

Justin Bieber compares Chris Brown to Michael Jackson and Tupac

Justin Bieber is in full praises for American singer-songwriter Chris Brown as the former described him as the living legend. **P14**

International unity a must if Iran is to change course

THE DAILY tribune



Khloe Kardashian claps back after being shamed for employing nanny

Praise for India's response to cyclone

Thai King crowned Bangkok

Thailand's new King has started three days of ceremonial rites, as the country crowns its first monarch in nearly seven decades.

The rituals he goes through are a mixture of Buddhist and Hindu Brahmin traditions and date back centuries.

King Vajiralongkorn's crown weighed 7.3kg, and symbolised Mount Meru, the home of the Hindu god Indra.

Security forces fully prepared Makkah

Saudi Arabia's security forces have completed their preparations for Umrah season, as part of their efforts to provide the best possible services to pilgrims during Ramadan, allowing them to perform their rituals safely and with ease.

Maj Gen Saeed Al Qarni, commander of Umrah security forces, confirmed the readiness of the security services to implement Umrah plans, developed under the supervision of the director of public security and adopted by the minister of interior, that aim to ensure the safety, security and comfort of citizens, residents, visitors and pilgrims.

Maj Gen Mohammed Al Ahmadi, assistant commander of Umrah security forces, said that the Public Security Department conducted training courses to improve the skills of staff and make it easier for them to manage the large crowds that gather at the Grand Mosque in Makkah during Umrah season.

He said that the security plan for the mosque has three main aspects: Organisational, for managing and controlling crowds; security, to protect pilgrims and ensure their safety; and humanitarian, focusing on assistance for the elderly and infirm, the sick, children and those who get lost.



Drivers warned against traffic violations

Ramadan aid to 4,000 families

Fighting the mosquito menace



Risky river landing



A Miami Air, Boeing 737, aircraft from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, sits in shallow water of the St Johns River after it slid off the runway at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, US, yesterday. There were 136 passengers on board. According to various reports, none of the passengers were injured. See Page 6

Daesh attack on Haftar camp in Libya kills 9 Tripoli

Nine soldiers were killed yesterday in an attack claimed by Islamic State on a training camp belonging to the eastern Libyan forces of Khalifa Haftar, hospital authorities said.

The attack took place in the city of Sebha, located in part of the oil-producing south that is targeted by armed groups looking to exploit a security void.

Haftar has concentrated his forces in the northwest, where they have been embroiled for the past month in a battle for the capital Tripoli with fighters allied to the divided country's internationally recognised government.

Clashes raged in Tripoli's



Clashes raged in Tripoli's southern outskirts throughout the night with the rival forces firing at each other with artillery guns.

RESIDENTS

southern outskirts throughout the night with the rival forces firing at each other with artillery guns, residents said.

No more details were immediately available.

Daesh claimed the Sebha attack. Its fighters had killed or wounded 16 and freed inmates from a prison, the jihadist group said in a statement posted online.

Gaza flares up again

Israeli airstrikes kill Palestinian mother and baby, many injured

A statement from Hamas ally Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for at least some of the rocket fire.

A source in the group said Egypt was engaged in discussions to calm the situation, as it has done repeatedly in the past.

Gaza

Israeli airstrikes killed a baby, her pregnant mother and two other Palestinians yesterday after Gaza protesters fired some 200 rockets from the territory as a fragile cease-fire faltered and a further escalation was feared.

The latest flare-up came with Hamas, the hard-line movement that rules the blockaded Gaza Strip, seeking further concessions from Israel under the cease-fire.

Israel said around 250 rockets were fired from Gaza and its air defences intercepted dozens of them.



An explosion is pictured among buildings during an Israeli airstrike on Gaza City on Saturday.

One woman was seriously injured in a rocket strike on the Israeli city of Kiryat Gat, some 20 kilometres from the Gaza border, police said.

Police said a man was also hospitalised in the city of Ashkelon and spoke of other injuries without providing details.

A house near Ashkelon was damaged, while other rockets hit open areas.

120

targets were hit by Israeli planes and tanks in Gaza, according to Israeli army.

The Israeli army said its tanks and planes hit some 120 targets in its response.

They included an Islamic Jihad attack tunnel that stretched from southern Gaza into Israeli territory, military spokesman Jonathan Conricus said.

The Gaza health ministry reported a 22-year-old man, a 25-year-old man as well as a 14-month-old baby and her preg-

nant mother killed, with 17 others wounded.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said the military did not have any information on the incident involving the baby. The army said earlier it was targeting only military sites.

As the exchange of fire continued, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held consultations with security chiefs.

A statement from Hamas ally Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for at least some of the rocket fire and said it was prepared for more if necessary.

Its armed wing distributed a video showing protesters handling rockets and threatening key Israeli sites, including Ben-Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv.

A source in the group said Egypt was engaged in discussions to calm the situation, as it has done repeatedly in the past.

The European Union called for an immediate halt to rocket fire from Gaza.

Israel said it was closing its people and goods crossings with Gaza as well as the zone it allows for fishermen off the enclave until further notice due to the rocket fire.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPROAR

Jordanian mayor apologises for helping Israeli tourists

Amman

A Jordanian mayor apologised yesterday for his interaction with a group of Israeli tourists, after his hospitality toward them triggered a protest, angry meetings, a social media backlash and a resignation, Arab News reported.

Ibrahim Karim Karaki, who is mayor of Karak, organised a day-

long tour for the visitors during the Jewish Passover holiday.

He was seen on Israeli media helping them to cross a valley that is closed to tourists. He also fed the group, which included children, and presented them with plaques of appreciation from the city.

His attentiveness angered Karak residents, who viewed it as an act of normalisation.



I call the mayor to be pushed out. His apology is not enough.

DR KHALED BAQAEEN

Karaki's apology video, which was posted on the city council's Facebook page, followed social

media attacks, the resignation of a council member, angry town hall meetings at the headquarters of professional unions, and a protest after Friday prayers.

The mayor can be seen in the apology video denouncing Israeli occupation, calling for the liberation of all of Palestine "from the sea to the river" and a rejection of normalisation in all its forms.

The video is also full of praise

for Jordan, including strong support for King Abdullah and the Hashemite custodianship of Jerusalem. It was filmed in front of a model of Al Aqsa mosque.

Dr Khaled Baqaen, the council member who resigned in protest at Karaki's actions, said the apology was not enough and that he would not change his mind. He even called for the mayor to be pushed out.

‘Kaleidostrokes 2019’ depicts cultural symbols on canvas



Dignitaries at the inaugural ceremony.



‘Krishnolsavam’ choreographed by Abhirami Saharajan was staged as part of the event.



One of the paintings displayed at the art show.

TDT | Manama

The art show titled ‘Kaleidostrokes 2019’, organised jointly by Interads International and a group of artists, was held in Bahrain on Friday, at the Bahrain Conference Centre,

Crowne Plaza Hotel.

This is the third consecutive year the event is being organised in the Kingdom. Fifteen artists participated in the show held under the theme “Once upon a Time” exhibiting paintings based on famous sto-

ries in Indian, Arabic and World literature. Artist Anjali Amod Kelkar, Ashadeep Aditya Balvalli, Deepali Anupam, Geetha Vinod, Lekha Sasi, Minu Raj Menon, Nitasha Biju, Pushpa Menon, Sheetal Pinkesh Nagar, Sherine

Leejoy, Shruthi Ranjith, Suchitra Deepak, Urmila Gaurang Palnitkar, Vaishnavi Biju and Vani Gowri Shankar displayed their paintings under the three themes. An inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of guests of honour Jassim Redha, Gener-

al Secretary, Capital Municipal Council, Bahrain Prince S Natarajan, Chairman, Indian School, Bahrain and V R Palaniswamy, Principal, Indian School, Bahrain. A thematic contemporary dance titled as ‘Krishnolsavam’

choreographed by Abhirami Saharajan was also performed as part of official ceremony. The exhibited paintings, the stage back drop in steam punk art and the thematic dance performance served a great attraction to the large crowd of visitors.

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Ramadan to begin tomorrow

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five obligatory pillars of Islam

Riyadh | Manama

Saudi Arabian moon observers said that there was no sight of the Ramadan crescent on Saturday, meaning millions of Muslims around the world will begin the holy month on Monday. The Islamic world follows a lunar calendar, and the traditional moon-sighting methodology can lead to different countries declaring the start of Ramadan a day or two apart. This year, Ramadan will fall

on long summer days for Muslims in the Northern Hemisphere. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five obligatory pillars of Islam, along with the Muslim declaration of faith, daily prayer, annual charity — known as “zakat” — and performing the Hajj pilgrimage. Sheikh Abdullatif Al Asheikh, Saudi minister for Islamic affairs, said more than 4,000 clerics were being employed during Ramadan and 1,100 imams were being

hired to lead Taraweeh prayers. He added that more than 2,400 mosques had been renovated and 221 mosques had been opened before Ramadan. Al Asheikh said that 100 male preachers and 50 female preachers had been assigned to Makkah and Madinah to raise awareness among those performing Umrah. He added that 70 imams have been appointed to lead prayers in 35 countries in response to requests of Islamic centres in those countries.

GCC Civil Service honour for Al Jalahma

Manama

National Health Regulatory Authority’s Chief Executive Officer Mariam Adhbi Al Jalahma has been honoured at a ceremony held in Oman to honour competencies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) civil service and administrative development sectors.

Ms Al Jalahma has been recognised for her outstanding leadership and great efforts in the area of public health and prevention of non-communicable disease and the an-



Ms Al Jalahma

ti-smoking programmes and maternal and child health in Bahrain. She has also been recognised for the development of the

primary health care strategy, as well as contributing to the development of the strategic plan of the Ministry of Health and participating in the development of the Government’s Action Plan and the national health plan. Throughout her long career in the public service, she has been conferred several awards. Oman’s Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said patronised the ceremony attended by GCC Secretary General Abdullatif Al Zayani.

Drivers warned against traffic violations

Number of traffic patrols to be intensified during the holy month

Manama

Traffic General Director Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa has urged drivers to adhere to traffic rules and regulations and avoid violations during the holy month of Ramadan, including wrong parking near mosques as well as obstructing traffic.

In a statement, Shaikh Abdulrahman stressed the significance of avoiding violations such as increasing speed and jumping red lights especially before Iftar when people break their fast.

He also warned against lack of attention while driving, not keeping to the right lane and changing lanes without signalling.

The use of mobile phones during driving is strictly prohibited, he added.

Shaikh Abdulrahman said that the number of traffic patrols would be intensified during the holy month, mainly on major highways and intersections, near commercial avenues and shopping complexes where traffic is usually heavy.

The police will also monitor traffic on King Fahad Causeway, the terrestrial link between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, mainly in the evening to ensure smooth flow of vehicles and full adherence to the rules by all drivers, he added.

The Ministry of Interior has been urging citizens and residents to be careful on roads and avoid violations.

“The General Directorate considers traffic violations as an uncivilised



The police will also monitor traffic on King Fahad Causeway mainly in the evening to ensure smooth flow of vehicles.

SHAIKH ABDULRAHMAN

practise that could cause traffic accidents and jams.”

It asserted the continuation to monitor and take actions against all types of violations.

In another development, the General Directorate of Traffic has launched a campaign to monitor illegal driving practices by truck drivers, such as not sticking to the right lanes and overtaking in a way that risk the safety of

others.

The campaign also includes carrying technical inspection of trucks on various roads.

The directorate said that some drivers continue to violate traffic rules without considering the threats of such behaviour on their lives and the safety of others.

It noted that such illegal traffic practices cause accidents and hinder traffic.

Police attacker’s jail term cut

● The defendant was sentenced to three years in prison and his appeal saw his jail term cut to one year.

TDI | Manama

The High Appeals Court has revised the sentence issued against a man convicted of attacking an on-duty police officer.

The defendant was present at the scene during an operation to arrest a woman accused of engaging in prostitution.

He was asked to leave, while engaging in a conversation with one of the alleged prostitutes, who was arrested in Juffair.



He punched in my chest and tore my dress while shouting and swearing at me.

VICTIM

He was asked to present his ID and he refused to do that before attacking the injured police officer, obstructing the task of the police officers.

He also insulted him.

“He punched in my chest and tore my dress while shouting and swearing at me,” the victim told prosecutors.

The defendant was sentenced to three years in prison and his appeal saw his jail term cut to one year.

Alternative punishment procedures underway

● He pointed out that the reformation and rehabilitation organisation had the right to request to replace the sentences with alternative punishments if the convicts meet specific criteria.

Manama

Work is underway to ensure the effective implementation of the rules of the laws and to provide the appropriate rehabilitation programmes that meet the personal situations of convicts.

