

# THE DAILY tribune

## Palestinians say reached deal with Israel to end deadly escalation

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian leaders in Gaza agreed to a ceasefire with Israel yesterday to end a deadly two-day escalation in violence that threatened to widen into a fourth war between them since 2008.

An Israeli military spokeswoman declined to comment on the deal, but there appeared to have been no rocket fire or Israeli strikes in the hours after it was due to take effect, a correspondent in Gaza said.

Israel also lifted restrictions on civilian movements in communities around the Gaza border on Monday morning.

Egypt brokered the agreement to cease hostilities from 4:30 am (0130 GMT), an official from the strip's Islamist rulers Hamas and another from its allied group Islamic Jihad said on condition of anonymity.

## UAE says Qatar military vessel released

UAE | Qatar

The United Arab Emirates said it released yesterday a Qatari military ship that had violated UAE territorial waters last week.

"The UAE released a Qatari naval vessel with four people on board," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

It said the Qatari-flagged ship entered UAE waters on April 30 and was carrying four military men -- two Qataris, one Palestinian and an Indian.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday evening hosted an Iftar banquet at Al-Raoudha Palace, marking the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan. His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier attended. Senior members of the Royal Family also attended and expressed congratulations and good wishes to HM the King. HM the King exchanged congratulations with them on this blessed occasion, thanking them for their noble feelings, good wishes and prayers.

## Respond constructively to issues raised by Press: PM

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister called on government agencies and institutions to respond quickly and constructively to all issues raised by the press.

The Premier also urged them to "work with the press to enhance the role of the media in performing its noble mission in serving the country and the citizen."

HRH the Premier was speaking on the occasion of Bahrain Journalism Day which falls on May 7.

Freedom of opinion and expression, Prince Khalifa said, is guaranteed by the



HRH the Premier provisions of the Constitution and law and everyone should stand united in the face of any threats to national unity and social fabric.

HRH noted that the tremendous progress in information and communication technology has opened new horizons for the press to grow and flourish, which increases the scope of its responsibilities in maintaining its credibility and professionalism.

## Ramadan Majlises promote national and Islamic values: Crown Prince

TDT | Manama

Ramadan Majlises promote national and Islamic values that define the Kingdom's national identity, said HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

HRH the Crown Prince was visiting the majlises of the late HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Interior General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

On the occasion, Prince Salman extended his best wishes to Muslims in the Kingdom and across the world on the commencement of the Holy Month of Ramadan.



HRH Prince Salman with Minister of Interior

HRH the Crown Prince went on to outline the strong bonds among citizens, adding that they represent an important foundation of the Kingdom's development -- led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

For their part, the Majlis hosts and guests expressed their gratitude for HRH the Crown Prince's visit.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied His Royal Highness during his majlis visits.

# 'Message' to Iran

## US sends naval strike group to Middle East

Washington, United States

The United States is sending an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East in a "clear and unmistakable" message to Iran, National Security Advisor John Bolton said yesterday.

"In response to a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings, the United States is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the US Central Command region," Bolton said in a statement.

The deployment is aimed at sending "a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force," Bolton said.

The USS Abraham Lincoln has previously been deployed to the Gulf, including during the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq.

The statement did not specifically state why the deployment

is taking place now, but Secretary of State Mike Pompeo later said it was not related to Gaza, where Palestinian and Israel



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is taking place now, but Secretary of State Mike Pompeo later said it was not related to Gaza, where Palestinian and Israel

The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces

have traded a barrage of rocket fire and air strikes in recent days.

"It is absolutely the case that we have seen escalatory actions from the Iranians and it is equally the case that we will hold the Iranians accountable for attacks on American interests," Pompeo said.

"If these actions take place, if they do by some third-party proxy, a militia group, Hezbollah, we will hold the Iranian leadership directly accountable for that," the chief US diplomat said before leaving on a trip to Finland.



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## ROYAL BABY

# "It's a Boy!" Royal baby announcement breaks with tradition

London, United Kingdom

Tradition-defying royal couple Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, broke with custom yet again yesterday with the announcement of the birth of their first child.

News of the birth was released on Instagram -- a first in royal history -- in a post on their @sussexroyal account with

the couple's crest and the simple phrase: "It's a BOY!"

The post received more than 750,000 likes in under an hour.

The account was only launched in April, breaking a world record by reaching a million followers in under six hours.

Harry has battled to protect his privacy for years.



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex

The 34-year-old's relationship with the media has been fraught ever since the death of his mother Diana in a car crash in Paris 1997 while being chased by paparazzi.

The couple had made it clear last month that they wanted the birth kept private -- in contrast to Harry's brother Prince William and his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge.

# HRH the Premier chairs regular weekly Cabinet session

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday chaired the regular weekly Cabinet session at the Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet extended deepest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, as well as the Bahraini



HRH PM chairing Cabinet meeting

people marking the Holy Month of Ramadan.

This was announced in a post-session statement by the Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr Yasser bin Isa Al-Nasser.

The session also lauded the results of HM King Hamad's re-

cent visit to France, citing the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries.

## Support for small traders

The session endorsed several decisions that support small

traders and the recommendations submitted by the joint study conducted by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism. Deputy Premier, HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, was requested to follow up on the implementation of those recommendations.

Moving on, the Prime Minister instructed the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry to prepare a report on the conditions of small shrimpers and submit it to the

Cabinet.

## Voluntary Retirement

The Cabinet endorsed a recommendation submitted by the Civil Service Council, chaired by HRH the Crown Prince, allowing 13 entities that are not affiliated with the Civil Service Bureau to join the Voluntary Retirement School.

Registration in the scheme will be open as from June 20, and the conditions and terms applied for the beneficiaries will be the same as those for the public sector.

## Foreign cos allowed to invest

The Cabinet approved opening the commercial activity "Extraction of oil and natural gas within the Kingdom of Bahrain" for foreign investment by companies with 100 per cent foreign capital.

## Retirees may quit VRS

The session also approved the government's reply to a proposal on allowing employees registered in the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) lists to quit the programme.

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Here for good

## Budget consensus reached

### The agreement incorporates most of the demands submitted by the Shura and Parliamentary committee

TDT | Manama

A consensus has been reached to amend the draft state general budget for the fiscal years 2019-2020, said Shura Council Financial and Economic Affairs Committee Chairman, Khalid Al-Maskati, yesterday.

The agreement, he said, incorporates most of the demands submitted by the Shura and Parliamentary committees for Financial and Economic Affairs.

As per the deal, the revenues of the Oil and Gas Holding Company (Nogaholding) will be added to the budget, BD56.4 million for each fiscal year.

Mumtalakat Holding Company, the sovereign wealth fund of the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, will also

increase its contribution to the state budget up by BD10m for each fiscal year to reach BD30m.

The Government, Al-Maskati said, agreed to increase the revenues of eight state departments: The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), The Ministry of Youth and Sports, The Ministry of Information Affairs, The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Mumtalakat and Nogaholding.

The non-oil revenues in the budget will stand at BD71,142,066 for the fiscal year 2019 and BD72,742,112 for the fiscal year 2020.

Regarding recurrent expense, the Government agreed to increase social aid by BD55.513m for each fiscal year.

The budget of the Ministry of Information Affairs will be increased by BD600,000 for 2019 and BD1.2m for 2020. The housing allowance will also be boosted by BD4m for each fiscal year, the Sunni and Jafferi Endowments by BD57.796m (2019) and BD58.473m (2020).

## Bahraini artists in spotlight at Venice

TDT/Manama Harpreet Kaur

The works of seven Bahraini artists will be in the spotlight at the prestigious Venice Biennale today.

The show titled 'The Wait' will run from today until the 12 May and will feature around 20 works of veteran artists Hasan Hujairi, Ghada Khunji, 'Bahraini Danish', a Bahraini-Danish art cooperative, Mariam Al Noaimi, Nasser Al Yousif and Hala Kaikow.

The exhibition is directed by Kaneka Subberwal, the founder of Art Select and Fairs & Programme Director of ArtBAB, Amal Khalaf, a curator and artist, and currently Projects Curator at the Serpentine Galleries, London and Tasneem Al Shurougi, a founding member of the team that launched Art Bahrain Across Borders in 2015.

Kaneka Subberwal told *Tribune*, "We are delighted to be participating in La Biennale di Venezia. The Venice Biennale has been, for over 120 years, one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world. Established in 1895, the Biennale has an attendance

The show titled 'The Wait' will run from today until the 12 May and will feature around 20 works of veteran artists

today of over 500,000 visitors at the Art Exhibition. The Bahraini artists shall be exhibiting in the historic Arsanale, an art complex that was formerly a centre for Venetian economic power, dating back to 1150."

The Paris exhibition will showcase over 100 works of Bahraini artists.

"The growing weight of excellence that the ArtBAB shows have brought to international attention, has resulted in many significant collaborations and exposure. We are looking forward to positively influencing the narrative about Bahrain in the global conversation," Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, the Director of the Office of Her Royal Highness, Princess Sabeekha bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain, who is the Patron of ArtBAB told *Tribune*.

Terms and conditions apply.

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## Family in dire straits

*Faizal, his heavily pregnant wife and their four-year-old daughter, according to a prominent social worker, are victims of 'gross injustice.'*

**TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran**

While Muslims all around the globe are celebrating the start of Ramadan, the advent of the Holy Month has brought further misery to the family of Faizal, who haven't received any salary for the past four months.

Faizal, his heavily pregnant wife and their four-year-old daughter, according to a prominent social worker, are victims of 'gross injustice.'

The social worker, who asked not to be named, told *Tribune*: "It is a violation that the rights organisations need to look at."

Faizal said problems began with his wife losing her job, as her employer was not ready to accept a pregnant woman in his office.

She worked for two-months at the company.

The employer, Faizal said, "Asked her to resign and also manipulated her into signing some papers which stated that she was leaving willingly" after she told the employer that she is pregnant.

**Problems began with Faizal's wife losing her job, as her employer was not ready to accept a pregnant woman in office**

Faizal claimed that she was also not paid properly.

"Her salary as per contract was BD400 per month but she only received BD90 so far."

"He even filed a complaint against her based on false claims."

Faizal said that his situation is equally worse, although he still has a job.

"But I haven't received salary for the last four months," Faizal said adding that the company he works is struggling financially.

"My wife lost her job and I am no longer getting paid because my company is doing badly financially and I have lost all hope in them," he said pointing out that they have very little money left with them to buy food and medicines.

Faizal said he is running out of savings.



The couple and their child share a small studio apartment in Gudaibiya. They are unable to cook in the room as it lacks ventilation

The family is also looking at possible eviction from the small studio apartment they are currently staying.

"We are struggling to pay the BD100 rent," said Faizal.

"Most of my colleagues have filed compliant against the company and I am contemplating on what I need to do," said Faizal.

Faizal is hopeful of getting some other job, but nothing has worked out till date.

He told *Tribune* that he tried a few interviews and is hoping for the best.

"The flat that I am staying in is in a bad state.

"We had to move here after depleting our saving, but now we cannot afford this either."

#### Stuck in Bahrain

He told *Tribune* that it is not possible for them either to move out as "no airline will allow her to fly since she is eight months pregnant."

Social workers told *Tribune* that they are trying to help Faizal find a job and help the couple find a better place to stay.

## Shreya passes toughest test of life with flying colours

**TDT | Manama**

Uttar Pradesh lassie Shreya had barely any idea about the tougher test life had in store for her while preparing for the CBSE class 10 examinations in Bahrain.

Her father, Ramsingh, put an end his life, while Shreya was preparing intensely for the exams.

The personal tragedy, however, didn't hold back the gritty girl from coming out with flying colours in the examination.



