

Flyweight contender Hussain Ayyad will be carrying the flag of Bahrain at BRAVE CF 29 as he takes on Latvia's Matis Zaharovs on November 15th in front of his own crowd. **P 12**

THE DAILY **tribune**



Hilary Duff declares she is not secretly married

10 CELEBS

5 WORLD Sharif seeks permission to travel abroad

Congratulatory cables sent
Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has exchanged cables of congratulations with leaders of Arab and Islamic states on Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)'s Birthday Anniversary. HM the King extended to them wishes of good health and happiness and further progress and prosperity to their countries, wishing the Arab and Muslim nations many happy returns of the occasion.

HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister exchanged cables of congratulations with the leaders of Arab and Islamic states marking the occasion.

Pompeo blasts Russia, Putin
Berlin

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has warned of the dangers posed by Russia and called on Nato to grow and confront "the challenges of today".

On a visit to Berlin, Mr Pompeo said methods used by Russia to suppress its own people would be "horrifyingly familiar" to East Germans.

And he accused Russia of invading its neighbours and crushing dissent.

He laughed off comments from French President Emmanuel Macron, who said recently that Nato was "brain dead".

But Mr Pompeo told reporters: "Seventy years on... it needs to grow and change. It needs to confront the realities of today and the challenges of today."



02 Egypt ties 'at all time high'

03 GCC man in the dock for bid to murder son-in-law

04 Dental surgeon suspended for six months over 'medical error'

210 fils (includes VAT)



Iraq crisis worsens

Iraq protests dig in for third week; 12 more killed



Demonstrators clash with riot police during the ongoing anti-government protests in Baghdad.

In Baghdad, six people died facing off against security forces Thursday, a medical source told AFP.

Iraq's top cleric urged security forces to avoid using excessive force to quell weeks of anti-government unrest.

Baghdad

Anti-government protests in Iraq entered their third week on Friday amid fresh bloodshed, but leaders appeared to have closed rank around the country's embattled premier.

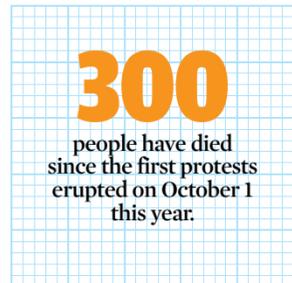
More than a dozen demonstrators had died in the capital Baghdad and the southern port city of Basra within 24 hours, medical sources told AFP on Friday.

That pushed the death toll since the first protests erupted on October 1 closer to 300, according to an AFP tally kept as officials have stopped providing updated figures.

In Basra, seven protesters were killed in confrontations on Thursday and early Friday, with security forces trying to reopen roads blocked by sit-ins, medical sources said.

For a week, protesters have cut access to Basra's Umm Qasr port, which brings in most of Iraq's food and medical imports.

In Baghdad, six people died facing off against security forces Thursday, a medical source told AFP.



Despite the violence, thousands again flocked to the capital's main protest camp in Tahrir (Liberation) Square on Friday, including members of Iraq's influential tribes.

"We sacrificed the blood of our tribe's sons," said one tribe member who had traveled from the southern city of Nasiriyah.

"We won't stop until the government resigns."

Meanwhile, Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric urged security forces on Friday to avoid using excessive force to quell weeks of anti-government unrest as authorities grapple with the country's biggest crisis in years.

Grand Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani, who only speaks on politics in times of crisis and wields enormous influence over public opinion in Shiite-majority Iraq, held security forces accountable for any violent escalation and urged the government to respond as quickly as possible to demonstrators' demands.

"The biggest responsibility is on the security forces," a representative of Sistani said in a sermon after Friday prayers in the holy city of Kerbala.

"They must avoid using excessive force with peaceful protesters."

Iran claims to have shot down drone near Arabian Gulf
Tehran

Iran's air defence force has shot down an "unknown" drone in the country's south-west, the official IRNA news agency reported on Friday.

The agency said that Iranian forces hit the drone in the early morning at Mahshahr, a port in the oil-rich Khuzestan province and on the Arabian Gulf.

The report did not say whether the drone was a military or commercially available device, said the Associated Press.

Provincial governor Gholamreza Shariati told IRNA that the drone belonged to a "foreign" country and that parts of the drone had been recovered in a nearby lagoon.

He said the drone had violated Iran's airspace.



The drone belonged to a "foreign" country and that parts of the drone had been recovered in a nearby lagoon.

KHUZESTAN PROVINCE

Joseph Dempsey, Research Associate for Defence and Military Analysis at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, geo-located footage of the supposed drone and said it did appear consistent with report of a Surface-to-Air Missile launch from Mahshahr.

But after slowing and analysing the clip he said: "However, I suspect Iran state media footage actually shows SAM failing after launch - cutting off before possible ground impact."

US Central Command said on Friday that reports that a US drone had been shot down over Iran were "incorrect".

Centcom said on Twitter that all American equipment had been accounted for.

MORE PROTESTS

Lebanon pupils skip school for third day to demand change

Beirut

Thousands of high school students across Lebanon skipped classes yesterday for a third day in a row to carry on the flame of the country's anti-graft movement.

Lebanon has since October 17 been gripped by massive cross-sectarian protests demanding a complete revamping of a political system they say is corrupt and inept.

With youth unemployment running at over 30 per cent, school students have joined en masse since Wednesday de-



Student protesters wave their national flags and shout slogans, as they protest against the government in front of the education ministry in Beirut.

manding a better country so they don't have to emigrate.

Across Lebanon, students protested outside state institutions and banks including in the southern city of Saida, Tripoli in the north and the east's Baalbek.

What started as a spontaneous and leaderless movement has become more organised in recent days, with protesters targeting institutions viewed as particularly inefficient or corrupt.

Early Friday, dozens of activists and retired army officers for the first time briefly closed down the entrance to Beirut's port.

Egypt ties 'at all time high'

His Majesty praises Egypt's development march

● His Majesty praised Egypt's key role in boosting peace, security and stability in the Middle East.

● The Egyptian President hailed the pioneering efforts of HM the King in bolstering bilateral relations.

Cairo

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held an official meeting in Cairo on Thursday with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi.

HM the King thanked him for the gracious welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation.

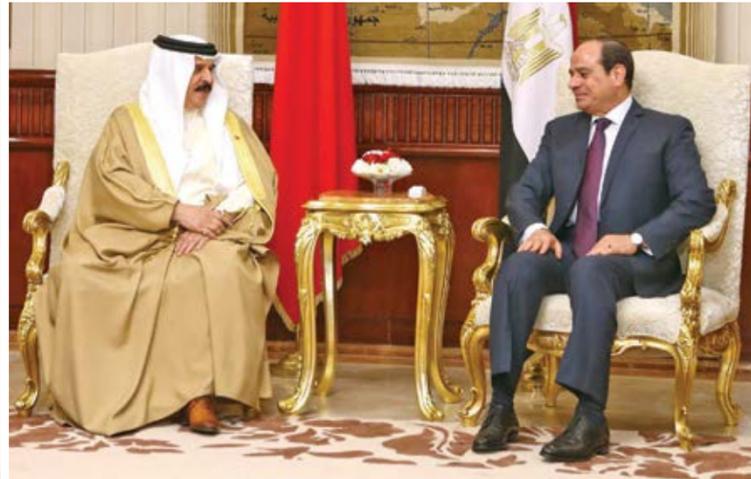
The Egyptian President hailed HM the King's visit, expressing appreciation of fraternal ties of co-operation binding Bahrain and Egypt, praising the Kingdom's inherent stances towards Egypt and its people.

Both leaders reviewed bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them at all levels for the common interest of both countries and peoples.

HM the King praised deep-root-



His Majesty being received by El Sisi in Cairo.



His Majesty held talks with El Sisi in Cairo.

ed historical relations between Bahrain and Egypt, stressing mutual keenness to bolster bilateral co-operation and co-ordination to face regional challenges.

His Majesty lauded the development march in Egypt and the quantum achievements brought about in various sectors under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi.

HM the King also commended Egypt's unwavering stances in supporting the Kingdom of Bahrain and its decades-long contribution to the Kingdom's development march.

HM the King hailed the pio-

neering historic role of Egypt in protecting the Arab national security and defending Arab issues and interests.

His Majesty also praised Egypt's key role in boosting peace, security and stability in the Middle East, stressing the importance of resolving the issue of Sadd Al Nahda (Renaissance Dam) to ensure prosperity of relevant countries and safeguard Egypt's water security.

