

DT NEWS

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11th Hour

May 17 first day of Ramadan in Oman

Muscat

Oman's Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs (MARA) has announced that May 17 (Thursday) will be the first day of the holy month of Ramadan. MARA said that it wouldn't be possible to spot the crescent of Ramadan on Wednesday, May 16 (Shaaban 29, 1439). The Committee for Crescent Research declared that Wednesday will be the 30th day of Sha'ban, 1439 Hijri - marking the beginning of Ramadan on May 17.



Deputy King receives US Central Command Commander

▶▶ P 03



Lebanon votes first time after a gap of 9 years

▶▶ P02



At least 30 killed in Afghan mosque blast

▶▶ P 06



Pakistan's interior minister wounded in gun attack

▶▶ P 07

Macron warns of war if US dumps Iran deal

Berlin

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned that war could ensue if U.S. President Donald Trump withdraws from the 2015 deal in which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

"We would open the Pandora's box. There could be war," Macron told German weekly magazine Der Spiegel. But he added: "I don't think that Donald Trump wants war."

Trump is set to decide by May 12 whether to pull out of the Iran deal. Trump has all but



Emmanuel Macron decided to withdraw but exactly how he will do so remains unclear, two White House officials and a source familiar with the administration's internal debate said on May 2. Trump could still figure out a

way to stay in the deal between the Islamic Republic and six world powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Macron urged Trump not to withdraw when he met the president in Washington late last month. Britain, France and Germany remain committed to the accord but, in an effort to keep Washington in it, want to open talks on Iran's ballistic missile programme, its nuclear activities beyond 2025 - when key provisions of the deal expire - and its role in Middle East crises such as Syria and Yemen. - Reuters

Plans put in place: Iran

Dubai

President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday Iran had prepared plans to respond to any decision by US President Donald Trump to end the nuclear agreement with Tehran and that the US would regret such a decision.

"We have plans to resist any decision by Trump on the nuclear accord," Rouhani said in a speech carried live by state television.

"If America leaves the nuclear accord, this will entail historic remorse for it."

Trump had said unless European allies rectify "flaws" in Tehran's nuclear agreement with world powers by May 12 he will refuse to extend U.S. sanctions relief for Iran.

Trump is "committed" to regime change in Iran, Trump's lawyer and confidant Rudy Giuliani said. Giuliani said at an event hosted by an Iranian opposition group on Saturday that regime change in Iran is "the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East," according to a Haaretz report. = Al Arabiya (See also Page 2)

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for all of us on page 3

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Lebanon votes first time after a gap of 9 years

■ Low turnout between 30-40 per cent worries politicians as polling ends

Beirut

Lebanon's first national elections in nine years were marked by a tepid turnout yesterday, reflecting voter frustration over corruption and a stagnant economy. Politicians urged citizens to vote and security forces struggled to maintain order as fights broke out in and around polling stations.

President Michel Aoun appealed to voters to vote in a televised address an hour before polls closed. "If you want change, you should exercise your right" to vote, he said in a message published on Twitter at the same time.

The elections are the first since war broke out in neighboring Syria in 2011, sending over one million refugees to Lebanon, a small country with an estimated population of around 4.5 million. The war has divided the country, pitting parties supporting the Iran-sponsored Hezbollah's intervention in Syria to aide President Bashar Assad against Saudi-aligned parties opposed to it.

But low turnout - between 30 and 40 percent in Beirut precincts according to the



Prime Minister Saad Hariri shows his inked finger after he voted for Lebanon's parliamentary elections, outside a polling station, in Beirut yesterday (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

country's National News Agency - betrayed widespread voter apathy for the main political currents governing the country and left open the possibility that outside candidates could win seats in Parliament.

"These leaders are destroying homes, not building them," said Ahmad Khashouq, 43, a private security guard in Beirut. Khashouq, from the town of Zahle in the country's Bekaa Valley, said he was not voting in the elections after feeling his vote was wasted in 2009, the

last time elections were held.

More than 500 candidates are running for 128 seats in Lebanon's National Assembly.

Fist fights broke out in and around polling stations around the country, as rival partisans accused each other and election officials of ballot stuffing and illegal campaigning. In the Choueifat district, a crowd inside a station accused the station supervisor of illegal voting practices and smashed a ballot box, spilling its contents across the floor. The army ordered the media to turn off

their cameras.

In Zahle, the politician Mryam Skaff blamed members of the right-wing Lebanese Forces party of beating up her supporters in polling stations.

The voting is unlikely to change the existing balance of power among the major political factions in Lebanon, but many hope new contenders from civil society groups can challenge the decades-old sectarian political system.

Sarah Brjawi, 33, said she was voting for Nouhad Yazbek, a woman candidate running

Over 500 candidates are running for 128 seats in National Assembly

Main race between Prime Minister Saad Hariri and Hezbollah

The elections are the first since war broke out in Syria in 2011

on a coalition list of political independents and activists running in Beirut.

Brjawi, who was walking the streets of Beirut's Ras el-Nabea neighborhood with her clown troupe before voting, said she was perplexed by voters who said they supported their satirical act, poking fun at the country's endemic corruption and political stagnation, while saying they'd vote for establishment parties again.

"This country is really bipolar," said Brjawi. The main race is between a coalition

headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group, part of a region-wide power struggle that is tearing apart the Middle East.

"This shows Lebanon's democracy and the importance of democracy. This is a democratic wedding, and as we said from the start, congratulations to whoever wins tonight," said Interior Minister Nouhad Machnouk, who is running on Hariri's list, after casting his ballot in Beirut. -AP

How will a war between Israel and Iran play out?

Riyadh

A fully-fledged war between Israel and Iran is no longer a question of if, but when.

The confrontation has already begun with Israeli aircraft recently bombing a Syrian air base, which killed a number of Iranian military personnel, an act of defiance against Tehran.

There have been two rounds so far in this direct confrontation. The first took place on February 10, when Iran sent a drone over Israeli-controlled airspace and was downed. The second was when Israeli aircraft raided the T-4 base in Syria on April 9.

Many observers expect Iran to retaliate against Israel, as its silence about killing Iranians in Syria could be perceived as weakness and therefore encourage Tel Aviv to carry out more strikes against it, and perhaps encourage other parties to do the same.

When and where?

At present, Tehran is believed to be mulling over what it deems to be an appropriate response to Israel. But the most important question in Iran and the international media is the timing and place of the response: when and where will it be?

Israeli military analysts have revealed that shipments of heavy Iranian weapons that were meant to be sent to Hezbollah in Lebanon are no longer crossing the Lebanese border and are remaining in Syria.

This has generated Israel's belief that they are being used to strengthen Iran's military presence in Syria and that Tehran's response to Tel Aviv will be on Syrian territory.

Why is Iran hesitating?

According to Iranian officials, Iran wants a confrontation that Tehran determines its framework, not Tel Aviv.

What can Israel fear?

The Israeli army supports Netanyahu in his current escalation of the conflict against Iran. Iran decides to push Hezbollah to the battlefield, the party will try to use its arsenal of more than 100,000 rockets. But at this time, according to analysts, Israel is prepared better than before to exploit the exhaustion of Hezbollah forces so that fighting on the ground in Lebanon does not come at a heavy price.

Pompeo's support

In reference to the extent of US support for the Israeli government, a Haaretz writer recently wrote in an analysis piece: "One might think that if US Secretary of State Pompeo could only have stayed in Israel a few more hours, they'd have suggested he clamber into a cockpit and fire some missiles himself."

Experts say the region will see a surge in conflict and fighting within

Syria and Lebanon as Tel Aviv seeks to confront Iran with the support of Trump. All the while, a rare series of events has taken place, that many may perceive as a rare coincidence: The attack on the T-4 base, the attack on a base in the countryside of Hama, Netanyahu's presentation of Iran's secret nuclear program files and Morocco severing relations with Tehran.

Hezbollah

In a speech on May 1, Hezbollah's Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah said that "the war in Syria with proxies is coming to an end, and the second war with the genuine enemies may soon begin," alluding to a confrontation with Israel and wanted to say that the war and the United States after he would end a war with their agents, armed Syrian opposition groups.

It is certain that Iran's implementation of any military



action against Israel through Lebanese territory means dragging Beirut into a devastating war similar to that of July 2006, which will cost Hezbollah a lot, both politically and militarily.

Why is Syria the most suitable to respond?

The Syrian response is more logical. Syria has tens of thousands of fighters affiliated with Iran, and the Russian presence will limit any Israeli escalation against the Syrian regime or against the bases of the Syrian army, in which Russian advisers are present. - Al Arabiya

Deputy King receives Commander of US Central Command

DT News Network
Manama

The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday met the Commander of US Central Command, General Joseph Votel, at Riffa Palace.

During the meeting, HRH stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation between the United States of America and Bahrain in the interest of regional security and stability.

Highlighting efforts to reduce regional tensions in line with internationally recognised conventions and laws, particularly in cases of state sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs, the Deputy King

outlined the longstanding strategic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America at all levels, particularly in defence, noting that the

alliance had long supported the balance of power in the region.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to review various regional and

international developments and issues of mutual interest.

Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqer Al Noaimi, the BDF's Chief of Staff also attended the meeting.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with the Commander of US Central Command, General Joseph Votel, at Riffa Palace yesterday

Women's meet inaugurated

DT News Network
Manama

A summit aimed at promoting Bahraini women's progress in different fields was inaugurated yesterday under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Executive Director of Injaz.

"This summit is a celebration of the women who have joined us today as I see the largest gathering of past, present and future women leaders before me today. We hold the keys to our future and are in the driving seat. We need to drive towards promoting entrepreneurship, women in tech, workplace flexibility, athletic representation and achievement, medical

education amongst so much more - so that women can contribute as fully as possible to the national and global economy," said Sheikha Hessa.

The summit has had a registration of over 700 delegates in attendance in both days with approximately 100 volunteers and support staff organizing the event (mostly women).

The purpose of the summit for these delegates is to share their wins, failures and experiences. They seek to meet and network with other talented, like-minded women while developing tips and tricks of the trade from some of the most inspirational regional and international women leaders of our time.

Premier issues two edicts

DT News Network
Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa issued two edicts for 2018. Edict 15 annulled article 1 bis of edict number 17 for 2002 on the

formation of the executive body in the municipalities.

Edict 16 annulled article 33 bis of the executive bill issued in edict number 16 of 2002 of the Municipality Law that was issued in decree-law number 35 of 2001.

Saudi downs Houthi missiles

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's air defense forces said they destroyed two ballistic missile fired by Houthi militias from inside Yemeni territory that targeted toward the border city of Najran.

Spokesman of forces of "coalition to support the legitimacy in Yemen," Colonel Turki al-Maliki said that the air defense forces of the coalition detected the launch of two ballistic missiles from within the territory of Yemen, north of Amran governorate, towards the Kingdom's territory.

Colonel al-Maliki said that the two missiles were in the

direction of the city of Najran and launched by the militia deliberately to target civilian and populated areas, and the Saudi Royal Air Defense forces were able to intercept all of them and as a result scattered fragments of missile fell on residential neighborhoods and no injuries or damage were reported.

Al-Maliki said that this hostile action by the Houthi militia supported by Iran proves the continued involvement of the Iranian regime in supporting the Houthi armed militia with qualitative capabilities in a clear and explicit challenge to the violation of UN resolution

2216 and resolution 2231 in order to threaten the security of Saudi Arabia and regional and international security. The firing of ballistic missiles at populated cities and villages is contrary to international humanitarian law.

The southern city of Najran - close to the border with Yemen, has borne the brunt ever since the Houthi militia forces took over swathes of the country in a 2014 coup.

According to officials, the city has witnessed more than 10,000 rocket attacks mostly arbitrarily targeting civilians since the conflict in Yemen first began. - Al Arabiya/DTNN



The two missiles were fired in the direction of the city of Najran

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Expats' role in development commendable: Premier

DT News Network
Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has stressed that expatriates play a commendable role in the development march witnessed by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Bahrain is a country of tolerance and co-existence that respects and appreciates those who live in it and contribute to building it, he said.

