

# THE DAILY tribune



RAMADAN 16

Spiritual tunes in the air

Craig to earn 50 mn pounds for his role

17 SHOW

## Yemen deputy army chief survives attack

Aden

The deputy chief of Yemeni Army, Maj Gen Saleh Al Zindani, survived an attempt on his life in Aden, the Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday. The assassination attempt took place when Al Zindani was leaving a hospital in Aden last night. Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr condemned the incident calling it a barbaric act that puts international security and stability in jeopardy. The incident is under investigation and no group has claimed the responsibility for the incident.

## Russian soldiers killed in Daesh strike

Beirut

Russian fighters were among dozens of pro-regime forces killed in eastern Syria this week in a deadly wave of attacks by Daesh militants, Moscow and a monitor said yesterday. After its collapse last year, Daesh now only holds tiny pockets of Syria, mainly in the vast desert stretching to its eastern border. This week, the militants ramped up their hit-and-run attacks on regime positions there, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor. The deadliest was on Wednesday, when Daesh targeted a group of Syrian and allied Russian fighters near the town of Mayadeen in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor.



03 '95pc of airshow space booked'

04 Drug seller's plea dismissed

05 New BD3.5m House on way



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa last night received scores of Muharraq citizens who congratulated him on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. His Majesty expressed appreciation of the national stances of Muharraq citizens, praising the pioneering efforts and contributions that have contributed to the development of the homeland.

## \$32bn infra projects to boost growth

Manama

The Kingdom is implementing a \$32 billion infrastructure development programme as part of its long-term initiatives to boost growth, said the Crown Prince yesterday. This came as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, visited the majlises of Khalifa

bin Ahmed Al Dhahrani, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Noaimi, Al Jishi and Al Khozaei families. He highlighted that, as the GCC's fastest growing economy, it is important that Bahrain maintains momentum, noting that the Kingdom's economic resilience is a consequence of diversification and fiscal consolidation measures that have yielded high rates of return across all non-oil activities.

See Page 2



# Metro bell rings

Manama to join the likes of Paris, London and Dubai with the building of an advanced Metro network

- The minister said that the project would be implemented in phases starting with a Metro line connecting Bahrain International Airport with different places in Manama.

- The transport ministers of the GCC member states have agreed upon completing the first phase linking Oman with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia by December 2021

TDT|Manama  
Thamer Tayfoor

Bringing a revolutionary transformation to its public transport system, Bahrain is all set to get its Metro as the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has begun preparations to implement one of the most ambitious projects the Kingdom has ever seen.

Going by the initial plans, the Metro network will connect Bahrain International Airport in Muharraq with north of Manama, near the Diplomatic Area, Bahrain Bay, Bab Al Bahrain, Fi-



Graphical Illustration by Biju Haridas



Kamal Ahmed

ject will definitely change the social life scenario in Bahrain, especially for the youngsters. "I am sure many youngsters will use Metro trains, taking a break from motoring. We can solve the issue of traffic congestion once it is implemented."

Among other things, Mr Ahmed said the project will create hundreds of jobs in the Kingdom. "Hundreds of jobs will be created as the railway project will be one of the engines of growth in the Kingdom."

Meanwhile, the GCC rail project is progressing at a fast pace. The transport ministers of the GCC member states have agreed upon completing the first phase linking Oman with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia by December 2021, with Kuwait and Bahrain joining the network by December 2023. The project is estimated to cost \$15.4 billion.

nancial Harbor and Seef.

In an exclusive interview with Tribune, Transportation and Telecommunication Minister Kamal Ahmed said the final plans would be ready by July before sending it to the ministerial council.

"Making engineering drawings for the project is a bit complicated affair and would take one complete year. Once the drawings are complete, we will start building the infrastructure with the help of private sector," he said.

The minister said that the project would be implemented

**"Making engineering drawings is a bit complicated affair and would take one complete year. Once the drawings are complete, we will start building the infrastructure with the help of private sector."**

in phases starting with a Metro line connecting Bahrain International Airport with different places in Manama. "A link will connect Manama with Isa Town and Juffair."

Mr Ahmed said the first phase will cover 30km and the project

will go hand in hand with the GCC railway network project. "We will have common stations for GCC and Metro trains and the ministry hopes to obtain approvals before the new Government takes office."

The minister asserted the pro-





His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received at Gudaibiya Palace British Secretary of State for International Trade Dr Liam Fox. He stressed strong relations between Bahrain and the United Kingdom and both countries' keenness on economic, political and commercial development.



The Premier added that the initiatives launched by Prince Mohammed bin Salman have preserved the Saudi economy, and enabled it to turn challenges into opportunities for growth and development. The Prime Minister made the statements while receiving a number of state officials, with whom he reviewed local topics related to the efforts being exerted by the government to ensure the citizens' access to the best levels of decent living within a secure and stable environment.



# \$32bn infra boost underway

## Diversification of economy remains top priority for government

● **The Crown Prince affirmed that citizens will continue to be at the forefront of the Kingdom's development programme, led by HM King Hamad.**

### Manama

Bahrain is implementing a \$32 billion infrastructure development programme for the overall growth of the nation, said the Crown Prince yesterday.

This came as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, visited the majlis of Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Dhahrani, Abdulla bin Hamad Al Noaimi, Al Jishi and Al Khozaei families.

The Crown Prince affirmed that citizens will continue to be at the forefront of the

Kingdom's development programme, led by HM King Hamad.

He noted that, in line with the Kingdom's long-term development goals, Bahrain is implementing a USD 32 billion infrastructure development programme which is expected to help diversify the economy, boost the Kingdom's competitiveness and generate opportunities.

The Crown Prince highlighted that, as the GCC's fastest growing economy, it is important that Bahrain maintains momentum, noting that the Kingdom's economic resilience is a consequence of diversification and fiscal consolidation measures that have yielded high rates of return across all non-oil activities.

The Crown Prince noted the importance of placing citizens at the centre of all initiatives aimed at delivering long term benefits for current and future generations, while ensuring Bahrainis have the opportunity to contribute to the Kingdom's sustainable growth.



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## 'Qatar not keen on solving crisis'

### Manama

Bahrain sees no resolution in sight to a diplomatic row between Qatar and its neighbours, which cut diplomatic and trade ties with Doha nearly a year ago.

"The information in our hands today does not indicate any glimmer of hope for a solution now, as the matter does not happen suddenly," Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa told Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper yesterday.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt severed travel and trade ties with Qatar last June, accusing it of backing Iran and supporting terrorism.

After initially disrupting Qatar's imports and triggering the withdrawal of billions of dollars from its banks by depositors from the four states, the world's top exporter of liquefied natural gas quickly developed new trade routes and deployed tens of billions of dollars from its sovereign wealth fund to protect its domestic lenders.

The dispute has evaded mediation attempts



Shaikh Khalid

by Kuwait and Washington, which has strong alliances with both sides and fears the split among Sunni US allies could benefit Iran in a decades-old tussle for influence in the Middle East.

Bahrain's foreign minister said Qatar was prolonging the crisis by taking its case to Western allies, instead of dealing with it inside the Gulf Arab bloc.



# BIG STORY

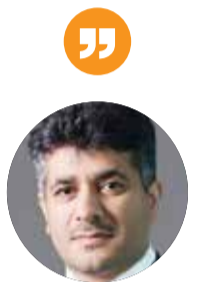
## big story

# '95pc of airshow space booked'

*Airshow will be held from November 14 to 16 at Sakhir Air Base*



Visitors at one of the previous airshows.



**We have been successfully able to sell nearly 95 per cent of the space to major international companies such as Airbus, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, French, Italian, Russian, Turkish and Indian companies.**

MR AHMED

● **The Bahrain International Airshow is organised by the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and the Royal Bahraini Airforce in partnership with Farnborough International.**

**TDT|Manama  
Thamer Tayfor**

About 95 per cent of space for Bahrain International Airshow 2018 has been already booked, said Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Ahmed.

"Now the cost of the event is zero as the space rents would cover all expenses," he said, during an exclusive interview with Tribune.

"During previous exhibitions the Government was taking care of expenses but this time there is no need to spend a single dinar as we have obtained enough money by leasing out the space," Mr Ahmed pointed out.

He confirmed that his ministry and authorities concerned within the Government are ready to organise the airshow in the coming November.

"It will be the largest on record. In the last airshow in 2016, only half of the space was rented to aviation companies. But this time we will be leasing out 100 per cent of the area," the minister pointed out.

"We have been successfully able to sell nearly 95 per cent of the space to major international companies such as the European Airbus, the Boeing Company of America, Gulf Stream of America, BAE Systems of the UK, Lockheed Martin, French, Italian, Russian, Turkish and Indian companies as well as many companies from the GCC, the Middle East and North Africa."

"The exhibition hall was expanded to 10,000 square meters, and the hall was divided to accommodate the largest number of companies and international exhibitors," he revealed.

The minister stressed that hosting the airshow in the past years have contributed positively to enhancing the growth of the national economy.

"The airshow boosts spending in many forms, be it hotel reservations, restaurants, retail businesses apart from the mainstream revenues," he added.

The airshow will be held from November 14 to 16 at Sakhir Air Base and will witness the presence of latest civil and military aircraft vehicles. Special programmes will be organised for children, adults and families on the sidelines of the event.

The Bahrain International Airshow is organised by the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and the Royal Bahraini Airforce in partnership with Farnborough International.



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Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi yesterday received the team in charge of the Education Ministry's social media accounts. In the backdrop of the ministry's Instagram followers reaching 100,000, Dr Al Nuaimi expressed thanks and appreciation to the team members.

# Drug seller's plea dismissed

● The court details further said that the police took the convict to his house and seized the drugs which he had stored there.

TDT|Manama

The High Appeals Court has upheld the jail sentence awarded to a private company sales manager who was convicted of selling drugs.

The 38-year-old expatriate was arrested following a tip-off. According to court details, an undercover officer in the guise of a customer approached the convict for drugs.

"I received a phone call from someone who I thought was a

regular customer. I agreed to meet him at a nearby place," the defendant told Prosecutors after he landed in the police net.

They met and as soon as the convict handed over drugs to the officer, a team of policemen pounced on him. "I was shocked to see many officers pouncing on me."

The court details further said that the police took the convict to his house and seized the drugs which he had stored there.

"He had stored MDA drug as well as marijuana at his home." The man was arrested on June 1, 2017, and was charged with selling drugs, possessing hashish and other types of drugs purposely for use and sell.

He was also fined BD10,000 by the Court of First Instance, and this was confirmed by the High

**10,000**  
BD was fined on the convict for storing and selling drugs.

Appeals Court too.

The defendant will be deported from the country once all the penalties passed on him have been served.

Meanwhile, in another case, two Asian men convicted of attempting to smuggle marijuana have had their appeals against their jail sentences rejected.

Both defendants were sentenced earlier to 15 years behind bars each along with a fine of BD5000 each.

A third man was tried with

them and received similar punishments, but he opted against challenging the verdict.

The trio were arrested on May 27, 2015 at Bahrain International Airport, when they landed from their country carrying slippers, in which the drugs were hidden.

Customs officers became suspicious and referred them with their luggage for inspection. Four shoes were seen among their belongings and they were found to having marijuana and other types of drugs hidden in them.

A fourth defendant earlier stood trial with them. However, he was acquitted due to lack of evidence. In 2015 many Asian men tried to smuggle drugs into Bahrain similarly, but such attempts were hindered by the competent authorities.

## Committee, ministry differ over 'renovation fund'

● According to the draft law, the fund will be raised through donations, subsidies, grants and donations.

TDT|Manama

The House of Representatives will discuss in its next session a draft law establishing a fund to finance the renovation or reconstruction of old houses for low-income citizens.

The Public Utilities Committee of the House recommended approval of the draft law, "considering that it protects the rights of low-income citizens who don't have adequate income to repair their houses".

According to the draft law, the fund will be raised through donations, subsidies, grants and donations.

However, the government considers that the draft law contradicts the general policy of the State and will burden its budgetary allocations.

"The purpose of the draft law has been already realised through Decree-Law No (10) for the year 1976 regarding



**Article (1) of the Decree-Law stipulates that the Minister of Housing shall issue a decree regulating the lending of citizens for the purpose of building new houses, buying, repairing or improving old dwellings**

housing and ministerial decision No. 909 of 2015 regarding the housing system.

"Article (1) of the Decree-Law stipulates that the Minister of Housing shall issue a decree regulating the lending of citizens for the purpose of building new houses, buying, repairing or improving old dwellings," the government said.

"The Ministry of Housing has implemented a project to renovate and rebuild old houses under a special budget based on the Royal Decree. There is no reason to create a fund to finance falling houses."



A truck carrying cement coming towards Manama overturned after smashing into a pick-up van on Al Estiqlal Highway yesterday. The driver sustained minor injuries in the accident.

## Boy, 16, dies in accident

TDT|Manama  
Mohammed Bahar

A 16-year-old Bahraini boy died yesterday after a speeding car rammed the bicycle he was riding on Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Street near the industrial area in Sitra.

Sources said the boy was thrown off from the bicycle in the impact.

"The boy was rushed to Salmaniya Medical Complex, where the medical staff succeeded in stabilising his condition. But, a few hours later the boy died of injuries."

Though the accident caused traffic jam in Sitra, traffic police rushed to the scene and eased movement



The deceased boy

of vehicles. The General Directorate of Traffic has opened an investigation into the circumstances that led to the accident.



# New BD3.5m House on way

The four-storey building be ready in 14 months, says Secretary-General

● **Al Dosari pointed out that the new parliament building will exclusively rely on solar energy.**

**TDI**Manama  
**Ali Majid**

The House of Representatives will soon get a new building. This was announced by Secretary-General Abdullah bin Khalaf Al

Dosari yesterday, following the foundation stone laying ceremony.

Mr Al Dosari said that the new premises have better facilities and provide more comfortable environment to the members of the House.

The cost of the new premises is estimated to be BD3.5 million, it was learnt.

The new building will consist of four floors. The ground floor will have meeting rooms, a large hall and a theater to hold seminars and events, in addition to the offices of the committee heads and a women's prayer room and



another for men.

The first floor will host the offices

”  
**The new building will be inspired by the traditional Bahraini architecture. It will be ready in 14 months. A company has been offered the contract and work on the building will start soon.**

MR AL DOSARI

of the Secretary General, the assistant secretaries and their employees.

The second floor will include offices for all the 32 MPs, as well as the supporting secretariat for them, while the third will be the offices of the president, his two deputies, their staff and advisors.

Al Dosari pointed out that the new parliament building will exclusively rely on solar energy.

“The new building will be inspired by the traditional Bahraini architecture. It will be ready in 14 months. A company has been offered the contract and work on the building will start soon,” he added.

## Delegation attends UNWTO meeting



Manama

A delegation of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority led by Director of Tourism Facilities and Services, Hisham Al Sakan, participated in the 108th session of the UN World Tourism Organisation held between May 23 and 25 in San Sebastian, Spain.

The session focused on ways to develop the

global tourism sector.

Al Sakan said the BTI participation reflects Bahrain's commitment and active role as a member of the WTO Committee for the Middle East.

He noted the BTI endeavour to contribute to promoting partnerships and cooperation among the WTO council members to reach the best solutions.

## Top honour for Royal University for Women

Manama

The Royal University for Women has received the Andrew Heiskell International Award for Innovation in International Education, 2018, from the Institute for International Education in the United States of America.

The honour recognises the efforts of the University's strategic, comprehensive and innovative international partnership as part of its endeavor to implement its vision of providing the highest standards of quality in higher education and leadership of women through its specializations and international cooperation.



**The Andrew Heiskell Award is one of the prestigious awards awarded annually by the Institute for International Education to recognize the most important initiatives undertaken in the international higher education by member universities and colleges.**

The award was received by the President of the Royal University for Women along with Dr. Gordon Gee, President of West Virginia University, from the President of the Institute for International Education Award, Dr. Alan Goodman, at the Institute's New York headquarters.

Reflecting on the award, the President of Royal University for Women stated, “I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Higher Education Council for this award.”

