

Is Cristiano Ronaldo engaged?

Georgina Rodriguez added weight to growing rumours of an engagement to Cristiano Ronaldo by revealing a sparking ring in her wedding finger as she cheered the footballer to victory in Moscow yesterday afternoon. **P19**

Has Soleimani stolen the keys to the Iraqi state?

THE DAILY **tribune**

SUPPLEMENT 11 **Yoga, a global phenomenon**

Uruguay in, Saudi out

21 **SPORTS**

SPORTS 24

Ronnie strikes again



Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Saudi King hopes for Afghan truce to be extended

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's King Salman expressed his hope that Afghanistan extends the truce that was announced at the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

King Salman added in a statement, published by the Saudi Press Agency, that he followed closely the ceasefire that was agreed between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban and hoped that such a blessed step would be built upon by all parties to reach a lasting peace in the country.

The Saudi king added, in his statement, that Afghan people have suffered extensively from long wars.

Courts to hear minors over video calls

The new system expected to contribute to reducing the psychological effects on children while delivering their statements.

Manama

A videoconference system will be launched at the Family and Child Prosecution to pave the way for direct or recorded transmission of chil-

dren's statements at courts, the Public Prosecution announced.

The move aims to consolidate the child protection procedures, provide suitable social and psychological environment for children in accordance with their needs and their circumstances and enable minors to testify within a more relaxed and reassuring atmosphere, the Public Prosecution added.

Chief Prosecutor Dr Ali Al Shuwaikh said that the use of the videoconferencing technology aims to achieve the best interests for children, in general,

"The use of the videoconferencing technology aims to achieve the best interests for children, in general, whether victims, witnesses or suspects, while affording all legal guarantees.

DR AL SHUWAIKH

whether victims, witnesses or suspects, while affording all legal

guarantees, including enabling defence lawyers to make instant questions.

He pointed out that the new system will contribute to reducing the psychological effects on children who deliver their statements, especially while facing perpetrators.

Dr Al Shuwaikh also said that a court had been equipped by modern technology, and had already implemented the videoconferencing technique to hear children's statements.

He stressed constant keenness to develop the justice, as well as

to protect witnesses, and cope with technological development to ease procedures, increase their efficiency and achieve the legal requirements stipulated by the Criminal Procedures Law.

According to the Code of Criminal Procedures, the court, in order to fast-track, may resort to modern audio-visual technology to hear the statements of witnesses or those with information about the case, whether through direct transmission or recorded statement during the session whenever the witness could not attend for any reasons.

Gaza's new normal

Israeli warplanes strike 25 Hamas positions in Gaza

Israeli planes initially targeted three Hamas military positions overnight in Gaza in response to kites and balloons carrying incendiary and explosive devices.

The latest spike in tensions follows weeks of deadly protests and clashes along the Gaza-Israel border as well as the worst military escalation last month since a 2014 war.

Gaza

Israeli warplanes pounded Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip early yesterday in a new flare-up of hostilities that saw dozens of rockets and mortar shells fired from the Palestinian enclave, the army said.



An explosion is seen in northern Gaza City after an airstrike by Israeli forces yesterday.

The strikes targeting Hamas' military wing, the Ezzedine Al Qassam Brigades, were more intense than in previous sorties to convey the message "we will not allow this situation to continue," Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus told reporters.

The latest spike in tensions follows

weeks of deadly protests and clashes along the Gaza-Israel border as well as the worst military escalation last month since a 2014 war.

It comes as US President Donald Trump's special envoy Jason Greenblatt and adviser Jared Kushner visit the region to discuss issues including the Pal-

estinian-Israeli peace process.

Israeli planes initially targeted three Hamas military positions overnight in Gaza in response to kites and balloons carrying incendiary and explosive devices launched into Israel from the Palestinian territory, the army said.

"They may look like toys but I can assure they are not toys, they are weapons intended to kill and to inflict damage," Conricus said.

He said that so far Israel had sought to warn off those launching the airborne devices but that could change.

"Hamas and other militants, but mainly Hamas" hit back after the first air raids with more than 45 rockets and mortar rounds fired from Gaza toward Israel, seven of which were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system, he added.

Three more landed inside the Jewish state, he said, but did not account for the remainder.

In response, Israeli planes carried out more raids against 25 "terror objectives" including an underground training compound, according to the army.

GIRL POWER

Women rising to high political offices across Mideast

Cairo

The appointment of two more female ministers this month to the new Egyptian Cabinet means women now fill eight out of 34 positions, the highest number in the modern history of Egypt.

Hala Zayed is the new health minister while Yasmine Fouad takes over as environment minister. Both women replaced men and join culture minister Inas Abdel-Dayem, tourism minister Rania Al-Mashat, Nabila Makram (immigration minister) Ghada Wali (social solidarity minister), Hala El-Saeed (planning minister) and Sahar Nasr (minister of investment and international cooperation).

The appointments by Egypt's new Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly have been welcomed as forward thinking by social

and political commentators.

Four out of 15 new deputy ministers are also women and women now hold 15 percent of the seats in Parliament.

The rise of women to high political office in the Arab world is by no means restricted to Egypt.

Jordan also has a record number of women ministers after Prime Minister-designate Omar Razzaz appointed seven women to the 29-member Cabinet sworn in last week.

In the UAE, women hold nine out of 31 ministerial positions, and one of them, Minister for Youth Shamma Al Mazrui, is also the world's youngest minister, appointed in 2016 when she was only 22.

This makes the UAE Cabinet nearly 30 per cent female, which is higher than India, al-



Rania Al Mashat takes an oath before Egyptian President Abdel Fatah Al Sisi

most equal to the UK and far ahead of the US, where Donald Trump has just four women in his Cabinet.

The general election in Morocco in October 2016 produced 81 women members of Parliament, accounting for 21 percent

of the total 395 seats. The Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD), which won the most votes, also ended up with the highest number of women MPs, 18.

Though elections in Saudi Arabia were open to women



only in 2015, it ranks 100th out of 193rd in the world league table of women in national governing bodies, slightly above the US at 102nd place.

A policy briefing from the Brookings Institution think-tank in Washington says that one of the best ways for a country to ease economic pressure and boost productivity is to increase female participation in the workplace and in political life.

UAE XCHANGE

GOLD RUSH AT SADAD

USE SADAD TO SEND MONEY TO YOUR LOVED ONES AND STAND A CHANCE TO WIN 3 GOLD COINS, MONTHLY

PRIZES

9 GOLD COINS (4 GMS EACH) TO BE WON

PROMOTION PERIOD: 1st April - 30th June 2018

Customer Care: +973 1722 8224
www.uaexchange.com/bhr



03 **Jobs bill a 'boon for Bahrainis'**

05 **Fishermen protest over licence reduction plan**

07 **FDI increased 114pc to \$519m in 2017: UNCTAD**



Carrefour كارفور

These offers are available in:

هذه العروض متوفرة في:

Bahrain City Centre • The Bahrain Mall • Enma Mall (Riffa) • Seef Mall (Muharraq) • مجمع السيف (المحرق) • مجمع الإنماء (الرفاع) • مجمع البحرين • مجمع سيتي سنتر

Promotion Valid From 20th Until 26th June, 2018

تسري هذه العروض من تاريخ ٢٠ حتى ٢٦ يونيو ٢٠١٨



عطلة سعيدة
Leave On Holidays



بيض صحة ٣٠ حبة
Saha White Eggs Large 30's
BD 1.975
BD 1.390



Sunny 1.8Ltr Sunny Blend Oil 1.8Ltr
BD 0.890

Arwa Water 330ml
12 0.750
BD 0.450

Sadia Tender Chicken Breast 2 Kgs + 1 Kg
BD 4.390

Dalia White Chicken 1 Kg
BD 0.790

Almorai Premium Milk Powder 2.20kg
BD 3.750

Red Rose Premium 5 Flour 5kg
BD 2.790

Kraft Green Cheese Original 400g
BD 2.190

Luv Dish Wash 725ml
3 0.790



شوط سباحة
Bath Towel
(Size: 70x140cm)
BD 2.500
BD 1.900

حافظة طعام أوبتيما
Optima Hot Pot Set
3 PCS
BD 6.990
BD 3.990



تي شيرت رجالي
Men T-shirt Assorted
(Size: S-XXL)
BD 1.300
BD 1.000

مبرد ماء بيتناكل
Pinnacle Cool Box
BD 19.990
BD 14.900



تي شيرت نسائي
Ladies T-shirt
(Size: S-XL)
BD 1.300
BD 1.000

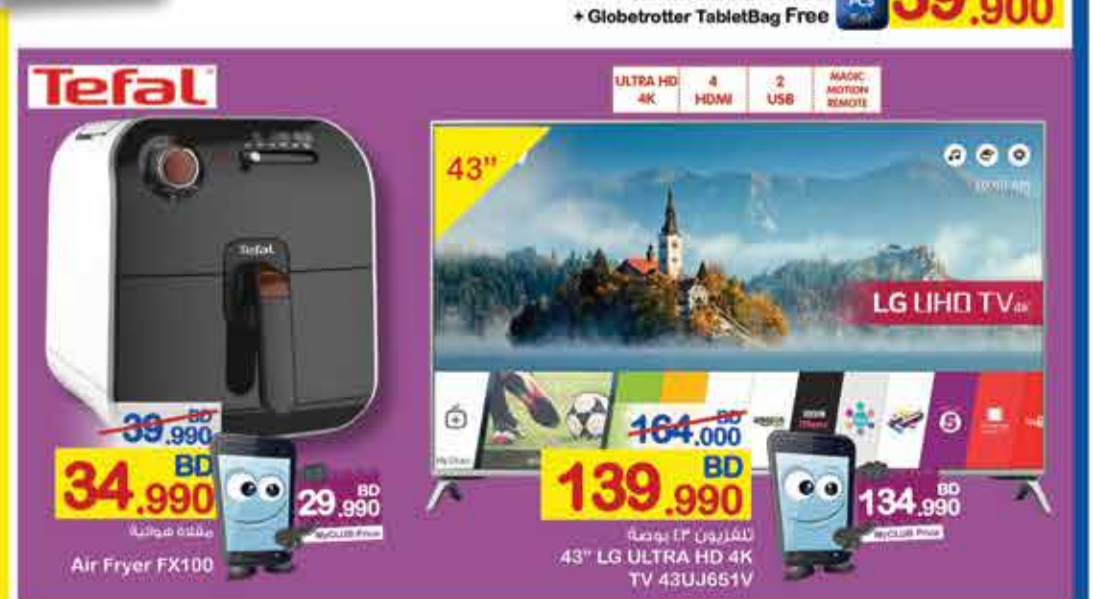
طقم حقيبة سفر كارلتون
Carlton Marble Arch Set
3 PCS
BD 50.600
BD 39.900
+ Globetrotter TabletBag Free



1000 WATTS
BLACK+DECKER
مشطحة ماء بضغط عال
B&D Pressure Washer
BD 34.900
BD 26.990

SAMSUNG
4G LTE
6.2"
64GB
6GB RAM
Dual Camera
354.990
BD 284.990

208 1508 7"
GTtouch WiFi Tab
كمبيوتر لوحي
BD 14.990
BD 7.990



Tefal
39.990
BD 34.990
Air Fryer FX100

ULTRA HD 4K 4 HDMI 2 USB MAGIC MOTION REMOTE
43"
LG UHD TV
164.000
BD 139.990
43" LG ULTRA HD 4K TV 43UJ651V



BIG STORY

big story

Jobs bill a 'boon for Bahrainis'

MPs say the bill provides a single remedy to fix several problems faced by citizens



“ There has been a significant increase in the number of expatriate workers, despite Bahrainisation efforts by Labour Ministry. ”
MR MILAD



“ Most of the unemployed Bahrainis have university degrees and this draft proposal aims to end unemployment among citizens. ”
MR HAMEED



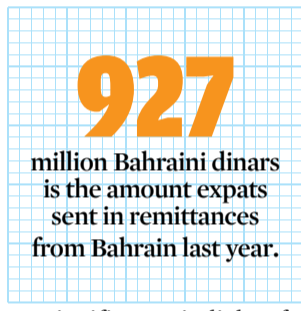
“ Bahraini employees aren't given priorities in the private sector, which is leading to high levels of unemployment among citizens. ”
MR AL RAHMA

● According to the Central Informatics Organisation, the number of foreign residents in Bahrain has reached more than 823,000, almost 55 per cent of the total population.

● In the public sector, the Ministry of Finance said that the government paid BD186 million in salaries to non-Bahraini employees last year.

TDI|Manama
Abbas Al Mughanni

A list of jobs will be reserved for Bahrainis if the draft proposal that was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives



great significance in light of expatriates earning over BD\$4.2 billion in salaries last year alone. MP Mohammad Milad said yesterday that the draft proposal will be submitted to the Government to prepare a draft law within six months. This draft law will be then submitted back to the Council for final approval. “There is a significant increase in the number of expatriate workers and a lack of job opportunities for Bahrainis, despite the Ministry of Labour's efforts to give Bahrainis a priority in the job market in certain professions,” he said.

823,000, accounting for 55 per cent of the total population. The number of expatriate workers officially registered at the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) stand at 504,000, all working in the private sector and their salaries last year exceeded BD1.4bn. According to GOSI, more than 18,000 expatriate employees receive a monthly salary of BD1,000 or above.

In the public sector, the Ministry of Finance said that the government paid BD186 million in salaries to non-Bahraini employees last year.

According to the statistics supplied by the Central Bank of Bahrain, the remittances from the kingdom amounted to more than BD927m (equivalent to US\$2.4 billion) last year.

MP Adel Hameed said most of the unemployed Bahrainis have university degrees and this draft proposal has measures to tackle the problem of unemployment among citizens.

Training gun on the private sector, MP Ghazi Al Rahma said Bahraini employees aren't given priorities in the private sector.

“There should be incentives given to companies in the private sector to employ more Bahrainis. It is time to limit some professions to Bahraini nationals only. There should be a legislation that gives Bahrainis priorities in some sectors in the face of unfair competition they face with expatriate workforce.”

“Many companies are controlled by non-Bahrainis, who are in charge of employment, and Bahrainis are the least of their concerns. What makes things worse is that locals end up being employed at lower positions and lower pay-

ment ceilings. This is why some professions should only be restricted to capable and qualified Bahrainis.”

MP Mohammed Al Ahmed said Bahrainis should be provided all the support and qualifications they require to fit into many jobs and to become the best option in the labour market.

“When highly qualified, Bahrainis end up getting better jobs

and the result will have an extremely positive impact on the country in general. They are simply given the chance to be more productive.”

MP Jalal Kadhem said differentiating between expatriate workers and locals shouldn't be at the expense of citizens who should always have the priority. “This is unacceptable and unfair.”

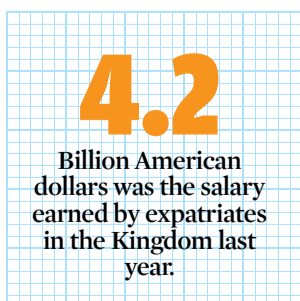
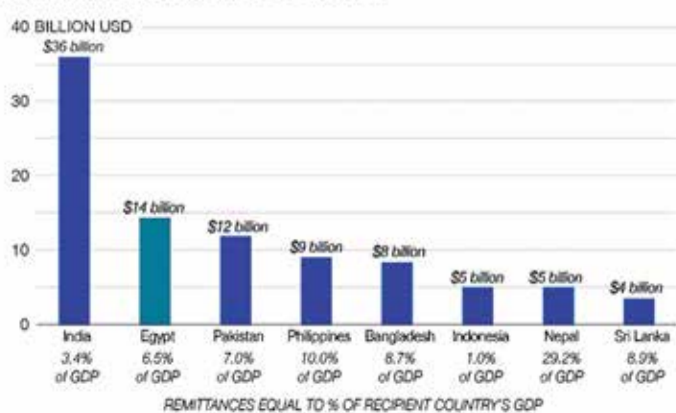


“ Bahrainis should be provided all the support and qualifications they require to fit into many jobs that exist in the labour market. ”
MR AL AHMED



“ Differentiating between expatriate workers and locals shouldn't be at the expense of citizens who should always have the priority. ”
MR KADHEM

Remittances from GCC Countries



SHIMMERING
SUMMER
OFFERS

WIN UP TO
500
GOLD BARS

Summer
Exclusives

BD 600 BD 800

BUY GOLD JEWELLERY WORTH BD 50 AND GET 1 RAFFLE COUPON
OR BUY DIAMOND JEWELLERY WORTH BD 50 TO GET 2 RAFFLE COUPONS.

0% DEDUCTION ON GOLD EXCHANGE | **ENJOY LOW MAKING CHARGES**

OFFER VALID TILL 4 AUGUST, 2018

Joyalukkas
World's favourite jeweller

Gold City, Manama - Tel: +973 1722 9914 • Lulu Hypermarket, Riffa - Tel: +973 1725 0011
Opening Soon : Opp. Standard Chartered Bank, Manama

Protecting environment 'a prime necessity'

● HRH the Premier also underscored the importance of taking care of natural resources and wildlife, ensuring their development and sustainability and preserving their diversity as a pillar for sustainable development.

● The Prime Minister pointed out the kingdom's unflinching efforts to preserve the environment and natural resources in tandem with its urbanisation projects, calling to give more importance to developing agricultural products and boosting food safety.



HRH the Premier receives royal family members and senior officials

Manama

HRH the Premier has emphasised the need to protect environment for the benefit of the future generations of the Kingdom.

This came as His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received members of the royal family and senior officials and exchanged with them Eid Al Fitr good wishes.

HRH the Premier also underscored

the importance of taking care of natural resources and wildlife, ensuring their development and sustainability and preserving their diversity as a pillar for sustainable development.

He pointed out the kingdom's unflinching efforts to preserve the environment and natural resources in tandem with its urbanisation projects, calling to give more importance to developing agricultural products and boosting food safety.

He urged to take care of all funda-

mentals reflecting the community's history and civilisation and ensure their sustainability. He paid tribute to the Bahraini people for their substantial contribution to Bahrain's growth, calling to document those roles which have always enlightened the national history.

HRH the Prime Minister underlined the government's keenness on preserving the kingdom's heritage for future generations to learn about their history and inherent civilisation in a fast-paced world.

He recalled the enormous contribution of late Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa to the judicial, Islamic affairs and municipal fields, congratulating Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa on his appointment as President of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs.

HRH the Prime Minister underlined the need to preserve the national identity and social texture by reviving the inherent customs and traditions.

He said communication has always been an inherent Bahraini approach inherited from the fathers and forefathers. Therefore, he added, "we have to hold on to it so as to preserve the national identity and boost social cohesion."

HRH the Premier praised social cohesion in Bahrain, describing it as the catalyst of achievements and development in various fields. He paid tribute to the forefathers for their role and dedication to serving the nation and ensuring its prosperity.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received Shaikh Fahad Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, in the presence of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain and Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Shaikh Azzam Mubarak Al Sabah at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Premier hailed the steadily-progressing Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations, praising sisterly Kuwait's development march and pivotal role at the Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab levels, under the leadership of Amir Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah.



Royal Guard Commander HH Brigadier-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has bade farewell to participants from Royal Bahrain Naval Force and BDF Medical Services in the British relief ship in a mission to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees in the Mediterranean, wishing them success and praising their high morale spirits. Bahrain's participation in this humanitarian mission reflects the humane bonds binding Bahrain with peoples around the world.