"We support all that reinforces Bahrain's reputation as a country that embraces, enhances its investment competitiveness and contributes to attracting all that it needs for growth and development," HRH Premier added.

"We do not support any

steps that may affect those who contribute to working for Bahrain and its prosperity, or may undermine Bahrain's reputation and advanced position in labour organisations," he stressed, praising the contributions of residents and expatriate communities to the Kingdom's development process.

"We support the consolidation of the values of love and coexistence in our society. They have always been distinctive features of Bahrain, thus their consolidation is a duty, as they are the fence that fortifies our national unity and protects it from any attempts to influence it for the aim of undermining Bahrain's security thanks to which the country is on the right path of progress and

modernisation," he also said.

HRH the Prime Minister was speaking while receiving state officials, intellectuals, cultural, press and economic personalities and scores of citizens at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

HRH Premier stressed his constant keenness to be close to the citizens.

"We are always keen to be close to our people and to ensure they are close to us. We are happy to meet them and inquire about their conditions. This is a tradition that we inherited from parents and grandparents," he said, stressing that direct meetings with the citizens pave the way for first-hand knowledge of their needs and requirements, and contribute to

building plans and guiding the path of the government projects, especially service ones, for the sake of meeting their needs.

HRH Premier pointed out that the development plans in Bahrain are on the right track, and that the Kingdom's successes in all fields are the result of the giving and dedication of its citizens, who are have set the best examples of devotion to the nation's progress and progress.

HRH Prime Minister urged to foster the values of communication in society and to transfer them to the coming generations, noting that communication strengthens the bonds among the members of the society, which leads to enhancing progress and development.



HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

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Preparations in full swing for world heritage meet



BACA President Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa addressing the meeting

Event to be held from June 24-July 4

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain is stepping up preparations to host the 42nd meeting of the World Heritage Committee late next month. Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) held a meeting with ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions at the Bahrain National Museum and briefed them about the upcoming global event, scheduled to be held from June 24-July 4 at a special tent which will be setup at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain Hotel in Manama.

BACA President Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa attended the session along with Arab and foreign ambassadors, specialized experts and officials in charge of the organization. Addressing the meeting, BACA president said that the event would be attended by more than 1500 experts and specialists and representatives of countries worldwide.

BACA Advisor Dr. Mounir Bouchnaki said that the upcoming event represents one of the most importance meetings convened by the

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). "The 42nd meeting, which will be chaired by Shaikha Haya bint Rashid Al-Khalifa, will be held as the world heritage in some parts of the Arab World face mounting difficulties", he said.

He pointed out that two forums would be held on the sidelines, adding that a rich programme had been lined-up including field visits to heritage sites, including the Bahrain Fort and the Pearl Trail, which feature both on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites.

1,200 children take part in first Bahrain Baby Games



DT News Network Manama

Around 1,200 kids from 66 nurseries and kindergartens are participating in the First Bahrain Games, the biggest children sports event in the Kingdom which got underway at the Bahrain Volleyball Association hall, at Isa Sports City in Riffa on Saturday.

The event is organised Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) and sponsored by Lulu Group – one of the fastest growing retail chains in the world, and Mothercare.

The opening ceremony was attended by BOC secretary general Abdulrahman Askar and board member Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa.

This was followed by a ballet show, presented by kindergarten kids, and another presentation from the Little Learners Nursery, and a taekwondo show by the Kidz World Kindergarten.

Among other activities on the inaugural day on Saturday were a below-12 months crawling contest, and followed by a below-15 months kids walkers competition, both of which came to the excitement and thrills of hundreds of parents in the stands.

Late on, the parade of the participating nurseries and kindergartens while holding their respective identity banners amidst a big round of applause from the audience.

After the parade, Mohammed Khatim and Fatma Lari entered the hall while carrying the Olympic torch to mark the launch of the event, after which Askar officially declared the Games open.

In his speech, Askar thanked Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and President of the committee, for his support to this



Children during the Baby Games organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee at Isa Sports City in Riffa

first-of-its-kind games in Bahrain. Askar said: "The Bahrain Olympic Committee is so proud to organise the Baby Olympics, which is one of many initiatives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser, a first of its kind in the Kingdom and perhaps in the Arab world, which has many noble objectives aimed at instilling a culture of sport within children and developing their mental and physical abilities".

On their part, representatives of kindergartens, nurseries and parents expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to Shaikh Nasser to make this much-cherished event come true.

They also stressed the positive

benefits of having such a sports gathering that will contribute to creating a new generation with awareness on the importance of sport and its impact on health, body, mind and personality in general.

Action in the First Bahrain Baby Games, open for kids from 3 to 5 years of age, includes contests in athletics, gymnastics, football and basketball.

Athletics, football and basketball events are all taking place at the Bahrain Sports Federation with Disabilities hall in Riffa, while the Bahrain Volleyball Association premises hosts the gymnastics action.



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At least 30 killed in Afghan mosque blast

■ The bomb was placed in a tent used to register voters

Kabul

A blast at a voter registration centre in Afghanistan's restive east on Sunday killed or wounded at least 30 people, officials said, capping a bloody week in the war-torn country.

The bomb had been placed in a tent being used to register voters on the grounds of a mosque, Khost provincial police chief Abdul Hanan Zadran told AFP.

"A crowd of people who had come out of the mosque had gathered to register" when the blast took place, he said, putting the casualty toll at "about 30".

But provincial deputy director of public health Gul Mohammad Mangal told AFP at least 12 people had been killed and 33 wounded in the explosion.

Mangal warned the toll could rise, with several of the wounded in a critical condition.

"Ambulances are still bringing more people," he added.

It was the latest attack on election preparations and comes almost a week after 25 people were killed in a double bombing in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Nine journalists including AFP chief photographer Shah Marai were among the dead.



People rush a wounded man to hospital after the blast outside a mosque in Khost province

BBC reporter Ahmad Shah was killed in a separate attack in Khost province.

The latest assault on a voter registration centre is likely to deter more people from signing up for the long-delayed parliamentary and district council elections scheduled for October 20.

On April 22 a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a voter registration centre in Kabul, killing 60 people and wounding more than 100.

Just over 1.2 million adults had registered by Saturday, three weeks after the two-month long process began, data compiled by the Independent

Election Commission (IEC) showed.

The IEC, which is overseeing preparations for the vote, hopes to register up to 14 million adults at more than 7,000 polling centres.

But if the current trend were to continue, fewer than three million people would be registered by the mid-June deadline.

Authorities have deployed planes to drop leaflets in a number of provinces raising awareness about the elections, which are seen as a test run for next year's presidential poll.

A radio and television campaign is also under way

and civil servants have been granted a day off to sign up.

The IEC has placed many of the voter registration centres inside schools and mosques, triggering concerns that students and worshippers could be at risk.

Another hurdle to voter registration is a sticker placed on national identification certificates showing the holder has signed up for the poll.

There are concerns that the stickers could put voters in restive districts at risk of being targeted by Taliban or Islamic State militants who have signalled they intend to disrupt the elections. (AFP)

Bahrain condemns terror bombings

Manama

Bahrain has condemned the terrorist bombings in the province of Khost in Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Bahrain's unwavering support to Afghanistan in its war against terrorism and its efforts to eliminate all terrorist organisations to achieve security and peace.

The ministry expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and

its wishes of speedy recovery for all those who have been harmed by this sinful act which contravenes all religious principles and moral and human values.

It stressed Bahrain's firm position that rejects violence, extremism and terrorism, and that calls for the need for the international community to reinforce coordination at all levels to ensure the elimination of terrorism and the achievement of security and stability across the world.



N. Korea says peace talks not the result of US pressure

Seoul

North Korea yesterday warned Washington that claiming Pyongyang was forced into talks by US pressure risked returning the peninsula "back to square one", as the world awaits a landmark summit between Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump.

The pair are set for the first ever face-to-face meeting between a sitting American president and North Korean leader, with a date and venue to be announced soon, Trump said Friday.

Their meeting comes after a historic summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in in the demilitarised zone that divides their countries, during which Kim gave a tentative commitment to ridding the North of its nuclear weapons and facilities.

Trump has credited his "maximum pressure" campaign of tough rhetoric and tightened sanctions for a breakthrough with Pyongyang, saying last week that Washington's "strength is going to keep us out of nuclear war".

But a spokesman for the North's foreign

ministry accused the US of "deliberately provoking" Pyongyang in an effort to undermine the current "atmosphere of dialogue".

Describing Pyongyang's recent move as a "sign of weakness" would "not be conducive" to talks, and may "bring the situation back to square one", he added.

The spokesman did not explicitly mention the Kim-Trump summit, and Pyongyang has yet to make any formal announcement of their planned meeting.

Tensions have run high between the two men over the last year, with both leaders trading threats of war and colourful personal insults that sparked global concern.

But in a dramatic diplomatic turnaround, Kim vowed with Moon to seek denuclearisation and pursue a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War through a peace treaty with Seoul.

Kim also pledged to close its nuclear test site this month and invited US experts and journalists to verify the move. (AFP)



N. Korea says peace talks not the result of US pressure

Pakistan's interior minister wounded in gun attack

Lahore, Pakistan

Pakistan's Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal was wounded in an apparent assassination attempt on Sunday, officials said, an incident likely to heighten political tensions ahead of general elections expected in late July.

Junior interior minister Talal Chaudhry said Iqbal was hit by a bullet in his arm in the attack in Narowal district, his constituency in central Punjab province.

"The minister luckily survived. Thank God he is out of danger," Chaudhry said.

The attacker was arrested

immediately after the shooting, officials said.

Iqbal, a senior member of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party and a staunch ally of ousted premier Nawaz Sharif, is one of the most senior figures in government and PML-N.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi "strongly condemned" the attack on Iqbal and called for an immediate report into the incident by the chief of police in the vast Punjab province.

A senior government source said early information suggested

Iqbal was returning from a meeting with a Christian group, though in his constituency there are other minority groups.

"We are not sure whether it has got anything to do with the motive. We will know only after investigation of the attacker," said the government official.

Militant attacks in Pakistan have fallen sharply over the past few years, but Islamist militants continue to pose a threat and carry out assassinations.

In the past politically motivated attacks have also been a feature of political life in Pakistan. (Reuters)



Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan's Interior Minister (file pic)

Cars swept downstream as heavy rain lashes Ankara



More than 160 cars and 25 businesses were damaged in the floods

Ankara

A torrential flood has swept through a district in the Turkish capital of Ankara, sending vehicles downstream and damaging local businesses.

The rain was expected to last for three hours on Saturday afternoon (local time), but instead came down in nine minutes, causing flooding in Ankara's Mamak district.

Ankara's Mayor, Mustafa

Tuna, told local media it was a "natural disaster like never before".

Four people were injured in the floods, which damaged more than 160 cars and 25 businesses, Turkish Social Security Minister Julide Sarieroglu said.

Footage showed cars and trucks being swept away in fast-moving floodwaters.

One man escaped being

submerged by climbing on top of a car caught in the flood, and was seen crouching on the bonnet and riding the vehicle downstream.

The Turkish Red Crescent, a humanitarian organisation, said a team of volunteers were cooking soup for people and crews in the area. Sarieroglu said the Government was working to assess and alleviate the damage. (abc)

Paris anti-Macron protest sees thousands take to streets

Paris

Tens of thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets in Paris to protest against the stream of economic reforms brought in by French President Emmanuel Macron since coming to power a year ago.

Protesters bearing "Stop Macron" banners and chanting "one year is enough" were

cheered on by drummers and marching bands in an anti-celebration of Macron's time in office organised by a member of the hard-left France Unbowed movement.