The Director-General of Reformation and Rehabilitation made the statement,

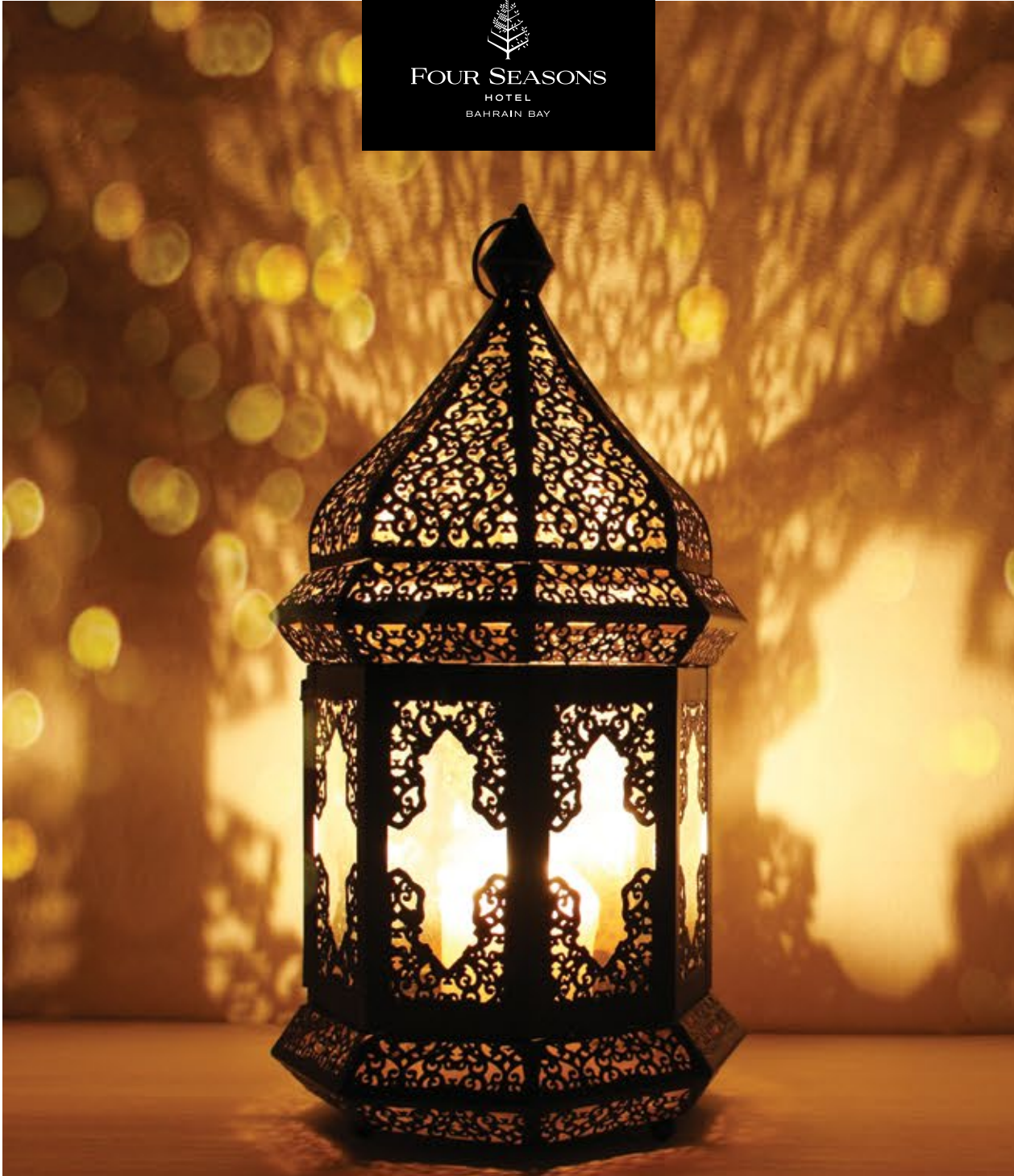
describing the reports posted on Internet websites and social media regarding the implementation of alternative punishments as being wrong.

He said that the final procedures, which would cover those meeting the conditions stated in the law aren’t yet finalised.

He pointed out that the reformation and rehabilitation organisation had the right to request to replace the sentences with alternative punishments if the convicts meet specific criteria.

There are also certain steps to seek alternative penalties.

The Director-General concluded by highlighting the continuation of the co-ordination and co-operation with ministries and organisations that would offer opportunities for alternative punishments.



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Ramadan aid to 4,000 families

Society worked for 17 days in a stretch towards making the drive a big success

Meanwhile, it was announced that Bahrain will host meetings of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) next year.

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Aid has been distributed to more than 4,000 needy families from 73 different areas in the country, it was announced.

This came as the Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) completed a pre-Ramadan aid distribution drive.

The society worked for 17 days in a stretch towards making the drive a big success, its officials said.

BRCS General Director Mubarak Al Hadi revealed that 4,138 families received the society's Ramadan aid.

He said that the drive comes as part of the society's keenness to "reach the actual needy and help them to preserve their hu-



Society officials dealing with paper work during the drive.

manity and dignity".

"We are proud of our volunteers for their considerable efforts for 17 days long, receiving families, making sure their names are matched to the society's lists, handing in their aids and other procedural processes including organising traffic outside the society," Mr Al Hadi said.

The General Director also

We are proud of our volunteers for their considerable efforts for 17 days long, receiving families, making sure their names are matched to the society's lists.

MR AL HADI

thanked companies, institutions, citizens and residents of the Kingdom for their donations to support the society and help needy families in Bahrain.

Meanwhile, it was announced that Bahrain will host meetings of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) next year.

"The BRCS has already started preparing for this meeting,

which is expected to be attended by the secretaries and heads of national societies and members, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, members of international organisations and observers from humanitarian agencies," the BRCS stated.

Spotlight on Turkmenistan bilateral ties

Ashgabat

HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation and Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment has conveyed the greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

President Berdimuhamedov lauded the deep relations between Bahrain and Turkmenistan, based on mutual respect and common interests.

The two countries have great interest in strengthening them through various bilateral agreements, the president said, praising the visit by HM King Hamad that had positive results through close co-ordination and the signing of many bilateral accords.

The recent visit by HM the King to Turkmenistan has reinforced the keenness of the two countries on expanding bilateral co-operation.

HH SHAIKH FAISAL

HH Shaikh Faisal expressed pleasure and pride in meeting President Berdimuhamedov and lauded the warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded by Turkmenistan, saying that it reflected the distinguished relations between the two countries in various areas.

The recent visit by HM the King to Turkmenistan has reinforced the keenness of the two countries on expanding bilateral co-operation, HH Shaikh Faisal said.

HH Shaikh Faisal attended the horse festival held in the capital Ashgabat and regarded as among the most prominent festivals in the region due to its history and to the wide participation of horse owners of the horses.

He expressed admiration for the outstanding performances of horses and riders and stressed Bahrain's interest in bolstering co-operation with Turkmenistan in equestrian sports and in benefiting from its experience in the field.

'Shruthilayam 2019' to showcase strings of Carnatic music

TDI | Manama

Palakkad Arts and Cultural Theatre (PACT, Bahrain), in association with INTERADS is organising a mega programme named "Shruthilayam 2019" on Friday June 14th at Jashnmal Auditorium, Isa Town Campus, Indian School.

According to organisers, the one-day long music and dance programme will begin at 9:00 am with Chembai Sangeetholsavam, which will be dedicated to Late Sri Chembai Vaidyanatha Baghwadhar - a maestro in Carnatic music hailing from Palakkad district of the Indian state of Kerala.

The highlight of the morning session is the "Sangeetha Kacheri" by Chief Guest Padmasree K G Jayan, the organisers added.

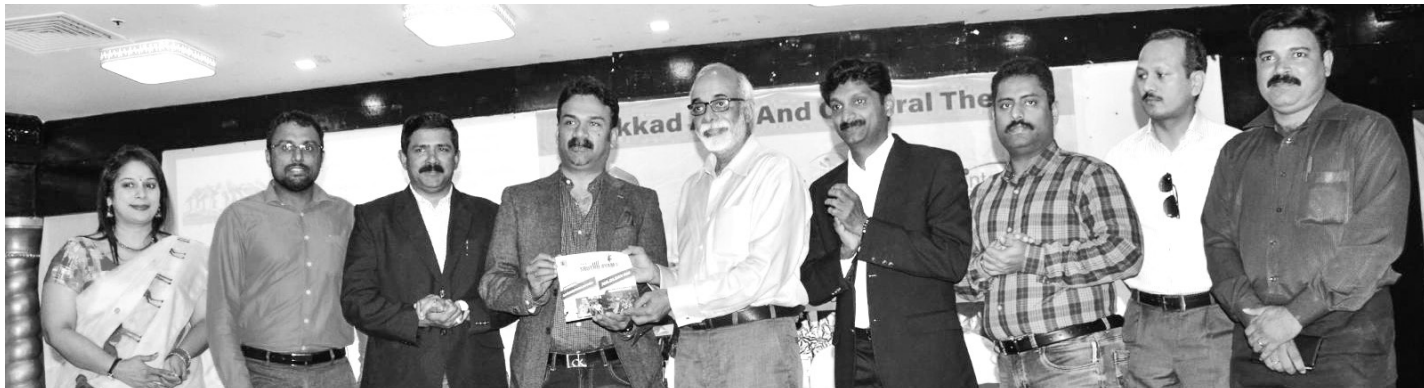
"Along with this more than 100 students learning Carnatic music and their teachers will pay their tribute to the maestro."

"The evening session 'Neelolsavam' begins at 6:00 pm with a Rangapooja dance by PAACT children.

"The programme moves forward with a classical dance by Sindhiya Rajan and team. It will be followed



The organisers during the press conference.



The event brochure being released.

by a typical Palakkadan folklore dance 'Kanyarkali' by a team 'Dubai Koottam' from Dubai.

"The main attraction of the event

is 'Njanappana' a dance based on devotional poem written by the 16th century Malayalam Poet Bhaktakavi Poonthanam Nam-

boothiripad.

"Well-known cine actor and dancer Vineeth Radhakrishnan and cine actress and dancer

Lakshmi Gopalaswamy and team will bring "Njanappana" to the connoisseurs of dance in Bahrain," the organisers added.

SME Development Society participates in parliamentary forum

Manama

A delegation from the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development Society of Bahrain attended the first parliamentary economic forum on the role of legislative work in stimulating and supporting the national economy.

Held under the patronage of the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, the forum attracted a number of officials and specialists from various economic sectors in Bahrain.

Member of the Council of Representatives and Chairman

of the SME Development Society of Bahrain, MP Ahmed Sabah Al Saloom, said that the forum made a number of key recommendations, including mainly the encouragement of policies and procedures aimed at ensuring the periodic assessment of the services delivered to the citizens.

He added that the forum sought to achieve a number of goals that emphasise the role of the National Assembly in stimulating and supporting the national economy, hand in hand with the government and the private sector, to reach a wide social consensus towards solutions and policies to overcome

economic challenges and enhance the development process, in accordance with the Economic Vision for Bahrain 2030.

Head of the delegation of the SME Development Society of Bahrain, Ahmed Yusef Ali, welcomed the recommendations of the forum, stressing that they aim to stimulate and support the national economy through agreeing on a budget that take the priorities of the current phase into consideration, activating the oversight role of the Legislative Branch, the issuance of the necessary legislation, finding solutions that would reduce deficit and diversifying the sources of revenues.

CSR initiative



As part of its CSR initiative, marking the occasion of World Labour Day, KIMS Bahrain Medical Centre distributed food groceries to 150 workers of Poullaides Construction Company (Askar Labour Camp). Representatives from both the companies, volunteers from Bahrain Tamil Unarvalargal Sangam (BTUS) were present at the venue to distribute the same.

Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Centre celebrates 15th anniversary in style

TDT | Manama

Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Centre, a prominent healthcare provider in the Kingdom, celebrated its 15th anniversary at a grand event held at the Crowne Plaza Bahrain.

Dignitaries from different walks of life attended the event. Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Centre Chief Executive Officer Habeeb Rahman delivered the welcome address at the function held marking the occasion, which was presided over by Group Vice-chairman Mumtasar Abdul Majeed.

Among the dignitaries attended were lawmaker Sawsan Kamal, former lawmaker Hassan Bukhamas, Shifa Al Jazeera Riyadh General Manager Hamza Pookayil, leading Bahraini actor Khaleel Mubarak Abdulla, painter Kabita Mukhopadhyay and senior journalist Soman Baby.

Doctors and other staff who completed 15 years with the Group were honoured at the event. Group Medical Director Dr Salman Gharib offered the vote of thanks.

A cake-cutting ceremony was held marking the occasion. Cultural shows performed by staff and their children, which included comedy skits, classical dances, songs and other musical shows added special charm to the event.



A cake-cutting ceremony was held to mark the occasion.



Staff perform a comedy skit.



Oppana, a popular dance of Kerala state, being performed on stage.

Fighting the mosquito menace

Health Ministry vows necessary steps to tackle the breeding of mosquitoes

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Many areas in the Kingdom have been affected by mosquitoes, leading many residents to complain about the menace to the authorities concerned.

Breeding of mosquitoes has become an issue of concern in many areas much to the dismay of residents.

According to sources, Hamad Town is one of the main areas affected by the issue.

The residents here have alerted the municipal officials, who have in turn alerted the Ministry of Health.

"The spread of mosquitoes have become a concern for us. We are worried about the spread of diseases.

"Many have been affected by the stings, it is a concern especially for children," a Hamad Town



Health Ministry staff carrying out fumigation to tackle the mosquito menace.

resident said told Tribune.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry has assured that steps would be taken to avert the issue.

The ministry officials assured that the ministry personnel are being deployed to spray mosquito repellents and take other necessary measures to tackle the issue of mosquitoes.

The Director of Public Health Administration, Dr Mariam Al Hajri said that 21 insect control staff and four supervisors have been assigned for dealing with the issue.

She added that help has also been sought from the other concerned directorates to tackle the problem.



21 insect control staff and four supervisors have been assigned for dealing with the issue.

DR AL HAJRI



Skin rashes caused by mosquito bites.

She pointed out that several types of spraying equipment will be used depending on the necessity.

She added that complaints were received from various governorates.

The Health Ministry has not revealed the areas, where mosquito breeding has occurred.

However, according to sources, the affected areas are mainly in the Northern Governorate and include Hamad Town and Al Malikiya and others neighbouring areas.

Residents have been advised to take certain measures to reduce the risk of mosquito breeding in their property.

The measures that can be taken include: disposing of old tires, buckets, flower pots and other containers in the yard that collect water, filling in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water, at least once per week changing of water in birdbaths and wading pools, cleaning clogged roof gutters, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains, turning over plastic swimming pools and wheelbarrows when not in use, repairing leaky outdoor faucets that can create a pool of stagnant water, and fixing leaking cisterns, septic tanks or cesspools.



Former minister and incumbent member of Kerala Legislative Assembly, P J Joseph inaugurated the Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) Golden Jubilee and Easter celebrations at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Manama. Guests of Honour were Abdulla Ali Dossary, Secretary General, Riffa Club and Al Abdul Aziz, Vice President, Bahrain Mobility Association. Mr Joseph honoured M T Mathew with Golden Excellence Business Award and P P Chakkunny with Man of Inspiration Award while Dr P V Cheriyan received Service Excellence Award. Prominent community leaders including Saivi Mathunni (President, KCA), Varghese Joseph (Secretary), Abraham John, Varghese Karrakkal, Arul Das Thomas and Fr Saji Cheriyan attended.



