Bahrain to host top skydiving contest

MANAMA: Bahrain is gearing up to host the third FAI World Cup of Indoor Skydiving next month.

More than 100 teams from 25 countries will take part in the event, organised by Gravity Indoor Skydiving in collaboration with Bahrain Air Sports Federation.

The World Cup – the biggest event of its kind in the Middle East – will be held from October 25-28.

Among the competitors are world freestyle champions Kyrash Poh from Singapore and Maja Kuczyńska from Poland, in addition to world champions in 4-Way Formation Skydiving ‘Hayabusa’ and 2-Way Dynamic champions “Windoor” from Spain.

Gravity Indoor Skydiving chairman Shailkh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa thanked His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa for his continuous support which has enriched the sports sector in Bahrain.

Shailkh Mohammed said it is the biggest indoor skydiving event to ever take place and expressed pride in Bahraini teams competing on a global level.

Among the Bahraini participants are Shaikha Fatima bint Ahmed Al Khalifa (Freestyle), the dynamic duo consisting of world champion Ben Roane and Gravity's senior instructor Garth Lewis, two Bahraini 4-Way Formation Skydiving teams and the Minawari 4-Way Formation Skydiving teams.

Shailkh Mohammed said the participation of these teams highlights Bahrain's role in encouraging sports and local and international level.

Gravity's wind tunnel is also prepared to host the teams during the pre-event training period on operating for 24-hours in the seven days leading up to the first day of the competition, making it the first ever tunnel in the world to operate for such a long period.

By SANDEEP SINGH CREWAL

MANAMA: There has been a significant drop in complaints of fraud and identity theft following the introduction of new regulations for telecom consumers, according to a government watchdog.

Strict mandatory SIM card registration guidelines were issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority last year aimed at safeguarding the interests of users.

The watchdog stated in February this year it had noticed an increase in cases of identity theft, in which people’s personal details were used to obtain SIM cards without their knowledge.

This resulted in more than 100 travel bans being imposed on Bahraini residents, after huge phone bills were run up in their names.

More than 80 cases of fraud were also documented.

However, since the new rules were introduced for postpaid and prepaid mobile customers to register their details, including biometrics, the number of complaints has dropped, TRA's technical and operations director and cyber security acting director Mohammed Al Noaimi told the GDV.

Today is the deadline for postpaid mobile customers to register their SIM cards. Failing to do so will result in temporary service suspension and failing to register during the suspension period will result in final deactivation by December 2.

Full report – Page 4
Palestinian anger as US ends funds

RAMALLAH: Palestinians reacted angrily today to an American decision to end all funding for the UN agency that assists millions of refugees, seeing it as a new policy shift aimed at undermining the peace process.

Washington, which until last year was by far the biggest contributor to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), announced yesterday that it would no longer make any contributions to the “irredeemably flawed operation”.

The move by President Donald Trump’s administration was described as “cruel and irresponsible” by senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi.

“The Palestinian refugees are already the victims who have lost their homes, livelihoods and security as a result of the creation of the state of Israel,” she said.

Trump had already angered Palestinians by his December recognition of the disputed city of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and asking more than $200 million in bilateral aid for Gaza and the West Bank.

The new policy on Jerusalem overturned decades of precedent and prompted the Palestinian leadership to break off relations with the White House.

Palestinian presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said Washington’s latest decision “promotes terrorism” and is a violation of UN resolutions.

He said Palestine president Mahmoud Abbas was considering appealing to UN bodies to challenge the US decision.

UNRWA, established in 1949, was already facing financial crisis after Trump announced a $300m funding freeze in January.

The agency, which helps more than 5m registered Palestinian refugees, says it now faces major closures to its network of schools and health centres.

Mahmoud Muharrak, director of committees that run 19 refugee camps in the West Bank which accommodate some 500,000 Palestinians, warned of “very serious repercussions”.

Muharrak said committee representatives would meet on Tuesday to discuss their options.

As communicated earlier, please refrain from sharing your account details and your pin numbers with anyone and report all suspicious communication immediately on 17214453,” a bank representative confirmed the warning.

Many people have received some form of communication promising them that they have won prizes from NBB when in reality this has nothing to do with the bank,” he told the GDN. “We would like to assure our customers that the bank would communicate with them directly and not through a text message or Instagram message asking them for their information.

“We urge customers to refrain from sharing their account details or pin number with anyone.”

NBB alert over fraudulent calls

MANAMA: A leading bank in Bahrain has cautioned its customers against fraudulent messages or calls promising them prizes.

The National Bank of Bahrain has warned customers against sharing their account details or pin numbers with anyone.

Text messages were reportedly received by a number of people in Bahrain claiming they had won an NBB cash prize and requesting them to use their ATM cards with a special pin number.

“During the last 24 hours a number of people in Bahrain have received fraudulent SMS about winning an NBB cash prize and requesting them to use their ATM cards with a special pin number,” said the bank’s advisory to its customers.

Yesterday. The Western-backed alliance fighting the Iranian-aligned Houthis group in Yemen said at the time that the air strikes had targeted missile launchers used to attack the southern Saudi city of Jazan a day earlier.

Bus attack ‘unjustified’

RIYADH: An air attack by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen last month that killed dozens of people, including children travelling on a bus, lacked military justification and requires a review of the rules of engagement, a coalition body said yesterday.

Egyptian villagers have attacked and looted Coptic Christian homes in Upper Egypt.

The second edition of the Lego Show was a major success with 26,000 people attending over the last 10 days. The event, organised by Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, was held at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Sanabis. Featuring millions of Lego bricks, huge Lego sculptures and models and popular characters from Star Wars, Marvel and Disney Princesses, it was a perfect day out for families during Eid Al Adha. Much-loved Lego brands such as Ninjago, City, Duplo, Friends and Star Wars were also present, in addition to the build challenges and obstacle courses.

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This resulted in more than 100 travel bans being imposed on Bahrain residents, after huge phone bills were run up in their names.

More than 80 cases of fraud were also documented. However, since the new rules were introduced for postpaid and prepaid mobile customers to register their SIM cards, including biometrics, the number of complaints has dropped.

"The TRA SIM registration regulations have been introduced in the interest of protecting consumers from cases of financial fraud, privacy breach and identity theft," TRA’s technical and operations director and cyber security acting director Mohammed Al Noaimi told the Gulf Daily News.

"In 2017, two per cent of the complaints we received were related to this category, compared to 8pc in 2015 and 5pc in 2016. We are witnessing a reduction year-on-year which is positive.

"However, the new verification process will also help as a method of preventing such crimes. Today is the deadline for postpaid mobile customers to register their SIM cards.

Failing to do so will result in temporary service suspension and failing to register during the suspension period will result in final deactivation by December 2.

Consumers with prepaid lines have until March 2 next year before the service will be suspended, and failure to rectify their status will lead to final deactivation of service on June 2 next year.

The new TRA rules state that customers with postpaid lines living, or travelling, abroad should have their international roaming service deactivated and will be given a 90-day grace period (after the September 2 deadline) before final deactivation.

We’ve made a number of considerations and exemptions such as for subscribers who are currently abroad,” said Mr Al Noaimi.

"The authority requested operators to have in place a mechanism which flags subscribers who are living abroad, and upon their return to Bahrain, allow them a grace period of 30 days to complete the registration and verification processes.

"To avoid any doubt, a SIM card that is active abroad will not be deactivated.

New rules imposed by the TRA also limit the sale of SIM cards, with customers able to obtain a maximum of 10 from each telecom operator.

Verification

From July last year, major telecom operators such as Batelco, VIVa and Zain started implementing provisions of the SIM-Card Enabled Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation which was published on December 31, 2015.

The provisions relate to the registration and verification of user data and identity, including the implementation of the biometric verification process to authenticate the identity of the applicant.

The registration process consisted of two steps to verify the identity of the SIM card user – by presenting the applicant’s identification or passport and conducting the biometric scan.

For more information, contact the TRA’s consumer call centre on 81188.

By SANDEEP SINGH GREWAL

New TRA guidelines to regulate phone masts

NEW rules governing mobile phone masts across the country have been issued by the nation’s telecom watchdog.

The regulations are aimed at unifying policies and procedures related to the setting up of masts, said the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) yesterday.

As part of the procedures, Bahrain will be divided into zones, each suitable of hosting a specific type of mast, existing unauthorised stations will be regulated and telecom operators will be encouraged to share masts to prevent the deployment of unnecessary stations.

According to TRA technical and operations director Mohammed Al Noaimi, the Regulation on Permitting, Installation, Upgrading and Maintenance of Public Radiocommunications Stations (PRSs) has been developed in co-ordination with the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry, Civil Aviation Affairs, the Supreme Council for the Environment, the General Directorate of Civil Defence and other concerned government entities.

"The new rules, which will be mandatory for telecom operators applying for TRA permits to deploy masts, aim to regulate stations in Bahrain in compliance with the telecommunications law and other regulations related to health and safety officially adopted by Bahrain," he said in a statement.

