

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

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11th Hour
MPs back legal action
against Qatar Govt

Manama
A call to take legal action against Qatar for its subversive role in Bahrain has found favour with people's representatives. MPs yesterday endorsed an action plan to seek compensation for damage.

Tweet of the Day

After 16 years of bloodshed and destruction, the Taliban are undefeated and terrorism is no less of a threat at home

@jeremycorbyn

Today's Weather

	Max	Min
	42°C	32°C

Iran 'part of the problem' in Yemen: Diplomat

United Nations

Iran, which is supporting Shia Huthi rebels in Yemen, "is part of the problem, not the solution" when it comes to ending conflict in the war-torn nation, Yemen's top diplomat has said.

"Iran is the cause of the

problem, Iran continues to support the Huthis, Iranian arms are smuggled. Iran is part of the problem, not the solution," Foreign Minister Abdulmalik Al Mekhlafi said when asked if Tehran could contribute to a political solution in Yemen.

He was speaking at UN headquarters after a major luncheon hosted by Yemen and Saudi Arabia with the majority of diplomatic missions to the United Nations.

"Iran has no role to play in the region," echoed the Saudi ambassador to the United Nations, Abdallah

Al-Mouallimi. Saudi humanitarian aid to Yemen is estimated to top \$8.2 billion.

The Saudi-led military coalition largely controls the country's airspace, although US drones also carry out strikes on suspected Al-Qaeda bases there.

More than 8,300 people

have been killed and 44,000 wounded since the Saudi-led coalition entered the Yemen war in 2015.

Close to 2,000 Yemenis have also died of cholera since April and another 600,000 are expected to contract the infection this year.

Development first: PM to new Governor

DT News Network
Manama

The Southern Governorate's towns and villages need more development projects in commensurate with its economic and social importance, said His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa who visited the Governorate yesterday.

"Reach out to the citizens to identify their needs, deliver them the best services and spare no effort to achieve His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives on the ground. We are with you and support you since what the governorate is doing is part of the government's responsibilities," the Premier said, addressing the newly-appointed Southern Governor HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa and the Governorate's staff.



HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa with HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Southern Governor, yesterday.

"Listen to the voice of the citizens, whether they are in towns or villages, and do follow ups," he said, congratulating HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, for the precious royal trust bestowed upon him and the

responsibility entrusted to him. HRH Prime Minister said that the citizens across the Governorate should see tangible progress in health, services, housing and infrastructure in the Governorate.

Speaker of the Council of Representatives Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla, Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Interior Minister Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, service ministers,

MPs and senior state officials were present. HRH Premier stressed the need to give top priority to the implementation of HM the King's directives and serving the citizens in the the governorate, noting that the governorate will receive all kinds of support from the government as its tasks are part of the government's responsibilities. He stressed the importance of fulfilling the citizens' aspirations and meeting their needs.

"Their satisfaction is ours, and their service is the government's ultimate goal," HRH Premier said. HH Shaikh Khalifa welcomed HRH the Prime Minister's visit, noting that it embodies his constant keenness on being informed closely about the citizens' needs through direct meetings and field visits to determine the priority of government action.



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Trump backs off Afghan withdrawal



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Major fire breaks out at warehouse in Salmabad



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Putting Bahrain on the Map



Trump backs off Afghan withdrawal

U.S. President Donald Trump delivers remarks on America's military involvement in Afghanistan at the Fort Myer military base

War on terror

On October 7, 2001, less than a month after the September 11 attacks, US president George W. Bush launches operation "Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan, after the Taliban regime refuses to hand over Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden. In a matter of weeks the US-led forces overthrow the Taliban, in power since 1996.

Forgotten war

Attention is diverted from Afghanistan as US forces in 2003 mount an invasion of Iraq, which becomes the main US concern. The Taliban and other Islamist groups regroup in their strongholds in the south and east of Afghanistan, from where they can easily travel to and from Pakistani tribal zones. In 2008 the American command on the ground calls for manpower to carry out an effective strategy against the Taliban insurgency. Bush agrees to send additional soldiers and by mid-2008 there are 48,500 US troops there.

End of combat

In September 2014 Afghanistan signs a bilateral security accord with the US and a similar text with NATO: 12,500 foreign soldiers, of which 9,800 are Americans, will remain in the country in 2015, after the end of the NATO combat mission at the end of 2014.

From the beginning of 2015, American troops will be charged with two missions: anti-terrorist operations against Al-Qaeda and the training of Afghan forces. In late December, the NATO combat mission ends, and is replaced by an assistance mission baptized "Resolute Support". However, the security situation degenerates.

On July 6, 2016, Obama again slows down the pace of withdrawal, saying that 8,400 US troops will remain in Afghanistan into 2017.

Washington

President Donald Trump cleared the way for the deployment of thousands more US troops to Afghanistan Monday, backtracking from his promise to rapidly end America's longest war, while pillorying ally Pakistan for offering safe haven to "agents of chaos."

Trump discarded his previous criticism of the 16-year-old war as a waste of time and money, admitting things looked different from "behind the desk in the Oval Office."

"My instinct was to pull out," Trump said as he spoke of his frustration with a war that has killed thousands of US troops and cost US taxpayers trillions of dollars.

But following months of deliberation, Trump said he had concluded "the consequences of a rapid



First lady Melania Trump stands with Ivanka Trump before President Donald Trump delivered remarks on American involvement in Afghanistan

exit are both predictable and unacceptable" leaving a "vacuum" that terrorists "would instantly fill."

While Trump refused to offer detailed troop numbers, senior White House officials said he had already authorized his defense secretary to deploy

up to 3,900 more troops to Afghanistan.

Taliban later vowed it would make the country "a graveyard" for the United States and would continue its "jihad" as long as American troops remained in the country.

"If America doesn't withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, soon Afghanistan will become another graveyard for this superpower in the 21st century," Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban in Afghanistan, said in a statement.

Trump also indicated that single-minded approach would extend to US relations with troubled ally Pakistan, which consecutive US administrations have criticized for links with the Taliban and

for harboring leading jihadists -- like Osama bin Laden.

"We have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting," he said, warning that vital aid could be cut. That will have to change and that will change immediately."

Ahead of the speech Pakistan's military brushed off speculation that Trump could signal a stronger line against Islamabad, insisting the country has done all it can to tackle militancy.

"Let it come," army spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor told reporters, referring to Trump's decision. "Even if it comes... Pakistan shall do whatever is best in the national interest." (AFP)

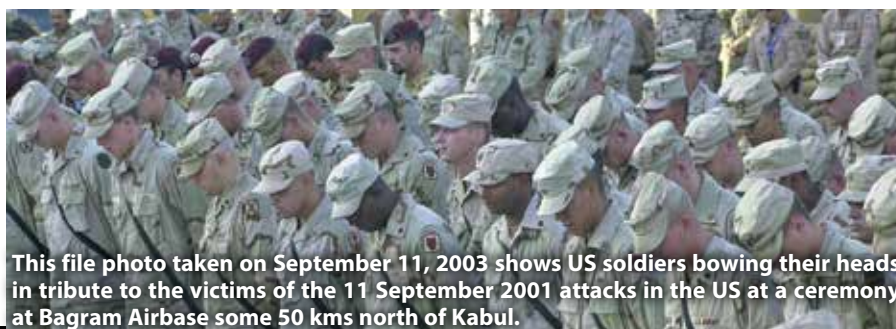
Deal with Taliban!

Trump for the first time also left the door open to an eventual political deal with the Taliban.

"Someday, after an effective military effort, perhaps it will be possible to have a political settlement that includes elements of the Taliban in Afghanistan," he said. But he vowed that

"America will continue its support for the Afghan government as they confront the Taliban in the field." His Secretary of State Rex Tillerson went further, saying the US would "stand ready to support peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban without preconditions."

"We have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting."



This file photo taken on September 11, 2003 shows US soldiers bowing their heads in tribute to the victims of the 11 September 2001 attacks in the US at a ceremony at Bagram Airbase some 50 kms north of Kabul.



We welcome President Trump's determination to enhance efforts to overcome the challenges facing Afghanistan and confronting issues of safe havens and other forms of cross-border support enjoyed by terrorists. India shares these concerns and objectives."

- Indian foreign ministry statement



Trump's first formal address as commander-in-chief late Monday showed that America was with us, without any time limit."

- Ashraf Gani, Afghanistan President

Pakistan's status as privileged ally in question: Rex Tillerson

Washington Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned yesterday that Pakistan's privileged status as a major non-NATO US ally could be in question if it continues to give safe haven to

extremists.

"We have some leverage," Tillerson told reporters, "in terms of aid, their status as a non-NATO alliance partner -- all of that can be put on the table."

Major fire breaks out at warehouse in Salmabad

DT News Network
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Manama

A major fire broke out at a warehouse that stored inflammable items in Salmabad in the Northern Governorate yesterday. Employees in the building were evacuated but no casualties were reported in the incident.

Civil Defence firefighters quickly arrived at the scene and doused the fire. Twelve vehicles were put to service to douse the fire at the warehouse which belonged to the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry.

The Interior Ministry confirmed the incident.

"A large fire was extinguished in a warehouse of inflammable products affiliated with the Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry in Salmabad," the Interior Ministry said, quoting General Director of Civil Defence.

"The fire was spotted at 12:47pm and the civil defence team reached within 7 minutes. Twelve vehicles and 45 personnel were involved in putting out the fire and prevent the spread of the flames to nearby houses and buildings. Investigation is continuing to know the reason behind the fire," said General Director of Civil Defence.



Firefighters dousing the fire that broke out at a warehouse in Salmabad

Putting Bahrain on the Map

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

It was not an ordinary initiative, but an effort to provide the special needs kids a normal day to day life by giving them a chance to know the mother nature. The results were magical and this happened in Bahrain at the Al Jasra Rotary Farm.

The project called 'Green House' by the Rotary Club of Sulmaniya received special recognition and was also awarded by the Rotary International.

"This is a big achievement for us as this is the first time where a rotary club in Bahrain has been awarded, been recognised internationally and further been featured at the International magazine," Ameera Ismail Past President of Rotary club of Sulmaniya, while talking about the project to DT News.

The initiative, which received many global accolades was also featured in the July 2017 issue of the Rotarian magazine, which is distributed globally to all Rotary clubs.

Commenting on the project, Sebhath Isik present vice president said, "The green house project was extremely beneficial as it was an amazing learning experience



Children and club members harvesting the vegetables

for the special need kids. We are constantly aiming towards working with various stakeholders to benefit the society and further we have many other projects coming in the future where we could give back to the society."

"The main idea behind this project was to make the special needs kids lead a normal day to day life, bring them out of the closed doors and give them a new experience," said Ameera Ismail.

The project took almost nine months to complete. It started with the seeding in the

month of September 2016 at the Al Jasra Rotary Farm.

Around 50 special needs children from the Society For The Blind, the Al Rahma Centre, and the Bahrain Down Syndrome Society took part in the project and planted vegetables like tomatoes, cucumber, cabbage, pumpkin and bell peppers at the farm.

"On the day of harvest, we took the kids back to the farm and it was such an amazing feeling to see them so delighted with this experience," she added.

The produce, following the harvest in January 2017, were sold in the local farmers market by the children.

"We went to the farmers market for four consecutive Saturdays, with a few kids from these societies. The kids were happy as they were selling the products, dealing with people and welcoming them," she said.

The club managed to sell the products for more than BD2000 which in return was donated back to these societies.



The children planting the seeds



The harvest stage



The children and club members at the local farmer's market with their produce

IT roles in future to be more challenging

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

IT roles in the future will be more challenging, according to IT service management (ITSM) professionals who responded to a recent survey.

The survey, conducted by ManageEngine in collaboration with ITSM.tools, showed that ITSM professionals are expecting the industry to become more challenging.

The survey conducted in Bahrain consisted of ten questions that focused on the opportunities and challenges ITSM will see in the future. Eighty-two per cent of ITSM professionals believe that the IT roles of tomorrow will be more challenging — and the majority of the workforce currently feels undervalued by management.

Cloud technology continues to enjoy positive feedback from ITSM professionals in spite of a major outage. Artificial intelligence (AI) isn't seen as a major job disruptor yet, with only 16 per cent of respondents



Rajesh Ganesan, director of product management at ManageEngine

saying it will affect IT jobs. With an incoming millennial workforce, 77 per cent of ITSM professionals believe that IT teams will have to do more to manage the expectation gap between younger and older employees.

"With a total of 82 per cent of respondents believing that working in IT will get harder over the next three years.

Only 15 per cent of survey respondents didn't think that their life would get harder. As to why there's a higher response for "Yes, for some IT roles" than "Yes, for all IT roles" - this might reflect that some IT roles are getting harder, or it might just be the very-human assumption that "the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." With respondents thinking that they are in a particularly difficult role versus their peers. For instance, service desk agents are usually under far greater scrutiny (and pressure) in terms of performance metrics and targets than most other, if not all, IT roles. Whereas in some areas, such as the management of legacy IT systems, roles might be viewed as being under less pressure and less likely to change," the report stated.

