

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Issue No. 7691

News of Bahrain

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HM King congratulates Russian President

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Russian President, Vladimir Putin, on his re-election for a new term. HM King wished President Putin every success in achieving the ambitions and aspirations of the friendly Russian people for further progress and prosperity. His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier also sent a cable of congratulations on his victory.

Tweet of the Day



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Today's Weather

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Brave CF announces women's strawweight bout in Brazil

Iran nuclear deal flawed: Saudi

Washington

Saudi Arabia called the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers a "flawed agreement" yesterday, on the eve of a meeting between the Saudi crown prince and U.S. President Donald Trump who have both been highly critical of Iran. "Our view of the nuclear deal is that it's a flawed

agreement," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told reporters in Washington.

The meeting between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Trump comes at a time when Riyadh and Washington have been strengthening their relationship after tensions under the previous U.S. administration, in part over

Iran. Jubeir called out Iran for what Riyadh has long slammed as Tehran's destabilising behaviour in the region.

"We've called for tougher policies towards Iran for years," Jubeir said.

"We're looking at ways in which we can push back against Iran's nefarious activities in the region," Jubeir said, lambasting

Tehran's support for the Houthi militia in Yemen and support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

Iran denies interference in the region's affairs. Saudi Arabia had viewed with unease the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama, whom they felt considered Riyadh's alliance with

Washington less important than negotiating the Iran nuclear deal. The Saudi crown prince left for the United States yesterday to begin the visit, which is also expected to include meetings with business leaders and stops in New York, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Houston.

- Reuters

Economic judiciary panel statute okayed



DT News Network
Manama

The Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday approved the ratification of the statute of the Economic Judiciary Commission (EJC), which was adopted by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in line with the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and referred a draft-law on its ratification to the Legislative Branch.

The EJC is aimed at enhancing integration and coordination among the GCC countries in all economic and development fields and

Human rights strides

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa's prosperous era on the occasion of the Arab Human Rights Day.

HRH Premier affirmed the government's resolve to carry on consolidating the rights gains, and to build on them through respecting human rights, preserving human dignity and ensuring freedom.

HRH Prime Minister recalled with pride and appreciation HM King Hamad's initiatives in the field of human rights, most notably the royal initiative to establish an Arab Court for Human Rights, an initiative that has gained Arab support, and global acclaim.

HRH Premier affirmed the government's resolve to carry on consolidating the rights gains, and to build on them through respecting

implementation of the provisions of the GCC Unified Economic Agreement or the resolutions issued pursuant to its provisions.

MoU with India endorsed

The session also approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Bahrain's Ministry of Health and India's Ministry

The cabinet session was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, at the Gudaibiya Palace.

Customs Affairs

The session discussed the re-organisation of the Customs Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, and

of Health and Family Welfare, and commissioned the Minister of Finance to sign it on behalf of the Kingdom.

referred the memorandum submitted by the Interior Minister in this regard to the Civil Service Council.

Hajiyat residents

The cabinet approved the government's reply to a proposal submitted by the Council of Representatives regarding the treatment of the Hajiyat residents at the Hamad Kanoo Health Center in East Riffa.

HM hails Bahrain's legacy in peaceful co-existence

DT News Network
Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa received King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence Board of Trustees' Chairman Dr. Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Daij Al-Khalifa, Secretary-General Dana Khamis Alzayani, as well as its members at Al-Safriya Palace yesterday.

HM the King had issued a royal order establishing the global centre and appointing its members. He congratulated them all, commending their competence and contribution to promoting Bahrain's stance, regarding the protection of religious liberties and respect of intellectual and cultural diversity.

HM the King described the established of the milestone as the pinnacle that epitomises Bahrain's long-standing historic and pioneering role in promoting the values of co-existence and tolerance, and endeavoring to build bridges and

cultivate dialogue between cultures and religions.

"The centre will contribute to consolidating Bahrain's international standing as a global hub for hosting conferences and lectures that foster the culture of peace, openness and co-existence between all cultures", HM the King said.

HM said that he looks forward to the pivotal role which will be played by the global centre so that it could become a source of inspiration for other nations, adding that Bahrain and its people have set a model to emulate for embracing the principles of friendship, respect and human rapprochement.

His Majesty reiterated Bahrain's determination to preserve its core fundamentals which protect liberties and value respect of religious, intellectual and cultural pluralism. The meeting focused on the foundations and required duties of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence.



HM King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa with the board of trustees of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence



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Hajj, Umrah services office suspended for flouting rules



Pilgrims leaving for Hajj from an office in the capital (File photo)

Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa

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Manama

The Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs suspended the Hajj and Umrah services office and warned several others over administrative and technical

violations.

This was revealed during a recent meeting held by the committee chaired by Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa.

Committee members confirmed that several

administrative, security and technical violations were detected. They stressed that "permitted offices must comply with all the regulations and rules issued by the Hajj and Umrah Ministry in Saudi Arabia and the Hajj Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain".

Additionally, the committee advised all offices to commit to the deadline for the registration of pilgrims' names and data.

It also stated that 12 offices that are committed to the rules and regulations and maintained a clean record for the past few years will receive

an honour in recognition of their commitment.

The committee called upon all offices in Bahrain to provide the best services for pilgrims of the Kingdom, including citizens and residents, and to maintain reasonable prices for their services.

The committee warned

the offices of misusing the permits granted to them by the authorities.

It is worth mentioning that there are 52 approved Hajj and Umrah offices operating in Bahrain and providing their services to thousands of pilgrims around the year.

Career Week opens today

DT News Network
Manama

The Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) said it will open the 2018 Career Week under the patronage of Education Minister Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi.

Twenty-five companies and institutions are participating on March 20-22 from 9 am Until 2 pm, at the Institute.

BTI invited the public to participate in the exhibition, as it provides an opportunity for jobseekers to learn about career opportunities in various professions to allow secondary school students to be informed of the urgent needs of labour market to help them identify their destination.

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of events, including a series of workshops and lectures for professionals, in addition to the Skills Competition 2018, which will be held for the fourth year in successively, with the participation of 56 contestant in 15 skills competition, under the supervision of 38 experts from the instructors of the Institute.

BTI aims to attract companies in Bahrain to familiarise them with the Institute's outputs, give them the opportunity to present their available jobs and train graduates. The exhibition is expected to attract a large number of visitors as usual every year.

Support for labour unions, citizens' rights stressed



Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla with Gulf Air's National Labour Union Chairman Ahmed Al-Kuwaiti and others

DT News Network
Manama

Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla, has expressed the constant parliamentary support for trade union work in the kingdom, stressing the leadership's

care for and interest in the workers.

The protection or the rights of all the citizens and the adoption of the issues and demands enjoy the interest and attention of the Council of Representatives, noting that the council's Utilities Committee

welcomes communication and cooperation with all trade unions in the kingdom.

This came as he received Gulf Air's National Labour Union Chairman, Ahmed Al-Kuwaiti, and members, in the presence of the Services Committee, MP Abbas

Al-Madhi.

They discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the Council of Representatives and workers' trade unions.

They also discussed the remarks of workers and the labour union.

Princess Sabeeka inaugurates Hoorat A'ali farmers' market

DT News Network
Manama

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King and National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) Consultative Council President, yesterday opened the permanent farmers' market in Hoorat A'ali.

She stressed the keenness of NIAD initiative, since its establishment, to muster all efforts with competent establishments to promote the agricultural sector and expand green spaces.

She stressed keenness on giving the priority to Bahraini farmers through support, training, and encouraging them to invest in the sector to market locally products.

In a statement on this occasion, she said that the success of the season farmers' market in the Northern Governorate was a catalyst to set up a permanent platform to encourage and market local agricultural products.

She described the new market as a key platform for farmers to exchange expertise and knowhow and enhance the quality of local products in order to compete with foreign products and meet part of Bahrain's food security.

She commended the efforts of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and the Department of Agricultural and Marine resources, commending Tamkeen

and Bahrain Development Bank for financing the project.

HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa urged solutions to ensure the sustainability of national agricultural products and the success of farming projects so as to meet local needs and promote exports.

She toured the Hoorat A'ali permanent farmers' market, which showcases local agricultural products, including vegetables, fruit, dates, seedlings and flowers, she also heard.

HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa was also briefed about the market as well as the facilities for storing and cooling agricultural products in modern ways.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa at the newly-opened market at Hoorat A'ali

Airport all set to welcome F1 Gulf Air GP visitors



Officials during the coordination meeting to review preparations at the airport

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain International Airport (BIA) has completed preparations for welcoming the large influx of international visitors expected for this year's Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, its operator and manager, Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) announced.

The motor sport, Bahrain's most high profile of the year, will be held from April 6 to 8 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Attracting international superstars, the event pumps millions into the local economy every year and shines a global spotlight on the Kingdom.

BAC's announcement came following a coordination committee meeting held with its partners, where they discussed the preparations required to accommodate

the teams, visitors, and cargo arriving for the event.

The meeting was attended by senior representatives of BIC; Immigration and Passport Control, Customs Affairs, Airport Police from the Ministry of Interior; Gulf Air; Bahrain Airport Services (BAS); and Bahrain Limo.

BAC Chief Airport Operations Officer, Michael Hohenberger said: "The world is watching us during F1 and it is more important than ever that all logistical operations are completed smoothly and seamlessly. The goal is to maintain the same levels of cooperation we have had with our partners in past years, ever since the first Formula One Grand Prix was held in the Kingdom in 2004. Every year, we anticipate and serve an influx of visitors and cargo via regular, additional, and chartered flights scheduled

to land at the airport in conjunction with the race. This alignment between the private and public sector helps us to accommodate the considerable requirements of such a prestigious and high-profile event."

Fans from 115 nationalities can apply online for F1 visas, which was introduced by Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs (NPRA) specifically for spectators wishing to attend the F1 in Bahrain.

NPRA has set up several fast-track lanes at the airport, solely dedicated to all passports and immigration procedures related to the F1, and travellers can obtain the visa either through the NPRA portal gov.bh or on arrival in Bahrain. Other nationalities can also apply through the regular VISA procedures through the same website.



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Pearl diving season begins



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Manama

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has announced the start of the new season for the pearl diving activities and the first batch of pearl drivers will depart from Ras Raya Port in Muharraq.

The pearl diving activities come in line with the national strategy to revitalize the industry and is approved by the Council of Ministers and the Executive Committee chaired by the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, with the aim of protecting the marine environment and regulating fishing.

The tourist attraction offers residents and tourists the opportunity to experience pearl diving. Participants can choose from a variety of tour packages departing from the Ras Raya Port, and can go on a sea cruise that may take between one to six hours.

Through this initiative, BTEA aims to revive the pearl diving legacy and further explore the many aspects related to the profession as part of its focus to develop the tourism sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

"We are delighted to announce the start of the pearl diving activities season, which comes in line with the national strategy to revitalize the pearl industry and supports BTEA's mandate to develop the tourism sector, further strengthening the Kingdom's position as an international tourist hub," said BTEA Chief Executive Officer Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa said.

Community Partnership Day celebrated with joy

DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

The Capital Governorate has celebrated Community Partnership Day with enthusiasm to promote participation of citizens in the service of the country.

Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, inaugurated the event at Seef Mall, with the participation of the Community Police and the committee on combating violence and addiction.

During the event, the Governor was briefed about the activities of the participating parties and their ways of promoting community awareness among different sections of society.

"The Kingdom's celebration of the Community Partnership Day is a reflection of the importance of the cooperation of citizens, residents and civil society organizations with security personnel to achieve safety and security for the Kingdom," said Shaikh Hisham. The day was celebrated in cooperation with different groups of society.

"The province will continue to implement its projects, programmes and initiatives aimed at consolidating the



A programme held as part of the Community Partnership Day principle of community partnership in various fields. The fourth edition of the 'Capital Weekend' programme will be launched along with the sixth edition of the summer programme, in addition to

the implementation of the seventh edition of 'Nation of Mohammed (PBUH)' programme during the holy month of Ramadan as a concept in promoting community partnership," he said.

"Further, all the activities planned for this year will be implemented in accordance with the Minister of Interior's initiative to achieve the concept of community partnership in the Capital," he said.

Capital hails approval for water front project



Shaikh Hisham



Ali Al Kozai

DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

The Capital has hailed approval of the master plan for the first phase of the Manama-Muharraq Water Front Project.

The project was approved by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate said, "The project translates the vision and guidance of the wise leadership towards establishing sustainable urban development projects on the ground to reflect the quality of life as an essential indicator of the prosperity of cities."

