





His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister arrives in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to extend his condolences to His Royal Highness Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud following the passing of his mother. The Crown Prince extended his heartfelt condolences to HRH Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and his family, noting that his thoughts and prayers are with HRH Prince Bandar at this time. HRH the Crown Prince was accompanied by HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Humood bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HE Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Private Secretary to HRH the Crown Prince.



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during an inspection visit to one of the BDF units. The commander-in-chief reviewed the units' administrative and combat readiness, as well as their military preparations and work progress. He was briefed about the military preparations, the work progress, and development in these units.



BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Sagh Al Nuaimi during the meeting of the GCC Supreme Military Committee of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces. They discussed ways of strengthening coordination in the military field among member states



Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbay Jeenbekov, received the credentials of Dr Anwar Yusuf Abdulla Alabdulla as Ambassador of Bahrain to the Kyrgyz Republic, residing in Beijing. The ambassador conveyed to the President the greetings of Bahrain's leadership and good wishes for further progress and prosperity. He also commended the distinguished bilateral relations, in commercial, investment, cultural and other fields in support of the interests and hopes of the two countries and peoples.



Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa with the team behind the "the National Model of International Partnership Governance: Towards Sustainability and Competitiveness" and won the Government Forum 2019's Government Best Practices Award. The winners included the Undersecretary for International Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Assistant Undersecretary for Western Countries & Afro Asian Affairs, Ambassador Tawfeeq Almansoor, the Director of the Organisations Directorate, Fatema Aldhaen. The minister expressed his pride in winning this award, stressing that this achievement reflects the distinguished status reached by Bahraini diplomacy and the outstanding model it has achieved of building regional and international strategic partnerships.



His Royal Highness the Premier's Advisor His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa with Russian Ambassador to Bahrain Igor Kremnev. HH Shaikh Salman highlighted the importance of developing cooperation in promising economic sectors, especially the industry of exhibitions and conferences and stressed the importance of encouraging Russian companies to invest in Bahrain.



Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal with Parliament Affairs Minister, Ghanem bin Fadhl Al-Buainain. The speaker expressed the Council's full readiness to the Second Session of the Fifth Legislative Term. Representatives Council's Secretary-General, Chancellor Rashid Mohammed Bu Najma, and Assistant Undersecretary for the Affairs of the Shura and Representatives councils at the Parliament Affairs Ministry, Deena Ahmed Al-Fayez were present.

# AQUA COOL®

Ultra Pure Bottled Drinking Water

35 YEARS

Easy & Secure  
Online Ordering of your  
favourite Aqua Cool Products

Download the  
AQUA COOL App Now

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L. is  
ISO 22000 : 2005 certified

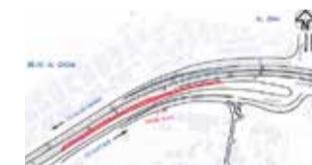
Free Home Delivery  
Call Us Now 1787 5098 | Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L.  
www.aquacool.bh



Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa with Bahraini students in Massachusetts as part of his visit to Boston. The Ambassador participated in an open dialogue discussing Bahrain's economic environment and its development in line with Economic Vision 2030.

## Lane closures

Manama



Improvement works on Sh. Isa Bin Salman Highway necessitate the closure of slow lane near to Bahrain Map Flyover for the eastbound traffic leading to Umm AL Hassm, announced Works Ministry.

The closure will be effective starting today at midnight to Sunday at 05:00 am.

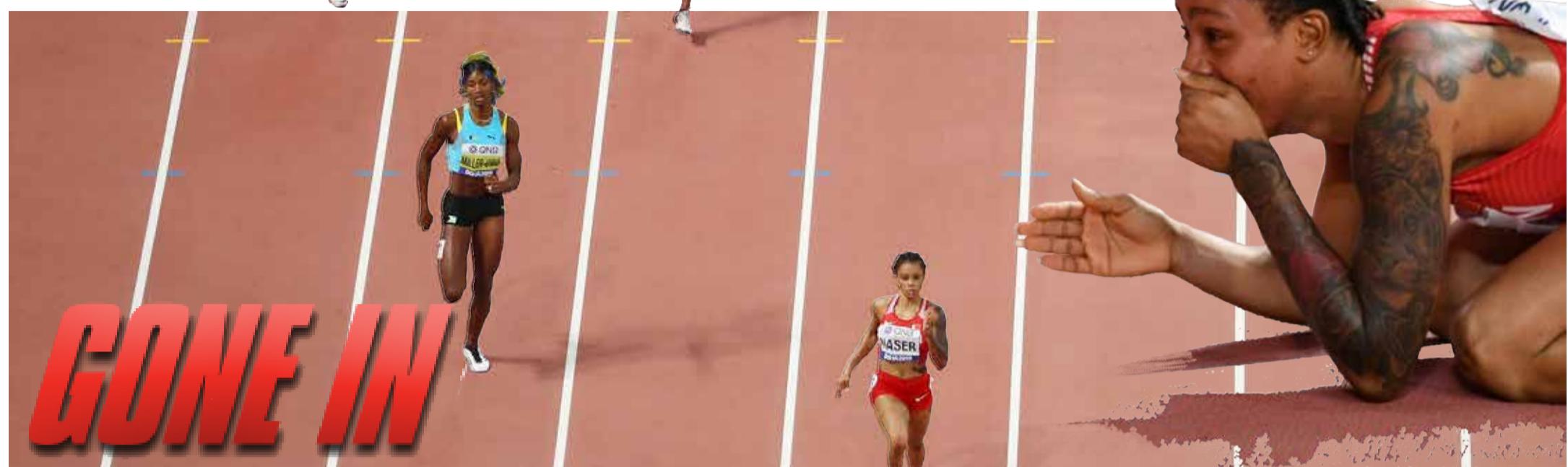
## Zallaq Highway



As part of improvement works on Zallaq Highway between Gulf of Bahrain Highway and Sofitel Hotel, one lane will be closed in both directions on stages, while one lane will be provided for traffic movement in both directions.

The closure will be effective starting today for 6 months.

# big story



# GONE IN 48.14 SECONDS



TDT | Manama

**A**s the gun fired erupting the stadium into a big roar and powering the runners into a sudden burst of pace, the commentator screamed: "Look at the smooth running of the Salwa Eid Naser down the back straight."

"She is poetry in motion."

The scene is 2019 IAAF World Championships.

Up against her on the track is the defending champion in the 400 meters American Phyllis Francis who claimed a shock gold last time in a dual with multi-medalled American Allyson Felix and Olympic champion Shauna Miller-Uibo.

But all those hardly matter at the moment, as Salwa broke through into the lead and the final 100 meters.

The stadium got into a frenzy.

Bahrain hearts were pounding faster.

Miller-Uibo is gaining, just behind her is American Allyson Felix - Salwa's idol. The gap is getting closer.

"But Salwa Eid Naser is not to be denied....," the ecstatic voice of the commentator filled the stadium, above the roar, as she crossed the finish line in a jiffy.

"What a performance, What a time, she beats the Olympic champion with one of the fastest times we ever have seen."

"Only two women up ever, ever run quicker," the voice said as an astonished Salwa down on to her knees, covering mouth with her hand, looked around in disbelief.

#### 'She ran a crazy race'

"This is crazy," she said. "I was just hoping for the best but now I'm world champion."

The 21-year-old Bahraini, blew all the possibilities over one lap apart, by registering a stunning 48.14-sec finish, which is also a one-second improvement over her personal best.

As Salwa struggled to bring her to terms with the astonishing result, Shauna Miller-Uibo, the pre-race favourite from the Bahamas, stood struck in disbelief.

Uibo has bettered her Caribbean record of 48.97 by half-a-second but had to settle for a silver medal (48.37) despite running the sixth-fastest time in the history.

Shericka Jackson of Jamaica claimed bronze

**This is crazy. I was just hoping for the best but now I'm world champion."**

SALWA EID NASSER

as defending champion Phyllis Francis, with a personal best of 49.61, settled for a fifth place.

"To do a time like that and not win is incredible," Uibo, who had not lost a race since August 2017, reflected. "She ran a crazy race."

As said earlier, only two women have done this before. Marita Koch of erstwhile East Germany in 1985 with her stunning 47.60-sec finish and Jarmila Kratochvilova of Czechoslovakia in 1983 with her 47.99-sec finish. But those performances are still surrounded by doping scandals.

Neither Koch nor Kratochvilova failed a doping test but their countries are known to have operated state-sponsored programmes as athletic supremacy was viewed by their rulers as a weapon in the battle between east and west.

#### 'Like a woman possessed'

Fast forward to 2019 and in front of you is Naser. No one imagined she was capable of doing this here, which was also her fifth race in five days. But, then, all of us were wrong.

"Starting two lanes to Miller-Uibo's inside, Naser had made up most of the stammer by the end of the back straight. She then powered clear on the bend and defied the favourite's efforts to run her down," IAAF reports.

But as *Telegraph* described, "Naser set off like a woman possessed, tearing through the second 100 in just 11.1 sec."

While still regaining composure, Naser said, "I still can't believe the time."

"When I saw it, I went completely crazy. I was training so hard but I never expected to run this fast."