WORLD

Boeing skids into Florida river in crash-landing



A Boeing 737 aircraft after it went off the runway at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and into the St. Johns river, near Jacksonville, Florida copy

- The plane was carrying 143 people including crew from Guantanamo Bay
- Twenty-one adults were taken to local hospitals, but none were critically injured

Miami, United States

A Boeing 737 slid off a runway into a river after crash-landing at a Florida naval air station Friday, officials said, with no fatalities reported.

The plane carrying 143 people including crew from Guantanamo Bay in Cuba ended in shallow water next to the air station in Jacksonville, with all passengers safely evacuated, naval authorities said.

“There were 136 passengers and seven aircrew on board and all have been accounted for,”

Naval Air Station Jacksonville said in a statement.

Twenty-one adults were taken to local hospitals, but none were critically injured, Jacksonville sheriff’s office said on Twitter.

Others were treated for minor injuries at the scene.

Navy security and emergency response personnel including some 90 firefighters attended the scene.

Images showed the plane lying partially submerged in water after the crash-landing.

“All alive and accounted for. Our Fire and Rescue teams are family to all,” Mayor of Jacksonville Lenny Curry tweeted.

Teams were working to control jet fuel spilling into the St Johns River, he added.

The “Rotator” flight from the US base in Cuba carries military personnel and family members.

Boeing said it was aware of the incident and gathering information.

“The plane was not submerged. Every person is alive and accounted for,” the Jack-

“We came down, the plane literally hit the ground and bounced, it was clear the pilot did not have total control of the plane, it bounced again. We were in the water, we couldn’t tell where we were, whether it was a river or an ocean

CHERYL BORMANN

sonville Sheriff’s Office said on Twitter.

The sheriff’s tweet was accompanied by two photographs showing the plane, which bears the logo of Miami Air Interna-

tional, resting in shallow water and fully intact.

The mayor of Jacksonville, Lenny Curry, said on Twitter that US President Donald Trump had called him to offer help.

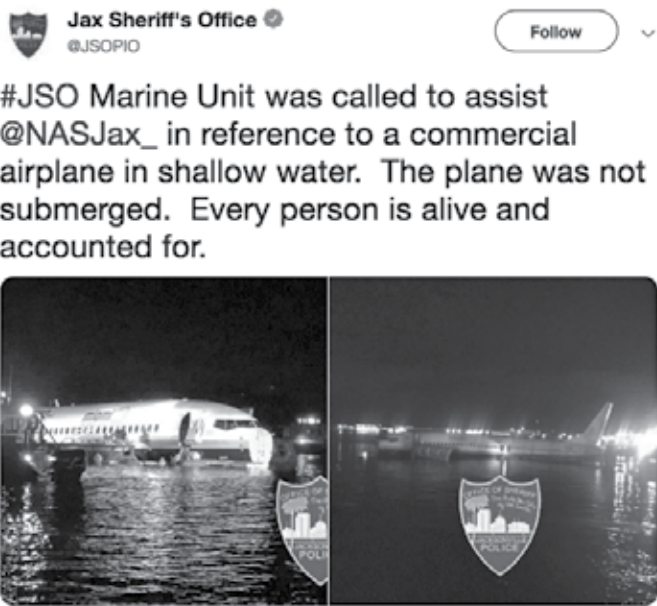
“No fatalities reported. We are all in this together. Absorb that,” Curry said in a separate tweet.

A passenger on board the plane, attorney Cheryl Bormann, told CNN in an interview that the flight, which had been four hours late in departing, made a “really hard landing” in Jacksonville amid thunder and lightning.

“We came down, the plane literally hit the ground and bounced, it was clear the pilot did not have total control of the plane, it bounced again,” she said, adding that the experience was “terrifying.”

Bormann said she hit her head on a plastic tray on the seat in front of her as the plane veered sideways and off the runway. “We were in the water, we couldn’t tell where we were, whether it was a river or an ocean.”

Bormann described emerging



from the plane onto the wing as oxygen masks deployed and smelling the jet fuel that she said was leaking into the water.

Bormann, from Chicago, said that most of the passengers were connected to the military and helped each other out of their seats and onto a wing, where they were assisted after some time into a raft.

Miami Air International is a charter airline operating a fleet of Boeing 737-800 aircraft. Representatives for the airline could not immediately be reached for comment by Reuters on Friday evening.

\$20 m settlement reached in US killing of Australian

Chicago, United States

The US city of Minneapolis on Friday announced a \$20 million civil settlement with the family of an unarmed Australian yoga instructor who was shot dead by a police officer.

Mohamed Noor was convicted Tuesday of murder for the 2017 shooting that killed Justine Ruszczyk Damond, who had moved to the US to marry her fiancée.

The 40-year-old was killed while approaching Noor’s police car. She had called police to report a possible rape in the dark alley behind her home.

Noor’s conviction was the first time in the Midwestern city’s modern history that an of-



Mohamed Noor



Justine Ruszczyk Damond

ficer was found guilty of murder for an on-duty shooting.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey cited the unprecedented circumstances as playing a role in the record \$20 million settlement with Damond’s family --

the highest in the city’s history.

“As the proceedings made clear, there was not a clear threat before the use of force was made, as per Mr Noor’s statements,” Frey said at a news conference.

“This is not a victory for anyone, but rather a way for our city to move forward.”

The family was to donate \$2 million of that money to a fund to fight gun violence in Minneapolis.

Robert Bennett, a Ruszczyk family attorney, said the large settlement was meant to send “an unmistakable message to change the Minneapolis Police Department in ways that will help all of its communities,” according to CNN.

The 33-year-old Noor was convicted of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. He was acquitted of the most serious charge of second-degree murder with intent to kill.

UN says nearly 400 killed by Libya fighting, 50,000 displaced

Tripoli, Libya

At least 392 people have been killed and 1,936 wounded since strongman Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive against the Libyan capital last month, the UN’s World Health Organisation said Friday.

More than 50,000 have meanwhile been displaced as a direct result “of the intensifying armed conflict in Tripoli”, according to another UN body, the Organisation for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

“We are concerned about the alarming figures of displacement,” OCHA said on Fri-

day on Twitter.

Haftar’s self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) began its offensive against the Tripoli based Government of National Accord (GNA) on April 4.

Othman Abdel Jalil, the GNA’s education minister and the head of the government’s crisis committee, on Thursday said 55,000 people -- some 11,000 families -- had been displaced.

Jalil said that 40 reception centres and 27 schools had opened their doors to welcome those in need. Most civilians who have fled the fighting have found refuge with relatives or friends, without registering with the authorities.

Praise for India’s response to cyclone

● 400,000 people have been taken to shelters in Bangladesh

● Storm weakening but still packing a punch, winds of up to 70 kilometres (45 miles) per hour

● Puri’s famous 12th-century Jagannath temple escaped damag

AFP | New Delhi, India

UN and other experts yesterday praised India for its early warning systems and rapid evacuation of more than 1 million people, which they said helped minimise loss of life from a deadly cyclone that battered its eastern coast.

Cyclone Fani, one of the biggest to hit India in years, tore into Odisha Friday, leaving a trail of devastation across the coastal state of 46 million people before swinging towards Bangladesh.

In 1999 the same state was hit by a devastating 30-hour super-cyclone that saw a storm surge sweep 20 kilometres inland. Unprepared for the scale of the diaster, authorities struggled to evacuate the stricken popu-



An Indian woman sits with her child next to storm-damaged buildings in Puri in the eastern Indian state of Odisha

lation and some 10,000 people were killed.

This time, improved forecasting models, public awareness campaigns and well-drilled evacuation plans -- backed up by an army of responders and volunteers -- has seen Odisha’s inhabitants spared the worst of Fani’s fury.

Only twelve people have been killed by the cyclone in India -- which escaped being hit by a major storm surge -- and at least 160 injured, local media reported.

As soon as it became clear this

week that Fani was on course to hit Odisha, emergency teams began the mammoth task of evacuating those living in low-lying regions, moving 1.2 million residents away from danger areas and in to temporary shelters.

Alerts asking residents to stay indoors and follow the dos and don’ts were issued repeatedly on TV and radio, and broadcast through loudspeakers in public places.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) praised the government’s “effective” evacuation, saying it had “saved

many lives”.

New weather models

The state government in Odisha along with national disaster response teams and volunteers have worked in tandem to carry out evacuations and set up safe shelters.

Workers have been equipped with satellite phones and inflatable boats along with food and medicines to distribute in the storm’s aftermath.

Some 7,000 kitchens catering to 9,000 shelters have been set up, thanks to an army of 45,000

volunteers.

Emergency workers are now focussing on restoring damaged infrastructure, including power and telecom lines, and clearing roads.

Mahesh Palawat, the vice-president of meteorology at private forecaster Skymet, said the early warnings had been vital in allowing authorities to plan in advance.

“From April 25 onwards we (the Indian Meteorological Department and Skymet) had been monitoring the track and intensity of the cyclone continuously, what time it would make landfall and the probable points of land-fall,” Palawat told AFP.

Numerical models, adopted by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in 2014 to supplement the more traditional statistical modelling, allowed forecasters to track Fani’s progress and wind profiles in the upper atmosphere.

Denis McClean, a spokesperson for UNISDR, said “the almost pinpoint accuracy” of the early warnings from the IMD had enabled the authorities to “conduct a well-targeted evacuation plan.”

Social media users also lauded the Indian authorities for averting a mass human disaster, despite the fact that a densely populated region was in the eye of the storm.

“Credit goes to #India authorities for their aggressive pre-impact response, including massive evacuations,” wrote Josh Morgerman, a US-based cyclone expert.



An Indian woman sits in the debris with a child in a storm-damaged building in Puri in the eastern Indian state of Odisha

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME		
For the three months ended 31 March 2019		
	31 March 2019 BD'000 (reviewed)	31 March 2018 BD'000 (reviewed)
INCOME		
Income from financing	11,532	10,522
Income from investment in Sukuk	2,978	2,590
Total income from jointly financed assets	14,510	13,112
Return on equity of investment accountholders	(7,997)	(9,183)
Group's share as Mudarib	5,235	5,766
Net return on equity of investment accountholders	(2,762)	(3,417)
Group's share of income from jointly financed assets (both as mudarib and investor)	11,748	9,695
Expense on placements from financial institutions	(990)	(278)
Expense on placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	(551)	(94)
Expense on borrowings from financial institutions	(870)	(1,002)
Fee and commission income	1,868	1,798
Income from investment securities	616	93
Income from investment in real estate	(10)	(232)
Share of results of associates, net	(53)	4
Other income	543	181
Total income	12,301	10,165
EXPENSES		
Staff costs	3,840	2,973
Depreciation	348	406
Other expenses	2,231	2,572
Total expenses	6,419	5,951
Profit before impairment allowances	5,882	4,214
Impairment allowance, net	(3,684)	(2,062)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	2,198	2,152
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (fils)	2.09	2.05

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY		
For the three months ended 31 March 2019		
	31 March 2019 BD'000 (reviewed)	31 March 2018 BD'000 (reviewed)
Balance at 1 January	117,749	122,270
Impact of adopting FAS 30	-	(13,943)
Impact of adopting FAS 30 by associate	-	(350)
Balance at 1 January (Restated)	117,749	107,977
Profit for the period	2,198	2,152
Zakah approved	(179)	(265)
Donations approved	(250)	(200)
Shares allocated to staff during the period	291	198
Balance at 31 March	119,809	109,862

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
As at 31 March 2019		
	31 March 2019 BD'000 (reviewed)	31 December 2018 BD'000 (audited)
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank	75,575	65,437
Placements with financial institutions	136,324	137,450
Financing assets	575,399	580,076
Investment securities	283,405	240,053
Ijarah Muntahia Bittamleek	173,390	165,730
Ijarah rental receivables	15,211	21,141
Investment in associates	21,741	21,643
Investment in real estate	23,868	24,284
Property and equipment	13,592	13,641
Other assets	11,371	11,062
TOTAL ASSETS	1,329,876	1,280,517
LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTHOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Placements from financial institutions	161,165	114,744
Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	87,208	36,234
Borrowings from financial institutions	96,577	96,386
Customers' current accounts	156,621	133,244
Other liabilities	16,332	25,148
Total Liabilities	517,903	405,756
Equity of Investment Accountholders		
	692,164	757,012
Owners' Equity		
Share capital	106,406	106,406
Treasury shares	(892)	(892)
Shares under employee share incentive scheme	(160)	(391)
Share premium	180	120
Reserves	14,275	12,506
Total Owners' Equity	119,809	117,749
TOTAL LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTHOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY	1,329,876	1,280,517

This condensed consolidated interim financial information was approved by the Board of Directors on 4 May 2019 and has been reviewed by KPMG.

Dr. Esam Abdulla Fakhro
Chairman

Brig. Ebrahim Abdulla Al Mahmood
Vice Chairman

Hassan Amin Jarrar
Chief Executive Officer

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
For the three months ended 31 March 2019		
	31 March 2019 BD'000 (reviewed)	31 March 2018 BD'000 (reviewed)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Profit for the period	2,198	2,152
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation	348	406
Impairment allowance, net	3,684	2,062
Amortization of gain on sale of investment in real estate	(5)	(5)
Loss on sale of investment in real estate	59	292
Gain on foreign exchange revaluation	9	(46)
Share of results of associates, net	53	(4)
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	6,346	4,857
Working capital adjustments:		
Mandatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	(335)	905
Financing assets	1,437	(13,592)
Ijarah Muntahia Bittamleek	(1,937)	(1,177)
Other assets	(297)	90
Customers' current accounts	23,377	12,719
Other liabilities	(8,947)	1,895
Placements from financial institutions	48,424	45,276
Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	50,974	-
Equity of investment accountholders	(64,848)	(50,450)
Net cash from operating activities	54,194	523
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Disposal of investment in real estate	358	1,753
Purchase of property and equipment	(299)	(140)
Purchase of investment securities	(51,333)	(27,279)
Proceeds from disposal of investment securities	7,570	17,829
Net cash used in investing activities	(43,704)	(7,837)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Borrowings from financial institutions	191	(13,212)
Dividends paid	(2)	(8)
Net cash from / (used in) financing activities	189	(13,220)
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	10,679	(20,534)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	163,116	112,794
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH	173,795	92,260
Cash and cash equivalents comprise of:		
Cash on hand	15,421	11,570
Balances with CBB, excluding mandatory reserve deposits	14,546	24,105
Balances with banks and other financial institutions excluding restricted balances	7,504	6,477
Placements with financial institutions with original maturities less than 90 days	136,324	50,108
	173,795	92,260

International unity a must if Ir



BARIA ALAMUDDIN

The Iranian regime has, since 1979, sacrificed the welfare of its people in its grandiose delusions of confronting the civilised world

People often express bemusement to me about why Iran behaves the way it does: The embroilment in terrorism and militancy, past attempts to build a nuclear bomb, the way it treats its own people, and so on. Even compared to other pariah states, Tehran's behaviour is in a league of its own.

