

National Day holidays declared
 Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister issued a circular regarding the holiday on the occasion of the Kingdom's 47th Glorious National Day and 19th Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

House head congratulated
 Manama

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty, has sent a cable of congratulations to Fawzia Zainal on the occasion of her election as Chairperson of the House of Representatives for the fifth legislative term.



03 Observatory to check on lawmakers' performance

04 Record drugs bust for Kingdom-based CMF

05 New era in democracy as His Majesty opens first session of Fifth Legislature

Cardi B doesn't plan on getting back with Offset

Days after American rappers Cardi B and Offset announced their split; the latter has confessed that he misses his estranged wife. Despite, Offset's public pleas for forgiveness Cardi B doesn't want to get back with him. P13

First comes duty

His Majesty directs lawmakers to fulfil their responsibilities as Fifth Legislative Term begins

● **HM the King highlighted that the new legislative term would witness more achievements to benefit the national action march, wishing them success in shouldering their new responsibilities.**

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday opened the first session of the Fifth Legislative Term in the presence of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier at Isa Cultural Centre.

Speaking on the occasion, His Majesty highlighted the need to take the nation forward by strengthening the bond between legislature and executive.



His Majesty with HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince at the opening ceremony of the new legislative term.

His Majesty also congratulated the newly-appointed Shura members and newly-elected parliamentarians.

His Majesty also lauded the Bahraini youth and Bahraini women for the contributions towards the national development.

On the economic front, His Majesty highlighted the need to continue growth by sustaining revenue streams through the diversification of economy.

His Majesty also congratulated

40
 MPs and 40 Shura members start their national duties as the Fifth Legislative Term began yesterday.

ed the newly-appointed Shura members and newly-elected parliamentarians.

HM the King stressed that the legislative branch would assume serious national responsibilities, highlighting consensus and cooperation between the two branches are essential to push ahead with the construction and development process to wider horizons in the interest of the homeland

and citizens.

HM the King welcomed the Shura and Representatives' achievements made during the past legislative term, noting their pivotal roles in developing laws and legislation, strengthening the state of constitution and defending the homeland's interests.

He also commended the role of the municipal councils in improving services provided to citizens.

HM the King took pride in citizens' keenness to promote social unity, appreciating their efforts in various fields and their key role in boosting Bahrain's standing at all levels.

HM the King highlighted that the new legislative term would witness more achievements to benefit the national action march, wishing them success in shouldering their new responsibilities.

Members of Shura, Representatives and Municipal councils hailed the royal keenness to promote the democratic approach and support for the legislative branches.

See page 5

NEW ROLE

Woman elected head after hours of House drama

● **Ms Zainal has worked with Bahrain TV for nearly 25 years, during which she held a number of positions, including Acting Director, Head of Programmes and Development and Strategic Planning Consultant.**

TDT | Manama
Tamer Taifoor

The newly-elected members of the parliament yesterday elected lawmaker Fawzia Zainal as the House chairwoman after an intense drama which exhibited many lawmakers criticising each other as well as the process of selection.

MP Adel Al Asoomi, one of the contenders for the top House post, was the first to criticise the electoral process.

He said the ballot box was kept in such a way that MPs could make out as to who was voting for whom.

Suggesting a secret ballot method to elect the House head, he said the process violated electoral laws.

MP Isa Al Kooheji, another contender for the post, said the



The House witnessed chaotic scenes before the chairwoman was elected.



Ms Zainal



Mr Salman



Mr Al Zayed

head of the session Yousef Zainal was behaving in an undemocratic manner.

"The method to select the House head should be decided on the basis of consensus from

the part of lawmakers and it is undemocratic for the session head to take decisions unilaterally," he said.

“The method to select the House head should be decided on the basis of consensus from the part of lawmakers and it is undemocratic for the session head to take decisions unilaterally.”

MR AL KOOHEJI

ally," he said.

On the other hand, MP Hamad Al Kooheji said there was no need for a secret ballot and the process did not breach any values of democracy.

The House also elected Abdulnabi Salman as the first vice-chairman and Ali Al Zayed the second vice-chairman (unopposed).

Ms Zainal, who represents fifth constituency in the Southern Governorate, is a leading media personality.

She has worked with Bahrain TV for nearly 25 years, during which she held a number of positions, including Acting Director, Head of Programmes and Development and Strategic Planning Consultant.

In another development, the Shura elected Jamal Fakhro and Hala Ramzi as the first and second deputy through consensus.





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, and Royal Family members, yesterday performed funeral prayers for the late HH Shaikha Noora bint Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, at Shaikh Isa Mosque, in Riffa.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, yesterday at the Safriya Palace, received HRH Prince Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Governor of the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Envoy of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, accompanied by HRH Prince Ahmed bin Fahad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who conveyed condolences of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, on the demise of HH Shaikha Noora bint Isa bin Salman. Their royal highnesses prayed to Almighty God to reset the soul of the deceased in eternal peace. HM the King expressed profound thanks of the sympathies of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and HRH the Crown Prince, which reflect the depth of the longstanding bilateral relations and fraternal ties bonding the two kingdoms and their people.

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, yesterday at the Safriya Palace, received HRH Prince Mohammed bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; HRH Prince Dr Mansour bin Mutaib Al Saud, Minister of State, member of Council of Ministers; HRH Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chairman of Tourism Authority; HRH Prince Fahad bin Bader bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Royal Court Advisor; HRH Prince Dr. Abdulaziz bin Sattam bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Royal Court Advisor; HRH Prince Nayef bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; HRH Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Governor of Riyadh; HRH Prince Turki bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Their royal highnesses offered HM the King deepest condolences on the demise of HH Shaikha Noora bint Isa bint Salman. They prayed to Almighty God to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace. HM the King expressed appreciation of their noble feelings that reflect the solid historical relations between the two kingdoms and their people. He wished the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia further progress, security and stability.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met the former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik, at Riffa Palace. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince and the former Norwegian Prime Minister discussed opportunities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Bahrain and Norway across various fields.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday received a delegation from the US, led by the former Mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani, at Riffa Palace. HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the long-standing partnership between Bahrain and the US, which is centred on shared values and the objective of advancing peace and stability across the region and abroad. HRH the Crown Prince went on to note that wide-ranging cooperation continues to bolster security, economic and cultural ties.

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Bahrain participates in COP 24 in Poland

Katowice

On behalf of the HM the King's Personal Representative and President of the Supreme Council for the Environment, HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, a Bahraini delegation, led by the Deputy President of SCE, HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, participated in the opening of the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 24), in Poland. The kingdom's participation in the impor-

tant international event is in line with its keenness to be informed about the global efforts to address climate change and protect the Earth. It is also an opportunity to highlight its long experience in protecting the environment, as part of its efforts to honour its pledges in the environment-related agreements and covenants it has ratified. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established in May 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and came into force in March

1994 with the promise of strengthening global public awareness of climate change issues. Among its main objectives is the stabilisation of concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere to prevent risks in the climate system. The annual meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP), which is the supreme body of the Convention and the association of all the countries that form part of it, are attended by environmental experts, ministers, heads of state and non-governmental organisations.

Observatory to check on lawmakers' performance

Project to document MPs' attendance, efforts to fulfil electoral promises

● The initiative will monitor as well as document the performance of the representatives in a neutral manner.

● The project will also assess the MPs' performance in fulfilling their electoral promises.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran



The House of Representatives has convened its first session.

An initiative to monitor the performance of the parliamentarians including keeping a close eye on the attendance of MPs at sessions was launched yesterday.

Responding to the need to have independent civil institutions that transparently monitor the performance of Bahraini Legislative Council, the Bahrain

Human Rights Watch (BHRW) has launched the initiative titled 'Bahraini Parliamentary Observatory'.

The initiative will monitor as well as document the performance of the representatives in a neutral manner.

Speaking to Tribune, BHRW

General-Secretary Faisal Fulad said the initiative aims to ensure that the Bahraini people can adopt a reference to the assessment and follow-up of the Council.

"The project aims to ensure the people in the Kingdom to exert the power of civil pressure on

the House of Representatives in the country in addition to monitoring the executive branch."

The project will also assess the MPs' performance in fulfilling their electoral promises. Documenting the attendance of the parliamentarians for the sessions will be also carried

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The project aims to ensure the people in the Kingdom to exert the power of civil pressure on the House of Representatives in the country in addition to monitoring the executive branch.

MR FULAD

out, he added.

"The society representatives may attend sessions to record the performance of committees. Other functions of the project include documentation of the quantitative contributions of each MP during his/her attendance at the sessions, monitoring the website of the House of Representatives, monitoring all media as well as the proposals of the laws submitted to the House of Representatives and its im-

portance.

"The initiative also includes monitoring draft laws, discussions and voting on bills and monitoring the activities of the external and internal committees. The role will also include overseeing the activities of the House of Representatives and the non-subordination of the executive authority. We will also check on lawmakers' response with regard to addressing grievances faced by his voters whether he/she has an office to communicate with," the BHRWS stated.

The initiative will also cover the position of the Council against corruption and the reports on financial and administrative control, the Council's position on the retirement fund, pensioners' money, the additional tax law and the policy of austerity, the Council's position on general budget, on freedoms and human rights in the Kingdom and against terrorism and extremism, the BHRWS added.

Bahrain condemns France shooting

Manama

Bahrain condemned the shooting incident which took place in Strasbourg, France, and resulted in the death and injury of several people.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms the solidarity of the Kingdom of Bahrain with the French Republic in its efforts to counter terrorism and extremism and strengthen its peace and stability," said

the ministry's statement issued today.

The ministry expressed its deep condolence to the family of the victims, wishing those injured a speedy recovery. It also reiterated the Kingdom's firm stance in rejecting all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism.

The bustle of holiday shopping gave way to a lockdown in the French city of Strasbourg on Tuesday after a gunman killed at least three people and wounded 11 others in a suspected terrorist attack, according to police.

AMA School holds finale of leadership programme

TDT | Manama

The Middle School Department of AMA International School held the finale of Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) at its campus.

Dr Somaya Al Jowder, the chief guest, gave an inspirational talk to the future leaders. Fatima Fakhro was the guest of honour.

The programme was conducted by Aysha Shafiq as the co-ordinator of the YLP, Jhubelyn A Catumber, and Falak Sheer as the assistant co-ordinators of YLP Pakistan Community Toastmasters led by Najeeb Razzaq.

The programme include speech, debate and table topic contests.

All the 13 participants of this

club have put an enormous effort and prepared for their final performances, the organisers said.

Ali Hassan Hussain with the speech titled "Greatness" was placed the champion (gold medallist) for speech contest, while Yousif Ajoor was the second place (silver medallist) and Czyrel Daniel Cunanan got the third place (bronze medallist).

In the debate contest on the topic "Young children should have smartphones", the proposing team earned the victory. The members of the proposing team were Ahmed Aqeel Alnuwain, Mohamed Hassan Hussain, and Mohamed Rohail. For the table topic contest, Krish Mehra carried the day by bringing home the gold medal.

Samia Mirza, the principal of middle school thanked the guests, students' parents and teachers for their contributions towards the success of the programme.

The Youth Leadership Programme is a programme organised by the toastmasters international; that aims to develop leadership, speaking and communication skills.



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Record drugs bust for Kingdom-based CMF

\$2.1 million worth heroin and crystal methamphetamine was seized and destroyed by HMS Dragon crew

● The sales of illicit drugs are a known source of funding for terrorist groups and criminal networks.

● This year CTF 150 has destroyed 49,255 kg of illicit drugs.

TDI | Manama

HMS Dragon, operating under the Combined Maritime Forces, has conducted her second major seizure of narcotics in less than two weeks, the CMF website reported.

The Type 45 Destroyer was on patrol as part of CMF's Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 when the crew found and destroyed more than 500kg of drugs, including nearly 200kg of heroin and 9kg of crystal methamphetamine.