The carnivalesque atmosphere follows a tense May Day rally in Paris, when hundreds of masked and hooded anarchists torched cars and hurled rocks at

police on Tuesday, hijacking a demonstration called by labour unions.

Saturday's demonstration, under a large police presence, comes almost a year to the day since 40-year-old Macron won the presidential race on a centrist platform and with a pledge to shake-up rigid institutions and revitalise the economy. (abc)

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Public Invitation

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) is pleased to invite the General Public of the Kingdom of Bahrain to visit its Stakeholder Exhibition Meeting, for its landmark Line 6 Expansion Project (the Project), which will be held on Monday May 14, 2018 from 9 am till 7 pm at Awal Ballroom in the Gulf Hotel Bahrain.

Alba will conduct this exhibition to disseminate information relating to the Environmental & Social impacts of the Project as well as its mitigation and management.

Expected to begin production by January 1st 2019, this Project will boost the smelter's per-annum production of aluminium by 540,000 metric tonnes, bringing its total production capacity to 1.5 million metric tonnes per year.



Gulf Air schedules to meet growing summer demand

Manamas

This summer sees Gulf Air, the Kingdom of Bahrain's national carrier, commence its highly anticipated major network expansion. Alongside this, the airline will roll out its 2018 Summer Schedule, increasing capacity and flights to and from several popular destinations during the upcoming peak travel period between mid-June and mid-September 2018, catering to growing passenger numbers.

Gulf Air flights to the Jordanian capital city of Amman will increase to triple daily, while flights to the Lebanese capital city of Beirut will increase to double daily. The popular summer destination of Istanbul in Turkey will be served with 12 weekly flights during the peak summer period while Athens, Greece will be served by seven weekly Gulf Air flights. Gulf Air flights to Larnaca, Cyprus have permanently increased to



Gulf Air flight

a daily service and Baghdad in Iraq has also permanently increased to a five weekly service.

Additionally, the airline's flights to Multan in Pakistan have already increased to five weekly while Gulf Air has increased capacity on its Cairo, Khartoum and Addis Ababa routes. Gulf Air's first

Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner will serve the airline's double daily London Heathrow service, with increased capacity and enhanced, superior on-board products and services, from 15th June 2018. Alongside this, Gulf Air will increase its flights during the peak summer period by 200 more weekly flights compared to 2017.

Regionally, the airline's upcoming network expansion will see it launch five weekly flights to Abha and Tabuk in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 15th June, 3 weekly flights to Alexandria, Egypt from 10th June and 2 weekly flights to Sharm El Shaikh, Egypt from 16th June. In India, Gulf Air will expand to include daily

flights to Bangalore from 1st May and seven flights weekly to Calicut from 15th June. Alongside this, the airline will offer five flights weekly to Casablanca in Morocco from 11th June and five weekly flights to Baku in Azerbaijan from 12th June.

Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer Krešimir Kučko

commented, "Not only will our upcoming network additions better connect our valued passengers to the places and people that matter the most, our Summer 2018 Schedule will see us increase flights to several popular destinations during the peak summer travel period between mid-June and mid-September 2018. The frequency and capacity increases that Gulf Air will implement in the coming months are in response to the demand on these key routes. Gulf Air's summer schedule provides greater choice of flights and greater capacity to carry more passengers during the busy summer holiday period. This will also serve to strengthen the Kingdom of Bahrain's strategic business and tourism links and facilitate enhanced connectivity for passengers travelling across the Gulf Air network, to and from Bahrain."

Kanoo Travel attracts visitors at Arabian Travel Market

Manama

Kanoo Travel's booth in the 2018 Arabian Travel Market (ATM) in Dubai attracted more than a 1000 visitors ranging from small to mid-level agencies including existing customers.

Krystal Online, a new cloud-based travel technology owned and distributed by Kanoo Travel played a pivotal role in attracting the large number of visitors.

"Being in the 2018 Arabian Travel Market was an opportunity to strengthen relationships with our clients and to inform them about

our latest technology, Krystal Online, which received a lot of attention from many travel agencies. It was also an opportunity to showcase our 81 years of history in the Travel Industry," said, Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Board Director at YBA Kanoo Group.

The new technology allows travel agents to search and book from multiple global suppliers, over 500,000 hotels & car rentals worldwide, with dynamic content such as maps, photos, and videos through its travel affiliate network program.

"During the four days'

event, executives of renowned institutions such as Sabre, Amadeus, American Express, Emirates, Etihad, and Oman Air were introduced to Krystal online. We received a lot of positive feedback regarding the new technology and discussed several partnership proposals," mentioned, Interim Executive General Manager of Kanoo Travel, Zaem Gama.

The 2018 ATM also witnessed the signing of a strategic agreement between Kanoo Travel and Kalaam Telecom to enhance the service excellence of the call center hubs.

Gulf Hotel triumphs at Food & Travel Awards



Gulf Hotel staff with the award

The Gulf Hotel has been mentioned and ranked for excellence in service standards and outstanding guest experiences in the world's leading hotel website "TripAdvisor".

During the glamorous celebrations the Gulf Hotel Convention & Spa received awards for Best Indian Restaurant in Bahrain - Rasoi by Vineet; and Best Thai Restaurant in Bahrain - Royal

Thai.

Fares Yactine, General Manager said, "With the tough competition emerging in the island, winning these prestigious awards certainly proves that the Gulf Hotel is still the leader in the market and we are committed in providing all our guests and patrons the highest unbeatable service standards where we exceed guest expectations"

While congratulating his

award winning team, Yactine thanked all guests and patrons who assisted by voting for the Gulf Hotel to win these prestigious awards.

The Food & Travel Awards contributes to cultivating high standards in the hospitality and travel industry within Bahrain, providing an opportunity for patrons to highlight and vote for the best Hotels Restaurants, and Cafes in the island.



Officials of Kanoo Travel at their booth at ATM

VIVA introduces Self Service Machines

VIVA Bahrain has introduced a host of digital services – a Self Service Machines (SSM) and a smart queue management service, offering an enhanced customer experience by enabling them to complete multiple service requests in just a few clicks anywhere, and at any time.

VIVA

VIVA Self-Service Machines

Expanding its digital services portfolio, the new VIVA Self-Service Machines (SSM) introduced at all VIVA outlets is a digital channel that offers a completely new digital service portfolio into VIVA's retail arena. With this, VIVA customers now have the flexibility to login and access the specialized services, or use without having to separately log in.

Multiple options

Customers will also have the option to make multi- and other-payments on its SSM's as also with QuickPay and use its services to purchase and manage Add-ons, Prepaid Vouchers, International Credit Transfer, SIM card replacement and much more. A more simplified and efficient way for customers to manage their communications needs at their own convenience through the new SSM machines.

"Keeping up with technological changes and adhering to evolving customer requirements is a top priority for us at VIVA, enabling us to introduce digital services that are fast, easy-to-use and accessible 24/7. The new offerings, which is an extension of our overall digital transformation journey, are powerful and simple solutions designed to enrich the lives of our customers and create a truly integrated digital experience for them at VIVA. We look forward to continuing on digitally-enabled innovation growth and achieve more milestones in this area."

Ulaiyan Al Wetaid VIVA Bahrain CEO

Enhanced mobile App

The telecom operator has also enhanced its VIVA Mobile App with new navigation design and additional menu features to assist customers with bill payment and cycle, balance transfer, data usage and benefits, VIVA Rewards, AutoPay for Postpaid plans as well as Auto Recharge for Prepaid plans. Through the VIVA App, customers can also book a visit to the VIVA store with Skiplino and manage bulk payment options including the option to save credit cards. All customers have to do is download the VIVA App and enjoy the ease of accessing their accounts while on-the-go.

Smart queue management service

Another new digital offering from VIVA Bahrain is the new smart queue management service within its mobile application that allows customers to book a priority queue ticket at any of VIVA's 18 outlets. His new service powered by VIVA's partner, Skiplino, allows VIVA customers to join a queue ahead of their arrival at the branch, keeps them updated on the estimated time to reach the branch, the status of the queue and which desk will be servicing them. In case of any delays, this service allows VIVA customers to update their status through the App and hold their spot for an extra 10 minutes. Customers can even rate and submit instant feedback about their experience, allowing VIVA to continue enhancing its customer service.

Batelco, BIBF partners for digi learning



Batelco Bahrain CEO Mohamed Bubashait and BIBF Director Dr. Ahmed Al-Shaikh with BIBF and Batelco officials

Manama

Batelco has signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF) as part of endeavours to develop and enhance digital learning opportunities. Under the agreement, the BIBF will provide training programmes, focusing digital learning contents, and development solutions, designed to deliver new and enhanced opportunities for Batelco's employees.

In line with its digital strategy, Batelco is developing a Digital Talent Academy and the BIBF will support through providing relevant training content. A key deliverable of the agreement will be the accessibility of learning opportunities for Batelco's employees. Additionally Batelco and the BIBF will focus on gamification and

new generation learning models to further enhance the programme and benefit both organisations.

The partnership agreement was signed by Batelco Bahrain CEO Mohamed Bubashait and BIBF Director Dr. Ahmed Abdul Hameed Al-Shaikh at a recent meeting which was held at Batelco's HQ in Hamala.

Following the signing of the agreement, Bubashait said that Batelco was very pleased to enter into the memorandum of understanding with BIBF to support Batelco's evolving training and development programmes for its staff.

"Learning and Development is an essential part of Batelco's framework and staff already benefit from a wide range of learning opportunities in the classroom and online. The collaboration with the BIBF will take digital learning to a new era to be in line with

our growing requirements as a leader in the digital communications industry," he added.

Dr. Al Shaikh said that the BIBF was delighted to continue its relationship with Batelco through the signing of a new agreement, which will provide a number of mutual benefits for both organisations.

"This partnership comes at a time when digitalization across all industries is growing and more organisations recognise its importance for delivery of better results. At the BIBF we strive to be innovative and a leader in the delivery of training and educational programmes for individuals and organisations in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We know that ongoing professional development plays a tremendous role in the success of any organisation," added Dr. Al Shaikh.

NBB official elected as BFB Advisory Board Chairman

Manama

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) announced the appointment of Yaser Alsharifi, Chief Strategy Officer, as the Chairman of the Advisory Board of Bahrain Fintech Bay (BFB), the largest Fintech hub in the Middle East & Africa, as well as his appointment to BFB's Executive Board for 2018.

BFB's Advisory Board is comprised of representatives of its 30 Founding Partners, which include NBB among other regional and international banks and technology companies. In addition, two members of the Advisory



Yaser Alsharifi

Board are elected by their fellow Founding Partners each year on a rotational basis to sit on BFB's Executive Board helping to shape the hub's development including its programmes and events and opportunities for collaboration and value creation with partners.

Commenting, Alsharifi

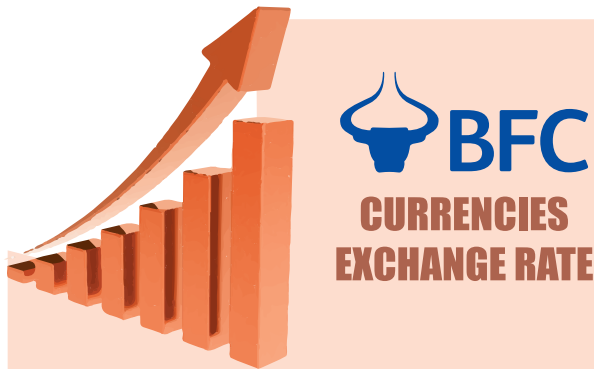
said, "I'm delighted with these appointments which reflect NBB's strong commitment to working with Bahrain Fintech Bay and its partners to drive the development of new Fintech solutions that can better enable banks like NBB to innovate and effectively meet rapidly evolving needs of our customers in today's digital age."

