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SPORTS

Kooheji set to make Bahrain proud

Hamza Kooheji is set to be the main attraction of Brave CF 29 when he takes on Nahuel Gandolfi | P12

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2019
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ISSUE NO. 8296

OPED 6 Saudi filmmaker Haifaa Al-Mansour returns with "The Perfect Candidate"

THE DAILY tribune

Angelina feels Brad turned her life 'upside down' 10 CELEBS

WORLD 5 Venice braces for more high water as alarms sound



Bahrain No 1 in MENA

Research by the Islamic Development Bank and Refinitiv puts Kingdom in the lead regionally and second globally

- 03 Businesses 'confident and positive'
- 04 Raise maternity leave to 70 days: MPs propose
- 08 Global trends, opportunities in focus at Investcorp meet

- Seventh consecutive first-place ranking
- Islamic Banking sector slowing globally

TDT | Jakarta

Bahrain has emerged as a significant leader in Islamic Finance development in the MENA region by dominating the IFDI rankings for the seventh consecutive year in a row.

The annual Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI), which measures the overall development of the Islamic Finance industry, also placed Bahrain second globally.

The report, the seventh and latest, released yesterday at the Indonesia Sharia Economic Festival in Jakarta was launched by the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and financial market data provider



The Central Bank of Bahrain

Refinitiv. Powering Bahrain to the top, the report said, were its robust and supportive Islamic finance and banking regulations as well as increases in both the number of Islamic banking assets and the number of institutions offering Islamic finance.

Bahrain leads MENA in all seven IFDIs to date, despite a global slowing of growth in the Islamic banking sector.

"Bahrain has strong governance and regulatory framework, with a high level of Shariah governance, strong corporate

social responsibility activities and disclosures by Islamic banks, and strong overall financial disclosures," the report reads.

The report, however, also warns that Bahrain's Islamic banks face "relatively high risks from waste management, workplace health & safety and emissions to water due to higher exposure to the manufacturing, construction and health-care sectors."

Bahrain's overall risk exposure, as per the report, compared with other Islamic



Sukuk are leading the industry's growth, with global issuance since its introduction surpassing US\$ 1 trillion in 2018 and continuing to grow.

AYMAN SEJINY
CEO OF ICD

banking markets is moderate.

The IFDI provides an annual rank for each economy in the global Islamic finance industry. It aggregates scores across five component areas – quantitative development, knowledge, governance, corporate social responsibility, and awareness – for the 131 countries where Islamic finance has a presence.

(see page 4)

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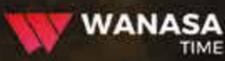
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Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and Board of Trustees Chairman of the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa extended heartfelt thanks and respect to HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the RCO Honorary President, for his continuous support to charity and humanitarian work. HH Shaikh Nasser also praised the great Royal support to orphans, widows and the needy in the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as the kind Royal gestures towards brotherly and friendly countries. Chairing the Board of Trustees meeting yesterday, HH Shaikh Nasser lauded the great support accorded to RCO by the government led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, stressing the unflinching support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa with Palestinian Supreme Youth and Sports Council Chairman and President of Palestine Football Association Major General Jibril Al Rajoub. The commander-in-chief praised the deep brotherly relations between the two countries



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during an inspection visit to one of the BDF units where he reviewed the military's administrative and combat readiness as well as technical preparations. The commander-in-chief praised the role played by all BDF affiliates to carry out the tasks assigned to them, directing them to remain dedicated and determined to boost their military knowledge.



Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa receiving the credentials of Prince Sultan bin Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud as Ambassador-Designate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Bahrain. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed affirmed the continued coordination between the two kingdoms on various issues, wishing the Ambassador-Designate all success in his diplomatic duties.

Bahrain's religious freedom and tolerance praised

London

The Embassy of Bahrain to the United Kingdom held its fourth annual celebration marking the International Day for Tolerance, under the patronage of Ambassador Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

On the occasion, Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Rehman Chishti, said the UK should take advantage of the rich experience of Bahrain in the field of inter-religious tol-

erance. He pointed out that one of the things that surprised him was the historical depth of the presence of these religions in Bahrain and their beautiful mixture.

For his part, Shaikh Fawaz pointed out that Bahrain has been a source of tolerance and a model of coexistence over the centuries.

The celebration, held by the Embassy in London for the fourth year in a row, highlights Bahrain's culture of coexistence between civilizations and religions.



Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Lieutenant-General Dheyab bin Saqr Al-Nuaimi, chairing the meeting of the National Defence and Security Committee, at the BDF's General Command. The committee discussed ways to develop cooperation and strengthen coordination among military and security bodies, as well as consolidate joint military capabilities. Public Security Chief, Major-General Tariq Hassan Al-Hassan, National Guard Staff Director, Major-General Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Major-General Ghanim Ibrahim Al-Fadhala, and senior BDF officers were present

Bahrain Dental Conference and Exhibition kicks off



Participants during the expo

Manama

Fourth Bahrain Dental Conference & Exhibition "DLS4 Bahrain" kicked off yesterday under the patronage of Lieutenant General Doctor Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Health.

The event from 14 to 16 November at the Art Rotana Hotel is organised by the BDA Center for Medical and Scientific Events.

Over 1000 participants from Bahrain, the GCC countries and different countries worldwide are taking part in the conference which includes 12 work-

shops. Dr Mariam Al-Jalahma, Chairman of the National Health Regulatory Authority, said the event offers a platform for all to share their knowledge and experiences.

Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health expected that the conference will come up with recommendations to further develop dentistry.

A special exhibition on the sidelines of the conference has about 20 local, regional and international companies that offer related services and products.



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President Gitanas Nauseda of the Republic of Lithuania receiving at the Presidential Palace in Vilnius the credentials of Dr Mohammed Abdul Ghaffar Abdullah as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Republic of Lithuania, based in Paris.



Businesses 'confident and positive'



- **Bahrain Business Confidence Index remains positive at 100.11 for Q4 of 2019**
- **Business Performance Outlook, for Q4 of 2019, stood at positive 20.2 points**
- **Highest Business Confidence on Business Performance reported for Trade, then Real Estate and Banks**

TDT | Manama

Bahraini businesses are 'confident and positive' that good times will continue to propel the Kingdom's economy ahead in the fourth quarter notwithstanding the slowdown in the global economy, according to a recent survey.

The 'Quarterly Business Perception survey' hard on the heels of the World Bank's Doing Business index, which ranks Bahrain as one of the most improved economies in the world, zooms into the Kingdom's current situation and expectation of the businesses operating here.

In the survey, trade, then Real Estate and Banking sectors reported highest Business Confidence in the Kingdom's Business Performance ahead. Respondents who voiced their confidence include small and micro establishments with 50 employees or less, establishments with turnovers between BD1 and BD3 million as well as establishments with outward foreign investments.

'Stable or normal'

Bahrain Business Confidence Index, according to them, remains positive at 100.11 for Q4 of 2019.

Around 46.6pc of the respond-

Business Confidence Indices across Parameters of "Doing Business" in Bahrain – Q4 of 2019, IGA

Parameters	Business Confidence Index		
	Previous Period	Previous Quarter	Current Quarter
	Q3 of 2018 – Q4 of 2018	Q2 of 2019 – Q3 of 2019	Q3 of 2019 – Q4 of 2019
Business Performance	102.20	100.41	100.11
Labor (Number of Employees)	101.31	104.93	104.70
Supply & Demand (Bahrain)	101.06	99.05	97.65
Turnover/Volume of Businesses	99.83	101.74	100.10
Selling Prices	100.27	100.36	97.76
Financial Position	101.46	101.49	101.50
Profits	104.42	103.04	101.53
Overall Economic Conditions of Bahrain	100.18	96.60	96.38
Competition	103.66	102.33	101.42
Expansion or Growth of Company	100.35	100.81	100.76

Business Confidence (Business Performance) by Industry

Business Confidence (Business Performance) by Industry – Q4 of 2019, IGA

Sector/Industry	Previous Period			Previous Quarter			Current Quarter		
	Situation Balance	Expectation Balance	Business Confidence	Situation Balance	Expectation Balance	Business Confidence	Situation Balance	Expectation Balance	Business Confidence
Economy (General Index)	13.1	37.0	24.7	11.3	30.8	20.8	10.6	30.2	20.2
Banks	30.0	43.3	36.6	8.7	32.6	20.8	10.6	34.0	22.0
Non-Banks	5.5	30.9	17.8	13.5	27.1	20.2	11.3	22.7	16.9
Accommodation & Food Services	5.3	26.3	15.5	(4.5)	(4.5)	(4.5)	(15.8)	3.3	(5.5)
Construction	17.4	34.8	25.9	(4.0)	52.0	22.2	(1.8)	42.3	18.0
Manufacturing	15.4	41.0	27.8	(4.1)	40.8	17.2	6.1	36.7	20.9
Real Estate	14.1	43.6	28.4	17.6	28.2	22.9	17.6	30.6	24.0
Trade	10.1	39.1	24.2	13.5	36.9	24.9	17.1	43.2	29.8
Non-Financial Others	13.0	33.0	22.8	15.7	27.6	21.6	8.3	21.8	14.9

Business Confidence (Business Performance) by Type of Investments – Q4 of 2019, IGA