The drugs would have sold locally for more than \$2.1 million US dollars and for many times that had they made it to their final markets, according to CMF.

These sales of illicit drugs are a known source of funding for terrorist groups and criminal networks. This year CTF 150



The HMS Dragon team with seized drugs.

has destroyed 49,255 kg of illicit drugs.

CTF 150 has recently come under the command of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN). The Task Force is led by Commodore Darren Garnier RCN.

"I thank HMS Dragon for its continued vigilance and support to CTF 150 so early in our tenure of command, and for a superbly executed drug interdiction operation. This seizure

of illicit drugs is continuing to deny terrorists the use of the high seas as a pathway for illegal activity," he said in the report.

HMS Dragon encountered the suspicious dhow on the "Smack Track" smuggling route running from the Makran Coast of Iran and Pakistan to the shores of East Africa.

Lt Jonathan Bennett, one of HMS Dragon's officers, said: "I

had just taken over the watch when I spotted this dhow, and whilst a common sight within the Middle East and the Indian Ocean, this was in an unusual area for the size of vessel. It looked suspicious, and as we closed in on the vessel, the boarding teams went out in the sea boats to talk to the crew of the dhow. Their answers raised our suspicions further, and so we started a boarding. Fol-

500
kilograms of drugs were seized by the HMS Dragon team.

lowing a search by our trained teams we were able to locate and recover these narcotics, stopping their onward likely travel to their final markets, as well as disrupting the funding of illicit activity".

Commander Michael Carter Quinn, the Commanding Officer of HMS Dragon, said: "To achieve this seizure, so swiftly after the last, is demonstration of the hard work and professionalism of all the Dragons on board. I am delighted for the new team at CTF 150 to start their Command so positively."

CMF is a multi-national military organisation based in Bahrain. CMF's purpose is to maintain maritime security in the busy sea lanes of the Middle East. HMS Dragon will spend the period over Christmas at sea continuing her support to CTF 150 and her great work ensuring the security of the high seas.

Book Fest begins today

TDI | Manama

Renowned Indian film actor and writer Prakash Raj will inaugurate the BKS-DC International Book Fest and Cultural Carnival at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) Hall in Segaya today.

Mr Raj's book 'Namma Vizhunganma Maunam' will be released at the event.

On December 14, 'Narendra Modi: Creative Disruptor', penned by R Balashankar, will be released. A special function attended by Indian Member of Parliament Meenakshi Lekhi will also be held on the same day.

The events will continue until December 22, which will see many dignitaries including writers K G Sankara Pillai, N S Madhavan and Indian Administrative Service officer K V Mohan Kumar in attendance.

Art installations, photography exhibitions, cultural events, live concerts, food court, art and craft corners, literary camps and workshops, camp fire with celebrities, cultural quiz, live painting and tug of war will be held as part of the event, organisers said.

Legendary singer to headline event

TDI | Manama

Legendary singer Dr P Susheela will perform live at the Indian Club on December 16 as part of the event marking the National Day. A troupe of 20 musicians will accompany the legendary singer, who has found place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Dialogue puts spotlight on cultural diversity

TDI | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Major personalities belonging to the Arab and European cultural scenes came together to discuss the significance of culture as a structuring element in history.

'The Intercultural Dialogue Between World Cities' was attended by André Azoulay, senior adviser to King Mohammed VI of Morocco, Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Amandine Lepoutre, Founder and President of Thinkers and Doers, Manal Ataya, Director-General of the Sharjah Museums Department and Catherine Guilou, the Director of Visitors at Centre



From left, Mr André, Shaikha Mai, Ms Amandine, Ms Manal and Ms Catherine at the dialogue.

Pompidou.

They gathered in Paris for a unique

roundtable panel discussion under the banner, 'Culture Diversity: at the heart

of new Citizenship in the Cities'.

Speaking to Tribune, Amandine said,

"In this restless period we are going through, culture appears to be the base of our identities. Tomorrow's world doesn't exist without a strong rooting in our values, our DNA, our heritage. This is what we noticed while organizing conferences in Europe, in the Arab world and in Africa under the title 'culture in cities is at the heart of development'.

"It is what is allowing us to think and act in a sustainable way, in order to better transform oneself and act with the others. Manama and Sharjah are symbolic examples of this dynamic."

André said culture can't solve everything but it leads to dialogue from a strong base.

"Culture always wins. It is a resistant tool," said Shaikha Mai.

Eligible employees approved for voluntary retirement

● CSB Organisation and Job budgeting director-general Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi urged the departments of human resources to verify the payments before closing the human resources system.

Manama

The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has approved the applications of employees who met the terms of voluntary retirement programme. Lists of the eligible applicants have been referred to government departments which will, in turn, inform their employees officially within a week.

In a statement issued yesterday, CSB Chief Ahmed bin

Zayed Al Zayed said that lists of eligible applicants had also been sent to the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) to finalise retirement procedures. Employees planning to buy virtual years of service have been urged to co-ordinate with their respective departments and finalise the required procedures.

The directorates of human resources at Govern-



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The lists of eligible applicants had also been sent to the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) to finalise retirement procedures.

MR AL ZAYED

ment departments have also been directed to enter in the system the end of service entitlements, the previous promotion differences and the final account of the admitted staff.

CSB Organisation and Job budgeting director-general Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi urged the departments of human resources to verify the payments before closing the human resources system.



His Majesty, HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince honours newly-elected parliamentarians and newly-appointed Shura members.

New era in democracy as His Majesty opens first session of Fifth Legislature

His Majesty hails national election success; emphasises strong executive-legislature ties

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday patronised, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, the first session of the fifth Legislative Term of the Shura and Representatives councils.

HM King Hamad was welcomed by Shura Council Chairman, Ali Al Saleh, and MP, Yussef Zainal, on arrival at the Isa Cultural Centre, accompanied by a constellation of police cavalry.

The National anthem was played and some holy Quran verses were recited.

His Majesty delivered a speech in which he emphasised the importance of implementing reforms to enhance progress and transform the Kingdom into a modern nation.

"We are pleased to congratulate our brothers and sisters on their membership of the current National Assembly and the municipal councils, wishing them success in their endeavours to continue the development of parliamentary and municipal work.

"We urge them to maintain the friendly relations between the executive and legislative authorities, so as to strengthen the ties of integration and cooperation, and abide by the principle of separation of powers and advancing public interest.

"On this occasion, we would like to express our great satisfaction with the outstanding success of the national elections, whose outcomes reaffirm the strength of the democratic experience and the solid will of the people in upholding the interest of Bahrain.

"We would also like to thank here the Chairman and members of the High Elections Committee, along with the ladies and gentlemen members of the Judiciary, for their distinguished work and follow-up characterised by remarkable development and sincere efforts which are greatly appreciated.

"With the beginning of a new phase of work, which we are



His Majesty honours elderly Bahrainis who cast their votes in national elections.

As part of our commitment to Arab and Islamic countries, we will continue to defend our Arab and Islamic causes in international forums.

HIS MAJESTY

preparing for together with eagerness and hope, we find it appropriate to talk with you about our national public affairs, to assess what we have accomplished, and to look forward to what we would like to achieve, God willing.

"At the national development level, our main priority is the goal to achieve financial balance by adopting a well-defined programme that accelerates our national efforts to rectify the public budget situation and diversify our income, under the supervision of our dear uncle, the Prime Minister, with the tireless efforts and help of our son and Crown Prince.

"We express to them here our pride in the promising results of the national economy which, through its strong performance, has managed to maintain its positive growth and enhance its global financial reputation.

"We need to work tirelessly to continue to attract and encourage national and international investments, in order to create

further work opportunities and choices, in particular in the field of energy supply diversification and development of the oil sector, which is in turn witnessing a qualitative leap following the discovery of the largest oil and gas field in the history of Bahrain.

"In this regard, we look forward to the field development plans yielding the desired developmental returns.

"We call here on our brothers and sisters members of the legislative authority to take into account the priorities of national action and future requirements, and to continue the efforts of those before them in supporting the necessary reforms and actions, among the most important of which relates to the sustainability of pension funds to ensure their ability to fulfil their obligations towards future generations.

"We also call upon the esteemed Government to put among its priorities for the coming work period the necessary plans to develop areas of investments and diversify sources of income to the insurance funds to improve the services provided to retirees, and to work intensively on reviewing its policies in a comprehensive manner to accelerate the pace of national action, maximise our gains and develop our experiences.

"We convey our sincere thanks to our brothers in the



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the State of Kuwait, for their noble stances, which we highly appreciate, in supporting our national efforts to achieve the sought after financial balance and economic growth, through which we will work to strengthen facets of our integration and economic cooperation with our brothers, within the context of our common policies that aim


to maintain the security and stability of the region and safeguard its gains.

"As part of our commitment to our Arab and Islamic countries, we will continue to defend our Arab and Islamic causes in international forums, and the Palestinian issue is at the forefront of our interests. We will seek that the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate rights, including the establishment of

an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital."

The speech also saw His Majesty hailing the contributions of Bahraini youth, Bahraini women as well as the success of Bahraini sportsmen in prestigious international events including Asian Games. His Majesty also hailed the achievements of HH Shaikh Nasser in enhancing the youth to take part in various sports activities.



The General Headquarters of Bahrain Defence Force

Announces Military Museum Timings

On the Occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day on december 16-17, marking the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by it's founder Ahmed Al-Fateh, the 47th anniversary of since Bahrain has joined the United Nation as a full member and the 19th anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, the General Headquarters of the Bahrain Defence Force announces that the Military music Band Museum will be open to the public on Sunday and Monday, December 16-17 from 9am to 5pm.

During these two days, the Military Music Band will prefom authentic tradtional and patriotic music.

world

France hunts gunman after market shooting

● The attack took place Tuesday around 8 pm

● The suspected shooter, a 29-year-old from the south of the city

● The man opened fire in three areas of the Christmas market

AFP | Strasbourg, France



French police officers stand guard near the scene of a shooting

Hundreds of police and anti-terror forces hunted yesterday for a gunman who shot dead three people and wounded 13 at a Christmas market in Strasbourg, with the suspect known to police and thought to be a religious extremist.

The attack took place Tues-

day around 8 pm (1900 GMT) in the heart of the medieval city in eastern France as the market was closing, sending crowds fleeing for safety.

The suspected shooter, a 29-year-old from the south of the city, was on a watchlist of suspected extremists and "is ac-

tively being hunted by security forces," local officials said in a statement.

The man opened fire in three areas of the Christmas market, which draws hundreds of thousands of people each year to its wooden chalets selling festive decorations, mulled wine and

food.

The motive for Tuesday night's shooting in Strasbourg "has not yet been established," deputy Interior minister Laurent Nunez told France Inter radio.

The gunman is "known for a number of criminal offences (...) but has never been linked to terrorist offences," he said.

Police had wanted to arrest him Tuesday morning as part of an investigation into an attempted murder, but he was not at home, a security source said.

Strasbourg mayor Roland Ries said most of the victims were men, including one Thai tourist.

"Some were shot in the head," Ries told BFM television. No children were hurt.

Soldiers patrolling the area as part of regular anti-terror operations after a series of attacks since 2015 exchanged fire with the suspect and wounded him, police sources said.



102-year-old great-grandmother Irene O'Shea during her skydive tandem jump in the South Australia town of Wellington.

Twitter CEO defends controversial Myanmar tweets



Yangon, Myanmar

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey yesterday defended a series of tweets about his recent meditation retreat in Myanmar that were pilloried on his own platform for failing to mention the persecution of Rohingya Muslims.

Dorsey's gushing thread on Sunday came after a 10-day silent Vipassana meditation retreat near Mandalay in which he praised the country's food, beauty and its people, whom he said were "full of joy".

The comments drew heat online for leaving out any discussion of atrocities committed against Myanmar's Rohingya minority.

In a series of tweets, Dorsey defended his actions but conceded he could have handled the situation better.

