

DT NEWS

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7 killed in bomb attack in Yemen

Aden
Seven people were killed in Yemen's port city of Aden yesterday when a car bomb ripped through a military kitchen used by Yemeni forces trained and backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), medics said.

One of the dead was a young boy walking in the street at the time of the blast, they said. Fifteen people were wounded.

Witnesses said the blast was caused by a car laden with explosives, apparently driven by a suicide bomber towards the kitchen in al-Derain area in northern Aden. The force of the blast damaged stores and cars nearby. - Reuters

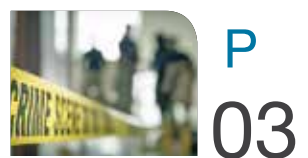
Tweet of the Day



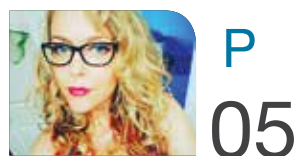
Thank you Rex Tillerson for all the good work we have achieved together over the last year. The UK/US relationship continues to be steadfast and valuable at all levels.

@BorisJohnson

Today's Weather		
	Max	Min
	30°C	19°C



Criminals luring residents to death-trap a hoax: Ministry



Woman killed in road accident

Palestinian PM survives assassination bid

Gaza

Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah survived an assassination attempt in Gaza yesterday, the Palestinian Authority said after an apparent roadside bomb targeted his motorcade.

The attack on the leader, who is spearheading the Authority's reconciliation efforts with Gaza's dominant group, Hamas, took place as the White House prepared to hold a meeting on the humanitarian situation in the enclave.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for



Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah waves as he arrives in Gaza after he survived an assassination attempt yesterday. Reuters/Mohamad Torokman

what one Palestinian Authority security official in Gaza said was a roadside bomb. A second device failed to explode, the

official said.

Six security guards had been wounded, Hamdallah said shortly after the attack.

Hamas, which condemned the attack, and the Authority said they viewed the incident as an attempt to prevent implementation of a unity agreement signed in October that has raised hopes of improving economic conditions in the territory of two million people.

Minutes after the explosion, the 59-year-old prime minister, apparently unharmed, delivered a speech at the inauguration of an internationally-funded wastewater treatment plant and pledged to continue to pursue Palestinian unity.

He said three vehicles had been damaged in the explosion, which blew out the windows of one of them.

The explosion sent debris hurtling dozens of metres (yards) away and left a crater by the roadside.

The Authority said it held Hamas responsible for the attack near the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, stopping short of directly accusing the group of carrying out the assault, but suggesting it had failed to provide adequate security. - Reuters

Kingdom off EU safe haven list

DT News Network
Manama

The European Union yesterday decided to remove Bahrain from its tax haven list.

The decision to remove from EU's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions in taxation matters was taken during a meeting of the EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin) in Brussels.

Rana E. Faqih, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Revenue Development at the Ministry of Finance, viewed the move as a testimony to the regulatory system of the financial and banking sector in the Kingdom and its adherence to best international practices.

She also noted that the removal is a culmination of a series of measures taken by Bahrain with a vision of enhancing transparency with regard to taxation issues. This includes, inter alia, joining the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, and the OECD's Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

Further, Bahrain also signed

the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MAC), and the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (MCAA). Both documents which are currently being ratified in line with Bahrain's constitution. They complement a robust tax treaty network, which includes more than 50 signed instruments on the exchange of tax information.

Faqih said that Bahrain is proud to maintain a financial regulatory infrastructure which is globally recognised for its strength and efficiency, and will continue to work with the EU and other relevant regional and international bodies to combat all forms of tax evasion.

Concerns addressed

The EU also removed, the Marshall Islands and Saint Lucia from the tax haven list. Since the list was first published on December 5, 2017, Bahrain, the Marshall Islands and Saint Lucia have made commitments at a high political level to remedy EU concerns.

"In light of an expert assessment of those commitments, it was decided to move the three jurisdictions," said the ministers in a statement.

They, however, added Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the US Virgin Islands to the list. The EU's list is intended to promote good governance in taxation worldwide, maximising efforts to prevent tax avoidance, tax fraud and tax evasion.

"I am glad to see more jurisdictions that we listed in December committing themselves to reforming their tax policies in a manner that will remedy our concerns," said Vladislav Goranov, minister for finance of Bulgaria, which currently holds EU presidency, in a statement.

"We call on all jurisdictions on the list to do likewise, and on all those that have already made commitments to implement them in a timely manner. Our aim is to achieve optimal tax transparency worldwide", he added.

Nine of the original 17 jurisdictions remain on the EU list: American Samoa, Bahamas, Guam, Namibia, Palau, Samoa, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and the US Virgin Islands.

Trump fires Tillerson



Tillerson

Washington

President Donald Trump fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson yesterday and said he would nominate CIA Director Mike Pompeo to replace him, ending Tillerson's difficult tenure by tweeting an ouster that had been long expected and yet was shocking in its abruptness. "We disagreed on things," Trump said moments later, a diplomatic version of a difficult relationship with his top diplomat that included reports that Tillerson had called the president a moron in meetings with other officials.

Speculation that Tillerson would be fired grew last fall, and the secretary of state never personally denied their accuracy. Trump chose the CIA's deputy director, Gina Haspel, to replace Pompeo at the CIA. She is a CIA clandestine officer backed by many in the U.S. intelligence but regarded warily by some in Congress for her involvement in the agency's "black site" detention facilities. -Reuters

BIC all set for Race Day thrills

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is set to host an extra-special round of National Race Day this weekend.

The two-day event is set to feature four highly competitive series, headlined by the regionally renowned Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East.

Racing will also be held in the BIC 2,000cc Challenge, the Bahrain Motorcycle Racing (BMR) 600 and the Bahrain Super Sport Championship

(BSSP) 125.

The Porsche GT3 Cup is the biggest and most popular one-make motor racing championship in the region. It will be holding the penultimate round of its 2017/2018 season at National Race Day.

The battle for points is set to intensify over the weekend as the race to the title nears its climax. Briton Tom Oliphant is currently the championship leader with 192 points from the first eight races of the season. Al Faisal Al Zubair of Oman follows with 173

points, while Charlie Frijns of the Netherlands is third with 152 points.

All three will be lining up on the grid at BIC as part of an impressive 18-car grid. Others set to compete include His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, both of whom will be representing Team Bahrain.

Two GT3 Cup races are scheduled to take place over the weekend, with one race on each day. However, for

the three other series, all the action will be held on Friday.

All the action will be held along BIC's 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix track.

Racing on day one flags off at 11am with a practice for the GT3 Cup. BSSP practice follows at 12.30pm, while BMR practice is at 1.05pm and 2,000cc Practice is at 1.40pm.

Qualifying for the GT3 Cup then takes place at 2.20pm, for BSSP at 3pm, for BMR at 3.25pm, and for the 2,000cc at 3.50pm.

The first 12-lap race of the GT3 Cup is then scheduled to get underway at 5.02pm. The BSSP's lone race of the weekend follows at 5.42pm.

Race one in BMR will then flag off at 6.10pm and conclude 11 laps later. It will be followed by the first 12-lap sprint for the 2,000cc runners at 6.50pm. BMR's second race is then set for a 7.36pm start, followed by the second 2,000cc race at 8.08pm.

The podium ceremony will cap the day's events at around

8.45pm.

On Saturday, the GT3 Cup practice kicks things off at 11am, followed at 1pm by qualifying. The lone race of the day and the GT3 Cup's second of the weekend takes place at 3.45pm. The podium ceremony is then scheduled to be held at 4.23pm.

All are welcome to attend the weekend's events at BIC. Tickets cost BD2 for adults and BD1 for children on each day. They can be purchased at the gate.

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Criminals luring residents to death-trap a hoax: Ministry

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

Claims that criminals and rapists are employing children to lure gullible residents to death-trap are a hoax, the authorities informed yesterday.

Rumours are rife that an underworld gang is instructing children to appear lost and ask for help. When the victims oblige, the children direct them to a premise where their homes are purportedly located. When victims reach the spot the masterminds trap them and are either killed or are raped.

A voice message is circulating online purportedly issued by the Ministry of Interior as a warning to the public. However, Bahraini authorities have denied such rumours. A spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior said that no such circular was issued by the Ministry. No such incidents were also reported in Bahrain.

In the audio message, the woman talks about how she received a notice in Arabic, which she assumed is from the Ministry of Interior. The translated message upon the request of some of her friends is as follows. "It is an urgent notice from the Ministry of Interior and all the police stations in

Bahrain to all citizens of Bahrain. If you see any children on the road as a lost, holding their address and asking to take them in your personal car to their home which is the address mentioned in the paper they have, please do not do so because those children are part of a setup. The place where you have been asked to take them will be a trap. At the location there will be people waiting for you, you can get killed, your organs can be stolen or you can be raped. Police are asking people not to go anywhere with those children. Or you can take the children to the police station. I think this is a new scam we have here in Bahrain," the woman said in the audio message.

DTNews learnt that the origin of the hoax dates back to 2005, it is not clear which country it originated but similar messages have been doing the rounds in different countries. Each time the hoax message is targeted to a country, the message names the police authority of the country that it is targeting as the author of the circular. Last month, a post claiming that South African police issued a public circular with a similar warning. However, South African police confirmed the message as a hoax.

Here's why you should be at Adhari Park on April 13, 2018



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Towards a Healthy Governorate

Health Cities project



DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

'Health Cities' project envisaged by the Capital Governorate will help Bahrain achieve the highest health standards set by the World Health Organisation, said Governor of the Capital Governorate, Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa.

Speaking during a meeting with Arab Gulf University officials, Shaikh Hisham said

that the Governorate and the Ministry of Health have gone a long way in creating the suitable atmosphere for the implementation of this initiative since its launch last year.

The project, Shaikh Hisham said, will transform the governorate into a 'Health Governorate' by protecting people health through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and prevention of diseases.

The meeting was held in the presence of Dr Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al-Ohali, Chairman of the Arab Gulf University discussed means of cooperation with AGU for implementing the project.

Shaikh Hisham told the meeting that the project will become a model to emulate for other governorates in the Kingdom.

In his response, Dr Al-Ohali told Shaikh Hisham that

Dr Al-Ohali said that experts at the Arab Gulf University "are doubtlessly prepared to make this project succeed"

the university has a team of academic experts in the field of medicine and public health who have been selected by the WHO to hold several advisory positions on various projects.

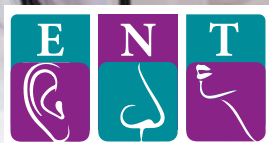
They are doubtlessly prepared to make this project succeed."

Dr Al-Ohali also told the meeting that the university is in plans to introduce unique and rare programmes that meet the

strategic and future needs of the Arab Gulf society, which includes a PhD in Molecular Medicine and a Masters in Personalised Medicine.

He added: "The latter seeks to promote a new trend in medicine based on designing treatments and preventive programs for each case based on its genetic and environmental characteristics, to ensure the highest rates of health and well-being."

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Princess Sabeeka award participation announced



The announcement was made on the sidelines of the 62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

New York

Participation in the Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women Empowerment has been officially announced.

The announcement was made on the sidelines of the 62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in the presence of Secretary General

of the Supreme Council for Women, Hala Al Ansari, UN-Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and high-level representatives of international women institutions and organisations.

Al Ansari, in her speech, welcomed the adoption of the award that carries the name of HRH Princess Sabeeka

bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa highlighting the international organisation's commitment to women's right to equality and non-discrimination.

Mlambo-Ngcuka invited government and private institutions, NGOs and individual initiatives to take part in the award for which the total prizes amount to \$400,000.

BAC takes part in Air Cargo India

Mumbai

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), highlighted Bahrain's cargo infrastructure in Air Cargo India 2018, a biennial international networking conference and exhibition, which took place in Mumbai.

Several airlines, airport authorities, freight forwarders, and air cargo industry entities

attended the event, now in its 7th edition, where they discussed the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities.

BAC Chief Commercial Officer, Ayman Zainal said: "BAC's participation in Air Cargo India 2018 is part of an overall strategy aiming to increase BIA's cargo traffic, which experienced a 10% growth last year, reaching a total of 289,325 tonnes compared to the 263,956

tonnes handled in 2016."

