

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

News of Bahrain

Monday, August 7, 2017 Issue No. 7466

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11th Hour

HM issues decrees

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has issued a decree appointing HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa as Southern Governor. Another decree re-appointed Nawaf Mohammed Al-Mouawda as Ombudsman at the Interior Ministry.

Non-oil growth accelerates to 4.4pc in Q1

DT News Network Manama

Bahrain's growth in the non-oil sector reached 4.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2017, up from 3.7 per cent recorded during 2016, according to latest figures released by Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB).

"The growth was driven by strong performance across the non-oil sector, with momentum continuing to be supported by large-scale infrastructure projects," the EDB said in its report published in Bahrain Economic Quarterly.

The economy grew by 2.9 per cent in the first three months of 2017, following

the uptick in non-oil sector, which is in line with the 3 per cent pace recorded in 2016 as a whole, the EDB said.

"The first three months of 2017 saw particularly strong growth in the hotels and restaurants, financial services and transportation and communications industries," the EDB said, adding hotels and restaurants emerged the fastest growing single sector during Q1, posting a 12.3 per cent year-on-year real rate of expansion and financial services continued along its strong growth trajectory reported last year, posting an annual expansion of 8.3 per cent at the end of Q1 compared to 5.2 per

cent at the same in 2016. "The transportation and communications sector also performed strongly, with an annual real growth rate of 8.2 per cent in Q1," the EDB said.

"Underpinning the near term momentum in Bahrain's non-oil economy is the large amount of investment in infrastructure," the EDB said.

The Kingdom is pressing ahead with a large number of infrastructure projects to diversify the economy. Major projects among them are: The \$3 billion Alba Line 6 project - which will create the world's largest single-site aluminium smelter; the \$1 billion airport modernisation programme; and the \$335 million Banagas plant expansion.

Expressions of interest have been solicited for the construction of King Hamad Causeway, which will add to the existing King Fahd Causeway, connecting Bahrain to Saudi, serving as a platform for GCC Railway.

"The total worth of GCC Development Fund projects that had broken ground by Q2 of 2017 reached \$ 3.2 billion. This is 111.3 per cent increase from Q1 of 2016," the EDB said.

On right track



Bahrain's annual economic growth rate in the 1st quarter of 2017- continued steady growth from 2016

Fastest growing sectors 1st quarter of 2017 (YoY):
Hotels & Restaurants 12.3%, Transport & Commis 8.2%, PS 8.3%



▶▶ P 24

Chelimo strikes gold



P 06

Saudis pledge \$33.7m to UN to battle cholera in Yemen



P 07

Fire erupts in Dubai residential highrise



P 08

NBK Bahrain reports \$122m net profit in H1

Japan marks 72 years since Hiroshima

Hiroshima Atomic Bomb dome (front L) and Peace Memorial Park (C)



Japan's PM Shinzo Abe delivers a speech during 72nd anniversary memorial service for the atomic bomb victims at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima

A-bomb attack

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Tokyo

Japan yesterday marked 72 years since the world's first nuclear attack on Hiroshima, with the nation's traditional contradictions over atomic weapons again coming into focus.

The anniversary came after Japan sided last month with nuclear powers Britain, France and the US to dismiss a UN treaty banning atomic weapons, which was rejected by critics for ignoring the reality of security threats such as North Korea.

Japan is the only country to have suffered atomic attacks, in 1945.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking at the annual ceremony at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park near the ground zero, said Japan hoped to push for a world without nuclear weapons in a way that all countries can agree.

"For us to truly pursue a world without nuclear weapons, we need

participation from both nuclear-weapons and non-nuclear weapons states," Abe said in his speech at the annual ceremony.

"Our country is committed to leading the international community by encouraging both sides" to make progress toward abolishing nuclear arms, Abe added without directly referring to the UN treaty.

Japanese officials have criticised the UN Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty as deepening a divide between countries with and without nuclear arms. None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons took part in the negotiations or vote on the treaty.

Japanese officials routinely argue that they abhor nuclear weapons, but the nation's defence is firmly set under the US nuclear umbrella.

Japan suffered two nuclear attacks at the end of the World War II by the United States -- in Hiroshima on August 6,

1945 and in Nagasaki three days later.

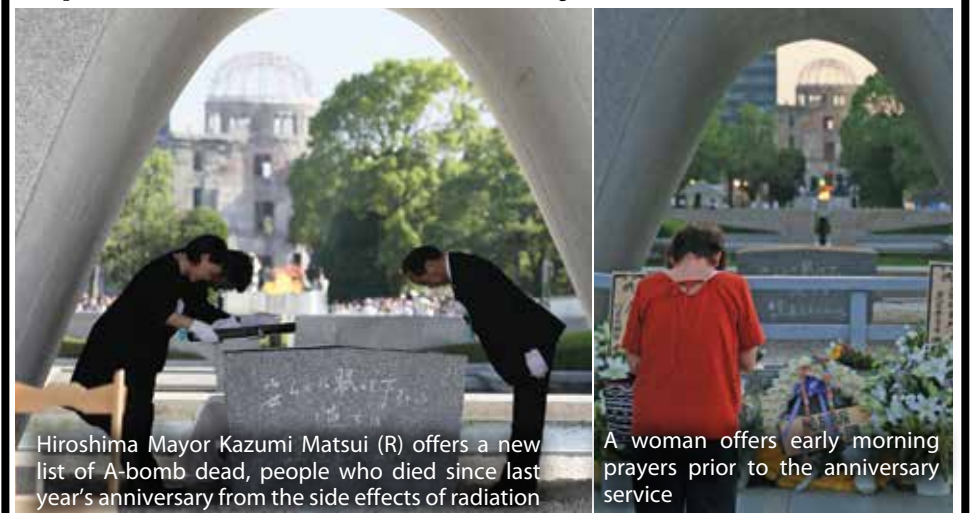
The bombings claimed the lives of 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 74,000 people in Nagasaki. Some died immediately while others succumbed to injuries or radiation-related illnesses weeks, months and years later.

Japan announced its surrender in World War II on August 15, 1945.

Many in Japan feel the attacks amount to war crimes and atrocities because they targeted civilians and due to the unprecedented destructive nature of the weapons.

But many Americans believe they hastened the end of a bloody conflict, and ultimately saved lives, thus justifying the bombings.

Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to visit Hiroshima in May last year, paying moving tribute to victims of the devastating bomb. (AFP)



Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui (R) offers a new list of A-bomb dead, people who died since last year's anniversary from the side effects of radiation

A woman offers early morning prayers prior to the anniversary service

FM objects to labelling 'boycott' as 'blockade'

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday took exception to describing the "boycott" by anti-terror Quartet as "blockade" by Qatari authorities.

"If the Qatari officials are insisting on using the word blockade and that their country is besieged, they should allow an independent investigation into the so-called blockade," Shaikh Khalid said on his official Twitter page.

Shaikh Khalid's statements followed the Qatari allegations against the four countries - Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt - claiming that a "blockade" is being implemented against Qatar and that the four states are applying "uncalled for sanctions" against Doha.

This comes amidst the biggest diplomatic crisis within the GCC states since its establishment more than three decades ago.

The Qatari government has been proven to be a supporter of terrorist groups in fellow GCC and Arab countries. Hence, the four countries, along with other fellow Arab and Islamic state have decided to "boycott" or minimise all relations with Qatar and not "blockade".

Shaikh Khalid had asked his Qatari counterpart few days back to fulfill his duties and ensure that his country sticks to the principles mentioned in the Riyadh Agreements in 2013 and 2014. The principles were related to non-violation of the sovereignty of any state, the agreement over mutual obligations rather than orders, in addition to reaching a solution in accordance with international law.

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BDF Task Force 12 honoured



HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with members of the BDF Task Force 12 at the Royal Guards headquarters, yesterday

DT News Network Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, presented medals awarded by His Majesty the King to the members of the BDF Task Force 12 at a ceremony held at the Royal Guards headquarters yesterday.

The medals are in recognition of their service in Operation Restoring Hope being carried out as part of

the Saudi-led Arab Coalition mission to restore stability in Yemen.

Earlier, Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Yusuf bin Ahmed Al-Jalalma, the BDF's Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqer Al Noaimi, the Royal Guards Commander, His Highness Brigadier Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Royal Guards Special Forces Commander, His Highness Major Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and senior officers received

HRH the Crown Prince upon arrival at the Royal Guards headquarters.

HRH the Crown Prince expressed his pride and gratitude on the achievements and sacrifices made by BDF forces participating as part of the Saudi-led Arab coalition mission in Yemen.

HRH the Crown Prince praised the BDF's high level of combat readiness and proficiency, as well as their unwavering commitment and honourable service to the Kingdom under the leadership

of His Majesty King Hamad.

Following the National Anthem and an inspection of the Guard of Honour, HRH the Crown Prince listened to a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.

HH Brigadier Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa paid tribute to the elite group in Taskforce 12 who returned home.

"The dedication of our elite group has enhanced the strength, skill, immunity and pride in the fighting of our forces who have gained

considerable operational, tactical and organisational expertise during the various direct operations in which they have participated and engaged with their brothers as they defended both religion and homeland," HH Brigadier Shaikh Nasser said.

"Our brave forces will be, as anticipated by our wise leadership, fully ready to right the wrong and to stand with our brothers within the Arab and Islamic Alliance to protect our Gulf, Arab and Islamic unity," His Highness

Brigadier Shaikh Nasser said at the ceremony.

"Our forces, along with the Arab Coalition Force, have been fully engaged in fighting and combating terrorism and its groups through well-organised joint military operations," HH Brigadier Shaikh Nasser said.

"We have been coordinating efforts on tracking the sources of terrorism and cooperating with one another through all available ways and means," HH Brigadier Shaikh Nasser said.

Kingdom of Bahrain



The Bahrain Petroleum Company BSC (Closed) hereby invites tender for the following:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond (BD)	Tender Documents Fees (BD)	Tender Submission		
				Day	Date	Time
EXCAVATION AND EARTHWORKS IN COMPANY OPERATING AREAS NOTE: Purchase Tender Documents Deadline: 26-Aug-2017 13:30	T170086 (39)	5,000/-	50/-	Wednesday	13th September 2017	01:30 pm

Interested Contractors with proven capabilities and experience in providing the above services may Purchase the Tender documents online using e-Tendering system from <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh> from Monday 07 August, 2017. Tender documents can be downloaded after paying the non-refundable tender fees as specified above. An Initial Bond should be enclosed for the amount specified above or 1% of the bid value, whichever is lesser (in any case Initial Bond shall not be less than BD 100/-), payable by a Manager's Cheque, Certified Cheque, Letter of Guarantee or Insurance policy issued by Local Agencies or Cash. The bond shall remain valid throughout the tender period specified in the relevant tender documents. For more information please call the following numbers: 36027245-17755845- 17752995 – 17757044-17757054.

- Quotation should be deposited in the tender box provided at the **Tender Submission Office, Tender Board Arcapita Building 551 – Ground Floor Road 4612 – Block 346 Bahrain Bay Manama – Bahrain**, before 01.30 pm on the tender closing date.
- This tender is subject to the provisions of Legislative Decree No.36 of 2002 with respect to Regulating Government Tenders- Auction and the Legislative Decree No.37 of 2002 with respect to the Tender Law's Implementing Regulations.
- The following conditions shall be complied with:
 - Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and be in conformity with the subject tender.
 - Submit quotations on "Tender Submission Form" No. (TB 02).
 - Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by the Ministry of Labour.
 - Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies thereof, which form part of the offer.

Vendors who are not registered in Tender Board E-tendering System shall be required to register through the link below.

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• This announcement is considered as a part of the Tender Documents.



HRH Crown Prince inspecting the guard of honour



HRH Crown Prince honouring a member of Task Force 12

Govt to roll out pearl diving scheme from Wednesday

DT News Network
Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has announced the launch of a new scheme to license pearl diving activities starting Wednesday. The scheme will be run from the Marine licensing office located in Budaiya.

Applicants can obtain a pearl diving license according to local laws and regulations on payment of a fee of BD25 per individual and BD1000 per diving centre. Moreover, all previous license owners, whether expired or not, are obliged to submit an application for renewal as per the requirements of ministerial order (43/2017).

The scheme comes following the directives of the Government Executive Committee chaired by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam Abdulla Khalaf stated that the issuance of pearl diving licenses for individuals and diving centres will

require applicants to attend a pearl diving workshop which will be held by the Supreme Council of Environment following initial registration.

He highlighted the importance of the initiative to develop the local pearling industry, led by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The initiative will boost pearl diving by encouraging sustainable catching activities, ensuring Bahrain retains its position as an international centre for the industry which has for so long formed the backbone of the national economy.

In doing so, the new initiative will bring significant positive impacts to the Kingdom, including the creation of new jobs for Bahrainis in the marine sector.