Type of Investments	Previous Period			Previous Quarter			Current Quarter		
	Situation Balance	Expectation Balance	Business Confidence	Situation Balance	Expectation Balance	Business Confidence	Situation Balance	Expectation Balance	Business Confidence
Economy (General Index)	13.1	37.0	24.7	11.3	30.8	20.8	10.6	30.2	20.2
With Inward & Outward Foreign Investments	7.6	37.0	21.8	17.4	37.0	27.0	16.3	31.7	23.9
With Inward Foreign Investments	9.6	21.9	15.7	4.4	36.5	19.9	5.3	32.5	18.5
All Residents with Outward Foreign Investments	12.8	46.8	29.2	19.0	29.3	24.1	17.2	32.8	24.9
Only Resident Investments No Foreign Investments	18.8	45.0	31.5	10.3	23.0	16.6	9.7	26.7	18.0

Evolution of the Bahrain Business Confidence Index (BCI) on Business Performance through IGA Surveys

General Index for Business Performance	Situation Balance	Expectation Balance	Business Confidence (Business Performance)	Business Confidence IGA (relative to baseline Q2 of 2017)
Q3 of 2019 – Q4 of 2019	10.6	30.2	20.2	100.11
Q2 of 2019 – Q3 of 2019	11.3	30.8	20.8	100.41
Q1 of 2019 – Q2 of 2019	11.6	29.4	20.3	100.17
Q4 of 2018 – Q1 of 2019	10.7	29.9	20.3	100.08
Q3 of 2018 – Q4 of 2018	13.1	37.0	24.7	102.20
Q2 of 2018 – Q3 of 2018	14.8	37.3	25.8	102.67
Q1 of 2018 – Q2 of 2018	17.2	35.4	26.1	102.83

Courtesy to The Survey Results of Quarterly Business Perception Surveys (QBPS) Series

ents said they expect 'stable or normal' business performance, while 41.8pc of them threw their weight behind 'favourable' business performance in the fourth quarter. Remaining 11.6pc warned about 'unfavourable' circumstance.

Consequently, those expecting

a favourable fourth quarter in Bahrain rose by a point, whereas pessimists increased by 1.6 points.

For the quarter, overall Business confidence, an indicator of business performance, continued to remain on the positive side of the balance at 20.2 points,

though lower by 0.6 points from the 20.8 points recorded in the previous quarter. Affecting the performance mostly was decreased Situation and Expectation Balances.

Expectations

The Expectation Balance, a difference or balance between the percentages of favourable and unfavourable responses about the next quarter, remains on the positive side at 30.2 points. This was a decrease of 0.6 points from Q3, 2019 and 6.8 points from the prior-year quarter.

Expectation, as per micros with less than 5 employees, gravitated towards the positive end of the balance at 28.6 points, while that as per micros with a turnover of up to BD50,000 was at positive 30.1 points.

The expectation of Small establishments with 6 to 50 employees for the quarter was positive 32.6 points, Medium (51 to 100 employees) 26.7 points and large (101 or more) 29.7 points.

Based on annual turnover, expectation for the quarter were small establishments (50,000bd and 1,000,000bd) 25.5 points, Medium (1,000,000 to 3,000,000bd) 38.3 points and large (more than 3,000,000) 29.9 points.

Expectations, sector wise

Traders are also looking at Q4 with higher expectation scoring 43.2 points on the expectation balance. Traders' current quarter score was better than their 39.1 points in the year-ago quarter and 36.9 points in the sequential quarter.

Real Estate businesses were equally positive about Q4, with their expectation pointing to a positive 30.6 points, against 28.2 points in the sequential third quarter, but was lower than 43.6 points in the Q4, 2018.

Another sector that remained positive about Bahrain was banking. At 34.0 points, their ex-



pectations were high, as in their immediate Q3 at 32.6 points and Q4, 2018 at 43.3 points.

At 42.3 points, the expectation level of the Construction sector was higher than what they posted a year ago at 34.8 points but lower than 52.0 points in Q3.

Other sectors at the positive end of their expectations for Q4 were non-banks at 22.7 points (prior-year quarter 30.9 points), accommodation and food services at 5.3 points (26.3 points), Manufacturing at 36.7 points (41.0 points) and non-financial others at 21.8 points (33.0 points).

Situations in Q3

The Situation Balance, a difference or balance between the percentages of favourable and unfavourable responses observed during the last quarter, stood positive at 10.6 points lower than the previous quarter's 11.3 by 0.7 points. This is also 2.5 points lower than the same period in 2018.

For Micros (based on the number of paid employees), Kingdom's Q3 situation in 2019 (14.3 points) is much better than that in the year-ago quarter (12.1 points). But, for Small establish-

ments, the situation is not the same at 11.2 points against the prior-year level of 14.8 points. This went further down for medium-sized players at negative 3.3 points from positive 25.0 points in the year-ago quarter. Large establishments, however, witnessed exceptional improvements in Q3 at 11.7 points, compared to 2.8 points in Q3, 2018.

Business confidence index

The Business Confidence Index (BCI) stood at 100.11 for the 2019-Q3 situation and 2019-Q4 expectation. This 2019 Q4 outlook was a decrease of 0.3 points from the previous quarter's BCI relative to the baseline (Q1 of 2017) which indicated a quarter-to-quarter decrease by 0.30pc. It is 2.09 points less compared with the same period in 2018.

Parameters affecting the index negatively were supply & demand (97.65), selling prices (97.76) and overall economic conditions of Bahrain (96.38). Affecting positively were Labour (104.70), the volume of businesses (100.10), Financial position (101.50), profits (101.53), competition (101.42) and expansion of company (100.76).

Bahrain, a hub for Islamic finance industry

FinTech key driver and shaper of the Islamic finance industry, says Islamic Finance ESG Outlook

TDI | Manama

Bahrain is a major hub for the Islamic finance industry in the GCC and globally, according to Islamic Finance ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Outlook 2019.

One of the factors driving Bahrain's growth in this direction, the report said, is the launch of the Global Islamic & Sustainable FinTech Centre by Bahrain FinTech Bay to encourage growth in Islamic FinTech through alignment with sustainability.

The report also mentions the Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative joined by Bahrain Bourse.

Bahrain's Islamic banks, the report said, face lower risks from ecosystems management, disaster risk mitigation, and water use.

Commenting, Khalid Humaidan, Chief Executive at the Bahrain EDB said: "It's a pleasure to once again see Bahrain leading the region in Islamic Finance development."

"Our continued high ranking in the IFDI is a testament to our innovative and pioneering approach," Humaidan said.

Kingdom, the chief executive said, has managed to position itself not only as of the region's

	Total Islamic banking assets (\$ bn)	Number of Islamic banks and windows included in the Risk	Aggregate country risk score (SSRI):	Aggregate country risk rank (SSRI):	Aggregate country risk score (SASRI):	Aggregate country risk rank (SASRI):	IFDI Score (Aggregate):	IFDI Governance Sub-Indicator Score	Top 3 risk exposures:	Top 3 risk sectors:
Malaysia	160.6	17	1.40	10	1.84	11	132	88	1. Workplace Health & Safety 2. Emissions to Water 3. Site Contamination	1. Primary agriculture 2. Construction 3. Manufacturing
Bahrain	63.0	21	1.78	4	2.57	6	74	92	1. Waste 2. Workplace Health & Safety 3. Emissions to Water	1. Manufacturing 2. Construction 3. Healthcare
United Arab Emirates	153.9	11	1.87	3	2.46	7	71	61	1. Emissions to Air 2. Emissions to Water 3. Site Contamination	1. Manufacturing 2. Construction 3. Wholesale and retail trade
Pakistan	12.8	7	1.70	7	3.93	1	59	66	1. Emissions to Water 2. Energy Use Workplace 3. Health & Safety	1. Manufacturing 2. Primary agriculture 3. Utilities
Saudi Arabia	344.8	12	1.37	12	2.44	8	56	38	1. Waste 2. Workplace Health & Safety 3. Emissions to Water	1. Manufacturing 2. Construction 3. Wholesale and retail trade
Oman	9.7	8	1.48	8	2.16	9	52	77	1. Workplace Health & Safety 2. Waste 3. Site Contamination	1. Construction 2. Healthcare 3. Manufacturing
Kuwait	83.1	4	2.06	2	3.41	2	51	66	1. Workplace Health & Safety 2. Waste 3. Site Contamination	1. Manufacturing 2. Construction 3. Wholesale and retail trade



It's a pleasure to once again see Bahrain leading the region in Islamic Finance development. Our continued high ranking in the IFDI is a testament to our innovative and pioneering approach

KHALID HUMAIDAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT THE BAHRAIN EDB

Crypto-assets

The report highlighted FinTech as a key driver and shaper of the Islamic finance industry, noting that crypto-assets are also being explored by sharia scholars and regulators in developed Islamic finance markets such as Bahrain and Malaysia.

Rain – the region's first sharia-compliant cryptocurrency exchange – was the first graduate from the Central Bank of Bahrain's FinTech Regulatory Sandbox, earlier this year, and has recently obtained a full operational license.

Ayman Sejiny, CEO of ICD, said: "Despite the stressed global economic environment and sluggish growth which are impacting the industry, we have found that the dynamics in the industry are changing. Sukuk are leading the industry's growth, with global issuance since its introduction surpassing US\$ 1 trillion in 2018 and continuing to grow. The industry and the surrounding ecosystem are also being constantly reshaped by innovation.

FinTech hub but also as a test-bed for regulating emerging and cutting-edge technologies such as blockchain and open banking. This is particularly in the areas of financial technology and sustainability which aligns with the strategies of ICD."

Increase maternity leave to 70 days: MPs propose

TDI | Manama

A group of MPs have proposed increasing maternity leave for employees in the government sector from 60 to 70 days.

The proposal was tabled by MP Fatima Abbas Qassem, MP Bader Al-Dosari, MP Mohammed Al-Sisi, MP Isa Al-Dosari and MP Masouma Abdel Rahim.