The Egyptian President hailed the pioneering efforts of HM the King in bolstering bilateral relations, describing those relations as a distinguished model of

co-operation between brotherly countries.

His Majesty praised Bahrain's honourable role, spearheaded by HM the King, in supporting pan-Arab work.

HM the King also lauded HM the King's wise stances regarding regional issues, stressing Egypt's unwavering stance concerning security of the Arabian Gulf, being an integral part of Egypt's national security.

Both leaders discussed regional and international developments as well as issues of common concern. They hailed Riyadh Agreement between the

legitimate Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council.

They commended the efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his Crown Prince in settling the Yemeni crisis and restoring security and stability all over Yemen so as to foster regional peace and stability.

They thanked Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi and his government as well as the UAE government for facilitating the pivotal agreement which will back efforts towards a comprehensive political settlement.

Both leaders expressed hope

the agreement would rally the Yemeni ranks to face threats and challenges and work together to tackle the repercussions of the Houthi coup and deter threats to Yemen's unity and stability.

They also underscored the need to boost co-operation between the Arab countries to maintain their security and stability and confront challenges, including mainly terrorism, extremism and foreign interference.

They also affirmed the need for synergised efforts to work out peaceful solutions to crises in the region and promote security, stability and prosperity.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee received on Thursday in his Majlis heads of local sport associations and federations who have accomplished unique achievements as well as the technical and administrative staff serving in them. HH Shaikh Khalid welcomed the attendees, congratulating them on the honourable results they achieved which add to the series of accomplishments made by the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2019. HH Shaikh Khalid underscored that the Kingdom of Bahrain's sport field is living a prosperous era thanks to the backing and support of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, thanks to whom the Kingdom has scored extraordinary results in this sector. "We are greatly proud of your achievements and accomplishments. The Kingdom is lucky to have you and we are gratitude for your efforts and sacrifices," HH Shaikh Khalid pointed out.



South Korean President, Moon Jae-in, received the heads of news agencies participating in the 17th Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) General Assembly, which began on Thursday, at the Blue House (the Korean Presidential Office). Bahrain News Agency (BNA) was represented by Director General, Abdullah Khalil Buhejji, at the presidential meeting. President Moon Jae-in discussed with the heads of news agencies issues related to promoting peace, prosperity, development and economy. He also stressed the importance of the role of news agencies and their credibility, especially amid the spread of fake news. The 17th OANA General Assembly is hosted by South Korea's news agency (Yonhap), with the participation of 43 news agencies from 35 countries.



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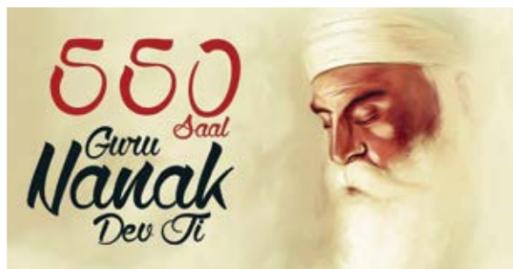
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'Akhand Path' set to be held

TDI | Manama

The Sikh community in the Kingdom will be organising a three-day event 'Akhand Path' at Gulf Air Club in Salmabad from November 13 to 15. The event coincides with the commemoration of 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak.

Sikh Community of Bahrain



will organise the event. Over 1,000 devotees are expected to attend the religious event, where 'Guru Ka Langar' will be served to them.

According to the organising committee, the 'Ragi Jatha' from India will also be part of the Kirtan ritual and related celebrations.

'Akhand Path' is the common practise of continuous recitation, without any break, of sacred religious texts in Sikhism.

GCC man in the dock for bid to murder son-in-law

Defendant charged with attempted premeditated murder

● **The accused has pleaded not guilty in the case.**

● **The victim was rushed to the hospital, where he underwent surgeries.**

TDI | Manama

A GCC national attempted to murder his son-in-law and attacked his wife, the High

Criminal Court heard.

The defendant reportedly took the victim by surprise and he stabbed him several times before assaulting his wife.

He attributed his actions to receiving a call from someone who revealed to him that his wife was dating another man.

However, investigations revealed that the man didn't receive any phone call.

And it was found that he had issues with his wife, as a result of which he carried out the attack, according to Prosecutors.



There are so many problems between us and several ongoing cases filed against each other.

ACCUSED'S WIFE

A medical report attached to the court files revealed that the defendant stabbed his son-in-law's neck and cut his ear, which was later surgically sewed.

"There are so many problems

between us and several ongoing cases filed against each other," the wife began in her statement before the Public Prosecution.

"At that night, I was sitting with my child in my apartment. And suddenly he broke in and attacked us," she added.

The GCC man denied murder attempt, alleging that his second son-in-law was the one who called him and revealed to him that his mother was cheating on him.

"He told me that whenever the man comes he would call me and open the door for me. He did and

when I arrived he came to me and gave me a knife.

"I entered the bedroom and saw a man laying on the bed and he was fully covered with a blanket. I directly stabbed him and I was shocked to find that this was my son-in-law," the man claimed.

Such claims were later dismissed after it was discovered that the man didn't receive any phone call before heading to the apartment.

The defendant was charged with attempted premeditated murder.

Russia province head receives Bahrain envoy
Maykop

President of the Russian Republic of Adygea, Murat Kumpilov, received in his office here, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Russian Federation Ahmed Abdulrahman Al Saati.

President Kumpilov entrusted the ambassador with conveying his greetings to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

He also took pride in the friendly relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Russian Federation in various fields, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

Ambassador Al Saati stressed that the Kingdom of Bahrain, thanks to its geographical location and available facilities, welcomes Russian companies to take of the Kingdom a regional centre for the distribution and marketing of their products and services in the Gulf region.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa recently received a delegation from member of the Committee on International Affairs, Deputy Chairman of the Internal Parliamentary Group Evgeny Primakov, marking their visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The head of the delegation conveyed to HM the King greetings from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who wished the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

HM the King also extended greetings to President Putin, wishing the friendly Russian people further progress and prosperity.

HM the King welcomed the delegation and reviewed with them solid relations of friendship and cooperation binding the two friendly countries, hailing the advanced level of bilateral ties on all levels, particularly parliamentary work.

HM the King highlighted Bahrain's parliamentary strides, stressing keenness on pursuing efforts to consolidate the democratic process and promote the work of the National Assembly towards achieving more progress and prosperity for the nation and citizens.

Authorities step up probe in 'charcoaled body' case

TDI | Manama

Concerned authorities have intensified their efforts to solve the puzzle of a charcoaled body, which was found in the Northern Governorate, the Daily Tribune has

learnt.

The body's identity is yet to be uncovered while the authorities are probing into the possibilities of a murder or a suicide.

Sources told The Daily Tribune that the initial probe has revealed that the body could be

that of an Asian man.

The body was found near a cemetery in Shahrakan.

Forensic were called to examine the body and declared that the initial pieces of evidence confirm that there was a crime behind it.



The crime scene, where the charcoaled body was found in Shahrakan.

Workshop concludes



The Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) concluded a two-day workshop on women and development in the Gulf, which was held in partnership with the American Political Science Association (APSA) and researchers from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and supported by the Supreme Council for Women and UNDP in the Kingdom. Featuring 20 speakers on various panels showcasing expert analysis on highlighted achievements of women in the Gulf; many topics were discussed including empowerment measures, obstacles related to the success of women in the job market, women's innovation within cultural framework, and the pursuit of gender balance in the workforce. The second and last day of the workshop included three sessions. The first session dealt with the past and future: diversity in the energy sector. The second session highlighted international and local advocacy and governance projects, while the third session discussed the future of women and development in the region.

Bahrain attends key Montreal Protocol meeting

Rome

Chief Executive Officer of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Daina, led the Kingdom's delegation to the High-Level Ministerial Segment of the 31st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held in Rome, Italy.

In his statement, Dr Bin Daina applauded the good stances of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, especially those of the West Asia and the Pacific region for their endorsement of the Kingdom's membership in the Executive Committee, which, he

said, reflects the honourable role played by the Bahraini negotiators over the past years in defending the common issues of the West Asian and Pacific countries on their behalf.

Dr Bin Daina pointed out that the Parties to the Montreal Protocol had discussed the main issues related to the policies that should be adopted to protect the Ozone Layer, noting that the agenda focused on the unexpected emissions of CFC-11, and ways to address them, especially after all countries have stopped producing or trading them since 2010.