He added: "The Airport Modernisation Programme (AMP) currently underway at the airport is one of the largest infrastructural projects of its kind in the Kingdom. It will further increase the capacities of BIA's facilities, making it capable of serving very high volumes relative to its size, and preparing it for the anticipated growth in travel and cargo in the future."

Faulty parking metres put motorists in a spot

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN reporter@dt.bh

Manama

Parking meters installed on a number of streets in the Capital area have become non-functional, forcing motorists to cough up hefty fines.

“Parking meters are non-functional and for no reason we are being ticketed for it. We insert the money but still get ticketed. This is really upsetting. We are paying hefty fines for no fault of ours,” said an irate motorist who recently paid fine in spite of inserting the required fees.

“Parking meters at the Yateem Center area, near the Zamil Tower and near Bab Al Bahrain aren’t working for the past three to four days. These are some of the busiest areas. With parking meters not working motorists are slapped hefty fines, which is not acceptable. Furthermore, the three parking meter machines near the Zamil Tower are always out of order. I request the authorities to take immediate action to ease our trouble,” said another motorist.

Free parking

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs & Urban Planning issued a statement yesterday saying that it would provide free parking in areas close to residences.

“Parking meters have been installed on a number of commercial roads, upon a decree issued by the Supreme Council for Traffic. The Ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and Municipal Councils,



restricts the number of houses overlooking commercial roads in order to provide parking licenses in a number of parking areas for free,” it said.

“The Ministry has installed

the parking meters to limit the wrong use of parking spaces by a certain group all day long, increase the capacity of parking spaces and organize parking on roads. Following the allocation of parking spaces along a number of commercial roads near residential areas, lack of parking and double parking has ceased to exist,” it said.

“Due to the growing urban development Bahrain is witnessing, the population has risen tremendously. As a result, the number of registered vehicles has also increased and so has the demand for parking spaces. The Ministry has conducted surveys and traffic studies; taking into account municipal councils’ demands for parking spaces in all Governorates, close to mosques, Ma’atams, and schools. Parking spaces are constructed on the sides of the roads or as part of government lands’ courtyards dedicated for this purpose. The Ministry also takes ownership of some lands as per the need to expand the road and construct parking spaces, in coordination with services directorates and the concerned parties,” the Ministry added.



Non-functional parking metres are forcing motorists to cough up hefty fine

Expat woman killed in road accident



Camille Jones Parsons
Harpreet Kaur/DTNN reporter@dt.bh

Manama

A 43-year-old expatriate woman was killed in a car accident yesterday.

The deceased in the accident has been identified as Camille Jones Parsons, a Canadian who formerly worked for a media firm in the Kingdom.

The incident took place early yesterday morning on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Highway heading towards Hamad Town.

“The woman was driving a Toyota Yaris, on the right-hand lane. Due to some reason, she got out of her car. During that time a speeding car, Toyota R-4 which was being driven by an Arab man, hit the woman. She was killed on the spot instantly,” said an onlooker.

Ministry of Interior further confirmed the incident on their twitter handle stating,



The car driven by the Arab



The car driven by Camille

The incident took place early yesterday morning on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Highway heading towards Hamad Town

“Death of a woman, 43, in a traffic accident on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman highway towards Hamad Town near Al Qadam area. Necessary steps are being taken. “

Car catches fire, none hurt

DT News Network reporter@dt.bh

Manama

A car caught fire yesterday near AMA University in Salmabad.

The incident occurred around 3:30 pm. The driver of the car escaped unhurt. The fire was later extinguished by Civil Defense authorities.

The cause of the fire is unknown and no casualties were reported.



The car which caught fire

Cold War-era nerve agent benzilate

Known as BZ, QNB or Agent 15, the Cold War-era nerve agent benzilate blocks chemical signals throughout the central nervous system -- the brain and spinal cord -- and peripheral nervous system to the rest of the body.

In 1952, chemists at Swiss pharmaceutical company Hoffman-La Roche created a drug to treat stomach ulcers, 3-quinuclidinyl benzilate. While the drug was successful in treating ulcers, it had a side-effect -- it caused hallucinations.

However, the colourless liquid with a slightly fruity odour caught the attention of scientists working at the U.S. Army Chemical Centre on a project to develop potential "incapacitating agents."

After five years, researchers had concluded that LSD and marijuana were too unpredictable to be useful as hallucinogenic weapons. Systematic testing of 3-quinuclidinyl benzilate -- now called benzilate, BZ or Buzz -- began in July 1960.

Army psychiatrist James Ketchum, who worked on the programme from 1960 to 1969, describes the development of BZ in his memoir "Chemical Warfare: Secrets Almost Forgotten."

By March 1963, more than 300 healthy enlisted men had volunteered for periods of experimentation at Edgewood Arsenal, northeast of Baltimore, Maryland. There, army doctors administered BZ orally, injected into veins and muscles, absorbed through inhalation and skin contact.

Studies of the pharmacology of BZ con-

firmed its potency. A dose of 5 or 6 micrograms per kilogram of body weight of BZ triggered hallucinations. The equivalent to a barely visible grain of sand rendered a soldier incapable of functioning for two to four days. The lethal dose was estimated to be 40-times this incapacitating dose.

BZ is absorbed through the lungs and rapidly crosses the blood-brain barrier. Once in the brain, BZ molecules seek out receptors for acetylcholine and serotonin molecules, the neurotransmitters that trigger physical and mental activity.

Usually, an enzyme breaks the transmitter down to free up the receptor site to prevent over-stimulation. Now blocked by the more potent BZ, the receptors continually fire off impulses. Blocked serotonin receptors lead to sensory overload and hallucinations while blocked acetylcholine receptors over-stimulate muscles to spasm, causing rapid loss of control of vital functions such as heart and respiration.

Bosnian Serbs possibly used BZ shells against an exodus of over 12,000 people from the enclave of Srebrenica in July 1995. Two thirds were captured or killed, and many of the survivors experienced hallucinations.

In December 2012 reports emerged from the city of Homs, in Syria, that government forces had used "Agent-15", a BZ-type nerve agent that poisoned scores of people and caused hallucinations and behavioural changes.

The United States destroyed its stockpile of BZ cluster bombs in the late 1980s.

Exposure: Symptoms appear after 30 minutes -- peak effects occurring within eight hours

Dryness: Decreased glandular secretions in oral pharynx and sweat glands

Hyperthermia: Decreased sweating causes body temperature to rise

Pulmonary aspiration: Stomach contents can enter trachea and lungs, causing asphyxiation

Mydriasis: Blurred vision due to pupillary dilation

Brain: Nerve agent crosses blood-brain barrier, blocking serotonin 5-HT receptors. This leads to sensory overload, vivid hallucinations and delirium. Victim can become comatose

Heart: Buildup of neurotransmitter, acetylcholine, causes constant contraction of muscles, failure of respiratory system and death

Gastrointestinal tract: Spasms, secretions from stomach, pancreas, and gallbladder decrease. Nausea and vomiting occur

Incontinence: Victim urinates and loses control of bowel

Sources: Toxicology Data Network, Chemical Warfare by James Ketchum MD © GRAPHIC NEWS

Russia demands nerve agent sample from UK

Russia will not co-operate with the UK inquiry into how an ex-spy and his daughter were poisoned until it has been given a sample of the substance used, its foreign minister has said.

Sergei Lavrov's comments came as police appealed for witnesses who had seen the pair's

red BMW car before the attack.

UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson hailed support from other countries.

US President Donald Trump has said he would take Britain's assessment that Russia was behind the attack "as fact". (BBC)



London

Britain gave President Vladimir Putin until midnight yesterday to explain how a nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union was used to strike down a former Russian double agent who passed secrets to British intelligence.

Sergei Skripal, 66, and his daughter Yulia, 33, have been in hospital in a critical condition since March 4 when they were found unconscious on a bench outside a shopping centre in the English cathedral city of Salisbury.

Prime Minister Theresa May said it was "highly likely" that Russia was to blame after Britain identified the substance as part of the highly-lethal Novichok group of nerve agents developed by the Soviet military in the 1970s and 1980s.

"Either this was a direct act by the Russian state against our country," May told parliament on Monday. "Or the Russian government lost control of this potentially catastrophically damaging nerve agent and allowed it to get into the hands of others."

Russia holds a presidential election on March 18 in which Putin is expected to coast to a fourth term in the Kremlin. It has denied any role in the poisoning and says Britain is whipping up anti-Russian hysteria.

Russian ambassador Alexander Yakovenko, summoned to the Foreign Office, was given until the end of Tuesday to explain what happened or face what May said were "much more extensive" measures against the \$1.5 trillion Russian economy.

If no satisfactory Russian response is received by midnight London time then May will outline Britain's response in parliament.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said that the

British response would be "commensurate but robust".

U.S. President Donald Trump, who on Tuesday ousted Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State, said that it sounded as if Russia was to blame. Trump said he would take the British conclusions about Russia's involvement as fact.

Russia has requested access to the nerve agent used against Skripal but Britain has rejected this, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. Britain's ambassador to Russia met Lavrov's deputy in Moscow on Tuesday, an embassy spokesman said.

JOINT WESTERN RESPONSE

Britain could call on allies for a coordinated Western response, freeze the assets of Russian business leaders and officials, expel diplomats, launch targeted cyber attacks and cut back participation in events such as the soccer World Cup.

While trade figures show that Russia accounts for less than 1 percent of British imports, London is of major importance for Russian companies seeking to raise capital and is the Western capital of choice for many Russian business leaders.

The European Union said that the attempted murder of Skripal was "shocking" and that it was ready to support Britain if asked to do so. France and Germany condemned the attack and offered support to Britain.

"We stand with the UK in pursuit of justice in this case and are ready to offer support if necessary," a spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said.

Huge amounts of Russian money have poured into the British capital since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, causing some to refer to it as "Londongrad".

James Sherr, a Russia expert at the Chatham House think-tank, told Reuters Britain could hurt Putin and his allies by denying them access to the City of London's financial services.

"They have milked and taken for granted its services as a hub for their global dealings and investments. They have been accustomed for a long time to regard this country as their playground and we have the means to change that," he said. "This regime in Russia is founded on a tight and unprincipled merger at all levels between power and money: if you attack the money, you are also attacking the regime's power."

The EU has travel restrictions and asset freezes against 150 people and 38 companies, a response to Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. EU nationals and companies are also banned from buying or selling new bonds or equity in some state-owned Russian banks and major Russian energy companies.

NERVE AGENT

May said Russia had shown a pattern of aggression including the annexation of Crimea and the murder of former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko, who died in 2006 after drinking green tea laced with radioactive polonium-210.

A public inquiry found the killing of Litvinenko had probably been approved by Putin and carried out by two Russians, one of them a former KGB bodyguard who became a member of the Russian parliament. Both denied responsibility, as did Moscow.

British Home Secretary Amber Rudd said police and the MI5 spy agency would look into allegations of Russian state involvement in 14 other deaths in Britain in recent years. (Reuters)

Bahrain offers high career prospects for expatriate women

DT News Network news@dt.bh

Bahrain is one of the countries with high career prospects for expatriate women, according to a study.

A study by Internations found Bahrain as one of the top countries in the world in terms of career prospects for women. Their recent survey ranked Bahrain fourth globally, below Mexico which topped the list and Myanmar which was second. Cambodia, New

Zealand, Kazakhstan, the UK, the US, Kenya and Ireland made the remaining of the top 10 list. In the GCC, Bahrain came first, followed by Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman. 7,000 female expats living in 168 countries were interviewed as part of the study.

Sixty-five per cent of those interviewed in Bahrain reported satisfaction with career prospects, 14pc higher than the global average. They reported a weekly full-time

working hour of 40.9 hours. 65pc said that they receive a higher salary in Bahrain when compared to their home country.

“Among the top 10 destinations for expat women’s career prospects, Bahrain features the highest share of women working full time (93pc). However, with 40.9 hours a week, they also work significantly less than the global average of 42.7 hours,” the Internations report stated.