Khalid Saad, CEO of Bahrain Fintech Bay, said, "Together with our Board Members and executive team, we look forward to his contributions and those of NBB to accelerate the adoption of Fintech and BFB's position as the region's leading Fintech hub."

Did You Know?



The Boeing 787 Dreamliner contains approximately 2.3 million parts, which have been supplied from all over the world. The Boeing 737 had only 400 thousand parts.



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2922	0.2898
BANGLADESH	0.00471	0.00452
CANADA	0.3001	0.2969
DENMARK	0.0637	
EGYPT	0.0237	0.0219
EURO	0.4588	0.4563
HONGKONG	0.04967	0.04927
INDIA	0.00571	0.00569
INDONESIA	0.00002911	0.00002768
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000317	
JAPAN	0.00362	0.003550
JORDAN	0.5359	0.5351
KOREA	0.00040082	
KUWAIT	1.263	1.264
MALAYSIA	0.0982	0.0981
NEW ZEALAND	0.2696	0.2696
NORWAY	0.0489	
NEPAL	0.00387	0.00354
OMAN	0.98168	0.98301
PAKISTAN	0.00345	0.00327
PHILIPPINES	0.00743	0.00731
QATAR	0.10381	0.10404
SAUDI ARABIA	0.1006	0.10067
SINGAPORE	0.2879	0.2859
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03160	0.03150
SRI LANKA	0.00273	0.00240
SWEDISH	0.0459	
SWITZERLAND	0.3860	0.3829
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013600	
THAILAND	0.012120	0.012070
TURKEY	0.0955	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5196	0.5167
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102850	0.102870
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

Saudi petchems up, Bahrain's GFH shines



Closing Bell

Dubai

Most stock markets in the Gulf posted minor gains yesterday, reflecting last week's positive close in international stocks and on the back of firmer oil prices.

In Saudi Arabia, the benchmark index edged up 0.1 per cent, lifted by gains in the petrochemical sector.

Saudi petrochemical companies such as National Industrialization Company (Tasnee), Saudi Industrial Investment Group and blue-chip Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), gained 3.1pc, 3.0pc and 0.8pc respectively.

Outside of Saudi, Bahraini investment firm GFH Financial Group jumped 10.6pc after announcing that it had hired Gulf International Bank to help it in its efforts to cross-list on

the Saudi stock market.

The company also said it planned to raise its assets under management to \$30 billion, from a current \$6.2bn, according to its website. An offer to sell all of the company's real estate portfolio, also announced yesterday, offered further support to the shares.

The Bahraini index rose 1.0pc, benefiting from GFH's gains.

The Dubai index rose 0.8pc, lifted by a 4.6pc gain in contractor Drake & Scull. The shares dropped last week on news that the firm had not got approval to increase its capital through the entry of a new strategic partner.

Abu Dhabi investor Tabarak, the largest shareholder in the Dubai-based contractor, reassured investors, saying in a statement last week that it was

SAUDI ARABIA edged up 0.1pc to 8,114 points.

DUBAI gained 0.8pc to 2,972 points.

ABU DHABI ticked up 0.1pc to 4,560 points.

QATAR went up 1.2pc to 9,908 points.

KUWAIT lost 0.2pc to 4,784 points.

BAHRAIN gained 1.0pc to 1,276 points.

OMAN shed 0.2pc to 4,718 points.

EGYPT lost 1.2pc to 17,611 points.

committed to maintaining its shareholding position in the company and to support it in securing new banking facilities and construction contracts.

The best performer in Dubai was Gulf General Investment Co (GGICO), which jumped 12.6pc. The conglomerate is in talks with lenders to restructure loans and credit

lines after defaulting on a debt repayment last year.

The Abu Dhabi index posted a marginal gain of 0.1pc, boosted by Arkan Building Materials, which jumped 11.7pc after reporting a year-on-year increase in first quarter net profit last week, to 11.7m dirham from 10.6m dirham.(Reuters)

KFH-Bahrain launches new VISA 'SmartPay' credit card

Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has announced the launch of its new VISA credit card 'SmartPay'. This new product reiterates the Bank's commitment to continuously providing flexible financing solutions that address specific needs and provide enhanced benefits for its clients.

'SmartPay' provides card holders with the option of scheduling their payments across 36 months depending

on the monthly instalment plan they choose.

On this occasion, the Executive Manager and Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, Khalid Rafea said, "SmartPay provides ideal banking solutions through its many features including comfortable instalments. In today's challenging market the client demands for easier, more reliable and transparent services are increasing rapidly. The 'SmartPay' product is one way for KFH-Bahrain to try

to meet these demands and add a holistic convenience to our cardholders by offering them a reliable way to manage their credit card payments," he added.

'SmartPay' is a Sharia'a compliant product and grants extended warranty and purchase protection. It also provides exclusive services in more than 25 Airport Lounges, free supplementary cards provided upon client request as well as free travel insurance and cash withdraw service.

KFH Credit Cards provide its holders free air miles with their preferred air lines company. In addition, KFHB Credit Card holders who invest in "Libshara" will automatically enrol in Libshara segment draw to get the chance of winning cash prizes.

For more information regarding KFH-Bahrain banking services, please contact us on 77777777 or visit the nearest branch or visit www.kfh.bh

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3774	0.3448
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.2166	0.2858	0.2611
OMAN	0.3849	0.3845	0.3853	0.3520
QATAR	3.6420	3.6380	3.6460	3.3309
UAE	3.6730	3.6690	3.6770	3.3592
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7459	3.7541	3.4297

It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment.
-Carl Friedrich Gauss



CAMPUS

Campus@dt.bh

Monday, May 7, 2018

11

Indian School and Al Noor win Scrabble tournament

The first ever app-driven Scrabble Tournament in Bahrain was hosted by Ramli Mall on Saturday.

The day-long tournament re-worked the much loved word-board game into a 21st-century format and was a first for the Ramli Mall too. The brisk tournament saw the participation of nearly 100 children from various schools across the kingdom.

There were three age categories: 8 to 11 years, 11 to 14 years, and 14 years & above. The winners in each category received trophies and gift vouchers from the mall. The first prize for age group 8 to 11 years was bagged by Nandana Unnikrishnan of Indian School. Vivian George of Indian School was awarded first prize in 11 to 14 years group and Chris Vipin of Al Noor International School received the first prize for 14 years & above group. All the participants were given a participation certificate.

The tournament was coordinated by well-known professional Bahraini Scrabble player Mohammed Irfan Siddiqui, who has represented Bahrain in 5 World Scrabble Championships and is currently ranked amongst the top 200 players in the world.



Students during the tournament

Bahrain Indian School celebrates Labour Day

On the occasion of Labour Day, a special assembly by Grade VIII students was held at the Bahrain Indian School.

Principal Saji Jacob presided the assembly. Students presented a skit highlighting the respect that should

be given to the workers who are a helping hand in our daily chores of life.

The sub-staff working in the school were called on the stage and were presented a card by the School Principal and the Coordinator. School

Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob acknowledged their contributions and hard work as extended by them for the welfare of the school.

The students of all the grades also contributed money for their living and

well being which was further donated to The Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS). The sub-staff were overwhelmed watching the function and expressed their gratitude towards the school management, teachers and students for their endeavour.



Thanks giving by KG students to helping hands



Thanks giving by School Officials to helping hands

Record breaking enrollment for Sastra Pratibha Contest

All time high, more than 12000 students have been registered for the much acclaimed Science Talent Test, popularly known as "Sastra Pratibha Contest (SPC)".

Science India Forum (SIF) Bahrain supported by Embassy of India to Bahrain, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Vijnana Bharati India is organizing the Sixth SPC at the 8 schools in Bahrain on 31 May.

Three groups, namely; Sub-Junior (5 to 7 grade), Junior (8 to 10 grade) and Senior (11 and 12 grade) students take this one hour first Level exam with 100 objective questions prepared and evaluated by the New Delhi, India, based National Science Movement of India.

The 8 participating schools are; The Indian School, The New Indian school, The Asian School, The New Millennium School, Bahrain India School, The New Horizon School, The Al Noor School and Quality Education School.

The Second Level of Sastra Pratibha Contest shall be organized in Sep 2018 as a Science Camp. The study materials for the registered students can be download from www.sifbahrain.com.



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received state officials, intellectuals, cultural, press and economic personalities and scores of citizens at the Gudaiyiya Palace yesterday. HRH Prime Minister



Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa received the President of the US Soccer Federation (USSF) Carlos Cordeiro, the President of the Mexican Football Federation (FEMEXFUT) Decio de Maria, and the General Secretary of the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) Peter Montopoli, at Riffa Palace. The Deputy King welcomed the delegation to Bahrain and commended the role of football in bringing countries and people together, as well as promoting the values of fair play, team work and perseverance among youth.



Adviser to HM the King for Media Affairs Nabeel Alhamer received the newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador Hideki Ito. Al-Hamar welcomed the new ambassador and wished him every success in carrying out his diplomatic duties to bolster the solid distinguished relations between the two friendly countries and peoples, praising the steady progress of bilateral relations in various fields.



Chief Executive of the Supreme Environment Council Dr. Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah received newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador Hideki Ito. He welcomed him and congratulated him on his appointment. He also lauded Japan's advanced level in many environmental fields, voicing keenness on bilateral coordination to benefit from those experiences.



Friends of Bahrain 'Indian Icon 2018' award night was held at Adhari Park on Thursday. Bahrain based Businessman VK Rajasekharan Pillai received Pravasi Icon Award from Indian Playback Singer S.P Balasubrahmanyam at the ceremony while SPAC Group Chairman P Unnikrishnan received Man of the Year Award. Media Icon Award was won by Media One TV Reporter Siraj Pallikkara while Diamond Award was won by Moni Othil. Friends of India Bahrain Icon award was handed over to S.P Balasubrahmanyam by Friends of Bahrain Chairman FM Faizal.



Minister has stressed that expatriates are playing a commendable role in the development witnessed by the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Interior Minister Lt-Gen Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received the newly-appointed Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Bahrain An Wa'er. The Interior Minister praised the Bahraini-Chinese relations and the level of cooperation in security areas, wishing the ambassador a successful mission in Bahrain.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received UAE Ambassador Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan and praised the strong relations between the two countries. The minister also gave the ambassador a presentation on the projects of the Electricity and Water Authority and the Sustainable Energy Unit, including the sustainability of the national plan to raise energy efficiency and the national plan for renewable energy.



Chairman of the Sunni Endowments Council Dr. Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajeri received Secretary General of the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Dr Mustafa Sayed. He paid tribute to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his paternal care for the orphans and widows and tremendous support to charity and humanitarian work in Bahrain and beyond. He expressed appreciation of the vital role played by Bahrain in promoting charity and humanitarian work all over the world.



