

Minister signs four agreements

Manama

Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Kamal Ahmed stressed Bahrain's keenness to broaden aviation co-operation with other countries to upgrade the national aviation sector.

On the sidelines of the 2018 Bahrain International Airshow being held under the patronage of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Transportation Minister signed four air service agreements with Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Brunei and Brazil.

The minister represented Bahrain in the signing ceremony, while Saudi Arabia's Transport Minister Dr Nabeel bin Mhammed Al Amoudi, the UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority's General-Manager Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Brunei's Communications Minister Abdulmutalib Pehin Dato Yusof and Brazil's Ambassador to Kuwait, Norton de Andrea Mello Rapesta, represented their sides.

The agreements include the regulation of air services between Bahrain and the signatory countries, in accordance with the latest standards approved by International Civil Aviation Organisation, to comprise air safety regulations, aviation security, protection of environment, sale of air transport products, automated airline reservation system, as well as provision of air transport rights.

The minister expressed delight in signing the agreements, which would boost Bahrain's regional standing in the aviation field.

He added it also reflects the royal vision in line with the civilisational development seen by the Kingdom.

● His Majesty paid tribute to the organisational efforts of the 2018 BIAS, one of the fastest growing air shows in the Middle East, where leading aviation companies get together to exchange expertise and reach agreements.

● HH Shaikh Abdulla added that BIAS reflects the kingdom's capabilities and experience in the exhibition industry as it brings together and elite from the international aviation sector to hold commercial deals.

Manama

On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and Chairman of the High Organising Committee of Bahrain



His Majesty along with Royal Family members, senior government officials, diplomats and dignitaries arrives at Sakhir Air Base to watch the air show.

International Airshow (BIAS) HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday opened the fifth edition of BIAS at Sakhir Air Base. Senior civil and military officials and guests attended the opening.

HH Shaikh Abdulla extended heartfelt thanks and gratitude to HM the King for his patronage and unlimited support to the exhibition, stressing the great success of the event since its inception.

He lauded the royal directives, describing them as an incentive to boost success of the show and project it worldwide.

He added that BIAS reflects the

kingdom's capabilities and experience in the exhibition industry as it brings together and elite from the international aviation sector to hold commercial deals and explore opportunities for individuals and companies.

After the opening ceremony, HH Shaikh Abdulla toured the exhibition. Senior guests and representatives of major participating companies accompanied him.

He was informed about the most modern military and civil planes, air navigation equipment and advanced aviation systems and their allied services. He also

visited the companies' promotion offices.

HH Shaikh Abdulla thanked Transportation and Telecommunication Minister and Deputy Chairman of BIAS High Organising Committee Kamal Ahmed for his distinguished efforts to ensure success of the exhibition. He also thanked all organisers of the show, lauding good organisation of the event.

HM King Hamad yesterday paid a visit to the air show.

HM the King was welcomed upon arrival by HH Shaikh Abdulla, BDF Commander-in-chief

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and senior officials.

HM the King watched the air shows associating the event, where the Bahraini jet fighters led the participating air formations in opening of the air shows.

HM the King hosted a luncheon in honour of senior officials and guests.

His Majesty paid tribute to the organisational efforts of the 2018 BIAS, one of the fastest growing air shows in the Middle East, where leading aviation companies get together to exchange expertise and reach agreements.

HM the King expressed appreciation of the Supreme Organising Committee's efforts.

His Majesty also lauded the contributions of the BDF and Royal Bahraini Air force and competent sides to the success of the international event.

His Majesty took pride in Bahraini human resources capable of organising and hosting major international exhibitions, stressing that attracting leading aviation companies accentuates Bahrain strategic location as a prominent economic and trade regional centre. **See pages 2-3 & 4**

Sakhir skies bloom

Bahrain International Airshow kicks off in style at Sakhir Air Base

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Spotlight on Bahrain-UK relations

London

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown

Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday attended the official opening ceremony for McLaren's new Composites Tech-

nology Centre in Rotherham, UK. The opening was held in the presence of the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duchess of Cambridge.

The Composites Technology Centre will explore new ways to develop industrial carbon-fibre technologies.

In a statement, HRH the Crown Prince congratulated McLaren on the opening of its new centre, saying that cutting-edge research plays a pivotal role in driving innovation within all economies.

HRH the Crown Prince welcomed McLaren's longstanding commitment to working with international partners to explore how the latest technologies can

be diversified and utilised, noting that this is indicative of broad-

er Bahrain-UK collaboration. **See page 10**



HRH the Crown Prince with Prince William and Kate Middleton at the opening ceremony.



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Bahrain Airshow off to a

Top global aerospace companies taking part; event expected to make remarkable positive effect on the national economy



HH Shaikh Abdullah inaugurates the air show in the presence of senior government officials and dignitaries.



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

With this year's edition featuring the biggest ever air display as well as doubling the exhibitor area, the Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS) has become one of the fastest growing air shows in the Middle East.

The BIAS, this year, has got simply bigger when compared to the previous editions. According to organisers, the number of exhibitors has increased by 70 per cent and 67.5pc of the 185

70

per cent is the growth in exhibitors' area this year compared to previous editions of the Airshow.

exhibitors are from abroad.

Many countries including the US, Russia, the UAE, the UK, Taiwan and Romania have national

pavilions at the exhibition.

The organisers say the air show would bring remarkable positive effect on the national economy.

Fast-jet aerobatic teams put on a spectacle while over 110 aircraft were brought by the show's participants.

The Russian Knights, the UAE's Al Fursan display team, and Italy's Freccia Tricolori are the teams putting their flying expertise on show over the three days.

Commercial aircraft including Boeing B787-900

and the Airbus A320 neo add special attractions to the show. F-16, Typhoon and the Mirage are the main attractions among the military jets.

Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Ahmed said the event is going to be a big success with top aerospace companies taking part.

Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Ahmed Al Mulla, said that the organisation of

the fifth edition of the Bahrain International Airshow further strengthens Bahrain's status as a gateway to the Middle East region, a business-attracting country and a logistics hub in the region.

Mr Al Mulla lauded the efforts exerted by BIAS 2018 Supreme Organising Committee, led by HM the King's Personal Representative, HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, as well

as those by the show's officials, including the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF)'s Royal Bahraini Air Force, and the officials of the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications.

A number of top-level conferences, stage acts, street performances and other attractions will be held as part of the Bahrain International Airshow this year.

Two high-level forums will be taking place at the BIAS 2018.

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roaring start



Hundreds took part in the air show inaugural event.

The first of those will be 'Into the Future Challenges and Opportunities for Gulf Region Airports and Airlines' which will be held today.

Hosted by Bahrain Airport Company and held under the patronage of Mr Ahmed, the airport conference will comprise a panel discussion featuring leading airline heads from the region.

Topics for discussions will include: Developing the Gulf as a

tourist destination, Major sources of incoming tourism, growth of long-haul low-cost airlines, the impact of digital technology on airports, the major challenges facing Gulf region airports, and more.

A forum dedicated to empowering woman in the aviation industry will be held on the sidelines of the event tomorrow.

The two-hour forum under the theme of 'Championing the

Promotion, Empowerment and Advancement of Women in the Aviation and Aerospace Industries'. Leading professionals from the aviation and aerospace industries will be featured in a panel during the event.

As for the public, stage acts, street performances, a heritage village and other attractions will be on offer. Performances from Mo Zowayed, Khalid Fuad, Talking Drums Band and others are



Top global aerospace, defence companies are displaying their latest military aircraft, vehicles at the air show.



Various displays were performed by participating teams, adorning the skies.

being featured. Street performances include Bouncing Robot and 'Walkabout pilot'. Other

attractions include a VR Zone, Simulator Zone, and a Gaming Zone. More information on the

programmes can be found on <http://www.bahraininternationalairshow.com>.

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Gulf Air signs MoU with Etihad Airways

Joint codeshare operations as preferred partners between and beyond hubs

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom, and Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, are set to explore deeper cooperation following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Bahrain International Airshow.

The wide-ranging MoU covers scope to introduce joint codeshare operations between Abu Dhabi and Manama, as well as on the global flight networks beyond the two carriers' GCC hubs.

The MoU also contains plans for greater commercial cooperation in the fields of cargo, engineering, guest experience and the optimisation of pilot training facilities.

The MoU was signed on the first day of the Bahrain International Airshow, currently taking place at the Sakhr Airbase, by Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Aviation Group, and Krešimir Kučko, Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Air.

Mr Kučko said: "The relationship between Bahrain and UAE is strong in many fields including aviation and today with the signing of this MoU we enrich the



Mr Kučko, Mr Douglas signed the MoU on the first day of air show yesterday.

relationship by cooperating with Etihad Airways. This is an example of how two airlines can work hand in hand for greater mutual benefits. We are happy to work with our friends and colleagues in Etihad and support each other to achieve bigger goals."

Mr Douglas said: "The deep ties between Abu Dhabi and Manama are well-known in the avi-

ation world and date back nearly 70 years. Therefore the natural way to build upon those ties is to examine ways in which the two flag carriers – Etihad and Gulf Air – can work more closely together to improve business operations and enhance the experience for our guests.

"We look forward to the Etihad and Gulf Air teams coming

together during the next few months to look at how we can put that in place, whether it is in codeshare, engineering, cargo, or through our frequent flyer programmes."

In addition to exploring codeshare operations, the teams at Etihad Guest and Gulf Air Falconflyer loyalty programmes will shortly begin discussions

The relationship between Bahrain and UAE is strong in many fields including aviation and today with the signing of this MoU we enrich the relationship by cooperating with Etihad Airways.

MR KUČKO

which would see members of each programme being offered reciprocal earn and burn opportunities.

The teams in both carriers' engineering and cargo divisions are also set to begin talks about greater cooperation. These discussions would look at optimising MRO (maintenance repair operations) opportunities, as well as ways to increase volumes of freighter traffic flowing into and out of Abu Dhabi and Bahrain.

Gulf Air currently operates four return daily flights between Bahrain and Abu Dhabi while Etihad currently operates three return daily A320 operations between Abu Dhabi and Bahrain.

Airbus among participants at air show

TDT | Manama

Airbus is among the prominent participants at the Bahrain International Airshow 2018, which kicked off yesterday at the Sakhr Airbase.

The European aviation giant is presenting its market-leading products and innovative technologies and will be delivering Airbus Foundation's renowned youth development programme, Airbus Little Engineer.

Gulf Air had become the first national airline in the region to receive and operate Airbus' leading single aisle aircraft, the A320neo. The aircraft is being displayed on Gulf Air's static display at the show.

The A320neo family incorporates the very latest technologies including new generation engines and Sharklets, which together deliver at least 15 percent fuel savings at delivery and 20 per cent by 2020, the company said in a press release.

"With more than 6,100 orders received from over 100 customers since its launch in 2010, the A320neo Family has captured some 60pc share of the market."

Hospitality, healthcare agreements signed

TDT | Manama

Key contracts aimed at elevating hospitality and healthcare services at Bahrain International Airport (BIA) were awarded on the first day of this year's Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS), the airport's operator and managing body, Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) said.

Hala Bahrain, the premium hospitality and passenger services provider at BIA, awarded a catering contract for all four of its lounges to Bahrain Airport Services (BAS), ensuring guests enjoy a wider variety of dining options.

BAC Chief Executive Officer and Hala Bahrain Chairman Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah and BAS Chief Executive Officer, Salman Al Mahmeed signed the one-year agreement in the presence of representatives from both companies.

The BAC also awarded a contract for the operation of the new Passenger Terminal Building's airport clinic to Bahrain Specialist Hospital.

BAC in deal with Gulf Engineering House

TDT | Manama

The Civil Aviation Affairs (CAA) building, which once served as the Kingdom's main airport, will be transformed into a private aviation terminal to cater to VIPs and business leaders, the Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) announced.

The new, state-of-the-art facility is expected to be completed by 2020 and will offer various services to meet the needs of private jet owners and users travelling through BIA.

The agreement, which is to design and renovate the 4,000 sqm CAA building, was signed by BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah and Gulf Engineering House General Manager, Nawal Abdulkarim, in the presence of Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Gulf Air Group Holding Chairman, Kamal Ahmed and officials from both companies.

The signing ceremony took place on the first day of the Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS) 2018.

Leonardo to strengthen ties with Kingdom

TDT | Manama

Leonardo is taking part in the Bahrain International Airshow, which began yesterday at the Sakhr Air Base.

Chalet A24 hosts Leonardo's offer in air defence, avionics and communications, the company said in a press release.

Leonardo's surveillance radars, ships, upgraded systems and air defence technologies already set to guarantee Bahrain security, it added.

