

# DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

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## News of Bahrain

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Tweet of the Day



Five years after the devastating attack on teachers and children in Sandy Hook, we mourn them and remember them. America needs common-sense gun laws more than ever and we must not stop pushing until we get them.

@BillClinton

Today's Weather



Max

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Min

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Record victory for Man City

P 24



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## Leading the way



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday attended the Royal Academy of Police (RAP) award ceremony to honour the tenth class of candidate officers. His Royal Highness was welcomed by Minister of Interior, Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and other senior officers from the Ministry of Interior. (See page 2)

# Saudi-backed alliance to help G5 Sahel: minister



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MoH recalls baby milk products of French origin



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05

Festivities galore for National day

Paris

A Saudi-backed military coalition will provide logistical, intelligence and training to a new West African counter-terrorism force that is struggling to get off the ground, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday agreed to provide about \$150 million to the G5 Sahel force, which is composed of the armies of Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad, a

sign that Gulf Arab states are upping their influence in the region.

Speaking in an interview with France 24 television, Adel al-Jubeir said his country's contribution would go much further by using the platform of the recently-established Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition to support the G5 Sahel.

"Because of our commitment to fighting terrorism and extremism we made the commitment to provide 100 million euros to

these forces and we made this commitment also to provide logistics, training, intelligence and air support through the Islamic military coalition to this effort," Jubeir said.

Some 40 Muslim-majority nations met in Riyadh at the end of November to begin fleshing out details of the alliance first conceived two years by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, but that until now has yet to take any decisive international action in its mandate to fight terrorism.

"We will be hosting a meeting of this new group to coordinate this military support to those (G5) countries," Jubeir said, referring to a meeting the Islamic Alliance, adding that Riyadh would also provide humanitarian assistance.

The G5 Sahel launched a symbolic military operation to mark its creation in October amid growing unrest in the Sahel, whose porous borders are regularly crossed by jihadists, including affiliates of al Qaeda and

Islamic State.

After a meeting in Paris on Wednesday, the French and Malian leaders said they hoped the G5 would secure its first victories by the middle of 2018 to prove its worth and ensure more concrete support from the United Nations.

In Rome, a defense ministry official said Italy will send several hundred troops to Niger, a member of the G5 Sahel, next year to help train local forces battling jihadi militants. (Reuters)



# Professionalism is the key to success, says HRH Crown Prince

DT News Network  
reporter@dt.bh

**H**is Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday affirmed that the "rule of law, human rights and modern practices" must continue to underpin every aspect when it comes to protecting the country and its citizens.

Prince Salman was speaking during an award ceremony by the Royal Academy of Police (RAP) to honour the tenth class of candidate officers.

"Professionalism remains a key component of Bahrain's development success, driven by His Majesty King Hamad's comprehensive development programme," Prince Salman told the graduating officers.

His Royal Highness congratulated the Minister of Interior, Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa on the graduation ceremony, noting Bahrain's pride in the soldiers' unwavering commitment and the sacrifices they continue to make to protect the country.

Shaikh Rashid told the graduates

that the Ministry is committed to continuing the advancement of capabilities and skill-sets through modern policing and law enforcement programmes.

"Advancing security capabilities remain a priority to meet current complex challenges," the Interior Minister said extending his gratitude to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for attending the graduation ceremony.

In this regard, the Minister also highlighted the role of His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in supporting the Ministry of Interior and its objectives.

Earlier, upon his arrival at the function, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was welcomed by the Minister of Interior, Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and other senior officers from the Ministry of Interior.

The Chief of Public Security and Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Royal Academy of Police, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan highlighted the extensive training and development programmes



undertaken by the graduating officers.

The Major-General outlined that modern training techniques inform every aspect of the Academy's development programmes, which incorporate internationally recognised law enforcement and human rights best practises.

Prior to the graduate officers' commissioning parade, His Royal Highness inspected the officer-cadets' parade, during which the officer cadets took their oath. Top achievers were honoured on the occasion. The Minister of Interior awarded commissioning certificates



to the officer cadets.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

son of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, accompanied His Royal Highness during the ceremony.



In pictures, highlights of the day

# MoH recalls baby milk products of French origin



Manama

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has pulled four batches of baby milk products of French origin off the local markets shelves.

A circular issued in this regard warns consumers that the products were found to be polluted with "salmonella agona"

bacteria. In a statement, the Food Safety Control Department said it received a copy of the circular issued by the European Food Safety Commission from the Ministry.

Earlier this month, French authorities banned the sale of several baby formula milk and food products by dairy giant

Lactalis following the discovery of salmonella in babies less than six months old.

The recall, follows 20 cases of infection in infants, affected countries include: China, Taiwan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, Lebanon, Sudan, Romania, Serbia, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Colombia and

Peru.

Reuters quoting French consumer protection agency DGCCRF said, "Lactalis had not managed contamination risk and has been ordered to conduct a product recall and halt the sale and export of several baby food products made at its Craon plant in western France since Feb. 15."

## Affected products

As per the circular issued, the ministry has warned consumers to avoid using the following four batches imported to the Kingdom:

1. Celia AD 350g LOT No. 17C0012750, Expiry date: 9-11-2018
2. Celia AR 400g LOT No. 17C0012820, Expiry date: 22-11-2018
3. PreCelia 400g LOT No. 17C0013092, Expiry date: 11-01-2019
4. Celia AL/NUT 400g GCC LOT No.: 17C0013287 :Expiry date: 22-01-2019

## National Guard signs MoU with Pakistan Army

Manama

The National Guard and the Pakistani Army yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to implement Joint Counter-Terrorism Exercise (Bader2).

His Highness Staff-Major Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Commander of Special Operations Unit in the National Guard, signed

the deal in the presence of the Head of Operations and Training Department.

Shaikh Salman affirmed that the National Guard is continuing its modernisation and development programme as per its 2020 strategic plan.

Bader2 will be realised in Bahrain following the successful implementation of Bader1 in Pakistan which includes practical military

drills to boost the efficiency of the participating military in the fight against terrorism.

**Bader2 will be implemented in Bahrain following Bader1 in Pakistan**

## BDF military museum opens

Manama

The BDF Military Museum will be open to public on the occasion of the Kingdom's National Day celebrations on December 16-17, the General Command of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) has announced.

The Museum will remain

open on Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. Throughout the two days, Military Music Band will perform patriotic songs.

The opening marks the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab

and Muslim country in 1783 by its founder Ahmed Al-Fateh, the 46th Anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member, the 18th Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne and the third anniversary of Commemoration Day.

## BOC offers free flat foot test

Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC)'s National Sports Medicine Centre is holding a special campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The centre is offering free

flat foot diagnostic tests to the public marking the Kingdom's celebrations of its 46th National Day and the 18th Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, on December 16 and 17.

Centre director Dr Khalid Al-Shaikh said the centre will also present a number of competitions and free gifts to all the attendees on this occasion, and invited everyone to join.

## Malaysian PM to receive Bahrain's highest award

Manama

Prime Minister of Malaysia, Najib Tun Razak, will become the first foreign leader to be conferred with Bahrain's King Hamad Order for Development on Friday.

Star Online, in a report quoting Malaysian ambassador to Bahrain Agus Salim Yusof, said "This is the first time the country's highest award will be conferred on a foreign leader."

The Prime Minister, according to the report, will be conferred the King Hamad Order for Development by King Hamad Isa Al Khalifa at the Shaikh Hamad Palace

The award was created two years ago and the past recipients were all Bahrainis.

The report further states that Najib is scheduled to arrive in Bahrain today for a three-day official visit and is accompanied by his wife Rosmah Mansor and Defence Minister and Minister of Special Functions Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

Najib will hold discussion with HM the King before the award ceremony that will also see Hishammuddin receiving the country's Medal of First Degree from the Ruler, the report said.

The visit, Star Online said, is at the invitation of King Hamad, who made a state visit to Malaysia from April 30 to May 3 this year.



Agus also told Star Online that Najib would be the only foreign leader invited to attend the country's National Day celebration at Sakhir Palace on Saturday in the presence of King Hamad.

The ambassador described the Kuala Lumpur-Manama relationship as at an all-time high since both countries established diplomatic ties in 1974.

The report quoting Agus also revealed that Gulf Air is expected to resume flights from Manama to Kuala Lumpur and vice-versa from the middle of next year after its flight operations for the route ceased in 2012.

Najib is scheduled to leave for Sri Lanka on Sunday.

## Line 6 project in full swing

Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) is making steady strides in the construction of its landmark Line 6 Expansion Project to meet the First Hot Metal (FHM) schedule on January 01, 2017 according to a statement issued by the Chairman of Alba's Board

of Directors, Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa.

The statement was made following the fourth quarterly meeting for the year 2017, which was held yesterday at Alba.

The Board reviewed and approved the 2018 Annual Operating Plan, Corporate

Governance Report as well as Q3 2017 Financial Statements.

In addition, the Executive Management gave an update on Safety, Line 5 Recovery and metal production, the progress of Line 6 Expansion Project, Project Titan - Phase II, Industry Outlook and the overall

Financial Performance of the Company.

Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa said: "As we approach 2017 year-end, we remain confident to have a strong finish in light of the market conditions coupled with the safe recovery of Line 5."

# Honoured for their outstanding work

## Mumtalakat awards exceptional employees

DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

Employees from over 20 companies within the portfolio of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) were recognised for their outstanding work.

The honouring ceremony, part of a campaign to recognise the achievements of employees across its portfolio companies, was held during a luncheon held yesterday by Mumtalakat.

The awardees were from Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), Arab Shipping and Repair Yard (ASRY), Atbahrain, Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), Bahrain Flour Mills Company, Bahrain Livestock Company, Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), Bahrain International Golf Course Company, Danat, Delmon Poultry Company, Durrat Al Bahrain Company, Edamah, General Poultry Company, Gulf Aluminium Rolling Company (GARMCO), Gulf Aviation Academy, Gulf International Bank, Gulf Air, Gulf Hotels Group, National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and Southern Tourism Company.

"This not only reflects their achievements within their organisations but also demonstrates their dedication to contribute for a better future for Bahrain," said Mahmood H. Alkoheji, Chief Executive Officer of Mumtalakat, congratulating the employees for their relentless pursuit of excellence.

He added: "At Mumtalakat, our mandate is to grow the wealth of the Kingdom and this can only be made possible through the collective contributions of these high calibre



The employees recognised as 'Heros'

employees."

The move follows a national day campaign which kicked off last month under the theme of "Many stories, one Bahrain." The campaign, Mumtalakat said, was designed to bring forth the stories of the many extraordinary individuals who help make their companies and communities more successful.

In addition to slowly revealing the names and stories of the awardees, the campaign also highlighted some of the Group's companies and their impact.

Commenting on national day, Alkoheji said, "On this special occasion, we would like to extend our greetings and best wishes to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, and to the government and people of Bahrain."

### The employees recognised by Mumtalakat as 'Heros':

1. Abdulhakeem Abdulmajeed Alshaibani, Director, Airside Operations, Bahrain Airport Company
2. Adnan Abdulshaheed Setaih, Change Manager, GIB
3. Ahmed Abduljalil Moosa, Acting Manager, Navy Defense & Industrial Projects, ASRY
4. Ahmed Jasim Baqer, Board Secretary & PR Senior Manager, Bahrain Flour Mills Company (Al Matahin)
5. Ahmed Hasan Sultan, Sales & Marketing Officer, Southern Tourism Company
6. Amal Yusuf Abdulghani, Senior Officer, Property Management, Edamah
7. Beshara Abdo Beshara, Senior Manager, Safety & Security and Government Relations, Bahrain International Circuit
8. Eyad Mohamed Alansari, Management Trainee, Operations, Atbahrain
9. Hussain Hafedh Ali, Bahrain Hub Coordinator, Gulf Air
10. Eskander Abdulnabi Alsari, Manager Power, Alba
11. Fahad Ebrahim Albasam, Senior HR and Admin Manager, GARMCO
12. Fouad Saeed Alalawi, Sales Manager – Retail Banking, National Bank of Bahrain
13. Jaafar Mohamed Abdulnabi, Sales & Marketing Assistant Manager, General Poultry Company (GPC)
14. Khaled Ali Alhashimi, Deputy CEO/Design, Durrat Al Bahrain
15. Rajesh Chandrakant Kavleker, Safety Department Head, ASRY
16. Suha Saeed Karzoon, Chief Financial Officer, Mumtalakat
17. Tala Ebrahim Bashmi, Management Trainee, Gulf Hotels Group
18. Yousif Hasan Mohamed, Ground Services Training Officer, Gulf Aviation Academy
19. Zainab Isa Ali, HR Clerk, Delmon Poultry Company
20. William Evans, Director of Agronomy, Bahrain International Golf Course Company
21. Zakareya Abdulla Alhaddad, Feedlot manager, Bahrain Livestock Company
22. Zakareya Saleh Taresh, Admin Assistant, Bahrain Institute for Pearls & Gemstones (DANAT)

to be creative with food as well as experimenting with ingredients and techniques both local and global is an inspiration for potential chefs of both genders," Mumtalakat stated.