The meeting also discussed the study on the 2021-2023 re-



Dr Bin Daina at the meeting.

plenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in, which

is expected to adopt a budget of at least half a billion US dollars. Attending the event, Pope



Montreal Protocol is the only multinational agreement signed by all members of the United Nations.

Francis praised the Protocol as a "model of international co-operation, not only in the area of environmental protection, but

also that of the promotion of integral human development".

The Montreal Protocol is an addendum to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which provides a framework for international reductions in the productions of certain chemicals that contribute to the destruction of the so-called "ozone layer" in the earth's atmosphere.

As Pope Francis noted, this became "the first Convention of the United Nations system to gain universal endorsement on the part of the entire family of nations".

One hundred ninety-six states, as well as the European Union, have signed the agreement.

EWA Ministry to boost ties with municipalities

Manama

Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak has said the Capital Municipality Council and municipal councils are partners in making and taking decision in the service field as one of the tributaries of the national project of His Majesty the King.

This assertion came during a meeting with the President and members of the Northern Municipal Council who congratulated the minister on receiving the



Mr Al Mubarak in conversation with councillors.

royal trust in his appointment as Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs.

The minister said according to the directives of His Highness

the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the attention and follow-up of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Com-

mander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Electricity and Water Authority continues to co-operate with the municipal

councils and the Capital Municipality Council as the link with citizens and residents.

He stressed on the continuation of this communication and

of present the plans and projects of the future local council to the municipal councils.

President of the Northern Municipal Council Ahmed Al Kooheji, expressed satisfaction at the level of co-operation between the municipal councils and authority, appreciating the co-operation of the concerned parties in the sector including the minister, the CEO and the vice presidents and their keenness to communicate and coordinate with the chairman and members of the council.

TDT | Manama

The High Administrative Court has upheld the decision of the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) to suspend a dentist for six months after he allegedly failed to provide necessary treatment to a woman.

The latter suffered severe complications and she needed surgical intervention to prevent her teeth from falling, according to Prosecutors.

The doctor filed a case against NHRA's disciplinary decision to suspend him for six months following his alleged blunder, which caused his patient to undergo treatment for a longer period.

He pointed out that the patient didn't follow the treatment plan and resorted to another doctor to

remove the braces.

The court stated in its ruling that the doctor flopped in his endeavour to handle the woman's case and he failed to deal with the complications arose during the treatment.

It pointed out to the NHRA's decision, which was taken unanimously by the probe panel.

Dental surgeon suspended for six months over 'medical error'

Decision taken unanimously by the NHRA probe panel



The doctor flopped in his endeavour to handle the woman's case; he failed to deal with the complications that arose during the treatment.

COURT RULING

The Department of Health manages the registration and care Professionals Regulations licensing, and renewal of licence

for all practicing health professionals in the Kingdom.

Its function is to ensure that qualified, trained, and competent health care professionals practice in Bahrain to ensure the delivery of safe, trusted, high-quality and effective health care services.

Credentials of professionals

that enter the healthcare field are thoroughly assessed with respect to their knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes that are necessary to practice here.

Moreover, recognition of new medical specialties are evaluated and reviewed for the evidence based significance and safety profiles.

SDG goals discussed at educational conference

Manama

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain hosted the 11th Arab Education Ministers Conference under the theme "Educational Policies and Their Role in Achieving the Fourth Goal of SDGs 2030".

The conference was organised at Art Rotana Hotel by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), in co-operation with the Education Ministry.

It was attended by the Arab Education Ministers and their representatives, Directors and representatives of regional and international educational organisations and representative of the Arab League Secretariat General.

Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi welcomed the audience, conveying to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al



Dr Al Nuaimi speaks at the conference.

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

He thanked Jordanian Education Minister for his dedicated efforts during Jordan's presidency of the previous conference.

He wished the new Director General of ALECSO Dr Mohammed Weld Omar every success, thanking the former Direc-

Arab educational work will boost the efforts made to achieve the fourth goal of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) which is guaranteeing good, fair and comprehensive education and promoting lifetime educational opportunities for all.

DR AL NUAIMI



The conference was attended by many experts and senior govt officials.

tor General Dr Saud Helal Al Harbi for his efforts and stressing the kingdom's full support to the organisation.

The Education Minister affirmed that joint Arab educational work will boost the efforts made to achieve the fourth goal of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) which is guaranteeing good, fair and comprehensive education and promoting lifetime educational opportuni-

ties for all.

He pointed out that this goal was endorsed by the UN member states as part of the organisation's plan 2030. He stressed Bahrain's strides in achieving the goal, citing steps taken in this respect.

ALECSO Director General Dr Mohammed Weld Omar congratulated Bahrain on the centenary of its regular education, stressing the importance of the event in showing the kingdom's leading educational status.

He also pointed out that holding the periodic conference is congruent with the implementation of the organisation's new strategic plan.

A photo gallery was held on the sidelines of the conference casting light on the history of education in Bahrain. The exhibition also brought under the spotlight distinguished projects by Bahraini students mainly in digital empowerment and artificial intelligence.

'Death of So and So' a classic example of Indo-Bahraini team up: Director

TDT | Manama
Rajeevan Puravankara

The movie 'Death of So and So' is a classic example of Indo-Bahraini team up, said its writer and director Ramgopal Menon.

Mr Menon said the Kingdom has many talented artists and its high time to make a commercial full length feature film 'made in Bahrain' to release globally.

'Death of So and So' was previewed at Ashrafs Hall, Hoora, on 1st November, 2019, which saw over 300 film enthusiasts in attendance.



Mr Balachandra Menon honours Mr Ramgopal Menon in the presence of dignitaries at the premiere show.

Padmashri Balachandra Menon, a renowned filmmaker from India was the chief guest at the

premiere show evening.

He appreciated the director for developing an unusual plot nar-

rated in a different pattern, a good viewing experience of engaging and connecting audience.

The director of photography and sound engineering technicians were Bahrainis and rest all the artists were Indian expatriates living in the Kingdom including some known stage artists and film actress Jaya Menon.

The other artistes include Prashanth Menon, Krishnana Haridas, Ramanunni Kodur, Unnikrishnana P, Vinoddas, Suresh Kaladi and Sudheer Kaladi Nithyashree etc.

Mr Balachandra Menon has offered roles for these artists in his upcoming feature film projects.

Speaking to Tribune, Mr Ram-

gopal Menon said: This is my fourth short film fully shot in BAHRAIN. The last one was Mindscape which was received Best film award in ICRF film festival held in 2018.T

"This film was again selected and invited to participate in Kochi Metro film festival to be held in Dubai under South Indian film star Mohanlal.

"So I had to make a short movie to partake in the festival. Since it's a GCC level competition I thought of doing a different subject away from the usual themes that talk of Indian diaspora's common issues."

WORLD
world**Hong Kong student who fell during protest clashes dies**

Hong Kong

A Hong Kong student who fell from a car park while police and protesters were clashing last weekend has died, hospital officials said Friday, in a development likely to further escalate tensions after months of violent rallies in the city.

Alex Chow, a 22-year-old computer science undergraduate, was certified dead at 8.09am on Friday, Queen Elizabeth Hospital said.

Chow was taken to hospital in an unconscious state in the early hours of Monday morning following late-night clashes between police and protesters.

He was found lying unconscious in a pool of blood inside a car park that police had fired tear gas into after protesters hurled objects from the building.

The precise chain of events leading to Chow's fall are un-



The student's death is likely to further escalate tensions after months of violent rallies in the city

clear and disputed, but he has been embraced by the five-month-old protest movement and his death could trigger renewed clashes as the city braces for another weekend of rallies.

Chow was a student at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The college was holding its graduation ceremony Friday morning, and university head Wei Shyy paused the proceedings to announce Chow's death and observe a moment of silence.

Philippines VP calls for revamped drug war to end 'senseless killings'

Reuters | Manila

The opposition leader put in charge of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs said yesterday it was time to reassess a campaign that was fraught with senseless killings and had failed to curtail a staggering rise in addiction.

Speaking at her first meeting in charge of a task force on narcotics, Vice President Leni Robredo said the strategy should be as much about public health as it was crime and justice, and police operations, known as "Oplan Tokhang", must be conducted lawfully and based on evidence.

Robredo is a political rival of the popular Duterte and has long been a critic of his flagship campaign, arguing that thou-

sands of urban poor have been killed, with no sign of progress towards dismantling major drugs networks.