"Further, the implications of this project will enhance the status of the capital among other regions in the Kingdom. This comes in line with the Government's

efforts to promote the concept of comprehensive human development and the harmony of the project with the Strategic Plan of the 2030 vision."

The Chairman of the Board of the Capital Municipal Council, Eng. Mohammed Ali Al Khozai further added, "This pioneering project, which includes tracks for walking, running, cycling, open green spaces, tourism and leisure facilities and restaurants, will be one of the most important projects in the Kingdom."

"The Board of Directors of the Municipality and its members appreciate this project, which will be a blessing for citizens and residents, especially with the shortage of land in the capital. Such projects will meet the recreational, tourism and environmental needs of the public," said Eng. Mohammed Ali Al Khozai.

A detailed proposal to develop a 14km waterfront section between Juffair and the King Faisal Corniche is also contained within the master-plan.

French official 'smuggled arms from Gaza'

Jerusalem

A French consulate worker faced charges yesterday of using an official car to smuggle dozens of guns from the Gaza Strip to the occupied West Bank in a case Israeli authorities called "very severe".

Israeli officials were quick to note that the worker from France's Jerusalem consulate acted on his own without his superiors' knowledge and that diplomatic relations between the two countries were not affected.

But the delicate case comes ahead of a planned

visit next week to Israel and the Palestinian territories by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and French diplomats are sure to face questions over it.

The arrested French citizen and several Palestinian suspects are accused of belonging to a gun-running network that eventually sold the weapons to arms dealers, Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency said in a statement.

It alleged that Romain Franck, 23, had taken advantage of reduced security checks for consular vehicles to

transport the weapons out of the Palestinian enclave.

The Shin Bet said he was motivated by money.

"The consulate employee smuggled the arms on a number of occasions in recent months while using the French consulate's consular car, which underwent a more lax security inspection at the border crossing, as is the case with this type of car," the statement said.

"The consulate employee transferred arms on five occasions, during which he transferred some 70 pistols and two automatic rifles."

A total of nine suspects have been arrested and six were to be charged in court later yesterday, including Franck.

Those arrested also include a resident of east Jerusalem who works as a security guard at the French consulate, the Shin Bet said.

The statement said the French consulate employee received the guns from a Palestinian in Gaza who worked at the French cultural centre in the strip.

He then smuggled them into the West Bank to another person who sold them on to arms dealers, it said.

Gaza, run by Islamist group Hamas, has been under an Israeli blockade for over a decade but weapons have been smuggled in through tunnels from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

News of the February 15 arrest emerged on Sunday, but the details were still unclear.

A spokesman for France's embassy in Israel said Sunday "we take this case very seriously and are in close contact with the Israeli authorities".

Franck "has benefited and continues to enjoy the consular protection" provided to French nationals, he said.

The Shin Bet called the

incident "very severe", saying that "the immunity and privileges given to foreign representatives were cynically abused to smuggle weapons that could be used for terror attacks against Israeli civilians and security forces".

"The investigation was conducted in cooperation with the Israeli foreign ministry while constantly updating the French authorities," it said.

An Israeli official said on condition of anonymity that while authorities were taking the case "very seriously," diplomatic relations were not affected. (AFP)

Vehicles in the Gaza Strip move towards the Israeli-controlled Erez crossing

Abbas says Hamas 'behind' bomb attack on Palestinian premier

Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas directly accused Hamas yesterday of carrying out a bomb attack against prime minister Rami Hamdallah in Gaza last week, threatening fresh sanctions against them.

Abbas had previously said the Islamist group was responsible as it controls security in the Palestinian enclave, but yesterday evening said they were "behind the attack."

Hamdallah was uninjured in the March 13 attack, which saw a roadside bomb explode as his convoy entered Gaza in what Palestinian officials have called an assassination attempt.

Six of his security guards were lightly hurt.

Speaking to Palestinian leaders in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Abbas said if the attack had succeeded it would have "opened the way for a bloody civil war."

He said the incident would "not be allowed to pass" and announced he would take unspecified "national, legal and financial measures." (AFP)

Assad films himself driving to Ghouta to demonstrate victory

Beirut

President Bashar al-Assad flaunted government advances in Syria's seven-year war by filming himself driving to meet frontline soldiers near Damascus, making a video of

the journey from the city centre into areas recently recaptured.

"The road is open... everything is running now in the city and in Syria," he said in the video, describing a road that had been cut by sniper fire

and saying it was now easier to travel around the country.

The video, released overnight after a trip on Sunday, showed Assad in sunglasses at the wheel of his Honda car, speaking about the government's increasing strength as peaceful scenery behind him gave way to battle-scarred concrete.

His visit to the battle front in eastern Ghouta, where state television showed him cheered by soldiers as smoke rose in the distance, came after tens of thousands of civilians began fleeing the opposition area for government lines.

The army offensive began

a month ago with a massive bombardment and has so far retaken most of the area, the biggest rebel enclave near Damascus, cutting it into three zones.

It is the latest in a series of military gains for Assad after Russia entered the war on his side in 2015, ending rebel hopes of toppling him by force. Large areas remain outside his grip, but he now controls the main cities of Syria's heavily-populated west.

In Control

"This is the picture he wants to give... he is in control and finishing off the opposition in

eastern Ghouta," said Nikolaos Van Dam, a former diplomat in Syria and author of two books on the country.

While Assad has increasingly been shown travelling around Syria in recent years, it is unusual for him to visit areas close to the battlefield, as he did on Sunday, meeting cheering soldiers as well as civilians who had escaped the fighting.

There have been numerous other signs of his increasing confidence, including the release last year of a banknote bearing his image for the first time since he became president in 2000. (Reuters)



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad walks with Syrian army soldiers in eastern Ghouta, Syria

Four killed in bomb attack near Afghan political rally

Jalalabad, Afghanistan

A bomb on a motorcycle exploded near a political rally in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, killing at least four people and wounding 10 others, officials said.

The blast happened as supporters of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a notorious warlord and former prime minister, were leaving the rally at a football stadium in Jalalabad, the capital of

Nangarhar province.

Hekmatyar, who returned to public life last year after signing a controversial peace deal with the Afghan government, was at the gathering but it was not clear if he or his supporters were the target of the attack.

Provincial governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said four people had been confirmed dead and 10 wounded including two children.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. Areas of restive Nangarhar, which borders Pakistan, are a stronghold for the Islamic State group but Taliban fighters are also active.

It was the latest deadly violence to strike war-torn Afghanistan as militant groups step up attacks and US and Afghan forces intensify air strikes and ground offensives. (AFP)



A damaged minibus is seen after a blast in Jalalabad, Afghanistan

North Korea 'in talks to free US detainees'

Discussions follow agreement of Trump to meet Kim

Seoul
North Korea is in talks with the US and Sweden to release three Americans held in the North, reports said, as diplomatic activities gathered pace ahead of Pyongyang's planned summits with Washington and Seoul.

The release of the three Korean-Americans — all held in the North after being separately charged with unspecified "hostile acts" against the regime — is under discussion through multiple channels almost two weeks after President Donald Trump agreed to meet the North's Kim Jong Un, reports said.

While Pyongyang has yet to confirm it even made the summit offer — relayed by Seoul envoys who had met Kim in Pyongyang — the stunning announcement has triggered a race to set a credible agenda for what would be historic talks between the two leaders.

Seoul-based *MBC TV* station reported Sunday that Pyongyang and Washington had "practically reached" a

final agreement on the release of Kim Hak-song, Kim Sang-duk and Kim Dong-chul.

"They are hammering out details over the timing of the release," it quoted an unnamed South Korean diplomatic source as saying.

The negotiation was held through the North's mission to the United Nations and the US State Department — an unofficial avenue of communication dubbed the "New York channel," the source said.

CNN said the prisoners' release was also discussed at three-day talks in Stockholm between the North's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-Ho and Swedish counterpart Margot Wallstrom that ended Saturday.

Sweden represents Washington's interests in talks with the North. It raised the issue of American detainees to "move things in the right direction," CNN quoted one source as saying.

"Any movement on the issue of these detainees would be a huge deal for the US," said the



A member of the South Korean delegation and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

source.

Kim Dong-chul, a South Korea-born American pastor, has been detained by the North since 2015 when he was arrested for spying. He was sentenced to 10 years of hard labour in 2016.

Kim Hak-song and Kim

Sang-duk — or Tony Kim — were both working at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, founded by evangelical Christians from overseas, when they were detained last year on suspicion of "hostile acts."

Reports on the detainees'

possible release come amid a flurry of diplomatic activities involving Pyongyang, Seoul, Washington and its allies.

During a visit to Pyongyang by Seoul's envoys earlier this month, Kim reportedly offered to meet Trump, with the US president subsequently

agreeing to talks by May although no specific time or venue has been set.

Kim also agreed to hold a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in next month — the third ever between the two Koreas — according to the envoys. (AFP)

Inspectors analyse toxin used on Russian spy

Salisbury, England

Inspectors from the world's chemical weapons watchdog yesterday began examining the poison used to strike down a former Russian double agent in England, in an attack that London blames on Moscow.

Britain says Sergei Skripal and his daughter, who are critically ill in hospital, were targeted with the Soviet-era military-grade nerve agent Novichok. It accuses Moscow of stockpiling the toxin and investigating how to use it in assassinations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who easily won another six-year term on Sunday, said the claims were nonsense and that Russia had destroyed all its chemical weapons. While the Kremlin told Britain to back up its assertions or apologise, Britain's fellow EU members offered it "unqualified solidarity".

Skripal, a former colonel in Russian military intelligence who betrayed dozens of Russian agents to Britain, was found collapsed along with his daughter on a bench in the small southern city of Salisbury two

weeks ago.

The identification of Novichok as the weapon has become the central pillar of Britain's case for Russia's culpability. Each has expelled 23 of the other's diplomats as their relations have sunk to a post-Cold War low.

On Monday, inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) began running independent tests on samples taken from Salisbury to verify the British analysis, said an OPCW source speaking on condition

of anonymity.

"The team from The Hague will meet with officials from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and the police to discuss the process for collecting samples, including environmental ones," Britain's Foreign Office said.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Monday, before meeting his European Union counterparts in Brussels, that Russian denials of responsibility were "increasingly absurd". (Reuters)



A police notice is attached to screening surrounding a restaurant which was visited by former Russian Spy



A fleet of Uber's Ford Fusion self driving cars are shown during a demonstration in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.

Self-driving Uber kills woman

San Francisco

A woman crossing a street was killed by an Uber self-driving sport utility vehicle in Arizona, police said yesterday, leading the ride services company to suspend its autonomous vehicle program across the United States and Canada.

The accident in the Phoenix suburb of Tempe marked the first fatality from a self-driving vehicle, which are being tested around the globe, and could derail efforts to fast-track the introduction of the new technology.

The vehicle was in autonomous mode with an operator behind the wheel at the time of the accident,

which occurred overnight Sunday to Monday, Tempe police said.

"The vehicle was travelling northbound ... when a female walking outside of the crosswalk crossed the road from west to east when she was struck by the Uber vehicle," police said in a statement.

The woman later died from her injuries in a hospital, police said. Her name has not been released because her next of kin had not yet been notified, police said.

Tempe police could not immediately be reached for further comment. The city is 11 miles (18 km) east of Phoenix. (Reuters)

PayTabs to be BFB founding partner

Manama

As key officials from the Bahrain Economic Development Board and the Fintech Consortium kicked off the launch of Bahrain Fintech Bay on 21 February, PayTabs, the one-stop payment solutions firm announced it would be one of the principal founders of the glitzy new Bay.

Housed at the swanky Arcapita building in Manama, Bahrain Fintech Bay promises to be the Middle East's most dynamic and diverse fintech network. Its objective is to be recognized as a complete ecosystem that will drive forward the Fintech industry in the Middle East.

Bahrain Fintech Bay comprises of state of the art facilities, co-working spaces, communal areas, workstations, hot desks, and a variety of other shared infrastructure, making it the ideal hub for local and international corporate innovation labs and FinTech start-ups to base themselves in.

Speaking at the launch event, PayTabs Founder and CEO Abdulaziz Al Jouf said, "Our aim in partnering with Bahrain Fintech Bay is two-fold. We believe firms like ours that provide world-class payment solutions deserve world-class infrastructure to support this drive. PayTabs is also keen to explore the



CEO of Bahrain FinTech Bay Khalid Saad fields of shared innovation and ride the wave of transformation and dynamism that Bahrain is leap frogging into. This partnership will enable us to further forge ahead with our goal of being a locally based, global payment processor."