"Leonardo has a long track record of significant achievement in Bahrain. Key projects including the supply of two

primary surveillance radars and three Mode-S secondary surveillance radars for Bahrain's Civil Aviation organisation and Royal Bahraini Air Force, enhancing the safety and efficiency of national airspace management.

"In 2015, Leonardo was awarded a contract to upgrade the six Royal Bahrain Naval Force ships, and the first one, called Al Manama, was delivered in December 2017 – two months ahead of schedule – proving the strong commitment of Leonardo in supporting the Royal Bahrain Naval Force as well as all the Bahrain Defence Forces."

MENA Aerospace inks deal with ARMI

TDT | Manama

MENA Aerospace, the GCC-owned entity based at Bahrain International Airport (BIA), and a provider of comprehensive quality niche aviation and aerospace services, is set to grow its already significant offerings in the GCC through a partnership with US-based aviation support solutions provider Aircraft Recovery Modification International (ARMI).

The strategic collaboration agreement was officially signed on the sidelines of Bahrain In-

ternational Airshow (BIAS) 2018, the Middle East's fastest growing airshow.

The partnership fits within MENA Aerospace's strategy of promoting safe and quality repair, modification, parking and hangarage, executive jet management and charter facilities in the region through agreements with global partners who are specialists in their fields.

Managing Director and Founder of MENA Aerospace Dr Mohamed Juman commented: "It is about offering a balanced platform



Dr Juman with Mr Gillette at the air show.

solution at its facilities in Bahrain. Our geographical location, access to high quality engineering staff, and the support of progressive government initiatives combine to offer the Bahraini and GCC aerospace community a real choice when it comes to a wide range of avionic and airframe modification programmes."

ARMI Managing Partner Morgan Gillette added: "At ARMI we always believe in quality work at a fair price. ARMI has built a strong reputation for providing a wide range of quality repair and

modification options throughout the USA, winning contracts with major maintenance companies and providing teams to accomplish major structural and avionics contracts. ARMI maintains a highly professional, mobile workforce that can readily adapt to all environments delivering quality, on time, every time. And it's not only heavy structures we specialise in; ARMI also delivers a myriad of avionics, airborne Wi-Fi and inflight entertainment system upgrades across a wide range of fixed and rotary wing aircraft."

Bahrain-Oman ties lauded

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received Oman's Ambassador to Bahrain, Abdullah bin Rashid Al Medailwi, who presented to His Royal Highness an invitation to attend a reception marking the Sultanate's 48th Renaissance Day. HRH the Premier praised the relations and co-operation between the two countries and their steady growth in various areas thanks to their aspiration to promote them. HRH the Premier lauded the Sultanate's advancement, progress and prosperity under the leadership of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, stressing Bahrain's keenness to further consolidate the co-operation and open new areas to serve the shared aspirations of both countries. The ambassador praised HRH the Prime Minister's continuous interest in boosting the advanced Bahraini-Omani co-operation.

Conference stresses benefits of more women entering politics

HRH Princess Sabeeka highlights the active role of women in the Kingdom's political scenario

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

With an aim to promote women's participation in politics, legislative process and decision-making, the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) yesterday hosted an international conference on the importance of women's political participation in achieving overall development and justice.

Held under the patronage of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and SCW President, the conference will run until today and will emphasise on the nature of challenges that women still face in the field of politics.

Speaking on the occasion, HRH Princess Sabeeka highlighted that the Kingdom is witnessing an unprecedented increase when it comes to the participation of women in politics.

"Women have become an integral part of the workforce in almost all fields and even many have achieved successful leadership positions in the private sector



HRH Princess Sabeeka with senior government officials and dignitaries at the conference.



“Women's presence in legislature is one of the most important steps to address the issues faced by women in any country.

MS CLARK

and public sector," HRH Princess Sabeeka pointed out.

"The efficiency of Bahraini women qualifies them to lead in

all national fields, including the field of political work. They have proved their capabilities through their active participation in almost

number of participation of women in the political process.

"The Council will continue its efforts in the field of policy formulation, renewing legislative frameworks and following up on the implementation of gender-specific plans aimed at achieving gender balance at the national level."

Hala Al Ansari, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women, stressed the importance of allowing women in decision-making positions and further supporting them in order to make more effective.

Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment jury panel member, said women's presence in legislature is one of the most important step to address the issues faced by women in any country.

"In my experience in the New Zealand Parliament, it wasn't until we had a women minister who could make a real difference. As a minister of health, I was able

to pick up issues that were never on the agenda until there were women to push them. I think that is the key thing parliaments, that don't have women are missing out on a momentum that is to address issues, which are particularly of interest to them," she told Tribune.

"With the elections around the corner here, I am really hoping for more women to make it into the legislature. I believe women are as qualified as men to enter politics.

"There are many challenges faced by the women across the world. When I speak about breaking a glass ceiling, I am very conscious of my experience in a Western democracy with well-established women rights."

Dr Amal Al Qubaisi, President of the Federal National Council, the UAE, said education is the baseline when it comes to women empowerment.

"Education has opened many new areas of excellence for women in my country. Women must be given an opportunity to work in all areas including active participation in politics."



Ms Al Ansari speaks at the conference.

all sectors that they can work professionally and competently.

"With the legislative and municipal elections fast-approaching, we have seen an increased

NIHR to observe polls

Manama

Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), Maria Khoury, yesterday received the Senior Adviser of the European Union Delegation, Alexis Konstantopoulos, in the presence of Vice-Chairman, Abdulla Ahmed Alderazi, and Secretary-General, Dr Khalifa bin Ali Al Fadhel.

Khoury stressed the impor-

tance of further strengthening relations with the EU, expressing appreciation of the efforts being exerted by Alexis Konstantopoulos, and the role he is playing.

The two sides, while tackling the upcoming parliamentary and municipal elections, highlighted the NIHR's role in observing them.

In this regard, Khoury said that the NIHR, in line with its mandate, will observe the elections

through field presence in a number of polling centres to ensure the elections' fairness and integrity and smoothness, as well as to issue its report on them after the end of the second round.

Alexis Konstantopoulos expressed appreciation of the tremendous efforts exerted by the NIHR to consolidate and protect human rights in the kingdom, lauding the progress in the NIHR's work recently.

Much-awaited premiere



Cinephiles were spellbound with excitement at the exclusive Bahrain premiere of the much anticipated film *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*. Hundreds of fans, competition winners and esteemed guests were treated to the electrifying screening of the blockbuster movie held at Mukta A2 Cinemas.

Charm Pageant set



A selection round was held at the Elite Grande Hotel for the Charm Pageant organised by the Indian Ladies Association. Many men and women from diverse backgrounds took part in the selection process. Participants were judged on the basis of overall personality, talents and communication skills. The final round of the contest will be held tomorrow at the Crowne Plaza from 6.30 pm onwards. Famous Indian comedienne Anu Menon, popularly known as Lola Kutty for her character show in Channel V, will headline a laughter session to be held as part of the event, which aims to raise funds for the Sneha Recreation Centre for Differently-abled Children. To know more, give a ring on 36310050 /36611041 or shoot a mail to ilabahrain@gmail.com.

NOTICE OF COMPLETE CEASING OF ALL SERVICES (Article 50 of CBB Law)

Pursuant to Article (50) of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law No. (64) of 2006, **Money on Demand Mode Bahrain W.L.L** hereby gives notice that an application has been submitted to the Central Bank of Bahrain for the purpose of announcing their intention to cease all financial services licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain in accordance with the Commercial Registration No. 69732 issued on 27/8/2007. Details of the business to which this application relates can be obtained from Liquidator, Address, Villa 12 – Road 3201 – Block 332 Manama/ Bu Ashira Tel: (+973) 17822440 – Mob: (+973) 39333324.

Persons wishing to object to the said cessation of business should submit their objections in writing to the Central Bank of Bahrain (Director of Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate) within thirty days of the date hereof on P.O. Box 27 – Manama– Bahrain or Fax (+973) 17531636

world

China says is no threat to EU, after army call

Beijing, China

China said yesterday that it had never posed a threat to Europe as it responded to a proposal by French President Emmanuel Macron for a “European army” to defend the bloc against China, Russia, and even the US.

“We have never posed any threat to Europe,” Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, when asked about the issue at a daily press briefing in Beijing. Hua said that while “Europe has the right to decide its own foreign and defence policies”, European leaders have in fact expressed a desire for closer cooperation with China.

Macron touched off a controversy last week with his proposal, which is a touchy issue among European countries keen to handle their own defence, and in light of US President Donald Trump’s calls for Europe to foot more of the bill for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) defence alliance.

Trump called Macron’s idea “very insulting”, tweeting that Europe should “first pay its fair share of NATO, which the US subsidises greatly”.

Trump names new US envoy to Saudi Arabia

● **Appoint made after two years of hiatus**

● **John Abizaid is a fluent Arabic speaker**

● **He wrote his master thesis at Harvard about Saudi**

● **Abizaid requires confirmation from the senate**

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump on Tuesday tapped John Abizaid, a top US general from the Iraq war who has studied the Middle East for years, as ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Abizaid is a fluent Arabic speaker of Lebanese Christian descent who headed US Central Command -- which covers the Middle East -- during the Iraq



The commander of US forces in the Middle East, General John Abizaid visits the Special Operation Forces Exhibition (SOFX) at King Abdullah Airbase Marka in Amman. (file)

war from shortly after the US invasion in 2003 through 2007.

The 67-year-old wrote his master’s thesis at Harvard University about Saudi Arabia, studying how the kingdom makes its decisions on defence spending, in a paper that won acclaim in academic circles.

A California native, Abizaid graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point and later won a scholarship to study in Jordan, where he honed his Arabic, which he did not speak as a child.

Trump has been slow in filling key posts amid his promises to shake up Washington. Trump quickly forged a close relationship with Saudi Arabia upon taking office. But the absence of an ambassador in Riyadh, nearly two years into his presidency, has become more glaring amid rising tensions between the countries.

Abizaid requires confirmation from the Senate, which would appear likely as the retired four-star general has long enjoyed respect in Washington.

Shortly after taking over as CENTCOM commander, Abizaid told reporters that US forces were facing a “classical guerrilla-type campaign” from remnants of Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party.

His choice of words contradicted his bosses, who initially tried to portray the Iraq invasion as a quick victory, but then defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld did not move to replace him amid admiration for Abizaid’s skills.

And soon after retiring in 2007, Abizaid said that, while the United States should try to prevent Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, “there are ways to live with a nuclear Iran,” describing the clerical state’s behaviour as rational and noting the United States also dealt with a nuclear-armed Soviet Union.

Trump, the real estate mogul turned president has shown a fondness for appointing retired generals, with Jim Mattis as defence secretary and John Kelly as his chief of staff.

Sri Lanka parliament votes out Rajapakse’s government

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka’s parliament passed a motion of no-confidence in the controversially appointed government of Mahinda Rajapakse yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court overturned a presidential decree dissolving the legislature.

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya ruled that a majority of the 225-member assembly supported the motion against Rajapakse who was made prime minister on October 26 in place of Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The result does not auto-

matically mean that Wickremesinghe, who had refused to leave the prime minister’s residence, has won the constitutional showdown. President Maithripala Sirisena, who had backed Rajapakse, retains the power to choose the next prime minister.

Amid chaotic scenes, Rajapakse, 72, and his legislator son Namal walked out of the red-carpeted chamber just before the speaker called for a vote. MPs loyal to Rajapakse attempted to grab the mace to disrupt the vote, but Jayasuriya went ahead.

‘Robocop’ on patrol at Singapore summit

Singapore, Singapore

Hi-tech Singapore has deployed an autonomous robot with a swivelling camera for a head and flashing lights to patrol a summit venue -- arresting the attention of amused passers-by who stopped to snap selfies.

The white, four-wheeled buggy, measuring about five-feet (1.5 metres), trundled around the perimeter of a convention centre in the city-state, providing additional security at a meeting of world leaders.

The so far unnamed robot, decked out with flashing blue and red lights, is a prototype reportedly developed by the police, which can transmit a 360-degree picture of the area it is patrolling.

It navigates independently on a pre-mapped route and can avoid obstacles, local media reported, citing police.

But rather than fearing the long robotic arm of the law, many passers-by were amused by the device, with some mistaking it for a gigantic toy.

A handful stopped to snap



The white, four-wheeled buggy, patrolling the convention centre

selfies, while one man marched next to it grinning broadly as it wheeled slowly around near the convention centre.

“It’s so cute, it looks like a toy,” said Chinese holidaymaker Ruan Min, taking a picture as her four-year-old daughter chased the robot down the street.

