due course of time. It is a great opportunity to every business and service provider to reach out to a large section of the Bahrain population during the carnival days.

1998; the day was introduced by Dr Madan Kataria, the founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga Movement. Laughter yoga showed an exponential growth and became popular worldwide. It resulted into 8000 Laughter Clubs worldwide on all the 5 continents. World Laughter Day is celebrated across the world with an aim of promoting world peace, brotherhood and friendship among all. This day reminds the society that laughter is the best medicine to ward off dangers of modern day monotonous and mechanized lifestyles. People from different walks of life celebrate World Laughter Day with great enthusiasm crossing all social, professional and personal barriers. The celebration includes Laughter March, Video presentation, Laughter Yoga, Grounding Dance followed by prayer for World Peace. Admission is free, Participants need to register the names. For registration and more details 39867041

FILM: LA LA LAND

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

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

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

million worldwide on a production budget of \$30 million.

La La Land received critical acclaim and was regarded as one of the best films of 2016. Critics praised Chazelle's screenplay and direction, Gosling and Stone's performances, Justin Hurwitz's score and the film's musical numbers. It won in every category it was nominated for at the 74th Golden Globe Awards, with a record-breaking seven wins, and received 11 nominations at the 70th British Academy Film Awards, winning five. It received 14 nominations at the 89th Academy Awards, tying the record for most nominations with *Titanic* (1997) and *All About Eve* (1950), and won 6 Academy awards for Best Director, Best Actress (Stone), Best Cinematography, Best Original Score, Best Original Song ("City of Stars") and Best Production Design.

FILM: PATERSON

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

Paterson is a 2016 drama film written and directed by Jim Jarmusch. The film stars Adam Driver as a bus driver and aspiring poet named Paterson and Golshifteh Farahani as his wife who dreams of being a country music star and opening a cupcake business. It was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Palm Dog Award. The film was released in Germany on November 17, 2016, by K5 International. It was then released in France on December 21, 2016, by Le Pacte, and released in the United States on December 28, 2016, by Amazon Studios and Bleecker Street.

INDIAN CLUB SET TO HOST CARNATIC MUSICAL TRIBUTE EVENING

Date: May 13
Venue: The Indian Club

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

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

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

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

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

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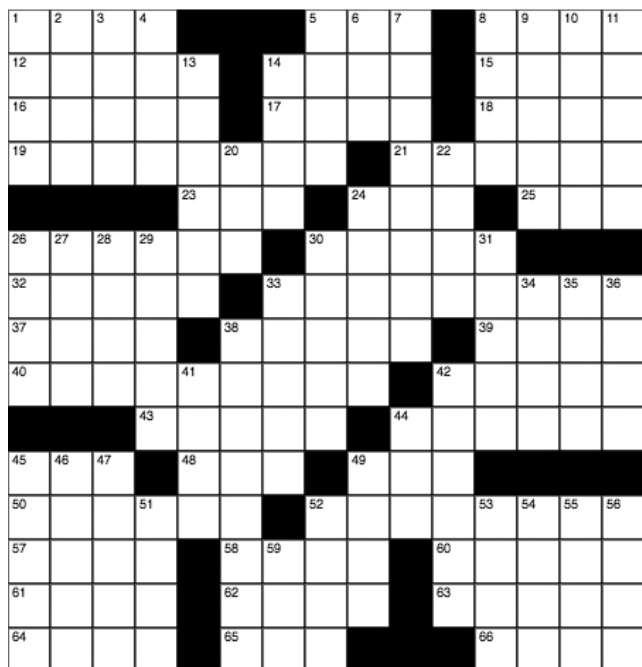
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CROSSWORD



Across

1- Niger neighbour;; 5- Mineral spring;; 8- Kemo ___;; 12- Knot again;; 14- Atop;; 15- Nicholas II was the last Russian one;; 16- Gillette razors;; 17- Spahn teammate;; 18- Canadian gas brand;; 19- Wind-broken horse;; 21- Leader's exhortation;; 23- Tricky curve;; 24- Answer to a sea captain;; 25- Fannie follower;; 26- Acred;; 30- Rubber gasket;; 32- What you put on snooze;; 33- Female of the guinea fowl;; 37- Emperor after Claudius;; 38- Put a new price on;; 39- Entice;; 40- Mishaps;; 42- Discussion group;; 43- Forbidden;; 44- Remains of any organism preserved in rock;; 45- Far out!;; 48- Meadow;; 49- Elton's john;; 50- TV chef Lagasse;; 52- Large burrowing African mammal;; 57- Beer buy;; 58- Permits;; 60- Polynesian porch;; 61- Requests;; 62- Send out;; 63- Put into law;; 64- Hey, you!;; 65- Deserved;; 66- Eye sore;;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