Alba is conducting a series of leadership workshops which will be held from May 6 -8 for Alba Top Management, 2nd Line Management and 1st Line Management at Alba Club. Presented by the renowned management expert Mr. John Skladan, the 1-day workshop under the title of 'Why do I want to be a leader?' is designed to provide a practical framework to each of Alba's management levels as the Company is preparing to be transformed with Line 6 Expansion Project.



manyam dikkanda-



Sri Lanka Club Bahrain conducted the Lal Thenabadu Memorial Mega Soft Ball Cricket Tournament 2018 on Friday at Busainteen Club grounds. 16 Men's and 4 Ladies' teams participated in the tournament that was witnessed by more than thousand spectators. The event was organised as part of Sri Lanka Club's 40th anniversary in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

CELEBS



Kevin Jonas @kevinjonas
 .@bryanlanning my daughter is obsessed with "this is home" She keeps running around singing it

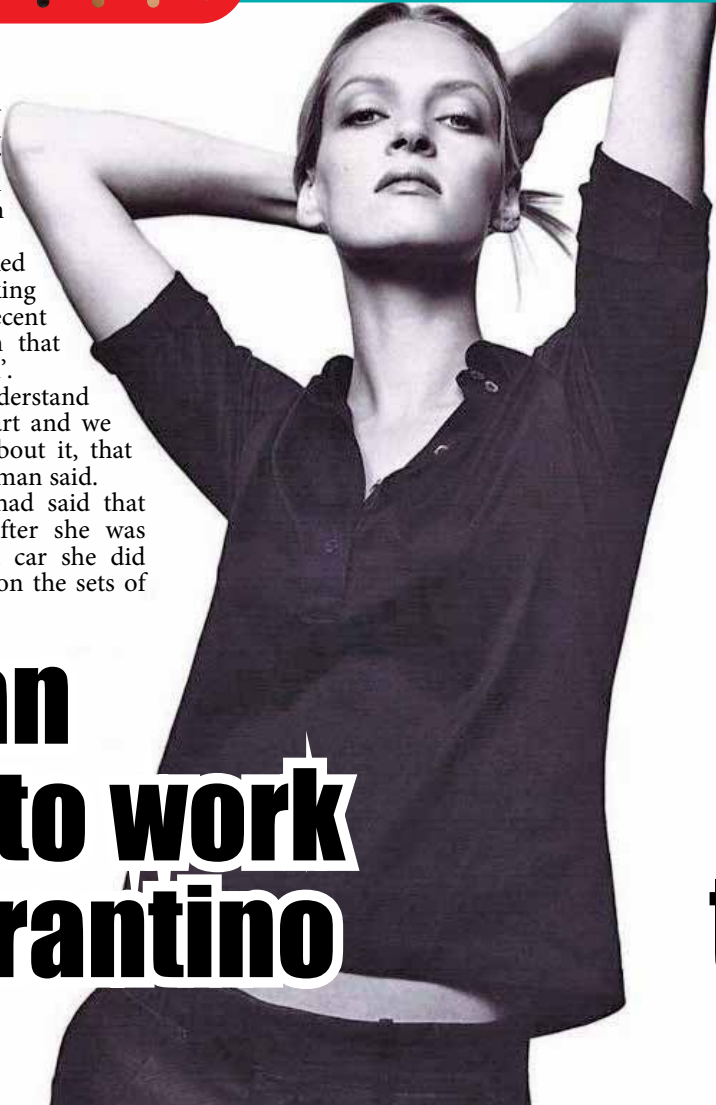
Los Angeles

Uma Thurman has said she always shared a 'good relationship' with filmmaker Quentin Tarantino and is open to working with him once again if he wrote 'a good part' for her.

In an interview, she was asked whether she is open to working with the director despite the recent revelation about the car crash that happened on the sets of 'Kill Bill'.

"If he wrote a great part! I understand him and if he wrote a great part and we were both in the right place about it, that would be something else," Thurman said.

Earlier this year, Thurman had said that she suffered severe injuries after she was pressured into driving a stunt car she did not feel comfortable operating on the sets of Tarantino's film. (PTI)



Thurman willing to work with Tarantino again



Los Angeles

Director Will Gluck will be back to helm the sequel of "Peter Rabbit", which is slated to open in 2020.

Sony Pictures has dated "Peter Rabbit 2" for release on February 7, 2020 in the US and March 27, 2020 in the UK. Gluck will be writing the sequel too, reports variety.com.

The film adaptation is based on the classic tale by Beatrix Potter about Peter Rabbit and his family. It narrates the adventures that Peter Rabbit (voiced by James Corden) and his sisters Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-Tail (Margot Robbie, Elizabeth Debicki and Daisy Ridley) undergo to reclaim their home.

It highlights the tussle between humans and animals. It also stars Domhnall Gleeson and Rose Byrne. (IANS)

'Peter Rabbit' to get a sequel



Celeb Facts

Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys is the ambassador and co-founder of a non-profit organization called 'Keep a Child Alive,' providing medicines in Africa for HIV and AIDS (thefactsite)

Post Malone to headline Billboard Music Awards

Las Vegas

Rapper Post Malone, who will be heading to the 2018 Billboard Music Awards as a nominee, will be headlining the official Billboard Music Awards after-party as well.

The rapper, who has scored 13 nominations across 12 categories for the ceremony on May 20, will keep the festivities going at Hakkasan at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino, reports billboard.com.

Stars like Ariana Grande, Camila Cabello, Dua Lipa and Shawn Mendes will be performing at the award gala, to be hosted by Kelly Clarkson. It will air in India on Vh1 on May 21. (IANS)



Blake Lively back on Instagram

Los Angeles

Actress Blake Lively is back on Instagram after wiping her feed completely and unfollowing everyone on her list including her husband and actor Ryan Reynolds.

The actress shared a new photograph of herself on Friday, added her old photographs and resumed

following Reynolds, reports usmagazine.com.

"Re-uploading my page and loving this excuse to post this outfit from last month that I forgot to post the next day," she captioned the image of herself in which she is seen wearing a black-and-white dress and tan coat.

(IANS)



Fashion tip of the week



(harpersbazaar.com)

American model Kendall Jenner in a long-sleeved equestrian-printed midi dress by Longchamp, black laceup boots, and small-frame shades

Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall to star in 'The Forgiveness'

Actors Ralph Fiennes and Rebecca Hall are all set to feature in 'The Forgiveness'.

The film, to be directed by John Michael McDonagh, is the big screen adaptation of the 2012 Lawrence Osborne novel of the same name.

According to a report, Mark Strong and Said Taghmaoui are also in talks to star in the project.

The plot traces the effects of an accident an English couple encounter when they are passing through the Moroccan desert and the locals who cross paths at a weekend party in a luxurious villa.

McDonagh is producing alongside Elizabeth Eves for their shingle House of Un-American Activities. (PTI)



STARRY
Birthday
Alexander Ludwig

May 7, 1992

Actor best known for his role as Cato in the 2012 film *The Hunger Games*, for which he received a Teen Choice Award nomination for Best Villain. He replaced Nathan O'Toole as Bjorn Lothbrok in *Vikings* and portrayed Navy SEAL Shane Patton in *Lone Survivor*.

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OUT & ABOUT

NIGHT OF ARABIC CLASSIC FILMS: DALILA (1956)

Date: 10 May 2018, 7:00pm
Venue: Bahrain Fort Museum

Egyptian film, starring Abdulhalim Hafez and Shadya. The film tells the story of a poor electrician who is passionate about music. The guy falls in love with his orphan roommate, only to find out later that she is ill but can't afford the treatment.

IFTAR IN BLU AT THE DIPLOMAT RADISSON BLU HOTEL!

Date: 16th May 2018 to 14th June 2018
Venue: The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa

The sumptuous spread of Iftar buffets at Bahrain's five-star hotels are served on daily bases starting from sundown to 8:30pm! Special Group package are available for 10 guests!

RAMADAN IFTAR

Date: 16th May 2018 to 14th June 2018
Venue: Lobby Level, 25N 50 Eatery, The Grove Hotel and Conference Centre

Join us throughout the holy month of Ramadan at 25N 50 Eatery, Savor the exquisite array of traditional specialties and delicious Bahraini Ramadan favorites with your friends and family at our daily Iftar buffet.

SURF AND TURF

Date: 17th April 2018 to 16th May 2018
Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

Indulge in a sumptuous Bahraini-inspired combination of prime steak and seafood served with freshly made side dish. Price: a la carte. Timings: April 17 to May 16, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

FRIDAY - GULF GRAND BRUNCH

Date: Friday
Venue: Al Waha Gulf Hotel
Friday - Gulf Grand Brunch from 12.30 pm to 4 pm with a live band, a dedicated kids play area, swimming pool access, after party at Typhoon lounge and lots more fun for the entire family.

CHINA GARDEN, CHINESE RESTAURANT

Date: Open from Monday to Saturday.
Venue: Gulf Hotel

Mainland China brought to your plate. The restaurant, which is designed in a modern oriental style, offers a varied selection of food influenced by distinct Chinese regions creating Cantonese, Szechuan and Peking specialties. Signature dishes, including Chinese dim sum and Peking duck, are traditionally prepared by a team of renowned Chinese Chefs under leadership of Chef Ding to bring the tastes of mainland China to the Gulf hotel. China Garden is rumored to have been one of Michael Jackson's favourite restaurants when he lived in Bahrain. Voted as Best Chinese restaurant

by FACT Awards and Time Out. China Garden caters for 105 covers for lunch and dinner. Two private dining rooms are also available.

SATO, JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Date: Open Daily
Venue: Gulf Hotel Bahrain

The Gulf Hotel's distinguished Sato restaurant has earned itself a reputation for serving the absolute best in Japanese cuisine. It is favored by guests who are said to love its peaceful Zen-like surroundings and exquisite features, including Teppanyaki rooms and a sushi bar with a smoking section. A popular à la carte menu is also available and features a wide range of traditional noodle dishes and bento. Sato makes the perfect location for those looking for a genuine insight into Japanese cuisine and culture. For an intimate experience, two private dining rooms are also available.

RASOI BY VINEET

Date: Open daily Sun to Thur's 12 noon to 3pm
Venue: Gulf Hotel

Rasoi by Vineet is the first fine-dining restaurant in Bahrain operated by a Michelin starred chef. Renowned chef-restaurateur Vineet Bhatia, three times awarded a Michelin star, takes you on a delectable Michelin-style journey into the world of contemporary Indian cuisine. To complement the innovative cuisine, enjoy our equally imaginative decor. Offering a modern interpretation of traditional Indian style, the décor uses vibrant colours,

imaginative artworks and sparkling crystals to create a dramatic interior overlooked by a team of Indian chef's creating the finest Indian food from the show-kitchen. Rasoi By Vineet caters for 130 covers for lunch and dinner and features a private Chef's Table dining room.

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: HEART OF THE OCEAN

Date: May 8, 11am to 1pm
Venue: Swiss-Belhotel Seef

Our goal is to address the issue of plastic pollution and how it impacts our waters, sea life and humans. All our tickets are sold out and we expect to gather an important group of ladies from the Bahraini community, members and non-members of AWA. The panelists will be: Kate - Environment Arabia, Kai Miethig - Tariq Faqeeh Engineering, Mary McGinnis - Exec. Director American Chamber of Commerce and AWA member Ruqaya - CleanUp Bahrain. The movie No Water, No Life, No Blue, No Green - A Plastic Ocean, an adventure documentary that brings to light the consequences of our global disposable lifestyle, will be screened. It was filmed in 20 locations. The core aim of the initiative is to raise environmental awareness within the Bahraini society and how people can actively participate in the events of CleanUp Bahrain for a greener and cleaner Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with Tariq Faqeeh Engineering under the umbrella of the German Embassy Bahrain with the support of Supreme Council for Environment.