The spectacular 'Disney On Ice presents Passport to Adventure' show concluded on Tuesday with huge success attracting over 27,000 visitors from the Kingdom as well as abroad during the Eid Al Fitr holidays. The show offered its visitors over the period of 5 days an unforgettable entertainment experience, filled with Disney music and magic in every scene. The audience enjoyed four unique landscapes at the ice show, each filled with Academy Award-winning musical scores and world-class skating, making the event a magical experience families will cherish forever. "The event has strengthened the Kingdom's position as the leading family destination on the global tourism map," said Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority Shaikh Khaled Bin Humood Al Khalifa.

Fishermen protest over licence reduction plan

They say the law, if implemented, will push their families into poverty

● The current law authorises the fishermen to lease out their licences, which, according to MPs, has only benefitted expats.

● The draft law presented by the Utilities Committee of the House of Representatives calls for a fine of BD5,000 if any fisherman is found leasing out his licence.

TDT|Manama
Thamer Tayfur

About 30 fishermen staged a protest at Muharraq Port over a proposal by the lawmakers to reduce the number of fishing licences per person from three to one.

The protesting fishermen said their

lives will be pushed into poverty if the proposal becomes a law.

”



There is a consensus on it, especially since the draft law is in the public interest, and will maintain food security.

MR BUHASSAN

The law proposed by MPs aims at Bahrainising the fishing sector while protecting the marine resources of the Kingdom.

“We make BD750 by leasing out three licences a month, ie BD250 per licence. If the number of fishing licences are reduced our income will be limited to BD250 a month. How do you expect a family to survive with that money?” a fisherman, who doesn’t want to be named, told Tribune.

Another fisherman said the move will destroy the fishing industry. “Less licences mean less fish in the market. As the supply reduces considerably, the price will climb high. In my judgement, the prices of fish will go up at least by 70 per cent. People will stop consuming fish and it will eventually destroy the industry.”

“What are the parliamentarians intending to do? Do they get happiness when our families are pushed into poverty?” he asked.

The current law authorises the fishermen to lease out their licences, which, according to MPs, has only benefitted expats.

The draft law presented by the Utilities Committee of the House of Representatives calls for a fine of BD5,000 if any fisherman is found leasing out his licence. However, there is no ban on recruiting foreign workers for fishing.

Speaking to Tribune, MP Jamal Buhasan said the draft law will be approved by the council in its next session.

“There is a consensus on it, especially since the draft law is in the public interest, and will maintain food security.”

“I do not fear that the prices of fish will increase, because the new regulation will encourage competition and more Bahrainis will get the opportunity to get involved in this industry. This will of course reduce unemployment and help more families create a source of income,” he added.

A’ali arsonists sentenced

TDT|Manama

Six Bahraini arsonists convicted of burning tyres in A’ali have been handed down jail terms varying between one and five years.

According to court files, the defendants plotted the crime, which took place on August 8, 2017, through personal meetings and social media platforms.

The defendants are also said to have detonated a gas cylinder which they placed in the middle of burning tyres.

“I was tasked by the first defendant to arrange several tyres to burn them and to set off the gas cylinder,” the third defendant said during questioning.

“We went to Souq Waqif and got the tyres. We also brought with us firebombs as well as a bottle of petrol. When I met the first and sixth defendants, they were having a gas cylinder and they told me that they would detonate it,” he added.

Meanwhile, the first defendant told prosecutors that the fifth defendant requested him to participate in the incident and they used a conference call to monitor the area before advancing with their plan.

The defendants’ involvement in the incident had become clear during police investigations.

The fourth suspect was found to have a black mask, laser and black gloves upon his arrest. Police source say all these items are used by rioters across the country.

Bahrain to attend key UN meet on SDGs

TDT|Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain will be among the countries to take part in the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development organised by the United Nations at its headquarters in New York next month.

The high level event, held from July 9 to July 18, will see the participation of 45 countries and will be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

The ten day forum includes a three-day

ministerial meeting of the forum from Monday, 16 July, to Wednesday, 18 July 2018. The event is aimed to promote and review the implementation of sustainable development and to provide guidance and recommendations.

The theme of the event will be “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

A spokesperson from UN Information Centre (UNIC) Bahrain said that more details about Bahrain’s participation will be announced next Wednesday.

“Thousands of government, business and civil society leaders will gather at

Forty-seven countries - both developed and developing - including Bahrain will speak on the actions they are taking to achieve the Goals during the three-day ministerial meeting.

UNIC BAHRAIN

the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development from 9 to 18 July

at UN Headquarters in New York to review successes, discuss challenges and mobilise efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” UNIC Bahrain said.

“The forum is the central platform for tracking progress on the Goals at the global level. Forty-seven countries - both developed and developing - including Bahrain will speak on the actions they are taking to achieve the Goals during the three-day ministerial meeting from 16 to 18 July when they present their voluntary national reviews,” it added.

SCW stresses efforts to empower women



Shaikha Dina at the meeting.

TDT|Manama

A delegation from the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) represented Bahrain in the 2018 UN Women Executive Council meeting held here at the UN Headquarters.

SCW Acting Director General for Policies and Development, Shaikha Dina bint

Rashid Al Khalifa, in her speech, affirmed Bahrain’s commitment to continue its role as a member of the UN Women Executive Council in promoting policies and practices that support the advancement of women.

Shaikha Dina Al Khalifa invited government committees and civil society organisations concerned to participate in the

Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women Empowerment, highlighting its importance as an SCW-UN joint initiative aims at highlighting the role of states in supporting the policy of non-discrimination against women, in addition to encouraging visions and efforts that support the integration of women’s needs.

Three years jail for teenaged fake bomber

● The hoax bomb was made of a plastic box connected to an MP 3 gadget and was wrapped with a tape. His involvement in the incident was established after police found matching fingerprints.

TDT|Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini teenager to three years behind bars for planting a fake bomb. The defendant along with his brother is said to have gained specialised skills in the making of fake bombs and was already accused in many cases.

The device was found in Jid Ali on May 22, 2016, after the roadusers alerted the Capita Police Station.

The hoax bomb was made of a plastic box connected to an MP 3 gadget and was wrapped with a tape. His involvement in the incident was established after police found matching fingerprints.

“I wanted to con police officers and cause panic in the area, therefore we made this device with my brother,” the teenage defendant said.

“We decided to plant it in Jid Ali because it is a crowded place. And the presence of device will put everything at a standstill until police officers arrive,” he added.

Prosecutors say that the device was made for a terrorist purpose.

RCO to send humanitarian aid consignments to Yemen

Manama

The Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) is preparing to send humanitarian aid consignments to the Yemeni People in Al Hudaydah town.

The move is in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to provide humanitarian aid to the Yemeni People.

The consignment will be sent under the patronage of Representative of HM the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and RCO Board of Trustees

Chairman Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Shaikh Nasser extended heartfelt thanks and respect to HM the King, the RCO Honorary President, for his kind humanitarian gesture to help the Yemeni people, stressing the royal keenness on Bahrain's support to them to alleviate their suffering.

He lauded the support given to RCO by the government under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,



Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

He added that in line with the royal

“
The consignments aim to provide the basic necessities for commodities and medical stuff in this crucial phase in Al Hudaydah and other towns and provinces in Yemen.

SHAIKH NASSER

directives, RCO is preparing many aid consignments for the Yemeni people which will be delivered in cooperation

with the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for Humanitarian Work.

He pointed out that the consignments aim to provide the basic necessities for commodities and medical stuff in this crucial phase in Al Hudaydah and other towns and provinces in Yemen.

RCO Secretary General Mustafa Sayed praised the humanitarian gesture, describing it as a continuation of the noble humanitarian stances of HM the King to stretch a helping hand to brotherly and friendly peoples. He underlined the royal keenness to support the Yemeni people and alleviate their suffering.

Chocolate, coffee in one cup!

50,000 people expected to attend Chocolate and Coffee Exhibition

● The best equipment, services and products from regional and international producers and suppliers will be showcased at the event.

● The event will be held under the patronage of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) CEO Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa.

TDI|Manama

The third edition of Chocolate and Coffee Exhibition will be held from December 6 to 8 at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIECC).

The expo which is designed for coffee and chocolate lovers and the businesses that cater to them, will be much bigger and better than previous editions, organisers said.

More than 50,000 people are expected to attend the event, which will be held under the patronage of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) CEO Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa.

Yasmeen Jamal, CEO of Bidayaat Company, said that around 110 companies are taking part in the event. She said that some of the countries that are expected to participate include KSA, UAE, UK, Germany, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Greece, Italy, and Spain.



Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed Al Zayani inaugurating a previous edition of 'Chocolates and Coffee' expo.

“We will have more pavilions this year, last year we had participation of 12 countries and this year we will have participation of 20 countries, it includes 10 companies from Indonesia. However, majority of the participants will be from Bahrain,” she said.

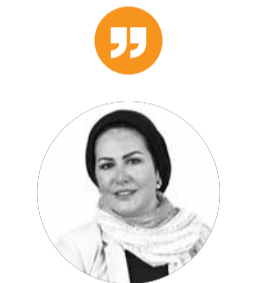
“We expect to see double the number

of visitors, and exhibitors this time. The expo will also feature workshops related to chocolate and coffee.”

The best equipment, services and products from regional and international producers and suppliers will be showcased at the event. Yasmeen explained that event will also be a chance

to forge partnerships and developing long-term business relationships.

“A competition will also be held at the expo where the best coffee exhibitor of the region will be chosen, a jury sets the criteria to ensure a fair competition. A cake baking and decorating workshop will be held in which



“
It is a festival where chocolate and coffee lovers meet in “one cup” to rejoice the beauty and sophistication of their passion.

YASMEEN

housewives and bakeries can participate,” she said.

“In many cultures around the world, coffee is traditionally accompanied with chocolate, both represent global icons for joy, luxury, decadence and love. The 2017 Chocolate and Coffee Exhibition comprises the most unique and flavorful concepts from around the world, all under one roof. It is a festival where chocolate and coffee lovers meet in “one cup” to rejoice the beauty and sophistication of their passion,” she said.

“We envision an opulent environment where we create synergistic partnerships between investors, entrepreneurs, suppliers and cutting-edge researchers in a booming sector with the most aromatic and sweetest of broad horizons,” she said.



The Full Gospel Church of Philadelphia organised an exciting Inter Church Bible Quiz competition, Bible Fiesta 2018 on Saturday. Twenty four teams from various churches in Bahrain participated in the event. The event was graced with the presence of Rev Hani Aziz, Vice Chairman of Bahrain Association of Religious Co-existence and Tolerance. The Malayalam congregation of the Full Gospel Church of Philadelphia bagged the first position, while Sharon Fellowship Church won the second position and Household of Faith won the third position. Scores of guests from various churches witnessed the event.

Local anchor's plea to replace jail term with social service rejected

● The 53-year-old defendant was earlier sentenced to two months behind bars for attacking a man in Muharraq with a broken bottle.

TDI|Manama

A judge who has been assigned to replace jail terms with social work has rejected the plea of an anchorman who was sentenced for insulting a former lawmaker.

The defendant, aged 53, was sentenced to three months in prison for insulting ex-MP Mohammed Khalid on his Twitter account.

The case was filed against

the defendant by the victim and investigations revealed that the defendant had used a fake Twitter account to defame the ex-MP.

Following investigations, police officers identified that the anchorman was behind the crime and he admitted he was the owner of the account.

The defendant pleaded to get the sentence exchanged with a manual work outside the prison, but his request was met with rejection. The 53-year-old defendant was earlier sentenced to two months behind bars for attacking a man in Muharraq with a broken bottle because the victim published his image on Instagram and he deemed this act as defamatory.

In this case, however, the judge accepted his request to replace his jail sentence with a manual work.

business

FDI increased 114pc to \$519m in 2017: UNCTAD

Economic reforms in recent years boosted FDI flow, says the UN agency

● In 2017, The Bahrain Economic Development Board attracted 71 companies to Bahrain with investments amounting to BD276 million (\$733 million)

● The achievement helped increase the number of jobs by up to 72pc, creating more than 2,800 jobs in the local market

TDT|Manama

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Bahrain shot up 114 per cent in 2017 to \$519 million, the fastest growth rate in the GCC, data released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has shown. The rapid growth came in spite of a drop in global FDI of 23 per cent.

Growth in investment was supported by a number of major economic reforms in recent years, with UNCTAD citing Bahrain's amendments to its Commercial Companies Law allowing 100 per cent foreign ownership in additional sectors as an example of liberalisation supporting FDI growth. This has continued into 2018 with sever-

al significant developments in the first half of the year.

In 2017, The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) attracted 71 new companies to Bahrain with investments amounting to BD276 million (the US \$733 million). The record-breaking achievement helped increase the number of jobs by up to 72 per cent, creating more than 2,800 jobs in the local market over the course of the next three years.

"Foreign direct investment creates jobs, diversifies the economy and fuels growth – so we are delighted to see such strong momentum, even against a challenging global backdrop. This proves the growing interest in the GCC opportunity is translating into investment," said Khalid Al Rumaishi, Chief Executive, Bahrain EDB.

"We have undertaken a number of significant initiatives in the first half of this year to build on this success and we expect to announce a number of further measures in the coming months, helping investors to access the GCC opportunity," he added.

Site Selection magazine recently named Bahrain as the 'Best Place to Invest in the Middle East and Africa' for the third year in a row, recognising Bahrain's reforms.

The 'Best to Invest' rankings are determined by the level of capital investments in the country and performance on



Foreign direct investment creates jobs, diversifies the economy and fuels growth – so we are delighted to see such strong momentum, even against a challenging global backdrop. This proves the growing interest in the GCC opportunity is translating into investment

KHALID AL RUMAISHI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BAHRAIN EDB

key international indices published by organisations such as the World Bank, WEF and UNDP. The rankings also saw Bahrain EDB included in the list of Top

Investment Promotion Agencies for 2018, one of only four agencies from the region included.

Among the most prominent developments in 2018 has been the growth of the Bahrain FinTech ecosystem, including the launch of Bahrain FinTech Bay, the largest fintech hub in MENA; the establishment of a \$100 million Fund of Funds to help fund start-ups across the Middle East; and a growing number of companies using the Central Bank of Bahrain's regulatory sandbox to develop new products and services.

These advances were reflected in the recent Global Startup Ecosystem Report, released by the Global Entrepreneurship Network and Startup Genome, which included Bahrain in global 'ecosystems to watch' in both fintech and gaming. Bahrain was the only Arab country to be included in either list.

The Kingdom also saw a number of major announcements last month during Gateway Gulf Forum, which brought together over five hundred global investors and business leaders to explore ways of unlocking the opportunities being created by the economic transformation in the GCC. The event provided a direct route into accessing the GCC market by showcasing investment-ready projects worth \$18 billion, with projects in planning phase driving up the value of the projects to \$26 billion.



The newly-opened Magic Planet at The Avenues Mall

Magic Planet opened at The Avenues Mall

● The venue at the The Avenues Mall is the 35th in the MENA region. The new location will feature staple favourites

TDT|Manama

Majid Al Futtaim, the leading shopping mall, communities, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, has announced the opening of Magic Planet in The Avenues Mall. This is the 35th venue of the Middle East's leading family entertainment centre.

Magic Planet, The Avenues – Bahrain, is the third location in the country and offers a host of attractions for the young and the young at heart, making it the perfect spot for a fun-filled

family day out.

Amongst the heart-pumping rides, video games and other exciting activities are Space Play, Space Drop and Galactic Explorer. Another highlight at The Avenues – Bahrain location is the thrilling Orbiter ride, which is a new addition to Magic Planet's list of attractions.

"With the opening of the 35th Magic Planet in the region at The Avenues – Bahrain, we are reaffirming our position as the leading amusement and family entertainment destination in the Middle East. The new venue will bring the Magic Planet experience to a brand-new audience and I am confident with an offering of exciting rides and activities it will be a roaring success," said Adham Badawy, Director of Marketing & Development Majid Al Futtaim Leisure and Entertainments.

Investment seminar on June 30

TDT|Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) in collaboration with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) will hold its seventh "Investments and Saving Seminar" on June 30 at Bahrain Bourse's premises in Bahrain Financial Harbour.

The seminar, offered free of charge, will cover investment products, concepts of risk and return, and how to build an investment portfolio. The seminar will conclude with a brief about BHB and the different sectors of the market. Interested participants may register for the seminar by filling out an online registration form on the Investment Academy Website bahrainbourse.bibf.com. The deadline for registration is June 27. The seminar is one of the investment awareness initiatives offered by the Investment Academy targeting a broad spectrum of audiences from students to individuals and small investors providing them with the knowledge of financial products and investment strategies.



The Eid Al-Fitr celebration organised by National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) for the elderly. Led by Dana Buheji, Chief Human Resource Officer, a delegation from the bank visited the NBB Home for the Elderly where they enjoyed traditional songs and dances, live cooking stations and Eid treats in the company of residents. Medical equipment were presented on behalf of the bank to the residents to help with their daily needs and improve their health conditions. The bank also distributed coupons to NBB Home for the Disabled Children, the Friendship Society for the Blind Kindergarten, Saudi Bahraini Institute for the Blind and Bahrain Mobility International and Child Care Home.

Total exposure to Abraaj is \$336 m, says Air Arabia

The National | Abu Dhabi

Sharjah low-cost carrier Air Arabia said yesterday its overall exposure of \$336 million to ailing private equity firm Abraaj Group has no significant impact on the airline's operations or cash flow. "We would like to emphasise

that there is no significant impact on Air Arabia's daily or future business or on its liquidity status and the business is operating as usual," a spokeswoman for Air Arabia said in an emailed statement to *The National*. The exposure is through fund portfolios and short-term investments.

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN Ministry of Education Directorate of Services Tender Advertisement					
Services directorate is tendering as following:					
Sr.	TENDER TITLE	TENDER NO	TENDER DOCUMENT FEES (BD)	INITIAL BOND (BD)	TENDER CLOSING DAY DATE TIME
1	Maintenance Of Toilets & Repair Leakages In schools and Directorates	SL 7/2018	15/-	500/-	Sunday 8/7/2018 1:00 PM
2	Maintenance Of carpentry & aluminum works In Schools and Directorates	SL 8/2018			
3	Demolish buildings no(1,2,3&6), Demolish and reconstruct part of boundary wall In Maraim bint Omran primary girls school	SL 9/2018			
4	Provide decorative light in ministry of education Building	SL 11/2018			

- Tenderers who are qualified for this kind of works are kindly requested to:
- Contact Construction Section 17278491 Information System Building – Third Floor in Ministry of Education Complex in Manama from Wednesday June 20, 2018 to Thursday June 28, 2018 (9:00AM to 12:00 P.M)
- Quotations should be deposited in the tender box provided at Directorate of Materials – First Floor before 1:00 After Noon on the tender closing date.
- The following conditions should be complied with:
 - 1-Tender bid should be valid for (180) days, attached with an Initial Bond for the amount specified above or at a rate of 1 of the quotation's value, whichever of the amount is lesser, provided that no initial bond's value shall be less than BD 100/-. Ensure that the Initial bond is in the form of Certified Cheque, Cash, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy, and valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.
 - 2-Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and related to the subject tender.
 - 3-Submit the bid with total price and BOQ as tender forms.
 - 4-Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
 - 5-Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies there-of, which form part of the offer.
- This announcement is to be read as part of the Tender Documents.
- All tenders / Auctions are in compliance with the Government Tendering & Purchasing Regulations issued in Decrees Nos. 36 & 37 of 2002 and it is executive regulations.
- The **SITE VISIT only for Tender No SL 9/2018** (Demolish buildings no(1,2,3&6), Demolish and reconstruct part of boundary wall In Maraim bint Omran primary girls school) was determined on **Monday 2/7/2018 at 9:00AM** and a condition for acceptance of the tender documents.
- For any enquiry on the Tender Documents, pls. contact Services Directorate – Construction Section on Tele: 17278491.