"The ITSM industry is continually evolving in response to its micro and macro influencers, like technology, people, practices and government regulations. Being aware of potential future challenges and opportunities

helps ITSM professionals stay relevant and responsive to changing landscapes in IT and business, giving their organizations a competitive edge," said Rajesh Ganesan, director of product management at ManageEngine.

"It's interesting — and worrying — that 82 per cent of survey respondents believe that working in IT will get harder over the next three years. There are multiple root causes, including: nearly two-thirds of respondents think that the current local and global political climate is adversely affecting IT recruitment; only 24 per cent of respondents think that existing ITSM best practices have kept up with the changing IT and business landscapes; and 77 per cent of respondents think that there is still more to be done to meet the expectations of millennial employees. Ultimately, as an industry, we still need to invest more in getting modern IT support right," said Stephen Mann, principal analyst and content director at ITSM.tools.

BKS begins Onam, Eid celebrations

Manama

Bahrain **Keraleeya** Samajam (BKS) will commence its Onam and Eid celebrations on August 25, it was announced yesterday.

Highlights of this year's activities will be a grand feast prepared by Indian chef Pazhayidom Mohanan Namboothiri for 5000 people and entertainment programmes by 50 artists from India including playback singers Dr K.J. Yesudas, KS Chitra, G. Venugopal, Cine actress Aparna Balamurali and Devi Chandana.

Indian MP NK Premachandran will inaugurate the activities officially on September 1. Musical concert led by KS Chitra will follow, BKS organising committee, announced BKS President P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai and General secretary N.K. Veeramani during a press conference.

Kerala Legislative

Assembly speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan will be the chief guest of the finale on September 8, following which Dr K.J. Yesudas will perform live.

The programme committee is spearheaded by a 250-member committee led by General Convener Sankar Palloor and General Coordinator Babu Suresh. For details call 3336 4417 / 33115886.

Children's wing inauguration

The children's wing of BKS will hold its formal inauguration of its activities on Thursday at 8pm at the Diamond Jubilee hall. Popular Malayalam Film script writer and Actor Renji Panicker will be chief guest. Various cultural and entertainment activities will be held on the occasion by club members. Entry is free. For details contact Tiji on 39775584 or Karthik on 38033644.

Sigh of relief for stranded Indian expat Karuppaiah

Harpreet Kaur
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

The Indian expatriate who has been living illegally in Bahrain for the past two years after his Saudi sponsor stranded him in the Kingdom will soon be repatriated.

According to sources, an official from the Indian Embassy in Jeddah was in touch with the Indian expatriate and the Indian embassy in Bahrain is working towards sending him back to his home country.

"The Indian embassy in Bahrain is working towards sending Udair Karuppaiah back to his home country within a month after settling his outstanding dues," said the source to *DT News*.

"I really want to thank everyone who has helped me to get out of the miserable situation I am in. The embassy personnel spoke to me and they assured me that they will help me to get back



Udair Karuppaiah home," said Karuppaiah.

DT News on Tuesday reported the sad plight of Udair Karuppaiah, an Indian citizen, who came to Saudi Arabia seven years ago and worked as a labourer before being stranded by his Saudi

sponsor.

Karuppaiah was brought on a visit visa to Bahrain by his Saudi sponsor in 2015, and since then he has been stranded in Bahrain at the sponsor's villa without any money or food.

Traffic Department processed 1.2m applications in H1

DT News Network
Manama

General Director of Traffic, Col. Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa announced on Tuesday that 1,188,161 applications were processed by the department in the first half of the current year.

This shows the huge workload in the department and on its staff.

He said that the applications were processed by qualified employees.

The Traffic Department has launched a number of advanced services that could cut short the processing of applications as part of the project to enhance government services to meet the aspirations of the citizens and residents, Col. Shaikh Abdulrahman said.

He said that the e-traffic services are in high demand than other services in the e-government portal.

He urged people to benefit from traffic e-services for the best interests of all.

Man arrested for restaurant robbery

DT News Network
Manama

General Director of Southern Governorate Police announced yesterday the arrest of a man suspected of stealing BD1500 from a restaurant.

He said that the case was reported to East Riffa Police Station. Investigations have revealed that the suspects broke the window before stealing the money from the restaurant. Police have confiscated the cash from the man. Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

Date set for auction

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain's Judicial Committee for the Settlement of Stalled Real Estate Projects, has announced that the Amwaj Gateway development project will be auctioned publicly.

The Committee, which has judicial prerogatives, said that the decision to offer the Amwaj Gateway project for auction came after exhausting all possibilities for a cordial settlement as per the procedures stipulated by decree law 66 for 2014, and was made following extensive consultation with developers

and stakeholders. This follows the Committee's previous success in finding solutions for real estate projects in Bahrain, including most recently the Juffair Views project.

The panel has announced the appointment of Cluttons, the leading international real estate consultant, and Mazad, the Bahrain-based public auction specialist, to organise and manage the public auction. The Amwaj Gateway development covers 33,391 square meters of land and will have a total built-up area of around 190,000 square meters once completed. The project consists of

20-storey twin-towers which accommodate 384 apartments and a two-storey building comprising of 93 townhouses. The development also includes a 143-room hotel tower.

"We have been appointed alongside Mazad to organise and manage the Amwaj Gateway and to be working with the Judicial Committee for the Settlement of Stalled Real Estate Projects going forward. The Committee's actions will no doubt translate into increased confidence levels in Bahrain's real estate market," said Harry Goodson-Wickes, Head of Cluttons Bahrain.

Asian, Bahraini held for robbery

DT News Network
Manama

The Director-General of Criminal Investigation & Forensic Science has announced the arrest of a Bahraini and an Asian for robbing a resident who was

carrying SR625,000 in his car.

The man reported the case to the Muharraq Police Directorate stating that two people stopped his car and took him to a deserted area before being robbed of the cash. The suspects were subsequently

identified and arrested.

The Director-General said that search would continue to arrest the remaining suspects in the case, adding that legal action was being taken and the case had been referred to the Public Prosecutor.

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N.Korea support: US slaps sanctions on Chinese, Russians

Washington

The United States yesterday slapped sanctions on 16 Chinese and Russian individuals and companies, accusing them of supporting North Korea's nuclear program and attempting to evade US sanctions.

The sanctions are part of a broader US effort to disrupt the flow of cash funding North Korean weapon's programs and target companies that have dealt in natural resources such as coal and minerals or engaged in financial transactions for North Korean interests.

"It is unacceptable for individuals and companies in China, Russia, and elsewhere to enable North Korea to generate income used to develop weapons of mass destruction and destabilize the region," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

The move follows a war of words between Washington and Pyongyang over recent missile tests that show North Korea is capable of reaching the US mainland.

President Donald Trump earlier

this month said he would respond to North Korea's nuclear threat with "fire and fury."

Also this month, Russia and China both voted to toughen UN sanctions on North Korea.

Trump has urged Beijing, North Korea's only major ally, to bring greater pressure to bear in reigning in the reclusive state's nuclear efforts, suggesting that the United States may offer concessions on trade in return.

Targets of sanctions

The sanctions unveiled Tuesday effectively block those targeted from accessing much of the global financial system and freeze any US assets as well.

Among those hit by the sanctions was Russian national Ruben Kirakosyan and his Moscow-based company Gefest-M LLC, which the Treasury Department accuses of procuring metals for a sanctions-barred company involved in North Korea's nuclear weapons program known as Korean Tangun Trading Corp. Also targeted is China's

Dandong Rich Earth Trading Co. Ltd., which the United States says has acted on behalf of North Korea's General Bureau of Atomic Energy -- responsible for the North's nuclear program -- and has facilitated prohibited North Korean exports of vanadium ore.

A third company, Mingzheng International Trading Limited, which maintains offices in Hong Kong and mainland China, was in fact a front for Foreign Trade Bank, North Korea's main foreign exchange bank, the Treasury Department said.

The Treasury Department said three Chinese companies -- Dandong Zhicheng Metallic Materials Co. Ltd., JinHou International Holding Co. Ltd., and Dandong Tianfu Trade Co. Ltd. -- had collectively imported nearly a half billion dollars' worth of North Korean coal between 2013 and 2016.

The department also sanctioned Dandong Zhicheng's director Chi Yupeng, a Chinese national accused of moving cash for North Korean interests. (AFP)

Headless torso 'could be' journalist from submarine

Stockholm

The headless torso of a woman found floating in Danish waters could be that of a Swedish journalist who authorities believe died aboard an inventor's homemade submarine, police said Tuesday.

In a grisly case that has captured public imagination in both countries, Danish inventor Peter Madsen has been accused of the negligent manslaughter of Kim Wall.

Police probing the disappearance of Wall -- who hasn't been seen since she was observed aboard the 60-foot (18-metre) Nautilus on the evening of August 10 -- said Monday they had found a torso missing its head and limbs in Koge Bay, south of Copenhagen.

"The length of the torso means we cannot rule out that it could be Kim Wall, but we don't know yet," Copenhagen homicide chief Jens Moller Jensen said in a video message released on Twitter.



The Submarine UC3 Nautilus is lifted onto a block truck from the salvage ship Vina with the help of a container crane in Copenhagen's Harbor,

He said DNA samples had been taken from the torso and would be compared with Wall's. Police were to receive the results on Wednesday.

Jensen said the body's arms, legs and head had been "deliberately cut off".

Madsen, whose website describes him as an "inventpreneur", had initially told authorities that he dropped Wall off on an island late on the evening of August 10.

He then changed his story several days later when he appeared in court, saying Wall died in an accident on board and that he dumped the body at sea in an undefined location of the Koge Bay.

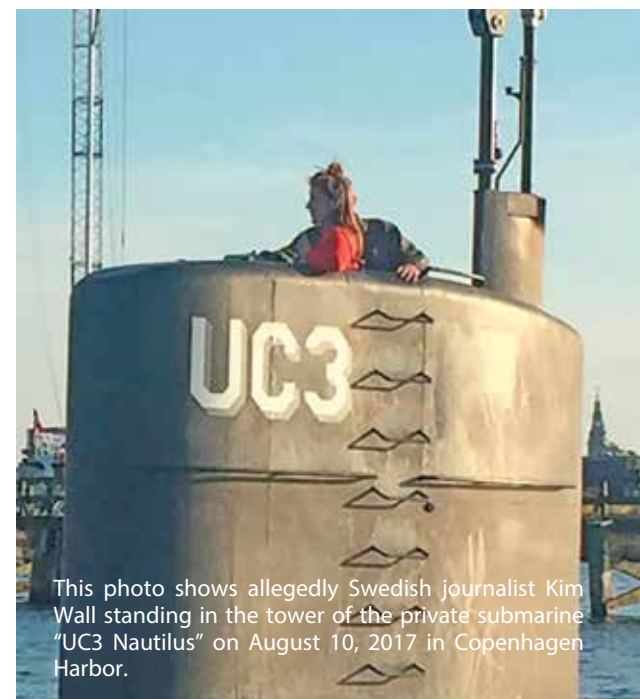
Search crews found the missing sub on August 11 in Koge Bay, and Madsen was rescued from the vessel, alone, just before it sank.

Police have since said they believe Madsen "deliberately"

sank the sub. It was brought to the surface and searched, but found to be empty.

Wall was a 30-year-old freelance journalist who had reported for The Guardian and The New York Times. A graduate of the Columbia Journalism School, she was based between New York and China.

She had met with Madsen to interview him for a feature story she was writing.



Madsen, 46, and Wall were seen onboard the vessel by several people in waters off Copenhagen the evening of August 10.

Photos of the two emerged

online standing next to each other in the sub's tower. Wearing an orange fleece and with her long auburn hair tied in a topknot, she appeared to be smiling.

Erdogan vows to thwart any 'Kurdish state'

Ankara

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday vowed Turkey would thwart any attempt by a Kurdish militia it deems "terrorists" to carve out a Kurdish state in northern Syria.

Ankara views the Kurdish Peoples' Protection Units (YPG) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (PYD) as a terror group. But the United States is closely allied with the groups' fighters in the battle against jihadists in Syria.

"We do not and will never allow a so-called state to be established by the PYD, YPG in northern Syria," Erdogan said in a speech in Ankara.

"They want to establish a terror corridor in northern Syria reaching the Mediterranean," the president said.

The Syrian Kurdish groups have two "cantons" in Syria's northeast as well as the Afrin region to the west.

Erdogan added that Turkey would continue to fight against terror organisations "wherever we find them", referring to the YPG which Turkey says is the Syrian affiliate of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The PKK is



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaks during the 39th Mukhtars Meeting, at Presidential Complex in Ankara

proscribed as a terror group by Turkey, the US and the European Union. It has waged an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984 during which over 40,000 people have been killed.