**Shreya, who is her father's second kid, secured 88 per cent marks in the examinations she wrote amid the most horrifying moments in her life**

Shreya, who is her father's second kid, secured 88 per cent marks in the examinations she wrote amid the most horrifying moments in her life.

The pain and trauma, Shreya said, she experienced at the time, while all her family members left for their home town abroad, was indescribable.

Thanks to the support of her close friend and classmate Gauri and her parents Jayaprakash Menon and Suja Menon, who held her closely in the most trying times.

"My school management, Indian Embassy and Malayalee

social workers in the Kingdom supported me a lot in overcoming the adversities," Shreya says.

"I was completely shattered by the sudden loss, and was stumbling in the dark trying to figure out what to do next at that time."

It was Jayaprakash Menon

and his family that step forward to take care of Shreya with the support of the Indian Embassy.

While the family arranged special tuition sessions for her to cover the studies, the school helped her by dropping the dues. And all that effort didn't go in vain.

## ID card theft: court rejects appeal

**TDT | manama**

The High Appeals Court rejected a Bahraini man's appeal against his conviction in a robbery and fraud case.

He was sentenced by the High Criminal Court to three years behind bars for leasing a vehicle using an ID card he robbed from a car parked in Juffair.

Court documents say he also stole BDI,400 from a wallet in the car.

Incidents leading to the case occurred when the suspect managed to hire a car from

**The Bahraini man was sentenced by the High Criminal Court to three years behind bars for leasing a vehicle using an ID card he robbed from a car parked in Juffair.**

a rent-a-car company in the Kingdom and didn't bother to return it.

Failure in returning the car

prompted the car company to file a complaint against the holder of the ID card, which was used for renting the car.

However, police, who were aware that the ID card was stolen, intensified their investigation.

The identity of the suspect was found using CCTV footages from cameras installed on a building next to the parked car in Juffair.

Police also managed to confirm the identity of the man in the CCTV footage by an employee from the car leasing company.

## 58 terrorists lose final appeal

**TDT | Manama**

The Court of Cassation yesterday rejected the appeal of 58 defendants who were found guilty of killing two policemen, assisting convicts to escape from jail and other crimes.

The court upheld previously announced verdicts by the High Criminal Court, including the capital punishment awarded to two of the defendants.

Life terms, revocation of citizenship and various jail terms were given to the defendants, which included two women.

According to court files, the group was responsible for the killing of on-duty policeman Abdulsalam Al Yafye'a, who was guarding the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre (Jau Prison).

The mishap occurred when

**The group was responsible for the killing of on-duty policeman Abdulsalam Al Yafye'a, who was guarding the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre (Jau Prison)**



some of the defendants attacked the facility with firearms while assisting 10 terror convicts there to space.

They were also found guilty of assassinating off-duty police officer Hesham Al Hammadi on 28 January 2017 in Bilad Al Qadeem village, in addition to a series of terrorist attacks during the same period in Sitra, Bani Jamrah and Nabeeh Saleh.

Charges also include that for

smuggling firearms, assisting wanted fugitives in escaping mainly to Iran. They were also found guilty of coordinating the military training of group members abroad to carry out terrorist attacks in the Kingdom.

Their appeals were rejected by the High Court of Appeals. However, they pleaded not guilty again before the Court of Cassation, which again upheld the sentences.

# ‘There are no shortcuts to IELTS’

Director British Council Bahrain, Richard Rooze, speaks about widespread attempts to commit fraud in the name of IELTS

● The British Council has collaborated with various social media channels to eradicate misleading posts about IELTS false certification

TDT | Manama

Supriya Reginald

Beware of social media posts promoting the acquisition of IELTS (International English Language Testing System) certification without taking the examination, the British Council of Bahrain has warned.

Speaking to the *Tribune*, Richard Rooze, Director British Council Bahrain stated that they are well aware of the issue and are taking measures accordingly.

“We are aware of widespread attempts to commit fraud in the name of IELTS, online and offline. IELTS is the world’s most popular English language assessment test. Due to its high-stakes nature and value, it attracts all kinds of fraudsters who are out to mislead our test takers, to cash in on their need for IELTS results,” stated Rooze.

“To achieve maximum global reach, they advertise widely online on social media or through dedicated websites. Fraudsters may also approach test takers in person at test centres, test venues or preparation schools, claiming to have insider connections,” he added.

Fraudsters usually claim to have access to the IELTS database and be able to change the scores, make fake results appear in the Online Results Verification System and be able to supply test content to test takers prior the test

Despite these scam attempts, a minimal number of individuals



Richard Rooze, Director British Council Bahrain



“We are aware of widespread attempts to commit fraud in the name of IELTS, online and offline. IELTS is the world’s most popular English language assessment test. Due to its high-stakes nature and value, it attracts all kinds of fraudsters who are out to mislead our test takers, to cash in on their need for IELTS results

RICHARD ROOZE



**To pass the IELTS exam, you need to work on broad English skills. If you’re used to writing error-free reports, essays or articles, and answer questions while having conversations with English speakers you’re most likely to do well.**

have succumbed to this illicit activity.

“Unfortunately, sometimes a small number of test takers mistakenly believe that purchasing a fake certificate is an easy fix. In reality, these criminal groups are likely to scam the customer, and they will find the fakes useless as they can’t be verified on our official online IELTS portal,” revealed Rooze.

The British Council has collaborated with various social media channels to eradicate misleading posts about IELTS false certification.

“We work with Facebook and other social media channels to

**People are urged to report any suspicious activity directly to IELTS. Security@britishcouncil.org. All reports are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly, and information is held in the strictest confidence.**

have fake offers of this nature removed. We also have processes in place to get websites offering fake IELTS certificates taken down. However, the criminals who create these websites will often then republish their offers under new URLs,” said Rooze.

“We take a multi-layered approach to test security. Our online verification service allows all 10,000 organisations that accept IELTS scores to quickly and securely verify whether any Test Report Form received from applicants is genuine,” he added.

Severe consequences unfold for those falling prey to such scams and attempt to utilise the false certification.

“Penalties for serious malpractice include a 2-year ban on

taking IELTS and many organisations impose their suspension periods when fraud is detected at the verification stage. There are no shortcuts to IELTS. Multi-layered security systems and stringent checks are in place to safeguard IELTS integrity and reliability as a high-stakes test,” revealed Rooze.

“Anyone offering to sell IELTS Results or IELTS Test Report Forms (TRFs) is committing a serious crime, and anyone attempting to purchase these items is wasting their money and significantly risking their future opportunities. We support test takers with extensive preparation materials, so they do not have to resort to other means to obtain the desired score,” he added

## Pallet 19 kindles the joy of sharing and caring in young minds

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Prathibha, a socio-cultural association of Indian expatriate community, organised a three-day painting camp “Pallet 19 - Season 3” for children at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam, Sagaya.

Well-known artist Kabitha Mukhopadhyay was the director of the camp inaugurated by P N Mohanraj, Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Vice President on 29 April 2019.

More than 100 children participated in the three-day camp as two batches which included drawing competition, exhibition, community painting and various entertainment programmes.

700 children participated in the finale of the “Pallet 19 -



Season 3” held on 3 May which started with a drawing competition.

An art exhibition was also organised by 50 leading artists on the Island. P V Radhakrishna Pillai inaugurated the exhibition. Later in the evening, 60 prominent artists jointly painted on a 70-meter canvas on the theme “Flood and rehabilitation”. A Mahesh, President, Prathibha presided over the finale.

In pictures, highlights of the event



# CBSE class X results

## ISB students excel

Students of the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) displayed exemplary performance in the grade X CBSE examination held in March 2019. As against the total number of 798 students who appeared for the examination, the school achieved a pass percentage of 100 per cent including 11 compartments and there are no failures. 26 students scored A 1 in all subjects.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- School Highest : 487 out of 500 (97.4pc) - Second Island Topper
- 14 students secured 100 in Social Science and 25 students secured 99.
- 3 students secured 100 in Mathematics and 14 students secured 99.
- 1 student secured 100 in French and 4 students secured 99 in French
- 4 students secured 99 in English
- 4 students secured 98 in Science
- 202 students secured above 90pc in total
- 493 students secured Distinction (Above 75pc)
- 689 students secured First Class (Above 60pc)
- 94 students secured A Grades in all subjects

### SCHOOL TOPPERS



Aaron Dominic D' Costa, Aditya Singh, Darshi Gaurang Doshi, Meghana Gupta, Varsha Sureshkumar



Nipuna Ashok, Riddhi Nileshkumar Rathod, Susan Maria Binu, Michelle Anna Poly

### SUBJECT TOPPERS



Mathematics-Charutha Rajeeesh, Social-Vaishnav Anish Somanath, French-Riddhi Nileshkumar Rathod, Social-Numa Jalal



Social-Susan Maria Binu, Social-Adnan Syed, Social-Afra Shamonti Md Ahsan, Social-Arundhati Dcruz



Social-Christina Tomy, Social-Joel George Juby, Social-Merline Sara Shaji, Social-Nainika Mary Anand Joseph



Social-Navya Venugopal, Social-Nipuna Ashok, Social-Riddhi Nileshkumar Rathod, Social-Meghana Gupta

## New Millennium School excels in Grade X

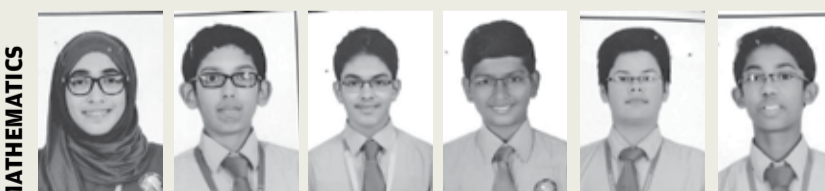
New Millennium School - DPS continued the tradition of 100 per cent success rate in All India Secondary School Examination conducted by CBSE in March 2019. With 97.8pc Devaansh Kumar is the school topper and the second Island topper. Seven students in Mathematics, two in Social Science and one in English got 100/100. Of the 135 students appeared, 80 scored 90pc and above, while 124 passed with distinction and 44 with A grade in all subjects. 118 students in English, 75 students in Second Language, 80 students in Mathematics, 81 students in Science and 84 students in Social Science scored above 90pc.

### SCHOOL TOPPERS



Devaansh Kumar, Anish Mangesh Desai, Jithin Ranjan, Joshua Binu Kochiyilth, Tushya Kalpada, Sangrila Ojha

### SUBJECT TOPPERS



Mathematics: Abeer Mohamed, Abhinav Prasad, Anish M Desai, Devaansh Kumar, Devanshu Atul Singhvi, Jithin Ranjan



Mathematics: Mehek Mehrotra, Tushya Kalpada, English: Devaansh Kumar, Social Science: FEBA SUSAN, Science: Joshua Binu Kochiyilth, French: Tushya Kalpada



Hindi: Anwasha Nandy, Deepthi Sarah Varghese

## Accolades for The New Indian school

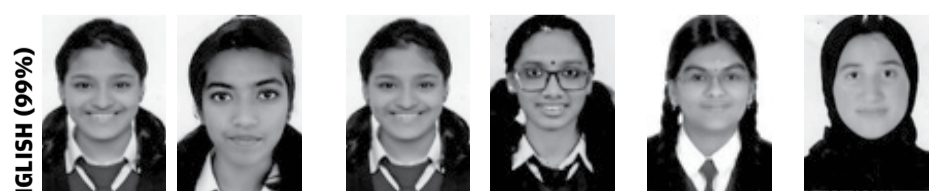
The New Indian School once again secured 100 per cent pass percentage in the CBSE class X Board Examination. Out of 152 students, 136 students scored first class including 99 students with distinction and 37 students above 90pc. Balaji took the second position with 97.8pc. Srevin Sajju, Sreelakshmi Santhosh and Karthika Arun Babu grabbed the third spot with 96.8pc.