Seventy-seven pc of expat women working in Bahrain are happy with their work-life balance. “You can still find the time to relax after a day at work,” an expat from the Philippines states.

“Nearly two-thirds (65pc) think they now make more than in a similar position in their home country — an impressive number, though still somewhat lower than among the male expats working in Bahrain (74pc)”, the report stated.

Genomics conference in Bahrain

Manama

Princess Al Jawhara Centre for Molecular Medicine and Hereditary Disorders said it is organising a conference on genetics, epigenetics and genomics from March 17 to 18.

Speakers from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Jordan, USA, New Zealand, Canada and Japan will participate.

Chief Executive Director of Al Jawhara Centre, Dr Moiz Bakhiet, who chairs the conference, affirmed that the event will provide a platform for clinicians to get acquainted with medical genetics, genomes and genomics in order to access advanced care based on patients’ genome structures.

Head of the Scientific and Preparatory Committee, Molecular Genetics Specialist at Al Jawhara Centre, Dr Ghada Al-Kafaji, the deputy head of the conference, said the conference

would present papers and conduct panel discussions on the recent developments in genomics and genome patterns among Arabs.

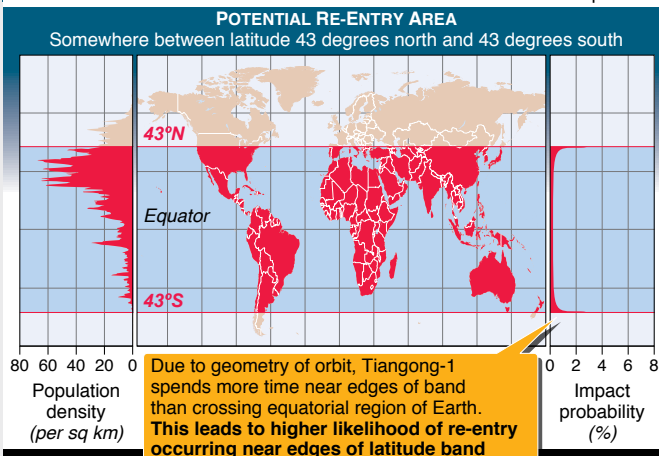
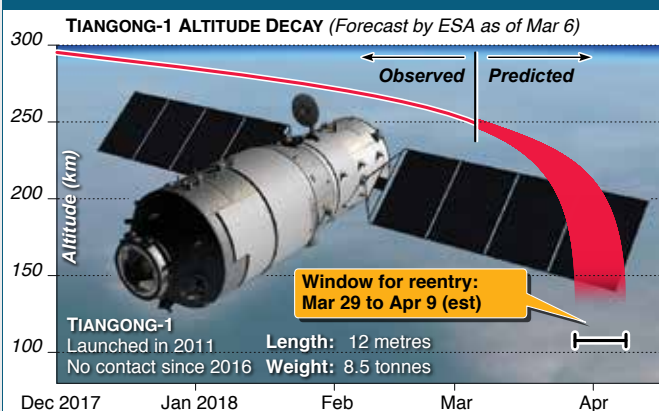
“The event aims to advance knowledge and to review innovations and developments in human genetics and clinical research ethics, as well as a summary of regional expertise on neonatal screening,” she added.

The conference will shed light on “epigenetics” and its role in the interaction between genes and diet in the development of chronic diseases, for the first time in the Arab world. This new and exciting science has never been presented at Arab conferences. Furthermore, the conference brings together medical and molecular genetics scientists and doctors, researchers and other health professionals and companies interested in this science, to interact and build productive professional relationships.

China’s Tiangong-1 space station to crash to Earth

China’s Tiangong-1 space station will come crashing back to Earth between March and April. While it is impossible to plot exactly where the 8.5-tonne module will hit, the chance of debris hitting anyone is tiny. Any debris could, however, be contaminated with remaining toxic and carcinogenic hydrazine rocket fuel.

In 2011, the Tiangong-1, or Heavenly Palace, China’s first space station, was launched, serving as both a manned laboratory and an experimental testbed to demonstrate orbital rendezvous and docking capabilities. Four years later, Beijing admitted it would not be able to perform a re-entry due to having lost control of the module.



Debris could be contaminated with toxic hydrazine rocket fuel
Source: European Space Agency (ESA) Picture: CNSA © GRAPHIC NEWS

Likwid & Friends are set to perform

Manama

One of Bahrain’s biggest bands is set to perform this coming weekend as part of the 13th edition of the annual Spring of Culture. Likwid will headline the festival’s mainstage at Bahrain Bay on 17th March at 8:30 pm.

The performance will feature other Bahraini artists who have made a name for themselves as their special guests, making “Likwid & Friends” a special evening not to be missed.

A unique and popular alternative/pop-rock bands in Bahrain’s music scene, the band earned a reputation

of supreme musicianship on stage and selling-out the hottest local venues.

On a regional level, Likwid shared the main stage with Bahraini singer songwriter Ala Ghawas and Saxophonist Abdulla Haji at the 8th edition of the Cairo Jazz Festival in October 2016, and recently took part at Saudi Arabia’s first edition of “Groovz Jazz Festival” in Riyadh.

Likwid was formed when bassist and vocalist Ahmed AlQasim, Guitarist Ahmed Abdulaziz, and drummer Abdulrahman Malallah met pianist Khalid Al Shamlan in 2004 and formed

Latin jazz band, La Movida, which went on to perform for 10 years before rebranding to a modern alternative band as Likwid in 2014.

It is very rare to see the influences of Bob Marley, The Police, Santana, Pink Floyd, and Steely Dan sparking out of one band. That’s what Likwid is all about: a captivating & entertaining band that doesn’t believe in genres, just good music. The band released their debut album in 2016.

This event is organized by Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB). Entry to this event is free of charge.



Likwid will headline the festival’s mainstage at Bahrain Bay on 17th March at 8:30 pm.

Tamkeen, Ahli United sign BD40m deal to support biz

Manama

Tamkeen and Ahli United Bank have signed a BD 40 million portfolio to provide subsidised financing to eligible medium and large-sized enterprises in Bahrain.

The agreement was signed by Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, and Adel A. El-Labban, Group Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Ahli United Bank.

The financing subsidy is funded by Tamkeen under its "Tamweel+" initiative, which offers Sharia-compliant financing with lower rates and flexible tenors for qualifying projects undertaken by medium and large-sized enterprises established in Bahrain.

Under the terms of the agreement, Tamkeen will reimburse 70 per cent of the annual nominal profit rate to enrolled firms, while AUB's Al Hilal Islamic Banking Services will allocate and manage a portfolio of BD 40 million under this scheme and undertakes to process and evaluate all applications as per "Tamweel+" and AUB's financing criteria.

Eligible enterprises can apply for BD1 million to BD2.5 million in financing for their expansion projects, with repayment tenors



Eligible enterprises can apply for BD1 million to BD2.5 million in financing for their expansion project

extending up to 10 years and grace periods of up to 2 years as agreed with the Bank. The financing can be used to establish new projects or expand existing businesses to facilitate entering into new

markets locally and regionally. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi Chief Executive of Tamkeen said: "We are delighted to have AUB join our

"Tamweel+" scheme, and we look forward to a long term partnership with this major financial institution with a solid track record in contributing to the growth of Bahrain's businesses and

economy. AUB's substantial involvement through this BD 40 million portfolio for Bahraini enterprises will significantly broaden its reach to target businesses". Dr Janahi added: "We

The financing subsidy under "Tamweel+" initiative offers Sharia-compliant financing with lower rates and flexible tenors for qualifying projects

have developed "Tamweel+" scheme as an initiative to enhance the capabilities of Bahraini enterprises and support their expansion and diversification to contribute to the national economy and prosperity in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030."

For his part, Adel El-Labban, AUB's Group CEO & Managing Director, commented: ". At AUB, we believe that the contribution of the private sector is critical to sustainable economic development, and we look forward to working closely with Tamkeen through the "Tamweel+" program to support the growth of this sector and to strengthen the resilience and job creation potential of the Bahraini economy".

KHCB holds Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary General meetings

Manama

Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB) held its Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings yesterday, chaired by Abdulkarim Ahmed Bucheery, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.

During the ordinary meeting, financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2017 were approved, after which the Board of Directors' recommendation to deduct 10% of the net profit for the statutory reserve amounted to BD 196,862, and the transfer of BD 1,330,201 to retained earnings was ratified.

Furthermore, the Corporate Governance report regarding the bank's compliance with the Central Bank of Bahrain's



During the ordinary meeting, financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2017 were approved (CBB) requirements was approved.

The meeting also witnessed the reappointment of the members of the Shari'a

Supervisory Board for the three upcoming years and the Auditors for the financial year 2018, after obtaining the CBB's approval.

Thereafter, the Extraordinary General Meeting was convened, where it was approved the amendment of the Articles of Association of

the Bank to comply with the requirements of Law No. (1) of 2018 amending certain provisions of the Bahrain Commercial Companies Law

promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 2001, after obtaining the official approvals.

Abdulkarim Ahmed Bucheery, Vice Chairman of the Board commented: "Our commitment to excellence in customer service and innovation has been a driving force for the bank's positive performance in 2017."

On his part, Tawfeeq Mohamed Bastaki, Chief Risk Officer and Acting CEO, said, "The bank is ready to seize opportunities despite the current challenges in the market, as our financial results indicate that we are moving in the right direction, in spite of economic challenges that limit expectations."

China to merge regulators

Beijing

China is merging its banking and insurance regulators, giving new powers to policymaking bodies such as the central bank and creating new ministries in the biggest government shake-up in years. The revamp is a cornerstone of President Xi Jinping's agenda to put the leadership of the ruling Communist Party squarely at the heart of policy with Xi himself at the core of the party.



Bangladeshi airline defends pilots

Kathmandu/Dhaka

A Bangladeshi airline said its two pilots aboard the plane that crashed in Nepal killing 49 people had both received special training to land at Kathmandu airport and had successfully handled previous flights. The authorities have blamed each other in the aftermath of Monday's disaster, the nation's worst since the 1992 crash of a Pakistan International Airlines aircraft killed 167 people.



“Either this was a direct act by the Russian state against our country. Or the Russian government lost control of this potentially catastrophically damaging nerve agent and allowed it to get into the hands of others.”

-Theresa May,
Prime Minister on nerve agent attack on Russian double agent

Joyalukkas Amritsar, NOW OPEN!!

Joyalukkas Amritsar opened amidst much fanfare and a great reception from residents on 12th March 2018.



“We could not have expected a warmer welcome than the one we receive at Amritsar,” said Joy Alukkas, Chairman and MD of Joyalukkas Group. “It is a great pleasure to be here and we look forward to serving its residents and tourists alike with our very best, for years to come.”

Features

Joyalukkas Amritsar showcases a million traditional and contemporary designs from the world's best artisans. From handcrafted temple jewellery to the latest trends, jewellery lovers can find the finest selection here.

Newest diamond lines

The newly opened showroom also carries two of Joyalukkas's newest diamond lines, 7 Wonders Daily Wear and Iris Colourful Diamond Jewellery, as well as the Brand's most-sought after collections Veda, Pride Diamonds, Eleganza, Masaaki Pearls, Zenina, Apurva and Li'l Joy.

CrediMax gets PCI DSS Level 1 certification

Manama

CrediMax received for the 6th consecutive year the PCI DSS Level 1 certification by the renowned PCI certification body and the largest QSA Company in GCC, SISA Information Security WLL.

“This certification acknowledges CrediMax's successful implementation of security processes and procedures to maintain the highest level of security measures and prevent risks of customer data exploitation,” said Yousif Ali Mirza, Chief Executive of CrediMax.

Dharshan Shanthamurthy, SISA Worldwide CEO and Founder congratulated the CrediMax team and commented; “This certification further demonstrates the safety of cardholder data accessed, processed, and simultaneously providing secure and reliable data security for CrediMax's



Yousif Ali Mirza, Chief Executive of CrediMax

clients”. PCI is the only standard dedicated to security of cardholder data and rated as one of the most stringent security standards.