The current law here allows women employees in the government sector 60 days of maternity leave.

Tabling the proposal, the MPs explained to the council members how Egypt has successfully established a system granting 90 days as maternity leave.

The parliamentarians claimed that the current 60 days period



Representative picture

is less compared to some other countries, stating that the time has come around to change that in the private sector too.

MPs are also seeking to grant two months paid leave for women suffering miscarriage or deliver dead babies, similar to the

leave granted to women for normal deliveries.

The proposal submitted last year calls for amending certain articles in Law 36 of the year 2012 that regulates employment in the private sector.

The proposal which seeks parity for women also prohibits them from working in the first 40 days following a miscarriage.

MPs discussed it with authorities such as Labour and Social Development Ministry, Health Ministry, the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), Bahrain Chamber for Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and several labour unions in the Kingdom.

BCCI, however, rejected the proposal, considering it as "harmful to employers' interests".

Full closure on Salmabad Bypass

TDI | Manama

Improvement works of Salmabad Bypass between two Roundabouts of AMA University and Avenue 8 at Salmabad area necessitate the full closure of southbound traffic, announced Works Ministry. One lane will remain open in the opposite direction (contra-flow) and two lanes for the northbound traffic movement.

The closure is effective starting tomorrow for 3 months.

Sh. Isa Bin Salman Highway

Separately, the ministry announced the closure of one and two lanes on stages near Bahrain Map Flyover for east-bound traffic leading to Um Hassam on Sh. Isa Bin Salman Highway.

The closure is effective today at midnight to Saturday at 05:00 p.m.

LNG terminal to start operations by year-end



TDI, agencies | Singapore

Bahrain's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) regasification terminal, developed on a build, own, operate and transfer basis, reportedly will begin functioning towards the end this year.

The start of the operations, later than initially expected, was delayed twice with the last start-up date said to be in

the third quarter of the year.

The development was revealed in by Teekay LNG Partners in its quarterly financial results.

The project owned and operated through a new joint venture, Bahrain LNG W.L.L., is owned by nogaholding (30pc), Teekay LNG (30pc), Samsung (20pc) and GIC (20pc) and is the first of its kind in the Middle East to be developed on a public-private partnership (PPP) scheme.

Chief Executive Mark Kremin said, "good progress" had been made on the termi-

nal, however, with the start-up now expected before the end of the year.

The terminal will house a floating storage unit (FSU), an offshore LNG receiving jetty and breakwater, a regasification platform, subsea gas pipelines from the platform to shore, an onshore gas receiving facility, and an onshore nitrogen production facility, according to the Bahrain LNG website.

The project will have a capacity of 800 million standard cubic feet per day.

The FSU, the Bahrain Spirit, is currently anchored in Bahrain anchorage, Refinitiv ship-tracking data showed.

Bahrain calls for 'collective', 'rapid response' in Mideast



During the meeting

TDI | Manama

Top Bahraini official yesterday called for activating a system capable of producing a "collective" and "rapid response" when it comes to tackling challenges in the Middle East.

Bahrain, the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Undersecretary for International Affairs said, is determined to combatting terrorism in all forms and drying up its funding and is "is open to all partnerships that observe international conventions and laws."

Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa was speaking during the "Strategic Alliance for the Middle East" (MESA) meeting held in Washington, yesterday.

He told the conference that Bahrain is keen to build a comprehensive strategic and institutional framework to confront threats and challenges against international navigation in the region.

In this regard, Shaikh Abdullah highlighted Bahrain's hosting of the International Conference on Maritime Security, with the participation of more than 60 countries, and the International Alliance for the Safety and protection of maritime navigation to ensure the safety of sea corridors.

Dr Shaikh Abdullah said Bahrain is achieving a fast-paced comprehensive and sustainable awakening within the rule of law, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

"The Kingdom is keeping pace with the digital economy, empowering all groups, and promoting a safe and protective environment to protect achievements," he said.



Foreign Affairs Ministry Undersecretary for International Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Arabian Gulf Affairs in the Near East Bureau at the US Department of State, Timothy Lenderking. The visit came on the sidelines of the Bahraini delegation's visit to Washington to participate in the Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA) meeting.

WORLD

US ready to use 'full range' capabilities to defend S Korea

Reuters | Seoul

Top US military officer reaffirmed yesterday that the United States is ready to use the "full range" of its capabilities to defend South Korea from any attack, a joint statement after a meeting with officials in Seoul said.

Senior US defence officials are gathering in Seoul for annual meetings as the two countries face intensifying threats from North Korea to stop joint military drills and for the United States to change its approach in denuclearisation talks.

The United States is also seeking a greater financial contribu-



US Joint Chiefs Chairman General Mark Milley

tion from South Korea for hosting American troops, while urging Seoul to revoke its decision to scrap an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan known as GSOMIA, which Washington fears would undermine trilateral co-operation.

General Mark Milley, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, met his South Korean counterpart General Park Han-ki for

the annual Military Committee Meeting (MCM) yesterday.

Both sides discussed ways to maintain solid defence posture and a planned transfer of wartime operational control to South Korea, the joint statement said, even as they have scaled back joint exercises to expedite negotiations with North Korea.

Milley reiterated the "continued commitment to providing extended deterrence", the statement said.

"He affirmed that the United States remains prepared to respond to any attack on the Korean Peninsula, using the full range of US military capabilities."

Kuwait's government submits resignation

Reuters | Kuwait

Kuwait's prime minister has submitted his cabinet's resignation to the ruling emir of the Gulf Arab state, a government spokesman said yesterday.

The resignation came after Kuwaiti lawmakers on Tuesday submitted a motion for a no-confidence vote against Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid al-Jarrah al-Sabah.

The emir still has to accept the resignation in order for it to be final. He would then request a new cabinet to be formed.

Lawmakers had questioned Sheikh Khalid over alleged abuse of power, charges he rejected. The country's public works minister resigned on Friday after being grilled by



Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah is the Emir of Kuwait

parliament about flood damage in the desert country following heavy rainfall.

Ten lawmakers had filed a no-confidence motion against her, according to local media.

The assembly's speaker, Marzouq al-Ghanem, told state news agency KUNA yesterday that the emir does not intend to dissolve parliament.

Hong Kong students arm themselves for showdown

Reuters | Hong Kong

Pro-democracy protesters paralysed parts of Hong Kong for a fourth day yesterday, forcing schools to close and blocking highways as students built barricades and stockpiled makeshift weapons, setting the stage for campus showdowns.

China's *Global Times* tabloid, owned by the state-run *People's Daily*, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party, said on Twitter that the Hong Kong government was expected to announce a weekend curfew after some of the worst violence in decades in the Chinese-ruled city.

It deleted the post after a short time. Its editor said there was "not sufficient" information to back it up.

Thousands of students hun-



Hardcore protesters have bolstered their arsenal of molotovs and bricks with an unlikely array of weapons

tered down on several campuses, surrounded by piles of food, bricks, petrol bombs, arrows with heads wrapped in cladding, catapults and other homemade weapons.

Police said the Chinese University, in the New Territories, had become a "weapons factory and an arsenal" with bows and arrows and catapults.

"Their acts are another step closer to terrorism," Chief Superintendent (Public Relations) Tse Chun-chung told a briefing, referring to protests on all campuses.

He also said police would temporarily avoid directly clashing with "high-spirited rioters" to give themselves a breather and avoid injuries.

Police said arrows were fired at officers from Hong Kong Polytechnic University in the morning.

Several universities announced there would be no classes on campuses for the rest of the year.

Death toll in Australia bushfires rises to four

Burrell Creek | Australia

The death toll from devastating bushfires in eastern Australia has risen to four after a man's body was discovered in a scorched area of bushland, police said Thursday.

Three others have perished in bushfires in New South Wales, the state worst affected by a series of catastrophic fires that broke out along the eastern seaboard late last week.

Residents found the body -- believed to be a 58-year-old man last seen on Friday -- near the New South Wales town of Kempsey, one of several areas hit by the fires in recent days.

More than 100 blazes were

burning on Thursday but a respite from tough conditions has seen the danger from many fires downgraded and residents returning to sift through the remains of their homes.

Hundreds of houses have already been damaged or destroyed and more than one million hectares (2.5 million acres) of land burnt in the blazes.

Challenging conditions were expected to flare again in Queensland and New South Wales at the weekend as the temperature rises and winds pick up, and many blazes are still proving difficult to contain.

Venice braces for more high water as alarms sound

Venice

Venice braced itself for more rising waters yesterday as Italy's government prepared to take emergency measures for the canal city struck by an exceptional tide this week.

Venetians awoke to sirens indicating that the high waters were expected to exceed 130 centimetres (50 inches), enough to bring the salty dirty water back again into the UNESCO city's historic centre.

On Tuesday, the highest tide in 50 years ripped through the historic Italian city, peaking at 1.87 metres (six feet).

As authorities on Thursday prepared to assess the extent of the damage to Venice's cultural treasures, such as St Mark's Basilica where water had invaded the crypt, locals remained defiant.

"It's my living, what can I do?" Stefano Gabbanoto, 54, replied when asked why he was opening his newspaper kiosk knowing he would have to close up soon.