### SCHOOL TOPPERS



Jomills Jose Anand, Tejashree Balaj, Srevin Sajju, Sreelakshmi Santhosh, Karthika Arun Babu

### SUBJECT TOPPERS



English (99%): Maegan Keisha Palanna, Jessica Lawrence, Hindi (98%): Sruthi Subina Rajan, Malayalam (99%): Karthika Arun Babu, French (100%): Tejashree Balaj, Arabic (90%): Dana Abdul Hadi Abbas Hassanhadi Abbas Hassan



Mathematics (100%): Jomills Jose Anand, Tejashree Balaj, Science (100%): Srevin Sajju, Science (100%): Srevin Sajju, Social Science (99%): Adish Muhammad Rafique

# CBSE class X results

## Ibn Al Hytham Islamic makes its 100pc

The 18th batch of Ibn Al Hytham Islamic School consisting of 132 students appeared for the All India Secondary School Examination of Class - X - 2019 with the school securing 100 per cent pass percentage. Dhiya Fathima secured First position with 93.6pc, Fathima Wafa secured Second position with 93.4pc and Farhan Rasheed Ahmed secured Third position with 92.6pc.

### SCHOOL TOPPERS



Dhiya Fathima (1st Rank)



Fathima Wafa (2nd Rank)



Farhan Rasheed Ahmed (3rd Rank)

### SUBJECT TOPPERS

ENGLISH			HINDI			ARABIC		MALAYALAM		
	Mariam Akber	Salwa Sabini		Shahma Abdulla	Laiba Rafiq		Zahra Dawood		Jahnavi Jyothish	
URDU		MATHS		SCIENCE					SOCIAL SCIENCE	
	Arooj		Hassan Muhammad Mujahid Javid		Abdul Rahman	Fahmina Rifan	Farhan Rasheed	Fathima Wafa		Saeba Sithara

## Al Noor International Excels



Aaliya Hussain Bhat 93.6pc



Hruday Vinayak 91.6pc



Sarathy Raman 93.6pc



Yeshas Krishna 93.8pc

Students of Al Noor International School (CBSE Curriculum) achieved 100 per cent success in their All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE) 2019.

The class X students appeared for the examination in March 2019.

Yeshas Krishna topped with 93.8 per cent followed by Sarathy Raman Ramasamy and Aaliya

Hussain Bhat with 93.6pc and Hruday Vinayak Vemavarapu with 91.6pc.

Subject - wise toppers are: **Social Science:** Hruday Vinayak Vemavarapu (99pc), Sarathy Raman Ramasamy (97pc), Jisa Abraham (96pc), Malavika Lohith, Kevin Pappachan, Yes

shas Krishna, Aaliya Hussain Bhat, Mohammed Hisham and Noor-ul Ibtesam (95pc)

**English:** Jisa Abraham (98pc) and Malavika Lohith(98pc). **Mathematics:** Sarathy Raman Ramasamy (96pc), Navaneet Anilkumar and Yes

has Krishna (95pc). **Hindi:** Aaliya Hussain Bhat (98pc).

**Science:** Sarathy Raman Ramasamy (96pc), Yes

shas Krishna and Aaliya Hussain Bhat (95pc).

## Asian school records exemplary results

The 22nd batch of 178 Grade 10 students of Asian school performed exceedingly well as compared to previous years.

First rank holder Tanmay

Sreejith scored 97.8 per cent with 99pc in Science and 98pc in French. Ameena Rena Karuvanthodikayil stands second with 97.4pc, scoring 100pc in

Mathematics and 98pc in Hindi. The third rank holder is Vaishnavi Dhananjayan Ayilath with 96.6pc with 100 in Mathematics.

A total of 51 students scored 90pc and above, while 130 students secured distinctions scoring 75pc and above.

The top scorers in English

with 97pc are Ameena Rena Karuvanthodikayil, Angel Deena Shaji, Anaz Nasir Ahmed Shaikh and Alanna Anna Shibu. Top scorers in Malayalam

with 98pc are Vishnu Sanil Kumar and Neha Shanavas. Kapil Rajesh Kavitha tops the list of students in Social Science with 100pc.

1st Rank 97.8% Tanmay Sreejith	2nd Rank 97.4% Ameena Rena Karuvanthodikayil	3rd Rank 96.6% Vaishnavi Dhananjayan Ayilath	Kapil Rajesh Kavitha	Angel Deena Shaji	Kim Jayesh Kumar Joshi	Parthvi Manoj	Vishnu Sanilkumar	Dharshini Selvakumar	Anas Nasir Ahmed Shaikh	Diya Mary Rays	Krithi Rachel Varghese	Neha Shanavas
NANDAKISHORE VIVEKANANDAN	Anoodh	Megha Manikandan	Niharika Naveen Nair	Riya Verma	Rishi Ramesh Pothi	Aadith Sudheer Menon	Alen Basil Thelappilly	Bharath Manoj	Kevin Shibu	Reema Rajeev	Abhinav Menon Vinod	AORON SEBY
Steve Ellimoottil Mathew	Abraham Philip	Jubin Thomas Tharayil	Srijeet Srikant Malik	Bhagya Lakshmi Hariharan	Gopika Sunil Kumar	Steve Anil Mathew	Bhadra Vijayan Raja	Nada Khan	Ahamed mohideen maluk	Daniel Binu Abraham	Geanne Maria D Souza	Frijio Francis
Vishnu Priya Biju Nair	Devika Krishnan	Vinayak Mani	Maadhav Jayaraj	Adirsa Vijay	Fathima Sana	Mohammad Aadil Arshad Khan	Shanker Menon	Abiya Anna Paul	Rithwika Rarish	SATHYAVATI REJU GOPAL	Alanna Anna Shibu	

### SUBJECT TOPPERS

Alanna Anna Shibu English 97pc	Ameena Rena Karuvanthodikayil -Maths 100pc, Hindi 98pc, English 97pc	Anas Nasir Ahmed Shaikh English 97pc	Kapil Rajesh Kavitha Social Science 100pc	Neha Shanavas Malayalam 98pc	Tanmay Sreejith French 98pc, Science 99pc	Vaishnavi Dhananjayan Ayilath Maths 100pc	Vishnu Sanilkumar Malayalam 98pc

WORLD  
world

# Horror before eyes

Pilot says lightning caused deadly Russian crash landing



A fire of a Russian-made Superjet-100 at Sheremetyevo airport outside Moscow.

## Moscow, Russia

The pilot of a Russian passenger plane that erupted in a ball of fire on the runway of Moscow's busiest airport, killing 41 people, said lightning led to the emergency landing.

Investigators were yesterday working to understand the causes of the blaze after the Sukhoi Superjet-100 had to return to Sheremetyevo airport shortly after take-off Sunday evening.

But pilot Denis Yevdokimov told Russian media the craft lost communication and needed to switch to emergency control mode "because of lightning" on the Aeroflot flight to the Arctic city of Murmansk.

He did not specify if the plane was struck directly.

"We managed to restore communication through the emer-

gency frequency on our radio connection. But the link was only for a short time and kept cutting out... it was possible to say only a few words," he told the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper.

Videos on social media showed the plane crash-landing and then speeding along the runway with flames pouring from its fuselage.

Passengers could be seen leaping onto an inflatable slide at the front and running from the blazing plane as columns of black smoke billowed into the sky.

Another video shot inside the cabin showed roaring flames outside the window and passengers crying out in panic.

Evdokimov said he believed the plane burst into flames on landing, most likely because of full fuel tanks.

At least two children were

among the 41 dead and nine more people were in hospital, three of them seriously injured, authorities said.

The aircraft's black boxes have been found and handed over to investigators, a source in the Russian emergency services told news agencies.

### 'Flash of white light'

Several of the 78 people on board said they believed lightning was the cause of the tragedy, which came at the end of several days of public holidays following Workers' Day on May 1.

"I saw a flash of white light," Dmitry Khlebushkin told the state RIA news agency.

Pyotr Egorov, also on board, told media: "We had just taken off when the plane was hit by lightning... the landing was very hard, we almost passed out from fear.

"The plane bounced on the tarmac like a grasshopper and burst into flames on the ground."

The jet -- carrying 73 passengers and five crew members -- left Sheremetyevo at 6:02pm (1502 GMT), and the crew issued a distress signal shortly afterwards, officials said.

Russia's national carrier Aeroflot was once notorious for its poor safety record but in recent years its image has improved and it has not had a fatal accident in more than a decade.

The Murmansk region -- where many of those killed or injured are believed to be from -- went into a three-day period of mourning from Monday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered his condolences to the victims' loved ones and said the investigation "should be as thorough as possible", according to the Kremlin.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered a special committee to investigate the disaster.



**The Sukhoi Superjet-100 was the first civilian aircraft developed in the country's post-Soviet era. At the time of its launch, in 2011, it was a source of national pride and seen as one of Putin's pet projects. But numerous technical problems with the plane have been reported in recent years and Russia has struggled to convince foreign carriers to purchase it**

# Kidnapped French toddler found safe

## Marseille, France

A two-year-old boy who was abducted in the French port city of Marseille has been found safe and sound and his kidnapper arrested, prosecutors said.

The toddler was recovered from a hotel in the city of Valence, some 200 kilometres (300 miles) from where he was snatched a few hours earlier on Sunday afternoon, Marseille prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux told AFP.

He said the alleged kidnapper, who has a criminal record, was arrested at the hotel.

The kidnapping had triggered the so-called "abduction alert" system, inspired by the Amber Alert child abduction system set up in the United States in 1996 after the kidnap and murder of a nine-year-old girl in Texas.



Osnachi, 2 years and 4 months, who was kidnapped in Marseille

"It was the night watchman at the hotel who saw abduction alert on the television and called



**The toddler was recovered from a hotel in the city of Valence, some 200 kilometres (300 miles) from where he was snatched a few hours earlier on Sunday afternoon**

police," said Tarabeux.

The boy, named Osnachi, was snatched as his mother was attending a religious service in Marseille. The child "is fine" and will undergo medical examination, the prosecutor said.

The French alert system has been used more than 20 times since it was established in 2006, and all the children were found safe and sound, all but two of them very quickly.

The last time it was triggered was in January when a father abducted his critically sick baby from a children's hospital in the southern city of Toulouse.

The child was found 24 hours after being kidnapped and was said to be in a good condition.

The 33-year-old unemployed father and his elder brother were arrested.

# Panama's Cortizo wins close presidential vote



Panama's presidential candidate for the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) Laurentino Cortizo and his wife Yasmin Colon wave at the crowds during celebrations after being elected President of Panama

**Cortizo was favored to win, with pre-election polls giving him a 10-point lead over his closest challenger**

**Cortizo had won 33.08 pc of the vote against 31.06 for his right-wing opponent Roux**

**Cortizo will succeed Juan Carlos Varela, whose popularity was hit by the decline in economic activity**

## Panama City, Panama

Social Democrat Laurentino Cortizo won Panama's presidential election Sunday in a close race that saw a large number of voters turn out amid concerns over corruption scandals and the country's image as a money-launderer's paradise.

"I feel very happy. I won. We won. What we have to do now is join forces as a country," Cortizo told reporters shortly before the electoral tribunal confirmed his victory.

Cortizo was favored to win, with pre-election polls giving him a 10-point lead over his closest challenger, former foreign minister Romulo Roux of the Democratic Change party.

With ballots counted in 92.5 percent of polling stations, Cortizo had won 33.08 percent of the vote against 31.06 for his right-wing opponent Roux, a lead the electoral tribunal said was "irreversible" despite the close margin of fewer than 40,000 votes. Turnout was nearly 73 percent.

Trailing well behind the

pair was surprise independent candidate Ricardo Lombana, a lawyer and journalist who took 19.34 percent after campaigning on an anti-corruption ticket.