Singapore, known for its strict law and order, has rolled out a major security operation to secure this week’s meetings, which are organised by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and attended by 20 world leaders.

NASA wants people on Mars within 25 years

AFP | Washington, United States

Deadly radiation from the cosmos, potential vision loss, and atrophying bones are just some of the challenges scientists must overcome before any future astronaut can set foot on Mars, experts and top NASA officials said Tuesday.

The US space agency believes it can put humans on the Red Planet within 25 years, but the technological and medical hurdles are immense.

“The cost of solving those means that under current budgets, or slightly expanded budgets, it’s going to take about 25 years to solve those,” said former NASA astronaut Tom Jones, who



Former NASA Astronaut, Tom Jones, speaks during a news conference



Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and is the second smallest planet in the solar system. Named after the Roman god of war, Mars is also often described as the “Red Planet” due to its reddish appearance

flew on four space shuttle missions before retiring in 2001.

“We need to get started now on certain key technologies,” he told reporters in Washington.

At an average distance of about 140 million miles (225 million kilometers), Mars poses scientific problems an order of magnitude greater than anything encountered by the Apollo lunar missions.

With today’s rocket technology, it would take an astronaut up to nine months to reach Mars -- the physical toll of floating that long in zero gravity would be huge.

For instance, scientists think prolonged weightlessness can cause irreversible changes to

blood vessels in the retina, leading to vision degradation.

And after a while in zero G, the skeleton starts to leach calcium and bone mass.

With gravity only one-third of Earth’s, scientists don’t yet know the effects of a presumed one-year mission to the surface of Mars. One way to reduce wear and tear on the human body is to dramatically cut down on travel time to Mars. Jones called for nuclear propulsion systems that would have the added benefit of producing electricity on flights.

“If we start now, in 25 years we might have these technologies available to help us and protect us from these long transit times,” he said.

Terror at a swipe

Smartphones have become a double-edged sword for terrorists

Most of the large-scale assault by IS were completely planned with phones

Encrypted apps such as Telegram, Wire and WhatsApp helped them further

But it has resulted in extremists' downfall too

AFP | Paris, France

Bombs and guns aside, a smartphone can be a powerful weapon in the hands of a terrorist -- but it can also provide intelligence services with the tools to track them down.

Three years ago, the Paris attacks of November 13, 2015 remain one of the best known examples of a large-scale assault that could not have been planned without phones.

The Islamic State group gunmen and bombers who struck the Bataclan concert hall and other nightlife spots used them extensively to coordinate the carnage, said a former French anti-terrorist official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Just before entering the Bataclan, where they massacred 90 people, the attackers had sent a text message to accomplices in Belgium: "We're going ahead. It's started."

But if smartphones have been a "game-changer" for jihadists, their use by the world's extremists goes much further back than the Paris attacks.

"As of 2003, in Iraq, home-made bombs started being set off by the sending of an SMS as American convoys drove past. This caught on and was then repeatedly used by Al-Qaeda," the ex-official said.

These days, encrypted apps such as Telegram, Wire and WhatsApp can



Representative picture. Smartphones have been a "game-changer" for terrorists

help jihadists communicate while evading police tracking -- or at least complicate efforts to decode their messages.

For several years IS has published online tutorials in several languages explaining to jihadists how to choose the best software to evade detection in war zones.

For new recruits in developing countries, where smartphones are more common than computers, there are different strategies still.

"Phones are no longer phones -- they're computers," said Laurent Heslault, director of security strategies at Symantec, a security group.

"They are far more powerful than what we had on our desks 10 years ago," he added.

"They have more computing power, more memory and connection capabilities. They are very powerful tools when it comes to communicating."

That has also made it much easier

for jihadist groups to recruit new members.

Smartphones "enable people to reach out for propaganda" with the swipe of a screen, said the retired official.

"Thirty years ago, guys used to exchange video cassettes, then it was CDs. Now it's online and can be looked up at any time."

For propaganda-makers, videos of attacks can be filmed and uploaded in the blink of an eye.

"You can film attacks, claim responsibility, use (a phone) to take photos and film reconnaissance operations," the ex-official said.

Flip side of the phone

But the smartphone can be an extremist's downfall as well as their best asset.

Intelligence agencies have grown better at using phones to identify suspects, spy on them -- and, in case of capture, lift data for use as evidence in court.

That in turn has raised difficult questions for tech giants who promise their users privacy.

Most famously, Apple faced a court showdown with the FBI after agents sought access to the data of the attackers who killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, in December 2015.

Investigators dropped the case after finding a way into the phone without help from Apple, which argued that helping authorities access a phone



Phones are no longer phones -- they're computers. They are far more powerful than what we had on our desks 10 years ago

LAURENT HESLAULT
DIRECTOR OF SECURITY STRATEGIES AT SYMANTEC,
A SECURITY GROUP



Just before entering the Bataclan, where they massacred 90 people, the attackers had sent a text message to accomplices in Belgium: "We're going ahead. It's started."

would set a dangerous precedent.

Further afield, governments have used phone data extensively to pinpoint extremist suspects.

The French military intervention in Mali, launched in 2013 after jihadists took over the northern half the country, started with air strikes whose targets were chosen based on phone data, the former French official said.

"Today all air strikes focus on telephones," he added.

"Even if you keep changing the SIM card the phone has its own identity and once detected can continue being tracked."

And when it comes to police investigations, smartphones sometimes provide more information than their owners.

They might allow investigators to work their way back along an information trail, snare other members of a suspect's network, and track sleeper cells, he added.

"Smartphones make you a target," the expert said.

"Because of this jihadist leaders have learned to keep away from them. For the past few years, there's been a marked return to using human envoys," he added.

Britain's Prince Charles celebrates 70th birthday

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's Prince Charles, who has been heir to the throne for more than six decades, celebrates his 70th birthday with a tea party and a banquet in Buckingham Palace yesterday.

In two official photographs released to mark the Prince of Wales's milestone, Charles is shown surrounded by his wife Camilla, two sons William and Harry and three grandchildren.

A fourth grandchild is on the way after Prince Harry's wife Meghan, an American former TV actress, announced her pregnancy following the couple's Windsor Castle wedding this year.

Charles is set to attend a tea party later on Wednesday with "inspirational people" who are also turning 70 this year.

In the evening, Queen Elizabeth II is holding a banquet which friends, family and European royals are expected to attend.

There will be gun salutes in London and lawmakers will voice their congratulations for the king-in-waiting in parliament.

The Twitter account for Clarence House, Charles's official



Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales holding (bottom L) Prince George posing for an official portrait to mark his 70th birthday with (top L-R) Britain's Prince Louis of Cambridge, Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, Meghan, Duchess of Sussex with (bottom R) Britain's Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and Princess Charlotte.



The trouble is, there isn't a job description so you have to rather make it up as you go along

PRINCE CHARLES

residence, featured flying balloons and a slideshow of pictures from throughout the prince's life to mark the occasion.

Charles also edited an edition of Country Life to mark his birthday. The prince told the magazine about his fondness for red pheasant crumble pie and "groussaka" -- a version of the Greek dish moussaka but with grouse instead of lamb.

He also said he allowed red squirrels, which are being pushed out by American grey squirrels in Britain, to run around his home on the Queen's Balmoral estate in Scotland.

The prince has spent a lifetime forging his own path during a record wait for the throne, overshadowed by public adulation

for his mother.

He has battled a string of public relations headaches and accusations of being cold towards his first wife Diana as well as of interfering in political affairs.

Charles sees himself as a "dissident" working against the prevailing political consensus, according to his former spin doctor Mark Bolland.

The prince has been plagued by low self-esteem but has felt driven to do the right thing, Bolland said.

"The trouble is, there isn't a job description so you have to rather make it up as you go along," he said.

Charles has been outspoken on issues close to his heart, notably architecture, the environment, farming, faith and alternative medicine.

He has faced accusations that his "meddling" in public affairs would breach the political impartiality of a constitutional monarch.

But he told a BBC documentary marking his 70th birthday: "The idea, somehow, that I'm going to go on in exactly the same way, if I have to succeed, is complete nonsense."

"I'm not that stupid," he said.

The war that never ended

World War I officially concluded a century ago. But its aftershocks reverberate even today



World leaders in Paris to observe the Armistice Day.



TED WIDMER

On Nov 11, 1918, a delegation of German representatives, not entirely sure that they represented their crumbling government, made their way through the forest of Compiègne towards a group of Allied officers. There, inside railroad car 2419D, they signed the armistice that brought World War I to a close.

It was the moment the entire world had longed for ever since lurching into war four years earlier. Both sides promised a quick victory before settling into a ghastly stalemate. Political leaders gave grandiloquent speeches about the purpose of the war. The young men in the trenches grew numb to their bombast. “We only know war lasts,” concluded Wilfred Owen, the young English soldier-poet. The War to End All Wars could not even end itself.

But in the fall of 1918, Germany began to collapse. Suddenly, ancient dynasties teetered on their thrones: The kaiser prepared to abdicate, the Ottomans folded, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire flaked apart like a Viennese pastry.

In the first week of November, the end felt very near. But on Nov 5, a midterm election humiliated President Woodrow Wilson. After the votes were counted, Republicans had control of the House and the Senate, with long-term implications for Wilson’s postwar vision for a “League of Nations.” For years, he had dangled democracy as the cure for the world’s ailments. But the bitterness of the election raised serious questions about democracy’s efficacy. Could a nation as divided as this inspire the world?

Former President Theodore Roosevelt, growing demagogic, attacked Democrats as “internationalists” and sputtered with rage against Wilson’s idealistic plan for a peace that would allow “everyone to float to heaven on a sloppy sea of universal mush.” Others felt similarly. After Wilson unveiled his Fourteen Points, Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau of France asked sardonically: “Fourteen? The good Lord has only 10.”

But two days later, the winds of history seemed to lift Wilson again. On Nov 7, a report of the armistice was sent to the New York office of the United Press wire service. Within minutes, people were in the streets. The New York Times called it “a delirious carnival of joy which

was beyond comparison with anything ever seen in the history of New York.”

Unfortunately, the report was premature. A few hours later, the State Department issued a correction. The crowds went home, crestfallen.

Four days later, the real news arrived. Once again, people rejoiced — this time, around the world. With no reason to show restraint, politicians drifted back towards the platitudes that came naturally. “Democracy” was the word of the hour — even King George V used it, in a note to Wilson, praising the noble cause. In Washington, Wilson announced plans for “the establishment of just democracy throughout the world.” To a rapt Congress, he outlined the details of the armistice, and announced, at long last, “The war thus comes to an end.”

But had it? Already, countervailing gusts were blowing across Europe’s shattered realms. The New Republic wrote, “Democracy is infectious,” but it paled in comparison with the Spanish flu epidemic, which killed tens of millions in 1918 and 1919. Food shortages had brought populations close to chaos, especially in the final weeks, and Communism was spreading rapidly in Germany, Hungary and Poland.

In other ways we live with the failures as well as the successes of 1918. Earlier that fall, Wilson wrote to an Arizona senator, Henry Ashurst, that he was working with the future in mind.

Democracy was also challenged by the deep hatreds stirred up by four years of total war. Many Germans were not ready to absorb the news of armistice, after years of propaganda about inevitable victory. One soldier’s reaction was visceral: In a hospital in Pomerania, Adolf Hitler wept when he heard about “the monstrous event” and became so distraught that he temporarily lost his eyesight (“everything went black before my eyes,” he wrote). Ominously, he resolved to “go into politics.” It would be a politics of blame, castigating Jews and leftists for the defeat. In 1940, he forced the French to surrender in the same railroad car.

In America, too, democra-

cy was a challenging word to live up to. All Americans had contributed to victory, including African-American soldiers, women working on the home front and recent immigrants who volunteered for service in every way they could. They were in no mood to accept second-class citizenship. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote: “Make way for democracy! We saved it in France, and by the Great Jehovah, we will save it in the United States of America.” That was not exactly what Wilson had in mind. Around the same day as the armistice, a young African-American named William Bird was lynched outside of Sheffield, Ala.

In other ways we live with the failures as well as the successes of 1918. Earlier that fall, Wilson wrote to an Arizona senator, Henry Ashurst, that he was working with the future in mind: “I am now playing for 100 years hence.” He would be dismayed at all the ways in which our world resembles his.

In some ways, it is worse. A recent Pew poll showed a rapid decline in admiration for the United States. For 12 years in a row, according to Freedom House, democracy has been on the wane. In the Middle East, Ottoman memories are back, feeding the sultanic ambitions of Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In Rus-

sia, Vladimir Putin revisits the past in his own curious way, merging Soviet nostalgia with the czar’s role as the defender of the Russian Orthodox Church. It will be surreal to see him among world leaders in Paris this weekend. Few have done less than Putin to make the world safe for democracy.