"Under the new mechanism, the TRA will serve as the point of contact between operators and concerned entities to ensure policies and procedures are unified and followed.

"The new regulations also aim to ensure the emission of electromagnetic fields are within the agreed-upon thresholds to protect the public and the environment from any side-effects.

"The public will be engaged in choosing the locations to deploy the PRSs and this will give confidence to the public that the PRSs deployment is being regulated and monitored,” added Mr Al Noaimi.

"The regulations will also enable TRA to start rectifying the issue of unpermitted PRSs.

By REENA AL BAATSI

Golf R.
BD 17,900/-
BD 15,999/-
Tiguan SE.
BD 33,900/-
BD 10,999/-
GTI.
BD 14,100/-
BD 12,599/-
75pc rise in summer work ban violations

By REEM AL DAATSI

VIOLATIONS of an annual summer ban on outdoor work across Bahrain registered an increase of 75 per cent this year compared to last year, revealed a senior minister.

A total of 156 violations were referred to the Public Prosecution for breaching the law which ended on Friday – as against 89 firms that faced legal action last year.

Bahrain enforces a ban on outdoor work from midday until 4pm in July and August to protect labourers from scorching summer temperatures.

The law, which is in force since 2012, aims to protect the workforce from potentially fatal heat-related medical conditions.

A total of 10,341 worksites were visited by inspectors, with 156 establishments caught committing violations involving 323 workers.

“The compliance percentage this year was 98.5,” said Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan, down from last year’s 98.9pc.

Under the Private Sector Labour Law of 2012, violators face up to three months in jail and/or a fine ranging from BD500 to BD1,000.

“Inspectors conducted a total of 10,341 visits to worksites, up from a total of 7,491 sites visited in 2017. Statistics also revealed that 10,185 companies complied fully with the ban. “The violations which were reported to the ministry involved 323 workers, up from last year’s figure of 171 workers.”

Mr Humaidan said the number of companies complying with the ban reflected Bahrain’s keenness to promote safe work environments.

“Bahrain ranks among the top countries which comply with occupational safety and health and protects the workforce from the dangers of work during summer,” he said.

He stressed the government’s drive to support all measures aimed at protecting workers and ensuring their safety from diseases and work accidents as part of efforts to promote human rights in general.

“Bahrain started enforcing the ban to protect workers during the scorching summer which is marked by high temperatures and humidity, physical dehydration and summer diseases,” said Mr Humaidan.

“The ban did not have a negative impact on the projects undertaken by companies which reprogrammed working hours.”

The GDN earlier reported that 10,035 sites were visited in 2016, down from 16,563 in 2015 and 19,597 in 2014.

Activists have called for an extension of the ban to cover all workers who have to work in the sun as part of their jobs, such as delivery men from cold stores and restaurants or salesmen, who use bikes or walk.

This year some businessmen have also voiced their support for the initiative to include September in the ban period.

However, the Labour and Social Development Ministry has been reluctant to take action because of its implications for the private sector.

The request was once again brought under the limelight last month as the Bahrain Health and Safety Society called for the summer work ban to begin from June 15 and end on September 15, from 12pm to 3pm.

During a meeting, the society said the move was necessary as temperatures continue to soar with the forecast for September hitting 40C, while this year’s June heatwave saw midday temperatures climbing to as high as 46C.

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A Typhoon court orders cult guru Shoko Asahara and two of his top followers to pay nearly 7.5 million dollars in damages to victims of 1995 nerve-gas attack on the city’s subway.

1997 - The annual Consumerism Index of the United Kingdom scores its biggest point gain in history, rising 25.3%.

1998 - A Serbian offensive in Kosovo, all 220 aboard; Malaysia’s Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad fires his deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim.

1999 - Maryam Rajavi, the leader of the Iranian opposition group the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), is found guilty of a 901. Tel: 17772023.

2000 - Robert Mueller, 55, former FBI agent turned special counsel, assumed his role.

2001 - The Supreme Court of Pakistan passed a verdict that acquitted a teacher accused of committing rape.

2002 - The Sudanese government suspends peace talks with the country’s main rebel group, the Sudan People’s Liberation Army, or SPLA, after rebel sieze the strategic town of Talbi.

2003 - The US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, held up a key provision of the 9/11 law pending appeal.

2004 - The government of Pakistan announced that it had apprehended a major terrorist suspect.

2005 - A Belfast judge orders a suspected Irish Republican Army commander to stand trial for the murders of 29 people in a 1998 car bomb in Omagh, Northern Ireland’s deadliest terrorist attack.

2006 - Thousands of Palestinian teachers across the Palestinian territories go on strike, getting down schools on the first day of classes - a backlash that tests the Hamas-led government’s ability to survive.

2007 - The chief US negotiator says North Korea has agreed to declare and disarm all its nuclear facilities by the end of the year.

2008 - Thailand’s prime minister declares a state of emergency in Bangkok to restore order after overnight clashes between government opponents and supporters left one person dead and 43 injured.

2009 - A Taliban suicide bomber attacks officials leaving a mosque east of Kabul, killing the country’s deputy intelligence chief and 23 other people in a major blow to Afghanistan’s security forces.

2010 - British police sent to Azerbaijan to investigate the death of a prominent journalist.

2011 - A Muslim cleric is accused of staining pages of the Quran in a Christian girl’s bag to make it seem like she sold it.

2012 - France releases an intelligence report alleging chemical weapons use by Syria that dovetails with similar US claims as President Barack Obama seeks authorization from Congress before launching any military action against President Bashar Assad’s regime.

2013 - Israel vetoes any international resolution to extend a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

2014 - No evidence of chemical weapons use by Syria that dovetails with similar US claims as President Barack Obama seeks authorization from Congress before launching any military action against President Bashar Assad’s regime.

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2018 - No evidence of chemical weapons use by Syria that dovetails with similar US claims as President Barack Obama seeks authorization from Congress before launching any military action against President Bashar Assad’s regime.
TWO men allegedly dumped their lifelong friend’s body in the street after getting high in an apartment in Juffair by using electrical methods. They were arrested after being caught on camera dumping the 48-year-old victim’s body in the street in Duraz after getting high in an apartment in Juffair in July.

One of the defendants claimed he was “hallucinating” when he committed the act, and pleaded with the judge to confront him over his actions.

“Our friend (the victim) stopped speaking and we were high,” the 53-year-old told a leading judge. “We panicked and did not want to get into trouble for using drugs.”

“We did not know what to do but then I got the idea of dumping our dead friend’s body in the street, according to a policeman. “I was hallucinating. “We took the body in my car and left it in a street in Duraz. “I feel ashamed at throwing our dead friend’s body and dumped it in the street because you were hallucinating?” he asked. “How can you do this to your best friend and blame it on hallucinations?”

Both the defendants were arrested after surveillance cameras caught them dumping the body in the street, according to a policeman. “The vehicle belonged to one of the defendants (aged 52) and they (both the defendants) showed the defendant committing the crime,” the 40-year-old told prosecutors.

“The vehicle belonged to one of the defendants (aged 52) and they (both the defendants) admitted to getting rid of the victim’s body when he overdosed on heroin.”

 trials have been adjourned for review.

By NOOR ZAHRA

Best friend’s body ‘dumped in street’

TWO more expatriates took their lives in as many days, taking the toll of deaths among foreign workers in Bahrain to 25 this year so far.

An African man reportedly committed suicide aboard a boat docked at Mina Salman yesterday.

According to sources, Tamirat Attarab, aged 26, hanged himself using a rope attached to a pipe on the boat owned by a private navigation company.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old Asian man hanged himself from a ceiling fan in his apartment in Juffair by using electrical cables on Friday.

No further details were available in either case.

The GDN reported yesterday that a surge in the number of suicides among expatriates has sparked a social media campaign aimed at promoting migrant workers’ rights in the country.

The ‘Workers Rights in Bahrain’ drive is spearheaded by the Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society and it targets more than 800,000 foreign workers in Bahrain, including 90,000 domestic workers.

By MEERA RAVI

A difficult decision

Expats and human rights activists have been quick to sympathise with workers who earn BD250 and have their families here, since a new rule calls for a minimum wage of BD400 to obtain a family visa.

It also means that some babies born after the rule took effect in January will not be able to stay on in Bahrain with their parents.

Analysing it cool-headedly, a BD400 baseline for maintaining families in some measure of comfort is a sensible move, given rising costs in Bahrain.

Sometime ago, I was shocked when a social worker told me there were expat families in Bahrain whose main breadwinner was a bus driver or a small restaurant chef earning about BD250 – and they simply stopped sending children to school after a time because they could not afford it.

This was apparently especially true when the child in question was a girl, a double injustice that hearkens back to the early 20th Century, when the fate of the child was the last priority for health and education goals.

Quite rightly, Bahrain does not want to encourage this.

However, a sudden jump from BD250 to BD400 is steep indeed and not one that any employer can accommodate in lean times, even if they want their employee to have their family with them.

The matter is further complicated because the new rule applies to babies born this year, but not to those born before the rule.