Cortizo will succeed Juan Carlos Varela, whose popularity was hit by the decline in economic activity, rising cost of living, corruption scandals and crises in the health and justice sectors.

Cortizo, a 66-year-old former agriculture minister known popularly as "Nito," said he wanted to "rescue and transform Panama" and "leave a legacy" untainted by corruption. His supporters chanted "Nito, Nito!" as he cast his ballot in Panama City.

Corruption scandals played a significant role in election campaigning in a country struggling to shed its image as a money-laundering paradise following the Panama Papers scandal three years ago.

Equally damaging was the admission by Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht that it had paid \$59 million in bribes in Panama between 2010 and 2014 to secure major public works contracts.

Panama is home to the strategic canal that links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, making it a key conduit in the global maritime trading system.

Independent candidate Lombana, a 45-year-old former Panamanian consul to Washington, had hit out at the traditional parties, a popular tactic at a time when public confidence in the political establishment has been eroded by numerous scandals.

"Independent candidates have surged because citizens are fed up with what partisan politics have brought the country; they are fed up with corruption," he told reporters before casting his ballot.

# US faces a world of t

*In the folds of growing global disquiet lies the strained relationship between Washington and Moscow*



RAGHIDA DERGHAM

The hardline policies of US President Donald Trump's administration on Venezuela and Iran are becoming clearer, with the White House now openly talking about military force as an option.

The coming days may thus see a shift in US attitudes and measures against the two countries, unless peaceful transition takes place in Caracas, and Tehran decides that its interests require co-operation, rather than escalation in response to Washington's oil embargo.

Another tough stance emerging from Washington relates to the potential designation of the Muslim Brotherhood as a terror group.

Already, this has antagonised Turkey and could lead President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to engage in further grandstanding, for example by supporting his friend in Caracas, President Nicolas Maduro.

Maduro, whose regime has managed to impoverish what was once the region's richest nation also counts among his friends Bashar Al Assad, the Iranian regime and the leaders of Bolivia, Nicaragua and Cuba.

The Colombian president Ivan Duque has called on Venezuela's armed forces to

join the opposition leader Juan Guaido, who is backed by most South American governments, as well as the US and other major western nations. Calling the army to back the civilian movement led by Guaido is practical, because moving from authoritarianism to civil rule now seems impossible without it.

This has been the case in Algeria, and in Libya, where a military settlement seems a prerequisite, as well as Sudan, where there is now a valuable opportunity to achieve an accord between civilians and military.

In the folds of all these developments, especially as it relates to Venezuela, lies the strained relationship between Washington and Moscow, as the two powers exchange accusations and warnings.

Inside the US, meanwhile, the presidential campaigns have started in earnest, amid deep divisions and structural weakness in the Democratic Party. In this febrile climate, there has been a lot of posturing about foreign policy issues, including Venezuela, the Muslim Brotherhood and Yemen, which former vice president Joe Biden has used to attack Trump.

In truth, Biden himself backed the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood to power and supported its hijacking of the Arab uprisings, not to mention having called for the partition of Iraq.

According to informed sources, US-Iranian escalation could come to a head this week. Trump intends to announce strict measures against countries that violate the US oil embargo on Iran by continuing

to purchase Iranian crude after the expiry of sanctions waivers.

According to sources, he will also issue a stern warning to Tehran not to take any retaliatory measures, especially in the Strait of Hormuz or against Saudi and other Arab Gulf oil exports. The same sources say that there is a strong Iranian inclination to retaliate against US oil restrictions, with preparations being made to hit pipelines that feed into Saudi refineries.

Despite these gloomy predictions, there remain two views on what is about to happen. One is that Tehran will never escalate, because it is aware that Trump will not hesitate to take military action

**In the past, Washington extended security cover to Lebanon, making it clear that the failure of this small country was a red line. According to officials, the US has run out of patience. Now, they say, there is a real chance the US may end its security guarantees if the Lebanese do not stand up to Hezbollah and stop it from putting Iranian interests ahead of those of Lebanon itself**



US President Donald Trump speaks during an address against it. The other, however, is that Trump's measures will lead to the

# Sudanese protesters must present a united front

*Thousands of people remain encamped near army headquarters in Khartoum to demand the current 10-member army council that took power after the ouster of the country's former president be replaced by a civilian administration*



ZEINAB BADAWI

The grief on Umm Babikir's face is raw, angry, and deep. In her elegant and spacious home in Khartoum, she gestures at a large photograph of her son, Dr Babikir Abdul Hameed. "Look at that beautiful smile on his face, he was everything to me," she says, barely suppressing her tears. "My husband works in the Gulf and Babikir was my only son. He did everything for me."

On Jan. 17, Babikir was with thousands of protesters in Khartoum, tending to the injured. He was 27. Umm Babikir (her name is Sha



Sudanese protesters rally outside the army headquarters in Khartoum

1429

English siege of Orleans broken by Joan of Arc and the French army



1912

Columbia University approves plans for awarding the Pulitzer Prize in several categories, after established by Joseph Pulitzer.

1915

RMS Lusitania sunk by German submarine off the southern coast of Ireland; 1198 lives lost

1945

World War II: Unconditional German surrender to the Allies signed by General Alfred Jodl at Rheims

# Tough decisions



event to celebrate a national day of prayer in the Rose Garden of the White House

that lapse of the Iranian regime, so the hard-

In the past, Washington extended security cover to Lebanon, making it clear

that the failure of this small country was a red line. According to officials, the US has run out of patience. Now, they say, there is a real chance the US may end its security guarantees if the Lebanese do not stand up to Hezbollah and stop it from putting Iranian interests ahead of those of Lebanon itself.

Meanwhile, some circles in New York and Washington are raising questions about the prospects of Trump opening the door to military action in Iran and Venezuela. The US is divided here too. Democrats are automatically opposed to everything that Trump decides, and they will be placing their bets on popular opposition to any military involvement.

On Venezuela, the Trump administration has a coherent policy. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, National Security Adviser John Bolton, Special Envoy Elliott Abrams, and Vice President Mike Pence all agree on being robust, even if that requires military intervention for a limited transitional period, in order to secure civilian rule with the help of the country's armed forces.

Pompeo and Bolton have both accused Moscow of meddling in Venezuela. They say that the Kremlin is resisting transition in Caracas and has convinced Maduro not to leave for Cuba. Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, has said that Washington's interference in Venezuelan affairs violates international law and that such "aggressive moves" will have serious ramifications. Pompeo has said that his boss prefers peaceful transition but that he was "clear and firm" that military ac-

tion remains an option.

At present, it seems that peaceful transition is unlikely, unless the Venezuelan military overthrows Maduro, or Maduro's friends abandon him and convince him to step down. However, it is the Kremlin that matters most here. If Russian President Vladimir Putin decides that Venezuela is an asset – given its strategic location and vast oil reserves – worth risking relations with Washington for, then the crisis is set to escalate.

To some extent, it seems that the solution is in the hands of the Venezuelan military, which can side with the people against Maduro and back Guaido as an interim president.

Some have accused the Trump administration of supporting military takeovers around the world, including in Algeria, Libya, and Sudan. But the Obama administration supported Islamist takeovers, based on the Turkish model, and backed the Muslim Brotherhood, despite its rejection of the separation of powers and its quest to impose its will on the constitution and state. If the choice is between this and temporary military rule, it would seem that temporary military rule is the lesser evil.

*(Raghida Dergham is the Founder and Executive Chairman of Beirut Institute. She is a Columnist for the Huffington Post and Arab News and served as Columnist, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, and New York Bureau Chief for the London-based Al-Hayat daily for 28 years)*

the protesters in He emerged from creating civilians. liers confronting was a doctor. "We shot him several range. He died.

me she had a mother's instinct that something would happen to her son. "I begged him not to go out that day and tried to think of a million reasons to dissuade him. But he wanted to be part of the revolution." Babikir was one of nearly 100 people who died in the protests that began in December last year.

There was much rejoicing on the streets of Khartoum after the fall of Omar Al-Bashir, but it could have gone horribly wrong; if Bashir's orders had been obeyed, there would have been a bloodbath.

At the new presidential palace in Khartoum, Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan, head of the transitional military council that took over when Bashir was ousted, tells me Bashir asked him to order the army to open fire on the protesters at the height of the demonstrations. He refused, along with Hemedti, the commander of the Rapid Support Forces.

Burhan personally told Bashir it was time for him to step down.

The revolution in Sudan has catapulted its people into the world's headlines and their extreme courage, persistence, and determination have rightly been praised. But the country has been here before; popular protests have been instrumental in getting rid of army rule in the past. There was a civilian government at independence from Britain in 1956, but just two years later Gen. Ibrahim Abboud mounted a coup and ruled until demonstrations helped remove him in 1964. Then in 1969 Col. Gaafar Nimeiry seized power and stayed until 1985 when he too was partly dislodged by massive street protests. After a year of transition under Gen. Abdel

Rahman Swar Al-Dahab, there were elections and a civilian government in 1986. But that only lasted three years until Bashir's coup in 1989.

So history shows that, although the removal of Bashir from power after 30 years is an extraordinary achievement, it is only the first step. The future success of the revolution depends on what happens next.

The umbrella movement that dislodged Bashir is known as the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC). It is made up of disparate elements – the Sudanese Professionals Association, which led the protests, as well as students, civil society, activists and political parties. There are secular and Islamist groups in the coalition, women's rights activists and conservatives, who must all reconcile their competing visions for a new Sudan.

The FCC is trying to chart Sudan's future, along with the military. Negotiations have become stuck over the composition of a future supreme council and the division of power on it. This is the body that will guide the transition for an as yet unspecified period of time.

The vigilant FCC are quite right to maintain pressure on the military to ensure that civilians are in the driving seat.

So the stakes are high. Yes, the army can finally be driven out of Sudan's politics, but this depends not only on the generals keeping their promise that they are not hungry for power, but also civilians managing the transition successfully to prevent history from repeating itself.

Khartoum is where the Blue and White Niles meet. Rivers with different sources and separate courses unite and form a single and powerful waterway. I hope that, in a similar way, those negotiating the new Sudan can combine their strength and emerge stronger together.

Otherwise, Dr Babikir, and the scores like him, will have died in vain.

*(Zeinab Badawi was born in the Sudan but moved to the UK at the age of 2. She is an international broadcaster and also chair of the Royal African Society in the UK)*

## Letter

### Russia can deal with everyone in the Middle East

I read with interest Faisal Al-Yafai's article regarding Russia's position globally and especially in the region. Although his premise is correct, especially in light of US foreign policy failure when facing the Russians the last decade or more, to claim Russia does not take sides or remains on relatively good terms with everyone is woefully inaccurate. Russia's involvement until today in Syria is propping the murderous regime, who would have fallen had it not been for Russian and Iranian support. They continue to bombard supposedly demilitarized areas in the north of Syria, with dozens of civilian casualties reported in the last few days. Of course, their history in other places, especially Ukraine, and in international assassinations of their detractors is well documented.

Rather than praise the Russians for their adept and murderous manoeuvring, perhaps the author should focus on the Turks, who have had to go it alone, notwithstanding their supposed rock solid NATO membership. They have been the only real counter party to negotiating for peace in Syria with the Russians and Iranians, and have taken in the vast majority of the refugees fleeing the Russian/Iranian/Syrian Government aggression. The Turks deserve our regional support, and they deserve solid support from their NATO allies. And the Russians deserve our condemnation.

Omar Haydar



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



We need patience to protect our peace of mind, our compassionate mind. Patience is part of our defense, as is forgiveness. Enemies and troublemakers are helpful in that they give us the opportunity to exercise patience and forgiveness..

@DalaiLama

02



Scott Walker is 100% correct when he says that the Republicans must WAKE UP to the Democrats State by State power grab. They play very dirty, actually, like never before. Don't allow them to get away with what they are doing!.

