

Kevin to host Oscars
 Comedian Kevin Hart will host next year's Oscar ceremony for the first time, the "Ride Along" actor said in an Instagram post on Tuesday. "I am so happy to say that the day has finally come for me to host the Oscars," Hart wrote. The Academy Awards are the film industry's highest honors. **P13**

THE DAILY tribune



Messi's fifth place in Ballon d'Or absurd - Barca coach **16 SPORTS**

WORLD 7 Macron's worries continue

LuLu opens seventh hypermarket



Middle East retail giant LuLu Group has further expanded its presence in the Kingdom by opening its latest hypermarket in the newly opened Atrium Mall in Saar yesterday. The new hypermarket, which is also seventh in the country was officially inaugurated by Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa in the presence of Zayed Al Zayani, Commerce and Industry Minister, Jameel Humaidan, Labour Minister, Essam Khalaf, Minister of Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning, Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Daij, President of Crown Prince Court, Yusuffali MA, Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group, LuLu Group top executives, ambassadors of India, the UK and a number of other dignitaries. "Our total investment in the Kingdom has already crossed BD125 million with seven hypermarkets and one mall. Apart from this, our state-of-the-art logistics centre spread around 400,000 square feet, and trading and distribution through the centre not only supports our retail expansion but also help in ensuring food security. Our expansion plans are firm and we will open our new project in the Muharaq Central Market by second quarter of next year," Mr Yusuffali said on the occasion. | See page 10

Googoosh set to rock Bahrain

A poster during the seventies when Googoosh came to the Kingdom for a live show.



TDT | Manama

Iranian legend, diva pop singer Googoosh will perform in a historical live show in Bahrain on March 8, 2019, as part of the Spring of Culture events.



Googoosh

The singer hogged the limelight for her opposition to Iranian regime and had to eventually leave the country in the year 2000.

Googoosh, born in 1950 was also an actress. She achieved the pinnacle of her fame and success towards the end of the 1970s. Her overall impact and contributions to Iranian pop made her the most iconic female pop singer.

She has recorded songs in multiple languages such as Persian, Azerbaijani, Turkish, English, Spanish, Italian and French.

Following the Iranian Revolution in 1979, she is famously known for remaining in Tehran until 2000 and not performing again due to the ban on female singers.

Still, her following grew. Younger Iranian people have rediscovered her music via bootleg recordings.

Outside Iran, she has a significant following in many other Middle Eastern as well as Central Asian countries, and has even caught the attention of European and African media and press.

New govt sworn in

His Majesty wishes the new Cabinet all success

Manama

The new government took the Constitutional oath before His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at Sakhir Palace yesterday.

HM the King yesterday received HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The ceremony began with HRH the Premier presenting

The new government would assume its responsibilities ahead of the start of the fifth legislative term.

HIS MAJESTY

members of the new government to HM the King.

HM the King gave a keynote speech, in which he welcomed the new government members

and congratulated them on the formation of the new government.

He said the new government would assume its responsibilities ahead of the start of the fifth legislative term, during which more achievements are expected to meet the future national goals of Bahrain and the royal ambitions of providing citizens with respectable services and achieving financial balance to promote the national economy.

Continued on page 2

Snakes seized from home



Thirteen large snakes and 29 other reptiles were seized by the local police from a house in Issa, the Public Prosecution said yesterday. The man who owned these snakes and reptiles was arrested and is being interrogated. The police move follows complaints by residents of the neighbourhood.

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03 Global Volunteer Day marked

04 Strong Thai ties lauded



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Valuing your Trust

His Majesty receives US Vice-Chief of Naval Operations

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, yesterday received, at Al Sakhir Palace, Admiral William Francis Moran, US Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

HM the King hailed solid historic relations and strong partnership binding Bahrain and the US, lauding decades-old ties which are based on trust, respect and joint co-operation for the sake of mutual goals and interests.

HM the King lauded the steadily-growing relations and hailed defence and military ties, stressing joint keenness on further developing ties. He expressed condolences on the death of Vice Admiral Scott Stearney, Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command and Commander of US Fifth Fleet.

He paid tribute to late Vice Ad-



His Majesty receives Admiral William Francis Moran.



His Majesty receives family members of deceased Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command Vice Admiral Scott Stearney.

miral Scott Stearney for his dedicated contribution to strengthening joint cooperation, extending

appreciation and condolences to all US Fifth Fleet personnel. HM the King and the US Vice

Chief of Naval Operations exchanged views regarding issues of mutual concern on the region-

al and international arenas. Regional developments were also discussed.

In another development, His Majesty received, at Al Sakhir Palace, the family of Vice Admiral Scott Stearney, Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command and Commander of US Fifth Fleet, who died a few days ago.

HM the King offered condolences to the mother, wife, brother, two sons and daughter of Vice Admiral Scott Stearney, hailing his dedicated efforts and contribution to strengthening solid relations binding Bahrain and the US, as well as their friendly peoples.

HM the King welcomed them in Bahrain, extending condolences to all the family and friends of late Vice Admiral Scott Stearney.

The family of Vice Admiral Scott Stearney expressed deepest thanks to HM the King for his condolences and sympathy, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.



The new government took the constitutional oath before HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at the Sakhir Palace. This came as HM the King yesterday received HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister. HRH the Premier presented members of the new government to HM the King. HM the King gave a keynote speech, in which he welcomed the new government members and congratulated them on the formation of the new government.

Previous govt thanked

Continued from page 1

HM the King thanked the previous government members for their sincere and honourable efforts exerted in the interest of Bahrain.

HM the King wished the new government success in taking on responsibilities in the service of the homeland and citizens.

HRH the Prime Minister stressed resolve to push on with modernisation and development process to translate the royal directives.

He appreciated HM the King's words in praise of the government, which is an impetus for giving additional efforts and more achievements.

HRH the Premier pointed out commitment to intensify development efforts, affirming that achievement is the next stage title.

He underlined that the government has always prioritised citizens and highly appreciated their honourable stances, emphasising keenness to turn their aspirations into reality.



HRH Prince Salman swears in as the First Deputy Prime Minister.



HRH Prince Khalifa swears in as the Prime Minister.

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Strong Thai ties lauded

HRH the Premier attends ceremony marking Thai National Day

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa hailed strong bilateral relations and steadily growing cooperation binding Bahrain and Thailand.

He extended congratulations to Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha and the friendly Thai people on their country's National Day, wishing them further progress and prosperity.

HRH the Premier made the statement as he attended yesterday a ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza marking the Thai National Day.

Thai Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Thanis Na Songkhla hosted the ceremony, which was attended by senior officials, ambassadors accredited to Bahrain, journalists, media figures and invitees.

HRH the Premier stressed his keenness on attending the ceremony, hailing strong bilateral relations with the Kingdom of Thailand and its friendly people.

He hailed the advanced level



HRH the Premier with Mr Thanis Na Songkhla along with a group of children in traditional Thai dress at the ceremony.



HRH the Premier being received at the ceremony venue.

of cooperation between Bahrain and Thailand in all fields, which reflects outstanding bilateral relations, based on understanding and mutual respect.

He reiterated Bahrain's keenness on expanding the scope of

cooperation in various sectors, to consolidate joint partnership and meet shared aspirations between the two friendly countries and peoples.

He recalled the successful visit of Thai Prime Minister General

Prayut Chan-o-cha to Bahrain last year, hailing the outstanding results which consolidated bilateral relations.

HRH the Premier hailed the role of the Thai community in supporting development in the

Kingdom of Bahrain, expressing respect and appreciation of their dedicated efforts.

Thai Ambassador Thanis Na Songkhla thanked HRH the Premier for gracing the ceremony, hailing his keenness on strength-

ening joint cooperation.

He reiterated his country's keenness on expanding the aspects of cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain for the sake of the two friendly countries and peoples.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday received the Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group International, Yusuffali MA at Gudaibiya Palace. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince emphasised Bahrain's efforts to further increase the private sector's contribution to the economy, in a dynamic and competitive environment. HRH the Crown Prince also highlighted the Kingdom's policies towards the continuous development of efficient regulation and forward-looking innovation as enabling mechanisms of economic growth.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received members of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Crown Prince welcomed AJC's visit and emphasised the importance of building bridges among cultures and faiths. HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the long-standing Bahrain-US ties, underpinned by a joint and ever-growing commitment to further advance cooperation at all levels.

Experts to share views at global social media forum

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Under the patronage of Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, the World Social Media Club will organise their sixth Social Media Forum with the strategic partnership of Tamkeen Bahrain; in association with UNDP Bahrain.

The forum which will be held on December 8, under the title "Yala Suchal" will see the participation of international experts from Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the US, the UAE, Oman and Bahrain, where they be sharing their social media professional expertise.

"The patronage of the forum comes within the framework of keenness to encourage the Bahraini youth to benefit from the great potentials in various fields offered by social media and to promote the development



The forum comes as an initiative to ensure that Bahrain is placed on the global map of social media industry.

SHAIKH HISHAM

of young Bahrainis by adapting to modern technologies in the information and communications sector," organisers said.

"The forum comes as an initiative to ensure that Bahrain is placed on the global map of the social media industry. It also aims to provide a platform for individuals and companies to develop and open up of new markets to Bahraini entrepreneurs along with creating new emerging jobs in the field of social me-

dia, investing in the Internet age and social networking," Shaikh Hisham told Tribune.

President of the World Social Media Club Ali Sabkar said, "We would like to thank the Capital Governor for the patronage of the event. The forum is a practical and interactive forum built for the youth looking to become social media professionals by learning social media fundamentals, techniques and best practices."

Customs Affairs, WCO sign agreement

Manama

The Customs Affairs has signed an agreement with the World Customs Organisation to translate the second edition of the revenues document to Arabic.

The President of Customs Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa signed the agreement on the side-lines of his participation in the meeting of the General Policies Commission of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) that was held in India.

The agreement aims to enrich the customs-related documents in the library of the WCO with Arabic documents to be distributed among Arab countries to encourage building capabilities in the region.

The Customs Affairs has translated 16 new documents. The revenues document in-



Shaikh Ahmed signs the agreement with WCO official.

cludes all the tools and papers including conventions, agreements and training materials.

National Day preparations reviewed

Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa yesterday received a number of officials and citizens at the Governorate Majlis. The Governor highlighted the Governorates' keenness to participate in the national celebrations, calling on citizens to take part to express their loyalty to the homeland. He said a variety of activities would be organised to accentuate the Bahraini custom and heritage art. He paid tribute to the security efforts that contributed to the success of the elections 2018. The audience congratulated HH the Governor on the national celebrations, expressing delight in participating in them.

Towards a plastic-free Bahrain

As per the MoU, efforts will be on to popularise the use of Sain Bags

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The Bahraini authorities plans to ink a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indonesian Embassy to reduce plastic consumption in the Kingdom.

As per the MoU, efforts will be on to popularise the use of Sain Bags to contain the excess use of plastic bags.

Speaking to Tribune, Hardiyono Kurniawan, First Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Indonesian Embassy said, "The embassy plans to introduce Sain Bags manufactured by an Omani-Indonesian company.

"These eco-friendly bags are wholly made in Indonesia.

"The company was started in January 2018 by Indonesian PT Saesha Global and Omani Sain Bags, with an aim to reduce the waste created by plastic bags.

"Sain Bags is extremely pas-



Concerted efforts are needed to tackle plastic waste.

sionate about living greener, looking to make a difference, determined to fill the gap for organic, fully compostable bags promoting themselves in a green-

er, more eco-friendly way."

"At the moment, the company is pleased and proud to introduce the 100 per cent biodegradable and compostable bag to the MENA

region. The company hopes that soon they will see the end of plastic as more eco-conscious consumers carry around biodegradable and compostable bags."

Over the past few years we have had companies from Bahrain who are collaborating with companies from Indonesia to develop eco-friendly products.

MR HARDIYONO

"In this reference, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Manama will host Signing of a Co-operation Agreement between Sain Bags with Bahrain based company by the name of 3MH Trading Company on 8th of December 2018 at The Chancery of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia."

