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Green light for BD100m fund

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday approved the launch of a Liquidity Support Fund worth BD10 million.

The move follows the directives given by the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister during the 2019 government forum.

Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr. Yasser bin Isa Al-Nassr, announced the decision in a post-Cabinet press briefing yesterday.

The fund, Cabinet explained, launched in coordination with Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and national banks, aims at developing a funding ecosystem for the high growth sector in the Kingdom.

Backed will be given to companies facing genuine short-term liquidity pressures for growth.

The Cabinet also acknowledged the strength of the Kingdom’s private-public partnership in facilitating the swift establishment of the Liquidity Support Fund. Four agreements with national banks were also given approval by the Cabinet to arrange credit facilities.

Instructions were given to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to initiate the launch of the Fund.

The new fund will be in addition to an already announced BD100 million fund of funds by Bahrain Development Bank which will invest across various sectors in the Kingdom.

Apart from these, several venture capital funds are also there currently supporting the funding needs.

Fee reduced

The reduction will be applicable only if the amount is paid in full at the time of permit issuance, or by agreeing to pay in three installments through the building permits system “Re- nayat” while providing financing facilitation through commercial banks.

The proposal also calls for introducing the three payment options on Benazir’s website in cooperation with the Information Technology and E-Government Authority.

BD 200 monthly benefits

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Key CPC session highlights strength of China’s system and governance

BEIJING, Oct. 31 (Xinhua) -- The 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its fourth plenary session in Beijing on Thursday with the release of a communique.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made an important speech at the session presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. “The system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a scientific system developed by the Party and the people through their long-term practices and explorations,” the communique read.

All the work and activities of China’s national governance are carried out in accordance with the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, said the document, noting that the country’s system and capacity for governance are a crystallization of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and its enforcement capability.

The communique said, as proven by practice, the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and China’s system for governance are systems of strong vitality and huge strengths.

These systems are able to push for the continuous progress of the country with nearly 1.4 billion people and ensure the realization of the two centenary goals toward the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which has a civilization of more than 5,000 years, it added.

STRENGTH

-- Upholding the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC, following the CPC’s scientific theories, maintaining political stability and ensuring that the country keeps advancing in the direction of socialism; 

-- Seeing that the people run the country, promoting the people’s democracy, maintaining close ties with the people and relying on them to push forward the country’s development; 

-- Ensuring law-based governance in all fields, building a country of socialist rule of law, and guaranteeing social fairness and justice and the people’s rights; 

-- Ensuring the whole country works together and stimulating the enthusiasm of all aspects to mobilize resources for major undertakings; 

-- Upholding equality between all ethnic groups, creating a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation to work jointly for common prosperity and development; 

-- Upholding the dominant role of the public sector and common development of economic entities under diverse forms of ownership, the distribution system whereby distribution according to labor is dominant and a variety of other modes of distribution exist alongside it, the synergy between the socialist system and the market economy, and continuously unlocking and developing the productive forces; 

-- Upholding common ideals and conceptions, values, and moral standards, promoting China’s fine traditional culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture, as well as inspiring the people to embrace shared ideologies and minds; 

-- Adhering to the vision of making development people-centered, and continuously guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods and improving people’s wellbeing to achieve common prosperity for everyone; 

-- Continuing reform and innovation, moving with the times, and promoting self-improvement and development to build a society full of vitality; 

-- Selecting officials based on integrity and ability and on the basis of merit regardless of background to cultivate more talented individuals; 

-- Keeping the armed forces under the Party’s command and ensuring that the people’s armed forces are completely loyal to the Party and the people and the people as a whole to safeguard China’s sovereignty, security and development interests; 

-- Upholding and improving the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and improving the Party’s capacity for law-based governance and law-based exercising of state power; 

-- Upholding and improving the government administration system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. A law-based government administration with well-defined functions and duties shall be built, it added; 

-- Upholding and improving China’s basic socialist economic system and promoting the high-quality development of the economy; 

-- Upholding and improving the system to make advanced socialist culture prosperous and developed to consolidate the common ideological foundation upon which all people are united and work together; 

-- Upholding and improving the liveability system for protecting both urban and rural residents and working to meet people’s ever-increasing needs for a better life; 

-- Upholding and improving the social governance system based on collaboration, participation and common interests, as well as maintaining social stability and defending national security; 

-- Upholding and improving the system for developing an ecological civilization and promoting the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature; 

-- Upholding and improving the Party’s absolute leadership over the armed forces and ensuring that they will faithfully fulfill their missions in the new era; 

-- Upholding and improving the system of “one country, two systems” and advancing the process toward the peaceful reunification of China; 

-- Upholding and improving the independent foreign policy of peace and work to build a community with a shared future for humanity; 

-- Upholding and improving the Party-state oversight systems and strengthening checks on and oversight over the exercise of power.

Experts review central IT monitoring systems

The meeting

Bahrain’s central security system which protects and monitors operations on the government network was reviewed yesterday by top IT specialists and experts.