Speaking to DT News she said that she hopes that more Bahrainis will join the hospitality sector. "Being in the hospitality industry is a way of life, it's not a job. It takes up most of your time. I work 12 hours shifts and 14-hour shifts, and this may be off-putting to Bahrainis. It can be difficult, it is a big commitment, hopefully in the future people will get in the industry more. It's difficult but



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The hospitality industry in Bahrain has traditionally not been able to attract many Bahrainis, but Tala Ebrahim Bashmi said she "is determined to change this".

It was not easy as she also had to overcome another challenge, which is to become a female chef, a profession still dominated by men. Tala, who works at Gulf Hotels Group as a Management trainee was recognised by Mumtalakat as one of their 'Heros'.

Tala exemplifies what it takes for a woman to succeed as a chef. Her dedication to the industry and willingness



it is also very interesting, it's worth the effort."

really hard."

"My goal is not to work a 9 to 5 job."

"I have a bigger goal, which is to make a difference in the culinary scene in Bahrain and I know what to do to achieve it," she said.

# Festivities galore for National day

## ISS astronauts congratulates HM the King

Manama

Astronauts onboard the International Space Station (ISS) orbiting the earth sent an audio and video message of congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and the people of Bahrain marking the Accession and the National Days.

"We, the two astronauts working with the Russian Space Agency - Roscosmos - and those onboard the International Space Station (ISS) congratulate, from the bottom of our hearts, the King and people of Bahrain on the National Day, wishing the Kingdom further progress

and prosperity", said the two Russian astronauts.

They said they looked forward to the cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of space sciences, hoping to see a Bahraini astronaut soon among them onboard International Space Station (ISS). Roscosmos said that the congratulations epitomize solid relations binding the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Bahrain, paying tribute to HM the King for his wise policy of promoting dialogue between civilisations and co-existence between peoples.

DT News Network  
Manama

Congratulations poured in from all over the Gulf Cooperation Council nations (GCC) yesterday on the occasion of Kingdom celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783, the 46th anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member and the 18th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

Marking the occasion, from December 16 to 17, Bahrain's embassies in all over GCC held celebrations in presence of diplomats, top government officials and guests.

Meanwhile, in Bahrain, the festivities reached a fever

pitch yesterday with schools all across the Kingdom hosting artistic, cultural and educational events. Education Minister, Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi extended congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, and the Bahraini people on the dear national occasions.

In Riyadh, Bahrain's embassy celebration held at the Tuwaiq Palace was attended by Governor of Riyadh, Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He praised Bahrain's role in promoting

education and development in the region.

Celebrations were also



Gulf cooperation and Arab and Islamic solidarity and its concern for the security, stability, progress and prosperity of the region.

Kingdom's envoy to Saudi Arabia, Shaikh Hamoud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa praised the close relations between the two countries and their brotherly peoples, noting the wise leaders' keenness to develop them in various fields.

In Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Tolerance, Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, and a number of officials at the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in the festivities organised by the Ambassador of Bahrain to the United Arab Emirates, Mohammed bin Hamad Saqr Al-Moawda.

In Cairo, Presidential Secretary Ahmed Ihab conveyed the congratulations of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to his Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The Ambassador of the Kingdom to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, praised the honourable positions of Egypt towards Bahrain and the security of the Gulf region.

Celebrations were also

organised by various Ministries in Bahrain with Undersecretary of the Information Affairs Ministry, Abdulrahman Mohammed Bahar leading the ministry's festivities by visiting a number of directorates. Activities at the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) were

held in the presence of NIHR Chairperson, Maria Khoury. NIHR's Secretary-General Dr Khalifa bin Ali Al-Fadhel extended congratulations to the leadership and the Bahraini people.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) also joined the festivities by organising a

ceremony for its staff at its premises in Seef.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Assistant General Secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) General Secretary Abdulrahman Askar extended congratulation to Bahrain leadership and people on the occasion.

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## Wide Angle

Joel Indrupati

Climate Change:  
A Reality Check

In Michael Crichton's book 'State of Fear' that I had read 12 years ago, he portrays a world where Eco-terrorism thrives.

The job of these eco-terrorists is to trigger a series of climate-related disasters – in different parts of the world – with the aim of convincing public that 'global warming' is real.

And, worldwide, these massive man-made catastrophes help increase state and private funding towards environment protection organizations; just what the scamsters are greedy for. Their organizations are all mere fronts for other nefarious activities.

So, long before US President Donald Trump and his ilk withdrew from the 2016 Paris Climate Change accord, Michael Crichton, the author, was one of those cynics who opposed climate change.

For a few days after I'd finished reading his book, I stayed disturbed.

Firstly, because it seemed to debunk all the work that was being done to combat the global warming problem, and secondly because one of my favourite writers – who wrote books as varied as, The Andromeda Strain (1969), Congo (1980), Jurassic Park (1990), Rising Sun (1992), Disclosure (1994) and The Lost World (1995) – I thought, would have had more sense than to quote only one sided data in an attempt to discredit climate change activists.

Scientists, journalists and politicians then, who included Jeffrey Masters, Peter Doran, Michael Crowley and Al Gore, have all criticised Michael Crichton's 'State of Fear' which relies excessively, and sometimes illogically, only on a prejudiced arguments.

This week, I was reminded of that controversial book, when I heard on BBC Radio that French President Emmanuel Macron has asked for more funding for the Paris Climate Change deal, because of the cuts that came out following US withdrawal.

A few months ago, in June 2017, while asking countries to commit to the deal, and to the funding of Climate Change activities, the French President had said, "To all scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, responsible citizens who were disappointed by the decision of the president of the United States, I want to say that they will find in France a second homeland".

And now, a Mashable.com article (13 December) says this: "In the name of furthering climate research (and trolling Donald Trump), French President Emmanuel Macron awarded "Make Our Planet Great Again" grants to 18 climate scientists, 13 of whom are from the United States".

France's wooing of US scientists and intelligentsia, and others, ahead of Tuesday's 'One Planet Summit' held in Paris shows France's seriousness as an emerging leader in 'Climate change' movement.

During the summit, the World Bank had said it would stop financing oil and gas exploration and extraction (upstream) from 2019.

While this would be a major blow for oil exporting countries it is absolutely essential if we must collectively aim for a green planet.

Is it not shocking to read in the latest TIME magazine article 'The Big Melt', that "From 1960 to 2017, the Alpine snow season shortened by 38 days—starting an average of 12 days later and ending 26 days earlier than normal" (TIME, 10 Dec 2017)?

Is it not horrifying to read in the same article that "Last December was the driest (in Alps) in 150 years of record keeping".

Is it not sad that artificial snow is being used to attract tourists in a skiing resort?

Climate change is real. We have messed up. And, we messed up big.

And that is why big steps have to be taken. And big commitments have to be made. And kept.

## CBB raises interest rates



Representative picture

## Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) yesterday announced raising its key policy interest rate, effective immediately.

The action follows the interest rate hike announced by the US Federal Reserve. The Fed's hike, which is also the third this year, raised the US benchmark-lending rate by "a quarter percentage point to a target range of 1.25 per cent to 1.50pc".

Bahrain's central bank said it is raising its key policy interest rate on the one-week

deposit facility from 1.50 per cent to 1.75pc. Overnight deposit rate will be now 1.50pc instead of 1.25pc. One-month deposit rate was adjusted from 2.15pc to 2.40pc, while lending rate was raised from 3.25pc to 3.50pc.

Central Banks of Saudi Arabia and UAE had also announced similar measures following the Fed's decision to hike rates.

Saudi said it is raising its reverse repo rate by 25 basis points to 1.50pc, while Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) said it would keep

the repo rate unchanged at 200 basis points or 2pc.

Reverse repo is the rate at which banks deposit money at the Central Bank, while repo is the rate at which banks lend money.

The Central Bank of UAE announced a 25 basis point hike in interest rates. Its repo rate is now 1.75pc.

Earlier announcing the rate hike, Fed Chair Janet Yellen said, "At the moment the U.S. economy is performing well. The growth that we're seeing, it's not based on, for example, an unsustainable

buildup of debt ... The global economy is doing well, we're in a synchronized expansion."

In its justification for Wednesday's rate increase, which was widely expected by financial markets, the Fed's policy-setting committee cited "solid" economic growth and job gains.

The Fed now sees gross domestic product growing 2.5pc in 2018, up from the 2.1pc forecast in September. The pace of growth is expected to cool to 2.1pc in 2019, slightly higher than the prior forecast of 2.0pc. (Agencies)

## Missing Pets



**RATTLEHEAD** - Male Persian, 8.5 yrs, neutered, wearing red collar w old number, stolen from Durrat-taken to Sanad-then ran away-lady called to pick up-but stolen again while owner in Saudi for 5 months, Sanad/Durrat, 2016. **33426586**



**EMMA** - Female, 3 yrs, long hair w ginger/tortoise shell markings, spayed, wearing red collar bell - no ID tag, super friendly and would wander into your home to make friends, Saar (compound next to Hala Gardens), 7/12/17. **36644560 or 36644246**



**FLATFACE** - Female Persian, long hair, 4 yrs, spayed, microchipped, wearing red collar w name 'Basil' on it - with number **39997100**, normally can't jump very high - but managed to get over fence, Janabiyah (near Life-Fit Gym), 11/17/17. **66675000**



**SRAB** - Female, 4-5 yrs, just disappeared, not wearing collar or ID tag, Arad (block 244 near National Bank of Bahrain Health Center), 30/11/17. **36777115**



**PEPPER** - Male Maine Coon, 3 yrs, neutered, not wearing collar or ID tag, normally stays close to home, A'ali (close to A'ali Views Compound), 7/12/17. **39748312 or 33327927**



**MACY** - Female long-haired, silver/grey, 6 yrs, spayed, not wearing collar or ID tag, chased off compound by stray cat, from Hamala Hills area - but likely stolen and in any area, REWARD for safe return, 26/11/17. WhatsApp **34515853/34200869/38023260**

# Saudi king approves \$19bn stimulus



Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud presides over a cabinet meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Press Agency/Handout via REUTERS

## Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's King Salman approved 72 billion riyals (\$19.2bn) worth of measures to stimulate growth in the private sector.

The measures include residential housing loans worth 21.3bn riyals, a 10bn riyal fund to support economic projects, and 1.5bn riyals to support distressed companies, the government announced on Thursday.

A 2.8bn riyal government fund will be created to invest in smaller companies, while the government will adjust the fees which it charges for services to save smaller companies 7bn riyals.

More money would be spent on projects such as developing the kingdom's broadband infrastructure

and promoting advanced construction techniques. Officials did not give details of most of the stimulus measures.

Fahad al-Sukait, a cabinet adviser who briefed reporters on the stimulus plan, said the measures outlined on Thursday were part of a four-year, 200bn riyal scheme to aid private businesses.

Of that amount, 40bn riyals was allocated this year in the form of capital increases for state funds which support the economy by lending in areas such as housing.

The 72bn riyals will be spent over the next four years, including 24bn riyals in 2018, Sukait said. Officials are still drawing up plans to spend the remaining 88bn riyals of the scheme, he added. (Reuters)



## Following are next year's measures:

- » Residential housing loans worth 21.3bn riyals
- » A 10bn riyal fund to support economic projects
- » 1.5bn riyals to support distressed companies
- » A 2.8bn riyal government fund will be created to invest in smaller companies
- » 400m riyals will be spent on highly efficient air conditioning equipment
- » 5bn riyals of export financing
- » 800m riyals to boost the capital of Kafalah, a programme which lends to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- » 1.6bn riyals of indirect financing to SMEs
- » 7bn riyals worth of customs fees will be returned to SMEs
- » 5bn riyals for a program supporting large investments; the government did not give details
- » 2.56bn riyals of spending on the country's broadband and fiber optics infrastructure
- » 13.87bn riyals to promote advanced construction techniques

# Aramco to push ahead with expansion

## Damama

Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer, aims to regain its lost market share after the OPEC-led supply-cut pact ends and plans to push ahead with a downstream expansion strategy to be on par with Big Oil, its chief executive said on Wednesday.

Amin Nasser, the CEO of the state oil giant, which is preparing for an IPO next year, said Aramco is moving ahead with its refining and petrochemicals expansion strategy and is in discussions with several potential partners in Asia, Europe and the United States.

"We had to cut our allocations to certain markets based on the (OPEC) agreement ... hopefully we will regain these markets as soon as this deal ends," he said in an exclusive interview.

"We have a very reliable customer base. I don't see (any) sort of problems in terms of gaining market share beyond the OPEC agreement," Nasser said, adding the company will continue to abide with the OPEC production targets.

Nasser said his company has held talks with Russian firms including Kremlin-controlled Rosneft on possible joint investments.

Saudi Arabia and Russia say they will remain in partnership long after the current output reduction deal expires.

"We are engaging ... with the Russian companies to identify opportunities whether in Russia or globally in terms of joint investments in areas of interest to both sides,"

Nasser said.

"We have discussions with Rosneft in different areas, in terms of creating JVs. Essar is one area that we were interested in. And still the discussions (with other partners) are on going."