"Moreover, even though this is a co-operation at the business level the Embassy of Indonesia

is extremely happy to support this initiative. We believe that individuals need to start looking at the changing need of plastic and how they damage the environment."

"Over the past few years we have had companies from Bahrain who are collaborating with companies from Indonesia to develop eco-friendly products."

"We are very optimistic and look further to more business and manufacturing business collaborations to all level. The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Manama will always support the effort in preserving environment and sustainable development either at every level.

"Furthermore, the Embassy wishes that this co-operation can serve as benchmark in bilateral collaboration between the two brotherly countries in tackling environmental issues at business-to-business level," Mr Hardiyono added.

Focus on technology to protect temperature sensitive shipment

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Technology that delivers an innovative solution for protecting temperature sensitive shipment is one of the innovations under Brinc's IoT accelerator programme.

An IoT-based solution for issues faced for the cold chain logistics is one of the innovations from the teams under the Brinc's accelerator programme.

This was announced during a demo day held recently where three teams under the accelerator pitched their innovative IoT products to regional and international investors.

One of the teams under Brinc, Kenddah, traces temperature-sensitive shipments in real-time and notifies supply chain managers to prompt action during the shipping process.

Founded by Mohammad Shakhateh and Abdallah Alawneh, the IoT device uses roaming cellular connection to inform the concerned parties through automated SMS, emails, and recorded calls when the temperature of a shipment exceeds the specified limits.

Other teams that pitched dur-



EDB Managing Director Simon Galpin speaking during the event.

ing the demo day were Zerek Technologies and Kanoq. Zerek Technologies designs and manufactures IoT products for enterprises, connecting workers of enterprises to decision makers using sensing, computing and analytics technologies. Kanoq offers data-driven safety monitoring solutions in industrial applications like oil pipelines and autonomous vehicles.

Founded by Eyad Al Nuweiri and Ahmed Shalash, the infrastructure platform Nervius connects all assets in oil and gas operations

Brinc, an international pre-seed accelerator, manufacturing management provider, and

We are interested in any sort of start-ups that are doing IoT based products. Our focus is to help them with market validation, financial outlook and also their technical side.

MR YASIN

distribution platform based in Hong Kong with offices in Barcelona, Guangzhou, Bahrain, and Poznan.

In July 2018, Brinc launched in Bahrain, offering investment,

education, mentorship, services, prototyping tools and co-working space start-ups.

"We are interested in any sort of start-ups that are doing IoT based products. Our focus is to help them with market validation, financial outlook and also their technical side. Brinc is now four and half years old, we have looked at 5,000 applications and taken into our pre-programme about 150 of them and we have invested in 48 companies and by the end of this year will be almost 65," said Yasin Aboudaoud, Chief Development Officer and Head of Brinc MENA had previously told Tribune.

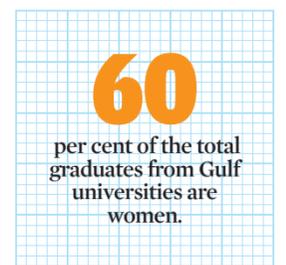
Study cites efforts by GCC govts to end gender disparity

Manama

A recent research study revealed that women in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States share some commonalities with women in other cultures, such as experiencing a lack of time and opportunities, often valuing relationships over creative work, and prioritising endeavours that put the family first.

The study pointed out that "women in the Gulf region have their own unique challenges related to their social context. Difficulties in travelling without permission from their families, limited opportunities for training and skill development, lack of social support, and not being able to make major decisions in their life--such as whom they are going to marry - are just a few examples of challenges faced by GCC women."

The study cited the "efforts that have been made by the GCC governments in the last two decades to offer social support for women". This support includes creating or modifying legislation to increase women's engagement in society. For example, Saudi women were recently allowed to drive for the first time in history. Another facet of governmental support is evident in the establishment of official



institutes to ensure equal opportunities for women.

It pointed out that "GCC governments have made great effort to ensure equal opportunities for women in education and scholarships; therefore, it is not surprising that women comprise about 60 per cent of the graduates from Gulf universities".

However, despite this support for women's education, women in the GCC represent only 25pc of the labour force, according to the World Bank. "As in some Western countries, women's underrepresentation in the work force is largely due to parent's expectations for their daughters; that is, women should get married and have children."

In nutshell, women in the GCC have more support now than ever; they are highly educated, although society might not fully and directly benefit from its investment in women's education due to some cultural expectations, the study said.

WORLD
world

Papua mass killings: Hunt on for suspects

● Two dozen construction workers were killed

● TPNPB facebook said it has killed 24 workers

● Many Papuans view Indonesia as a colonial occupier

AFP | Wamena, Indonesia

Indonesian soldiers hunted yesterday for rebels suspected of killing as many as two dozen construction workers in restive Papua province, as an eyewitness account supplied by the military described a grisly mass execution.

The survivor's account detailed the killing of at least 19 people, which if confirmed would mark the deadliest bout of violence in years to hit a region wracked by a low-level independence insurgency.

A Facebook account purportedly run by the National Liberation Army of West Papua (TPNPB) said the armed group



Indonesian military shows alleged survivors in Wamena, Papua province, of an alleged killing in Nduga a day before

had killed 24 workers on the orders of regional commander Ekianus Kogoya.

Authorities have yet to confirm how many were killed in the weekend attack, but the military said 15 bodies that have been recovered would be flown by helicopter to the town of Timika on Thursday.

Yesterday, some 150 military personnel were focusing their operation at Nduga, a remote

mountainous region where a state-owned contractor has been building bridges and roads as part of efforts to boost infrastructure.

Many Papuans view Indonesia as a colonial occupier and its building work as a way to exert more control over an impoverished region that shares a border with Papua New Guinea, an independent nation.

Indonesian President Joko

Widodo said he backed the hunt for those behind what he described as the "alleged assault".

"I have ordered the chiefs of the military and national police to chase and arrest all the perpetrators of these barbaric and inhumane acts," he told reporters in Jakarta.

Police and military teams sent to the area on Monday came under rebel gunfire with one soldier killed and another wounded in the firefight, authorities have said.

Four workers -- including three suffering gunshot wounds -- were among a dozen civilians who have been evacuated from the area so far.

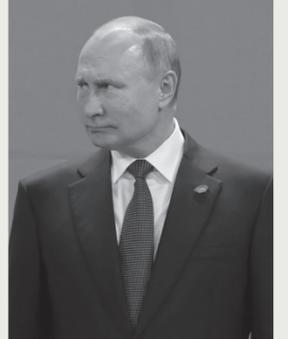
The military supplied an account from one survivor identified by his initials "JA" who claimed about 50 rebels entered the workers' camp on Saturday and led them away with their hands tied behind their backs.

The following day, the rebels shot dead a group of workers, while some tried to escape, the account said. The attackers allegedly recaptured six workers and slit their throats, according to the uninjured witness, who said at least 19 employees had been killed in all.

Putin rejects US claim Russia breaking treaty

“First the American side stated its intention to withdraw from the treaty... then it began to look for the justifications for doing so

VLADIMIR PUTIN
Russia's President



Moscow, Russia

President Vladimir Putin yesterday dismissed US claims Russia is violating a major Cold War treaty limiting mid-range nuclear arms, as a senior general lashed out at Washington's attempts to "contain" Moscow.

The tense rhetoric comes a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington would withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty (INF) within 60 days if Russia does not dismantle the missiles that the US claims breach the deal.

"First the American side stated its intention to withdraw from the treaty... then it began to look for the justifications for doing so," Putin said in comments carried by Russian news agencies.

"The primary justification is that we are violating something. At the same time, as usual, no evidence of violations on our part has been provided," he said.

The comments echoed earlier statements from the Russian foreign ministry, which dismissed the accusations against Moscow as "groundless".

In October, President Donald Trump sparked global concern by declaring the United States would pull out of the deal and build up America's nuclear stockpile "until people come to their senses".

But on Monday, the US leader said he wants talks with Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping "to head off a major and uncontrollable



Signed in 1987 by then US president Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, the INF resolved a crisis over Soviet nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles targeting Western capitals.

arms race".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said facts had been distorted "in order to camouflage the true goal of the US withdrawing from the treaty".

Meanwhile, the Russian Army Chief of Staff Vasily Gerasimov said that Moscow would increase the capabilities of its ground-based strategic nuclear arms.

"One of the main destructive factors complicating the international situation is how the US is acting as it attempts to retain its dominant role in the world," he said in comments released by the defence ministry.

"It is for these purposes that Washington and its allies are taking comprehensive, concerted measures to contain Russia and discredit its role in international affairs."

Rrecord with a Dead Sea of plastic bags

Kathmandu, Nepal

Young Nepalis created a map of the Dead Sea with used plastic bags yesterday in a bid to set a new international record and raise awareness about the vast volumes polluting the world's oceans.

Volunteers tied 100,000 colourful used plastic bags on a metal grid 20 metres (65 feet) long and five metres (16 feet) tall, shaped like the Dead Sea, on open ground in Kathmandu's city centre.

The record attempt was organised with a slogan "One Dead Sea is enough for us".

"We decided to tie plastic bags and make a sculpture of the Dead Sea to spread awareness over the world to minimise waste of plastic," Surgeon BC of Stem Foundation Nepal, the group that organised the event, said.

Global plastic production has grown rapidly, and is currently more than 400 million tonnes per year.

It is estimated that two to five percent of plastics wind up in the oceans, where much of it breaks down into tiny particles that harm marine life.

"We hope this effort will help to keep seas clean and not let them become another dead sea," he said.

Over 150 volunteers worked for months to collect and sort used plastic bags from schools and public areas. Among the participants was 20-year-old

environment student Prakriti Pandey.

"I had heard news that plastic was found inside a dead whale, so I felt I should join this initiative to spread awareness around the world and in my country," she said.

The current record for the world's largest sculpture of plastic bags was set in April 2012 when over 200 Singaporean volunteers shaped 68,000 plastic bags in the shape of an octopus, according to Guinness World Records. The Nepalese group said it will now submit its claim with video evidence for a new record to Guinness.



Nepali volunteers tie up recycled plastic bags to make a sculpture shaped like the Dead Sea to set a new world record for the largest sculpture made out of recycled plastic bags, in Kathmandu

British middleman held in India over chopper deal

New Delhi, India

The alleged British middleman in a dicey helicopter deal between India and an Anglo-Italian firm was remanded in custody yesterday after being extradited by the UAE, authorities said.

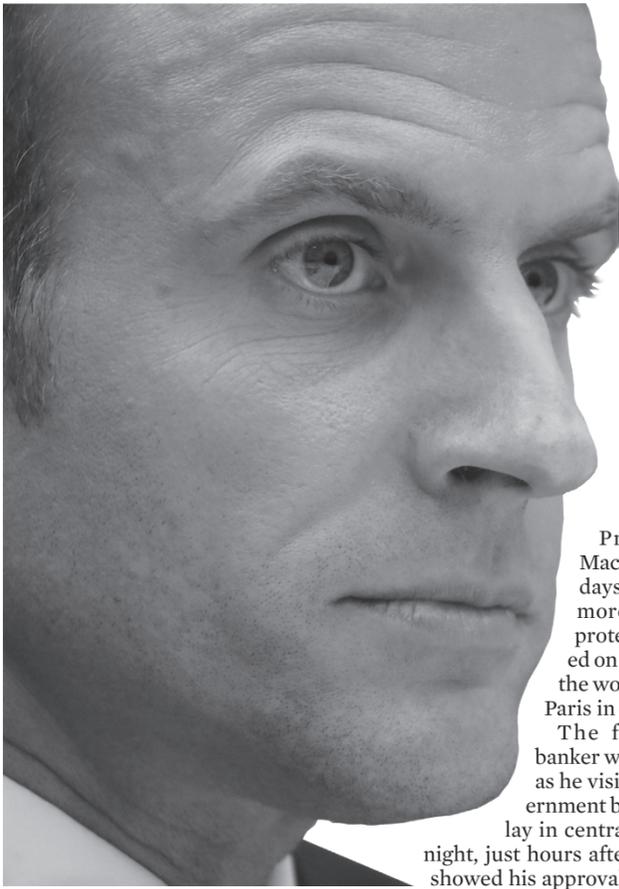
Christian Michel James is accused of arranging kickbacks to Indian officials to secure a deal for AgustaWestland to supply New Delhi with 12 helicopters for 556 million euros (\$630 million) in 2010.

