

**Melissa Benoist, Chris Wood engaged**

Actress Melissa Benoist has got engaged to her "Supergirl" co-actor Chris Wood. The duo took to Instagram on Sunday to announce the news of their engagement, reports online.com.

P14

GFH records US\$114.08 million profit

THE DAILY **tribune**

Women shine at Grammy Awards 2019

Battle on for last IS pocket



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**US slams Iran**

Washington

Iran's Islamic revolution four decades ago has been a complete failure for the country, President Donald Trump said yesterday.

In a tweet written on the anniversary of the upheaval that was also sent out in Farsi, Trump said: "40 years of corruption. 40 years of repression. 40 years of terror. The regime in Iran has produced only #40YearsOf-Failure."

"The long-suffering Iranian people deserve a much brighter future," he added.

**Airstrikes kill**

**16 civilians**

Beirut

US-led coalition air strikes on the last Daesh pocket in Syria yesterday killed 16 civilians, including at least seven children, a war monitor said.

Eight women and one elderly man were also among the civilians killed while trying to flee towards the Iraqi border, said Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The coalition was not immediately available for comment, but has repeatedly said it does its utmost to avoid targeting civilians.

**US ties hailed**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, yesterday at the Safriya Palace, received a delegation from the Middle East Policy Council comprising board member, former US ambassador to Bahrain, Ronald Newman, Board Chairman Richard Schmierer and Board Executive Director, former US ambassador to Oman, Dr Thomas R Mateer. HM the King lauded the longstanding friendship relations between the Kingdom and the United States that span more than 120 years, which are highlighted by constant co-operation and co-ordination in various fields in the interest of the two countries and their peoples. HM the King pointed out the vital role of the American Administration in establishing security, stability and peace at the regional and global levels.

**Juvenile justice reforms project**

New courts to be set up for hearing crimes committed by children above 15 years

● The Cabinet, after being informed about the opinion of the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs, decided to refer a draft-law to the Council of Representatives.

● The amendments also ensure the protection of witnesses and develop easier solutions for precautionary measures, without prejudice to rights and freedoms.

Manama

The Cabinet yesterday, chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, endorsed a draft-law on



HRH the Premier chairs the Cabinet in the presence of HRH the Crown Prince.

"Rehabilitation Justice for Children and their Protection from Ill-Treatment" that will replace the existing law.

The draft-law included non-conventional measures to prevent children from being taken away from their family environment and to protect them from ill-treatment and criminal accountability.

Under the new law, rehabilitation justice courts will be established to hear cases related to crimes committed by children over 15 years old at the time of the crime, and a "Judicial Child Committee", to be responsible for examining cases on children's ill-treatment or exposure to risks, will be set up.

The Cabinet, after being informed about the opinion of the

” All government entities should encourage holding sports events to ensure that awareness on practising sports is increasing among the staff.

HRH THE PREMIER

Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs, decided to refer a draft-law on the issuance of a Law on the "Rehabilitation Justice for Children and their Protection from Ill-Treatment" to the Council of Representatives.

Among other things, the Cabinet approved the amendment of

certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedures to fast-track investigation, trial and prosecution procedures, allowing the Public Prosecution and the courts to adopt modern audiovisual techniques and transport in all proceedings and in assessing the statements of the witnesses.

The amendments also ensure the protection of witnesses and develop easier solutions for precautionary measures, without prejudice to rights and freedoms.

The session referred a draft-law on amending some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedures, issued as per Decree 46/ 2002, to the Council of Representatives.

Among other things, the Cabinet reviewed the results of a study conducted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) experts to verify the risks of electromagnetic emissions from telecommunications towers.

The experts concluded in their study that the manner in which telecommunications masts are managed in Bahrain complies with the international secure emission protocols, and that the existing masts have no impact on human health because their rate of radiation emission is very low, and is at safety levels.

**Arson suspect arrested**



The gutted house.

TDT | Manama

An African national, suspected of arson, was arrested on Sunday, the Director General of the Muharraq Governorate Police has announced.

The 25-year-old woman working as a housemaid is suspected to have set fire to her sponsor's house in Busaiteen, where she was employed, Interior Ministry sources said.

Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the suspect to the Public Prosecution, they added.

**Resident, 39, passes away**

TDT | Manama

A 39-year-old Indian national passed away yesterday after suffering a cardiac arrest. Sources said the deceased Feby Thomas was employed by Bahrain Technical Services. Feby is survived by his wife, who is a teacher at the Asian School Bahrain.



Feby Thomas



02 Joyalukkas unveils 'Be Mine' jewellery designs

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His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa underscored the need of the world and the Middle East for peace. He pointed out that cooperation and co-ordination are the best way to end crises and conflicts from which the Middle East has suffered a lot. He noted that the region needs concerted efforts to remain secure and stable and ensure a better future for the countries and posterity. HRH the Premier was speaking as he received at Gudaibiyah Palace yesterday former US Ambassador to Bahrain and member of the Middle East Policy Council Ronald Neumann, council Chairman Richard Schmierer and Executive Director Dr Thomas R Mattair.

**IBFEX 2019 opens**



Under the patronage of Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), the Quick Media Solutions Company launched the first edition of International Brands and Franchise Expo 2019 (IBFEX 2019) yesterday at the Bahrain International Exhibitions and Convention Centre.

**Joyalukkas unveils 'Be Mine' jewellery designs**

TDT | Manama

The world's favourite jeweller, Joyalukkas, has unveiled its exclusive and exciting 'Be Mine' Valentine collection for Valentine's Day celebration. The limited-edition collection features intimate heart-themed jewellery including pendants, rings and bracelets in certified diamonds, rose and yellow gold. To make the celebration of love all the more special, free gold coin offer has also been announced for purchases above BD 300.

Joy Alukkas, Chairman and MD, Joyalukkas Group said during the occasion: "Love is the most powerful emotion and the highest form of happiness. Our 'Be Mine' collection is crafted with passion to reflect that everlasting love. The collection has been well received by our patrons over the years; and this year, we have added more style, patterns and designs based on current trends, and we are sure it will appeal to people from all generations of life."

During the promotion period, customers will get one



Diamond and Polki Jewellery worth BD 500.

Apart from that, customers can also enjoy zero per cent deduction on Gold Exchange. Exclusive gift boxes with the Valentine's Day theme has been designed for the new collection, making it an ideal choice to gift your loved ones. The offer is valid till 16th February 2019 at all Joyalukkas branches across the world.

gram of Gold Coin free on purchase of Diamond and Polki jewellery worth BD 300. Similarly, customers will get two grams of Gold Coin free on purchase of

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**'Zero casualties' in sour tank fire**

TDT | Manama

In a statement released yesterday, Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) confirmed that there were no casualties or major material damages as a result of a fire in a sour water storage tank.

"Both the Civil Defence and Bapco Fire Squads were responsive at the scene within minutes of the incident and succeeded in bringing the fire under control within two hours.

"Both teams remained on-site till the next morning to ensure the safety of all personnel and operating assets. "The fire occurred at 18:30 on Sunday in a tank that was being prepared for a scheduled turnaround and inspection. "The tank had been emptied and flushed as per standard operating procedures, and was in the initial stages of venting to remove pyrophoric material which likely became flammable, causing the fire," the company said.

# Showcasing Bahrain's FinTech success

Bahrain set to host Fintastic Week; more than 1,000 delegates to attend

● **Financial and technology sectors converge for a week of events, conferences and workshops promoting the dynamic FinTech industry**

● **Global tech innovator and Apple Computers co-founder Steve Wozniak headlines The GCC Financial Forum on 26-27 February, co-hosted by Euromoney Conferences**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's central role in the rapidly developing world of FinTech will be celebrated later this month as the

annual Fintastic Week will be held in the Kingdom between February 24 and 29.

Over a thousand delegates from the worlds of business, government and academia will be in Bahrain to learn more about the latest trends in the reinvention of financial services and enjoy keynote speeches from world-renowned speakers, it is learnt.

Events will also include best practice workshops for startups and fireside conversations with respected FinTech pioneers and leaders.

Global tech innovator and Apple Computers co-founder Steve Wozniak will take centre stage and share his thoughts and predictions on the current and future state of the global financial technology industry.

Other notable speakers at event include Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Econo-



**The FinTech space in the Middle East is growing and its opportunities and potential are being recognised by the global FinTech community.**

MR AL RUMAIHI

my; and Louise Beaumont, co-chair of the Open Banking and Payments Working group, at Tech UK.

Commenting on the Forum, Victoria Behn, Director of Middle East and Africa at Euromoney Conferences, co-organisers of the GCC Financial Forum noted: "We are honoured to host the GCC Financial Forum in partnership with the Economic

Development Board of Bahrain for the eighth consecutive year.

"With international financiers, senior regional policymakers and leading FinTech firms attending from across the Middle East, the GCC Financial Forum will once again be an unmissable event."

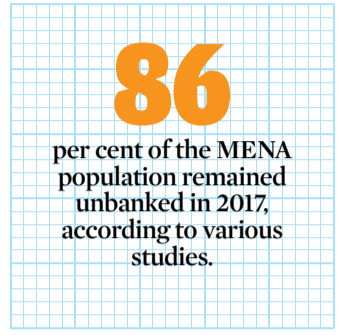
The disruptive power of FinTech is being increasingly felt across the Middle East as

Governments look to diversify their economies and improve productivity through increased uptake of innovation and technology.

Such transformation is showing through in the numbers already, with GCC startups expected to raise \$2 billion of private funding in the next decade, in comparison to only £150 million in the previous ten years.

The potential for even greater change is illustrated by the fact that 86 per cent of the MENA population remained unbanked in 2017. This is despite a very high mobile phone penetration rate and more than half the region's population being under 30.

In a release issued to media, Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, a co-host of Fintastic Week noted: "The FinTech space in the Middle



East is growing and its opportunities and potential are being recognised by the global FinTech community.

"In Bahrain, we are building on our heritage of excellence in financial services by developing innovative new products and services that will transform how consumers and businesses right across the region approach this sector, and events such as Fintastic Week bring these fresh and new ideas to the table."

# Death sentence upheld for imam's murderer

Manama

The Court of Cassation yesterday upheld the death sentence handed down to the killer of Abduljalil Hmood, the Imam of Bin Shaddah Mosque.

The suspect had earlier been referred by the Public Prosecution for trial on charges of



Imam Abduljalil Hmood

premeditated murder, hiding evidences related to the crime and hiding the body after violating its sanctity.

The Public Prosecution launched an investigation following a notification on finding the body cut into pieces inside plastic bags in Al Mazra area near a scrap yard.

Examination, investigations

and technical reports confirmed that the body was of the Imam of Bin Shaddah Mosque who had been killed and cut into pieces by the Muezzin (caller for prayer).

The Public Prosecution referred the Muezzin for criminal

trial after all evidences, including the suspects' and eyewitnesses' testimonies as well as medical, forensic and technical reports, confirmed the accusations.

The High Criminal Court heard the case in the presence

of the suspect's lawyer and sentenced unanimously the suspect to death.

The suspect challenged the verdict before the Court of Appeals and then the Court of Cassation, which upheld the death sentence.

# Works Ministry ex-assistant undersecretary loses appeal

TDI | Manama

A former assistant undersecretary at the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry had his three-year imprisonment upheld yesterday for wasting more than BD4 million of public funds.

The Cassation Court rejected the defendant's appeal as he was found guilty, along with another defendant, of causing financial losses exceeding BD4 million



during the establishment of King Hamad University Hospital.

This came after the ministry

formed an investigative committee into the claims of mistakes made during the period of electrical works at the hospital.

The results of the committee's investigation found the former assistant undersecretary and an engineer guilty.

The investigations also showed that the total financial losses caused by the defendants to the project was BD41,64,000, an amount that was paid from the budget allocated by the ministry to implement the project.

# Road traffic staff's jail term upheld in bribe case

TDI | Manama

An Arab national employed by the General Directorate of Traffic, who was sentenced to one year behind bars for accepting bribes, had his sentence upheld by the appeals court yesterday.

Two other Asian men stood trial with him in this case, but they were acquitted by the High Criminal Court earlier due to lack of evidence.

The Arab man is said to have been conning money out of people on the pretext that he could

**My car was confiscated by the traffic authorities and the Arab man promised me to take me out of all legal troubles for BD800.**

VICTIM

sort out their traffic-related issues thanks to his job.

The two Asian men, on the other hand, were believed to have offered their first co-de-

pendant bribes to cancel their traffic violations despite knowing that it was an illegal act, according to court files.

The case was brought to light by one of the co-accused who filed a complaint against the Arab national.

"My car was confiscated by the traffic authorities and the Arab man promised me to take me out of all legal troubles for BD800. I gave him the money and he cheated me," the second accused told prosecutors.

The Arab man will be deported from Bahrain once he completes his jail time.

## Majlise Fakhare Bahrain

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# Spring of Culture Festival set

The latest season of the festival comes as part of BACA's year-long celebrations of Bahrain's achievements

TDT | Manama

For the 14th consecutive year, the Spring of Culture Festival returns in a new cultural season full of activities that cater to various tastes, interests and age groups and underscore the Kingdom's position as a leading regional and global cultural hub.

As is in every year, the Spring of Cultural programme of activities that will be hosted by a broad range of local cultural, historical and architectural landmarks will commence on February 25 in conjunction with Arab Tourism Day, an occasion which was adopted

when Manama was the Capital of Arab Tourism in 2013 to mark the birthday of the great Arab traveller Ibn Battuta.

Details of this season's agenda were announced at a joint press conference organised yesterday at Al Hidayah Al Khalifiya School in Muharraq by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Economic Development Board (EDB) and the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research (SECRCR), in collaboration with Albareh Art Gallery and La Fontaine Centre for Contemporary Art.