There was a fresh reminder of this unacceptable behaviour last week, when Iran's foreign minister offered a prisoner swap (which was promptly withdrawn) for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a dual national British-Iranian mum who has been detained for three years simply because this criminal regime routinely locks up foreign nationals for political leverage.

Further emphasising Iran's outlandish world view, incoming Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Hossein Salami declared: "The Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards has crossed mountains and plains to end America's dominance in the Eastern Mediterranean, and reached the Red Sea, and turned the Islamic land to land of jihad... We have to expand our capabilities from the

region to the world, so the enemy has no safe point."

This statement encapsulates the aspirations behind Iranian expansionism; not just idle meddling in neighbouring states, but aggressively exploiting its paramilitary assets to destabilise the existing international order. While normal states measure their success on the wellbeing of their citizens, the Islamic regime has, since 1979, sacrificed the welfare of its people in its grandiose delusions of confronting the civilised world.

Iran likes its paramilitary strategy because it is relatively cheap. Tehran tossed impoverished Afghans and Pakistanis into the Syrian frontlines for a fraction of the cost required to mobilise a standing army. Tehran's Iraqi proxies are on the state payroll and, although Hezbollah enjoys relatively generous Iranian funding, this is supplemented by a complex assortment of criminal activities. Nevertheless, because of the sheer scale of these paramilitary forces across multiple states, a high proportion of Tehran's state budget is military spending. Yet the accumulated wealth of entities like the IRGC and leading regime figures is immense, with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei personally estimated to control between \$100 and \$200 billion.

Paramilitary proxies are a versatile tool that can be deployed wherever the Islamic Republic desires.



Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sits for an interview with Reuters in New York.

During Iran's recent flooding crisis, the authorities invited in hundreds of Iraqi militants to deter any localised unrest, arousing anger among citizens, who found this Iraqi import an even greater inconvenience than the flood waters.

Western journalists warn that the Trump administration's policies are locking it in to a path toward

war. Trump the parochial isolationist clearly doesn't desire this scenario, though senior hawks like John Bolton may think otherwise. Escalatory words and actions are likewise putting Iran on a course for confrontation. Tehran may be able to use its transnational paramilitary capabilities for menacing citizens in failed states like Yemen and Syria,

but Iran wouldn't last for long in a straight fight with the US, probably wouldn't fare well in a direct clash with Israel.

Indeed, these multinational paramilitary armies are available as an iron shield in the defence of the Iranian hierarchy. Tehran's enemies threaten, but they don't win directly. Nevertheless, Iran

A strategic US approach required to counter

Focus on breakaway factions and groups engaged in violence will prove the most effective

HUSSEIN IBISH

After meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi last month, US President Donald Trump has been contemplating designating the Muslim Brotherhood a foreign terrorist organisation (FTO). However, many experts have been pointing out the pitfalls of such a broad categorisation, so the issue remains unresolved.

The State Department maintains a list of formally designated FTOs, the main purpose of which is to criminalise dealings with those groups by Americans. The operative law from 1996 was intended to make otherwise lawful activity criminal, if it in any way benefited designated organisations, including charitable and educational efforts, and any kind of advice, even about how to stop being a terrorist group.

When the US wants to directly punish a foreign individual or group with sanctions, that is mainly done by the Treasury Department. This State Department FTO list is political and often symbolic. It brands contact with entities such as Hamas and Hizbollah as unacceptable, under penalty of law.

It is easy to see the appeal of designating the Muslim Brotherhood,

since it is indeed the main source of ideology behind almost all Islamist terrorism. There would be no Al Qaeda or ISIS, if not for the Brotherhood.

It is also accurate to compare the Brotherhood to a gateway drug for terrorism. If only one in 10 Brotherhood members graduates to Al Qaeda, that is one too many.

And while it has become easy for young radicals to bypass a Brotherhood phase, the group's ideology is still the fount of many of the basic ideas and aims, such as the restoration of a caliphate, that animate the most violent extremists.

But that doesn't make this a good idea. The Brotherhood, writ large, isn't an organisation at all, but a loose network that encompasses entities with many different orientations and conduct within a broader context.

So, the practical meaning of the designation of a monolithic Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation would be up for grabs, unless the specific standalone, vertically integrated groups were clearly defined. Lack of such clarity will ensure endless confusion.

The US government could designate the Egyptian Brotherhood, the oldest Brotherhood group, but that organisation itself hasn't engaged

in much recently documented violence. It makes more sense to single out breakaway factions or groups with ties to the Brotherhood that have unquestionably conducted systematic mayhem, such as Harakat Sawa'd Misr (HASM) and Liwa Al Thawra, both of which the State Department made Specially Designated Global Terrorists last year. That allows the Treasury Department to freeze and block their assets, along with other sanctions, but its less far-reaching than an FTO designation.

If the Egyptian Brotherhood itself was designated without significant new documentation of direct responsibility for violence, that might undermine the credibility of the entire list and make it appear not just political but arbitrary.

A blanket designation of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in general would also cause no end of legal headaches.

Who, precisely, would it include? How could it be enforceable? Would it target all those who acknowledge being Brotherhood affiliates? What about those who deny that? What happens if a group insists they no longer are, or never were, affiliated with the Brotherhood? Who judges that? What's the standard?

More importantly, there are



Trump, Sisi during a meeting at the Oval Office of the White House.

Brotherhood-influenced or purportedly formerly Brotherhood-affiliated parties in some aspect of the governments of numerous US allies.

Would the US extend this non model in which it

Rebel barons renounce their allegiance to **King John** of England — part of a chain of events leading to the signing of the Magna Carta.

Kublai Khan becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire.

Christopher Columbus lands on the island of Jamaica and claims it for Spain.



King Charles I of England dissolves the Short Parliament.

Iran is to change course

Both Moscow and Beijing enjoy exploiting Iran as a thorn in America's side, but Tehran's growing dominance in Central Asia and the Middle East obstructs the interests of these two global powers.

military approach means that such a war would be fought across the wider Middle East, causing untold casualties and destruction. Iran's leaders may have megalomaniacal globe-straddling ambitions, but in reality they have only succeeded in dominating states already broken by civil conflict.

Yet is the American strategy any more realistic? The approach delineated by Mike Pompeo and Bolton demands nothing less than total surrender. The aspiration to reduce Iran's oil exports to "zero" enjoys limited prospects while Europe is busy devising a mechanism to allow Iran to evade sanctions and major states like China and India appear determined to continue importing Iranian oil. Oil experts suggest that Donald Trump is in denial that

such a strategy won't have a sharp upward impact on prices. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif last week boasted: "We have a PhD in sanctions busting." Zarif knows what he's talking about here: Iran has copious experience of illegal oil smuggling methods, and there are a plethora of Asian banks and traders with minimal US exposure that are willing to take the lucrative risks, not to mention the circumvention opportunities offered by Tehran's assets in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

Short of regional war and full-blown regime change (which may indeed be what Bolton and Pompeo seek), the US goal has to be forcing Tehran back to the negotiating table, which there is currently scant prospect of. Tehran's ayatollahs thrive on confrontation and are willing to inflict far greater levels of economic pain on their long-suffering citizens before considering any change of course, particularly as they hope to wait out Trump in the expectation of new US leadership after 2020.

Successful bouts of international pressure against Iran (for example, the UN sanctions packages imposed between 2006 and 2009) required multilateral approval and included incentives as well as threats. It is difficult to see that unilateral US measures can ever be fully efficacious, particularly if, for Trump, vacuous posturing and tough rhetoric are desirable ends in themselves.

In the absence of any strategic road map and tangible endgame, current measures simply provoke Tehran into ever more bellicose responses. Iranian proxies are already aggressively expanding into eastern Syria as American forces withdraw, undermining the White House narrative that its strategy is working.

Both Moscow and Beijing enjoy exploiting Iran as a thorn in America's side, but Tehran's growing dominance in Central Asia and the Middle East obstructs the interests of these two global powers. If there is to be any hope of forcing Iran to change course, the US must ditch its unilateral instincts and entice global powers to support its agenda. Leading nations must, meanwhile, acknowledge that Iranian aggression threatens their own strategic interests.

In the absence of international unity, Tehran will continue sponsoring foreign militants in the belief that this makes it stronger. Tehran is willing to tolerate sanctions and angry, impoverished citizens because it believes that it derives strength from confrontation. Until they are actually forced to change course, the ayatollahs will continue believing that they are winning.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

er Muslim Brotherhood

st pragmatic and effective measure



Arab politics should be open to religious conservatives, and even former Brotherhood parties and members, who are not violent and are genuinely no longer revolutionary, conspiratorial or transnational.

So, it is unlikely that a blanket designation will be issued, and, though it is possible that the Egyptian Brotherhood in general could be designated, it is wiser to add groups such as HASM, with a sustained record of terrorism.

But this debate again raises the issue of how to deal with political Islamism. The Brotherhood is unquestionably a radical movement, and hardly pacifist.

History shows it is prepared to engage in wholesale violence when it finds that useful, as Hamas in particular has shown. But most Brotherhood parties have preferred a political to a violent approach to

gaining and holding power, because they believe that will be more effective.

Yet the ultra-religious do exist and there should be an acceptable role for them in national politics. Otherwise, some will surely take up arms.

The traditional Brotherhood model has three primary characteristics that are strictly incompatible with law, order and stability: it is revolutionary, conspiratorial and transnational.

Some increasingly post-Islamist groups, such as Ennahda party in Tunisia, maintain that they are no longer any of those things. They say they are not revolutionary, because they accept the existing constitution.

They are not conspiratorial because they obey the law and do everything in the open. And they are no longer part of any transnational agenda.

Mainstream Arab politics should be open to religious conservatives, and even former Brotherhood parties and members, who are not violent and are genuinely no longer revolutionary, conspiratorial or transnational.

(Hussein Ibish is a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Anything in this very interesting world is possible, but I believe that Kim Jong Un fully realizes the great economic potential of North Korea, & will do nothing to interfere or end it. He also knows that I am with him & does not want to break his promise to me. Deal will happen!

@realDonaldTrump

02



There's nothing more important than a truly free press. Thank you to journalists around the world who risk their lives to shine the light of truth. #WorldPressFreedomDay

@tim_cook

03



Women of color have heard this before. Instead of "we disagree," it's "she doesn't know what she's talking about." They have to make us feel small. This from an Administration that thinks climate change is a Chinese hoax.

@IlhanMN

04



Rebecca John lawyer for @priyaramani to Akbar Lawyer (who was interrupting every one minute): "Dont Muzzle Me." Akbar lawyer: "Dont ask personal questions". Rebecca: "This is a deeply personal struggle. It will get personal." In court in solidarity with @priyaramani #MeToo

@BDUTT

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

Ramadan Kareem



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Greetings dear readers on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan. As the Islamic world prepares for this sacred opportunity to share in the sense of need with the vulnerable and a raised level of closeness to God, there is a sense of anticipation in the air.

Many non-Muslims find it curious that a month of rigorous self-discipline is looked forward to. In many countries, we also have rules of public conduct and eating and drinking in public is avoided during the fasting hours. While the focus is on the abstinence from food, many are unaware of the generosity that Ramadan brings to the fore. A forgotten sense of neighbourliness prevails and trays of food are shared between homes and the needy are cared for and charitable donations are made.

In recent times, we have also seen an increasing commercialisation of Ramadan's traditions. The shop shelves are locked in fierce competition for our wallets. With increasing industrial farming and food processing, our over-efficient food

It is ironic that a month of introspection is also one that sees the maximum food waste. In our rush of generosity, we often go overboard and most households prepare too much food and this leads to terrible waste.



In our fathers' time when there was little technology to preserve food – like refrigerators and freezers – this may have been unavoidable. But today, surely we must plan our meals so that we do not disrespect food?

One of the important life-lessons that we learn from our connection with food and fasting in the Holy Month is to empathise with those in need and to respect those who produce food – the farmers and fishermen at the beginning of the chain and the home-makers who cook the food for us and bring it to the table.

As we prepare for Ramadan, let us pledge to respect who God has given us in abundance, avoid wasting His Blessings and make sure we share our bounty joyfully with our community.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

business

Inovest reports Q1 results

TDT | Manama

Inovest yesterday reported a consolidated net profit attributable to parent shareholders of US\$3.02 million in the first quarter, representing a 1 per cent increase as compared to US\$2.99m for the same period of last year.

Earnings Per Share attributable to the equity shareholders of the parent company was US cents 1.07 as compared to US cents 1.06 for the same period in 2018.

Consolidated net operating profit declined by 17pc from US\$2.98m to US\$2.47m due to an increase in operating expenses as well as a decrease in revenue from the Group's contracting activities, a natural repercussion of having recently completed and wrapped up works on a major government construction contract.

Operating income increased by 10pc, reaching US\$5.75m in comparison to US\$5.21m for the same period of 2018 as a result of income from real estate investments, which surpassed the



Dr Omar Al Mutawa
Inovest's Chairman



Yasser Al Jar
CEO of Inovest

Group's comparative decline in contracting revenues.

Operating expenses saw an increase of 47pc, standing at US\$3.27m in the first three months of 2019 in comparison to US\$2.23m for the same period of 2018. The increase stems from the aforementioned completion of a major government project, warranting the reclassification of labour expenses within the Group's contracting arm from

a project level cost to an operational level, until works begin on new construction projects.

