

## Bahrain win bronze in GBA event

Bahrain captured the bronze medals in the Gulf Basket- ball Association (GBA) Men's National Teams Champion- ship 2019 last night following a well-deserved 76-67 victory over the UAE in the game for third place. **P16**

OP-ED

8

Assad unwilling to cede power when he has largely regained control

# THE DAILY tribune

Mel B angry over lack of help to ex-bodyguard who killed self

14

CELEBS

WORLD

5

Terror checks intensified as London enters election fray

A unique Children's Plan

**TALEEM**  
PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATION PLAN OF  
LIC INTERNATIONAL

IN BAHRAIN  
FOR 30 YEARS

**LIC**  
LIC INTERNATIONAL  
BANKING, INVESTMENT, INSURANCE

Download the  
LIC App from Google Play Store

39936618

balhici@licinternational.com  
www.licinternational.com

ARRIVING SOON

GRAND  
DECEMBER  
PRIZE

\$1 MILLION

DRAW DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> DEC, 2019  
Deposit today!

@aubbahrain  
3422 1999

17 221 999  
ahliunited.com

البنك الأهلي المتحد  
ahli united bank  
Licensed as a conventional retail bank by the CBB

## Saudi assumes G20 presidency

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday started its year-long presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) culminating in a high-profile summit next November in Riyadh.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman pledged that his country would build on efforts of Japan, the outgoing president of the group, to consolidate global cooperation.

"We will do our best in cooperation with our partners in the group to achieve tangible accomplishments and seize opportunities to tackle challenges of the future," he added.

## AUB launches 'eMyHassad'

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank (AUB) has launched "eMyHassad", an online offering for its market leading savings scheme - MyHassad.

"eMyHassad" now makes purchasing savings certificates easier than ever allowing people to participate in draws more frequently rather than letting their money lay idle. **See Page 12**



Bahraini-UAE relations 'model for unity, strategic partnership'

'BD23,000 tender' to hire cars with drivers for House deputy speakers

Royal support to people with special needs praised

210 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >



HRH the Crown Prince being received by HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Yas Marina Circuit.



HRH the Crown Prince with HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.



HRH the Crown Prince with HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

● **HRH the Crown Prince noted that the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix provides an outstanding opportunity to experience the region's prestigious motorsports events.**

● **Lewis Hamilton claimed one of the most dominant victories of his glittering sixth title-winning season at the Abu Dhabi GP to sign off from F1 2019 in ultimate style.**

### Abu Dhabi

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime

Minister, yesterday attended the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019 at the Yas Marina Circuit.

HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the deeply-rooted bilateral ties between Bahrain and the UAE, which continue to thrive under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and



The Yas Marina Circuit was designed by Hermann Tilke and is located on Yas Island, a 2,550 hectares island on the east coast of Abu Dhabi.

Minister, yesterday attended the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019 at the Yas Marina Circuit.

HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the deeply-rooted bilateral ties between Bahrain and the UAE, which continue to thrive under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and

the President of the UAE, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

HRH the Crown Prince noted that the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix provides an outstanding opportunity to experience the region's prestigious motorsports events.

HRH the Crown Prince emphasised that the annual Formula 1 races hosted in Bahrain and the UAE are keenly anticipated fixtures on the international motorsport calendar that exhibit the diverse leisure and entertainment sectors of both countries.

HRH the Crown Prince added that the races were also an important opportunity

'Races an important opportunity to showcase the organisational capacity of Bahrain and the UAE'

to showcase the organisational capacity of Bahrain and the UAE.

HRH the Crown Prince concluded by extending his congratulations to the President of the UAE, Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, HH Shaikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on the successful hosting of the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019.

## NEW AGREEMENT

'India becomes first country to make entire Hajj process digital'

### Riyadh

India has become the first country to make the entire Hajj process digital, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said yesterday.

This came after the minister signed the bilateral agreement for the pilgrimage

with the Saudi Hajj Minister in Jeddah.

An online application, e-visa, Hajj mobile app, "e-MASIHA" health facility, "e-luggage pre-tagging" providing all information in India itself regarding accommodation and transportation in Mecca-Madina will be provided to Indian Muslims going for the Hajj in 2020,

he said.

Naqvi made the remarks after signing the bilateral annual Hajj 2020 agreement between India and Saudi Arabia with Hajj and Umrah Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benten.

Naqvi said for the first time facilities

were provided for digital pre-tagging of pilgrims' baggage.

Saudi Arabia had earlier increased India's Hajj quota by 30,000, lifting the figure to 200,000 per year. The enhanced quota means India will send the second-highest number of pilgrims for Hajj after Indonesia.



# Bahraini-UAE relations ‘model for unity, strategic partnership’

Bilateral ties stressed as UAE celebrates National Day today

Manama

Information Affairs Minister and Board of Trustees Chairman of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), Ali Al Romaihi, has lauded the solid Bahraini-UAE relations, noting that they are a model in GCC unity and distinguished strategic partnership that is based on mutual love and respect, as well as on religion, history, kinship, common destiny and shared keenness on ensuring the security of the Arabian Gulf, consolidating Arab and Islamic solidarity and promoting the message of tolerance and peace in the region and the world.

The minister asserted that under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain shares with sisterly UAE its celebrations of the 48th anniversary of its National Day, in recognition of the solid fraternal bilateral ties, and in line with its pride in the UAE’s landmark development and civilisational achievements

since its beginning by Founder, the late Shaikh Zayed, and its continuity, under the leadership of President, HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and support of his government.

Mr Al Romaihi stressed that the deep-rooted Bahraini-UAE relations are unique in their strength thanks to the solid ties between their leaderships and brotherly peoples, shared distinguished human and civilisational values reflected in their adoption of a wise and moderate policy that supports regional and global security and peace, promotes peaceful co-existence among religions, cultures and civilisations and backs sisterly Saudi Arabia in its leadership of the Arab Coalition to combat terrorism, as well as support legitimacy and restore hope in Yemen.

The minister affirmed the Bahraini media’s keenness to share with the brotherly UAE citizens their celebration of their National Day, being a day of feast in every Bahraini



Deep-rooted Bahraini-UAE relations are unique in their strength thanks to the solid ties between their leaderships and brotherly peoples.

MR AL ROMAIHI

and Arab house.

He stressed that the Bahraini media is interested in highlighting the Bahraini-UAE exemplary long-standing relations, as well as their leading status regarding their respect for human rights, human development, economic freedom, in addition to their consolidation of the knowledge-based society and digital economy, as proved by international organisations.

The Official 48th National Day Celebrations will be held on 2nd December, 2019,

under the gracious patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE at the Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

The Organising Committee of the Official UAE National Day confirmed that the preparations for the celebration have been completed. The celebration will be centred around a spectacular theatrical production titled “Legacy of Our Ancestors”. The show will be staged on a scale not previously seen in

the UAE with more than 5,000 experts from 70 countries coming together to shape this unmissable production.

The show will take the audience on a vivid journey of the UAE’s heritage through a series of stories that highlight values of courage, determination, generosity, and tolerance, which have been long embedded in the UAE’s national and social fabric and have been passed down through generations.

The epic scale of this production has been brought to life by the efforts of many dedicated individuals coming from diverse backgrounds and cultures, a true reflection of co-existence and tolerance which are key components of the UAE’s social inclusion, with more than 200 nationalities living in harmony.

Showing the generous and welcoming Emirati identity, this year’s celebration will welcome 20,000 attendees, both citizens and residents, who will together express their love and pride for the UAE.

## BRCS efforts in voluntary work praised

Manama

The Assistant Foreign Minister, Abdullah Al Doseri, received at the Ministry’s General Court yesterday, the Head of the International Federation of Red Cross and the Red Crescent of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Dr. Fawzi bin Abdullah Amin, and the Secretary-General of the Bahraini Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Mubarak bin Khalifa Al Hadi.

The Assistant Foreign Minister praised the vital role of the Bahraini Red Crescent Society in providing relief assistance to humanitarian disasters at the regional and international levels. He also extended his congratulations to the society on its 49th anniversary.

He noted the outstanding initiatives and programmes of the society which contribute to spreading awareness of international humanitarian law and promote the culture of humanitarian assistance.

The Assistant Foreign Minister stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bahraini Red Crescent Society in order to help the society achieve its objectives.

For their part, Dr Fawzi Amin and Mr Al Hadi expressed their appreciation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ continued support for the activities and events of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, stressing the importance of consultation and coordination between the two sides to reinforce the Kingdom’s participation at the international level.



DENTAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

► Crown & Bridge, Veneers, Dentures

► Implant Supported Prosthesis

► Full Mouth Rehabilitation

► Root Canal Treatment

► Tooth Coloured Fillings

► Wisdom Tooth Surgeries (Impacted Tooth)

► Complex Tooth Extractions, Dental Implants

► Digital Radiographs

► Scaling, Zoom Whitening

► Management of Pediatric Patients

LASER DENTISTRY

► Depigmentation of Black Gums.

► TMJ Pain Therapy

ORTHODONTICS

► Colourless Braces, Clear Aligners

► Damon System Braces



DR. SANJAY KAR

BDS, MDS

SPECIALIST - ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY



DR. SAJI C. ABRAHAM

BSc, BDS, MDS, MOrth RCSEd, FDS RCS

CONSULTANT - ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS



DR. SUHANA NAZZ

BDS, MDS

SPECIALIST - CONSERVATIVE DENTISTRY AND ENDODONTICS

FOR APPOINTMENTS

1736 2233

3612 9777



مستشفى ومراكز الشرق الأوسط الطبية

MIDDLE EAST

HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTERS

SEGAYA

1736 2233

HIDD

1746 4848

SALMABAD

1721 6056

BIW

7746 4848

www.membh.com

www.mehospital.com

mehospitalbh

mehgroup

A venture of VKL Holdings & Al Namal Group

## Al Noor Annual Day

The CBSE Section of Al Noor International School celebrated its Annual Day for the Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary Sections. Mr Norbu Negi, the Second Secretary of the Embassy of India, was the Chief Guest. The School Chairman Mr Ali Hasan, School Director Dr Muhammad Mashood, Principal Mr Amin Mohammad Hulaiwah, head teachers of all sections, officials from the Ministry of Education, officials from the Indian Embassy and parents were present on the occasion. A wide variety of colourful programmes were staged showcasing the unique talents of the students of all age groups, which included musical drama, mime and theme dances. The programmes were conceptualised on various environmental issues. The tiny tots of the kindergarten section added colour to the occasion with their dazzling performances. The students of the primary section left the audience enthralled with their spectacular dance sequences.



# ‘BD23,000 tender’ to hire cars with drivers for House deputy speakers

House obliged to pay monthly remuneration and other allowances to MPs, says Speaker

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives has reportedly allocated a monthly amount of BD658 to rent two cars with chauffeurs for the first and second deputy speakers of the House for the next three years, despite the fact that both MPs receive a monthly car allowance of BD750.

This came in the reply of the Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal following an inquiry submitted by MP Fadhel Al Sawwad to clarify over the allocation of two cars to the first and second deputy speakers.

In her reply, Ms Zainal confirmed that the tender for allocating two vehicles for the first and second deputy speakers has been awarded for BD23,000 for the next three years to the best bid in terms of cost and technical specifications.

Ms Zainal also confirmed in her reply that the car allowance disbursed to both lawmaker continues.

She said: “The House of Representatives is obliged to pay the monthly remuneration and allowances stipulated in the decree-law on determining the allowances of the chairpersons, both deputy speakers and mem-



The House of Representatives in session.

bers of both Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, including the car allowance of BD750 that is stipulated in Article 3.”

“The Council is committed to the circular of Finance Ministry on the appropriations of regulations and instructions for the implementation of the state budget for the fiscal years 2019-2020, and therefore verified the provision of funds before proceeding to



Mr Al Sawwad

launch an internal tender procedure to rent the cars,” the Chairwoman further clarified.

Ms Zainal’s reply showed that the cost of both cars has been calculated to be BD1,300 in 2019, BD7,800 in 2020 and 2021, and BD6,500 in 2022, which is the last year of the ongoing legislative term.

Commenting on this information, MP Al Sawwad described the speaker’s reply as “a confession

**“The Council is committed to the circular of Finance Ministry on the appropriations of regulations and instructions for the implementation of the state budget for the fiscal years 2019-2020.”**

MS ZAINAL

of a major financial violation”, stating: “The speaker provided evidence of financial and administrative violations.”

The MP added: “There is no legal basis for this act. Article 3 of the decree-law on determining the allowances of the chairpersons, both deputy speakers and members of both the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, mentions that each of the deputy speakers and members of both councils shall receive a car allowance of BD750 per month.”

The First Deputy Speaker MP Abdulnabi Salman and the Second Deputy Speaker MP Ali Zayed didn’t comment on the matter.

## Ex-television presenter arrested

TDT | Manama

A former TV presenter was recently arrested for insulting the people of Kuwait in a video he posted on social media networks.

The Bahraini man has been thrown behind bars by the Public Prosecution pending further investigation.

The former presenter runs popular channels on YouTube and Instagram, where he regularly shares videos expressing his views on several political and security cases.