Brought in from the United Arab Emirates late Tuesday, James appeared in a Delhi court amid tight security.

He will remain in police custody initially for five days and be allowed to meet his lawyer for one hour twice a day during this period, lawyers said.

Italian prosecutors suspect illegal sweeteners worth about 10 percent of the contract, or some 55 million euros, were paid out in bribes. India cancelled the deal in January 2014.

James, who in previous interviews with Indian newspapers denied any wrongdoing, was detained in Dubai in February 2017 following an Indian arrest warrant and an Interpol notice.



Macron's worries continue

● **Announces more concessions to pacify 'yellow vest'**

● **Mulls cutting tax for high earners**

● **Protest began on Nov 17 against fuel taxes**

AFP | Paris, France

The French government signalled yesterday that it was prepared to make further concessions to "yellow vest" protesters, even raising a possible rollback on a controversial move to cut taxes for high earners last year.

President Emmanuel Macron faces a crucial few days as he seeks an end to more than two weeks of protests which degenerated on Saturday into some of the worst violence in central Paris in decades.

The former investment banker was heckled by a crowd as he visited a burned out government building in Puy-en-Velay in central France on Tuesday night, just hours after a new opinion poll showed his approval rating at just 23 percent.

The so-called "yellow vest" protests began on November 17 in opposition to rising fuel taxes, but they have since ballooned into a broad challenge to Macron's pro-business agenda.

One of the frequent demands from the protesters, who are mostly from rural or small-town France, is a repeal of Macron's move last year to cut the ISF "fortune tax" which was previously levied on high-earners. "If something isn't working, we're not dumb, we'll change it," government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux said on RTL radio on Wednesday morning, saying the wealth tax would be evaluated between now and late next year.

Macron, 40, made the issue one of his key campaign pledges ahead of his election in May 2017, arguing that punitive taxes on the wealthy discouraged job creation and led many entrepreneurs to leave France.

Griveaux stressed that re-instating the

ISF "is not on the table for now," but Equality Minister Marlene Schiappa said she would argue to bring it back unless the tax cut could be shown to be effective.

"The government has been too technocratic and took too long to respond" to the protests, she told France 3 television Tuesday in a withering assessment of the management of the current political crisis.

U-turn on taxes

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced the first major U-turn of Macron's presidency when he suspended for six months a rise in fuel taxes scheduled for January 1.

Griveaux stressed that the tax hikes could be scrapped permanently if no agreement was reached during consultations over the next six months.

"We're not in politics to be right. We're in politics so that things work out," he said.

A source in the prime minister's office also told AFP that "the government has not necessarily played all of its cards", with further concessions such as a further cut in residence taxes possible.

Many "yellow vest" protesters, named after the high-visibility jackets they wear, have said that Philippe's rollback on fuel taxes is not enough and have called for new protests in the capital on Saturday.

Two truck driver unions have also called an indefinite sympathy strike to begin Sunday night, and the protests have spread to dozens of schools nationwide as students denounce tougher university entrance requirements.

US soldier gets 25 years in prison for backing ISIS

Los Angeles, United States

A US soldier based in Hawaii was sentenced on Tuesday to 25 years in prison for attempting to provide support to the Islamic State group also known as ISIS.

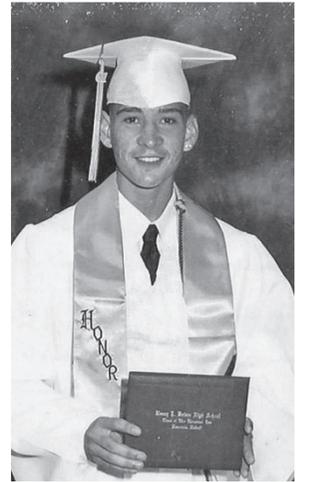
Ikaika Erik Kang, 35, whose sentence was part of a plea agreement, will also be under at least 20 years of supervised release after he completes his prison term.

"Kang swore to defend the United States as a member of our military, but betrayed his country by swearing allegiance to ISIS and attempting to provide it material support," John Demers, assistant attorney general for national security, said in a statement.

According to authorities, Kang, a sergeant in the US Army, became sympathetic to ISIS by at least early 2016 and regularly watched propaganda videos published online by the terror group while expressing a desire to become a member.

Prosecutors said he spoke in detail about committing specific acts of violence including launching attacks at public gatherings such as the Honolulu Christmas Parade and planning a suicide bombing at his army barracks.

In June and July of last year, he met with undercover FBI agents posing as people with connections to ISIS and



Ikaika Erik Kang, 34, continued to serve in the Army for years after expressing support for ISIS (Courtesy of Daily Mail)

provided them with sensitive material.

He also supplied the agents with a small aerial drone and military-style clothing and gear.

On another occasion, he provided two undercover FBI employees -- one pretending to be a high-ranking ISIS leader and another an ISIS fighter -- with a two-hour combat training session to hone their fighting and marksmanship skills.

Kang was arrested after he swore allegiance to ISIS during a ceremony conducted by the purported ISIS leader.

Einstein letter doubting God auctioned for \$2.89 million

New York, United States

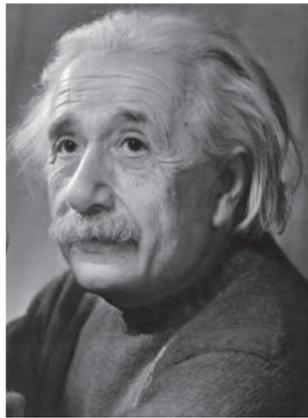
A handwritten letter by Albert Einstein in which the physicist doubts the existence of God was auctioned Tuesday for \$2.89 million.

It was a record for an Einstein letter and far surpassed its estimated value of \$1.0-1.5 million,

Christie's said. A 1939 letter in which Einstein warned then president Franklin D. Roosevelt about Germany's atom bomb preparations was auctioned for \$2.1m in 2002. In the letter sold on Tuesday, dated 1954 and written in German to philosopher Eric Gutkind, Einstein said he did not believe in God.

"The word God is for me nothing but the expression and product of human weakness," Einstein wrote.

"The Bible, a collection of venerable but still rather primitive legends." The letter was last sold in 2008 to a private collector for \$404,000, Christie's said.



Bulgaria says will not join UN migration pact

Sofia, Bulgaria

Bulgaria's government confirmed on Wednesday that it would not join the United Nations pact for better regulating worldwide migration, set to be adopted later this month.

"The government decided that Bulgaria will abstain from joining the Global Compact

for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration," said a government statement.

Bulgaria would not send representatives to the December 10-11 conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, at which the pact is set to be formally adopted, the statement added. And it would abstain at the UN general assembly vote to affirm the pact.

In a first, baby born via uterus transplanted from dead donor

AFP | Paris, France

In a medical first, a mother who received a uterus transplant from a dead donor gave birth to a healthy baby, researchers reported yesterday.

The breakthrough operation, performed in September 2016 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, shows that such transplants are feasible and could help thousands of women unable to have children due to uterine problems, according to a study published in The Lancet.

The baby girl was born in December 2017, the medical journal added.

Until recently, the only options available to women with so-called uterine infertility were adoption or the services of a surrogate mother.



This baby girl, shown shortly after birth with her doctors in Brazil, is a medical first. Her mom is the first woman to give birth with the help of a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor. (Courtesy of sciencenews)



The breakthrough operation, performed in September 2016 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, shows that such transplants are feasible and could help thousands of women

The first successful childbirth following uterine transplant from a living donor took place in 2014 in Sweden, and there have been 10 others since then.

But there are far more women in need of transplants than there are potential live donors, so doctors wanted to find out if the procedure could work using the uterus of a woman who had died.

Ten attempts were made -- in the United States, the Czech Republic, and Turkey -- before the success reported yesterday.

Infertility affects 10 to 15 percent of couples. Of this, one in 500 women have problems with their uterus that prevent them from becoming pregnant and carrying a child to term.

"Our results provide a proof-

of-concept for a new option for women with uterine infertility," said Dani Ejzenberg, a doctor at the teaching hospital of the University of Sao Paulo.

He described the procedure as a "medical milestone".

The 32-year-old recipient was born without a uterus as a result of a rare syndrome.

Four months before the transplant, she had in-vitro fertilisation resulting in eight fertilised eggs, which were preserved through freezing.

The donor was a 45-year-old woman who died from a stroke. Her uterus was removed and transplanted in surgery that lasted more than ten hours.

Mother and baby left the hospital three days later.

Trouble looms for Mexico's new president

The new leader will face many challenges, starting with his American counterpart. Damage control will be his first task



JORGE G CASTANEDA

Amid nervous financial markets, a buildup of thousands of Honduran migrants in Tijuana eager to enter the United States, pressure from the Trump administration on immigration and doubts over the eventual ratification of the new United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement by the United States Congress, Andrés Manuel López Obrador was inaugurated on Dec 1 as Mexico's new president.

López Obrador is only the fifth democratically elected president in the country's history, but he received a broad mandate for change last July. He takes office during a troubled era in relations between Mexico and the United States, ushered in two years ago when Donald Trump entered the White House.

The new Mexican leader will have to concentrate on damage control – because Trump has done a great deal of damage. The danger is that AMLO, as he is widely known, might well aggravate that damage. He is not well equipped for this challenge.

Trump upended more than a quarter century of productive, if tense at times, relations between Mexico and the United States, symbolised by the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, that came into law in 1994. By insisting on negotiating a new trade agreement, now known as the USMCA, he introduced a large dose of uncertainty into the trade, investment and logistical cooperation between the two countries.

By threatening to build a wall, and actually deporting large num-

bers of Mexicans from the heartland of the United States, Trump needlessly raised tensions on the border. By pressuring Mexico to intercept Central American refugees and dissuading or prohibiting them from requesting asylum in the United States and by radically slowing down asylum-processing at the border, he contributed to the creation of caravans. And by insisting on the war on drugs, he also accentuated Mexico's human rights and security crises, mainly created by the previous two Mexican presidents.

Relations came to such a low point that AMLO's predecessor, Enrique Peña Nieto, didn't visit Trump in the United States or meet with him as president in Mexico. This was the first time in the modern history of bilateral relations.

López Obrador has to deal with this situation, and doing so will not be simple.

He is restricted from the left by his old-style, chip-on-the-shoulder nationalism, his radical base and the perception in Mexico that the outgoing president kowtowed to Washington all too often. He is pressured from the right by politicians concerned with Mexico's weakening economy (a battered peso and a wilting stock exchange), its integration with the United States and the country's vulnerability to any type of Trumpian retaliation for perceived or existing sins.

The immigration dilemma will top AMLO's to-do list. It involves Mexicans in the United States, those still leaving Mexico in large, though smaller, numbers and mainly Central Americans, fleeing from violence and poverty in their countries.

The Honduran caravan held up at Mexico's northern border is a symptom of this challenge. López Obrador may accept Washington's demands for Mexico to act as a



Andrés Manuel López Obrador at a press conference in Mexico City in July.

de facto safe third country, that is, where those seeking asylum in the United States are indefinitely "parked," even if they do not wish to remain in Mexico (and Mexico is anything but a safe country for them). Or else, he faces the threat of border closings or Trump ripping up the USMCA, or both.

Next, the new president will have to ensure that current sanctions on Mexican steel and aluminium exports are removed and that the USMCA is something that the United States Congress will actually approve. With a new Democratic majority in the House, this will be a task more arduous than many believe. As happened 25 years ago, when President Bill Clinton had to struggle with his

The Mexican economy has collapsed at least four times over the past 40 years. It can happen to any country. But not all countries can prevent collapse, or fix it.

will require a Mexican concession, in annexes or side letters, or on separate issues.