Equity Attributable to Parent Shareholders, declined slightly by 2pc to stand at US\$133.77m at the end of the of March 31st 2019 in comparison to US\$136.53m at the end of 2018. The decline is the result of a recently announced dividend payout to shareholders.

Commenting on the results,

Inovest's Chairman Dr Omar Al Mutawa said, "We closed our books in 2018 on a positive note having announced a solid 5pc dividends in delivery of our promise for successful shareholder returns. Today, at the end of the first quarter of 2019, we are pleased to see INOVEST reporting a consolidated net profit attributable to parent shareholders of US\$3.02m despite the economic challenges faced by many on both a regional and international level."

CEO of Inovest, Yasser Al Jar, said "Today we stand at an advanced stage in our investment assessments, with the objective of closing deals as swiftly as possible. Regarding our ongoing portfolio, we will continue to strive towards improving performance within some of our investments and have explored several business options to that end. Simultaneously, we are also monitoring and preparing exit strategies for some of our other, more advanced, investments."



MIKE ORLOV

Competencies Capabilities Skills

Although often used interchangeably, the terms 'competencies', 'capabilities' and 'skills' do not actually mean the same thing. For those responsible for people in organisations it is vital to be clear about these differences. It is important to actually know what it is you are looking for from others if you want to see them become; more skillful, create more capabilities, and demonstrate high-quality competencies.

If you are accountable for how people perform and if you are involved in appraising team-members, you need to organise your thoughts about their skills, capabilities and competencies. If you want to be seen to be developing yourself, then you need to know how to describe what you have achieved; are you becoming more skillful, are you becoming more capable, are you becoming more competent?

Given dictionary definitions, and using the following concepts in just about every programme I have delivered as a consultant, this is how I define the differences between skills, capabilities and competencies.

Your skills are created over time given the experiences you have gone through and the knowledge you have gained; be it academic study, through training-courses or learning from

mistakes. We absorb this knowledge-gaining, use it in our day-to-day work and so we build experiences. Skills are created through deploying your hard-won knowledge and experience. Someone who has little knowledge and has none or limited experience is certainly not going to be skillful.

By gaining knowledge, building experience and thus creating skills we create capabilities – the sum of all these parts; understanding and practice of what to do. These definitions work for all the functional expertise needed in the organisation from IT, finance, marketing, sales, operations, logistics, HR and

If you are accountable for how people perform and if you are involved in appraising team-members, you need to organise your thoughts about their skills, capabilities and competencies.

all processes, activities and tasks; how capable a salesperson, management-accountant or logistics-expert am I?

This pattern also works for defining how capable a manager is, notwithstanding their functional expertise. These are the capabilities which are the bundles of knowledge, experience and skills across the key areas of management: planning; organising; staffing; directing; coordinating; reporting; and budgeting.

Where are your weaknesses? What can we do to improve your knowledge, experience and skills in these weakness-areas to ensure you become a more capable-manager?

So when we say someone is a capable-manager, we are explicitly letting others know this manager knows what it is they need to be doing as a manager, over and above the functional aspects of their role. Might be their planning, organising, reporting and budgeting is exceptional so they are very capable in these areas of management. But they may have gaps in knowledge about directing projects or they might lack experience in organising a search and selection process to find the best recruits. They might have a great deal of knowledge about coordination. Perhaps an academic understanding gained from off-the-job training. But because they have no experience of improving their coordination, their coordinating-skill is poor; so this manager is not a capable coordinator.

Through understanding the differences between management-skills and management-capabilities, we can help develop more effective managers by focusing attention on areas of weakness in either knowledge or experience. If we identify managers who are skillful and are capable because of their knowledge and experience, then they know what to do.

But knowing what to do as a manager does not mean you know how to be a good manager and leader of people.

How we manage, how we conduct ourselves when carrying out our management-processes, activities and tasks, defines our management-competencies. Our attitudes and our consistent-behaviours as a manager define our leadership-competencies. To be competent, you need great management-capabilities as well as outstanding attitudes and consistent-behaviours.

(Mike Orlov is a Partner at Stepping Stone Global, a Bahrain-based boutique strategic management consultancy. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. Email: info@steppingstoneglobal.com)

BCCI to hold VAT workshops



TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) represented by its Finance Insurance and Tax Committee is holding two workshops on the Fundamentals of the Value Added Tax for small and medium businesses.

The workshop is for businesses falling under the voluntary registration category and businesses with annual supplies exceeding the voluntary threshold of BHD 18,750 but below BHD 5,000,000.

The first workshop in English is scheduled for Wednesday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am in Kingdom Hall of Bait Al Tijjar. The second workshop will be conducted in Arabic, and is scheduled for Thursday also from 8:30 am to 11:30 am in Kingdom Hall.

Workshops will cover details of the VAT on businesses activities such as the wholesale and retail, the real-estate and constructions, industry and energy, health-care, and tourism.

To register log on to www.bcci.bh.

No crime in 5G leak: UK police

London, United Kingdom

The top-secret leak that Britain had conditionally allowed China's Huawei to develop its 5G network, which brought down the defence minister, does not amount to a criminal offence, police concluded yesterday.

Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday sacked Gavin Williamson as defence secretary over the leak last month of the bitterly-disputed decision made at the April 23 meeting of the National Security Council.

NSC discussions are only attended by senior ministers and security officials who first sign the Official Secrets Act that commits them to keep conversations private or risk prosecution.

Some senior opposition figures have called for a police investigation.

But in a statement on Saturday, Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, the head of Specialist Operations at London's Metropolitan Police, said a probe would be inappropriate.

"I am satisfied that what was disclosed did not contain information that would breach the Official Secrets Act," said Basu, whose section is responsible for investigating alleged criminal breaches of the act.

"I am satisfied that the disclosure did not amount to a criminal offence, either under the Official Secrets Act or misconduct in a public office. No crime has been committed and this is not a matter for the police.

"The leak did not cause damage to the public interest at a level at which it would be necessary to engage misconduct in a public office.

"It would be inappropriate to carry out a police investigation in these circumstances."



US seeks to sell \$39m mansion tied to Malaysia 1MDB scandal

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

US authorities are seeking to sell a \$39-million luxury mansion in Los Angeles allegedly bought by a Malaysian financier with money looted from scandal-hit state fund 1MDB, court documents showed.

Billions of dollars were reportedly pilfered from the Malaysian sovereign wealth fund by former prime minister Najib Razak and his cronies, and spent on everything from high-end real estate to artworks.

Financier Low Taek Jho is suspected of playing a central



Jho Low's \$39 Million Los Angeles Mansion to Be Put Up for Sale

role in the fraud and has been charged in absentia in Malaysia and America, which is seeking to recover assets allegedly bought with looted funds via civil lawsuits.

Among these assets is the mansion in Beverly Hills, a wealthy area of LA that is home

to many Hollywood stars, said to have been bought by Low in 2012 with stolen money.

US prosecutors and Low's holding company that owns the property have agreed to try to sell it, according to documents filed in a California court Friday.

A memorable Ramadan awaits at Four Seasons

TDT | Manama

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay has unveiled details of its delectable dining experiences and seasonal getaway packages to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. The offerings capture the essence of this special time of year, and embody the notion of spending precious time together with family and friends while thoughtfully observing the holy month.

Unforgettable Iftar or Ghabga



The Four Seasons Ramadan Tent at Al Bahrain Ballroom has been redesigned and features a fresh colour theme, with Arabian hanging lamps and a carpet and wooden parquet floor setting the scene for a delightful celebration. The luxurious tent offers optimised seating arrangements for both private and corporate groups, and features a new semi private dining canopy to further enhance the experience for guests. Entertainment will be provided by a four-piece Arabic band with an opera singer from Cairo. The inviting surroundings and traditional ambience create the perfect setting to gather for a delicious Iftar or Ghabga feast crafted by Executive Chef Hyung Gyu Kim and Executive Pastry Chef Imad Boukli.

Guests can explore a selection of hot and cold mezze items, together with soups, salads and seafood. The buffet setup will showcase traditional Bahraini fare as well as Lebanese, Moroccan, Indian, Turkish, Italian and global cuisine. Meanwhile, dedicated live cooking stations will be serving up a range of local favourites such as shawarma, falafel, saj, koshari, fowl medames, and freshly carved meat, in addition to Moroccan tagine, bao, sushi, and homemade pasta. To end the meal on a sweet note, an assortment of family favourites can be found at the dessert buffet including teppanyaki ice cream, cheese kunafa, Bahraini halwa, Um Ali, chocolate shawarma, ice cream, and a free-flowing chocolate fountain.

Younger guests will be kept entertained by a range of fun activities at the special kids' tent. Conveniently located in Al Bahrain Ballroom, it will be open daily from sunset until 10:00 PM.

All through Ramadan:

Iftar: sunset to 8:00 PM at BHD 32 net per person (includes buffet, house water, Ramadan juices, Arabic coffee and Moroccan tea)
Children below 6 years free, 6 to 12 years BHD 16 net
Groups (30 pax and above): BHD 26 net per person
Ghabga: 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM at BHD 34.5 net per person (includes buffet and Ramadan juices only)
Children below 6 years free, 6 to 12 years BHD 17 net
Groups (30 pax and above): BHD 28 net per person, BHD 31 net per person at weekends
For reservations, call +973 1711 5500



Children's Gergaoun Event

The Hotel invites young guests to embrace the spirit of the holy month by joining a traditional Gergaoun celebration on the 15th day of Ramadan. Kids can enjoy an array of festive activities, including spreading candies, singing traditional songs, and taking part in a special kid's talent show to receive the Best Gergaoun Talent Award. Chocolates and balloons will also be provided for all attendees.

Children's Gergaoun event will take place during Iftar on the 15th day of Ramadan until 8:30 PM.

Asian dishes at re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck
For non-fasting guests, the Hotel's innovative Asian restaurant will offer à la carte service from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A delicious range of breakfast and lunch items will be available, including crab cake benedict, fried chicken, Philadelphia cheesesteak and red velvet waffles. In the evenings, the restaurant will provide a relaxing alternative to the traditional Ramadan buffets, with an à la carte dinner menu featuring dishes such as Thai rice salad, Malaysian lamb shank, and a light and refreshing halo halo dessert. Dinner will be served from sunset to 11:00 PM on weekdays, and sunset to 12:00 AM on Thursdays and Fridays.

For reservations, +973 1711 5046.

A relaxing beach getaway for Eid

Guests can enjoy a 20 per cent discount on the Hotel's standard room rate with the Hotel's Bahrain Getaway package for stays of two or more nights. The offer provides an ideal opportunity for travellers to extend their visit to Bahrain and explore the city's many attractions, or simply relax and unwind on the Hotel's new beach.

To make a reservation, call +973 1711 5000 or visit www.fourseasons.com/bahrain

Dining Options

The Hotel's Bay View Lounge will be serving an assortment of refreshing beverages, freshly brewed coffee and aromatic teas from sunset to 1:00 AM on weekdays and until 2:00 AM on weekends throughout Ramadan, and offers guests an ideal location to relax and enjoy stunning views of Bahrain Bay and the Manama skyline.

Meanwhile, CUT by Wolfgang Puck, CUT Lounge, Blue Moon Lounge, Vento and Bahrain Bay Kitchen will be closed for the holy month, and will re-open on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr.

Eid Al-Fitr Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen

Guests can celebrate a gracious end to the Holy Month in the inviting ambience of the Hotel's Bahrain Bay Kitchen with a sumptuous brunch during the first three days of Eid Al-Fitr. Diners can choose from an extensive range of buffet offerings, including hot and cold mezze items, lamb ouzi, mixed grills, chicken and beef shawarma, and Moroccan tea.

Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen: 1:00 to 4:00 PM at BHD 30 net per person (includes soft drinks) and BHD 43 net per person (includes extended beverage package)

Children: below 6 years free, 6 to 12 years BHD 15

For reservations, call +973 1711 5500



NBB announces launch of home finance and equity promotions

● **NBB's newly relaunched Home Finance Loan aims to support existing and new customers to purchase a new property**

● **Ability to borrow up to 80pc of their homes' value**

TDT | Manama

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) announced a special Home Finance & Home Equity promotions from April 2019 until year end, giving existing

homeowners and new buyers additional support and competitive terms.

NBB said its newly relaunched Home Finance Loan aims to support existing and new customers purchase a new property with a competitive interest rate while providing the ability to borrow up to 80 per cent of property value and a tenor available up to 25 years.

The promotion for NBB's Home Equity Loan is available to existing and new-to-bank customers, who can leverage and unlock the value of their homes in order to secure financing for various purposes including, but not restricted to, home improvements, educational expenses and investment



opportunities.

Features and benefits of the promotion include a highly competitive interest rate, ability to borrow up to 80pc of their homes' value, flexible loan repayment terms up to 15 year and complimentary life and fire insurance.

Commenting, Nabeel Ahmed Mustafa, Head of Network Management and Strategy at NBB, said, "We are excited to kick off another promotion to help our customers maximise the value of their homes -one of their most important assets- and also extend to new and existing customers competitive mortgage rates and terms in the market, allowing them to purchase a new property."

Cycle for Charity

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s first multi-sensory cycling studio will launch this Ramadan by giving back to the community. “Miles for Meals” campaign will turn calories into a meal that will go to a local charity dedicated to offering food to communities in Bahrain.

The goal is to burn 1 Million calories collectively which equals to 3,000+ meals. Ride Nation will seek sponsors and partners to support the cause and reach the goal by the end of Ramadan.

The first session is free. Every week, Ride Nation said it will announce the total calories burnt on social media and its conversion into meals. At the End of Ramadan, the total amount will be announced at the Ride Nation Charity Ride Finale.

Ride Nation is Bahrain’s newest upscale indoor cycling and fitness boutique located in Wadi Al Sail Mall, Riffa. The 4200 sq. ft. the urban-lux studio features a 35-bike indoor cycling theatre equipped with multi-sensory illumination and projection systems. Each signature 45-minute ride is a well-planned symphony of music, sweat, and energy. From live DJ’s to the latest club mixes and old school throwbacks, riders will be motivated in a fun, endorphin-filled

The goal is to burn 1 Million calories collectively which equals to 3,000+ meals

environment with teamwork and camaraderie. Additionally, Ride Nation provides performance sessions that offer detailed metrics and data catered to performance and Triathlete Riders.