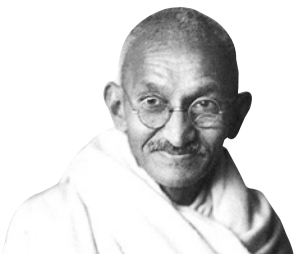
“We only know war lasts.” Of course we should honour the sacrifice of a generation who did all they were asked, and then some, to build a better world. That honour will be solemnly bestowed in Paris on the centenary of the armistice.

As French jets streak over a military parade, perhaps the quiet voice of Wilfred Owen was in the air. He was killed in the final week of the war — his parents received the news as the church bells were ringing, in celebration of armistice. Owen’s precision with words suggests his revulsion at the undisciplined ways leaders spoke, then as now, dividing people. A century later, it is unlikely that we can escape the theatre of grandiosity, with leaders crowding the stage for their photo op.

(Ted Widmer is a distinguished lecturer at the Macaulay Honors College of the City University of New York and a fellow of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.)

1949

Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte are executed for assassinating Mahatma Gandhi.



1951

Greek resistance leader Nikos Beloyannis, along with 11 resistance members, is sentenced to death by the court-martial.

1955

The first part of Saint Petersburg Metro is opened.

1959

The murders of the Clutter Family in Holcomb, Kansas, which inspired Truman Capote's non-fiction book In Cold Blood.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



My heart is with everyone affected by the devastating fires in California—the brave first responders, those who've lost loved ones or homes, and many others. Let's all do our part to support these families. It's who we are.

@MichelleObama

02



As we had cautioned, AP's Fasal Bima Yojana (crop insurance scheme) was designed to profit the insurance companies at the cost of the farmers

@PChidambaram_IN

03



A generation that does not know Nehru is trying to judge him. I suggest read The Discovery of India first. That was the first book my father gave me to read.

@PritishNandy

04



Say what you will about Harry Truman, but he didn't live the billionaire partying lifestyle after his Presidency. Unlike some ex-Presidents.

@matthewstoller

05



Whenever I travel for the foundation, the farmers I meet talk about one thing that holds them back: they can't save their money. @myAgroFarms is one of the companies working on creative solutions to this problem.

@BillGates

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

Harold Pinter's legacy — and terrifying relevancy

A months long celebration of the playwright a decade after his death is both exhilarating and exhausting in its urgency

DAVID BELCHER

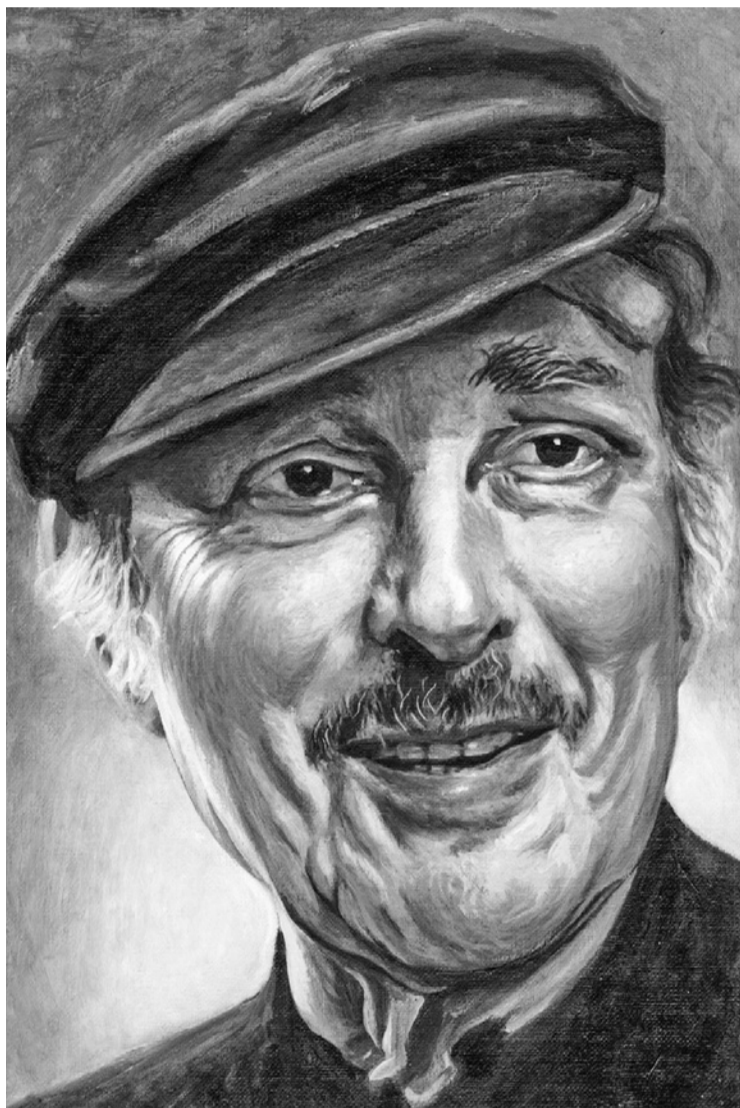
Ten years after Harold Pinter's death, it almost feels as if we're trapped in one of his furrowed-brow-inducing plays. What is real? What is untrue? Why is everyone so creepy and annoying?

And how frighteningly relevant the works of that most curmudgeonly of British playwrights suddenly feel given the state of the world, as evidenced by a celebration here of the more obscure works of Sir Harold, who could turn family dysfunction into squirm-in-your-seat hysteria, and loneliness and despair into the worst nightmare of a theatre full of well-heeled couples.

All 20 of his one-acts, and a few poems and sketches thrown in to test your threshold for long and awkward pauses, are being performed through Feb 23 under the title "Pinter at the Pinter" at the quaint West End theater renamed in 2011 for the playwright, who died in December 2008. Recent matinee viewings of the first two groupings — five more are being rolled out through Feb 23 — reveal just how eerily applicable these pieces are to current news events and the general malaise that seems to have settled over the world. Pinter Land, which some of us enjoy regularly visiting, is a rather rough place to hang out these days.

But this isn't just a case of art reflecting current political and humanitarian issues, which can be applied to virtually any era as history keeps repeating itself. How often do we get the "Shakespeare is so contemporary" routine — 400 years later, yes, people fall in love and tyrants are jerks. But these Pinter morsels are not just pertinent. They almost feel like cries of desperation from beyond the grave about humanity's immediate future.

A case in point is "The Pres



Harold Pinter

and an Officer," which Pinter apparently scribbled down on a notepad shortly before his death and which his widow, Lady Antonia Fraser, discovered last year among her mementos. A mere six pages, it's about a president obsessed with dropping a nuclear bomb on London (convinced it's the capital of France). It almost feels like a before-I-die slap to President Donald Trump, yet written at the time when "The Apprentice" was as far as any

of us ever imagined he would ascend.

As presented in its world premiere in the first batch of one-acts, "Pinter One" was hysterically funny but shockingly real — a spot-on depiction by a playwright who seemed to foretell the rise of a geographically challenged loose cannon of a president. Jon Culshaw plays the president as a Trump look-alike (perhaps too obvious a choice by the director Jamie Lloyd).

As presented in its world premiere in the first batch of one-acts, "Pinter One" was hysterically funny but shockingly real — a spot-on depiction by a playwright who seemed to foretell the rise of a geographically challenged loose cannon of a president

Even creepier was "One for the Road," with Antony Sher as a state functionary careering between charm and brutality as he interrogates three tortured members of a family. But the truly skin-crawling offering was "The New World Order," in which two tormentors crack jokes about their strategy as a trembling prisoner sits blindfolded, awaiting torture.

"Pinter Three" and "Pinter Four" (opening this week and running through Dec 8 include such gems as the monologue "Tess," performed by Penelope Wilton, for whom Pinter wrote the piece in 2002, and the London stage favourite Tamsin Greig in "Landscape," as well as "A Kind of Alaska," in which a woman awakens from a 29-year sleep (envious, anyone?). "Moonlight," which was one of Jason Robards's final New York stage appearances, explores regret and loneliness from an elderly man's deathbed.

"Pinter Five" and "Pinter Six" (running mid-December through Jan. 26) features rarely performed works like "Family Voices" and "Party Time" and include the actors Martin Freeman and Jane Horrocks, and "Pinter Seven" (Jan 31 to Feb 23) pair "The Dumb Waiter" and

"A Slight Ache," two of Pinter's better known one-acts.

One highlight of the season thus far has been two benefit performances by the Oscar-winning actor Mark Rylance reciting the Nobel Prize acceptance speech that Pinter delivered in 2005, which is one of the most brilliant and bitter offerings on YouTube. Pinter's evisceration of George W Bush and Tony Blair for mixing truths and untruths during the Iraq War almost feels like gee-whiz acknowledgment of a more innocent time. Ah, to be back in the aughts (or whatever the heck we're supposed to call that lost decade), when all we had to worry about was the Iraq war and little George and Tony.

Thirteen years after Pinter's videotaped speech from Britain (he was too ill to attend the Nobel ceremony in Stockholm) and 10 years after his death from cancer, it's astonishing to watch his acceptance speech. He begins with the words he wrote in 1958: "There are no hard distinctions between what is real and what is unreal. Nor between what is true and what is false."

Pinter clarifies that as an artist, he stands by his assertion. But as a citizen, he cannot.

"Truth in drama is forever elusive. You never quite find it. But the search for it is compulsive," he said. "The search is clearly what drives the endeavour. The search is your task."

With these words, and this ambitious staging of his shockingly relevant body of one-acts as 2018 nears its finale, the search for truth feels more immediate — and harder to grasp — than ever. It's a clear indication that this fiendishly existential playwright's works couldn't be more fresh or timely Or more terrifying.

(David Belcher is an editor in the Hong Kong office of the New York Times Opinion section.)

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Paraben, I'm scared of you!

The latest trend of beauty for ladies is a straight hair. When you go to the markets you will see a variety of beauty products, the shampoos, that made you overwhelmed. If you read the ingredients closely you will see a life threatening danger in it. The parabens, methyl, ethyl, propyl, tetra ethyl parabens. If your dear husband buys one of the shampoos that contains any of the Parabens in the ingredients, just say thanks to him and toss the shampoo bottle into the trash bin as paraben could cause you cancer.

Truly, you are beautiful with a wavy or curly or crisp hair.

May May Nu

Risking health for beauty

Tribune had carried a report on the harmful effects of hair straightening. I think its high time the Health Ministry come up with some guidelines for beauty parlours and shampoo manufactures over the use of chemicals in their products. According to Costmeticsinfo.org, data indicate that methyl, propyl, and butyl forms of parabens interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system. Specifically, parabens are endocrine disruptors stored in the body tissue that interfere with glandular activity and hormone production. Moreover, these preservative chemicals

are associated with the following in infants and children: developmental disorders, dysfunction of the immune system, learning problems as well as reproductive disorders. The Food and Drug Administration states that several assessments made by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review report that parabens are safe, with no side effects, in cosmetics at levels up to 25 per cent. It is advised that one read the ingredients in cosmetics before buying any products containing these preservatives. Ironically, while several of the commercial products that contain parabens are beauty products that are

supposed to enhance the skin, such as lotions and moisturisers, research has found they accelerate the skin ageing process. As reported by live-naturally.co.uk, researchers from the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine in Japan found that the methyl type of parabens increases sensitivity to and damage from the sun; that is, when exposed to ultraviolet rays, skin cells die at a much faster rate than normal. Therefore, one should read the ingredients to check for methylparabens before buying beauty products for the skin.

Dr Madhu Mohan

business

GIB raises \$500m financing facility



Abdulaziz A. Al-Helaissi

TDI | Manama

Gulf International Bank (GIB) said it has successfully closed a US\$500 million three-year financing facility with the support of nine regional and international financial institutions. The proceeds of the facility will be used to refinance an existing term facility and for general funding purposes.

The facility, according to Abdulaziz A. Al-Helaissi, the Group Chief Executive Officer of GIB, was oversubscribed and upsized from an initial amount of US\$250 million due to strong appetite from leading regional and international banks.

Lenders of the facility include First Abu Dhabi Bank, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited Natixis DIFC Branch, Riyad Bank, Mizuho Bank Ltd, Samba Financial Group, State Bank of India Bahrain, Citibank N.A. Bahrain Branch and Wooribank Bahrain Branch.