Suddenly, families are faced with leaving newborns in the care of relatives back home, or the mother going back to their country with their child.

Another problem is that these rules are announced and implemented arbitrarily without proper discussion with stakeholders.

They affect not only the families of expats, but also productivity and the national economy.

It is understandable for expats to protest that the hike in the minimum salary to qualify for a family visa is steep.

But reports suggest that employers are also unhappy since they see a drop in their staff’s happiness quotient, which is so closely connected to their work output.

Separating families places a huge psychological toll on every family member, which can affect their well-being and shapes communities of the future.

Therefore, there must be a measure of transparency in how these rules are discussed and put into action, taking into consideration the effect on emotional well-being and economic implications.

Let’s assume three in 10 families are forced to split, with only the breeder remaining in Bahrain.

Does it make economic sense to encourage 30 per cent of the spending public to leave, especially in these times when we need every dinar to boost the economy?

At the same time, it is important to ensure minimum standards of living for families.

One solution is gradually building in the change.

Give families the chance to show a nest egg of savings over 12 months, perhaps, and make sure that key indices such as school enrolments don’t suffer.

Expats account for more than half of Bahrain’s population, with figures released last November put the expat figure at 823,000 expatriates (55 per cent), compared with 677,000 Bahrainis.

There must be a humane assessment of the situation before we roll out such schemes.

By REEM AL DAYYSH

Two more expats commit suicide

HOW a simple act of kindness can make people happy is the focus of a short animation film produced by the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO).

Aamal Plays tells the story of a small girl trying to help others regardless of her circumstances.

The aim of the film is to encourage people to help others and bring happiness into their lives through the simplest acts of kindness.

The film combines fantasy and animation to showcase the importance of helping others and touch the hearts of children.

The RCO said through the film it will promote its culture of supporting people in need, by using different ways to reach various parts of society.

The film’s script is written by Ahmed Jasim, based on a book by Zachrya Tamer.

Eman Abdullah was responsible for the animation while voices have been provided by Shaiha Jassim, Yousif Al Awadhi, Mariam Al Awadhi and music composed by Mohammed Hadi.

Animation film aims to touch children’s hearts

A still from the film
**Quick**

**ACROSS**
4 Shade of red (6), 7 Type of novel (8), 8 Public speaker (6), 10 Wrong (5), 13 Grim (4), 14 Accompanied by (8), 15 Domestic fowl (4), 16 Dam (3), 17 Honest (4), 19 Slinger (4), 21 Advancement (9), 23 Prophet (4), 24 Diplomacy (4), 26 Not many (3), 27 Row (4), 29 Give out (4), 30 Shade of red (6), 31 Type of novel (8), 32 Public speaker (6), 33 Wrong (5), 34 Grim (4), 35 Something afoot that sounds good for a girl (6)

**DOWN**

**Cryptic**

4 This car is someone's property (6)
7 Antique porcelain, my mate of many years (3, 5)
8 Nourishment imaginably in a jug (6)
10 Put in a home, perhaps (5)
13 Look in a mirror (4)
14 The fifty-fifty shout (4)
15 He's on record as being of use (4)
16 Unite at three points (5)
17 Give out in time (4)
19 Frontier line (4)
21 Possibly dominates the place (9)
23 No enemy weapon at the western front (4)
24 Here's a hard one, and that's flat! (4)
26 Ruby can be so meltingly warm (3)
27 Image of a true coin (4)
29 Scheme to get money in the kitty (4)
32 Break off the game (4)
33 Unfriendly letter to Mr Blair (5)
34 Shoulders no responsibility? (6)
35 Money demanded for past work (6)
36 Lively, noisy and dangerous (6)

**DAILY RECIPE**

**Family friendly fish pie**

Incorporating fish into the family diet doesn’t have to be complicated, particularly with a recipe which allows a mix of different varieties in one dish. Serves four.

**Ingredients**
- 500g fish (haddock, salmon, cod, plaice, etc.)
- 600ml milk
- 6-8 large potatoes
- 1 pinch salt
- 50g butter
- 1-1/2 tablespoons plain flour
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 100g grated cheese

**Method**
1. Preheat oven to 200°C /180°C fan/ gas mark 6.
2. Place the fish in an oven-proof dish and cover with the milk, then bake uncovered in the oven for 30 minutes or until the fish is cooked through.
3. Meanwhile, peel and chop the potatoes, and boil with a pinch of salt until soft.
4. When the fish is done drain the milk into a jug and put aside. Flake the fish with a fork and leave in the dish.
5. Drain the potatoes, add 30g of the butter and a splash of the reserved milk and mash.
6. In another saucepan melt the remaining 20g of butter on a medium heat and slowly add the flour, stirring constantly until smooth. Add the remaining milk a little bit at a time, stirring constantly, to reach a sauce-like consistency.
7. Add the parsley and stir well. Cook for five minutes, constantly stirring. Add the sauce to the flaked fish and mix well.
8. Top with the mashed potato and spread evenly before sprinkling with cheese.
9. Place back in the oven for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the cheese is bubbling and slightly golden brown.

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**Sudoku**

Yesterday’s solution

How to play Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There’s no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

**ANSWERS**

1. Who was the second president of the United States?
2. In medieval Italy, the Ghibellines supported the Holy Roman Emperor in opposition to which faction supporting the Pope?
3. Who was the mother of Elizabeth I?
4. John Redwood has been the MP for which constituency since 1987?
5. Which Derbyshire village famously quarantined itself to prevent the spread of infection following an outbreak of bubonic plague in 1665?

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**Target**

**ECM PIE NUD**

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only, each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals or verb forms ending in “s” or words with initial capitals and no words with a hyphen or apostrophe permitted. The first word of a phrase is allowed (e.g. inkjet in inkjet printer).

**TODAY’S TARGET**

Good 16; very good 24; excellent 32 (or more). Solutions tomorrow.

**YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION**

abfat abate abit bater bare bart barite bear beat beffet beta bier biete biter bract brat bref brief cabret caber crab crb fabric FABRICATE fibre tribe
A TOP diplomat has working on resuming direct flights between Bahrain and Malaysia as part of efforts to enhance bilateral ties.

Malaysian Ambassador to Bahrain Agus Salim Bin Yusof spoke of bilateral relations between the two countries which he said were strong since the establishment of diplomatic ties on November 25, 1974.

He told the GDN in an exclusive interview to coincide with the Malaysian National Day, which fell on Friday, that he hoped Gulf Air would fly to Malaysia again by 2020 after operations were suspended in 2012.

He also said that he was in negotiations with an airline in Malaysia to operate direct flights to Bahrain International Airport.

“There are now no direct air links between Bahrain and Kuala Lumpur,” he said.

“I’ve met Gulf Air and talked to them to invite them to fly to Malaysia again, given that they are acquiring many new aircraft from now until 2023 and they need to find new destinations.

“They are positive about it and maybe next year or the year after Gulf Air will be able to fly again to Malaysia.”

He added that negotiations were also ongoing with an airline in Malaysia to fly to Bahrain, but he did not reveal the name of the company.

“I believe this company has the potential to go to more destinations overseas and I am going to approach them again,” he said.

“It is good to have air links between two countries to facilitate visitors and businessmen and not only between Malaysia and Bahrain but between the two regions. Mr Yusof also said it was important for both countries to continue reinventing tourism products to help boost the economy, adding that there were indications that the Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board would conduct a visit to Bahrain next year.

“For a country to be successful in tourism it has to invent new products to ensure tourists repeat their visits,” he explained.

“It is also important for Bahrain to promote its tourism in Malaysia.

“Malaysians are not aware what Bahrain has to offer and they do not know exactly where it is.”

In February, the first-ever Malaysian Week was organised in Bahrain and included the finest delicacies, music, heritage, fashion and culture to promote tourism.

A Malaysian cultural troupe also took part in the recently concluded Bahrain Summer Festival 2018 to expose the local community to traditional Malaysian dances.

“If there is a direct air link between the two countries, the tourism and cultural relations could be enhanced, not only to benefit Malaysia but also to benefit Bahrain,” he added.

Meanwhile, Mr Yusof praised Bahrain’s working conditions with over 500 Malaysian living in the country.

“Bahrain is the most friendly place to work in this region for foreigners,” he said.

“Minus the weather, which you can’t do anything about, life here is comfortable and it’s peaceful and the Bahrainis, they welcome us. The apartments, houses and infrastructure are excellent.”

However, the Malaysian community was concerned about talks of efforts to increase Bahamisation of the workforce.

“Recently we heard that Bahrain wishes to reduce the number of foreign workers and rely more on a Bahraini workforce,” said Mr Yusof.

“Although this is not a policy, there are recent talks about it, and our people are worried that their contracts will not be renewed.

“They’d like to work here for as long as possible because of the good working environment and good pay compared to what they can get back home.”

Mr Yusof was speaking to the GDN to coincide with the Malaysian National Day, which falls on Friday.

Future deals to focus on fight against cyber crime

Bahraini ties

CYBER security and the exchange of intelligence are on the agenda for future agreements between Bahrain and Malaysia, revealed a top diplomat.