"I'm aware of the human rights atrocities and suffering in Myanmar. I don't view visiting, practicing, or talking with the people, as endorsement," he said.

"I didn't intend to diminish by not raising the issue, but could have acknowledged that I don't know enough and need to learn more."

California man sues after pinky stuck in armrest during flight

Los Angeles, United States

A California man has filed a lawsuit against two US airlines after his pinky got stuck in his first-class seat armrest, forcing firefighters and a mechanic to intervene to free the finger.

Stephen Keys, an actor who has starred in "Soul Plane" and "Big Time Rush," claims in his suit -- filed in Los Angeles Superior Court against American Airlines Inc. and SkyWest Airlines Inc. -- that he suffered severe emotional distress and weeks of pain after the Sep-

tember 9 incident on board a flight from Reno, Nevada to Los Angeles.

The mishap took place after he raised his armrest to reach for his seatbelt and his pinky got stuck in a small hole under the armrest, according to the suit.

"The spring mechanism embedded inside of this hole in the armrest applied intense pressure to plaintiff's finger, immediately inflicting injury, swelling and pain," the suit alleges.

It adds that Keys repeat-

edly tried to free his pinky as fellow passengers looked on, "causing his dire situation to become a humiliating public spectacle."

Keys claims he suffered for nearly an hour as flight personnel and firefighters tried to dislodge the finger.

An airline mechanic finally disassembled the armrest and freed the pinky.

The suit says that since the mishap, Keys has been unable to carry out routine tasks, including playing with his children.

Mother reunited with daughter she thought died 69 years ago

Washington, United States

An 88-year-old American woman has been reunited with the daughter she was told had died at birth 69 years ago, The New York Times reported.

Genevieve Purinton of Tampa, Florida, met her 69-year-old daughter Connie Moultrou of Richmond, Vermont, for the first time this month, the newspaper said.

Purinton was 18 years old and unmarried when she gave birth to a girl in Gary, Indiana.

"I was told it was a girl, but she died," she told the Times.

The newspaper said that in fact, a doctor at the hospital where Purinton gave birth had arranged for the baby to be adopted.

Moultrou tracked down her birth mother after taking a DNA test on Ancestry.com, the Times said.

She traveled to Florida this month to meet her. "You're not dead," Purinton said when they were reunited.

"It was a bawlfest," said Moultrou. "She was so happy to meet me."



Connie Moultrou (R) shows her taking a selfie with her mother Genevieve Purinton (L) after reuniting thanks to DNA testing in Tampa, Florida

102-year-old skydiver

Sydney, Australia

A 102-year-old great-grandmother is believed to have become the world's oldest skydiver after plunging 14,000 feet (4,300 metres) through the South Australian sky.

Centenarian adrenaline junkie Irene O'Shea said she "felt normal" after a 220 kilometre per hour (140 mph) dive that sent her cheeks flapping wildly.

She completed her first

skydive to mark her 100th birthday in 2016, but organisers claimed it was Sunday's successful tandem dive at the age of 102 years and 194 days that earned her a place in the history books.

"It was very clear up there, and the weather was good but it was very cold," said O'Shea, according to Australian media.

O'Shea took the plunge to raise funds for a motor neuron disease charity, after her daughter died from the illness.



Irene O'Shea (C) after she safely landed upon completing her jump

French tourist shot dead in Bangkok by off-duty Thai cop

Bangkok, Thailand

A French tourist was gunned down early yesterday by an off-duty Thai cop after a drunken bar fight in a seedy Bangkok district, police said.

The 41-year-old Parisian was shot dead at a downtown apartment block after an altercation with the police sergeant major who had approached the tourist's Thai girlfriend.

"They were drunk... they started to argue and then had a fist fight but the policeman couldn't fight back," the Chief of Thailand's Immigration Police Surachate Hakpan told AFP.

"The policeman followed him back to his place and shot him twice," he said, adding the victim had been in Thailand for several months.

The officer has been arrested and "will be fired... and prosecuted on a murder charge", Surachate added.

Police are hunting a second suspect seen on CCTV.

Gruesome pictures circulated on Thai media showed the victim lying in a pool of blood in front of a doughnut shop at his apartment block.

We accept people's mandate: PM Modi

India's ruling party concedes defeat in key state elections

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's ruling party suffered stinging election defeats in at least two stronghold states, results showed Tuesday, in a big blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi before national polls in 2019.

The votes held earlier this month and in November were seen as a dress rehearsal for next year when Modi will likely go head-to-head with an emboldened Rahul Gandhi of the Congress party for a second term.

"We accept the people's mandate with humility," Modi said late Tuesday on Twitter.

"I thank the people of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for giving us the opportunity to serve these states. The BJP Governments in these states worked tirelessly for the welfare of the people."

In both the central state of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the west, the chief ministers



Rahul Gandhi



India's Congress party supporters



Narendra Modi

from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) conceded defeat, while in Madhya Pradesh the outcome was on a knife-edge.

In Chhattisgarh, ruled by the BJP for 15 years, results showed the BJP winning just 16 seats, down from 49 in the outgoing parliament, trailing Congress on 68 in the 90-seat state par-

liament. Congress also trounced the BJP in Rajasthan, governed since 2013 by the BJP's Vasundhara Raje, an unpopular local princess, winning 99 seats ahead of the BJP on 73 -- 89 fewer than in the last election.

Television footage showed jubilant Congress workers bursting firecrackers and dancing at

regional party offices.

Before the BJP ruled 19 out of 29 Indian states either outright or in alliance with local parties. Congress rules just two states, including one in partnership.

Analysts have linked the BJP's apparent dwindling support to growing rural distress and unemployment.

Spacewalkers take sample of hole at space station

Moscow, Russia

Using knives and shears, a pair of Russian spacewalkers Tuesday cut samples of material around a mysterious hole in a Soyuz spacecraft docked on the International Space Station that a Moscow official suggested could have been deliberate sabotage.

Roscosmos space agency said the aim was to discover whether the "small but dangerous" hole had been made on Earth or in space.

The two-millimetre cavity on the Soyuz spaceship docked at the ISS caused an air leak detected in August, two months after the craft's last voyage.

During the seven hour, 45 minute spacewalk, veteran cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Sergei Prokopyev struggled, but eventually succeeded, in cutting away the insulation covering the hole and taking out a sample to analyse.

What made it especially hard is that the Soyuz spacecraft, unlike the ISS, was not designed to be repaired in spacewalks and has no outside railings for astronauts to hold onto.

US nuns stole money to gamble in Vegas

Los Angeles, United States

Two California nuns who stole around \$500,000 dollars from the school where they worked and splashed out on travel and gambling in Las Vegas are facing criminal charges, their order confirmed Tuesday.

Sisters Mary Margaret Kreuper and Lana Chang, who are said to be best friends, reportedly embezzled the huge sum over the course of a decade from St James Catholic School in Torrance, south of Los Angeles.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles said the money was discovered missing during a routine audit after Kreuper, who was principal at the school for 29 years, retired earlier this year. Chang was a teacher at the school for 20 years and also retired this year.

The nuns' order confirmed it



Sisters Mary Margaret Kreuper, left, and Lana Chang, have admitted to taking the money (Courtesy of The Telegraph)

had been informed the Archdiocese had filed a criminal complaint against the pair.

"As a religious community we will not defend the actions of our Sisters. What happened is

wrong. Our Sisters take full responsibility for the choices they made and are subject to the law," it said in a statement to AFP.

It added the two sisters have been removed from their res-

idence, placed in a religious house under supervision, and banned from all public ministry.

"This has definitely been shocking to the entire school and parish community," Adrian Alarcon, head of media relations for the Archdiocese, said.

She added the case was all the more disquieting given the Church's teachings that clearly spell out "thou shall not steal."

The order on Monday said Kreuper and Chang admitted to their misdeeds and were cooperating to determine the full amount of money taken.

The sisters expressed remorse over their actions in a letter shared with parents at a school meeting last week, and their order has vowed to make full restitution.

"Justice demands this of us," it said in its statement.

Stormy Daniels to pay Donald Trump nearly \$300,000



Adult film actress Stormy Daniels speaks during an appearance at a local book shop to promote her book in Washington, DC

Los Angeles, United State

A US federal judge in California has ordered porn star Stormy Daniels to pay Donald Trump nearly \$300,000 for filing a defamation suit against the president that was dismissed.

US District Judge S. James Otero said Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, must pay Trump \$293,000 to cover the president's attorney fees and costs plus \$1,000 in sanctions for filing the lawsuit.

Daniels in her dismissed suit had accused Trump of defamation for characterizing as a "total con job" her claims of a presidential affair.

Otero, however, ruled that

the language Trump used in his tweet was "rhetorical hyperbole" and therefore protected under the First Amendment.

Clifford has also sued Trump over a non-disclosure agreement. The judge has not dismissed that case.

Daniels' attorney Michael Avenatti said in a tweet after the latest ruling that his client planned to appeal and will likely never have to pay a dime.

"If Stormy has to pay \$300k to Trump in the defamation case (which will never hold up on appeal) and Trump has to pay Stormy \$1,500,000 in the NDA case (net \$1,200,000 to Stormy), how is this a Trump win?"

Egypt says probes images of naked couple atop pyramid

Cairo, Egypt

Egyptian authorities have launched an investigation into images said to show a naked couple who scaled the Great Pyramid that has sparked outrage in the conservative Muslim country, an official said Tuesday.

In a video titled "Climbing the Great Pyramid of Giza", Danish photographer Andreas Hvid appears to scale the 4,500-year-old tomb on the outskirts of Cairo at night with an unidentified woman who is later seen taking off her top.

Hvid says the video was taken in late November but it was



Horse riders gallop near the Giza pyramids

published on YouTube on December 8.

A photograph released by Hvid appears to show the cou-

ple completely naked on top of each other while looking in the direction of a nearby pyramid with the horizon illuminated.

"The public prosecution is investigating the incident of the Danish photographer and the authenticity of the photos and video of him climbing the pyramid," Mostafa Waziri, the secretary general of Egypt's supreme antiquities council, told AFP.

If the video was actually filmed at the top of the pyramid, that would make it a "very serious crime", Waziri said.

The nearly three-minute video has taken social media by storm and has been the subject of late night talk shows. It has notched up almost three million views on YouTube alone.

Another day in Brexit hell



Birds flock over the River Thames as the sun sets behind Westminster Palace, where Parliament meets. The building, like Britain, is falling apart.

It feels like a good time to mention that the Palace of Westminster is falling apart



TANYA GOLD

I wonder if this is what the Black Death was like. People wandering around with donkeys, crying, “Bring out your dead!” and painting crosses on walls, which was, I guess, like a medieval Twitter. #AllHopeIsLost.

Everyone I know is either a Brexit Denier — “It’s not happening,” they say. “We’ll have a People’s Vote! Another referendum! We’ll win this time!” — or a Brexit Apocalypticist — “It’s happening. We are doomed. Hold my hand and run toward the blast.” The only people who are hopeful are the people with the gallows, far-right supporters of a “hard Brexit” who marched through the streets of London on Dec. 9 protesting Prime Minister Theresa May’s “betrayal” and carrying her effigy.

They didn’t hang it. Presumably, that can wait.

On Dec 10, the real May postponed the long-planned vote in Parliament on her Brexit deal, the one she spent 20 months negotiating with the European Union and the last three weeks trying (and failing) to sell to the British public and Parliament. What’s next? Apparently, she will go to Brussels on her knees, begging for further concessions. She doesn’t know how to implement the will of the people, if the will of the people — or at least the people who hold her political future in their hands — is suicide.

It feels like a good time to mention that the Palace of Westminster is falling apart. The building itself is a rotting construct, honouring an imagined past and — just for fun — built on a marsh. What does that remind you of, eh? It was not much publicised, for obvious reasons, but on June 23, 2016, the day of the Brexit referendum itself, the basement was flooded with sewage. It was

rainfall and a high tide, they said, but I know better. Metaphor, like the gods, must be heard.

