

Google recently released its list of top trending searches of 2018. Demi Lovato and Meghan Markle are the most searched people of this year | P13

# THE DAILY tribune

## Saudi to make huge investment in Pakistan

NDTV | Islamabad

Pakistan Minister yesterday said that an incoming investment package from Saudi Arabia promises to be "the biggest foreign investment in the country's history".

Asad Umar, while addressing an event in Islamabad, said that the package would be announced soon, reports Dawn news.

"The ball is in our court. It is going to the cabinet for approval next week, after which the announcement will be made," he said.

The Minister said that he keeps getting messages from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman "through other people to hurry up".



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister during a welcome ceremony by Governor of Riyadh, HRH Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Minister of Interior, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Kingdom of Bahrain's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HE Shaikh Humood bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and a number of senior officials. Prince Salman is in Riyadh, on behalf of HM the King, following an official invitation by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Defense to attend the 2018 Ad Diriyah E-Prix. HRH the Crown Prince is accompanied by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, and a number of senior officials.

## Lebanon PM confident of new government

London, United Kingdom

Lebanon's prime minister-designate, Saad Hariri, said yesterday he is "pretty sure" that a six-month-old deadlock on forming a government will be broken by the end of the year.

He was speaking at London's Chatham House think-tank, seven months after parliamentary elections were held in Lebanon.

"I am pretty sure by the end of the year we will have a government," he said.

"We are getting there. It is not a regional issue, it is an internal issue... There is still one obstacle and I am sure we will be able to resolve it," he said.

A deal between Lebanon's political leaders has seemed close on several occasions, but they have repeatedly failed to reach full agreement on a line-up.

# Calm finally returns to Yemen's Hodeida

Ceasefire agreed, all forces to leave key Yemen port, city: UN chief

● **Withdrawal from Hodeida port 'within days'**

● **Saudi envoy to US said the deal 'will help bring back security'**

● **UAE welcomes Hodeida ceasefire**

Agencies | Sweden

Saudi Arabia and its Arab coalition partners "strongly support" an agreement reached on Yemen yesterday, which includes a ceasefire in the vital port of Hodeida, Riyadh's US ambassador Khalid bin Salman said.

"The agreement announced yesterday will help bring back security to the region including the security of the Red Sea, a vital waterway for international trade," the envoy, who is the brother of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, said on his Twitter account. "The agreement is a major step towards alleviating the humanitarian crisis and reaching a political solution."

"We hope that the Houthis accept a comprehensive political solution, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, that serves the interests of Yemen and its people rather than working on behalf of the Iranian regime's interests."

The tweets also warned Iran backed Houthis not to repeat their mistake of abandoning the political process, "as they did with the outcomes of Yemeni national dialogue, Geneva, and the Kuwait talks, as the brotherly Yemeni people deserve a real opportunity at peace."

Mohammed bin Salman tweeted that the legitimate government of Yemen supported the former UN envoy's proposal of UN control over the port of



Yemen's foreign minister Khaled al-Yamani (2ndL) and negotiator Mohammed Abdelsalam (R) shake hands under the eyes of Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström (L) and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres (2ndR) watch, during peace consultations taking place at Johannesberg Castle in Rimbo, north of Stockholm, Sweden

Hodiedah. "The Houthis refused, and only consistent military pressure by the coalition forced them to agree."

The deal was also welcomed by the United Arab Emirates.

"We welcome the (truce) accord reached in Sweden," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said on

Twitter.

He attributed the deal to military pressure by the coalition, which intervened in 2015 after Houthis seized the capital Sanaa as well as Hodeida and its vital Red Sea port.

"The diplomatic progress was made possible by sustained military pressure against the Houthis along the Red Sea and around

Hodeida," Gargash said.

He also revealed that there were 5,000 Emirati soldiers engaged in fighting to recapture Hodeida from the rebels.

UN chief Antonio Guterres, announcing the ceasefire, said the United Nations would play a "leading role" at the port.

"In the harbour, the UN will assume a very important monitoring role and in the city, the order will be maintained by the local forces."

A new round of talks is scheduled for the end of January.

UN special envoy Martin Griffiths, who was due to brief the Security Council on Yemen on Friday, said the pullout should take place "within days".

The rivals have also reached a "mutual understanding" on Yemen's third city of Taiz to facilitate the delivery of aid.

But no deal has been reached on the future of the airport in the capital Sanaa.

## Violation of morality

# Egypt arrests two over nude tourists on pyramid

Cairo, Egypt

Egyptian authorities yesterday arrested a camel driver and a woman accused of having helped two Danes scale the Great Pyramid of Giza to take a video and naked photograph, sparking outrage in the country.

The interior ministry said the woman had put the pair into contact with the camel driver who took them to the site illegal-

ly at night on November 29 for 4,000 Egyptian pounds (\$225, 200 euros).

The two had acknowledged their role in the incident and would be put on trial.

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

Hvid says the video was shot in late November and posted on YouTube on December 8, setting in motion an investigation by Egypt's public prosecutor.

The nearly three-minute video has so far notched up 4.5 million views on YouTube, while stirring a public outcry in Egypt.

"A 7,000-year-old civilisation has turned into a bed sheet," a Twitter user in Egypt lamented.



Horse riders gallop near the Giza pyramids (file)



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## Govt hospital autonomy: Two trustees on way

TDT | Manama

**Mohammed Zafran**

Government hospitals in the Kingdom will “very soon” have their financial and functional autonomy as the government is busy completing procedures to make them more patient-centric.

The realisation of the move will be based on the formation of two trustees as all other steps have been given the regulatory green light.

“This restructure will happen very soon. All other steps have been taken, so the appointment of the council could be any time now,” Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea said.

“This can further improve the quality of services offered at healthcare centres and would promote efficiency and proactiveness.

“This is a positive step for the government as well as for optimum utilisation of resources,” said Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea.

The move, the Undersecretary said, will make healthcare facilities more patient-centric.

One of the two trustees will handle primary healthcare, while the other will monitor secondary healthcare. Besides, CEOs will be appointed for hospitals as part of the arrangement.

The trustees, according to Dr Al Manea, will facilitate the healthcare sector as Ministry will then no longer be involved as a regulator.

Both government health centres and government hospitals will also be granted autonomy.

“With this step, the facilities will have the flexibility to make decisions on their own,” the Undersecretary said.

“Historically the lack of flexibility has hindered the ability



Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea

of the facilities to make quick decisions as they needed to take permission and help from various government agencies.

The decision will also bestow upon all autonomous institution tremendous responsibilities. “They will generate their own income and have own CEO as well as various administrative departments,” said Dr Al Manea adding: “They will also have control over the recruitment and termination of employees and will no longer have to rely on various government entities.”

Bahrain’s healthcare sector is expected to see a lot of developments next year as a Social Health Insurance Programme (Sehati) will also be launched.

One of the main objectives of the National Health Plan (2016-2025), is the adoption of the Social Health Insurance Program (SEHATI), to develop the quality of the current health system and ensure sustainability. This system is meant to revolutionise the local health sector through better utilisation of the available resources while overcoming pressing challenges, which are mainly due to the rapid increase in population and shifting demographics

## Nuwaidrat blast: Court awards life term to two

Manama

The High Criminal Court yesterday sentenced two Bahrainis to life in jail and ordered to pay BD 573 in fines for damages.

The courts also sentenced two others to three years, Advocate General Ahmed Al Hammadi said.

The defendants were put on trial on charges of attempted murder and inflicting physical injuries on police officers, illegal rallying and rioting,

possessing and using Molotov cocktails.

The men, according to court documents, blocked the streets in Nuwaidrat, caused a blast thereby wounding officers and damaging patrol vehicle.

The court relied on witness testimonies, suspects’ confessions and technical reports in arriving at the verdict.

Under Bahraini laws, the defendants have the right to appeal the verdict at the Court of Appeals and subsequently at the Court of Cassation.

# Making housing dreams a reality

MPs all set to work towards eliminating waiting time on the housing list



One of the housing projects in the Kingdom (file)

● **Priority for distributing 25,000 housing units as directed by the Crown Prince**

● **40,000 houses to be distributed in the next four years**

● **Private sector to play crucial role in housing development**

TDT | Manama

As Bahrain’s parliament has embarked on a new journey with the naming its first woman speaker, Parliamentarians have come forward voicing in unison that their prime concern will be on eliminating the waiting time on housing lists.

The pledges came as the Kingdom elected Fouzia Zainal, who has become only the second woman in the Arab world to hold the position of House speaker, followed by Dr Amal Al Qubaisi in the UAE’s Federal National Council.

Housing issue, as Bahrain’s Parliamentarians suggested, continues to enjoy top concerns among youngster here too as high construction costs and lack of space are forcing them to move above the homes of their parents in search of a private living space.

“Families need more space,” Basem al-Malki, a deputy, told *Tribune* adding: “It is unacceptable for citizens to live in small areas after many years of waiting.”

Touching another flaming issue, he told us that when it comes to housing, ‘narrowness’ or lack of space is a grave concern.

“Many citizens are adopting vertical construction or moving above the homes of their parents as the cost of construction has become very high or unaf-



**Families need more space. It is unacceptable for citizens to live in small areas after many years of waiting**

BASEM AL-MALKI



**Prime importance for fulfilling the directives of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, to distribute, 25,000 units**

MAHMOUD AL-BAHRANI

fordable,” Al Malki pointed out.

He explained: “Hamad Town, for example, is a residential city, and today the second and third generation, and even the fourth of the city’s population, are waiting for their housing demands.”

While acknowledging the number of housing applications received at the Housing Minister as “very large, he assured *Tribune*: “We will urge the government to expand the housing units through its programme of work.”

When approached, a number of members of the House of Representatives told the *Tribune* that housing files are on their top priority list. “We will be looking into all laws and projects that would contribute in reducing the waiting period for housing service.”

MP Mahmoud al-Bahrani told *Tribune* that the Council will give prime importance in fulfilling the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, to distribute 25,000 housing units to the beneficiaries.”

Discussion on the housing file is yet to begin, he said, while confirming that a consensus, however, has been reached to increase the number of units to be distributed during the next four years to 40 thousand.”

### The private sector in focus

Earlier, on the sidelines of the 5th Arab Housing Conference, Minister of Housing Bassem Al-Hamar stressed the importance of partnership with the private sector in meeting the challenges associated with the housing.

The minister told the conference that the government, so far, has implemented 25 thousand housing units during its programme of work in the past years and “we are moving towards achieving the goal of implementing 40 thousand housing units.” According to him, 65 per cent of the citizens in the Kingdom owns a home.

He also pointed out that the Gulf support to Bahrain in the housing projects amounts to 27 to 30pc of the total cost.

The minister further pointed out that Bahrain has been keen to provide high-quality service-

es in large numbers and there are more than 7,000 housing units within the social housing project.

On the waiting list, the minister said that most of the beneficiaries on the housing list fall in the age group of fewer than 40 years to 21 years. They make up 70pc of the waiting list and this category can receive funding to fulfil their housing dreams.

According to Bahrain’s official website, the Ministry of Housing provides house loans, flats and house for Bahraini citizens. A waiting time that ranges between 5 to 15 years is a normal practice. The government plans to reduce the waiting time to less than 3 years.

The report further states that despite the increasing activities in the real estate sector, there exists a shortage of housing in Bahrain, especially in the low to medium income family range. In Bahrain, about 3,000 marriages are conducted each year and assuming a 50 per cent requirement of housing units, about 1,500 houses are needed per annum on a continuous basis.

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Best wishes and greetings to

**His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**  
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

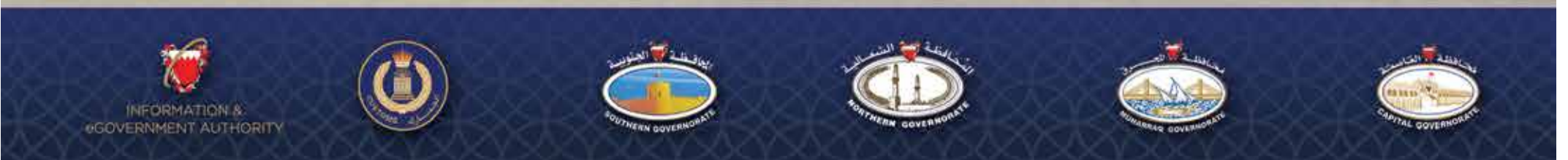
**His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**  
Prime Minister

**His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**  
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier

The government and the loyal people of Bahrain  
on the occasion of the National Day,  
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession Day  
and Bahrain Police Day.  
We vow to continue to protect the nation.