Malaysian Ambassador to Bahrain Agus Salim Bin Yusof, who assumed office in April last year, said Bahrain has already conducted visits abroad to acquire expertise on cyber security, specifically on how to combat cyber terrorism.

“Bahrain was interested to learn more about our experience in cyber terrorism,” he told the GDN.

Learn

“For that purpose, the Interior Ministry sent two officers to Malaysia and a few other countries to meet their counterparts regarding cyber terrorism.

“This is good news for Malaysia that they are willing to learn from us.

“In East Asia we are the only country selected by Bahrain for this purpose.”

During 2017, memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed between the two countries and although there has been no major development in those areas, Mr Yusof said they have made some starting conversations.

“Unfortunately on the MoUs there hasn’t been an encouraging development, the countries are working on a new MoU which is pending on Bahrain’s side,” he said.

“It is called Co-operation in Preventing and Combating Transnational Crime, and both countries are exchanging the MoUs and waiting for the right time to have them signed and it will target organised crime and narcotics.”

Sharing

“Their intelligence exchange, sharing of expertise and intelligence on anti-terror and security issues.

A major defence agreement was signed by His Majesty King Hamad during his visit to Kuala Lumpur in May last year, which is in its initial draft stages and aims to enhance co-operation in training and sharing of intelligence related to security.

“There is also already co-operation in intelligence sharing between the military of Malaysia and the military of Bahrain,” he added.

“They also want to carry forward an exchange of personnel, where Bahrain will send officers to Malaysia and Malaysia will send officers here.”

Mr Yusof was speaking to the GDN to coincide with the Malaysian National Day, which was celebrated on Friday.

Investment in education ‘a priority’

INVESTING in education is a key area Malaysia is focusing on to improve bilateral ties with Bahrain.

Malaysian Ambassador Agus Salim Bin Yusof stressed the importance of the education sector as hundreds of Bahrainis travel to Malaysia for university degrees.

“At the moment there are more than 200 Bahrainis studying in Malaysia in various stages which is not including those who have graduated,” he said.

“We have a lot of public and private universities which are internationally recognised and we have tens of thousands of foreign students studying in Malaysia now.”

He said implementing twinning programmes between universities in the two countries would allow Bahraini students to graduate with internationally recognised degrees from Malaysian universities without shouldering costs associated with studying abroad.

“The Malaysian universities could come to Bahrain to establish twinning programmes with universities in Bahrain,” he explained.

“This way Bahrainis, Bahrain residents and students from this part of the world do not have to travel far to Malaysia to study; they can just enrol in one of the Bahraini universities in order for them to get the degree.

“Our Malaysian universities are also internationally recognised and I hope to encourage the Malaysian universities to establish co-operation with their Bahraini counterparts.”

Mr Yusof was speaking to the GDN to coincide with the Malaysian National Day, which fell on Friday.

Trade volume hits $230m

TRADE volume between Bahrain and Malaysia reached more than $230 million last year.

Malaysian Ambassador Agus Salim Bin Yusof told the GDN that the trade volume was recorded at $236m for 2017, with the total imports from Bahrain registered at $133.1m and Malaysian exports to Bahrain stood at $106m.

“Out of that, oil and petroleum products, which make up about 74 per cent of our imports from Bahrain.”

“Bahrain is the most friendly place to work in this region for foreigners,” he said.

“Minus the weather, which you can’t do anything about, life here is comfortable and it’s peaceful and the Bahrainis, they welcome us.

“The apartments, houses and infrastructure are excellent.”

However, the Malaysian community was concerned about talks of efforts to increase Bahamisation of the workforce.

“Recently we heard that Bahrain wishes to reduce the number of foreign workers and rely more on a Bahraini workforce,” said Mr Yusof.

“Although this is not a policy, there are recent talks about it, and our people are worried that their contracts will not be renewed.

“They’d like to work here for as long as possible because of the good working environment and good pay compared to what they can get back home.”

Mr Yusof was speaking to the GDN to coincide with the Malaysian National Day, which was celebrated on Friday.
1) Kin (PG 15) (Thriller/ Drama/ Sci-Fi) Starring: Carrie Coon, James Franco, Zoe Kravitz
   Shows at 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm and 11.45pm

2) Reprisal (PG 15) (Action/ Thriller) Starring: Bruce Willis, Frank Grillo and Johnathon Schaech
   Shows at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm
   Shows at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm

3) Eleven Men (PG 15) (Thriller/ Horror) Starring: Joey King, Julia Goldani Telles and Iko Uwais
   Shows at 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm

4) The Little Mermaid (PG 13) (Adventure/ Family) Starring: Sean Connery, Poppy Drayton and Shari MacLaine
   Shows at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm

5) The Meg (PG 15) (Action/ Thriller) Starring: Jason Statham, Ruby Rose and Bingbing Li
   Shows at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm
   Shows at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm

6) El Badlah (PG 13) (Arabic/ Comedy) Starring: Tamer Hosny, Akram Hosni, Majed El Masry and Amina Khalil
   Shows at noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm and midnight

7) Mile 22 (PG 15) (Action/ Thriller) Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Lauren Cohen and Iko Uwais
   Shows at 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm and 9.15pm

   Shows at 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm and 11pm

   Shows at 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm and 9.15pm

10) Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation (PG) (Animation/ Adventure/ Family) Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg and Selena Gomez
    Shows at 11.30am, 2pm, 5.30pm, 8pm and midnight

11) The Darkest Minds (PG 13) (Science Fiction/ Thriller/ Adventure) Starring: Lightspeed McQueen, Hayley Atwell and Zoë Kravitz
    Shows at 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm and 7.15pm

12) The Meg (PG 15) (Action/ Thriller) Starring: Carrie Coon, James Franco and Zoe Kravitz
    Shows at 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm and 9.15pm

13) The Darker Minds (PG 13) (Thriller/ Sci-Fi) Starring: Amanda Stenberg, Mandy Moore and Bradley Whitford
    Shows at 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm and 9.15pm

14) Charming (PG 13) (Animation/ Comedy) Starring: Demi Lovato, Wilmer Valderrama and Sia
    Shows at 10.45am, 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm and 10.45pm

15) The Incredibles 2 (PG) (Animation/ Action/ Adventure) Starring: Craig T. Nelson, Samuel L. Jackson and Catherine Keener
    Shows at 10.30am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm

16) Ocean’s Eight (PG 15) (Comedy) Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett and Anne Hathaway
    Shows at 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm and 11.15pm

17) The Spy Who Dumped Me (PG 15) (Action/ Comedy) Starring: Mila Kunis, Sam Heughan and Kaelan McKinnon
    Shows at 10.45am, 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm and 8.45pm

18) Mile 22 (15+) (Action/ Thriller) Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Lauren Cohen and Iko Uwais
    Shows at 11.45am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm and 9.15pm

    Shows at 10.15am, 12.15pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm

20) Reprisal (PG 15) (Action/ Crime/ Thriller) Starring: Bruce Willis, Frank Grillo and Johnathon Schaech
    Shows at 11.30am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm

21) Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation (PG) (Animation/ Comedy/ Family) Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg and Selena Gomez
    Shows at 11am, 3pm, 7pm and 9pm

22) Sky Scraper (PG 13) (Action/ Thriller/ Drama) Starring: Dwayne Johnson, New Campbell and Pablo Schreiber
    Shows at 11am, 3pm, and 5pm

23) The Little Mermaid (PG 13) (Adventure/ Family) Starring: William Moseley, Poppy Drayton and Shirley MacLaine
    Shows at 11.15am, 1.30pm, 3.45pm and 5.30pm

24) Reprisal (PG 15) (Action/ Crime/ Thriller) Starring: Bruce Willis, Frank Grillo and Johnathon Schaech
    Shows at 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm

25) Kin (PG 15) (Thriller) Starring: Carrie Coon, James Franco and Zoe Kravitz
    Shows at 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm and 9.15pm

26) The Incredibles 2 (PG) (Animation/ Action/ Adventure) Starring: Craig T. Nelson, Samuel L. Jackson and Catherine Keener
    Shows at 10.30am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm

27) Charming (PG 13) (Animation/ Comedy) Starring: Demi Lovato, Wilmer Valderrama and Sia
    Shows at 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm

28) Satyameva Jayate (15+) (Hindi/ Action/ Thriller) Starring: John Abraham, Manoj Bisajawala and Aashish Sharma
    Shows at 6pm, 8.45pm and 11.30pm

29) Nontanasaal (Telugu) Starring: Naga Shourya, Kathrine, Tigmugas Sharmi and Ajay
    Shows at noon

30) Vishakhaa Nidhigaal (Tamil) Starring: Nayantara, Athavara Man, Vasanth Kibana and Anurag Kashyap
    Shows at 9pm

31) Annamullu Jey! (Tamil) Starring: Abhishek Deo, Mahima Nambiar and Riti Bajaj
    Shows at noon

32) Jawan Phir Nahi Ani 2 (PG 13) (Urdu/ Comedy/ Romance) Starring: Mahsum Khan, Rubin Singh and Humayun Saeed
    Shows at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 7pm

    Shows at 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm

34) Reprisal (PG 15) (Action/ Crime/ Thriller) Starring: Bruce Willis, Frank Grillo and Johnathon Schaech
    Shows at 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm

35) Reprisal (PG 15) (Action/ Crime/ Thriller) Starring: Bruce Willis, Frank Grillo and Johnathon Schaech
    Shows at 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm
A BAHRAINI play was the opening act as the curtain rose on a popular theatre festival last night which will showcase young talent from all around the world.