Khalid Saad, CEO of Bahrain FinTech Bay, added, "We are excited to welcome PayTabs as a Founding Partner of Bahrain FinTech Bay. As one of region's leading fintech firms, we look forward to working with them to further develop Bahrain's fintech and innovation ecosystem."

The launch was one of a series of events and activities held to mark #FintasticBahrain week.

Speaking at the Payments Panel of the



PayTabs CEO Abdulaziz Al Jouf

GCC Financial Forum 2018, which was held earlier that day, at the Four Seasons Hotel, PayTabs Chief Digital Officer, Philippe Berard added, "Bahrain's central location in the Middle East makes it a critical online payments hub. Internet penetration in the kingdom is over 90 per cent - one of the highest in the world and it is only natural that e-commerce thrives against this backdrop."

In 2017, PayTabs raised \$20 million from undisclosed investors. The company plans to use the funding to venture into a minimum of 20 new markets in Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia and the MENA regions. The mission of the company is to transform the way merchants send and receive payments.

'Learning empowers to become leaders'

Alba CEO Tim Murray



Manama

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray was a keynote speaker at the first Employability Summit that was held on Sunday, 11 March.

Organised jointly by The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI) Bahrain and Bahrain Polytechnic, the Summit showcased opportunities in the job market as well as the latest trends in education and training in Bahrain.

At the Summit, Tim Murray's presentation focused on Alba's progress in empowering and educating its workforce to assume higher leadership positions. During his presentation, Murray said, "Lifelong learning empowers us to be adaptive leaders in

this ever-changing world.

Alba believes that a strong learning culture helps build a productive workforce. From the very beginning, Alba has invested in the education and training of its human assets who are behind the many successes in our Company. We are proud of our landmark project, Line 6 Expansion Project, which will have a huge impact not just in the job creation for Bahrainis but also in terms of developing the skills and capabilities of the Bahraini workforce in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030."

The Employability Summit featured a series of high-quality speakers including top executives from Economic Development Board, Labour Market Regulatory Authority, Bahrain Polytechnic, RCSI and Tamkeen.

Crazy Golf Club opens at Fontana Garden



"Crazy Golf Club"

Manama

Fontana Real Estate has opened "Crazy Golf Club" at their residential project in Juffair.

The club is an added value to all the residences and investors in the Fontana Garden situated on the new Saud Al Faisal Road. The club is managed by The Royal Golf Club in Riffa, and will host various golfing events every month.

General Manager of Business Development and

Sales at Fontana Real Estate Eman Al Mannai said, "Crazy Golf Club our first and only golf club in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This is a family lifestyle added value to our residential project."

"We have selected golf as we are following His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, who is our First Golfer. We would also like to encourage the sport to people from different nationalities who visit the Kingdom," she added.



Get your Confidence Back with "Change"

Micro Bio FUE Non- Shaved Hair Transplant by Dr Mukesh Batra at Middle East Hospital



U-FUE Hair Transplant Results after 3 - 6 months

U-FUE

At MEM - Hidd CHANGE Clinic (Dermatology Department) the Dermatologist & Hair Transplant Specialist Dr. Mukesh Batra is leading hair transplant & is also offering clients a new service - the unshaven transplant, or U-FUE (Unshaven Follicular Unit Extraction).

A new treatment

Previously, patients undergoing a hair transplant have needed to have their scalp shaved, but a new treatment means they can undergo the op leaving their actual hair completely untouched Patients can keep their hair in the same style and length, visit the clinic for the procedure, and leave several days later without anyone suspecting.

FUT

Hair Transplant Technique U- UFE It is primarily used to treat male pattern baldness. In this minimally invasive procedure, grafts containing hair follicles that are genetically resistant to balding, (like the back of the head) are transplanted to the bald scalp. ... This hair transplant procedure is called follicular unit transplantation (FUT).



Middle East Group of Hospitals and Medical Centers comprises of a multi-specialty Hospital and three medical center's spread all across Kingdom of Bahrain, offering high quality medical care and a variety of services with multi-specialty clinics.

Total to seek waiver if US revives Iran sanctions

Abu Dhabi

French energy giant Total will push ahead with a \$4.8 billion deal to develop an Iranian gas field and will seek a waiver if Washington re-imposes sanctions, the firm's CEO has said.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to withdraw from a 2015 deal curtailing Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, unless it is "improved" by May 12.



Alibaba doubles investment in Lazada

Shanghai

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba will appoint one of its founders as head of Lazada and inject another \$2 billion into Southeast Asia's leading online shopping firm, boosting its regional expansion. Alibaba, which already owns 83 percent of Lazada with two investments totalling \$2 billion as of June last year, has been trying to acquire both online and offline assets to further bolster its business.



"If we do nothing, some five billion people will be living in areas with poor access to water by 2050. This is a major task all of us need to accomplish together responsibly so as to avoid water-related conflicts."

Audrey Azoulay
UNESCO Director General

Trump to unveil plans against opioid epidemic

Donald Trump will formally call for death penalties for drug dealers on Monday, in an opioids policy rollout that will, however, not include proposals for new legislation.

A top administration official said on Sunday the president's plan to combat opioid drug addiction nationwide, to be announced in New Hampshire on Monday, calls for the death penalty for drug traffickers

where appropriate under current law.

Some states already charge drug dealers with murder if customers overdose. In Florida, people who provide cocaine, heroin or the powerful opioid fentanyl to a person who dies from using the drug in question can be charged with first-degree murder and sentenced to either life in prison or death.

Drug-induced homicide laws, which emerged in the

1980s, are being used more frequently because of the opioids crisis. According to a November 2017 report by the Drug Policy Alliance. However, there is no evidence that such laws reduce drug use.

The justice department said the federal death penalty is already available for limited drug-related offenses, including violations of the "drug kingpin" provisions of federal law. (theguardian)

UK, EU agree transition deal



Britain's Brexit chief David Davis and EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier have reached a landmark deal on a transition phase

Brussels

Britain and the European Union yesterday reached a landmark deal on a transition phase that will last for nearly two years after the historic Brexit divorce next year, EU negotiator Michel Barnier said.

The two sides also agreed on a "backstop" solution for the thorny issue of the future of the Irish border, just weeks after Prime Minister Theresa May said no British premier could ever accept such an idea.

After an "intensive" weekend of talks in Brussels, Barnier said the two sides were "in agreement on a large part" of the divorce treaty governing the terms of Britain's departure after four decades of membership.

"We have reached an agreement on the transition period," Barnier told a press conference with Davis.

The transition will begin on Brexit day -- March 29, 2019 -- and last until December 31, 2020, and during that period, Britain "will no longer participate in the European Union decision-making process," Barnier said.

"Nevertheless, it will preserve the benefits, the advantages of the single

market and the customs union... and will therefore be required to respect all the European rules just like all member states do."

Davis told the news conference that the transition deal "gives the certainty demanded by businesses and citizens across Britain and the European Union."

Both sides wanted the transition deal in place so that it could be signed off by EU leaders at a Brussels summit later this week, allowing the unlocking of talks on the future British-EU relationship in April.

The purpose of the transition period is twofold: to give businesses and citizens time to adjust to life after Brexit, and to give Britain and the EU more time to agree on a trade deal.

'Backstop solution'

Britain also agreed in principle to the EU's "backstop" plan for the status of the Irish border, under which British-ruled Northern Ireland would remain part of the EU's customs union if there is no better idea.

The thorny issue will, however, require further talks to be fully resolved, the two sides said.

The EU insists that any

divorce deal must ensure there is no "hard border" between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, saying it could compromise the 1998 peace accord that ended decades of sectarian violence in the British province.

Several weeks ago, May said "no UK prime minister could ever agree" to the plan, saying it would compromise Britain's constitutional integrity and effectively draw up a border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

The idea was also deemed "unacceptable" by the pro-British party in Northern Ireland that props up her government.

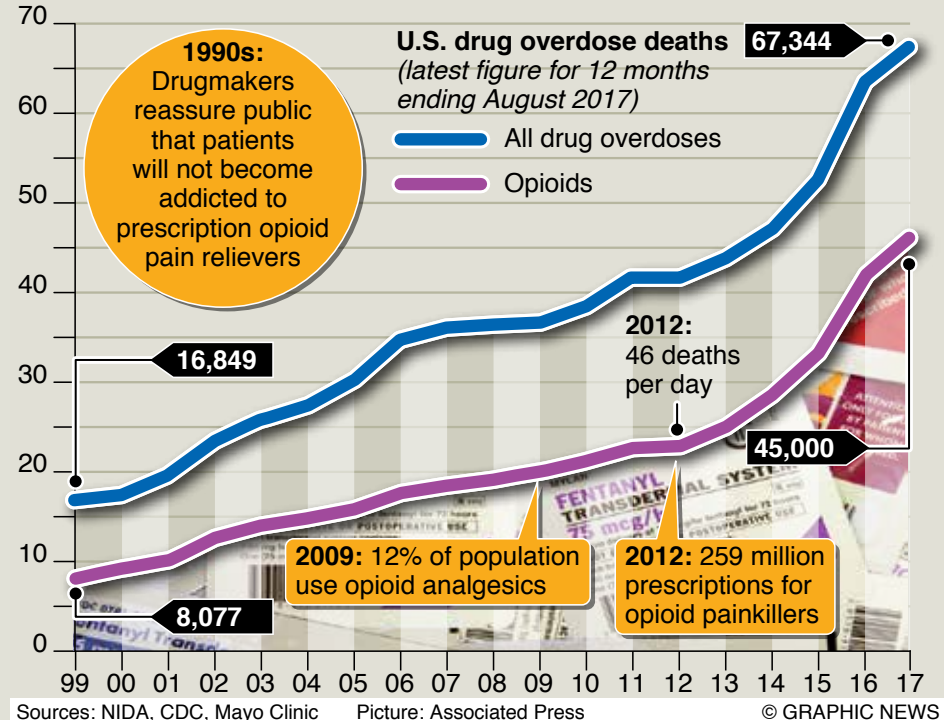
"We agreed today that the backstop solution must form part of the legal text of the withdrawal agreement," Barnier said.

The remaining 27 EU countries say Britain must agree to terms on Northern Ireland before it will sign off on the final version of their divorce agreement and advance to trade talks in April.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, who met Barnier in Brussels, said on Twitter yesterday that "Brexit negotiations are moving forward." (AFP)

America's addiction to opioids

Every day, more than 115 Americans die after overdosing on opioids – including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl – according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse



CBB Sukuk Al-Salam securities fully Subscribed

Manama
The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) announces that the monthly issue of the Sukuk Al-Salam Islamic securities has been fully subscribed by 100 per cent.

million were received for the BD 43 million issue, which carries a maturity of 91 days.

The expected return on the issue, which begins on 21st March and matures on 20th June, is 3.17pc compared to 3.13 for the previous issue on

21st February. The Sukuk Al-Salam are issued by the CBB on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This is issue No.203 (BH0001H651F6) of the short-term Sukuk Al-Salam series.

Did You Know?



Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, has millions of active buyers. Alibaba has 231 million annual active buyers who make 11.3 billion orders per year. It also has more than 2.8 million supplier online storefronts and more than 5,900 product categories.



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2987	0.2962
BANGLADESH	0.00472	0.00452
CANADA	0.2946	0.2914
DENMARK	0.0655	
EGYPT	0.0237	0.0219
EURO	0.4712	0.4687
HONGKONG	0.04968	0.04928
INDIA	0.00594	0.00585
INDONESIA	0.00002979	0.00002806
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000317	
JAPAN	0.00372	0.003650
JORDAN	0.5359	0.5351
KOREA	0.00040413	
KUWAIT	1.263	1.263
MALAYSIA	0.0987	0.0985
NEW ZEALAND	0.2771	0.2772
NORWAY	0.0510	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00364
OMAN	0.98168	0.98301
PAKISTAN	0.00354	0.00342
PHILIPPINES	0.00748	0.00727
QATAR	0.10381	0.10404
SAUDI ARABIA	0.1006	0.10067
SINGAPORE	0.2916	0.2896
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03300	0.03290
SRI LANKA	0.00273	0.00242
SWEDISH	0.0498	
SWITZERLAND	0.4049	0.4019
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013600	
THAILAND	0.012270	0.012280
TURKEY	0.1018	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5253	0.5323
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102850	0.102870
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.5738	0.3989	0.3564
KUWAIT	0.2855	30.1973	0.3021	0.2699
OMAN	0.3849	0.3638	0.4072	0.3639
QATAR	3.6420	3.4424	3.8532	3.4433
UAE	3.6730	3.4717	3.8860	3.4726
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5445	3.9674	3.5454

Abu Dhabi advance while region dips

Dubai

Dubai dropped 0.3 per cent yesterday as financial and construction stocks weighed on the index while Abu Dhabi gained 0.2pc with support from consumer and telecoms stocks.