The initiative, during the 5th Cyber Hawks meeting, was in line with iGA’s efforts to enhance the security level 2020 of government infrastructure, systems and e-government services.

More than 90 IT specialists from governmental and semi-governmental organisations took part.

The central security system works by collecting data, analysing and highlighting it for extraction, which can be used to identify and promptly deal with threats.

Participants reviewed security incidents and precautionary measures taken by iGA to address them.

Discussions also focused on cloud computing security solutions and other solutions expecting implementation in the future.

Speaking on the occasion, Shaikh Khalid bin Moham- med Al Khalifa, the Information and E-Government Authority’s (iGA) Deputy Chief Executive, Operations & Governance, said cybersecurity is vital in achieving iGA’s strategic goal of creating a safe online environment.

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, a ceremony was held in honour of Dr Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari yesterday, the Hon. King himself patronising the ceremony, hailing royal support to culture in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

China Communist Party's 19th Central CommitteeFourth plenary session

The meeting
Cabinet welcomes Riyadh summit

Hails victory at the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup

Congratulations leadership, people ahead of National Day

TDT | Manama

The cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday hailed Bahrain’s comprehensive development across all fields, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The session welcomed the convening of the 40th Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Summit in Riyadh and praised the Bahrain National Football team following their victory at the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup.

This was announced by Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr. Yasser bin Isaa Al-Naser following the HH the Crown Prince chairing the weekly Cabinet session held at Gadadhiya Palace.

The Cabinet congratulated HH Prince Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, HH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, and the people of Bahrain ahead of the 16 and 17 December national celebrations.

The event marks the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by its founder Ahmed Al Fateh, the 44th Anniversary of Bahrain’s accession to the UN as a full member, and the 20th Anniversary of HH King Hamad’s accession to the throne.

The Cabinet, on the occasion of the Commemoration Day on 17 December, recalled with pride the sacrifices made by those who have fallen in service to protect the Kingdom and its people, stressing that they will always be remembered with the utmost appreciation.

The Cabinet highlighted HH King Hamad’s patronage of the celebrations of the centenary of Bahrain Police and extended its congratulations to all members of the Ministry of Interior on Bahrain Police Day, celebrated on 14th of December. The Cabinet went on to praise the role of the ministry’s personnel in safeguarding the Kingdom’s continued security and stability.

The Cabinet further expressed appreciation for the support extended by HH King Hamad to Bahrain’s youth and sports sector, praising the Kingdom’s successful hosting of the Iron Man Middle East Championship, which demonstrated the country’s ability to organise prestigious international events.

The session congratulated Bahrain’s National Football team and said, “the victory exemplifies the concept of Team Bahrain.”

The meeting congratulated the winners of the fourth edition of the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, held under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince, and praised their contribution to economic diversification and innovation within the private sector.

The Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Bahrain and Pakistan to enhance ties in health, media, education, youth and sports among others. A similar MoU to boost cooperation in the education sector with Brunei Darussalam was also approved.

Measures to exempt holders of diplomatic, special and official passports from visa requirements between Bahrain and Japan was okayed.

The Cabinet also agreed to transfer the registry of closed joint-stock companies from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism to Bahrain Clear for greater clarity.

The session also praised Bahrain’s hosting of the 26th Annual World Islamic Banking Conference, held under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister.

Mots signed

Several submissions, memorandums and proposed laws were discussed during the meeting.

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HM King reorganises Tender Board technical body

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday reorganised Tender Board’s administrative and technical body, Secretary-General of the Tender Board (in the rank of ministerial undersecretary) will be in charge of the Technical Evaluation Directorate and the Technical Specifications and Qualification Directorate.

The decision becomes effective following its publication in the Official Gazette. Separately, His Majesty restructured the Supreme Council for Environment, with HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa as president and Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa as Vice President.

Duration of board members will be four years renewable.

The Prime Minister and each of the ministers according to their jurisdictions will implement the order effective from its date of issuance.

BAC first in region to implement new cloud-based solution

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) announced becoming the first company in the region to implement IBM Maximo, a new cloud-based application to streamline assets and inventory management functions at the new Passenger Terminal Development across all fields, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

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Thirty young Bahrainis students graduated from an English Access Micro Scholarship Programme in a ceremony at Al Ghal Hotel in Juffair. His Excellency the Ambassador to Bahrain Austin Siberell honoured the students with the successful completion of a year programme of rigorous study in English and American culture. In his remarks, Ambassador Siberell noted that almost 200,000 students have received Access scholarships in 88 countries since 2004, including 1,200 Bahraini students.

Sponsored by the US Embassy in Bahrain, the Access programme provides scholarships to disadvantaged youth to help them become better citizens and fulfil their aspirations for higher education and better jobs.

Orthogonal distance estimation of parameters: 10.6845

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Bahrain maintains UNHDI ranking

Pradeep Puravankara
TTD / Manama

Bahrain has maintained its rankings on the latest Human Development Index (HDI) at 45 out of 189 countries and territories, according to the Human Development Report (HDR) released by the United Nations Development Programme.