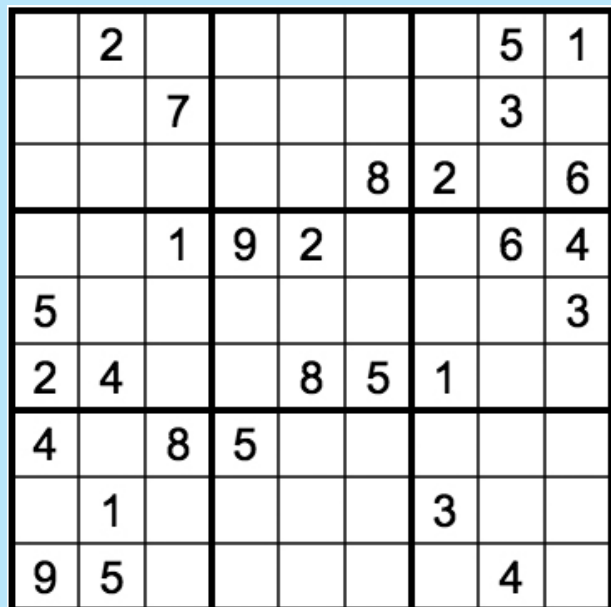
Down

1-Stick in one's ___;; 2-8th letter of the Hebrew alphabet;; 3- Longfellow's bell town;; 4- Buenos ___;; 5- Box;; 6- Luau chow;; 7- Irritating;; 8- Simmer;; 9- Indian state;; 10- Iraqi port;; 11- Eat away at;; 13- Regard;; 14- Manipulates;; 20- Leary's drug;; 22- Hawaii's state bird;; 24- Met highlights;; 26- Actress Turner;; 27- Actor Guinness;; 28- Pusher pursuer;; 29- Legal right;; 30- ___ lunch;; 31- Festive occasions;; 33- Columbus's birthplace;; 34- Vandals;; 35- ... saw Elba;; 36- 1994 Jodie Foster film;; 38- Revolted;; 41- Surrealist Salvador;; 42- Breed of dog;; 44- Pro;; 45- Summary;; 46- Gather;; 47- Student tables;; 49- Make it to the end;; 51- Breather;; 52- Play to ___ (draw);; 53- Moving vehicles;; 54- Med. school course;; 55- Suggestive;; 56- Toy with a tail;; 59- Relative of an ostrich;;

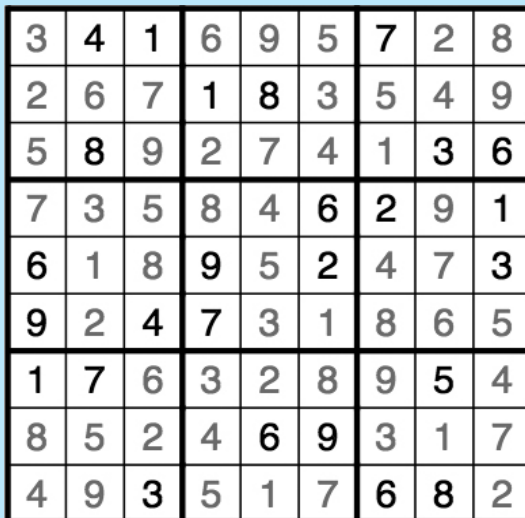
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How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Premonitions today might be rather disturbing, and you might actually feel some fear because of them. Don't panic! Your intuitive abilities aren't quite as sharp as usual. What you feel could be distorted or untrue. This doesn't mean you've lost it, either. Try to be objective about everything you pick up psychically.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Changes within a group you're affiliated with might profoundly affect you today. Perhaps the group is veering in a new direction that doesn't particularly interest you. You might need to reevaluate your involvement. This could make you rather sad since you've grown fond of the people and won't want to lose them as friends.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



A scandal concerning a celebrity you admire could be in the news today. This might throw you for a loop. You might even suffer some disillusionment. Withhold judgment for the time being. Much of what you hear may be traced to gossip or misinformation. Shocking though it may be, you will want to hear the celebrity's side of it.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Some rather shocking news could come to you from a friend who lives far away. This probably won't affect you directly, as it most likely concerns the world economy, politics, or big business, but you still might worry about its long-term effects on society. You could discuss it with friends. You need to remain objective and see how the news develops.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



A dip in the stock market might cause you to worry about your own financial future. You may have some investments that could be temporarily negatively affected. Bear in mind that such events don't necessarily reflect future trends. Take steps to create some kind of safety net if you wish, but don't assume the worst. The market could go back up tomorrow!

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Today you might find that some of your more ambitious plans finally seem to be paying off. You should be happy about this, but you might panic a bit, fearing that everything could crash at the last minute. Don't assume the worst and don't waste your energy worrying. Keep striving! You've gotten this far. With a little effort, all should go well.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



If you've been doing some creative or job-related writing, today you might be tired, blocked, and unable to muster the energy to turn on the computer. You need to ask yourself how important it is to get it done today. It's far better to wait another day and do it well than grind out something that isn't up to your standards.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



A project of some kind you've been working on could be going well, but today you might experience a sudden rush of inspiration that makes it a lot better than you originally envisioned. This could involve effort that seems intimidating at first, but the results should be worth it. Summon all your energy and determination and get to it.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



A family member could be experiencing business difficulties. Your sensitivity could cause you to feel their anxieties, too. You might want to make it clear to this person that you're there for him or her, but you also need to be objective about the situation. Protect yourself psychically, perhaps by surrounding yourself with white light. It won't help your relative if you're stressed.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



A friend or relative could be ill, out of work, or otherwise beset by problems. You may want to do whatever you can to help out. This could be frustrating, but you will feel better for having done what you can. This person needs to face and deal with his or her responsibilities. They're out of your control to fix.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



An unexpected expense, perhaps requiring repairs to the house or car, might take a chunk out of your bank account. This may be disheartening. You've worked hard for your money and now you might have to put some of your plans on hold. Still, you need to be philosophical about it. Take care of it and move on.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Career changes may be on the horizon. Although positive in the long run, the events leading up to the change may seem catastrophic. Your employer could go out of business or move too far away for you to commute. The secret here is not to panic. Accept the situation and move on. In the end, you will probably be glad that this happened. Success and good fortune are coming.