UAE-based First Abu Dhabi Bank and HSBC Bank Middle East Limited are mandated lead arrangers and bookrunners and First Abu Dhabi Bank is the agent for the facility.

Higher oil stocks is welcome buffer

Paris, France

The International Energy Agency yesterday welcomed a recent increase in global oil stocks as insurance against possible problems on the supply side.

In its latest monthly oil market report, the Paris-based IEA confirmed its demand growth estimates of 1.3 million barrels per day (mbd) for this year and 1.4 mbd in 2019.

The IEA said recent sharp oil price falls to below \$70 per barrel for Brent crude, compared with \$86 last month, meant the market “appears to be more relaxed than it was a few weeks ago.” But “such is the volatility of events that rising stocks should be welcomed as a form of insurance, rather than a threat,” it added.

“The United States remains committed to reducing Iranian oil exports to zero... (and) there are concerns as to the stability of production in Libya, Nigeria and Venezuela,” it said.

McLaren Group opens new carbon fibre centre

Mumtalakat is a majority shareholder of McLaren Group of which McLaren Automotive is subsidiary

● The new production facility occupies 7,000 m2 of building space in Yorkshire

● Opening held in the presence of Crown Prince

● Facility will be fully operational by 2020

TDI | Manama



The newly inaugurated McLaren Composites Technology Centre (MCTC) in Yorkshire, United Kingdom

McLaren Automotive, a subsidiary of McLaren Group of which Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) is a majority shareholder, opened a new £50 million McLaren Composites Technology Centre (MCTC) in Yorkshire, United Kingdom.

Present at the opening ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and

First Deputy Prime Minister and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

MCTC is McLaren Automotive's second production facility; the first one is located in Woking, England.

The new production facility occupies 7,000 m² of building space and is expected to create over 200 new jobs when fully-operational by 2020.

Carbon fibre has long been a part of McLaren's DNA, the company has introduced the very first carbon fibre chassis into Formula 1 in 1981. Since then McLaren has never made a race car, sports car or supercar without the carbon fibre due to its innate strength and lightweight properties.

Commenting on the establishment of the new centre, Mahmood H. Alkooheji, Chief Executive Officer of Mumtalakat said, “McLaren Automotive exports over 90 per cent of its cars to markets worldwide. As a result, the opening of the new McLaren Composites Technology Centre is an important milestone within the company's

growth.”

Plans for the MCTC was first announced in February 2017, and construction commenced just five months later followed by six months of fit-outs.

The centre will help in accelerating McLaren automotive plans for 18 new models or derivatives under its ambitious Track25 business plan that are lightest in class.



Under the leadership of its Chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa we are confident that McLaren Group will witness further success

MAHMOOD H. ALKOOHEJI
CEO OF MUMTALAKAT



BBK officials and participants posing for a group photo session during a series of simulation exercises held as part of its bank-wide Business Continuity Plan (BCP). The exercises were conducted during November and were managed and coordinated by the Bank's dedicated Business Continuity Department for the Crisis Management Team, the Head Office Recovery Team and the Branch Recovery Team



Mohammed Eissa, the winner of Credimax One KG Gold Bar for the month of October. Other winners for Credimax's “We give the Max” campaign are Mahdi Mohammed won a Lexus ES 350 for July and Badran Al Awadhi won 1 KG Gold Bar for August and Mohammed Yateem won a Lexus ES 350 for September. The upcoming prize for the month of November will be a Lexus ES 350.

BTEA kicks off tourism roadshow in Germany

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has kicked off its roadshow in Germany highlighting Bahrain as a prime tourist destination.

The show which began in Munich will move on to Stuttgart and will end in Frankfurt.

The delegation is headed by BTEA officials and included



Officials during the roadshow in Germany

representatives from Gulf Air, a number of hotels and travel agents.

“The BTEA aims to attract more visitors by launching a number of tourism initiatives and events abroad in collaboration with its representative offices located across the region and the world,” said the Director of Tourism Marketing and Promotions at BTEA, Yousef Al Khan.

European stocks rebound

Italy's populist government defied the European Commission by sticking to a big-spending budget plan

AFP | London, United Kingdom

European equities turned around an early weak trend yesterday, lifted by Wall Street which had a fresh go at recouping losses seen at the start of the week.

US stocks had already attempted a comeback on Tuesday from the previous day's heavy losses, but late jitters undermined the recovery.

Dealers said, however, there was no guarantee the rebound in European stocks would last, given deep uncertainty over the conditions of Britain exiting the European Union, and a damaging standoff between Italy and the EU over Rome's budget.

A slowdown in powerhouse Germany's economy is also a worry, they said, after it shrank 0.2 per cent in the third quarter, in news which sent the euro sliding against the dollar.

The pound was under pressure as Prime Minister Theresa May defended her divorce deal with the EU before rowdy lawmakers before trying to win the backing of her splintered cabinet.

"Uncertainty around Italy and Brexit are weighing on sentiment," noted CMC Markets analyst David Madden.

'Hot tin roof'

But the weakness in both the European currencies actually helped the continent's stock markets which stand to gain



Traders work on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange

Key figures around 1435 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.8 percent at 7,108.56 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.7pc at 11,552.65
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.5pc at 5,127.98
Milan - FTSE MIB:	■ at 19,229.42
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.4pc at 3,238.82
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.7pc at 25,485.01
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2946 from \$1.2977 Tuesday
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1285 from \$1.1290 at 2200 GMT Tuesday
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 113.96 yen from 113.81 yen
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.2pc at 21,846.48 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.5pc at 25,654.43 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.9pc at 2,632.24 (close)

when multinationals' foreign earnings translate into higher profits when they report in euros or pounds.

Italy's populist government defied the European Commission by sticking to a big-spending budget plan, risking financial sanctions in a high-stakes standoff that could spell fresh trouble for the eurozone.

"The Italian government made no changes in relation to their budget proposal, and Italian government bond yields are higher on the back of it as dealers are nervous about the potential fallout," Madden said.

Sterling had won a major boost Tuesday after Britain and the European Union revealed they had reached a draft Brexit deal.

But hardline Brexiteer MPs have warned they will seek to block it in parliament.

Most ominously for May, the Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which props up her government, threatened to break their alliance over reports of a special arrangement for the British province.

"The pound is behaving like a cat on a hot tin roof -- leaping to a month high on Tuesday before sagging on Wednesday as the DUP's reservations about the government's Brexit gambit emerged," said David Lamb, head of dealing at Fexco Corporate Payments.

'Aggressive momentum'

"After two years of potholed progress, Britain's Brexit negotiations are approaching the end of the road. Expectations, and heartbeats, are accelerating -- but it's still not clear if what lies beyond is a smooth exit lane or an abyss."

Oil prices, meanwhile, clawed back some of the sharp losses this week seen on oversupply fears just as demand falters in the face of the China-US trade war and easing economic growth.

Prices are, however, still more than a fifth down from their four-year highs seen in early October.

Brexit deal in UK cabinet



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May as she speaks during the weekly question and answer session

London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Theresa May will seek her cabinet's approval for a long-awaited divorce deal with the EU but hardline Brexiteer MPs warned they will seek to block it in parliament.

After months of talks, May's office announced late Tuesday that negotiators had finally struck a draft agreement on the terms of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union next March.

The pound surged following the news, which came just as Brussels stepped up preparations for a potentially catastrophic "no deal" exit. But the deal had barely been announced when prominent eurosceptics took to the airwaves to denounce it, with speculation that high-profile resignations could follow.

Diplomats and officials warned the technical agreement, which runs to hundreds of pages, will still need to gain political approval.

Ambassadors from the other 27 EU member states will meet later in Brussels, Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar will hold a cabinet meeting and May's ministers convene at 1400 GMT. In the hours before the cabinet meeting, May received her ministers one-by-one in Downing Street in what commentators said was a strategy to avoid a concerted revolt.

If the British cabinet approves the text, London is hoping for a special summit of EU leaders later this month to seal the deal.

But May has faced constant criticism from Conservative MPs over her approach.

Iraq recovers property worth millions after illegal sale

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

The Iraqi government said yesterday it had retaken ownership of a piece of property in Baghdad worth millions of dollars after it was unlawfully sold to a government official's wife. In a statement to journalists, the Integrity Commission said it had worked with Baghdad authorities to recover the land in Kadhimiyah district.

"The Baghdad-Karakh appeals court issued a decision to seize the property, which amounts to 12,642 square metres, from the wife of a leading official in the previous government and re-register it in the name of the Mayoralty," the

statement said.

"The land registration in the name of the official's wife has been nullified, as well as all subsequent registrations," it added.

The northern neighbourhood of Kadhimiyah is home to a revered shrine, as well as some of the city's most luxurious properties -- priced at up to \$10,000 per square metre.

The Integrity Commission said its investigation had revealed the official had sold the property to his wife in violation of laws regulating the lease or sale of state-owned property.

It did not reveal the official's identity, but a parliamentary source told AFP the accused had briefly served as a deputy



Integrity Commission worked with Baghdad authorities to recover land in Kadhimiyah. (File)

to Iraq's former prime minister, Haidar al-Abadi. In Baghdad, abandoned homes once be-

occupied by powerful political parties.

Iraq, according to Transparency International, is the 12th most corrupt country in the world. The embezzlement of public goods -- from land to government funds -- is a deeply rooted problem in a country with such a large public sector.

Corruption, shell companies and "phantom" public employees who receive salaries but do not work have cost Iraq the equivalent of \$228 billion dollars since 2003, according to Iraq's parliament.

That figure is more than the country's gross domestic product and nearly three times the annual budget.

BDB takes part in MENA Angel Investors Summit

TDI | Manama

The MENA Angel Investors Summit 2018, held as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW), played a key role in providing investors across the MENA region a platform to empower and connect local and regional start-ups.

Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) was the event partner of the summit which had its theme focusing on educating investors on how to invest in start-ups, connecting start-ups with Family offices, banks and law facilitators, learning and interacting with the start-up ecosystem. BDB



During a discussion at the MENA Angel Investors Summit 2018

hosted a specialised workshop for entrepreneurs and SMEs focused on marketing, business model development, and perfecting the way to pitch to investors.

Speaking at the summit BDB Group Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Paul, who was a key speaker and a panellist at the event, briefed the audience on BDB's role in supporting young

entrepreneurs and the financial and non-financial services offered by the bank.

Explaining about the programmes BDB runs to fund start-ups, he said the bank runs a de-

velopment service programme called "Rowad" to support entrepreneurs in improving their business skills. BDB also runs a pioneering accelerator programme called the "Seed Fuel"

wherein the bank invests up to BD25,000 of seed capital in a start-up enterprise among others. "We have financed seven start-ups in the last 18 months and I am very pleased that three of our start-up investments have received further funding -- two from Flat6Labs and one from a Saudi Arabian investor," he added.

Commenting on the summit organised by Tenmou, BDB Senior Vice President and Head of Development Services Areije Al Shakar said: "The MENA Angel Investors Summit is another example of continued collaboration in our eco-system."



We have financed seven start-ups in the last 18 months

SANJEEV PAUL
GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jet Airways rise on Tata speculations

Mumbai, India

Shares in India's second-largest airline Jet Airways jumped almost three percent yesterday following reports that salt-to-steel conglomerate Tata Group might invest in it.

Tata is reviewing Jet's accounts with a view to potentially buying a stake, Bloomberg News reported, while on Tuesday the Mint daily said Tata's finance chief and Jet's chairman were leading the talks.

A spokesperson for Jet termed the reports "speculative in nature" in a statement to India's stock exchange. The cash-strapped firm was not immediately available for further comment.

After reporting a loss of \$178 million for July-September, Jet on Monday announced it would cut flights on less profitable routes as part of a plan to reduce costs.

Tata already operates two airlines -- Vistara in partnership with Singapore Airlines and AirAsia India with AirAsia Group.

India's aviation sector is projected to become the world's third-largest by 2025.

Japan economy shrinks

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's economy shrank in the three months to September, official data showed yesterday, after a string of natural disasters hit consumer spending and exports, and China's slowing economy cast a shadow.

Gross domestic product for the July-September period contracted 0.3 percent from the previous quarter, reversing growth of 0.8 percent in the April-June period, according to the government's Cabinet Office.

A number of natural disasters dampened personal consumption, company investment and exports, said Katsunori Kitakura, lead strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Asset Management.

'Super-Earth' discovered

Paris, France

A "super-Earth" has been discovered orbiting the closest single star to our Sun, scientists said Wednesday in a breakthrough that could shine a light on Earth's nearest planetary neighbours.