He said he would continue to sell the colourful plastic high

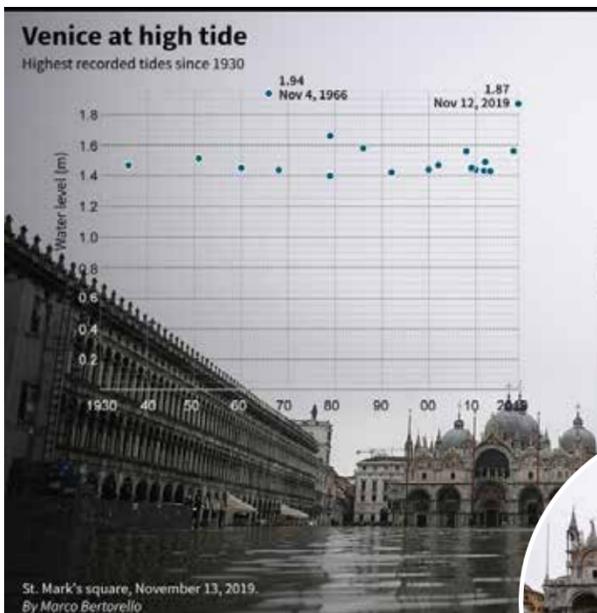


Chart showing maximum documented high tide levels in Italy's Venice

boots stacked in bins around the Palace, a couple from Hong Kong posed for photos and video in the

chilly morning sun.

"This was planned a long time ago so we couldn't change it," groom Jay Wong, 34, said. His bride, Sabrina Lee, "looks cold," he admitted.

"Actually this is a good experience," Wong said. "It's an adventure."

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte was set to meet Venice's mayor and emergency responders before visiting businesses affected by the tide.

On Wednesday, Conte called the flooding "a blow to the heart of our country",



Venice is a city in northeastern Italy and the capital of the Veneto region. It is situated on a group of 118 small islands that are separated by canals and linked by over 400 bridges

while several museums remain closed to the public.

Tuesday's "acqua alta," or high waters, submerged around 80 percent of the city, officials said. Only once since records began in 1923 has the water crept even higher, reaching 1.94 metres in 1966.

A 78-year old was killed by an electric shock inside his home. Venice is home to a mere 50,000 residents but receives 36 million global visitors each year.

A massive infrastructure project called MOSE has been under way since 2003 to protect the city, but it has been plagued by cost overruns, corruption scandals and delays.

"This engineering solution that will end up costing nearly 6 billion euros has got to work," Transport Minister Paola De Micheli said on Radio Capital.

The plan involves 78 gates that can be raised to protect Venice's lagoon during high tides -- but a recent attempt to test part of the barrier caused worrying vibrations and engineers discovered parts had rusted.

with the government expected to declare a state of emergency over the natural disaster.

Mayor Luigi Brugnaro has estimated the damage at hundreds of millions of dollars (euros),

LIGHTS-CAMERA-ACTION

Saudi filmmaker Haifaa Al-Mansour returns with "The Perfect Candidate"

Al-Mansour's film, "The Perfect Candidate," made its debut at the Venice Film Festival on August 29



Haifaa Al-Mansour in the shooting of Wadjda



When it comes to art in Saudi, I think there is a huge possibility for younger people to also make money off of their films. It's hard for us to survive as artists when there is no industry. I think it is different now

HAIFAA AL-MANSOUR

Arab News | Dubai

Haifaa Al-Mansour has long led the way for Saudi Arabian cinema. Her 1997 short film "Who?" and the 2005 documentary "Women in the Shadows" helped boost the women's empowerment movement across the region. In 2012, her film "Wadjda" was the first feature to be shot entirely in the Kingdom, going on to achieve worldwide acclaim and a nomination for Best Foreign Language Film at the BAFTAs. As Saudi Arabia's film industry has developed since, Al-Mansour has been a guiding light towards the potential that it could achieve.

Al-Mansour's latest film, "The Perfect Candidate," made its debut at the Venice Film Festival on August 29. It has already made history as the first film supported by the Saudi Film Council, which announced its intention to back Saudi Arabian productions and expand the country's film industry during the 2018 Cannes Film Festival.

Described as a comedic drama about a Saudi female doctor who goes against the traditional patriarchal norms in order to run for municipal election in the Kingdom, the film is something of a homecoming for Al-Mansour, who has worked mainly on international projects post-"Wadjda."

Last year saw the release of two Al-Mansour projects. First came "Mary Shelley," starring Elle Fanning in the titular role of a biopic about the female author of the game-changing science-fiction novel "Frankenstein" in the 19th century. Next, Al-Mansour directed "Nappily Ever After," a Netflix original film about the struggles and biases that African-American women deal with, mirroring the struggles that young Arab women face as well.

Al-Mansour's movies often focus on the challenges that young women face

in male-dominated societies. "The Perfect Candidate" is no different.

"It's feminist, it's about empowering woman, and it gives them a chance to believe in themselves and think that they could run for office and get involved in politics in Saudi Arabia. I was nervous at the time, but since then, they have proved (that right). I think the social reform in Saudi Arabia is amazing. When you empower artists, when you give funds to filmmakers, it makes a nation really stand out. I think that (is happening in) Saudi Arabia," said Al-Mansour. "We're going to see a different Middle East. I'm so sure of that."

Though it tackles serious issues, "The Perfect Candidate" is not solely a drama. It also highlights the humour of the Saudi Arabian people — something that often gets overlooked.

"We have a great sense of humour that people don't see," Al-Mansour said. "In film, we can show that — it's something people will discover. Food too. Also, how in Saudi there is a huge distinction between what is public and what is private. In private, people sing, have fun, and are fluid. Once people go out they are reserved, because that is the way the culture is. With film, you will get a chance to see how people are in private. This is the only way that people can see who we are — by opening our heart through film."

Though it has been less than a decade since "Wadjda," Saudi Arabia has changed greatly, which had many positive effects on the filming of "The Perfect Candidate."

"Saudi was difficult to shoot in before," Al-Mansour said. "Visas took a long time, the accessibility of places wasn't easy. People were always reluctant because they didn't know if filming was allowed or not. Now it's changed. Now the visa process has been expedited and everything moves a lot faster, which is really wonderful



A scene from the film Wadjda



Haifaa Al-Mansour and the star of Wadjda

for a filmmaker, because you don't want to worry about waiting for a visa for six months. Things like this take a lot of burden away from the filmmaker so you can focus on telling the story well.

"Saudi is now a real market. Before, if you wanted to make a Saudi film, the sales would be like a foreign film around the region, but now it's going to be a real film market, which makes people more interested in financing the film, investing in the film, and being a part of it, because Saudi is a real market on its own," she continued.

"The Perfect Candidate" stars Mila Alzahrani, Dhay, Nourah Al-Awad, and Khalid Abdulrhim. The casting process was much simpler than for "Wadjda," to Al-Mansour's relief.

"When we did 'Wadjda,' we wanted to keep a low profile," she said. "We didn't want to upset people because we were filming. I was really excited to go and have an open casting call in Saudi Arabia That is wonderful, because there is a lot of talent and we were never able to tap into it. (With 'Wadjda'), we were staying in a hotel in Riyadh waiting for people to tell other people who knew someone who knew someone through someone. Having an open casting call changes a lot."

While "The Perfect Candidate" focuses on Saudi Arabia, bringing the Kingdom's culture to the global stage once more, the filmmaker does not want to keep the spotlight only on her. Al-Mansour wants the next generation

1492

Christopher Columbus notes 1st recorded reference to tobacco



1884

European Colonization and trade in Africa is officially regulated at the international Berlin Conference, formalizing European powers "Scramble for Africa"

1904

King C. Gillette patents the Gillette razor blade

1948

Mackenzie King retires after 22 years as Prime Minister of Canada

VINTAGE

Gaza man wheels and deals to restore classic cars

Munir al-Shindi is known for his obsession with old-fashioned cars, fixing them up in his workshop northeast of Gaza City



Munir Shindi, a 40-year-old Palestinian who restores old cars as a hobby, works on a 1946 Armstrong Siddeley at his workshop in Gaza City

AFP | Gaza

Munir al-Shindi could not get parts for his classic cars in the blockaded Gaza Strip, so he decided to fashion his own solution.

The 40-year-old is known in the Palestinian enclave for his obsession with old-fashioned cars, fixing them up in his workshop northeast of Gaza City.

Parts for such models are hard enough to find in the countries where they were originally built, but in Gaza, cut off by an Israeli blockade, they are near impossible to obtain.

"My hobby is vintage cars but it is difficult because of the blockade."

"I tried to search the internet for car parts but I couldn't find them. So I managed locally," said Shindi.

He worked in car renovation in the United Arab Emirates for 12 years and has got used to improvising.

He recently completed a Mercedes Gazelle from the 1920s and is currently fixing a 1946 Armstrong Siddeley Hurricane.

The Armstrong, he explained, was a British luxury car well loved by car enthusiasts.

But even during its peak in the 1940s it was not that popular, so original parts are not available.

As such Shindi repurposes bits from other classic cars, often getting them from Israel.

Munir al-Shindi worked in car renovation in the United Arab Emirates for 12 years and has got used to improvising. He recently completed a Mercedes Gazelle from the 1920s and is currently fixing a 1946 Armstrong Siddeley Hurricane

His aim is to make driving the car feel as close to the original as possible.

He bought the Armstrong for around \$3,000 from a man who had owned it for more than 20 years.

He estimates it will cost at least another \$10,000 to transform it into a working automobile.

"The car was empty. Slowly I am working to complete it."

Shindi dreams of travelling outside the strip to show off his cars but knows it is nearly impossible.

Israel has imposed a decade-long blockade on Gaza, which it says is necessary to isolate the strip's Islamist rulers Hamas -- with whom the Jewish state has fought three wars.

Critics say it amounts to collective punishment of the two million residents.

Even when the car is eventually purring, which Shindi estimates will take another couple of months, it will not be able to go far.