The latest season of the festival



Shaikha Mai speaks at the press conference.

comes as part of BACA's year-long Jubilee to Another"- A Year of Celebrations. Attending the press conference

were BACA President Shaikha Maibint Mohammed Al Khalifa and EDB CEO Khalid Al Rumaihi, as well as several diplomats and ambassadors, festival sponsors, cultural personalities and media members.

Speaking on the occasion, Shaikha Mai said, "We announce the 14th edition of the Spring of Culture from Al Hidayah Al Khalifiya School, a beacon which reflects Bahrain's social, economic and cultural advancements."

"The school is one of the landmarks of this year's celebrations of our national achievements under the slogan 'From One Jubilee to Another'- A Year of Celebrations,

as this year marks its 100th anniversary," she added.

She went on to note that the festival, which runs for more than two months, is a continuation of the nation's journey of cultural achievements and meeting of civilisations, with a full-fledged and diverse schedule of literary, musical, artistic, and theatrical activities.

Gold Sponsors of the 2019 Spring of Culture include GFH Financial Group, National Bank of Bahrain and Tamkeen and Batelco, while Silver Sponsors include ALBA, Bahrain Airport Company, Bahrain Duty Free, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, and Huawei, and supported by Gulf Air.

## VAT seminar for unregistered businesses held

TDT | Manama

Key decision makers, including CFOs, heads of finance, chief accountants and lawyers, gathered at the Downtown Rotana in Manama yesterday to discuss how they and their businesses should react to VAT, described by one seasoned observer as the single most significant change to have impacted Bahraini businesses in living memory.

Mubeen Khadir, who heads Keypoint's tax practice, said that, while Bahrain's larg-

est businesses are now largely registered for VAT, it was clear that the government, businesses and advisers were all going to have to work together if implementation was to be a success.

"We saw in the UAE and Saudi that learning curves are steep and the consequences of mistakes can be sizeable. Businesses large and small – as well as the National Bureau for Revenue and tax advisers like us – can all learn from what went well, and not so well, with their peers



A session in progress at the seminar.

in other GCC countries – and also from the experiences of Bahrain's largest businesses over the last six weeks."

Presenters including Khadir and Chris Park, Raman Ohri and Tariq Haq, managers with Keypoint, discussed VAT fundamentals. At the seminar, Keypoint announced that its next seminar, aimed at larger businesses which had already registered for VAT, would be held towards the end of March, with submitting the first VAT return a key talking point.



### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Zain Bahrain B.S.C. For the Year Ended 31 December 2018

Statement of Financial Position	31 December 2018	(Restated) 31 December 2017	(Restated) 1 January 2017
as at 31 December 2018	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and banks	5,045	1,912	5,364
Accounts receivable and other assets	23,555	20,120	17,453
Inventories	3,081	4,347	3,390
Total current assets	31,681	26,379	26,207
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Accounts receivable and other assets	4,222	3,237	105
Property and equipment	56,058	65,481	74,656
Intangible assets	2,842	6,825	13,451
Total non-current assets	63,122	75,543	88,212
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>94,803</b>	<b>101,922</b>	<b>114,419</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable and other liabilities	22,115	30,749	36,293
Term loans from banks	-	1,875	7,786
Contract liabilities / deferred revenue	2,175	1,867	3,542
Total current liabilities	24,290	34,491	47,621
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Term loans from banks	-	-	1,875
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	300	321	300
Total non-current liabilities	300	321	2,175
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>24,590</b>	<b>34,812</b>	<b>49,796</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Share capital	36,800	36,800	36,800
Treasury shares	(754)	(754)	(754)
Treasury shares reserve	(6)	(6)	(6)
Share premium	3,032	3,032	3,032
Statutory reserve	11,755	11,238	10,807
Retained earnings	19,386	16,800	14,744
Total equity	70,213	67,110	64,623
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>94,803</b>	<b>101,922</b>	<b>114,419</b>

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	2018	(Restated) 2017
for the year ended 31 December 2018	BD '000	BD '000
Revenue	66,198	73,696
Cost of revenue	(21,879)	(21,522)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>44,319</b>	<b>52,174</b>
Operating and administrative expenses	(27,520)	(28,992)
Depreciation and amortization	(10,401)	(17,491)
Impairment losses on financial assets	(1,188)	(940)
Provision for inventories	(98)	(206)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>5,112</b>	<b>4,545</b>
Other income – net	39	76
Gain / (loss) on currency translation adjustment	2	(74)
Interest income	71	40
Finance costs	(50)	(281)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>5,174</b>	<b>4,306</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>5,174</b>	<b>4,306</b>
Basic and diluted earnings per share	14 Fils	12 Fils

Statement of Changes in Equity	Share capital	Treasury shares	Treasury shares reserve	Share premium	Statutory reserve	Retained earnings	Total
for the year ended 31 December 2018	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000
Balance, December 31, 2016	36,800	-	-	3,032	10,807	14,715	65,354
Prior period adjustment	-	(754)	(6)	-	-	29	(731)
<b>Balance as restated, 1 January 2017</b>	<b>36,800</b>	<b>(754)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>10,807</b>	<b>14,744</b>	<b>64,623</b>
Dividends declared	-	-	-	-	-	(1,819)	(1,819)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	4,306	4,306
Appropriation to statutory Reserve	-	-	-	-	431	(431)	-
<b>Balance, 31 December 2017</b>	<b>36,800</b>	<b>(754)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>11,238</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>67,110</b>
Transition adjustment on adoption of IFRS 15	-	-	-	-	-	(252)	(252)
<b>Balance as restated, 1 January 2018</b>	<b>36,800</b>	<b>(754)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>11,238</b>	<b>16,548</b>	<b>66,858</b>
Dividends declared	-	-	-	-	-	(1,819)	(1,819)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	5,174	5,174
Appropriation to statutory Reserve	-	-	-	-	517	(517)	-
<b>Balance, 31 December 2018</b>	<b>36,800</b>	<b>(754)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>11,755</b>	<b>19,386</b>	<b>70,213</b>

Statement of Cash Flows	2018	(Restated) 2017
for the year ended 31 December 2018	BD '000	BD '000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit for the year	5,174	4,306
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortization	10,401	17,491
Provision for impairment of financial assets	1,188	940
Provision for inventories	98	206
Finance costs	50	281
Interest income	(71)	(40)
Gain on disposal of property and equipment	(4)	(24)
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	55	82
	16,891	23,242
Working capital changes:		
Net change in inventories	1,168	(1,163)
Net change in accounts receivable and other assets	(2,389)	(6,739)
Net change in accounts payable and other liabilities	(7,983)	445
Net change in contract liabilities / deferred revenue	308	(1,675)
Payments for employees' end of service benefits	(76)	(61)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>7,919</b>	<b>14,049</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(1,153)	(6,365)
Increase in intangible assets	(8)	(1,235)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	4	-
Interest income received	71	40
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(1,086)</b>	<b>(7,560)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Payments of term loans	(1,875)	(7,786)
Interest paid	(52)	(364)
Dividends paid	(1,773)	(1,791)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(3,700)</b>	<b>(9,941)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>(3,452)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	1,912	5,364
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>5,045</b>	<b>1,912</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Changes in Equity have been extracted from the Financial Statements of Zain Bahrain B.S.C. for the Year Ended 31 December 2018, which were approved by the Board of Directors and issued by Deloitte & Touche, Kingdom of Bahrain on 11 February 2019.

Shaikh Ahmed Bin Ali Al Khalifa - Chairman

Mr. Bader AlKharafi - Board Member

Deloitte & Touche - Financial Auditors



## CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 31 December 2018 / US\$ 000's	31 December 2018	31 December 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and bank balances	341,567	216,445
Placements with financial institutions	289,558	95,569
Financing assets	920,676	992,502
Investment securities	773,134	521,408
Assets acquired for leasing	288,271	257,806
Investment property	523,692	616,263
Development properties	1,316,318	893,037
Equity-accounted investees	66,964	81,440
Assets held-for-sale	147,141	-
Property and equipment	92,902	117,135
Other assets	229,142	318,852
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>4,989,365</b>	<b>4,110,457</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Investors' funds	46,639	39,413
Placements from financial institutions, other entities and individuals	1,628,389	858,496
Customer current accounts	177,906	189,607
Financing liabilities	256,137	365,062
Liabilities directly associated with assets held-for-sale	42,749	-
Other liabilities	517,857	255,733
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,669,677</b>	<b>1,708,311</b>
<b>Equity of investment account holders</b>	<b>896,910</b>	<b>906,353</b>
<b>OWNERS' EQUITY</b>		
Share capital	975,638	975,638
Share premium	-	3,058
Treasury shares	(85,424)	(58,417)
Statutory reserve	92,483	105,893
Fair value reserve	(4,725)	-
Foreign currency translation reserve	(43,380)	-
Retained earnings	123,136	122,825
Share grant reserve	1,086	1,026
<b>Total equity attributable to shareholders of the Bank</b>	<b>1,058,814</b>	<b>1,150,023</b>
Non-controlling interests	323,408	345,770
Non-controlling interests held-for-sale	40,556	-
<b>Total owners' equity</b>	<b>1,422,778</b>	<b>1,495,793</b>
<b>Total liabilities, equity of investment account holders and owners' equity</b>	<b>4,989,365</b>	<b>4,110,457</b>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2018 / (US\$ 000's)	Attributable to shareholders of the Bank									Non-controlling interests	Non-controlling interests held-for-sale	Total owners' equity
	Share capital	Share premium	Treasury shares	Statutory reserve	Fair value reserve	Foreign currency translation reserve	Retained earnings	Share grant reserve	Total			
Balance at 1 January 2018 (as previously reported)	975,638	3,058	(58,417)	105,893	-	-	122,825	1,026	1,150,023	345,770	-	1,495,793
Impact of adoption of FAS 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	(16,586)	-	(16,586)	(13,092)	-	(29,678)
Impact of adoption of FAS 30 by associates	-	-	-	-	-	-	(965)	-	(965)	-	-	(965)
<b>Balance at 1 January 2018 (restated)</b>	<b>975,638</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>(58,417)</b>	<b>105,893</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105,274</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>1,132,472</b>	<b>332,678</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,465,150</b>
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	114,076	-	114,076	973	-	115,049
Foreign currency translation differences	-	-	-	-	-	(43,380)	-	-	(43,380)	(15,331)	-	(58,711)
Fair value changes during the year	-	-	-	-	(4,725)	-	-	-	(4,725)	-	-	(4,725)
<b>Total recognised income and expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,725)</b>	<b>(43,380)</b>	<b>114,076</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,971</b>	<b>(14,358)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,613</b>
Dividends declared for 2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	(82,412)	-	(82,412)	-	-	(82,412)
Transfer to zakah and charity fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,432)	-	(2,432)	(522)	-	(2,954)
Derecognition on loss of control	-	-	-	-	-	-	(24)	-	(24)	(804)	-	(828)
Issue of shares under incentive scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	60	122	98	-	220
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	-	-	11,408	-	-	(11,408)	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of treasury shares	-	-	(160,973)	-	-	-	-	-	(160,973)	-	-	(160,973)
Sale of treasury shares	-	(3,058)	133,966	(24,818)	-	-	-	-	106,090	-	-	106,090
Non-controlling interests arising on acquisition of subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,316	40,556	46,872
<b>Balance at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>975,638</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(85,424)</b>	<b>92,483</b>	<b>(4,725)</b>	<b>(43,380)</b>	<b>123,136</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,058,814</b>	<b>323,408</b>	<b>40,556</b>	<b>1,422,778</b>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2018 / (US\$ 000's)	Attributable to shareholders of the Bank									Non-controlling interests	Total owners' equity
	Share Capital	Share premium	Treasury shares	Capital adjustment account	Statutory reserve	Retained earnings	Share grant reserve	Total			
Balance at 1 January 2017	597,995	-	(340)	24,320	93,768	191,379	902	908,024	213,683	1,121,707	
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	104,182	-	104,182	(994)	103,188	
<b>Total recognised income and expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104,182</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104,182</b>	<b>(994)</b>	<b>103,188</b>	
Issuance of share capital	314,530	2,896	-	(24,320)	-	-	-	293,106	176,754	469,860	
Bonus shares issued	59,799	-	-	-	-	(59,799)	-	-	-	-	
Dividends declared for 2016	-	-	-	-	-	(59,799)	-	(59,799)	-	(59,799)	
Transfer to zakah and charity fund	-	-	-	-	-	(3,509)	-	(3,509)	-	(3,509)	
Acquisition of additional interests in subsidiaries and resulting changes in non-controlling interests, net	-	-	-	-	1,707	(39,211)	(40)	(37,544)	(34,816)	(72,360)	
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	-	-	-	10,418	(10,418)	-	-	-	-	
Issue of shares under staff incentive scheme, net of forfeitures	3,314	3,564	-	-	-	-	164	7,042	-	7,042	
De-recognition of a subsidiary on loss of control	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(8,857)	(8,857)	
Purchase of treasury shares	-	-	(82,839)	-	-	-	-	(82,839)	-	(82,839)	
Purchase of treasury shares	-	(3,402)	24,762	-	-	-	-	21,360	-	21,360	
Balance at 31 December 2016	975,638	3,058	(58,417)	-	105,893	122,825	1,026	1,150,023	345,770	1,495,793	

The consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 11 February 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

  
H.E. Shaikh Ahmed Bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa  
Vice Chairman