**The Minister of Interior**  
And all the Ministry of Interior affiliates





# On December 14, the journey of giving is renewed under HM the King's leadership In 2018, Bahrain Police continued with excellent performance and advanced security services

MOI- Police Media Centre



Scoring achievements is no longer the only target when the levels of hopes and expectations are high. Since the citizens' satisfaction is based on the excellence of the services provided, the Interior Ministry has been going ahead with its development through the ideas and support of the leader of the progress, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander. This concept places Bahrain and its people among the Ministry's priorities. Within this framework the year-long journey of accomplishments is studded with milestones that are sources of honour and pride. This includes the participation of some Interior Ministry affiliates in the Government Innovation Competition (Idea) launched by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, where 84 ideas and development projects were presented reflecting the positive spirit to serve the nation. His Excellency Interior Minister Lt-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa was honoured by D.A.R.E. International with the Personality of the Year Award 2018 on account of the success of the Maan (Together) programme against violence and addiction that was developed by the Interior Ministry to protect the youth. The number of schools covered by the programme has gone up to 173. On 21 January 2018, HE the Interior Minister launched the initiative to promote the spirit of belonging to the nation as part of HM the King's comprehensive vision to strengthen the home front and the national security and stability. Figures themselves speak about the growth of achievements. Thus, the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs offered more than 121,000 services in 2018, an increase of 18% over last year.



As a result of high levels of security and stability, passenger traffic also went up with more than 24 million travellers passing through Bahrain while around 300,000 visas were issued. The year 2018 also saw a decline in fatal road accidents by 25% while the number of traffic violations dropped by 45%. The Emergency Hotline 999 received more than a million calls, including 30,000 related to community services.

The Operations Room handled more than 83,000 cases and the Civil Defence 6,500, thus giving importance to safety in all situations. The anti-corruption hotline received 4,064 cases while the Police Band took part in 277 events and celebrations. The General Directorate of Port Security handled 481 cases and the Police Aviation registered 924 flights, 9,07,000 flying hours and

344 cases. The General Directorate of Guards organised 162 training courses for 929 participants, while the Training Directorate held 690 courses in Bahrain and abroad for more than 8,000 participants. The Coast Guard handled 2,738 cases, including rescuing and assisting 1,229 individuals and 467 boats. The Police Directorates handled 70,000 cases. The Directorate of Verdicts Implementation launched the 'Avoid' campaign and commenced the execution of alternative punishments.

#### Developing the GSS

As part of HE the Interior Minister's directives to develop the Operations Room, the Geographic Security System (GSS) Division upgraded the geographic systems of the directorates concerned to deal with emergency cases and for the purposes of analysis

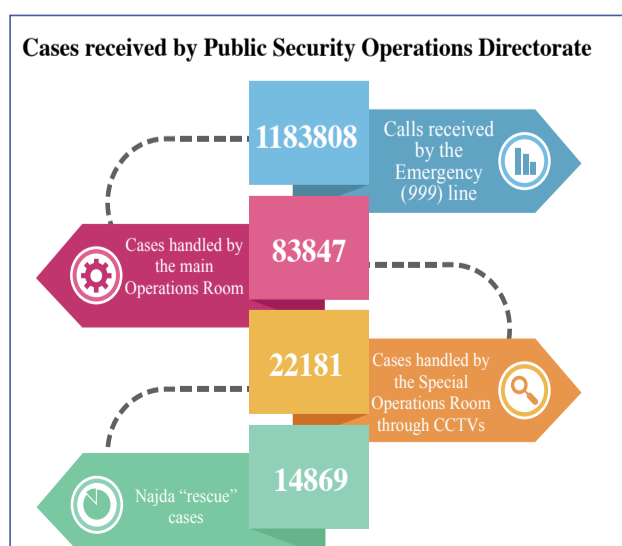
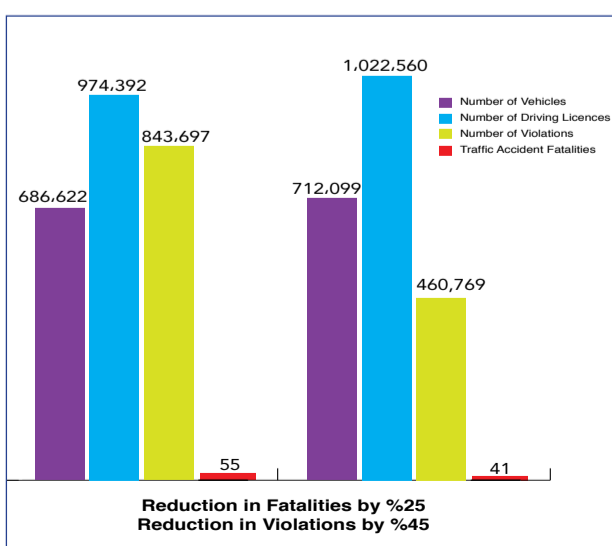
and collection of statistics. Since the GSS is part of the systems that operate within the general safety field, its tools for road works management allow for a better regulation of the daily traffic. A host of systems were introduced to speed up the responses in security situations and provide efficient, accurate and fast security services, including the Unified Criminal System, tracking patrols, identification of callers, identification of the callers' locations, and e-switchboard. As part of the new GCC apps, systems to facilitate the security control and provide advanced services were also introduced in 2018, including a system to trace nuclear radiation and environment pollution, and applications to manage resources and duties.



HE Bahrain Ambassador to the United States receives the award on behalf of HE the Minister

• **HE the Interior Minister honoured with the Personality of the Year Award 2018 for the success of Maan (Together) programme against violence and addiction.**

• **The number of schools covered by the Maan programme goes up to 173.**



CID: Tracking Criminal and Terrorist Cases

In 2018, the General Directorate of Investigation and Forensic Science tracked down a number of criminal and terrorist cases and arrested the suspects. The department has continued with its development process by holding 30 training courses for 167 participants with focus on law enforcement and human rights principles. The Interior Ministry's Antinarcotics Directorate won the second position for the best field, information and operations cooperation at the Arab, regional and international levels. The Directorate also busted a drug-trafficking network and held its first conference titled 'Media Resources: Between Reality and Ambitions in Narcotics Prevention', which led to an increase in awareness activities.

The Criminal Investigation Directorate introduced state-of-the-art equipment to improve efficiency and deal with cases

faster. It also won accolades for the best scientific research in criminal science. For the better provision of its services, it also opened an office at the Muharrag Security Complex. The Directorate of Anti-human Trafficking was among the organisations recognised for their role in Bahrain's success in becoming the first Arab State to reach Tier 1 in the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Report.

#### Coast Guard: Faster Vessels

The Coast Guard works through its patrols and plans to maintain maritime security and safety. It is also dedicated to preventing and tackling crime. In view of its important role, the number of its fast vessels and boats was increased and advanced technology and equipment such as radars and electrophoresis cameras were introduced. To enhance the skills of its manpower, joint exercises were also held in association with specialised organisations.



# Decline in traffic accidents and violations; emergency hotline 999 dealt with more than a million calls including 30,000 related to community services

## Remarkable Traffic Safety

The year 2018 saw the launch of new projects and services, including the issuance of smart tablets to traffic patrols, that contributed in improving the traffic performance and control.

## Police Directorates: Efforts Continue to Reduce Crime

The police directorates in the four governorates continued with their efforts to reduce crime and reinforce community partnership. In this context, the Muharraq Police Directorate designed a system to track patrols and direct the ones nearest to a required destination to go there. It also designed an electronic programme to file complaints, reorganised the Family and Child Protection office and set up an office for alternative punishments. The Northern Governorate Police took steps to reduce crime through a survey to spread security awareness in society. In the process it made 1,602 visits to shops and companies. It also regulated traffic near 31 schools, ensured security arrangements for 137 events, handled 366 social disputes and arrested 44 illegal street vendors and 33 beggars. The Southern Police Directorate ensured security arrangements for 700 events, including the Bahrain Grand Prix (Formula 1) which was attended by 60,728 people, and the camping season that witnessed a 46% reduction in crime. It also executed 90% of the orders it was given, increased the staff at the Marital Cases Office and enrolled them for training, and carried out campaigns in Ras Zuwaid in association with the Southern Municipality which helped reduce crime in the area by 80%. The Capital Police Directorate organised 67 training courses for 425 participants and ensured security arrangements for 303 events.

## Civil Defence: High Response in Rainy Season

The General Directorate of Civil Defence continued with its duties to ensure general safety and provide advanced security services. In association with the other Interior Ministry directorates it also made a remarkable contribution in dealing with the heavy rains in Bahrain. It held 160 courses for 2,220 participants and continued to spread awareness among people to improve general safety, including through its campaigns for safety in factories and Ramadan tents and at swimming pools.

## Port Security: Latest CCTVs

The Bahrain International Airport Police Directorate introduced the latest versions of CCTVs and took part in a number of joint security exercises. The King Fahad Causeway Police Directorate directed Hajj and Omra contractors to submit their licences through the email for fast processing of their passes. It also deployed round-the-clock patrols in the areas under its control.

## Guards Training School Offers Awareness Lectures

The General Directorate of Guards organised security projects, including awareness lectures by the Guards Training School, on security, protection systems, ways to deal with strange objects and emergency cases. It also made arrangements, in coordination with the directorates concerned, to ensure the success of the parliamentary and municipal elections. In addition, it took steps so the celebrations and festivals in Bahrain were held smoothly. It also obtained the ISO 9001:2015 certificate.

## NPRA: Introduction of Advanced Systems

The year 2018 saw the completion of an e-system linking the Labour Ministry with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) thereby allowing electronic transmission of court verdicts for a quick and accurate implementation of orders. It also developed the system of checking travellers before their departure and the e-visa system. The department's staff, the security authorities and the airlines



- **HE the Interior Minister launched an initiative to promote the spirit of belonging to the nation as part of HM the King's comprehensive vision.**
- **The Interior Ministry's affiliates presented 84 ideas and development projects for the Government Innovation Competition (Idea) launched by HRH the Crown Prince.**
- **The Directorate of Verdicts Implementation launched the 'Avoid' campaign and commenced the execution of alternative punishments.**
- **The anti-corruption hotline received 4,064 cases.**
- **The Civil Defence and Police directorates dealt with 76,000 cases while the Coast Guard handled 2,738 cases.**
- **More than 24 million travellers passed through Bahrain and around 300,000 visas were issued.**
- **The Training Directorate organised 690 courses, the General Directorate of Guards held 162 courses and the Police Band took part in 277 events and celebrations.**
- **62 million malicious emails were blocked and 9,000 hacking attempts against government systems foiled.**
- **Police Media issued around half million publications in 2018.**

concerned can easily obtain information through these systems.

## Customs: Introduction of Pre-licensing System

The Customs Affairs introduced the pre-licensing system at King Fahad Causeway, facilitating the processing of customs requirements and the movement of trucks. Three X-ray devices were also installed in the sea, land and air ports and efforts continued to prevent and reduce crime. The department won the Excellence Award in Human Resources 2018 at the fifth Gulf Forum for Human Resources Development in appreciation of its human resources development initiatives.

## Anti-corruption: Tackling Cases and Creating Awareness

An alarm system was installed in the operations room which was linked to all banks and ATMs to detect robberies and distress calls and for an early detection of fires. In 2018, Bahrain's money-laundering and terrorism-financing report were also presented at the Financial Action Task Force meeting. The Financial Investigation Directorate was recognised as fully compliant. In cooperation with the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority steps were taken to establish the identity of phone-users and awareness campaigns continued through short phone messages to fight electronic and economic crimes. The National Anti-corruption Campaign involved various activities including a drive at the Bahrain Summer Festival to explain to the public the corruption-related crimes and spread awareness about the ways to fight them. The campaign also aimed to explain the relevant laws and tell about the anti-corruption hotline (992). The website of the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security was also launched in 2018.

## RAP: New Masters Programmes Introduced

The Royal Academy of Police (RAP) continued to offer training and education services to help prepare police personnel capable of quickly dealing with the new challenges. There was human rights curriculum for all

officer cadets. A Master's programme in Crisis Management and a Master's degree in Security Sciences were introduced in collaboration with the UK-based University of Huddersfield. A graduation ceremony was held for the third batch of Master's degree students. The RAP library was listed among the e-education projects. The RAP, in cooperation with Tamkeen, held the 10th summer camp for 1,251 students in the 12-17 age group.

## Human Resources: Host of Events for Children of Martyrs of Duty

The Human Resources Department focused on improving and speeding up its services to the Interior Ministry affiliates through e-programmes and introduced a smart phone application to enable the staff to access its main services. The department received the Four Star Excellence Recognition Certificate from the European Quality Management Organisation. It was the first department in the Interior Ministry and the first organisation in the government or the private sector to receive such a certificate. The department also received ISO14001:2015 for the environment. It organised a host of activities for the children of the martyrs of duty as part of the Ministry of Interior's care and concern for the martyrs' families.

## e-Government: Reinforcing Benefits of



## Government Services

Information & eGovernment Authority blocked 62 million malicious emails and foiled 9,000 attempts to hack government systems. It also registered 896,000 applications through e-channels and the national portal. The Tawassul system reinforced the benefits of government services to the people. From January to October, about 96,000 e-applications related to ID cards were processed. In the United Nations e-Government Report 2018, Bahrain maintained its ranking at the 26th place in the world and the fifth in Asia.

## Police Women: Cooperation with the SCW

The General Directorate of Women Police continued to cooperate with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) to create an e-database on women's and children's cases. It also issued its annual booklet on those cases. The department also won the Four Stars Excellence Certificate.

## Police Band: Participation in 277 events

The Police Band took part in 277 events including the reception of cruises and festivals and summer activities.