"There are many senseless killings that have accompanied Oplan Tokhang, it has reached a certain level of notoriety, that Tokhang is a war against the poor," she said.

"It is incumbent upon us to change that thinking. It is probably time that we think about shifting to something that is effective and that no one is killed senselessly."

She added: "I am all for an evidence-based strategy and approach."

Human rights experts at home and abroad are incensed by thousands of deaths in what police say were sting operations that resulted in shootouts.

Activists dispute those ac-



Philippines Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo

counts and accuse police of executing suspects based on weak intelligence. Police reject that.

Robredo was given the "drugs tsar" post by Duterte after remarks she made about abusive police and the campaign's ineffectiveness, made during an Oct. 23 interview with Reuters, and in subsequent media appearances.

Her supporters are sceptical about the appointment by a president who has repeatedly snubbed and publicly ridiculed her.

Duterte's office says he genuinely wants Robredo to succeed.

On Friday, she said drug addiction was a real problem, noting Duterte's own frustrations about what she says are up to 8 million drug-dependent Filipinos. Duterte has not disclosed the source of his numbers.

Robredo said she interpreted Duterte's offer as a sign of his openness to new ideas.

"I want to look at it as a signal that the president is open to listen to fresh perspectives about the entire campaign," she said.

"I also want to look at it as agreement that it is time to objectively assess what we have been doing."

Huge trove of mammoth skeletons found in Mexico

Archaeologists say they have made the largest-ever discovery of mammoth remains - a trove of 800 bones from at least 14 of the extinct giants found in central Mexico.

Sharif seeks permission to travel abroad

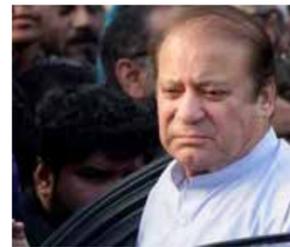
Islamabad

The family of former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif are trying to get a travel ban against him lifted so that he can go abroad for medical treatment, one of his close aides said yesterday.

Sharif, Pakistan's longest-serving premier, was ousted from his third term in office in 2017 and later imprisoned on corruption charges.

But his health has deteriorated in prison. Last month, he suffered a minor heart attack, his party said, adding that he is suffering from an autoimmune blood disorder.

Sharif also suffers from high blood pressure and his kidney



Nawaz Sharif

functions are deteriorating, according to aides.

His doctor has claimed via Twitter that Sharif is "fighting for his life".

Sharif has been bailed for health reasons and remains at a hospital in the eastern city of Lahore, but a ban remains in place forbidding him from

travelling abroad.

"The family of the former prime minister on Thursday formally approached the interior ministry asking the government to allow Sharif to travel abroad for medical treatment," a Sharif aide told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Interior ministry officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A senior government official told AFP the issue was being referred to the Cabinet.

The government is widely expected to grant the request, and a source in Sharif's party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), told AFP it is likely he will fly to London next week.

Old McDonald's: Aussie mates show off burger bought in 1995

Sydney

A McDonald's burger bought in 1995 and kept in an Australian shed for years has never decomposed, according to two men who now refer to the quarter-century Quarter Pounder as their "mate".

Casey Dean, 39, and Eduards Nits, 38, claim they ordered the Quarter Pounder with cheese from a McDonald's outlet in Adelaide as teenagers -- and have hung onto it ever since.

"Being teenagers we ordered a truckload of food, and it was just way too much," Dean said. "It started a chain of events where we were joking 'imagine if we kept this forever', and here we are."

Though the burger has shrunk a little from its original size, its shape remains intact, there are no signs of mould, and it doesn't smell.

"Even the sesame seeds are still on there, just a few have been knocked off," Dean said. The men say their relation-



Casey Dean inspects a McDonald's burger he bought in 1995 with friend Eduards Nits and kept in an Australian shed for years

ship with the Quarter Pounder will span 25 years by November 2020, a milestone even many marriages fail to reach.

"We have been talking about taking him back to his birthplace, just go see the staff there and see if he recognises anyone,"

Dean said.

Dubbing it the "Senior Burger" and referring to it repeatedly as their "mate", the men have

created social media profiles for the burger and even wrote a song about it.

They believe it is the oldest known McDonald's burger in the world, outranking a prominent decade-old cheeseburger displayed in a glass case in Iceland and live-streamed online to thousands of viewers.

Storage for the ancient Aussie burger has been rather less considered, though it has mostly been kept under lock and key in a box made of timber and cardboard.

That box spent about a decade jumbled up with clothing inside a shed in Adelaide, where temperatures regularly top 30 degrees Celsius in summer.

When they eventually went to check on it, Dean said even rats had turned their noses up at the morsel.

"The rats had actually eaten through the plastic bag, heaps of clothes, got into the box and they'd left the burger," he said. "Our mate was safe."

Dean said he understood why some might be sceptical about their claim, but argues the old-school packaging -- waxy paper and a cardboard ring -- accurately date the burger to the mid-1990s.

He is steadfast that the pair would never part with it despite fielding offers from around the world when it first came to public attention in 2015.

A McDonald's spokeswoman did not dispute the assertion, saying the question of why some of its burgers did not decay came up "from time to time" but there was a "simple explanation".

"The reason why our burgers sometimes don't go mouldy when left out at room temperature, in a dry environment, is that once the food is cooked there isn't enough moisture to support bacterial growth to break it down," she said.

"Instead, it simply dries out." She advised the best way to enjoy the firm's food was "when it's hot and tasty".

SOCIETY



The CIO200 Summit Bahrain version was held under the patronage of Shura Council Chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh and over 23 Bahraini Information Technology executives were presented with awards with finalists travelling to the UAE on December 9-10. AI Society President Dr Jassim Haji thanked Tushar Sahoo, CEO GEC for his continuous support to Bahrain's event.



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received the Chairman of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Sameer Abdullah Nass and some BCCI members. He welcomed the guests, hailing the role of the chamber in achieving sustainable development through its contribution to the national economy. He said that security and stability represent the foundation for safe investment environment and economic projects. The meeting discussed cooperation and topics of common interest. Assistant Undersecretary of Human Resources, Brigadier Adel Ameen attended.



Banagas organised Breast Cancer awareness campaign for its female employees on October 30 at the Company's head office, where the Ministry of Health and the Bahrain Free Labour Unions federation (Al Hurr) participated in the campaign.



Kindergartners of Bahrain Indian School - Students engaged themselves in craft activities.



Bahrain Indian School (BHAVANS) successfully conducted an "Evacuation Drill" in co-ordination with Ministry of Interior on 30th October 2019. The purpose of the drill was to assess the effectiveness and adequacy of the School's Emergency Plan and how to evacuate students. Officials from Civil Defence Directorate also checked the effectiveness of the alarm as well the fire-fighting equipment.

Society



Assistant Undersecretary of Ports, Search and Follow Up of the Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA), Brigadier Abdulrahman Saleh Sinan Al Dossairi has received Director General of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners, Major General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri Affairs in Dubai. The two sides discussed co-operation and co-ordination and topics of common interest.



The Southern Governorate Police Directorate has held a lecture entitled "change your thinking" for officers and other employees of the department. The event was presented by self-development ad human resources coach, Buthaina Al Jalahma. The event highlighted co-ordination between thinking and goals and creativity methods.



The Forensic Media Division of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science has participated in an awareness exhibition on the risks of narcotics. Held in cooperation with the Education Ministry at the Ghazi Al Qosaibi School, the event attracted 20 schools in the Northern Governorate. Lectures on signs of addiction and other related topics were held, while the students were allowed to ask questions and were provided with awareness booklets.



The New Indian School, Bahrain Under19 Boys' Basketball Team had an emphatic victory for the second time in a row at the Inter-School CBSE Cluster (Bahrain Chapter) Basketball Tournament held on 30th October, 2019. School chairman, Jaan M T Thottumalil, School Director Dr V Gopalan, Principal Gopinath Menon, Vice Principals, and the entire staff lauded their excellent performance and congratulated the efforts put forth by the Physical Education Department.