  
Hisham Alrayes  
Chief Executive Officer & Board Member

\*The above Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flow and the Changes in Owners' Equity have been extracted from Consolidated Financial Statements of GFH Financial Group B.S.C. for the year ended 31st December 2018, which were audited by KPMG, who have expressed an Unqualified Opinion on 11 February 2019.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2018 / US\$ 000'	2018	2017
<b>Continuing operations</b>		
Income from investment banking activities	40,100	121,294
Fees and commission income	7,989	6,631
Income from placements with financial institutions	3,980	3,177
Income from financing assets and assets acquired for leasing	72,799	73,377
Share of profits of equity-accounted investees, net	3,161	(248)
Income from investment securities, net	33,725	11,313
Foreign exchange gain, net	1,252	4,050
Income from settlement of liabilities	113,147	-
Other income, net	55,472	48,211
<b>Income before return to investment account holders and finance expense</b>	<b>331,625</b>	<b>267,805</b>
Return to investment account holders before Group's share as Mudarib	(37,731)	(39,480)
Bank's share as Mudarib	14,904	19,726
<b>Return to investment account holders</b>	<b>(22,827)</b>	<b>(19,754)</b>
Less: Finance expense	(62,585)	(43,692)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>246,213</b>	<b>204,359</b>
Staff cost	53,135	40,914
Investment advisory expenses	14,477	8,778
Other operating expenses	49,477	49,387
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>117,089</b>	<b>99,079</b>
<b>Profit before impairment allowances</b>	<b>129,124</b>	<b>105,280</b>
Less: Impairment allowances	(17,614)	(9,381)
<b>Profit for the year from continuing operations</b>	<b>111,510</b>	<b>95,899</b>
<b>Discontinued operations</b>		
Profit from operations of non-banking subsidiaries, net	3,539	7,289
<b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>115,049</b>	<b>103,188</b>
<b>Profit for the year attributable to:</b>		
Shareholders of the Bank	114,076	104,182
Non-controlling interests	973	(994)
	<b>115,049</b>	<b>103,188</b>
<b>Earnings per share</b>		
Basic and diluted earnings per share (US cents)	<b>3.22</b>	3.58
<b>Earnings per share - continuing operations</b>		
Basic and diluted earnings per share (US cents)	<b>3.12</b>	3.30

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended 31 December 2018 / US\$ 000's	2018	2017
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Profit for the year	<b>115,049</b>	103,188
Adjustments for:		
Income from investment banking activities	(8,500)	(80,511)
Income from investment securities	(33,725)	(11,313)
Share of profit of equity-accounted investees, net	(3,161)	(7,041)
Foreign exchange gain, net	(434)	(4,050)
Other income	(6,902)	(18,000)
Income from settlement of liabilities	(113,147)	-
Finance expense	62,585	43,692
Depreciation and amortisation	2,099	6,279
Impairment allowances	17,614	9,381
	<b>31,478</b>	41,625
Changes in:		
Placements with financial institutions	(168,286)	3,193
Financing assets	9,256	(21,912)
Asset acquired for leasing	(30,465)	(11,549)
Other assets	9,458	(97,437)
Investors' funds	7,226	(5,152)
Placements from financial institutions, other entities and individuals	769,893	287,981
Customer current accounts	(11,701)	(3,176)
Other liabilities	(132,128)	9,049
Equity of investment account holders	(9,443)	(115,837)
CBB reserve account	(8,913)	6,354
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>466,375</b>	<b>93,139</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payment for purchase of equipment, net	(2,814)	(921)
Purchase of investment securities	(336,120)	(220,030)
Purchase of additional stake in an associate	(5,730)	-
Proceeds from sale of investment securities	118,860	51,875
Dividend and income from investment securities	25,308	14,857
Net cash paid for acquisition of a subsidiary	(17,276)	-
(Purchase) / sale of investment and development properties	(15,952)	1,857
Proceeds from sale of private equity subsidiaries	104,591	53,694
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(129,133)</b>	<b>(98,668)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Financing liabilities, net	(9,810)	126,255
Finance expense paid	(55,665)	(36,245)
Purchase of treasury shares, net	(54,883)	(65,139)
Dividends paid	(76,151)	(59,799)
Acquisition of additional shares in a subsidiary	-	(15,228)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(196,509)</b>	<b>(50,156)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>140,733</b>	<b>(55,685)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	256,887	312,572
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS at 31 December</b>	<b>397,620</b>	<b>256,887</b>
Cash and cash equivalents comprise:		
Cash and balances with banks (excluding CBB reserve account and restricted bank balances)	284,649	169,619
Placements with financial institutions (with original maturity of three months or less)	112,971	87,268
	<b>397,620</b>	<b>256,887</b>

## world

# Battle on for last IS pocket

AFP | Sousa, Syria

Syrian fighters backed by artillery fire from a US-led coalition battled a fierce jihadist fightback yesterday as they pushed to retake a last morsel of territory from the Islamic State group.

Mushrooming black clouds rose over the embattled jihadist holdout in eastern Syria, as missiles and a warplane streaked through the sky.

More than four years after the extremists declared a "caliphate" across large parts of Syria and neighbouring Iraq, several offensives have whittled that proto-state down to a tiny holdout.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Saturday announced the final push to expel hundreds of diehard jihadists from that patch on the Iraq border.

"IS launched a counterattack on our forces and we are now responding with rockets, air strikes and direct clashes," SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali told AFP Monday.

He said there were "dozens of SDF hostages held by IS" inside their last foothold, but denied



A gunner mans a machine gun at the back of a US Marine Corps V-22 Osprey flying near a French artillery forward operating base (FOB) near al-Qaim in Iraq's western Anbar province opposite Syria's Deir Ezzor region, a few kilometres away from the last scrap of territory held by IS



(L to R) French Major of the Wagram Task Force Francois-Regis Legrier explains military positions on a sand map to French Defence Minister Florence Parly, French General Jean-Marc Vigilant, US Army General Paul La-camera, and French ambassador to Iraq Bruno Aubert, at a French artillery forward operating base (FOB) near al-Qaim in Iraq's western Anbar province opposite Syria's Deir Ezzor region, a few kilometres away from the last scrap of territory held by IS

reports of executions.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, said the alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters had pressed on yesterday morning in the face of tough obstacles.

"The SDF are advancing

slowly in what remains of the IS pocket" on the edges of the village of Baghouz, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

But landmines, IS snipers, and tunnels the extremists have dug out for their defence are hinder-

ing the advance, he said.

Backed by coalition air strikes, the SDF alliance has been battling to oust the jihadists from the eastern province of Deir Ezzor since September.

## Screening for jihadists

Since December, tens of thousands of people, most women and children related to IS fighters, have fled to SDF territory.

US-backed forces have screened the new arrivals, weeding out potential jihadists for questioning.

On Monday, dozens of coalition and SDF fighters were stationed at a screening point for new arrivals from IS areas.

Coalition forces stood over about 20 men who were crouching on the ground.

Some 600 people were able to reach SDF territory on Sunday after fleeing the fighting, the Observatory said.

The SDF -- which has said it expects the final offensive to be over in days -- announced Sunday that it had taken some 40 positions from the jihadists following direct combat involving light weapons.

## GFH Board Recommendation for Distribution of Dividends for the Year Ended 31st December 2018

The Board of Directors of GFH Financial Group ("GFH") agreed in its meeting held on Monday, 11th February 2019 to recommend distributions as below, for the approval of the general assembly in its upcoming Ordinary General Meeting (OGM). The distributions, which will apply to all shareholders registered as of the date of its OGM (the record date), will be recommended as follows:

- Cash dividends for all ordinary shares at a rate of **3.07%** of par value at US\$0.008 per share, of a total of **US\$30,000,000**.
- Bonus shares for all ordinary shares at a rate of **5.64%** of par value at 1 share for every **17.7** ordinary shares held, and
- Extinguishment of treasury shares amounting to **7%** of the issued capital subject to approval of the relevant regulatory authorities.

## Armoured van driver disappears with 1 million euros

Bobigny, France

The driver of an armoured cash delivery van disappeared outside Paris early on Monday along with an estimated one million euros, police sources said.

The 28-year-old man had stopped in front of a Western Union office at around 6:00 am (0500 GMT) in Aubervilliers, a



Representative picture

suburb just north of the capital, and stayed behind the wheel as two of his colleagues went inside.

"When they came back out, the van and the driver were gone," one of the sources said.

The van was found soon afterwards a few blocks away with its doors wide open, but the driver and the bags of cash, worth some \$1.13 million, were nowhere to be found.

Loomis, the armoured van company, did not return calls seeking comment.

## At least 99 dead after consuming toxic alcohol in northern India

New Delhi, India

At least 99 people have died and scores have been hospitalised in northern India after drinking toxic alcohol, triggering a crackdown against bootleggers, officials said yesterday.

News of the deaths in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand has trickled in over the past three days, with police suspecting the moonshine had been cut with methanol.

Cheap, locally-made liquor is common in parts of rural India and bootleggers often add methanol -- a highly toxic form of alcohol sometimes used as an anti-freeze -- to their product to increase its strength.

If ingested in large quantities, methanol can cause blindness, liver damage and death.

In one district of Uttar Pradesh 59 people had died after consuming toxic alcohol, police spokesman Shailendra



Indian relatives of victims who died from toxic locally-made alcohol cry at Saharanpur Civil Hospital in Saharanpur in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh

Kumar Sharma said.

In a neighbouring district a senior police officer said nine had died, adding that 66 suspected bootleggers had been arrested and samples of the liquor sent to a laboratory for testing.

Police said at least 31 people died in neighbouring Uttara-

khand state and that two had been arrested on suspicion of supplying the liquor.

Newspaper reports said around 3,000 people linked with the illegal trade were arrested across Uttar Pradesh in the aftermath of the tragedy.

# Sala killed by head and trunk injuries: inquest

London, United Kingdom

Argentine footballer Emiliano Sala died of “head and trunk injuries”, an inquest in England heard yesterday as it began to examine his death in a plane crash in the sea.

Sala, 28, had signed for English Premier League side Cardiff City and was flying to his new team from his old club Nantes in France when his plane went missing over the Channel on January 21.

The wreckage was located on the seabed. The striker's body was recovered but pilot David Ibbotson is still missing. The plane remains under the sea.

In a brief hearing in Bournemouth on the south coast, an inquest into Sala's death was opened, and adjourned until November 6 pending further inquiries. The post-mortem presented at the hearing gave Sala's cause of death as “head and trunk injuries”.

Sala was formally identified by fingerprints.

In English law, inquests are held to examine sudden or unexplained deaths.

They set out to determine the identity of the deceased, the



Yellow flowers are displayed in front of the portrait of Argentinian forward Emiliano Sala at the Beaujoire stadium in Nantes

place and time of death as well as how the deceased came by their death, but they do not apportion blame.

## 'You shouldn't give up'

Senior coroner's officer Ian Parry told the hearing that the plane “was located on the seabed in international waters.”

“Following a closer examination of the site a body, later identified as Mr Sala, was found and recovered.”

“To date the pilot, Mr Ibbotson, has not been found.”

“Police, the Air Accidents Investigation Branch and the Civil Aviation Authority are continuing with their inquiries,” he said.

A fundraising campaign to restart the search for Ibbotson is already more than half way to its £300,000 (\$385,000, 340,000 euro) target.

“If you've got hope then you shouldn't give up,” his daughter Danielle told ITV television.

“He wouldn't stop searching for me.”

Nantes gave a final rousing send off to Sala with a series of

moving gestures in their Ligue 1 match against Nimes on Sunday.

Known as the Canaries due to their yellow kit, Nantes played in a one-off full black outfit with Sala's name on the back of each shirt.

Tickets for the game were sold at a symbolic nine euros (\$10) in memory of the player's shirt number, which they have also withdrawn.

Before Saturday's Premier League match between Southampton and visitors Cardiff, a minute's silence was observed.

## Trump takes border campaign to El Paso



A metal fence marked with the US Border Patrol sign prevents people to get close to the barbed/concertina wire covering the US/Mexico border fence, in Nogales, Arizona

El Paso, United States

President Donald Trump takes his politically explosive push for walling off the Mexican border to the frontier city of El Paso yesterday, four days before a deadline for Congress to meet his demands.

According to Trump, illegal immigrants pose a national security risk to the United States and can only be stopped by dramatic extensions of current barriers.

Trump chose El Paso as a historic crossing point where, he says, walls have eradicated an out-of-control influx of criminals from Mexico and made the city a model for what could happen elsewhere on the

border. But there'll be a counter-message a short distance from where Trump speaks when rising Democratic star Beto O'Rourke -- a possible challenger to Trump in 2020 -- holds his own rally.

A former congressman who excited grassroots Democrats last November with an against-the-odds near upset of Republican Senator Ted Cruz, O'Rourke is from El Paso.

“While some try to stoke fear and paranoia, to spread lies and a false narrative about the US-Mexico border and to demand a 2,000 mile wall along it at a time of record safety and security, El Paso will come together for a march and celebration that highlights the truth,” O'Rourke's office said.

## 4 killed as hospital torched in Cameroon's anglophone west

Douala, Cameroon

Four people died when gunmen raided a hospital and burnt it to the ground in western Cameroon where anglophone separatists have been fighting troops, witnesses and a local official said yesterday.

The incident occurred in Kumba, a town which serves as the commercial hub for the anglophone region and which has been badly hit by the violence between separatists and Cameroon troops that began in October 2017.

“Attackers killed four peo-

ple and burnt down the hospital,” said an administrative official in the Kumba region, confirming information from a witness.

It was not immediately clear whether the victims were shot or died in the fire, nor whether they were patients at the facility.

The incident occurred on National Youth Day, the anniversary of the 1961 referendum which saw Cameroon's western English-speaking areas joined onto the francophone areas which had just won independence from France.

## Russia jails IS pair for 15 years

Moscow, Russia

A Russian court on Monday jailed two members of the Islamic State group for 15 years for planning attacks on a mall and public transport in Moscow, news agencies reported.

Bakhtiyor Makhmudov and Zafarkhon Rakhmatov from Muslim-majority Tajikistan will serve their sentences in a “strict regime camp”, a court statement said.