Gaza is only 365 square kilometres,



Munir Shindi works on a 1946 Armstrong Siddeley

around 25 miles (40 kilometres) north to south.

Hossam Ayoub, a neighbour, came to stare at the car.

"It's amazing. Vintage cars like this are part of history," he said. "No one knows this kind of car here. It's something unusual."



Munir Shindi works on a 1946 Armstrong Siddeley at his workshop in Gaza City

business

Focus on BD100m fund



Minister during the meeting

TDT | Manama

Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, has discussed the latest developments related to the establishment of the BHD 100 million liquidity fund.

The fund, aimed at restructuring private sector companies' financial obligations, falls in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister during the 2019 Government Forum.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Labour

Fund (Tamkeen), Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa; the Chairman of the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB), Farouk Al Moayyed; the Chairman of BBK, Murad Ali Murad; the Chairman of Bahrain Islamic Bank, Dr Esam Abdulla Fakhro; the CEO of Bahrain Development Bank, Sanjeev Paul and a number of government officials.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the timeframe to establish the fund and recommendations put forth to benefit and support private sector companies across various economic sectors, in line with the Kingdom's economic development goals.

Bahrain Chamber VAT workshop, exhibition

TDT | Manama

The Finance, Insurance, and Tax Committee of Bahrain Chamber headed by Sawsan Abulhasan, and in cooperation with KPMG and Keypoint, is holding a two-day workshop.

Themed "The Fundamentals of VAT", the workshop targets the third and final category of companies obligated to register for the Value-Added-Tax before the mandatory registration deadline due 20th De-

ember 2019. The workshop on Sunday and Monday at Bait Al Tijjar will include three sessions. The first session will commence at 9:00 am, the second at 12:00 pm and the third at 3:00 pm.

On the sideline, a mini-exhibition will be held for consultancy companies.

Bahrain Chamber urged members to attend the workshop and exhibition, stressing the importance of proper implementation of VAT to avoid disruption or penalties.

Global trends, opportunities in focus at Investcorp meet

Investcorp kicks off 2019 Investors Conference in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Investcorp, a leading global provider and manager of alternative investment products, opened its Investors Conference at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

A gala dinner was hosted by Investcorp's Executive Chairman, Mohammed Alardhi, followed by a keynote speech by Sir Gerry Grimstone, Chairman of Investcorp and Aberdeen Standard Investments Infrastructure Joint Venture.

In his opening remarks, Mohammed Alardhi, Executive Chairman of Investcorp, highlighted the key milestones delivered by the Firm over the past year and the notable progress it has made in executing its growth strategy, against the backdrop of global macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainty.

Alardhi said: "For us as Investcorp, this year's conference follows another active and



Investcorp will be unveiling during the Conference the results of its latest annual survey. Above, participants during a photocall

successful year for our business. The last 12 months have seen strong growth momentum across the business, despite various economic and geopolitical challenges. Today, I am delighted that you are joining us at our annual event, where we will explore the latest global investment opportunities and trends – offering not only the opportunity to share knowledge and insights but also to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones."

Over 250 investors from the GCC were amongst the participants as well as speakers from

the US, Europe, India, China and Indonesia.

In addition to the main conference, Investcorp held its first Leadership Programmes Alumni lunch, bringing together the next generation of business leaders from across the GCC, Asia and Europe. The lunch hosted Nenad Pacek, Founder and President of Global Success Advisors GmbH, as the keynote speaker.

The conference will continue today with speakers including Michael Fallon, a British Member of Parliament and a member of Investcorp's International

Advisory Board; Nadhmi Al-Nasr, CEO of NEOM; Ilham Habibie, CEO of Ilthabi Rekutama; and Prashant Jain, Chief Investment Officer at HDFC Asset Management Company, amongst many others.

Investcorp will also be unveiling the results of its latest annual survey, "What's Next? Investment Trends for the Future." The survey explores institutional investors' sentiment and expected allocations regarding the most pressing economic trends that are expected to shape the global economy over the next three decades.

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa announced raising BD 1100 as part of its pledge to support Think Pink: Bahrain Breast Cancer Society through several initiatives in October. Sponsors and donors include Al Hawaj Group, Ashraf BGDC, the British Club of Bahrain and Fresh Fruits Company



Pearl symposium

Danat Bahrain, the institute for pearls and gemstones, launched yesterday the first edition of its Pearl symposium at the Sheikh Ebrahim centre for culture and research Muharraq. The platform provides an opportunity to present and

discuss the latest findings related to natural pearls.

The two-day event includes a tour of Muharraq and its Pearling paths.

The key speakers highlighted the importance of nurturing the pearl industry in the Kingdom.

Majid Al Futtaim to phase out single-use plastic by 2025

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Majid Al Futtaim has announced the launch of its group-wide commitment to phase-out single-use plastics across its operations by 2025.

Majid Al Futtaim's commitment includes the removal of freely distributed plastic grocery bags from all Carrefour stores in 15 markets by 2025, as well as other single-use plastic items from across the company's business units, inclusive of straws, cutlery, containers and trays.

The company will focus on promoting reusable, sustainable alternatives that drive long-term behavioural change among its customers, suppliers and partners. The pledge comes as part of the company's move towards the creation of a circular economy and efforts to minimize its footprint on the environment, in line with its sustainability strategy 'Dare Today, Change Tomorrow'.

Speaking at the launch of the pledge, Hani Weiss, Chief



Khalid Al Ameri, Hani Weiss and Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi during the launch of group-wide commitment against single-use plastics

Executive Officer at Majid Al Futtaim – Retail, said: "No one country, company or individual alone can solve the crippling impact that plastic is having on our world."

"Reducing our dependence on single-use plastic is only the start; we hope to create a movement amongst the partners, suppliers and customers we engage with every day to ensure collec-

tive action."

The scope of the policy includes single-use plastic items distributed to customers and does not include any on-shelf products typically sold at the company's premises, such as garbage bags, detergent bottles, and cleaning products.

Majid Al Futtaim's almost 300 Carrefour stores will take 800 million plastic grocery bags out

of circulation each year. In 2017, Majid Al Futtaim started promoting reusable grocery bags across its markets, with this year's sales of the eco-friendly bags increasing by 70 per cent.

Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Majid Al Futtaim – Holding, said: "While we have made great progress towards reducing our footprint in recent years with the intro-



Reusable bags

duction of our net positive strategy, the launch of our single-use plastic policy will help shift the needle by tackling one of the most pressing environmental challenges for our business and region."

The phase-out process will also see the company roll out physical and digital campaigns to build awareness among customers to drive behavioural

change.

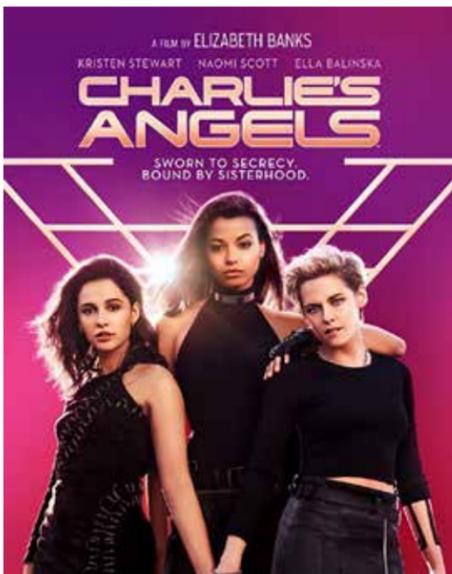
Customers of Majid Al Futtaim's lifestyle rewards programme, SHARE, who purchase a Carrefour reusable shopping bag on November 6th or 7th will receive their money back through SHARE points. Plans are also underway to introduce an initiative where customers who shop with their reusable bags will receive even greater SHARE rewards.

SHOW

CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-15)(ACTION)

OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
CITY CENTRE:(12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D):10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
CITY CENTRE (ATMOS):11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
CITY CENTRE VIP (I):11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (I): 11.15 AM + 12.15 + 1.45 + 2.45 + 4.15 + 5.15 + 6.45 + 7.45 + 9.15 + 10.15 + 11.45 PM+ (12.45 MN THURS/FRI.)
WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

KRISTEN STEWART, NAOMI SCOTT, ELLA BALINSKA



THE GOOD LIAR (PG-15)(DRAMA)

OASIS JUFFAIR :12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
CITY CENTRE:10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II):12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
WADI AL SAIL:10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

HELEN MIRREN, IAN MCKELLEN, RUSSELL TOVEY

HAUNT (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)

OASIS JUFFAIR : 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM
CITY CENTRE:11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
SEEF (I):10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI.)
WADI AL SAIL:1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

KATIE STEVENS, WILL BRITAIN, LAURYN ALISA MCCLAIN

MARJAAYAAN (PG-15)(HINDI)

OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
CITY CENTRE:12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
SEEF (I): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II):(12.45 MN THURS./FRI.)
WADI AL SAIL:1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM

RITESH DESHMUKH, SIDHARTH MALHOTRA, TARA SUTARIA

MOTICHOOR CHAKNACHOOR (PG-13)

From Friday 15th
OASIS JUFFAIR : 3.00 + 8.30 PM
CITY CENTRE:12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (I):12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
WADI AL SAIL:11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM

NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI, ATHIYA SHETTY, SANJEEV VATSA

ONE PIECE : STAMPEDE (PG)

OASIS JUFFAIR : (JAPANESE) : 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM
CITY CENTRE -(JAPANESE) :12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM
SEEF (II):(ENGLISH) 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 5.15 + 9.00 PM
WADI AL SAIL: (JAPANESE) :9.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL: (ENGLISH) :11.15 AM + 4.15 PM