Politicians, the ones absolutely no one has any faith in, are snuffing in the wreckage now, hoping to succeed May. It’s a horrible thing to watch calamity treated as opportunity but they thrive on it: The Labour Party, despite what its leaders might tell you, wants a hard Brexit and a general election — in that order. The Conservatives don’t know what they want, but Brexiteers are excited about being in charge. Boris Johnson, a Lothario galloping to seed, apparently has a new haircut, a sign that he’s ready to make yet another play for the top job. It is always about the hair for Boris. Increasingly, I think it is really his brain. Michael Gove, the environment secretary and one of the few Brexiteers left in May’s cabinet, is skulking reasonably, hoping to squeeze through the middle. Jacob Rees-Mogg, who attended Margaret Thatcher’s funeral in a top

I see Brexit as a progressive disease, like alcoholism. I wouldn’t have said this at any time since 1940 but it feels apt now.

hat, is denying all leadership ambitions, presumably from the center of some giant web built by the ghost of Ayn Rand.

Entertainers are wading in, because this is entertainment, or rather, when you treat politics like entertainment, you get this. Americans know that. I increasingly feel we are in Hollywood as the screenwriter William Goldman famously described it: “Nobody knows anything.” Pamela Anderson — formerly

of the constituency of Baywatch and who now lives in France and has taken passionate interest in European politics — has strong opinions on a potential Labour-led Brexit: “Lexit is a left exit,” she wrote on Twitter. “Re — what Corbyn would do. By negotiating a Brexit for the people. That protects the ordinary person.” The nation gawped, but there was more. “Never have the words of Shakespeare — ‘now is the winter of our discontent’ — rang more true than now,” she wrote on her website in a post called “Brexit and I (also starring Shakespeare and Churchill),” which she illustrated with a photograph of herself hiding behind a plant. “I have been following the situation very closely,” she wrote, “and I fully support the position of Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour party leader (leader of the opposition). Ok, I admit it, I have a little political crush on Jeremy Corbyn.”

But back in what is, for now, still the fifth largest economy in the world, the actor Andy

Serkis — Gollum from “Lord of the Rings” in the constituency of Middle Earth — has made a video, with May as Gollum and the deal as the One Ring. It ends with a plea for a People’s Vote, which will presumably be played by Ian McKellen, with all the gravitas he gave his King Lear: “O! Let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven; keep me in temper; I would not be mad!” Too late, too late.

No one here knows what will happen next — an election, another referendum, a new deal, a departure from the European Union with no deal at all. The last 18 months have felt like political hell; now, I fear we will look back at them as the time when things were sane.

I see Brexit as a progressive disease, like alcoholism. What you think gives you hope — nostalgia or vodka, who cares? — is killing you. I wouldn’t have said this at any time since 1940 but it feels apt now. Pray for us.

(Tanya Gold is a writer for The Spectator.)

CIVILIAN’S TRIBUNE

Brexit means Brexit

Theresa May would always insist in her speech that there would be no General Election until 2020. Yet she called one less than 10 months later.

And she insisted she would not trigger Article 50 to begin Brexit “until the British negotiating strategy is agreed and clear.”

Yet she triggered Article 50 the month before she called that snap general election and today, 18 months later, the chequers plan, the stated British negotiating strategy, is certainly far from agreed.

The ruling government cannot set out what Brexit means



without revolt within their own ranks. And the Labour Party fail to set out what Brexit means for fear they will lose a few Brexiteer votes.

While today the chequers plan has lasted two months, it has not yet been properly

set before the EU who already indicate that it will not be accepted.

Theresa May told us in her 2016 speech that “the country voted to leave the European Union”.

“Brexit means Brexit.” What could be clearer! Indeed. Brexit is proving to be a complete Brexit.

Dr Martin

1818

Cyril VI of Constantinople resigns from his position as Ecumenical Patriarch.

1862

American Civil War: At the Battle of Fredericksburg, Confederate General Robert E. Lee defeats Union Major General Ambrose Burnside.

1867

A Fenian bomb explodes in Clerkenwell, London, killing six.



1928

George Gershwin's An American in Paris is first performed.

Participatory development: A humanitarian alternative to migration

The outcomes and agreements signed must be used as a catalyst for governments and concerned organisations to address the drivers intrinsic to migration



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Great initiative from Sh. Nasser to stop homeworks. Children should enjoy their childhood at home and with friends. And have more time to be productive and experience new things. Now let's hope the minister of education will take the initiative of introducing better curriculum.

@ATEEKSTER

02



You can talk abt Brand Modi, Brand Rahul but you cannot ignore Brand Shivraj. 15 years of Anti Incumbency and Still BJP manages to get highest vote share of 41%, more than Congress. BJP 109 seats and 41% vote share establishes Brand Shivraj even after the defeat. @ChouhanShivraj

@SushantBSinha

03



With the RBI Governor's resignation one more independent institution has fallen. The BJP has demolished every temple of modern India and if not stopped, will surely destroy India itself. #UrjitPatel

@RahulGandhi

04



I am backing @theresa_may tonight. Being PM most difficult job imaginable right now and the last thing the country needs is a damaging and long leadership contest. Brexit was never going to be easy but she is the best person to make sure we actually leave the EU on March 29

@Jeremy_Hunt

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



YOSSEF BEN-MEIR

December 2018 is gearing up to be a pivotal month for migration on the world stage, and the epicentre is here, in Marrakech, Morocco, with two high-level fora taking place concerning development and migration. However, in order for the discussions that take place at these conferences to be impactful on the lives of ordinary people, the outcomes and agreements signed must be used as a catalyst for governments and concerned organisations to address the drivers intrinsic to migration, including rural poverty, lack of economic opportunity and climate change. To put this into practice, we offer our experiences of a grassroots, participatory development method as a humanitarian alternative to migration.

Firstly, the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) took place on 5th-7th December, based upon the theme of "Honouring International Commitments to Unlock Potential of All Migrants for Development". The 11th summit of the Forum is the largest multi-stakeholder dialogue platform concerning migration and development, representing government policymakers, GFMD observers, members of civil society and the private sector. Although the proceedings of the GFMD are non-binding and voluntary, it is hoped that this conference will lay down foundations for the first Global Compact for Migration (for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration), to be held on 10th-11th December, also in Marrakech.

This UN-led High-Level Political Forum will be the first international compact of its kind to address migration, designed to improve the management and co-operation of countries concerning the movement of peoples across borders. This agreement will also address the overarching causes of migration, such as poor access to sustainable livelihoods, the socio-economic and environmental implications of migration upon both origin and host countries, as well as working to enhance the value and impact of migrants for sustainable development.

Nevertheless, this cannot be achieved without acknowledging the growing storm confronting mankind: climate change. Climate change, development and migration are part of an inextricably linked nexus. The Environmental Justice Foundation predicts that up to 10% of the world's population could be at risk of forced displacement due



Poverty and civil unrest are the main reasons behind migration to Europe from Africa.

to climatic hazards by 2050. At the GFMD conference, the EuroMedA Foundation, who hosted a side event entitled "A Euro-African Approach to Migration" highlighted that key issues set to face Africa will be desertification, drought and food insecurity, risks that are only going to worsen. Climate change can also compound existing, or create new political and economic issues in at-risk countries and further drive migratory patterns, with the distinct possibility of turning plans for "Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" on its head.

In acknowledgement of this looming problem, the following describes a strategy of participatory development, which addresses economic security and climate resilience for those most vulnerable, and hence reducing the likelihood of necessary migration in future. Morocco has the distinction of simultaneously being a last-stop transit country for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, as well as being a nation of emigrants to Europe, North America and the Middle East. Under current projections, the country is set to be on the frontline of climate change, riddled by food insecurity, droughts, desertification, catastrophic flash-floods in erosion prone mountainous areas, all of which will only be exacerbated by the continuing trends of warming temperatures.

In order for potential migrants to be able remain in their communities, the agricultural value chain from nursery to market and the supporting infrastructure need to be put in place.

It is overwhelmingly the case that in Morocco as elsewhere, during community-based discussions regarding socio-economic development projects located in regions with high levels of emigration, that local participants would strongly prefer to stay in their home communities, if only there were basic opportunities there. Indeed, many migrants prefer not to be migrants, but instead seek the sustainable development of their origin communities. Involving local community members in the decision-making processes reveals key contextual insights into the priority initiatives that will enhance the wellbeing of their communities: these are highly viable and implementable because the projects respond to their self-defined needs, and are therefore most

likely to be sustainable.

For example, in order to create opportunities and economic activity in marginalised rural communities experiencing notable emigration, a \$100,000 investment can establish a women's cooperative of approximately 50 members, for agriculture, food-processing or the production of artisanal crafts. This can generate an average of a 50 per cent increase to household incomes, which in turn benefits a further 300-350 people, through better access to schooling, healthcare and sanitation infrastructure. Clean drinking water systems to serve one municipality costs in the region of \$350,000 and dramatically improves not only resilience to droughts and girls' participation in education, but also decreases incidences of water-borne diseases and infant mortality.

Furthermore, in Morocco, like so much of Africa, almost all the endemic species of fruit and nut trees can grow organically, if only investments in certifications, nurseries and co-operative building were available. These tree plantations can be used for multiple purposes, including seeding riverbanks to fight erosion, improving local biodiversity, to diversify traditional income sources and for carbon sequestration initiatives that can be vital for long-term sustainability. In this sense, hu-

man development and economic projects and investments at the grassroots level can be leveraged to form commitments from the community to implement other initiatives that are beneficial for both protecting their local environments but also for global climate mitigation.

In order for potential migrants to be able remain in their communities, the agricultural value chain from nursery to market and the supporting infrastructure need to be put in place. The root of rural poverty, which ultimately propels migration, is in the insufferable bottlenecks at each step of the value-chain, slow-moving decision-making and ultimately a warming climate. Considering however the enormous opportunities that are discussed at global conferences, if applied at a community-scale, especially for example, with regards to added value from organic certification and carbon credit offsets, the ongoing impoverishment in rural places need not continue. So long as it does however, and if building climate resilience and adaptation is not incorporated with the migration-development paradigm, then the "ordered, safe and regular migration" hailed by the Global Forum and the UN's HLPF will never be realised.