The Minister has also clarified that the regulation of pearling activities is one of the main objectives of reviving this deep-rooted industry, which seeks to maintain a sustainable environment for natural pearls. Official pearl diving trips will take place from August 26.

The minister announced the establishment of the first pearling center at the port of Ras Rayah in Muharraq following his recent visit to

the project site.

The Minister confirmed the implementation of Resolution No. 43 of 2017 to regulate pearling through an annual license made available to individuals and centres to practice the pearling activity in permitted areas, obtainable only from the Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs office in Budaiya.

As for diving centres, instructors, diving masters and vessel crew members are requested to obtain one year licenses from the Marine Monitoring Directorate in Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs to be able to take part in pearling trips. Ras Rayah fishing harbour in Muharraq is the designated entry and exit location for pearl diving trips. Pearl divers will have to purchase a BD5 ticket from the Bahrain Exhibition and Convention Authority.

Diving centres must provide a list of participants to the Coast Guard Directorate before any trip and are obliged to follow safety laws and regulations. Divers are restricted to a maximum of 60 oysters per trip.

Conditions for pearl licensing trips

- ▶ Organisers and centres must be registered with the Commercial Registration System (Sijilat) at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism
- ▶ Centres must have a diving boat licensed by the Coast Guard
- ▶ Instructors must have a (PADI MASTER) certificate or any other international equivalent certificate
- ▶ CVs for trainers should be provided with a proof that the trainers have passed a Supreme Council of Environment training course on how to preserve and sustain the marine environment
- ▶ All participants must hold an insurance certificate for diving vessels
- ▶ Applicants must submit a written pledge to uphold national laws and regulations for the protection of marine resources, avoid using illegal fishing gear and pay application fees.

Bahrain Airport operated 986 flights a week last year

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

Bahrain International Airport (BIA) operated an average of 986 flights a week last year and handled a total of 8.7 million passengers, Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication revealed in its latest annual statistics report.

The report published by the ministry noted that the passenger movements at the airport increased in 2016 over 2015.

"With the increasing demand for air travel, Bahrain International Airport has experienced a growth in its passenger numbers and handled a total of 8.7 million passengers in 2016, an increase of 2 per cent in the total passenger movements over 2015.

Arriving and departing aircraft increased by 1 per cent. However, Bahrain Flight Information Region (FIR) reached 631,041, a 3 per cent increase compared with 2015," the Ministry stated in the report.

"Bahrain International Airport in 2016 had 986 flights a week connecting to 52 destinations.



Total aircraft movements recorded at the airport in 2016 were 101,345 movements, a growth of 1 per cent over the previous year," the report added.

Dubai continued to be the most popular destination for people traveling from Bahrain (including transit) with 1,360,259 passengers traveling there.

"Intra GCC and Indian subcontinent routes continued to see the largest volume of traffic. Traffic to Qatar increased by 4 per cent, Saudi Arabia by 4 per cent, Kuwait by 17 per cent, Oman by 19 per cent, and United Arab Emirates by 5 per cent. Our national carrier, Gulf Air carried 5,278,831 passengers in

2016, which represents 60 per cent of total traffic through the airport. There was no change in the number of transfer passengers whilst a 39 per cent reduction was seen in transit passengers compared to 2015. A total of 144,001,814 US gallons of fuel were uplifted by airlines in 2016, no change over 2015. Overflying movements reached 529,696 which is an increase of 4 per cent over 2015," the report stated.

Total cargo import and export handled at the airport reached 214,945 tonnes. A total of 2,115 tonnes of mail was handled in 2016 and the total transshipment of cargo and mail amounted to 46,896 tonnes.

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Philippines needs 20,000 more troops: Duterte

Manila
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has asked lawmakers to approve the recruiting of 20,000 more soldiers to tackle increased security threats following a bloody urban siege in the south, his spokesman said yesterday.

Almost 700 people have been killed, according to the official count, in over two months of fighting in the southern city of Marawi against Islamist militants who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

The militants, waving the black IS flag, have occupied parts of Marawi since May 23, prompting Duterte to declare martial law in the entire southern region of Mindanao.

"The request of the president for additional 20,000 troops is part of our intensified security posture to guard areas in the country where there are continuing security threats," spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

"The deployment of troops to Marawi and other points in Mindanao needs to be rebalanced to ensure maximum effectiveness," he added.

The Philippine military numbers about 125,000 and faces numerous threats including the IS-inspired militants in Mindanao, communist guerrillas scattered all over the archipelago and territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.



Saudis pledge \$33.7m to UN to battle cholera in Yemen

Yemeni children suspected of being infected with cholera receive treatment at a makeshift hospital in Sana'a

Jeddah
Saudi Arabia has pledged \$33.7 million to help the World Health Organization eradicate cholera in war-ravaged Yemen, where the disease has killed nearly 2,000 people, the WHO said yesterday.

Gregory Hartl, a spokesman for the organisation, confirmed that Saudi Arabia, which leads an Arab coalition battling rebels in Yemen, had signed an agreement

committing the funds to help the WHO battle the spread of cholera.

The oil-rich Gulf kingdom, in a statement on Thursday, said the money committed to WHO was part of an overall effort to combat the cholera outbreak in Yemen.

Riyadh said it also pledged \$33 million to the UN's children agency, UNICEF, for a project to improve water and sanitation facilities which are "drivers of the epidemic".

The Saudi aid was initially announced in June by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Last week the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, also pledged \$10 million to help the WHO stem the spread of cholera in Yemen.

The United Arab Emirates is a key member of the Saudi-led coalition that entered Yemen's conflict in 2015 on the side of the government

against Iran-backed Shiite Huthi rebels.

Since then, the war in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula nation has killed more than 8,000 people, according to WHO figures.

The cholera outbreak has already claimed the lives of at least 1,915 people since April this year, with 436,000 suspected cases across the country.

A report by three UN agencies last week said the

vicious combination of war, cholera and hunger has left 80 percent of Yemeni children in desperate need of aid.

It also warned that the number of cholera cases was expected to reach 600,000 by the end of the year.

The report was issued after executive directors of WHO, UNICEF and the World Food Programme visited Yemen to assess the situation. (AFP)

Indian boxer offers to trade title for peace with China

New Delhi
Indian boxer Vijender Singh has offered to return the championship belt he won in this weekend's title fight over his Chinese rival in a nod to diplomacy amid a tense border standoff between New Delhi and Beijing.

The Olympic-bronze medallist extended the olive branch to Zulpikar Maimaitiali after defeating the Chinese champ in the much-anticipated double-title pro bout in Mumbai on Saturday.

The win saw the 31-year-old Indian pugilist retain not just his WBO Asia Pacific super middleweight title but snatch the super middleweight belt from his Chinese opponent.

But the newly-crowned champ buried the hatchet after the fight, dedicating his victory to the "India-China friendship" and calling for an end to the distrust that has flared up over a border disagreement.



Indian boxer and WBO Asia-Pacific Super Middleweight champion Vijender Singh (R) and WBO Oriental Super Middleweight champion of China Zulpikar Maimaitiali (L) pose for pictures during their face-off in Mumbai

Chinese tourists detained in Berlin for Hitler salute

Berlin
Two Chinese tourists were detained in Berlin for making the straight-armed Hitler salute for photos in front of the Reichstag parliament building, a police spokeswoman said yesterday.

The holidaymakers were spotted by officers on a routine patrol Saturday snapping smartphone pictures of each other posing with the banned gesture outside the historic landmark in the heart of the German capital.

"A probe on suspicion of using the symbols of anti-constitutional organisations was opened against the two Chinese men, aged 36 and 49," the spokeswoman said.

The pair were questioned at a local police station and released after paying 500 euros (\$589) bail each.

Using the symbols of anti-constitutional organisations, a charge frequently levelled against members of far-right groups, can carry a sentence of up to three years in jail sentence or a fine.

The spokeswoman said the men could leave the country during the investigation and that if a fine is handed down, the bail money they had already paid would likely cover it.

The Reichstag housed the assemblies of the German Empire, the inter-war Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany until it was destroyed by a suspicious fire in 1933.

Israel says plans to close Al Jazeera's offices

Employees of Al-Jazeera at Jerusalem office

Jerusalem
Israel said yesterday it planned to close the offices in the Jewish state of Al-Jazeera, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the Arab satellite news broadcaster of incitement.

Netanyahu had said on July 27 that he wanted Al-Jazeera expelled amid tensions over a sensitive Jerusalem holy site.

"Al-Jazeera has become the main tool of Daesh (the Islamic State group), Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran," Communications Minister Ayoob Kara, a member of the Druze community from Netanyahu's Likud party, told a press conference.

He accused the Qatar-based broadcaster of "inciting violence which has provoked losses among the best of our sons", referring to two Druze policemen who were killed in a July 14 attack near the Al-Aqsa compound in east Jerusalem.

Netanyahu tweeted his congratulations to the minister "who on my instructions took concrete steps to end Al-Jazeera's incitement" in Israel.

The communications ministry said that "nearly all countries in the region including Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, have concluded that Al-Jazeera incites terrorism and religious extremism."



Emirati authorities close the road in front of the Tiger Tower after a fire broke out (Source- AP)

Dubai
A fire erupted in a residential highrise in Dubai yesterday, authorities said, days after a blaze tore through a tower across the street.

Dubai Civil Defence said Sunday it had put out the "minor fire" that broke out on a balcony in the 78-storey Tiger Tower, which opened to residents in 2010. No injuries were reported.

The building is across the street from The Torch, an 87-storey residential tower which was engulfed by a fire in early hours of Friday, with no reports of injuries.

The Torch was also the scene of a 2015 fire that triggered a mass evacuation of surrounding buildings.

In January, Dubai announced tougher rules to minimise fire risks after

a series of tower blazes in the emirate mostly due to flammable material used in cladding, a covering or coating used on the side of the buildings.

In the early hours of January 1, 2015, on New Year's Eve, 16 people were injured when a fire broke out in one of Dubai's luxury hotels.

In November 2015, fire engulfed three residential blocks in central Dubai and

led to services on a metro line being suspended, although no one was hurt.

In just over a decade, Dubai has built dozens of futuristic skyscrapers which have transformed its skyline.

The city is home to the world's tallest building, Burj al-Khalifa, which stands 828 metres (2,700 feet) tall, as well as iconic palm tree-shaped, man-made luxury residential islands.

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INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 30 June 2017 (Reviewed)			
	30 June 2017 BD '000	31 December 2016 BD '000	
ASSETS			
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	22,462	16,936	
Due from banks and other financial institutions	174,194	643,671	
Due from other offices of the Bank	172,051	125,139	
Available-for-sale investments	2,663,365	2,347,688	
Loans and advances to customers	2,262,379	1,937,404	
Interest receivable and other assets	47,192	38,597	
Property and equipment	6,016	8,006	
TOTAL ASSETS	5,359,679	5,117,341	
LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS			
Liabilities			
Due to banks and other financial institutions	923,992	1,002,644	
Due to other offices of the Bank	1,236,026	927,345	
Customers' deposits	2,810,923	2,741,836	
Interest payable and other liabilities	49,362	45,166	
Total liabilities	4,814,197	4,616,911	
Head Office funds			
Capital	6,885	6,885	
Unremitted profit due to Head Office	516,876	470,809	
Cumulative changes in fair values	21,721	22,738	
Total Head Office funds	545,482	500,430	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS	5,359,679	5,117,341	
INTERIM STATEMENT OF INCOME Six months ended 30 June 2017 (Reviewed)			
	Six months ended 30 June		
	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000	
Interest and similar income	82,607	53,609	
Interest expense and similar charges	(36,681)	(19,850)	
Net interest income	46,126	33,759	
Fees and commissions income - net	1,369	1,041	
Foreign exchange gains - net	734	1,694	
(Loss) gain on sale of available-for-sale investments	(153)	5	
Other income	6	59	
Operating income	48,872	36,558	
Staff costs	1,360	1,180	
Depreciation	30	29	
Other operating expenses	615	577	
Total operating expenses	2,005	1,786	
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	46,067	34,772	
INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Six months ended 30 June 2017 (Reviewed)			
	Six months ended 30 June		
	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000	
Profit for the period	46,067	34,772	
Other comprehensive loss to be reclassified to statement of income in subsequent periods:			
Change in fair value of available-for-sale investments - net	(1,015)	(3,187)	
Net other comprehensive loss for the period to be reclassified to the statement of income in subsequent periods	(1,015)	(3,187)	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	45,052	31,585	