Russia's FSB security service arrested the duo in December 2017.

## War on drugs



A Pakistani official uses a steamroller to crush bottles of liquor beside a burning pile of drugs on the outskirts of Karachi, during an event organised by the Pakistan Coast Guards to destroy seized illicit alcohol and drugs smuggled into the country.

## Zain Bahrain B.S.C.

### Recommendation

The Board of Directors of Zain Bahrain B.S.C. proposes the distribution of dividends for the year ending 31 December 2018 to the Ordinary Equity Shareholders who are registered on the date of the AGM. The proposed distribution is as follows:

Cash Dividend: 5% of the paid-up capital equivalent to 5 fils per share and amounting to a total dividend amount of BD 1,819,000.

Shaikh Ahmed Bin Ali Abdulla Al Khalifa  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

# Germany wants more women in politics

*Forced parity is fundamentally anti-democratic though it is aimed at attaining equality*



JOCHEN BITTNER

Women in Germany won the right to vote in 1918, but a century later they still do not enjoy equal representation. Though the country is led by a woman — who will, most likely, be succeeded by another woman — fewer than a third of the members of the federal Parliament, the Bundestag, are female.

That's why leading figures from all major German parties are now calling for parity: a 50-50 quota for male and female representatives in the Bundestag and the 16 state-level parliaments. But is achieving a gender balance in Germany's legislatures worth weakening another hard-fought accomplishment, the right to free electoral choice?

This week the Parliament in Brandenburg became the first to require all political parties to nominate an even slate for state elections, starting in late 2020. The centre-left Social Democratic Party is pushing for a similar rule for national elections. The party is already informally enforcing such a rule in its selection of candidates for the coming European Parliament elections, in May, in the process overruling the results of local party votes.

Most people can agree that equal representation in our elected bodies is a desirable goal. In a democracy, the people's representatives should look like the people. Laws that put more women onto the field might look like a good start. And parity laws achieve that goal.



Angela Merkel at the UN General Assembly.

"I am not a great fan of quotas, but I like the results they bring," said Viviane Reding, a former commissioner of the European Union.

But parity laws come at too high a price. Forced parity would turn unequal representation, at least in part, into forced representation. It would question voter judgment and pre-empt a certain result. It would impair the freedom of parties to nominate their best candidates. It would install a discriminatory principle that could eventually swing back at the very group it aims to emancipate.

Nor will quotas, in the immediate term, do anything to overturn the root causes of gender disparity in political representation. The problem, not only in politics, is an unlevel playing field for men and women. Thousands of years of patriarchy ex-

**One of the virtues of a gender-blind democracy, like the one established under Germany's postwar Constitution, is that we can let these social changes play out as far as society wants.**

ert their influence in thousands of ways. First, we have to tackle those.

For example, we should ask what keeps women from entering politics in the first place. Legislative sessions, from local councils to the Bundestag, are

time-intensive and family-unfriendly, often running late into the night. And in German society, for all its pretensions to gender equality, a woman is expected to be the primary caregiver, while it is less acceptable for a man to tell his superiors that he has to go home earlier to get the kids' supper or put them to bed.

Men and women are entitled to care for their families equally if they want to. It is every man's duty to make this clear to his boss. And, if his boss doesn't listen, it is the job of legislators to help change the rules so that he has to.

A second factor is unconscious bias. For instance, a deep male voice is often associated with authority, whereas a female voice has less social clout and gets easier talked over. Too often this becomes an onus on women. Recently, the German

chancellor, Angela Merkel, stated that "for a woman, commanding authority is something she needs to learn." Margaret Thatcher underwent special training to lower her voice.

Can anyone imagine the opposite: a male politician striving to sound more like a woman because the power struggle demands it? There you go. Too many women see these informal but powerful rules stacked against them, and stay away from politics altogether.

Unconscious bias can't be legislated away. But it can be fought in the public sphere, through government and private campaigns to raise awareness of the unseen barriers that keep women from engaging in politics.

In fact, Germany may be well on its way. Women already have proportionally more representation in the Bundestag than men,

when compared with their political engagement: The share of women in the Social Democrats' parliamentary caucus is 42 per cent, even though women make up 32pc of the party's membership. The Greens do even better: Women enjoy a majority in the caucus, while they make up 40pc of their membership.

Merkel's center-right Christian Democrats, the largest party in the Bundestag, perform less well, with about 25pc in each category. Yet the party has been led by a woman, Merkel, for 19 years, and in December it passed over two men to elect another woman, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, as its new leader.

In other words, absent a quota, Germany is not about to reach gender parity in politics, but it is steadily moving in that direction — and will make even more strides if, in the meantime, it tackles some of the underlying issues keeping women from entering the field in the first place.

One of the virtues of a gender-blind democracy, like the one established under Germany's postwar Constitution, is that we can let these social changes play out as far as society wants. It's not hard to imagine a day when the makeup is flipped, and women constitute 70pc of the Bundestag.

And that, above all, is the problem with quotas. I asked one of its proponents, a young Social Democrat named Kevin Kühnert, if his party's parity rule would allow it to put up more than 50pc women as its nominees. No, he said — it had to be 50-50. This is where the idea comes back to haunt its inventors. I had always thought that equal opportunity for women meant something else.

(Jochen Bittner is a political editor for the weekly newspaper Die Zeit and a contributing opinion writer.)

# Indonesian govt in best efforts to



DR SUTAN EMIR HIDAYAT

It is well known that the Republic of Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim country. However, the development of Islamic economy including Islamic finance is still far from its potential. For example, despite Islamic finance in Indonesia has officially existed for more than two decades in the country, the market share of Islamic banking in the country is still

standing at around 6pc of the total banking assets.

Uniquely, unlike most top Islamic financial centers such as the Kingdom of Bahrain which focus more on the wholesale segment, the Islamic financial market in Indonesia is strongly retail-oriented and segmented in a distinctive way, making it a lot more complex than other countries. The market structure consists of several layers that have loosely defined boundaries with overlaps that are sometimes disputed among the players.

Despite the above challenges, Indonesia has some unique strengths. The country has the largest number of Islamic financial institu-

tions (formal and informal), it is the first country and the only one that issues retail Sukuk, it is the first country that has Islamic online trading system (SOTS) in capital market sector, and the first and the only one that implements the concept of Baitul Maal wat Tamwil. In addition, it has more regulations pertaining to Islamic finance than any other countries even though they are scattered and sometimes split between too many regulators.

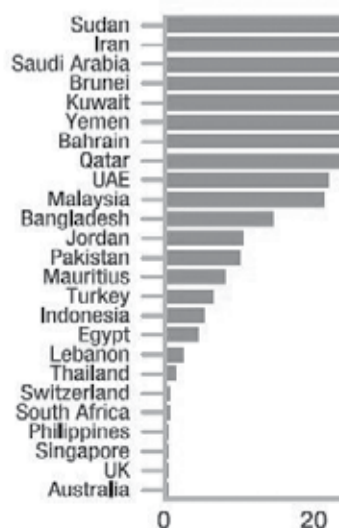
Based on the above challenges and potentials, the government of Indonesia has recently established a National Islamic Finance Committee known in Indonesia as KNKS mandated to lead, coor-

minate and synergise the efforts of all Islamic economy's stakeholders. Given the importance role that the committee plays, KNKS is directly chaired by the President of Indonesia His Excellency Joko Widodo. The main functions of KNKS are to fasten, widen, and advance the development of Islamic Economy in the country in order to support national economic development.

According to the Presidential Decree No. 91/2016, the roles of KNKS are as follows: (1) To make the policy and strategy recommendations; (2) To coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the planning and the implementation of strategic programs; (3) To promote the research

and innovation for product development of Islamic finance; and (4) To look for solutions on various strategic problems in the development of Islamic finance. KNKS has a Masterplan for Indonesian Islamic Financial Architecture and is currently finalising the Masterplan for Indonesian Islamic Economy. KNKS' vision is to make Indonesia as the world's prominent centre of Islamic Economy.

The main programmes of KNKS are to (1) Establish strong and resilient state owned Islamic banks; (2) Create the country's first full-fledged Islamic Investment Bank; (3) Establish an Indonesian based world class takaful operator; (4)





1971

**The Harrisburg Seven:** Rev. Philip Berigan and five other activists are indicted on charges of conspiring to kidnap **Henry Kissinger** in Washington, D.C.



1976

The United Nations Security Council votes **11-1** to allow the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in a Security Council debate (without voting rights).

1986

**Space Shuttle program:** Congressman Bill Nelson lifts off from Kennedy Space Center aboard Columbia on mission STS-61-C as a payload specialist.

1990

A **seven-day pogrom** breaks out against the Armenian civilian population of Baku, Azerbaijan, during which Armenians were expelled from the city.

# The alarming allure of Australia's brumbies

*The environment is being sacrificed for a national myth*



**A. ODYSSEUS PATRICK**

Since this country's founding in the early 20th century, the packs of untamed horses that roam freely through our beautiful and hostile alpine landscape have captured the public's imagination. The savage grace and freedom of the horses — known here as brumbies — have made them into a popular symbol of the national spirit.

Today, environmentalists want the brumbies shot.

Not since cattle roamed the mountain parks (before a ban in the 1950s) have animals done such damage to the alpine regions that Australians proudly call the "high country."

A 2014 survey estimated there were more than 9,500 wild horses in the Australian Alps. Some of the horses descend from animals that belonged to settlers in the early 1,800s.

The brumbies eat fragile alpine moss. Their hoofs trample the banks of creeks, killing vegetation that stops silt from building up. They destroy peat that takes thousands of years to develop. Campers report the fear of being trampled by herds in the middle of the night.

Populations of rare alpine water skinks and broad-toothed rats are declining as the brumbies degrade their habitats. Three endangered species — the corroboree frog, the mountain pygmy possum and the stocky galaxias, a fish found in only one river system — are at risk unless the number of horses is reduced quickly, scientists say.

The environment is being sacrificed for a national myth. The cultural bias for brumbies has helped the tourism industry — reinforced by anti-scientific sentiment among rural communities — to successfully lobby government officials to end an annual culling of the horses.

The animals are now a protected species. And the government of



Wild brumbies running through Australia's high country.

New South Wales State enacted a law last year ending a program that had aimed to gradually reduce the brumby numbers over the long term in the Alps' largest reserve, the Kosciuszko National Park.

Misguided military lore increased the horses' mystique. During World War I, Australian mounted units called the Light Horse Brigades served with distinction in Gallipoli and Beersheba in the Sinai Desert, where they carried out a famous charge at entrenched Turkish soldiers over open ground.

Some of the Light Horse soldiers came from the high country. Many Australians believe that brumbies made an important contribution to the horse regiments. Among them is the deputy premier of New South Wales, John Barilaro, the politician responsible for shielding them today.

"Nothing is more synonymous with the Australian outdoor lifestyle than the brumby," Barilaro told the legislature when he intro-

**Opposition to culling is also driven by a hostility among local communities towards environmentalists and government conservationists.**

duced a pro-brumby law.

The war story doesn't stand up. The Australian army preferred Walers, a sturdy breed that could travel long distances in hot climates with little water, and a study for the New South Wales National Parks Service found no evidence that brumbies were ever used by the army.

In alpine national parks, even a small number of horses can cause

severe damage because the sensitive environment recovers very slowly.

The legend of the bush battler resisting state authority has become a central and often-irresistible rationale for the protection of rural interests at the expense of scientific and political progress. Australians' attachment to rural legends is exploited by local politicians to deliver their communities' wish lists — from counter-productive subsidies for farmers who haven't prepared for drought to the construction of an inland railway line of dubious value.

Opposition to culling is also driven by a hostility among local communities towards environmentalists and government conservationists. A leading proponent of the new state law is a former conservative politician who now makes a living organising horse rides in the park.

The horse advocates' success has emboldened activists across the border in Victoria State, where in December a judge was

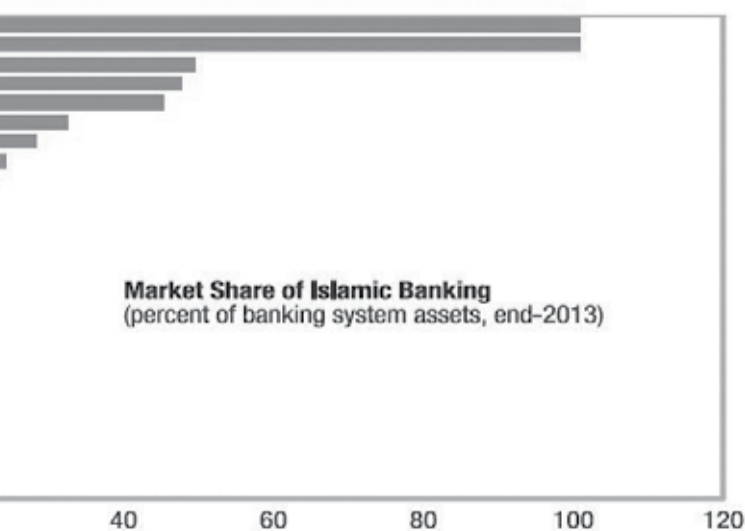
asked to stop the government from removing wild horses from the Bogong High Plains section of the Alpine National Park. A decision is expected this year.

To apply political pressure, dozens of scientists published an open letter in November arguing that the decision gave priority to a single invasive species over many native species and ecosystems, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth. These scientists advocate shooting horses from helicopters right away (large parts of the park are inaccessible by vehicle). Barilaro, the politician, says Australians' "social conscience" won't accept shooting, and they should be moved to less-vulnerable areas of the reserve.

Safeguarding a nation's cultural heritage is as important as protecting its environmental heritage. But a fantasy, however appealing, should not be allowed to outweigh good science.

(A Odysseus Patrick is the senior correspondent at the Australian Financial Review.)