Astronomers studied Barnard's Star, a red dwarf just six light years away -- practically in our back garden, galactically speaking -- and noticed the presence of a "frozen, dimly lit world" at least 3.2 times heavier than Earth. The planet, known for now as Barnard's Star b, is the second nearest to Earth outside the solar system and orbits its host star once every 233 days.

'Substantial progress' made on trade deal: Singapore

Singapore's leader said the summit which excludes the US have made huge progress in achieving a deal

● **China, Japan and India are among 16 Asia-Pacific countries negotiating RCEP**

● **Trump pulled the US out of the rival Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)**

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

Substantial progress has been made on hammering out a China-backed trade deal, Singapore's leader said yesterday, driving ahead the world's largest commercial pact which the United States is excluded from.

World leaders gathered in the tropical city state this week for a summit where a massive Beijing-backed agreement covering half the world's population has dominated discussions.

Diplomats have been trying to nail down details as Beijing entices its neighbours to join a



Leaders and representatives pose for a group photo during the 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership summit (RCEP) on the sidelines of the 33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Singapore

commercial alliance seen as an antidote to President Donald Trump's "America First" protectionist trade policy.

The US has imposed tariffs on roughly half of what it imports from China, prompting Beijing to retaliate with its own levies.

China, Japan and India are among 16 Asia-Pacific countries negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partner-

ship (RCEP).

"Substantial progress has been made this year to advance the RCEP negotiations," Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Wednesday evening, adding talks were now "at the final stage".

"With the strong momentum generated this year, I am pleased to note that the RCEP negotiations are poised for conclusion

in 2019," he added.

But he cautioned any further delays could risk "losing credibility" for a deal -- which has already taken six years to negotiate.

This week's meetings are the biggest in a series of annual gatherings organised by regional bloc the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN), and are attended by 20 leaders.

RCEP was given extra impetus after US President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the rival Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in early 2017.

That deal was spearheaded by his predecessor Barack Obama and aimed to bind fast-growing Asian powers into an American-backed order to counter China.

Trump is not at the Singapore summit, nor will he attend a subsequent gathering of world leaders in Papua New Guinea at the end of the week, having sent Vice President Mike Pence instead.

National Security Advisor John Bolton, however, told reporters in Singapore that the president's no-show should not be seen as a lack of commitment towards the region.

He blamed a "schedule crunch" after a particularly frenetic few weeks that included the midterm elections, attending the World War I armistice commemorations in France and preparing for the G20 in Argentina later this month.

Oil rises as OPEC discuss supply cut

● **\$66.90 per barrel was the price of Brent Crude by 1453 GMT**

Reuters | London

Oil rose yesterday, recouping some of the previous session's slide, on the growing prospect of OPEC and allied producers cutting output at a meeting next month to prop up the market.

Prices rallied towards \$67 after it was reported that OPEC and its partners are discussing a proposal to cut output by up to 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd), a larger figure than officials have mentioned previously.

International benchmark Brent crude LCOc1 was up \$1.43 a barrel at \$66.90 by 1453 GMT, having fallen as low as \$65.02. US crude CLc1 was up 82 cents at \$56.51.

"The dramatic selling across the oil markets in recent days

has come to a brief pause," said Jameel Ahmad, head of market research at futures brokerage FXTM. "It is very much possible that the oil markets have not yet found a floor."

The price of Brent has fallen by over 20 per cent since early October on concern about excess supply and slowing demand, one of the biggest declines since a price collapse in 2014.

US crude oil output from its seven major shale basins is expected to hit a record 7.94 million barrels per day (bpd) in December, the US Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) said.

Most analysts expect US output to climb above 12 million bpd in the first half of 2019.

The rise in US production is contributing to higher stockpiles.

Official storage data is due on Wednesday from the Energy Information Administration, with analysts expecting a 3 million barrel rise in crude inventories.

UK budget carrier FlyBe says for sale

London, United Kingdom

Struggling British no-frills airline FlyBe yesterday put itself up for sale, adding it was in talks with potential buyers in the face of a challenging market.

"The board of Flybe Group Plc announces today that it is undertaking a comprehensive review of the various strategic options open to it to address the current challenges facing the airline industry and maximise value for shareholders," it said in a statement.

"These options include further capacity and cost saving measures, initiatives to strengthen the balance sheet and preserve cash resources, as well as a potential sale of the company through the commencement of a formal sale process."

The regional carrier added that it was "in discussions with a number of strategic operators about a potential sale of the



British low-cost passenger carrier flybe is pictured taking off at Toulouse-Magnac airport

company".

The news comes weeks after Flybe had issued a profits warning on weak demand and alongside a £29-million hit from rising fuel costs and the

weak pound.

The group's share price has slumped by three quarters in value since September amid intense investor doubts over its future.

Lagarde sees case for central bank digital currency

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

With growing innovation in the financial sector and a move towards a cash-less society, there is a role for central banks to enter the world of digital currencies, IMF chief Christine Lagarde said yesterday.

Unlike private currencies like bitcoin and ethereum, money created by central banks would

be regulated and trustworthy, and could reach all sectors of society, Lagarde said in a speech prepared for the Singapore Fintech Festival.

"The key is to harness the benefits while managing the risks," Lagarde said. "Proper regulation of these entities will remain a pillar of trust."

However, while central banks in several countries are consid-



Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde speaks during the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore

ering e-money, questions remain about whether it makes sense for every country.

There "may be a role for the state to supply money to the digital economy," and she noted that Canada, China, Sweden and Uruguay were "seriously considering" issuing digital currency.

An official e-money would have the advantage of fulfilling policy goals including financial

inclusion, security and consumer protection.

"My message is that while the case for digital currency is not universal, we should investigate it further, seriously, carefully and creatively," she said.

The IMF issued a report on Wednesday examining the issues central banks would face if they decided to issue electronic money.

show

Stan Lee to appear in ‘Avengers 4’



Stan Lee

TNN | Los Angeles

Millions of hearts around the globe broke when news came in of the passing away of legendary Stan Lee at the age of 95. An integral part of the Marvel Universe, the veteran writer was also known for his cameos in the Marvel movies. With the fourth and last Avengers film releasing only next May, fans were wondering if they would get a chance to see Lee in it, given his death on November 12. However, it seems like fans will get to see him in the film after all because he had already shot

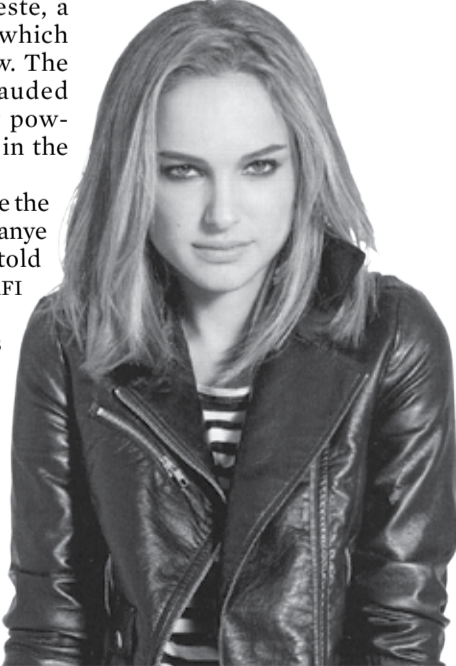
his cameo. Co-director Joe Russo confirmed that Lee shot the cameo along with the shooting for ‘Avengers: Infinity War’ and ‘Ant-Man and the Wasp’. Reports said that since Lee didn’t like to travel too much, the makers would make him shoot for all his cameos together at the same time preferably on one day. Lee was first seen making a cameo in the X-Men films and went on to appear in most of Marvel’s recent films. Tributes poured in for the legend, whose vivid imagination helped churn out so many comics and films, with generations enjoying them.

Portman’s role in ‘Vox Lux’ closest to Kanye West

PTI | Los Angeles

Filmmaker Brady Corbet says actor Natalie Portman’s character in his upcoming directorial ‘Vox Lux’ identifies closely to rapper Kanye West. Portman plays Celeste, a pop star, in the film, which also features Jude Law. The actor has been applauded by the critics for her powerhouse performance in the feature. “If anything, I feel like the character’s closest to Kanye West,” Brady Corbet told Vulture at the film’s AFI FEST screening. Agreeing to Corbet’s assertion, Portman said, “Oh! That’s a good example! That’s funny that he said that! I wasn’t thinking Kanye but now that he said it I totally could see it.” The filmmaker said

he is “sort of fascinated” by West and his persona. “I don’t know what to take seriously or not, to be honest, so I don’t ever find anything he says to be particularly offensive... Hopefully he likes it,” he said.



Natalie Portman

1-FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD
(PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ EDDIE REDMAYNE, KATHERINE

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT (VIP): 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.45 + 7.45 + 10.45 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN
CITYCENTRE:DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT (VIP II): 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT (VIP I): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
SEEF (II): DAILY AT (3D): 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
SAAR: DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)
WADI AL SAIL: DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 + 11.30 PM

MARA
(15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
⊛ OLGA KURYLENKO, JAVIER BOTET

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.00 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM
SAAR: DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)
WADI AL SAIL: DAILY AT: 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

CINDERELLA AND SECRET PRINCE
(G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ KIRSTEN DAY, STEPHANIE SANDITZ

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 2.30 + 6.30 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 10.45 AM+ 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 PM
SEEF (I) : DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 PM
SAAR: DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL: DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 PM

DOG DAYS (PG-15)
(COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW
⊛ NINA DOBREV, FINN WOLFHARD

OASIS JUFFAIR : DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM
CITYCENTRE : DAILY AT: 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL: DAILY AT: 10.45 AM +3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

I STILL SEE YOU
(15+) (THRILLER/CRIME) NEW
⊛ BELLA THORNE, RICHARD HARMON

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.00 + 7.00 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM
WADI AL SAIL: DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

BONNIE BEARS III: BIG TOP SECRET
(G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE) NEW
XIAO TAN, ZHANG WEI, BINGJUN ZHANG

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 10.30
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 PM

BURN THE S TAGE
(PG) (DOCUMENTARY) NEW
⊛ BTS, JEONG-GUK JEON, HOSEOK JUNG

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 PM

KAATRIN MOZHI
(PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW
⊛ JYOTHIKA, LAKSHMI MANCHU

OASIS JUFFAIR : DAILY AT: 8.30 + 11.15 PM

THUGS OF HINDOSTAN
(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ AAMIR KHAN, KATRINA KAIF

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
SEEF (I) : DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
SAAR: DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + (11.00 AM THURS/FRI)

WADI AL SAIL
WADI AL SAIL : DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

HUNTER KILLER
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)
⊛ GERARD BUTLER, GARY OLDMAN, COMMON

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
SEEF (I) : DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

THE GRINCH
(G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ ANGELA LANSBURY, RASHIDA JONES

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM
SAAR: DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL: DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 PM

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS
(PG) (ADVENTURE/FANTASY)
⊛ KEIRA KNIGHTLEY, MORGAN FREEMAN

OASIS JUFFAIR : DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL: DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

OVERLOAD
(15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/HORROR)
⊛ JOVAN ADEPO, PILOU ASBAEK

OASIS JUFFAIR : DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
SEEF (II): ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY 16TH: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 PM + 12.00 MN
FROM SATURDAY 17TH : 7.30 PM + 12.00 MN

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
(15+) (MUSICAL/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)
⊛ RAMI MALEK, LUCY BOYNTON, GWILYM LEE

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM
CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
SAAR: DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

SARKAR
(PG-15) (TAMIL)
⊛ JOSEPH VIJAY, KEERTHI SURESH

OASIS JUFFAIR: DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.45 + 4.45 + 7.45 + 10.45 PM
SEEF (I) : DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN
AL HAMRA: DAILY AT: 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN
(PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ ROWAN ATKINSON, EMMA THOMPSON

CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THUR/FRI)
SEEF (II): DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

VENOM
(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ TOM HARDY, RIZ AHMED

CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN
SEEF (II): ON THURSDAY 15TH & FRIDAY 16TH: 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM
FROM SATURDAY 17TH : 9.45 PM

NIGHT SCHOOL

(PG-15) (COMEDY)
⊛ KEVIN HART, ROB RIGGLE

CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

SMALL FOOT
(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ CHANNING TATUM, ZENDAYA

CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM

HALLOWEEN
(18+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
⊛ JAMIE LEE CURTIS, JUDY GREER, NICK CASTLE

CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
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EL BADLAH
(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
⊛ TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, AMINA KHALIL

CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM
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THE MEG
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)
⊛ JASON STATHAM, RUBY ROSE, BINGBING LI

