

# DT NEWS

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News of Bahrain

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## For the record



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa with Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla at Al-Sakhir Palace. The Speaker and the Shura Chairman yesterday submitted the replies of the two councils to the keynote address delivered by HM at the opening of the fourth session of the fourth legislative term.

Iran's ballistic ambitions worrying, says France



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## PM hails strides in tourism

DT News Network  
Manama

**H**is Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa inaugurated this evening the Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain in the district of Al-Seef. He underlined the steady success in developing the tourism sector, owing to its potential which plays a crucial role in hospitality industry. He hailed strides in building facilities which, he said, reflect the Kingdom's perfect environment and potential in the sectors of tourism and hospitality, thus earning a marked standing on the regional and international tourism map.

# Rail dreams to become reality

Govt to build 109-km urban rail transit system by 2024

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN  
zafran@dt.bh

**Manama**  
**U**rban train travel will no longer remain a pipedream for Bahrainis. The country will build a 109-kilometre rail transit system by 2024, in five phases, according to a senior government official. "The preliminary designs for the nation-wide rail network will be ready within the next few months," said Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication Land Transportation and Post Under-Secretary Mariam Jumaan.

However, the network would only become operational in 2023 or 2024, she said, adding that it will be launched in five phases. She was speaking during an event organized as part of 2018 BIPEX Forums at the Capital Club. "Our new and

improved bus network was the first phase of our strategic vision of the public transportation. But we need to improve on that further, this is why the Ministry has started looking into alternatives," said Mariam.

"We do not want just buses, we need a proper mass transit for Bahrain. With buses, there are certain limitations and it can still contribute to congestion. The way to encourage people to move away from using their cars and provide them with a way to get places quicker and easier would be bringing on this new mode of transport," she said. "We have done our studies, we have looked at possible alternatives. Our choice is the light rail system which will be implemented in four or five phases. The first phase will be 30 kilometres with 20 stations," she said.

"The connections

will be to the airport, diplomatic area, to the north, to the city centre and more. What we are looking to have is a true alternative to the cars. The rail transport will make people actually leave their cars and use the public transport instead," she said.

"We hope to have the preliminary designs completed by the second or third quarter of this year. This is a very viable project for the private sector to participate in," she added.

Training course on VAT from March 12



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RERA to bolster realty sector



P 04



Representative image



Tweet of the Day

It's concerning how warm the Arctic is right now, with record temps and low sea ice. As @thinkprogress says, what happens in the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic.

@algore

Today's Weather		
	Max	Min
	25°C	16°C

# Ballistic ambitions of Iran worrying: France

Moscow

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said yesterday that Iran's ballistic missile ambitions were very worrying and ran counter to a U.N. resolution that sought action against Iran for violating arms embargo and failing to prevent missiles and drones from being supplied to Shiite militia in Yemen.

Le Drian, speaking at a news conference after talks with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, said it was necessary to avoid the Iranian ballistic programme becoming a factor that threatened its neighbours.

The statement comes after Russia on Monday vetoed the British-drafted U.N. resolution against Iran. 11 countries favoured the resolution in the

Security Council, Russia and Bolivia opposed, and China and Kazakhstan abstained.

Britain sought to focus attention on a report in January by the U.N. panel of experts monitoring sanctions against Iran that examined missile remnants fired into Saudi Arabia by Houthi rebels last year and said many "are consistent with those of the Iranian designed and manufactured Qiam-1 missile."

It concluded that Iran was in "non-compliance" with the 2015 U.N. arms embargo on Yemen because it failed "to take the necessary measures" to prevent the direct or indirect supply of missiles and drones to the Houthis.

Britain's deputy U.N. ambassador Jonathan Allen urged

council member not to "shy away from calling out those whose actions undermine international peace and security."

"This council needs to stand firm in the face of state non-compliance and send a clear message that it will not be tolerated," he said.

## US threatens action

Meanwhile, the United States has threatened unilateral action against Iran after Russia vetoed the resolution in the United Nations Security Council.

"If Russia is going to continue to cover for Iran then the U.S. and our partners need to take action on our own. If we're not going to get action on the council then we have to take our own actions," U.S. Ambassador to the

U.N. Nikki Haley told reporters during a visit to Honduran capital Tegucigalpa.

Haley did not specify what kind of action could be taken.

The Russian veto was a defeat for the United States, which has been lobbying for months for Iran to be held accountable at the United Nations, while at the same time threatening to quit a 2015 deal among world powers to curb Iran's nuclear program if "disastrous flaws" are not fixed.

"Obviously this vote isn't going to make the decision on the nuclear deal. What I can say is it doesn't help," Haley said in the Security Council. "That just validated a lot of what we already thought which is Iran gets a pass for its dangerous and illegal behaviour." (Agencies)

## Court of Appeal upholds verdicts in terror case

Manama

The High Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the death sentence handed to two in a terrorism case involving eight others.

The Court also confirmed the verdict issued by the fourth High Criminal Court on 5 June 2017 sentencing three to life imprisonment and three others to ten years in jail, said the Chief of Terror Crime Prosecution, Advocate General Ahmed Al Hammadi.

The Court also sentenced one defendant to seven years in jail, another to five years and two others to three years in prison each and acquitted one defendant.

According to case details, they were charged with murder, attempted murder for a terrorist purpose, joining a terrorist group, hiding fugitives, plotting a terrorist attack and possessing explosives.

The fourth High Criminal Court revoked the nationality of nine convicts and ordered seven convicts to pay together BD25,416 and BD3,300 in compensation for damaging a police patrol and a privately-owned truck, respectively.

The incidents leading to the case occurred on 16 April 2016 with the Capital Police Directorate notifying the Public Prosecution about an arson attack targeting an on-duty police patrol with firebombs, leaving the driver dead and two other policemen wounded. The investigation revealed the involvement of a terrorist group in ambush.



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# Training course on VAT from March 12



Dr. Hana Kanoo (left) with MENA Centre for Investment officials at a press conference yesterday

DT News Network  
News@dt.bh

## Manama

To educate businesses and individuals about VAT, Vineyard Asia Technological College in collaboration with MENA Centre for investment and EDB will start a course on VAT from March 12.

VAT (Value Added Tax) has begun implementation in the GCC, and according to plans will be in place by the end of the year in Bahrain.

The MENA Centre for Investment and the Bahrain EDB tasked economist Dr Hana Kanoo, with sourcing and putting in place a highly focused, intensive training programme for implementing

VAT.

The course is aimed at SMEs and larger companies for inclusion of VAT in their accounting process. About choosing TESDA certified Philippines-based Vineyard Asia Technological College to deliver these courses, she said.

"I looked at a range of tax implementation courses from around the world and was looking for some Reputable training institute when I came upon Vineyard Asia Technological College. We needed a relatively short course yet one that offered in-depth training. And Vineyard Asia met all our criteria," she said.

"TESDA, The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority is a

Philippines-based training and governing entity. Overall, TESDA formulates manpower and skills plans, sets appropriate skills standards and tests, coordinates and monitors manpower policies and programs. It also provides policy directions and guidelines for resource allocation, and training institutions in both the private and public sectors. The high standards of TESDA was certainly one of the criteria in choosing Vineyard," she said.

"Since VAT is so new to Bahrain and the GCC we hope that everyone throughout the management chain will find the course useful. In fact, we recommend that all those in management, entrepreneurs

and business owners especially of SME's will benefit from the training. With its accounting focus, we believe that it would also benefit CFOs, Finance Directors, Finance Managers, Accountants, Account Managers, and Auditors. For fresh finance graduates and those in junior accounting roles, a VAT certificate as a VAT compiler or auditor will greatly enhance career development and employability," she said.

Courses will start on March 12 and registration is already underway. Vineyard Technological College under the aegis of EDB and MENA will set up an information and registration booth at City Center.

## Draw for 4800 housing units underway

DT News Network  
Manama

Following the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to distribute 4,800 housing units to beneficiaries across the Kingdom, the Housing Ministry has announced that the electronic draw on the housing units of the Northern City's islands 13 and 14 is under way, and will continue until the end of next month.

The move is the outcome of the remarkable progress achieved in the implementation of the Northern City regarding construction works and infrastructure related to housing units currently being built by the Ministry, and funded from the state budget and the GCC Development Programme, in addition to the housing projects



The electronic draw for housing units of the Northern City's islands 13 and 14 is under way

implemented by the private sector.

The Housing Ministry praised the key role played by the relevant ministries and government departments to expedite the implementation of such projects to ensure that the new housing units are handed over to the beneficiaries as soon as

possible.

The Housing Ministry said that "Northern City" is among the largest strategic projects it is currently implementing within the 25,000-unit programme included in the Government Action Plan, stressing that thousands of units have been distributed to eligible citizens this year and

last year.

The Housing Ministry added that the new units in the Northern City are surrounded by waterfronts, and enjoy all required facilities, including public beaches, pedestrian crossings, bicycle lanes, bus stops, power stations, sewage treatment plant, as well as major services.

By Invitation



Sheikha Hala bint Mohammed Al Khalifa

## February 2018

The power of any cultural initiative can be measured by the consistency and strength of its programming. In the Kingdom of Bahrain, The Spring of Culture Festival marks the peak of our cultural agenda. In 2013, Manama was celebrated as Capital of Arab Tourism, in that year the cultural institution launched an important date, 25th February, marking the birth of the Arab traveler Ibn Battuta. This date was launched to announce The Arab Tourism Day, and since then it has been a date that brings along music and culture from different parts of the world.

The opening to the Spring Festival always had a strong note of our culture and heritage. This year we marked the opening of the spring with "The Epic Gilgamesh", the most celebrated legend from Ancient Mesopotamia that flourished for more than a millennium in Babylonia and Assyria transmitted throughout the Middle East. Written and composed by Abed Azrié, the show is a story of a friendship which, born out of rivalry. In this concert elements of traditional music was infused into the classical tunes.

Mohammed bin Faris, our local celebrated band was able to join and create another layer of musical depth, and to the amazement of the audiences, when in the legend, Gilgamesh finds "The Flower of Eternity" men stood up to dance adding the WOW factor to the performance.

I believe one of the most important goals in particular case was to expose our traditional musicians to the classical world, and allow them to learn and experience working within a classical setting under the guidance of a renowned musician like Abed Azrie.

We are welcoming the spring with this diverse festival, which brings together so many institutions like BACA, EDB, Sheikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture & Research, local galleries & creative hubs in the country offering a wide selection of cultural events. Music, art, workshops, and talks all come together allowing locals and visitors to learn and be entertained.

"Spring of Culture" in its 13th edition has now become a celebrated annual festival enriching our beautiful country's cultural agenda. This year notes of the east and the heritage of Islamic culture is a reoccurring topic within the festival, especially with events hosted by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

There was a conscious decision to stay within the theme of reflecting "Muharrag Capital of Islamic Culture - 2018". Sufi dervishes, Arab poetry with melodies of Karima Skalli a renowned Moroccan artist, coming together in an artist declaration that affirms the link between the two nations and playing the main role in an ongoing cultural exchange.

Palestine has a very strong presence in our program, as Jerusalem is the Permeant Capital of Islamic Culture. Arab Music Ensemble presents a selection of patriotic and classical songs that embody the beauty of Arab Cultural & Heritage. Also, a one women theater play, underlining the topic "Diaspora", and the right to return. Raeda Taha will be performing her unique play 36 Abbas Street - Haifa to our audiences. Both these events will take place at the Cultural Hall.

I am particularly looking forward to an upcoming exhibition at the Art Center that holds Palestine at its heart, celebrating the legacy left behind by Naji Al Ali, presenting topics on Palestine occupation in a series of cartoons that were produced since his early career and until his assassination in 1987. This exhibition will be a piece of a historical overview of the region, through pen and words only, Al Ali managed to stay alive in the hearts of the people in the world.

*(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)*

# RERA to bolster realty sector, says CEO Shaikh Mohammed



Manama

**R**eal Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), which will be responsible for licensing all real estate professionals as well as developments in the Kingdom, will commence its operations starting 1 March 2018, it was announced.

The authority, according to HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of RERA, will initially focus on the licensing of real estate service providers and off-plan sale projects.

He also made clear that all

real estate professionals in the Kingdom should obtain a license from RERA by 31 August 2018 to avoid penalties, during a press conference held here yesterday.

Shaikh Mohammed told the press conference that by strengthening the regulatory framework governing the real estate sector, Law No. (27) will serve to identify and prohibit unlicensed real estate enterprises.

"RERA is committed to building a stronger real estate market. Enhancing the

efficiency of the real estate sector is our primary focus, and we are confident that by safeguarding the interests of consumers, investors, brokers, developers and all stakeholders in the market, RERA will make an important contribution to Bahrain's economic growth and increase foreign investment," Shaikh Mohammed stressed.

RERA will be responsible for licensing developers, brokers and sales agents, as well as all developments including advertising of off-plan projects. Wider obligations and requirements, in particular, those relating to the escrow account, were also highlighted.

"Part of the Authority's role will be to provide best-in-class training and development programmes for real estate service providers, increasing professional standards within the sector to the benefit of all stakeholders," he added.

He also revealed that RERA is in the process of implementing international best practices in the field of real estate development while ensuring alignment with the local market. He noted that RERA's board of directors, which comprises a carefully selected group of experts, will maximise coordination between the public and private sectors while accounting for the unique challenges of the domestic real estate market.