(Yossef Ben-Meir is a sociologist and is also President of the High Atlas Foundation, based in Marrakech.)

business

Solar energy to power Waqf

Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza inaugurates first solar project in a government building at Jaffriya Waqf building in Seef

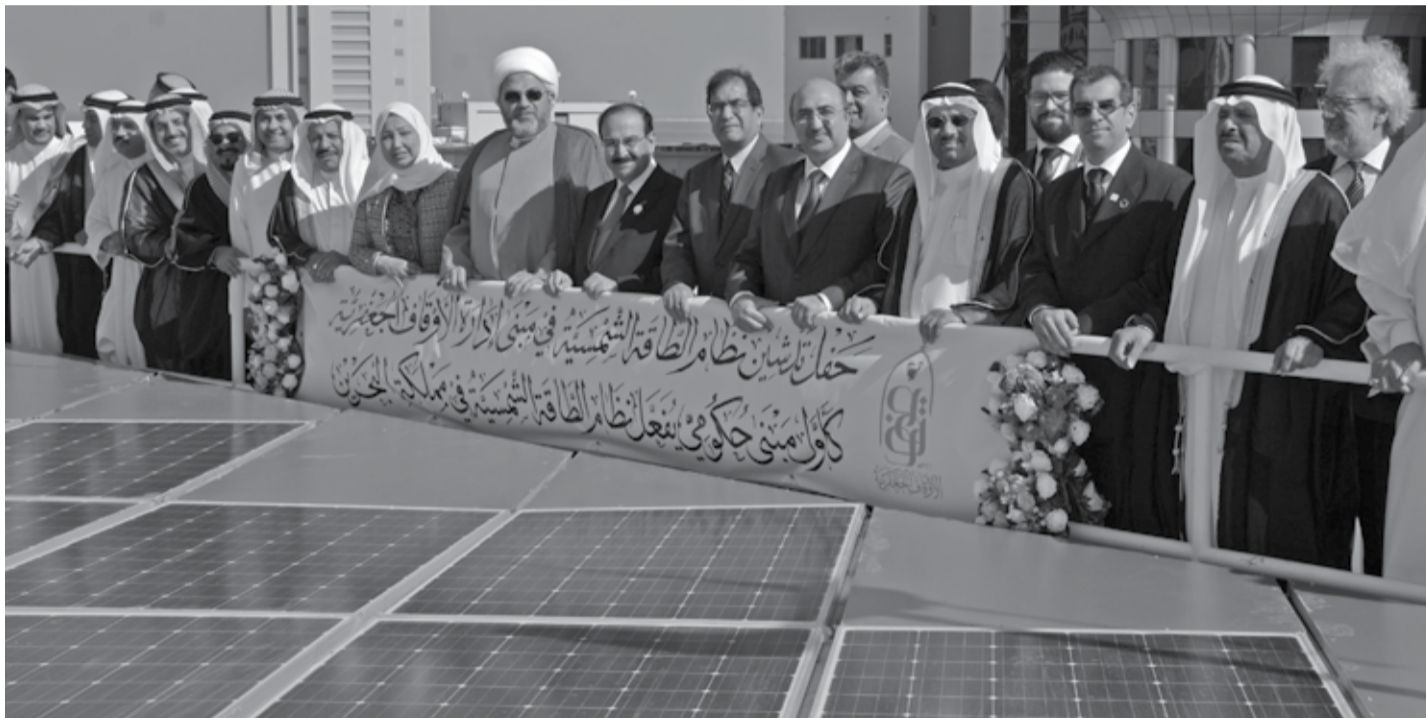
● Solar energy to power 535 government buildings in the Kingdom

● Power generated from each solar plate amounts to 300 watts

● Installation is expected to save BD700 per month

● Efforts on way to harness wind energy using wind turbines

● Pilot projects cover houses of worship, religious establishments and its properties including mosques, mukhtas and investment properties



Dr Mirza with officials during the inauguration ceremony of the solar system installed at Jaffriya Waqf Building in Seef

“We are seeking to expand the use of wind energy, especially since Bahrain launched last April the first wind atlas, which is a tangible indicator on the ground for the implementation of the national plan for renewable energy and energy efficiency

DR ABDULHUSSAIN MIRZA

“We are seeking to expand the use of wind energy, especially since Bahrain launched last April the first wind atlas, which is a tangible indicator of the national plan for renewable energy and energy efficiency.”

The minister pointed out that the Jaffriya Endowments Directorate is one of the first institutions in the nucleus of the modern state, which was founded in 1928.

Dr Mirza congratulated the Directorate employees under the chairmanship of Sheikh Mohsen Al Asfour for the achievement.

The inauguration also falls in conjunction with the celebrations of Bahrain's National Day

and the Accession Day of His Majesty King Hamad on December 16 and 17. The minister congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the modern Bahraini state in 1783 AD, and the 47th anniversary of its accession to the United Nations as a full member as well as the 19th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to power.

Dr Mirza said the initiative

encourages the use of clean energy, diversifying its sources and seeks to improve energy efficiency for the overall sustainable development of Bahrain.

Sheikh Mohsen Al-Asfour said the establishment of the Sustainable Energy Unit in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promotes investment in renewable energies such as solar energy.

Other approved projects

The Directorate has approved the implementation of pilot projects in the houses of worship, religious establishments and its properties including mosques, mukhtas and investment properties.

The project would be implemented at the Sheikh Abdullah Mosque in the village of Al-Daih and Al-Kuwailiya Mosque in the village of Buri. It has also been launched at the ma'atam of Maatam bin Shabib in the northern region of Al-Sahla.

90 Kilowatts per day

The project involves installing 300 solar power panels in the building, including 232 fixed plates and 68 mobile plates. Power generated from each plate would be 300 watts, and a total of 90 kilowatts of production capacity per day, which is 900 units per day.

The installation is expected to save BD700 per month with the capital and the cost of installation will be recovered in four and a half years time.

Harnessing wind energy

Efforts are also on way to harness wind energy using wind turbines. “Ten turbines have been installed as the first batch, producing 1,200 watts per turbine, and we will double them in the near future after ensuring their feasibility and success in terms of ensuring generation and production,” said Al Asfour.

“Continuous and round-the-clock availability of tropical wind in most periods due to the proximity of the building to the seafont is an asset.”

Al Asfour said the government has been working with Fab Lab to build a specialized centre for all alternative energy issues and promote them in our communities and manufacture what is possible.

TDT | Manama

The first of the 535 government buildings in the Kingdom, identified to receive solar power, has received its solar roof, with Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza inaugurating the system installed at Jaffriya Waqf Building in Seef.

“This is a unique initiative in line with the government's directives in this field,” said Dr Mirza adding: “The government is keen to encourage investment in renewable energies such as solar and wind energy.”

Al Hawaj opens “Niche Garden Perfume”

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of Her Excellency Sheikha Thajba bint Salman Al Khalifa, “Al Hawaj” Group opened its luxurious boutique, the “Niche Garden Perfume Boutique” at the Avenues Mall.

Present at the ceremony held on 2 December 2018 were Cecile Longe, Ambassador of the Republic of France, members of the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society, wives of Ambassadors and Diplomats and invited guests.

Abdul Wahab Al-Hawaj, congratulating the wise leadership on the National Day celebrations and Bahraini women on Women's Day, said, “The group will donate a percentage of the boutique opening day proceeds to the Royal Charity Foundation.”

Sheikha Thajba toured the boutique and expressed her admiration for the international brands, praising the quality, precision and sophistication of the products displayed.



In pictures, scenes from the opening ceremony



An Afghan woman picks saffron flowers in a field

Growing the Red gold

The delicate pistil of the flower has for centuries been used in cooking around the world and because of its relatively high price has been dubbed “red gold” by those who rely on its cultivation

● Afghanistan saffron production hits 13 tonnes this year

AFP | Herat, Afghanistan

Starting before dawn has even broken, Afghanistan's army of saffron pickers shift their way across sun-baked fields to pluck brightly the coloured crocuses that are providing the country's farmers with a new means of income.

The delicate pistil of the flower has for centuries been used in cooking around the world and because of its relatively high price has been dubbed “red gold” by those who rely on its cultivation.

Joma Khan is one of the 156,000 seasonal workers who help harvest the spice, earning about \$1 an hour.

“We start our field work before sunrise and each of us can collect about four to five kilograms of saffron flower,” the 16-year-old said.

The harvest is then sent to factories where gloved workers remove the red pistil, made up of the three stigma that when dried constitute the spice.

Authorities struggling to wean farmers off the highly profitable opium poppy trade are hoping to use the spice as an attractive alternative.

And the results are looking positive, thanks to billions of dollars of international aid.

The saffron harvest hit 13 tonnes this year, compared with a tonne in 2013, according to



Afghan women harvest saffron flowers in a field

nearly three million Afghans with famine.

It has even intensified in some drought-hit areas, especially in the northwestern province of Herat on the border with Iran and Turkmenistan.

Official figures show saffron cultivation has increased to 6,200 hectares of land in 2018, up 21 percent on last year.

However, there is still a way to go, with 263,000 hectares currently given over to poppy production. And while the saffron sector generated \$35 billion in 2017, opium made an incredible \$1.4 billion.

Iran remains the world's largest saffron producer, capturing nearly 90 percent of the global market with 400 tonnes annually. Meanwhile, nearly 90 percent of the opium harvested on the planet still comes from Afghanistan.

Prices for the spice have also fallen, from more than \$900 at the start of the year to \$660 now, due in part to mafias who illegally import Iranian saffron and flood the market, Rostami said.

Nevertheless, the increased cultivation of the spice is being seen as a positive sign.

The spice is being exported to 17 countries through new air corridors, mainly to China, India, and the Gulf countries, and to a lesser extent to the European Union and North America, says the agriculture ministry

“Afghanistan's saffron, based on its organic nature, it is better than other saffron in the world,” claimed Abdul Shukoor Ahrari, director of Tila-e-Surkh Afghan (“Afghan Red Gold”), one of the country's main processing sites.



We start our field work before sunrise and each of us can collect about four to five kilograms of saffron flower

JOMA KHAN

agriculture ministry spokesman Akbar Rostami.

Cultivation requires little water, meaning it has not been heavily impacted by the historic drought currently threatening



An Afghan worker sorts harvested saffron flowers in a field on the outskirts of Herat province



Afghan workers separate saffron threads from harvested flowers at a processing centre in Herat province

Mumtalakat honours outstanding employees across the group



Officials and award winners posing for a group photo

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, hosted a special luncheon yesterday for its outstanding employees across its portfolio companies on the occasion of

Bahrain's National Day. As an employer of approximately 14,000 employees across 30 companies in Bahrain, and a key contributor to the local economy, Mumtalakat launched an annual awards programme in 2017 to recognise the employees of excellence within the Group in line with its mission as a holding company.

Commenting, Mahmood H. Alkooheji, Chief Executive Officer of Mumtalakat said, “Our ‘Many Stories, One Bahrain’ initiative provided us with the opportunity to honour and thank our outstanding employees and highlight their accomplishments as we remain committed to attracting the strongest talents.”

Awardees

1. Ahmed Abdulghani from the National Bank of Bahrain
2. Ahmed Abdulla Ahmed from Arab Shipbuilding & Repair Yard Company (ASRY)
3. Ahmed Mohd Shukri from Aluminium Bahrain
4. Ahmed Shaikh from Southern Tourism Company
5. Adel Daylami from Batelco
6. Ali Al Hannan from Alba
7. Ayman Mohamed Buheji from Bahrain Real Estate Investment (Edamah)
8. Budoor Hasan Al Rasheed from Gulf Air
9. Fatima Makhloq from Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT)
10. Fayez Ramzy Fayez from BIC
11. Hiba Mohammed Al-Hallaq from Gulf International Bank
12. Hussain Alawainati from Gulf Aviation Academy
13. Kamal Mansoor Al Shakar from Durrat Khaleej Al Bahrain

Trump says could intervene in Chinese exec's case

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said in an interview Tuesday that he may intervene in the US case against a top Huawei executive detained and bailed by Canada if it helps seal a trade deal with China.

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, is wanted by US authorities for violating Iran sanctions but Beijing has expressed outrage over her detention in Vancouver, ratcheting up tensions in the US-China trade dispute.

Asked if he would intervene with the Justice Department in her case, Trump was quoted as saying: "Whatever's good for this country, I would do."

"If I think it's good for what will be certainly the largest trade deal ever made -- which is a very important thing, what's good for national security -- I would certainly intervene if I thought it was necessary," Trump said.

He added that White House officials had communicated with the Justice Department and Chinese officials about the Meng case but said he had not personally spoken to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

BisB receives CSR award at WIBC



Hassan Jarrar

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has emerged as a winner of the "Governance & CSR Award" at the 4th edition of the World Islamic Banking Conference (WIBC) Leaderboard Performance Awards 2018.

The award ceremony was held during the WIBC 25th edition in late November at Art Rotana Hotel, Amwaj Islands, Bahrain.

The Governance and Social Responsibility category was a key award of this year's WIBC Performance Awards, the scores were measured against the CSR Index and the Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI) that were extracted from the Thomson Reuters database.

"We are proud to receive this prestigious award, as the WIBC Awards is critical in order to help the Islamic finance industry evaluate the challenges and growth opportunities that lie ahead," said the Chief Executive Officer of BisB, Hassan Jarrar.

Tamkeen, Fives, Polytechnic sign skill development deal

● The deal aims at increasing the number of Bahraini workforce in the industrial sector

● Fives Group will provide internship opportunities

● Bahrain Polytechnic will implement training programmes

TDT | Manama

Labour Fund "Tamkeen", Fives Group and Bahrain Polytechnic launched a joint educational initiative aimed at increasing the number of Bahraini workforce in the industrial sector.