## Shura passes law to protect personal information

● **The law gives the new authority jurisdictions to handle cases and crimes related to unlawful disclosure of personal information and introduces punishments that vary between one-year imprisonment sentences and fines not exceeding BD20, 000.**

**TDI**Manama  
**Muhannad Mansour**

Shura Council members yesterday voted in favour of establishing an official authority concerned with the protection of personal data.

This comes as the majority of council members approved a bill that's aimed at the protection of personal and private information.

The bill instructs the issuance of the Personal Information Protection Law, in line with Legislative Decree 30 of the year 2016.

It was first approved by the Council's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, which reviewed it with the concerned official authorities over the past few months and recommended the council members yesterday to pass it. The eight-member committee informed the Council in a written statement that the bill would provide legal protection of individual's privacy, which is a “right guaranteed by the Kingdom's constitution”.

Committee Chairperson Dalal Al Zayed affirmed to her fellow council members yesterday that “the new law is

”  
**The new law is significant to protect personal privacy, especially at a time when electronic means are widely utilised to issue and exchange documents and transaction, posing a threat to private life and individual freedoms.**

MS AL ZAYED

significant to protect personal privacy, especially at a time when electronic means are widely utilised to issue and exchange documents and transaction, posing a threat to private life and individual freedoms”.

“This law is one of the most important laws that have been put in place to ensure the protection of the rights of individuals. It serves the development of the Kingdom's legislative system to improve the protection of



Shura in session

personal information. The law is in line with international principles in the field of protection of personal information and several countries have recently approved similar laws,” Al Zayed said.

The law gives the new authority jurisdictions to handle cases and crimes related to unlawful disclosure of personal information and introduces punishments that vary between one-year imprisonment sentences and fines not

exceeding BD20, 000.

According to the law, these punishments will be applied against “anyone who unlawfully and contrary to the provisions of this law discloses any information available to him/her because of their work position for their benefit or others, leaked personal information outside the Kingdom to a country or territory or processed information without notifying the Authority in violation of the rule of law”.

The law allows the use of personal information for journalistic, artistic or literary purposes, “provided that the information is correct, accurate and subject to updating and correction, and that measures are in place to ensure that it isn't used for any purpose other than for journalistic, artistic or literary purposes, without violating the applicable legislation on the regulation of the press, printing and publishing”.



# Hear our voices!

Deaf society calls for more employment opportunities both in government and private sectors



A member of the society receiving an award at the event.

● **Labour Ministry's disabled service centre has helped many with hearing disabilities find jobs in the private sector and the employed include 162 males and 72 females.**

● **Ministry also provides a monthly allowance of BD100 for hearing disabled, in addition to the exchange of audio compensatory devices, free training service for driving, and a range of other services.**

TDI|Manama

The Bahraini Deaf Society held the closing ceremony of the Arab Deaf Week under the slogan "Employment of deaf" at the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) Club in Awali.

Present at the event, which was held under the patronage of Minister of Labour and Social Development Jamil Humaidan and Assistant Undersecretary for Welfare and Social Rehabilitation Shaikha Aisha bint Ali Al Khalifa, were a number of representatives of the concerned civil society organisations and a number of parents.

The ceremony included artistic activities and an awareness documentary on the rights of the deaf along with many entertainment programmes.

On this occasion, Shaikha Aisha praised the efforts of the Bahraini Deaf Society for its initiatives and activities that serve the deaf people, as well as its celebration of the Arab Deaf Week annually, pointing out the theme of this year's celebration is a topic that is of great interest to the government.

"Bahrain has taken several steps to open new horizons for the deaf and to promote projects that are compatible with their potentials and abilities and to involve them in these projects so that they can continue their journey in life and contribute to the building and development of the country and its prosperity," she added.



**The society seeks to implement programmes and projects that serve the deaf people. The most important of these are organising of training courses to prepare the deaf to enter the labour market and follow up their employment in the private sector.**

MS AL ASFOOR

Ministry of Labour and Social Development also provides a monthly disability allowance of BD100 for hearing disabled, in addition to the exchange of audio compensatory devices, free training service for driving, and a range of other services in cooperation with the private sector.

For her part, the President of the Bahraini Deaf Society, Salma Al Asfoor, stressed that the society seeks to implement programmes and projects that serve the deaf category. The most important of these are organising of training courses to prepare the deaf to enter the labour market and follow up their employment in the private sector, providing sign language interpreters at job fairs, following up job interviews in cooperating companies, training and developing job seekers and honing their skills.

Ms Al Asfoor praised the Ministry of Labour and Social Development's patronage and support and the co-operation of Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) with the society to organise the closing ceremony of the Arab Deaf Week for this year.

Shaikha Aisha said that the ministry's disabled service centre has helped many people with hearing disabilities find jobs in the private sector. The employed include 162 males and 72 females. The

## Health official warns against illegal botox clinics

TDI|Manama

The Executive Director the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), Dr Mariam Al-Jalahma, has warned against the use of unlicensed filler and botox injections in salons by unauthorised persons.

Ms Al Jalahma said "the authority has received information that some illegal

and unlicensed practitioners have been offering filler and botox injections to girls and women in beauty salons, not through licensed doctors or clinics".

"The NHRA is subjecting all pharmaceuticals used in cosmetics to the supervision, examination and assurance of quality certificates, and these materials are often illegally smuggled by illegal persons to practice."



**The authority has received information that some illegal practitioners have been offering filler and botox injections to girls and women in beauty salons, not through licensed doctors or clinics.**

MS AL JALAHMA

She warned that NHRA will take legal action in co-operation with Ministry of Health against these saloons that allow such practices, and against people as well.

She called on all wishing to use filler or botox to review specialised clinics licensed by NHRA, and to ensure the legality of this practice before exposure; because it may endanger them.



KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN  
Ministry of Works, Municipalities  
Affairs and Urban Planning  
BUILDING MAINTENANCE DIRECTORATE

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs & Urban Planning would like to announce the following tender:

TENDER TITLE	TENDER NO.	CATEGORY Mechanical Works	INITIAL BOND (BD)	TENDER DOCUMENT FEE (BD)	TENDER BOX CLOSING DATE/ TIME
Interior Refurbishment and Installation of Speaker System to Ministry of Works Headquarter Compound Lifts - Manama	CED-PCP /66/2018	Grade "A", "B" & "C"	500/-	15/- Non-Refundable	Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2018, 2:00 PM

**NOTE : you can now buy the tender documents from the Internal tender services on ministry of works website or the Bahrain e-Government - (<https://bahrain.bh>) by using a credit card.**

- Tenders are invited from qualified Contractors registered with the Cost Engineering Directorate of the Ministry for the **Mechanical Works (for Building)** under the Category mentioned above or having Commercial Registration in the relevant field to the above, entry to the ministry of works website or the Bahrain e-Government site as described above to get the tender documents from **28<sup>th</sup> May 2018**, or pay the amount to the cashier, at the Financial Resources Directorate (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor New Building), who will issue a receipt. For further information, please contact on 17545761-17545633.
- The works comprise of **Interior Refurbishment and Installation of Speaker System to Ministry of Works Headquarter Compound Lifts - Manama.**
- Interested Tenderers should comply with the Legislative Decree No. 36 and 37 of 2002 with respect to Regulating Government Tenders and Purchases, and to comply with the Prime Minister's Resolution No. 40 for 2015 giving priority to National Products and products at GCC Countries.
- The Tenders must be deposited in the tender box provided on the **Tender unit at 6<sup>th</sup> floor New Building, Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning - as per the above mentioned date.**
- Tenders shall be submitted in **One envelope.**
- Tenderers are to supply copies of the following:
  1. Company Commercial Registration indicating the tender relevant field and receipt for current registration fee. CR to be stamped with company stamp.
  2. The total tender sum as well as cost per unit (as the case maybe) should be written and submitted in form
  3. Initial Bond and a Copy of valid Certificate of Compliance with employment percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by the Ministry of Labour and stamped with company stamp.
  4. Any other items listed in the Instructions to Tenderers.
  5. All submitted documents (original or copy) should be stamped with company stamp.
- Tenders shall remain valid for **180 days** from the closing date. Initial Bond should be enclosed for the amount specified above or at a rate of **1% of the tender value whichever of the amount is lesser, provided that no initial bond's value shall be less than BD. 100/-**. Ensure that the initial bond is in cash or in a form of certified cheque or bank/insurance company guarantee, valid for the duration specified in the tender documents and should be enclosed with each tender.
- Tenders not complying with the above conditions and requirements as well as terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents will be rejected.
- This advertisement should form part of the Tender Documents.



Information Affairs Minister Ali Al Romaihi yesterday chaired the Bahrain Institute of Political Development (BIPD) board of trustees' meeting. BIPD Acting Executive Director highlighted works and achievements during the first half of this year. The board of Trustees was briefed also about the plans and programmes lined-up for 2018. The minister commended the programmes which target various social categories to enhance political awareness and consolidate the democratic process which was launched by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



The National Communication Centre is holding two key workshops in cooperation with the Thomson Reuters. The workshops which last four days, are being attended by twenty Government entities and twenty media figures from Bahrain and the region.



# business

Arbah Capital to invest £550m in UK project



Mahmood Al Kooheji

TDT | Dammam

Saudi-based Arbah Capital is investing over £550 million in Regent's Crescent project in Central London, UK with a shariah compliant mezzanine financing facility of up to £50 million.

Regent's Crescent development is 76 high-end residential units facing Regent's Park in the heart of London. It is the rebuild of an 1800's Grade 1 listed building designed by John Nash, architect of Buckingham Palace.

"This is a landmark moment in Arbah Capital's successful progress into becoming an investment bank," said Mahmood Al Kooheji, CEO of Arbah Capital.

# Commercial banks' profit increased 13pc in Q1: BAB

Seven local retail banks generated a net income of \$298.2 million in 2018 first-quarter

● **The financial services sector was the best performing sector in 2017, growing by 5 per cent, according to Bahrain Association of Banks**

● **Total assets of retail banks totalled BD13.8 million in March 2018, up about 1.5 percent, from December 2017**

TDT | Bahrain

Seven local retail banks, listed on Bahrain Bourse, witnessed a marked performance for the first quarter

of 2018, compared to the same period last year, according to Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB).

"The great performance of Bahraini retail banks for the first-quarter of 2018 shows their strong financial fundamentals that enable achieving sustainable profits for their shareholders," said Dr. Waheed Al Qassim, CEO of BAB.

Dr Al Qassim pointed out that the banks' continuous strong performance coincides with the quarterly economic report issued by Bahrain Economic Development Board recently, which indicated Bahrain's real GDP grew up by 3.9 percent, with the non-oil sector increase of 5 percent, making Bahrain the fastest-growing economy in the GCC.

The International Monetary



Dr. Waheed Al Qassim

Fund predicted that the Kingdom's economy will maintain its position as the fastest growing economy in the region in 2018 as the economic momentum continues.

"These results reflect our optimistic future expectations to

“The great performance of Bahraini retail banks for the first-quarter of 2018 shows their strong financial fundamentals that enable achieving sustainable profits for their shareholders,” said

DR. WAHEED AL QASSIM, CEO OF BAB.

achieve a clear recovery to diversify economy and improve public finance by creating a broad base of revenue through the non-oil economy," said Dr Al Qassim.

Dr Al Qassim added that the financial services sector was

the best performer among other sectors in 2017, growing by 5 per cent, along with the sectors of social and personal services, the commercial sector, and real estate and professional services.

He also noted the capital adequacy and liquidity recorded by financial institutions and retail banks, noting the favorable operating environment of the national banks will stimulate more growth due to projects spending and private sector projects in many vital activities.

Dr Al Qassim noted that Bahraini banks and financial institutions are the main impetus for national economic growth, praising Central Bank of Bahrain's efforts to further develop the legislative environment of the banking and financial sector and advanced initiatives in the field of financial and banking.

# Global CEOs upbeat about business growth: Survey

TDT | Bahrain

Despite being relatively bullish on the economy at large as well as their overall outlook for their country, optimism from global CEOs is tempered by a healthy dose of realism, with half (55 percent) predicting cautious topline revenue growth for their own business. Half of CEOs (52 percent) say they will need to hit growth targets before hiring new skills. According to the KPMG Global CEO Outlook, CEOs are driving growth against a backdrop of significant demographic shifts, geopolitical volatility and the seemingly



Jamal Fakhro

inevitable future cyber-attack. CEOs are stepping up to the cyber challenge, in particular, with 59 percent saying they feel a



Tim Murray

personal responsibility for protecting customer data.

Jamal Fakhro, Managing Partner at KPMG in Bahrain, said:

"We operate in a connected world whereby opportunities and risks are constantly evolving. Geopolitical uncertainty, disruption and cyber threats have become a norm. CEOs need to keep up with these changes to steer their organizations to growth, and the best are turning them to valuable opportunities by changing their systems and business model."

According to Tim Murray, CEO of Aluminium Bahrain, cyber security should be a priority in the boardroom. Greater connectivity can improve operations, but it can also increase cyber vulnerability.

# Alba gets IATF 16949: 2016 certification



Alba officials with the IATF 16949: 2016 certification

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), has announced that its Casthouse successfully achieved the Automotive Quality Management System - IATF 16949: 2016 Standard, one of the most challenging and demanding standards in the Management System Certification for the automotive sector in the world.

With this endorsement, Alba has become the first and only IATF 16949 certified organisation in Bahrain. Alba's Chief Marketing Officer Khalid Abdul Latif, Director of Casthouse Abdul Rasool Ahmed A. Rasool and Manager Casthouse Operations Hussain Al-Malali were presented with the certificate in early May 2018 in Dubai.

Commenting on this achievement, Alba's Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray



The certification will give Alba a paradigm shift establishing compliance to the strictest quality assurance system in the world

said: "The IATF-16949 quality certification is a significant milestone in our 45 years-plus experience. We are proud to have nailed this certification as it will give Alba a paradigm shift and firmly establishes our compliance to the strictest quality assurance system in the world."

# KFH announces winners of iPhoneX devices



Khalid Rafea, Executive Manager and head of retail banking, with winners

Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has announced the second batch of winners for its latest promotion which gives new credit card subscribers the opportunity to enter monthly

draws over a period of three months.

The April 2018 winners are: Abdulla Ateeq Bunofal, Fatima Jassim Al Obaidly, Fajer Ebrahim Al Maliki, Hejaz Thykandy and Shatha Fareed Ali, each won one of 15 iPhone X devices.

# Invita to manage Bahrain Tender Board call centre

TDT | Manama

Invita, an ISO 9001:2008 and PCI DSS v3.2 certified regional provider of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services, has signed an agreement with Bahrain Tender Board to manage their call center with the objective of providing quality service to the stakeholders, offering consistency in service and prompt support to the Government purchasing authorities, suppliers, contractors and other stakeholders in the Kingdom.

Invita's dedicated team of agents with their skills in this field together with Invita's Quality Management and Se-



Rahul Bhalla

curity Policies Department will form the perfect setting for success.

"We are confident that our skilled workforce will display the highest standards of service and achieve the desired outcome of this assignment with the Tender Board," said Rahul Bhalla, CE, of Invita.



## Fraud biggest risk for Middle East

Gulf News | Dubai

Forty-eight per cent of Middle East respondents cited fraud and corruption as the greatest risk to their company, followed by cyberattacks, according to EY Global Fraud Survey.

"The findings show that there is often a lag between the introduction of stronger anti-corruption laws and a change in behaviour.

While new laws and regulations have been introduced and enforcement intensified, non-compliant behaviour still remains, though the Middle East is certainly tackling the issue," Charles de Chermont, EY MENA Fraud Investigation & Dispute Services Leader, said in a statement.

This year's survey found that 42 per cent of executives surveyed in the Middle East believe that corrupt practices still occur widely in business.

"Businesses remain vulnerable to significant financial and reputational harm.

Management teams must identify and address the root causes of such conduct in their organisation. Compliance programs need to keep pace with the impact of rapid technological advancements and the increasingly complex risk environment on business operations," Charles said.

The report finds that individuals shirk responsibility; when asked who is held accountable for ensuring employee integrity, 50 per cent of respondents believe that integrity is the primary responsibility of either management or the board.