Ten plays from nine countries, including Bahrain, will be performed at the 12th Al Sawari International Youth Theatre Festival being held at the Cultural Hall until September 10.

The festival, under the patronage of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca) president Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, is being organised by Al Sawari Theatre in partnership with Tamkeen.

The opening ceremony was attended by Baca culture and arts director Shaikha Hala bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, Al Sawari Theatre chairman Khalid Al Rowaie and prominent figures in the theatrical field.

Several personalities who enriched the theatre movement in Bahrain and the Arab world, top of the list being Bahraini poet and playwright Ali Al Sharqawi, were honoured with a medal and a commemorative shield by Shaikha Hala and Mr Al Rowaie.

Egyptian novelist, playwright, actress and director Nora Amin was also honoured along with Bahraini artist Hussain Al Riffaei, who is among the founders of Al Sawari Theatre Band, and Kuwaiti artist Faisal Al Ameri.

The Key, a Bahraini production that kicked-started the festival tells a story of three individuals trapped in a room looking for a way out.

The play, helmed by veteran Bahraini director Ibrahim Khalifa, showcased the talent of three aspiring Bahraini actors – Hussain Abdali, Omar Al Sa‘eedy and Munther Ghareeb.

“We aspire and dream to have the festival achieve international recognition since 1994, and with this edition we have achieved that,” Mr Khalifa, who has been directing and producing works since 1982, told the GDN.

“This is an incredible opportunity for Bahrain to have a festival of this magnitude with such powerful acts and prominent theatre performers.”

Mr Khalifa spent eight months working on the play. Mr Abdali has been acting since he was eight years old.

“This is my second participation in Al Sawari Festival; in the last edition I received the best actor award,” he told the GDN.

“There is pressure as the opening act, especially for a festival of this magnitude with international and powerful acts.”

The 10 plays to be staged during the festival are Hadra Hura (Free Presence), a Syrian-German production; Ta‘a Sakena (Standstill T), an Egyptian production; Sarkhat Alam (Painful Scream) from Algeria; Flying Over the City from Armenia; the Russian production Time for Roaming; the Georgian production Yellow Days; two Bahraini productions Al Muftah (The Key) and In The Good and Bad; Layta Ba’ad (Not Yet) from Tunisia; and Su`amout Fy Al Manfa (I Will Die In Exile) from Palestine.

On the sidelines of the festival, the Al Sawari International Conference for Youth will also be held for the first time under the theme “Theatre … And Beyond Humanity”.

A workshop, by American trainer Roberta Levetow and sponsored by the American Embassy, will also be held.

Performances will continue today with Yellow Days at the Cultural Hall at 8pm and daily until September 10, except on September 7 and 9 when there will be two performances at 6.30pm and 8pm at the Muharraq Model Youth Centre.

By REEM AL QAATSFI

Showcasing young talents...

10 plays lined up for popular theatre festival

Mr Al Rowaie, left, and Shaikha Hala presenting Mr Al Riffaei with a commemorative shield

A section of the audience who attended the festival opening last night
A CALL has gone out to companies and individuals to support a key scholarship programme for students.

The Rayaat programme, run by Al Mabarrah Al Khalifia Foundation (MKF), helps students pursue their baccalaureate, master’s and medicine degrees.

The programme offers several benefits such as covering all university and book fees, monthly financial incentives based on academic attainment along with access to workshops and training opportunities in various sectors.

It also fosters the culture of social responsibility by instilling volunteerism and community outreach programmes during the programme.

Workshops along educational and recreational programmes are organised during the academic year while creating job opportunities in the private and public sector to help students develop the necessary skills and work ethics.

Students are also encouraged to participate in volunteer work that serves the community.

Corporates and people wishing to support the programme for 2018-2019 are urged to call 17499999 or email scholarship@mkfbh.org
GULF DAILY NEWS

**VAT pledge**

Bahrain yesterday reiterated its commitment to implementing the Value Added Tax (VAT), once it is endorsed by the legislative authority. Finance Minister and deputy-secretary Yousif Abdulla Hamood said details of the VAT levies would be released once approved. He made the statement in response to reports being circulated on social media websites. “The step is in compliance with the unified agreement which was signed by the GCC member states, on the implementation of the VAT levies,” he said in a statement posted on the ministry’s website. A timetable for the implementation of the tax would be announced, along with all technical and procedural details, he added.

**Walkway project**

WORK on the BD157,000 Qalali King Hamad Walkway project will begin this month. Tender for the project has been awarded. Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam Khalaf said yesterday. The scheme follows the ministry’s keenness to set up recreational projects in various governorates, in line with its efforts to boost sustainable urban development and provide sports and leisure spaces. The walkway will serve Qalali Housing Project’s residents, and those of neighbouring regions, Mr Khalaf said, noting that it will be “an important family entertainment monument”.

**Film festival honour**

BAHRAIN will be the guest of honour at the Seven Hills International Film Festival (SHIFF), due to be held in Hungary, a ‘Bahrian Day’ will be held during the event which will attract more than 40 authors, script writers, directors and filmmakers from all over the world. Vice-chairman of the board of trustees and executive director of the Isa Cultural Centre and board of trustees chairman of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence Dr Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said the Isa Cultural Centre is participating in the celebration at the official invitation of the SHIFF management. The event will be held from tomorrow until September 9. More than 120 photographs and paintings by Bahraini talents, showcasing the kingdom’s heritage and rich history, will be presented on the opening day. Dr Shaikh Khalid pointed out that the Isa Cultural Centre is participating in the celebration at the official invitation of the SHIFF management. The event will be held from tomorrow until September 9. More than 120 photographs and paintings by Bahraini talents, showcasing the kingdom’s heritage and rich history, will be presented on the opening day. Dr Shaikh Khalid pointed out that the Isa Cultural Centre is participating in the celebration at the official invitation of the SHIFF management.

**Ex-presidents pay touching eulogies**

WASHINGTON: Two ex-presidents from opposing parties united yesterday to honour US Senator John McCain, in a momentous funeral that championed his aspirations of political comity but also rebuked the tribalist and division tricked by Donald Trump. As millions tuned in to the televised memorial attended by the breadth of Washington powerbrokers, Trump himself was notably absent—leaving the capital to head to his golf club in Virginia just when eulogies to McCain were being delivered.

And while Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama offered subtle swipes at the course, McCain’s daughter Meghan used the words of Trump’s campaign slogan to deliver a searing, mistake rebuke.

“The America of John McCain has no need to be made great again because America was always great,” she said, extended applause.

As Bush and Obama praised McCain for repeatedly placing country over party or self, the stunning contrast between the unifying ceremony, under the neo-Gothic arches of Washington National Cathedral and an auction Trump only highlighted the astonishing state of US politics.

Hailing his friend as an “extraordinary man” who embodied what is best in US civic culture, McCain’s daughter pointed out that the war hero, who battled cancer and political opponents frantically but respectfully in the political arena, “made us better presidents—just as he made the Senate better, just as he made the country better.”

He was echoing similar sentiments expressed yesterday by Bush, who defeated McCain in a “hard fought” Republican primary battle in 2000, and in bitter rivalry melted away into a lasting friendship.

While Bush and Obama hail from different parties, their message yesterday was clear. US politics can and should rise to a higher level with the example set by McCain.

“We never doubted the other man’s sincerity or the other man’s patriotism—or that when all was said and done, we were on the same team,” Obama said of his campaign battles with McCain.

So much of today’s politics, “our public discourse, can seem small and mean and petty, trafficking in bombast and insult,” he added.

**Two US citizens hurt in Dutch attack**

AMSTERDAM: Dutch officials yesterday said a knife-wielding attacker who wounded two US citizens at Amsterdam Central Station a day before he had a terrorist motive”, as a police probe widened.

As Bush and Obama paid tribute to McCain’s patriotism yesterday, the other man’s patriotism — or that when all was said and done, we were on the same team,” Obama said of his campaign battles with McCain.

We never doubted the other man’s sincerity or the other man’s patriotism—or that when all was said and done, we were on the same team,” Obama said of his campaign battles with McCain.

So much of today’s politics, “our public discourse, can seem small and mean and petty, trafficking in bombast and insult,” he added.

Police later identified the man as a 19-year-old Afghan with a German residency permit. He has been named as “Jawed S.”

Amsterdam City Hall said the suspect was being held in hospital under police guard and would briefly appear in court today behind closed doors.