## Systems Introduced to Improve Performance

The Office of the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and

Organisation introduced systems for a better performance, such as an anti-virus software, a system to serve family cases offices at police directorates, and a system for lost or stolen vehicles that is linked to the General Directorate of Traffic, the NPRA and police stations. The system of e-bracelet to track convicts was also introduced in cooperation with the Directorate of Verdicts Implementation.

## Community Affairs Promotes Partnership

The Community Affairs Section of the Public Security Presidency functions as a link between security directorates and the authorities concerned with facilitating operations and services. It also deals with negative practices in society in cooperation with the bodies concerned and holds training courses on practical skills to develop community partnership.

## Security Awareness and Cooperation

The Directorate of Information Technology and e-Creativity took part in the Bahrain e-Government Forum 2018 and won the certificate of 'Trust' programme for information security (the first level). The department is also involved in spreading electronic security awareness. The Security Cooperation Directorate in the General Directorate of the Ministry of Interior's Court reinforces security cooperation between the Interior Ministry and its Arab and Gulf counterparts. In 2018, the Public Relations Directorate coordinated a number of events, including the Bahrain Sports Day and the Formula 1. In cooperation with other departments it organised 179 visits attracting 5,585 visitors from various civic organisations. The Public Security Officers Club won, for the third year in a row, the Capital Governorate's award for the decoration of government buildings. It also hosted 27 events and activities attracting more than 4,000 visitors.

## Preparations to Launch National Ambulance

The preparations to launch the National Ambulance Project continue, including the training of staff and linking of cameras inside the ambulances with the National Ambulance Operations Room. It completed the requirements for Canadian Accreditation and put in place the complaints procedures at the main health centre. The new building of the Jaw Clinic is ready to provide services to inmates.

## Governorates: Reinforcement of Interaction With Society

The Muharraq Governorate worked to reinforce interaction with all sections of society by reviving traditional occupations and crafts, took part in various activities and organised 13 training courses. The Capital Governorate launched a host of projects and competitions and won the Excellence Award for Interaction with Clients during the Government Forum 2018. It also obtained the ISO 9001:2015 Certificate. The Southern Governorate launched a number of development projects based on the citizens' requirements. The governorate also supervised the camping season. The Northern Governorate continues with its project to renovate old houses of limited-income families in cooperation with NGOs and commercial organisations. It also unveiled the 400-metre Charter Wall.

## Sports Association: Remarkable Accomplishments

The Public Security Sports Association held 15 courses for 175 participants besides various seminars and lectures. Its teams won a number of local and international competitions.

## Media and Security Culture: Around Half Million Followers on Twitter

The General Directorate of Media and Security Culture continues to carry out its missions by interacting with various sections of society and informing the public about the efforts to maintain security and ensure the safety of citizens and residents.



WORLD  
world

# 9 dead, 47 injured in Ankara train crash

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Nine people were killed and nearly 50 injured after a high-speed train crashed into a locomotive in the Turkish capital yesterday, officials said.

Transport Minister Cahit Turhan told reporters in televised remarks that three of those killed were operators of the train.

One of the victims died in hospital, he added.

Turhan added that 47 people were injured and were in hospital for treatment.

The fast train had been on its way from Ankara's main station to the central province of Konya and according to Hurriyet daily, there were 206 passengers on board.

Earlier, the Ankara governor's office said three out of a total of 46 people had been seriously injured.

The death toll was rising fast. Ankara governor Vasip Sahin said earlier yesterday morning that four people had been killed.

## Debris scattered on the tracks

"This morning there was an accident after the 6.30 high-



Firefighters and medics try to rescue victims after a high-speed train crashed into a locomotive in Ankara

speed train to Konya hit a locomotive tasked with checking rails on the same route," Sahin told reporters in televised remarks.

Turhan said the accident took place six minutes after the train left Ankara as it entered the Marsandiz station.

The governor said search and rescue efforts continued as "technical investigations" were

underway to find out exactly what caused the crash in Yenimahalle district.

He said information about the cause of the crash would be shared with the public when it is known.

Images published by Turkish media showed some wagons had derailed and debris from the train scattered on the rail track, which was covered in

snow.

The windows of one wagon were completely broken while another wagon had been smashed after hitting the footbridge, which also collapsed, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

The Ankara public prosecutor launched an investigation into the crash, state news agency Anadolu reported.

## Increase in measles infections in Europe

### Graphic News

Measles is on the rise in Europe, with 30 countries together reporting more than 13,400 cases in the year to September 2018 – a fourfold rise over the same period two years ago.

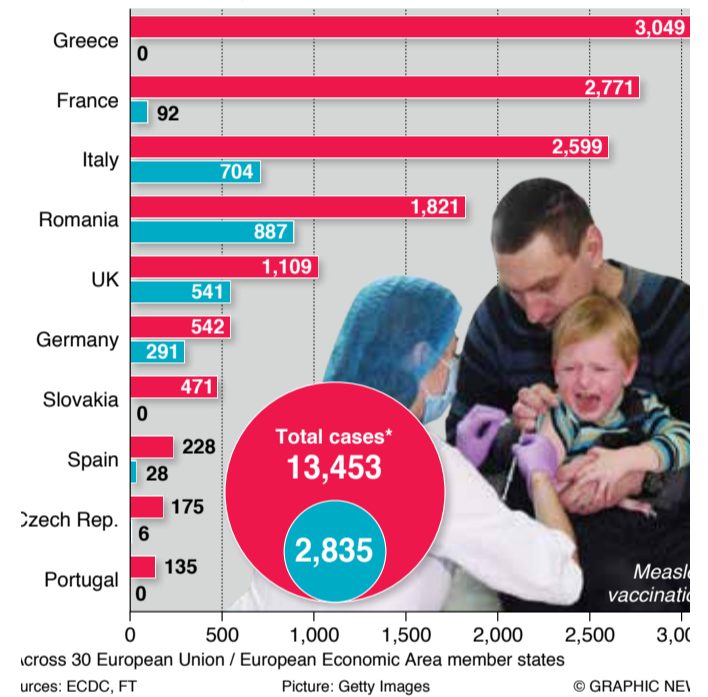
According to a recent report by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), none of the 30 EU/EEA countries sur-

veyed registered zero cases of measles, with the largest number of infections occurring in Greece, France, Italy, Romania and the UK, together accounting for 85 percent of all cases. To date, 33 deaths have also been reported across the region in 2018.

Measles continues to spread across Europe because vaccination coverage in many countries is lower than it should be, the ECDC said.

Measles is on the rise in Europe, with 30 countries together reporting more than 13,000 cases in the year to September 2018 – a fourfold rise over the same period two years ago

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH MOST NUMBERS OF MEASLES CASES  
Year from October 1 to September 30



## Ghana Gandhi statue removed

Accra, Ghana

A statue of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi has been removed from Ghana's most prestigious university after complaints that he was racist against black Africans.

India's former president Pranab Mukherjee unveiled the statue at the University of Ghana in Accra two years ago.

But lecturers soon began a petition calling for its removal,

citing passages written by Gandhi claiming that Indians were "infinitely superior" to black Africans.

The Gandhi statue on the university's Legon campus in Accra appeared to have been removed overnight Tuesday to Wednesday. The head of language, literature and drama at the Institute of African Studies, Obadele Kambon, said the removal was an issue of "self-respect".

## French govt urges 'yellow vests' not to protest

Paris, France

The French government yesterday urged "yellow vest" protesters to refrain from holding another round of demonstrations this weekend, citing the strain on security forces on high alert after the terror attack at a Christmas market in Strasbourg.

"For now we have not banned the demonstrations" which some protesters have called for

Saturday, government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux told CNews television.

But he called on the protesters to be "reasonable" after President Emmanuel Macron offered a range of financial relief last Monday, including a minimum wage boost and a tax cut for low-income pensioners.

"Our security forces have been deployed extensively these past few weeks," Griveaux said, while insisting that "it's not up



A man wearing a yellow vest with the inscription "Macron resignation" stands in front of a road blockade

to us to say if the movement should be called off or not."

In the wake of the Strasbourg attack, "it would be better if everyone could go about their business calmly on Saturday, before the year-end celebrations with their families, instead of demonstrating and putting our security forces to work once again," he said.

The "yellow vest" protests began on November 17 over fuel tax increases.

## Brazil couple sentenced to US prison for kidnapping grandson

Chicago, United States

A federal judge in Texas on Wednesday sentenced a Brazilian couple to short prison terms for helping to kidnap their grandson from the US.

A Houston jury had convicted Carlos and Jemima Guimaraes in May for helping their daughter relocate their grandson Nico Brann to Brazil five years ago, without his American father's permission.

The grandparents faced up to three years in prison, but a federal judge sentenced Carlos Guimaraes to three months and Jemima to one month. They were each also fined \$75,000.

The case generated international headlines after the couple in their 60s were arrested

in February while arriving in Miami for vacation.

The couple's daughter Marcelle Guimaraes relocated her then-three-year-old child to Brazil in 2013 under allegedly false pretenses and without the permission of his American father Chris Brann, a Houston physician. They divorced in 2012.

Brann claims his ex-wife told him the trip would only last a few weeks, but the child was never brought back to the US.

Guimaraes's parents allegedly helped her hide her motives, before the South American country's legal system granted the mother full custody.

The grandparents presented evidence during trial that the



Carlos and Jemima Guimaraes stand alongside attorney Rusty Hardin outside the Bob Casey Federal courthouse in Houston



The grandparents faced up to three years in prison, but a federal judge sentenced Carlos Guimaraes to three months and Jemima to one month.

child's mother was fleeing domestic violence, according to local media.

"The world needs to know the truth because I married a monster," Marcelle Guimaraes, who is now a fugitive wanted by the FBI, told Houston TV station KHOU prior to the sentencing.

"My ex-husband's lies and manipulation has destroyed my family, my whole family."

Brann testified before the US Congress in 2016 to ask Washington to impose sanctions on Brazil for violating an international standard requiring the return of children to their home country, if they were taken in violation of custody agreements.

A similar dispute led to the Sean Goldman Act in 2014, authorizing Washington to take action in international child custody disputes.



# Home, ankle bracelet for Huawei exec

● Meng faces more than 30 years in jail if convicted

● Freed on Can\$10m bail Tuesday night

● While on bail, Meng is required to wear an electronic anklet

AFP | Vancouver, Canada



Pending the outcome of the extradition hearing could take months, or even years, if appeals are made in the case



Courtroom sketch of Meng Wanzhou

Accused of sanctions busting and forced to abide by a curfew and wear an ankle bracelet as she awaits possible extradition to the United States, China's "Princess of Huawei" could be said to have fallen spectacularly from grace.

But Meng Wanzhou, heiress to her billionaire father's global tech conglomerate, is managing to surround herself with a few home comforts.

Huawei's chief financial officer was arrested on December 1 on a US warrant for alleged sanctions-breaking dealings with Iran, while changing planes in Vancouver.

She faces more than 30 years in jail if convicted, but was freed on Can\$10 million bail Tuesday

night pending the outcome of an extradition hearing, which could take months, or even

years, if appeals are made in the case.

The following morning, Meng was spotted answering the front door of her Vancouver house to three visitors bringing flowers who arrived in a sedan with diplomatic plates.

Outside, a handful of local residents walked their dogs past a group of journalists while a security guard watched from a car down the block.

Later, Meng stepped out to offer reporters slices of pizza that she'd had ordered in (they politely declined).

Meng's husband Liu Xiaozong in 2009 bought the six-bedroom house where she must stay in Vancouver's Dunbar neighborhood -- a leafy quiet enclave of single-family homes a few blocks from an urban forest.

While on bail, Meng is required to wear an electronic anklet and a security team paid by her has been assigned to monitor her movements in Vancouver. She also has an 11 pm to 7 am curfew.

Speaking through her lawyer, Meng said she looked forward to spending time in Vancouver with her family, and maybe applying for a doctorate program at the University of British Columbia while the extradition case plays out.



Meng Wanzhou (R), Chief Financial Officer of Huawei Technologies, answers the door for individuals carrying flowers after she was released on bail in Vancouver, British Columbia

## Pelosi agrees to term limit to seal US House speaker job



US House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi

### Washington, United States

Veteran Democrat Nancy Pelosi took a step Wednesday toward regaining her old job as powerful speaker of the US House of Representatives.

She did so by winning over a group of renegades in the chamber with a pledge to serve only until 2022.

The vote will take place on January 3, when the new House takes power under Democrats who ended Republican control of the chamber in November's mid-term elections.

The new assortment of lawmakers features more women and minorities and also a slew of younger representatives.

Pelosi, 78 and considered a master tactician and fund-raiser, held the job of speaker from 2007 to 2011. She was the first woman to do so.

## Meditating monk killed in India leopard attack

New Delhi, India

A Buddhist monk has been killed by a leopard while meditating in a protected forest for the big cats.

Rahul Walke Bodhi was seated beneath a tree in Ramdegi forest in western India for morning prayers when the leopard pounced.

The 35-year-old monk was fatally injured.

Two other devotees meditating with him at the time escaped unscathed to alert police, who started a search for his body. "His badly mauled body was found further into the forest, indicating the animal tried to drag it along," Krisna Tiwari, a senior police officer in the region, said.