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS				
Six months ended 30 June 2017 (Reviewed)				
	Capital BD '000	Unremitted profit due to Head Office BD '000	Reserves Cumulative changes in fair values BD '000	Total BD '000
Balance at 1 January 2017	6,885	470,809	22,738	493,545
Profit for the period	-	46,067	-	46,067
Other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	(1,015)	(1,015)
Balance at 30 June 2017	6,885	516,876	21,721	545,482
Balance at 1 January 2016	6,885	397,394	1,616	399,012
Profit for the period	-	34,772	-	34,772
Other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	(3,187)	(3,187)
Balance at 30 June 2016	6,885	432,166	(1,569)	437,482
INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS Six months ended 30 June 2017 (Reviewed)				
	Six months ended 30 June			
	2017 BD '000	2016 BD '000		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Net Profit for the period	46,067	34,772		
Adjustments for non-cash items:				
Depreciation	30	29		
Loss (gain) on sale of available-for-sale investments	153	(5)		
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	46,250	34,796		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:				
Mandatory reserve with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(3,330)	(600)		
Due from banks and other financial institutions with maturities over ninety days	79,182	(22,489)		
Due from other offices of the Bank with over ninety days	6,074	1,491		
Loans and advances to customers	(314,975)	(27,398)		
Interest receivable and other assets	(8,595)	(9,677)		
Due to banks and other financial institutions	(76,552)	101,164		
Due to other offices of the Bank	402,675	248,123		
Customers' deposits	(131,013)	17,946		
Interest payable and other liabilities	4,176	5,213		
Net cash from operating activities	1,892	348,539		
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of property and equipment	(40)	(3)		
Purchase of available-for-sale investments	(483,828)	(312,493)		
Proceeds from redemption or sale of available-for-sale investments	146,063	4,906		
Net cash used in investing activities	(337,005)	(307,590)		
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(335,113)	40,999		
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	687,779	745,619		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE	352,666	786,618		
Cash and cash equivalents comprise of:				
Cash, current account and overnight placements with Central Bank of Bahrain (excluding mandatory deposit)	8,107	59,416		
Due from banks and other financial institutions with an original maturity of ninety days or less	174,194	573,489		
Due from other offices of the Bank with an original maturity of ninety days or less	170,365	156,713		
Total	352,666	789,618		
The above statements have been extracted from financial statements reviewed by Ernst & Young auditors, who expressed an unqualified opinion on 2nd August 2017.				
Ali Y. Fardan General Manager				Isam Jassem Al Sager Group Chief Executive Officer

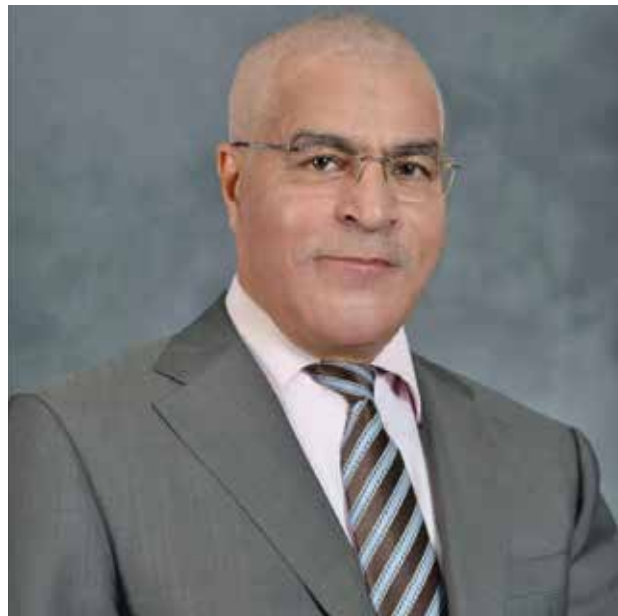
NBK Bahrain reports \$122m net profit in H1

Manama

National Bank of Kuwait-Bahrain (NBK Bahrain), yesterday reported a net profit of USD 122 million (BHD 46.067m) for the first half of 2017 compared with USD 92m (BHD 34.772m) for the same period of 2016, a growth of 32.5pc year-on-year.

NBK-Bahrain's total assets increased by 21.4pc y-o-y to USD 14.226 billion (BHD 5.359bn), compared with USD 11.716bn (BHD 4.414bn) for the same period of previous year. While total shareholders' equity increased by 24.7pc y-o-y to USD 1.448bn (BHD 0.545bn) compared with USD 1.161bn (BHD 0.437bn) for the same period of previous year. Customer deposits increased by 13.3pc y-o-y to USD 6.930bn (BHD 2.610bn) compared with USD 6.117bn (BHD 2.304bn) for the same period of previous year.

Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group Chief Executive Officer said "NBK-Bahrain continues its solid performance achieving high growth in its profits and key financial indicators. The Bank's strong results



Ali Fardan, NBK Bahrain General Manager

affirm the success of NBK Group's regional expansion strategy despite economic and geopolitical challenges."

Al-Sager confirmed that "NBK-Bahrain" profits are driven mainly by operating banking revenue which proves to be fruitful despite challenges imposed by the operating environment. "The Bank

targets to solidify its position in Bahrain by growing core banking business activities in the coming period" Al-Sager added.

Al-Sager also added that "NBK-Bahrain" is increasingly contributing to NBK Group profits. Going forward, the Bank will continue to focus on improving the banking



Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group CEO

services offered in Bahrain bringing its standards to NBK Group's best in class service quality at the regional and international levels.

Ali Fardan, NBK-Bahrain General Manager, said "This strong performance reflects our conservative management as we have consistently focused on our core business

and ways to diversify sources of income. We continue to grow our operations locally by developing new products to serve our customers benefiting from the support of NBK Group."

NBK has been present in Bahrain since 1977 and enjoys strong and historical relationships with the major

Bahraini and international companies. Al Fardan added.

NBK continues to enjoy collectively one of the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for the eleventh consecutive time and was awarded as the Best Bank in Kuwait in 2016 by the Banker, Euro-money and Global Finance.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centres including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).

KHCB holds client relationship management course



KHCB officials at the training programme

Manama

Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB), has organised a training course for its Client Relationship Managers in collaboration with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF).

The course, which corresponds with the

bank's commitment to providing clients with a leading banking experience, aims to foster skills which identify client behaviours, improving managerial operations and advancing the efficiency of service delivery.

The course focused on client relations developmental

skills such as understanding the clients' needs to achieve better responsiveness which creates a sense of belonging to the institution and builds trust with the bank's employees.

This establishes business stability and contributes to building long-term relationships. The course

included practical training such as performance analysis, problem solving and time management techniques, which assist Client Relationship Managers to be more confident and experienced.

On the occasion, Tawfeeq Mohamed Bastaki, Acting Chief Executive Officer of

KHCB, stated "At Khaleeji Commercial Bank, we are keen to provide our customers with a leading banking experience by attuning to their requirements. We are committed to providing them with an innovative range of products and services that meet both their expectations and needs."

He added "The training and

development process is an integral aspect of our business model. The Bank annually implements a series of training programs to ensure employee qualification to deliver the highest level of performance and achievement, which undoubtedly reflects positively on the level of our provided services."

Japan lends for Iraq thermal power station

Baghdad

Iraq is promised to get a loan of 195 million U.S. dollars from Japan to develop a thermal power station in Basra province, said an Iraqi government statement Saturday.

The loan was signed during a visit to Iraq by Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kentaro Sonoura, who met Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Saturday, the statement said.



Italy sees positive jobs, trade data

Rome

Italy's economic recovery continued in the second quarter this year, national statistics agency Istat said in its latest monthly bulletin released Friday.

The agency said that in "a context of world trade expansion" and consolidating eurozone growth, the Italian economy is powering ahead on a growing industrial sector and falling unemployment.



"It's clear that China's pressure on individual ASEAN governments has paid off with few prepared even to reiterate statements that they have made many times before,"

Bill Hayton

South China Sea expert



Moon soon to be open for business

Moon Express hopes to become the first private spaceflight company to send a robotic lander to the moon, scoop up some moon dust, load it into a small return vehicle, and send it back to Earth

Lift-off: From New Zealand, as payload on Rocket Lab's **Electron** launcher

MX-1E: Designed to "hop" 500 metres to map lunar surface and transmit high-definition video back to Earth

Sample return capsule: Can carry around 8kg back to Earth

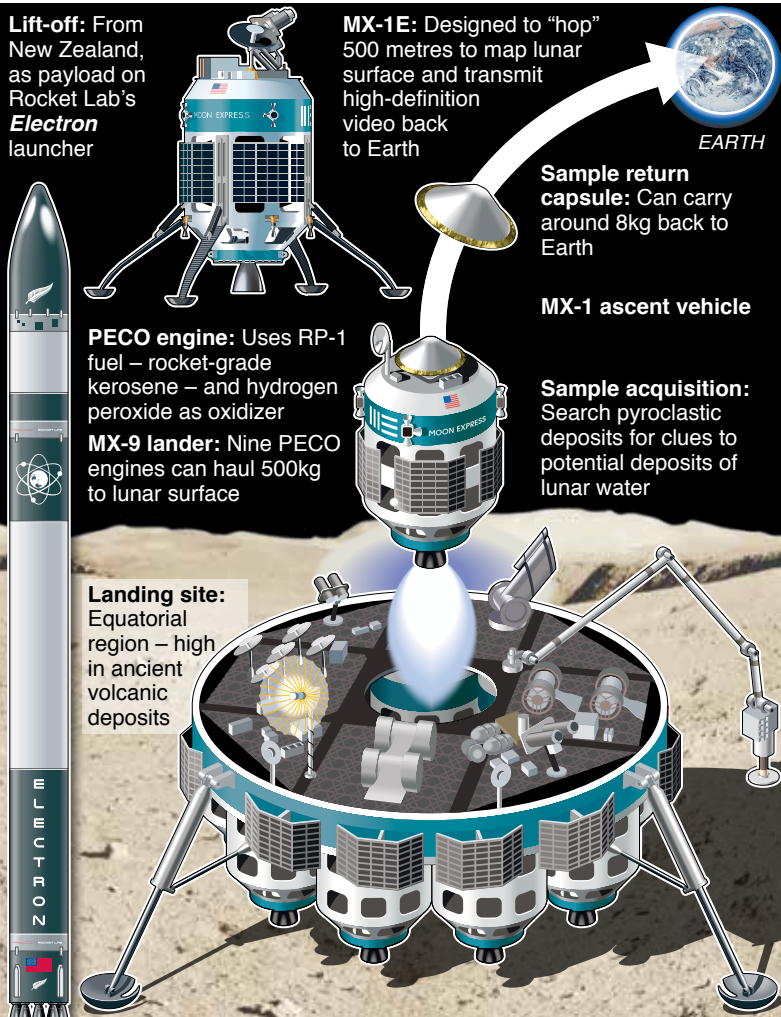
MX-1 ascent vehicle

Sample acquisition: Search pyroclastic deposits for clues to potential deposits of lunar water

PECO engine: Uses RP-1 fuel – rocket-grade kerosene – and hydrogen peroxide as oxidizer

MX-9 lander: Nine PECO engines can haul 500kg to lunar surface

Landing site: Equatorial region – high in ancient volcanic deposits



Sources: Moon Express, NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center

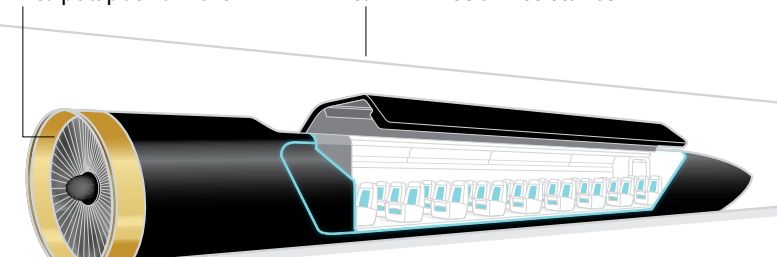
© GRAPHIC NEWS

The "hyperloop"

Makers say it will be clean, fast and safe

Compressor sucks air in to pull pod forward

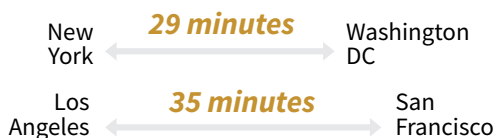
Enclosed tube in ultra-low pressure to minimise air resistance



Magnetic levitation system powers pods

Braking energy is used to recharge batteries

Potential speed
Around 750 mph
(1,200 kph)



Source: Hyperlooptech.com/Elon Musk

© AFP

Air passenger demand slows down in Mideast: IATA



Emirates aircrafts at Dubai International Airport (file photo)

Dubai

Middle Eastern carriers posted a 2.5 per cent traffic increase in June, far below the 7.5pc increase in international passenger demand in all world regions, said the International Air Transport Association (IATA) yesterday.

The performance for passenger demand in the Middle East market in June showed "a slowdown from the already subdued 3.7pc growth seen in May," said the Geneva-based civil aviation body.

