

**Katy Perry's fashion line under fire**

Singer Katy Perry was slammed on social media for designing shoes which resembled 'blackface' imagery. The shoes in question were black 'Rue Face Slip On Loafers' and 'Ora Face Block Heel Sandals', reports hollywoodreporter.com. **P14**

# THE DAILY tribune

George Clooney says Meghan being harassed just like Diana **14** CELEBS

WORLD **6** Hundreds flee from IS holdout



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**Saudi backs Palestinian Statehood**  
Jeddah

King Salman told the Palestinian president yesterday that Saudi Arabia stands by the Palestinian people in establishing their own state with Jerusalem as the capital.

During talks with Mahmoud Abbas in Riyadh, King Salman reaffirmed his support for Palestinian rights, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

Abbas thanked King Salman for Saudi Arabia's constant support for the Palestinian cause.

During the meeting, they also discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

**Top Pentagon official in Iraq**  
Baghdad

Acting US Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan arrived in Baghdad yesterday for an unannounced visit during which he said he would stress the importance of Iraqi sovereignty and broach the issue of the future of US troops there.

President Donald Trump said this month that a US presence was needed to observe Iran, which would overstep the US-led coalition's stated mission in Iraq and Syria of defeating Islamic State.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received at Al Safriya Palace, the director-general of the Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities Dmitry Rogozin, currently on visit to the Kingdom. HM the King hailed solid historic friendship binding the two friendly countries, stressing Bahrain's keenness on expanding cooperation with the Russian Federation, particularly in the field of peaceful space researches, and benefiting from the Russian space strides towards achieving shared interests. HM the King hailed the achievements of Bahrain's National Space Science Agency (NSSA), as well as efforts to develop national competencies towards consolidating the Kingdom's standing the field of space sciences.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa hailed deep-rooted historic relations and long-standing partnership between the Kingdom and the United States of America. He hailed strong decades-long bilateral ties, which are based on mutual trust, respect and joint coordination. This came as he received at Al Sakhir Palace, in the presence of the BDF Commander-in-Chief Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, Commander of the US Central Command (USCENTCOM) General Joseph Votel.

# Mass arrest in Turkey

Govt detains more than 700 over alleged links to coup bid

Forty-five of those arrested were in the capital Ankara, a judicial source, said.

Ankara

Turkish authorities detained 729 people in nationwide raids yesterday over alleged links to a group blamed for a failed coup in 2016, the Ankara public prosecutor's office said.

Officials had sent to authorities in 75 provinces the names of 1,112 people under investigation over suspected ties to US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen and his movement, it said.



Soldiers involved in the 2016 coup surrender on a bridge over the Bosphorus.

Gulen is accused of ordering the attempted putsch, a claim he strongly denies.

Forty-five of those arrested were in the capital Ankara, a judicial source, who did not wish to be named, told AFP.

"We do not know whether the provincial authorities detained or summoned all of the individuals whose names were given," the source added.

The Ankara public prosecutor's office, which leads the

**1,112** people are under investigation over suspected ties to US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen and his movement in Turkey.

it describes as the Gulen group's "virus"-like infiltration of key institutions, including the police.

Members of the movement are accused of cheating on entry exams to gain access to important public bodies.

Turkish Interior Minister Sulayman Soylu said Sunday that authorities "were planning a big operation" against the movement.

"Devils wouldn't even conduct the tricks that they did," Soylu said, adding that Turkey would "finish them off in this country."

There have been regular raids across Turkey in recent weeks against alleged members of the movement, despite criticism from human rights defenders and Ankara's Western allies over the scale of the crackdown.

coup investigation, said 130 people on the list of suspects were deputy police chiefs still on active duty.

They are suspected of having obtained questions before sitting the 2010 exam to become inspectors, it added in a statement.

Turkish officials defend the crackdown by pointing to what

CHANGING CLASSROOMS

## Unconventional schools defy educational protocols

Dubai

Unconventional schooling models including classrooms with no teachers or walls are defying the conventions of education, the World Government Summit was told yesterday.

A Bali school founded by Canadian entrepreneurs John and Cynthia Hardy are conducting lessons in classrooms made entirely of bamboo, utilising the impact of nature and environment in the

students' education.

"Green School is like no other. It has no walls, and the children are happy. This provides an incredible environment for growth," John Hardy said, adding how "giving children freedom from boundaries teaches them to solve problems and think critically in ways we had never imagined possible."

Another school with an unconventional model is Ecole 42 in Paris, where



Students at the Green School in Bali.

students work in "a building with no supervision."

"Learning by rote is dangerous and makes you stupid. Information is freely available on the internet. What we need in today's world is the ability to create new stuff out of this knowledge by working together," said founder Nicolas Sadirac who initially designed the program for poor children and school dropouts.

**02** AUB receives JP Morgan honour

**03** Kingdom marks Sports Day

**04** Bahraini widow's flat burgled



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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met with the Commander of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), General Joseph L. Votel, at Gudaibiya Palace. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince outlined the strength of relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America, which continue to grow across various fields, particularly in defence and military cooperation.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Simon Martin at Gudaibiya Palace. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the long-standing strategic ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom, and the importance of further advancing bilateral collaboration across various sectors.

# AUB receives JP Morgan honour

TDT | Manama

JP Morgan Chase has honoured Ahli United Bank with its Elite Quality Recognition Award 2018, citing the Bank's 'high-quality performance of clients' funds transfer operations. This is the 14th consecutive year AUB has won this award in its Elite class from this global financial institution.

Established in 1997, JP Morgan Quality Recognition Awards are conferred on select US dollar clearing institutions which meet stringent criteria for straight through processing (STP) of inter-



Mr Anwar receives the award from Mr Moosa in the presence of AUB and JP Morgan Chase senior executives.

national payment and settlement transactions. STP is the ability for a transaction to be completed fully electronically without manual intervention.

For 2018, less than one per cent of JP Morgan's funds transfer clients were able to meet the criteria for the standard Quality Recognition Award class and fewer still qualified for the more stringent Elite rank.

AUB has won the Elite award in both categories of transactions, having achieved most outstanding straight through processing (STP) rates of 99.75 per cent and 99.87pc for the MT103 and MT202 categories of transactions respectively.

At a special ceremony held at AUB's headquarters in Seef, officials of JP Morgan Chase Bank formally presented the award to senior managers of AUB.

In presenting the award, Ali Moosa, Managing Director and Senior Country Officer - Head of

CEEMEA Region, JP Morgan Chase, said: "This is truly a great accomplishment and we are

proud to recognise this consistent, distinctly best-in-class performance by AUB which has met

and exceeded our stringent criteria for accuracy and efficiency in handling international funds transfer transactions."

Accepting the award on behalf of AUB, Shafqat Anwar, Deputy Group CEO, Operations and Technology, said: "At AUB, we are committed to operating at the highest level of efficiency, diligence and reliability in service of our valued customers.

"It is gratifying to see that our everyday efforts to deliver on this commitment are successful and once again recognised by global partners such as JP Morgan Chase."

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# Expatriate commits suicide at workplace

● Mr Singh, who lives in Muharraq, left his two daughters aged 16 and 20, at home on the night of the incident.

TDT | Manama

An Indian national committed suicide yesterday at his work place in Malkiya. The deceased, identified as Ram Pratap Singh, 48, hailed from Uttar Pradesh state in India.

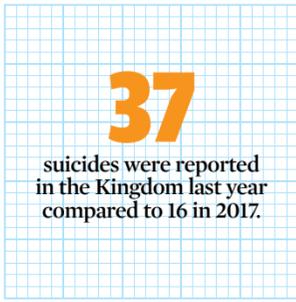
He is survived by his wife Anita Singh and three children. He was employed as a work supervisor at a private contracting company.

Mr Singh, who lives in Muharraq, left his two daughters aged 16 and 20, at home on the night of the incident.

When their father failed to return home at the usual time, the girls contacted his work-



Mr Singh



Rent bills paid by Mr Singh. Sources said Mr Singh was not facing any financial difficulties.

place resulting in a co-worker discovering the body.

His daughters Sakshi and Shreya Singh are students of the Indian School Bahrain.

The youngest son of the 48-year-old is currently undergoing treatment for cancer in India and is accompanied by his mother.

Sources confirmed Mr Singh committed suicide by hanging from the fan at his office.

They added that Mr Singh was not suffering from any financial liabilities or other problems as such.

“Mr Singh gave his daughters BD200 throwing his arms around them, before leaving home.”

Police instantly arrived at the scene and investigations are underway, sources added.

He is the sixth person to commit suicide in the Kingdom this year. There were 37 known suicides last year compared with 16 in 2017.

A few days ago, the body of



Mr Singh with wife Anita.

an Asian woman, 22, was found washed ashore on Bahrain Financial Harbour beach.

The deceased was later identified as Prabha Subramanian, and sources said she committed suicide by jumping off a bridge.

# Worker falls to death in Riffa

An Indian worker died yesterday after falling from a ladder at his workplace.

He was identified as Karunan, 55, who hailed from Kozhikode district in the Indian state of Kerala.

The incident happened when he was carrying out painting work at a house in Riffa, sources added.



Mr Karunan

# Kingdom marks Sports Day

Bahrain among the first countries to declare National Sports Day as an official holiday

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom yesterday celebrated its National Sports Day in a spectacular style with packed programmes across the nation's four governorates.

The celebrations aimed at promoting sports and health-enhancing physical activities and followed the directives of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, and supported by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman, and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee, led the country-wide initiative by holding sports activities at Manama Club Sports Hall, which boasts excellent facilities, including all-weather and grass playing fields.

The two-hour programme was run by academy's director Dr Nabeel Taha, Saeed Al Aradi and executive co-ordinator Mahmood Yateem and senior coaching and development specialist Ali Qamber, who prepared a set of outdoor and indoor exercises for the committee's staff.

Among the activities were badminton, basketball, walking race, balls throw, tennis and some mental and heritage contests, in addition to a dedicated section for measuring physical fitness

and fat levels, height and weight.

Marking the day, hundreds of adults and schoolchildren took part in over 20 sports and entertaining activities yesterday, including table tennis, martial arts, basketball, badminton, taekwondo, cycling, walking race and mind sports.

Bahrain has become one of the first countries to dedicate an official holiday for sports following the Royal Decree.

All ministries and government departments allocated half of the working hours yesterday for sports activities to mark the occasion.

The Education and Training Quality Authority organised a walkathon for their employees at Seef Mall with an aim to raise awareness on the importance of a nutritious, well-balanced diet and regular exercise to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Hundreds of staff at Bahrain's national carrier Gulf Air yesterday took part in a special event held at the airline's headquarters in Muharraq.

A number of activities were hosted including football, basketball, table tennis, cricket and darts among many other fun sports activities.

Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi inaugurated the walking track at the Saudi Bahraini Institute for the Blind that comes within the framework of developing the services provided to the students at the Institute.

The Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) as well organised for its employees a series of sports programmes and activities.

Among others, the Interior Ministry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and Capital Governorate held a raft of activities marking the occasion.



Many specially-abled individuals took part in the event held at National Stadium.



Various sporting activities were organised to mark the occasion.



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**K Hotel honoured**



The K Hotel was honoured for its contribution to the Awal International Theatre Festival 2019. Hussain Al Samahiji, general manager, received an award from Shaikha Hala bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa, Director General of the Culture and Arts Directorate at Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities. "We are delighted to do our part in promoting art and culture in the Kingdom," the general manager said in a press release issued by K Hotel.

**Car damaged by flying debris**

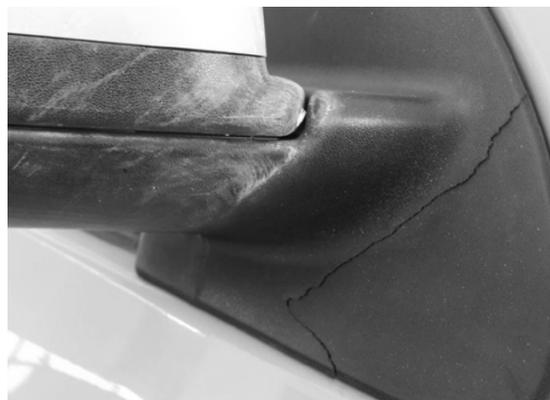
TDT | Manama

**A** moving car was damaged when a piece of construction plywood fell on it yesterday evening.

Maria, the Filipino woman who was driving the car, escaped unhurt.

The incident happened yesterday around 3pm following strong gusts in the Seef area. The plywood piece came flying from a vacant land adjacent to a construction site.

"There were lots of plywood and other construction materials in the vacant lot. One of these flew in the wind and fell on my car," Maria told Tribune.



The damaged dashboard of the car.