@realDonaldTrump

03



Proud of my young friends who have successfully cleared the CBSE Class X examinations. Wishing them the very best for their journey ahead. May these young minds continue making us proud. Congratulations also to their teachers and parents! #CBSE10thresult

@narendramodi

04



We take many things for granted. Even the fact that India is managing a mammoth election exercise and a devastating typhoon (very few casualties) all at the same time is something very few countries can pull off. So much to be proud of

@sunandavashisht

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

# business

## Malaysia minister accuses EU of palm oil 'trade war'

Brussels, Belgium

Malaysia yesterday accused the EU of launching a "trade war" over a plan to curb the use of palm oil in biofuels and threatened retaliatory action at the WTO.

The southeast Asian country is the world's second biggest palm oil producer after Indonesia and would be hit hard by the EU's plan to phase out its use in biofuels by 2030.

Teresa Kok, the Malaysian minister responsible for palm oil, is beginning a tour of European capitals to press her case but vowed that her government would fight back if the EU did not back down.

"We see this as a form of trade war by the EU against Malaysia and Indonesia as palm oil producing countries," she said. Kok said Malaysia would consult with Indonesia before looking what action could be launched at the WTO.

# Batelco, MEIRA join hands



Officials of Bahrain Chapter of the Middle East Investor Relations Association

TDI | Manama

Batelco said it has signed an agreement to become one of the founding partners of the Bahrain Chapter of the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA).

MEIRA has officially launched a new chapter in Bahrain, to further develop and enhance best practices in In-

vestor Relations (IR) across Bahrain.

The MEIRA Bahrain Chapter founding members include ALBA, Bank ABC, National Bank of Bahrain, SICO Bank, Ithmaar Holding as well as Batelco. Bahrain Bourse will lead the MEIRA Bahrain Chapter.

The signing ceremony took place at the Bahrain Bourse premises with Batelco Chief Financial Officer Faisal Qamhiyah

singing on behalf of Batelco.

The ceremony was followed by an IR seminar attended by more than 30 representatives from local listed companies.

Commenting on the new chapter, Andrew Tarbuck, MEIRA Chairman said: "We look forward to collaborating with our Chapter Members and with Bahrain Bourse as the Chapter Head to increase the effective-

ness and quality of the IR function among the organisations in the Kingdom through our wide range of activities and training programmes."

Faisal Qamhiyah, Batelco Chief Financial Officer added, "This is a great opportunity for Batelco to be part of this initiative to promote and raise awareness relating to investor relations' best practices across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Shaikh Khalifa Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, commented: "The establishment of the Bahrain MEIRA Chapter sets the ground for establishing a solid network of IR professionals in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and will certainly help in advancing the IR function and promoting international best practices among listed companies in the capital market."



The Supreme Council of Women and Bahrain Bourse organised a session targeting female beneficiaries of the early retirement pension programme on 5 May 2019. The session was part of the National Guidance Programme for Bahraini Women, to introduce the beneficiaries to various investment opportunities available at the Bourse and the fundamentals of investment. The session was presented by Faisal Saleh, Head of Trading Operations at Bahrain Bourse. Topics covered include the importance of saving & investment, the types of investment products available for investors at the Bourse, concepts of risk and return, and how to build an investment portfolio.

## BDB, Investcorp host BFI Singapore delegation

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) co-hosted a luncheon at the Capital Club for visiting members from the Business Families Institute (BFI) of Singapore for a GCC tour organised by Investcorp.

Investcorp organised a week-long tour for the BFI delegates across three GCC cities which started in Bahrain and included Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The purpose of this tour was to provide the BFI members with an opportunity to interact with the local business community, experience the art & culture and be exposed to the various focus sectors of the economy including startups and SMEs.

The visit included meetings with business families, government stakeholders, and



Officials during the luncheon held at Capital Club

key organizations that support business and culture in Bahrain.

The luncheon featured a panel discussion between two founders of Bahrain based

startups that are part of the BDB Seed Fuel-Rowad programme portfolio Hussain Haji, Inagrab and Amjad Puli-yiali, Get Baqala and moderated by BDB's Head of Development Services & Senior Vice President Areije Al Shakar.

BDB Group Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Paul stated, "We are proud of our ongoing partnership with stakeholders to support entrepreneurs in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

Investcorp Co-CEO Hazem Ben Gacem said: "Thanks to our presence in Singapore, we have developed close ties with BFI and given we have deep connections with the Bahraini financial institutions, including Bahrain Development Bank, because of our near 40-year presence in the kingdom, we were able to successfully link those two groups together."

## Redha Abbas wins AUB MyHassad prize of \$25,000

TDI | Manama

Redha Abbas, a retired Bahraini, has been announced as the winner of Ahli United Bank's (AUB) MyHassad weekly prize of USD 25,000.

"I never expected to be so lucky as to win a second time in the draws," Redha said.

When asked about his plans for spending the prize, Redha said, "I have 3 daughters, and I will use the prize amount to pay for their school and university education."

It is worth noting that Redha is also the winner of one of the previous MyHassad prizes, and he wishes he could still win for the third time!

MyHassad - the biggest award prizes programme in Bahrain,

since its inception, has offered cash prizes exceeding BD67 million Bahrain for more than 16 thousand winners from its customers.

AUB recently announced the launch of the new version of the popular savings programme, "MyHassad", which is being launched again this year with a series of prizes with a total of more than US\$ 8 million. This will be topped by the "MyHassad Millionaire" award, which will award one million US dollars to one winner in the draw to be held later this year.

The new season will start with a weekly draw of a US\$25,000 in Bahrain and a further BD20,000 in a weekly draw to provide more win-win opportunities.



Redha Abbas, a retired Bahraini, the winner of AUB MyHassad prize of \$25,000

## CBB T-bills oversubscribed

TDI | Manama

This week's BD 70 million issue of Government Treasury Bills has been oversubscribed by 114 per cent.

The bills, carrying a maturity of 91 days, are issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), on behalf of the Government of Bahrain.

The issue date of the bills is May 8 and the maturity date is August 7.

The weighted average rate of interest is 3.27pc compared to 3.32pc for the previous issue on May 1.

The approximate average price for the issue was 99.180pc with the lowest accepted price being 99.160pc.

# Boeing knew of 737 MAX safety system glitch

● **Faulty angle of attack indicator information may have played a role in the deadly crashes**

Washington, United States

Boeing engineers identified a fault with a pilot warning system on its 737 MAX aircraft in 2017, a year before the deadly Lion Air crash, the company said Sunday.

Boeing said that management was unaware of the issue until the crash in Indonesia, which killed 189 people, and the planes were not grounded until after another of the type operated by Ethiopian Airlines went down several months later, leaving a further 157 people dead.

According to Boeing, a supposedly standard piece of equipment that tells pilot about disagreements between angle of attack (AOA) indicators -- which measure the plane's angle vis-a-vis oncoming air to warn of impending stalls -- did not in fact activate unless an additional optional indicator was purchased by airlines.



Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are parked on the tarmac after being grounded at the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, California.

That left airlines that did not buy the optional indicator -- including both Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines -- without the safety feature.

Faulty angle of attack indicator information may have played a role in both of the deadly crashes,

causing the 737 MAX anti-stall system to unnecessarily activate and push the nose down toward the ground even as pilots fought to maintain altitude.

"In 2017, within several months after beginning 737 MAX deliveries, engineers at Boeing

identified that the 737 MAX display system software did not correctly meet the AOA Disagree alert requirements," the aircraft manufacturer said in a statement.

"The software delivered to Boeing linked the AOA Disagree



Boeing Chief Executive Officer Dennis Muilenburg

alert to the AOA indicator, which is an optional feature," it said. "Accordingly, the software activated the AOA Disagree alert only if an airline opted for the AOA indicator."

A Boeing review "determined that the absence of the AOA Disagree alert did not adversely impact airplane safety or operation," concluding that "the existing functionality was acceptable until the alert and the indicator could be delinked in the next



The FAA certified the 737 MAX 8 in March 2017, after a year of testing. As the Seattle Times noted, some of that certification was assigned to Boeing itself to conduct, a practice that has occurred before in the industry

planned display system software update," Boeing said.

"Senior company leadership was not involved in the review and first became aware of this issue in the aftermath of the Lion Air accident."

Boeing's entire 737 MAX fleet has been grounded since shortly after the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March, while investigators study the incidents and engineers work on solutions.

## China to cut reserve requirements for small banks



Headquarters of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank, is pictured in Beijing, China

Beijing, China

China's central bank said yesterday it would cut the amount of cash that small and medium-sized banks hold in reserve in Beijing's latest move to boost the stuttering economy.

Authorities will slash the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) on May 15, with the aim of lowering financing costs for small businesses, the People's Bank of China said in a statement.

For county-level rural banks with limited scope, the RRR will be cut to eight percent, in line with the rate at rural credit cooperatives.

Roughly 1,000 banks will benefit from the action, unlocking 280 billion yuan (\$41.6 billion) for lending to small

private companies, the central bank said.

It is the second such move this year as China seeks to blunt the impact of a weakening economy and slowing global demand for its exports.

The move comes as Donald Trump on Sunday threatened to raise tariffs on hundreds of billions worth of Chinese goods at the end of the week, throwing a spanner in trade talks that had appeared on track to conclude soon.

Beijing's top policymakers outlined a looser monetary policy during parliamentary meetings in March with Premier Li Keqiang pledging China would reduce the amount of cash banks must keep in reserve to support growth.

## Indonesia misses forecasts in Q1

● **Southeast Asia's biggest economy expanded 5.07 per cent in January-March**

● **Missed market estimates of 5.18pc**

Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesia's economy grew slower than expected in the first quarter, official data showed Monday, as exports contracted for the first time since 2016 owing to softer demand for key commodities.

Southeast Asia's biggest economy expanded 5.07 per cent in January-March, nearly flat from a year earlier and missing market estimates of 5.18 percent.

An uptick in government and household spending buoyed growth, but imports and exports fell from a year ago while gross domestic product declined from the last quarter of 2018, the statistics agency said.

The commodities-driven economy has been faced with widening trade deficits and rocky global demand for export drivers like palm oil and coal.

"Exports are likely to remain weak," research house Capital



Indonesian workers spreading out fish to dry at the port of Muara Angke in Jakarta.

Economics said in a report after the figures were published.

"We expect global growth to soften a bit further over the coming quarters and for the prices of Indonesia's main commodities exports, coal and palm oil, to remain subdued," it added.

The data come several weeks after Indonesia held polls that saw President Joko Widodo

**The data come several weeks after Indonesia held polls that saw President Joko Widodo elected to a second term**

elected to a second term, according to unofficial results. Official figures are due this month.

Widodo leaned heavily on a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure push, including Jakarta's first mass-rapid-transit system, in the campaign.

However, his administration has seen annual growth hover around five percent a year, well short of earlier pledges to hit seven percent despite the huge infrastructure building blitz and stimulus packages.

## France Telecom goes on trial over wave of suicides

Paris, France

A decade after a wave of suicides at France Telecom in which 35 employees took their own lives, the telecoms giant and its former CEO go on trial yesterday for "moral harassment".

The case will look at what was behind the deaths that occurred between 2008 and 2009 when Didier Lombard was at the helm

of the company, which is today known as Orange.

The trial opens at the Paris criminal court nearly seven years after Lombard and France Telecom were charged with harassment in what was a first in France.

Also in the dock are a handful of former senior executives accused of harassment and others facing charges of complicity in a

trial which will likely be closely followed by business, unions and workforce experts.

Expected to last more than two months, it could result in a conviction for institutional psychological harassment.

Despite France's labour laws, which are some of the strongest in the world, depression, long-term illness, professional burnout and even suicide have

become increasingly common.