The Saudi government plans to sell up to 5 percent in Aramco next year in what could be the world's largest initial public offering.

The company plans to raise its total refining capacity - both inside the kingdom and abroad - to 8 million-10 million bpd from around 5.4 million bpd now.

"If you look at our peers, their refining capacity is either equal or much

higher than their production capacities. So we are looking at our refining capacity to be in that range," Nasser said.

Aramco's focus to expand and regain its market share will remain on Asia, Nasser said, adding that the United States and Europe are also two important markets for the company.

"The U.S. is an important market and we are looking at expanding after having taken the full ownership of Motiva. We are looking at expanding our footprint in the U.S. for sure," he said.

China, the world's second biggest oil consumer, is one of the main markets where Aramco wants to expand its foothold, Nasser said. (Reuters)

## Plans fuel hike



## London

Saudi Arabia plans to raise petrol and jet fuel prices in January in an effort to reduce energy subsidies and bolster state finances, according to a report by Bloomberg.

Petrol prices are set to jump by about 80% while jet fuel prices will be raised to international levels, a person with knowledge of the matter told Bloomberg. Other fuel types and electricity tariffs are also expected to rise in price over the coming years.

Fuel prices, excluding jet fuel, are not expected to rise to international levels until 2023 at the earliest. Under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plans to reform the economy, fuel subsidies are eventually to be totally eliminated.

Saudi Arabia's Finance Ministry did not immediately respond for a request for comment. The price hikes are part of the Kingdom's efforts to reduce the amount it spends on state handouts and subsidies, and to diversify its economy away from oil. (MSN Money)



## South Africa's ANC picks Zuma successor

South Africa's ruling African National Congress is to hold an election to replace Jacob Zuma as party leader in a closely fought contest whose winner is likely to emerge as the nation's next president



**CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, 65**

- Deputy president and former trade union leader is one of South Africa's richest people with net worth of about \$450 million
- Played important role in negotiations to end apartheid and in drafting of South Africa's progressive 1996 constitution
- Has pledged to fight corruption and revive ailing economy which is grappling with 28% unemployment
- Supported by diverse group of labour unions, communists and ANC members disillusioned with President Jacob Zuma



**NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA, 68**

- Former minister and chairwoman of African Union Commission has served in cabinets of every president in post-apartheid era
- Married to President Zuma for 16 years before divorcing him in 1998, has four children by him
- Favours ANC policy for "radical economic transformation" to redistribute wealth to black majority
- Backed by ANC's youth and women's leagues, as well as by Zuma and provincial party leaders close to him

## Fighting for supremacy in music streaming

Global subscribers of music streaming services soared by 30 million in the first six months of 2017, as Amazon quietly became the third largest music streaming provider behind Apple and Spotify

**GLOBAL MUSIC STREAMING SUBSCRIBERS\***  
(in millions / market share)



**YouTube**  
Mar 2018: YouTube (owned by Google's parent company Alphabet) plans to launch its long-rumoured *Remix* music streaming service (presently YouTube attracts more than one billion music users per month)

Sources: MIDIA, The Verge, Bloomberg Picture: Getty Images \*June 2017 © GRAPHIC NEWS

## Russia, Saudi sign atomic roadmap

**Moscow**

Russia and Saudi Arabia have signed a roadmap for cooperation in the atomic energy sector, Russian state nuclear company Rosatom said yesterday.

The roadmap comprises a number of steps needed to implement a cooperation program that was signed by the two nations during Saudi King Salman's visit to Russia in

**October.**

Saudi Arabia, which wants to reduce oil consumption at home, is considering building 17.6 gigawatts of nuclear-powered electricity generating capacity by 2032 and has sent a request for information to international suppliers to build two reactors in the kingdom.

Last month Rosatom said it hoped to win the Saudi tender. (Reuters)



**L**uLu International Exchange would like to greet the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the National Day of Bahrain and wish them success, peace and prosperity.

LuLu International Exchange has tied up with the best financial institutions backed with technological proficiency with an aim to provide fast and reliable financial services. The exchange house has strategic banking arrangements with leading banks and is constantly working towards providing smoother, faster, and more reliable modes of transaction. Besides remittances, customers can also exchange foreign currency at competitive rates.

Adeeb Ahamed, Executive Director of LuLu International Exchange B.S.C (C) says, "LuLu Exchange has set new standards in the exchange and remittance business in all its countries of operation. Through this growth, we are also proud of the fact that we are on the path of a digital tomorrow."

We would like to extend our express our deepest gratitude, respect and appreciation for all the leading achievements, initiatives and efforts led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to ensure the highest standards of satisfaction, happiness and well-being for the citizens, expatriates and visitors in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

## LuLu International Exchange extends greetings on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain

# Enhancing innovation, delivering happiness



**Adeeb Ahamed**, Executive Director of LuLu International Exchange

## Kuwait minister says premature to talk about OPEC oil supply cuts

**Dubai**

**Kuwait's oil** minister said yesterday it was too early to talk about a strategy to exit the current OPEC and non-OPEC supply cutting pact.

"It's premature to talk about exit strategy. Any exit strategy in the future will surely be implemented in a smooth manner that will not disrupt the stability

of the market and it will be on a gradual basis," Bakheet al-Rashidi, Kuwait's newly appointed oil minister, said in a statement.

"The developments of market fundamentals will continue to be closely monitored by the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC), in which the State of Kuwait is a leading

member, to ensure that the target of re-balancing the market and restoring its stability is achieved," he added.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC producers led by Russia agreed last month to extend oil output cuts until the end of 2018 to help lower global inventories and support prices. (Reuters)

## Russia-China ties boon for all: Putin

**Moscow**

Stronger ties between Russia and China are good for everyone, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, adding that Moscow and Beijing would remain long-term strategic partners. Putin also told his annual news conference that China was looking with great interest at Russia's northern sea route in the Arctic which could significantly cut the time for shipments of goods between Asia and Europe.



## Disney to buy Fox film for \$52bn

**Washington**

Walt Disney Co has struck a deal to buy film, television and international businesses from Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox Inc for \$52.4 billion in stock. Disney acquires significant assets from Fox, including the studios that produce the blockbuster Marvel superhero pictures and the "Avatar", as well as hit TV shows such as "The Simpsons."



Should the United States and its followers try to enforce the naval blockade against our country, we will see it as an act of war and respond with merciless self-defensive counter-measures as we have warned repeatedly,"

**North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman**

through KCNA new agency



# Tips FOR START-UP BUSINESSES

No matter how good the product or service being offered, the success of a business often comes down to its structure, cash flow, funds, staff and marketing. Here's a checklist of things you need to do once you have decided to take the plunge to join burgeoning ranks of entrepreneurs.

## Seek help

Even well established businesses find it helps to have a sounding board for new ideas so don't be afraid to seek out advice or support or to find out how others have solved or are managing similar challenges.

## The structure

The options to choose from are a limited company, a limited liability partnership (LLP), a traditional partnership or a sole trader. The first two offer greater personal protection but there is no right option – it will depend on your circumstances and particular needs, so do some research in order to see what will work best for you.



## The market

Image is an important part of any marketing activity, but you first need to establish your market. Test the idea and test the market. You first need to define your boundaries and start to write the business plan. This will be essential if you are seeking funding and to keep you on track with your plans for growth.

## CASH FLOW

Key for every small business is cash flow. That's where good credit lines come in. If you are buying in goods or services before selling on, it's helpful if you can delay paying your suppliers until you have been paid.

## Money management

You will need to find an accountant or at the very least a bookkeeper (which is often cheaper) and open a business bank account. But don't abdicate responsibility. You will need to keep a firm handle on the finances and have a pretty good idea of what your revenues, margins and gross profits should be, especially if you are looking for investment.

## IMAGE

First get the right name. Companies House will show which ones have been taken. There are websites that will generate suggestions based on keywords and which also show which URLs are free. The URL is important, because it will be used throughout your marketing, including online, on email and in social media. In tandem you need to explore the logo and brand. But for that you'll need some creative inspiration. (The Telegraph)

## Other bureaucratic hurdles

Will you be employing staff (then there will be NI and pension issues to consider)? Do you need to protect your IP or designs with patents? Are export/import licences required? Use your business plan to help scrutinise all areas that may be exposed to legal, regulatory, tax or other requirements.

# On a mission

## Tamkeen announces new strategy

**DT News Network**

**Manama**

Tamkeen yesterday announced its new strategy for 2018-2020 which focuses on "diversification of offerings, acceleration of delivery, and sustainability of impact."

The strategy, according to Tamkeen's Chief Executive Dr Ebrahim Mohamed Janahi, aims at assessing the status of the labour market and ways to address its specific needs and gaps.

He was speaking during a press conference held on the sidelines of Tamkeen's 2018-2020 Strategy Consultation Forum which saw the participation of over 500 participants representing different economic sectors in the Kingdom.

The strategy, he said, follows "a number of research analysis and studies aimed at assessing the status of labour market and ways to address its specific needs and gaps."

He also pointed out that this helps ensure "proper visualisation of the new development."

Tamkeen Chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa pointed out, during the forum, that Tamkeen is keen on introducing "new



Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, Tamkeen Chairman products and services to better cater to evolving market needs".

Highlighting Tamkeen's key achievements, Janahi said: "Since its establishment, Tamkeen served more than 165 thousand individuals and enterprises and launched more than 210 initiatives in different fields, of which 145



Since its establishment, Tamkeen served more than 165 thousand individuals and enterprises

## Did You Know?



State-owned oil giant Aramco has transformed Saudi Arabia into a regional giant. Aramco employs 51,653 Saudis and 10,254 expatriates from 77 countries, including at subsidiaries and affiliates in China, Egypt, Japan, India, the Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Britain and the United States.



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2920	0.2896
BANGLADESH	0.00483	0.00458
CANADA	0.3018	0.2985
DENMARK	0.0627	
EGYPT	0.0241	0.0218
EURO	0.4501	0.4476
HONGKONG	0.04970	0.04930
INDIA	0.00582	0.00585
INDONESIA	0.00003017	0.00002855
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010964	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000300	
JAPAN	0.00352	0.003450
JORDAN	0.5362	0.5354
KOREA	0.00039646	
KUWAIT	1.254	1.254
MALAYSIA	0.0938	0.0936
NEW ZEALAND	0.2616	0.2616
NORWAY	0.0481	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00365
OMAN	0.98220	0.98340
PAKISTAN	0.00366	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00758	0.00747
QATAR	0.10386	0.10381
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10065	0.10071
SINGAPORE	0.2834	0.2814
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02850	0.02840
SRI LANKA	0.00283	0.00246
SWEDISH	0.0479	
SWITZERLAND	0.3891	0.3861
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011730	0.011710
TURKEY	0.1024	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5076	0.5047
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](http://www.bfc.com.bh)

## GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3799	0.3354
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.0873	0.2877	0.2540
OMAN	0.3849	0.3820	0.3878	0.3425
QATAR	3.6420	3.6143	3.6699	3.2405
UAE	3.6730	3.6451	3.7011	3.2681
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7215	3.7787	3.3366

# Markets in the region end mixed

## Closing Bell

### Dubai

Middle Eastern stock markets were mixed yesterday, with the Saudi Arabian bourse taking little encouragement from the government's announcement of a 72 billion riyal (\$19bn) stimulus package.

King Salman issued a royal decree approving measures to stimulate growth in the private sector. They include residential loans worth 21.3bn riyals, a 10bn riyal fund to support economic projects, and 1.5bn riyals to support distressed companies.

But some of these steps had already been expected, and it remains unclear how quickly they can be implemented and affect the economy. The government plans to introduce a 5 per cent value-added tax and domestic energy price rises next year.

The Saudi stock index fell 0.3pc with utility Saudi Electricity, which had plunged 9.9pc on Wednesday, sinking a further 5.1pc.

The stock rose early this week in anticipation of the

**SAUDI** fell 0.3pc to 7,076 points.

**DUBAI** dropped 1.4pc to 3,355 points.

**ABU DHABI** sank 1.0pc to 4,339 points.

**QATAR** edged up 0.1pc to 8,212 points.

**EGYPT** rose 0.2pc to 14,680 points.

**KUWAIT** surged 1.5pc to 6,332 points.

**BAHRAIN** edged up 0.1pc to 1,266 points.

**OMAN** edged down 0.1pc to 5,062 points.

government announcing hikes in electricity tariffs. But the company said on Wednesday it would pay the government a fee equivalent to the rise in tariffs, so there should be no positive impact on its profits.

Nine of the 12 banks were firm. The Saudi central bank hiked its reverse repo rate, the rate at which commercial banks deposit money with it, in line with U.S. Federal Reserve overnight, but it kept the repo rate, used to lend money to banks, unchanged at 2.00pc. This may be modestly positive

for Saudi banks' margins, since they have excess cash with the economy and loan growth sluggish.

National Shipping Co of Saudi Arabia (Bahri) rose 1.1pc after proposing a 2017 cash dividend of 1.5 riyals per share, down from 2.5 riyals for 2016; some investors had expected a lower dividend after profits shrank this year.