Emaar Properties closed 0.5pc up after finishing near a 20-month low on Sunday. The weakness in Emaar's shares, which are down 10pc in the year to date, has been a major factor in the Dubai market's lacklustre performance.

"Emaar is affected by renewed concerns about the health of the Dubai real estate market in the face of upcoming supply," said Vrajesh Bhandari, portfolio

manager at Al Mal Capital.

Saudi Arabia's index was also down 0.2pc, pressured by Saudi Telecom's 2.4pc decline and a 1.8pc drop for Banque Saudi Fransi.

Telecoms company Zain Saudi bucked the trend, rising 2.6pc after saying it had extended the maturity of a 2.25 billion riyal (\$600 million) loan.

Egypt's index gave up initial gains to close 0.6pc lower, hurt by selling in Telecom Egypt, which dropped 3pc.

Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals rose 2.8pc after it was named among companies that will float more shares under a privatisation scheme.

Egypt announced on

Closing Bell

SAUDI ARABIA shed 0.2pc to 7,711 points.

DUBAI lost 0.3pc to 3,183 points.

ABU DHABI rose 0.2pc to 4,543 points.

QATAR rose 1.0pc to 8,890 points.

EGYPT lost 0.6pc to 17,172 points.

KUWAIT fell 0.5pc to 6,725 points.

BAHRAIN lost 0.3pc to 1,348 points.

OMAN edged down 1.2pc to 4,833 points.

Sunday the names of 23 state companies that will sell stakes from this year under its plan to raise 80bn Egyptian pounds (\$4.6bn) through minority share offerings on the Cairo bourse.

Qatar's main stock index

rose nearly 1pc yesterday as a planned increase in foreign ownership limits boosted blue-chips and helped Doha to outperform the rest of a region weighed down by weak global stocks and oil prices. (Reuters)

Saudi Aramco seeks majority stake in Indian refinery

Mumbai

Oil giant Saudi Aramco is looking to buy a majority stake in a proposed refinery and petrochemical complex valued at 3 trillion rupees (\$46.10 billion) in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, local daily Economic Times reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

This comes as Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, is trying to beat out Iraq to become the biggest crude supplier to India, the world's third-largest oil importer.

The state-owned Saudi oil company is also in talks with



Logo of Saudi Aramco is seen at the 20th Middle East Oil & Gas Show and Conference (MOES 2017) in Manama

Indian state-run refiners for marketing rights over the fuel and petrochemicals produced at the complex along with an assurance that the refinery

would mostly use Saudi oil, the newspaper added.

Indian Oil Corp Ltd owns 50 per cent of the complex, while Bharat Petroleum Corp

Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd have the rest. Saudi Aramco was not immediately available for comment.

The refinery is expected to have a more than 300,000 barrels per day throughput capacity and to be commissioned by 2022, feeding a country that is among the biggest drivers of energy demand in the world.

Saudi Arabia is planning to list up to 5 per cent of Saudi Aramco in an initial public offering that could value the company at up to \$2 trillion, making it the world's biggest oil company by market capitalisation. (Reuters)



Nissan rekindles body-on-frame SUV

Offroaders' ears perked up recently when Nissan revealed it intends to market a new four-wheel-drive midsize body-on-frame SUV called the Terra this spring. But alas – not for the U.S. market. Not yet, at least. The Terra has been created for China and other Asian markets to follow, a company official said.

The Terra will be built in China on the same assembly line as the China-market Navara pickup. *(Automotive News)*



Lagonda SUV to lead Aston Martin EV brand

Aston Martin used the 2018 Geneva Motor Show to launch its new Lagonda luxury brand, and Auto Express can reveal the first model will be an SUV, rather than the saloon car unveiled at the Swiss expo. Hidden away at the back of the Lagonda show stand were 40 per cent scale models of an SUV and coupe, and it's understood that the former will be the first standalone Lagonda model. The SUV will launch in 2021. The saloon is likely to follow in 2023, by which time solid-state batteries should be available to give both models a realistic electric vehicle range of more than 400 miles. *(autoexpress)*

VW has revealed the name of its new electric Pikes Peak contender, which is simply called the I.D. R.

The new German electric prototype racing car will participate at this year's Pikes Peak International Hill Climb on June 24 in Colorado.

The new I.D. R marks the first time Volkswagen R and Volkswagen Motorsport divisions work closer together for a joint product.

"Pikes Peak is without question the most iconic hillclimb in the world," said Jürgen Stackmann, Member of the Board of Management. "The I.D. R project represents a fantastic opportunity for Volkswagen to change the conversation about e-mobility, both emotionally and from a sporting perspective."

The announcement of the name was accompanied by a pair of illustrations of the new race car, revealing a shape similar to that

of the Le Mans-contesting prototypes.

"We want to be at the forefront of electro-mobility with Volkswagen and the I.D. family," said Volkswagen Member of the Board of Management with responsibility for Development, Dr. Frank Welsch. "Competing in the most famous hillclimb in the world with the I.D. R Pikes Peak is a valuable test for the general development of electric cars."

No technical details have been announced yet, with VW only saying that their new race car will be four-wheel drive and that it will show off the sporting potential of the upcoming I.D. family of all-electric vehicles. *(Carscoops)*

VW shows off I.D. R Pikes Peak



Nissan most decorated brand at Dubai Lynx



Dubai Nissan Middle East and Nissan Saudi Arabia secured a grand total of 18 awards at Dubai Lynx, the region's premier marketing and creative festival, making Nissan the most decorated brand at the event and the only automaker to receive Grand Prix and Gold awards.

The Japanese automaker received ten recognitions for its #SheDrives campaign to engage with Saudi women as they gear up to being

able to apply for driving licenses. Another eight awards going to its innovative Camel Power campaign that saw Nissan develop a new power metric for desert driving. Both campaigns were developed by TBWA\RAAD.

The #SheDrives campaign centered around a video featuring Saudi women receiving their first lesson, where their husbands, fathers and brothers surprised them as their instructors.

The video, which highlights a group of women's hopes, expectations and concerns around driving, moved judges and audiences alike, resulting in victories across a range of categories.

Meanwhile, the camelpower campaign took home eight awards ranging from the Launch and Relaunch Strategy category to Promo and Activations for Durable Consumer Goods.

An adaption of the industry-

standard horsepower measurement, camelpower is a new concept developed by a team of Nissan engineers to measure a vehicle's performance on the sand, and was used to highlight the brand's renowned desert driving lineup, including the Nissan Navara and Nissan Patrol models.

The camelpower metric is calculated by multiplying the velocity by the projection of the weight over the same trajectory.

Kalyana Sivagnaman, President of Nissan Middle East and Regional Vice-President Africa, Middle East & India Region, said: "These are fantastic results for Nissan, and we're proud to have had another successful year at Dubai Lynx. The #SheDrives and camelpower campaigns were particularly effective because they were based on strong insights into our audiences that allowed us to develop and implement disruptive and innovative ideas."



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa received King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence Board of Trustees' Chairman Dr. Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Daij Al-Khalifa, Secretary-General Dana Kh... King had issued a royal order establishing the global centre and appointing its members. HM the King congratulated them all, commending their competence and contribution to promoting Bahrain's stance...



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. Both asserted the government's ongoing strategy to adopt projects aimed at promoting tourism, creating an entertaining climate for citizens and attracting more visitors and tourists.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Daij Al-Khalifa received a delegation of the presence of Royals, ministers, senior members of the Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates...



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received a delegation from the Anderson and Egyrobo London consortium led by CEO of the UK's Anderson Group Simi Anderson and CEO of Egyrobo London David Yousif. The minister welcomed the attendees and was briefed on the new technologies the company employing in the use of robots in solar energy systems. He praised the technology, which would contribute to the development of renewable energy technologies and their uses and improve energy efficiency.



Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of Environment Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa received Russian Ambassador Vagif Garaev and congratulated him on success of the presidential elections in his country. He lauded strong bilateral relations and their growth mainly in the environmental field.





...hamis Alzayani, as well as its members. HM the



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa received outgoing UAE Ambassador Abdul Redha Abdulla Khoury at Al-Safriya Palace. HM the King hailed deep-rooted relations binding Bahrain and the UAE. HM the King conferred the Bahrain Medal – First Class on the UAE ambassador in recognition of his dedicated efforts



...alid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa along with his UAE counterpart Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan opened the new premises of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Abu Dhabi, in the pres- and Ministry of Foreign affairs officials from both countries and heads of diplomatic missions in the United Arab Emirates. The Minister affirmed that the firm historic brotherly ties between the Kingdom of an centuries of deep-rooted relations.



The BDF Chief-of-Staff Lt-General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi inspected the BDF combat group participating in the Gulf Shield Joint Drill 1. The military exercise is organized by Saudi Arabia's ministry of defence in the Eastern Region, with the participation of 23 countries. The drill aims to prepare the largest military manoeuvres in the region in terms of the number of participating forces and countries.



Education Ministry Undersecretary for Resources and Services Affairs Dr. Mohammed Mubarak Juma'a met Director General of the British Council Richard Rooze. They discussed cooperation between the ministry and the council mainly in training English teachers to boost their teaching competence.



Toastmasters Area 1 Annual Speech contest was held on 17 March 2018, at AlMahd School in Saar, with contestants competing in 4 categories: Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics & International Speech, held under the Chairmanship of Rashid Maymoon.

CELEBS



Ellen DeGeneres @TheEllenShow
West Coast! It's your turn to watch the premiere of #LittleBigShots. Tune in now! Go! @NBCLiBigShots

Seth Carr got \$1,000 per day

London
Seth Carr, who played the child version of actor Michael B. Jordan's character Killmonger in the movie 'Black Panther' got paid \$1,000 a day on set.

was at least \$7,654 plus any future residuals if one goes by the 10-year-old's contract obtained. Along with Young Killmonger, Carr is known for his roles on the shows 'Bosch' and 'Knight Squad'. He also played Young Holt on 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine'. (IANS)



MEGHAN MARKLE 'MISSING' ONLINE FRIENDS

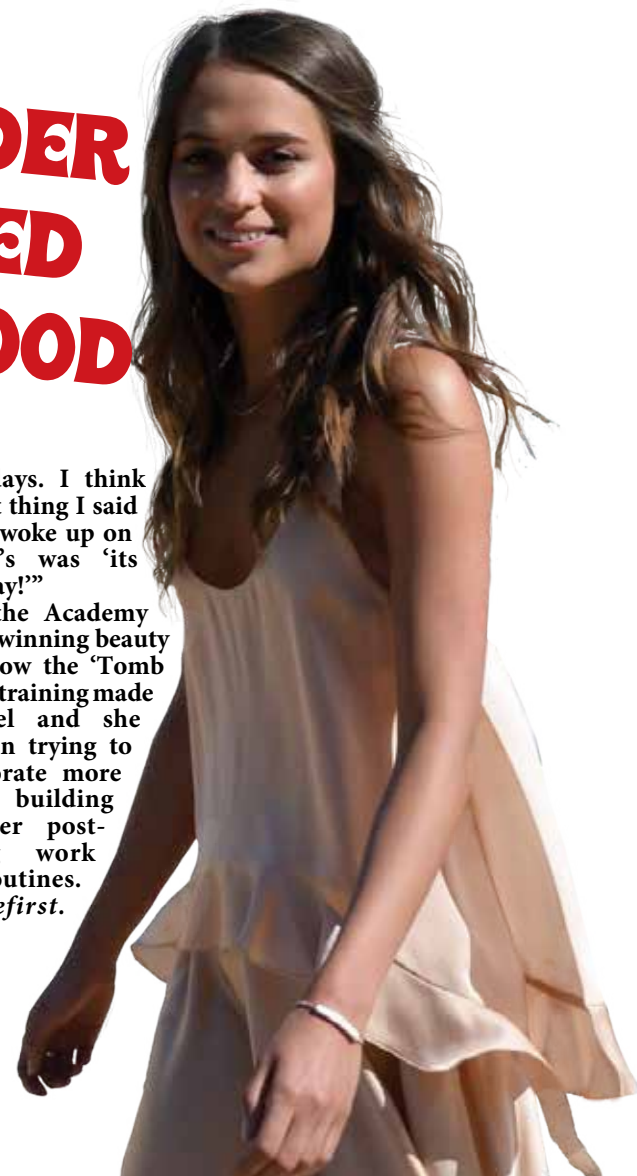
London
Actress Meghan Markle is "missing" her online friends after being forced to give up social media ahead of her wedding to Prince Harry. Kensington Palace said that she'd closed down her *Instagram*, *Twitter* and *Facebook* accounts in January - ahead of her May wedding to Prince Harry. But now insiders claim Markle is suffering from

withdrawal symptoms from social media and is missing the online community, reports *mirror.co.uk*. "She is missing her friends and also the wider circle she had on social media," sources said. "She's finding things harder than she thought and it will take time to adjust." The former "Suits" actress had 350,000 followers on *Twitter*, 800,000 on *Facebook* and a whopping 1.9 million on *Instagram*. (IANS)