Unions and management accept that 35 France Telecom employees took their own lives between 2008 and 2009 and Lombard stepped down as a result of the deaths.

Formerly a public company, France Telecom was privatised in 2004, a move which led to major restructuring and job losses.

Prosecutors say the company

and its chief executive at the time introduced a policy of unsettling employees in order to induce them to quit.

During the investigation, magistrates focused on the cases of 39 employees, 19 of whom killed themselves, 12 who tried to commit suicide and eight who suffered from acute depression or were signed off sick as a result of it.

In July 2008, a 51-year-old technician from Marseille killed himself, leaving a letter accusing the bosses of "management by terror". Two months later, a 32-year-old woman jumped out of the window of her Paris office as horrified colleagues looked on.

Lombard served as chairman and chief executive between 2005-2010.

# Financials drag major Gulf markets

● Seera Group tumbles on lower Q1 net-profit

● 24 of 30 stocks on Egypt's index fall

● Egypt's El Sewedy, SODIC slide on trading ex-dividend

● Dubai's RAK Properties drops after Q1 results

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market fell yesterday to its lowest point in eight months, hurt by profit-taking in its banks, while most major Middle Eastern markets also slid sharply.

The Saudi index was down 1.5 per cent, weakened by financial and petrochemical stocks. Its biggest lender, National Commercial Bank, decreased 1.9pc and Banque Saudi Fransi lost 4.3pc.

Oil prices tumbled after US President Donald Trump said he would sharply raise tariffs on Chinese goods this week.

Yanbu National Petrochemicals and Advanced Petrochemicals fell 2pc and 1.8pc respectively.

Travel operator Seera Group fell 5.2pc after posting a 40pc drop in its first-quarter net profit, citing competitive pricing and higher costs.

"The interest rate is unlikely to rise, business volumes are likely to be low as we enter Ramadan period, and now weaker crude prices present an ideal gain booking opportunity," analyst Chiro Ghosh at SICO said in Bahrain.



Visitors look at stock price information displayed on a digital screen inside the Saudi Stock Exchange

## Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 1.5 pc at 9,043 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 1.5 pc at 5,146 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.7 pc at 2,733 pts
QATAR	▼ 1.6 pc to 10,297 pts
EGYPT	▼ 2.1 pc to 14,205 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.1 pc at 1,438 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.7 pc at 3,905 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.3 pc at 6,191 pts

The deep sell-off in the financial sector was profit-taking by investors who had made reasonable gains, Ghosh added.

Last week, Saudi local investors were net sellers of stocks, representing 85.8pc of total selling activity, while foreign investors were net buyers, according to stock exchange data.

The Egyptian blue-chip index dropped 2.1pc, with 24 of its 30 stocks declining. El Sewedy Electric plunged 8.1pc and developer Sixth Of October Development And Investment Co (SODIC) dropped 4.4pc as the stocks traded ex-dividend.

Non-Arab foreign investors were the net buyers in Monday's session, while Arab investors were the net sellers, according to stock exchange data.

Egyptian Chemical Industries

(Kima) was down 6.7pc. The company reported an 81.7pc fall in net profit for the nine-month period, while Emaar Misr For Development dropped 6.8pc after posting a fall in its first-quarter net profit.

"Kima's results are weak, falling short of our estimates by a considerable margin, as the company continued to face hurdles to export its output to Sudan and Turkey," NAEEM Brokerage in a note.

Qatar's blue-chip index slid 1.6pc, pressured by financial stocks. Qatar Fuel and Qatar First Bank fell 3.9pc and 3.8pc, respectively.

The index has risen only 0.2pc year-to-date, making it one of

the worst performing Gulf markets this year.

The Abu Dhabi index slipped 1.5pc, with Finance House and National Bank of Umm Al Qaiwain falling 10pc and 9.9pc, respectively. The latter reported a fall in its total income for the first-quarter.

Property developer RAK Properties shed 1.8pc after it reported an 84pc slump in first-quarter net profit.

In Dubai, the index traded 0.7pc, with Dubai Investments sliding 1.5pc after a 44pc drop in its first-quarter net profit.

Islamic insurers Dar Al Takaful and Islamic Arab Insurance fell 7.7pc and 4.2pc respectively.

# Oil prices fall, touch one-month low

Reuters | New York

Oil prices fell on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would sharply raise tariffs on Chinese goods, risking derailment of trade talks between the world's two largest economies, which renewed worries about global oil demand.

Brent crude futures fell 16

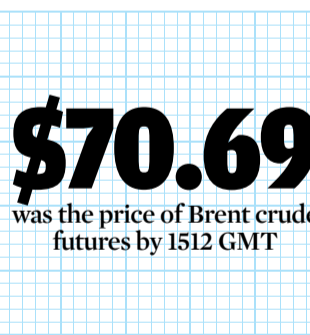
cents to \$70.69 a barrel by 11:12 a.m. EDT (1512 GMT). The global benchmark earlier sank to \$68.79 a barrel, the lowest since April 2.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures lost 29 cents to \$61.65 a barrel. WTI's session low was \$60.04 a barrel, the weakest since March 29.

On Sunday, Trump said on

Twitter that tariffs on \$200 billion of goods would increase on Friday to 25 percent from 10 percent, reversing his February decision to keep them at 10 percent due to progress in trade talks.

Early Monday, Trump appeared to defend his Sunday statement, citing the trade deficit between the United States



and China. "Sorry, we're not going to be doing that anymore!" he tweeted.

US stock indexes fell on Monday, tracked by oil futures.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a news briefing on Monday that a Chinese delegation was still preparing to go to the United States for trade talks.

# Central bank strike cripples Lebanon stock exchange

● Central bank employees say they are protesting a decision to slash their benefits

● first such strike since the central bank was established in 1963

Beirut, Lebanon

The Beirut Stock Exchange said Monday it had been forced to halt trading because of an open-ended strike by central bank employees over proposed cuts to their benefits.

It said it would halt operations until further notice as it could not clear and settle trades be-

cause of the strike, which started on Saturday.

"To protect the rights of investors, the Beirut Stock Exchange has decided to stop trading," it said in a statement.

No shares changed hands on the exchange yesterday, it said on its website.

Central bank employees say they are protesting a decision to slash their benefits as part of a new austerity package being studied by cabinet ahead of this year's budget.

Representatives of their syndicate met with central bank governor Riad Salame on Monday, it said in a statement.

It said it would decide on its next steps during a meeting on Tuesday morning.

Syndicate head Abbas Awada said that this is the first such



Employees of the Central Bank in the capital Beirut sitting on their desks during a strike.

strike since the central bank was established in 1963.

Other public sector employees have resorted to similar measures against possible austerity

measures in recent weeks.

Public sector strikes on Monday handicapped the Beirut Port, the National Social Security Fund, and other state-run

bodies, as cabinet met to discuss the austerity package, according to the country's National News Agency (NNA).

Lebanon has vowed to slash

**ArcelorMittal to shut Polish plant temporarily due to rising costs**

Reuters | Warsaw

ArcelorMittal Poland said on Monday it planned to halt its blast furnace and steel plant in Krakow in September, due to rising carbon emission costs and surging power prices. ArcelorMittal did not say how long the shutdown would last at the Krakow furnace, which is in southern Poland. The company said this would partly depend on the situation in the steel market.

ArcelorMittal Poland is the country's biggest steel producer and owns five steel plants and a coke plant, the biggest of its kind in Europe.

**Timmermans calls on all EU members to adopt minimum wage**



Frans Timmermans  
Warsaw, Poland

European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans yesterday called for each EU member to have a minimum wage equivalent to 60 percent of its median salary to reduce the bloc's growing wealth gap.

All but six of the European Union's 28 states already have a legal minimum wage, though levels vary starkly.

"We need a minimum wage in the European Union," the Dutch politician, a socialist candidate for the top EU job in this month's elections, said at a public debate in Warsaw.

"Sixty percent of the median wage in every member state, I mean," he added.

In 2017, Eurostat data showed a range of minimum wages from Bulgaria's 460 leva (235 euros, \$263) a month gross to 1,999 euros in Luxembourg -- or nine times as much.

public spending to unlock \$11 billion worth of aid pledged by international donors during an April 2018 conference in Paris.

Last month, Prime Minister Saad Hariri vowed to introduce "the most austere budget in Lebanon's history" to combat the country's bulging fiscal deficit, sparking fears among public sector employees that their salaries may be cut.

Other officials, including Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, have said that austerity measures will include public sector wage cuts.

Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil on Monday said that the government is also mulling increasing the tax rate on interest payments from 7 to 10 percent as part of the new budget, according to NNA.

# SHOW

## OASIS JUFFAIR

- 1-THE INTRUDER (15+) (THRILLER) NEW**  
\* MEAGAN GOOD, DENNIS QUAID, MICHAEL EALY  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.30 PM
- 2-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**  
\* PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
- 3-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**  
\* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN  
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM  
DAILY AT (3D): 11.30 AM + 3.00 + 6.30 + 10.00 PM  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 12.00 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 10.30 PM  
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.15 + 3.45 + 7.15 + 10.45 PM
- 4-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)**  
\* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO  
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
- 5-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)**  
\* HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS  
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 PM
- 6-ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)**  
\* DULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM
- 7-ATHIRAN (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)**  
\* FAHADH FAZIL, SAI PALLAVI, ATUL KULKARNI  
DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

## CITYCENTRE

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



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

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



- 7-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**  
\* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM  
DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 3.30 + 7.00 + 10.30 PM
- 8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)**  
\* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM
- 9-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)**  
\* ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 5.00 + 11.00 PM
- 10-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA)**  
\* VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT  
DAILY AT: 1.45 + 7.45 PM
- 11-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)**  
\* LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN
- 12-STOCKHOLM (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME/DRAMA)**  
\* ETHAN HAWKE, NOOMI RAPACE, MARK STRONG  
DAILY AT: 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
- 13-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)**  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.00 + 2.30 + 4.00 + 5.30 PM
- SEEF (I)**
- 1-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**  
\* PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN
- 2-DEVARATTAM (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW**  
\* VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
- 3-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**  
\* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 2.00 + 4.30 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
- 4-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

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

## SAAR

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

## WADI AL SAIL

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

## MOVIE REVIEW

### 'A Vigilante' is a revenge film with delusions of grandeur

Despite the interesting topic, Sarah Daggar-Dickson's directorial debut didn't exceed expectations, becoming a minimally involving slow-burner set in upstate New York that essentially relies on Olivia Wilde's convincing performance to elevate it slightly above the levels of mediocrity.

After a ruining past experience that made her endure physical abuses and lose a child at the hands of a violent husband, Sadie (Wilde) found the strength to abandon the depressive state she was immersed into. She resolved to turn her life from passive to active and act fiercely against domestic abusers.

Although occasionally exposed to panic attacks that contrast with the ice-cold expression she evinces while in action, the skinny Sadie prepared herself physically to apply the same brutal violence that husbands and neglecting parents use against their frightened and weaker rela-



A scene from 'A Vigilante'

tives. She still attends the support group meetings that set out a world of physically abused women, who, despaired, don't know how to escape their aggressors. Sadie finds relief by making them pay for misconduct.

After a few rescues, including a devastated kid whose brother was violently harmed by their mother, Sadie faces the worst of her night-

mares: the return of her cruel husband (Morgan Spector).