Crisis deepens as North test-fires missile

Aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (L) leading the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (C) and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain in the Indian Ocean

Seoul North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile yesterday in apparent defiance of a concerted US push for tougher international sanctions to curb Pyongyang's nuclear weapons ambitions.

The latest launch, which South Korea said was a failure, came just hours after US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned the UN Security Council of "catastrophic consequences" if the international community -- most notably China -- failed to pressure the North into abandoning its weapons programme.

Military options for dealing with the North were still "on the table", Tillerson warned in his first address to the UN body.

The launch ratchets up tensions on the Korean peninsula, with Washington and Pyongyang locked in an ever-tighter spiral of threat, counter-threat and escalating military preparedness.

US President Donald

Trump, who has warned of a "major conflict" with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's regime, said the latest test was a pointed snub to China -- the North's main ally and economic lifeline.

"North Korea disrespected the wishes of China & its highly respected President when it launched, though unsuccessfully, a missile today. Bad!" Trump tweeted.

The US is deploying a naval strike group led by an aircraft carrier to the Korean peninsula, and a missile-defence system called Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) that officials say will be operational "within days".

North Korea recently conducted its biggest-ever firing drill and has threatened to "bury at sea" the US aircraft carrier, amid signs it could be preparing for a sixth nuclear test.

South Korea's defence ministry said it suspected

Saturday's missile test had failed after a brief flight, while the US military's Pacific Command confirmed the rocket did not leave North Korean territory.

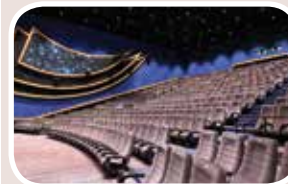
South Korea condemned the launch, with foreign ministry spokesman Cho June-Hyuck saying that if the North continued to "play with fire", it would "face strong punitive steps in various levels", including from the UN Security Council.

Japan has lodged a "serious protest and criticism" to the North, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters after a national security council meeting.

China pushed back at Tillerson's call at the UN Security Council for it to do more to rein in Pyongyang, arguing that it was unrealistic to expect one country to solve the conflict.

Russia joined China in appealing for a return to talks and de-escalation. (AFP)

#PollToday



A top official from Saudi yesterday claimed that the visitors from Saudi Arabia are fuelling Bahrain's movie industry. Do you consider this as true?

Yes No Cant Say



The illegal drug trade is massive but it is not impregnable. With political will and cooperation, it can be dismantled. It can be destroyed before it destroys our societies."

Rodrigo Duterte
Philippine President

Rest in sight

Father-in-law of drug lord given 10 years in prison



A Mexican judge has sentenced the father-in-law of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to more than a decade in prison.

Militant blamed for death of US soldier slain

The Philippine military said yesterday it had killed a senior commander of an Islamic militant group behind a 2002 bombing.

China deports woman convicted of 'spying'

An American woman convicted of espionage this week has been deported by China, a human rights group that campaigned for her release said yesterday.

Southeast Asian leaders wrestle over China

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte faced pushback yesterday at a regional summit over his efforts to weaken Southeast Asian resistance to Chinese expansionism in the contested South China Sea, diplomats said.

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24 dead in Kyrgyz landslide: emergencies ministry



Representative picture

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

A landslide swept over part of a village in Kyrgyzstan early Saturday, killing 24 people, including nine children, the emergencies ministry said.

The landslide hit the village of Ayu in the Osh region of the mountainous Central Asian country at around 0640 am (0040 GMT) and covered six houses with inhabitants inside,

the emergencies ministry said in a statement.

"All 24 citizens of Kyrgyzstan, nine of them children, died under the landslide in the south of the country," emergencies ministry spokeswoman Elmira Sheripova said.

A total of 266 rescue workers including medics and soldiers were at the scene, Sheripova said.

Thai family buries baby murdered on FB Live



Relatives offering prayers

Phuket

Tearful relatives gathered outside a Thai temple yesterday to bury an 11-month-old girl killed by her father in a harrowing murder he broadcast live on Facebook before committing suicide.

The Buddhist ceremony on the southern island of Phuket concluded a week of funeral rites for baby Natalie, who was hanged from the side of an abandoned building on Monday by her 20-year-old father Wuttisan Wongtalay.

Wuttisan, who hanged himself shortly after, filmed the macabre scene using his phone and broadcast it on Facebook Live.

The video was seen by Natalie's 22-year-old mother and hundreds of thousands of others before it was taken down some 24 hours later, prompting calls for Facebook to move more swiftly to block graphic content.

On Saturday relatives held Natalie's sobbing mother as Buddhist monks chanted

around a freshly-dug grave for the infant, who was pictured in a framed photo wearing a red dress.

Her tiny body was swaddled in pink, red and white cloth before it was lowered into the ground alongside a collection of her favourite toys and pillows.

Natalie's mother, Jiranuch Trirat, scattered yellow chrysanthemum flowers over the body before other relatives piled dirt back into the grave.

"I feel better now that she's resting," Jiranuch told AFP after the ceremony.

Natalie's distraught grandmother, whose son carried out the murder, told AFP it pained her to know the video had been seen so widely circulated.

"I feel sorry from my heart before it that people shared and liked (the video). I'm sorry for what my son did," said Jinda Raksakham, fighting back tears.

What prompted Wuttisan to carry out such a horrifying act remains a mystery.