FELECIA ANGELLE, MAJOR ATTAWAY, GREG AYRES

THE LAST DOOR'S HOUR (PG)(BAHRAINI/DOCUMENTARY)

SEEF (II): 3.45 + 7.30 + 11.15 PM

Director: Khalid AlRwaie

BY CHANCE, BEL SODFA (15+)(ARABIC/ DRAMA/ ROMANTIC)

SEEF (I): 4.45 + 9.30 PM

CAROLE SAMAHA, BADIH ABOU CHAKRA, PAMELA EL KIK

MALEFICENT 2: MISTRESS OF EVIL (PG)

OASIS JUFFAIR :12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM
OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA):2.30 + 6.45 PM
CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
CITY CENTRE VIP (II):3.15 + 8.30 PM
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
WADI AL SAIL:10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

ANGELINA JOLIE, TERESA MAHONEY, MICHELLE PFEIFFER

JOKER (15+)(THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
CITY CENTRE VIP (II):12.30 + 5.45 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

JOAQUIN PHOENIX, ZAZIE BEETZ, ROBERT DE NIRO



PLAYING WITH FIRE (PG)(ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA):10.30 AM + 4.45 + 11.00 PM
CITY CENTRE:11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
SEEF (II):12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL:10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

JOHN CENA, KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY, JOHN LEGUIZAMO

TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (PG-15)

CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (II) : 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

LINDA HAMILTON, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, MACKENZIE DAVIS

BALA (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)

OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II):3.30 + 9.00 PM

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA, BHUMI PEDNEKAR, YAMI GAUTAM

MIDWAY (PG-13)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA/WAR)

CITY CENTRE:11.30 AM + 5.30 + 11.30 PM

ED SKREIN, PATRICK WILSON, LUKE EVANS

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (PG)(ANIMATION/COMEDY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 12.30 + 9.00 PM
CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM
SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM
WADI AL SAIL:1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

OSCAR ISAAC, CHARLIZE THERON, CHLOE GRACE MORETZ

DOCTOR SLEEP (15+)(THRILLER/HORROR)

CITY CENTRE: 2.30 + 8.30 PM

EWAN MCGREGOR, REBECCA FERGUSON, KYLIEGH CURRAN

GEMINI MAN (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

WILL SMITH, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, CLIVE OWEN

ABOMINABLE (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE:10.30 AM + 1.15 + 5.30 + 9.45 PM

CHLOE BENNET, TENZING NORGAY TRAINOR, ALBERT TSAI

COUNTDOWN (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN

CHARLIE MCDERMOTT, ANNE WINTERS, ELIZABETH LAIL

HOUSEFULL 4 (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY)

OASIS JUFFAIR:11.45 AM + 5.15 + 10.45 PM
SEEF (II):12.45 + 6.15 + 11.45 PM

AKSHAY KUMAR, POOJA HEGDE, RITESH DESHMUKH

KHAYAL MAATA (PG)(COMEDY/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM

AHMAD HELMY, MINNA SHALABI, HASSAN HOSNEY

ZOMBIELAND: DOUBLE TAP (15+)

CITY CENTRE:2.30 + 7.15 + 12.00 MN

WOODY HARRELSON, JESSE EISENBERG, EMMA STONE

ANGEL HAS FALLEN (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE :2.15 +7.00 + 11.45 PM

GERARD BUTLER, MORGAN FREEMAN, JADA PINKETT SMITH

KAITHI (PG-15)(TAMIL)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.30 + 8.00 PM
AL HAMRA: 12.00 NOON.

KARTHI, NARAIN, GEORGE MARYAN

SAFE ()(MALAYALAM)

SEEF (I):3.15 PM

SIJU WILSON, ANUSREE, APARNA GOPINATH



41 (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.15 + 5.45 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (I) :8.45 + 11.30 PM

BIJU MENON, NIMISHA SAJAYAN

ANDROID KUNJAPPAN VERSION 5.25 ()(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 5.30 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II): 12.00 + 5.45 + 11.30 PM

AL HAMRA: 3.00 + 9.00 PM

SOUBIN SAHIR, SURAJ VENJARAMUDDU, KENDY ZIRDO

ACTION (PG-15)(TAMIL)

From Thursday 7:30pm Onwards.

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.30 + 8.15 PM

SEEF (II) :2.45 + 8.30 PM

WADI AL SAIL:12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM

AL HAMRA: 6.00 + (12.00 MN THURS./FRI)

VISHAL, TAMANNAH, AISHWARYA LEKSHMI, YOGIBABU, AKANKSHA PURI

JHALLE ()(PUNJABI/COMEDY)

SEEF (I):2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

BINNU DHILLON, SARGUN MEHTA, PAWAN MALHOTRA

SANGA THAMIZHAN ()(TAMIL)

From Friday 15th

SEEF (I): 12.15 + 5.45 PM

VIJAY SETHUPATHI, RAASHI KHANNA, NIVETHA PETHURAJ

JABARDAST SHANKARA (PG-13)(TULU)

SEEF (I): 11.45 AM

ARJUN KAPIKAD, NISHMITHA

MOVIE REVIEW

Aladdin: live-action remake really takes flight

Guy Ritchie's adaptation is lively, colourful and genuinely funny - making only judicious tweaks to the original

Will Smith is a charming showstopper in the enthralling fantasy

Aladdin is a 2019 American musical fantasy film produced by Walt Disney Pictures. Directed by Guy Ritchie, who co-wrote the screenplay with John August, it is a live-action adaptation of Disney's 1992 animated film of the same name, which itself is based on the eponymous tale from One Thousand and One Nights.

The film stars Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott, Marwan Kenzari, Navid Negahban, Nasim Pedrad, Billy Magnussen, and Numan Acar, as well as the voices of Alan Tudyk and Frank Welker. The plot follows Aladdin, a street urchin, as he falls in love with Princess Jasmine, befriends a wish-granting Genie, and battles the wicked Jafar.

In October 2016, Disney announced Ritchie would direct

a live-action Aladdin remake. Smith was the first member of the cast to join, signing on to portray Genie in July 2017, and Massoud and Scott were confirmed for the two lead roles later that month. Principal photography began that September at Longcross Studios in Surrey, England, also filming in the Wadi Rum Desert in Jordan, and lasted until January 2018. Additional filming and pick-ups took place in August 2018.

Aladdin was theatrically released in the United States on May 24, 2019. It has grossed \$1 billion worldwide, becoming the sixth highest-grossing film of 2019, and the 34th highest-grossing film of all-time.

The film received mixed reviews from critics, who praised the performances of Smith, Massoud and Scott, the costumes and the musical score, but criticized Ritchie's direction and the CGI effects. Critics were also divided on the deviations from the original animated film, such as Kenzari's casting and charac-



Mena Massoud as Aladdin and Will Smith as the Genie in 'Aladdin'

terization of Jafar.

On review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 57% based on 354 reviews with an average rating of 5.92/10. The site's critical consensus reads, "Aladdin retells its classic source material's story with sufficient spectacle and skill, even if it never approaches the dazzling splendour of the animated original."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 53

out of 100 based on 50 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews."

Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A" on an A+ to F scale, while those at PostTrak gave it an overall positive score of 90% (with an average 4.5 stars out of 5) and a 70% "definite recommend."

Writing for the Chicago Sun-Times, Richard Roeper gave the film 3 out of 4 stars, praising Smith, Scott, and Massoud's



In 'Aladdin,' director Guy Ritchie showcases only a part of the original folklore, which is nevertheless fascinating and fun to watch, as it enthralls audience in many ways

performances and calling it a "shining, shimmering live-action update."

Variety's Peter Debruge summarized his review with, "Will Smith steps into Robin Williams's shoes, bringing fresh attitude to the role of the Genie in Guy Ritchie's high-risk, mostly rewarding live-action remake."

A Mir Fantastiki review by Yevgeniy Peklo gave the film a score of 8/10, saying it was "probably the best Disney

live-action remake up to date."

Despite praising the cast, William Bibbiani of TheWrap said of the film, "If you don't think about it very hard (although you probably should), the remake of Aladdin might entertain you. But you'd be a heck of a lot more entertained by watching the original film again. Or by going to a real-life parade. Or by doing some light gardening. Or by doing a crossword puzzle."

Chris Nashawaty of Entertainment Weekly gave the film a C+, lamenting that it did not add anything new to its 1992 animated predecessor; he felt that the film was unable to update the original's questionable Middle Eastern characterizations, but nevertheless praised the performances of Smith and Scott.

Mark Kennedy of the Associated Press wrote that "Guy Ritchie... was always an odd choice to helm a big Disney romantic musical and proves utterly the wrong guy here. Aladdin, in his hands, is more like The Mummy than Frozen."

celebs

Angelina Jolie

Angelina feels Brad turned her life 'upside down'

ANI | Los Angeles

It's been over three years to their split, but Angelina Jolie still has some angst against ex-husband Brad Pitt.

Moreover, the 'Maleficent' actor believes that Pitt turned her and the kids' lives "upside down."

"Angelina still has a

lot of resentment toward Brad. She wants him to be held accountable because she feels he turned her and the children's lives upside down," Us Weekly quoted a source as saying.

Once in the tinsel town, the two have been together for over a decade and finally walked down the aisle in August 2014. However, the two parted ways in September 2016.

Even more, Jolie's bitter feel-

ings towards him are also due to the fact that she can't move out of Los Angeles, where she is based.

Earlier in the Harper's Bazaar December/January issue, the 44-year old actor has expressed that she would "love to live abroad," but "right now, I'm having to base where their father chooses to live."