In August last year, Turkey launched a cross-border operation in northern Syria, aimed at clearing the border zone of both YPG fighters and jihadists.

There has been speculation Ankara may be planning to extend an operation against the YPG to clear it from the town of Afrin, where Erdogan has said its presence is a "threat" for Turkey.

Erdogan on Monday said a joint operation with Iran

against Kurdish militants which "pose a threat," including the PKK, is "always on the agenda."

He was speaking after a visit last week by the Iranian armed forces chief, General

Mohammad Hossein Bagheri.

Iranian security forces have also fought the PKK's affiliate, the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK). Both groups have rear bases in neighbouring Iraq.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu will visit Iraq on Wednesday, his ministry said, to discuss issues including next month's independence referendum in Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region.

Cavusoglu will meet Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad and then Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani in Arbil.

Ankara has repeatedly warned against holding the non-binding September 25 poll. (AFP)

Iran denies joint operation

Tehran

Iran's Revolutionary Guards yesterday denied claims by Turkey that the two countries were planning joint military operations against Kurdish rebels in Iraq.

"We have not planned any operations outside Iran's borders," said a

statement from the Guards' regional ground forces headquarters published by the ISNA news agency.

"But as always we will strongly confront any group, team or person who wants to penetrate into Iran's territory for anti-security or terrorist operations," it added.

Iraqi forces retake three districts of IS bastion

Tal Abta

Iraqi forces yesterday recaptured from the Islamic State group the first three districts of jihadist bastion Tal Afar as the Pentagon chief visited Baghdad in a show of support.

The United Nations said thousands of civilians had fled Tal Afar in the two days since the start of the broad offensive backed by the US-led coalition fighting IS.

In remarks in Baghdad after meeting Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said the jihadists were "on the run".

"Cities have been liberated, people freed from ISIS, from Daesh," Mattis said, using

alternative names for IS.

The jihadists had not been able "to stand up to our team in combat, and they have not retaken one inch of ground that they lost", he said.

Iraqi troops backed by a US-led international coalition routed IS in Mosul in July after a gruelling nine-month fight for Iraq's second city.

They launched an offensive Sunday to recapture Tal Afar, once a key IS supply hub between Mosul -- around 70 kilometres (45 miles) further east -- and the Syrian border to the west. IS fighters inside Tal Afar, estimated to number around 1,000, responded with artillery fire Tuesday as Iraqi forces massed outside the city.



A picture taken on August 4, 2017 shows a displaced Syrian child, who fled from the Islamic State (IS) group's Syrian stronghold of Raqa, sitting behind humanitarian aid boxes delivered by UNICEF at a temporary camp in the town of Tabqa

Baghdad

At least 250 US-led air strikes have pounded the Syrian city of Raqa and surrounding territory in the past week, the coalition fighting the Islamic State group said Tuesday.

Coalition spokesman Colonel Ryan Dillon said that the air raids targeted the greater Raqa area.

Activists and monitoring groups have reported that intensifying coalition bombardment of the city has left scores of civilians dead.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 42 civilians had been killed in US-led strikes on Raqa Monday, taking the civilian toll for the past eight days to 167.

Dillon told AFP that the allegations would be taken seriously and investigated.

Since a US-backed offensive ousted IS from Mosul in neighbouring Iraq in July, the coalition has had more available aircraft to strike Raqa, he added.

German minister says Erdogan backers threatened his wife

Berlin

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel has accused supporters of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of threatening his wife amid a festering diplomatic crisis.

He said that Erdogan's strident style "had apparently led some to feel motivated to try to threaten and harass my

wife," in comments broadcast Tuesday by news channel NTV.

"Of course, this is a terrible outcome," he said without giving further details, at a time when relations between the NATO allies have plunged to their lowest point in years.

On Saturday, Erdogan launched a bitter personal attack

on Gabriel, who has frequently criticised the president's leadership and his treatment of opponents and critics.

"Who are you to talk to the president of Turkey?" Erdogan said in a televised speech. "Know your limits. He is trying to teach us a lesson... How long have you been in politics? How old are you?"



German Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel sitting next to his wife Anke (R) and their daughter Marie during a handover ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin.

Insurance sector continues growth

Medical insurance increased by 19 percent



The increase, according to the Central Bank of Bahrain, was mainly due to a surge in the Medical insurance sector

Manama
The insurance market in the Kingdom continued to enjoy positive growth in the year 2016, driven mainly by the general insurance (including Medical insurance) segment, which contributed 81 per cent to the gross premiums.

The increase, according to the Central Bank of Bahrain, was mainly due to a surge in the Medical insurance sector, which witnessed a growth of almost 19pc in gross premiums/contributions to register BD62.11 million (US\$164.75m) in 2016 compared to BD52.20m (US\$138.50m) in 2015. This represents almost 23pc of the

total premiums/ contributions written in the market in 2016.

"Due to the well established regulatory regime, a number of leading international insurance companies established their insurance and reinsurance operations in Bahrain both in Conventional and Takaful, which has further consolidated Bahrain's profile as a financial centre. The increase of insurance ancillary services in Bahrain provides an important source of synergy to these international companies," said Fouad A. Wahid Abdulla - Director, Insurance Supervision Directorate, at the CBB.

"The CBB continues to further enhance its regulatory framework to be in line with the best international financial standards and boost the confidence of the insurance licensees and general public," added Wahid Abdulla.

In other segments, Engineering insurance grew 7pc, while Long-term (life and savings products) insurance contributed 19pc to the total gross premiums by generating BD51.62m (US\$136.92m) in 2016.

Total gross premiums in Motor insurance increased 4pc to BD78.88m (US\$209.23m) in 2016 from BD76.16m in 2015. This accounts for around

29pc of the total premiums/ contributions written in 2016.

Fire, Property & Liability represented 15pc of the total premiums/contributions, which totalled BD40.31m (US\$106.92m) in 2016 compared to BD47.32m (US\$125.52m) in 2015.

Takaful Firms recorded total gross contributions of BD60.43m in 2016, representing around 22pc of the total gross premiums/contributions in 2016.

Gross premiums/contributions generated in the domestic market amounted to BD272.04m (US\$721.60m) in 2016 compared to BD272.81m (US\$723.63m) in 2015.

Bahrain fast growing as 'insurance hub'



Representative picture

Manama

Bahrain is fast becoming a hub for major regional and international reinsurance and retakaful firms, said a top CBB official yesterday.

Citing the industry's strong performance during the past five years, Abdul Rahman Al Baker, Executive Director, Financial Institutions Supervision at the CBB, said, "Bahrain's insurance sectors hold tremendous promise for growth."

"We expect the insurance sector to continue its growth in the coming years, mainly due to the increase in the public awareness on the importance of the insurance products in general, as well as due to the soundness of regulatory and supervisory framework of the insurance sector in Bahrain," added Al Baker.

By end of 2016, Bahrain's domestic insurance market comprised of 25 Locally

Incorporated Firms and 11 Overseas Insurance Firms (branches of foreign companies) carrying out Insurance, Reinsurance, Takaful, Retakaful and Captives business in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The locally incorporated firms consisted of 14 Conventional Insurance Firms, 6 Takaful Firms, 2 Reinsurance Firms, 2 Retakaful Firms and 1 Captive, while Overseas Insurance Firms consists of 8 Conventional Insurance Firms and 3 Reinsurance Firms. In addition, there are a substantial number of firms restricted to carry out business outside Bahrain and insurance ancillary services.

There were five conventional Reinsurance Firms and two Retakaful Firms in Bahrain, by end of 2016. The gross premiums/contributions of Reinsurance and Retakaful Firms reached BD 378.97 million in 2016.

Takaful International, GFH sign insurance deal

Manama

Takaful International Company the first Islamic insurance company in the Kingdom, has signed an agreement with GFH Properties.

The deal provides the employees and families of GFH Properties with insurance products that has comprehensive and exceptional coverage at special prices and services.

The agreement forms part of the joint cooperation between Takaful and GFH



Officials during the deal signing ceremony

Properties to provide the finest services in the Kingdom for the staffs and meet all their insurance needs.

The range of products and services include General

Accident coverage, Property All Risk, Domestic Servant,

Haji and Omra, Travel Takaful and Motor Takaful at special preferential rates.

Younis J. Al Sayed commented that Takaful International will continue to invest in its business to serve individuals and companies by identifying their requirements and by providing excellent service with a wide range of products that meets customer satisfaction in order to strengthen its network towards future growth.

Alba hits 2m Man-Hours without LTI

Manama

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) announced that its Line 6 Expansion Project achieved 2,080,693 safe man-hours without Lost Time Injury (LTI) on 31 July 2017. On this achievement, Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray, said: "We are very pleased to safely progress towards expanding our production at the plant with our landmark project - Line 6 Expansion Project."



Mass flight cancellations in Hong Kong

Hong Kong

Widespread flight cancellations were set to bring chaos to Hong Kong's busy international airport as Typhoon Hato churns towards the city. The storm would pass within 100 kilometres (62 miles) of Hong Kong Wednesday morning, "posing considerable threat" to the territory. It warned of strong winds, rough seas and possible flooding due to heavy rain.



We must be careful Muslim communities in Germany do not fall under the sway of President Erdogan. The slow dissolution of the separation of religion and state taking place in Turkey is poison for democracy."

Sigmar Gabriel

Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and Justice Minister Heiko Maas wrote.

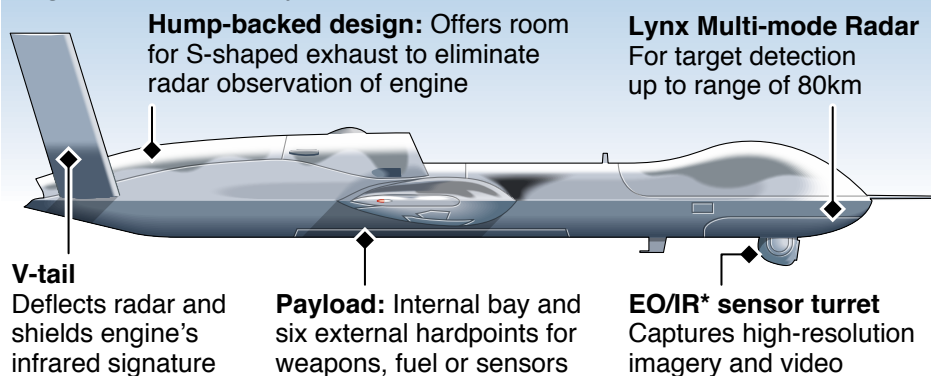


U.S. targets big foreign Avenger drone deal

U.S. defence contractor General Atomics is pursuing the potential sale of up to 90 Predator C Avenger unmanned aircraft to a foreign buyer, with India believed to be the most likely prospective customer

PREDATOR C AVENGER ER: Extended range variant first flown in 2016

Engine: Pratt & Whitney PW545B turbofan, 21.3kN thrust



PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

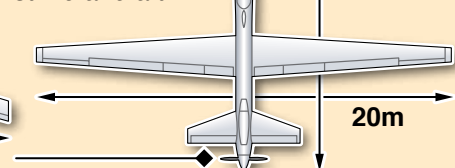
Avenger ER

Wings: Swept 17° for higher airspeed

Outer wings fold for storage in hangar

MQ-9 Reaper (Predator B)

U.S. Air Force's main unmanned strike aircraft



Engine: Honeywell TPE331-10 turboprop, 671 kW (900hp)

8,255kg	Maximum gross takeoff weight	4,763kg
4,580kg	Fuel capacity	1,769kg
2,948kg	Payload capacity	1,747kg
740km/h	Maximum speed	445km/h
20 hours	Endurance	27 hours

Sources: General Atomics, Aviation Week, Kable *Electro-optical and infrared © GRAPHIC NEWS

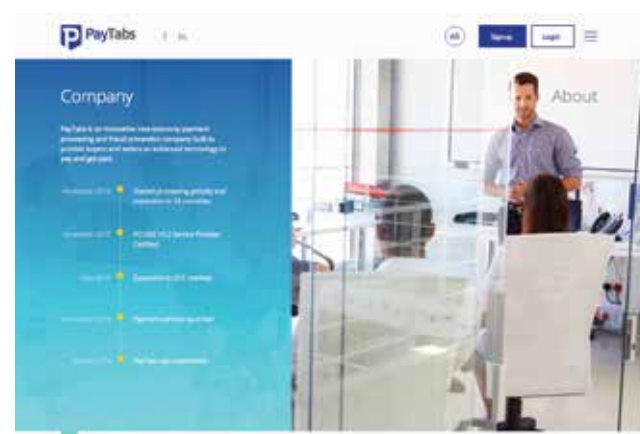
PayTabs raises US\$20 million for global expansion

Manama

PayTabs, a leading payment processing Solution Company, announced it has raised US\$20 million worth of investments from private funding to support the international expansion of its products and services.