IATA explained while most

markets have seen demand slowing, "it is most visible on the Middle East-North America market," affected by a combination of factors including the electronic-devices ban and the travel ban.

The "laptop ban" for 10 airports across the Middle East was pulled in step-by-step approach and completely cancelled on July 20 when Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport was exempted from the ban as the last hub in the region. However, a travel ban remains valid for

nationals from six Middle Eastern states, namely Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

IATA said capacity in June in the region rose 3.1pc, and load factor slipped down 0.4pc points to 68.9pc. Any load factor below 70pc is considered disadvantageous in civil aviation.

The report did not comment on the impact of the air transport ban the Saudi-led "Arab quartet" imposed on Qatar on June 5 when a diplomatic rift erupted between the two sides. (Xinhua)

Renault to sign new deal in Iran

Tehran

French carmaker Renault will sign a long-awaited deal today to build more than 150,000 cars a year in Iran, a source close to the country's industry ministry said.

Unlike its chief competitor PSA, which makes Peugeots and Citroens, Renault never fully quit Iran during the sanctions period and already makes some 200,000 cars a year there.

But it had to put a brake on its growth plans until Iran concluded a nuclear deal with world powers that came into force in January 2016.

The new deal puts Renault in partnership with Iran's Negin Khodro and the government's Industrial Development and Renovation Organisation (IDRO).

"Renault will hold a 60-percent stake, Negin Khodro will have 20



Representative image

per cent and IDRO 20pc," the source said, without giving a figure on how much money is being invested.

Negotiations were painstaking, with Renault reportedly reluctant to meet Iranian requirements to source 40pc of their parts from local manufacturers, which have struggled to keep up with

international standards.

"Renault officials believe that since their company is directly investing in local production, it should not be compelled to work with Iranian parts makers," IDRO chief Mansour Moazami told the Donya-e-Eqtasad newspaper recently. (Xinhua)

Did You Know?



Essentially a racecar for the road, the lightweight Renault Spider wrapped an all-aluminium body around the 150bhp, 2ltr 16V engine from the Clio Williams. They were so hardcore, the non-UK models came without a windscreen.



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3079	0.3043
BANGLADESH	0.00487	0.00467
CANADA	0.3060	0.3017
DENMARK	0.0633	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0217
EURO	0.4540	0.4498
HONGKONG	0.04970	0.04930
INDIA	0.00605	0.00597
INDONESIA	0.00003074	0.00002897
IRAN TUMAN	0.000323	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000304	
JAPAN	0.00357	0.003500
JORDAN	0.5350	0.0035
KOREA	0.00038478	
KUWAIT	1.249	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.0912	0.0906
NEW ZEALAND	0.2858	0.2845
NORWAY	0.0499	
NEPAL	0.00389	0.00371
OMAN	0.97962	0.98314
PAKISTAN	0.00367	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00774	0.00753
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10058	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2817	0.2797
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02960	0.02950
SRI LANKA	0.00270	0.00247
SWEDISH	0.0494	
SWITZERLAND	0.3985	0.3936
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011550	0.011550
TURKEY	0.1133	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5035	0.4988
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102810	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37780	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3887	0.3412
KUWAIT	0.2855	31.5449	0.2943	0.2584
OMAN	0.3849	0.3734	0.3968	0.3484
QATAR	3.6420	3.5327	3.7546	3.2962
UAE	3.6730	3.5628	3.7866	3.3243
SAUDI	3.7500	3.6375	3.8660	3.3940

Saudi, Egypt outperform in weak region

Dubai

Saudi Arabia's stock market edged up on the back of modest gains in the banking sector yesterday while Egypt imitated world markets' strong finish at the end of last week. Most other Middle Eastern bourses fell.

The Riyadh index added 0.1 per cent, remaining near a six-week low, as Samba Financial Group jumped 3.4pc after its board recommended a cash dividend of 0.75 riyal for the first half of the year. The proposed cash outlay is two-thirds more than Samba's interim payout in 2016.

Gulf General Cooperative Insurance jumped 4.6pc after reporting a slight dip in second-quarter earnings, while Allianz Saudi Fransi Cooperative Insurance rose 0.7pc after announcing a 24pc jump in net income.

Emaar the Economic City dropped 3.1pc after it

reported an 85.4pc drop in second-quarter net profit, citing lower residential sales and higher financial charges.

Al Andalus Property fell 1.2pc. It reported second-quarter net profit of 27.6 million riyals, up 11pc from the same period last year.

Qatar's index dropped 0.6pc with 15 of the 20 largest companies falling. Telecommunications operator Ooredoo was the biggest loser, falling 3.0pc.

In the United Arab Emirates, Dana Gas lost 1.5pc, helping drag Abu Dhabi's index 0.2pc lower.

Dubai's index fell 0.3pc, snapping five straight sessions of modest gains. Union Properties, the most heavily traded stock, lost 1.3pc and Emaar Malls Group fell 0.4pc ahead of the release of its quarterly earnings.

In Egypt, private equity firm Qalaa Holdings added

Closing Bell

SAUDI ARABIA added 0.1pc to 7,094 points.

DUBAI edged down 0.3pc to 3,666 points.

ABU DHABI fell 0.2pc to 4,586 points.

QATAR lost 0.6pc to 9,345 points.

EGYPT gained 1.1pc to 13,558 points.

KUWAIT declined 0.2pc to 6,812 points.

BAHRAIN fell 0.2pc to 1,320 points.

OMAN lost 0.7pc 5,022 points.

Kenya expressway to boost trade

Nairobi

Kenya plans to build a high speed expressway to boost trade in the Eastern Africa region, officials said on Saturday.

Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) Director General Peter Mundinia said that the 473 km expressway will vastly improve the connectivity, efficiency and safety of road transport between Nairobi and the country's main seaport of Mombasa.

"It will serve as a central part of Kenya's national transport system, helping



Representative image

to promote trade and development in Kenya and further into Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo," Mundinia said in a statement released in Nairobi.

The road will be completed in ten sections in the next six years. Mundinia said that the project has been structured to achieve early completion under a fast track delivery model

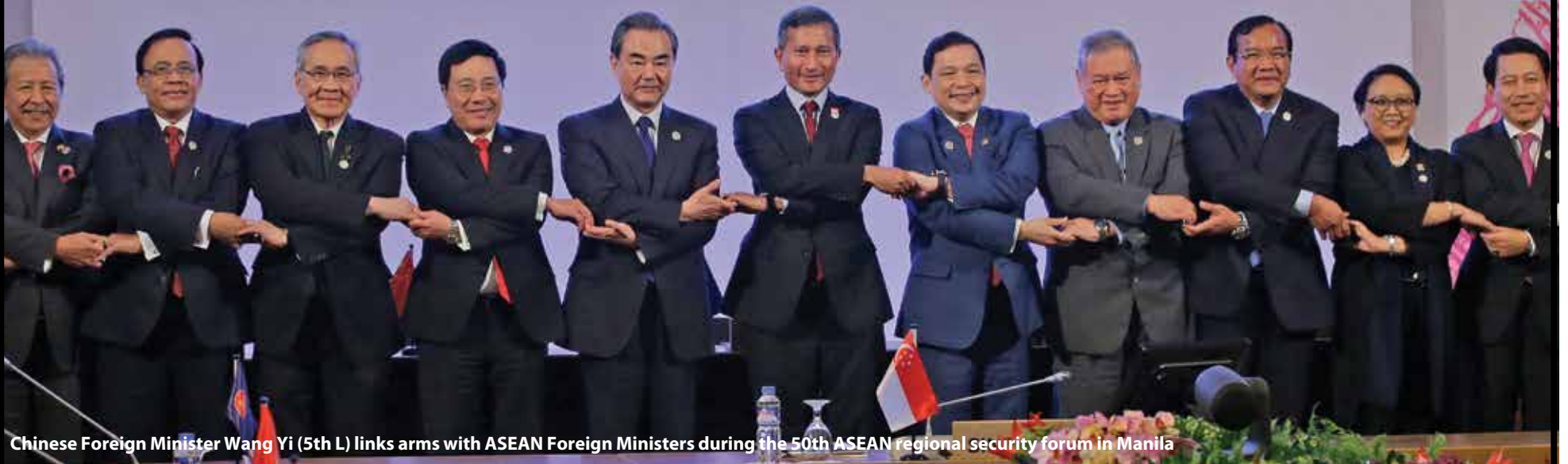
with concurrent design and construction.

The expressway will be designed for consistent speed of 120 km/h and will reduce the journey between Nairobi and Mombasa from over ten hours to approximately four hours.

The road will have four lanes with a provision for future increase to six lanes and 19 interchanges. The director general noted that the expressway will enable Kenya to competitively develop and expand internal and regional trade. (Xinhua)

China scores diplomatic coup in sea dispute

06 AUGUST 2017 | MANILA, PHILIPPINES



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (5th L) links arms with ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the 50th ASEAN regional security forum in Manila

Manila

China yesterday scored a diplomatic coup in its campaign to weaken regional resistance against its sweeping claims to the South China Sea when Southeast Asian nations issued a diluted statement on the dispute and agreed to Beijing's terms on talks.

After two days of tense meetings on the dispute in the Philippine capital, foreign ministers from the 10-member

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued a joint communique that diplomats involved said was carefully worded to avoid angering China.

The release of the statement came shortly after the ministers met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and agreed on a framework for conducting negotiations on the decades-long row that included key clauses

advocated by China.

"This is an important outcome of our joint effort," Wang told reporters as he celebrated the agreement.

China claims nearly all of the strategically vital sea, through which \$5 trillion in annual shipping trade passes and is believed to sit atop vast oil and gas deposits.

Its sweeping claims overlap with those of ASEAN members Vietnam, the Philippines,

Malaysia and Brunei, as well as Taiwan.

China has dramatically expanded its presence in the contested areas in recent years by building giant artificial islands that could be used as military bases, raising concerns it will eventually establish de facto control over the waters.

In what two diplomats involved said was another victory for Beijing yesterday,

ASEAN members declined to say in their joint statement that the hoped-for code of conduct with China be "legally binding".

Vietnam, the most determined critic of China on the issue, had insisted during two days of negotiations that ASEAN insist the code be legally binding, arguing otherwise it would be meaningless.

The ASEAN ministers

failed to release the joint statement as expected after meeting on Saturday because of their differences on the sea issue, with Vietnam pushing for tougher language and Cambodia lobbying hard for China.

"Vietnam is adamant, and China is effectively using Cambodia to champion its interests," one diplomat said yesterday as negotiations extended into overtime. (AFP)

US, China pressure North after sanctions vote



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) shakes hands with North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho (L) during their meeting on the sidelines of ASEAN forum in Manila

Manila

The United States and China piled pressure on North Korea yesterday to abandon its nuclear missile programme after the UN Security Council approved tough sanctions which could cost Pyongyang \$1 billion a year.

One day after Council members voted unanimously for a partial ban on exports aimed at slashing Pyongyang's foreign revenue by a third, top diplomats from the key powers in the dispute met in Manila.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he was encouraged by the vote, but officials warned that Washington would closely watch China -- North Korea's biggest trade partner -- to ensure sanctions are enforced.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his North Korean counterpart Ri Yong-Ho before a major regional security forum being hosted by the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

He urged the North to halt its nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

"It will help the DPRK to make the right and smart decision," Wang told reporters, speaking through a translator, after talks with Ri -- referring to the sanctions and to Ri's presence in Manila.

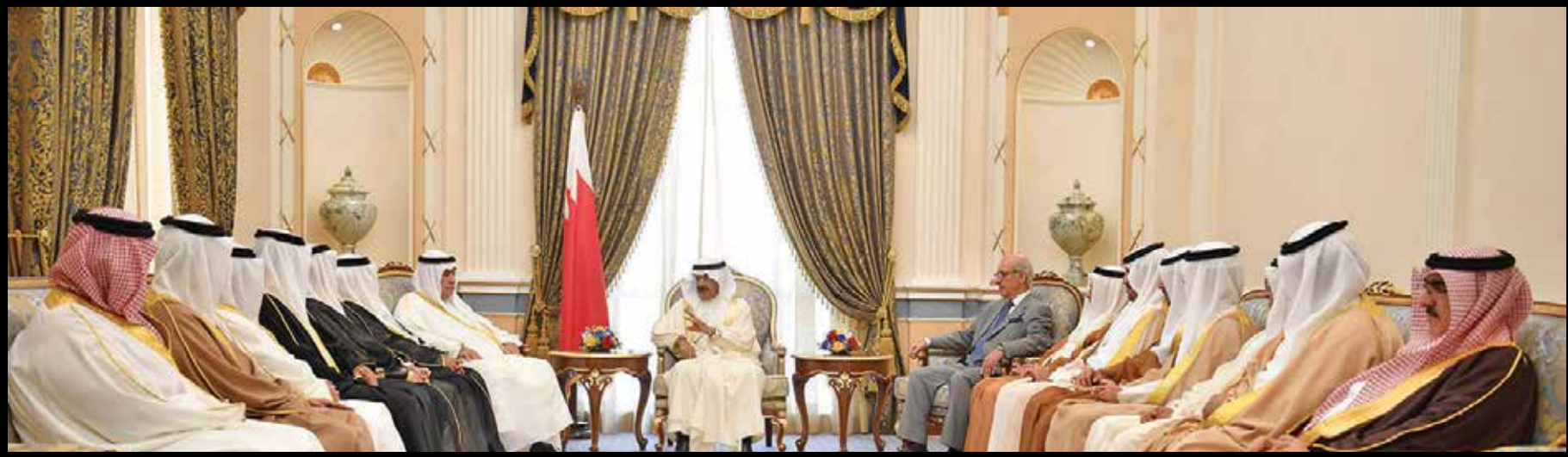
Pyongyang's top envoy has so far avoided the media in Manila.