The Dubai index dropped 1.4pc as Emaar Properties, which had dropped 6.2pc on Wednesday on news of a smaller-than-expected special

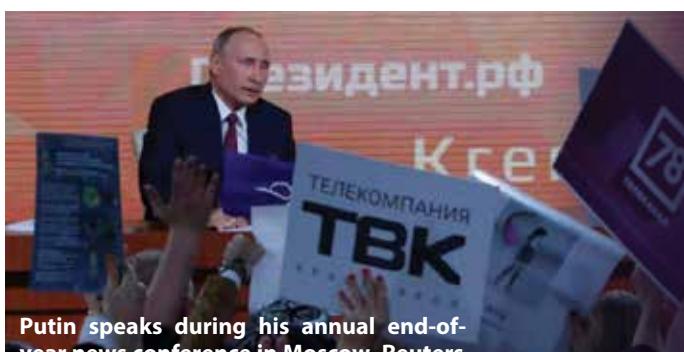
dividend for shareholders, lost a further 3.7pc. Fellow developer DAMAC Properties slid 3.5pc in sympathy.

Courier firm Aramex sank 5.3pc to its lowest level since February.

In Abu Dhabi, ADNOC Distribution edged down 0.4pc to 2.64 dirhams. It traded for the first time on Wednesday after an initial public offer at 2.50 dirhams per share. The Abu Dhabi index slipped 1.0pc.

Qatar's index edged up 0.1pc as real estate firm Ezdan Holding, the most heavily traded stock, climbed 1.8pc after jumping 6.4pc on Wednesday.

Kuwait's index outperformed the region, surging 1.5pc after the central bank decided to keep interest rates on hold despite the U.S. hike. Unlike the other rich Gulf Arab oil exporting countries, which peg their currencies to the U.S. dollar, Kuwait manages the dinar against a dollar-dominated basket, giving it more flexibility in monetary policy. (Reuters)



Putin speaks during his annual end-of-year news conference in Moscow. Reuters

## Putin says U.S. gripped by fabricated spymania

### Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday the United States was in the grip of a fabricated spymania whipped up by President Donald Trump's opponents but he thought battered U.S.-Russia relations would recover one day.

Putin, who said he was on first name terms with Trump, also praised the U.S. president for what he said were his achievements.

"I'm not the one to evaluate the president's work. That needs to be done by the voters, the American people," Putin told his annual news

conference in Moscow, in answer to a question.

"(But) we are objectively seeing that there have been some major accomplishments, even in the short time he has been working. Look at how the markets have grown. This speaks to investors' trust in the American economy."

Trump took office in January, saying he was keen to mend ties which had fallen to a post-Cold War low. But since then, ties have soured further after U.S. intelligence officials said Russia meddled in the presidential election, something Moscow denies. (Reuters)



# AI Noor celebrates Bahrain National Day

**A**I Noor International School celebrated the 46th National Day of the Kingdom yesterday with programmes ranging from various national dances, songs and lively displays, aimed at the development of the students' talents, while simultaneously providing them with an opportunity to demonstrate their love, admiration and patriotism towards Bahrain.

Present on the occasion

were the school Chairman Ali Hasan, Director Dr. Muhammad Mashood, Principal Amin Mohammaed Ahmed Hulaiwah, the Head Teachers of the different sections of the school, coordinators, teachers and students.

The programme started with the National Anthem followed by a recital from the Holy Quran by Zahra Saeed of Grade 4.

Limar Ammar and Leena Musab of Grade 4 Arabic Primary Section presented speech in Arabic, while Mohammed Masood of grade 4 presented a speech in English and Ali Ahmed of grade 4 in French about the importance of national pride.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the dances and



songs, while the traditional costumes worn by the students further enhanced the festive

atmosphere.

More than 5000 students from all the Sections

participated for the 46th National day celebrations, held at the school campus.



Highlights of the event

## BIS celebrates Bahrain National Week

**A**s part of the National Day celebrations Bahrain Indian School (BIS) conducted a multitude of activities encapsulating the history and culture of the Kingdom.

The activities were conducted from December 10 to 14, which further provided the platform for celebrating Bahrain National Week in an innovative and educative way.

"Bahrain is the land of rich traditions, strong cultural values and modernity. We wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the wise leadership, the government and to the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain. We express our best wishes and desire further advancement and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime



Highlights of the event

Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa," school officials said.

The activities ranged from talks on Kingdom of Bahrain, Quiz competition, elocution,

special assembly and various fun activities.

Bahrain's History and culture was discussed in all the classes through a PowerPoint presentation followed by an interactive inter- house quiz competition for Grades III to V

school officials said.

participated enthusiastically.

Inter- house English Elocution competition was held herein students of Grade VI-VIII presented their thoughts on "Importance of Bahrain in the present Arab world".

December 14 was celebrated as Glad Rags day wherein

students and teachers came dressed in beautiful attires of red and white colour.

A special assembly was conducted celebrating Bahrain National Day. It was a spectacular presentation by students who worked under the guidance of Mehwish. The assembly highlighted

the culture, famous cuisines, eatables and clothing. Students were dressed in the traditional attire and danced to the tunes which further added the glee to the occasion. Various classroom activities and outdoor activities for all the grades were organized by the teachers.



Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi opened the National Day Festival at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), describing the festivities gripping Bahrain as a landmark patriotic epic which reflects national unity and belonging. The Minister saluted the leaders on the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by its founder Ahmed Al-Fateh, the 46th Anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member and the 18th Anniversary of HM the King's Accession to the Throne.



On the glorious occasion of the National Day for BCCI's retired employees



In cooperation with Al-Riwaq Art Space, the U.S. Embassy hosted a reception to celebrate the re-opening of the newly renovated American Art Space. U.S. Ambassador Justin Siberell attended the ribbon cutting event and toured the space at Al-Riwaq Art Space in Adliya. Bahraini artists and guests interested in art attended the event.



Pakistan's Ambassador Javed Malik was the Chief Guest at a Special Event organised by Pakistan Bahrain Friendship Society on the occasion of Bahrain National Day. Other Guests included Abdulla bin Ali Bin Huwail MP, Muhammad Sajid Sheikh, Ahmed Bin Chaudhary and a large number of Pakistani and Bahrainis community members.



Gulf Air, Bahrain Airport Company and Gulf Aviation Academy executive management team members gathered at the airline's headquarters in Muharraq to celebrate the occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain's 46th National day and the anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne. Employees from all three companies were joined by their Executive Management teams and participated in a series of activities including traditional live cooking, and cutting a special National Day themed cake.



Batelco held a special celebration for its employees on the occasion of Bahrain's National Day. The company celebrated all national events, creating a joyous atmosphere amongst staff members.



Ministry of Education Girls Guide Department celebrated Bahrain National Day in the presence of Dr Latifa Al Qauid and other officials.





Day and the anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession to throne, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) held a celebration, which included an honouring ceremony



Society's Director Abdul Rashid Rana to celebrate



Bahrain Embassy in Riyadh held a celebration marking Bahrain's 46th National day and the anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne. The Governor of Riyadh Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud honoured the reception organised by the Bahraini Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Shaikh Hamoud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the Tuwaiq Palace.



Bahraini Ambassador to the UAE Mohammed bin Hamad Saeer Al-Moawda held a reception ceremony marking the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain by its founder Ahmed Al-Fateh, the 45th Anniversary of its accession to the United Nations as a full member and the 17th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession to the throne. The ceremony was attended by the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Tolerance Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, and a number of officials at the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



celebration was held in the company's headquarters in Hamala in line with the company's efforts to



The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) joined other authorities in the Kingdom to organise a ceremony for its staff at the committee premises in Seef. Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant general secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) general secretary Abdulrahman Askar led the committee staff to the ceremony, which marks the nation's 46th National Day and The 18TH anniversary of His Majesty the King accession to the throne.

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) celebrated Bahrain's 46th National Day and the anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's ascension to the throne with a gathering of students and staff at the Busaiteen campus. During the event, a photo archive of Bahrain from the past to the present was screened and attendees were introduced to aspects of Bahrain's traditions through a traditional breakfast in a specially-designed setting.



United Bank Limited (UBL) celebrated Bahrain National Day in the presence of officials at their premises yesterday.



# Weinstein threatened to kill me: Salma Hayek

Los Angeles

**A**ctress Salma Hayek has described Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein as a rage-fuelled "monster", alleging he sexually harassed and threatened her. Weinstein has denied the accusation.

Writing in the *New York Times*, Hayek said Weinstein once told her: "I will kill you, don't think I can't," BBC reported on Wednesday.

Dozens of actresses, including Rose McGowan, Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, have accused Weinstein of harassment or assault. He has denied all the allegations of non-consensual sex.

Hayek, 51, a Mexican-American, described working with Weinstein on what she called her "greatest ambition" - telling the story of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

After striking a deal with Weinstein for the rights of the film that would eventually become 2002's "Frida", Hayek wrote it became "my turn to say no." (IANS)



**STARRY**  
*Birthday*  
Charlie Cox

December 15, 1982

*He made his claim to fame as Tristan Thorn in the movie Stardust. Later in his career, he played Owen Sleater in Boardwalk Empire and Ishmael in Moby Dick.*

## TOM HANKS CALLS SPIELBERG A 'GUERRILLA FILMMAKER'

Liam@LiamPayne  
Thanks for having me New York glad you were with me when some guy unplugged the iPod... thanks bro



## Gosling debuts buzz cut for 'First Man'

Atlanta

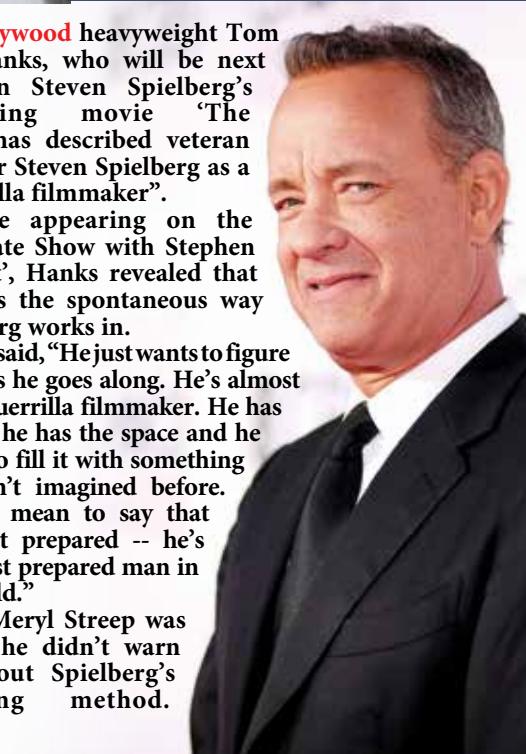
**A**ctor Ryan Gosling debuted his new buzz cut on the set of upcoming Neil Armstrong biopic "First Man".

Gosling, 37, was filming scenes on the film's set here on Wednesday morning. While shooting, Gosling was seen wearing a blue bath robe, pyjama pants and black leather boots.

Some photographs showed Gosling filming what could be a scene where his character is rummaging through the remains of his burned down home.

He looked in a rough shape, with his face covered in black powder. At one point, he was seen going through the burnt parts of the home that included wooden panels and roofing.

Gosling was spotted filming the movie with his "La La Land" director Damien Chazelle. None of his co-stars joined him on the set on Wednesday. (IANS)

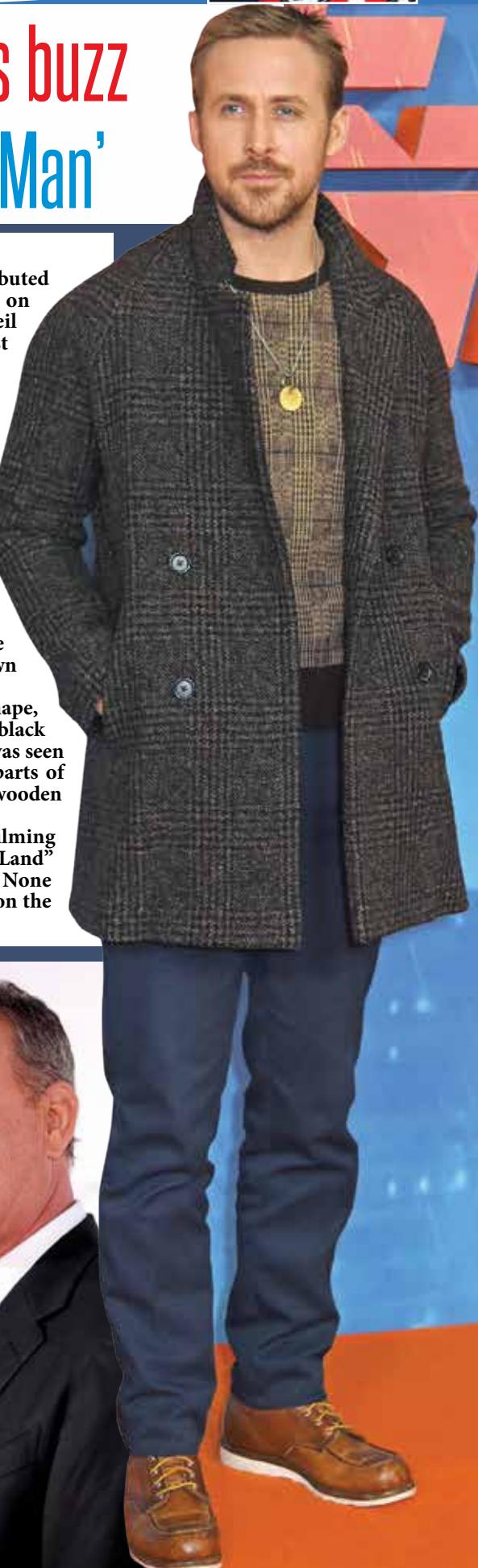


**H**ollywood heavyweight Tom Hanks, who will be next seen in Steven Spielberg's upcoming movie 'The Post', has described veteran director Steven Spielberg as a "guerrilla filmmaker".

