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P16

BIA passes another test as D-day inches closer

THE DAILY **tribune**

PAKISTAN PM VISIT
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Aramco gains aid Saudi Arabian market

His Majesty pardons 269 inmates
 Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued decree 101 of 2019 pardoning 269 inmates, who were convicted in court cases.

In another related development, Public Prosecutor Dr Ali Al Bouainain announced that a group of 530 inmates who served half of their jail terms have been released from rehabilitation and reform centres after replacing their remaining sentences with non-custodial penalties.

The move follows directives issued by His Majesty to expand the enforcement of the law on alternative penalties and heed the inmates' personal and family condition, taking into account humanitarian considerations.

Imran Khan to arrive today
 Manama

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit the Kingdom today on the invitation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to attend the National Day as guest of honour.

Prime Minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the cabinet and senior government officials, PM office media wing in a press release on Sunday said.

This is Prime Minister Imran's first visit to Bahrain since assuming office in August 2018, according to APP, the official news agency of Pakistan. During the visit, he will have one-on-one meeting with King Hamad and will hold delegation-level talks with HRH the Crown Prince.



Imran Khan

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Mabrook Bahrain

Patriotism fills air as the Kingdom marks 48th National Day



The Daily Tribune management and staff extend their best wishes to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, HRH the Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King, the people of Bahrain and our readers on the occasion of our beloved country's National Day and HM's anniversary of accession to the throne.

National Day celebrations were held across the world, from Norway to India, highlighting the historic relations between the Kingdom and world nations.

All government departments in the Kingdom, public and private sector establishments and educational institutions held special events to mark the occasion.

Manama

The Kingdom today marks 48th anniversary of its full membership in the United Nations and the 20th anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

The day also commemorates the establishment of the modern Bahraini state as an Arab and Muslim country founded by Ahmed Al Fateh in 1783.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa last night received a telephone call from His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.



Labour Minister Jameel Humaidan and Labour Ministry Undersecretary Sabah Al Dossary at an event organised by 'This is Bahrain'.

HRH the Premier expressed deepest congratulations to HM the King, marking the occasion.

He praised Bahrain's steady march of development, progress and prosperity in all fields to achieve the aspirations of the loyal people of Bahrain, led by HM the King.

He commended Bahrain's wide-ranging achievements in all fields, which bolstered the Kingdom's standing among advanced nations.

He praised HM the King's far-sighted vision, praying to Allah the Almighty to bless HM the King with abundant health, well being and long life and guide him on the path of success for the sake of the Kingdom and its loyal people.

HM the King expressed thanks to HRH the Premier on his noble feels and lauded his role and dedicated efforts to

1783
 is the year in which the modern Bahraini state was established.

consolidate the blessed national march, wishing him abundant health and well being.

His Majesty exchanged cables of congratulations with Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), marking the occasion.

His Majesty also exchanged cables of congratulations with



A cake-cutting ceremony was held at the Bahrain Consulate in Mumbai marking the occasion.

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

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee sent congratulatory cables to His Majesty, HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince.

He stated that Bahrain's national days are great occasions to remember its modern achievements which have allowed to continue its development march.

He underscored that such a development has been achieved thanks to the unique programme being implemented by the government in translation of the objectives of HM the King's reform programme.

He underlined that Bahrain is living its brightest days thanks to the wise leadership of HM the King, pointing out that the Kingdom has managed to accomplish many unique achievements, notably winning the Arabian Gulf Cup recently.

National Day celebrations were held across the world, from the UK to India, highlighting the historic relations between the Kingdom and world nations.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Kingdom, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, held a reception at Kensington Palace in London to mark the occasion.

The ceremony was attended by a number of representatives and ministers in the British government and officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in addition to the ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the United Kingdom, media professionals, academics and Bahraini citizens living and working in the United Kingdom.

A similar reception ceremony was held at the Consulate General of Kingdom of Bahrain in Mumbai.

During the ceremony, the distinguished bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the friendly Republic of India were reviewed.



Children perform Ardah at an event organised by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce.



A traditional band performs at an event organised by the Information Ministry.

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN'S

NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF BAHRAIN AS AN ARAB AND MUSLIM COUNTRY FOUNDED BY AHMED AL-FATEH IN 1783

THE ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS A FULL MEMBER STATE

AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE

THE CHAIRMAN, BOARD MEMBERS, MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT

EXTEND THEIR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA
THE PRIME MINISTER



HIS MAJESTY
KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA
THE KING OF BAHRAIN



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA
THE CROWN PRINCE
DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER
& FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER



PROUD OF OUR PARTNERS





His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met with Admiral Anthony Radakin, the United Kingdom's First Sea Lord and Chief of the Royal Navy Staff, at Riffa Palace. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince stressed that the long-standing strategic ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom continue to advance across all levels, to the benefit of both Kingdoms and their people. HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, noting the strong level of bilateral co-operation between the two countries in promoting regional security and stability, including the joint participation in the International Maritime Security Construct. HRH the Crown Prince and Admiral Radakin also discussed regional and international issues of common interest.



Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received at the BDF's General Command yesterday, Admiral Anthony Radakin, the United Kingdom's First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, and his accompanying delegation. Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, and Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dheyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, were present. The commander-in-chief welcomed the UK Chief of the Naval Staff and his accompanying delegation, lauding the distinguished long-standing Bahrain-UK friendship relations, as well as the on-going cooperation between the two kingdoms in various fields, particularly regarding the exchange of expertise and military cooperation.

Deputy Premier inspects key housing project

Manama

Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Head of the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects paid an inspection visit to the Eastern city of Al Hadd.

Shaikh Khalid stressed that the achievements in new cities projects reflect the government's commitment to implement housing plans in the Kingdom.

"The new housing cities projects implements HM's royal

decree to provide 40,000 housing units, which is a priority in the government plan under the leadership of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister," he said.

Shaikh Khalid praised the exerted efforts by the Ministry of Housing, ministries, and government services, such as the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning and the Electricity and Water Authority and others, to imple-

ment Eastern Hidd, which is a strategic project.

He was briefed on the progress of each stage of the implementation of housing units and infrastructure works in the city, as well as the plan to provide services and facilities that were included in the general and detailed plans.

Housing minister Bassem Al Hamer praised the continuous follow-up on the Eastern Hidd housing project, by the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects chaired by Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES TO
HIS MAJESTY **KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA**
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS **PRINCE KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA**
THE PRIME MINISTER
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS **PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA**
THE CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER & FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 48TH **BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY**

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CELEBRATING



From 5G to underwater tourism, the Kingdom is a great model to emulate in the region. It is also a pioneer in the ICT sector. The leadership's support to the nation's youth in forming a great talent base is really appreciable.

MOHAMED KHALED AL KAABI
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES BAHRAIN S.P.C.



The nation is marching ahead and it is a role model in many areas. The Kingdom's economic growth and social cohesion are its core strength. We need to build on these factors to attain larger goals in the coming future.

FAISAL ABURAMI
MANAGING DIRECTOR
OMD



The Kingdom is an emerging leader in many sectors, thanks to the leadership's great vision. We still have many milestones to achieve and should focus more on reaching these goals that would rank Bahrain number one nation in the region.