# Iran sanctions shadow falls on German banks

Some German companies still plan to press on with dealings with Iranian companies

● Germany's two biggest banks, Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank, avoid Iran completely after being slapped with harsh fines

● DZ Bank, which operates as a central bank for more than 1,000 local co-op lenders, is withdrawing completely from Iran



Deutsche Bank alone paid \$258 million as penalty in 2015

AFP | Frankfurt

Germany's biggest lenders have shied away from business with Iran after past penalties for breaching US sanctions, but smaller banks have leapt on opportunities afforded by the nuclear deal rejected by Donald Trump.

There are just months to go until a November deadline issued by Washington after the US president abandoned a hard-fought agreement that loosened business restrictions on the Islamic Republic in exchange for Tehran giving up its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

But some firms plan to press on in their dealings with Iran despite the looming threat of penalties.

"We will continue to serve our

clients," for now, said Patrizia Melfi, a director at the "international competence center" (KCI) founded by six cooperative savings banks in the small town of Tuttingen in southwest Germany.

The center, which supports companies operating in sensitive markets like Iran or Sudan, has seen demand "rising sharply in the last few years, from firms listed on the Dax (Germany's index of blue-chip firms), from all over Germany and from Switzerland," she added.

German exports to Iran have grown since the nuclear deal was signed in 2015, adding 15.5 percent last year to reach almost 2.6 billion euros (\$3.0 billion) after 22-percent growth in 2016.

Such figures remain van-

ishingly small compared with Germany's 111.5 billion euros in exports to the US — its top customer.

Nevertheless, the KCI will "wait and see what the sanctions look like" before turning away from Iran, Melfi said.

Already, firms dealing with Tehran must take great care not to fall foul of US restrictions.



Products sold to Iran cannot contain more than 10 percent of parts manufactured in the US

Transactions are carried out in euros, and the KCI does not deal with businesses that have American citizens or green card resident holders on their boards.

What's more, products sold to Iran cannot contain more than 10 percent of parts manufactured in the US.

One of the most important inputs for the business is "courage among our managers" given the high risks involved, Melfi said.

Germany's two biggest banks, Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank, avoid Iran completely after being slapped with harsh fines in 2015 over their dealings there, with Deutsche alone paying \$258 million in penalties.

DZ Bank, which operates as a central bank for more than 1,000 local co-op lenders, is withdraw-

ing completely from payment services there, a spokesman told AFP.

That left KCI to seek out the German branch of Iranian state-government owned bank Melli in Hamburg.

Even that linkage could break if Iran's biggest business bank appears on a US list of barred businesses as it has before.

Meanwhile, among Germany's roughly 390 Sparkasse savings banks, business with the regime is mostly limited to producing documents linked to export contracts.

"We will be looking even more closely at those" in the future, a person familiar with the trade told AFP.

Elsewhere in the German economy, the European-Iranian Trade Bank (EIH) founded in 1971 is another conduit to Tehran.

Also based in Hamburg, it for now remains "fully available to you with our products and services," the bank assures clients on its website, although "business policy decisions by European banks may result in short term or medium term restrictions on payments."

Neither does the Bundesbank (German central bank) believe that much has so far changed for business with Iran.

"Only the European Union's sanctions regime will be decisive," if and when it is changed, the institution told AFP.

## Qualcomm to meet China regulators to clear \$44-bn NXP Semiconductors deal

The San Diego-based firm "cautiously optimistic" the deal will go forward

● The acquisition was caught in the crosshairs of rising US-China trade tensions, with sources saying an approval would depend on the progress

Reuters | Beijing

Qualcomm Inc is expecting to meet this week in Beijing with China's antitrust regulators in a final push to secure clearance for its proposed \$44 billion acquisition of NXP Semiconductors NV, sources told Reuters.

The acquisition was caught in the crosshairs of rising US-China trade tensions, with sources saying an approval would depend on the progress of broader bilateral talks. The deal has got a nod from eight of the nine required global regulators, with Chinese clearance the only one pending. Qualcomm is likely to meet Chinese regulators before U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross arrives in China on Saturday, the sources briefed on Qualcomm's discussions said.



A booth of US chipmaker Qualcomm is pictured at an expo in Beijing, China. -Pic. Reuters

A Qualcomm team and officials from the State Administration for Market Regulation met in Beijing on Friday and had "productive" talks, the sources said.

The San Diego-based firm is now "cautiously optimistic" the deal will go forward, one of the sources said, amid recent indications of a thaw in U.S.-China trade tensions that has seen both sides propose tens of billions of dollars in tariffs.

On Friday, the Trump admin-

istration said it had reached a deal that would put ZTE Corp back in business after the Chinese telecommunications company pays a \$1.3 billion fine and makes management changes.

Resolving the ZTE sales ban has been of chief importance to China's leadership. The firm was banned in April from buying U.S. technology components for seven years after breaking an agreement it reached for violating U.S. sanctions against Iran and North Korea.



A Qualcomm team and officials from the US Administration for Market Regulation met in Beijing on Friday and had "productive" talks, say sources

"It feels as though it's getting close to the end," said the source quoted above.

Qualcomm did not immediately reply to an email from Reuters seeking comment on Sunday, while calls to NXP went unanswered outside regular business hours.

**New submission**

Qualcomm is now preparing a new submission to SAMR aimed at providing final guarantees and assurances, the sources said.



Workers assemble remote controls of air conditioners at a factory in Hefei. Pic. Reuters

## China's industrial profit growth rebounds to six-month high

Reuters | Beijing

Profits earned by Chinese industrial firms in April rose at their fastest pace in six months, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed yesterday, as factories benefited from higher prices and strong demand.

Profits in April rose 21.9 percent year-on-year to 576 billion yuan (\$90.14 billion), the quickest since October, bringing gains for the first four months of 2018 to 15 percent.

The data suggests China's

industrial sector is still seeing solid growth momentum despite curbs on pollution and rocky trade relations with the United States. Last month's rebound was helped by lower comparison figures for April 2017, higher factory prices and stronger demand, He Ping, head of NBS' industrial division, said in a statement.

It was a significant improvement over March's 3.1 percent growth that was the slowest in over a year and which government officials had blamed on the timing of the Lunar New Year holiday. The higher April data should help ease concerns of slowing momentum in China's economy as the country implements tougher pollution controls on "smokestack" industries and cash-strapped regional governments cut back on big investment projects, curbing demand for building materials.

21.9% was the rise in the year-on-year profit recorded by industrial firms in China



# Saudi all set to win MSCI emerging market status

Kuwait is also likely to be included in the index subject to stock market reforms

● MSCI is expected to announce a decision on whether to upgrade Saudi stocks to emerging market status next month

The National | Abu Dhabi

Saudi Arabia has a 100 per cent probability of being included in the MSCI's emerging market index next month, after the Kingdom was put on a watchlist for inclusion last year, according to investment bank EFG Hermes.

"We see no reason why MSCI would not upgrade Saudi Arabia to emerging markets status this June," the analysis on Sunday said.

Index compiler MSCI is expected to announce a decision on whether to upgrade Saudi stocks to EM (emerging market) status next month, a move that would help the country attract billions of dollars into the Middle East and North Africa (Mena)'s biggest stock exchange, which has a market capitalisation of \$500 billion.

The promotion would follow a similar move by index compiler FTSE Russell in March, and be a second achievement for the kingdom, which has been implementing a series of reforms to develop its capital markets in line with its Vision 2030 economic diversification strategy. EFG Hermes said on Sunday



Index provider MSCI will make a decision in June 2018 on whether to upgrade Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to emerging market status. Saudi has a 100 per cent probability of winning an inclusion, according to EFG Hermes. - Pic. Bloomberg

the earlier FTSE decision means MSCI will be able to observe two tranches of FTSE implementation, "giving them comfort that any hiccups observed" during those trades would be addressed by the Saudi authorities.

"The MSCI May 2018 trade is around \$36bn (two-way flows), meaning that a Saudi upgrade is manageable in two tranches," the bank said. Kuwait, which is also vying to diversify its econ-

**\$36bn**  
is the MSCI two-way trade. This will help upgradation of Saudi Arabia into MSCI Emerging Market Index

omy and reduce its reliance on oil, should also be upgraded to emerging market status this June on the back of reforms undertaken by the Kuwait stock exchange, EFG added.

The country has a 75 per cent chance of inclusion. The reforms implemented by Boursa Kuwait in the first half of 2017 and full year to date, "warrant a watch list addition this June for a possible upgrade to EM status," EFG Hermes said. "Kuwait would easily meet EM requirements for size and liquidity for three stocks (bare minimum) if tested as new constituents, and if the current index is maintained using EM requirements, we would end up with eight constituents, 0.4 per cent of MSCI EM and around \$1.7bn of inflows." Though Boursa Kuwait was

“Kuwait would easily meet EM requirements for size and liquidity for three stocks (bare minimum) if tested as new constituents, and if the current index is maintained using EM requirements, we would end up with eight constituents, 0.4 per cent of MSCI EM and around \$1.7bn of inflows

EFG HERMES

the first stock exchange in the region, the country has struggled to modernise its economy following conflict with Iraq in the 1990s.

It fell into deficit in 2015 for the first time since 1999, prompting the government to launch a series of reforms including its far-reaching Kuwait 2035 economic diversification strategy last January.

The strategy aims to increase private sector involvement in the national economy and attract higher levels of foreign investment across a range of sectors and in the capital markets.



Perception and real need drives the currency exchange market in both ways

## Pak rupee remains under pressure against dollar

Arab News | Karachi

The Pakistani rupee remains under pressure against the US dollar in the open market as insufficient dollar inflows couple with further devaluation rumors, currency dealers and analysts say.

"People think that in the coming days the Pak rupee will be further under pressure due to the increasing demand for the dollar, so they start buying, anticipating a dollar shortage," said Zeeshan Afzal, executive director-research at Insight Securities, referring to the recent hike in the value of greenback against the Pak rupee, which touched PKR119.05 (\$1.03) on Friday and closed down at PKR118.70 on Saturday in the open market.

"Perception and real need (demand) drives the currency exchange market in both ways," Afzal told Arab News.

"In Ramadan the inflow of remittances has declined, demand for the dollar from those going for Umrah has increased," Muzamil Aslam, senior economist and CEO of



Dr. Miftah Ismail, finance minister of Pakistan, has repeatedly denied further devaluation of the national currency, which has been devalued twice up to 10 percent recently

EFG-Hermes Pakistan said.

Dr. Miftah Ismail, finance minister of Pakistan, has repeatedly denied further devaluation of the national currency, which has been devalued twice up to 10 percent recently. Aslam believes the rupee will be further devalued, and he sees no way out of the current situation.

## Oil output could return to Oct'16 level: Novak

Reuters | Moscow

A return to the oil production levels that were in place in October 2016, baseline for the current deal to cut output, is one of the options for easing curbs, Russia's energy minister has said. Sources said this week that Saudi Arabia and Russia were discussing raising OPEC and non-OPEC oil production to ease 17 months of strict supply curbs amid concerns that a price rally has gone too far.

"When we extended the agreement until the end of 2018, we spoke about such possibilities (of returning to the October 2016 level)," Novak told reporters.

"But a decision will be made in June," he added, referring to meetings of OPEC and non-OPEC countries in Vienna on June 22-23. The existing deal came into force on January 1, 2017, and envisaged global oil producers reducing their combined output by 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) to cut bloated stockpiles and prop up oil prices. Russia's oil output reached a 30-year high of 11.247 million bpd in October 2016 and it pledged to cut it by 300,000 bpd to 10.947 mln.

# High oil prices to trump rising rates in GCC

Higher crude oil prices to fuel government spending which will support domestic demand, say analysts

● Any additional fiscal support from governments is likely to come at the end of 2018 or 2019 as they define the areas of spending during Ramadan and the quiet summer months

The National | Abu Dhabi

The spectre of economy-cooling rising interest rates in the Arabian Gulf will be tempered by the ability of governments around the region to spend more this year and the next amid rising oil prices, according to economists.

"If the oil price remains at the current level, there could be some additional increase in government spending - above our current forecasts," said Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

"This will be positive for supporting domestic demand, especially at a time of rising interest rates."

Ms Malik said that any additional fiscal support from governments is likely to come at the end of 2018 or 2019 as they define the areas of spending



One of the main risks to economic growth in the region this year is rising rates.

during Ramadan and the quiet summer months. She also noted that there were already signs of strengthening investment activity in the UAE.

The renewed optimism comes as the price of oil hits highs not seen since 2014 amid decline in both supplies and production as well as a rise in geopolitical tensions after the US pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal in May. Brent crude touched \$80 a barrel on May 17 and is up 15 per cent year-to-date.

One of the main risks however to economic growth in the region this year is rising interest rates.

The fact that most Gulf states peg their currencies to the US dollar and as a result follow its

monetary policy means the majority of the region will continue raising interest rates along with the US Federal Reserve.

Standard Chartered is forecasting that the Central Bank of the UAE will raise rates four times this year and twice next year, taking the benchmark interest rate to 3.25 per cent by the end of next year. Higher interest rates may deter businesses and individuals from tapping the debt markets and subdue economic growth at a time when credit growth is already lacklustre.

The rising strength of the dollar may also pose some problems for the economy.

The Bloomberg dollar spot index, a measure of the US dollar

“If the oil price remains at the current level, there could be some additional increase in government spending - above our current forecasts. This will be positive for supporting domestic demand, especially at a time of rising interest rates

MONICA MALIK, CHIEF ECONOMIST  
ABU DHABI COMMERCIAL BANK

against 10 other currencies, is up 1 per cent this year. While a stronger dollar is good for expats in the country, because they get more for their greenback, overall it is not great for the economy. The strengthening dollar does not help countries in the region that are most diversified, like the UAE which rely on investments into assets including real estate, stocks and bonds as well as other goods and

services like tourism. A stronger dollar makes tourism from countries like Russia and India pricier for visitors.

"Although we forecast further rate hikes by GCC central banks, we also expect oil prices to average \$71 a barrel in 2018, a significant increase over last year," said Bilal Khan, senior economist for the Middle East North Africa and Pakistan at Standard Chartered.

"This will allow GCC policymakers to increase spending without compromising budget deficit targets."

The non-oil economies of the GCCs have been in growth mode over the past year.

Bahrain's real gross domestic product advanced 3.9 per cent in 2017 compared to 3.2 per cent in 2016, with the non-oil economy expanding 5 per cent, according to Bahrain Economic Development Board. The gains were led by growth in tourism, figures from the latest Bahrain Economic Quarterly released earlier this month showed.

The oil exporting economies of the Arabian Gulf expect to see a pick-up in GDP growth in 2018 and 2019, after bottoming out last year, as the price of oil rebounds and non-oil business activity recovers, according to the International Monetary Fund.



# Entrepreneurs in hijab - the rising tribe

Across the Muslim world, a new generation is poised to make an outsized impact on their countries' prosperity

Early in her career, Samira Negm, a Cairo-based engineer, programmed self-parking features for cars. But she spent nearly as much time driving a car as she spent programming one. Millions of people moved from home to work every day in her city of more than 20 million; her daily commute to work could at times run to three hours or more.

She started wondering if she couldn't do more useful things with her skills — and her time. Perhaps she could connect co-workers looking for efficient ways to travel to work in Cairo's chaotic traffic. Perhaps she could even design a car-pooling app, to provide workers, particularly women, with safer and cheaper ways to travel while helping cut down traffic congestion. Negm quit her job and Raye7, a car-pooling app, was born.

Negm is the new face of tech entrepreneurship in the Muslim world. And she is not alone.

The number of women at work across the Muslim world is swelling. Across the 30 largest emerging-market Muslim countries, 100 million women were working in 2002. Today, that number is 155 million. Economic necessity, more education, new technologies and changing social norms have been at the core of this shift. And among these new entrants to the labor force, women like Negm — a new generation of educated, female, dynamic, tech-savvy, globally connected but locally committed entrepreneurs — hold the most promise for delivering an outsized impact on their countries' prosperity.