But in a characteristically fiery editorial before the latest sanctions were approved, the North's ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun warned against US aggression.

"The day the US dares tease our nation with a nuclear rod and sanctions, the mainland US will be catapulted into an unimaginable sea of fire," it said.

Tillerson also met Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and was to see Wang later yesterday, seeking to intensify Kim Jong-Un's diplomatic isolation and reduce the risk of renewed conflict.

"It was a good outcome," Tillerson said of the UN vote, before a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-Wha.



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received yesterday several members of the late Shaikh Salman bin Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khalifa's family. They extended deepest thanks and appreciation while offering condolences, stressing that the Prime Minister is a role model for leadership who stands with the citizens in times of joy and sorrow.



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received a number of state officials, as well as economic, intellectual and media personalities, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. The Prime Minister asserted that the government has coupled its trend towards expanding the circle of investment and economic cooperation, regionally and internationally, with effective policies to develop the Kingdom's economic and investment structure and adapt it to the requirements of investors to attract them.



A high-level meeting was held yesterday to discuss ways of employing graduated doctors in the public and private sectors. Supreme Council for Health (SCH) President Lieutenant-General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa chaired the session, in the presence of Health Minister Faeqa bint Saeed Al-Saleh, Undersecretary Dr. Aisha Mubarak Bu'unq and other senior officials.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received Information Director at the office of Supreme Council for Youth & Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President & Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Tawfiq Hassan Al Salhi and discussed key power and water projects and planned media programmes and campaigns. The minister praised Al Salhi's efforts, stressing the importance of the media role in identifying services provided by the government, especially electricity and water.





...ciation to HRH the Prime Minister for the good feelings he had expressed



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, received the Editor-in-Chief of the Kuwait-based "Al-Seyassah" newspaper, Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. During the meeting, HRH the Prime Minister focused on the latest regional developments, and the efforts being exerted by the government to accelerate the pace of development in the Kingdom.



Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,, yesterday received the newly appointed Ambassador of Malaysia, Ajus Salim Haji Yusof, at Riffa Palace. His Royal Highness highlighted the strength of bilateral ties and the Kingdom's continued commitment to advancing cooperation with Malaysia across various sectors. HRH the Crown Prince welcomed the newly appointed Ambassador, and wished him success in his diplomatic endeavours.



Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Salem Al Arrayed received Indonesian Ambassador to Bahrain, Nur Syahrir Rahardjo and reviewed with him the bilateral ties as well as topics of mutual interest. The deputy Prime Minister welcomed the ambassador's keenness to develop the bilateral ties, assuring him of cooperation and assistance from all the concerned authorities in the Kingdom to ensure the success of his diplomatic mission.



Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam Khalaf and Housing Minister Bassim Alhamer paid a visit to Sitra and Nabeeh Saleh to inspect citizens' needs and follow up projects as per the directives of Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa to assess the needs of different areas. The meeting was attended, at the Sitra Sports and Culture Club, by MP Majeed Mohsen Al-Asfour, dignitaries and citizens. The focus was on upgrading roads and drainage networks, municipal services and housing projects.



Arab Gulf University (AGU) President Dr. Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al-Ohali received Korean Ambassador, Koo Hyun-mo, and discussed aspects of cooperation with Korea's leading higher education institutions and giant electronic companies, including Seoul National University and Samsung Company. Dr. Al-Ohali gave an overview of the AGU's regional role, as a GCC owned, managed and financed university, as well as its medical, technical and teaching specialties and its cooperation programmes with local, Gulf and international organisations.



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) organised a leadership course for managerial level employees, at Gulf Aviation Academy (GAA) in Muharraq. The five-day CoachME Organizational Coach (CMOC) programme was delivered by Origin Institute, and Beckett McInroy Consultancy (BMC), an Association for Coaching-accredited and International Coach Federation-approved training provider.

CELEBS

Paris Hilton @ParisHilton
Always walk around like you have on an invisible Crown.



Markle off to Africa with Prince Harry

London Prince Harry has flown his rumoured girlfriend and actress Meghan Markle to Africa to celebrate her birthday amid speculation that he is planning to propose her.

They looked casual as they strolled across the runway to get into the jet, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

According to a source to *The Sun*, Harry was planning the holiday for a long time.

“Who knows what will happen when they’re watching a sensational African sunset together? Maybe he’ll get down on one knee. Harry’s done a lot of conservation work in Africa with endangered elephants and black rhinos and he’ll show them to the woman he wants to marry,” added the source.

After wrapping filming for “Suits”, which is aired in India on Comedy Central, Markle flew to London, where the pair then went to Africa. (IANS)



‘Blade Runner’ is my biggest artistic challenge

Filmmaker Denis Villeneuve said ‘Blade Runner 2049’ has been the biggest artistic challenge of his career because he holds Ridley Scott’s original movie in very high esteem. The director said he wants to honour Scott’s vision.

“I have to find a way to make that universe mine. I have to find a way to not feel like a vandal going in a church, making graffiti on the walls. It’s by far the biggest artistic challenge I have ever done.”

“To take someone else’s universe and to try digest and make it my own is a strange process ... One of the things you have to do when you want to honour something is incorporate and go large. You don’t want to just do the high school play. You don’t want to do a remake...,” Villeneuve said. (TOI)



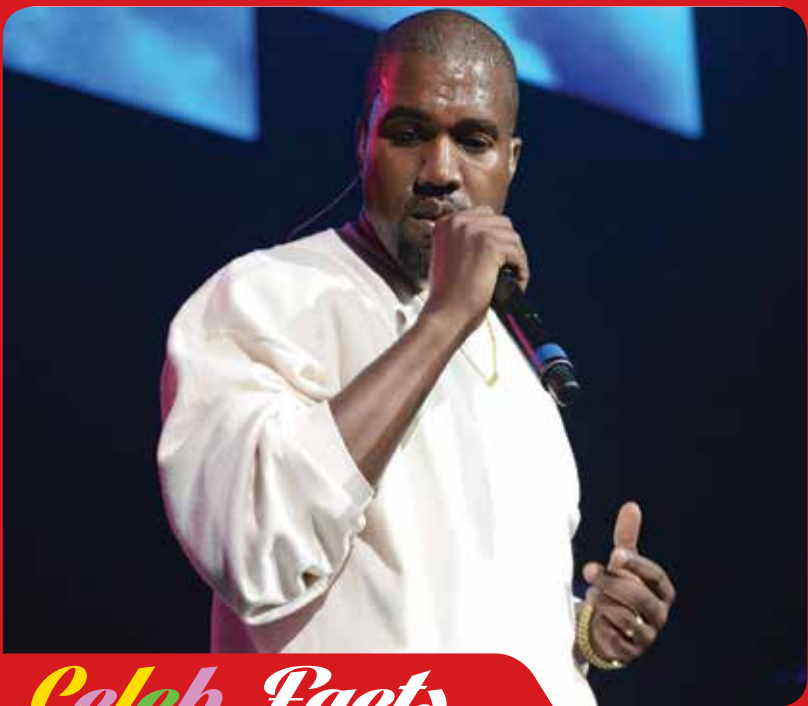
AMBER HEARD SPLITS FROM TESLA FOUNDER

Los Angeles

Actress Amber Heard has reportedly parted ways from Tesla founder Elon Musk.

Heard, who was earlier married to actor Johnny Depp, has been dumped by her billionaire boyfriend, a source told *dailymail.co.uk*. “It’s all over between Amber and Elon and she’s devastated. It was his decision.”

The source added: “He ended it a week ago. He’d heard certain things about her behaviour that didn’t sit well with him. Amber can be very manipulative and selfish. Elon’s back in Los Angeles while she’s licking her wounds in Australia.” (IANS)



Celeb Facts

American Rapper Kayne West is the sixth most popular digital artist, with a grand total of 30 million downloads within America as of January 2016 (thefactsite)

'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3' is already in works

Marvel fans, rejoice! You may get the third part of 'Guardians of the Galaxy' really soon. Writer-director James Gunn is hard at work penning 'Guardians Vol. 3', while also helping Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige plot out the future of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's cosmic properties.

"Those scripts are already in the works. Kevin and I talk about it all the time, we just had a meeting today. Discussing what is the next iteration of cosmic characters and where are the characters that we've already created going to go in the next batch of films," He said.

Vol. 3 will also be the end of this current lineup of Guardians, begging the question of whether the Ravagers led by Sylvester Stallone in Vol. 2 movie could pick up the Guardians mantle. (TOI)



NAOMI WATTS WANTS TO STAR IN A COMEDY

Actor Naomi Watts wants to do a role in a comedy movie or television show. The 'Book of Henry' actress is used to appearing in gritty dramas, but she said she is on the lookout for a more quirky role where she could have a lot of fun on set.

"I want more laughs in my career. I've endured plenty of darkness and sadness and soul-searching. I've been lucky enough to work with the likes of David O. Russell and a movie I did with Noah Baumbach a few years ago. But I'm not the go-to when it comes to comedy," Watts said.

"I actually turned down a few during the beginning of my career because they didn't feel right for where I wanted to be. Maybe it's because it's a certain kind of comedy I'm after - a quirky reality, something offbeat where there's a soul underneath. I want to go on set and laugh all day." (TOI)

STARRY Birthday
Liam James
August 7, 1996

Teen actor known for film roles in the disaster film 2012 and the science fiction action film AVPR: Aliens vs Predator-Requiem. In 2013, he played Duncan in The Way and Way Back.

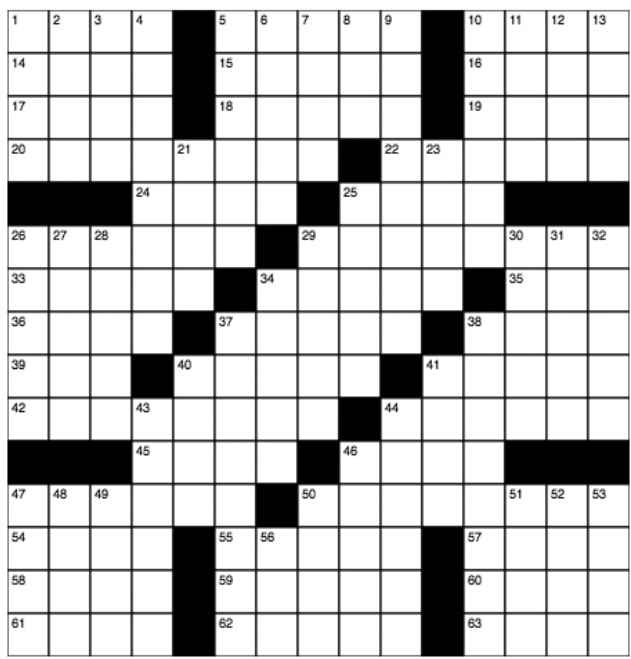
Fashion tip of the week



American model Gigi Hadid in a Prada floral blouse, Miaou gingham pants and white Stella Luna shoes

(harpersbazaar.com)

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Old Pontiacs; 5- Words on a Wonderland cake; 10- Zeno of ___; 14- Spellbound; 15- Confusion; 16- Sleeveless garment; 17- Chemical used on trees; 18- Birds on Canadian coins; 19- I could ___ horse!; 20- Learned persons; 22- Merited; 24- "Star Wars" princess; 25- Hostelrys; 26- Graduated; 29- Raw; 33- Recorded, in a way; 34- Actress Barkin; 35- Bambi's aunt; 36- ___ about (approximately); 37- Killer whales; 38- Salute; 39- Proverb ending?; 40- Continue a subscription; 41- Last; 42- Suit and dress retailer; 44- Like some soft coats; 45- Congers; 46- Perjurer; 47- Feudal tenant; 50- Small house; 54- Tons; 55- Proverb; 57- Rip; 58- Unspecified in number; 59- Challenger; 60- Cross letters; 61- Old oath; 62- Board for nails; 63- Prehistoric sepulchral tomb;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