The move helps to reinforce the employability of Bahrainis by bridging existing skill gaps in-line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 requirements.

Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi Chief Executive of Labour Fund "Tamkeen" stressed the importance of holding more specialized training partnerships to



Officials during a photocall after the deal signing

enhance the Bahraini individuals' skills in various sectors.

"Tamkeen has gone a long way in developing Bahrainis in line with the labour market needs, especially in the vital sectors, including the industrial sector," added Dr Janahi.

Fives, a global industrial engineering group active in many industrial sectors (aluminium,

cement, energy, aerospace, etc.), has elected to contribute in a non-profit initiative, as part of its Corporate Citizenship Programme.

Fives Group will provide internship opportunities within the worldwide network of its companies and will partner with Bahrain Polytechnic, a public tertiary education insti-

tute, to foster a culture of custom-made vocational training programmes.

"The partnership between public and private entities that we have created with this initiative is really a model for the future," said Frédéric Sanchez, Fives' Chairman of the Executive Board.

The training programmes will

be implemented and delivered by Bahrain Polytechnic.

"This agreement between Bahrain Polytechnic and Fives perfectly matches the objective of our institute, which is to support the country's economic growth and diversification," said Dr Jeff Zabudsky, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Polytechnic.



Women employees of Credimax during a luncheon organised by the company on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day luncheon at The Orangery. Staff were honoured and presented with gifts as an appreciation for their efforts and contribution to the company.

Emaar's leap lifts Dubai

Reuters

The Dubai stock market rose sharply yesterday, boosted by blue chip Emaar Properties, while Egypt gained for a third straight day on rebounding bank shares.

In Dubai, which has been languishing at five-year lows partly because of weak real estate prices, the index added 1.5pc, its biggest gain in 2-1/2 months.

Emaar surged 6.4 per cent, its largest rise since June 2017, after saying it had started business development operations in China.

Deyaar Development increased 4.1pc but another Dubai real estate stock, Union Properties, which has lost more than half its value this

year to touch a multi-year low, slid a further 2.6pc.

Outside the real estate sector, Takaful Emarat rose 4.1pc after Goldilocks Investment, part of Abu Dhabi Financial Group, bought a 29.5pc stake in the firm. The Egyptian blue-chip index was up 1.5pc with its biggest bank, Commercial International Bank, increasing 3.2pc.

Saudi Arabia's index gained 0.7pc with its largest lender, National Commercial Bank, climbing 2.9pc and top petrochemical maker Saudi Basic Industries gaining 0.7pc.

Brent oil rose to about \$61 a barrel yesterday, supported by an industry report showing a drop in U.S. crude inventories, a cut in Libyan exports and an OPEC-led deal to trim output.

Arab Ministerial Council mulls raising Palestine aid

TDT | Manama

Increasing aid to Palestine as well as implementing rescue and development projects aimed at mitigating the aftermath of the Israeli attacks dominated talks at the 21st Session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism.

The conference also mulled ways for rebuilding the stricken areas and providing support to overcome the financial crisis.

Bahrain's delegation to the conference held at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport Headquarters located in Alexandria, Egypt was led by Chief Ex-



Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa during the Ministerial Council

The Arab Ministerial Council conference mulled ways for rebuilding the stricken areas and providing support to overcome the financial crisis

port including the preparation for the joint meeting between ministers of tourism and culture in the region which aims to build effective partnerships among Arab countries in the field of cultural tourism.

The heads of delegations also reviewed the latest tourism data and statistics with the aim of reinforcing the Arab Tourism and Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

In addition, the meeting also included discussions regarding the host country for 2nd Arab Forum on Tourism Statistics which will take place in 2019.

ective Officer of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa.

The meeting discussed 13 topics relating to land, maritime and air trans-

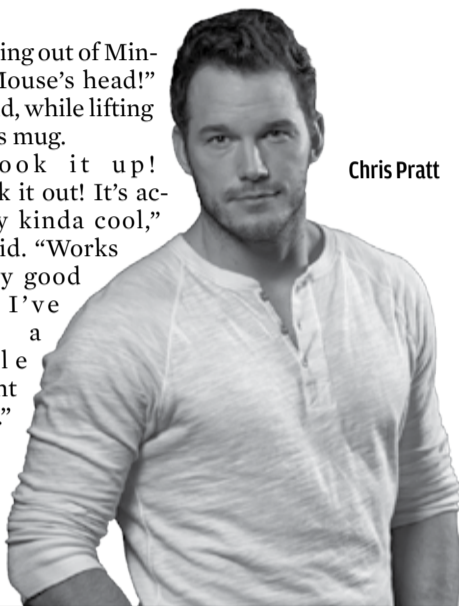
SHOW

Pratt loses weight with intermittent fasting

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actor Chris Pratt says intermittent fasting has helped him to lose a little weight. The “Guardians of the Galaxy” star, 39, is famously fit after years of training for his various superhero roles, and this time around he is trying out the popular diet plan, which involves fasting for most of the day and eating only during a shortened time period, reports people.com. “So I’m doing this intermittent fasting thing; don’t eat till noon, try to get my cardio in in the morning. It’s super exciting actor stuff,” Pratt joked on his Instagram story on Monday. “But I finally get my coffee and look: I’m

drinking out of Minnie Mouse’s head!” he said, while lifting up his mug. “Look it up! Check it out! It’s actually kinda cool,” he said. “Works pretty good and I’ve lost a little weight so far.”



Chris Pratt



Cheryl

Cheryl hints at new romance

IAN S | London

Singer Cheryl has hinted at having a new man in her life just months after her split from singer Liam Payne. Cheryl confirmed her single relationship status earlier this year in July this year. But it seems she is starting to crush on a man, reported dailystar.co.uk. Speaking to Vick Hope at Capital’s Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola, Cheryl hinted at her pending love life with Michael B

Jordan. With Hope telling Cheryl that they had entered a love triangle with Jordan, Cheryl made a promise that nothing would happen between the pair. Telling Cheryl that if something did happen, she would be very upset, the 35-year-old said: “I promise you nothing’s happening.” She soon added: “That’s a pinkie promise... yet.” Cheryl has a child named Bear Payne with Liam Payne. They are co-parenting the child while they both work on their careers.

Cardi B doesn’t plan on getting back with Offset

ANI | Washington

Days after American rappers Cardi B and Offset announced their split, the latter has confessed that he misses his estranged wife. Despite, Offset’s public pleas for forgiveness Cardi B doesn’t want to get back with him. A source told E! News that the ‘Bodak Yellow’ singer is “very torn” over what their future holds. The insider said things have “been really hard” for both of them due to the split. The source also added that Offset is “trying to win Cardi back” but she’s “not on board yet.” “They haven’t been spending time together and Cardi expressed she still wants her space. She is very busy right now with her work and is focused

solely on Kulture,” explained the source. The source, however, stated that the ‘I Like It’ songstress still loves Offset and wants her family to be whole again. However, she’s also having a difficult time trusting her husband, especially because of cheating scandal that has led to their separation. Drama between the duo made headlines when an alleged video of Offset and a woman named Summer Bunni surfaced online. Over the weekend during an Instagram Live session, Cardi slammed rumours suggesting that her split with Offset was aimed at garnering publicity.



Cardi B

Bush says OTH producers exploited her split from Murray

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actress Sophia Bush, 36, has reflected on her break-up from her ex-husband and former “One Tree Hill” co-star Chad Michael Murray. She alleged that producers of the show exploited their broken relationship when the series was still on TV. “The reason that I don’t talk

about it A) is because everyone’s been 21 and stupid, but if you’re in our job, for some reason, people want to talk to you about like, when you’re fully-fledged adults who’ve done really amazing s*** with your lives, they wanna talk to you about the dumb thing you did in college basically,” Bush said in an interview, reports people.com.

Bush added: “Being a super nerdy kid and suddenly you’re on TV and all this stuff is happening and one of the cool people you work with thinks you’re awesome, there’s really base brain stuff there. “I think that for me, it took me a long time to do the kind of inventory you’re talking about in the after effect. And I continued

AQUAMAN (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW ⊕ JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.15 AM. + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM. DAILY AT (VIP): 10.30 AM. + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM. CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN. DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM. DAILY AT 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 4.00 + 7.00 + 10.00 + (1.00 AM. THURS./FRI.) DAILY AT (VIPI): 11.00 AM. + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM. DAILY AT (VIPII): 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 + (12.45 MN. THURS./FRI.) SEEF (II) DAILY AT 11.15 AM. + 12.45 + 2.15 + 3.45 + 5.15 + 6.45 + 8.15 + 9.45 + 11.15 PM. + (12.45 MN. THURS./FRI.) SEEF (I) DAILY AT 11.45 AM. + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM. SAAR DAILY AT 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 8.30 PM. + (11.00 PM. + 11.30 PM THURS./FRI.) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT 10.45 AM. + 11.45 AM. + 1.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM. + 11.45 PM.
SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW ⊕ HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 10.30 AM + 8.00 PM. OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 5.30 + 10.30 PM. OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) IN ARABIC: 1.00 PM. OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 4.00 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM. OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 1.30 PM. OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED : IN ARABIC : 9.00 PM. CITYCENTRE DAILY AT :DUBBED IN ENGLISH : 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM. DAILY AT :DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 10.45 AM. + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM. DAILY AT :DUBBED IN ARABIC :10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM. SEEF (II) DAILY AT :DUBBED IN ENGLISH :11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM. DAILY AT :DUBBED IN ARABIC :12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 + (12.30 MN. THUR./FRI.) SAAR DAILY AT :DUBBED IN ENGLISH :12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 PM. DAILY AT :DUBBED IN ARABIC : 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 PM. WADI AL SAIL DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 PM. DUBBED IN ARABIC: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 PM.
SECOND ACT (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW ⊕ HJENNIFER LOPEZ, VANESSA HUDGENS, MILO VENTIMIGLIA OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM. CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM. SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM. SAAR DAILY AT: 9.15 + (11.30 PM. THURS./FRI.) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM.
THREE WORDS OF FOREVER (PG-15) (FILIPINO/ROMANTIC/DRAMA/COMEDY) NEW ⊕ HSHARON CUNETI, RICHARD GOMEZ, KATHRYN BERNARDO OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM. CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM. SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.
ELLIOT THE LITTEST REINDEER (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
⊕ HM Morena Baccarin, Josh Hutcherson, John Cleese OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 3.30 PM. OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 PM.
PINKY MEMSAB: A DUBAI STORY (PG-15) (URDU/ DRAMA) NEW ⊕ SUNNY HINDUJA, KIRAN MALIK, ADNAN JAFFAR OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 4.15 + 9.00 PM. CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM. SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM.
RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ⊕ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 4.00 + 8.45 PM. CREED II (PG-13) (DRAMA/ACTION/SPORT) ⊕ TESSA THOMPSON, MICHAEL B. JORDAN, SYLVESTER STALLONE OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM. CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN. WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 10.45 AM. + 3.45 + 8.45 PM. MORTAL ENGINES (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER) ⊕ HUGO WEAVING, HERA HILMAR, ROBERT SHEEHAN OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM. CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM. SAAR DAILY AT: 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM. ORU KUPRASIDHA PAYYAN (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW ⊕ TOVINO THOMAS, NIMISHA SAJAYAN, ANU SITHARA OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM. SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN. AL HAMRA DAILY AT “ 3.00 + 9.00 PM.
JOSEPH (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW ⊕ JOJU GEORGE, MALAVIKA MENON, JAMES ELIYA OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM. SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM. AL HAMRA DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS./FRI.)
KEDARNATH (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC) ⊕ RAJINIKANTH, AKSHAY KUMAR, AMY JACKSON OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 3.30 + 8.45 PM.
ODIYAN (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW STARING FRIDAY 14TH ⊕ HMOHANLAL, PRAKASH RAJ, MANJU WARRIER CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM.
RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ⊕ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