**Bahraini widow's flat burgled**

The woman was abroad for treatment when the burglary happened

**A probe has been launched by the police to identify the burglars.**

TDT | Manama

**A** widowed Bahraini woman was shocked to find all her belongings stolen from her apartment in Isa Town, after she returned from a 50-day trip abroad.

The woman said that the burglars made off with all electronic devices and home appliances from the apartment, which is located at one of the Government housing projects in Isa Town.

The widow, who lives alone with no children, said the robbers



Polythene bags and other materials strewn across the floor of the apartment.

also stole her late husband's passport. The burglary victim said she is now living in difficult financial

situations as she had spent all her money on treatment fees abroad. She added that she survives on

a social security allowance, which is given to her monthly by Labour and Social Development Ministry,

**”**

**Her clothes, kitchenware, three air-conditioners and a fridge were among the things stolen.**

SOURCES

in addition to donations from her neighbours.

The woman has filed a complaint at the nearest police station.

Her clothes, kitchenware, three air-conditioners and fridge were among the things stolen, sources said.

A probe has been launched by the police to identify the burglars.

**Relatives of suicide victim want autopsy to be done in India**



Priyanka Prince

TDT | Manama

**T**he relatives of the Indian nurse, who committed suicide two days ago in the Kingdom, have pleaded the authorities to permit a second autopsy on the body, to be carried out in India.

The deceased, 30-year-old Indian national Priyanka Prince, was the wife of Prince Ebrahim Varghese, who is employed by a private sector firm in the Kingdom. The couple has a son - Aaron Prince.

She was working with a leading hospital in the Kingdom, according to sources.

The funeral of Priyanka Prince was halted after Kerala Human Rights Commission ordered a police investigation into the death, it is learnt.

The investigation was ordered after Priyanka's mother Mariamma Ponnachen filed a complaint with the Kerala Human Rights Commission stating that her daughter died following "physical torture at husband's hands".

**Safety honour for Alba**

TDT | Manama

**A**lba has ascertained that safety is the number one driver of its success as it bagged three major international Safety Awards -- 2019 Safety Leadership Award, 2019 Occupational Excellence Achievement Award and 2019 Significant Improvement Award by the National Safety Council (NSC) - US, a statement issued by the company said.

The three NSC Awards recognise Alba in various areas of Safety -- Safety Leadership Award for achieving a 'perfect record' of Zero Fatalities over the last five consecutive

**”**



**Alba is truly proud of these high-level honours from the National Safety Council and I thank our employees.**

MR MURRAY

years, the Significant Improvement Award for a significant reduction in Lost Time Injury within 2018 and the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award for reducing the number of all injuries in 2018.

Commenting on this occasion, Alba's Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray said: "Safety of our employees is Alba's 'first priority'. Alba is truly proud of these high-level honours from the National Safety Council and I thank our employees and Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) team for their extreme ownership on Safety and for working tirelessly to cultivate a safe and productive work environment."

**Mushaira to pay tribute to Majrooh Sultanpuri**

TDT | Manama

**I**n tribute to great Urdu poet and versatile film lyricist Majrooh Sultanpuri, a Mushaira will be held at the Cultural Hall near National Museum on Friday.

The function will be organised by Majlise Fakhre Bahrain (a literary group) and will be attended by leading poets from India and Pakistan.

Sultanpuri was the first lyricist to be awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

He was also a recipient of the Iqbal Samman from the Madhya Pradesh government and the Sant Gyaneshwar



Majrooh Sultanpuri

Puraskar of the Maharashtra government.

**First batch of 100 brokers graduate with Practitioner Certificate in Real Estate**

TDT | Manama

**T**he Chief Executive of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa yesterday officiated at a graduation ceremony held for the first one hundred brokers and sales agents who completed the Practitioner Certificate in Real Estate as part of the RERA Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme.

Speaking at the graduation event, Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said: "Having

the first one hundred brokers and sales agents graduate as part of the RERA Continuous Professional Development programme is a significant step in building a more professional, effective and efficient real estate sector.

"One of the key objectives of RERA is to improve transparency, increase trust and provide assurance to investors that Bahrain has a strong, regulated and sustainable real estate sector. Increased professionalism, consistent and clear policies and practices in the real estate sector will lead



**”**

**One of the key objectives of RERA is to improve transparency, increase trust and provide assurance to investors.**

SHAIKH MOHAMMED

to greater trust. This of course will lead to increased investment activity in the market and indeed increased business for brokers

and other service providers in the real estate sector."

Completion of the Practitioner Certificate in Real Estate will ensure that all brokers and sales agents have a clear understanding of their role and obligations to the seller, the buyer and other key stakeholders in the market.

The RERA CEO added and reminded all brokers and sales agents who have not already registered for the RERA CPD programme to do so urgently as non-completion of the RERA training can result in RERA li-

centres not being renewed for brokers and sales agents. Registration can be done by mailing at realestate@bibf.com.

The RERA Continuous Professional Development programme is designed to build and broaden knowledge and expertise and to ensure that real estate practitioners are kept up to date on regulatory requirements and other developments and innovations in the sector through RERA arranged seminars, workshops, online newsletters, guides and training courses.

## Ten year jail for exchange robber

TDI | Manama

A Bahraini man, who stole BD4,000 from an exchange house here before escaping to Kuwait, was slapped with a ten-year imprisonment by the First High Criminal Court yesterday.

The 29-year-old was apprehended as a result of co-ordination between the Bahraini and Kuwaiti security authorities and was brought back to Bahrain.

He has 36 felonies in his criminal record including drug abuse, assault and robbery.

According to court files, the incident occurred at the Isa Town branch of the National Finance and Exchange Company last June.

"The defendant broke into the branch, assaulted the staff using a wooden plank and escaped after robbing BD4,000 in cash.

During the interrogation, the man confessed to his crime, claiming that he was experiencing psychological pressure as he was trying to get treated from drug addiction. The defendant said he imitated a scene he saw in a movie he watched.

On June 10, 2018, the Public Prosecution charged the defendant with robbing the funds from the exchange house, assaulting the employee with a wooden plank and causing injuries.

## Asian jailed for attacking co-worker

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced an Asian labourer to five years behind bars for poking the eye of a co-worker using a cutter blade.

The defendant will be deported once he completes his jail time. The incident happened during a quarrel occurred at the site of a building under construction. The perpetrator is said to have chased the victim all the way to the second floor of the building, where he tackled him and beat him before he grabbed the cutter and hit his eye.

The victim required an immediate surgery to his injured eye at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

## Bahrain attends anti-trafficking workshop

Rabat

The Kingdom of Bahrain attended an international workshop in Morocco, organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Expat Protection Centre chairperson, secretary-general of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking Shereen Al Saati took part in the event, which was funded by the US Administration.

The UN accredited expert outlined Bahrain's practice in combating human trafficking, focusing on the national referral system and protection of potential victims.



# Bahrain Flour Mills Company B.S.C.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2018

Bahraini Dinars

	31 December 2018	31 December 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,056,944	3,707,213
Trade and other receivables	3,086,701	2,796,719
Inventory	6,225,023	4,565,286
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>12,368,668</b>	<b>11,069,218</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Investment securities	8,544,687	6,731,064
Property, plant and equipment	3,765,114	4,210,938
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>12,309,801</b>	<b>10,942,002</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>24,678,469</b>	<b>22,011,220</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	634,867	622,284
Import finance loans	5,008,631	3,038,622
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>5,643,498</b>	<b>3,660,906</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provision for employees' leaving indemnity	49,172	43,243
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>5,692,670</b>	<b>3,704,149</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Share capital	2,481,877	2,481,877
Share premium	1,350,000	1,350,000
Statutory reserve	1,241,625	1,241,625
Investments fair value reserve	-	107,240
Other reserves	3,463,628	3,463,628
Retained earnings	10,448,669	9,662,701
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>18,985,799</b>	<b>18,307,071</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>24,678,469</b>	<b>22,011,220</b>

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Bahraini Dinars

2018	Share Capital	Share Premium	Statutory reserve	Reserves		Retained earnings	Total
				Investments fair value reserve	Other reserves		
At 31 December 2017 as previously reported	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	107,240	3,463,628	9,662,701	18,307,071
Impact of adopting IFRS 9	-	-	-	(107,240)	-	107,240	-
<b>Restated balance as at 1 January 2018</b>	<b>2,481,877</b>	<b>1,350,000</b>	<b>1,241,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,463,628</b>	<b>9,769,941</b>	<b>18,307,071</b>
<b>Comprehensive income for the year:</b>							
<b>Profit for the year</b>	-	-	-	-	-	1,195,239	1,195,239
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	-	-	-	-	-	1,195,239	1,195,239
Dividends declared for 2017	-	-	-	-	-	(496,511)	(496,511)
Charity contributions approved for 2017	-	-	-	-	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
<b>At 31 December 2018</b>	<b>2,481,877</b>	<b>1,350,000</b>	<b>1,241,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,463,628</b>	<b>10,448,669</b>	<b>18,985,799</b>
2017							
At 1 January 2017	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	4,779,085	3,463,628	5,175,439	18,491,654
Comprehensive income:							
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	5,003,773	5,003,773
Other comprehensive income:							
Items that are or may be reclassified to profit or loss:							
Change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	-	-	-	(340,702)	-	-	(340,702)
Transferred to profit or loss on sale of available-for-sale investments	-	-	-	(4,331,143)	-	-	(4,331,143)
Total other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	(4,671,845)	-	-	(4,671,845)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	(4,671,845)	-	5,003,773	331,928
Dividend declared for 2016	-	-	-	-	-	(496,511)	(496,511)
Charity contributions approved for 2016	-	-	-	-	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
At 31 December 2017	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	107,240	3,463,628	9,662,701	18,307,071

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Bahraini Dinars

	2018	2017
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>1,195,239</b>	<b>5,003,773</b>
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation	636,759	648,764
Write-off of property, plant and equipment	7,815	-
Impairment loss on available-for-sale investments	-	40,541
Net change in fair value of investments securities	(813,623)	-
Profit on sale of available-for-sale investments	-	(4,331,143)
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	(6,590)	(812)
<i>Change in working capital:</i>		
Inventories	(1,659,737)	768,039
Trade and other receivables	(289,982)	(147,345)
Trade and other payables	(23,867)	(1,881,133)
Provision for employees' indemnities	5,929	(10,092)
<b>Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities</b>	<b>(948,057)</b>	<b>90,592</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(198,750)	(200,761)
Proceed from sale of available-for-sale investments	-	5,332,389
Purchase of investment securities	(1,000,000)	-
Purchase of available-for-sale investments	-	(6,169,181)
Proceed from sale of property, plant and equipment	6,887	1,918
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(1,191,863)</b>	<b>(1,035,635)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Import finance loans obtained	14,081,301	11,770,797
Repayment of import finance loans	(12,111,292)	(10,411,582)
Dividends paid	(480,358)	(480,968)
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>	<b>1,489,651</b>	<b>878,247</b>
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents during the year</b>	<b>(650,269)</b>	<b>(66,796)</b>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 JANUARY	3,707,213	3,774,009
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER * COMPRISING</b>		
Cash on hand	2,417	1,071
Bank balances	3,054,527	3,706,142
	<b>3,056,944</b>	<b>3,707,213</b>

\* Balance include ECL on bank balances of BD 1,455.

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Bahraini Dinars

	2018	2017
<b>Sales</b>	<b>7,097,842</b>	<b>6,991,506</b>
Cost of sales	(15,105,638)	(13,161,504)
<b>Gross loss before government subsidy</b>	<b>(8,007,796)</b>	<b>(6,169,998)</b>
Government subsidy	9,558,368	7,847,577
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>1,550,572</b>	<b>1,677,579</b>
Other operating expenses	(1,343,751)	(1,294,731)
<b>Profit from operations</b>	<b>206,821</b>	<b>382,848</b>
Investment income	841,100	4,483,196
Other income	147,318	178,270
Impairment on investment securities	-	(40,541)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>1,195,239</b>	<b>5,003,773</b>
<b>Earning per share</b>	<b>48 fils</b>	<b>202 fils</b>

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Bahraini Dinars

	2018	2017
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>1,195,239</b>	<b>5,003,773</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>		
<i>Items that are or may subsequently be reclassified to profit or loss:</i>		
Change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	-	(340,702)
Transferred to profit or loss on sale of available-for-sale investments	-	(4,331,143)
<b>Total other comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,671,845)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>1,195,239</b>	<b>331,928</b>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 12 February 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr. Abdullatif Khalid Alujan  
(Chairman)

Mr. Salah Mohamed Al Kulaib  
(Vice Chairman)

Wayne Henry Craig  
(Chief Executive Officer)

## WORLD

# Hundreds flee from IS holdout

AFP | Near Baghouz, Syria

US-backed forces pressed the battle to expel die-hard jihadists from the last pocket of land under their control in eastern Syria yesterday after hundreds fled the holdout overnight.