The idea in this classically suspenseful story sounds a lot better than its execution. The director cooks it slow and steady, balancing the tension throughout. Yet, she never provides that spine-chilling effect one constantly seeks in a film of this nature.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, BIJU KUMAR PANKAJAKSHAN PILLAI** Father of **KARTHIK BIJUKUMAR PILLAI**, holder of Indian Passport No **K6645950** dated 24/07/2014 issued at **BAHRAIN**, having permanent residence at **PLACKAL HOUSE, NEDUMKUNNAM P.O, KOTTAYAM DIST, KERALA**. Presently residing at **FLAT NO.25, BUILDING NO.704-D, ROAD NO.1513, BLOCK NO:215, MUHARRAQ, BAHRAIN** do hereby change my Son's name as (Given Name) **KARTHIK**, (Surname) **BIJUKUMAR PILLAI**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

**I, BAL RAM S/O JIWAN RAM**, holding Indian Passport No. **P9588186**, dated 10.04.2017 issued at **JAIPUR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VPO - SABALPURA, THE-KUCHAMAN CITY, NAGAU PIN: 341508, RAJASTHAN, INDIA**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building **NO - 3229, ROAD 355, BLOCK NO - 603, SITRA, INDUSTRIAL AREA**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **BAL** (Surname) **RAM**. 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, SHAJI SEBASTIAN** Father of **ALYSSA MARIA SHAJI**, holder of Indian Passport No **L4928367** dated 15/05/2014 issued at **BAHRAIN**, having permanent residence at **KOIKARA, PAZHANGANAD, KIZHAKKAMBALAM P.O, ERNAKULAM, KERALA - 683562**. Presently residing at **FLAT NO.13, BUILDING NO.734, ROAD NO.4324, BLOCK NO:743, SANAD, BAHRAIN** do hereby change my daughter's name as (Given Name) **ALYSSA MARIA**, (Surname) **SHAJI**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

**I, JOYAL JACOB S/O JACOB**, holding Indian Passport No. **H5860705**, dated 26.05.2009 issued at **BAHRAIN** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **KALASSERY HOUSE, KOLANI P.O., PIN 685584, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI DISTRICT, KERALA**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **FLAT - 12, BUILDING NO - 956, ROAD 1134, BLOCK NO - 311, SALMANIYA**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **JOYAL** (Surname) **JACOB**. 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.

# celebs

## Dwayne Johnson thrilled after fans surprise him

ANI | Los Angeles

**D**wayne Johnson popularly known by his stage name 'The Rock' received a beautiful gesture from his fans. The wrestler posted a small video where he can be seen surrounded by his frenzy fans, who were waiting for him 'by the jet to say goodbye.'

The actor expressed gratitude on Instagram saying, "Gotta tell ya after a long long week of flying in and out for work daily and averaging 4hrs sleep a night and dog tired -- surprises like these fans waiting by the jet to say goodbye means a helluva lot and has that powerful way of giving me energy and mana to keep on keepin' on. Thank y'all for being the best fans in the world. See ya down the road."

The 'best fans' which were mostly females seems to be striving hard to click a selfie with the actor while Dwayne can be seen smiling and posing in the video. The excited fans can

be seen screaming and shouting after meeting their favourite actor.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Dwayne is shooting for his next film 'Jumanji', where he will be seen sharing screen space with Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, Jack Black along with singer Nick Jonas, who will be essaying the role of Jefferson 'Seaplane' McDonough.

Jake Kasdan, who has co-written the film with Scott Rosenberg and Jeff Pinker will be directing the film. 'Jumanji' is the sequel to the 2017 film 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle'. The film will premiere on December 13.

## Kylie wonders what having kids might

IAN S | Los Angeles

**S**inger Kylie Minogue says she wonders what having children might have been like after her breast cancer battle ruined her chances of being a mother.

The Australian pop star, 50, said she did have some regrets, but had accepted that she would not become a mother, reports thesun.co.uk.

Minogue was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005 at the age of 36.

She told Sunday Times Style magazine: "Realistically, you're getting to the late side of things. And, while that wasn't on my agenda at the time, it changed everything."



Dwayne Johnson

## Hathaway gets marriage advice from Caine

PTI | Los Angeles

**A**ctor Anne Hathaway has revealed that veteran Hollywood star Michael Caine gives her marriage advice.

The 36-year-old actor said Caine, 86, once told her that it is important to have separate bathrooms for a successful marriage.

"Michael and I don't really have a ring-you-up sort of relationship. But he's always very warm and lovely when we run into each other. He gives me marriage advice. Separate bathrooms. When he told me that, I laughed and he looked at me and said, 'I'm serious, it's such an important part of the marriage,'" Hathaway said.

**Michael and I don't really have a ring-you-up sort of relationship. But he's always very warm and lovely when we run into each other**

ANNE HATHAWAY

The 'Devil Wears Prada' star tied the knot with businessman Adam Shulman on September 29, 2012. The couple are parents to son, Jonathan, who was born in 2016.



Anne Hathaway

## Kim Kardashian shares picture of her kids

ANI | Los Angeles

**K**im Kardashian is overflowing with love for her children and her latest Instagram post is proof.

As she counts down the days before the arrival of her fourth baby with husband Kanye West via surrogate, the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star shared an adorable picture of her two youngest kids, 3-year-old son Saint and 15-month-old daughter Chicago on the photo-sharing application.

The soon-to-be mother captioned the love-filled post, "My babies are my life!!!!"

In the still, Kardashian's son sweetly leans in to kiss his younger sister on the cheek as the duo can be seen sitting next to each other on a couch. Saint can be seen wearing matching rose-coloured shorts and shirt set while Chicago is seen dressed in a simple white dress.

Missing from the sweet sibling's photo was Kardashian's eldest daughter North (5), who got her own loving shout-out from her beloved mother a few days earlier.

Praising her daughter's sense of style on Thursday, Kardashian revealed that she had a special pair of shades from her new sunglasses line with Carolina Lemke designed especially for her girl, reported People.

"I didn't think my daughters love for my clothes and jewelry would happen so soon. I'll literally be working and come home to find North dressed up in all of my things," she wrote on Instagram, alongside an adorable still of her daughter sporting the custom shades.

The reality TV star went on to jokingly share that she had an ulterior motive for getting custom made shades for North as Kardashian didn't want to share her own pair of shades.

"I made her these kid-size @carolinalemkeberlin sunglasses because I really wouldn't share mine lol!" she wrote, adding, "I

love my fashionista Northie so much!"

While celebrating the impending arrival of her fourth child last week, Kardashian's famous friends and family gathered at her home for a "CBD & Meditation"-themed baby shower.

During the celebration, each person in attendance was given a navy blue Yeezy slides

and everyone took part in a sound bath. In addition, baby blue-coloured decorations were placed all around the home as well as a Name Game board was also there, where many suggested unique names for the baby.

Explaining how she decided on the baby shower theme, Kardashian admitted she was "freaking out" because "the baby is coming in, like, two weeks."

"I thought what better way to celebrate than to have a little CBD" Kardashian told her guests, including her mother Kris Jenner and sister Kourtney Kardashian as well as Chrissy Teigen, Paris Hilton, Larsa Pippen, her daughter North and niece Penelope Disick.

The reality star added, "I thought it was kind of ridiculous to have a fourth baby shower. But I thought I'm freaking the f-- out having a fourth kid. ... So everyone have a puff and put on some oil."



**While celebrating the impending arrival of her fourth child last week, Kardashian's famous friends and family gathered at her home for a baby shower**



An image Kim Kardashian recently shared on her social media

## Natalie Portman on 'Star Wars' prequel backlash: It was hard

Natalie Portman

PTI | Los Angeles

**A**ctor Natalie Portman said it was hard for her to come to terms with the negative reaction received by the prequel trilogy of 'Star Wars' series.

Portman, 37, had portrayed Padme Amidala, who is later revealed to be the mother of Luke Skywalker and Leia Organa, in George Lucas' prequel films, 'Episode I: The Phantom Menace' (1999), 'Episode II: Attack of the Clones' (2002), and 'Episode III: Revenge of the Sith' (2005).

The trilogy was largely panned by the critics and also failed to live up to the expectations of the franchise fans.

"It was hard. It was a

bummer because it felt like people were so excited about new ones and then to have people feel disappointed," Portman told a British film magazine.

"Also to be at an age that I didn't really understand that's kind of the nature of the beast. When something has that much anticipation it can almost only disappoint," she added.

Portman, however, also believes that fans have over the time come to love the prequels.

"With the perspective of time, it's been re-evaluated by a lot of people who actually really love them now. There's a very avid group of people who think they're the best ones now. I don't have enough perspective to weigh in," she said.

Portman currently stars in Brady Corbet's pop star drama 'Vox Lux'.



## sports

# Insigne's late strike secures second place for Napoli

Lorenzo Insigne and Dries Mertens scored as Napoli finish second in Serie A this season

● **AS Roma forward Stephan El Shaarawy scored the opener in Genoa**

AFP | Milan

Lorenzo Insigne stepped up to slot in a 98th-minute penalty as Napoli came from behind to beat Cagliari 2-1 on Sunday to guarantee they finish second in the Italian league this season behind Juventus.

Carlo Ancelotti's side have a 10-point lead on third-placed Inter Milan with three games left.

But they are a massive 16 points behind Juventus who had already won an eighth consecutive Serie A title with five games to spare.

"Keeping up with Juventus was honestly difficult," said Ancelotti.

"Of course we lost the strong motivation because the gap was great, but second place satisfies us and the team will certainly be reinforced for next season."

After a drab first half in Naples the hosts fell behind after Leonardo Pavoletti fired the Sardinians ahead after 63 minutes.

But Dries Mertens headed Napoli back into the game with just five minutes to go and in a



Napoli's Lorenzo Insigne scores their second goal from a penalty

dramatic finale the hosts were awarded a late penalty after consultation with VAR when Artur Ionita handled a Faouzi Ghoulam cross, and was sent off.

Insigne stepped up with the clock ticking to score and ensure that Napoli will finish runners-up for the second consecutive year.

Mertens now has 82 Napoli league goals -- one more than club legend Diego Maradona.

Juventus and Napoli are already assured of Champions League football next season but the battle for the final two berths remains tight with six



**Dries Mertens now has 82 Napoli league goals -- one more than club legend Diego Maradona**

teams in the running. Atalanta's push for a first-ever berth in Europe's top com-

petition was boosted after a 3-1 comeback win over Lazio as rivals Roma were held 1-1 at Genoa.

"We believed in a Champions League place before, but now we believe in it even more," said Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini.

The side from Bergamo are just one point behind Inter Milan who were held to a goalless draw at Udinese.

Atalanta, who meet Lazio again in the Coppa Italia final on May 15 in Rome, next play Genoa before travelling to Juventus with their final league

match against Sassuolo.

Roma missed the chance to close the gap after a 1-1 draw at Genoa and are now three points behind Atalanta in fifth.

Torino are two points behind Roma in sixth after a 1-1 draw against Juventus on Friday.

But AC Milan, in seventh, can move to three points off the final Champions League place with a win at home against Bologna yesterday.

Atalanta had gotten off to the worst possible start after Marco Parolo had opened the scoring for Lazio after just three minutes in the Stadio Olimpico.

But Duvan Zapata hit back on 22 minutes for his sixth goal in eight league games.

The Colombian has scored one goal more than Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo, with 22 this season, and is three short of league top scorer Fabio Quagliarella of Sampdoria.

Timothy Castagne added a second just before the hour mark with Lazio's Brazilian defender Wallace turning into his own net after 76 minutes.

Lazio's Champions League hopes, however, have faded with Simone Inzaghi's side seven points adrift of top four with the Europa League also at risk.

In Genoa, Claudio Ranieri's side thought they had the winner when Stephan El Shaarawy volleyed in after 82 minutes.

## PSG to face Inter in China summer tournament

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain will take on Inter Milan in a summer tournament in China before facing Rennes in next season's curtain raiser Champions Trophy in Shenzhen, the Ligue 1 champions announced yesterday.

PSG will meet Inter, who are owned by Chinese group Suning, in Macao on July 27 before facing La Liga side Espanyol three days later in Shanghai.