While appearing on the 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert', Hanks revealed that he likes the spontaneous way Spielberg works in.

Tom said, "He just wants to figure it out as he goes along. He's almost like a guerrilla filmmaker. He has the set, he has the space and he wants to fill it with something he hasn't imagined before. I don't mean to say that he's not prepared -- he's the most prepared man in the world."

But Meryl Streep was "mad" he didn't warn her about Spielberg's directing method. (TOI)





## Eminem to embark on American tour

Los Angeles

Rapper Eminem will embark on an American tour for the first time in four years.

Eminem will perform in 2018, marking it his first show since 2014, reports [aceshowbiz.com](http://aceshowbiz.com).

Veteran music agent Cara Lewis broke the news during an interview with Pollstar publication.

When asked about hip-hop musicians who would be going on a tour soon, Lewis answered: "Eminem will be touring next year on selected dates, his first US performances since 2014," adding that Travis Scott (II) would be "headlining arenas in 2018."

Further details about the upcoming tour are to be announced, but some fans have already prepared their money to buy the tickets for the shows.

A fan took to Twitter and wrote: "Seeing Eminem in concert has been on my bucket list forever. Can't wait for him to release the tour dates and cities!" adding some heart eyes emoji. (IANS)

## Now you know it



American singer-songwriter Alicia Keys is the second female artist on a solo performance to win 5 Grammy Awards in a night at the 2002 Grammy Awards. Lauryn Hill was the first to achieve the feat at the 1999 Grammy Awards ([thefactsite](http://thefactsite))

## Haddish to star in 'The Oath'

Actress Tiffany

Haddish has joined the cast of satirical thriller 'The Oath'. Reportedly, the film marks the directorial debut of Ike Barinholtz, who has penned the script.

Haddish joins the cast which also includes actors Carrie Brownstein, Billy Magnussen, Meredith Hagner, Jon Barinholtz, Nora Dunn, Chris Ellis, and John Cho.

The story focuses on one man who must make it through the Thanksgiving holiday without tearing his family apart.

The film will be produced by Sean McKittrick, Ray Mansfield, Edward H Hamm Jr, Andrew Robinson, and David Stassen along with Barinholtz and QC Entertainment. (TOI)



## TOP 10 Songs this Week



1. Rockstar  
Post Malone Featuring  
21 Savage



3. Perfect  
Ed Sheeran Duet With  
Beyoncé



7. Bodak Yellow  
(Money Moves)  
Cardi B



4. Gucci Gang  
Lil Pump



8. No Limit  
G-Eazy Featuring A\$AP  
Rocky & Cardi B



5. Thunder  
Imagine Dragons



9. What Lovers Do  
Maroon 5 Featuring SZA



2. Havana  
Camila Cabello  
Featuring Young Thug



6. Too Good At  
Goodbyes  
Sam Smith



10. Feel It Still  
Portugal. The Man

(billboard)



## RITZ-CARLTON WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY VILLAGE

**Date:** December 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Al Khayma (Tent)

Revel in the joys of the holiday season with a special Christmas village. Enjoy a variety of festive offerings including a sweet and savory Christmas buffet, holiday movie classics, Ritz-Kids activities and much more. Santa Claus will also be there for a special warm and jolly welcome all the way from the North Pole.

## RITZ GOURMET TAKEAWAYS

**Date:** December 1-31, **Venue:** The Ritz Gourmet Lounge, The Ritz-Carlton

The Ritz Gourmet Lounge offers a selection of gourmet desserts and festive hampers filled with heavenly delights like minced pies, specialty cookies, chocolates and much more. Roasted turkey to-go family dinners can also be ordered beginning December 2. Orders must be placed at least 72 hours in advance.

## RITZ FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

**Date:** December 2 - 26, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** The Lobby Lounge, The Ritz-Carlton

Tea time at The Ritz-Carlton is always grand and the festive season makes it more special. Enjoy traditional scones and pastries with your favorite tea variety complemented by a selection of festive treats – an excellent opportunity to spend picture perfect #RCMemories with family and friends.

## RITZ BUBBLY CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

**Date:** December 2 - 30, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** The Ritz Gourmet Lounge, The Ritz-Carlton

Take pleasure in all the sweet treats of a traditional afternoon tea with a twist. A selection of freshly made scones and carefully baked gourmet cakes will be served alongside your favorite cup of tea or glass of bubbly.

## RITZ GRAND CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

**Date:** Monday, December 25, 12:30 pm-4:30 pm  
**Venue:** Grand Foyer, The Ritz-Carlton

Indulge in a festive celebration of culinary delights highlighted by our chef's

# OUT & ABOUT

splendid creations - from live cooking and carving stations, a large seafood and prime rib corner to a delectable spread of heavenly desserts. The grand occasion elevates with live musical entertainment, festive activities, and a special visit from Santa Claus.

## RITZ NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: STUDIO 54

**Date:** Sunday, December 31, 8:00 pm-2:00 am  
**Venue:** Al Noor Ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton

Countdown to 2018 and celebrate with a throwback to the 1970s era of glamour, fashion and indulgence. Join us as we transform our 9,000 square-foot Al Noor Ballroom into the famous Studio 54 complete with disco lights, party favors, an indulgent buffet, live entertainment and performances. Dress is black tie or festive party dress.

## BAHRAINI FARMERS MARKET



**Date :** 2nd December 2017 to 31st March 2018

**Venue :** BUDAIYA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Bahrain Farmers Market targets promoting Bahrain's agricultural products and highlighting the development taking place in Bahrain's agricultural sector. It also aims to contribute to improving the Bahraini farmers' income through a marketing system prepared by the Agriculture and Marine Resources to assist in meeting the farmers' aspirations.

## FOUR SEASONS HOTEL FESTIVITIES

**Date:** Till December 31, 2017  
**Venue:** Four Seasons

Turkey To Go: Bring the sophisticated flavours from the celebrated Four Seasons restaurant home with this memorable feast, and spend more time out of the kitchen with your loved ones this Thanksgiving. Available for home delivery or pick up.

Roast Turkey: With chestnut stuffing, turkey sauce, cranberry chutney, mash potato, Brussels sprouts and carrots. - BD 80++ for 8 people.

Honey Baked Spiral Ham: With mashed potato, roasted vegetables and apple sauce - BD 45++ for 8 to 10 people.

Roast Beef: With mashed potato, roasted vegetables and rosemary sauce - Starting from BD 20++ per kg (per kg serves 4 to 5 people).

For orders: +973 17115500

## FESTIVE SEASON AT THE GULF HOTEL

**Date:** Ongoing  
**Venue:** The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

Our festivities began with the lighting of the Christmas tree in the hotel lobby. This marks the beginning of the Christmas and New Year celebrations and everyone is invited to witness the ceremonial lighting! Get mesmerized as this year our team has merged both the festive traditions and the unique Arabic culture presenting the ultimate season bliss. From a traditional Arabic gingerbread house to the fusion of the festive Arabic village!

The festivities is about giving and sharing, this season we are collecting festive wishes for the charity program called "Smile of Bahrain", we hope to collect as much wishes for the organization and we look forward to your kindness to help those children with cancer make their dreams come true.

An uplifting slew of flavors to celebrate the spirit of the season have been crafted by the culinary team for the Christmas Eve dinner and the Christmas day brunch.

On 24th December we are offering 3 yuletide options for your Christmas Eve dinner. From the traditions of the Vigilia di Natale in Italy at our La Pergola Italian restaurant, to the panoramic view of the Juffair Skyline at Fusions restaurant to the lavish buffet in Al Waha, all featuring the finest delicacies from sumptuous starters of the hamachi sashimi, zucchini carpaccio and to the main course of the well-loved stuffed turkey roulade that will get the guests in the festive mood.

Our Christmas day brunch promises to be filled with all the traditional Christmas trimmings and a treat for all ages at The Gulf Convention Center for only BD 32 net. The Christmas day brunch presents the festive spread of our 10 award winning outlets, featuring exotic festive menus from rock lobster and the red snapper to start with, and followed by a tableau of flavours.

### Tickets is a must.

If you're planning to party at home this Christmas, leave the cooking with us! Christmas plum puddings, mulled wine and turkey are available for order!

Ring in the New Year at The Gulf Hotel Bahrain, as we present to you for the first time live at The Gulf Convention Center, Beauty and the Beats! Featuring an all-female group internationally renowned for a great & diverse night with music beats from the 70's, 80's, 90's, top 100 hits, deep house, house and pop. BD 55 net per person, inclusive of a lavish buffet spread of delectable dessert with apple and cranberry lattice tart, chocolate hazelnut, cream

cheese puffs, ricotta tart with chocolate and kumquats and almond macaroon galette for the finishing.

Featuring jazz saxophone player Miss S, to the throbbeing beats of Percussionist Ms. Dee and the soulful voice of Ms. Lady S! This in addition to the vibrant and gorgeous DJ (DJANE - NC), who will be spinning her groove mix-compilations till the wee hours of the party!

In addition you can also choose your celebration from Al Waha restaurant for a guaranteed New Year's gourmet that that will keep your stomach delighted till 2018! To the special New Year ala carte menus from Royal Thai, China Garden, Sato and Takth Jamsheed.

You can also choose to delight your loved one to a New Year's Eve romantic moment at Fusions, Raosi By Vineet, La Pergola and our all exclusive balcony at Royal Thai.

For a more pub style new year's welcome, dance your heart out at the dance floor with our DJ's famous tracks at Sherlock Holmes and Typhoon.

For further information or bookings please call: +973 17 713000

## 1KG BURGER CHALLENGE



**Date:** Till 31st December 2017  
**Venue:** Sherlock Holmes, Gulf Hotel

**Bahrain Convention & Spa**

BIG just got BIGGER! Are you up for the Sherlock Holmes BIG BURGER CHALLENGE Finish our Home made 1kg burger and take home an exclusive Sherlock Holmes T-Shirt and get Your Name and Date immortalized on our Wall of Fame! Available for Launches Only BD 19++ inclusive of a drink and fries! For more information 17713000

## SUNDAY-LADIES NIGHT



**Date:** Till 24th December 2017  
**Venue:** Z lounge club

Getting through the work week can be a real struggle. For those who crave a much deserve break and a little end of the week fun. Come Sunday, have no fear, ladies night to the rescue. Complimentary bubbly for ladies till midnight guaranteed to quench your thirst.

Free Entry for Ladies and Couples and Complimentary Bubbly for Ladies till Midnight.

## TYphoon Hospitality Evening

**Date:** Till 30th December 2017  
**Venue:** Typhoon Bar, Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa

Don't worry that you missed your weekend. We at Typhoon have created our own hospitality weekend for the industry people. So if you are working in a hotel or restaurant, join us and enjoy your self-created weekend. Every Saturday and Sunday only Valid ID is required.

## SASTRA PRATIBHA AWARDS DISTRIBUTION

**Date:** December 22  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall

The top grade achievers of Sastra Pratibha contest will be honoured during the award ceremony organized by Science India Forum (SIF) Bahrain on December 22 at the Cultural Hall Auditorium, in Marina. Dr. V.N.Rajasekharan Pillai, the former Chairman of University Grants Commission-UGC, presently the President of Mewar University, Rajasthan will be the guest of honor of the ceremony. Indian Embassy Second Secretary Anand Prakash will inaugurate the award ceremony function. Vijnana Bharati Secretary General A. Jayakumar, Science India Forum Middle East Co-ordinator T.M.Nandakumar, SIF Bahrain Advisory Board chairman Dr. Ravi Warrier will deliver their felicitation speech. SIF President Rajesh Kumar will preside over the function. The "Sastra Pratibha" title achievers among the students will receive their trophies and Certificates from Dr. V.N Rajasekharan Pillai and Anand Prakash. Certificates for the "A+" grade achievers will also be given away during the function. The Bahrain Science Innovation Congress-2017 contest winners also will receive the award at the ceremony.

An Interaction session, "Meet the Scientist" is scheduled to conduct on December 22 morning at Ramada hotel at 10:00 am and 11:30am. The students who achieved the "Sastra Pratibha" titles in the Sastra Pratibha Contest 2017 will have the opportunity to attend the same. Also the "Sastra Pratibhas 2017" will have the opportunity to visit any of the Indian Science and Technology Organizations organized by Science India Forum Bahrain free of cost in January 2018.