Across most countries of the world, women make up a much smaller proportion than men of those skilled in coding and the sciences. In fact there are only five countries where among students enrolled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM programs, women outnumber men. Two of those, Brunei and Kuwait, are Muslim-majority economies. Across 18 countries, women make up 40 per cent or more of STEM students. More than

half of the countries have Muslim majorities. (In the United States, women make up just 30pc of STEM students.)

When it comes to entrepreneurship, Indonesia and Malaysia are among the 13 economies in the world where there is a higher percentage of early-stage entrepreneurial activity among women than men. Other Muslim countries also show high percentages: In Kazakhstan, women's entrepreneurial activity is 80pc that of men, while in the United Arab Emirates it is 63pc. In all four countries, the ratio of female-to-male entrepreneurs is higher than in the United States, where it's 60pc.

This intersection of STEM education and rising entrepreneurship has created the conditions for women in Muslim-majority emerging markets to catch the wave of technological change sweeping the world. But they have done so in a way that looks very different from the West — and very different from the generations of women before them. They are using technology to trump culture and then changing culture from within.

DoctHers, a Pakistani telemedicine company aimed at solving a unique cultural and economic issue, is a case in point. Women in Pakistan graduate from medical schools in the country in higher numbers and with better grades than men. But while having a medical degree adds prestige for women in the marriage market in Pakistan, using that degree as a practicing doctor usually does not. Many qualified female doctors therefore don't practice medicine after marriage. Perhaps related, there is a massive shortage of doctors in the country, especially in rural areas.

This is where DoctHers comes in. The startup was co-founded by Dr Sara Khurram and modelled on a predicament she herself faced. It is a platform, providing

Laws are often behind the economic realities of female (and male) citizens. While most emerging markets in the Muslim world have high internet and mobile penetration rates, women still tend to have less digital access than men.

initial retraining and skills for housewives with medical degrees and then an online connection to part-time telework through a video platform. On the other end are (primarily female) patients who live in remote parts of the country and who would otherwise re-

ceive little or no medical care at all. Such digital bazaars have sprung up across the Muslim world, offering technological solutions to cultural constraints and providing new forms of livelihood and services to women.

Often young female entrepreneurs are tapping into a market in which they have a comparative advantage: other young millennial women like them who have new-found disposable income.

Amira Azzouz is the Cairo-based founder of Fustany.com, a fashion and lifestyle portal for Arab women covering everything from health, beauty, nutrition and fashion to careers, relationships and children. Elissa Freiha, based in Dubai, is the co-founder of Womena, a platform for connecting high net worth women investors with entrepreneurs. Diajeng Lester, in Jakarta, is the founder of Hijup.com, a pioneer in Islamic modest fashion e-commerce, which brings together products from 200 fashion designers and gets 1.5 million visitors each month.

For their grandmothers and mothers, work outside the home was often inaccessible. But the 50 million Muslim women who have joined the work force — online and offline — in the last 15 years have led the greatest migration from home to work ever seen in their countries. The economic opportunity unleashed by the combination of education, ambition and technology is massive. The combined income of working women across the Muslim world is already \$1 trillion.

As more women create entrepreneurial ventures, generating jobs and income for ever-larger segments of the population, governments can facilitate this new avenue of growth for their economies.

The social payoff, in the form of women's empowerment, breaking stereotypes and stronger communities, may be even greater. And as digital platforms and tools make economic activity more easily visible and measurable, policymakers have an opportunity for smarter regulation.

Laws are often behind the economic realities of female (and male) citizens. While most emerging markets in the Muslim world have high internet and mobile penetration rates, women still tend to have less digital access than men. While public transport infrastructure in many Muslim emerging markets needs overall improvement, it also needs to take into account women's concerns around safety and harassment to truly open up mobility options for them.

Governments across the economies of the Muslim world will need to reconsider policies in a range of areas — digital inclusion, labor, parental leave, child care, taxation, safety, access to finance and transport — and apply a gender lens to developing new areas to fully unleash the potential of their female work force, including entrepreneurs.

Globalization and technology have at times had a harsh impact on parts of the working class in the United States and elsewhere in the developed world in recent years. On the other side of the world, those same forces have empowered millions of women, with far-reaching consequences for their families, communities and countries. If the image of a typical entrepreneur in Silicon Valley is a young man in a hoodie, in many urban areas of the Muslim World, it could easily be a young woman in a hijab. The passion, energy and desire to solve local problems are the same. Their governments should now recognize and back these new employers.

(Saadia Zahidi is head of the Center for the New Economy and Society at the World Economic Forum and author of "Fifty Million Rising.")



Samira Negm

## CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

### Don't judge book by its cover

**Good afternoon**

I've just spoken to you by phone regarding an article, an incident that I would like to share with you, hopefully you can publish it, under this title:

Don't judge a book by the cover!

As a regular loyal customer, coffee drinker I'm wondering always about the impoliteness, rudeness of coffee shop staff members, when this incident happened a few days ago.

Wondering as well about the customer service, as we all know that customer care and service here in Bahrain in restaurants, coffee shops etc is on a very low poor level.

Like 2 days ago when I went to my fixed daily coffee shop in Galleria Mall, having my

daily coffee, I'm a loyal regular customer of this coffee shop (I'm coming to this coffee shop for more than 1 year) so I know all the staff members there working as well.

As being jobless for a very long time and interested in coffee, the boss was sitting inside the coffee shop in a meeting with a couple.

So I was shy, trying to find a way to approach him in order to ask him about recruitment, hiring staff.

I've asked one of the staff members just a simple question which was:

How to apply for getting a job in the coffee shop, is it possible to have a word with your boss regarding this?

She was looking at me and answered with: You don't need a job, you're rich enough and

having money enough, you don't need!

How could she judge me, judging a book by the cover by nationality or whatever?

This is totally disrespectful to be treated like this as a loyal customer.

I mean is this the way to treat loyal regular customers like this, is this customer service, trained staff members?

As being shocked by this answer of her, I've even made a complaint to the coffee shop owner but I didn't get even any response of it!

No phone-call, no email and not even a complimentary!

While the owner of the coffee shop is more than 30 years in business over here in Bahrain, having bakeries, restaurants and that coffee shop.

Where I'm coming we're more aware of customer service, knowing, simple: Any customer should be treated as a king/queen, any complaint, notice should be taken seriously and handed out with a complimentary in order for him/her to come back to the restaurant, coffee shop or whatever restaurant, coffee shop it is.

Anyhow, don't judge a book by a cover, you may, might never know what's behind it, someone could be in real serious issues, problems, you just simply don't know, can't imagine even, how to survive, struggling daily....

Assumption of something, someone doesn't give right to judge a book by a cover, same as a sorry without action is meaningless, useless.

Nicole



1939

**Spanish Civil War:** Generalissimo Francisco Franco conquers Madrid after a three-year siege.



1959

The State Council of the **People's Republic of China** dissolves the government of Tibet.

1970

An earthquake strikes **western Turkey** at about 23:05 local time, killing 1,086 and injuring 1,260.

1990

United States President **George H. W. Bush** posthumously awards Jesse Owens the Congressional Gold Medal.

# End civilian killings or lose battle

*Kabul needs to offer accountability after the military killed 36 children and adult civilians in a village in Northeastern Afghanistan*



Pic courtesy: Tim Hetherington

On May 16, the Afghan government apologised to the families of 30 children and six civilian adults who were killed in air force strikes in the northeastern part of the country. The government claimed that the attack also killed at least 18 high-ranking Taliban fighters.

The brief apology came 44 days after machine-gun and rocket fire brought a violent end to a ceremony honoring children who had memorised the Quran and nine days after the United Nations released a damning report questioning Kabul's "respect of the rules of precaution and proportionality under international humanitarian law."

The text of the apology reveals the chasm between the rulers and the ruled, the centre and the periphery: The families of the 36 civilian victims remain unnamed — common nouns rather than real people struggling with grief and loss.

It does not offer justice nor promise greater caution and deliberation from Kabul. It attempts to offer the self-serving consolation that the Afghan government is better than the Taliban by saying, "The key difference between the government and insurgents is that a legitimate government will always seek forgiveness for mistakes."

The "mistake" that the apology refers to occurred on April 2 in the village of Daftani in the Dasht-e-Archi district of Kunduz Province. Scores of children were being honored at a madrassa for completing their memorisation of the Quran. As part of an old Afghan tradition, elders would tie turbans on the heads of the children, a ritual called "dastar bandi."

Dasht-e-Archi is a vast barren landscape, where 90,000 people make a living from subsistence agriculture and trade with neighbouring Tajikistan. Though the United Nations has labelled the district free of poppy cultivation since 2006, its proximity to the Tajikistan border makes it a vital transit point for the trafficking of drugs and other illicit goods.

The Taliban also dominate the district, a striking example of an area deemed too distant and too difficult for Kabul and the regional government in Kunduz to manage. It is a place where drug mafias and armed groups fill the void, and the population is ignored by the politicians.

Samihullah, a flower shop worker who like many Afghans uses one name, transported bouquets of bright plastic flowers to the madrassa to be given to teachers and students after the ceremony. Around noon, as the ceremony was drawing to a close, the sky above was filled with the roar of three or four helicopters.

Then came the deafening sound of

**There is a long history of civilian killings in Afghan military operations, especially in parts of the country far from the capital. The cold and formulaic response by President Ashraf Ghani and his cheerleaders is bound to feed more anger and disaffection.**

machine-gun fire, and bullets hit the students, teachers and guests. As they tried to flee the madrassa, rockets were fired from the helicopters.

After two rockets exploded over a two-story structure attached to the madrassa building, Nematullah, a madrassa teacher, heard an announcement from overhead: "Don't be frightened. Do not run. Remain calm. You are not our targets."

As it happened, a group of Taliban fighters had gathered about 80 feet away in another building. Two rockets hit the Taliban fighters.

But, witnesses say, the fire from the helicopters killed and wounded numerous civilians who were in their homes and in the wheat fields surrounding the madrassa. Nematullah, the teacher, said he suffered minor injuries as he ran out before two more rockets hit the site of the graduation ceremony, where most of the students were killed.

Saif-ur-Rahman, 40, a villager, was standing outside a shop about three miles from the madrassa when he heard the gunfire and explosions. Saif-ur-Rahman remembered that three of his cousins, including Samihullah, the flower seller, were at the madrassa. After several attempts, he reached a cousin on his phone. "There has been an attack," the cousin said. "We can't find Samihullah."

When Saif-ur-Rahman arrived at the madrassa, he saw scraps of the ceremonial turbans and slippers and shoes scattered among the bloodied bodies. The villagers took the injured to nearby clinics and pharmacies in taxis and rickshaws and on motorbikes.

Saif-ur-Rahman found Samihullah in a clinic in the village, which wasn't equipped to treat the fractures in his arms and legs. He moved Samihullah to a hospital in Kunduz, about 45 miles away. By the end of the week, he and several others would be transported by

helicopter to Kabul.

As the word of the attack spread, current and former Afghan officials and other influential figures took a celebratory tone, emphasising the deaths of the Taliban fighters and ignoring the deaths of the students. Their remarks illustrated how that for certain segments of Afghan society — talking heads, workers for nongovernmental organizations and the government — a victim is a victim only when killed by the Taliban and the Islamic State.

Thus prominent Afghans were rationalising the killings of Afghan children by the Afghan government in pursuit of the Taliban. The civilians killed in operations by the Afghan government and international coalition are simply an unfortunate byproduct of war, as if the children in that madrassa had willingly sacrificed themselves for some imagined greater good.

As the details surrounding the civilian deaths began to surface, some social media accounts — some based in Afghanistan, others in Western cities — lashed out at anyone who questioned the official narrative and pointed out that civilians were killed in the attack. Some of these accounts belonged to former government officials, others to journalists, while the rest were anonymous and suddenly popped up in the feeds of anyone who raised questions about civilian casualties.

People who had reported or discussed the civilian casualties online were told that the civilian deaths are "another example of how Taliban use civilians as human shields." Some claimed that the photographs of children killed were inventions by Pakistan, which is seeking to turn the Afghans against their military.

Shortly after the strikes, the Kabul government admitted to civilian casualties in a vague statement that implicitly praised the professionalism of the Afghan security forces and gave no sense that they also killed scores of children. Newspaper headlines in the region and beyond followed the same pattern: The children were barely mentioned, and the Taliban received the top billing.

There is a long history of civilian killings in Afghan military operations, especially in parts of the country far from the capital. The cold and formulaic response by President Ashraf Ghani and his cheerleaders is bound to feed more anger and disaffection.

To stop ordinary Afghans from turning further away from Kabul, Ghani needs to do more than offer weak apologies. He needs to promise justice and accountability.

(Ali M. Latifi is a reporter. Ehsanullah Ehsan is a researcher and journalist.)

## Karak Break

### What Customers Want?



MOHAMED ISA

Perhaps, this is the ultimate question any company needs to address: What customers want? Answering this short question could spell the difference between failure & success and between losses & profits. Based on my experience and observations, countless companies try to come up with catchy visions, elaborative mission statements and best practices codes to address this vital question.

At times, they hire top-notch consultants, they invest a ton of money, they spend countless hours in meetings, briefings and brainstorming sessions thinking hard and long about the perfect answer to this question. I attended many of these sessions myself. I was frustrated by the many hours I spent in non-productive meetings and the pile of documents to go through. And when the project is finished, the policies are signed off and filed in the cabinets not to be seen again. What a shame!

And this is the eternal problem: Companies are not practicing what they preach. I am a customer of one company that raves about its customer service in all its literature whether its website, annual reports, or its code of best



**They do not care about what your vision, mission or code of conduct say about customer service. They care about getting reliable products or services every time they deal with your company. That's it. Nothing more. Nothing less**

practice. If you read its literature, you will think this company is run by angels who descended from the sky. Far from it, just examine its social media feeds to see what dismayed customers say. I particularly liked this comment: "Two hours for a single transaction! You ruined my whole day." That hurts! To add insult to injury, no one replied to his comment from the company.

When I worked for Unilever, we had a different approach to finding what customers want? We had a programme called: Feet on the street. The entire company from the chairman to the lowest ranking staff would go out to spend hours in supermarkets to speak directly to our consumers. We asked simple questions: (1) Why do you like our products? And (2) How can we improve them for you? These insights were fed directly to our research and development department so that we improve our products and innovate new ones.

Now, if you want my verdict on this issue. Customers want deeds not words. They do not care about what your vision, mission or code of conduct say about customer service. They care about getting reliable products or services every time they deal with your company. That's it. Nothing more. Nothing less. There is one company that got this right in the Old Souq of Manama. This small unknown company is in the cargo business and it hit the nail on the head when it comes to what customers want: "We deliver cargo. Not excuses."

(Mohamed Isa, Award-Winning Speaker & Best-Selling Author, @mohamedisa3ds)

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



ery tough night, fighter. Despite confident that ssia to make you Your love and ill give me the need.

@Mosalah

02



didn't the 13 ry Democrats the campaign d Hillary Clin-crimes, much with Russia? t the FBI take from the DNC? estigation! DonaldTrump

03



e for the results ss 10 CBSE ex- 2017-18 will be l in a couple of

@swarup58

04



elcome the re- of Joshua & Holt, who were mprisoned in a. U.S. policy to- ezuela remains d. We support elan people & to return to de- We wish Joshua y the best after it period.

@SecPompeo

(Views expressed s are personal and ecessarily reflect our ial stances)



WORLD  
world**SriLankan flight hits runway light at Kochi airport**

IANS | Kochi

SriLankan Airlines yesterday said that all 228 passengers on board its flight UL 167 were safe after the aircraft, while landing at Kochi airport, "veered toward the runway edge and caused damage to some ground lights".

According to the airline, the flight en route from Colombo to Kochi landed during an intense rain shower caused by the onset of the monsoon at 3.30 p.m. yesterday.

"Due to the ambient conditions, strong winds and heavy rain, the aircraft veered toward the runway edge and caused damage to some ground lights," the airline said in a statement.

"The flight landed safely with no injuries to passengers or crew... There was minor damage to two lights on the runway."

The flight was ferrying a total 228 passengers and 12 crew members.