Then, López Obrador may decide to go forward with his bold and praiseworthy ideas of legalising the recreational use of marijuana and poppy cultivation to produce painkillers in Mexico. The country imports legal morphine in large quantities and exports illegal heroin. If he proceeds this way, however, he may face serious reprisals by an American administration concerned about the opioid crisis and drugs in general.

Finally, López Obrador's sympathy for the regimes in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, given the United States' animosity toward them, will add more tensions to

the relationship. If AMLO and his team had any experience in handling these matters, or if Trump showed any inclination to back off on trade, immigration and drugs with Mexico, all of these disagreements could be managed, as they have been in the past. Neither of these two conditions exists today.

As long as nothing occurs that threatens Mexican economic stability, this state of affairs is regrettable but tolerable. But if a crisis, like Mexico's economic and financial meltdown in 1994-95, were to arise, neither the American president nor López Obrador is well-suited to confront it. Trump's constant manipulation of immigration issues for domestic politics and López Obrador's penchant for impetuous and poorly thought-through decisions work against the type of crisis management that both governments produced a quarter of a century ago.

Misguided policies like the cancellation of a new Mexico City airport by AMLO via popular referendum; the authoritarian drift seen in the militarisation of Mexican public safety and law enforcement; the sending of American troops to the common border by Trump, and his insistence on building a wall along the border and recklessly imposing trade sanctions all show just how trigger-happy both leaders can be.

The Mexican economy has collapsed at least four times over the past 40 years. It can happen to any country. But not all countries can prevent collapse, or fix it. López Obrador and Trump are on their own, together and terribly mismatched. Hoping that everything will work out is perfectly understandable, and perfectly naïve. Troubled times, indeed.

(Jorge G Castañeda, Mexico's Foreign Minister from 2000 to 2003, is a professor at New York University and a board member at Human Rights Watch.)

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Keep smartphones away from kids

If you go to a mall, coffee shop, or even a playground nowadays, you'll notice the youth staring down, almost zombie-like, at the glowing screens of tablets and smartphones.

According to research conducted by the Kaiser Foundation, children and teens use four to five times the recommended amount of technology – which sometimes leads to serious and often life-threatening psychological consequences.

Did you know that in tablet-owning households, seven out of 10 parents let their kids play with their tablets? And because of this, a team of researchers at University of Iowa have also discovered that by age two, 90 percent of modern children had a moderate ability to use a tablet.

It is quite common now for children to be addicted to their smartphones from an early age. It is truly



shocking to see that at the age when children should be learning things, going to school and developing, parents allow them to use smartphones for entertainment.

By letting the child use smartphones at a young age, parents forget that the developing brain of their child could be damaged. It will also have a negative impact on their child's social skills and health.

A Aziz

1957

Project Vanguard: A launchpad explosion of Vanguard TV3 thwarts the first United States attempt to launch a satellite into Earth orbit.

1967

Adrian Kantrowitz performs the first human heart transplant in the United States.



1969

Altamont Free Concert: At a free concert performed by the Rolling Stones, eighteen-year old Meredith Hunter is stabbed to death by Hells Angels security guards.

1971

Pakistan severs diplomatic relations with India, initiating the **Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.**



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Kerala's aviation sector is undergoing a revival. After a 3 year long hiatus, Calicut International Airport(CCJ) has become fully operational with the arrival of a wide-bodied aircraft.

@CMOKerala

02



....I am a Tariff Man. When people or countries come in to raid the great wealth of our Nation, I want them to pay for the privilege of doing so. It will always be the best way to max out our economic power. We are right now taking in \$billions in Tariffs. MAKE AMERICA RICH AGAIN

@realDonaldTrump

03



SCOOP: Understand PM Sand Chief Whip are discussing a new amendment to Meaningful Vote with Brexiteers today, which would provide a 'parliamentary lock' on the backstop, meaning it cannot be entered into without consent of MPs. Hoping this concession can win over backbenchers.

@PaulBrandtTV

04



Congratulations @EliudKipchoge for winning the 2018 IAAF Male Athlete of the Year Award. Your dominance in the marathon has not only propelled you to the history books of icons, but has also ensured Kenya remains a world leader in Athletics. We are very proud of you.

@UKenyatta

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

Whiteness have always depended on blackness

Despite criticisms and epistemological dangers, the future of whiteness studies remains hopeful



NASRULLAH MAMBROL

Whiteness studies investigate the parameters of white racial identity, locating its scope and function in systems of representation. This field of study takes as its founding premise the constructed nature of identity, a poststructuralist concept heralded by race theorists who argue that race itself is not a natural or biological category but rather a social construction given meaning through historical contexts. Whiteness Studies gained academic prominence in the 1990s after minority theorists such as Toni Morrison and bell hooks challenged white critics to examine their own 'racial' speaking position instead of solely focusing on the 'Other'. The rise of multiculturalism and the pluralisation of 'the canon' did much to further whiteness studies; as ethnic traditions gained visibility and strength, many critics questioned why texts written predominantly by white male authors had never been treated as 'white' texts but rather as 'universal' texts representing all people. This tendency of whiteness to occlude or erase markers of particularity is now recognised as one of its characteristics. Investigations in the field have spread from feminism, labour history and literary studies to cultural studies, psychoanalysis and beyond.

Whiteness studies also locates its historical origins in the first and second wave of Anglo-American feminism which, with its failure to attend to racial identity, enacted its own racial ideology. Instead of locating themselves as middle-class white women, activists and academics tended to focus on gender as the only significant axis of identity. In the early 1980s, women of colour such as bell hooks, Barbara Christian and Norma Alarcon among others protested widely, showing how racism pervaded the (white) women's movement that took as its primary subject, in its early years, the oppression and plight of (white) domestic housewives. Adrienne Rich suggests that early white feminists suffered from a type of 'white solipsism - not the consciously held belief that one race is inherently superior to all others, but a tunnel-vision which simply does not see non-white experience or existence as precious or significant' (1979, 306). French feminists, of course, were guilty of the same oversight. The privileging of gender as the initial site of op-

pression found its way into feminist psychoanalysis in which white feminist theorists argued that all other oppressions, such as race and class, find their origins in the recognition of sexual difference.

In the mid to late 1980s, white academic feminists responded in part by trying to build coalitions with women of colour or by shifting their attention from texts written by white women to those authored by minority writers. Such moves unfortunately left unexamined whiteness as a speaking position and inadvertently reactivated traditional hierarchies in which the 'Other' either became responsible for educating whites about the nature of her oppression or once again became the object of investigation. The real work on whiteness did not take place until writers such as Marilyn Frye and Peggy McIntosh sought to give voice to the nature of whiteness and white privilege. Frye offered what is now considered common sense to whiteness theorists. McIntosh outlined the contents of an 'invisible knapsack' of 'skin-colour privileges' benefiting those phenotypically white - again reminiscent of Du Bois's wage - including varied images in greeting cards, dolls, toys, etc. to curriculum materials, welcoming attitudes in middle-to upper-class neighbourhoods, wide representation in courts of law and police forces, and easy access to simple items appropriate for one's group such as hair care products and 'flesh' colour bandages (1990).

Whiteness tends to be 'subsumed into other identities', much like Hughes' equation of whiteness with 'American standardisation'; whites tend to identify themselves according to nation, region, gender or class, etc. rather than race so that the explicit characteristics of whiteness studies disappear behind the definitions of the 'norm'.

Coincident with Morrison's breakthrough in literary analysis was David Roediger's innovations in labour history. While Roediger's *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class* followed Alexander Saxton's *The Rise and Fall of the White Republic*, it made a more lasting impact on the field. Roediger refuses traditional marxist tendencies to privilege class over race, an act which erases the relational and integrated nature of the terms. He rejects the simplicity of earlier split-market labour theories which located fault with the ruling class for the promotion of racism. Roediger also makes a considerable contribution to interpretations of black minstrel-



While anthologies, panels, special issues and articles reveal an ardent enthusiasm to eradicate 'white skin privilege', their very existence may have the opposite effect in the academy.

sy. He argues that the popularity of minstrelsy in Northern cities in the early 1800s signalled a desire for a 'preindustrial past' which blacks represented. Driven by a capitalist regime that modern north american criticism and theory required more and more regimentation in daily living, white labourers turned to blacks to express their own desire for spontaneity. Roediger's work finds later comment in texts which more completely address the changing face of minstrelsy and the anxieties which surround white working-class masculinity.

Such early work on whiteness has resulted in a burgeoning of whiteness studies such that critics no longer separate race from gender or class. Advances have been made across the spectrum, most notably in gender and cultural studies. The meanings of white femininity have found critical comment, from histories on the construction of white womanhood during the suffrage, abolitionist and women's movements to contemporary investigations into the meaning of whiteness for white women in today's world. To a far greater extent, however, white straight masculinity

has attracted critical attention, with particular emphasis placed on a culture of white male victimhood which has emerged in response to advances in feminism, civil rights and economic changes that have disempowered the working-class white male since the 1950s. Reactions against affirmative action and gay rights legislation have helped fuel an image of white heterosexual manhood as under siege. Critics have tracked this image through the popular press, film and the predominantly white men's movement of the 1980s, unpacking the ways in which white masculinity is constructed as multivalent and contested. For example, in his inaugural study *White Guys: Studies in Postmodern Domination and Difference*, Fred Pfeil challenges the belief that white straight masculinity is a 'single, monolithic category... shot through with violence, megalomania, instrumental rationality, and the obsessive desire for recognition and definition through conquest' (1995, viii). He suggests it functions as a 'dialectical co-construction whose on-going identity is at least partially dependent on the very forms and modalities of femininity it seeks to dominate and control' (ix). He argues that like other identities, 'the modalities of white straight masculinity are multiple, and/or riven by contradictions and fissures, and and/or subject to flux and change' (x). Such advances in gender and race theory throw in question any easy opposition between races or genders and highlight the limits of multiculturalism. If all identities result from historical change, varying according to social context, it becomes difficult to maintain the oppositions that gave birth to whiteness studies as an area

of academic study.

While anthologies, panels, special issues and articles reveal an ardent enthusiasm to eradicate 'white skin privilege', their very existence may have the opposite effect in the academy. In 1997, Howard Winant charged that studies that aim to 'abolish whiteness' may actually preserve the category in order to transcend it. Most representative of such studies was Noel Ignatiev and John Garvey's activist/academic journal *Race Traitor*, an early 1990s series republished as an anthology in 1996. The authors sought to move beyond academic meditations on whiteness to actions individuals could take to 'abolish' the 'white club', 'which grants privileges to certain people in return for obedience to its rules' (1996). Winant's charge finds its echo in criticism of the rise of whiteness studies which suffers, many argue, from a certain narcissism, or willingness to dwell on racial subjectivity by those who are 'white', redirecting academic attention once again from margin to centre. Such an appropriation of margins offers white critics a new opportunity to enter the multicultural fray, having found a sanctioned enterprise for hawking academic wares on the marketable topic of race.

Despite such criticism and epistemological dangers, the future of whiteness studies remains hopeful. While many critics have investigated the ways whiteness depends on blackness for definition (either through contrast or appropriation of cultural forms), several now acknowledge the ways whiteness functions antithetically or multiply in relation to a range of other ethnic identities. The cultural studies arena has exploded with varied interrogations of whiteness in the popular media, from Rush Limbaugh talk shows to country music. In addition, critics working within gay and lesbian studies are helping shed the light on the long association of white maleness with heterosexuality. Finally, interesting work has emerged which looks at whiteness as a series of performative acts, whether that be in ethnographies, in which women of colour assume a white masculinist gaze in order to critique it, to the performance of whiteness on stage as a deconstructive act. The inventiveness of such strategies for 'seeing' whiteness bodes well for a future that may be textured and rich, one which moves beyond analyses of United States culture as vested completely within black and white dualities.