CLOTILDE MALAUZAT
DIRECTOR MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BAHRAIN



I congratulate His Majesty, HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince and the people of the Kingdom on its National Day. We are now a success story in the ICT sector. May God always protect you my beloved Bahrain.

SALAH SAEED JOWHER
HEAD OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
BNET



The Kingdom has successfully emerged as a banking hub in the region. The Kingdom's talent base in fintech and other banking technologies will further boost its position in the region as a centre of banking excellence. Happy National Day.

SAMIH ABUTALEB
GROUP HEAD- DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
AHLI UNITED BANK



We are already a pioneer in the aviation and tourism sector. It is the right time to focus on building other sectors as well so that the nation would emerge more stronger economically and socially.

TALAL AHMED AL MAHMOOD
MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS & SPONSORSHIP
CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
GULF AIR



The country has developed into a great nation in the region from a small island, back in the seventies. Many major events and conferences are being held in the Kingdom, giving employment to a large number of citizens.

SALMAN BUKHARI
MANAGING PARTNER
DALLAH



The success journey should take the centre stage as we mark the great Kingdom's 48th National Day. We should also reflect as to how we overcame challenges from time to time in this remarkable journey. The consistent policies pursued by the Kingdom's leadership have equipped Bahraini generations with needed skills and knowledge. The keenness of the leadership to promote talents in all sectors has created endless opportunities.

FAISAL JUMA
DIRECTOR OF PRUDENT SOLUTIONS



This is the time to acknowledge the achievements of the nation, which has had many attainments across various sectors. We are extremely thankful to the Kingdom's leadership for taking the nation to greater heights.

SAAD ASGHAR ALI
DIRECTOR
ASGHARALI



AMH is committed to keeping our patients healthy through screening and early intervention programmes. We are happy to be part of the nation's great success journey in the healthcare segment.

DR. GEORGE CHERIYAM
CEO, AMH



Despite tough conditions, the Kingdom's policy-makers have taken its oil sector to new heights. I would like to appreciate the concerted efforts that have led to this success. I also thank the Kingdom's leadership for promoting youth welfare.

AHMED ABDULLA
NOGA



We are commemorating the establishment of a modern Bahraini state and the 48th anniversary of its full membership in the United Nations. I thank the Kingdom's great leadership for its vision, which has reaped great results for its people.

KHALID ALI-ALMIN
DIRECTOR - RETAIL OPERATIONS
ALI RASHID AL AMIN



Feel proud to call yourself a Bahraini.... Feel proud to be born in a country which is so royal... I wish you a very happy Bahrain National Day.

ABDULLA HASSAN ALHASSAN
EWA, SUPERVISOR PIRD



The Kingdom's efforts to attain food security is highly commendable. It has been highly successful in planning and implementing major policies in this regard. We will demonstrate a meaningful and urgent commitment to achieve food security.

HENRY W. CRAIG
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BAHRAIN FLOUR MILLS



The home is actually where you start your family, the people you meet, the opportunities you take and the stories you write every day. Similarly, living in Bahrain eventually turns to a passion for understanding friendship, culture, history, and beautiful memories. I do sincerely feel that I am now a Bahraini by heart. During all those years in Bahrain I have witnessed the development of its infrastructure, diversification of its economy, growth of its enthusiastic young generation under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Bahrain has a rich ancient history. It was really amazing to see how the stories of ancient Dilmun civilisation has been revealed to the world before getting its listed in the UNESCO World Heritage, thanks to the efforts of HE Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, president of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

SEBAHAT ISIK
MANAGING DIRECTOR, FOUNDER
YSM CONSULTANCY WLL



I wish the Kingdom of Bahrain great prosperity in the years to come. This great Kingdom embraces unity and diversity. This amazing nation, home to everyone including citizens and expatriates, have been the symbol of tolerance and coexistence.

RAFA KADDOURA
HEAD OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
BBK



I am proud of the success achieved by Bahrainis in various sectors. The country's economic accomplishments are also something that should serve an inspiration to other nations in the region. My National Day wishes to the Kingdom's leadership and its people.

AHMED JASSIM BAQER
EXECUTIVE MANAGER ADMINISTRATION AND
BOARD SECRETARY
AT BAHRAIN FLOUR MILLS COMPANY.



We, at BAS, capitalise on national events to manifest our gratitude, loyalty and belongingness to this island and emphasise that the real translation of these must be evident by our diligence and significant contributions to the country.

SALMAN SALEH AL MAHMEED
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BAHRAIN AIRPORT SERVICES.



It's a great day to celebrate the modern achievements of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the bright era of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, without whom Bahrain wouldn't have reached this level of accomplishments. It's a great honour for us to be Bahrainis serving this unique country and ready to sacrifice our souls its soil.

HUSSAIN AL SARI
PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER
EDUCATION MINISTRY

MILESTONE



It is with great joy and inspiration we celebrate Bahrain's 48th National Day this year. Bahrain is a beautiful country in every respect but it is more special because of its wonderfully welcoming and generous people. The country has made tremendous strides over the past nearly five decades from the pearling hub to an offshore banking centre to the hub of fintech and innovation. The country's leadership is liberal and forward looking and Bahrain will continue to prosper due to their able guidance and the nation's ingrained dynamism and balanced approach. I most sincerely wish Bahrain and its people all the best.

SHAFQAT ANWAR
DEPUTY GROUP CEO - OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
AHLI UNITED BANK



As we celebrate this very important day, I would like to greet His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women and all Bahrainis in this beloved country a wonderful and happy National Day! May God continue to bless the Kingdom. Wishing everyone a peaceful, prosperous and abundant National Day!

HALA AHMED SULAIMAN
FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
BEYOND BORDERS CONSULTANCY



With great happiness and pride, I would like to share my heartfelt joy and congratulations to the Kingdom of Bahrain's leadership as well as the people of Bahrain on the occasion of the 48th National Day. Bahrain throughout its history has been witnessing tremendous developments and has seen prosperity built on firm foundations. Upholding these principles, may Gold bless our country's forward-looking future. I am also proud of being part of an organisation that has been investing in the Kingdom's people. 28 per cent of citizens working in the private sector have benefitted from Tamkeen programmes.

SARA ABDIN ABDULLA
DIRECTOR, MARKETING
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
TAMKEEN



Congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Royal Family and the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of Bahrain National Day. I am extremely proud of living in a country that I have been calling my home for almost 16 years now. I am really honoured to witness the historical achievements of Bahrain including the recent success of its soccer team in the Gulf Arabian Cup. The Kingdom is all set to gain more recognition at larger international platforms in the coming future. It has all the prerequisites to emerge pioneer in many sectors and the success saga will continue in the years to come.

EDYTA PRZYBYLA
EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT
AT EDYTA CONSULTANCY



As we celebrate this very important day, I would like to greet His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women and all the Bahrainis in this beloved country a wonderful and happy National Day!. May God continue to bless the Kingdom. Wishing everyone a peaceful, prosperous and abundant National Day!

FERYAL NASS
FOUNDER AND CHAIRWOMAN
BAHRAIN ENTREPRENEUR ORGANIZATION



Congratulations and Best Wishes to
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister
His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and
First Deputy Prime Minister

And the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the
Occasion of the
48th Bahrain National Day



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Meeting focuses on improving 'delivery of various e-Services'

Ways to improve service delivery to citizens discussed at the meeting

● The evaluation process of the second year of the programme began last October and continued for two weeks.