Xiaomi to raise \$6.1 bn via HK IPO

Chinese smartphone maker's public issue to be one of the biggest tech floats globally in recent years

● **Xiaomi plans to sell about 2.18 billion shares including 65% primary shares at a price range of \$2.17-\$2.80**

Reuters|Hong Kong

Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp is planning to raise up to \$6.1 billion from a Hong Kong IPO launching this week, people with knowledge of the matter said, in what will be one of the biggest tech floats globally of recent years.

Xiaomi, which also makes internet-connected devices, plans to sell about 2.18 billion shares including about 65 percent primary shares in its initial public offering (IPO) at a price range of HK\$17 to HK\$22 (\$2.17 to \$2.80) each, said two of the people.

The Beijing-based, Cayman-domiciled company plans to bring in eight cornerstone investors including U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc, Chinese express delivery company S.F. Holding Co Ltd, domestic telecom service provider China Mobile Ltd and state-run conglomerate China Merchants Group Ltd, according to the people.

The cornerstone investors are expected to buy about 13 percent to 15 percent of the shares being offered in the IPO, the people said. The line-up of cornerstone investors could be changed before the company takes orders from retail investors on Monday, they said.

The company will open the book to intuitional investors on Thursday, they added.

Xiaomi, China Mobile and China Merchants Group declined to comment. Qualcomm and S.F. Holding did not im-



A company logo of Xiaomi is displayed on its smartphone at an event in Hong Kong. - REUTERS/Bobby Yip/File Photo

mediately respond to requests for comment. All the people declined to be identified as the information was not public.

Xiaomi lowered its likely valu-

ation to a range of \$55 billion to \$70 billion following its decision to delay its mainland share offering until after its Hong Kong IPO, Reuters reported on Tuesday.



The Beijing-based, Cayman-domiciled company plans to bring in eight cornerstone investors including Qualcomm Inc, S.F. Holding China Mobile and China Merchants Group

The delay was triggered by a dispute between the company and regulators over the valuation of its China depository receipts (CDRs), sources said,

casting doubt on Beijing's efforts to lure foreign-listed Chinese tech giants back home. Xiaomi had been expected to raise up to \$10 billion, split between its Hong Kong and mainland offerings. The delay to its CDRs is a blow for Chinese officials, who designed them as a means for China to compete globally for major tech listings and give mainland investors access to the country's tech champions.

Xiaomi's blockbuster Hong Kong offering on the other hand is set to be the first listing under new exchange rules designed to attract tech floats, as competition heats up between Hong Kong, New York and the Chinese mainland. China's largest provider of on-demand online services, Meituan-Dianping, also plans to file for a Hong Kong IPO later this week, which would be the city's second multibillion-dollar tech float this year.

Air India stake sale plan shelved

● **Air India reviewing funding needs to remain competitive**

● **The national carrier has six subsidiaries – three of which are loss-making – with assets worth about \$4.6 billion**

Reuters|New Delhi

India has shelved a plan to sell a 76 per cent stake in state-owned carrier Air India due to lack of interest from bidders, a government official said yesterday, marking the latest setback in its ambitious efforts to rescue the ailing airline.

Air India is now reviewing its funding needs and weigh-

ing ways to remain competitive, Junior Civil Aviation Minister Jayant Sinha told reporters at a briefing, adding the government is still committed to privatising the airline.

The decision to pull the plug on the plan came after India last month failed to attract buyers for the government's stake in the debt-laden carrier, in a blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's credentials as a

reformer willing to step away from running money-losing businesses.

"We ran a disinvestment process where we made it very clear what type of bid we were interested in receiving. Nobody expressed any interest ... that process right now is over so we have to move forward and consider other alternatives," he said.

The government will continue to support the loss-making airline's financial requirements while it works on alternatives, Sinha said, without giving a specific timeline for a new plan.

The sale was also key to Modi's plans to help keep the fiscal deficit at 3.3 percent of GDP, a goal already under pressure from giveaways to farmers and other welfare benefits ahead of the 2019 national elections.



We ran a disinvestment process where we made it very clear what type of bid we were interested. Nobody expressed any interest ... that process right now is over

JAYANT SINHA
JUNIOR CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

While the government says it has been forced to review the plan also because of high oil prices, a weaker rupee and rising interest rates, potential bidders found some of the stake sale terms too onerous, making it a non-starter.

Delays could exacerbate the carrier's financial woes and hurt the government's efforts to cut debt, analysts said, adding the focus should now be on improving Air India's operations so it does not lose more money or market share.

"The government would look to improve the operational efficiency of the airline so that it becomes attractive for private investors to come in," said Teresa John, economist at Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities.

Walt Disney raises bid for Fox assets to \$71.3 billion



The Twenty-First Century Fox Studios flag flies over the company building in Los Angeles. - REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson/File Photo

● **The new cash-or-stock offer is also an incentive for Fox's largest shareholder, Rupert Murdoch, who owns 17 percent**

Reuters|New York

Walt Disney Co raised its bid for Twenty-First Century Fox Inc assets to \$71.3 billion yesterday, sweetening its offer with cash as it looks to scuttle Comcast Corp's \$65 billion offer last week.

The new cash-or-stock offer is also an incentive for Fox's largest shareholder, Rupert Murdoch, who owns 17 percent voting shares along with his family and would have been hit with a large capital gains tax bill under Comcast's all-cash offer. Disney's previous offer was all stock.

Disney's latest move raises the hurdle for Comcast, which

now has to decide whether it is feasible to come back with a higher bid.

Disney and Comcast are battling to win Fox's movie and television studios at a time when legacy media and distribution companies are looking to expand to better compete with newer media firms like Netflix Inc that sell their content directly to viewers.

Fox's international assets such as Star India appeal to both Disney and Comcast, which want to expand their global presence.

Disney's revised offer of \$38 a share, which would be split 50-50 in cash and stock, is \$10 higher than Disney's first bid in December 2017. Comcast's last bid was for \$35 a share in cash. Disney will also take on about \$13.8 billion of Fox's net debt, implying a total transaction value of about \$85.1 billion.

Disney's latest offer is "superior" to the proposal made by Comcast, Fox said in a statement. Comcast declined to comment.

Fox shares jumped 6.3 percent to \$47.52 in early trading, while Comcast was up 1 percent at \$33.24. Shares of Disney rose 1.2 percent to \$107.36.

Fox said it will postpone its special shareholders meeting in order to provide stockholders with an opportunity to evaluate Disney's amended offer.



An Air India aircraft seen parked on the tarmac at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

Bosch to invest \$250m in India in next 3 years

● **Company will ramp up investments in electric vehicles, self-driving technologies, diesel engines and artificial intelligence**

Reuters|Mumbai

German auto parts maker Bosch Group plans to invest 17 billion rupees (\$250 million) in India over the next three

years to meet growing demand in the domestic automotive market, Chief Executive Officer Volkmar Denner said yesterday.

The company will also ramp up investments in electric vehicles, self-driving technologies, diesel engines and artificial intelligence, Denner said at a press conference in Bengaluru, India.

To keep pace with rapid changes in the automotive industry, Bosch said it plans to spend an additional 6 billion rupees to revamp one of its man-

ufacturing facilities in Bangalore to focus more on advanced technologies such as Internet of Things.

Bosch anticipates electric vehicle technologies will be a future growth area in India as Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to allow only electric cars in the country by 2030.

"We believe electrification is the future but an adequate transition period is required and 2030 is too short a timeline," Denner said.

For now, the company be-

lieves hybrid engines, which combine traditional combustion engines with electric technology, will be an interim solution on the path to an all-electric future.

Electric car sales in India, one of the world's fastest-growing auto markets, made up less than 0.1 percent of annual sales of more than 3 million passenger cars in 2017-2018.

The lack of demand is mainly because electric vehicles are expensive, have a limited range and require a vast charging network.

\$13.8bn

is the net debt of Fox which will be taken over by Disney, implying a total transaction value of about \$85.1 billion

Saudi shares decline as investors book profits

The main Saudi index shed 1.3pc; banks lead the declines on Riyadh bourse

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi stocks declined yesterday as investors cut risk ahead of a decision from global index compiler MSCI on whether to include Saudi Arabia and its \$526 billion bourse in its emerging market indexes.

"It would not be surprising to see some profit taking in the Saudi market after a strong run up into the MSCI inclusion date," said Saleem Khokhar, head of equities at First Abu Dhabi Bank.

"Valuations of Saudi equities are at the higher end of historic ranges even though the medium-to-longer term underlying fundamentals for companies remain strong."

The main Saudi index shed 1.3 per cent. Banks led the declines on the Riyadh bourse. MSCI is set to announce its decision Wednesday afternoon New York time.

Al Rajhi Bank lost 2.1pc. Banque Saudi Fransi lost 4.3pc, Riyad Bank lost 2.9pc, and Saudi British Bank lost 4pc. The region's biggest stock market is up almost 13pc so far this year and has outperformed Gulf markets in anticipation of the MSCI inclusion, which could trigger billions of dollars of inflows into Riyadh's Tadawul-listed stocks.



A Saudi trader working at Falcom stock exchange in Riyadh. REUTERS/Faisal Al Nasser (File photot)



Saudi markets have outperformed Gulf markets in anticipation of inclusion in MSCI

In Dubai, negative sentiment continued to weigh on local stocks after Dubai carrier Air Arabia said it had an investment in Abraaj's funds, the private equity group which last week filed for provisional liquidation.

Air Arabia said yesterday the exposure to Abraaj would have no material impact on its operations and liquidity.

The Dubai Financial Market General Index was down 0.6pc to 2,923 points. Dubai Islamic Bank declined 1.2pc. Air Arabia, the budget airline, lost 0.9pc.

"The rumours in the stock

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 1.3%	8,166
DUBAI	▼ 0.6%	2,923
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.3%	4,550
QATAR	▼ 2.4%	8,882
KUWAIT	▲ 0.2%	4,815
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.5%	1,301
OMAN	unchanged	
EGYPT	▲ 0.5%	16,143

market surrounding the possibility of involvement or lending to Abraaj, especially through the banks, have been really affecting shares of banks since Monday," said a stockbroker who declined to be named due to commercial sensitivities.

Abu Dhabi's index shed 0.3pc with the United Arab Emirates' largest lender, First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), falling 1.2pc and property developer Aldar losing onepc.

In Qatar, the benchmark declined 2.4pc, weighed down by lenders. Outflows from emerging markets exchange traded funds weighed on the Qatari index amid withdrawals from those funds over the Eid holidays on concerns about a strong dollar, said Akber Khan, head of asset management at Al Rayan Investment in Doha.

Asia business sentiment slips on trade worries

● The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asian Business Sentiment Index fell to 74 in the second quarter from a seven-year high of 79

Reuters | Kuala Lumpur

Business confidence among Asian companies slipped for the first time in three quarters, on mounting worries that US President Donald Trump's protectionist policies would trigger tit-for-tat reprisals and undermine the global trading system.

The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asian Business Sentiment Index, representing a six-month outlook from 61 firms, fell to 74 in the second quarter from a seven-year high of 79 in the prior three months. The survey was conducted over June 1-15.

While a reading above 50 indicates a positive outlook, this is the first time the number has dropped since September 2017. The risks to growth are increasingly real now, said Antonio Fatas, a Singapore-based economics professor at global business school INSEAD. "Trade war is not a risk but a reality," he said.

"US tariffs are going up against China but also against some of its traditional allies, such as Canada and the European Union. They are all about to retaliate and today we do



US tariffs are going up against China but also against some of its traditional allies, such as Canada and the European Union. They are all about to retaliate and today we do not see an easy way out

not see an easy way out," Fatas said.

Trump has riled key allies with his protectionist policies, including the imposition of steel and aluminium tariffs on the European Union, Canada and Mexico.

On Monday, he threatened to hit China with new tariffs on \$200 billion in goods

China's GDP has expanded at a steady 6.8 per cent for three straight quarters, though there are concerns overly rapid credit growth and trade frictions could pose risks for the world's second-largest economy.

By industry, retail and leisure was the most bullish, while construction and engineering as well as autos were the weakest.

Iran signals compromise for a modest rise in OPEC oil output

● OPEC meets on Friday to decide on output policy amid calls from major consumers such as the United States and

Reuters | Vienna

Iran signalled yesterday it could compromise on a small increase in OPEC oil output when the group meets this week, as Saudi Arabia scrambled to convince fellow members on the need for a larger rise in production.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets on Friday to decide on output policy amid calls from major consumers such as the United States and China to cool



The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets on Friday to decide on output policy amid calls to increase output. - File photo

down oil prices and support the global economy by producing more crude.

Iran said on Tuesday OPEC was unlikely to reach a deal, setting the stage for a clash with kingpin Saudi Arabia and non-member Russia, which are pushing to raise production steeply from July to meet growing global demand.

But, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh yesterday said OPEC members that had over-delivered on cuts in recent months should return to compliance with agreed quotas.

That would effectively mean a modest boost from producers such as Saudi Arabia that have been cutting more deeply than planned despite production outages in Venezuela and Libya.

"OPEC could keep the same deal with compliance going

back to 100 percent," said an OPEC source who is aware of Iran's stance.

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo said he was confident there would be a deal on Friday.

Russia has proposed OPEC and non-OPEC raise output by 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd), effectively wiping out existing production cuts of 1.8 million bpd that have helped rebalance the market in the past 18 months and lifted oil to \$75 per barrel.

Oil was trading as low as \$27 in 2016.

OPEC members Iran, Iraq and Venezuela have opposed a relaxation of production cuts, fearing a slump in prices.

But a decision to increase output could be taken with Iran refusing to sign up, as has happened before in OPEC.

Bithumb loses \$32m in digital money heist

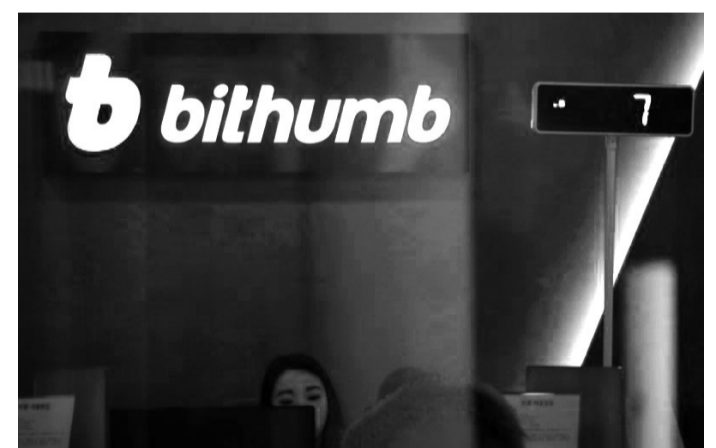
● Bithumb stopped all trading after ascertaining cryptocurrencies worth about 35 billion won were stolen by hackers

Reuters | Seoul

South Korean cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb said 35 billion won (\$31.5 million) worth of virtual coins were stolen by hackers, the second local exchange targeted in just over a week as cyber thieves exposed the high risks of trading the digital asset.

Bithumb said in a notice on its website yesterday that it had stopped all trading after ascertaining "some cryptocurrencies worth about 35 billion won were seized between late yesterday and early morning today." The exchange, the sixth busiest in the world according to Coinmarketcap.com, said it had stored "all clients' assets in safe cold wallets," which operate on platforms not directly connected to the internet. It added that the company would fully compensate customers.

The Bithumb theft highlights the security risks and the weak regulation of global cryptocurrency markets. Global policymakers have warned investors to be cautious in trading the digital currency given the lack of broad regulatory oversight.



The logo of Bithumb is seen at its cryptocurrencies exchange in Seoul. REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji/File photo

70%
is roughly the fall of bitcoin value from its all-time peak hit in mid-December 2017

In Ho, professor at Korea University's Blockchain Research Institute, said the stolen coins were most likely to be from the more insecure 'hot wallets.' "Since coins in the cold wallets are not at all wired to the internet, it would have been impossible for hackers to steal those in cold wallets unless they physically broke in," said In,

a blockchain expert at the research center. Bithumb did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comments, and its statement did not say whether the stolen coins were stored in its 'hot wallets'. Mun Chong-hyun, chief analyst at ESTsecurity, said digital coins would continue to be juicy targets for hackers around the world.

"No security measures or regulations can 100 percent guarantee safety of virtual coins. It is held anonymously and in lightly-secured systems, which makes them an irresistible target," Mun said.

On the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp, bitcoin BTC=BTSP was down 1.8 percent at \$6,612.92 by 0351 GMT, extending losses. It has fallen roughly 70 percent from its all-time peak hit around mid-December 2017.



Russia has proposed OPEC and non-OPEC raise output by 1.5 million barrels per day, effectively wiping out existing production cuts of 1.8 million bpd



Haider Abadi

Has Soleimani stolen the keys to the Iraqi state?



BARIA ALAMUDDIN

How did it all go so wrong? Just a couple of weeks ago, Muqtada Al-Sadr and Prime Minister Haider Abadi were reportedly making progress toward agreeing on a broad-based Iraqi governing coalition. However, seductive, treacherous voices were whispering in the ears of both these men. Abadi became convinced that, despite losing badly in the elections, his bloc had enough votes for him to retain his prime ministerial seat and so he complacently awaited whichever of the leading two blocs (the Sadrist or Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi) would offer him a sufficiently attractive deal.

Al-Sadr, however, became so frustrated with Abadi's maximalist demands that he was willing to listen to voices tempting him to forge an alliance with the coalition of pro-Iranian Al-Hashd militants and cut the prime minister out altogether. Why was this unexpected? After all, Al-Sadr in 2003 emerged as a leader of his own Shiite paramilitary movement and many top Al-Hashd generals are Al-Sadr's former proteges.

In recent years, Al-Sadr has re-branded himself as a moderate reformist. He outspokenly denounced former Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki's sectarian style of governance, condemned Al-Hashd war crimes and called on these militants to disarm. He reached out to Saudi Arabia and Arab states and contested the 2018 elections on a joint list with communists and secularists. Unsurprisingly, these communist stablemates are today accusing Al-Sadr of betrayal for reneging on his stated reformist principals and aligning with paramilitary theocrats.

Iran's Qassem Soleimani was in Baghdad last week playing marriage guidance counsellor between Al-Sadr and the Al-Hashd leadership, heralding the possible birth of a new governing alliance centred on Shiite Islamists with a long record of horrific war crimes; leaving Sunnis and liberals out in the cold.

Al-Sadr's principal condition was that Al-Hashd forces must come under the state's umbrella.

However, if Al-Hashd is simultaneously a principal force in government, retaining control over the Interior Ministry, with Al-Hashd leader Hadi Al-Amiri becoming prime minister, then Al-Hashd's incorporation into the state becomes the nightmare scenario. Instead of demobilization, sectarian Al-Hashd forces would obtain permanence, legitimacy and institutionalization. Instead of the state neutralizing or normalizing Al-Hashd, it would swallow the Iraqi state — its political and military arms. This is the scenario that the Lebanese Hezbollah could only dream of: Why settle for being a state within a state when you can become the state?