BHAVANS witnessed and enjoyed 'Halloween Party' on 31st October 2019. It was a visual treat to watch all the kids dressed up in costumes. There were happy superheroes, fairies, witches, goblins, monsters and other interesting characters walking around. Activities, made monster face puppets and pumpkin patches followed by the fun-filled jam session.



carry out emergency evacuation by following the standard procedures. The team of



The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) recently organised a workshop on capacity building in applied research for tropical diseases. The three-day workshop was held at the university in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR).

business

IMF sees 4.5pc growth in Central Asia, Caucasus

Reuters | Tbilisi

Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) will expand by an overall 4.5 per cent in both 2019 and 2020 despite global trade tensions and slowing growth in key trading partners, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

The IMF called on the former Soviet republics to improve competitiveness, use their natural advantages more effectively and diversify their economies to reap the gains from trade and integration into global value chains.

The Fund's report covers the Caucasus nations of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



"Despite weaker trade, overall growth for the CCA region is expected to remain about 4.5% in 2019-20, largely owing to a looser fiscal stance and private sector credit growth," it said.

Juha Kahkonen, deputy director of the IMF's Middle East and

Central Asia Department, told Reuters the big challenge for CCA states was to create jobs and adopt reforms to spur activity.

"Current growth rates are not bad from a global prospective, but countries should not be satisfied with this," he said.



Current growth rates are not bad from a global prospective, but countries should not be satisfied with this

JUHA KAHKONEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE IMF'S MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA DEPARTMENT

External risks include trade tensions, a global slowdown, lower commodity prices and rising geopolitical risks, the Fund said, while domestic risks include slowing reform momentum.

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and

Turkmenistan are energy exporters while Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan import all or most of their oil and gas.

Common and different challenges

"There is a need to diversify, make the economy more reliant on private sector activity and also the banking sector has not been reformed," Kahkonen said of Azerbaijan.

He said private sector credit had stabilised after years of decline, but that "banks are not really in good shape to support private sector activity".

In Kazakhstan, too, there "needs to be a supply of bankable projects, the government needs to have policies to diversify the economy and make sure that the private sector is an engine of

growth," Kahkonen added.

"Kazakh banks meanwhile "need to have a new business model".

The IMF official praised reforms in Armenia, which has the fastest growth in the region, and Georgia's favorable business climate.

He said the Fund's programme in Tajikistan, the poorest CCA country, was on hold as the government was not ready to commit to policies needed support it, including banking sector reform, moving to a flexible exchange rate and fiscal prudence.

Recent Uzbek economic reforms were a positive development, Kahkonen said, adding: "Once it's clear that the reforms are cemented and are there to stay, there would be a tremendous interest ... but there is a long way to go."

Carrefour to sell off Rue du Commerce online site

Reuters

French supermarket retailer Carrefour is in talks to sell its Rue du Commerce online shopping site to French e-commerce venture Shopinvest, as it refocuses its online sales strategy on food rather than electronics.

Carrefour said on Friday that it had received a firm offer from Shopinvest for Rue du Commerce. Carrefour, which bought the Rue du Commerce site back in 2015, did not disclose any financial details.

Sudan needs up to \$5bn to prevent collapse

Reuters | Khartoum

Sudan needs up to \$5 billion in budget support to avert economic collapse and launch reforms after the ouster of veteran ruler Omar al-Bashir, its finance minister said.

The country, in crisis since losing most of its oil wealth with South Sudan's secession in 2011, has only enough foreign currency reserves to fund imports for a few weeks, said Ibrahim Elbadawi, part of a transitional government formed in August.

Sudan has had some support for fuel and wheat imports but about 65 percent of its 44 million people live in poverty and it needs up to \$2 billion in development funding along with a hoped-for \$2 billion from Arab development funds, he said.

Outlining reform plans in detail for the first time, Elbadawi said public salaries would need to be increased and a social support network established to prepare for the painful removal of fuel and food subsidies.

"We have started the process (of reforms)," Elbadawi said in an interview on Thursday. "The people of Sudan deserve to be seen in a radically different prism than the international community used to see Sudan, as a country ruled by a pariah state."

The civilian government Elbadawi is part of has taken over for three years under a



Sudan's Finance Minister Ibrahim Elbadawi

power-sharing deal with the military. It has drawn slightly more than half of \$3 billion in support for imports of wheat and fuel offered by Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates in April, he said.

A "friends of Sudan" donor meeting is planned for December and the government had agreed with the United States it could start engaging with international institutions while still on a list of countries deemed sponsors of terrorism, Elbadawi said. The designation, which dates from allegations in 1993 that Bashir's Islamist government supported terrorism, makes it technically ineligible for debt relief and financing from the IMF and World Bank.

Stocks retreat as investors cash in on trade hope gains

London

Stock markets mostly retreated yesterday on profit-taking at the end of a largely positive week for equities thanks to US-China trade talk hopes.

News that Beijing had agreed a deal with Washington to start removing tariffs should negotiations progress had fired Wall Street to fresh record highs on Thursday which it consolidated in early trading Friday.

The announcement has fanned hopes that the world's economic superpowers -- who are currently finalising a mini trade pact as part of a wider deal -- can resolve their long-running tariffs war that has hobbled the global growth outlook.

Yesterday, the White House trade advisor said that President Donald Trump could postpone tariffs on Chinese goods scheduled to take effect in December.

"It's been a solid week of gains for global equity markets against a backdrop of a vast improvement in investor sentiment, about the prospects for a resolution and thaw in US, China trade relations," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

He cautioned, however, "as we have been here before, only to find that both sides have stepped back due to concerns that they may be perceived as

Key figures around 1435 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.5 pc at 7,371.24 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.4 pc at 13,240.79
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.2 pc at 5,878.11
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.2 pc at 3,697.84
New York - Dow:	▲ at 27,670.11
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.3 pc at 23,391.87 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.7 pc at 27,651.14 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.5 pc at 2,964.18 (close)
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 109.32 yen from 109.28 yen
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2811 from \$1.2817
Brent North Sea crude:	▼ 1.9 pc at \$61.08 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 1.8 pc at \$56.13 per barrel



Traders work after the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

having given too much away".

Nevertheless, the latest development eased worries about the negotiations caused by reports that a hoped-for signing ceremony this month between Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping could be delayed until December.

In Asia, Hong Kong closed down 0.7 pc following a six-day advance, while dealers in the city were bracing for a fresh

weekend of protests after the death of a student.

Shanghai gave up 0.5 pc after data showed Chinese exports and imports fell again last month, though not as quickly as expected.

Wall Street opened steady, with analysts saying trade optimism and a better-than-feared earnings season stopped many investors from aggressively taking profits.

EasyJet, Jet2.com buy Thomas Cook's UK airport slots

Reuters | London

British budget airlines easyJet and Jet2.com have bought the take-off and landing slots of failed travel company Thomas Cook at London Gatwick and Manchester airports, respectively.

Thomas Cook's UK business and airline went into immediate insolvency



An EasyJet passenger aircraft

when the company collapsed in September, and a court appointed an official receiver to liquidate its assets.

EasyJet bought Thomas Cook's slots at London Gatwick and Bristol airports for 36 million pounds, while Jet2.com, owned by Dart Group, bought slots at Manchester, Birmingham and Stansted for an undisclosed price.

London Gatwick and Manchester had been Thomas Cook's main UK bases, and the liquidators have now sold all the available slots in Thomas Cook's UK portfolio.

EasyJet acquired 12 of summer slot pairs and 8 winter slot pairs at Gatwick, plus six summer slot pairs and one winter slot pair at Bris-

tol, in the deal. The airline added that contractual terms had been concluded.

Last month Hays Travel bought Thomas Cook's network of British travel agent shops, while China's Fosun, which had been the largest shareholder of the group, bought the Thomas Cook brand last week.

Billionaires' wealth falls for first time since 2015

● Billionaires' wealth fell by \$388 billion globally to \$8.539 trillion

● Net worth of China's richest dropped 12.8% in dollar terms

TDI, Agencies | Zurich

The world's richest people became a little less well off last year, according to a report by UBS and PwC, as geopolitical turmoil and volatile equity markets reduced the wealth of billionaires for the first time since 2015.

Billionaires' wealth fell by 4.3pc year-on-year or \$388 billion globally to \$8.539 trillion, the UBS/PwC Billionaires Report found, with a particularly sharp decline in Greater China - the second-biggest home for billionaires after the United States - and the Asia-Pacific region more broadly.

Private banks including the world's largest wealth manager UBS have felt the effects of US-China trade tensions and global political uncertainties, as clients last year shied away from trading and taking on debt in favour of hoarding more cash.

The net worth of China's richest dropped 12.3 per cent in dollar terms on the back of tumbling stock markets and a weaker local currency and as growth in the world's second-largest economy slowed to its lowest level in nearly three decades in 2018, the report found, knocking dozens off the billionaires list.