● The evaluation committee aims to develop the performance of government entities and raise the level of customer satisfaction.

Manama

Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Ali AlQaed chaired a Government Service Centre Evaluation Committee (Taqeem) meeting, which reviewed the evaluation of government service centres and different ways to improve performances.

In attendance was Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for International Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Centre for Strategic and International Studies and Energy Studies, and Taqeeem Vice-Chairman Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

Mr AlQaed praised the efforts



Mr AlQaed chaired the meeting.

of the committee in developing the performance of government centres, expressing his hope for continued improvement. The results of the second year of the programme were reviewed to determine the most important developments in comparison with the previous year. Also, discussed was the way in which performance can be improved in order to achieve desired goals.

The evaluation process of the second year of the programme began last October and continued for two weeks, during which more than 70 service centres were monitored through field and secret visits, and customer service surveys.

The committee discussed the recommendations of the central evaluation team on developing the performance of some service centres and reviewed the

70
service centres were monitored through field and secret visits and customer service surveys.

results of an iGA opinion poll on the work of the committee.

The evaluation committee aims to develop the performance of government entities and raise the level of customer satisfaction by standardising the levels of service provided and developing human resources and technical equipment capabilities to improve transparency, competitiveness and creativity.

It develops the criteria for

evaluating the centres and prepares and updates an evaluation guide. It also lays down the annual plan to evaluate centres, and reviews and approves reports that the government centres evaluation team prepares, including their proposed rankings of service centres based on performance, which it follows up on in order to help improve ranking level.

The meeting was also attended by Dr Jawaher Al Mudhahki, representing the Quality Education and Training Authority; Jamal Al Alawi representing the Civil Service Bureau; Ahmed Al Mannai representing the National Communication Centre; Nada Al Qassab and Dr Mohammed Baqer representing the University of Bahrain; Fatima Barhoum from the iGA; and committee secretary Ahmed Al Awadhi.

Solid Bahraini-UAE relations stressed

Manama

UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has extended deepest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa marking Bahrain's celebrations of its national days, in commemoration of the establishment of the Bahraini state as an Arab and Muslim country by its founder, Ahmed Al Fateh, in 1783, the anniversary of its accession to the United Nations as a full member and the anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne.

In a statement to the Bahrain News Agency (BNA) on the occasion, the ambassador said that during HM King Hamad's era, the Kingdom is witnessing more progress, and that its effective international presence has become remarkable and widely commended thanks to its firm and decisive support stances toward the Right and Good, citing Bahrain's hosting of mega international events, ranking among the leading countries in economic fields and success in attaining sports victories as a result of HM the King's wisdom, vision and leadership.

Commenting on the Kingdom's celebrations of its national days and the UAE's 48th National Day, Shaikh Sultan Al Nahyan lauded the deep-rooted distinguished brotherly bilateral relations, whose foundations were laid down by the late HH Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, noting that the Bahraini-UAE rela-



Shaikh Sultan Al Nahyan

tions have been strengthened further thanks to the directives of the UAE President, Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and HM King Hamad.

The ambassador highlighted the efforts exerted over the past months to enhance bilateral relations, citing the exchanged visits of officials and the events hosted by the two countries thanks to their prestigious reputation.

In this regard, the envoy expressed delight over the opening of the "Nuzul Al Salam" in Muharraq in October as one of the fruits of the agreements signed between the two countries last year, noting that the project was launched within the celebrations of the centenary of the late Shaikh Zayed, the UAE's Founding Father.

He pointed out that the renovation of the "Fathallah House" (renamed as "Nuzul Al Salam") is a joint project between the UAE and Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research in Bahrain, as part of wider collaborative efforts between the cultural authorities of the two nations.

ISB Mega Fair 2019 opens; shows postponed after rain

TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Mega Fair 2019 began at the school ground in Isa Town on Sunday amid much enthusiasm in spite of rain.

Chief Guest Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha inaugurated the two-day Mega Fair Art Exhibition and Food Festival in the presence of ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, Executive Committee Members, Principal V R Palaniswamy, Riffa Campus Principal Pamela Xavier and Organising Committee General Convener R Ramesh.

Due to harsh weather conditions and safety issues, the



Mr Sinha inaugurates ISB Mega Fair Art Exhibition.

musical performance of Stephen Devassy was postponed to Monday, Mr Natarajan told Tribune.

Stephen Devassy and his team

will perform at 4pm today, which will be followed by the concert of Bollywood Singer Rithu Pathak and her team.

The art exhibition and food



Mr Sinha along with ISB officials visits stalls at the expo.

stalls were attracting a lot of visitors in spite of the weather conditions.

If the weather conditions remain similar on Monday as well,

arrangements will be made to have the musical performance in the Jashanmal auditorium with the LED screen display facilities, it is learnt.

Money counterfeiter's mercy plea accepted

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Appeals Court accepted the mercy plea filed by a GCC national who was jailed for five years after found guilty of promoting counterfeit money in the Kingdom.

The defendant was arrested after trying to use a fake 500 Saudi riyal currency in inside a local mall in Muharraq.

He wanted to buy a lighter but the cashier inside the shop discovered that the currency note wasn't genuine, therefore he refused to sell it.

With the GCC man insisting to have the lighter using the fake note, the cashier called the mall security to deal with the defendant who fled the scene after losing hope.

It's said that the GCC man entered the toilet after the mall's security men chased him. He flushed the money but the security men managed to recover it from the drainage.

Meanwhile, police officers arrived and arrested the defendant, who was found to possess fake money worth SAR1,400.

He was tried before the High Criminal Court which sentenced him to five years behind bars.

NMS-DPS celebrates Bahrain National Day

TDT | Manama

The students and staff of New Millennium School-DPS with great enthusiasm and fervor at its campus with a series of special assemblies, celebrated Bahrain National Day.

Students, dressed up in traditional Bahraini costumes, filled the air with feelings of celebration and excitement.

Students in their beautiful costumes presented traditional dances and participated in different activities like Quran recital, traditional games, poems recital, Henna designing, face painting, speech and national songs.

Children also shared the local sweets and confectionaries showcasing the glorious tradi-



NMS-DPS students celebrating Bahrain National Day at its campus.

tions, customs and culture of Kingdom of Bahrain.

Hand drawn Posters and pictures of Bahrain displayed throughout the corridors reflected zeal and patriotism among the

students spreading the message of National Day.

Dr Ravi Pillai, Chairman and Mrs Geetha Pillai, Managing Director and Principal Mr. Arun Kumar Sharma congratulated



Many activities were held as part of the event.

and extended best wishes to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman

Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier and the People of Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of Bahrain National Day.



TIES AT NEW HIGH

Kingdom ready to roll out a red carpet welcome to Imran Khan

● **Bahrain's highest civil award will also be conferred upon the Pakistan Prime Minister.**

● **The exchange of views would cover the entire gamut of bilateral relations and matters pertaining to regional and international issues.**

TDT | Manama

The visit by Pakistan Premier Imran Khan to the Kingdom is all set to take the relations to new heights.