## US claims Chinese intelligence behind massive Marriott hack

Washington, United States

The United States said Wednesday that China was behind the massive hack of data from hotel giant Marriott.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed to Fox News' "Fox & Friends" programme that the government believes China masterminded the Marriott data theft.

"They have committed cyber attacks across the world," he told the show.

The Marriott hackers, who stole detailed data on some

500 million customers of the world's largest hotel company, are believed to have been working for China's Ministry of State Security.

Washington sees them as part of an espionage effort that has targeted health insurers and the US civil service employment database. On Wednesday, US slapped a \$2.8 million penalty on a Chinese energy company, Yantai Jereh Oilfield Services Group, for violating US sanctions by shipping US-made equipment to Iran.

## China probes second Canadian

Beijing, China

A second Canadian citizen is reportedly being investigated on suspicion of endangering national security, adding to tensions after Canada's arrest of a top Chinese telecom executive on a US request.

Michael Spavor, a China-based business consultant who facilitates trips to North Korea, was placed under investigation Monday by state security in the northeast city of Dandong, the official Liaoning province news agency said. His disappearance

emerged after former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig was detained by state security during a visit to Beijing -- also on Monday and under similar suspicions.

Kovrig's arrest was seen by experts as retaliation over Canada's arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese telecom giant Huawei, at Washington's request.

Spavor is suspected of "engaging in activities that harm China's national security", the Chinese news agency added.

Based in Liaoning province, which borders North Korea,

he has met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and famously arranged some of retired NBA star Dennis Rodman's visits there.

The Canadian govt had earlier reported that Spavor was missing in China after being questioned.

The Beijing News daily has reported that Kovrig, who works for the International Crisis Group think tank, was under investigation on suspicion of "engaging in activities that endanger China's national security," -- a phrase often used in espionage cases.

## Woman slams baby ads after stillbirth

Washington, United States

A woman whose child was stillborn has slammed the targeted advertising of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram after she returned home from the hospital and kept getting baby-related sales pitches.

Gillian Brockell, a journalist with *The Washington Post*, said that if those social media giants were clever enough to know she was pregnant they should also have figured out she'd lost the baby.

She shared the bad news last

month in a tweet.

"I know you knew I was pregnant," Brockell wrote to the companies in a letter posted Wednesday on *The Washington Post* and *Twitter*.

"It's my fault, I just couldn't resist those Instagram hashtags -- #30weekspregnant, #baby-bump. And, silly me! I even clicked once or twice on the maternity wear ads Facebook served up."

"But didn't you also see me googling 'braxton hicks vs. pre-term labor' and 'baby not moving'?", Brockell added.

"Did you not see my three days of social media silence, uncommon for a high-frequency user like me?"

"And then the announcement post with keywords like 'heartbroken' and 'problem' and 'stillborn' and the 200 teardrop emoticons from my friends?"

"Is that not something you could track?"

Facebook's vice-president of advertising Rob Goldman responded to Brockell apologetically, lamenting her "painful experience with our products."



Representative picture

## N. Korea food production down in 2018: UN body

Seoul, South Korea

Food production has fallen this year in isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

Rice and maize are the North's main staples, but rice output was expected to be below average because of erratic rains and low irrigation supplies, the FAO said in its quarterly report.

Unfavourable weather conditions also diminished maize

ields, it added.

As a result the country would need to import 641,000 tonnes of food in the coming year, up from 456,000 tonnes this year, when it bought 390,000 tonnes and received 66,000 tonnes in food aid.

There was a widespread lack of access to food in the North, it said in the document.

"Food insecurity continues to remain a key concern, with conditions aggravated by the below-average 2018 main season output," it said.



REVIVAL

# Artists emerge from ruins of Mosul to reclaim Iraqi city's cultural life

*It has been a year since Mosul was liberated from IS, now Iraqis are starting to celebrate life's simple pleasures like music and reading. Under Islamic State rule, arts and culture suffered intensely, only now Mosul's cultural life is starting to thrive again*



CLASSIC



Ziad Rahbani

## The irreplaceable

Arabiyonana | Beirut

As the 1970s ushered in a new era with an influx of talent, Lebanon would greatly benefit from names who carried the art form during the toughest of times. Joseph Sakr, with his distinctive voice and charisma oozing from every pore, personified the changing landscape with longtime friend and collaborator Ziad Rahbani.

While the latter is heaped with praise for his genius work, Sakr has gone underappreciated as the driving force behind the most memorable masterpieces.

Joseph Sakr started his musical career with Al-Firqa Al-Ishabiya Al-Lubnaniya, invented by the Rahbani Brothers in the '60s. He joined the choir to accompany Fairuz in many of her performances while also taking on minor acting roles. Her son Ziad Rahbani was a pianist at the time with dreams of developing his own plays, and he instantly developed chemistry

with Sakr.

It wasn't long before their first play Sahriye debuted in 1973. From a French teacher to an overnight star, Sakr left the school in mid-year to embark on his newest journey as Nakhle Al-Taneen.

When Nakhle Al-Taneen was recruiting a new talent in the play, his stardom was threatened by one particular name, and the battle of "Ahhh" that ensued is iconic:

Long gone were the days of background singing as he joined Fairuz in two supporting roles in Loulou (1974) and Mais El-Reem (1975). With his indisputable talent, Joseph Sakr became an instrumental presence to assist Ziad in carrying the Rahbani legacy for years to come. He starred in Nazl El Sourour where he shone in the role of Barakat, carrying the majority of musical workload in the play.

While Fairuz shied away from Ziad's contentious lyrics, Sakr tackled those tracks in



Joseph Sakr



644

Uthman ibn Affan, companion of Muhammad, appointed 3rd Caliph of Islam

1287

During St. Lucia's Flood in Northwest Netherlands the Zuiderzee seawall collapses with loss of over 50,000 lives

1542

Princess Mary Stuart succeeds her father James V and becomes Queen Mary I of Scotland at 6 days old



1911

Norwegian Roald Amundsen's expedition is the 1st to reach the South Pole

Reuters | Mosul, Iraq

The first thing musician Fadhel al-Badri did when Mosul was liberated from Islamic State last year was breathe a sigh of relief.

The militants who seized the city in 2014 had targeted artists like himself so when neighbours said they were hunting for him, he left home, called his wife to say he was likely to die and took to sleeping in a different place each night.

The next thing he did was recover his beloved violin and his oud, similar to a lute, from where he had hidden them in the frame of his bed.

He said he hugged and kissed them "like they were my own children," and played amid the ruins "a song ... for Mosul."

In October, Badri and other musicians and activists attended the first orchestral concert in the northern Iraqi city since the militants were defeated more than a year ago by Iraqi and Kurdish forces and a coalition led by the United States.

Thousands died in that battle or fled the city, large parts of which was reduced to rubble.

The musicians played in a park where the militants once trained child soldiers and the music, a mixture of Western and Iraqi classical, wafted along the banks of the Tigris River.

"Music is my life. It's amazing to hear it in Mosul again," he said. The concert was conceived



Karim Wasfi leads the Peace Through Arts Farabi Orchestra during a concert in Mosul

by Karim Wasfi, former director of the Baghdad Orchestra, whose visiting Peace Through Arts Farabi Orchestra played alongside local musicians.

Mosul was long celebrated as a centre of Iraqi culture but that life was suppressed even before Islamic State declared its caliphate in 2014. Al Qaeda targeted musicians in the wake of a U.S.-led invasion in 2003 and no one could remember when they last heard live music in Mosul.

Islamic State continued that crackdown, blowing up statues and monuments, said Ali al-Baroodi, a Mosul University professor and photographer.

"We continued to consume culture in secret: we would listen to music, trade books, films, music. That never stopped even though it was dangerous," he said.

Baroodi and Badri belong to a community of artists and activists who have defied fears of fresh attacks to hold weekly book markets and photography exhibitions. In a bold move, that community has also painted murals around the city in a bid to reclaim public spaces.

### Rich history

Last year, he helped launch an international book drive to replenish the million books that Islamic State torched at the university library, one of the most important in the region.

"Mosul lost its identity, lost its features, lost thousands of its people with many more still under the rubble," he said. "These efforts aren't going to fix everything overnight but it gives us hope."

One new cultural centre is the vibrant Qantara cultural cafe. It opened in east Mosul in March, welcomes men and women, boasts a well-stocked bookshop and hosts readings and workshops. In addition, musicians including Badri have performed there.

Its walls show paintings and photographs of Mosul's rich history and its recent devastation. One wall depicts the crimes of IS, displaying a yellow jumpsuit worn by detainees as well as

Mosul was long celebrated as a centre of Iraqi culture but that life was suppressed even before Islamic State declared its caliphate in 2014. Al Qaeda targeted musicians in the wake of a U.S.-led invasion in 2003 and no one could remember when they last heard live music in Mosul



Ban Chakib plays the piano with Karim Wasfi, conductor of the Peace Through Arts Farabi Orchestra, during a concert

handcuffs.

Not every cultural institution in Mosul is seeing rebirth.

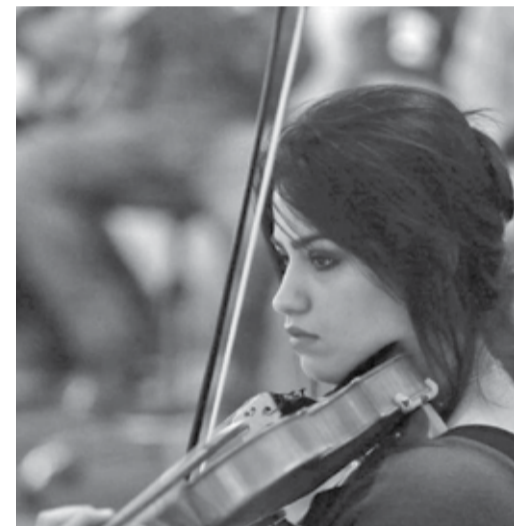
The central public library, a research centre that housed rare manuscripts including government records dating back to the Ottoman era, was the only one to survive Islamic State intact, even though it was used as a base.

Librarians hid the most precious texts but 20,000 books were dumped in the basement. After East Mosul was liberated, librarians salvaged what they could and stacked books on makeshift shelves.

But with no windows and holes in its ceiling, the library remains closed. Its halls, once filled with student researchers, are now caked in dust.

Library head Jamal Ahmed said funds had been set aside to repair the library, but government repair efforts had stalled.

"This library is an important cultural home," said a library employee. "We can't just rebuild bridges and roads, we have to rebuild minds."



Hadeer Saad plays the violin with Karim Wasfi, conductor of the Peace Through Arts Farabi Orchestra, in Mosul



Items related to Islamic State militants are seen displayed on the wall of Qantara Culture Cafe in Mosul, Iraq

## TRACKS

# The great who voiced a generation



Joseph Sakr during a recording

ways that only he could. She was a noted fan of the duo and would request to perform some of their work, including an appearance at Beiteddine Festival. It was a crowning moment for the man who merely had a role in her earlier plays.

What set Sakr apart from his contemporaries was a distinguishable persona and vocal flair that resonated with listeners of all ages. He gladly experimented with ad-libs that added lively energy to the songs, morphing into trademarks that illustrated his image.

Long gone were the days of background singing as he joined Fairuz in two supporting roles in Loulou (1974) and Mais El-Reem (1975). With his indisputable talent, Joseph Sakr became an instrumental presence to assist Ziad in carrying the Rahbani legacy for years to come. He starred in Nazl El Sourour where he shone in the role of Barakat, carrying the majority of musical workload in the play.

While Fairuz shied away from Ziad's contentious lyrics, Sakr tackled those tracks in ways that only he could. She was a noted fan of the duo and would request to perform some of their work, including an appearance at Beiteddine Festival. It was a crowning moment for the man who merely had a role in her earlier plays.

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Joseph Sakr remained loyal to his closest associate, opting to only release songs composed by Ziad Rahbani. He turned down several offers in the '90s and remained mostly out of the spotlight until the release of his final album "Bema Enno" in 1995.

At 55 years old, Sakr was taken too early

from his family and a country that needed his voice. In 1997, New Year day celebrations were cut short in some Lebanese households upon hearing the news of Joseph Sakr's sudden death, which coincidentally fell on Ziad Rahbani's birthday. While Ziad had been the mastermind behind all the classics, it was Sakr who steered the wheel to deliver his messages in a captivating way.

The greatest testimony came from Ziad Rahbani who admitted that nothing had affected his artistry more than the absence of the irreplaceable Joseph Sakr.

With the 21st anniversary of his death coming up, a new website is set to launch containing an archive of songs, videos and photos, according to his son Raji Sakr. And while most of the younger generations have been raised on his songs without having seen his image, they are still able to immediately recognize his mellifluous voice ringing through parties and various events.

Joseph Sakr personified the changing landscape of music during the 1970 with longtime friend and collaborator Ziad Rahbani



# business

## Apple to build \$1 bln campus in Texas



Tim Cook

### Washington, United States

Apple announced yesterday it will build a \$1 billion campus in Texas as part of a nationwide expansion.

The facility will be less than a mile from the tech giant's existing facility in Austin and initially accommodate 5,000 additional employees, with room to grow to 15,000.