#### They pushed me to get this time

According to her, what made her achieve her best was her opponents. "Running with these amazing ladies, I don't think I would have done it alone. Against Shauna especially, I always run for the best because she is a strong athlete. They pushed me to get this time," she told *telegraph*.

Naser, who switched to Bahrain aged 16, played coy as to whether she considered her time in Doha

the fastest clean one in history.

"You tell me," she said.

But for Olympic champion and former world record holder over 400m, Michael Johnson, like to view differently.

Stunned by Naser's performance, he told *Telegraph* how any runner over one lap usually needs to back off the pace at some stage to save up for the finish. "Naser, however, sustained her effort from the gun, recording 100m splits of 12.1, 11.1, 11.9, before fading in the dying stages in 13.1."

"I wasn't really looking to see if someone was beside me," Naser said. "I was pushing so hard to the finish, it was only on replay that I saw Shauna. Once I used to chase her, now I was being chased. It's amazing. Back in Bahrain, children will now look up to me."

#### Long Journey

But for Naser to reach this point in her career, it was a long journey starting with that freakish accident weakening her left ankle at the age of six. "I had bought an ice cream but had forgotten my change and as I ran across the road to retrieve it, that's when the car hit me," she told IAAF last year.

In 2016, the old injury haunted her once again when she twisted her ankle just a week before the Olympic Games in Rio.

Naser was determined to compete and ignored the doctor's advice.

"I was given ultrasound and advised not to compete, but this was my first Olympics and I wanted to race," explains Naser, who went on to set a lifetime best in Rio.

Describing her trauma afterwards, in a talk with News 18, she said: "I cried all night and I re-

member my mum had to say some nice and sweet words to make me feel better."

"Thankfully, it did not take too long for me to recover from the disappointment."

All those efforts have paid off. Nasser recorded seven sub-50-second clockings in 2018, IAAF says. The last woman to record that many within one season was Sanya Richards-Ross in 2009.

Her highlight of 2018 was running an Asian record of 49.08. "After the race, I didn't even know my time," she says. "The people in doping control told me. That 49.08 was the coolest thing that happened to me this year," she told IAAF.

#### Hero's welcome

Naser along with Bahrain's National Athletics team members was given a hero's welcome on their return from the IAAF World Athletics Championships 2019 gaining a historic first-place at the Arab level, second at the Asian level and 12th overall.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee described the performance of Salwa as 'incredible'.

Shaikh Khalid also praised the displays of Rose Chelimo who won the silver medal in the women's marathon race as well as the relay team after bagging the bronze medal in the mixed 4 X 400 race. "We are proud of the achievements of our champions. It was an epic event and they mirrored the perfect image for the Kingdom's athletics," HH Shaikh Khalid said.



HH Shaikh Khalid honours

# 'Government forum' confidence booster: AlQaed

TDT | Manama

This year's 'Government Forum' injected a new vigour into the Kingdom's burgeoning public sector, which is 'forward-looking' in line with the highest standards set by Bahraini leadership's vision, said iGA Chief Executive.

Government policies introduced are capable of bolstering productivity, service quality and boosting public sector confidence, said Mohammed Ali AlQaed of the Information & eGovernment Authority.

The forum, now in its fourth edition, was held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, at the initiative of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Highlighting the outcomes of the forum, AlQaed said the forum was instrumental in creating a healthy competition among



A discussion at the forum

government centres.

Centres were quick in responding to recommendations which also paved the way for reengineering their internal procedures, enhancing cooperation and implementing technical transformations effectively.

More optimal geographic distribution of the centres was one amongst them, said AlQaed.

The forum, AlQaed said, also evaluated the success of initia-

tives and projects like the Government Service Centre Evaluation (Taqyeeem) and National Suggestions & Complaints System (Tawasul).

These projects handled crucial roles in supporting innovation and service excellence, AlQaed stressed.

Thanks to Team Bahrain's resources to implement the Government's Programme 2019-2022, all government entities

strived to optimise their services, he added.

A panel discussion on Enhancing the Quality of Government Services discussed the government's significant accomplishments in record time. Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Vice Chairman of the Taqyeeem Evaluation Committee, Dr Jawaher

Shaheen Al-Mudhahki, Chief Executive of the Education and Training Quality Authority and

Jamal Abdul Aziz Al Alawi, Director General of Organisation and Budgeting at the Civil Service Bureau took part.

AlQaed also praised the success of last year's forum in which HRH the Crown Prince awarded 10 government entities with the Gold classification.

The first edition of the Taqyeeem Committee, he said, prepared a standard guide for government service centres to transform them into smarter and more innovative organisations. It conducted tens of workshops, providing training to hundreds of employees from over 19 government entities, as well as evaluated 89 centres in two phases.

Tawasul system currently has 37 government entities, said AlQaed adding that more will enter the platform soon.

iGA was one of the entities honoured at the Government Forum 2019, receiving the Excellence in Communication with Beneficiaries Award.

MOHAMMED ALI ALQAED  
IGA CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## Govt keen to update health, therapeutic services: SHC Prez



Housing Minister, Bassim bin Yacub Al-Hamar during a working meeting with the UAE Minister of Infrastructure Development and Chairman of the Shaikh Zayed Housing Programme Abdulla bin Balhaif Al-Nuaimi, on the sidelines of the third Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development, in the presence of the members of the two countries' delegations. They reviewed the deep-rooted relations between Bahrain and the UAE in various fields, especially housing.



Lt-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with other top officials during the inauguration of the first Bahrain Emergency Medicine Conference (BEMC 2019)

TDT | Manama

Bahrain puts prime priority in updating its health and therapeutic services according to the best international standards, said the President of the Supreme Health Council.

The government, Lt-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa said, considers this as crucial for "enhancing human development indicators and upgrading the levels of comprehensive and sustainable development."

Lt-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed was inaugurating the

first Bahrain Emergency Medicine Conference (BEMC 2019) as directed by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The conference, which began on Wednesday and concludes today at the Gulf Hotel Convention Center, is organised by Bahrain Medical Society (BMS) and Bahrain Association of Emergency Medicine (BAEM).

The event aims at encouraging Arab and regional cooperation in the field of emergency medicine, primarily in the areas of Pre-hospital, Trauma, Cardiovascular Emergencies, Paediatric Emergency, Criti-

cal Care, Emergency Research, Emergency Nursing and other areas related to the field of emergency medicine.

Studies, according to BEMC, have proven that the presence of trained Emergency Medicine staff in the emergency departments is of great benefit to the sick and injured patient population and the survival rate increases, morbidity and mortality decreases. Dr Shaikh Mohammed conveyed the greetings of HRH Prince Khalifa to the organisers and the participants, wishing them success in achieving the goals and objectives of the conference.



Gulf Air, Bahrain's national carrier, has hosted the annual Human Resources meeting of the Arab Air Carriers' Organization. The meeting was attended by representatives from regional airlines as well as members of the human resources department at the host airline, Gulf Air. The 3-day event included the core meeting, seminars and a cultural visit to the Bahrain National Museum where delegates had the opportunity to discover the Kingdom's history and culture.



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated Social Science Day on October 1, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, with grand celebrations including an exhibition. The celebration was inaugurated by ISB Principal VR Palaniswamy. Trophies and certificates were awarded to winners of Social Science Day competition. Patriotic Song Level D (IV-V): 1. Joanna Abey 2. Sreya Susan Zakaria 3. Niranjan Viswanath Iyer. Essay Writing Level B (IX-X): 1. Aiswarya Sini Lal 2. Arushi Sabnis 3. Kerthanasi Karikalan. Gandhi Jayanti Quiz: 1. Edwin Ebi John, Jerin Joy, Aliya Fathima S 2. Mariam Thomas, Devananda K, Ashin KV.

# WORLD

## world

# Iga Tokarczuk, Peter Handke win Nobel Literature prizes

● Tokarczuk and Handke each take home a cheque worth \$912,000

● Tokarczuk is the 15th woman to have won the prestigious distinction

AFP | Stockholm

Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk yesterday won the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize, which was delayed over a sexual harassment scandal, while Austrian novelist and playwright Peter Handke took the 2019 award, the Swedish Academy said.

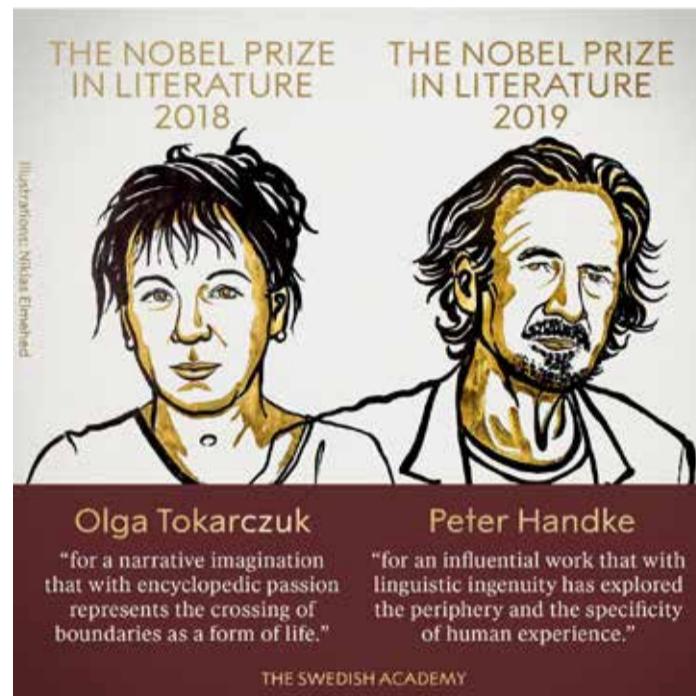
Tokarczuk, 57, considered the most talented Polish novelist of her generation, was honoured "for a narrative imagination that with encyclopaedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life."