Bahrain-Pakistan relations are extremely strong and cordial. Bahrain maintains an embassy in Islamabad and a Consulate-General in Karachi.

Both countries are members of the OIC and G 77.

The visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Pakistan has opened a new chapter in the relationship between Pakistan and Kingdom of Bahrain. Various co-operation agreements were signed between the two countries.

The foreign policies of both nations give special emphasis on consolidating, strengthening and enhancing relations between both countries with a focus on economic and trade relations.

In July 2016, Pakistan and Bahrain held their first bilateral consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad, with a view to agreeing a roadmap aimed at expanding and enhancing the relations between both countries.

Mr Khan is visiting the Kingdom on the invitation of His Majesty to attend the National Day of Bahrain as guest of honour.

Prime Minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the cabinet and senior government officials.

This is Prime Minister Imran's first visit to Bahrain since assuming office in August 2018.

During the visit, he will have one-on-one meeting with His Majesty and will hold delegation-level talks with HRH the Crown Prince.

The exchange of views would cover the

entire gamut of bilateral relations and matters pertaining to regional and international issues.

Bahrain's highest civil award will also be conferred upon the prime minister.

"The Prime Minister's visit to Bahrain will enable the two sides to explore ways and means to further deepen bilateral trade and investments ties. The visit is of special significance and will impart a strong impetus to both sides' endeavours to forge a closer, multifaceted bilateral relationship," according to Pakistan Foreign Ministry.

"Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy close cordial ties based on commonalities of faith and culture marked by mutual trust and understanding. The bilateral relationship is broad-based and multifaceted, covering diverse fields including political, trade, commercial, defence, people-to-people contacts," it said.

The frequent high-level exchanges are a hallmark of the relationship. Pakistan and Bahrain closely coordinate in multilateral fora including the UN, OIC and GCC.

The two countries have established institutional mechanisms, including Bilateral Political Consultations and Joint Ministerial Commission, to bolster bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. The two countries also enjoy close inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Over 100,000 Pakistani expatriate community which contributes to the socio-economic development of Bahrain, acts as a strong human bridge between the two countries.

Both Bahrain and Pakistan have been boosting their relations in the defence sector.

Bahrain's National Guard Commander General His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, on the sidelines of his visit to Pakistan, met Pakistan's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, and discussed co-operation relations and topics of joint interest, chiefly at military level.

The National Guard Commander praised the level of military co-operation between the two sides and the Pakistani forces' role in promoting security and stability in the region.

For his part, His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, President of the National Guard, also met Pakistan Armed Forces Commander General Qamar Javed Bajwa in his office at the Pakistani Armed Forces General Command HQs in Rawalpindi.

Welcome to
the Kingdom of Bahrain

Pakistan Prime Minister
Mr. Imran Khan

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'We are closely connected with our Bahraini brethren'

The Prime Minister's presence will invigorate the enthusiasm and energy among the cross section of the Pakistani community



Mr Rehan Ahmed, Chairman, Pakistan Club



The Pakistani community in Bahrain is a large and vibrant community, closely connected with our Bahraini brethren. We share similar beliefs, culture, traditions, religion and social norms. Pakistani community members have been living in the country since past many decades. The Kingdom of Bahrain is not a foreign country to us but is an equal homeland to over 120,000 Pakistani people. This can be gauged from the fact that soon after the emergence of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in August 1947, the foundation of the 'Pakistan Club' in Bahrain was made in February 1948.

At the Pakistan Club, the Pakistani community is commemorating the 48th Bahrain National Day celebrations with great fervour and enthusiasm. Like previous years, the community has lined up impressive programs to celebrate the Bahrain National

Day on 16th December and His Majesty King's Accession Day to the throne on December 17th. As a continued tradition, the Pakistan Community will host a cake cutting ceremony at an impressive event at Pakistan Club and at various other locations, where Chairman and Board members of Pakistan Club will be present marking the National Day of Bahrain.

This year, we are feeling proud that the Prime Minister Imran Khan will be the state guest in the Kingdom and will attend all official Bahrain National Day marking ceremonies. The Prime Minister's presence has invigorated the enthusiasm and energy among the cross section of the Pakistani community.

Pakistan Club is organising a large mega event of celebrations inviting the key Pakistani figures and popular folk singer from

Pakistan to perform at the august gathering. The programme will include national anthem of our two countries, cultural and traditional songs, dances and tableau by Pakistan School children. The programme is organised to pay tribute to the people and the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain on this auspicious occasion. In addition,

several other programs are planned to be held to mark the Bahrain National Day which includes Motor bike and Car rallies on the National Day originating from Manama and will end up at Pakistan Club where the participants of the rallies will be welcomed by Board and community members.

The community will also hold

separate programs in other areas of the country, at industrial locations, national parks, entertainment areas, residential and commercial complexes and labour accommodations in Manama, Sitra, Muharraq and Riffa to keep the momentum of celebrations on till the end of the month showing our deep love and affection towards the Bahraini leadership and its people and signifying the dynamic role of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to this beautiful country and friendly people of Bahrain.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Bahrain enjoy cordial ties with similar views on bilateral, regional and international issues and the historic landmark visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan has paved the way for further strengthening the already existing cordial ties between the two brotherly countries. The visit will mark a new era of our bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Islamic Republic of Pakistan. I am confident that the mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries will continue to deepen and expand in the years to come.

On behalf of the Pakistan club and its members, it gives me immense pleasure to extend warm greetings and felicitations to His Majesty, King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness, Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander in Chief and the First Deputy Prime Minister and to the brotherly people of Bahrain on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



The community is commemorating the 48th Bahrain National Day celebrations with great fervour and enthusiasm at the Pakistan Club.

Welcome to the Kingdom of Bahrain
Honourable
Mr. Imran Khan
Prime Minister of Pakistan

PAKISTAN CLUB نادي الباكستان

Eng. Rehan Ahmed, Chairman and Executive Board of the
The Pakistan Club

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Welcome to the Kingdom of Bahrain
Pakistan Prime Minister
Mr. Imran Khan

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A legendary all-rounder

From a cricketing legend to a great national leader, Imran Khan's journey has been inspiring

TDT | Manama

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is the top most famous personality among all Pakistani leaders, has emerged as the ninth most popular world leader with over 9.4 million followers on social networking website Twitter.

The Pakistan Premier is the ninth most followed world leaders on Twitter, according to Spectator Index, a website that displays statistics and international rankings from the fields of politics, economics, history, military affairs, sports, science and technology.

Imran Khan's cricketing career ended in 1992 and he soon turned an interest in national politics into an active concern. Four years later, in 1996, he founded the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party and installed himself as its leader. Commonly abbreviated to PTI, the title literally translates as Pakistan Movement for Justice.

Progression was solid for Imran: In 2002 he battled for a seat in Pakistan's National Assembly and served in the region of Mianwali until 2007. By 2013, things had changed dramatically and as he was voted into parliament once again, Imran Khan's PTI party had become the second largest in the country.

The route to power had therefore



Imran Khan swearing in as the 22nd prime minister of Pakistan.

been paved and by 2018, Imran became the nation's Prime Minister. In terms of politics, it was a rapid rise but it's not likely to have taken the man himself by surprise.