Despite the drop, China continues to produce a new billionaire every 2-2.5 days, UBS's head of ultra-high net worth clients, Josef Stadler, said in the report released yesterday.

Worldwide, the number of billionaires fell everywhere except in the Americas, where tech entrepreneurs continued to buoy the ranks of the United States' wealthiest.

"This report shows the resilience of the US economy," where there were 749 billionaires at

Number of billionaires across the regions 2017-2018

Region	Subregion	Number of billionaires 2017	Number of billionaires 2018	Total aggregated wealth 2018 in USDbn	Avg. age 2018	Share of female billionaires in %
APAC		814	754	2,491.9	62.35	8%
	Greater China	475	436	1,387.7	58.94	8%
	Oceania	43	36	114.4	67.78	19%
	Southeast Asia	296	282	989.8	66.94	5%
EMEA		629	598	2,409.2	62.90	14%
	Eastern Europe	163	151	543.1	56.96	5%
	MENA	52	50	162.3	66.10	6%
	Western Europe	414	397	1,703.8	64.79	18%
Americas		715	749	3,635.7	66.60	13%
	North America	631	652	3,264.1	66.50	12%
	Central and South America	84	97	371.6	67.27	13%
Total		2,158	2,101	8,536.8	64.03	11%

Billionaires drops in MENA

The report says that in the MENA region billionaires numbers dropped slightly to 50 from 52 in 2017, with their total aggregated wealth being US\$162.3 billion. The super-rich people here falls in the average age group of 66.10 years in 2018. Share of female billionaires in the group is 6 per cent.

the end of 2018, said John Matthews, head of private wealth management and ultra-high net worth business for UBS in the United States.

There were 89 US tech billionaires at the end of 2018, up from 70 in 2017. Across the Americas, the net number of billionaires rose by 33, or 4.8pc, to stand at 749 by the year end.

The future tech

It's no accident that tech stands out as the one industry where billionaire wealth increased in 2018, rising 3.4pc to USD 1.3 trillion, mainly in the

Technology the only industry where billionaire wealth increased

Tech entrepreneurs are injecting dynamism into the global economy, beyond their own sector, the report says.

Technology is the only industry where billionaire wealth increased in 2018, rising 3.4pc to USD 1.3 trillion.

Net wealth has almost doubled over the last five years, growing 91.4pc, the report finds.

US, the report said. "Such is the sector's energy that the number of billionaire-controlled tech companies has almost doubled from 76 to 148 over the past five years. By contrast, industrials was the worst performing - falling by 15.1pc to USD 608.9 billion - against a backdrop of declining commodity prices."

By the end of 2018, tech billionaires' assets totaled USD 1.3 trillion. Their net wealth has almost doubled over five years, growing by 91.4pc. If tech billionaires' wealth were a country, it would rank second only to the US.

While a stock market recov-



Software, internet, and electronic equip-

ment entrepreneurs have built powerful businesses over the past 30 years.

However, pioneers driving the future of subsectors such as e-commerce, fintech, ride-hailing, and data systems are emerging fast.

ery from a steep drop in late 2018 has helped wealth managers increase their assets, the world's richest families remain concerned about global affairs from trade tensions and Brexit to populism and climate change and are continuing to keep more of their money in cash.

"It is likely that billionaire wealth will go up again this year," said Simon Smiles, UBS's chief investment officer for ultra-wealthy clients, adding it would likely be a more muted increase than the wider financial market rally might suggest.

Women billionaires rise

Women became billionaires at a faster rate than men over the five years to the end of 2018.

The number of female billionaires increased by almost half (46pc) in the period, rising from 160 to 233. Meanwhile, the number of men expanded by 39pc.



UK might not exist in a decade, half of citizens think

● 50pc thought the United Kingdom would not exist in 10 years

● 42pc said the United Kingdom would exist in five years' time and 44pc said it would not

Reuters | London

The United Kingdom might not exist in its current form in a decade's time, half of its citizens believe, an Ipsos MORI poll found.

The 52-48 per cent vote in 2016 to leave the European Union has strained the bonds that tie England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland into the United Kingdom: Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to stay while England and Wales voted to leave.

As the United Kingdom heads towards its latest Brexit deadline of Jan. 31, there are growing



Representative picture (Courtesy of csmonitor)

demands for an independence referendum in Scotland and for a vote on Northern Ireland unifying with the Republic of

Ireland. Scots rejected independence by 55 to 45pc in a 2014.

The Ipsos MORI poll showed

50pc thought the United Kingdom would not exist in 10 years, up from 43pc in 2014. Just 29pc said it would exist in its current

form in a decade, down from 45pc in 2014.

In the shorter term, the fate of the union - which traces its history back to the 1707 Treaty of Union - was also uncertain: 42pc said the United Kingdom would exist in five years' time and 44pc said it would not.

"The British public are now much more divided in their expectations of the Union's future than they were in 2014, when the Union's future was under intense debate with Scotland just three months away from an independence referendum," said Emily Gray, Managing Director of Ipsos MORI Scotland.

"With independence a key faultline in Scotland's election debate, the findings will be concerning for those who want Scotland to remain in the Union, while those campaigning for an independent Scotland will hope that this is a continuing trend."

Ipsos MORI interviewed a sample of 1,001 adults aged 18+ across Britain on Oct. 25-28.

Trump says he's not worried as public impeachment hearings loom



US President Donald Trump

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday said he was not concerned about the impeachment inquiry as House Democrats prepare to kick off public hearings next week, dismissing witnesses' testimony transcripts released by Congress so far.

The Republican president, speaking to reporters at the White House, accused Democrats of looking for people who hated him and that for the most part he had not heard of the witnesses.

CELEBS

Hilary Duff



Hilary Duff declares she is not secretly married

Los Angeles

Contrary to speculation, actress Hilary Duff says she has not exchanged vows with Matthew Koma in a secret ceremony.

The pair made headlines last month when Koma referred to Duff as his “wife” on Instagram. Now, Duff is setting the record straight on her relationship status with Koma.

“No, we are not secretly married, but we are basically married. So you know, sometimes those little things slip out,” *etonline.com* quoted her saying when asked about the speculations.

Duff and Koma got engaged in May, but haven’t started wedding planning yet.

“We’re really excited and we’re torn between, “Are we just going to go to the chapel and do it?” or “Are we going to have a little more thought put into it?”. I think our families would kill us (if we eloped). And we want the kids to be involved,” she said.

Duff has a lot on her plate, managing four dogs, two kids and two TV shows.

Koma is getting ready to head off on tour, but Duff said her music career has taken a back seat.



Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Phoebe Waller-Bridge not sure about having kids

Los Angeles

“Fleabag” star Phoebe Waller-Bridge says she is unsure about having children.

In an interview to *Vogue* magazine, Waller-Bridge, who began dating playwright Martin McDonagh after splitting from husband Conor Woodman in 2017, loves spending time with “good” kids but hasn’t fully made up her mind as to whether she wants to raise a family of her own, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

Asked if she wants to have children, Waller-Bridge said: “I don’t know. It’s weird. I love kids. No, I feel like there’s so much happening... I guess I’ve become quite a see-what-life-throws-at-you kind of person. I think I would like to. I love hanging out with kids – you know, good ones.”

The star doesn’t like talking about her personal life. She admitted: “I’m much braver in my writing life.”

But she thinks women no longer “freely” share romantic dramas with friends when they hit their 30s.

“Because the stakes are so low. But then you choose someone who is in some ways going to define your life, and is probably defining or moulding who you grow to be because you’re with him all the time. And you want the best. You want the best possible.”

Waller-Bridge believes people spend the first half of their lives working out who they are and the rest trying not to be changed by others.

She said: “I think the first half of your life, you’re trying to find out who you are, and you’re kind of knocking yourself against things, and testing things the whole time, to help kind of sculpt yourself. Then later, when you’ve got as close to sculpted as possible, you’re like, Don’t touch anything, in case it changes me.”

Kristen Bell set to be back in the “Gossip Girl” universe

Los Angeles

Hollywood star Kristen Bell will be back as a narrator in the upcoming “Gossip Girl” reboot, and she looks forward to returning to the world of the teen drama.

The hit and subversive drama “Gossip Girl” is getting new life with a revival series on HBO Max. Bell will again take on the role of the narrator, which she did throughout the run of the original series.