Outside the "Baghouz pocket", the plains were littered with empty pistachio-coloured rocket shells, water bottles, clothes left behind, and rotting dog carcasses.

The extremist group declared a cross-border "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq in 2014, but various military campaigns have chipped it down to a fragment on the Iraqi border.

After a pause of more than a week to allow out civilians, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) declared a last push to retake the pocket from the extremists on Saturday.

Aided by the warplanes and artillery of a US-led coalition, the Kurdish-led alliance has pressed into a patch of four square kilometres (one square mile).

SDF spokesman Mostefa Bali said heavy clashes were under-



Women and children fleeing from the last Islamic State group's tiny pocket in Syria sit in the back of a truck near Baghouz, eastern Syria

way on Tuesday, after hundreds fled the battle zone during the night.

"A group of 600 civilians escaped from Baghouz at one in the morning and they are being

searched now," he said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the new arrivals included women and children from France and Germany. "Most of those who got out are

methodical as the enemy is fully entrenched and IS fighters continue to conduct counter attacks," he said.

"The coalition continues to strike at IS targets whenever available."

In the past two months, more than 37,000 people, mostly wives and children of jihadist fighters, have fled into SDF-held areas, the Observatory says.

At a gathering point for new arrivals, dozens of men knelt on the ground.

Iraqi and Syrian women and children prepared to make the long journey north to a Kurdish-held camp for the displaced, after spending the night in tents.

A very thin child with dark circles around his eyes stumbled onto a truck, as other children screamed out for water and their mothers asked how long the drive would take.

"Six hours? In the cold?" shouted a wrinkled Iraqi woman.

Bali, the SDF spokesman, said on Saturday that up to 600 jihadists could still be left inside the pocket.

## Russian MPs back bill to isolate country's internet

Moscow, Russia

Russian lawmakers yesterday backed a bill that could cut off the country's internet traffic from servers abroad which critics say is a step towards censorship and possibly an isolated network like in North Korea.

The bill passed its first reading by 334 votes to 47 after an unusually heated debate in the State Duma, where many lawmakers from minority parties criticised it as too costly and argued that it was not written by experts.

## Sri Lanka seeks hangmen to resume executions

Colombo, Sri Lanka

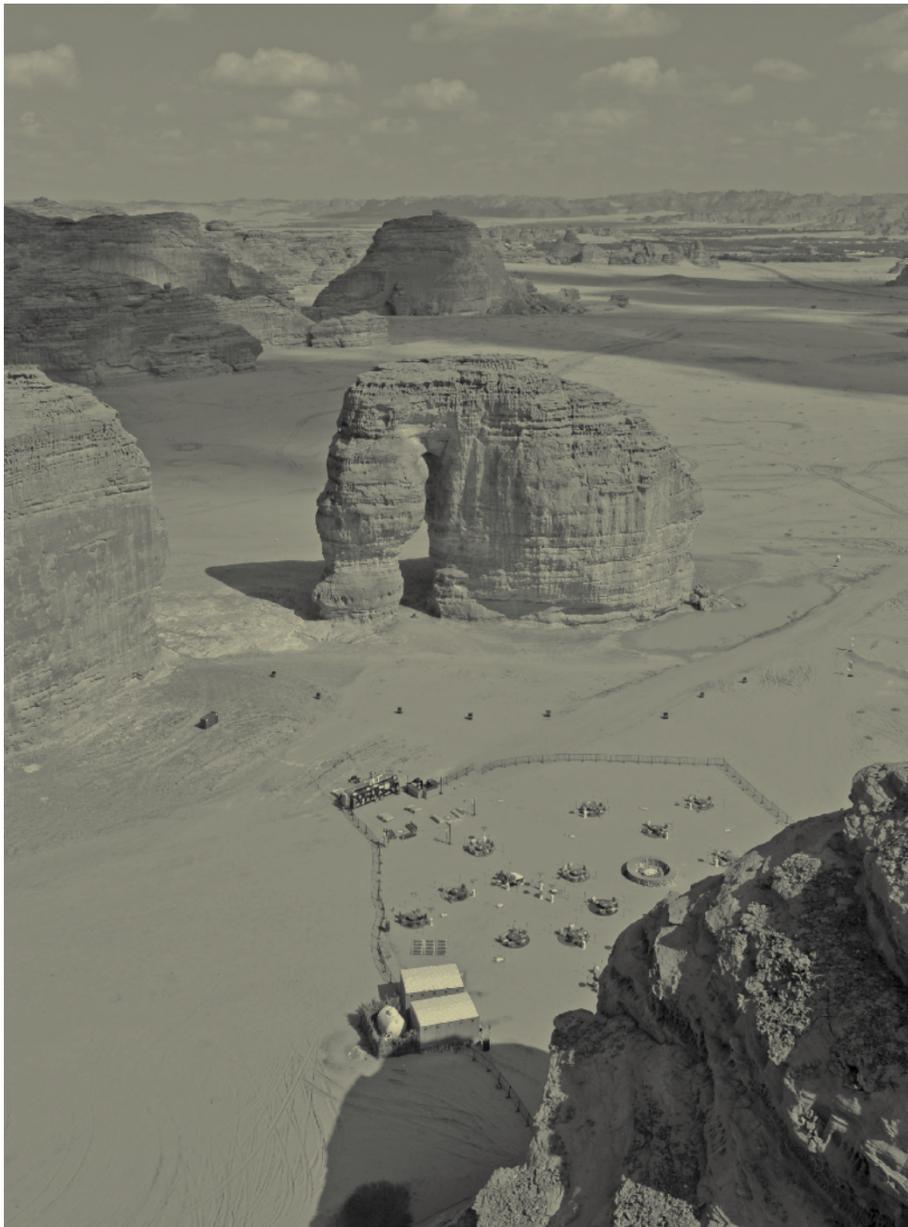
Sri Lanka has started advertising for hangmen, after the president vowed to resume executions for the first time in four decades as part of a hardline anti-drugs crackdown.

Candidates must have "mental strength" and "excellent moral character", according to job ads placed by prison authorities to fill long-vacant positions.

There are two vacancies, and only Sri Lankan men aged between 18 and 45 need apply.

Sri Lanka has not hanged any convicts since a moratorium on capital punishment was imposed in 1976, but President Maithripala Sirisena last week announced plans to resume hangings within two months. Sirisena said he was committed to bringing back the death penalty for drug offenders, after vowing a tougher line on spiralling narcotics-related crime, modelled on a crackdown in the Philippines.

## Weirdest natural wonders



An aerial view of the Elephant rock in the Ula desert near the northwestern Saudi town of al-Ula. Visitors to Al-Ula get to explore the Elephant Rock which lies 11km northeast of the province, at a height of 52 meters. The natural formation looks like an elephant with a ground-bound trunk, and it is surrounded other hundreds of rock monoliths.

## 'El Chapo' found guilty

New York, United States

Mexican mobster Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was found guilty Tuesday by a New York jury of crimes spanning a quarter of a century as head of one of the world's most powerful drugs gangs.

The 61-year-old former head of the Sinaloa cartel -- famed for his brazen escapes from Mexican prisons -- faces a possible life sentence after being convicted of smuggling tons of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana into the United States.

He was also found guilty of money laundering and illegal

weapons possession charges.

In a three-month trial that unfolded like a real-life telenovela, Guzman's former beauty queen wife and a parade of his lovers and henchmen took the witness stand under the gaze of the onetime drugs kingpin.

Guzman's lawyer Jeffrey Lichtman asked the jury not to convict on the basis of the "garbage" testimony of government witnesses.

Lichtman contended that Guzman was merely a "scapegoat," and that the real culprit in the drug trafficking operations was Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, the co-founder of the Sinaloa cartel.

## Fire at budget hotel in Delhi kills 17

New Delhi, India

At least 17 people died when a fire ripped through a budget hotel in Delhi yesterday, prompting authorities to launch a safety check of other buildings in the vicinity.

Victims included a woman and a child who jumped from a window to escape the blaze that broke out before dawn at the budget Hotel Arpit Palace.

Images showed flames and thick smoke billowing out of the top floor of the hotel, located in a congested part of the Indian capital. Guests at the hotel -- popular with budget and business travellers -- were unable to use corridors to escape because of wooden panelling, according to a fire officer.

Delhi home minister Satyendra Jain told reporters that rules were flouted to construct extra floors, with a ter-



Delhi Fire Services (DFS) and Delhi police personnel stand outside Hotel Arpit Palace after extinguishing a fire that broke out on its premises

race being used as an open air restaurant. He also directed the fire department to inspect other buildings in the congested area and file a report within a week.

Three Myanmar citizens staying at the hotel were missing, the NDTV news network reported.

Most of the guests were sleeping at the time the fire broke out and suffocated to death.

Four people were injured in the incident. It is estimated around 120 people were inside the hotel -- built around 25 years ago -- when the fire started.

## Egypt tunes into nostalgia for golden age of Arab song

Ahmed Hafez, bassist for Egyptian rock band Massar Egbari, warms up in a recording studio in the Egyptian capital Cairo



# Songs that sounds nostalgic

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

Standing before a rapt crowd, Ahmed Adel oozes charm with his passionate performance of an Egyptian classic, evoking a romantic nostalgia for Arabic songs of the past.

After a melodious introduction on the Oud, the famed oriental lute, Adel croons his way through a "Mawal", a traditional melody boasting long vowels.

"Ya leil" ("O night"), he sings, with the dreamy languor of the original performer, Egyptian legend Mohamed Abdel Wahab.

With cheers of "Allah!", the mesmerised audience shows its appreciation.

"Modern songs are a hit for a day or two, a month, or maybe a year, but then we do not hear about them any more.

"But Abdel Wahab and (Egyptian diva) Umm Kulthum have lasted until today," said Adel, before his performance in the tiny Mamluk-era hall at the Arab Music Institute.

Egypt, a cultural powerhouse in the Arab world, has long enjoyed a booming music industry.

In the past, the rise of revered singers, such as Umm Kulthum, Abdel Wahab and another Egyptian Abdel Halim Hafiz among others, saw Cairo billed as the Hollywood of Arab song, attracting talent from across the region.

Until the 1970s, Egypt's music industry was bubbling, with singers like Oum Kalthoum, Mohamed Abdel Wahab, Abdel Halim Hafez and others making Cairo a true Hollywood of Arab song. But two decades later, fierce competition appeared in Gulf countries especially with Saudi billionaire Al-Walid Ben Talal's Rotana label, with the 2011 revolution plunging Egypt further into political and economic chaos and giving a blow to the sector.

But in the 1990s, Gulf countries vying for cultural dominance emerged as rivals to Egypt's music industry, and Rotana, the Arab world's largest record label, was formed in 1987.

The company is currently owned by businessman and Saudi prince, Al Walid bin Talal.

The 2011 uprising in Egypt that plunged the country into political and economic chaos also saw a downturn in the domestic music industry.

Yet the Egyptian metropolis remains alive with the sound of music.

Every day, in local cafes and homes the melancholic songs of Syrian-born star Asmahan and the tender rhythmic melodies of Egyptian singer Najat al-Saghira mix with animated conversations, modern pop music and Islamic chants.

### Luring the young

Torn between stage fright and joy, Adel performs regularly at the Arab Music Institute paying tribute to his music idols.

During events such as the "Khulthumiat" (the music of Umm Kulthum) or "Wahabiyat" (the music of Abdel Wahab), organised by the 100-year old institute, Adel is often the lead singer with an entire troupe from the Cairo Opera House accompanying his powerful vocals.

"These events are very successful," said Jihan Morsi, the

seminal director of the opera's Oriental Music department.

And to soar above Cairo's 24-hour cacophony, she doesn't just look to golden oldies.

"I bring (pop stars like) Angam, Saber El-Robai, Wael Jassar. They are beautiful voices that have an audience among the youth," said Morsi.

Music production companies are also seeking to preserve the country's music heritage through younger generations.

Sawt al-Qahira, or Sono Cairo, a historic record company, is betting on the internet despite financial setbacks and ongoing legal battles over the copyright to Umm Kulthum songs.

Known as the "Star of the Orient," Umm Kulthum's voice is still considered the Arab world's finest, more than four decades after her death.

And with its wide variety of classics, the record label has struck deals with YouTube and other mobile application companies to keep this heritage alive.

Younger generations have also shown a renewed interest in the classics thanks to popular televised talent shows.

"Arab Idol, The Voice and others show people singing old songs," said Doaa Mamdouh, the company's internet services



Egyptian classical Arabic music singer Ahmad Adel performs a song by celebrated 20th century Egyptian composer Mohamed Abdel Wahab,

### Revival

Rising artists from such places as Lebanon, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates harness millions of views on YouTube, usually singing in their own dialects.

Egypt's music scene remains vibrant, including electro Shaabi music, an exuberant popular blend seen by purists as too raucous.