## to boost Islamic economy



**KNKS can be used as a reference model for other countries including the Kingdom on how government can support the development of Islamic economy in their jurisdictions.**

Convert the national social insurance scheme into Islamic scheme, (5) Establish Islamic marketplace and Islamic digital payment system; (6) Establish International Centre for Islamic Economic Studies; (7) Establish microfinance sharing platform, and (8) Establish a zakat sharing platform, and zakat banking account. The establishment of KNKS is expected to boost Indonesian ranking in the global Islamic indices such as the State of Global Islamic Economy Indicator (GIEI) and the Global Islamic Finance Report (GIFR). The establishment of KNKS also indicates the beginning of top down Islamic economy development approach

in the country. It is well known that the development of Islamic economy in the republic was mainly driven by the grassroot movements.

KNKS can be used as a reference model for other countries including Kingdom of Bahrain on how government can support the development of Islamic economy in their jurisdictions. It is also expected that KNKS will enhance the bilateral relationship between Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Indonesia especially in the areas of Islamic economy and Halal industry.

(Dr Sutan Emir Hidayat is an Associate Professor and the Head of Business Administration Department at the University College of Bahrain.)



TOP  
**4**  
TWEETS

01



Seriously. Record your parents and take lots of pictures of them. I can't seem to hold my dad's face in my mind—I'd be a mess if I didn't have lots of recent photos.  
**@soledadobrien**

02



As a physician, I must have missed the lecture in physical diagnosis where we were taught that we could predict the health of someone for the duration of their job "and beyond." That's not the practice of medicine. That is carnival barking.  
**@DrWillieParker**

03



@OhoodAlRoumi, UAE Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing, at Women in Government Forum says: 'In the #UAE we have great numbers. In the Prime Minister's office, 70% of govt employees are female. In the cabinet, 30% are female.' #WorldGovSummit  
**@DXBMediaOffice**

04



PM @narendramodi personally serving lunch & interacting with children at the Akshaya Patra Foundation programme in Vrindavan today. What a wonderful sight!  
**@MrsGandhi**

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

# business

## BCCI meeting on Garden Show

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) in cooperation with the National Initiative for Agricultural Development is holding an open meeting on the forthcoming Bahrain International Garden Show 2019 tomorrow at 12 pm in Al Majlis Hall of Bait Al Tijjar building.

Speaking at the meeting will be the Secretary-Gener-

al of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, who will shed light on partnership opportunities with leading companies in the field of agriculture and food security.

Bahrain International Garden show will be held between 21st and 24th February 2019 in Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center.

## UAE Exchange and Unimoni go live on Ripple's blockchain

TDT | Dubai

Finabl, a global platform for Payments and Foreign Exchange solutions, yesterday announced that its network brands UAE Exchange and Unimoni are now on RippleNet.

The blockchain-based platform will be used for real-time cross-border transactions to Thailand, with plans in place to extend it to other countries.

With this, UAE Exchange and Unimoni become the first in their category in the Middle East to have adopted blockchain technology to process transactions.

This service has been launched first with Siam Commercial Bank, one of the largest banks in Thailand, enabling UAE Exchange and Unimoni customers around the world to transfer money instantly to their beneficiaries in Thailand.

Commenting on the launch, Promoth Manghat, Executive Director and CEO at Finabl



Promoth Manghat, Executive Director and CEO at Finabl and Group CEO at UAE Exchange and Unimoni

and Group CEO at UAE Exchange and Unimoni, said, "The adoption of blockchain opens up considerable potential to streamline remittances and provide a frictionless, fast and secure payments experience."

Expressing delight, Navin Gupta, Managing Director, South Asia and MENA at Ripple, said, "We are excited to see this collaboration go live, allowing customers in any part of the world to send live payments to Thailand instantly and efficiently."

The Finabl network includes brands such as UAE Exchange, Unimoni, Travelex, Xpress Money, Remit2India, Ditto and Swych, and handled more than 150 million transactions in 2017.

**With this, UAE Exchange and Unimoni become the first in their category in the Middle East to have adopted blockchain technology to process transactions**

## UAE expects Oil to balance in Q1

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Suheil al-Mazrouei

The energy minister of the United Arab Emirates said yesterday supply and demand in the oil market should balance out in the first quarter of 2019, following weeks of output cuts.

"My expectation is that we will see the balance during the first quarter unless something happens," Suheil al-Mazrouei told the three-day World Government Summit in Dubai.

"We are removing enough oil to correct the market," Mazrouei said.

OPEC countries and other major oil producers in January began implementing a deal to cut output by 1.2 mil-

lion barrels per day to shore up sagging prices.

Based on provisional figures of production levels in January, most oil producing nations were complying to the cuts, Mazrouei said.

The oil market, however, remains highly volatile and prices hover just above \$60 a barrel after recovering from as low as \$50 a barrel.

That figure remains far below the \$85 a barrel oil hit in early October before beginning to slide.

Mazrouei said producers were "doing our best" to stabilise the market.

Khalid al-Falih, energy minister of the world's top supplier Saudi Arabia, said in mid-January he expected the oil market to rebalance within weeks.

Oil prices crashed in mid-2014 to below \$30 a barrel, down from over \$100 a barrel, due to a glut in supplies and weakening global demand.

## OPEC isn't a cartel, doesn't fix oil prices: Barkindo

Reuters | Cairo

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo said the exporting group was not in the business of fixing oil prices, when asked yesterday to comment on a US House committee passing a bill targeting OPEC oil supply cuts.

A US House of Representatives committee approved a bill that would open up the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to antitrust lawsuits.

"OPEC is neither a cartel nor involved in the business of fixing oil prices," Barkindo told Reuters. "It would be a misjudgment to accuse us of such," he said on the sidelines of an energy forum in Cairo.

"OPEC is an open, transparent organisation focused on assisting the oil markets to remain in balance on a sustainable basis, which is a fundamental requirement of investors," Barkindo said.

"The international oil industry needs market stability to plan and invest in a predictable manner in order to guarantee future supplies."

## VIVA Bahrain launches 5th Generation network

TDT | Manama

VIVA Bahrain, a telecommunication provider in Bahrain, has announced the completion of 5G readiness in key locations across Bahrain.

VIVA, the company said, is now the first operator in the Kingdom to enable adoption of 5G service and is planning further roll-outs of 5G across the country.

VIVA said the newly upgraded network will ultimately enable customers to enjoy super-fast internet and smart technologies driven by the Internet of Things including virtual reality, ultimate real-time gaming, 3D 8K video, as well as providing a platform for artificial intelligence and connected cars.



VIVA Bahrain management officials during a group photo session following the launch event

VIVA Bahrain was the first operator in Bahrain to commercially pilot 5G back in June with a major showcase in City Centre Mall in the presence of Minister of Telecommunications and Transportation, the head of the TRA, and other key executives.



Ahli United Bank employees posing for a group photo during a special event held at the Bahrain Ritz Carlton to honour long-serving employees. In all, 255 staff members were recognised for their long and distinguished years of service.

# US team in Beijing after IMF warning

● Hopes to reach a deal before March 1 deadline set by Trump

● Talks will include officials from the agriculture, energy and commerce departments

Beijing, China

US negotiators were in Beijing yesterday for a new round of high-stakes trade talks, hoping to reach a deal before the March 1 deadline set by Donald Trump as the IMF warned of a possible global economic "storm".

Preliminary discussions had been expected to start on Monday, according to the White House, before US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin step in for the main event on Thursday and Friday.

In December, Washington suspended for three months its plan to increase tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports -- to 25 per cent from the current 10pc -- to allow time for negotiators to work out a trade spat that has triggered fears of a global economic slowdown.



US Deputy Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish (C) and members of his negotiation team leave a hotel ahead of a meeting with Chinese officials in Beijing

Deputy trade representative Jeffrey Gerrish was due to lead the US delegation in preparatory meetings to begin on Monday, the White House had said.

The talks will include officials from the agriculture, energy and commerce departments.

Gerrish left his hotel in central Beijing on Monday morning

without talking to the media. Neither side offered any confirmation that talks actually started.

Mnuchin and Lighthizer will be joined by David Malpass, Trump's nominee for president of the World Bank who has worked to limit the bank's assistance to Beijing.

The Chinese delegation will be led by Vice Premier Liu He, who will be joined by central bank governor Yi Gang.

Liu, China's chief trade negotiator, met last month with Trump, who announced that a final resolution of the trade dispute would depend on a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jin-

ping "in the near future" to iron out the "more difficult points" fuelling the spat.

While the two sides said major progress was made after talks last month in Washington, more recent comments have jarred financial markets, amplifying concerns about how the dispute will affect global growth.

Trump said last week that he did not expect to meet his Chinese counterpart before the trade truce expires on March 1, and top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said that while Trump was "optimistic" about a deal, a "sizable distance" still separated the two sides.

Washington is demanding far-reaching changes from China to address commercial practices that it says are deeply unfair, including theft of American

intellectual property and myriad barriers that US and other foreign companies face in the Chinese domestic market.

China has offered to boost its purchases of US goods during the truce, but is likely to resist calls for structural changes to its industrial policy including slashing government subsidies, said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics.

"The US side will not fully remove the spectre of tariff hikes any time soon," Kuijs said, given that there is "broad support in the US for a hard stance on China".

The two sides have already slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on the two countries' manufacturing sectors and sent jitters through global markets.

## Economic storm

The International Monetary Fund warned on Sunday of a possible economic "storm" as growth forecasts dip.

It cited the trade row as one of four "clouds" over the global economy, along with uncertainty, tightening, Brexit uncertainty, and China's slowdown.

"We have no idea how it (the trade dispute) is going to pan

out and what we know is that it is already beginning to have an effect on trade, on confidence and on markets," IMF managing director Christine Lagarde told the World Government Summit in Dubai.

Last month, the IMF lowered its global economic growth forecast for this year from 3.7 per cent to 3.5pc.



A.A. Bin Hindi Group and KIA Motors handed over cars to the lucky winners of Shop Bahrain's weekly raffle draws held at KIA's Showroom in Sitra. The event was attended by organisers of Shop Bahrain, the largest shopping event in the Kingdom and Bin Hindi Motors's officials. Under its partnership with Shop Bahrain, Bing Hindi Group and KIA Motors gifted 11 cars to winners of the weekly raffle draws which were held throughout the Festival. Bin Hindi Informatics - the authorised distributor for Samsung, and a subsidiary of the Group, also joined Shop Bahrain as a Platinum Partner offering electronic devices among thousands of instant prizes.

## Euronext tops Nasdaq bid for Oslo stock exchange

Paris, France

European exchange operator Euronext yesterday raised its offer for the Oslo stock exchange to \$783 million (691 million euros), besting an offer from US rival Nasdaq.

Euronext said it was raising its offer to 158 kroner per share, which beats an offer made by Nasdaq on January 30 of 152 kroner per share, as well as its original December bid of 145 kroner per share.

The Nasdaq offer was endorsed by the management of Oslo stock exchange, saying it was better for its capital market and companies.

The US-based Nasdaq controls all of the other stock exchanges in the Nordic and Baltic region, while Euronext

operates the Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin and Lisbon markets.

In addition to putting more money on the table, Euronext said its offer would help develop the Oslo stock exchange while maintaining its local identity.

"Euronext is committed to maintaining, investing in and developing Oslo Bors VPS as a key market infrastructure in Norway and internationally for the benefit of all stakeholders," adding that "continuity, local governance and decentralised decision-making are the key principles of Euronext's model."

Euronext's original offer had already attracted the binding acceptance of more than half of shareholders.

## Australia signs massive sub deal with French firm

Canberra, Australia

Australia formally signed a Aus\$50 billion "strategic partnership" with France to build 12 state of the art submarines yesterday, a signal of Canberra's willingness to project power across the Pacific.

The partnership's main pillar is a contract for France's Naval Group to build 12 attack-class submarines and has been years in the making.

At roughly US\$35 billion this is Australia's largest ever defence procurement project and the largest ever foreign sales deal by French shipbuilder Naval Group.

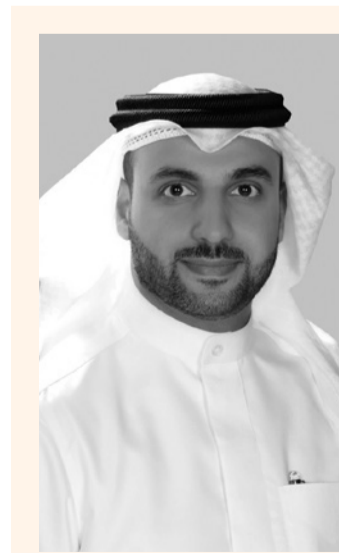
## Danat Savings winner to take home \$1.5m cash prize

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain yesterday said it has launched its enhanced investment savings scheme for 2019 "Danat Al Salam".

This year, the Bank is offering two Al Dana Grand Prizes that comprise of a luxury villa in Muharraq and the Biggest single Cash Prize in Bahrain for one winner worth \$1.5 million. Additionally, customers will have the opportunity to enter into monthly draws for a chance to win the Gmash Grand Cash Prizes totalling up to \$50,000, the Fusoos Cash Prizes totalling up to \$60,000 and monthly branch specific prizes totalling more than \$26,000.

Customers, the bank said, will also be able to benefit from the



With the conclusion of last year's Al Dana Final Grand Prize of \$1 Million awarded to Jassim Ali Hussain, we are delighted to announce even bigger prizes throughout 2019

MOHAMMED BUHIJJI  
HEAD OF RETAIL BANKING

attractive monthly expected annual profit feature on their

Danat balance. Loyal customers will be entitled to more entries

to the monthly draws when keeping their investments for a longer period in their Danat Al Salam account.

Mohammed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking said: "Danat Al Salam is our flagship product that has been successful since its inception offering more than \$17 million in prizes awarded to over 4,000 winners."