Her books portray a polychromatic world perpetually in motion, with characters' traits intermingled and language that is both precise and poetic.

Tokarczuk's first novel, "The Journey of the People of the Book," released in 1993, chronicles a failed expedition to find a mysterious book.

The daughter of a school librarian, she won the Booker International Prize along with her translator Jennifer Croft for her 2007 novel "Flights", whose English version came out in 2017.

Her 900-page "The Books of Jacob", which the Swedish Academy hailed as her "magnum opus", spans seven



countries, three religions and five languages, tracing the little-known history of Frankism, a Jewish messianic sect that sprang up in Poland in the 18th century.

Released in 2014, its pages are numbered in reverse in the style of Hebrew books.

The Academy called it a "remarkably rich panorama of an almost neglected chapter in European history."

Ironically, in 2014 Handke called for the Nobel Literature Prize to be abolished, saying it brought its winner "false canonisation".

### 'Linguistic ingenuity'

Handke, 76, was meanwhile honoured "for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience," the Academy said.

Tokarczuk becomes just the 15th woman to have won the prestigious distinction, out of 116 literature laureates honoured since 1901.



The peculiar art of Peter Handke is the extraordinary attention to landscapes and the material presence of the world, which has made cinema and painting two of his greatest sources of inspiration.



The magnum opus of Literature Laureate Olga Tokarczuk so far is the impressive historical novel 'Księgi Jakubowe' 2014 ('The Books of Jacob'). She has in this work shown the supreme capacity of the novel to represent a case almost beyond human understanding.



# Indonesia minister stabbed by IS-linked pair: official

AFP | Jakarta

Two members of an IS-linked terror network stabbed Indonesia's chief security minister Wiranto yesterday, the intelligence head said, as the powerful politician underwent emergency surgery for his wounds.

Television images showed security officers wrestling a man and woman to the ground in Pandeglang on Java island after the attack on Wiranto, who goes by one name, as he was exiting a vehicle.

The suspects were identified as 31-year-old Syahrial Alamsyah and Fitri Andriana, 21 -- a married couple, according to local media.

They were members of Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), an extremist group responsible for deadly suicide bombings at churches in Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya last year, State Intelligence Agency chief Budi Gunawan told reporters in Jakarta.

JAD is among dozens of radical groups that have pledged loyality



Soldiers carry Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law and Security Wiranto on a stretcher to a waiting helicopter (Courtesy of AP)



Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law and Security Wiranto gestures as he speaks during a press conference in Jakarta

in fighting radicalism and terrorism because we can only do it together," he added.

The assassination attempt comes just over a week before Widodo kicks off a second term as leader of the Southeast Asian archipelago of some 260 million people, the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

"He is currently in surgery and I ask that all Indonesians pray that he gets well soon," said President Joko Widodo.

"And I ask for everyone's help

injuries.

### 'Fought the police'

An eyewitness said the female attacker was dressed in a body-and-face-covering niqab.

"When the car stopped, there were people circling around, protecting him," he said.

"But a man got into the circle and stabbed Wiranto. The woman also tried to stab him. He was arrested and the woman fought the police."

Last year JAD staged a wave

## Pakistan says Khan could visit Saudi, Iran, after US mediation request

Reuters | Islamabad

unfold," foreign office spokesman, Mohammad Fasih, told a news briefing.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan is likely to visit Saudi Arabia and Iran, the foreign office in Islamabad said yesterday, weeks after Islamabad said Washington had asked it to mediate with Tehran.

"The possibility of a visit of the prime minister to Saudi Arabia and Iran is on the cards and I will update you as things

unfold," foreign office spokesman, Mohammad Fasih, told a news briefing. The announcement of the possible visit comes after Khan last month described a request by US President Donald Trump, asking the Pakistani leader to help defuse tensions with Iran. Washington had blamed Tehran for an attack on the world's biggest crude oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia.

## Hong Kong shopping malls, metro close early ahead of protests

Reuters | Hong Kong



People are seen at Yau Ma Tei metro station in Hong Kong

Hong Kong shopping malls started closing early yesterday to avoid becoming targets of planned protests and the city's metro, which has borne the brunt of violent unrest in recent weeks, will close three hours early.

Hong Kong is one of the world's top shopping cities but four months of often violent protests have severely dented that reputation, with more than 100 shops closed, scores vandalised and malls now becoming sites for sit-ins by protesters.

Protesters are playing cat

and mouse with police, organising demonstrations at different locations via social media and stretching security resources.

Apple Inc on Wednesday removed an app protesters have used to track police, prompting some to say they may "visit" Apple stores in Hong Kong.

## Putin: Russia is fully complying with WADA

Reuters | Moscow

(WADA).

The anti-doping agency said last month it had opened compliance proceedings against Russia's anti-doping agency after examining the vast bank of historical testing data it received in January.

President Vladimir Putin said yesterday in televised comments that Russia was fully complying with demands made by the World Anti-Doping Agency

(tyranny) and that includes senior government officials," said Muhammad Syauqillah, program director of the University of Indonesia's Terrorism Study Center.

Wiranto, the retired chief of the armed forces and a failed presidential candidate, was appointed to his post in 2016 and oversees several departments, including the foreign affairs and defence ministries.

He has faced controversy over alleged human rights violations and allegations of crimes against humanity linked to Indonesia's brutal occupation of East Timor.

In May, police said Wiranto and three other top officials were targeted in a failed assassination plot linked to deadly riots in Jakarta after Widodo's re-election victory.

A group of six people -- arrested before they could carry out the killings -- planned to murder the officials and an election pollster in a bid to plunge the country into chaos, police said at the time.

OCTOBER 11, 2019

QUOTE  
OF THE  
DAY

SOCIAL JUSTICE CANNOT BE ATTAINED BY VIOLENCE. VIOLENCE KILLS WHAT IT INTENDS TO CREATE.  
POPE JOHN PAUL II

CONNECTING CULTURES



Guests at the exhibition

*Emirati artist Sheikha Alyazia Bint Nahyan Al-Nahyan's inaugural solo exhibition in London titled 'I Met a Traveller From an Antique Land' connects cultures and time periods through art and poetry*

*Butheina Kazim founded Cinema Akil in 2014 as a platform for independent cinema. Her next goal is to expand the Cinema Akil concept from Dubai to the region*



The entrance to Cinema Akil

Arab News | London

**Y**ou are searching for treasure. Several potential locations are marked with an 'x' on your map. You move methodically from site to site, always to be met with disappointment — never striking gold. Are you, in following trails set by others, missing the treasure 'hidden' in plain view?

This is one of the conundrums posed in the artworks of Sheikha Alyazia Bint Nahyan Al-Nahyan, whose inaugural solo exhibition in London presented a thought-provoking range of work fusing the ancient past with modern life.

Her "Mishmash Trails" featured cave-like shapes cut in marble, with the treasure taking the form of imagined ancient eastern coins, reflecting Arab, Roman and Phoenician influences. She described the coins, embedded in the marble, as symbolic of the great treasures buried in secret locations that were sought out and fought over by many.

Al-Nahyan named her exhibition — held at Pi Artworks from June 25 to July 7 — with the opening line of Percy Bysshe Shelley's famous poem "Ozymandias": "I met a traveller from an antique land." (Ozymandias is the Greek name for the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramesses II.)

The poem, published in 1818, imagines a meeting between the narrator and a traveller who describes a ruined statue lying in the desert. The description of the statue is a meditation on the fragility of human power and on the effects of time: "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings/ Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!/ Nothing beside remains: round the decay/ Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare/ The lone and level sands stretch far away."

"Maybe a positive thing from looking to the past is that it proves it is only human to repeat the mistake and the lesson," Al-Nahyan said. "Study-

ing the past is a realization of human nature, individually or in groups, right or wrong. This natural feeling of connectivity is something I usually aim for."

There is humour in some of her work — particularly the depictions of old commercial airline advertisements from the 1950s and 60s with ancient figures superimposed in the frames. They certainly give the viewer pause for thought about how much our world has changed in the short time since air travel became widely available.