"Before the divorce, the entire family led a very nomadic

existence, and that was because of Angie's restlessness," another insider told the outlet.

The source added that the Pitt wanted the kids to have stability while according to Jolie, they were "giving the children an idyllic childhood by exposing them to different countries, languages and experiences."

In October this year, a source close to Jolie claimed that she didn't want to marry the 'Once

Upon a Time in Hollywood' star in the first place.

"She felt that Brad pressured her," the source had said.

This is the reason that she will never get married again.

The former couple, however, has yet to finalise their divorce but they share physical and legal custody of their kids.

Charlize Theron, Adam McKay to be honoured at Costume Designers Guild

Hollywood Reporter | Los Angeles

Charlize Theron will accept another trophy this awards season, after taking home the American Cinematheque Award last week and one of Glamour's Women of the Year Awards on Monday. The Costume Designers Guild announced Wednesday that the Bombshell actress will receive the Spotlight Award at its 22nd annual ceremony, taking place Jan. 28 at the Beverly Hilton.

The Spotlight Award champions an actor who understands the importance of costuming for their character, with past recipients including Cate Blanchett, Amy Adams and Halle Berry.

Vice director Adam McKay (who this year produced Booksmart and Hustlers) will receive the Distinguished Collaborator Award, which honors supporters of costume designers onscreen. Quentin Tarantino, Ryan Murphy and Meryl Streep are past winners.

"Charlize Theron is a costume designer's dream, bringing integrity and style to every character she embodies, including her roles in Long Shot and Bombshell this year," says guild president Salvador Perez in a statement. "Adam McKay is a visionary and one of the best storytellers of our time regardless of cast, genre or platform, and the diversity of his body of work is astounding."

And finally, Mary Ellen Fields is accepting the Distinguished Ser-

Charlize Theron is a costume designer's dream, bringing integrity and style to every character she embodies, including her roles in Long Shot and Bombshell this year

SALVADOR PEREZ

vice Award. The former owner of Bill Hargate Costumes, Fields and her team have created thousands of pieces for projects such as Black Panther and the Oscars telecasts. She has collaborated with costume designers Jeffrey Kurland (Dunkirk) and Ellen Mirojnick (The Greatest Showman).

Adds Perez, "Mary Ellen Fields is a much-loved member of the costume design community and is known for having magic fingers. So many of the pieces she has built over the years — from gowns to superhero costumes — are unspeakably beautiful."



Charlize Theron

Cabello appears on Times cover; reveals tour, album release date

ANI | Los Angeles

Singer Camila Cabello dominated the headlines on Tuesday morning (local time) when she revealed December 6 as the release date for her second upcoming album 'Romance'. She also announced that her 'The Romance tour' dates and appeared on the cover of Time magazine's list of the next 100 most influential people in the world.

The 22-year-old singer, is one of the six stars on the cover, which also features Latin music star Alejandro Sanz, who wrote the following about her: Camila Cabello is a pure and magnetic artist", reported Variety.

Sanz goes on to add, "In times like these, when noise can distort the purity of an artist's message, Camilia has, managed to honour her story and her background in an authentic way with her pop music."

While talking about the impact of her songs from 'Havana' and 'Senorita' to 'Shameless' and 'Liar' has opened the door so that the world can see and hear the massive potential of the Latin music community. The privilege of being her friend is an inspiring gift."

Camila Cabello



Actor Dave Bautista is now guardian to 2 abandoned pit bulls

AP | Los Angeles

Florida animal shelter sent out a desperate plea after someone had abandoned two pit bull dogs. But volunteers never expected the post would catch the attention of "Guardians of the Galaxy" actor Dave Bautista.

The 6-year-old pit bulls, Maggie and Ollie, were handed

over to the county after their owner had a baby. Volunteers from Rescue Me Tampa wrote a post seeking someone who would take both dogs, writing they'd been together their whole life.

That was last month. A week later, the group posted a picture of the star hugging the two pups and announcing he had adopted them.

The rescuers said Bautista is spoiling the rescue dogs with Tempur-Pedic dog beds, a

large gated property and doggy doors everywhere.

Dave Bautista



Demi Lovato dating Austin Wilson; makes it Instagram official

ANI | Los Angeles

Demi Lovato has made a revelation that she is dating model Austin Wilson. She made the relationship Instagram official!

The 'Sorry Not Sorry' singer made it clear that she is now off the market as she posted a monochrome picture of her with Austin who is cutely planting a kiss on her cheek on Tuesday and captioned, "My" accompanied with a heart emoticon.

To confirm the same, the 25-year old model too shared the same click on his feed writing, "My love."

And in no time, the singer's friends dropped their congratulatory notes in the comment section.

Actor Debra Messing commented on the post, "Gorgeous."

However, their dating timeline is not confirmed yet. Meanwhile, Lovato was most recently linked to 'Bachelorette' alum Mike Johnson.

After exchanging some flirty messages on social media, their romance "fizzled out" after Johnson opened up about their private dates and disclosed that Lovato is a "really good kisser."

Demi Lovato



Despite female push, Garth Brooks bests Underwood at CMAs

AP | Los Angeles

The Country Music Association Awards almost fully honoured and highlighted the women of country music — whose songs have been heavily dismissed on country radio over the years — until two words were uttered when they named its entertainer of the year: Garth Brooks.

Wednesday night's show kicked off with a performance featuring country female acts across generations, included three female hosts and had Maren Morris as its

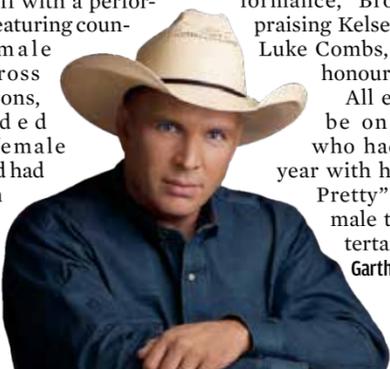
top nominee. But in the final moments, Brooks won the top prize over Carrie Underwood, who many had hoped would be the first female to win entertainer of the year since 2011.

Brooks did highlight female acts during his acceptance speech at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"If they gave this award for this show tonight, I'd have to give it to Reba McEntire's performance," Brooks said, also praising Kelsea Ballerini and Luke Combs, who won two honours.

All eyes seemed to be on Underwood, who had a successful year with her album "Cry Pretty" and an all-female tour, for an entertainer of the year

Garth Brooks



win. The last woman to win the prize was Taylor Swift and Underwood was this year's sole female nominee.

Underwood hosted the show alongside McEntire and Dolly Parton, though she didn't win any awards. Underwood did win in a way — she won over the audience: She was a vocal beast, hitting all the right notes and more during a smoky performance of "Drinking Alone."

Morris, however, marked a big night for female country acts by taking home album of the year for "GIRL." The award also went to her producer busbee, who died in September from cancer.

"I would be really remiss if I didn't mention a huge facet of why this album sounds the way it does, and we miss him so dearly. He texted me the morning



Brooks won the top prize over Underwood, who many had hoped would be the first female to win entertainer of the year since 2011

that we got the nomination for album of the year this year, and we were so excited, and that's our friend busbee," a teary-eyed Morris said onstage. "His wife Jess is here tonight and she looks so beautiful. Thank you for sharing your husband with us once a month, and my heart just

goes out to you and your beautiful daughters. I hope when they listen to this record or any of the songs that he made that made us all better, they know how amazing their father was."

Kacey Musgraves, who won four Grammys this year, picked up female vocalist of the year and music video of the year for "Rainbow."

"The female creative spirit, the female energy is really needed right now, it's really important and I feel like it's something that Earth needs. So whether it's me that's up here or any of the other women in this category, I just think that it's a beautiful thing and I'm very appreciative," Musgraves said.

Demi Lovato

SPORTS

sports

Bahrain held by Hong Kong

Bahrain was held to a goalless stalemate in the Fifa World Cup 2022 and the AFC Asian Cup 2023 qualifier

TD | Manama

Bahrain were held to a disappointing goalless draw by Hong Kong yesterday in an away joint-qualifying match for the Fifa World Cup 2022 and the AFC Asian Cup 2023.

The Bahrainis were heavily favoured heading into the contest after previously being co-leaders of qualification Group C. But they could not find the net despite having several chances to score.

Meanwhile, Alaa Abbas headed in the winning goal in the second minute of second-half stoppage time to lift Iraq to a 2-1 victory over 10-man Iran in last night's other divisional fixture, played in Amman.

Mohanad Ali opened the scoring for the Iraqis in the 11th minute, but Ahmad Nourollahi equalised for the Iranians in the 25th. Iran skipper Masoud Shojaei was then shown the red card in the 81st minute following a second bookable offence.

That set the stage for Abbas's late decider, which came off a corner. Iran goalkeeper Alireza



Bahrain's Abdullatif has his shirt tugged by Hong Kong player Leung Nok Hang as he tries to look for a shot at goal

Beiranvand was able to get his hand on the ball, but he couldn't stop it from bouncing into the net.

Following both matches, Iraq moved to solo first place in the Group C standings where they

now have 10 points from four matches, two ahead of Bahrain. Iran are third with six points, followed by Hong Kong with two and Cambodia with one.

In Bahrain's stalemate, the nationals had the better scoring

opportunities but they could not find the finishing touch. Hong Kong goalkeeper Yapp Hung Fai was also in top form, denying the Bahrainis multiple times in the game.

Bahrain's star striker Ismaeel

Group C Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	4	3	1	0	9	2	10
Bahrain	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
Iran	4	2	0	2	17	3	6
Hong Kong	4	0	2	2	1	5	2
Cambodia	4	0	1	3	1	20	1

Abdullatif had a shot right in the face of goal parried by Yapp in the 41st minute. Then, at the stroke of halftime, influential midfielder Mohammed Abdulwahab had a free-kick on target collected by Yapp.