# Classifieds

Reaching the right audience

Friday, December 15, 2017

17

News of Bahrain

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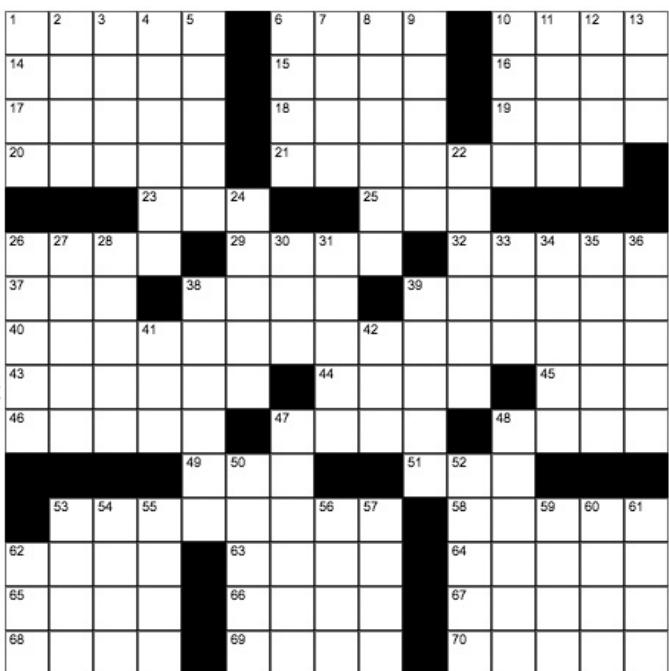
## DEADLINE

Lineage 11am  
Display 9am  
Cancellation 12pm

## WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday  
8 am - 6 pm

## CROSSWORD



## Across

1 Clear the board; 6 Blackbird; 10 Thom of footwear; 14 Broaden; 15 \_\_\_ fixe; 16 Car; 17 Actress Verdugo; 18 Italian resort; 19 Smooth-tongued; 20 Now you \_\_\_.; 21 Precise; 23 Not 'neath; 25 Climbing vine; 26 Former Russian ruler; 29 Girder type; 32 Atty.tobe exams; 37 Startled cries; 38 Spring; 39 Keeper, in football; 40 In spite of; 43 Attic; 44 Morays; 45 New Zealand parrot; 46 Remains; 47 "The Thin Man" dog; 48 Actual; 49 Overtime cause; 51 Utturn from NNW; 53 The day following today; 58 Halved; 62 Sand hill; 63 "Othello" villain; 64 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby; 65 007's alma mater; 66 WWII battle site; 67 Practice piece; 68 Yours and mine; 69 Back part of the foot; 70 Gymnast Comaneci;

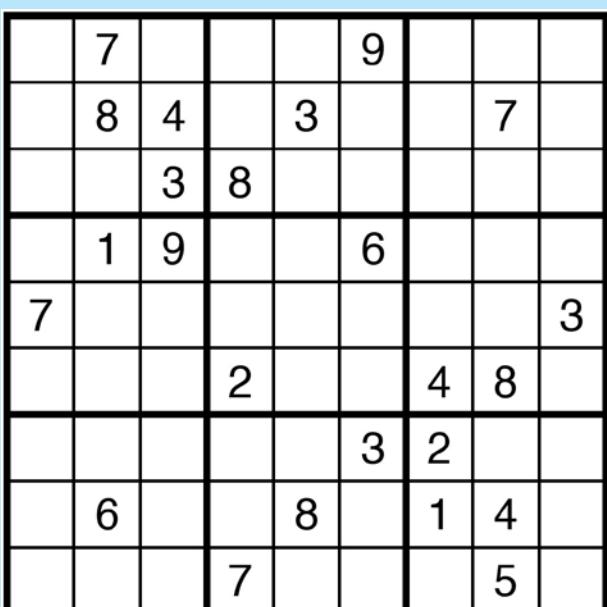
## Down

1 More than one female sheep; 2 Make angry; 3 Zip \_\_\_DooDah; 4 Elder; 5 Maternally related; 6 Temperate; 7 "What I Am" singer Brickell; 8 Abies magnifica; 9 Ninthcentury pope; 10 Biblical trio; 11 Sect; 12 Play to \_\_\_ (draw); 13 San Francisco's \_\_\_ Hill; 22 Hose; 24 Role for Clark; 26 Forceps; 27 Weaned pig; 28 Latin stars; 30 Phooey; 31 Church recesses; 33 Blue; 34 Similar; 35 Fungal infection; 36 George of "Just Shoot Me"; 38 Deceives; 39 Festive occasions; 41 Twisted; 42 Lunar New Year; 47 Add fizz; 48 Soprano Scotto; 50 Whiskey type; 52 Seductively beautiful woman; 53 Ballet skirt; 54 \_\_\_ about (roughly); 55 Department store department; 56 Eyeball; 57 Fleece; 59 Dull sound; 60 Dry watercourse; 61 Olive genus; 62 \_\_\_ volente (God willing);

## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

## 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)



Is your financial situation confusing? Are you starting to panic about it? You may be getting worked up over nothing. Get all your paperwork together, focus on the facts, and see what's really happening. Once you consult the actual figures and go over them a few times, you should find that you can handle the situation.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Ideas for creative projects may be flooding your mind, but they may be too general or vague to grasp. Make a list if you like, but don't feel you have to start anything today. You may need a few days to let the ideas churn around before settling on the best one to start. Be patient.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Have you been getting strange vibes from someone close to you? Chances are this person isn't upset with you. He or she may be worried about upcoming changes in the professional environment. All signs are that these worries are groundless. Offer to take your friend out to lunch and just listen. You'll be able to lighten the load and provide some much-needed perspective.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



A current or potential love partner may drop out of sight and not return your calls. You could panic, wondering if your friend has lost interest. Don't jump to conclusions. Your partner may be involved in other matters. Remember the old saying, "If you love something, let it go." If you cling, it was never yours in the first place.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



A gathering of psychics, artists, and spiritually oriented people could take place in your home today. This may be a fascinating and stimulating meeting, but there may be someone who likes to stir controversy and debate. Be aware of this possibility and short-circuit it if you can or this promising encounter could end with battered egos and bruised feelings.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



A class you've wanted to take may open up, and you'll want to register right away. You might have a few difficulties. If you try to sign up by phone, the line may be busy. If you enroll online, the website might crash. Don't get discouraged and give up. These are only temporary delays. You won't want to miss the class. Keep trying!

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Do you have a lot of money in investments? Even if you have only a savings account or home equity, you could be a bit disconcerted when the stock market takes a nosedive. A lot is going on behind the scenes that the general public doesn't know. The situation is temporary. The market should be back to normal before too long.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



A love partner may seem distracted. Don't jump to the conclusion that your friend has found someone else. The problem is more likely to centre on obstacles that your partner has encountered in achieving a cherished goal. When your friend decides to share this with you, you might be able to shed some light on the situation.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Equipment could give you trouble today. You're probably good at working with it, but when it comes to troubleshooting, you might not know as much as you should. Don't make yourself crazy worrying about it. Get a friend or colleague to assist you, or better yet, call a professional. You'll feel more confident and get a lot more done.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



A friend's lack of communication and perhaps even shortness with you could bring up your insecurities and have you wondering if this person still cares about you. Don't worry. Your friend is upset, but not about you. He or she may be too caught up in difficulties to realize the problem. Hang in there and you'll be in touch again when they're ready.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



A member of your group may have gone away without telling anyone where he or she was going. This could be worrisome for the rest of you, but don't fret. Your friend is probably OK, but may just need to do some thinking alone. You have to accept that you won't hear from this person today. Have faith and don't worry.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



A strange, unexpected call or email could puzzle you. You may not know the caller, the information might not make sense, or it might bring news that doesn't feel right. Whatever you hear may be exaggerated if not false. If it's important to you, check out the facts before jumping to conclusions and before passing it on to others.



# One third of IS weapons made in EU

Beirut

Nearly a third of all weapons used by Isil on the battlefield were manufactured in the European Union, according to the most thorough investigation yet into how the jihadist group acquired its vast arsenal.

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil) militants relied heavily on guns and ammunition produced by Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Germany, a report released yesterday by Conflict Armament Research (CAR), an international organisation that documents weapons trafficking in war zones, revealed.

The only bigger producer of weapons used by the group was found to be China.

The revelation sits uncomfortably with the EU's effort to degrade the group's military capacity, CAR researchers say, and highlights how easily weapons can end up in the wrong hands in "messy" conflicts.

Their 200-page report provides the most comprehensive, verified study of the group's weapons to date, presenting an analysis of more than 40,000 items recovered from Isil forces over three years.

It concludes that international weapon supplies intended for rebel factions in the Syrian conflict ended up with Isil, "significantly augmenting the quantity and quality of weapons in its arsenal".

In the early phase of the conflict, most of the group's cache had been captured from Iraqi and Syrian forces. But from the end of 2015, CAR started to see another significant source - factories in Eastern Europe.

The weapons and ammunition was being manufactured in Europe, sold to the US and Saudi Arabia, and transported across the Turkish border into Syria.

They said supplies of weapons by the Washington

and Riyadh to Syrian opposition groups indirectly allowed Isil to obtain a substantial amount of sophisticated anti-armour ammunition and anti-tank guided weapons (ATGW), which have then been used against coalition forces they support.

"Time and again, states that seek to accomplish short-term political objectives supply weapons to groups over whom they exert little to no control," said James Bevan, the executive director of CAR. "These weapons often gravitate to the most organised and effective rebel and insurgent forces."

In one case CAR tracked a number of advanced ATGWs.

Using their production numbers they discovered they were manufactured in the EU, sold to the US, which supplied them to an opposition group in Syria, where they were then transferred to Isil fighters in Iraq. (telegraph.co.uk)

## Airbus A380 draws giant Christmas tree over Germany

Hamburg

One bold and inspired pilot brought seasonal joy to the world by drawing a giant Christmas tree in the sky on a flight path over Germany while doing a test flight of an Airbus A380 aircraft for Emirates.

The plane set off from Hamburg's Finkenwerder airport at 12.47pm local time and is estimated to arrived back into the same airport at 4.35pm, according to Flightradar.

However, instead of simply doing a few laps, the pilot took the decision to use the flight path to introduce a



little more festive cheer. The tree even features baubles by

means of regular loops in the flying pattern in between each branch.

The plane cruised at an average 41,000ft while completing the masterpiece, which went south as far as Stuttgart for the tree's trunk before turning northwards towards Hamburg again.

It's a more family-friendly piece of aircraft art than the recent flight path that landed a US navy fighter crew in hot water. The crew was grounded after they used their advanced fighter jet to draw a penis in the sky. (thesun)

## #PollToday



Do you think the weapons intended for Syrian opposition groups ended up with Isil as Conflict Armament Research's report says?

Yes  No  Can't Say



"It is very clear that the Security Council resolutions must be fully implemented first of all by North Korea but by all other countries whose role is crucial to ... achieve the result we all aim at, which is the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula," Antonio Guterres

United Nations Secretary-General

## Rest in sight

### Memorial for Grenfell tower fire victims



A grand memorial service was held at St. Paul's Cathedral in London for the victims of the Grenfell tower fire that claimed 71 lives on June 14.

### 6,700 Rohingya killed in a month

More than 6,700 Rohingya Muslims were killed in the first month of a crackdown that started in August in Myanmar's Rakhine state

### Happiness minister sought over murder

Indian police have launched a manhunt for the country's only "happiness minister" after the state politician vanished when a court ordered his arrest over an alleged murder.

### EU could 'scrap refugee quota scheme'

The EU could scrap a divisive scheme that compels member states to accept quotas of refugees, one of the bloc's most senior leaders will say this week.

### For more, catch us online at:

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## 13th human foot washes ashore in British Columbia

Vancouver

Canadian officials are investigating after a human foot washed up on the shores of British Columbia - marking the 13th time in the past decade that tides have carried a sneaker-clad foot on to its coastline.

The grisly find was made earlier this month by Mike Johns as he walked his dog along the scenic southern coast of Vancouver Island, near Jordan River. After a large object tangled in sea kelp captured the dog's attention, Johns leaned in for a closer look.

What he saw was a fibula and tibia attached to a left foot, all of it encased in a white sock and black Velcro shoe. "By the looks of it, the foot was totally intact. The ankle bone still worked and the bones were attached at the base of the knee," Johns told CTV News.

After calling police, Johns carried the foot home for safekeeping, worried that high tides might wash the foot back into the ocean



A human foot, still in a sneaker, that was found on Vancouver Island by Mike Johns

or that it would attract the attention of wildlife in the area.

The find was the latest in a series that has sparked speculation around the world. Since 2007, another dozen feet have washed up in British Columbia, each of them clad in running shoes. (theguardian)

## A good ol' chuckle



A delighted dormouse is crowned winner of the Comedy Wildlife Awards. This adorable snap, which shows a cute dormouse climbing up a yarrow flower in the Italian mountains, won the Creatures of the Land category. The photographer, Andrea Zampatti, 32, from Monticelli in Italy, took the photo while hiking on Mount Guglielmo.