However, in one of the episodes he posted recently, he attacked the people of Kuwait and insulted them by describing them as “uncivilised and beggars”. This has raised nationwide anger among social media users in Kuwait, demanding to hold him accountable for his insults.

On Saturday, Interior Ministry confirmed in a tweet that the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has taken legal steps against an individual who shared footage that consisted of insults to a brotherly state on social media networks, without mentioning more details about the man’s identity or the country he insulted.

Muharrarq Governorate Chief Hussain Khamees announced yesterday that “the Public Prosecution has been notified by the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security with regard to the circulation of footage showing an individual who his speech consisted of misuse of means of social media”.

“The Public Prosecution immediately launched its investigation after receiving the report, as it reviewed the circulated footage, interrogated the suspect and confronted him with the footage he had posted and the remarks mentioned in it.

“The Prosecution ordered to detain him pending further investigations,” Mr Khamees added.

## 85 inmates freed from jail to serve alternative punishments

TDT | Manama

The Public Prosecution yesterday announced that 85 inmates in the reformation and rehabilitations centres in the Kingdom will get their imprisonment sentences replaced with alternative punishments that include community service and taking part in rehabilitation and training programmes, among other procedures.

This was mentioned in a statement posted by the Prosecution on its official page on Instagram yesterday, quoting Execution Prosecution Chief Prosecutor Hamad Al Qallaf.

Mr Al Qallaf explained that the

move comes within the framework of the Kingdom’s Penal Code, which permits replacing imprisonment punishments with alternative punishments.

The official explained that the decision was taken after assessing the conditions of the inmates to see if they fit the legal requirements so that they can serve the remaining periods of their punishment period with the alternative punishments stipulated in Law 18 of 2017, with respect to alternative sanctions and measures.

Clarifying further, Mr Al Qallaf said the has been reviewed with the Execution Judge, who issued the verdict to replace the remain-

**“The move comes within the framework of the Kingdom’s Penal Code, which permits replacing imprisonment punishments with alternative punishments.”**

MR AL QALLAF

ing period of the imprisonment punishment of the inmates with several alternative punishments.

As reported earlier, Article 2 of the law mentions that the alternative punishments include

community service, house arrest, confinement within a particular place, refraining from entering a particular place or places, undertaking to refrain from menacing or communicating with particular persons or entities, submitting to electronic surveillance, attending rehabilitation and training programmes, and remedying the damage that resulted from the crime.

The law also mentions that the alternative punishments shall only be applicable to prisoners who have served half the term of the sanction or sanctions he/she was sentenced to, to be of good conduct, their release from prison shall not constitute a public

security risk, and shall have paid all the financial liabilities handed down against them by a criminal court, unless it is impossible for them to pay it.

Article 12 of the same law reads: “Any convicted person sentenced to imprisonment of not more than one year or physical coercion may request the Execution Judge to substitute the imprisonment sentence or physical coercion by one or more of the alternative sanctions set forth in Article 2 of this Law.

“The execution judge shall decide upon such request after hearing the statements of the Public Prosecution.”

## Youth Centre planned in Southern Governorate

TDT | Manama

A youth centre could be established in the Southern Governorate after a plot of land was allotted for the project.

The Southern Municipal Council has approved a proposal to establish a youth centre in the governorate.

The proposal has been referred to the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and the Ministry of Housing.

“There is a lack of facility for the youth to practise their hobbies, sports and other interests,” the proposal stated.

Southern Municipal Coun-

**“Youth are an important segment of the society and the council hopes to support them.”**

MR AL TAMIMI

cil chairman Bader Al Tamimi stressed that youth are an important segment of the society and the council hopes to support them.

A prominent proposal put forward by the Southern Governorate recently came to fruition as a park in the southern region, which has been equipped with

special facilities to cater to special needs population.

A number of council members expressed their delight for the success. Khalid Janahi, a municipal council member of the Southern Municipal Council said that the initiative is an amazing example of becoming an inclusive society.

He praised the efforts of the municipality in taking such steps. “The move comes with our belief that people with special needs are an important part of Bahraini society and the too have recreational needs that they want to experience,” the Municipal Council said in a statement.

**26 NOV TO 7 DEC**



### ALHAWAJ PARTICIPATING SHOPS:

SALMANIYA - SEEF MALL - MODA MALL - BAHRAIN CITY CENTRE - ALA'ALI MALL - BAHRAIN MALL - RIFFA  
BAB AL BAHRAIN - MUHARRAQ - SAMSONITE (BCC)- WATCH TIME (SEEF, BAHRAIN MALL) -Military Consumer &  
Economic Association - American Tourister Bahrain Mall.

ALHAWAJBH **الجواج**



## Royal support to people with special needs praised

Manama

Shura Council Chairman Ali Al Saleh stressed the care and support given by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to people with special needs.

He pointed out the continuous royal directives to serve this category, lauding the facilities and services provided by the government, led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy



Mr Al Saleh with other Shura members at the book launch.

Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

This came during the launching ceremony of a book on the legislation and resolutions related to people with special needs, yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Shura Council members as well as Presidents and representatives of associations and private institutions.

The book is considered as the dividend of the recommendations of “We Work Together to Achieve Legislative Aspirations” conference which was held by the Shura Council on

July 3 and 4.

The Shura Council Chairman praised people with special needs, stressing keenness to build on the kingdom’s achievements in serving this category by passing laws and modernising legislation to achieve their aspirations.

He lauded the efforts of the committee in charge of carrying out the recommendations of “We Work Together to Achieve Legislative Aspirations” conference, under the chairmanship of lawyer Dalal Jassim Al Zayed, the Head of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

## Bahrain Health Regulatory Conference ‘a big success’



Dr Shaikh Mohammed, Ms Al Saleh and Dr Al Jalahma with international speakers at the event.

TDT | Manama

The recently concluded Bahrain Health Regulatory Conference witnessed a huge success, where more than 700 participants from different specialisations in healthcare sector attending workshops, lectures and panel discussions that focused on the status, challenges and future plans in the health regulatory sector.

The first edition of the conference came under the slogan “Safe and High Quality Health Services” and under the patronage of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The conference was organised on November 28-30, 2019, at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain. It was organised by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) and featured 37 high-calibre local, regional and international

speakers who have rich experience in various fields of the health sector.

The speakers addressed 24 of the vital regulatory issues and topics in the sector throughout the three days of the conference. This included the regulations of health facilities, health advertisement, alternative medicine practice, medical equipment and pharmaceutical establishments.

Additionally, the speakers cast light on other regulatory sides of the health sector in Bahrain and the region, such as artificial intelligence in healthcare, medical complaints data and resolutions and decrees that are related to the health sector. The conference also included an exhibition that was held on the sidelines of the event and continued throughout the three days, showcasing various stakeholders.

Attending the opening ceremony on the first day were the

“  
After the positive feedback we received we will plan the second version to expand on the workshops and external speakers to ensure the maximum benefit and exchange of experience.”

DR AL JALAHMA

event’s patron Health Minister Faega Al Saleh, Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan, Conference Chairperson and NHRA CEO Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, and representatives of the Supreme Council for Women and the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), in addition to a number of diplomats, senior officials, chief guests, dignitaries and stakeholders in the health sector in the Kingdom and the GCC.

Commenting on this occasion,

Dr Al Jalahma said: “The conference will become a significant landmark in Bahrain and the region. After the positive feedback we received we will plan the second version to expand on the workshops and external speakers to ensure the maximum benefit and exchange of experience.”

The participants and attendees were granted Continuing Medical Education (CME) hours that are certified by NHRA for taking part in the different activities at the event.

Attendees of the conference were granted a total of 30 CMES, while those who attended the workshops were granted four CMES per workshop, and those participating with presentation posters were granted one CME per poster.

A specialised workshop on cross infection and prevention in healthcare facilities was also held, and the attendees were granted six CMES.

## Tamkeen’s support to private sector firms reached over ‘BD700m’

TDT | Manama  
Pradeep Puravankara

Labour Fund Tamkeen’s latest statistics has revealed that the value of private sector support since its inception in 2006 has reached over BD700 million.

Tamkeen stated that the total value of financing provided through programmes in co-operation with partner banks from 2007 to October 2019 stood at BD 736.4m.

Tamkeen’s programmes have included more than 225 initiatives to support individuals, benefiting more than 183,000 individuals.

These support programmes provide to support the entrepreneurial environment in the Kingdom, and encourage the diversification of income resources in the national economy.

The fund is keen to provide a package of programmes and initiatives in various stages of the organisation’s growth, from the start-up phase and through the start-up phase to the stage of developing projects and expansion phase, where programmes include supporting business development by covering 50 per cent of the cost of materials and services approved.

The number of institutions supported by the financing programme reached more than 8,170 with a value of more than

**1,83,000**  
individuals have benefited from the support schemes initiated by Tamkeen.

BD 516m while 112 institutions were supported under the “Tamweel+” programme with a value of more than BD 211m.

“Tamweel+” targets medium and large enterprises, with a minimum finance volume of one million dinars and a maximum of two-and-half million dinars.

As part of its programme for women entrepreneurs, Tamkeen has supported more than 220 women entrepreneurs.

The business development programme comprises eight key areas of support such as consultancy, marketing and identity, machinery and equipment, quality management, exhibition participation, information and communication technology, accounting and auditing and cloud computing.

In partnership with local banks, Tamkeen is keen to provide financing solutions to small, medium and micro enterprises. The amount of financing ranges from BD500 to BD10,000.

## CBB reports 10pc increase in money supply

TDT | Manama

According to a recent official data released by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), there has been an increase of 10 per cent in money supply, which reached BD13,631.3 million at the end of October 2019, compared to BD 12,389.2 million the same period last year.

In addition, the total outstanding balance of public debt instruments which includes Development Bonds, Treasury Bills, Islamic Leasing Securities and Al Salam Islamic Securities stood at BD 12,045.4 million at the end of October 2019, an increase of 2.6 per cent compared to its level of BD 11,739 million in October 2018.

The data also indicated an increase in the total balance sheet of the banking system from USD 191.6 billion at the end of Octo-

ber 2018 to USD 203.7 billion at the end of October 2019, an increase of USD 12.1 billion, or 6.3pc in the 12-month period.

The total value of outstanding loans and credit facilities provided by retail banks amounted to BD 9,794.9 million at end of October 2019 compared to BD 9,376.8 million at the end of October 2018, an increase of 4.5pc.

This amount includes loans and facilities provided to the business sector amounting to BD 5,194.2 million at the end of October 2019 compared to BD 5,022.8 million at the end of the same period last year, an increase of 3.4pc.

The data shows that credit card and debit card transactions across Point of Sales terminals amounted to BD 206.8 million in October 2019 compared to BD 186.2 million in October 2018; marking an increase of BD20.6 million or 11.1pc.

## Urdu Day marked



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Urdu Department Celebrated Urdu Day (Yaum-E-Urdu) 2019 in vibrant colours at the ISB Jashanmal Auditorium in Isa Town Campus. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest S M Hussaini (CEO Almoayyed Computer Middle East) and Guest of Honour Mohammed Rafeeq Akolvi (GSA Manager for Gulf Air Cargo, KSA) in the presence of ISB Asst Secretary Premalatha N S, EC Members Mohammad Khurshed Alam, Mohammad Nayaz Ullah, Principal V R Palaniswamy, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, Vice-Principal Anand Nair, teachers and students.



world

Nineteen people killed in bus crash in Russia's far east



The aftermath of the tragic incident where a bus with 43 passengers and a driver plunged 22ft the Kuenga River in Transbaikial region of Siberia, 3,930 miles east of Moscow (Moscow Times)

Reuters | Moscow

Nineteen passengers died when a bus skidded off a bridge in Russia's far east on Sunday and plunged into a river, local government said. "According to updated information, 19 people died, 21 have various injuries," the local government for the Zabaikalsk region said in a statement. Russia's emergencies ministry said in a statement on its website that the bus, travelling from the town of Sretensk to the city of Chita, 6,320-km (3,930 miles) east of Moscow,

fell from a bridge into the Kuenga river at around 0938 Moscow time (0638 GMT). It said about 43 passengers and a driver were on the bus. A police spokeswoman told Russia-24 TV that the cause of the accident was being investigated. Russia's record on road safety is one of the worst in the world. According to the country's traffic police, 18,214 people died in road accidents last year. That is more than the 15,000 Soviet servicemen who were killed during the whole of the Soviet war in Afghanistan in 1979-1989.

Burglers hit East German secret police museum in Berlin



Burglers targeted the Stasi Museum in Berlin, stealing medals and jewellery, police said

Berlin

Berlin's Stasi Museum, which showcases items of East Germany's hated secret police, was burgled overnight, authorities said yesterday, days after a spectacular heist in Dresden. The burglars broke in through a window on the first floor, and "smashed several showcases, and stole medals and jewellery", said police in a statement. They made off with their spoils undetected. The hour of the raid was unclear but a museum employee found showcases smashed in the exhibition rooms on Sunday morning.

The latest robbery came hot on the heels of a brazen heist at the Green Vault museum in Dresden's Royal Palace on November 25. Having sparked a partial power cut before breaking in through a window, the thieves stole priceless 18th-century diamond jewellery -- including a famous 49-carat Dresden white -- from the collection of the Saxon ruler August the Strong. Police are still hunting four suspects, and have offered half a million euros (\$550,000) in reward for information leading to an arrest or recovery of the stolen goods. Fears are growing however that the diamonds will never be recovered.