PLANit Global is here

Manama

PLANit Global has officially launched their platform in Bahrain on Thursday at the InterContinental Regency Hotel.

The launch was attended by over 110 businesses and educational entities and advocated by the speakers Simon Martin (British Ambassador to Bahrain), Jim Leahy (Director, International Programs School) and Khalid Al-Qoud (Bahrain CSR Society).

“Bahrain welcomes PLANit Global with open arms for supporting the students and the community with

PLANit Global is managed by Daren Al Saad

the innovative platform. It's a fantastic way to engage young people with ideas and opportunities.” Jeffrey Thomas, International Business Development-PLANit Global Bahrain.

PLANit Global Bahrain is managed by Daren Al Saad and is based in 34th Floor, United Tower, Manama Sea Front. “With PLANit Global,

the youth's curiosity will be nourished and their talents consequently cultivated. This platform allows them to navigate through sectors, learn, engage in internships, training, volunteer work and find potential jobs that better match their passion and skills.”

“PLANit Global allows businesses to have a virtual presence on the platform showcasing what is great about your business and industry sector while promoting the opportunities available within your organisation,” David Darlaston, CEO PLANit Global said.

Did You Know?



The first McDonald's drive-thru was opened near a military base in Arizona "to serve soldiers who weren't permitted to get out of their cars while wearing fatigues."



BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3038	0.3013
BANGLADESH	0.00472	0.00452
CANADA	0.3008	0.2976
DENMARK	0.0655	
EGYPT	0.0237	0.0219
EURO	0.4720	0.4694
HONGKONG	0.04968	0.04928
INDIA	0.00595	0.00583
INDONESIA	0.00002979	0.00002802
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000317	
JAPAN	0.00370	0.003630
JORDAN	0.5359	0.5351
KOREA	0.00040446	
KUWAIT	1.266	1.263
MALAYSIA	0.0990	0.0987
NEW ZEALAND	0.2794	0.2794
NORWAY	0.0506	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00363
OMAN	0.98168	0.98301
PAKISTAN	0.00354	0.00342
PHILIPPINES	0.00747	0.00342
QATAR	0.10381	0.10404
SAUDI ARABIA	0.1006	0.10067
SINGAPORE	0.2910	0.2890
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03330	0.03320
SRI LANKA	0.00278	0.00243
SWEDISH	0.0489	
SWITZERLAND	0.4053	0.4023
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013600	
THAILAND	0.012230	0.012220
TURKEY	0.1041	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5315	0.5286
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	0.3985	0.3561
KUWAIT	0.2855	30.2259	0.3018	0.2697
OMAN	0.3849	0.3641	0.4069	0.3636
QATAR	3.6420	3.4453	3.8499	3.4401
UAE	3.6730	3.4747	3.8827	3.4693
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5475	3.9641	3.5421

Egypt climbs on CIB, rest of the region subdued

Representative picture showing stock traders on the floor of Egyptian stock market

Dubai Egyptian stock market rose yesterday helped by strong support from its biggest bank, while rest of the region remain subdued.

The index gained 1.5pc, with Commercial International Bank surging 2.2pc as some investors bought to catch its annual dividend; it will go ex-dividend on March 20.

El Sewedy Electric, which had gained 5.9pc on Monday after saying it had signed a contract with Egyptian Electricity Transmission Co to provide power transmission lines worth 2.12 billion Egyptian pounds (\$121 million), last traded 10pc higher.

In Saudi Arabia, the index rose in early trade but closed 0.04pc lower on profit-taking after several days of strong gains.

Sahara Petrochemical climbed 1.1pc and Sipchem

surged 2.6pc after Sipchem said it planned to resume merger talks with Sahara. The two companies called off a planned merger in 2014, citing an inadequate regulatory framework in the country.

Dubai's index was almost flat as Emirates NBD closed unchanged. Dubai's biggest bank had soared 19pc in the past two days after saying it planned a big capital increase, which analysts think will mean raising its 5pc ceiling for foreign ownership.

Dubai Investments added 1.9pc after its board proposed a 12pc cash dividend for 2017, compared to a 10pc cash dividend and a 5pc bonus share issue for 2016.

Qatar's stock market continued rising on Tuesday after two top companies said they were raising their ceilings for foreign ownership, while strength in Egypt's biggest

Closing Bell

SAUDI edged down 0.04pc to 7,778 points.

DUBAI was flat at 3,166 points.

ABU DHABI edged up 0.1pc to 4,538 points.

QATAR climbed 1.6pc to 8,802 points.

EGYPT gained 1.5pc to 16,989 points.

KUWAIT edged up 0.04pc to 6,728 points.

BAHRAIN added 0.6pc to 1,361 points.

OMAN rose 0.5pc to 4,900 points.

bank lifted that market. Most of the rest of the region was subdued.

The Qatari stock index, which had soared 5pc on Monday, added a further 1.6pc. Qatar National Bank, which had risen its 10pc daily limit on Monday, climbed 6.9pc.

However, there may be little further room for the market to rise on relaxation of ownership ceilings; the only other big firms that still have not lifted their ceilings above 25pc are Qatar Islamic Bank, up 0.7pc on Tuesday, and Qatar Electricity & Water, up 2.7pc. (Reuters)

KPMG sheds light on VAT challenges in Saudi, UAE



Philippe speaking during the event

Manama Around 100 business leaders and senior finance executives gathered yesterday at an event organised by KPMG in Bahrain to review and debate the first 100 days of VAT in the GCC and the lessons to be learnt for Bahraini businesses from the introduction of value-added tax (VAT) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The half-day seminar, 'VAT compliance for Bahrain businesses in KSA and UAE: the do's and don'ts in Bahrain and beyond' examined the

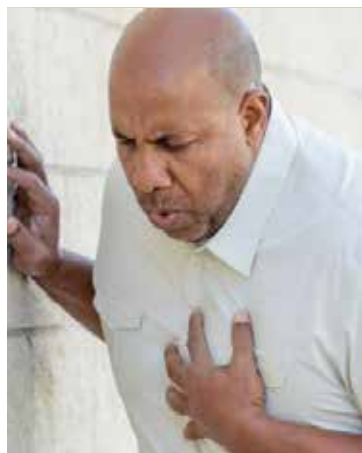
current implications on Bahraini businesses with operations in or with Gulf countries that have already implemented VAT, how to tackle these, how to ensure a correct tax treatment from business partners and what to expect in Bahrain including process and technology solutions.

Philippe Norré, Tax Partner and Head of Indirect Taxes at KPMG in Bahrain explained that having a clear understanding of VAT treatment for outgoing and incoming transactions between countries that have implemented VAT and those

yet to implement VAT (like Bahrain), is just one of the current main challenges facing companies in non-implementing GCC states.

"VAT is a new concept to Bahrain and the GCC region, and after it goes-live further changes are quickly expected to happen to the law and its application. Therefore, companies need to be responsive to regulatory updates and take action to adapt their internal processes, knowledge management and IT systems." Norré continued.

The event took place on Monday at the Downtown Rotana Hotel.



Newer gout drug poses risk to heart patients

Gout sufferers with major pre-existing heart disease face a higher risk of death if they are treated with the drug febuxostat, a large long-term study has concluded. The risk of death from cardiovascular disease was 34 percent higher with febuxostat than with an older drug, allopurinol. When researchers considered deaths from any cause, the risk was 22 percent higher with febuxostat. (Reuters)



No new 'learning' brain cells after age 13

Around the age of 13, the human brain region that hosts memory and learning appears to stop producing nerve cells, said a study. The finding challenges a widely held view that the hippocampus continues to generate neurons, which transmit information through chemical and electrical signals, well into adulthood in humans, as in other mammals. (AFP)

iPad alert:

Touchscreen-addicted children too weak to hold pencils

Children are increasingly finding it hard to hold pens and pencils because of an excessive use of technology, senior paediatric doctors in Britain have warned.

An overuse of touchscreen phones and tablets is preventing children's finger muscles from developing sufficiently to enable them to hold a pencil correctly, they say.

"Children are not coming into school with the hand strength and dexterity they had 10 years ago," said Sally Payne, head paediatric occupational therapist at the Heart of England foundation NHS Trust. "Now, children coming into school are being given a pencil but are increasingly not be able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental movement skills.

"To be able to grip a pencil and move it, you need strong control of the fine muscles in your fingers," she added. "Children need lots of opportunity to develop those skills."

Six-year-old Patrick has been having weekly sessions with an occupational therapist for six months to help him develop the necessary strength in his index finger to hold a pencil in the correct, tripod grip.

His mother, Laura, blames herself: "In retrospect, I see that I gave Patrick technology to play with,

to the virtual exclusion of the more traditional toys. When he got to school, they contacted me with their concerns: he was gripping his pencil like cavemen held sticks. He just couldn't hold it in any other way and so couldn't learn to write because he couldn't move the pencil with any accuracy.

"The therapy sessions are helping a lot and I'm really strict now at home with his access to technology," she added. "I think the school caught the problem early

enough for no lasting damage to have been done."

Melissa Prunty, a paediatric occupational therapist who specialises in handwriting difficulties in children, is also concerned that increasing numbers of children may be developing handwriting late because of an overuse of technology.

"One problem is that handwriting is very individual in how it develops in each child," said Prunty, vice-chair of the National Handwriting Association who also runs a research clinic at Brunel University London investigating key skills in childhood, including handwriting.

"Without research, the risk is that we make too many assumptions about why a child isn't able to write at the expected age and don't intervene when there is a technology-related cause,"

she said.

Although the early years curriculum has handwriting targets for every year, different primary schools focus on handwriting in different ways – with some using tablets alongside pencils, Prunty said. This becomes a problem when same the children also spend large periods of time on tablets outside school.

But Barbie Clarke, a child psychotherapist and founder of the Family Kids and Youth research agency, said even nursery schools are acutely aware of the problem that she said stems from excessive use of technology at home.

"We go into a lot of schools and have never gone into one, even one which has embraced teaching through technology, which isn't using pens alongside the tablets and iPads," she said. "Even the nurseries we go into which use technology recognise it should not all be about that."

Karin Bishop, an assistant director at the Royal College of Occupational Therapists, also admitted concerns.

"It is undeniable that technology has changed the world where our children are growing up. Whilst there are many positive aspects to the use of technology, there is growing evidence on the impact of more sedentary lifestyles and increasing virtual social interaction, as children spend more time indoors online and less time physically participating in active occupations," she said. (The Guardian)

Infants can learn abstract rules visually

Do not underestimate infants as they are capable of learning patterns from simply looking at the world around them, a first of its kind study has claimed.

According to the researchers, three to four month old infants can successfully detect visual patterns and generalise them to new sequences.

When we learn a rule or pattern in one domain, such as an alternating pattern of lights, we readily abstract this pattern and apply it to another domain. This ability, known as "abstract rule learning," is a signature of human perception and cognition, the researcher said.

"If you present infants with the stimuli in a more appropriate way for the visual system, they can learn abstract rules visually, just as they can from speech," said Brock Ferguson from the Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. (IANS)



PET VET

Dr. Rajani Rajesh



Pancreatitis in pets

The pancreas is a vital organ that lies on the right side of the abdomen adjacent to the stomach. The pancreas produces enzymes to assist in food digestion and hormones such as insulin and glucagon, which regulate blood sugar levels or

glucose metabolism. Pancreas also secretes large amounts of bicarbonate, which buffers stomach acid.

Inflammation of the pancreas is known as pancreatitis. Pancreatitis can affect both dogs and cats. Causes of this condition includes a high-fat diet, obesity, a history of dietary indiscretion, hypothyroidism, severe blunt trauma, diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism certain medications or other toxins or genetic predisposition

In the initial stages of disease, the secretion of pancreatic juice decreases. This is followed by a series of steps that lead to activation of pancreatic enzymes inside the pancreas, rather than in the intestinal tract. The enzymes begin to digest the pancreas itself, causing damage within the pancreas and triggering inflammation, which leads to damage in other parts of the body. Loss of appetite, vomiting, weakness, abdominal pain,

dehydration, and diarrhea are the most common signs reported in dogs with severe pancreatitis.