The exhibition's curator, Janet Rady, said of Al-Nahyan: "She has been practicing art from a very young age and is self-taught. She is incredibly talented, and you see this in the wide range of her work, which uses all sorts of different media. I can't necessarily call her a pop artist or a collage artist or an installation artist; she is in fact all of these things, but it is the concept behind her work —



Sheikh Mohammed bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, the UAE's ambassador to the UK, and Janet Rady, the curator of the exhibition, attend the opening of the exhibition at Pi Artworks

Maybe a positive thing from looking to the past is that it proves it is only human to repeat the mistake and the lesson. Studying the realization of human nature, individually or in groups, right or wrong. This natural feeling of connectivity is something I usually aim for."

connecting the past — which is important

The UAE's UK ambassador, Sheik

soor Abulhoul, was

opening and he par

Al-Nahyan's work —

classic wooden boar

## Cinema Akil founder brings the magic of art-house movies to Dubai

Arab News | Dubai

**B**utheina Kazim has brought the magic of art-house movies to Dubai, through her project Cinema Akil.

Having worked in television, radio and film acquisitions, Butheina Kazim founded Cinema Akil in 2014 as a platform for independent cinema. For Kazim, who has also produced her own film "Letters to Palestine," the project is about more than just watching films, it's also for building community.

She introduced the concept with pop-up screenings, but since last year Cinema Akil has a permanent theatre in Dubai's art district on Al-Serkal Avenue. Step into the 133-seater theater, and you are transported to an old-school picture house.

"The permanent space allows us to release films every single night of the year. The programming is often exclusive and can't be seen elsewhere," said Kazim. But the pop-up format will always be part of Cinema Akil. "Our



Cinema Akil's theatre in Dubai

nomadic life allows us to reach different communities by bringing free p

1138

Earthquake in Aleppo, Syria, kills an estimated 230,000

1737

Earthquake kills 300,000 and destroys half of Calcutta, India

1962

Second Vatican Council (21st ecumenical) convened by Pope John XXIII

1986

Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev open talks at a summit in Reykjavik, Iceland



# Sheikha Alyazia's 'mishmash' of ancient and modern

paired with a modern video game.

"I first played Carrom with my cousins as a boy, and she has combined it with modern computer games, which is very creative," he said. He pointed out that her innovative work ties in well with the dynamic of the UAE.

"Next year we have EXPO 2020, with its theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.' It's very much about our roots and how we take them forward, how we develop mind and global cooperation," he said.

The exhibition included a short clip from Al-Nahyan's upcoming film "Athel," written by Al-Nahyan's sister, Sheikha Shamsa. It centres on a strange encounter in the desert between a pre-Islamic poet and a modern-day TV presenter. "Athel" is set for release later this year and stars Hala Shiha and Mansour Al-Fili.

"The idea behind it all is taken from the tradition of Arabic poetry – its wisdom and, sometimes, risks,"

Al-Nahyan explained. "And ending with a realization of one tribal law putting redemption and family before all." She added that there are some "light-hearted" moments in the film too.

Arabic poetry is an ongoing inspiration for Al-Nahyan's work, adding another layer of meaning to many of her pieces.

"The Arabic language is poetic, and Arabs and other cultures around the world have documented their lives through poetry," she said. "So, for example, when tackling the topic of what is considered treasure, we found different meanings in various verses. Like when (pre-Islamic poet) Zuhair Bin Abi Salma refers to glory as the only true treasure."

There is a much to absorb and reflect on in this exhibition which opens windows into many facets of Arab history and culture and poses universal questions about humanity and what constitutes real treasure.

**There is humour in some of Sheikha Alyazia's work – particularly the depictions of old commercial airline advertisements from the 1950s and 60s with ancient figures superimposed in the frames. They certainly give the viewer pause for thought about how much our world has changed in the short time since air travel became widely available**



Carrom Station by Sheikha Alyazia bint Nahyan Al Nahyan



The painting titled 'Mishmash Trails' that feature cave-like shapes cut in marble, with the treasure taking the form of imagined ancient eastern coins



Sheikha Alyazia Bint Nahyan Al-Nahyan's work titled 'Mishmash Dirham'

L LIFE

## Magic of independent movies to Dubai



ferent cinema to people."

public Kazim works closely with special

events such as Dubai Shopping Festi- val's Market Out of the Box and Fashion



**Butheina Kazim**  
Forward initiatives and has screened over 350 films across Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

In summer, the cinema space's robust line-up continues. "There's a mythical Dubai exodus that everyone speaks of as soon as summer hits," said Kazim. Some of Cinema Akil's August highlights include "Straight Out of Berlin," a series of eight films in collaboration with the

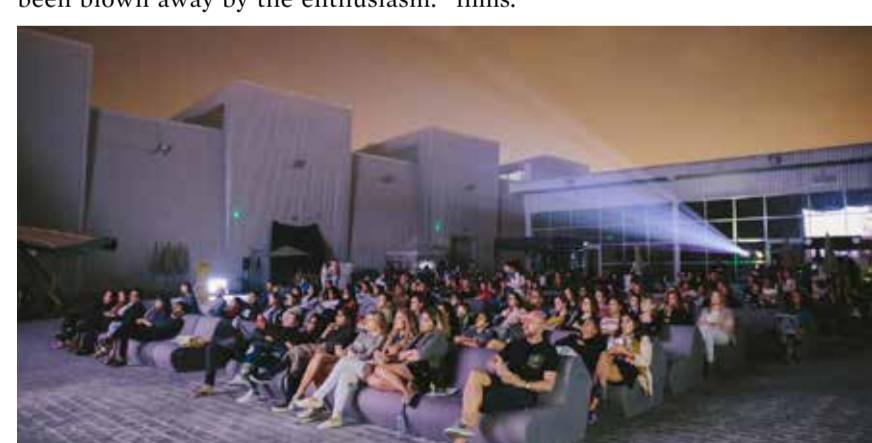
Goethe Institut, which explores the many faces and tunnels of the German capital city.

There was even a "Cat Weekend" on International Cat Day earlier this month, when films that celebrate all things feline were screened.

Kazim has been encouraged by the region's response to art cinema: "We've been blown away by the enthusiasm.

Films we never expected to succeed, such as "Cold War" by Paweł Pawlikowski and "Capernaum" by Nadine Labaki, had a wonderful response. It's magical when that happens."

Kazim's next goal is to expand the Cinema Akil concept from Dubai to the region, giving cinephiles all over the Gulf a chance to enjoy independent films.



Audience watch a movie hosted by Cinema Akil

# BUSINESS

## Bahrain improves competitiveness: WEF

Ranks 45th on a scale of 141 economies around the globe; placed fourth in the Middle East

- United Arab Emirates (25th) leads in ME
- Kuwait is the most improved in the region

- WEF says greater investments in human capital are needed to transform the countries in the region

- Region has caught up significantly on ICT adoption

- Singapore is the country closest to the frontier of competitiveness

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has jumped five places to rank 45th on the Global Competitiveness Index 2019 of World Economic Forum which assess the progress of 141 economies around the globe to determine productivity and support countries to identify relevant policies and practices.

Competitiveness Rank in Bahrain averaged 41.69 from 2007 until 2019, reaching an all-time high of 50 in 2018 and a record low of 35 in 2013.

The development suggests, amid the persistent slowdown in the global economy, increasing trade animosities, political polarisation and rapid technological changes, Bahrain held its head straight and went ahead in improving its economy.

The 2019 edition, which features the Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 (GCI 4.0), covers 141 economies, which account for 99 per cent of the world's GDP. The GCI 4.0 is the fourth and latest iteration of the methodology used by the Global Competitiveness Report, which has been assessing countries every year since its first edition in 1979.

### Security: Bahrain 4th globally

The index which assesses the progress of 12 metrics through 103 indicators to determine the productivity finds Bahrain at the top portion of the table when it comes to Security. Bahrain ranks 4th on this scale with a score of