Not having participated in the elections himself, Al-Sadr presumably envisages himself sitting above the political process in a guardianship (or supreme leader) role. Some observers find this reassuring. However, between 2005 and 2008, Al-Sadr sat back impotently while his Mahdi Army thugs murdered tens of thousands of Sunnis as sickening levels of sectarian bloodletting engulfed Baghdad. Under Sadrist control, the Ministry of Health effectively became the "Ministry of Murder," with ambulances used by death squads for systematic abductions, and citizens terrified of visiting hospitals lest they are murdered in their beds. Even Al-Sadr's apologists question his ability to rein in his headstrong, bloodthirsty underlings, and acknowledge his Donald Trump-like tendency for sudden reversals of political views.

Massive campaigns of demographic engineering across central Iraq were insufficient to provide Al-Hashd with sufficient votes to achieve the commanding position they would have liked in these elections. A high proportion of Shiite voters are repulsed by Al-Hashd's nakedly pro-Iranian agenda. Given this shaky popularity, Al-Hashd has the motive, the means, the opportunity and sufficient ruthlessness to exploit any government role to permanently entrench itself in power.

Al-Hashd leaders explicitly wedded to the Khomeinist doctrine of Wilayat al-Faqih (governance by clerics) are happy to exploit the ballot box, while being ideologically hostile to the values of democracy. It is thus not alarmist to warn that, if Al-Hashd is allowed to consolidate power, 2018 may be the last time Iraqis have a free and fair opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

Civil tensions are already boiling over, with

Sunnis and minorities deeply alienated by the Iraqi state. If sectarian forces yet again hijack the government — despite strong performances by parties which branded themselves as moderates — this may be the moment where Sunnis finally give up on the Iraqi state and start considering other formulas.

How would an Al-Hashd-Sadrist regime govern? Given the host of medium-sized factions and poisonous history between figures like Al-Sadr and Al-Maliki, Iraq's dysfunctional record of log-jammed legislation looks set to continue. Entrenched in key security ministries, Al-Hashd would, meanwhile, have

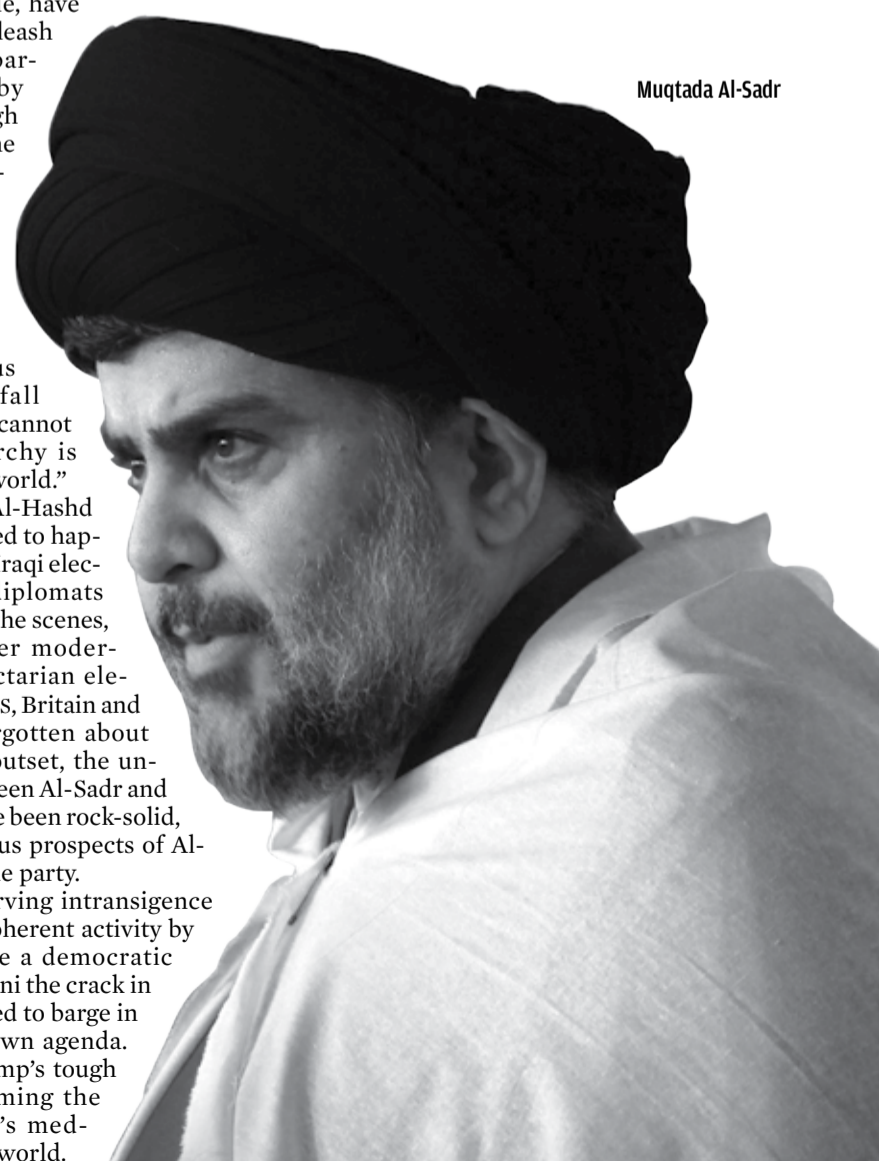
a free hand to unleash its vision for a paramilitary state by governing through intimidation. "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity," as the poet W.B. Yeats wrote, culminating in the famous lines: "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold. Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."

How was this Al-Hashd coup d'état allowed to happen? In previous Iraqi elections, Western diplomats laboured behind the scenes, bringing together moderates and anti-sectarian elements. Have the US, Britain and France today forgotten about Iraq? From the outset, the understanding between Al-Sadr and Abadi should have been rock-solid, blocking all serious prospects of Al-Hashd spoiling the party.

Abadi's self-serving intransigence and the lack of coherent activity by those who desire a democratic Iraq gave Soleimani the crack in the door he needed to barge in and impose his own agenda. So much for Trump's tough talk about slamming the door on Tehran's meddling in the Arab world.

Maybe there is time to salvage an Al-Sadr-Abadi alliance. Maybe there is time to defeat Al-Hashd's efforts and prevent a scenario that appeared almost inconceivable just a few days ago. The clock is ticking down on the narrowing opportunity to rescue Iraq from sectarian, paramilitary, pro-Iranian hegemony. Are those who enjoy the capacity to act even aware of this existential threat facing Iraq?

• Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.



Muqtada Al-Sadr

”
The clock is ticking down on the narrowing opportunity to rescue Iraq from sectarian, paramilitary, pro-Iranian hegemony.

BARIA ALAMUDDIN

INTERNATIONAL
YOGA DAYTHE
DAILY **tribune**

Yoga, a global phenomenon

Millions celebrate International Day of Yoga across the world



TDT|Manama

The International Day of Yoga will be celebrated today in Kingdom with great enthusiasm and fervour. Yoga has been gaining popularity in Bahrain over the years which is visible with the presence of a large number of yoga studios, yoga practitioners and yoga enthusiasts here.

The Indian Embassy in Bahrain in association with Bahrain's Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs is celebrating the fourth International Day of Yoga today at Isa Sports City Halls (opposite National Stadium), Isa Town at 6.30 pm. The event will include a yoga practice session comprising simple and

easy yoga postures, which can be performed even by persons not familiar with yoga.

Declaration of 21 June as International Day of Yoga by the UN General Assembly in 2014 has propelled the popularity and propagation of yoga to a great extent. WHO has also recognised yoga as one of several traditional therapeutic systems. The practice of yoga leads to the union of individual consciousness with that of the universal consciousness, indicating a perfect harmony between the mind and body, man and nature. Yoga helps in relieving the stress of modern day life.

In his message marking the day, Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Alok Kumar

Sinha said enthusiastic participation by hundreds of people has made the International Day of Yoga a major event in Bahrain in the previous years. "The success and wider participation has been made possible through the invaluable support of the leadership of the Kingdom, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister," he added.

Celebrations

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join thousands of volunteers, performing yoga asanas in the lawns of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, located in the lap of the Himalayas. A series of yoga related events are being organised across the world to mark the occasion. Modi had earlier participated in



Alok Kumar Sinha along with others performs yoga on board INS Kochi

Yoga celebrations at Rajpath in New Delhi in 2015, the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh in 2016, and the Ramabai Ambedkar Sabha Sthal in Lucknow in 2017.

Greeting Yoga enthusiasts across the world on the occasion, Narendra Modi said that yoga is one of the most precious gifts given by the ancient Indian sages to humankind.

"Yoga is not just a set of exercises that keeps the body fit. It is a passport to health assurance, a key to fitness and wellness. Nor is yoga only what you practice in the morning. Doing your day-to-day activities with diligence and complete awareness is a form of yoga as well," the Prime Minister said.

"In a world of excess, yoga promises restraint and balance. In a world suffering from mental stress, yoga promises calm. In a distracted world, yoga helps focus. In a world of fear, yoga promises hope, strength and courage," the Prime Minister added.

In the run-up to International Yoga Day, the Prime Minister

"In an increasingly stressful life, Yoga provides the positive energy that keeps tensions away and gives us strength to perform our duties. The practice of Yoga facilitates mind and body coordination, emotional equanimity and intellectual clarity."

MR SINHA

has also taken to social media to share the intricacies of various yoga asanas. He has also shared pictures of people performing yoga, at various locations across the world.

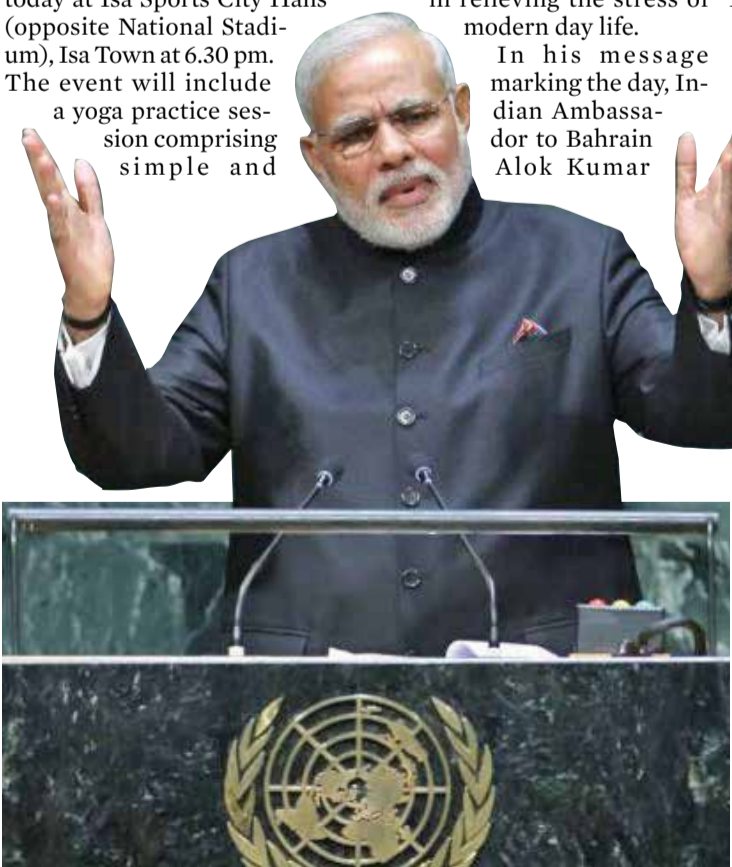
Awards

Vishwas Mandalik, Nasik and The Yoga Institute, Mumbai are

the recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018. The selection was done from among 186 nominations received under different categories.

Vishwas Mandalik acquired in-depth knowledge of authentic Patanjali & Hatha Yoga, Bhagwad Gita and Upanishad by study and research of ancient scriptures for over last 55 years. In 1978, he set up first branch of Yoga Vidya Dham, and as of today there are 160 centres in India.

The Yoga Institute - established in 1918 by Yogendraji, has completed its 100 years serving the society, touching the lives of over 10 million people during its journey. It has produced more than 50,000 yoga teachers and has over 500 publications to its credit. The yoga institute has contributed to the promotion and development of holistic yoga for over 10 decades, and served every section of the society both locally and globally.



Modi address the UN general assembly on June 21, 2014, marking the first International Day of Yoga

"In a world of excess, yoga promises restraint and balance. In a world suffering, yoga promises calm. In a distracted world, yoga helps focus. In a world of fear, yoga promises hope, strength and courage."

MODI



On a yogic journey

Fatima Al Mansoori is a renowned yoga trainer in the Kingdom



It's not about learning a few asanas. The practice of yoga is a spiritual process, which leads to ultimate realisation.

FATIMA AL MANSOORI



4th INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
yoga
21st June 2018

Yoga for Harmony & Peace

HYPERMARKETS,
SUPERMARKETS,
DEPARTMENT STORES.
Buy better.

LuLu
Where the world comes to shop

luluhypermarket.com LuLuHypermarket luluhypr luluhyperbh luluwebstore.com

● Fatima said it was then she realised that yoga was her way, mission and purpose in life.

TDT|Manama Harpreet Kaur

Yoga is a way of life for Fatima Al Mansoori, an internationally accredited institutional yoga therapist, wellness and lifestyle coach.

She says it's not a set of exercises, but a journey towards self-actualisation.

A specialised yoga practitioner and healer now, Fatima took refuge in yoga after being diagnosed with fibromyalgia - a physical disorder whose symptoms include chronic fatigue and narcolepsy.

"I decided to adopt a yogic lifestyle in the year 2011 and believe it or not my condition was completely cured."

Fatima said it was then she realised that yoga was her way, mission and purpose in life.

"I began learning more about yoga and started dedicating my life to it."

Fatima also started engaging in volunteer work and humanitarian activities.

"I want to help people around through the yogic techniques I have mastered. By then I have also started receiving calls from many individuals and societies, seeking help."

Fatima said she began discovering a new form of happiness by helping disabled individuals and sickle cell patients.

"The clinical yoga practice was very successful and I clubbed it with my humanitarian and volunteer works."

Describing yoga as a healing tool for all physical and mental disorders, she said, "It's not about learning a few asanas. The practice of yoga is a spiritual process, which leads to ultimate realisation."

A well-known authority on yoga in the Kingdom, Fatima says she has miles to go as she intends to take the Indian tradition to greater levels.

"Yoga teaches strategies for self-care. The world communities should work hard for promoting yoga as a remedy for all malices. It can bring welfare to anyone - refugees, orphans, violence victims or disabled individuals."



Yoga's poster girl in Arab world

Nouf Marwaai was honoured with Padma Shri for her contributions towards popularising yoga



We have a lot of representatives in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and other Arab countries. Over 500 yoga teachers have graduated from our school in Saudi Arabia.

NOUF



TDT|Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Nouf Marwaai is the poster girl of yoga in the region. Founder of Arab Yoga Foundation, she has taken the practice to thousands of people in the region.

A recipient of Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India, she is in her continuous efforts to make yoga everyone's part of life across Arabian countries.

"I started practising yoga when I was 18 years old after being diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease. My father, a martial arts expert knew yoga and he introduced it to me. A book on asanas also increased my curiosity towards learning this great technique.

"Later, I travelled to India and began learning yoga from great teachers. My health began improving and I decided to learn more and more on yoga. My background in clinical psychology also helped to gain better knowledge on the



Nouf receives Padma Shri award from Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.



Nouf with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

subject."

In her attempt to take yoga to the common man, Nouf is working with Saudi authorities to regulate the practice, licensing and certification of yoga teachers in the country. "At Arab Yoga Foundation, we certify yoga teachers

and follow standards that are suitable for Arab countries."

Nouf said yoga is gaining great popularity across the region. "We have a lot of representatives in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and other Arab countries. Over 500 yoga teachers have grad-

uated from our school in Saudi Arabia.

"We are looking forward for collaborations to start institutes in Bahrain, where one of our students Fatima Al Mansoori is training scores of students."

Our heartiest wishes on this celebration of

*International
Yoga Day*



June 21
International
Yoga Day



شركة تأمين الهند الجديدة المحدودة
THE NEW INDIA ASSURANCE CO. LTD.

Licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a branch of a Foreign insurance and re-insurance company

Branches: Manama 17225158, Hooraa 17299500, Sanad 17009645, Busaiteen 17453132
www.newindiabahrain.com



Bahrain to roll out mat for Yoga today

The celebrations of Yoga Day which provides a holistic approach to health and well-being will be held today in different parts of the Kingdom. All the CBSE schools will attend the celebrations at the Isa Sports City including the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) sending 600 students to take part in the festivities organised by the Indian Embassy in association with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs.

Bahrain Meditation Centre is organizing a seminar on 'Yoga - The Journey of the Self through the Self to the Self' on the occasion of International Yoga Day. The event will help understand the true meaning of Yoga and how to bring balance between mind, body, spirit connection. The event will be held at Bahrain Meditation Centre in Um Al Hassam today from 7 pm to 9 pm for which entry is free. The talk will be in English with simultaneous translation in Arabic.

Meanwhile a hundred ladies of different nationalities came together at the Indian Embassy for a 'Yoga for Health' session, a curtain-raiser for the big International Yoga Day celebrations yesterday. Led by 7 yoga teachers from different centres in Bahrain, the 60-minute session was organised by Salaam Bahrain magazine with the support of the Indian Embassy.

"It is a wonderful comment on the universality of yoga and its promise of good health that there are so many participants beyond the Indian community for this ancient health regime," said Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha, "We are sure there will be many who take this introduction to yoga forward in their lives."

The session was attended by Mamta Sinha,



wife of the Indian Ambassador and Nancy Khe-douri, Member of the Shura Council.