Terror checks intensified as London enters election fray

AFP | London

Britain's Boris Johnson said yesterday the security services were stepping up monitoring of convicted terrorists released early from prison, as the London Bridge attack became embroiled in the election campaign. The prime minister revealed around 74 people with terrorist convictions had been released early from prison in a similar way to Usman Khan, who left jail last December and went on to stab two people to death in Friday's rampage. "They are being properly investigated to make sure there is no threat," Johnson told the BBC in an interview. "We've taken a lot of action as you can imagine in the last 48 hours," he said, adding he would not provide "operation details". Khan, 28, was shot dead while wearing a fake explosives vest by police on London Bridge after a stabbing spree that also injured three people launched at a nearby prisoner rehabilitation event he was attending. Members of the public were hailed as heroes for preventing even greater loss of life by tackling him -- one armed with a five-foot (1.5-metre) narwhal



Khan, 28, was shot dead while wearing a fake explosives vest by police on London Bridge after a stabbing spree

tusk and another with a fire extinguisher. Police, who on Saturday searched two properties in central England believed to be linked to Khan, have said they believe he was acting alone and are not seeking anybody else. But the Islamic State group has released a statement claiming responsibility for the attack. 'Keep you safe' Khan, a British national, had been handed an indeterminate sentence for the protection of the public in 2012, with at least eight years in prison. He was part of an eight-man network inspired by Al-Qaeda who had plotted to bomb targets including the London Stock Exchange, and planned to take part in "terrorist training" in Pakistan.



The incident comes two years after Islamist extremists in a van ploughed into pedestrians on the bridge before attacking people at random with knives, killing eight people and wounding 48.

But his sentence was quashed by the Court of Appeal in April 2013 and he received a new 21-year term, comprising a custodial sentence of 16 years and five years on conditional release.



Boris Johnson

He had then been conditionally released from jail last December under so-called licensing conditions after serving around half of his jail term. Khan has become a contentious political issue ahead of Britain's December 12 election, with Johnson blaming the previous Labour government for changing the law in 2008 to allow for the early release of prisoners. The Tory leader has vowed that if he reclaims power this month he will end early release for terrorist offences and introduce minimum 14-year sentences, with some convicted never to be released. The proposals were not in the Conservatives' formal manifesto released last Sunday. Johnson penned an article setting out the new stance in The Mail yesterday newspaper, under the headline: "Give me a majority and I'll keep you safe from terror".

Dad of London Bridge terror attack victim says son was 'beautiful spirit'

London

The first victim of the London Bridge terror attack to be named has been praised by his father as "a beautiful spirit". Jack Merritt, 25, was one of two people stabbed to death by Usman Khan during the convicted terrorist's rampage on Friday. Khan, 28, was shot dead on the bridge while wearing a fake explosives vest by police. Merritt, a course coordinator at Cambridge University's criminology institute, was killed as he helped host an event near London Bridge to mark five years of a prisoner rehabilitation programme. It was targeted by Khan, a former participant, who arrived armed with two knives. "I am sad beyond words to report that a course coordinator, Jack Merritt, was killed," Stephen Toope, Cambridge University vice-chancellor, said in a statement. "Our University condemns this abhorrent and senseless act of terror." He added a woman also killed in the stabbing spree who has yet to be named was a former student, while one of three people injured was a member of its staff.



Merritt, 25, was one of two people stabbed to death by Usman Khan during the convicted terrorist's rampage

Merritt was reportedly a Cambridge University graduate who was working for its "Learning Together" initiative run by the Department of Criminology to promote prison-based education. "He was an exceptional young man, and I'm only finding out the half of it now he's gone," David Merritt, the victim's father, said in a series of messages on Twitter. "I talked often with Jack about Learning Together & I was inspired by the stories he told me," he added.

Khan had participated in the programme while serving some of his 16-year sentence for terrorism offences at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire, eastern England. He was conditionally released from jail last December under so-called licensing conditions after serving around half of his jail term. That has caused a political storm in Britain, which is in the grip of election campaigning ahead of voting on December 12. Prime Minister Boris Johnson -- whose Conservatives

have been in power for nearly a decade -- is now vowing to end the practice and stiffen sentences. David Merritt has criticised that response, writing in one social media message: "We don't need knee-jerk reactions." In another post subsequently deleted, he said his son "would not wish his death to be used as the pretext for more draconian sentences or for detaining people unnecessarily." It also described him as "a beautiful spirit who always took the side of the underdog".



*The 'Pink Shuttle' is the first and only service in Afghanistan run uniquely by female drivers for female passengers*

# Afghan's pink shuttle to liberation

*'Pink Shuttle' buses help Afghan women navigate society*



According to Khan Mohammad Shinwaray, police chief at Kabul's traffic department, the number of women drivers in the capital has been steadily growing, with 275 licences approved for the first half of the year  
**AFP** | Kabul



Parisa Haidary drives a mini-bus to pick up women passengers in Kabul



Pink Shuttle is being run by Nove Onlus, an Italian non-governmental group

Parisa Haidary gets behind the steering wheel of a mini-bus, kicks off her high heels and with a socked foot presses the accelerator, carefully easing the 10-seater into Kabul's ever-clogged traffic.

The Afghan mother, who works for a women-only bus service, smiles as other road-users -- all of them men -- gawp in astonishment.

"We get a lot of different reactions," she says. "Some drivers block our way, others honk at us, some even drive alongside at the same speed when the road is clear."

In a society where it remains rare to see a woman behind the wheel, Haidary is one of four drivers working for Pink Shuttle,

a pilot bus programme employing only women to ferry female passengers and their kids across the Afghan capital.

"I love driving and am interested in my job. The only concern we have is the security situation. We have to stay fearless," Haidary said.

The 36-year-old former beautician, who has also worked as a television journalist, and her colleagues were chosen from 100 candidates.

The first-of-its kind service is helping women navigate the many challenges they face getting around Kabul, where a woeful lack of transport options is compounded by the risk of harassment if they walk on the streets.

"We have transportation problems for women. In fact, public transportation does not exist, especially for women in Kabul," project coordinator Obaidullah

Amiri said.

Pink Shuttle is being run by Nove Onlus, an Italian non-governmental group that in turn is being supported by the Only The Brave foundation, created by fashion designer Renzo Rosso.

Amiri said the pilot project, which started in May and also receives backing from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), is set to be extended.

While the service is currently being offered for free to a limited number of pre-approved passengers, Nove Onlus hopes it will become financially sustainable within two years.

## Terrifying traffic

According to Khan Mohammad Shinwaray, police chief at Kabul's traffic department, the number of women drivers in the capital has been steadily growing, with 275 licences approved

for the first half of the year.

This is quite a jump: In the years between 2012 and 2016, just 1,189 women in total got licences in the city, according to Nove Onlus.

It is a "positive change to see Afghan women driving in Kabul," Shinwaray said. "There are no restrictions on women becoming drivers."

Navigating Kabul's traffic is no easy feat. Traffic can flow fast one moment, then suddenly grind to a complete standstill for hours on end.

Road signs are non-existent, few of the streets are named and drivers often zoom the wrong way into oncoming traffic. Usually it is the bigger of two vehicles that wins the right of way.

Congestion has only got worse in recent years as Kabul has been sliced into ever-smaller portions by new security measures and entire streets and landmarks suddenly disappear behind towering blast walls.

When extremist Taliban insurgents swept to power in 1996, women were forced to stay home, barred from most jobs, and deprived of their right to an education.

After the militants were top-

pled in late 2001 and a US-backed government took over, gender equality was enshrined in the Afghan constitution, though discrimination remains rife.

Fatima Mohammadi, a 31-year-old Kabul resident who has been driving for about four years, said she appreciated the freedom of having a car but still deals with daily harassment on the road.

"I usually don't leave the windows of the car open," she said. "Sometimes when another driver or passerby smiles or says 'Well done,' it feels like harassment."

Women like



A first-of-its kind service called Pink Shuttle is helping women navigate the many challenges they face getting around Kabul, where a woeful lack of transport options is compounded by the risk of harassment if they walk on the streets

## China introduces mandatory face scans for phone users

Beijing

China will require telecom operators to collect face scans when registering new phone users at offline outlets starting Sunday, according to the country's information technology authority, as Beijing continues to tighten cyberspace controls.

In September, China's industry and information technology ministry issued a notice on "safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of citizens online", which laid out rules for enforcing real-name registration. The notice said telecom operators should use "artificial intelligence and other technical means" to verify people's identities when they take a new phone number.

## Plane crash kills nine, injures three

Washington

A plane crash in the US state of South Dakota killed nine people, including two children, and injured three others on Saturday while a winter storm warning was in place, officials said.

The Pilatus PC-12, a single-engine turboprop plane, crashed shortly after take-off approximately a mile from the Chamberlain airport, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

Among the dead was the plane's pilot, Brule County state's attorney Theresa Maule Rossow said, adding that a total of 12 people had been on board. The three survivors had been taken to the hospital in Sioux Falls, she told US media.

The flight left the airport just before noon local time, with a destination of Idaho Falls Regional Airport in the western state of Idaho.

The FAA said investigators



A file picture shows a Pilatus PC-12 single-engined aircraft similar to the one involved in the crash, in which nine people were killed

were en route to the crash site and that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) would be in charge of the investigation.

The NTSB tweeted that it was "investigating today's crash of Pilatus PC-12 near Chamberlain, SD." South Dakota is located in the Northern Plains, a region facing blizzard conditions as a storm blows eastward across the United States.

A winter storm warning re-

mains in effect in Brule County until midday Sunday, the National Weather Service said, potentially including blowing snow that "could significantly reduce visibility."

"The men and women of law enforcement, first responders and medical professionals should be commended in their heroic actions to rescue the victims in extreme weather conditions," the state's attorney office said.

## No evidence suspect in Hague stabbing had terrorist motive



Stabbing in Netherlands

Reuters | Amsterdam

Dutch police said yesterday there was no evidence that a man arrested on suspicion of stabbing three people in the Hague had a terrorist motive.

Three teenagers were hurt in the incident on Friday evening on a busy shopping

street. Police said the suspect, a 35-year old man arrested at a homeless shelter on Saturday, had been interrogated.

"Preliminarily there have been no signs found that would point to there having been a terrorist motive," Hague police said in a statement. "What the motive was, then, is still being investigated."



# Bolivia's women wrestlers back in the ring

El Alto | Bolivia

Wearing a bright green billowing skirt and dainty black velvet flats, Bolivian wrestler Lidia Flores launches herself from the second rope of the outdoor wrestling ring and squashes her hapless male opponent.

Suspended for two weeks as anti-government protests and blockades rocked El Alto, a sprawling city overlooking La Paz, the cholitas luchadores are back on the canvas at Sharks of the Ring wrestling club.

The raucous crowd of elderly men, young women and parents with small children heckle and hurl insults as the indigenous women wrestlers, wearing traditional multilayered "pollera" skirts and long braids, flip, kick, punch and pull each other's hair in a chaotic show that often spills outside the ring onto the pavement.

Flores, whose performance name is "Dina the Queen of the Ring," says wrestling is a welcome relief from the pressure of her day job cooking in a restaurant.

"Wrestling

de-stresses

me," Flores, 44, tells AFP as she stands outside the venue before the match handing out fliers to people walking through a street market.

After a fortnight hiatus, the feisty mother of three, who has been wrestling for 12 years, is "very keen" to get back in the ring.

"With these problems, with so many blockades, nothing to eat, it was very stressful," she says, a black bowler

hat worn by many indigenous women perched on her head.

Weeks of unrest triggered by the disputed October 20 election, which Evo Morales claimed to have won and opposition groups said was rigged, have made life difficult and dangerous for people in El Alto, a stronghold for the former president.

A siege of a key fuel plant turned deadly last week when protesters clashed with heavily armed security forces, leaving eight people dead.

Two days later, police tear-gassed demonstrators who marched on La Paz with five of the bodies to demand justice and the resignation of interim President Jeanine Anez, who replaced Morales after he quit on November 10 and fled to Mexico.

With roads blocked and many afraid to leave their homes in the city more than 13,000 feet above sea level, the Sunday high-altitude wrestling matches were cancelled for a fortnight.

"It was the first time (in eight years) that we had to stop because of conflict," says organizer Marie Penaranda, 30, as she sells tickets for 20 bolivianos (around \$3) each.

Tensions eased at the weekend with the passing of a bill authorizing new elections and ongoing talks between the caretaker government and protesters aimed at ending the unrest.

Ana Luisa Yujra, better known as "Jhenifer Two Faces," says the spectacle is "affordable therapy for the

crowd after so much violence.

"I love demonstrating the ability, agility and capacity that a woman can have," says Yujra, who works as a geriatric nurse.

**'Rough but interesting'**

Flores, wearing a shawl the same shade of garish green as her flouncy skirt, climbs into the ring and tosses her bowler hat on the floor.