### Bahrain

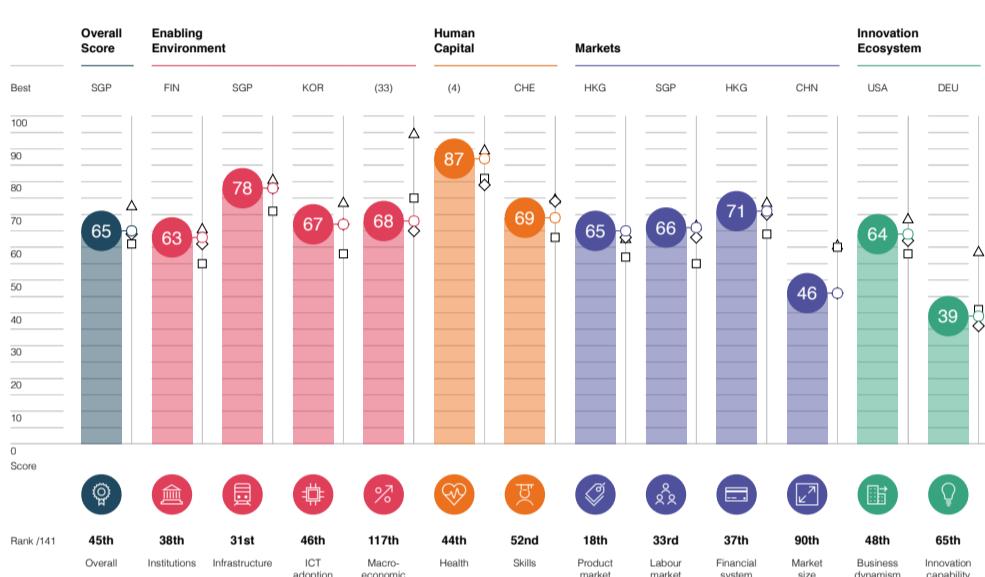
45th /141

Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 2019 edition

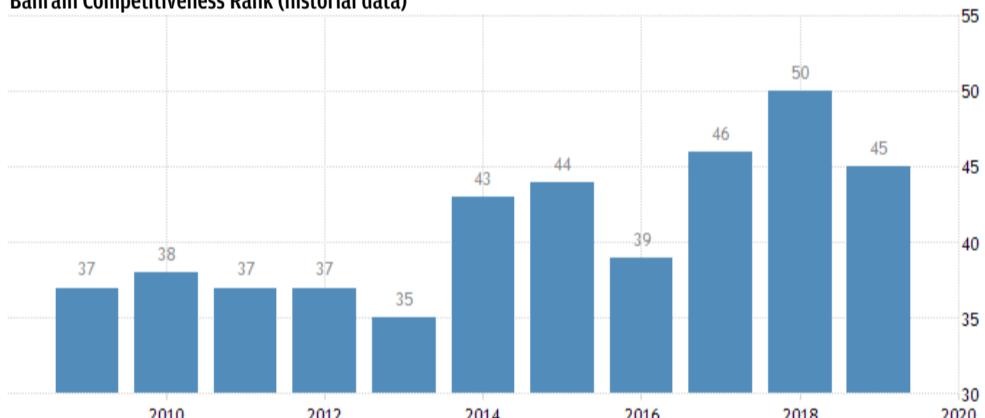
Rank in 2018 edition: 50th/140

Performance Overview Key ◇ Previous edition △ High-income group average □ Middle East and North Africa average

2019



### Bahrain Competitiveness Rank (historical data)



### access

Transport infrastructure ranking assesses Bahrain's capabilities in Road Connectivity, Quality of Road infrastructure (improved to 24th), Airport connectivity (remains the same at 60th), efficiency of air transport services (improved to 33rd), liner shipping connectivity (declined to 55th) and efficiency of seaport services (improved to 28th).

The report also places Bahrain at second rank globally in terms of Electricity access, 4th for electricity supply quality and 23rd for the reliability of water supply in the Utility infrastructure section. Exposure to unsafe drinking water is an area of con-

### Infrastructure: ranks 31

In terms of infrastructural growth, Bahrain managed a one-point improvement from 30th ranks on the 2018 report to the current 31st rank. Supporting Bahrain was Transport infrastructure which ranks 25 and utility infrastructure at 36, both of which have improved well from the prior year.

Bahrain is also poised to grow further in this sector with the launch of Railroad infrastructure in a few years.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Corporate gov: Ranks 28th

This is another area in which Bahrain performs well globally, where Singapore tops the list. The efficiency of the legal framework in settling dispute, government regulations and E-participation all are on par or well ahead of several advanced economies.

### Corporate gov: Ranks 28th

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Infrastructure: ranks 31

In terms of infrastructural growth, Bahrain managed a one-point improvement from 30th ranks on the 2018 report to the current 31st rank. Supporting Bahrain was Transport infrastructure which ranks 25 and utility infrastructure at 36, both of which have improved well from the prior year.

Bahrain is also poised to grow further in this sector with the launch of Railroad infrastructure in a few years.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Corporate gov: Ranks 28th

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

interest regulation and Shareholder governance are the areas where Bahrain shines in this category, where Luxembourg is the top performer.

### Road connectivity, electricity

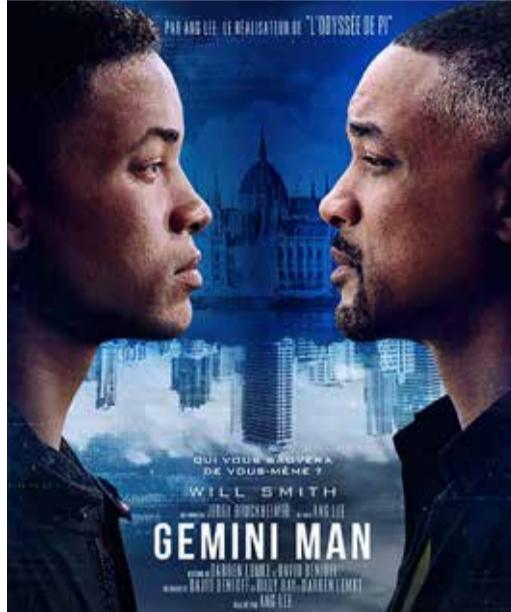
Strength of auditing and accounting standards, Conflict of

# SHOW

**GEMINI MAN (PG-15)ACTION**

OASIS JUFFAIR :11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM  
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM + (12.30 MN + 1.00 MN THURS/FRI)  
 CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN  
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM  
 CITY CENTRE VIP (I): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 10.45 AM + 11.15 AM + 12.45 + 1.15 + 1.45 + 3.15 + 3.45 + 4.15 + 5.45 + 6.15 + 6.45 + 8.15 + 8.45 + 9.15 + 10.45 + 11.15 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
 SAAR: 11.00 AM + 12.30 + 1.30 + 3.00 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + (10.30 PM + 11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

WILL SMITH, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, CLIVE OWEN

**JEXI (15+) (COMEDY)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM  
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM  
 SEEF (I): 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN  
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM  
 SAAR: 1.45 + 6.30 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

ROSE BYRNE, ALEXANDRA SHIPP, ADAM DEVINE

**THE SKY IS PINK (PG-15)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM  
 CITY CENTRE: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM  
 SEEF (II): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM  
 SAAR: 11.00 AM + 3.45 + 8.30 PM

ZAINA WASIM, PRIYANKA CHOPRA, FARHAN AKHTAR

**CORPORATE ANIMALS (18+)**

SEEF (II): 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

DEMI MOORE, ED HELMS, JESSICA WILLIAMS

**SALMA'S BIG WISH (PG)**

OASIS JUFFAIR: (KIDS CINEMA): 3.00 + 9.00 PM  
 SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM  
 CRISTINA MALIZIA, JOSEPH HERNANDEZ, LUIS DUBUC

**JOKER (15+) (THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM  
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 11.15 + 12.00 + 1.00 + 2.00 + 2.45 + 3.45 + 4.45 + 5.30 + 6.30 + 7.30 + 8.15 + 9.15 + 10.15 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN + 1.00 MN THURS/FRI)  
 CITY CENTRE VIP (II): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM  
 SEEF (II): (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 11.30 + 1.00 + 2.00 + 3.30 + 4.30 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 8.30 + 9.30 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN  
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
 SAAR: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

JOAQUIN PHOENIX, ZAZIE BEETZ, ROBERT DE NIRO

**WAR (PG-15) (HINDI/ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM  
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI.)  
 SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM  
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

HRITHIK ROSHAN, TIGER SHROFF, VAANI KAPOOR

**BORN A KING (PG) (DRAMA/HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM  
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM  
 SEEF (II): 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM  
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

ABDULLAH ALI, RAWKAN BINBELLA, ED SKREIN

**RAMBO: LAST BLOOD (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)**

CITY CENTRE : 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN  
 SEEF (II): 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

SYLVESTER STALLONE, PAZ VEGA, SERGIO PERIS-MENCHETA

**ABOMINABLE (PG) (ANIMATION)**

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 1.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 11.00 PM  
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM  
 SEEF (II): 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

CHLOE BENNET, TENZING NORGYA TRAINOR, ALBERT TSAI

**ANGEL HAS FALLEN (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)**

CITY CENTRE : 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
 SEEF (II): 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM

GERARD BUTLER, MORGAN FREEMAN, JADA PINKETT SMITH

**A SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE: FARMAGEDDON (G)**

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 11.00 AM  
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 3.30 + 8.00 PM  
 SEEF (II): 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

JUSTIN FLETCHER, JOHN SPARKES, KATE HAROUR

**FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW (PG-15)**

SEEF (II): 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

DWAYNE JOHNSON, JASON STATHAM, IDRIS ELBA

**KHYAL MAATA (PG) (COMEDY/DRAMA)**

CITY CENTRE : 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM  
 SEEF (II): 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

AHMAD HELMY, MINNA SHALABI, HASSAN HOSNEY

**DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD (PG)**

CITY CENTRE: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

ISABELA MONER, Q'ORIANKA KILCHER, BENICIO DEL TORO

**THE LION KING (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)**

CITY CENTRE: 1.00 + 5.30 + 10.00 PM

DONALD GLOVER, SETH ROGEN, CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

**TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE)**

CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.30 PM

TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK

**SYE RAA NARASIMHA REDDY (PG-15)**

OASIS JUFFAIR (TELUGU): 11.00 AM + 5.00 + 11.00 PM

AL HAMRA: (TELUGU): 3.00 PM

CHIRANJEEVI, AMITabh BACHCHAN, VIJAY SETHUPATHI

**ASURAN (PG-15) (TAMIL)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 2.15 + 8.15 PM

DHANUSH, MANJU WARRIOR, BALAJI SAKTHIVEL

**ADHYA RATHRI (PG-13)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM

SEEF (I): 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM

AL HAMRA: 12.00 NOON + 9.00 PM

BIJU MENON, AJU VARGHESE, ANASWARA

**PETROMAX (PG-13) (TAMIL)**

STARTING FROM THURSDAY 7.00 PM ONWARDS

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM

TAMANNAH BHATIA, YOGI BABU, MUNISHKANTH

**MANOHARAM (PG) (MALAYALAM)**

OASIS JUFFAIR : 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM

SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM

AL HAMRA: 6.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI.)