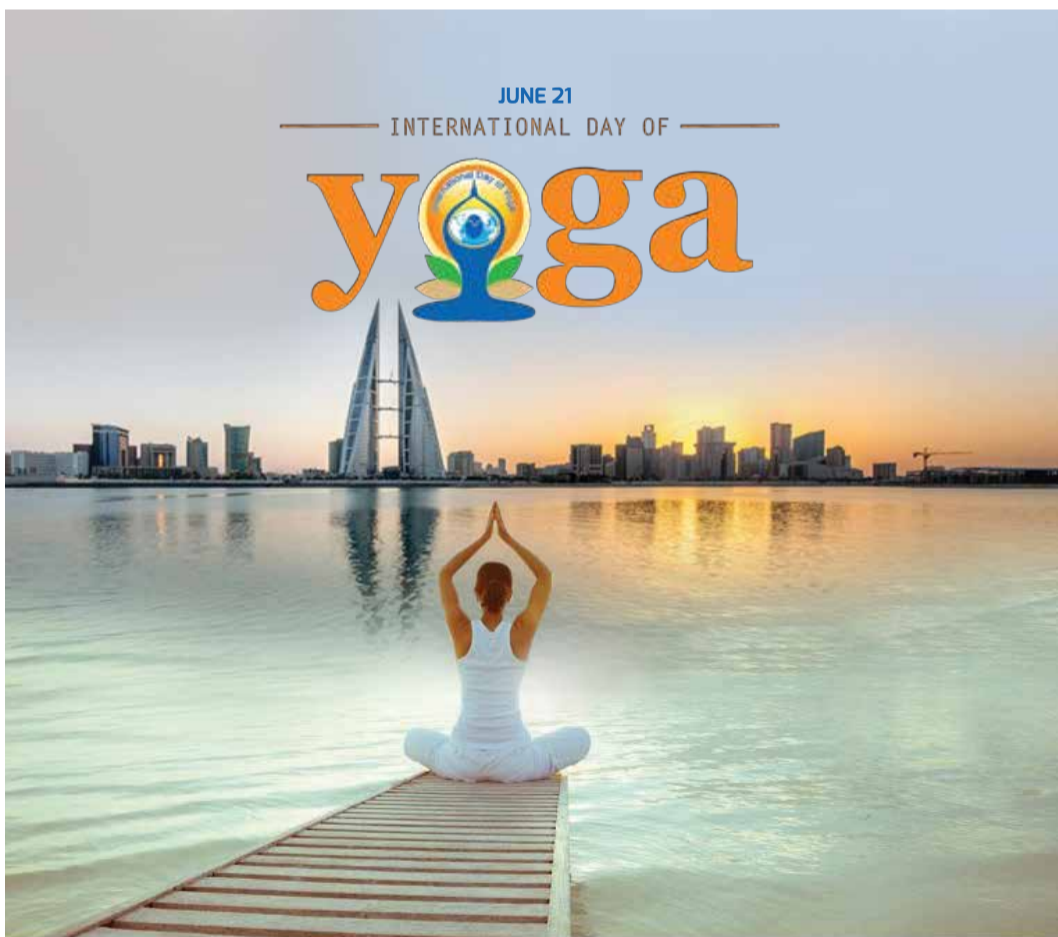
Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice attributed mostly to India. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares special significance in many parts of the world.



1. A yoga session was organised by the Art of Living and ICRF on Tuesday at Busaiteen beach, Muharraq.

2. A curtain raiser event for fourth International Day of Yoga held on May 29 at the Embassy Complex.

3. A yoga event for ladies was organised by Salaam Bahrain with the support of Embassy of India, wherein women of different nationalities participated in large numbers.



JUNE 21 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF **yoga**

CONTRACTING AI Namal Contracting & Trading Co. W.L.L.	REAL ESTATE V.K. Universal Property Management Co.	INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT Bahraini Indian Investment & Development Co. W.L.L.	INTERIOR DESIGNS SACH SAACH Interior Design & Contracting	ELEVATOR & ESCALATOR SANYO Koyo Elevators & Escalators
EXHIBITION & EVENT MANAGEMENT AABEX Arab Asia Business & Exhibition Centre	MALLS HIDD MALL	ELECTRO MECHANICAL NEMCO Al Namal Mechanical Contracting Co. W.L.L.	EDUCATION THE NEW HORIZON SCHOOL	MARINE DREDGING SASCON Al Saman for Sand, Block & Concrete
HEALTH CARE mem MIDDLE EAST HOSPITAL Santhigiri	HOSPITALITY VK Universal Hotels & Restaurants Management Co. SPC - Beach Residence Plus, The Ocean Hotel - Jumeirah Hotel - Park Regis Lagoon Hotel - Jumeirah Hotel - Holiday Bahrain Hotel - Jumeirah Hotel - Royal Phoenix Hotel - Taj Plaza Hotel - Crystal Palace Hotel - Marico Polo Hotel - Venezia Italian Restaurant	TRADING SAACH Zamil		

AL NAMAL & VKL GROUP
P O Box: 1713, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
T: 1725 1444 | F: 1724 2332 | E: namalco@batelco.com.bh
www.al-namal.com

ستيت بنك أوف انديا
State Bank of India
With you - all the way

SBI Personal Loan
Life doesn't wait for payday and neither should you

*For a Personal Loan of BD 10,000/- repayable in 60 months the APR Starts from 7.90% CONDITIONS APPLY

HURRY !! CONTACT YOUR NEAREST SBI BRANCH

- Low interest* rates
- Quick processing
- Transparent Terms and Conditions
- No hidden charges
- Repayment term up to 60 months
- Group Insurance Coverage at nominal premium

Retail Branch , Kingdom of Bahrain ,P.O box : 10763 , Diplomat City Tower II, Diplomat Area
Phone :17548033 Fax: 17531029 ,Email : retail.rbbh@statebank.com
Bab-al-Bahrain , Shop No 38 , Phone : 17009420, Fax: 17009430

State Bank of India is licensed as a Conventional Retail Bank by the Central Bank of Bahrain

Pluto's newly discovered moons are officially named Nix and Hydra.



Ellen Fairclough is sworn in as Canada's first female Cabinet Minister.

The United States captures Guam from Spain.

Irish Rebellion of 1798: The British Army defeats Irish rebels at the Battle of Vinegar Hill.

The Perils of Having a Brazilian World Cup Baby



VANESSA BARBARA

Sao Paulo | Brazil

People are given time off from work when the national team is playing so that they can go home and blow horns for three hours straight. Media coverage becomes even more soccer-oriented than usual: Topics like why Brazil's mascot (Canarinho Pistola, whose name roughly translates as "easily pissed-off canary") is better than FIFA's official 2018 one (Zabivaka, a soccer-playing wolf) are suddenly deemed newsworthy. Politics grinds almost to a halt, even though every World Cup year is also a major election year. For a month, everything happens against a backdrop of soccer-related euphoria.

That worries me because my daughter is due to be born on June 22, the day Brazil plays Costa Rica. It's true that the exact date cannot be predicted, but she'll certainly arrive sometime during the tournament. And everybody knows it's easier to give birth on your own (with the help



of some YouTube instructional videos) than it is to get the attention of any Brazilian during the World Cup — this applies to taxi drivers, to the staff in the hospital and even to the baby herself.

I know this because I was born during Brazil's game against the Soviet Union in the 1982 World Cup, in Spain. It was an arduous childbirth — and it didn't help matters that it coincided with an arduous match, making it the worst timing ever.

That day, my mother started to feel mild contractions in the morning and went to the hospital around noon, driven by my father and grandfather. After filling out admissions paperwork, she casually suggested that the two of them should go home because everything would probably take some time. She didn't even have the chance to repeat these words before they were gone; the first match of the day, Italy versus Poland, had already begun, and it would be followed by Brazil versus the USSR at 4 p.m. My grandmother was mortified when she saw the two men coming home alone, but she couldn't persuade them to go back.

While Italy and Poland faced off in a tedious and ultimately scoreless match in the city of Vigo, my mom dressed in a hospital gown and laid back on a table, where apparently, a team of nurses helped break her water. (She's not sure of this, since nobody said anything about the procedure, but as soon as she got up, there was a puddle on the floor.) They then took her to a small room surrounded by glass windows. She settled in, and the nurses left to go about their work, pausing periodically in a TV room nearby, where the Brazil versus USSR match was about to begin.

Those first few hours didn't go smoothly. It was my mother's first time going through normal labour — my older brother was born via a speedy C-section right after she ate eight slices of pizza — and she wasn't quite prepared for what to expect. As the pain got more intense, she tried to breathe through it and imagined she was somewhere else.

At the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán Stadium, in Seville, things weren't going well either. Local fans, who'd started out rooting for Brazil, changed their minds at the 17-minute mark when the referee failed to award a penalty to the

Soviets after one of our players pulled down one of their forwards as he was about to shoot. Spanish fans booed loudly and started to shout "Fuera Brasil!" ("Out Brazil!")

As the pain became overwhelming, "I started to flail my arms and legs awkwardly," my mom told me later. Brazil's national team seemed to follow similar tactics, running aimlessly around the field and misplacing even the easiest passes. They also collided countless times with the photographers gathered around the pitch. Everything was falling apart. That year, Brazil had put together one of our best teams in history, but come game day, the players were acting as if they'd been taken by surprise by a sudden increase of prostaglandins and a baffling cervical dilation.

At the 34-minute mark, the Soviets took one lazy shot at the goal, which our goalkeeper let slip through his hands with equal laziness. The score was now 1-0, them. In São Paulo, my mom — scared and alone and epidural-less — was in despair. Unfortunately, the women

in my family are very restrained — I'm trying to correct this terrible flaw for the next generation — so she didn't scream. She just feverishly hoped that someone would appear to take care of her.

But the second half had just begun in Seville, and finally, things were starting to look auspicious: Brazil went on the attack and local fans resumed their cheering. "I really don't know what time it was, but somebody in the TV room finally saw me floundering and came to help," my mom said.

Nobody told her anything about how dilated she was (nor did they tell her the score), but they did put her on the gynaecological table, where two nurses covered her knees with a blue cloth. The obstetrician told her to push, but by then she was too exhausted to even breathe. She got an episiotomy. One of the nurses put her hands on my mother's belly and started to help her.

I like to think that I was born at the exact moment when Doctor Sócrates — one of our most beloved players, a midfielder who was also a political activist and had a bachelor's degree in medicine — dribbled past two Soviets, stabilized the ball as if preparing a patient for a surgery and shot it into the corner of the net. By then, my head had already emerged — or so I imagine — but at 7.5 pounds and 18 inches, I had to really stretch to see into the TV room and watch the Doctor's feat, and as a result, I made it the rest of the way into the world (and immediately became a fan of Corinthians, the team for which he played.) Nobody heard me cry, because they were too busy celebrating.

"It's a little girl," the nurses announced. Doctor Sócrates marked the occasion by holding his fists up high in a gesture of victory.

The nurses cleaned me off, wrapped me up and showed me to my mother as if I were the original Jules Rimet Trophy. My mother's first impressions of me were that of a cute, if very hairy, little baby. But I was born with jaundice and had to be quickly taken to the nursery for phototherapy. As my mother delivered the placenta and nurses sutured the cut, she heard some other shouts that could have been reactions to Brazil's second and winning goal. Or not. It's impossible to know for sure the chronology of that afternoon's events.

All we know is that my father and grandfather came back after the end of the match and they were both very pleased with the efforts of our national team.

(Vanessa Barbara, a contributing opinion writer, is the editor of the literary website *A Hortaliça* and the author of two novels and two nonfiction books in Portuguese)



JOEL INDRUPATI

Politics Today: The Twisting of Truth

A US State Department spokeswoman cited the D-Day invasion as an example of America's 'very strong relationship' with Germany. And she was immediately ridiculed on social media.

Her words, as Trump spokesperson, showed not only a lack of knowledge but also a careless application, of whatever she knew or misunderstood, to current US government policies.

Actually, on D-Day, 6 June 1944, during the Second World War, an amphibious assault was launched by the allied forces — on Germany.

And these Normandy landings — which refer to the simultaneous landing of US, British, and Canadian forces, from air and from sea, on five separate beachheads in Normandy, France — will remain well-known for their significant contribution towards the ending of WW II. Not towards stronger US-Germany Relations.

Maybe, this is a poor example. But, the lack of knowledge, and the distortion of facts, within the words of our political leaders, their spokespersons, and their speech writers, is a disturbing trend.

If they do not know what they are talking about, they could be leading their parties, their governments, and their nations, into a future that has no respect for truth.

"In his first 10 months, Trump told nearly six times as many falsehoods as Obama did during his entire presidency" ('Trump's Lies vs. Obama's', The New York Times, 14 December 2017).

In fact, as per The Washington Post's 'The Fact Checker's database' that analyses, categorizes and tracks every suspect statement uttered by the US president, President Trump has made 3,001 false or misleading claims as of April 2018 (The Washington Post, May 1, 2018).

Politifact, a nonpartisan fact-checking organization said that it rates 69% of 562 statements of President Trump as 'mostly false', 'false' or 'pants on fire' while it rates 26% of 599 statements of former President Obama in the same way (Why Donald Trump can't kill the truth, TIME, 11 June 2018).

And here is what ABC News website said about Trump's White House speech given on Friday: "his impromptu press conference on the North Lawn might be remembered most for the sheer numbers of mistruths, misleading statements and factual errors he uttered. It was remarkable. He seemed emboldened to say what he wanted, regardless whether it was true. Reporters were fact-checking him in real time, but he never

backed down. He just repeated himself" (Fact Check Friday: Trump's impromptu performance packed with falsehoods. ABC News, 15 June 2018).

The acute deficiency of truth in the words of political leaders, their spokespersons and their speechwriters, is not endemic to one particular nation. It is a rising global phenomenon.

India's atnews.in website says that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a series of claims throughout 2017, which were either untrue or partially true. They listed ten major ones on their website (Half-truths and whole lies — ten times PM Modi misled the nation in 2017, altnews.in, 10 Jan 2018).

This year too, in an election rally in Karnataka State in India, Modi made false claims, gave wrong dates, and spread misinformation on India's military history (Dear PM Modi, You Got India's Military History Wrong!, YouTube Video by The Quint, Published: 7 May 2018).

India's opposition leader Rahul Gandhi too is accused of falsehoods. He had once blamed Modi and Modi's BJP party for insulting Kerala pride by not inviting the then Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy for a major event. But it turned out that the CM's office had already said he was unavailable.

And, more recently, Rahul Gandhi spread half-truths about the founders of Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Ford and Honda.

Politics is often accepted as a profession built on lies. But we should not forget that if 'truth' is pushed aside, it could be disastrous for all, in the long run.

Politics is often accepted as a profession built on lies. But we should not forget that if 'truth' is pushed aside, it could be disastrous for all, in the long run.

Politics is often accepted as a profession built on lies. But we should not forget that if 'truth' is pushed aside, it could be disastrous for all, in the long run.

Politics is often accepted as a profession built on lies. But we should not forget that if 'truth' is pushed aside, it could be disastrous for all, in the long run.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I have spent much of my life working in GOP politics. I have always believed that both parties were two of the most important institutions to the advancement of human freedom and dignity in the history of the world. Today the GOP has become a danger to our democracy and values.

@SteveSchmidtSES

02



Lots of Fake News today. I mocked a liberal who attempted to politicize children as opposed to discussing the real issue which is fixing a broken immigration system. It's offensive that the MSM doesn't want to talk about the fact these policies were started under Obama.

@CLewandowski

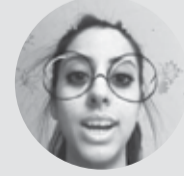
03



You think any of these people care about family separation? If they did, they'd be upset about the collapse of the American family, which is measurable and real. They're not. They welcome that collapse, because strong families are an impediment to their political power.

@TuckerCarlson

04



Trump never advocated to separate small children from their parents. Unless he did and I'm missing something. Families get separated all the time, whether while being smuggled into the country or deported. I honestly see this family-separation outcry as an emotional distraction.

@PardesSeleh

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Iraq police in armed clash with pro-Iran militia in Baghdad

AFP | Baghdad

Iraqi police surrounded the headquarters of an Iran-backed militia and detained one of its members after an armed clash Wednesday left three people wounded in Baghdad, a security official said.

The powerful Hezbollah Brigades militia is part of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary units. A shootout erupted after a police patrol in the Iraqi capital stopped a car, only for a convoy of Hezbollah Brigades members to arrive, an interior ministry official said.

Hungary adopts law penalising migrant aid groups

AFP | Budapest

Hungary's parliament adopted yesterday a controversial package of laws penalising NGOs that help migrants, a key proposal of the firebrand nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Dubbed the "Stop Soros" laws after liberal US billionaire George Soros, accused by the government of orchestrating migration to Europe, the package of legislation was voted through by 160 votes to 18. The laws will bring in a punishment of up to a year in prison.

Loss of Earth's intact forests speeds up

AFP | Paris

Earth's intact forests shrank annually by nearly 90,000 square kilometres from 2014 to 2016, 20 percent faster than during the previous 13 years, according to findings presented at a conference in Oxford this week.

Despite UN-led efforts to halt deforestation, nearly ten percent of undisturbed forests have been fragmented, degraded or simply chopped down since 2000, according to the analysis of satellite imagery.

At least 60 dead after migrant boat sinks

Rome | Italy

At least 60 migrants died in the Mediterranean sea when their rubber dinghy sank last week, according to survivor testimonies gathered by a rights group in Sicily.

The Diciotti, an Italian coastguard ship carrying more than 500 migrants, docked Tuesday night at the Sicilian port of Pozzallo.

Among those on board were around 40 survivors of an accident last Tuesday which saw a US Navy boat come to the aid of drowning migrants,

Divers, underwater drone join search for 192 missing

An overcrowded wooden ferry sank in one of the world's deepest volcanic lakes in Sumatra

● Desperate relatives gather at port on lake

● Team of 25 divers and underwater vehicle to aid search

Reuters | Tigaras

Divers and an underwater drone yesterday joined a fleet of rescue vessels in Indonesia's search for at least 192 passengers missing two days after an overcrowded wooden ferry sank in one of the world's deepest volcanic lakes in Sumatra. Authorities are unable to confirm how many were aboard when the vessel sank on Monday in bad weather, since it did not have a manifest. Four were confirmed dead and 18 survivors



Rescue team members preparing diving equipment during operation to find missing passengers from a ferry accident

picked up, but officials fear the death toll could be much higher.

Tearful relatives waiting for news gathered at the small port of Tigaras on Lake Toba. Search teams expect to find many more

trapped victims once they know where the vessel came to rest in the lake, which is 450 m (1,500 feet) deep.

"We have the coordinates from when it sank, but we need

to verify them," said Budiawan, a search and rescue official.

A team of 25 divers, including marines, was searching for the vessel, along with a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) that can operate up to a depth of 380 m (1,247 ft), he added.

The first team of divers encountered poor visibility and freezing cold when it got to a depth of 50 metres (164 ft), said Muhammad Syaugi, head of the national search and rescue agency. Rescue teams in boats carrying GPS devices, binoculars, life jackets and oxygen tanks for survivors, have found little on the lake's surface.

Santika, 28, was in tears as she awaited news of her cousin and the latter's fiancée who were on the ferry, returning from a holiday before the couple's wedding, planned for next week.

"Everything was ready (for



Lake Toba is a volcanic lake with a length of 100 kilometres and 30 kilometres wide along the furthest depths of approximately 450 meters

their wedding)," said Santika. "We're disappointed because there were too many passengers for the (ship's) capacity. The ferry should have been supervised, and checked if it was seaworthy or not."

Nigeria could borrow back its plundered art



Benin Bronzes

Reuters | Benin City

Nigeria could be open to borrowing its plundered Benin Bronzes back from Western museums rather than demanding a full return, officials said, a compromise that might provide a template for settling other bitter disputes over colonial-era loot.

British soldiers seized thousands of metal castings from the then separate Kingdom of

Benin in 1897, one of a series of acts of plunder that have long tainted relations between London and the territories where its agents held sway in the 19th century. London has resisted campaigns for the full return of Nigeria's bronzes, Ethiopia's Magdala treasures, Greece's "Elgin Marbles" and other relics, often citing legislation that bans its museums from permanently disposing of their collections.

30 Afghan security forces killed in attacks

● Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks

AFP | Heart

Taliban fighters killed around 30 Afghan security forces in multiple attacks in western Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, in the deadliest clashes since the militant group ended its ceasefire.

Militants stormed at least two bases belonging to government forces in Badghis province overnight and ambushed a convoy of reinforcements. Officials said the group may have used the three-day truce, that ended Sunday, to plan the attacks.

"More than half of the fatalities came from the ambush and



The other soldiers and police were killed when militants raided their bases

roadside bomb blasts that hit a reinforcement convoy," provincial governor Abdul Qhafoor Malikzai said.