And there is a new genre known as alternative, or "underground", which has emerged in recent years.

The band Massar Egbari, which roughly translates as Compulsory Detour, rose to fame with a relaxed style of rock and a distinctive performance of classics, such as by Sayed Darwish often called "the father of modern Arab music".

Although the rock stars say they are influenced by classics, they don't want to live in the past.

"Nowadays you can record something at home at a low cost," said bassist Ahmed Hafiz. "After every era, something new appears, these are phases."

The band, whose style its guitarist and vocalist Hani el-Dakkak describes as a blend of Sayed Darwish and rock band Pink Floyd, is also trying to distinguish itself through its message.

"We try in our lyrics to talk about social problems or things that nobody else will speak about," said el-Dakkak.

head, adding this has prompted many fans to dig out the original versions.

Classic black and white music video clips struggle, however, to compete against today's torrent of slick, ultra-modern videos.

# The Putin I knew; the P



FRANZ J SEIDLMAYER

*I met Vladimir Putin and trusted him in the early 1990s, when he was deputy mayor of St Petersburg. Now, he's different and no friend of democracy*

President Vladimir Putin of Russia celebrated the new year by having an American tourist, Paul Whelan, arrested as a spy. Whelan was in Moscow to attend a wedding. But Putin needed a hostage as a potential trade for a Russian woman with Kremlin connections — Maria Butina, who had pleaded guilty of conspiring with a Russian official “to establish unofficial lines of communication with Americans having power and influence over U.S. politics.” So Putin grabbed Whelan, who has not been released.

Of course Putin did that. I've known him since the early 1990s. As a businessman in St. Petersburg, I spent scores of hours with Volodya, as he was known in those days, while he was the city's deputy mayor. He sat in my headquarters on Stone Island as we conversed, in the almost-perfect German he likes to speak, over beer and Bavarian food. My trust in those early days was based on the fact that he acted rationally and appeared to be sincere in his interest in St. Petersburg. He didn't take bribes, but he did cover for those who did, including his bosses — Mayor Anatoly Sobchak

and later President Boris Yeltsin. Putin signed the registration papers for my security company and personally registered them. He advised and counselled me. He helped me expand my business. And at his request, I built, trained and equipped St. Petersburg's first Western-style KGB SWAT team, in preparation for the 1994 Goodwill Games there.

From our conversations in 1992, I realised that Putin understood that it was not the West, but the Soviet socialist system that was responsible for the social and economic downfall of the Soviet Union. Indeed, when we spoke about my native Germany, there was every indication that he had accepted German reunification as inevitable once the Berlin Wall came down. It was after he became president in 2000 that he worried increasingly about Russia's political and economic failures and bemoaned a lack of what he considered proper respect from the West — and turned Russia inward with ideology and religion as tools.

For me, a different moment of change came in 1996, when my company and the headquarters in which I'd invested more than \$1 million was expropriated by President Yeltsin. Volodya shrugged and told me there was nothing he could do to help. And I began watching him metamorphose from a minor bureaucrat into the authoritarian four-times-elected president of Russia. I can tell

you the Putin that Americans read about today is nothing like either the Putin I knew at first or the one I know now.

The Putin I know is in many ways similar to President Donald Trump. Like him, Volodya makes decisions based on snap judgments, rather than long deliberation. He's vindictive and petty. He holds grudges and deeply hates being made fun of. He is said to dislike long, complicated briefings and to find reading policy papers onerous.

Like Trump, the Putin I know reacts to events instead of proactively developing a long-term strategy. But in sophistication, he is very different. A former KGB officer, he understands how to use disinformation (“deza”), lies (“vranyo”), and compromise (“kompromat”) to create chaos in the West and at home.

A couple of months ago, I moved to the United States and set up a company to help others who have lost their businesses or assets, or had them stolen. I had by then spent two decades suing the Russian Federation — not just in Russia but also by laying claim to Russian government property in Sweden and Germany — and emerged as the only party ever to collect damages from the Russian Federation.

That long, long march convinced me that neither Putin nor Russia was my friend. Like me, Western leaders had trusted Putin. But they



Putin has built a vast empire for himself valued in billions, according to critics.

did not understand that to him, politeness and friendship were often signs of weakness, not friendship. More than anything, he wants to be taken as an equal or a superior, trying to destroy anything with which he cannot compete.

And yet, living in America, I couldn't help noticing that the media there are reticent when it comes to telling its audiences that

Putin's Russia will never be democracy's friend. Volodya's Russia wants to divide and to destroy democracies. To that end, Volodya employs his Kremlin apparatus, notably the shadowy and largely unknown Presidential Property Administration of the Russian Federation, or UdPRF.

The UdPRF's black budget is in the billions of rubles. It controls

# 1919 was undoubtedly the Hollywood

*A century ago, the struggle between stars and studios shaped the future*



DAVID BORDWELL

World War I radically changed the landscape of moviemaking. Before 1914, Europeans had dominated the booming industry — France, Italy, Germany and even Denmark had sent films across the globe. At first they were just shorts, but by 1913 companies were developing long-form storytelling in “feature” films that could run an hour or more. Audiences poured into movie houses.

The war brought that European domination to an end. Film stock was rationed. Workers were sent to the front. American film companies, benefiting from neutrality, swept into secondary markets like Australia and South America. Moving into Europe and Asia, several companies established foreign offices to distribute their product directly and set prime prices. By the end of the war, the centre of the global film industry had shifted to the United States, and in particular Los Angeles, where one neighbourhood was already providing the shorthand term for the emerging studio system: Hollywood.

The American studios were

not just lucky to expand at a time of turmoil in Europe. They also brought a new approach to filmmaking. Detailed shooting scripts broke scenes into shots. Specialists were assigned to set design, costuming, photography, editing and other tasks. This system helped manage the complicated plots demanded by feature-length films.

Directors also forged a method of crisp, high-impact storytelling. Fast cutting, close-ups of faces and scene details, plots driven by goal-oriented characters, scenes packed with conflicts, humour, fights, chases and stunts — these techniques crystallised into a distinctive national style.

That style was fully formed by 1919, with films like D.W. Griffith's bittersweet “Broken Blossoms” and Erich von Stroheim's mordant “Blind Husbands.” “America's healthy will has created true film,” rhapsodised a German critic in 1920. “What is happening, or rather racing by on the screen, can no longer be called plot. It is a new dynamic, a breathless rhythm.”

The style fit the players. Close-ups enhanced the big-eyed sweetness of Lillian Gish, the sparky mischief of the perpetual adolescent Mary Pickford, the stoic sadness of the cowboy William S. Hart. Cutting had to be punchy to keep up with the exuberance of Douglas Fairbanks, who comfortably leapt over hedges and hurled

himself out windows.

The American boom did not wipe out European filmmaking; as the continent recovered, its filmmakers maintained a high quality of production. In 1919 Mauritz Stiller of Sweden mounted the historical romance “Sir Arne's Treasure,” while in Denmark Carl Dreyer released his first film, the American-influenced melodrama “The President.” The German director Ernst Lubitsch managed, during the turmoil of the Weimar Republic, to create the historical epic “Madame DuBarry.” Filmmaking flourished further afield as well, from Japan to the newly communist Russia. Lenin nationalised the film industry in 1919 and would later declare: “Of all the arts, cinema is for us the most important.”

Still, there was no doubt that for the moment, at least, the standards for film as an art and an industry were being set in America. And things were about to change again, thanks to a percolating struggle among stars, studios and theatre owners.

Most of the entrepreneurs who forged the American film industry — Samuel Goldwyn, Marcus Loew, William Fox, Carl Laemmle, Jesse Lasky, Adolph Zukor — were East European émigrés. While genteel business owners had scorned the crowds pouring into nickelodeons and vaudeville houses, the



From left, D W Griffith, Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin (seated) and Douglas Fairbanks Sr signing the original contract, below, that created the United Artists studio in 1919.

newcomers risked setting up production companies. The war had helped their firms achieve success.

But by the war's end, the salaries they paid to their stars were rising astronomically, and driving up production costs. Some producers sought to play down star power by acquiring famous literary properties and hiring celebrity directors. Exhibitors, like theatre owners, were starting to merge, and these bigger companies had more bargaining power. On Feb. 5, 1919, a group of actors reasserted their clout.

“Billion-Dollar Trust Is Defied: Revolt of Motion Picture Stars Is Bombshell to Film Producers,” blared a headline in The Los Angeles Times. Defying the studios, four of Hollywood's biggest names — Pickford, Fairbanks, Griffith and Charlie Chaplin — created the United Artists Corporation.

Other stars were creating their own production units, but United Artists' “Big Four” wanted complete autonomy in developing projects. They also aimed to cut out the distribution companies that rented films to theaters. United

Artists would offer the stars' films directly to exhibitors.

Pickford presented the maneuver as a defence against the growing power of theater chains. Griffith, taking the “Artists” label seriously, claimed that if the partners could control their work, they could break with formula. “We are willing to make certain pictures which we do not expect to make money,” he declared.

But the Big Four did have money on their minds. Their employers had relied on booking packages of films, mixing mediocre items with star vehicles. The dominant system, called “program booking,” obliged exhibitors to take a distributor's entire yearly output. Fairbanks complained: “We were used as a club over the exhibitors, and the magnates at the swivel chairs made the money.”

True, the three United Artists stars enjoyed astronomical salaries, with Pickford and Chaplin yearly reaping the equivalent of \$13 million today. But the artists recognised that their drawing power was even more valuable. By offering their product to exhibitors directly, they could recoup a bigger share of rentals.

United Artists aimed high, planning for each partner to produce three films per year. Fairbanks was quickest off the mark with “His Majesty, the American,” which debuted in September 1919 at New

Australian Prime Minister **Kevin Rudd** makes a historic apology to the Indigenous Australians and the Stolen Generations.



A bomb explodes in the city of **Pune, Maharashtra, India**, killing 17 and injuring 60 more.

**The European Space Agency (ESA)** conducted the first launch of the European Vega rocket from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

**Kim Jong-nam**, brother of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un, is assassinated at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

# Putin I know



The Putin I know is in many ways similar to President Donald Trump. Like him, Volodya makes decisions based on snap judgments, rather than long deliberation.

from Russia's main intelligence agency, the FSB, and its military intelligence agency, the GRU, will be involved in more attacks against and murders of Russian dissidents and opponents of Putin living in the West. To the Putin I know, borders mean nothing.

A couple of months ago Volodya tried — luckily, he failed — to insert a crony as head of Interpol, the international police organisation, presumably so he could turn it into his personal posse. Of course he did. Corruption is in Russia's DNA, as it is in Putin's.

Something else I've discovered since moving is that many of America's Kremlin-watchers don't understand that Putin is running scared these days. His recent election may have been guaranteed; his future is anything but.

Why? Because Volodya has no

one watching his back. Sobchak and Yeltsin hired and promoted him because of his personal loyalty, but both are long dead. The Putin I knew back then allowed his superiors to accumulate huge wealth, and then he shielded them from indictment. He built a protective wall around Sobchak even as the mayor was caching millions of dollars in Paris. Later, as head of Yeltsin's FSB, Putin quashed an investigation of the Yeltsin family by the prosecutor general at the time, Yuri Skuratov, by vouching for the authenticity of a fuzzy video of a man said to be Skuratov in bed with two prostitutes. And in his first hours as acting president of the Russian Federation on Dec 31, 1999, Volodya wrote a decree that pardoned Yeltsin and his family from any criminal charges.

But there are no such decrees in Volodya's future. It has long been rumoured that he has a huge fortune stashed away. But if that is true, it is likely held by friends, associates or even some of the criminals Putin has made filthy rich.

So, my question is: When Volodya finally leaves power, will those filthy-rich friends, associates and co-conspirators give him back any of those billions?

Somehow, I don't think so. I've lived in Russia. Sharing's not the Russian way.

*(Franz J Sedelmayer is the chief executive officer of MARC, the Multinational Asset Recovery Co, and the author of "Welcome to Putingrad.")*

# World's boom year

## Core of the movies

York's new Capitol Theater, said to be the largest in the world. He followed with "When the Clouds Roll By" in December.

Yet Fairbanks' partners owed projects to other companies. Pickford managed to bring out two features in 1920, but Chaplin would not complete a United Artists release until 1923, and that ("A Woman of Paris") failed, partly because he appeared merely in a walk-on role. Griffith could meet his immediate United Artists obligations only by buying, at a hefty price, his film "Broken Blossoms" from Adolph Zukor's company, where he had made it.

The new firm needed product, and soon it was contracting with other producers, including Samuel Goldwyn, to fill out its obligations. Another problem, as the historian Tino Balio has shown, was funding. Thanks to program booking and a rigid schedule of releases, studios could attract backers. But banks recoiled from a company of independents working at irregular intervals to please themselves. For the most part, the Big Four had to self-finance.