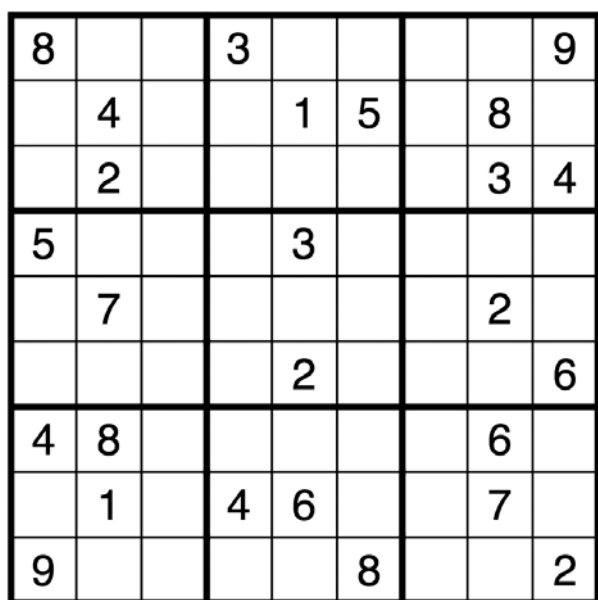
Down

1- Mardi ___; 2- After-bath powder; 3- Moonfish; 4- Wanderer; 5- Cream cake; 6- Now, in Nogales; 7- New Mexico art colony; 8- Calendar abbr.; 9- Concentrated extracts; 10- Very; 11- The Tower of Pisa does this; 12- Town near Padua; 13- Somewhat; 21- Show the way; 23- Bartlett's abbr.; 25- Relative by marriage; 26- Unemotional; 27- Artificial waterway; 28- Speed skater ___ Anton Ohno; 29- Stomach woe; 30- "The Family Circus" cartoonist Bil; 31- Early computer; 32- Loiter; 34- Sea eagles; 37- An amorous glance; 38- Priestly; 40- Perlman of "Cheers"; 41- National symbol; 43- Tried out; 44- Regalia; 46- Semi-automatic pistol; 47- Urn; 48- Sleep like ___; 49- Body of an organism; 50- Expose; 51- Director Riefenstahl; 52- Crew needs; 53- Court order; 56- Block;

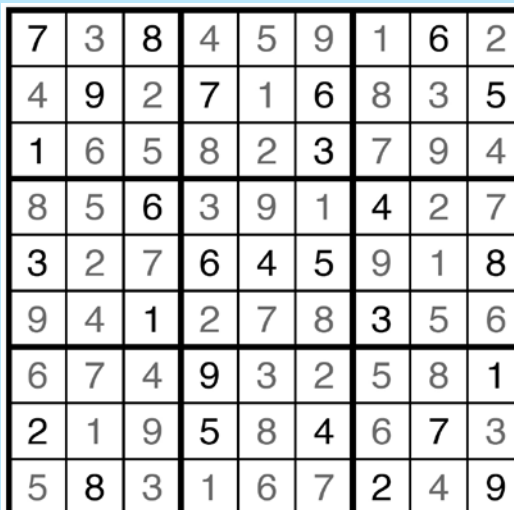
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play:

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



You finally begin to feel like you're making progress. You're intent on completing some projects that have long been in the works. After many hours of concentration and focus, you make the last adjustments and proclaim it finished. You can expect to be rewarded for your efforts. Your skills are extraordinary.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



This is a passionate, creative day. Your blood is hot and passion is on your mind. With luck, you have a significant other who can benefit! If not, you will have to find another way to burn off that energy. Invite a close friend for a jog. You're in the mood to socialize. If you can't have physical intimacy, be satisfied with emotional closeness.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



You may feel a bit short on inspiration today. Don't be discouraged! Start whatever project is in question, even if your thoughts are elsewhere. During the course of the "bad" work you may churn out at first, your muse gently alights on your shoulder. It sometimes takes a little discipline to lead to delicious rewards!

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You may feel like you're running in several directions at once. You're so scattered that you don't feel like you're accomplishing anything important. That's just the nature of the day. You have many loose ends to tie up. It's hard to concentrate on the big picture when you're out of groceries. Do whatever maintenance needs doing so you can move on to bigger things.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Today you may be inspired to have a little fun with your looks. You may wish to change your haircut or experiment with different colours or styles of clothing. It would be fun to get out of your routine, even if it just means donning funky sunglasses or bright Hawaiian patterns. You will feel lighter and more flirtatious.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Today's energy has you rethinking all areas of your life. If you aren't as challenged by your job as you think you should be, perhaps it's time for a change. The trick for you will be figuring out what it is that you want to do. You have a tremendous amount of creative ability. If you aren't using these talents, why not explore a career that would let you develop them further?

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



You're ready for dramatic change in your life. It isn't that you're dissatisfied with your career or personal life. Rather, you feel like you're missing out on something great, if you only knew what. Be receptive to whatever opportunities arise and explore them all. You may find the answers you seek through travel or more education. Bring a friend if you're afraid to explore on your own.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Expect to meet someone new who will be a tremendous influence in your life - probably in your career. If you've been frustrated by your lack of progress up the corporate ladder, take heart. This new person may be able to show you another way up. In spite of your frustration, you should continue to work in your usual manner. You're on the right path.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



You've been on a wild ride for several months - all that excitement in your personal life and career! If major changes for the better haven't yet occurred, know that they will. A promotion is in order, most likely accompanied by a raise. Don't act so surprised - you've had this coming for a long time. Celebrate tonight with someone dear to your heart.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Foreign lands and new opportunities beckon today! Keep your eyes and ears open as these opportunities may come to you from an unusual or unexpected source. You're ready for a change of some kind in your personal or professional life. It's up to you to take steps in whatever new direction you decide to go. Don't rule out a few classes as a way to further your career.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



The astral energy indicates that you may have extra money in your pocket. Take care to invest this money wisely rather than spend it all. You will be happier sacrificing short-term gratification for future financial gain. Positive relationships and socializing are indicated this evening. Make a point to get together with close friends and loved ones.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



This will be an interesting day provided you keep your eyes and ears open to the opportunities that arise. Don't be afraid to take on new challenges. Even if you feel unsure about your abilities, embrace the chance to test them. If others think you're up to the challenge, you should give yourself the same benefit of the doubt! New friends are indicated - make a point to smile.

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In Rio, office workers join the ranks of the homeless

Vilmar Mendonca, 58, who has worked as a human resources manager for several companies in Brazil and has been living in the streets for a year and a half now, gets ready to sleep on a park bench in front of the Santos Dumont airport in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro

Vilmar Mendonca used to be a human resources director for several companies in Brazil. Now he is homeless, sleeping outdoors along with thousands of other victims of the country's economic crisis.

Mendonca lost his job in 2015 and for a while, he lived off his savings. But now, at age 58, he sleeps on a bench outside Santos Dumont Airport in Rio de Janeiro.

He leaves some of his stuff at a bank where he is a client, cleans up in public restrooms and lives off food handed out by charity organizations.

"It is a terrible situation but I have no choice," said Mendonca, a thin, divorced man who has no children, as he looks at job offers on his laptop using the airport's wifi.

He wears stylish glasses, a dress shirt and nice shoes. He does not at all look like one of the thousands of other homeless people in this city of six million.

In late 2016, the Rio city hall said there were 14,279 people living in the street -- triple the number in 2013.

Dozens of them have

advanced degrees, including Mendonca, who studied business administration in Sao Paulo.

His plight reflects the sting of a recession that has taken Brazil's jobless ranks up to 13.5 million people and tarnished Rio, a city that just a year ago hosted the summer Olympic Games.

"When you are like this, no one wants to come near you," said Mendonca.

Like many in his situation, he has not told anyone how far he has fallen, still hoping it will be temporary.

During the day he exercises, reads in cafes and book stores, posts on Facebook -- where his photo shows him in a suit and tie -- and goes to job interviews where he competes against hundreds of younger candidates.

By night, he puts on simpler clothes and a hat to go unnoticed and stretches out on a bench outside the airport, near its security cameras.

"I try to stay on my own so as to remain focused because if I start to hang out with others, I might get into things I do not want, like alcohol, drugs or filth," he said.

Unpaid civil servant

The homeless population is an especially common sight in Rio's most popular tourist areas, including Copacabana and Ipanema.

In the old quarter, groups of up to 20 homeless people take up entire streets every night, sleeping on cardboard and wrapped in blankets.

Most are black and come from poor backgrounds. Many are drug addicts, with psychological or family problems.

Among their ranks is a mix of people from street vendors to retired civil servants like Gilson Alves.

Alves, 69, worked for 35 years as an X-ray technician in Rio's public hospitals. But his pension payments were late and he ended up selling his belongings and giving up his rented apartment.

The tall, kindly looking man says he never had an easy life. At five, he was run over by a street car and lost a leg.

Two months ago he ended up on the street and the bag containing everything he owned was stolen. He was taken in by social services and transferred to one of the city's



People wait to get inside a public shelter for the homeless at Ilha do Governador neighbourhood in Rio

64 shelters, which have room for 2,200 people.

"I feel sad, humiliated, struck down for having put in so many years and then being here because of this government," said Alves, who shares a room with six people of around his age.

'Critical'

"The situation is critical," said Rio's social aid secretary, Teresa Bergher.

Many Brazilians came to Rio looking for work when the city hosted the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016. But today oil-producing

Rio state's coffers are empty, hit by corruption, low crude global prices and Olympic bill.

Former state governor Sergio Cabral, whose 2007-2014 administration was crucial to preparing the World Cup and Olympics, was convicted of embezzling millions of dollars and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Part of the money recovered from him was used to pay back wages to 150,000 retired civil servants.

But the accounts are still in the red and help for the most vulnerable is insufficient.

"The swift increase in the number of homeless people in Rio is due mainly to the economic crisis but also to the lack of public policy," said citizens' ombudsman Carla Beatriz Nunes.

To fill the vacuum, networks of volunteers from churches and NGOs provide social services, serve breakfast and some even offer yoga classes to homeless people.

"Those of who are paying for the crisis are the ones with less money and less education," said Robson, a 43-year-old jobless construction worker. (AFP)

Knifeman arrested at Eiffel Tower

Red and blue lights and a welcoming message that reads in French "Neymar Jr." adorn the Eiffel Tower to celebrate the arrival of Brazilian footballer Neymar to Paris.



Paris
A man arrested at the Eiffel Tower after brandishing a knife in front of tourists and security forces has told investigators he wanted to kill a soldier, sources close to the case said yesterday.

The intruder, who is aged around 19 and has a history of psychological problems, was arrested late on Saturday at the Paris monument after bursting past security and shouting "Allahu Akbar" ("God is Greatest").

Armed soldiers who are permanently stationed at the Eiffel Tower surrounded him and ordered him to drop his weapon, which he did without attacking anyone, one security source said, asking not to be named.

In custody, he said he wanted to commit "an attack against a soldier and had been in contact with a member

of the jihadist group Islamic State who encouraged him to take action," a separate source said.

France has been in a state of emergency since November 2015 and has seen a string of attacks on security forces who have been regularly targeted, particularly those guarding key tourist sites.

In February, a man armed with a machete attacked four soldiers on patrol at Paris's Louvre Museum, while in April another extremist shot and killed a policeman on the Champs Elysees.

In June, a 40-year-old Algeria doctorate student who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group attacked a policeman with a hammer outside Notre Dame cathedral.

Police had initially treated Saturday's Eiffel Tower incident as a criminal case,

but anti-terror prosecutors have since taken over the investigation.

After the arrest, police checked the Eiffel Tower site and called for it to be evacuated at around 00:30, 15 minutes before it normally closes, a statement from the company that runs the monument said.

The intruder was wearing a Paris Saint-Germain football shirt. At the time of the incident the tower was lit up with the colours of the team to welcome the club's new world-record signing, Brazilian star Neymar.

The legal source said the man with the knife, a Frenchman born in the West African state of Mauritania, had been discharged from a psychiatric hospital in July.

The tower reopened yesterday morning as usual at 09:00 am (0700 GMT). (AFP)

#PollToday



Indian boxer offers to trade title for peace with China. Do you think the authorities of both countries should learn from this and end the tensions in their border areas?

Yes No Cant Say



"I won't make an agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom conditional on recovering sovereignty over Gibraltar"

Alfonso Dastis
Spanish Foreign Minister

Rest in sight

'Terrorists' attack Venezuela military base



"Terrorists" attacked a military base in Venezuela's third-biggest city of Valencia, but soldiers defended it and arrested several people, officials said.

Cameroon suicide attack kills eight

A suicide bomb attack in the far north of Cameroon killed eight people, officials said.