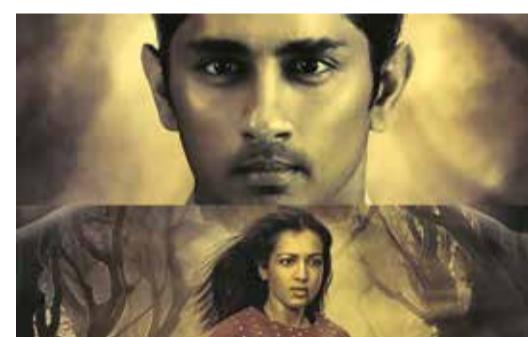
VINEETH SREENIVASAN, INDRANS, DEEPAK

**ARUVAM (PG-15) (TAMIL)**

STARTING FROM THURSDAY 7.00 PM ONWARDS

SEEF (I): 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM

SIDDHARTH, CATHERINE TRESA

**MOVIE REVIEW**

## Will Smith battles himself in 'Gemini Man'

Ang Lee puts Will Smith through the digital wringer in the film

● Ang Lee blends an erratic script, listless performances and high frame-rate cinematography, and the results are terrible

**G**emini Man is a 2019 American action thriller film directed by Ang Lee and written by David Benioff, Billy Ray, and Darren Lemke. Starring Will Smith, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Clive Owen, and Benedict Wong, the film follows a hitman who is targeted by a younger clone of himself.

Critics gave Gemini Man generally unfavourable reviews. On review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 31% based on 82 reviews, with a weighted average of 4.65/10. The site's critical consensus reads: "Gemini Man's impressive visuals are supported by some strong performances, but this sci-fi thriller is fatally undermined by a frustratingly subpar story."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 37 out of 100, based on 27 critics, indicating "generally unfavourable reviews".



Will Smith in Gemini Man

Variety's Peter DeBruge called the impossible project to get made, passing film "a high-concept misfire" and through the hands of countless ac-

tors and falling through multiple times

because the technology wasn't there yet. At least, that's been the excuse, al-

though judging by the finished product,

While Gemini Man is an ambitious project with incredible potential, it's shoddy and predictable script along with the ill-use of high frame rate dampens the mood

it was the script that never lived up to the promise of its premise." Ella Kemp of IndieWire gave the film a "C+", saying that "For Lee, it seems to make sense – the film welds concerns that have coloured a number of his projects: the debate of Nature v Nurture; the alienation of a fraying man; the challenge of what digital filmmaking can do. On paper, Gemini Man tends to all three concerns, but in practice the film is impenetrable beyond its technological clout."

Ella Kemp of IndieWire gave the film a "C+", saying that "For Lee, it seems to make sense – the film welds concerns that have coloured a number of his projects: the debate of Nature v Nurture; the alienation of a fraying man; the challenge of what digital filmmaking can do. On paper, Gemini Man tends to all three concerns, but in practice the film is impenetrable beyond its technological clout."

Ella Kemp of IndieWire gave the film a "C+", saying that "For Lee, it seems to make sense – the film welds concerns that have coloured a number of his projects: the debate of Nature v Nurture; the alienation of a fraying man; the challenge of what digital filmmaking can do. On paper, Gemini Man tends to all three concerns, but in practice the film is impenetrable beyond its technological clout."

Ella Kemp of IndieWire gave the film a "C+", saying that "For Lee, it seems to make sense – the film welds concerns that have coloured a number of his projects: the debate of Nature v Nurture; the alienation of a fraying man; the challenge of what digital filmmaking can do. On paper, Gemini Man tends to all three concerns, but in practice the film is impenetrable beyond its technological clout."

Ella Kemp of IndieWire gave the film a "C+", saying that "For Lee, it seems to make sense – the film welds concerns that have coloured a number of his projects: the debate of Nature v Nurture; the alienation of a fraying man; the challenge of what digital filmmaking can do. On paper, Gemini Man tends to all three concerns, but in practice the film is impenetrable beyond its technological clout."

Ella Kemp of IndieWire gave the film a "C+", saying that "For Lee, it seems to make sense – the film welds concerns that have coloured a number of his projects: the debate of Nature v Nurture; the alienation of a fraying man; the challenge of what digital filmmaking can do. On paper, Gemini

# Celebs

## Scarlett Johansson's love life is 'happy' and 'fulfilled'

ANI | Los Angeles

**E**ngaged to writer-comedian Colin Jost, actor Scarlett Johansson is just "very happy" and "fulfilled" with her fiance.

"I'm certainly, obviously, very happy and fulfilled in my personal life," Us Weekly quoted the 'Lucy' actor as expressing in an interview with Elle.

However, Johansson added that she is "also a sum of many parts, and able to access different parts of my story and how I got here."

It seems like she is living the time of her life as "it's all valuable" for her!

Talking about her upcoming outing 'Marriage Story', which she filmed while going through her divorce, she added, "My ability to compartmentalize comes in handy when it's time for things like that."

The 34-year-old's next outing is about Nicole, an actor who finds her marriage to Charlie

(Adam Driver), a filmmaker, coming to an end.

Johansson's love life with Jost blossomed in May when the latter proposed to the actress after two years of dating.

They first hogged headlines in May 2017 after Johansson and the 'Weekend Update' co-anchor were spotted getting cozy at the Saturday Night Live season 42 finale party.

Since then, the duo has been in news all over. Jost opened up about the 'Avengers' star in an interview with Entertainment Weekly earlier in September 2017.

"She's wonderful. She's working, so otherwise, she'd be here. She's pretty cool. It's hard to have a lot of complaints, she's pretty awesome ... I'm very happy. I feel very lucky," he had said while gushing praise on his lady love.

Prior to her relationship with Jost, Johansson was married to Ryan Reynolds from 2008 to 2011 and French journalist Ro-

Scarlett Johansson



Gwyneth Paltrow

## Acting was a male-dominated field in 90's: Paltrow

ANI | Los Angeles

**A**merican actor Gwyneth Paltrow got vocal about her struggling time in the industry and how successful she was in launching her own health company 'Goop.'

Speaking with ELLE for the magazine's annual Women in Hollywood issue, the 47-year-old star said, "In the '90s, when I was coming up, it was a very male-dominated field," she told the outlet, reported People magazine.

magazine.

"You used to hear, 'That actress is so ambitious,' like it was a dirty word." But now, with Goop, Paltrow says her "ambition has been unleashed."

Paltrow took a break from acting to focus on her company but is now back in front of the camera these days, and the credit goes to 'The Politician' producer Ryan Murphy and her husband, Brad Falchuk, who was "like a dog with a bone," she said.

Her 48-year-old husband commended Paltrow's performance in the political comedy in speaking with ELLE.

"The reaction of most people in our lives who have seen the show is, 'Screw you for not doing this more,'" he said, reported People magazine.



**Paltrow took a break from acting to focus on her company but is now back in front of the camera these days, and the credit goes to 'The Politician' producer Ryan Murphy and her husband, Brad Falchuk**

Still, the producer (who wed Paltrow in September 2018) admittedly cut some of his wife's lines to accommodate her busy schedule. He said, "She'd show me a giant chunk of her dialogue and be like, 'I have a board meeting in two days. Please don't make me do this.'"

Since the show launched on Netflix last month, fans have tried to compare Paltrow to the character she plays (Georgia Hobart).

Paltrow's interview with the ELLE comes just days after she celebrated her first wedding anniversary with Falchuk.

The couple were spotted at a Long Island beach for a low-key outing and enjoyed the sunny day as they strolled the shoreline on September 29.

magazine exclusively revealed the first picture from the episode.

According to People magazine, titled 'Chapter Fifty-Eight: In Memoriam,' the episode will pay tribute to Perry, who was an original cast member of The CW hit, appearing in almost every episode as Archie's (KJ Apa) dad Fred Andrews since the series premiere in 2017.



Luke Perry



I only wish he were here to see how many lives he touched with happiness and laughter. I know he's watching from above. We love you, Luke

LILI REINHART

We love you, Luke.

In a second post, the actor shared a monochrome picture of Perry, which was captured by her boyfriend and another co-star Cole Sprouse.

"And my all-time favourite picture of him. Taken by @colespouse," she captioned the smiling profile shot.

More than a month ahead of the season 4's premiere, People

## Month after car crash, Kevin Hart heads back to work

ANI | Los Angeles

**A**fter almost a month of rest and recovery following his major car crash, actor Kevin Hart is back on track as he has returned to work.

Hart, who suffered a major back injury in his car accident in South Carolina earlier in September, has already begun working on the marketing campaign of his upcoming offshoot to 'Jumanji', reported E! News, cited Page Six.