Treatment for pancreatitis includes careful monitoring and supportive veterinary care. Hospitalization may be required. Resting the pancreas by restricting all food or water by mouth for 3 to 4 days is recommended when the dog is vomiting. Severely ill dogs are given intravenous fluids. Pain medication is usually given because the animal is assumed to have abdominal pain.

Management of the condition by changing to a low-fat diet and low-fat treats. Pancreatic enzyme supplementation may help in cases when abdominal pain is present or for animals with consistently poor appetites. Patients with mild, long-term pancreatitis should be monitored for potential complications, such as exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Always follow the instructions of the veterinarian.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received, at the Al-Safriya Palace, Russian painter Nikas Safronov, in the presence of the Russian Vagif Garaev. Nikas Safronov, who is on a visit to the kingdom, presented HM the King with one of his paintings. HM King Hamad expressed thanks to the Russian artist for the painting, lauding his skill, competence, as well as his distinguished artistic works.



Supreme Council for Youth & Sport First Vice Chairman and Bahrain Royal Equestrian team members. HH Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa received the team in charge of upgrading military vehicles. The team includes a Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) technical maintenance unit. HH Shaikh Khalid welcomed the team and highlighted their technical expertise, particularly the taskforce operations.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa received Hideki Ito who presented to him a copy of his credentials as Ambassador-Designate of Japan to Bahrain. The minister praised the high level of steadily-growing relations between the two countries, affirming Bahrain's keenness to boost them at all levels to support the interests of the two friendly countries.



During his visit to EPITA-Paris University, Education Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi met officials representing several universities. The minister highlighted the Higher Education Council's efforts in qualitative and quantitative advancement of education. He reviewed the regulations and legislations governing the business of universities, including mechanisms and rules of hosting external academic programmes.



President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received Chairman of Al-Ahram Foundation and Head of Egypt's Press Syndicate Abdel-Mohsen Salama, and the accompanying delegation. Shaikha Mai gave an overview of the main local cultural activities and Bahrain's sites on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. She highlighted the significance of the Bahraini-Egyptian relations in cultural, arts and heritage fields, calling for boosting cultural ties to boost Arab cultural movement.



The Undersecretary of Commerce Affairs Nader Khalil Al Moayyed met Turkish delegation from Turkish Industry and Business Association, led by Secretary General Bahadır Kaleağası, President of the Gulf Business Network of the Society Bilgun Gurkan and Director of Global Economic Relations of the Society Tamer Sen, in presence of Turkish Ambassador Kemal Demirciler. This visit came on the framework of their official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain to discuss prospects for cooperation between the two sides. During the meeting, they discussed a number of joint economic issues between Bahrain and Turkey and ways to enhance and activate the role of the private sector in both countries and to benefit from expertise and increase the volume trade.



...an & Endurance Federation President and Royal Guard Special Force Commander HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad includes senior officers and non-commissioned officers, in addition to members of the Bahrain Defence Force led their strenuous efforts to renovate and upgrade old vehicles which were used in past BDF military opera-



Commander-in-Chief of BDF Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Interior Minister Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. They reviewed cooperation between BDF and the Interior Ministry to maintain Bahrain's security and stability under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa received MP Rua Al-Hayki. The minister praised the existing fruitful cooperation between the Ministry and the Council of Representatives, regarding efforts to develop the legal system in the kingdom. The meeting discussed judicial development topics of mutual interest.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received a high-level delegation from Engie, the major shareholder of Al Dur Power and Water Company and Al Hidd Power Company, led by its new regional head of asset management for the GCC and Pakistan Frederic Claux. He was accompanied by former Regional Director Manuel Colcombet and CEO of Al Dur Power and Water Company Mike Cunningham. Distribution and Customer Services Executive Vice President at the Electricity and Water Authority Adnan Mohammed Fakhroo, was present. The Minister praised the efforts of Engie Regional Director during his tenure, during which, in 2012, the plant was opened under the patronage of His Majesty the King.



Municipalities Affairs Undersecretary at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Dr. Nabil Abu Al-Fateh received MP Jalal Kadhim, with whom he discussed a number of topics relates municipal work and services. The Undersecretary highlighted the multiple services provided by municipalities to the citizens and residents, noting that municipal work in Bahrain is the outcome of an accumulated experience of about 100 years.



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) highlighted Bahrain's cargo infrastructure in Air Cargo India 2018, a biennial international networking conference and exhibition, which took place in Mumbai. Several airlines, airport authorities, freight forwarders, and air cargo industry entities attended the event. BAC Chief Commercial Officer, Ayman Zainal said, "BAC's participation in Air Cargo India 2018 is part of an overall strategy aiming to increase BIA's cargo traffic, which experienced a 10% growth last year, reaching a total of 289,325 tonnes compared to the 263,956 tonnes handled in 2016."



The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) hosted a delegation from the United States' Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The visitors were received by General Manager Manufacturing Fadhel Al Ansari, members of the Executive Management, Labour Union Chairman and officials. The delegation also learnt about training programmes at the Learning and Leadership Academy and the e-learning center. They also took a tour of the complex, where they inspected the manufacturing and environmental projects that reflect the harmony between the industry and the environment.

CELEBS



Kevin Hart @KevinHart4real
Little man got hands....Major thank you to my man @hollywoodhino for getting me right #HustleHart



MIRREN, MCKELLEN TO STAR IN 'THE GOOD LIAR'

Los Angeles

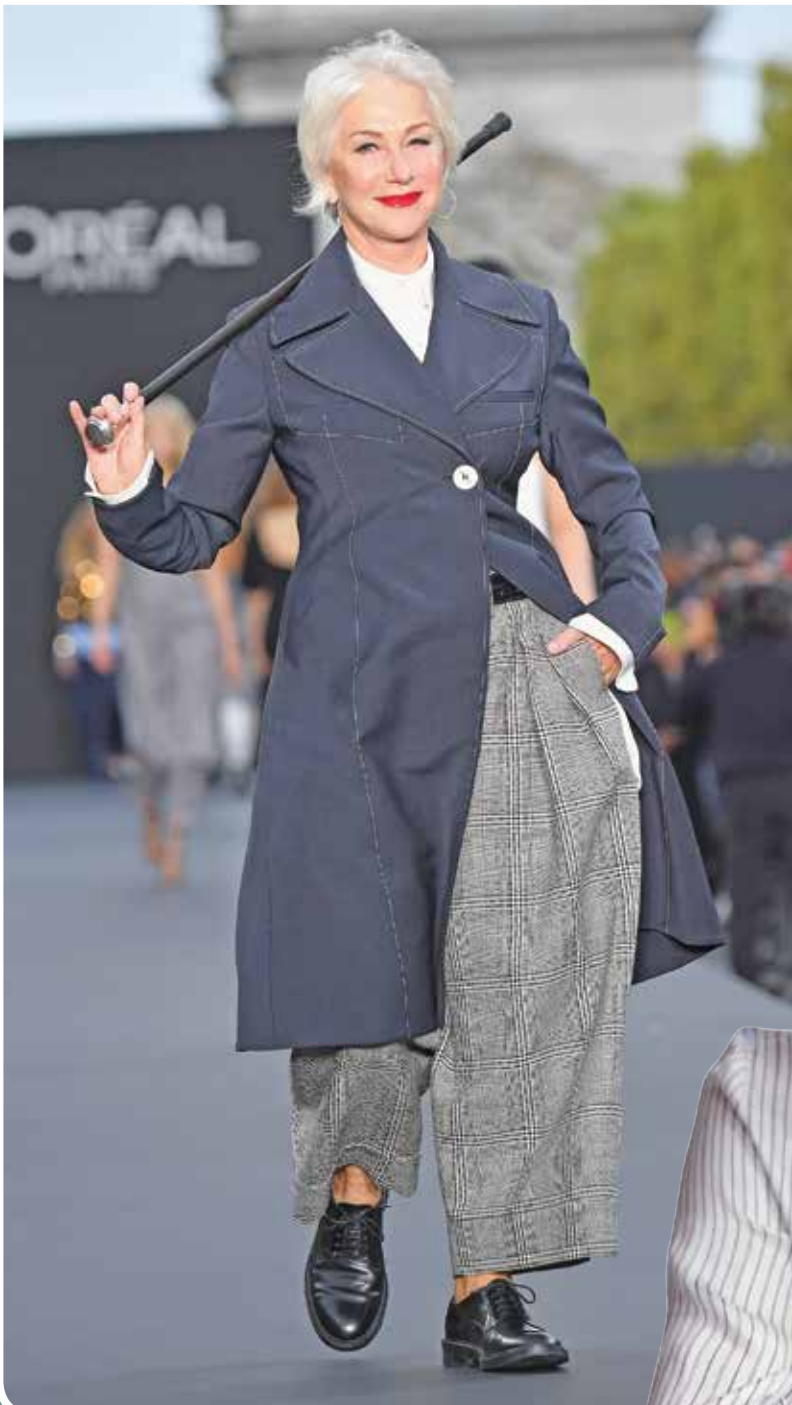
Actors Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren have been cast as the leads in the drama "The Good Liar".

The film will be directed by Bill Condon, who has also helmed Disney's "Beauty and the Beast". Condon will also produce with Greg Yolen, reports *variety.com*.

"Mr. Holmes" writer Jeffrey Hatcher wrote the screenplay for "The Good Liar", based on the novel by Nicholas Searle.

"The Good Liar" is a reunion for Condon and McKellen, who previously collaborated on "Gods and Monsters" and "Mr. Holmes".

McKellen will portray a career con artist who can hardly believe his luck when he meets a well-to-do widow, played by Mirren. (IANS)



Rosamund Pike in awe with Padilha's passion

Los Angeles

Actress Rosamund Pike was drawn towards "7 Days in Entebbe" by the prospect of working with director Jose Padilha.

"When I met Jose, I saw his passion for the project. It was clear from the beginning that he didn't want to make an easy film," Pike said.

"He didn't want to give the audience the standard heroes and villains they've seen before," she added.

"7 Days in Entebbe" is inspired by true events, and revolves around the story of Operation Entebbe, a 1976 counter-terrorist hostage-rescue operation. Pike plays role of a hijacker along with Daniel Bruhl. (IANS)

Short hair changes Katy Perry's view

Los Angeles

Singer Katy Perry says short hair has changed her outlook on make-up as she feels it leaves nothing to hide behind.

Perry, who has launched two make-up collections with cosmetics company CoverGirl, is now moving onto her third, complete with cat-themed eye shadow, false lashes and baby blue lip gloss, reports *people.com*.

"I love make-up's power to transform and empower," she said.

The 33-year-old singer went through a transformation herself last year, when she chopped her hair into a short platinum pixie cut.

It was a change that has inspired her to have a new outlook on her make-up routine. (IANS)



START CAMERA ACTION

Matt Damon, Affleck to support inclusion rider



Los Angeles **A**ctors and producing partners Matt Damon and Ben Affleck have announced that they will adopt the inclusion rider agreement in all their future production deals through their Pearl Street company. Fanshen Cox DiGiovanni made the announcement on Monday night via Twitter at the South by Southwest Film Festival, reports *variety.com*. The move came a week after actress Frances McDormand sparked interest and support for the term after she concluded her Oscars best actress acceptance speech by saying, "I have two words to leave with you tonight, ladies and gentlemen: inclusion rider". Michael B. Jordan announced on March 7 that he would add the inclusion rider to all projects produced by his company, Outlier Society Productions. (IANS)

Top Album Sales this Week

1. **The Greatest Showman Soundtrack**
2. **Planet Tech N9ne**
3. **Black Panther: The Album, Music From And Inspired By Soundtrack**
4. **Memories Don't Die Tory Lanez**
5. **Divide Ed Sheeran**
6. **Man Of The Woods Justin Timberlake**
7. **Evolve Imagine Dragons**
8. **NOW 65 Various Artists**
9. **Coco Soundtrack**
10. **From A Room: Volume 1 Chris Stapleton**



Los Angeles **A**ctor Michael Caine calls himself "a big feminist." Caine has revealed that he agrees with the women who are campaigning for more "freedom" and equal rights, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. "Women want more freedom and I agree with that. I am a big feminist," he said. However, the 'Italian Job' star doesn't necessarily believe that the gender pay gap issue exists in Hollywood, despite the recent scandal involving the reshoots for "All The Money In The World", in which Mark Wahlberg was paid \$1.5 million. (IANS)



STARRY Birthday
Ansel Elgort

March 14, 1994

Actor who made his breakout film debut in the 2013 adaptation of Carrie. He also played Caleb Prior in Divergent, Augustus Waters in The Fault in Our Stars and the title character in Baby Driver.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BAHRAIN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (BSPCA)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**RUBEN RIVERA
CHERYL NIELSON**

BEING TWO OF FIVE (40%) OF THE BSPCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HAVE RESIGNED "EN MASSE" PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 39 OF THE BSPCA CONSTITUTION WHICH STATES:

"THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE DISSOLVED IF AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF ITS MEMBERS RESIGN EN MASSE OR IF THE REMAINING MEMBERS FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER BECOME LESS THAN ONE HALF OF THE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERS.