US starts drill with S. Korea

Seoul The US aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson yesterday kicked off a joint drill with the South Korean navy, officials said, as tensions rose over North Korea's latest test-fire of a ballistic missile.

"Immediately after the aircraft carrier arrived in the Sea of Japan, South Korea and the US strike forces launched a drill from 6:00 pm (0900 GMT) Saturday", a defence ministry spokesman told AFP.

The drill came hours after the North launched a ballistic missile in apparent defiance of a concerted US push for tougher international sanctions to curb Pyongyang's nuclear weapons ambitions.

The drill aimed to verify the allies' capability to track and intercept enemy ballistic missiles, the spokesman said.



Representative picture

He declined to clarify how long the drill would last, but *Yonhap news agency* said it was expected to continue until sometime next week.

The drill will also include a live-fire exercise and anti-submarine manoeuvres, the spokesman added.

It would mark the USS Carl Vinson's second operation in South Korean waters in

less than two months amid heightened military tensions in Korea. In March, the aircraft carrier carried out annual joint drills.

Earlier this week, the US carrier had joint drills with Japan's naval forces. North Korea's state media has said the North's military is capable of sinking the aircraft carrier with a single strike.

Bahrain open winners crowned



In pictures, highlights from Bahrain Open MMA and Boxing Championship

Manama

HSHaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Honourary President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation, appointed Abdulrahman bin Sadiq Askar, Assistant Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Secretary-General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, to attend and crown the winners of the Bahrain Open Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing Championship, which ended yesterday at the Khalifa Sport City Hall.

Shaikh Khalid praised the large participation of Bahraini youth in the Boxing and MMA competitions and for the outstanding performances they delivered and the participation of national teams and clubs from the GCC.

He commended the efforts of the Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF), headed by Colonel Abdulaziz Al Khayat, in organising the first official competition launched by the Federation.

Shaikh Khalid said: "We will continue with the efforts and support till we achieve our vision of promoting MMA amidst Bahraini sports and the region. Our goal is to see national teams that confirm their strong



presence in various international forums and participations in order to reach a developed stage. We have won our first three medals, the first at the European Open in Birmingham, UK, the second in the World Amateur Championships held in Las Vegas, US last

year and the European Open in Sofia, Bulgaria in March".

Askar watched the competitions of the championship, in the presence of Colonel Al Khayat and crowned the champions in the two competitions, stressing that this tournament



comes within the programme developed by the Federation which is goes in line with the directives of Shaikh Khalid to promote mixed martial arts.

He said: "The spread of MMA locally and at the level of GCC countries, was due to the support of Shaikh Khalid and his personal pursuit and encouragement to fighters and develop the sport in the sporting community and develop the talent to represent Bahrain in the near future."

The final day of competition held under the patronage of Shaikh Khalid included holding of the amateur MMA competition, in which 34 fighters participated. The fights were filled with strength, excitement and enthusiasm from the fighters, who delivered performances that reflected on their preparations for the championships.

Each bout was over three three-minute rounds and could end anytime if an opponent surrendered, with the full bout winner over three rounds determined by the judging panel.

Among participants in the mixed martial arts competition was the participation of fighters from teams and clubs from Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates who played a major role in the success of this event.

Nibali to defend Giro

Paris

Bahrain-Merida have given their captain Vincenzo Nibali every chance of defending his Giro d'Italia title by naming a squad for the centenary edition starting next Friday entirely crafted around the Sicilian climber.

The team was announced yesterday and features two strong climbing mates for Nibali in compatriot Franco Pellizzotti and Spain's Javier Moreno.

Race organisers for the climber-friendly three-week tour -- with six mountaintop finishes -- have even programmed stage five to finish at Nibali's hometown of Messina.

The 32-year-old is one of six Italians

in the Bahrain team and is the nation's top cyclist, having clinched the Giro in 2013 and 2016, the Tour of Spain in 2010 and the Tour de France in 2014.

Bahrain-Merida

Giro line-up:

- Vincenzo Nibali (ITA),
- Valerio Agnoli (ITA),
- Manuele Boaro (ITA),
- Enrico Gasparotto (ITA),
- Javier Moreno (ESP),
- Franco Pellizzotti (ITA),
- Luca Pibernik (SLO),
- Kanstantsin Siutsou (BLR),
- Giovanni Visconti (ITA)

Navardauskas out of Giro

Manama

Dr. Carlo Guardascione a member of the Bahrain Merida Pro Cycling Team medical staff has confirmed that Lithuanian cyclist Ramunas Navardauskas will miss the Giro d'Italia starting on May 5 and won't be joining his teammates on the races in the near future, due to health problems.

He said, "The persistence of a gastrointestinal symptomatology, which had already appeared at the end of the Tenerife Training camp had forced him to retire during the recent Tour of Croatia, convinced the medical staff of Bahrain Merida Team to support further in-depth examinations carried out by the rider himself in Lithuania. These examinations showed a gastric infection by helicobacter pylori and some deficiencies of microelements, requiring adequate antibiotic therapy and reintegration for at least two weeks."

This unfortunately means for precautionary purposes, Navardauskas will not be able to take part in Giro d'Italia and his fellow riders and staff fully support him in his medical examinations, although he will be very missed on the races, as one of the strongest members of the team.



Ramunas Navardauskas

US rider Young dies of injuries

Washington

American pro cyclist Chad Young died Friday night of injuries suffered in a crash during last weekend's final stage of the Tour de Gila in New Mexico, his team announced Saturday.