United Artists survived through the 1920s, largely because of Pickford and Fairbanks. They married, and as Hollywood royalty, they enjoyed a huge fan following; crowds choked the streets during their world tours. Pickford turned out several projects, notably "Ros-

Nobody understood star power better than the producer Zukor, a dapper former furrier now at the top of the film industry.

ita" (1923), directed by Lubitsch, who had recently arrived from Germany, and "Sparrows" (1926). Fairbanks changed his image, from a whimsical go-getter to a debonair adventurer, as Zorro, D'Artagnan, Robin Hood, the Thief of Baghdad and the Black Pirate. The scapegrace heroes he played would be "re-imagined" by Hollywood filmmakers for decades to come.

Under the guidance of Joseph Schenck, the United Artists president, and thanks to Goldwyn's polished independent productions, the company managed to keep going, but things got harder for the founders. Fairbanks and Pickford mounted lush, expensive productions, while Chaplin proceeded at a leisurely pace. Griffith, plagued by financial problems, pulled out

of United Artists briefly, then returned at intervals to direct a string of failures. Soon after the coming of sound, nearly all of the United Artists founders ended their careers. Chaplin persisted, but when he abandoned his Tramp persona in the 1940s, he too lost his public.

Nobody understood star power better than the producer Zukor, a dapper former furrier now at the top of the film industry. He had quickly mastered the feature film and program booking. He had built a production juggernaut by merging his company, Famous Players, with that of Jesse Lasky, and then adding a distributor called Paramount.

Zukor, who had employed Pickford and Fairbanks at stratospheric salaries, knew that stars could be difficult to manage. His refusal to raise Pickford's pay helped drive her to create United Artists. At that juncture, he faced ominous competition from First National, an alliance of theater chains that was starting to sign up stars. In the summer of 1919, Zukor recruited Wall Street backing to fund his counter-thrust: buying theaters. Thus the year 1919 laid the foundation for the future of Hollywood.

*(David Bordwell is a professor of film studies emeritus at the University of Wisconsin and the author, most recently, of "Reinventing Hollywood: How 1940s Filmmakers Changed Movie Storytelling.")*



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



If you look at those opposing the wall on the southern border it is easy to figure out motivation - the more Hispanic foreign nationals who become American citizens, the better it is for the Democratic Party--

@BillOReilly

02



We are fighting for all Americans, from all backgrounds, of every age, race, religion, birthplace, color & creed. Our agenda is NOT a partisan agenda - it is the mainstream, common sense agenda of the American People. Thank you El Paso, Texas - I love you!

@realDonaldTrump

03



Namo must declare Ram Setu as a National Heritage Monument by next week. Min of Culture file recommending is on PM's desk for signature

@Swamy39

04



I've gone back and forth on it, but for now I think quitting Facebook is not something the majority of people are going to be willing to do, or in fact, able to do because they need their community there. I believe in agitating for solutions that work for the most people.

@kateo

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

## Wide Angle

# Trading trouble in telecommunications



JOEL INDRUPATI

If countries use Huawei equipment, "it makes it more difficult for us to partner alongside them." By saying this, to the European countries, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shot another salvo intensifying the ongoing fight of US government, against the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

He was speaking at an event in Hungary, on Monday, 11 February.

Since December 2018, when its Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, was arrested in Canada, on charges of fraud, the Huawei story has been grabbing headlines regularly in the business sections of news.

Apart from violating non-disclosure agreements and stealing trade secrets, Huawei is being accused of making their 5G technologies in such a way that the American public could be spied upon, by China.

Furthermore, by hiding its connection to a Hong Kong based firm Skycom, which was apparently doing business with Iranian telecom-companies, Huawei has allegedly disguised its own violations of US trade sanctions.

The USA is asserting a state-sponsored theft of intellectual property by China, through Huawei. However, the company is insisting that it is private and autonomous; and that it has no links to the Chinese government.

Personally, I feel there is more to this story than meets the eye. The whole trade-dispute could be much more complex than what we are thinking. And could involve a huge diplomatic power game on trade, where the US and China are arm-wrestling each other, with their telecom companies as visible fronts.

Why do I think so? Let us look at a few interesting facts.

In May 2018, Huawei became the world's third-largest smartphone maker, after Samsung and Apple. But by August 2018, it went up to become the second-largest smartphone maker, pushing Apple to third place. And in January 2019, one of Huawei's top executives ambitiously announced that, by 2020, it would become the world's largest smartphone company, by beating Samsung.

Most of Huawei's smartphone sales actually came from the outside of the US.

We must also note that the 'security issue' could be exaggerated much beyond the truth. If the US blames China for 'alleged spying', USA must first

look back at its own 'actual spying' of its own citizens. With its extensive internet and phone surveillance, as revealed by Edward Snowden, it is like that classic case of a pot calling the kettle black!

In this age, where voice or motion can activate devices and networks, and record data - on computers, GPS systems, digital cameras, drones, weather systems, microwave ovens, missile systems, satellite communications, and even home air conditioners - privacy and data security should be serious concerns not only for China but also for the US and others.

But look at the interesting situations. Firstly, US allies such as New Zealand, Australia and UK have already moved to block the use of Huawei's equipment as a part of their future rollouts of some 4G and most 5G networks. Secondly, European countries are being told - if not threatened - that using Huawei equipment could jeopardise the countries' relationship with the US. Thirdly, the Trump government may be planning a widespread ban on Huawei's equipment, much of which supports 5G internet connectivity. So, is it US and allies versus China?

It is clear, however, that Huawei products are selling well in developing countries of Southeast Asia, Africa and elsewhere. And the rise of its profits has not been from countries trying to ban it.

So, who knows, if it succeeds in disproving US government allegations, Huawei may come out even bigger and better. After all, Richard Yu, the CEO of Huawei's consumer business, had confidently said these words in Jan 2019, in Beijing: "This year at the soonest, next year at the latest, we (Huawei) will become number one".

# business

## LuLu to open 8 hypermarkets in Egypt

TDT | Abu Dhabi

UAE based retailer LuLu Group announced yesterday it has signed a protocol agreement with the Egyptian Government to set up new hypermarkets in the country by 2020.

The move follows a meeting between Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman of LuLu Group in Cairo.

With the signing of this new agreement, LuLu will open a total of 8 new hypermarkets by investing AED 2 billion (\$544.6m) in the next two years. The hypermarkets will be based in 6th October City, Al Narges (New Cairo), Al Rehab City (New Cairo) and Al Obour City.

The protocol agreement was signed by Dr Ibrahim Al Ashmawi, Deputy Minister & Chairman of Internal Trade Development Authority (ITDA) and Yusuff Ali MA in the presence of Dr Abdul Mutalib, Tariq El Sebaiy, Deputy Minister of Housing, Saifee Rupawala, CEO, Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director, Juzer Rupawala, Director of LuLu Egypt, Huzeifa Qureshi, Regional Director and other officials.



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Also present on the occasion were Ragaa Fuad, Deputy Chairman of Commission and Planning Affairs, Heba Al Sayed, Deputy Head of ITDA, Essam Brekan, Commercial Counsel-

or of Egyptian Embassy, Abu Dhabi.

Speaking on the occasion, Yusuff Ali said, "The excellent opportunities and facilities being offered by the Government

of Egypt to investors will contribute to the growth and development of Egypt."

"We hope to create employment opportunities for more than 3000 Egyptians through

these new hypermarkets" added Yusuffali.

Dr Ibrahim Al Ashmawi said: "The expertise and the positive attitude of the LuLu group will surely add a new dimension to

the retail industry in Egypt. We wholeheartedly welcome the investment plans of the LuLu group and look forward to working closely with them to make this a successful initiative."

### GPIC gets Social Responsibility Award



The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) has been presented with the 2018 Corporate Social Responsibility Award in the Arab States by the Regional Social Responsibility Network. The award recognises the company's role in the service of the community, and its initiatives in the field.



The staff of Gulf Air during a special event held at the airline's headquarters in Muharraq on the occasion of Bahrain Sports Day. A number of activities were hosted including football, basketball, table tennis, cricket and darts among many other fun sports activities.



CrediMax annual Staff Gathering held at The Ritz - Carlton Hotel on 7th February. The event was attended by CrediMax's Chief Executive Yousif Ali Mirza, the Executive Management and all staff members. One of the main highlights of the event was the Service Award ceremony, celebrating employee's long service which ranged from 5 years to 20 years. Star of The Year award was presented to Hassan Mohsen.



Bapco employees takes part in activities as part of Bahrain Sports Day held in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) at the Football Pitch in Awali. The event started at 12 noon included a number of activities including football, basketball, running, Tai Chi, Tennis, Cycling & Yoga.

# OPEC cuts output steeply

● OPEC said it produced 797,000 fewer barrels per day in January

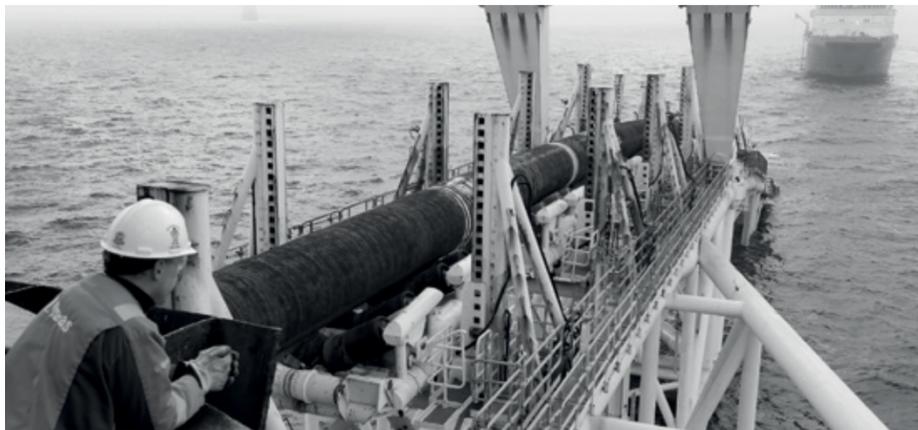
● The reduction came mostly from the world's top oil exporter and Saudi

AFP | Paris, France

Global oil cartel OPEC said yesterday it sharply reduced crude oil production last month, after Saudi Arabia slashed output and exports fell in crisis-hit Venezuela. In its monthly report, OPEC said it produced 797,000 fewer barrels per day in January than in the previous month, a decrease in line with a pledge to curb output in a bid to boost sagging prices.

The decrease by the group of 14 producer countries brought total production to 30.81 million barrels per day in the month, the report said citing secondary sources.

The reduction came mostly



A man standing on the pipe-laying ship "Audacia" looking on as tubes are laid for the "North Stream 2" gas pipeline off the coast of the Baltic Sea island Ruegen, northeastern Germany.

from the world's top oil exporter and OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia, which cut 350,000 barrels per day, followed by the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

Oil production in Venezuela, which has been rocked by a crippling economic crisis, spiralling political turmoil and US sanctions, meanwhile sank by 59,000 barrels per day.

The scale-back was in line with an agreement by OPEC and non-OPEC members in December to trim production by 1.2 million barrels a day from Jan-

uary 1.

OPEC members vowed to cut 800,000 barrels a day of that amount, so January's figures fell just 3,000 barrels short of that commitment.

OPEC has joined forces with 10 non-member nations including Russia to trim output to avoid a repeat of the 2014 crash when prices dove to below \$30 a barrel -- down from over \$100 -- due to a glut in supplies and weakening global demand.

While remaining volatile, oil prices have rallied to just above

\$60 a barrel and jumped more than a dollar after the OPEC production update.

That figure remains far below the \$85 a barrel hit in early October before prices slid back.

The Tuesday report estimated that non-OPEC members would produce more oil than expected this year, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico and the United States.

It also slightly downgraded its forecast for growth in global demand in 2019 from 1.29 million barrels per day to 1.24 million.

# Mnuchin in Beijing for crunch US-China trade talks

Beijing, China |

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he was "looking forward" to crunch negotiations with China as he emerged in Beijing yesterday with global attention focused on whether the two sides can reach a trade deal.

Mnuchin appeared at a Beijing hotel a couple of days ahead of scheduled high-level meetings in the capital, with a March 1 deadline looming to strike an accord.

"It's great to be here back in Beijing. We're looking forward to several important days of talks," Mnuchin said to reporters.

He then moved on without taking questions.

Mnuchin will be joined by US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer as well as David Malpass, President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the World Bank, in negotiations set for Thursday and Friday.

China's delegation will be led by Vice Premier Liu He,



Steven Mnuchin

who will be joined by central bank governor Yi Gang.

Lower level officials had arrived earlier for what the White House has called preparatory meetings due to start on Monday.

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

## US denies telling banks to stop working with Palestinians

Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

The United States has denied accusations it is pressuring banks to stop dealing with the Palestinian government, whose relations with Washington have been plummeting.