VIKANDER CRAVED JUNK FOOD

London
Actress Alicia Vikander looked forward to her "pizza days" when she was in training for *Tomb Raider*. The 29-year-old plays Lara Croft in the classic action movie's 2018 reboot, and her determination to get in shape for the role meant she looked forward to Sunday's where she could indulge in a cheat meal. Speaking to *Glamour Magazine*, she said: "[We were training] five to six days a week, and Sundays were

pizza days. I think the first thing I said when I woke up on Sunday's was 'its pizza day!'" But the Academy Award-winning beauty loved how the 'Tomb Raider' training made her feel and she has been trying to incorporate more muscle building into her post-filming work out routines. (*femalefirst.co.uk*)



STARRY Birthday David Thewlis

March 20, 1963

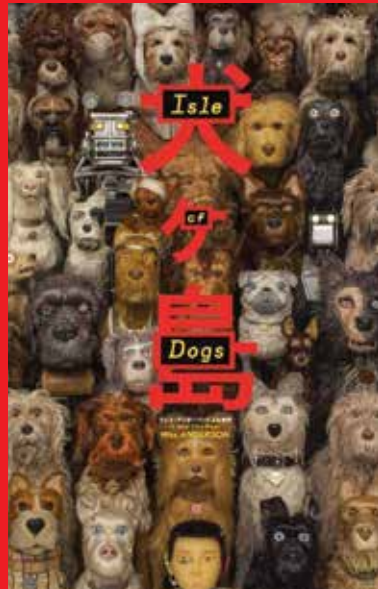
He became known for his role Professor Remus John Lupin in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. As a voice actor, he provided the voice of the Earthworm in the 1996 animated film *James and the Giant Peach*.

MOVIES... COMING SOON... this week



Pacific Rim Uprising

Director: Steven S. DeKnight
 Stars: Scott Eastwood, Adria Arjona, Tian Jing, John Boyega



Isle of Dogs

Director: Wes Anderson
 Stars: Bryan Cranston, Koyu Rankin, Edward Norton, Liev Schreiber



Unsane

Director: Steven Soderbergh
 Stars: Claire Foy, Joshua Leonard, Jay Pharoah, Juno Temple



Sherlock Gnomes

Director: John Stevenson
 Stars: Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp, James McAvoy, Mary J. Blige



Midnight Sun

Director: Scott Speer
 Stars: Bella Thorne, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Rob Riggle, Quinn Shephard

(www.imdb.com)



Payne's night out with Cheryl's brother

London
Singer Liam Payne, whose relationship with his partner Cheryl is going through a crisis, seems to be still close to her family as he enjoyed hanging out with her brother and nephews here.

Payne posed for a picture with Cheryl's big brother

Joe and his sons, one of whom was celebrating a birthday, according to fan site *Cheriam News*.

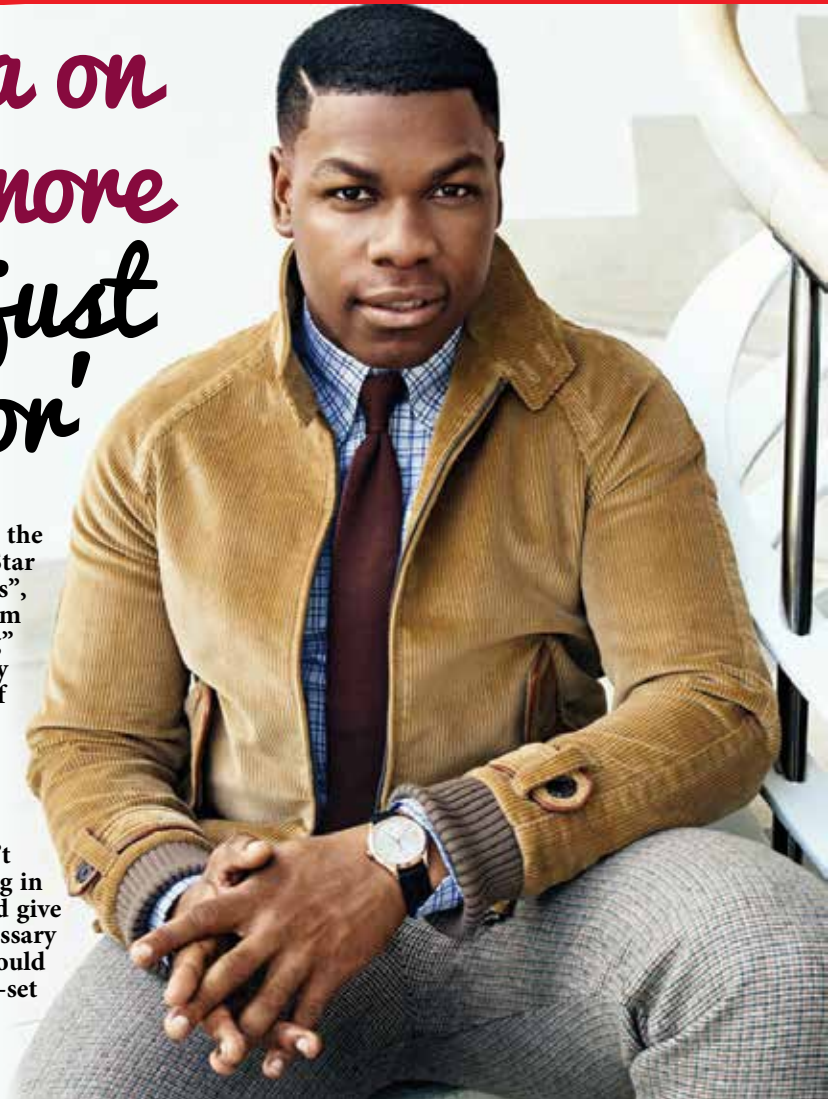
They were watching the Ultimate Fighting Championship from a box at London's O2, with Payne sharing videos online on Sunday, reports *thesun.co.uk*. (IANS)

Boyega on being more than 'just an actor'

Los Angeles
Actor John Boyega, the breakout star of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", says his forthcoming film "Pacific Rim Uprising" gave him the opportunity to explore other aspects of filmmaking.

In the film, Boyega will be seen playing the role of Jake Pentecost, son of Stacker Pentecost.

However, Boyega wasn't simply interested in acting in it. He felt that if he would give the time and energy necessary to be on set, then he would want to serve as an on-set producer. (IANS)






We offer you the strongest offers for the New Year 2018 with the latest models of new and old cars. Visit us and get your cars at the best prices and offers from BCFC. Visit us and get the chance to be one of the lucky winners with our latest promotions!

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FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT

SERIES OFFER**38444692****HOW TO REACH US**

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

OUT & ABOUT**RECYCLING PALM TREE WORKSHOP**

Date: 15 March 2018, 5:00pm
Venue: Archaeologies of Green - Muharraq

Bahrain is well known as «The mother of a million palm trees» Recycling of palm trees is a way to revive the importance of palm trees in our beloved country. This is what we are aiming to in this workshop and in a very simple way ... Children can do this by encouraging them to use raw materials Available everywhere, especially in the palm tree and recycling it. As a result the kids will come-up with something new and beautiful.

FRIDAY BRUNCH AT CUT WITH CHEF WOLFGANG PUCK

Date: Friday, April 6 from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay
Celebrity Chef Wolfgang Puck is back in town! Join him for an Asian fusion BBQ and a cutting-edge Friday Brunch. Spend the perfect Friday afternoon in the heart of Bahrain and indulge in a wide variety of delicious home-made comfort food with Wolfgang Puck. Reservations: +973 17115044

BEST OF WOLFGANG PRE F1 PARTY - SATURDAY BBQ WITH CELEBRITY CHEF WOLFGANG PUCK

Date: Saturday, April 7 from 8:00 pm - 2:00 am

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

Join us for an Asian fusion BBQ party with the celebrity chef himself. Savor an array of special Asian BBQ and street food, while you enjoy the twinkling lights of the Manama skyline and a live DJ in the background.

EASTER BRUNCH AT BAHRAIN BAY KITCHEN

Date: March 30 and April 1 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay
We are celebrating Easter with a grand brunch - you just hop on over!

Celebrate the timeless tradition of Easter with friends and family at Bahrain Bay Kitchen. Savor an exquisitely paired menu of mouthwatering favorites like roasted lamb rack, hot cross buns and chocolate treats. The little ones have something to cheer about too with a fun egg hunt and other engaging escapades. Free access to Kids For All Seasons Easter activities.

FRIDAY SPRING FAIR BRUNCH

Date: Every Friday from April 6 until May 11 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay
Spring fairs bring forth many exciting memories to mind. Expect fun, excitement, vivacious colours, floral fragrances and comfortable weather. Every Friday, Bahrain Bay Kitchen's garden

will be transformed into a welcoming hive of activity. Lounge in the open air while indulging in new seasonally influenced dishes. Children's hearts will be filled with a sense of delight as they enjoy plentiful fair-style games and activities. Discover pony rides, Ping-Pong, darts and train rides. Throughout these Friday afternoons of indulgence, sip on a refreshing iced tea, chilled milkshake or your desired beverage. The Spring Fair Brunch is a nod to everything that inspires weekend bliss.

RE/IMAGINE YOUR SATURDAYS

Date: Every Saturday from 12:30 pm until 3:30 pm

Venue: re Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck Asian

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay invites you to discover the perfect Saturday Brunch at re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck. Soak in the immersive views from the 50th floor and feast on mouthwatering Asian selections like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons for BD 19++.

FOR U MAMA ..!

Date: 22 March 2018, 5:00pm

Venue: Bahrain National Museum

Mothers Day..! we honour the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, mother bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated in different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March. This workshop will celebrate Mothers Day by

letting children make a greeting card for their mothers and also decorating cupcakes. Later they will gift it to them.