As it stands, 6,200 people now work for Apple in the Texan capital -- the largest cluster outside its headquarters in Cupertino, California. Employees at the new campus will work in fields including engineering, R&D, operations, finance, sales and customer support, Apple said in a statement. Apple also said it plans to boost its employee base in regions across the United States over the next three years.

## Ebrahim K. Kanoo brings Dulux to Bahrain

TDI | Manama

Ebrahim K. Kanoo has announced becoming the distributor of Dulux paints through their subsidiary, Kanoo Paint Centre (KPC) in Salmabad.

A leading brand of AkzoNobel, Dulux, is acknowledged as one of the best paint brands in the world. The company said it brings a new colour delivery system with best-in-class colour accuracy and strength, where customers can choose 'any colour in any product' from its interior and exterior range, encompassing over 2,000 colours.

Kanoo Paint Centre Manager, Coenraad Jansen expressed his enthusiasm at the addition of Dulux portfolio to KPC's wide range of architectural paints commenting, "We are proud to introduce Dulux paints to our existing range of global leading paint and coatings brands."

AkzoNobel General Manager, Berry Oonk, stated on the occasion, "AkzoNobel has reached a key milestone as we officially introduce Dulux paints to the Kingdom of Bahrain."

In order to facilitate the colour choosing process, Dulux said it has also introduced colour inspiration tools such as the Dulux Visualizer app. The app is available for free on Android and Apple stores.

# Beijing to cut auto tariffs, buy soy: US

The Wall Street Journal reported China also agreed to replace Made in China 2025 policy

● No specific date set for tariff cuts

● Earlier, China raised duties on US autos to 40pc from 15pc

Washington, United States

China has agreed to cut tariffs on autos imported from the United States, and resume soybean purchases, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Wednesday, confirming the reports that delighted investors.

Ross told CNBC the moves by Beijing will "prove that President (Donald) Trump was right when he announced his summary of the talks" held recently with China's President Xi Jinping.

The leaders met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires on December 1 and agreed to a 90-day truce while they tried to find a solution to the escalating trade dispute, but they provided differ-



Wilbur Ross, US Commerce Secretary

ing accounts of the scope of their agreement.

Ross did not say when the Chinese auto tariffs will come down or whether Washington had made any offer in exchange, nor when soybean exports might resume.

China raised duties on US autos to 40 per cent from 15pc as the confrontation between the world's two largest economies heated up earlier this year, and essentially halted massive soy purchases.

American farmers, especially soybean farmers, have been hit hard by China's retaliatory tariffs.

Senior US and Chinese officials held discussions by telephone Monday night. Media reports said China agreed to reduce the auto tariffs.

Ross said Beijing's offer would help German auto manufacturers in particular as they produced vehicles for the Chinese market at US auto plants.

"So that's a very direct help to us and probably will be helpful in the talks we've been having with the German auto manufacturers," he said.

Noting that the differing announcements following the Buenos Aires meeting, Ross said, "The president had said there would be a relatively immediate resumption of soybean purchases. It now turns out that he's accurate."

The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday that Chinese officials also agreed to replace the comprehensive industrial policy, Made in China 2025, which Trump officials have sharply criticized.

The report said the new plan would allow foreign companies greater access to the Chinese market.

## Welcomes US for trade talks

Beijing, China

China said yesterday that it would welcome US negotiators to visit the country for talks as both sides focus on a solution to thorny trade issues despite increasing obstacles.

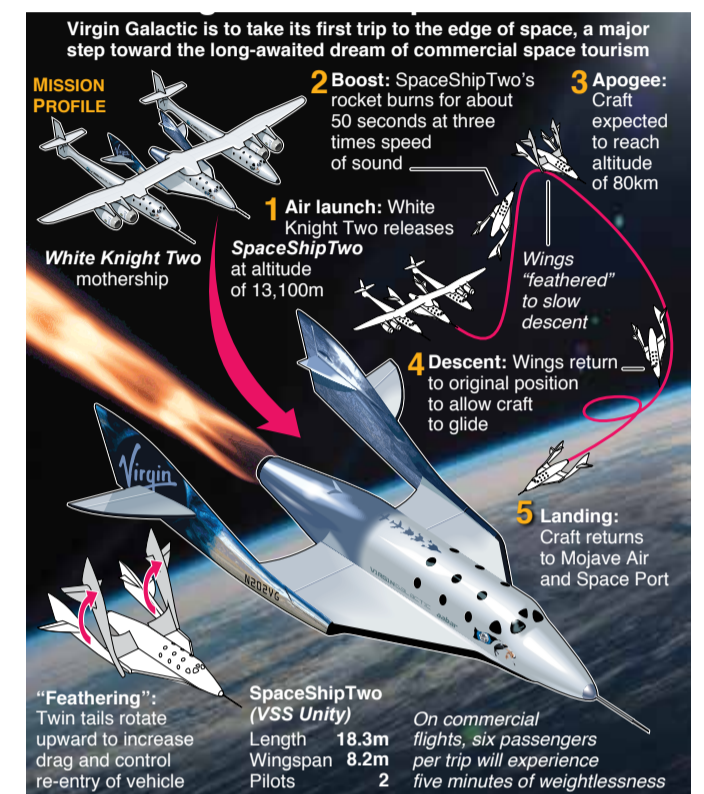
"At present both governments are in close contact, China welcomes the US to China for negotiations, and has an open attitude to travelling to the US for talks," commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng told reporters.

Washington has said China agreed to cut tariffs on autos imported from the United States, and resume "massive" purchases of soybeans and other products.

Gao repeated Thursday that the two sides had reached a consensus on those issues but declined to elaborate on the details.

"The Chinese and American teams are in close contact on details of the negotiations and are making smooth progress," Gao said.

## Virgin Galactic aims to reach space with tourist rocket



### Graphic news

Virgin Galactic is to take its first trip to the edge of space, a major step toward the long-awaited dream of commercial space tourism.

The latest test of the company's space plane is scheduled to take it to a height of more than 80 kilometres — the altitude at which space begins, according to the U.S. military and NASA. However, it will still fall short of the 100km — or 62 mile — Karman line, the notional point that many others see as the limit of earth's atmosphere.

Reaching the threshold of space would demonstrate significant progress toward the start of commercial flights that were promised more than a decade ago. Virgin Galactic's development of its spaceship took far longer than expected and endured a setback when the first experimental craft broke apart during a 2014 test flight, killing the co-pilot.

More than 600 people have committed up to \$250,000 for rides in the six-passenger

rocket, which is about the size of an executive jet. They have been waiting years to feel the kick of the rocket's ignition, a near-vertical high-speed ascent into the blackness of space and several minutes of weightlessness with a view of the Earth far below.

The spaceship isn't launched from the ground but is carried beneath a mothership named White Knight Two. It then detaches from the plane, ignites its rocket engine and climbs. The rocket is shut down and the craft coasts to the top of its climb — and then begins a descent slowed and stabilized by unique "feathering" technology. The twin tails temporarily rotate upward to increase drag, then return to a normal flying configuration before the craft glides to a landing on a runway.

Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic is in a race with Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, whose Blue Origin is also hoping to launch the first space tourism service, and Elon Musk, whose SpaceX hopes to become the first private company to put a human into space.

## Flat6Labs launches 2nd cycle of accelerator project

TDI | Manama

Flat6Labs Bahrain said it is initiating the second cycle of its accelerator programme, which consists of eight Startups.

The participants, five local and three international startups, were selected through a competitive boot camp.

The second cycle consists of startups providing innovative solutions across multiple sectors such as digital media, fintech, fashiontech, F&B, Edtech and more.

Over the next three years, Flat6Labs Bahrain is braced to support and invest in over 40 local and international startups, with two cycles per year.

A cycle will typically last 6 months, of which the first 2 are allocated to the application period.

This is followed by the boot camp, which consists of the shortlisted companies. The final stage, launched by this event, is the final selection of the startups which will receive funding and participate in the cycle programme.

"Flat6Labs Bahrain aims to create an entrepreneurial environment that is both dynamic and sustainable, placing Bahrain at the forefront of innovative pioneering in the Arabian Gulf region and MENA at large," said Ryaan Sharif, Managing Director of Flat6Labs Bahrain.



Startup owners listening to a presentation on the opening day



# May bloodied, but not beaten



● **Wounded May seeks EU compromise to save Brexit**

● **British leader survived a confidence vote staged by her own party's MPs**

● **May won the backing of 200 Conservative lawmakers, but 117 voted to oust her**

● **Now she wants Europe to sweeten the offer with "reassurances"**

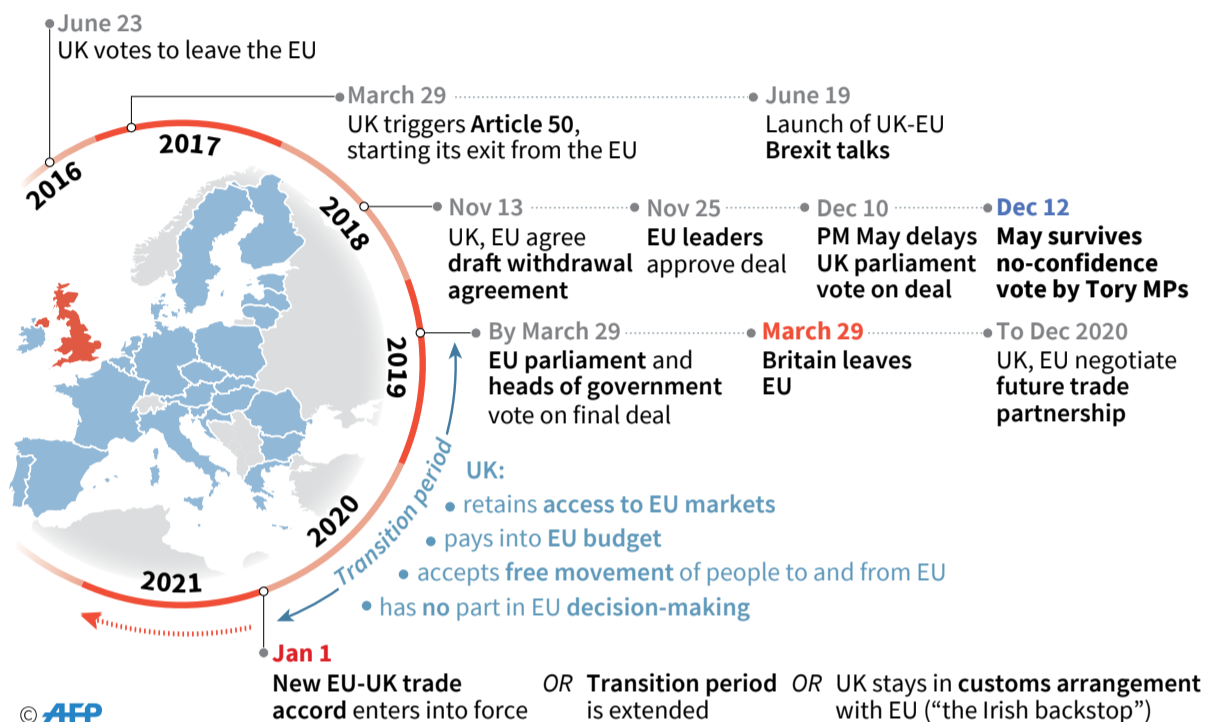
AFP | Brussels, Belgium

## British Prime Minister

- ◆ **Since 1997**  
Conservative member of parliament
- ◆ **2010-16**  
Home Secretary (*interior minister*)
- ◆ **2016**  
Argues against UK leaving EU
- ◆ **July 2016**  
Becomes prime minister
- ◆ **June 8, 2017**  
Loses majority in snap election. Strikes deal with pro-Brexit DUP
- ◆ **Dec 10, 2018**  
Delays key UK parliament vote on Brexit to avoid certain defeat
- ◆ **Dec 12**  
**Survives no-confidence vote by Tory MPs, cannot be challenged again for 1 year**

© AFP

## Brexit timeline



**B**loodied but not yet beaten, Prime Minister Theresa May comes to Brussels for the second time in three days yesterday, battling to save her Brexit deal and her career.

The British leader, who survived a confidence vote staged by her own party's MPs late on Wednesday, now needs to turn a narrow victory on home turf into an unlikely away win.

May's 27 counterparts will join her in Brussels for a European Union summit less than three weeks after a November 25 meeting at which they approved the Brexit divorce papers.

The accord was hailed as the end to a 17-month negotiation, and leaders dared hope they had saved Britain from crashing out of the union on March 29 with no ongoing trade arrangements.

But when May brought the hard-fought compromise back to Britain she ran into renewed opposition from hardline Brexiters on her own backbenches and balked at putting it to

parliament. Now she wants Europe to sweeten the offer with "reassurances" that the so-called "backstop" -- measures to prevent the return of a hard border with Ireland -- will not last indefinitely.

Negotiators said the leaders would listen to May and see what they can offer her in terms of a statement, but insist the 585-page withdrawal agreement itself can not be renegotiated.

"The margin is really tight, it will be an exercise in presentation," one senior European diplomat confided Wednesday.

They will, however, hear May out, setting aside time on Thursday during a summit they had hoped would deal with migration, budgets and eurozone reform to talk about Brexit once again.