Twelve killed in Nigeria church shooting

Gunmen stormed a Catholic church in a town in southeast Nigeria yesterday, killing 12 worshippers, hospital sources said

US calls off rescue for three marines missing off Australia

The US Marine Corps ended efforts to rescue three missing service members after an American military aircraft crashed during an exercise off Australia.

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Lashkar behind Hindu pilgrim murders

Srinagar

Indian police said yesterday a Pakistan-based Islamist militant group blamed for the 2008 Mumbai attacks was responsible for last month's killing of eight Hindu pilgrims in Kashmir.

Police said an investigation had concluded that Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Kashmiri accomplices were behind the July 10 attack that saw militants open fire on a bus carrying Hindus on the annual Amarnath pilgrimage. "Lashkar was involved

and the accused have been identified," Inspector General of Police Muneer Ahmed Khan told reporters in Anantnag district in Indian-administered Kashmir.

"Once the investigation was started it was revealed that... a Pakistani militant of Lashkar along with two other militants and one local Kashmiri Lashkar militant carried out the attack."

Three others who provided logistical support to the militants, including hiding places and vehicles, had been arrested.

Typhoon Noru kills two, draws near Japan



Large waves caused by typhoon Noru are seen at the port in Miyazaki city

Tokyo

Strong typhoon Noru brought heavy rain and strong winds to southwest Japan, killing two people, local officials said yesterday as they warned of landslides and floods.

A man in his 60s on the remote island of Yakushima died Saturday after strong gusts made him fall hard and hit his head, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said.

A man in his 80s on neighbouring Tanegashima island drowned Saturday after he went to check on his boat and was swept into

the water, according to the agency and the Kagoshima prefecture government.

As of 3:00 pm (0600 GMT) yesterday, Noru was located just off the main southern island of Kyushu, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Noru, with gusts up to 162 kilometres (100 miles) per hour, was slowly moving northeast and was on course to make landfall in southwest Japan, possibly at Shikoku island, by early Monday.

The agency warned of possible landslides, floods, heavy rain, strong winds and high waves in the southwest.

B'desh seizes 25kg of gold from man posing in wheelchair

Dhaka

Authorities at Bangladesh's main international airport yesterday arrested a man accused of posing as a wheelchair user in an elaborate plot to smuggle 25 kilograms of gold past customs.

The bullion bust, worth an estimated \$1.5 million, was the largest this year by airport officials in Bangladesh, which have been battling a record

surge in gold smuggling in recent years.

Customs officials became suspicious when they noticed Jamil Akhter, who was using a wheelchair as he cleared immigration, had travelled overseas 13 times this year.

"Our team challenged him and found 250 pieces of gold weighing 25 kilograms beneath his undergarments taped to his thighs," airport customs spokesman Ahsanul Kabir said.

Beaches shut after palm oil spill in Hong Kong

Hong Kong

Ten beaches typically packed on a hot weekend were closed in Hong Kong yesterday due to a palm oil spillage from a ship collision in mainland Chinese waters.

Photographs showed styrofoam-like clumps lining the shores, while the waters at a fishing village popular with tourists were seen covered in oil and rubbish.

Hong Kong comprises



Congeaed palm oil washing up at Victoria Harbour (Source: SCMP) more than 200 islands, concerns about pollution and many with popular beaches, rubbish blighting the city's shores.

Cool-headed Marquez at the double



Brno, Czech Republic

Honda's Marc Marquez led a Spanish podium sweep at the Czech GP yesterday to extend his MotoGP world championship lead with a second straight win.

Dani Pedrosa was second almost 13 seconds back ahead of Maverick Vinales in third and nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi in fourth after a race.

"I could have gone faster but there was no need to do so, I had it won and I'm not taking those risks anymore," said the three time world champion who however celebrated by standing on his bike as he rode past the main stand to an ovation.

"These kind of races (mixed weather) can be very challenging and you have to remain focussed," Marquez said after negotiating his tyre change early in a race where wet conditions quickly turned to dry.

The result leaves the overall standings on a razor's edge as Marquez leads with 154 points ahead of Vinales on 140, Andrea Dovizioso is third on 133, Rossi fourth on 132 and Pedrosa has 123 in fifth.

In his third win of the



Repsol Honda Team's Spanish driver Marc Marquez rides his Honda

season, defending world champion Marquez was in truly imperious form, starting from pole and dominating, holding his nerve during an early change from wet tyres as he temporarily dropped down the field before gradually lap after lap extending his lead.

After also winning in a similar fashion at the German GP last time out Marquez has galvanised the defence of his title that was in danger of being a landslide for the Yamaha tyro Vinales who took a big early

lead but who is now second after ten of 18 races.

"This weekend was very tough, then luckily on the grid the sun started to come out," said Vinales.

"On the rain tyre I was feeling good, but I was already thinking after two laps maybe I should go in but there were too many people, so maybe I went in a lap too late.

"Warming up the slicks was difficult but then the bike felt good again. I was feeling great in the last laps and I'm happy to

have that back. It's important to be back on the podium for confidence and motivation."

Having three Spaniards on the podium was a fine tribute to 13 time world champion Angel Nieto who died on Thursday aged 70 after a quad bike accident last week.

Ahead of the day's proceedings riders and teams from all categories gathered behind a banner saying 'Gracias Maestro' and observed a minute's silence. (AFP)

Olympic Day a success



DT News Network Manama

Bahrain joined other nations around the globe to celebrate the 2017 Olympic Day at Dohat Arad in Muharraq, with more than 300 men and women athletes flocking to the park to compete in a running race involving different group ages and open to all.

Mohammed Al Dossary raced to victory in the men's senior race and followed by Abdulla Al A'ali and Nawaf Sulaiman in second and third places, respectively.

In the women's section, Emily Briones took first place, with the runner up being Eva Pino and Monica Vanvuuren in third.

In the open race, Yousif Sulaiabekh clinched victory, behind him was Mohammed Abdulla in second and Mohammed Al Tamimi third.

Maune Gabana was victorious in the women's open race, with Klara Marecholva second and Angela Aguilo third.

In the 5-19 years race, Mohammed Qassim clinched victory in the boys section from second placed Mohammed Khalid and Mahdi Al Qassab in third.

Rena Mareschova raced to victory in the same age category for girls, with Bayan Abdulla in second and third place going to Rawan Abdulla.

Saqer Ali came on top in the 11-14 years category race against Faisal Al Thawadi and Mahran Qassim, who finished second and third place respectively.

In the girls race of the same age category, Amna Ali emerged as the winner, followed by Nawaf Abdulla in second and Marjan Qannati third.

Rantanen visit scheduled



Dr Rantanen with one of his patients

DT News Network Manama

Dr Jussi Rantanen will return to Bahrain next month for another round of consultations at the National Sports Medicine Centre, which is under the umbrella of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) and will be here from September 12 to 14.

This will be his fifth visit to Bahrain, which is part of the centre's annual plan

to provide the best quality medical treatment services for both Bahraini and expats athletes and non-athletic patients.

According to National Sports Medicine Centre director Dr Khalid Al Shaikh, Dr Rantanen will also be offering his vast experience in the field of orthopedic injuries.

"We hope that this visit will add a new experience for us," said Dr Al Shaikh.

Warm welcome for Bahrain's youth volleyball team

DT News Network Manama

Bahrain's youth volleyball team were given a special welcome on return from Amman, Jordan after winning the 14th Junior Arab Volleyball Championship recently.

Bahrain clinched the championship after defeating Oman 3-0 in the final after winning the sets, 25-20, 25-14 and 25-18. It was Bahrain's third Arab title in four championships – they had won it in 2011 in Egypt and in 2013 in Tunisia.

Both Hassan Al Shakhori and Mohammed Jassim won best position three awards, while the overall player award went to Mohammed Al Abbar.

Bahrain Olympic Committee board member Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, along with BOC



The Bahrain team with officials

Sports Affairs executive director Abduljalil Asad and the Bahrain Volleyball Association delegation, headed by vice-president Jehad Khalfan welcomed the team on arrival.

Shaikha Hayat congratulated members of the team on this victory, who have showed dominance in regional volleyball competition in the past years.

She also noted the

achievement of the team winning four individual awards at the championship, including Mohammed Harwana, who won the best setter award in the championship.

Registration for GCC Open Badminton to close tonight

DT News Network Manama

Registration for the Bahrain Kerala Samajan (BKS) Adliya Contracting GCC Open Badminton Tournament closes tonight at 7pm, while the event takes place at BKS Diamond Jubilee Hall in Segaiya.

Matches will be played

in Men's singles/doubles, Veteran's +39 singles/doubles and Mixed Doubles from August 10 to 12 and open to any GCC resident. A minimum of six players are required to play in the various flights based on a knockout basis with trophies for the winners and runners-up of the various categories.

Arsenal win Community Shield



Arsenal players hold the Community Shield trophy

London

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and star signing Alvaro Morata were the Chelsea fall guys as Arsenal won the Community Shield 4-1 on penalties at Wembley yesterday.

Goals from Chelsea's Victor Moses and Arsenal new boy Sead Kolasinac sent the game to a shootout and with both Courtois and Morata limply squandering their spot-kicks, Arsenal won the trophy for the third time in four years.

Courtois blazed his penalty over the bar before substitute Morata, a £58 million (£75.6 million; 64.2 million euros) capture from Real Madrid, shot wide, allowing Olivier Giroud to seal victory for Arsenal.

"I'm very happy because we won a trophy we wanted to win and because the quality of the game was very good," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger after the shootout, which followed the new ABBA format.

"Even when we were 1-0 down, we didn't panic, kept control of our game and came back. The

performance is in continuity of what we did at the end of last season."

Arsenal, embarking upon their first season without Champions League football since 1997, have won on their last nine visits to Wembley, a run stretching back to a win over Wigan Athletic in the semi-finals of the FA Cup in 2014.

Wenger's side open the Premier League season at home to 2016 champions Leicester City on Friday, with Antonio Conte's Chelsea beginning their title defence at home to Burnley the following day.

Moses, sent off after receiving a second yellow card for diving as Arsenal stunned Chelsea 2-1 in May's FA Cup final, partially atoned by putting the champions ahead early in the second half.

But after Pedro had been shown a straight red card for an ugly challenge on Mohamed Elneny, Kolasinac headed in an 81st-minute equaliser to leave the game 1-1 at full-time.

As in the cup final, Arsenal made the more assured start and

came within inches of opening the scoring when new signing Alexandre Lacazette curled a shot against the post after a slick counter-attack.

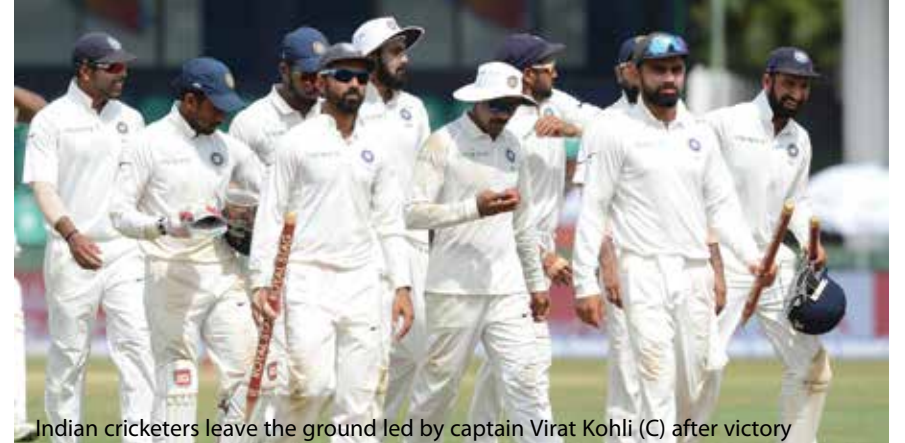
Per Mertesacker was one of the heroes of Arsenal's FA Cup win, expertly marshalling a badly depleted defence, but the club captain was to last just 27 minutes of the teams' reunion.

The giant German centre-back had to go off after a collision with Gary Cahill's elbow left blood streaming down his face, giving strapping Bosnian defender Kolasinac an opportunity to make his official debut.

As Arsenal reorganised, Chelsea began to assert themselves, Moses and Pedro working Petr Cech before Willian was harshly booked for diving after his left foot was clipped by Hector Bellerin's knee inside the box.

Neat footwork set Alex Iwobi up to curl a shot at Courtois late in the first half, but within a minute of kick-off in the second period, Arsenal found themselves behind. (AFP)

Jadeja five-for gifts India series victory



Indian cricketers leave the ground led by captain Virat Kohli (C) after victory

Colombo

Ravindra Jadeja claimed a five-wicket haul as India crushed Sri Lanka by an innings and 53 runs on day four of the second Test to clinch the series in Colombo yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Jadeja claimed the big wicket of overnight batsman Dimuth Karunaratne for 141 to end Sri Lanka's resistance and second innings on 386.