SCENAMADRE

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

Venue: Bahrain National Theatre

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

ARCHITECTURE OF THE ISLAND OF MUHARRAQ

Date: 27 March 2018, 7:00pm

Venue: Bahrain Fort Museum

A lecture by Eng. Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Jowder focusing on the island of Muharraq and its development in terms of construction and architecture, as well as highlighting some of cultural publications that discussed these aspects throughout history. Al-Jowder earned a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia in 1976 and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in the USA in 1981.*Lecture will be conducted in Arabic

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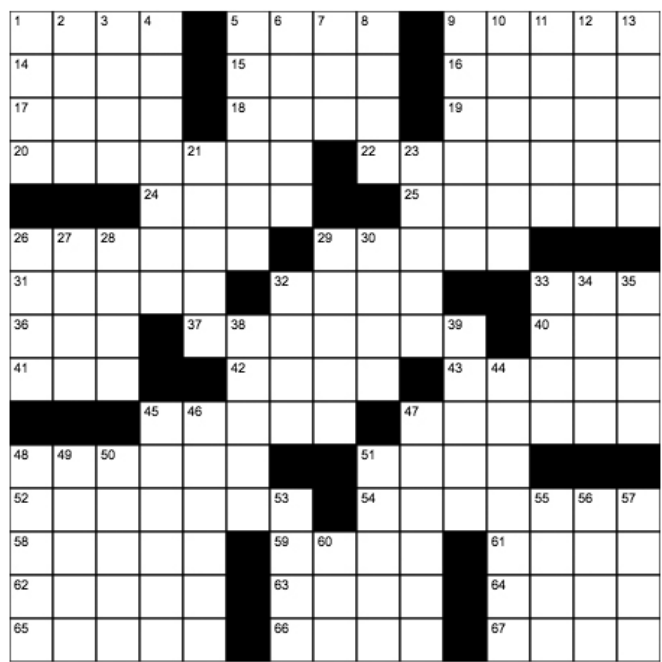
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Across

1- ___ spumante; 5- Blackbird; 9- Tiffs; 14- Classic cars; 15- Jai ___; 16- Special vocabulary; 17- Large jug or pitcher; 18- Puts down; 19- Climbing vine; 20- Onslaught; 22- Causing laughter; 24- Blunted blade; 25- Makes amends; 26- Round of voting; 29- Ruhr city; 31- Have dinner at home; 32- "Rhyme Pays" rapper; 33- Foul; 36- Wee bit; 37- Postmortem examination; 40- Miss. neighbor; 41- Biblical beast; 42- E-mailed; 43- Peaks of Peru; 45- Doofus; 47- Cringe; 48- Current unit; 51- Curtain holders; 52- Bring up; 54- Spirit; 58- Leaves out; 59- Fruity drinks; 61- Connect; 62- Wheat type; 63- Low-lying region; 64- Not fooled by; 65- Curved letters; 66- Once, once; 67- They'll be themselves, axiomatically;

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



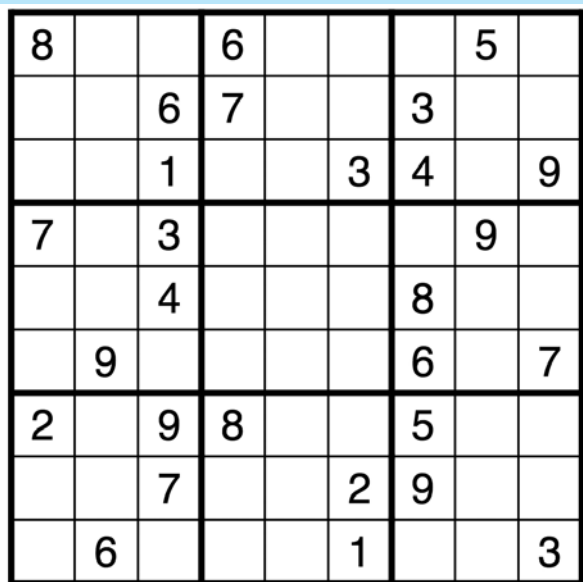
Down

1- Territory; 2- Puts in stitches; 3- Some digits; 4- Sharon, e.g.; 5- Hammerlike tool; 6- Delight; 7- Beam; 8- One of the Simpsons; 9- Formal gesture of respect; 10- Place of confinement; 11- Anew; 12- Heavy metric weight; 13- Male deer; 21- Once ___ time...; 23- Poles for sails; 26- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 27- Small batteries; 28- Old Fords; 29- Low-budget prefix; 30- Equinox mo.; 32- Gossip bit; 33- Grammy winner Erykah; 34- One of the Baldwins; 35- Morse element; 38- Doorkeeper; 39- Fenced areas; 44- Rhinoplasty; 45- Colonize; 46- Pie coverings; 47- Coddle; 48- Win by ___; 49- Parotitis; 50- Gets nosy; 51- Staggers; 53- Icicle site; 55- Taboo; 56- Metropolis; 57- Slaughter of baseball; 60- ___ es Salaam, Tanzania;

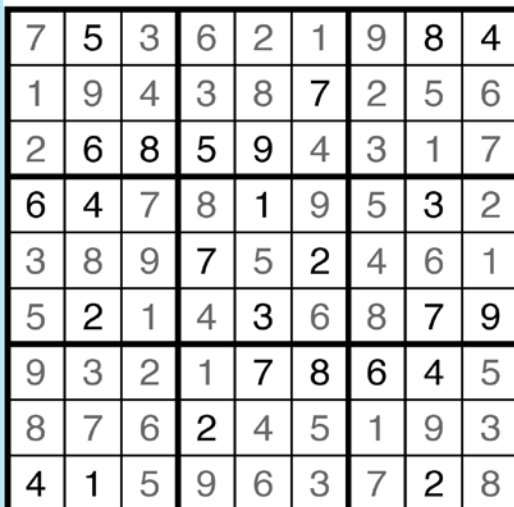
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



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)



The planetary energy has you feeling a bit sluggish today. You'll probably want to stay home, surrounded by your books, pets, and plants, yet you know you have appointments to keep and responsibilities to fulfil. Your sense of duty is especially strong. Make a deal with yourself to get the bare minimum done and then relax.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



A temporary separation from someone close to you could have you reflecting on the good times you've spent together, especially over the past few weeks. You're likely to talk with him or her on the phone. You're feeling a lot of warmth and affection toward everyone around you, but a little sad as well, particularly when you think of those far away.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Dreams with mixed messages might trouble your sleep tonight. One minute you'll be having a dream, and the next could be black and gloomy. Write them down. The message is probably more positive than it appears. Worries about money might plague you throughout the day, yet things probably aren't as bad as they seem.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



The special person in your life could be working too hard, causing strain for him or her and frustration for you. Their extra hours at work could interfere with your desire to enjoy quality time together. Your own worries could put a damper on your self-confidence. You might be wondering if you're doing everything that needs to be done.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Today you might try to continue or complete a creative project of some kind, but your imagination just isn't working the way it normally does. Also, overindulgence from last night could have you feeling a bit sluggish, which doesn't help the situation. Put your work aside before you give up on it completely. This is only a temporary situation.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Today you might feel especially protective toward all those you love: children, family, friends, pets, and the special person in your life. Upsetting news might have you wondering about the future, but don't let it get you down. All should be well, so allow yourself to relax and enjoy your loved ones. Distract yourself by going to an exciting movie.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



Today you could make the acquaintance of actors, musicians, or other performers, some of whom might be quite well known. Social occasions could bring valuable contacts your way, which you could make good use of later. You might be having so much fun out among the beautiful people that you really don't want to go home! Don't make it too late a night.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Someone who lives far away, someone you haven't heard from for a long time, could give you a surprise phone call today. You'll be delighted and probably stay on the phone too long. You might need to run a few errands, but the weather could keep you indoors. Don't worry about it. You'll still have time to take care of other pressing matters.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Money could be a source of worry today. You might feel you've spent too much (who doesn't sometimes?) or perhaps some funds you were expecting have been held up. This is a delay and not a permanent situation (although it might seem that way). Too much worry could spoil your day, and you don't want that. If there's anything you can do to ease the situation, do it. Otherwise, hang in there.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Too much stress and strain over the past few days could cause you to clash with your partner. While not a disaster by any means, this can put a damper on your day. It might be best if you took a few minutes to get away by yourself and let all your negativity fade away when no one's around. You'll feel better by the time you face your family, friends, and partner again.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Overindulgence last night could have left you feeling a little woozy today. You're may want to spend the day in bed, but the prospect of leaving tasks undone could cause you to push on anyway. That's a bad idea. Rest is just what you need. Don't force yourself to socialize, either. You need some time alone to recover and gather your resources.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Plans for getting together with a group of close friends may have to be called off because of sudden unexpected events. This could have you feeling somewhat down, especially if a romantic partner is involved. Try not to worry about it too much. You will be able to reschedule, and you could use the time alone anyway to relax and centre yourself.

2 injured in fourth Texas bombing

Police maintain a cordon near the site of an incident reported as an explosion in southwest Austin, Texas

Houston

Two people were injured in another explosion in Texas' capital Austin, the fourth mysterious bombing in the city this month, sparking panic among the residents, police said on Sunday.

The latest blast occurred on Sunday night in a suburban neighbourhood in southwest Austin.

Authorities believe the explosion may have been triggered by a tripwire, but cautioned that they were still processing the scene.

Austin police Chief Brian Manley said on Sunday that based on the evidence that had been seen they believe a bomb did detonate.

Manley said that police were "working under the belief" that the explosion was related to the three others, but investigators still had yet to process the entire scene.

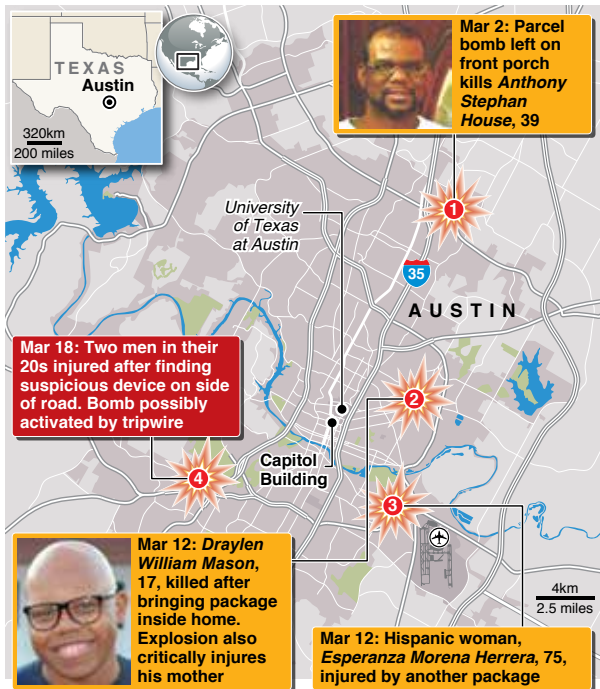
"We want to put out the message that we've been putting out and that is, not only do not touch any packages or anything that looks like a package, do not even go near it at this time," Manley said.

Two men in their 20s suffered non-life threatening injuries in the blast.

A reward of \$115,000 has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for the

Texas city rocked by fourth bomb blast

Police in Austin, Texas, are warning that a fourth device that exploded in the city, injuring two men, may be connected to three parcel bombs that have killed or injured four other people since early March



mysterious blasts.

Sunday's explosion was the fourth to rock Austin within three weeks. However, the three previous blasts occurred on the eastside of the city.

The first was a package bomb that exploded at a northeast Austin home on March 2, killing a 39-year-old man. Two more package

bombs then exploded farther south on March 12, killing a 17-year-old, wounding his mother and injuring a 75-year-old woman.

Police said all three of those were likely related and involved packages that had not been mailed or delivered by private carrier but left overnight on doorsteps. (PTI)

Missing giant yellow duck found in Australia

Sydney

A giant yellow inflatable duck named Daphne that made a break from its moorings in Australia has been located after a week on the lam, its swimming club owners said yesterday.

Daphne -- the oversized mascot of the Cockburn Masters Swimming Club in Perth -- made a bid for freedom on March 11, drifting out into the Indian Ocean and sparking an appeal for help along Australia's west coast.

Reports of sightings flooded in, including one from 440 kilometres (270 miles) away. (AFP)



The enormous inflatable duck that broke its moorings in Australia (file photo)

#PollToday



Opponents accuse Putin of vote rigging. Do you think Putin has committed fraud to win?

Yes No Cant Say



"The result of the election in Russia did not surprise us any more than the circumstances of this election. We certainly cannot talk in all respects about a fair political contest as we know it. In this respect, we assume that Russia will remain a difficult partner."

-Heiko Maas
Foreign Minister

Rest in sight

90 Australian houses destroyed by wildfires



At least 90 houses and properties were destroyed by wildfires raging in various parts of southeastern Australia over the weekend.

Brit woman killed fighting in Syria

A British woman fighting alongside Kurdish forces in Syria has been killed.

B'desh SC stays Khaleda's bail

The Bangladesh Supreme Court ordered a stay on the bail granted to opposition leader and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a corruption case where she was handed a five-year sentence.

Madagascar storm kills 17

At least 17 people died when a tropical storm hit eastern Madagascar over the weekend.

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Boy, 9, shoots dead sister over video game controller

Washington

A nine-year-old boy shot dead his sister, 13, in the southern US state of Mississippi following an argument about a video game controller, local media reported yesterday.

The tragedy took place Saturday when the girl refused to give up the controller, Monroe County Sheriff Cecil Cantrell said according to reports. The boy then opened fire, striking his sister in the back of the

head.

The bullet pierced through girl's brain, and she was taken to a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, in critical condition. She died Sunday.

An investigation was opened to determine how the young boy had access to a firearm and to what extent he was aware of the danger.

Such accidents are not rare in the United States, where the debate on gun control rages on. (AFP)

Holdout Philippines takes first big step to legalising divorce



Philippine Catholics take part in a "Walk for Life" protest at a park in Manila

Manila

The mainly Catholic Philippines, the only country apart from the Vatican to ban divorce, took a first big step towards legalising it yesterday when the lower house of congress passed a bill.

The measure, which would allow a divorced partner to marry another person of the opposite sex, passed on third reading by 134-57 with two abstentions, the House of

Representatives secretariat said.

The bill will become law if the Senate (upper house) also passes it and President Rodrigo Duterte fails to use his veto.