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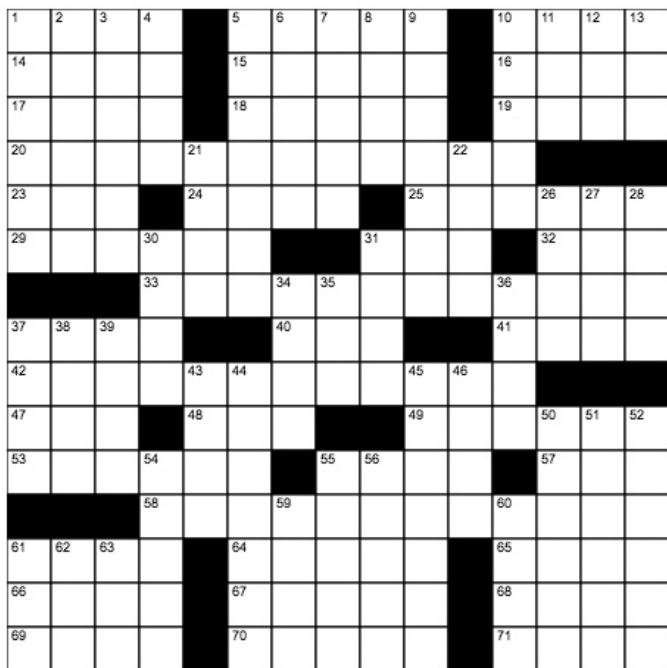
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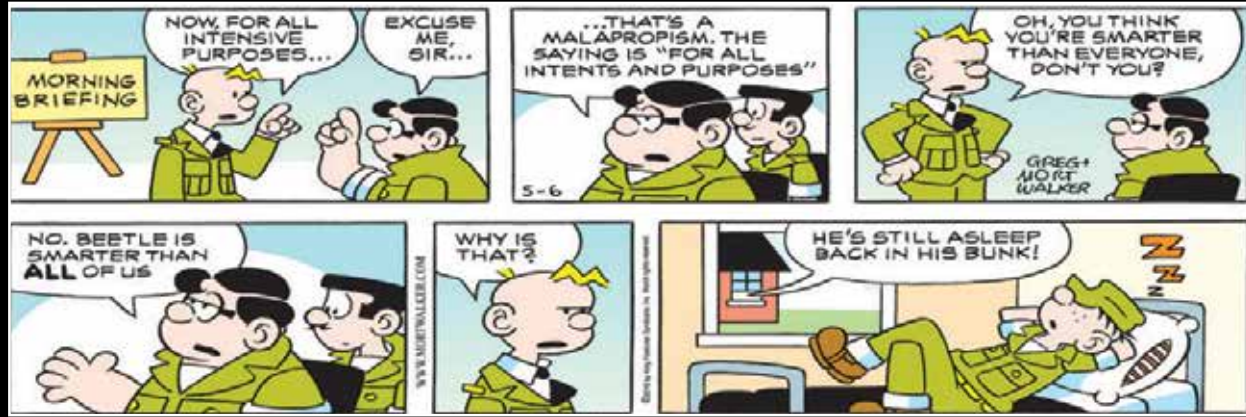
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



Across
 1- Collective word for intellectual pursuits; 5- Deadly African snake; 10- Monarch; 14- ___ Beach, Florida; 15- Healing plants; 16- Suffix with exist; 17- And others, briefly; 18- Easy gaits; 19- Standard; 20- Treatment of disease by X rays; 23- Sprechen ___ Deutsch?; 24- Votes for; 25- Jazz fan?; 29- Follows; 31- Eskimo knife; 32- End for Siam; 33- Foreordain; 37- Blue-pencil; 40- Old California fort; 41- Like ___ not; 42- The largest lizard in the world; 47- Uncommon sense; 48- Wall St. debut; 49- Sayings; 53- Opening word; 55- Yard tunneler; 57- CPR giver; 58- Persistence; 61- Travel on water; 64- Skylit lobbies; 65- Antelope's playmate; 66- Drop ___ (moon); 67- Spoil; 68- Bakery fixture; 69- Hankerings; 70- First name in cosmetics; 71- Actress Thompson;

Down
 1- Disinclined; 2- Keep possession of; 3- Swaps; 4- Arias, usually; 5- The ___ Falcon; 6- Luau greeting; 7- Acts down; 8- Ale, e.g.; 9- Onslaught; 10- Nairobi's nation; 11- Daughter of Cadmus; 12- ATM maker; 13- Precious stone; 21- ___ and terminator (criminal court); 22- Spitting sound; 26- Furnace output; 27- Respecting; 28- Not e'en once; 30- ___ no good; 31- Meat-grading org.; 34- Extinct bird; 35- Sin; 36- Columbus' ship; 37- Supplements, with "out"; 38- Medicinal amount; 39- Little rascals; 43- Thin change; 44- Function; 45- Shaped like a hood; 46- River to the Baltic; 50- Swiss city; 51- Hosted; 52- Breastbones; 54- Great grade; 55- Reason for a raise; 56- Sheeplike; 59- RR stops; 60- Bustles; 61- Eye infection, pig house; 62- 100 square meters; 63- Charged atom;

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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)



Your physical strength is topnotch. Now is a terrific time to join a sports team or start a company soccer program. Others will respect your leadership abilities. Your glow as a self-confident, constructive being is radiating positive energy. This combination of forces is extremely powerful. You have the opportunity to be wonderfully productive at this time.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



You may feel indecisive, insecure, and stuck in the middle of a difficult situation. Your energy could be drawn in one direction while your self-confidence is pulled in another. This dilemma has to do with your inability to integrate different aspects of your life that you try to keep separate. Try to look at things in terms of the whole.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Communication with others should be very effective, and your social calendar will be full. You're feeling good about yourself, thanks to a boost in confidence that reminds you that you can do anything. You have the ability to juggle many things at once and the physical endurance to keep up a quick pace.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Relating to people may be difficult for you, since you get the feeling that others don't see things as deeply or emotionally as you. Perhaps you feel everyone is shallow, making them luckier in one sense yet deprived in another. Try not to focus on others so much. Just concentrate on you. Don't take yourself so seriously. Adopt a more lighthearted approach to life.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



You have a great deal of physical energy. At times, you may feel as if you have an endless wellspring of power. You're at a climactic point in your yearly cycle, when things are coming to a dramatic apex. Difficulties that pertain to this climax are likely to make you act out in an aggressive manner if things don't go your way. Find a constructive outlet for all this physical energy.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Finding the comfort point may be difficult for you. You might feel as if you aren't connecting with your ideals or goals. Even though you try to put things into motion, they don't really pan out the way you'd like. There's a difficult energy making you feel like you need to join one camp or the other to feel accepted. The problem is that neither side looks appealing.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Your upbeat, lively nature is fueled by the fast-paced energy at hand. You have a great deal of physical strength available to you, and you can make tremendous strides in your yearly goals with very minimal effort. Take advantage of this time by focusing on your own needs. There is a great deal of support in place that will help you accomplish whatever your goals may be.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Your indecisiveness may plague you. This is one of those times when you feel as if one second of hesitation will cost you dearly. Yet you take a while to process and internalize things before you're ready to act on them. Others may act and speak before they think. Don't get upset at yourself for handling things the way you do. More than anything, it's your lack of self-confidence that's holding you back.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



You're now in a terrific position to make a significant move in your life. With a great deal of physical energy coupled with incredibly high self-esteem, you have what it takes to make a major push toward larger goals. There's opportunity coming at you from all angles, and the energy at hand is fast and furious.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



You might feel as if you can't access your physical energy now. You may experience frustration when you try to engage in a sport. You don't feel as if things are clicking into place as easily as they should. This feeling is taking a toll on your sense of self. Don't get down on yourself for feeling this way. Accept the fact that there are good times and not so good times for doing certain things.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Your physical vitality should be quite strong, and you're encouraged by greater self-confidence. At the same time, however, someone seems to be trying to ruffle your feathers by being selfish and disrespectful of your space. This is likely to lead to conflict that you don't need. The good news is that it's likely to open you up to a different perspective.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Things could be moving more quickly than makes you comfortable right now. You may feel as if your own needs and agenda are getting lost in the fury bubbling around you. The secret key to add to your toolbox is the ability to go with the flow. It's crucial to be adaptable and roll with the punches rather than be victimized by them.

Pakistan mine blast kills 23



Ambulances arrive on the scene after a methane gas explosion inside a coal mine in Quetta, Pakistan

The death toll from Saturday's coal mine blast and landslides in southwest Pakistan climbed to 23 yesterday, officials said, after ending their rescue operation.

At least 16 miners died on Saturday and more than a dozen were trapped after an explosion in a mine in the Marwar coalfields in Baluchistan province, Director of Disaster Management Attaullah Khan said.

A methane gas build-up inside the mine caused the blast, Khan said. Chief inspector

of mines Iftikhar Ahmad said the rescue operation overnight pulled out 11 injured miners.

He said two labourers died in a landslide on Saturday in another mine in Surrang coalfields. It was not immediately clear if that was caused by the explosion.

"Rescuers retrieved five more bodies from this mine," he said.

Another official, Mohammad Atif, said authorities had opened an investigation after sealing both mines.

Accidents are frequent in the province's mines, where safety

measures are basic and many of the workforce come from other parts of Pakistan.

The mines are mostly owned by state-run Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation, which leases many of them to private contractors.

The country has huge coal reserves estimated at more than 184 billion tonnes. It produces 4 million tonnes of coal annually, most of which is consumed by brick-making kilns.

The Marwar and Surrang coalfields lie east of Baluchistan's capital Quetta. (Reuters)

Tests show no hidden rooms in Tutankhamun chamber

Cairo

Egypt's antiquities ministry said on Sunday that tests had debunked a theory that there are hidden chambers next to the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings.

Experts used ground penetrating radar (GPR) which provided "conclusive evidence of the non-existence of hidden chambers adjacent to or inside Tutankhamun's tomb," the ministry said in a statement.

More details will be announced in a speech later in the day by the head of an Italian scientific team, Francesco Porcelli, of the Polytechnic University in Turin, the statement said.

It said Porcelli had submitted a report that "concluded, with a very high degree of confidence... the hypothesis concerning the existence of hidden chambers or corridors



The sarcophagus of King Tutankhamun displayed in his burial chamber in the Valley of the Kings

adjacent to Tutankhamun's tomb is not supported by GPR data."

Previous scans had suggested the possibility of hidden chambers, although experts disagreed on the results.

British Egyptologist Nicholas Reeves had theorised that the tomb was in fact that of Nefertiti, the wife of

Tutankhamun's father, King Akhenaten.

The theory held that when the boy king died unexpectedly at a young age, he was rushed into the outer chamber of the tomb in southern Egypt.

Akhenaten was known for trying and failing to force Egypt to convert to monotheism. (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think Lebanon's major parties will need to form a coalition government after the election results come out?

Yes No Cant Say



"It doesn't matter who runs. We don't wait for the one person to save us. We voted for Barack Obama and he didn't end racism,"

Michelle Obama
Former US first lady

Rest in sight

Russian protest leader Navalny released



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was detained during a weekend protest on the eve of Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a fourth term, has been released and faces a court hearing next week.

SpaceX's Dragon cargo ship returns

SpaceX's unmanned Dragon cargo ship splashed down in the Pacific Ocean few hours after leaving the International Space Station carrying 4,000 pounds (1,800 kilograms) of gear.

Tunisia votes in municipal elections

Tunisia held its first free municipal elections as voters expressed frustration at the slow pace of change since the 2011 revolution in the cradle of the Arab Spring.

7 Indians abducted in Afghanistan

Militants abducted seven Indian and an Afghan employees of an Indian company KEC in Baghlan province in Afghanistan

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UK royals release pictures of newborn Prince Louis



The photograph, taken on May 2, Charlotte's third birthday, shows the princess holding her sleeping younger brother.

London

Britain's royal family yesterday released two pictures of its newest arrival, Prince Louis, taken by his mother Kate at their Kensington Palace home.

In one touching image, three-year-old Princess Charlotte is kissing her sleeping brother, while the other shows the royal baby propped against a cushion.

"The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are very pleased to share two photographs of Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis," said a Kensington Palace statement.

The image with Princess Charlotte was taken on May 2 - her third birthday - while the other, in which Louis wears a white jumper and trousers, was taken on April 26, three days after he was born. (AFP)

Some calming of Hawaii volcano, but scientists wary



Lava from the Kilauea volcano moves across the road in the Leilani Estates in Pahoehoe, Hawaii

Pahoehoe, Hawaii

The number of homes destroyed by lava shooting out of openings in the ground created by Hawaii's Kilauea volcano climbed to five as some of the more than 1,700 people who evacuated prepared for the possibility they may not return for quite some time.

"I have no idea how soon we can get back," said Todd Corrigan, who left his home in Leilani Estates with his wife on Friday as lava burst through the ground three or four blocks from their home. They spent the night on the beach in their car and began looking for a vacation rental.

The Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory said eight vents, each several hundred yards (meters) long, opened in the neighbourhood since Thursday. By late Saturday the fissures had quieted down and were only releasing steam and gas.