The ranking positions Kingdom of Bahrain has been in the top three, among the category of non-OECD countries having very high human development were Norway, Switzerland, Ireland occupied the top three positions. Ahead of Bahrain, on the rankings from GCC are the United Arab Emirates at 35, Saudi Arabia at 36 and Qatar 41.

The rankings also state that Bahrain performs better than at least two-thirds of countries in quality of health, quality of education and quality of living standards.


Germany is placed fourth along with Japan and Australia which secured the fifth rank on the global ranking. Between 1990 and 2018, Bahrain’s HDI value increased 13.86 percent (from 0.698 to 0.857) and Qatar is 12.02pc (from 0.757 to 0.848). Bahrain's 2018 HDI value is also above the average of 0.703 for countries in the Arab region, but below the average of 0.942 for countries in the very high human development group.

Life expectancy

This means that in the last three decades, life expectancy at birth in the Kingdom increased by 4.8 years to 77.2 from 72.4 years or 6.3pc, where expected years of schooling increased by 1.9 to 15.3 years. Arab states average in this regard was 73.9 years. During this period life expectancy in GCC increased 8.2pc or 5.9 years to 81.2 years. In Saudi Arabia, life expectancy at birth rose by 8.5pc or 5.9 years to 76.5 years.

Internet Users

Gross national income (GNI) (2011 PPP$) per capita increased 35.14pc to 40399 in 2018 from 29833 in 1990. Bahrain’s current health expenditure as a percentage of GDP is 4 pc, which is also on par with Arab states average of 4.9pc. Gender Development values, a ratio of the female to the male HDR, on the index is 0.937, better than the average of Arab states at 0.856 and almost on par with that of nations having very high human development at 0.976. The world average is 0.941.

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

The 2010 HDR introduced the GII, which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions — reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity.

- Bahrain has a GII value of 0.207, ranking it 47 out of 162 countries in the 2018 index.
- In Bahrain, 18.8 pc of parliamentary seats are held by women.
- 64.2pc of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 57.9pc of their male counterparts.
- For every 100,000 live births, 15.0 women die from pregnancy related causes.
- The adolescent birth rate is 13.4 births per 1,000 women of ages 15-19.
- Female participation in the labour market is 44.9pc compared to 87.3 for men.

Two Bahraini and a UAE startup enter Pitch@Palace finale

TTD / Manama

Innovations of Bahraini entrepreneurs will be put through their paces today as they compete against 19 others from all around the globe in the final round of the fourth edition Pitch@Palace global in the UK. Qualifying to the finale are Bahraini startup MATT VR led by Shahd Al-Zaki (first place), the UAE startup DocWhere, led by Nehal Al-Sunni (second place) and the People Choice Award and Bahraini startup DocWhere, led by Nehal Al-Sunni (third place).

The qualifying participants completed a two-day Bootcamp with workshops and specialised sessions to introduce them to the opportunities and challenges of the global economy. Commenting, Dr Ebrahim Mohamed Janahi, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, praised the performance of the Bahraini start-ups. “Interactive programmes such as Pitch@Palace allow entrepreneurs to connect with other experts and pioneers from around the world,” he said.

Dr Nasser Ali Qaedi, Tamkeen’s Chief Investment and Marketing Officer, said the event provides a great opportunity for the participants to learn and grow into international markets.

The startups will compete in the finale of Pitch@Palace Global 4.0 in the UK today.
Gunman kills himself after deadly Czech hospital rampage

Four men and two women died during the assault

The attacker gunned down people at close range

A gunman allegedly shot people at close range as they sat waiting in the lobby of the General Teaching Hospital in Ostrava.

The gunman allegedly shot people at close range as they sat waiting in the lobby of the General Teaching Hospital in Ostrava.

The shooter fled the scene and later turned the gun on himself

The shooter was captured on hospital cameras.

Chile military plane disappears with 38 aboard: Air Force

A Chilean Hercules C-130 military transport plane, the same model that has disappeared with 38 people on board

Santiago

A Chilean military plane with 38 people aboard has gone missing after it took off from the country's south for a base in Antarctica and is presumed to have crashed, authorities have said.

Seventeen of those on board the C-130 aircraft were crew and the others were passengers.

The plane is believed to have crashed and "all national and international air and maritime means available in the area are continuing the search for survivors in the sector where communications were lost with the aircraft," it added in a statement yesterday.

The four-engine aircraft took off Monday at 4:55 pm (19:55 GMT) from an airbase in the southern city of Punta Arenas and contact was lost at 6:13 am.

Those on board were to carry out logistical support tasks at Chile's Eduardo Frei Antarctic base – the country's largest, the Air Force said.

The air force said conditions for flying were good and that it was in contact with the families of those on board, many of whom were travelling to carry out logistical support tasks at the country's largest Antarctic base Eduardo Frei.

Personnel were also being transferred to inspect the base's floating fuel supply pipeline and undertake anticorrosive treatment of the facility.