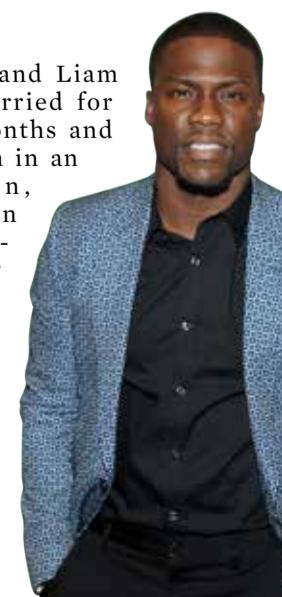
The spin-off titled 'Jumanji: The Next Level' stars Dwayne Johnson, Danny DeVito, and Danny Glover, all of whom were "happy to see him."

Hart fractured his spine in three places in the crash when he was riding in passenger seat in his Plymouth Barracuda, which veered off the road and rolled down an embankment on Mulholland highway.

Hart's friend Jared Black was driving the car when the incident happened.

While he sustained injuries during the accident, Black and his fiancee, Rebecca Broxterman, was in the back seat with Hart, are blaming the actor of negligence that he didn't have critical safety features in his car.

Kevin Hart



ANI | Los Angeles

**M**iley Cyrus has been the talk of the town lately who even after two breakups, is totally "having fun" with her new partner Cody Simpson!

She is even more joyous in not having to "answer to anyone."

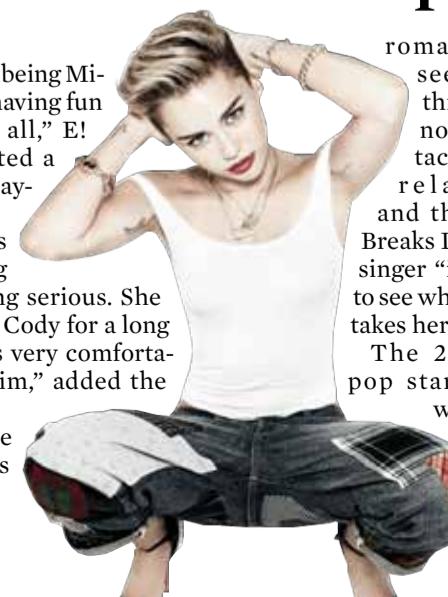
Over the past week, Cyrus and Simpson have been hogging headlines with their blossoming romance and the two have been social and active in exuding their fondness for

each other.

"Miley is being Miley. She is having fun and that's all," E! News quoted a source as saying.

"She is not looking for anything serious. She has known Cody for a long time and is very comfortable with him," added the insider.

While



romance might seem to be a thing, "there's no strings attached" in the relationship and the 'Nothing Breaks Like a Heart' singer "is just going to see where each day takes her."

The 26-year-old pop star was seen with Simpson following her

Miley Cyrus

break up with Kaitlynn Carter which came after her split from husband Liam Hemsworth.

"She wants to let loose and just be free. She doesn't take anything too seriously or think too much about what she's doing," told the source.

Her and Hemsworth's relationship was a long one and now it "is her time to do what she wants to do."

However, in one of her Instagram stories on Tuesday, the singer has referred Simpson as

her "BF". Miley and Liam were married for eight months and had been in an on-again, off-again relationship for 10 years before the singer announced the split in August.

# SPORTS

## sports



Sebastian Vettel leads Charles Leclerc during the Russian Grand Prix

### 'It won't happen again' insist Ferrari's feuding drivers ahead of race

AFP | Suzuka, Japan

Quabbling teammates Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc yesterday insisted "everything is clear now" with Ferrari team orders after their Russian Grand Prix debacle.

The Scuderia saw their race in Sochi fall apart handing Mercedes a one-two after a pre-arranged plan for Leclerc, who started from pole position, to "tow" Vettel into the lead unravelled when the German refused to give back the place before retiring with a mechanical problem.

Leclerc told reporters in Suzuka ahead of the weekend's typhoon-threatened Japanese Grand Prix that team principal Mattia Binotto had held talks with both drivers to iron out a "misunderstanding".

"Yeah, obviously there was some misunderstanding from the car but I think we've had a discussion and everything is clear now," said Leclerc.

"Obviously it felt like it was a huge deal from the outside, which it definitely wasn't, but yeah, now everything is fine."

Vettel disobeyed team orders in Russia and Leclerc seemed to have a further dig at his teammate before trying, cryptically, to wriggle out of it.

"I think that's clear from the beginning of the season, we need to obey team orders," said the Monegasque.

"And what is clear is that the situation wasn't clear for both of the drivers, starting the race, and I think that's the most important."

"So we spoke about it and we'll make sure that this situation doesn't happen again in the future."

Vettel agreed with his teammate that relations between them and the team had been resolved but admitted: "There are certain things we could have done better."

"We spoke about it obviously, more than once," Vettel told reporters.

"We speak with each other. Maybe different to what some people think. But I think it's pretty clear. But in the end, we look forward and look forward to this race and the next races. So not worried too much."

Vettel shrugged off suggestions that Ferrari rookie Leclerc's recent electrifying pace, which has seen him win two races and top Vettel consistently in qualifying, had any bearing on what happened in Russia.

"Charles is doing a very good job, but I genuinely believe it's first a race against yourself and then the others," said Vettel.

Saturday's qualifying and practice have been put in doubt by the approach of Super Typhoon Hagibis, which has caused the cancellation of two Rugby World Cup games.

Japanese Grand Prix organisers will make a decision on Friday whether to move qualifying to Sunday morning, saying the safety of fans and drivers was their top priority.

"I think it's pretty clear if the typhoon is going to come here there's no way we can drive," said Leclerc.

This year's qualifying on Saturday could be moved to Sunday as Typhoon Hagibis bears down on Japan

AFP | Tokyo

Japanese Grand Prix organisers will decide at noon today (0300 GMT) if the race weekend timetable, including Saturday qualifying, can go ahead as Super Typhoon Hagibis threatens the Suzuka circuit.

A spokesperson for the governing body FIA said yesterday that any decision to change the weekend programme rested with the local authorities in consultation with the FIA and Formula One.

The typhoon has already claimed casualties at the Rugby World Cup in Japan, with Saturday's England-France clash in Yokohama and the New Zealand-Italy match in Toyota City cancelled.

Two minor support races scheduled for Saturday at Suzuka have already been scrapped as a precaution.

Saturday's third free practice session and qualifying are likely to follow suit, but the volatile nature of Hagibis means even Sunday's race could be under threat, though the current forecast is for better weather that day.

Earlier, the FIA issued a statement saying the safety of fans and drivers would be the top priority as Hagibis -- classed as "violent" and the equivalent of a Category Five hurricane -- is predicted to make landfall near Tokyo on Saturday.

The latest forecasts for Saturday predict heavy rain and winds gusting in excess of 100 kilometres an hour to batter the Suzuka Circuit, which lies near the Honshu coast about 300 kilometres (180 miles) southwest of the capital.

"Every effort is being made to minimise disruption to the Formula 1 timetable, however, the safety of the fans, competitors and everyone at the Suzuka Cir-



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton crosses the finish line to win the 2018 Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka



In both 2004 and 2010, qualifying at Suzuka had to be postponed until Sunday morning before the race

cuit remains the top priority," said the FIA.

The qualifying session, originally scheduled to start at 3 pm Saturday (0600 GMT), determines the starting order for Sunday's race.

It leaves the organisers with two options to form the race grid.

They can either shift qualifying to Sunday morning, something that was done successfully at Suzuka in 2004 and 2010

because of bad weather, or they can use the timings of the drivers from Friday afternoon's second free practice to determine the starting order.

Whatever happens, a postponement of the grand prix to Monday is impossible, FIA said.

#### Safety first

After the tail-end of a typhoon affected the 2014 race at Suzuka, French driver Jules Bianchi crashed heavily after losing control in rain and poor visibility and died the following year from his injuries having never recovered from a coma.

Drivers yesterday backed changing the weekend timetable.

"I don't think anybody wants to put anybody's life in danger," said Ferrari's four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel.

"The decision is not for us, necessarily, because for us it's nice and easy, cosy, in the garage.

"But for the people out there around the track, it is not nice to

be sitting there with rain going sideways."

A blank Saturday would be a huge disappointment to thousands of fanatical supporters at one of the best-attended races on the circuit, but other drivers were prepared for the worst.

"I've got my speedboat on standby, so I'm ready," joked Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

"At the moment it doesn't look very likely. So we'll have a bit more free time on Saturday and it means waking up a little bit earlier on Sunday," he added.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc said he hoped the FIA would consult the drivers to decide if conditions were safe but thought it "would be pretty clear if we can't drive".

Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton crosses the finish line to win the 2018 Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka. This year's qualifying on Saturday could be moved to Sunday as Typhoon Hagibis bears down on Japan.

## Makeshift Germany held at home by Messi-less Argentina

AFP | Dortmund, Germany

An experimental Germany team leaked two second-half goals Wednesday as a weakened Argentina side, minus superstar Lionel Messi, earned a 2-2 draw in a friendly in Dortmund.