(Nasrullah Mambrol is an academician and blogger.)

business

Yusuff Ali has 'steady confidence' in Bahrain

LuLu Group opens its seventh hypermarket in Bahrain in the newly opened Atrium Mall in Saar

● The new hypermarket is Group's 156th store globally

● Next project in Muharaq Central Market

● More than 1,200 Bahrainis are working for the Group

TDI | Manama

Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group yesterday expressed his 'steady confidence' in Bahrain's bright future saying, "Our total investment in the Kingdom has already crossed BD125 million with seven hypermarkets and one mall."

The LuLu Group managing director also confirmed that the group's expansion plans are firm and are on course to open their new project in the Muharaq Central Market by the second quarter of next year.

"Apart from this, our state-of-the-art logistics centre spread around 400,000 square feet, and trading & distribution through the centre not only supports our retail expansion but also help in ensuring food security"



The 156th LuLu Hypermarket in Saar, Bahrain was inaugurated by Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy PM of Bahrain in the presence of Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Daij, President of Crown Prince Court, Zayed Al Zayani, Commerce & Industry Minister, Jameel Humaidan, Labour Minister, Kamal Ahmed, Minister of Transportation & Telecommunications, Yusuffali MA, Chairman of LuLu Group, Ambassadors of India, UK and a number of other dignitaries.

said Yusuff Ali MA during the opening of the group's latest Hypermarket in the newly opened Atrium Mall in Saar.

The opening brings the retail giant's total presence in the country to seven hypermarkets and one mall.

The opening of the 156th LuLu Hypermarket globally and the 7th in the country, Yusuff Ali M.A said, is a moment of great pride for us. "It is a sign of our steady confidence in the bright future of Bahrain and our commitment to be a part of the pro-

gress of the Kingdom".

The Hypermarket was officially inaugurated by Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy PM of Bahrain.

Located in Saar, close to the Saudi-Bahrain Causeway, the sprawling 100,000 square feet new hypermarket will serve residents of Budaiya, Hamala, Saar and Janabiya and is also well-positioned to cater to visitors from Saudi Arabia across the border.

Thanking His Majesty King

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and First Deputy Premier and the people of Kingdom for encouraging expansion strategies, he further said, "Our growth in Bahrain is powered by the vision of the leadership, the business-friendly economic environment and the ability of our Bahraini employees to absorb and fit into LuLu service model which puts customers above all."

1,200 Bahrainis work

Yusuff Ali reiterated LuLu Group's commitment to the government of Bahrain's training and employment goals for Bahrainis. "Our strong Bahraini workforce forms the nucleus of our operations here and is a key to our success," he said.

"We work closely with the Ministry of Labour to offer Bahrainis the requisite training to nurture their talent and are proud to say that Bahrain-

nis have proved successful in managerial and specialised positions not only in the Kingdom but across the LuLu network in other GCC countries as well. There are more than 1,200 Bahrainis who work in the Group and we will continue to support Government's Bahrainization plan by giving employment to more Bahrainis in our upcoming projects." Also present on the occasion were Saifee Rupawala, LuLu CEO, Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director, Juzer Rupawala, LuLu's Director for Bahrain and Egypt and other senior officials.

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There are more than 1,200 Bahrainis who work in the Group and we will continue to support Government's Bahrainization plan by giving employment to more Bahrainis in our upcoming projects

YUSUFF ALI MA

CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LULU GROUP

HBL celebrates glorious 50 years in Bahrain



In pictures, scenes from a celebration held on the occasion of HBL completing 50 years in the Kingdom of Bahrain

TDI | Manama

HBL, Pakistan's largest bank, celebrated completing 50 years in Bahrain, in a special ceremony held at The Ritz Carlton Hotel.

The event attended by HBL customers, prominent businessmen and dignitaries was hosted by Muhammad Aurangzeb, President and CEO, HBL, along with the Bank's senior management.

Established in 1941 with over 1,700 branches, 2,000 ATMs, and

Established in 1941 with over 1,700 branches, 2,000 ATMs, and a customer base exceeding 11 million, it has a presence in over 20 countries.

a customer base exceeding 11 million, it has a presence in over 20 countries.

HBL's inception has been inextricably linked with the origin of Pakistan and consequently, it has always been an institution that has played a significant role in

the nation's economic progress.

With a rich heritage over 75 years, HBL is now looking towards an even brighter future with boundless opportunities.

Speaking at this occasion, Muhammad Aurangzeb, President and CEO, HBL, highlighted the

Bank's ongoing Business Transformation Programme, which includes an enhanced focus on getting the "right business" whilst upholding compliance standards that are in accordance with the international environment.

Bahrainis dominate APM Terminals' IPO

● 83pc of the applicants were Bahrainis

● KSA applicants representing 22pc

TD | Manama

Bahrainis dominated APM Terminals' IPO, which also saw applicants from 22 nationalities, according to a statistics released by SICO.

SICO, in a statement, said 83 per cent of the applicants were Bahrainis, with KSA applicants representing 22pc of the total value of the IPO.

"We also saw applicants from 22 nationalities including India (9.3pc), KSA (1.6pc), Egypt (1.0pc), the UK (0.7pc), Kuwait (0.6pc), and Oman (0.6pc) among others," said Wissam Haddad, Head of Investment Banking and Real Estate at SICO.

Statistics indicate that the BD11.880 million initial public offering attracted a broad investor base and strong demand from reputed family offices, international and regional asset managers, insurance companies and large corporations as well as a diverse retail base and corporates from across the region.

The 5.4 times subscribed public offering received a total of 827 eligible applications. Institutional applicants represented 88pc

APM Terminals Bahrain, IPO Applications by Nationality (Value of Applications Received)



■ Bahrain	63%
■ KSA	22%
■ Cayman Islands	4%
■ Kuwait	3%
■ Oman	2%
■ UAE	2%
■ UK	2%
■ India	1%
■ Other	0.4%

APM Terminals Bahrain, IPO Applications by Nationality (Number of Applications Received)



■ Bahrain	83.0%
■ India	9.3%
■ KSA	1.6%
■ Egypt	1.0%
■ UK	0.7%
■ Kuwait	0.6%
■ Oman	0.6%
■ Other	3.3%

by the value of applications and 11pc by the number of applications while retail investors (those applying for up to 100,000 shares) represented 12pc by the value of applications and 89% by the number of applications.

The average number of shares applied for per applicant was 979,000 for institutional investors and 15,910 for retail investors at an average value of BD 646,140 for institutional and BD 10,500 for retail investors.

"The IPO has once again put the spotlight on Bahrain as a vibrant investment destination that offers investors across the

region with new opportunities to take part in its growth story," said SICO CEO, Najla Al Shirawi.

SICO, acted as the mandated lead manager, underwriter, market maker and participating broker for the IPO, will provide price stabilization and market making services for APM Terminals Bahrain from the start of trading.

APM Terminals Bahrain will start trading on the Bahrain Bourse on December 9th under the symbol APMTB and the Constituent General Meeting will be held on December 13th at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain.

Gulf Air, Etihad Aviation in simulator training deal



Officials signing the deal

TD | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, has signed a contract with Etihad Aviation Training (EAT) to offer full flight simulator training to Gulf Air's Boeing 787 Dreamliner pilots.

The contract follows the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two companies at the Bahrain International Airshow in November.

As part of the agreement, Gulf Air will dry lease EAT's Full Flight Simulators at the training facility located in Abu Dhabi. The training will be conducted by Gulf Air instruc-

tors at the Etihad Training facility.

Gulf Air's Chief Operations Officer Captain Suhail Abdullameed Ismael said: "This is the start of ongoing projects with Etihad Airways and Etihad Aviation Training."

EAT currently boasts 11 Full Flight Simulators (FFS) including three Airbus A320 FFS devices and two Boeing 787 devices. The facility is expanding and will soon open a third B787 FFS device which will be available in Abu Dhabi to third-party customers.

In addition to the Abu Dhabi facility, EAT operates a flight training college located in Al Ain offering an extensive cadet pilot training programme.



Four Bahraini pilots who joined the airline from other neighbour airlines with Gulf Air officials during a group photo session. First officers Ali Ahmed, Falah Radhi, Arwa Janahi and Salman Shaikh were welcomed by Gulf Air's executive management in a dedicated ceremony held at Gulf Air's Muharraq headquarters. With over 65% of the airline's pilots being Bahraini, Gulf Air leads the way amongst its regional competitors in terms of nationalization



'Sayed Mohamed Alawi Majeed' the first shareholder who has completed the subscription on the eIPO platform on Bahrain Bourse, during a ceremony held at Bahrain Clear's premises in Bahrain Financial Harbour. Also present were Abdulla Jaffar Abdin, the Senior Director of Operations at Bahrain Clear, and members of the executive management. The eIPO platform launched by Bahrain Clear in conjunction with the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of APM Terminals Bahrain, allows investors to complete their subscription in APM Terminal Bahrain IPO.

Al Baraka sets course for 2019, beyond



Officials participating in the conference during a photocall

TD | Manama

Top officials from Al Baraka subsidiaries and management have grouped together to set a strong and diligent action plan for the bank during 2019 and beyond.

The two-day conference which evaluates various strategic initiatives throughout the Group was attended by Country heads and CEOs from Al Baraka

subsidiaries and Senior management from the Head Office. Speaking on the occasion, Adnan Ahmed Yousif, the banks President & Chief Executive said that the bank has been largely successful in containing the effects of many a crises, thanks to the dedicated work, good organisation and careful planning of the management. He said the group has main-

tained a very strong position, and this is attributed to the geographical diversity in revenue resources, in addition to the group's capital strength and deep roots in the regional and global economy.

"Even though our ability to control or even influence external factors is very limited, we believe in working with a positive attitude, with all the com-

ponents of the group to increase our competitiveness, rationalize our costs, strictly adhere to the principles of Shari'a, focus on good standards of compliance and governance and promote digitization," he said.

Looking ahead, he said, "I am very confident that we have the necessary experience and skills to drive us towards the Goals we have set for ourselves for 2030."

Global markets sink

London, United Kingdom

European markets slid Wednesday on the back of sharp Asian losses and overnight on Wall Street, as concern grew over the US economic outlook, dealers said.

With Wall Street closed on a US national day of mourning for the funeral of former president George H.W. Bush, European stocks tanked as investors faced a raft of prob-

lems from trade to Brexit that erased the positive start to the week when sharp gains were made after the US and China appeared ready to dial down their trade war.

European markets were not cheered, however, with London, Frankfurt and Paris all off around one percent some two hours from the close as the uncertainty from Britain's ongoing Brexit saga continued unabated.

Key figures around 1500 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 1.0pc at 6,949.62 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.9pc at 11,233.60
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.9pc at 4,960.84
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.5pc at 21,919.33 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 1.6pc at 26,819.68 (close)
New York - Dow Jones:	CLOSED (Tuesday close 25,027.07 close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1333 from \$1.1343 at 2200 GMT
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 113.17 yen from 112.77
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2728 from \$1.2719
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▲ 24 cents at \$53.49 per barrel
Oil - Brent Crude:	▲ 22 cents at \$62.12

EDB's roadshow in India concludes on a high note

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's economic delegation concluded its roadshow in India on a high note with several leading Indian companies expressing their interest in strengthening their ties with companies in the Kingdom.

The visit was part of the EDB's efforts to attract investments to the Kingdom to contribute to the creation of jobs in the local market. The delegation's activities were centred in Mumbai, India.

Organised by the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) to promote investment opportunities in Bahrain, the delegation included officials from the EDB, the Central Bank of Bahrain and representatives of the private sector.

During the visit, Bahraini delegation met with officials from leading Indian companies, with ties to major international businesses, in the areas of trade, en-



Bahraini Economic delegation concludes promotional visit to India

tainment, financial services, Fintech, consultations, business solutions and ICT.

The EDB organised a business forum to discuss opportunities with around 100 Indian investors and sector representatives.

The visit also saw the sign-

ing of an agreement between the EDB and the Indian state of Maharashtra to create a framework for cooperation in the promotion of innovation in financial technology and to provide mutual support to the financial technology environment

through training programmes.