CITYCENTRE : DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

THE EQUALIZER- 2
(15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)
⊛ DENZEL WASHINGTON, ASHTON SANDERS

CITYCENTRE: DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM
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GALVESTON
(18+) (DRAMA/CRIME) NEW
⊛ BEN FOSTER,ELLE FANNING, BEAU BRIDGES

SEEF (II) : DAILY AT: 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
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TAXI WALA
(TAMIL) NEW
⊛ VIJAY DEVERAKONDA, MALAVIKA NAIR

SEEF (II) : STARTING SATURDAY 17TH DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 PM
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AL HAMRA: STARTING SATURDAY 17TH DAILY AT: 6.00 PM
--

BLUE NIGHT
(PG-15) (DRAMA/ROMANTIC) NEW
⊛ SARAH JESSICA PARKER, SIMON BAKER, COMMON

SEEF (I) : DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.00 + 7.00 + 11.00 PM
--

HAJWALA 2
(PG-13) (THRILLER/COMEDY/CRIME) NEW
⊛ HUSSAIN AL HOSANI, ALI MARZOUQI, ABDULLAH AL YOUSEF

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

PIHU
(PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA/THRILLER) NEW
⊛ PIHU MYRA VISHWAKARMA, PRERNA VISHWAKARMA

SEEF (I) : DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.00 + 9.00 PM
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KAATRIN MOZHI
(PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
⊛ JYOTHIKA, LAKSHMI MANCHU, T.R. SILAMBARASAN

SEEF (I) : DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

MANGALYAM THANTHUNANENA
(PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
⊛ KUNCHACKO BOBAN, HAREESH PERUMANNA

AL HAMRA: ON THURSDAY 15TH: 12.00 + 3.00 PM FROM FRIDAY 16TH: 3.00 PM

AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY
(PG-15) (TELGU) NEW
⊛ RAVI TEJA, ILEANA D’CRUZ, VIKRAMJEET VIRK

AL HAMRA : STARTING FRIDAY 16TH DAILY AT: 12.00 NOON
--

KAATRIN MOZHI
(PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
⊛ JYOTHIKA, LAKSHMI MANCHU, T.R. SILAMBARASAN

AL HAMRA : ON THURSDAY 15TH & FRIDAY 16TH: 6.00 PM
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAMAON**, S/O **CHHINDA**, holding Indian Passport No. **G9859778** dated 02/09/2008 issued at **JALANDHAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILL- RANIA, PO DHARIWAD, PUNJAB-143519**, presently residing at **SITRA, Bahrain** will henceforth be known as (Given name) **SAMAON** (surname) **NAHAR**. Objection(s) if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

“I, **UDHAM SINGH** s/o **PARKASH SINGH** holding Indian Passport No. **H 3238330** dated **04.03.2009** issued at **JALANDHAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILL- AKHARA, BLOCK- BHOGPUR, TEH. DIST- JALANDHAR, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain** will henceforth be known as (given name) **UDHAM** (Surname) **SINGH**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adiliya, Kingdom of Bahrain.”

New ‘Robin Hood’ unlike previous versions: director

PTI | Los Angeles

Director Otto Bathurst said his take on the classic tale of Robin Hood is quite different from the previous versions. Bathurst, who has directed ‘Robin Hood’ featuring Taron Egerton as the eponymous outlaw, contends that his outlook towards the character was fresh as he chose to stay away from the previous films that were made about him. “This film has got nothing to do with any of the other Robin

Hoods that have been made. I wasn’t influenced by them at all. The version we made is completely and utterly different from anything you’ve seen before,” he told. The director said he has tried to modernise the character and the story which was first introduced in the English folklore in the 14th century. “It’s a story that’s been told for hundreds and hundreds of years. So we’ve got our version, we dragged it into the 21st century,” Bathurst said.

SPORTS

sports

Referee banned

Reuters | London

Referee David McNamara has been handed a three-week ban by the English FA for asking two captains to play rock, paper, scissors to decide the kick-off before a Women's Super League (WSL) match after forgetting his coin, British media reported on Tuesday.

The incident took place ahead of Manchester City's home game with Reading on Oct. 26 and involved their England skipper.

Sindhu sets sights on number one

AFP | Hong Kong

Indian badminton star PV Sindhu set her sights on reaching world number one after she shook off opening-match nerves to reach the last 16 at the Hong Kong Open on Wednesday.

Last year's runner-up and current world number three needed a mid-match pep talk from her coaches before beating Thailand's Nitchaon Jindapol 21-15, 13-21, 21-17. "It's not going to be easy because there are some players who are coming up. But definitely one day I will be world number one, that's what I feel," said Sindhu, who was briefly ranked second last month. Sindhu, 23, narrowly lost the 2017 Hong Kong final to Taiwan's one Tai Tzu-ying.

National Sports Day

TDT | Manama

The 2019 edition of the Bahrain Sports Day has been scheduled for February 12, the Bahrain Olympic Committee – the event organisers – announced yesterday.

As per the BOC's most recent board meeting, registration for the event is now open and interested authorities can now submit their entries.

BOC said it has decided to launch registration much earlier in order to allow as many Bahrainis and expats parties to sign up and join the festivities this year.

Curran rescues England

England were all out for 285, Sri Lanka replies with 26-1 on day one of second test

AFP | Kandy, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's spinners claimed some big-name England wickets on the first day of the second Test yesterday before Jos Buttler and Sam Curran rescued the innings.

Buttler's 63 and a crucial 64 from Curran at the end lifted England to 285 all out after they had been struggling on 89-4 on the turning Pallekelle stadium pitch. Curran, fast becoming an England hero, said reaching near 300 was a "massive" achievement.

England spinner Jack Leach then strengthened England's position, dismissing opener Kaushal Silva in the 12 overs Sri Lanka faced as the home side reached 26 for one at the close.

A day that saw Ben Stokes, batting at the key number three position, become the latest to fail also reinforced Buttler and Curran's standing lower down the order.

England were in trouble against spinners Dilruwan Perera who took four wickets, Malinda Pushpakumara (three) and Akila Dananjaya (two) when Buttler came in to counter-attack with five boundaries and a crucial 45-run stand with Adil Rashid who made 31.



Jos Buttler sweeps through the leg side

Buttler's 63 off 67 deliveries ensured Sri Lanka did not convert a good position into a dominant one, as he swept and reverse swept furiously and effectively. He was eventually out top-edging a reverse sweep off left-arm spinner Pushpakumara, playing his first Test for more

than a year.

Curran was even more important, taking 50 balls to reach double figures before he tore into the Sri Lankan bowling. He hit six sixes and a four off the spinners and his last wicket partnership of 60 with Jimmy Anderson was the best of the

innings.

"It was crucial. You saw in the evening how much it spun. Getting close to 300 was massive for us," said Curran.

"Me and Jimmy had quite a bit of fun out there. He was probably the one telling me to calm down and trust him."

64

from Curran at the end lifted England to 285 all out after they had been struggling on 89-4

Stokes, who batted at number five in his team's opening win last week, was boosted up the order in the latest bid to find a solid number three. Off-spinner Perera successfully reviewed an lbw decision against Stokes after the on-field umpire had turned down an appeal. He was out for 19.

England captain Joe Root, who scored 35 and three in the first Test, was bowled by Pushpakumara in the 18th over for 14 and opener Rory Burns (43) soon followed as England lost regular wickets on the dry, crumbling surface.

Curran said the wicket was fast breaking up and the cracks growing so England spinners must be looking forward to the second day. Ten of the 11 wickets to fall yesterday went to spinners.

Mahmudullah gives Bangladesh control

AFP | Dhaka

Mahmudullah Riyad scored his first Test century in more than eight years as Bangladesh set Zimbabwe a towering 443-run target to win the second Test in Dhaka yesterday.

The hosts began their victory push, reducing Zimbabwe to 76-2 at stumps on the fourth day after Mahmudullah's unbeaten 101 off 122 balls helped the side declare the second innings on 224-6.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan broke a 68-run opening stand by removing Hamilton Masakadza for 25 after he dropped the Zimbabwe captain on five off debutant pacer Khaled Ahmed.

Mehidy also dropped Brian Chari on naught but fellow



Zimbabwe cricket captain Hamilton Masakadza (R) plays a shot as Bangladesh cricketer Ariful Haque (2R) tries to catch it and teammate Mushfiqur Rahim (2L) and Bangladesh cricketer Mominul Haque (L) look on

spinner Taijul Islam dismissed the opener for 43 soon after Bangladesh got their first breakthrough. Brendon Taylor and Sean Williams remained at

the crease on four and two respectively, facing a monumental task to win or avoid a loss as Zimbabwe still trailed the hosts by 367 runs.

Bahrain Classic Challenge to add historic flavour to GT



Cars in action during Bahrain Classic Challenge (file photo)

TDT| Manama

Motorsport fans will enjoy many firsts at the upcoming Bapco Bahrain GT Festival, taking place November 30 and December 1 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir. Aside from the all-new FIA GT Nations Cup and the inaugural SRO GT4 International Cup, the first-ever Bahrain Classic Challenge will give those in attendance an opportunity to take a step back in time with some of the most iconic racing machines.

Held in cooperation with Patrick Peter's Classic Endurance Racing Series, this popular category features a packed grid of more than 20 cars from yesteryear.

Usually found at Europe's premier venues, the series makes its journey to Bahrain to add a historic flavour to the Bapco Bahrain GT Festival.

For the first time, Peter Auto's Sixties' Endurance grid

will be showcased in the Middle East for their final races of the year.

On the track are cars whose names AC Cobra, Ferrari 250 GT, Lotus 15, Jaguar E-Type, and many others still echo in the memories of fans of this era of endurance racing which, at the time, was the top branch of motorsport. They are part of a long list that continues to bewitch the public with their shapes and exhaust notes that hark back to another era.

A classification based on an Index of Performance which, in addition to the scratch classification, gives an advantage to the small capacity cars and the oldest warriors faced with their more powerful and more modern rivals like the very quick AC Cobras that have racked up victories on many circuits. Free practice and qualifying will take place on November 30 and will be followed by two races on December 1 on the Sakhir circuit.

Walking benefits in focus

TDT | Manama

The benefits of walking for health, physical fitness and mood were stressed at a dedicated workshop held in Riffa.

This day-long event was organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee's (BOC) Olympic Academy at the Bahrain National Stadium.

Titled 'importance and benefits of walking', was part of the committee's annual plan to develop national competencies in the field of sport.

It was presented by international instructor Pori Primoz, who presented a number of themes, such as walking, air exercises, mental serenity, functional parts and many other related subjects.



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Brave CF thrills fans with open workouts

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation hosted the pre-fight presser and open workouts at the Oasis Mall in Juffair on 14th November.

Fighters showcased their skills before the public and media attending the event. This was followed by a pre-event press conference and autograph signing session for the fans.

Fighters responded to the various questions raised by the fans, Bahraini media and global media. Brave 18 marks the biggest fight night ever held in Bahrain featuring three world championship titles being contested.

Brave 18 is taking place during the Brave International Combat Week 2018 which marks the largest combat sports event taking place in Asia. Athletes from 15 nations are taking part in the



Brave CF's open workouts at the Oasis Mall

joint promotion between Brave 18 and WFC 54 which will take place on 16th November at the Khalifa Sports City in Bahrain.

The pre-event press conference and open workouts gave

the public the first glimpse of the fighters ahead of the fight night. The event showcased multiple contests and interaction sessions for the fans to connect with their favourite athletes.

Extensive interviews and global media coverage took place at the venue. Apart from athletes, the event was attended by Bahraini celebrities, social media influencers and MMA legends.

Philippines Embassy welcomes Brave CF world champion

TDT | Manama

Stephen Loman, Bantamweight world champion at Brave Combat Federation alongside Rolden Loman and Mark Sangiao visited the Philippines Ambassador, Alfonso A Ver.

Stephen Loman is the only fighter from Philippines to compete in the eighteenth edition of Brave Combat Federation taking place on 16th November in the Kingdom of Bahrain. During Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions held in Bahrain in 2017, Loman became the youngest world champion ever in Brave Combat Federation. He was crowned as the world champion by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al khalifa.

Stephen Loman is the only representation from Philippines during Brave International Combat Week 2018 which marks the largest combat sports event in Asia. During Brave 18, Loman will defend his world championship against Felipe Efrain from Brazil.



Stephen Loman with Alfonso A Ver, Ambassador of Philippines

During his visit to the embassy, Loman was greeted by members of expatriate community from Philippines. Loman expressed his willingness to pursue his studies in criminology to serve his country and the society.

Loman became the first mixed martial artist from Philippines to defend a world championship in the United Kingdom when he defended his

title against Frans Mlambo during Brave 13 hosted in Belfast.