Unlike traditional fitness clubs, no membership or joining fees are required, and clients may purchase a variety of class packages from the Ride Nation website. The app-based programme allows clients to select their bike, order smoothies, and manage personal information online. Ride Nation offers men’s and women’s’ fully-stocked locker rooms, complimentary cycling shoes, keyless lockers, fashion-forward fitness clothing. The facility is a Bahraini environmentally friendly social space filled with regional art. Friends can relax and refuel with fresh-pressed juice and healthy post-workout bites.

Holly Richardson, Ride Nation Project Lead said: “People are welcome to sign up now and throughout Ramadan. We felt that our vision is closely aligned to the spirit of Ramadan, and wanted our launch to give back to the community.”

EU warns Turkey against drilling off Cyprus

● Turkish vessels would be carrying out drilling operations in the Mediterranean until September

● Turkey has had thousands of troops stationed in the northern third of the island



“We express grave concern over Turkey’s announced intention to carry out drilling activities within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini yesterday urged Turkey to reconsider plans to start exploratory drilling for oil and gas off Cyprus, already condemned as illegal by the European Union. “We express grave concern over Turkey’s announced intention to carry out drilling activities within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus,” Mogherini said in a statement. “In March 2018, the European Council strongly condemned Turkey’s continued illegal actions in the Eastern Mediterra-

nean,” she added.

“In this context, we urgently call on Turkey to show restraint,” she added, warning that the EU would “respond appropriately to any illegal action that violated Cyprus’s rights”.

On Friday Turkey sent out a message on NAVTEX, the international maritime navigational telex system, announcing its vessels would be carrying out drilling operations in the Mediterranean until September.

According to reports in the Cypriot media, the operation will encroach on Cyprus’s exclusive economic zone.

Turkey first announced it

would be drilling for oil and gas off Cyprus back in February.

The discovery of gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has prompted claims by the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot government and Ankara, which backs a breakaway Turkish Cypriot administration in the north of the island.

European Union member Cyprus has been pressing to develop offshore gas deposits and has signed deals with energy giants Eni, Total and ExxonMobil that have seen them carry out exploratory drilling.

Ankara claims that such exploration deprives the Turkish

Cypriot minority of benefiting from the natural resources that surround the island.

In February 2018 a drillship for Italy’s Eni abandoned an attempt to search for gas off Cyprus after it was blocked by Turkish warships.

Turkey has had thousands of troops stationed in the northern third of the island since invading in 1974 in response to a Greek military junta-sponsored coup aimed at uniting Cyprus with Greece.

The northern part of the island was declared the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

ExxonMobil sues Cuban companies for nationalized assets

Havana, Cuba

US giant ExxonMobil has filed a lawsuit against Cuba’s state-owned oil company and a major business group for what it called “unlawful trafficking” of its assets after Fidel Castro’s 1959 revolution.

The suit, filed in federal court in Washington, seeks \$280 million from Cuba-Petroleo (Cupet) and Cimex, which operates service stations on the island nation.

The lawsuit from America’s biggest oil producer came as the administration of US President Donald Trump lifted the suspension of Title III of the 1996 Helms-Burton Act.

The provision allows anyone whose assets were seized after the revolution to sue Cuban individuals and businesses profiting from the former holdings.

It had been suspended by all previous US presidents to avoid causing friction with allies, some of whom view it as overstepping American jurisdiction.

Exxon said in the suit it was seeking compensation “for property that was expropriated by the Fidel Castro regime in 1960, including oil refineries and service stations, which are still in use today even though Plaintiff has never received any compensation for this property.”

Exxon is one of the cos born out of the now-defunct Standard Oil, whose refinery in Havana was one of the first American entities nationalized by Castro.

US job creation surges in April as unemployment hits 49-year low

Washington, United States

The United States had another giant month of job creation in April, confirming the strength of the world’s largest economy as President Donald Trump prepares to fend off challengers in next year’s election.

Government data showed continued vigor in the vast services sector, with unemployment falling to a level not seen since 1969, helping allay fears of a slowdown -- although the labor force shrank.

As the second quarter began, employers scooped up workers in construction, health care, computer systems design, administrative support and other service industries, adding a total of 263,000 net new positions for the month, the data showed.

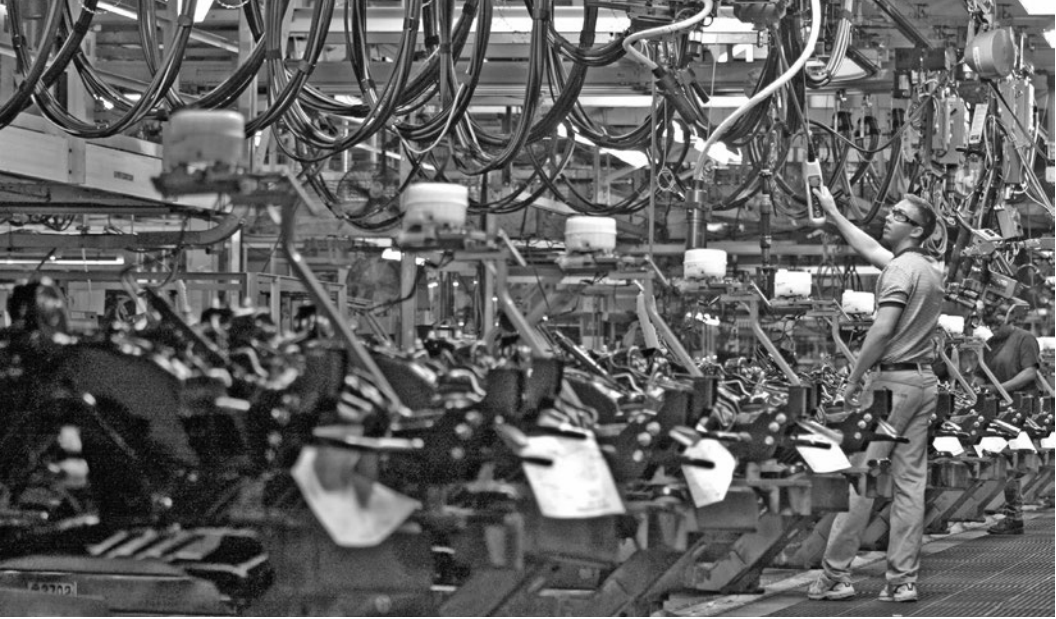
That was well above the result economists expected, and worker pay continued to climb, although at a slower pace, according to the closely-watched report from the Labor Department.

The unemployment rate fell two tenths to 3.6 per cent but the decline was in part because the pool of workers shrank and fewer people were looking for jobs, pulling them out of the labor force.

The jobless rate for Hispanics fell to the lowest level on record, as did a broader measure of unemployment that includes discouraged workers.

“This economy is roaring,” Vice President Mike Pence told CNBC shortly after the data was released, attributing the performance squarely to Trump’s economic agenda of tax cuts and slashed regulation.

Average hourly pay also rose by 3.2pc over April of last year, the ninth consecutive month with annual growth above three percent, again outstripping in-



Worker assembles General Motors trucks on the assembly line at the GM Flint Assembly plant in Flint, Michigan.

flation.

Compared to March, however, the increase in pay was only 0.2pc, shy of forecasts, but economists said this may have been due to distortions from the Easter holiday.

Manufacturing lags

Government hiring also was the strongest in eight months, with 27,000 jobs created -- likely due in part to hiring for the 2020 US census. Financial services also continued to add employees.

But hiring in the manufacturing sector was weak spot for the third straight month, ending last year’s long growth streak. Durable goods employment was flat and the auto sector continuing to shed jobs.

In the 12 months prior to February, the manufacturing sector had added an average of 22,000 jobs a month, according to the report.

The retail sector also suffered yet more job losses, with 12,000 positions cut.

Hiring in mining, which includes oil and gas, as well as utilities was little changed, the data showed.

There were other signs of weakness as well.

“If one is scouring the report for negatives, one would be the contraction in the workweek and drop in hours worked,” RDQ Economics said in a client note.

“With labor force participation dropping further in April, participation is now flat on a year-over-year basis.”

The three-month average for job creation has also fallen for four straight months and now sits at about 169,000 -- below the averages recorded in the same period of 2018 and 2017.

The number of people working part time for “economic reasons” -- those who want full-time work but cannot get it -- also rose for the second month in a row in May, and at 4.7 million remains above the level from before the Great Recession.

Nevertheless, the brisk hir-

ing should further dim hopes among investors that the Federal Reserve will feel pressure to cut interest rates in the near term.

As unemployment falls to half-century lows and workers become scarce, the continued strength of hiring has confounded predictions that companies would soon run out of people to hire, even as firms nationwide complain they are struggling to fill open positions.

And inflation has for several years defied the usual logic that low unemployment should cause wages and prices to rise.

Opinion is now divided among economists as to whether inflation later this year will at last spring to life and pressure the central bank to bump up lending rates -- the opposite of Trump’s very loud recent demands for a drastic interest rate cut.

After several days in the red, Wall Street was cheered by the news, with all three major indices closing higher and the Nasdaq setting a new record high.

France to ban e-scooters from pavements in September



Representative picture

Paris, France

France will ban electric scooters from pavements in September, the transport minister said, in a backlash against a surge of the commuter gizmos invading pedestrian areas.

An estimated 15,000 scooters operated by several companies have flooded the French capital since their introduction last year, a number projected to surge to 40,000 by the end of this year.

Elisabeth Borne told the Le Parisien daily in remarks published Saturday that anyone riding an e-scooter, monowheel, personal transporter or hoverboard on the pavement would be fined 135 euros (\$151) from September.

Instead, they will have to use the street or dedicated cycling paths, “so pedestrians are no longer squeezed against walls”, the minister said.

The development of the hugely popular personal transport vehicles “happened very fast and in a bit of an anarchic way”, Borne said.

Riders will still be allowed to push them on the pavement, so long as the engine is turned off.

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-THE INTRUDER (15+) (THRILLER) NEW * MEAGAN GOOD, DENNIS QUAID, MICHAEL EALY DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.30 PM
2-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
3-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM DAILY AT (3D): 11.30 AM + 3.00 + 6.30 + 10.00 PM DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 12.00 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 10.30 PM DAILY AT (VIP): 12.15 + 3.45 + 7.15 + 10.45 PM
4-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY) * COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
5-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) * HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 PM

6-ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAY-ALAM) * DULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM
7-ATHIRAN (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) * FAHADH FAZIL, SAI PALLAVI, ATUL KULKARNI DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-THE INTRUDER (15+) (THRILLER) NEW * MEAGAN GOOD, DENNIS QUAID, MICHAEL EALY DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
2-A VIGILANTE (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW * OLIVIA WILDE, MORGAN SPECTOR, KYLE CALETT DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
3-EXTREMELY WICKED, SHOCKINGLY EVIL, AND VILE (15+) (CRIME/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW * ZAC EFRON, LILY COLLINS, HALRY JOEL OSMENT DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM
4-OFFICE UPRISING (18+) (ACTION/COMEDY/THRILLER) NEW * BRENTON THWAITES, ZACHARY LEVI, KARAN SONI DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.45 + 6.45 + 10.45 PM
5-GODZILLA RESUREGENCE (SHIN GODZILLA) (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW * HIROKI HASEGAWA, SATOMI ISHIHARA, YUTAKA TAKE-NOUCHI DAILY AT: 12.45 + 4.45 + 8.45 PM
6-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 1.30 + 8.30 PM DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 10.15 AM + 5.00 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT (VIP I): 11.45 AM + 3.15 + 6.45 + 10.15 PM DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.45 + 4.15+ 7.45 + 11.15 PM DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.00 + 1.30 + 3.00 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.00 + 8.30 + 10.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN + 12.45 MN THURS/FRI) DAILY AT (3D): 10.15 AM + 5.00 PM + 12.00 MN
7-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY) * COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM



8-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) * ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
9-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) * VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT DAILY AT: 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
10-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER) * TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM
11-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) * LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN
12-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.15 + 9.15 PM
13-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) * HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 PM
14-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) * BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.15 + 8.30 PM
15-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA) * KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
16-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA) * LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
17-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) * REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.15 + 10.30 PM
18-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) * KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
19-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER) * JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

SEEF (II)

1-THE INTRUDER (15+) (THRILLER) NEW * MEAGAN GOOD, DENNIS QUAID, MICHAEL EALY DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
2-A VIGILANTE (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW * OLIVIA WILDE, MORGAN SPECTOR, KYLE CALETT DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN
3-EXTREMELY WICKED, SHOCKINGLY EVIL, AND VILE (15+) (CRIME/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW * ZAC EFRON, LILY COLLINS, HALRY JOEL OSMENT DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN
4-OFFICE UPRISING (18+) (ACTION/COMEDY/THRILLER) NEW * BRENTON THWAITES, ZACHARY LEVI, KARAN SONI DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.00 + 8.00 PM + 12.00 MN
5-GODZILLA RESUREGENCE (SHIN GODZILLA) (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW * HIROKI HASEGAWA, SATOMI ISHIHARA, YUTAKA TAKE-NOUCHI DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.00 + 10.00 PM
6-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS DAILY AT: (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)



7-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 3.30 + 7.00 + 10.30 PM
8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY) * COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM
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10-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) * VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT DAILY AT: 1.45 + 7.45 PM
11-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) * LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN
12-STOCKHOLM (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME/DRAMA) * ETHAN HAWKE, NOOMI RAPACE, MARK STRONG DAILY AT: 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
13-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.00 + 2.30 + 4.00 + 5.30 PM

SEEF (I)

1-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN
2-DEVARATTAM (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW * VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
3-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 2.00 + 4.30 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
4-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

* BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
5-ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAY-ALAM) * DULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
6-ATHIRAN (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) * FAHADH FAZIL, SAI PALLAVI, ATUL KULKARNI DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 5.15 + 11.00 PM
7- MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) * MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY DAILY AT: 2.15 + 8.00 PM