"The discussions in Britain... do not make the situation any easier, but we should nevertheless do everything we can to avoid a hard Brexit," Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said.

Austria holds the rotating EU pres-

idency and Kurz arrived in Brussels ahead of the summit to talk with host Donald Tusk, the president of the European Council, about the agenda.

"It is clear that the withdrawal agreement will not be opened up and amended but there are, of course, other ways of moving towards one another that are in the interests of both sides," Kurz said.

### Backstop sell-by date?

After May made a desperate three-capital European tour on Tuesday to seek assistance from fellow leaders, Tusk had said he would love to help her, but "the question is how".

On Wednesday, Kurz suggested the secret may lie in the question of the backstop.

When asked what could be clarified, he said: "For example the question: 'When does the backstop end?'"

"I think there is a certain room to move towards each other."

But determined to remain loyal to

continuing member Ireland, European officials insist in public and in private that the backstop must stay. "The idea of a sell-by date won't stand," one said.

And any modification or addendum to an agreement on plans for future UK-EU relations will not be legally binding, negotiators say.

Anything May does come away with must convince her own party, its angry Northern Irish allies and a majority of British MPs to back the deal if and when it returns to Westminster.

If the agreement is still found wanting not only would Britain and its main trading partners face economic chaos, but May could be finished off by a parliamentary vote of no confidence.

On Thursday, May won the backing of 200 Conservative lawmakers, but 117 voted to oust her -- and only after she had conceded she would step down before 2022 elections.

## National Day: 50pc discount at Al Salam specialist hospital



Board members and senior management of Al Salam Specialist Hospital during the press conference

TDT | Manama

**A**l Salam Specialist Hospital has launched its National Day offers announcing a 50 per cent discount on consultations, Laboratory and Radiology services starting this Saturday until 31 December 2018.

The announcement, part of the 47th National Day of Bah-

rain was made at a Press Conference held yesterday at the hospital's conference room.

Al Salam Specialist Hospital is one of the largest private medical complexes within Bahrain.

Commenting on the offer, Dr Ramez Elawady, the Chief Executive Officer of Al Salam Specialist Hospital, said that the campaign aims at offering

"our high-quality care and services" to the people of Bahrain on the occasion of National Day.

Chief Medical Officer of Al Salam Specialist Hospital, Dr Mohammed Al-Sowaidi said, "We have equipped our hospital with the state-of-the-art technology to provide patient-centered quality care with the highest level of personal integrity and business excellence".



Four Central Bank of Bahrain staff, Amina Al Maskati, Senior Analyst at the Islamic Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate, Hesa Al Bardooli, Superintendent at the Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate, Husain Khamis, Analyst at the Wholesale Banking Supervision Directorate, and Jaber Al Aali, Superintendent at the Capital Markets Supervision Directorate, have successfully passed the third level of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification. In the picture, winners with Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and other officials during a photocall



## Siemens wins Canada train contract over Bombardier



Representative picture

### Montreal, Canada

German manufacturer Siemens saw off Canadian rival Bombardier to clinch a Can\$989 million contract to produce 32 trains, Canada's state-subsidized passenger rail company announced Wednesday.

Siemens Canada will manufacture the trains to replace an aging fleet on the line between Quebec and Windsor via Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto -- the country's most-used -- VIA Rail said.

VIA Rail and Siemens also announced a \$23.7 million 15-year parts and technical services deal.

"Siemens Canada was selected following a fair, open, rigorous and transparent bidding process under the oversight of an independent fairness monitor and VIA Rail's board of directors," said the company.

# Alba commissions potline 6



Alba officials and employees during a group photo session on the occasion of Alba announcing the commissioning of its Potline 6

### TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) yesterday officially announced the commissioning of its Potline 6 with the First Pot Energisation, taking its final steps towards becoming the world's largest aluminium smelter.

This achievement not only marks the beginning of a new era for the Company but also a breakthrough record as Alba brought forward the First Hot Metal milestone

ahead of its scheduled date on 1 January 2019 -- making it the fastest construction ever-delivered in the aluminium industry.

To mark the occasion, Alba held a celebration under the Patronage of Alba's Chairman of the Board of Directors Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Daij Al Khalifa. The Executive Vice President - Midstream Operations at Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) Dr Ali Al Zarouni and other key EGA officials were the Guests of Honour at this celebration which was also attended

by Alba's Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Ali Al Baqali, Alba's Executive Management team, Bechtel Project Director Denis Garrity and other senior Bechtel officials.

Speaking on this milestone Alba's Chairman Shaikh Daij Al Khalifa said: "Celebrating the commissioning of Potline 6 during the much-awaited National Day celebration makes it all the more significant as it will always be remembered.

This milestone precedes the gradual ramp-up of 424 pots in Potline 6 which upon completion will make Alba the largest smelter in the world."

As at November 30, 2018, Line 6 Smelter's Overall Progress exceeded 77 per cent (Engineering progressed by more than 96pc while Contracts and Procurement advanced by 97pc); Power Station 5 & Power Distribution System Overall Progress exceeded 80pc and 96pc, respectively.



During Potline 6 inauguration

## ACS and Tally Solutions announce deal

### TDT | Manama

Almoayed Commercial Services (ACS), a division of Almoayed International Group and Tally Solutions, announced signing a strategic partnership to make VAT transition seamless for businesses by using Tally.ERP 9.

Authorized Tally Partner Certificate was handed over to Alexander Thomas, General Manager of Almoayed Commercial Services by Vikas R Panchal, Head of Business Development, Tally Solutions during a ceremony held at ACS office on exhibition road, Manama. In GCC, Tally.ERP 9 is a VAT software



Nandaraja Shetty, Country Manager for Bahrain, Tally Solutions (2nd from right), Vikas R Panchal, Head of Business Development, Tally Solutions (3rd from right), Alexander Thomas, General Manager, Almoayed Commercial Services (4th from right) along with other officials

accredited by the FTA in UAE and GAZT in Saudi Arabia.

Businesses, according to ACS, can start creating VAT compliant invoices in Tally.ERP 9 within

minutes of installation. "Transactions relating to a range of business scenarios such as discounts, freight charges, foreign currency transactions, exports,

VAT on a reverse charge, input tax credit and advance receipts can be recorded. VAT invoices can be printed in Arabic and English."

## 70pc cyber attacks via messages

### TDT | Manama

Seventy per cent of the cyber attacks which targets government entities are via messages which seize emails, said a top iGA official.

Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed AlKhalifa - Acting Vice Chief Executive of Operations & Governance at iGA said public entities received more than 60 million infected emails seized and stopped by protection systems and programmes available at the Authority.

Additionally, he said, the authority seized nearly 50 Million attempts to exploit security flaws while addressing more than 2 Million mali-

cious software and more than 20,000 anonymous viruses of traditional protection systems.

Shaikh Salman was addressing the 3rd Cyber Hawks meeting with the attendance and participation of more than 75 IT specialists who represent 40 government and semi-government entities.

The meeting discussed real-life experiences, in information security, that aim at increasing the knowledge of risks, prevention and method of best handling.

The authority trained more than 1,400 employees on key security awareness by presenting 30 lectures and workshops during 2018.

## End of an era as ECB set to withdraw crisis-stimulus

### Frankfurt am Main, Germany

A chapter of eurozone history will come to a close today, with the European Central Bank widely expected to withdraw a key element of support for the economy while reassuring observers fearful of the growing risks.

The past three years have seen the Frankfurt institution ward off the threat of catastrophic deflation -- a crippling downward spiral of prices and activity -- by buying 2.6 trillion euros (\$3.0 trillion) of government and corporate debt.

Policymakers say the programme has boosted growth, helped create millions of jobs and set inflation back on the path towards its target of just below 2.0 percent.

But it has also politicised the bank like never before, as disciples of fiscal rectitude in Germany and other northern countries



**The ECB should have ended its quantitative easing (QE) programme and its negative interest rate policy a long time ago**

THOMAS MAYER  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE FLOSSBACH VON STORCH INSTITUTE IN COLOGNE

claimed the scheme indirectly enabled spendthrift policies in the south.

### Crisis averted

Today, central bankers "will turn the page on QE, since there

is no longer a serious risk of deflation" -- a harmful downward spiral of prices braking activity -- said economist Bruno Cavalier of Oddo BHF. Price growth slowed from 2.2 per cent in October to 2.0pcast month in the 19-nation single currency area.

However "core" inflation excluding volatile food and energy prices remains sluggish at around one percent.

That's one reason why analysts widely expect the central bank to play up its other tools for stimulating activity: interest rates stuck at historic lows "at least through the summer" of 2019 and reinvestments of the proceeds from its massive debt pile.

Soothing words will be needed as the ECB's growth forecasts -- for the first time stretching out to 2021 -- will likely be revised downwards this time around, following a growth slowdown in

the third quarter this year.

In the carefully hedged, coded language of central bankers, the ECB "will keep its options open about the future path of policy" to comfort markets, predicted Capital Economics analyst Jennifer McKeown.

### Risks under control?

Such flexibility is needed at a time when the eurozone is hemmed in by risks at home and abroad. Within the 19-nation single currency area, Italy is still wrestling with Brussels over its plan to boost its budget deficit next year, while French President Emmanuel Macron had to promise extra spending on the least well-off after weeks of sometimes violent "yellow vests" demonstrations.

Meanwhile outside the bloc, the risk of Britain crashing out of the European Union in March with no deal has been pumped

up by parliamentary turmoil in London this week.

And Donald Trump's trade confrontation with China -- with harmful knock-on effects for the eurozone -- rumbles on despite a 90-day truce for fresh talks.

In any future downturn, governments will have to step in and support the economy with extra spending, rather than counting on the central bank to cushion the blow, Constancio warned.

President of the ECB, Mario Draghi, poses with a replica of an EU coin marking the twentieth anniversary of the Euro during an Eurogroup meeting at the EU Hq in Brussels





# SHOW

## ill Lovato, Markle most searched on Google

ANI | Washington

Google recently released its list of top trending searches of 2018. Demi Lovato and Meghan Markle are the most searched people of this year. Many others like Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Logan Paul, Khloe Kardashian, Eminem, Urban Meyer, Ariana Grande, Rick Ross and Cardi B have also made to the top 10 list. Lovato also topped the list of most search musicians of the year, followed by others including Eminem, Grande, Ross, Cardi B, Travis Scott, Childish Gambino, Machine Gun Kelly, Meek Mill and Queen, reported E! Online. Logan Paul topped the list of the most searched actors of the year. Apart from

him, the list also consisted of names of celebrities like Bill Cosby, Sylvester Stallone, Pete Davidson, Michael B. Jordan, Allison Mack, Noah Centineo, Bradley Cooper, Roseanne Barr and Chadwick Boseman. The top searched movies included some amazing films like Black Panther, Incredibles 2, Deadpool 2, Avengers: Infinity War, A Quiet Place, A Star Is Born, Bohemian Rhapsody, Venom, Hereditary and The Nun.



Demi Lovato

<b>AQUAMAN</b> (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 (VIP): 11.00 AM. + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM. DAILY AT (VIP): 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 + (12.30 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. <b>SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE</b> (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW Ⓜ HAILLEE 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. <b>SECOND ACT</b> (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. <b>THREE WORDS OF FOREVER</b> (PG-15) (FILIPINO/ROMANTIC/DRAMA/COMEDY) NEW Ⓜ HSHARON CUNETA, 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. <b>ELLIOT THE LITTLEST REINDEER</b> (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW Ⓜ 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. <b>PINKY MEMSAB: A DUBAI STORY</b> (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. <b>RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET</b> (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) Ⓜ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 4.00 + 8.45 PM. <b>CREED II</b> (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. <b>MORTAL ENGINES</b> (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. <b>ORU KUPRASIDHA PAPPAN</b> (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. <b>JOSEPH</b> (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.) <b>KEDARNATH</b> (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC) Ⓜ RAJINIKANTH, AKSHAY KUMAR, AMY JACKSON OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 3.30 + 8.45 PM. <b>ODIYAN</b> (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW STARING FRIDAY 14TH Ⓜ MOHANLAL, PRAKASH RAJ, MANJU WARRIER CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM. <b>RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET</b> (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.
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6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM. SAAR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 PM. SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM. WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM. <b>ROBIN HOOD</b> (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. <b>INSTANT FAMILY</b> (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. <b>JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN</b> (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. <b>HUNTER KILLER</b> (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) Ⓜ GERARD BUTLER, GARY OLDMAN, OMMON CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM. <b>WIDOWS</b> (15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) Ⓜ VIOLA DAVIS, MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ, ELIZABETH DEBICKI CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 4.00 + 8.30 PM. <b>EL BADLAH</b> (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) Ⓜ TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, MAJED EL MASRY, AMINA KHALIL CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM. <b>THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE</b> (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. <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK IN</b> (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. <b>MALEVOLENT</b> (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. <b>THE BOMBING (AIR STRIKE)</b> (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. <b>11 DAYS</b> (PG-13) (DRAMA) NEW Ⓜ HABEEB GHULOOM, OLIGYA, LITA TADPILITA SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 3.45 + 7.45 PM. <b>THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS</b> (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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## Pedro Pascal to lead cast of 'Star Wars' series

AFP | Los Angeles

Pedro Pascal

“Narcos” and “Game of Thrones” star Pedro Pascal is to play the lead in upcoming “Star Wars” TV series “The Mandalorian,” Disney said, as it builds on the beloved and profitable science fiction franchise. Penned and produced by Marvel mainstay Jon Favreau, the live-action show will follow Pascal’s lone gunfighter, making his way in the outer reaches of the galaxy after the fall of the Empire. “We’re having a great time working with this incredibly talented group and excited for everyone to see what we’re up to,” said Favreau, whose next big screen project will be Disney’s “The Lion King (2019).” Pascal, 43, made his name as the dashing prince Oberyn Martell in



“Game of Thrones,” and cemented his stardom as drug cop Javier Pena in “Narcos.” The Texas-raised Chilean-American has since broken into the Hollywood mainstream via “Kingsman: The Golden Circle,” “The Equalizer 2,” and awards season darling “If Beale Street Could Talk.” Other actors announced for the series -- set to debut on Disney’s upcoming small screen streaming service -- include Gina Carano (“Deadpool”), Giancarlo Esposito (“Breaking Bad”), Nick Nolte (“Hulk”) and acclaimed German filmmaker Werner Herzog.