Germany flew into a 2-0 lead thanks to first-half goals by Serge Gnabry and Kai Havertz, but Lucas Alario turned the game in the second-half when he came on for Argentina.

The Leverkusen striker pulled a goal back, then set up Lucas Ocampos for the late equaliser against a German team which included four debutants.

Freiburg pair, defender Robin

Koch, a late call-up on Monday who was thrust into a makeshift back three at the last-minute, and striker Luca Waldschmidt started.

Leverkusen forward Nadiem Amiri and Schalke midfielder Suat Serdar came on to make their second-half debuts.

The Germans had already been forced into a hastily re-arranged defence as Koch replaced centre-back Niklas Stark, who pulled out before kick-off with a stomach bug.

Despite 13 withdrawals due to either illness or injury, Germany impressed early against an Argentina team missing Messi, Ser-



Argentina's forward Lucas Alario (R) scores a goal

gio Aguero and Angel di Maria. With Messi suspended for comments made at the Copa America, Juventus' Paulo Dybala

This match was a repeat of the 2014 World Cup final, yet Argentina's Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo was the only survivor when the Germans won in Rio de Janeiro.

He partnered Manchester City veteran Nicolas Otamendi in an Argentina defence which crumbled early on.

A week after scoring four goals for Bayern Munich at Tottenham, Gnabry put Germany ahead on 15 minutes.

The winger used his pace when Atletico Madrid's Angel Correa lost possession to get in behind the defence to stab the ball past Argentina goalkeeper Augustin Marchesin.

We matured during

the game. We made two or three mistakes in the first half, but got a grip in the second half, were more patient and we take a lot of positives for the future

LIONEL SCALONI

ARGENTINA COACH

# Federer squeaks past Goffin

Roger Federer says fans inspired him to reach Shanghai Masters quarter-finals

Novak Djokovic powers past John Isner

AFP | Shanghai

**R**oger Federer said that his devoted band of Chinese supporters helped pull him through a tough first set and into the Shanghai Masters quarter-finals yesterday.

The Swiss defeated David Goffin 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 after the 13th seed from Belgium squandered five set points in the first set.

The 38-year-old Federer plays either Germany's Alexander Zverev in the last eight.

"I never really felt like I had the upper hand against David today," said the 20-time Grand Slam winner, who looked unusually flustered at times.

Federer was left shaking his head in the first set and he suffered a rare inelegant moment in the 12th game, slipping on his own sweat -- "a bit embarrassing," he said.

The Swiss fell awkwardly and was then broken by Goffin, 14th in the world.

But the Belgian lost his nerve



Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return against David Goffin of Belgium

despite going 3-1 up in the first tie break, and Federer roared back to turn the momentum in his favour.

Federer was regularly serenaded by chants of "Roger, Roger, go go go" by local supporters all sitting together in one part of the arena. All were decked out in red.

Federer, who failed to win a

Grand Slam this year, said their backing had been key to his revival.

"I know that if I am in trouble, they will be there to cheer me on," he said.

"If I look to them, or pump myself up, I know they will react to that."

"It's definitely very special

here because they all sit in one

block, sort of like in football to some extent, which is highly unusual for tennis and a tennis tournament."

## Perfect Djokovic

World number one Novak Djokovic made light work of American John Isner and plays promising 21-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in the last

## Agarwal hits ton as India dominate South Africa

AFP | Pune, India

**M**ayank Agarwal hit his second century in successive matches on the opening day of the second Test against South Africa yesterday and said his side should aim for a 500-run first innings.

The opener, who made a double century in India's opening Test win, scored 108 after the hosts elected to bat.

India were 273-3 when bad light forced an early end to play, with skipper Virat Kohli unbeaten on 63 and vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane on 18.

Kohli and Rahane put on 75 runs for the fourth wicket to thwart South Africa's determined bowlers who kept them under pressure as the gloom crept in.

Agarwal, 28, said he was thrilled with his performance.

"The team is in a good position, winning the toss, batting first and with one batsman short, it's a good thing to make runs... 450-500 would be nice," Agarwal said.

"Try and get big runs in the first innings... (that) could help us in case we don't want to bat again. It could really put pres-



A close-in fielder is airborne as Mayank Agarwal drives

sure on the South Africans."

Kohli, leading the Test side for the 50th time, reached his half-century with a boundary off fast bowler Vernon Philander.

But Agarwal took the lead role despite being hit on the helmet from a bouncer by debutant paceman Anrich Nortje. He went on to hit Nortje for three glorious off drives in one over before lunch.

The right-handed batsman put on 138 runs for the second wicket with Cheteshwar Pujara, who made 58, to steady the

innings after the fall of Rohit Sharma early in the day.

He was eventually caught in the slips by South African captain Faf du Plessis -- one of fast bowler Kagiso Rabada's three wickets for the day.

"There were periods where I was getting boundaries very easily, there were periods where they bowled very good line and lengths and were testing the bouncer as well," said Agarwal, who is playing his sixth Test since making his debut last year.

Rabada also claimed Sharma, who edged the ball into the gloves of wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock for 14 in the 10th over.

That was a disappointment for Sharma, who hit twin centuries in his first run as Test opener in Visakhapatnam where India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Rabada struck again to get Pujara, caught again by du Plessis, just before tea. Pujara, who was dropped by Temba Bavuma before he scored, hit a six and nine fours.

Rabada returned figures of 3-48 in 18.1 overs.

Victory for India in the series will see them beat the record of 10 straight home series wins they share with Australia.

## England must tighten up at the back: Alexander-Arnold

AFP | London

**T**rent Alexander-Arnold says England must improve their defensive record if they are to stand any chance of winning Euro 2020.

England have a wealth of attacking options including Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Jadon Sancho but have had defensive problems in recent matches.

A 5-3 win over Kosovo at Southampton last month did little to paper over cracks that showed when the Netherlands won 3-1 in the Nations League semi-final in June.

Individual errors accounted for many of the goals shipped across those two games as Southgate continues to strive for a settled back four.

"If we want to be regarded as one of the best teams in Europe and go far in the Euros, and try and win the competition, our

clean sheets and goals conceded must be fewer," Liverpool full-back Alexander-Arnold said.

"We have to concede fewer goals. As defenders, as a team and as a unit we know where to improve and where to work on.

"Some games, it just happens. We will analyse what went wrong and try and make sure it does not happen again."

Champions League-winning right-back Alexander-Arnold will battle with Kieran Trippier for a place in Southgate's team.



Trent Alexander-Arnold



Novak Djokovic secured his 350th career match win at the ATP Masters 1000 level

eight.

The defending champion from Serbia dismissed the 16th seed Isner 7-5, 6-3 in 74 minutes after taming Isner's booming serve.

"It's always a big challenge returning the serve of Isner," said Djokovic, who is over the shoulder problem that curtailed his US Open defence.

"He's got one of the biggest serves of all time, he's one of the tallest guys ever to play ten-nis."

The 32-year-old Djokovic is looking imperious, having not dropped a set in claiming the title in Tokyo last week and continuing that perfect record in Shanghai.

Also in the last eight on Friday, colourful Italian Fabio Fognini faces red-hot Russian Daniil Medvedev.

The fourth-ranked Medvedev was forced to sweat -- and not just because of the Shanghai heat -- after being 5-2 down in the first set to Canadian qualifier Vasek Pospisil.

The 23-year-old Medvedev eventually squeezed through 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.

"I was down five set points and 5-2 also," said the US Open finalist, fast making a big name for himself as the man most likely to challenge Federer, Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

"Usually the set is finished when it's like this, so just try to win every point I had to face, and finally it worked out."

Medvedev, who has been in eight finals this year, winning three of them, smashed his racquet as the frustration built and he threatened to boil over in the Shanghai sun.

"I usually don't like to break racquets because it's never beautiful," he said.

The Spaniard Nadal is not in Shanghai because of a wrist injury.

## Naomi Osaka picks Japanese citizenship with eye on Olympics



Naomi Osaka of Japan poses with the trophy after winning the China Open

AFP | Tokyo

**T**ennis star Naomi Osaka has decided to choose Japanese over American nationality with an eye on the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, public broadcaster NHK reported yesterday.

Osaka, who has a Japanese mother and a Haitian father,

told NHK she has completed an administrative step to obtain Japanese citizenship ahead of her birthday next week.

Japanese law stipulates that a Japanese with more than one nationality must choose one before turning 22 years old.

"It gives me a special feeling to try to go to the Olympics to represent Japan," the two-time Grand Slam champion told the broadcaster in an interview in Tokyo.

"I think I will be able to put more of my emotion into it by playing for the pride of the country," she said, according to the article published in Japanese on the NHK website.

NAOMI OSAKA

She is the face of several leading Japanese brands, including the carrier ANA, and "Naomichan" -- as she is affectionately known -- was the main attraction at last month's Pan Pacific Open in Osaka, which she won.

But she has faced controversies over her dual heritage in a nation that is fairly racially homogeneous, as well as scrutiny for her imperfect Japanese language skills -- though others insist they add to her charm.

Mixed-race children can often face prejudice in Japan, although attitudes among younger generations are changing.