The company which established in Saudi Arabia and headquartered in Bahrain said that the move is expected to create 4000 direct and indirect jobs internationally, to support PayTabs operations over the next two years.

PayTabs expansion plan is aimed at providing its products and financial services through advanced technology in more than 20 international markets to include; Middle East, North Africa, Southeast Asia and India, as well as several markets in Africa and Europe. PayTabs will develop new products such as digital payment solutions to support the increasing demands from its new and existing customers. Additionally, the company



aims to engage with a number of strategic acquisitions to expand its products and services portfolio in the financial technology sector.

Abdulaziz Al Jouf, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of PayTabs, said: "PayTabs wants to provide secure and flexible financial solutions to small and medium enterprises, and large corporations to help them flourish and grow their revenue in multiples. Over

the past few years we have witnessed PayTabs grow from a start-up to a multinational company operating in many different markets."

Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) said: "The success of PayTabs is a testament to the promising opportunities that Bahrain's ICT and financial services sectors can provide."

Facebook makes it easy to find if friends are safe

San Francisco

Facebook on Monday made it simpler to see whether friends have checked in as "safe" on the online platform during disasters or other dangerous events.

A Safety Check feature was given its own dedicated tab along with friends, groups, events and other main categories at the leading social network's mobile application and desktop pages, according to the California-based company.



Check has recently been activated, get the information you need and potentially be able to help affected areas."

The modification began rolling out on Monday.

Facebook added the Safety Check feature three years ago as a way for people to check on the well-being of loved ones during natural disasters.

It broadened to include terrorism and other major violence after horrific attacks in Paris in 2015.

"Safety Check helps our community let loved ones know they are safe during a crisis, find and give help, as well as learn more about a crisis," Facebook said in an online post.

"There's now a single place to go to see where Safety

KFH-Bahrain names winners of July Cash Back Campaign

Manama

Kuwait Finance House-Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has held the raffle draw of its summer Cash Back campaign at the bank's headquarters in the Bahrain World Trade Centre.

Mohamed Abdulla Ali, Hasan Mahmood Ajaj, Mohamed Isa Mohamed, Saleh Ebrahim Nasser, Waleed Mohamed Albinali and Mohammed Ali

Almanaei were announced as the winners of BD500 cash back each.

Khalid Rafea, the Executive Manager and Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, said: "With our summer Cash Back campaign, clients get a chance to win back cash prizes whenever they use their KFH Credit Cards abroad or online."

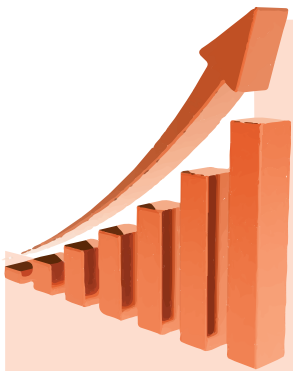
This campaign offers the Bank's Classic, Gold and

Signature credit cards holders the opportunity to enter a monthly draw for every BD20 they spend in any foreign currency either outside of the country or online. A total of 12 winners will be selected each receiving a cash award equivalent to BD500 which will be credited to their accounts. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

Did You Know?



Actor Rachel Fox, who is only 16-years-old, made big profits from investing in stocks. Fox beat the S&P 500's 13 percent return by earning a 30.4-percent profit in 2012, and she had time to teach people online about investing while acting and going to school.



BFC
CURRENCIES
EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3060	0.3024
BANGLADESH	0.00478	0.00467
CANADA	0.3069	0.3026
DENMARK	0.0630	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0217
EURO	0.4523	0.4481
HONGKONG	0.04967	0.04927
INDIA	0.00595	0.00592
INDONESIA	0.0003054	0.0002892
IRAN TUMAN	0.000323	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000304	
JAPAN	0.00361	0.003540
JORDAN	0.5350	0.5354
KOREA	0.00038254	
KUWAIT	1.249	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.0905	0.0902
NEW ZEALAND	0.2801	0.2787
NORWAY	0.0498	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00369
OMAN	0.98014	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00371	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00759	0.00737
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10058	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2814	0.2794
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03000	0.02990
SRI LANKA	0.00270	0.00247
SWEDISH	0.0498	
SWITZERLAND	0.4001	0.3952
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011560	0.011540
TURKEY	0.1142	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4935	0.4888
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102810	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37780	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3902	0.3463
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.0824	0.2955	0.2622
OMAN	0.3849	0.3719	0.3984	0.3535
QATAR	3.6420	3.5189	3.7694	3.3453
UAE	3.6730	3.5489	3.8015	3.3737
SAUDI	3.7500	3.6233	3.8812	3.4445

Al Rajhi Bank, Ma'aden boost Saudi; Dubai outperforms

Representative picture

Dubai

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose yesterday on the back of gains by Al Rajhi Bank and mining firm Ma'aden, while Dubai also outperformed most Gulf bourses although trading was thin.

The Saudi stock index climbed 0.4 per cent with Al Rajhi up 2.2pc to 65.80 riyals, bringing its gains over the last five days to 4.9pc.

Ma'aden rose 1.8pc after international base metal prices surged to multi-year highs overnight.

Ma'aden REIT Fund jumped its 10pc daily limit from its initial public offer price to 11.0 riyals upon listing in Riyadh to become Saudi Arabia's fifth listed REIT.

Its subscription in the IPO

had been covered 15.2 times and analysts at NCB Capital had estimated that based on its subscription price of 10 riyals per share, its dividend yield for 2017 would be 7.2pc.

Three other REITs were among the 10 most actively traded stocks and swung widely, although they closed lower. Al Jazira Mawten REIT fell 2.2pc.

Dubai's index rose 0.5pc as blue chip Emaar Properties added 0.6pc, but only six of the 10 most heavily traded stocks rose.

Abu Dhabi stocks fell 0.5pc as Dana Gas, which had soared 8.1pc on Monday after reporting a sharp rise in second-quarter net profit last week, pulled back 4.5pc.

Qatar's index was flat as trading volume rose slightly

Closing Bell

SAUDI rose 0.4pc to 7,254 points.

DUBAI climbed 0.5pc to 3,611 points.

ABU DHABI dropped 0.5pc to 4,474 points.

QATAR was flat at 9,065 points.

EGYPT edged up 0.1pc to 13,115 points.

KUWAIT gained 0.3pc to 6,932 points.

BAHRAIN fell 0.2pc to 1,308 points.

OMAN climbed 0.6pc to 4,972 points.

from Monday's level, which was the lowest this year. Investment Holding Group, which plunged after listing last week following an IPO at 10 riyals per share, rebounded 2.7pc to 7.72 riyals. In Egypt, the index edged up 0.1pc. GB Auto climbed 3.9pc. (Reuters)

EU probes Bayer's Monsanto takeover

Brussels

The European Commission said yesterday it was opening an in-depth investigation into the proposed \$66-billion (56-billion-euro) takeover of US seed and pesticide supplier Monsanto by Germany's Bayer, citing concerns it may reduce competition in key products for farmers.

"Seeds and pesticide products are essential for farmers and ultimately consumers," said EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager.

"We need to ensure effective competition so that farmers can have access to innovative products, better quality and also purchase products at competitive prices."

After a months-long pursuit in which it raised its offer price



several times, Bayer won over Monsanto's management in September 2016 for the buyout that would create the world's largest integrated pesticides and seeds company.

But the deal has provoked criticism from environmental groups, because of Monsanto's

long history of promoting genetically modified crops.

The European Commission expressed concern that Bayer produces one of the few alternatives to Monsanto's product glyphosate, which it said is the most sold non-

selective herbicide in Europe.

It also noted that both firms have large market shares in vegetable seeds and several field crops where their products compete against one another.

The Commission said it would take a decision on the merger by next January 8.



11



Urban lighting linked to breast cancer

A new U.S. study has found that exposure to city lights might increase the risk of breast cancer. Researchers tracked almost 110,000 U.S. women, followed as part of a study of nurses from 1989-2013. The study found a direct relationship between a woman's neighbourhood nighttime light level before diagnosis and her later risk of developing breast cancer: the higher the light level, the higher the risk. (Xinhua)



Talk therapy works in some PTSD cases

A study says that a talk therapy program may help people who have served in the U.S. military and have killed in combat and suffer from nightmares, hypervigilance to perceived threats and numbness to people and activities that once made them happy. The study involved 33 veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and enrolled them in one-on-one sessions.

Death rates higher for 'alternative' cancer cures

Paris

People who choose alternative cures for common cancers are up to five times more likely to die compared to those opting for standard treatments, the lead scientist of a new study said.

The risk of death five years after diagnosis "was highest for breast and colon cancer," said lead author Skyler Johnson from the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut -- 5.6 and 4.6 times greater respectively.

Lung cancer patients who spurned surgery, radiation or chemotherapy in favour of herbs and vitamin, homoeopathy, special diets or other unorthodox therapies were more than twice as likely to die over the same period, he reported last week in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Five-year survival rates for prostate cancer remained high -- around 90 percent -- for both conventional and alternative treatments, but this was not necessarily evidence that the alternative therapies were as effective.

"Prostate cancer usually grows very slowly in the early stages so few people die," Johnson explained by email.

Faced with poor prognoses or painful courses of chemotherapy, which can cause severe nausea and weakness, many cancer patients place their faith in a wide range of treatments dismissed by most medical doctors as useless at best.

These include probiotics, vitamins and minerals; traditional Indian and Chinese methods such as Ayurvedic medicine and acupuncture; homoeopathy and naturopathy; chiropractic or osteopathic manipulation; as well as yoga, Tai Qi and Qi Gong, all of which involve breath control.

Mind-over-matter approaches also include prayer, meditation, and guided imagery, in which one visualises one's cancer in order to overcome it.

Researchers led by Johnson identified 281 people in the United States with the four most common types of cancer -- breast, prostate, lung and



A standard cancer treatment colon -- who turned towards one or more of these unproven treatments when diagnosed.

The team compared their

health outcomes with those of 560 other cancer patients of comparable age, also taking into account race and different

health factors.

On average, the first group were 2.5 times more likely to die within five years of

diagnosis.

"For several reasons, I believe this may be an underestimate," Johnson said.

To begin with, the data only covered only initial treatment, which means that some of the patients who first sought out alternative cures may have switched to standard treatments as their disease progressed, thus prolonging their lives.

It is also likely, he added, that the non-conventional medicine cohort was healthier, younger and had higher income and education -- attributes that translate into better survival rates.

"We don't know the exact number of people that make the decision to pursue alternative medicine instead of conventional cancer treatment," Johnson said.

Patients are reluctant to confide in doctors who are likely to frown upon their choices, he added.

But, he noted, all the miracle cancer cures on offer probably add up to a multi-billion dollar business. (AFP)

2 lung diseases killed 3.6m in 2015



Paris

The two most common chronic lung diseases claimed 3.6 million lives worldwide in 2015, according to a tally published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine.

About 3.2 million people succumbed that year to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), caused mainly by smoking and pollution, while 400,000 people died from asthma.

COPD is a group of lung conditions -- including emphysema and bronchitis

-- that make it difficult to breathe.

Asthma is twice as prevalent, but COPD is eight times more deadly, the study found.

Both diseases can be treated affordably, but many sufferers are often left undiagnosed, misdiagnosed or under-treated.

COPD was the fourth-ranked cause of death worldwide in 2015, according to the World Health Organization, behind heart disease (nine million), stroke (six million) and lower respiratory infections (just over 3.2 million).

Researchers led by Theo Vos, a professor at the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, analysed data from 188 countries to estimate, in each one, the number of cases and deaths annually from 1990 to 2015.

COPD prevalence and death rates declined over that period, but the overall numbers increased -- with nearly 12 percent more deaths -- because of population growth.

For asthma, prevalence went up by almost 13 percent to

358 million people worldwide, but the number of deaths dropped by more than a quarter.

"These diseases have received less attention than other prominent non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer or diabetes," Vos said in a statement.

The countries with the highest concentration of people disabled by COPD in 2015 were Papua New Guinea, India, Lesotho and Nepal, the study showed. (AFP)



Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan yesterday received Member of Parliament (MP) Mohammed Jaffar Meelad and discussed ways of boosting the Executive-Legislative cooperation.



Minister of Shura Council and Parliament Affairs Ghanim Al-Buainain yesterday received Dr. Majeed Mohsen Al-Asfoor, a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs and Human Rights Committee



Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company's (GPIC) Managing Director, Ibrahim Al-Musaitir, in the presence of GPIC's President, Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery, presented a certificate and appreciation award to Mustafa Abdulla from the Information, Technology and Knowledge Department, nominated as Employee of the Month for July 2017.