The other soldiers and police were killed when militants raided their bases, Qhafoor added. The Taliban claimed

responsibility for the attacks in a WhatsApp message to journalists. Provincial council chief Abdul Aziz Bek confirmed the death toll and accused the Taliban of taking advantage of the suspension in fighting to do reconnaissance in the area.



This bizarre optical illusion appears to show two birds conjoined at the head as they paddle along. Brazilian Photographer Aisse Gaertner, from Rio de Janeiro, snapped the remarkable photo in Brazil's Reserva Ecologia de Guapiaco (REGUA) last October. It shows the two white-faced whistling ducks appearing to blend into one as they glide past one another on the surface of the water. The ducks' distinctive markings make their faces stand out while the backs of their heads, covered in black feathers morph them together (Pic courtesy: Mailonline)

Ivanka urged Trump to end family separation

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump's daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump urged her father to end family separations on the US-Mexico border, US media reported.

Ivanka has made no public comment on the issue, but Trump told lawmakers during a meeting Tuesday evening that she had broached the issue with him, CNN and the Washington Post reported.

Congressman Chris Collins said Trump mentioned his daughter had "seen the images" and said they should deal with the crisis "for a lot of reasons," according to CNN.

"He mentioned that his



Ivanka Trump

daughter Ivanka had encouraged him to end this and he said he does recognize that it needs to end and the images are painful and he's looking for a legislative solution," CNN reported Florida congressman Carlos Curbelo as saying.

Man arrested over 'drill battery' explosion

Reuters | London

A man has been arrested over a small explosion at a London underground station on Tuesday which police said was likely to have been caused by a battery malfunction.

Five people needed medical treatment after the incident, described as minor explosion, at a station in north London on Tuesday evening.

Police said there was no indication of terrorism and it was believed to have been caused by a faulty drill battery. The man has been released pending further inquiries.

Mozart manuscript 'The marriage of Figaro' fails to sell at Paris auction

Paris

The first draft of music Mozart wrote for the last act of his opera "The Marriage of Figaro" failed to find a buyer when it went under the hammer in Paris yesterday.

The manuscript -- which experts had billed as "exceptional", dating from the height of the composer's career in 1786 -- was expected to sell for half a million euros (\$578,000).

But a draft of Schumann's oratorio "Scenes from Goethe's Faust" did go for 650,000 euros.

Germany foiled bio attack with Tunisian arrest, says Police

Berlin

A Tunisian man arrested in Germany in possession of the deadly poison ricin and bomb-making material was planning a biological attack, the national police chief said yesterday.

"Very concrete preparations had been made for an act with a ... biological bomb, which is a first for Germany," Holger Muench, head of the Federal Criminal Police Office, told public broadcaster ARD.

Amazon files patent for a Jellyfish drone for warehouses

Mailonline | London

Amazon has increasingly been moving towards automatizing its supply chain, and new publicly released patents show a strange drone with airbags and claws.

The patent for the 'Collaborative Unmanned Aerial Vehicle For an Inventory System' was filed nearly three years ago, but just became part of the public domain.

Man held for cheating Qatar

Kerala man held for cheating Qatar royal family of \$7,60,000

● Police received a complaint from the Qatar Museum Authority on June 13.

Hindustan Times | TVM

The Kerala police yesterday arrested a Gulf-returnee for allegedly cheating the Qatar royal family of Rs 5.60 crore (\$7,60,000) by faking e-mail IDs of the royals.

Police said they started investigation into the case with the help of the cyber wing after receiving a complaint from the Qatar Museum Authority on June 13.

Within two days the account in which the amount was de-



Representative picture

posited was traced and frozen, a senior police officer on the condition of anonymity.

Since then police were on lookout for the account holder, Sunil Menon (47) from Thrissur, who

went on hiding after his account was frozen. He will be produced in the court on Thursday.

"We were told that by faking e-mail IDs of members of the royal family, he had sent a mail to the museum asking them to deposit \$7,60,000 (Rs 5.60 crore) to a purported account of an American art firm as an advance for drawing a gold-framed portrait of the King," said Koodungalur police inspector Biju Kumar, who is probing the case.

The museum authorities transferred the money into the account mentioned in the mail. As the delivery of the portrait was delayed, Qatar authorities reportedly made inquiries with the US firm only to find that they were cheated.

Later Qatar IT authorities tracked the mail and account

with the help of the service provider and traced the beneficiary to Kerala.

Police said Menon worked in middle-east countries for many years as an auditor before switching over to online trading of paintings and artefacts.

He returned to India last year after his business failed.

"During questioning, Menon told us he used a website (Emkei.cz) to breach the official site of the royal family and managed their IDs and other details. He also managed details of the US firm to fix the deal," the officer said. "We are yet to find out whether more persons were involved in the cheating," he said.

With the swindled money, he said, Menon purchased an SUV recently and gave Rs 20 lakh as soft loans to his relatives.

Trump no longer 'moral leader of free world'

● The Council of Europe said amid global outrage over the family separation

AFP | Oslo

US President Donald Trump is "no longer the moral leader of his country or the world", the human rights watchdog, the Council of Europe, said yesterday amid global outrage over the White House's policy of separating migrant children from their parents.

"What is happening at the border where he (Trump) is separating children from their parents is a sign that he is no longer the moral leader of his country or the world," the Council of Europe's secretary general, Thorbjorn Jagland, told Norwegian broadcaster TV2. "Everything he does



Donald Trump

excludes him from the role American presidents have always had," Jagland said during a trip to Moscow.

"He can not speak on behalf of the so-called free world."

The Council of Europe is a Strasbourg-based international human rights organisation with 47 signatory states.

Jagland is also one of the five members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee which annually awards the Nobel Peace Prize.

Kim hails 'unity' with China

AFP | Beijing

Kim Jong Un concluded a two-day whirlwind visit to China yesterday, where he declared North Korea's unstinting "friendship" with Beijing in a show of loyalty to his main ally following a landmark summit with US President Donald Trump.

It was Kim's third official visit to China, designed to reassure Beijing that Pyongyang will not neglect its interests as Trump and the young autocrat move into uncharted diplomatic terrain.

The performance is part of a delicate balancing act for Kim, who analysts say is seeking to play US and Chinese interests off each other while maintaining good relations with Beijing, his economic patron and diplomatic protector.

China and the US both hope to see the Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

But Beijing is concerned Washington and Pyongyang

might move closer at its expense, a possibility that China sees as threatening to its economic and security interests in the region.

While China was not present at the June 12 summit in Singapore, it lent Kim a plane to travel

to the city-state, a clear sign that it remains an influential force in the diplomatic shuffle.

The Cold War-era allies have sought to repair ties strained by Pyongyang's nuclear tests and Beijing's support of subsequent UN sanctions.

Pyongyang may soon return remains of the US soldiers

AFP | Washington

North Korea may soon return a first out of 200 sets of remains of American soldiers who died during the Korean War, after an agreement reached last week by Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump, a US official said Tuesday.

"Preparations continue" to receive the remains, the US official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "It could

happen in the next few days."

The US and North Korean leaders agreed to the repatriations during their historic June 12 summit in Singapore.

"On several occasions in the past, DPRK officials have indicated they possess as many as 200 sets of remains they had recovered over the years," the Pentagon said in factsheet updated Monday about those reported missing in action during the Korean War of 1950-1953.

Baby monkey is reunited with its parents



Baby monkey got stuck inside a 20ft-deep well

Mailonline | Maharashtra

A baby monkey was rescued with the help of kindhearted villagers after it got stuck inside a 20ft-deep well.

A group of apes had gone down the nearly-dried well in search of water in Maharashtra, India. After quenching its thirst, one of the monkeys appeared to get scared and didn't know how to climb back up again. It was

then that the villagers came to its rescue after dropping a rope tied to a wooden block outside the well in order to help the monkey climb out.

In the video, the little ape holding the rope and climbing up while its mother waits near the edge of the well.

As soon as the baby monkey reaches near the top, the mother extends her hand and pulls it up. Later another monkey

followed to check if the baby needed an extra hand.

They both then looks down the well to assure everyone was out and then make off.

One of the villagers who rescued the baby said: "The baby monkey got stuck inside in fear and didn't know how to climb.

"We then dropped a rope in order to help it, it was quite risky as there were no steps inside the well."



The baby monkey reaches near the top, the mother monkey extends her hand and pulls it up

Restorers unveil original face of 'Mystic Lamb'



This picture shows a close up of the restored original of "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" altarpiece by Van Eyck brothers at the art gallery in Ghent

AFP | Ghent

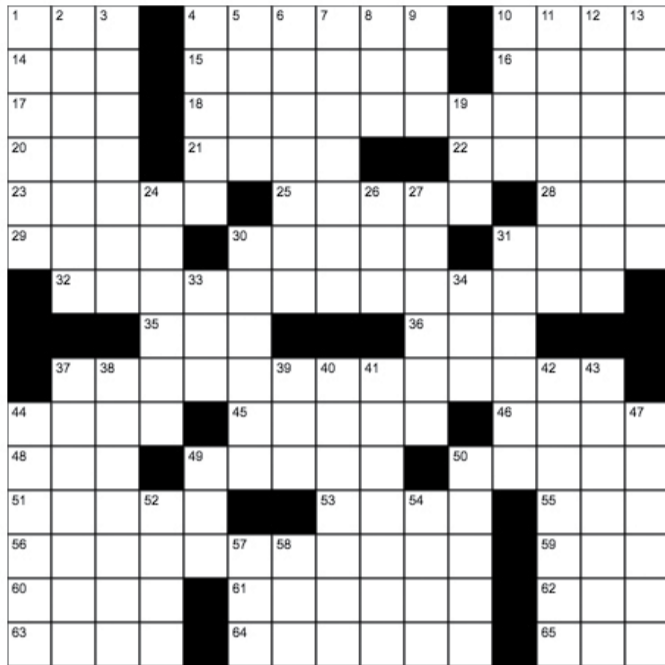
A painstaking restoration of the "Mystic Lamb", a 15th-century Flemish masterpiece by the Van Eyck brothers, was unveiled on Tuesday, revealing a "much more expressive and intense" version of the central image of the gi-

ant altarpiece.

Restorers from Belgium's Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage began working on the altarpiece in 2012, but in recent months focused on removing the over-painting from the central part of the work which includes the head of the lamb.

entertainment

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



55- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 56- Doubling of a part on itself; 59- Asian holiday; 60- Butter substitute; 61- Come out; 62- Prior to, to Prior; 63- Power unit; 64- Barrister; 65- Taxpayer's ID;

Down

1- Create with the imagination; 2- Zones; 3- Carrion-eating stork; 4- Mooch; 5- Other, in Oaxaca; 6- Raise a grade?; 7- Engage in textual misprision; 8- Surgery sites, briefly; 9- Brief instant; 10- ___ avis; 11- Accessory; 12- Communications satellite; 13- Stable; 19- Wall St. debut; 24- Awkward sailor; 26- Tropical cuckoo bird; 27- North American lynx; 30- Mineral used as a weighting agent; 31- Water channel; 33- Richie's dad, to the Fonz; 34- Final: Abbr.; 37- Shoulder blade; 38- Defensive wall; 39- Gave grub; 40- Agitated; 41- 100 years; 42- Brother of Electra; 43- Chats; 44- Sundial indicator; 47- Liquefied by heat; 49- Cinque follower; 50- Look of disdain; 52- Coagulate; 54- Impulse to act; 57- Cartoon frame; 58- Doc bloc;

Across

1- Belief; 4- Universe; 10- Phooey!; 14- PBS benefactor; 15- Clothing; 16- Work without ___; 17- TV adjunct; 18- Theater gallery; 20- Greek letter; 21- Attendee; 22- Monetary unit of India; 23- Aristocratic; 25- Singer Bryson; 28- Old Ford; 29- Drop ___ (moon); 30- Game of chance; 31- Kill; 32- Situated below the mandible; 35- It's cold!; 36- Actor Gulager; 37- List of particulars; 44- Skin marking, often due to injury; 45- Doctrine; 46- Burn the midnight oil, studying; 48- Laughing syllable; 49- Family car; 50- Take care of; 51- Expeditiously; 53- Astound;

BEETLE BAILEY



WORD OF THE DAY

Balmy

Definition:

- 1 a : having the qualities of balm : soothing
- b : mild, temperate
- 2 : crazy, foolish

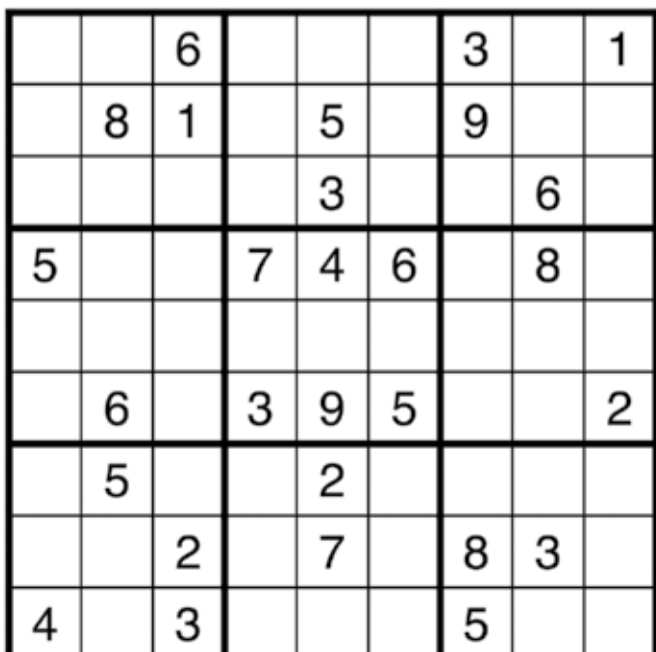
Did You Know?

It's no secret that balmy is derived from balm, an aromatic ointment or fragrance

that heals or soothes. So when did it come to mean "foolish," you might wonder? Balmy goes back to the 15th century and was often used in contexts referring to weather, such as "a balmy breeze" or, as Mark Twain wrote in Tom Sawyer, "The balmy summer air, the restful quiet...." Around the middle of the 19th century, it developed a new sense suggesting a weak or unbalanced mind. It is uncertain if the

soft quality or the soothing effect of balm influenced this use. But later in the century, balmy became altered to barmy in its "crazy" sense. This alteration may have come about from a mix-up with another barmy, meaning "full of froth or ferment." That barmy is from barm, a term for the yeast formed on fermenting malt liquors, which can indeed make one act balmy.

SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



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



Aries

Other responsibilities could force you to postpone work on personal projects that mean a lot to you. This could be frustrating, and you're likely to want to sequester yourself with whatever you need to do and throw yourself into getting the problem resolved as soon as possible.



Taurus

Stress from overwork could have you feeling weaker than usual. You might be tempted to stay at home, get some rest, and recoup your energies. Do this if you can. Otherwise, you may not be able to give your project the concentration it needs, and therefore may not accomplish as much as you think you should.



Gemini

You might feel a little gloomy today, and perhaps have no idea why. It might be a good idea to retrace your steps for the past day or so. Look within to find out if anything you may have seen could have awakened unconscious memories from the past. What a relief if this is the case.



Cancer

One of your closest friends could be in a rotten mood today. This person might be short with everyone and not inclined to communicate why. This could be due more to personal problems and little, if anything, to do with you or anyone else.



Leo

A project that you're rather excited about could require some intense solitary work today. You might sometimes feel as if the walls are closing in on you, but you need to concentrate in order to get the best possible results. You'll also need to take occasional breaks to clear your head.



Virgo

Have you been spending a lot of time pushing your body physically? If so, you may be feeling the effects today. Muscle aches and exhaustion could be taking their toll on you. Forget about projects and chores and take care of yourself for a while. Try to get some rest.



Libra

A troubled night with little sleep could have you feeling out of sorts and not like doing much socializing today. If you can, work on projects at home alone where you can stop and take a nap if you want. Your concentration may not be what it usually is, but if you isolate yourself from distractions, you should be happy with what you accomplish.



Scorpio

Perhaps you invited a lot of visitors over a day or so ago, but today you don't feel like entertaining. Nerve strain and other stresses might leave you more in the mood to be alone. However, since your guests could be connected with your business, you won't want to cancel.



Sagittarius

You probably aren't going to feel very social today. In fact, you're likely to want to work on projects and tasks alone if you can. This might be good for you, since you probably need to concentrate without being distracted. Still, you should get out among others at some point during the day.



Capricorn

The need to concentrate may necessitate that you isolate yourself in order to fully focus on the task at hand. This is fortunate, because you'll probably accomplish a lot more than you would otherwise and be satisfied with what you've done.



Aquarius

Research on a subject related to a project could have you heading to a place where you can read without being constantly distracted. Your concentration is high and you're likely to accomplish a lot in this regard. Although you might not find the material as interesting as you'd hoped.



Pisces

Today you might spend a lot of time running errands. You could run into friends or neighbours, but you probably won't feel like stopping to talk with them. You're apt to be working on something important that you'll want to get back to as soon as possible. Traffic or other delays could get in your way, however. Don't make yourself crazy. Go with the flow and you'll accomplish what you want.

SHOW

Is Cristiano Ronaldo engaged?

Dailymail | Moscow

Georgina Rodriguez added weight to growing rumours of an engagement to Cristiano Ronaldo by revealing

a sparkling ring in her wedding finger as she cheered the footballer to victory in Moscow yesterday afternoon. The 24-year old wore the diamond encrusted ring while watching

Ronaldo, 33, thump home the decisive winning goal against Morocco, his fourth of the tournament as Portugal played their second Group B game at Luzhniki Stadium.

The glittering accessory gave rise to further speculation that the footballer has proposed to Georgina, who gave birth to her first child with father-of-four Ronaldo in November. The brunette was clearly in good spirits throughout the match, and was seen donning a Portugal shirt, despite being born in Argentina and raised in Spain. She also wore the number seven shirt sported by Ronaldo during their opening match against her native Spain, during which he netted a hat-trick.

However she appeared to be nonplussed by footballing allegiances as she waved the Portugal flag and chatted with friends throughout the match.