Dr Simon Galpin, Managing Director at Bahrain Economic Development Board, said: "I am very optimistic about the results of this roadshow that will pave the way to a strategic partnership on the government side and

between Bahraini and Indian businesses in vital sectors such as fintech, financial services, and ICT."

According to the latest statistics, trade between both countries has exceeded \$1 billion. Bahrain's industrial diversification policy has played a major role in boosting economic cooperation with India. Currently, there are more than 23 branches of Indian banks and companies registered in Bahrain, in addition to 3,181 joint ventures registered in Bahrain.

The Economic Development Board has attracted 76 companies with a total investment of BD305 million (\$810 million), surpassing the record achieved by the Board in 2017 when it attracted 71 companies with a total investment of BD276 million (\$733 million). Direct investments in the first nine months of 2018 were almost five times higher than investments in all of 2015.

China vows quick trade moves, Trump upbeat

Beijing, China

China vowed yesterday to move swiftly to strike a trade consensus with the United States -- to the apparent relief of US President Donald Trump after a day of mixed signals that sent global markets into a swoon.

"Very strong signals being sent by China once they returned home from their long trip, including stops, from Argentina," Trump tweeted.

The Chinese commerce ministry said negotiators will "actively push forward negotiations within 90 days in accordance with a clear timetable and roadmap" -- marking Beijing's first public acknowledgement of the deadline.

The ministry lauded Trump's talks with President Xi Jinping at the weekend as "successful" and said it was "confident" their agreement would be implemented. It vowed to start implementing "specific matters" -- saying "the sooner the better" -- but did not provide any details.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza receiving a delegation from SUEZ, a French company specialized in a number of industrial fields, headed by Pierre Pauliac, its Chief Executive Officer of the Middle East. The minister welcomed the delegation, which expressed their desire to learn about Bahrain's experience in the field of waste management and the production of electric energy, and their desire to establish cooperation between the two parties.



Reem Al Bastaki of Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company during an award ceremony held for the winners of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) Awards for excellence in the Oil and Gas industry. Al Bastaki was honoured as the Young ADIPEC Engineer for 2018 after competing with 488 engineers from 172 companies in 32 countries. The Award is given annually to young engineers who have the potential to become key contributors to the future development of the oil and gas industry and have the potential to reach senior management positions.

VAT in focus at Bahrain British Business Forum



From left, BDO Bahrain VAT specialist team: Marlon Appleton, Arshad Gadit, Smita Roy and Nath Venkitachalam

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain British Business Forum and BDO hosted a meeting at the Gulf Hotel Convention Centre to discuss the upcoming introduction of VAT in Bahrain. The meeting featured BDO Bahrain's VAT specialists Smita Roy, BDO Partner (Leader VAT) and Marlon Appleton, BDO Senior Manager

(VAT), as the guest speakers.

More than 130 BBBF members were given a presentation by Roy and Appleton, who provided the latest information from the Ministry of Finance about the implementation of VAT in Bahrain on 1 January 2019. The presenters also shared their collective experience from the implementation and practice of VAT in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the UK.

Roy said: "To avoid many of the pitfalls experienced by businesses in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, it is important for businesses to have an action plan for VAT readiness to ensure a smooth transition to VAT."

The meeting concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where the many concerns and questions regarding VAT by the audience were answered by the presenters.

'Awafi heritage festival' returns to Ras Al Khaimah

TDT | Ras Al Khaimah

Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority announced the return of the much anticipated "Awafi Heritage Festival" to the Emirate.

This year's edition, held at Al Qawasim Corniche, will run from 15 December 2018 till 15 March 2019 offering visitors three months of cultural festivities.

The "Awafi Heritage Festival", which celebrates the ethnic and cultural heritage of Ras Al Khaimah, will feature authentic displays and activations for



In pictures, scenes from the festival



the whole family to enjoy. From arts and crafts to cultural displays, children's activities, live entertainment and a traditional marketplace, festival goers will be able to immerse themselves in Ras Al Khaimah's local culture and experience it first-hand.

The festival, which is free to enter, will feature 54 retail kiosks with huge product displays, five food and beverage outlets offering scrumptious snacks and refreshments, an 800-square-metre children's playing area and live entertainment shows on stage every weekend.

Haitham Mattar, CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority said: "It attracts visitors from across the UAE and the wider GCC in celebration of Ras Al Khaimah's rich culture and heritage. This year, we look forward to welcoming our "culture seeker" guests and introducing them to Emirate's real feel of Arabia."

The Family friendly heritage festival will welcome guests 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday at these times: Weekdays: 4 PM - 10 PM/ Thu-Fri: 4 PM - 12 midnight.

SHOW



Kevin Hart

Kevin Hart to host Oscars

Reuters | Los Angeles

Comedian Kevin Hart will host next year's Oscar ceremony for the first time, the "Ride Along" actor said in an Instagram post on Tuesday. "I am so happy to say that the day has finally come for me to host the Oscars," Hart wrote. The Academy Awards are the film industry's highest honors. "So are we," the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which organizes the Oscars, responded on Twitter. "Welcome to the family." Hart, 39, who also starred in 2017 film "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" follows talk show host Jimmy Kimmel who took on the gig in 2018 and 2017. "I am blown away simply because this has been a goal on my list for a long time," Hart wrote on his Instagram page,

calling the job "the opportunity of a lifetime." "To be able to join the legendary list of hosts that have graced the stage is unbelievable," he added. The job of hosting the Oscars is one of the most prestigious but also most difficult in show business as hosts have to navigate expectations of the A-list audience in the theatre and millions tuning in on television, with a combination of topical and insider jokes. Hart, who is African-American, is one of just a handful of black Oscar hosts over the past 90 years, including Chris Rock, Whoopi Goldberg and Sammy Davis Jr. His selection comes at a time when the Academy is under pressure to increase diversity among its own membership, and among the films and performers nominated for Oscars. Viewership of the ceremony has fallen in recent years, prompting the Academy to pledge earlier this year to shorten the show by about 30 minutes.

Ariana Grande's "thank u, next" breaks viewing record

Reuters | Los Angeles

Ariana Grande's breakup anthem "thank u, next" has become the fastest music video to reach 100 million views, video hosting service Vevo said on Tuesday. The single, released after the 25-year-old singer's much publicized breakup with fiancé Pete Davidson, has also topped the Billboard charts for three weeks, giving Grande the biggest hit of her seven-year career. Vevo said the "thank u, next" video, in which Grande recreates scenes from popular women's empowerment movies "Legally Blonde" and "Mean Girls," reached 100 million views in under four days following its Nov. 30 release.

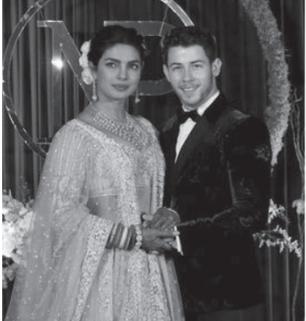


Ariana Grande

Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas celebrate wedding in Delhi

Reuters | New Delhi

Priyanka Chopra, star of Indian film and US television, and Jonas Brothers singer Nick Jonas celebrated their wedding at a glitzy reception in New Delhi on Tuesday, joined by celebrities ranging from India's prime minister to Hollywood stars. The event at a New Delhi hotel followed the couple's three-day long wedding celebration at a heritage Indian palace atop a hill in the western city of Jodhpur, which included cricket matches and Bollywood songs. The guest list on Tuesday's reception included Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who posed for pictures standing next to Chopra, who wore a sequined Indian outfit, and Jonas, who was



Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra and her husband singer Nick Jonas pose during a photo opportunity at their wedding reception in New Delhi. Chopra, 36, and 26-year-old Jonas were engaged earlier this year after a whirlwind courtship that began at an Oscars after-party last year. Chopra, a former Miss World, starred in three seasons of ABC's "Quantico", becoming the first Indian to headline a U.S. television drama. In India she is one of Bollywood's highest paid film stars.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JOHN PAUL S/O PAUL MATHEW, holder of Indian Passport No. **M9744932**, dated 07.12.2015 issued at BAHRAIN, having permanent residence at (full address in India) **Kodugudde House, Shirva Post, Udupi Taluk, South Karnataka, India**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **Flat No.1, Building No. 817, Road No. 3523, Block 335, Um Al Hassam**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **JOHN** (Surname) **PAUL**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, SUSAMMA RAJU W/O M D RAJU, holder of Indian Passport No. **H2332167**, dated 06.04.2009 issued at BAHRAIN, having permanent residence at (full address in India) **RINSA VILLA, KUDASSANAD PO., PANDALAM, ALLEPPEY DIST., KERALA**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **FLAT NO.21, BUILDING NO. 180, ROAD NO. 2903, BLOCK 329, SALMANIYA**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **SUSAMMA** (Surname) **RAJU**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, HAQIULLAH S/O MAJIBULLAH, holder of Indian Passport No. **R8311813**, dated 24.09.2017 issued at BAHRAIN, having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILL. DUMRI, PO. AMBARI, PS. RUDHAULI, BASTI**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **FLAT NO.12, BUILDING NO. 2194, ROAD NO. 5060, BLOCK 450, MUQASHA**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **HAQIULLAH** (Surname) **SHAIKH**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

MORTAL ENGINES (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER) NEW HUGO WEAVING, HERA HILMAR, ROBERT SHEEHAN OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM DAILY AT (VIP): 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT (VIP I): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: (12.45 MN THURS/FRI) SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM SAAR DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM	ROBOT 2.0 (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION/DRAMA) RAJINIKANTH, AKSHAY KUMAR, AMY JACKSON OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT (HINDI): 11.30 AM + 5.00 + 10.30 PM DAILY AT (3D) (TAMIL): 10.30 AM + 1.15 + 4.15 + 7.15 + 10.15 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (3D) (HINDI): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM DAILY AT (3D) (TAMIL): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT (3D) (HINDI): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM DAILY AT (3D) (TAMIL): 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM SEEF (I) DAILY AT (HINDI): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 4.00 + 7.00 + 10.00 PM DAILY AT (TAMIL): 10.30 AM + 4.30 + 10.30 PM DAILY AT (TELUGU): 1.30 + 7.30 PM AL HAMRA DAILY AT (TELUGU): 12.00 + 3.00 PM DAILY AT (TAMIL): 6.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT (3D) (HINDI): 2.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM	WIDOWS (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) VIOLA DAVIS, MICHELLE RODRIGUZ, ELIZABETH DEBICKI DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW SHAY MITCHELL, STANA KATIC, LOUIS HERTHUM OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) SAAR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM	CREED II (PG-13) (DRAMA/ACTION/SPORT) TESSA THOMPSON, MICHAEL B. JORDAN, SYLVESTER STALLONE OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN SAAR DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.45 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM	16-FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) EDDIE REDMAYNE, KATHERINE WATERSTON, DAN FOGLER CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
BEN IS BACK (15+) (DRAMA) NEW JULIA ROBERTS, LUCAS HEDGES, COURTNEY B. VANCE OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM SAAR DAILY AT: 9.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM	GREEN BOOK (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW VIGGO MORTENSEN, MAHERSHALA ALI, LINDA CARDELLINI OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM SAAR DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.30 PM WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 5.00 + 10.30 PM	VENOM (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) TOM HARDY, MICHELLE WILLIAMS, RIZ AHMED CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM
KEDARNATH (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC) NEW SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT, SARA ALI KHAN, NITISH BHARADWAJ OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM	THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW SHAY MITCHELL, STANA KATIC, LOUIS HERTHUM OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) SAAR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM	NIGHT SCHOOL (PG-15) (COMEDY) KEVIN HART, TIFFANY HADDISH, ROB RIGGLE CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.30 + 8.45 PM
FAHRENHEIT 11/9 (15+) (DOCUMENTARY) NEW DAVIUD HOGG, MICHAEL MOORE, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.15 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM	ROBIN HOOD (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) TARON EGERTON, EVE HEWSON, JAMIE FOXX OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 2.30 + 8.00 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN	EL BADLASH (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, MAJED EL MASRY, AMINA KHALIL CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 2.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 PM
WHITNEY (15+) (DOCUMENTARY/MUSICAL/BIOGRAPHY) NEW WHITNEY HOUSTON, BOBBY BROWN, CISSY HOUSTON DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.45 + 10.45 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM	INSTANT FAMILY (PG-15) (COMEDY) MARK WAHLBERG, ROSE BYRNER, OCTAVIA SPENCER OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 3.30 + 8.30 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT (VIP II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM	COLETTE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW KEIRA KNIGHTLEY, ELEANOR TOMLISON, DOMINIC WEST SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
CATS (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW LI YUFENG, YANG WEI, ZHOU HUIJIAN, ZHANG WEI OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.15 + 2.00 PM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 +	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (15+) (MUSICAL/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) RAMI MALEK, LUCY BOYNTON, GWILYM LEE OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 PM	BERNIE THE DOLPHIN (PG) (ADVENTURE/FAMILY) NEW LOLA SULTAN, LOGAN ALLEN SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15+3.15 + 5.15 PM
JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE) ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 3.15 + 7.15 + 11.15 PM	HUNTER KILLER (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) GERARD BUTLER, GARY OLDMAN, COMMON CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM	WEDY ATKALAM (PG) (ARABIC/KUWAITI/COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW KHALID AL-BURAIKI, LAILA ABDULLAH, JASIM AL-NABHAN SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 PM + 12.00 MN
		THE GRINCH (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ANGELA LANSBURY, BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH, RASHIDA JONES SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 1.15 + 5.15 + 9.15 PM
		HANNAH GRACE (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW SHAY MITCHELL, STANA KATIC, LOUIS HERTHUM SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
		KEDARNATH (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC) NEW SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT, SARA ALI KHAN, NITISH BHARADWAJ SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
		AANAKALLAN (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW BIJU MENON, SIDDIQUE, SURAJ VENJARAMOODU SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.45 PM
		EVANUKKU ENGEYO MATCHAM (15+) (TAMIL) NEW MIYA RAI, VIMAL, ASHNA ZAVERI SEEF (I) STARTING FROM FRIDAY 7TH: 12.15 + 6.00 + 11.45 PM