ROBIN HOOD (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) TARON EGERTON, EVE HEWSON, JAMIE FOXX CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN. INSTANT FAMILY (PG-15) (COMEDY) ⊕ MARK WAHLBERG, ROSE BYRNER, OCTAVIA SPENCER CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM. WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.30 PM. JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE) ⊕ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN. HUNTER KILLER (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) ⊕ GERARD BUTLER, GARY OLDMAN, OMMON CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM. WIDOWS (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) ⊕ VIOLA DAVIS, MICHELLE RODRIGUZ, ELIZABETH DEBICKI CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 4.00 + 8.30 PM. EL BADLH (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) ⊕ TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, MAJED EL MASRY, AMINA KHALIL CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM. THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) ⊕ SHAY MITCHELL, STANA KATIC, LOUIS HERTHUM CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM. WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 PM. CHRISTMAS BREAK IN (PG) (COMEDY/FAMILY) NEW ⊕ DENISE RICHARDS, DANNY GLOVER, CAMERON SEELY SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM. MALEVOLENT (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW ⊕ FLORENCE PUGH, CELIA IMRIE, BEN LLOYD-HUGHES SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 1.45 + 5.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM. THE BOMBING (AIR STRIKE) (PG-15) (ACTION/DRAMA) NEW ⊕ BRUCE WILLIS, YE LIU, SEUNG-HEON SONG SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM. 11 DAYS (PG-13) (DRAMA) NEW ⊕ HABEEB GHULOOM, OLIGYA, LITA TADPILITA SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 3.45 + 7.45 PM. THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (COMEDY/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW ⊕ DAN STEVENS, CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER, JONATHAN PRYCE SEEF (I) DAILY AT : 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM.
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, GEEVARGHESE KOCHUKUNJU SHAJAN ADUKKATHIL KIZHAKKETHIL S/O GEEVARGHESE KOCHUKUNJU, holder of Indian Passport No. H 1821852, dated 21.01.2009 issued at BAHRAIN, applying for permanent residence at (full address in India) **ADUKKATHIL KIZHAKKETHIL HOUSE, MOOTHEDAM P.O. NILAMBUR (VIA), KERALA**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **FLAT 2, BLDG 1063, ROAD 5926, BLOCK 359, ZINJ**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **SHAJAN ADUKKATHIL KIZHAKKETHIL** (Surname) **GEEVARGHESE KOCHUKUNJU**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, PO Box 26106, Al-Seeq, Kingdom of Bahrain.



Sophia Bush

SPORTS

sports

Sky pull-out from cycling

Road-racing giant Team Sky will cease to exist as broadcaster pulls sponsorship

● Decision will bring to an end ownership of Team Sky in 2019

● Brailsford says team may continue with a new partner

AFP | London

British media company Sky yesterday said it would axe its sponsorship of cycling giant Team Sky after next season, ending a partnership that has delivered six Tour de France titles in the past seven years.

Team Sky have clocked up eight Grand Tour wins since their formation, but they have also been plunged into controversy for using special exemptions to administer drugs that can enhance performance.

The outfit, which has 322 wins in total since 2010, will operate for the last season as Team Sky in 2019 and could continue under a different name if a new backer is found, a Sky statement said.

"The vision for Team Sky began with the ambition to build a clean, winning team around a core of British riders and staff," said team principal Dave Brailsford.

"We are proud of the part we have played in Britain's transformation into a cycling nation over the last decade," he added.

"While Sky will be moving on at the end of next year, the team is open-minded about the future and the potential of working with a new partner, should the right opportunity present itself."

Sky's announcement closes an extraordinary chapter in cycling which began with the dream



Great Britain's Team Sky cycling team teammates ride during the 15th stage of the 105th edition of the Tour de France (file photo)

of creating Britain's first Tour de France champion -- which seemed overly ambitious at the time.

But Bradley Wiggins made it reality in 2012, before Chris Froome won four Tour de France titles and Geraint Thomas became Sky's third winner of cycling's landmark event this year.

From marginal gains to mystery package

Deep-pocketed Sky are known for Brailsford's meticulous and innovative application of 'marginal gains', the theory that many small advantages in areas as diverse as wind resistance, diet and sleep quality can add up to a significant improvement in performance.

However, Sky's image was clouded in the controversy over so-called therapeutic use exemptions, after a damning British parliamentary report

said the team crossed an "ethical line" by using the loophole to administer drugs to enhance performance.

The Commons digital, culture, media and sport committee report said MPs believed that triamcinolone, used to treat asthma, "was being used to prepare Wiggins, and possibly other riders supporting him, for the Tour de France".



Geraint Thomas and Chris Froome have worn a yellow version of the Sky jersey after the finish of the past five Tours de France

"The purpose of this was not to treat medical need, but to improve his power-to-weight ratio ahead of the race," it added.

Sky were also in the cross-hairs for a suspected anti-doping violation over a mystery package reportedly destined for Wiggins in 2011, although a UK Anti-Doping investigation concluded with no charges brought.

Sky was also caught in a long-running doping controversy that began when Froome returned an adverse doping test, for elevated levels of the asthma medication salbutamol, on his way to victory in the Vuelta a Espana in 2017. He was cleared 10 months later.

Sky began its involvement with the sport in 2008, when it successfully teamed up with British Cycling to increase participation and support the country's elite riders, who became a major force at world events including the Olympic Games.

McLaren enters into joint venture with Bahrain Merida



Bahrain Merida's General Manager Brent Copeland and rider Vincenzo Nibali with new jersey

Reuters | Manama

McLaren has entered into a 50 per cent joint venture with Bahrain Merida aimed at making the professional cycling team an internationally recognised brand at the top of the sport.

McLaren, in which Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund Mumtalakat has a majority stake, said yesterday that the deal would involve technical and commercial collaboration delivered through its applied technologies division.

"Racing, technology and human performance are at the heart of everything we do at McLaren," the company's chief marketing officer John Allert said in a statement.

"Cycling is something we've

been involved with in the past and have been looking at entering for some time. It is a completely natural fit for our skills and our ambitions."

The McLaren Group, which owns the McLaren F1 Team, has previously worked with Team Sky and British Cycling in the build-up to the London Olympics in 2012 through its applied technologies division.

The same unit was also involved in a technical partnership with American cycle manufacturer Specialized.

"The combination of our passion and vision for Team Bahrain Merida to be a winning team, with McLaren's expertise and dedication, is the perfect partnership," Bahrain Merida general manager Brent Copeland said.

Founded in 2017, Bahrain Merida is owned by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and led by 2014 Tour de France winner Vincenzo Nibali.

No financial details of the deal were disclosed but McLaren said the long-term vision behind the partnership would be to elevate Bahrain Merida to professional cycling's top table.



Langer ready for pacy track in second Test

AFP | Perth, Australia

Australia coach Justin Langer said yesterday he expected a pacy wicket at the new Perth Stadium for the second Test against India and declared "pretty boy" captain Tim Paine "ready to go" despite injury.

Australia are looking to avenge a 31-run defeat in Adelaide to level the four-Test se-



Australia's coach Justin Langer takes part in a practice session

ries but Langer admitted there was some uncertainty over the surface in Perth.

The Test will be the first played at the new stadium and Langer said it appeared the wicket was similar to the fast track which made its predecessor, the WACA, a haven for pace bowlers.

"I'm really fascinated and can't wait to see what the wicket brings," he told reporters. "There's only been one four-day game in its history."

"I went and watched a bit of the NSW versus WA game -- there was certainly some pace and bounce there. We've also seen some pace and bounce in it during the one-dayers and T20 game."

But he said neither team would know how the drop-in pitch plays in Test conditions until the match begins on Friday.

"Time will tell what the wicket brings... If we can get (WACA-style pace and bounce) it'd be a great thing for Test cricket," Langer said.

Kohli engineered Kumble's exit, leaked email suggests



India's captain Virat Kohli (L) walks past coach Anil Kumble during the Indian team's training session (file photo)

AFP | New Delhi

The acrimonious exit of India's cricket coach last year was given a fresh twist yesterday as a leaked email suggested captain Virat Kohli had "fre-

quently" worked behind the scenes against him.

Former coach Anil Kumble quit over a rift with Kohli in June 2017, saying his relationship with the skipper was "untenable".

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has denied any division in the Indian camp.

But in a leaked email seen by AFP, a senior BCCI official wrote to board administrator Vinod Rai that Kohli "frequently sent SMSs to the CEO on which you acted and there was a change in the coach".

"Mr Kumble a legend in his own right was subjected to loss of face and made to look like a villain," added senior administrator Diana Edulji.

"He was gracious enough to move on for which I respect him. There also, rules were broken and I had raised objections back then."

Edulji's email originated from a separate controversy in the women's national team, where former coach Ramesh Powar fell out with one-day captain Mithali Raj.

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Salah helps Liverpool qualify

Mohamed Salah's winner took Liverpool into the Champions League last 16 with a 1-0 victory over Napoli

AFP | Liverpool

Goalkeeper Alisson Becker was labelled a "life saver" by Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp for a last-gasp save that secured a 1-0 win over Napoli at Anfield and progress to the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Mohamed Salah's stunning solo effort put the hosts in front 11 minutes before half-time, but Liverpool were nearly made to pay for their profligacy in missing a series of second-half chances.

Alisson had barely been tested until the Brazilian number one spread himself brilliantly to deny Arkadiusz Milik a dramatic stoppage-time equaliser and go a long way to justifying the then-world record £67-million (\$85 million) fee for a goalkeeper Liverpool paid Roma in July.

"If I knew Alisson was this good -- I would have paid double," joked Klopp.

"The goal Mo scored, what a goal! And the save Ali made (was) unbelievable. It was of course a life saver tonight."

Despite losing all three of their away games in Group C, three home wins at fortress Anfield were enough to see Liverpool through to the knockout stage on goals scored over the Italians in second place behind Paris Saint-Germain, who won 4-1 away to Red Star Belgrade to secure top spot.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores their first goal against Napoli

"I'm still full of adrenaline, I could feel it in bubbles," added Klopp.

"This game was just amazing. The boys played with their whole heart on the pitch."

Liverpool's charge to the Champions League final last season was spearheaded by Salah's 44-goal season.

And after signalling his return to top form by scoring a hat-trick in a 4-0 win at Bournemouth on Saturday that sent Liverpool to

the top of the Premier League, Salah's 13th goal of the campaign relegated Napoli to the Europa League in the new year despite losing for the first time in Europe this season.

"It's a real shame our efforts haven't been rewarded," said Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti.

"We have no regrets. Overall the group of players have done extremely well, we took it down to the wire.

"You can't expect to come to

Liverpool and create 10 really good chances, we had one or two and didn't have the luck to take one of them."

Van Dijk's lunge

The outcome could have been very different if Virgil van Dijk had been sent off rather than just shown a yellow card that will keep him out of the first leg of Liverpool's last-16 tie for a dangerous lunge on Dries Mertens after just 15 minutes.



Liverpool's charge to the Champions League final last season was spearheaded by Salah's 44-goal season

UEFA will introduce the video assistant referee (VAR) system for the last 16, but Ancelotti bemoaned the delay in using the technology during the group stage.

"Seeing on the video, I knew it was a red card," added Ancelotti. "When VAR comes in (to) the Champions League, it is too late."

Liverpool took control as the first half wore on and broke the deadlock when Salah outmuscled Mario Rui and skipped past Kalidou Koulibaly before squeezing the ball underneath Ospina from a narrow angle.

Had Liverpool conceded they would have had to win by two goals due to their 1-0 defeat in Naples, and the hosts failed to cash in on their dominance of the early stages of the second half and avoid a nervy ending.

Brave CF strengthens Indian business relations

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation will host the second event in India on 22nd December at the Gachibowli Arena in Hyderabad. The event marks the biggest Mixed Martial Arts event hosted till date in India.