Chairman of the Supreme Health Council and health institutions in Bahrain, NHRA Chief



President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, yesterday received Al-Salam Bank CEO Yusuf Taqi. The two sides discussed boosting cooperation in the interest of the homeland.



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam(BKS), one of the oldest and largest leading socio-cultural organizations in the world will be celebrating the Indian festival Onam and Eid with a variety of cultural and entertainment programmes on August 25. BKS President P.V Radhakrishna Pillai and General secretary N.K Veeramani said the celebration will be the biggest ever in the history of Samajam will conclude on September 15. Above, BKS President P.V Radhakrishna Pillai speaks at the press conference as other officials look on



Gulf Air recently hosted an event for the airline's top travel trade partners in Tripoli, Lebanon – facilitating greater networking between Gulf Air representatives and trade partners and also serving as a forum for information exchange about the airline's latest news and developments. Welcomed by Gulf Air's Country Manager in Beirut, Amale Elchoueiry and her sales team, the airline's trade partners were thanked for their longstanding support throughout the year and their contribution to Gulf Air business and sales across the airline's 42 destination network



The Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) staff and representatives of various entities, who represented various entities.



Deputy Minister of Interior Lt-General Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel received yesterday the Hajj mission of Ministry personnel leaving for Makkah in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary of Human Resources, Brigadier Adel Ameen.



Lieutenant General, Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa paid a visit yesterday to the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) as part of continuous coordination between the council and the Executive Dr. Mariam Adhbi Al-Jalahma hailed the visit, stressing the authority's keenness to boost the monitoring system on the health institutions in Bahrain.



Kingdom, is starting which will nakrishna



Cup of Art hosted Egyptian and Bahrain delegations at its headquarters in CH9, Amwaj Lagoon. The two delegations assembled and painted on wooden pyramid as one of the activated planed visit to Bahrain. The event was organised in a youthful atmosphere full of art and creativity in corporation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs.



ity (IGA) concluded the workshops on the new updates of the Na-em 'Tawasul'. The attendance included 60 concerned employees



Manama Toastmaster club inducted their new executive committee members for the term July to December 2017. In the picture, first left sitting VP Education Roshan Vaghjee, Area 1 director Rashid Maymoon, President Sheela Pai, Division C Director Khurram Salman, VP Membership Bilquis Khan. Standing: Treasurer Prashanth, sergeant at arms Bharath Iyengar, Secretary Raja Chandra, VP Public relations Mohammed Saleem



**I DON'T
GAMBLE,
BUT
I EAT
A LOT:
JLO**

Las Vegas

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez says she doesn't gamble at casinos whenever she is here, but she indulges a lot in food.

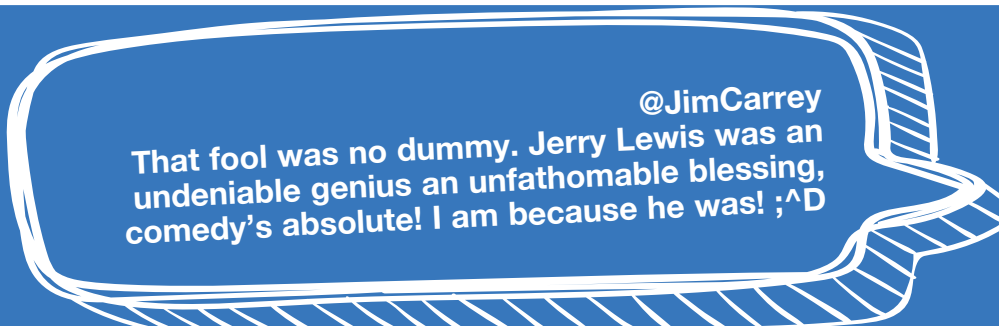
The 48-year-old is currently in the city for her show "All I Have" at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

"I think people come here (in Las Vegas) to let loose and have a good time, and there's a sexiness to that. You know, it's that inhibition letting go and just having a good time," Lopez told *Paper magazine*.

But when she is in the town, she is careful.

"I do my show, but the show is so demanding for me that I kind of have to stay on regimen when I'm here. The name of the show is 'All I Have' so, I can't be like, 'Tonight you're getting half', you know. You can't do that."

"I love the shows and the food. I was really big into all of the Cirque du Soleil shows -- I saw every single one of those. And then the restaurants change here all the time. They're always bringing in the best chefs from all over the world to draw people to gamble, so bonus for me. I don't gamble, but I do eat a lot. Occasionally," she added. (IANS)



@JimCarrey

That fool was no dummy. Jerry Lewis was an undeniable genius an unfathomable blessing, comedy's absolute! I am because he was! ;^D



*Nice to keep people
you love around you:
Perry on Bloom*

Los Angeles

Singer Katy Perry says there are less chances of her and actor Orlando Bloom getting back together as a couple, though she loves to have the actor around.

It was reported that Perry and Bloom are dating again after they were spotted cosying up to each other during singer Ed Sheeran's concert a few weeks ago.

However, Perry has now put the rumours to rest as she says that she is too busy right now and doesn't need a romance to think about on "Morning Mash Up" show, reports *usmagazine.com*. (IANS)



**Scarlett Johansson flaunts
new tattoo on her back**

Atlanta

Actress Scarlett Johansson was spotted with a large piece of body art on her back.

The 32-year-old stepped out on Monday in a black top. Her new tattoo was visible clearly across her upper back, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

The new inking joins an image of a lamb on the right side of her back. Johansson has also got other tattoos, including an "I (Heart) NY" bracelet etched around her right wrist, a sunset tattoo on her left forearm, two interlocked circles on her right ankle, and an unclear art above her rib cage on both sides.

The actress has been in Atlanta to film the fourth "Avengers" movie. It's unclear if the new tattoo is permanent or a temporary accessory for the shoot. (IANS)



**STARRY
Birthday
Scott Caan**

August 23, 1976

Plays the character Danny "Danno" Williams on the CBS series *Hawaii Five-0* and Scott Lavin in HBO's *Entourage*. He also portrayed Turk Malloy in the *Ocean's Eleven* trilogy



Naomi Watts mentored by David Lynch

Los Angeles
Actress Naomi Watts says filmmaker David Lynch is one of her mentors and is a great friend to her. The 48-year-old actress shot to fame with Lynch's cult classic film "Mulholland Drive", and has now reunited with him on the revival series of "Twin Peaks", reports *metro.co.uk*.
"I'm very proud of that film. It changed my life in so many ways, not just because of my career. David Lynch is one of my mentors. He's a great, great friend. And I'm really proud to be in a film that's still being discussed and acknowledged, and it doesn't surprise me," Watts said.
"People do talk about this film to this day, endlessly, wherever I go," she added. (IANS)



Was drinking too much: Chrissy Teigen

Los Angeles
Model Chrissy Teigen realizes there was a point in her life when she was drinking "too much". She is now determined to control herself. "I used to think it was kind of nutty to have to go totally sober," Teigen told *Cosmopolitan* on Sunday, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.
"But now I get it. I don't want to be that person? I have to fix myself. I was, point blank, just drinking too much."
"I got used to being in hair and make-up and having a glass of wine. Then that glass of wine would carry over into me having one before the awards show. And then a bunch at the awards show," she added. (IANS)

Gemma Arterton's 'traumatic' experience

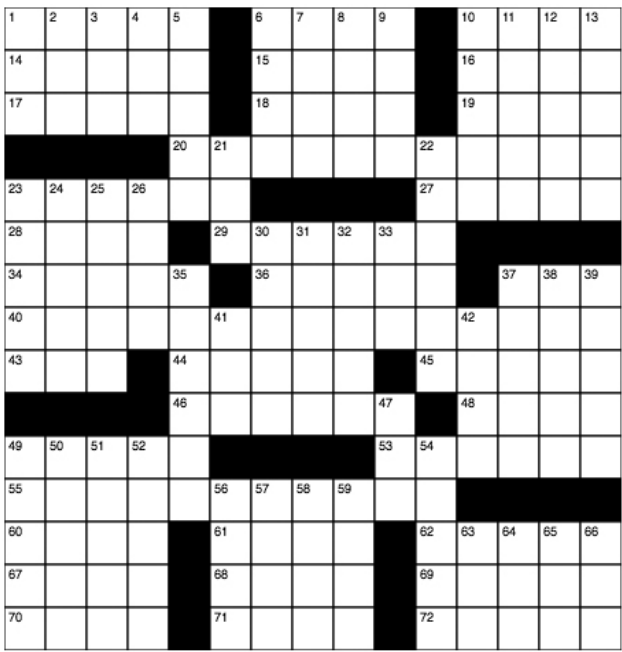
Rabat
Actress Gemma Arterton has revealed Hollywood producers flew a personal trainer out to Morocco to ensure she lost weight and made her shoot in the gym to prove she was exercising. She says it was a "traumatic" experience.
Arterton said an "obese" producer even told her she couldn't eat dried apricots, before adding she had been ordered to lose weight "on a few films," reports *dailymail.co.uk*.
"There was one film that I was on and we were out in Morocco and a couple of weeks went past and they literally were like 'We need a personal trainer -- stat'," Arterton said on "The Guilty Feminist" podcast.
"And they flew someone out overnight that gave up their whole life to be with me and be my personal trainer. You know when it's like, 'Is it that f***** bad that I need an emergency'... (it was as if they were) like on speed dial -- Get that trainer out here now. It was so traumatic at the time," she added. (IANS)



TOP BOX OFFICE Movies	
The Hitman's Bodyguard	\$21,384,504
Annabelle: Creation	\$15,612,680
Logan Lucky	\$7,600,036
Dunkirk	\$6,614,385
The Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature	\$5,092,344
The Emoji Movie	\$4,441,028
Spider-Man: Homecoming	\$4,256,367
Girls Trip	\$3,911,300
The Dark Tower	\$3,788,669
Wind River	\$2,975,732

(AFP)

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Units; 6- Kill; 10- Record with a VCR; 14- Role for Valerie; 15- Heap; 16- Cast; 17- Gum; 18- Work without ____; 19- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 20- An organization; 23- Maze runner; 27- Native New Zealander; 28- Busy as ____; 29- Aboriginal; 34- Spy in Canaan; 36- Defamation; 37- Floors; 40- Church principles; 43- Morse symbol; 44- Twice, a comforting comment; 45- Having wings; 46- Occupant; 48- Like Nash's lama; 49- ____ Grows in Brooklyn; 53- Legless larva of certain flies; 55- Negligent practice; 60- Zip-____-Doo-Dah; 61- Composer Khachaturian; 62- Variety show; 67- Manuscript enc.; 68- Over-50 org.; 69- Perfect; 70- Flat sound; 71- RR stops; 72- Peripherals;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



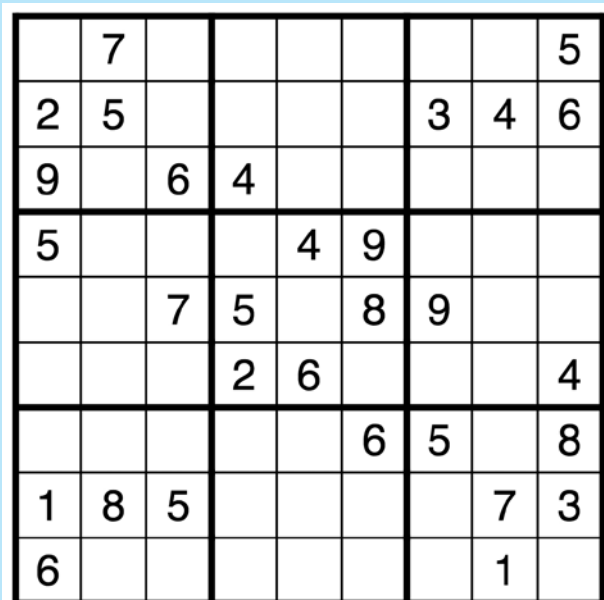
Down

1- Like some discounted mdse.; 2- Definite article; 3- Dawn goddess; 4- Start of the 16th century; 5- Capital city of Yemen; 6- Health resorts; 7- Start to type?; 8- Actor Guinness; 9- Himalayan legend; 10- Iota preceder; 11- Recording of acoustic signals; 12- Earlier; 13- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 21- RR stop; 22- Aviator Earhart; 23- Tied; 24- Fiber obtained from a banana plant; 25- Gush forth; 26- Winder for holding flexible material; 30- Extraterrestrial; 31- Jewelled crown worn by women; 32- "Hedda Gabler" playwright; 33- Fido's appointment; 35- Superior; 37- Wild as wild ass of Tibet; 38- Bony prefix; 39- Refine metal; 41- "____ loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah"; 42- Thick-soled shoe; 47- HBO competitor; 49- Gather; 50- Triumphant cries; 51- Like non-oyster months; 52- Fencing swords; 54- Hawk's home; 56- Small batteries; 57- Pluto's tail; 58- Skater Lipinski; 59- Little rascals; 63- Actor Byrnes; 64- ____ out (relax); 65- Abu Dhabi's fed.; 66- Golfer Ernie;