**Pakistan to hold general elections on July 25**

IANS | Islamabad

Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain has set July 25 as the date for the country's next general elections, the media reported yesterday.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had sent a summary to the President on May 21, proposing the holding of the 2018 general elections on any date between July 25 and 27.

An official from the President's Office said that Hussain had signed the summary approving July 25 as the polling date.

**US officials in North Korea to prepare for possible US summit**

● **Kim Jong-un has reaffirmed his commitment to Trump summit**

Reuters | Seoul

US officials crossed into North Korea yesterday to hold talks on preparations for a possible summit, a US newspaper reported, as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his commitment to meet with US President Donald Trump.

Both Pyongyang and Washington are pressing ahead on plans for a meeting between the two leaders after Trump pulled out of the scheduled June 12 summit on Thursday, only to reconsider the decision next day.

The Washington Post, citing a person familiar with the arrangements, said Sung Kim, a former US ambassador to South Korea and former nuclear negotiator with the North, was leading the preparations on the US side.

He crossed into North Korean territory with Allison Hooker, the Korea expert on the White



South Korean President Moon Jae-in shakes hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as he leaves after their summit at the truce village of Panmunjom

House National Security Council. They met with Choe Son Hui, the North Korean vice foreign minister, the Post said. Pentagon official Randall Schriver is also in Seoul currently, the Post said.

The meetings are expected to continue on Monday and Tuesday and are focused on the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons program, it said.

South Korean President Moon

Jae-in said earlier that he and North's Kim agreed at a surprise meeting on Saturday that the possible North Korea-US summit must be held, Moon told a news conference in Seoul.

Kim reaffirmed his commitment to "complete" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to a planned meeting with Trump, Moon told a news conference in Seoul.

"Chairman Kim and I have

agreed that the June 12 summit should be held successfully, and that our quest for the Korean peninsula's denuclearization and a perpetual peace regime should not be halted," Moon said.

The meeting was the latest dramatic turn in a week of diplomatic ups and downs surrounding the prospects for an unprecedented summit between the United States and North Korea,

Chairman Kim and I have agreed that the June 12 summit should be held successfully, and that our quest for the Korean peninsula's denuclearization and a perpetual peace regime should not be halted

MOON JAE-IN

and the strongest sign yet that the leaders of the two Koreas are trying to keep the on-again off-again meeting on track.

While maintaining that Kim is committed to denuclearization, Moon acknowledged Pyongyang and Washington may have differing expectations of what that means and he urged both sides to hold working-level talks to resolve their differences.

A statement from North Korea's state news agency KCNA said Kim expressed "his fixed will" on the possibility of meeting Trump as previously planned.

**Palestinian President's hospital stay extended**

Reuters | Ramallah, West Bank

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who officials said is being treated for a lung infection, will remain in hospital for an eighth day yesterday.

The 82-year-old leader had been expected to be released from hospital in the occupied West Bank yesterday, but this was postponed, Abbas' office

said in a text message to journalists.

Abbas, who is a heavy smoker, was admitted on May 20 for what doctors had initially said were medical tests following ear surgery. He was shown on Palestinian television last week walking along a hospital corridor and sitting in an armchair reading a newspaper.

A Palestinian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity,

said Abbas was still undergoing treatment and would not be released on Sunday, adding that he has been holding meetings with international and Palestinian officials at his bedside.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa ran a statement which quoted Istishari Hospital's medical director, Said Sarahneh, as saying test results show an improvement in his health.

**Massive beach clean-up for Hong Kong sea turtles**

Participants take part in a beach cleanup on Hong Kong's outlying Lamma Island

AFP | Hong Kong

More than two thousand volunteers hit the beach on an outlying island of Hong Kong for a mass rubbish clean up yesterday as environment campaigners warned plastic is killing sea turtles and other wildlife.

There has been increasing concern over the amount of rubbish in Hong Kong waters which washes up on its numerous beaches. Authorities and environmentalists have pointed the finger at southern mainland China as the source. Last year, a massive palm oil spillage from a ship collision in mainland Chinese waters clogged Hong Kong beaches.

But there is evidence that Hong Kong is also to blame. In 2016, local media reported that



The summer of 2012 was the last time a female turtle laid 5 clutches of a total of 550 eggs on the beach of Sham Wan

syringes and medical waste washed ashore from clinics in the city.

Yesterday's clean-up took place on Shek Pai Wan, near Sham Wan -- known as "Turtle Cove" -- on Hong Kong's Lamma Island.

**Four-month-old Panda cub makes first public appearance at Malaysia zoo**

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

A four-month-old panda cub made her first public appearance Saturday at the Malaysian zoo where she was born, to the delight of visitors.

The fluffy little cub was the second born to Liang Liang, who has been on loan to Malaysia since 2014, along with a male panda, a rare success story for natural reproduction among giant pandas which are notoriously clumsy at mating on rare occasions they are in mood.

The family of three were in good health, said Mat Naim Ramli, director of national zoo's panda centre in Kuala Lumpur.

"The cub weighs nine kilograms (20 pounds). She is so



A giant panda cub made its first public appearance at the National Zoo of Malaysia near Kuala Lumpur

cute. Her growth is quite fast and she is already able to move slowly," he told reporters.

The cub's sister Nuan Nuan was born in August 2015 and

sent to China in November last year as part of Beijing's agreement with Malaysia that cubs born in captivity must go back at the age of two.

Mat Naim attributed the success of having two baby pandas born in Malaysia to having a healthy pair that "are able to accept each other".



The female cub is the second offspring of parents, who arrived in Malaysia on a loan from China



# Spectacular lightning strikes hit parts of UK

More than 200 flights were delayed at Stansted Airport

AP | London

British meteorologists said thousands of lightning strikes hit the UK during a powerful overnight thunderstorm, and a London-area airport reported flight disruptions yesterday after an aircraft refuelling system was damaged.

London Stansted Airport said that a lightning strike disabled the fuelling system "for a period this morning."

Engineers have been on site and have now restored the system, however flights may still be subject to diversion, delay or cancellation.

More than 200 flights were delayed at Stansted. Another 31 departures and 18 arrivals were cancelled, according to FlightStats, which provides data on



A lightning strike during a storm in London

commercial aviation.

London-area airports were busier than usual, since Britain is in the middle of a long holiday weekend, and many schoolchildren also have a half-term break this coming week.

Budget airline Ryanair, which has a big presence at Stansted,

couldn't say how many of its flights had been affected at the airport, but was offering full refunds to some.

The Ireland-based airline apologized to those affected, but said the disruptions were beyond the company's control.

"A number of flights have



regrettably been cancelled at Stansted Airport this morning due to an earlier airport fuelling system failure, caused by a lightning strike," a Ryanair spokesman said. "All affected customers are being contacted and advised of their options of a full refund, a free transfer on to the next available flight or a free transfer on to an alternative routing."

Meteorologist Charlie Powell said information suggested there were "around 15,000 strikes across the UK during the overnight period."

## Trump welcomes American freed from Venezuela



US President Donald Trump shake hands with Josh Holt

AFP | Washington

An American and his wife held nearly two years in a Venezuelan jail received a hero's welcome at the White House as they returned home Saturday following their release -- a move by sanctions-hit Caracas in a bid to spur dialogue with Washington.

But US officials immediately squelched any suggestion that punitive measures against Venezuela would be eased after the release of Joshua Holt, 26, and his wife Thamara Caleno.

"Very glad that Josh Holt is now back home with his family -- where he has always

belonged. Sanctions continue until democracy returns to Venezuela," Pence said in a tweet.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said "US policy toward Venezuela remains unchanged."

In a statement, he added that "the United States stands steadfast in support of the Venezuelan people and their efforts to return to democracy."

The couple's release followed a two-year effort by Utah Senator Orrin Hatch and after Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met in Caracas Friday with Maduro.

## 48 killed as Uganda bus rams into tractor and truck

AFP | Kampala

At least 48 people including 16 children died in northern Uganda when a bus hit a tractor driving with no lights at night and then a truck, the Red Cross said Saturday.

"Evacuation teams are working tirelessly to rescue the injured", said Ugandan police spokeswoman Emilian Kayima, adding that all three drivers had died.

"The death toll is now at 48 including 16 children," Red Cross spokeswoman Irene Nakasiita told *Agence France-Presse*.

The accident happened on Friday night in Kiryandongo, about 220 kilometers (140 miles) north of the capital Kampala.

The bus collided first with the tractor before hitting a truck transporting beer. Local media said the death toll exceeded 30.

# Seven firemen injured in major blaze at German theme park

AFP | Frankfurt

Seven firefighters were injured in efforts to put out a massive blaze at Germany's largest amusement park, police said yesterday, as it reopened to visitors despite extensive damage to some areas.

The fire at Europa-Park started early Saturday evening in a storage facility before engulfing the Pirates of Batavia boat ride, completely destroying the attraction.

It took some 250 firefighters until the next morning to extinguish the inferno, which sent huge columns of black smoke into the air.

Dramatic images of the raging fire were widely captured by visitors to the theme park in Rust, southwestern Germany and shared on social media.

Some 25,000 people had to be evacuated from the park, but none suffered any injuries.



A black column of smoke rises from a warehouse in flames above Europa-park in Rust, southern Germany

The local Offenburg police said in a statement that the blaze had left seven firefighters "lightly injured", without giving details. All of them were able to leave hospital after receiving medical attention.

Europa-park opened its doors as normal yesterday, although large sections of the Dutch and

Scandinavian-themed areas remain closed because of fire damage.

Europa-park's chief executive Michael Mack tweeted his thanks for the rescue services, saying Saturday had been "a sad day" for the park.

The cause of the fire is still unknown. Police said some fire-

fighters remained at the scene to carry out damping down operations and secure the area to allow experts to assess the damage.

Founded in 1975, Europa-Park is Europe's second-most popular amusement park after Disneyland, attracting some 5.7 million visitors last year.



Europa-Park the second most popular theme park resort in Europe, following Disneyland Paris

## 125-year-old jeans sold for nearly \$100,000



A portion of a pair of 125-year-old Levi Strauss & Co., denim blue jeans

Xinhua | Washington

A pair of 125-year-old jeans has sold for nearly 100,000 US dollars, setting a record for vintage denim, US media said Saturday.

The pants, manufactured by Levi Strauss & Co., were sold by an auction house in Maine on May 15 to a buyer in Southeast Asia. Daniel Soules of the auction house said: "It's somebody who loves old Levis."

At this old age, the jeans come with a fascinating backstory. The fabric was produced by a mill in New Hampshire on the East Coast, but the pants were manufactured in San Francisco on the West Coast. The first owner of the pants was Solomon Warner, a store owner in Arizona who purchased them in 1893.

Warner had barely worn them before his death, so the jeans stayed in good condition as they were passed down in the family throughout the years, helping preserve their value.

Levis had offered to buy back the pants for 50,000 dollars.

Several features of the pants were distinctively different from today's model, such as their single back pocket, and their lack of belt loops due to the popularity of suspenders in the 19th century.

## Baby 'Miracle' born on rescue ship as Italy arrivals surge

Reuters | Catania, Italy

A baby boy named Miracle has been born on board a humanitarian ship - a bright spot as the tide of migrants risking sea crossings from Libya to Italy has increased as the weather has improved.

There have been more than 1,800 migrants rescued by humanitarian ships, and Italy's navy and coastguard vessels over the past three days, and one body was recovered, an Italian coastguard official said.

Arrivals from Libya, a staging post for people smugglers, have plummeted 85 percent this year from last as Italy provided support to the Libyan coastguard



A woman (L), who just gave birth on board the Aquarius, reacts as she takes her newborn baby son, called Miracle, on board the ship

and to municipalities along the coast to stop migrant boats. Factors seem to have reversed that trend, for now.

Migrants rescued by the



When Miracle was brought onto deck by the midwife, the migrants on board celebrated his birth by singing and dancing

Aquarius spoke of horrific conditions and violence in Libya, including the mother of the baby

born on Saturday.

"Both the mother and baby are doing very well," Amino Soulemane, the midwife on the Aquarius, said. Miracle, weighing 2.8 kg, was the sixth baby born on the rescue ship, but the first this year, King said.

When Miracle was brought onto deck by the midwife, the migrants on board celebrated his birth by singing and dancing -- a far cry from the conditions they said they had come from in Libya.

The mother, whose name was not given, told MSF she had been "held captive, beaten, given very little food and extorted for money for release" during the year she was in Libya.



# features



Iraqi students walk near a building of the central Library of the University of Mosul

## In Mosul, young volunteers help bring city back to life

After living under Islamic State's strict rule and then the war to retake the city of Mosul, young women feel as though they have been liberated

Reuters | Mosul, Iraq

*Months after Iraq announced full control of the city, life is back in many parts. But much of the Old City, where the last and the bloodiest battles were waged, is still in complete ruin*

A group of Iraqi university students have found a cause in the ruins of Mosul. They are salvaging what is left of its rich heritage, clearing rubble and distributing aid in a city crying out for help after the war against Islamic State.

The project began when Raghad Hammadi and a group of students decided to launch a campaign to help rebuild the Central Library of Mosul University, burnt and bombed in the war. Its vast contents had been almost intact.

But they found buried under layers of ash some 30,000 books almost intact.

Over 40 hot days, with the war still raging on the other side, the students moved the books one by one using holes made by

rockets to carry them to safety. "An entire city with a glorious past and ancient history lost its heritage and culture: the tomb of the Prophet Jonah, the minaret of Al-Hadba which is older than Iraq itself. It is great that we were able to save a part of this heritage," said Hammadi, 25, a nursing student.

Both the leaning minaret of Al-Hadba, part of the 12th century Grand al-Nuri Mosque, where in 2014 Islamic State's Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a caliphate, and the ancient tomb of what is believed to be the Prophet Jonah were destroyed in the military campaign to retake the city.

Hammadi says among the books salvaged were some handwritten by Mosul scholars.

They included editions written in Moslawi, the distinct dialect of the region once known as a centre for scholarly Islam and

the pride of many for its ancient mosques, churches and Old City architecture.

### Revolution within

Elsewhere, volunteers cleared rubble and garbage, opened roads, drilled water wells and distributed aid.

"The situation in Mosul is so much better now and this is because of the revolution that happened within Mosul, within its young people," she said.

After living under Islamic State's strict rule and then the war to retake the city, young women feel as though they have been liberated.

The team that set out to rescue the books was mixed, a rarity in Mosul's society, where mingling between sexes outside the family or university was limited even before Islamic State.

"An unbelievable barrier has been broken, it might be a trivial

thing for the rest of the world but for Mosul it is huge," she said.

Months after Iraq announced full control of the city, life is back in many parts. But much of the Old City, where the last and the bloodiest battles were waged, is still in complete ruin.

Diyaa Al Taher, a resident who is helping rehabilitate homes, says most people, despite being impoverished, have returned to neighbourhoods where the rubble has been cleared. However, there are entire areas that are completely deserted. Corpses fester under debris.

"Poverty can do more harm than Daesh. If the city remains like this and the poor can't find anything to eat, they will do anything," said Taher, 30.

Taher says his target is to rehabilitate 1,000 homes and has so far finished rehabilitating 75, relying solely on donations

from locals. Taher is regularly stopped by locals asking for help. He points to a collapsed home where an entire family was killed. Marwa Al Juburi, 25, a divorcee, was one of the first to volunteer as soon as she and her family escaped the fighting.

"It was a miracle that we even made it. From then on I refused to accept to stay at home anymore. I refused to be silenced and I haven't since," she said.

She runs activities for children and helps coordinate access to medical care and equipment for families.

Her team organised the opening of a park previously used as a military training ground for the fighters who ruled the city for three years.

Al Juburi, who is still haunted by images of the night of their escape, says even if Mosul is rebuilt, people need help to get over the mental toll.

## Rock carvings reveal Saudi's old civilisations

● Archaeological sites in Bisha reveal over 10,000 engravings, and 2,000 written texts

Al-Arabiya | Riyadh

Modern and ancient historical studies revealed the existence of scattered human settlements in the north and south of the province of Bisha, and in addition to the southern Asir region, according to *The Saudi Press Agency*.