The Bahraini Mixed Martial Arts organization will strengthen the growing sector of sports and media between the two nations by hosting the event. Brave 20 will give the opportunity for seven Indian athletes to compete for the first time in the International stage.

The operations in India will strengthen the growing popularity of the sport as well as create new avenues for the Bahraini based global Mixed Martial Arts organization which is also the fastest growing Mixed Martial Arts organization in the world.

India was among the first nations that hosted an event by Brave Combat Federation after Bahrain, Brazil, and the United Arab Emirates.

"India is a nation that has a rich history when it comes to martial arts. The growing digital media penetration in the second most populous nation in the world will help to spread the sport of mixed martial arts and to nurture upcoming talents in the region", said Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave CF.

Al Daaja closing on Loman for bantamweight title

TDT | Manama

Jalal Al Daaja will return to Brave Combat Federation after a long break to compete in the twentieth edition of Brave Combat Federation, taking place in Hyderabad, India.

Al Daaja will face an uphill battle as he clashes with the local hero and undefeated bantamweight sensation, Kantaraj Agasa. Agasa is undefeated in his previous 10 bouts and holds a perfect record of 10-0-0.

The bout marks one of the biggest challenges for the Jordanian bantamweight who had won his previous two appearances with Brave Combat Federation.

Al Daaja faced Jeremy Pa-



Jalal Al Daaja

catiwi in Brave 9 and Crisanto Pitpitunge in Brave 10, he came out with first-round finishes against the two fighters from Team Lakay. Al Daaja won by TKO against Pacatiwi while he submitted Pitpitunge.

After the wins, he called out Loman. However, the world champions went ahead to face the bantamweight world championship contender, Frans Mlambo and subsequently Felipe Efrain.

With Loman coming up with dominating wins over Mlambo and Efrain, a win is crucial for the Jordanian to get a step closer to his dream to fight for the world championship.

Currently, Jalal Al Daaja is training in the camp that features the reigning welterweight world champion of Brave Combat Federation, Jarrah Al Selawe and the Middleweight powerhouse who will soon debut at Brave 21 in Saudi Arabia, Hashem Arkagha.

Female athletes to compete in Brave 20

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has announced to bring forward female athletes to compete for the first time in the edition of the event hosted in India.

Brave 20 taking place on 22nd December at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad will feature Micol Di Segni from Italy facing Maria Ribeiro from Brazil in a Women's Strawweight bout.

Micol Di Segni is the first female athlete from Europe to have signed with Brave Combat Federation. The strawweight fighter is also a prospect who evolved out of the IMMAF system for amateur fighters.

Di Segni secured the gold medal at the 2015 IMMAF World Championships final ahead of her professional debut and has a professional record of 6-1-0, with a five-fight win streak. At



Micol DiSegni (right) secures the Flyweight gold medal winner over Sweden's Anja Saxmark in the 2015 IMMAF World Championships final

the same time, Maria Ribeiro has a professional record of 4-1-0. Ribeiro will be coming after her first professional loss in her career.

"India has some of the best female combat sports talents in the world, the recent milestone achievement by Mary Kom is a testimony. By including the bout is critical not only to pro-

mote the growth of the female division in the promotion but also to encourage the athletes who are looking forward to competing professionally. The bout will provide exposure as well as showcase the level of competition that takes place at a global level", said Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation.

New Zealand vs Morocco to headline co-main event in India

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation will showcase a major matchup between New Zealand and Morocco on 22nd December at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, India.

The bout marks for the first time athletes from New Zealand and Morocco are competing in an MMA event taking place in India. John Brewin from New Zealand made an impact with two iconic wins at Brave Combat Federation fortifying his undefeated pro-

fessional record consisting of four major wins.

Brewin made his promotional debut at Brave Combat Federation after decimating the 2016 IMMAF Medalist, Hardeep Rai. The bout in India marks the third for Brewin in the organization.

Anas Siraj Mounir from Morocco will compete for the first time in the promotion at Brave 20. Anas Siraj Mounir is the second fighter to be signed from Morocco and the only fighter from Morocco in the promotion.

Hamza Kooheji confident to create history in Saudi

TDT | Manama

Hamza Kooheji will become the first Bahraini Mixed Martial Artist to compete in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when the Kingdom hosts the first International Mixed Martial Arts event on 28th December at the King Abdullah Sports City Indoor Sports Hall in Jeddah.

Kooheji has initiated his training at the KHK MMA Bahrain under the Head Coach Eldar Eldarov and Veteran Martial Artist, Yousif Al Kooheji. The Bahraini youth icon is confident



Hamza Kooheji (right) victorious against Crisanto Pitpitunge (left) at Brave 16 in UAE

that he will be able to raise the bars higher when it comes to facing his opponent in Saudi Arabia.

He will face Yayong "The Wolverine" Wang (7-6-0) fighting out of Shanghai, China. This marks the first time a Bahraini professional fighter is challenged by a Chinese athlete. Kooheji reflected regarding the training and the support he is receiving leading to the fight.

The bantamweight fighter from the Kingdom of Bahrain has seven wins in his professional career and have inspired

Bahraini youth to follow the sport of Mixed Martial Arts under the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

"Brave 21 will be an iconic event for the world of Mixed Martial Arts as this marks the first event taking place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At this time, when the Kingdom of Bahrain is preparing for the national day, it gives me immense pleasure to train harder representing the Kingdom in a historic event", said Hamza Kooheji.

Moura rescues Spurs

● Tottenham qualify for last 16 as late Moura goal earns draw at Barca

● Harry Kane provided the pass that substitute Lucas Moura used to score in the 85th minute

AFP | Barcelona

Tottenham came back from the brink in the Champions League on Tuesday as Lucas Moura's late equaliser salvaged a 1-1 draw against Barcelona and sent them through to the last 16.

Lionel Messi was left out of a heavily-rotated Barca line-up at the Camp Nou but Ousmane Dembele's stunning early goal looked set to put Spurs out, until Moura intervened.

Mauricio Pochettino's side only had to match Inter Milan's result at home to PSV Eindhoven in Group B, which they did, as the Italians only managed a 1-1 draw themselves.

It made for a night of exhilarating drama, climaxing in the final five minutes when Tottenham must have wondered whether to push for a winner or hold on to what they had.



Ousmane Dembele robbed Kyle Walker-Peters early in the first half before finishing neatly past Hugo Lloris to give Barcelona to lead

At the final whistle, their players faced an agonising 30 seconds, only for a roar in one of the stadium's deepest corners to tell them the whistle had blown in Italy.

"No-one believed in us," Pochettino said. "People said it was mission impossible but we are here. It is a massive achievement for the club."

Barcelona's coach Ernesto Valverde may not be popular with Inter supporters after he

rested several key players, including Messi, but his team already had first place wrapped up.

"We qualified quickly and that speaks for itself," Valverde said. On Messi, who came on shortly after the hour, he added: "It's good to keep him busy,"

Besides, Dembele scored a goal of which the Argentinian would have been proud, his brilliant run and finish providing the perfect riposte to more re-

ports of indiscipline from the 21-year-old this week.

"It was a great goal, the kind only players with his talent can score," Valverde said. "We are happy with him."

When Barcelona crashed out in the quarter-finals in April, Valverde took much of the blame, the accusation that he failed to rotate his players in games of lesser importance.

Perhaps he listened, because while Messi's absence was the

“No-one believed in us. People said it was mission impossible but we are here. It is a massive achievement for the club

MAURICIO POCHETTINO

key point of relief for Tottenham, Jordi Alba and Marc-Andre ter Stegen, both excellent in recent weeks, were also left on the bench.

Spurs, though, were also unfamiliar, at right-back, where Kyle Walker-Peters made his Champions League debut and it was the 21-year-old's error in the sixth minute that gave Dembele a sniff.

He robbed the ball and tore away, brushing off Walker-Peters again before brilliantly dummied a late Harry Winks dive and finishing past Hugo Lloris.

Pochettino said he would be kept aware of the score at the San Siro, so news may have reached him soon after that PSV had taken the lead.

Tottenham improved, peppering Barca's right side, as another break saw Danny Rose fire across the face of goal. Son Heung-min's lunge came up just short.

Dortmund top Champions League group after win at Monaco

AFP | Monaco

Borussia Dortmund qualified as Group A winners for the Champions League last 16 after beating Thierry Henry's Monaco 2-0 on Tuesday.

Portugal's Raphael Guerreiro scored twice to claim all three points for the visitors as Atletico Madrid could only draw 0-0 at Club Brugge.

Lucien Favre made nine changes from Saturday's derby victory against Schalke which continued their superb unbeaten start to the Bundesliga season.

"It's a perfect evening. On the whole it was a deserved victory," Favre said.

Henry started four teenagers in a meaningless game for the Ligue 1 strugglers who were guaranteed to finish bottom of the group for a second straight campaign after defeat at Atletico in round five.

The former France striker stated he used the fixture as a warm-up for Sunday's domestic trip to Lyon.

"Dortmund posed a real challenge. We'll recover quickly and prepare for Lyon," he said.

"Right now we have a problem, to sort things out in Ligue 1."

PSG through after rout of Red Star

● 'Humble' PSG keeping cool heads after making Champions League last 16

AFP | Belgrade, Serbia

Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel said his side need to "stay humble" after they thumped Red Star Belgrade 4-1 on Tuesday and qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League, finishing ahead of Liverpool and Napoli to top a tight Group C.

First-half goals from Edinson Cavani and Neymar set the French champions on their way, before a bullet header from Marquinhos, Kylian Mbappe's injury-time strike and Liverpool beating Napoli 1-0 ensured first place in the group after Marko Gobeljic pulled one back for the hosts early in the second half.

"We made mistakes, but I really liked the reaction after Belgrade's goal. We controlled the match," said Tuchel to RMC Sport after the win.

"We need to stay humble and have a professional attitude. We are improving and we are hard to beat."

PSG finished the group stage on 11 points, two ahead of second-placed Liverpool and Napoli, who were eliminated due to their defeat at Anfield.

Topping such a keenly-contested group is a huge boost for PSG, who have dominated French football since being taken over by Qatari investors but flattered to deceive on the continent.

Arrival in the knockout stage comes after two straight wins



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (2ndR) vies with Red Star Belgrade's Australian defender Milos Degenek

for PSG, with Tuesday's beating of Red Star coming after a crucial 2-1 victory over Liverpool that put qualification in their hands.

"We showed for a second time after the match against Liverpool that we are ready for this kind of match," added Tuchel, whose side began the group stage with a 3-2 defeat by the Reds at Anfield and then struggled to contain Napoli in the two draws with the Italian side.

However, PSG scored 10 goals in two games against Red Star, who beat Liverpool and drew with Napoli in Belgrade -- dropped points that allowed the Ligue 1 leaders to finish top.

"We are happy, we came for qualification and we showed our intentions (with the win)," said Mbappe, who also laid on Cavani's opener.

Asked about PSG's chances of winning the Champions League, Mbappe added: "We need to see what we'll have in front of us. The goal is to get to the quarter-finals, but we'll deal with what we are given in the draw."

Attacking trio triumph

PSG had Red Star on the back foot from the start, and their blistering attacking trio of Neymar, Mbappe and Cavani did not waste time in putting the away side ahead.

Just eight minutes were on the clock when Cavani tapped Mbappe's pass into an open goal, after the French teenage sensation met the excellent Marco Verratti's through ball, brushed Filip Stojkovic aside and slipped a perfect pass for the Uruguayan.

Red Star captain Stojkovic had a torrid evening, and Neymar made light work of the 25-year-old on his way to a wonderful solo goal in the 31st minute, dribbling into the box and sitting down the hosts' keeper Milan Borjan before lifting the second into the net.

The Ligue 1 leaders should have been out of sight three minutes before the break, but Mbappe wasted an excellent chance to make it three, again bursting through past Stojkovic on the left only to fluff his shot into the side netting.

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