While Bell only appeared on screen one time, playing herself in the series finale, the actress served as the voice of the anonymous author of the “Gossip Girl” website that served as the centre of the show’s premise.

The original “Gossip Girl”, which ended in 2012 after six seasons, was based on the novel series written by Cecily von Ziegesar. It was about the antics of a group of teens from the Manhattan.

Kristen Bell



Nobody takes serious speeches of movie stars seriously: SRK



Shah Rukh Khan

Kolkata

Bollywood Badshah Shah Rukh Khan on Friday said nobody takes serious speeches of movie stars seriously, and at the end of it all he was just considered a good-looking face.

Shah Rukh made the comment at the inauguration of the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) when the audience clamoured to hear some peppy dialogue from his movies after he finished his speech.

The actor in his address had spoken of the need to celebrate the country’s diversity, the great heritage of films in Bengal, his experiences of attending the festival’s inaugurations over the past ten years and the rapport he enjoys with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly.

“I know, I know, I know nobody takes serious speeches of movie stars seriously. At the end of all, I am just a good looking face. Ya, that’s it,” said a smiling SRK.

Want to work with Arbaaz Khan, says girlfriend Georgia Andriani

Mumbai

Georgia Andriani has mostly been referred to as Arbaaz Khan’s girlfriend in B-Town so far, but the Italian model is now all set to make her Bollywood debut with a comedy titled “Welcome To Bajrangpur”. Georgia says her true desire is to work with boyfriend Arbaaz in the future, whenever the right script comes along.

Asked when the audience can expect to see her opposite Arbaaz in a film, Georgia said: “Whenever a



nice narration comes to us and if we both like it, we will definitely work together in a film.”

Does Arbaaz give her career tips? “He has a lot of experience working in this industry. I talk to him about how things work over here, what works in a film and what makes a film do well in this country, because I have come here from another country,” replied Georgia, while interacting with the media at the announcement of “Welcome To Bajrangpur”, along with Shreyas Talpade.

Zoe Saldana, Reese Witherspoon join hands for Netflix series

Los Angeles

Hollywood stars Zoe Saldana and Reese Witherspoon are teaming up to adapt Tembi Lockes memoir “From Scratch” as a series for Netflix.

Saldana will star in and executive produce the limited series, which is being described as an autobiographical romance that



Zoe Saldana, Reese Witherspoon

follows an American woman as she falls in love with a Sicilian man while studying in Italy then builds a life with him in the US,

reports *variety.com*. It is about how she comes to terms with his death, and raise their daughter.

Saldana will executive produce along with Witherspoon and Witherspoon’s producing partner Lauren Neustadter under Witherspoon’s Hello Sunshine banner. Saldana’s sisters Cisely Saldana and Mariel Saldana will also serve as co-producers.

Yami Gautam says “Bala” tested her ability as an artiste

Mumbai

Actress Yami Gautam, who is being lauded for her role of a TikTok star in the just-released “Bala”, says the film has tested her abilities as an artiste.

“It’s really been years in the making for me. The reason I say this is that as actors we constantly thrive to do parts that are wholesome. I have been through the highs and lows and I loved every part I have played, but I have truly sunk into the world of Pari and that has been such an amazing thing for me. Some roles push you, test your abilities and makes you put your best food forward, and Pari was that part for me. To have this love come my way with such abundance is truly emotionally gratifying and I’m humbled with all this appreciation,” she said.

Directed by Amar Kaushik, “Bala”, which revolves around a man who is balding prematurely and how he deals with it, features Ayushmann Khurrana in the titular role.



Yami Gautam

Christian Bale loves his quest to achieve perfection

Los Angeles

Actor Christian Bale says having a challenge in life which “seems insurmountable” is exciting and fun.

“Nowhere near it, no. But I’m not sure that achieving perfection is really the goal, even though it might feel like that’s the goal. I feel like if you try to achieve it, that’s more fun, isn’t it? That’s the challenge,” Bale said when he was asked whether he has ever achieved perfection.

“You need a challenge in life that seems insurmountable, to keep yourself excited. And then, of course, there’s the question of, “What is perfection?” It’s not like what I do is like a car race, when you know a bend and you can’t do that corner any better, it’s more abstract than that. I suspect perfection is totally unattainable, but that the trying is what brings us the quality in our lives,” he added.

On the film front, Bale is looking forward to “Ford v Ferrari”. Bale along with Matt Damon will be seen bringing alive a great track rivalry on the screen in “Ford v Ferrari”.



Christian Bale

SPORTS

sports

Bahrain rally past Bhutan

Bahrain won the AFC U-19 Championship's qualifier match 4-0

TDT | Manama

Bahrain inched closer to securing a berth in next year's AFC U-19 Championship following a resounding 4-0 victory against Bhutan last night at the Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town.

Their win was their second in a row in Group E, and it put them two points ahead of their closest challengers Jordan, who were held to a 1-1 draw by Bangladesh in yesterday's other contest.

Bahrain must now beat or draw with their Jordanian counterparts tomorrow in their final qualifying match to ensure their berth in the tournament proper. Only the top-ranked team from the 11 qualification groups gain automatic spots in the championship, along with the four best second-placers.



Action from Bahrain's match last night

In Bahrain's win last night, four different players scored for the home team. They included Adel Al Rumaihi, Abdulrahman Al Sayyad, Abdulla Al Nimr and Sayed Jawad Haider.

The result was the second successive clean sheet for the Bahrainis. It followed their 3-0 triumph against Bangladesh on opening night.

Meanwhile, the Bangladeshis did well to fight back against their Jordanian opponents in their 1-1 stalemate.

Jordan went ahead with a Daniah Ahmed Alfaneh penalty in first-half stoppage time, but in the second half a rejuvenated Bangladesh were able to level the proceedings in the 74th minute with a Yeasin Arafat goal.

Neither team could find a winner from there.

Muharraq beat claim volleyball cup

TDT | Manama

Muharraq last night grabbed victory from the jaws of defeat and deservedly claimed the Bahrain Volleyball Association Cup beating Dar Kulaib in a five-set thriller at the Khalifa Sports City in Isa Town.

It was a two-hour 17-minute see-saw battle which went to the wire much to the joy of an appreciative and vociferous crowd.

Dar Kulaib held an upper hand in the first two sets and even raised hopes of a major upset as they were urged on by their passionate supporters donned in blue t-shirts and, more importantly, armed with a microphone through which they screamed their sincere support and encouragement.

But in the end what mattered was pedigree and Muharraq underlined this fact with an emphatic comeback victory 22-25, 23-25, 25-20, 25-23, 15-11 in a fitting finale.

Manama, Riffa triumph in BBA Cup

TDT | Manama

Manama and Riffa were both victorious last night in the Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Cup.

Manama edged past Al Hala 109-98 while Riffa routed Samaheej 95-53.

Both games were in Group B of the tournament and they were played at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

In Manama's win, they went ahead by as many as 24 points and then staved off a late comeback from Hala to claim the hard-earned result. Hala were able to get back to within seven points in the final period, but it was too little too late.

American professional Christopher McKnight had a monster effort of 35 points and nine rebounds to spearhead Manama. Skipper Mohammed Hussain

added a near-triple double with 22 points, 11 assists and six rebounds.

Hassan Nowrooz chipped in with 21 points of the bench, while Mohammed Jassim finished with 14 points and 10 boards.

Three Hala players also over 20. Da'quan Cook from the US and guard Mohammed Salah scored 22 points apiece while Ahmed Khalifa added 20 in defeat.

In Riffa's win, they dominated from the start and enjoyed leads as big as 42 points.

American import Joseph Jones had 20 points and 16 rebounds to pace Riffa, who had five players in double figures. Mohammed Khalid and Hasan Alkhaja came off the bench to contribute 18 and 11 points, respectively, while Abdulrahman Ghali also had 11 with Ali Jassim scoring 10.



Manama's Sadeq Shukrallah looks to dribble past tough defence of Hala's Cook

Antwan Wilkerson had 26 and 10 for Samaheej but he got little help from elsewhere. Cup action continues tonight with Al Ahli facing Nuwaidrat in Group A at 5.30pm followed by Isa Town playing Bahrain Club in Group B at 7.15pm.

Bahrain prepares for World Cup qualifiers

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team continued their training last night for their upcoming World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers.

The Bahrainis are set to take on Hong Kong in an away match on November 14.

Bahrain head coach Helio Sousa has been facilitating their daily training sessions at the Bahrain Football Association pitches in Riffa this week.