## MISSING PETS



**SAMBA** - Male, 9 yrs, has a stiff tail, white and ginger, neutered, microchipped, not wearing collar or ID tag, always goes out around area and returns, Arad (Block 245), 7/12/18. 36899214



**PEARLY GEISHA** - Female Shih Tzu, 11 yrs, brown and white w black ears (less furry that photo), missing teeth on bottom jaw, spayed, not wearing collar or ID tag, escaped open garage, likely STOLEN, Al Hidd (near Lulu Hypermarket), 10/12/18. 33360866/ 34425597/36644649



**ROCKY** - Male, 3 yrs, mostly white w black/brown spots, slightly chubby, green eyes, escaped kitchen in/dow of apartment, not wearing collar or ID tag, Janabiya (next to Mercado Mall), 24/11/18. 33762576 or 39964764



**PESTO** - Male Terrier mix, 1-2 yrs, neutered, not wearing collar or ID tag, rescue dog - does not like to be touched, ran away during thunderstorm, Sanabis (next to Sanabis checkpoint), BD300 REWARD for safe return, 27/2/18. 39600090



**WARD** - Male Dilmun, 4 yrs, white w black spots, not wearing collar/ID tag, believed to have been thrown in another area by a neighbor, Arad (block 244 - near Zayani Hall/ Khadija Mosque), 10/7/18, BD500 REWARD for safe return. 39646602



**BABOU** - Male Coton de Tulear, 4 yrs, all white, microchipped, likely picked up, wearing white necklace/ no ID tag, Sakir Camps/Dilmun Paradise area, REWARD for safe return, 1/1/18. 35951924 (Kate) or WhatsApp 97336446893

## Let's get together: Kanye West to Bob Dylan

ANI | Washington

Seems like American rapper Kanye West wants to collaborate with guitarist Bob Dylan for his next album. Taking to his Twitter handle, the ‘Ye’ star reached out to the artist, where he tweeted, “Calling out to Bob Dylan Let’s get together.”

Unfortunately, Dylan does not have a Twitter. So it is unclear if he got the message. Kanye’s straightforward reach to famous people has become a hallmark of his Twitter as earlier this year, he said he would like to meet Tim Cook, Apple’s CEO, because he ‘had some ideas.’

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, RADHIKA HARIPRASAD NAIR, D/o HARIPRASAD MANKAD JANARDHAN PILLAI**, holding Indian Passport No. **J3513421** dated 08/09/2010 issued at **BAHRAIN** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **TC 17/53, SURAJ, JAGATHY, THYCADU P.O., TRIVANDRUM, KERALA PIN 695014** presently residing at **Flat 112, Building 327, Road 3306, Block 333, Mahooz, Bahrain** will henceforth be known as (Given name) **RADHIKA HARIPRASAD** (surname) **NAIR**. Objection(s) if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India, PO Box 26106, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.



# SPORTS

## sports

**Sports achievements a result of King's support: BOC**

TDT | Manama

The support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) and all national sports federations has made key contributions to the sports achievements in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Abdulrahman Askar said His Majesty's praising the youth and sports sectors' achievements in the so-called 'Gold Year Only' 2018 is a great honor for both sectors.

"I would like to extend our great gratitude to His Majesty the King for his appreciation to the sports achievements of the Kingdom's heroes and champions in various international competitions," said Askar.

"Our athletes have made tremendous efforts in fulfilling aspirations of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa by taking 197 gold medals in different sports".

Askar stressed that the support of His Majesty to the sports sector was the most prominent factor behind these achievements.

The BOC secretary general added that initiative of HH Shaikh Nasser, His Majesty's representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman, and BOC President, has inspired Bahraini youth to achieve more honourable results for the country.

# Kohli undaunted by Ashwin, Sharma injury

● Ashwin is receiving treatment for a left-sided abdominal strain

● Sharma jarred his back while fielding in Adelaide

AFP | Perth, Australia

India skipper Virat Kohli was undaunted yesterday despite losing prolific spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and batsman Rohit Sharma to injury as he looks to twist the knife in the second Test against Australia.

The visitors went 1-0 in the four-Test series after a tense, 31-run win in Adelaide earlier this week -- their first victory in Australia in a decade.

But India, who are searching for their first series win in Australia, suffered a setback when Ashwin and the experienced Sharma were declared unavailable for the second Test in Perth, starting today.

Ashwin is receiving treatment for a left-sided abdominal strain, while Sharma jarred his back while fielding in Adelaide, the Board of Control for Cricket in India said.

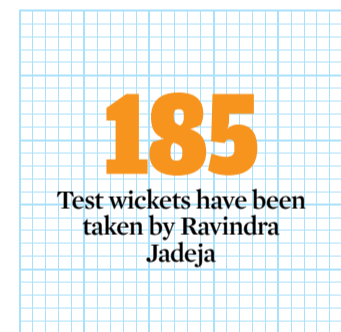
Also missing, as expected, will be exciting young opener Prithvi Shaw, who suffering ligament damage in a warm-up match ahead of the Adelaide Test. The BCCI said Shaw, 19,



Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin (L) teammate Rohit Sharma (R) and Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli (C) celebrate after the dismissal of a Sri Lankan cricketer (file photo)

was "recovering well" but was still undergoing treatment.

However, Kohli was bullish about India's prospects in the



inaugural Test at the new Perth Stadium, which has replaced the city's venerable WACA Ground as its premier cricket venue.

"We are definitely confident of the percentage of chances we have and we want to build on that," said Kohli at a pre-match press conference before the injury problems were announced.

"Obviously Australia is going to be a strong team in their home conditions and on a wicket like Perth, which probably offers you more than most other pitches in Australia. But we have an equal chance."

Ashwin took six wickets in

the first Test, while Sharma hit scores of 37 and one. They were the notable absences in India's initial 13-man squad.

All-rounder Hanuma Vihari is expected to slot in for Sharma, with the final spot a toss-up between pacemen Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Umesh Yadav or Ravindra Jadeja, who has taken 185 Test wickets with his left-arm spin and also averages 32.44 with the bat.

The Test will be the first at the new 60,000-capacity Perth Stadium, whose wicket is likely to be fast and bouncy like the old WACA, just over the Swan River.

**Pochettino comfortable with speculation over future**

AFP | Madrid

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said yesterday he will never get bored of stories linking him to other clubs because it means he is doing something right.

Fresh speculation about Pochettino's future has emerged this week following the club's qualification to the knockout stage of the Champions League, with reports suggesting the club are braced for interest from Manchester United and Real Madrid.

"This type of news I think does not upset or bore people," said the Argentine, who signed a five-year contract in May and has constantly spoken about how happy he is in north London.

"I prefer that newspapers talk about things like this than talk about 'Tottenham is going to sack me', or 'people are tired of me', or 'we are in a difficult situation'.

"Of course, if I choose one situation I choose this one. I am not bored of it, of course."

Pochettino has steered Spurs into the last 16 of the Champions League and to third spot in the Premier League in spite of several challenges this season, including having to play their home games at Wembley.

And he is relieved that most of the focus is on Manchester City and Liverpool.

"We are there, we are in a good position of course," he said. "It is normal that the perception is different."

## Shahzad Zafar rally past NIA Kerala

TDT | Manama

Shahzad Zafar beat NIA Kerala XI by 5 wickets in a CBA Division C T-20 League match.

Kerala XI won the toss and elected to bat first with opener Nideesh scoring 42 runs. Shahzad Zafar's bowler Farhan took four wickets in his 4 over spell and restricted Kerala XI to 150 runs in 20 overs.

Chasing the target skipper Khalid scored a quick 43 runs to give a solid start for Shahzad Zafar, which was well carried by Majid who scored 41 runs to help them reach the target in 19th over.



Arslan - ACL



Farzan - Mumbai Riders

### Other Match results

ACL Red Mountain 145/5 in 18.1 overs (Arslan 65) beat Bassali Tigers 144/5 (Numair 66, Imran 2/26) by 5 wickets

Alyousuf Exchange 139/6 in 18 overs (Suresh 30, Nadeem 2/22) beat Fateh Curtain 138/8 (Anas 30, Anil 3/26) by 4 wickets

G4S Legends 131/5 in 20 overs (Ismayil 33, Abid 26, Shezan 2/11) beat EURO Bahrain 99/10 (Sharaz 26, Sabir 4/6) by 32 runs.

LuLu 138/8 in 20 overs (Biju 28, Pradeep 27, Sami 3/13) beat Pak Panthers 31/10 (Sami 7, Twinkle 2/15) by 107 runs.

Mumbai Riders 117/6 in 15.5 overs (Farzan 54, Danny 2/9) beat Central Café 111/7 (Inam 28, Farzan 3/15, Furkan 2/21) by 4 wickets.

Smile Mart 134/6 in 15 overs (Zeeshan 47, Mohsin 3/16) beat Pak CC 130/8 (Imran 30, Zubair 26, Asif 2/17) by 4 wickets.

Azeem CC 104/5 in 13.3 overs (Jamil 47, Bhasker 2/17) beat Falcon CC 103/10 (Sohail 28, Zeeshan 2/12) by 5 wickets

Tornado A 139/9 in 20 overs (Gigin 33) beat Rebel 113/10 (Vaibhav 53) by 26 runs.

### Brief Score:

Shahzad Zafar 153/4 in 19 overs (Khalid 43, Majid 41, Abi 2/26) beat NIA Kerala XI 150/10 (Nideesh 42, Farhan 4/29) by 6 wickets.



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## India's Sindhu stuns no.1 Tai in badminton Tour Finals

AFP | Shanghai, China

India's PV Sindhu pulled off a shock at the badminton World Tour Finals yesterday as she defeated top-ranked Tai Tzu-ying of Taiwan in three thrilling games.

Sindhu sank to her knees at the end of an exhausting 14-21, 21-16, 21-18 victory in 61 enthralling minutes in the Chinese city of Guangzhou.

The 23-year-old, a silver medalist at the Rio Olympics in 2016, faces Zhang Beiwen of the United States today



PV Sindhu of India plays a shot

looking to make it three wins out of three in Group A.

It was a disappointing day for Taiwan.

As well as Tai going down to the sixth-ranked Sindhu, men's world number three Chou Tien-chen also lost, this time in the men's draw.

Chou was on the end of an 18-21, 21-11, 21-14 defeat to South Korea's buoyant Son Wan-ho.

There was no such trouble for men's number one and

world champion Kento Momota of Japan.

He is in ominous form as he looks to put the seal on a breakthrough year and swatted aside Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen 21-15, 21-7 for a second win in a row.

China's Shi Yuqi, one of the main threats to red-hot Momota, was even more emphatic in dismissing Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia, 21-8, 21-19 in 37 minutes.



PV Sindhu won the silver medal at the Rio Olympics in 2016



# Mueller apologises for kick on Ajax defender

Bayern Munich's forward was shown a straight red for this kick on Nicolas

● Thomas Muller's flying kick left his opponent needing medical treatment

AFP | Amsterdam

Thomas Muller has apologised for his kung fu-style kick to the head of Ajax defender Nicholas Tagliafico which saw the Germany star being sent off in Wednesday's six-goal thriller in Amsterdam.

"No, no - of course I didn't mean to do it," the 29-year-old told reporters over the first straight red card of his career in 462 appearances for Bayern in the thrilling 3-3 draw as both teams progressed to the last 16 of the Champions League.

Muller said he went to the hosts' changing room to apologise to Tagliafico after the match, but the defender, who scored the home side's 95th-minute equaliser, had already left.

Instead, Muller wrote "@tagliafico3 - I am very sorry for that what happened yesterday! Was not intentionally (sic). Get well soon" on his Instagram account.



Bayern Munich's German forward Thomas Muller (L) kicks the back of Ajax's Argentine defender Nicolas Tagliafico

Muller was sent off 15 minutes from time after trying to control the ball with his out-

**462** appearances have been made by Thomas Muller for Bayern Munich but earned his first red card on Wednesday

stretched boot, but succeeded only in kicking the head of Tagliafico, who needed treatment, in a bad-tempered game.