To warm up for her mixed pairs fight against Yujra, the plump wrestler performs a couple of running somersaults on

the canvas, revealing the lacy layers of her pollera and her underwear to the scores of spectators. Martha Mayta, 28, sits in the front row enthralled by the performance.

"It is really admirable ... how these women in a pollera can get into the ring, wrestle, be in those positions," she says.

The sight of male and female wrestlers stomping, beating, choking and spraying water on each other does not bother the crowd as they egg on the performers to go even further.

"It is a demonstration for us of a woman defending herself against men," Norah Martinez Salazar, 34 said.

"It seems rough, but it's something interesting."

After an intense battle peppered with references to the political crisis gripping the country, Yujra and her male partner decked out in shiny red trousers and matching top, are declared the winners.

A visibly exhausted and dishevelled Flores blows kisses to her fans as she leaves the ring defeated and returns to the makeshift change room.

"I feel bad," she says.

"I'm really tired and out of breath."



"Jhenifer Two Faces" throttles "Dina, The Queen of the Ring"



Ana Luisa Yujra, aka "Jhenifer Two Faces", slams a male wrestler



Blanca Perez (L), aka "Katy The Beautiful," struggles to free herself from a neck hold

## 'This is not over': Hong Kong protesters return to the streets



Skirmishes erupted overnight between protesters and police in Hong Kong after a rare period of calm in the city

Hong Kong

Protesters returned to the streets of Hong Kong yesterday, ending a brief election lull and demanding the government make concessions a week after pro-democracy candidates won a landslide victory.

Rallies follow skirmishes overnight between police and protesters, with tear gas fired for the first time since the November 24 district council vote and a man assaulted as he tried to clear a protester barricade.

Hong Kongers have rallied in huge numbers over the last six months, fuelled by years of growing fears that authoritarian China is stamping out the city's liberties.

The territory's Beijing-backed leaders have offered few concessions and po-

lice have cracked down hard on protesters in increasingly violent confrontations.

At one of yesterday's rallies -- a gathering to thank US lawmakers for their support -- protesters said they were determined to keep up the pressure on local authorities after the election victory.

"I would like to send a message to the government: we are not done and this is not over," said one 27-year-old protester, who declined to give his name.

He said he hoped that Sunday's demonstrations, all three of which received permits called "letters of no objection," would stay peaceful.

"I do worry that public opinion may change if violence and clashes continue," he said.

But he said he feared the movement would "simply wither if we adopt a completely peaceful manner."

## Australian freed by Taliban believes US made multiple rescue attempts

Sydney

An Australian man who spent three years in Taliban captivity said yesterday that he believes US special forces tried to rescue him and an American colleague on half-a-dozen occasions.

Speaking in Sydney for the first time since he was freed in a prisoner swap deal, 50-year-old Timothy Weeks said he never lost hope, but the captivity "had a profound and unimaginable effect" on him.

Detailing a hellish life spent moving between windowless cells in Afghanistan and Pakistan Weeks said "after almost 1,200 days, our ordeal ended as abruptly as it had begun."

Weeks and American colleague Kevin King were freed on November 20 as part of deal between the Taliban, US, Australian and Afghan governments.

The pair -- both professors at the American University in Kabul -- were kidnapped by gunmen wearing military uniforms as they returned home from classes in August 2016.

"I struggle to find words to express just how completely this has changed me. At times,



Timothy Weeks with his sisters Alyssa Carter, left, and Jo Carter in Sydney. He has spoken of his three 'long and tortuous' years in Taliban captivity.



**I believe it was the Navy SEALs right outside our door. I think they came in six times to try to get us. And that a number of times they missed us only by hours**

TIMOTHY WEEKS

I felt as if my death was imminent, and that I would never return to see those that I loved again," he said.

"But, by the will of God, I am

here, I am alive and I am safe."

He recalled that in April this year he was woken "at around 2:00am and we were taken down into the tunnels."

He was told at the time that it was the Islamic State group's local affiliate. "I believe now that it was the Navy SEALs coming in to get us. And the moment that we got into the tunnels, we were just one or two metres underground. There was a huge bang at the front door."

"Our guards went up and there was a lot of machine-gun fire," he said. "I believe it was the Navy SEALs right outside our door. I think they came in six times to try to get us. And that a number of times they missed us only by hours."

## Death toll rises to 21 after attack on Mexican town

Reuters | Mexico City

Security forces shot dead seven more suspected cartel gunmen after a weekend attack on a northern Mexican town, authorities said yesterday, bringing the death toll to 21 and adding fuel to a debate about whether the gangs should be deemed terrorists.

The government of Coahuila state said 10 gunmen and four police were killed in shootouts on Saturday in Villa Union, days after US President Donald Trump fanned bilateral tensions by saying he would designate cartels as terrorists.

The gunmen peppered the Villa Union's mayor's office with bullets and state police pursued the gang members after they fled the town, killing seven more in the early hours of Sunday, the Coahuila government said in a statement.

The leftist Lopez Obrador said on Friday he would not accept any foreign intervention in Mexico to deal with violent criminal gangs in response to Trump's comments.



# Assad unwilling to cede power when he has large

*As the war enters its ninth winter, the urgency to end the country's agony has*

JANINE DI GIOVANNI

Ending war is a labyrinthine process. In the 17th century, the treaty of Westphalia that stopped the Thirty Years' War in Central Europe took four tortured years. Despite attempts at peace, it is estimated that 85 per cent of wars end by military victory. So heads of countries sitting down, conceding pieces of land and trying to write a new constitution between enemies while fighting is still going on almost always ends in failure. And when the winning side doesn't want to concede anything, peace is impossible.

Peacemaking at best is about accepting standards that are lower than expected. Batna – or the best alternative to a negotiated agreement – is academic speak for what to do when negotiations fail. The acronym says it all. Alternatives need to be employed.

In Syria, attempts to end a war which has destroyed ancient Silk Road cities and claimed the lives of untold civilians – the UN stopped counting the dead in 2014 – are ongoing. Something needs to shift before the start of another disastrous winter. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the death toll since the start of the war has topped 511,000. In addition, 6.6 million people have been displaced internally and 5.6m around the world, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Last week, a second round of Syrian talks ended in Geneva. These UN-brokered talks were meant to be the start of a long road of political rapprochement followed by elections but they ended without a consensus and without a meeting of the group of 45 delegates meant to be negotiating on the constitution.

The 150-member committee composed of three varied groups – opposition, regime and civil society – was meant to usher in a new phase of diplomacy, an attempt to once again end the war. It was meant to amend Syria's constitution.

It was never going to be perfect but the talks were all we had to end the war. The result last week was to be expected. According to sources, the government delegation failed to present its own agenda and tried to shift the discussion away from the constitutional reforms.

Whose fault is it? The regime appears to be hampering the process. It doesn't want to be there. Its ally Russia urged it to be there, but the regime is bent on doing everything it can to destroy any attempt at peace. Opposition members say they proposed a working plan in good faith to address the general structure of the constitution and its chapters. They apparently suggested discussing the leading principles of the constitution.

The regime shot them down. "Since the beginning of the second round, we made five proposals



A street in Douma near Damascus devastated by the Syria war.

within the scope of the constitutional committee and its authorities. All five were rejected by the regime. We will continue to present new proposals in order to find a solution," Hadi Albahra, co-chair of the opposition side on the committee said last week.

In October when the talks started, all three sides were meant to work on "solid, initial discussions and commonalities to build", according to Geir Pedersen, the UN's special envoy for Syria. But solid was the last word to describe talks where one side was completely in-

tractable. On Friday, Mr Pedersen said, "disagreement is typical in such cases".

But there is a major thorn in the side of any talks. The co-chair from the regime side, Ahmad Kuzbari, has always said there must be national constancy – that is, that the

Assad regime. This is a key ways remain a blinding block. The stomach aches in Syria in which Assad, whose for nearly half

## Iranian regime's priority is ensuring

*Tehran is banking on Lebanese protesters running out of steam while at home and in Iraq*

Raghida Dergham

Iranian leaders and their allies are counting on stamina to weather the storm and are hoping demonstrators' energy and fervour will wane as the year draws to a close. In Iran, Iraq and Lebanon, the Iranian regime's priority is securing its survival and preventing the three uprisings from bearing fruit by any means necessary – whatever the cost.

Russia remains committed to its Iranian ally and is confident of its promise to stop the spread of instability. What is new is the shift in the European position with regards to Iran. The Europeans have run out of patience with Iran's violations, not just in terms of the 2015 nuclear deal but also the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps's direct participation in staging riots, and stoking sectarianism and violence against peaceful protests in Lebanon, from its outposts in Syria and the Bekaa Valley.

This has made countries like Germany draw closer to the US position, despite previous opposition, causing concern and anger among the ranks of the Iranian leadership. A few days ago, German daily Der

Spiegel reported that the nation's interior ministry had requested an inquiry into Hizbollah's activities, with an agreement reached by the government in Berlin to impose a total ban on the organisation in Germany next week. The report said Germany would treat members of Hezbollah members as it treats ISIS.

For 18 months, US ambassador to Berlin Richard Grenell sought to persuade European states to adopt the American perspective on Iranian and Hezbollah activities; the new policy in Germany bears his hallmarks. Iran will undoubtedly be furious. The leadership in Tehran spared no effort in convincing the Europeans to push for exemptions from US sanctions but has since been steadily let down as European banks and businesses refused to deal with the regime, fearing they too would be sanctioned. The Iranians have used a combination of blackmail and threats, and a pattern of escalation and de-escalation, aware that a US-European alliance would further increase their isolation. Meanwhile, as protests rage on home turf, sources say the regime in Tehran is determined to reject any dialogue with



Hizbollah's activities could be banned across Europe.

demonstrators. Iran's leaders are convinced the protests in Lebanon will die down in a matter of weeks. In short, Iran has decided to take a rigid, escalatory and uncompromising approach.

The Europeans are concerned about a possible Iranian assault of the level and magnitude of the

attack on Saudi Aramco facilities. They are also concerned about Iran clamping down on demonstrations at home and dragging the Lebanese uprising into violence by engineering chaos that would consolidate Hizbollah's control of the country. Such actions would inevitably impact relations.

Berlin is resentful of Iranian threats and blackmails against Germany, France and Britain, all signatories of the nuclear deal. The German government believes the time has come to publicly call out Iranian violations of the deal instead of continuing to try to salvage it. After US President Donald

In Iraq, looks extra and difficult with no light of the turn continue toll rises hurting their neighbors to allow normal

Trump walks deal can no longer the inability of compel business the Instex special designed Iran's nuclear and ballistic have driven a deal's coffin. ment in the su in the region opinion in European regime's expansionism Mr Trump



1975

**Laotian Civil War:** The Pathet Lao seizes the Laotian capital of Vientiane, forces the abdication of King Sisavang Vatthana, and proclaims the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

1976

**Fidel Castro** becomes President of Cuba, replacing Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado.



1980

**Salvadoran Civil War:** Four American missionaries are raped and murdered by a death squad.

1982

At the University of **Utah**, Barney Clark becomes the first person to receive a permanent artificial heart.

# gely regained control

never been more crucial



**Mr Pedersen, tasked with ending the war, has taken a more low-key form of diplomacy than his predecessor Staffan de Mistura, the Italian-Swedish diplomat who tried for nearly four years to broker peace.**

impunity, continues to govern over his blood-soaked country. Investigations have proven that his regime has used torture and targeted and bombed civilians, including doctors, hospitals and schools.

Does the regime really need to sit down to talks? After all, it is winning. And so its strategy seems to be to stall the talks. Most Syria insiders wonder whether Mr Al Assad will be willing to cede much in any negotiations when he already has so much of the country under his control. "There doesn't seem to be the seriousness or the commitment to really work on a new constitution," says Bassma Kodmani, a lawyer and a member of the opposition.

Meanwhile here is what the military face of war looks like in Syria: another winter coming, endless bombing, displacement in the Idlib

region and millions of refugees outside the country who want to go home.

Of all the wars I have reported, I have always resisted attending peace talks. To me, they meant little and had nothing to do with what was happening on the ground. The UN officials, the diplomats and lawyers representing the people were far removed from the soldiers, housewives, fathers, mothers and students I met who were actually living through war. How could people sitting in Geneva – many of whom have lived in exile from Syria for years – know what someone being bombed in Idlib needs?

And yet, the urgency to end Syria's agony has never been more crucial. We are entering the ninth winter. Nine years is too long for a country to be torn apart.

Mr Pedersen, tasked with ending the war, has taken a more low-key form of diplomacy than his predecessor Staffan de Mistura, the Italian-Swedish diplomat who tried for nearly four years to broker peace.

The implications of what Mr Pedersen does now are huge and he must persevere. He must pressure the regime to stop thwarting the peace process. What happens next in the region and indeed in the future of ending wars is being scrutinised in Geneva. It is time for all parties to lay down their egos and do what is necessary for their bleeding country.

# its survival

raq, the situation is more complex

the situation  
remely complex  
ticult for Iran,  
ight at the end  
nel as protests  
and the death  
s. Iranians are  
hemselves and  
bour by refusing  
raq to become a  
al country.

by attempts by French President Emmanuel Macron to ingratiate himself as mediator with Tehran while suggesting lifting sanctions. The source said: A US source said the administration was willing to talk but negotiations would not be conditional on lifting or easing sanctions.