As a cricketer also he was a great success in taking the Pakistan cricket team to greater heights. The team won its first world cup in 1992 under

his stewardship.

The positive vibes he spread within the team while walking out to the field was remarkable.

He got everyone to believe that they were marching out to conquer their opponents, and he led the way too through his performance with the bat and ball.

This is the same confidence he has managed to generate among the masses and make them believe that he will be able to conquer the problems in Pakistan.

Imran Khan has also been featured in a list of '100 Global Thinkers' by international Foreign Policy magazine.



Imran Khan with the 1992 World Cup in Melbourne.

Welcome to the Kingdom of Bahrain

Pakistan Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan

Bahrain Pakistan Friendship Society

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Welcome to the Kingdom of Bahrain Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan

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Mohammed Sabir Azeem Manager



Economic revival plan

Pakistan's economy is now heading in the right direction, may economists say



CPEC is key to Pakistan's year for achieving sustainable growth.



Recent trends in Pakistan have given Prime Minister Imran Khan reason to claim that an economic recovery is spreading across the South Asian country.

"Pakistan's economy finally heading in right direction, as more of our economic reforms bear fruit," Khan tweeted recently following a slight improvement in the current-account deficit, and the International Monetary Fund's approval of an approximately \$500 million loan that is part of a larger \$6 billion package agreed in July.

Recently, Moody's Investors Service, a global ratings agency, raised Pakistan's sovereign debt rating outlook to stable from negative, taking note of stronger economic indicators.

economic indicators.

The country's benchmark KSE-100 stock index has risen almost 40 per cent since August in response to Moody's upgrade and growing confidence over Pakistan's ability to meet its foreign debt payments after it signed the IMF loan.

Finance Ministry officials in Islamabad say that Pakistan is looking to return to global bond markets in the first half of 2020 with offers like the sukuk, an Islamic bond, worth at least \$1 billion.

Another noticeable trend has been a surge in foreign investors' interest in Pakistan's domestic rupee bond market. Debt investors are attracted by the country's high interest rates, with the State Bank of Pakistan nearly doubling its

policy rate over the past two years.

Since July, investors have bought up to \$1 billion in rupee-denominated government bonds. Another \$2 billion in bond purchases is expected through June 2020, according to estimates by Topline Securities, a Karachi-based investment advisory service.

"The stability of the rupee, and the central bank maintaining high interest rates, is prioritising the interests of foreign fund managers," said Mushtaq Khan, a former economic adviser to the central bank.

The government has also made boosting the infrastructure of the country a top priority.

China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is key to Pakistan's year for achieving sustainable

“
Pakistan's economy finally heading in right direction, as more of our economic reforms bear fruit.

MR KHAN

growth that has already transformed the violence-hit country into an emerging economic giant.

The successful recent meeting of 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the CPEC helped the country take another leap towards its goal of gaining economic reliance as the officials of both China and Pakistan reiterated their commitment for progress on ongoing

and planned projects under CPEC.

The Chinese delegation at the 9th JCC was the biggest in number as compared to previous delegations which shows commitment of China to take cooperation with Pakistan to new highs.

Both the countries made significant development on the proposals forwarded by six Joint Working Groups, which included the industrial cooperation, transfer of technology and cooperation in agricultural, mineral, oil and gas and steel sectors.

The major development in the 9th JCC was related to the much-awaited mega railway infrastructure project, ML-I, which is likely to see practical development within the next 3 to 6 months.

ML-I project is to facilitate smooth movement of passenger and cargo trains at a fast pace cutting distance from Lahore to Karachi from 26 hours to approximately 12 hours, bringing in a transformation to the country's ailing railway system.

The recently formed CPEC Authority would provide one-window for all CPEC related projects putting them on a fast pace and remove all procedural bottlenecks and bureaucratic hurdles.

The government also plans to build the remaining portion of the eastern corridor of CPEC from Sukkur to Hyderabad (M-6) in Build-Operate & Transfer (BoT) mode under the umbrella of Public-Private Partnership with a Chinese company.

Welcome to
the Kingdom of Bahrain

Pakistan Prime Minister
Mr. Imran Khan

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KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
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SINDHI SANGAT BAHRAIN celebrated 48th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as Sindhi Cultural Day. Pakistan Ambassador Afzaal Mahmood was the chief guest at the event.



The Pakistan Club held Bahrain National Day Celebrations. MP Ebrahim Al Nafae (fourth from left), Afzaal Mahmood, Ambassador of Pakistan (second from left) and Rehan Ahmed (sixth from left) cut the cake to mark the occasion.

business

BIA passes another test as D-day inches closer

Holds successful operational readiness trial for aircraft stands at new Passenger Terminal Building

TDT | Manama

Launch preparations of Bahrain International Airport's (BIA) new Passenger Terminal Building are progressing smoothly for the first quarter of 2020, said Transport Minister.

Kamal Ahmed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Chairman, said this follows a series of live aircraft trials to assess the readiness of aircraft parking stands.

In total, 10 BIA airside stakeholders participated in the trials to test the operational and technical aspects of the new Multiple Aircraft Ramp System (MARS), including safety and operational procedures.

The trials involved different sized aircraft from airlines and cargo companies operating out of BIA, including Gulf Air, DHL, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, and Fly Dubai.

One of the trials involved a Gulf Air B787 aircraft, which taxied to the new MARS Stand 16



10 BIA airside stakeholders participated in the trials to test the operational and technical aspects of the new Multiple Aircraft Ramp System

and conducted a full turnaround operation, covering baggage handling and passenger board-

ing and de-boarding procedures. Also tested were Visual Docking Guidance System, which helps

pilots to precisely park aircraft, and the Pre-conditioned Air System, which provides condi-

”
Thanks to the cooperation and continued support of its partners, BAC has made tremendous progress within a short period of time, however, even greater effort is required in the lead up to the new terminal's inauguration in 2020.

KAMAL AHMED, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BAHRAIN AIRPORT COMPANY (BAC) CHAIRMAN

and passengers at the new terminal's runway, which also underwent special preparations.”

“Thanks to the cooperation and continued support of its partners, BAC has made tremendous progress within a short period of time, however, even greater effort is required in the lead up to the new terminal's inauguration in 2020.”

The trials covered 400Hz ground power, which supplies the aircraft with electricity and reduces its carbon emissions; the Passenger Loading Bridges; the new LED Flood Light Towers, which illuminate the new aircraft stands; and the new aircraft fuel hydrants, which provide fuel from the new fuel farm at BIA.

The trials are part of the national ORAT programme, which is designed to progressively test the new terminal's functions, systems, and procedures to ensure they are ready for the transition phase. The ORAT process is split into three phases, pre-trials, basic trials, and advanced trials.

tioned air to cool and ventilate the cabins of parked aircraft.

Minister said: “BAC conducted preliminary trials at Stand 16 ahead of the reception of aircraft

BCCI hails leadership, people on National Day and Accession Day

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) extended deepest congratulations to the leadership of Bahrain, the business community and people of Bahrain on the glorious occasion of the National Day and the 20th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne.

BCCI Chairman Sameer Nass voiced pride in the landmark accomplishments, the development march and extensive reforms that put Bahrain at the forefront and reinforced the welfare and prosperity of people.

Nass wished Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime



BCCI Chairman Sameer Nass

Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister further progress and prosperity.