"In divorce and dissolution of marriage proceedings, there is no more marriage to protect or union to destroy because the marriage has long perished," said opposition leader Edcel Lagman, one of its sponsors. (AFP)

West wary as Putin wins fourth term with record vote

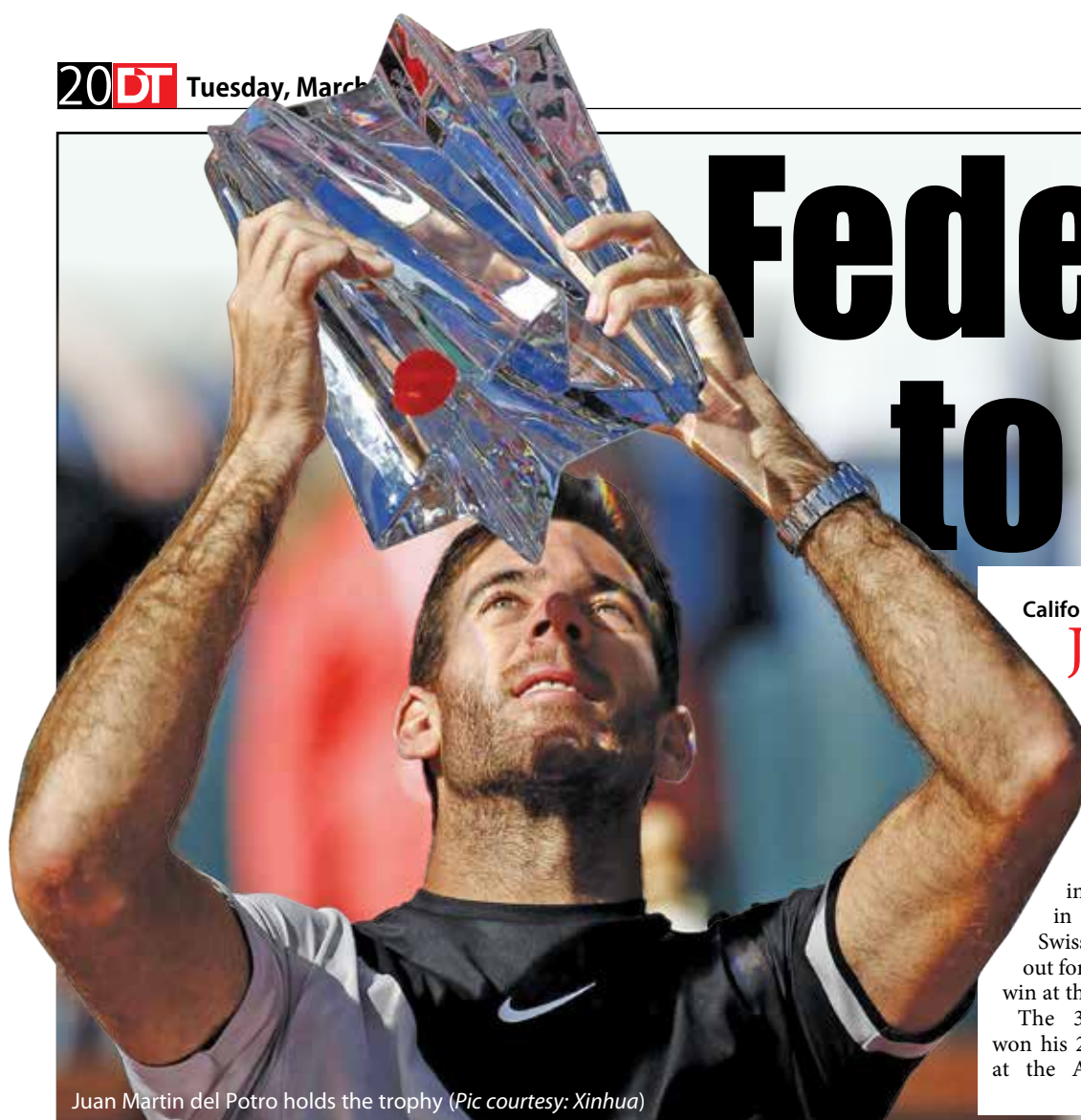
Russia presidential election



Moscow

Russia's Vladimir Putin secured another six years in power after a record election win, but international leaders were slow to congratulate him yesterday amid a new spike in tensions, as opponents

accused him of vote rigging. Putin, who has ruled Russia for almost two decades, recorded his best-ever election performance with 76.66 per cent of the vote but appeared to reject the possibility of staying in power indefinitely. (AFP)



Federer loses to Del Potro

California

Juan Martin del Potro ended Roger Federer's best ever start to a season to become the first Argentine to win a top-tier Masters series event. Del Potro saved three match points in the deciding set in Indian Wells as the Swiss great failed to serve out for his 18th consecutive win at the start of 2018. The 36-year-old Federer won his 20th grand slam title at the Australian Open in

January and also triumphed in the Netherlands for his 97th ATP Tour victory last month. "I'm so happy to win a title like this," Del Potro told the ATP website, dedicating his maiden Masters 1000 victory to his beloved dog Cesar who recently passed away. "I lost many finals in Masters 1000s but today was the day for me. I played unbelievable tennis, almost three hours, and beating Roger for the first time this year, that means a lot to me." The 29-year-old Del Potro, who beat Federer in the US Open quarterfinal

last September, also won in Mexico earlier this month as he continues his rehabilitation from a series of injuries. Del Potro has struggled with injury since beating Federer in the 2009 US Open final to win his first grand slam, missing almost the entire 2010 season after undergoing surgery on his wrist. After slipping outside the world's top 400, Del Potro returned to the top five in 2013 but another wrist injury meant more surgery and led him to miss the majority of the 2014 and 2015 season. (CNN)

Juan Martin del Potro holds the trophy (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

Alonso a 'different' driver in 2018

London **Fernando Alonso** is a "different" Formula 1 driver heading into the start of the 2018 season, according to McLaren racing director Eric Boullier. McLaren has switched to Renault engines this year after three dismal seasons with Honda, and Boullier said Alonso has been revitalised by the change. The two-time champion has scored just 82 points in the last three seasons, with a pair of fifths his best results since returning to McLaren. Boullier told Autosport that "the drivers, especially Fernando, will not miss any opportunity to tell us where we are wrong".

He said: "Watch him, it's a different Fernando here this year. "You can see he's here [at the track in pre-season testing] before lunchtime when it's not his day to run. "I remember last year he was coming at 7pm. [This year] he's in before lunch." Boullier added: "He's happy, yes. He's a competitor, so he wants the best of the best and he wants more, always. "Alonso is in a different mindset this year. He's spending a lot of time here even when he's not driving the car, so he's quite interested and supportive of what we are doing." (Autosport)



Fernando Alonso (file pic)

Osaka draws Serena in first round

Miami

Indian Wells champion Naomi Osaka will have little time to celebrate in her first career victory with the Japanese drawing eight-time champion Serena Williams in the first round of next week's Miami Open. Osaka scored a commanding 6-3 6-2 victory over Russian Daria Kasatkina in a battle of 20-year-olds at the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells on Sunday. "I was extremely stressed and extremely nervous, but my plan was to fake that I'm very calm," Osaka told reporters. "I just knew that she was going to fight for every point, too, so

I couldn't afford to lose points based on nerves, and I had to keep making the right decisions." Osaka had defeated former grand slam champion Maria Sharapova, fifth seed Karolina Pliskova and then world number one Simona Halep on her way to the title and the \$1,340,860 first place money. "It was hard for me to get my nerves in check in the first game, especially since - I don't know why I decided to serve first," Osaka said. "We were playing some long points, and I wasn't really trying to hit hard today, because I felt like it would be better for her to take my pace." (Reuters)



Naomi Osaka (file pic)

Brave announces women's bout in Brazil



Manama

Brave Combat Federation has announced to feature women's strawweight bout in the eleventh edition of the event hosted in Brazil.

Luana Pinheiro will face Elaine Leal in the strawweight division. This also marks Pinheiro and Leal as the first women fighters signed from Brazil.

Luana Pinheiro is an MMA fighter out of Belo Horizonte, Brazil and has a record of five victories out of six

appearances.

While Elaine Leal is more experienced with nine professional bouts in her career and has won five fights.

Brazil has hosted three Brave events and is one of the destinations that closely follow the sport of Mixed Martial Arts.

The event marks the first time female fighters are included in a Brave card in Brazil.

Earlier in 2018, the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to promote and

bring forward female competitors in combat sports were appreciated by multiple international organisations.

In 2017, IMMAF World Championships, Bahrain's first female competitors Fatema Bureshaid and Hend Rezk competed against global competitors.

Bureshaid also became the first Bahraini female to be awarded an IMMAF medal and the first to wear a hijab in IMMAF competition.

Ronaldo scores 4 goals as Real beat Girona 6-3



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates

Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 50th career hat trick, then went on to add a fourth goal as Real Madrid beat Girona 6-3 in La Liga on Sunday. The Portugal star continued his remarkable scoring streak to take his league tally to 22 goals for the season in another commanding performance at the Bernabeu.

Girona caused them plenty of problems again with Cristhian Stuani scoring twice and Juanpe also on target.

But there was no stopping Ronaldo, who has now hit an incredible 17 goals in his last eight appearances in all competitions, while Lucas Vasquez and Gareth Bale also found the net for the hosts. Ronaldo started the season with just four goals through his first 14 La Liga games, but not has 18 in his last nine in the league. (PA Sport)



Suniel Shetty with Mohammed Mansoor and Aakash Chopra

Suniel Shetty praises local developmental model for sports

Manama

Indian film actor and entrepreneur praised the initiatives by the Kingdom of Bahrain to develop the sports and entertainment sector in the nation. Suniel Shetty is also the ambassador of Bahrain's flagship promotion, Brave Combat Federation.

The veteran actor was in Bahrain to witness the finals of the Bahrain Premier League which is the first franchise based T20 cricket organised in Bahrain.

The developmental model was praised for the global growth of mixed martial arts in which Bahrain is a global hub.

The latest initiative in cricket was praised for giving residents of Bahrain exposure to one of the most financially

sustainable sport in the world.

The growth of sports and cultural initiatives in the Kingdom of Bahrain is exemplary for the rest of the nations to emulate.

Kingdom of Bahrain is emerging with yet another sport after the global success of Mixed Martial Arts. It was within years that Bahrain became recognised for dominating the MMA world.

Now entering into the avenue of cricket is yet another major statement from Bahrain. The growth of sports will also develop media, technology, hospitality and tourism. The level of quality of media products evolving from Bahrain has improved and the trend is spreading across initiatives from MMA to rest of the sports.

Marlon Samuels of West Indies bats (Pic courtesy: espnricinfo)



Windies edge Zimbabwe

Harare

West Indies edged closer to a place in the 2019 World Cup when they defeated Zimbabwe by four wickets in the latest qualifying match yesterday.

Chasing 290 to win, the two-time champions reached their target with six balls to spare after surviving a worrying mid-innings collapse.

The West Indies lead the Super Sixes qualifying table with six points but will still need to avoid defeat against Scotland on Wednesday in their last Super Sixes match to be sure of a place in next year's finals.

Zimbabwe, on five points, can still make the 2019 finals by beating the UAE on Thursday

although the Scots, Ireland and Afghanistan all remain in contention for a spot in the showpiece in England and Wales.

Brendan Taylor top scored for Zimbabwe with 138 which included 20 boundaries and two sixes.

For the West Indies, Marlon Samuels smashed 86 off 80 balls with four sixes while Evin Lewis and Shai Hope also contributed half centuries. (AFP)

BRIEF SCORE

West Indies 290 for 6 (Samuels 86, Hope 76, Muzarabani 2-36) **beat Zimbabwe 289 all out** (Taylor 138, Mire 45, Holder 4-35, Roach 3-55) **by four wickets**

**DT News Network
Manama**

Number one seed Quirine Lemoine from the Netherlands and eighth seed Kanika Vaidya of India both barged into the second round of the Women's Singles Main Draw yesterday, as the Bahrain ITF Futures Tennis Tournament 2018 got underway at Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) in Juffair.

Meanwhile, the Czech pair of Ondrej Krstev and Patrik Rikl upset the top-seeded duo of Jelle Sels from the Netherlands and Fred Simonsson of Sweden in the Men's Doubles Draw. It was the first major stunner in the tournament, signifying the very high level of the players competing in the Kingdom of Bahrain this year.