IN THESE CASES, THE GENERAL MEETING SHALL BE SUMMONED FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE TERM OF ITS PREDECESSOR.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO SUMMON THE GENERAL MEETING WITHIN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF DISSOLUTION."

HEREBY HUMBLY REQUEST THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO SUMMON A GENERAL MEETING OF THE BSPCA TO ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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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 homemade 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

MUSIC AND MIRRORS BY JAMAL ABDULRAHIM

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

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

AFTER WORK BARBEQUE @ OASIS

Date: Every Thursday
Venue: Ramada Bahrain Adliya
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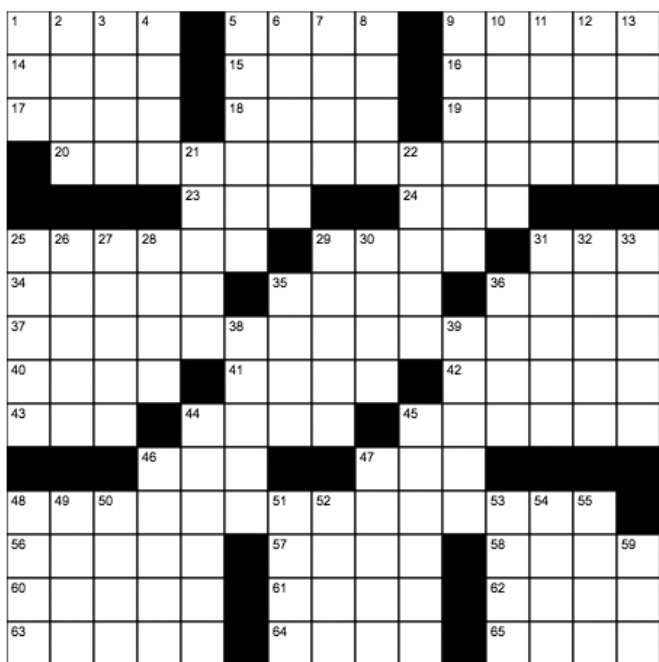
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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T	O	D	D	T	W	I	S	T	T	E	A	L

Across
 1- ___ never work!; 5- Somewhat; 9- Musical sounds; 14- Small jazz combo; 15- Domesticate; 16- Cherish; 17- Distribute cards; 18- Actress Thompson; 19- Beneath; 20- Planes, trains, and automobiles, e.g.; 23- Greek letter; 24- Apr. addressee; 25- Views; 29- Spent, as batteries; 31- ___ rule; 34- Chipped in; 35- Laugh loudly; 36- ___ impasse; 37- In spite of; 40- Rat-___; 41- Goes out with; 42- Sniggler; 43- DDE's rival; 44- Small batteries; 45- Sacristy; 46- TV adjunct; 47- Blue; 48- Comprehensible; 56- Authority; 57- Peek-___; 58- Vintner's prefix; 60- Eats to a plan; 61- Native Nigerians; 62- Asian country; 63- Tapestry; 64- Not punctual; 65- Exxon, once;

Down
 1- ___ be an honor; 2- Waste allowance; 3- Make-up artist?; 4- "Damn Yankees" vamp; 5- Bikini tryouts; 6- Bay city; 7- Bullets and such; 8- Precious; 9- Knight wear; 10- "Golden Boy" playwright; 11- ___ me tangerine; 12- Switch ending; 13- Darned; 21- ___ say more?; 22- Jewelled crown worn by women; 25- Capital of Yemen; 26- Benjamin; 27- Kett and James; 28- Salamander; 29- Prescribed amounts; 30- Consumes; 31- Leaning; 32- Less bananas; 33- Wrathful; 35- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 36- Fruity drinks; 38- Romanov rulers; 39- I ___ vacation!; 44- Beyond; 45- Located above the water table; 46- Roman goddess of the hearth; 47- Snob; 48- Meat-grading org.; 49- Neet rival; 50- Textile worker; 51- Follow; 52- "Dancing Queen" quartet; 53- Chadic language; 54- Grazing sites; 55- Slaughter in Cooperstown; 59- Barcelona bear;

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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

Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



You should be feeling especially strong, healthy, and charismatic. You're likely to receive some invitations to exciting parties. You might be surprised at what seems a sudden increase in your popularity. Expanded career opportunities could also come your way from new acquaintances, and you could find doors opening to a whole new life.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



Optimism and enthusiasm for the months ahead have you feeling confident and strong. The sky's the limit! A male visitor could have some surprising news for you. This is a great day to make investments or purchase property. If you've been expecting money through legal papers or contracts, it could come in the mail today. The night could bring vivid.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Some interesting information could come to you from another state or country. This could induce some pretty deep thinking, leading to decisions that could alter the course of your life in some way. You might be considering returning to school to advance your education. Your mood today should be optimistic and positive.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



You should wake up feeling strong and confident. Expect to receive some good news today, which will only heighten your mood. In the afternoon you could attend a party or neighbourhood get-together. You'll have a good time talking to friends and meeting new people. In the evening, relax!

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



Your outgoing and jovial nature is intensified today, and so you're probably going to be sought after for any parties or celebrations. Your generosity is also at an all-time high, and will take many forms, which will be appreciated by that special someone in your life. Think about taking your partner with you as you make the social rounds tonight.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Inspiration is the keyword for today. An optimistic and enthusiastic attitude could lead to powerful imaginings, which may take solid form as plans for future projects. These could be artistic, business related, or centred around your home in some way. Whatever they are, this is a good day to put those plans into motion. All signs indicate success on any project begun or completed today.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



A group you're associated with could bring information to your attention that puts you in a very positive frame of mind and almost has you skipping all the way home. You should enjoy socializing today, as you're even more gregarious than usual. Both old and new friends could seek out your company. A victory of some kind has come your way.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Your faithful and diligent work, in addition to a lot of sacrifices for the sake of your career, will soon bear fruit. The anticipation of a great evaluation, with possible advancement, is likely to have you walking on air all day, full of dreams and plans for the future. Enjoy this well-deserved peace of mind. Spend some time today enjoying your family.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Congratulations! You've finally reached a goal you've been working toward for a long time. Success and advancement are on their way, and you should be feeling extremely enthusiastic and optimistic about your future. Some vast changes may take place in your life, but they all promise to be positive. Expect to travel and learn a lot. Make the most of these energies.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



Vivid, wonderful dreams may have haunted your sleep last night, leaving you disappointed that they weren't real. They have a message for you, so write them down, set them aside, and analyse them later. Your psychic abilities and imagination are very sharp today. This is a great day to start an artistic project that has been in the back of your mind for some time. Enjoy your day.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



Feel free to take full advantage of the very open social energies of today. You, especially, will feel at home in any social gathering, totally at ease talking to new people and charming the room. This would be an ideal day to meet someone new. Someone of the opposite sex may be particularly attracted to you. Feel free to be as flirtatious as you want!

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Expect some very pleasant surprises today. If you're single, you're likely to receive a phone call from someone who interests you romantically. This should greatly increase your level of self-confidence, and you're therefore likely to float through the rest of the day. With these aspects, any new relationship or project begun today will have a wonderful energy behind it.

Austin package bomb kills teen



Police and FBI officers guard the scene of an explosion in Austin

Austin, Texas

Two package bombs left outside homes in Austin, Texas, exploded on Monday, killing a teenager and injuring two women in attacks that police linked to a deadly blast earlier this month.

The latest bombings came as the Texas capital hosted its annual South by Southwest music, technology and film festival downtown. The victims in all three cases were African-American or Hispanic, and police said they were examining the attacks as possible hate crimes.

In each of the three attacks, a cardboard package was left at the front of a private residence and exploded after an unwitting victim picked it

up or tried to open it, Austin Police Chief Brian Manley told reporters.

The packages that exploded on Monday were not delivered by any mainstream commercial shipping services, such as Federal Express or United Parcel Service, Manley said.

"We are looking at these incidents as being related," Manley said, adding that federal investigators had joined the search for suspects and a possible motive.

"We cannot rule out that hate crime is at the core of this, but we are not saying that is the cause," Manley told a news conference.

A 17-year-old African-American boy died on

Monday when he found a package outside his house in east Austin and brought it into the kitchen of his home, where it exploded, Manley said.

A woman in her 40s was in the home and injured by the blast, although she was expected to survive, police said.

A second explosion, about 4 miles (6 km) away in southeastern Austin, injured a 75-year-old woman in the predominantly working-class Hispanic community of Montopolis, police said. A neighbour, Brandon Rendon, told *Reuters* the victim was in a wheelchair watering her grass before the blast occurred. (*Reuters*)

Ice bridge in Argentine glacier collapses



A chunk of ice falls from a famous bridge that formed in a glacier at the tip of Argentina

Buenos Aires

An ice bridge that was part of a glacier at the tip of Argentina has collapsed in the dead of night, thwarting thousands of tourists who had hoped to watch the spectacle.

The natural arch in Los Glaciares National Park in the Patagonia region came crashing

down overnight Sunday during a storm while the park was closed, park authorities said Monday.

An arch forms regularly in a glacier called Perito Moreno as the water flow from a canal eats away at the ice.

For the first time in 16 years, the bridge fell in 2004 and since then it has come down every

four years of so.

"It is always spectacular. The thing is, this time more water accumulated than in the last three or four times," Luciano Bernacchi, director of an ice museum called Glaciarium, told *TN television*.

The Patagonia glacier is a UNESCO world heritage site. (*AFP*)

#PollToday



Do you think Rex Tillerson's diplomatic policies were not satisfactory?

Yes No Cant Say



"As the Brexit clock counts down with one year to go, it is now time to translate speeches into treaties, to turn commitments into agreements, broad suggestions and wishes on the future relationship into specific workable solutions."

-Jean-Claude Juncker
European Commission President

Rest in sight

Students killed in Ethiopia bus plunge



At least 38 people, mostly students, were killed when a bus plunged into a ravine in Ethiopia's mountainous north.

Nepal's first female pres wins second term

Nepal's lawmakers elected President Bidya Bhandari for a second term, extending the tenure of the Himalayan nation's first female head of state for another five years.

39 receive death for murdering official

A Bangladesh court sentenced 39 men to death for the brazen daylight murder of a ruling party official in 2014

Refugee claims by Venezuelans surging

Nearly 100,000 people who fled Venezuela have claimed refugee status since the start of 2017 as it ramped up response plans for a displacement crisis likely to worsen.

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Philippines seizes hundreds of smuggled animals

Manila

Authorities seized yesterday hundreds of exotic pets smuggled into the Philippines, which is a regional hub in the illicit animal trade.

The cache of some 300 creatures, which included squirrel-like sugar gliders, wallabies and a threatened species of cockatoo, was one of the nation's largest wildlife busts.

"In terms of live animals, this was likely one of our biggest (captures)," government official Rogelio

Demelletes said.

Four suspects were arrested in the raid that turned up animals native to Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

The haul also included seven red birds of paradise and 26 Moluccan cockatoos, which wildlife monitor IUCN considers to be at high risk of extinction in the wild.

