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A FINE START!

By GEOFFREY BEW

MANAMA: A group of stuntmen launched the Yalla Bahrain! spectacular in style yesterday.

The team of fearless free-running experts used their skill and dexterity to entertain crowds as they climbed and jumped across the Bahrain Fort, Seef Mall, Bab Al Bahrain and the Al Ali shopping mall without any technical assistance.

The Parkour entertainment was part of a series of other events taking place across Bahrain in the run-up to the first race of the Formula One season.

They will be at the Bahrain International Circuit paddock today, at a time still to be confirmed.

And Manama is set to resonate with music for the spectacular today.

A street parade and carnival featuring the police marching band will

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kick-off the free event, starting at 4pm, on the coastline in the Diplomatic Area.

More than 500 school children wearing traditional Bahraini and Formula One-inspired costumes will strut their stuff, while extravagant large-scale masquerade costumes, traditional Arabic dancers, Bahraini girls in traditional costumes, Jollaner dancers, stilt walkers, traditional musicians and flag dancers will entertain onlookers.

Two spectacular floats, one themed on Bahrain's heritage and the other celebrating the arrival of Formula One will also be on show.

It will make its way down the King Faisal Highway and run between the Shaikh Isa bin Salman



Stilt walkers meet fans outside the Oasis Grandstand at the BIC. Picture: Roy Mathews

Causeway and Shaikh Hamad Causeway, before returning to the seafront at Shaikh Salman Bridge a little after 5pm.

The carnival and the public will gather to experience the rest of the entertainment together.

A parade of ornate, giant mahogany costumes will precede the opening address and a 10-

minute break will follow at 5.40pm to respect prayer time.

The mahogany costumes will then return to herald the start of the evening performance, with flag jugglers being followed by a musical multi-media show that will portray Bahrain's history in light projection.

Fire dancers will then take the stage to perform feats of bravery and agility before the grand finale.

By MOHAMMED AL A'ALI

MANAMA: A Bahraini family of 14 allegedly kicked out of their dilapidated home in Muharraq was thrown a lifeline yesterday - thanks to the generosity of a donor.

Social Solidarity (Takaful) Campaign leader Abdulkarim Buallay has offered the family a monthly cheque of BD120, for a year, to help them find a home.

Mr Buallay said that the family's plight will be discussed when the group visits Prime Minister

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa tomorrow.

The 59-year-old retired soldier, Abdulla Al Sabaei, his wife and 12 children, aged one to 18, are currently living under a plastic sheet in Halaat, Muharraq.

The family received an eviction notice from the Works and Housing Ministry last Sunday, but simply had nowhere else to go.

The world this morning

2AM LATEST BREAKING NEWS

Robbery pair sentenced

MANAMA: Two men were yesterday sentenced to a total of 26 years in jail after being convicted of conspiracy over a robbery at London's Heathrow Airport in which a Bahrain company lost BD2.5 million, reports Geoffrey Bew. John Beach, 36, was locked up for 16 years while Bernard Burvill, 45, received 10 years following the culmination of the seven-week trial at Kingston Crown Court in London, UK. Full report - Page 2

Personal loans drop

MANAMA: Demand for personal loans has fallen from BD681.3 million in 2004 to BD656.2m last year, Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) Governor Rasheed Al Maraj has revealed. A number of banks have expressed their disappointment, blaming BMA for this fall.

Haniyeh dismisses threat

DUBAI: Palestinian prime minister-designate Ismail Haniyeh yesterday dismissed a threat by Israel's acting premier as "confusion" created by the Hamas group's victory in January's

Truck bomb kills 11

BAGHDAD: A suicide truck bomb ripped through a line of vehicles waiting at a checkpoint in Fallujah yesterday and killed at least 11 people, while authorities in the capital discovered the bodies of six more men who were blindfolded, handcuffed and shot in the back of the head. A powerful bomb hit a US tank in east Baghdad, setting it afire and blowing off the treads. And a policeman in Tikrit died disarming a roadside bomb. Iraq turmoil - Page 27

involved in "acts of terror". EU warns Hamas - Page 22

Bush row teacher will sue if fired

DENVER: An attorney for a high school teacher in US placed on paid leave after comparing President George W Bush's State of the Union address to speeches by Adolf Hitler said yesterday his client will sue if he is fired. Social studies teacher Jay Bennis has been on leave from Overland High School in suburban Aurora since March 1. "If they fire him, we will end up in federal court," said attorney David Lane. "If they suspend him and take pay from him, we will probably end up in federal court." During a February 1 lecture in a geography class, Bennis said some of Bush's address "sounds a lot like the things that Adolf Hitler used to say". He later said the lecture was intended to stimulate his students to think critically.

Profumo dies at 91

LONDON: John Profumo, the cabinet minister at the centre of one of Britain's biggest political scandals, featuring an explosive mix of sex and Cold War spying allegations, has died at the age of 91.



Profumo and Keeler



He died in a London hospital on Thursday night following a stroke.

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resign in 1963 as minister for war over his extramarital affair with 19-year-old prostitute Christine Keeler.

Lifeline for family

By MOHAMMED AL A'ALI

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