The 21-year-old rider from Newmarket, New Hampshire, was hurt last Sunday during a high-speed mountain descent in the fifth stage of the New Mexico race, a seven-mile (11.3km) trek known as the Gila Monster.

Young suffered severe head injuries in the wreck and was flown to a hospital in Tucson, Arizona.

"I am very sorry to let everyone know that Chad Young did not survive his crash last Sunday. He passed away Friday evening, surrounded by his family," said Axel Merckx, general manager of the Axelon Hagens Berman Cycling Team.

"We lost a friend, a teammate and a family member. I have no words that can express my pain over this loss. I can only say that I am very thankful to have known him and that I feel privileged to have been able to share in his passion for cycling."

Merckx, who thanked supporters for their well wishes, said Thursday that Young was not expected to survive.

"We are devastated by this news & send our sincere condolences to his family, friends, & teammates," Tour of the Gila tweeted in reaction to the announcement.

"It's a heartbreaking situation," said race director Jack Brennan. "The Axelon Hagens Berman team and its team director, Axel Merckx, have always recruited and mentored these incredible young men to help them mature in the sport of cycling and Chad was certainly in that mold."

Bahrain brush aside China

Aidan Payne/DTNN
aidan@dt.bh

Bahrain won comfortably by nine wickets against China in its fifth match and the sixth round of round-robin matches yesterday in the International Cricket Council (ICC) 2017 World Cricket League (WCL) Asia Region Division One in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Batting first, China were dismissed for just 65 in 32.1 overs, despite a positive start when they began with a 20-run opening partnership in 8.2 overs by Lu Cang Cang (11 off 34 deliveries, 1x4) and Jing Shuyao (9, 2x4).

After the partnership was broken, the only double figure innings came from Zhang Peng (10 off 38) and Yan Hua Wen (10 off 23, 1x4).

Four Bahraini bowlers shared the wickets with man of the match being Gamini Arachchige (four for seven) in 4.1 overs the pick of the bowlers, while Tahir Dar (two for eight) in 8, Babar Ali (two for 11) in 8 and Junaid Aziz (two for 19) in 5 picked up the rest.

Bahrain in reply easily reached the target scoring 66 for one in just six overs as wicket keeper Imran Ali Butt (14 not out off 11, 3x4) and Janaka Chaturanga (26 off

12, 1x4, 3x6) put on 34 for the opening stand before the latter was bowled by Zhang Peng (one for 25) in two overs.

Mohammed Sameer (23 not out off 13, 3x4, 1x6) came to the crease and batted Bahrain to victory.

Bahrain prepared for this championship with five friendly matches in Sri Lanka, winning three and losing two, getting acclimatised and getting used to turf wickets.

Under head coach Rexie Arunvasagam and manager Syed Rizwan Shah, the squad comprises the captain, Azeem Ul Haq, Tahir Dar, Babar Ali, Junaid Aziz, Gamini Arachchige, Imran Ali Butt, Janaka Chaturanga, Mohammed Rafeh, Aamar Shahzad, Mohammed Sameer, Mohammed Iqbal, Awad Khan, Bilal Mansoor, Jabbar Amjad, Mohammed Ismail.

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

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

Saudi Arabia	(5-5-0-10),
Qatar	(5-4-1-8),
Kuwait	(5-3-2-6),
Bahrain	(5-3-2-6),
Thailand	(5-2-3-4),
Bhutan	(5-1-4-2),
China	(6-0-6-0).

Today's schedule: Rest Day:

Tomorrow:

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

Other scores:

- 1) Saudi Arabia 171/9 in 44.4 overs (Inayat Saeed 42, Omar Imtiaz 30no, Abdul Waheed 28, Mohammed Afzal 20, Ryan Raina 2/31, Daniel Jacob 3/31, Nopphon Senamontree 3/34) bt Thailand 166 all out in 43.5 overs (Weerachai Maneerat 53, Ryan Raina 34, Mohammed Shafique Haque 26; Hammad Saeed 6/21, Imran Arif 2/38) by 1 wicket. Man of the Match: Hammad Saeed.
- 2) Kuwait 179/7 in 24 overs (Ali Zaheer 69, Aamir Javed 42, Mohammed Ghuloom 20; Suprit Pradhan 4/30, Tenzin Wangchuk 2/20) bt Bhutan 104/9 in 24 overs (Suprit Pradhan 39, Damber Gurung 25; Abdulla Ghulam 5/18) by 75 runs. Man of the Match: Abdulla Ghulam.



Austrian tennis player Dominic Thiem celebrates his victory

Thiem beats Murray

Barcelona

Dominic Thiem claimed his first win over world number one Andy Murray to book his place in the final of the Barcelona Open on Saturday 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

The Austrian will face Rafael Nadal, who is looking for his 10th title in Barcelona, or Argentina's Horacio Zeballos on Sunday.

Murray squeezed past Albert Ramos-Vinolas in a three-hour encounter on Friday and looked flat-footed as Thiem roared through the opening set with three breaks of serve in just over half an hour.

The Scot had to stave off

another break point in a marathon opening game to the second set.

But he held on and then jumped at his chance to break for 5-3 before serving out to take the match to a decider.

Murray, though, still looks a pale shadow of the player that rose to number one on a spectacular run at the end of last year as he struggles for form and fitness after an elbow injury.

Thiem had to battle back from a break down in the third, but constantly put pressure on the Murray serve and broke another three times in the deciding set to seal his place in the final.