The Trump administration will continue using sanctions as a tool to tame, isolate, contain and punish the regime in Iran. If European pressures on the regime increase, its isolation and financial hardship will only deepen. But the question is: what will its leaders then do?

In Iraq, the situation looks extremely complex and difficult for Iran, with no light at the end of the tunnel as protests continue and the death toll rises. Iranians are hurting themselves and their neighbour by refusing to allow Iraq to become a normal country. The regime's logic does not allow for a withdrawal from Iraq or the disbanding of the Popular Mobilisation Forces. The bloodshed will continue and the risk of a US-Iranian military confrontation will increase, either because of deliberate provocation by the Iranians to draw Mr Trump into conflict or as a result of an

incident involving US forces in Iraq.

In Lebanon, the Iranian leadership thinks the crisis will not last longer than another month due to fatigue and the impasse that protests have reached. The Iranian leadership is betting protesters' endurance will decrease as the ruling class plays a waiting game.

So far Washington has succeeded in ensuring European support for the demands of the uprising, led by the need to form a government of technocrats rather than politicians affiliated to traditional parties under the dominance of Hizbollah and the IRGC.

The situation is now very delicate. If Iran succeeds in suppressing the Lebanese uprising, the ruling class will return with a vengeance and retaliate against those who dared to question them and call for them to be held accountable.

Western powers are waking up to the fact the key to protecting Lebanon from chaos and total collapse is to pressure and punish Iran and its proxies. But accountability will take time. It is therefore necessary to be patient and think pragmatically and strategically if the uprising is to achieve its lofty goals.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

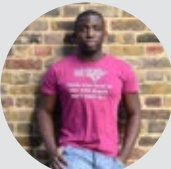
01



**"T**he Commission has sent out questionnaires as part of a preliminary investigation into Google's practices relating to Google's collection and use of data. The preliminary investigation is ongoing," the EU regulator told Reuters in an email.

@fabiochiusi

02



**J**OURNALISTS! When- ever Boris Johnson uses the "They all said we couldn't get a deal, and we got a deal" line, remind him that the deal he got is one that he had previously said "No Conservative PM could or should ever agree to" and which May rejected.

@Femi\_Sorry

03



**W**e will end the automatic early release system for serious and violent offenders so they serve their full term in prison.

@BorisJohnson

04



**T**he Tories want to judge Labour on the record of the last Labour government nearly ten years ago, but Boris Johnson doesn't want to want to be judged for the last three Tory governments for the last nine years

@jonoread

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

# Bahrain's ecosystem diversity needs protection



KOTA SRIRAJ

**A**s an island nation, Bahrain hosts a number of valuable ecosystems, all of which have contributed towards defining Bahrain's identity. Many of these are of great cultural significance as they have influenced the roots of what is known today as Bahrain's cultural and natural heritage. The marine ecosystem too is one of the most unique and rich aspects of Bahrain, which has enabled the nation to be the guardian of some of the most interesting and diverse life forms ever seen on the planet. But today Bahrain's precious ecosystems are facing a real time threat thanks to climate change and various anthropogenic impacts. The nation will need to have future proof strategies that account for intensive impact of global warming and climate change on these valued natural assets.

Terrestrial ecosystems such as wetlands, agricultural lands and fresh water springs are invaluable in their contribution to ensure that the nation is endowed with the very best that nature has to offer. Wetlands for instance are a major part of the foundation of water resources, which are vital to the health of water pathways and downstream communities. Wetlands are home to various fish and wildlife species in addition to playing a huge role in trapping floodwaters, recharging groundwater supplies and removing pollution. But thanks to the increasing demand for land and rising pollution these wetlands now face pressures of urbanisation.

Similarly, fresh water springs comprising of the most biologically diverse inland water ecosystem have historically played a significant role in the development of Bahrain. These springs played host to unique class of aquatic ecosystems, which are known to have watered the northern and western areas of the island of Bahrain for centuries. Freshwater ecosystems known for the good quality of their waters provided the basis for a diverse assemblage of aquatic flora and fauna. But due to pollution from refineries and over exploitation of the ground water has led to the near extinction of these springs. In fact, the biological status of Bahrain's famous freshwater springs condition has been classified as critical. The freshwater springs within the sea are said to have become extinct whilst the few remaining inland springs no longer have the ability to pump their water naturally.

Agricultural lands popularly known as palm groves too are facing the adverse impacts of man-made

activities. Once known to be the island of a million palm trees with the local saying that one can see a palm tree from where ever a person stands on the island, the northern and western coastal areas are known for their fertile soil. For thousands of years, agricultural lands have been heavily cultivated with date palms and alfalfa plantations. Date palm farms are considered to be the most diverse terrestrial habitat on the island as it supports a variety of introduced and native species besides migratory birds.

However the negative vibes of climate change have started to create ripples in what was once a flourishing palm grove ecology. A sharp decline in the total area of date palm farms has been noted due to the rapid urbanization of the northern part of the main island. Freshwater springs are recorded to have been highly productive whereby they irrigated the palms groves through flooding, however since freshwater springs have now dwindled down mas-

**Bahrain has a very strong ability and track record for environmental protection and the same resolve can really help in ensuring that the health and prosperity of Bahrain's ecological assets is restored for the benefit of future generations.**



sively, these groves require surface irrigation whereas in areas suffering from water scarcity, these groves are now desiccated.

The marine ecosystems are also not faring well either. The coral reefs are one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet and are said to home about one-third of all marine fish species. Coral reefs are made up of corals, which secrete calcium carbonate thereby creating the reef's structures. Coral reefs are said to have been very abundant in Bahrain covering many areas near and offshore. However, due to extreme conditions such

as high salinity and temperature levels accompanied by intensive dredging and reclamation, coral reefs have been facing massive pressures. In 1998, Bahrain lost more than 90% of its coral as a result of a bleaching event, which affected most of Bahrain's reefs.

The anthropogenic causes, climate change and rising ambient temperatures due to global warming are playing havoc with Bahrain's ecological assets. Fresh water springs; coral reefs and palm groves are either declining or already decimated. In order to ensure that the other assets do not meet the same fate it is crucial to immediately ramp up the mitigation measures and identify the precipitating factors contributing to the rapid downfall of the eco assets and neutralize these causal factors. Increasing the usage of renewable energy, decreasing the carbon footprint by reducing fossil fuel usage and increasing the green cover can give immense progress in the protection of ecological assets. Bahrain has a very strong ability and track record for environmental protection and the same resolve can really help in ensuring that the health and prosperity of Bahrain's ecological assets is restored for the benefit of future generations.



## business

# Alba eyes product expansion, US market

TDI | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) is actively seeking to expand its products' portfolio and increase sales with a major emphasis on the US market, said Alba Chairman yesterday.

Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa, during Alba's fourth quarterly Board meeting, said the company aims to have a strong finish in 2019, with production to top 1.35 million metric tonnes for the first time in Alba's history, thanks to the ramp-up of Line 6.

Alba also "intends to achieve 15 million working-hours without Lost Time Injury by year-end 2019."

On the Line 6 Expansion project, Shaikh Daij said the project is a game-changer and marks "a turning point for Alba and a new era of growth and prosperity for the Kingdom of Bahrain".



Alba's fourth quarterly board meeting

His Majesty's official inauguration of Alba's mega-project on 24 November 2019 places Alba in the lead within the aluminium industry with its transformation

- making it the world's largest smelter ex-China.

Line 6 was inaugurated by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa accompanied

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

Alba board approved its 2020 Annual Operating Plan and Q3 2019 financial statements. Updates were also given by the Executive Management on Safety,

Operational and Financial Performance on the back of current market conditions and Project Titan - Phase IV as well as overall Industry Outlook.



**Alba's Line 6 Expansion Project is a game-changer and marks a turning point for Alba and a new era of growth and prosperity for the Kingdom of Bahrain**

SHAIKH DAIJ BIN SALMAN BIN DAIJ AL KHALIFA

CHAIRMAN OF ALBA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BCCI forum on Bahrain's Economic Outlook 2020

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) represented by its Studies and Initiatives Center is holding on Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in Al Majlis Hall of Bait Al Tijjar, the second edition of its economic forum on "Bahrain's Economic Outlook for 2020."

The forum will deliberate about the economic performance of Bahrain in 2019 and



will shed light on the country's economic outlook for 2020. Speaking at the forum will be Shura Council member Dr Redha Abdulla Faraj and economic researcher, former head of Bahrain Economists Society Dr Abdulla Mohammed Al Sadeq.

BCCI calls on its members to attend the forum and gain insight into the national economy, promising sectors, main economic changes and the requirements of the next stage.



National Audit Office (NAO) celebrated Bahraini Women's Day on its premises. Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Auditor-General, and senior officials of NAO congratulated female staff and praised their outstanding performance and achievements.



Gulf Air yesterday celebrated Bahraini Women's Day at the airline's headquarters in Muharraq. The celebration included a 'talk show' featuring Bahraini female staff from Gulf Air and two Bahraini women guest sharing their career experiences. Bahraini Women's Day is celebrated annually on first December as part of an initiative by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) to honour the achievements and valuable insights and contribution made by Bahraini women towards the development and progress of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), reaffirmed its commitment to female empowerment as it celebrated this year's Bahraini Women's Day. Female team members attend a teambuilding event on the theme 'Proud, Efficient, and Friendly'. Acclaimed Bahraini artist and entrepreneur Amina Al Abbasi shared her success story. BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah, Chairman of the Equal Opportunity Committee, said: "At present, 39 per cent of the company's 123 female team members hold leadership roles."



Al Baraka Banking Group and Al Baraka Islamic Bank Bahrain staff jointly celebrated Bahraini Women's Day on 1 December 2019 at the Al Baraka Headquarters, Bahrain Bay in the presence of President & Chief Executive, Adnan Ahmed Yousif and other senior management officials. Yousif said the banking sector has a major role to play in the economic empowerment of women, "with the great patronage and support of the political leadership of the country". The function was marked with a cake cutting and gifts distribution





# New tenants signed for Sa'ada waterfront project: Edamah

Edamah signs new tenants to create a one-stop destination in Muharraq

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah), the local real estate arm of the Kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, announced signing leases with Food World, CrossFit Muharraq, Bunzz Food Truck, Kushari Boulevard, Qahwa & Karak and Karam Al Bahrain to open outlets at Sa'ada Waterfront.

The Sa'ada project, endorsed by HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is expected to launch soon. The first tenant of the project,



Key Representatives from Edamah and CrossFit Muharraq



Sa'ada Waterfront in its current phase

Naseef Café, will open its doors to the new branch during launch

having come a long way from the opening its first café in Fareej Al

Fadhel in 1920.

The strength and conditioning

facility, CrossFit Muharraq, is expected to open mid- December 2019 with the fit-outs are already well underway. As for the F&B outlets, Bunzz Food Truck, Kushari Boulevard and Qahwa & Karak all are expected to open in Q1 2020. Karam Al Bahrain will open its first branch in the second half of 2020. Food World Group based in Bahrain owns and operates a chain of Supermarkets, Department Stores, and Cafes.

Sa'ada is a lifestyle development project providing a community space that combines Family Entertainment Center

(FEC), retail and tourism sectors. In its second phase, Sa'ada will offer a multi-story car park with 202 parking spaces, as well as a marina consisting of 37 berths for boats of various sizes. "With Sa'ada Waterfront we wanted to create a vibrant atmosphere and shared space for the entire community to enjoy, these four F&B outlets Bunzz Food Truck, Kushari Boulevard, Qahwa & Karak and Karam Al Bahrain, will offer the perfect mix of traditional Bahraini food and modern cuisine," said Amin Alarrayed, the Chief Executive Officer of Edamah.

## BHB lists 10 T-bills, Sukuks worth BD646m

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) announced yesterday the listing of 10 issues in the Treasury Bills Market effective today.

The listing worth a total of BD646 million is issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain with

discount rates ranging between 2.57 per cent and 2.82pc for 3-12 months.

With this listing, the total number of Treasury Bills and Short-Term Islamic Lease (Ijarah) Sukuk listed at Bahrain Bourse became 20 with a total value of BD1.43 billion.

## OPEC, allies may deepen oil cuts to 1.6 million bpd: Iraq

Reuters | Baghdad

OPEC and allied oil producers will consider deepening their existing oil output cuts by about 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 1.6 million bpd, Iraq's oil minister said yesterday.

The minister, Thamer Ghadhban, told reporters in Baghdad that the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

and its allies, together known as OPEC+, will consider increasing the cuts in their supply pact at meetings in Vienna this week.

Ghadhban added that Iraq, as of yesterday, has exceeded 100 per cent commitment with the supply deal and that an agreement capping production from the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region will also aid compliance.



Thamer Ghadhban

The agreement with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) caps production from the northern Iraqi region at 450,000 bpd, Ghadhban said. About 250,000 bpd of the KRG's output will be handed over to the central Iraqi government and 200,000 bpd will be used by the region to pay back debt to foreign companies, he added.

# Nigerian farmers hope to spread shea butter wealth

*Female farmers pick shea nuts then wash, boil and roast them before they are bought by middle men who earn up to five times more in bigger markets*



Kodo | Nigeria

Surrounded by four children, Ladi Usman scoops shea nut paste from a plastic container into a metal pot on the stove in her cramped kitchen.