Philippine officials put the market value of the confiscated creatures at \$192,000, which is more than all the live wildlife seized by Manila last year. (*AFP*)

Ancient giant shark tooth goes missing in Australia



Sydney

A giant fossilised tooth from a prehistoric shark has gone missing from a supposedly secret location at a remote Australian World Heritage site, and wildlife officials want it back.

The well-preserved tooth, which could be valuable to collectors, is an estimated 2-2.5 million years old and belonged to a Megalodon, regarded as one of the largest and most powerful fish to have ever lived.

"It had quite defined features on it, so you could see the serrated edge of the shark's tooth, it was probably one of the better specimens we knew of," said Arvid Hogstrom from Parks and Wildlife in Western Australia.

One of just a few Megalodon specimens in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, "very few people" knew of its location, he added, without elaborating on exactly how many. (*AFP*)

Thirteen dead in inferno after Turkey bus crash

Istanbul

Thirteen people including children were killed and 20 others injured yesterday when a Turkish passenger bus burst into flames after colliding with a truck in northern Anatolia, state media reported.

The bus, which was travelling from Istanbul to the northern city of Tokat, hit the truck on a motorway in Corum province early in the morning, according to the government-run *Andalou* news agency.

Medical teams and fire engines rushed to the scene. Pictures showed that the bus had been reduced to a

burnt-out shell by the fire that erupted after the crash.

The local governor's office said the truck was parked on the motorway hard shoulder when the bus hit. It added that an investigation had been launched into the accident.

Local mayor Hamza Karatas said children were among the dead without providing precise details, the private Dogan news agency reported.

One of the injured, Emine Gungor, who was rescued from the accident with her baby, said all the passengers in the bus had been sleeping. (*AFP*)

Jordan skate park puts smile on faces of refugee children

Refugee children from places countries such as Somalia, Syria or Iraq learn to skateboard in Amman where volunteers give free lessons



Amman

Hair flying in the wind Manar, Amniya and Farida hurtle down the slopes of "7Hills Skate Park" in the Jordanian capital Amman where refugee children come to play.

The 650-square-metre (almost 7,000-foot) concrete space was built in December 2014 by skateboard enthusiasts from around the world.

The money was raised during a fundraising campaign by a German NGO and a local association that offers free classes for the children of refugees from countries such as Syria, Iraq or Sudan.

Mohammed Duma, a

40-year-old Sudanese man who fled the war in Darfur, looks on with pride and a touch of apprehension as his two daughters, aged four and eight, learn to ride a skateboard with their trainer.

"We come here every Monday. Life in Jordan is very expensive, it's the only place where I can take my girls to play and have fun for free," said Duma.

He has applied with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for relocation to the United States, Canada or Britain.

Salima Issa, a 26-year-old housewife, sits on a patch of grass with her two-year-old son, who is busy nibbling on crackers.

She watches as her son Mohammed, four, and eight-year-old daughter Amniya cruise by on their skateboards.

Issa too fled Darfur, where the conflict that broke out in 2003 has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions of others.

'Fall until you succeed'

The skatepark's name was inspired by the topography of Amman, a city built on seven hills.

"This park has become a breath of fresh air for young refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Palestine," said Mohammed Zakaria, one of the park managers.

Skateboarding "is a difficult sport, which allows you to gain self-confidence and learn that falling is not the end of the world, and that you have to

try a second and third time to succeed," he explained.

"Life is like that and we all learn from our mistakes," said the 32-year-old Jordanian.

He said around 140 boys and girls take free classes every week, mostly run by foreign volunteers.

Jordan hosts refugees from more

than 40 countries, including over 650,000 people from Syria, according to the UNHCR.

Yussef Khaled, 14, who lost his father in Somalia's war, arrived six years ago with his mother and sister, and does not miss an opportunity to come to the skate park.

"There are not many places to have fun in Amman, and even if there were, we wouldn't have the money to go anyway," said the teenager.

"This place makes me forget that I'm a refugee," he said, showing off his latest trick on the skateboard. (AFP)

Indian Wells



Serena (L) with Venus Williams

Venus cuts Serena's comeback short

California

Venus Williams cut her sister Serena's comeback to tennis short with a 6-3 6-4 win in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells yesterday.

Returning after more than a year away from the game to have a baby, Serena put up a good fight, saving match point while trailing 5-2 in the second set, but her rustiness told in

the end.

Venus told reporters that she never counted the 23-times grand slam champion out of the match.

"She kept roaring back, I'm just lucky that I've played more matches than her right now."

Venus, who has climbed to No. 8 in the world after enjoying a strong 2017, had six aces and broke Serena's service four times, prevailing in a long

final game when her younger sister's groundstroke fell long.

In earlier matches, Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki kept alive her hopes of regaining the world number one ranking with a scrappy 6-4 2-6 6-3 third-round win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

Next up for the 27-year-old Dane, who needs to win the tournament and hope that

top seed Simona Halep fails to reach the final, is Daria Kasatkina after the Russian defeated U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens 6-4 6-3.

Stephens has been in a tailspin since breaking through for last year's major win, and has failed to advance past a quarter-final this year.

Fourth seed Elina Svitolina fell to Carla Suarez Navarro 7-5 6-3. (Reuters)

Results:

Women:

Anastasija Sevastova bt Julia Georges 6-3, 6-3
 Carla Suarez bt Elina Svitolina 7-5, 6-3
 Caroline Garcia bt Daria Gavrilova 7-5, 6-4
 Danielle Collins bt Sofya Zhuk 6-4, 6-4
 Angelique Kerber bt Elena Vesnina 7-5, 6-2
 Caroline Wozniacki bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-4, 2-6, 6-3
 Darya Kasatkina bt Sloane Stephens 6-4, 6-3.

Men:

Roger Federer bt Filip Krajinovic 6-2, 6-1
 Jeremy Chardy bt Adrian Mannarino 7-5, 4-6, 6-1
 Hyeon Chung bt Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-4
 Pablo Cuevas bt Dominic Thiem 3-6, 6-4, 4-2, retired
 Taylor Fritz bt Fernando Verdasco 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(1)
 Borna Coric bt Roberto Bautista 6-1, 6-3
 Pablo Carreno-Busta bt Daniil Medvedev 6-1, 7-5
 Kevin Anderson bt Nicolas Kicker 7-6(1), 7-6(3) (Xinhua)

Federer crushes Krajinovic

California

Defending champion Roger Federer cruised into the last 16 of Indian Wells with a 6-2 6-1 drubbing of Serbian Filip Krajinovic.

The Swiss world number one - who needs to reach the semi-finals to protect his ranking - won six out of 15 games to love, hitting 24 winners to six by his opponent.

20-times Grand Slam winner Federer is chasing a sixth title at the event, and will take some stop judging by the manner in which he swatted aside his 26-year-old opponent in only 58 minutes.

"My level was good. Filip's wasn't so good and then things go quickly,"

Federer told Sky Sports in a post-match interview.

"He hasn't got the biggest serve out there so you get a lot of looks to break and when you have momentum on your side - not only serving but from the baseline, things go very quickly.

"It was a good match for me - I expected it to be much tougher and I know Filip can play much better so I just tried to stretch the lead and I was able to mix stuff up with the slice, drop shot and the spins and he really struggled today."

The Australian Open champion - who is 14-0 in 2018 - meets Jeremy Chardy of France on Tuesday for a quarter-final place. (Eurosport)



Steve Smith demands centuries from Australia batsmen

Port Elizabeth

Australia captain Steve Smith has demanded his team's batsmen lift their output and score centuries against South Africa in the wake of their humbling six-wicket loss in the second test at Port Elizabeth.

Australia were restricted to 243 in the first innings at St. George's Park and were bowled out for 239 in the second to give the Proteas an easy victory chase of 101 to level the series at 1-1.

While no Australian has managed a century, the home side has had two - rookie opener Aiden Markram scoring a gallant 143 in the loss in Durban and AB de Villiers setting the platform for victory at Port Elizabeth with an unbeaten 126. (Reuters)

Murray could return at new UK events



Andy Murray (file pic)

London

Andy Murray could make his return from hip surgery at one of two new indoor events in Britain later this spring.

Murray said after his operation that he hoped to return "around the grass court season, or maybe slightly before".

The Scot, 30, is unlikely to want to return on physically demanding clay, which precedes the grass court season, and his options elsewhere are limited.

But the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has announced two new indoor hard court events in Glasgow and Loughborough.

Both will be staged on the ATP Challenger Tour, the level below the ATP World Tour, with a prize fund of \$100,000 (£72,000)

The first will take place at the Scotstoun Tennis Centre in Glasgow between 28 April and 6 May. The second is scheduled for Loughborough University's Tennis Centre from 19-27 May. (BBC)

Silva double leads City past Stoke

Stoke-on-Trent

David Silva struck twice as Manchester City took another stride towards their seemingly inevitable coronation as Premier League champions with a 2-0 victory at Stoke.

Silva found the net early in each half as Pep Guardiola's men enjoyed a comfortable night at the bet365 Stadium to re-establish a 16-point lead at the top of the table.

The result leaves City needing only a maximum of three wins from eight remaining games to take the title, but two would suffice if one of them comes against second-placed Manchester United.

That means there is a possibility City could complete the job in the derby against rivals United on April 7, if they beat Everton in their next game on March 31.

City were without top scorer Sergio Aguero but his absence mattered little as they barely needed to get out of second gear against the relegation-threatened Potters.

Stoke did begin aggressively in the hope of suffocating City but the visitors soon stretched them by playing a few longer passes.

Within 10 minutes City had broken through after Gabriel Jesus released the fit-again Raheem Sterling down



Manchester City's David Silva scores their second goal (Pic courtesy: Reuters)

the right. Sterling picked out Silva in front of goal and the Spaniard flicked home.

Stoke went for long spells without touching the ball but they created a chance out of nothing as Xherdan Shaqiri nutmegged Oleksandr Zinchenko. The Swiss pulled the ball back for Badou Ndiaye but his shot was deflected wide by Fernandinho.

Kyle Walker then almost managed to lob his own keeper

after getting an awkward touch under pressure from Jese following a long clearance from Jack Butland, but Ederson scrambled back to palm over.

Aside from that, Stoke were chasing the ball. City went close to a second when Kevin De Bruyne whipped in a dangerous free kick but Jesus failed to make contact. Fernandinho also forced a good save from Butland from the edge of the

area. Leroy Sane volleyed wide from a De Bruyne cross.

Stoke managed to reach the break without further damage but City doubled their lead within five minutes of the restart.

Silva drove City forward, found Jesus on the edge of the box and then watched the Brazilian's bouncing return pass superbly to fire home as Butland rushed out to meet him. (PA Sport)

Kwiatkowski takes overall victory

Tyrrhenian, Italy

Michal Kwiatkowski (Team Sky) took the overall victory in the 2018 Tirreno-Adriatico after the Italian race's final time trial stage yesterday.

It is the Pole's second overall stage race victory of the year, after he also claimed the Volta ao Algarve in February.

Kwiatkowski concluded the race 24 seconds ahead of second-placed rider overall Damiano Caruso (BMC), with Welshman Geraint Thomas (Team Sky) securing a podium position in third.

Thomas will be left wondering what could have been, after a badly-timed mechanical saw him lose time

and the race lead on stage four. Nevertheless, the victory stayed within the Sky team.

Adam Yates (Mitchelton-Scott) put in a solid time trial ride to move up from sixth to fifth place overall, with recent Strade Bianche winner Tiesj Benoot (Lotto-Soudal) leaping up the standings from eighth to fourth.