Dutch authorities said they were in close contact with their German counterparts who raided the suspect’s home yesterday at an unknown location in Germany. “Among applications, several data carriers have been confiscated and are being investigated,” they said.

Initial investigations also indicated the man had not specifically targeted the Americans — suggesting a random attack.

**set to host auto fair**

The Bahrain Auto Fair 2019 will be held from March 6 to 10, at the Water Garden City in Seef District.

Spread over an area of 30,000 square metres, the Bahrain Auto Fair has attracted more than 4,000 participants, car companies and support services. Global car companies are expected to showcase their latest models at the festival which will also feature live music and cultural shows.

**Polls invite**

APPLICATIONS are being invited for elections to Bahrain Occupational Health Association, under the aegis of Bahrain Medical Society (BMS).

Doctors wishing to take part in the elections can submit a letter to BMS general secretary Dr Nasser Alhumaidi at the society’s headquarters in Juffair or via email at info@bms.bh.

In a letter to the society’s president and CEO, Dr Abuhamad Alshamrani, the government has called on the society to ensure that candidates for the post of a general secretary serve the public interest.

The government has also called on the society to ensure that candidates for the post of a general secretary serve the public interest.
Iraq oil exports hit peak in August

**Baghdad:** Iraq’s oil exports hit their highest monthly figure this year, the oil ministry said yesterday, with production of 112 million barrels of crude bringing $7.7 billion to the war-torn country’s ailing economy.

“In August, exports of crude reached 111.6m barrels, bringing $7.7bn, on an average price of $69.59 per barrel, it said in a statement.

In August last year Iraq earned $4.6bn from the sale of 99.7m barrels of crude oil.

Iraq’s sole source of foreign currency, oil revenues have pumped more than $50bn into state coffers since January.

Baghdad’s economy has been hit hard by the war against the Islamic State jihadist group which had seized a third of Iraq’s territory in 2014 before being removed in a vast government offensive last year.

Iraq suffers from persistent corruption and many Iraqis complain that the country’s oil wealth is unfairly distributed.

This summer saw weeks of demonstra-
tions in the oil-rich but marginalized south, demanding an end to power shortages and corruption.

It was the second-highest output of any member of the Opec oil producers cartel, at some 4.5m more than June to raise crude output.

Turkey raises gas and power prices

**Ankara:** Turkey raised natural gas prices yesterday by as much as 14 percent, while the energy regulator announced a similar increase in electricity costs as a deepening currency crisis stokes inflation.

The lira has fallen 42pc against the dollar this year, hit by concerns over President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s grasp on monetary policy and a worsening rift with the US over a detained American pastor.

The sell-off has increased the cost of food and petrol and raised fears about the impact on the country’s wider economy and banks. Economists are particularly worried about the central bank’s inability to rein in inflation, which hit a 14-year high of nearly 16pc in July.

State pipeline operator Botas raised natural gas prices by 14pc for industrial use and 9pc for residential use effective from yesterday, sources said.

Last month, Botas increased the price of natural gas for electricity production by 50pc and by 9pc for residential use. Turkey is dependent on imports for almost all of its energy needs. The lira crisis has driven up the cost, in local currency terms, of oil and gas.

Likewise, Turkey’s energy regulator said it would raise electricity prices by 14pc for industrial use and 9pc for households from yesterday. It increased prices by the same amount last month.

Almost a third of Turkey’s total 293 billion megalawatt power production came from natural gas power plants in 2017. Retail prices in Istanbul, Turkey’s biggest city, surged 2.23pc month-on-month in August, for a year-on-year increase of 14.99pc, the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce said.

Official August inflation data is due on Monday, and economists expect another hefty reading.

“This will provide the first hard evidence of the impact of the lira’s collapse this month on the wider economy,” Jason Tuvey of Capital Economics said.

The latest increases in electricity and gas prices will directly increase inflation by 55 basis points, according to Reuters calculations.

Erdogan, self-described “enemy of interest rates”, wants to see lower borrowing costs to keep credit flowing, particularly to the construction sector. Investors, who see the economy heading for a hard landing, say decisive interest rate rises are needed to put the brakes on inflation.

Erdogan, who has appointed his son-in-law Berat Albayrak as finance minister, casts the lira’s slide as an economic attack on Turkey by Western governments, financiers and ratings agencies. He says high interest rates are a “scandal” and a “crime”.

“We see little chance that an ugly set of inflation figures will change the government’s — and, crucially, President Erdogan’s — stance on interest rates,” Tuvey of Capital Economics said.

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**News Delhi:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a payments bank yesterday to turn postmen into bankers so they can offer financial services to the poor in rural areas and boost financial inclusion.

Modi has since 2014 sought to end what he called “financial untouchability” by giving millions of people access to banking services in remote areas of the country.

While Modi addressed a gathering in Delhi, his ministers promised a laudable initiative that will change the banking sector in the country. The bank is the latest government initiative to boost digital transactions and discourage cash dealings that it says enables tax evasion.

**New Delhi:** The India Post Payments Bank will start operations with 650 branches. Accounts will be able to hold a maximum of 100,000 rupees ($1,488) in deposits and will offer limited services.

The government said it planned to launch 1,556 more banks in the new payments bank network by December 31 to offer basic bank account services, money transfers and bill payment.

“Using this initiative, we will take the bank to villages and to the poor,” Modi said at the launch event in New Delhi, which was also attended by dozens of postal service employees who sat dressed in their khaki-coloured uniforms.

More than 300,000 postmen will use smartphones and other digital devices to offer doorstep banking services in remote areas of the country.

The World Bank estimates that 190 million people without a bank account, second only to China.

The India Post Payments Bank
Canada not needed in Nafta deal says Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to exclude Canada from a new Nafta agreement after negotiations to rewrite the pact ended without an agreement.

Trump has repeatedly denounced Nafta as “one of the worst trade deals ever made,” language he repeated yesterday.

Trump said that “Canada is a very bad partner,” and yesterday threatened to “not interfere with these negotiations or I will simply terminate Nafta entirely & we will be far better off.”

US, Canadian and Mexican trade talks are set to resume on Wednesday, and Ottawa and Washington still have time to reach an agreement that would keep Canada in the 25-year-old trade pact with Mexico.

But Trump’s tweet seemed designed to ramp up pressure on Canadian negotiators.

Earlier in the week, officials appeared close to reaching a deal that would write the North American Free Trade Agreement, but leaked inflammatory comments from Trump — seen by some Canadians as suggesting he was bargaining in bad faith — threatened to upend the talks.

“Congress should not interfere with these negotiations or I will simply terminate Nafta entirely & we will be far better off.”

US and Mexico had announced a breakthrough accord on Monday, potential-ly leaving Canada out in the cold, but Ottawa’s foreign minister Chrystia Freeland insisted that a “win-win-win” agreement was within reach.

The White House notified Congress on Friday of its “intent to sign a trade agreement with Mexico — and Canada, if it is willing — 90 days from now.”

The White House now has 30 days to present the full text of a new agreement to Congress, which will give Ottawa and Washington time to iron out differences.

Trump’s caution to Congress to “not interfere with these negotiations” appeared to refer to one potential obstacle: the fact that legislators have empowered him to reach a so-called “fast-track” agreement with both Nafta partners, not just Mexico.

It is unclear how that will be sorted out.

In a second tweet, Trump suggested that the US would be better off with no trade agreement than with a flawed Nafta deal. “We were far better off before Nafta... We make new deal or go back to pre-Nafta!” he said.

Sounding a more optimistic note, Freeland had said late in the week that “with good will and flexibility on all sides, I know we can get there.”

But she repeated that Canada would only sign an agreement that was in its national interest.

Gulf Air-RCO launch new initiative

MANAMA: A new initiative to encourage passengers flying on Gulf Air to become partners in charitable causes was launched yesterday.

The ‘Enhance Life by Giving’ campaign was launched by Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister and Gulf Air chairman Zayed Alzayani and Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) secretary general Dr Mustafa Al Sayed on the airline’s flight from Bahrain to London.

The minister praised the range of charitable and humanitarian activities undertaken by RCO and confirmed the airline’s commitment to give back to the community.

Donations will be allocated to support the health and education programmes for underprivileged families and children.

Passenger Mohammed Salahuddin was the first one to donate towards the initiative. The project is being held in Bahrain for the first time and aims to promote the principle of community partnership.

It encourages travellers to donate their excess coins or notes in any currency by placing them in special envelopes located in seat pockets aboard Gulf Air flights.

The minister revealed that 900 envelopes were placed aboard the plane, and noted that the scheme aims to gain Gulf Air’s partnership with international experts in cybersecurity and Blockchain, and BTECH said.

BTECH ‘ready for conference on blockchain’

MANAMA: Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) said it has completed preparations for the first edition of SmartSec Conference on information security and Blockchain to be held in Bahrain on September 4 and 5.

The event will be held under the patronage of Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay, in co-operation with Work Smart, Tamkeen, Information and eGovernment Authority and NGN.