"The board is committed to supporting Bahrain's objective of becoming a leading real estate investment destination, both regionally and internationally," he stressed. In this regard, he highlighted the support provided by RERA's board of directors, headed by its Chairman and the President of the Survey & Land Registration Bureau (SLRB), Shaikh Salman bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, to the company's executive management.

For more information log on to [www.rera.gov.bh](http://www.rera.gov.bh).



Bahrain Branch

"Licensed as a conventional Retail Bank by the CBB"

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 December 2017

	31 December 2017 BD '000	31 December 2016 BD '000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	6,632	6,236
Placement and balances with banks	457	273
Placement and balances with Head Office	37,382	25,950
Loans and advances	11,189	7,541
Other assets	191	1,274
Equipment	44	43
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>55,895</b>	<b>41,317</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deposits from customers	36,677	27,430
Deposits from the Head Office	6,750	1,971
Deposits from banks	13	13
Other liabilities	130	76
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>43,570</b>	<b>29,490</b>
<b>Head Office Funds</b>		
Contributed capital	7,500	7,500
Retained earnings	4,825	4,327
<b>Total Head Office Funds</b>	<b>12,325</b>	<b>11,827</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS</b>	<b>55,895</b>	<b>41,317</b>

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000
Interest income	2,774	1,928
Interest expense	(1,293)	(909)
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>1,019</b>
Other income	110	33
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,052</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>		
Staff costs	(276)	(266)
Depreciation expense	(16)	(14)
Other operating expenses	(368)	(366)
Head Office charges	(302)	(16)
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>(962)</b>	<b>(662)</b>
<b>Net profit before impairment charge for credit losses</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>390</b>
Impairment charge for credit losses, net	(131)	(4)
<b>Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>386</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net Profit for the year	498	386
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation	16	14
Impairment charge for credit losses, net	131	4
<b>Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>404</b>
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>		
Placement and balances with Head Office	(11,432)	1,172
Placement with banks	-	432
Loans and advances	(3,779)	(908)
Other assets	1,063	(149)
Deposits from customers	9,247	(1,988)
Deposits from the Head Office	4,779	1,971
Other liabilities	54	1
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>935</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of equipment	(17)	(22)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>(22)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>913</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	6,359	5,446
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>6,939</b>	<b>6,359</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents comprise</b>		
Cash in hand	289	278
Balances with the CBB (excluding mandatory reserve)	6,193	5,808
Placement and balances with the banks	457	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,939</b>	<b>6,359</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Contributed capital BD '000	Retained earnings BD '000	Total BD '000
At 1 January 2017	7,500	4,327	11,827
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	498	498
<b>At 31 December 2017</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>4,825</b>	<b>12,325</b>
At 1 January 2016	7,500	3,941	11,441
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	386	386
<b>At 31 December 2016</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>4,327</b>	<b>11,827</b>

The above is an extract of the annual financial statements on which Ernst & Young auditors issued an unqualified opinion vide their audit report dated 27 February 2018

**All real estate professionals must obtain a license from RERA by 31 August 2018 in order to avoid being subject to penalties**

# Bahrain-Swiss consultation meeting held



The third Bahrain-Swiss consultative meeting held in Bern bolstered bilateral relationship between both the countries

## DT News Network Bern

A delegation headed by the Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, has held a political consultation meeting with the Swiss Confederation, at the Federal Palace in Bern. The third such meeting was held in the presence of Ambassador of Bahrain to the Republic of France and the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Mohammed Abdul Ghaffar, and Director of European Affairs and European Union, Shaikha Aysha bint Ahmed Al Khalifa.

The Swiss side was chaired by the Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Wolfgang Amadeus Bruehlhart, Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa Directorate, Thomas Stahel, and the

## The delegation was led by Undersecretary for International Affairs Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Arab Emirates, Maya Tissafi.

During the meeting, Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Kingdom and the Swiss Confederation and ways to promote them at all levels to benefit the interests of the two friendly countries.

The Undersecretary stressed

the importance of activating the memorandums of cooperation and agreements signed during the visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Switzerland in May 2016.

A visit that helped promote the bilateral relations and common interests of the two countries, a key point in these growing relations, during two Memorandums of Cooperation, one protection of prisoners and detainees' Rights and the other on women advancement and enhancement of women's rights were signed between both countries. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla touched upon the diverse attractive investment opportunities in the Kingdom which is a regional centre for finance and entrepreneurship and a main gate for trade in the region. He highlighted the efforts to implement the sustainable development programmes.

# Forum held on challenges in entering foreign markets

## DT News Network reporter@dt.bh

Under the patronage of Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, the 5th Alwane Regional Forum was held yesterday in cooperation with the Bahrain SME Development to discuss opportunities and challenges in entering foreign markets. The event that was held under the banner of "Entering foreign markets, opportunities and challenges

of exporting Bahraini products and services to international markets" aimed at equipping local entrepreneurs to export their goods and services to the foreign market and help them grow.

A number of experts, entrepreneurs and businessmen discussed the issue of exporting Bahraini products and services to international markets at the Sheraton Hotel.

This Fifth Forum emphasised on the government programmes that aim at diversifying the national economy and developing

exports, and the efforts of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism in cooperation with the Economic Development Board, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other stakeholders.

Dr Atef Al-Shabrawi addressed the audience on the globalization of small businesses following from Kuwait. Basma Al-Sultan spoke on the Gulf experiences in granting franchises. From the Sultanate of Oman, Amna Al-Awadi spoke on promoting exports through foreign exhibitions.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 31 December 2017			(In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)	
	Audited 31 December 2017 BD'000	Audited 31 December 2016 BD'000		
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	5,498	10,591		
Due from financial institutions	5,491	376		
Due from other entities of the Head Office	2,092	10,521		
Available-for-sale investment securities	48,557	44,882		
Held-to-maturity securities	11,388	8,876		
Loans and advances to banks	1,905	2,016		
Loans and advances to customers	87,213	72,729		
Property and equipment's	245	255		
Other assets	1,713	1,508		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>164,102</b>	<b>151,754</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS</b>				
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Customer deposits	119,796	114,545		
Due to financial institutions	22,644	20,000		
Due to other entities of the Head Office	2,642	16		
Other liabilities	2,257	2,329		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>147,339</b>	<b>136,890</b>		
<b>Head office funds</b>				
Capital contribution	2,300	2,300		
Unremitted profit due to Head Office	12,518	10,725		
Fair value reserve	1,945	1,839		
<b>Total head office funds</b>	<b>16,763</b>	<b>14,864</b>		
<b>Total liabilities and head office funds</b>	<b>164,102</b>	<b>151,754</b>		

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the year ended 31 December 2017				(In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)	
	Audited 2017 BD'000	Audited 31 December 2016 BD'000			
Interest income	7,303	6,464			
Interest expense	(3,414)	(2,454)			
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>3,889</b>	<b>4,010</b>			
Fee and commission income	592	606			
Gain on foreign exchange	188	207			
Other operating income	370	169			
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>5,039</b>	<b>4,992</b>			
Staff expenses	1,192	1,208			
Premises expenses	271	269			
Other operating expenses	866	812			
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>2,289</b>			
<b>Profit before provisions for impairment</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>2,703</b>			
Reversal / (Provision) of impairment on loans and advances – net	1	(4)			
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>2,699</b>			
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>					
<i>Items that are or may be reclassified in subsequent periods to profit or loss:</i>					
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	334	2,036			
Transfer to profit or loss on disposal	(228)	-			
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>4,735</b>			

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended 31 December 2017				(In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)	
	2017	2016			
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>					
Profit for the year	2,711	2,699			
Adjustment for:					
Depreciation	90	76			
Gain on disposal of investments	(243)	-			
Dividend income	(24)	(19)			
Reversal / Provision for impairment of loans and advances	(1)	4			
Accretion of discount on investments	236	198			
<b>Profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>2,958</b>			
Working capital adjustments:					
Balance with central bank (mandatory reserve)	(152)	700			
Due from other entities of the Head Office	(1,885)	3,770			
Loans and advances to banks	111	13,139			
Loans and advances to customers	(14,484)	(17,247)			
Other assets	(210)	(249)			
Customer deposits	5,250	23,927			
Due to financial institutions	2,644	(790)			
Due to other entities of the Head Office	2,626	(7,553)			
Other liabilities	(72)	(1,187)			
<b>Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities</b>	<b>(3,403)</b>	<b>17,468</b>			
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>					
Proceeds from disposal of investments	4,102	90			
Purchase of investments	(10,171)	(4,520)			
Dividend received	24	19			
Purchase of property, equipment and software's	(78)	(104)			
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(6,123)</b>	<b>(4,515)</b>			
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>					
Profit remitted	(918)	(2,394)			
<b>Net cash used in financing activity</b>	<b>(918)</b>	<b>(2,394)</b>			
<b>(Decrease) / Increase in cash and cash equivalents during the year</b>	<b>(10,444)</b>	<b>10,559</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	18,734	8,175			
<b>Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>18,734</b>			

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS For the year ended 31 December 2017					(In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)	
2017	Capital contribution BD'000	Unremitted profit BD'000	Fair value reserve BD'000	Total BD'000		
As at 1 January 2017	2,300	10,725	1,839	14,864		
Profit for the year	-	2,711	-	2,711		
Other comprehensive income	-	-	334	334		
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	-	-	(228)	(228)		
Transfer to profit or loss on disposal	-	-	106	106		
Total other comprehensive income	-	-	106	106		
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2,817</b>		
Transfers to head office	-	(918)	-	(918)		
<b>At 31 December 2017</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>12,518</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>16,763</b>		
2016	Capital contribution BD'000	Unremitted profit BD'000	fair value reserve BD'000	Total BD'000		
As at 1 January 2016	2,300	10,420	(197)	12,523		
Profit for the year	-	2,699	-	2,699		
Other comprehensive income	-	-	2,036	2,036		
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	-	-	-	-		
Transfer to profit or loss on disposal	-	-	-	-		
Total other comprehensive income	-	-	2,036	2,036		
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,699</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>4,735</b>		
Transfers to head office	-	(2,394)	-	(2,394)		
<b>At 31 December 2016</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>10,725</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>14,864</b>		

## VAT for beginners- Part 4

# Preparing for Value Added Tax in Bahrain



By Gaurav Khurana  
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Email: gaurav.khurana@dhruvaadvisors.com

## What is the difference between Exempt and Zero-rated products/services?

### Zero-Rated Supplies:

- Zero-rated supplies are treated as taxable supplies but charged VAT (output VAT) @ 0%.
- When a transaction is zero-rated, this means that the Input VAT credit (on eligible goods or services bought by that business) will be available as input credit or as refund.

### Exempt Supplies:

- In an exempt supply, NO VAT is chargeable or payable but, unlike zero-rated supplies, related tax input is not recoverable.
- Hence the cost of exempt supplies gets increased due to non recoverable Input VAT paid on purchases from different type of vendor

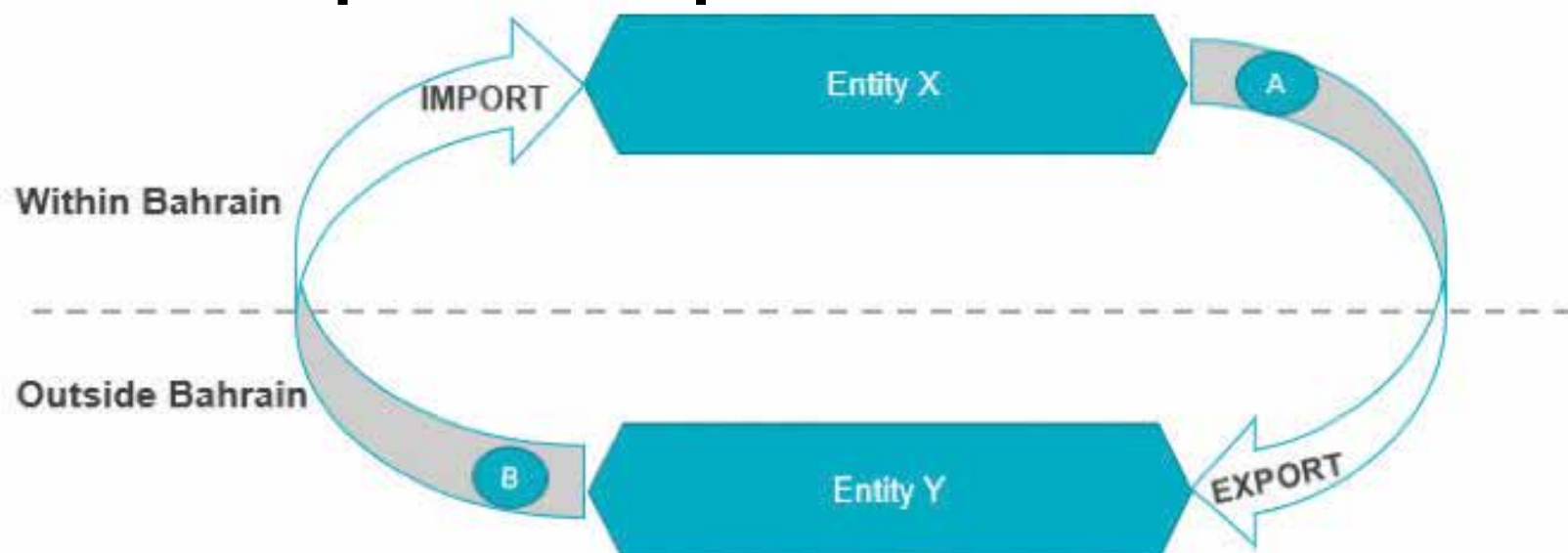
#### Note:

- Where a business makes both taxable supplies and exempt supplies, then the said business will not be able to recover all its input tax (i.e. those relating to exempt supplies).
- The GCC VAT Agreement suggests that member states can decide granting exemption or zero rated status for certain key sectors such as education, health-care, real estate, oil and gas.