Several Palestinian officials have accused the US of trying to force banks not to deal with transactions linked to the Palestinian Authority, which has limited self-rule in the occupied West Bank.

"The United States has not requested that foreign donors restrict assistance to the Palestinians, nor has it requested that financial institutions cease transfers to Palestinian Authority (PA) bank ac-

counts," a US official said late Monday.

"We are aware of media reports suggesting this has occurred. Those reports are incorrect."

On Sunday, senior Palestinian official Hussein al-Sheikh charged that Washington was launching a "financial siege" on the PA.

"Major international financial institutions and parties have begun to accede to an American request to impose a tight financial siege on the Palestinian Authority," he said.

"Washington has asked for financial aid given to the authority to be stopped, and it has also issued a circular to banks not to receive transfers for the authority's accounts."

## Al Salam Bank, SPF launch Seychelles services

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank-Seychelles Limited (ASBS), a joint venture between Al Salam Bank-Bahrain (ASBB) and the Seychelles Pension Fund (SPF), officially launched its full commercial banking services.

The ceremony at the Bank's headquarters in the capital, Victoria, was held under the patronage of Danny Faure, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, and in the presence of Ambassador Maurice Loustau-Lalanne, Minister of Finance, Trade, Investment & Economic Planning, Hussein Al Meeza, the Chairman of ASBS, Lekha Nair, Vice Chairperson of ASBS and CEO of SPF, and Rafik Nayed, CEO of ASBB.



Officials during a photocall

Hussein Al Meeza, Chairman of ASBS, emphasized that the launch is in line with the bank's strategy to expand in the region and continue in its mission to deliver its customers with a

range of competitive, diversified and innovative banking solutions through quality products and services.

Lekha Nair, Vice Chairperson of ASBS and CEO of SPF, said:

"The bank aims to capitalize on its strong foundation, by introducing diversified banking products with the latest technologies targeted towards various customer segments."

## Kanoo offers dedicated body paint services

TDT | Manama

Ebrahim K. Kanoo's Kanoo Body Service Centres (KBSC) in Salmabad and Arad is offering dedicated body paint and repair services for all vehicle brands.

KBSC Salmabad and Arad, according to the company, offer specialised body paint and repair services and deal directly with leading insurance companies in the kingdom to provide customers with a hassle-free holistic service.

KBSC said it's facilities armed with the latest equipment, internationally trained and certified KBSC staff are capable of handling all kind of minor and major paint jobs

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Body and Paint Senior Manager Ebrahim Akbar said, "Cars use very advanced architecture and technology and should only be worked on by trained specialists



Ebrahim K. Kanoo's Kanoo Body Service Centre (KBSC)

in a customised environment to ensure top quality service." The centres in Salmabad

and Arad are open Saturday to Thursday from 7 am to 6 pm.



Batelco employees at the start of the 2K race held as part of Bahrain National Sports Day 2019. A number of activities took place during the day including a 2K race, a Zumba class for ladies and a Football league. Additionally, a fitness challenge led by LIFT Strength and Conditioning Centre took place, where teams competed to win prizes. Batelco also hosted its employee Rana Al Alawi, who shared health and fitness tips. Rana was placed 3rd in Bahrain and GCC in the Amateur Category of the most recent Ironman 70.3 Triathlon

# Banks lead Egypt, Saudi

● Egypt's blue-chip index at highest in 5 months

● GFH's Dubai shares plunges on Q4 profit fall

● Abu Dhabi Aviation slides on lower FY earnings

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose yesterday as major banks rose on recovering oil prices, while Egypt's blue-chip index hit a five-month high, helped by its top lender Commercial International Bank.

Saudi Arabia's index was up 0.7 per cent, with Al Rajhi Bank rising 1.8pc and Banque Saudi Fransi gaining 2.9pc.

The Saudi index has got off to a strong start this year, taking many by surprise, SICO Research said in a note, with a 10pc gain year-to-date after returning 8.3pc in 2018.

The recent rally has been led mainly by foreigners buying close to 4.4 billion riyals (\$1.2 billion) through a qualified foreign investors' scheme and swaps last month in anticipation of inflows after FTSE Russell and MSCI announced Saudi will join their emerging market indexes in 2019, SICO added.

Saudi Arabia will join FTSE Russell's emerging market index in March and MSCI's emerging



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

## Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.7 pc	» 8,600 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.5 pc	» 2,485 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.4 pc	» 5,024 pts
EGYPT	▲ 1 pc	» 14,928 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.9 pc	» 5,504 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.4 pc	» 4,125 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.7 pc	» 1,389 pts

market benchmark following a two-step inclusion process in May and August.

Saudi real estate stocks gained, with developer Emaar The Economic City adding 2.7pc. Al Andalus Property was up 0.8pc after announcing the Aljawharah Alkubra project which, it estimated, will cost around 873 million riyals.

Property shares have risen

following a royal decree to reimburse rising expatriate fees that will help labour-intensive sectors.

Egypt's blue-chip index rose 1pc to touch its highest since September 2018, with Commercial International Bank gaining 1.3pc. The bank has surged 22.2pc this year on the back of a 37pc jump in its fourth-quarter net profit and the approval of an increase in its authorised capital to EGP 50 billion (\$2.9 billion) from EGP 20 billion.

The Abu Dhabi index fell 0.4pc with Aldar Properties shedding 3.4pc and Union National Bank slipping 0.8pc. Union National reported a 28pc drop in its full-year net profit after the market close.

Abu Dhabi Aviation plunged 6.8pc. The firm had reported a

full-year net profit attributable to shareholders of 231.4 million dirhams (\$63 million), down from 243.6 million dirhams a year earlier.

In Dubai, the benchmark index was down 0.5pc as most of its property stocks dropped. Major developer Emaar Properties slipped 1pc and builder Arabtec retreated 3.8pc ahead of a board meeting later on Tuesday to discuss full-year results.

GFH Financial Group, which is primarily listed on the Bahrain stock exchange, slumped 9.8pc in active trade. The firm reported fourth-quarter net profit attributable to shareholders of \$10.6 million, down from \$17 million a year earlier. The Qatar stock exchange was closed for a public holiday.

## Trump orders government to prioritise artificial intelligence



Washington, United States

President Donald Trump on Monday ordered the US administration to give greater priority to artificial intelligence, a move seen as firing up a battle for leadership with China.

The American AI Initiative executive order calls for the administration to "devote the full resources of the federal government" to help fuel AI

innovation.

"Americans have profited tremendously from being the early developers and international leaders in AI," a White House statement said.

"However, as the pace of AI innovation increases around the world, we cannot sit idly by and presume that our leadership is guaranteed."

The order however stops short of specific funding or a detailed strategy for deployment of artificial intelligence.

The move comes amid growing concerns that China will overtake the United States in key areas of artificial intelligence, helped by a broad national strategy and accelerating investment.

## US household debt in 2018 jumps \$400 bn

Washington, United States

Total debt held by US households surged by nearly \$400 billion in 2018 to more than \$13.5 trillion, marking the sixth straight annual increase, even as home mortgages declined, according to data released yesterday.

That puts total debt \$869 billion higher than the previous peak, just before the start of the global financial crisis in late 2008, the New York Federal Reserve Bank said in its quarterly report.

A decade after the crisis, mortgage debt increased \$242 billion to \$9.1 trillion, but new

home loans originated last year fell \$131 billion to the lowest point in four years, the data showed. Student debt jumped \$79 billion compared to 2017, to \$1.5 trillion, according to the report.



## Samsung reaches settlement over 'exploding' washing machines



Picture courtesy of ABC News

Seoul, South Korea

Samsung Electronics has reached a settlement in a class-action lawsuit over 2.8 million "exploding" washing machines recalled in the US, the South Korean company said yesterday.

The faulty appliances were recalled in 2016 after reports that the top "can unexpectedly detach from the washing machine chassis during use, posing a risk of injury from impact", according to The US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The lawsuit claimed some of the washers were "exploding".

"Samsung has chosen to settle class-action lawsuits involving top-load washing machines that were subject to a voluntary recall," Samsung

said in a statement, adding the decision was reached to "avoid distraction and expense of litigation".

The washing machines in question have long been off the market, Samsung said.

Those covered by the settlement may receive benefits ranging from a "rebate, refund or reimbursement of certain expenses, costs, and repairs", according to the statement.

Samsung said at the time that the recall applied to models built between 2011 and 2016 for "reports highlighting the risk that the drums in these washers may lose balance, triggering excessive vibrations, resulting in the top separating from the washer".

The South Korean consumer goods titan has suffered several blows to its reputation in recent years.

## India antitrust watchdog probes accusations that Google abused Android

Reuters | New Delhi

India's antitrust commission is looking into accusations that Alphabet Inc's unit Google abuses its popular Android mobile operating system to block its rivals, four sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has for the past six months been reviewing a case similar to one Google faced in Europe that led to a fine of 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) by antitrust regulators last year, three of the sources said. Google has challenged that order.

The European Commission found Google had abused its market dominance since 2011 with practices such as forcing manufacturers to pre-install Google Search and its Chrome browser, together with its Google Play app store on Android devices.



Android Logo (file)

"It is on the lines of the EU case, but at a preliminary stage," said one of the sources, who is aware of the CCI investigation.

Google declined to comment. The CCI did not respond to Reuters' queries.

The watchdog's enquiry into allegations against Google over its Android platform has not previously been reported.

## Turkey opens govt vegetable stalls in battle with inflation

Reuters | Istanbul

Battling a sharp rise in food costs, Turkish authorities opened their own markets on Monday to sell cheap vegetables directly to shoppers, cutting out retailers who the government has accused of jacking up prices.

Crowds queued outside municipality tents to buy tomatoes, onions and peppers in Istanbul's Bayrampasa district, waiting for an hour for items selling at half the regular shop prices.

The move to set up state markets follows a 31 per cent year-on-year surge in food prices



People wait in line to buy vegetables sold in a tent set up by the municipality in the Bayrampasa district of Istanbul

in January and precedes local elections next month in which President Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party faces a tough challenge to maintain support.

Traders blamed storms in southern Turkey's farming region for food price inflation, as well as rising costs of labour and transport. Authorities called it "food terror" and said they would punish anyone trying to keep prices artificially high.

"This was a game. They started manipulating prices, they tried to make prices skyrocket



The project is currently taking place only in Istanbul, where around 50 sites are selling the cut-price goods, and in the capital Ankara

et," President Tayyip Erdogan said in a campaign speech on Monday. "This was an attempt to terrorise (society)," Erdogan said.

Under the government initiative, municipalities are selling vegetables at around 50 per cent of prices recorded by the Turkish Statistical Institute in January. A maximum of three kilos of goods per person is allowed.

The move will be extended to rice and pulses such as lentils, as well as cleaning products, Erdogan said.

# CAMPUS

## Sit for SAT and stand taller

TDI | Manama

The Direct Admissions of Students Abroad (DASA) initiative is a great step by the Government of India to offer equal opportunities for the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) students to study at the best engineering colleges of India. While a good number of NRI students in the Kingdom are keen on pursuing engineering courses in India, many miss the opportunity owing to lack of clarity over the admission process and procedures. In an exclusive interaction with Tribune, FIITJEE Bahrain head Aniruddha Baranwal reveals as to how the students could benefit from the initiative as well as the path towards obtaining admissions to renowned engineering colleges.



Aniruddha Baranwal

### What is DASA?

It is a scheme initiated by the Ministry of Human Resources, Government of India for UG programmes in Engineering, Architecture and Planning for Foreign Nationals/PIOs/NRIs/OCI to NITs, IITs, SPAs and other premier technical Institutions in India.

### What is the eligibility criteria for admissions under DASA scheme?

Apart from various eligibility criteria like age, minimum marks in CBSE BOARD EXAMS (which can be checked at [www.dasanit.org](http://www.dasanit.org)), the students are also required to appear in SAT subject tests conducted by College Board, US. The students have to appear for the three subject tests of Maths level 2, Physics and Chemistry.

### What is CIWG category for DASA admissions?

This is an additional advantage to the students of Gulf.

There is a special reservation for the Children of Indian Workers in Gulf (CIWG) under this scheme. Five per cent of the total 15 pc of supernumerary seats of DASA are reserved for CIWG (i.e., 1/3rd seats from DASA quota are reserved for CIWG). The fee applicable for this category shall be at par with the fee prescribed for Indian nationals and because of this, the competition for these seats is much higher.

### Why is such an admission linked to college board, us?

Earlier, it used to be a direct admission based on one's CBSE class XII board percentage. But it was realised that students despite of scoring high percentage in boards were unable to cope up with the engineering syllabus and compete with those students of India who come to these Institutions after undergoing rigorous training by different coaching Institutes and subsequently crack the qualifying JEE main exam conducted by the CBSE. Hence to instill a competitive spirit and to bring these students at par with these brilliant ones, they linked this admission to the one of the most coveted exams across the globe- the SAT (subjects).