SAAR

1-THE INTRUDER (15+) (THRILLER) NEW * MEAGAN GOOD, DENNIS QUAID, MICHAEL EALY DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)
2-A VIGILANTE (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW * OLIVIA WILDE, MORGAN SPECTOR, KYLE CALETT DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM
3-EXTREMELY WICKED, SHOCKINGLY EVIL, AND VILE (15+) (CRIME/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW * ZAC EFRON, LILY COLLINS, HALRY JOEL OSMENT DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)
4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.00 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)
AL HAMRA 1-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.15 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)
2-ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAY-ALAM) * DULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON DAILY AT: 6.00 PM
3-ATHIRAN (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) * FAHADH FAZIL, SAI PALLAVI, ATUL KULKARNI DAILY AT: 12.00 NOON

WADI AL SAIL

1-THE INTRUDER (15+) (THRILLER) NEW * MEAGAN GOOD, DENNIS QUAID, MICHAEL EALY DAILY AT: *11.30 AM + *1.30 + *3.30 + *5.30 + *7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
2-A VIGILANTE (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW * OLIVIA WILDE, MORGAN SPECTOR, KYLE CALETT DAILY AT: *1.15 + *5.30 + 9.45 PM
3-EXTREMELY WICKED, SHOCKINGLY EVIL, AND VILE (15+) (CRIME/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW * ZAC EFRON, LILY COLLINS, HALRY JOEL OSMENT DAILY AT: *11.00 AM + *3.15 + *7.30 + 11.45 PM
4-UYARE (MALAYALAM) NEW * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS DAILY AT: *11.30 AM + *5.15 + 11.00 PM
5-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN DAILY AT: *12.00 + *1.00 + *3.30 + *4.30 + *7.00 + 8.00 + 10.30 + 11.30 PM DAILY AT (3D): *11.00 AM + *2.30 + *6.00 + 9.30 PM
6-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) * VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT DAILY AT: *2.00 + *7.45 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

If Beale Street Could Talk: rhapsody of heroism in a world gone bad

If Beale Street Could Talk is a 2018 American romantic drama film directed and written by Barry Jenkins, and based on James Baldwin's novel of the same name. It stars KiKi Layne, Stephan James, Colman Domingo, Teyonah Parris, Michael Beach, Dave Franco, Diego Luna, Pedro Pascal, Ed Skrein, Brian Tyree Henry and Regina King. The film follows a young woman who, with her family's support, seeks to clear the name of her wrongly charged lover and prove his innocence before the birth of their child.On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 95% based on 314 reviews, with an average rating of 8.63/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "If Beale Street Could Talk honors its source material with a beautifully filmed adap-



KiKi Layne and Stephan James in 'If Beale Street Could Talk'



Barry Jenkins follows his Oscar-winner Moonlight with the moving, beautifully told tale of a pregnant black woman fighting for justice in 70s New York

tation that finds director Barry Jenkins further strengthening his visual and narrative craft." On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 87 out of 100, based on 53 critics, indicating "universal acclaim". Audiences polled by PostTrak

gave the film an 82% overall positive score and a 65% "definite recommend".

Eric Kohn of IndieWire gave the film an "A–", stating, "Jenkins' follow-up to Moonlight also maintains his own expressionistic aesthetic, with its lush colors and entrancing faces that speak volumes in few words, resulting in a fascinating hybrid experience — a seminal voice of the past merging with one of the present in a mesmerizing burst of creative passion." Siddhant Adlakha of /Film said the film felt "electric and alive" and specified, "The worlds these characters create — whether in the form of individual, soul-piercing stares, or moments of burning passion filmed in profile — carry with them the weight of the very history of which Tish constantly speaks."

Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas



Joe Jonas, Sophie Turner will get married again

Los Angeles

Hollywood couple Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner will have a second wedding in France. The couple surprised fans worldwide with an impromptu marriage ceremony on May 1 in Las Vegas. But it seems they are taking cue from Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra Jonas, and going ahead with the second wedding ceremony. According to usmagazine.com, the couple, who got engaged in October 2017, will exchange vows overseas in June. No other detail about the second wedding ceremony

has been announced yet. Joe, 29, and Sophie, 23, got married in front of an Elvis Presley impersonator dressed in a red jumpsuit after the Billboard Music Awards. During the ceremony, which American DJ-record producer Diplo documented on Instagram Live, the “Game of Thrones” star rocked a white Bevza jumpsuit and veil. Joe looked handsome in a dark gray suit and white shirt. Joe’s brothers and bandmates – Nick and Kevin, stood by his side on his big day. Sophie’s new sister-in-laws, Priyanka and Danielle, were also there to support the couple.

celebs

Lily Collins says she was visited by ghosts of Ted Bundy’s victims

Los Angeles

Actor Lily Collins, who portrays the former girlfriend of Ted Bundy in the upcoming biopic “Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile”, says the spirits of the serial killer’s victims visited her when she was preparing for the role. In an interview with The Guardian, the 30-year-old actor admitted that there were days when she would wake up at 3 am during her time on the project. Collins plays Elizabeth Kloepfer, the ex-girlfriend of Zac Efron’s Bundy, in the Joe Berlinger-directed film. “I would go downstairs and have a cup of tea, trying to figure out why I had woken up again... I started being woken up by flashes of images, like the aftermath of a struggle,” the actor said. Collins said she turned to research to try to understand what she was experiencing. “I discovered that 3am is the time when the veil between the realms is the thinnest and one can be visited.”



Lily Collins



Evan Rachel Wood

Evan Rachel Wood to star in ‘One Thousand Paper Cranes’

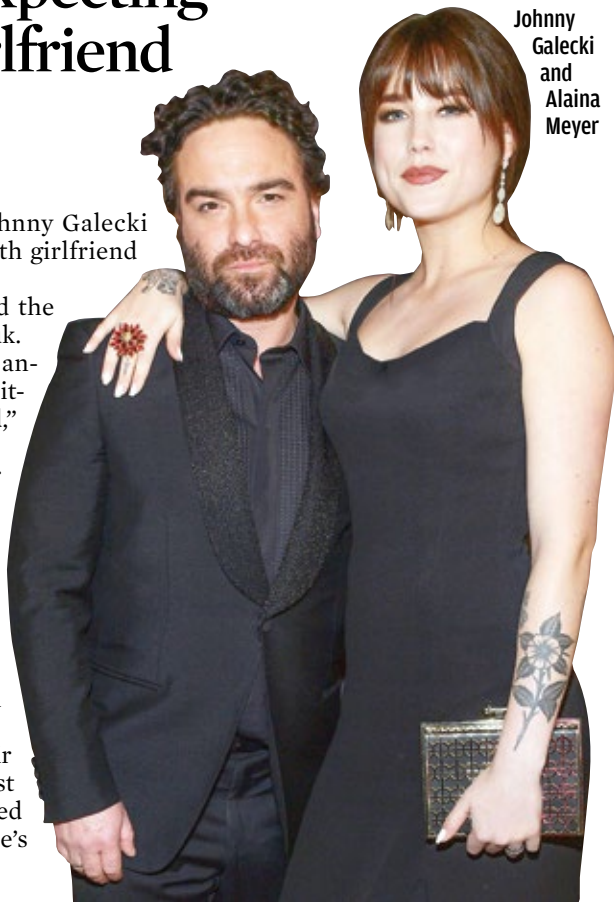
Los Angeles

“Westworld” star Evan Rachel Wood will be headlining the Hiroshima bombing survivor drama “One Thousand Paper Cranes”. According to Variety, Richard Raymond will direct the project from a script by Ben Bolea. Wood, 31, will be joined by actors Jim Sturgess and Shinobu Terajima in the cast. The film is based on the story of Hiroshima survivor Sadako Sasaki and author Eleanor Coerr, who wrote the bestselling children’s book “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes”. Sasaki was a two-year-old when the atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima in 1945. She was later diagnosed with leukemia caused by exposure to radiation from the blast. She, however, drew strength from a Japanese legend that, if she folded 1,000 paper cranes, she would be granted a wish, which in her case was to live.

Johnny Galecki expecting first child with girlfriend

Los Angeles

“The Big Bang Theory” star Johnny Galecki is expecting his first child with girlfriend Alaina Meyer. Galecki, 43, and Meyer, 21, announced the news on Instagram, reports dailymail.co.uk. “We are absolutely over the moon to announce that we will soon be welcoming a little one into this crazy and wonderful world,” Galecki posted. “We ask that you please respect our privacy during this celebratory time for us and our families. There truly is love out there for all. We hope ours is the ember of yours, as we feel yours is the ember of ours,” he added. The message was accompanied by two photographs of the parents-to-be, including one of Galecki and Meyer sharing an embrace on the beach. Galecki and Meyer went public with their romance on social media in September last year, and two months later made their red carpet debut in November at the E! People’s Choice Awards.



Johnny Galecki and Alaina Meyer

Khloe Kardashian claps back after being shamed for employing nanny

Los Angeles

Khloe Kardashian is not ready to be trolled over having some extra help while raising her daughter. The American reality star recently clapped back after being shamed for using a nanny. On Thursday, a fan took to Instagram and shared a recent picture where the single mother can be seen pushing her one-year-old daughter True Thompson in a stroller, as a woman followed. “Khloe acts like she can’t go anywhere without her nanny. Nanny is in every pic and place she goes. She can mother on her own, we all do it! What a joke. She literally can’t go to the market, a party, or lunch without her nanny Wtf;” the Instagram user commented. Khloe noticed the remark and couldn’t keep herself from hitting back. “I can go anywhere and everywhere with whom I choose to,” Khloe replied. “I choose to treat everybody like a family that is in my house. I choose to invite whoever wants to come to fun outings. We all love and enjoy the farmers market and it’s so fun to go places and create memories together. I hope you have a happy and blessed day. I also hope that you are very kind to the ones that are kind to you. The ones that are not, probably need your kindness even more,” E News quoted Khloe as saying.



Khloe Kardashian

I’m being punished for turning 60: Singer Madonna



Madonna Los Angeles

Singer Madonna has opened up about her fight against ageism in the music industry, saying she is being punished for turning 60. In an interview to British Vogue, Madonna, who has sold more than 300 million records worldwide in a near four decade career, has detailed her fight against ageism, reports dailymail.co.uk. “People have always been trying to silence me for one reason or another, whether it’s that ‘I’m not pretty enough’, ‘I don’t sing well enough’, ‘I’m not talented enough’, ‘I’m not married enough’, and now it’s that ‘I’m not young enough’,” said Madonna, who broke into the music scene in 1982.

Justin Bieber compares Chris Brown to Michael Jackson and Tupac

Los Angeles

Justin Bieber is in full praises for American singer-songwriter Chris Brown as the former described him as the living legend. Taking to Instagram, Bieber shared a snap of the legendary equation, which showed ‘Michael Jackson + 2pac = Chris Brown’. Bieber wrote: “everyone wants to wait til people die To



Justin Bieber and Chris Brown

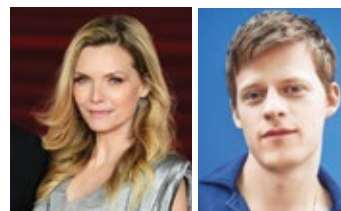
give them the credit they deserve. I’m calling it now when CB passes away after a long full life, you will miss what you had in front of you the whole time ...

trust me watch you will see. the people who have over looked this mans talent because of a mistake he made.. you need to reevaluate! Love you @chrisbrownofficial.” According to People, Bieber’s admiration for Chris Brown was evident even when Brown was accused of raping a woman in January. He was later released without any charges. Bieber supported him and wrote, “No one can touch you ur the GOAT.”

Michelle Pfeiffer, Lucas Hedges join ‘French Exit’

Los Angeles

Actors Michelle Pfeiffer, Lucas Hedges and Tracy Letts have been roped in for the comedy film “French Exit”. The surrealist comedy will be directed by Azazel Jacobs.



Michelle Pfeiffer and Lucas Hedges

Pfeiffer will play 60-year-old penniless Manhattan socialite Frances Price, while Hedges will play her directionless son, Malcolm, and Letts fills the role of the embodiment of Franklin, her long-deceased husband, in the form of the family cat, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

sports

Late Ronaldo goal foils Torino

● **'Phenomenon'**
Ronaldo stretches
Torino's 24-year wait
for win at Juventus

● Juventus forward
Cristiano Ronaldo
has scored 601 club
goals in his career

AFP | Turin, Italy

Cristiano Ronaldo headed in a late equaliser to spoil Torino's dream of a first win at city rivals Juventus in nearly a quarter of a century on Friday and frustrate their bid to move into the Champions League places.

Sasa Lukic had fired Torino ahead after 17 minutes in a match brought forward a day to avoid clashing with Saturday's 70th anniversary of the air disaster that wiped out the all-conquering 'Grande Torino' team of the 1940s.

But Ronaldo headed in for 1-1 after 84 minutes to leave Torino in sixth place, two points off the Champions League berths with three games left to play.

Juventus have already sealed the Serie A title for the eighth season in a row, but Torino still have all to play for as they target a first-ever qualification for elite European competition.

"This draw burns, we could



Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo heads the ball to score a goal

have scored a second goal and brought the win home," said Torino coach Walter Mazzarri.

"The only time we let down our guard the phenomenon that is Ronaldo punished us."

Torino have not won at Juventus since 1995 while their only win since then against their city rivals was at home in April 2015. Ronaldo -- who had scored the only goal with a penalty in the reverse fixture in December -- was partnered up front by teenage striker Moise Kean.

Kean threatened early along with Torino captain Andrea Belotti.

But Serbian midfielder Lukic



Sasa Lukic scored the opening goal but Torino have not won at Juventus since 1995

broke through following a Miralem Pjanic error to slot in his first goal for Torino.

Ronaldo came close to an equaliser soon after with

his powerful strike just wide with Salvatore Sirigu denying Blaise Matuidi.

But Juventus increased the pressure after the break with Ronaldo rising highest to latch onto a Leonardo Spinazzola cross to beat Sirigu and deny Torino a third consecutive victory.