## What is Reverse Charge VAT? In which cases does it apply?

- VAT is normally paid to the Government / Tax authority by the Seller. Seller collects this tax from the Buyer
- In exceptional cases, it is the Buyer and not the Seller who is required to pay VAT
- These cases are called Reverse Charge transactions and these are reported as taxable purchases by the Buyer in its VAT return
- Generally, Reverse Charge is applicable on the import of goods and services. In certain countries certain domestic transactions are also subjected to Reverse charge VAT.
- In the KSA and UAE, the Reverse Charge mechanism is applicable on imported goods and services from outside the respective country.

## How are exports and imports of Goods taxed in VAT?



- The guiding principle of VAT system of taxation is – Destination based tax (in most of the cases)
- This principle is applied on Export and Import of goods
- In the above diagram, there are 2 scenarios: A and B
- In scenario A, Entity X is exporting supplies from Bahrain to Entity Y (outside of Bahrain). In such a case:
  - export by Entity X will be treated as non-liable to VAT in Bahrain
  - at the same time, import of the supplies will attract Import VAT (Reverse Charge VAT) and payable by Entity Y in the destination country.
- In Scenario B, Entity X is importing supplies in Bahrain from Entity Y. The tax implication is reverse:
  - No VAT payable by Entity Y in origin country
  - Import VAT (Reverse charge VAT) payable by Entity X in Bahrain (destination country)

(for the above example, it has been assumed that VAT is applicable in Bahrain).

(This is **part 4** of a **multi-part series** presented by award-winning VAT Experts Dhruva Advisors – Bahrain. **Part 5** of the series **will be published on Sunday**)

\*\*\*This series is only for educational purposes. To receive advice for a specific business scenario, please consult a tax expert.

# Batelco backs FinTech Bay



From left to right, Batelco Bahrain CEO Mohamed Bubashait, Batelco Chief Marketing Officer Abderrahmane Mounir and Batelco Head of Corporate Communications & Marketing Shaikh Bader Al Khalifa

## Manama

**B**atelco yesterday announced its backing to Bahrain FinTech Bay (BFB) by joining it as a founding partner.

Batelco joins other leading companies including Bahrain Economic Development Board who are onboard to drive the acceleration of the FinTech ecosystem in Bahrain and the Middle East.

Bahrain FinTech Bay's objectives are to foster synergies among market players, including government bodies, financial institutions, corporates,

## For accelerating FinTech ecosystem in the Kingdom

investors and innovators.

Batelco Bahrain CEO Mohamed Bubashait, who attended the launch of Bahrain FinTech Bay and will represent Batelco on its Board, said that Batelco is delighted to be among the founding partners of the new company which is the largest dedicated FinTech hub in

the region.

"Batelco has been making inroads into the world of FinTech technology with the recent introduction of its new FinTech product, bWallet, launched in collaboration with Arab Financial Services."

"We are committed to ensuring the best in class digital and FinTech solutions for Bahrain's consumers and businesses and this move is another step in the journey towards meeting the Kingdom's 2030 vision which is high on our agenda," Bubashait commented.

# Saudi reshuffles military, promotes woman at ministry



Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud gestures as he attends Janadriyah Festival on the northern outskirts of Riyadh

## Riyadh

**S**audi Arabia has replaced some of its top military officers in a series of personnel changes that elevate a younger generation and bring a woman into a senior government job.

In a reshuffle announced late on Monday, the military chief of staff, air defence and land forces heads and senior defence and interior ministry officials were removed. Tamadur bint Youssef al-Ramah became deputy labour minister, a rare high-level job for a woman in the kingdom.

The latest personnel changes were decreed by King Salman and published in state media.

The new military chief of staff was named as First Lieutenant Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwayli.

The decrees included adopting a new strategy to restructure the defence ministry for improved organisation and governance.

Defence contracts with U.S. and

European companies have long been a source of corruption and Prince Mohammed has said in a television interview that it is "unacceptable" that high military spending has not translated into better performance.

A source familiar with the defence ministry restructuring plan told Reuters it was aimed at reducing inefficiency and corruption.

Khalid Biyari, appointed aide to the defence minister, left his post as chief executive of Saudi Telecom.

The decrees also included the appointment of three deputy governors from among the descendants of Princes Ahmed, Talal and Muqrin - brothers of King Salman.

One of them, new deputy governor of Asir province, Prince Turki bin Talal, is the brother of billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, who was detained in the government's anti-corruption campaign and released only last month. (Reuters)

# Sherlock Holmes presents UB40, Rats In The Kitchen tribute band

Gulf Hotel Bahrain has announced bringing from Birmingham, the home city of reggae giants UB40, Rats In The Kitchen! The world's number 1 UB40 Tribute Show is currently touring the UK, Ireland, Europe and recently India.



Cool Trends

## Live in Bahrain

Coming to Bahrain this 1st and 2nd of March, the UB40, Rats In the Kitchen is a fully live, eight piece band, formed in 1998, performing pulsating reggae hits now spanning more than 25 years! Featuring early hits such as 'King', 'Food For Thought' and 'Red Red Wine' through to some of UB40's most recent work combined with some foot stomping 80's Ska.

## The UB40 Rats:

- **Box** vocals -guitar
- **Longdraw** vocals-guitar
- **KP** sax - ewi - backing vocals
- **Freebie Cheesecake** tenor trombone - vocals
- **Liam** sound engineer
- **Bill** session bass player
- **Horatio Hawkins** trumpet - fluegelhorn
- **Two Hands Jones** bass guitar
- **Joey Evans** keyboards
- **Dynamo Dan** drums

## Show timings

1st March - 9pm Tickets

: BD 5 - Advance BD 7 - On the night

2nd March - 12:30pm to 4pm Tickets

: BD 20 - Advance BD 25 - On the night

**Traditional Pub Brunch Party**

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## Comcast challenges Murdoch

London

US cable giant Comcast offered to buy Sky for \$31 billion in an unsolicited approach, taking on Rupert Murdoch's Fox and Bob Iger's Walt Disney in the battle for Europe's biggest pay-TV group. The company, which owns NBC and Universal Pictures said it proposed to offer 12.50 pounds per share, significantly higher than the 10.75 pounds Fox had agreed to pay for the British company.



## UK banks to help pay off card debts

London

Britain's Financial Conduct Authority ordered banks on Tuesday to take steps to help people with persistent credit card debt to keep up with repayments. The new rules will, however, will still allow banks to suspend a credit card if a customer fails to make any progress in repaying debts. The changes are based on a study of 34m credit card customers.



“

Sanctions are not an end in themselves and not meant to bring down North Korea but to make it understand that its future lies not in nuclear weapons but in working with the global community towards denuclearisation. Our consistent message should be that it must make the right decision. And if it does, we are ready to work together towards a brighter and prosperous future for North Korea.”

-Kang Kyung-Wha,

South Korea's Foreign Minister



# ASRY completes landing platform for LNG terminal

Manama

ASRY has completed the construction of a boat landing platform to be commissioned by Six Construct that will form part of the ongoing new LNG terminal under development in Bahrain.

The platform was indigenously built and fully fabricated within ASRY.

“Completing projects such as this landing platform signifies two sources of pride

for ASRY,” commented ASRY CEO Andrew Shaw at the load-out of the structure. “Firstly it is very gratifying to have ASRY contribute to a nationally significant initiative such as the Bahrain LNG Terminal, which will be an important step forward in the country's energy strategy. And secondly, this represents another successful project for ASRY in the fabrication sector, which will be a growth area for ASRY as

we move forward.”

“Winning this contract against other fabrication yards, not shipyards, is an encouraging sign for our fabrication workmanship,” added ASRY New Construction and Engineering Senior Manager Sauvir Sarkar. The landing platform was completed on schedule in 90 days and on budget, with all components being fully fabricated within ASRY, and designed to

replace costly built sections.

The success of the project has opened up negotiations for the shipyard to assist in further projects relating to the LNG terminal.

ASRY also recently completed a subsea section of a new wellhead platform for Schlumberger and Bapco, in an ongoing drive to leverage the yards experience and facilities, which are well-suited to the fabrication sector.



## SABIC in talks to join Iraq's Nebras project

Berlin

Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC), the world's fourth-biggest petrochemicals company, is in talks to become a partner in Iraq's Nebras petrochemical project,

an advisor to Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said yesterday.

Kadhim Mohammed Jawad Hassan said on the sidelines of CWC's Iraq Petroleum Conference in Berlin that talks

between Saudi Arabia and Iraq on the project are advanced and at the ministerial level.

He said SABIC would enter as a fourth partner with Royal Dutch Shell, and the Iraqi oil

and agriculture ministries.

SABIC was planning to open an office in Iraq late last year. The Nebras project is still in the pre-FEED (front end engineering design) stage. (Reuters)

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# Towards a connected world

## Huawei unveils 5G, all-Cloud network, video, and IoT at MWC

### Barcelona

**H**uawei announced it will launch over 20 new products at the 'Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2018' in Barcelona, which includes technologies and solutions for 5G, All-Cloud network, video and IoT.

"We are exploring the industry ourselves, and we have over 300 carriers and partners with us here, showing our cutting-edge technologies and services in action, including 5G, video, and IoT," said Huawei Rotating CEO Ken Hu.

In a statement released, the company said it will showcase the results of its work with over 300 partners, host five forums, and share its experience and ideas with the industry. The aim is to jointly embark on the ROADS to a fully-connected, intelligent world.

Huawei also said it will report its progress with leading global carriers on 5G testing

and deployment at MWC. Huawei is an active player in the 5G Slicing Alliance, a new industry organisation announced at MWC to propel the industry forward.

"5G standards and technologies are maturing. As market demand continues to grow, Huawei plans to launch a full range of end-to-end 5G products, including customer premise equipment, to help carriers get a head start on 5G. Huawei will continue to develop new technologies and work with industry partners to develop a 5G ecosystem. The ultimate goal is to build a fully connected, intelligent world," added Ken Hu.

MWC runs from Feb 26 to March 1 in Barcelona, Spain. Huawei is showcasing its products and solutions at booth 1J50 in Fira Gran Via Hall 1, booth 3130 in Hall 3, and the Innovation City zone in Hall 4. For more info, visit <http://carrier.huawei.com/en/events/mwc2018>.



Huawei booth in MWC 2018

**HBL**

حبيب بنك البحرين  
HABIB BANK LIMITED

Retail Branch - Kingdom of Bahrain

Enriching Life

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2017

	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	16,158	10,979
Placements and balances with banks	12,993	12,190
Investments	6,613	10,319
Loans and advances	21,662	28,410
Other assets	260	1,154
Equipment	48	63
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>57,734</b>	<b>63,115</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deposit from other offices of the Bank	9	2,302
Deposits from customers	47,248	50,341
Other liabilities	848	783
	<b>48,105</b>	<b>53,426</b>
<b>HEAD OFFICE FUNDS</b>		
Capital	2,000	2,000
Reserve	1,500	1,500
Unremitted profit due to Head Office	6,129	6,174
Fair value reserve for Available for sale investments	-	15
	<b>9,629</b>	<b>9,689</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS</b>	<b>57,734</b>	<b>63,115</b>

The above figures have been extracted from the Financial Statements audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers ME Limited, Kingdom of Bahrain, who expressed an unqualified opinion on 27 February 2018.

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000
Interest income	2,233	2,257
Interest expense	(809)	(693)
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>1,564</b>
Other income	592	570
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>2,016</b>	<b>2,134</b>
Staff expenses	(785)	(716)
Rent and utilities	(162)	(155)
Depreciation	(32)	(32)
Other operating expenses	(313)	(306)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(1,292)</b>	<b>(1,209)</b>
<b>Profit for the year before recoveries</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>925</b>
Impairment of credit losses	(392)	(458)
<b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>467</b>
Other comprehensive income:		
Other comprehensive loss to be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:		
Gain on sale of available for sale investments recycled to profit and loss	(93)	-
Fair value reserves (available-for-sale investment):	78	15
Net changes in fair value during the year	(15)	15
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>482</b>

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Capital BD '000	Reserve BD '000	Available for sale reserve BD '000	Unremitted profit due to Head Office BD '000	Total BD '000
At 1 January 2017	2,000	1,500	15	6,174	9,689
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	332	332
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	(15)	-	(15)
Profit remitted to Head Office	-	-	-	(377)	(377)
<b>At 31 December 2017</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>9,629</b>
At 1 January 2016	2,000	1,500	-	6,084	9,584
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	467	467
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	15	-	15
Profit remitted to Head Office	-	-	-	(377)	(377)
At 31 December 2016	2,000	1,500	15	6,174	9,689

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Profit for the year	332	467
Adjustments:		
Depreciation	(32)	32
Impairment of credit losses	392	458
Gain on sale of investments	(93)	-
Accretion of premium	136	78
	<b>735</b>	<b>1,035</b>
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Mandatory reserve with the CBB	26	(160)
Loans and advances	6,356	(384)
Other assets	894	(705)
Deposits from customers	(3,093)	10,575
Deposits from other offices of the Bank	(2,293)	(1,166)
Other liabilities	65	191
Placements with original maturity of more than ninety days	2,262	-
	<b>4,952</b>	<b>9,386</b>
Net cash generated from operating activities	<b>4,952</b>	<b>9,386</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of investments	(7,525)	(9,588)
Proceeds from realisation of investments	11,173	-
Purchase of equipment	47	(16)
	<b>3,695</b>	<b>(9,604)</b>
Net cash generated from / (used in) investing activities	<b>3,695</b>	<b>(9,604)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITY</b>		
Profit remitted to Head Office	(377)	(377)
	<b>(377)</b>	<b>(377)</b>
Net cash used in financing activity	<b>(377)</b>	<b>(377)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASED IN) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>8,270</b>	<b>(595)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	9,889	10,484
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>18,159</b>	<b>9,889</b>

## Did You Know?



As a reward for record profits, the CEO of Lenovo, Yang Yuanqing, received a \$3 million bonus, which he redistributed to about 10,000 of Lenovo's employees. He did the same again in 2013.



## BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3025	0.3001
BANGLADESH	0.00472	0.00453
CANADA	0.3032	0.3000
DENMARK	0.0655	
EGYPT	0.0237	0.0219
EURO	0.4714	0.4689
HONGKONG	0.04967	0.04927
INDIA	0.00599	0.00585
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002825
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000317	
JAPAN	0.00368	0.003610
JORDAN	0.5359	0.5351
KOREA	0.00040276	
KUWAIT	1.263	1.263
MALAYSIA	0.0989	0.0987
NEW ZEALAND	0.2787	0.2787
NORWAY	0.0503	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00364
OMAN	0.98168	0.98301
PAKISTAN	0.00354	0.00342
PHILIPPINES	0.00752	0.00726
QATAR	0.10381	0.10404
SAUDI ARABIA	0.1006	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2910	0.2890
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03390	0.03380
SRI LANKA	0.00277	0.00244
SWEDISH	0.0494	
SWITZERLAND	0.4101	0.4071
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013600	
THAILAND	0.012210	0.012220
TURKEY	0.1047	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5345	0.5316
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102850	0.102870
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

## GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.4037	0.3545
KUWAIT	0.2855	30.3658	0.3057	0.2684
OMAN	0.3849	0.3594	0.4122	0.3619
QATAR	3.6420	3.4009	3.9002	3.4242
UAE	3.6730	3.4298	3.9334	3.4534
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5018	4.0158	3.5258

# Gulf markets mostly weak, Egypt rises

## Closing Bell

SAUDI edged down 0.1pc to 7,465 points.

DUBAI fell 0.6pc to 3,286 points.

ABU DHABI edged up 0.1pc to 4,599 points.

QATAR dropped 0.7pc to 8,930 points.

EGYPT rose 0.5pc to 15,523 points.

KUWAIT gained 0.2pc to 6,770 points.

BAHRAIN fell 0.4pc to 1,366 points.

OMAN added 0.2pc to 4,993 points.

**Dubai**  
Major Gulf stock markets were mostly weak yesterday but Vodafone Qatar jumped by its 10 per cent daily limit in response to a stream of positive news from the company.

By far the most heavily traded stock in its market, Vodafone Qatar said its nine-month net loss narrowed 32pc and that its telecommunications licence had been extended by 40 years, which would cut annual amortisation costs sharply.

The company also said it planned to reduce its share capital by roughly half, while Vodafone will sell its stake in the firm to Qatar Foundation, whose direct and indirect stake in Vodafone Qatar will rise to 50pc from 27.05pc.

The Vodafone brand will remain in Qatar as part of a partnership agreement that will run for an initial term of five years. The Qatari stock index dropped 0.7pc, however, as Qatar Navigation fell 1.6pc

after reporting a 34pc slide in annual net profit. Qatar Electricity and Water tumbled 5.0pc as it went ex-dividend.

Real estate firm Ezdan fell 2.0pc as credit rating agency Standard & Poor's cut its rating of the company to BB-minus with a stable outlook from BB with a negative outlook.

Saudi Arabia's index edged down 0.1pc as 10 of 12 banking stocks declined. It was the third straight day that the sector fell, partly because of concern about authorities' decision to levy more Islamic tax on banks

retroactively.

But National Industrialisation Co (Tasnee) jumped 9.9pc in its biggest volume since May 2016, after reporting that annual net profit soared to 716.2 million riyals (\$195.1m) from 101.4m riyals.

It also said one of its units had signed a memorandum of understanding to explore the potential of establishing an aircraft precision machining facility in Saudi Arabia - a strategic project that is expected to receive government backing.

Dubai's index fell 0.6pc as

GFH Financial retreated 2.7pc and Shuaa Capital sank 3.6pc.

The stocks had risen sharply on Monday after the chief executive of Abu Dhabi Financial Group (ADFG), Jassim Alseddiqi, was elected chairman of GFH, raising hopes for closer cooperation between GFH and ADFG.

GFH held inconclusive merger talks with Shuaa last year but Shuaa is an affiliate of ADFG, so Alseddiqi's election also fuelled speculation that the talks could be revived.

However, Alseddiqi told Al Arabiya television on Monday that after last year's talks failed to produce a result, GFH was currently looking at other acquisitions.

In Egypt, the index rose 0.5pc. Egyptian Iron & Steel climbed 3.3pc after predicting a net loss of 116.1 million Egyptian pounds for its 2018-2019 fiscal year; in the first half of the current year, it posted a net loss of 231.3m pounds. (Reuters)

## Diesel cars can be banned, says court

**Leipzig**  
German cities can ban the most heavily polluting diesel cars from their streets, a court ruled yesterday, a move likely to be mirrored in other parts of Europe.

The ban in the birthplace of the modern automobile is a new blow for automakers, and an embarrassment for Chancellor Angela Merkel's government, which has come under fire for its close ties to the car industry, and had lobbied against a ban. Merkel noted that the



Cars are pictured near Germany's federal administrative court in Leipzig

ruling did not affect all drivers in Germany, but said the government would discuss

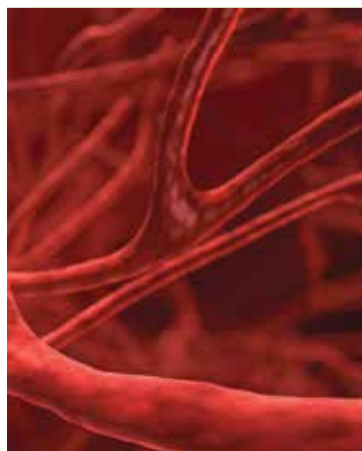
with regions and municipalities how to proceed.

The court on Tuesday

ordered the German cities of Stuttgart and Dueseldorf to amend their anti-pollution plans, saying that city bans can be implemented even without nationwide rules.

The court said that Stuttgart - the birthplace of the combustion engine and home of Mercedes-maker Daimler - should consider gradually imposing a year-round ban for all older diesel models, as well as some even older gasoline models. (Reuters)

Representative picture (Courtesy of The Middle East Magazine Online)



### Gene helps grow blood vessels

A new gene that helps grow blood vessels when it senses inadequate blood flow to tissues has been identified, an advance that can help improve treatments for heart diseases and stroke. STEEL (for spliced-transcript endothelial-enriched lncRNA), was one of the genes in a newly described group of genes called long non-coding RNAs, or lncRNAs that was found to sense inadequate blood flow in microscopic blood vessels. (IANS)



### Eating carbs not linked to risk for PMS

The amount of foods containing sugars or other carbohydrates that a woman eats has nothing to do with the likelihood she will start experiencing premenstrual syndrome (PMS). "While there are dietary recommendations to alleviate symptoms, such as increasing complex carbohydrates or to reduce sugar intake, there has been very little research done on risk factors for developing PMS," a researcher said. (Reuters)



# Common Thyroid Problems in Bahrain

**The Thyroid** is the most common endocrine disorder in Bahrain and it is diagnosed late in many cases. No specific survey or a study to estimate the disease but it is roughly more than 10% of adults and it's more in females. Most adults are now more aware of it from their family members with the disease or reading about it.

The thyroid is a gland, shaped like a butterfly, considered one of the largest endocrine glands in the body, and rests in the middle of the lower neck. Its primary function is to control the body's metabolism. The thyroid gland produces hormones that influence essentially every organ, tissue and cell in the body. If left untreated, thyroid disease can cause elevated cholesterol levels and subsequent heart disease, infertility, muscle weakness, osteoporosis and weight problems.

The thyroid gland is prone to several distinct problems, some of which are extremely common. These problems can be broken down into those concerning the production of hormone (too much, or too little), those due to increased growth of the thyroid causing compression of important neck structures or simply appearing as a mass in the neck, the formation of nodules

or lumps within the thyroid which are worrisome for the presence of thyroid cancer.

When the thyroid produces too much hormone, the body uses energy faster than it should. This condition is called hyperthyroidism. When the thyroid doesn't produce enough hormones, the body uses energy slower than it should. This condition is called hypothyroidism.

Thyroid disease can be difficult to diagnose because symptoms are easily confused with other conditions. Fortunately, there is a blood test that can identify thyroid disorders even before the onset of symptoms. When thyroid disease is caught early, treatment can control the disorder even before the onset of symptoms. Thyroid diseases could be life-long conditions but with careful management, people with thyroid disease can live healthy, normal lives.

### Underactive Thyroid Gland (hypothyroidism)

Common symptoms of the condition include tiredness, lack of concentration and forgetfulness, muscle aches, constipation, dryness of the skin, dry coarse hair, weight gain and heavy menstrual periods. Also, slow heart rate, intolerance to cold, puffiness around the eyes may also occur. In children, growth

may be delayed. In some people, the thyroid gland may be enlarged.

Thyroid hormone is important for women to get pregnant, as well is important for the fetus development especially in the first 3 months. Pregnancy is perfectly safe in women who are on stable thyroid hormone replacement. However, regular medical checks during pregnancy are important because of the possible increase in dose. It is most important that treatment should be continued, especially early in pregnancy.

### Overactive Thyroid Gland (Hyperthyroidism)

The clinical names for an overactive thyroid gland are: hyperthyroidism (excess of thyroid) but Graves' disease is the commonest form of the disease. It may run in families and can occur at any age. It is seen in women eight times more often than men.

Symptoms do not generally come all at once. The symptoms and signs are due to the effects of excess amounts of thyroid hormone on body function and metabolism. In simple terms, all the metabolic processes are "speeded up"; for

example, the pulse rate is rapid (over 100), bowel function is increased (diarrhoea), and the sweat glands work excessively. The nervous system is also stimulated so that the patient becomes irritable and nervous. Other common symptoms include muscle weakness, hand tremors, weight loss, sleep disturbances, enlarged thyroid gland, and infrequent scant menstrual periods. Vision problems, eye irritation, and bulging eyes, heat intolerance and frequent bowel movements happen. This may happen during pregnancy and could affect the outcome of pregnancy.

or are examined for other conditions.

However, physical examination alone cannot suffice to distinguish between benign and malignant nodules. One of the most important tests for nodules is the ultrasound, which determines size, shape, and solidity. The next step is to carry out a fine needle biopsy of the thyroid nodule. Cells and fluid are removed from the thyroid gland and examined by a pathologist to determine whether this is benign or malignant.

### Thyroid cancer

Thyroid cancer is uncommon but the incidence appears to be increasing by 4% per year. It is still currently the eighth commonest cancer in the USA but more importantly, it is the second commonest cancer among women in some Gulf countries. Thyroid cancer is the commonest malignant endocrine tumour but comprises only about 1% of all malignancies. In the time period between 1973 and 1997, the incidence of thyroid cancer is increased by 50% and the rise continues. It is believed that screenings and awareness campaigns are the cause of the rise. Diagnosis depends on cytological evaluation by aspirating some cells by a small needle.

### Thyroid Nodules

A thyroid "nodule" is a localized swelling within the thyroid gland. Of most concern is a single swelling, but sometimes it is part of a multiple nodule in a large thyroid. Nodules are common and often cause no symptoms. Using ultrasound of the neck, it is estimated that 40-50 % of middle people may have thyroid nodule without knowing. It is important to diagnose those nodules that may be malignant.