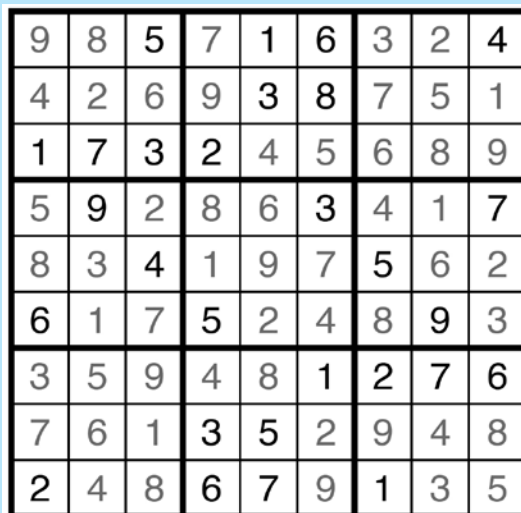
BEETLE BAILEY



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

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Spend time with someone you love today, but keep things light and easy. Don't go too deep, and don't expect others to feel the things you feel. You might feel slighted when others don't give you the attention that you think you deserve. Don't take it personally. Others may be unfocused and short of attention.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Love is in the air for you. You will be rewarded handsomely because you have so many things to offer. Spread your love everywhere. Skip from place to place and person to person, receiving smiles of pleasure. Put your worries aside. There's every reason to be happy. Laughter keeps you young.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



You feel indecisive when it comes to a romantic situation. You might ask yourself questions about how to proceed. Don't get overwhelmed by all the possibilities. Take things one step at a time. The more you read into each small gesture, the crazier you will drive yourself. Don't run around in circles. Confront the issues.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Things should go quite well in the department of love today. Pursue creative projects in social environments. The more time you spend with others, the more fulfilled you'll be by sundown. You're fuelled by others' energy. Spend time with the people you love and you'll feel a solid sense of self-worth.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Stay busy today. Keep your mind occupied with basic tasks that need doing. You can accomplish a lot by multitasking, writing down a plan, and sticking to it. There is no shortage of things that need to be done so stop procrastinating. If you feel stuck on something, don't be afraid to ask for help. Friends and co-workers are your greatest resources.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



You're at an emotional climax now. Things are coming to a critical point. Little issues in your relationships that you've ignored are coming back to haunt you. Someone could be trying to cross you at this time, or maybe it just feels that way. Don't get overly paranoid. The whole world isn't out to get you.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



You may feel confused. If so, take a breath and slow down. Being frantic will only run you in circles. Your heart and mind are buzzing in all directions, so try to settle down. Don't feel like you need to come up with any particular solutions. Trying to pin things down will only frustrate you and waste your time.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Embrace your loved ones. Let your heart lead the way. Things will flow your way if you let them. Don't try to fight the good fortune that comes. If you try to force the door open, it won't budge. Knock gently and it will open by itself. Your mind is quick today. Get things moving in a positive direction. Jump on the uphill spiral to success.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



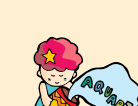
Listen to the birds today. They have a song for you, telling you to be happy. Take time to do things that make you feel good. Connect with creative people and projects that get your artistic juices flowing. Keep things light and uplifting. It may be hard to make a decision about anything right now, but don't let that keep you from being productive.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



There is power behind your heart, and you might come across more forcefully than usual in the love and romance department. This is a good day to make a bold move toward someone. Your internal fire burns more brightly than ever. Spreading your love will ensure that people are happy to keep you warm on days when your fire sputters out.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



You might feel like your heart requires a bit more attention than usual. There could be a close loved one who is even needier than you. Either way, this situation is going to cause tension in an important relationship. If you're not currently involved with someone, this is probably for the better. Things aren't always as they seem.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Things go well in your love life today, but only if you let them happen. You must first open your arms to give and receive. If your arms are full of laundry, it will be harder for people to hug you. Take your clothes to the cleaners and keep your arms free to receive the love you need. Remember that giving is as important as receiving.

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Remains of sailors found on collided warship

Singapore

Divers have found the remains of some of the 10 sailors who went missing when a US destroyer collided with a tanker off Singapore, the navy said yesterday, the latest deadly accident involving an American warship.

The US Navy has announced a fleet-wide global investigation after the incident Monday involving the USS John S. McCain and the merchant vessel, which left a gaping gash in the destroyer's hull.

But Admiral Scott Swift, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, praised the

surviving crew for saving the ship and saving lives, in the second collision involving an American warship in two months.

The accident -- which also left five sailors injured -- happened before dawn in busy shipping lanes around the Strait of Singapore, and sent water flooding into the ship.

A massive search involving planes and aircraft was launched and US Navy divers joined the hunt yesterday, scouring the ship's flooded compartments.

Speaking in Singapore, Swift said "the divers were able to

locate some remains in those sealed compartments during their search today", without saying how many bodies were found.

A US Navy statement confirmed he was referring to remains of some of the missing sailors.

Swift said Malaysian authorities had also found a body and were sending it to the US Navy for identification. The Malaysian navy said the body was found eight nautical miles northwest of the accident site.

The admiral said the search and rescue effort, involving

hundreds of personnel and several countries, would continue, adding: "We're always hopeful that there are survivors."

The McCain's crew were "tough, and they are resilient", Swift said. "It is clear that their damage control efforts saved their ship and saved lives."

It was the second fatal collision in two months -- after the USS Fitzgerald collided with a Philippine-flagged cargo ship off Japan in June and left seven sailors dead -- and the fourth accident in the Pacific this year involving an American warship.



The guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain (foreground), seen with a hole on its portside after a collision with a tanker, docks next to the USS America (behind) at Changi naval base in Singapore



A composite image of the total solar eclipse seen from the Lowell Observatory Solar Eclipse Experience

Students at the Jennings School District view the solar eclipse

A view of the eclipse from orbit.

Charleston

Sky-gazers stood transfixed across North America Monday as the Sun vanished behind the Moon in a rare total eclipse that swept the continent coast-to-coast for the first time in nearly a century.

Millions of die-hard eclipse chasers and amateur star watchers alike converged in cities along the path of totality, a 70-mile (113-kilometer) wide swath cutting through 14 US states, where the Moon briefly blocked out all light from the Sun.

"It was incredibly beautiful. I am moved to tears," said Heather Riser, a 54-year-old librarian from Virginia, sitting on a blanket in Charleston's grassy Waterfront Park where thousands had gathered to watch.

Festivals, rooftop parties, weddings, camping trips and astronomy meet-ups were held nationwide for what was likely most heavily photographed and documented eclipse in modern times, thanks to the era of social media.

The blackest part of the shadow, known as totality because the Moon blocks all the Sun's light from the Earth, began over Lincoln Beach, Oregon at 1716 GMT.

Crowds whooped and cheered at the first sign of darkness.

Just inland, more than 100,000 people gathered at Madras, Oregon -- typically a town of 7,000 -- in what experts described as perfect viewing conditions.

"I've wanted to see one of these my whole life, since I've been studying astronomy, since I was a kid," said Christine Sapio, a science professor. "I thought I was prepared for it -- I totally wasn't."

"I was shaking, I was crying. I was just totally taken aback by just how beautiful it was."

In Los Angeles, "oohs and aahs" emanated from the crowd of thousands gathered at the Griffith Observatory in the hills above the city as the partial eclipse began.

Many had hiked to avoid massive traffic jams. Some watchers had fashioned their own pinhole projectors out of cardboard and scotch tape. Others watched while wearing special, dark solar eclipse glasses.

'Just awesome'

In downtown Charleston, South Carolina, the last point in the path of totality, crowds of tourists -- some in special eclipse T-shirts and star-printed trousers -- staked out prime spots on the bustling city's storied waterfront.

Forecasts of thunderstorms threatened to block the view, but the eclipse managed to peek through the wispy clouds.

Onlookers in Waterfront Park screamed and cheered as the sky went dark in the middle of the afternoon, streetlamps came on, and a rumble of thunder could be heard in the distance.

"It was just awesome," said Dave Lichtenauer, age 63, a retired electrical engineer, describing the event as "partially spiritual."

"The crowd here was very into it," he added, remarking on the diversity and peacefulness of the masses.

"You don't get many chances to experience that."

One bar had installed outdoor speakers blasting Bonnie Tyler's mega-hit "Total Eclipse of the Heart" -- which she performed live on a cruise ship sailing through the path of totality.

The unofficial anthem for the celestial show soared to the top of the iTunes charts, outdoing even record-smashing pop song "Despacito."

Cloudy weather and thunderstorms dashed viewers' hopes of seeing the eclipse in some places, including Missouri.

Some of the clearest views were along the West Coast.

'Don't look'

In the US capital, where 81 percent totality occurred, Donald Trump watched the partial eclipse from the White House with his wife Melania and son Barron -- although the president appeared to have missed the memo on eclipse do's and don'ts.

At one point, Trump glanced skyward without protective eyewear -- a big no-no, according to experts. "Don't look," an aide shouted to him. He later donned glasses.

Eclipse watchers also flocked to Washington's National Air and Space Museum, where solar telescopes were set up for the occasion.

In Mexico, where there was a partial eclipse, astronomy buffs set up telescopes fitted with special sun filters in parks and squares in various cities.

Eclipse watchers often describe being overcome by emotion as the sky goes black, birds return to their nests and the air chills.

"It is such an incredible, sensory-overload kind of event," eclipse-chaser Fred Espenak, a retired NASA astrophysicist, told AFP of the first total solar eclipse he saw in the United States back in 1970.

Scientists planned to study the eclipse to learn more about the super-

hot corona, or outer atmosphere of the Sun.

"It is really exciting to see so many people interested in nature and science and this amazing phenomenon," said Kwayera Davis, an adjunct professor of astronomy at the College of Charleston.

'Sharing a cosmic event'

After weeks of turmoil triggered by the race-fueled violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, some commentators welcomed the national feel-good moment afforded by the Great American Eclipse.

"The divided United States of America will unite today, sharing a cosmic event predicted by the methods and tools of science," tweeted the US astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson -- who earlier advised people to "put down your smartphone and experience this one emotionally, psychologically, physically."

The CEO of Goldman Sachs, Lloyd Blankfein, drew a more somber parallel between the day's spectacle and the country's challenges.

"Wish the moon wasn't the only thing casting a shadow across the country. We got through one, we'll get through the other," he tweeted. (AFP)

Couple's message in bottle reaches Gaza



A picture shows the message Palestinian fisherman Jihad al-Soltan found in a bottle off a Gaza beach after it was placed in the water last July by two British tourists on holiday on the Greek island of Rhodes

Gaza City

A message in a bottle cast into the sea by a holidaying British couple on the island of Rhodes has washed up on the blockaded Gaza Strip, the fisherman who found it said yesterday.

Jihad al-Soltan retrieved the bottle while fishing on August 15.

Using the email address supplied, his family contacted the senders of the letter, Bethany Wright and her boyfriend Zac Marriner.

They had thrown the bottle into the sea during a romantic

holiday on the Greek island two months earlier.

"We are currently on holiday in Rhodes and we would love to know how far this bottle got -- even if it's just the next beach," the note read.

It had travelled a lot further, around 800 kilometres (500 miles), before Soltan retrieved it.

"They never expected it to reach Gaza!" he said.

The crowded coastal territory is largely closed off to the world under a crippling, decade-long Israeli blockade aimed at

isolating Hamas, the Islamist movement which runs the territory.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008.

Egypt, the only other country that shares a border with Gaza, has also largely sealed its frontier.

Fishing off the northern part of the strip, adjacent to Israel, is limited to six nautical miles offshore and the Israeli navy regularly fires at Palestinians at the zone's outer limit.

Post to Gaza usually goes through Israeli security measures. (AFP)

Factory shut for dumping dye after dogs turn blue

Mumbai

A factory accused of dumping dye into an Indian river where several dogs turned blue has been shut down, an official said yesterday, after alarming pictures emerged of the brightly-coloured canines.

An animal activist spotted the blue dogs wandering the streets of Mumbai near an industrial zone where factories had been accused of pouring untreated chemicals directly into the Kasadi river.

Arati Chauhan said dogs and



A stray dog with a light blue hue on a street near the Kasadi River in the Taloja industrial zone in Mumbai.

birds had been left a bright blue after swimming in the contaminated river.

"We managed to take one

dog for treatment as it was suffering with eye infection," Arati Chauhan, from Mumbai Animal Protection Cell, said.

#PollToday



Do you think Trump's Afghan strategy will help to make situations better in the country?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"The situation is going from bad to worse. Almost one third of Nepal has been flooded. One third of Bangladesh is flooded. This is the worst flooding that parts of South Asia have seen in decades."