Real Madrid's Brazilian defender Marcelo celebrates a goal

Marcelo rescues Madrid

Madrid

Real Madrid needed another late winner to edge closer to the La Liga title as Marcelo was the hero in a 2-1 home win over Valencia yesterday.

Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring midway through the first half, but also saw a penalty saved by spot-kick specialist Diego Alves early in the second period.

Former Madrid man Dani Parejo looked to have handed Valencia an unlikely point with a stunning free-kick eight minutes from time.

Real stormed forward and needed just four minutes to find the winner when Marcelo cut inside and fired into the far corner.

Real now lead Barcelona by three points at the top of the table with four games to go for both sides.

Barca, though, can move back to the summit of La Liga with victory in the Catalan derby later at Espanyol.

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane recalled eight of the side that started last weekend's 3-2 El Clasico defeat to Barcelona and had been rested for a 6-2 thrashing of Deportivo la Coruna in midweek.

However, the habitual first team nearly got off to the worst possible start.

Captain Sergio Ramos was returning from suspension after his 22nd career red card in the Clasico and his weak header allowed Santi Mina through on goal inside the first minute.

Keylor Navas came out to block the Valencia striker's first effort before his follow-up hit the outside of the post.

Fabian Orellana also screwed a great chance wide as Valencia enjoyed the better of the early stages.

However, Ronaldo punished their profligacy in characteristic fashion as he bulletted Dani Carvajal's cross into the far corner on 27 minutes.

That goal took Ronaldo's tally in league football to 367 goals to surpass legendary English striker Jimmy Greaves in Europe's top leagues.

However, even the four-time World Player of the Year struggles to beat Alves from the spot.

Madrid were awarded a penalty when Luka Modric went down under slight contact from Parejo 11

minutes into the second half.

And for the third time in four penalties against Alves, Ronaldo was denied by the Brazilian.

Ronaldo then missed an even easier chance as he bundled over and then crashed into the goalpost from Marco Asensio's enticing cross.

At the other end Navas's search for a clean sheet continues as for the 15th straight game the Costa Rica international was beaten, this time by Parejo's dipping free-kick to set up a grandstand finish.

Yet, for the seventh time in La Liga this season, Madrid struck late to maintain the upper hand in the title race as Marcelo used his weaker right foot to fire across and past the helpless Alves to joyous scenes of relief at the Bernabeu.



Spanish La Liga:

Real Sociedad	2	Granada	1
Real Madrid	2	Valencia	1
Las Palmas	0	Atletico Madrid	5
Espanyol	0	Barcelona	3

Russian Premier League:

Lokomotiv	0	Rubin Kazan	1
Terek Grozny	5	Ural Yekaterinburg	2

Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo tries to control the ball

Sunderland relegated, Vardy makes Leicester safe



Leicester City's English striker Jamie Vardy

London

David Moyes's sorry Sunderland were relegated from the Premier League after a 1-0 home defeat by Bournemouth at the Stadium of Light yesterday.

Allied to Hull City's 0-0 draw at Southampton, the result left Sunderland 13 points adrift of safety with only 12 points to play for this season.

"I'm really disappointed," said Sunderland manager Moyes.

Josh King scored the goal that condemned Sunderland to the Championship, converting a pass from Ryan Fraser after a sweeping counter-attack in the 88th minute.

Southampton had a chance to give Sunderland a stay of execution, but Dusan Tadic's stoppage-time penalty was

saved by Hull goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic.

Ask if he will remain in his post, Moyes replied: "To think about it and talk about it now is just too quick.

"They're questions for a week or two down the line. I'm not sure it's for now. I'd like to make sure we get Sunderland back in the Premier League."

Sunderland have been in the Premier League since 2007, but their return to the second-tier Championship has long appeared only a matter of time.

They have been in the relegation zone since September and have not moved off the foot of the table since January.

"The league table never lies," said Sunderland captain John O'Shea. "Performances and results are the obvious

thing that have brought us down."

Victory effectively secured Bournemouth's safety, catapulting Eddie Howe's side up the table to 10th place, 10 points above the relegation zone.

Hull's draw at Southampton left Marco Silva's side three points clear of danger, ahead of third-bottom Swansea City's trip to Manchester United on Sunday.

With Stoke City and West Ham United also drawing 0-0, the only other goal in the four afternoon games came in outgoing champions Leicester City's 1-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion.

Jamie Vardy settled the game in the 43rd minute, rifling home his 15th goal of the season from Shinji Okazaki's pass down the

inside-right channel.

After an arduous season for Leicester, last season's fairytale champions have now reached the 40-point mark that usually guarantees survival.

"I want Jamie Vardy to finish on a high," said Leicester manager Craig Shakespeare, whose side sit 11th. "He's scored quite a few of late and I want that to continue."

Burnley also took a giant stride towards safety after their first away league win of the season, a 2-0 success at Crystal Palace, left them on 39 points.

Leaders Chelsea travel to Everton on Sunday looking to preserve their four-point lead over second-place Tottenham Hotspur, who host Arsenal in the last north London derby at White Hart Lane. (AFP)

Football

Scores as of closing

English Premier League:



West Brom	0	Leicester	1
Crystal Palace	0	Burnley	2
Southampton	0	Hull	0
Stoke	0	West Ham	0
Sunderland	0	Bournemouth	1

English Championship:



Barnsley	1	Burton	1
Birmingham	2	Huddersfield	0
Blackburn	1	Aston Villa	0
Brighton	0	Bristol City	1
Derby	3	Wolves	1
Fulham	1	Brentford	1
Ipswich	0	Sheff Wed	1
Leeds	3	Norwich	3
Preston	1	Rotherham	1
QPR	2	Nottm Forest	0
Reading	1	Wigan	0

Brighton loss keeps race alive

London

Brighton missed out on the chance to win English football's second-tier title after a shock loss to Bristol City yesterday as Wigan were relegated from the Championship.