It aims to bring the best international professionals in the field of cybersecurity to the kingdom. SmartSec provides participants with a unique opportunity to be acquainted with latest trends, innovation and solutions featured by the international cyber community.

Representatives from major technology partners from Bahrain, the region and the world, including Aramco, Avanza, Microsoft and oracle as well as internationally known companies of information security and Blockchain are expected to attend.

It is a unique opportunity to network and connect with international experts in cybersecurity and Blockchain, BTECH said.

Gulf Daily News Sunday, 2nd September 2018
NEW YORK: US-based mutual fund managers worried about the outlook for bank earnings have been trimming financial stocks from their portfolios, although some value-oriented portfolio managers and analysts said they still see attractive opportunities in the sector.

The average US based mutual fund reduced its stake in financial companies by nearly 1.1 percentage points in the second quarter to approximately 14 per cent, the largest one-quarter decline since at least 2013, according to Goldman Sachs.

The move away from banks, insurance companies, and mortgage lenders came as the financial sector has underperformed the broad S&P 500 benchmark index by more than 5pc since April.

Many fund managers believe banks have already hit peak earnings. One red flag is that the US Treasury yield curve has been flattening as short-term yields rise in anticipation of US interest rate rises from the Federal Reserve while long-term yields fall on worries about economic growth and trade tensions. This situation generally squeezes bank profits.

Some investors worry long-term yields might eventually dip below short-term yields. Such a yield curve inversion could signal a looming recession. “The flatter the yield curve the harder it is to make money,” said Ian McDonald, co-leader of the financials research team at Janus Henderson Investors, which oversees $370.1 billion in assets under management, adding that “funds are looking around and saying that if we’re going to see weaker growth then we need to get out of financials.”

The spread between the yield of two- and 10-year US Treasuries is trading around its flattest in 11 years. Rising short-term rates raise a bank’s borrowing costs, while falling long-term rates limit how much they can charge for loans.

Yet McDonald said large-cap banks like JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and Citigroup remain attractive even if the sector overall does not. The major banks have been investing in online platforms and mobile apps, making them more appealing to millennials and less dependent on costly branches, he noted.

“The US retail banking industry is moving into the post-debit era of risk management to the fintech phase of managing customer experience,” he said.

Ben Kirby, portfolio manager of the 15.4bn Thornburn Investment Income Builder fund, said his fund has been moving more into European banks such as ING Groep NV, prompted in part by a recent sell-off in shares following the steep decline of the Turkish lira. The Turkish currency has plunged more than 40pc this year due to increasing tensions with the US and concerns that the country’s central bank is losing its independence under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The US has been the market darling for the last 10 years, and that’s led to valuations that are a bit stretched and an economic cycle that is a bit more mature,” Kirby said. “Whereas in Europe it’s earlier in the cycle and growth is accelerating.”

Overall, companies in the S&P 500 financial sector trade at a trailing price to earnings ratio of 14.5 and are up 2.2pc for the year to date, according to Thomson Reuters data. The broad S&P 500, by comparison, trades at a trailing PE of 22.6 and is up nearly 9pc over the same time.

Investors have retreated from financials as well, with the Financial Sector Select SPDR, an ETF that tracks financial stocks in the S&P 500, losing $1.7bn in outflows over the last four weeks, according to Lipper data.

Though banks have stronger balance sheets than at the start of the financial crisis 10 years ago, “we’re having a hard time finding anything to get excited about in financials,” said Tom Plumb, manager of the $29.7 million Plumb Equity Fund.

Instead of banks, Plumb has his largest positions in credit-card and payment companies Visa and Mastercard, continue to grow as more retail purchases are made online rather than in physical stores, he said.

“It’s a mistake to get too big a macro secular trend too early,” he said.
Announcements

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17508938 at the Directorate of Finance and Administration – Purchasing Department 1st floor at the Bahrain Exhibition Center during working hours and collect the appropriate tender documents after paying the non-refundable fees, specified above starting on Sunday 2nd September 2018.

Tenders shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Initial Bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of 1% of the tender value

whether amount is the lesser, provided that no initial bond’s value shall be less than

BD 500-.

The initial bond should be in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee, cash or insurance policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.

Offers should be submitted in the tender box provided at the first floor at the Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority.

The Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority invites quotations for the following tender:

TENDER TITLE

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TENDER NO.

BTEA 85/2018

INITIAL BOND

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TERMINATION DATE

12/09/2018

TIME

13:30

Gulf Daily News Sunday, 2nd September 2018

17
**Urgent Manpower requirement for the Infrastructure Project**

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All the above categories shall have experience in Infra Structure Projects comprising of deep sewer lines including manholes, Storm water lines including manholes, sheet piling & dewatering techniques, Potable Water, Irrigation Network, Inspection Chambers, LV / HV Cables Network, Substations, LV Distribution, Street Lighting, RoadFormation, Earthworks, Cutting / Backfilling, Kerb Fixing & Interlock Paving, Soft Landscaping.

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- Excellent command of written and spoken English & Arabic.
- Outstanding interpersonal and verbal skills.
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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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**KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER, HORECA- BAHRAIN**

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- Improve the overall client satisfaction of your allocated portfolio.

**Requirements:**
- 7 years prior Account Management experience within the foodservice industry.
- Degree qualified in Business or a related discipline from a reputable University.
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- Professional maturity with exceptional interpersonal and relationship building skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively with clients whilst demonstrating a passion for the outcomes.
- Proven track record of achieving sales targets as well as acquiring new business.
- High level time management and organization skills.
- Outstanding presentation skills and business acumen.

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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LONDON: Liverpool and Chelsea maintained their perfect Premier League starts after four games last night as champions Manchester City edged past Newcastle to remain two points behind the early leaders.

A huge error from £15million ($84m) goalkeeper Alisson Becker threatened to halt Liverpool’s early season charge, but Jürgen Klopp’s men held out for a 2-1 win at the King Power in another demonstration of their new-found defensive solidity to go with the firepower of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah.

Chelsea had to wait until 19 minutes from time to break Bournemouth at Stamford Bridge before the in-form Pedro Rodriguez opened the scoring and Eden Hazard sealed the points in goalkeeper Alisson Becker threatened to hold the early leaders.

But that was a more comfortable cushion than they deserved as the third straight game the Reds failed to produce their free-flowing best.

Alisson more than played his part in registering clean sheets against West Ham, Crystal Palace and Brighton, but the Brazilian number one was caught trying to dribble past Kelechi Iheanacho and the Brazilian was sent off for a foul eventually as Walker hammmered home a strike from 25 yards for the match winner seven minutes into the second half.

West Ham would have any type of goal at the moment as a near £100m investment in the transfer market—£72m for Rice and £60m for Allan Saint-Maximin—to any other team.

City had it’s work to do, but after four games last night as perfect Premier League starts with four wins from four (4-0) 6-5 0-0 3-2 2-0 1-0 2-1 2-0 the perfect start has surprised even the Italian himself.

Imprint

Sami’s imprint was again clear to see as the blues dominated possession, but were made to work to inflict Bournemouth’s first defeat of the campaign.

They were very happy that he is a good footballer. But all we have to learn is to use it in the right way,” said, Klopp of Alisson’s propensity to take risks.

“Was a mistake - no goalkeeper in the world should dribble in that situation.”

While Liverpool were expected to challenge City for the title having spent more than any other team in the league over the summer, Maurozzi Samir’s perfect start at Chelsea has surprised even the Italian himself.

The man himself.

At the end of the table was the another afternoon for to forget for West Ham, who remain the only Premier League side without a point, as Adama Traore snatched a 1-0 win for Wolves in stoppage time at the London Stadium.

On a rare day for all clubs, who had been substituted 20 minutes from time, Mane and Firmino stepped into the breach to give Liverpool a 2-0 half-time lead at Leicester.

But that was a more comfortable cushion than they deserved as the third straight game the Reds failed to produce their free-flowing best.

Alisson more than played his part in registering clean sheets against West Ham, Crystal Palace and Brighton, but the Brazilian number one was caught trying to dribble past Kelechi Iheanacho and the Nigerian squirmed for Rachael Ghezzal to set up a grandstand finish.

“Only positive that he is a good footballer. But all we have to learn is to use it in the right way,” said, Klopp of Alisson’s propensity to take risks.

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Serena was out on the way to set a new career-high in her most lopsided victory over Venus, and that it was the best match she’d ever played since I started this journey on my way to the US Open's most lopsided victory over Venus, and that it was the best match she’d ever played.
Ali impresses in triathlon debut

Bahrain sign off with record medal haul

The Games end today with a closing ceremony, starting 2pm Bahrain time. Though Bahrain did not win any medal on the penultimate day yesterday, teenager Omar Ali gave a glimpse into a promising future finishing a credible 22nd among 34 participants in the men’s triathlon.

The teenager finished the gruelling event in two hours five minutes and 28 seconds. He covered the 1.5km swim in 21 minutes and 55 seconds, took one of the three minutes and seven seconds to complete the 10km cycling and completed the 10km run in 39 minute and 25 seconds.