SPORTS
sports

Serena confirmed for Australian Open

Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray will also compete in the tournament in Melbourne

● Williams returned from giving birth to her first child to reach the 2018 Wimbledon and US Open finals

● Federer will be back to defend his title, along with long-time adversary Novak Djokovic

AFP | Melbourne

Serena Williams will make her return to the Australian Open for the first time since winning in 2017 when eight-weeks pregnant, it was confirmed yesterday, with virtually all the world's top 100 players due at Melbourne Park. That includes injury-prone Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray. Williams returned from giving birth to her first child to reach the 2018 Wimbledon and US Open finals, but suffered upset



Serena Williams plays a shot during a US Open match

losses in both to leave her stuck on 23 major wins. Australian Open organisers said she was among the entries for the opening Grand Slam of the year as she attempts to equal Margaret Court's record of 24. Her appearance will mark her

first major since her controversial rant at an umpire during the US Open final loss to Naomi Osaka, which overshadowed the Japanese star's biggest ever win. In the aftermath, Roger Federer said Williams "went too far". "Serena Williams, currently

ranked 16, will make her highly anticipated return to Melbourne for the first time since winning in 2017 when eight-weeks pregnant with baby Alexis Olympia," said tournament organiser Craig Tiley. The evergreen Federer will



The world's top 102 women and top 101 men have confirmed they will be playing in Australian Open

be back to defend his title, along with long-time adversary Novak Djokovic. Caroline Wozniacki defends the women's crown. Organisers said the world's top 102 women and top 101 men have all confirmed they will be playing. The only top-100 absentee from the women's draw is 74th-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland who recently announced her retirement.

Modric rewarded for 'wonderful year', says Solari



Luka Modric kisses the trophy after receiving the award

AFP | Madrid

Croatia midfielder Luka Modric was a deserved winner of the Ballon d'Or award after a "wonderful year" for both club and country, Real Madrid coach Santiago Solari said yesterday.

The 33-year-old Modric won a third straight Champions League title with Real and was the driving force in a Croatia team that reached the World Cup final.

"It's Modric's year. The focus has to be on him. He's had a wonderful year and he's given everything to Real Madrid and his national team," said Solari.

"It comes at a time of maturity in his career. It seems to me that at that age it's more beautiful because he can truly value it. We're all very happy with his prize."

Shaikh Khalid directs to form boxing team

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa has directed to form a national boxing team under the umbrella of KHK Boxing Organisation.

The move comes within the initiatives of the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Honourary President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation to support the local sports movement, and is a clear reflection of HH's concern about improving boxing sport in Bahrain and enabling it to take part in intercontinental and international competitions.

On the occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid stated: "We aim to create a strong base in Bahrain for this sport and achieve our vi-

sion to develop it and promote it internationally, similarly to the success achieved in MMA sports. We look forward for launching more initiatives to continue the efforts to leave a Bahraini impact on the international sports arena, in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain."

The team will act as a platform for local and international athletes to showcase their talents and abilities, to strengthen the Bahraini presence in international competitions and championships

HH Shaikh Khalid added: "We have set several goals by launching the National Bahraini Boxing Team, as we aim at making it the starting point for the Bahraini youth who are interested in this sport."

Wilder wants Fury rematch 'ASAP'

● Deontay Wilder said he is determined to give Tyson Fury a rematch ASAP after their heavyweight thriller in Los Angeles

AFP | Los Angeles

Deontay Wilder on Tuesday called for an immediate rematch with Tyson Fury, dismissing claims from his British rival he would attempt to avoid a return bout after their epic heavyweight duel in Los Angeles.

Wilder retained his World Boxing Council heavyweight crown on Saturday after a thrilling 12-round battle ended in a split decision draw at the Staples Center.

Fury, who many observers believe did enough to win despite being knocked down twice during the fight, said on Monday he feared Wilder would seek to duck a rematch "at all costs." However the 33-year-old Wilder on Tuesday rejected that claim in the strongest possible terms, saying a rematch with Fury was his priority rather than a unification bout with WBA, IBF and WBO champion Anthony Joshua.

"I'm ready to do it again," Wilder told reporters at a conference call.

"My main goal is Tyson Fury. I'm looking forward to giving



Tyson Fury (L) taunts Deontay Wilder in the ninth round fighting in their WBC Heavyweight Championship fight (file photo)

him the rematch as soon as possible. "This is the biggest fight still in the heavyweight division, this is the most exciting fight in the heavyweight division and we're ready to give the fans what they

want to see."

Wilder snatched a draw on Saturday after Fury somehow recovered from a devastating 12th round knockdown by the American champion to finish the fight on his feet.

Wilder said Tuesday he would make no mistake in any possible rematch.

"He woke up from hell -- I want to put him back there," Wilder said.

Fury, who only returned to boxing this year after nearly three years out of the ring as he struggled with depression, drink and drug problems, had said Monday he doubted Wilder would grant him a return.

"I've got a funny feeling he's going to get his running shoes

out and stay away from me at all costs," Fury said.

Rematch inescapable

However Wilder said a rematch was all but inescapable. "Both sides definitely want (a rematch) to happen. I don't see why we wouldn't. It's a great fight and the build-up has already started. We can't get away from this fight.

"It's only right for us to go back in and do it again. I don't want no other fights to happen between him or I before then. I want to give Tyson Fury the rematch ASAP."

Wilder, who on Saturday had spoken enthusiastically about a possible unification fight with Joshua, meanwhile poured cold water on the idea on Tuesday.



Man City survive late scare

Manchester City went five points clear at the top of Premier League after beating Watford

● Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola called on his side to learn from a nervy end to their victory at Watford

● Riyad Mahrez scored City's second goal the a 2-1 win

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola called on Manchester City to learn from a nervy finish to a seventh straight Premier League victory as a 2-1 win at Watford moved the champions five points clear of Liverpool at the top of the table.

City's goals came either side of half-time as Leroy Sane chested home before Riyad Mahrez doubled the visitors' lead early in the second period.

However, despite dominating for the majority of the game, Guardiola's men had to withstand a nervy finish after Abdoulaye Doucoure bundled in five minutes from time.

"We have in mind the last minutes, (in) the last minutes anything could happen," said Guardiola. "I think we played 65-70 minutes at a top, top level. "After 0-2 we lost a little bit our control. We suffered, but that is what it is.

"We have to learn from what happened in the last 20-25 minutes."



Leroy Sane of Man City scores the first goal past Ben Foster of Watford

Guardiola made six changes to his starting line-up despite also missing Sergio Aguero and Kevin De Bruyne through injury. Yet, City were still too strong for the dogged hosts with Watford thankful to goalkeeper Ben Foster for the visitors not racking up the 5-0 and 6-0 thrashings they did on their two previous visits to Vicarage Road.

"When I came to London I thought Big Ben was in the city but no, he is in Watford for us," said Watford manager Javi Gracia.

However, Gracia's side also had chances before the break against a City defence that appeared to miss Aymeric Laporte

as the Frenchman was rotated for the first time in the league this season.

"It was a good old Premier League game, as soon as they scored long balls start coming, they are extremely physical up front," said City captain Vincent Kompany.

"We managed the game pretty well. You can't win every game playing fantasy football."

Roberto Pereyra has already produced some spectacular goals for the Hornets this season and the Argentine was inches away from another when he curled just wide inside 10 minutes.

Foster then made great saves

to deny Sane and Mahrez when one-on-one, but the best stop of the opening half came down the other end when Ederson stretched out his left foot to block Troy Deeney's effort from point-blank range.

City finally broke through five minutes before the break when Mahrez's cross picked out Sane unmarked at the back post and he cleverly used his chest to power the ball below Foster.

Six minutes into the second half, the visitors struck again when Gabriel Jesus -- who endured another lean night in front of goal in the absence of Aguero -- at least made a contribution as a provider by pulling the ball



Last season Manchester City they won the title with a record 100 points and scored a record number of goals

back for Mahrez to fire home.

City got uncharacteristically slack in the final quarter, though, and were made to pay when Doucoure finally turned home after a goalmouth scramble.

Guardiola was forced to throw on Laporte and Nicolas Otamendi in the closing stages to repel Watford's aerial assault, but City held on.

"They have dominated the game, they have created a lot of chances but I think we have done very good work and, at the end in the last minutes, we had some set pieces to try and get another result," added Gracia.

Elsewhere, Bournemouth moved above Manchester United up to sixth courtesy of a 2-1 win over Huddersfield thanks to early goals from Callum Wilson and Ryan Fraser to end a run of four straight defeats.

Brave CF to host open workouts at Sun City Resort

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation will host the open workouts at 05:00 PM on 6th December at the Valley of the Waves Sun City Resort in Johannesburg, South Africa. Athletes competing at Brave 19 will showcase their skills before the public, fans, and media in South Africa.

The athletes will demonstrate their moves in front of the fans and will bring forth fans to join the workout sessions. Brave 19 will take place during the Combat Week Africa taking place from 2nd to 8th of December, 2018. The Combat Week Africa is held at the Super Bowl in Sun City.

The initiative is the largest combat sports festival held in South Africa. Brave 19 will be held on December 8th, at the Sun City Resort, in South Africa and will feature the debut of highly-touted American welterweight, Adam Townsend.

Townsend will face Mark Hulme from South Africa in the main event of the evening. The co-main event will feature a battle of bantamweights trying to get back into the win column.

IMMAF Gold medallists to compete at Brave 19

TDT | Manama

Brave 19 taking place in the Sun City Resort in Johannesburg, South Africa will feature two gold medallists from IMMAF World Championships.

Frans Mlambo who won the gold medal at 2015 IMMAF World Championships will be featured in the co-main event while Abdul Hussien who won the gold medal at the 2017 IMMAF World Championships will return to Brave Combat Federation after the ten edition of the event hosted in Amman, Jordan.