In ancient times, convoys carrying pilgrims travelled through trade routes, leaving behind around 10,000 traces of drawings, inscriptions and etchings

on the rocks and mountains of Bisha.

These etchings are spread across several locations, including Al-Hamaa, home to over 1,300 ancient rock sketches and 50 manuscripts which drew the attention of many researchers and historians.

Several other historical sites in Bisha were also revealed around different trade routes such as the Hadrami Road, and the Yemeni Hajj Road, known as "The Elephant Trail".

Researchers found that these archaeological sites prelude to various pre-Islamic time periods in Bisha which included Thamudic letterings. As the first, second, and third state of Saudi Arabia emerged, Sadrah became known for its alluring architecture and other relics along the old trade route.



The Bisha area is of immense agricultural importance due to high soil fertility, abundant water, and palm cultivation

Abdullah bin Saeed Al-Aklabi, Director of the Office of the National Authority for Tourism and National Heritage, also reveals



An archaeological site in Bisha

Nabataean and Kufic text.

The rock inscriptions are considered one of the most important sources of information

in the study of the Arabic and Islamic civilizations. It serves as tangible evidence of the Arabian Peninsula society, in terms of

their laws and regulations, and political movements.

Additionally, Bisha has been listed by the National Tourism and Heritage Council as one of the most significant ancient sites. One-hundred sites in Bisha revealed over 10,000 engravings, and 2,000 written texts distributed across seven administrative centres (Al-Thunaya, Tibala, Jouba, Naqie, Al-Geneina, Al-Hazmi, and Samakh).

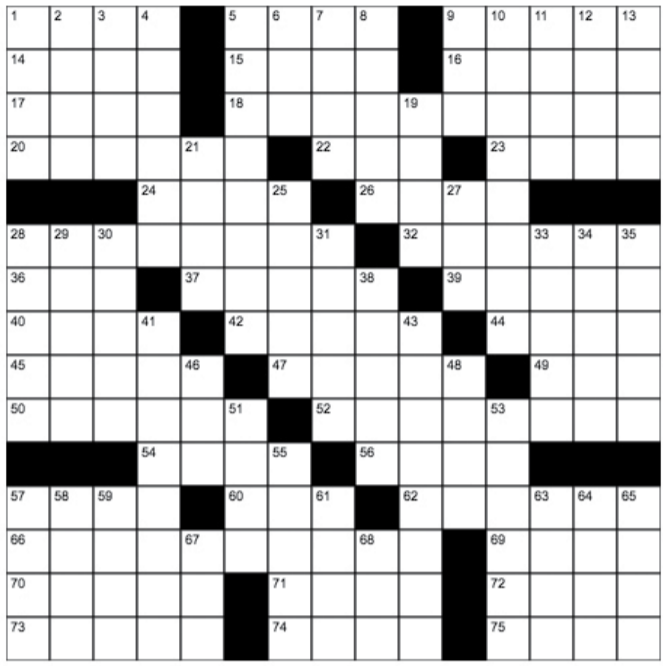
The rocks reveal various forms of art, some in the form of sculptures, while others included more abstract markings, indicating the gender of the subject drawn.

Portrayals of men and woman were found and drawings of daggers, swords and spears symbolized masculinity. Animals such as cows, donkeys, and horses were also drawn.



# entertainment

## CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



peak; 69- Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"; 70- Bird of prey, score in golf; 71- Listen to; 72- Airline to Tel Aviv; 73- Stone marker; 74- London gallery; 75- Actor Auberjonois;

### Down

1- Addition column; 2- Church center; 3- Exploitative one; 4- Mouth stuff; 5- Collecting; 6- More than one male; 7- Window piece; 8- Derogatory; 9- Bali \_\_\_; 10- Member of feline chorus?; 11- Horse of mixed color; 12- Sneaky guy?; 13- River of Flanders; 19- London's \_\_\_ Park; 21- I could \_\_\_ horse!; 25- "Enigma Variations" composer; 27- Skid row woe; 28- Valleys; 29- Musical drama; 30- Dirty looks; 31- "Dallas" matriarch; 33- Rush; 34- Musical study piece; 35- Actress Witherspoon; 38- Words on a Wonderland cake; 41- Typical Englishman; 43- Blue gem; 46- \_\_\_ Dawn Chong; 48- Plumlike fruit; 51- Hindu discipline; 53- Stableman; 55- The dark; 57- Bad day for Caesar; 58- At the drop of \_\_\_; 59- Merlin, e.g.; 61- \_\_\_ yellow ribbon...; 63- Eight furlongs; 64- King of comedy; 65- The world's longest river; 67- Grassland; 68- Deserter;

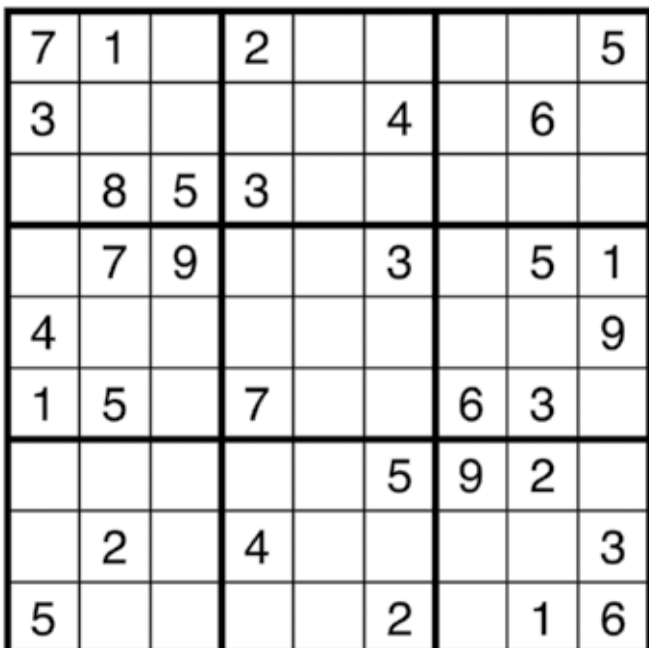
### Across

1- Blame; 5- Concert gear; 9- Shrew; 14- Rocket launcher; 15- Intend; 16- Healing plants; 17- Daredevil Knievel; 18- Wipe out; 20- Sequence; 22- Dreyer's partner in ice cream; 23- Cabinet dept.; 24- Mantel piece; 26- Swirl; 28- Evaporating rapidly; 32- One engraving; 36- King Kong, e.g.; 37- Fish; 39- Pan-fry; 40- Actor Cobb; 42- Festive occasions; 44- Faithful; 45- Miscalculation; 47- Rudner and Moreno; 49- Map lines: Abbr.; 50- Walk nonchalantly; 52- Worker; 54- Sign gas; 56- Narrative poetry; 57- Poetic foot; 60- Scram!; 62- Cossack chief; 66- Himalayan

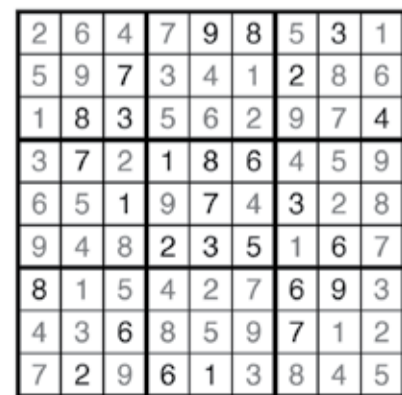
## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

## YOUR STAR TODAY



### Aries

The more attention you try to get from other people today, the more people are going to ignore your fancy displays and grandiose ideas. Take a much more sensitive approach. You'll be able to lead people better when you walk behind them. Earn the respect of others by understanding and relating to their emotions.



### Taurus

Take care of the people around you. Service to others is an important part of the day, as compassion and caring are at the forefront of your mind. Take this opportunity to become a reassuring caregiver for someone close who needs a nurturing shoulder.



### Gemini

You may feel as if you're sinking into an emotional vortex. Be careful about assuming that things are yours when they aren't really. It's important that you not accuse someone of being a thief when you have no facts to back up this claim. Keeping things in balance may be difficult with the great amount of emotional sensitivity in the air at this time.



### Cancer

Your thinking is quite clear, and you'll find that your emotions support your mental processes. Your psychic nature is also strong, so you should trust any hunch you have. The masculine and feminine sides of your being are working together harmoniously to balance out the degree of give versus take in your world.



### Leo

You may need to keep your spaceship idle today and perform a safety check for your crew. Make sure everyone on board is informed of the destination. It could be that you just picked them off the street without really telling them where they'd end up.



### Virgo

Things may not be as obvious as they first seem today. Don't get started on a project until you understand the full scope of what you're getting into. Otherwise, you may find yourself caught in the middle of an emotional drama that leaves you little room for escape. Don't be surprised if your motivation suddenly dissipates and you're left with no incentive to get your work done.



### Libra

Don't try to force your ideas on anyone. It's important to maintain neutrality so you can act from a stable state of mind when someone brings you an issue that needs to be dealt with right away. The key is to act rather than react to a situation. If you know you're right about something, keep it to yourself.



### Scorpio

Your intuitive nature is especially strong. You won't have to think about things because you'll have the ability to just know the answers. If any penetrating detective work needs to be done, this would be an excellent time to do it.



### Sagittarius

Any argument you start today is likely to erupt into a brutal emotional battle, so beware. Try not to tread on anyone else's turf, because you'll find that he or she is likely to be possessive and rather belligerent about defending what is rightfully theirs. Avoid volcanic eruptions of energy.



### Capricorn

You may find that people are likely to challenge your mental process today. Don't be surprised if they seem to argue with your ideas left and right. Your heart may be especially tender, and any sort of belligerent dispute could affect you deeply.



### Aquarius

The key for you today is to use your heart more than your head. Base your actions on your feelings and your inner knowing of the situation. Facts may deceive you. It could be that you've come to rely so much on a linear, logical way of thinking that you can't see any other way.



### Pisces

Things should go especially well for you today, so don't worry about a thing. Life doesn't necessarily get easier as you get older. You just learn how to deal with things. You'll find this to be true right now as your incredible sensitivity and wisdom are making it possible for you to attain a clearer perspective. You realize that things are much better than you may have thought.



May	Ramadan	Day	Imsak	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
28	12	Mon	03:05 am	03:15 am	4:46 am	11:35 am	03:02 pm	06:24 pm	07:54 pm

# Spiritual Tunes



**SHAIKHA HALA BINT MOHAMMED AL KHALIFA**

“Malad” is a traditional form of religious verses accompanied by soothing tunes praising the life and legacy of the Prophet Mohammed Peace be Upon Him. This is custom found in many parts of the Arab

world. Here in the Gulf, this ceremony takes place to celebrate the birth of the Prophet (PBUH), or in memory of Israa and Miraj, and the night of the half of Sha’baan in the Islamic calendar. It is also a common performance, which associates with a personal vow that has been declared. Many women or men would promise to do a Malad, if they were granted a wish or a prayer, and this is a way of expressing their gratitude and thanks to Allah the Almighty.

These traditional practices are still present in our modern

days. They are a reflection of the wealth in our intangible heritage. Each county has its own style and flavor in performing the Malad, but the words and poems are all unified in the sense that they tell one story in remembrance of the life and legacy of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). The poems are sung in the most heartwarming tones that transports the audience to different parts of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) life story.

Tonight, at the Cultural Hall audiences can experience this unique performance, The



Emarati Malad, performed by the United Arab Emirate Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development Band. This is an opportunity to explore this spe-

cial type of performance, which highlights the importance of tradition preservation and sharing it with a wider audience.

Protection of cultural herit-

age is at the core of any cultural institutions policy, here in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities through various tools and projects aim to safeguard these values. The Malad celebration and its timing during the Holy Month of Ramadan has an important significance emphasizing the diversity and abundance in our traditions and heritage. It is also a way to share and transfer knowledge to a wider audience and display the wealth of our customs and practices.



KIMS Bahrain Healthcare hosted its annual Ramadan Ghabga at the Ritz Carlton. The event was attended by KIMS Bahrain Healthcare Officials, Dignitaries, Business Partners, and members of Social Communities to celebrate the spirit of the Holy Month of Ramadan.



MODA Mall is celebrating festivities during the Holy Month, with traditional and family-entertainment activities, amongst the backdrop of a beautiful themed Arabic tent. With servings of traditional coffee and dates extended to visitors in the evenings, MODA Mall recently hosted Girgaon for children in the Fashion court, where they were entertained with playful mascots dressed as cartoon characters, face-painting, decorative henna art, and treated to delicious popcorn. A 15-member Bahraini folklore band also entertained the mall visitors with traditional live music and dance performances.



ASRY, the leading maritime repair and fabrication facility in the Arabian Gulf and one of the leading industrial organisations in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has hosted an Iftar for orphans in Bahrain. The event, which took place at Al Areen Palace & Spa, brought together two prominent Bahraini orphans’ societies - Al Sanabel Orphans Care Society and Al Kawther Society for Social Care. The event comes in line with ASRY’s continuous policy of community support and social engagement with the local community.



# NBB Ghabga focuses on community support

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) hosted a Ramadan Ghabga dedicated to celebrating a number of the Bank’s corporate responsibility initiatives during the month of Ramadan. The event, held with a traditional Bahraini neighbourhood theme, was attended by more than 750 people including the Bank’s Executive Management team, Bank employees and spouses in addition to members of the Conserving Bounties Society.

Some 36 volunteer NBB staff were also trained by Society members, through a live demonstration, on how to pack excess food for distribution. Following the event, some 400 food parcels

**“To celebrate this important month, and NBB’s ongoing commitment to get closer to our staff, their families and our communities, we are delighted to have hosted a night aimed at highlighting strategic partnerships that allow us to give back.”**

MR. JEAN-CHRISTOPHE DURRAND

were prepared and delivered to people in need.



Also present at the Ghabga were a number of social media influencers who helped in the making and promotion of NBB’s Ramadan video and ShareToCareBH campaign, which focused on raising awareness of food waste. The two young actors and mother featured in the

video were awarded as part of the evening’s proceedings and NBB’s ongoing efforts to support and recognise the talent and creativity of Bahraini youth, alongside other noteworthy initiatives showcased over the course of the evening.

Commenting, Mr. Jean-Christophe

Durrand, CEO of NBB, said, “To celebrate this important month, and NBB’s ongoing commitment to get closer to our staff, their families and our communities, we are delighted to have hosted a night aimed at highlighting strategic partnerships

that allow us to give back. We are proud to see our Bank and our employees join with charitable organisations to help needy segments of Bahraini society and drive our own initiatives to positively impact our community and those we serve.”