Squinting to keep charcoal fumes out of her eyes, she stirs it with a bamboo stick, completing the final stages of eking out the valuable shea butter oils.

For the past two decades Usman, 39, has relied on shea nuts -- and the oil they contain -- to provide a livelihood for herself and her family in central Nigeria.

"I cook with it, I sell it and the money I get from it I use to take these children to school, to hospital and everything else," she said.

Together with 50 other women in a cooperative in the village of Kodo she extracts value from shea nuts that grow abundantly in Nigeria.

Shea butter is consumed worldwide in chocolate, margarine and cooking oil, and cosmetic giants are using it more and more as a natural moisturiser.

The global shea butter market is expected to be worth \$3.5 billion by 2028, according to Transparency Market research.

Experts say the huge number of shea trees in Nigeria could be a major source of income.

But potential profit is being lost as it exports just 10 percent of the 350,000 tonnes of shea nuts produced annually as finished products to lucrative world markets.

Nigeria could satisfy up to 60pc of global demand for shea, "and with many compa-

nies in Europe and America using shea butter as an alternative to cocoa butter the potential is enormous," said Aderemi Akpatira of the National Shea Products Association

"We as a nation just need to get ourselves organised and take that leadership place."

**'Middle men'**

For women working in the Kodo collective, extracting oil from shea nuts takes several stages and a lot of work.

First Usman and the other women collect the nuts and remove the sweet pulp either to be eaten or fermented into a wine that is consumed locally.

The nuts are then washed and boiled to prevent germination before being roasted on charcoal ovens.

Most of the nuts are sold at that point by Usman and the rest of the collective for the oils to be extracted industrially.

It makes sense to the small-scale farmers as it avoids the long hours and fuel needed for extraction, but it precludes profits they could be making.

Distance to markets is another major problem as farmers have to offload what they produce to middle men who buy low and sell high in other towns and cities.

"The middle men come to buy from us and go to sell in other towns. They buy from us at one dollar and sell at five dollars," Maryam Aliyu, chairwoman of the Alheri cooperative, said.

"We feel like we are just working for the middle men."

Farmer Mustafa Umar, 35, agreed as he surveyed the shea trees on his farm in Kodo.

"People are coming from different areas to buy shea butter, and when they buy it cheap here they will go back and double it two times and make their own profits," he said.

"We want to invite the foreigners to come and buy the shea nuts here from us."

**'Exploit the potential'**

Nigerian authorities are desperate to diversify the country's oil-dependant economy and have made boosting domestic agriculture a priority.

Proponents say that tapping into the value of millions of Nigerian shea trees could provide a crucial source of income.

Since June, The Nigeria Agribusiness Register market monitor has been facilitating investment it hopes can help Nigeria gain a bigger share of the world's shea butter market.

"It is estimated that Nigeria could make up to \$2 billion from the export of processed shea kernel" if it was done domestically, said Roland Oroh, director of the organisation that tracks the agricultural sector.

But despite the ambitious targets, Nigeria remains a long way from cashing in on its shea wealth.

Industry experts say a first step to targeting foreign markets would be to improve quality at the first stages of production.

"We need to get more educated especially in the scientific aspect, some of our finished products that went to Europe were rejected because they didn't meet import standards," said Christopher Chuwkueme-ka, 62, a shea butter processor in the Jos, central Nigeria.

"Poor practices reduce the quality of the shea butter even before it reaches us," he noted.



Nigerian producers of shea oil say that raising its quality is key to making it a major contributor to the nation's economy



Ground shea nuts are turned into oil and other products for which there is substantial global demand



Shea butter and shea nuts can end up in chocolate, margarine, cooking oil and cosmetics



# AUB launches eMyHassad

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank(AUB) announced launching “eMyHassad”, an online platform for its savings scheme - MyHassad.

“eMyHassad”, AUB said, simplifies the transactional process without needing a new or existing customer to visit a branch.

In a first, AUB said eMyHassad eliminates the need to download an app to purchase certificates as application and purchase can all be completed on a browser. The application allows instant payment for MyHassad certifi-



Officials during the launch

icates through any debit card as well as receive certificates electronically via email. AUB said eMyHassad allows

customers to receive their MyHassad certificates in a single transaction without visiting a branch.

Commenting, Deputy Group CEO Retail Banking, Suvrat Saigal, said both existing and new customers would be able to receive their MyHassad savings certificates at the end of a single digital interaction with the bank. Every purchase of an “eMyHassad” certificate, worth BD 50, made with any Bahrain based debit card, will allow entering the MyHassad draws for a chance to win prizes including the \$1 million jackpot to be announced in December 2019.

## BoE’s Carney to become UN climate finance envoy



Governor of the Bank of England Mark Joseph Carney

Reuters | Madrid

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney will lead a push by the United Nations to make the finance sector take proper account of the risks posed by climate change, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said yesterday.

Guterres said the Canadian, due to leave the bank on Jan. 31, was “a remarkable pioneer in pushing the financial sector to work on climate”.

He told a news conference before a UN climate summit in Madrid beginning today that Carney would be the UN special envoy on climate action and climate finance from next year. Carney first spoke of the risks that climate change pos-

es to to finance in 2015, and since then has urged better risk management, supervision and disclosure.

He has spoken of “stranded assets” - deposits of coal, oil and gas that might lose their value if the world shifts away from carbon - and decried a lack of transparency about the effect on global warming of trillions of dollars of potential investments.

The 54-year-old has spent nearly seven years at the head of the bank, and previously led the Bank of Canada and worked for Goldman Sachs.

The Bank of England said Carney would seek to make the impact of climate change central to financial reporting, risk management and the calculation of returns ahead of a global summit in Glasgow in November 2020.

“The disclosures of climate risk must become comprehensive, climate risk management must be transformed, and investing for a net-zero world must go mainstream,” Carney said in a statement.

Some 70 countries have promised to go ‘net zero’ - offsetting their greenhouse gas emissions with measures such as carbon capture or planting trees - by 2050.

## EU leadership takes office touting green ambition



(From L) President of the European Central Bank (ECB) Christine Lagard attends the launch of the EU’s new leadership team: European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel, and European Parliament president David Sassoli

Brussels

The EU’s new leadership took office yesterday, one month later than planned, promising a more united Europe that would be ready to face major challenges, especially fighting climate change.

Germany’s Ursula von der Leyen became president of the European Commission and marked the occasion in a short ceremony with her top EU counterparts, including EU Council President Charles Michel who also started on Sunday.

The team took the reins as the 28-member union is faced with a mountain of difficulties, including the Brexit divorce with Britain and rising ten-

sions with superpowers China and the United States.

Von der Leyen said the officials gathered, who also included European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde, must meet a great responsibility as guardians of the European Union treaties.

“It is a responsibility towards the European people and towards our founding father and mothers, but it is also a responsibility towards our children,” she said.

“It is our responsibility to leave a union that is stronger than the one we inherited: ... a continent in peace with rights and liberties (and) a single market with unprecedented economic opportunities,” she said.

## Gulf markets advance



Traders on the floor of Bahrain stock market (file)

### Closing bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.6pc to 7,902 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.4pc to 10,192 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.5pc to 13,781 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.4pc to 1,533 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.3pc to 4,074 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 1.8pc to 6,633 pts



● **Ataa Educational boosted by potential Kingdom Schools deal**

● **Egypt’s Qalaa Holding drops on Pharos downgrade**

● **Saudi Arabia was up 0.6 per cent, with Al Rajhi Bank advancing 1.6pc**

Reuters

All major Gulf stock markets closed higher yesterday on hopes that a reported visit by Qatar’s foreign minister to Riyadh.

Qatar’s foreign minister made an unannounced visit to Saudi Arabia, sources said on Saturday.

OPEC and allied oil producers, meanwhile, will consider further oil supply cuts when their leaders meet in Vienna this week, Iraq’s oil minister said yesterday, in a move expected to support oil prices.

In Saudi Arabia, the benchmark index was up 0.6 per cent, with Al Rajhi Bank advancing 1.6pc and Saudi Basic Industries up 0.9pc.

Ataa Educational added

2.2pc after a non-binding memorandum of understanding to acquire 92.1pc stake in Kingdom Schools.

The Qatar index firmed by 0.4pc to end a three-day losing streak.

Qatar National Bank, the Gulf’s largest lender, gained 1pc and Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding added 1.5pc.

The Kuwaiti index closed 1.8pc up, outperforming its Gulf peers, as Kuwait Financial House (KFH) and Boubayan Bank added 4pc and 2.1pc respectively.

The Bahrain central bank approved KFH’s acquisition of Ahli United Bank, while Boubayan confirmed it is in advanced talks to buy all remaining shares in BLME Holding.

Egypt’s blue-chip index fell 0.5pc, with Qalaa Holdings shedding 4.3pc after brokerage Pharos Research on Thursday cut its valuation of the investment company to 2.70 Egyptian pounds per share from 3.29 pounds.

Orascom Investment Holding slipped 2.4pc as its third-quarter net profit declined to 62.6 million Egyptian pounds (\$3.90 million) from 1.22 billion pounds a year earlier. The Dubai and Abu Dhabi stock markets are closed for three-day public holidays and will resume trading on Dec. 4.

# Come and invest in us: Sri Lanka tells Western nations, India

New Delhi

Sri Lanka’s new president Gotabaya Rajapaksa has warned India and Western nations that his country will be forced to seek finance from China again if they do not invest in the island.

Rajapaksa told the Hindu newspaper in an interview published yesterday that other Asian nations would also turn to China’s giant Belt and Road infrastructure project without alternative help.

Sri Lanka has traditionally been allied to India but became close to China, securing about \$7 billion in loans and investment, when Rajapaksa’s brother Mahinda was president from 2005 to 2015.

“I want to tell India, Japan, Singapore and Australia and other countries to also come and invest in us,” said the president, who was in India this weekend on his first foreign trip since winning a presidential election



Sri Lanka’s new president Gotabaya Rajapaksa was in India this weekend on his first foreign trip since winning a presidential election on November 16

**I want to tell India, Japan, Singapore and Australia and other countries to also come and invest in us**

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA  
SRI LANKA’S NEW PRESIDENT

on November 16.

“They should tell their companies to invest in Sri Lanka and help us grow, because if they do not, then not only Sri Lanka, but countries all over Asia will have the same (problem).”

“The Chinese will take the Belt and Road initiative all over unless other countries provide an alternative.”

Gotabaya Rajapaksa also confirmed that he wants to renegotiate the agreement with China about the strategic Hambanto-

port south of Colombo that serves the key shipping lanes between Europe and Asia.

“I believe that the Sri Lankan government must have control of all strategically important projects like Hambantota,” he said in the interview.

“The next generation will curse our generation for giving away precious assets otherwise,” he said.

Sri Lanka was forced to hand the port over to China in 2017 on a 99-year lease after the Sri Lankan government was unable to repay loans taken to build it.

Rajapaksa said he was certain India’s government under rightwing Prime Minister Narendra Modi would move past the apprehensions it had over ties between Sri Lanka and China.

“Some of their suspicions were due to our ties with China, but that was a misunderstanding. We had a purely commercial agreement with China,” Rajapaksa said.



show



**LE MANS '66 (PG-13)(DRAMA/SPORT/BIOGRAPHY)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 2.45 + 8.30 PM  
CITY CENTRE:12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D):11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE VIP (I) :11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (II):11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM  
MATT DAMON, CHRISTIAN BALE, JON BERNTHAL

**KNIVES OUT (PG-15)(CRIME/COMEDY/THRILLER)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.00 + 5.45+ 11.30 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)  
CITY CENTRE VIP (II) :12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (II): (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL:12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM  
DANIEL CRAIG, CHRIS EVANS, ANA DE ARMAS

**COMMANDO 3 (15+)(HINDI/ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR: 8.15 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
VIDYUT JAMMWAL, ADAH SHARMA, ANGIRA DHAR

**MERCY BLACK (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)**  
CITY CENTRE:11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II): 1.30 + 5.45 + 10.00 PM  
WADI AL SAIL:8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN  
DANIELLA PINEDA, AUSTIN AMELIO, ELLE LAMONT

**#JOWABLE (18+)(FILIPINO/COMEDY/DRAMA)**  
SEEF (II): 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM  
KIM MOLINA, CAI CORTEZ, CHAD KINIS

**ENTA HABIBI W BAS (PG-15)(ARABIC/COMEDY/MUSIC)**  
CITY CENTRE: 1.15 + 5.30 + 9.45 PM  
SEEF (II):11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN  
AHMAD EL BADRI, MAHMOOD ELLAITTY, BOUSY

**MARNIE'S WORLD (SPY CAT) (PG)**  
SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 PM  
ERIK BORNER, ALEXANDRA NELDEL, AXEL PRAHL