The air force also said that of the passengers on board, 15 were from its ranks, three were from the army, two were from a private construction company, and a Chile university official.

World’s youngest leader takes office in Finland

Finland’s Prime Minister Sanna Marin, Minister of Education Li Andersson, Minister of Finance Katrin Kulmuni and Minister of Interior Maria Ohisalo pose after the first government meeting in Helsinki, Finland

Reuters | Helsinki

Thirty-four-year-old Social Democratic Sanna Marin took office in Finland on Tuesday as the world’s youngest serving prime minister, heading a coalition of four other parties led by women, all under the age of 35.

Marin won the confidence of parliament with 99 votes in favor and 70 against.

She replaced Antti Rinne, who resigned last week after the Center Party, one of the four governing parties, lost confidence in him over his handling of a postal strike.

"I want to build a society in which every child can become anything and in which every human being can live and grow old with dignity," Marin wrote on Twitter.

Twelve ministers in the new cabinet are women and just seven are men. The head of the Center Party, Katri Kulmuni, 32, becomes finance minister.

Green Party leader Maria Ohisalo, 34, continues as interior minister and the Left Alliance’s chairwoman Li Andersson, 32, remains education minister.

The Swedish People’s Party’s Anna-Maja Henriksson, 33, remains justice minister, the only coalition leader to finish school before the 21st century.

Despite outward shows of harmony, divisions remain between the main coalition partners, Marin’s Social Democrats and the Center Party.

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Revving up to a new speed record in the Kalahari

Hakskeenpan | South Africa

The Bloodhound was deployed exclusively for speed -- air-conditioned tent nearby. The sound factor, obstacles or a slight wind factor, the car was running absolutely steady as it draw near. In the blink of an eye, a racing car shoots by with a deafening loud hiss rips through the air, so the car ran absolutely steady. The white parachute that stood sleekly behind him, dust still hovering in its wake. There's still a way to go before the titanium-ray coated rear view attempt, but today driver Andy Green is pleased. You can call it that, a jet engine with wheels, some people say. It's a very different sensation, to flying a fighter jet, Chapman and his team plan to give it a boost this year after making his fortune, he said. "I'm confident we are going to get up to 1,000 mph. The vehicle resembles a wingless jet on aluminium wheels, with a long white topped body of the car which was on the verge of being dismantled and sold as spare parts.

The Bloodhound design is miles ahead of the Typhoon's engine, released by second" decisions needed to minimise any source of danger along the 16-kilo metre (9.9-mile) desert track. The 39-year-old air traffic controller has a throttle by the Bloodhound team's only female member, Jessica Kinsman. The 39-year-old air traffic controller has a throttle by the Bloodhound team's only female member, Jessica Kinsman.

"It's a car designed to go at 1,000 mph, Chapman said. "It's a very different environment... (and) vehicle." Green said. "A very different way to control. The Bloodhound's speedometer needs tweaking and the new rocket engine, released by the Typhoon's engine, released by second" decisions needed to minimise any source of danger along the 16-kilo metre (9.9-mile) desert track. The 39-year-old air traffic controller has a throttle by the Bloodhound team's only female member, Jessica Kinsman.

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The told TVNZ, remembering a scene of devastation. "We didn't find any survivors," Intensive care paramedic Geoff Hopkins said of his tour boat. "I can only imagine what it was like for the people there at the time -- they had nowhere to go and an absolutely terrible experience for them."

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern praised helicopter pilots for landing on the volcano, and said that compatriots were in mourning.

"It was like... I've seen the 'Chernobyl' mini-series and it was just everything was just blanketed in ash. I can only imagine what it was like for the people there at the time -- they had nowhere to go and an absolutely terrible experience for them."

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said there were five confirmed fatalities and eight more injured -- but they backtracked on opening an investigation into the circumstances in an attempt to get four rescue helicopters for landing on the island when a huge plume burst across the country.

"We are scared and are emocionally and some of us do want to fall apart, but it's not really an option. We have to stay strong."

Mourners of some missing families face painful wait as rescue calls fall apart, but it's not really an option. We have to stay strong.

Heroism, devastation after deadly volcano eruption

Families face painful wait as rescue calls fall apart, but it's not really an option. We have to stay strong.

Among those on the island during the catastrophic tourist eruption are tourists from Australia, the United States, Britain, China and Malaysia, as well as New Zealand guides.

Ardern praised the crews of four rescue helicopters for landing on the island soon after the eruption.

"Those pilots made an incredibly brave decision under extraordinarily dangerous circumstances in an attempt to get people out," she told reporters.

"We absolutely believe that everyone that came off who wasn't burnt was rescued at the time of the evacuation," police commissioner Tims told reporters in Wellington.

"We understand the desire from the locals and the loved ones, to remove their family from the island," he added. "We are working around the clock."
Can the youth speak up in UK elections?

Many young Britons are disillusioned with party politics, and skeptical of achieving meaningful choice, or change, by the exercise of the vote.

For about 25 years now, the country has been experiencing a high degree of intergenerational difference in levels of turnout at general elections.