Employees of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company celebrate the National Day of Bahrain

Gulf Air flies daily to Kuala Lumpur starting July

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air announced adding a new addition to its 2020 network, Kuala Lumpur, the largest city and the capital of Malaysia.

Commencing July 2020, Gulf Air will organise daily flights operated by the airline's flagship Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner. “This is very exciting for us at Gulf Air to reach further places and connect multiple cities in the East and the West to our hub, the Kingdom of Bahrain,” stated Kresimir Kucko, Gulf Air's Chief Executive Officer.

“We are glad to resume operations to Kuala Lumpur; a



destination known for its leisure and business appeal. We will be operating daily flights to the Malaysian capital as it has proven to be an extremely popular destination to our passengers.”

With its boutique business model, Gulf Air has started its fleet modernisation programme and has already received 7 new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and 5 new Airbus 320neo.



Gulf Hotel's annual donation

The Gulf Hotels Group's Chief Executive Officer Garfield Jones presenting the group's annual donation to the Bahrain Philanthropic Society's Chairman Fawzi Ahmed Kanoo. Garfield Jones said the contribution is part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Programme to support the charitable institutions. Representing Bahrain Philanthropic Society at the handover ceremony were Fawzi Ahmed Kanoo, Chairman, Dr Hassan Ibrahim Kamal - Secretary-General and Members of the Board Mohamed Ali Ajoor, Wael Ali Abdullah Sayar and Aref Saleh Jamsheer

Aramco gains aid Saudi Arabian market

● **Aramco closes at 37.4 riyal**

● **Alinma sees biggest gain in 2-1/2 years**

● **Mobily leaps after refinancing agreement**

Reuters

Oil giant Aramco helped carry the Saudi stock market higher yesterday, as it extended gains for the third day, while other major Gulf indexes were little changed.

Saudi's benchmark index rebounded 0.6 per cent, with Saudi Aramco closing up 1.6pc at 37.4 riyals.

Aramco will join the Tadawul index and global benchmarks such as MSCI and FTSE this week, which analysts said should fuel further demand, particularly



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange

from "passive" investors who track such indexes.

The state-owned oil company listed 1.5pc of its shares at 32 riyals (\$8.53) on Riyadh's Tadawul exchange on Dec. 11 in the

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.6pc to 8,055 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.1pc to 5,030 pts
DUBAI	▲ 0.2pc to 2,727 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.1pc to 10,263 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.6pc to 13,434 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 1pc to 1,584 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.2pc to 4,012 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.9pc to 6,828 pts

world's largest initial public offering (IPO).

Initially valued at \$1.7 trillion, the shares have since hit \$2 trillion, a value long sought by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Alinma Bank leapt 6.5pc, its biggest intraday gain since June 2017, following its board proposal to increase capital through bonus shares.

Ethihad Etisalat (Mobily) ad-

vanced 3.5pc after it signed a 7.6 billion riyal (\$2.03 billion) refinancing Murabaha facility with a group of Saudi banks.

Egypt's blue-chip index was up 0.6pc, led by a 0.8pc rise in the country's largest lender Commercial International Bank and a 1.4pc gain in Egypt Kuwait Holding.

In Dubai, the index rose 0.2pc, stretching gains for a fourth day. The sharia-compliant lender, Dubai Islamic Bank, rose 1.1pc and telecoms firm du added 1.8pc.

The Qatari index edged up 0.1pc as Qatar Islamic Bank rose 1.1pc and Mesaieed Petrochemical closed 1.6pc up.

However, losses elsewhere capped gains, with Industries Qatar shedding 0.7pc and Qatar National Bank down 0.2pc.

The Abu Dhabi index slipped 0.1pc, with Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank falling 2pc.

Johnson eyes Brexit vote before Christmas

Reuters | London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will "get Brexit done" by Jan. 31 and then agree a new trade deal with the European Union by the end of 2020, cabinet office minister Michael Gove said yesterday, vowing to deliver on the government's top priority.

Johnson and his team were triumphant last week when he won a commanding majority of 80 at an early election he said he was forced to call to break the Brexit deadlock. Winning over many traditionally Labour



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

voters in northern and central England, Johnson has proclaimed he will lead a "people's government".

First, the Conservative lead-

er must make good on his often-repeated promise to "get Brexit done" and then turn to realising another priority - to increase funding into Britain's much loved but struggling public health service, a pledge he plans to enshrine in law.

"I can absolutely confirm that we will have an opportunity to vote on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill in relatively short order and then we will make sure that it passes before January 31st," Gove told Sky News.

Asked about a new trade accord with the EU, Gove said: "It will be concluded next year.

We will be in a position to leave the European Union before the 31st of January next year and then we will have concluded our conversations with the EU about the new framework of free trade and friendly cooperation that we will have with them by the end of next year."

The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has cast doubt over whether the trade talks will be so swiftly concluded, saying last month that the negotiations would be "difficult and demanding" and warning Britain the bloc "will not tolerate unfair competitive advantage".

Tensions mount over French transport strike

Paris

Tensions between the French government and unions opposed to pension reforms mounted Sunday as a crippling transport strike entered its 11th day.

The overhaul, unveiled this week by Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, would do away with the 42 separate pension systems -- some of which offer early retirement and other benefits to public-sector employees such as train drivers, dockers and even Paris

Opera employees.

Philippe angered unions further by proposing a reduced payout for people who retire at the legal age of 62 instead of a new, so-called "pivot age" of 64. Strike organisers have announced a massive protest for Tuesday when tens of thousands are expected to take to the streets again. Unions are hoping for a repeat of 1995, when they forced a rightwing government to back down on pension reform after three weeks of metro and rail strikes just before Christmas.

Batelco celebrates National Day



Batelco held a special celebration for all its employees on the occasion of Bahrain's National Day at the company's headquarters in Hamala and the historic victory of the Bahrain National team. CEO Mikkel Vinter, executive management and staff from various departments were present. A luxury tent was built specifically for the event to accommodate the 600 employees who attended. Entertainment activities included live traditional band and exciting competition with the chance to win valuable prizes. Additionally, a team of Company employees visited their colleagues in various customer service departments to celebrate Bahrain's National Day.