## Boy hangs himself after marrying brother's widow

New Delhi

A 15-year-old boy has taken his own life after his family forced him to marry his dead brother's widow.

High school student Mahadev Das committed suicide just hours after marrying Ruby Devi, who at 25 was ten years his senior, in Gaya in Bihar state.

Mahadev had succumbed to pressure from his family to marry his sister-in-law following the death of his brother in 2013.

His father Chandreshwar Das, 80, told Hindustan

Times that the teenager had been unwilling to marry a woman who 'used to care him like her own child.'

He explained to the newspaper that he had received financial compensation when Mahadev's older brother died in 2013, but as it had left Devi widowed, her family had demanded the full sum as a form of dowry repayment.

"They kept on exerting pressure on me to either give the money or marry my son with Ruby," Das added. (MailOnline)

## Williams car 'denied' Massa Baku victory

London

**Felipe Massa** would have won Formula 1's Azerbaijan Grand Prix if a failure on the damper system had not locked his Williams car's rear suspension solid, according to Paddy Lowe.

Massa was running third in June's race, having started ninth, when the race was red-flagged.

When it resumed, Massa suffered the issue and was passed by eventual race winner Daniel Ricciardo before rapidly falling down the order and retiring.

Several drivers claimed they could have won the race without issues, but following analysis, Williams chief technical officer Lowe believes Massa would have done it.

It would have been his 12th victory and first since the 2008 Brazilian



Felipe Massa (file pic)

Grand Prix, where he lost the championship to Lewis Hamilton.

"After Baku, which was a pretty eventful race, there were a lot of people that came up to me afterwards and said we could've won that race if only," Lowe said.

"I analysed it and I don't actually agree with most, but I definitely agreed with the

Felipe scenario. "If only we hadn't let him down with a car failure, he absolutely would've won that race. It's such a shame that in his final year, we denied him that victory."

(autosport)

## Renault 'must avoid' showdowns in future

London

**Renault** must avoid putting itself in situations where so much is at stake in the final race of the season in future, claims its Formula 1 managing director Cyril Abiteboul.

The French manufacturer moved ahead of Toro Rosso to claim sixth in the constructors' championship in the Abu Dhabi season finale, earning it a \$6.5million bonus.

Abiteboul says the stress of such a last-gasp performance needed to be steered clear of in the future.

"The message is that we must avoid putting ourselves in such a position again," Abiteboul said. "It can be a very stylish way to finish the season, but we need to have a programme that is allowing us to secure what needs to be secured before that."

Abiteboul said Renault had been quite "extreme" in its settings during the final weekend of the campaign to make sure that its points target was not wrecked by reliability problems.

(autosport)

# Ricciardo 'too sensitive' to 2017 F1 season

London

**Daniel Ricciardo** believes qualifying was his weak point during the 2017 Formula 1 season as he failed to match his performance from the previous year.

The Australian triumphed in Baku but scored 56 fewer points and ended up two places further down in fifth in the drivers' championship compared to his 2016 campaign.

Qualifying has traditionally been a strength of the Australian's but he admitted he struggled to get the most of the new generation of F1 machinery over a single lap.

"I used to be called a Saturday driver, now I feel I'm probably called a Sunday driver," Ricciardo said. "Who would have thought?

"I'll put it down to a couple of things. I wouldn't say I've struggled with the car, but it's been a bit trickier to maximise.

"There were a lot of laps on Saturdays... I mean I crashed twice in qualifying, which is very uncharacteristic - Australia and Baku - where it was trickier certainly.

"For whatever reason, Max didn't find it as complicated to start the year. Naturally, I was probably too sensitive to it as well.

"A lot of the time, it was probably better to just drive it and deal with the grip I had as opposed to try and finetune it too much."

Ricciardo said when he and his team decided to

push on and avoid making too many tweaks, things started to improve but then they fell back into old routines.

"We got to a point where we thought 'it is what it is, it won't be the perfect car, just deal with it,'" he said.

"So I put together some good ones. Then we got perhaps stuck in our old ways, there were quite a few practices this year, especially Friday FP2 where I was on top.

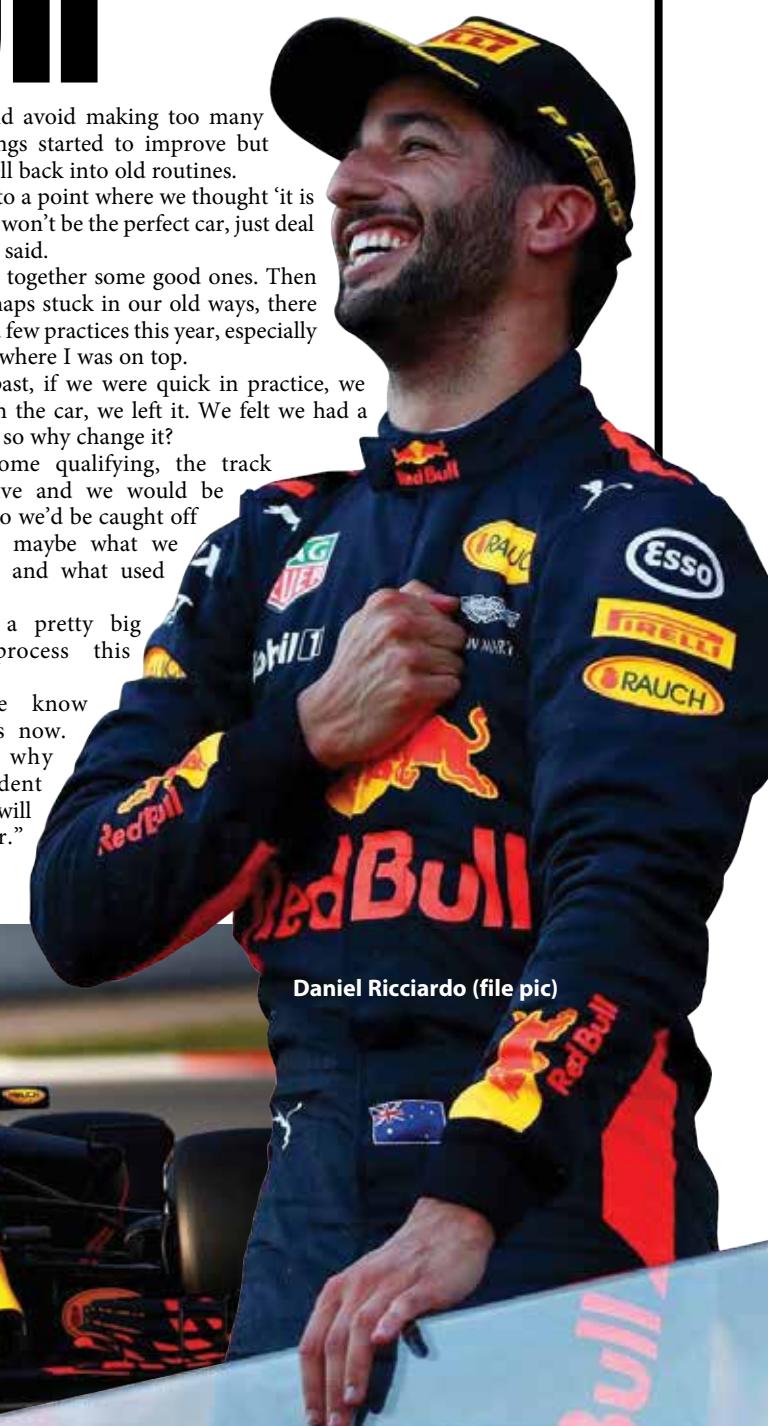
"In the past, if we were quick in practice, we didn't touch the car, we left it. We felt we had a good thing, so why change it?

"Then come qualifying, the track would evolve and we would be worse off. So we'd be caught off guard with maybe what we used to do and what used to work.

"It was a pretty big learning process this year.

"But we know the reasons now. That's why I'm confident next year will be better."

(autosport)



Daniel Ricciardo (file pic)



## Hewitt to make Australian Open return

Sydney

**Lleyton Hewitt** is coming out of retirement to play doubles at next month's Australian Open.

The former world number one officially called it quits after his home grand slam in 2016 but returned to the court twice more last year in Davis Cup and at Wimbledon.

Now he is making another appearance,

this time alongside fellow Australian Sam Groth, for whom this will be the last tournament of his career.

Hewitt said in the Herald Sun: "It's going to be a bit of fun - that's what the Australian Open is about.

"I'm going to really enjoy it. We've been hitting a lot of balls, hitting every day, and we're not just going out there

making up the numbers. We want to give it a fair crack."

Hewitt won grand slam singles titles at the US Open in 2001 and Wimbledon the following year, while he was also victorious in doubles at Flushing Meadows in 2000 partnering Max Mirnyi.

The 36-year-old is currently Australia's Davis Cup captain. (autosport)



Lleyton Hewitt (file pic)

## Perth

A maiden Test century by Dawid Malan helped England fight back to 305 for four at stumps in the opening day of the vital third Ashes clash here yesterday.

After Joe Root won the toss and elected to bat, Malan's unbeaten 110 helped the tourists to breathe life back into their Ashes defence by countering hostile bowling on a bouncy WACA Ground wicket hosting an Ashes Test for the last time.

Already down 2-0 in the five-match series, the visitors were wavering at 131 for four against some fiery pace bowling, but Malan steadied the innings with an unbroken 174-run stand for the fifth wicket alongside Jonny Bairstow (75 not out), England's highest partnership of the series.

England overcame the controversial dismissal of opener Mark Stoneman for 56 on a third-umpire decision, and their cause was helped by some generosity from the Australian fielders, who dropped three catches and missed a run out.

Malan was one of the chief beneficiaries as the 30-year-old notched his first century in his eighth Test, and England's first hundred of the series.

He would have been run out for 32 if David Warner had managed a direct hit, and was dropped by Cameron Bancroft

## BRIEF SCORE

England 4 for 305 (Malan 110\*, Bairstow 75\*, Stoneman 56) v Australia

in the slips on 92.

He steadied his nerves to notch up his century with a powerful pull shot off Josh Hazlewood, having faced 159 balls in 221 minutes at the crease, hitting 13 fours and one six.

Malan came to the crease with England under pressure against short-pitched bowling from Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, and survived early on by chancing his arm against the rising ball.

He lived dangerously at first, but having survived the onslaught showed plenty of resolve as he settled into his innings and teamed up with Bairstow to build a crucial partnership.

It was just what England needed after Australia's pace trio came out breathing fire after the lunch break.

They terrorised the English with aggressive bowling that was often more than 90 miles per hour, with Stoneman dropped twice on 52 and struck a fierce blow on the helmet while on the same score. (AFP)

# Malan's maiden ton lifts England



England's Dawid Malan celebrates

## Rohit has the right stuff for limited-overs game



Rohit Sharma (file pic).

Mumbai, India

Rohit Sharma has been unable to cement his place in India's test side but the right-handed batsman continues to show he has the right stuff for limited-overs formats.

After making his debut in

the shorter form of the game in 2007, Rohit was hailed as the biggest thing to come out of Mumbai since Sachin Tendulkar, with his elegant batting style and ability to hit big shots seemingly with ease.

The 30-year-old is an automatic choice in the limited-overs side and scored his third one-day international double hundred against Sri Lanka on Wednesday, leading the side in the absence of rested regular captain Virat Kohli.

Rohit completed his 16th hundred in the 50-over format in 115 deliveries and then laid waste to the Sri Lankan

bowling, remaining unbeaten on 208 off 153 deliveries.

That seems to be the template for the man who now has three out of the seven double hundreds in ODIs.

"That is my style of play," Rohit told reporters. "It was all about me not making a mistake and batting as long as possible. That's what I did.

"There is no secret or formula to it. You just have to bat and not make any mistake."

But while Rohit has excelled in the shorter formats, he has played in just 23 tests since making his debut four years ago. (Reuters)



## Stokes finally hits form in New Zealand

Ben Stokes plays a shot

## Four-day test to have minimum of 98 overs per day: ICC

Port Elizabeth

Each day of the upcoming inaugural four-day Test between South Africa and Zimbabwe in Port Elizabeth will need to have a minimum of 98 overs per day, as per the ICC's playing conditions. That is, eight overs more must be bowled every day than what is required in five-day cricket. Also, a lead of 150 will be

enough to enforce the follow-on; in five-day cricket the mark stands at 200 runs.

To accommodate the extra overs, the ICC's playing conditions state that play will run for six and a half hours in all each day, instead of the usual six hours for five-day Tests.

The home board shall determine the hours of play

and duration of the sessions, with each session lasting a minimum of two hours and a maximum of two and a half hours. In Port Elizabeth, the normal hours of play are set to run from 1.30pm local time to 9pm, with the first and second sessions being two hours and 15 minutes each, and the final session running for two hours. (espnccricinfo)

Christchurch

Banned England cricketer Ben Stokes finally found some form while playing in New Zealand as he smashed 93 in Canterbury's domestic Twenty20 match against Otago in Christchurch yesterday.