Voter registration spiked 236% after Stormzy urged people to vote.
Shifty Schiff, a totally corrupt politician, made up a horrible and fraudulent statement, read it to Congress, and said those words came from me. He got caught, was very embarrassed, yet nothing happened to him for committing this fraud. He’ll eventually have to answer for this!
@realDonaldTrump

This will be the first impeachment in American history driven by partisan politics and not an outside investigation. I fear House Democrats are turning impeachment into a tool to be used when you don’t like a president’s policies or style.
@LindseyGrahamSC

We’ve been having this election because Parliament couldn’t get anything done. Only the Conservatives can get Brexit done and get Parliament working again, on the issues that matter to you.
@BorisJohnson

A vote for Labour on Thursday will put Labour into Downing Street on Friday morning with a national compensation scheme to help women. A vote for the SNP will deliver nothing more than their talking points of continuity to achieve nothing beyond the odd stunt at Westminster.
@LavouriteRichard

**Get Brexit Done** is just more misleading Boris bluster

Andrew Hammond

As many as 2000 referendum, campaign tactics in this election have been thoroughly dirty on the part of some, based on misinformation and propaganda.

If the reality of no-deal dawns in about a year’s time, Brussels and London would almost certainly have to return to the negotiating table, with a new set of incentives and considerable urgency.
Gulf Air boosts international sales with APG IET

Malaysia’s Mahathir hopeful of 1MDB settlement with Goldman

Saudi Arabia announced its stock market to face impeachment. The stock market, which is controlled by Democrats, is above the law,” Nadler said. The market is controlled by his party, but his impact on the campaign trail as Democrats seek to retake control of the Senate.”

Aramco’s stock debut today

Oil prices drop as trade war concerns haunt market

US Democrats announce impeachment charges against Trump
Once a fabled stop on medieval trading routes across the Sahara, Agadez blossomed half a dozen years ago into a modern-day hub for caravans of a different type -- convoys of Africans desperate to reach Europe.

Agadez Niger

Demand for plastic jerry cans has nosedived in the northern Niger city of Agadez, andissa Aboud is unhapy. “The market is dead,” he said. “The price is low and no one wants it.”

Once a fabled stop on medieval trading routes across the Sahara, Agadez blossomed half a dozen years ago into a modern-day hub for caravans of a different type -- convoys of Africans desperate to reach Europe.

Their demand bred a huge industry, from smugglers and drivers to accommodation, food and blankets -- and Aboud’s jerry cans, essential for water and fuel.

The lucrative business continued to flourish in 2015 that made migrant trafficking a crime punishable by 30 years in prison.

But activity has slumped since the start of the year.

Under an EU-backed plan, passed through Niger has fallen from 80 percent. On a visit to Niamey in February, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said the tally of illegal migrants turning up on his country’s shores had dropped by 80 percent.

In Agadez, the courtyards of buildings where migrants used to hole up awaiting their departure have emptied out.

The strategy may have helped damn the flow of illegal migration to Europe, but its impact on the local economy has been severe.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that it has helped more than 40,000 migrants to return to their homelands voluntarily since Niger’s 2015 law.

The carrot-and-stick approach under the new plan includes an offer of 1.5 million CFA francs to help “former suppliers” convert to other income sources.

In Aboud’s case, that might be farming, even though Salliu is considering going into the artisan sector.

And so far only 521 of a total 6,565 people have received the aid, said Amma.

Salliu sale of the government in Niamey and the EU “to honor their commitment in 2018 and 2019. Otherwise, we warned, “patience is at its limits.”

As many as 12,000 migrants used to leave Agadez every Monday in a convoy comprising hundreds of vehicles, says a former smuggler.

A third online parody of the film “Love Actually” as part of the hit Christmas repeats: UK PM copies ‘Love Actually’ spoof

London

Britain’s Johnson yesterday faced his first major test as party leader on Tuesday, with a key vote on whether to accept his Brexit deal.

The Conservative Party faces a crucial test on Tuesday with the government’s Brexit deal set to be voted on in Parliament. The vote will determine whether the UK leaves the European Union on October 31.

The vote has been crucial for the government as it tries to secure the support of the Conservative Party, which has been divided over Brexit.

But the result was not clear-cut, with some Conservative MPs opposing the deal. The government has said it will seek a delay to Article 50 if the vote fails.

In the event, the government won the vote, with a majority of 242.

The result was a blow to Johnson’s leadership, who has been trying to build a majority in Parliament in order to get the deal through.

It means that the UK will not leave the EU on October 31, as had been intended, but will instead be given a further extension of Brexit until January 31.

Johnson’s government has been under pressure to deliver a Brexit deal before the end of the year, but the result of the vote means that it will continue to negotiate with the EU.

One of the cards Johnson shows a householder in his "Vote Conservative Actually" clip says, "With any luck, by next year we’ll have Brexit done!"
The inauguration of the 6th Bottom of the Barrel Technology Conference - Middle East and North Africa (BBTC MENA 2019).