Chinese international striker Wu Lei plays for the Catalan outfit.

The tournament will be held between July 23 and August 3.

## Stephens equals best Madrid showing with Azarenka win

AFP | Porto, Portugal

Sloane Stephens beat former world number one Victoria Azarenka 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 to reach the third round of the Madrid Open.

Stephens beat the two-time Australian Open winner for the fourth consecutive time in just over two hours to equal her best showing at the event.

Belarusian Azarenka, who double-faulted nine times, drove a forehand into the net as she was broken in the final game to lose to the American eighth seed.

Former US Open winner Stephens also reached the third round here in 2014 and 2018.

Dutch seventh seed Kiki Bertens advanced past former Roland Garros champion Jelena Ostapenko 6-4, 6-3.

Last year's losing finalist Bertens hammered 11 aces as she went through in 80 minutes, breaking Ostapenko four times.

## 'Semoum' wins Hamilton horse race

TDT | Manama

Semoum, the Mare owned by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, won the first place at the famous Hamilton Park Racecourse in the UK.

Semoum won the 1,000 metres race for the three years of age category, ridden by jockey Jack Mitchel and supervised by coach Roger Verner.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh

Nasser said, "This victory of Bahraini horseracing in the UK reflects the great support given by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to equestrian sports, which we have inherited from our ancestors."

The Representative of HM the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports to equestrian sports praised Mitchel and Verner for

their constant concern and dedication that led to this victory.

"The victory of 'Sumoom' comes to reaffirm the great position of Bahrain in equestrian sports and horseracing. What has been achieved in the UK today represents a great motivation and encouragement to achieve more outstanding accomplishments in the upcoming competitions," HH Shaikh Nasser said.

## Juventus-bound Ramsey bids emotional farewell to Arsenal



Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey during a presentation after the match

Reuters | London

Aaron Ramsey made a tearful farewell to Arsenal after 11 years at the club on Sunday and said he was looking forward to the next phase of his career at Juventus.

The Welshman, whose season ended prematurely after he sustained a hamstring injury last month, is set to join Italian champions in the close season after signing a four-year deal in February.

Ramsey, who is the club's highest scoring central midfielder with 64 goals, was given a guard of honour by team mates and presented with a memento after Arse-

nal's 1-1 draw with Brighton and Hove Albion at Emirates Stadium.

"Obviously it's very emotional, it's been a hell of a journey," the 28-year-old told Sky Sports. "Eleven years of my life, so much has happened in that, when I look back. You can tell by my voice how much it means to me."

"I'm really excited for the new challenge and new chapter in my life (at Juventus) but today it's all about this."

"This is where I grew up. I just want to take this in today and let it settle in for a few more days before I can really look forward and concentrate on that."

## Pandya brothers take Mumbai to top of IPL rankings

AFP | New Delhi

India's star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is known for his explosive batting but it was his bowling partnership with brother Krunal that took Mumbai Indians to the top of the IPL table at the end of the group stage.

Hardik, who will be a key member of India's World Cup team in England, dismissed Kolkata Knight Riders dangermen Chris Lynn and Shubman Gill in consecutive overs to break up a threatening partnership and earn the man-of-the-match award late Sunday.

Big brother Krunal gave away just 14 runs from his four overs



Mumbai Indians cricketer Krunal Pandya hugs his teammate and sibling Hardik Pandya

of slow left-arm bowling as Kolkata were restricted to 133-7 off 20 overs.

Mumbai made 134-1 in 16.1

overs for a crushing nine wicket victory that set up a playoff game against defending champions Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday.

While Mumbai captain Rohit Sharma made an unbeaten 55 to lead the run-chase, credit went to the team's bowlers.

Delighting in the recognition of his right-arm medium pace, Hardik Pandya predicted the game against old rivals Chennai would be a "cracker".

"To be honest as a batsman, there is nothing better than hitting a ball. People don't expect a lot from my bowling, neither do I, but it feels nice," the 25-year-old said after picking up his award.

# Salah out of Barca clash

Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino are ruled out of Liverpool's Champions League clash against Barcelona

● Salah was concussed during Liverpool's 3-2 win at Newcastle on Saturday

AFP | Liverpool

Liverpool will be without top scorer Mohamed Salah for Tuesday's Champions League semi-final, second leg against Barcelona after manager Jurgen Klopp revealed he was concussed in a 3-2 win at Newcastle.

The Egyptian was stretchered off at St James' Park on Saturday due to a head knock sustained as he challenged Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka for a high ball.

"It's a concussion so that means he would not even be allowed to play. So that's it," said Klopp at his pre-match press conference on yesterday.

"He feels OK but it is not good enough from a medical point of view that is all. He's desperate (to play) everything but we cannot do it."

Klopp will also be without Brazilian striker Roberto Firmino



Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah falls to the ground after injuring himself in a challenge with Newcastle United's Slovakian goalkeeper Martin Dubravka (2nd R)

due to a groin injury as his side face the huge challenge of trying to overturn a 3-0 first leg deficit to make the Champions League final for a second consecutive season.

"Two of the world's best strikers are not available tomorrow

night and we have to score four goals against Barcelona to go through after 90 minutes," added Klopp.

"It doesn't make life easier, but as long as we have 11 players on the pitch, we will try it."

Liverpool have a rich history

of stunning comebacks in European football, most famously lifting the Champions League in 2005 after trailing the final 3-0 to AC Milan at half-time.

In Klopp's first season in charge in the quarter-finals of the Europa League in 2016, the



Mohamed Salah is the Premier League's top scorer with 22 goals this season

Reds also came from 3-1 down in the final 25 minutes to beat his old side Borussia Dortmund 4-3.

However, the German coach is aware of the extra difficulty of not just scoring at least three against the Spanish champions, but also not conceding a vital away goal to the likes of Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez that would leave Liverpool needing to score five to progress.

"I imagine the place will be rocking even before we score to be honest, but we not only have to score, we have to deny Barcelona from scoring," he added.

"It doesn't happen too often that Barcelona don't score at all. We know how big the challenge is.

"This team is so wonderful we will try 100 percent, but that doesn't mean it will all work out."

While, Liverpool edged a bruising battle with Newcastle to remain in the hunt for a first Premier League title in 29 years, Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde could afford the luxury of making 11 changes for a 2-0 defeat at Celta Vigo on Saturday having already sealed the La Liga title.

And Klopp admitted he could have one eye on Sunday's final league game of the season at home to Wolves with his team selection.

"We have to make a lot of decisions. Tomorrow night will be the third game in six days and Barcelona changed 11 positions on Saturday, so that is a massive difference as well of course," he said.

"Together with our supporters it was a long season and there is at least a little chance to make it even longer.

"But if not, these are the last two home games of an incredible season and I think we should celebrate that with a good performance on the pitch and a very, very good performance in the stands."

## Warner, Smith help Australia edge New Zealand



David Warner walks past the incoming Steve Smith during the game against New Zealand in Brisbane

AFP | Brisbane

David Warner hit a quick-fire 39 and Steve Smith 22 yesterday in their first appearance for Australia since a major ball-tampering scandal as the home team edged a second-string New Zealand by one wicket in a practice match.

The Australians were set a target of 216 at Allan Border Field in Brisbane as they warm up for their World Cup defence, and scraped home with 10 balls to spare thanks to a tail-end rescue act.

They have now won nine one-dayers in a row, although this was an unofficial game and not counted as a full international.

Skipper Aaron Finch continued his rich vein of form with a measured 52, but fellow opener Usman Khawaja fell cheaply -- bringing Warner to the crease, to warm applause from the crowd.

He survived a dropped catch on nought before clicking into gear and turning on the form that saw him average 69.20 in 12 innings in the Indian Premier League.

Warner hammered 39 off 43 balls before falling to leg-spinner Todd Astle attempting a

reverse sweep.

That brought out Smith who started nervously before hitting a pair of boundaries. He spent 43 balls in the middle before being caught behind off Matt Henry.

It was the pair's first game in Australian colours since serving year-long bans for their part in the "Sandpaper-gate" ball-tampering scandal in Cape Town that rocked Australian cricket.

After Smith departed, Australia lost five for 42 before an impressive 34 from Nathan Coulter-Nile helped steer them home.

Earlier, Pat Cummins grabbed two wickets in his first over before New Zealand, missing Kane Williamson, Martin Guptill and Trent Boult, recovered to post respectable 215 off 46.1 overs

Tom Blundell led the fight-back and top scored with 77. Cummins ended with 3-36 off eight overs, with Nathan Coulter-Nile and Jason Behrendorff also grabbing three apiece.

Australia play another two games against New Zealand this week before heading to England where they open their World Cup campaign against Afghanistan on June 1.

## Valverde warns Barcelona to be wary of history at Anfield

AFP | Madrid

Ernesto Valverde wanted to keep Barcelona's feet on the ground after their 3-0 win over Liverpool so he hit his players where it hurt.

"Liverpool are a team that can make any opponent suffer," he said in the press conference after the match.

"And of course last year we had a three-goal advantage in the quarter-finals. And we were knocked out."

Valverde knows that loss to Roma still rankles with his players, barely a week passing without one of them referencing the game that defined their season last year and could yet shape this one too.

The tie looked over after a 4-1 thrashing at Camp Nou only for a 3-0 loss in Rome to complete one of the great Champions League comebacks and send the Italians into the semis.

That Real Madrid went on to



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (L) scores a goal

win the tournament for a fourth time in five years rubbed salt into the wound. "It is a thorn in our side," said Luis Suarez in September.

But it was not just that Barca had fallen short, for a third consecutive year. It was the way they had thrown it away.

"We feel like there is this scar," Clement Lenglet told AFP Sport in February. "This match

did us some harm. We want to erase that and have a beautiful season to forget it. We want to soothe the scar."

Thirteen months on, Liverpool will hope the doubt that lingers and, perhaps, the pressure to make amends can help them pull off what would surely be the club's most remarkable turnaround since the 2005 final in Istanbul.



Liverpool are a team that can make any opponent suffer. And of course last year we had a three-goal advantage in the quarter-finals. And we were knocked out

ERNESTO VALVERDE

"We have no reason to be complacent," Valverde said. "The result is good, I have no doubt about that, but the tie is still open."

Liverpool are stronger than Roma were. They have scored three or more goals 19 times this season, against opponents like Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester United, Arsenal and Porto. An early goal at Anfield on Tuesday and belief would surge.

## Federer happy to return to clay after three-year hiatus

Reuters | Madrid

Former world number one Roger Federer said he was glad he made the decision to return to clay courts as he prepares for the Madrid Open this week, three years after his last match on the surface.

Federer had skipped the clay court season the past two years since last competing in Rome in May 2016 but confirmed his participation for the tournament in Madrid earlier this year.

"I'm happy that the decision I took last December, when I started feeling like I definitely want to play on the clay, was the right one," Federer, 37, told

reporters.

"I haven't looked back yet during the clay court build-up, thinking, 'Ah, maybe I shouldn't have.' I'm happy I'm here, I'm happy I am on the surface."

"It takes some time getting used to how to construct the points a little bit more because there is more baseline (play), a possibility to play with more angles and height. It's been interesting and fun, but not so challenging."

Federer, who recently won his 101st singles title in Miami, is the tournament's fourth seed behind world number one Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal and Alexander Zverev.

However, the 20-times Grand Slam singles champion said he was not trying to burden himself with expectations when he steps out on court at the Caja Magica.

"It will be interesting to see how this tournament goes," Federer added. "I do not have high expectations in some ways."

"But at the same time I also know that things are possible. Madrid always plays fast with the altitude here. I'm intrigued to find out."

Having received a bye to the second round, Federer will

play the winner of the match between France's Richard Gasquet and Spanish teenager Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, who reached the semi-final of the Estoril Open last week.



Roger Federer