"With the conclusion of last year's Al Dana Final Grand Prize of \$1 Million awarded to Jassim Ali Hussain, we are delighted to announce even bigger prizes throughout 2019."

Every BD 50 invested in Danat Al Salam will give customers an opportunity to win a host of monthly valuable cash prizes. One customer will have a chance to win a luxury villa in Muhar-

raq as part of our semi-annual draw. Al Dana Final Grand draw will have one lucky winner taking home the biggest single cash prize in Bahrain's history worth \$1.5 Million.

Mohammed Buhijji added: "We encourage our loyal customers to hold or invest a minimum amount of BD 1,000 at a specific branch to capitalize on the opportunity of winning our special branch draw prizes of up to BD 1,000."

To be eligible for the prize draw, customers need to open Danat savings account at any Al Salam Bank-Bahrain branch with a minimum deposit of BD50 or apply through online product application service "Apply@Home" available on the bank's website.

# GFH records US\$114.08 million profit

● **Increases annual profits by 9.5pc**

● **Strong, continued revenue growth across diversified business lines**

● **Recommended dividend of 8.71pc and USD85 million cash and bonus shares**

● **Recommendation to extinguish 7pc treasury shares.**

TDT | Manama

GFH Financial Group (GFH) said it recorded continued growth in profitability and strong performance for the financial year ended 31 December 2018 helped mainly by contribution from across all business lines and strategic transactions during the year.

The board recommended a dividend of 8.71 per cent and USD 85 million (US\$30m cash and US\$55m bonus shares) for 2018 to shareholders.

The group reported consolidated net profit of US\$115 million as compared with US\$103.19m from the previous year, an in-



**“Diversification will also remain a key focus both in terms of what and where we invest. We plan to start the process to launch operations in Saudi Arabia and the UK and to establish dedicated healthcare and education platforms**

HISHAM ALRAYES  
CEO OF GFH



**“We are pleased with the continued growth in profitably and strong performance delivered by the Group in 2018. This marks the fourth consecutive year of solid gains based on the effective implementation of our strategy and success in the further diversification of the business**

JASSIM ALSEDDIQUI  
CHAIRMAN OF GFH

crease of 11.4 per cent. Net profit attributable to shareholders rose 9.5pc to US\$114.08m from US\$104.18m in the year ago pe-

riod. Earnings per share for the year was US cents 3.22 compared to US cents 3.58 in the prior-year period.

Total consolidated revenue was US\$246.21m compared with US\$204.36m in 2017, reflecting a healthy year-on-year increase

of 20.5pc. Total operating expenses were US\$117.09m versus US\$99.08m in the prior year, an increase of 18.2pc.

For the fourth quarter, Net profit attributable to shareholders was US\$10.64m versus US\$16.95m in the fourth quarter of 2017, a decrease of 37.2pc.

Consolidated net profit for the quarter was US\$10.39m compared with US\$12.15m in the fourth quarter of 2017, a decrease of 14.5pc.

Total consolidated revenue was US\$61.6m compared with US\$41.2m in 2017, reflecting a healthy quarter-on-quarter increase of 49.5pc.

Growth, according to GFH, resulted from a successfully diversified business model and solid contributions from across its investment and commercial banking, real estate and asset management businesses lines in addition to increases in other income generated through strategic initiatives undertaken by the Group. Importantly, GFH also continued to deliver on its strategy of achieving profitable assets, which for the year amounted to US\$120m.

The Group repaid the entire amount of a US\$200m Sukuk, which was originally drawn in 2007, and achieved early payment of a Wakala facility, all of which continue to underscore its financial health and stability.

Commenting on the results, Jassim Alseddiqui, Chairman of GFH, said, “Among the strongest measures of market confidence in GFH today and over the past year was the raising of more than US\$1 billion through our investment products and treasury and capital markets during 2018, which fuels further growth and investment for GFH in 2019.”

Hisham Alrayes, CEO of GFH, added, “During the year, we took assets with relatively low book value and turned them into revenue generators. This includes land banks in India, Dubai, Bahrain, which provides the Group with a range of markets and classes from which we can derive benefit over the medium to longer term. Particular progress was also made on our landmark Villamar project in Bahrain, for which we acquired the majority Sukuk and are taking the development towards completion.”

Looking ahead, Alrayes said the group plans to launch operations in Saudi Arabia and the UK and to establish dedicated healthcare and education platforms.

“We entered 2019 with strong confidence and expectations for further top and bottom line growth both overall and from across our various business lines including greater contributions from our real estate activities,” Alrayes added.

## UK posts slowest growth in six years as Brexit looms

London, United Kingdom

The British economy grew at its slowest pace in six years in 2018, data showed Monday, as Brexit uncertainty grips the country and fears grow that Britain could crash out of the EU without a deal.

The bleak official figures came as the British government seeks to win more time to secure EU concessions on Brexit that could pass parliament and avert a chaotic split from the bloc on March 29.

Businesses are on edge with Britain just weeks away from its scheduled departure from the European project after 46 years and still with no firm arrangements in place.

The UK parliament last month roundly rejected a Brexit deal Prime Minister Theresa May had sealed with the remaining 27 EU leaders.

Monday's figures followed data last week that showed Britain's dominant service sector almost ground to a halt in January.

“The economy is clearly struggling in the first quarter of 2019 amid serious business and consumer caution resulting from heightened Brexit uncertainties while weaker global growth is also impacting” the figures, noted Howard Archer, chief economic advisor at the ICM Club.

Last year gross domestic product growth stood at 1.4 per cent, down from 1.8 per cent in 2017, the Office for National Statistics said Monday.

Growth was meanwhile only 0.2 per cent in the last three months of 2018, the ONS said in a statement.



A ‘Check and Repair’ member of Nissan’s manufacturing staff (R) works in the ‘Trim and Chassis’ section of their Sunderland Plant in Sunderland, North East England

“Construction, production and services output fell in the month (of December), the first time that there has been such a broad-based fall in monthly output since September 2012,” the ONS said.

Britain has been in a state of political turmoil for two months since the Brexit deal was agreed in December.

In an incident heavy with symbolism, parts of parliament were cordoned off Monday after a large piece of masonry fell onto a parked vehicle over the weekend.

### 600,000 jobs under threat

Meanwhile in Luxembourg the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier called for “clarity and movement” from Britain.

He also said British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn's proposal for a permanent customs union with the EU was an “interesting” one.

Concern is growing on both sides of the Channel.

Researchers at the IWH In-

stitute in Halle, eastern Germany on Monday said a no-deal Brexit could put 600,000 jobs around the world at risk, with Germany the hardest hit.

The institute examined what would happen if UK imports from the remaining EU fell 25 per cent after Brexit.

They reckoned some 103,000 jobs would be under threat in Germany, Europe's largest economy, with the car industry the worst affected sector.

### Global growth slowdown

Monday's economic data came after the Bank of England last week slashed its forecast for UK growth this year to 1.2 per cent from 1.7 per cent, blaming the downgrade on a global economic slowdown and “the fog of Brexit”.

The Bank of England last week warned that Britain's economic output was also being dragged down by a global slowdown, with growth dampening in China, the United States and eurozone.

## Oil weighs on markets



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange (file)

● **Dubai Investments at lowest since May 2013**

● **Waha Capital plunges to five-year low**

● **Saudi's Al Yamamah Steel falls on Q1 loss**

Reuters

Weak oil prices led to falls in most Gulf stock markets yesterday, while Qatar and Dubai were dragged lower by their blue-chip bank stocks.

Qatar's index fell 1.3 per cent as the Middle East's largest lender Qatar National Bank slid 5.2pc, its biggest intraday loss since June 2017. The stock gained more than 65pc last year after QNB announced plans to lift its foreign ownership ceiling to 49pc from 25pc.

Dubai's index was down 1.3pc, partially due to a 1.5pc drop in Emirates NBD.

The Emirate's largest listed developer Emaar Properties fell 1.5pc. Dubai's property stocks

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.4 pc	8,543 pts
DUBAI	▼ 1.3 pc	2,496 pts
QATAR	▼ 1.3 pc	10,302 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.7 pc	5,047 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.1 pc	14,785 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.3 pc	5,457 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.4 pc	4,142 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.8 pc	1,399 pts

have been struggling and show no signs of recovery.

“The UAE (United Arab Emirates) has managed a soft landing, with a less pronounced cycle than in 2008. We expect non-oil real GDP growth to have bottomed as the fiscal drag eases and infrastructure activity picks up. We expect overall UAE real GDP growth to pick up but the real estate sector remains a drag,” BoFA Merrill Lynch said in a note.

Dubai Investments slumped 6pc to a six-year low. The stock has been sliding since the firm said it had bought the 66pc in Globalpharma it did not already own. On Monday, the firm said

the value of the deal was confidential and its disclosure was subject to GlobalPharma's consent.

Saudi Arabia's stock market lost 0.4pc, with Al Rajhi Bank shedding 0.8pc and Saudi Basic Industries down 0.7pc.

In first week of February, foreigners bought 920.7 million riyals (\$245.51 million) of Saudi stocks on a net basis, according to stock exchange data.

Al Yamamah Steel Industries Company was down 4.1pc after it posted a first-quarter net loss of 30.2 million riyals compared with a profit of 6.7 million riyals a year ago.

The Abu Dhabi index slid 0.7pc, with the country's largest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank shedding 0.9pc.

Waha Capital declined 8pc to a five-year low. It dived 10pc on Thursday after reporting a plunge in its full-year net profit and slashing its dividend by half.

Egypt's blue-chip index edged up 0.1pc with the country's biggest lender Commercial International Bank gaining 1.7pc.

## SHOW

## OASIS JUFFAIR

**1-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW**

LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.45 + 3.15 + 5.45 + 8.15 + 10.45 PM

**2-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW**

CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT  
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 PM

**3-THE PRODIGY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**

TAYLOR SCHILLING, JACKSON ROBERT SCOTT, PETER MOONEY  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

**4-AMAVAS (15+) (HINDI/HORROR/ROMANTIC/THRILLER) NEW**

NARGIS FAKHRI, SACHIN JOSHI, MONA SINGH, VIVAN BHATENA  
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 11.30 PM

**5-THE DEBT COLLECTOR (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW**

SCOTT ADKINS, LOUIS MANDYLOR, VLADIMIR KULICH  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

**6-KUMBALANGI NIGHT (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH 7.30 PM ONWARDS: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

**7-NJHAN PRAKASHAN (PG) (MALAYALAM)**

FAHADH FAASIL, NIKHILA VIMAL  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

**8-YATRA (PG-13) (TELUGU/MALAYALAM) NEW**

MAMMOOTTY, MAHESH ACHANTA, RAJSEKHAR ANING  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS:  
DAILY AT (TELUGU): 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS:  
DAILY AT (MALAYALAM): 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM

**9-9 (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN, PRAKASH RAJ, MAMTA MOHANDAS  
DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

**10-DHILLUKU DHUDDU 2 (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW**

SANTHANAM, DEEPTI, SHRITHA SIVADAS  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.45 PM

**11-SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI  
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 11.45 PM

**12-MANIKARNIKA: THE QUEEN OF JHANSI (PG-15) (DRAMA/ACTION/BIOGRAPHY)**

KANGANA RANAUT, DANNY DENZONGPA, SURESH OBEROI  
DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM

**13-URI: THE SURGICAL STRIKE (15+) (HINDI/ACTION/DRAMA)**

VICKY KAUSHAL, KIRTI KULHARI, PARESH RAWAL  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 PM

## CITYCENTRE

**1-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW**

LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN  
DAILY AT: 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 + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT (VIP I): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM

**2-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW**

CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM  
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 PM  
DAILY AT (3D): 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

**3-THE PRODIGY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**

TAYLOR SCHILLING, JACKSON ROBERT SCOTT, PETER MOONEY  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

**4-THE DEBT COLLECTOR (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW**

SCOTT ADKINS, LOUIS MANDYLOR, VLADIMIR KULICH  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

**5-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)**

JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON  
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.45 + 5.15 + 7.45 + 10.15 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 9.15 + 11.45 PM

**6-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)**

KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN  
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

**7-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**

KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI  
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

**8-AQUAMAN (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

**9-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER  
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

**10-REPLICAS (PG-15) (SCI-FICTION/THRILLER)**

KEANU REEVES, ALICE EVE, THOMAS MIDDLEDITCH  
DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM

**11-DESTROYER (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA)**

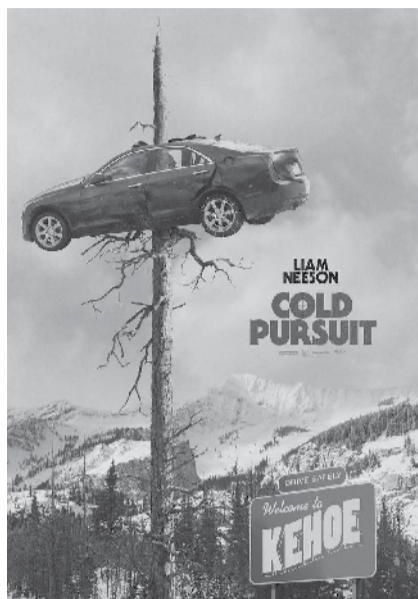
NICOLE KIDMAN, SEBASTIAN STAN, LUKE PASQUALINO  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM

**12-JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

**13-RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)**

JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVERMAN, GAL GADOT  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

**14-THE MULE (PG-15) (CRIME/DRAMA/THRILLER)**

CLINT EASTWOOD, BRADLEY COOPER, TAISSA FARMIGA  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 PM + 12.00 MN

**15-SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI  
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM

## SEEF (II)

**1-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW**

CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM  
DAILY AT (3D): 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