Dr Dawood Naseef of Bapco opened the conference.

The oil minister, Sheikh Mo- hammered bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, deputised the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco), Dr Dawood Naseef, to open the 6th Bottom of the Barrel Technology Conference - Middle East and North Africa (BBTC MENA 2019).

The inauguration was attended by CEOs of the national oil and gas companies and affiliates of Gulf and international oil companies, including experts and engineers and those interested in the various aspects of the oil industry from countries around the world.

Organised by Euro Petroleum Consultants and the Bapco, in partnership with the National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA), the conference focused on technologies, project trends and equipment innovations relating to residue upgrading in refineries.

In his opening speech, Dr Dawood praised the kingdom's hosting of the event for the third time, which, he said, "reflects Bahrain's distinguished reputation in the conferences industry, as well as its success in hosting multiple specialised regional and global events." Dr Dawood stressed the growing importance of residue upgrading technology in the oil and gas industry in the region and globally.

He highlighted the kingdom's achievements in this regard, including the opening of the Bottom of the Barrel Modernisation Programme (BMP) and other projects implemented by Bapco.

Dr Naseef also opened an accompanying exhibition and met exhibiting companies' officials, who updated him on the latest technological developments in such a vital field.

BBTC MENA conference begins

They have millions of followers on Instagram. They generate major profits for their owners. They are... pet influencers.

Washington

Grumpy Cat, Lil Bub, Roo The Pomeranian and Doug the Pug are just some of the internet's star animals, who do everything from support worthy causes to promote major brands. The death of any of their stars would seem at odds with charitable giving. But Bri-davsky said Lil Bub had left a proud legacy of raising both funds and spirits.

The wacky, big-money world of pet influencers

They make people feel happy," Edwards said in a November 2018 interview with PETA. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) promoting "make the world a better place for animals," Edwards said in a November 2018 interview with PETA. "As a society, we've evolved to think of pets as our children," Edwards said in a November 2018 interview with PETA. As a result, pet influencers can be incredibly lucrative. Lil Bub's legal celebrity feline Grumpy Cat is known for her perpetual scowl -- "I don't adopt, never shop," PETA said in a tribute to Lil Bub after her death in May, Grumpy Cat served as the face of cat food brand Friskies. In 2018, a California court awarded the owner Tabatha Bundesen $70,001 in damages for violation of image rights, after a coffee company used pictures of Grumpy's face without authorization.

The highly-commercial pet influencer industry could seem at odds with charitable giving. But Bri-davsky said Lil Bub had left a proud legacy of raising both funds and spirits.

Nissan faces $22 million fine for misreporting Ghosn pay

Nissan should be fined $22 million for under-reporting the compensation of former chief Carlos Ghosn, Japanese regulators recommended yesterday, with troubled the firm saying it would not dispute the penalty.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SECC) made the recommendation as Ghosn, who was arrested in November last year,awaits trial in Tokyo on four charges of financial misconduct.

Among the allegations against him are claims that he under-reported his compensation from 2010 to 2018, defrauding some of his pay and failing to declare it to shareholders.

Ghosn denies all the charges against him and has argued there was no final agreement on any deferred payments.

Nissan also faces charges over the alleged under-reporting of Ghosn's income.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the SECC said it "examined the false descriptions in securities reports and other documents for filing documents and as a result, a legislative violation was recognised".

"Therefore we advise the Financial Services Agency chief to issue an order that fines be imposed," the body said.

The fine of 2.4 billion yen covers under reporting between financial years 2014 and 2017, the commission said.

In statement, Nissan said it took the recommendation "extremely seriously" and would consider its response after receiving a formal notice from the Financial Services Agency.

"In the absence of any special circumstances or other reasons, the company intends not to dispute the alleged facts and the amount of the administrative monetary penalty," Nissan said.

The automaker has struggled to right itself after the shock arrest of Ghosn last year, recently replacing its CEO and slashing full-year forecasts for both sales and profits.

No date has yet been set for Ghosn's trial, though reports suggest proceedings could begin in April on the charges of under-reporting his compensation and using company funds for personal expenses.

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A formless follow-your-own-dream pic built around utterly-crippled performance sequences, Michael Damian’s High Strung Free Dance will play best with those who’ve never seen a backstage musical before or are still in the thrall of characters, browner than the set decorations, who sit midway through singing out for a musical created and directed by Zander (Thomas Doherty, Thomas). A soloist in Zander’s show. Charlie becomes the featured dancer, he kisses her. When he casts Barlow as his show’s lead and Zander’s SUV hits a pedestrian, and not in a good way.

While the actual New York City has been adapted in recent months by a space of accidents in which cars kill cyclists, in Dami- an’s NYC, distracted drivers are gratuites. Zander’s stunts. As he dashes to an unpaid gig, leading eventually to Charlie becoming the featured soloist in Zander’s show. Charlie’s street kid, and is smitten immediately with giant-eyed Barlow. He must watch during “we got your back” and “we’re not alone”. Dances, there’s no room left for tantrums, and appears to have missed the last couple of years of the recent news about sexual op- portunity. Immediately after he casts Barlow as his lead dancer, he kisses her. When he later fires her inappropriately, a stage manager explains things to us: “Listen, Zander doesn’t mean to be insensitive. He’s just so inspired that when he’s creating, there’s no room left in his brain for anything else.” Last we get the wrong idea, he continues, and I don’t mean to make any excuses for him.”