**FROZEN 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA):10.45 AM + 1.00 + 3.15 + 5.30 + 7.45 + 10.00 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR (ATMOS): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR (3D): 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 12.30 + 1.45 + 2.45 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 6.15 + 7.15 + 8.30 + 9.30 + 10.45 + 11.45 PM  
CITY CENTRE (3D): 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM  
SEEF (II):11.00 AM + 12.00 + 1.15 + 2.15 + 3.30 + 4.30 + 5.45 + 6.45 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 10.15 + 11.15 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 12.00 + 1.15 + 2.15 + 3.30 + 4.30 + 5.45 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM  
KRISTEN BELL, IDINA MENZEL, JOSH GAD



**21 BRIDGES (PG-15)(CRIME/ACTION/THRILLER)**  
CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM  
WADI AL SAIL:1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM  
CHADWICK BOSEMAN, SIENNA MILLER, STEPHAN JAMES

**JOKER (15+)(THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA)**  
CITY CENTRE: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
SEEF (II):1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM  
JOAQUIN PHOENIX, ZAZIE BEETZ, ROBERT DE NIRO

**MALEFICENT 2: MISTRESS OF EVIL (PG)**  
CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 PM  
ANGELINA JOLIE, TERESA MAHONEY, MICHELLE PFEIFFER

**MIRACLE IN CELL NO. 7 (PG-15)(TURKISH/DRAMA)**  
CITY CENTRE: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM  
SEEF (II): 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM  
WADI AL SAIL:11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM  
ARAS BULUT YNEML , N SA SOF YA AKSONGUR, LKER AKSUM

**CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-15)(ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)**  
CITY CENTRE:11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM  
KRISTEN STEWART, NAOMI SCOTT, ELLA BALINSKA



**TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (PG-15)**  
CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (II) :6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN  
LINDA HAMILTON, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, MACKENZIE DAVIS

**10 MINUTES GONE (PG-15)(ACTION/CRIME) 10**  
CITY CENTRE:11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.30 PM  
MICHAEL CHIKLIS, BRUCE WILLIS, MEADOW WILLIAMS

**GEMINI MAN (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)**  
CITY CENTRE: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM  
WILL SMITH, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, CLIVE OWEN

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY (PG)(ANIMATION/COMEDY)**  
CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM  
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM  
OSCAR ISAAC, CHARLIZE THERON, CHLO, GRACE MORETZ

**PAGALPANTI (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/ACTION)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR :11.30 AM + 5.15 + 11.00 PM  
JOHN ABRAHAM, ANIL KAPOOR, KRITI KHARBANDA

**KHAYAL MAATA (PG)(COMEDY/DRAMA)**  
CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM  
AHMAD HELMY, MINNA SHALABI, HASSAN HOSNEY

**BALA (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 2.30 + 8.15 PM  
AYUSHMANN KHURRANA, BHUMI PEDNEKAR, YAMI GAUTAM

**CANGEL HAS FALLEN (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)**  
CITY CENTRE :1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM  
GERARD BUTLER, MORGAN FREEMAN, JADA PINKETT SMITH

**PLAYING WITH FIRE (PG)(ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY)**  
CITY CENTRE:11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM  
SEEF (II):11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM  
JOHN CENA, KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY, JOHN LEGUIZAMO

**JACK & DANIEL (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 2.30 + 8.30 PM  
DILEEP, ARJUN SARJA, ANJU KURIAN

**HELEN (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (I): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
WADI AL SAIL:3.00 + 8.30 PM  
AL HAMRA: 6.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)  
ANNA BEN, LAL, AJU VARGHESE, NOBLE THOMAS



**UNDER WORLD (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)**  
SEEF (I): 11.15 AM + 5.15 + 11.15 PM  
ASIF ALI, FARHAAN FAAZIL  
HAPPY SARDAR (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

**OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.30 AM + 5.30 + 11.30 PM**  
SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM  
AL HAMRA: 12.00 NOON  
KALIDAS JAYARAM, SIDDHI MAHAJANKATTI, JAVED JAFFREY

**ENAI NOKI PAAYUM THOTA (PG-15)(TAMIL)**  
From Friday 29th  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM  
SEEF (I): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN  
WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM  
AL HAMRA: 3.00 + 9.00 PM  
DHANUSH, MEGHA AKASH, SUNAINA

**ARJUN SURAVARAM (PG-15)(TELUGU)**  
From Friday 29th  
SEEF (I): 2.15 + 8.15 PM  
NIKHIL SIDDHARTH, LAVANYA TRIPATHI, VENNELA KISHORE

MOVIE REVIEW

Commando 3: story falters, but the action kicks in to save the day

Vidyut Jammwal holds the attention of the viewers with his ripped physique and smooth action moves

In his last outing, Commando Karanvir Singh Dogra (Vidyut Jammwal) found his way to foreign shores to follow the trail of ill-begotten wealth of the powers that be. That was quite an adventure what with several twists.

Turns out, his adventure in the third edition is not half as much fun. This once the discovery of a few misguided young men, indoctrinated by Jihadis who are planning a destructive coup to instill fear among Indians, sets the ball rolling for our hero. Trite as it is, you know that Jammwal's smooth as panther stunts will be the most watchable part of the film.

Despite his elegant glides and save, the film suffers abundantly from sheer lack of imagination. Even its eclectic ensemble of actors -Adah Sharma (Bhavna Reddy), Angira Dhar (Mallika Sood) and Gulshan Devaiah



A scene from 'Commando 3'

(Buraq Ansari) pulling off some very cool stunts, the film fails to score.

The hackneyed plot around Islamic terrorists with nefarious motives seems to have run its

course what with several films in the past with a similar premise. In the cinematic world run by

superheroes, it is increasingly difficult for the audience to be impressed by the exploits of regular, on-screen heroes and therefore a good story and screenplay become a dire necessity.

In the earlier edition Adah Sharma' comic turn worked well but in this one, the screenplay does not allow her enough room to add value.

The film's dialogues designed to be paeans to the patriotic spirit are tiresome at best and pointless blood-letting, one has observed makes little impact (on the auds) unless the story has an emotional connect. Commando 3's biggest virtue is that while drumming up the patriotic bluster it does try its best to make a distinction between terrorists and Muslims as it were. Sometimes painstakingly so. But that's obviously not good enough to salvage a poorly packaged film.



‘Commando 3’ is strictly meant for Vidyut Jammwal fans and for those who have a fondness for ‘dishoom-di-shoom’

Its sheer lack of mystery doesn't help the film's cause the least bit. The culprit or the mastermind behind the deceitful plan is made known to the audience early on, weakening the narrative.



# celebs

Kim and Kourtney

## Kim, Kourtney and Kanye celebrate Thanksgiving in Japan

Los Angeles

A few of the Kardashians, including Kim, sister Kourtney along with Kanye West and their children, celebrated Thanksgiving holiday in their favourite city, Tokyo, Japan.

According to an E! News source, the family spend their visit to Tokyo's district of Asakusa, shopping, sightseeing and enjoying the city's delicious

food.

Kanye also went on shoes and clothes shopping with Kourtney's eldest son, Mason.

On the other hand, Kim met with journalism students at Monash University's Tokyo Journalism Field School.

Other than this, everyone together went on to enjoy at a children's playground and a teamLab Planets digital art museum where the kids wit-

nessed their hand-drawn pictures turned into animations.

"Kourtney was taking pictures everywhere and really enjoying the scenery," the eyewitness said. "They all seem to love Tokyo and can't get enough of the culture. The kids had a great time and they all loved their holiday there."

Kim also shared a clip featuring her four-year-old son, Saint West, having fun at a park playing with a spider filter.

## 'Avatar 2' concludes shooting for 2019

Los Angeles

James Cameron's much-awaited "Avatar 2" is done filming for the year 2019, with the makers sharing a behind-the-scenes photo from the film's set.

The movie's official Twitter account shared the photo on Saturday to mark the end of live-action filming for the year.

"That's a wrap, Na'vi Nation! It's our last day of live-action filming in 2019, and we're celebrating with a sneak peek," the post read.

The picture offered a glimpse at a craft called the "Sea Dragon".



James Cameron

## Lewis Capaldi cancels UK musical tour over health issues

London

Singer Lewis Capaldi has cancelled his upcoming UK tour due to vocal issues.

The "Hold me while you wait" hitmaker admitted Brixton show was "one of the hardest performances" he ever had to do, and now he has been warned by medics that if he doesn't rest and take it "very easy" it could cause long term harm to his voice, reports thescottishsun.co.uk.

Taking to social media, he wrote: "Last night in Brixton was one of the hardest performances I've had to do and thank you so so much to everyone that came down and helped out with the tougher parts of some of those tunes."



Lewis Capaldi

## Shawn Mendes cancels Brazil concert due to illness

Los Angeles

Singer Shawn Mendes cancelled his Brazil gig due to being sick.

The 21-year-old Canadian singer revealed on his Instagram Story on Saturday that he is suffering from laryngitis and a sinus infection and will have to cancel his second concert in Sao Paulo, Brazil, which was set to take place on the same evening.

"Sao Paulo, I'm so sorry to have to tell you this, but today I woke up feeling ill, and went to the doctor, and to find out I have laryngitis and a sinus infection which has caused swelling of my vocal cords. It breaks my heart to do this but my doctors told me I can not perform tonight or it would risk long term damage to my voice."



Shawn Mendes

## Give women-led films same mounting as that of movies with male superstars: Katrina

Mumbai

Katrina Kaif on Sunday said comparing box office collections of female-led films with those headlined by male superstars in unjustified as the projects don't get the same financial backing.

The actor, who is one of the leading female stars in Bollywood, weighed in her thoughts on the pay disparity in the industry and said a lot of men are of the opinion that the opening figures that are guaranteed by a male star are slightly more, which is why there's a fee difference.

"My argument to that is, which I discuss with a lot of producers I'm close to and have worked with, give the female dominated films, with may be one or two female leads, the same budget and mounting that you are giving to the male stars or the combination of

nation of a male and a female star. Give that to a female film and see what happens then," Katrina said.

The actor believes a project with female leads, a great story and an able director, if given the same budget and scale, "has the potential to do those numbers."

"We just need to see that confidence come from the producers to take that risk and put that investment into the film. 'Tiger...', 'War' are big action films with huge budgets. If we mount a film, it could be a different film, a comedy, a fun summer blockbuster, if we give that film the same mounting, the audience will feel that this is an event film."

"If most of our female protagonists films are small ideas and small in content and smaller in nature, how can the opening be compared to the 'Dhoom 3's of the world?'"

Katrina was speaking at 'We The Women' curated by Barkha Dutt.



Katrina Kaif

## Deepika compares Hrithik to dessert "death by chocolate"

Mumbai

It seems Deepika Padukone has been bowled over by Hrithik Roshan's performance in his latest hit "War" as she just compared him to a dessert "death by chocolate".

"Hrithik in "War" is like Death by Chocolate from Corner House!...Just saying," Deepika tweeted on Sunday. For those who don't know, Corner house is a popular eatery in Bengaluru.

Deepika's compliment for Hrithik has become viral on social media.

Reacting to the tweet, several users agreed to her. One user commented: "Hahah truth be told".

"I do agree. He is the hottest," wrote another one. Now it would be interesting to see how Hrithik, one of the most handsome male actors of Bollywood, react to Deepika's compliment.

According to the reports, the two will be seen romancing in remake of Amitabh Bachchan's 1982 film "Satte Pe Satta".



Deepika Padukone

## Mel B angry over lack of help to ex-bodyguard who killed self

London

Singer Mel B has said that more needs to be done in order to help those in the forces dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following the death of her former bodyguard, Corporal Ash Nickles (31).

Corporal Ash Nickles, an Afghanistan war veteran, was found dead at his home wearing his ceremonial blues uniform along with his medals on November 22, reports dailystar.co.uk.

It is reported that the former Marine sought help from two different medical centres for his PTSD, but both allegedly turned him down.

And this did not go down well with Mel B.

She said: "It was a dam-

ning indictment of lack of help for those suffering from PTSD, who are in such desperate need. I talked a lot to Ash about PTSD. I suffer from it as a result of an emotional and abusive marriage and he suffered from it as a result of what he went through and what he saw in war zones.

"I met Ash more than a year ago because he looked after my daughter Phoenix. He watched out for her like she was his own daughter. She loved him. I remember thinking, "this man would take a bullet for my child". Our worlds were so different, but we had a connection."

Ash was in the defence forces for 12 years and apparently suffered mentally after leaving the Marines.

Ash later began a fitness training company and worked as a bodyguard and security consultant in Sierra Leone and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mel B said that she struggles with the idea that he didn't call her to ask for help but she thinks maybe his pride got in the way.



Mel B

### CLASSIFIEDS

## FIITJEE STARTING CRASH COURSE FOR CBSE CLASS X & XII BOARDS

### COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn by the Best Faculties
- 10 Mock Tests on NEW PATTERN
- Complimentary Board Archives
- Reasonable & Affordable Fee
- Choose your subjects - MATHS / PHYSICS / CHEMISTRY

### LAST YEAR'S BOARD RESULTS

- 23/40 students scored 90% & above in aggregate in Class XII
- 10/40 students scored 95% & above in PCM in Class XII
- 53/70 students scored 90% & above in Maths & Science in Class X
- 6 Students scored centum (100/100) in Maths in Class X
- School Toppers in Class X & XII

Also offering long term courses for CBSE/school IIT-JEE, SAT, NTSE for classes VII to XII



For Enquiries  
Please contact: ☎ +973 36543868 ☎ 38862215, 33784481  
E-mail: [bahrain.classes@fiitjee.com](mailto:bahrain.classes@fiitjee.com) | Log on: [www.fiitjeebahrain.com](http://www.fiitjeebahrain.com)  
FIITJEE Bahrain Office: Flat 11, Bldg 667, Road 3626, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain



## sports

# Plenty of thrills in karting sprints

BIKC hosts third round of Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship

**TDT** | Manama

**B**ahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) hosted a thrilling third round of the 2019/2020 Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship (BKSC) on Saturday in Sakhir.