“I am grateful towards my country and countrymen for the support and motivation that helps me to achieve more. Also at Team Lakay we are taught valuable lessons of discipline, determination and respect. I have prepared well to give my best at Brave 18 and to bring honour to my nation”, said Stephen Loman.

Shaikh Khalid upholds capabilities of Bahrain's team

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was keen to support the fighters of Bahrain National MMA Team on the second day competitions of the Amateur World MMA Championship, the biggest sports event of its kind in Asia, part of BRAVE International Combat week.

The First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Honourary President of the Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMAAF) affirmed that the World MMA Championship has become an ideal way to promote the Kingdom of Bahrain and its achievements of development and urbanisation, in addition to the accomplishments of the Bahrain youth and sports movement.

HH Shaikh Khalid said, “The Kingdom of Bahrain has the confidence of international federations to organise major championships on its soil, achieving success and propelling sustained future fruition. This applies to the World MMA Championship, which Bahrain was chosen to host for two successive years by the wish of the IMMAF to make the championship succeed and spread the sport globally.”

“The World MMA Championship is among the most important championships currently hosted by the Kingdom, which has placed Bahrain in the spotlight of international media attention, highlighting its outstanding achievements, especially in sports. On our part, we are working on the excellent organisation of the championship, with experience that has enabled us to secure the factors of success,” HH Shaikh Khalid added.

2018 IMMAF-WMAA Unified World Championships Results - Day 2 (Nov 13) Junior Championships:

CAGE 1

Bout 1: Jr Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) DIIAR SHULIANOV (Russia) defeated Simon Bruknar (Czech Republic) via Submission (Triangle Choke) Round 2, 2:37
Bout 2: Jr Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Ismael Zamora (Mexico) d e f phasit supharojdilok (Thailand) via TKO Round 1, 2:56
Bout 3: Jr Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Alexander OSullivan (Ireland) d e f Pintado Gabriel (Switzerland) via Submission (Triangle Choke) Round 2, 0:53
Bout 4: Jr Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Louis Lee Scott (United Kingdom) d e f Levi Hawkes (New Zealand) via Submission (Arm Triangle) Round 3, 1:54
Bout 5: Jr Lightweight 70.3 kg (155 lbs) Jakub Tichota (Czech Republic) d e f Adon Ayoub (Lebanon) via Submission (Anaconda Choke) Round 2, 0:58
Bout 6: Jr Welterweight 77.1 kg (170 lbs) Paddy Wilkinson (Ireland) d e f Josø Correia (Portugal) via KO Round 1, 1:09

CAGE 2

Bout 1: Jr Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Daniyar Kazikhanov (Kazakhstan) d e f Reo Yamaguchi (Japan) via Submission (Rear Naked Choke) Round 3, 2:01
Bout 2: Jr Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Nurbolat Oteuov (Kazakhstan) d e f Rashad Ismayilzade (Azerbaijan) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)
Bout 3: Jr Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Mauricio Rios (Mexico) d e f Hamza Bahroun (Tunisia) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-26, 30-25)
Bout 4: Jr Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Miras Kazhimuratov (Kazakhstan) d e f albaraa atmeh (Canada) via Split Decision (29-28, 28-29, 29-28)

CAGE 3

Bout 1: Jr Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Agustín Guzman (Mexico) d e f Rui Morgado (Portugal) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)
Bout 2: Jr Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Muhammad Mokaev (United Kingdom) d e f IMRAN SATIEV (Russia) via Submission (Rear Naked Choke) Round 1, 0:57
Bout 3: Jr Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Elbek Alyshov (Russia) d e f Leonid Asparuhov (Bulgaria) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)

CAGE 4

Bout 1: Jr Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Jack Corr (Northern Ireland) d e f Ariz Ahmad Khan (India) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)
Bout 2: Jr Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Eryk Walecki (Poland) d e f Soltan Veliev (Ukraine) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)
Bout 3: Jr Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Balka Yury (Belarus) d e f Franz Hainzl (Austria) due to Weigh-in Failed
Bout 4: Jr Lightweight 70.3 kg (155 lbs) Ernil Xhaferi (Albania) d e f Elmo Peltonen (Finland) via Submission (Rear Naked Choke) Round 1, 1:02
Bout 5: Jr Lightweight 70.3 kg (155 lbs) ZØ Machado (Portugal) d e f Zhivomir Iliev (Bulgaria) via Submission (Guillotine Choke) Round 2, 1:42

Senior Championships:

CAGE 1

Bout 1: Strawweight 52.2 kg (115 lbs) Daria Samchik (Ukraine) d e f Jackie Harper (United Kingdom) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)
Bout 2: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Lucie Vacova (Czech Republic) d e f Lama Nassar (Lebanon) via Split Decision (28-29, 29-28, 29-28)
Bout 3: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Dee Begley (Ireland) d e f Fabiana Giampà (Italy) via TKO Round 2, 1:34
Bout 4: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) Alibi Temirtassov (Kazakhstan) d e f Eoghan Chelmiah (Ireland) via Split Decision (30-27, 30-27, 28-29)
Bout 5: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) XIAOYU ZHOU (China) d e f Zoran Milic (Sweden) via Submission (Other (Specify in comments)) Round 2, 0:52
Bout 6: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Carlos Veras (Brazil) d e f Charles Paneitz (United States) via Split Decision (29-28, 27-30, 29-28)
Bout 7: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Vladyslav Dubkov (Ukraine) d e f Ander Sanchez (Spain) via Split Decision (28-29, 29-28, 29-28)
Bout 8: Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Tim Ha (Czech Republic) d e f PRACH BUAPA (Thailand) via Submission (Triangle Choke) Round 3, 2:42

CAGE 2

Bout 1: Strawweight 52.2 kg (115 lbs) Nadia Vera (Mexico) d e f XINMIAO ZHANG (China) via TKO Round 2, 2:24
Bout 2: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Charlotte Brown (United Kingdom) d e f Fotini Kandris (United States) via Unanimous Decision (29-28, 29-28, 29-28)
Bout 3: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) Oktay Arif (Bulgaria) d e f Abdul Choudhury (United Kingdom) via Split Decision (28-29, 29-28, 30-27)
Bout 4: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) Julio Plaatjies (South Africa) d e f roland Yacoubian (Lebanon) via Forfeit
Bout 5: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Hamza Zrira (Bahrain) d e f Zhumatai Xiatih (China) via Submission (Rear Naked Choke) Round 2, 2:27
Bout 6: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Renato Vidovic (Sweden) d e f Michel D'Angelo Williams (United States) via Unanimous Decision (29-28, 29-28, 30-27)
Bout 7: Featherweight 65.8 kg (145 lbs) Delyan Georgiev (Bulgaria) d e f Eemil Kurhela (Finland) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 29-28)

CAGE 3

Bout 1: Strawweight 52.2 kg (115 lbs) Daniela Duque (Colombia) d e f Lucie Truhlarova (Czech Republic) via KO Round 3, 2:04 (19-19, 19-19, 18-20)
Bout 2: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) ABIDI MARIEM (Tunisia) d e f Tereza Kockovæ (Czech Republic) via Submission (Armbar) Round 1, 2:56
Bout 3: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Bulgaru Daniela Mihaela (Romania) d e f Emanuela Scioi (Italy) via Split Decision (30-27, 28-29, 29-28)
Bout 4: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) RUSLAN SATIEV (Russia) d e f Xiaofei Qiu (China) via Submission (Rear Naked Choke) Round 1, 1:16
Bout 5: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) Ata Atdayev (Ukraine) d e f Ciaran Mulholland (Northern Ireland) via Unanimous Decision Round 3 (29-28, 29-28, 30-27)
Bout 6: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) SHARAPUDIN MAGOMEDOV (Russia) d e f Jonny Touma (Sweden) via Unanimous Decision Round 3 (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)
Bout 7: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Magomed Idrisov (Bahrain) d e f Dastan Amangeldy (Kazakhstan) via Unanimous Decision Round 3 (29-28, 30-27, 30-27)

CAGE 4

Bout 1: Strawweight 52.2 kg (115 lbs) Ingibjorg Helga Arnþórsdóttir (Iceland) d e f Amy O'mara (United Kingdom) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-26, 30-27)
Bout 2: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) Alish Smith (Australia) d e f Olha Volkova (Ukraine) via TKO Round 2, 2:14 (10-9, 10-9, 10-9)
Bout 3: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) LaNeisha Vinson (United States) d e f Joanna Salameh (Lebanon) via TKO Round 2, 0:40 (10-8, 10-9, 10-9)
Bout 4: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) Sean Stebbins (United States) d e f Irfan Ahmed (Pakistan) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)
Bout 5: Flyweight 56.7 kg (125 lbs) Mohammed Almuamari (Bahrain) d e f Zeeshan muhammad Shah (Pakistan) via TKO Round 2, 1:24
Bout 6: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Zdravko Dimitrov (Bulgaria) d e f Sho Sekihara (Japan) via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 29-28)
Bout 7: Bantamweight 61.2 kg (135 lbs) Denislav Hadzhiev (Bulgaria) d e f Elias Dagher (Lebanon) via Unanimous Decision (29-28, 30-27, 29-28)

Djokovic eyes ATP semis

Novak Djokovic beat Alexander Zverev in straight sets to maintain his strong start at the ATP Finals

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic moved closer to a place in the semi-finals of the ATP Finals as the world number one dispatched Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-1 yesterday.

Djokovic is chasing a sixth ATP Finals title and his first in the prestigious season-ending event at London's O2 Arena since 2015.

In his 11th appearance at the Finals, the Serb will be guaranteed to reach the last four for the eighth time if John Isner beats Marin Cilic or if Cilic defeats Isner in three sets.

Djokovic, who beat Isner in his opening group-stage match, has enjoyed a remarkable renaissance in the second half of 2018 and lifting the trophy on the banks of the River Thames would be the perfect way to finish his year.

Djokovic faces Cilic in his last group match tomorrow, while Zverev, who defeated Cilic to kick off his Finals campaign, takes on Isner.

The 31-year-old was assailed by claims he had lost his hunger for success and was past his best after injury and personal issues threatened to derail his career in 2017.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns against Germany's Alexander Zverev

But Djokovic has banished his demons in spectacular style, winning the Wimbledon and US Open titles, returning to world number one and becoming the first player to win all nine Masters 1,000 tournaments.

Zverev is emerging as one of the Tour's brightest young

stars after climbing to fifth in the world and reaching the French Open quarter-finals this year.

The 21-year-old shocked Djokovic in the Rome final last year, but the Serb was on top when they met in a one-sided Shanghai semi-final last month and it

Federer downs Thiem to keep bid alive

AFP | London

Roger Federer staved off elimination from the ATP Finals as the six-time champion eased to a 6-2, 6-3 win over Dominic Thiem on Tuesday.

After losing his opening match at London's O2 Arena against Kei Nishikori, Federer would have crashed out if he had been beaten by Thiem.

Only once before has Federer failed to qualify from his group for the knockout rounds in his 15 previous appearances at the prestigious season-ending event.

That lone flop came 10 years ago when the Finals were held in Shanghai and Federer is still in with a chance of avoiding that ignominious fate thanks



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns against Austria's Dominic Thiem

to his comfortable 66-minute dismissal of Thiem.

Bidding for a record seventh ATP Finals crown and a first in the tournament since 2011 -- which would be the 100th singles title of his glittering career -- world number three Federer must beat South Africa's Kevin Anderson in his last group match to make the semi-finals.

"It feels good. I am very hap-

py that I showed a reaction after the last match," Federer said.

"Against Kei, instead of seeing things positively, I thought negatively. It was disappointing but it happens.

"Today I was more positive and happy on the court. I love playing in London and I had to remind myself what a privilege it is. I hope I showed it."

Since winning his 20th Grand Slam title at Australian Open in January, Federer has been stuck in a prolonged slump by his sky-high standards.

A quarter-final exit at Wimbledon, blowing a two-set lead against Anderson, was followed by a stunning US Open last 16 defeat to Australian journeyman John Millman.

was the same story again in their third meeting.

Zverev was able to keep Djokovic at bay with his thunderous serve at the start of the first set.

He smashed a 143 mph ace to open his third service game and won over 90 percent of his first-

serve points.

Djokovic doesn't possess the same power serve as Zverev, but his precise delivery makes him just as dangerous.

Neither player faced a break point in the first eight games and even when Zverev earned the

first two in the ninth, Djokovic found a way to scramble out of trouble on both occasions.

It was a crucial escape for the 14-time Grand Slam champion, who stepped up the pressure on Zverev to steal a hard-fought first set.

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