Both Brighton and Newcastle were already assured of playing in the Premier League next season after securing the two automatic promotion spots.

But the race between them for the title will go right to the last day of the regular season after Bristol City's Josh Brownhill scored the only goal of a game where the west

country club secured their place in the division.

Brighton now lead Newcastle by just a single point.

Wigan were relegated after a 1-0 defeat at Reading while Blackburn improved their chances of staying up with a 1-0 win against Aston Villa.

Graham Barrow's Wigan -- in the Premier League just four years ago -- needed a victory and other results to go their way to avoid a quick return to League One, but they were unable to complete their part of the equation.

Reading striker Yann Kermorgant netted early on

and Wigan striker Nick Powell squandered several chances to stop his team falling into the third tier one year after promotion.

While Wigan go down, third-placed Reading are looking up after securing their spot in the play-offs.

At Ewood Park, Danny Graham's goal was enough to take Blackburn's relegation fight to the final day of the season.

Having missed a sitter on the stroke of half time, Graham made up for it with a 54th minute finish. A first home win in almost two months stretched

third-bottom Blackburn's unbeaten run to five games and they are behind Nottingham Forest only on goal difference.

Forest were beaten 2-0 by QPR as Conor Washington and Joel Lynch scored early in the second half at Loftus Road.

Forest, who are at home to Ipswich next weekend, will go down if they fail to match Blackburn's result at Brentford.

Jonathan Grounds and Craig Gardner kept 10-man Birmingham's hopes alive with crucial goals in a 2-0 win over fifth placed Huddersfield at St Andrew's. Caretaker manager Harry Redknapp saw

Birmingham's Che Adams sent off in the first half, but Grounds' second goal of the season could not have come at a better time.

Birmingham secured only their third win in 24 league games when Gardner converted a penalty in the 75th minute.

Redknapp's side are two points above the relegation zone and their future will be decided on the last day of the season at Bristol City.

Leeds' play-off hopes were all but ended by a 3-3 draw with Norwich at Elland Road.

The hosts were three down after 44 minutes thanks to

Steven Naismith's strike and Nelson Oliveira's double.

Chris Wood, Kyle Bartley and Pablo Hernandez all scored as Leeds hit back, but their vastly inferior goal difference means Fulham are certain to take the final play-off berth.

Fulham drew 1-1 at west London rivals Brentford, with Tom Cairney's opener for the visitors cancelled out by Nico Yennaris. A year after losing in the play-off final against Hull, fourth-placed Sheffield Wednesday are back in the hunt for promotion after sealing their top six spot with a 1-0 win at Ipswich.

Bayern crowned champions

Berlin

Bayern Munich were crowned Bundesliga champions for the fifth straight season on Saturday after Robert Lewandowski scored twice in a 6-0 thrashing of 10-man Wolfsburg.

After second-placed RB Leipzig were held to a goalless draw by Ingolstadt, Bayern wrapped up the title with a thumping away victory that left them 10 points clear with three games left.

"Five times in a row, that's unbelievable. We completely deserve to be champions," Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told Sky.

Carlo Ancelotti has delivered a 27th league title in his first season as Bayern's head coach.

Ancelotti has now won four national league titles after also lifting the Premier League with Chelsea, Serie A with AC Milan and Ligue 1 with Paris Saint Germain.

"I want to thank this great club," he said. "We deserved the title and have played good football, now is the time to celebrate."

Lewandowski's brace leaves the Polish predator on 28 goals this season, one more than Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in the race to be the league's top marksman. The league triumph is consolation for Wednesday's 3-2 German Cup semi-final defeat at home to Dortmund, which denied Ancelotti the chance of emulating predecessor Pep Guardiola with the domestic double in his first season.

It also goes a small way towards making up for the disappointment of going out in the quarter-finals of the Champions League to Real Madrid.

Bayern were barely made to work for their win as David Alaba

drilled home a trademark free-kick on 19 minutes to put the visitors 1-0 up after a foul on Thomas Mueller.

Lewandowski doubled the lead on 36 minutes when Kingsley Coman's cross was flicked on by Mueller and the Poland hot-shot fired home.

He bagged his second and Bayern's third just before the half-time whistle after Coman delivered another cross from the left wing.

The floodgates opened late on as Arjen Robben netted on 66 minutes before Wolfsburg's Luiz Gustavo, a former Bayern player, was sent off for a second booking on 78 minutes.

Bayern exploited their numerical advantage as Mueller banged home Lewandowski's pass before Joshua Kimmich sealed the rout.

Leipzig slip up

Bayern's latest comfortable title win was made possible by Leipzig's draw at the Red Bull Arena, where Ingolstadt defender Alfredo Morales was sent off with four minutes to play.

Dortmund, who face Eintracht Frankfurt in the German Cup final on May 27, hold on to third place, which would mean a direct Champions League place next season, despite their goalless draw at home to Cologne.

Both Aubameyang and Cologne's Anthony Modeste, who has 23 league goals, drew blanks at Signal Iduna Park.

Hoffenheim, coached by Julian Nagelsmann, 29, the youngest coach in Bundesliga history, can leapfrog Dortmund if they beat Eintracht in Frankfurt on Sunday.