In the second half, Bahrain continued their fierce attack but the Hong Kong back-line remained defiant. In the 62nd minute, Abdulwahab Al Malood had a close shot go just over the crossbar from an acute angle, and then Komail Alaswad had successive long-distance attempts, both go straight to Yapp.

With time nearly running out, the Bahrainis grew increasingly desperate to find a winner. Abdullatif squandered a brilliant chance in the 85th minute with a close-range shot right into the

outside-right wall of the net.

Bahrain head coach Helio Sousa had started the match with an 11 that included Sayed Mohammed Jaffar between the posts, Sayed Baqer, Abdulla Al Haza'a, Waleed Al Hayam, Ahmed Bughammar, Mahdi Al Humaidan, Mohammed Al Hardan, and Abdulwahab, Alaswad, Al Malood and Abdullatif.

Abdulla Yusuf came on for Abdulwahab, Sayed Redha Isa for Bughammar, and Madan substituted Alaswad, all in the second half.

Bahrain now have little time to rest as they next have to prepare for their joint-qualifier against the Iraqis on Tuesday net week. The game will also be played in Amman. Hong Kong hosts Cambodia that same night.

Nuwaidrat semi-final birth BBA Cup



Sitra's Mahdi Abdulameer looks to drive to the basket against Nuwaidr

TD | Manama

Nuwaidrat punched their tickets to the semi-finals of the Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Cup last night following a 96-85 victory over Sitra in their final preliminary round game played at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Nuwaidrat shrugged off a poor start and turned a 20-23 deficit after the first period to a narrow 46-44 advantage at the half. They maintained their fine play in the last two quarters and led by as many as 14 points en route to the all-important victory.

The result gave them their fourth win in five outings and it secured their spot in the last four. They are now in first place in Group A with nine points overall. Si-

tra suffered their third loss to go with two wins and have seven points, tied with Al Ettihad.

Hasan Madan was on fire for Nuwaidr, scoring 36 points in the game including a red-hot seven-of-nine from beyond the three-point line.

Five other players were in double-figures for the winners, with Hassan Abbas scoring 17 off the bench and Ahmed Hassan 14. Jawad Abdulla added 13 and Mohammed Batti had 11 in the win.

Serbian Milos Macura paced Sitra in the loss with 25 points.

Cup action continues tonight with a mammoth Group B clash between Manama and Riffa at 5.30pm. Manama have already qualified for the last four, while Riffa are trying to book the other berth from their division.

Impressive LMP2 field for Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain

TD | Manama

The Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain will see an increased LMP2 field for round four of the 2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) as G-Drive Racing makes a welcome return to the series.

A total of 31 cars across four categories will compete at Bahrain International Circuit next month, racing into the night for eight hours instead of the usual six in Bahrain.

Multiple-European Le Mans Series (ELMS) Champions, G-Drive Racing, will field an Aurus 01-Gibson car – the same machine that the Russian-based team used to finish runner-up in this year's ELMS. Driving the No. 26 car will be ex-Formula 1 driver Jean-Eric Vergne, who completed a full WEC campaign back in 2017. Joining Vergne at the wheel will be Russia's Roman Rusinov and Dutch driver Job Van Uitert.

G-Drive's entry increases the highly-competitive LMP2 field to nine in Bah-



LMP2 competitors in action at BIC during a previous WEC race

rain – the biggest of WEC Season Eight so far and includes two tyre manufacturers (Michelin and Goodyear) and four different chassis providers – ORECA, Alpine, Dallara and Aurus.

The LMP1 entry list will comprise of five entries: the No. 7 and No. 8 Toyota Gazoo Racing TS050 HYBRID cars, two Team LNT Ginettas plus the No. 1 Rebellion Racing R13 - Gibson. After Rebellion's win in China, the LMP Success Handicap will be

altered ahead of Bahrain and will no doubt provide even more close on-track race action.

LMGTE Pro has seen Aston Martin and Porsche both take victories so far this season, with Ferrari winning Shanghai only to be disqualified following post-race scrutineering. With two wins under Porsche's belt, the German manufacturer will be looking to score a hat-trick in Bahrain to cement its position at the top of the leaderboard. However, Bahrain has fared well for Ferrari in recent years with the Italian manufacturer having taken four out of six wins in LMGTE Pro.

A total of 11 teams will battle it out in LMGTE Am as category leaders TF Sport will be eager to continue its recent success after winning the two previous rounds with the Aston Martin Vantage AMR. Only three points behind TF Sport, however, is AF Corse as the Ferrari 488 GTE Evo took the round one victory at Silverstone followed by a second place at Fuji.

Arabian Gulf Cup draw lands Bahrain in tough group

TD | Manama

Bahrain were drawn in a tough Group B last night for the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup, taking place later this month in Doha.

The other teams in their division are defending champions Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Group A includes hosts Qatar, Iraq, Yemen and the UAE.

The draw was held yesterday in the Qatari capital by the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation.

The tournament dates have been reset and it is now sched-

uled to take place from November 26 to December 8. Matches are expected to be played at Khalifa International Stadium in Doha.

Bahrain are competing in the event after originally pulling out last July. The Saudis and Emiratis had also previously withdrawn, but they too are now taking part.

The tournament schedule had already been set before the return to participation of Bahrain, Saudi and the UAE. This forced the draw to be held once again yesterday, in the presence of officials from

all participating countries. A new schedule of matches will also be issued in the coming days.

Bahrain have taken part in all but the 1972 edition of the previous Gulf Cup competitions. The Bahrainis have never won the title, but finished as runners-up four times while claiming the bronze medal thrice.

The last tournament was held in Kuwait in 2018. Oman defeated the UAE in a tight penalty shootout in the final. Bahrain finished fourth overall after losing in the semi-finals.

Fixtures for 33rd GPIC Open Tennis Championship released

TD | Manama

Bahrain Tennis Club published the Draws and Order of Play for the 33rd GPIC Open Tennis Tournament in the club website www.bahraintennisclub.com and Facebook page. The event is organized by Bahrain Tennis Club from 17th to 28th November 2019.

ASIA'S LARGEST MMA EVENT



Team Bahrain gets first gold medal

The home team advance into five finals in IMMAF World Championship

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's run of good results continued through to Day 4 of 2019 IMMAF World Championships, as the Kingdom was able to get its first gold medal through Murad Guseinov, who became the Junior Welterweight world champion with yet another dominant performance. Team Bahrain was able to progress through to five more

finals, which will be held this Saturday at the Khalifa Sports City Arena, in Isa Town.

Women's Featherweight phenom Sabrina Sousa piled her way through the final of her weight class, by beating Finland's Jenni Kivioja. She will face Jasmine Favero, from Italy, in the final. Brena Cardozo won a bronze medal in the Women's Bantamweight division. Pasha Karkhachev was made to

work for his first victory in the World Championships, as he beat Shamsutdin Makhmudov, from Russia, and made his way to the final and towards his second-straight gold medal in the Super Heavyweight final match. Pasha will take on Rassul Khatayev, from Kazakhstan in his second straight world final.

Another Bahrain appearance in the final will be that of Magomed Gadzhiasulov, in the Light Heavyweight divi-

sion, who beat Dima Ruzhtskyi from Ukraine, and will now face his countryman Murtaza Talha Ali, who beat Serik Abirov, from Kazakhstan.

In the Welterweight division, two Bahraini fighters will also face off, as two more medals are guaranteed. Zagid Gaidarov and Ramazan Gitinov both won their respective fights and will fight with world gold on the line.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa looks on during a match



A winner celebrates after his bout



Winners celebrate on the podium

Kooheji set to make Bahrain proud

Hamza Kooheji is set to be the main attraction of Brave CF 29 when he takes on Nahuel Gandolfi

TDT | Manama

Hamza Kooheji will make his main event debut in a night full of emotions, this Friday, at the Khalifa Sports City Arena, in Isa Town, Bahrain. Starting at 5.30 PM, BRAVE CF 29 will be the culmination of a lifelong struggle for recognition, in a sport that went from zero to 100 in the country thanks to the efforts of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's relentless work in providing local fighters with the proper platform to become the heroes they deserve.

As "The Pride of Bahrain" makes the walk tonight, he will become the first Bahraini to fight in a main event for BRAVE Combat Federation in the Kingdom. Kooheji has been one of the stalwarts of the mixed martial arts scene in Bahrain and was



Hamza Kooheji and Nahuel Gandolfi face off against each other

moved by the huge support he received this Thursday, during the ceremonial weigh-ins.

The last fighter to come to the stage to face off against his opponent, Argentina's Nahuel Gandolfi, Hamza has become one of the faces of the sport in the Middle East and definitely a hero for the Bahraini people. This could be in sight as he was cheered on to the stage and intimidated his adversary

in the last staredown before the duo throw down during fight night.

From the start of his career, coached by current BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid, to the fame acquired through his efforts and victories for BRAVE CF around the world, Kooheji hasn't changed at all. He's still the best training partner at KHK MMA, the world-renowned gym in the heart of Bahrain, that has

become synonymous with grassroots development.

Not only he's one of the Bantamweight division's top fighters, Hamza is also a role model for the youngsters fighting their way in the amateur scene. It was no surprise, then, that the youngsters were screaming for their idol, giving him the energy to represent Bahrain with honour and courage, something he's always done.



Fighters face off against each other



Hamza Kooheji will become the first Bahraini to fight in a main event for BRAVE Combat Federation in the Kingdom



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