



- HOME
- LOCAL
- WORLD
- BUSINESS
- SPORT
- WHAT'S ON
- COMMENT
- LETTERS
- CARTOONS
- HOROSCOPE
- CLASSIFIEDS
- ADVERTISE
- ARCHIVES

Secret behind Mona Lisa's smile revealed!

PARIS: Now it's official: Mona Lisa was 83 per cent happy, nine pc disgusted, six pc fearful and two pc angry. That's the conclusion of a University of Amsterdam computer that applied "emotion-recognition software" to Leonardo da Vinci's work, the British weekly New Scientist reports in next Saturday's issue. The algorithm, developed in conjunction with the University of Illinois, tries to assess the human mood by examining key features such as the curvature of the lips and crinkles around the eyes, then makes a score with respect to six basic emotions.

\$738m Hidd deal awarded

MANAMA: A \$738 million (BD278m) contract for the privatisation of the Hidd power and water desalination plant was awarded to a consortium of UK-Suez Energy International and Sumitomo Corporation yesterday. It will now operate the plant and oversee its third phase of revamp to upgrade water output to 90 million gallons from 30m, the Tenders Board said. The consortium beat two other bids - \$710m (BD267m) offer by an Malkov Bierhard Group-Saudi National Power alliance and a \$667m (BD251m) bid by a consortium led by Gulf Investment Company, Maroubini Group and Japanese JGC Corporation. An offer by another consortium to increase its package to secure the contract was turned down as it flouted the terms.

Drugs trio arrested

MANAMA: Three Bahrainis suspected of dealing in drugs yesterday appeared before the General Prosecutor. The three, aged between 37 and 39, were arrested in a raid on a flat and found to be in possession of a paper-wrapped substance, suspected to be heroin, said CID director-general Brigadier General Farook Salman Al Maawda. Two



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Free
for a
limited
time



pieces of hashih and tobacco ready to be mixed with it into joints were also seized.

Mom sued over pets

BERLIN: A 19-year-old German girl has sued her mother after she confiscated her two guinea pigs, a dog and a litter of puppies and donated them to an animal home. The girl had taken to locking the creatures in her room after the recent birth of the puppies angered the mother, 45, police in Aachen said.

Probe call rejected

LONDON: British Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday defended the decision not to hold a public inquiry into the London bombings, saying it would divert the police and security services. He told parliament "we do essentially know what happened" during the July 7 attacks in London.

Church move rapped

KUWAIT CITY: A Kuwaiti Islamist legislator yesterday slammed the government for providing Christians with two plots of land to build churches, saying this was against Islamic law. Waleed Al Tabtabai, a member of the hardline Sunni Salafist group, said non-Muslims must be allowed to practice their religious rituals but without the need to establish places of worship.

US trial 'is flawed'

WASHINGTON: The trial of a US man who was found guilty of conspiring with Al Qaeda and plotting to kill President George W Bush was flawed because it did not include evidence about torture, Amnesty said yesterday. The rights group criticised a federal judge for refusing to let a jury hear supporting evidence from Ahmed Abu Ali, 24, that his confession had been obtained through torture.

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