Thyroid nodules are usually small and painless. Most patients do not even notice the swelling. Their doctors find the swelling when they have routine medical checkups

**Thyroid disease can be difficult to diagnose because symptoms are easily confused with other conditions.**



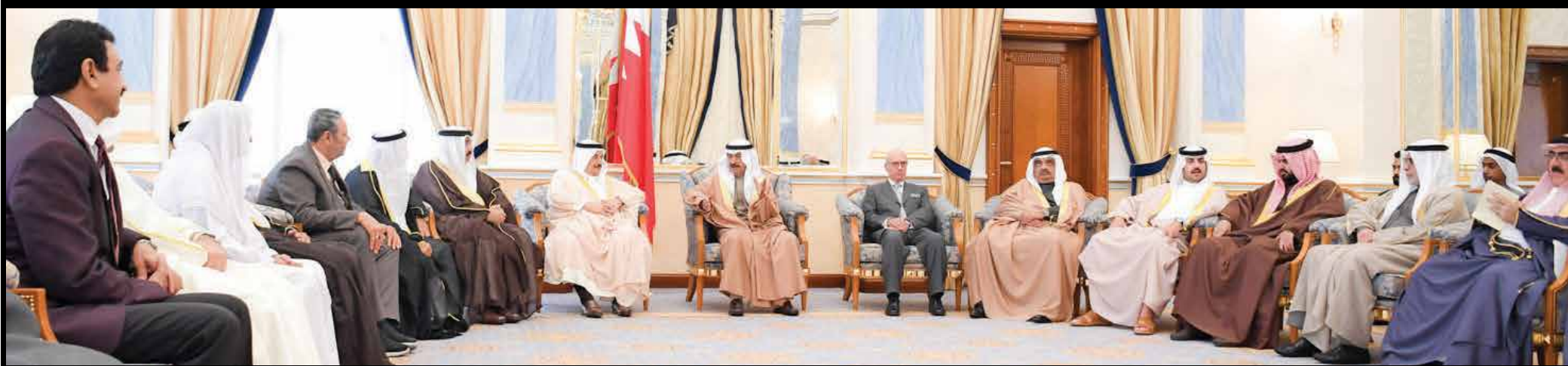
**Dr. Wiam I Hussein, MBBS, FACP, FACE**  
Senior Consultant Endocrinology and Diabetes, Bahrain



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa yesterday hailed the crucial role played by the legislative branch of government in strengthening the pillars of democracy, consolidating its contribution to the national development and highlighting social issues in Bahrain. HM the King made the statement as he received at Al-Sakhir Palace, Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, their deputies and members of the committees tasked to reply to the royal keynote speech.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday stressed the government's keenness to ensure that all its development programmes and projects benefit all regions across Bahrain.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received at Gudaibiya Palace board chairman and members of the Al-Naim Cultural and Sports Youth Centre, led by the centre's Honorary President, Mohammed Hassan Kamaluddin, and Chairman, Ghazi Abdul Mohsen. HRH Premier stressed the government's keenness to ensure that all its development programmes and projects benefit all regions across Bahrain.



The Royal Court's Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Bahrain, Abdul Ridha Abdulla Khoury. The minister conveyed the greetings and appreciation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the UAE ambassador, praising his efforts and role in bolstering the close ties.



Directorate of SMEs Development of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism in cooperation with Commercial Law Development Programme (CLDP) of U.S. Department of Commerce organised a workshop on "Best Practices for Establishing Procurement Procedures that Support Small Businesses", in presence of member of "Government Procurement Team" from 12 government agencies. During the workshop, Assistant Undersecretary of Industrial Development Abdulkarim Alrashid confirmed on the importance of this workshop to benefit from experts of Commercial Law Development Programme in providing advice and technical support to enhance Bahrain's efforts to develop SMEs.



Bahrain Airport Services Company (BAS) said it has participated in the Job Fair at the Applied Science University (ASU). BAS's representatives met jobseekers and highlighted how to create a successful career. Participants in the Career Day were also briefed on the training and career opportunities offered by BAS.



Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday members of officials and discussed with them a number of local issues. HRH the Premier said the government cooperation with the Representatives and Shura Councils out of belief that complementarity of the optimum way to achieve goals and promote national prosperity.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received outgoing UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, Abdul Ridha Abdulla Khoury, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. HRH Premier lauded the depth and strength of the deep-rooted fraternal Bahraini-UAE relations.



Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Essam Khalaf toured Hidd Industrial Area Roads Revamp Project yesterday. The minister said that the project aims to improve infrastructure in South Hidd (Preparatory Phase), now 86% complete.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza yesterday received Bahrain Association of Technology Companies (BTECH) Chairman Obaidly Al Obaidly and Worksmart Group Chief Executive Officer Ahmed Al Hujairy and praised the association's efforts in enhancing Bahrain's position in the field of information and communication technologies.

Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa yesterday reviewed the progress of service projects with officials from the concerned ministries. The meeting was attended by Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Undersecretaries Dr. Nabeel Dr. Nabil Abu Al-Fateh and Ahmed Al Khayat; Youth Affairs and Sports Assistant Undersecretary Khalid Al Haj; Education Undersecretary Nawal Al Khater; Southern Governorate Municipalities Director General Assim Abdullatif and a number of officials from service ministries concerned.



Northern Governor Ali bin Al-Shaikh Abdul Hussain Al Asfoor received yesterday Jordanian Ambassador to Bahrain Rami Saleh Warikat Al Adawan. He stressed historic and strategic relations between the two brotherly countries, expressing thanks for Jordan's supportive stances to Bahrain.



Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and Head of the High Organising Committee of Bahrain International Air Show (BIAS) Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday chaired the first meeting of the organising committee of the show's fifth edition which will be held from November 14 to 16. Shaikh Abdullah was received on arrival by Transportation and Telecommunication Minister Kamal Ahmed, members of the organising committee and officials. He listened to a briefing on the ongoing preparations as well as plans and programmes.



The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) celebrated Kuwait's national day by distributing gifts to visitors coming to Bahrain through the Bahrain International Airport and the King Fahad Causeway. Also, as a part of the celebration special travel packages were provided at special rates for visitors travelling from Kuwait. "We hope that this initiative will instill joy among all visitors," said Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa.



The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) organised a campaign in cooperation with the Manama Municipality to clean the beach next to the Bahrain Fort as part of its mission to protect and preserve the environment. More than 300 students from public and private schools took part in the campaign, on February 20. GPIC President Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery thanked the Gulf Petrochemical and Chemical Association (GPCA) Secretary General Dr. Abdulwahab Al Sadoun, Manama Municipality Director General Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa for making the campaign a success. Gloves, plastic bags and sunscreen caps, as well as drinking water, refreshments and snacks were provided by the Company.

# CELEBS



@JamesGunn

So I just read Chris Pratt's tweet to Kevin Smith saying he would pray for him & made the mistake of reading the comments, many of which go off on Chris for saying he'd pray. I think people misunderstand the backlash against "thoughts & prayers."

## I never had affair with Pratt: Lawrence



Los Angeles

**A**ctress Jennifer Lawrence was widely blamed by fans for actor Chris Pratt's split from wife Anna Faris. But Lawrence says she was never in a relationship with her "Passengers" co-star.

In an interview, the actress talked about the weirdest rumours she had heard about herself.

She also commented on speculation about her love life, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

"I never had an affair with Chris Pratt on 'Passengers'. That's a good one I mean they got a divorce like two years later and everybody was like (shouting) Jennifer Lawrence! And I was like what the 'what I'm in Montreal two years later,'" Lawrence said. (IANS)

Los Angeles

**A**ctress Gemma Chan has joined the cast of Brie Larson-starrer "Captain Marvel", the latest superhero film by Marvel Studios.

Directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck are helming the project which is set in the 1990s and is based on Carol Danvers (Larson), an Air Force pilot whose DNA fuses with that of an alien, sending her headlong into an intergalactic adventure.

The movie is Marvel's first female-fronted superhero film, reports *hollywoodreporter.com*.

Chan will play Captain Minnerva, a geneticist from the alien race Kree.

She is one of Marvel's antagonists in the comics. (IANS)



## GEMMA CHAN JOINS LARSON IN 'CAPTAIN MARVEL'

## Alicia Silverstone announces split

Los Angeles

**A**ctor Alicia Silverstone has announced that she is separating from her husband Christopher Jarecki.


The couple, who shares a son, six-year-old Bear Blue, were married for 13 years. They had dated for eight years prior to their marriage in 2005.

"They still deeply love and respect each other and remain very close friends but have mutually decided to separate after being together for 20 years.

Accordingly, they have a son together who they will continue to co-parent, a representative of Silverstone said in a statement.

The 41-year-old 'Clueless' star is currently vacationing with Bear in Hawaii. (PTI)





# START CAMERA ACTION

## Queen Latifah to Star in Alcon Drama 'Hope's Wish'



**Queen Latifah** has signed on to star in *Hope's Wish*, an inspirational true-life drama from Alcon Entertainment. Alcon is reuniting with Los Angeles-based finance and production company Torrison/16:14, with which it worked on *Blade Runner 2049*, to finance and produce the movie, which is scheduled to go before cameras April 9 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Laurie Collyer, who directed the Maggie Gyllenhaal drama *Sherrybaby*, will helm *Wish*, which has a script by Diana Ossana, who won an Oscar for writing *Brokeback Mountain*. The project adapts the non-fiction book *Hope's Wish: How One Girl's Dream Made Others Come True* by Stuart and Shelby Stout.

*Hope's Wish* is based on the true story of Hope Stout, a 12-year-old girl who, when diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, set out on a mission to fund the wishes of all the other health-challenged children in her part of North Carolina.

Latifah will play Make-A-Wish Foundation executive Toni Dubois, who worked with Stout to help raise the money.

Walden Media is set to produce the pic alongside Steven P. Wegner and Val Hill and Yale Badik of Torrison/16:14. Alcon's Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson will executive produce.

*Hope's Wish* will be released by Warner Bros. via Alcon's output deal with the studio. (*hollywoodreporter*)

## Emma Stone may play 'Wonder Woman 2' villain



Los Angeles

**Actress Emma Stone** is being considered to essay the character of Cheetah in "Wonder Woman 2".

According to That Hashtag Show website, the sequel to "Wonder Woman" will introduce

the clawed supervillain as its central antagonist.

The script of the project is developed by Patty Jenkins, Geoff Johns and Dave Callahan.











Created by William Moulton Marston, Cheetah has four different incarnations since the character's debut. (*IANS*)



**STARRY Birthday**  
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February 28, 1976

Actress who played both Niki Sanders and Tracy Strauss, two personalities on the hit TV show *Heroes*. She played Clear Rivers in *Final Destination* and *Final Destination 2*.

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Justin Timberlake
2.  **2. Black Panther-The Album, Music From And Inspired By Soundtrack**
3.  **3. The Greatest Showman Soundtrack**
4.  **4. Fifty Shades Freed Soundtrack**
5.  **5. NOW 65**  
Various Artists
6.  **6. Divide**  
Ed Sheeran
7.  **7. From A Room: Volume 2**  
Chris Stapleton
8.  **8. 24K Magic**  
Bruno Mars
9.  **9. Sleepwalkers**  
Brian Fallon
10.  **10. From A Room: Volume 1**  
Chris Stapleton



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### HOW TO REACH US

"Out & About", a ready reckoner for the events taking place on the island, is published from Friday to Tuesday. To be included, please send the matter to the following email ID : news@dt.bh

# OUT & ABOUT

### SCENAMADRE

Date: 27 March - 27 May 2018, 8:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Bahrain National Theatre

In celebration of the World Theatre Day, the Bahrain National Theatre hosts SCENAMADRE, an exhibition curated by the Accademia Albertina Di Belle Arte in Torino, Italy. The display features a collection of models that illustrate the history of theatre set design and highlights the story of scenic architecture in the world of theatre, scenography and stage design.

### MUSIC AND MIRRORS BY JAMAL ABDULRAHIM

Date: 4 - 30 April 2018, 9:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Art Centre

Bahraini Artist, Jamal Abdulrahim, has been presenting abstract and experimental art throughout his 30 years of works. Such works were representations of his continuous studies and research of lines, colours and compositions. In this upcoming solo exhibition, Music and Mirrors, Jamal Abdulrahim revisits the Realism school of art and presents his newly developed approach to this classic school.

### AFTER WORK BARBEQUE @ OASIS

Date: Every Thursday

Venue: Ramada Bahrain Adliya

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more information, please call +973 17742000 or visit our website: www.ramadabahrain.com

### BAHRAINI FARMER'S MARKET

Date: till 31st March 2018

Venue: Budaiya Botanical Gardens

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

### FOOD IS CULTURE III

Date: 21 January - 25 February 2018, 7:00-9:00pm

Venue: Bahrain National Museum

Food is Culture is a creative experimental project that aims to bridge together the mediums of art and food. Running in parallel with the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, this experiment sheds light on creative processes that take place when two individuals (from different creative disciplines) collaborate. Every year five artists and five chefs get together and work to produce a creative product; be it a painting, installation, video, cake, drink, all or something completely different. The result of their two months' work, which is documented in a short film and a publication, will be presented during the course of the week, where they share and display their collective creations.

### MOVENPICK HOTEL

Date: Every Monday

Venue: Silk's restaurant

Time: 7.00 pm to 11.00pm

Seafood Night - The freshest catch of the day

Experience a unique medley of super succulent seafood delicacies and taste the freshest catch every Monday on Seafood Night at Silk's restaurant. What makes it an ideal night out for seafood lovers? The best selection of popular and traditional seafood dishes. On the buffet table is a vast range of aquatic delicacies, from sushi, sashimi, seafood dim sum, tempura, oysters, slipper lobster and tiger prawns, to popular fish such as grouper and red snapper. Our talented team of chefs will prepare your favourite catch, just the way you like it. Seafood Night is priced at BD 24 net and BHD 29 net per person including unlimited selected wines, beers and soft drinks from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm. For more information, call +973 17 460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com.

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Date: Every Tuesday

Venue: Silk's restaurant

Time: 7.00pm to 11.00pm

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or BD 30 including unlimited selected wine and beer. Call +973 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com for bookings.