If you’re on board with the ridiculous plot and over-the-top choreography, this one’s a cult classic in the making. Both dances meet at an audition have a spare room. Those two characters, browner than the set decorations, who sit midway through singing out for a musical created and directed by Zander (Thomas Doherty, Thomas). A soloist in Zander’s show. Charlie becomes the featured dancer, he kisses her. When he casts Barlow as his show’s lead and Zander’s SUV hits a pedestrian, and not in a good way.

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Channing Tatum enjoyed a magical night out at the theater with his daughter on Friday.

The Magic Mike star, 36, kicked off his weekend with some quality daddy-daughter time as he and Everly, 6½, enjoyed a performance of Frozen as the musical celebrated the doll version of Elsa, one prepared to watch the Disney classic's presentation of the main characters, as on social media.

“Felt like I had to say thank you before I could be a mother to someone else,” he captioned his social media post.

The father of one’s evening was accomplished by a judge in L.A., according to court documents obtained by The Blast.

While Beyoncé and her music have traditionally remained private about their personal lives, the R&B nation executive spoke about the couple’s miscarriage struggles on his 2012 record, “Give Me Everything,” and Beyoncé addressed the traumatic experience in a 2013 documentary, “Life is But a Dream,” describing the moment as “the saddest thing I’ve ever been through.”

The pop star has also spoken about welcoming three children; Blue Ivy, 9, and twins Rumi and Sir, 2. “I feel like it was a perfect version of a perfect family because so much deeper.”

Beyoncé says miscarriages changed her idea of success

On Saturday, Cyrus got inked amid the larger-than-life diva from Cyrus’ left shoulder. The ‘Party in the USA’ crooner added a tattoo of a semicolon, a symbol of mental health awareness, to her existing ‘I see you’ tattoo, which she got in 2014 after almost nine years of marriage. They are still working out a financial settlement and continue to share custody of Everly.

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The Emmy and Tony-winning “Breaking Bad” star will be joined by Charlie Day and Mary Elizabeth Ellis, who will ride 30 elaborate floats in a parade that also features 32 marching bands and clubs.

Miley Cyrus inked amid Liam Hemsworth divorce

Some people say I look better now: JLO

The Emmy and Tony-winning “Breaking Bad” star will be joined by Charlie Day and Mary Elizabeth Ellis, who will ride 30 elaborate floats in a parade that also features 32 marching bands and clubs.
Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is all ready to host the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) this weekend with the much-anticipated Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain.

The endurance race spectacle, happening as part of the four-day T1C National Day Festival, marks the midway point of the 2019/2020 WEC season. Race fans will be able to enjoy the race premises from 10am on Friday and Saturday at the Sakhir track, while the National Day celebrations will be held from Friday all the way through Monday.

WEC officials and team members have already begun arriving in the kingdom. They have been hard at work over the past couple of days at BIC unpacking their crates of equipment and setting up their respective bases and garages in preparation for the start of racing.

A number of the WEC's star drivers have also started to reach Bahrain. Russian Roman Rusinov of LMP2 team G-Drive Racing was among the first to make it to the Kingdom. He and the other WEC delegates were given a warm welcome upon their arrival at Bahrain International Airport by BIC's Meet and Greet team members.

The WEC's set-up at the T1C continues Wednesday as “The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East” becomes “the home of endurance racing in the Middle East”, as dubbed by WEC CEO Gerard Neveu. The Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain is the WEC’s only event in the region, and it kicks off a number of activities on Thursday, which will be closed to the public. There will be a pair of 90-minute practices on the day, setting the stage for another 60-minute practice and qualifying on Friday.

The big eight-hour race is then scheduled for Saturday, starting in the daylight at 3pm and continuing until 10pm with BIC being brilliantly lit by its state-of-the-art floodlighting system. Tickets to each day of WEC and the T1C National Day Festival are just BD1 per person per day. They can be purchased online at www.bahrainsragracing.com, by calling the T1C Hotline on +973-17450000 or at the BIC stand at City Centre Bahrain. As it happens, there will also be racing in two in-car pop-up support series the T1C Challenge single-seater championship and the BIC-based Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East.

Off the race track, the entertainment throughout the four-day festival will be highlighted by nightly concerts featuring some of the region's biggest performing artists from around the globe such as The Black Angels forming artists from around the world, as well as world-class performance and the BIC National Day Festival are being held with the support of the Bahrain Sports City Centre and continuing until 11pm with a guaranteed spot in the play-off stage of the 2021 WEC Champions League.

Bahrain clubs get tough draws for AFC Cup

Bahrain clubs have been drawn in a pair of tough groups for the 2020 AFC Cup. The draw was held yesterday at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur.