### Can you briefly describe SAT subject tests?

Each subject (Physics/Chemistry/Mathematics L-2) is scored

out of a maximum of 800 marks making it a total out of 2,400. Each subject has different number of questions but time allotted is one hour each. DASA requires a minimum of 1,800 out of 2,400 to be eligible for admissions. The tests can be taken at various times in a year and the best score is what matters. However, over the years, because of FIITJEE's training students in Gulf, the overall scores have gone up. It is very difficult to get some core branches like computer science, electronics etc in good NITs as each subject requires different mindset and training to get a decent score. CBSE Board based learning alone may not help one to attain a high score in SAT.

### Could you give a few tips to the students for scoring high in the SAT subject tests?

Although SAT scores are valid for two years, the best time for students to take the tests is when they are in class XII. A well thought out plan is required to prepare and take the tests. The best time to take Math Level 2 test is in the months of May and June. For Physics and Chemistry, the best time is in the months of October and November. However, like many students of FIITJEE, with proper training, students can achieve perfect SAT score in May/ June for all the subjects in one go. Students should practice using ones' own calculator, which is allowed for Maths L-2, focus on certain chapters like functions, projectile, waves, forces, chemistry laboratory practical and equipment.

### What are the other benefits of obtaining a good SAT score?

A good score in these tests is one of the most important criteria for getting admission to UG courses in some prestig-

ious universities in US and other countries. Many FIITJEE trained students have been placed in various prestigious Universities in US like Caltech, Stanford, UC Berkeley etc. through SAT Subject tests and AP Exams.

### How is FIITJEE helping students to achieve good scores in these tests?

FIITJEE over the years has

been producing numerous perfect scorers. This year alone 15 students have achieved perfect scores in these three subjects. This has been possible by conducting numerous mock tests along with test analysis, with proper advice and planning given to the students besides training them for their basic concepts. FIITJEE in India has a dedicated division named USA UnivQuest from where we get

the support. We are starting dedicated batches from March for the same.

(Baranwal is an Ex-IITian and has been providing consultancy and guidance to CBSE students in Bahrain for CBSE Board, SAT, IIT-JEE and other similar exams for more than 11 years and has been guiding force behind many success stories. For more details he can be reached at [aniruddha.baranwal@fiitjee.com](mailto:aniruddha.baranwal@fiitjee.com))



To commemorate the Bahrain Sports Day, a series of sporting events were held at the New Millennium School, DPS-Bahrain, yesterday. A number of various sports activities were conducted. The highlight of the event was a football match. Principal Arun Kumar Sharma addressed the students and emphasised the importance of sports in a student's life. He applauded the efforts of the students and the teachers for making the event a huge success. He also expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Education for initiating such events, which help in inculcating a spirit of sportsmanship among the future generation.



Grade II students of Bahrain Indian School during a visit to Budaya Fire Station as a part of "learning by seeing activity" on 6th February. The trip taught the students the importance of safe and secure environment. The students were briefed by the officers how to tackle emergency situations, use of different fire extinguishers and the necessary precautions to be taken to avoid incidents/mishaps

## BIS excel in Spell Bee

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Indian School (BHAVANS) spellers outshined in "Bhavans' International Spell Bee"-Grand Finale organised by Indian Educational School, Kuwait on 9th February.

The competition took place at BIS premise, wherein a video conference was set up between all the schools of Bhavans Group both GCC and India.

The school's assembly hall was packed with confident spellers and parents, cheering on the competitors, all of the participants worked incredibly hard to prepare themselves for the finale of the spelling challenge.

After a number of nail biting rounds, Rachana Redla of Grade II, Sunish Sunil Bayalan of Grade IV and Steve Chalil Biju of Grade VII emerged as winners and were awarded with trophies and cash prizes.



Winners with School Director, Principal and In charge Teachers

The last round had a tie breaker round in all the categories. The competition made students aware of spellings and the usage of many unfamiliar words.

BIS Directors Himanshu

Verma and Ritu Verma, Principal Saji Jacob and the staff extended their heartiest congratulations to the winners and the parents for their immense hard work and excellent performance.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, AHMED S/O RAFIUDDIN AHMED**, holding Indian Passport No. **H 8408159**, dated 03.02.2010 issued at BAHRAIN, having permanent residence at (full address in India) **H. NO. 18-8-224-11, RIYASAT NAGAR, HYDERABAD - 500659, ANDHRA PRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **Bldg- 828, Road 1225, Block 212, MUHARRAQ**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **AHMED** (Surname) **RAFIUDDIN AHMED** Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

**I, JEMIMA D/O VICTOR DAVID**, holding Indian Passport No. **L3195560** dated 26/06/2013 issued at Bangalore having permanent residence, at **H.NO.6/15, 2ND CROSS SOUTH STREET, GANAPATHYPURAM, EAST TAMBARAM, KANCHEEPURAM, TAMILNADU 600059**. Presently residing at **FLAT NO.1, BUILDING NO.492, ROAD NO. 1118, BLOCK NO: 311, AL SALMANIYA, MANAMA, BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as ( Given Name ) **JEMIMA**, (Surname) **DAVID**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

**I, KOLEZHATHU PARAMBIL GOPALA KRISHNA MENON HARIDAS, S/O GOPALAKRISHNA MENON**, holding Indian Passport No. **K0786678** dated 18/01/2012 issued at Bahrain, having permanent residence at **KOLEZHATHU PARAMBIL HOUSE, ANCHAPALAM, PO. METHALA, TRICHUR DIST, KERALA**. Presently residing at **FLAT NO. 24, BUILDING NO. 3986, ROAD NO. 479, BLOCK NO: 304, MANAMA CENTER, BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (Given Name) **HARIDAS MENON**, (Surname) **KOLEZHATHU PARAMBIL GOPALA KRISHNA**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

# celebrities



Katy Perry

Los Angeles

Singer Katy Perry was slammed on social media for designing shoes which resembled 'blackface' imagery. The shoes in question were black 'Rue Face Slip On Loafers' and 'Ora Face Block Heel Sandals' that have cut-out faces, red lips, big blue eyes and a triangular nose on the top, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

## Katy Perry's fashion line under fire

Social media users have compared the shoes to "blackface make-up". One user even cited that "ignorance is never a fashion statement". Following the backlash, the shoes were pulled out from the stores. Perry and Global Brands Group issued the statement saying they did not have any intention to inflict any pain. "The Rue and The Ora were part of a collection that was released last summer in 9 different colorways (black, blue, gold, graphite, lead, nude, pink, red, silver) and envisioned as a nod to modern art and surrealism. "I was saddened when it was brought to my attention that it was being compared to painful images reminiscent of blackface. Our intention was never to inflict any pain. We have immediately removed them from Katy Perry Collections," it read.

Michelle Rodriguez



## Michelle Rodriguez apologises for her 'choice of words' in her defence of Liam Neeson

Los Angeles

Michelle Rodriguez has regretted the "choice of words" she used to defend actor Liam Neeson, who has been embroiled in a controversy over his revenge remarks.

On the red carpet at the amfAR Gala New York, the 40-year-old actor had come out in defence of Neeson, claiming that he is not a "racist" because of the way the veteran actor shot an intimate scene with Viola Davis in their film "Widows".

After a swift backlash, Rodriguez posted an apology on Instagram to her over 4.7 million fans.

"To my friends and colleagues and my fans and community: I want to deeply apologize for my recent choice of words, and poor use of example," she wrote.

"In a pressure-filled situation, I defended a friend in the wrong way. I now realize how insensitive it was, and I had no intention of invoking such a terrible historical comparison. I have learned from this, and will grow from it," she added.



Liam Neeson

## Cardi B quits Instagram after Grammy win

Los Angeles

Rapper Cardi B has quit Instagram following the backlash she received after she won a Grammy Award for her album "Invasion of Privacy".

Before deleting the account, the "I do" rapper posted a video in which she slammed people for criticising her win, reports variety.com.

She said: "It's not my style for people to put other people down to uplift somebody else, that's not my style and that's not what I'm with and I don't support that."

## Thomas Middleditch joins 'Zombieland' sequel

Los Angeles

Actor Thomas Middleditch is joining the upcoming "Zombieland" sequel.

The "Silicon Valley" actor will star alongside Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, and Abigail Breslin in "Zombieland 2", reports variety.com.

Zoey Deutch and Rosario Dawson are also boarding the cast.

"Zombieland 2" will be set in a world in which zombie slayers must face off against many new kinds of zombies that have evolved since the first movie, as well as some new human survivors.

Original "Zombieland" filmmaker Ruben Fleischer, who has helmed "Venom" too, is returning to direct the follow-up. He is re-teaming with original writers Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese, known for their work on both "Deadpool" movies.

## 'Aquaman' sequel officially in the works

Los Angeles

Warner Bros studios has tapped "Aquaman" co-writer David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick to begin penning a new installment for the franchise.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, director James Wan wants to return as producer along with Peter Safran. It is currently unclear whether Wan would come back to direct.

The news came almost two months after the film, headlined by Jason Momoa, released.

The movie turned out to earn USD 1.12 billion globally. It is Warner Bros.' first DC movie to pass the USD 1 billion mark since 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises".

## Nicki Minaj calls out Grammy Awards producer over bullying

Los Angeles

Rapper Nicki Minaj slammed Grammy Awards producer Ken Ehrlich for allegedly bullying her.

After the 2019 Grammy Awards ceremony here on Sunday, Minaj took to Twitter and called out Ehrlich saying she was bullied for seven years, reports foxnews.com.

Earlier, rapper Ariana Grande had criticised Ehrlich for "lying" about her reasons for pulling out of a performance at this year's Grammys.

Minaj tweeted: "I pissed off the same man Ariana just called out for lying. Grammy producer Ken. I was bullied into staying quiet for seven years out of fear. But I'll tell my fans the real on the next episode of 'Queen Radio' they deserve the truth. Also, congrats to everyone who won last night."

The "Bang bang" hitmaker has announced she will not be performing at the BET Experience, a concert preceding the 2019 BET Awards in June.

## George Clooney says Meghan being harassed just like Diana

Los Angeles

The media are harassing Meghan Markle just as they did Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash while being pursued by paparazzi, her friend George Clooney said.



George Clooney

American actress became the newest addition to the British royal family.

The Duchess of Sussex as she is now known, is expecting her first child, something that has intensified already huge media interest.

"They're just chasing Meghan Markle everywhere, she's been pursued and vilified," Clooney told Australian magazine WHO.

"She's a woman who is seven months pregnant and she has been pursued and vilified and chased in the same way that Diana was and it's history repeating itself," Clooney said.

Last weekend, some media published details of an intimate letter they said Meghan has sent her estranged father.

"I can't tell you how frustrating that is," Clooney said.

"Just seeing them broadcast a letter from a daughter to a father, she's getting a raw deal there and I think it's irresponsible and I'm surprised by that."



Meghan Markle

## Priyanka Chopra is 'proud' of Rebel Wilson

Los Angeles

Actress Priyanka Chopra has praised actress Rebel Wilson and said that it is amazing to see a woman in Hollywood, star in a movie of her dreams.

Priyanka on Tuesday took to Twitter where she shared a photograph of herself along with the cast of "Isn't It Romantic" and her husband Nick Jonas.

"Happiness and love all around. So proud of you Rebel Wilson. It's so amazing to see a woman in Hollywood literally make and star in a movie of her dreams. 'Isn't It Romantic'," she captioned the image.

"Isn't It Romantic" tells the story of a New York architect Natalie (Wilson) who works hard to get noticed at her job, but is more likely to be asked to deliver coffee and bagels than to design. Priyanka essays the role of a yoga ambassador.



Rebel Wilson



Priyanka Chopra

## Miley Cyrus stands in for husband at film premiere

Los Angeles

Newly married pop singer Miley Cyrus stood in for her Hollywood actor husband Liam Hemsworth on Monday, attending the premiere of his latest film "Isn't It Romantic" on his behalf as he was unwell.

Dressed in a red floor



Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

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# Newcastle denied at death

Willy Boly scored a last-gasp equaliser to leave Newcastle a point above the bottom three despite a spirited effort at Molineux

AFP | Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka damaged his side's bid to avoid relegation for the second successive match as his late howler gifted Wolves a 1-1 draw on Monday.

Rafael Benitez's side were seconds away from a valuable victory after Isaac Hayden's first goal since 2017 put them ahead in the second half at Molineux. Hayden's goal had come via a weak attempted save from Wolves keeper Rui Patricio.

But it was Dubravka's clanger at the other end that stole the headlines when the Slovakian allowed a cross to slip through his grasp as Willy Boly headed home deep into stoppage-time.