Both Muller's team-mates and coach said the foul warranted a straight red card.

"Thomas didn't see him," said Bayern boss Niko Kovac, "but it was a clear red - he should have been aware of the opponent."

Earlier in the fixture Ajax had Maximilian Woeber sent off for horror foul on Bayern midfielder Leon Goretzka, who

witnessed Muller's head-high tackle on Tagliafico at close quarters.

"I saw the scene as it happened. You only have to see how the lad looked afterwards - it wasn't good," said Goretzka.

"As I saw it, it was a clear red."

It was a bitter end to the night for Muller, who made his 105th Champions League appearance, putting him level with ex-Bayern captain Philipp Lahm, who skipped Germany to the 2014 World Cup title.

## Brave CF strengthens opportunities in the Indian sports sector

TDI | Manama

Brave Combat Federation partnering with Mercury Sports and Entertainment will host Brave 20 on 22nd December in the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, India.

The initiative will bring together athletes representing eleven nations for the first time in the history of Mixed Martial Arts in India.

Brave 20 marks the first Indian Mixed Martial Arts event covered live by Abu Dhabi Sports, Combate, Fite TV and Brave TV. The event will be the martial arts event in India with the highest global reach.

The UK based GreenHill Sports confirmed as the offi-

cial merchandise partner for the event providing fight gear and combat apparel for the athletes. Mercury Sports and Entertainment have partnered to support future editions of the event and derivative projects or Brave Combat Federation in India.

Brave 20 provides the opportunity for 8 Indian athletes to compete professionally in a global platform. Brave Combat Federation based in the Kingdom of Bahrain is the fastest growing Mixed Martial Arts organization in the world and have confirmed to expand its global footprint in the coming years by adding more venues across global destinations.

Brave Combat Federation is the first global Mixed Martial Arts organization to host an event in India. Brave 5: Go for Glory hosted on 23rd April in Mumbai opened the opportunity for Indian athletes to compete in a global platform in India.

Following the footsteps of Brave Combat Federation, multiple local promotions and events were organized. Two Indian athletes secured medals in the Brave International Combat Week 2018 held in Bahrain which is till date the most by Indian team during World Championships.

There is a significant increase in the number of Indian athletes compared to our first initiative in India and this is a testimony for the influence the organization had upon the growth of the sport in India

MOHAMMED SHAHID, PRESIDENT OF BRAVE CF

## Pakistan cricket captain calls on squad to play 'without fear'



Pakistani cricket captain Sarfraz Ahmed (R) and teammates take part in a practice session (file photo)

AFP | Karachi

Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed yesterday urged his fellow teammates to play "without fear" during their tour of South Africa -- a country where they have won only two Tests during their past five tours.

The Pakistani side is en route to South Africa to play three Tests, five one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals, with the first Test starting in Centurion on December 26.

Pakistan head into the series after losing 2-1 to New Zealand in the United Arab Emirates last week. In the wake of the tough loss, Sarfraz said he still had high hopes of earning a good result against the Proteas.

"Conditions in South Africa are tough with bouncy and seaming pitches so anyone who plays without fear and with a big heart will succeed," Sarfraz told AFP.

Pakistan's two wins out of 12

Tests in South Africa came in 1998 and 2007, having lost nine with just one draw.

On their last tour in 2013, Pakistan were routed 3-0 and bowled out for their lowest Test score of 49 in the first Test in Johannesburg, with both senior batsmen Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq in the line-up.

Now without the two stalwarts, Pakistan will look to Azhar Ali and Asad Shafiq to help guide the squad.

"We need big innings from both Azhar and Shafiq and they are capable of doing that, so if we put good totals on board we have a good bowling attack to win the match," said Sarfraz, who also singled out recalled paceman Mohammad Amir as key to any success.

"Amir is back after a good performance at the domestic level so we hope he gets us key wickets in Tests," said Sarfraz of Amir, who was dropped from the series against Australia and New Zealand due to poor form.

## Alleged racist abuse of Sterling 'disgusting', says Sarri

Reuters | London

Maurizio Sarri has described the alleged racist abuse of Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling by Chelsea fans as "disgusting" and condemned discrimination in any form in his first public comments on the incident.

Chelsea said on Monday they had banned four supporters from their matches pending a police investigation into the incident which occurred during City's Premier League defeat at Stamford Bridge last Saturday.

"First of all, I want to say that I condemn any form of discrimination, of course. I think that I have to stop here," the Chelsea manager told reporters ahead of Thursday's Europa League match against Vidi in Budapest.

"Because there is an investigation so I think it's better not to say something more. Of course, my opinion is that I condemn every sort of discrimination.

"It was disgusting. You know very well my opinion, the opinion of the club, but now we have to go on."

Sterling posted a statement on Instagram last Sunday in which he said newspapers were fuelling racism in soccer due to their negative portrayal of young black players in comparison to their white counterparts.

## Mourinho disappointed by fringe players in Valencia loss

Reuters | Manchester

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has demanded more from his fringe players after he was forced to bring on regular starters in an attempt to stage a late rally in the 2-1 Champions League defeat at Valencia on Wednesday.

United went into the final Group H match having already qualified for the last 16 of the competition, a luxury that allowed Mourinho to rotate his squad, but the manager found little comfort in a performance that lacked energy and drive.

"I expect more from my players," Mourinho, who made eight changes to the side that beat Fulham 4-1 in the league

last weekend, told reporters.

"Especially players that week in, week out, they ask why they don't play, why they don't start... it was a good match to play, without any kind of pressure, in a competition that everyone likes to play in."

Paul Pogba returned to the starting side after being benched for the last two Premier League games but the French international midfielder failed to seize his opportunity.

United then introduced striker Marcus Rashford, and midfielders Jesse Lingard and Ashley Young as they chased the game after falling 2-0 behind.

"In the end, my team improved when I made changes I didn't want to make, which

is frustrating because I didn't want to play the three players I played in the second half," Mourinho added.

Defeat meant United missed the chance to top group after leaders Juventus were surprisingly beaten 2-1 by Young Boys.

"Before the game I told the players that, if we win tonight and Juventus win, we did our job. If we don't win and Juventus don't win, we can blame ourselves," Mourinho said.

"But finishing second in this group is a success and I don't think that finishing first or second -- apart from a couple of clubs who are clearly much better than the others (means that) the draw will be significantly different."



Phil Jones of Manchester United reacts after his own goal



# Lyon secure last 16 berth, Bayern, City top group

Hoarau brace beats Juventus but Italians take top spot ahead of Man United

● Sane double secures Champions League top spot for Man City

● Bayern top group after six-goal thriller at Ajax

AFP | Paris

Lyon clinched the final Champions League last-16 place as Nabil Fekir's second-half strike grabbed a 1-1 draw against Shakhtar Donetsk in a snowy Kiev on Wednesday, while Bayern Munich pipped Ajax to top spot in Group E.

Bruno Genesio's Lyon needed to avoid defeat against Shakhtar to progress from Group F with Manchester City, and a fifth successive draw in the competition achieved that aim.

"It was hard in difficult conditions. We gave ourselves a fright and it's a pity we didn't kill off the game in the first half," Lyon midfielder Houssem Aouar told RMC Sport. "The main thing is that we've qualified."

Shakhtar forged ahead midway through the opening period with what proved their only shot of the first half, just seconds after Lyon forward Bertrand Traore had been denied by Andriy Pyatov when clean through one-on-one with the goalkeeper.

The Burkina Faso international was made to pay for his profligacy, as Junior Moraes slotted home after being picked out by Ismaily.

Lyon continued to dominate, though, and finally equalised in



Manchester City's German midfielder Leroy Sane (R) shoots past Hoffenheim's German goalkeeper Oliver Baumann to score their second goal

the 65th minute as Nabil Fekir hammered a left-footed strike into the top corner following excellent play by Memphis Depay.

Man City wrapped up top spot in the group by coming from behind to beat Hoffenheim 2-1 at the Etihad Stadium.

Andrej Kramaric gave Hoffenheim a surprise 16th-minute lead from the penalty spot, although Leroy Sane levelled on the stroke of half-time with a magnificent free-kick.

City wasted a host of chances, with away goalkeeper Oliver Baumann in inspired form, but Sane grabbed his second just after the hour mark to complete the turnaround.

**Thrilling draw keeps Bayern top**

Bayern Munich went into their game at Ajax just needing a point to beat their opponents to

first place in Group E, and Niko Kovac's men did just that in a thrilling 3-3 draw.

The game burst into life in the second half when Dusan Tadic equalised Robert Lewandowski's early opener just after the hour mark, with Ajax defender Maximilian Woeber sent off in the 67th minute for a dangerous lunge on Leon

Goretzka.

But Bayern were also reduced to 10 men only eight minutes later, as Thomas Mueller was given his marching orders for planting his studs into the head of Nicolas Tagliafico.

Ajax briefly moved top of the live standings when Jerome Boateng carelessly conceded a penalty, which was dispatched emphatically into the roof of the net by Tadic.

But Tagliafico brought down Thiago Alcantara, with Lewandowski slotting in the spot-kick, before Kingsley Coman looked to have settled matters with a wonderful 90th-minute strike.

Tagliafico went up the other end to equalise again, but Ajax failed to find a winner as Bayern just about held on.

Juventus finished at the Group H summit ahead of Manchester

United despite slumping to a 2-1 defeat by Young Boys in Bern, as Jose Mourinho's Premier League giants lost at Valencia.

United had to beat Valencia and hope Juve failed to win in Switzerland, but Carlos Soler and a comical Phil Jones own goal did the damage for the visitors, with Marcus Rashford scoring a late consolation.

CSKA Moscow stunned a much-changed Real Madrid with a 3-0 victory at the Santiago Bernabeu, but still finished bottom of Group G as Viktoria Plzen beat Roma.

The Russian side, who also downed Real 1-0 in the reverse fixture, had to better Plzen's result to finish third and qualify for the Europa League.

But Plzen edged out Roma 2-1 in the Czech Republic to render CSKA's famous victory ultimately meaningless, despite inflicting the heaviest ever European home loss on the record 13-time champions.

"It's sad to say the least to beat Real Madrid, earn seven points, but finish bottom and get eliminated from Europe," said CSKA coach Viktor Goncharenko.

Holders Real had already

progressed to the last 16 as group winners, with Roma through in second place.

## Djokovic and Halep named 2018 ITF world

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep were yesterday named as the 2018 ITF world champions by the governing body of global tennis.

World number one Djokovic receives the honour from the International Tennis Federation for the sixth time, while it is the first year that Romania's top-ranked Halep has been recognised.

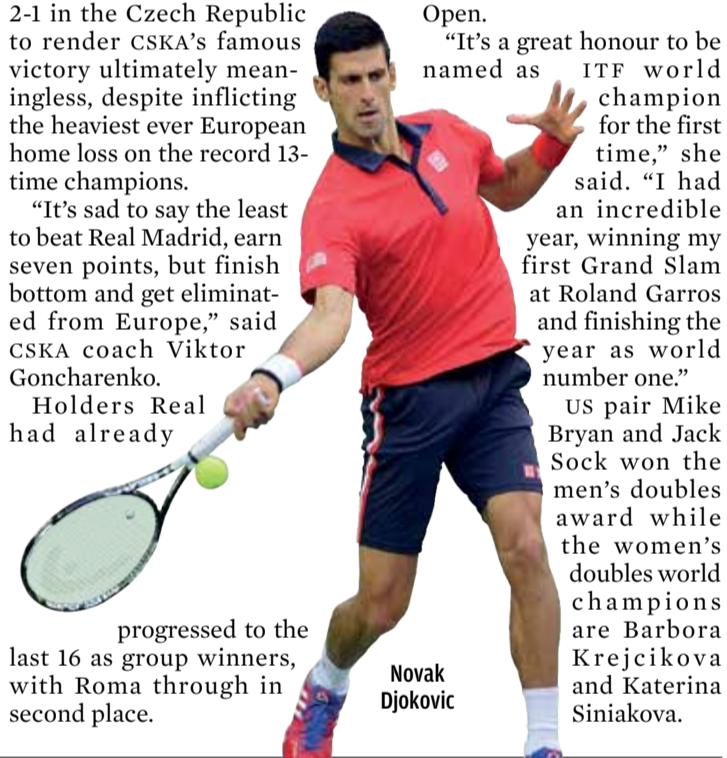
"I am very honoured to be named ITF world champion again," said Serbia's Djokovic, who stormed back to the top of the rankings after injury, winning Wimbledon and the US Open.

"I am particularly proud of this achievement after all that I've been through physically this year, but part of me always believed I could make it back to the top. It is very satisfying to join Pete Sampras by winning my sixth award."

Halep also enjoyed Grand Slam success in 2018, claiming her maiden major title at Roland Garros and reaching the final at the Australian Open.

"It's a great honour to be named as ITF world champion for the first time," she said. "I had an incredible year, winning my first Grand Slam at Roland Garros and finishing the year as world number one."

US pair Mike Bryan and Jack Sock won the men's doubles award while the women's doubles world champions are Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova.



Novak Djokovic



Lewandowski's brace leaves him as the Champions League's top-scorer with eight goals in the group stage

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