Scientists said Kilauea was likely to release more lava through additional vents, but they were unable to predict exactly where. Leilani Estates, a subdivision in the mostly rural district of Puna, is at greatest risk. Authorities ordered more than 1,700 residents to evacuate from there and nearby Lanipuna Gardens. (AP)

Golovkin destroys Martirosyan

Gennady Golovkin ended the fight with a vicious series of right and left combinations that floored the heavy underdog Vanes Martirosyan

London

Gennady Golovkin equalled the record of 20 straight world middleweight title defences with a devastating second-round knockout of Vanes Martirosyan on Saturday to retain his WBA and WBC belts.

Golovkin ended the fight with a vicious series of right and left combinations that floored the heavy underdog Martirosyan, who appeared doomed from the outset of the hastily arranged fight at the StubHub Centre.

"The first round I was just looking, because I know he is a good fighter," the 36-year-old Golovkin said. "The second round it was true business."

Martirosyan was in big trouble from the beginning of the second round as Golovkin rendered the challenger helpless by landing a right uppercut on the chin.

He followed with a few stinging jabs and then a full throttle left hook and straight right on the ropes that put Martirosyan down for good at 1:53 of the round.

The American tried to get

up before the 10 count but slumped forward, ending up face down on the canvas. Golovkin, who is boxing's longest-reigning current world titleholder, is now unbeaten in 39 fights, including 34 by knockout.

Martirosyan was a last-minute replacement following the cancellation of the Kazakh's much anticipated rematch with Canelo Alvarez of Mexico.

The rematch was cancelled because of Alvarez's two failed drug tests in February, followed by his suspension by the Nevada State Athletic Commission on April 18.

Alvarez will be free to fight once his suspension ends in August.

Saturday's event was moved from Las Vegas to south central Los Angeles and Golovkin fought for a fraction of the

money he would have received for a fight against Alvarez.

With the victory he now joins Bernard Hopkins for the division record of 20 successful title defences. Golovkin (38-0-1, 34 KOs) is now in line to surpass Hopkins in the fall when he hopes to finally get that rematch with Alvarez.

"I want everybody," said Golovkin. "It doesn't matter to me. I am still the champion ... guys come and take my belts."

The 31-year-old Martirosyan, who normally fights at light middleweight, was completely outclassed as he stepped up a division to face the hard-hitting Golovkin.

"It was like being hit by a train," Martirosyan said. "That is the hardest puncher I have ever faced. He surprised me with his power. He is a hell of a fighter." (AFP)

Vanes Martirosyan was in big trouble from the beginning of the second round



Gennady Golovkin celebrates (Pic courtesy: AP)

Bellew beats Haye in fifth round Joshua warns Wilder he cannot be bought

London

Tony Bellew produced an explosive performance to land a stunning second stoppage win in 14 months over fellow Briton David Haye at London's O2 Arena.

Bellew, 35, looked at his best as he evaded a Haye attack in round three before landing a superb left hook and right hand to floor his heavyweight rival.

A second knockdown followed moments later and Bellew - the underdog with bookmakers, as he was in the previous fight - delivered a pinpoint left hand in the fifth to again send Haye down.

Haye nodded to acknowledge the shot and rose, only to be placed under intense attack, prompting referee Howard Foster to stop the fight and send Bellew racing to the corner of the ring in celebration.

Bellew looked overjoyed and close to tears as he surely ended a rivalry which had been a focal point in British boxing for more than 18 months.

Haye, 37, said before the fight that he needed a spectacular win to prolong his career, and it is seems unlikely that the



Tony Bellew (R) in action with David Haye (Pic courtesy: Reuters)

former world heavyweight and cruiserweight champion will continue beyond this.

This rivalry has seen verbal sparring, torrid insults, fines and warnings from the British Boxing Board of Control,

Achilles and biceps surgery for Haye and soul-searching for Bellew.

Bellew - with his late brother-in-law Ashley's name across his shorts - said he thought the relative who died in August

was sat in the arena somewhere watching him.

His display was inspired; he felt his way into the first two rounds as both men postured after coming under attack. (BBC)

Joshua warns Wilder he cannot be bought

London

Anthony Joshua has revealed talks are ongoing with Deontay Wilder and he expects to fight his fellow heavyweight champion this year.

The IBF, WBO, and WBA (Super) champion is aiming to become the undisputed heavyweight champion, but must beat WBC king Wilder to claim that title. Wilder has issued a \$50million fight offer to Joshua and insisted the Brit must accept the offer before any contracts will be sent.

Joshua's team have asked for further clarity about the specifics of Wilder's offer,

and the 29-year-old insisted he could not be so easily bought. 'It will be this year. I'm really, really interested,' Joshua said. 'You can't just talk about finances, I know there's financial gain.'

'You can't just buy me out. I want to see the devil in the detail and build this fight to it's full potential. 'It's potentially going to happen at the end of the year and we're working tirelessly to make it happen.'

Matchroom promoter Eddie Hearn has sent a host of questions over to Wilder's team after receiving the \$50m offer. (Metro.co.uk)



Anthony Joshua (file pic)

Ferguson remains in intensive care



Alex Ferguson (file pic)

London
Former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson remains in intensive care after having emergency surgery on Saturday for a brain haemorrhage.

A United statement said the procedure "had gone very well" but there is no update on the 76-year-old's condition.

The Scot retired as United manager in May 2013 after winning 38 trophies during 26 years in charge.

He was at Old Trafford last Sunday when he presented Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger with a commemorative trophy.

Ferguson's family have requested privacy as he recovers in Salford Royal Hospital.

"We will keep Sir Alex and his loved ones in our thoughts during this time, and we are united in our wish to see him make a comfortable, speedy recovery," United later said in a tweet.

"He needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery."

The most successful manager in the history of the British game, Ferguson's trophy haul at Old Trafford included 13 Premier League titles, two Champions League crowns, five FA Cups and four League Cups. (BBC)

Champions Celtic triumph

London
Champions Celtic came from behind to hand Hearts their first home defeat since returning to Tynecastle.

Kyle Lafferty gave the hosts the lead with a fine right-foot finish but Dedryck Boyata nodded in the leveller three minutes later.

Moussa Dembele hit the bar with a neat lob and after half-time he made it 2-1 following a sublime Tom Rogic pass.

Scott Sinclair tapped in the third in stoppage time as Brendan Rodgers' side dominated the second half.

The only down-side for Celtic boss Brendan Rodgers was an injury to in-form striker Odsonne Edouard, who had to go off with looked like a

hamstring problem in the second half.

Rodgers had expressed his disappointment with the Tynecastle surface before kick-off, insisting the grass had been left long to slow his side down, and his team were second best in the opening minutes.

Hearts looked to have hit the front after 17 minutes when John Souttar knocked the ball home from close range, but referee Bobby Madden ruled it out for a foul on Celtic keeper Scott Bain. Seconds later and the hosts did grab the opener.

Steven Naismith fed the ball to Lewis Moore and his flick-on fell perfectly for Lafferty, who took one touch and smashed it through Bain from a tight angle. (BBC)

City lift Premier League title

Premier League champions Manchester City were held to a 0-0 draw by Huddersfield Town, who took a further step toward top-flight safety



Manchester City players lifted the Premier League trophy (Pic courtesy: theguardian)

London
Manchester City failed to fire on the day they were presented with the Premier League trophy as Huddersfield Town claimed a vital point at the Etihad Stadium.

The champions lacked their usual ferocity and had to settle for a goalless draw against a Huddersfield side who dug in for a result that could be critical in their battle to avoid relegation.

City had gone into the game on the brink of breaking Premier League records for most wins, most goals and most points in a season but all three were put on hold.

For the Terriers, with tough final games against Chelsea and Arsenal to come, the unexpected point was hugely welcome, putting them in touching distance of safety.

They had to work hard for it, though, as City, despite lacking their usual intensity, dominated possession in their customary

manner. John Stones returned from injury for his first City appearance in two months and the hosts were comfortable stroking the ball out from the back.

David Silva tested Jonas Lossl in the early stages and Kevin De Bruyne fired wide from the edge of the area but Huddersfield generally coped well with their advances and carried some threat themselves.

The visitors carved out an early opening when Aaron Mooy shot wide and Florent Hadergjonaj worked Ederson after a quickly-taken free kick.

Alex Pritchard also forced a save from Ederson and Chris Lowe thrashed another attempt wide of the mark. Between these openings City dictated the pace of play but they could not find a way through.

Gabriel Jesus did get behind the defence but his ball for Raheem Sterling was poor and Lossl pushed

away another effort from De Bruyne.

The visitors survived a scare early in the second half when Lossl failed to claim a corner and the ball rebounded towards goal off Steve Mounie but Christopher Schindler hacked off the line.

City sent on Benjamin Mendy and Ilkay Gundogan but they struggled to create a threat.

As time wore on, Huddersfield began to sense they could snatch an unlikely point. When Tommy Smith was booked for delaying the taking of a free kick just after the hour it was clear they hoped they could hold out.

City laboured to create chances and when Mendy did carve one out with a decent cross, Jesus headed well over. Bernardo Silva also shot wide and Mendy blasted over.

Huddersfield might have nicked all three points after a late breakaway but Ederson saved from Scott Malone. (PA Sport)

Cardiff City secure promotion

Cardiff
Cardiff City secured automatic promotion to the Premier League despite drawing at home to Reading, thanks to Fulham's defeat at Birmingham. The Bluebirds dominated their tense encounter but were frustrated by the Royals.

However, Fulham's loss - their first of 2018 in the Championship - brought relief and pure euphoria to the Welsh side.

And Reading joined in the

celebrations, with the draw sealing their survival.

The real scenes of jubilation, however, belonged to the home side, with Cardiff's fans streaming on to the pitch to mob their players as soon as the final whistle blew.

Manager Neil Warnock had said winning a record eighth promotion would be his "greatest achievement" - and it is no wonder, considering the Bluebirds were second from bottom and in disarray when he was appointed

in October 2016.

Despite working with modest means, the veteran manager signed resourcefully to assemble a group of players in whom he instilled a tireless work ethic and bloody-minded will to win.

The style of play may not always be aesthetically pleasing but, with a robust structure and sheer refusal to relent, this is a Cardiff team whose spirit mirrors that of their manager and supporters. (BBC)



Cardiff City's Callum Paterson in action with Reading's Chris Gunter (Pic courtesy: Reuters)

Sousa lands Estoril crown



Joao Sousa

Estoril

Portugal's Joao Sousa had to battle at the end before becoming the first home player to win the Estoril Open with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of American Frances Tiafoe yesterday.

The 29-year-old Sousa, ranked 68th in the world, needed to call upon his reserves to claim the opening set by saving three break points in the final game.

Serving for victory at 5-2 in the second, the Portuguese was broken as Tiafoe briefly delayed the festivities.

But the local hero came good two games later as he clinched a third career title, a feat which quickly got the mainly Portuguese crowd into the mood for a mass sing-along chorus of celebration.

Sousa, playing in his 10th final, also won Valencia in 2015 and at Kuala Lumpur five years ago.

Tiafoe, 20, was thwarted in his bid to collect a second career title after making his trophy breakthrough in February at Delray Beach, Florida.

The world number 64 fell short in the end as he failed to generate the momentum which had kept him in clay contention all week.

Sousa improved to 18-10 this season after a poor start which he turned around with consistent results starting in March.

Sousa made a fast start as he produced a break of Tiafoe in the third game of the opener to take a 2-1 lead which he held throughout as the set progressed on level-pegging.

But NextGen player Tiafoe suddenly struck, putting the Portuguese hope into a hole and facing three break points in the 10th game of the set.

Sousa calmly saved all three, then earned a set point before closing it out by winning his fifth straight point to take the lead 6-4 after 40 minutes.