Rohan Dennis (BMC) won the 10km final time trial stage around San Benedetto Del Tronto with a time of 11 minutes and 14 seconds. The Australian was four seconds clear of second-placed Jos van Emde (LottoNL-Jumbo) and eight seconds ahead of Spanish time trial champion Jonathan Castroviejo (Team Sky). (Cyclingweekly)

Results

Stage seven: San Benedetto Del Tronto, 10km ITT

1. Rohan Dennis (Aus) BMC Racing, in 11 hrs 14 min
2. Jos van Emde (Ned) LottoNL-Jumbo, at 4 secs
3. Jonathan Castroviejo (Esp) Team Sky, at 8 secs
4. Mads Pedersen (Den) Trek-Segafredo, at 8 secs
5. Gianni Moscon (Ita) Team Sky, at 12 secs
6. Michael Hepburn (Aus) Mitchelton-Scott, at 13 secs
7. Jack Bauer (NZI) Mitchelton-Scott, at 13 secs
8. Luke Durbridge (Aus) Mitchelton-Scott, at 17 secs
9. Primož Roglič (Slo) LottoNL-Jumbo, at 18 secs
10. Vasil Kiryienka (Blr) Team Sky, at 18 secs

Final general classification

1. Michal Kwiatkowski (Pol) Team Sky, at 25 hrs 32 min 56 secs
2. Damiano Caruso (Ita) BMC Racing, at 24 secs
3. Geraint Thomas (GBR) Team Sky, at 32 secs
4. Tiesj Benoot (Bel) Lotto-Soudal, at 1-06
5. Adam Yates (GBR) Mitchelton-Scott, at 1-10

Buveur D'Air claims Champion Hurdle

Cheltenham

Buveur D'Air won his second Champion Hurdle as the first day of the Cheltenham Festival turned into a fine one for favourite-backers. But Nicky Henderson's star had to

fight much harder than last year on rain-softened ground, officially described as heavy.

Only in the last 25 yards did the 4-6 shot poke his nose decisively ahead of his Irish rival Melon, with the outsider

Mick Jazz surprisingly close in third. The 2015 champion, Faugheen, was beaten by the home turn, where he engaged in a shoulder-to-shoulder tussle with the eventual winner.

"That is a big relief, as you are

expected to collect and he has done," Henderson said. He will consider running Buveur D'Air again in the Aintree Hurdle at next month's Grand National meeting, provided there is sufficient give underfoot.

Willie Mullins said Faugheen "lacks the spark for two miles" and would now be stepped up in distance at the Punchestown Festival, though the trainer will also consider a rematch with Buveur D'Air in the longer race at Aintree.

Mullins and his ever-popular jockey, Ruby Walsh, were on the scoresheet in two other races, bagging the Arkle with the well-supported Footpad and the Mares Hurdle with Benie Des Dieux. That race was a setback for those who made Apple's Jade odds-on but punters fared better in the first of the week's handicaps, won by Coo Star Sivola under a jubilant Lizzie Kelly. (theguardian)



Barry Geraghty gets up late on board Buveur D'Air to win the Champion Hurdle



Kwiatkowski celebrates on the podium

Ahmed Amir prepares for Brave



Ahmed Amir (in Blue) at SBG Ireland alongside the team with John Kavanagh

Manama

Ahmed Amir has initiated his training camp at the renowned SBG Ireland gym under Head Coach, John Kavanagh.

Amir will be fighting in the upcoming edition of Brave in Brazil taking place on April 13, 2018.

Amir is one among the first martial artists from the Middle East to have signed with Brave Combat Federation.

With three straight victories in Brave Combat Federation, Amir will be fighting for the very first time outside GCC in Brave 11.

He will face Cleiton Silva from Brazil who has a record of 12 victories against 2 losses in his career.

With a career record of eight victories out of his nine appearances he is among the leading fighters who is aiming a title opportunity in the lightweight division. The fight will be held at Mineirinho Arena at Belo Horizonte.

BPL 2018: Aakash Chopra confirmed as a guest

Manama
Former Indian cricketer, celebrity commentator and author, Aakash Chopra has confirmed to attend the finals of the first ever Bahrain Premier League taking place on March 16 at Isa Town cricket grounds.

He played for the Indian cricket team from late 2003 until late 2004 as a defensive opening batsman and close catcher in Test matches apart from making his presence at the Indian Premier League.

He will be joining Bollywood



actor and Suniel Shetty who will be a celebrity guest for the event.

The organisers have revealed that there will be cultural and entertainment events at the finals of the event oriented for the family audience.

The admission for the event will be free for the public and is sponsored by KHK Sports and Exelon.

The audience at attendance also stands a chance to win a car after the lucky draw held after the closing ceremony.

Alonso considered quitting F1

London
Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso has said he considered quitting Formula 1 at the end of last season.

In the wake of three years of poor results with struggling McLaren, the Spaniard pondered switching full-time to IndyCar or endurance racing.

However, Alonso said: "I felt it was not the time for me to step out - not after these results, not with this feeling."

"I knew I'd regret it for the rest of my life and I'd have this bad taste for the rest of my racing career."

The 36-year-old, who was talking in

an interview published in the latest F1 Racing magazine, re-signed for McLaren, who have swapped their troublesome Honda engines for Renault. Alonso has also committed to the 2018-19 season with Toyota in the World Endurance Championship, including two shots at winning Le Mans.

"Definitely I still want to succeed. There is unfinished business for me and McLaren together," he said.

The Spaniard set the second fastest time in pre-season testing last week but that was after McLaren had had eight difficult days plagued with unreliability. (BBC)



Fernando Alonso (file pic)

Big win for Azeem CC



Bilal - Azeem CC



Priyesh - BHI Matrix

DT News Network Manama

Azeem CC beat Muharraq Eagles by 166 runs in the latest matches of the CBA Cricket Division D tournament.

Toss was won by Azeem CC and elected to bat first, Azeem CC put a huge of 221 at the end of 25 overs.

Zeeshan the top scorer with 46 runs for Azeem. Waseem and Asim took two wickets for Muharraq Eagles.

Chasing the big target, Azeem CC opener bowler Bilal took 5 wickets in his 4 over spell for just 12 runs helped his team to wrapped up the opponent for just 55 runs.

Other scores:

Spartans 139/5 in 20 overs (Zeeshan 68, Atif 31, Prakash 3/32) beat Bahrain Indian Challengers 137/10 (Ratesh 24, Zeeshan 3/36) by 5 wickets.

BHI Matrix 135/10 (Priyesh 56, Arun 2/15) beat Modest XI 103/10 (Syed 25, Arun 4/10) by

32 runs.

NDC Bahrain 179/9 (Rahul 54, Balaji 27, Arun 3/42) beat Karnataka Strikers 164/9 (Shailu 68, Farhat 38, Balaji 2/14) by 15 runs.

Asma CC 61/0 in 5 overs (Ranjith 48) beat Indian Super Kings 60/10 (Rakesh 12, Tausif 3/8, Hidayad 3/17) by 10 wickets.

Rising Star 119/6 in 18.5 overs (Biljo 34, Dileep 2/6) beat Tornado Riders 118/10 (Regi 21, Alen 4/10) by 4 wickets.

Royal Blaster 132/1 in 10.1 overs (Siyad 54, Akhil 45) beat GT Abdualaal 128/5 (Sameer 37, Roshan 2/20) by 9 wickets.

Bahrain Super Kings 178/10 (Jayaraj 54, Anupam 34, Vipin 3/32) beat SNCS Transfast 116/10 (Shyju 45, Devank 6/41) by 62 runs.

Zayani Motors 137/4 in 20.2 overs (Khursheed 50, Imran 33, Ahsan 3/24) beat Hempel Paints 136/7 (Kashif 35, Bashir 2/26) by 6 wickets.



Indian School kicks-off title quest



Action from the girls basketball matches

DT News Network Manama

The Indian School kicked-off their title quest with a bang at the Fifth School Mini Olympics, organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

A well-earned 3-0 win over Al Maaly School in the first

elimination match of the primary boys stage put the Indian School in the competition's next round against Sacred Heart School, who eased to a 6-0 victory over the New Indian School.

In other matches, Hawar beat AMA 5-2, Eastern beat Al Mahd 3-0, Al Nasseem beat Al Iman 3-1, Al Manar beat New Millennium 3-0, Shareefa Al Awadi beat Modern Knowledge 4-3, British School beat Creativity 3-0, Middle East beat A. Rahman Kanoo 3-0, Al Imam Malik bin Anas beat Busaiteen 3-1, Al Hekma beat Al Noor 3-2 and Askar beat Palms School 4-1.

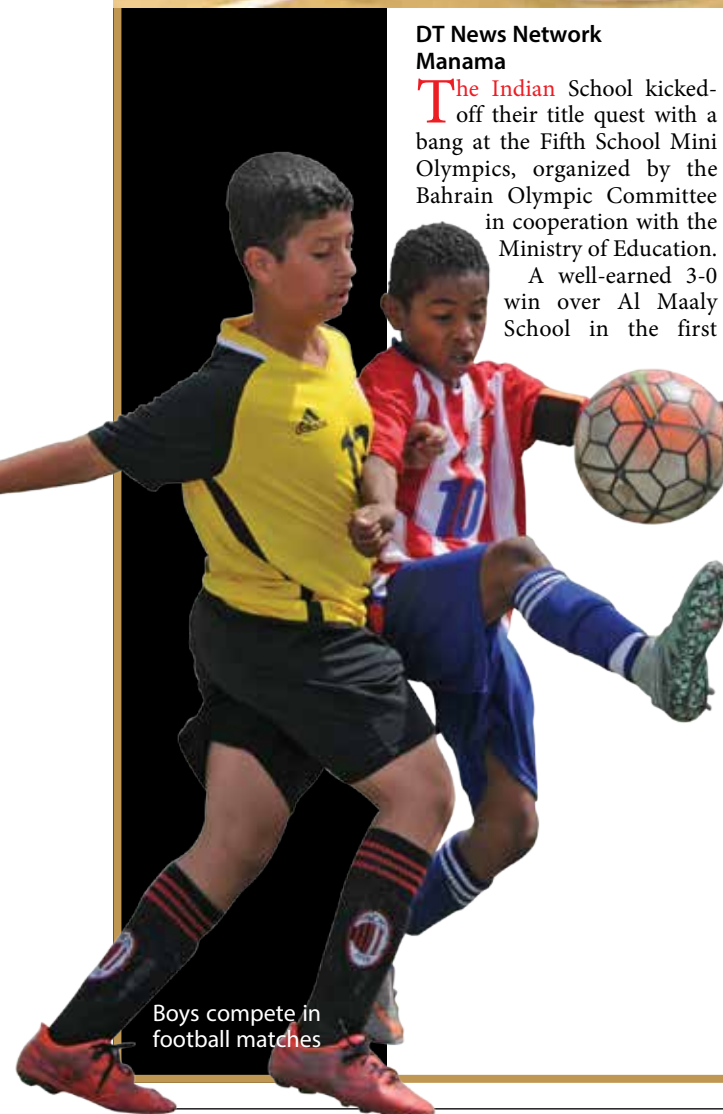
A record 59 schools in total are lined up for the football championship this year, including 24 schools in the primary stage and 18 in the intermediate stage.

Elsewhere, the Sacred Heart 'A' and 'B' teams reached the quarter-finals in the intermediate stage girls basketball championship, being held at the Bahrain Sports Federation or People with Disabilities Gym.

The finals will be staged today, with four quarter-final matches that will determine the battle. Sacred Heart 'A'



Table tennis matches in progress



Boys compete in football matches

face Eastern School in the first match. It will be followed by Indian School 'B' vs Modern Knowledge clash, Sacred Heart 'B' take on Al Salam and Ibn Khuldoon play AMA.

In table tennis, the first rounds of the primary and intermediate stages in the girls section took place at the Bahrain Table Tennis Association gym in Riffa.

In the primary stage championship, Fatima Abdulla of Al Safa School beat V. B. Manogna of Indian School to reach the final, while the other semi final match saw Goh Yi Yi

of AMA School go down to V. B. Mansitha of the Indian School, setting up the final clash with Fatima.

The intermediate stage saw 32 players compete for a place in the final, as Amruta Amit of Bahrain Indian School edged Asheeba Ayub of New Millennium School to reach the final against Maryam Abdulla, who beat Ruqaya Al Yasi in the other semi-final tie.

Al Hekma, British School, Sacred Heart and AMA dominated their respective groups in the 3-on-3 basketball

tournament. The finals of both primary and intermediate stage will take place today from 9.30am onwards.

The boys finals will be at the Bahrain Basketball Association gym in Um Al Hassam, while the girls match are set to take place at the Bahrain Sports Federation for People with Disabilities premises.



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