Georgina Rodriguez

ABRAHAMINTE SANTHATHIKAL

(MALAYALAM/CRIME/THRILLER)
 MOHAMED EMAM YASMINE SABRI FAROUK EL FESHAWI
DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15
SEEF (I) 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
AL HAMRA 3:00 + 9:00 PM + (12:00 MN FRI) ON THURSDAY 21ST: 12:00 + 3:00 + 6:00 + 9:00 PM + 12:00 MN

ABLA TAMTAM

(ARABIC / COMEDY)
 YASMIN ABDULAZIZ, HAMDY AL-MERGHANY, BAYOUMI FOUAD
DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15
CINECO (20) 12:00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN
SEEF (II) 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
WADI AL SAIL 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

LAILAT HANA WA SROUR

(ARABIC/THRILLER/COMEDY)
 MOHAMED EMAM YASMINE SABRI FAROUK EL FESHAWI
DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:00,15:00,17:00,19:00,21:00,23:00
CINECO (20) 12:00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II) 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
WADI AL SAIL 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

MAYA THE BEE: THE HONEY GAMES

(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 COCO JACK GILLIES, BENSON JACK ANTHONY, RICHARD ROXBURGH
DANA CINEMA 10:45,12:30,14:15,16:00,17:45,19:30,21:15,23:00
CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 PM
SEEF (I) 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 PM

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM - 2D

(ACTION/ADVENTURE/SCI-FI)
 CHRIS PRATT, Bryce Dallas Howard, Jeff Goldblum
DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30
CINECO (20) (IMAX 3D): 6:00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT (VIP I): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00
SEEF (II) (3D): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45
SEEF (I) 12.15 + 2.45 + 5.15 + 7.45 + 10.15 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
SAAR 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

RACE 3

(HINDI / ACTION / THRILLER)

ANIL KAPOOR, SALMAN KHAN, JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ

DANA CINEMA 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
DANA CINEMA 10:45, 13:45, 16:45, 19:45, 22:45
CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
SEEF (I) 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
SAAR 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
WADI AL SAIL 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

MARY SHELLEY

(BIOGRAPHY / DRAMA / ROMANCE)
 ELLE FANNING, MAISIE WILLIAMS, BEN HARDY
DANA CINEMA 11:00, 13:15, 15:30, 17:45, 20:00, 22:15, 00:30
SEEF (II) 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

TIK TIK TIK

(TAMIL / ACTION / SCI-FI / THRILLER)
 NIVETHA PETHURAJ, JAYAM RAVI, AARON AZIZ
DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30
AL HAMRA 22ND: 12:00 NOON + 6.00 PM

INCREDIBLES 2: 2D

(ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 SAMUEL L. JACKSON, CATHERINE KEENER, SOPHIA BUSH
DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15
CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 PM DAILY AT (3D): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II) 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
SAAR 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
WADI AL SAIL 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15

BEIRUT

(HIGH WIRE ACT) (15+) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
 ROSAMUND PIKE, JON HAMM, MARK PELLEGRINO
CINECO (20) 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00
SEEF (II) 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

HEREDITARY

(18+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
 TONI COLLETTE, GABRIEL BYRNE, ALEX WOLFF
CINECO (20) 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
SEEF (II) 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
SAAR 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

DEADPOOL 2

(15+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 RYAN REYNOLDS, JOSH BROLIN, MORENA BACCARIN
CINECO (20) 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) DAILY AT (VIP II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II) 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

ADRIFT

(PG-15) (DRAMA/ROMANTIC)
 SHAILENE WOODLEY, SAM CLAFLIN, JEFFREY THOMAS
CINECO (20) 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15
SEEF (II) 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30
SAAR 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30
WADI AL SAIL 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

10-HOTEL ARTEMIS

(15+) (ACTION/CRIME)
 JODIE FOSTER, STERLING K. BROWN, SOFIA BOUTELLA
CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II) 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

RAMPAGE

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION)
 DWAYNE JOHNSON, JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN, WILL YUN LEE
CINECO (20) 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 KAREN GILLAN, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., TOM HOLLAND
CINECO (20) 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

LIFE OF THE PARTY

(15+) (COMEDY)
 MELISSA MCCARTHY, GILLIAN JACOBS, JULIE BOWEN
CINECO (20) 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

THE LITTLE WITCH

(PG) (COMEDY/DRAMA/FAMILY)
 KAROLINE HERFURTH, AXEL PRAHL, LUIS VORBACH
SEEF (II) 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

SHOW DOGS

(PG-13) (ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 WILL ARNETT, CHRIS "LUDACRIS" BRIDGES, NATASHA LYONNE
SEEF (II) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 PM

PETER RABBIT

(PG) (ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY)
 ROSE BYRNE, DOMHNALL GLEESON, SAM NEILL
SEEF (I) 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 PM

A QUIET PLACE

(15+) (THRILLER/HORROR/DRAMA)
 EMILY BLUNT, JOHN KRASINSKI, NOAH JUPE
SEEF (I) 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

VEERE DI WEDDING

(15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/DRAMA)
 KAREENA KAPOOR, SONAM KAPOOR, SWARA BHASKAR
SEEF (I) 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

Bloom had a crush on Cate Blanchett

IANIS | Los Angeles

Actor Orlando Bloom says he had a major crush on actress Cate Blanchett while they were filming for "The Lord of the Rings".

On an episode of "The Late Late Show with James Corden", which was taped in London, the 41-year-old actor joined Blanchett and confessed about his crush, reports etonline.com.

When asked what his first impression of Blanchett was when she was playing Galadriel and he was portraying Legolas in the film, Bloom said: "I can't think -- I had such a crush. I had the biggest crush on you."

Taken aback by the confession, Blanchett told him: "Well,



Orlando Bloom



Orlando Bloom has also been a part of Global Green, an environmental company, since the early 2000s

it was your character!" Bloom stuck to his story, exclaiming, "No, it was me!" The actor said he was about

21 years old at the time of the filming and was intimidated by Blanchett, more than five years his senior.

Kit Harington plans major makeover after GoT wrap-up



Kit Harington

IANIS | London

Actor Kit Harington says he will cut his hair short after wrapping up "Game of Thrones".

With filming on the final season of the fantasy series entering its last weeks, Harington has expressed his wish to cut his signature long hair, ew.com reported.

"I'd like to step away and enjoy the obscurity, cut my hair, make myself less recognisable

I'd like to step away and enjoy the obscurity, cut my hair, make myself less recognisable

KIT HARRINGTON

Harington said.

Harington has played Jon Snow across eight seasons of the show.

So, how short exactly will he go?

"Short-short. The beard will be harder to get rid of -- I quite like the beard. I like having the long hair and beard both, but it will be like ritualistic thing. I can't go into my next role looking the same. This role was brilliant, but I'll need to get rid of Jon Snow," he said.

Will Ferrell to star in Eurovision song contest comedy for Netflix

AFP | Los Angeles

"Anchorman" star Will Ferrell is set to direct and appear in a Netflix movie based on the Eurovision Song Contest, a glitzy annual musical extravaganza known for its

over-the-top costumes, media reports said yesterday.

He will also co-write "Eurovision" with Andrew Steele, former head writer of "Saturday Night Live," on which Ferrell starred for years.

Ferrell was reportedly in-

spired by a visit to this year's Eurovision and is thought to have been a fan since being introduced to the contest by his wife of 18 years, Swedish actress Viveca Paulin. The movie is being interpreted as an attempt by Netflix.

SPORTS
sports

Wheeler calls out Fakhreddine for next edition of Brave

TDT | Manama

Sidney Wheeler challenged Mohammad Fakhreddine to face him in the next edition of Brave Combat Federation.

Wheeler had to withdraw from the bout at Belfast due to illness he faced during the weight cuts leading to the weigh-ins. Competing in the welterweight division, Wheeler made an impact with Brave 10 hosted in Amman, Jordan.

The fight marked the return of Mohammad Fakhreddine after his first loss in a fight by TKO. However due to the withdrawal of Wheeler, Fakhreddine was left without a bout.

Wheeler stated, "I want to apologise to Brave Combat Federation, my opponent Mohammad Fakhreddine, my family and to my coaches for not being able to compete in the fight night. I am that cer-



Sidney Wheeler

tain that I can make a dominating victory against one among the best fighters from Lebanon. I challenge Mohammad Fakhreddine to take up the fight and face me in the upcoming edition of the promotion."

Jeremy Kennedy signs with Brave CF

● Kennedy holds an 11-1 record and trains at Xtreme Couture full time

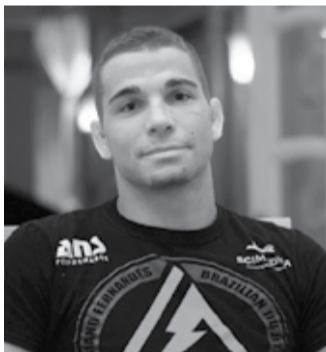
TDT | Manama

Jeremy Kennedy has signed with Brave Combat Federation ending his tenure with UFC.

Kennedy holds an 11-1 record and trains at Xtreme Couture full time.

The 25 year old fighter from Canada is among the top talents in the world and held a 11 fight win streak before taking his first loss.

"I chose Brave CF because when I went out a couple times



Jeremy Kennedy

to corner Gary Mangat, I really liked their team and how they ran things. Brave CF is one of the bigger organisations based out of Asia, so I wanted to test myself against some of the best international fighters in the world," said Jeremy Kennedy.

Khalifa Sports City ready to host Futsal League

TDT | Manama

The High Organising Committee of the Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League announced that the Khalifa Sports City is ready to host the prestigious event which will take place next Sunday and will continue until August 9, 2018.

This comes following the latest visit made by several members of the High Organising Committee to review the condition of the hosting venue to ensure a smooth kick-off to the event.

It's worth noting the High Organising Committee have nearly completed all the preparations ahead of the event.

"We are working tirelessly

for the event's kick-off especially as the event will feature six different leagues," said Contests Committee President Ibrahim Al Bouri.

Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League will take place under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Athletics Association and Honourary President of Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities.

The event will be organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs in coordination with HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Media Office under the theme #Generations...Gathering.

Wawrinka rocked by ATP Queen's blow

● Sam Querrey beats Stan Wawrinka 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1

AFP | London

Stan Wawrinka's Wimbledon preparations suffered a blow as the Swiss star crashed to a 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1 defeat against Sam Querrey at Queen's Club yesterday.

Wawrinka has struggled to return to peak form since sustaining a left knee injury last year that required two operations and wiped out the second half of the Swiss star's season.

Still hampered by the problem this term, Wawrinka was sidelined again for three months in between a second round exit at the Australian Open and a first round loss in the French Open.

The three-time Grand Slam champion had swatted aside British youngster Cameron Norrie in the first round of the Wimbledon warm-up at Queen's.

But Wawrinka faded badly Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka reacts



in the final set against Querrey as the American world number 13 condemned the 33-year-old to his seventh defeat in his last nine ATP Tour matches.

It is a major setback for Wawrinka ahead of the July 2 start of Wimbledon, where he has never made it past the quarter-finals.

Querrey, who won Queen's in 2010, will play Croatian top seed Marin Cilic or Luxembourg's Gilles Muller in the quarter-finals.

American prodigy Frances Tiafoe moved into his first ATP Tour grass-court quarter-final with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 win against Argentina's Leonardo Mayer.

Tiafoe, ranked 62nd, is looking to add a second ATP title to his maiden success at Delray Beach in February.

The 20-year-old outlasted Mayer to stop the world number 38 building on his surprise first round victory against third seed Kevin Anderson.

Tiafoe next faces France's Jeremy Chardy, who beat Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (8/6), 6-3.

Cavalheiro set to face Harris



Rodrigo Cavalheiro in action

TDT | Manama

Rodrigo Cavalheiro made a statement with his victory in Belfast against Karl Amousou. The welterweight fighter from Brazil was initially set to face Carlston Harris at Brave 8 hosted in Brazil.

However Harris landed in the title fight since Mohammad Fakhreddine had to withdraw from the bout due to medical reasons. Harris went ahead to win the championship.

After his knockout victory in Belfast, Cavalheiro is campaigning for the match to take place against Harris which was initially cancelled. However, in

multiple occasions the promotion had stated that Jarrah Al Selawe who has the most wins in the promotion will be the number one contender for the



I want to be one of the big names in the Brave Combat Federation. So I am ready to fight as soon as possible for the championship

RODRIGO CAVALHEIRO

championship.

"I want to be one of the big names in the Brave Combat Federation. So I am ready to fight as soon as possible for the championship. My aim is to fight in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. As a fighter it will be the greatest honour and privilege to be crowned as a champion by Sheikh Khalid. There is no promotion in the whole world which is capable of giving such a great honour for athletes other than Brave Combat Federation," said Cavalheiro who currently trains at the Noguchi Academy.

Japan's Sugita stuns Dominic Thiem in second round

AFP | Halle Westfalen

Japan's Yuichi Sugita shocked Dominic Thiem to send the Austrian out in the second round of the ATP Halle grass court event yesterday, 6-2, 7-5.

Third seed Thiem, French Open runner-up to Rafael Nadal earlier this month, was joined on the sidelines of the pre-Wimbledon tune-up by Japanese seventh seed Kei Nishikori, a 6-2, 6-2 loser to Karen Khachanov.

In 2017, the 36th-ranked Russian also beat Asia's top player in the second round at Halle, when Nishikori was forced to quit with a hip injury.

Thiem switched over to grass this week and came to the court with a first-round win in northern Germany at a venue styled as a smaller replica of the All England club's iconic Centre Court at Wimbledon.

The Austrian was on the back foot early as he lost the opening set to his 52nd-ranked opponent.

Sugita was unable to convert on three match points but hammered his sixth ace to claim victory on a fourth after 88 minutes.

The Japanese will be playing a grass court quarter-final for the second time in his career when he takes on American qualifier Denis Kudla, who defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4.

Uruguay in, Saudi out

● Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been eliminated after both suffered back-to-back defeats.

● Russia and Uruguay will face one of the top two from Group B in the last 16 -- either Portugal, Spain or Iran.

Rostov-on-Don | Russia

Uruguay booked their place in the World Cup knockout stage along with Russia yesterday, as Luis Suarez scored the winner on his 100th international appearance in a 1-0 victory over Saudi Arabia in Rostov-on-Don.

The South Americans take on the hosts in their final Group A match on June 25 with top spot on the line, while Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been eliminated after both suffered back-to-back defeats.

Russia and Uruguay will face one of the top two from Group B in the last 16 -- either Portugal, Spain or Iran.

The 31-year-old Suarez, whose previous two World Cups both ended in bans after his infamous 2010 handball against Ghana and bite on Italy's Giorgio Chiellini four years later, took advantage of a goalkeeping error by Mohammed Al-Owais to put Uruguay ahead midway through the first half.

URUGUAY 1 0 SAUDI ARABIA

23' Suarez

Possession



13	Shots	8
4	On target	3
10	Fouls	13



The goal was special because I wanted to make up for the other day against Egypt

LUIS SUAREZ

Uruguay, semi-finalists eight years ago in South Africa, have now reached the knockout stage for the third straight time, while Saudi Arabia will try again in their search for a first World Cup win since 1994 in their final game against Mohamed Salah's Egypt.

Suarez made a bright start, looking to make amends for his poor performance in the opening 1-0 win against Egypt, firing a left-footed volley from Cristian Rodriguez's knockdown which was blocked by Ali Al-Bulayhi.

The Saudis managed to have plenty of early possession, although without looking overly threatening, only to gift Uruguay a 23rd-minute lead.

Al-Owais -- winning only his second cap after replacing Abdullah Al-Muaiouf in goal -- completely

The Final whistle

It's all over at Rostov Arena and Luis Suarez's first-half goal - on his 100th international appearance - proved the difference. A second successive 1-0 win for Uruguay books their spot in the Round of 16 but Saudi Arabia cannot progress beyond the group stage.



Uruguay's forward Luis Suarez (hidden) celebrates with teammates

missed a floated Carlos Sanchez corner and Suarez tapped in his 52nd international goal unmarked at the back post.

That strike was Suarez's sixth World Cup goal and made him the first Uruguayan to score in three separate finals.

Juan Antonio Pizzi's Saudi Arabia continued to look far more assured on the ball than they did in the 5-0 drubbing by Russia on the opening day of the tournament, with Hatan Bahbri firing a wild volley over shortly after seeing a long-range effort tipped away by Fernando Muslera. The three points and a last-16 spot should have been wrapped up just after the hour mark, but Sanchez headed over when unmarked at the back post from a wonderful Edinson Cavani cross. The South Americans continued to be wasteful in front of goal, as Martin Caceres sent a header flying off target from the 33-year-old Sanchez's free-kick.

Cavani came close to emulating Suarez by scoring in a third WC, but his low shot was smothered by the onrushing Al-Owais.

Group

Ranking	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	
1	Russia	6	2	2	0	0	8	1	7
2	Uruguay	6	2	2	0	0	2	0	2
3	Egypt	0	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3
4	Saudi Arabia	0	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6

Spain beat Iran 1-0 with Costa's third goal of World Cup

AFP | Kazan, Russia

A lucky Diego Costa goal handed World Cup hopefuls Spain their first win of the World Cup although dogged Iran came close to causing a major upset on Wednesday.

The victory in Kazan puts the 2010 winners on course for the last 16.

Costa, who scored twice in a 3-3 opening draw with Portugal in Sochi, courted controversy early in the Group B encounter when he stepped on the toes of Iran 'keeper Ali Beiranvand as he waited to kick the ball out.

His gesture went unpunished, and the Atletico Madrid striker required another stroke of luck on 54 minutes when his shot came off Ramin Rezaeian to beat Beiranvand after he had been sent through by Andres Iniesta.

The entire Iranian bench poured onto the pitch when Saeid Ezatollahi fired an equaliser for the Lions of Persia just before the hour.

But the thousands of Iranian supporters that filled the stadium with the sound of vuvuzelas throughout were left disappointed when it was ruled out for offside.



Iran were denied an equaliser after the VAR ruled the goal out due to offside

score Les Bleus' opener in a 2-1 win over Australia.

Spain resumed in more positive fashion after the break, Beiranvand forced to produce heroics twice in the space of four minutes. Shortly after the restart an Isco corner was flicked on by Costa to Gerard Pique but his effort was cleared off the line.

Sergio Busquets' drive from 20 yards was then parried by Beiranvand, who palmed the rebound away before Lucas Vazquez could pounce.

Some great vision from Iniesta, and a slice of luck, however broke Iranian hearts when Costa spun and latched on to the ball before seeing his shot

rebound off Ramin Rezaeian and into the net.

Spain, however, were still flattering to deceive. On a rare counter goalkeeper David De Gea was left irate when Taremi rose to head a metre wide.

Moments later, the stadium erupted when Ezatollahi fired through a packed Spain area to beat De Gea but the assistant referee's flag was up.

In the final quarter hour Iran battled for a late equaliser, but after Vahid Amiri showed class to nutmeg Pique deep on the left and fire over an inviting cross, Taremi's thundering header flew just over the bar as a relieved De Gea looked on.



Spain's forward Diego Costa (R) celebrates his goal with midfielder Isco

Spain coach Fernando Hierro welcomed Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal back into the starting line-up following his recovery from a hamstring injury suffered in the Champions League final win over Liverpool.

With Lucas Vazquez replacing Atletico Madrid midfielder Koke, it gave La Roja a distinctively Real Madrid feel.

Costa got so frustrated with Iran's defensive tactics that he approached Beiranvand and provocatively stepped on his toes, leaving the 'keeper in visible pain. It went unpunished by Uruguay-an referee Cunha, who had awarded France a historic first VAR-assisted penalty that saw Antoine Griezmann

For reservations call
 +973 17364999 (seef District)
 +973 17728699 (um Al Hassam)

Dynamite alert for Aussies

The consensus going into this vital Group C contest is that Denmark are the favourites, but not overwhelmingly so. Everything points to a highly competitive match-up between nations with respectable FIFA World Cup traditions, desperate to write new and successful chapters in their world finals history books.

The onus is on Australia as they need to put points on the table after being edged by France 2-1 in their opening match, while Denmark will be motivated by the knowledge that three points could mean a spot in the knockout stage. The Danes also have the possibility of winning successive matches for just the second time in their World Cup history.

There are a couple of moments in history that will make for pleasant reading for Socceroos fans. Australia coach Bert van Marwijk and Denmark coach Åge Hareide met in 2008, when the former was in charge of the Netherlands and Hareide leading his homeland Norway; the Dutch won 1-0. Van Marwijk's Netherlands also beat Denmark 2-0 en route to the Final of the 2010 World Cup.

Denmark go into the clash knowing a win could almost certainly see them progress to the knockout stages. The absence of William Kvist, who broke two ribs against Peru, will be a massive handicap for the Danes as they look to recover balance in midfield. Regardless, the Aussies will have a battle on their hands to break down a Danish defence with five successive clean sheets.