Ali was over 15 minutes behind gold medallist Junpei Furuaya of Japan, who timed 1:49:43. Ayan Beisenbayed of Kazakhstan claimed the silver in 1:50:49 and Mingxi Li of China the bronze in 1:50:49.

Four triathletes did not finish the race yesterday while another two were disqualified.

Meanwhile, Bahrain’s Muratar Ali suffered an injury during the race yesterday while another<br>

O’Keeffe joins Brave commentary team

IRELAND’s top ring announcer Noel O’Keeffe last night signed a contract with Brave Combat Federation to be a part of its commentary team at Brave 16 to be held at the Mubadala Arena in Abu Dhabi on September 21.

O’Keeffe commented at Brave 13 in Belfast which marked Brave’s entry into Europe. He is the first non-athlete to have signed with Brave from Ireland.

“I am extremely excited to be a part of Brave Combat Federation’s commentary team. After working with them at Brave 13 in Belfast, I got to see the promotion’s passion for their fighters and fans. Brave is the fastest growing MMA promotion in the world and is now a global promotion with some of the best fighters in the world on their roster,” said O’Keeffe.

O’Keeffe has been an announcer and in the commentary team for multiple promotions including Clan Wars, Cage Legacy and BAMMA.

O’Keeffe will join Kirik Jenness and Younou N’Guar at Brave 16.

It will be the first time that he will be taking over commentary responsibilities outside Ireland and the UK.

Ryf defends her Ironman title in style

The Swiss faced a formidable challenge from British athlete Lucy Charles, who led her out of the 1.9km swim by nearly 90 seconds.

Ryf was unfazed and made the pass for the lead position a third of the way through the 90km cycling course.

However, Charles stayed in touch and kept the gap down to just two seconds as the two athletes jumped off their bikes.

On the half-marathon Ryf opened up the throttle, putting a full minute between herself and Charles by the seventh kilometre. By the time she broke the tape, the gap was nearly four minutes.

“So happy to win the 2018 Ironman 70.3 World Championship a second time, taking top honours in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, with a time of 4:01:12. This has solidified her place in Ironman history as she becomes the first person male or female to win the Ironman 70.3 World Championship four times.

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Son dream comes true

JAKARTA: Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min avoided a spell in the military and hosts Indonesia unveiled ambitious plans to host the Olympics as the Asian Games reached a climax yesterday.

Son's bid to avoid military service by winning football gold was the highlight of the Games, with a gold as India

Son's career-saving gold was the highlight of a busy final full day of competition, with 44 gold medals in play as today's closing ceremony looms.

But President Joko Widodo raised the prospect of more, as he said Indonesia, buoyed by its mostly smooth hosting of the Games, would bid for the 2023 Olympics.

"Indonesia has planned to immediately register itself as a candidate for the 2023 Olympics," Widodo said, after hour-long talks with Olympics chief Thomas Bach.

Indonesia’s announcement reflects the growing clout and resources of countries in Asia, which is hosting three Olympics within the space of four years.

After this year’s Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Tokyo is holding the 2020 Summer Games and Beijing will host the winter edition in 2022 - becoming the first city to organise both the summer and winter Games.

Elsewhere, the boxing competition witnessed unsavoury scenes as police had to break up protests by two North Korean coaches who were subsequently kicked out of the Games.

Pak Chol Jun refused to leave the ring and Pak Il Nam angrily tried to whip up the crowd as they were stopped in their tracks by police.

Pak Chol Jun subsequently kicked out of the Games.

Tokyo Games.

Premier Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin completed his hat-trick in the 59th minute to put Malaysia ahead again, rekindling their hopes of an Asian gold which secures a place at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

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Consolation

India, Asian Games winners in Incheon four years ago, won the bronze by beating arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in what was a poor consolation for Hockey's former glories.

Harendra Singh's side were impressive in the early stages of the competition, pumping in 56 goals -26 in a rout of Hong Kong alone - in their first four matches and looked on course for a successful title defence.

A 7-6 shootout defeat by Malaysia in the semi-finals not only dashed that hope but left India with a trickier qualification process for the Tokyo Games.

"This is surely not what we wanted," Singh said after Sunday's win against Hong Kong. "But we are not returning empty-handed."

"Yes, the semi-final defeat was a setback but my boys regrouped and showed character in this match. I'm proud of them," added the coach.

India, which is hosting three Olympics within the space of four years, overcame China.

Today's win marks the highest point of India's tally as the focus remained on traditional sports.

Bardhan, at the age of 60, became the oldest man in Indian contingent to win a medal at the Games as he and his 56-year-old partner finished the men's pair event with a score of 384.

They edged out China's Lixin Yang and Gang Chen, who finished with 378 points after five rounds of competition.

The squash players, who had shocked powerhouse Malaysia in semis, though were stopped in their tracks by shooting Hong Kong in the women's team final and they had to settle for a silver.

Sunayna Kuruvilla and India number one Joshua Chinappa lost their respective singles as the team suffered its second defeat against Hong Kong in a space of three days.

A silver was a creditable performance nonetheless, having surprised defending champions Malaysia in the semi-finals on Friday.

With a runners-up finish, India equalled their best ever performance at the Games. They had also reached the final at Incheon four years ago.

Son's career-saving gold was the highlight of a busy final full day of competition, with 44 gold medals in play as today's closing ceremony looms.

But President Joko Widodo raised the prospect of more, as he said Indonesia, buoyed by its mostly smooth hosting of the Games, would bid for the 2023 Olympics.

"Indonesia has planned to immediately register itself as a candidate for the 2023 Olympics," Widodo said, after hour-long talks with Olympics chief Thomas Bach.

Indonesia’s announcement reflects the growing clout and resources of countries in Asia, which is hosting three Olympics within the space of four years.

After this year’s Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Tokyo is holding the 2020 Summer Games and Beijing will host the winter edition in 2022 - becoming the first city to organise both the summer and winter Games.

Elsewhere, the boxing competition witnessed unsavoury scenes as police had to break up protests by two North Korean coaches who were subsequently kicked out of the Games.

Pak Chol Jun refused to leave the ring and Pak Il Nam angrily tried to whip up the crowd as they were stopped in their tracks by police.

Pak Chol Jun subsequently kicked out of the Games.

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NEW YORK: Five-time champion Roger Federer pulled out all the stops in a 6-4, 6-1, 7-5 victory over Australian Nick Kyrgios late last night to reach the fourth round of the US Open. The second-seeded Swiss improved to 3-1 against Kyrgios in his first Grand Slam meeting with the Aussie, who was expected to pose a threat after pushing Federer to three sets in their last two ATP meetings. Federer will fight for a quarter-final berth against another Australian, John Millman, who reached his first Grand Slam fourth round with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan. In the women’s section, Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber was knocked out, losing 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia.

Federer through as Kerber bows out

Gulf Daily News Sunday, 2nd September 2018

India keep Kohli out of Asia Cup

MUMBAI: Indian skipper Virat Kohli has been rested for the Asia Cup starting in the UAE on September 15, with fellow batsman Rohit Sharma set to lead the team in the 50-over tournament in the UAE, the country’s cricket board announced yesterday.

Kohli recently overcame a back problem that had troubled him during the second Test of their ongoing five-match series against England. He also missed a stint with English county championship side Surrey before the tour due to a neck injury.

India squad for Asia Cup:
Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Lokesh Rahul, Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, MI Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur, Khaleel Ahmed.

Malinage recalled

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka’s cricket selectors yesterday recalled fast bowler Lasith Malinga after an year in limbo and included him in a 16-member squad for the upcoming Asia Cup tournament.

The injury-prone 35-year-old had been largely ignored since his last ODI appearance in September last year.

Sri Lanka squad:
Angelo Mathews (Captain), Kusal Perera, Kusal Mendis, Upul Tharanga, Dinesh Chandimal, Danushka Gunathilaka, Thisara Perera, Dasun Shanaka, Dhanajaya de Silva, Akila Dananjaya, Dinuan Perera, Amila Aponso, Kasun Rajitha, Suranga Lakmal, Dushmantha Chameera and Lasith Malinga.

Hatton shares lead

MASSACHUSETTS, US: Englishman Tyrrell Hatton shot the lowest score of his short PGA Tour career, an eight-under-par 63, to join compatriot Justin Rose in holding the second-round clubhouse lead at the Dell Technologies Championship in Massachusetts yesterday.

First-round leader Rose added a 67 to his opening 65 to tie Hatton at 10-under 132, two strokes ahead of fellow countryman Tommy Fleetwood (65) at TPC Boston.

Double 2018 major winner Brooks Koepka (69) trailed by six strokes.

Hatton, a three-times winner on the European Tour, is making his 38th start on the PGA Tour.

Cahill joins Indian league

MELBOURNE: Australia’s record goal scorer Tim Cahill has joined Indian Super League (ISL) side Jamshedpur FC, the 38-year-old striker announced yesterday.

Cahill converged for playing time at club level last year and a-League side Melbourne City in December to return to Millwall – where he first came to prominence 20 years ago - before being released by the Championship club.