# show

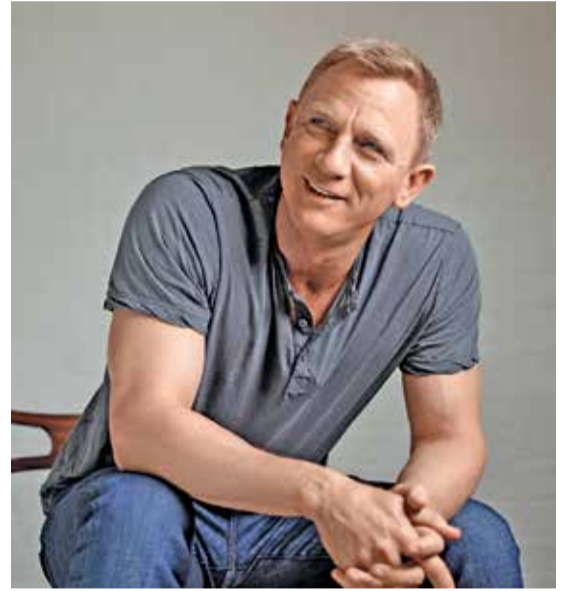
<b>PARMANU</b> ( HINDI / ACTION / DRAMA / HISTORY ) ⊗ John Abraham, Boman Irani, Diana Penty <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15 <b>Cineco (20)</b> 12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00, 11.45 Pm <b>Seef (I)</b> 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30 Pm <b>Saar</b> 8.30, 11.15 Pm <b>Wadi Al Sail</b> 8.15, 11.00 Pm
<b>KAALI</b> ( TAMIL / ACTION ) ⊗ Vijay Antony, Sunaina, Anjali <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 10:30,15:45,21:00
<b>NADIGAIYAR THILAGAM</b> ( TAMIL / BIOGRAPHY / DRAMA ) ⊗ Keerthi Suresh, Dulquer Salmaan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 12:45,18:00,23:15 <b>Seef (II)</b> 11.00 Am, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00 Pm
<b>ARAVINDANTE</b> ( MALAYALAM / DRAMA ) ⊗ Vineeth Sreenivasan, Sreenivasan, Nikhila, Urvashi <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30 <b>Seef (I)</b> 11.15 Am, 1.45, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15, 11.45 Pm <b>Al Hamra</b> On Thursday 24Th: 3.00, 6.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn From Friday 25Th: 6.00 Pm, (12.00 Mn Fri)
<b>SOLO: STAR WARS STORY: 3D</b> ( ACTION / ADVENTURE / FANTASY ) ⊗ Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harelson, Emilia Clarke <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30
<b>DEADPOOL 2:</b> 2D ( ACTION / ADVENTURE / COMEDY ) ⊗ Josh Brolin, Morena Baccarin, Zazie Beetz <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00, 00:15 <b>Cineco (20)</b> 11.00 Am, 11.30 Am, 1.30, 2.00, 4.00, 4.30, 6.30, 7.00, 9.00, 9.30, 11.30 Pm, 12.00 Mn Daily At (Vip II): 10.30 Am, 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.00 Pm <b>Seef (I)</b> 10.30 Am, 11.30 Am, 1.00, 2.00, 3.30, 4.30, 6.00, 7.00, 8.30, 9.30, 11.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn <b>Saar</b> 9.00, 11.30 Pm <b>Wadi Al Sail</b> 8.30, 11.00 Pm
<b>SOLO: STAR WARS STORY: 2D</b> ( ACTION / ADVENTURE / FANTASY ) ⊗ Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harelson, Emilia Clarke <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15 <b>Cineco (20)</b> Daily At (Imax 3D): 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30 Pm Daily At (Atmos): 10.30 Am, 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15 Pm, 12.00 Mn Daily At (Vip I): 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00 Pm <b>Seef (II)</b> 10.30 Am, 12.30, 1.00, 3.15, 3.45, 6.00, 6.30, 8.45, 9.15, 11.30 Pm, 12.00 Mn Daily At (3D): 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00 Pm <b>Saar</b> 8.45, 11.30 Pm

<b>Wadi Al Sail</b> 8.30, 11.15 Pm (3D): 8.00, 10.45 Pm
<b>INTERROGATION</b> ( BIOGRAPHY / DRAMA / SPORT ) ⊗ Margot Robbie, Sebastian Stan, Allison Janney <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 11:00,12:45,14:30,16:15,18:00,19:45,21:30,23:15,01:00 <b>Cineco (20)</b> 11.45 Am, 1.45, 3.45, 5.45, 7.45, 9.45, 11.45 Pm <b>Seef (II)</b> 11.30 Am, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30 Pm <b>Wadi Al Sail</b> 9.00, 11.00 Pm
<b>NELA TICKET</b> ( TELUGU / DRAMA ) ⊗ Ravi Teja, Malavika Sharma, Brahmanandam <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 10:30,13:15,16:00,18:45,21:30,00:15 <b>Seef (I)</b> From Friday 25Th:12.00, 6.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn <b>Al Hamra</b> From Friday 25Th: 3.00 Pm
<b>KINGS</b> ( CRIME / DRAMA / ROMANCE ) ⊗ Halle Berry, Daniel Craig, Lamar Johnson <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 11:00,12:45,14:30,16:15,18:00,19:45,21:30,23:15,01:00 <b>Cineco (20)</b> 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00, 12.00 Mn <b>Seef (II)</b> 11.45 Am, 1.45, 3.45, 5.45, 7.45, 9.45, 11.45 Pm <b>Saar</b> 9.00 Pm
<b>BHASKAR ORU RASCAL</b> ( TAMIL / COMEDY / DRAMA / FAMILY ) ⊗ Arvind Swamy, Aftab Shivdasani, Amala Paul <b>DANA CINEMA</b> 10:30,13:15,16:00,18:45,21:30,00:15 <b>Seef (I)</b> 3.00, 9.00 Pm <b>Al Hamra</b> 12.00 Noon, 9.00 Pm
<b>The Cured</b> ( 18+ ) ( Drama / Horror / Thriller ) New ⊗ Ellen Page, Sam Keeley, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor <b>Cineco (20)</b> 10.30 Am, 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30 Pm, 12.30 Mn <b>Seef (II)</b> 12.15, 2.15, 4.15, 6.15, 8.15, 10.15 Pm, 12.15 Mn <b>Saar</b> 11.00 Pm <b>Wadi Al Sail</b> 7.45, 9.45, 11.45 Pm
<b>Avengers: Infinty War</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Action / Adventure ) ⊗ Karen Gillan, Robert Downey Jr., Tom Holland <b>Cineco (20)</b> 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn <b>Seef (II)</b> 11.30 Am, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30, 11.30 Pm
<b>Raazi</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Hindi / Thriller / Drama ) ⊗ Alia Bhatt, Vicky Kaushal, Jaideep Ahlawat <b>Cineco (20)</b> 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30 Pm <b>Seef (II)</b> 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00 Pm
<b>Rampage</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Action / Thriller / Sci-Fiction ) ⊗ Dwayne Johnson, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Will Yun Lee

<b>Cineco (20)</b> 10.30, 12.45, 3.00, 5.15, 7.30, 9.45, 12.00 Mn
<b>A Wrinkle In Time</b> ( Pg-13 ) ( Adventure / Fantasy ) ⊗ Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon <b>Cineco (20)</b> 12.00, 2.15, 4.30, 6.45, 9.00, 11.15
<b>Life Of The Party</b> ( 15+ ) ( Comedy ) ⊗ Melissa McCarthy, Gillian Jacobs, Julie Bowen <b>Cineco (20)</b> 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15, 11.30
<b>Breaking In</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Thriller / Horror / Drama ) ⊗ Gabrielle Union, Billy Burke, Richard Cabral <b>Cineco (20)</b> 11.00 Am, 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00, 11.00
<b>A Quiet Place</b> ( 15+ ) ( Thriller / Horror / Drama ) ⊗ Emily Blunt, John Krasinski, Noah Jupe <b>Cineco (20)</b> 11.30 Am, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30
<b>Peter Rabbit</b> ( Pg ) ( Adventure / Comedy / Family ) ⊗ Rose Byrne, Domhnall Gleeson, Sam Neill <b>Cineco (20)</b> 10.45 Am, 12.45, 5.15, 9.45 Pm
<b>Tomb Raider</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Action / Adventure ) ⊗ Alicia Vikander, Hannah John-Kamen, Walton Goggins <b>Cineco (20)</b> 11.45 Am, 4.15, 8.45 Pm
<b>Masha &amp; The Bear</b> ( G ) ( Animation / Adventure / Comedy / Family ) ⊗ Angelica Keamey, Boris Kutneevich <b>Cineco (20)</b> 1.15, 5.30, 9.45 Pm
<b>Overboard</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Comedy / Romantic ) ⊗ Anna Farris, Eva Longoria, Eugenio Derbez <b>Cineco (20)</b> 11.00 Am, 3.15, 7.30, 11.45 Pm
<b>The Commuter</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Thriller / Crime ) ⊗ Liam Neeson, Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson <b>Cineco (20)</b> 2.15, 6.45, 11.15 Pm
<b>Black Panther</b> ( Pg-15 ) ( Action / Adventure / Thriller ) ⊗ Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o <b>Cineco (20)</b> 2.45, 7.15, 11.45 Pm
<b>102 Not Out</b> ( Pg ) ( Hindi / Comedy / Drama ) ⊗ Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor, Jimit Trivedi <b>Seef (II)</b> 11.15 Am, 1.15, 3.15, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15, 11.15
<b>Uncle</b> ( Malayalam ) New ⊗ Mammooty, Karthika, Jot Mathew, Muthumani <b>Seef (I)</b> 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30

## Craig to earn 50 mn pounds for his role

Actor Daniel Craig will reportedly earn 50 million pounds for his role in the next James Bond film. He had reportedly got 37 million pounds for the 2015 Bond film "Spectre". Craig's new deal will be thanks to an executive producer credit, endorsements and profits, as well as his wages, reports mirror.co.uk.



Daniel Craig



James Bond film is likely to run for around two hours and 20 minutes, which would mean the 50-year-old banking 357,000 pounds per minute of screen time

The film is likely to run for around two hours and 20 minutes, which would mean the 50-year-old banking 357,000 pounds per minute of screen time. He will start five months of filming in December, ahead of a planned release in autumn next year. He previously stated that he would rather "slash his wrists" than return to the role, but later said that he made the remarks two days after he finished shooting "Spectre" and was exhausted. Oscar-winner Danny Boyle will earn about seven million pounds for directing the as-yet-untitled film.

## Rapper Drake unveils 'I'm upset'

Rapper Drake has released a new single titled "I'm upset". The release on Saturday night follows the single "Nice for what", as well as the rapper Pusha T diss track "Duppy freestyle", which he dropped on Friday night, reports billboard.com. Drake announced "I'm upset" as his new single via social media, sharing artwork on Instagram. "Anyways...back to this album...new single out now!" he wrote. The song will be part of his new album, "Scorpion", out in June. Meanwhile, Drake has sent an invoice for \$100,000 to Pusha T for resuscitating his career, reports TMZ.com. The war between the two rappers was triggered by Pusha's album with Kanye West, where he shaded Drake for using a ghostwriter.



A scene from 'I am upset'

Pusha had also posted a notice on Twitter to send him an invoice for the added publicity and Drake followed through.

## This is the happiest time of my: Myers

Actor Mike Myers, who is making his big screen comeback after a near five year hiatus, turned 55 and he says that he never felt better in his life like the way he feels now. At the premiere of his new film "Terminal", one of two new movies he's appearing in, along with the upcoming "Queen" biopic Bohemian Rhapsody, told people.com that he's never felt better in his life. Asked how he enjoys balancing family life with show business, the father of three said, "It's all weird, dude. I grew up in government assisted housing in Toronto, so all of this is bizarre and fun."



Mike Myers

"This is the happiest time of my life. I have a lot of stuff coming and I think I may have found the right balance now and I'm super thrilled," he added.

## Sam Claflin inspired me so deeply



Shailene Woodley

Actress Shailene Woodley said her 'Adrift' co-star Sam Claflin has inspired her to be a better actor. "He inspired me so deeply to be a better actor, think of things from different angle open my eyes to different ways of portraying a

“He inspired me so deeply to be a better actor, think of things from different angle open my eyes to different ways”

character with innocence," American actress and activist Woodley said. "All the while did it with such a humble nature and such a lightness, I learnt so much from him," she added. The film, is a true story in which a couple gets stuck in the open sea in their sailboat, they are forced to face huge waves and deadly conditions in order to survive.

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## SPORTS

# Froome claims historic Giro win

Chris Froome finished 46 seconds ahead of Dutch defending champion Tom Dumoulin in the overall standings

BBC | Rome

Team Sky's Chris Froome became the first Briton to win the Giro d'Italia as he coasted home in yesterday's procession stage in Rome.

The 33-year-old is the seventh man to complete a Grand Tour hat-trick after adding Italian success to the 2017 Vuelta and four Tour de France wins.

"For any cyclist this is the dream to have all three leaders jerseys in the 10 months," Froome told Eurosport.

"To have finally won this race, I can't quite believe it myself."

Froome finished 46 seconds ahead of Dutch defending champion Tom Dumoulin in the overall standings. His victory echoes that of Welsh Olympic gold medallist Nicole Cooke, who won the women's equivalent - the Giro Rosa - in



Briton's Chris Froome celebrates with the trophy

2004. Britain's Simon Yates, who led for most of the race and claimed three stage wins, finished 22nd in the general classification, with Ireland's Sam Bennett claiming the sprint finish for a third stage win of his own.

Froome's triumph also means he is only the third man, after legendary pair Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault, to hold



Chris Froome's triumph means he is only the third man, after legendary pair Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault, to hold cycling's three most prestigious stage races at the same time

cycling's three most prestigious stage races at the same time.

The traditional leisurely pace of the final stage dropped even lower as the peloton, unimpressed by the route over Rome's historic cobbles, succeeded in getting the stage neutralised for general classification purposes.

Riders only needed to complete the 115km, 10-lap, loop of the city centre to maintain their place in the overall standings.

The stage was a sedate end to a dramatic campaign for Froome.

## Benzema to attend Nasser 11 final

TDT | Manama

Real Madrid star and French international, Karim Benzema, has announced, through a video post, that he will attend the final of the HH Nasser bin Hamad Ramadan Football Tournament "Nasser 11" on Thursday.

Real Madrid star, who is HH Shaikh Nasser's friend, expressed pride in attending the tournament and meeting football fans in Bahrain.

The video clip was posted by



Karim Benzema

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative

of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, on his official Instagram account following Real Madrid's big win over Liverpool FC in the UEFA Champions League final 3-1.

HH Shaikh Nasser congratulated Real Madrid for its victory, and expressed pride in the Egyptian international and Liverpool FC star, Mohammed Salah.

## Eric Carlsson confident of Selwady taking the bait

Carlsson to face middle eastern sensation Al Selwady

TDT | Manama

Eric Carlsson is two weeks away from facing the Middle Eastern Lightweight sensation, Abdul Kareem Al Selwady in the edition of Brave Combat Federation on 9th June at Belfast, North Ireland. Carlsson is among the first European fighters to have signed with the promotion.

"He is a well conditioned and serious athlete. He has a good all around game which always pressurises his opponents. He always come to fight. However I don't think it was a smart move from him. May be he didn't have other options. Many people don't want to fight him. And I think he took the bait. I am focusing on every element of the game plan", responded Carlsson.



Eric Carlsson

Carlsson had fought all his three fights at Brave Combat Federation in UAE, Kazakhstan and Bahrain respectively.

The event also provides a tactical advantage since Carlsson will be fighting in a venue closer to his home in a climate which is similar to what he has used to while his opponent will fight for the first time in Europe.

Carlsson is also confident that the scene of MMA is changing in a large scale in his nation.

"Sweden has a lot of good amateurs coming up right now, there's a lot of competitions for them, and the standard is high."

MMA has grown a lot over the years but also dipped down a bit, in my hometown Gothenburg fans are great, cage warriors was just there and it wasn't the strongest card but it was still sold out and had a great atmosphere. But it is not enough. Local pro-shows and the regulations interfere to much that athletes are affected", opined Carlsson.

Currently 'The Last Viking' is undergoing the final phase of his preparations at the Tiger Muay Thai Gym in Phuket, Thailand.

## MMA legend compares Brave to Pride

Wanderlei Silva was closely associated with Brave CF attending the events held in Brazil and Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation is gaining amazing reviews from the all time greats in mixed martial arts ahead of the upcoming edition in Europe.

Bertrand Amoussou, President of the French MMA sanctioning body, compared Brave Combat Federation to Pride Fighting Championships.

This was followed by overwhelming support from major fighters who were a part of Pride FC.

Former Pride champion and MMA legend, Wanderlei Silva



Mohammed Shahid with Wanderlei Silva

recently said that the focus of Brave Combat Federation upon fighters and the sport itself is a reminiscent of Pride FC.

Wanderlei Silva was closely associated with Brave Combat Federation attending the events held in Brazil and Bahrain.

Silva has also visited and trained in the KHK MMA Gym during his stay in Bahrain.

"Brave Combat Federation doesn't really rely on wins and losses to measure the value

of an athlete. It's more about who leaves everything inside the cage, those who fight with a lot of heart. If a fighter has a good performance, leaves it all in the cage but doesn't win, still he'll be back for Brave. That's what it was like in Japan, and that's why fighters always gave everything they had there. That's what is setting Brave apart from other events," claimed Former Pride champion and MMA legend Silva.

## Pakistan crush England at Lord's

Reuters | London

Pakistan wrapped up a crushing nine-wicket victory over England yesterday to inflict the hosts' first defeat in a May test match at Lord's.