### THURSDAY NIGHT OUT

Date: Every Thursday

Venue: Gallery lobby and Silk's restaurant

Time: 7.00pm to 11.00pm

Relish prime US beef, unlimited exotic cocktails, beers, wines and gourmet food cooked to perfection every Thursday at Silk's restaurant from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm. To set the perfect mood for an eventful night, our resident DJ will be playing tunes as guests dine for only BHD 32.00 net per person, including unlimited beverages. Call +973 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com for bookings.

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Venue: Silk's restaurant and Outdoor terrace

Time: 7 pm onwards

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preferred. Minimum 3 years' experience & good communication skills mandatory. Send CV to classifieds@dt.bh

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BD 12/- per single column centimetre (minimum 4cm)

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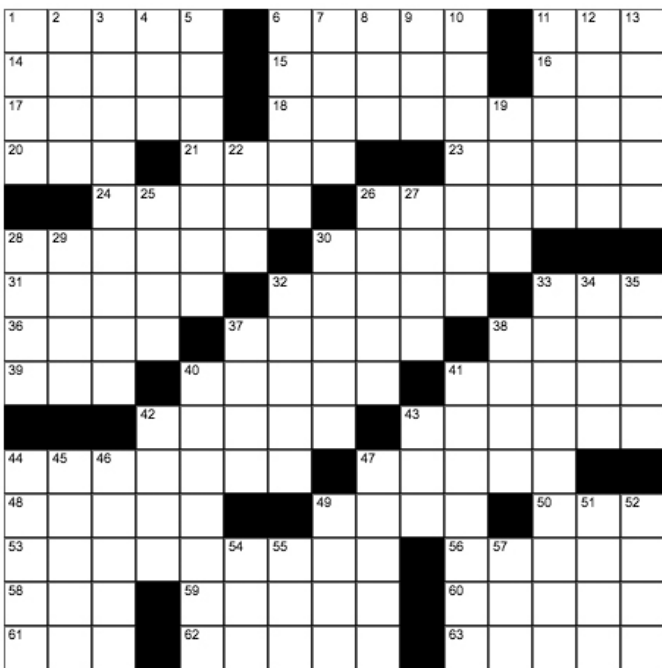
## DEADLINE

Lineage 11am  
Display 9am  
Cancellation 12pm

## WORKING HOURS

Saturday to Thursday  
8 am - 6 pm

# CROSSWORD



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### Across

1 Specific geographical places; 6 One of superior rank; 11 Lotion letters; 14 Glad; 15 Lowbudget prefix; 16 \_\_\_Mart; 17 Gives off; 18 Republic in S South America; 20 Ed.'s inbox filler; 21 Daly of "Judging Amy"; 23 Jeter of the Yankees; 24 Chirp; 26 Normally; 28 Sweeping implements; 30 Scrub (a mission); 31 Actor's parts; 32 Sarge's superior; 33 Ciaol; 36 Burrows and Vigoda; 37 Clear of vermin; 38 Greek temple; 39 \_\_\_ anglais (English horn); 40 Marriot t competitor; 41 Ship floors; 42 I \_\_\_ vacation!; 43 Federal soldier in the Civil War; 44 Tidal river; 47 Enticed; 48 Spoil; 49 Auction off; 50 Mythical bird; 53 Showing no remorse; 56 Novelist Calvino; 58 \_\_\_ Rosenkavalier; 59 At attention; 60 Like some checking accounts; 61 Time to remember; 62 Totaled, as a bill; 63 Boarded;

### Down

1 Excuse me; 2 Super Bowl XXXIV champs; 3 Letter-writer; 4 Quick on the uptake; 5 Methods; 6 Intended; 7 Land unit; 8 Slow run; 9 The loneliest number; 10 Graceful roundness; 11 Eddy; 12 Discussion group; 13 Like good pie crusts; 19 Nipple; 22 Assertive reply; 25 Troubles; 26 German submarine; 27 And \_\_\_ goes; 28 Brica\_\_\_; 29 \_\_\_ Cop; 30 It comes from the heart; 32 Dull; 33 Explosive surge in a fire; 34 Symbol of slavery; 35 "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 37 Textile worker; 38 Hawaiian goose; 40 Low shrub; 41 One dearly loved; 42 Sisters; 43 Actor Brynner; 44 Musical study piece; 45 Less loony; 46 Jewelled crown worn by women; 47 Resulted in; 49 Faction of a group, often religious; 51 Bread spread; 52 "Barton Fink" director; 54 Altar constellation; 55 Guys; 57 Likewise;

## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU

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

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

### 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)



A rebirth of romance in your life could take place today. If you're currently involved with someone, a happy event could enrich the bond between you and bring you closer together. If you aren't presently attached, you could be by the end of the day.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Today you might notice a change in yourself. You could look in the mirror and see that you suddenly look as gorgeous as a movie star. This change in your outer self is due to transformations taking place within. You've probably been releasing old traumas from the past, and therefore considerable stress and tension have vanished from your face.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



An unexpected conversation with a current or potential romantic partner could end with both of you revealing a lot of your deepest feelings. This discussion may only indirectly concern the status of your relationship, but you will learn a lot about each other that could cause you to seriously consider whether or not you want to continue the relationship.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Some rather intense work, perhaps involving in-depth research, could take up much of your time today. You could spend a lot of time in libraries or on the Internet trying to discern certain facts that you need for a project that could make a big difference in your income. This can be exciting, but there is one caution: remember to rest your eyes from time to time.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Today, you could direct an overwhelming amount of love and passion toward a current or potential romantic partner. Your friend might feel a little taken aback, but is likely to be flattered and therefore respond in a positive manner. This might not have the potential to become a committed relationship, so don't expect anything from it.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Information that you retrieve from deep within your psyche might lead to a revelation as to a great way to increase your income. This could be something you read and forgot, or it might be something you overheard in a restaurant. Whatever it is, look into it carefully, and then if the information seems to be accurate and useful, go for it.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Today, you might attend a group event of some kind. While there, you could encounter an old friend who seems to have changed. As a result, you might find this person very attractive and direct a rush of physical passion their way. This could be disconcerting, but don't brush it off because you've always thought of this person as a friend.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



A new creative project of some kind, perhaps involving modern technology, could set your career in a new direction. This may be the break you've been hoping for, and you're apt to be very excited about it. Any new enterprise begun today is going to have its ups and downs, but all signs indicate that it will succeed. Consider the project carefully before making a decision.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



If you're taking a trip any time soon, you can expect to experience a powerful attraction for someone you meet along the way. This will definitely make your journey more interesting; however, the friendship might not survive the trip. You may be from opposite sides of the country, and one or both of you could be involved with other people. If neither of those restrictions applies, it's worth pursuing.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



You could soon receive news of an unexpected cash inflow. This might be money earned on your own, but it's more likely to be investment income. If you own stocks, bonds, or land, expect their value to skyrocket. If you work for a company that has a good profit-sharing plan, don't be surprised if the amount of profits earned this year doubles. Whichever it is, you're on your way!

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Today the energy is on partnerships, probably those begun on the spur of the moment. You and a colleague might have a conversation about the possibility of going into business together. There is also the possibility that you could fall in love at first sight. Any sort of partnership formed today will have its ups and downs, but with work, it could succeed.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Have you been entertaining the idea of changing jobs? If so, put out some feelers today. You've been working hard and may have felt as if you've been barking up the wrong tree. Don't hesitate to research possibilities on the Internet, prepare your resume, and chat up knowledgeable people in social situations. It's time to pass carefully from reflection to action.

# Church crisis in Jerusalem: talks continue

## Jerusalem

**T**he mayor of Jerusalem yesterday said he was working with a third party to resolve a tax dispute with major Christian denominations that has led to the closure of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one of Christianity's holiest sites, just ahead of the busy Easter season.

Mayor Nir Barkat declined to identify the third party, but expressed hope the dispute would soon be resolved.

"I'm going to negotiate in the right way to hopefully resolve this," Barkat said.

"But the churches will also have to seek and think of how to work something out," he said. "Naturally not I, not

the churches, not the national government are happy with this situation," Barkat said in his office in central Jerusalem.

Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and other Christian leaders on Sunday closed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to protest Barkat's decision to force them to pay property taxes.

Christian leaders have said the building will remain closed indefinitely. Barkat said his order applies only to "commercial properties, such as hotels and office space, and does not affect houses of worship. He said his decision is in line with norms around the world, and called the church's closure "unfortunate."

"As the mayor of the city of Jerusalem, my goal and role is to make sure people pay their taxes," he said. "We have no negative or bad intentions here. Positioning this as if though, God forbid, we have something against the churches is totally unfair."

The churches say their properties are all used for church-related purposes that benefit pilgrims and their local flocks.

They also accuse Barkat of violating a longstanding status quo agreement and acting in an underhanded manner by not notifying them ahead of time about his plans. Church leaders say they learned of the new tax plan through the media. (AP)



Visitors pray outside the closed doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

# German town to keep bell dedicated to Hitler

## Berlin

**A** small town in southwestern Germany has decided to keep a church bell dedicated to Adolf Hitler ringing, but as a memorial to spark dialogue about violence and injustice.

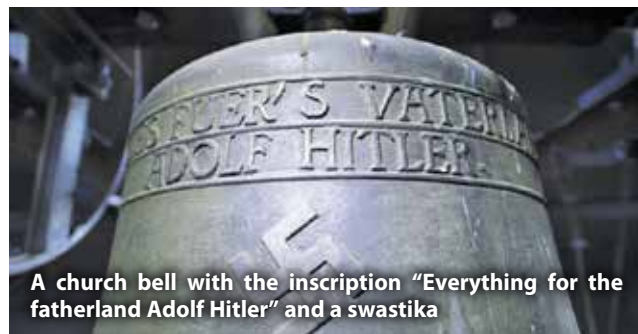
The *dpa news agency* reported Tuesday the Herxheim am Berg council voted 10-3 to preserve the bell, which carries the inscription "Everything for the Fatherland - Adolf Hitler" above a Nazi swastika, as a memorial in its Protestant church.

State church authorities had offered to fund replacing the bell, which were widespread during

the Nazi era but mostly removed after the war.

But a study had concluded removing it would be akin to "fleeing from an appropriate

culture of remembrance" and recommended either leaving it in place with an explanatory plaque, or putting it in a museum. (AP)



A church bell with the inscription "Everything for the fatherland Adolf Hitler" and a swastika

## #PollToday



**Do you think all other countries should follow Germany's lead in banning diesel cars to force automakers to switch to cleaner vehicles?**

Yes  No  Cant Say



The United States seeks to move toward a new relationship with Pakistan, based on a shared commitment to defeat all terrorist groups that threaten regional stability,"

- Lisa Curtis,

Deputy Assistant to the US President

## Rest in sight

**Thai elections to be held by next February**



The prime minister of Thailand's military government, which took power in a coup in 2014, said Tuesday the country will have elections by February next year.

**Maldives minister resigns, urges international help**

Maldives State Health Minister Dunya Maumoon has resigned, she said in a letter on Tuesday, grieved by the arrest of her father, the island nation's longest-serving leader.

**Two killed as snow, sub-zero paralyze Europe**

Two people were found dead in Romania as snow and sub-zero temperatures across much of Europe saw flights canceled, road and rail transport disrupted and schools closed on Tuesday.

**Erdogan criticized for speaking of martyrdom for small girl**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has come under criticism for telling a small girl dressed in a military uniform that she would be honored if she were "martyred" for Turkey.

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# Saudi Crown Prince to visit Britain on March 7: report



## London

**Saudi Crown Prince** Mohammed bin Salman will begin a visit to Britain on March 7 which will include talks with Prime Minister Theresa May on topics such as extremism and societal reform, May's spokesman said on Tuesday.

"The visit will usher in a new era in bilateral relations focused on a partnership that delivers wide-ranging benefits for both the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the spokesman said.

"The visit will also provide an opportunity to enhance our co-operation in tackling international challenges such as terrorism, extremism, the conflict and humanitarian crisis in Yemen and other regional issues such as Iraq and Syria."

May discussed the visit with her cabinet earlier on Tuesday, including the much anticipated stock market listing of state oil company Saudi Aramco - potentially the biggest listing in history and the subject of a high profile tug of war between Britain and the United States.

"The fact that there is a potential listing of Saudi Aramco was discussed, but in no more terms than that," the spokesman said.

In a separate statement issued after the meeting with her cabinet, May said the crown prince's visit - his first since his appointment in June 2017 - would allow Britain to talk "frankly and constructively" about areas of concern like Yemen and security in the Middle East. (Reuters)

# Sridevi's body brought home from Dubai, funeral today



Ambulance carrying mortal remains of Sridevi arrives at her residence in Mumbai

## Mumbai

**T**he body of Sridevi was flown back to Mumbai on Tuesday evening, three days after her sudden death in a Dubai hotel triggered a frenzy of grief and disbelief across the country.

Family members, including filmmaker husband Boney Kapoor and stepson Arjun Kapoor, brought back the mortal remains on a private plane that had been parked at the Dubai airport since Sunday morning after the authorities there ruled out any foul play in her death and completed all formalities.

The flight landed here around 9.30 pm. Anil Ambani, wife Tina Ambani and Anil Kapoor were among those at the airport. A sea

of people had also gathered to catch a final glimpse of their favourite actress and to pay their respects. Her body was then taken to the Lokhandwala residence of the Kapoors where scores of police personnel and private security men were deployed for crowd management.