Australia can take a lot of confidence from their opener against France. They more than held their own and played to their strengths and setup. This match with Denmark is really a must-win if the Socceroos are to have any chance of progressing beyond the group stage. To achieve this they must find the missing link up front and capitalise on their chances.

Denmark  **12**

Nickname | Danish Dynamite



Christian Eriksen

Possible line-ups: Kasper Schmeichel; Jens Stryger Larsen, Andreas Christensen, Simon Kjær, Henrik Dalsgaard; Lasse Schöne, Thomas Delaney, Christian Eriksen; Pione Sisto, Nicolai Jørgensen, Yussuf Yurary Poulsen

Åge Hareide has taken over from Morten Olsen and plays a more direct football than his predecessor while setting up the team to get the best out of Christian Eriksen.

Strengths

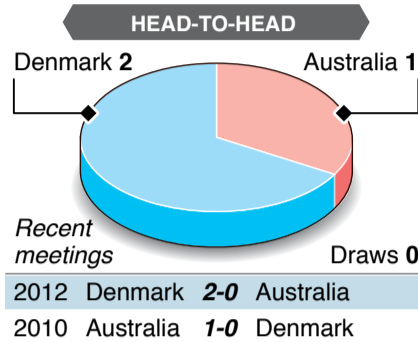
Eriksen is one of the best play-makers in Europe and there is pace on the left side with Celta Vigo's Pione Sisto.

Weaknesses

Hareide's first-choice defensive midfielder, William Kvist, has lost his place at his club, FC Copenhagen, and may not start in Russia, potentially leaving a gap for opponents to exploit.

FIFA rank

DEN 1-0 PER Match 1 AUS 1-2 FRA



WORLD CUP RECORD

9	Wins	2
2	Draws	3
6	Losses	9
1.65	Goals for*	0.86
1.41	Goals against*	2.00

Did you know?

Denmark are on an unbeaten run of 16 games in all competitions, with nine wins and seven draws since a 1-0 defeat by Montenegro on 11 October 2016. Only Spain (21) and Belgium (20) are on better unbeaten runs



36  **Australia**

Nickname | The Socceroos



Aaron Mooy

Possible line-ups: Mathew Ryan; Aziz Behich, Mark Milligan, Trent Sainsbury, Josh Risdon; Aaron Mooy, Tom Rogic, Mile Jedinak, Robbie Kruse; Tomi Juric, Mathew Leckie

Going into the World Cup with a new manager after Ange Postecoglou quit in November. Bert van Marwijk has not had much time to get to know his players.

Strengths

Van Marwijk will aim to tighten the defence and hope that pacy players such as Mathew Leckie and Robbie Kruse can cause damage up front.

Weaknesses

This team are not used to playing opponents of the highest calibre and may be overwhelmed against France, Denmark and Peru.

OFF SIDE

After centuries of colonization and exploitation and decades of dashed hopes on the pitch, I want to see an African country get an equal place on the world stage.

The World Cup is well underway. I know because I've been gorging myself on a visual diet of several games a day. Maybe you have, too. They've been pretty exciting, since many of the teams expected to sail toward the next round have instead been stumbling: Germany, the defending champions, fell to Mexico; France just barely edged past Australia; Spain, Brazil and Argentina all tied in their first matches. But there's been one thing that's disappointed me: This surge of the less-favored nations hasn't included any from Africa. The first four to compete — Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria — all lost. It was always a long shot, but now the dream of an African team holding this trophy aloft seems further away than ever.



MUSA OKWONGA

I was born and raised in Britain but I've often shared that dream. Whenever England is eliminated from the World Cup, my affections go next to the best African team. That's not just because my parents moved to England from Uganda. It's also because Africa, having suffered centuries of colonization and exploitation, has so long been denied an equal place on the global stage. There are several reasons no African country has ever got past a quarterfinal. One is that, well, this is the World Cup. Most of the teams are good; this is serious competition. As Al Pacino's character says in his famous speech in the 1999 movie "Any Given Sunday," the difference between glory and failure is "inch by inch, play by play." (Yes, I know the movie is about the other "football.") In 1990, Cameroon was just seven minutes away from reaching the semifinal, when England scored and dashed their hopes; in 2010, Ghana would have gone to that stage, too, if only the team had scored a last-minute penalty against Uruguay.

But as always with this tournament, there's more going on than what you can watch on the pitch. Let's remember world history: Most of Africa was at some point colonized by Europe's empires, which subjugated these societies and stripped them of their resources. This legacy has left many of the countries of Africa poor and politically fractured — not exactly fertile ground for intense training and football greatness. And then there's the issue of migration and lost talent: After independence, many Africans migrated to the richer countries of Europe. Several of their children have ended up playing for the European countries where they were born or spent their formative years. Some of them — like France's Patrick Vieira, who was born in Senegal, or Portugal's legendary striker, Eusebio, who was born in Mozambique — are among the greatest players the World Cup has ever seen. Sometimes I take this train of thought further: How many of Brazil's five titles does the country owe to the descendants of enslaved people who came from Africa?

Naturally, there are contemporary problems, too. Some of Africa's leading football nations have, I'm sorry to say, compounded historical setbacks with modern-day mismanagement of their players and resources. (I'm thinking of Nigeria and Ghana especially.) But as France, Germany and Spain have recently shown, the path to World Cup victory these days relies on patient investment in the national team over the course of several decades, and then a substantial helping of luck. Maybe someday. Sports can be a powerful symbol of progress. Remember when Muhammad Ali's fast fists and swifter tongue ruled the world? On some level, I can't wait for the day an African country lands a knockout blow. (Musa Okwonga is a poet and writer based in Berlin. He is the author of two books on football, "A Cultured Left Foot" and "Will You Manage?")

Point Table



GROUP A

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Russia	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Egypt	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Saudi	2	0	0	1	0	6	0

GROUP B

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Portugal	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Iran	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Morocco	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

GROUP C

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
France	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Denmark	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Australia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Peru	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP D

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Croatia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Argentina	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Iceland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP E

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Serbia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brazil	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP F

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Mexico	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Sweden	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Germany	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
S. Korea	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP G

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Belgium	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
England	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Panama	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP H

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Japan	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Senegal	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Colombia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Poland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

LEYAN MANAGEMENT EVENTS

WATCH ALL MATCHES LIVE ON OUR BIG SCREEN

**From 10-6-2018 to 17-7-2018
11 AM to 12 PM (Night)
at Adhari Park, Food Court**

SHOPPING AT WORLD CUP CITY CARNIVAL

WIN DAILY ENJOY ENCOURAGE YOUR TEAM SHOPPING

More Details : +973 337 50 101, +973 330 970 88

Location Partner Beverage Partner Supporting Partners

Messi seeks redemption



LIONEL MESSI
Barcelona
Spain
1.69 m / 72 kg

INTERNATIONAL RECORD
GOALS: 64
MATCHES: 124

WORLD CUP
OLYMPIC GAMES
COPA AMERICA

OTHER MAJOR HONOURS
BALLON D'OR
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
SPAIN LA LIGA

Finalist Participation

5 Argentina

FIFA rank

Croatia 20



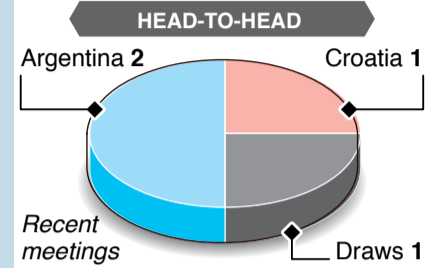
Possible line-ups: Caballero; Mercado, Otamendi, Tagliafico; Salvio, Mascherano, Meza, Acuna; Messi, Aguero, Pavon.

Argentina have one of the most fearsome attacks in the world but so far Jorge Sampaoli has not been able to get the players to click.

Strengths
Lionel Messi deserves a mention but the Barcelona forward is backed up by players such as Sergio Agüero, Paulo Dybala, Gonzalo Higuaín and Ángel Di María.

Weaknesses
A central defence pairing of Federico Fazio and Nicolás Otamendi does not instil confidence and none of the goalkeepers had more than 10 caps going into the tournament.

ARG 1-1 ISL Match 1 CRO 2-0 NGR



WORLD CUP RECORD

42	Wins	8
15	Draws	2
21	Losses	7
1.69	Goals for*	1.35
1.09	Goals against*	1.0

Did you know?

Lionel Messi scored his first international goal against Croatia, in a 3-2 friendly defeat in March 2006

Argentina's draw with Iceland was the first time they've failed to win a World Cup opener since losing to Cameroon in 1990 (1-0)

Croatia will seal qualification for the round of 16 if they beat Argentina

The runners-up at Brazil 2014, Argentina have now gone three games without a win at the world finals. Their last victory was the 1-0 quarter-final defeat of Belgium four years ago, which was followed by a penalty shoot-out victory over the Netherlands in the semi-finals.

Possible line-ups: Subasic; Vrsaljko, Lovren, Vida, Strinic; Rakitic, Badelj; Brozovic, Modric, Perisic; Mandzukic.

Croatia's Zlatko Dalic presides over a hugely talented squad but also one of the oldest in the tournament.

Strengths
Any team with Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic in midfield are going to have a lot of possession and create chances.

Weaknesses
Defence is a concern with Dejan Lovren likely to partner Domagoj Vida in the centre after injury to the veteran Vedran Corluka.



LUKA MODRIC

AFP | Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

Argentina are rallying around captain Lionel Messi as the South American giants prepare for their crucial Group D clash with Croatia here on Thursday.

Messi made an unhappy start to the World Cup on Saturday, missing what would have been a winning penalty as Argentina

were held to a 1-1 draw by minnows Iceland. Another adverse outcome on Thursday and many may even start to consider the unthinkable -- that Argentina could be on their way out at the group stage, mirroring their shock first round exit in 2002.

Adding to the sense of disappointment, Messi's missed penalty was accompanied by 11 unsuccessful shots, the most

in a World Cup game without return by a single player since Italy's Luigi Riva in 1970. Argentina's players however have been quick to close ranks around the superstar. Sampaoli is reportedly considering several changes for the game, including drafting in young forward Cristian Pavon for Angel Di Maria for more creativity up front.

Their jobs would be to supply

Messi and goalscorer against Iceland Sergio Aguero with the kind of service on which they would thrive in a potential 3-3-1 formation.

Croatia may have secured a vital three points in their 2-0 win against Nigeria, but their mood can hardly be described as euphoric. They came into the tournament under a cloud, with captain Luka Modric charged

with perjury in a corruption scandal. And striker Kalinic has left Russia due to a back injury, says coach Zlatko Dalic, but amid reports he refused to come on as a substitute after being left out of the starting line-up.

The teams have met only once before in the World Cup, in 1998, when Argentina won 1-0 and were the only team that year

to prevent Golden Boot winner Davor Suker from scoring. One other possible women for Thursday; when Riva racked up his unwanted record in 1970, the Italian legend promptly scored two goals in his next match. Argentina will be hoping for the same from Messi.



”

I can understand that he was frustrated that he didn't get the result he wanted. If we would be in his position we would be as frustrated as him

DEFENDER BIRKIR SAEVARSSON



”

The reality is that this game is crucial for us, knowing we weren't able to get the three points the other day. This is a vital game

ARGENTINA DEFENDER GABRIEL MERCADO



”

Playing like that, he can't come back to Argentina. It's a disgrace. Not having prepared for the match knowing that Iceland are all 1.90m tall...

ARGENTINA LEGEND DIEGO MARADONA

WORLD CUP PREDICT AND WIN

Yesterday's lucky winner is Marie Bernadine Castillo. Winner will be contacted



MAKE YOUR GATHERING MORE SPECIAL



TASTE THE FEELING

THE DAILY **tribune**
NEWS OF BAHRAIN

PREDICT & WIN
A Gift Pack from *Coca-Cola*

DAY 8, 21st JUNE 2018

DENMARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUSTRALIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	PERU	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARGENTINA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CROATIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: Mob:
CPR No.: Email:

Send a photo of the filled in form to whatsapp No. 33609505 or email: mail@newssofbahrain.com.
Alternatively you can participate in the contest on our website www.newssofbahrain.com
Winner's photo will be published in The Daily Tribune.
Entry should be submitted before 2pm



Ronnie strikes again

Ronaldo's strike is his 85th int'l goal, a record for a European player; Morocco first to be out

Reuters | Moscow

Cristiano Ronaldo powered-home a fourth-minute header to give Portugal a 1-0 World Cup victory over Morocco that took them top of Group B on Wednesday and meant the unlucky North African side become the first to be eliminated from the tournament.

Ronaldo's fourth goal of Russia 2018, following his hat-trick in the 3-3 draw with Spain, took the European champions to four points. Iran have three points and Spain one ahead of their meeting later on Wednesday.

Morocco, who had a real go at the Luzhnik Stadium but failed to convert their chances, are pointless having also lost 1-0 to Iran and cannot progress to the second round.

Portugal struggled to impose themselves and ended up defending for long spells, leaving coach

“Our expectation is to continue our work and try to improve in the group phase. We're almost there (knockout stages) and then we'll see. We'll take things match after match. We will try to come first in the group

CRISTIANO RONALDO

PORTUGAL 1 0 MOROCCO

4' Ronaldo

Possession

47% 53%

10	Shots	16
2	On target	4
19	Fouls	23

85

int'l goals for Ronaldo is a new record for a European player, with him passing Ferenc Puskas to hold the record outright. He is now second on the all-time list of int'l goalscorers behind Ali Daei (109 goals).

Fernando Santos unimpressed. “We have to look at this, we lost control of the game,” he said.

“We misplaced a lot of passes, we lost confidence... it was inexplicable. If in a match against players like they have, if you don't have the ball, they wear you down and you get into trouble.”

Despite their battling display, Morocco will rue the unforgivable defending that made all their subsequent good work irrelevant.

They qualified for the finals without conceding a goal in six matches yet somehow opted against marking the most dangerous attacker at the tournament in the six yard box when Joao Moutinho swung in a cross from a short

Man of the Match

Cristiano Ronaldo While there was no repeat of his stellar showing against Spain, Ronaldo's opener was the difference between the sides in Moscow, while also sending him back to the head of the top scorers table.

What's next?

Portugal will look to finish top of the group by beating Iran in Saransk on 25 June, while Morocco face Spain in Kaliningrad on the same day.

corner and Ronaldo duly buried the header. It was his 85th international goal, taking him beyond Hungarian Ferenc Puskas's European record, with only Iran's Ali Daei ahead of him on 109.

Morocco, in their first finals appearance for 20 years, regrouped well and showed some real positivity in attack with Hakim Ziyech and Nordin Amrabat seeing plenty of the ball and Amrabat furious at not being awarded a penalty after wrestling with Raphael Guerreiro

The midfielder had begun the game with head protection after being seemingly knocked unconscious against Iran five days ago in a sight that will have left medical professionals fuming about football's feeble concussion protocols.

When they managed to stop appealing and resumed play, Morocco looked dangerous and were the dominant side in the second half.

Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patricio made a fantastic diving low save to touch clear Younes Belhanda's sharp header but Medhi Benatia's blazed effort over the bar was more typical of their finishing from half-a-dozen reasonable chances.

Portugal complete their first-round against Iran while Morocco face Spain, both on June 25.



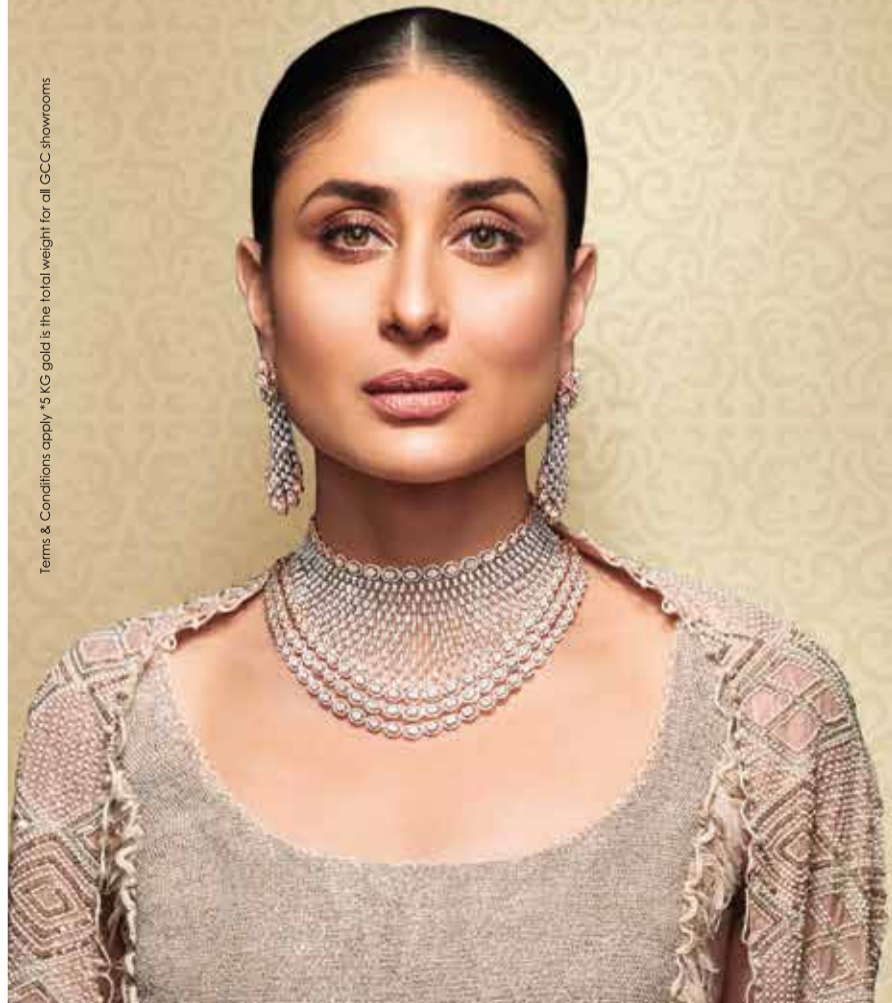
“We have to look at this and we have to talk about it. We lost control of the game, we misplaced a lot of passes, we lost confidence. It is true that I am not happy with the performance of my team

FERNANDO SANTOS COACH

Today's match

- Group C**
Denmark v Australia (3:00 PM)
- France v Peru** (6:00 PM)
- Group D**
Argentina v Croatia (9:00 PM)

WIN UP TO 5 KILOS OF GOLD



WIN 100 GM GOLD BAR
SPEND BHD 50 & WIN 100 GM GOLD BAR EACH IN 2 RAFFLE DRAWS IN BAHRAIN

FREE 1GM GOLD COIN
ON EVERY BHD 300 WORTH DIAMOND JEWELLERY PURCHASE

0% ZERO DEDUCTION ON 22 K (GCC) GOLD EXCHANGE

NO MAKING CHARGE ON 8 GM GOLD COINS

Offer valid until 7th July, 2018



MANAMA: GOLD CITY, 17006916 | NEAR GOLD CITY, 17662916 | TEMPLE ROAD: 17232916
RIFFA: 1ST FLOOR, LULU HYPERMARKET, 17007916 | HIDD: 1ST FLOOR, LULU HYPERMARKET, 17684916

OVER 215 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS OMAN, UAE, BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, QATAR, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA & INDIA

Terms & Conditions apply *5 KG gold is the total weight for all GCC showrooms