England's last four wickets tumbled in 27 minutes and Pakistan knocked off the 64 runs they needed in less than an hour on the fourth day to put the touring side 1-0 up in the two-match series.

"We were not good enough if I'm being brutally honest, we have been outplayed in all three departments," England captain Joe Root said at the presentation ceremony. "Pakistan's bowlers exploited the conditions well but we played some poor shots and you can't afford to do that."

England resumed on 235 for



Pakistan's Imam ul-Haq (R) and Haris Sohail celebrate after winning the match

six after Jos Buttler and debutant Dom Bess had shared an unbroken partnership of 125 in

the final session on Saturday to save their team from a humiliating innings defeat.



09 was the number of wickets that Pakistan won against England in the first test match at Lord's

Buttler fell in the second over, trapped lbw by man-of-the-match Mohammad Abbas for 67 and failing to get the decision overturned on review.

Mark Wood hit one four before he nicked Mohammad Amir, bowling with the second new ball, to wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed.

## Chennai Super Kings crowned IPL champions

BBC | Mumbai

Shane Watson struck an Sunbeaten 117 off 57 balls as Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets in the Indian Premier League final.

The Australian, who did not score off his first 10 deliveries, hit 11 fours and eight sixes as Super Kings reached a target of 179 with nine balls left.

Kane Williamson, the tournament's leading run-scorer, made 47 in Sunrisers' 178-6 in Mumbai.

Victory gave Super Kings a record third IPL title.

They returned to the tournament this season after a two-year ban for their part in a corruption scandal.

"To do it in such a big game that means so much to the franchise is pretty special," said 36-year-old Watson, who was unable to run more than singles for much of his innings because of a hamstring injury. "Towards the back end of the tournament I was hanging on for dear life."

The IPL is the most lucrative domestic cricket competition in the world, after Star India paid £1.97bn for the television rights for five years starting this season.

Chennai also won the competition in 2010 and 2011 and were runners-up in 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2015.

Sunrisers finished top of the IPL table, although they lost four times to Chennai.



# Ricciardo takes tense Monaco GP victory

● Daniel Ricciardo nursed a wounded Red Bull to victory in the team's 250th race

● Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished second to cut Lewis Hamilton's overall lead to 14 points after six of 21 rounds

Reuters | Monaco

Daniel Ricciardo brought back memories of Formula One great Michael Schumacher in his prime yesterday as the Australian nursed a wounded Red Bull to Monaco Grand Prix victory in the team's 250th race.

Winning from pole position for the first time in his career, Ricciardo drove for nearly two thirds of the race — some 50 laps — with a car down on power due to problems that emerged on lap 28.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, last year's race winner, finished second — easing off towards the finish to save the tyres — to cut

Lewis Hamilton's overall lead to 14 points after six of 21 rounds.

Hamilton, the reigning world champion, was third for Mercedes.

"You have done an amazing job today," team boss Christian Horner said after Ricciardo took the chequered flag 7.3 seconds clear of Vettel for his second win of the season and seventh of his career.

"That is right up there with what Schumacher did in 1995 and this is payback for 2016."



Daniel Ricciardo's only previous pole had been in Monaco two years ago, when he lost out to Hamilton on strategy and finished runner-up



Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo celebrates winning the race

Ricciardo's only previous pole had been in Monaco two years ago, when he lost out to Hamilton on strategy and finished runner-up. Schumacher won in Belgium in 1995 with a famously defensive drive on dry tyres in the wet.

"I had half the power it seemed and I felt like it was going to come to a stop," said Ricciardo. "For a few seconds I just wanted to close my eyes and start crying."

Ricciardo had made a clean

start and, controlling the race, looked as much of a nailed-on certainty for victory as ever exists on Monaco's treacherous metal-fenced streets.

And then he reported a loss of power.

"OK mate, we can see what's going on," his race engineer replied after a pause. "You just need to keep it smooth, keep focused."

"Will it get better?" enquired the Australian. "Negative," came the reply.

## PGA Championship: Italy's Molinari wins by two from Rory McIlroy

● Rory McIlroy carded a two-under-par 70 on Sunday to finish second at the European Tour's flagship event

BBC | Wentworth



Francesco Molinari

Italy's Francesco Molinari has won the PGA Championship at Wentworth by two shots from fellow overnight leader Rory McIlroy.

Last year's runner-up Molinari finished on 17 under after a final-day 68.

Northern Ireland's McIlroy, winner in 2014, carded a two-under-par 70 on Sunday to finish second at the European Tour's flagship event.

Denmark's Lucas Bjerregaard and defending champion Alex Noren from Sweden tied third, a shot further back.

Bjerregaard, who bogeyed the first, carded the round of the day with a seven-under 65.

England's Matthew Fitzpatrick finishing with an eagle on the 18th to move to 10 under in a tie for eighth alongside compatriot Ross Fisher.

Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell was a shot further back, one ahead of Ireland's Shane Lowry and 21-year-old

Sam Horsfield.

The 2017 Race to Dubai champion, Tommy Fleetwood, finished on seven under, tied with Ian Poulter and Paul Casey, while Lee Westwood ended at six under after a final-round 74.

Molinari, who only hit two bogeys in his four rounds this week, was barely tested by McIlroy during the final round.

McIlroy, the world number eight, had led by three shots at the halfway stage but was pegged back after a 71 on Saturday. It was a procession for world number 32 Molinari on Sunday as he went through the front nine in three under par.

McIlroy was level through nine, struggling to attack the leader. He missed fairways and greens, and failed to set up birdie chances.

## Alize Cornet overpowers Sara Errani

● France's Alize Cornet enters second round of the French Open

Reuters | Paris

France's Alize Cornet dug deep to recover from a set down to defeat Italian Sara Errani 2-6 6-2 6-3 in a show of powerful baseline hitting yesterday to progress to the second round of the French Open.

The 32-seed struggled to find her forehand range early on and Errani tested her heavily-strapped left thigh with a series of delicious drop shots that left Cornet rooted to the spot.

At one point in the first set, Cornet vented her frustration at a ball boy and drawing boos from the crowd, before she slowly began to dictate the match from the back of the court in the second set with her powerful backhand.

"I finally got going, but almost too late," said Cornet, who two weeks ago was cleared of an anti-doping violation after a charge against her for missing three out-of-competition drug tests was dismissed.

Rediscovering her range from the baseline, Cornet started to pump her fist rather than mutter to herself as the groundstrokes flowed



France's Alize Cornet celebrates victory over Sara Errani

with growing confidence. She roused the crowd from its post-lunch slumber, driving the ball low and hard to Errani and forcing her into defensive strokes.

Errani, who was making her 11th consecutive main draw appearance at Roland Garros, surrendered the second set 6-1, losing it in a game to love and the tide had turned. It was now the Italian talking to herself as she increasingly found the net from the back of the court.

## Nick Kyrgios out of Roland Garros with elbow injury

● Nick Kyrgios had looked untroubled when sauntering into the grounds of the Roland Garros stadium

Reuters | Paris

Australian dynamo Nick Kyrgios pulled out of the French Open yesterday after failing to shake off a persistent elbow injury that has troubled him in recent weeks.

The burly 23-year-old had looked untroubled when sauntering into the grounds of the Roland Garros stadium at around 11am local time on a bright and sunny Parisian morning, but just a handful of hours later his tournament was over.

"Sorry guys, I tried everything I could to be ready... but I came



Nick Kyrgios

up short," Kyrgios wrote in a message on Twitter, adorned with tearful emojis.

He attached a picture of a more formal note.

"Unfortunately I have to withdraw from this year's French Open," Kyrgios's note said. "Having consulted with my team and medical experts it is

deemed too risky for me to step out and potentially play five sets on clay especially as I have not played a singles match in nearly two months. "I've worked hard to be ready and desperately wanted to play Roland Garros, which is very special to me but I literally ran out of time."

The world number 23 had

been scheduled to take on compatriot Bernard Tomic in the opening round on Monday.

Kyrgios said a dramatic increase in load on his elbow could potentially put him back to square one, and that he was not prepared to take the risk with the grasscourt season looming.



Australia's Nick Kyrgios had been scheduled to take on compatriot Bernard Tomic in the opening round today

## No. 1 Nadal begins his title defence

Reuters | Paris

World number one Rafa Nadal begins his French Open title defence today with a clash against Italy's Simone Bolelli on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

Former world number one Novak Djokovic, looking to get back to winning ways on the biggest stage following elbow surgery, takes on unseeded Brazilian Rogerio Dutra Silva.

Dominic Thiem of Australia, one of the players capable of denying Spaniard Rafael Nadal a record-extending 11th title at Roland Garros, opens his campaign on Court One against Ilya Ivashka of Belarus.

Five-times grand slam champion Russia's Maria Sharapova is also in action, with the Russian taking on Richel Hogenkamp of the Netherlands on Court Suzanne-Lenglen in Paris, France.



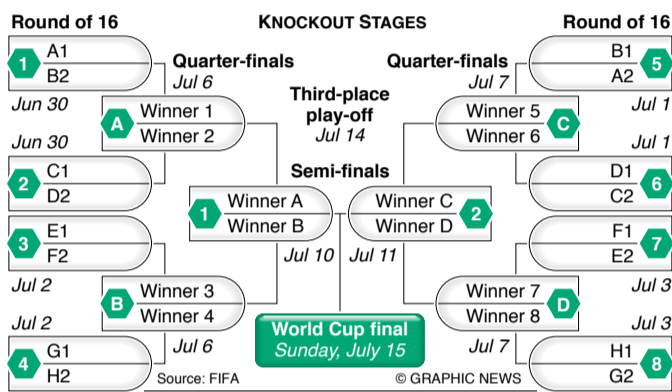
Rafa Nadal



**FIFA World Cup 2018 match schedule**

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Russia Saudi Arabia Egypt Uruguay	Portugal Spain Morocco Iran	France Australia Peru Denmark	Argentina Iceland Croatia Nigeria
GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
Brazil Switzerland Costa Rica Serbia	Germany Mexico Sweden South Korea	Belgium Panama Tunisia England	Poland Senegal Colombia Japan

GROUP STAGE			All dates: June
14	Russia - Saudi Arabia	Morocco - Iran	Portugal - Spain
15	Egypt - Uruguay	France - Australia	Peru - Denmark
16	France - Australia	Peru - Denmark	Argentina - Iceland
17	Costa Rica - Serbia	Brazil - Switzerland	Germany - Mexico
18	Sweden - South Korea	Belgium - Panama	Tunisia - England
19	Colombia - Japan	Poland - Senegal	Russia - Egypt
20	Uruguay - Saudi Arabia	Portugal - Morocco	Iran - Spain
21	Denmark - Australia	France - Peru	Argentina - Croatia
22	Nigeria - Iceland	Brazil - Costa Rica	Serbia - Switzerland
23	South Korea - Mexico	Germany - Sweden	Belgium - Tunisia
24	England - Panama	Japan - Senegal	Poland - Colombia
25	Uruguay - Russia	S. Arabia - Egypt	Iran - Portugal
26	Denmark - France	Australia - Peru	Nigeria - Argentina
27	Serbia - Brazil	Switz. - Costa Rica	Mexico - Sweden
28	Panama - Tunisia	England - Belgium	Japan - Poland



# James Rodriguez eyes better WC run

IAN S | London

Star midfielder James Rodriguez has extremely high expectations for Colombia heading into the 2018 World Cup in Russia, saying he hopes the team can top what it achieved four years ago and reach the semi-finals or championship match.

"We all want more. When you do great things, you always want more. And I hope that can be the semis or a nice final," James told reporters after an emotional send-off celebration Friday night at El Campin Stadium in Bogota reports Efe.

Referring to the farewell game/party, which featured a performance by Colombian reggaeton singer Maluma and a match involving two sides of national-team players, the Bayern Munich star said he appreciated "being near all the people." "I think it's nice that they see we also feel a lot of affection for them," James said.



James Rodriguez

The midfielder, who has spent three seasons at Real Madrid and one at Bayern since Colombia achieved its first-ever World Cup quarter-final berth at the tournament's 2014 edition in Brazil, said he and his teammates had more experience now than they did four years ago. Colombia reached the final

eight in Brazil despite having to make do without injured striker Radamel Falcao Garcia, then the country's biggest-named player



Colombia reached the final eight in Brazil despite having to make do without injured striker Radamel Falcao Garcia, then the country's biggest-named player

World Cup at age 32. "It's an opportunity to be here four years after not having been able to compete at the World Cup in Brazil. The story's different now. I'm making the most of every moment with my teammates, getting us ready for this World Cup that we're very excited about," Falcao said.

# Salah 'confident' of playing for Egypt

● Egypt play their first game of the World Cup in Russia on 15 June against Uruguay in Yekaterinburg

BBC | Kiev



Mohamed Salah grimaces on the ground

Liverpool and Egypt forward Mohamed Salah says he is "confident" of playing in the World Cup after suffering a shoulder injury in the Champions League final defeat by Real Madrid. Salah, 25, left the pitch in Kiev in tears after a first-half challenge with Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos. "Your love and support will

give me the strength I need," said Salah.

Egypt play their first game of the World Cup in Russia on 15 June against Uruguay in Yekaterinburg. After the game in Kiev, Reds boss Jurgen Klopp described the injury as "really

serious" and it did not "look good" on the Liverpool website.

But the Egyptian FA tweeted that Salah's X-ray showed he had a "sprain in the shoulder ligaments" and that it was "optimistic" he would be fit for Russia.

# Arab world represented by unprecedented four teams

Albawaba | Moscow

The FIFA World Cup this summer for the first time will feature four teams from the Arab world. Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia all qualified for the 32-team tournament, set for June 14-July 15 in Russia.

The qualification of four Arab teams means the eyes of the world will be on Arab men as empowered athletes and not as negative stereotypes. It is hoped that images of Arab stars such as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Juventus's Medhi Benatia will be an inspiration for Arab youth in search for role models.

Saudi Arabia is marking its return to the World Cup after a 12-year absence. The Saudis have sought to bolster their



Medhi Benatia

chances at success in Russia by striking a deal with Spain's top flight La Liga, sending nine Saudi players on loan to clubs in Spain. Of the nine, the most successful player was Fahad

al-Muwallad. The 23-year-old forward expects to lead the line for his country at the World Cup after subbing on for the final 10 minutes of a 3-0 victory for his loan club Levantes.

The historic appearance by a star of Saudi football could spur hopes the Saudis, under Argentina-born manager Juan Antonio Pizzi, could advance out of a tough group that includes Egypt, Russia and Uruguay.

The Moroccans are led by Benatia, who was born in France but chose to represent the country of his parents. Moroccan legend Mustapha Hadji told the Guardian of the importance a World Cup appearance has to Moroccans and how as an assistant coach with the current team he's helped integrate foreign-born players, such as Benatia.

**PLAYER OF THE DAY**



Tim Cahill

The evergreen Australian forward is seemingly getting better with age, having netted 11 goals on the road to Russia. Scorer of one of the most spectacular goals of Brazil 2014, Cahill could become one of the few players to score at four World Cups.

# Neuer will be number one if fit

● Manuel Neuer has been out of action for Germany and Bayern Munich since September

Foxsportsasia | Munich

Germany manager Joachim Löw says Manuel Neuer will be his number one at the World Cup should he prove his fitness and be named in the final 23-man squad.

Neuer, who is recovering from a broken foot, has been out of action for Germany and Bayern Munich since September.

However, he has recently resumed full training and was named in Die Mannschaft's pre-

visional 27-man squad for the tournament during June and July. The 32-year-old shot-stopper is expected to feature in the next preparation match against Austria, before the final 23-man squad is named.

Should he be selected, the keeper would also likely start against Saudi Arabia on 8 June.

Speaking to German broadcaster Sportschau on Saturday, Löw said: "If he travels with us, he'll be number one."

"He'll go either as fully fit or not at all. It won't be that he goes with us as a captain who just sits on the bench."

The reigning world champions begin the defence of their crown on 17 June at the tournament with a clash against Mexico in Moscow.



Manuel Neuer