The Indian bowlers completed the task in 116.5 overs to wrap up the game in the second session for an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Jadeja received the man of the match award for his seven-wicket haul and an unbeaten 70-run knock in India's formidable first innings total of 622-9 declared.

Sri Lanka earlier handed India the advantage after being dismissed for 183 in their first innings, conceding a 439-run lead.

The hosts fought back during their follow-on through a defiant 191-run second-wicket partnership between the left-handed Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis, who fell for 110 before stumps on day three.

Indian skipper Virat Kohli kept

rotating his bowlers at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground to keep the batsmen on their toes, and the strategy paid off.

"Today we said even if we don't get wickets early on we are going to enjoy these tough times as well, because they really improve you as a side," said Kohli, who became the only Indian captain to win two Test series in Sri Lanka. (AFP)

SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings 622-9 dec (C. Pujara 133, A. Rahane 132; R. Herath 4-154)

Sri Lanka 1st innings 183 (N. Dickwella 51, A. Mathews 26; R. Ashwin 5-69)

Sri Lanka 2nd innings (overnight 209-2; D. Karunaratne 92, M. Pushpakumara 2)

D. Karunaratne c Rahane b Jadeja	141
U. Tharanga b Yadav	2
K. Mendis c Saha b Pandya	110
M. Pushpakumara b Ashwin	16
D. Chandimal c Rahane b Jadeja	2
A. Mathews c Saha b Jadeja	36
N. Dickwella c Rahane b Pandya	31
D. Perera st Saha b Jadeja	4
D. de Silva c Rahane b Jadeja	17
R. Herath not out	17
N. Pradeep c Dhawan b Ashwin	1
Extras (lb5, nb2, w2)	9
Total (all out; 116.5 overs)	386

Ali takes England towards win

Manchester

Moeen Ali's dashing fifty all but put the fourth Test beyond South Africa's reach as England moved towards a series win at Old Trafford yesterday.

When rain ended the third's play at 1615 GMT, England were 224 for eight in their second innings -- a lead of 360 runs -- with Ali unbeaten on 67.

South Africa already needed to set a new ground record if they were to end this four-match series all square at 2-2 as no side have made more in the fourth innings of a Test at Old Trafford to win than England's 294 for four against New Zealand in 2008.

Ali made South Africa pay for Dean Elgar dropping him on 15 when a low slip chance off left-arm spinner Keshav

Maharaj did not stick.

He may come in at No 8 for England but off-spinner Ali -- who earlier in this match took 20 wickets in a Test series for the first time in his career -- made his name with Worcestershire as a top-order batsman.

Ali, who bats left-handed, was especially severe on Maharaj, hitting him for three resounding sixes.

The second of those, a straight drive that saw Ali complete a 49-ball fifty -- was 'caught' on the England dressing-room balcony by wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow to the delight of the crowd.

England were bidding for a first home Test series win over South Africa since 1998, with Joe Root seeking a victory in his first Test series as England captain. (AFP)



Moeen Ali celebrates his half century

BRIEF SCORE

England 362 and 224 for 8 (Moeen 67*, Broad 0*, Olivier 3-38) lead South Africa 226 (Bavuma 46, Anderson 4-38) by 360 runs

Dutch lift first Euro title



Netherlands' team players celebrate with the trophy and a Dutch national flag reading "champions"

Enschede, Netherlands

Abrace from Vivianne Miedema led hosts Netherlands to a 4-2 win over Denmark and their first women's Euro title in Enschede yesterday. Miedema pulled the hosts level at 1-1 on ten minutes and added her second goal two minutes from the end to round off the scoring, with Lieke Martens and skipper Sherida Spitse also scoring for the champions.

Denmark took the lead as Nadia Nadim scored from the penalty spot on six minutes after Kika van Es had brought down Sanne Troelsgaard in the box. Miedema then fired home a superb cross from right winger Shanice van de Sanden who had outsprinted Cecilie Sandvej on the wing.

Martens turned with the ball just outside the box in the 28th minute and her low left-footer beat diving Danish keeper Stina

Petersen at her left post.

The valiant Danes equalised on 33 minutes when skipper Pernille Harder picked up a long pass on the right wing, took it inside the box and wrong-footed Dutch keeper Sari van Veenendaal, scoring with a low left-foot shot to her left post. Spitse then scored five minutes after the break with a low shot from a free-kick and Miedema made it 4-2 after fooling a defender inside the box and beating Petersen with a low shot in the 89th minute.

The Dutch are only the fourth team to lift the trophy after eight-time champions Germany, two-time winners Norway and Sweden, who won the first edition in 1984.

Denmark made two changes in their starting line-up as Sofie Junge Pedersen replaced midfielder Line Jensen, while Sandvej came in for left-back Line Roddik. (AFP)

Boos, then applause for Gatlin Kenya's Kirui bags men's marathon

London

Aplause eventually drowned out the boos that greeted American Justin Gatlin when he received his gold medal for the 100 metres world title yesterday at the London Stadium.

Sebastian Coe, president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), admitted earlier yesterday he was nervous at how the crowd would respond when the 35-year-old two-time dope cheat, who had taken the title denying crowd favourite and Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt a final individual gold, in Saturday's final, stepped on top of the podium.

However, those fears were



Silver medallist US athlete Christian Coleman (L), gold medallist US athlete Justin Gatlin (C) and bronze medallist Jamaica's Usain Bolt (R) pose on the podium

allayed when the booing, mixed with muted applause, was replaced by more enthusiastic

clapping as Gatlin, who had been jeered throughout the heats and then even more so

when he was announced the winner on Saturday, received his gold medal from Coe.

It had looked ominous when deafening roars rang out for Bolt as he stepped up for his bronze medal and then some boos greeted young American silver medallist Christian Coleman who looked slightly bemused.

The two Americans then stood together, waiting for Bolt, as the 30-year-old 100m and 200m world record holder lapped up the crowd chanting his name for almost the last time at a major championships, before shaking hands with each other and walking off down the tunnel. (AFP)

London

Kenya's Geoffrey Kipkorir Kirui won the men's world marathon yesterday, making up for his country's podium no-show in the last two championships.

Kirui, this season's Boston marathon winner, clocked 2hr 08min 27sec for gold, 1min 22sec ahead of Ethiopian rival Tamirat Tola.

Alphonse Simbu of Tanzania claimed bronze, just 2sec adrift of Tola after 42km around a 10km Thames river embankment loop in central London in glorious sunshine.

Tola, the Olympic bronze medallist at 10,000m and fastest in the field here with



Geoffrey Kipkorir Kirui his season's best of 2:04.11, led the field through the halfway point in 1:05.28, accompanied by Kenyans Kirui and Gideon Kipketer, with this year's London champion Daniel Wanjiru a couple of seconds back. (AFP)

Marathon: Shaikh Khalid congratulates leadership

DT News Network Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the West Asia Athletics Federation and President of the Bahrain Athletics Association, escalated his sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al

Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister and 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 the occasion of the victory of Bahrain's Rose Chelimo in the women's marathon at the World Athletics Championships, held yesterday in London.

Thiam pips Schafer for heptathlon crown



Nafi Thiam

London

Olympic champion Nafi Thiam added the world crown to her accolades with victory in the heptathlon yesterday.

The 21-year-old Belgian amassed a winning total of 6,784 points, with overnight leader Carolin Schafer of Germany taking silver with 6,696.

Dutchwomen Anouk Vetter claimed bronze (6,636).

"It's really incredible, I'm very happy," said Thiam, who trailed in a distant last in the seventh and final event, the 800m, and was made to wait for confirmation of her victory.

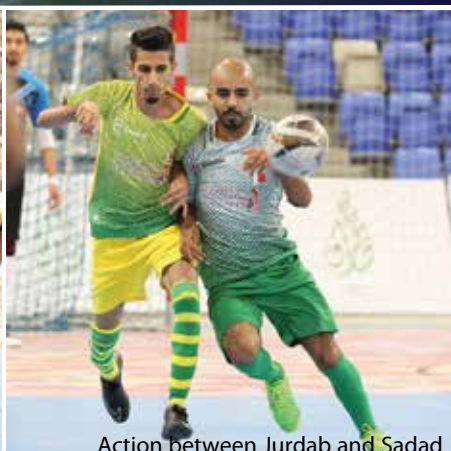
"The 800m is not my favourite! But everybody has to do it." (AFP)

Record victory for Dar Kulaib

Action between Dar Kulaib and Halat Al Naem



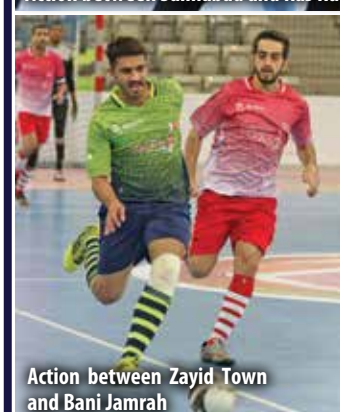
Team Sadad



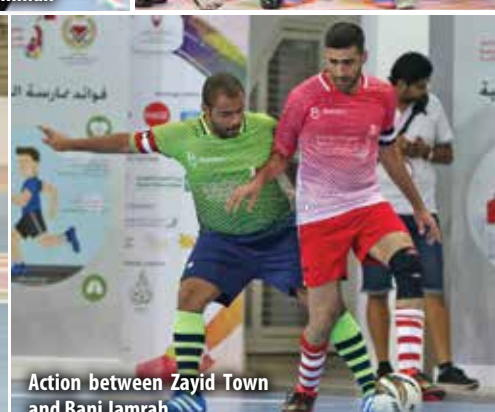
Action between Jurdab and Sadad



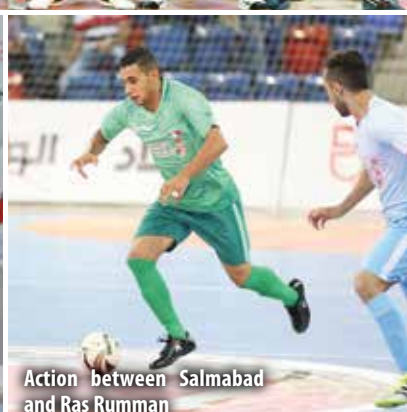
Action between Salmabad and Ras Rumman



Action between Zayid Town and Bani Jamrah



Action between Zayid Town and Bani Jamrah



Action between Salmabad and Ras Rumman



Today's schedule

- (5pm): Shakhora vs Busaiten.
- (6pm): Muqaba Club vs Al Daih.
- (7pm): Isa Town vs North Sehla.
- (8pm): Arad vs Al Jasrah.

DT News Network Manama

Dar Kulaib Youth Centre crushed Halat Al Naem Youth Centre by a record 14-1 victory score in the history of the tournament in the latest third round preliminary Group 3 matches of the Fifth Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League for Youth Centres, People with Disabilities and Girls (Khalid 5) at the Khalifa Sports City in Isa Town.

Man of the match was Ali Abbas who smashed in five goals to cement the success.

In a Group 4 match, Jurdab emerged as a 6-1 winner over Sadad with Hussain Mahmood for the winner as man of the match.

Other Group 3 action saw

Salmabad guaranteed first position in the group after 3-1 victory over Ras Rumman and a third win from three to top the group, with Ali Ahmed man of the match and Zayed Town defeating Bani Jamra 5-1 with Abdulrahman Arif the man of the match for the winner.

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



Hussain Mahmood receives man of the match award



Ali Abbas receives man of the match award



Abdulrahman Arif receives man of the match award

Bahrain's Chelimo clinches marathon

London

Bahraini Rose Chelimo edged veteran Edna Kiplagat to win the women's marathon at the IAAF World Championships yesterday.

Kiplagat hit 40km a second ahead, but Chelimo kicked in the last 2km to win Bahrain's first medal in the event in 2hr 27min 11sec.

Kiplagat, a two-time previous champion in 2011 and 2013, claimed silver seven seconds adrift, with American Amy Cragg taking bronze.

"I was not expecting to win," said Chelimo.

"I tried my best and I managed to become the world champion.

"Edna Kiplagat is strong. At 35km I pushed, after some time Edna came and I said to myself 'let

her go', I already accepted to be second. But then I caught her, I was encouraged and thought 'maybe I can try' and I succeeded."

Kiplagat acknowledged that the final run-in was "the most difficult".

"All the way I worked so hard, so the last 3km was too long for me and slightly uphill. I think I was too tired after the previous sprints," the 37-year-old said.

"Hopefully my body will get stronger and I keep training so I can come back and go for a major gold again.

Cragg said it felt "crazy" to have medalled.

"My coach has been putting it my head that this is a potential medal and something I can do," she said. (AFP)



Rose Chelimo with medal