Sousa, sensing his chances, broke to start the second set, putting his less experienced opponent on the back foot. (AFP)

Zverev claims Munich Open

Alexander Zverev beats Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-3

Munich

Germany's world No.3 Alexander Zverev beat veteran compatriot Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-3 to win the Munich ATP Open for a second consecutive year yesterday.

The fresh-faced 21-year-old from Hamburg, who is coached by his father, beat Argentina's Guido Pella in the 2017 final.

One year on and his victim was Kohlschreiber, a triple champion in Munich, who had not lost a single set coming through the rounds.

But the 34-year-old had

two break points in the sixth game of the first set only to lose the game and then get broken in the next game.

Zverev, the great hope of German tennis, then broke his older compatriot in the opening game of the second set and the top seed never looked back.

"It is a very special event for me so I am very happy that I was able defend my title," he said after his seventh ATP title.

"I had to play my best tennis to have a chance, so that is what I did," said Zverev, a semi-finalist at

the Monte Carlo Masters.

"At the beginning I was struggling a little bit and then I found my rhythm and felt very good on court."

"Losing the final is never easy or fun," Kohlschreiber commented. "He (Zverev) played better in this final. He played a really good match. It was a great week for me and for sure I will be coming back next year." (AFP)



Alexander Zverev celebrates with the trophy (Pic courtesy: Reuters)

Marquez takes home win at Spanish GP



Marc Marquez rides

Jerez

Spain's Marc Marquez won his home race to take the lead in the MotoGP championship after Britain's Cal Crutchlow crashed out from pole.

Marquez's title rivals Andrea Dovizioso, Jorge Lorenzo and Dani Pedrosa crashed in the same incident with eight laps left, after Crutchlow had gone out while in fourth place.

France's Johann Zarco finished a distant second in Jerez to move into the same position in the standings.

Italian Andrea Iannone was third.

Defending champion

Marquez, who started from fifth place on his Honda, has now won back-to-back races - the third and fourth grands prix of the season.

The four-time world champion leads the standings on 70 points, while Zarco has 58. Dovizioso, who led going into the race, dropped to fifth on 46.

Seven-time world champion Valentino Rossi was fifth in a race during which he reached a career milestone by completing the circumference of the planet in race kilometres.

The Italian has covered 40,075km since his debut at the 1996 Malaysian Grand Prix. (BBC)

Result:

- 1 Marc Marquez (Spa/Honda) 41mins 39.678secs
- 2 Johann Zarco (Fra/Yamaha) +5.241secs
- 3 Andrea Iannone (Ita/Suzuki) +8.214secs
- 4 Danilo Petrucci (Ita/Ducati) +8.617secs
- 5 Valentino Rossi (Ita/Yamaha) +8.743secs
- 6 Jack Miller (Aus/Ducati) +9.768secs
- 7 Maverick Vinales (Spa/Yamaha) +13.543secs
- 8 Alvaro Bautista (Spa/Ducati) +14.076secs
- 9 Franco Morbidelli (Ita/Honda) +16.822secs
- 10 Mika Kallio (Fin/Kalex) +19.405secs

Giro d'Italia

Double delight for Elia Viviani

Elia Viviani of Quick-Step Floors sprinted to the stage three finish in the Red Sea resort, edging out compatriot Sacha Modolo with Irishman Sam Bennett third

Eilat

Elia Viviani made it a double delight in Israel yesterday as he won his second Giro d'Italia stage in a row in a bunch sprint finish at Eilat.

The Italian survived a near-brush with the safety barriers on the side of the road as he sprinted to the stage three finish in the Red Sea resort, edging out compatriot Sacha Modolo with Irishman Sam Bennett third.

Australia's Rohan Dennis kept the race leader's pink jersey. Viviani was perfectly placed on Bennett's back wheel as the sprinters launched their charge to the line but just as he tried to dart out from behind the Irishman, Bennett lurched across the road.

He went from the far left to the far right, almost barging Viviani into the barriers.

But the experienced Italian kept his cool and leant his shoulder into Bennett, who veered back to the left, leaving a channel for Viviani to burst through and win.

Viviani, 29, wasn't best pleased with Bennett but his victory proved ample compensation.



Viviani celebrates after crossing the finishing line

"As everyone saw, he changed direction. Of course, if I'd come second I would have appealed because he changed direction and I had to slow down," said Viviani.

"We won so we're not

looking to create tensions amongst our competitors but there was a moment where we touched, either I had to lean on him or I would have to break."

The fast-finishing Modolo pipped Bennett for second at

the end of the long, straight 229-kilometre stage through the barren Negev desert, a very different backdrop to the first two stages around Jerusalem and then from Haifa to Tel Aviv. Having been surprised by

RESULTS

Stage three: Be'er Sheva – Eilat (229km)

- 1 Elia Viviani (Ita) Quick-Step Floors, in 5 hrs 02 min 09 secs
- 2 Sacha Modolo (Ita) EF Education First-Drpac
- 3 Sam Bennett (Irl) Bora-Hansgrohe
- 4 Jakub Mareczko (Ita) Wilier Triestina-Selle Italia
- 5 Danny van Poppel (Ned) LottoNL-Jumbo
- 6 Jens Debusschere (Bel) Lotto Soudal
- 7 Manuel Belletti (Ita) Androni Giocattoli-Sidermec
- 8 Baptiste Planckaert (Bel) Katusha-Alpecin
- 9 Mads Pedersen (Den) Trek-Segafredo
- 10 José Gonçalves (Por) Katusha-Alpecin, all same time

Overall classification after stage three

- 1 Rohan Dennis (Aus) BMC Racing Team, in 09 hrs 05 min 20 secs
- 2 Tom Dumoulin (Ned) Team Sunweb, at 1s
- 3 José Gonçalves (Por) Katusha-Alpecin, at 13s
- 4 Alex Dowsett (GBr) Katusha-Alpecin, at 17s
- 5 Pello Bilbao (Esp) Astana Pro Team, at 19s

(Cyclingweekly)

the lush green vegetation at the side of the road on Friday and Saturday, Viviani now got what he was expecting.

"Today was maybe what we had been thinking about: the middle of the desert!" he said.

"But it was really up and down so finally it was not a really easy day. We did around 2,000 metres of up and down and at some point the group was really stressful about the wind." (AFP)

Alonso wins on FIA WEC debut

Fernando Alonso made a winning start to his FIA World Endurance Championship career with victory in the Six Hours of Spa-Francorchamps.

The 36-year-old McLaren F1 driver teamed up with Sebastien Buemi and Kazuki Nakajima to win his first major race since the 2013 Spanish Grand Prix.

Their Toyota TS050 hybrid finished just 1.444 seconds ahead of the second Toyota outfit.

The next race in the series is the 24 Hours of Le Mans from 16-17 June.

Despite qualifying second in



Fernando Alonso celebrates Spa, Alonso's Number eight car was promoted to pole position overnight after the Toyota team comprising Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose Maria Lopez was penalised for

a technical infringement.

Alonso will combine the WEC with his Formula 1 commitments at McLaren this season as he bids to add the Le Mans title to his Monaco Grand Prix victories of 2006 and 2007.

The two-time F1 world champion is trying to win motorsport's 'triple crown' of Monaco, the Indy 500 and Le Mans - a feat only ever achieved by Britain's Graham Hill.

Alonso missed last year's Monaco Grand Prix to compete in the Indianapolis 500 but his race was ended by engine failure. (BBC)

Brave CF partners with Smexindo for promotion

DT News Network Manama

Brave Combat Federation has partnered with Smexindo for the promotion of Brave 12: KHK Legacy hosted on 11th May at Balai Sarbini Hall in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Smexindo, which is a part of Induk UMKM, is a business entity to market Indonesian SME products to the International markets.

The business already had announced to proceed with projects for Bahrain. The expanding global partnerships forged by Brave Combat Federation will strengthen the growing relationship between Indonesia and The Kingdom of Bahrain.

This partnership will have a substantial economic impact, by utilising the platform of sports media attracting further investment opportunities from Indonesia.

Brave Combat Federation had earlier signed an exclusive



strategic partnership for Indonesia with the investment giant SS Capital.

The initiative found by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was successful in entering into multiple global partnerships

using the platform of sports media.

The ongoing partnerships by Brave Combat federation is key to attract global investments to the Kingdom of Bahrain apart from opening economic opportunities.

Olympic Academy organises two day workshop

DT News Network Manama

The Olympic Academy, which is under the Bahrain Olympic Committee, organized a two-day workshop with the slogan "My health.. is my happiness," at the academy premises in Juffair.

It was presented by President of the Academy Dr Nabil Taha and associate professor Dr.

Batool Asiri, and attended by a group of employees of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The workshop was in line with the directives of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman and BOC president, to strengthen

the psychological aspects of the staff that influent their performance and motivation at work.

The instructors reviewed the 'basket of happiness' and its components through a number of practical exercises that included meditation, relaxation and breathing exercises to transmit positive energy within the employees.



Magomedov added to the fight card

Akhmed Magomedov faces Anthony "The Archangel" Engelen from Netherlands in a catchweight bout

**DT News Network
Manama**

Brave Combat Federation has announced the addition of an extra fight in Brave 12: KHK Legacy hosted at Jakarta, Indonesia.

Akhmed Magomedov from KHK MMA Gym, Bahrain will be making his debut at Brave Combat Federation when he faces Anthony "The Archangel" Engelen from Netherlands in a catchweight bout.

Anthony Engelen is based in Jakarta and has competed in One Championship.

Engelen has an official record of six wins in his nine appearances.

Meanwhile, Magomedov in undefeated in his career with three victories.

KHK MMA Bahrain is featuring the maximum number of athletes in the twelfth edition of Brave Combat Federation.

Eldar Eldarov, Mehdi Baghdad, Gamzat Magomedov, Hamza Kooheji, Marat Magomedov, Hardeep Rai and Hussain Ayyad had trained in KHK MMA gym during their career.

With most number of athletes represented in the fight card who trained in Bahrain, Brave 12: KHK Legacy will be yet another milestone for combat sports in Bahrain.

Akhmed Magomedov

Sharapova rediscovers winning form

Madrid

Maria Sharapova won for the first time since the Australian Open as she beat Mihaela Buzarnescu, 6-4, 6-1, on Sunday in the Madrid Open.

The Russian five-time Grand Slam champion has been struggling with an arm injury, losing her last four matches, crashing out in the first round in Stuttgart last week.

In-form Romanian Buzarnescu reached the Prague Open final last week, but unseeded Sharapova, who took the title in Madrid in 2014, dominated this first round meeting.

Sharapova jumped to a 5-2 lead in the first set but Buzarnescu briefly showed some resistance by winning the next two games.

The Russian seized the momentum by breaking again to

clinch the set and dropped only one more game as she won in 82 minutes to set up a second-round match with another Romanian, Irina-Camelia Begu, who upset No.5 seed Jelena Ostapenko the evening before.

In another Romanian-Russian clash top seed Simona Halep crushed Ekaterina Makarova 6-1, 6-0, for a 13th straight victory in the tournament.

"I think it was a great match. I played really well. Of course, maybe she didn't play her best, but she's always tough to play against," Halep said.

Halep has been having fitness issues with her legs and lost to CoCo Vandeweghe in the second round on the Stuttgart clay last week.

"I don't have problems any

more. I had a lot of treatment. I took care of my leg," Halep said. "It was actually coming from the back. I always have little issues with my back, so I know how to treat it."

A third Romanian, Sorana Cirstea also reached the second round by beating Czech Katerina Siniakova, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

"All the girls from Romania are really strong. They train a lot. They play really well, if they are confident," Halep said.

There was a mild upset in the men's tournament, where unseeded Frenchman Richard Gasquet knocked out Czech 14th seed Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-2.

Canadian Denis Shapovalov joined Gasquet in the second round after seeing off American Tennys Sandgren 6-1, 6-4. (AFP)



Maria Sharapova (file pic)