Frans Mlambo will face Arnold Quero from France while Abdul Hussien will face Sylvester Chipfumbu from Zimbabwe. Brave Combat Federation had actively supported the growth of Mixed Martial Arts globally and had hosted two IMMAF World Championships in



Arnold Quero during Open Workouts at Brave Combat Federation



Abdul Hussien

the Kingdom of Bahrain during the Brave International Combat Weeks hosted in 2017 and 2018.

The initiative found by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa has featured the most number of IMMAF

Medallists in the roster.

The active support has developed the Kingdom of Bahrain as a lead destination for the sport of Mixed Martial Arts and attracted upcoming talent from around the world to Brave Combat Federation.

Guardiola would welcome UEFA probe clarity to end rumours

AFP | Watford, United Kingdom

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola hopes a swift conclusion to UEFA's investigation over alleged Financial Fair Play (FFP) irregularities committed by Premier League champions will silence the speculation surrounding the case.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said after an Executive Committee meeting of European football's governing body on Monday that an independent body looking into the allegations

made by German magazine Der Spiegel as part of their Football Leaks campaign would provide answers "very soon".

Reports on Tuesday claimed City could even be banned from next season's Champions League should they be found guilty.

Guardiola insisted the story hasn't been a distraction to his players, as they moved five points clear at the top of the Premier League on Tuesday with a 2-1 win at Watford.

However, the Catalan coach is hoping for an end to what he de-



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola gesturing on the sidelines during the EPL match against Watford



We will know if we did something irregular and if we didn't do something irregular, the people is going to finish talking about it

PEP GUARDIOLA

scribed as "voices" surrounding the club's business.

"If UEFA found something the

club will make a statement and I'd like to do that because we will know exactly and to finish with these voices," said Guardiola.

"We will know if we did something irregular and if we didn't do something irregular, the people is going to finish talking about it."

It is claimed City bypassed UEFA's FFP rules, designed to restrict the losses clubs can make and therefore lavish spending on player transfers and wages, by allowing their Abu Dhabi-based sponsors to make cash injections

and backdate sponsorship contracts.

A member of the Abu Dhabi ruling family, Sheikh Mansour, has owned City since 2008, transforming the club by investing billions of pounds in players and the club's facilities.

In a repeated statement City said they would not comment on what they described as "out of context materials purportedly hacked or stolen from City Football Group and Manchester City personnel and associated people".

City top World Cup player pay-out table

AFP | Paris

Manchester City received more money from FIFA than any other club from their players' participation at the 2018 World Cup, the European Club Association (ECA) said on Tuesday.

World football's governing body gave the Premier League champions just over \$5 million (4.4 million euros) in reference to their 16 players selected for their national team for the tournament and the number of days each individual was in Russia.

Champions League winners Real Madrid earned \$4.8m and Chelsea and Manchester United both gained more than \$3.6m.

Elsewhere in Europe, Paris Saint-Germain received \$3.9m for their 12 players, Serie A champions Juventus \$3m and Bundesliga title holders Bayern Munich \$2.7m.

The competition organisers paid \$209m to a total of 416 clubs worldwide.

Southampton appoint Hasenhuttl as manager

AFP | London

Ralph Hasenhuttl has been tasked in reviving Premier League strugglers Southampton's fortunes after being named their new manager yesterday.

The 51-year-old Austrian -- who comes into the role on the back of Mark Hughes being sacked on Monday -- has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract with the club.

Hasenhuttl attracted Saints' interest through his success at his previous club RB Leipzig, guiding them to second in the Bundesliga in the 2016/17 season and the Europa League quarter-finals last term.

He left Leipzig after they finished sixth in the 2017/18 Bundesliga campaign.

"The urgency to find a path back to our potential and to the results that we expect cannot be underestimated," said Southampton chairman Ralph Krueger.

"For that reason, we are extremely pleased that Ralph Hasenhuttl has agreed to become our new manager and do all he can to help guide us back on that path."

New Zealand face uphill battle

Azhar Ali and Asad Shafiq hit hundreds as Pakistan built lead over the Kiwis

● **William Somerville, Ajaz Patel restrict Pakistan lead to 74**

● **New Zealand trail by 48 runs with 8 wickets remaining**

AFP | Abu Dhabi

Azhar Ali and Asad Shafiq hit centuries to leave Pakistan in command of the third and final Test against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi despite a batting collapse that curtailed their first-innings lead.

Azhar hit an attractive 134 for his 15th Test hundred while Shafiq scored 104, but debutant New Zealand off-spinner Will Somerville took four wickets to restrict Pakistan to 348 all out.

Pakistan appeared set to build a huge lead before collapsing from 286-3 to lose their final seven wickets for the addition of just 62 runs.

The 34-year-old Somerville

finished with 4-75 while left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel took 2-100 and pace spearhead Trent Boult chipped in with 2-66.

That gave Pakistan a 74-run lead -- the same they got in the first Test at the same venue before losing by four runs.

New Zealand were then reduced to 26-2 at stumps with Kane Williamson unbeaten on 14 and nightwatchman Somerville on one not out to leave them trailing by 48 runs with eight wickets intact.

Paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi trapped Jeet Raval for nought while leg-spinner Yasir Shah had Tom Latham caught for ten, his 199th wicket in Tests.

Yasir needs just one more wicket to become the fastest to 200 wickets, in his 33rd Test, a record currently held by Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett who reached the milestone in 36 Tests, 82 years ago.

Azhar and Shafiq put on 201 for the fourth wicket, but once they were dismissed only Sarfraz Ahmed (25) and Babar Azam

(14) offered some resistance.



Pakistani batsman Asad Shafiq (R) plays a shot as New Zealand wicketkeeper BJ Watling looks on

Azhar edged medium pacer Colin de Grandhomme through the slips to complete his first century since May 2017 against the West Indies in Dominica -- and his first hundred against New Zealand.

He took 210 balls to reach the three-figure mark, before being caught sweeping off Somerville, just before tea.

Shafiq brought up his 12th Test ton with a sharp single off Somerville before falling leg-before to Patel to a straight delivery.

Somerville then had Azam and Hasan Ali (nought) bowled and wrapped up the innings by getting Sarfraz caught at mid-wicket.

Earlier, Azhar and Shafiq frustrated New Zealand's search for early wickets as they took Pakistan to 224-3 at lunch.

New Zealand skipper Williamson took the second new ball in the 81st over with Pakistan comfortably placed at 213-3, but the bowlers struggled to extract much life from a flat pitch at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

New Zealand 1st innings 274	
Pakistan 1st innings	
Imam-ul-Haq c Southee b Boult	9
Hafeez c Southee b Boult	0
Azhar Ali c Patel b Somerville	134
Haris Sohail c Watling b Southee	34
Asad Shafiq lbw b Patel	104
Babar Azam b Somerville	14
Sarfraz Ahmed c Raval b Somerville	25
Bilal Asif c Taylor b Patel	11
Yasir Shah run out	1
Hasan Ali b Somerville	0
Shaheen Shah Afridi not out	0
Extras 16 (b 6, lb 9, nb 1)	16
Total: (all out; 135 overs)	348
Bowling: Southee 25-5-56-1, Boult 26-7-66-2, Grandhomme 13-2-36-0 (1nb), Patel 35-5-100-2, Somerville 36-8-75-4	
New Zealand 2nd innings	
J. Raval lbw b Shaheen	0
T. Latham c Sohail b Yasir	10
K. Williamson not out	14
W. Somerville not out	1
Extras: (lb 1)	1
Total: (for two wks; 14 overs)	26
Bowling: Hasan 4-3-2-0, Shaheen 3-0-11-1, Yasir 4-1-5-1, Asif 3-0-7-0	

Pakistan levelled the series with an innings and 16-run win in the second Test in Dubai.

Messi's fifth place in Ballon d'Or absurd - Barca coach

Reuters | Madrid

Lionel Messi's fifth-place finish in this year's Ballon d'Or vote was absurd, Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said of the Spanish champions' Argentina forward on Tuesday.

Real Madrid's Croatia midfielder Luka Modric took the prize on Monday in Paris after winning the Champions League and being named player of the tournament at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

The 33-year-old's triumph ended Messi's and Cristiano Ronaldo's decade-long reign, with Juventus's Portugal striker finishing second and Messi fifth in a vote by 180 journalists.

"I will not get into discussing the inconsistencies of the prize," Valverde told reporters.

"We congratulate Modric for winning the Ballon d'Or but Messi being in fifth place is absurd."

Messi, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, led Barca to a La Liga-Copa del Rey double last season but Argentina went out of the World Cup in the last 16 to eventual champions France.

The Barca No. 10 also won a record fifth European Golden Shoe after

“
We congratulate Modric for winning the Ballon d'Or but Messi being in fifth place is absurd
”

ERNESTO VALVERDE

finishing with 34 top-flight goals last season.

Modric got 753 points followed by Ronaldo on 476, Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann with 414 and Paris St-Germain's Kylian Mbappe was fourth with 347, ahead of Messi on 280.

Barcelona host Cultural Leonesa on Wednesday in the second leg of their Copa del Rey round of 32 tie, in which they hold a 1-0 advantage, although Messi is not expected to feature.



Lionel Messi

Chelsea's Hazard must decide over new contract: Sarri

AFP | London

Belgian playmaker Eden Hazard must make up his mind whether he wishes to commit to Chelsea and extend his contract worth a rumoured £350,000 (\$450,000) a week, the club's manager Maurizio Sarri said.

The 27-year-old -- whose present deal runs till June 2020 -- was linked with a move to Real Madrid after a stunning World Cup in which he inspired Belgium to their best ever finish of third.

However, Sarri said Chelsea's offer was on the table and now the ball lay in Hazard's court.

Hazard, who joined Chelsea for £32 million from Ligue 1 outfit Lille in 2012, has spoken often about the dilemma he faces in re-signing for the Blues or taking his chances at Real.

"The club is available to sign a new contract immediately, but it's up to him if he wants to renew or not," said Sarri.

"I want Eden here, of course, but I want him here if he wants to stay here."

The risk Chelsea run is if no contract extension is agreed by next summer, Hazard may be sold or else the club would risk losing him for nothing at the end of the 2019-20 season.

"I know very well that there are discussions between the club and the manager of Eden every week, I think, so if there is something new, the club will call me immediately."

Spanish international Cesar Azpilicueta, one of the longest-serving players at Chelsea, signed a new four-year contract on Tuesday.

But apart from Hazard, Sarri also risks losing veterans David Luiz and Cesc Fabregas.

Their contracts are up at the end of the campaign and they are locked in a standoff over the length of the new deals being offered.



Eden Hazard

Malaysia reach Suzuki Cup final

AFP | Bangkok, Thailand

Malaysia moved into the final of the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup yesterday in dramatic fashion, eliminating defending champions Thailand courtesy of away goals after drawing the second leg of the semifinal in Bangkok 2-2.

Four days after a first-leg goalless draw in Kuala Lumpur, a 95th minute penalty miss from Thailand striker Adisak Kraisorn ensured that Nongshahrun Idran Talaha's second-half strike was enough to end Thailand's hopes of a third successive Southeast Asian title.

It was a tense night at the Raja-

8
goals have been scored by Thailand's Adisak Kraisorn in AFF Suzuki Cup to become the top scorer

mangala Stadium but the majority of the 40,000 fans were celebrating as Thailand broke the deadlock after 21 minutes in somewhat fortuitous circumstances.

Goalkeeper Farizal Marlias saved Thitipan Puangchan's header but his clearance bounced off defender Irfan Zakaria and rolled into the net.

The away supporters were soon celebrating as Malaysia drew level before the half-hour.

Syahmi Safari was given space outside the area and the 20-year-old back found the top corner with a looping drive to record his first international goal.

Three minutes after the hour, the home fans were in full voice once again. A left-sided free-kick caused havoc in the Malaysian area and Pansa Hemviboon was there to head home from close range.