GFH Financial Group celebrates National Day



Commemorating the 48th National Day of Bahrain, GFH Financial Group held an event for employees celebrating the auspicious occasion. The event emphasised the Group's strong national spirit, loyalty to the Kingdom and best wishes for its continued success under its wise leadership

SHOW

**JUMANJI THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-15)(ADVENTURE/ACTION)**

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (3D): 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 5.00 + 7.45 + 10.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE (3D): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE (VIP I): 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE (VIP II): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (III): (3D): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 10.45 PM + 11.45 PM

DWAYNE JOHNSON, JACK BLACK, KEVIN HART

BLACK CHRISTMAS (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN
 MOGEN POOTS, ALEYSE SHANNON, LILY DONOGHUE

MARDAANI 2 (PG-15)(HINDI/CRIME/THRILLER DRAMA)

From Thursday at 7.00 pm onwards
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30
 SEEF (I): 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM
 RANI MUKERJI, SHRUTI BAPNA, RAJESH SHARMA

THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON (PG-13)(ADVENTURE)

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM
 SHIA LABEOUF, DAKOTA JOHNSON, ZACK GOTTSAGEN

JUDY (PG-13)(DRAMA/MUSICAL/BIOGRAPHY)

CITY CENTRE: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM
 RENÉE ZELLWEGER, JESSIE BUCKLEY, RUFUS SEWELL

THE BODY (PG-15)(HINDI/THRILLER)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN
 EMRAAN HASHMI, RISHI KAPOOR, SOBHITA DHULIPALA

BERNIE THE DOLPHIN 2 (G)(ADVENTURE/FAMILY/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 PM
 PATRICK MULDOON, KEVIN SORBO, TOMMI ROSE

FROZEN 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 3.15 + 5.30 + 7.45 + 10.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
 KRISTEN BELL, IDINA MENZEL, JOSH GAD

21 BRIDGES (PG-15)(CRIME/ACTION/THRILLER)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
 CHADWICK BOSEMAN, SIENNA MILLER, STEPHAN JAMES

LE MANS '66 (PG-13)(DRAMA/SPORT/BIOGRAPHY)

CITY CENTRE: 3.00 + 8.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM
 MATT DAMON, CHRISTIAN BALE, JON BERNTHAL

MALEFICENT 2: MISTRESS OF EVIL (PG)(ADVENTURE)

CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM
 ANGELINA JOLIE, TERESA MAHONEY, MICHELLE PFEIFFER

PATI PATNI AUR WO (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM
 KARTIK AARYAN, BHUMI PEDNEKAR, ANANYA PANDAY

**KNIVES OUT (PG-15)(CRIME/COMEDY/THRILLER)**

CITY CENTRE: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 DANIEL CRAIG, CHRIS EVANS, ANA DE ARMAS

CODE 8 (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA/SCI-FICTION)

SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM
 STEPHEN AMELL, ROBBIE AMELL, KARI MATCHETT

MIRACLE IN CELL NO. 7 (PG-15)(TURKISH/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.45 PM
 ARAS BULUT YNEML, N SA SOF YA AKSONGUR, LKER AKSUM

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

CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 JOAQUIN PHOENIX, ZAZIE BEETZ, ROBERT DE NIRO

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

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
 JOHN CENA, KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY, JOHN LEGUIZAMO

CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-15)(ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

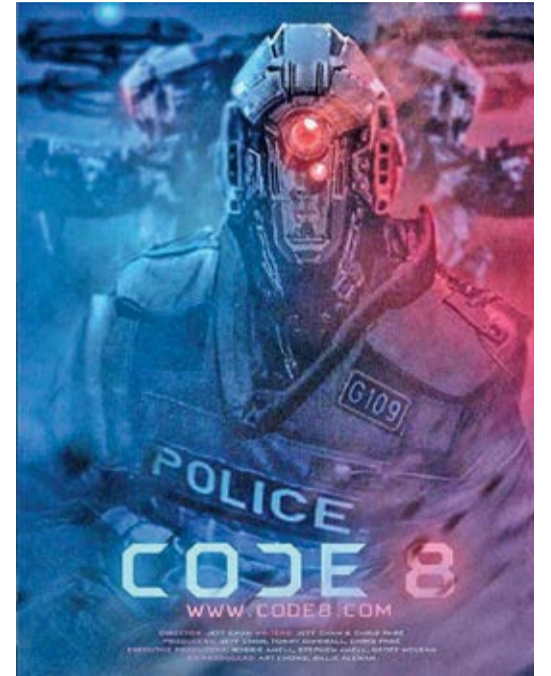
CITY CENTRE: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM
 KRISTEN STEWART, NAOMI SCOTT, ELLA BALINSKA

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

CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM
 WILL SMITH, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, CLIVE OWEN

ARCTIC DOGS (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

SEEF (II): 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM
 JEREMY RENNER, HEIDI KLUM, JAMES FRANCO

**A SCORE TO SETTLE (15+)(ACTION/DRAMA)**

SEEF (II): 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 NICOLAS CAGE, NOAH LE GROS, KAROLINA WYDRA

UNBREAKABLE (PG-15)(FILIPINO/DRAMA)

SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.45 PM
 ANGELICA PANGANIBAN, BEA ALONZO, RICHARD GUTIERREZ

KETVOLANU ENTE MALAKHA (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM
 ASIF ALI, VEENA NANDAKUMAR

MAMANGAM (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

From Thursday at 7.30 pm onwards
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
 SEEF (II): (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

AMMA RAJMYLO KADAPA BIDDALU (PG-15)(TELUGU)

From Thursday at 7.30 pm onwards
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
 RAJSEKHAR ANINGI, AASHIKKA MEKA, DHEERAJ KV

JIMMY EE VEEDINTE AISWARYAM (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

SEEF (I): 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM
 MITHUN RAMESH, DIVYA PILLAI, SURAJ VENJARAMOODU

MOVIE REVIEW

Judy: Zellweger and Garland coexist symbiotically

Renee Zellweger plays a dazzling, drug-addicted Judy Garland in the movie

What couldn't Judy Garland do? The singer/dance and Academy Award winning actress starred in two of the greatest films ever made by the age of 22. In *The Wizard of Oz*, she was as bright as Technicolor, and her Dorothy became an icon of American cinema. Later, she starred in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, a musical so optimistic it made Missouri look like a place everyone might want to vacation. *Judy*, the acclaimed new about movie about the legend's life, is suitably adept and multifaceted. From tender start to flawless finish, it does what every movie in its genre hopes to do - make someone who is a "one of a kind" feel relatable.

In L.A., it's especially easy to see a celebrity, or someone with fame or riches, and assume they have it all figured out. But no one has it all figured out. That goes for the folks you see walking down the street, and it even goes for a superstar like Judy Garland. She seemed to be on top of the world. From 1939-1961, everyone wanted her beaming



Renee Zellweger as Judy Garland in 'Judy'

charisma and gift for song in their projects.

But Director Rupert Goold isn't concerned with larger than life persona or the glory days. He's gutted the formula that

made *A Star is Born* (Garland's and Gaga's versions) successful. Instead of a timeline chronicling the glitzy and glamorous, aspirational facets of stardom, *Judy* mostly focuses on an actresses'

climb to the top and later, her fall to the bottom. We're a long way from the

The journey starts at the end. The time is 1969. The place is London. And the story, based

on a Peter Quiller theater piece, plays out over the last year of her life. She has two adorable kids. But she's worried they won't be hers for long. Money isn't what it used to be. Her alcoholic ex (Rufus Sewell) is biting at her heels for custody. So, she goes to the only place that treats old stars like her as royalty - England! At first she's reluctant to perform in Britain. What does she have without her kids? Does she still have it in her mid-40's?

The buildup to the first performance (45 minutes into the film) is suspenseful and exciting. When she finally belts out "Be Myself," it's a weight off all of our shoulders and it's wonderful. It also gives the actress playing Garland a chance to do some singing of her own, and she's got the chops.

What you've been hearing is true. Renee Zellweger gives a tour de force performance, both on and off the stage. She may be an odd choice. The only thing Zellweger and Garland have in common is a sense that, despite having an excess of talent, the

industry almost left them both behind in later phases of their careers. She slips into the role seamlessly - expressive lips, teary eyes, and shoulders so slouched it looks as if her dress could slip off at any moment. Just like Judy. Shout-out to the hair and makeup designers, as well as Jany Temime's fab costumes which provide a near cloning of Garland's image.