Jagan Chapagain
Red Cross under
secretary-general

Rest in sight

42 injured in US train crash



A train crash in the eastern US city of Philadelphia injured 42 people early.

Indian transgender couple plan to marry, adopt

An Indian couple who fell in love after meeting at a gender-reassignment clinic in Mumbai announced they were engaged and planning a traditional wedding.

Housewife jailed for blasphemy in Indonesia

An Indonesian housewife has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison for insulting Islam.

Man charged with plotting to bomb statue

A 25-year old man who allegedly planned to blow up a Confederate statue in Houston, Texas has been arrested.

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China defends Pakistan against Trump criticism

Beijing

China yesterday defended its friend Pakistan against strong criticism by Donald Trump that the country is not doing enough to counter terrorism.

In a major speech outlining US policy on Afghanistan, the American president slammed Islamabad for offering safe haven to "agents of chaos".

Successive US administrations have criticised Pakistan for links with the Taliban and for

harbouring leading jihadists -- like Osama bin Laden.

"We have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting," Trump said, warning that vital aid could be cut.

But Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying took a contrary view, telling reporters that Pakistan "has made great sacrifices and contributions to fighting terrorism".

Rare white koala born at Australian zoo



A white koala joey on her mother Tia at the Australia Zoo on Queensland's Sunshine Coast

A koala at an Australian zoo has given birth to a rare white joey, staff announced yesterday.

Handlers at the Australia Zoo on Queensland's Sunshine Coast say the pale animal born in January owes its white fur to a recessive gene inherited from mother Tia.

The mother has given birth to light-coloured joeys in the past.

"In veterinary science it's often referred to as

the 'silvering gene' where animals are born with white or very pale fur and, just like baby teeth, they eventually shed their baby fur and the regular adult colouration comes through," said the zoo's wildlife hospital director Rosie Booth in a statement.

Koala fur differs in colour -- from light grey to brown -- depending on their environment. Animals in the south of Australia tend to have thicker and darker fur than those in the north.

India's top court bans instant divorce

New Delhi

India's top court yesterday banned a practice that allows men to divorce their wives instantly.

The Supreme Court ruled that the practice of "triple talaq", whereby Muslim men can divorce their wives by reciting the word talaq (divorce) three times, was both unconstitutional and un-Islamic.

Victims including Shayara Bano, whose husband used triple talaq to divorce her in 2015, had approached India's highest court to ask for a ruling.

A panel of five male judges

from India's major faiths -- Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism -- said triple talaq was "not integral to religious practice and violates constitutional morality".

They said it was "manifestly arbitrary" to allow a man to "break down (a) marriage whimsically and capriciously".

"What is sinful under religion cannot be valid under law," said the judges.

Bano, who suffered a nervous breakdown after her divorce, said it was a "historic occasion" for Muslim women.

Fukushima reactor 'ice wall' nearly finished

Tokyo

Fukushima's operator yesterday started freezing the last section of a \$320 million ice wall designed to combat widespread water contamination at the site of the worst nuclear accident in a generation.

Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) began pumping coolant into the remaining seven metres (23 feet) of its 1.5-kilometre underground wall which encircles the four reactors along Japan's northeast coast.

Underground pipes



Workers pouring coolant to freeze the underground ice wall around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plants in Okuma, Fukushima

circulate the coolant and freeze

The 30-metre deep wall is

designed to block underground water from nearby mountains from flowing into the shattered

complex and then seeping into the Pacific.

It is reportedly expected to

take more than two months until the wall is completely frozen.

The huge utility has been building the barrier since March 2016 with the government picking up its 34.5 billion yen (\$320 million) price tag.

Even now, with the ice wall almost complete, about 140 tonnes of underground water flows into the plant daily, forcing the company to pump it out and store it in on-site tanks.

"When the ice wall is completed, we estimate that

the amount of underground water flowing into the complex will be less than 100 tonnes," a company spokesman said.

But some experts have cast doubt on the ice wall, and the country's Nuclear Regulation Authority said it has not yet done an independent analysis.

"We doubt the ice wall is going to be as effective as TEPCO claims it will be," said an NRA official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We're going to monitor its progress after it is finished to check the impact."

Egypt arrests suspected organ traders



Representational image

Kabul

Egyptian authorities have arrested 12 people including doctors and nurses suspected of belonging to a "large criminal network specialised in trading human organs", the interior ministry said Tuesday.

Hundreds of poor Egyptians sell their kidneys and livers each year to be able to buy food or pay off debts, according to the United Nations.

The network "agreed with Egyptians to transfer some of their organs to foreign patients in exchange for large

sums of money, exploiting people's financial need," the interior ministry said.

Among those arrested were three doctors, four nurses, three hospital workers and two agents, it said in a statement.

Some were arrested "while they were carrying out an operation to remove the kidneys and part of the liver of a citizen in a private hospital" in Giza province, part of Greater Cairo.

The man had sold the organs for \$10,000 (8,500 euros). Those operating on

him were planning to implant the organs in a patient, the ministry said.

It did not give further details on the man's condition or say when the arrests took place, but added that the hospital had been closed pending an investigation.

The World Health Organization in 2010 ranked Egypt among the top five countries in the world trading illegally in organs.

Egypt's parliament passed a law that year banning commercial trade in organs as well as transplants between Egyptians and foreigners,

except between husbands and wives.

The law aimed to regulate organ transplants and curb illegal trafficking and medical tourism for such operations.

In 2012, then-United Nations refugee agency chief Antonio Guterres warned that migrants in Egypt's Sinai peninsula were being killed for their organs.

Authorities in December arrested 25 people, including doctors and university professors, suspected of being part of an organ trading network. (AFP)

US teen pleads guilty to internet villain-inspired attack

Chicago

One of two girls accused with stabbing a friend inspired by a fictitious internet character pleaded guilty to a reduced attempted homicide charge Monday in a Wisconsin court.

Anissa Weier, who is now 15 but was 12 years old at the time of the 2014 crime, agreed to plea to a lesser charge of second-degree homicide as party to a crime, with use of a deadly weapon.

She originally faced first-degree intentional homicide. She will stand trial next month

to determine if she is legally responsible considering her mental health condition.

She told the court she participated in the attack, because she feared the internet character Slender Man -- a villain featured on a horror website -- would otherwise hurt her and her family, according to US media.

Both she and her alleged accomplice Morgan Geyser are accused of stabbing their friend Payton Leutner 19 times at a park. A bicyclist found Leutner and helped her get to a hospital.

Chile Constitutional court clears way to ease abortion ban

Santiago

Chile's Constitutional Court on Monday approved a bill to decriminalize abortion in certain cases, a move decried by conservative opponents but hailed by Socialist President Michelle Bachelet as a victory for women's rights.

The bill will allow abortion in cases of rape, threat to the mother's life or deadly birth defects.

Judges voted by six to four to dismiss challenges brought by conservative parties opposed to the reform, the court's

secretary-general Rodrigo Pica told a news conference.

The bill can now be signed into law by the socialist president, who launched the reform in 2015.

Citizens for and against the reform staged rowdy demonstrations near the court during its deliberations.

Supporters of the bill celebrated outside the court after the ruling, yelling their thanks to Bachelet.

Rival demonstrators shouted curses, calling those behind the reform "murderers."

Alleged Barcelona killer was 'a normal factory worker'

Ripoll

The alleged Barcelona attacker who was killed Monday grew up in a small Catalan town where he seemed "nicely integrated" like his younger brother who also died as part of the same terror cell, residents said.

Younes Abouyaaqoub, a 22-year-old Moroccan, was shot by police not far from Barcelona in northeastern Spain after a four-day manhunt

for the man who allegedly drove a van through crowds in the popular Mediterranean city, killing 13.

He didn't stop there, fleeing his vehicle on foot after Thursday's attack, hijacking a car and stabbing its driver to make his getaway.

"I'm happy and sad all at once," Hassan Azzidi, a Moroccan factory worker, said in the Catalan town of Ripoll where many members of the

terror cell that planned the Barcelona attack and another car rampage in the seaside resort of Cambrils came from.

"This had to end, because we're living as if in a war, but at the same time, someone brainwashed such a young boy.

"Younes lived normally, he worked in a factory, he had everything... I don't know how they manage to eat their brains."

Police suspect an imam of

radicalising Abouyaaqoub, his younger brother Houssein and nine other young men.

The imam Abdelbaki Es Satty died in an explosion believed to have been accidentally detonated by the suspects themselves in their bomb factory in the seaside town of Alcanar, also in Catalonia.

Other suspects have either been killed by police or detained.



Spanish police members stand past the van of the funeral services carrying the body of Moroccan suspect Younes Abouyaaqoub

Theatre festival workshop a success

DT News Network
Manama

Preparations are continued for the third edition of Khalid bin Hamad Youth Theatre Award Festival for National Clubs, Youth Centers and People with Disabilities.

Successfully organised for the third consecutive year under the patronage of His Highness 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 the Bahrain Disabled Sports



Participants posing for a group photo during the workshop presented by Al-Rowaiee

Federation and within the initiatives of His Highness, the festival will be held on October 5-21 at the Muharra

Model Youth Centre, with large and active youth participation from various leaders and representatives

of national clubs, youth centers and people with disabilities.

The organising committee

had announced earlier that this year's edition will be held under the slogan #Let's_Plant_A_Smile and will introduce several workshops and additional activities.

As part of the festival's organising committee's plan, the third introductory workshop was organised on Sunday, with the aim to provide the necessary support to the participants in the festival by introducing them to different types of arts and means to overcome any obstacles that may face them in their careers.

It sheds light on the art

of theatres, addressed and managed by renowned Bahraini Actor and Director Jama'an Al-Rowaiee and will continue until August 30.

The workshop focused on several factors that would contribute to the success of any play, including motion expression, voice control, and harmony between actors, improvising and difference in performance.

Al-Rowaiee confirmed that the participants in the workshop will be granted an opportunity to perform a special show on the side-lines of the festival.

Barca sues Neymar



Lionel Messi poses for a picture with Neymar and Luis Suarez

Seeks \$10 million in damages over contract breach

Barcelona

Barcelona are seeking at least 8.5 million euros (\$10 million) in compensation from Neymar for breach of contract, the club said on Tuesday as the bitter fallout rumbles on from his world record 222 million-euro move to Paris Saint-Germain.

The move comes after Barcelona refused to pay a separate 26 million-euro bonus due to Neymar for signing a five-year contract

renewal last year.

"In the lawsuit, the club demands the player return the already paid sum for his contract renewal as he has not completed his contract; 8.5 million euros in damages; and an additional 10 percent because of delayed payment," Barcelona said in a statement.

Despite being under contract, Barcelona were powerless to stop his move to PSG earlier this month as the French side met the buyout

clause in his contract.

The Catalan giants have also passed the claim onto FIFA and the French Football Federation via the Spanish Football Federation to take what they see as "the appropriate legal effects".

Moreover, Barca urged PSG to pay the amount they are seeking if Neymar -- who is reported to earn 30 million euros a year after tax for the next five years in Paris -- isn't able to meet their demands.

The club's latest move comes two days after Neymar fiercely criticised Barcelona's under-fire board after scoring twice in a stunning home debut as PSG beat Toulouse 6-2 on Sunday.

"There are people in charge that shouldn't be there," Neymar told reporters.

"Barca deserve much more and everyone knows that."

The split between Barca's top players and board was evidenced as a smiling

Neymar posted photos on his Instagram page of the Brazilian visiting former teammates including Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Gerard Pique and Ivan Rakitic on Tuesday.

"Friends that I missed," Neymar wrote alongside a picture of him being embraced by Messi and Suarez.

Messi is yet to formally sign a new contract, the terms of which were agreed back in July, provoking speculation

over his future.

Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu, former president Sandro Rosell, Neymar and his parents are to face trial for fraud and corruption in Spain over the murky transfer that brought the player from Santos to Barca in 2013.

Investment company DIS -- who owned 40 percent of Neymar's sporting rights at the time of the transfer -- believe they were cheated out of their real share of the deal.

NBB backs Football League

DT News Network
Manama

The Bahraini Football Association (BFA) announced the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) as the lead sponsors for the 2017/2018 season Football League, which is set to kick off on 9 September.

NBB's sponsorship of the league was announced at a ceremony held in the presence of senior representatives of the BFA and NBB. These included BFA Vice President and Head of the National Team Committee, Shaikh Khaled bin Salman Al Khalifa,



Representatives of the BFA and NBB at the sponsorship announcement

and Head of the Investment Committee and BFA Board Member, Mohammed Al Hammadi, alongside a number of BFA officers. Representing NBB was the Bank's Chief Marketing Officer, Richard Hicks, Board Secretary, Nasser

Mohammed, and Marketing Manager, Hisham Abu Alfateh.