There was plenty of action and drama throughout the meeting as the Kingdom of Bahrain's best karters put on a show in both the Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge and the Bahrain Sprint Sodi World Series (BSSWS), both of which are under the BKSC umbrella.

Racing was once again held along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre Commission Internationale de Karting track.

Some of the championship's top names were celebrating on the top of the podium, including Luca Kane Houghton, Gracie Rose Grantham, Lewis Smith, Rashed Almuammari and Osama Azzouka in the BRMMC and Ali Baslar in the BSSWS.

Luca Kane won the BRMMC's Mini Max class. He started from pole and completed the nine-lap final in nine minutes 03.572 seconds. Shanthosh Kumar was the runner-up 0.253 seconds behind while Ahmed Alsesey was third 7.341s back.

Gracie Rose triumphed in the Micro Max following a tough battle with Khalid Alnajjar over nine laps. Alnajjar grabbed the



Participants in action during the race

lead in the final's penultimate lap from Gracie Rose and finished in first place, but a 10-second penalty for a jump start dropped him to fifth position. Gracie Rose inherited the win with a time of 9:36.683. Louis El Nabulsi was second 5.443s behind while Rashid Al Khalifa came third 6.024s off the winning pace.

In the Junior class, Smith triumphed in the 15-lap finale. Fahad Al Muqla finished the

race in first place from pole but a 10-second penalty for starting from an incorrect position dropped him to fourth. Smith, who started from third but gained second position on lap one, was awarded the victory with a time of 14:00.032, just 0.150s ahead of Abdullah Aldosery. Sulaiman Alkanderi was third 5.845s behind.

In the Senior Max final, Almuammari won from pole in 13:52.129 over 15 laps. Fahad Al

Khaled came second just 0.310s back, while Mohammed Mattar, who received a 10-second penalty in the pre-final putting him sixth on the grid for the final, took the final podium place 0.677s back.

In the Senior Max Masters, Azzouka triumphed ahead of Fred Clark. Azzouka had a winning time of 14:10.073 in the 15-lap final, but only 0.683s separated him from Clark.

Meanwhile, Baslar contin-

ued his dominance of the BSSWS season so far after claiming his third win in as many rounds despite starting the final all the way back from sixth position. Baslar dropped to eighth on lap one but slowly regained position over the next three laps to fifth.

Baslar then sprung to the lead on lap eight and held on to his position until the very end.

Abdulla Buhindi also had a stunning drive, finishing in second place after starting from ninth. Abubaker Ali was the pole-sitter but he fell back all the way to sixth before recovering on the very last lap to salvage third place and secure the final podium step.

Baslar won the 15-lap final in a total time of 18:23.192, just 0.674s ahead of Buhindi. Ali finished 2.534s back.

Following the action in each series, the winners were awarded their respective trophies in separate podium ceremonies. Presenting the awards were officials from BIKC and Bahrain International Circuit.

Saturday's third round was the last of the calendar year for the BKSC. Round Four will kick off 2020 on January 11, and then Round Five is set for February 8. The sixth and penultimate meeting of the season will then be held on March 7, leading up to the championship-finale on April 4.

## Ronaldo rescues a point for Juve against Sassuolo

**AFP** | Milan

**C**ristiano Ronaldo scored from the spot to rescue a 2-2 draw for Juventus at home against Sassuolo to leave the way open for Inter Milan to claim top spot in Serie A later yesterday.

Leonardo Bonucci had scored early for the eight-time reigning Serie A champions but Jeremie Boga and Francesco Caputo hit back for Sassuolo before Ronaldo's point-saving intervention.

Juventus have a two-point lead on top of Serie A but now can be overtaken by Inter Milan, who host struggling SPAL.

Sassuolo claimed their first ever point at Juventus and handed Maurizio Sarri's unbeaten champions their third draw of the season.

The side from Emilia-Romagna, are 12th in the table.

Ronaldo started up front for Juventus, having missed last weekend's league game with a slight knee problem, with Champions League hero Paulo Dybala starting on the bench.

Eighteen-year-old Stefano Turati made an impressive debut in the Sassuolo goal, and pulled off a string of fine saves, denying Ronaldo, Higuain and Dybala late.

## Action continues in BTA Junior Tournament



10-and-under finalists with Tournament Director, Dan Barrie

**TDT** | Manama

**T**he 10-and-under finals as well as the preliminary rounds of the 12-and-under category took place in the BTA Junior Tennis Tournament, organised by Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA), at the Dilmun Club, Saar.

In the 10-and-under category, eight players returned for the quarter-finals. Haiyder Al-Fareed, Abdulrazzaq Al-Henabi, Hashim Al Toobli and Ahmed Al Sayed won through to the semi-final round in which Haiyder

overcame Abdulrazzaq and Hashim defeated Ahmed. In the play-off for third place, Ahmed was successful in overcoming Abdulrazzaq. Then, in the final match, Hashim claimed the title over Haiyder 7-3, 7-3.

In the 12-and-under-category, players took part in a round-robin format competition in two groups. At the conclusion of the group stage, four players had earned themselves a place in next weekend's semi-finals: Haiyder Al-Fareed, Rohan Mukherjee, Abdulrazzaq Al-Henabi and Ali Al-Ahmed.



Officials and participants of BKS Open cricket tournament during the Inauguration ceremony on Saturday at BKS compound. BKS Acting President Kunnath Devadas officially inaugurated the tournament in the presence of BKS acting General Secretary Varughese George and other Committee Members. Around 30 teams from Bahrain are participating in the BKS Open cricket tournament

## Hamilton wraps up season with 'master-class'

**AFP** | Abu Dhabi

**L**ewis Hamilton delivered sumptuous confirmation of his title-winning supremacy yesterday when he claimed his 84th career victory and 11th in 21 races this year by dominating the season-ending 'twilight' Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Starting from a record 88th pole position, the 34-year-old Briton was unchallenged from lights to flag as he cruised to an untroubled triumph 16 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, who faced a post-race investigation for fuel irregularities.

The six-times world champion's success extended his points-scoring run to a re-



Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates after winning with a few doughnuts

cord-equalling 33 races, leveling with his own record, and brought him his 50th victory from pole position.

His fifth win at the Yas Mari-

na circuit also drew level with Ayrton Senna in claiming a 19th start-to-finish triumph.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had

started from the back of the grid after taking a new engine, came home fourth ahead of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull.

It was a welcome morale boost for the competitive Finn, three days after announcing the end of his three-year marriage to Emilia.

Sergio Perez took seventh for Racing Point on the final lap, Lando Norris was eighth for McLaren, Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso ninth and Carlos Sainz, in the second McLaren, took 10th.

"That was an absolute master-class," Hamilton's race engineer Peter Bonnington told him on team radio. "You didn't even break into a sweat!"



# Bahrain win bronze in GBA event

Saudi Arabia crowned champions in GBA basketball championship

TDT | Manama

Bahrain captured the bronze medals in the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) Men's National Teams Championship 2019 last night following a well-deserved 76-67 victory over the UAE in the game for third place.

The result ended a three-game losing streak in Kuwait City for the Bahrainis, who began the tournament with back-to-back wins before losing their next two games and then dropping out of title contention in the semi-finals.

Claiming the gold medals last night were Saudi Arabia, who disappointed the home fans after defeating hosts Kuwait 92-83 in the final.

Following both games, the top three squads were presented their respective medals in an awarding ceremony attended by GBA officials.

Bahrain claimed their first major accolade under recently signed head coach Darko Russo.

The nationals had a strong start against the Emiratis yesterday. They led 28-18 at the end of the first quarter but the Emiratis were able to narrow their deficit to 40-45 at the half.



Bahrain team members with officials after receiving their bronze medals

The Bahrainis turned things up once again in the third quarter to build a 63-53 lead heading into the final can-to, where they did enough to keep a good gap ahead of their rivals.

The Bahrainis led by as many as 14 in the fourth, which was also their biggest of the game, as

the Emiratis struggled to mount a serious comeback in the final minutes.

Naturalised big man CJ Giles came up big for Bahrain. He scored 29 points and grabbed 15 rebounds but was ejected late in the contest for a second technical foul.

Mohammed Buallay was the

only other player to score in double figures, finishing with 12 and eight rebounds. Ahmed Aziz and Bader Abdulla Malabes both chipped in with eight points in the win, while Ahmed Ramadan had seven, skipper Mohammed Qurban finished with six, Subah Hussain four and Hesham Sarhan two



Bahrain's Malabes takes a jump shot in their game against the UAE last night

points.

Mohamed Albreiki paced the UAE with 21 points, while captain Jassim Abdalla had 13 and Talal Alnuaimi 12.

In the gold medal contest, Mathna Al Marwani led the Saudis with 25 points and seven rebounds, while Khalid Abdel Gabar nearly had a triple-double

with 23 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. Seven-footer Mohammed Al Suwailem contributed 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Abdullah Alshammari paced Kuwait with 18 points and 11 boards. Rashed Alrabah added 16 and Saleh Albrahim 15 in the loss.

## Stage set for King Hamad Trophy golf championship



Thomas with last year's KHT (File photo)

TDT | Manama

The 12th edition of the King Hamad Trophy (KHT) tees off today at The Royal Golf Club with 99 players taking part.

This year's field includes a number of Mena Tour regulars, headed by the winner of the 2019 Order of Merit MG Keyser.

Also in the field are holder of most wins on the Tour Zane Scotland, and former KHT champions Luke Joy and Jamie Elson.

In addition to the Mena Tour players, there are a number of British and Moroccan professionals who play the PGA Europro Tour and Pro Golf Tour, along with some of Bahrain's best golfers.

Amateur golfer Rayhan Thomas from India won the 11th KHT by five strokes.

This year's championship further features a number of young amateurs representing around 15 countries.

It will be played over three days and spectators are welcome to attend. Entry is free.

# Bahrain to fight for place in Gulf Cup semis: Sousa

Bahrainis play Kuwait in the last Group B fixture today evening

TDT | Manama

Head coach Helio Sousa admitted yesterday that Bahrain are in a tough position in their hopes to qualify for the semi-finals of the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup in Doha.

After losing to Saudi Arabia 0-2 in their previous match on Saturday, the Bahrainis must win in their last Group B fixture against Kuwait this evening in order to have any shot at advancing to the final four.

But their qualification is not completely in their hands. They must wait to see what happens in the other match between Oman and Saudi to learn of their fate, and Sousa acknowledges the difficult situation they are in.

"We are not in the position we wish and fight for," Sousa said in his pre-match Press conference yesterday. "We are not in the best condition. We are the last one in the group and we had our chances to pass through, but now this does not depend only on us. We must wait to see what the other teams can do."

"We must do all we can to win against Kuwait and must expect the best situation from the other game in order to be in the semi-finals."

Bahrain take on Kuwait at Khalifa International Stadium while defending champions and current group leaders Oman play Saudi at Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium. Both contests are scheduled for an 8pm kick-off.

Bahrain must beat the Kuwaitis and hope that Oman defeat Saudi in order to qualify for the semis. If Bahrain and Saudi



Sousa, second from left, alongside Jaffar, second from right, and Abdulghaffar, left, at his conference yesterday

win, there will be a two-team tie between Bahrain and Oman, with the tie-break being determined by superior goal-difference. A win for Bahrain and a draw between Oman and Saudi would force a tie-break between the Bahrainis and Saudis.

Anything less than a victory for Bahrain would confirm their Gulf Cup exit.

"Our group is very balanced," said Sousa. "No one can say yet that they are there. Oman is the only one that can say if they win they are there. All the others, even in winning, they are depending on what the other teams can do. This is very balanced."



**We are not in the best condition. We are the last one in the group and we had our chances to pass through, but now this does not depend only on us. We must wait to see what the other teams can do**

HELIO SOUSA

Only the top two teams from each of the two groups at the end of this preliminary stage march on to the semi-finals. Iraq have already qualified from Group A while the other spot is up for grabs between the UAE and hosts Qatar. Yemen are out of contention.

Sousa noted that whatever happens in their semis bid, he is proud of the effort of the national team and their continued progress towards building a bright future for Bahrain football.

"We are building an identity of playing," explained the Portuguese tactician. "It was officially our 11th game that we played

against Saudi; it is our first defeat. We are not unbeatable, we never were. We will lose for sure and it happened this last game against one great team."

"But we will keep building and this is what we are preparing on – to build a team for now and for the future. With all the players available and who have the fire and will to play for national team and who have the quality to do it, we are building a strong team for tomorrow."

Sousa was joined in his pre-match conference yesterday by veteran goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaffar and national team official Mohammed Abdulghaffar.