Ronaldo hits 601st goal

It was Ronaldo's 21st league goal this season and moves him two behind Sampdoria's Fabio Quagliarella, who leads the Serie A scoring charts.

The Portuguese superstar brings his tally of career club goals to 601, edging ahead of his

Argentina rival Lionel Messi, who has 600.

"We're lucky to play with Cristiano and live in this age of two star players," said Juventus captain Giorgio Chiellini.

"They're somewhat comparable to (Roger) Federer and (Rafael) Nadal. The are both out of this world, one seems stronger one day and then the other replies."

For Juventus it was a second consecutive stalemate after last weekend's 1-1 draw against Inter Milan.

"Clearly once you've won the league the foot comes off the gas a little bit and it becomes difficult to find the motivation," said coach Massimiliano Allegri.

"But compared to the San Siro we started better and if we hadn't conceded that goal in the first half it might have been a different game."

Juventus are nevertheless 19 points ahead of second-placed Napoli, who host Cagliari on Sunday.

Inter Milan, eight points behind Napoli, will look to consolidate third position and their Champions League berth on Saturday at Udinese.

Torino stay sixth, one point behind Roma, and two adrift of fourth-placed Atalanta.

Although Juventus have nothing left to play for they will have a role in who qualifies for next season's Champions League as they play Roma and Atalanta in their next two games.

Ronaldinho raps against corruption

AFP | Rio de Janeiro

Brazil's Ronaldinho has found a second calling after retiring from professional football: rapper.

The former Brazil national and FC Barcelona megastar -- full name Ronaldinho Gauchão -- has released a song along with Brazilian singer Jorge Vercillo decrying corruption in their country.

The 2005 Golden Ball award winner appears in a video, recorded in a studio, wearing a black beret and a white tank top emblazoned with the image of Saint George slaying a dragon.

Beckham MLS team gets green light for temporary home

AFP | Miami

David Beckham's tortuous quest to find a home for his Inter Miami Major League Soccer franchise received a boost on Friday after a Florida judge approved plans to build a new stadium in neighbouring Fort Lauderdale.

The former England captain's ownership group was forced to go before a court in South Florida on Wednesday to obtain permission to demolish the crumbling Lockhart Stadium.

Zidane downplays Madrid move for Pogba

AFP | Madrid

Zinedine Zidane has played down speculation linking Real Madrid with a summer move for Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba.

Zidane said in March he knew Pogba personally and likes him "a lot" before adding Madrid could be his next club "when his experience in Manchester comes to an end".

Pogba had also added to the doubts surrounding his future by saying that "all players dream of playing for Real Madrid".

But ahead of his team's La Liga game at home to Villarreal on Sunday, Zidane appeared to downplay the chances of Pogba moving to the Santiago Bernabeu.

"I said Pogba was a good player but I could say the same about other players," Zidane said at a press con-

ference on Saturday.

"I know him but nothing more. If you ask me about Pogba, I say he is a very good player but he plays for Manchester United.

"At the end of the season we will see which players come here, and who leaves, but I did not say 'We are going to sign Pogba,' nothing like that.

"I will not say anything until the deals are done."

M a d r i d



Paul Pogba

third in La Liga, 18 points behind champions Barcelona and with little hope of catching Atletico Madrid in second.

Zidane's team have delivered a series of underwhelming performances, most recently in a 0-0 draw with Getafe and 1-0 defeat to Rayo Vallecano.

"I was very angry the other day, so were the players, they didn't enjoy it either," Zidane said. "Sometimes nothing goes your way."

Everton ease past Burnley to keep Europa League dream alive

Reuters | London

Everton bolstered their chances of qualifying for next season's Europa League with a 2-0 win over Burnley in the Premier League on Friday.

Marco Silva's side moved into eighth place, one point behind seventh-place Wolverhampton Wanderers, who host Fulham on Saturday.

Everton continued their impressive recent form, starting brightly and taking the lead

after 18 minutes through Ben Mee's own goal, with the defender deflecting in Richarlison's powerful effort.

Seamus Coleman doubled Everton's lead two minutes later, heading home the loose ball after Tom Heaton could only parry Lucas Digne's drive.

Burnley striker Ashley Barnes had a goal correctly disallowed for offside as Sean Dyche's men, safe from relegation, threatened briefly.

Matej Vydra was denied a

penalty when former Burnley defender Michael Keane appeared to push him over in the box and Everton held on to record their eighth clean sheet in 10 Premier League matches.

Goodison Park warmly applauded Everton's players on a lap of appreciation, reward for their impressive form in 2019.

If league leaders Manchester City win the FA Cup, the team that finishes seventh in the standings will qualify for the Europa League.



Seamus Coleman (23) scores Everton's second goal

Spurs slump to Bournemouth loss

- Nine-man Tottenham undone at the last as Ake snatches win for Bournemouth
- Fulham's Elliott becomes Premier League's youngest player

AFP | London

Mauricio Pochettino insisted yesterday that nine-man Tottenham won't let a "cruel" 1-0 defeat at Bournemouth ruin their bid to finish in the top four and reach the Champions League final, while Fulham's 16-year-old Harvey Elliott become the Premier League's youngest ever player in their 1-0 defeat Wolves.

Tottenham's South Korea forward Son Heung-min was sent off for a needless push in the closing moments of the first half and Argentine defender Juan Foyth saw red for a studs-up lunge soon after the interval.

Pochettino's side looked like they would hold on for a point as the match entered stoppage-time, but Bournemouth defender Nathan Ake ended third-placed Tottenham's stubborn resistance to delay their attempt to guarantee a place in the top four.

A win at Dean Court would have achieved that aim, but fourth-placed Chelsea will now go above Spurs if they defeat Watford and Arsenal, currently fifth, will move to within one point of their north London



Son Heung-min shoves Jefferson Lerma in the first half

rivals if they beat Brighton on Sunday.

"Of course it is difficult to get something positive. We made a massive effort," Pochettino said.

"We need to move on. We have ahead two finals. It is in our hands. If it does not happen we will be proud because nobody expected Tottenham to be in the position they are today."

Tottenham's ninth defeat in their last 15 games in all competitions means they need to wait for Sunday's results to see if they need to win their final Premier League game of the season at home to Everton on May 12.

It was the worst possible

preparation for their bid to overturn a 1-0 deficit in the Champions League semi-final second leg at Ajax on Wednesday.

"We are fighting six teams. It's impossible for all six to get the top four, whatever happens I will feel proud and whatever happens in the semi-final I will be proud," Pochettino said.

Elliott makes history

In their first season back in the top-flight, Wolves moved a step closer to sealing an impressive seventh place finish as Leander Dendoncker saw off relegated Fulham.

Belgian midfielder Dendoncker

er netted in the 75th minute at Molineux to give Wolves a third successive win.

Nuno Espirito Santo's team are four points clear of eighth placed Everton, who only have one game left, and six ahead of ninth placed Leicester, who have two matches remaining.

If Manchester City win the FA Cup final against Watford later on May 18, the team which finishes seventh will go into the Europa League qualifying rounds next season.

In the 88th minute, Fulham provided an historic footnote as Elliott was sent on to become the Premier League's youngest ever

English Premiere League

Bournemouth	1	-	0	Tottenham Hotspur
West Ham United	3	-	0	Southampton
Wolverhampton W	1	-	0	Fulham
Cardiff City	1	-	2	Crystal Palace

Italian Serie A

Chievo	0	-	4	SPAL
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Spanish La Liga

Levante	4	-	1	Rayo Vallecano
Espanyol	3	-	0	Atletico de Madrid
Alaves	0	-	1	Real Sociedad

German Bundesliga

Borussia	2	-	2	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
Bayern Munich	3	-	1	Hannover 96
Hertha BSC	3	-	1	VfB Stuttgart
VfL Wolfsburg	2	-	0	1. FC Nürnberg
SV Werder Bremen	0	-	2	Borussia Dortmund

French Ligue 1

Paris Saint-Germain	1	-	1	Nice
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*Scores as of closing

player at 16 years and 30 days.

English midfielder Elliott, born in April 2003, surpassed the previous record set by former Fulham player Matthew Briggs, aged just 16 years and 65 days in 2007.

London-born Elliott's only previous appearance for Fulham this season came in a League Cup win at Millwall in September.

Marko Arnautovic ended his 11-game goal drought with a brace in West Ham's 3-0 win against Southampton at the London Stadium.

Arnaoutovic hadn't scored for Manuel Pellegrini's men since January 5, but the Austria forward fired mid-table West Ham ahead in the 16th minute with a clinical finish from Mark Noble's pass.

Arnaoutovic struck again in the 69th minute when he headed home after Arthur Masuaka's cross was palmed into the air by Southampton keeper Fraser Forster.

Hammers defender Ryan Fredericks wrapped up the points in the 72nd minute with his first Premier League goal.

Bragging rights delayed as Atletico beaten by Espanyol

AFP | Madrid

Atletico Madrid missed the chance to ensure they finish above Real Madrid for a second consecutive year yesterday after slipping to a surprise 3-0 defeat by Espanyol.

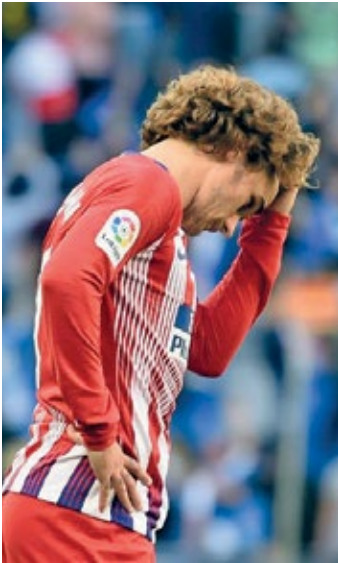
Atletico needed only a point to guarantee second place in La Liga, with two games left to play, but Espanyol were deserving winners at the RCDE Stadium thanks to Diego Godin's own-goal and two strikes from Borja Iglesias, the second a penalty.

The result means Barcelona, already champions, can move 12 points clear at the top of the table by beating Celta Vigo.

Real Madrid face Villarreal on Sunday but a third-place finish seems inevitable for Zinedine Zidane's side. To overtake their city rivals, Real will need to win all three of their remaining games and hope Atletico lose both of their last two.

Espanyol's victory is unlikely therefore to prevent Atleti finishing as Madrid's top club in La Liga for a third time in four years, fourth in six, but there was a lack of spark that has undermined Diego Simeone's team too often this season.

Just as concerning have been the defensive errors, which Espanyol exploited to the full. Godin slid the ball into his own net before Juanfran conceded a late penalty for a needless push.



Antoine Griezmann react after Atletico Madrid's defeat

In between, Borja had nipped between Godin and Filipe Luis with ease.

Like at Real, changes are expected at Atletico this summer but, unlike their neighbours, not all of them are likely to be within their control.

Lucas Hernandez has already agreed to join Bayern Munich, while uncertainty hangs over the futures of Godin, Filipe, Juanfran, Saul Niguez and Antoine Griezmann.

Jan Oblak has signed a new contract until 2023 but with a release clause included, reportedly set at 120 million euros.

Alvaro Morata will hope to stay after enjoying a resurgence



Atletico need only a point to guarantee second place in La Liga, with two games left to play

since joining on loan from Chelsea in January and he might have given Atletico an early lead against Espanyol but was unable to find the space from the angle.

Instead, Espanyol took the lead at the end of the first half and while Godin turned it into his own net, it was Adria Pedrosa who made it. His driving run down the wing left Atletico's defence scrambling and his fired cross panicked Godin at the near post.

Atletico hardly troubled their opponents, who doubled their lead shortly before the hour, Borja latching onto Oscar Melendo's pass before finishing impressively past Oblak.

Oblak saved shots from Sergi Darder and Borja but Espanyol finally added a third after Juanfran knocked over Javi Puado in the 89th minute. Borja beat Oblak with the penalty.

Bayern close in on Bundesliga title

AFP | Berlin

Arjen Robben said his Bayern Munich journey was not yet over after he and Franck Ribery returned from injury yesterday to help Bayern to a 3-1 win over Hanover and heap pressure on Bundesliga title rivals Borussia Dortmund.

The veteran wingers, both of whom are set to leave Bayern at the end of the season, came off the bench as Bayern made heavy weather of a crucial victory over the Bundesliga's bottom club.

Ribery scored what may be his last ever goal at the Allianz Arena to seal a 3-1 win and put Bayern five points clear of title rivals Borussia Dortmund, who face a tough trip to Werder Bremen.

Robben, who had not played since November, told Sky that his cameo appearance would not be his last for Bayern.

"I always said I didn't want to come back just to wave to the fans and say goodbye. There are two games left and the German Cup final, so there is more to come," he said.

Hanover kept Bayern at bay for nearly half an hour before Robert Lewandowski headed the hosts ahead from close range and Leon Goretzka curled the second in off the post.

The visitors hit back after half-time with a Jonathas penalty, the result of a highly controversial handball decision from VAR against Jerome Boateng.

Ribery secured the win six

minutes from time, and the home fans had more reason to cheer a few minutes from time when Robben was brought on moments later.

Borussia Moenchengladbach and Hoffenheim both stumbled in the race for the top four, as they shared the points in a 2-2 draw.

Matthias Ginter cancelled

I always said I didn't want to come back just to wave to the fans and say goodbye. There are two games left and the German Cup final, so there is more to come

ARJEN ROBBEN



Bayern Munich players celebrate

out Pavel Kaderabek's opener, before Nadiem Amiri restored the lead with a fine volley. Josip Drmic saved Gladbach's Champions League hopes with a late equaliser.

At the bottom of the table, relegation looms ever larger for Nuremberg, after goals from Felix Klaus and Marcel Tisserand saw them lose 2-0 in Wolfsburg.

They and Hanover were spared relegation for at least another week, however, as Hertha Berlin won 3-1 at home to Stuttgart, who remain in the relegation play-off place.

Vedad Ibisevic ended Hertha's 395-minute goal drought when he prodded them ahead on 40 minutes.

Goals from Ondrej Duda and Salomon Kalou sealed the win for Hertha, despite a late consolation header from Mario Gomez.