Although Garland's comeback tour didn't go as planned, Zellweger's couldn't be going better. The actress has been brilliant before - in *Bridget Jones*, *Chicago*, and *Jerry Maguire*. What's new here is the award-worthy broadness of the role. With Garland she can be both weary and whimsical, instead of just being one or the other. When she's overdosing on pills in a hotel, Zellweger shape-shifts into a downer. When she's trying to keep up her image in public, she's quite funny. A man introduces her as "the greatest entertainer in the world," to which she replies, "Frank Sinatra's here?"



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SPORTS

BIC hosts WEC rookie test

Toyota delights in 8 Hours of Bahrain victory

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosted the official World Endurance Championship (WEC) rookie test yesterday, just several hours following the completion of the hugely exciting FIA WEC Bacpo 8 Hours of Bahrain late on Saturday night.

There were two sessions of testing – the first in the morning which included some rain, and then again in the afternoon following an hour-long midday break.

A total of 16 cars from the WEC's four competition categories including the LMPI, LMP2, LMGT Pro and LMGT Am took to the track, with several drivers taking turns to get behind the wheel of each.

Among the challengers testing was the no. 7 TS050 Hybrid of Toyota Gazoo Racing, which was the winning car in the Bacpo 8 Hours of Bahrain. Other cars included the Gibson-powered Rebellion R13 of Rebellion Racing; the Gibson-powered Oreca 07 and Alpine A470 of the LMP2

teams; and the Porsches, Ferraris and Aston Martins of the LMGT2 contingent.

Meanwhile, the trio of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose Maria Lopez, who were the winners of the FIA WEC Bacpo 8 Hours of Bahrain, expressed their extreme delight with the result especially since it earned them the lead in the drivers' World Championship.

Lopez was at the wheel of the no. 7 Hybrid when it took the chequered flag. Toyota now also hold a 41-point advantage over rivals Rebellion Racing in the teams' standings.

"It is a fantastic result to get a one-two here," said Conway. "We pushed as hard as we could all day and got a result which we weren't expecting at the start of the week. That is thanks to a great job by everyone; my team-mates and my team. We struggled earlier in the week but together as a team we got the car dialled in. It's brilliant to win and it's nice to lead the World Championship again."

Kobayashi commented, "To finish the year with a win is



The Rebellion R13 tests at BIC in wet conditions

great; thanks to the team for doing such a good job here. We knew it would be a tough race as we had some strong competition but we managed it really well, made no mistakes and had fast

pit stops. There is still a long way to go in the season but I am really happy and we will be pushing to keep this form going."

Added Lopez: "I am very happy with the win. Everyone in the

team did a great job this week-end. It is nice to finish the year with a win. This means we go into Christmas and New Year able to celebrate the results we achieved together this year."



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MIKE CONWAY

The World Championship battle will resume in the new year, returning to Austin, Texas following a two-year absence for the 6 Hours of Circuit of the Americas on 23 February, the first of a double-header in the United States with the 1000 Miles of Sebring following on 20 March.

Ahli dominate early in win over Riffa to begin Top Six

TDI | Manama

Ahli kicked off the action in the Zain Bahrain Basketball League's Top Six Division last night with a resounding 76-50 victory over Riffa at Zain Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Ahli held their rivals to just one point in the entire first quarter, and they never recovered from there as the victors cruised to the final buzzer.

Ahli enjoyed leads as big as 30 points in the game.

Newly signed American professional Dexter Pittman was their top scorer with 21 points. He also had 16 rebounds in the game to go with three blocks.

Hesham Sarhan added 14 while Maytham Jameel scored 12. Sayed Hashim Habib contributed 10 off the bench, while



Sitra's Macura takes a jump shot over the tough defence of Samaheej's Nouman Ahmed

captain Mohammed Qurban nearly had a double-double with nine points and nine rebounds. Younes Kuwayed scored 17 to pace Riffa in the loss. Subah Hussain added 12 and Mohammed Salman 11.

Meanwhile, in the Zain Silver League, Sitra defeated Samaheej 97-86. Serbian Milos Macura had a monster effort of 29 points and 20 rebounds to spearhead the winners, who also got 26 points from ageless court general Hussain Taqi.

Sitra shrugged off a slow start and took control of the game in the third quarter, where they outscored Samaheej by 11, 26-15. That gave them a narrow 66-62 advantage heading into the final canto, and Sitra maintained their fine form from there.



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Brave sets global fight card for Saudi

TDI | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation is not just the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world but has amassed a reputation as a truly global promotion, not just for hosting shows around the globe, but also for giving opportunities to fighters

from all around. That trend has never been stronger than the last event of 2019. BRAVE CF 33 takes place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on December 27th, and will feature athletes from 15 nations and six different regions.

Athletes from Latin America, Caribbean, Europe, South-East Asia, Subcontinent, North Af-

rica, and Middle East will be in action for BRAVE CF's return to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after a stellar BRAVE CF 21, which took place at the end of last year.

Russia, Sweden, England, Belgium, France, Ireland, Philippines, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Trinidad & Tobago, Egypt, and Pakistan will

be represented at BRAVE CF 33, which has a Russia vs Sweden main event, with Ikram Aliskerov taking on Diego Gonzalez in a Middleweight bout which could have serious title implications.

In the co-main event, local hero Abdullah Al-Qahtani will face off against Pakistan's Zia Mashwani in search of a title shot against Bubba Jenkins, as Middle East MMA legend Hashem Arkhagha returns after a KO of the year contender to take on Dan Vinni, from England.

Rounding up the 10-nation main card are a couple of barn-burners, as top strikers Felipe Efrain and Jeremy Pacatiw meet at Bantamweight, while Rami Hamed goes for BRAVE CF win number three against Issa Isakov, from Belgium.



BRAVE CF 33 full fight card:

Main card

- Middleweight:** Ikram Aliskerov (Russia) vs Diego Gonzalez (Sweden)
- Featherweight:** Abdullah Al-Qahtani (Saudi Arabia) vs Zia Mashwani (Pakistan)
- Bantamweight:** Felipe Efrain (Brazil) vs Jeremy Pacatiw (Philippines)
- Middleweight:** Hashem Arkhagha (Jordan) vs Dan Vinni (England)
- Welterweight:** Rami Hamed (Lebanon) vs Issa Isakov (Belgium)

Preliminary card

- Light Heavyweight:** Mohamed Said Maalem (France) vs Todd Stoute (Trinidad & Tobago)
- Catchweight:** Mostafa Rashed Neda (Saudi Arabia) vs Alexis Fontes (France)
- Featherweight:** Rolando Dy (Philippines) vs Anzor Abdulkhozaev (Russia)
- Lightweight:** Cian Cowley (Ireland) vs Sam Patterson (England)
- Featherweight:** Hassan Talal (Iraq) vs Shoab Yousaf (England)
- Super Lightweight:** Ahmed Amir (Egypt) vs Youssef Wehbe (Lebanon)
- Bantamweight:** Gamzat Magomedov (Russia) vs Harold Banario (Philippines)