Stokes has signed a short-term contract with Canterbury after being banned from the England team by the country's

cricket board pending the outcome of a police investigation into an incident outside a Bristol nightclub in September.

The 26-year-old smashed seven sixes and six fours in his 47-ball innings at Hagley Oval as the home team scored 217 for nine in their 20 overs.

The England all-rounder, who was born in Christchurch,

had struggled in his few appearances for Canterbury so far, scoring just 36 runs in his three one-day matches and taking one wicket.

Stokes also took a catch and finished with figures of 1-17 from two overs as Canterbury won the game by 134 runs with New Zealand leg-spinner Todd Astle taking 3-18 in 2.4 overs. (Reuters)



## PREMIER LEAGUE SCORES:

Newcastle United	0	Everton	1
Liverpool	0	West Brom	0
Manchester United	1	AFC Bournemouth	0
Tottenham Hotspur	2	Brighton	0
West Ham United	0	Arsenal	0

## London

**Claude Puel** exacted revenge on his first return to Southampton as Leicester romped to a 4-1 Premier League win at St Mary's. Shinji Okazaki's brace and further goals from Riyad Mahrez and Andy King eased Leicester past the struggling Saints, who could only muster a scrappy effort from Maya Yoshida.

Puel was sacked in the summer despite last term leading Southampton to an eighth-place finish and the League Cup final.

The former Nice boss was out to disprove accusations he had favoured boring football in his Saints tenure, and revelled in his Leicester charges laying on plenty of entertainment. The same shortcomings littered Puel's tenure were on display for Mauricio Pellegrino's men however, with the hosts finding no fluency in attack and defending pitifully.

New boss Pellegrino's Southampton stint now appears under real strain: Saints boast just one win and six points in their last eight Premier League games.

After 17 games under Puel last term,

Southampton had amassed 24 points -- under Pellegrino at the same stage, they have just 18.

Leicester's joyful travelling fans seized on the chance to mock their hosts, chirping up with "Aren't you glad you sacked Puel?"

Toothless in attack and disorganised at the back: Saints' performance mirrored that of many under Puel last term.

Mahrez could hardly believe the time and space afforded to him by Southampton's defence as he cantered through the middle and rifled Leicester's facile opener.

Okazaki had one strike palmed away by Forster, then another cleared off the line by Mario Lemina.

Charlie Austin at least forced Kasper Schmeichel into a save but after an ineffective corner Saints were on the back foot in seconds.

Schmeichel's fizzing ball sent Jamie Vardy through the middle and the England man found Mahrez down the left flank. Only Forster's sharp save denied Vardy a fine goal after he redirected Mahrez's low centre.

Leicester hardly had to work to double their lead, a deep corner catching Saints napping and Okazaki poking in at the second attempt. And when the visitors swept home their third, the home faithful headed indoors in their droves some seven minutes from half-time. (espn.in)



## Lewandowski puts Bayern 9 points clear

## Munich

**A** Robert Lewandowski goal ended the resistance of rock bottom Cologne as Bayern Munich extended their Bundesliga lead to nine points with a 1-0 win.

With Bayern having dropped points in only four games this season and Cologne managing just three points and no victories from their first 15 games, this was a total mismatch on paper.

But Cologne head coach Stefan Ruthenbeck had vowed his players would not "stand in front of a big beast like a little mouse," and they took away a lot of respect, if no points, from the Allianz Arena.

Bayern had 84 percent of possession in the first half and 12 shots but Timo Horn was not called upon to make too many saves.

But Cologne's valiant efforts were undone by a fine move on the hour mark finished off by Lewandowski for his 21st goal of the season.

The goal maintained his record of having scored in every home game in the Bundesliga this season.

Still, the visitors nearly secured a point, with Lukas Klunter denied by a fine save by 36-year-old Tom Starke three minutes from time.

Cologne knew they were in for a long evening and efforts were soon raining in on their goal.

From an 11th-minute corner, Lewandowski smashed in a shot that took a deflection and sailed over the bar.

Two minutes later Franck Ribery played a sublime ball over the top to Thomas Muller but his first touch was just too heavy and Horn was able to save the resulting shot.

Niklas Sule was the next to try his luck with a header over the bar, and from there the golden chances rather dried up.

In fact, the best opening during the rest of the half came on the break for Cologne but Milos Jojic's chip was deflected over the crossbar.

Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes took action at half-time, sending on Kingsley Coman and James Rodriguez in place of Arturo Vidal and Corentin Tolisso. The hosts really should have taken the lead six minutes after the break but, from Muller's superb cross, Lewandowski uncharacteristically sent a close-range header over the bar.

Bayern's frustration was growing but with an hour gone they put together an incisive move that Cologne were powerless to resist. (espn.in)

## GERMAN BUNDESLIGA SCORES:

TSG Hoffenheim	1	VfB Stuttgart	0
Bayer Leverkusen	1	Werder Bremen	0
Hertha Berlin	3	Hannover 96	1
Schalke 04	3	FC Augsburg	2

# Leicester cruise

## Barca look to recover sparkle

## Barcelona

**B**arcelona have managed to get away with some lacklustre displays recently and Sunday's visit of struggling Deportivo La Coruna offers them a chance to recapture their sparkling early season form a week before the 'Clasico' against Real Madrid.

Victory over Depor would see Barca move 11 points clear of their bitter rivals before the crunch game at the Santiago Bernabeu on Dec. 23, as Real, eight points adrift of Barca in fourth, are away on Club World Cup duty in Abu Dhabi. Barca remain unbeaten in

the league and have a healthy five-point cushion at the top of the standings over Valencia despite trundling along in their last three games, in which they have drawn twice.

They were held by Valencia and Celta Vigo, who have proved to be their bogey team in recent years, while their 2-0 win at Villarreal in their last outing owed a lot to opposing midfielder Daniel Raba's second half dismissal.

Shorn of Neymar's speed and flair, and with his replacement Ousmane Dembele still injured, Barca have lacked the excitement of recent years and

become increasingly reliant on the consistency of Lionel Messi to keep them ahead of their rivals.



Barca have developed into a more reliable outfit under coach Ernesto Valverde. (Reuters)

## Calvert-Lewin signs new contract

## London

**E**verton forward Dominic Calvert-Lewin has signed a new long-term deal with the Premier League club.

Everton forward Dominic Calvert-Lewin has signed a new long-term deal with the Premier League club.

The 20-year-old, who arrived at Goodison Park from Sheffield United in August 2016, will remain with the Toffees until June 2023.

Calvert-Lewin has formed an impressive partnership with Wayne Rooney in attack this season, scoring six goals across 28 appearances in all

competitions.

Everton boss Sam Allardyce told the club's official website: "Dominic Calvert-Lewin is a really exciting talent, he's improving all the time and he has the athleticism and attributes to become a top player in his position. (eurosport)

Dominic Calvert-Lewin (file pic)



# Vincenzo Nibali to ride 2018 Tour and skip Giro

Hvar, Croatia

**Bahrain-Merida** leader Vincenzo Nibali has confirmed that he will skip the Giro d'Italia in order to focus on the Tour de France in 2018.

The Italian did not ride the Tour last year during his debut season at Bahrain-Merida, when he finished on the podium at both the Giro and the Vuelta a España.

"The [Tour] route is quite 'nervous' in comparison with previous editions, much more suited to riders with my characteristics. It's a route that will suit riders like [Romain] Bardet and [Thibaut] Pinot, it has shorter time trials. It's a more varied route," Nibali said at Bahrain-Merida's training camp in Hvar, Croatia yesterday.

"It was always the idea to ride the Giro in my first year with the team and the Tour in my second, but the route has given me extra motivation."

Nibali's decision to ride the Tour de France in 2018

was largely down to sponsor commitments.

Team manager Brent Copeland explained that the team partners were keen on Nibali riding the Tour next season and thanked his key general classification rider for acquiescing, despite the Giro travelling through his homeland once again.

"It hasn't been an easy decision, especially for Vincenzo. The Giro d'Italia goes through his home of Sicily again," said Copeland.

"This programme has been put together between team management, partners and sponsors. It's a project that we've worked on since the beginning and the partners have always asked us to work towards the Giro d'Italia in the first year of the project and the Tour de France in the second year. We've respected this and we thank Vincenzo for respecting this. We believe that it is a good Tour de France route." (cyclingnews)



Vincenzo Nibali (file pic)

# Ronaldo poses with Brave title

Manama

**Football icon** and one of the all time greats, Cristiano Ronaldo is the latest celebrity to have showcased supporting Brave Combat Federation. Ronaldo had been closely associated with the Brave Combat Federation champion Ottman Azaitar.

Newly-crowned Brave Lightweight champion Ottman Azaitar is in Abu Dhabi to watch the soccer World Club Cup and cheer for superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ottman presented his championship title to Ronaldo during the dinner party before Real Madrid faced Al Jazira in the semifinals.

Azaitar's friendship with the Ballon D'Or winner was reflected during his last fight. While walking out to face Alejandro "Pato" Martínez for the inaugural Brave Lightweight title at Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions, the Moroccan phenom wore his Cristiano's autographed Real Madrid shirt.

And the jersey proved to be a good luck charm as Azaitar dominated the stand-up department against the Mexican grappler and showed improved jiu-jitsu defence to avoid submissions from his rival on his way to a third-round Knockout.

"I wore his shirt during my walk-out for my title fight and promised that if I won the belt, I would dedicate it to the athlete I look up the most. My dear title is in the best hands now," said Azaitar.



Cristiano Ronaldo with Ottman Azaitar

## I have not overstepped any boundaries: Chris Froome

London

**Chris Froome** says he has not "overstepped any boundaries" after urine tests showed he had double the permitted level of salbutamol in his blood after using an asthma inhaler at the Vuelta a Espana.

Speaking to *Sky Sports*, the 32-year-old said: "It has come as a huge shock to me, but at the same time, I know that within me I have fundamentally followed the protocol."

He added: "I have not overstepped any boundaries."

However Froome admitted the test, which was taken after Stage 18 of the Vuelta a Espana, was damaging to his reputation.

The comments followed a *tweet* by the Team Sky cyclist yesterday in which he wrote: "It's sad seeing the misconceptions that are out there about athletes & salbutamol use. My hope is that this doesn't prevent asthmatic athletes from using their inhalers in emergency situations for fear of being judged. It is not something to be ashamed of."

Froome will be required to provide an explanation as to the finding or risks losing his Vuelta title. (eurosport)



Chris Froome (file pic)

# Record victory for Man City



David Silva celebrates scoring Manchester City's third goal and his second (Picture courtesy: theguardian)



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## Man City set record with 15 consecutive wins

### Manchester

**M**anchester City set a new Premier League record of 15 consecutive wins with a 4-0 victory at bottom club Swansea.

City came into the contest averaging three goals per game and made sure that record was matched inside 52 minutes with a David Silva double and Kevin De Bruyne's free kick.

Sergio Aguero claimed the fourth five minutes from time with his 10th league goal of the season -- one more than Swansea have managed.

Silva has now scored four goals in his last three games and was at his brilliant best here, conducting the City orchestra with his passing and movement.

City's latest win of a seemingly unstoppable campaign removed Arsenal's 14-game winning streak in 2002 from the record books.

They say there are no easy games in the Premier League, but this was as straightforward as it gets with City enjoying 78 percent possession.

Pep Guardiola's side were in cruise control long before going two goals up inside 34 minutes, forcing Swansea to cover vast acres of turf without the ball.

Swansea's performance was one of commitment and effort, yet the gulf between the two sides was predictably huge.

City did not even have to be at their giddy best during an opening quarter in which they made more mistakes than in winning the Manchester derby at Old Trafford on Sunday.

The recalled Aguero, in particular, had a frustrating first half as he found the side netting in the fifth minute and then twice headed over when well placed.

Fernandinho's 25-yard drive brought a fine stop from Lukasz Fabianski, but Swansea broke the early siege when Roque Mesa released Jordan Ayew.

The Ghanaian carried the ball fully 50 yards but the sprawling Ederson was equal to his effort. Nicolas Otamendi thrashed wide when Fabianski flapped at a cross as City continued to seek the finishing touch to their complete control.

It came after 27 minutes when Bernardo Silva pounced on Mesa's wayward pass and cross for namesake David to break the deadlock with a nonchalant flick.

Fabianski soon pushed out Aguero's low effort, but the goalkeeper was beaten again when De Bruyne's free kick from the left skimmed past him in a crowded goalmouth.

City should have been out of sight within 45 seconds of the restart when David Silva played a one-two with Aguero before sending the ball wide with the goal at his mercy.

But the Spaniard was not to be denied after Fabianski had again prevented Aguero from opening his account.

Raheem Sterling broke down the right and David Silva took his pass to coolly chip over Fabianski from a few yards out.

Swansea almost reduced the deficit when Mesa's shot took a wicked deflection off Fabian Delph, but Ederson switched direction in a flash to make an excellent save.

It was a rare moment of concern on a night when City's title-winning credentials were again clear for all to see. (espn.in)