Commenting on the occasion, Shaikh Khaled bin Salman Al Khalifa, said, "We are delighted to announce NBB's support and sponsorship

for the BFA Super League and look forward to working closely with NBB to ensure the benefits of its support are maximised for Bahraini football, our communities and the Bank itself."

Richard Hicks, Chief

Marketing Officer at NBB, added, "We are pleased to sponsor the BFA Football League for the 2017/2018 season. This is an exciting opportunity for the Bank and reflects our deep commitment to and long-standing tradition

of providing support for important community based initiatives -- including sport."

NBB's sponsorship comes as part of the BFA's efforts to attract cooperation from the private sector and generate greater audience support and attendances at matches. The league plans to introduce a number of new initiatives this season to drive interest and participation including new competitions and raffles to engage audiences and ensure an exciting season for Bahraini football.

Bahrain thrash Tunisia



Aidan Payne/DTN
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Bahrain under coach Yousef Khalifa Alasbool defeated Tunisia 3-1 (25-19, 25-18, 23-25, 25-22) in its fourth and final match of Pool A to finish in second place yesterday evening in the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The Bahrainis were inspired by Sayed Mohammed Allabar, Mohammed Jassim and Hassan Mohammed and who all scored 16 points each, along with Mahmood Abdulhussain (13), while top scoring for Tunisia was Salem Naffeti (21).

In first set action, Bahrain after leading early on at 4-1 held the lead until the score was tied at 15-15, but finished strongly to win the set.

Second set action was equally good for Bahrain, as after a tight start at 4-4, they won three unanswered points to lead 7-4 and got stronger as the set went on to make it 2-0.

The Tunisians under coach Chokri Bouzidi came back strongly in the third set and led 6-0 at one stage and kept the lead throughout, but in the latter stages Bahrain fought back and only trailed 20-21 late in the set.

Fourth set action saw a narrow 7-6 lead for Tunisia early in the set, then a brilliant

mid-set revival gave Bahrain a 12-8 lead, only for the North Africans to level at 13-13.

It was touch and go with the scores equal towards the latter stages of the set at 21-21, but the hosts with two crucial unanswered points went 23-21 ahead and kept their nerve to finish second in Pool A.

In the other Pool A match, Egypt defeated the USA 3-1 (18-25, 25-23, 25-22, 25-21) with Yousef Hafez Elsirgany (19) and Youssef Hamdy Awad (17) top scoring for the Egyptians, while for the Americans Jaylen Jasper (23) and Devin Joslyn (15) were top scorers.

"I think the game was easier for us because all the pressure was on the Tunisian team to win," Bahrain head coach Yousef Khalifa said. "We were able to take the first two sets but they returned in the third and proved why they are champions of Africa. But we were able to end it in the fourth set and relieve some pressure from our players."

"Now, we have to forget everything at this point. We will next face very different teams, and we have to be confident in what we are able to do. We will prepare well for the next phase."

In Group B, France inflicted

a fourth and final defeat on defending champions Poland 3-1 (23-25, 25-22, 25-20, 40-38) which was notable for a marathon fourth set.

Top scoring for the French was Celestine Cardin (30) and Pierre Derouillon (21) and for Poland Bartosz Firszt (22) and Remigiusz Kapica (20).

Two halls at Shaikh Isa Sports City are hosting the matches and from tomorrow, the first pair of matches start at 11am, followed by further pairs at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 7pm.

All spectators are welcome to attend and entrance is 500 fils and tickets can be purchased at the gate.

The four pools comprised five teams each and played on a round-robin basis with the top four competing in the main Round of 16 knockout starting tomorrow, with the bottom team of each pool playing classification matches from tomorrow until Saturday to determine the 17th to 20th placings.

A rest day is being held today

and after tomorrow's Round of 16 matches, the quarter-finals take place on Friday, the Semi-finals on Saturday and the Gold and Bronze Medal matches on Sunday.

For more information, visit U19.boys.2017.volleyball.fivb.com.

Other scores: Pool B: Japan (Kento Miyaura, 13, Tatsunori Otsuka, 10) bt Brazil (Victor Aleksander Al Meida Cardoso, 18, Arthur Adriano Nath, 14) 3-0 (25-21, 26-24, 25-18). Pool C: Russia (Stanislav Antonov, 10) bt South Korea (Donghyeok Im, 21, Sunho Kim, 13) 3-1 (25-22, 25-16, 22-25, 25-20). Turkey (Adis Lagamdžija, 27, Batuhan, Avci, 13) bt Argentina (Federico Jose Sela, 20, Juan Barrera, 15) 3-2, (28-26, 25-22, 21-25, 19-25, 15-11). Pool D: Italy (Diego Cantagalli, 20, Lorenzo Cortesia, 17) bt China (Cong Tian, 20, Ao Li, 15) 3-1 (25-22, 25-13, 20-25, 25-23). Iran (Porya Yali, 17, Amir Hossein Toukhteh, 11) bt Czech Republic (Marek Sotola, 17, Jan Svoboda, 10) 3-0 (25-22, 25-12, 25-19).

Final Preliminary Standings (four matches, points):

Pool A: 1 Egypt (9), 2 Bahrain (8), 3 USA (8), 4 Puerto Rico (3), 5 Tunisia (2)
Pool B: 1 Japan (11), 2 France (9), 3 Brazil (7), 4 Cuba (2), 5 Poland (1).
Pool C: 1 Russia (9), 2 Argentina (9), 3 South Korea (7), 4 Turkey (5), 5 Chile (0).
Pool D: 1 Iran (11), 2 Italy (10), 3 Turkey (6), 4 Czech Republic (6), 4 China (3), 5 Chile (0).
 Today is a rest day with the Round of 16 Knockout and 17th to 20th classification matches



Ronaldo cries injustice as appeal rejected

Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo reiterated his anger at what he described as the "incomprehensible decision" to reject his final appeal against a five-match ban on Tuesday.

Spain's administrative sports court (TAD) dismissed Real Madrid's latest appeal for the suspension handed out to the World Player of the Year for pushing a referee after being sent-off in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup against Barcelona.

"Another incomprehensible decision," Ronaldo posted to his over 57 million Twitter followers.

"Injustices will not knock me down. I will come back stronger."

"Thanks to those who have supported me."

Ronaldo was controversially shown a second yellow card for diving after coming off the bench to score as Real won the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup 3-1 away to Barcelona. The Portugal captain was handed a one-match ban for

the 10th red card of his career and a further four-game suspension for pushing referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea in protest.

Ronaldo blasted his treatment by the Spanish Football Federation as "persecution" on his Instagram account after his first appeal was rejected last week.

"It seems to me exaggerated and ridiculous, this is called persecution!"

Ronaldo has already served two games of his suspension as Madrid

completed a 5-1 aggregate win over Barcelona in the Super Cup second leg and as Real opened their La Liga campaign with a 3-0 win at Deportivo la Coruna.

Real will also be without their all-time top scorer for La Liga matches at home to Valencia and Levante and away at Real Sociedad.

However, Ronaldo will be free to play when the European champions begin their defence of the Champions League on September 12 or 13.



Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo

Defending champions exit Futsal



Al-Khayat and Salmeen visit Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League photo gallery

DT News Network Manama
Ras Rumman Youth Centre defeated the defending champions Safrah Youth Centre 6-2 on the second day of Round of 16 matches in the Fifth Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League for Youth Centres, People with Disabilities and Girls (Khalid 5) at the Khalifa Sports City Hall in Isa Town.

The Ras Rumman team smashed in four first half goals and though Al Safrah pegged to goals back early in the second half, their hopes were dashed when Ras Rumman added a further two goals to secure victory, with the man of the match award going to Qassim Hassan of the victorious team.

In the second match played, Muharraq Youth Centre edged out the top scorers in the league Salmabad Youth Centre 8-6 after a penalty shootout with Jassim Al-Jibn the man of the match.. Muharraq's victory came despite the absence of their star Mahmud Al-Sharqawi, who was injured in one of the team's matches in the preliminary rounds. Al-Sharqawi underwent a surgery and may not be able to continue playing in the league.

Attending the latest matches were Ahmed Al-Khayat, President of Bahrain Self-Defense Federation and Mohammed Salmeen, former captain of the Bahrain national team.

The final matches of the playoffs will be held tomorrow to determine the qualifiers for the semifinals.

Simultaneously with the beginning of the playoffs rounds in the youth centres and clubs competitions, Bahrain Sports Channel, headed by Mariam Bukamal, airs analytical studio shows to discuss the tactics and results of the matches.

The organising committee also announced the weekly question on the official account of the league on Instagram (hhsleague), announcing a cash prize of BD50 for the winner. The question is "how many teams are participating in this year's edition of Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League for Youth Centres, People with Disabilities and Girls?".

This tournament is being played under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Honorary President of Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities and organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs and the Media Office of Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, under the slogan #Generations_Meeting.

It started on July 24 and continues until September 14 and features 59 teams, divided into 36 youth centres teams, 9 unregistered clubs, 8 teams of people with disabilities institutions and 6 girls teams.



Ras Rumman - Safrah match action



Al-Jubn, man of the match



Qassim, man of the match



TODAY'S SCHEDULE (Round of 16)

5pm: Sanad Youth Centre vs Zallaq Youth Centre
6pm: Saar Club vs South Sehla Youth Centre

Rasrumman and Muharraq qualify to the quarter finals



Al-Khayat and Salmeen in a group photo with the organisers and referees

Trentin takes fourth stage

Froome keeps Vuelta lead

Bahrain-Merida's Italian cyclist Vincenzo Nibali

Tarragona

Italian sprinter Matteo Trentin claimed stage four of the Vuelta a Espana yesterday as Chris Froome maintained the overall lead.

Four-time Tour de France winner Froome, who is aiming to become just the third man in history to win the Tour and Vuelta in the same year, holds a two-second lead over David de la Cruz, Nicolas Roche and Tejay van Garderen.

Trentin edged out Spaniard Juanjo Lobato and Belgium's Tom van Asbroeck in a time of 4hrs 43mins 57secs on the 198.2km ride from Escaldes to Tarragona as the race entered Spain for the first time after opening stages in France and Andorra.

Security was tightened following a pair of terrorist attacks that killed 15 and left over 100 injured in Barcelona and the nearby seaside resort of Cambrils last week, with the finish line just 20 kilometres along the Mediterranean coast from Cambrils.

After Froome took the race lead

by finishing third as the general classification favourites fought it out in the Andorran mountains on Monday, Trentin took advantage of one of the few stages designed for sprinters to shine.

Victory completed an illustrious treble for the Quick-Step rider, who is now the 100th cyclist to win stages in all three Grand Tours.

"I will think about that in the future," said Trentin, who will join Orica-Scott next season.

"I am really proud to make this with Quick-Step team. I won in the Tour with them, in the Giro with them...and now in the Vuelta as well so I am really proud to make all these results."

Froome and the rest of the contenders enjoyed a trouble-free day as the Sky rider rolled in 17th on the stage.

"It was just about enjoying being in the red jersey today," said Froome after his first day in red at the Vuelta since 2011.

Wednesday's fifth stage takes the peloton 175.7km across five categorised climbs from Benicassim to Alcossebre.

Results:

Results from 198.2km ride from Escaldes to Tarragona:

1. Matteo Trentin (ITA/QST) 4hrs 43mins 57secs,
18. Fabio Aru (ITA/AST) s.t.,
25. Romain Bardet (FRA/ALM) s.t.,
26. Warren Barguil (FRA/SUN) s.t.,
27. Vincenzo Nibali (ITA/BAH) s.t.,
35. Alberto Contador (ESP/TRE) s.t.,
39. Tejay Van Garderen (USA/BMC) s.t.,
48. Adam Yates (GBR/ORI) s.t.,
50. Simon Yates (GBR/ORI) s.t.

Selected others:

17. Christopher Froome (GBR/SKY) s.t.,
18. Fabio Aru (ITA/AST) s.t.,
25. Romain Bardet (FRA/ALM) s.t.,
26. Warren Barguil (FRA/SUN) s.t.,
27. Vincenzo Nibali (ITA/BAH) s.t.,
35. Alberto Contador (ESP/TRE) s.t.,
39. Tejay Van Garderen (USA/BMC) s.t.,
48. Adam Yates (GBR/ORI) s.t.,
50. Simon Yates (GBR/ORI) s.t.

Overall standings

1. Christopher Froome (GBR/Sky) 13hrs 37mins 41secs,
2. David De la Cruz (ESP/QST) at 0:02,
3. Nicolas Roche (IRL/BMC) 0:02,
4. Tejay Van Garderen (USA/BMC) 0:02,
5. Vincenzo Nibali (ITA/BAH) 0:10

Quick-Step Floors Team's Italian cyclist Matteo Trentin celebrates as he crosses the finish line

