

**Cardi B splits with husband**

Rapper Cardi B announced on Wednesday she is seeking a divorce from her husband Offset after just over a year of marriage, saying "I guess we just grew out of love." | P13

**Artist revives Lebanon's abandoned historic buildings**

# THE DAILY tribune

**School issues swine flu alert to parents**

TDT | Manama

A private school in Bahrain has sent text messages alerting parents to take precautionary measures against swine flu or H1N1 as a case was detected. The letter, according to parents, urges them to look out for any symptoms and see a paediatrician, if necessary.

The message showed that these symptoms are the same as normal "flu symptoms, high temperature".

The school administration asked parents to test swabs at the American Mission Hospital or King Hamad Hospital if their children were suffering from flu-like symptoms.

Meanwhile, sources at the school said the letter is to inform parents and there is no cause for alarm.

The school assured that it is taking action to minimise any spread of infection.

The virus is mild and passes within a few days, however, people with weak immune systems are at higher risks. Visiting a doctor is, therefore, a preventive measure.

**Trump fumes over low popularity**

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump says the polls have it all wrong, so on Thursday he calculated his own popularity rating: 75 per cent.

The Republican began reflecting on his approval numbers with an overnight tweet celebrating a new poll that gave him 50pc.

"Working hard, thank you!" he wrote on a tweet featuring a huge "50pc" superimposed over a picture of Trump clapping at a campaign rally.



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## UN-backed Yemen talks open in Sweden

TDT, Al Arabia | Manama

Peace talks between the Yemeni government and Houthi militias opened yesterday in Stockholm, Sweden which is slated to last for one week.

Opening the talks at a castle in Rimbo, a town north of Stockholm, Sweden's foreign minister, Margot Wallstrom, wished the Yemen adversaries strength to find "compromise and courage" as they embark on the difficult task ahead.

"Now it is up to you, the Yemeni parties," she said. "You have the command of your future."

The UN envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths said the coming days were a milestone and urged the parties not to "waver... let us



Swedish Foreign minister Margot Wallstrom (L) and UN special envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths attend the opening press conference of the Yemeni peace talks at Johannesberg castle in Rimbo, Sweden

work in good faith ... to deliver a message of peace."

"There is a way we can resolve

the conflict," Griffiths said, adding that the Security Council was "united" in its support for a

resolution to the conflict. Griffiths added that he is grateful for the role that Saudi Arabia played in supporting the Yemeni peace talks.

"I'm also pleased to announce the signing of an agreement on the exchange of prisoners, detainees, the missing, the forcibly detained and individuals placed under house arrest," Griffiths said. "It will allow thousands of families to be reunited, and it is the product of very effective, active work from both delegations."

The government and Huthis on Tuesday said they agreed to a prisoner swap, to be overseen by the International Committee of the Red Cross, after the Sweden talks.

The UN envoy stressed the fact that the peace talks will also discuss several aspects of the Yemeni people's situation including ensuring aid delivery.

Griffiths added that the possibility of direct meetings between the government and Houthi militias are still being looked into.

Regarding Sanaa's airport, the UN envoy said that they have a proposal to discuss with the conflicting parties of Yemen.

Griffiths also spoke about the priority UN goal being easing the tension in Yemen and then reach a political solution.

Griffiths' plans to host talks in Geneva in September collapsed on the opening day after the rebels refused to leave the Yemeni capital.

# Arab block sans Qatar still strong, says UAE

TDT, Al Arabia | Manama

The United Arab Emirates yesterday lashed out at Qatar for its support of extremism saying, "The political crisis will end when the cause behind it ends."

Qatar, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash tweeted, should end its support of extremism and its interference in the stability of the region.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have repeatedly warned Qatar to stop supporting terrorism in the region.

"The main success of the council is in its economic aspects and the creation of a Gulf common market," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash tweeted.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) continues to function despite crisis with Qatar, he said adding that the upcoming summit in Riyadh under the presidency of Oman and despite the Qatari crisis indicates that "the Gulf Cooperation Council carries on."

Saudi Arabia's King Salman Bin Abdulaziz has invited Qatar's Emir to attend the December 9 gathering of heads of states but Doha has not yet said what level of representation it would send.

The message was delivered by Secretary-General of the GCC Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, during a reception by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi.

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al



Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Khalifa, in a statement to *Asharq Al-Awsat*, said that the Doha "has burned the return ships."

"There must be a new agree-

ment and a new regime, and Doha should be placed under scrutiny," he said.

"I do not know how Qatar will

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 The main success of the council is in its economic aspects and the creation of a Gulf common market

ANWAR GARGASH

return. It has committed to the enemies of the region, such as Iran, and separated itself from the GCC. We are realistic in dealing with this issue and we don't want to waste more time," he affirmed.

At last year's summit, held in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain sent ministers or deputy prime ministers.

Promoting interfaith

## Pope to visit United Arab Emirates in February

Vatican City, Holy See

Pope Francis will visit Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates in February, the Vatican said yesterday.

The pontiff was invited by both Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and the local Catholic church.

Francis will take part in an international "interfaith" meeting during the trip, which will run from February 3 to 5.



Pope Francis (L) speaks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the end of a private audience at the Vatican

The Vatican said the theme for the Abu Dhabi trip was summed up in the phrase "make me a channel of your peace" -- a quote from Saint Francis of Assisi, the pope's namesake.

The hope was the visit would "spread in a special way the peace of God within the hearts of all people of good will," it said.

"This visit, like the one to Egypt, shows the fundamental importance the Holy Father gives to inter-religious dialogue," spokesman Greg Burke

said. "Pope Francis visiting the Arab world is a perfect example of the culture of encounter," he added.

The UAE prides itself on its religious tolerance and cultural diversity, and most Gulf Arab states have long allowed Christians to worship in churches.

Nearly 80 percent of the population of the UAE is Muslim, while Christians constitute around nine percent, according to the Catholic News Agency.