**2-THE PRODIGY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**

TAYLOR SCHILLING, JACKSON ROBERT SCOTT, PETER MOONEY  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

**3-THE DEBT COLLECTOR (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW**

SCOTT ADKINS, LOUIS MANDYLOR, VLADIMIR KULICH  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

**4-VS. (15+) (DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW**

CONNOR SWINDELLES  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

**5-AT ETERNITY'S GATE (PG-13) (DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW**

WILLEM DAFOE, RUPERT FRIEND, OSCAR ISAAC  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

**6-AMAVAS (15+) (HINDI/HORROR/ROMANTIC/****THRILLER) NEW**

NARGIS FAKHRI, SACHIN JOSHI, MONA SINGH, VIVAN BHATENA  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM

**7-KUMBALANGI NIGHT ( ) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH: (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

**8-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)**

JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

**9-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)**

KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN  
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM

**10-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**

KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

**11-AQUAMAN (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN  
DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.30 PM

**12-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

**13-MANIKARNIKA: THE QUEEN OF JHANSI (PG-15) (DRAMA/ACTION/BIOGRAPHY)**

KANGANA RANAUT, DANNY DENZONGPA, SURESH OBEROI  
DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.45 PM

## SEEF (I)

**1-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW**

LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 12.00 + 1.30 + 2.30 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 6.30 + 7.30 + 9.00 + 10.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

**2-YATRA (PG-13) (TELUGU) NEW**

MAMMOOTTY, MAHESH ACHANTA, RAJSEKHAR ANING  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS:  
DAILY AT (TELUGU): 11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.30 PM  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS:  
DAILY AT (MALAYALAM): 2.00 + 7.00 PM + 12.00 MN

**3-KUMBALANGI NIGHT (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH 7.30 PM ONWARDS: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

**4-9 (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN, PRAKASH RAJ, MAMTA MOHANDAS  
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

**5-DHILLUKU DHUDDU 2 (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW**

SANTHANAM, DEEPTI, SHRITHA SIVADAS  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM

**6-NJHAN PRAKASHAN (PG) (MALAYALAM)**

FAHADH FAASIL, NIKHILA VIMAL  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

## SAAR

**1-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW**

LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 PM + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

**2-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW**

CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

**3-THE PRODIGY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**

TAYLOR SCHILLING, JACKSON ROBERT SCOTT, PETER MOONEY  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

**4-THE DEBT COLLECTOR (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW**

SCOTT ADKINS, LOUIS MANDYLOR, VLADIMIR KULICH  
DAILY AT: 9.15 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

**5-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER  
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 PM

## AL HAMRA

**1-KUMBALANGI NIGHT (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR  
FROM THURSDAY 07TH 7.30 PM ONWARDS: 3.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

**2-NJHAN PRAKASHAN (PG) (MALAYALAM)**

FAHADH FAASIL, NIKHILA VIMAL  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 PM

## WADI AL SAIL

**1-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW**

LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN  
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 9.15 + 9.30 + 11.30 + 11.45 PM + 12.00 MN

**2-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW**

CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 PM  
DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 PM

**3-THE PRODIGY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**

TAYLOR SCHILLING, JACKSON ROBERT SCOTT, PETER MOONEY  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

**4-THE DEBT COLLECTOR (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW**

SCOTT ADKINS, LOUIS MANDYLOR, VLADIMIR KULICH  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

**5-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)**

KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM

**6-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**

KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI  
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM

## Movie Review

**'Alita: Battle Angel': a muddled cyberpunk origin story**

The main character, even though the film is live-action, is done with CG animation and was shot in 3-D, using the stereo imaging system that James Cameron had been developing for his documentaries

## Scenes from 'Alita: Battle Angel'

**A**lita: Battle Angel' is a 2019 American cyberpunk action film based on Yukito Kishiro's manga series Gunm, also known as Battle Angel Alita.

It was directed by Robert Rodriguez, written by James Cameron and Laeta Kalogridis, and produced by Cameron and Jon Landau.

Rosa Salazar stars as Alita, a cyborg, with supporting roles portrayed by Christoph Waltz, Jennifer Connelly, Mahershala Ali, Ed Skrein, Jackie Earle Haley and Keanu Reeves.

Set several centuries in the future, the abandoned Alita is found in the scrapyard of Iron City by Ido, a compassionate cyber-doctor who takes the uncon-

scious cyborg Alita to his clinic. When Alita awakens, she has no memory of who she is, nor does she have any recognition of the world she finds herself in. As Alita learns to navigate her new life and the treacherous streets of Iron City, Ido tries to shield her from her mysterious past.

Several weeks prior to its release, TheWrap reported that

independent trackers were projecting the film to have a debut weekend gross of less than \$25 million in the United States. While estimates were slightly higher than when it held its original December 2018 date, TheWrap wrote that, given its production budget between \$150–200 million, the film would require strong overseas

results in order to break-even and avoid becoming a box-office bomb.

On the weekend ending February 10, 2019, the film grossed \$32 million from eleven international markets, including ten Asian countries along with the United Kingdom. The film opened at number-two in South Korea with \$10.9 million, num-

ber-one in Taiwan with \$4.2 million (where it was Fox's fourth biggest opening ever), grossed \$4.2 million in the United Kingdom (with a 42% 3D share), and \$2.9 million in Malaysia (where it was Fox's second biggest opening ever). The film outpaced The Maze Runner (2014) and Ready Player One (2018) in these markets by 23% and 5%, respectively.



Kacey Musgraves

Cardi B

Lady Gaga

Brandi Carlile

## Women shine at Grammy Awards 2019

### Los Angeles

**K**acey Musgraves, Dua Lipa, Cardi B and Lady Gaga were among the big winners at the Grammy Awards, making it a good night for female stars.

Country star Musgraves picked up four awards, including album of the year, while Childish Gambino also won four.

Cardi B made history as the first solo female to win best rap album.

British pop star Dua Lipa was named best new artist and paid tribute to the "incredible" line-up of "so many female artists" in the category.

This year's ceremony certainly appeared to be at pains to make amends, with lifetime achievement prizes for Dolly Parton and Diana Ross, and scores of female performers throughout the night.

It was the first year in Grammys history that women had won



Michelle Obama, Alicia Keys, Jada Pinkett Smith, Lady Gaga and Jennifer Lopez at the Grammys.

five of the top album awards - album of the year, best pop album (Ariana Grande), best country album (Musgraves), best R&B album (H.E.R.) and best rap album (Cardi B).

Grande won her first ever Grammy Award for Sweetener, but wasn't there to collect it after a dispute with organisers.

According to Variety, the Thank U, Next singer also ex-

pressed her disdain in a series of since-deleted tweets at the fact Mac Miller, who was nominated posthumously for best rap album, lost out to Cardi B.

Accompanied on stage by her husband Offset, Cardi thanked her daughter Kulture Kiari for giving her the impetus to finish the record on time.

Lady Gaga won three prizes, including best pop performance

for Joanne and best pop duet for Shallow, from the Oscar-nominated film A Star Is Born.

Holding back tears, the star thanked Bradley Cooper, her co-star and director, who missed the Grammys to attend The Baftas in London.

She also used her speech to highlight the film's mental health message, telling the audience: "If you see someone that's hurting,

don't look away."

And Emily Lazar, who worked on Beck's Colors album, became the first woman in Grammys history to win best engineered album.

But while the Grammys has made strides with female artists, it still needs to repair its image in the hip-hop community.

At one point, host Alicia Keys awkwardly had to fill time when no-one came forward to accept the song of the year award on his behalf.

Former first lady Michelle Obama also made a surprise appearance, giving a speech about the unifying power of music alongside Lady Gaga, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Jennifer Lopez and Alicia Keys.



Dua Lipa at the 61st Annual Grammy Awards, 2019.

### Melissa Benoist, Chris Wood engaged

#### Los Angeles



Melissa and Chris

**A**ctress Melissa Benoist has got engaged to her "Supergirl" co-actor Chris Wood. The duo took to Instagram on Sunday to announce the news of their engagement, reports eonline.com.

"Yes yes yes it will always be yes," Benoist captioned a photograph of Wood kissing her on the cheek, with her engagement ring on full display.

Wood shared the same photograph and wrote: "The happiest."

### Khloe Kardashian reveals how she teaches true self-confidence

#### Los Angeles

**A**merican reality star Khloe Kardashian has the perfect mantra to raise children right. Khloe recently opened up about practicing positive affirmations with her 10-month-old daughter True every day, reported People.

In an interview with The Daily Telegraph's Stellar magazine cited by People, the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star reflected upon how every day she and True, say "positive affirmations" together.

"I never, ever considered myself chubby or overweight. I didn't know that I was until I went on TV, and everyone told me that I was 'fat.' I never felt that way, because my family never allowed me to," Khloe explained during the interview.

"As silly as it sounds, I do positive affirmations with her in the morning," the 34-year-old said, adding that even though "it's so corny," they "sit in front of the mirror" and say, "I am beautiful."

The proud mother went on to share, "It's my job to make her feel, no matter what she looks like, that she is strong and confident and beautiful, and it's OK to embrace all different shapes, sizes, and ethnicities. My whole family is a melting pot of race and skin tone and hair colour and height - everything.



Khloe Kardashian

### Will Smith's 'Genie' avatar unveiled

#### Los Angeles

**A**ctor Will Smith's 'blue' avatar as Genie in Disney's "Aladdin" remake was unveiled during the Grammy Awards. The Genie, Jasmine and Aladdin appear in the latest trailer for the film, giving fans a first look at Smith's character, according to hollywoodreporter.com.

The new take on its animated classic unveiled a trailer on Sunday night. It also featured looks at Jasmine and more scenes featuring Aladdin and Agrabah. Jafar can even be seen leading Aladdin to the Cave of the Wonders.

"Aladdin" hits theatres on May 24.

### Drake cut off during acceptance speech at Grammys

#### Los Angeles

**R**apper Drake made a surprise appearance at the 61st annual Grammy Awards here, but was cut off during his acceptance speech. Drake picked up his trophy for best rap song for "God's plan".

But he was cut off during his speech right after a pause and saying "But", leading viewers to speculate whether show producers deliberately did it -- amid some mild shade he was throwing at the very idea of awards shows -- or whether they just figured he'd wrapped up, reports variety.com.

### Jimmy Carter wins Grammy for spoken word album

#### Los Angeles

**J**immy Carter, the 39th US President, has won his second Grammy for Spoken Word Album for his biography "Faith - A Journey For All". This personal reflection by the 94-year-old, considers how faith has sustained him throughout good times and bad.

He won his first in 2016 for "A Full Life: Reflections at 90", reports variety.com.

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# Ronaldo keeps scoring as Juve soar 11 points clear

Cristiano Ronaldo showed off a new celebration after he scored for Juventus against Sassuolo

● **Ronaldo continues remarkable scoring record with 20th goal for the Turin club**

AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo headed in his 18th league goal this season as Juventus bounced back from last week's stalemate to soar to an 11-point lead in Serie A on Sunday with a 3-0 win at Sassuolo.

Ronaldo proved decisive, scoring after 70 minutes as Sami Khedira found the net first in Modena with fellow German Emre Can slotting in the third four minutes from time.

The Serie A champions had been held by Parma last week despite the Portuguese forward's double.

Now they have left second-placed Napoli trailing after Carlo Ancelotti's side were held to a goalless draw at Fiorentina on Saturday.

Paulo Dybala again started on the bench coming on late for the champions, to help set up the third goal, with coach Massimiliano Allegri saying he needed to find the right balance.

"Ronaldo and Dybala can certainly play together and they will do, but we need everyone to work hard in order to keep the team balanced," said Allegri.

"It all depends on who you are playing against. Sassuolo have a strong midfield, so I had to balance my team that way today.



Cristiano Ronaldo of Juventus scores his side's second goal

"Players are disappointed, but every now and then sitting on the bench is necessary to recharge batteries and rediscover the right mental toughness."

Juventus had started slowly with goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saving twice in the opening minutes as the champions were without injured defenders Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini.

The pair are fighting to be fit for Juventus's European Champions League last 16 trip to Atletico Madrid in 10 days' time.

Juventus broke through after Sassuolo goalkeeper Andrea Consigli rushed out to parry a Ronaldo shot leaving the way clear for Khedira to turn in the rebound after 23 minutes.

It was the German international's second league goal of his injury-hit campaign, after scoring the opening goal of the Serie A season against Chievo on August 18.

Consigli denied Federico Bernardeschi just before the break with a Khedira header flying wide.

But Portuguese star Ronaldo jumped highest after 70 minutes to meet Pjanic's corner for his fourth goal in his last three league games to bring his tally to 20 goals for Juventus in all competitions.

The 34-year-old celebrated by mimicking Dybala's 'mask' goal celebration.

Argentine Dybala came off the bench seven minutes from

time along with Can and was involved in the buildup for the final goal with Ronaldo proving the assist.

**Champions League battle tight**

Inter Milan are third -- 20 points behind Juventus -- after beating Parma 1-0 on Saturday, for their first league win of 2019.

But city rivals AC Milan are just four points behind Inter in fourth after beat struggling Cagliari 3-0, with new signings Lucas Paqueta and Krzysztof Piatek both scoring.

Cagliari defender Luca Ceperelli gave the hosts their first with an unfortunate own goal after 12 minutes.

Brazilian Paqueta volleyed in the second after 22 minutes

with Polish forward Piatek again finding the net after 62 for his fourth goal in all competitions.

Paqueta dedicated his first goal in Italy to the ten victims of the fire that ripped through buildings at Rio club Flamengo, where he started his career.

"It was a very difficult time for me," said the 21-year-old.

"I am living a dream playing for Milan and scoring my first Serie A goal, but it was also a dream for me to be in the Flamengo youth academy and I can't forget those who were experiencing the same thing."

The battle for elite European football remains tight with Atalanta, Roma and Lazio all just a point behind AC Milan.