The nationals are scheduled to leave for Hong Kong tomorrow.

Bahrain are in Group C of the qualifiers for the Fifa World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023.

Following their match with Hong Kong, the Bahrainis will be taking on Iraq on Novem-

ber 19 at the 18,000-capacity Amman International Stadium in Jordan's Al Hussein Youth City.

The match venue was approved by Fifa, who had requested the Iraq Football Association to propose a new location for their upcoming qualifiers against Iran and Bahrain. The games were originally set to be played in Basrah,

The change of venue was formally requested by Fifa because of safety and security concerns.

Bahrain are in Group C of the qualifiers for the World Cup and Asian Cup. Iraq currently tops the group with seven points, leading Bahrain on goal difference, while Iran holds third spot with six points. Hong Kong and Cambodia each have one point.

BAS Motorsport Team set six-hour endurance karting challenge at BIKC

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Services (BAS) Motorsport Team are all set to battle for podium places, pride, and bragging rights Saturday (Editor's note: November 9) in the six-hour race of the Bahrain Karting Enduro Championship (BKEC), to be held at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

BAS have four entrants in the meeting, which marks the second round of the 2019/2020 BKEC season.

Headlining their challenge

will be the BAS Pro team, spearheaded by talented BAS Motorsport Ambassador Lewis Smith.

The three other squads will be competing in the Corporate class, and they include an all-female squad, making for the most dynamic roster of drivers in the event.

BAS CEO Mr Salman Al-Mahmeed has given his full support to the BAS Motorsport Team, which is being managed by BAS COO Mr Tony Smith.

"We are extremely proud of the staff that have been committed to training for the event and



BAS Motorsport Team members at a previous event

the only all-female team entry, which is a fantastic achievement from all the women," said Smith.

"We hope all the drivers have a great experience and enjoy the event, good luck to you all!"

Leading the Corporate teams are Mohammed Faqihi and Ahmed Kooheji.

The other drivers include Mahmood Saati, Ziyad Khalifa, Rene Mader, Dylan Campos, Don Vinura, Saud Alshater, Mohammed Alansari. Their team assignments will be determined just prior to the start of the race.

ASIA'S LARGEST MMA EVENT

BRAVE
INTERNATIONAL
Combat Week
NOVEMBER 2019

Ayyad hopeful for Team Bahrain success

Hussain Ayyad hopes for the success of Team Bahrain ahead of his own bout at BRAVE CF 29

TDI | Manama

Flyweight contender Hussain Ayyad will be carrying the flag of Bahrain at BRAVE CF 29 as he takes on Latvia's Matis Zaharovs on November 15th in front of his own crowd. However, during the week he will keep a watchful eye on the progress of Team Bahrain at the IMMAF World Championships, that will take place during BRAVE International Combat Week.

A product of the IMMAF amateur system, Ayyad stressed the importance of having amateur experience before making it to the professional leagues and wished success on all competitors, especially from Team Bahrain.



Hussain Ayyad celebrates after a match



I was fighting two years ago at the IMMAF World Championships right here in Bahrain and now I am fighting for BRAVE CF in the biggest event yet. So it's a very good platform to showcase your talents

HUSSAIN AYYAD

"The rules for amateur MMA are different so they allow you to get experience that's very useful in your professional career. I was fighting two years ago at the IMMAF World Championships right here in Bahrain and now I am fighting for BRAVE CF in the biggest event yet. So it's a very good platform to showcase your talents and I wish nothing but success to the competitors,

and I'll be cheering on Team Bahrain for sure", said "Iron".

Ayyad had a tentative start to his BRAVE CF career but is currently riding a three-fight win streak and hopes another victory net Friday can get him one step closer to a title shot.

BRAVE CF 29 takes place on November 15th at the Khalifa Sports City Arena and it will be co-headlined by a Flyweight

world title fight between top contenders Jose Torres and Marcel Adur. The main event will be the final of the KHK World Championships, the one-night, four-men, open weight tournament that will hand the winner a US\$100,000 check plus the provisional holding of the KHK belt, the most prestigious prize in all sports, adorned with 6.2 kg of gold.

IMMAF president praises Shaikh Khalid and Bahrain



IMMAF president Kerrith Brown during a press meet

TDI | Manama

Team Bahrain had an unforgettable year so far in MMA competition, winning over the rankings and becoming the number one country in the world for mixed martial arts. Such a rapid rise through the ranks hasn't gone unnoticed internationally, as IMMAF president Kerrith Brown praised the work done by the team and the support given by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Ahead of the beginning of the IMMAF World Championships, Brown stressed that the work done by the Kingdom of Bahrain to support mixed martial arts was nothing short of exemplary and praised the entire country for their support of their athletes which he hoped would extend to this year's competitions.

"Bahrain and HH Shaikh Khalid have done an amazing job in terms of giving the athletes a proper platform to showcase their talents and it's an honour to be here in the

Kingdom of Bahrain for yet another edition of the BRAVE International Combat Week, the biggest one yet. We've stepped up in all areas, from production to the number of athletes and everything involved in making it the biggest event we can make. His Highness Shaikh Khaled has done an amazing job in terms of delivering his vision and the biggest event in Asia and Middle East with BRAVE CF, and it shows on his commitment and the level of the athletes. But not only that, also the whole country has been supporting them which is an example for the entire world of mixed martial arts", said Brown after the opening conference.

This year's BRAVE International Combat Week will see more than 50 countries represented with hundreds of bouts taking place during the entire week. The first day of competitions take place on November 11th, but this Sunday will see the opening ceremony taking place in the presence of several dignitaries worldwide.

Shahid guarantees Bahrain event to be the biggest by the promotion

TDI | Manama

BRAVE CF 29 takes place during the biggest ever BRAVE International Combat Week and the attractions that go along with it make it the best event the fastest-growing organization in the world has ever put on. That's according to president Mohammed Shahid, who talked about his excitement at being able to put on such an exciting event at the home of BRAVE Combat Federation.

The promotion's 29th edition will feature 15 fights, including former world champions, an inaugural title fight and the most exciting prize in all of sports. The first-ever KHK World Championship will take place during BRAVE CF 29. A one-night, four-men, open weight tournament which will gift the winner a US\$ 100,000 check plus the right to be named the first provisional holder of the KHK belt, the most prestigious prize in all of sports, adorned



Mohammed Shahid

with 6.2 kg of gold.

"This is an exciting time to be a BRAVE CF fan. We are putting on the largest MMA event in Asia, and the biggest combat sports festival we've ever put on with the BRAVE International Combat Week. I'm especially excited for the KHK World Championship, as the belt is heavier in gold than the World Cup of football, the Wimbledon trophy, and any other prize in sports ever", said Shahid.

The KHK World Championship will be decided between two semifinals and one final, that will happen on the same night. The first-round will feature two bouts as Kleber Orgulho takes on Mohammad Fakhreddine and Azamat Murzakanov meets Guto Inocente. The winner of those bouts, the first ones of BRAVE CF 29, will meet in the final, set for the main event of the evening.

Torres arrives in Bahrain ready to make history at Brave 29

TDI | Manama

Flyweight world title contender Jose Torres has reached the Kingdom of Bahrain ready to become the promotion's first-ever champion at 125lbs. The American fighter decided to come earlier to get used to the time difference and was greeted by the BRAVE International Combat Week crew and the mascots that will entertain the biggest fight week in the history of Asia.

Torres will take on Marcel Adur from Brazil for the inaugural Flyweight title on November 15th at BRAVE CF 29 and said he had a tough week ahead of him as he readies to juggle fight week commitments to his weight-cut. But he also said he was looking forward to making history for himself, his family and the KHK MMA team which he has represented since before becoming a professional fighter.

"Shorty" also made a point of praising his opponent's style, highlighting that Adur was a different kind of fighter that he was used to fighting, but is confident in his preparations for the showdown.

"Adur is a long, lanky striker type of fighter. He's very unorthodox as well, but he's a phenomenal opponent, an athlete that likes to push the pace, and I'm also like that, so I can't wait to put on a show for the people of Bahrain and around the world", said Torres.



Jose Torres upon his arrival

BRAVE CF 29 will be co-headlined by Adur vs Torres while the co-main event will be the final of the KHK World Championship, as four fighters face off in the semifinals earlier in the evening, as the winner of the one-night, four-men, open weight tournament will win a US\$100,000 check plus the right to become the provisional holder of the KHK belt, the heaviest prize in sports, adorned with 6.2 kg of gold.



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