Lemoine and Vaidya had contrasting victories in their first action on BTC's hardcourts.

Lemoine was playing her first match after six-and-a-half months of recovering from an injury, but she showed no rust as she cruised against Romania's Diana Maria Mihail in a fine 6-1, 6-0 win.

Vaidya, on the other hand, was made to sweat before defeating a battling Valeria Bhunu of Zimbabwe in three sets 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

"First match win! Great to be back!" said Lemoine, who has 15 ITF singles titles in her name, including a win in the Bahrain ITF Futures back in 2014.

Singapore-based Vaidya, who is in her first time in Bahrain, added: "It was a really good, marathon-like match. Valeria played really well. I knew stepping onto the court that it was going to be a grind and nothing was going to be easy. I'm just glad I got the win in the end. "There are a lot of good women out here and no match is an easy match. It's always nice to get that first win under your belt. I look forward to my remaining matches."

Lemoine, ranked 321st in the world, now moves on to face Sadafmoh Tolibova of Belarus in the next round. Tolibova was also a winner on Monday as she beat Hanna Grace Espinosa of the Philippines 6-1, 6-2 to march on.

Vaidya, ranked 741st in the world, will face the winner of the all-Indian first round match-up between Sowjanya Bavisetti and Teertha Iska.

In another Women's Singles encounter on Monday, Maria Toma of

Lemoine, Vaidya advance as Men's top seeds fall

(Left) Gerda Zykute (LTU) & Paulina Bakaite (LTU)



Kanika Vaidya (IND)

of Germany. Qaed, who was one of four local Wild Cards, was forced to end his fight while trailing 1-3 in the second set. Obert, ranked 840th in the world, had won the first set 6-0.

Antoine Walch of France also made it into the second round. The 1,144th-ranked player battled back from a set down and needed nearly

the maximum to defeat Moroccan qualifier Mohamed Adnaoui 6-7 (1), 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Obert and Walch are now in the men's second round, where their opponents are yet to be determined.

The Bahrain ITF Futures Tennis Tournament is being held under the patronage of 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. It is supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs and is sponsored by E K Kanoo and Bahrain Duty Free.

Romania beat Lithuanian Wild Card Paulina Bakaite 6-3, 6-2 to make it through to round two. In the Men's Singles Main Draw, Bahraini talent Yousef Qaed retired from his match against Adrian Obert

Full Results

Men's Singles:

Adrian Obert (GER) beat Yousef Qaed (BRN) 6-0, 3-1 Ret.
Antoine Walch (FRA) beat Mohamed Adnaoui (MAR) 6-7 (1), 7-6 (4), 6-2

Women's Singles:

Quirine Lemoine (NED)-1 beat Diana Maria Mihail (ROU) 6-1, 6-0
Sadafmoh Tolibova (BLR) beat Hanna Grace Espinosa (PHI) 6-1, 6-2
Maria Toma (ROU) beat Paulina Bakaite (LTU) 6-3, 6-2
Kanika Vaidya (IND)-8 beat Valeria Bhunu (ZIM) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4

Men's Doubles:

Ondrej Krstev (CZE)/Patrik Rikl (CZE) beat Jelle Sels (NED)/Fred Simonsson (SWE)-1 5-7, 6-4 [12-10]
Ronert Galloway (USA)/Anderson Reed (USA)-4 beat Palaphoom Novapitukted (THA)/Luka Ollert (GER) 2-6, 7-6 (5) [10-5]
Francis Casey Alcantara (PHI)/Pak Long Yeung (HKG)-3 beat Joe Cooper (GBR)/Michal Konecny (CZE) 6-4, 6-4
Niklas Johansson (SWE)/Tadeas Paroulek (CZE) beat Elyas Abdalnabi (BRN)/Hasan Abdalnabi (BRN) 6-2, 6-2
Claudio Fortuna (ITA)/Riccardo Maiga (SUI) beat Abdulrahman Janahi (BRN)/Janji Soquino (PHI) 6-2, 6-3
Vladyslav Orlov (UKR)/Vitaliy Sachko (UKR) beat Omar Alawadhi (UAE)/Yousef Qaed (BRN) 6-3, 6-2
Marek Gengel (CZE)/Dominik Kellovsky (CZE)-2 beat Skyler Butts (HKG)/Thomas Colautti (GBR) 6-4, 6-1

Women's Doubles:

Fatma Al Nabhani (OMA)/Marian Jade Capadocia (PHI) beat Nastja Kolar (SLO)/Alexandra Riley (USA)-3 6-3, 6-3
Diana Maria Mihail (ROU)/Barbora Miklova (CZE)-4 beat Sofija Sabljarevic/Teodora Sabljarevic 6-2, 6-2



Francis Casey Alcantara (PHI) & Pak Long Yeung (HKG)



Quirine Lemoine (NED)



Omar Alawadhi (UAE)

Terenzo Bozzone

Bozzone races into Ironman history

DT News Network
Manama

In an unparalleled display of endurance, grit, and sheer talent, Terenzo Bozzone took top honours at Ironman 70.3 Campeche to record his third consecutive win in as many weeks. This makes him the first athlete ever to win three races back-to-back.

The previous two weeks of racing did little to take the shine off his speed. The Kiwi started his streak at his home race, Ironman New Zealand, winning in course record time, then backing up to win at Ironman 70.3 Bariloche. Incredibly, Bozzone managed to go even faster in Mexico than he did in Argentina last week (3:49:40 in Campeche versus 3:59:57 in Bariloche).

Bozzone emerged out of the water 20 seconds behind the swim leader, but his strong bike legs took him to the front early and kept him

there. On the final third of the cycle course, he put on a surge his competitors could not respond to, taking him into the half marathon more than two minutes ahead of his nearest challenger, Michael Weiss. While Weiss was able to claw back a minute of that lead, Bozzone crossed the finish first with plenty of time to celebrate.

"Three's a charm!" said Bozzone. "So happy to finish off my racing block with a win today. Three races in three weeks -- done and dusted and now time to put the feet up."

Meanwhile, Ashleigh Gentle finished third in the Mixed Relay Invitational on the Gold Coast along with teammates Gillian Backhouse, Ryan Bailie, and Daniel Coleman. With the Commonwealth Games just around the corner next month, Gentle's preparation is on track for a bid at gold

medals in the individual and mixed relay triathlon events.

Ben Hoffman partnered up with Sebastian Kienle as the two-man team Ironman Foundation fielded to the famous Cape Epic mountain bike stage race in South Africa. With a full week of racing ahead of them, the two came in 32nd out of 574 male teams in the prologue and are expecting to race even better as the mountain bike rust comes off.

Looking ahead to the weekend, Brent McMahon will race the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Davao in the Philippines. He has been in Maui putting on the finishing touches to his speed, as the flat course is expected to yield fast times even in the tropical summer heat. "Almost all the work is done, a little more pain and heat tomorrow on the bike then it's onto the plane Tuesday.

BIC to host official pre-season tests



Action from the previous race

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is all set to host official pre-season testing over three days for the FIA Formula 2 Championship.

The tests are part of the series' preparations for the start of the 2018 season. They are scheduled to be held from Wednesday to Friday, all day, at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" in Sakhir.

The Bahrain sessions are the second official pre-season tests of Formula 2. The first was in Le Castellet, France at Circuit Paul Ricard earlier this month.

All 10 Formula 2 teams are scheduled to be taking part in Bahrain. Testing will be done in the brand new Formula 2 2018 chassis. Earlier, an initial shakedown took place at Circuit de Nevers Magny-Cours, also in France.

The new Formula 2 season will be flagging off in the kingdom, in support of the Formula 1 2018 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix from April 6 to 8.

Formula 2 is widely accepted

to be the chief feeder series to Formula 1, with many of its graduates moving on to the pinnacle of motor racing after honing their skills at this level.

There will be two races at the Bahrain Grand Prix weekend, including a feature race on the Saturday followed by a sprint race on the Sunday of the event.

The new campaign is set to feature 12 rounds in all, with each meeting running in conjunction with a Formula 1 Grand Prix.

There will be 20 cars on the grid representing 10 teams, including ART Grand Prix, Russian Time, Pertamina Prema Theodore Racing, DAMS, MP Motorsport, Trident, BWT Arden, Campos Vexatec Racing, Carlin and Charouz Racing System.

Last year's drivers' champion, Monegasque Charles Leclerc, has since joined Formula 1 team Sauber. Having won with Prema Racing, he continues the tradition of successful Formula 2 drivers moving up to the top of the motorsport ladder. For further information, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

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In a tightly fought contest between the top two teams, Kerri Darwish and Mohammed Gaith narrowly overcame Lyn Barrie and Arsalan Iqbal to claim the gold medals and the "BTA Torch" perpetual trophy with a 10-8, 7-10, 10-6 victory in the tenth edition of the BTA Social Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament at the Dilmun Club, Saar.

In the play-off for third-place, Sally Meikle and Samir Chiban defeated Minette Thompson and Rob Thompson to claim the bronze medals.

The one-day event, which specifically targets new and recreational players, was played with a slightly slower ball to give players more time to react.



Mixed Doubles participants

In the preliminary rounds, teams competed in short matches against all other teams.

At the end of the group stage the top four teams progressed to the semi-finals.

For more information, visit dan@bahraintennisacademy.com.

Dovizioso beats Marquez in thrilling desert duel

Doha

MotoGP burst back into life in spectacular fashion as Andrea Dovizioso beat Marc Marquez in a thrilling duel in the season-opener in Qatar Sunday.

Ducati's Dovizioso held off Repsol Honda's Marquez on an intense final lap to win by just 0.027 seconds for the first blow in the fight for the title.

Dovizioso gave no quarter as four-time MotoGP champion Marquez attempted a typically audacious last corner pass.

As his pit crew watched through their fingers the Italian resisted the Spaniard's robust challenge, powering across the line to delirious celebrations in the Ducati garage.

Veteran factory Yamaha rider Valentino Rossi finished in an impressive third place under the dark desert sky, ahead of Briton Cal Crutchlow's LCR Honda. Frenchman Johann Zarco led early on, having taken pole position with a swashbuckling qualifying lap that smashed the desert track's record -- the longest standing on the MotoGP calendar. (CNN)



Italian MotoGP rider Andrea Dovizioso (L) of Ducati and the third place Italian MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi (C) of Movistar Yamaha celebrate on the podium (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

British School crowned champions



One of the swimming races in progress



Action from the football tournament



Football champions the British School



DT News Network Manama

The British School was crowned champions of the primary girls football championship, part of the ongoing Fifth School Mini Olympics.

An all-round solid performance saw the British School team overcome all their opponents in this single round robin competition to secure the competition's gold.

The school team recorded resounding victories over Hawar School (7-0), Al Naseem (5-1), Indian School (5-0) and Al Hekma (5-0) to finish the tournament with an 100 per cent win record.

These results gave the British School

the full mark with 12 points. Al Hekma School (9 points) were second, followed by Al Naseem (4) who took the bronze. The Indian School and Hawar were the other teams in the fray.

Bahrain Football Association's women's committee chairwoman Shaikha Hessa bint Khalid Al Khalifa, along with BOC general secretary office director Mai Al Binkhalil, technical committee head Lounes Madene and technical committee deputy head Fadi Humaidan, awarded the top three teams after the event.

The British School also had a remarkable day at swimming, taking 14 medals in total (1 gold, 7 silver, 6 bronze) at the Bahrain Swimming

Association pool in Isa Town.

In the intermediate stage, Nasser Al Quti of Ibn Khuldoon School was outstanding, taking home three gold medals in the 25m breaststroke (19.67 seconds), 25m backstroke (18.51) and 50m freestyle (32.91).

Other races saw Fares Saleh of St. Christopher's School claim the 25m freestyle gold (14.90 seconds), the 25m butterfly race was won by Salman Habib (16.09) of Al Manar, while the British School took the 4x25m freestyle gold in 1 minute and 11.72 seconds.

In the intermediate stage, Ali Al Alawi of Sacred Heart School was dominant after winning three gold medals in the 25m freestyle (12.41),

50m freestyle (26.95), 25m butterfly (13.25).

The remaining races saw Sean Dean of New Millennium, (15.50) grabs the 25m backstroke gold, Rushton Diqby (16.33) of St. Christopher's School topped the 25m breaststroke race, while St Christopher's School raced to victory in the 4x25m race in 53.55 seconds.

The Mini Olympics is brought up for the fifth successive year by the Bahrain Olympic Committee in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, with over 3,500 students from 58 government and private schools competing in a record 20 sports this year.