The side from Bergamo battled to a 2-1 win over SPAL, with Roma beating Chievo 3-0 and Lazio seeing off Empoli 1-0 during the week.

"I've liked the team for a while now," said coach Gennaro Gattuso.

"Milan haven't fought for many years for a place in the Champions League, now we are here we need to work to stay."



**Ronaldo and Dybala can certainly play together and they will do, but we need everyone to work hard in order to keep the team balanced**

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI

**Michelin Supports Supercars Arabia Club**

TDT | Manama

Michelin tyres, exclusively distributed by Ebrahim K. Kanoo in the Kingdom of Bahrain, recently participated in the Supercars Arabia Club exclusive track day event at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

The exclusive 'invitation only' event saw some of the region's most unique supercars gather for a fun day of racing on the world-renowned race track with professional drivers and safety staff.

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Tyre Division and TYREPLUS Senior Manager, Ahmed Saeed said: "Michelin is a proud partner of the Supercars Arabia Club, which gives us the opportunity to showcase Michelin's diverse range of racing tyres exclusively made for supercars. Michelin tyres are renowned for their quality and durability which makes them the best solution for professional racing."

**BTC participates in Bahrain Sports Day**

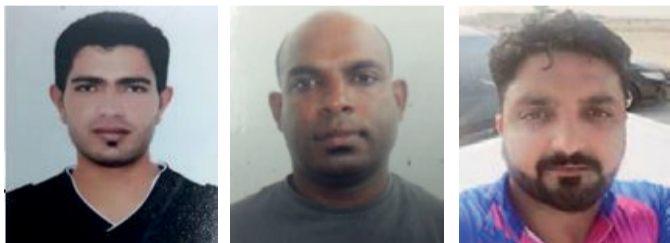
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) has announced its participation in Bahrain Sports Day with many events and activities.

BTC President Khamis Al Muqla and BTC Board of Directors expressed their happiness with this remarkable initiative.

The event will start with wheelchair tennis, at Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities in cooperation with Bahrain Tennis Federation where participants will be trained to play in an exciting atmosphere.

## Black Feather edge GT Abdulaal



Aurangazeb - PS RED

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DT | Manama

Black Feather beat GT Abdulaal by 20 runs in a CBA Division D 25 overs League match.

Abdulaal won the toss and elected to bowl first. Black Feathers opener Jaran (57) scored a brilliant half century that helped his team to score 178 runs at the end of 25 overs, while Sameer took four wickets for Abdulaal. Chasing the target Preet (four wkts) and Sayed's (three wkts) overs helped Feather to restrict the opponent for 158 runs and win the match by 20 runs. Sameer (75) is top scorer for Abdulaal.

Brief Score: Black Feather 178/9 in 25 overs (Jaran 57, Faeh 27, Sameer 4/31) beat GT Abdulaal 158/10 (Sameer 75, Preet 4/37, Sayed 3/22) by 20 runs

**Other match Results**

Fateh Curtain 149/5 in 18

overs (Noman 54, Zahid 45, Jamshi 2/18) beat Santy Excavation 148/10 (Noman 42, Karamat 2/27) by 5 wickets

Matrix 188/8 in 25 overs (Danushke 76, hafeer 26, Shamsheer 3/20) beat Bahrain Hawks 152/8 (Satyender 48, Shyuju 3/18, Vijeesh 3/25) by 36 runs.

Suha Travels 177/4 in 25 overs (Haider 57, Adnan 30, Anandu 2/20) beat RUCT 163/7 (Bineesh 36, Sreekumar 30) by 14 runs

Karnataka Strikers 153/9 in 25 overs (Dharma 34, Ullas 32, Malik 3/27) beat Pak Panthers 125/10 (Wali 44, Rajeeesh 4/14, Darma 3/21) by 28 runs

Spartans 169/10 (Zeeshan 60, Shalom 4/30) beat Friends XI 156/9 (Shalam 56, Baber 3/13, Farhan 2/33) by 13 runs

Bulls 189/8 in 25 overs (Raheef 53, Chandrasekar 39, Sameer 3/28) beat Lantern Lions 123/7 (Sameer 38, Binoy 3/18) by 66 runs.

## Bahrain ready for Sports Day

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is all set to embrace another major sporting event as the 2019 Bahrain Sports Day kicks off in different parts of Bahrain today.

Organisations representing government and non-government parties, including ministries, agencies, institutions, banks, financial institutions and companies, will engage in a packed sports programme, prepared by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), the event organisers.

Commencing at 3pm, the



**Eight embassies are joining the event today - the UAE, Philippines, Lebanon, UK, American, Brunei and Egypt, by offering a set of their respective programmes for the public**



Children participate in the colour run (file photo)

festivities will take place in purpose-built sports village in each of the country's four governorates, with the main village being located at Isa Sports City, near the National Stadium in Riffa.

The first of the activities lined up today will be a cycling race, to be followed by a colour run at 4.15pm. The sports village, which promises to attract all members of the family, features hosting entertaining and music shows, a special studio for Bahrain Television, in addition to a dedicated area to host different sporting competitions.

They include table tennis, horse riding, traditional inherited sports, sports for people with disabilities, 3x3 basketball, Spartan, physical fitness, cross fit, mixed martial arts and American football, besides a corner for productive families, an inquiries reception and paramedics services.

The sports village also includes other sets of programmes like free medical consultations, sports shows, discounts on a number of products for the visitors, sports competitions and many other entertaining activities for children, in addition to valuable prizes and large raffle

draws for the public.

Furthermore, BOC has prepared additional programme for its staff today - in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports - prior to the start of the activities at Manama Club in Juffair.

Meanwhile, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general, BOC secretary general and 209 Bahrain Sports Day Organising Committee chairman Abdulrahman Askar the sports day reflects the value of sport and health, and called to raise awareness in our societies to preserve the future of our generations.

## Azpilicueta says sorry to Chelsea fans after Man City drubbing

AFP | London

Cesar Azpilicueta has apologised to Chelsea fans after their humiliating 6-0 defeat by Manchester City, describing it as one of the lowest points in his professional career.

Maurizio Sarri's team crashed to their heaviest loss since 1991 as the Premier League champions ran riot at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

The heavy defeat saw Chelsea slip below Arsenal to sixth in the table on goals scored and raised further questions over the future of Sarri.

"It's difficult to find the words to describe my feeling after the game," defender Azpilicueta, who was given a torrid time by two-goal City winger Raheem Sterling, told the club's website.

"It is one of the worst nights in my career. It's very frustrating, it's very disappointing."

"When you lose 6-0 everyone has to accept they didn't play well. The only thing I can say to the fans is 'sorry', because it's not acceptable, and I feel sorry for all of them."

It was Chelsea's third defeat in four Premier League games, coming after a 2-0 loss at Arsenal and a 4-0 thrashing by Bournemouth. The only relief during that period was a 5-0 victory over bottom side Huddersfield.

## Barcelona give fresh hope to La Liga rivals after Athletic Bilbao stalemate

### Barca was saved by Ter Stegen as Suarez struggled

AFP | Bilbao, Spain

Lionel Messi was short of fitness and Barcelona lacked spark as a goalless draw away to Athletic Bilbao on Sunday offered fresh hope to their rivals in the title race.

A thigh injury had limited Messi to 27 minutes against Real Madrid on Wednesday and while he played the full match at San Mames, Barca's assistant coach Jon Aspiazu had admitted before kick-off he was not yet 100 per cent.

In all likelihood, he stayed on because his team needed him but Messi was not at his best and neither were Barcelona, who would even have lost had it not been for Marc Andre ter Stegen's stunning late save to deny Inaki Williams.

"He saved us," coach Ernesto Valverde said. "It was a great stop."

The draw makes it three games without a win for La Liga's leaders, whose advantage is still six points but now with Real Madrid their closest challengers, after they beat Atletico on Saturday.

"We were first last week and

we are still first, and if my maths is right, we will be again next week," Valverde said.

But Real's victory at the Wanda Metropolitano was their fifth on the bounce and just as they have gained momentum, Barca appear to be losing theirs, at a crucial juncture, with more stern tests to come.

After Real Valladolid at home next weekend, Valverde's side travel to Lyon in the Champions League and Sevilla in the league. They then face two Clasicos in four days, one in the Copa del Rey, and both at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"We are playing a lot of games at the moment and that shows," Luis Suarez said. "We also lacked communication today -- it is the little details that make a difference."

Injuries have not helped either. Messi was picked but not fully recovered while Ousmane Dembele was fit enough only for the bench, having shaken off an ankle injury.



The draw makes it three games without a win for La Liga's leaders, whose advantage is still six points but now with Real Madrid their closest challengers, after they beat Atletico

# Barca held at Bilbao



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (R) vies with Athletic Bilbao's Spanish defender Inigo Martinez

### Coutinho struggling

The struggling Philippe Coutinho retained his place alongside Suarez and Messi up front but Arturo Vidal came in for the injured Arthur Melo and Nelson Semedo started at left back, with Jordi Alba suspended.

Bilbao had the better of the early stages as Yuri Berchiche flashed just wide after a poor pass from Vidal while Markel Susaeta's drive forced the leaping Ter Stegen into an acrobatic save.

Barcelona settled into the game but were never in con-

rol. Still, they twice should have scored, with Messi and Suarez both guilty of missing.

First, Suarez peeled free at the back post but glanced wide from Messi's cross and then Messi hit the crossbar, the goal gaping after Iago Herrerin had rushed out to intercept Nelson Semedo.

The game was frantic and Bilbao were more than holding their own. Raul Garcia's finish was blocked and Mikel San Jose's effort whistled inches outside of the post.

In between, Barca had enjoyed their best spell at the start of the second half but the gaps

always seemed to close around the penalty area and they struggled to find a way through.

Dembele replaced Coutinho with just over 10 minutes left but Bilbao had the best chance to win it. Iker Muniain squared for Williams, who looked certain to score after wriggling free of Gerard Pique. Instead, Ter Stegen shot out his right hand, somehow denying the striker from eight yards.

De Marcos received a second yellow card in injury-time for a handball but there was no time for Barce to feel the benefit. Bilbao held on.

## Martial can reach Ronaldo's level, says Man Utd boss Solskjaer

AFP | London

Anthony Martial has the talent to reach Cristiano Ronaldo's level if he puts his mind to it, according to Manchester United caretaker boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Martial had looked set to leave the club in the summer after falling out with Jose Mourinho but battled his way back into the Portuguese manager's plans.

Last month, with Solskjaer now at the helm at Old Trafford, he signed a deal keeping him at the club until at least 2024.

The France international marked his first start since that contract with an assist and a superb second in the 3-0 win against Fulham, where his fine solo goal led ex-United captain Gary Neville to compare it to a Ronaldo effort at Craven Cottage in 2007.

"He does have similarities, of course," said Solskjaer, who replaced the sacked Mourinho in December. "If he wants to be at Cristiano's level, Anthony knows what he has to do. It's up to him. He has the talent."

"I am glad he is in my team," the Norwegian added. "He has contributed to so many chances, so many goals. He is a Manchester United player. He excites the crowd. He excites the manager. He excites his teammates. And he is a great

character around the place."

Martial, 23, who became the most expensive teenager in history when he moved to United from Monaco in 2015 for an initial £36 million (\$46 million), has scored 47 goals for the club.

Ronaldo scored 118 goals in 292 appearances for United, winning the Premier League three times and the Champions League.

United play Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday, bolstered by Neymar's injury, but Solskjaer said the absence of the Brazilian would be a loss.

"When you play against the best teams, you want to play against the players," he said. "The crowd want to see the best players. Too bad for Old Trafford."

"I have played a couple of games when we played Real Madrid and (Brazil's) Ronaldo and (Luis) Figo and all those were coming to Old Trafford. That gives it an extra edge."

"Unfortunately for Neymar he is injured but of course he is a quality player. I think our right-back thinks it is not too bad he will not be here."



Anthony Martial

## Solskjaer says perfect time for confident United to play PSG

AFP | Manchester

Manchester United's return to Champions League action against Paris Saint-Germain today has come at the perfect time, according to caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after a run of 10 wins and one draw since the Norwegian took charge.

When the two sides were paired together in December's draw, PSG were strong favourites to make the last eight, with United mired in the final days of Jose Mourinho's troublesome tenure.

However, the mood around Old Trafford is transformed two months on as Solskjaer has overturned an 11-point deficit to break into the top four of the Premier League and beaten Arsenal away to reach the fifth round of the FA Cup.

"We've given ourselves the best possible opportunity with the way we've gone into this game because we are confident," said Solskjaer yesterday.

"I've found out what kind of team we have. We are playing like a team, we are agreeing on how we should approach games. If there was ever a time to go into big games like this it is now."

It may also be the perfect time to run into an injury-ravaged PSG, with the world's most expensive player Neymar, Edinson Cavani and Thomas Meuni-



Manchester United's Paul Pogba (C) vies with Fulham's Calum Chambers (R) and Jean Michael Seri (L) (file photo)

**"I've found out what kind of team we have. We are playing like a team, we are agreeing on how we should approach games. If there was ever a time to go into big games like this it is now"**

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER

er all sidelined by injury. "Of course any team that are missing players like Neymar, Cavani and Meunier will feel the effect," added Solskjaer, who is still wary of the pace of

Kylian Mbappe.

"It makes them maybe more unpredictable for us who they are going to play."

"When you see that front three over the whole season you know what to expect. We are guessing a little bit how they will approach this game."

Should United emerge victorious over the two legs it will be the first time in five years the three-time European champions have reached the quarter-finals.

And Solskjaer admitted it has been too long since a memorable Champions League night at Old Trafford.

"Yes, it has been (too long), said Solskjaer. "It's both the players and supporters who have been looking forward to some of these nights because they are special."