Dubravka will be public enemy No.1 on Tyneside after his latest gaffe, which came just days after he let Son Heung-min's shot squirm through his legs to give Tottenham a late winner.

With controversial Newcastle owner Mike Ashley watching from the stands, it was a bitter pill to swallow for Benitez, who refused to protect Dubravka when asked about the equaliser.

"We could do better. These kind of balls you can do a little bit better, punch the ball and it's finished," he said.

Asked if he thought Boly had pushed his keeper, Benitez added: "It was not very clear watching the replay. Still, it's something we have to defend better. He (Dubravka) has to be strong enough."

"I was not happy with some decisions, but overall I think the referee was fine. You cannot



Wily Boly of Wolverhampton Wanderers scores an equaliser for his side (1-1) in the last minute

complain about that."

Newcastle are now only one point above the relegation zone when they would have been three points clear but for Dubravka.

Back from a warm-weather break for a training camp in Marbella, seventh placed Wolves looked like they were still on the beach when Newcastle's Salomon Rondon was granted too much space for a low shot away that forced Patricio into action.

Wolves eventually hit their stride and made a vigorous appeal for a penalty when Christian Atsu challenged Raul Jimenez, only for referee Graham Scott to wave play on, with replays suggesting he made the right decision.

Jimenez needed just one goal to become just the second Mexican player to reach double figures in a Premier League campaign after Javier Hernandez.

He was close to making that milestone when he cut in from

the left and unleashed a powerful strike that Dubravka pushed away.

Sprawling to keep out Jonny's effort soon after, Dubravka was doing his best to redeem himself after his mistake against Tottenham.

Against the run of play, Newcastle snatched the lead in the

56th minute.

Hayden was played in by Fabian Schar, but his shot should have been saved by Patricio, who was beaten at his near post after weakly palming the ball into the net.

Wolves tried to mount an immediate response and Diogo Jota's low strike was well saved by Dubravka, who also kept out Leander Dendoncker's header soon after.

Paraguay midfielder Miguel Almiron came on for his Newcastle debut in the 72nd minute following his club record £20 million from Atlanta United last month.

And it seemed Wolves' pressure would be in vain, until Dubravka ended up as the villain yet again in the 95th minute.

Adama Traore's high cross hung in the air for an age, but Dubravka reacted hesitantly, allowing the ball to fall through his arms and hit Boly in the face before rolling into the net for a farcical equaliser.



Newcastle are now only one point above the relegation zone when they would have been three points clear but for Dubravka



Shaikha Hayat bint Abul Aziz Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Table Tennis Association (BTTA), Member of the Supreme Council for Youth & Sports and Member of the Bahrain Olympic Committee presents a memento to Cheria Mathews, Managing Director of Phoenix Marketing & Creations, for the support extended to the success of 10th Bahrain International Open Table Tennis Championship for Juniors & Cadets held in the Kingdom from 7th to 11 February



Students of New Millennium School, DPS-Bahrain participate in various sporting events organized as part of Bahrain Sports Day. The highlight of the event was a football match

## BOC celebrates sports day



Women engage in a game to mark Bahrain Sports Day

TDI | Manama

On the occasion of the Third Bahrain Sports Day, the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) staff gathered at the Bahrain Olympic Academy's premises, located at Manama Club in Juffair yesterday, to mark the occasion, which was celebrated all over the Kingdom.

The 2019 Bahrain Sports Day, organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee, was created to promote sports and health-enhancing physical activities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

BOC was delighted to lead the country-wide initiative with a morning of sports ac-

tivities at Manama Club sports hall, which boasts excellent facilities, including all weather and grass playing fields.

This two-hour programme was run by academy's director Dr Nabeel Taha, Saeed Al Aradi and executive coordinator Mahmood Yateem and senior coaching and development specialist Ali Qamber, who prepared a set of outdoor and indoor exercises for the committee's staff.

Among the activities were badminton, basketball, walking race, balls throw, tennis and some mental and heritage contests, in addition to a dedicated section for measuring physical fitness and fat levels, height, weight and oxygen.



Students of Bahrain Indian School - BHAVANS participate in activities conducted to promote physical fitness on Bahrain Sports Day. BIS celebrated the day by starting with a mass drill followed by various games for different classes. Principal Saji Jacob highlighted the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle and stressed on the need of being sportive in every sphere of life



Al Noor International School students during Bahrain Sports Day celebration. The school ensured that half of the school time was spent productively in Sports Day activities. The School's Scouts and Girls Guide troop participated in a walk at Sitra Park. Students also participated in the Sports Day celebrations organized by the Capital Governorate at Al Najma Club

**Kohli above peers, destined for greatness - Sangakkara**

Reuters | New Delhi



India's Virat Kohli during nets (file photo)

India captain Virat Kohli is well ahead of his contemporaries and destined for greatness, former Sri Lankan batting stalwart Kumar Sangakkara has said.

Run-machine Kohli capped a memorable 2018 by becoming the first to win the International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricketer, test and one-day international (ODI) player of the year awards last month.

Considered part of the elite group also featuring Kiwi Kane Williamson, Australian Steve Smith and England's Joe Root, Kohli has surged ahead after a stupendous 2018 and is currently the top ranked test as well as one-day batsman.

"Everything about Virat's game stands out. I think he is head and shoulders above anyone else in world cricket today," Sangakkara told India Today news channel.

# Wawrinka through as Paire switches off

Stan Wawrinka benefitted from a Benoit Paire collapse in tricky Rotterdam opener

Reuters | Rotterdam

Stan Wawrinka benefitted from a Benoit Paire collapse, with the Swiss carving out a 7-6(7/4), 6-1 win on Monday at the Rotterdam Open.

After fighting through a 45-minute first set the 33-year-old Wawrinka needed just 26 more minutes to salt away the first-round victory as the moody Paire had unleashed a trademark racquet smash after dropping the opening set.

The frustrated 58th-ranked Frenchman made little effort in the second set, phoning it in with apparent disinterest as Wawrinka took complete charge.

Breaking four times on his way into the second round Wawrinka made a date against either Milos Raonic, who beat him in four tiebreak sets at the Australian Open, or German Philipp Kohlschreiber.

"It's tough to play a friend whose game you know so well," Wawrinka said of Paire, "I didn't start well, but I lifted my level and got better and better.

"I'm happy to win this match. "It's tough to play Paire but I was able to regain my focus. I



Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka plays a backhand return to France's Benoit Paire

fought hard to find my rhythm." Wawrinka said that his knee is no longer a problem.

"In general I'm training well and moving well. "I had a good

level in Melbourne against Raonic over almost four hours.

"The knee is good, I'm happy physically and have confidence in it."

The number 68 Swiss who claimed the title in Europe's major port city in 2015, has been working for more than a year to rehab completely following two



**It's tough to play a friend whose game you know so well. I didn't start well, but I lifted my level and got better and better**

STAN WAWRINKA

knee surgeries in summer, 2017. Victory over his French opponent leaves him with a 9-3 record in the series.

The field is headed by Asia's top player, Kei Nishikori of Japan, who opens in his tournament debut yesterday against Montpellier finalist Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France.

In other first-round results on Monday, Italian veteran Andreas Seppi outlasted Peter Gojowczyk of Germany 7-6(7/3), 3-6, 6-2 while Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin beat Dutchman Robin Haase, a quarter-finalist here in 2018 who lost to Roger Federer, 6-2, 7-6(7/4).

Federer became the oldest man to return to the number one ranking through that victory one year ago here.

## World number one Osaka in shock split with coach

AFP | Tokyo

World tennis number one Naomi Osaka has split from her coach Sascha Bajin just 17 days after completing back-to-back Grand Slam victories at the Australian Open.

"Hey everyone, I will no longer be working together with Sascha. I thank him for his work and wish him all the best in the future," the 21-year-old Japanese tweeted in a shock announcement.

Bajin, a former hitting partner to Serena Williams, responded: "Thank you Naomi. I wish you nothing but the best as well. What a ride that was. Thank you for letting me be part of this."

Osaka, who became the first Asian to hold the top ranking after beating Czech Petra Kvitová in the Melbourne final on January 26, had worked with the German for just over a year.

No reason was given for the surprise decision to part ways, but Japanese media cited Osaka's management company IMG in reporting that there had been a breakdown in the player's relationship with the coach since the start of the year.

According to Japan's Nikkan Sports, some practice sessions with Bajin at the Australian Open lasted just 10 minutes and she sometimes hit without him being present.

Osaka, who is scheduled to compete in Dubai next week, began sounding out potential replacements late last year, local media reported.

The Japanese player captured her first Grand Slam crown by stunning Williams at last year's US Open in a final remembered as much for the American's



Japan's Naomi Osaka with coach Sascha Bajin before her match against Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova (file photo)

astonishing rant at the chair umpire following a coaching violation.

Based in the United States, Osaka linked up with Bajin in late 2017 and enjoyed a breakthrough year, shooting from 72 in the world to the top of the women's rankings.

### Disbelief

During that period she won the prestigious Indian Wells tournament before scooping her first major in New York, while Bajin was named WTA coach of the year.

Osaka's Twitter feed lit up in response to her announcement, with several memes expressing widespread disbelief

-- including a shrugging Barack Obama, a confused Joey from American sitcom "Friends" and a Minions character screaming



**Osaka melted hearts when she fought back tears after her emotional US Open win over her idol Williams as booing echoed around the stadium**

"WHAAAAAT?"

Osaka, who grew up in the US and speaks little Japanese, melted hearts when she fought back tears after her emotional US Open win over her idol Williams as booing echoed around

the stadium.

She won more fans with a nail-biting 7-6, 5-7, 6-4 win over Kvitová in the Australian Open final, after which Osaka sobbed tears of joy as the jeers were replaced by cheers.

Former greats Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert have all heaped praise on the new darling of women's tennis.

"Winning back-to-back Grand Slam tournaments is a rare and special achievement, and I'm thrilled these results have propelled Naomi to the top of the women's game," said Evert, the first ever WTA world number one. It's tough to play a friend whose game you know so well. I didn't start well, but I lifted my level and got better and better. I'm happy to win this match

## Missing Reus a blow for injury-hit Dortmund against Spurs - Matthaeus

AFP | Berlin

With the absence of injured playmaker Marco Reus, Borussia Dortmund will face Tottenham in the Champions League without their best player, Germany legend Lothar Matthaeus said yesterday.

Reus has scored 17 goals and created 11 more for the Bundesliga leaders this season, but a thigh strain will keep him out of the last 16, first leg against Spurs at Wembley.

"Now he's also going to be missing for the important game against Tottenham - that won't make it any easier," said former Germany captain Matthaeus, now a Sky pundit.

"The third-best team in the Premier League against the best in the Bundesliga. I see the chances as 50/50.

"In Marco Reus, Dortmund are missing their best player." However, it is not just Reus who will be missing against Spurs.

Right-back Lukasz Piszczek is out with a heel injury, stand-in centre-back Julian Weigl has flu and striker Paco Alcacer is sidelined by a shoulder injury.

Dortmund head coach Lucien Favre is struggling with the effects of flu and England winger Jadon Sancho forgot his passport, forcing a red-faced dash

home to retrieve the document before making the flight to London.

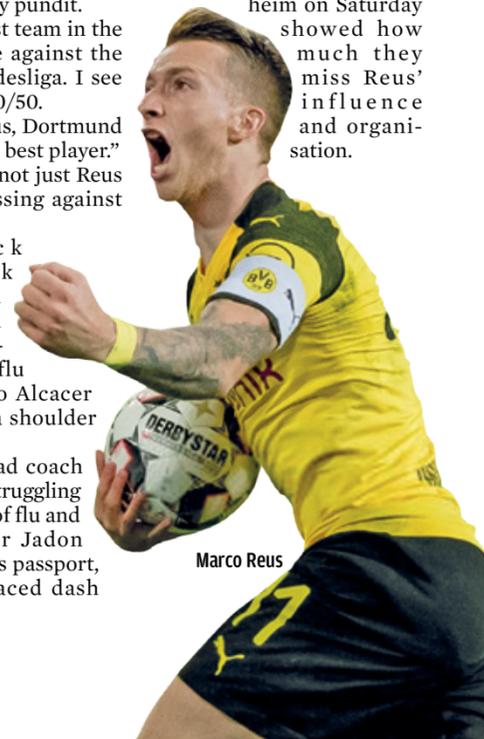
"Yes, we have a few dropped out, but we won't be going there just to wave," said Dortmund's director of sport Michael Zorc.

Reus injured his thigh last Tuesday while drilling home a direct free-kick against Werder Bremen, but Dortmund lost on penalties as the German Cup tie finished 3-3 after extra time.

Spurs are also without big names of their own as England forwards Harry Kane and Dele Alli are injured.

Matthaeus says Dortmund's 3-3 draw at home to Hoffenheim on Saturday

showed how much they miss Reus' influence and organisation.



Marco Reus