Werder Bremen's remarkable finish to the season continues as they earned a 2-0 win to home to Hertha Berlin to stay sixth.

Bremen remain on course for a Europa League place having risen from bottom in September after losing their first four games.

Werder striker Max Kruse's dream April continued as he netted Bremen's second after Fin Bartels's opener for his eighth goal in six games this month.

Bremen are unbeaten in their last 11 games.

Mainz remain just a point from the bottom three after Japan striker Yoshinori Muto scored their consolation goal in a 2-1 home defeat. Lars Stindl and Nico Schulz scored for Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Plucky bottom side Darmstadt again delayed their relegation with a 3-0 win at home to Freiburg.

Torsten Frings-coached Darmstadt picked up their third straight victory thanks to goals by Felix Platte, Jerome Gondorf and Sven Schipplock.

Darmstadt are still eight points from safety with three games left. (AFP)

Bayern Munich's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski celebrates

Football

Scores as of closing

German Bundesliga:



Borussia Dortmund	0	Cologne	0
Mainz	1	Borussia	2
Werder Bremen	2	Hertha Berlin	0
Darmstadt	3	Freiburg	0
RB Leipzig	0	Ingolstadt	0
Wolfsburg	0	Bayern Munich	6

French Ligue 1:



Monaco	3	Toulouse	1
Bastia	1	Rennes	0
Guingamp	0	Saint-Etienne	2
Metz	2	Nancy	1
Montpellier	0	Lille	3
Nantes	1	Lorient	0

Italian Serie A:

Torino	1	Sampdoria	1
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Scottish Premiership:



Rangers	1	Celtic	5
Aberdeen	0	St Johnstone	2
Hamilton	0	Kilmarnock	2
Hearts	2	Partick Thistle	2
Motherwell	2	Dundee	3



Bayern's team celebrates with a mock-trophy

Vettel puts Ferrari on pole

Sochi

Championship leader Sebastian Vettel admitted it felt "fantastic" to lead Ferrari to their first front row lock out in nine years after he took pole position in Saturday's thrilling qualifying session for the Russian Grand Prix.

The four-time world champion's blistering fastest lap and Ferrari team-mate Kimi Raikkonen's second place on the grid brought to an end rivals Mercedes long and dominant supremacy in qualifying.

The 29-year-old German outpaced Raikkonen by 0.059 seconds with another Finn, Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes, third fastest with less than a tenth of a second separating the top three.

Britain's Lewis Hamilton was fourth fastest, the first time Mercedes failed to have a car on the front row for 31 races.

"If you have a rhythm here it feels fantastic," said Vettel, who has won the last nine races at which he started from pole position.

"And I am glad I got it back. It is great to have both cars on the front row, but it is only part of the job done.

"I knew it would be tight, I knew I would be the first one crossing the line. I got Valtteri's time -- and he did not manage to improve -- and when I got the message I had got it... I was over the moon.

"In qualifying, Mercedes have been very, very strong. I am sure it will be very close tomorrow, especially over the long run

"We will see, but for now we are full of joy. We are back -- at least if you talk about the front row!"

It was Vettel's first pole this year, his second for Ferrari and the 47th of his career.

Ferrari also achieved a front row lockout for the first time in 127 races going back to the 2008 French Grand Prix, where Raikkonen took pole.

"It's hard to understand how we're going to make it better, said Raikkonen.

Vettel's success also brought to an end Mercedes'

run of 18 straight pole positions dating back to last year's Monaco Grand Prix.

"To be honest, Ferrari have had the upper hand all weekend, but as always Sunday is the day that counts," said Bottas.

Hamilton, rarely away from the front row, said he had plenty of homework overnight.

"I need to find out what we are missing," said the former three-time world champion.

Australian Daniel Ricciardo was fifth for Red Bull ahead of Brazilian Felipe Massa of Williams, Dutch teenager Max Verstappen in the second Red Bull and German Nico Hulkenberg of Renault.

Mexican Sergio Perez was ninth for Force India ahead of his team-mate Frenchman Esteban Ocon. (AFP)



Sebastian Vettel celebrates



- Grid in Sochi:**
- 1st row:**
Sebastian Vettel (GER/Ferrari)
Kimi Raikkonen (FIN/Ferrari)
 - 2nd row:**
Valtteri Bottas (FIN/Mercedes)
Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes)
 - 3rd row:**
Daniel Ricciardo (AUS/Red Bull-TAG Heuer)
Felipe Massa (BRA/Williams-Mercedes)
 - 4th row:**
Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull-TAG Heuer)
Nico Hulkenberg (GER/Renault)
 - 5th row:**
Sergio Pérez (MEX/Force India-Mercedes)
Esteban Ocon (FRA/Force India-Mercedes)
 - 6th row:**
Lance Stroll (CAN/Williams-Mercedes)
Daniil Kvyat (RUS/Toro Rosso-Renault)
 - 7th row:**
Kevin Magnussen (DEN/Haas-Ferrari)
Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP/Toro Rosso-Renault)
 - 8th row:**
Fernando Alonso (ESP/McLaren-Honda)
Jolyon Palmer (GBR/Renault)
 - 9th row:**
Pascal Wehrlein (GER/Sauber-Ferrari)
Marcus Ericsson (SWE/Sauber-Ferrari)
 - 10th row:**
Romain Grosjean (FRA/Haas-Ferrari)
Stoffel Vandoorne (BEL/McLaren-Honda)