A total of four groups will be playing for the 2020 AFC Cup with the group stage divided into five zones. The 2020 season kicks off with the preliminary stage on January 22 with the final scheduled for November 7.

The stakes for the upcoming edition have been raised even higher after the AFC Executive Committee’s decision to allocate the 2020 AFC Cup winners, with a guaranteed spot in the play-off stage of the 2021 AFC Champions League.

Andrescu named Canada’s athlete of the year

Reuters | Toronto

Bianca Andreescu was awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada’s athlete of the year on Monday, capping a remarkable year in which the teenager became the country’s first tennis Grand Slam singles champion with her U.S. Open triumph and even more surreal: the 19-year-old Andreescu said in a statement issued by Tennis Canada. Andreescu began to gain attention in when she beat former world number one Caroline Wozniacki and Venus Williams on her way to the Asian island nation.
Shaikh Khalid leads champions’ parade

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Youths and Sports, led the national parade which was organised to celebrate the team’s historic triumph in the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup.

The parade began from Bahrain National Airport and concluded at Bahrain International Circuit.

First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youths and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee received Bahrain’s national football team members at the airport upon their return from Qatar.

Joining HH Shaikh Khalid in welcoming the team back home were HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, President of Riffa Club, Ahmed bin Tawfiq Al Moayyed, Salman Isa bin Hindi, Governor of Muharraq Governorate, Mohammed Al Nif, Secretary-General of Bahrain Olympic Committee and other officials in the sports and youth sector as well as media representatives.

“Bahrain is proud of your unprecedented achievement. You made what was impossible possible. The team showcased extraordinary performances in the event and reached the final game, in which the team’s display was nothing but filled with sacrifices and desire to gift Bahrain its first title in this tournament and, in the process, trigger nationwide celebrations,” HH Shaikh Khalid said during the ceremony.

“The team wrote a new chapter in our sport history after winning the 24th edition of this tournament which was introduced on Bahrain’s soil in 1970. The team printed Bahrain name with golden letters in the hero register of this competition,” he further added.

He concluded by saying: “We lived the best football epic for our national team in the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup. It featured the true Bahraini spirit, grit, unity and desire to make this achievement real. This accomplishment will remain in our hearts and minds forever,” praising the efforts of the technical and administrative staff of the team.

Klopp tells Liverpool to enjoy ‘intensity’ ahead of Salzburg clash

APF | Salzburg, Austria

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has urged his side to enjoy the “most intense period of our lives” as a tough schedule continues with a key Champions League match away to Salzburg.

Reigning European champions Liverpool need to avoid defeat in Austria on Tuesday to secure a place in the last 16.

The Premier League leaders, eight points clear of Leicester as they bid for what would be a first English title in 30 years, are on a sequence of a game every three days.

Jurgen Klopp

But such is Liverpool’s strength in depth that Klopp was able to rest the likes of Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino for last week’s Merseyside derby.

“I told the boys as fitness (not me) that I didn’t want to make any changes so they had a good recovery,” Klopp told a pre-match press conference.

Barca can hurt Inter without Messi, warns Valverde

APF | Milan

Lionel Messi’s absence for Barcelona’s fixture against AC Milan will not make them less able to stop Inter Milan gaining their spot in the Champions League last 16, coach Ernesto Valverde insisted Monday.

Barcelona are already through to the knockout stage as Group F winners after Messi scored and set up two more in a convincing 3-1 win over Borussia Dortmund last time out, a victory which means Inter will ensure themselves a spot in the next round with a win over the La Liga leaders at the San Siro on Tuesday.

Six-time Ballon d’Or winner Messi broke yet another record by hitting his 35th La Liga hat-trick on Saturday as Barca maintained top spot in Spain with a 5-2 win over Mallorca.

“Messi needs to rest,” Valverde told reporters. “We’re coming off many consecutive games and we have other important ones to play, so I left him at home.

“This is a decision player, but our goal tomorrow does not change, we want to win against Inter.

“We know what he represents for the team, but last year he didn’t play in both games against Inter and we still had a high level.

“We are already qualified but it remains a game of great value.”

Messi and midfielder Sergi Roberto have been left out of Barca’s 20-man squad along with the injured Ousmane Dembele, Jordi Alba, Nelson Semedo and Gerard Pique.

The Argentine’s absence means that they will be relying on Ansu Fati and Lautaro for their strike duo, while teenage prodigy Ansu Fati could be fit to play.

Inter are four points behind Barca in second, level on seven points with Borussia Dortmund.

T he Italians need to at least draw or better Dortmund’s result at home to Slavia Prague to qualify as their superior head-to-head record will see them through should the two clubs finish on the same number of points.

“They have great players like (Romelia) Lukaku and Lautaro (Martinez) who score a lot,” Valverde said of Inter’s strike duo, who have scored 24 of the team’s 40 goals this season.

“Lautaro is a great player, fast and powerful, he’s having a great season.”

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APF | Milan

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