Sridevi, known as Indian cinema's first woman superstar, leaves behind her husband Boney Kapoor and their two daughters Jahnvi and Khushi.

The family issued a statement thanking "the film fraternity, media, fans of late Sridevi Kapoor and all the well-wishers for their prayers, support and sensitivity during our moment of immense grief. (News 18)

# Discovery of DNA double helix

The 65th anniversary of the publication of the structure of DNA by James D. Watson, Francis H.C. Crick, Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins takes place as scientists debate the ethics of new gene editing techniques.

It was Saturday lunchtime on February 28, 1953, when two Cambridge University scientists pushed open the doors of The Eagle, a favourite pub for researchers at the nearby Cavendish laboratory.

The duo, 25-year-old American bacteriologist and birdwatcher James Watson and Francis Crick, a 37-year-old British physicist, announced that they had unravelled the double helix structure of deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, saying: "We have discovered the secret of life!"

The momentous discovery was made possible by the research of Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins, who produced X-ray diffraction photographs of DNA at King's College in London. Franklin's DNA picture experimentally confirmed the correctness of the theoretical double helical model Watson and Crick were developing.

Watson and Crick published their findings in *Nature*, suggesting that the two coiled strands of DNA allowed it to create identical copies of itself, creating a link between generations.

## Unravelling the code of life

**1869: Nuclein** – now known as **DNA** or deoxyribonucleic acid – isolated from nuclei of white blood cells

**1879: Chromosomes** discovered within nucleus of cell

**1900:** Building blocks of DNA established as phosphate and sugar (deoxyribose) and four bases (nucleotides) **adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), thymine (T)**

**1933:** Chromosomes shown to contain DNA

**1941:** "One gene-one protein" hypothesis

**1944:** Discovery that DNA, not protein, is material of inheritance

**1953: James Watson and Francis Crick** (clockwise from top left) – guided by X-ray photographs taken by **Maurice Wilkins** and **Rosalind Franklin** – discover double-helix structure of DNA

**1961: Marshall Nirenberg** deciphers genetic code, revealing sequence of amino acids in protein molecules

**1977: Walter Gilbert and Frederick Sanger** devise techniques for sequencing order of base pairs

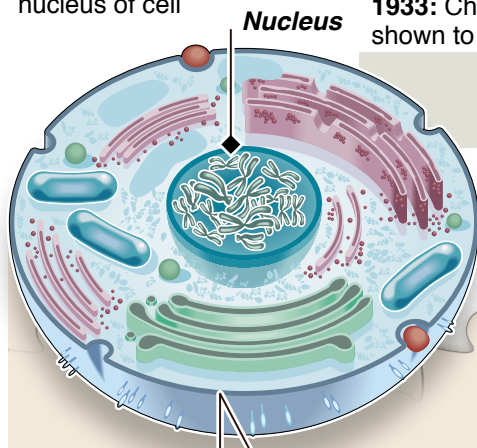
**1986: Leroy Hood** develops first high-speed automated DNA sequencer



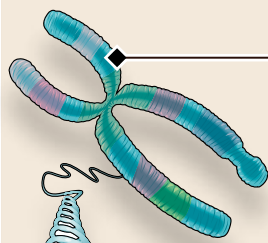
**1990: Human Genome Project** begins with goal of sequencing nucleotides and mapping all genes in human DNA

**June 2000:** U.S. President **Bill Clinton** announces that 85% of genome has been sequenced. Research now shifts to discovering how individual genes within chromosomes vary

**2006:** Sequence of last human chromosome published. Chromosome 1 is largest with 4,316 genes, made up of some 249 million base pairs



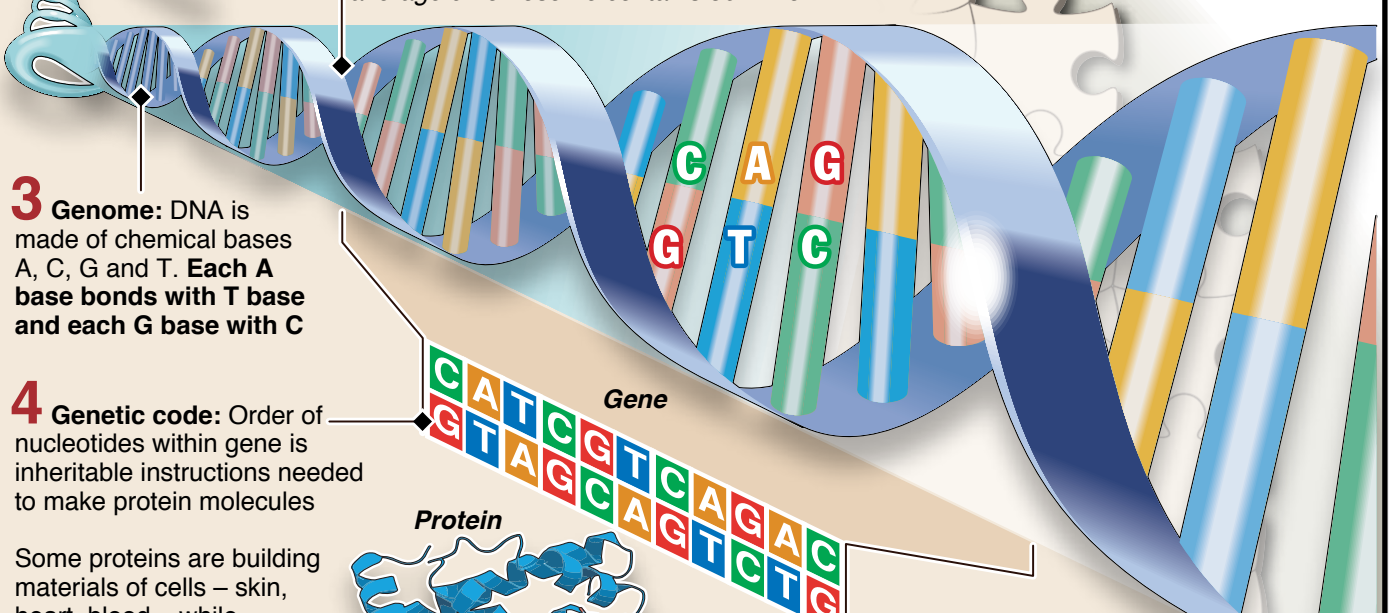
**1 Human cell:** Nucleus of every cell contains 46 chromosomes, 23 from each parent



**2 Chromosome:** Each chromosome is comprised of one tightly coiled molecule of DNA with proteins that serve to package DNA and control its functions. **DNA carries unique genetic code that determines characteristics of each person**

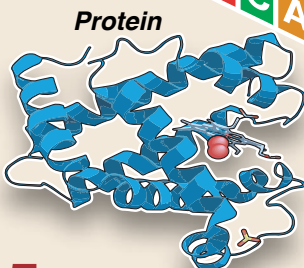
**DNA:** Uncoiled molecule is so large that average chromosome contains 50mm of DNA

Cost per human genome (2001) **\$95.3 million**

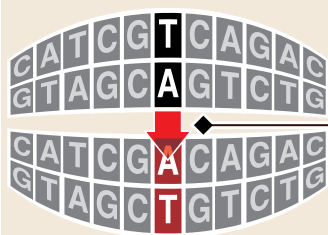


**3 Genome:** DNA is made of chemical bases A, C, G and T. **Each A base bonds with T base and each G base with C**

**4 Genetic code:** Order of nucleotides within gene is inheritable instructions needed to make protein molecules



Some proteins are building materials of cells – skin, heart, blood – while others control biological processes such as digesting food or carrying oxygen in blood



**5 Mutations:** Alterations to sequence of code can result in proteins with incorrect form and shape. **Scientists have identified more than 6,000 gene disorders which affect about one in 200 people**

**6 Personal genomes:** New-generation sequencing techniques may eventually identify risks of genetic diseases and suggest therapies

Cost per genome (2017) **\$1,121**



## Aussie attack makes dilemma for South Africa

Durban, South Africa

Some of the world's best fast bowlers will square up when the first Test between South Africa and Australia starts at Kingsmead on Thursday.

They may find, however, that some of their sting drawn by pitch conditions.

Kingsmead has lost the reputation it once had as a fast bowler's paradise. It has been many years since wicketkeepers had to leap around as balls soared and sped off the playing surface.

Indications are that the pitch will offer encouragement but not excessive help to the fast men, with enough grass on the surface to assist movement off the seam.

The South African team, it seems, has given up on trying to influence conditions after their "requests" to groundsmen resulted in pitches that were less than ideal for a recent three-Test series against India. The surface for the third Test at the Wanderers was condemned as poor by International Cricket Council match referee Andy Pycroft.

"Everybody knows what happened at the Wanderers, so we've left the groundsmen to prepare the best possible pitches that they can," coach Ottis Gibson said last week.

Assuming the conditions are fair, it should be a red-blooded battle between the teams ranked second and third in Test cricket behind India.

Both have potent fast bowlers and exciting, if fragile, batting line-ups.

South Africa won the first two Tests against India with a four-man pace attack, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj and just six top-quality batsmen. But may be tempted to strengthen their batting at the expense of one of the specialist bowlers.

That decision may be influenced by a lack of form of key players as well as injuries which kept several out of action in recent weeks.

Captain Faf du Plessis is expected to play, although the right index finger he broke four weeks ago remained bandaged and he took a minimal part in the team's first practice in Durban on Monday. (AFP)



South Africa's Captain Faf du Plessis

# Lucas Pouille Passes Gulbis Test In Dubai

Dubai

Two days after a three-set loss to Karen Khachanov in the Open 13 Provence final, Lucas Pouille successfully returned to action at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships on Tuesday.

The Dubai resident, who reached the semi-finals in 2017 (l. to Murray), defeated former Top 10 player Ernests Gulbis 6-4, 6-4 to reach the second round. Pouille played the crucial points expertly throughout the 79-minute clash, breaking serve on each of his three break point opportunities, while saving eight of the nine chances his Latvian opponent managed to create.

"I have won many matches over the past three weeks, so I'm arriving here with a lot of confidence," said Pouille. "I think that helped me in the tough moments today. Especially on the break points, I served pretty well and played good rallies. That is very positive."

Pouille now waits to see if a Marseille final rematch against Khachanov will come to fruition in the next round, with the Russian needing to beat Denis Istomin later on Tuesday to set up a second FedEx ATP Head2Head meeting.

Borna Coric began his campaign in style, beating fifth seed Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-3 in 76 minutes. "He did come back in the both sets," said Coric. "It was a pretty good effort from him... but I managed to stay calm. I didn't panic. It was good."



Lucas Pouille

Coric will meet another Frenchman for a place in the quarter-finals, after Benoit Paire's three-set win over Yoshihito Nishioka on Monday. Coric leads their FedEx ATPHead2Head series 1-0.

The 2015 semi-finalist (l. to Federer) hit six aces and broke the Frenchman's serve on four occasions to move into the last 16. "I think I was returning pretty good today," reflected Coric. "I was happy with my return. I think it got me through the match also. I was not serving very well. I was not happy with my serve. I need

to go and practice some serves now. Otherwise... it was good performance."

Pierre-Hugues Herbert saved three match points in a thrilling 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(8) first round win over Portugal's Joao Sousa. The Frenchman rallied from 4/6 down in the final-set tie-break and saved another match point at 6/7 before eventually clinching victory after two hours and four minutes. Herbert will meet third seed Roberto Bautista Agut for a spot in the last eight.

Filip Krajinovic recovered from a bagel first set to beat

Thomas Fabbiano 0-6, 6-2, 6-2. The Rolex Paris Masters finalist won just 12 points in a quick opening set, but found a way to wrestle control away from the Italian before cruising to victory. The Serbian will meet 2016 runner-up Marcos Baghdatis in the second round.

Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff also advanced to the second round, needing just 56 minutes to dispatch of Andreas Haider-Maurer 62, 6-4. Struff hit 13 aces and dropped just two points behind his first serve in a dominant serving performance. (atpworldtour)

## Nadal unfazed by rankings race

Acapulco

Rafael Nadal says he will not be thinking about reclaiming his world number one ranking when he makes his return from injury at the Mexico Open in Acapulco on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Spanish star will play his first match since limping out of the quarter-finals at the Australian Open when he faces Feliciano Lopez.

Following his exit in Melbourne last month, Nadal has ceded his number one ranking to Roger Federer, who became the oldest player to claim top spot on February 19.

While a victory this week would not be good enough to overhaul Federer, it would leave Nadal primed to replace



Rafael Nadal

the Swiss star at Indian Wells or Miami next month.

Nadal however insists he is not motivated by a desire to reclaim the position from his long-time rival.

"I play this tournament because I like it and, not

because I'm trying to be number one in the world," Nadal said.

"At this point in my career, I'm looking to be happy, and play in the proper weeks, whether No. 1 or No. 5 in the rankings."

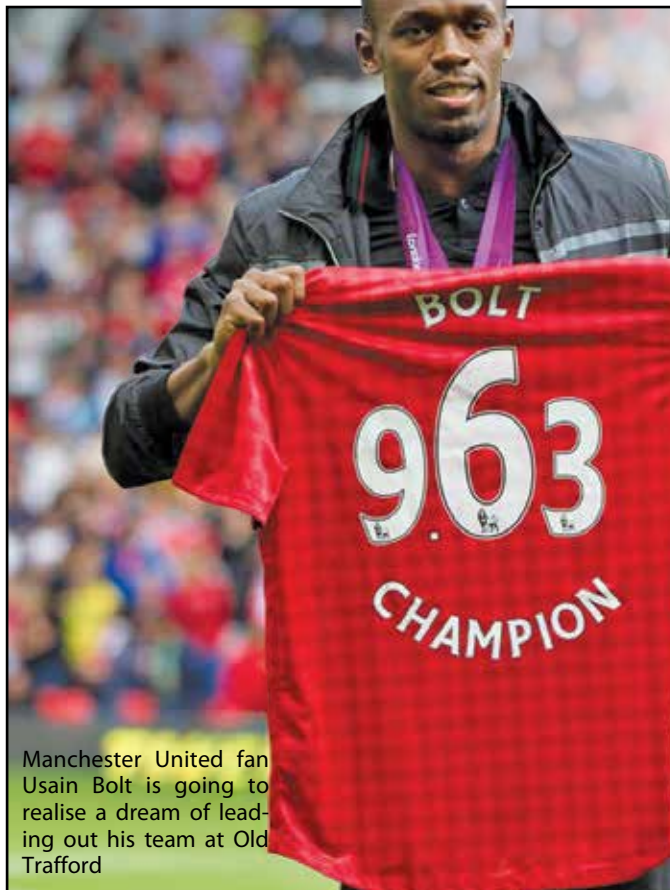
Top seed Nadal will start as the favourite to win in Mexico this week, where he also won in 2005 and 2013.

Nadal meanwhile said he has fully recovered from the right leg injury that scuppered his Australian Open campaign.

"I took a couple of weeks of rest and worked hard on rehabilitation," he said. "Last week I started practising hard again. I feel ready. Injuries are part of my career. It's not the first time.

"Of course it's tough, especially at this point when you feel ready to compete well.

"For me it was a good chance to be fighting for an important title in Australia. But it happened and I can't complain." (AFP)



Manchester United fan Usain Bolt is going to realise a dream of leading out his team at Old Trafford

# Bolt to play in charity match

**Paris** Multiple Olympic champion Usain Bolt will line up opposite British pop star Robbie Williams in a charity football match at Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium, the Jamaican revealed yesterday.

Now retired, Bolt had given a teaser of what was to come on Twitter on Monday, claiming that he had signed for a football

club and would reveal all 24 hours later.

Well, his new team is the Soccer Aid World XI -- a motley crew put together to help raise funds for the United Nations Children's Fund, Unicef.

Not only had football-mad Bolt, the fastest man alive, been recruited for the match, but he comes straight into the team as captain, with former Take That star Williams leading out an England side in opposition.

Speaking on a publicity clip published by Bolt, 31, on his

Twitter account yesterday, Williams, decked out in an England shirt, says the match will feature "celebrities, legends and a brand new captain for Soccer Aid World XI".

Manchester United fan Bolt then appears and adds: "Robbie, let me entertain you," in a reference to Williams's hit 1998 song of the same name.

The promotional video features the likes of Brazilian great Ronaldinho and Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane, as well as American

comedy actor Will Ferrell.

Soccer Aid aims to raise money to help children around the world and organises charity matches featuring celebrities and former football stars.

This match will be played on June 10, just before the World Cup gets underway in Russia.

Bolt is an eight-time Olympic champion, 11-time world champion and holds the world records in the 100 and 200 metres.

Williams is the best-selling British solo artist in the United Kingdom. (AFP)

## Buffon says ready to play for Italy

**Milan** Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon is prepared to go back on his decision to retire from international football if he is picked for the friendlies against England and Argentina next month.

The 40-year-old had called it a day in November immediately after Italy's astonishing failure to qualify for this year's World Cup, ending a 20-year international career in which he made 175 appearances.

However, on Monday Italy's interim coach Luigi Di Biagio said that it was not right that Buffon's international career should end with the infamous 0-0 draw against Sweden which condemned them to a first World Cup absence for 60 years.

"I had thought about going on holiday for a few days

with my family, but when the national team needs you, you must be present and not desert them," replied Buffon during the programme Tiki Taka broadcast on the Mediaset network.

"There's nothing to add to Di Biagio's words other than I feel a sense of responsibility and loyalty which I must give to the national team in this transitional moment," added the 2006 World Cup winner.

"I repeat, it's a way of showing loyalty and a sense of responsibility towards Italy. A new national team is being born and the first games are not comfortable ones because we will face Argentina and England.

"I think that any experienced player can be useful at the start, even if it's just to give advice to the young ones." (Reuters)



Gianluigi Buffon

## Ronaldo given off as PSG trip looms

**Madrid**

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is giving Cristiano Ronaldo a break and has left him out of the 19-man squad to face Espanyol in La Liga yesterday.

But Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema are both included in the squad, a week before the second leg of the Champions League last 16 against Paris Saint-Germain.

"It is very important to always keep Cristiano in peak form. He knows that from time to time he must rest," Zidane told a press conference on Monday, suggesting that the decision was mutual.

"He knows this very well and we talk, as always, a great deal."

It will be the second time in three games that the coach has not picked the Portuguese star. Ronaldo also missed the league game against Leganes last Wednesday, which Real won 3-1.

Brazilian midfielder Casemiro will likewise miss the game with a reported stomach problem. Zidane has called up 19-year-old Oscar from the academy team. (AFP)



Cristiano Ronaldo

## 98.4 Beach Games champions honoured

Manama

**I**sa Town Youth Centre has clinched the cup from Buri Club in the 98.4 Beach Games Championship for Youth Centres organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs to mark the National Action Charter (NAC)'s 17th anniversary.

Dr. Shaikh Saqr bin Salman Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Organisations & Youth

Centres crowned the winners Isa Town Youth Centre for winning the first place and Buri Club for winning the second place.

The final match between Isa Town Youth Centre and Buri Club ended in 5-4 score after penalty kicks broke the match's 3-3 tie.

Assistant Undersecretary for Sports Affairs & Facilities, Khalid Saleem Al Haj, attended the honouring ceremony.

## NKorea to send athletes to Paralympics in South

Seoul

**N**orth Korea plans to send athletes to compete in next month's Paralympic Games in South Korea, following its high profile participation in the Olympic games that wrapped up on Sunday, *Yonhap* news agency said.

Officials from North and South Korea met on Tuesday

at a village along the heavily fortified border to discuss logistics for the Paralympics, which begin on March 7.

South Korean leaders see Pyongyang's participation in the Games as key to lowering tensions on the peninsula and possibly leading to diplomatic negotiations over the North's nuclear programme. (*Reuters*)

## Ian Wright calls on Wenger to leave

London

**F**ormer Arsenal striker Ian Wright has called on struggling manager Arsene Wenger to step down as reports suggest succession planning at the club has already begun.

The Frenchman, under contract at the Emirates until 2019, is under increasing pressure after his team's abject display in Sunday's 3-0 League Cup defeat against Manchester City -- their sixth loss in 12 games this year.

Arsenal are 10 points adrift of fourth-placed Tottenham in the Premier League and look likely to miss out on Champions League football for the second consecutive season.

"There are excuses

(from Wenger) and he is molycodding a team," Wright told *BBC radio*.

"Whether he stays at the end of this season, I could not make a case. I am not sure anyone can. This development of mediocrity has to be arrested."

Wright also had harsh words for American owner Stan Kroenke.

"The owner has to take a lot of blame for this," he said. "Kroenke does not care. If he cared, Wenger would not have got a two-year deal."

"Everyone else can start to see that it is getting to a point where Wenger needs to go. The owner has to be here, find out what is happening, how is this working, what are we going to do, how are we going to get back to where the fans want us to be."

"The fans have been saying it for years but no-one is paying any attention to them. The owner has not done anything and has given Wenger carte blanche to carry on."

Wright's comments follow stinging assessments from the club's record goalscorer Thierry Henry and former Manchester United and England defender Gary Neville, who labelled Arsenal's performance against City "spineless". (*AFP*)



Arsene Wenger

# Brave announces Umniah sponsorship

Manama

**B**rave Combat Federation has announced the latest sponsorship relation with the Jordan based telecommunications service provider, Umniah.

Umniah has sponsored the

first edition of the event in Jordan titled Brave 10: The Kingdom Rises which will be held at King Hussein Sports City in Amman Jordan on 2nd March. Umniah is an ardent supporter of sports in Jordan, with a longstanding track

record of partnerships and initiatives in sports. Brave 10 will feature 24 athletes from 14 nations competing in Jordan.

The partnership will pave the next step in popularising and supporting athletes from the region and to nurture their passion towards the sport. This also marks for the first time a major telecommunications service provider based in GCC is providing a major sponsorship deal with a sports media property. Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation had thanked by the support from Umniah and Ziad Shatara, CEO of Umniah.

Umniah has supported sports and athletes in Jordan in multiple occasions. Umniah is a longtime sponsor of Mostafa Salameh, the first Jordanian and Arab to ever climb each of the seven summits and to conquer both the North and South poles, a feat he shares with only fifteen other people in the world.

In 2016, Umniah partnered with Jordanian Olympic hero Ahmad Abu Ghosh, who has been appointed as the operator's Youth and Sports Ambassador. Abu Ghosh has secured a gold medal at

the Rio Olympic Games for Taekwondo, the country's first-ever Olympic gold.

Umniah is also a proud supporter of Jordanian football, with partnership agreements signed with the nation's most popular sports clubs — Al Faisaly and Al Wehdat.

"At Umniah, we believe that sports is the fundamental cornerstone of sustainable development, providing people from all walks of life the path to develop the determination, discipline and overall health that will impact the very way they see the world around them.", responded Ziad Shatara, CEO of Umniah.

Brave Combat Federation welcomed the initiative from Umniah to support the vision of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to bring Bahrain and Jordan closer in the avenue of sports.

Brave Combat Federation is currently reaching out to 833 million households around the world in 84 nations. The latest sponsorship support and partnerships are expected to strengthen the economic and cultural impact through sports between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation

## Indian Club to host tennis championship



From right - Lester Ferrao, General Secretary Ricson Rebello, Tournament Director Cassius Pereira, Tennis Secretary Doc John Chacko, Somnathan and Jacob.

Manama

**T**he Indian Club is all set to stage the 69th open tennis championship at the club premises.

The championship begins on 25th March till 13th April and will feature various categories including the under 18 girls besides ladies open.

The under 18 girls is a first time event to encourage girls in tennis.

Each player can participate in only 2 categories and mixed doubles is optional.

Entry forms are available at the Club reception or on the website [www.indianclubbahrain.co](http://www.indianclubbahrain.co)

The last date for registration is 18th March and the fixtures will be out on 20th March.

For further details players can contact the Tennis Secretary Doc John Chacko on 33343390 or the Tournament Director Cassius Pereira on 33310475 or the Club on 17253157.

## Lukaku ponders All-Star match

London

**M**anchester United striker Romelu Lukaku has suggested the Premier League host an match similar to the NBA's All-Star game.

The NBA hosts an annual All-Star weekend with the main feature being a match contested by two teams comprised of the league's best players, who are picked by popular vote.

"Here's an idea for you guys... the NBA has an all-star game!," the 24-year-old Belgian wrote on his verified Twitter account.

"Don't you guys think we should organise one in the Premier League. The north vs the south! And the fans vote... what do you guys think?"

United are second in the Premier League and travel to Crystal Palace next Monday. (*Reuters*)

# Neymar could face Real

**PSG denies reports  
Neymar will  
undergo surgery.  
The Brazilian  
star may play in  
Champions League  
next week**

Neymar

Paris

**N**eymar still has a "small chance" of playing against Real Madrid in the Champions League and there are no plans for an operation on his cracked bone, Paris Saint-Germain coach Unai Emery said on Tuesday.

"For Neymar there has been no decision to have an operation," said Emery, denying an earlier report in the Brazilian press that the world's most expensive player would go under the knife to fix the cracked bone in his foot.

"Neymar is the first to want to play every match, he's very focussed on Real. I think there's a small chance that he'll be ready for the match," added Emery.

PSG trail 3-1 from the last 16 first leg in Madrid two weeks ago and the loss of Neymar would be a huge blow to their chances of overturning that deficit at the Parc des Princes on March 6 and reaching the Champions League quarter-finals.

Neymar suffered a cracked metatarsal in his foot and a twisted ankle in an innocuous looking incident against Marseille on Sunday night.

And while Spaniard Emery said there is a possibility he'll recover by next week, he was more pessimistic than he had been on Sunday night.

"Today, after analysing Neymar, it looks less likely than it did on Sunday that he'll be ready for this match," said Emery.

However, he was clear in his dismissal of a report published by Brazilian media outlet Globo Esporte on Tuesday morning that claimed a decision had already been reached for Neymar to undergo an operation, and that he would be out until May.

"Last night (Monday) the club issued an official statement: it said how the player was medically," added Emery.

"Things (like operations) aren't decided like that," he added, clicking his fingers.

"You need discussions with the doctor, the player, his entourage.

"To make such an important decision you need tranquility and a bit of patience.

"Right now, I don't think you need anything else. There's a lot of information from outside, but the truth is what I told you, which is what the doctor told me."

While PSG's primary concern is having the world's most expensive player available for their Champions League match next week, in Brazil it is Neymar's participation at the World Cup that is most important.

(AFP)



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